

COMMUNITY CHANUKAH OF RECONCILIATION

“We are not all guilty but we are all responsible”
- Abraham Joshua Heschel

The images that assault us at this season of light are the endless wail of ambulances, the screams of rockets, the red glare of gunfire, the oddly dispassionate words of the generals and the patriotic language of the pundits. Softer more reasoned voices have been drowned out. Women's voices are merely a whisper.

American bombs have killed 3700 Afghan people. Israeli military forces continue to decimate the land, homes, and hopes of Palestinians, once committed to peaceful co-existence. Twenty-five Israeli civilians have been assassinated in reprisal for Israeli targeted assassinations. The acts of terrorists in Palestine, in Afghanistan and in Israel, preclude a peaceful future for their own peoples. We cannot allow them to derail the hopes and fragile possibilities of human freedom.

Women In Black around the world stands in silent resistance to the use of violence to impose the will of the few upon the majority of its population. Our silence echoes the absence of women's voices and the mourning for everyone murdered in wars of national vengeance.

Generals and politicians alone cannot take life on this planet forward. The soldiers, using their 21st century bombs to destroy 1st century caves will never resolve the issues of fundamentalism. There are courts for war criminals. Let us use them.

Only words will succeed where bombs and rockets now fail. Words offered with care, face to face, across a table, with respect and a sense of hope. We must, in this season, as Jews and as Americans, find the words to express our love of Israel, our commitment to its future and our determined insistence that the Occupation end and the settlements be dismantled. Both support and challenge can and must co-exist.

Bay Area Women in Black gather tonight, at the darkest time of the season and of our globe, to affirm the miracle of light. We honor the darkness of the womb, the source of life and commit to bringing small sparks of illumination into our troubled and angry world.

Each of us can commit to one small act. Our future depends upon it.

NEXT VIGIL - DECEMBER 28th

Please join us at our next vigil on December 28th as we participate in a day of International Women in Black demonstrations. We will gather at 3:30 pm at the 12th St./ City Center BART. Our single file walk will take us through the City Center Plaza, to the Federal Building and then to the Oakland City Hall Plaza and back to the BART station by 4:30 pm.

Please wear black. Do not bring signs. They will be provided. We look forward to your presence and participation in these difficult times.

Contributions to support our work are most welcome.

Bay Area Women in Black, PO Box 8003, Berkeley, CA 94707

For resources and information: contact BayAreaWomenInBlack@earthlink.net

There are two other Women in Black groups in the Bay Area. Berkeley Women in Black stand every Friday from 12:00-1:00 pm at Bancroft and Telegraph. San Francisco Women in Black holds a woman only vigil on the first Friday of every month from 5:00-6:00 at Montgomery and Market Sts.

December, 2001



BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK