



Shabbat B'reishit 5777/28 October 2016

Dear Shir Tikvah:

As Luke Weisberg, Shir Tikvah's Board President, shared in his Rosh HaShanah Address to the congregation, working for racial justice continues to be priority for our congregation. Indeed, our Jewish theology of human dignity and liberation from bondage compel each of us to work to eradicate the immoral scourge of racism from our world.

We continue to move ahead with this work.

Last Friday night, Shir Tikvah member Ben Mchie spoke about racism, his life as a man of color, and our congregation's commitment to this holy work. You can read his powerful Torah [here](#).

Our Racial Justice Task Force, led by Tamar Ghidalia and Jim Rubenstein, are currently working on an internal assessment of our congregation. In the months ahead, they will be looking at every aspect of our synagogue life through a lens of racial justice and prepare recommendations for the congregation's Annual Meeting next spring.

Shir Tikvah is participating in the Sacred Solidarity Network, 10 Twin Cities Congregations of all faiths who have joined together to share resources, learn, and grow with one another as we address racism in our institutions and in the broader society. There will be a workshop at MayFlower Church on Sunday, November 13, 2-4pm to talk more about this work. All are welcome to attend.

Finally, we invite each of you to join the second cohort of Beloved Conversations that begins in December. Beloved Conversations, originally developed by the Unitarians and adapted for our Jewish congregation, is a powerful, thoughtful way to understand racism as a spiritual and theological problem as well as a social and political and structural one. Jim Rubenstein shares this about Beloved Conversations: "Beloved Conversations helped me recognize and address the subtle and not-so subtle forms of racism in forward thinking communities like Shir Tikvah and in me. Using Judaism and other sources, it reached me both emotionally and intellectually. At the same time, I loved the friendships I made with a diverse group of Shir Tikvites, many of whom I did not know at all before the sessions began." You can register for Beloved Conversations [here](#).

As we read words of B'reishit this Shabbat, we re-dream the creation of the world as a holy place where justice flows and every human is treated with Divine dignity. We have a lot of challenging and holy work ahead of us. Let's get to it!

Shabbat Shalom,
Michael