

March 15, 2019 /8 Adar II 5779

Dear chevreh,

We are devastated and heartbroken to learn of the carnage at the mosques in New Zealand - the lives of 49 Muslim brothers and sisters murderously taken during holy Jum'ah prayers. As the Psalmist says, How long, God? How long?

The violent ideology of white supremacy is spreading all over. It is so painful to be part of humanity and experience this terrible loss. Yet, something is growing - the love and connection between humanity - which ultimately, is stronger. Today I, along with several Jewish clergy and lay people in Bucks County came in solidarity with our local Muslim brothers and sisters to the Zubaida Foundation and Mosque, just as they came to be with us, along with Christians and others, right after Pittsburgh. The community welcomed us deeply, and made clear that we need each other as allies. We stand alongside each other to build a world of love, each in our own languages, together in the human language.

We are canceling the POWER meeting this Sunday the 17th so that we can attend a community vigil at Zubaida from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at 855 Big Oak Road in Lower Makefield, PA. Parking is available in their lot or across the street at the Charles Boehm Middle School. This is an opportunity to show love and support to our local Muslim congregation as a Jewish community in shared humanity.

If you would like to give to the New Zealand Islamophobic Attack Emergency Relief Fund through the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, here is the link:

<https://jewishpgh.org/new-zealand-islamophobic-attack-emergency-relief-fund/>

Another organization collecting funds is Launchgood organized by the New Zealand Islamic Info Centre:

<https://www.launchgood.com/project/support-for-the-families-victims-of-the-new-zealand-mosque-shootings?fbclid=IwAR0T1fCkXG5qXVU3ZEjzHCVO8uw44B5uno0MwvO616h6jqHlljpEdMMC6WY#!/>

We pray for peace in Israel, and sigh a collective relief that no one was hurt or killed by the rockets fired at Tel Aviv.

Ufros aleinu sukkat sh' lomekha, Spread over us the shelter, the sukkah, of Your peace.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Diana