

Dear Chavraya,

It utterly breaks my heart to share with you the letter below and attached that was sent to the Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland. It is a letter of vile hatred for our Muslim neighbors, a letter that joins us to them through hate. It is the same letter that was sent this week to a mosque in Rhode Island. As I expressed in my own note to the Wayland mosque, which I share with you, we are indeed joined with each other, but through love:

Dearest friends of the Islamic Center,

I reach out to you with love, my heart breaking for you and all of us in the face of the hate to which you have been subjected. Joined with each other as hated peoples in the mind of the letter writer, we shall remain joined with each other through love. As all good people are standing with you, so my congregation and I, the Nehar Shalom Community Synagogue, stand with you. We are here and ready to help as together we raise a song of love and hope in this difficult time.

Jumma mubarak/Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Victor Reinstein

I encourage each of you to write your note of support and love and send it to: info@icbwayland.org or write to ICB Wayland, 126 Boston Post Road, Wayland, MA 01778

I had written only last night to the leadership of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center in Roxbury on behalf of the Mass Board of Rabbis to affirm that we are here for each other and will stand together in the face of hate.

In this week's Torah portion, *parashat Toldot*, we learn from our ancestor Yitzchak the way of peacemaking, of reaching out to others in a way that transcends conflict and plants seeds of friendship. A gentle figure who responds to conflict by seeking deeper connection, it is the way of Yitzchak that we need to embrace. Amidst the bluster and hate that swirls around us, cruel winds have carried a vile letter to our neighbors. May we commit ourselves to the way of friendship and love, standing with each other, holding tenderly all that is vulnerable, threatened values and ideals, and most of all threatened people. As we turn from Jumma, the Muslim "Shabbat" on Friday, to our own, may we find rest and renewal, so much to do beyond the drying of tears.

Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Victor

To the children of Satan,

You muslims are a vile and filthy people. Your mothers are whores and your fathers are dogs. You are evil. You worship the devil. But your day of reckoning has arrived.

There's a new sheriff in town -- President Donald Trump. He's going to cleanse America and make it shine again. And he's going to start with you muslims. He's going to do to you muslims what Hitler did to the jews. You muslims would be wise to pack your bags and get out of Dodge.

This is a great time for patriotic Americans. Long live President Trump and God bless the USA.

Americans for a Better Way