

Greater Indianapolis gathers in solidarity against anti-Semitic graffiti vandalism at synagogue

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla (CST) in Carmel, Ind., a suburb of Indianapolis, suffered anti-Semitic vandalism when large Nazi flags with a swastika and Iron Crosses were spray painted on its structure adjacent to the synagogue. The damage was done overnight on July 27th, and was discovered after Saturday morning services.

The synagogue in conjunction with the local Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) held a solidarity gathering at CST on July 30th. The sanctuary and adjoining social hall were overflowing with well over 1,000 people of all ages and faiths from throughout the area.

Local clergy of many different faiths, community leaders, and the mayor of Carmel gave inspiring speeches that demonstrated their support to the local Jewish community. Each speaker shared messages in condemnation of the act and of complete solidarity, peace, love, and support vowing to stand shoulder to shoulder against all forms of hatred, bigotry, and intolerance. Many other government officials, or their representatives, and local rabbis were present to add their support.

This incident inspired Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb to call on lawmakers to pass (see **Solidarity**, page 13)



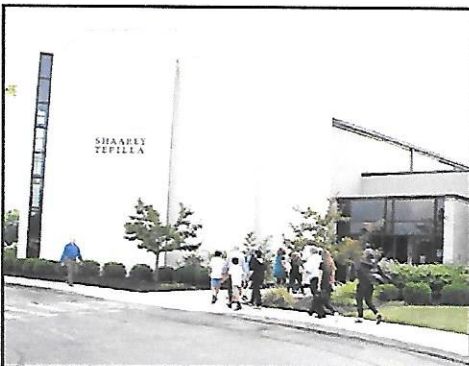
A massive gathering fills Congregation Shaarey Tefilla in solidarity with the synagogue.



The structure behind the synagogue where the vandals painted the graffiti. Ed. note: Images of the uncovered symbols of hate are pervasive in the media. JP&O has deliberately elected not to further propagate those images.



Standing room only as CST overflows with support.



Supporters arrive at the solidarity gathering.



Billboards of support in Indiana displayed by Lamar Advertising.



Rabbi Benjamin Sendrow of Congregation Shaarey Tefilla address the gathering.

Speakers/organization

Rabbi Benjamin Sendrow,
Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

Mayor James Brainard,
Mayor, Carmel Indiana

Rabbi Shelley Goldman, Chair of the
Indiana Board of Rabbis and Assistant Rabbi
at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis

Emily Schwartz, B'nai B'rith Youth
Organization (BBYO), Indianapolis Chapter
President (B'yachad SG BBG N'siah)

Ashhar Madni, Carmel Interfaith Alliance
(Board of Directors), Al Salam
Foundation (Board of Trustees)

Charlie Wiles, Center for Interfaith
Cooperation, Executive Director

Lori Bievenour, Senior Pastor, St. Peter's
United Church of Christ, Carmel

Aliya Amin, Muslim Alliance of Indiana,
Executive Director

Angie Martinez, IndyPride, President

Adrienne Slash, Board Member and
President of the Exchange at the
Indianapolis Urban League

The Rev. Bruce W. Gray, Rector, Holy
Family Episcopal Church, Fishers

Dr. Anita Joshi, Hindu Temple of
Central Indiana

Chris Paulsen, Indiana Youth Group,
Executive Director

KP Singh, Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis

Ruth Ellen Homer, The Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints

Annette Gross, Vice President,
Indianapolis PFLAG

Maria Pimantel-Ganon, Local Advocate
and Member of both the Hispanic/Latino
& Catholic Community

Greg Maurer, Board Member,
Anti-Defamation League

Lindsey Mintz, JCRC Executive Director

Corey Freedman, Congregation Shaarey
Tefilla, Board President