



"A Temple of Friends"

Connections

Fall 2016 — 5776 — 5777

All Rivers Run to the Sea... Remembering Elie Wiesel

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While I was studying this summer at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem a Jewish giant passed away. Elie Wiesel died on July 2. His life story touched so many people. He was a survivor whose novel, *Night*, gave the world a way to remember and to learn what happened during the Holocaust.

Wiesel wrote over 40 books. My favorite one is not *Night*. It is *All Rivers Run to the Sea*. While *Night* is semi-fictional, *All Rivers* is a true biographical memoir of what actually took place in Wiesel's life before, during, and after the Holocaust. He describes his early years, his family, what happened to them, and how he reconstructed his life, becoming a journalist, Zionist and husband after the war.

The title of this book was taken from the biblical verse, "All rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full..." (Ecclesiastes 1:7). By choosing this title, Wiesel was saying that his life story was just one of many from the Holocaust. Each individual's Holocaust story flows like a river towards the sea but the sea itself never gets full because there are so many more to tell.

What made Wiesel special wasn't the uniqueness of his tale, but the way he told it. He spoke, not from anger, rage, or hatred, but calmly, thoughtfully, and compellingly. He told the story of inhumanity in order to remove it from the world.

Hatred and zeal, Wiesel taught, remove God's presence from the world.

Looking around today we see that the "sea is never full." There is a rising tide of bitterness and anger that, left unchecked, can overwhelm us. Today, in our own country, we see the flood waters of intolerance rising against those who look different, speak differently, come from different places or believe differently.

It is now up to us to keep Wiesel's message alive! We can speak out, write our elected officials, vote, volunteer, and show, through our actions, what our values are. Wiesel's message was clear and consistent: We cannot afford to look the other way. It is not enough to simply say "we care". Our actions will speak louder.



HIGH HOLY DAYS & FALL FESTIVALS



Saturday	September 24	Selichot@Temple Beth El
Sunday,	October 2	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday	October 3	Rosh Hashanah
		Tashlich@Wantagh Park
Tuesday,	October 4	Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday	October 11	Kol Nidre
Wednesday	October 12	Yom Kippur & Yizkor*
Sunday	October 16	Sukkot
Sunday	October 23	Simchat Torah
Monday	October 24	Yizkor

*Yom Kippur Yizkor is Open to the Community