

# JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



**INSIDE**  
Japanese envoy's  
courage recalled  
on Yom HaShoah  
**STORY ON PG. 19**

**FRIDAY** Vol. 45, No. 04 | April 26, 2019 | 21 Nisan 5779

## It's about community

### JCL announces \$40 million capital campaign; JHFE commits \$15 million match and \$10 million cornerstone gift

By Community staff

The Jewish Community of Louisville, at an April 11 media event, announced its "Our Community, Our Future" capital campaign to finance construction of a new J at the back end of its Dutchmans Lane campus, and to thank the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence (JHFE) for its "transformational" gift to the \$40 million project.

JHFE is giving \$10 million cornerstone gift to the campaign plus a \$15 million matching grant, putting the campaign more than halfway towards its goal and a possible ground breaking by the end of the year.

The grant will match, dollar for dollar, gifts up to \$15 million.

"That is 15 plus 15 plus 10 equals \$40 million," JCL Board Chair Jon Fleischaker stated, punctuating just how close the gift gets the campaign to its goal.

The proposed J will be a modern 106,000-square-foot building, with an 80,000-square-foot footprint, and a big, blue "J" – the center's new brand – affixed outside at the main entrance.

It will include a proposed 12,000-square-foot indoor recreational pool and swimming facility, enhanced security features and an expanded early learning center.

The Federation and Jewish Community Relations Council, which are housed in the current J, will be in the new one,



An artist's rendering of the entrance to the future J, which will be constructed at the back of the Dutchmans Lane campus. Groundbreaking for the facility could take place by the end of the year if the funding is in place.

too.

JCL President and CEO Sara Klein Wagner said the current facility has reached the end of its lifespan.

"It was built well, and it has served us well," she said, "but we also realized a couple years ago that it's not the building to take us into the future. We decided that it's time to pick ourselves up and move to the back of our property."

The new J will be a flexible facility, Fleischaker said, something that future generations can tweak and modify to fit

their needs.

"This will be an evolving project," he said. "It's going to evolve long after those of us who started it are no longer here."

Linda Schuster, chair of the JHFE board, said the project "will change the face of the Jewish community of Louisville and the greater community at large."

She described the J as the "nucleus" of Jewish Louisville.

See **FUTURE** on page 27

## Free-will dues model yields success in local experiment

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Facing declining membership, Louisville synagogues are joining others nationwide in modifying their dues models, or at least considering it, to make themselves more appealing to younger members.

The Temple has been experimenting with "free-will" financial commitments, a pay-what-you-want model for families under 40, through which people in that age group simply declare their own dues level without explanation.

The four-year-old model, which the board will review this summer, has brought in 28 new families, according to The Temple.

Across town, Adath Jeshurun has suspended dues altogether for people ages 29 and under. Rabbi Robert Slosberg said the program has also attracted new families.

Other congregations have reviewed their dues models, though all the synagogues welcome worshippers regardless of their ability to pay.

Synagogues everywhere are exploring ways to remain sustainable by tweaking their dues models – for many, their principal source of revenue.

Corey Buckman, membership chair for The Temple, said the free-will model dispenses with the so-called "abatement" process in which families who can't afford the stated dues meet with synagogue leaders to discuss their finances and what they can afford – a process that turns off many younger families.

"It always felt like an uncomfortable conversation," the 32-year-old Buckman said. "The expectation was that you had to explain why you couldn't, or wouldn't, pay the full amount, which is a deterrent for a lot of people, young and old."

Abatement also can feel foreign to the non-Jewish spouse in an interfaith marriage.

"We have actually had a lot of non-Jewish spouses ask the question, especially when joining, 'Why do I have to tell you I'm paying anything,' because that's just not the church model," said Buckman, who is in an interfaith marriage. "They didn't grow up that way, [so] they're challenging a system that our tradition has always accepted."

While the traditional dues model is still used by most congregations, cracks are appearing.

See **DUES** on page 27

## 'Let it be in Louisville' Cantors' convention to showcase city's best Jewish talent

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Cantor David Lipp wants to showcase Jewish Louisville for his colleagues when they converge on the city next month for the 72nd Cantors Assembly Convention.

*Lu Y'hi B'Louisville* (Let it be in Louisville) is the theme of the international gathering from May 19 to 23. About 130 cantors are expected to attend the convention, where Lipp will be installed as their next president. He will serve a two-year term.

The Cantors Assembly is the professional organization for the Conservative/Masorti cantorate. It has about 600 members around the world.

The gathering, which will include some of the best-known clerics in the

Conservative cantorate, will be treated to some of the best local Jewish talent.

"I wanted to try to pull out things that we do in Louisville that you just can't get anywhere else," said Lipp, who is taking a lead role in planning the convention.

Here's the litany of local Jewish, musicians, writers, clerics and performers:

- Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer will deliver a welcoming address;
- Cantor Sharon Hordes will perform a show of Ladino music;
- Michael Fraade will speak about his JOFEE fellowship;
- Rabbi Robert Slosberg will address the challenges of Masorti Judaism in Israel;
- Rob Amchin will teach two education track sessions to explore a Chelm story and the Holocaust poem, *I Never*

*Saw Another; Butterfly.*

- Jonathan Lippman will read a short story he wrote for the occasion; Bob Sachs also will read one of his pieces;

- Yehuda Husband will teach an education track session on making your own animated film;

- Fred Whittaker will describe his long fight to make Holocaust education mandatory in Kentucky public schools;

- Hordes and her predecessor, Cantor Paula Pepperstone, will perform together;

- Lost Tribe, the local klezmer band, will perform;

- The Voces Novae choir will sing at a concert featuring cantorial students

See **CANTORS** on page 27



# THE DASHBOARD

## D'var Torah Serving God by serving others



Rabbi  
Stanley R.  
Miles

As you read this issue of *Community*, you find yourself on a spiritual and historic journey of the Jewish people.

We move in time from Pesach (Passover) Zman Heruteinu (Our season of freedom) to Shavuot, recalling receiving the Ten Commandments from G-d on Mount Sinai.

What an experience it must have been for our ancestors; seven weeks making up for 430 years lost in the mire and tragedy of slavery in Egypt.

Were we truly ready for those incredible changes? Obviously, we were not, as we reverted to worshipping that Golden Calf. Are we indeed ready now? I wonder.

Passover is a no brainer. More Jews celebrate Passover than any other Jewish holiday. The message of freedom constantly resonates with us at our seders and beyond. But what about that festival seven weeks after Passover, Shavuot, our festival of weeks, when we celebrate the revelation at Sinai and our acceptance of Torah?

Shavuot is almost lost. This year, the festival falls about as late as it can – June 8-10. Lacking the customs and rituals, unlike other holidays, Reform Judaism transformed Shavuot into a time for confirmation of teens, a religious school graduation. Up through the 1960s, most Reform congregations were SRO for the service, equaling attendance for the High Holy Days. But as bar and bat mitzvah became more popular, enthusiasm for confirmation waned.

Then another event, the Tikkun Leil Shavuot, breathed new life into Shavuot observance around the world. Tikkun Leil Shavuot is a marathon study session at the beginning of the festival. Louisville Jewry should be proud. Every congregation offers a different study experience.

The events are lively. The attendance ... could always be better.

What can be done to solve this problem? How can we, as individuals and a community, meaningfully complete this path from freedom to revelation? I believe an answer may be found in a Torah Portion we encounter the week of May 4-11. It is Kedoshim (Leviticus 19:1-20:27); aka the Holiness Code. As free Jews, we must understand how to behave and what our responsibilities are. This code answers these questions for us, both as individuals and community members.

We begin with a challenge: “Holy shall you be for I, Adonai your G-d, am holy.” Holy means behaving in such a manner as we imitate G-d; truly a tall order.

What is holiness, according to Leviticus? It is many things, beginning with respecting one’s parents and continuing with how we treat those less fortunate than us. This is a slippery slope. We must help the misfortunate without ever embarrassing them.

Some aspects of holiness come across as somewhat peculiar. “Do not place a stumbling block in front of a blind person?” Only a cretin – a sadist – would do such a thing. The rabbis, of course, don’t take these words literally. To them, it’s all about the people who trust you. If they ask your opinion, do not dare to give them incorrect advice. In following it, they may trip and fall.

By the end of the 19th chapter of Leviticus, there are words that define holiness, and always will: “You must love the stranger as yourself...”

The Torah doesn’t stop there; it explains why: “for you were strangers in the land of Egypt...”

It is easy to love family and friends, not so much to love that stranger, a person totally different from us. Where shall we begin?

What is holiness for us? It is empathy in our thoughts and, more importantly, our deeds.

*(Stanley R. Miles is rabbi emeritus of Temple Shalom and the chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council.)*

## Yarmuth accepts Ottenheimer prize



(Above) U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth embraces his son Aaron, who introduced him during an April 16 Jewish Community of Louisville reception at Mesh, where the congressman accepted the 2018 Blanche B. Ottenheimer Award. Yarmuth was unable to attend last year’s awards ceremony. (Below) Yarmuth poses with JCL Chair Jon Fleischaker, who presented the honor. The Ottenheimer Award recognizes leading figures in civic life. (Community photos by Tara Cocco.)

## Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in May:

- May 3 @ 8:18
- May 10 @ 8:24
- May 17 @ 8:31
- May 24 @ 8:36
- May 31 @ 8:42

## Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community Editor* Lee Chottiner at [lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org). You can also call Lee at 502-238-2783.

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscription on hold? Development Associate

Kristy Benefield can handle all circulation questions. She can be reached at [kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org) or 502-238-2770.

Got an item for the Community eblast? Send it to [weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org).

## Deadlines

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Got a news item for Community? Send it in by Wednesday, May 15 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Friday, May 24.

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

## Corrections

- Attendance at this year’s AJ Music Festival was about 200. An incorrect figure appeared in the March 22 story, “Randy Herman owns crowd at AJ Music Festival, prelude to May concert.”

- Bill Friedlander is the late husband of Mitzi Friedlander. His name was given incorrectly in a March 22 newsmaker item.

- Due to a production error, the wrong column for Sara Klein Wagner appeared in the March 22 edition. The correct column appears online and on Community’s Facebook page.

Have a correction? Send it to [lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org).

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## NEWS

## Jews in Cambodia

## East Asian Jewry on the rise, WUPJ president says during Louisville visit

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Jews who attended a recent conference of Asian congregations in Singapore came from some exotic places – including Phnom Penh.

That's right, there are Jews in Cambodia – a place better known for the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge.

Today, Phnom Penh, its capital, is yet another of the growing business centers in Asia, and a chavurah of nine regulars, plus tourists and visiting businessmen, meet in someone's apartment for services.

They are a sign, said Rabbi Daniel Freeland, that something is happening in that part of the world: Jews are moving there and putting down roots.

"We have 10 times more Jews in Asia now than we did 20 years ago," said Freeland, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, which represents 1.8 million Reform and Progressive Jews around the globe. "The economy is booming in all these places; businesses are booming. Therefore, Jews are moving there."

Progressive Jewish communities, large and small, are established in Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Singapore, Bali, Myanmar, and Phnom Penh.

While Freeland can't say if Asia will become a center of Jewish life in the 21st century, "I know that the Jewish demography of the world will look different than it does now."

He also knows that Jews move. They always have, and they always will.

Freeland, 67, brought this message to Louisville as a scholar-in-residence for The Temple and Temple Shalom from April 5 to 7.

He highlighted burgeoning Jewish communities elsewhere, including Spain, Portugal and Germany – all scenes of historic Jewish genocide.

He also described a bizarre trend in Eastern Europe where Poles and Czechs, with no Jewish ancestry, in countries with surging anti-Semitism, are converting to Judaism.

"I just can't explain why; I have no theories behind it, but it's a fact," Freeland said. "There's a curiosity about Judaism; they teach Judaism in the universities; people study Bible and Jewish texts and at some point, they decide they want to convert."

Freeland sometimes gets pushback from prospective donors, shocked that the WUPJ nurtures Jewish life in the lands of the Holocaust and Inquisition. But he tells them it's not his place to say where Jews ought to live.

"We have an obligation to help support them, to have their own strong Jewish community, their own strong congregations."

Support means providing these communities the resources they need to thrive.

For instance, Freeland, in his sixth year as WUPJ president, has built a network of progressive seminaries to train rabbis where communities are taking hold. Rabbinical schools now exist in Russia, Germany, Great Britain and Argentina.

Dropping American-trained rabbis in far-flung communities just doesn't work, he said. Neither does bringing students from other lands to American seminaries. After ordination, they just don't go

back.

"If you want rabbis in Europe, you have to train rabbis in Europe," Freeland said. "You can't take English speakers, drop them in and hope that they'll learn the language because you need to know the culture."

He also is encouraging North American congregations with more Torah scrolls than they need to send some to emerging congregations on permanent loan.

"There are enough usable Torahs in the world; they're just not in the right places," Freeland said. "There are too many significant size congregations with multiple Torah scrolls and there's too many small groups that don't have or can't afford a Torah scroll, so we try to nudge our healthy and wealthy North American congregations in places in other parts of the world to share the wealth."

The WUPJ has its own camping network and young adult movement. It supports Zionist youth groups, though it stops short of pushing Jews in Europe, Asia, South Africa or South America to make aliyah.

"We have to be careful not to suggest that aliyah is the optimal fulfillment of a Jewish life," he said.

He also cited the need to train lay leaders around the world.

Founded in 1926 in London, the WUPJ



Rabbi Daniel Freeland, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, greeted by Temple Shalom Rabbi Emeritus Stan Miles following Freeland's talk on Friday, April 5. (photo by Richard Goldwin)

represents Progressive congregations in Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, St. Thomas, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine,

United Kingdom and the United States.

Asked how Jews in other lands see American Jews, Freeland said, "there's a great deal of jealousy" of the resources Reform congregations here have, including synagogues, seminaries, endowment funds and political clout.

In many parts of the world, he said Reform/ Progressive Jews are in the minority and are dependent on government funds, often controlled by Orthodox Jews, for their support.

"You're a minority within a minority," he said. "They feel sometimes oppressed or ignored or undervalued."

But he said American Jews are "by and large oblivious," to the co-religionists abroad.

"American Jews really see Jewish communities in Europe or around the world the same way they look at their own community," Freeland said. "They try to compare apple and apples and its apple and oranges."

Security, for instance.

"Until Pittsburgh, we didn't have very tight security in our congregations here, but American Jews will go to France or will go to Belgium or will go to some place in Italy or Germany, and won't be able to get in because they didn't call in advance or they don't have their passport with them," he said. "The whole security

See **FREELANDER** on page 21

## Conspiracy of Kindness

HOW ONE MAN'S BRAVE DECISION SAVED MANY LIVES



May 1, 2019 | 7:00 pm

Temple Shalom | 4615 Lowe Road, Louisville, Ky 40220

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For more information contact Matthew L. Goldberg at 502-238-2707 or [mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org)



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## NEWS

## ‘Mosaic of many colors’

## JFCS announces 2019 MOSAIC Award honorees; annual dinner slated

By Beverly Bromley  
For Community

A technology entrepreneur, professional violinist and music teacher, healthcare professional and community leader, social entrepreneur and women's advocate, and a journalist who chronicled the 60's through the prism of the Holocaust will be recipients of the 2019 Mosaic Awards.

