

November 7, 2008

Shabbat Shalom!

I was saddened to receive this week from the Anti-Defamation League a report entitled Financial Crisis Sparks Anti-Semitism. Rather than quoting any of the examples of virulent hatred in that report in my message to you, suffice it to say that the well-worn canards persist about Jewish control of banks, markets, policy-making in many nations, and the initiation and conduct of wars.

We read in the Torah this week about how Abram (soon to be Abraham) set himself apart from his family and other people for principle, namely, his beliefs and a sense that his life's mission would take him to a new place and in a new direction. He was told that he would be the ancestor of many nations. Three religions give Abram/Abraham a special place in the stories they tell about leadership, mission and faith. Not only Abraham's descendants, actual and spiritual, but all people are all on a journey of discovery, guided by the hope that others will join them in cooperation to meet the challenges that come before one nation or the entire world.

Hatred, divisiveness, demagoguery and extreme ideology which precludes hearing other views are central to the problems that continue to plague humanity. May we find ways to encourage the creativity and partnerships that will make us, always, a part of the solution.

***-- L'shalom,
Rabbi Larry K.***