

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE
Local alumna of Florida high school speaks out after shootings
STORY ON PG. 8

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Forman addresses anti-Semitism



Ira Forman warned a Louisville audience that anti-Semitism is not going away, but Jewish communities must take care not to over or underestimate the threat. (Community photo by Tara Cocco)

Former U.S. envoy lays out the dos and don'ts for fighting hatred here and abroad

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Ira Forman stated the obvious:

"We are not going to end anti-Semitism," he said, "not in my lifetime, not in my children's lifetime, not in my great-great-grandchildren's lifetime. This is not rocket science."

However, the expert on anti-Semitism did offer a ray of hope to his Louisville audience: "We can push back."

That's why Forman, who served in the Obama administration as the State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS), didn't just give an assessment on global anti-Semitism when he spoke at The J on Tuesday, February 20, he laid out a point-by-point plan to "push back."

Speaking to about 50 people young and old, Forman said anti-Semitism is not like Islamophobia, homophobia or other forms

of racism, all of which have their own unique characteristics.

To fight anti-Semitism, Forman laid out these steps:

- Know how bad the problem is – The world is not returning to the 1930s when Nazism was ascending, he said, and European Jewry in France, Great Britain and Germany will not disappear. But some communities in smaller countries under threat, such as those in Eastern Europe, could vanish.
- Get it right: Anti-Semitism doesn't come exclusively from the political right or left, and it's important to be as factual about the problem as possible. "If you cry wolf," Forman said, "then when things happen that are truly bad, people will not listen to you anymore."
- The problem is complex: Anti-Semitism differs from country to country, Forman said. Hungarian anti-Semitism bears little resemblance to French anti-Semitism, and under-

standing the differences involves talking to the Jews living there as much, if not more, than following analytics. It involves reading the newspapers in those countries and taking in news from many sources.

- Enlist civil society: A country's government can be very responsive to the needs of its Jewish community and enact laws to protect it, but it's not enough, Forman said. The people themselves must treat anti-Semites like pariahs. "If civil society is not with us, it's over for us as a community."

- Taming the Internet: Figuring out how to suppress anti-Semitic indoctrination online, he said, is something that must happen.

- Relevant education: Teaching the next generation not to hate is vital. However, while most European countries have mandatory Holocaust education, young people see it as

See **FORMAN** on page 26

Jewish educator: Poland trips won't change to fit Holocaust law

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

A professional educator who takes teachers and students to Poland, immersing them in the Holocaust experience, spoke out publicly against that country's new law criminalizing claims of Polish complicity during the war.

But Dr. Zipora "Tsipy" Gur, founder and executive director of Classrooms Without Borders, vowed to continue her organization's work despite the law. She also refuses to censor its programming to accommodate a climate that is increasingly hostile to the idea that Poles played a part in murdering Jews.

"It's even more important now to double what we do," Gur said during a recent visit to Louisville. "I really feel like we have a responsibility now."

An Israeli and the daughter of survivors, Gur made her remarks during a program Sunday, February 11, at Temple Shalom. She was in town to promote her Pittsburgh-based organization to Jewish leaders here.

In addition to Temple Shalom, she met with officials from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, the High School for Jewish Studies, The Temple and area schools.

Two Louisville instructors who teach the Holocaust, Fred Whittaker and Ron Skillern, will travel with Gur to Poland this summer, both making their first trip to the country.

Gur's remarks came days after Polish President Andrzej Duda signed into a law an act criminalizing claims of complicity by "the Polish Nation" during World War II. Violators face up to three years in prison.

The law, which scholars believe could chill open discussion of the Holocaust and the roles many Poles played in it, has been criticized by the U.S. and Israeli governments as well as Yad Vashem, the U.S.

See **POLAND** on page 26



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THE DASHBOARD

D'var Torah

Is Purim a major or minor holiday?

By Rabbi Avrohom Litvin
For Community

The holiest day of the year is Yom Kippur, which is known in the Bible as Yom HaKipurim. The happiest day of the year is Purim, which is coming up in just a few days on Wednesday night, February 28, and Thursday, March 1.

The names of these festivals are quite similar. Yom HaKipurim can be literally translated as “Yom” – a day, “Ki” – like “Purim” – the Festival of Purim, as if to say that the great day of Yom Kippur is somehow like, but not quite as great as, the even greater holiday of holiday of Purim.

How can this be?

Everyone knows that Yom Kippur is a major day on the Jewish calendar. It is the day that Jews resolve to be better. With those resolutions, we hope G-d will forgive any sins we may have committed and bless us for a good and sweet year.

But when G-d saved the people of Israel in the Purim story, the Jews were estranged. They had sinned. They were not in a holy state. Yet G-d still saved them and turned their sadness into joy and gladness.

Purim is, indeed, a major holiday. It shows us the eternal lesson that G-d is connected to us and loves us and will protect us and provide for us, not just based on our individual actions, but because of our innate connection and bond to him.

How does one celebrate so awesome a day? A few key ways were ordained by the sages. The first is to listen to the miraculous story. Head to your synagogue, temple or Chabad center and hear the whole Megillah. The story is traditionally read both Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. When Haman's name is mentioned in the reading, children twirl graggers (noisemakers) and adults stamp their feet to eradicate his evil name.

Purim is about friendship and community. Therefore, another tradition is to share at least two different ready-to-eat food items and/or beverages to at least one Jewish acquaintance



Rabbi Avrohom Litvin

during the daylight hours of this festival. Purim is also about caring. For this reason, we remember the needy by giving charity to at least two needy people during the daylight hours of Purim.

If you don't meet any poor people, place at least two coins in a charity box for those who are less fortunate.

Purim is about sharing your joy. During the daylight hours of Purim, people gather with friends and family for a feast with wine. They sing, laugh, have fun together. Traditionally, the Purim feast lasts well into the evening.

Regarding the question of Purim being a minor or major holiday, the sages of the Kabbalah write, what Yom Kippur can accomplish only through fasting and afflicting the body, Purim can accomplish with food, wine and joy. In this context, Purim is even greater than Yom Kippur.

The commentaries point to another element that these two days share, albeit in inverted order. The fast of Yom Kippur is preceded by a mitzvah to eat and drink. Purim begins with a fast, which is followed by a mitzvah to eat and drink.

The sages draw allusion to each of the festivals, such as showing the connection from Purim to Pesach, for on both we emerged from bondage to freedom. Purim is also compared to Rosh Hashanah, for the books of the living and the dead were opened and awaiting G-d's judgment on both of those days.

Indeed, Purim is a great day with major significance and the happiest day of the Jewish calendar. Happy Purim to one and all.

(Rabbi Avrohom Litvin is the regional director of Chabad of Kentucky.)

Knowing what is going on in the community can be as easy as snapping your fingers.

Just send your e-mail address to jcl@jewishlouisville.org or call (502) 238-2739 or fax (502) 238-2724 and we will add your name to our rapidly growing list.



Snapshot



JOFEE Director Michael Fraade, center, joined a discussion with dinner guests during The J's Tu B'Shevat Seder, Sunday, January 28, in the Patio Gallery. Guests at the seder heard speakers address the subjects of conservation and waste reduction. Tu B'Shevat is the Jewish new year for trees. (Community photo by Tara Cocco)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in March:

- | | | | |
|------------|--------|------------|--------|
| • March 2 | @ 6:19 | • March 23 | @ 7:40 |
| • March 9 | @ 6:26 | • March 30 | @ 7:46 |
| • March 16 | @ 7:33 | | |

Contacts

Got a story idea? A letter? A gripe? A kudo?

Send it along to Community Editor Lee Chottiner at lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org. You can also call Lee at 502-238-2783.

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Put your subscription on hold?

Administrative Coordinator David Mays can handle all circulation questions. He can be reached at dmays@jewishlouisville.org or 502-238-2770.

Got an item for the Community eblast? Send it to weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org.

Deadlines

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Got a news item for the March Community? Send it in by Wednesday, March 14 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Friday, March 23.

Submitting an item for Community's weekly eblast? Please submit it by Monday. The eblast is sent out every Wednesday afternoon.

Correction

Fr. Patrick Desbois is the founder and president of Yahad-in Unum. The name of the organization was misspelled in the

January 26 story, "Priest spends career finding mass graves of Holocaust by Bullets victims."

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WHATEVER **INSPIRES** YOU, IT'S HAPPENING HERE.

A message from the Abramsons and the Kronenbergs, Annual Campaign Co-Chairs

As we talk to people about the importance of giving to the 2018 Campaign for Jewish Needs, we hear quite often from them about all the wonderful feelings they have for the Jewish community, their memories of the JCC growing up, their fondness for their synagogues, their tremendous respect for all that we stand for. We love hearing from you, we love your enthusiasm, and it makes us happy to be chairing the annual campaign this year. **You inspire us!**

The Federation is about supporting the JCC, our Hebrew Schools, our Jewish Community Relations Council, our youth, our seniors, our support for Jewish Family and Career Services, Jewish communities overseas and in Israel and so much more. The campaign supports all that you love about our community and will ensure the vibrant future we all want. Jewish Louisville has responded too, as we have added many new donors to the campaign this year!

Now is the time to give. Purim is right around the corner, and this wonderful holiday is more than just groggers and hamentashen! A wonderful tradition on Purim is to give to your friends, to your family and to everyone in need...that is the essence of our annual campaign.

The 2018 Campaign will end shortly, and we need your support to meet the needs of our ever more vibrant community. If you have not yet made your gift, please do so now by contacting the Federation office at **502-238-2739** or **www.jewishlouisville.org/federation/donate**.

Have a Happy and fun-filled Purim!

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WWW.JEWISHLouisville.org

JFCS announces its 2018 MOSAIC Award honorees; ceremony planned

By staff and releases

Five leading international Americans – the head coach of Louisville City FC, a visionary for educational justice, a culinary genius, a financial advisor and young community leader, and a pioneering physician and nonprofit founder – will be recognized for their achievements with the 2018 MOSAIC Awards.

This year's recipients are Moshe Ohayon from Israel, Dr. Shiao Woo from Malaysia, James O'Connor from Ireland, Anoosh Shariat from Iran, and Seema Sheth of Indian and Sudanese decent.

They will accept their honors during on May 17 awards dinner at the new Omni Hotel – a fundraising event that benefits Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS).

The MOSAIC Awards honor international Americans who have made significant contributions to their professions, and to the local and global communities.

To date, The MOSAIC Awards have recognized 62 international Americans for making Louisville a "richer and more interesting city," said JFCS Executive Director Judy Freundlich Tiell in a prepared statement.

"JFCS was founded to assist newcomers to Louisville, and this event honors its original mission," Tiell said.

A cocktail reception will start at 5 p.m. and will feature a showcase of new micro-businesses that have received training and financial assistance from the JFCS Navigate Enterprise Center.

"Many new businesses only have a small budget for marketing," Navigate Director Cynthia Brown said in a prepared statement. "By introducing our businesses to the people attending the MOSAIC Awards, we hope to generate interest in the products and services they provide and create new clients for them."

This year's recipients come from diverse backgrounds:



Moshe Ohayon

• Moshe Ohayon is the founder and executive director of Educational Justice, a nonprofit organization that designs and implements educational programs for high-potential students in underserved areas in Louisville. He utilizes student volunteers, some of whom participate in his other programs through the Louisville Tutoring Agency, which he also founded and continues as the managing partner.



Dr. Shiao Woo

• Dr. Shiao Woo is the medical director of Louisville CyberKnife and professor and chairman of the Department Radiation Oncology, University of Louisville School of Medicine. A board-certified radia-

tion oncologist specializing in brain tumors and pediatric radiation oncology. Woo is a founding member of the Gfoundation, which works to eliminate hunger in Kentucky, particularly focusing on homebound seniors in Louisville.



James O'Connor

• James O'Connor became Louisville City FC's first head coach in 2014. Under him, the team won the United Soccer League Championship in 2017. Off the field, O'Connor is committed to constructing a new soccer-specific stadium in the Butchertown area close to downtown. He has put down roots in Louisville and has a contract through 2020 to remain as coach.



Anoosh Shariat

• Anoosh Shariat is a hospitality genius. The chef at Anoosh Bistro and Anoosh Nosh, he has been recognized with a "Best Chef" honor by *Louisville Magazine*, and his food has been described as a "flawless delight" by *The Courier-Journal*. He was the first chef from Kentucky to appear on the Food Network, and has been featured in *Food Arts, USA To-*

day, Gourmet, Food and Wine, The New York Daily News and Southern Living.



Seema Sheth

• Seema Sheth is a successful financial representative at Northwestern Mutual. A graduate from KCD, Sheth earned a bachelor's degree in theater and spent time working for Starbucks in store and operational management. She also modeled in Los Angeles while getting her MBA. Realizing that financial matters need to be taught to students much earlier in life, she founded Adulting Academy, an educational service in Louisville that teaches high school students the financial skills to become thriving, independent adults.

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is the title sponsor of the MOSAIC Awards and WLKY 32 is the media sponsor. PharMerica, Heaven Hill, Churchill Downs and Louisville Public Media also are major sponsors of the program. Terri and Steve Bass are the event's honorary chairs and Ellen Shapira is chairing the event committee.

Tickets to the event are \$150 per person, and table sponsorships begin at \$2,000. For reservations, contact Beverly Bromley, JFCS director of development, at 502-452-6341, ext. 223 or bbromley@jfcsloouisville.org.

THANK YOU!

The Federation, in conjunction with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, launched the LIFE & LEGACY program in Louisville on April 1, 2017 to transform charitable giving for future generations of Jewish Louisville. As a community, Louisville committed to secure 162 legacy gifts in 12 months.

WE DID IT! As of February 16, 2018, **178 donor commitments** have been received by the JCL, with an estimated value of over **\$3.8 million** in anticipated gifts. We thank these donors for including the Louisville Jewish Community organizations as a beneficiary in their will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Now is the perfect time to consider **your legacy** and ensure a vibrant Jewish Louisville. Join your community members and endow your values through LIFE & LEGACY today.

To arrange a no-obligation, confidential conversation, please contact Jennifer Tuvlin, LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator, at 502-238-2735 or jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org.

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House bill would mandate Holocaust instruction in Kentucky schools

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Legislation that would require public middle schools and high schools in Kentucky to teach the Holocaust is working its way through the state House.

The Ann Klein and Fred Gross Holocaust Education Act, as it is titled, honoring two Louisville Holocaust survivors, was pending before the House Committee on Appropriations and Revenue on Sunday, but has already passed the Committee on Education by a unanimous vote.

Rep. Mary Lou Marzian, D-Louisville, a co-sponsor of the bill, expressed hope that it could pass the House as early as this week.

