TEMPLE B’NAI

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION TO ATTEND THIS EVENING’S MEMORIAL OF THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS.

FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS, I HAVE BEEN HONORED TO SIT IN OUR LACONIA COURT AND OTHER COURTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

IT HAS BEEN MY GREATEST PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN MY HOME TOWN, TO SERVE THE STATE AND MY COMMUNITY OF WHICH I AM A THIRD GENERATION.

THE HONOR OF PRESIDING IN COURT IS A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE FOR ME, AS I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT WE ARE ALL ONLY TO BE JUDGED BY THE ALMIGHTY.

CERTAINLY, THE ROLE OF JUSTICE IN THAT NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS WAS REPUGNANT, AS THE JUDICARY DETERMINED THAT THOSE, WHO BLUNDERED, SEIZED, AND DESTROYED LIVES, BUSINESSES, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, SYNAGOGES, WOULD BE IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION.

THE COURT IS SUPPOSED TO BE WHERE JUSTICE IS ***SERVED AND PRESERVED*** FOR ALL NO MATTER WHAT COLOR, GENDER, OR ETHNACITY. IF THERE WAS EVER ‘BLINDNESS’ IN JUSTICE, BLINDNESS WAS UNDERSCORED BY JUDICIAL INDIFFERENCE. INDEED, BLINDNESS YIELDED TO TYRANNY.

WE STILL MORN THAT NIGHT AND THE ERA OF HUMAN DESTRUCTION THAT FOLLOWED WITH THE PROGROM OF ERADICATION. WE ALL REMAIN VILIGANT THAT WE SHALL NEVER EVER LET HISTOFY REPEAT ITSELF

HOWEVER, IT IS SAID THAT HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF; IT IS ***MANKIND*** THAT REPEATS HISTORY.

WE NEED TO BE EVER VIGILANT, AS JFK REMINDED US, THAT **“OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED ON THE PRINICIPAL THAT THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LAW IS THE ETERNAL SAFEGUARD OF LIBERTY AND DEFIANCE OF THE LAW IS THE SUREST ROAD TO TYRANNY.”**

I APOLOGIZE TO YOU OF THE JEWISH FAITH FOR THE CONTINUED HARASSMENT AND FEAR THAT YOU FEEL IN THIS COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THOSE EXAMPLES OF INTIMIDATION AND DISRESPECT ARE NOT THE WAY I WAS RAISED NOR THE WAY THAT I RAISED MY CHILDREN. SUCH ACTS ARE ANTITHETICAL TO THE VALUES, UPON WHICH OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED.

I AM APPRECIATIVE OF THE HISTORY THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS HAD IN OUR LACONIA. LACONIA IS THE COMMUNITY THAT I LOVE AND IS THE COMMUNITY THAT I HAVE TAKEN PRIDE IN **TO ASSURE *ALL* ARE INCLUDED**, IN MAKING IT TRULY THE VILLAGE THAT JOINS TOGETHER TO OVERCOME THE PERIL OF **ANY MEMBER**.

I HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN RESPECT AND THANKFULNESS FOR THE INCREDIBLE ROLE MODELS THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS PROVIDED THIS IRISH CATHOLIC IN LACONIA. FOR THOSE JEWISH FAMILIES, I HAVE LET THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS KNOW OF MY GREAT ADMIRATION OF THEIR FAMILY VALUES OF HARD WORK, FAMILY STRENGTH, AND COMMUNITY COMMITMENT - THE ACHBER’S, BRODY’S, THE CHERTOK’S, THE CLEVENSON’S, KESSIN’S, THE MELNICK’S, THE ROSEN’S, THE SAWYER’S, SILVERSTEINS, SELIG’S, SNIERSON’S, BRINIDIS, AND OTHERS. THEY WERE THE MANUFACTURERES, THEY WERE THE RETAILERS, THEY WERE THE HEALERS, THEY WERE THE SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND THEY WERE THE INSURERS OF JUSTICE.

