

Dear Adas Yoshuron Community,
Tragedies often occur when people do not feel good enough about themselves to accept those they see as different. Diversity of ideas, traditions, or language frighten them. We believe we live in a community that embraces all faiths and races and thus, tomorrow, Adas Yoshuron will be the site of several events. At 5 p.m. there will be an evening prayer service led by Michael Kosowsky and Meyer Drapkin, followed at 6 p.m. by a community vigil of hope and remembrance. We hope that you can attend to show solidarity with the Jewish community of Pittsburgh as we stand with them in this time of sorrow. Please do not bring purses or backpacks to the shul.
Pure evil has visited us. Pure and unadulterated, incomprehensible and looming, pervasive and daunting, and the paradigm of evil. During Shabbat, the day of rest and contemplation when Jews ponder their lives and seek to come closer to the humane and gentle ideals of their faith, pure evil intruded and destroyed.
Rabbis over the centuries have sought to explain how pure evil can exist in the world. The emblem of Tree of Life Or L Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh provides some guidance. It says, simply, More Light, More Life. Perhaps this simple statement provides guidance. More light evil cannot coexist with light. The light of mutual respect, appreciation of diversity, and celebration of individuality drives out the miasma of evil. Evil cannot exist in the light. And Life. We celebrate Life in all of its variations. Glorification of Life, *chayim*, is a bedrock of our faith. Evil is darkness, it is snuffing out. Life is building and joy.
In this time of incomprehensible tragedy we naturally look for causes, for those to blame. I suggest that we take a two-fold path. Let us find the medicine to eradicate the pure evil among us, but let us also build up our immunity so that our community, our nation, can resist the blandishment of pure evil. So it cannot walk among us.
We at Adas Yoshuron are in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Pittsburgh, but also, importantly, in solidarity with those who are affected by pure evil, as we seek to find ways to immunize ourselves.
Clifford Dacso
President, Adas Yoshuron Synagogue

The following was sent to the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh this morning:

Our hearts are broken. As we learn of the calamity that has befallen Tree of Life in Pittsburgh we grieve not only for its members but for the Jewish Community of Pittsburgh and the United States. Members of Adas Yoshuron in Rockland, Maine stand in solidarity with you in this time of unimaginable sorrow. We will think of Tree of Life in our homes and on our way. You will never be forgotten.

Clifford Dacso, MD
President, Adas Yoshuron Synagogue

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Gail Wartell, Administrative Assistant
Adas Yoshuron Synagogue
P.O. Box 1250
Rockland, Maine 04841
207.594.4523
info@adasyoshuron.org
www.adasyoshuron.org