



Find Your Way

CONGREGATION BETH EL
OF THE SUDBURY RIVER VALLEY

To my Beth El community,

It wasn't until announcements that we heard it. Until then, we had been enjoying a typical Beth El Shabbat morning with learning, song and davening. The news changed everything.

We shared a moment of silence, sending our thoughts to the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh. We sent blessings to the first responders and to those wounded in body and spirit. And then, because it is one of the best ways I know to address grief, we sang.

The words from Psalm 30 had a special resonance today: Eilecha Adonai ekra... "It is to you, O God, that I cry and it is to God that I plead. Hear us, O God, and be gracious to us! God shall be my help."

In the wake of this event, I've been in touch with temple leadership, especially with Judy Goldberg (our president) and Scott Newman (our director of education). I'd like to share some timely information based on these conversations.

1. All temple events will take place as scheduled tomorrow (Sunday, 10/28). Scott would like you to know that **our doors will be locked during classes and will be manned while students are in the building.**
2. **I am offering a special time tomorrow morning (roughly 9:15-9:45) for us to gather together for support and action.** We will sing, pray and share reflections as we come grips with this tragedy. We will also have an opportunity to send letters of consolation and support to the Tree of Life Congregation on behalf of our community. Our adult education session will follow - in keeping with ancient tradition, I will dedicate our study to honor the memory of those whose lives were tragically lost.

Judy wished for me to share with you that we will immediately commence a review of our security policies. This will be a key agenda item for staff this week and will be a topic of discussion among the board.

Over the days and weeks to come, we will continue to support one another and grapple with the reality of sinat chinam - baseless hatred - that befouls our world. For now, let us support one another with care and love and share our blessings with all those in need of comfort.

Shavua tov,
--Rabbi Josh Breindel

