



A Reading and Personal Pledge for Enlighten America ***We Give Thanks and Remember at our Thanksgiving Table***

At times of joy we are even more mindful of the times of sorrow.

This Thanksgiving, at this time of celebration of bounty and being together as a family, we remember those families who have been robbed of this joy by people acting violently out of prejudice.

We are mindful of those who have been attacked because of their color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or other differences.

Some were murdered or driven to take their own life, but their death will not be in vain if people who care keep their memory alive, and fight the hatreds that killed them.

We give thanks for the opportunity to live in a country that gives to bigotry "no sanction, to persecution no assistance," as President George Washington wrote in 1790 to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island.

The United States was, and is, to be new among the nations, made up of people with different backgrounds but, as Americans, with equal rights and obligations.

In this still new land, there is no place for intolerance, hatred and violence.

As we enjoy the freedom to be Jews, and to express ourselves, we must always strive to preserve that freedom for those around us. We once again take a personal pledge to recognizing that freedom depends upon mutual respect.

I promise the following:

1. I will not engage in stereotyping based on a person's race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or physical or mental challenges.
2. I will refrain from telling jokes or using slang descriptions referring to a person's race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental challenges. I recognize that, even though I may mean no disrespect, these words may be offensive to others.
3. If I hear friends engaging in these activities, I will ask them to stop.
4. I will respect equal rights and promote diversity and tolerance for everyone, no matter the person's race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental challenges.
5. I will respect the political beliefs of other people and their right to have an opinion that may not be the same as mine.