

התנועה
להתחדשות
החברה והתרבות
בישראל

תיקון

Jerusalem, August 2, 2015

Dear Friends,

At this point in time, now that three years have passed since the Matanel Foundation initially offered its support and entered into the partnership that enabled the establishment of the Tikun Movement, it seems appropriate to look back and recall the first moments of our encounter.

It was upon my return from my meeting with Ami Bouganim, during which I shared with him my vision of the Tikun Movement, that the social protest of the summer of 2011 erupted. I vividly recall the moment, because on my way home from Netanya I deliberated whether to join the first small group of protesters on Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv. The group of us that rallied to the cry of protest on Rothschild a few days later included several individuals who were to become Tikun's founding members. We subsequently opened the Tikun Sukkah within the single parents' encampment next to Jerusalem's city center Independence Park, holding a vigil where for a period of nearly three months we welcomed the general public several times a week to encounters with social activists, artists and speakers, including Rabbi Forman z"l.

The juxtaposition of these events may have had more than symbolic significance. The social protest of summer 2011 changed many things: We learned that Israeli citizens are not naïve and that a large public is highly aware of the structural social neglect and unbearable gaps that plague Israeli society.

The challenge undertaken by the Tikun Movement can be described as working to align, connect and integrate this protest with an authentic, deeply-rooted yet contemporary Jewish language of integrity in governance, a renewal of Jewish identity, and activism towards social justice: Updating Jewish values and symbols to meet the needs of contemporary Israeli society in the sovereign Jewish State.

Tikun embodies the idea that Jewish discourse needs to be attentive to the current needs of Israeli society. This presents an opportunity, on the one hand, for the Jewish Renewal movement to deepen its meaning and impact, and invites Israeli society, on the other, to a renewal and transformation of its ethos towards meeting the moral expectations of the sovereign Jewish State.

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These opportunities provide the starting point for our questioning:

- What models for generating comprehensive change, rather than been drawn to a specific and local project, are best suited to the Tikun Movement?
- The *piyut* renaissance of the last two decades represents a success in transforming the public realm by reintegrating traditional Jewish elements into contemporary culture. How can this type of dynamic be most effectively transposed into additional domains?
- How to best define which issues are the most important, and yet maintain - as a movement and as an organization - the flexibility required to change directions when necessary without losing momentum?

The three years of support generously granted by the Matanel Foundation have significantly contributed to the development of the Tikun Movement's response to these challenges and to its structuring as an organization and movement, situating Tikun in public awareness as a leading movement for social change and Jewish Renewal. We appreciate the confidence the Matanel Foundation has granted us in partnering with our initiative and offer our deep thanks for your vital support in the establishment and development of the Tikun Movement for the transformation of culture and society in Israel.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meir Buzaglo

Chairman



MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Tikun Movement*

Years: **2012-2015**

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: *Tikun Movement - Renewal of Society and Culture in Israel*

Year of activity: 2012-2015

Name of the report's writer: Ouriel Bensabath

Function of the report's writer: Coordinator for Resource Development

Mail: ofer@tikunisrael.org.il

Phone: +972-54-6933435

Summary of activities and achievements: 2011/12– 2014/15

The Tikun Movement agenda goes far beyond any one specific issue and illuminates a broad path for the transformation of the Israeli ethos and the articulation of a comprehensive program for Israeli society. Thanks to the support generously granted by the Matanel Foundation, Tikun has succeeded in establishing itself as a recognized presence and a significant force; we are called upon on a regular basis to participate in the public debate and present our positions in diverse platforms, including public committees, news media, institutional events, academic conferences and local organizations throughout Israel.

Setting the Tikun agenda means identifying Archimedean points with the potential of changing public awareness, and articulating them in accessible terms that can be leveraged for maximum impact and broad acceptance; it means leading the way for organizations and individuals by identifying and seeding cardinal issues with Tikun's transformative approach towards a crystallization of new values and reformulation of public policy.

Over three years, Tikun launched a wide range of activities, aimed to renewing the vision of social and cultural life in Israeli society. Tikun has accessed several choice avenues in Israeli society for action, targeting a range of audiences – professional leadership for social change and education, artists and culture, lay leadership in Israel's socio-geographic periphery, political leadership and elected officials, academics, young adults, students, policy-makers, and journalists.

