



Getting Ready for Chanukah. See Pages 14 & 15.

# COMMUNITY

FRIDAY VOL. 42, NO. 2 ■ 17 CHESHVAN 5777 ■ NOVEMBER 18, 2016

INSIDE

AJ Honors Rabbi Slosberg for 35 Years of Service  
**STORY ON PG. 4**  
Light Up CenterStage Is December 3  
**STORY ON PG. 5**



## Challah Success

Louisville's Shabbat Project was a success. The hard work of these committee members drew over 100 people to bake challah on Wednesday, November 9. Top, from left, Rachel Blaustein, Hindy Snaid, Mishy Mandel, Jodi Halpern, Lisa Sobel-Berlow, Cori Roth, Chaya Susman, Fraidy Litvin, Goldie Litvin and Doby Litvin; bottom, Amy Faust, Heidi Wolk and Sandra Chack. See story, page 11.

PHOTOS BY TED WIRTH

## This Sunday Louisville Makes History as Leaders of Liberal Jewish Movements in Israel Discuss Pluralism in Israel Together

When Israel was founded as the first Jewish democratic state in 1948, many agreements were made between the secular and religious wings of the various Zionist movements to determine the nature of what it means to be a Jewish State. Many of these agreements stipulated that the Israeli government would favor the Orthodox Jewish interpretations of religious law such as determining who is a Jew, who can perform conversions and who can marry as Jews.

Since these early agreements were adopted, Israel has made it nearly impossible for other streams of Judaism to have a say in religious matters.

This Sunday, November 20, at 7 p.m. at The Temple, the Louisville Jewish community will help give these movements a voice. In a unique forum, Rabbi Gilad Kariv, the president and CEO of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, and Yizhar Hess, the executive director of the Masorti Movement in Israel will share the stage, and David Mallach, the executive vice chair of United Israel Appeal and the director of UJA-Federation of New York's Commission on the Jewish People will serve as moderator.

This program, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Louisville, Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel, The Temple and Temple Shalom, is certainly unique since it will be a first for the heads of Reform and Conservative movements in Israel to speak on the same stage.

see **PLURALISM** page 16

## Tuvlin Tapped for Life & Legacy Program

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

Jennifer Tuvlin began working for The J as the PJ Library director in 2013, and grew the program from 240 participants to 350. Along the way, she also took on Shalom Baby, The J's program for infants and their mothers, and responsibility for welcoming newcomers.

Now, Tuvlin is ready to undertake a new challenge. She has been named the coordinator of the Jewish Federation of Louisville's LIFE & LEGACY program and is looking forward to helping the Federation, The J and Louisville's Jewish agencies and congregations secure

new legacy gifts that will ensure a stable future for the entire Jewish community.

LIFE & LEGACY, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is a four-year partnership program that assists communities to promote after-life-time giving to benefit a wide range of Jewish organizations. It encourages local Jewish organizations to work



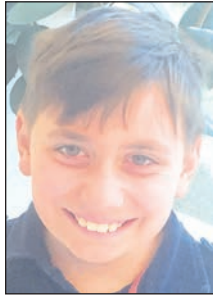
Jennifer Tuvlin

see **TUVLIN** page 12

## Kaplan Chosen for PJ Our Way Design Team

10 Year Old Is Excited to Begin National Responsibilities with Grinspoon

David Kaplan, 10, of Louisville was selected by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) in partnership with The J,



David Kaplan

to join the national PJ Our Way Design Team.

Currently in its 4th year, the PJ Our Way program is the next chapter of the highly successful Jewish outreach program, PJ Library. PJ Our Way offers

9-11 year olds a choice of Jewish themed books and a safe website to upload reviews, videos and blogs.

David and nine other team members from across America have early access to books, and create content including videos and reviews. Together the team interviews authors, participates in workshops and leads the conversation amongst their peers.

"We are thrilled to have David on our team" said Saskia Swenson Moss, who directs the Design Team. "Team members are great role models for tweens see **PJ OUR WAY** page 16

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
LOUISVILLE  
KENTUCKY

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# COMMUNITY

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## COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: December 14 for publication on December 23 and January 18 for publication on January 27, 2017.

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

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

**Community** accepts letters to the editor for publication. All letters must be of interest to the Jewish community or in response to an item published in the paper. They must be no longer than 300 words in length and signed. Name, address and daytime phone number must be included for verification purposes only.