If it becomes law, Kentucky would join

Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, California, Michigan, Indiana, New York and Rhode Island as the only states that mandate some degree of Holocaust or genocide education.

"It's nice that we are in the forefront," said Rep. Mark Hart, R-Falmouth, another of the bill's co-sponsors, "but it's sad that so many [states] are not paying attention."

Fred Whittaker, a social studies teacher at St. Francis Assisi School in Louisville who teaches the Holocaust, said he and his students have been longtime advocates for the bill.

"It's actually fruit of labor that began 13 years ago," Whittaker said. "My students initiated the most recent chapter last April when we approached our legislators and attempted to build bipartisan support for an amend-

ment to an old bill, which was passed in 2005."

The amended bill requires every public middle and high school curriculum to include instruction on the Holocaust and other cases of genocide, "as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."

The original bill specifically named other acts of genocide including the disputed Armenian genocide by Turkey in 1915. Turkey has long resisted any claim that it was guilty of genocide.

Marzian said the reference to the U.N. language on genocide is an acceptable compromise.

"It gets our foot in the door," she said. "We can get this going then keep it going if we don't get everything we want the first time around."

The bill contains no financial impact because an optional state-approved Holocaust curriculum already exists.

"It shouldn't cost anything," Marzian said.

Rep. John "Bam" Carney, R-Campbellsville, the bill's prime sponsor, could not be reached for comment.

Hart became interested in Holocaust education after listening to survivors speak. He's even brought them to Falmouth to speak to students there.

"With people in society trying to deny the Holocaust, we wanted to make sure children in this state were taught the Holocaust, so it's never repeated."

KI planning its first Shabbat service on the city's East End in March

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Next month, for the first time in its history, Keneseth Israel Congregation will hold a Shabbat service on Louisville's East End.

The East End Shabbat, as it is being billed, is slated for 10 a.m., Saturday, March 3, at the Bridgepointe Swim & Tennis Club in Prospect, a kosher Kiddush will follow. Rabbi Michael Wolk will lead. There will not be a Friday night service at that location.

Services at the KI building, led by Cantor Sharon Hordes, will go on as usual.

KI leaders tamped down suggestions that the service is somehow a test run for a future move to the East End.

"We're just excited to have Shabbat in a new place," Wolk said.

KI Co-President Sarah Farmer said the service is an opportunity to bring Shabbat worship to a sector of the Conservative community that does not live within walking distance of the synagogue.

The opportunity presented itself when Mark and Robin Wolff, KI members who live on the East End, offered to host the rabbi and his family and secure space at Bridgepoint for the service.

Wolk said he sees a need to serve families that have moved to the East End, away from older, more established Jewish neighborhoods, and perhaps don't attend services as often because they live farther from the synagogues.

"What if there were a local option for them?" he asked.

He said there will be no expectation that

people who come to the service will be KI members or even planning to join the congregation. He expects most of the worshippers that day to be from the East End, though it will be "open to all," according to the publicity.

Currently only one Louisville congregation, The Temple (Reform) is located on the East End. Both Conservative congregations – KI and Adath Jeshurun – have been in the upper

Highlands, just a few blocks from one another, since KI made the move in 1964.

While this is the first KI Shabbat service in the East End, other than shiva minyans, Wolk and Farmer left open the possibility that it won't be the last.

"I think we'll see what the reception is and how people respond to it," Wolk said.

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5:45 p.m. – Remembrance Ceremony

Participants will gather in the Healing Space for readings, music and messages of hope, honoring and celebrating the lives of those being remembered. We will hear from survivors how they have coped and moved forward after experiencing sudden and tragic loss.

The Ali Center will be open to participants for self guided tours from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at no cost.

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Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: March 14 for publication on March 23 and April 18 for publication on April 27.

Community publishes Newsmakers and Around Town items at no charge. Items must be submitted in writing. Please include your name and a daytime telephone number where you can be contacted in the event that questions arise. **Community** reserves the right to edit all submissions to conform to style and length requirements.

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Community reserves the right to refuse to publish any letter, to edit for brevity while preserving the meaning, and to limit the number of letters published in any edition.

Email your comments to: **Community**, Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

To submit items to Newsmakers, Around Town or Lifecycle, please email them to newspapercolumns@jewishlouisville.org.

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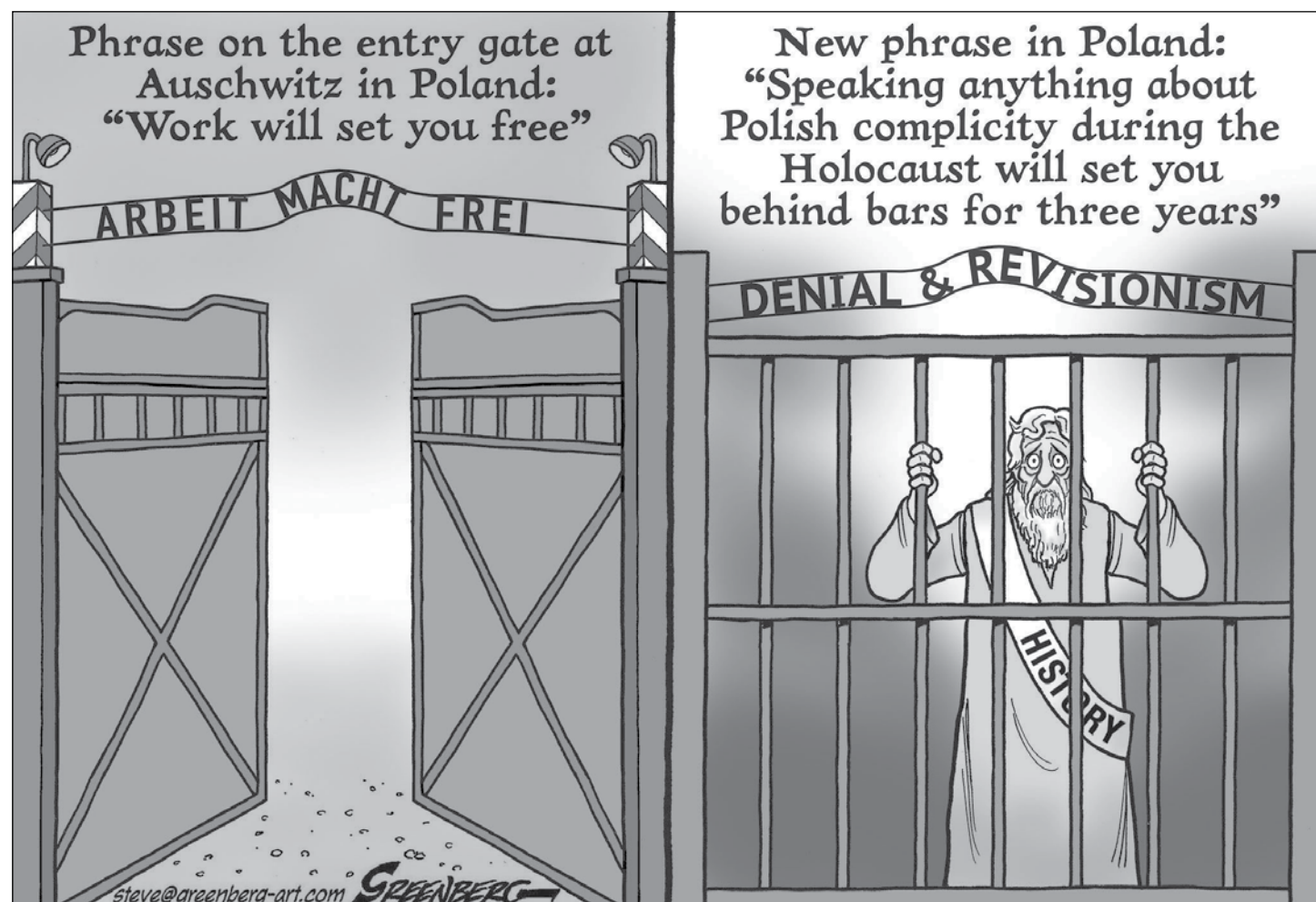
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THE FORUM



Polish history should withstand whitewashing

Last summer, when I first saw a picture of a half-submerged menorah, a monument to the Kielce pogrom in Poland, something about it struck me as ominous.

My wife, Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, had just returned from Poland, where she served as spiritual leader for a Classrooms Without Borders Holocaust-related study seminar. Her group – students, teachers and lay leaders – visited Kielce, where on July 4, 1946, more than a full year after World War II, at least 42 Jews were murdered and 40 more were wounded, the result of a blood libel rumor.

It was hardly an isolated incident. In Jedwabne, on July 10, 1941, during the occupation, Poles murdered more than 400 of their Jewish neighbors by locking them in a barn and setting it on fire. In Starachowice, in May 1945, members of the Krayova (Home) Army – part of the Polish resistance – broke into the house of a Jewish family and murdered them.

Similar acts occurred in other towns and villages, compelling thousands of Jews who had survived the Holocaust to flee the country, rather than try to return to their homes.

The Menorah monument was designed to symbolize Jews coming up from the earth, i.e. persevering. To me, though, recent events show it in a completely different light. The nine-prong candelabra seems to be sinking into the cobblestone, a Jewish Titanic in its death throes, posing a stark warning to the Jews of Poland, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

The Polish parliament has passed, and Polish President Andrzej Duda has signed into law, a disturbing act that would criminalize claims of Polish complicity in the Holocaust. Poles specifically object to the term “Polish death camps.”

Violation of the new law could result in up to three years in prison. It is un-



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

clear how the new law will affect Holocaust scholarship and research.

Nevertheless, critics of the law say it will have a chilling effect on discussions of the Holocaust, and the roles many Poles played in it.

Poland canceled a visit by Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennett after he said he would tell the Polish people “the truth” about their connection to the Holocaust.

Anti-Semitic attacks have found their way into the Polish media. One of the country’s largest commercial radio stations suspended a journalist who wrote about the “war with the Jews.” The state-owned television station apologized to the Israeli ambassador for a tweet alleging that Jewish opposition to the law was part of an attempt to seize Polish property.

The new law doesn’t come as a complete surprise. Matt Goldberg, director of Louisville’s Jewish Community Relations Council, along with American Jewish Committee representatives, met with the Polish general consul in Chicago last October. The “number one issue,” Goldberg recalled, was the Jewish community’s use of the term “Polish death camp.”

This law is hardly an outlier. Similar acts already exist in Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia, and more could be on their way.

We are witnessing a rise of officially sanctioned Holocaust revisionism, distorting the truth and making the teasing of fact from fiction harder than ever.

This is not an anti-Poland column. I have visited the country. I have met and talked to children and grandchildren of Poles who risked everything to save Jewish lives. (More than 6,700 Poles are named by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.)

One night, I literally danced in the streets of Krakow with young Poles at the annual Jewish Culture Festival. Things have changed since then, but I believe many of those young people remain outwardly thinking and don’t harbor medieval hatred.

The Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported that 70 Israelis and Poles – longtime advocates for closer relations between the two countries – just signed a letter to their governments, saying they refuse to be enemies. Posted online, it has since garnered more than 1,000 signatures.

It’s also important to remember that as many as 2 million Polish non-Jews died at the hands of the Nazis, and Poland was one of the few countries – others being the Netherlands, Denmark and Bulgaria – where resistance efforts were made to save Jews.

And yes, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Majdanek Chelmno, Belzec and Sobibor were all Nazi death camps located in Poland, not Polish death camps.

Even so, there were Poles who were complicit in Nazi atrocities: Poles who informed on hidden Jews, who drove trains to death camps ... or worse. They have blood on their hands. Kielce teaches this.

No country is all good or all bad, and no country should forever sleep in the dirt for the sins committed by past generations.

Neither should they get to whitewash history.

So warns the sinking menorah.

(Lee Chottiner is the editor of the Jewish Louisville Community.)

Why Houston makes me hopeful

A few weeks ago, my daughter and I met with Karyn Moskowitz, director of New Roots, about volunteer opportunities. Our conversation turned to the difference between direct and indirect service.

Is it more important to help in a hands-on way or to provide financial support, ensuring the infrastructure can support the work? Is one more important than the other?

We agreed that hands-on help is important; it makes a difference and it feels good. However, we agreed that without financial support, the mission cannot be met.

On my recent visit to Houston for a Jewish Federations of North America conference, I saw how both types of service are shaping the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Houston will feel the devastation of Harvey for years to come. Houston's Jewish community primarily lives in a two-mile radius hit hard by the hurricane. We visited the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC, saw significant damage to the building and watched a time-lapsed security video of the water rising, eventually breaking the walls. While communal professionals and rabbis provided comfort and help to others, many of those same leaders also lost their own homes.

One young mother evacuated her two-story house when her family and friends



Sara's View

Sara Klein
Wagner

were trapped on the second floor. She shared the terrifying story of strangers rescuing her family as she walked with one of her 8-month-old twins strapped to her chest in waste-high water. She described two strangers in a Toyota Tacoma truck with a canoe tied to the back, which her husband and friend rode in. Just a few days later, she and other professionals were back at the JCC offering all-day childcare with meals provided, so that parents could begin the painstaking process of cleaning up the damage including putting their families' belongings in the front yard for trash removal.

The Jewish Houston community has received generous support from around the country and the world. So far, \$20 million has been raised, but an additional \$20 million is still needed. Families in Jewish Houston are faced with an immediate choice: \$200,000 to lift their

dwelling higher off the ground or leave. Many have decided to not return to their homes, including a childhood friend, Leah Wishnia Mueller, who was among those sharing their stories at the conference. I asked Leah how she and her family were holding up (this was the third flood she has experienced). She said she will be fine. It is the elderly Holocaust survivors she works with at Houston's Jewish Family Service that she worries about.

Many families now face tough choices that affect providing children with Jewish experiences: summer camp, religious education, etc. Understandably, many cannot make Jewish life a priority right now.

Our tradition teaches us about kindness, tzedakah, mitzvot, caring and leadership to save one life is to save the world. Everyone can make a difference; everyone can be someone's hero. It is clear from Houston's experience that helping hands are needed and financial commitment is imperative.

Our Federation, like Houston's and others across North America, ensure that the core needs of Jews are met. We step up in times of crisis and need. This year alone, JFNA, through Federation donors, has supported the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and the destruction of URJ Camp Newman in Cali-

fornia from wildfires.

The aftermath of the hurricane was one of many issues and topics explored in Houston. Connecting and energizing the next generation in Jewish life specifically through education and engagement was another prominent topic. I have attended many conferences over the years. This week in Houston, I noticed that BBYO seemed to be on the tips of everyone's tongue's. Most striking were the causal and formal references to personal BBYO experiences leading to a career in the Jewish community, which is my story too. This gave me great confidence that we are creating the right platform for the next generation. Right now, twenty-two Jewish Louisville teens are with BBYO Director Kari Semel at an international convention with 3000 teens in Orlando. These teens will become future leaders of our community. They have their own dreams and will draw upon their experiences as they embrace leadership positions in the Jewish community.

