

Monthly Newsletter

TO OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY...



#6 | August 2024 | Av 5784

Reflections from R'Cat

Thank you to everyone who joined us for *Tisha b'Av*. It was a very moving and powerful evening. I was honored to have musical director Ami Goodman, lay leader Abby Caplin, Rabbi Diane Elliot, and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb join me. As I carve out my rabbinate, I look forward to building and deepening partnerships with other individuals and organizations, including faith leaders from other traditions.

As I reflect upon the work I and *Beyt Tikkun* has done the past year, I want to celebrate all the coalitions we have been a part of, the work of the Israel/Palestine committee, and efforts to reach more and more people.

I want to uplift the amazing team at *Beyt Tikkun*.

Alden Cohen has been with *Beyt Tikkun* since 2020. He has handled all things operational at *Beyt Tikkun* from bookkeeping, to managing the website, to handling our emails, and providing support whenever and wherever it is needed! He continues to provide support in countless ways and gratefully since June of this year, Austin Coulson has taken on some of these responsibilities as well.

Austin has been *Beyt Tikkun's* Communications Manager since 2023. He works tirelessly to ensure all communications and social media run smoothly. He creates the amazing slideshows *Beyt Tikkun* uses during our online and hybrid services, and he does all of our social media! If you've emailed us with a question or issue, it's highly likely Austin helped you.



I am excited to introduce Carey Averbook. Carey is working with *Beyt Tikkun* to help us expand our reach. Carey has training and expertise in Relationship-based engagement and will help us reach younger adults, particularly those who feel alienated from the Jewish world and who are seeking a place where they are welcomed and encouraged to bring their full spiritual and political selves. She will also support membership engagement and outreach. Carey would love to have a conversation with you to learn more about you and your interest in *Beyt Tikkun*. You can contact Carey at caverbook@pm.me.

I am also so grateful to all of our Board members (Heidi Feldman, President, Robert Weisberg, Treasurer, Dale Rabinov, and Neil Penn). They are incredibly dedicated to helping ensure that *Beyt Tikkun* grows and thrives both in the present and for years to come. If you are interested in joining the board, please email me (rabbicat@beyttikkun.org) and we can have an initial conversation.

We also have a Membership committee that is helping to reach out to all of you and spread the word about *Beyt Tikkun*. Thank you Laurel Olkinetzky, Todd Glanz, and Leah Sudran. If you are interested in joining or learning more about the membership committee, please email Austin at austin@beyttikkun.org.

And of course, I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you in our community, however you show up, I am grateful. We invite you to get more involved if that works in your life. You can see below there are a myriad of ways to join us. I hope you find one that is a good fit for you.

Upcoming events

Beginning in August, Rabbi Cat is offering two new ways to be in community.

Walk, Pray, Eat with Rabbi Cat

The second Tuesday of each month, Rabbi Cat will lead a morning Walk, Pray, Eat. You can meet R'Cat at [Huichin park](#) in Emeryville. The next Walk, Pray, Eat is September 10th (you can help R'Cat celebrate her birthday, which is the following day!). She will also have her phone so you can join on Zoom. We will pray and walk and if you want, you can grab some food along the way. We will walk along the Emeryville Greenway, which is accessible to all people (flat, level, wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, etc.). Bring your dog if you want as well. We will meet at **8:00am PT** at the park and leave for our walk at 8:10am. The prayers will last about 45-60 minutes. You can stay as long or short as you are able. We will have the prayers (in English and Hebrew transliteration) available on paper as well as online. Click [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.



Community Chit Chat with Rabbi Cat

The third Wednesday of each month, beginning **August 21st at 5:30pm PT (8:30pm ET)**, R'Cat will host a Zoom "Community Chit Chat with Rabbi Cat." It's an opportunity to visit together in community, ask questions, share celebrations, or anything else that moves you. Click [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.