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

Email your comments to: **Community**, Letters to the Editor, [swallace@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:swallace@jewishlouisville.org).

To submit items to Newsmakers, Around Town or Lifecycle, please email them to [newspapercolumns@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:newspapercolumns@jewishlouisville.org).

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# JCRC UPDATE

## A Time for Healing

by Matt Goldberg, Director  
*Jewish Community Relations Council*

The election last week is likely to result in a fundamental shift in the governance of our country. On all the issues that we hold dear as a Jewish community, we can expect significant policy changes. Immigration, helping the poor, the environment, LGBT rights, and Israel are all areas where dramatic change is likely to occur. For some in our community, this represents a welcome change.

For many others this represents an abandonment of policies for which we have long advocated. Many people are vehemently disturbed about this new direction ... rallies of people with signs like, "Not My President," Facebook posts with similar thoughts, a general depression across the twitterverse. I cannot remember an election having such an effect on the psyche of so many in our community.

But I believe now is a time for healing and uniting as a country and a community. Abraham Lincoln, at his first inaugural address, said of a fractured country, "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection." Our election was fair and democratic, and we will have a peaceful transfer of power. We should all be proud of that.

What unites us as a community is much stronger than what divides us (this is not a cliché), and we must heal the wounds of an often vicious and brutal campaign. We all want a safer America. We all want to see our country prosper. We all want to see those less

fortunate rise from their situations. And we all want to see Israel flourish as the homeland of the Jewish people worldwide. Our tactics differ considerably, but we cannot go ahead and retreat into our respective ideological caves.

This certainly does not mean we should abandon those values that are central to our communal outlook. We will fight for justice for all the vulnera-

# REVIEWS

## Assassins

by David Wallace  
*Special to Community*

Since the first successful assassination of a U.S. President, John Wilkes Booth in 1865 (much earlier, Andrew Jackson was in the sights of Richard Lawrence, but both of his guns misfired), there have been numerous attempts – both successful and unsuccessful – on the lives of American presidents.

Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Assassins*, is currently playing at CenterStage, directed by Artistic Director John R. Leffert. Yes, I said a musical about the murder and attempted murder of U.S. presidents. From the first, then, we know that this is a satire.

Sondheim and, by proxy, Leffert, take these murders – successful and bungled – facture and then reassemble these events into something more and less than documentary history. *Assassins* is a comedic satire played broadly, a blunt instrument reconfiguring the American Dream.

The American Dream says that any boy (and recently any girl) can be any-

ble populations we care about. We will demand that our new President enact laws to protect our environment. We will insist that President Trump disavow any support he has received from racist, Anti-Semitic, Islamophobic and xenophobic elements.

Let's all hope, no matter whom we supported in this recent election, that campaign rhetoric gives way to common sense governance and respect for all Americans.

thing they want to be in this vast land of opportunity called the United States of America. *Assassins* takes fragments of information about key killers which include John Wilkes Booth, Charles J. Guiteau, Leon Czolgosz, Guiseppie Zangara, Lee Harvey Oswald, Samuel Byck, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme; Sara Jane Moore and John Hinckley, Jr and weaves them into a sad tale of a reverse American Dream.

Sondheim takes the entire first act to present the cast of characters in kaleidoscopic form. He then spends the second act fleshing out his characters.

The pioneer killer, John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, played fiercely by Jordan Price, is shown as role model to his successors down through time. Near the end of the play, among the boxes on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository in Dallas, Booth, along with the rest of the killer crew talk Oswald into killing President John F. Kennedy.

Price is compelling as he presents murder as fulfilling the American Dream. The other villains are generally portrayed as pathetic losers trying to justify their existence by killing a president.

Particularly notable are Samuel Byck, played by Jason Cooper. Byck is manic and disturbingly amusing as he records a tape to "Lenny" Bernstein while dressed in a Santa suit. Later, he tries to crash a commercial jetliner into Richard Nixon.

Also of note are Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, played by Lauren McCombs, and Sara Jane Moore, played by Jennifer Poliske, who are presented as a pitiful vaudeville act which is clueless, inept and sinister all at the same time as they try to assassinate Gerald Ford.

In the course of the evening, there are several times when guns are pointed at the audience. This seems to indicate that in current context things have not changed at all as far as violence is concerned.

