



One Woman Killed, three injured in Poway Synagogue attack.



Lori Gilbert Kaye

For the second time in six months an American Synagogue has been targeted by extremists. A woman was killed when a lone gunman entered the Chabad of Poway Synagogue and began firing on the crowd. He struck Lori Gilbert Kaye, 60 a congregant who was there on the last day of Pesach to say Yizkor, for her late mother.

The alleged gunman, John T. Earnest, (19) entered the Chabad of Poway Synagogue, where approximately 100 congregants had gathered to celebrate the final day of Pesach (the festival of our freedom.) He was carrying an AK-15 style assault weapon and 60 bullets. According to reports the gunman entered the premises and began firing, striking the Rabbi in the hand, Lori Gilbert Kaye instinctively and selflessly stepped in front of the Rabbi and was shot by the assailant.

Rabbi, Yisroel Goldstein, called out for everyone to run and rushed to usher the children to safety. He was accompanied by Almog Peretz (34), who had traveled from Israel to be with family during the holidays. Both were injured by the shooter, Rabbi Goldstein was shot in both hands and Peretz sustained a leg injury. Peretz's eight-year-old niece, Noya Dahan, was also injured in the attack. During the melee, Dr. Howard Kaye, a Rheumatologist at Scripps Coastal Medical Center in Vista CA, rushed over to help a fallen congregant, to his horror, Kaye discovered it was his own wife that lay on the floor in a pool of blood. When he realized who it was, he fainted.

Despite how events unfolded, things could have been much worse. According to police officials, Earnest's rifle jammed after firing only 8 to 10 of the 60 bullets he had brought with him. Almog Peretz pointed out, the gunman was aiming at the children when his weapon jammed; Otherwise, innocent children could well have been slaughtered and many more deaths might have occurred. That in itself must be seen as a minor miracle during this holiday of miracles. After his weapon jammed, the shooter escaped to his car. An off-duty U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent, Jonathan Morales, fired at the gunman missing him; but striking his car. After his escape, Earnest called police and surrendered without further incident. Earnest's weapon was purchased legally. He's currently being held, without bail, on one count of murder and three counts of attempted murder.

For Lori Gilbert-Kaye, there were only words of love and praise. At her burial service on Monday, her daughter, Hannah Jacqueline Kaye, (22) said "I chose to wear pink because my mother was a colorful woman and she would have loved it."




Lori Gilbert Kaye with her daughter
Hannah Jacqueline Kaye

Dr. Howard Kaye, Lori Gilbert- Kaye's husband praised his wife's heart and giving nature saying "My wife was a person who did so much good in her life. ... And whatever I did that might not have been good, she repaired. She had a soul that was greater than any of us ever could believe,"

John T. Earnest is a nursing student at California State University San Marcos. Ironically, Earnest was brought up in a household that stressed tolerance and the beauty of diversity. The family released the following statement after his arrest, "We are shocked and deeply saddened by the terrible attack on the Chabad of Poway synagogue; but, our sadness pales in comparison to the grief and anguish our son has caused for so many innocent people. To our great shame, he is now part of the history of evil that has been perpetrated on Jewish people for centuries."

The family has also refused to pay his legal fees; so Earnest, who was refused bail, will be represented by a public defender.

This latest tragedy comes six- months to the day of the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, one of the deadliest attacks against the Jewish community in United States history; when 11 persons were killed as they worshiped. In both cases the assailant was driven by white supremacist ideology; in both cases, the assailant used an AK-15 assault rifle; in both cases, the weapon was purchased legally; in both cases, the assailant shot down innocent Jews as they worshipped in a house of G-d. 

Friends of Lori Gilbert- Kaye have requested we wear Pink to Synagogue this Shabbat, because she loved Pink. If you would like to honor her memory, and reject hate, wear pink this week– it's in no way obligatory; but will demonstrate our unity.

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Anti-Semitic incidences more than doubled in 2018

A perilous wave of anti-Jewish activity has been sweeping across the United States. Anti-Semitic Incidents are near historic highs and assaults against Jews have doubled according to a new report released by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) this week. ADL's annual Audit of Anti-Semitic incidents recorded a total of 1,879 attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions across the country in 2018, the third-highest year on record since ADL started tracking such data in the 1970s.

In a year marked by the white supremacist shooting spree at a Pittsburgh synagogue, which claimed 11 lives, and punctuated by a dramatic surge in white supremacist propaganda activity nationwide, ADL's Audit identified 59 people who were victims of anti-Semitic assaults in 2018, up from 21 in 2017. While the overall number of incidents represents a 5 percent decline from 1,986 incidents reported in 2017, the number of incidents last year remained at near-historic levels – 48 percent higher than the total for 2016 and 99 percent higher than in 2015.

