

SHOOTING AT JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AND VILLAGE SHALOM

Students experience tragedy first-hand when shooting occurred at the Jewish Community Center

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On April 13, a shooter opened fire at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and Village Shalom killing three people around one in the afternoon. The victims included Dr. William Corporon, Blue Valley student Reat Underwood, and Terri LaManno. Several BV West students were at the JCC when the shooting occurred.

Freshman Kayle Greenberg was at the JCC for her Jewish youth group B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO). As a member of their chapter board, Greenberg was required to be there for a fundraising meeting and a board meeting by 12:30 p.m. The first call made to police was just after 1:00 p.m.

Within minutes, freshman Berkley Selvin received a text from her father, who was also at the Jewish Community Center, that the building was on lockdown. Greenberg recalls the moment Selvin received the first text.

"We didn't really know why," Greenberg said. "We thought it was weather, but then two minutes later, she received a text from her father that there was a shooting."

After the group found out about the shooting, they began to barricade the doors.

"I was scared," Selvin said. "It was freaky. Everyone got up and started screaming. We pushed a table in front of the door because that was our first reaction."

After being released from the room that they were secured in, the girls all walked out together.

"We all came out and were holding hands because we were so scared," Selvin said.

For many members, the JCC has become a place that they have gone for several years. Going back may be difficult for some, but for Greenberg, she tries to look past the event when she walks into the JCC.

"We first went back Friday night," Greenberg said. "I think initially I was looking around and I was a little freaked out but after a while I got used to it. When I went back Sunday, it wasn't what I thought about."

Returning to school was another nerve wracking scenario for Greenberg. But, she seemed to take the transition easier than other people who experienced the shooting with her.

"For me it was something that happened and it was big and important," Greenberg said. "I didn't really process it and I didn't want to talk about it. My friend went to school a day before we all did and talked about how it was really hard so I was

expecting that but then when I got here it wasn't like that. People would talk about it and I wouldn't break down and cry like some other people would. It didn't affect me like that."

Even though they all may have had different reactions after the tragedy, their youth group helped Greenberg, Selvin, and junior Logan Cole process

through their emotions.

"Everyone was messaging in our group things like 'I'm so glad we're all okay' and 'I don't know what I would do without you' but both Kayle and I just thought that it happened and she didn't like to talk about it and I didn't like to talk about it," Cole said.

Despite the events that occurred at the JCC, positive messages have come through as a result.

"I think it's important to know that everybody needs to stick together," Greenberg said. "I think it's good we know that when something tragic happens, to always be there for everybody and know that you have friends there to support you. I thought it was really cool how a whole community, no matter what religious background, came together."

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-Kayle Greenberg