

Marti Michael

I have spent my career in the Jewish communal service field. My career included positions at UJA-Federation of New York, Yeshiva University/Cardozo School of Law, Hebrew Union College, Central Synagogue, and many other not-profit and academic institutions in the NY area.

After 28 years at the Riverdale YM-YWHA, the last four as executive director, I retired and turned my energies to volunteering. I serve on the board of the Westchester Jewish Council, the advisory committee to Hazon's Seal of Sustainability and until recently, on the Steering Committee of the Jewish Climate Action Network NYC.

Over the past year, I have turned most of my efforts to the plight of immigrants at our southern border. I have traveled to Phoenix and Tucson, working with Arizona Jews for Justice, welcoming just-released-by-ICE asylum seekers, who arrive confused, dirty, hungry and frightened. I have also been volunteering with the Overground Railroad, created by Grannies Respond, a network of grassroots volunteer groups which set up at Greyhound bus stations across the US, meeting buses coming from the south and helping these asylum-seeking families as they make their way to their sponsors to await their asylum hearing.

I am currently speaking at synagogues and Jewish youth groups regularly about my work and what we, as individual Jews and as Jewish organizations and coalitions, can do to help the migrants and advocate for a change in our current immigration system.