

Rabbi reflects on Texas antisemitic attack

Sean Callahan, News Editor



Rabbi Jamie Gibson sang several songs and reflected on the Colleyville synagogue hostage crisis. (SOURCE: CALLAHAN)

According to NBC news, on Jan. 16, Malik Faisal Akram, a middle-aged British citizen, held four people hostage at gunpoint during a morning Shabbat service in Congregation Beth Israel, a reform synagogue in the city of Colleyville, Texas. This resulted in a ten hour standoff with law enforcement outside the Dallas-Forth Worth area, during which Akram demanded the release of Aafia Siddiqui, a neuroscientist convicted on terrorist charges. All four hostages, including Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, survived unharmed, and Akram was shot

and killed by the FBI's rescue team.

In response to this tragedy, Rabbi Jamie Gibson, adjunct theology lecturer, hosted a public prayer service and vigil in the Performing Arts Center in the Robert S. Carry Student Center on Jan. 25, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. Gibson had gone to Father Maximillian Maxwell, O.S.B, director of campus ministry, and asked for assistance in making the event possible.

The service was open to the public and received 11 attendees, including Maxwell, Dr. Christopher McMahon, professor of

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Students initiate ASL Club

Erin Brody, Arts & Culture Editor

Saint Vincent College offers a variety of clubs for a variety of student interests – ranging from karate to business – and starting this semester, students will have a chance to join a new club: the American Sign Language (referred to as ASL) Club.

The first person to express interest in such a club was Katelyn Stokan, freshman biology major, who, with her fluency in signing, was named the club's president.

"I was born with sensorineural hearing loss, and I wear hearing aids to help me hear better," Stokan said. "I was taught sign language as a baby and went to Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf."

Stokan eventually transferred to a public school and had an interpreter and FM system to help with hearing, but she "felt different signing in front of a bunch of hearing students."

"Fast forward to now, I'm bummed that I didn't try to keep up with signing," Stokan said. "I started this club to practice my signing and teach others basic sign language."

In the 2021 fall semester, Stokan met fellow biochemistry major Vincent Kaschauer, pre-veterinary student Julianna Lott, and psychology major Ariel Garrett.

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NEWS



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Rabbi holds vigil in Performing Arts Center

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theology, and several SVC students—two of whom presented prayers as well as poems written by people following the Colleyville hostage crisis. These were shown in between songs sung by Gibson and played on his guitar. Gibson also showed a video compilation in which a large number of Jewish people sang a song based on Psalm 147.

A large portion of the vigil was also dedicated to Gibson's reflection following the Colleyville crisis.

"One of the first things I teach my students is that Jews are statistically insignificant," Gibson said. "There are 8 billion people in the world, 2.1 billion Christians, 1.6 billion Muslims. There are 14 million Jews. There were 18 million before World War II."

The Jewish people represent about two percent of the population of America.

He emphasized the hatred and belittling his people have experienced. But he also clarified that these antisemitic and hateful attitudes should not be assigned solely on one political ideology—or as Gibson said, "the far right or the far left,"—but rather equally on both.

"Just yesterday, we were treated to a prominent politician from Massachusetts, who said that vaccine and mask mandates were worse than Nazism," Gibson said. "And I have to wonder: does he know what Nazism is? Does he know what it was to have only one Jewish grandparent out of four and still be slated for extermination?"

Gibson also provided other examples of tone-deaf remarks or antisemitism,

especially highlighted in the media, such as a Jewish boy being told by a passing stranger 'Hitler should've finished the job,' in front of his class, or people wearing shirts that say 'Camp Auschwitz' on them.

Furthermore, he revealed there have been concerns in the Jewish community regarding what to do during hostage situations and the possibility of armed guards being in synagogues.

"To my friends in the Presbyterian world, are there armed guards at your doors? To my Catholic friends, do you need armed guards ready to shoot those who would come do you harm?" Gibson said.

Gibson reflected on another prominent attack in 2018, The Tree of Life Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. He was a mile away, blessing a baby in another synagogue. He was forced to stop service by a man who had informed him about the nearby shooting.

"He said, 'we have to stop, we don't know how many shooters there are, how many synagogues are under attack,'" Gibson said.

Two days after the Tree of Life Shooting, Gibson described being unsure of how to console worshippers in his own synagogue, especially when one teenager asked him 'am I safe here?'

He hopes people realize that there is a need to reach out, support, and comfort one another, regardless of their faith.

"When these things happen—and they will continue to happen—we should be asking ourselves, where will we be?" Gibson said.