These five individuals, who have made their marks in Louisville, will be recognized during the annual awards dinner on Thursday, May 23, at the downtown Marriott Hotel.

The fundraising event, which benefits Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS), honors international Americans who have made significant contributions in their professions locally and globally.

"JFCS was founded to assist newcomers to Louisville, and this event honors its original mission," said CEO Deb Frockt. "To date, the event has recognized 67 international Americans who make our community a richer and more interesting city, creating a mosaic of many colors and perspectives."

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

"Many new businesses only have a small budget for marketing," said Navigate Director Cynthia Brown. "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."

Here is an introduction to this year's MOSAIC recipients:

**Purna Veer (India)**

A nationally recognized entrepreneur and business leader, Veer runs V-Soft Consulting Group Inc., a software company started in 1997. It is one of the fastest growing tech companies in America with more than 1,000 employees in 42 states. V-Soft fills talent gaps by identify-



ing resources and placing them in positions businesses need to fill for critical projects. In 2018, V-Soft broke ground on a \$10.5 million headquarters in Jefferson County.

An active community volunteer, Purna decided in 2017 to bring foods from India to his hometown. Tandoori Fusion, on Chamberlain Lane, offers fresh flavors from his own farm, Veering Creek, with the belief that people should eat well, eat local and enjoy new flavors.

**James Racine (Haiti)**

Racine is a professional performer who has hosted events called "Books and Barbershops," where young black men receive mentoring from professionals within his network. He is taking the project national, holding web training for professional men across America.



A music teacher at Kentucky Country Day, Racine has grown the strings program from a handful of interested students to a program with more than 100 performers from all three schools. He established the Blazin' Strings Academy, allowing children from underserved communities to learn to play a string instrument at no cost.

As a professional violinist, he has performed with the likes of Gerald Albright and Chaka Khan. He has served as an artist in residence at Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

**Keisha Deonarine (Trinidad & Tobago)**

As the senior community health director for the American Heart Association and the economic development manager for Louisville Forward, Deonarine has studied the inner



workings of healthcare for six years. With her work in economic development, she has attracted businesses in the healthcare sector to grow the local economy.

She is the inaugural executive director of the Passport Foundation, focusing on developing programs beyond clinical care that improve social determinants of health for people in underserved and low-income communities. Deonarine has traveled across the country, touting the positive impact healthy communities have on workforce and economic development.

**Surekha Kulkarni (India)**

Founder and executive director of the nonprofit Beaded Treasures Project (BTP), Kulkarni is a social entrepreneur, jewelry artist and award-winning advocate for disadvantaged women in Louisville. Under her leadership, BTP has trained 300 such women, giving them the tools and resources to overcome barriers to success.



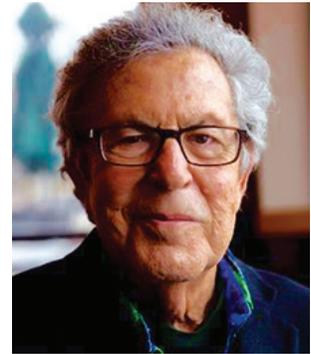
Using a micro credit approach to entrepreneurship, BTP trains women in jewelry making, home-based skills and basic financial literacy. Its twofold objective is to teach a crafting skill and to use art-making as a medium of empowerment.

Kulkarni co-chairs Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at Imagine 2020. She has received the Bell Award from WLKY and the Pyramid Award from CNPE. She also was honored as one of the Women of Distinction by the Center for Women & Families and one of the Daughters of Greatness by the Muhammed Ali Center.

**Fred Gross (Belgium)**

A journalist, Gross spent much of his career covering social unrest during the '60s and '70s. Gross's perspective differed from his colleagues in that he viewed the upheaval through the lens of a Holocaust survivor.

His book, *One Step Ahead of Hitler: A Jewish Child's Journey through France*, describes the tragedy and suffering of



his family's flight from Belgium through France, Switzerland and back to Belgium before immigrating to the United States. It was from this vantage

point that Gross told the stories of individuals that would have otherwise been lost.

Gross worked for 13 years to pass legislation to mandate Holocaust education in Kentucky public schools.

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is the title sponsor of the MOSAIC awards; WLKY 32, the media sponsor. Additional major sponsors are Heaven Hill Brands and Kindred Healthcare. Ellen and Judy Shapira are chairing this year's event committee.

**Want to go?**

Tickets to the MOSAIC dinner are \$150 per person; table sponsorships begin at \$2,000. Contact Beverly Bromley, JFCS director of development, at 502-452-6341, ext. 223 or [mosiac@jfcsloville.org](mailto:mosiac@jfcsloville.org).

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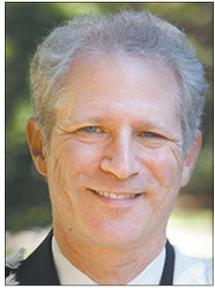
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# NEWS

## Lipp to promote residencies to match Cantors, congregations during term

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor



Cantor David Lipp

David Lipp hopes to raise the profile of the Conservative cantorate during his two-year term as president of the Cantors Assembly (CA).

"I can't tell you how many times in this city people say, 'I just don't know what a cantor is,'" Lipp lamented. "Usually, if I perform anywhere where I

haven't been before I usually almost always have to explain what I am and what I do."

Lipp, who will be installed in May during the CA Convention in Louisville, plans to address the problem with two projects:

First, he wants to create a hazzan-in-residence program, enabling cantors to visit synagogues that don't have one. The CA would partially subsidize the residencies; Lipp has already established a restricted fund that would pay perhaps \$500 per visit.

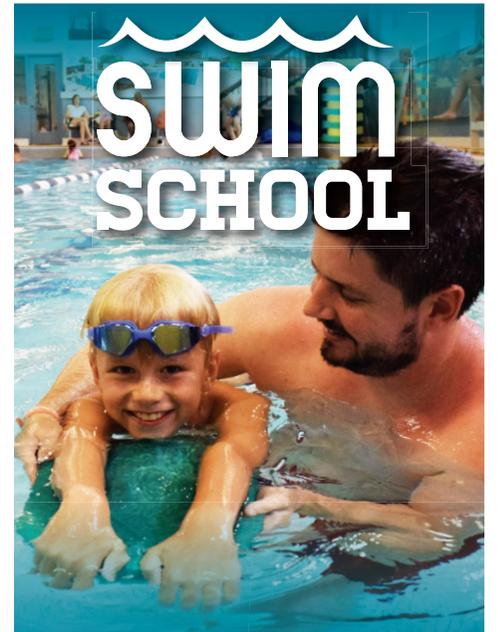
Second, he will "exhort" cantors to "invest in themselves" by taking up a new instrument, more voice lessons – some-

thing that would enhance their work.

He hopes to recruit colleagues to help raise money for the residency fund and establish guidelines for its use.

Of the 600 members in the CA, he said about 315 are fully employed. The rest are either retired, underemployed, unemployed, working in another field or still in the process of becoming full CA members.

"There are too many large synagogues that could afford a cantor that don't have one, and that bothers me," Lipp said. "I want my colleagues to be well employed, to have a chance to actually share that which they have to share, the gifts they have to share."



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## London Mayor Sadiq Khan joining Jewish Labour movement; protests anti-Semitism

By Marcy Oster  
JTA



Mayor Sadiq Khan

The Muslim mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, joined the Jewish Labour Movement as an associate member in solidarity with British Jews.

In a statement last week, Khan called on his colleagues in the Labour Party to follow suit and said he took the action to demonstrate "support and appreciation" for British Jews.

"There's no question, in my mind, that the Labour Party has been far too slow

at stamping out appalling anti-Semitism by some party members and supporters," Khan said.

Khan has spoken out against anti-Semitism in the party in recent years, and condemned the party's lack of action, according to the London-based Jewish Chronicle.

"I know it's been an extremely difficult time for members of the Jewish Labour Movement. Like me, the vast majority of those within the party are devastated by how let down the Jewish community and Jewish Labour members are feeling," Kahn said. "That's why it's so important that we come together across the Labour movement to do whatever we can to make Jewish people feel at home in our party once again."

Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced in a video mes-

sage posted on Twitter at the beginning of the month that he had joined the Jewish Labour Movement in solidarity with British Jewry.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn has been accused of allowing anti-Semitism to grow among many thousands of supporters who joined the party in support of his policies. He has denied the accusation, vowing to punish hate speech promoters.

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## NEWS

## The next president of Uganda? Rabbi Sizomu makes aspirations known in Louisville visit

By Michael Ginsberg  
For Community

Rabbi Gershom Sizomu carries an impressive resume for a citizen of Uganda, one of the world's poorest countries and best associated with a brutal dictator.

Known to authorities in Uganda as "the short, stubborn one" (by his own account), Sizomu can boast the following:

- He is the first native-born black rabbi in Sub-Saharan Africa and the first-ever chief rabbi for Uganda's 2,000 Jews.

- He raised money to build a health center in his home city of Mbale, serving his Conservative Jewish community as well as Muslims and Christians. He says Typhoid fever and Malaria have now been eliminated.

- He plays guitar and sings on the 2005 album, *Abayudaya: Music from the Jewish People of Uganda*, which was nominated for a Grammy award.

- He was elected to Uganda's parliament in 2016, the first Jew to serve and the first member allowed to wear a hat, his kippah.

In the future, Sizomu may add another item to his resume: He plans to run for president of Uganda.

"We (Jews) feel very, very much accepted," Sizomu has said. "Otherwise, a Christian would not cast their vote for a man who is a rabbi and who wears a kippah. Muslims and Christians cast their vote in my favor and that was a vote for



Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, the chief rabbi of Uganda and a spiritual leader of the Abayudaya, visited Louisville on Sunday, April 7, where he addressed an audience at Adath Jeshurun. (photo by Jerome Wolff)

the Jewish people."

Sizomu, 50, spoke at Adath Jeshurun on Sunday, April 7, during a visit to Louisville.

Unabashedly proud of his accomplishments, Sizomu noted that if he's elected president, he would be the world's first head of state with the dual titles, "president" and "moyl."

He quipped to the crowd about how

willing he was to perform the duties of moyl while in town, "so I can make some money to bring back to Uganda."

There were no takers at AJ, but the money part is no joke. Ugandan Jews, called Abayudaya, ("People of Judah), like most Ugandans, live in poverty. Famine, drought and two-mile hikes for water are harsh realities in his homeland.

But living conditions do not erase the proud history of the Abayudaya community.

Judaism arrived in Uganda in 1903, when a Christian missionary committed himself to worship by the Old Testament, circumcised himself and brought up his family as Jews. The Abayudaya community formed in 1919 and will celebrate its centennial in June.

In a historical footnote, the Sixth Zionist Congress, meeting in Switzerland in 1903, briefly considered Uganda as an alternative to Palestine as a Jewish homeland.

The murderous reign of Idi Amin (1971-1979) was a brutal time for Uganda, Sizomu said, particularly its South Asian merchant class (largely Indian), which was forced to leave, and the Jews who were threatened with death if they continued to practice their religion. Brisces were performed in the bushes to avoid detection. Sizomu was among those circumcised in hiding.

The 1976 Israeli raid on Entebbe's air

See **SIZOMU** on page 11

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### EDITORIAL STAFF

#### Lee Chottiner

Editor

502-238-2783, [lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Kristy Benefield

Community Subscriptions

502-238-2739, [kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Angie Rose

VP of Communications

502-238-2703, [arose@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:arose@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Tara Cocco

Marketing Director

502-238-2750, [tcocco@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:tcocco@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Corey Wallace

Sr. Graphic Designer & Web Manager

502-238-2778, [cwallace@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:cwallace@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Shiela Steinman Wallace

Editor Emeritus

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## FORUM



## Will Judaism be ready for Jewdroids?

A story just broke at Tel Aviv University that could someday change how Jews see and define themselves. TAU announced on April 15 that researchers there had 3D-printed a heart.

"This is the first time anyone anywhere has successfully engineered and printed an entire heart complete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers," Tal Dvir, a professor in the TAU Department of Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology and the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, told *Haaretz*.

Yes, 3D-printing is pretty cool. Basically, it is the process of making three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file. The process involves laying down successive layers of material until the object is created.

All kinds of stuff can be made this way. Guns have been 3D-printed, acoustic guitars, camera lenses, looms, shoes and clothing, even a 3D fetal model of an unborn child.

But a heart?

To be sure, the TAU heart is far from functional. The size of a rabbit's heart, it doesn't beat – yet – so it can't pump blood. But it was made with human fatty tissue – the "ink" as it were. In theory, a working, human-size heart could be 3D-printed with tissue of the recipient, making it less likely the body would reject the implanted organ.

So science is on the cusp of manufacturing body parts. If a heart can be 3D-printed, then why not a kidney? A lung? A ... brain?

Arguably the most complex, least understood organ in the human body, the brain is mission control for all human functions, skills, ideas and emotions.

And maybe we're not so far from manufacturing one. Artificial intelligence (AI) is developing rapidly. Industries are investing in the science, anticipating that



### Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

AI will transform the workplace, even if it takes over jobs done by us humans.

Not just assembly line work, computers are being taught to – heavens – write! A recent story in *Slate* described how an algorithm created by a London-based computer scientist can compose stunning poetry by stringing together related words.

So we could someday have man-made organs and man-made intelligence. How about a man-made body to carry it all?

In Russia, a strange experiment is under way at the state news channel Rossiya 24. A humanoid is being used as an anchorman.

Alex, as it's called, is named for and looks like Alexei Yuzhakov, the co-founder of Promobot, the company that built the humanoid. The whole project is equal parts comical and unnerving, but according to the BBC, Promobot has orders for 12 more.

None of this is to suggest that we will be walking among robots someday soon, but what it means to be human could be changing. It was just 55 years ago when Jewish Hospital performed its first transplant, so what else about the body might be fixed, replaced or revised?

How will these changes affect the way we, live, breathe and ... think? Will these changes alter our identities?

Will Judaism be ready for the Jew of the future?

The online forum *Judaism and Science*

tackled these questions in a 2016 two-part story by Roger Price, "When a Jewdroid Walks into a Shul." The topic was – wait for it – an artificial Jew.

"How will the Jewish community react when an artificial entity is created that not only looks human, but is thoroughly versed in all things Jewish?" Price asked. "Will the Jewdroid's presence be too much to bear or is Judaism's tent big enough to hold him too? Shall we reject the Jewdroid whose existence is unprecedented or shall we welcome the stranger? What assumptions and values shall inform us?"