We chose several focal issues for the Tikun agenda about which to rally the general public, including:

- Updating Shabbat values in the public arena and rearticulating Shabbat as a civil right
- Redefining municipal borders for a more equitable distribution of resources
- Combating structural social injustice and prejudice on the basis of universal Jewish values
- Building new bridges between Jews and Arabs towards peaceful coexistence in the region

In our previous reports we outlined in detail the numerous events, programs and activities we held over the past three years towards raising public awareness in these and additional domains, such as the redefinition of municipal borders and the just distribution of public funding for culture. These varied encounters, numbering well over one hundred, ranged from public television, radio and Internet broadcasts to group study circles of 40 – 50 participants and to conferences attended by several hundred guests, and engaged many thousands of individuals. Today, we can say with confidence that our efforts have had significant impact and yield.

Following our initiative, a public committee has recently been convened on the image of Shabbat in Israel that includes directors of industrial unions, lawyers, Knesset members and entrepreneurs; Tikun, as the only organization in the committee representing values Jewish Renewal, holds the committee's ideological axis. Recent remarks by Ayman Odeh, leader of the Arab parties coalition in the Knesset, concerning the important potential of Jews from Arab countries in coexistence, include citations of Rabbi David Buzaglo's z"l *piyut* on the Mimouna and indicate the scope of influence generated by the new concepts and approaches to coexistence and mutual respect being promoted by the Tikun Movement.

More recent events, held over the last six months, include the Voices from the Maghreb Tikun conference, which brought the voices of leading intellectuals and artists to thousands through social media as well as to the select public that attended. The conference followed the Voices of Others event, designed and timed to highlight the value and importance of Israel's social and cultural periphery. Tikun Youth held a public event in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market, "Voters, yet not Candidates", on women's (non) representation in Israel's political arena. Illuminate the Countenance of the East, a series of seven seminars led by academics and prominent individuals involved in cultural and social action, was recently initiated to deepen the familiarity young people and adults with the wealth of community life and intellectual achievements of Jews from Arab countries.

Looking Ahead

The development of our public and political activities continues to progress. Tikun Executive Committee representatives met with President Rivlin to discuss a national day to celebrate Jewish – Arab friendship as an inspiration for improved and sane relations between neighboring communities in Israel and countries in the area. A series of round tables with public officials is in the planning, as are programs to involve journalists in joint study of the Jewish values underpinning social issues and to promote active participation in raising public awareness. We are being joined by influential religious and academic leaders, Jewish and Muslim, and gradually developing a joint inter-faith discourse on social justice values in monotheism. The Tikun Youth movement continues to gather support on Israel's campuses and among young social activists. Throughout Israel, The Tikun Movement continues to make inroads within political parties and movements to shape the public agenda.

Over this period, the Tikun Movement progressed in structuring itself as an organization. Once the registration of Tikun as an *amutah* (NGO) in Israel was completed in 2012, the founding membership established a Secretariat of eight individuals, each of whom is professionally engaged in leading social and cultural change in Israel on the basis of renewed Jewish values.

Following a year of monthly meetings, the Secretariat elected an Executive Committee that includes the Chairman Dr. Meir Buzaglo, Dr. Yehuda Maimaran, Mrs. Nurit Herman, CEO Ofer Namimi, Organizational Coordinator Michal Uli, and Ouriel Bensabath, Coordinator for Resource Development. The Executive Committee now meets every second week to develop initiatives and implement the Movement's initiatives, and we have opened a modest office from which to coordinate our administration and activities.

As the New Year approaches, we look forward to a new period of intensive investment and effort, during which we plan to expand the ranks of the Tikun Movement's membership and network. We wish to involve additional Matanel Foundation grantees in our work, and seek launch a Tikun publication in the near future that will appear regularly and give voice to individuals seeking to strengthen the impact of our common agenda. In addition to strengthening our presence in the media and throughout diverse publics, we will maintain our commitment to the renewal of Jewish values in Israel's culture, society and governance, and strengthen our focus on developing new avenues and strategies for peaceful coexistence in the region and mutual respect for human life and dignity.

We thank the Matanel Foundation for joining us in our mission, and look forward to maintaining this friendship in the future.