

Another tragic act of hate! This time, occurring at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where an 88-year old, anti-semitic and white supremacist shot and killed an African American security guard. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and family of the victim Stephen Tyrone Johns as well as our concerns for the welfare of the intended targets of this “hate crime” – all Jews and all African Americans.

Ironically, that very evening the Museum was to have unveiled a new play by playwright Janet Langhart Cohen, titled “Anne and Emmett,” a story based upon an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank, a Jew, and Emmett Till, an African American - both victims of hate crimes.

This incident underscores the unquestioned relevance of these museums of conscience. To further inoculate ourselves from such extremism and to respond constructively to this recent tragedy, let’s connect or re-connect with two such museums in our own community: The Center for Holocaust & Humanity Education and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Dr. Mitchel D. Livingston, Board Chair
BRIDGES for a Just Community

(Dr. Livingston is a board member of The Center for Holocaust & Humanity Education and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.)