Shabbat Services and Holidays

Shabbat Summer Services

Rabbi Cat and Austin are taking some time off this summer. We will not have services the first Shabbat in September. **We will have our regularly scheduled services on August 17th, and September 21st.** Rabbi Cat will still create videos for the weeks we are not together about the Torah portion for each week so you can watch those and nourish your hearts, souls, and intellect that way! You can watch Rabbi Cat's videos on our [YouTube](#) page. Thank you for your understanding.



We hope you will join our Celebration of the Universe and Torah Study on **Saturday, August 17th** with Rabbi Cat Zavis.

You can join us either in person or on Zoom for Shabbat services and Torah study. If you are in the Bay Area, we'd love to have you join us in person. After Torah study, we enjoy a vegetarian potluck meal together and have an opportunity to deepen our connection with one another. If you are able, please bring a vegetarian dish to share with others. For those joining us online, we invite you to also bring food to eat after the service. We will keep the room open so folks can connect with each other after the service.

To obtain the Zoom link to join us online or the address where we meet in-person (centrally located in Emeryville, only a short walk from the MacArthur Bart Station), please register [here](#). To obtain the address to join us in-person, please email Austin at austin@beyttikkun.org. Feel free to invite others as well by forwarding this [link](#).

We begin our Shabbat service at **9:30am PT** with meaningful prayers, balancing the awe of being alive with the call in our tradition for radical transformation of our world.

Then we turn to our Torah study at **10:30am PT**. This week we read parsha Vaetchanan. This week's parsha packs a punch! It has the 10 speech acts or divine utterances (*aseret ha'dibrot* – commonly referred to as the 10 commandments) and the *Shema* and *v'ahavta* (that we recite twice a day). We will discuss the 10 divine utterances and have a look at a modern day translation of them written by Rabbi Cat. There will be time to explore what might be divine utterances that you are hearing today and what kind of commitment you want to make, if any. We hope you can join us.

Watch Rabbi Cat's video invite [here](#)

Accessibility Protocols

Shabbat Services and Torah Study are held at Rabbi Cat's home. She has a cat and dog (the dog will not be present at services) that live in the house. We encourage people to wear a mask if that is comfortable for you. There are 4 steps to enter the house. The house is one story. There are 4 steps out the backdoor to the backyard if we decide to go outside. There are couches, dining room chairs, and a floor for seating (along with pillows one can sit on on the floor). Please try to be scent-free. Rabbi Cat only uses mild scents and natural cleaning supplies, soaps, etc. in the house.



Yes, the high holy days are rapidly approaching! We will have hybrid services both in-person and on Zoom so you can join us from anywhere. We are also hoping to host children services for *Rosh Hashanah*. As usual, our services will be a beautiful blend of deep spirituality and prophetic consciousness. We will have speakers that will open your heart and mind as well as expand your consciousness. Our music will lift your spirits and hold your brokenness. We will once again share our powerful *Teshuva* (repentance) workbook to make this ritual process deeply real and meaningful. And we will, as always, have our *Beyt Tikkun Al Cheyt* (For Our Sins) for both the personal and collective ways that we have missed the mark. This has been a very difficult year. We will hold the grief, sorrow, rage, and horrors in our beloved community and also celebrate and embrace the New Year with its possibilities for transformation.

Please mark calendar for the following dates

Erev Rosh Hashanah - Wednesday, Oct. 2nd

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 - Thursday, Oct. 3rd

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 - Friday, Oct. 4th

Kol Nidre - Friday, Oct. 11th

Yom Kippur - Saturday, Oct. 12th

Sukkot Shabbat - Saturday, Oct. 19th

[Subscribe to our Google calendar here.](#)