My trip to Houston reinforced the importance of supporting the communal infrastructure to ensure that our core needs (including BBYO) are cared for as well as to respond when crisis arise.

(Sara Klein Wagner is president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville.)

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Marjory Stoneman Douglas alumni here act in wake of shootings

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Few Louisvillians took the news about last week's shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, harder than Dr. Judith Danovitch, and for good reason.

A professor of psychology at the University of Louisville and a religious schoolteacher at Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad (LBSY), Danovitch is a 1996 graduate of that high school.

"This is where I went and my sister went," Danovitch told Community. "It's a wonderful public, non-magnet school, the kind of school people move to the area for. My parents still live a short walk away."

So when she learned of the news Wednesday, February 14, within hours Danovitch and other alumni were organizing a closed Facebook group that has since signed up more than 11,000 alumni, parents and teachers and others connected to Stoneman Douglas. Its purpose is to help the high school community connect, help and perhaps act.

"It's just become larger than anything I could have imagined," she said.

Since then, the members have organized meet-ups and vigils around the country, drawing scores, even hundreds, of people.

"This community is an empowered community, and this school has some very successful graduates," Danovitch said. "I'm not surprised that there's 60 people getting together in Denver, and there [were] 500 signed up for a program in New York. It's just amazing."

Not everyone who joins the Facebook



Dr. Judith Danovitch, a 1996 graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, scene of the recent mass shooting, spoke at a February 16 vigil for the victims at the First Unitarian Church of Louisville. (Photo by Nick Noles)

group wants to take political action. There are healthy debates at the page, Danovitch said, and some alumni prefer to organize blood drives or fundraisers, whatever addresses the Parkland community's needs.

Many others, though, including Danovitch, all frustrated by the rash of gun violence, are taking political action.

"I research children," she said. "It would be hypocritical of me to say that I care about child development and not care about the safety of the children in our schools."

She hasn't always been active.

"I became an activist last Wednesday," Danovitch said. "I always supported people fighting against gun violence in

this country, but I can't say I was active until this [past] week."

Since the shootings, Danovitch also has offered herself for interviews and speeches about her high school and about gun violence. She has given interviews to two local TV stations. She spoke at a recent vigil for the victims at the First Unitarian Church of Louisville. She's even given an interview to an English language radio program in Seoul, South Korea.

"This has been a surreal 48 hours for me," she said at the church vigil. "I've

watched the videos and seen the photos, and I still can't quite comprehend what I am seeing. The children and teachers who we are remembering here tonight are my family's friends and neighbors. I am devastated.

"But I also think this an opportunity," she continued. "There are over 10,000 Stoneman Douglas alumni and all of them are under age 45. My classmates and I are mobilizing, and we are joining with other organizations to take action against gun violence. We have the momentum and the power to effect a real change."

She isn't the only Marjory Stoneman Douglas alumnus in Louisville. Seth Krinsky, a 2005 graduate who moved here last summer with his wife and baby girl, connected with Danovitch through the Facebook group. He has an #MSD-Strong hashtag on his profile.

Describing himself as a "frustrated human being," Krinsky, a software administrator, said he is looking for ways to "find comfort and make change."

"The group shows there are more people, equally and unequally impacted, with the common factor of going to this school, that want change," Krinsky said in an instant message to Community.

He said the alumni are looking for ways to memorialize those who were affected by the shootings while keeping an eye on the "greater issues."

"The group (for most part) is a way for us who feel helpless to unify, find grief and help."

Meanwhile, in Israel...

In light of the horrific tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School this past week I found it interesting to see some of the reactions in the media. One response, though, was especially thought provoking.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, in response to the shooting, said that we (meaning the United States) should follow Israel's lead to prevent another tragedy. The idea being that Israel, in its years of experience with terrorism, has mastered the art of preventing shootings like the one we saw in Florida.

Unfortunately, part of Huckabee's assumption is correct. Israel has dealt with many terrorist attacks throughout the years, providing Israel with the experience needed for proper prevention techniques that have minimized (but not eliminated) the risk of something like this happening there. Israel's intelligence gathering, security check points, the strategic cooperation of police and the army all play a part in making Israel as safe as it is.

But there is a MAJOR difference between Israel and the United States, one that really undermines the comparison: the ease of access to guns.

Actually, it is quite difficult to obtain a gun for a private citizen in Israel. There are background checks to obtain a private weapon, and you must provide a valid reason to get approval. As Americans who love Israel and often travel there, we can be taken aback by seeing soldiers everywhere carrying weapons and we might think that this is representative of a society filled with guns, but it is just not true.

While I am not an expert on Israeli culture, I would imagine they have the same percentage of mentally ill people there as here. I also imagine they have the same percentage of their citizenry playing violent video games that are often cited as a primary cause of mass



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

shootings here.

One would have to think that access to guns is why we continue to mourn victims of senseless mass shootings. Until our elected leaders consider laws that would limit who gets guns and what types they get, we will continue to see more senseless shootings.

Iranian provocations

A few weeks ago, for the first time, Iran and Israel had a direct military confrontation. Iran launched a sophisticated drone from Syria into Israeli airspace, Israel subsequently shot down the drone and attacked the Iranian base from where it was launched. Syria shot down one of the attacking planes (over Israeli territory) and Israel responded with a series of attacks against Syrian anti-aircraft batteries destroying up to half of all they possess.

Neither Israel nor Iran want a major military confrontation (at least, not now), so it must be assumed that Iran vastly underestimated Israel's response. But it is an example of how quickly a small confrontation can explode unintentionally into something bigger.

Iran and their proxies have men and many missiles aimed at Israel, and Israel appears to be willing to lash out at Iran. Let us hope this latest conflagration is an aberration, that cooler heads prevail.

(Matt Goldberg is director of the Jewish Community Relations Council.)



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Herzlian Events series concludes first season; organizers eying next year

By Mary-Kate Smith
For Community

The Major Gifts Herzlian Events, a new approach to fundraising in Jewish Louisville, just wrapped up its inaugural season, and the organizers are pleased with the results.

"These events are about creating community," said Julie Hollander, director of women's philanthropy and outreach at the Louisville Jewish Federation, the professional organizer for the event. "The goal was to provide an intimate setting for major donors to come together to discuss a topic of interest and socialize with others that they might not see or speak with on a regular basis."

The home-hosted dinners and lunches were designed to provide a more intimate setting for such conversations.

JOFEE Director Michael Fraade kicked off the season, speaking about the "Roots of Jewish Cuisine" and University of Louisville Professor Ranen Omer-Sherman's concluded it with "Graven Images: The Provocations of Jewish Cartoonists and Graphic Novelists."

The other speakers were Cantors David Lipp and Sharon Hordes; Rabbi Gary Zola, executive director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives; Abigail Glogower, curator of Jewish collections and the Jewish Community Archive at the Filson Historical Society; Charles Glick, a national council member of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Sheri Ross,



Kate Latts (left) was one of the guests at the Herzlian event that featured University of Kentucky President Eli Capiluto. (Community photo by Tara Cocco)

a national board member of Stand With Us; and University of Kentucky President Eli Capiluto.

While this is the first year Louisville has hosted Herzlian events, the tradition dates back to Theodor Herzl himself.

In the late 19th century, the journalist, playwright and father of modern Zionism held similar events to promote discussion among Jewish leaders from many backgrounds and fields. The discussions were said to affect the Zionist vision for the future State of Israel.

Shellie Branson, who served as a Major Gifts Herzlian Event co-chair with Karen Abrams, said they adapted the Herzlian events idea, deciding it would also work well

in Louisville.

"These events are about connecting to others in the community," Branson said, "We wanted to give people the chance to meet new people and get to know others better. We want to connect them through meaningful conversation about their Jewish community and the strong desire they have to give back to the community."

Survey responses showed Branson, Hollander and others the success and positive impact of the events.

"Through the surveys, we learned that everyone really enjoyed the event they attended," Branson said. "The food was amazing. The hosts were welcoming, and the guests were

appreciative. Everyone also enjoyed the speaker they heard."

One attendee said, "I appreciated the intimate setting and opportunity for every person around the table to participate."

For Branson, participation played a big part in the event she attended, which was hosted by the Campaign Co-Chairs Jerry and Madeline Abramson and Ariel and Faina Kronenberg.

"The best part was when people from our community that I have known for years shared stories about their favorite author," Branson said.

At the event, she learned that one attendee's parents were Holocaust survivors. Another shared that her son is a writer, while a third discussed her favorite painter.

"Everyone had a chance to share a story," she said.

The Federation plans to host the Herzlian Events again next year.

Potentially, the Federation will hold fewer dinners with a slightly larger number of participants at each event, maintaining the vibrant and intimate settings of the 2017-18 season.

Branson thanked all the hosts and hostesses who stepped up, making the series happen.

"The major givers are hard at work trying to make the Louisville Jewish Community the best it can be," she said.



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Temple members celebrate past, look to future, to mark 175th

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

As the members of Adath Israel were about to consecrate their first synagogue in 1848, on Fourth Street, not everyone was happy.

Some proclaimed the synagogue – the first built in Kentucky – as one of the most beautiful buildings in Louisville. Others dismissed it as an “awful barn.”

Few people, though, were as upset as I. Wolf, who didn’t like the fact that a melodion (small organ) was installed in the synagogue for the dedication.

According to minutes from one congregational meeting, Wolf was fined for using “intemperate language.”

In other words, according to Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, “he threatened to burn the building down if they didn’t get that BLANK organ out.”

The synagogue was consecrated – without the organ – though the congregation finally installed one 10 years later.

Rapport thinks the story encapsulates the nature of The Temple, the descendant congregation of Adath Israel and of Brith Sholom, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year.

“From our beginning, we’ve always been moving to liturgical and musical reform,” said Rapport, citing as evidence the introduction of the organ – something traditional synagogues of that time didn’t have.

But, Rapport added, “we’ve always worked

things out.”

That religious balancing act has continued down through the years. Adath Israel became a founding member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now known as the Union for Reform Judaism), and the first to use *Minhag America*, the movement’s earliest prayer book, in its worship services.

The founders of Brith Shalom in 1880, German Jews more recently arrived in America, wanted a synagogue where they could worship in German and wear their bowlers to services. Services at Adath Israel, by that time, were in English.

And when the two congregations “consolidated” in 1977 (to this day, they do not use the word merger) to form The Temple, the presidents of Adath Israel and Brith Sholom continued to serve until the end of their terms – two years. Then the new congregation elected a new president.

The transition was complete, said Jay Waldman, a member of the 175th anniversary committee, and a past president of The Temple.

“I grew up in Brith Sholom,” Waldman said, “but this is where I go, and that’s just all there is to it.”

The Temple is marking its milestone anniversary this year with a series of activities that celebrate its past while looking to the future.

In fact, the observances began in January with the Founders Day Shabbat, which marks the date the Adath Israel charter was signed



Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport is pictured here with artifacts from the old Brith Sholom building in the archive of The Temple, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. Rapport said The Temple, which regularly showcases its historic artifacts, is putting even more on display this year to mark the congregation’s history, tradition and notable figures through the years. (Community photo by Lee Chottiner)

by the governor, on January 12, 1843.

Activities will continue March 23 with the Isaac Mayer Wise Shabbat, which marks the birthday of the founder of Reform Judaism in America and a pivotal player in the history of the congregation. (He was offered the pulpit here.) A historic classical Reform service is planned as well as an archival display paying homage to the history of the congregation.

The anniversary committee also is planning to set up a photo gallery in the atrium, showcasing all 16 ordained rabbis who have served the congregation, said Lori Holland, chair of the anniversary committee.

Finally, the main celebration will take place the weekend of May 12. Plans are still being made, but one of the highlights will be the burning of The Temple’s mortgage.

The theme of the weekend will be Temple Generations, said Holland. Families with two or three generations in the congregation will be encouraged to attend, and children will parade with flags saying “175th.”

“We’re trying to have young people understand that the generations are so important,” Holland said.

The main celebration will be Saturday night. An evening of dinner, music and dancing will be tied together by a slide show, titled *Temple Generations*, which is being produced to showcase Temple members who can trace their families back the founders.

Holland said about 20 current members have ancestors who were founders.

“In today’s world, people move away and don’t come back,” she said, “so it’s exciting and it’s why the notion of generations is so critical to emphasize.”

The results of the Secure Our Future capital campaign also will be announced. So far, according to Waldman, \$3.5 million has been raised toward the campaign’s goal of \$5 million, giving financial security to the congregation.

“If we don’t spend foolishly,” Waldman said, “we’ll be around for a long time.”

Rapport clearly has become the resident historian of The Temple, answering questions about its history in the archive. It’s more like a museum, the repository for the congregation’s DNA.

Letters penned by Louis Brandeis hang on the wall, artifacts from the old buildings, such as a marble set of Ten Commandments from Brith Shalom sit on the floor, and 15 Torahs, including many from southern synagogues that have closed and two Holocaust scrolls,

are housed in this room,

There are displays of historic artifacts from the history of the congregation, and even the Reform movement itself.

One item under glass is the silver mortar trough used to lay the cornerstone of the Plum Street Temple in Cincinnati – a gift from an old member.

Asked why the trough is here instead of Cincinnati, where the Rauh American Jewish Archives is based, Rapport quipped that he will gladly send it there when they send to Louisville the remains of Isaac Mayer Wise.

He loves to talk about historical figures who populate the congregation’s history: B. H. Gotthelf, for instance, the first *hazen* (spiritual leader) of the congregation, and Abraham Tandler the first *parnas* (president).

Back then, presidents wielded considerably more power than they do today. Tandler could require members to attend services or funerals. He could even fine them 25 cents if they did not or for other infractions, such as keeping their businesses open on Shabbat.

One thing that has remained constant throughout the history of The Temple and its antecedents, has been its commitment to social action.

At the time of its founding, members formed a Hebrew Benevolent Society. They sent money to New Orleans to combat a yellow fever epidemic, and to Sir Moses Montefiore to support the Jewish community in Jerusalem.

Members also played roles in the national affairs of the community. Gotthelf, for instance, became the first interfaith chaplain in the Union Army during the Civil War, and only the second Jewish chaplain.

When the Titanic went down in 1912, there were several Louisvillians aboard, Rapport said. The Adath Israel rabbi at the time, H.G. Enelow, officiated at the memorial service.

The social action continues through interfaith efforts with Christians, Muslims and other faiths, support for the LGBTQ community and Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks’ work for Crusade for Children.

Another constant is its people. Many members today are descendants of the founders.