Price's argument for the Jewdroid was thorough, though somewhat tortured. Possibly, he used the Jewdroid as a metaphor for Jews today who don't meet the traditional standard for being called a Jew (born of a Jewish mother, circumcised, etc.)

But he also reminded us of the Maharal of Prague, the great rabbi who, in the 16th century, is said to have created an artificial being from clay – the Golem. That story at least shows that Judaism is not unfamiliar with the idea.

Agree or disagree, Price addressed the question of the "other" in Jewish life, which is vital. As medicine moves forward, people – including Jews – for reasons of war, terrorism, fire, five-car pileups, rare disease, could be revamped using 3D-printed organs, AI and other innovations on the horizon. Questions we can't even imagine will arise.

Judaism must wrestle with these questions – now. Maybe Jewdroids aren't coming, but the issues they pose are already here. Be it science or science fiction, Jewish ethics must keep pace with the future.

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

# FORUM

## American Jews must stay engaged following Israel's election



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

A couple weeks ago we saw yet another Israeli national election, where the pundits on all sides of the political spectrum said that this was the most important election in the history of Israel, that Democracy itself was at stake, and that lives would be lost if one side or the other were to win.

These election year scare tactics are common in democracies, for sure, but elections in Israel have consequences for American Jewry's relationship with the state.

The leading parties in the voting, Likud and Blue and White, have very different ideas regarding a two-state solution and religious pluralism, two issues that are of particular importance to us.

This election produced a government that is not so different than the current one. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won despite the cloud of indictments hanging over his head. The right wing in general won, as they control 65

of the Knesset's 120 seats. We can count on much of the same, the same individuals leading ministries, and similar postures on security and economic matters. Your determination of whether this was a good result rests entirely on your outlook of the previous government. If you are happy with the status quo, then you will be happy again.

A right wing government is being formed as we speak, with religious parties (both haredi and nationalist) forming a sizeable core. This means we can expect no movement on recognition of non-orthodox Judaism and their leadership. We can also expect no enthusiasm for a Palestinian state (though there are many contributing factors to that, including from the Palestinian side).

I don't pretend to understand the psyche of the average Israeli voter, but these results make it apparent that security and economics are the motivating factors for them. Israelis remain highly skeptical of Palestinian intentions and the economy is doing very well in general (but not for everyone).

So what exactly is the role of American Jewry and Worldwide Zionism in post-election Israel? We need to continue speaking to the Israeli government on the issues we care about most.

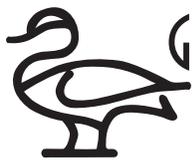
Disturbing statements and actions regarding Israel's Arab citizens need to be confronted. The Likud's disturbing installation of monitoring cameras at

many Arab voting sites was meant to intimidate Arab voters, an awful affront to a fair and impartial vote for all of Israel's citizens.

We need to continue speaking out about the delegitimization of non-orthodox Jewry. We must be vocal on issues important to us, such as annexing portions of the West Bank (which would most likely eliminate any chance for a two-state solution with the Palestinians).

Finally, we must respect the will of the Israeli voters. As much as we care about Israel and are invested in its people and future, we neither live nor vote there. Additionally, we should take an immense amount of pride in the fact that there was a free and democratic election, an uncommon occurrence in the region. We absolutely can (and should) speak up when we disagree with Israel, and we should let our Israeli friends, family, colleagues and organizations we support know when we are dismayed.

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



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## FORUM

## Wearing a rainbow kippah I'm an Orthodox rabbi who will start officiating at LGBTQ weddings

By Rabbi Avram Mlotek  
Guest Columnist

NEW YORK – A queer friend of mine from a haredi Orthodox background had posed a query publicly on social media. She had attended a conference on LGBTQ inclusion. There she learned a practice of certain Catholic priests who described going into gay bars in full clerical garb: They would sit in the bar, and when queer Catholics approached them, the priests would affirm God's love and their belonging place in the church.

My friend asked her community of observant Jews, acknowledging that rabbis don't have any identifying clerical garb: When might Orthodox rabbis do the same?

As an Orthodox rabbi myself, I was intrigued. I discovered a rainbow kippah online and decided to purchase it.

It managed to garner attention the first day I wore it. A woman took a picture of me and motioned a thumbs-up. A homeless man on the subway who was begging for money approached, pointing to my kippah, and said, "Now I like that," and bumped my fist. A man in high heels came up to me before getting off his stop and said, "Thanks for the yarmulke." I even had made my way to the headquarters of Chabad Lubavitch that very same day for a meeting and a Hasid asked me where he could find a kippah like mine. I surmised: The kippah works.

But what is it symbolizing and is it enough?

The kippah is a symbol of my commitment to God, to Torah and the Jewish people. To me, the rainbow kippah is also a symbol that God and Judaism love you no matter your sexual orientation.

I understand that the plain reading of



Orthodox rabbis are slowly warming to the idea of uniting same-sex couples in marriage.

Leviticus considers homosexual sex a "toevah," often translated as an abomination. I understand that Jewish law views kiddushin, the ritual ceremony of marriage, as a legal structure between a man and a woman. I know and respect this.

But I also believe that the Torah does not want human beings to live alone, and supports a covenantal relationship between parties as they build a faithful Jewish home. I know that Judaism

has, for thousands of years, had a rich understanding of the diversity of gender identities. I know that the Torah affirms the God-endowed dignity of all human beings.

In the recent film "Boy Erased," based off Garrard Conley's memoir describing his experience in a gay conversion program, a scene between a Baptist pastor father and his adult gay son has stayed with me. Conley's character says something along the lines of "I've tried to change, God knows I've tried. I can't change. Now it is your turn."

I've thought about how resonant that particular sentence felt. The onus of responsibility now rests upon those of us in religious leadership positions: to continue to make space, validate, humanize, empathize and support those who have long felt suppressed by our traditions, and not the aggrieved parties themselves.

My own rabbinical school, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, which is a beacon of progressive traditionalism, recently informed its students and alumni that one of its fourth-year students, an openly gay

man, will not be receiving ordination a few months shy of graduation after years of study at the seminary. It's a painful reminder that LGBTQ Jews still lack the ability to fully participate as equals in all facets of Orthodox life.

That is why, going forward, I will be officiating wedding ceremonies for queer Jews.

I'm passionately committed to God, Jewish law, Torah and the Jewish people. These won't be "kiddushin" ceremonies, but similar to the brit shatafin (covenantal partnership) ceremonies the visionary Rabbi Steven Greenberg, founder of Eshel, has been performing for years.

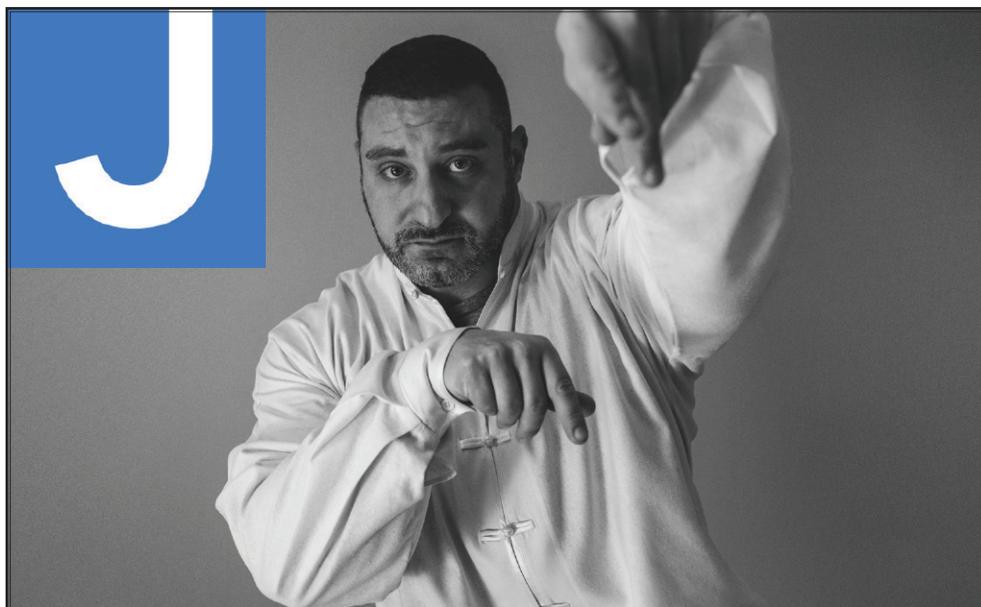
I understand that for some, this may feel like a blatant break from tradition, and I know some of my teachers and the larger Orthodox community believe that this is crossing a line that should not be crossed.

Yet I know that there are a small but growing number of Orthodox rabbis from across the Modern Orthodox spectrum who believe that this is where we have to be moving. I hope that in doing so as a community, queer Jews will see themselves as valued in the community and see that their rabbis are ready to celebrate their life choices of sacred covenantal marriage as well. It is not only about upholding the dignity of the human being, but upholding the dignity of the Torah itself, which emphasizes the need for loving partnership.

A wedding day should be a joyous day for loving companions, as liturgy connotes, regardless of their sexual orientation. If the couple is choosing to live Jewish lives, build a Jewish home and raise Jewish children, our traditional rabbinate must seize the opportunity to welcome and work with these families at their most precious life-cycle moments. If we don't, we risk further alienation and falling into an abyss of religious irrelevance by denying these couples their rightful place of belonging.

Shouldn't our Orthodox communities rush at the opportunity to keep as many Jews engaged in their Judaism? Is this the Torah and this its reward?

We are long overdue for a paradigm shift. I am humbled to be part of a new generation seeking to straddle the sacred tradition we inherit as well as the humanity before us.



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# FEDERATION/NEWS

## JCL scholarships to 13 teens cover summer travel

By staff and releases

The Jewish Community of Louisville (JCL) has awarded scholarships to 11 local teens to visit Israel through summer immersion trips and two others to teens participating in the 2019 International Maccabi Games in Budapest.

The scholarships will enable the teens to have experiences abroad that promise to shape their future Jewish identities.

Gabe Shir, one of this year's recipients, expects his Israel experience to change his life.

"The thing that I am most looking forward to is floating in the Dead Sea," he said. "For all of my life, I haven't been the fondest of water, but to be on top of it with so little effort will just make me feel like I finally conquered it."

He also expects the trip to further his appreciation of other lands.

"I've been to other countries before, but never have really gone deep into the culture and day-to-day life," Gabe said. "Israel is also a special case because it is not like any other country in the world, and I can't wait to see what it has to offer."

Two other recipients this year are Clara Weiss and her brother, Owen.

Owen said he hoped the Israel trip will increase his understanding of his religion.

Ever since starting Camp Livingston, "being Jewish is a big part of my life," Owen said.

He hopes to strengthen his Jewish identity in Israel.

"By going to Israel, I hope to take my level of Judaism to the fullest it can be," Owen said. "I want to know why people have such a deep connection with Israel and Judaism," he continued. "I want

to know what makes Israel so unique. I want to know why everyone says you haven't truly experienced being Jewish if you haven't been to Israel. I want to know about Israel."

Clara also said the trip will expand her understanding of Judaism.

"I'm so excited to learn new traditions, meet new people, and celebrate my Judaism in Israel," she said. "In Israel, there are so many opportunities to celebrate being Jewish, whether that's my first time at a kibbutz or visiting the Western Wall. I hope to be able to expand my knowledge, experiences, and overall my love of being Jewish."

Funding for the scholarships is coming from the JCL, Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, the Ellen & Milton Cantor Fund, the E.S. Klein Fund, the Harry & Marjorie Klein Fund, the Erlen Judah Fund and the Stephen E. Gilman Fund.

Research has shown that peer teen trips to Israel lead to a stronger Jewish identity and greater support for Israel.

"I was very fortunate to be able to travel to Israel with my camp friends from Beber Camp, said Jillian Lustig, a past recipient of the scholarship. "It was an amazing experience and one that makes me want to go back for a longer time."

"Everything we did was a highlight," Lustig continued, "but in particular the Dead Sea, hiking Masada, staying at the Bedouin tents, and of course the Western Wall stood out."

"Masada was fascinating and challenging," Lustig added. "We got to experience living in the desert for a night at the Bedouin tents. We learned their ways of life and tried their cuisine. There's no way to describe the feeling I felt at the Western Wall. I was surrounded with my friends, and *my people*."

## SIZOMU

continued from page 7

port – which rescued passengers from a hijacked French airliner, including 103 presumed to be Jewish, who were threatened with death – humiliated Amin. But Sizomu saw the raid as a "miracle."

When Amin was overthrown on April 11, 1979, Sizomu recalled, the Jews drank four cups of wine – a banana wine more than 80 percent alcohol, he recalled.

"You can imagine how happy the people were," he said.

Amin's departure led to another significant event.

"On that very day, I told myself that

I would be a rabbi, because I saw the redemption coming," Sizomu said. His decision meant he would be following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who had been leaders of the Abayudaya.

Sizomu kept his promise to himself. He enrolled at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles in 2003. He was ordained in 2008, "a dream come true," he said.

When Sizomu and his family returned to Uganda after five years in relative comfort in the United States, his people still had no electricity, running water or nearby medical care.

Sizomu rolled up his sleeves, rolled out a campaign for financial support,

and raised enough money from donors around the world for two big projects: the clinic and a yeshiva to train African teachers and rabbis.

But he wasn't finished. In 2016, he was elected to Uganda's parliament, the first (and still only) Jew ever elected.

Entering politics meant absences from home and family every weekend while parliament was in session. He insisted, however, that he would spend every weekend at home.

"I need Shabbat," he said.

Sizomu's battles are not only in parliament: He also is fighting the Israeli government for recognition of the Abayudaya, who follow the laws of conservative Judaism and are entitled to the same treatment as the orthodox. The govern-

ment – beholden to right-wing, ultra-orthodox parties for their majority in the Knesset – has tried to block recognition. Citizenship, Right of Return and other important issues depend on Israel's Supreme Court.

Last year, Sizomu won a small, but significant, victory when one of his daughters became the first member of the Abayudaya to take a Birthright trip to Israel.

The rabbi appreciates the victories that he and the Abayudaya – a community with more than 2,000 members – have won. He conveyed that message as he ended his AJ appearance, accompanying himself on guitar as he sang an unconventional version of Ein Keloheinu.

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# JFCS

## Passover reminds writer of the immigration experience, and the MOSAICs

By Deb Frockt  
Guest Columnist

Passover is my holiday of remembering, the one that brings me back to seder tables with immigrants and first-generations of my own family.

They spoke Yiddish and English – equal parts separate from, and bound up with, America.

Some at the table owned small neighborhood businesses that did just well enough to get by. Others grew enterprises that achieved almost unimaginable prosperity.

They took care of their children and parents, looked out for the extended network of friends they counted as family, and gave back to the community they called home.

They weren't so different from newcomers today. Walk through the halls at Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) and you'll hear languages from around the world.

Louisville's most recent refugees and immigrants are writing the opening chapters of their own American stories, as so many Jewish families did not so long ago. They come to JFCS because they are committed to carving out their own paths, caring for their families, unlocking their full potential to contribute.

