

The Social Action Committee invites you to participate in 2forSeder

I am writing this message to personally ask you, as a fellow member of the NVHC community, to join the 2forSeder initiative. At this time of rising intolerance, 2forSeder is a way to take direct personal action to "push back on anti-semitism with love and matzah." 2forSeder is the brainchild of Marnie Fienberg, the daughter-in-law of Tree of Life victim Joyce Fienberg. To participate means to sign up on the web site, <http://2forseder.org>, and to attend a seder with at least two people of a different faith who are attending their first seder. Like her mother-in-law before her, Marnie Fienberg believes passionately that if everyone could learn about Judaism by attending the kind of boisterous, inclusive, and loving seders Joyce was known for hosting, there would be no room in anyone's heart for anti-semitism.

The entire Jewish community was deeply affected by the Tree of Life shooting. My own connection to the shooting and to the Fienberg family is personal. I grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, and lived within walking distance of Tree of Life when I was a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University. Joyce's husband Steve Fienberg was a professor in my program and a lifelong colleague after I graduated. Our daughter Allison was born while I was a student, and Joyce insisted on lending us their crib. She said they would not be needing it until the grandchildren arrived. It breaks my heart that Joyce's grandchildren, who slept in the same crib my daughter used, lost such a wonderful grandmother in such a tragic manner. Another Tree of Life victim, Jerry Rabinowitz, was my sister's family doctor, family friend, and role model for my niece who is studying medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

Whatever our connection to the Pittsburgh tragedy, it is important for every one of us to work for religious tolerance. 2forSeder is one way we as Jews can teach others about the beauty of Judaism in a warm, fun, inclusive environment. I hope you will join in.

Kathy Laskey, NVHC member since 1987 and member of NVHC Change, the Social Action Committee
Questions? Contact SocialAction@nvhcreston.org