

U.S. Jews grapple with election-year eruption of anti-Semitism

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK — American Jews gathered Thursday to wrestle with how they should confront an election-year surge in anti-Semitism, a level of bias not seen in the U.S. for decades.

At a national meeting of the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish civil rights group, about 1,000 people listened to talks expressing shock at the hatred expressed during the presidential campaign and questioned what they thought was a high-level of acceptance by other Americans.

"I'm struggling right now in this American moment," said Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, an education and research organization, in his talk at the event. "I wonder whether I have been — and I think the answer is probably yes — a little bit naive."

During this past year, anti-Semitic imagery proliferated on social media, Jewish journalists were targeted and longstanding anti-Jewish conspiracy theories got a fresh airing. Much of the bias originated with the alt-right, or alternative right, a loose group espousing a provocative and reactionary strain of conservatism. It's often associated with far right efforts to preserve "white identity," oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values."

In addition to the online intimidation, reports of anti-Semitic vandalism and other attacks have risen. Last week, the day after the election, a Philadelphia storefront was sprayed with a swastika and the words "Sieg Heil 2016," which means "Hail Victory," a common Nazi chant, and the word "Trump," with a swastika replacing the "T."

These developments have stunned U.S. Jewish leaders, who in recent years had been more focused on anti-Semitism in Europe and on addressing complaints of anti-Jewish bias on college campuses amid the debate over the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement



In this June 2015 file photo, Jonathan Greenblatt, left, incoming national director for the Anti-Defamation League, talks with Abe Foxman, outgoing director of the ADL, in New York. On Thursday, American Jews gathered to wrestle with how they should confront an election-year surge in anti-Semitism, a level of bias not seen in the U.S. for decades.

against Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

In a sign of the depth of American Jewish anxiety about anti-Semitism, ADL officials said donations to their organization increased 50-fold in the days immediately after the election and a large majority of the money came from first-time donors. Every one of their regional offices reported an uptick in calls from people wanting to donate or volunteer, the ADL said.

"We must not be silent, we must raise our voices, we must act, and to act we must understand what we are up against," said Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive officer of ADL, opening the meeting in Manhattan.

As the presidential race intensified, Jews started seeing their names bracketed with a series of parentheses in harassing tweets, signaling that the person had been identified as a Jew. The image became known as the Jewish cowbell and its source was traced to neo-Nazis and white nationalists.

The ADL investigated the harassment and found more than 800 journalists had suffered anti-Semitic attacks on Twitter during the election, mostly from anonymous Twitter accounts, although some belonged to white supremacists. In a common example of the reporters' experiences, Jane Eisner, editor-in-chief of

the Forward, an influential Jewish newspaper that extensively covered the election, said she received an email the morning after the second presidential debate with an image of a Nazi soldier pointing a gun at her head, which was Photoshopped onto a concentration camp uniform.

Donald Trump's campaign came under scrutiny since much of the harassment came from accounts tied to his supporters.

Trump drew direct criticism last July when he tweeted an image of Hillary Clinton's face with a six-pointed star, a pile of hundred dollar bills and the words "most corrupt candidate ever." The star was in the shape of the Jewish Star of David and was widely condemned as anti-Semitic. Trump's campaign said it was a sheriff's badge.

Last month, Trump gave a speech in West Palm Beach, Florida, in which he accused Clinton of holding secret meetings with bankers in a conspiracy to undermine U.S. sovereignty. The ADL said that whether intentional or not, Trump had reflected a classic anti-Semitic theme of Jewish control of banks.

The president-elect's daughter Ivanka, and her husband, Jared Kushner, who is now one of his top advisers, are Orthodox Jews. Kushner has defended Trump against allegations of bias.

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— Jonathan Greenblatt, national director of the Anti-Defamation League

The issue erupted anew when Trump announced far-right publishing executive Stephen Bannon as his top White House Strategist. Bannon led the Breitbart website, considered by many to be the alt-right's platform that has been widely condemned as racist, sexist and anti-Semitic. Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway called the accusations against Bannon "very unfair."