Every day, we see highly skilled professionals who were forced to flee their countries of origin without the university degrees or certificates of specialization to prove their skills. We can help some of them recover these documents, but, politics, war, discrimination and



Passover reminds Jews that they were once strangers in a strange land, much like newcomers to America, some of whom will be honored with this year's MOSAIC Awards.

the bureaucracy often stymie our efforts.

So, we become coaches and companions, helping these newcomers along the humbling road of imagining different lives and careers for themselves, identifying step-by-step plans to progressively improve their employment prospects. This "career laddering" can include in-

dustry-specific ESL classes, additional education, re-certification, alternative roles in their past fields or altogether new directions.

We see other new Americans wanting to open a small business, follow a dream or just to make ends meet. We work with them to navigate the maze of banking, taxes, licensing, regulation, staffing,

customer service and marketing. We qualify some for micro-loans, giving them access to capital and credit-building that help them realize their hopes for the future.

I learned some of this while studying up on JFCS when I first considered coming home to Louisville but was still surprised to learn about the agency's signature event.

The MOSAIC Awards are a salute to immigrants, refugees and first-generation Americans making significant contributions in their professions and our community. The event didn't connect with the place I thought I knew, and I couldn't be more pleased about how wrong I was.

For 14 consecutive years, JFCS and the greater community have come together to celebrate new Americans and first-gens who are on the top rungs of their own career ladders. They serve as models of what is possible and reminders of our own, not-too-distant pasts.

Nearly everyone in Jewish Louisville has some family story of coming to America. Through the work JFCS does every day, and the MOSAIC Award-winners we will celebrate next month, we all have a precious opportunity to remember the past and be part of the future.

*(Deb Frockt is the new chief executive officer of Jewish Family & Career Services.)*



Louisville Melton will honor **Rabbi Laura Metzger** for "Excellence in Melton Teaching and Curriculum Development," during the annual Celebration of Learning on **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Adath Jeshurun.**

Featured speaker:  
**Dr. Melanie-Prejean Sullivan**

The Celebration of Learning and celebration lunch at noon are open to the entire community, and are free of charge. Make reservations by calling Deborah Slosberg at 458-5359, or online at [www.adathjeshurun.com/meltoncelebration](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/meltoncelebration).

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Register online at [www.jewishlouisville.org/community-garden](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/community-garden)

**LOUISVILLE VAAD HAKASHRUTH**

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- ◆ 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)

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- ◆ 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 J CENTERPIECE

## Stars are born

### Louisville's Got Talent yields more than \$50K in fundraising over six years

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

Melissa Jones, a high school senior from Fisherville, dazzled the audience with her song and dance to "Music and the Mirror" from *A Chorus Line*, at Louisville's Got Talent on April 14 at Ursuline Arts Center.

Jones was the overall winner of the competition and took home the \$500 grand prize. She wasn't entirely surprised she won. "I knew I was a contender because I worked so hard. I was very excited," she said.

She was already working on the piece for something else when she entered the competition, so she worked on it for about two months altogether.

The homeschooled senior is moving to New York in the fall to attend the Institute of American Musical Theater, a two-year theater school.

There were 20 finalists in the competition, which saw about 90 acts at the first audition. Because many acts are groups, there were about 130 kids who auditioned, said Erin Jump, CenterStage educational programs director.

Originally conceived as a bar mitzvah project by Jake Latts, Louisville's Got Talent has grown into its own annual entity, raising more than \$50,000 over six years for CenterStage's Acting Out – a professional theater group that brings children's theater to local schools.

Latts was fortunate to see a lot of live theater as a child, and he wanted to make sure there was enough funding to give that same experience to all children.

Latts was unable to attend the show this year, but his mother, Kate Latts, emceed, along with WHAS' Sara Klein Wagner.

(Latts was on his way to New Haven, Connecticut, to attend Yale's Bulldog Days for admitted students. He'll attend Yale this fall. A medical condition meant he couldn't fly to Connecticut, so he had to travel by car during the show.)

The age-group winners won \$300. Drew Ashley won the 6-12 age group with his song, "Let Me Be Your Star," from "SMASH." The band Shady Glen won the 13- to 18-year-old age group with their original song, "Song of the



Emmie Siegel (left) and Mary Etscorn were the People's Choice winners at Louisville's Got Talent at the Ursuline Arts Center. (photos by Ed Ramsey, see gallery, page 14.)

Dead." Shady Glen includes Caden Taggart, Drew Goforth and Aidan Longmeyer.

Emmie Siegel and Mary Etscorn were the winners of the Jake Latts People's Choice Award and \$100. Audience members voted for their favorite act. They sang, "Breaking Free" from "High School Musical."

The show included dance troupes, tumblers, pianists, singers, song-and-dance numbers, two ukulele players who sang songs, and even an Indian fusion dance. One 7-year-old did a dance and tumbling act. When one song-and-dance group had technical issues with their music, the audience clapped a beat for them so they could finish their act a cappella.

Kate Latts said she was pleased with this year's competition.

"It was great," she said after the show. "I really like this year because there was such a range of talent, and there were such bigger groups."

"It was really awesome seeing these ensembles performing, both the young kids and the older kids," Kate Latts added. "We loved the bands and the dancers. It was really varied."

She said the judges also help make the show a success. "We try and make sure we have judges in different disciplines," she said. "It's interesting how they'll defer to one another when it's not their area of expertise."

This year's judges were: Teddy Abrams, music director for the Louisville Orchestra; Emily Albrink, opera singer and music faculty at University of Louisville; Gail Benedict, retired musical theater director at Youth Performing Arts School and choreographer; Robert Curran, artistic and executive director at Louisville Ballet; and Beth Craig Hall, Actor's Center for Training and the Helen Wells Agency.

The competition was at the Ursuline

Arts Center at Sacred Heart Academy because the J's theater can't accommodate the large audiences composed of mostly friends and families of performers. Last year, the show moved to the Clifton Center at the last minute when tickets sold out. This year, the change of venue was planned early, helping the event sell 400 tickets.

The money helps fund Acting Out by paying for the actors, costumes, sets, transportation and all other expenses involved with a traveling show, Jump said. Louisville's Got Talent is a joint effort between CenterStage's Mainstage and its educational programs and is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Acting Out.



**BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE J**

Parties for children of all ages are 90 minutes, with fun options including a pool party, bounce house, princess tea party, and more!

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# PICTURE THIS: LOUISVILLE'S GOT TALENT

Twenty finalists competed in the grand finale of Louisville's got Talent on Sunday, April 14, at the Ursuline Arts Center. They were selected from 90 acts that had auditioned for the top honors. Melissa Jones, a high school senior from Fisherville, was the overall winner, taking home a \$500 grand prize. (photos by Ed Ramsey.)





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# ARTS

## 'Spamalot' brings the hilarity of Monty Python to CenterStage

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

Have you ever calculated the average wind speed of an unladen European swallow? If not, it's OK. It's the kind of thing you only need to know if you're King Arthur on a quest to find the Holy Grail.

CenterStage takes on this quest with its final performance of the season, Spamalot, a musical stage version of the comedy classic, Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Monty Fields, a CenterStage veteran, is directing the production.

"With a name like Monty, I felt I needed to live up to my namesake and direct Spamalot," he said. "I was raised on British comedy and Monty Python. It's true to the source material, probably more so than the original Broadway show."

The movie, which came out in 1975, is considered a cult classic. The Broadway show, written by Eric Idle and music by John Du Prez, came out in 2005 and was a hit.

The story is an irreverent, comedic telling of the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The Broadway production won three Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

CenterStage Director Frank Goodloe III wasn't too familiar with the show until he choreographed it for a high school production.

"I was like, 'this is absolutely hilarious!'" he said. "When we went into the board room to discuss the new season, and someone mentioned Spamalot, I was like, 'Yes! We have to do that because it is so funny!'"

Fields has been working on costumes since September; at last count there were 186. With 27 people in the show, that means there are about seven costumes



Spamalot, based on the comedy of Monty Python, will open at CenterStage on May 9.

per actor. Because most of the costumes come with many pieces, there are more than 1,000 pieces altogether, Fields said. When the show is over, CenterStage will rent out the costumes to other theater groups.

"It's a monster," Fields said. "It's gotta be one of the largest that we've done recently."

Since CenterStage's usual costumer, Kate Welch, is unavailable, Fields took on the challenge himself. "The main thing is that I'm kind of a control freak," he said. "I felt like if I created the costumes, I could have complete creative control over the look. They're such iconic costumes in the show and the movie, that I pretty much wanted to nail them."

The show will be a full multimedia experience. The audience will experience it from the moment they walk into the auditorium, Fields said. There are animations and unique surprises along the way, giving a nod to other Monty Python

skits and movies.

Plenty of new faces are in the cast.

King Arthur is played by Kevin Horton; Pete Lay is Patsy; Russell Cooper is Sir Robin; David Galloway is Sir Lancelet; Phil Buckley is Sir Galahad; Brian Engard is Sir Belvedere; and Bridget Thomas is Lady of the Lake. Molly Kays is the choreographer, and Emily Fields, wife of the director, will conduct the orchestra.

"The cast has blown me away," Fields said. "I have assembled the Avengers for this show. The timing and instinct from the ensemble members up to King Arthur is just ... it's made my job so much easier."

In the end, Fields hopes everyone will have a good time at the show.

"In this day and age, a lot of people have forgotten to laugh," he said. "This is an evening of laughter, so if we don't offend someone, we're not doing our job."

The show is PG-13-style. Audiences should remember that The Black Knight is famously dismembered, so don't bring the kids. But the violence is mostly animated.

"I think people are going to have a good time," Fields said. "The Knights Who Say Ni, the Black Night, the Castle Anthrax ladies, all your favorite characters are in there. It's full of just fun Easter eggs and cameos. People really need to watch everything."

Spamalot runs May 9-26. Next season's season tickets will be available for purchase at the show.

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\*DATES DO NOT INCLUDE TRAVEL DAYS TO OR FROM ISRAEL



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# JERUSALEM

SAMI TAMIMI

— JOFEE —

## Cookbook Club

JERUSALEM, BY YOTAM OTTOLENGHI AND SAMI TAMIMI

**TUESDAY, MAY 28TH, 6:30PM**

J PATIO GALLERY | SUGGESTED DONATION: \$5

Join your friends for a delicious potluck dinner where we each make a dish from the same cookbook! We'll be exploring Jerusalem, a cookbook co-authored by an Israeli and a Palestinian that celebrates the diverse heritage of the city where they both grew up. Grab your copy from a local bookstore or library, or contact the J to borrow a copy, and come prepared to share your favorite recipe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[jewishlouisville.org/cookbookclub/](http://jewishlouisville.org/cookbookclub/)

# 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](mailto:marketing@jfcsloouisville.org).



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Louisville, KY 40205  
phone | 502-452-6341  
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website | [jfcsloouisville.org](http://jfcsloouisville.org)

## JFCS FOOD PANTRY

### SUGGESTIONS FOR MAY

- Toothpaste
- Diapers
- Bar soap
- Cleaning Supplies
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Toilet paper

Remember, donations can be made at your local synagogue.

Food must be donated in original packaging before the expiration date. Monetary donations also may be made to the Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry Fund.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Honoring Louisville's Outstanding International Americans  
**THURSDAY, MAY 23 – MARRIOTT HOTEL**  
**5:00pm Cocktail Reception, 6:30pm Dinner & Program**  
For Table Sponsorships and Tickets: [mosaic@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:mosaic@jfcsloouisville.org)  
**Fundraiser to Benefit JFCS**

### May is Older Americans Month and JFCS helps seniors and their families maintain the highest quality of life possible.

#### SENIOR CONCIERGE HOMECARE

Let our caregivers serve your family's in-home needs, whether it is for a few hours or 24/7. Our caring professionals provide comfort, socialization and the necessary assistance to maintain safety and to preserve your peace of mind.

#### AFFORDABLE AND CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION



#### PALS...for all seniors

- Grocery shopping
- Medical appointments
- Personal appointments
- Volunteer activities

#### Joy!Ride...for Jewish seniors

- Religious services
- Chavurat Shalom
- CenterStage & JCC



## Helping Families Find Stability

### Family Stability Program

Through a partnership with the Siemer Institute and Metro United Way, JFCS received a grant to establish a Family Stability Program. The program will provide the tools needed for low-income families to become self-sufficient and to avoid homelessness, which in turn will allow their children to remain in their original schools.

Participating clients will have access to all the services offered at JFCS – mental health counseling, food pantry and emergency assistance, career counseling, and much more. Counselors will help families move from crisis to stability by providing financial assistance, budget coaching, job training, and support for the entire family.

If you know a struggling family with school-age children, please contact Jessica Holloway at 502-452-6341 ext. 153 or [jholloway@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:jholloway@jfcsloouisville.org).

### New AcceLOurate Savings Program

With funding from Metro United Way and the Humana Foundation, JFCS will work with individuals and families to provide financial counseling and connect with employment experts in order to improve the clients' financial position. People with multiple forms of support are three times more likely to achieve their financial goals and provide educational opportunities for their children.

To see if you qualify or to learn more, contact Tobin Williamson 502-322-1919 or [twilliamson@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:twilliamson@jfcsloouisville.org).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### May 7, 4pm

#### Caregiver Support Group

Meets first Tuesday of month at JFCS. Contact Naomi Carrico: 502-452-6341, ext. 249

### May 9, 1pm

#### Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group

Meets second Thursday of month at JFCS. Contact Mauri Malka: 502-452-6341, ext. 250.

### May 13, 12:30pm

#### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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

### May (T.B.D.) 7pm

#### Parents of Young Adults in Interfaith Relationships

Meets at JFCS. Contact Diane Tracht: 502-452-6341, ext. 250

### May 15, 10am

#### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Meets third Wednesday of month at Epworth United Methodist Church, 919 Palatka Rd. Contact Jo Ann Kalb: 502-452-6341, ext. 335.

