

A PATH FORWARD

TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE AND BE PART OF SOLUTION

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

Oct. 27 marked the one-year anniversary of the tragic shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Eleven worshippers lost their lives in the worst anti-Semitic attack in American history.

Reflecting on the somber occasion, Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of Tree of Life told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "I live with October 27 every minute of every hour of every day, and I will for the rest of my life. Each of us finds the strength and courage to integrate what happened into our beings, to move forward."

The Pittsburgh attack was preceded and followed by hate crimes and mass shootings in other parts of the country. San Diego somehow seemed immune, a bubble that burst with two separate events this year: a mosque burning at the Islamic Center of

Escondido on March 24 and a shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue on April 27, which killed one congregant and wounded three others.

These tragedies brought together a group of San Diego's interfaith and community leaders with a shared mission: to achieve a more civil society through greater understanding. The outgrowth was A Path Forward Dialogue Series, which launched at a June 5 gathering of more than 400 concerned community members. This column shares the name "A Path Forward" because of the promise it conveys, which was echoed by Rabbi Myers.

Participants at the June 5 event heard from Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein of the Chabad, who was wounded in the shooting, and from a panel that included Joshua Sayles, director of community relations for the Jewish

Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. His message to communities affected by acts of hate aligns with the vision for "A Path Forward." He said, "It's a lot harder to hate or fear someone or a community once you get to know them," adding, "The call to action is really just to show up. When something happens in the community or elsewhere ... just to be there and be present."

The act of showing up means taking the time to be a part of the solution, rather than ignoring a problem. And while showing up can take many different forms, we all have a role to play in addressing the issues our society faces. The conversation that began June 5 has continued in locations around San Diego, giving community members an opportunity to be present with others — mostly strangers — and to engage in a frank and healing exchange. Par-

ticipants collaborate on achievable, positive social action, guided by a skilled facilitator.

Just as Sayles suggested, this act of showing up is helping to break down barriers and build new connections. It's a promising start to an enormous task: addressing divisiveness and polarization at a time when bigotry and hate seem to be so widespread. The next event in the dialogue series, which is open to the public, will be held Dec. 2 at the USS Midway Museum.

I asked one of the facilitators to share her perspective on A Path Forward Dialogue Series and the effect it's having. She reminded me of this parable, by Loren Eiseley:

One day, a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking up starfish and throwing them into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "Excuse me, but what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The sun is rising, and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man said, "There are too many starfish on this beach. You can't possibly make a difference." After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the ocean. Then, turning to the man, he said, "I made a difference for that one."

Steven P. Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC), a San Diego-based organization that is working to create innovative solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. NCRC is nationally recognized for its conflict management and communication strategies. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit www.ncrconline.com.

NOTEBOOKS

From Union-Tribune reporting staff

PUBLIC SAFETY: LYNDSEY WINKLEY

Locals named to state wildfire board

The associate director of a fire science lab at UC San Diego and a La Mesa wildfire scientist have been appointed to the state's new Wildfire Safety Advisory Board, officials said last week.

The board, comprised of independent experts, will advise a new Wildfire Safety Division within the California Public Utilities Commission on wildfire safety measures in an effort to ensure the commission better regulates the safety of investor-owned utilities.

The board is a byproduct of Assembly Bill 1054, which was designed to stabilize the financial prospects of California's three investor-owned utilities from crippling wildfire liability costs.

One state utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, filed for bankruptcy protection in January after investigators determined its equipment was responsible for the Camp Fire, the deadliest wildfire in California history. Utilities can be held responsible for fire damage caused by their equipment, and PG&E officials have estimated their liabilities exceed \$30 billion.

Jessica Block, of San Diego, is one of six board members. The 41-year-old heads the WIFIRE Lab, which uses a supercomputer

to help first responders figure out where a wildfire might head next. The technology was used by Southern California firefighters to battle the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles last month.

Alexandra Syphard, of La Mesa, was also named to the board. The 49-year-old is chief scientist at Sage Insurance Holdings, a wildfire-focused home insurance company. She is also an adjunct professor in the Geology Department at SDSU.

Other members hail from Castaic, in the northern part of Los Angeles County, Elk Grove, a city in Sacramento County, and San Francisco.

The positions do not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. The board will meet at least quarterly throughout the state, according to state officials.

The bill also required that utilities tie executive compensation to safety performance, invest \$5 billion in safety improvements, and go through a wildfire safety review and certification process annually. It also requires new inspections of utility electrical equipment.

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SAN DIEGO: ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON

More rats in La Jolla? Maybe not

In recent weeks and months, the La Jolla Light, one of the U-T's community papers, has received several voicemails, e-mails and forwarded posts from nextdoor.com from residents about a perceived increase in the presence of rats in La Jolla.

And while one caller referred to the influx as an "outbreak," the County's Department of Environmental Health's Vector Control Program actually reports a decrease in the number of complaints compared to recent years. County spokesman Gig Conaughton said the county received 14 rat complaints or requests for service for the La Jolla area so far this year.

