

Community Unites in Solidarity: Remembering Kristallnacht & Support of Israel at Ocean Reef Chapel & Fellowship Center

By Michael L. Weiss, Member Since 2019

In a profound demonstration of unity, the Ocean Reef Chapel and Fellowship Center are set to host an interfaith service event, **Remembering Kristallnacht and Support of Israel**, led by Pastor Bob Henley and Rabbi Anne Feibelman. The event, scheduled for **November 9th at 6 pm**, serves as a solemn reminder of the atrocities of the past and a collective stand against the continuing struggles faced by Jewish communities worldwide, particularly amid the current conflicts in Israel.

Kristallnacht, or the "Night of Broken Glass," was a pogrom against Jews carried out by SA paramilitary forces and civilians throughout Nazi Germany on November 9-10, 1938. The name refers to the shattered glass from the windows of synagogues, homes, and Jewish-owned businesses plundered and destroyed during the violence. This event marked a significant escalation in the Nazi regime's policies of persecution

against Jews, leading up to the Holocaust.

The lasting significance of Kristallnacht is immense. It stands as a powerful symbol of the destructive path to which discrimination, hate, and unchecked power can lead. The Nazis' state-sponsored pogrom was a critical juncture in the lead-up to the Holocaust, a systematic, state-sponsored genocide in which six million Jews were murdered. This dark era in history is a stark reminder of the profound consequences of antisemitism, bigotry, and hate-fueled ideologies.

The term "Never Again" has since been adopted by Jewish communities and others around the world as a rallying cry, not only remembering the horrors of the Holocaust but also insisting on vigilance and action to prevent such atrocities from occurring again. It's a universal promise to reject hate in all forms and a commitment to preserve humanity even in times of profound conflict and challenge.

Today, these historical lessons hold critical relevance in light of the ongoing conflict in Israel. The tensions and violent confrontations, particularly involving Hamas, an organization that the U.S., EU, and other countries have designated as a terrorist group, resonate with the trauma of persecution experienced during the darkest days of Jewish history. The rocket attacks, suicide bombings, and other acts of terrorism perpetrated by Hamas threaten the safety and security of people in Israel and undermine peace efforts in the region.

However, history has shown that there is resilience in the face

of adversity. The Jewish people have faced calamities throughout history, from slavery in ancient times to pogroms in medieval periods and from the Holocaust in the modern era to the challenges posed by terrorism and geopolitical conflict today. And yet, the spirit of the Jewish community has endured and even thrived.

This resilience is mirrored in events like **Remembering Kristallnacht and Support of Israel**, where community members, regardless of faith, will come together in solidarity. The service aims not only to honor the memories of those lost during the Holocaust and other tragedies but also to reaffirm a collective stand against hate and violence in all their manifestations. It serves as a reminder that the actions of communities and individuals matter and that support, unity, and vigilance can uphold the ideals of peace and justice.

The gathering at the Ocean Reef Chapel and Fellowship

Center, therefore, represents more than an interfaith service. It is a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome, forge alliances in the face of adversity, and build hope from past lessons. Pastor Bob Henley and Rabbi Anne Feibelman will lead the service as spiritual guides and as community leaders ushering in a message of unity, strength, and resilience.

In conclusion, the event encapsulates a spirit of hope, a commitment that, although the path is fraught with challenges, the journey toward peace and mutual respect is a worthy pursuit. By coming together, people of all faiths demonstrate the power of solidarity and the unwavering belief that, despite the darkest chapters of history, the human spirit can and will strive toward light. In these moments, the community finds its strength, ensuring that "Never Again" is a promise upheld and a future of harmony is a vision towards which we all tirelessly work.



STAND WITH ISRAEL

Community-wide Event
Thursday, November 9 at 6pm

Please join the Ocean Reef community as we join hands, sharing a moment of silence, respect, and prayer. Your presence will honor those whose memories we cherish and solidify our commitment to a world that knows peace, understanding, and unity.

Our strength is in our togetherness.
Never again is now.

Led by Rabbi Anne Feibelman and Reverend Bob Henley

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY (WOW) SERVICE

All are invited for the community Communion Service each Wednesday beginning November 8th at 9 a.m. in the Chapel Sanctuary. This Wednesday Rev. Robert DeShaies, previously serving in Plantation, Florida, will lead us. Our music leader this season is Mara Mulder Bonsanti, a familiar face to many in the chapel.