### May 16, 7pm

#### Adult Children of Aging Parents

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

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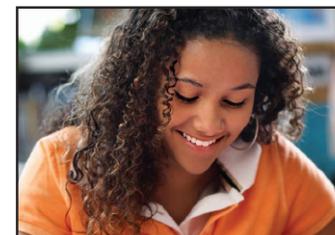
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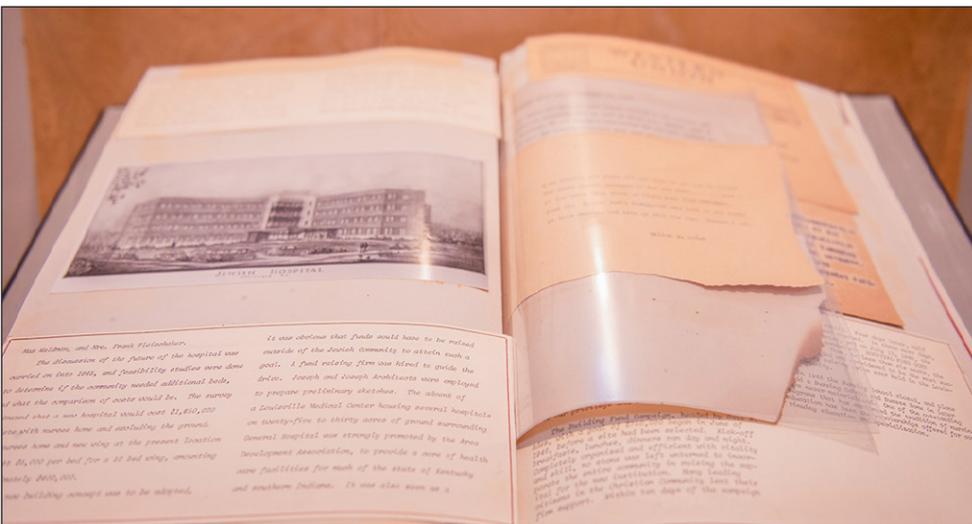
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Email: [kquinn@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:kquinn@jfcsloouisville.org)

# PICTURE THIS: JEWISH HOSPITAL

The Filson Historical Society introduced its Jewish Hospital collection during an April 4 reception at the museum. The exhibit, "Continuity of Care: Transforming Jewish Hospital for Modern Louisville, 1945-1980" showcases the history of the hospital through unique artifacts donated by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and the University of Louisville. The exhibit runs through Aug. 30. Curated tours can be arranged by contacting Abigail Glogower at [abbyglogower@filsonhistorical.org](mailto:abbyglogower@filsonhistorical.org) or 502-635-5083. See Around Town for more details. (photos by Ed Ramsey)



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# NEWS

## Daughter of Jew saved by Japanese envoy to speak at 2019 Yom HaShoah program here

—By staff and releases

In a little-known episode of World War II, Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, against his government's orders, issued thousands of transit visas to Jews desperate to leave Lithuania, where he was based.

Sugihara's act of humanity cost him his career after the war, but it earned him the everlasting gratitude of the people he saved, and their descendants.

One of those descendants, Sonia Milrod, will share the story of her parents' journeys, and her father's encounter with Sugihara, at this year's Yom HaShoah commemoration, 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, at Temple Shalom. Hiroyuki Kobayashi, Japanese consul-general in Nashville, is expected to attend the program.

As vice consul for the Japanese Empire in Lithuania. During World War II, Sugihara helped as many as 6,000 Jews flee Europe by issuing transit visas, enabling their travel through Japanese territory. In 1985, 40 years after the war, Israel finally honored Sugihara as one of the Righteous Among the Nations for his actions — the only Japanese national to have been so honored.

Though forced out of the Japanese foreign service after the war, Sugihara, who died in 1986, is now considered a national hero in his country.



Chiune Sugihara defied his own government to issue travel visas to Jews fleeing the Nazi onslaught.

A retired literacy and education professional who has worked in the Jefferson County Public Schools,

Milrod lectures at synagogues and other venues on her parents' experiences.

Her father, Jerry Milrod, of Lodz, Poland, fled the country after the German invasion, making his way to Vilno (known as Vilnius today) the capital of Lithuania, where he obtained a transit

visa from Sugihara. He went on to Kobe, Japan, and finally to Shanghai where he met his wife, Lydia, a refugee from Berlin after Kristallnacht.

The program will include the traditional candle-lighting for victims of the Holocaust, music by the local cantors and customary prayers.

As a prelude to the program, Temple Shalom will screen the PBS documentary Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28.

### Want to go?

For more information on this year's Yom HaShoah commemoration, contact Matt Goldberg at 502-238-2707 or [mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org)

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## Captivating Cantors! Concert

More than 130 cantors from around the country will be in Louisville to attend the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cantors Assembly from May 19-23 at the Downtown Marriott. Cantor David Lipp, who is celebrating 25 years as Hazzan of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, will be sworn in as the Assembly's president during their convention.

Members of the community are invited to attend a number of the Assembly's open sessions including afternoon recitals, concerts and educational forums. For more information, contact [www.cantors.org/72nd-annual-cantors-assembly-convention-registration](http://www.cantors.org/72nd-annual-cantors-assembly-convention-registration) or call 330-864-8533 ext. 200.

The Captivating Cantors! Concert will be at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 2401 Woodbourne Avenue on **Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.**

The concert is open to the entire community. Tickets cost \$20 for adults; \$15 for students 13 and above and \$5 for children 12 and below.

Reservations may be made online at [www.adathjeshurun.com/CantorsConcert](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/CantorsConcert), calling 502-458-5359 or, for more information, email: [info@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:info@adathjeshurun.com)



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The concert is generously supported by The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and the Adolf & Sara van der Walde & Israel Rosenbloom Charitable Fund.

## ISRAEL

## Post-election analysis

## Netanyahu's victory means more power for Israel's far-right parties

By David A. Halperin  
and Evan Gottesman  
*Guest Columnists*

Despite an exceptionally close race with Benny Gantz's Blue and White party, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud, has been tasked by the Israeli president with forming a governing coalition and remaining at the helm of the Jewish state.

A fifth term for Netanyahu carries serious consequences for those interested in peace with Israel's neighbors and the nation's long-term security. West Bank annexation, which would undermine Israel's legitimacy and democratic character by cementing permanent occupation of the Palestinians, has become a mainstream objective on the political right, particularly in this most recent campaign. In Washington, we will likely see more polarization as the Trump administration tacitly backs annexation to the chagrin of mainstream Democrats and many Republicans.

Netanyahu's outgoing government coalition was the first in his 10 continuous years as prime minister that did not contain any centrist or left-wing parties. His next coalition is likely to lurch even further to the right, particularly on the annexation issue.

In the lead-up to this election, Netanyahu pulled out all the stops to ensure victory, including suggesting a victory by his opponents would lead to terror-

ism and aggressively suppressing the Arab vote by sending Likud activists with hidden cameras to spy on Arab voters at the ballot box.

Perhaps most egregiously, Netanyahu encouraged the political merger between Jewish Home and the far-right Jewish Power into the Union of Right-Wing Parties. The reconstituted Union of Right-Wing Parties will replace Naf-tali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked's pro-settlement New Right, which remained slightly below the electoral threshold for seats in the Knesset two days after the elections. The Union of Right-Wing Parties, like the New Right, backs West Bank annexation.

Yet, unlike Bennett and Shaked's faction, Jewish Power makes no pretenses of trying to fit in among polite company. It supports not only annexation but expelling Palestinians from Israel and the West Bank as well. The party, which is predicted to secure five seats in this Knesset, is composed of acolytes of the late extremist rabbi Meir Kahane, whose Kach and Kahane Chai movements are banned and classified as terrorist organizations by Israel, the United States and the European Union.

Netanyahu took these dramatic steps to build an ideologically pure rightist coalition. This may be the only route for Netanyahu to legislate immunity for himself in the face of pending indictments in three corruption cases. From Netanyahu's perspective, this could be

achieved by passing the French Law, which stipulates that the prime minister cannot be prosecuted while in office.

Even if the law is not passed, Netanyahu will not risk a unity government with Blue and White, which can be guaranteed not to insulate the prime minister from prosecution. Instead, he will likely rely on the 14 seats held by the haredi Orthodox Shas and United Torah Judaism parties as well as smaller right-wing parties like Kulanu, Yisrael Beiteinu and the pro-settler Jewish Home party.

These small parties will yield outsize influence in the next Knesset. Each will have an opportunity to play kingmaker, as Netanyahu will have to accede to their individual demands and build a government with a slim majority if he does not want a broad national-unity government with Gantz. The haredi Orthodox, who saw a better performance than in the last election, will be able to continue blocking any religion and state reforms. Some of the parties Netanyahu is trying to woo may demand plum ministries. Foreign affairs and defense are traditionally the most coveted.

Before the election, Bennett was expected to demand the Defense Ministry, which would make him de facto governor of the occupied territories and grant him an influential perch from which to advance his agenda of West Bank annexation. Though Bennett's new party apparently did not secure enough votes for him to remain in the Knesset, it does

not mean the pro-annexation movement lost any momentum.

While far from being the central question of the campaign, which focused on Netanyahu's fitness for office, annexation went from being a fringe topic in Israel to the heart of the national agenda in recent months. In the lead-up to the election, all the Likud candidates endorsed this platform to some extent. Jewish Home, Jewish Power, the New Right and Zehut each endorse officially absorbing all or part of the West Bank. While Moshe Kahlon of Kulanu and Avigdor Liberman of Yisrael Beiteinu are not themselves annexationists, they are unlikely to risk another round of elections so soon after they barely passed the threshold. Annexation may be a price they are willing to pay.

The official integration of the West Bank into Israel would have fatal consequences for the prospects of a two-state solution, as land intended for a Palestinian state becomes sovereign Israeli territory. Given the Trump administration's cozy relationship with Netanyahu, the U.S. administration will likely go on providing cover for annexation without protest. If the White House ever releases its peace plan, it is almost guaranteed to contain generous territorial provisions

See **VICTORY** on page 27



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# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

## Israeli professor to teach at UofL



Asaf Angerman

Asaf Angerman, a professor of Jewish thought & philosophy at Yale University, will be a visiting professor in the University of Louisville's

Jewish Studies Program for the 2019-20 term. He will start this fall.

Born and raised in Israel, Angerman studied at the University of Tel Aviv and pursued graduate studies in Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany. He has a special interest in European social philosophy and in German-Jewish thought

Angerman has received two post-doctoral fellowships, at the University of Toronto and at Yale, where he has taught undergraduate and graduate classes while continuing his research.

He has written a book about correspondence between the late German philosopher Theodor W. Adorno and

Gershom Scholem, who was a leading scholar of Kabbalah. The book was a best-seller in Germany and is currently being translated into English.

At UofL, Angerman will teach classes that explore questions in modern and contemporary philosophy and Jewish thought.

## Locals' work makes LBF

Two Jewish Louisvillians were featured in the March 22 Louisville Business First.

Craig Greenberg, president and CEO of 21c, spoke at a meeting of the Association for Corporate Growth Kentucky about the development of the boutique hotel chain in the wake of the failed Museum Plaza venture. LBF covered the talk.

It also covered Rabbit Hole Distillery founder Kaveh Zamanian's purchase of the Green Building in NuLu.

Zamanian told LBF he planned to "[do] something spectacular to complement what we've done with Rabbit Hole, and to enhance the neighborhood."

## FREELANDER

*continued from page 4*

thing mystifies them, that Jews have to be, not in hiding, but behind locked doors. We're getting a little taste of it now." He called Jews in other lands "heroes."

"They're sort of like the people that

helped create the [first] congregation here in Louisville 175 years ago. For the first 10 or 15 years, it wasn't easy being Jewish here. They weren't sure that the neighbors wanted them around, but they felt a great need to be Jewish. These [Jews in other countries] are volunteers; they're not professionals. The first 10 or 15 years are very important."

## VISIT A FREE LOUISVILLE MELTON CLASS

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RABBI STAN MILES

MEMORIAL DAY AND INDEPENDENCE DAY IN ISRAEL

PROF ED SEGAL

YITZHAK RABIN'S ASSASSINATION & THE FAILURE OF PEACE TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PLO

DEBORAH SLOSBERG

THE MESSIANIC ERA

RABBI BOB SLOSBERG

ETHICS: HOW TO MAKE AN HONEST LIVING

~THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 9TH~

9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

RABBI LAURA METZGER

MODERN MIDRASH

RABBI STAN MILES

MEMORIAL DAY AND INDEPENDENCE DAY IN ISRAEL

DEBORAH SLOSBERG

HOLINESS AT THE INTERSECTION OF TIME AND SPACE IN LEVITICUS

RABBI MICHAEL WOLK

THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF MITZVOT (COMMANDMENTS)

RSVP: Deborah Slosberg

EMAIL: [dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com)

PHONE: 502.458.5359

The Jewish Community of Louisville gratefully acknowledges donations to the following

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## FORUM

## Sacred conversions: Learning to talk about what matters



Jewish Hospital

Rabbi Nadia  
Siritsky

I am frequently called to a patient's bedside by the family as they face difficult decisions for their loved one who can no longer speak for themselves – a gut-wrenching task, especially in a society that doesn't talk enough about life and death, faith and ethics.

Starting a conversation about death and dying isn't easy. Many people tell me they are afraid of sounding "morbid" or being a "downer." They don't know how to start, afraid that the talk might alarm or depress their loved ones.

As people of faith, we are called to lean into our fears with our faith. Don't treat the fears as reasons to avoid the talks, see them as open spaces yearning to be filled with faith. Truthfully, this is an opportunity to express our belief in how we live on beyond our bodies, a chance to trust our loved ones to honor our wishes and to be our voices when we

cannot.

Likely, we have all recognized that things are not as bad as we feared. It can be helpful to hold on to that memory, letting it fill us with strength and faith. When we can gather our courage to have a difficult conversation, and share our deepest feelings and beliefs, we generally find that those conversations can be most meaningful and connecting.

This is one of the primary drivers of "games" such as The Hello Game or The Conversation Project, which help people begin these conversations. In my experience, while those initial few moments can feel a bit awkward, the conversation can quickly unleash a torrent of emotion and catharsis, and end on a note of gratitude and peace. Indeed, those initial awkward moments are less likely to be a sign that the conversation is unwelcome, and more likely to be a sign that the individual is assessing the emotional safety necessary for that conversation.

Of course, these conversations require knowledge and skill. As such, KentuckyOne Health has joined with other organizations across the city, including Hosparus Health and Before I Die Louisville, to provide education and resources to assist individuals in having these conversations.

In honor of National Health Care Decision Month this April, we are hosting tables in our hospitals, staffed by our

chaplains and ethics committee members, to provide information and encourage such conversations.

In addition, we are collaborating to provide an educational session with free CEs for all registered participants, regarding on Advance Care Planning. We also are encouraging community conversations through the arts. Bunbury Theatre Company is presenting a powerful play about end-of-life choices, Grace and Glorie, followed by panel discussions. And a story-telling event entitled "No Regrets" at the Bards Town, will inspire us to share what matters most to us with the people who matter most.

For more information, please see our website at [KentuckyOneHealth.org/HealthcareDecision](http://KentuckyOneHealth.org/HealthcareDecision).

End-of-life conversations are important expressions of our faith. Indeed, Judaism exhorts us to acknowledge our mortality and recognize that this awareness can inspire us to live more meaningful lives. On Yom Kippur, we dress in shrouds and fast until we are so weakened that our mortality can propel us toward even more comprehensive repentance.

The Talmud Shabbat 153b teaches: "Rabbi Eliezer said: 'Repent one day before your death.'" So his disciples asked him: "Does a person know which day he will die?" Rabbi Eliezer responded, "Certainly, then, a person should repent

today, for perhaps tomorrow he will die, so that all his days he is repenting."

