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DAVID SOLOMON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MARK N. GOLDMAN, D.D.  
RABBI EMERITUS

Monday, January 17, 2022

Dear Rockdale Temple Family,

As we reflect on the hostage situation of this past Shabbat at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, we are saddened, angry, and concerned. An act of terror, of violence, of anti-Semitism has once again shocked our systems. Even as we stand in solidarity with Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, his fellow Shabbat worshippers, and their community, we acknowledge that this event has stirred our own anxiety and fear. Please know that we will process this together and move forward together.

This most recent traumatic event naturally invites questions and concerns about our own safety and security. Please know that Rockdale Temple has a robust, multi-layered plan that is regularly reviewed by security professionals and our leadership. Some of our most visible aspects of security are police presence, parked cruisers on our campus, and locked doors; there are many additional protocols in place to keep us safe at all times. Rockdale Temple has a strong relationship with the Amberley Village Police Department and the SAFE Cincinnati team at the Jewish Federation. We work actively with these partners to keep our congregation safe and secure and will audit and review Rockdale's procedures in the coming days.

Your rabbis are available to anyone who may wish to process this most recent trauma. Our leadership is dedicated to supporting our community through this difficult time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

As we search for meaning at this challenging time, we commend to you the recent statement of the Greater Cincinnati Board of Rabbis, which can be read below. On this MLK Day, our day devoted to justice and righteousness, and on this Tu B'Shevat, our celebration of growth and renewal, may we together feel inspired to repair this broken world and sow the seeds of understanding and of peace.

Rabbi Meredith Kahan  
Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Erin Binder  
Assistant Rabbi  
& Educator

David Solomon  
Executive Director

John G. Cobey  
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