"The department received 19 in this time frame (January to October) in 2018; 34 in 2017; and 31 in 2016," he said. "Overall, the county has received 1,421 rat complaints or requests for service in 2019."

One reason for the decrease could be that residents, business owners and property management companies often contract with private pest control companies themselves, rather than call the County.

The type of rat likely to be found in La Jolla, Conaughton said, is the roof rat (also considered the most common countywide). Roofrats like to climb, rather than burrow, and they live above ground. They are gray or brown.

Factors that can influence the number of rat complaints the county's Vector Control receives include rainy conditions (years with a lot of rain increase availability of food, which re-

sults in an increased rat population); colder weather (can sometimes cause rats to seek shelter indoors bringing them to the attention of residents); having access to food and shelter (when pet food is left out or fruit from trees is not picked and allowed to drop on the ground).

Signs of rat activity include: stripped bark from plants and trees; piles of cut snail shells under plants or piles of wood; sounds in the attic, floor and walls; rat droppings in garages, storage buildings or other sheltered areas; rub marks caused by greasy rat fur; damaged food containers; signs of gnawing.

"The county's Vector Control Program assists property owners with their rat control efforts by providing inspections and consultations," Conaughton said. "The county performs exterior inspections to educate property owners about structural weaknesses that may allow rats to enter structures. During these consultations, a rat control starter kit is provided to the property owner. These kits include an enclosed rat station, a rat snap trap, and an educational pamphlet with information for control measures focusing on exclusion and elimination."

To request a free rat inspection, call (858) 694-2888 or or e-mail vector@sd-county.ca.gov

Ashley Mackin-Solomon writes for the UT Community Press.

BIOTECH: BRADLEY J. FIKES

Progress seen toward HIV cure

A cure or prevention of HIV infection is looking complicated but more feasible, according to two scientific articles published last week by San Diego scientists and other researchers.

According to one article that gives perspective on development of powerful "broadly neutralizing" antibodies against HIV, major progress in treating and preventing HIV appears close at hand.

These broadly neutralizing antibodies constitute a new class of HIV therapy, the article stated. These can be given directly to prevent or treat infection; and indirectly to guide vaccine development.

The article was published Wednesday in Science Translational Medicine by scientists from Scripps Research, Duke University and the National Institutes of Health.

As their name suggests, these antibodies inactivate a broad range of HIV strains. They are produced by some of those infected with HIV, but it takes years to make them. By that time the virus is well established.

Stimulating production of these antibodies with a protective vaccine in one step doesn't appear possible. So researchers are working on a multi-stage vaccine with a few separate immunizations. Volunteers have already received the first stage, while succeeding stages are being prepared.

While this is happening, the antibodies are now in clinical testing to see if they can help control HIV infection, or even kill infected cells. Results of some of these trials are expected next year.

The article can be found at <http://j.mp/anvaxhiv>.

The second article was published in the journal *Science* on Thursday by a team mostly from Scripps Research. This team described in detail a vaccine strategy to prepare the immune system to repel HIV.

Part of this strategy includes encouraging the immune system to make more of certain rare B cells, the ancestors of cells capable of making broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies.

These cells mutate their genome in response to exposure to antigens, substances that cause an immune reaction. The mutated descendants in turn become more specialized, until they produce cells that can make antibodies that exactly fit vulnerable targets on the virus.

The bottleneck lies in the rarity of these special B cells. So a vaccine must induce these precursor cells to multiply, then direct their descendants down the path to making broadly neutralizing antibodies.

The article also points to certain of these antibodies as being easier for the immune system to make than others, and suggests a method for confirming their effectiveness.

With this information, vaccine design can then turn to selecting the best antigens to guide the immune system to the end of the tortuous road to making these powerful antibodies, the article said.

The Science article can be found at <http://j.mp/deshivac>.

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FOR THEIR BENEFIT

MONDAY

Putting for Pets: Benefiting local pets in need of veterinary care through Foundation for Animal Care and Education (FACE). Noon. Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, 1505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach. \$500. (858) 450-3223. face4pets.org

FRIDAY

Art and music fundraising event: Benefiting Rollin' From The Heart. 5 to 9 p.m. Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas. Donations accepted. rollinfromtheheart.org

SATURDAY

Waves of Appreciation bag assembly: Benefiting military families during the holidays. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. USO Neil Ash Airport Center, 3705 N.

