

# The Intelligencer

## **Elkins Park congregation invites public to 'model civil discourse' on guns April 27**

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April 19, 2016

Arguing the issues of gun control, gun violence and the right to bear arms can be a toxic conversation when opposing sides clash on differing opinions. The Bernard Wolfman Civil Discourse Project looks to curb this conflict April 27 at its fourth annual civil discourse forum "Let's Talk about Guns."

Aimed at creating civil conversation between contrasting opinions on gun issues, the forum will bring together two national experts who will take part in "model civil discourse" and offer in-depth analysis and tips on how participants can get involved, the organizers said in a statement.

"The dialogue about guns heats up immediately after an incendiary event. At those times, nobody is really hearing each other or exchanging ideas," forum founder Dina Wolfman Baker said in the statement. "Gun policy is multi-faceted and complex. It's a public health issue to some, a constitutional rights issue to others, and a criminal justice or mental health issue to still others."

The forum will take place 7:30 p.m. April 27 at Beth Sholom Congregation, 8231 Old York Road, in the Elkins Park section of Cheltenham. Preregistration is required and can be done online at [www.civildiscourseproject.org](http://www.civildiscourseproject.org). However, registered attendees are being asked to adhere to the message of the forum and pledge to engage in a civil and respectful manner throughout the event.

Attending speakers include policy analyst Adam Bates of the libertarian Cato Institute's Project on Criminal Justice, and Chelsea Parsons, vice president for guns and crime policy at the Center for American Progress. Moderation of the event will be conducted by Chris Satullo, a 2016 Professional in Residence at the Annenberg Center for Public Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. Members of the audience will also have the opportunity to submit questions to Satullo to include in the discussion.

According to the organization, this year's forum draws upon multiple Jewish traditions, including justice, truth-seeking and the tradition of productive and peaceful activism shared by most mainstream religions. The event also takes place during the Jewish festival of Passover.

Those who cannot register online can do so by calling Beth Shalom Congregation at 215-887-1342.