Next year, Rapport noted, one his confirmands will be Emily Waterman, who just happens to represent the seventh generation of her family at The Temple. In any given year, this is true.

“A lot of the history of this congregation really isn’t history, Rapport said. “It’s family.”



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ARTS

Short Story: Isaac's Lesson

By Michael Ginsberg
For Community

"Slow down, Isaac. This is a speech you're practicing, not NASCAR. Pretend it's for your bar mitzvah."

"It is for my bar mitzvah," I said.

My tutor, George Nader, shook his head. "I'm sure you'll be ready by August."

"George, my bar mitzvah is in July."

"Let's practice worrying."

It was March 2005, and I, Isaac Rubin, was soon to become a bar mitzvah. Every part of me below the yarmulke was certain I would embarrass my family and the entire Jewish population of New York, New Jersey and Tel Aviv.

George said I'd do fine.

"What's fine?" I asked.

"Anything less than the Titanic."

At my next lesson, a week later, I told George I'd had a nightmare the night before.

"I was reading my speech, and everyone started pointing and laughing. When I looked down, I was wearing only a Speedo, with rubber flippers on my feet. When I tried to speak, bubbles came out of my mouth."

George laughed. "Maybe we should switch your Torah portion to Jonah and the whale."

I punched him lightly in the arm. "Whatever my dad is paying you," I said, "it's too much."

George shook his head.

"If I took money from your father, he'd expect results, and I gave up my miracle business years ago."

I asked what business George was in, and he told me he owned a men's clothing shop.

He said he met my father at his store. When Dad mentioned my sister's bat mitzvah, George said he volunteered to tutor her, explaining that he had studied the rituals and enjoyed sharing his knowledge.

A week later, I missed the subway stop for George's house. An attendant at the next stop told me I was only a few blocks away. Walking down a busy street, I passed several stores with signs in Arabic. One of them – Hamid's Falafels – had tables outside, and men sat around each of them, smoking and drinking from tiny cups.

When I got to George's house, I asked about the neighborhood.

"Arabs have lived here for some time," George said. "It's a comfortable place for us."

"Us?"

George pointed to himself.

"My parents moved here from Lebanon when I was a child. Any given day, you could have seen us at Hamid's."

I stumbled through my lesson and sat silently on the drive home. At dinner, I asked my sister if she knew George was an Arab.

"Sure," Eva said. "He's got photographs from Lebanon all over his house, and he gave me a plate of Lebanese food when I missed lunch one day. We even argued about whether hummus should be considered Arabic or Israeli."

"Why didn't you tell me?" I asked.

"Tell you what?" Eva replied. "That our Lebanese teacher is Lebanese?"

I said nothing, but I left the table feeling dirty that I'd been around an Arab all these



months. I had never even thought about them until 9-11, when my Uncle Mark and my cousin Sam died at the World Trade Center. Sam was like my best friend.

I skipped my next lesson, claiming too much homework, and I called my father from school the following week, saying I felt sick and wanted a ride directly home.

Sitting in my father's car, I quickly figured out we weren't heading home. I didn't know where we were going until we pulled up in front of George's house.

"What's this about?" I asked. "I'm sick."

"I think the cure is inside that house," my father said.

"What do you want me to do?" I snapped.

"Figure it out," my father said. "I'll wait here."

I walked up the path to George's house and rang the doorbell.

"Isaac, glad you're back," George said.

Head down, hands at my side, I trudged into George's study, feeling as though I was marching to my death. I plopped down on the sofa and sat silently.

"Is something wrong?" George asked.

"You're an Arab," I blurted.

"Guilty," George said. "Now, tell me what else I'm guilty of, other than being an Arab."

I didn't know what to say, but I suddenly found myself telling George about my uncle and cousin.

George nodded. "Your sister told me. I'm sorry, but you know I didn't kill them." As he spoke, tears dropped from his eyes. Then I started crying.

George stood up, walked to the sofa, and sat down next to me, wrapping his arm around my shoulder. It felt good at first, but then I pulled back.

"Your people, I mean those men, they, they killed all those people because their religion, they were Muslims, told them to do it."

George stared at me.

"Islam didn't kill your uncle and cousin," George said. "Those Muslims did. Be angry with them; I'm angry with them, but not every Muslim. And, for the record, I'm not Muslim."

"What?" I shouted.

"Christian."

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"Because I didn't think it mattered. Some Muslims have done terrible things, some

Christians have done terrible things, some Jews have done terrible things, all in the name of God."

I snapped back: "God doesn't tell Jews to kill."

George took a deep breath.

"God doesn't tell anyone to kill," he said, "but some Jews kill, and Jews still die. Christians die, and Muslims die."

"Look, my family left Lebanon in 1982, when I was 10. Christians weren't welcome there, but we left only after Israel invaded and bombed Beirut. A lot of innocent Lebanese died. One of them was my brother."

"Was he a soldier?" I asked.

"His name was Joseph," George said. "He was 7."

George looked directly at me, his eyes watering again.

"I wasted a lot of time and energy hating Jews. Some of my family said they wanted to kill all Jews, but my father said hatred wouldn't bring my brother back or help me live the rest of my life. It's taken me a long time to accept that lesson in my head. I'm still working on my heart."

I looked at George. "I'm sorry about your brother," I said. Then I remembered that my father was waiting outside.

As we stood up, George extended his hand, and our handshake turned into a hug. We walked out, and George asked my dad if I could stay longer to practice.

We ended up talking about everything except my bar mitzvah. I asked George where he learned to read Torah, and he explained that Christians borrowed a lot of Jewish traditions, including scripture, cantors and chanting. He said he also learned from teaching Gregorian chant to a Catholic church choir.

I wanted to know more about the family members who wanted to kill Jews. George said his grandmother cursed Muslims for the way they treated Christians in Lebanon and cursed Jews for killing Lebanese Christians, who had never done anything to hurt them.

I told him about my grandmother.

"A few weeks ago, we were driving through an Arab section of Brooklyn. My grandmother made a spitting sound and said we should bomb the whole neighborhood."

George shook his head.

"We should leave our two grandmothers on a desert island, alone. Let them work it out."

Two weeks later, I stood on the bima – reading, chanting, and delivering my speech. At the end, I thanked just about everyone in the world, including George, who was sitting in the front row with my family. I ended with a line I had added that morning.

"I dedicate this day to the memory of Mark Rubin, Sam Rubin, and Joseph Nader."

(Michael Ginsberg is a Louisville, author, journalist and copy editor for Community.)

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502-584-3600

A tree-mendous mitzvah

Tu B'Shevat marked with massive planting at Temple Shalom

By Bruce Snyder
For Community

How many trees each year do you think Metro Louisville loses each year? One hundred? One thousand? Maybe 10,000?

Would you believe approximately 50,000 trees each year?

It's true, and it has been happening for at least 20 years, according to area tree experts.

Louisville has seen more than one million trees die or cut down for a variety of reasons. Too many were not replaced.

That's too many for Joshua White, who has made it his personal mission to replace those trees, with help from Jewish Louisville.

"It's a generational lack of putting trees back that have been wiped out, either through development, or natural causes," said White, a bioengineer and Sierra Club member who organizes tree plantings citywide. "The reason we need trees in Louisville is not just aesthetic. If I plant trees, ultimately I'll pay 20 percent less in energy costs."

White brought his skills and knowledge to Temple Shalom on Sunday, February 4. He directed some 70 volunteers, who marked Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish New Year for trees, by planting 41 trees of 39 different varieties on synagogue grounds.

The group was not just planting trees, but creating, what Temple Shalom is calling the



Students from the High School for Jewish Studies pose with a London Plane tree they planted at the February 4 Tu B'Shevat tree planting at Temple Shalom. Seventy volunteers planted and mulched more than 40 trees of many varieties on Temple Shalom grounds, bolstering Louisville's declining urban forest. Pictured with the teens is Randy Moser, a Temple Shalom member and retired forester. (photos by Bruce Snyder)

Children's Arboretum. The project complements its Founders Garden, which is nearing completion. The arboretum will be formally dedicated later this year.

(Community Editor Lee Chottiner is a member of Temple Shalom and served on the planning committee for the project.)

Before planting began, White ran an orientation for the volunteers, jumping into a pre-dug hole and using a shovel to demonstrate how to measure the placement of each sap-

ling so it would grow straight, not at an angle.

"I like that Josh gave us all this information, so we do it properly," said Jennifer Jacobson, who took part in the planting with her 9-year-old son, Carson. "It's nice to have a professional to help us; it's so important to plant trees properly, or else we would have just filled the holes, and we might have planted the trees incorrectly."

"There aren't that many things I will do in a day that have an eternal impact," Jacobson continued, "so it's nice to do something that will last for generations."

Added Carson, "I'll come back here with my family one day and show them that I planted these trees, that I was able to help."

Also planting were more than 20 students

and faculty from the High School for Jewish Studies. Their principal, Sarah Harlan, embraced the project, instructing her students to report to Temple Shalom instead of Jewish Family & Career Services, where they normally have class.

Two students, Avi Hiken and Brent Mannel, were excited about the planting for different reasons.

"I'm hoping that someday, when I come back, I'll see the trees have grown," Avi said, "and I'll feel good about seeing these trees fully blossomed."

Brent lauded the teamwork involved.

"When you work with people you don't know, it helps you build better people skills," he said. "When I get older, maybe I can do one of these by myself, or lead one of these."

Willa Kornstein, 14, said the planting reinforced her desire to ... er ... put down roots in Louisville.

"It will feel good to know I did something," she said. "I feel like I want to stay in Louisville, so when I have kids, we can all come back here to see what we did today."

One of White's pet peeves is that many Jews regularly send money to Israel to plant trees, while ignoring the lack of trees in their own cities.

White, who is Jewish, hopes to change that. He said Adath Jeshurun has already held a planting of its own, and that other congregations are interested.

"It will make me feel at peace," White said. "I'll feel a little bit better. It'll be one less thing that needs to be done to make our city a better place for our children."



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Bunbury stages *RED*, fictional account of Rothko

By staff and releases

RED, a play about famed 20th century Jewish-American abstract painter Mark Rothko, is being performed in February and March by the Bunbury Theatre Company.

Born Marcus Rotkovich in 1903 in Dvinsk, Latvia, *RED* is a fictionalized account of Rothko's frustrated first attempt to create a space in New York's Four Season's restaurant. He sought to create art that was timeless; paintings that expressed basic human concerns and emotions that remain constant not merely across decades but across generations and epochs.

Rothko looked to communicate with his viewer at the most elemental level and through his artwork, have a conversation that was intense, personal and, above all, honest.

A viewer's tears in front of one of his paintings told him he had succeeded. While creating a deeply expressive body of work and garnering critical acclaim, Rothko battled depression and his bril-

liant career ended in suicide in 1970.

Directed by Steve Woodring, *RED* features J. Barrett Cooper as Rothko and Brandon Meeks as Ken, a fictional assistant Rothko hires to help him mix his paints and to be his gopher.

"The dialogue between the two creates the drive in the action," said Artistic Director Juergen K. Tossmann. "Ken is a young painter, hip and into Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollack. Rothko is the elderly lion working to get Ken to understand art in a deeper, emotional and more introspective way."

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is among the production's.

All performances will be in the Henry Clay Theatre on the third floor of the Henry Clay Building. Talk-back sessions or panel discussions will follow some of the performances.

The play will be performed on February 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25; and March 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Email **Bunburytheatre reservations@gmail.com** or call 502-585-5306 for tickets.

THE J CENTERPIECE



INSIDE

Yachad brings camping experience to special needs kids
PG. 4

Wild Party is wild, just don't mind those actors in their underwear

By Elizabeth Gerber
For Community

The J is having a wild, wild party; and you're on the guest list.

This steamy musical, set in prohibition-era Manhattan in the 1920s, invites us into the "wild party" Queenie and Burrs throw in an extreme attempt to spice up their stagnant love life. Throughout the musical, we are introduced to a slew of colorful, supporting characters, one of whom catches Queenie's eye and sparks Burrs' jealousy, ending the life of one of the wild party guests.

Based on the book by Andrew Lippa, *Wild Party* opened Thursday, February 15, to an excited audience. It didn't disappoint. The long hours this cast put in to rehearsals evidently paid off in all aspects of the show – from the lighting to the dance sequences and even down to the onstage chemistry.

This show, directed by CenterStage veteran Jordan Price, flowed effortlessly.

Landon Sholar's star shines bright in his role of Burrs. It shines so bright, in fact, that you would never notice this is his first CenterStage production. His portrayal of this loved-crossed character was impeccable and his involvement with professional theater for the last six years certainly elevates his performance. It was a joy watching him bring to life Burrs' jealousy to the stage.

Kate Smith, who played Queenie, is no stranger to CenterStage. She owned her role and commanded the stage, walking around with such poise and confidence. When her character was faced with a tough decision,



Photo by Tara Cocco.

she allowed the audience to feel her struggle in choosing between what she's known and what she deserves.

Sholar and Smith's onstage chemistry is undeniable, which only makes watching the show that much more believable and enjoyable to watch.

Attend a showing of *Wild Party* and you will not be disappointed. The audience gets introduced to the other party goers throughout the performance in a way that makes theater goers feel like they are among the guests.

Only these guests (the audience) happen to

be overdressed for this occasion. It is worth noting that for a majority of the show the cast is performing essentially in their underwear. That should not deter you from seeing the show, and it takes nothing away from the overall performance. If that's still something that might make you uncomfortable, then, as they said in their pre-performance curtain speech, "there's a bar in the back to help get you through it."

The vocal performances by this cast are outstanding. I will say there were some parts of songs where the words were hard to un-

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Tickets cost \$20/22 in advance and \$22/24 at the door and can be purchased at CenterStageJCC.org or by calling 502-238-2709. Members get a \$4 discount when ordering tickets at the front desk or over the phone.

derstand. But even when I didn't understand what they were saying, I still found myself enjoying the songs; they were simply so well performed.

If you're feeling the need for a night out on the town, *Wild Party*, with a run time of approximately two hours, might just do. Seeing this show will make you feel as if you stepped out for the evening.

Tickets are still available for shows running through March 3. Visit jewishlouisville.org/the-j/centerstage/2017-18-season/andrew-lippas-wild-party/. *Wild Party* is meant for mature audiences and is rated R for sex, violence, language and drug use.

Best of CenterStage lauded where company has been... and where it is going

By Elizabeth Gerber
For Community

The Best of CenterStage fundraiser took place on Sunday night, February 18. From the moment you walked through the door, you could feel the excitement and energy flowing in The J's lobby.

If the hors d'oeuvres and desserts catered by Chef Z, specialty cocktails from Heaven Hill and silent auction items weren't enough to get members excited about the current season and looking forward to next season, the performances that night most likely sealed the deal.