Other Events and Activities

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

Workshop: How to Move Our Money

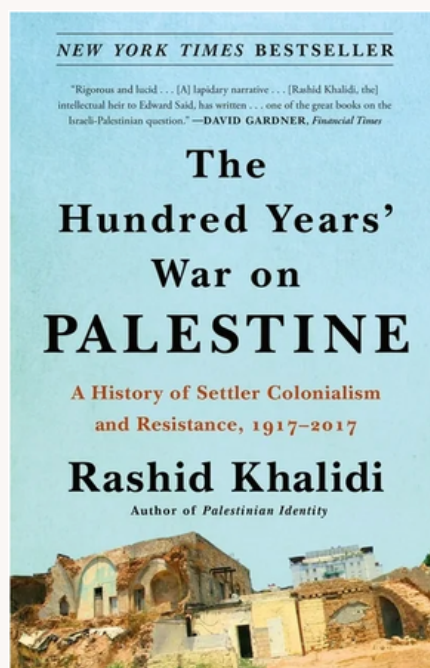
As we move toward the Days of Awe, Beyt Tikkun is partnering with Ways of Peace Community Resources to offer a special Elul cohort of [How To Move Our Money: From Charity to Clarity and Solidarity](#) (link best viewed on a device larger than a smartphone).

This six-week online course is designed for those who seek to heal their relationships with money, and to channel that healing toward justice — beyond any specific cause. The solidarity economics of “How To Move Our Money” are equally applicable to domestic reparations, wartime violence and displacement, homelessness, reproductive freedom, gun violence, mental illness, immigrant solidarity and more — *regardless* of personal income or affluence levels.

We plan to launch this six-week cohort either **Monday, September 9th or Tuesday, September 10th**. If you would like to have input into scheduling days and times and are interested in joining this course, please write to Austin at Austin@beyttikkun.org no later than August 21st so we can determine if we have enough interest to offer this course.

Book Group: A 100 Years War on Palestine by Rashid Khalidi

Beginning **Thursday September 12th at 5:30pm PT** (8:30pm ET), we will meet once a month on the 2nd Thursday of each month (after the High Holidays we may as a group decide to meet 2x/month) to discuss this book. Rabbi Cat will guide our discussion. Together we will create a safe container to hold our questions, grief, anger, compassion, yearning, and hope. We'd love to have you join us. You can read about the book and purchase it through independent bookstores [here](#). Please register [here](#) to join our book group



Israel/Palestine Committee: Weekly Action for Peace

Since the beginning of Israel's attacks on Gaza over 10 months ago to the present, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have unleashed violence against unarmed Palestinians in Gaza. Below is a description of and link to a Zoom event on **Sunday, August 18, 2024** featuring a former IDF soldier who is now a professor at City College of New York, teaching Yiddish and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We encourage you to register.



Elik Elhanan served in a special forces unit in the Israel Defense Forces from 1995 to 1998, operating extensively in south Lebanon and the West Bank. In 1997, his 14-year-old sister was killed by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem. Elik is also a military refusenik. He joined Courage to Refuse in 2002 and co-founded the Israeli-Palestinian group Combatants for Peace in 2005, becoming its Israeli director in 2006-2007. He has been a long-time member of the Parents Circle-Families Forum. In 2012, he participated in a mission with the Swedish boat S/V Estelle to challenge the Israeli blockade of Gaza. Elik earned his PhD in Middle East studies from Columbia University and currently works as a professor teaching Yiddish and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at City College of New York.

Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM Jerusalem time, 5:00 PM London time, 12:00 Noon, N.Y time and 9:00 AM Los Angeles time.

Register in advance for this meeting [here](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thank you for doing your part,

