



Carnegie Shul Chatter

October 29, 2018

WE REMEMBER THE 11 VICTIMS OF THE PITTSBURGH SYNAGOGUE ATTACK

Joyce Feinberg, age 75
Richard Gottfried, age 65
Rose Mallinger, age 97
Jerry Rabinowitz, age 66
Daniel Stein, age 71
Melvin Wax, age 88
Irving Younger, age 69

(Brothers)

Cecil Rosenthal, age 59
David Rosenthal, age 54

(Husband and Wife)

Bernice Simon, age 84
Sylvan Simon, age 86

May their memory forever be a blessing



The Tragedy Touches Us All

The shooting at Tree of Life touches home to the Carnegie Shul in many ways. One of the Congregations meeting there on Saturday morning was New Light, whose former spiritual leader, Rabbi Harvey Brodsky, has led our High Holiday services on several occasions.

One of the victims was Dan Stein, who was a former president of New Light Congregation. According to the Tribune-Review, "Dan Stein, 71, was remembered as a kind soul who was always willing to lend a hand.

"He was always willing to help anybody," said his nephew, Steven Halle. "He was somebody that everybody liked, very dry sense of humor and recently had a grandson who loved him.

"This is going to be a horrible loss for the baby, growing up without a grandfather," said Halle, 55, of Pittsburgh's Regent Square neighborhood.

-- Continued on next page

Evil Comes Home

You have probably heard this before – or read it at the entrance to Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust:

*First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

My wife, Ellen, worked for many years in the Pittsburgh Jewish Community. She worked at the JCC. She worked at the Federation. She worked at The Jewish Chronicle and one of the day schools. She knew or was personally connected to five of the victims.

I am sure that most of you also knew some of the victims.

I am sure you share my grief, my shock, my dismay.

I love to write. I find that writing can sometimes be very cathartic. I hope, as I write this, it will help me heal. Something has to, because I am now not the person I was before Saturday. Some of my self-assurance has gone. Some of my vigor has gone. Even my faith has been diminished.

How could this happen? How could eleven wonderful people, including the elderly and the mentally challenged, have been victimized by an utter mad man? When will this all stop? God, please, do not allow acts such as these to continue.

As Rabbi Jeff Myers said at a community-wide vigil held yesterday at Soldiers and Sailors Hall, and I paraphrase, "God saw that man has the inclination toward evil, but he also has the power to choose the path to do good, and we must choose to do good."

We read a portion of the Torah just a few weeks ago that talked about the same choice, and Moses told the people to choose good over evil. Each and every one of us must make that choice.

Today I am looking deep within my soul. What can I do to be a better person? How can I eliminate hate from who I am? It can start with something as simple as opening a door for someone, or smiling at someone who appears to be down. Or, as a neighbor did for Ellen and me today, showing up at someone's doorstep with a bouquet of flowers and a hug.

I do not have all of the answers. I am not a rabbi. But I know that what happened at Tree of Life cannot defeat us.

We must strive to make this world a better place and a safer place for everyone, regardless of who they are.

We must make sure that something positive comes from this terrible, terrible tragedy.

Ellen and I attended a vigil tonight (Monday) at the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee – along with 2,000 others, Jews, Gentiles, Muslims, Blacks and Whites. The healing began for us, but there's a long way to go.

May the memories of the wonderful people lost this past Shabbas be for a blessing and may those who mourn for them find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

"We're still trying to get everything together with my aunt and my cousins. It's really hard right now."

Halle said he and his brother, Howard, wrestled with their uncle growing up.

One of his last memories of Stein was a trip to Highland Beach, Fla., to move things out of his family's condo and move his mother, Ruth, to Mt. Lebanon.

Halle's father, Ernest Halle, died last month in Florida at the age of 76.

Stein was a longtime member of New Light, served as its president for a time and even filled in to lead services. New Light congregation holds services at Tree of Life Congregation, which is where the shooting occurred.

"He was very active and he did everything," Halle said. "He was there every Saturday for services."

Ernest Halle, his wife Ruth, and their family were long time members of our Shul.

On behalf of the officers and Board of the Carnegie Shul, please allow me to extend our heart-felt condolences to all of you who have been affected by this terrible tragedy.

We at the Carnegie Shul are all members of our family and, as a family we will get through this together.

From an email newsletter sent out today by the Jewish Federation

How Can You Help?

Donate to the Jewish Federation Victims of Terror Fund

Our hearts are broken. We join in mourning the victims of the tragedy in our community. We also pray for healing for those who were injured and for all those among us whose pain is beyond measure. We all face tough times in the days, weeks and months ahead, but know that Jewish Pittsburgh will come together to comfort people in need of healing and to stay strong.

Funds collected for Our Victims of Terror are earmarked for the psychological services, support for families, general services, reconstruction, additional security throughout the community, medical bills for all those involved, as well as counseling and other services that may prove necessary in the future. Our religious and day schools will also most likely require additional resources to help our youth process this tragic episode.

Call or email: David Guzikowski
(412) 992-5255
dguzikowski@jfedpgh.org

Volunteer

Reach out to the Jewish Federation Volunteer Center to aid those in the community impacted by the tragedy.

Call or email: David Chudnow
412-992-5209
dchudnow@jfedpgh.org

Create cards and letters of condolences and support

The Jewish Federation will deliver them at the appropriate time.

Mail to:
Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
234 McKee Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15213