

L.A. Jews struggle observing Hanukkah amid war

Many are uncertain how to celebrate as bloodshed continues in the Middle East.

By NATHAN SOLIS

There were second thoughts this year when 6-year-old Jack asked his father when the Hanukkah decorations would go up at their Studio City home.

Adam Kulbersh didn't know how to explain to his son the doleful tinge that paints this moment for Jews amid the Israel-Hamas war and growing fears of anti-semitism. A menorah in their window felt like another avenue to invite unwanted attention. It just didn't feel safe.

"Right now, there are mean people who want to do mean things," Kulbersh told his son. "My number one job is to keep you safe, and we're not going to hang decorations."

Across the Los Angeles area, home to the second-largest Jewish community in the United States, Jews are struggling over how they want to celebrate Hanukkah as bloodshed continues in the Middle East.

They grieved the scale of death, and some worried that people would make assumptions about their support for Israel, whose military offensive has killed over 15,000 Palestinians in the two months since Hamas militants killed over 1,200 people and took more than 240 hostage in their Oct. 7 assault.

Many who spoke to The Times did not want to go on the record or provide their full names, fearful of being targeted for their faith.

A store in the Hollywood Hills broke a 30-year tradition when the owner decided not to display a large menorah [See **Hanukkah**, A6]



THEN-SPEAKER Kevin McCarthy, seen in April, announced his retirement Wednesday, nine weeks after his ouster from the post. The Bakersfield lawmaker's move opens his Central Valley district seat a year early.

McCarthy LEAVING CONGRESS AT END OF THE YEAR

Departure of former speaker will weaken California's influence, GOP's grip on House.

By ERIN B. LOGAN

WASHINGTON — Former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy will not seek another term in Congress, ending a tumultuous two-decade career in public office that was marked by a swift ascent and descent in Washington GOP leadership. He said he would leave the House by the end of the year.

McCarthy announced his decision days before the state's deadline to file to run again for his Bakersfield-based seat — and just nine weeks after bitter infighting among House Republicans led to his historic Oct. 3 ouster from the leadership post.

His departure, a year before his term is up, opens the door for what could become a contested House race in California's heavily Republican Central Valley.

In a Wall Street Journal op-ed, McCarthy lauded his record in the House, pointing to his service as his party's whip, majority leader and speaker and his work diversifying the GOP conference.

"It is in this spirit that I have decided to depart the House at the end of this year to serve America in new ways," he wrote. "I know my work is only getting started."

In a video announcement, McCarthy said: "My story is the story of America. For me, every moment came with a great deal of devotion and responsibility. Giving my best to all of you has been my greatest honor."

McCarthy's retirement from Congress continues the steep decline of California [See **McCarthy**, A5]

NORMAN LEAR, 1922 - 2023

Prolific writer-producer who revolutionized prime-time TV

By DENNIS McLELLAN

Norman Lear, the multiple Emmy Award-winning writer-producer and liberal political activist who revolutionized prime-time television in the 1970s with groundbreaking, socially relevant situation comedies such as "All in the Family," "Maude" and "The Jeffersons," has died. He was 101.

One of the most successful and influential producers in television history, Lear died Tuesday at his home in Los Angeles, said his publicist, Lara Berghold.

In the mid-1970s, it was estimated that some 120 million Americans — more than half the nation's population at the time — watched the various sitcoms produced by Lear and Bud Yorkin, his longtime partner in Tandem Productions. Indeed, Lear and Yorkin had five of the top 10 programs in the Nielsen ratings for the 1974-75 TV season.

Lear's success as a television producer and show developer was such that after he accepted an Emmy for "All in the Family" as outstanding comedy [See **Lear**, A7]



'COMEDY WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE'
Lear's "All in the Family" and other sitcoms toppled taboos in their treatment of topics such as LGBTQ+ rights and abortion.



POLICE RESPOND to the shooting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Officers fired on the gunman within minutes of the first shot, sources told The Times.

3 killed, 1 hurt on Las Vegas campus; shooter is also dead

By TERRY CASTLEMAN, ANGIE ORELLANA HERNANDEZ, ASHLEY AHN, AND JEREMY CHILDS

A gunman opened fire Wednesday on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, killing three people and unsettling a city that six years ago endured one of the worst mass shootings in

U.S. history.

The shooting, which also left the assailant dead and another person critically injured, was reported around noon at the Frank and Estella Beam Hall, home to the Lee Business School, police said.

The gunman was an academic in his 60s, according to sources familiar with the investigation, who declined to provide further details.

The assailant died around 12:30 p.m. after a massive tactical response by Las Vegas Metro police and its SWAT vehicles along with federal law enforcement, sources told The Times. Within a few minutes of the first shot being fired, Las Vegas Metro police officers fired on the shooter, sources said.

At a news conference [See **Shooting**, A6]

Feds weigh in on O.C. spill

NTSB calls for new rules after 2021 pipeline rupture

By GRACE TOOHEY

A federal agency wants changes in how container ships are anchored off Southern California as well as new safety measures for vessels near offshore pipelines to help prevent or minimize ruptures like the one that spilled 25,000 gallons of crude oil off Huntington Beach.

The 2021 spill caused

damage to beaches and wetlands and killed scores of fish and birds.

After a sweeping, two-year review, the National Transportation Safety Board released findings Tuesday that the Orange County spill was a direct result of container ships anchoring close to offshore pipelines. The board called for the U.S. Coast Guard to increase the buffer between anchored ships and pipe-

lines.

The spill also could have been avoided with improved communication and planning between those monitoring the massive container ships in Southern California's ports and the operators of the pipelines, investigators found.

The inquiry into the major oil spill off Huntington Beach confirmed initial findings that indicated a [See **Oil**, A9]

Testimony details Hamas sex crimes
"Widespread" gender-based atrocities are alleged in the Oct. 7 attack in Israel. **WORLD, A3**

Why it's so hard to find a shelter bed
Homeless agency's interim housing data system is unreliable, L.A. audit says. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 71/48. **B6**



BEATING FATHER TIME
LeBron James, who is leading the Lakers in the NBA's in-season tournament, has found fountain of youth, Helene Elliott writes. **SPORTS, D1**



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