Raising awareness for the deaf/hard of hearing community

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SVC's American Sign Language club was founded by (from left to right) Katelyn Stokan, President, Vincent Kaschauer, Vice President, Julianna Lott, Secretary, and Ariel Garrett, Treasurer. (SOURCE: SVCLASCLUB INSTAGRAM)

Once the three learned about Stokan's hearing loss, they wanted to either re-learn or begin learning ASL.

"[Stokan] began teaching us various signs — even before she had the idea to start the club — so this was an amazing transition into starting a club," Ariel Garret, ASL Club Treasurer, said.

After dusting off his signing skills with a family member and Stokan, Vincent Kaschauer, the club's vice president, realized that others also shared the desire to learn ASL.

"Personally, my main reason for helping and trying to get this club started was that I felt as though a place like SVC should have resources for any and every learner," Kaschauer said. "I want to create a place where people who want to learn ASL can come and learn judgment free."

Along with that, Kaschauer "want-

ed Katelyn to know that she does not always have to accommodate the majority."

Sharing similar sentiments, Garrett and ASL Club Secretary Julianna Lott saw how creating the ASL Club would help those outside of their friend group.

"Establishing the ASL club here at Saint Vincent encourages inclusion and raises awareness for those who are deaf, hard of hearing or nonverbal," Lott said. "Most of us will at some point interact with someone who communicates with ASL, so this is a crucial skill to develop and teach to others."

The four club members hope that the SVC community will see the club as both an opportunity to learn a new language and as a way to inspire a better sense of community among those with and without hearing.

"I want to raise awareness for the deaf/Hard of Hearing (HOH) community and encourage more to sign," said Stokan. "I want to show others to embrace their differences and be proud of them! I am so glad I was born with a hearing loss and that I know sign language. It's just one of the many things that make up who I am!"

The first ASL Club meeting will take place on Feb. 3 at 9:30 p.m. in room E102 in the Dupre Science Pavillion. Meetings will be biweekly. Beginner and fluent signers are encouraged to join. Students can contact ASL Club President Katelyn Stokan at her email: katelyn.stokan@stvincent.edu.

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SPORTS

Men's volleyball season begins

Luke Mich, Sports Editor



Zachary Mumpower, sophomore middle hitter, spikes a ball against Wittenberg University on Saturday, Jan. 22. (SOURCE: ATHLETICS.STVINCENT.EDU)

The Saint Vincent Bearcats men's volleyball team opened up their regular season shortly after the start of the spring semester. The team began practices immediately following their return to campus this semester and played their first matches, a double-header against Wittenberg University, at home on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Junior libero player, Matthew Klasnic, explained that he feels the team is situated better now than in years past.

"We have been able to grow and compete in each game," Klasnic, business management major, said. "Leading into our conference matchups, I feel we are in a place much better than any year prior and have an opportunity to make an impact within the conference with some key players hitting their stride and the team beginning to get more chemistry together."

While the matches so far have been tough and grueling for the team, Klasnic has seen progress within the team,

including the freshmen.

"Our freshmen have improved tremendously, even when asked to play a different role than what they have experienced in the past. They came onto the team and have made immediate impacts on the floor, in practice and for overall team morale," Klasnic said.

Despite their improvement, Klasnic also mentioned factors that the team needs to improve on in order to be more successful as the season progresses.

"As a team, we must commit less errors within the course of a game. We have had moments throughout the season where we look like the better team on the court, but our losses have resulted from mistakes on our part," Klasnic said. "This is something to build on though; it is something we can control and change."

Earlier in the academic school year, the Saint Vincent athletics department announced a new head coach for the men's team — Kate McCauley. McCauley,

according to Klasnic, continues to make many improvements to the team with her coaching.

"She has been hard on us in the best way a coach can be. She expects the world out of us and that is what we strive to produce. She believes in us, which allows us to play confidently, and her strong volleyball knowledge and effort into learning more for us has given us a chance to really grow as players," Klasnic said.

"I feel we are in a place much better than any year prior and have an opportunity to make an impact within the conference."

- Matthew Klasnic

The team has played five matches as of Feb. 6, but it is still early in the regular season for the squad, with over 20 matches yet to come.

As these matches approach, Klasnic reported that the team is actively working toward meeting their goals.

"Our goals for this season are to improve and compete each week. To take it one game at a time and reflect on how we can improve from that experience," Klasnic said.

The team's next matchup is at home against Carlow University in the Carey Center at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8.

