

**August 17th, 2018/6th of Elul, 5778**

Dear chevreh,

Tonight we welcome our 2018-2019 rabbinic intern, Miriam Geronimus, who will deliver a Hineini talk during Kabbalat Shabbat services. If you do not have an opportunity to meet her this evening (outside of those who already know her from teaching at our Shul School), you can meet her over Rosh Hashanah as she will be leading and co-leading many parts during Erev and both days of the holiday.

Last week I mentioned the one-year anniversary of Charlottesville, and some current findings from the Anti-Defamation League about the resurgence of white supremacists in the U.S. Historically, the ADL was formed partly because of an incident which happened exactly 103 years ago today, August 17, 1915.

Leo Frank, a Jewish businessman from the North who lived in Atlanta managing his family's pencil factory, was convicted of the rape and murder of a 13-year-old female employee. A trial followed which was marked by anti-Semitism. The Governor gave Frank a sentence to life in prison rather than the death sentence, and yet an anti-Semitic mob which included many influential community leaders dragged Frank from his prison cell to Marietta and lynched him on August 17th. Soon after, a group of men including some of the lynchers, gathered nearby to revive the Ku Klux Klan. The ADL was born at the same time, partly due to this case and the fear and fleeing of many Southern Jews in response. Most researchers believe that Frank was falsely accused of the murder of Mary Phagan, yet white supremacists continue to this day to hold him accountable [<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2017/05/22/leo-frank-w...>].

There has been an uptick in anti-Semitism in our country, as well as in European countries. It is crucial that we have powerful voices and institutions helping to educate people and fight this disease. If you are not familiar with the ADL's important work fighting anti-Semitism and hate, here is their website: <https://www.adl.org>

Shabbat shalom, a gutn Shabbes,

Rabbi Diana