

TORAH THOUGHTS – LOVE AND HATE

This week's 'Thoughts' were written by a longtime and beloved congregant, Phoebe Dichner. Below is her moving response to two recent programs at MJC – a forum on anti-Semitism, and our Men's Club packing yellow candles for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day).

Love and Hate, two words used so often.

Somehow it seems we hear the words of hate more than love. I wonder why?

Last week, we had a program at MJC about anti-Semitism. We had prominent speakers discussing their views. Allan Sugarman presented this as one of his programs. From these discussions we see "anti" everything. I ask again, why is there so much hate in the minds of so many people?

We need to have speakers and groups come to schools, synagogues, churches, and mosques. There should be commercials on TV, radio, and newspapers, trying to convince people that hate is a waste of time. It is a disease which destroys the mind and the body.

On the other hand, I believe that where there is love, there is caring and respect.

At today's morning minyan (March 31, 2019) Elliott Brown announced to please come and help the Men's Club pack candles for Yom HaShoah. I walked into the Jewish War Veterans' Room, where I saw these very special, fine men talking, packing, and sharing words with warmth and caring. The candles are for distribution for Yom HaShoah, a sad event. But all I saw was love for what the men were doing. How warming and emotional this was to witness! It reminded me that places of worship are not only for prayer, they are also for joining together to do acts of chesed (kindness) and for comradery.

I try to think positively, but lately I find it difficult. Let's push and share with political and social groups to promote the need to eliminate hate and to promote love.

Phoebe Dichner