



the ZEDEK

JANUARY 2021

SOCIAL JUSTICE: ANTI-RACISM at BET TORAH:

In January, our Bet Torah Social Justice Committee will be focusing on issues of Racism. Here, as with each of our committee's areas of focus, we have a multi-pronged approach of education, personalization and appropriate activism. Our ultimate goals are always to work on identifying ways we can forge relationships with our neighbors and what we can do to make our communities better.

On Tuesday, January 12th we will have the next program in our JUSTICE FOR ALL SERIES, United Against Racism: Pursuing Justice as a Multiracial Jewish Community. This promises to be a very informative evening, touching not only on the ever prevalent issues of racism which are all around us, but also on its intersection with Judaism and antisemitism, and our own moral values.

For inspiration, here are some thoughts from a young Black woman, a professional who worked at a large well known technology company. It is interesting to note her views on everyday happenings that go on around her.

'What exactly is affirmative action? Are legacy slots at schools, huge financial contributions, slots for athletes, nepotism at work not forms of affirmative action?'

And, why is it assumed that if I'm an affirmative action candidate because of my race that I didn't deserve a slot? Cannot perform up to my white peers?'

Why do so many white women grab their purses when a black person walks into the store, or lock their doors when they drive through a black neighborhood.

Do you or people you know shy away from hiring black professionals: doctors, lawyers, dentists, etc?'

Have you seen racism and not spoken up?'

Why are blacks followed around a store?'

Why do we get stopped by cops a disproportionate amount of the time?'

White privilege - what does it mean to be white?'

Listen and read to understand.' *

The question that follows is why do some people choose to stand up and take action against injustices? It is time for us to decide if we will stand up or remain silent at this critical time.

In this regard, the Anti-Racism subcommittee of Bet Torah's Social Justice Committee has joined with seven synagogues, as well as the New Castle for Racial Equity and three local churches to fight injustice and start a dialogue with our communities of color. This is just the beginning, we have much to do.

UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS: ISSUES OF RACISM:

JANUARY 12, 2021 –Tuesday, 8 pm



RSVP HERE: [JUSTICE FOR ALL: UNITED AGAINST RACISM](#)

This program, UNITED AGAINST RACISM: Pursuing Justice as a Multiracial Jewish Community will involve a frank conversation with Amy Feinman representing the Northeast area Civil Rights Council of the Anti-Defamation League. She will be discussing how as a multiracial Jewish community we can actively participate in promoting social justice; This will include ways to participate in campaigns for racial justice and how we can support the Black Lives Matter movement. She will importantly also talk about how to resist using anti-Semitism as a tool to divide and distract particularly us in this movement.

As our community and our nation faces times of particular racial reckoning, we must address the ways, both obvious and insidious, that the legacy of slavery and systemic racism continue to affect and infect our policies and our institutions...and how our faith must compel us into action.

Liz Schonfeld who heads the Anti-racism piece of our Social Justice Committee will open the program. Amy Feinman will then be introduced; Scott Richman, ADL Regional director will moderate and Rabbi Brusso will be offering closing remarks.

JANUARY 10-12 – watch Shared Legacy Film

FILM LINK: [Shared Legacy Film](#) Password: Menemsha

JANUARY 19, 2021 – Tuesday, 8 pm FILM PANEL DISCUSSION

RSVP FOR DISCUSSION: [PANEL DISCUSSION of SHARED LEGACY](#)

Shared Legacies: The African American – Jewish Civil Rights Alliance is a phenomenal film chronicling the long standing alliances between Jews and Blacks in the United States. The historical depiction of the friendship and the alliance between these two groups reawakens the idea of how much alike the plight our two groups are and brings the thought that the issues are likely the same for others in our country who have faced discrimination and marginalization.

On Tuesday January 19th, there will be a panel discussion of the film moderated by **Rev Doris Dalton**, Chair of the Westchester Human Rights Commission, **Dr. Shari L. Rogers**, film director/producer and head writer, **Dr. Susannah Heschel**, American scholar, distinguished professor, and daughter of the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and **Tiffany Hamilton**, Chief Diversity officer at Pace University.