The Beyt Tikkun Israel/Palestine Working Group

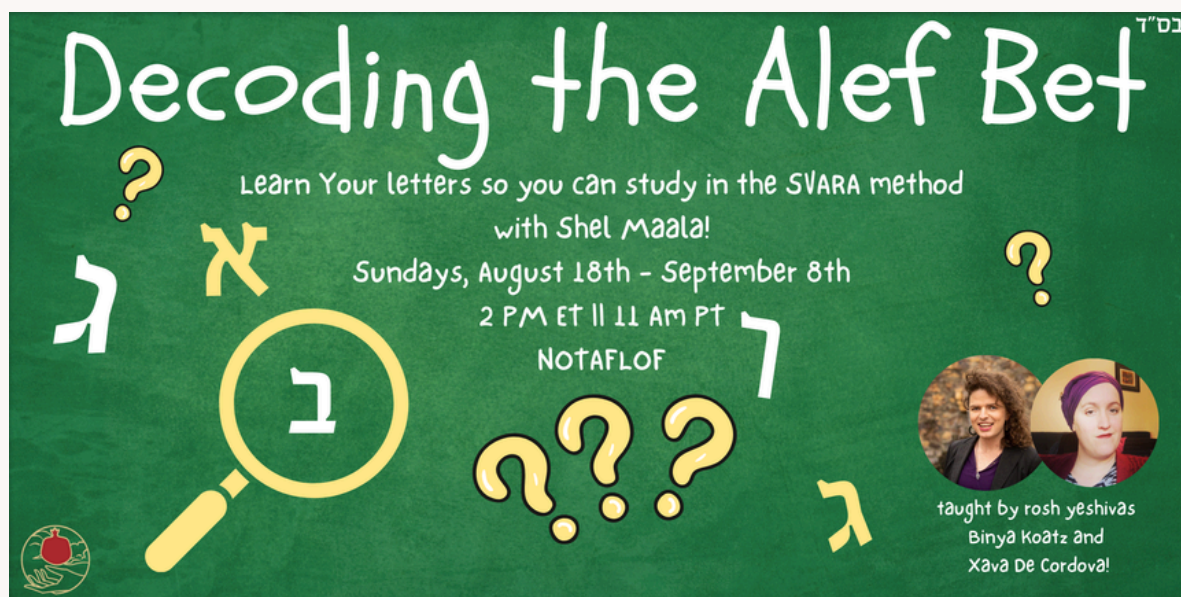
Thank you for participating in our weekly actions for peace!

Spiritual sustenance and inspiration

We have now entered the seven weeks of consolation between Tisha b'Av and Rosh Hashanah. During these weeks, we read haftorot (i.e., prophetic texts) that offer consolation to the people. The first of these, that we read this Shabbat, is by Isaiah. In this text, God (through Isaiah) says, "Nachamu ami," comfort my people. Even though they've screwed up and didn't follow the teachings given to them, even though (as in the case of the Egyptians) they enslaved others, at the end of the day, the deity that is the champion for the oppressed also cares about the oppressor. All are sparks of love. We have a lot to grieve and we need to be comforted and held in our grief. We need to know that even though we've missed the mark, we too are still sparks of the Divine. Our prophets both engage in holy rebuke, pointing out the ways we have truly failed to walk in God's path, and in holy comfort, reminding us that we are still embodiments of the Divine. What a beautiful container to hold all of us—seeing the fullness of our humanity and calling us to be our highest selves. As we enter these weeks and approach the month of Elul, I invite you to take time to find a place in nature or in your home where you feel held and comforted and pour out all your feelings, whether positive or negative, and see if you can sink into the experience of knowing that you are held in love and worthy of love, from yourself, others, and from the Divine.

Educational opportunities and resources

From Shel Maala yeshiva:



Do you want to learn to read and write in Hebrew? Is it because you just want to understand what the shapes of the letters mean? Or do you have a bigger goal in mind? Together we can take that first step either for its own sake, or so that you can start learning how to chant Torah, understand the siddur, or even study Talmud (with us!). If you're a beginner or just wanting to refresh your skills, this is the class for you!

BOTH OF SHEL MAALA'S ROSH YESHIVAS - R' Xava de Cordova and Binya Kóatz, teach the alef bet in this must-have class for new beginners in the [SVARA](#) method. Perfect for beginners, no pre-knowledge required. This class will be live captioned.

Four Sundays August 18 -> September 8 2-3:30pm
ET/11am-12:30pm PT

For more info and to register click [here](#)

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@beytikkun.org and let him know and we will respond accordingly.