Some Jewish groups have defended Bannon, including the hawkish Zionist Organization of America. Bernie Marcus, a founder of The Home Depot Inc. and board member of the Republican Jewish Coalition, said in a statement that Bannon was "a passionate Zionist and supporter of Israel." Marcus called the condemnations of Bannon an attempt to undermine the incoming administration. Seventy-one percent of Jews voted for Hillary Clinton, according to exit polls. Greenblatt worked in the Obama administration.

Still, Jonathan Sama, a Brandeis University professor and historian of American Judaism, said it would be wrong to attribute the criticisms of Trump appointments or his supporters to partisanship. "I don't know anybody who is looking at this in a serious way who says nothing has changed," in regard to the level of anti-Semitism, Sama said.

"American Jews assumed that anti-Semitism had largely been overcome," he said. "And then all of a sudden, unexpectedly, anti-Semitism of a virulent kind came roaring back."

BOARDMAN'S LIMEY PASTOR

Giving thanks in a thankful place

Being a Limey, I didn't have a Thanksgiving until I got here in my twenties. Until then, I never had cranberry sauce with meat of any kind — an idea of sweet and sour that was unheard of in my small island nation. It also seemed strange to have such food, which presumably went with the late autumn on the East Coast, with the climate that I first moved to when I came to the U.S.A. That is to say, Southern California. Palm trees and shorts seem so strange in November.

This morning it was quite cold, the leaves brown and slushy. Thanksgiving vibes are moving in.

A few weeks ago the washing machine clonked out, then the microwave bit the dust — and then, for a finale, the refrigerator died, leaving its insides balmy and Californian. I've been paying insurance on these items for the past few years, but only the washing machine has been fixed. The microwave is still moribund and the refrigerator is still as dead as is the food that was freshly piled in it. Modern life is held by such thin threads. We wait for parts to be flown in from the far lands these things are made in.

So, I am reminded of the Grace of God, and remember the fragility of our world. I remember the homeless, the people seen shivering in the streets who have no place to go, the people with pennies who count them out to eat from the dollar menu. We are all a few bills away from dire circumstance.

I am thankful for a country that values its religious expressions and enjoys freedom of thought and discussion, and am thankful



COLIN BROWN
Faith

to be among a people who care. I remember being on a street in the U.S.A. where a bicyclist was knocked over by a car, and was fully attended by police and ambulance. A woman from Thailand who stood beside me marveled, for in her country, she said, fallen bicyclists were just covered with cardboard so people wouldn't have to look at them.

There is a wonderful prayer from the Ignatian tradition which helps us come in touch with gratitude and God. It is called the Examen Prayer. It takes about 15 minutes — and if done at the end of the day can light it up like a sunrise at night.

First, ask God to provide you with his eyes to see things as he does. Ask God for light.

Second, give thanks. The day you have just lived is God's gift for you. Be grateful for this gift from him.

Third, review the events of the day you have just lived, and allow the Holy Spirit to show you things in this review. You will see his working in this close reflection. There will be things that you may have missed or that went unnoticed.

Fourth, seek out your shortcomings. Note areas of challenge where steps can be made.

Lastly, look forward to your next day, see if you can review its pattern. Ask God to help you make this review, and ask God to show you where you will need God in this new day to come.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Colin Brown is pastor of Boardman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

BRIEFLY

Presbyterian church holds Advent celebration

PENDLETON — In preparation of the Advent season, the Pendleton First Presbyterian is hosting an event that features making ornaments, decorating a tree and a Mexican potluck.

The Advent Celebration is Sunday from 4-6 p.m. in the church's Rogers Fellowship Room, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. People are invited to bring main or side dishes — such as tacos, enchiladas, rice, beans, salsa, chips — to share.

For more information, contact fpcp@pendletonpresbyterian.com or 541-276-7681.

Grace and Mercy church to move in Hermiston

HERMISTON — Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church will be moving.

Beginning Thursday, Dec. 1, the Hermiston church will share space at the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Sunday services include worship at 8:45 a.m. and Sunday school at 10 a.m. The public is invited to worship with them and enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments. A nursery is provided.

