



ADATH ISRAELIGHT

Special Edition, 2001

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Tishri 5762

Dedication

***We dedicate this edition
to all of us so deeply
affected by the horrific,
unimaginable evil that
took place the morning
of September 11, 2001.***

WTC

Licks of fear,
shot through me,
like the plane through the buildings
Disbelief surrounding me,
Reach out,
Find someone,
Next to you,
A bit of hope,
Stretched and passed around,
Despair as dark as smoke,
Panic as real as the flames,
And yet not at all,
An illusion surely,
Tears pour down,
Not enough to put out the flames,
But together,
If enough are shed,
Enough feet stomped,
Maybe,
People pulled together,
Like the strips of flag,
Surrounded by each other,
like the stars by blue,
An unbreakable chain,
Of hand to hand,
Heart to heart,
Leaves no oxygen for the fire,
Leaves no room for hate.

Jan Kushner

RESPONSES

The first collision—my human reaction: accident.

The second collision—my human reaction:
not an accident.

The first building collapse—my human reaction:
a horror.

The second building collapse—my human reaction:
evil beyond words.

RESPONSES: Let us heal the sick and bury the dead.

Let us find the perpetrators.

Let us punish them without impinging on our own liberties.

Let us prepare for their next attempt.

For that is the way the world is.

And we had best be aware of its new nature.

Chaim Potok

*Oseh shalom bimromav, who yaseh shalom
aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael, v'imru, amen.*

**Our hearts reach out to the Reiss Family on the
loss of their son and brother, Joshua Reiss.**

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From The Rabbi's Study

Rabbi Daniel T. Grossman

SPEECH FROM COMMUNITY SERVICE

Held at Adath Israel on September 13,2001

Dear Friends,

It is a moment of horror; it is a terrible tragedy; it is the reality of an open wound which brings us here this evening. It is also our need to sit beside our neighbors and weep with them. To feel a commonality of various faith communities that are united in the belief that life matters, who we are matters, and what we do matters. We are united in our desire to seek God's help and healing. Esa Eyna el Ha Harim – as the Psalmist teaches. "I lift my eyes unto the mountains – from where does my help come – My help, my strength – comes from God creator of Heaven and Earth."

On this evening some may ask "Where was God?" First we must say "what has man done!" It is the evil, hatred, and the absence of any true image of a Creator which allows those responsible for these horrific crimes to destroy thousands of times over human life created in the image of God.

Where was God? God was and is in every helping hand and straining back trying desperately to find life in the carnage of death. God was in a room I left just two hours ago – filled with friends trying to comfort parents, grandparents, brothers, and sister of a 23 year old lost and presumed dead. God was in their tears and in their touch.

God is also in the words of command found in the Holy Scripture – Tzedek Tzedek Terdof! Justice, Justice you will pursue. The word Justice is repeated not for emphasis but for two different images. The first Justice – is the cry of thousands taken from us whose only crime was to be in America and be at work. When heartless murderers tore our world apart their lives cry out for justice. The second justice is a broader picture – we cannot hide behind the image of a single crazed madman. Justice demands that the entire world actively pronounce a standard beyond which every human being must cry – No! No! – This is never acceptable. The world must take from these events the resolve to say not diplomacy and not linkages – the world must say – there is evil – and there is Justice - and Justice must Prevail. These are true principles of human behavior, and they are not changeable.

Our world has been traumatized – it has not been destroyed. Our values have been attacked, but they remain. Our institution of society has been assaulted, but freedom and democracy did not miss a beat.

We are here because we mourn.

We are here because we do believe in our values and our way of life.

We are here to cry and question. We are here to ask God's guidance.

I finish with a legend from our tradition for this time of New Year:

Two men lost in a desert came face to face from the opposite direction approaching each other. One says – we both come from the wrong direction. The second man says true, but we know which way not to go.

Together we will find the way. None of us individually can be sure how to find our way after this attack. But we, like the travelers, do know that together we will find the way to heal and to continue.

Educationally Speaking

Hedda Morton, our Educational Director, shared with our teaching staff this message to Jewish educators from Bonnie Botel-Sheppard:

This is the time of teaching. What you teach at this time, through your every word and action right now, will remain as indelible lessons in the hearts and minds of those whose lives you touch, both now and for years to come.

