



## ***And Then They Came For Me***

**By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director**

*First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me.*

— Martin Niemöller

The poem, *And Then They Came For Me* was written by Martin, who was a Nazi sympathizer in the beginning but by 1933 realized the error of his ways and did a complete 180. (You can read more about him and the quote at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum online at [ushmm.org](https://ushmm.org))

This quote has been used countless times (and even by me) to express the solidarity that people show when it comes to a group of people that they don't represent because of their nationality or race or ethnicity, etc.

And yet, the anti-Semitism continues today.

Some of you may have remembered my mentioning Leah Garber from the JCCA. She writes what is now a daily blog post titled "A View From Jerusalem." With the hostage situation, there is a daily countdown. A daily gut-wrenching count of how many days the hostages have been kept from their families.

About a week or so ago, this is what she wrote, "One-hundred-forty-five years ago today, one of the greatest minds of all time was born: Albert Einstein, the father of the theory of relativity and a central figure in the revolutionary reshaping of modern physics



in the 20th century.” She goes on to talk about other contributions to the world and also details some of the bigger examples of anti-Semitism that the world participated in. But she stresses how many of these examples were from long ago and that since the Holocaust, we haven’t seen or felt the disdain as a group of people.

Until now.

Leah continues: “The Oct. 7 massacre changed Israel, the Jewish people, and, in many respects, the world. It awakened dormant demons and, once again, brought Jew hatred to the surface — neither hidden nor disguised but out into the open, in broad daylight, without any fear of repercussions for being anti-Semitic.

Of course, it is unacceptable to discriminate against any people and politically incorrect to condemn other cultures. Racism isn’t tolerated under any circumstances. Freedom of expression and speech are basic, supreme values. Yes, it's all true — until it concerns the Jews.”

What??

There is a very popular contest in the world called the Eurovision Song Contest. Israel has participated in this event 45 times, won four times, and hosted three times. But this year, Israel isn’t allowed to participate. Their entry was deemed too political. Well, I think you should read it/listen to it and decide for yourself.

I don’t see the political message. I hear the heartbreak, the disbelief, the silence of the world or more accurately, the hatred from the world.

#And Then They Came For Me  
#Shabbat Shalom



## October Rain

*Writers of history stand by me  
Look into my eyes and you will see  
People leave without saying goodbye  
Someone stole the moon tonight  
took my light  
Now everything is black and white*

*Who is the fool who told you boys don't cry?  
Hours and hours and flowers  
Life is not a game for cowards  
Why does time go crazy?  
I lose my mind every day  
Clinging to this mysterious journey*

*Dancing up a storm  
We have nothing to hide  
take me home  
Leave the world behind  
And I promise you never again*

*I'm still soaked from the October rain  
Live in fantasy  
in ecstasy  
Everything is meant to be  
We will die, but love won't*

*I'm still soaked from the October rain  
There is no air left to breathe  
I'm not here, I have no space  
They were all fine children, each, and everyone.*

*'October Rain' by Keren Peles, Avi Ohayon and Stav Begger*