

Hello Kol Shofar and Marin Teens!

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying the start of what is turning out to be a very different Fall.

With everything going on in the world, it is important for us to have a safe space to connect, debate and discuss what is going on with our peers and friends in a Jewish setting, free from the pressures of school, grades and other factors. Using Jewish values and wisdom to help guide us, together, we need to be able to ask such questions as:

- What does Judaism say about racial injustice, the environment and public health?
- How can we as young Jews make a difference in our society?
- Why are there so many Jewish artists, activists and leaders fighting for change?
- How do our beliefs hold us back from progress?

These big Jewish questions will be explored this year by Tichon, the teen education program at Kol Shofar.

For the 3rd year in a row, teens from around the Marin Jewish community will connect weekly, both remotely during Shelter-in-Place and then in-person, once it is safe to do so. Using dynamic group and community building approaches, the class serves as a discussion-based Beit Midrash (house of study), where we explore big Jewish ideas from the Torah, Talmud, and other texts, and see how they relate to our lives today.

Aside from discussion and debate, we also eat, laugh, play and celebrate holidays together. Above all, the class and its topics are decided upon and led by the students themselves.

Based on feedback from students last Spring, Tichon helped to ground them during unpredictable times and gave them a place and community to be heard and to listen. Please join our unique Jewish learning experience at Tichon!

Looking forward to seeing you Wednesday September 16 for the start of Tichon!

Jonathan Emanuel, MAJEd
Tichon Teacher

P.S. I also hope to see you for the Kol Shofar High Holiday Teen Experience on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:
Saturday September 19 @ 12 PM
Monday September 28 @ 12 PM