

I am Shelley Goldman, assistant rabbi at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis. I have been a close colleague of Rabbi Ben Sendrow's since I moved to town and presently serve as Chair of the Indiana Board of Rabbis, with Rabbi Sendrow as my co-Chair.

My heart aches over the vandalism that occurred here during the weekend, an affront to all of the members of this holy community, this *Kehillah Kedoshah*. But, I am heartened to see all of you here this evening as we gather to support each other.

Our rabbis of old taught a lot about hurtful words. They compared gossip to murder because both acts are irrevocable. An old Hasidic story from Eastern Europe likens hurtful speech to a feather pillow that has been ripped open. It is impossible to re-gather all of the feathers once they have been unleashed.

Tonight we are mourning not merely words but very hurtful symbols and the white supremacist ideologies that they represent. While it is now impossible to completely heal the fear, anger, and worry that has been unleashed by this latest expression of the hatred of Jews, our very presence together can act as a healing salve.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Hatred and bitterness can never cure the diseases of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life, love releases it. Hatred confuses life. Love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it." The way that we express this sentiment in Hebrew comes to us from a liturgical song, "Olam Hesed Yibaneh," We will build this world from love. *Ken Yehi Ratzon*, May It Be So.