The CenterStage cast recreated some of the most popular and most loved performances from shows such as *Chicago*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

The guests also got a sneak peak at some selections for the upcoming 2018-2019 season, which includes, *Into the Woods*, *Annie*, *Spamalot*, *Hairspray* and *The Full Monty*.

"We chose those shows because we wanted to get back to what we're kind of known for in the community, which is big, well-done musicals," said CenterStage Operations Manager Anne Ensign-Urteaga. "We have the talent and the space to pull off those shows; it's why we want to do it."

She said CenterStage would continue to look for "obscure shows" that theater goers rarely see, "but for next season, we just want to get back to our roots."

While they looked forward to what was to come and celebrated what came before, the performers also showcased where they are now. They previewed *Wild Party*, a dark musical based on Andrew Lippa's book, which is currently showing until March 3, and the last show of the 2017-2018 season, *The Little Mermaid*.

Ensign-Urteaga said the revue "was well received" by the audience, which might just mean CenterStage will do it again the future.

"Lots of compliments," she said.



Dancers perform "You Won't Succeed on Broadway" from *Spamalot* during the February 18 Best of CenterStage revue. (Photo by Tara Cocco)

Yachad program meets all types of campers' needs

By Melanie Wachsman
For Community

For most children, Camp J means spending time with new and old friends, swimming lessons, morning circle cheers and too many special activities and field trips to list.

But for campers who participate in the Yachad Program for Children with Special Needs, Camp J means even more.

Yachad, which means "together" in Hebrew, provides children with special needs and learning differences a seamless way to integrate into camp and fully enjoy the Camp J experience.

Yachad serves children with a wide variety of issues including ADHD, anxiety, OCD (ob-

sessive-compulsive disorder), autism, Down Syndrome, Fragile X, sensory processing disorders and cerebral palsy.

Campers are assigned a full-day, one-on-one advocate or utilize an advocate assistant during challenging times or activities. Advocates personalize the camp experience for each child.

For Lacy Ran, parent to Caleb and CJ, the Yachad program is priceless.

CJ was a perfect fit for Yachad, Ran said. The current third grader at Summit Academy struggles with ADHD, anxiety, and oppositional defiance disorder.

"CJ is incredibly smart and creative, but he struggles with managing his emotions and the unknown," said Ran, who belongs to

Temple Shalom. "The JCC staff understands that and knows how to work with him. They created an environment where the unknown is not so scary."

Last summer, CJ participated in Lego, art and STEM-themed specialty camps and Keff. Yachad advocates checked-in with him and his counselors throughout each day.

"The counselors never judged him," said Ran. "If he has a rough day he knows he can go back the next day, and no one will treat him differently. For he and I both, that's so crucial."

Advocates are equipped to handle each individual camper's needs. Thomas Wissinger, vice president of programs and operations at The J, said that Yachad advocates either work in special education or are studying special education in college. They also receive special training for camp.

There are no extra fees for Yachad and camp scholarships for the special needs program are available. Last year, Camp J awarded scholarships worth 100 weeks of summer camp. According to Wissinger, they hope to award even more scholarships this summer.

"We take great interest in growing the Yachad program because we see a need in the community," he said.

"I'm not aware of any full-day summer program that offers a program like Yachad," added Ran. "Not only do the kids have a great time, but they feel included and loved. I can work and be at peace and not worry about if CJ's having a good day or a meltdown. I love that as a parent."



Yachad offers the Camp J experience to kids with special needs. (Community photo)

Want to know more?

Camp J registration is currently open. Yachad has limited space; early applications are encouraged. For more information visit jewishlouisville.org/the-j/camp/summer-camp/yachad-program-children-special-needs/.

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Passover

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Spice up your seder's four cups this year with a private wine tasting! Led by the staff at Westport Whiskey and Wine, we will sample wines (including kosher and Israeli selections) that are perfect for Passover, Shabbat or any other occasion. Everyone will receive a 10% discount on any purchases.

JOFEE

PICTURE THIS



Ed Rosen and Dan Case were the winners of this year's Ike and Bruce Gumer Racquetball Tournament on Saturday, February 10. The annual tournament was started by the Gumer and Skolnick families in honor of Ike Gumer, a member of the National Racquetball Hall of Fame and Bruce Gumer, Ike's son and an avid racquetball player at The J.

SENIOR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 27 | 12:45 P.M. Purim Celebration

Cantor David Lipp of Congregation Adath Jeshurun returns to the Senior Adult Center to sing some of the members' favorite and traditional songs of the festival of Purim.

MARCH 6 | 12:45 P.M. Musical Presentation

Aaron Boaz, a classical violinist who has performed throughout Europe and the United States, will perform at the Senior Adult Center. Boaz has served on the faculty of Naperville College and Bellarmine University and as music director and conductor to the Louisville Civic Orchestra and the Bellarmine University Civic Orchestra. His wife, pianist Dr. Krista Wallace-Boaz, will accompany. Refreshments will be served after the program.

MARCH 13 | 12:45 P.M. Senior Retirees Meeting

Shelley Golde Dowell, Elderlaw Attorney, presents "What Seniors Need to Know – Medicare, Medicaid, Power of Attorney, Living Will & much more." A graduate of the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville, Dowell is a trained mediator who assists older clients, their children and other family members with nursing home, Medicaid, asset preservation and other related issues. Refreshments will be served after program.

MARCH 19 | 8:30 A.M.-3:15 P.M.

Mammogram Screenings, Brown Cancer Center

Call 238-2749 to schedule an appointment.

MARCH 20 | 12:45 P.M. Musical Presentation

Gabriel Lefkowitz, Louisville Orchestra concertmaster, will speak about his career and role as concertmaster and perform some violin favorites. Refreshments will be served after program.

MARCH 21 | 4:45 P.M. Intergenerational, Interfaith Model Seder

Sponsored by the Bensinger Family in memory of Judith Bensinger. Join us for this annual event with the Hebrew School students. Cantor Sharon Hordes from Keneseth Israel Congregation will lead us in the service followed by a catered dinner prepared by Gerry Burns. Cost of event: \$5/M, RSVP by Wednesday, March 21. Transportation available for an additional \$3.

MARCH 23 | 12 P.M. Lunch & Learn

Join us during lunch as Jewish Community Relations Council President Matt Goldberg will speak about current events affecting both the United States and Israel.

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Time for grandparents to get involved, curb gun violence

By Ruth Greenberg
For Community

Two days ago, I listened to an interview with a 17-year-old student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, David Hagg. He said it is time for us to move beyond “thoughts and prayers” and enact meaningful laws to reduce the growing number of gun deaths in our country.

“Please,” he said. “We are children. You guys are, like, the adults. Take action, work together, come over your policies and get something done.”

His words hit home, perhaps because it could just as easily have been my 17-year-old grandson making this plea after his school had been attacked. Or worse.

Yesterday, I listened to the speech of Emma Gonzalez, another student who survived the Parkland massacre, as she attacked President Trump and Congress for their reaction and inaction on gun reform. She demanded lawmakers do something to prevent mass school shootings.

“We certainly do not understand why



Ruth Greenberg

it should be harder to make plans with friends on weekends than to buy an automatic or semiautomatic weapon,” Gonzalez said at a rally in Ft. Lauderdale.

She berated lawmakers who take campaign donations from the NRA: “Shame on you,” she shouted, and I thought about Jamie Guttenberg, whose grandparents are friends of a friend of mine, and who lost her life in the massacre.

My five grandsons were spared this time, but one of their schools may be the next to be attacked by a school shooter. It’s time for the 70 million grandparents who live in America to protect their most precious jewels – their grandchildren – who deserve to be educated without fear in safe, secure schools.

Grandparents represent over one third of the population, with approximately 1.7 million new grandparents

joining our ranks every year. Many of us are healthy and retired. We have the time and energy necessary to lobby for change. We can be a formidable force in the national conversation about gun control. We can effect change...if we get involved.

Let’s begin with something that Americans of any political persuasion ought to be able to agree upon: banning the sale of assault weapons like the AR-15 rifle used at the Parkland High School.

I am also asking grandparents to consider making time for three additional tasks:

- Email or call your senators and representatives – today, and every day – until Congress gets the message and acts. Tell them you will not vote for them again unless they publicly advocate for and support a ban on assault weapons. Email addresses and phone numbers are available at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov

- Educate yourself and share what you learn with your friends and families. At least, a dozen organizations advocate for gun control and post educational materials on their websites. Google “or-

ganizations that lobby for gun control” to learn the facts. Advocate at social events, at work and in the public eye. Let the world know that grandparents will not tolerate gun laws that permit just about anyone to buy weapons of war.

- Contact every grandparent you know and urge them to get involved in this “grandparents against guns” advocacy effort.

Finally, in an issue that all grandparents can embrace and support, while you’re convincing Congress to ban the sale of AK-type assault rifles, lobby against the sale of ammunition for these rifles so that individuals who own them won’t be able to fire them at innocent school children ... our grandchildren.

Let’s not miss this opportunity to advocate for this long-overdue change in our gun laws. Let’s start this work today – for our grandchildren and for all of the grandchildren in our country ... and because it’s the right thing to do.

(Ruth Greenberg writes the Grandparenting in the 21st Century blog for Community)

Purim reminds us what a good hospital means to a community

By Rabbi Nadia Siritsky
For Community

The festival of Purim begins on the evening of February 28, 2018 (also known as the 14th of Adar), which celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people that was described in the book of Esther. The deeper meaning of the name Es-



Rabbi Nadia Siritsky

ther comes from its root: “S-T-R” which means to be hidden.

The rabbis of the Talmud teach that the story of Purim was prophesied in the book of Deuteronomy, where G-d tells Moses of a time when “ve-anokhi haster astir panay” (Deuteronomy 31:18), which is a reference to Esther, hiding her identity as a Jew, to convince the king to try to stop Haman’s plan to kill the Jewish people. It also refers to the book of Esther, which is the only book of the Hebrew Bible that does not reference G-d explicitly: G-d’s hand was hidden, but still powerfully orchestrating the events behind the scenes.

So the custom began of children dress-

ing up and wearing masks, as well as that of the Jews drinking so much that they can’t tell the difference between wrong and right, in order to challenge our assumptions of what is right and what is wrong.

This holiday’s deeper spiritual lessons are profound: We don’t always know what is wrong or right. Blessings often come hidden beneath the mask of misfortune. Even when we can’t see G-d, we need to trust that G-d is working through each of us. Like Esther, we need to be willing to take risks and go beyond our comfort zone to do G-d’s work and make this world a better place.

These lessons are especially powerful for those of us working at Jewish Hospital as we journey with patients and families who are struggling to find comfort amid harrowing experiences. They are facing illness, trying to make sense of it all, searching for deeper purpose, praying for miracles and hoping that their illnesses will usher forth a new chapter

with improved health and well-being.

It is also encouraging, as we face the unknown, hoping for a new owner that will invest in our hospital, our employees and our community, renewing them all and strengthening our historic mission of tikkun olam: research, excellence, innovation and compassion.

An owner that will help us create new miracles and deepen our ability to care for the underserved will help us live out our Jewish values and strengthen them for a new century.

May each of us, in our respective moments of uncertainty, find ways to tolerate the unknown with courage and faith, embracing opportunities to do G-d’s work when possible, and trusting that blessings and miracles are always possible, even if not always immediately visible.

(Rabbi Nadia Siritsky is vice president of mission at Kentucky One Health.)

LOUISVILLE VAAD HAKASHRUTH

Venues currently supervised and certified by the Vaad:

- ◆ The Jewish Community Center (Kitchen)
- ◆ The J Outdoor Café (Dive -n- Dine)
- ◆ KentuckyOne Health Jewish Hospital (kosher kitchen only)
- ◆ The Arctic Scoop: 841 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy. (They have pareve options and are available for any occasion at any off-site venue)

Services provided by the Vaad:

- ◆ Consultation on kashruth and of kosher products at local businesses and companies

List of local businesses providing kosher catering (must request to have Vaad supervision when ordering):

- ◆ Bristol Catering (kosher catering available at off-site venues such as The J, synagogues, etc.)
- ◆ The Catering Company - Michaelis Events (kosher catering available at off-site venues)
- ◆ Hyatt Regency Louisville (kosher catering only)
- ◆ Louisville Marriot East (can host kosher events but does not have kosher catering service)
- ◆ Other venues may be approved only upon request for kosher supervision

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**THE VAAD ADVANTAGE:
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Chavurat Shalom welcomes WZO scholars

Compiled by Sarah Harlan
For Community

March will start on a scholarly note and then be filled with the sound of music.

On Thursday, March 1, scholars from the World Zionist Organization will present the film, Ben-Gurion: Epilogue. The film depicts David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s first prime minister, at age 82 and living in the seclusion at his desert home, remote from all political discourse, which allows him a perspective on the Zionist enterprise. His introspective soul-searching is the focus of this film, and his reflections provide a surprising vision for today’s crucial decisions and for the future of Israel. Lunch will include fried chicken strips, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit and bread pudding.

On Thursday, March 8, the Silvernotes will present songs for Spring. Lunch will

include salmon croquettes, peas and carrots, creamed corn, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and yellow cake with a caramel sauce.

On Thursday, March 15, Two of Diamonds (Ann Waterman and Beth Olliges) will return, welcoming spring with songs about freedom and wings, plus Passover parodies. Lunch will include chicken and rice soup, deli platter, fresh fruit, chips and assorted cookies and brownies.

On Thursday, March 22, classical pianist Nada will return for a program in the main sanctuary. Lunch in the Heide-man will include pastrami style chicken, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and March and April celebratory birthday and anniversary cake.

On Thursday, March 29, University of Louisville guitar students will be back for a program. Lunch will include meatloaf, cabbage, roasted potatoes, mixed

green salad, fresh fruit and peach cobbler.

(Chavurat Shalom is a community-wide program for Jewish seniors and their friends. It meets in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Highway 42, unless otherwise designated in the listing. A healthy and nutritious lunch is available at noon for \$5, followed by the program at 1 p.m. Transportation can be scheduled by calling Jewish Family & Career Services at 502-452-6341. Transportation to Chavurat Shalom is \$5 round-trip. Funding for Chavurat Shalom is provided by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, the Jewish Community of Louisville, National Council of Jewish Women, The Temple’s Men of Reform Judaism and Women of Reform Judaism, and other donors. RSVP or request a vegetarian meal no later than the Tuesday before each program to sarahharlan86@gmail.com or 423-1818.)

JFCS NEWS, CLASSES & EVENTS

Stay up to date on all things JFCS when you sign up for our monthly e-newsletter! Contact marketing@jfcsloouisville.org.



