

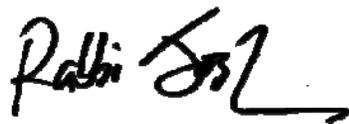
shootings in Washington D.C.

reflections on yesterday's tragedy

Like all of you, I was and shocked and horrified by the news coming out of Washington D.C. yesterday, where twelve people were murdered in a cruel, premeditated act of violence. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families in the aftermath of this senseless rampage and we will be honoring them at services on Friday evening. Although little information is yet available about the shooter and his possible motives, other information about the shooting is distressingly familiar - a lone gunman with a history of violent use of firearms, able to inflict massive harm because of an arsenal of high powered weaponry he had nonetheless obtained.

At Rosh ha-Shanah I spoke about the plague of gun violence sweeping our country... and the responsibility we all share to stand up against it and work toward measures that will decrease the amount of gun violence this country suffers - not just high-profile mass shootings like Newtown or yesterday's carnage at the Navy Yards, but also the steady beat of shootings that claim more than 25,000 American lives every year. Those of you who were not in attendance can [click here](#) to read my sermon. Please plan to attend services on Friday, October 18 at 8:00 when [Pennsylvania Representative Steve McCarter](#) will speak about the current state of gun legislation in Pennsylvania and the prospect of reform. Please be on the lookout for upcoming programs with the group [Ceasefire PA](#) and for the gun buyback program we are creating with [Pennsylvania Representative Madeleine Dean](#). If you are interested in joining a congregational effort to educate about the threat gun violence poses, organize, and advocate for effective solutions, please contact me. I pray that the New Year just underway may be the one where we can say we finally took a stand against the scourge of gun violence in this country and made a difference.

B'shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rabbi S.S.L." with a stylized flourish at the end.