“We’ve worked hard to push back against

anti-Semitism, and succeeded in improving hate crime laws, and yet we continue to experience an alarmingly high number of anti-Semitic acts,” said Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO and National Director.

“We unfortunately saw this trend continue into 2019 with the tragic shooting at the Chabad synagogue in Poway. It’s clear we must remain vigilant in working to counter the threat of violent anti-Semitism and denounce it in all forms, wherever the source and regardless of the political affiliation of its proponents.” ADL’s annual tally of incidents nationwide found that anti-Semitic assaults, harassment and vandalism are still pervasive in the U.S. All but four states experienced anti-Semitic incidents. In addition to the October mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, 2018 saw high levels of white supremacist activity, including propaganda on college campuses and in communities, and hateful robocalls aimed at voters.

ADL’s Audit classifies all incidents into three categories: assault, harassment and vandalism. Of the total incidents reported in 2018:

Assaults: 39 incidents, marking an increase of 105 percent from the 19 incidents reported in 2017. Those incidents affected 59 victims, up from 21 in 2017, and include the 11 fatalities and two injured congregants



ADL CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt The recent trend of anti-Semitism continues.

in Pittsburgh.

Harassment: 1,066 incidents of anti-Semitic harassment were reported to ADL last year, a 5 percent increase from 1,015 in 2017, and a 48 percent increase from 721 in 2016.

Vandalism: 774 incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism were recorded in 2018, down 19 percent from 952 in 2017, but up 52 percent from 510 in 2016.

While most anti-Semitic incidents are not directly perpetrated by extremists, there are interesting connections between the trends. In 2018, 249 acts of anti-Semitism (13 percent of the total incidents) were attributable to known extremist groups or individuals inspired by extremist ideology, making it the highest level of anti-Semitic incidents with known connections to extremists or extremist groups since 2004. Of those, 139 incidents were part of leaflet campaigns by white supremacist groups. Another 80 were anti-Semitic robocalls allegedly perpetrated by anti-Semitic podcaster Scott Rhodes in support of the candidacy of Patrick Little, an unabashed white supremacist who ran an unsuccessful campaign for U.S. Senate in California.



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The Audit also noted spikes at several points

during the year. The final three months of the year were unusually active, with 255 incidents in October, 300 in November and 194 in December. The high number in October included 45 propaganda distributions by white supremacists. The incidents in November and December immediately followed the Pittsburgh massacre, which likely drew more attention to anti-Semitic activities. Incidents first spiked in May, when 209 anti-Semitic acts were reported, including 80 anti-Semitic robocalls sent by white supremacists, which targeted Jewish individuals and institutions with harassing messages.

Incidents took place in nearly every state across the country but, consistent with prior reports, the states with the highest number of incidents tend to be those with the largest Jewish populations. These include **California (341)**; **New York (340)**; **New Jersey (200)** and **Massachusetts (144)**. Combined, these states accounted for more than half of the total incidents in the U.S.

Anti-Semitic incidents took place in a wide variety of locations, including places of business, private homes, public areas such as parks and streets, Jewish institutions and schools:

At private businesses and retail establishments: 211 (5% increase from 201 in 2017)

In cemeteries: 8 (up from 7 in 2017)

In homes: 276 (16% increase from 238 in 2017)

Incidents on college campuses: 201 (1% decrease from 204 in 2017)

Incidents in K-12 schools: 344 (25% decrease from 457 in 2017)

Incidents at Jewish institutions: 265 (23% decrease from 342 in 2017)

ADL's Center on Extremism has gathered the complete 2018 data, as well as data from previous years on ADL's H.E.A.T. Map, an interactive online tool that allows users to geographically chart anti-Semitic incidents and events nationally and regionally.

Simon Says

Weekly insights from Rabbi Simon Rosebach



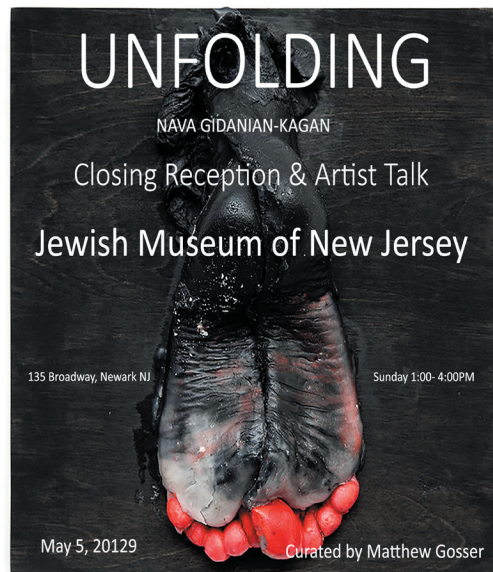
Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

