

Restorative Justice Program, Fall 2023

Restorative Justice - building and strengthening our community across differences.

Here, we are referring to **Restorative Justice** in the context of community building. We hope by learning and then using Restorative Justice practice and being in Restorative Justice circles, we can increase understanding, resolve conflicts, bridge differences and restore trust.

A 6 session course facilitated by Kohenet Shoshana Brown, starting Thursday, October 5 at 7:00PM.

Overview:

When viewed through the Jewish lens, restorative justice can change the world. Jewish practice can ground us and enhance our capacity to change the world through restorative justice.

CEHV invites a select group of members to join in this ACTION focused program. Through a series of sessions that build on each other, together we will learn and start implementing the basic tools of Restorative Justice so we can bring this learning back to our congregation.

Goals:

Our desire is to be IN Restorative Justice. Through this program, we will begin to learn how to apply it here in our community.

We have **Jewish Value-Based Vision** for our Jewish sacred work, and we recognize Restorative Justice practice, tools and actions, as a way to help us expand and embody our Jewish values out in the world at large: in our community gatherings and observances, board and committee interactions, interpersonal interactions.

Interpersonal relationships can benefit from the implementation of restorative justice tools, as well as our leaders and members, so YOU can bring this learning back to the congregation and community and increase our impact and support each other during the difficult process of leading.

We hope you will join us in this program as we begin to learn how to bring the Restorative Justice practice to ourselves and our congregation.

Details:

Free event open to our members, registration in advance required. Please use this Google form to sign up <https://forms.gle/DWvA8dkNHg4gtiN56>, or email Jessica at assistant@cehv.org with any questions.

IN-PERSON only meetings will be held at CEHV on the 1st and 2nd Thursday of the month, from 7 to 8:30pm. (October 5 & 12, November 2 & 9, December 7 & 14 in 2023) (*Rain date - 12/13*)

Dates: 10/5, 10/12, 11/2, 11/9, 12/7, 12/14/23, Thursdays from 7pm to 8:30pm.

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Participants limited to 25. We are asking participants to make a commitment to attend all 6 sessions. While it is not a requirement, since this program builds on each successive session, attendance of each session is ideal. Participation in all of the sessions is foundational for building trust and cohesion which is primary in Restorative Justice Practice.

Suggested reading List - "*Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement*" Ejeris Dixon (Editor); Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (Editor).

Participants are invited to do preparatory reading before the program begins.

Action Sessions start with 30 minutes of learning on the day's topic, followed by break-out sessions of small groups putting that topic into action for 30 minutes, and sessions will conclude with presentation summaries bringing those actions and learnings back to the whole group. Some of the break outs will be role playing, some will be individual activities, and more, as we explore how to better resolve past challenges and apply the restorative justice process to future challenges.

Session Objectives Outline

First Session: Jewish values align with Restorative Justice - Introduction to Restorative Justice as a concept and commit to the learning arc. History and origins of restorative justice practices. Begin to flesh out core assumptions.

Second Session: Restorative Justice is distinct from other types of justice. Explore the core assumptions of restorative justice practices as they align with Jewish values. Specific Jewish Values are packaged and practiced for example: gossip, kindness, compassion (etc).

Third Session: Learn and practice common tools used in restorative justice.

Fourth Session: Learn the circle structure and identify settings within the CEHV community where Restorative Justice practices are already implemented and new areas they can be implemented.

Fifth Session: Interpersonal work using restorative justice tools. How to implement while working in committees, how to incorporate the tools as a congregation.

Sixth Session: Reflect, summarize, and plan next steps in learning. How do we bring this back to committees, board, services, programs? How will the program attendees bring their learning and experience back to the community?

Restorative Justice Program contacts – Amy Scorca & Jess Fillmore