2821 Klempner Way
Louisville, KY 40205
phone | 502-452-6341
fax | 502-452-6718
website | jfcsloouisville.org

JFCS FOOD PANTRY

SUGGESTIONS FOR MARCH

- Kosher food for Passover
- Jams/Jellies
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned fruit

Remember, donations can be made at your local synagogue.

Food must be donated in original packaging before the expiration date. Monetary donations may also be made to the Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry Fund. Contact Kim Toebe at 502-452-6341, ext. 103.

SUPPORT GROUPS

March 6, 4pm Caregiver Support Group

Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, 4936 Brownsboro Rd. Contact Naomi Malka at 502-452-6341, ext. 249.

March 8, 1pm Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group

Meets on the second Thursday of the month at Jewish Family & Career Services. Contact Connie Austin at 502-452-6341, ext. 305.

March 9, 2pm Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Meets on the second Friday of the month at Jewish Family & Career Services. Contact Kim Toebe at 502-452-6341, ext. 103.

March 21, 10am Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Meets on the third Wednesday of every month at Kenwood Elementary 7420 Justan Avenue. Contact Jo Ann Kalb at 502-452-6341, ext. 335.

March 15, 7pm Adult Children of Aging Parents

Meets on the third Thursday of every month at JFCS. Contact Mauri Malka at 502-452-6341, ext. 250.

March 19, 12:30pm Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Meets on the third Monday of every month at JFCS. Contact Jo Ann Kalb at 502-452-6341, ext. 335.

HOT DOG FOR THE PANTRY

Benefits the Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry Fund

Sunday, March 4, 3:30–5:30pm at JFCS

Adults/\$10 Kids Under 13/Free

Kosher Hot Dogs, Veggie Dogs, Drinks & Dessert

Don't miss this fun, Family Mitzvah event!



Sunday, March 18 3:30 – 5:00pm

Treyton Oak Towers 211 W. Oak St.

RSVP: Kim Toebe at 502-452-6341 ext. 103

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VOLUNTEER

YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECTS

March 26, 1 – 3pm



VIALou is a program that connects young adults to the work and mission of JFCS through community service projects. VIALou members are between the ages of 22-40.

Partnering with the nonprofit, **My Dog Eats First**, we will create pet care packages for homeless individuals with pets.

This project connects the values of derech erez (treat others with common decency and respect), pikuach nefesh (protecting life and health), and leket, shichechah, v'pe'ah (caring for the poor with dignity).

For more information: Lisa Sobel-Berlow at Isobel@jfcsloouisville.org.

CAREER SERVICES



8-PART ACT PREP COURSE Recommended for High School Juniors Seniors

Score Better, Together!

March 5 – 27, Mon. & Tues. 7 – 9pm

Register now, class size is limited to 20 students!

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jfcsloouisville.org/event-registration
email: tmarshall@jfcsloouisville.org



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Juniors and Seniors

502-452-6341

PICTURE THIS: Best of CenterStage

Guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening on Sunday, February 18 at the Best of CenterStage Celebration. The night included favorite CenterStage performers bringing back some of the most memorable CenterStage performances and a sneak peek at the upcoming 2018-19 Season. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts by Chef Z and specialty cocktails by Heaven Hill were provided. (Photos by Tara Cocco)



PICTURE THIS: Film Festival Opening Night

Over 300 people attended the 2018 Jewish Film Festival Opening Night on February 3rd at Bellarmine's Cralle Theatre. Guests enjoyed a catered reception, live "rat pack" music and a special screening of "Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me". Marsha Bornstein, Festival Director, said she was thrilled to see so many new faces as well as familiar ones from the past 20 years. "Everyone I spoke to absolutely loved the film and enjoyed the wonderful reception and reconnecting with friends." It was a great Saturday night for the community. (Photos by Debby Rose)



GLOBE

By JTA

Ginsburg to serve as long as she has 'steam'

WASHINGTON – Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told a Jewish audience that she would serve on the U.S. Supreme Court as long as she felt up to it.

Ginsburg, appearing Thursday, February 1, at a *Forward* event at Adas Israel synagogue in Washington, D.C., appeared to confirm recent reports that she plans on serving through Donald Trump's presidency.

"As long as I can do the job, I will be here," she said to applause after joking that she can no longer set as a deadline the 23 years that Louisville native Louis Brandeis served on the court.

"I'm the longest sitting Jewish justice," she said, "so I can't use that."

Ginsburg, 84, who was nominated by President Bill Clinton, has served since 1993. Court reporters said last month that she seemed to signal her intention to wait out Trump when she hired clerks for terms through 2020.

Ginsburg, unusually for a Supreme Court justice, criticized Trump during the 2016 campaign, calling him a "faker." She later apologized. She is one of



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

the more liberal judges on its bench. Ginsburg said she drew inspiration from Jewish teachings and her upbringing in an observant home.

A champion of the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s, when she was gaining fame as a constitutional lawyer, Ginsburg said she still favored its passage, although doing so is a daunting challenge. (A constitutional amendment must be passed by 38 states.)

"I have three granddaughters," she said. "I would like them to see in the Constitution that men and women are persons of equal citizenship stature."

Germany recognizes Algerian Jews as Holocaust survivors

NEW YORK – Nearly 80 years after being persecuted by the Nazi-allied Vichy French government, some 25,000 elderly Algerian Jews are being recognized

for the first time as Holocaust survivors by the German government.

Algerian Jews had their French citizenship stripped in 1940 by the Vichy government, which then ruled the area. Nuremberg-like laws banned Jews from working as doctors, lawyers, teachers and in government. Children were kicked out of French schools.

On Tuesday, 78 years after they endured suffering that left families penniless and starving, and pariahs in their own country, the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany will begin taking their applications for recognition as survivors, making each eligible for a one-time "hardship grant" and additional services like food vouchers and in-home care.

"For the first time, they're being recognized as Nazi victims by the German government," said Greg Schneider, executive vice president of the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany. It is the last settlement Germany will make with a large group of Holocaust survivors, he added, since it was the only major population remaining without that recognition.

Each survivor approved will receive a hardship grant of 2,556 euros, the equivalent of approximately \$3,100. The euro figure is the equivalent of 5,000 Deutsch-

marks, a sum the Claims Conference negotiated with the German government in 1980. The money will be distributed beginning in July.

The youngest Algerian survivors, born in 1942, would today be 76 years old. Most, however, are in their 80s and 90s, Schneider said. As important as the money is, even more valuable is acknowledgment of their suffering, he told JTA in an interview from Paris, where he was getting the Help Center set up.

"They weren't murdered," Schneider said, "but there were lots of deprivations" under the anti-Semitic Vichy laws.

"There weren't extermination camps in Algeria, but a person's childhood was turned upside down because of this persecution targeting Jews. It becomes a huge part of a person's identity. The experience during the war for so many people defines them, is the seminal experience of their lives. All these decades it's never been acknowledged."

Israel had earlier recognized Algerian Jews as Holocaust survivors. But the German government did not, and not being acknowledged as survivors has "undermined their core sense of self, especially when they see all the other groups getting recognized," Schneider said.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 4 | 1-3 P.M.
AT STANDARD CLUB
Fee: \$15 per child. Adults are free!

Join PJ Library and KITE for the Inaugural Junior Challah Bake--a fun afternoon of challah baking, story time and snacks! All Junior Bakers registered by February 19 are guaranteed to receive an apron, take home bowl and spoon, and a recipe card. They will also be entered into a raffle for a Barnes & Noble gift card courtesy of PJ Library.

Geared towards children ages 5-12. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. This event is Kosher and nut-free.

Register online at jewishlouisville.org/jr-challah-bake before February 27.

ADVERTISE IN COMMUNITY

jewishlouisville.org/community | 502-418-5845

AROUND TOWN

2018 AJ Music Festival features Voces Novae

Adath Jeshurun will host its annual AJ Music Festival at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 11. Voces Novae, conducted by Frank Heller III, will present “Silver Soul,” a performance celebrating their 25th anniversary. Other performers include Cantors David Lipp and Sharon Hordes, Jennifer Diamond and the Jewish Community Choir. A dessert reception will follow the event. Advanced admission costs \$10 per person and may be purchased at: www.adathjeshurun.com/musicfestival or by calling AJ at 502-458-5359.

Rabbi's Shabbat Dinner

The Temple's next Rabbi's Shabbat Dinner is set for 6 p.m. Friday, February 23. The traditional Shabbat meal will include chicken, root vegetables, potatoes and kugel with a vegetarian choice of salad or salmon. Cost is \$5 for adults, free for children under 12. RSVP to 502-423-1818 by Wednesday, February 21.

2018 Louisville Jewish Film Festival

The 20th Annual Louisville Jewish Film Festival, which concludes Sunday, February 25, still has a weekend of selections to go.

Let Yourself Go, an Italian comedy about a distinguished, though uptight, psychoanalyst who meets an uninhibited personal trainer, leading to chaos as well as fitness, will be screened Saturday, February 24.

On Sunday, February 25, see *Fanny's Journey*, a Belgian coming-of-age drama, based on a true story, about a 13-year-old girl who is sent to a boarding school for Jewish children. Then, with 10 other children, struggles for safety in Nazi-occupied Italy.

Also Sunday, *Belle and Sebastian*, a French film based on a classic novel, will be screened. An orphan boy, Sebastian, whose dog, Belle, is suspected of killing livestock leads members of French Resistance leaders who are guiding Jewish refugees to safety on a treacherous mountain journey to Switzerland.

All three movies will be shown at the Village 8. Prices are \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at the door, \$5 per student unless otherwise stated. On the day of the show, tickets will be available one hour prior to the screening at the venue. Visit jewishlouisville.org/the-j-j-arts-ideas/film-festival/purchase-film-festival-tickets/ for tickets, or call 502-459-0660.

Purim at The Temple

Second and third grade students at The Temple will put on a Purim schpiel at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, February 25. A dinner will follow, then a Purim carnival sponsored by The Temple Brotherhood, with games and a photo booth. Costumes are encouraged. Cost of the dinner is \$5 per person, free for children under 13. RSVP for the dinner by calling 502-423-1818 by Thursday, February 22.

Purim seudah at Anshei Sfarad

Anshei Sfarad will hold a Purim seudah at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1 with food, music, dancing and prizes for the best costumes. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 5-12 and free for children under 5 – a \$40 maximum per family. RSVP by February 26 by calling 502-451-3122 x 0.

Knit & Qvell Circle at Anshei Sfarad

Anshei Sfarad will hold its Knit & Qvell Circle at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in the synagogue library. All knitted items are donated to the Jefferson County Public Schools Clothes Closet. Call Toby Horvitz at 502-458-7108 for more information.

mation.

Chabad New York-style Purim

Chabad will host a New York-style Purim celebration on Thursday, March 1, at the Marriott East Hotel, 1903 Embassy Square Boulevard. Raanan Hersberg, a New York comedian originally from Louisville, will perform. The party will include a three-course dinner with knishes, bialys, kosher deli and live music. Costumes are encouraged. The cost is \$35 per person and \$15 for children under 12. Contact Chabad at 502-459-1770 or at chabadky.com/purim.

AJ Shabbat Remix Dinner, Speaker

Adath Jeshurun will hold its Kabbalat Shabbat Remix at 5:45 p.m., Friday, March 2. The service with musical instruments will be followed by a catered Kiddush dinner and a presentation on human rights and social justice. Guest speaker Rotem Malach will address the Israeli Supreme Court's role in defending human rights and reshaping Israel's democratic and Jewish identity. Reservation are due by Friday, February 23. Cost is \$12 for adults ages 13 and over, free for children 12 and under. Visit www.adathjeshurun.com/remix for details.

AJ Celebration Shabbat

All who celebrate a birthday or anniversary in the month of March may participate in a group Aliyah during Shabbat morning worship services at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 3, at Adath Jeshurun.

WZO event at The Temple

The World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities will send six educators to Louisville to host a four-day educational weekend at The following program are at The Temple, including the following:

- Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. (during Torah study) – Rotem Malach we will address Israel's supreme court and its role in defending human rights and reshaping Israel's democratic and Jewish identity.
- Sunday, March 4 6:30 p.m. Israeli Cooking Event co-sponsored by Hadasah. Participants will learn how to cook Israeli food. RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 by March 1.
- Friday, March 2, 7 p.m. WZO Shabbat. The topic will be “Human Rights in Israel.”
- Sunday, March 4, 11 a.m., WZO Parents Event. The topic will be “Israel Diaspora Relationship: Is it a Family Crisis?”

WZO presentation, song leader at Temple Shalom

Services at Temple Shalom the weekend of March 2 and 3 will feature Sam Thal as songleader and representatives of the World Zionist Organization.

During the 6:30 p.m. Friday services, Lior Sagi, education coordinator of the Canadian Zionist Federation and a filmmaker, will speak on “Things you see from there, cannot be seen from here.” An oneg will follow services.

During services Saturday morning at 10:30, Esther Serok, a representative of the WZO Executive in North America, will deliver the D'var Torah. A lunch & learn will follow services, including the documentary, *Ben-Gurion, Epilogue* and Q&A afterwards with the film's director, Yariv Mozer.

There is no charge. RSVPs are requested by February 26 by calling Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739.

Thal's song-leading classes will continue at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 3. RSVP at the number above. JHFE is sponsoring the lessons.

AJ pragmatic spirituality discussion

Courtney and Marty Snyder facilitate a pragmatic spirituality discussion group at Adath Jeshurun, discussing universal themes based on inspiration from spiritual thinkers. Sessions take place at 10 a.m. on Sundays. The March 4 discussion is titled “Creating Trust: The Magic Ingredient of Effective Groups” The March 18 discussion is “The Things We Cannot Change, The Things We Can, And the Wisdom to Know the Difference.” Contact Courtney Snyder at cbsnyder12@gmail.com.

KI Shabbat Unplugged

The next Keneseth Israel's Shabbat Unplugged evening is set for Friday, March 9. It is held every second Friday of the month. Services start at 6 p.m., followed by dinner catered by Izzy's and an after-dinner tisch. Cost is \$5 per person (\$20 maximum per family.) RSVP to 502-459-2780 or rsvp@kenesethisrael.com. Pay online at kenesethisrael.com.

March of the Living rep at KI

Jack Rosenbaum, director of the March of the Living South, and child-survivor Rosette Goldstein, will speak at Keneseth Israel during Shabbat morning services, starting at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 10. They address the history of the program and share anecdotes and details about the program.

Yard Sale at KI

Keneseth Israel will hold what it bills as “one of the biggest yard sales in Louisville” from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, March 11, and Monday, March 12. All

the proceeds will benefit the synagogue.

