



## Talking to our children about Anti-Semitism

As you may have been hearing, since the beginning of 2017, we have seen a spate of Anti-Semitic acts, with 90 bomb threats called into JCCs and Jewish Day Schools around the country (including Newton and Worcester) and the desecration of cemeteries in St. Louis and Philadelphia. I was at a conference in St. Louis last week and was able to participate in the cleanup efforts at the Chesed Shel Emet Cemetery. It was heartwarming to see people from all backgrounds raking and grabbing buckets and rags and working to improve the entire cemetery, not just the area where this heinous act was committed.



My friends and I sang "Olam Chesed Yibaneh" - we shall build this world from love - as we stood waiting to enter. We walked to the damaged area and joined hands to say Kaddish before the memorial service. As we left, there was a rainbow in the sky peeking through the clouds. It was a beautiful moment and a reminder of the presence of something greater than ourselves, even following an act of hatred and violence.



One of our responsibilities as parents and educators is to find ways to respond to our children's questions. PJ Library has put together a blog post with suggestions about [how to talk to our kids about Anti-Semitism](http://tinyurl.com/lstnfde), (<http://tinyurl.com/lstnfde>) as well as books that can be read. We have some of them in our library, so please let us know if you would like to borrow anything.

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February 2017