



דרכיה דרכי נועם וכל נתיבותיה שלום (משלי ג' י"ז)

The Civility Pledge

We are privileged to be part of a beautiful *Kehilla* (congregation) made up of many different types of people, from diverse backgrounds, and levels of observance. We strive to unite in our service of *Hashem* and one another. We are privileged to be citizens of the United States of America, a land in which we have enjoyed freedom and prosperity. Yet, we find ourselves overwhelmed by recent events and what at times feels like the unraveling of the very fabric of society. We have experienced the emergence of unchecked vitriol and hate. We have witnessed horrific mass shootings in our supermarkets and schools. Political leaders are unwilling or powerless to effect necessary change. In such a climate, we too can feel powerless – BUT WE ARE NOT. We can effect changes in our behaviors and interactions, and through those small individual efforts, can transform society as a whole, one person at a time. I am asking you to sign on to this Civility Pledge, to make a commitment to act in a more dignified and uplifted manner and hold yourself to a higher standard, in the hope that together we can become agents of change for the good.

WITH THE DESIRE TO CREATE A MORE CIVIL SOCIETY, THE INTENTION TO FULFILL THE DIVINE MANDATE TO BE HOLY AND LOVE OUR FELLOW, AND GUIDED BY TORAH VALUES OF HONESTY, HUMILITY, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, KINDNESS AND RESPECT, I PLEDGE TO MAKE A CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT:

▪ **TO ENHANCE CIVILITY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**

I pledge to use social media to promote social and communal well-being and to avoid using social media as a way of demeaning, maligning, or gossiping about another. I pledge to dialogue with dignity and exhibit greater acceptance and less judgment, including with those who do not share my political or religious views.

▪ **TO ENHANCE CIVILITY IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY**

I pledge to seek out and care for those in need. In this commitment, I pledge to allocate some amount of my monthly income to charity and perform at least one intentional act of kindness for another daily.

▪ **TO ENHANCE CIVILITY IN THE MARKETPLACE**

I pledge to conduct all business in accordance with the highest ethical standards and with fair consideration of the other.

▪ **TO ENHANCE CIVILITY IN FAMILY LIFE**

I pledge to speak with respect, even in the presence of disagreement, with my spouse, parents, in-laws, and children. In this commitment, I pledge to perform one extra act of care and consideration for my family daily.

▪ **TO STRENGTHEN MY ABILITY AND WILL TO FULFILL THIS PLEDGE, AND BE ACCOUNTABLE TO MY COMMITMENT**

I pledge to bring God into my life by reciting one additional prayer daily or studying a portion of a religious text such as Pirkei Avos/Ethics of our Fathers or Mesillas Yesharim/Path of the Just for at least five minutes each day. In this commitment, I pledge to routinely evaluate my actions to ensure my fulfillment of this pledge.

PRINTED NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____



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