

# Boston's vigil for Pittsburgh's Tree of Life community "heartening"



I was horrified by the mass shooting in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue...all the more so against a backdrop of the current climate of hate in the US.

But I was heartened at the showing of support from the individuals, religious people and politicians who attended or spoke at yesterday's vigil for the shooting victims, held at the bandshell on the Boston Common.

While, of course, the same sort of thing could happen here—and it did, at the 2013 Boston Marathon—I found solace, for a time, in the eloquence and dedication to human rights—especially of Attorney General Maura Healey, Congressman Joe Kennedy, and State Treasurer Deb Goldberg—and of BU student Ariel Stein, a Boston University student who has belonged all her life to the Tree of Life Synagogue, where the deadly shootings took place. “It is up to all of us to



love,” she said.

I'm sorry to have missed talks by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and Governor Charlie Baker but as one who is generally skeptical

about politicians, I felt very glad to live in a state and city that elects responsible leaders—even if I sometimes don't agree with them.

(I've been sending letters and will canvas to encourage infrequent voters to vote in the mid-term elections—and hope that you will do the same.)



Here's a [link to a video of the entire vigil posted on YouTube by Combined Jewish Philanthropies.](#)

—Anita M. Harris

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