This is a musical only in the barest see **REVIEWS** page 16

## VAAD HAKASHRUT

The following have been approved and certified by the Louisville Vaad Hakashrut:

- ◆ The J (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)
- ◆ Kroger at McMahan Plaza (Provide consultation of Kosher items)
- ◆ Hyatt Regency Louisville (Kosher Catering Only)
- ◆ Masterson's (Kosher Catering available at off-site venues such as JCC, Synagogues, etc. MUST REQUEST TO HAVE VAAD SUPERVISION WHEN ORDERING)

Other venues may be approved only upon request for Kosher supervision. For more information, contact [www.louisvillevaad.org](http://www.louisvillevaad.org).

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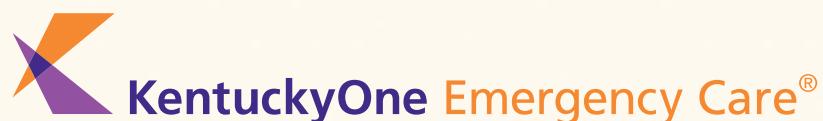
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# AJ to Honor Rabbi Slosberg for 35 Years of Service

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

**A**dath Jeshurun will honor Rabbi Robert Slosberg for 35 years of service to the congregation on Saturday, November 26, during Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. and followed by a special Kiddush lunch.

When Rabbi Slosberg tells the story of how he came to AJ, it sounds as if it was bashert – almost preordained.

"In the summer of 1979," he said, "I was doing research for the Law Committee of the Conservative Movement and the head of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Wolf Kelman, told me, 'I know where you will be rabbi next.'" Rather than tell Rabbi Slosberg what he was

thinking, he wrote the information down on a piece of paper and sealed it in an envelope to be opened when the younger rabbi accepted the job.

Two years later, Rabbi Slosberg said, he met Karen Amick in Israel, and "she wanted me to interview for the job in Louisville. You have to meet Rabbi [Simcha] Kling." He agreed to the interview, but really wanted to stay in New York and also arranged for an interview with the



Rabbi Robert Slosberg  
PHOTO BY CHARLES LIPSCHUTZ

Forest Hills Jewish Center.

"I thought it was going to be a courtesy visit," Rabbi Slosberg explained about his first trip to Louisville, "but I fell in love with the place." Louisville was not "a bunch of horse farms" as he had imagined, but a beautiful place with many wonderful people.

"I was excited about the benefits of an intermediate city versus a big city," he said. In trying to decide where he wanted to go, Rabbi Slosberg had put together a list of criteria, and Louisville met all but one – it didn't have a professional sports team. It did, however, have University of Louisville football and basketball.

"I came back and told Deborah I really like the place," he said. In the end, he backed out of the Forest Hills opportu-

nity and interviewed at only one congregation. It was a good fit.

Then he opened the sealed envelope, and Rabbi Kelman had written Adath Jeshurun. It turned out "Rabbi Kelman had gone to rabbinical school with Rabbi Kling," Rabbi Slosberg said, "and he said it is a perfect fit for you. I want someone I can trust to work with Rabbi Kling."

Originally from Cleveland, Rabbi Slosberg started down the path that led him to the rabbinate in the fifth grade. He became close to the assistant rabbi at his congregation, and the latter "roped me into going to Camp Ramah and roped me into Judaism. I decided around the eighth grade to become a rabbi."

He was so committed to this path that he tried to apply to the Jewish Theological Seminary while he was still in high school. When he learned they require an undergraduate degree for admission, he undertook the Joint Program between Columbia University and JTS and then went to the JTS Rabbinical School.

Looking back over his career at Adath Jeshurun, Rabbi Slosberg identified many highlights, but perhaps the one accomplishment that stands out above the others is the help the congregation was able to render to Sudanese refugee, Gabriel Kwai.

"He was one of the Lost Boys of Sudan," Rabbi Slosberg explained. He had been a speaker in conjunction with a concert at AJ, and during the reception after the concert, he asked Kwai how long his family had been in Louisville.

"He said his wife and daughter were still in Sudan and he had never even seen his daughter," Rabbi Slosberg continued. "I said to him, in a year, your wife and daughter will be with you here. We raised the money and made it happen."

Once Kwai's family arrived, the congregation continued to help them. They arranged for his daughter and subsequent children, born in Louisville, to attend the AJ Preschool. They helped his wife get a job and helped him go back to school. Today, Kwai is an assistant manager of a nearby Kroger.