Team Standings

Women's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	16	4	W4
Chatham	14	5	W1
Grove City	13	7	L1
Westminster	12	7	W3
Bethany	10	8	L3
Geneva	7	11	L3
Saint Vincent	6	11	W3
Thiel	4	12	L6
Waynesburg	4	15	L1
Franciscan	0	17	L17

Schedule: @Westminster 2/9 6 PM, Franciscan 2/12 1 PM, @Geneva 2/16 5:30 PM

Women's Swimming

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	5	2	W1
Westminster	4	2	W1
Saint Vincent	7	4	W6
Franciscan	7	5	W3
Chatham	4	3	W1
W&J	5	4	L1
Bethany	0	9	L9

Schedule: PAC Championships @ Grove City 2/10-2/12 11 AM, @Kenyon 2/19 1 PM

Men's Indoor Track & Field

Schedule: @Baldwin Wallace 2/11 4 PM, PAC Championships 2/24 1 PM

Results: 6th at Pioneer Invitational

Women's Indoor Track & Field

Schedule: @Baldwin Wallace 2/11 4 PM, PAC Championships 2/24 1 PM

Results: 11th at Pioneer Invitational

Men's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
Chatham	16	1	W10
W&J	16	4	W4
Westminster	12	8	L2
Waynesburg	12	8	L1
Geneva	10	8	W1
Grove City	8	11	W1
Franciscan	7	11	W1
Thiel	3	15	L2
Saint Vincent	3	17	L1
Bethany	2	13	L2

Schedule: @Westminster 2/9 8 PM, Franciscan 2/12 3 PM, @Geneva 2/16 7:30 PM

Men's Swimming

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	5	2	W2
W&J	5	3	L1
Westminster	3	4	L2
Saint Vincent	2	8	L2
Bethany	1	6	L5
Chatham	1	6	W1

Schedule: PAC Championships @ Grove City 2/17-2/19 11 AM, @Kenyon 2/19 1 PM

Men's Volleyball

Team	W	L	Streak
Hiram	4	2	W2
PSU Behrend	3	4	W3
Mt. Aloysius	2	3	L3
Geneva	3	7	L3
PSU Altoona	1	4	L2
Medaille	1	5	L3
Thiel	1	5	L5
Saint Vincent	0	5	L5
Hilbert	0	6	L6

Schedule: Carlow 2/10 7 PM, @ PSU-Altoona 2/16 7 PM, @Hilbert 2/19 2:30 PM

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Sports
Bearcat sports and those relating to SVC

Basketball and Swimming Teams Prepare for Early Return
By Luke Mich With health concerns a priority, Vincent basketball and swimming teams will b

Spikeball Club Hosts An Tournament
By Luke Mich On Oct. 25, Spikeball Club held full tournament on the intramural field behind

European soccer sparks interest at SVC
By Luke Mich Soccer is known as not just "the game," but also for being the most popular spe

Frisbee Still Occurring D Limitations
By Luke Mich Most recently, attention to SVC been given towards football practicing in the at

PAC Releases Spring Schedules
By Luke Mich On Sept. 17, at roughly 3 p.m., Presidents' Athletic Conference announced the

Football practice resumes new guidelines
By Luke Mich You may have noticed recently

OPINION

Marching in solidarity

Elizabeth Van Pilsum, *Staff Writer*

I trudged across campus in the bitter cold at 4:45 a.m., wondering if I was making a mistake. I had been to the March for Life twice before, and both times I had enjoyed it, but this time I was accompanied by an anxiety that I could not shake. I worried about missing my classes and about catching Omicron, but most of all, there was an underlying frustration that had been building inside me for the past few years.

I have always considered myself pro-life. However, there is so much division in the world, and some of that division has seeped into the pro-life movement. There are disagreements about and confusion around who is protected under the term “pro-life,” vicious political battles and so many nuanced issues that need to be treated with care. As I was walking towards the bus that morning, I could not help but reflect on how discouraged I was that people I respect and care for cannot respect each other’s personhood over conflicting views, even within the pro-life movement. I worried that the day’s pilgrimage would confront me with reminders of my discouragement and frustrations.

Over the next three-and-a-half hours, I chatted with my friends on one of the buses Saint Vincent’s Respect Life Club had sent to the March, tried to nap a little and prayed a rosary with the entire bus for the unborn and their mothers. We arrived at the National Mall over an hour before the Rally started at noon, giving us time to take photos and find a spot near the stage.

One of my best friends from high school was at the March, so I called her and started trying to find her, becoming increasingly amazed by the amount of

people pouring into the Mall. By the time I had found my friend, I was exhilarated by the amount of people who had gathered in D.C. from all over the world, ready to March for the unborn despite our differences. According to NBC Washington, as many as 50,000 people attended the rally, with twice that number participating in the actual march. The turnout was smaller than usual – approximately 400,000 attended in 2019, according to Catholic Business Journal.

