

# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED 2019



## JANUARY

- For Tu BiShvat, rabbinical/cantorial students in T'ruah's Year-in-Israel program **plant trees in a Palestinian village** and at a bilingual Jewish/Arab school in West Jerusalem.
- After settlers uproot these trees, the students replant, tying around each sapling a laminated Jewish text that prohibits uprooting trees, even during wartime.
- **The Washington Post publishes an article on how T'ruah is working to stop US tax-exempt contributions to Israeli extremists.**
- **Campaign Win!** The Tornillo child detention center in Texas closes, following a campaign by T'ruah rabbis/cantors and other activists.

## FEBRUARY

- 300 rabbis and cantors write a letter opposing anti-free speech legislation masquerading as support for Israel.



## MARCH

- A delegation of rabbis and cantors travels to the Texas border to witness conditions there. These clergy return home to organize their own communities to support immigrants and refugees.
- Expanded handbook for Mikdash, T'ruah's network of **70 sanctuary synagogues**, published.

## APRIL

- T'ruah partners with J Street to file an amicus brief supporting an Arkansas newspaper in a lawsuit against a state BDS law. The paper would have been forced to choose between public funding and giving up its First Amendment rights.

## MAY

- **Rabbi Jill Jacobs appears on "Hardball with Chris Matthews" to discuss antisemitism and white nationalism.**
- **Campaign Win!** As members of the Worker-Driven Social Responsibility Network, T'ruah helps secure major new worker justice protections in the Vermont dairy industry.
- T'ruah Year-in-Israel program concludes. We trained more than 70% of rabbinical/cantorial students to use their moral voices to stand up for human rights of Israelis and Palestinians.



## JUNE

- **Campaign Win!** T'ruah delegation protests the child detention center in Homestead, FL. Actions like these lead to its closure by the end of the year.
- 6 rabbinical and cantorial students begin the T'ruah Summer Fellowship in which they spend nine weeks full time working in New York-based human rights organizations, and gaining skills for moral leadership.
- The Progressive Israel Network launches. This coalition of 10 organizations brings a powerful unified voice to standing up for democracy and human rights for Israelis and Palestinians.



## JULY

- **Campaign Win!** After years of organizing by T'ruah and others, New Jersey passes the most progressive law in the country restricting the use of solitary confinement.



## AUGUST

- T'ruah coordinates #CloseTheCamps protests at ICE facilities in 57 cities across 26 states on the holiday of Tisha B'av.

## SEPTEMBER

- T'ruah brings a public moral voice to opposing the deportation from Israel of the head of the Human Rights Watch office there. The public outcry delays the deportation decision.
- **30,000 congregants** receive postcards at High Holiday services to send to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, calling on her to resist the administration's cruel immigration policies.

## OCTOBER

- **Campaign Win!** NY City Council votes to close Rikers Island jails complex after a campaign by activists including NYC T'ruah rabbis/cantors.
- 21 rabbinical students from 7 seminaries take part in the first-ever Shabbaton before the J Street conference, and build a community of progressive future clergy.
- The T'ruah Year-in-Israel program launches, with **25 future rabbis/cantors** visiting Hebron with Breaking the Silence. This program teaches students spending their mandatory academic year in Jerusalem to bring a moral voice to human rights for Israelis and Palestinians.
- Torah 20/20 launches, beginning a year of weekly **Jewish wisdom on democracy**, with reflections from 52 prominent leaders and thinkers.

## NOVEMBER

- **23 rabbis and Jewish community leaders travel to the Texas border** to witness conditions on the ground, including in a shelter and a detention center, and to mobilize their communities to action.

## DECEMBER

- Synagogues across the US participate in **Human Rights Shabbat**, T'ruah's kickoff for a year of internal work to undo the inherent racism in our communities and systems.

## WHAT'S NEXT? 2020

In the next year, T'ruah's work will be more important than ever as we stand up to new attacks on democracy in the US and Israel. We'll be standing up for immigrants and refugees, fighting antisemitism, protecting the human rights of Israelis and Palestinians, and training rabbis, cantors, and future clergy to be the moral voices we need to face the crises at home and abroad.

