

TORAH THOUGHTS – PITTSBURGH

Last week's horrific shooting in Pittsburgh saddened and captivated most of our nation. But I have been moved by the large turnout for Monday's vigil and by the many offers of support to us and to the entire Jewish community. I thank Cantor Teplitz, Rabbi Koas, and Mayor Hornik for their participation. I also thank Dina and our maintenance team for their efforts.

During the program, I mentioned a teaching of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, the 18th century Hasidic master. He wrote, "The entire world is a narrow bridge, but the main thing is to not be afraid." I interpreted this text as follows. *"The world is a narrow bridge – life too often seems precarious, as if walking on a rickety bridge over a deep, vast canyon. The main thing is to not be afraid – the Rebbe didn't mean 'feel no fear' – fear is natural. He meant that we should respond to the fear, that feeling in the pit of our stomachs, with faith that if we stand together God will be with us to further strengthen our resolve, and we will prevail.*" All of us then sang with the cantor, a musical rendition of the teaching. My hope was to give us courage moving forward.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- a. MJC is part of a nationwide campaign called "Show Up For Shabbat," November 2-3. For more go to: <https://www.ajc.org/showupforshabbat>
- b. Please come to services tonight and tomorrow, in solidarity with the Tree of Life Congregation. Our schedule is as follows:
- c. Friday Night – Two Services
 - i. 6:15 pm, led by Michael Danziger
 - ii. 8:15 pm, led by Rabbi Pont and Cantor Teplitz
- d. Saturday Morning
 - i. 9:15 am – Torah Study, led by Rabbi Koas
 - ii. 10:00 am – Services, led by Rabbi Pont and Cantor Teplitz.
Kiddush luncheon to follow services.
2. If you would like to donate to help those affected, send a check to the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, 234 McKee Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Checks should be made out to Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and put "Victims of Terror" (VOT) on memo line.
3. A video of the vigil will be posted on the MJC website early next week.
4. Here is advice on talking to children about Pittsburgh.
<https://uscj.org/blog/talking-to-children-about-events-in-pittsburgh>

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Pont

