

# Monthly Newsletter

TO OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY...



#2 | April 2024 | Nisan 5784

Hi! We have some exciting news to share with you in our monthly newsletter. You can read more details below, but here are some highlights. We have our bi-monthly Shabbat service and Torah study this Saturday, April 20th. Our Community Seder is the following Saturday, April 27th. We hope you can join us for one or both of these events. Our community seder is welcoming to all peoples and is spiritually alive and politically relevant and meaningful for all peoples.

## **A few reflections from Rabbi Cat**

Passover begins on Monday evening, April 22nd, which is also Earth Day. It is not surprising that Passover overlaps with a time to celebrate the earth because like all ancient peoples, Jews celebrated spring with festivals that rejoiced in the awakening of the fertility of the soil. In addition, Jews utilized nature festivals to recall and relive historical experiences of meaning for our people—to remind us of our past and direct the human mind to the consciousness of history as an ethical and spiritual influence in human life. The purpose of the Jewish festivals is to illustrate the presence and activity of the Divine in nature, history, and people's individual and collective lives. The connection between the natural world and the spiritual world are both manifestations of the Divine Source of All. The earth and its people and all its inhabitants are entering a time of rebirth, the sprouting of new possibilities, and liberation.

May this time of rebirth, growth, and liberation nourish you individually so you can strengthen your resolve in your personal life and so you can participate in your community and the world in ways that are uplifting. And may we see the world collectively reject militarism, hatred, and divisiveness and turn towards a world in which we all embrace our interdependence grounded in the loving energy that permeates all life.



Rabbi Cat at the Interfaith pilgrimage for a ceasefire in Gaza

NEW EVENTS  
COMING UP

\* **Upcoming** \*

NEW EVENTS  
COMING UP



## Shabbat | Metzarah 5784

We hope you will join our Celebration of the Universe and Torah Study on **Saturday, April 6th** with Rabbi Cat Zavis. We will begin our Shabbat service with meaningful prayers, balancing the awe of being alive with the call in our tradition for radical transformation of our world.

**Register here:**

<https://www.beyttikkun.org/beyt-tikkun-shabbat-service-and-torah-study/>

This week's parsha, Metzarah, includes detailed information on how to purify oneself when you come into contact with a person who is "contaminated." Ok, there is a lot to say about what it means to be contaminated. The Torah is referring to people who are sick with a disease, such as leprosy, and also people who have died. Sadly, in our world today, we too often turn away from and feel we need to cleanse ourselves when we interact with certain people, including people we deem "dirty." Rather than lean and help people who may be sick or dying, or who are in need of our compassion, human interaction, and support we too often treat them as if there is something fundamentally wrong with them as a person and look the other way, cross the street, or otherwise fail to show up.

What can we glean from this ritual practice of purifying ourselves after we come into contact with a sick or dying person that can help us lean into connection, support, care, and generosity during the time a person is in need rather than separation and alienation?

## Passover 5784

All are welcome to join our seder.

Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date.

**Registration required:**

**[Register here by April 17th for in person, and anytime through the 27th for online](#)**

**Saturday April 27th @ [Northbrae Community Church](#)  
941 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA 94707**

We will begin around 6:00pm PT and end at approximately 9:30pm PT.

We will be hosting this seder both online via Zoom and in person in Berkeley, CA.



## Other Events and Activities

### Israel/Palestine Committee

The Beyt Tikkun Israeli-Palestinian action committee has a multi-pronged approach. This includes building a working relationship with other progressive organizations such as Jewish Voices for Peace and Rabbis for a Ceasefire. We support and participate in non-violent protests, including marches and rallies in support of a Ceasefire and an end of U.S. military aid to Israel. Working with Code Pink, Move-On and other organizations, we circulate e-petitions that, among other things, encourage phoning the offices of elected officials. To deepen our understanding of the issue and struggles, we provide a reading list to our members. Currently we are creating a facilitator's guide to *The Hundred Years War on Palestine* by Rashid Khalidi. We will host book clubs to discuss this and other books, including Rabbi Michael Lerner's book *Embracing Israel / Palestine*. We are participating in the IfNotNow movement's strategies to challenge the influence of AIPAC. These tactics include contacting your senators and congress members and asking them to sign a pledge that they will not accept contributions from AIPAC. In collaboration with the American Friends Service Committee, we identified predatory war profiteering corporations who are providing equipment or technology that aides the genocide in Gaza (e.g., Caterpillar vehicles used to demolish Palestinian homes and General Dynamics's bunker buster bombs) and write letters to these corporations calling on them to stop providing machinery and weapons to Israel.

