Many of you reading this will also be aware of Israel’s immeasurable contribution to rescue and rehabilitation efforts in Nepal. Israel’s team of more than 200 IDF soldiers, doctors, and reserve soldiers, landed quickly in Nepal, and set up in largest field hospital ever. Israel was the second largest delegation to send aid, after India, and larger than all auspice personnel from other countries combined. Wounds were healed, babies were delivered, and families were reunited – all because Israel felt compelled, as a nation, as the Jewish nation, to focus on tikun olam. And it did so without worry. Without concern for who-else might be responding. Without concern if anyone else would respond. Dr. Lazaigm, a light into the nations. I cannot think of a better example.

Another is our people’s determination to turn our personal involvement into a quest for human rights and repairing the world, tikun olam. I speak of our community’s Holocaust education programming. This year, our Aspen Human Rights and Holocaust Education program was the largest and most successful ever with more than one hundred grade 8, 9 and 10 students – mostly non-Jewish students – taking part. The students attended classes once a week for 10 weeks in preparation for their trip to Washington, DC, where they visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites. The message of the program: never be a bystander to injustice, stand up for what is right.

Most recently, we held our incredibly meaningful Holocaust Education Symposium, educating close to 3,000 high school students, mostly non-Jewish, on the topic of genocide, the Holocaust, and the importance of human rights. The powerful presentations of our courageous Holocaust survivors inspire with their message of hope and humanity, and the students understand whose racism can lead the program connects the dots for them isolated events to global movements, and helps them see the bigger picture. They are empowered and inspired to be ambassadors of change, and to make a difference in how future generations treat each other.

So, again, why do we do all of this? Because. Because people need education and inspiration. Because we hope to learn from others. Because there will always be people in need. Because we value and extol tikun olam. The challenge and responsibilities are never ending. The opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the wellbeing of others should always be embraced. Why? Because! Our community is exceptional at rising to a challenge, and this month’s earthquakes in Nepal are no different. Collectively, we make the world a better place. Because in urgent situations, we all because Israel felt compelled, as a nation, as the Jewish nation, to focus on tikun olam. And it did so without worry. Without concern for who-else might be responding. Without concern if anyone else would respond. Dr. Lazaigm, a light into the nations. I cannot think of a better example.

Another is our people’s determination to turn our personal involvement into a quest for human rights and repairing the world, tikun olam. I speak of our community’s Holocaust education programming. This year, our Aspen Human Rights and Holocaust Education program was the largest and most successful ever with more than one hundred grade 8, 9 and 10 students – mostly non-Jewish students – taking part. The students attended classes once a week for 10 weeks in preparation for their trip to Washington, DC, where they visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites. The message of the program: never be a bystander to injustice, stand up for what is right.

Most recently, we held our incredibly meaningful Holocaust Education Symposium, educating close to 3,000 high school students, mostly non-Jewish, on the topic of genocide, the Holocaust, and the importance of human rights. The powerful presentations of our courageous Holocaust survivors inspire with their message of hope and humanity, and the students understand whose racism can lead the program connects the dots for them isolated events to global movements, and helps them see the bigger picture. They are empowered and inspired to be ambassadors of change, and to make a difference in how future generations treat each other.

So, again, why do we do all of this? Because. Because people need education and inspiration. Because we hope to learn from others. Because there will always be people in need. Because we value and extol tikun olam. The challenge and responsibilities are never ending. The opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the wellbeing of others should always be embraced. Why? Because!