

Reframing the Conversation About
Gun Safety and Gun Violence Prevention with:

JONATHAN METZL

Professor of Sociology and Psychiatry;
Director, Department of Medicine,
Health, and Society
Vanderbilt University

The Gun Violence Prevention Groups of
Temple Sinai (D.C.) and Temple Rodef
Shalom (Falls Church, VA) invite you to
a presentation, conversation, and Q&A
with Prof. Jonathan Metzl on his new
book: *What We've Become: Living and
Dying in a Country of Arms*.*



Thursday, June 6, 2024, 7:00 pm–8:00 pm via Zoom only.
REGISTER [here](#) for Zoom link and program reminder.

Presented By:



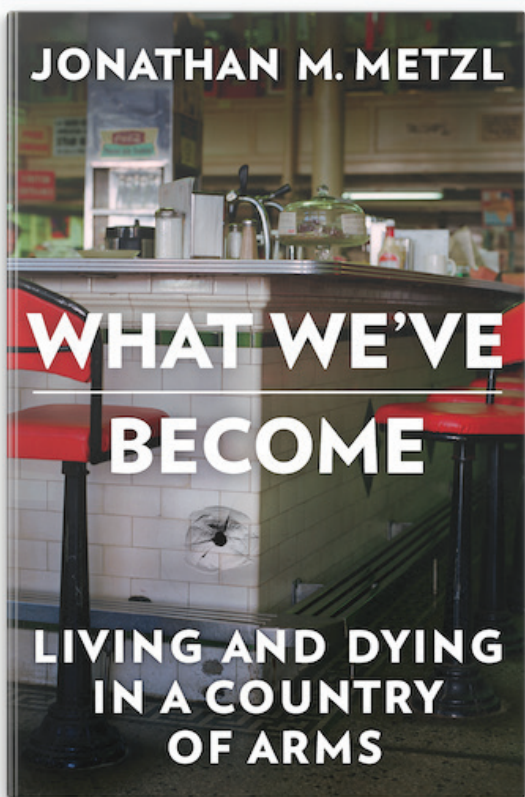
In *What We've Become*, Metzl reckons both with the long history of distrust of public health and the larger forces—social, ideological, historical, racial, and political—that allow mass shootings to occur on a nearly daily basis in America. Looking closely at the cycle in which mass shootings lead to shock, horror, calls for action, and ultimately, political gridlock, he explores what happens to the soul of a nation—and the meanings of safety and community—when we normalize violence as an acceptable trade-off for freedom. Mass shootings and our inability to stop them have become more than horrific crimes: they are an American national autobiography. This brilliant, piercing analysis points to mass shootings as a symptom of our most unresolved national conflicts. *What We've Become* ultimately sets us on the path of alliance forging, racial reckoning, and political power brokering we must take to put things right. (Book flyleaf.)

Purchase a copy of *What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms* via Amazon [www.amazon.com/What-Weve-Become-Living-Country/dp/132405025X], or your favorite local bookseller. The first 50 program registrants to purchase the book will receive a bookplate signed by the author. (print copy purchases only). To qualify, please send an email with your name and address and evidence of your purchase to steve.klitzman@gmail.com or irvkatz7501@gmail.com.



***Daniel Webster** will comment on the book. He is a Distinguished Scholar with the Center for Gun Violence Solutions and Bloomberg Professor of American Health in Violence Prevention at Johns Hopkins University. He is also a leading advocate of the public health framework for understanding and responding to American gun violence as an “epidemic.” ([Read more on Page 2](#))

***Michael Weisser**, a prominent daily gun violence blogger, AKA “Mike the Gun Guy,” has reviewed the book. A life-long NRA member, and former gun store owner, Weisser is a critic of both “gun nut nation” and “gun control nation.” On January 31, 2024, he described the Metzl book as “the best book ever written about gun violence” at [The Best Book Ever Written About Gun Violence](https://mikethegunguy.social). | (mikethegunguy.social)



Read more...

How Are We to Think of Gun Violence Prevention...As a Congregation, As a Community: Reframing the Conversation About Gun Safety and Gun Violence Prevention with Professor Jonathan M. Metzler

Thursday, June 6, 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm via Zoom

The gun violence prevention groups at D.C.'s Temple Sinai and Northern Virginia's Temple Rodef Shalom find the latest book by Prof. Jonathan Metzler, *What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms (WWB)*, so compelling and valuable to inform our understanding of gun violence and our search for solutions that we've asked Prof. Metzler to provide an overview of what his scholarship and analysis have revealed.

We are also delighted to present Prof. Daniel Webster, distinguished gun violence policy scholar at Johns Hopkins University, to comment on the book.

As Americans, we feel frustrated and helpless with every gun incident we hear about or experience. "Not again" and "not here!" are refrains that have become meaningless. Where the politics of the issue pit us as pro-gun or anti-gun, WWB provides a new framework through which to examine the human actions involved, the systems we expect to address gun violence and all its contributing factors, the sociological, cultural and geographic contexts, and possible avenues for change based on this uniquely societal overview of gun violence.

Prof. Metzler has taken a different, more "cause and effect" approach to gun violence prevention than other authors. The GVP groups of Temples Sinai and Rodef Shalom strongly recommend WWB as very helpful in considering how we- as individuals, congregations, and communities- should respond to the unending tide of gun violence in America.

Jonathan M. Metzler is the Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University, where he is also Director of the Center for Medicine, Health, and Society. As his credentials suggest, Prof. Metzler provides a unique blend of frameworks to address the scourge of gun violence and deaths in America. He's also working with colleagues in Israel to explore gun violence there.

Among his other published works are books on the impact of racial resentment on our politics; the interplay of health and morality; schizophrenia and race; and the impact of psychiatric drugs on society.

Prof. Metzler is a recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Book Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, and the American Psychiatric Association's Benjamin Rush Award. He's appeared or been cited in the New York Times, C-SPAN, Real Time with Bill Maher, and numerous other media.

For further information, please contact Steve Klitzman, Temple Sinai GVP Group, at steve.klitzman@gmail.com or Irv Katz, Temple Rodef Shalom GVP Group, at irvkatz7501@gmail.com