



Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple
Spirit • Community • Justice

August 17, 2017

Dear Community Members,

We join all those who feel compelled to publicly raise our voices against white supremacy and antisemitism in the wake of the demonstrations in Charlottesville and their aftermath.

In this morning's New York Times, Charles Blow discusses white supremacy. We share this excerpt from his August 17 column:

"White supremacy, a concept that many try to apply only to vocal, violent racists... is in fact more broadly applicable and pervasive.

People think that they avoid the appellation because they do not openly hate. But hate is not a requirement of white supremacy. Just because one abhors violence and cruelty doesn't mean that one truly believes that all people are equal — culturally, intellectually, creatively, morally. Entertaining the notion of imbalance — that white people are inherently better than others in any way — is also white supremacy.

White supremacy, all across the spectrum, is what lights the way to the final step as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. articulated in his "The Other America" speech in 1967:

'In the final analysis, racism is evil because its ultimate logic is genocide. Hitler was a sick and tragic man who carried racism to its logical conclusion. And he ended up leading a nation to the point of killing about six million Jews. This is the tragedy of racism because its ultimate logic is genocide. If one says that I am not good enough to live next door to him, if one says that I am not good enough to eat at a lunch counter, or to have a good, decent job, or to go to school with him merely because of my race, he is saying consciously or unconsciously that I do not deserve to exist.'

This Shabbat, and as we enter the Jewish High Holiday season, may we all commit to actively confronting any part of us that supports white supremacy and the violence that it engenders. May we commit and recommit each day to speaking out and acting to end its perpetuation within ourselves, our communities, our government's policies and our country's leaders.

--- Shawn Murphy and Miranda Phillips, Co-Presidents, Congregation Tikkun v'Or