

UNITY GATHERING
December 13, 2015

Temple Beth Or
Washington Township, New Jersey

Menorah Lighting Ritual
Rabbi Noah Fabricant

(The blessings for lighting the Chanukah menorah are chanted.)

Reader: The first candle reminds us to not stand idly by.

All: When words of hate are spoken, we will not be silent. We will speak up for the dignity of all people.

(The first candle is lit.)

Reader: The second candle shines light on our digital lives.

All: When social media is used to spread ignorance and hate, we will not be silent. We will post, comment, and share the message of unity.

(The second candle is lit.)

Reader: The third candle calls us to expand our horizons.

All: We will seek opportunities for fellowship with those of different backgrounds and beliefs. We will seek out voices and opinions of those who are different from us. We will try to listen and understand.

(The third candle is lit.)

Reader: The fourth candle is for charity, tzedakah, and sadaqah.

All: Our faiths teach us to share our wealth with those in need. We will use our resources to support organizations that advance the cause of unity and peace.

(The fourth candle is lit.)

Reader: The fifth candle shines onto the public sphere.

All: We accept our civic duty to help our country and communities reflect our values. In politics and civic life, we will oppose discrimination and stand up for justice, safety, and peace.

(The fifth candle is lit.)

Reader: The sixth candle carries our prayers.

All: In different faiths and different languages, we will be unified in prayer. We will pray for an end to violence and fear. We will pray for love and understanding to prevail.

(The sixth candle is lit.)

Reader: The seventh candle stands against violence.

All: We reject violence of any kind in the name of religion. We proclaim that true faith seeks the end of violence.

(The seventh candle is lit.)

Reader: The eighth candle brings wholeness and unity.

All: We are not so different. We are not divided or afraid. We are neighbors of all faiths who seek peace for our families, our country, and our world. We believe in unity.

(The eighth candle is lit.)