When we look at life through this lens, we find that life is far more meaningful. Our conversations with our loved ones become more precious; we live life with fewer regrets.

Narrative therapy uses this insight to encourage those who are struggling with difficult decisions to consider how they might feel many years from now when they are on their deathbeds, reflecting upon this pivotal moment. What choice would make them feel proud?

On April 16, Jewish Hospital celebrated the 55th anniversary of its first transplant. Since then, well over 3,000 life-saving and miraculous transplants have taken place at Jewish, transplants that were mostly possible by courageous donors who had difficult, but life-sustaining, conversations with their loved ones about their end-of-life wishes.

During National Health Care Decision Month, may all of us take time to reflect and reach out to our loved ones, to share ourselves. May our courage and compassion lead us to more miracles and celebrations.

*(Rabbi Nadia Siritsky is vice president of mission at KentuckyOne Health.)*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Chavurat Shalom for May

## THURSDAY, MAY 2

Derby Fun Day. Lunch will include hamburgers, roasted potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and cookies and brownies.

## THURSDAY, MAY 9

Sharon Yekutieli, head of the Social Justice Department for the Reform Movement in Israel, will speak on the topic, "Respect, Honor, Dignity: How do we respect and show dignity to one another? What do we give and what do we expect to receive?" Lunch will include turkey tetrazzini, sautéed zucchini and tomatoes, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and assorted desserts.

## THURSDAY, MAY 16

Accordian player Mike O'Bryan will return for a program. Lunch will include grilled salmon with sweet chili sauce, rice pilaf, assorted vegetables, asian style slaw, fresh fruit and triple chocolate cake.

## THURSDAY, MAY 23

Bob Mueller, vice president at Hosparus, will present a program, "Keeping It All Together/An Attitude of Gratitude." Lunch will include dijon chicken, polenta, French green beans, arugula salad, fresh fruit and mixed berry cobbler.

## THURSDAY, MAY 30

Adam Weir, community relations manager at Stonecrest of Louisville, will be on hand. May and June birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated. Lunch will include beef stir fry, rice pilaf, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and celebratory cake.

*Chavurat Shalom is an opportunity for Jewish senior adults to meet socially and share ideas. Lunch is \$5 and reservations are due by the Tuesday before the program. Please RSVP to 502-423-1818 or [sarahharlan86@gmail.com](mailto:sarahharlan86@gmail.com). A vegetarian option is available if requested in advance. All programs will be held in the*

*Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Hwy. 42, unless otherwise noted in the listing, with lunch starting at noon, followed by our program at 1 pm. Transportation can be scheduled by calling Jewish Family & Career Services at 502-452-6341. Transportation is \$5 round-trip. Chavurat Shalom is funded by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, The Temple, The Temple Brotherhood and Sisterhood, NCJW, the Jewish Federation of Louisville, and other donors.*

## The J Senior for May

## TUESDAY, MAY 7, 12:45 P.M.

Bob Kennedy from Humana will speak on "Staying Vital." Refreshments will be served after the program.

## MONDAY, MAY 20, 5:30 P.M.

The Gourmet Dining Club will meet for dinner at Bristol on Hurstbourne. Cost for transportation is \$4.

## TUESDAY, MAY 14, 12:45 P.M.

A new trio led by Fran Weinstock will perform "Yestertunes." Birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated.

## TUESDAY, MAY 21, 12:45 P.M.

Michael Fraade, Jewish Outdoor, Food & Environmental director (JOFE), will speak on "Getting Outside at the J This Summer." Summer volunteers are needed to tend the Community Garden and at the Fresh Stop Market.

## TUESDAY, MAY 29, 12:45, P.M.

Bingo sponsored by Highlands Health & Rehabilitation.

Share your thoughts about *The Community*? Go to [www.jewishlouisville.org/communitysurvey](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/communitysurvey) and let us know!

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# AROUND TOWN

(Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the community.)

## Israeli social activist to speak here

Sharona Yekutieli, a social justice activist within the Israeli Reform Movement, will visit Louisville in May to promote her work here.

Yekutieli established the Keren b'Kavod (KBK) fund, which supports projects that advance Reform Jewish values of tikkun olam and social justice. She has served as its director for 15 years.

The Fund acts to ensure the right of every Israeli man and woman to live an adequate standard of life, and that disadvantaged individuals can access health and welfare for themselves and their families.

Yekutieli will speak at Chavurat Shalom on Thursday, May 9; Friday, at 7 p.m. Friday, May 10, and at 10:30 p.m., Saturday, May 11, at Temple Shalom.

Her May 9 talk to Chavurat Shalom, titled "Respect, Honor, Dignity" will discuss programs with Ethiopian and Bedouin women and with women who battle domestic abuse.

Her 7 p.m., May 10, titled "Dignity and humanity for all: It's just a way of life"



Sharona Yekutieli

## Filson programs announced

The Filson Historical Society will hold a series of programs that dovetail with its Jewish Hospital exhibit:

"Navigating Change: Then and Now," 1 p.m., Tuesday, April 30 – an exhibit tour and discussion with the curator, Abby Glogower, and Rabbi Nadia Siritsky, vice president of mission, Jewish Hospital/KentuckyOne Health;

"The History of the American Jewish Hospital and Why It Matters Today," noon, Monday, May 20 – Dr. Edward C. Halperin, Chancellor and CEO of New York Medical College, will speak;

"A New Deal for Medicine: Expanding and Desegregating Louisville Hospitals after World War II," noon, Friday, July 12, – Lynn Pohl will speak.

Visit [filsonhistorical.org](http://filsonhistorical.org) for tickets.

## Lou-Grass at Temple Shalom

Temple Shalom will present a Lou-Grass music festival featuring Bluegrass and Jewish music, on Sunday, June 2, starting at 1 p.m.

Indoor and outdoor venues will showcase music by John Gage, Brigid Kaelin and Kentucky Bluegrass bands Hog Operation and Ida Clare.

Nefesh Mountain, a New York-based nationally known Jewish Bluegrass band, which combines traditional Jewish music with a bluegrass twist, will finish the evening.

The daylong festival includes children's activities, inflatables and food trucks from 1 to 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$12 in advance. Children's tickets (12 and under) are \$5 with a family maximum of \$40. Call Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 for tickets.



Nefesh Mountain

## Dad's Trip to Israel

The Kentucky Institute for Torah Education (KITE) will take a group of fathers on another trip to Israel from Nov. 11 to 17. The trip is highly subsidized, and spaces are limited. Go to [jwrp.org](http://jwrp.org) to apply or contact Rabbi Zack Blaustein at [rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org](mailto:rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org)

## 'Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness'

Temple Shalom will screen the PBS documentary Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, April 28. The program is a prelude to the community-wide Yom HaShoah program at 7 p.m., Monday, May 1, also at Temple Shalom, when a daughter of a Jew saved by Chiune Sugihara will speak. Sugihara, Japan's envoy to Vilna Lithuania during World War II, issued visas -- against his government's wishes -- to Jews fleeing the Nazi onslaught. Light refreshments will be served after the screening. RSVP by calling 502-458-4739.

## Homeless outreach

Keneseth Israel will make sandwiches and care packages for the homeless, starting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 2. Bring your own supplies (bread, peanut butter and jelly, blankets, underwear, socks, flashlights, etc.) At around 6:30 p.m. the group will caravan downtown to give out food and supplies to the homeless.

## Packing party

Brown Bag Blessings, Adath Jeshurun's program to help feed the homeless will hold a packing party at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 5, to prepare brown bag lunches to serve to the homeless population. Pizza and refreshments will be served. Donations of bottled water, peanut butter, jelly, and small bagged snacks are needed. To sign up, visit [adathjeshurun.com/brownbagblessings](http://adathjeshurun.com/brownbagblessings).

## Torah yoga service for kids

Rabbi Diane Tracht will lead a 45-minute session of meditation and yoga connected to the practice of mussar at 11 am, Saturday, May 18 at Adath Jeshurun. Students will join the main service afterwards to help lead the closing prayers. Wear comfortable clothing. Contact

Tracht at [dianetracht@gmail.com](mailto:dianetracht@gmail.com).

## WRJ/Sisterhood meeting

WRJ/Sisterhood will hold its annual closing meeting at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 19, in the Heideman Auditorium. Terry Chambers, author of the mystery, *Rose Island, An Almost Accurate Account of Days Gone By*, will be the guest speaker. Please bring unexpired food items for the JFCS Meyer Food Pantry. RSVP to The Temple 502 423-2818 by May 18.

## AJ Book Club

The AJ Book Club is reading *Millard Salter's Last Day* by Jacob M. Appel. The book will be discussed at the next meeting at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 19, at Adath Jeshurun. Contact Deborah Slosberg at [dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com) or 502-458-5359.

## Dad's trip info session

There will be an info session to learn about the KITE-JWRP Israel trip at the home of Mark and Tracy Geller at 3 p.m. Sunday May 19. Contact Rabbi Zack Blaustein at [rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org](mailto:rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org).

## Captivating Cantors Concert

Adath Jeshurun will host a rare musical performance with more than 130 cantors performing together, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 22. The show is part of the 72nd Annual Cantor's Assembly Convention. Tickets may be purchased at [adathjeshurun.com/CantorsConcert](http://adathjeshurun.com/CantorsConcert).

## Bernheim Hike

The Temple Brotherhood's annual Spring Bernheim Hike will be held Sunday, June 2. The carpool leaves The Temple at 10:30 a.m. Buy lunch at Isaac's Cafe, or bring your own. A moderate one-to-two hour hike will follow. The Brotherhood will treat the hikers to ice cream afterwards. RSVPs are required for a carpool. Call 502-423-1818 by May 31.

## Celebration of Learning

Louisville Melton will honor Rabbi Laura Metzger for excellence in teaching and curriculum development during its annual Celebration of Learning at 11 a.m., Sunday, June 2, at Adath Jeshurun. Lunch will follow at noon. RSVPs are due by Friday, May 24. Call Deborah Slosberg at 502-458-5359 or visit [adathjeshurun.com/meltoncelebration](http://adathjeshurun.com/meltoncelebration).



Rabbi Laura Metzger

## WOTS Book Club

The WOTS (Women of Temple Shalom) Book Club will hold its next meet-

ing at 2 p.m., Thursday, June 6, at the cafe at Barnes & Noble, 801. S. Hurstbourne. The club is reading *The Sisters Weiss: A Novel*, by Naomi Ragen and *The Book of Mysteries*, by Jonathan Cahn. Contact Carol Savkovich at [savkofam@bellsouth.net](mailto:savkofam@bellsouth.net).

## The Temple Tikkun Leil Shavuot

The Temple's annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot will be held at 9 p.m., Saturday, June 8. Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will address "The Miracle of Sinai" The event will follow the confirmation service.

## Adult Education

### Pragmatic spirituality discussion

Dr. Courtney Snyder and Marty Snyder lead a discussion group based on inspiration from spiritual thinkers, Sundays at 10 a.m. at Adath Jeshurun. The May 5 session addresses the topic "Where Money and spirituality Meet;" the May 19 session, "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."

### Melton Open House

Louisville Melton will hold an open house in May. Participants may attend one, or both, of the open house sessions on Tuesday, May 7, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., and/or Thursday, May 9, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Contact Deborah Slosberg at [dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com) or 502-458-5359 to reserve space.

### Kabbalah Month by Month

Cantor Sharon Hordes teaches a class in kabbalistic teachings and meditations as they relate to each Hebrew month's holidays, Torah portions, healing areas and astrological connections. The class meets every second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Keneseth Israel. The next session is May 9.

### Mother's Day Brunch

Keneseth Israel Sisterhood will host its Mother's Day Brunch at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, May 12. Cost is \$15 for adult, \$7 for children 4 to 11, and free for kids 3 and under. Reservations and checks must be received by May 8. Send them to Keneseth Israel Sisterhood, c/o Beth Haines, 2907 Summerfield Drive, Louisville 40220. No refunds.

### How to pray

The Jewish Learning Center-Chabad is offering a six-week course "With All My Heart," which will examine the Jewish art of prayer and spiritual experience. The course will start on May 13 and is designed for people at all levels of knowledge. It is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Classes are held at the JLC, 1110 Dupont Circle. Cost is \$80. visit [myjli.com](http://myjli.com) to register.

### Torah Yoga

Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Flannery teach a class that combines yoga and Torah study. Temple Shalom and Hadassah co-sponsor the class, which meets at Keneseth Israel. The next session is at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 16.

# AROUND TOWN / LIFECYCLE

continued from page 23

## Torah study

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple leads Torah study, Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the Fishman Library. Coffee, bagels and cream cheese will be served.

## Jews and Brews

Rabbi Michael Wolk leads a Torah study session over coffee Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the J library.

## Bridge Club

The Keneseth Israel Bridge Club meets Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the small chapel. RSVP to [gwishnia@gmail.com](mailto:gwishnia@gmail.com).

## Worship

### Derby, Celebration Shabbat

Wear Derby hats to Shabbat at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 4, at Adath Jeshurun. A kiddush lunch with Derby-inspired des-

serts will follow. Birthday and anniversaries in May will be celebrated with a group aliyah.

### Shabbat with interactive prayer

Chabad will celebrate Shabbat with an interactive prayer service followed by a deli luncheon at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 4. The program is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call 502-459-1770.

### No Shush Shabbat

Temple Shalom will hold its next No Shush Shabbat at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 10. Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and Benji Berlow lead an interactive service for families. A pot-luck dinner will follow.

### Sing-along service, dinner

Chabad will celebrate Shabbat on Friday, May 10 at the Chabad House, 1654 Almara Circle with a sing-along service at 8 p.m. Song and dance will be incorporated. A traditional Shabbat dinner will follow. The service is sponsored in

part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call 502-459-1770.

### Blue Jean Shabbat

The Temple's annual spring Blue Jean/Grandparent/Great Grandparent Family Shabbat will be held Friday, May 17. Dinner provided by Goose Creek Diner (fried chicken and fried green tomatoes) starts at 6 p.m., followed by a tot Shabbat service at 6:45 pm in the sanctuary, our tot oneg in the Fishman Library afterwards. The main service in the Waller Chapel at 7 p.m. RSVP by Tuesday, May 14 at [thetemplelouky.org](http://thetemplelouky.org) or at 502-423-1818 to be entered into a raffle.

### Candlelight service, meditation

Chabad will celebrate the conclusion of Shabbat with a havdalah service and guided meditation on Saturday, May 18. The service will conclude with a renewal blessing for the moon. It is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call 502-459-1770.

### Lag Baomer commemoration

Chabad will commemorate the life of the sage Rabbi Shimon Ben Yochai on Lag Baomer, Tuesday, May 21. Call 502-459-1770.

### Bagels Lox and Tefillen

Chabad will hold a 45-minute followed by a 45-minute brunch at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, May 26. The program is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call 502-459-1770.

