



CONTACT:

Emma Sandler
Director of Communications
617-566-3960
esandler@tisrael.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/17/17

Tali Puterman
Social Justice Educator and Community Organizer
857-305-9327
tputerman@tisrael.org

An Interfaith Gathering of Unity, Love, and Strength at Temple Israel of Boston

Boston, MA: This week our hearts are torn, as we each try to make sense of this spate of hateful acts, from the terrorism in Charlottesville to the desecration of the New England Holocaust Memorial. As Martin Luther King Jr. preached, "darkness does not put out darkness; only light can do that." We will fully devote ourselves to our community's mission of shining the light of righteousness wherever we go.

Temple Israel will host a Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) **Interfaith Gathering of Unity, Love, and Strength**, at Temple Israel of Boston (477 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA) on **Friday, August 18 at 5:00 p.m.**

We expect up to 1,000 people in attendance to hear inspiring words from faith leaders across Greater Boston as we stand together against all forms of hatred, to affirm the power of love and righteousness.

Various elected officials and civic leaders, including **Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, Mayor Marty Walsh, Congressman Jim McGovern, Commissioner Bill Evans**, and the following faith leaders are expected to attend the gathering:

- Shaykh Yasir Fahmy, Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
- Imam Mohamed Nabeel, The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
- Executive Director Yusufi Vali, The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center
- Rev. Liz Walker, Roxbury Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Nancy Taylor, Old South Church
- Rev. Dan Smith, First Church Cambridge
- Rabbi Elaine Zecher, Temple Israel of Boston
- Rabbi Matthew Soffer, Temple Israel of Boston

Living Judaism together through discovery, dynamic spirituality, and righteous impact.

- Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Bethel AME Church
- Rabbi Or Rose, Director of Center for Global Judaism at Hebrew College

At **6:00 p.m.**, we will welcome Shabbat together by inviting our interfaith community to join us for "**A Sabbath of Love and Light**," a worship experience open to all, devoted to the values of justice and compassion.

We strongly encourage you to use public transportation to get to Temple Israel. We are located two blocks from the Longwood Station along the Green Line's Riverside (D) route. We are two blocks from several bus routes that stop near Beth Israel/Deaconess Hospital and less than a mile from Coolidge Corner. Reduced rate parking is available at the 375 Longwood parking garage. Please arrive early to allow for additional time for security. We request that all bags be left at home.

This is the time for us to be together with all who wish to counter messages of hatred by kindling the light of compassion and dignity for all. We invite you to extend this Shabbat invitation to your friends - across any faith community. Temple Israel is home to all whose hearts are open and yearning for a better, more loving world.

About Temple Israel of Boston: Temple Israel is a diverse, urban, Reform Jewish congregation where all are welcome to live Judaism together through discovery, dynamic spirituality, and righteous impact. We welcome the opportunity to comment further on this story. Learn more at www.tisrael.org.

About GBIO: The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is a broad-based organization of 40+ churches, synagogues, mosques, and community organizations that works across religious, racial, ethnic, class, and neighborhood lines for the public good. Our primary goal is to develop local leadership and organized power to fight for social justice. GBIO is a part of a national network affiliated with Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest institution for professional organizing in the United States: GBIO's President is Burns Stanfield of Fourth Presbyterian in South Boston. Larry Gordon is GBIO's Lead Organizer. Kathleen Patron is GBIO's Associate Organizer. GBIO's offices are in Roxbury.

PHOTOS WELCOME

###

Living Judaism together through discovery, dynamic spirituality, and righteous impact.