



# Congregation Ner Tamid

on the Greenspun Campus for Jewish Life, Learning, and Spiritual Renewal

## Zachor in the Time of Corona

It is easy, perhaps too easy, to lose track of time. Especially now as we are shuttered at home, divorced from our normal routines. One day blends into the next. However, there are days of special significance which by their very nature we should acknowledge. Perhaps it is a birthday or an anniversary. I have seen some creative celebrations online. Recently, I was “at” my first “zoom” wedding. Though distant, I still felt a palpable sense of joy watching someone I cared about embrace love in the midst of the storm that swirls all around us.

But tonight (April 20<sup>th</sup>) is a different type of acknowledgement. It is focus on “Zachor!” Remember! This has been the rallying cry of our people for 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz. **Zachor**. Remember. Remember what was done, and how we survived. Remember our courage and our resilience. And remember that if good men and women do nothing, then evil prevails.

Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day is such a moment in time. In Israel, in the evening, and then again in the morning, sirens go off, and the population comes to a standstill for a moment of silence. All form of entertainment is closed. And there is somber quality to the day.

And so we must ask ourselves, living now, in a time where one day blurs into the next; where forms of entertainment are already closed, what will we do to remember?

Perhaps we will light a candle. Or perhaps we watched the Las Vegas Community Observance on zoom. Or we will tune into another communities observance tonight or tomorrow.

Whatever the case may be, it is important that we not do “nothing”. We dare not allow every day to blur into the next and to the next without distinction. Such a happening means that lives lose purpose; events lose meaning; and lessons that should be remembered will be forgotten.

Yom Hashoa is unlike any other. In remembrance and in love, we count this day as unique amongst the many. We dare not, must not fall prey to the banality of evil. The ennui of being sheltered at home. For if it is that easy to forget, then this day of days is indeed needed now more than ever.

***To all who perished, we remember.***

***To all who survived, we will never forget.***

***To those who perpetrated evil, we will always seek justice.***

***To those who dared risk their own lives to help our people, we celebrate your bravery.***

***To all that has happen, we pledge, Never Again. Not to our people. Not to any people.***

***Zachor!***