### Bernheim Shabbat

The Temple's annual Bernheim Classical Shabbat Service and dinner will be held Friday, May 31, Dinner starts at 6 p.m.; services, 7 p.m. Isaac Bernheim was a member of The Temple, a Louisville distiller, and philanthropist who bequeathed 14,000 acres of land, the Bernheim Forest and Arboretum, to the people of Kentucky. Cost for the dinner is \$10 for adults, free for children 12 and under. The menu is Bubbe's Brisket with a vegetarian option available on advanced request. RSVP before May 28 for a \$5 discount. Call 502-423-1818 or register online.

## Births



### Baby girls Hammond

Mark and Sandy Hammond of California are pleased to announce the birth of their twin granddaughters: Poppy Kate and Rosie Jo Hammond

born on January 24, 2019. Proud parents are Kenny and Liz Hammond and big sister is Sophie.



### Flora Starr Berlow

Benji Berlow and Lisa Sobel-Berlow are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Flora Starr Berlow (Davida Shirat Binyamin v'Nechama), who

was born on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. The proud grandparents are Sue and Tom Sobel of Louisville and Sarina and Bernie Berlow of Palmerton, Pennsylvania.

dorf School of Louisville where she plays basketball, soccer and cello in the school's orchestra. She is co-captain of her track team.

Dia is in the sixth grade at Waldorf. She plays basketball and soccer and runs track. A native of Colombia, she speaks Spanish and English.

Anna and Dia participated in the Jewish Family & Career Services' Pledge 13 program by volunteering to make meals for Gilda's Club Louisville.

Anna and Dia, and their family, invite the community to join them in celebrating this joyous occasion.



### Levi Joshua Koby

Levi Joshua Koby, son of Marci and Stephen Koby, brother of Ethan, and grandson of Laura and the late Dr. Jay Koby and the late Reva and Harvey Frank, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 11, at The Temple.

A seventh grader at Kentucky Country Day, Levi enjoys playing soccer and learning. His favorite classes are history and English.

Levi has attended Camp Livingston for five years, where he enjoys all things camp-related and the lifelong friends he has made. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with his friends, sports, video and card games.

Levi is participating in various activities to help the needy, fulfilling his pledge 13 promise of contributing 13 hours of charity work. He helps Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society and Blessings in a Backpack.

Levi and his family invite the congregation to celebrate his bar mitzvah and the kiddish luncheon following the service.

### Elyssa Kate and Julia Iris Goldstein

Elyssa Kate and Julia Iris Goldstein, daughters of Orit and Jonathan Goldstein, will be called to the Torah as b'not mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 18, at The Temple.

Elyssa and Julia are granddaughters of Nicole and David Goldstein, and Shoshana and Yoram Katz.

Elyssa, a seventh grader at St. Fran-



cis School, is on the field hockey and track & field teams. She enjoys spending time with friends, cooking, playing tennis, painting and playing piano.

Julia, a sixth grader at Kentucky Country Day School, is on the volleyball and softball teams. She enjoys spending time with friends, baking, playing tennis, snorkeling and playing piano.

Both girls participate in the JFCS Pledge 13 program, and have volunteered at Temple events, for the hungry. They have served meals at the Scholar House and have helped at various events with children on weekends. They plan to continue volunteering there throughout the year.

Elyssa, Julia and their family invite the community to celebrate their b'not mitzvah and the kiddush luncheon following the service.

### Nathan Samuel Kaplan



Nathan Samuel Kaplan, son of David and Elizabeth Kaplan and brother of Nicki Kaplan, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 25, at Temple Shalom.

Nate is the grandson of Ira and Susan Rudin of Belle Harbor, New York, and Martin and Odette Kaplan of Lexington, Kentucky, and the late Hazel "Nicki" Kaplan.

A seventh grader at Highland Middle School, Nate plays on the soccer team and runs cross-country.

Nate and his family invite the community to celebrate his becoming a bar mitzvah and the kiddush luncheon following the service.

### Ryan Armand Marks

Ryan Armand Marks, son of Julie and Rodney Marks and brother of Sydney, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 1, at The Temple.

Ryan is the grandson of Jill and Alan Simon and Susan and Buddy Marks. He



is the great-grandson of Elise Essig.

A seventh grader at St. Francis School in Goshen, Ryan plays on the basketball and baseball teams. He also plays baseball for the Sun Devils, a 13U travel team.

Ryan has attended B'nai Brith Beber and URJ Six Points Sports Academy. When not playing sports, he enjoys spending time with his friends and playing video games.

For his bar mitzvah project, Ryan is collecting new baseball hats to donate to Camp Quality, a summer camp for children with cancer. Because most of the children need their heads and faces protected from the sun, he hopes to collect enough hats for all the campers.

Ryan and his family invite the community to celebrate his bar mitzvah and to join them at the kiddush luncheon following the service.

### Blake Ann Tasman



Blake Ann Tasman, daughter of Abby and Barrett Tasman and sister of Levi and Jude, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, June 1, at Adath Jeshurun.

Blake is the granddaughter of Marda and Ronnie Tasman and Gretchen and James Blickle of Dataw Island, South Carolina, and great-granddaughter of Martha Frockt.

At Highland Middle School, Blake is on the field hockey team, plays violin for the school orchestra and has started the Highland Helper program, a peer tutoring initiative to assist students needing extra help with their studies.

Outside of school, she enjoys playing with her club field hockey team and spending time with her family and friends.

Blake and her family invite the community to celebrate her becoming a bat mitzvah and the kiddush luncheon following the service.

## B'nai Mitzvah



### Inanna and Claudia Cohen

Inanna Nance and Claudia Patricia Cohen, daughters of Jonathan and Rebecca Cohen and sisters of Joseph, Leah, Kate, Aryeh, Nicol, Asher and Amari, will be called to the Torah as b'not mitzvah at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 11, at Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

"Anna" and "Dia" are the granddaughters of Stuart and Bonnie Cohen and Richard Lasky and Nancy Lasky (z"l).

Anna is a seventh grader at the Wal-

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## Ethan Joseph Schwartz



Ethan Joseph Schwartz, daughter of Jaime and Eric Schwartz and brother of Mary, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 1, at Temple Shalom.

Ethan is the grandson of Mark and Becky Jorrisch and David and Paula Schwartz of Lexington.

A seventh grader at Westport Middle School, Ethan is on the soccer team and plays cello in the school orchestra. He also attends the URJ-Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, Indiana.

## Weddings



### Jeffrey and Alicia Lancaster, Ben and Andrea Lancaster

Joe and Susan Abramson Lancaster are delighted to announce the recent 2018 marriages of their sons, Benjamin and Jeffrey Lancaster.

Jeffrey and Alicia Lancaster were married in Central Park, New York City, on Sept. 15, 2018, in a private and personal autumn ceremony including their immediate families. Jeffrey graduated with honors from Washington University, Oxford University and Columbia University, where he earned his Ph.D. in chemistry. Jeffrey and Alicia live and work in the Greater New York area.

Ben and Andrea Lancaster were married in a celebration with family and friends on Oct. 13, 2018, in Louisville. Ben and Andrea live in Goshen and are certified veterinary technicians employed at Blue Pearl Animal Hospital.

## Obituaries

### Leonard Wexler

Leonard Wexler, 88, of Louisville, died Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on Feb. 21, 1931, the son of Bert and Eileen. Leonard moved to Chicago, graduated from the University of Illinois, and later earned his MBA from the University of Chicago.

He married Frances Levin, had three children and his life and career flourished. Frances preceded him in death.

He moved to Louisville in 1980 when he accepted an executive position with Glenmore Distilleries.

He and Frances fully enjoyed their life here. As a member of Standard Club, he developed many friendships over games of golf and poker.

He was a lifetime member of the Financial Executives Institute and won the Louisville Jewish Federation's Ronald & Marie Abrams Volunteer of the Year award in 2000.

Somehow, he always had time for UofL basketball as a season ticket holder.

Leonard is survived by his sons, Lawrence J. Wexler and his wife, Deb Dusan, and Bruce H. Wexler and his wife, Paula; his daughter, Donna A. Wexler

and her husband, Tracy Towns; grandchildren Alex and Matt Wexler and Chava and Elie Kornfeld.

A celebration of Leonard's life was held on April 14 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. He was laid to rest next to his wife at Cave Hill Cemetery during a private ceremony. Memorial contributions to your favorite organization are welcomed.

### Irving Howard Shaw



Irving Howard Shaw, of Louisville, a life insurance executive who transformed the industry, passed away peacefully Friday, April 12.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Happy; sons Richard (Kimberly Leary) and Jon (Maria), and grandchildren Stephanie and Blake.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, a son of Joseph and Bessie Shafransky, Irv served in the Navy on a variety of attack ships in the Pacific and briefly at postings in and around Shanghai. He returned home to attend Brooklyn College.

Recruited by a family-owned garment sales company, he moved to Atlanta. There, he created many innovations in the children's clothing industry. On one sales call, he showed his redesigned pair of baby boys underwear to a buyer at Atlanta's largest downtown department store. Recognizing her from Temple services the previous Friday night, he asked her out. He proposed to Happy on that first date. Shenandoah Life recruited Irv into its life insurance sales force a few years later. He went on to run the company's Atlanta agency. State Mutual Life then recruited him to run its Louisville office in 1961; a few years after, Manhattan Life recruited him to run its Louisville agency.

By the mid-1960's, Irv began to think of managing his own agency. He conceived the idea of life insurance as a wholesale product, a concept that changed the industry. In 1967, he founded the life insurance brokerage that later became Shaw American Financial Corporation.

During his career, Irv involved himself in all sectors of his profession. He was a member of many professional organizations, founded and co-authored many of them, and held every office on many of their boards.

He created or helped create Life Inc., LifeMark, the Risk Appraisal Forum (RAF), the National Association of Independent Life Brokerage Agencies (NAILBA) and the Kentucky Association of Health Underwriters (KAHU). Every one of these organizations serve the life insurance industry today, and most life insurance products sold today are placed through a member of one of these organizations.

Irv also presided over and held every office in the Kentucky Association of Life Underwriters (KALU), the Louisville Association of Life Underwriters (LALU, now NAIFA), the Louisville General Agents and Managers Association (GAMA), and the Advanced Underwriters.

In 1990, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Medal of Honor by the Kentucky State Association of Life Underwriters. In 2002, he was awarded the Douglas Mooers Award for Excellence by NAILBA, with former General Electric Chair Jack Welch making the presentation. The award honors excellence in brokerage, and is given to individuals most committed to furthering brokerage and independent life brokerage as a distribution system. In his 50s, Irv earned

a number of professional designations and degrees: CLU, RHU, ChFC, REBC, and LUTCF.

Passionate about helping his community, Irv was mayor of Moorland, Kentucky, and chaired numerous volunteer, civic and charitable organizations. He was president of The Temple Brotherhood and acting scoutmaster for Louisville Troop 316.

He enjoyed bringing joy to others as a licensed officiant for weddings, performing many ceremonies for family and friends, including his son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Maria.

Irv loved spending most of his spare time with his family. He enjoyed Louisville and Kentucky basketball, horseracing (one of his consortium's horses won the Indiana Derby in 2008), trips to New York, learning about new technology, reading and traveling the world with Happy.

Besides his children and grandchildren, he loved his dogs more than anything. He and Happy would take their miniature poodles everywhere.

The family would like to express its gratitude to Baptist Health Care and the caregivers from Home Instead.

Memorial Services were held Friday, April 26, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. The family asks that expressions of sympathy be sent to the JCC Building Campaign via the Jewish Federation.

### Julian P. Morris



Julian P. Morris passed away on Feb. 11, 2019, in Seattle, Washington.

Born Sept. 13, 1929, in Louisville, the son of the late Jake and Bertha Morris, Julian was a dedicated husband, nurturing father and grandfather, an accomplished engineer, and avid flight enthusiast. His lifelong love of aviation and aeronautics began when he was 14, regularly biking to the airfield where he obtained his pilot's license because he was too young to drive. He flew small planes as a hobby throughout his young adulthood.

At the University of Louisville, Julian earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the Speed Scientific School in 1953, which led to his long career at Boeing. He started in Kansas then relocated to Washington, where he made his permanent home.

Julian spent 30-plus years at Boeing, working as a mechanical, electrical and acoustical engineer on many significant projects: the design of the first American supersonic transport (SST), the jetfoil (passenger-carrying waterjet-propelled hydrofoil), and the groundbreaking 777 jet airliner. His work also influenced the 767, 737 and various defense projects.

His critical contributions to Boeing projects were recognized with several career achievement awards. Beyond his lifetime interest in flight, Julian maintained many additional hobbies. Chief among them was stamp collecting, including an extensive collection of aviation stamps. He was an active member of the Boeing stamp club.

Julian also enjoyed building and flying model planes, photography, running, skiing and watching football.

A technology enthusiast, he kept abreast of the recent advancements and eagerly tinkered with the latest gadgets.

His favorite game was chess, which he taught to all his grandchildren. He played several instruments, including the cornet, baritone, and shofar.

Julian cherished time with family and

close friends, whom he considered family. He supported his children in all their endeavors, taking pride in their accomplishments.

He valued education and passed that value to his children and grandchildren, all of whom obtained post-graduate degrees.

Upon retirement, Julian and his wife, Eleanor, began living half of the year in Arizona to spend equal time with family there. Countless family outings were held at Kelsey Creek Park across from their home.

Julian and Eleanor played an integral role in organizing community members to purchase private land for the City of Bellevue to preserve as a park. He was an active member of Temple B'nai Torah and Temple De Hirsch Sinai, where he acted as ritual committee chair. Both congregations will remember his tefillah gedolah calls on the High Holy Days.

Julian will be remembered for his kind, caring nature, his intellect, work ethic, good humor and quick wit. He was genuine in his relationships and sincere in his interactions. A loyal man, he exhibited bravery and determination in the face of adversity. He lives on through the innumerable family members, friends, and colleagues.

In addition to his parents, Julian was preceded in death by his two older brothers, Jacques and Brooks.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years, Eleanor, their two beloved children, Michael (Barbara) and Nancy (Glenn), their adored grandchildren, Steven (Emily), Loryn (Trevor), Rebecca (Todd), and Jeff; and their new great-grandson, Leo, who shares his birthday.

He will be missed dearly and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Contributions in his honor can be made to Temple B'nai Torah, Temple De Hirsch Sinai, the Kline Galland Home, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or the Museum of Flight.

### Beverly A. Klein

Beverly A. Klein, 93, died Wednesday, April 3, 2019 in Louisville.

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, she was born Nov. 1, 1925, a daughter of the late Jacob and Hannah Aronowitz.

She is survived by her loving husband of 70 years, Elias Klein; her daughter, Meryl Klein (Barbara Loevy); her sons, Jon Klein (Laura) and Jerrold Klein; and two grandchildren, Rachel Chaimovitz (David) and Sarah Klein.

Beverly's family would like to thank all the caregivers at Carmelita's Quality Care for the loving care they provided.