Contact Neil Penn at [ftc\\_penn@yahoo.com](mailto:ftc_penn@yahoo.com) or Debbie Duenas at [debbieduenas@gmail.com](mailto:debbieduenas@gmail.com)

### **Want to lead songs/prayers on Shabbat?**

Do you want to lead a particular prayer or prayerful song/chant at our Shabbat services? Or maybe you'd like to learn how to lead a prayer or song. We love hearing multiple voices during our services and invite you to email Rabbi Cat at [rabbicat@beyttikkun.org](mailto:rabbicat@beyttikkun.org) and let her know what you'd enjoy sharing! If you are afraid you don't "know how" or won't do it "right," please know that we can help you and it is the intention (kavannah) in prayers, not making it sound perfect or having a beautiful voice. We'd love your active participation!



# JOIN JVP POWER HOURS

We are horrified by the terrible genocide that is taking place in Gaza before our eyes. The Beyt Tikkun Israel/Palestine Working Group would like to encourage you to join us in getting support and taking action by attending the Jewish Voice for Peace on-line gathering every weekday at 12noon (Pacific Time). It is called the “JVP Power Half-Hour” because it is a half hour gathering in an inclusive, supportive environment that includes links and time to call and/or email your congress people to urge them to take a stand for a lasting ceasefire and no more weapons or funding to Israel. If you would like to be an attendee, you will need to register just once at [www.jvp.org/gazaph](http://www.jvp.org/gazaph). You will get a daily (Monday - Friday) reminder after that with the zoom link.

You can also go to the Jewish Voice for Peace website and click on “Take Action” or “Act Now” to be taken to a link that will automatically connect your phone to your congress person and give you a script. Or click on this link <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/ceasefire/>

## More Resources on Israel/Palestine

You can access information and resources about Israel/Palestine [here](#).

Here is a [link](#) to a recent powerful article in the Boston Review that aligns with a Tikkun/Beyt Tikkun worldview.

## Pilgrimage Update

On Saturday, March 23rd Beyt Tikkun, along with many other faith communities, co-organized and participated in an Interfaith Pilgrimage Ceasefire for Gaza. Rabbi Cat and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb co-led a Shabbat morning service in the morning. There were celebrations, activities, and a large gathering in the afternoon, as well as a Iftar, a break-fast, at the end of the pilgrimage. As you can see from the information below, it was a huge success. We are excited to build on these connections and join other interfaith actions.

### HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS

22-mile journey through four cities

15 outlets, including SF Chronicle, KRON4 and KQED  
Amplified our message

1800 people from diverse backgrounds

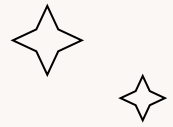
Representatives from over 45 faith communities

Over 4,000 individuals reached through social media channels, further extending its impact.

13 congregations provided hospitality

200 volunteers supported safety and logistics

More than 100 Faith Leaders signed a public letter to Senator Padilla and Senator Butler



## Community News

A Beyt Tikkun member has released a very powerful song and video about the current situation in Gaza.

[Watch here](#)



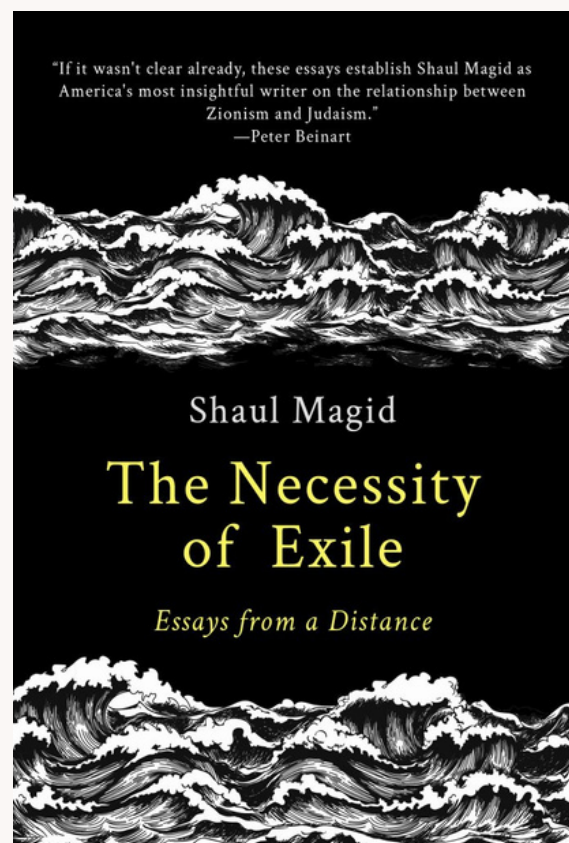
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Beyt Tikkun is excited to announce that the Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP), what had previously been the activist arm of Tikkun magazine, is now a project of Beyt Tikkun. The NSP will continue to provide a space for interfaith spiritual growth, engagement, and healing, as well as community building. Our activist work and approach will remain the same and be guided by the values of Tikkun. We will offer trainings, educational opportunities, and more.