our very lives. When we consider the millions of Jews, Gypsies (Roma) gays and persons with special needs who were snuffed out during this time it is appalling. Yet, most don't really grasp it. To do that you have to view it differently, you have to view it through refreshed eyes. 12 million persons perished during that unprecedented period of pseudo-logical madness. The enormity of events is not the most vexing thing to consider though; the most challenging thing to reconcile; the hardest thing to wrap your head around; the most difficult thing to fathom is the lives behind the numbers. We are not talking about statistics; these were men and women, mothers and daughters, fathers and sons; sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles. They were friends, teachers, mentors, co-workers, and neighbors. They were artists, thespians, poets, directors, writers and artisans. They were shopkeepers, truck drivers, and clerks. They were soldiers and policemen. They were patriots.

Holocaust Memorial Day - A Day of Remembrance— A Stark Reminder


Guest columnist Tim Bezalel Lee

Dom Hashoah or Holocaust Memorial day is this week. It is the day people of conscience throughout the world remember the atrocities that befell the Jewish people at the hands of the Nazi horde; when throughout Europe millions of Jewish Human beings were imprisoned; starved; beaten; raped; humiliated; abused; experimented on; torn from loved ones and robbed ceaselessly. Yes we were robbed of our belongings; but more devastatingly we were robbed of family; friends; respect; peace of mind; religious freedom; hope... and often



Most important, they were fellow human beings; but, all of that ceased to matter when Nazism swept the country.

It is disheartening that this year's day of remembrance was preceded by the burial service of Lori Gilbert Kaye, the lone fatality of a vicious anti-Semitic attack on the Chabad of Poway synagogue in California. It is a stark reminder that while American Jews enjoy unparalleled freedom and opportunities the forces of evil are out there, and that anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish ideology is as strong as it ever was; even more so in this age of social media, when racists, bigots, and haters of every stripe, are able to spread their poison and recruit followers 24/7.

Yet, through it all, there is one constant, the Jewish people. The Jewish people will never forget and the Jewish people will never give up; not today, not tomorrow, not ever. We will continue to live on, continue to love, continue to worship; we will continue to be Jews – and proud of it. 

Never Forget—Never Again



Nava Gidanian-Kagan.

Join us Sunday May 5, 2019, the Jewish Museum of New Jersey hold a closing reception of its Unfolding exhibit featuring the work of Iranian-Israeli artist, Nava Gidanian-Kagan. There will also be an artist talk with Kagan on what inspires her work and the creative process.



Retirement girl, Linda Bloom chats with Flora Sonners during class.

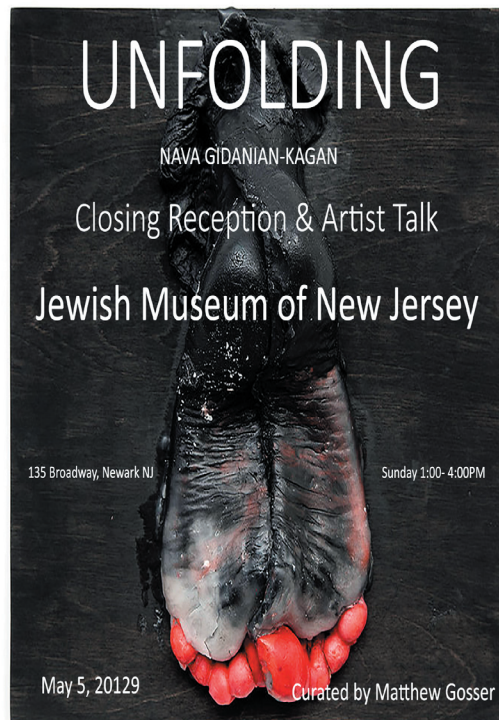
Hearty Congratulations to Linda Bloom on her retirement; all the members of Congregation Ahavas Sholom wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Mazel Tov Linda

This week's Kiddush is being sponsored by Linda Bloom, in celebration of her retirement. Our goal is to have every Kiddush sponsored. To sponsor a Kiddush, email Rabbi Simon Rosenbach or contact Alla Eicheldinger at Alla7815@yahoo.com. You can also help us by shopping, which doesn't cost any money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you.

Shabbat Services

Join us this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors, friends, old and new; our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom. Services start at 9:00AM. Our congregation is open and welcoming, so feel free to pay us a visit.



Help Us Remodel Our Kitchen

It's been estimated it will take \$60, 000 to properly renovate our kitchen.

April Modlinger, who has always been a pillar at Congregation Ahavas Sholom, has generously pledged \$10, 000 to making this happen.

We have recently received another pledge for \$2,200, bringing the total to 12, 200.

With your help Congregation Ahavas Sholom will soon have a kitchen we all deserve.

Make your pledge today!