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Yom Chadash: A Monumental Moment for Reform Jewish Education

It is with great excitement that the leadership of the ARJE (Association of Reform Jewish Educators) and ECE-RJ (Early Childhood Educators of Reform Judaism) announce the formation of Yom Chadash (The New Gathering), a joint professional learning conference for Jewish educators. The focus for Yom Chadash is “B’tzelem Elohim- Reimagining Belonging in Our Jewish Spaces” through the exploration of Racial Justice and Intersectionality.

According to Lisa Samick, President of ECE-RJ, “We have all seen a shift in our work post-pandemic. The timing seems right to come together to ensure seamless and integrative approaches for the populations and the communities we serve. Shared learning of this kind can only deepen the level of understanding and commitment needed to make the lasting change we dream of.”

Yom Chadash will take place January 22-24, 2024, in Memphis, TN. This location provides the perfect opportunity to use the lessons of the American civil rights movement as a basis for

modern inclusion and belonging. Rabbi Joe Eiduson, President of the ARJE shared, “Both organizations share the goal of moving from strength to strength by reflecting on where our communities need to grow. Racial justice is an area that we all believe needs a stronger focus, and Memphis provides history and current struggles that lend to the work we wish to accomplish.”

ECE-RJ and the ARJE have a long history of high level and intentional annual experiences. With co-chairs and a steering committee representing the best of both organizations, this endeavor serves as a model of how collaboration and joint resources can elevate the experience beyond anything that has been offered before. With diverse voices and experiences that are rooted in Reform Judaism, Yom Chadash brings to fruition a wish that has been shared by both the ARJE and ECE-RJ: one space, two organizations and a cohesive vision for the future of Reform Jewish education.