The congregation is now working to help a second Sudanese refugee. They've already raised the money and are waiting for the family to get through all the government red tape.

Other highlights Rabbi Slosberg mentioned are:

- Helping spearhead all aspects of the synagogue's renovation, including fundraising, and rallying the congregation around the cause;
- Raising \$130,000 for Unity Temple, now housed in AJ's former home downtown, so that congregation could keep its doors open, and teaching its leadership how to raise money and how to budget;
- Raising \$300,000 in two weeks for Eliahu Academy's Save the School Campaign;
- Serving four years as chair of the Board of Albert A. List College, where Keneseth Israel's Rabbi Michael Wolk attended;
- Serving as chair of the Board of the Masorti Foundation;
- Leading more than 30 trips to Israel for about 600 people from the congregation and the community;
- Bringing the Melton School back to Louisville with a new concept that now has gained national support, and a close partnership with the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and the Jewish Community of Louisville to subsidize the program;
- Working with Rabbi Kling and Cantors Marshall Portnoy and David Lipp and the AJ staff members; and
- Building relationships with congregants, being with them from the birth of children to bar/bat mitzvah to marriage and the birth of grandchildren.

Rabbi Slosberg said he met his wife, Deborah, during the Yom Kippur War.

see **SLOSBERG** page 5



## GEMILUT CHASADIM ACTS OF LOVING KINDNESS

Having a viable, vibrant Jewish community in Louisville is very important. To ensure that we raise enough money to provide The J and Jewish overnight camp scholarships to children; support Jewish education, Teen Connections and BBYO for our teens; maintain an active Hillel for our college students; offer affordable, hot kosher meals and programs that help our seniors stay healthy and active; and ensure that Jewish Family and Career Services' counseling, job search and senior services are available to those who need them, whether or not they can pay the fees. Please make your commitment to the 2017 Federation Campaign today.

## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

PLEDGE TODAY. ANY INCREASES OR NEW GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED.

This year, when you increase your gift to the Campaign or make a new gift, you double your impact on our community. Thanks to a generous Double Your Impact Challenge from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, all donations that exceed what each donor did last year, will be matched - up to \$200,000.

To make your pledge for the 2017 Federation Campaign visit [www.jewishlouisville.org/donate](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/donate) or contact Kristy Benefield, 502-238-2739 or [kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org).



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# Have a “Once Upon a Time” Night at Light Up CenterStage

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

If you haven't purchased your tickets to Light Up CenterStage this year, you'd better hurry because the event is Saturday, December 3, at 7 p.m., and tickets for the popular gala and auction are going quickly.

This year's theme is “Once Upon a Time...” and Eventualities is ready to deck out The J to enchant one and all. “The décor will feature a steam punk theme of gears and clocks and such,” CenterStage Artistic Director John Lefkert explained. “The theme was chosen as a way to celebrate CenterStage's past and present work as we begin our journey to an exciting future.”

In response to guests' requests, the evening has been streamlined to end by

10:30 p.m. and there will be a new layout and flow to the event to improve the experience.

“One of the things people told us they want is more food,” said Light Up Chair Sarah Harlan. This year's hors d'oeuvres selection will include a pasta station and roasted vegetables. “Chef Z will be catering again,” she added, “and he does a wonderful job.” There are reasons why he is one of the hottest catering chefs in the city.

And, of course, there will be lots of elegant desserts, but this year, guests will find an assortment on each table when patrons enter the auditorium for this year's original Broadway revue and the live auction.

Online auction bidding, introduced last year, will be back this year, and it will be even better. The J has improved its WiFi capabilities and Light Up Cen-



terStage is using BidPal to ensure a better and easier silent auction bidding process. There will also be tech support people on hand to ensure the system can handle 250 people bidding at once and enable each one to keep track of the items they really want.

Of course, the evening will also include open bars, members of the CenterStage Company performing Leffert's new original Broadway revue and a live auction with a professional auctioneer.

“I'm super excited,” Harlan said. “I love Light Up – it's the most fun of the year. Where else can you go to see a Broadway-quality show, enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and sumptuous desserts provided by one of the hottest caterers in town and support the oldest community theatre in Kentucky?”

Tickets are \$950 for a table of 10 or \$108 for individual tickets and can be purchased at [www.jewishlouisville.org/lightup](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/lightup) or by calling Anne Ensign-Urteaga, 502-238-2773 by November 28. All proceeds of the evening benefit technical improvements to the theater including rebuilding the company's costume stock that was stolen this summer.