Diana daughter of Reyna and John
Shayna Sarah Bat Jakov v'Gitel
HaRav Michael ben Bayla v'Joseph Chaim [Rabbi Michael Lerner]
Miriam Yael Chaya bat Sarah
Rabbi Anne Brener
Mohamed Saleh
Jay McClelland
George Vradenburg ben Abraham v'Sarah
Ruth Von Blum
John Considine
David Shlomo ben Chaya Yocheved
Menachem Mendel
Martin Bruce Cohen
P'nina Devorah v'Shmu'el
Jamie Jean Jedinak
Ambarina Sui-Dawson
Viviane Carson
Tikvah bat Leah
Talya bat saleesha v' harav yitzkak dov
Menachem Adiv Ben Avraham v'Sarah
Batya Rachel Or v Rut
Renee Caugisents
Jessica Leach
Marion Brady
Ruth Kaufman Dick
Lisa Kully
אברהם יהודה בן ישראל מרדכי וביילע
(Aubrey Bernstein)
Bill Roller
Ellen Olhsson
Bob Swires
Romee Nicole Dwyer
heChasan Ja'akov Sender ben haRav Moshe haKohen v' Rachel
Renate Rose

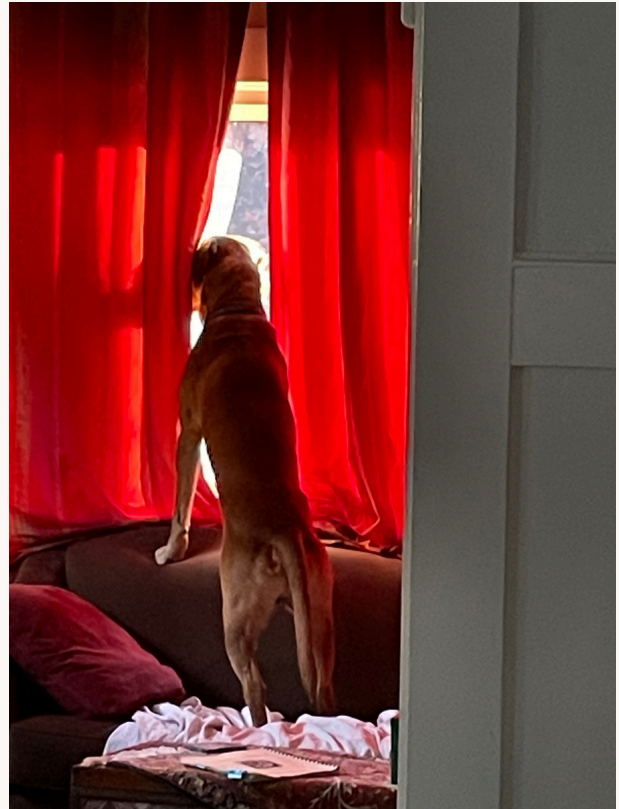
Join Our Membership Committee

Do you like to meet new people and make them feel welcomed? If so, please reach out to Austin at austin@beyttikkun.org to explore joining our membership committee, we'd love to have you!

The future looks bright!

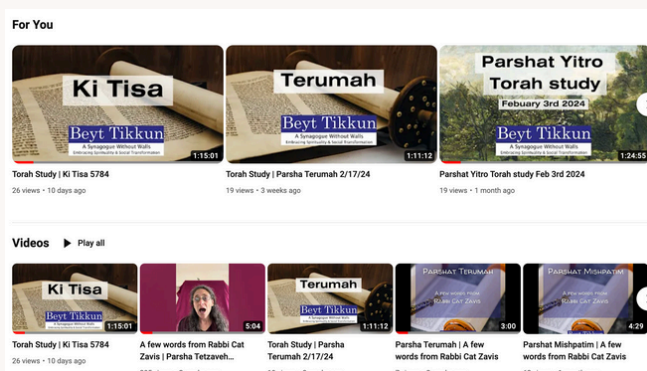
We're excited about the opportunities for our community.

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](#)

REACH OUT
FOR A CHAT

**We look forward to
connecting!**

GET TO KNOW
US BETTER

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