

**April 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 / 24 Nisan 5778**

Dear chevreh,

We crossed the Sea, celebrated our redemption, and are eating chametz again on our 49 day journey of the Counting the Omer to celebrating Shavout.

This week we are commemorating Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. We say, “Never Again”, a powerful phrase now being used by the March for Our Lives movement. “Never Again” needs to be for everybody. Tragically, Syrians are being gassed to death by their government. Below is a reporting of the events. Trigger warning: this article is painful to read.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/08/world/middleeast/syria-chemical-attack-ghouta.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

We are horrified by mass killings regardless of whether they are near or far.

As hopeless as we may sometimes feel, there are meaningful ways to make a difference. If you are able, please contribute to an organization helping Syrians. Below are links to some organizations.

<https://www.whitehelmets.org/en>

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org>

<https://give.internationalmedicalcorps.org>

This Wednesday evening, April 11th, KHN will be hosting a program in observance of Yom HaShoah called Unsung Heroes: One Family's Journey. The Chinese and Japanese saved over 20,000 stateless Jews during the Second World War by allowing them in without visas or passports. Come hear Naava Koblenz speak and share artifacts from "the suitcase under her bed". 6:15-6:45 pm will be appropriate for 5th and 6th graders. 6:45 - 7:30 pm will be geared toward adults and older teens.

May we all live to see the day when the slaughtering of fellow humans is unthinkable.

Blessings for peace,

Rabbi Diana