

Dear Friends,

In light of the terrible massacre this past weekend in Orlando, coming together to show solidarity with the LGBT community and demonstrating that people of faith embrace tolerance over hatred seems more important than ever. Please consider joining us next Sunday, June 26th, as we walk as a congregation in Chicago's annual Pride Parade.

A bus will leave BHCBE at 9:15 AM or you can join us at 10:15 at the corner of Lawrence Avenue and Broadway to line-up downtown; the bus will also meet us at the end of the route with an estimated return to Wilmette by about 4:30 PM. An \$18 fee/person covers round-trip bus service, a BHCBE pride t-shirt, water bottle, and light snack. Those interested should contact Phyllis in the office (847-256-1213; phyllis@bhcbe.org) as soon as possible - spaces now available on a first come, first served basis. You should also feel free to reply directly to this message if that is more convenient.

I share below a statement published by the Rabbinical Assembly, the professional organization for Conservative rabbis, condemning this horrific act of violence, calling upon people of faith to promote peace and inclusion, and urging the United States government to work towards passing common-sense gun legislation. Included on the RA's website are also powerful words of reflection written by three Florida-area colleagues including a meditation that we will add into our worship this coming Shabbat morning. In the words of its author, Rabbi Danielle Upbin of Clearwater, FL, "When youth is cut down in its prime, prayer is not enough. When pulsing rhythms turn to blood and tears, prayer is not enough. When terror and hate are disguised as justice, prayer is not enough. Yet prayer is all we have."

<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/conservative-rabbis-horrified-orlando-shooting>
(You may have to cut and paste the link directly into your browser rather than accessing it directly from Constant Contact.)

While the act can feel so small in light of the enormity of this tragedy and the underlying issues of hatred it unearths, prayer happens not to be the only resource we have this month to demonstrate love and support for our LGBT brothers and sisters - we also have the opportunity to march with them. I very much hope to see you on the 26th.

Zichronam livracha - May the victims of the Pulse massacre be for a blessing.

Rabbi Annie Tucker