In our Justice Garden, adjacent to the Grow Justice Mural, volunteers of all ages tend organic produce grown to feed homeless families at local shelters. The thriving garden is a centerpiece of wide-ranging programs that foster social action, community-building, and Jewish learning. By practicing the Jewish value of tikkun olam (repairing the world), our community literally sows the seeds of justice for people in need.

This is something that everyone should see. It really grasps you. The more people that see and understand the meaning of justice, the more engaged they will be in taking action.” — California State Senator Jerry Hill (D-13th District)

The first step of the Grow Justice process was the design, and the second was the painting and installation. However, this communal work of art isn’t complete without the third and final step: your participation through interpretation. As you study the mural, what are your thoughts? How do you feel? How might you practice tikkun olam and help repair our world?

We invite you to share your personal discoveries as you study the mural. Write the PJCC at editor@pjcc.org.

Follow the PJCC on: Facebook.com/thepjcc
Twitter: @PeninsulaJCC

To learn more about the Grow Justice Mural, visit www.pjcc.org/mural

These programs would not have been possible without generous support from the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund’s North Peninsula Regional Impact Committee, The Koret Foundation and Taube Philanthropies.

The PJCC would also like to thank Kevah, our partners in Grow Justice: Fight Hunger.
The mural begins with a warning: a whale that can't breathe either in the air or the water, and burning, splintered California Redwood trees. We see a world made uninhabitable because of humans' interference. The ceramic (by E. Blaise DePaolo) incorporates a tumultuous, roiling, prayer-swirling cloud. But the warning is followed with hope and inspiration: two doves wearing tallitot (Jewish prayer shawls) with olives adorning the tzitzit (fringe).

The future, as seen through the eyes of the youngest generation, the new stewards of the land, is a message that runs throughout the mural. The rainbow arch symbolizes the covenant between God and Noah that God will never again destroy the earth.

The title of the mural "Givat Justice" includes an active verb and the imperative to take intentional action. It implores us to sow seeds of goodness that will germinate and blossom. It is a Jewish commandment to make the world better.

The volcanic section represents the children of the Holocaust. The artist regularly invites these children to play and be present in his work, allowing them to express their pain. Although they cannot voice their objections, the artists have given voice to their trials by embossing their desires for equality in rectangular blocks along the bottom. Although not clearly visible in the image above, the words have been glazed in a bronze hue, a precious metal, imbuing them with prominence and permanence.

The glowing angels on the top of this section represent the children of the Holocaust. The artist regularly invites these children to play and be present in his Jewish works, because in life they were deprived of this opportunity. The vertical ceramic panels symbolize the Ten Commandments and act as dividers for the sections. The panel that concludes this chapter depicts Moses approaching Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments.

The vertical section of the mural includes a whale that can't breathe either in the air or the water, and burning, splintered California Redwood trees. We see a world made uninhabitable because of humans' interference. The ceramic (by E. Blaise DePaolo) incorporates a tumultuous, roiling, prayer-swirling cloud. But the warning is followed with hope and inspiration: two doves wearing tallitot (Jewish prayer shawls) with olives adorning the tzitzit (fringe).

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