KI Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Keneseth Israel will hold a family Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6 p.m. Friday, March 16. A kid-friendly dinner will follow. Cost is \$5 per person, with maximum \$20 per family. RSVP to rsvp@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780, and pay online at kenesethisrael.com.

AJ Short & Sweet Family Service

Students in grades K through 7 and their families will take part in the Adath Jeshurun Short & Sweet Family Service at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 17. A mac & cheese kiddush lunch will follow.

Hooshir visits KI and Temple Shalom

Hooshir, the Jewish acapella group from Indiana University, will return to Louisville for performances at Keneseth Israel at 6 p.m., Friday, March 23 (Kabbalat Shabbat) and Temple Shalom at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 24.

Sunday Night at the Movies

Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport of the next Sunday Night at the Movies at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 25. Pizza will be served followed by the movie at 7 p.m. Rooks is screening *Genius*, a *National Geographic* series about the life and legacy of Albert Einstein. The series looks at Einstein's Jewish background and how Judaism influenced the way in which he saw and interacted with the world around him. The pizza is free. RSVP to 502-423-1818 by March 23.

See **AROUND TOWN** on page 22

The Jewish Community of Louisville gratefully acknowledges donations to the following

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Around Town

continued from page 21

Financial advisor Gersh at Temple Shalom

The Temple Shalom Men's Club will host financial planner Wesley A. Gersh at its next breakfast meeting, 10 a.m., Sunday, March 11. Gersh is with Align Wealth Management, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. A \$5 donation is requested. RSVP by March 9 to Temple Shalom, 502-458-4739.

Louisville Melton classes

New Melton Classes begin at Adath Jeshurun in March. Four different sessions are available, and each 10-lesson session includes:

- The Star and the Crescent, taught by Rabbi Laura Metzger, studies the long relationship of Judaism and Islam on Tuesday evenings, March 13 – May 29, 6:30 p.m. – 7:40 p.m. and Thursday Mornings, March 15 – May 31 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

- Seven Decades of Israeli Popular Music, taught by Cantor David Lipp on Tuesday evenings, March 13 – May 29, 7:50 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Thursday mornings, March 15 – May 31, at 10:50 a.m. – Noon.

Contact Louisville Melton Director Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359 to register.

Texas Roadhouse fund-raiser for Temple Shalom

Temple Shalom will receive a portion of proceeds from purchases of those dining at the Texas Roadhouse, 5005 Shelbyville Road, on Tuesday, March 13. Participants must present a flyer. Con-

tact Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 to receive one via email.

No Shush Shabbat at Temple Shalom

Temple Shalom will hold its next No Shush Shabbat at 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 16. The evening will include a PowerPoint service, music, instruments and stories, making for an engaging time for children and families. Rabbi Beth Jacobowitz Chottiner will lead and Benji Berlow will sing and play guitar. Call Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 for details.

Senior Lunch Bunch

The Temple Shalom Senior Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, March 21, at a place to be determined. Call Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 for details.

AJ Shabbat Scholars

Adath Jeshurun will host Susan Griffin as its Shabbat Scholar, at 12:15 p.m., Saturday, March 31. Griffin is a professor of English at the University of Louisville and a University Distinguished Scholar. She will discuss the weekly Torah portion, which will be the Passover reading.

AJ hosts Minyanaire Shabbat

Adath Jeshurun will pay tribute to its 2017 Minyanaire of the Year, David Friedman, and Minyanaire Mentsch, Dr. Walter Olson, Jr., on Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21. On Friday, the Kabbalat Shabbat service will begin at 5:45 p.m., followed by a Shabbat dinner and awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.adathjeshurun.com/minyandinner by April 13 for reservations. Contact Molly Evancho at AJ, 502-458-5359 or mevancho@adathjeshurun.com for more information. Minyanaires will participate and have special honors in the Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m., Sat-

urday, April 21. A Kiddush lunch will follow.

AJ Book Club

The AJ Book Club is currently reading *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish. The book will be discussed at its next meeting at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 29, at AJ. Contact Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or call 502-458-5359.

KI Mahjong Club

Keneseth Israel holds a weekly mahjong game at 1 p.m. every Thursday in the small chapel. RSVP to gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or call 502-459-2780.

KI Bridge Club

The Keneseth Israel Bridge Club meets from 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays in the small chapel. RSVP to gwishnia@gmail.com.

'Great Women of the Bible' at The Temple

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel teaches a class titled "Great Women of the Bible" Mondays at 7 p.m. The class studies the daughter of Lot, Tamar, Miriam, Daughter of Pharaoh, Ruth, Michal and Esther, and their contributions to the biblical narrative.

Hebrew classes at The Temple

The Temple offers Hebrew language classes on Mondays at 7 and 8 p.m. Beginners Hebrew, which is taught by Mark Goldstein, a graduate in Jewish studies from Hebrew Union College, starts at 7 p.m. Advanced Hebrew with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, starts 8 p.m.

There also is a basic Judaism class, taught by all the rabbis Mondays at 8 p.m. with Rabbi David Ariel Joel.

Temple Scholars Program

The Temple Scholars meets Wednesdays. Rabbi David Ariel-Joel teaches "1917, 1947, 1967: The Legacy of The Past and The Future of Modern Israel" at 9:30 a.m. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport teaches "A History of the Jewish People in 36 Objects" at 10:50 a.m.

NCJW Court Watch 2018

NCJW, Louisville Section, has been asked to restart the Court Watch program in the Family Court system. This year, the Court Watch term will run from March to May.

Volunteers are needed to carry out this endeavor. To volunteer, contact the NCJW office at 502-458-5566 or ncjw-louisville@gmail.com.

For more information about the Court Watch program or volunteer needs, call Joyce Bridge at 201-819-9176.

PASSOVER

AJ Kosher Community Passover Seder

Adath Jeshurun will host its annual Kosher Community Passover Seder at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 30. Rabbi Robert Slosberg and Cantor David Lipp will lead. A Haggadah will be provided for each participant. Space is limited, so RSVP by Friday, March 23, or until 200-person room capacity is reached. There will be a waiting list. Cost for AJ members is \$30 per adult, \$15 per child 6-12, and \$5 for children 5 and under. Cost for guests is \$55 per adult, \$25 per child 6-12, and \$5 for children 5 and under. Contact Molly Evancho at mevancho@adathjeshurun.com or visit www.adathjeshurun.com/seder.

See **AROUND TOWN** on next page

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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Paley to make 2018 Naamani Lecture



Nina Paley

Animator and filmmaker Nina Paley will be the guest speaker of the 2018 Naamani Memorial Lecture at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 25, in the University of Louisville's Rauch Planetarium.

Established in 1979, the lecture series honors the memory of Professor Israel T. Naamani, a UofL scholar and teacher. This year, it also marks the passing of his wife, Zehava Naamani, who died on December 18.

A well-known animator and feminist activist, Paley will use the pre-Passover event to speak on the premiere of her new film *Seder-Masochism*, a provocative animated story about the Ten Plagues.

Paley created the animated musical *Sita Sings the Blues*, a retelling of a 3,000-year-old Sanskrit epic that Roger Ebert proclaimed one of the best films of 2009.

She also made *This Land Is Mine: A Brief History of the Land called Israel/Palestine/Canaan/the Levant*. The film is a meditation on the region's long history of conflict that can be viewed on YouTube.

RSVPs are encouraged. Contact Ranen Omer-Sherman at ranen.omersherman@louisville.edu.

'Never Again' film to air in February on KET

The story behind *Never Again*, the series of life-size Holocaust murals from Western Kentucky University, is told in a new KET film that will air at 10:30 p.m.,



VAMPY students work on their latest mural.

Sunday, February 25, on public television.

Murals of the Holocaust will include interviews with Ron Skillern, the 2017 Kentucky Teacher of the Year who has taught all the students who made the murals, and with Holocaust survivor Fred Gross.

The student-made murals were done as part of the Holocaust studies class at the WKU summer program for gifted students, VAMPY (Visually and Mathematically Precocious Youth).

A preview of the 30-minute film was held on February 19 at the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

Shir, LHOME, revitalize underserved markets



Amy Shir

Amy Shir has been named executive director of The Louisville Housing Opportunities and Micro-Enterprise Community Development Loan Fund, Inc. (LHOME), an emerging community development financial institution that provides credit

and financial services to underserved markets and populations.

A nonprofit organization launched in 2012 by Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) and the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Inc., LHOME helps to revitalize low-income communities in Louisville through affordable housing loans.

Together with JFCS' Navigate Enterprise Center, it provides low-interest micro-loans to local refugees. One recent recipient from Somalia purchased a lift-equipped minivan to provide non-emergency medical transportation for Medicaid-reimbursable trips.

LHOME also provides products and services not currently offered at scale in Louisville, such as first and second mortgages, down-payment assistance and closing cost mortgage loans, property tax mortgage loans, home repair, renovation mortgage loans and business micro-loans and credit builder loans.

Shir has been working in the economic empowerment field for 18 years. She was a senior municipal bond analyst at Moody's Investors Service in New York and a senior vice president of marketing at NationsBank in Atlanta.

Shir also directed the marketing efforts of Security First Network Bank, the world's first internet bank. She started up an international internet bank marketing consulting business in 1997, spoke at conferences around the world, and helped banks worldwide launch internet banking services.

In 2000, Shir launched the refugee matched savings program for the Jewish Family and Vocational Service in Louisville. In 2003, she became the director of economic development at the Institute for Social and Economic Development, where she served as the leading provider nationwide of training and technical assistance for refugee economic development programs.

She launched the Kentucky Asset Building Coalition and chaired the Kentucky Coalition for Responsible Lending.

Shir also serves on the executive committee for Bank on Louisville and the Louisville Asset Building Coalition and sits on the city's Resilience Steering Committee. A graduate of Syracuse University and Wesleyan University, Shir lives in Louisville with her husband, Ron, and two teenagers, Miriam and Gabriel.

Internships available for Jewish college students

Jewish Family & Career Services and the Jewish Community of Louisville will again offer paid internships for Jewish college students this summer.

The internships are in a variety of fields, from accounting to theater, connecting interns to their major and career goals.

In addition, JFCS and JCL interns will meet regularly to receive professional development around career and employment issues and learn more about the Louisville Jewish community.

The internship program generally runs for nine weeks and offers full-time positions that come with \$2,500 stipends. Available positions and the application can be found at jfcslouisville.org/edu.

cation-careers/summer-internship/.

Preference is given to applications that are received by March 30. Contact Erin Heakin, JFCS career counselor, at 502-452-6341 ext. 246 or eharkin@jfcslouisville.org for more information.

JCL promotes Gordon-Funk to senior VP



Stacy Gordon-Funk

Stacy Gordon-Funk has been promoted to senior vice president of philanthropy at the Jewish Community of Louisville.

"It is an honor and a true privilege to work in partnership with members of the Jewish community and the community at large

to change and improve lives," Gordon-Funk said. "I'm grateful to assist CEO Sara Wagner in leading an organization that has meant so much to me and my family."

Gordon-Funk has been involved with fundraising for many years. She previously served as president of the Kentucky/Southeast Indiana Chapter of the National MS Society and as director of development and marketing for the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana.

"How fortunate we are to have Stacy leading our philanthropic efforts," Wagner said. "She brings an infectious burst of energy to everything she does. Stacy is driven to help our Jewish community be strong and vibrant."

Around Town

continued from previous page

AJ Passover worship services

Here are the dates and times of Adath Jeshurun's Passover worship services: The Service for the First Born, 7:15 a.m. Friday, March 30, followed by breakfast; the community Passover seder is Friday March 30 (advanced reservations only); first day of Passover, 9:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Saturday, March 31; second day of Passover, 9:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Sunday, April 1; seventh day of Passover, 9:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Friday, April 6; eighth

day of Passover and Yizkor, 9:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Saturday April 7.

KI Passover Seder

Keneseth Israel will hold a community seder on Friday, March 30. Services start at 6 p.m. followed by the seder itself at 7 p.m. Chef Anoosh will cater the meal, which will include brisket, matzah ball soup and a children's menu.

Cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 5-11, free for children 5 and under. Send checks to KI or pay via credit card at tinyurl.com/KISeder. RSVP by March 5.

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B'nai Mitzvah



Zachary Reece Resnik

Zachary Reece Resnik will become a bar mitzvah on Saturday, March 3, at Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

Zachary is the son of Lisa and Peter Resnik and a younger brother of Alex and Eli. His grandparents are Lillian and John Resnik of New Haven, Connecticut, and Suzanne Miars of Wilmington, Ohio.

Zachary is a seventh grader at Sacred Heart Model School and at LBSY. He plays for Falls City club and school soccer teams and volunteers at the Kentucky Science Center. He also has enjoyed Beber Camp in Wisconsin.



Brady Salmon

Brady Salmon will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, March 10, at Temple Shalom.

Brady is the son of Bridgette and Marc Salmon and the younger brother of Aidan Salmon.

His grandparents are Cecile and Fred Salmon of Westbury, New York, and Ann Maddox of Louisville.

Brady is a seventh grader at Kammer Middle School, a member of the AP program, the tennis team, and he plays trumpet in the school band. He has been a member of the Brownsboro Farm Swim Team for nine years.

Brady's mitzvah project includes service to the Kentucky Humane Society.



Carly Faye Schramko

Carly Faye Schramko will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, March 10, at Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

She is the daughter of Mona and Frank Schramko and sister of Bennett and Eli. Her grandparents are Shellie and the late Melvin Benovitz and Dianne and Frank Schramko of Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

Carly is a seventh grader at St. Francis School in Goshen where she plays on the soccer and basketball teams, is a Student Council representative and a member of the We Act Club. She also plays soccer for Ohio Elite. Carly loves spending her summers at Beber Camp.

For her mitzvah project, Carly will donate to the Beber annual campaign. Beber has been a huge part of Carly's summers for the past four years and she wants to help ensure that no camper is denied a summer experience at Beber due to financial need.

Engagements



Daniel Mark and Mallory Linderman

Dr. Martin and Ronna Mark of Louisville, and Jon and Erika Linderman of Springfield, Ohio, and Steven and Patricia Gast of Columbus, Ohio, announce the engagement of their

children, Daniel Mark and Mallory Linderman.

Daniel is a 2014 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree from the College of Business Administration. He is currently completing his MBA at the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University.

Mallory is a 2014 graduate of the University of Dayton and is a 2016 graduate of Chatham University in Pittsburgh, where she earned her doctorate in physical therapy. She is currently working at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The couple plan to be married in 2019.

Obituaries



Dr. S.P. 'Sy' Auerbach

Dr. S.P. "Sy" Auerbach died peacefully at home on Thursday, February 1, shortly before his 98th birthday.

