



Dear Friend,

This past Monday evening, we launched YoVAL, Year of Very Active Listening, The Jewish Center's Educational Initiative on Issues of Race and Racism. Thank you to everyone who was able to join the inaugural event live -- there were over 115 zoom screens, many of which showed multiple participants. We believe this large turnout evidences our community's interest in listening and learning more about these issues.

For those who were unable to join, or would like to review Rabbi Levine's message to our community, a recording of the event is available [by clicking here](#). Feel free to share this link with others who you feel would also benefit from it and may want to be part of the future YoVAL programs.

In his moving talk, Rabbi Levine made it clear that this initiative is not about politics, but about values. He examined the sources in our *mesorah* that guide how we should respond to racism, and concluded by highlighting the following five values that we should hold dear as we embark on this program:

1. Tzedek
2. The importance of questions
3. Humility
4. Empathy
5. The power of T'shuva

We will keep these five values at the center of our conversations throughout the year.

As we mentioned during the event, we would very much like to hear your feedback and any questions that you may have. [Click here to complete a short feedback form](#).

Also, remember to mark your calendar for YoVAL's next two events:

- [Click here to register](#) for "*Let's Talk About It.*" *An honest conversation on racism, policing, and the role of faith communities* between Officer Anthony Campbell and Ora Weinbach, on **November 30th at 8pm**.
- [Click here to register](#) for our 2020 *Martha Sonnenschein Memorial Lecture, Everything You Wanted to Discuss About Orthodox Jews And Race, But Were Afraid To Ask*, with Dr. Rivka Press Schwartz, on **December 22nd at 7:30pm**.

Shabbat Shalom,
Virginia Bayer Hirt, Co-Chair
Ora Weinbach, Community Educator, Co-Chair