

# Pittsburgh shooting's effect on BC community

## Mary Harris, MG building assistant, on her time in Pennsylvania's Squirrel Hill

By Jeni Welch  
Editor in Chief

In the larger news over the last two weeks, Brevard College was slung into the national spotlight after Cesar Sayoc, a former BC student, was arrested for allegedly making and sending pipe bombs to political figures such as Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

What was unintendedly pushed aside was the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, which left 11 dead and seven others injured on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Tree of Life Synagogue, located in Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.

It was the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in American history.

Mary Harris, administrative assistant for Humanities, Social Sciences and Education in McLarty-Goodson, was born and raised in the greater Pittsburgh area. Harris returned to Pittsburgh after college to a city called Shadyside, next to Squirrel Hill, the area where the shooting took place.

"It should have been safe," Harris said. "I am still crying."

Harris remembers the area as "a city where the ethnic and religious diversity of its residents has always been celebrated."

Of the 11 victims, Harris remembers Rose Mallinger from coming into the bank.

"The first job I had was working at a bank in Squirrel Hill," Harris said. "Rose was a customer. Very sweet and kind-hearted. I remember her after all this time."

She also recalls Rabbi Jerry Rabinowitz, MD. "A friend of mine diagnosed with AIDS in the early years of that nightmare went to Dr. Rabinowitz for treatment. He was one of the first

physicians in the area to treat AIDS patients," Harris said. "I have never in my life met a more compassionate person."

The synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh is one example of how hate crimes have been on the rise. Last week comedian Ilana Glazer cancelled an appearance at a Brooklyn synagogue after anti-Semitic messages were found written on the wall of the Union Temple of Brooklyn.

Messages reading "Die Jew Rats" and "Hitler" were found written on the walls in sharpie.

According a CBS News article, about three-fourths of anti-Semitic hate crimes reported in New York so far this year are vandalism involving swastikas. The New York police department has responded to 31 anti-Semitic hate crimes in October, compared to last October which had only nine.

The information is troubling as New York is home to the single-largest Jewish community outside of Israel.

"I am still trying to wrap my head around the fact that something like this could even happen in Pittsburgh," Harris said. "Not that you can apply logic to this sort of tragedy."

The tragedies happening across the United States and around the globe are not only affecting the communities in which they occur. The connection between peoples, faith, cultures allow the events to hit the hearts of those located in small towns.

As the impact of such events should impact society it should be noticed that our community in Brevard, as small as it may be, is not exempt from the pain caused by tragedies in bigger cities.



Rabbi Jerry Rabinowitz, known for treating AIDS patients in need, was beloved by many.



Rose Mallinger, 97, was the oldest of the 11 victims at the Tree of Life synagogue shooting. Mary Harris recalls seeing her in the bank where she used to work.

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