Sarah Harlan is Light Up CenterStage chair. Kelly Dodd is Light Up CenterStage Auction chair. Candy Pierce is CenterStage Board chair. John R. Lefkert is J Arts & Ideas Director.

Light Up CenterStage is supported by Heaven Hill Distilleries.

## Ladies, This Chanukah Party Is Just for You

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

Holiday time can be stressful, with shopping for gifts, cooking latkes and coordinating family gatherings piled on top of all your regular responsibilities. You need a break.

So, ladies, get out your calendars right now and block off Tuesday, December 13, from 7-9 p.m. because you're invited to the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Ladies' Chanukah Party. “We'll have Standard Country Club all to ourselves” for this free ladies only event, says event co-chair Aly Goldberg, so get ready for an evening of fun.

What's your passion?

If you like to paint, indulge your passion because Whet Your Pallet will be there.

Is baking your thing? Kroger and Pastry Chef Dara Cohen will be there with cookie and cake decorating tips.

Feeling the holiday stress? A therapist from The J will be offering quick head and neck massages.

Indulge your palate with a signature cocktail from Heaven Hill Distillery, appetizers made by the talented members of the committee and delectable desserts by Sweet Surrender.

Ready to let go a little more? Wear your craziest Chanukah apparel and just maybe you'll bring home a fabulous prize.

Of course, this is a Jewish gathering, so bring along a canned good or nonperishable food item for the Jewish Family & Career Services Food Pantry or a donation for the Janet and Sonny Meyer Food Pantry Fund to add the joy of doing a mitzvah to the event.

## SLOSBERG

*Continued from page 4*

She was a student at the University of Rochester and wanted to go to Israel. Her parents worked out a deal. If she didn't go to Israel, she could go to JTS and Columbia and get her Jewish education degree.

Rabbi Slosberg was president of the student body at the time and was encouraged to help the new girl feel comfortable. He started tutoring her in Hebrew, then spilled coffee all over the work she had done. “Now, I make her coffee in the morning as penance,” he quipped.

The Slosbergs have three children. Their daughter, Aliza, is married to Stuart Weinstock and they have a newborn son, David Benjamin. The Slosbergs also have two sons, Jacob and Jeremy.

Rabbi Slosberg summed it all up, saying that serving as rabbi is like being married to the congregation. Those marriages don't always work out, but he feels blessed because his “marriage” to Congregation Adath Jeshurun has lasted his entire career as a rabbi and promises to continue for years to come.

Aly Goldberg and Faina Kronenberg are co-chairs of this event, and committee members Joyce Bridge, Julie Ciriano, Dara Cohen, Michelle Elisberg, Jasmine Farrier, Elise Goldstein, Debbie Hyman, Julie Kling, Risa Koby, Keren Benabou, Devon Oser, Sue Paul, Allison Roemer, Susan Rudy, Julie Strull, Hunter Weinberg and Dara Woods are all doing their part to make this a great ladies' night out.

Standard Club is located at 8208 Brownsboro Road and is made available to the community by Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence.

Register in advance at [www.jewishlouisville.org/ladies-CHANUKAH-party](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/ladies-CHANUKAH-party) so there will be enough for everyone.

This Jewish Federation of Louisville event is sponsored by Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, Heaven Hill Brands, Kroger, Sweet Surrender and Whet Your Pallet.

## Are some Jews more equal than others? WE HAVE A VOICE.



Join us for a groundbreaking community discussion addressing the inequalities of religious freedom in Israel.

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**THE TEMPLE | 5101 U.S. HIGHWAY 42**

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David Mallach, Director of UJA-Federation of New York's Commission on the Jewish People



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THE TEMPLE AND TEMPLE SHALOM

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER 19 and 20

#### Snowflake Shoppe

The J, Preview Night, November 19 6-9 p.m. \$10. The J, Snowflake Shoppe, November 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Artisans, crafters and other vendors will sell holiday merchandise. Proceeds benefit The J Early Learning Center.

### NOVEMBER 20

#### PJ Library, Shalom Baby Music Class

The J. 10 a.m. Free music class for the youngest music lovers, from newborns to toddlers. Dance, sign and move along with local musician John Gage.