Editor's Desk

Holly L. Goldberg, Editor

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was at the Jewish Community Center, dropping off Sophia at nursery school. As we moms are wont to do, some of us were standing around, chatting about "whatever" in the lobby. Suddenly, one woman went running, crying, past us, out of the building. It being the second day of school, I thought well, maybe she had a hard time leaving her little one at school. One of her friends said, "Something really awful must have happened, for her to be so upset." Then we heard the news that has so completely changed our lives forever. America had been attacked.

It was not until I got home and put on the news that I began to comprehend the horror, and the magnitude of the terrorist attacks. Like many others, I found myself mesmerized by the television; then I had a need to call everyone I could think of, to make sure they were all right, to make human contact. I even went to Ben Franklin School and picked up Pamela several hours early.

My husband and I tried to minimize the amount of information our children were exposed to about the attack, while still recognizing their need to understand and express their fears. The minimizing did not work. While we had turned off the news, we did not cut off contact with the rest of the world. Fears of war and bio-terrorism had somehow seeped into their knowledge base. What we soon discovered was that our children knew more than we thought they did, and that they were afraid. We have had many family discussions about the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. Our children, however, do not understand the "why" of what happened. They cannot comprehend how a human being can be so very evil. My little Sophia asked if the people who knocked down the buildings were monsters. When I replied "Yes, sort of" she responded, "But I thought you said there was no such thing as monsters, Mommy." Pamela's teacher told me that the other day two children in the classroom were picked up early for various appointments. Pamela asked her teacher if there was "another disaster". Sophia was afraid to go see the doctor last week. She thought he would give her "a shot to make me sick". I do not have the magic words to make it all better this time.

During the immediate days after the attacks, so many people asked if we had been "personally affected." With thanks to God, I would reply, that no, we had lost no family members or friends. What has become now abundantly clear to me is that all of us have been deeply affected. No one has been spared the pain and anguish brought by the "monsters".

EVERY DAY PRAYER

Rabbi Daniel T. Grossman

We ask your Blessing, Guidance and Support for this our community. So many people from so many walks of life intermingled here as a family and are now carrying the burden of grief. No one person can shoulder such an enormous burden. Collectively, and with God's help, we will continue.

Dear God – comfort those whose lives are pained in grief.

Dear God – Give us the fortitude to seek true justice.

Dear God – Help us not slip into the evil of bigotry.

Dear God – Help us Heal.

MORE FROM THE RABBI

(An excerpt from Rabbi Daniel T. Grossman's Sermon Given On The First Day Of Rosh Hashanah)

. Many have commented on the enormous outpouring of volunteers and best in the human spirit. Every day we hear of heroism and self sacrifice. Will we as a nation remember these shining moments or will this good recede with time back to a cold, uncaring metropolis? This time we must remember the time of caring and extend it forward to make a real permanent difference in our lives. Whether it is blood drives, clothing, or food. Will we as a nation move forward in time or regress to a time of "me and I"?

This week synagogues, churches, mosques were filled each day. Here at Adath Israel Thursday night, Friday, and Saturday morning we filled the synagogue looking to God for guidance, strength, for comfort. When our lives are once again at ease, will we slip into old habits and forget our way to the synagogue, or will we take the time to remember the comfort we found in each other in our crisis and fill this synagogue with gratitude when our world is rebuilt? There are those, like the terrorists, who would pervert and distort religion to a call for hatred and destruction. Will we in time remember the words of the Iman Ali from this Bimah – when he said, "Any religion which preaches hate – is no religion at all."

We need time to grieve, time to mourn, time to turn anger to justice. We also need time to comfort our loved ones who are burdened with loss. Not for a day or a week, we must make the time for as long as they need us. The casual friend is there today; the true friend is just here.

All that we have is the gift of time.

A THANK YOU

The experts state that it is important to express hope and faith when discussing the seriousness of traumatic events. It is with this thought in mind that we thank our Confirmation Class for their energy and caring! Their car wash raised \$3700 for the American Red Cross!

Sherry Spiegle writes : Please tell the teenagers that I was very impressed with them on two occasions this week:

1. They did such an efficient job of setting up the sanctuary for the Rosh Hashanah services.
2. The spirit, energy, enthusiasm and caring for others that was displayed at the car wash was wonderful! At this time, when everyone is in such a weakened state of spirits, it's encouraging to see that our younger generation will take good care of this world.