

Kehilat Shanghai and Moishe House Shanghai Solidarity  
Shabbat Supplemental Readings

June, 19 2020



**A Protest Prayer**  
**April N. Baskin**

Beloved siblings striving for justice,  
Sh'mah!  
Listen. Closely. At all times.  
My prayer for you  
Is that you remember protest  
Is a sacred act.  
Just as the Mourner's Kaddish  
Helps souls ascend to G-d,  
May our cries soothe those  
Whose lives were prematurely extinguished.  
And rattle the bones and stones  
Of leaders and institutions  
Leaving no question about the fact  
That things are never going back, only forward.  
For more of us are clear  
That "We have nothing to lose but our chains."  
We affirm we are a multiracial people,  
And we will stand strong, humble, and proud  
As we follow and work in partnership  
With black leaders, taking steady strides  
In the direction of collective liberation.

## **Strangled by Police: Psalm of Protest 17**

**Alden Solovy**

A psalm of protest,  
In memory of George Floyd,  
Sung at the gates of justice,  
When black men are strangled in the streets,  
When power is abused and jails overflow,  
When the voiceless are forgotten and minorities misused.  
Open, you gates!  
Open to the cries of those murdered, jailed or harassed  
For being black,  
For being a person of color,  
For being homeless, indigent, destitute or unwanted,  
The detained, the hounded,  
The pursued and the persecuted,  
Those who are killed while being restrained.  
Open, you gates!  
Let righteousness flow forth as living waters,  
And truth flow forth as healing balm,  
To still the hand of violence and hatred,  
To cure the heart of bigotry and racism,  
To herald fairness and equality,  
And bring justice to this land.

## Tefillat HaDerekh

Written by Rabbi Nina H. Mandel during the T'ruah delegation to Montgomery, Alabama  
At the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice January 26-28, 2020

*Bo*

*Bo el Par'oh*

Come after the oppressor Join the trouble

Muster your strength

Gird your loins

Mobilize your anger Disrupt, disrupt, disrupt Watch for bias

Cry out for truth

Soften your hardened heart Embrace your neighbor Persist, persist, persist

*Ad matai?* Until when?

Until there is no longer fear of justice;

Race is no longer predictive of wrongful conviction; Poverty is no longer criminalized;

Children no longer receive life sentences.

Recommit, recommit, recommit

Until the institutions built by oppression are dismantled; White supremacists no longer fuel  
antisemitism and racism; Our diversity is embraced, not feared.

Until, until, until

May our eyes and hearts remain open as they are today,

Fired by the sights and stories of injustice.

And may this holy community continue to be a source of support and wisdom, As we *kumu,*

*tze'u*

Get up and go out to face the oppressor.

*Bo*

**by Ben Cohen (co-founder of Ben & Jerry's)**

My name is Ben

I am a 69 year old white American man.

I can do, say, and be all of these things without fear (as can my family).

I stand with my black brothers and sisters.

I will not be killed.

I can go jogging (#AmaudArbery).

I can relax in the comfort of my own home (#BothemSean and #AtatianaJefferson).

I can ask for help after being in a car crash (#JonathanFerrell and #RenishaMcBride).

I can have a cellphone (#StephonClark).

I can leave a party to get to safety (#JordanEdwards).

I can play loud music (#JordanDavis).

I can sell CD's (#AltonSterling).

I can sleep (#AiyanaJones)

I can walk from the corner store (#MikeBrown).

I can play cops and robbers (#TamirRice).

I can go to church (#Charleston9).

I can walk home with Skittles (#TrayvonMartin).

I can hold a hair brush while leaving my own bachelor party (#SeanBell).

I can party on New Years (#OscarGrant).

I can get a normal traffic ticket (#SandraBland).

I can lawfully carry a weapon (#PhilandoCastile).

I can break down on a public road with car problems (#CoreyJones).

I can shop at Walmart (#JohnCrawford) .

I can have a disabled vehicle (#TerrenceCrutcher).

I can read a book in my own car (#KeithScott).

I can be a 10yr old walking with our grandfather (#CliffordGlover).

I can decorate for a party (#ClaudeReese).

I can ask a cop a question (#RandyEvans).

I can cash a check in peace (#YvonneSmallwood).

I can take out my wallet (#AmadouDiallo).

I can run (#WalterScott).

I can breathe (#EricGarner).

I can live (#FreddieGray).

This is reality.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Change the first two lines to your name and your identity and share with as many people as you can.

Silence kills

## **BLACK LIVES KADDISH**

*Creator of life, source of compassion. Your breath remains the source of our spirit, even as too many of us cry out that we cannot breathe. Lovingly created in your image, the color of our bodies has imperiled our lives.*

*Black lives are commodified yet devalued, imitated but feared, exhibited but not seen.*

*Black lives have been pursued by hatred, abandoned by indifference and betrayed by complacency.*

*Black lives have been lost to the violence of the vigilante, the cruelty of the marketplace and the silence of the comfortable.*

*We understand that Black lives are sacred, inherently valuable, and irreplaceable.*

*We know that to oppress the body of the human, is to break the heart of the divine.*

*We yearn for the day when the bent will stand straight.*

*We pray that the hearts our country will soften to the pain endured for centuries.*

*We will do all we must to bind up the wounds, to heal the shattered hearts, to break the yoke of oppression.*

*As the beauty of the heavens is revealed to us each day, may each day reveal to us the beauty of our common humanity. Amen.*