Harbor Drive, San Diego.

wavesofappreciation.org

Looking ahead

NOV. 15

Waves of Support Dinner 2019: Benefiting Wave Academy. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Coronado Club Room, 1985 Strand Way, Coronado. \$125. facebook.com/waveacademy

NOV. 16

Padres Pedal the Cause: Benefiting cancer research in San Diego. 4:30 a.m. registration and check-in at the Park Boulevard gate at Petco Park, 100 Park Blvd., San Diego. \$75 to \$125 registration (with minimum fundraising requirements). gopedal.org

NOV. 21

Collective Hearts — A Fund-

raiser Celebrating Women and Girls:

Benefiting survivors of sex trafficking. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 960 Grand Ave., San Diego. \$25. equalfooting-foundation.org

NOV. 23

PGK DANCE's ASCEND Project: Benefiting at-risk youth. 5 to 6:30 p.m. San Diego Art Institute, 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$35. thepgkdanceproject.org

DEC. 14

Bonjour! Time for Tea: Benefiting local arts education through Friends of East County Arts, Inc. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 405 Ballard St., El Cajon. \$60 per person. RSVP by Dec. 1. friendsofart.org

Email calendar items at least two weeks in advance of the event to fortheirbenefit@sduniontribune.com.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

CASES OF IMPEACHMENT

The House on Thursday approved public impeachment hearings against President Trump. Impeachment is rare. In its nearly 2½-century history, the House of Representatives, which has the sole right to bring impeachment charges against a federal official, has initiated impeachment proceedings more than 60 times. Less than a third of the proceedings have led to full impeachment trials in the Senate, according to the House's official historian. Only eight individuals — all federal judges — have been convicted and removed from office by the Senate.

Only two presidents in U.S. history have been impeached — Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998 — and neither was removed from office. President Richard Nixon resigned before the House debated his impeachment. This article from 125 years ago reports some of the first impeachment cases in the United States.

From The San Diego Union, March 29, 1894:

IMPEACHMENT CASES

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN SUCH IN THE UNITED STATES

The First Was In 1797 and the Latest In 1876 - The Memorable Attempt at the Impeachment of President Andrew Johnson—Two Successful Cases

The removal of federal officers by impeachment proceedings, under section 4 of article 2 of the constitution, has been attempted seven times.

The Blount case was the first. William Blount, United States senator from Tennessee, was charged in 1797 with conspiring with British officers to steal part of Louisiana from Spain for England's benefit. The house prepared articles of impeachment. The senate expelled him, after putting him under bonds for trial. Blount's defense was that a senator was not a civil officer liable to

impeachment, and on the question of jurisdiction only he was acquitted.

Judge John Pickering of the federal district court for New Hampshire was impeached in 1803 for drunkenness and profanity on the bench. The defense was insanity. On trial before the senate, Pickering was convicted by a party vote and removed from his office.

In 1804, Samuel Chase of Maryland, a justice of the supreme court of the United States and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was charged with

improper conduct on the bench; among other things, with having indulged in "highly indecent and extra judicial reflections upon the United States government" in the course of a charge to a Maryland grand jury. The impeachment proceedings, instigated and managed by John Randolph of Virginia, were political in their origin and animus. Judge Chase was acquitted through the failure of the prosecution to obtain a two-thirds vote against him in the senate on any one of the eight articles of impeachment. He resumed his seat on the bench and held it as long as he lived.

About a quarter of a century later, James H. Peck, a federal district judge in Missouri, was impeached for oppressive treatment of an attorney. The case was of no importance. The judge was acquitted.

Thirty years afterward, at the beginning of the war of the rebellion, Judge West H. Humphreys of the federal district court of Tennessee joined the Confederacy and accepted judicial office under it, without taking the trouble to send his resignation to Washington. He was impeached mainly in order to vacate the office and convicted on June 26, 1862. One of the witnesses summoned to appear against Judge Humphreys was Andrew Johnson, then governor of Tennessee, destined himself to be the next subject of impeachment proceedings before the senate. One of the four senators who voted not guilty on the article charging Judge Humphreys with high treason was William Pitt Fessenden, whose vote five years later saved Andrew Johnson.

Andrew Johnson was impeached on March 4, 1868, the 11 articles charging the president in various forms with violation of the tenure of office act, with violation of the constitution, with conspiracy to prevent

the execution of the tenure of office act, with conduct and utterances tending "to bring the high office of president into contempt, ridicule and disgrace": and with the public declaration in his speeches while swinging around the circle that the Thirty-Ninth Congress was no constitutional legislature. It is not necessary to recite the history of the memorable trial, which lasted for nearly three months and in which the hottest of political passions were enlisted. Thirty-six votes were needed to convict. No vote was ever taken except on the three strongest articles - the second, third and eleventh - and on each of these the senate stood 35 for conviction to 19 for acquittal, impeachment failing by a single vote. One of the counsel who defended President Johnson was the Hon. William M. Evarts of New York.

The seventh and last federal impeachment was that of William W. Belknap, Grant's secretary of war. He was charged in 1876 with corruption in the office, and the house voted unanimously to impeach him. He resigned hastily a few hours before the passage of the impeachment resolution, and his resignation was promptly accepted by Grant. The trial proceeded nevertheless. Belknap's defense was a denial of jurisdiction, based on the circumstance that when the impeachment resolution passed the house he had ceased to be a civil officer of the United States. The impeachment proceedings failed by the lack of a two-thirds majority in the senate for conviction.

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