

February 2nd, 2018/17th Sh'vat, 5778

Dear chevreh,

This week in Parashat Yitro we read about Revelation and the Israelites' receiving of Torah at Mount Sinai. Not only does our tradition teach that we received the ten commandments, but some argue that we received all of Torah at that time. (If you are interested in exploring the complexity of this idea from a source criticism perspective, see <http://thetorah.com/what-happened-at-mount-sinai/>). The stories in the Torah form the foundation of and contribute to our Jewish values. In the Torah, we read over and over, 36 times, to love the stranger. We read in Exodus, "You shall not mistreat a stranger; you know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." We have been strangers in so many lands, and we are so fortunate to live in a time when living as free, empowered people in both the United States and Israel is a reality.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about the action sponsored by Bend the Arc where 100 Jews were arrested supporting the Dreamers. Here is a more recent first hand account by a Reconstructionist rabbi published in the Forward: <https://forward.com/scribe/393448/i-am-a-rabbi-and-i-was-arrested-on-capitol-hill-while-protesting-for-a-clea/>

After the government shutdown, the decision to reopen the government passed without action on a Dream Act. For those for whom this matter feels urgent, there is another opportunity to make our voices heard and move this issue forward more locally. February 8th marks the next deadline for a government shutdown and the date by which Senator Mitch McConnell promised to allow a vote on the Dream Act.

The Reconstructionist College and Board of Rabbis have joined with Bend the Arc to deliver an open letter and to rally at the Philadelphia office of Senator Pat Toomey this coming Wednesday the 7th. The rally and the action demand, "Let My People Stay", calls on both Democrats and Republicans to make passing a clean Dream Act a priority by February 8th, when Leader McConnell has committed to resolving this crisis. This action will be coordinated in partnership with the immigrant-led movement. Many members of the Jewish community stand strongly with Dreamers and view fighting for the Dreamers as a moral act of fighting injustice. We who were strangers in many lands demand that Congress act to "Let Our People Stay!"

I will be going to this event. ***If you are interested in coming, please let me know and we can try to go together from KHN or meet up in Philadelphia. My email address is: rabbidianamiller@gmail.com

Here are the details:

When: February 7, 2018, 4:30 pm letter delivery to Senator Pat Toomey and 5:00 pm Rally.

Where: Outside of Senator Pat Toomey's Philadelphia office, [200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia](#)

**For those of you who are Eagles fans and Torah fans, here is a sourcesheet entitled, “On Eagle’s Wings: a Sourcesheet for Superbowl LII” compiled by my colleague Rabbi Alana Sklover. <https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/97283>

I look forward to seeing families and those who enjoy pizza and pajamas this evening at 6:15 pm. I also look forward to seeing you at Shabbat Zimra followed by a potluck at 10 am tomorrow.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Diana