

Dear Friends:

As we enter this Shabbat following our election, we have many mixed emotions. We are tired, frustrated, elated, worried and I hope filled with awe. No matter which side one wanted to win, we should be proud of the breadth and depth of this election. According to estimates, there were 161 million votes cast in this election, representing 70% of the eligible voters in our Nation. There were questions raised early on about obstacles to voting and to registration to vote, at least we know this election engaged a majority of our adult citizenry and got them to make their voices heard through their ballots.

It is much too soon to properly analyze what this election *means*, especially when we do not yet have a confirmed winner in our presidential race, yet there are a few things we can learn. We know that people care, and people want to engage and to vote. We have also learned that even when people had to stand in long lines, they persisted. This shows the need to remove further obstacles so that we can continue to make it as easy as possible for people to vote. Our Country is deeply divided in how we view the world. People are so deeply entrenched in their beliefs, that they are failing to respect views that differ. We do not all have to agree, but we do have to respect, and treat each other kindly especially when we disagree. While our National motto is "*e pluribus unum*", *out of many, one,*" it is difficult to see how any government will unify and work together backed by such deep divisions and antagonisms. That is why, as we await the finalization of our election results, we all need to have patience and respect for the amazing process of our democratic election. We must pledge to work together to make our Nation the best exemplar of the democratic values that will build a just and fair life for ALL citizens and residents.

Please say these words together tonight as we pray for peace, justice, dignity and security for the United States and our World.

*Yotzreinu, n'shmat hahayyeinu, Our creator and spirit of our lives, Grant strength, wisdom, and courage to all our Nation's leaders. May they fulfill their duties with honor, dignity, and respect for all they serve and see the image of the Divine in all people. May all those who dwell within our Country be sheltered by Your peace and granted the ability to establish homes, create families and live safely and securely. May we see our Nation truly live by the principles of equality and justice for all.*

**יִי אֱז לַעֲמוּ יִתֵּן יי בְּרַךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם**

*Adonai oz, l'amo yitein, Adonai yivarech et amo bashalom*

May God give strength to all the People; May God bless all of us with  
Peace.

Feel free to call me to talk at any time.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig,  
Interim Rabbi