Graveside services were held Friday, April 5, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 2401 Woodbourne Avenue, Louisville, 40205 or Dare To Care, 5803 Fern Valley Road, Louisville 40228.

### Sidney B. "Sid" Jacobs



Sidney B. "Sid" Jacobs, died Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Louisville. He was 76.

Born in Chicago on March 15, 1943, a son of the late Arthur and Lillian Jacobs, Sid was retired from Humana where he worked as

a computer program analyst.

He was a Master Mason at St George Masonic Lodge #239 FA&M, 32 Degree Scottish Rite, and a Kentucky Colonel.

Sid is survived by his children, Jenni-

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fer (Kjell) Davis, Barbra Jacobs and Benita Jacobs; his grandchildren, Kjell Davis II, Kaytlynn Munn, Kourtney Davis, Alyssa Jacobs, Taylor Jacobs and Gerald Jacobs; great-grandchildren, Lexington, Grayson, and Xavier; his significant other, Carol Davis and her family; his sister, Nancy Jacobs Siegel and his uncle, Lester Levin.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 1, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Interment followed at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

## Max E. Goldberg

Max E. Goldberg, 76, formerly of Louisville, died Tuesday, April 16, 2019, in Indianapolis.

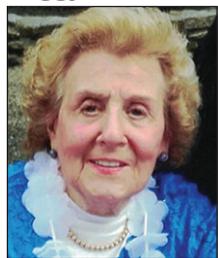
He earned a bachelors' degree from the University of Louisville after being stationed in Germany while in Army.

Max, who had a great aptitude for engineering, focused his career on the fields of pharmaceutical and medical engineering.

Max dearly loved his family and is survived by his wife of 50 years, Susan Kohn Goldberg; his son, Jeff and his wife, Stacey; and grandchildren, Alex and Hallie Goldberg.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, April 23, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Memorial tributes in Max's honor may be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 15120 Chicago, IL 60693 or to the National Kidney Foundation, 161 St. Matthews Avenue, Suite 3, Louisville, KY 40207.

## Peggy Ruth Kasdan



Peggy Ruth Kasdan, 94, died peacefully Sunday, April 14, 2019, at her home in Louisville.

She is survived by her sons, Martin Z. Kasdan Jr. and his friend Brenda; Jonathan Kasdan

and wife Lise; and her four granddaughters, Anna, Becca, Leah and Lauren.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Martin Z. Kasdan.

Born in Louisville on April 19, 1924, Peggy graduated from the University of Louisville, where she was a cheerleader. She had planned on going into fashion, but her heart pulled her into education.

Over her career, she taught "the little ones" at several public elementary schools, including substitute teaching after her retirement.

Due to the damage of the 1974 torna-

do, she diligently redesigned her home for a year, all while giving her students consistency amid the chaos.

Besides teaching, Peggy continued to enjoy fashion. She also designed floral arrangements and became an avid bridge player.

She adored her granddaughters and family, dinners out and watching old movies.

Her family expresses appreciation for the loving care provided her by Jo Ann Fremow, and her wonderful caregivers.

Funeral services were held at The Temple. Interment followed at The Temple Cemetery. Memorial gifts to The Home of the Innocents, The Temple or charity of your choice are appreciated.

## Rosita Uroper Kaplin

Rosita Uroper Kaplin, 89, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville.

Born May 1, 1929, in Havana, Cuba, a daughter of the late Jack and Basia Uroper,

Rosita immigrated to the United States with her mother in 1944, settling in Louisville, where she met the love of her life, Phil "Pinky" Kaplin.

They married in 1950 and lived happily together until Pinky's passing in 2012.

A devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, she always considered her family to be the most important thing in her life. They could always count on Rosita to be there for them.

She was an active member of the Senior Adult Program at the Jewish Community Center in Louisville, where she had many friends.

Rosita was the proud recipient of the 2015 Elsie P. Judah Memorial Award for outstanding volunteer service.

She was a resident of Grove Point at the Masonic Home in Louisville.

Her daughter, Jackie Posnansky (Mark), son Cary Kaplin (Laurie), grandchildren Brian Posnansky (Rebekah), Nikki Posnansky King (Ted), Ben Kaplin (Sharon), Nathan Kaplin and great-grandchildren Lilly King, Seth Posnansky and Philip Kaplin all survive her.

Graveside services were held Friday, April 5, at the Anshei Sfard Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Senior Center of The J, Temple Shalom, the Parkinson's Support Center of Kentucky or the donor's favorite charity.

## Ruthie Osoffsky Passamaneck

Ruthie Osoffsky Passamaneck, 95, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Passamaneck; her parents, Hanna and Harris Osoffsky; and her brothers, Samuel and Ben Osoffsky.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Howard and Ruth Passamaneck; her grandson, Neal Passamaneck and his wife, Angela Erwin; her great-grandsons, Isaac and Grant Passamaneck; her sisters-in-law, Sylvia and Doris Osoffsky; and many loving nieces, nephews and friends, including Toni, Ralph and Jennifer.

Active in the community, she was a member of Temple Shalom, Congregation Ashei Sfard, Hadassah and the JCC, where she helped with lunches, dues and bingo. The family is grateful to the staff of the JCC.

Ruthie and Sylvia worked at Adath Jeshurun for over 24 years. They catered with the help of family, Sheila, Danielle, Hedley, Dana and Samuel. It was a great time for all.

One of her favorite songs was "My Yiddische Momme." She loved people and had a great smile.

Ruthie's motto was "I'm particular." Woe to anyone who did not understand the true ramifications of those words. From ensuring that the correct protocol was maintained in A.J.'s kitchen, to her special tuna salad for Super Sunday and

her hand-painted candies, Ruthie's special touch was seen.

She mastered catering for large parties to volunteering to bake and ice cupcakes with a Carmelite sister. Ruthie's talents were many.

The family thanks the staff, residents and volunteers at Nazareth Home in Clifton, where Ruthie lived for the last three years, for their exceptional care and loving friendships. They were extremely supportive of Ruthie and the family.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 11, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in Anshei Sfard Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the JCC Senior Adult program, Nazareth Home in Clifton or an organization of your choice.

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# NEWS

## DUES

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A 2015 story in *The New York Times*, reported that about 30 Reform, Conservative, and independent synagogues nationwide had eliminated mandatory dues – the backbone of synagogue sustainability for the past century.

Amy Asin, vice president, strengthening congregations for the Union for Reform Judaism, said the vast majority of Reform congregations (she guessed 80 percent), no longer have an abatement process, and she would encourage the rest to do the same.

“There’s a pretty large percentage of congregations that are allowing members a lot more leeway, without [vetting] what they are paying,” she said.

Conservative synagogues also are tweaking their dues systems, said Barry Mael, senior director of kehilla affiliations & operations at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

But he offered a couple of caveats for congregations considering tweaks. For one, don’t do it just to draw in young members; Jews of all ages need assistance.

“We tend to ask for the most money when people have the most financial commitments,” he said.

For another, dues-paying members ought to be treated like givers of tzedakah.

“Why don’t you send a thank-you note to members when they complete their dues payments?” he asked. “Simple, isn’t it? We have to appreciate all members and understand that all members are voluntary givers.”

Nationwide, synagogues are test driving several variations of the traditional dues model, including tiered (incorporating a flat standard rate with fundraising requests above and beyond), fair-share (a percentage of annual household income), sustaining (each member pays a portion of the annual operating expenses minus other projected revenue streams) and models geared toward “snowbirds” -- retirees who live part of the year in the community.

Labelling these models is tricky since they can vary from synagogue to synagogue. But Asin sees all variations as part of a healthy process.

“What’s fantastic is congregations are really experimenting and trying to understand what their communities need,”

she said.

At The Temple, Buckman sees another advantage to free-will: It’s bringing back people who grew up there.

“[They] never really intended on joining before because they saw their parents paying so much money and they just didn’t think that was for them,” she said. “Now they’re able to join for an amount that they feel comfortable with; they don’t have to justify it.”

Free-will has also driven more financial transparency and membership engagement into The Temple’s operation.

“When it comes to giving money, you want to see value from that,” Buckman said. “What we have found with young people, especially the 18-25 crowd, is that they almost don’t even want to give their money if they feel like it is just going to support the building; they really want to see us driving the Jewish mission out in the community.”

The free-will model is hardly a new idea. Rabbi Stephen Wise founded his Free Synagogue in New York City in 1907.

“He believed that only a voluntary giving system would promote the free exchange of ideas he saw as the synagogue’s highest ideal,” according to the

writings of Rabbi Dan Judson, dean of Hebrew College Rabbinical School, who has studied the history of synagogues and fundraising.

Prior to that, synagogues supported themselves by selling honors and pews – ways that favored wealthier worshippers.

The dues models became widely used around the 1920s in what appeared to be a more equitable way to support synagogue operations.

Now, as Jews appear to affiliate less, the traditional dues model has become less attractive.

“The perception is that it is now out of step with contemporary Jewish culture and values,” Judson said in an interview with *Reform Judaism* magazine.

But Buckman rejects the notion that young adults won’t support synagogues. They just want proven value and a financial model that works for them.

One thing they won’t do is join just because that’s what their parents and grandparents did.

“Even as a young Jew, I still recognize the importance of a building, a physical structure to go to,” she said, “a place to call home essentially for your Judaism here in Louisville.”

## FUTURE

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Andrew Kusman Trager, vice president/managing director of corporate strategies for Republic Bank, who announced that his family is committing \$1.5 million to the campaign, also praised the J’s appeal to the entire city.

“Yes, the JCC, or the J, is a Jewish-rooted organization, but it’s an organization that’s welcoming to all,” he said. “I think if you walk through this building all the time, it’s probably one of the most diverse places in Louisville, Kentucky, which is a great thing. It’s a treasure that we need more of in this city.”

The Tragers’ were the first family who committed early on as a vote of confidence as the new building was first being conceptualized.

Fighting back tears, Kate Nyormoi put in personal terms why the J is so important to her.

She told the audience about her 13-month-old son, Lukas, how he was born with Downs Syndrome. She, her husband Akim, and their older son, Parker, had moved to Louisville three years ago and had no family here to support them.

So the J played that role. “The J family wrapped their arms around us,” Nyormoi said. “There were so many days when my husband and I were so overwhelmed that we exhaled with a sigh of relief, knowing that our kids would not only be accepted here at the J; they would be loved and embraced.”

Today, Parker and Lukas are enrolled in the J’s Early Learning Center. Lukas is one of three children there with Downs.

The center even organized a team – called The J Community is Really Special – to enter the annual walk for Downs Syndrome.

“We’re very grateful for the excellent curriculum and care our two boys receive every day; it’s phenomenal,” Nyormoi said. “But we’re actually more thankful for the community.”

Another component of the project, the acquisition of the Anshei Sfarad property, is expected to be completed by May. The purchase will enhance and expand the size of the J campus while keeping the mikvah – the ritual bath – open at its current site, but JCL officials have not yet decided how the rest of the real estate will be used.

The J has been the central address for Jewish cultural, recreational, educational, artistic and community activities in Louisville since its incorporation in 1890

as The Young Men’s Hebrew Association. Today, it engages more than 18,000 people per year.

One of the three oldest J Community Centers in the country to have its own building, it moved from downtown to Dutchmans Lane in 1955.

The event concluded with children from the Early Learning Center’s Pomegranate (pre-K) class serenading the crowd.

Wagner said the kids represent how generational the J experience is.

“The majority of this class has been with us since they were 6 weeks old,” she said, “so not only has the staff watched them go up and down the halls and sing songs, but our seniors who come here for lunch every day have had the pleasure of interacting when they may not have their own grandchildren in town.”

## CANTORS

continued from page 1

from the Jewish Theological Seminary;

- *Seinfeld* composer Jonathan Wolf will reflect on his career in Hollywood;

- Rabbi Michael Wolk, the son of a cantor, will talk about his passion for classical cantorial music;

- Celebrities from the *Kentucky Homefront* public radio show will put on a “Jewgrass” concert; and

- Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will discuss the Maaleh, Israel’s only school for

Orthodox filmmakers. (He regularly underwrites screenings of the students’ pictures at the Louisville Jewish Film Festival.) He will show at least two films.

“I wanted to bring to my colleagues something they can get in Louisville that they can’t get anywhere else,” Lipp said.

In a special attraction, portions of an upcoming musical play written by Cantor Steven Stoehr, *The Lost Supper*, about a Passover seder Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. had planned to attend at the home of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, will be performed.

“Heschel had invited Martin Luther King to the seder [in 1968], but he was

assassinated before he got there,” Lipp said. “This is what he (Stoehr) imagined that seder might have been.” He added that the story may be apocryphal.

Two local actors will be in the play: Yehuda Husband will play King and Tamika McDonald will play Coretta Scott King.

The shootings at Tree of Life \* Or L’Simcha synagogue in Pittsburgh will be remembered at the convention when the rabbi of Tree of Life, Jeffrey Myers, who also is a cantor, will address the gathering.

The highlight of the convention will be the Wednesday Captivating Cantors

Concert at Adath Jeshurun. Some 130 cantors will be the choir for that performance, but, in a twist, the boards of all four progressive congregations and the JCL are being asked to sing backup in a Kululam-inspired performance.

### Want to go?

Tickets for the Captivating Cantors Concert are available [adathjeshurun.com/CantorsConcert](http://adathjeshurun.com/CantorsConcert). Day passes for the rest of the convention can be obtained by going to [cantors.org/72nd-annual-cantors-assembly-convention-registration/](http://cantors.org/72nd-annual-cantors-assembly-convention-registration/).

## VICTORY

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for Israel. But the Trump plan remains perpetually a few months away.

None of this bodes well for the relationship between Israeli and American Jews. Jewish Americans vote overwhelmingly Democratic (71 percent voted Democratic in the last presidential election) and a majority believe in a two-state solution. As Netanyahu enters his

second decade in office, the American Jewish community will be faced with uncomfortable choices about the future of American policy on Israel.

There are still some reasons to retain cautious optimism. This election is likely to be Netanyahu’s last. The Israeli Supreme Court would likely contest the French Law (if passed). The prime minister could last a few months or a couple of years, depending on how adeptly he plays the system. On the flip side, Gantz’s Blue and White won more seats than

any previous Netanyahu challenger, and simultaneously joined Likud this year as the first two Israeli political parties to ever secure over 1 million votes.

The question now is how supporters of two states, democratic norms and the U.S.-Israel alliance ride out the remainder of Netanyahu’s time in office. If there is no mainstream opposition to annexation in Washington, the field will be completely ceded to those who see growing opportunities to formalize a Greater Israel reality.

As Netanyahu enters coalition negotiations, he and his partners in the White House will look for signs of exhaustion from their political opponents on both sides of the Atlantic as an opening to advance their platform. The key is not to show them what they want to see or let up.

(David A. Halperin is executive director of Israel Policy Forum. Evan Gottesman is associate director of policy and communications at the IPF.)



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