For more information, contact Rev. Tom Inch at 541-289-4535, marksr@eotnet.net or search Facebook for "Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church ELCA Hermiston."

Community Christmas Concert features local talent

HERMISTON — Local musician Dallin Puzey, the Hermiston Community Choir and others will kick off the holiday season in song.

The Community Christmas Concert is Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. There is no admission charge.

For more information, contact ilene.curtis@a1ind.com.

Send information about local faith-related news and events, including concerts, special speakers and activities to community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

Worship Community

PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH
855 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868
(541) 443-2500
prbconline.blogspot.com

Pilot Rock, Sunday School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Kids' Club: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Services:
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
215 N MAIN • PENDLETON

Sunday Worship: 10:40a
Bible Class: 9:30a
Office 276-5358
M-F, 8:30-12:30

WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG

Faith Center Church

Worshiping God
Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship
10:30 am
Sr. Pastor,
Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
-Presbyterian Church (USA)-
201 SW Dorion Ave.
Pendleton

Service of Worship - 10:00 am
Children's Sunday School -
10:20 am
Fellowship - 11:00 am
www.pendletonpresbyterian.com
Open Hearted...
Open Minded

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Saturday Services
Pendleton
1401 SW Goodwin Place
276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Community Presbyterian Church

14 Martin Drive,
Umatilla, OR
922-3250

Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

Grace Baptist Church
555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497
Nursery provided for all services
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 pm
Wed Prayer & Worship -
7:00 PM
"Proclaiming God's word,
growing in God's grace"

Peace Lutheran Church
210 NW 9th, Pendleton, ELCA
Join us Sundays

9:30 am Sunday Worship
10:30 am Fellowship
11:00 am Sunday School
& Adult Class

~Come and be at Peace~
on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday

St. Johns Episcopal Church
Join Us
On Our Journey
With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave. & 7th, Hermiston
Fr. Dan Ledgard, Priest, PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church
who welcomes all.

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org
Sunday Worship 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School
Check Out our Facebook Page or
Website for More Information
541-289-4535
Tom Inch, Pastor
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA
(First United Methodist Church)
191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

Redeemer Episcopal Church
241 SE Second St. Pendleton
(541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
All Are Welcome

The Salvation Army
Center for Worship & Service

Sunday Worship Service
9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service

Wednesday Bible Study
5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study

COME AS YOU ARE
150 SE EMIGRANT
(541)276-3369

Come meet Jesus at
PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH
3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR
541-276-7590
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM
Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM
Mon. Community Women's Study
9:30 AM & 6 PM
Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade)
Wed Men's Study 6 PM
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
in Mission for Christ LCMC
Bible Study.....9:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM

Red Lion Hotel
(Oregon Trail Room)
www.faihtpendleton.org

First United Methodist Church
Pendleton/Hermiston
352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton
Sunday Worship 9am
541-276-2616
Worship Broadcast on
KUMA 1290 @ 11am
191 E. Gladys Ave, Hermiston
Sunday Worship 11am
541-567-3002
Worship Livestream at
herfumc.com
Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

PENDLETON FIRST
CHURCH OF GOD

FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM
712 SW 27th ST.
541-276-1894
www.fcogpendleton.com

Living Word Christian Center

Sunday Worship
10:00am
Wednesday Bible Study
6:00pm

Youth Classes:
Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed
Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed

Overcomer's Outreach
Tuesday at 6:00pm - Annex
A Christ-centered, 12-Step
Recovery Support Group

Pastor Sharon Miller
401 Northgate, Pendleton
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

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INVOLVING EMPOWERING

SUNDAY SERVICES
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AM Kids Place -10:00am
The Connection--6:00pm
Groups for all ages:
Adults, Children, Youth, & College

Thursdays
Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm
Celebration Place-6:00pm
Other Groups Available Weekly

For more info visit
WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM
1911 SE Court Ave
541-276-6417
Assembly of God Church

To share your worship times
call Terri Briggs 541-278-2678