

The following San Geronimo Valley individuals and organizations have endorsed the following statement: Gan HaLev Jewish Congregation of the San Geronimo Valley; San Geronimo Community Presbyterian Church; San Geronimo Valley Affordable Housing Association; San Geronimo Valley Equity Committee; San Geronimo Valley Community Center; St. Cecilia and St. Mary Churches, Laura Shain, Principal, Lagunitas School District; John Carroll, Superintendent, Bolinas and Lagunitas School Districts.

“We stand with and support the Marin County School Administrators, the Marin Interfaith Council, and the superintendents and principals of individual local high schools and others in deploring and condemning the recent incidents of antisemitism that had occurred in recent weeks in different high schools in Marin County.

We support the actions taken by the Central Marin Police Authority to discover the perpetrators and the designation of the incidents as hate crimes. We look forward to learning the results and outcome of these investigations including any recommended legal action that may be taken against the perpetrators once they have been discovered.

We have read that the Racial Equity Task Force of the Tamalpais Union High School District will be discussing recommendations for a new anti-racism curriculum. We understand and support the inclusion of a required class in Ethnic Studies for high school graduation that is being considered by the California Department of Education and the California State Legislature.

Community members in the San Geronimo Valley have formed an Equity Committee to learn about and address disparities in current and historical structural racism in our community. We have become aware that in the past there were bylaws which excluded people of color and Jews from membership in some local organizations as well as restrictive covenants in real estate transactions. Although now illegal, some of these covenants still exist on property deeds. This is part of our legacy.

This is a time for all of us to educate ourselves so that we recognize, acknowledge, call-out and condemn antisemitism, racism, homophobia and other forms of anti-social attitudes and behavior.

In addition to remedial education, appropriate action needs to be taken when hate crimes are committed in our midst and in our schools. What is needed from the schools is transparent and timely communication to parents and the community at large about incidents and the consequences for such unlawful incidents.

A “tough love” approach, including legal action and consequences to hate crimes was recommended by Mark Phillips in his letter to the editor in the September 24 Marin I-J. In this regard, juvenile justice in these cases could make good use of restorative justice and Marin Youth Court when crimes are committed by children.”

Suzanne Sadowsky, Woodacre, CA

Rev. Kat Clayton, Pastor, San Geronimo Community Presbyterian Church