

Friday night, as our Jewish friends and neighbors celebrated Rosh Hashanah, we heard of the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at age 87. With heavy hearts we mourn the loss of a pioneer and an icon. She was a champion for social justice, equal rights, and a determined fighter. Even when she lost, she dissented powerfully, writing against the *Shelby County v. Holder* majority decision (2013) that gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965: “The great man who led the march from Selma to Montgomery and there called for the passage of the Voting Rights Act foresaw progress, even in Alabama. ‘The arc of the moral universe is long,’ he said, ‘but it bends towards justice,’ if there is steadfast commitment to see the task through to completion. That commitment has been disserved by today’s decision.”

Bader Ginsburg’s passing highlights the important role the judiciary plays in our lives. It was the courts who ultimately upheld the Affordable Care Act, Marriage Equality, Equality of Service in the Military, LGBTQ Rights, and that only highlights the last decade. Retired Justice David Souter encapsulated her legacy thusly: “Ruth Ginsburg was one of the members of the Court who achieved greatness before she became a great justice.” Indeed, her personal achievements made her a feminist icon before she ever joined the Court.

On hearing Friday’s news, a new member of the FLDO, Emma Kossoy, who was celebrating the New Year, shared the following: “The Jewish New Year symbolizes rebirth and strength ... Today is a day that symbolizes that no matter how hard things get, there will be another hope and another day.”

So today and for the next 44 days, our “steadfast commitment” as Fair Lawn Democrats is to see justice carried through. We will hold on to hope and persevere through another day. Ruth Bader Ginsburg knew how much work, effort, and commitment a functioning democracy demands. She had one last wish tasked to all who believe in freedom and democracy to help fulfill. We ask you to honor her memory and her work by joining us.