

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Dear Friends,

I am writing you this short note at the end of this weekend of inspiring resistance in cities and airports throughout the country to President Trump's executive order closing our country to refugees, to people from seven countries, including Americans with green cards and foreigners with valid visas.

Since the election of President Trump, our congregation has been deeply engaged in a sacred communal conversation about how we respond to the racism, Islamophobia, sexism, and bigotry that was part of his campaign. At a well-attended community gathering during my visit in December we discussed the question of how we respond as a community. *Aleynu* / What is upon us? What are we called to do?

Since then the leadership of the Temple has worked hard to develop an answer to this question. In an email that you should receive in a few hours, you will find a public letter about our response to this critical moment in our country's history.

I think it will make you proud to be a member of Tikkun v'Or, a Jewish community that proudly upholds the Jewish value that all human beings are created in the image of the Divine and that all human beings deserve equality, justice and dignity. At the protest at JFK yesterday, many held signs "Never Again!" I think for many of us this weekend has made us wonder if our own country is undergoing a similar process to Germany in the 1930's. I think all of us feel the urgency to speak up as individuals and as a community. Silence is not an option. As Dr. King pointed out in his famous Riverside address "silence is betrayal."

I can't tell you how proud I am of our statement and of the work being done by the leadership of our congregation and by the many activists engaged in so many different issues. Every one of us has made this community the special place it is. Thank you for being part of it. Please read the letter and share it with others.

May the Source of Life bless us and all who are rising up to uphold the values of compassion, freedom and justice for all!

Shalom,

Rabbi Brian