Reflections from R’Cat

During this past month, I had the honor and privilege of speaking at Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland at their Peace service. After the service, we gathered together to reflect on my words, ask questions, and be in community together. Thank you to Pastors Ben and Katie and to Jan who invited and hosted me. I look forward to future collaborative efforts. You can read my talk [here](#).

I also participated in an Interfaith Fast and Pray-In for Gaza. We began in front of the Ferry Building in SF and, to a mournful drum beat, we walked to Senator Alex Padilla’s office. There we held an Interfaith Pray-in featuring prayers from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, and Ohlone traditions. Our demands included that he support the following: an enduring and sustained ceasefire; the immediate flow of life-saving food, water, aid, fuel and humanitarian assistance; securing the release of all hostages, including Israeli hostages held by Hamas and Palestinian hostages in the Israeli prison system; and ending the occupation to pave the way for a just and lasting peace. Since our action, Senator Padilla’s office has finally agreed to meet with us and receive our petition.
On Passover, we freed ourselves from the shackles of slavery and oppression and began our liberation journey—a physical, psychological, and spiritual process. Until we live in a society and world in which no one is oppressed, we all remain shackled in the chains of oppressive systems and structures as well as the consciousness of domination. So this is quite the journey!

On the evening of **Thursday, June 6th**, we began the month of Sivan. This is the month, on **Shavuot**, when God gave the Torah to the Hebrew people on Mt. Sinai. We are taught that every Jew alive today was there at Mt. Sinai when the Torah was given to the Jewish people and that Torah is continually coming down from Sinai. Divine inspiration is always available to us, if only we are receptive.

The 49 days between Passover and **Shavuot** (during which we count the **Omer**) is a time of introspection and self-refinement as we prepare to receive the revelation from Mt. Sinai anew. Each day represents a step on our psycho/spiritual journey.

The gate to access wisdom from Divine Source is closest and most accessible on **Shavuot**. Of course, we are so often busy and overwhelmed with leading our lives that we may find it difficult to slow down and listen. During our Torah study on Saturday, June 1st, I led a meditation to help us connect with Divine Source and perhaps hear Divine inspiration. I encourage you to find some time during this month of Sivan to try and quiet your mind, nervous system, and body and listen to the spark of the divinity that is speaking to you. To help you, I invite you to listen to my guided meditation [here](#).
* Upcoming *

**NEW EVENTS COMING UP**

---

**Shabbat | Nasso 5784**

We continue to meet for Saturday morning Shabbat celebration of the universe and Torah study on the first and third Saturdays of the month. We’re thrilled to share that we are once again holding Shabbat services and Torah study in person (in addition to on Zoom). If you are in the Bay Area, please join us in person when you can. We will have vegetarian potluck meals after our Torah study to deepen our connection with one another. We’d love to be with you on **Saturday, June 15th**.

We will discuss parsha Nasso. What sense can we derive from some of the teachings in this parsha that to our modern sensibilities may range from being meaningless to sexist?

To obtain the Zoom link to join us online or the address where we meet in person (a new location, very centrally located in Emeryville, a short walk from the MacArthur Bart Station), please register [here](#).

If you would like to hear Rabbi Cat's drash on last week’s parsha (Bamidbar) you can watch it [here](#).

---

**Other Events and Activities**

In this section, we share offerings from our *Beyt Tikkun* community.

**Movie: Where the Olive Trees Weep**

We are excited to announce that we have arranged a way for folks to watch this powerful movie and then participate in a community discussion with Ashira Darwish, a Palestinian journalist and therapist who is featured in the film. There will be a special link through which you can register to watch the film at your convenience. All proceeds raised will be shared 50/50 between *Beyt Tikkun* and the filmmakers. We will host a community gathering and discussion, with Ashira Darwish, Sunday, June 23rd.

This powerful film offers a searing window into the struggles and resilience of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. It explores themes of loss, trauma, and the quest for justice. The film follows, among others, Palestinian journalist and therapist Ashira Darwish, grassroots activist Ahed Tamimi, and Israeli journalist Amira Hass. We also witness Dr. Gabor Maté offer trauma-healing work to a group of women who were tortured in Israeli prisons.

We will send out information for how to register to watch the film and then to join us for our community-wide discussion and Q&A with Ashira Darwish later this week.
Israel/Palestine Committee: Weekly Action for Peace

For our Weekly Action for Peace 6/3, we are collaborating with Jewish Voice for Peace in their efforts to press the Biden administration to immediately suspend all weapons shipments to the Israeli government and to oppose any future arms transfers to Israel. Click here to send an email message to your representatives in Washington DC.

For our Action of the Week for Peace 6/10, we are collaborating with Win Without War in telling President Biden to join with other world leaders in condemning the latest horrific strikes in Rafah and make it unequivocally clear that not one more U.S. bomb or bullet will be sent to the Israeli military in support of this horrific war. Click here to add your name now if you agree.

Thank you for participating in our weekly action for peace!

Past Events

Conversation with Shaul Magid
If you missed our conversation with Shaul Magid, you can obtain the recording here.

Listening and Grieving Circle
If you missed our listening and grieving circle, you can obtain the recording here.
Community News/Contributions

Membership Committee

As we continue to grow and evolve, it's essential for us to ensure that all members feel welcomed, valued, and engaged. With this in mind, the Board of Directors is excited to announce the formation of a Membership Committee. We would like to extend an invitation to you to join us in this endeavor. The Membership Committee will play a crucial role in greeting and welcoming new members, as well as strategizing ways to enhance member engagement and participation within our organization. Some of the responsibilities of the Membership Committee will include:

1. Greeting and welcoming new members to our community.
2. Developing strategies to increase member participation and interest in Beyt Tikkun.
3. Organizing events and activities to foster connections among members.
4. Providing feedback and suggestions to the Board on ways to improve the membership experience.