He attended the University of Miami, where he met the love of his life, Minx, and he graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

An orthopedic surgeon and chief of Orthopedics at Kosair Children's Hospital, Sy co-founded the Southeastern Rehabilitation Center in Clarksville, Indiana, where he served as medical director. He also served as president of medical staff at Jewish and Kosair hospitals and at the Louisville Rehabilitation Center.

Devoted to his career, he was an innovator in orthopedic surgical procedures, bringing new techniques from Europe to the United States. He trained doctors in developing countries and received Medico awards for service to underdeveloped nations, including South Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Even after retiring from surgery, Sy continued practicing medicine into his 90s.

He was beloved by his patients, respected by his colleagues and appreciated by the community for his many contributions. His legacy includes endowing the Auerbach School of Occupational Therapy at Spalding University, the Auerbach Chair of Psycho-Oncology and the Minx Auerbach Lecture in Women's & Gender Studies at the University of Louisville.

Sy lived in the moment and always gave others his full attention. He had a great sense of humor that stayed with him until his final days, and a deep appreciation for the arts. He collected and repaired antique clocks from around the world, but he was never on time.

Sy was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Minx Mansbach Auerbach. He is survived by his three children, Penny Auerbach Friedberg (Jean), Keith Auerbach (Lynn Walker), and Robert Auerbach (Pumpkin); six grandchildren, Michael, Alex, Leah, Summer, Star and

Peter; five great-grandchildren; and his dear friend, Pat Golde.

Sy often said that he had lived a full life, had a wonderful family and a fulfilling career. He died with no regrets and at peace with a life well lived.

A memorial service was held Monday, February 5, at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Highway 42. Expressions of sympathy may be directed to The Temple.



Mildred "Mutzie" Friedman

Mildred "Mutzie" Friedman, 91, died Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at Springhurst Health & Rehab.

She was born April 1, 1926, in Cincinnati to the

late Sam and Tobie Wittenbaum.

Mutzie was a co-owner with her husband at Sam Wittenbaum Shoes, a longtime volunteer with Jewish Family & Career Services and with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, a former member of NCJW-Louisville Section and a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband and soul mate of 37 years, Milton Friedman; and her brother, Ivan Wittenbaum.

She is survived by her son and his wife, Steven and Jan Friedman; her daughter, Linda Gillett; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday, February 18, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave., with burial to follow in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Visitation will begin after 1 p.m. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Janet & Sonny Meyer Food Pantry at JFCS or WHAS Crusade for Children.

Caroline B. Goldberg

Caroline B. Goldberg, nee Erlebacher, 74, died Saturday, January 13, 2018, at her home in Skokie, Illinois.

She also was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gordon Goldberg; her mother-in-law, Bernice Kessler; a sister, Andrea Erlebacher; and a sister-in-law, Bellene Kaish. She is survived by her children, Pamela (Steven) Sturt, Amie Goldberg and Jory (Andy) Weissman; her grandchildren, Evan, Matthew, Maia, Jacob and Liam; and her siblings Sandra (Gil) Shifrin. She also was an aunt and friend to many.

Services were held at Chicago Jewish Funerals, 8851 Skokie Blvd. Interment followed in Westlawn. Arrangements were by Chicago Jewish Funerals.

Rose Streicher Kupp

Rose Streicher Kupp, 98, formerly of Louisville, died Tuesday, January 23, 2018, in Loveland, Ohio.

She was born in Louisville on March 24, 1919, to the late Alexander and Rachel "Ray" Bernzweig Streicher.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Nathan Kupp.

She is survived by her two daughters, Marsha Bugalla and Sharon Kaplan.

Graveside services were held Friday, January 26, at Anshei Sfard Cemetery, 721 Locust Lane. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Congregation Anshei Sfard, Jewish Family & Career Services Food Pantry or the donor's favorite charity.

Marian Levitan Lerner

Marian Levitan Lerner, 84, passed away Thursday, February 8, 2018.

See **OBITUARIES** on next page



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Obituaries

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She was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, a member of B'nai Brith and a volunteer for Jewish Hospital. A lifetime member of Hadassah, she served as program and luncheon vice president for 17

years. She will be remembered for her wonderful sense of humor and the many skits and songs she wrote for Hadassah, AJ and bridal and baby showers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leon "Mickey" and Tessye Levitan; and her husband, Edwin "Eddie" Lerner.

She is survived by her sons, James and Grant Lerner; her brother, Alan Levitan (Janet); and many nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Sunday, February 11, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may go to the donor's favorite charity.



Judith Greenfield Marks

Judith Greenfield Marks, 90, passed away Saturday, February 10, 2018, at Episcopal Church Home.

Born September 16, 1927, in New York City, a daughter of the late Ju-

lien and Shirley Greenfield, Judy was a beautiful woman who spent most of her life volunteering her time to make her community a better place to live, and helping her husband at Allied Sporting Goods.

Politically active, she was state president of the League of Women Voters, bringing the first presidential debate to Louisville in 1984, and she and ran several political campaigns.

She volunteered with the criminal justice system and organized Family and Friends United for Hope, which supported the families of inmates.

She also was past president of local PTAs, a member of The Temple and a board member of the NCJW-Louisville Section, JCC and Hadassah.

In addition to her parents; her husband, Samuel Marks, and a son, Gregory Marks, preceded her in death.

Judy is survived by her sons, Michael Marks (Joanne) and Harry Marks; her

daughter-in-law, Lorna Marks; her sister, Carol Behr; her grandchildren, Lauren Marks (Doug), Caryn Marks (Marc), Michelle Marks, Abigail Reed (Ian), Nicole Marks, Justin Marks and Kyle Rodgers; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 14, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Jewish Community Center or the donor's favorite charity.

Zakhar Milzon

Zakhar Milzon, 90, died Saturday, February 3, 2018, at his residence.

Born in Ukraine, on November 15, 1927, son of the late Matvey and Sarah Milzon, Zakhar worked in communications. After retiring from the Soviet army, he worked in civil engineering until he fully retired.

He was a member of The Temple.

Zakhar was a champion billiards player, a loving and friendly man and well known within Shalom Towers as very active. He could light up a room. His presence will be missed.

He is survived by his loving wife, Valentina; his daughter, Lana Shchukin (Aleksey); his son, Gennady Milzon (Alla); his brother, Ilya Milzon of Sarasota, Florida; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 6, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the donor's favorite charity.



Renee Ruth Rothschild

Renee Ruth Rothschild, 98, died Saturday, January 27, 2018 at her home.

A native of Kehl, Germany, Rothschild was born November 5, 1919, to Heinrich and Elsa Bodenheimer. She

was a Holocaust survivor, rescued by her then-fiance, John Rothschild, in 1942. They escaped to Switzerland where they lived until they were married on December 5, 1942. They moved to America in 1951.

Rothschild was an original faculty member of Oakland University, and subsequently Oakland Community College, near Detroit, where she became head of the Department of Foreign Languages. She received her master's degree in ro-

mance languages from Wayne State University in 1965 and retired in 1990.

In 2003, the couple moved to Louisville to be near family. Rothschild was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

In addition to her husband of 75 years, Rothschild is survived by her children, Dr. Armand Rothschild (Marylee) and Sylvia Kerpel (Michael); her grandsons, Dr. Daniel Rothschild, Nathan Rothschild, Martin Kerpel and David Kerpel; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, January 29, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the John and Renee Rothschild Siddurim Fund at Congregation Adath Jeshurun.



Norma Jean Seidman

Norma Jean Seidman, 96, died Monday, January 22, 2018.

Born August 3, 1921, the daughter of the late Harry and Lena Cohen of Louisville, Norman Jean was active in

Girls Scouts when her daughters were young. She volunteered for National Council of Jewish Women, Home of the Innocents, and the Brandeis National Committee.

Her only career, which she loved, was as a Nanny in Drs. Roth, Lehighy, Katz, Abrams, Belza's pediatric practice in the '90s, assisting patients and their families during their office visits.

She was the beloved wife of Leon Seidman for 46 years until his death in 1987. She also was preceded in death by her sister, Dorothy Munich, and her brother, Norton Cohen.

She lived for her family. Her husband and children were the center of her world.

She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law she considered her son, Nancy Rappaport, Chicago; Bonnie and John Roth, Louisville; her three grandsons, David (Sofija) Roth, Honolulu, Andrew Rappaport, San Diego; Mark (Melissa) Roth, Louisville; two great-granddaughters, Lila and Alexandra Roth.

She so appreciated the constant love and attention she received from her nieces and nephews in Louisville, Sedona, New York City, and Los Angeles.

Mother was loved by all who knew her. Special thanks to her caregivers: Karen Jeffries, Carmelita's Care and her women: Jetta Cunningham and Shulonda

Rowan. And Dr. Jane Cornett & the Hospasur team.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 24, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Donations can be made to The Temple, Jewish Family & Career Services' Lillian Seligman Forum Series or the charity of the giver's choice.



Vivian Sohn Slosberg

Vivian Slosberg, 88, died Sunday, February 4, 2018, at the Nazareth Home.

Born in New York City on September 26, 1929, Vivian worked at Universal Match in

Cleveland followed by over 30 years as a volunteer at University Hospital, visiting with cancer patients and their families.

She was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and Park Synagogue in Cleveland, and loved her family, travel and playing card games.

Vivian was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Chester B. Slosberg.

She is survived by her son, Rabbi Robert Slosberg (Deborah), Karl Slosberg (Meredith) and Beth Slosberg (Larry Widem); seven grandchildren, Aliza Weinstock (Stuart), Benjamin Slosberg (Tanya), Jacob Slosberg, Rachel Coolidge (Matt), Dr. Jeremy Slosberg, Samuel Widem and Gabriel Widem and one great-grandchild, David Weinstock.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 7, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Chester B. Slosberg Memorial Sukkah Fund at Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

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Poland

continued from page 1

Holocaust Memorial Museum and other organizations and religious groups.

The law's passage has generated a current of anti-Semitic rhetoric in the Polish media. One advisor to President Duda chided Israel for having a "feeling of shame at the passivity of the Jews during the Holocaust," the Associated Press reported.

Gur, though, is not concerned about the safety of the group she will lead to Poland this summer.

"It's not like there's a KGB walking with us, listening to everything we're saying," she said, adding, "I feel very safe in Poland."

She wasn't so clear on how the law might affect Howard Chandler, a Holocaust survivor from Starachowice, Poland, who today lives in Canada. Chandler, 89, accompanies Gur on her trips, retelling his story of survival and offering background at sites the group visits.

At Auschwitz-Birkenau, Chandler stands up in the barracks, speaking for as long as an hour about his experience in the camp. Tourists typically stop, listening intently to what he says.

He may not be able to give that speech this summer—at least, not at Auschwitz.

"I have to learn more about Howard," Gur said. "It (Auschwitz) might not be the place to tell the story. But we're not changing the curriculum, because this IS the story."

Chandler, who is currently in Florida, texted *Community*, saying he is "not afraid" when he "speaks the truth."



Dr. Zipora "Tsippy" Gur

who want to learn about the Holocaust through the lenses of tolerance and acceptance.

The organization has brought more than 500 educators from public, private and parochial schools to Poland, Germany, Greece, Israel and Spain.

Gur, a professional educator for more than 30 years, received the Shazar Award for Excellence in Jewish Education in 1993 from the Jewish Education Institute. It was presented by the then-President of Israel, Chaim Herzog.

Gur said she's committed to inspiring teachers and giving them new tools to teach this period of history.

"Teachers can change a generation," she said.

Ron Skillern, the 2017 Kentucky Teacher of the Year who teaches Holocaust studies at Western Kentucky University's VAMPY program, also showed little apprehension about going to Poland this summer.

"You do have a little concern about security, but that's not at the forefront," he said. "I'm going [to Poland] to learn, and there has never been a more important time to do this work."

Founded in 2011, in association with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Classrooms Without Borders is a nonprofit organization that offers "experiential education" to teachers, students and others

Forman

continued from page 1

a dry, irrelevant topic. Unless the subject is made meaningful to their own lives, Forman said they may dismiss it.

• Build coalitions: The Jews cannot deal with anti-Semitism alone. Coalitions of government, other ethnic groups and society in general are needed.

Taking these steps isn't easy, Forman said. Sometimes it means letting go of long-held perceptions of the problem when facts refute them.

It also involves brutal honesty, he added. For instance, Jewish terrorists are not killing Muslims, but a small minority within the Muslim world has targeted Jews.

"You cannot stigmatize a whole people for the actions of a minority," he said, "but you have to acknowledge it, or you're not dealing with the problem."

Forman graduated Magna Cum Laude in government from Harvard University

and received a master's of business administration from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

He worked for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee as a legislative liaison from 1977 to 1981 before becoming executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council—a position he held for 15 years.

He was the Jewish outreach director for the Obama for America campaign from 2011 to 2012 before moving to the State Department. Today, Forman is a senior fellow at the Center for Jewish Civilization, School of Foreign Service, at Georgetown University.

The position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism has existed in the federal government since 2004, Forman said. He considers it a great opportunity of his career to be named to the post, which he held from 2013 to 2017.

"It was a great, great job," he said.

Poland's PM: some Jews collaborated with Nazis

By Cnaan Liphshiz
JTA

The row between Poland and Israel about the Holocaust reached new heights after Poland's prime minister said that the genocide had not only Polish, Ukrainian and German perpetrators, but Jewish ones as well.

Addressing a new law that criminalizes blaming Poland for Nazi crimes, Mateusz Morawiecki said in an interview Saturday, February 17, that the law's effects would not be as sweeping as its critics complain.

"It's not going to be seen as criminal to say that there were Polish perpetrators, as there were Jewish perpetrators, as there were Ukrainian; not only German perpetrators," he said.

If his statement was meant to soothe the law's critics, then Morawiecki failed spectacularly.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the remark "outrageous."

"There is a problem here of an inability to understand history and a lack of sensitivity to the tragedy of our people," the Israeli leader

said.


What Morawiecki said is technically accurate, but historically unfair in light of the specific nature of the Nazi persecution of Jews, according to scholars who have studied the dozens of indictments brought forward in Israel against Nazi collaborators.

Rivka Brot, a fellow at Bar-Ilan University's Center for Jewish and Democratic Law, wrote her doctoral thesis on the prosecution of Jewish collaborators by Jewish tribunals in transit camps in Europe after World War II, and later in the State of Israel.

None of the trials ended with a sentence longer than 18 months in prison.

Brot said the offensive element in Morawiecki's remark is that he mentioned Jews who collaborated with the Germans alongside Polish collaborators.

"Any comparison between Jewish collaborators and Polish ones is false," she said. "The Jewish prisoners who collaborated did so under the immediate threat of death." Poles, Brot added, suffered a lot under the Nazis, "but most were not subjected to the same circumstances as Jews destined for annihilation."



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