This difference in attendance was possibly due to the pandemic; however, the massive show of solidarity reassured me. I was overcome by the feeling that, even though I might disagree with many of the people here on the finer points of their politics, we could all agree on one important issue enough to show up and support each other. Seeing the crowds of people reminded me that people in the pro-life movement still hold the value of life in such a high regard they were willing to brave the below-freezing January weather and travel various distances to stand up for their beliefs.

The theme for the 2022 March for Life was “Equality Begins in the Womb,” and a wide variety of presenters gave speeches, from actor and producer Kirk Cameron to former Congressman and pro-life Democrat Daniel Lipinski, who had spoken at Saint Vincent earlier that week. Katie Shaw, an advocate for babies with Down Syndrome, discussed how her parents chose life when they found out she would be born with Down Syndrome and medical issues. Toni McFadden, founder of the organization Relationships Matter, talked about the trauma surrounding the

abortion she had in high school and the regrets she has.

The keynote speaker was Fr. Mike Schmitz, host of “Bible in a Year” podcast, who gave a crowd-stirring speech emphasizing the importance of every human life. He addressed those who had chosen abortion, saying “you matter, you still belong here... you are still loved,” and concluded by reminding those in the audience that this March is intended to change the marchers. Overall, he effectively asserted that, by marching for the dignity of the unborn, we are forced to recall our own human dignity and the sanctity of all life. This speech, along with the variety of other speeches at the Rally, was like a breath of fresh air for me, affirming my growing feeling of solidarity with the pro-life movement. By marching for the dignity of human life, I was forced to remember how important it is to be pro-life and to stop focusing so much on the divisions that make me struggle to love others.

After the Rally was done, the massive crowd of people took an agonizingly long time to start marching faster than an inch, but I was filled with excitement as I marched through downtown D.C. with my friends. Our fingers and toes were turning numb in the cold, and we were all exhausted, but I was so glad I had decided to go. There are still divisions within the pro-life movement, and I know that my frustrations might never go away fully, but I was overwhelmingly content to just be present at the March and put all differences aside as I walked with tens of thousands of people who shared my same desire to protect the lives of others.

ARTS & CULTURE

APB plans spring semester fun

David Collins, Staff Writer



Students assumed the roles of various fairytale characters as they gathered to solve the case at the Murder Mystery Dinner (SOURCE: APB)

Saint Vincent's Activities Programming Board (APB) has begun the spring semester with a variety of events to accommodate a variety of interests.

APB kicked off these events with the Harry Potter & PJ Party on Jan. 14. Gryffindors, Ravenclaws, Slytherins and Hufflepuffs alike gathered in the Carey Center for a movie night.

Veronica Phillip, graduate coordinator for the APB, remarked on the inspiration for this particular theme.

"The Harry Potter night was inspired by students' interest in the

series, especially with the 20th anniversary being this year," Phillip said. "It was a fun time for all. We showed *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, served Butter Beer in sprinkle-rimmed cups and all students came in their favorite pajamas."

Students who dressed in pajamas were entered into a raffle drawing at the conclusion of the movie. A cereal bar provided the food for the sea of Potter enthusiasts, gathered as though celebrating the Quidditch World Cup.

The next event planned by the APB *Continued on page 8*



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Throwback Week to be next event

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APB has a plethora of events on tap for the spring semester. (SOURCE: APB)

was Snow Tubing at Seven Springs on Jan. 21. Busses took off from the Carey Center at 5 p.m. as about twenty students braved the single digit temperatures of the evening.

Madison Kozera, sophomore English major, attended the chilly event.

“It was so cold that the handles on the tube were frozen in place. But I did enjoy it,” Kozera said.

On Jan. 28, APB held a Murder Mystery Dinner in the Fred Rogers Center. This fairy-tale inspired event was attended by nearly fifty students who gathered together to solve a “murder.” Students were ascribed roles and backstories in the days leading up to the event, roles like Rumble Milton, Pine O Kio and Blondilox.

Lara Grose, sophomore early education major, participated in the Murder Mystery Dinner. Grose won first place for best costume at the event as “Arella,” a play on Princess Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*.

“There were three rounds. We had to try

to use clues from talking with people and what was on our cards to figure out who was the murderer,” said Grose. “Everyone seemed to be into it which was fun and definitely made a difference, and I would like to do something like that again.”

Even with the busy start, the APB is far from finished.

“This semester the Activities Programming Board is working hard to create events that appeal to all,” Phillip said.

Phillip urged the student body to be on the lookout for various upcoming events, including Throwback Week, which runs from Jan. 31 to Feb. 4, a trip to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History on Feb. 12 and Pub Trivia on Feb. 16.

Each of these events and further details are posted to the APB Instagram @svc_apb, on the portal and are listed on the Club and Organization page calendar.

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