

## Kol Shalom Joins the March for Our Lives

Our synagogue is called Kol Shalom, Voice of Peace. We are a religious community that aspires to be an oasis of peace. Schools are also meant to be oases of peace, safe places where you can focus on academics, nurture extra-curricular activities and passions, and develop lasting friendships.

Ever since the Columbine High School massacre, almost 19 years ago, our schools can no longer claim to be safe spaces. Why? Because school shootings are random and very hard to predict. That means that every school faces risk. Statistically, the risk is small. But that doesn't matter.

We understand that the moral obligation to end these attacks on our schools is absolute. We know in our heart of hearts that any student who dies from a mass shooting is one too many.

*And we know this has been going on long enough.*

We have watched and been deeply moved as teenagers from Stoneman Douglas High have begun to raise their voices to our political leaders. Good for them! This is something new.

Our generation has not done enough to address gun violence in schools and elsewhere. We have fallen short. We have failed the student generation. Because we see guns in different ways, we have been unable to generate a voice and an approach that could unite Democrats and Republicans, those who live in cities, and those who reside in more rural areas. Every time an attempt has been made to address gun violence, it has failed because of this division, and because of those who like the status quo and have the power to keep us from changing.

We need to find a third way. We need to continue to raise up our voices in every city and town in America. We need for us all to own this problem, not only our children.

On Saturday March 24th the "March for Our Lives" will be held in D.C. Because of its moral and ethical importance to the well-being of our communities, our Board has endorsed the idea of Kol Shalom participating officially in this rally.

Consequently, **we will be rescheduling our Shabbat service on March 24th** to begin at 7:30 am, rather than the normal 9:15 am, to enable those who wish to attend both services and the rally to do so. This will be an abbreviated service that will conclude by 9 a.m. Other opportunities will be offered for saying Kaddish that day.

Details will follow soon with information about a gathering place downtown and other logistics.

Let us take our righteous anger, our pain, our fear, our hopes, and our youth and change this country for the better.

Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman

Joel Greene, President