Beyt Tikkun membership includes membership in NSP. If you're not a member of Beyt Tikkun, you can remain or become a member of the Network of Spiritual Progressives to support our work. As a member of the NSP, you will receive discounts to NSP and Beyt Tikkun events, trainings, and more. And, you will know that you are part of a community of like-minded spiritual progressives who seek to co-create the world for which we all so desperately yearn. You can join the NSP by clicking <https://www.beyttikkun.org/nsp/>

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**Coming Soon:** A conversation with Jewish scholar Shaul Maggid discussing his new book, [The Necessity of Exile](#). This book is a series of essays in which Shaul reflects on his relationship with the State of Israel, the Jewish people, Zionism, and more. His essays provide a wonderful and insightful way to engage with some of these challenging and complex issues.





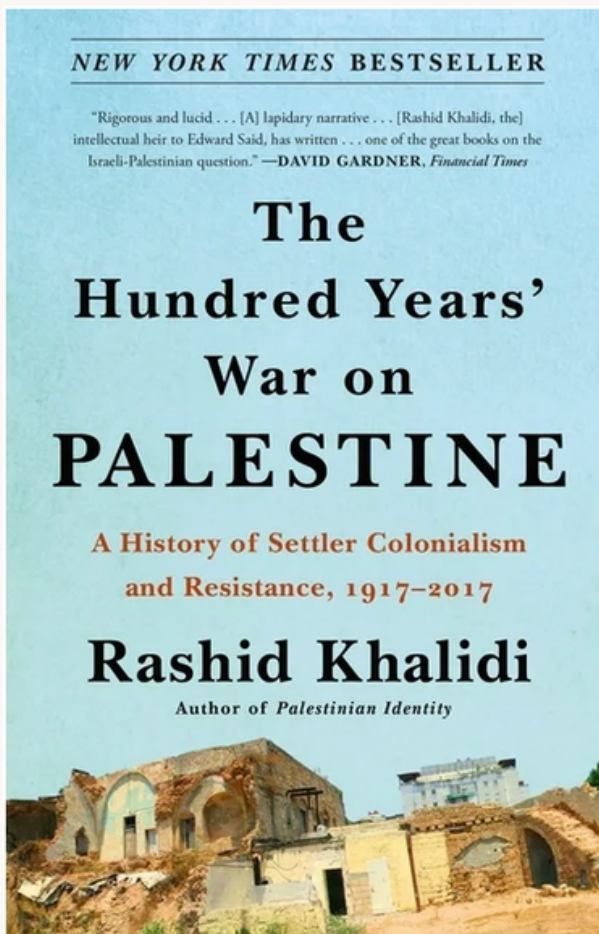
# Stay Tuned Coming soon

## Beyt Tikkun Book Club

Our first book will be:

The Hundred Years' War on Palestine : A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017

By Rashid Khalidi

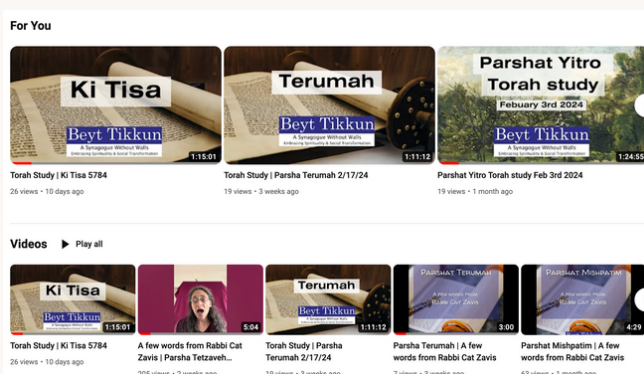


## Donate or Become a Member

If you'd like to support us in our work or you would like to become a member please follow this [link](#) for more info, we really appreciate it

## Subscribe on Youtube

Did you know that we have a Youtube channel, where we upload Torah Studies and other events? Follow and subscribe [here](#) to be alerted when new videos are uploaded.





## Contribute

We love to share what's going on with our beloved community members. If you have an event, poem, piece of art, or just about anything else, send it our way! Email to: [Austin@Beyttikkun.org](mailto:Austin@Beyttikkun.org)

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## Stay Connected



[Follow us on social media](#)

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REACH OUT  
FOR A CHAT

**We look forward to  
connecting!**

GET TO KNOW  
US BETTER

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