



בית משפחה

Bet Mishpachah

Welcome

Statement on Hamas Attacks on Israel

Dear Friends,

The greeting "Shabbat Shalom" comes so easily off the lips, but it is no small, insignificant thing. This greeting expresses the deepest desire of the Jewish people, our hope for peace. Painfully, that hope was not realized on this Shabbat and Holy Day. This morning, we woke up to the news of Hamas' acts of terrorism that have claimed the lives of at least 200 Israelis; and wounded nearly 1000. News of kidnappings sicken us as well. Israelis fear going out to do their daily activities. Security and normality escape them. Parents are too scared to bring their children to play in the park, and those who should be dancing with the Torah are instead hiding for their lives behind locked doors and in bomb shelters. In the face of this awful reality, it is difficult for this common peaceful Shabbat greeting to stream from our mouths. Yet still, with these horrendous attacks on our minds and in our broken hearts, we say "Shabbat Shalom." This simple greeting expresses the fact that we still believe in peace as our highest ideal. We still believe in the possibility of a Shabbat in which life triumphs over death, in which the world becomes more whole rather than more shattered.

On this tragic day, we send prayers of healing and wholeness, and shalom to our siblings in *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel. We recognize the necessity for the people

and State of Israel's right to defend themselves, and pray that Israel's defense forces and police do so successfully and soon.

If, as our tradition teaches, Shabbat is a taste of the world to come, then when we say the words "Shabbat Shalom" what we are really saying is: "may our world to come, our world of the future be one in which peace is victorious over the brutal strength of blades and bullets." We declare that we are a people of peace, and that shalom is our highest value. We do this through prayer and through those words that flow effortlessly off the tongue, even when the day is marred by war and bloodshed, "Shabbat Shalom."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington has opened an [Israel Crisis Fund](#) to raise essential dollars for those in need, which will be distributed swiftly through their partners on the ground, including through the Fund for Victims of Terror. They will continue to closely monitor the situation, respond accordingly, and provide updates as often as possible.

To support the relief efforts:

- [Donate online here](#)
- Give through your Jewish Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund [here](#). Please make your gift to The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (EIN: 53-0212445) and indicate "Israel Crisis Fund" in the comments.
- Mail a check payable to The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to 6101 Executive Blvd, Suite 100, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. Please indicate "Israel Crisis Fund" on all checks.

In addition, there are three opportunities for briefings within the next few days.

First, the [Jewish Community Relations Council \(JCRC\)](#) tonight at 8:30 pm will host a virtual communal prayer, briefing and call to action with the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Israel, Eliav Benjamin. Registration for the Zoom meeting can be found by clicking [here](#).

Tonight, at 8:00 pm, [Sixth and I](#) will hold an in-person program, "From Dancing to Mourning." Please register [here](#).

On Monday, October 9th at 11:00 am, A Wider Bridge will host an emergency briefing on what the current situation in Israel means for members of Israel's LGBTQ community. Registration for the Zoom meeting can be found by clicking [here](#).

El Maleh Rachamim -- Compassionate God,
We pray
not to wipe out haters
but to banish hatred.
Not to destroy sinners
but to lessen sin.
Our prayers are not for a perfect world
but a better one
Where parents are not bereaved
by the savagery of sudden attacks
Or children orphaned
by blades glinting in a noonday sun.
Help us dear God,
to have the courage to remain strong,
to stand fast.
Spread Your light
on the dark hearts of the slayers
And Your comfort
to the bereaved hearts of families of the slain.
Let calm return Your city Jerusalem,
and to Israel, Your blessed land.
We grieve with those wounded
in body and spirit,
pray for the fortitude of our sisters and brothers,
and ask You to awaken the world to our struggle and help us bring peace.
-- by Rabbi David Wolpe

Rabbi Jake Singer- Beilin