

Good evening, my name is Corey Freedman, and I am currently serving as Board President of Congregation Shaarey Tefilla.

On behalf of the Board and members of our congregation, I want to express how personally touched we all are by the incredible outpouring of support, and offers to help – from the many hundreds who are here with us tonight, and hundreds more watching the live-stream, and countless emails and posts on social media.

Your presence with us – both physically and virtually – has been felt and appreciated – not only by Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, but by the entire Jewish community.

This gathering affirms that our community will not tolerate hate, and will not hide in fear.

The events of this past weekend offer 2 important messages:

1. We are reminded that deep deep hatred still very much exists. Saying we will “never forget” the horrors perpetrated by the Nazi regime is not just about protecting Jews. It’s for everyone’s sake that we recognize what this kind of hate has led to in the past – and could lead to again in the future.
2. The only way to confront this hatred is by recognizing that we must stand together – and that by doing so with vigilance, we are a thousand-fold stronger than any hate out there.

Jewish tradition teaches that we are all responsible for each other, “Kol Ysrael Arayveem Zeh beh Zeh”. We can’t thank you enough for expressing that sense of responsibility by standing with us tonight.

This concludes our gathering. Good night.