FOR THEM, HISTORY HAD BEEN CRUEL, BUT THEY MADE THIS CITY STRONG, THEY MADE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THIS CITY IN THEIR SERVICE AS ELECTED AND APPONTED TO VARIOUS CIVIC AND CIVIL POSITIONS, TO THE YOUTH OF THE AREA, THEY SAT IN JUDGMENT- AND UNLIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS ON THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS, THEY SAW THEIR DUTY TO IMPOSE THE LAW, AND THEY WERE THE HEALERS, AS IS NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART, THEY COMMITTED TO INSURE THAT ADDICTION WAS A TREATABLE DISEASE AND NOT A CRIME, LONG BEFORE ANYONE WOULD ENTERTAIN THAT PRINCIPAL FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE.

THEY ALL COMMITTED TO THEIR WORK, TO THEIR FAMILIES, AND ALWAYS LOOKED TO THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

I SAY THAT IF ONE SPEAKS AGAINST THEIR ETHOS, THEIR BUSINESS, THEIR SUCCESES, THEIR FAMILIES, THEY SPEAK AGAINST EVERY ONE OF US.

WENDELL PHILIPPS, A 19TH CENTURY NEW ENGLAND ORATOR, AND AN ABOLISHIONIST, SAID: “THERE IS NOTHING STRONGER THAN HUMAN PREJUDICE.”

**IN 1657**, YES 1657, ASSER LEVY AND JACOB BARSIMSON WON FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN NEW AMSTERDAM, THAT IS, PRESENT DAY NEW YORK, THE RIGHTS OF FULL CITIZENSHIP IN THIS NEW NATION- 1657!!. (THE HISTORIC IRONY IS THAT THEIR DATE OF CITIZENSHIP IS THE SAME DAY, IN 1899, THAT ADODOLF HITLER WAS BORN.)

WE, AS AMERICANS, AS MEMBERS OF ALL ETHNICITITIES, RACES, GENDERS, AND BELIEFS, ARE STRONG BECAUSE OF OUR DIVERSITY. OUR FOUNDING FATHERS AND SUCCESSORS HAVE CARRIED THE BELIEF IN THAT STRENGTH OF DIVERSITY IN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, IN OUR BILL OF RIGHTS; WE CARRY THAT BELIEF ON EACH PIECE OF OUR CURRENCY- E PLURBUS UNIUM***, FROM MANY ONE***.

WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER AS ONE BOTH ***AS AN INDIVIDUAL CONSCINECE, A COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE, AND A NATIONAL CONSCIENCE, WHICH ABHORS PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION, AND RECRIMINATION.***

THE WORK OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US HAS NOT COMPLETED OUR JOURNEY TO TRUE FREEDOM.

Eli WIESEL, A HOLLCAUST WITNESS, DESCRIBED

(“THE MORAL ESSAYIST WROTE OF THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS “FORIGVE THEM NOT, FATHER, FOR THEY KNEW WHAT THEY DID” DESCRIBED)

THE HOLOCAUST AS ‘A UNIQUE AND UNIQUELY JEWISH EVENT…NOT ALL VICTIMS WERE JEWS BUT ALL JEWS WERE VICTIMS. I HAVE LEARNED THE DANGER OF INDIFFERENCE, ***THE CRIME OF INDIFFERENCE. IS THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE, I HAVE LEARNED IT IS NOT HATE BUT INDIFFERENCE***.” HE FURTHER INSISTED THAT THE HOLOCAUST WAS ***NOT AN “ISSUE OF POLITICS BUT THAT OF GOOD AND EVIL.”***

FDR: FORCASTING OUR MISSION IN THIS OUR DEAR LACONIA, OUR TREASURED NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN OUR VALUED AMERICA:

***“WE LOOK FORWARD TO A WORLD FOUNDED UPON ESSENTIAL HUMAN FREEDOMS. FIRST, THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION, SECOND IS THE FREEDOM OF EVERY ONE TO WORSHIP AS THEY PLEASE, THIRD, A WORLD TO BE FREE FROM WANT. AND FOURTH, FREEDOM IS TO BE FREE FROM FEAR.”***

THIS IS OUR COLLECTIVE CALL TO INSURE THOSE FREEDOMS ARE QUARANTEED.