We'd love to have you join our committee and bring your insights and enthusiasm to our community.

By joining the Membership Committee, you'll have the opportunity to contribute directly to the growth and success of our community. Your involvement will not only benefit our organization but also enrich your own experience as a member.

If you're interested in joining the Membership Committee or would like more information, please contact Rabbi Cat at rabbicat@beyttikkun.org. We welcome your ideas, energy, and passion for Beyt Tikkun.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Beyt Tikkun. Together, we can create a vibrant and inclusive community where all members feel valued and empowered.

---

Spiritual Sustenance and Inspiration

The war in Gaza, the protests around the country, the ongoing concerns for the lives of the hostages and Palestinian prisoners, the rise in Palestinian land dispossession and theft in the West Bank, the environmental devastation, the list goes on and on, is enough to make anyone feel deeply depressed. It is as if all of humanity is experiencing collective trauma and depression. It is my intention to hold a balance in my work as a spiritual leader — to uplift hope and faith in a time of great despair, to tell the truth when we so often live in illusion, and to grieve in a society that practices denial. Does that mean you have to agree with what I express or how I express it? Most certainly not. Judaism is an over 3000 year old religion that uplifts debate and disagreement for the sake of heaven (meaning, for the sake of a higher good). I am grateful for your presence and participation.

I offer [here](#) a teaching and guided meditation that I shared on the second day of Rosh HaShanah on Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac. I share this with you now because I think there is so much of what I taught and shared then that is relevant and meaningful today. I hope this teaching and meditation offers you some spiritual sustenance and inspiration during these challenging and unsettling times.

---

[Community News/Contributions](#)
Educational Opportunities & Resources

Global Shavuot Teach In: The Torah of Freedom for All

This year for Shavuot, in addition to the mediation by Rabbi Cat, we are co-sponsoring Tikkun Leil Shavuot with Rabbis for Ceasefire. They are offering online Shavuot teachings, meditations, and more.

Rabbi Cat with be participating in one of their offerings, namely, A Workshop with the JVP Rabbinic Council on Wednesday, June 12th at 10:00am PT/1:00pm ET.

Come along for a night of study grounded in art, history, and our sacred texts, moving together towards a permanent ceasefire and freedom for all.

Jewish tradition offers that staying up all night to learn on Shavuot is a form of sacred repair, making up for times when we failed to rise to the occasion. This is the “tikkun” in Tikkun Leil Shavuot – a call to meet the moment and repair the world.

No prior Torah study experience required – all are welcome! Wherever you are in the world, we hope you’ll join us!

To learn more and register, click here.

Voices From the Holy Land Online Film Salon

SUNDAY June 16, 2024 3 pm ET • 12 noon PT • 10 pm Jerusalem

Each year, 500 to 700 Palestinian children, some as young as twelve, have been routinely arrested without charges, interrogated, tried in a military court, and imprisoned for months. Since October 7, 2023, arrests have accelerated. The June Salon will explore Israel’s military “justice system” for Palestinian children through two documentaries. Two Kids a Day includes leaked video from the interrogation of four children. Their personal stories, as well as their life in the refugee camp they call home, are revealed. Caging Childhood explores whether Israel’s military detention of youth is a system of justice, or a tool for controlling the Palestinian population.

You must register to join the discussion & receive access to the film, click here.
Watch the Trailer here.
In a world where diversity enriches the fabric of society, it is imperative to stand together in solidarity with our queer friends, family, and community members. Pride Month serves as a beacon of celebration and recognition, a time when we honor the resilience, strength, and vibrant contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals across the globe.

In our commitment to promoting diversity and equity, we invite you to engage with a myriad of queer learning opportunities available. From workshops and seminars to online courses and community discussions, there's something for everyone eager to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the LGBTQ+ community.

Sharing these resources helps promote inclusivity and support for LGBTQ+ individuals within the Jewish community and beyond.

**Keshet** - Keshet works for the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in all aspects of Jewish life. They offer education, advocacy, and support to create inclusive Jewish communities.

**Jewish Queer Youth (JQY)** - JQY provides support, resources, and community for LGBTQ+ Jewish youth from Orthodox, Chabad, and Sephardic backgrounds.

**Trans Halakha Project** - The Trans Halakha Project is a valuable initiative that explores the intersection of transgender identity and Jewish law (halakha), providing a platform for dialogue and understanding within the Jewish community.

**InclusiveSiddur.org** - Inclusivesiddur.org offers an inclusive Siddur (Jewish prayer book) that reflects the diversity of the Jewish community, including prayers and texts relevant to LGBTQ+ individuals.

---

**Celebrations**

On **Sunday, June 9th**, Beyt Tikkun member Yuri Kasinsky and Rabbi Cat joined Omnira in a very moving Juneteenth celebration. Their ritual included moving prayers, songs, and some short teachings about the history of slavery in the Americas. While the event has passed, we encourage you to go to their [website](#) to learn more about the event, their community and their work.
Mi Shebeirach

If you or someone you know is on our list that no longer needs our prayers, or if you or someone you know needs our prayers, please email Austin at austin@beyttikkun.org and let him know and we will respond accordingly.
Donate or Become a Member

If you’d like to support us in our work or would like to become a member please follow this [link](#) for more info, We’d love to have you join us!

---

The future looks bright!

We’re excited about the opportunities for our community.

Keep a look out for more news and ways to get engaged.

---

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 Austin@Beyttikkun.org

Stay Connected

Follow us on social media

We look forward to connecting!
austin@beyttikkun.org
www.Beyttikkun.org