



Shabbat Re'eh/26 Av 5777
August 18, 2017

Dear Shir Tikvah

I originally wrote this several months ago and amended it a few weeks ago. After the brutal week we've just experienced, it feels appropriate to share once again.

In Response to Martin Neimoller (z"l):

First they came for transpeople and I spoke up -- because God does NOT make mistakes!

They came for the African Americans and I spoke up -- because I am my sisters' and my brothers' keeper.

And then they came for the women and I spoke up -- because women hold up half the sky.

And then they came for the immigrants and I spoke up -- because I remember the ideals of our democracy.

And then they came for the Muslims and I spoke up -- because they are my cousins and we are one human family.

And then they came for the Native Americans and Mother Earth and I spoke up -- because the blood-soaked land cries and the mountains weep.

They keep coming.

We keep rising up.

Because we Jews know the cost of silence.

We remember where we come from.

And we will link arms, because when you come for our neighbors,
you come for us- and THAT just won't stand.

My family joins me in wishing each of you a Shabbat of peace, overflowing with tenderness, joy, and love,
Michael