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**For Immediate Release**

## **Sid Jacobson JCC Rises from Shiva in Remembrance of Tree of Life Victims**

*Community comes together to walk eleven laps, honoring the eleven  
victims*

**East Hills, NY, November 8, 2018** – Thursday, November 8 marks the seventh day since the last of the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting was laid to rest. It also marks the final day that the families will be sitting Shiva for their loved ones. To honor the lives of the innocent that were taken on October 27, [Sid Jacobson JCC](#) rose from Shiva, concluding the period of mourning by walking around the JCC building eleven times together as a community.

The hour-long, eleven lap walk began at 10am with opening remarks from David Black, Executive Director, Sid Jacobson JCC, encouraging the return of hope in an uncertain time. Attended by SJJCC staff, members, and members of the community, participants also included New York State Assemblyman Anthony D’Urso, all of whom were proud to be participating in a walk that symbolized a renewal of hope.

“At the conclusion of sitting Shiva, there is a custom in many Jewish communities where the mourners leave their house of mourning and ‘get up’ to walk around the block,” explains Black. “When we physically get up, step out of the house, walk around the block, and go back inside, we are saying that this house, and our relationship with it, has now been renewed.”

“The JCC is a safe place for the community to turn to in times like these, for self-care and healing,” remarks Susan Berman, director, Center for Community Engagement, Sid Jacobson JCC. “Together, as a community, we will begin to heal. And together, we will renew both our community and ourselves.”

UJA-Federation of New York has set up a Pittsburgh Solidarity Fund where 100 percent of funds received will be used to help the victims and the Pittsburgh community. To donate to the Pittsburgh Solidarity Fund, visit [ujafedny.org/pittsburgh](http://ujafedny.org/pittsburgh).

To learn more about volunteer opportunities and ways to give back to the community, please visit [sjcc.org/communityengagement](http://sjcc.org/communityengagement) or contact Susan Berman, director, Center for Community Engagement at Sid Jacobson JCC, 516.484.1545 ext. 202 or [sberman@sjcc.org](mailto:sberman@sjcc.org).

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### **About Sid Jacobson JCC**

Sid Jacobson JCC ([sjcc.org](http://sjcc.org)), in East Hills, and its surrounding campus, the Bernice Jacobson Day School and Camp ([bjdsc.org](http://bjdsc.org)), in Old Westbury, provide a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts and social services programs. Sid Jacobson JCC promotes Jewish identity and provides a comprehensive program based on Jewish values, traditions, heritage and culture and is committed to enriching the lives of all individuals and families in its community. See community differently, "Like" the JCC on Facebook ([facebook.com/sidjacobsonjcc](https://facebook.com/sidjacobsonjcc)).

**Sid Jacobson JCC is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation of New York.**

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