### NOVEMBER 20

#### Family Mitzvah Thanksgiving Event

JFCS. 12:30 p.m. At the Carole & Larry Goldberg Family Mitzvah Thanksgiving Event, JFCS, There will be lunch, as well as time for sorting Hanukkah Helpers donated gifts and making crafts.

### NOVEMBER 20

#### Are Some Jews More Equal than Others? We Have a Voice.

The Temple. 7 p.m. Free. A forum on religious equality in Israel featuring Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Yizhar Hess and David Mallach. Sponsored by Adath Jeshurun, Jewish Federation of Louisville, Keneseth Israel, The Temple and Temple Shalom. See story, page 1.

### NOVEMBER 24

#### Pre-Fest Fitness Fest 2016

The J. 8 a.m.-10:15 a.m. J members, free; guest passes \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 3-11. Participate in 30-minute group fitness classes. Choose from J-Barre, Yoga, Body Pump Express, Cycle and Boot Camp. See story, CenterPiece page 1.

### NOVEMBER 29

#### Community-Wide Think Tank with Rabbi Irwin Kula

Adath Jeshurun. 7 p.m. Guided discussion on Jewish identity and embracing changes as Jewish institutions. RSVP at [www.jewishlouisville.org/thinktank](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/thinktank). See story, page 1.

### DECEMBER 3

#### Light Up CenterStage

The J. 7 p.m. \$108 per person. Louisville's premiere theater gala benefiting CenterStage and its programs. Open bar, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, silent auction with electronic bidding, live auction, original Broadway Revue. Purchase tickets at [www.jewishlouisville.org/lightup](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/lightup) or call Anne Ensign-Urteaga, 502-238-2773. See story, this page.

### DECEMBER 11

#### Interfaith Chanukah Party

The J. 3-4:30 p.m. Free. Celebrate the light of the season with food, music and candle lighting. Donations of hats, gloves, scarves, etc for the 15th District PTA Clothing Closet are requested. RSVP at [jewishlouisville.org/interfaithchanukah](http://jewishlouisville.org/interfaithchanukah). See story, page 9.

### DECEMBER 13

#### Ladies' Chanukah Party

Standard Country Club. 7 p.m. Free. Gather your girlfriends for a ladies' night out. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Louisville. See story, this page.

### DECEMBER 14

#### Chanukah Candle Making

The J Lobby. 5:30 p.m. \$1 per candle. Make as many beeswax candles as you like and learn about bees and pollinators.

### DECEMBER 15

#### Adult Latke Making

The J Senior Adult Lounge. 6 p.m. \$15. Make latkes from potatoes, sweet potatoes, zucchini and more and discuss Jewish food culture. Other traditional Chanukah foods will be available. RSVP to Michael Fraade, 502-238-2769 or [mfraade@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mfraade@jewishlouisville.org).

### DECEMBER 18

#### PJ Library, Shalom Baby Music Class

The J. 10 a.m. Free music class for the youngest music lovers, from newborns to toddlers. Dance, sing and move along with local musician John Gage.

### DECEMBER 18

#### YAD Hike

Jefferson Memorial Forest. 12-5 p.m. Free. Young Adult picnic and hike in partnership with The J's JOFEE program. Bring your own lunch. For more information, contact Benji Berlow, [bberlow@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:bberlow@jewishlouisville.org), or Michael Fraade at [mfraade@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mfraade@jewishlouisville.org).

### DECEMBER 24

#### Chanukah, First Candle

The Festival of Lights begins at sundown and continues for eight days.



# Major Gifts Event Focuses on Progress, Change, Hope



Becky Swansburg



Campaign Chairs Jane Goldstein and Jon Fleischaker



Jeff Tuvlin, Ron Abrams and Jerry Temes



Anne and Fred Joseph and Frank and Barbara Weisberg



Rabbi Nadia Siritsky and Aly Goldberg



Ron and Elaine Weisberg and David and Nicole Goldstein

PHOTOS BY TED WIRTH

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

**D**onors who attended the 2017 Federation Campaign Major Gifts Dinner on Sunday, November 6, came away with a message of progress, change and hope, and they responded by increasing their gifts five percent over what they gave last year.

Jewish Community of Louisville President and CEO Sara Klein Wagner set the tone for the evening by announcing a significant grant, briefing the group on JTomorrow and sharing highlights of a year of accomplishment for the organization.

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is continuing to invest in Louisville's Jewish community and to encourage community members to participate in the Annual Campaign. For a second consecutive year, JHFE is sponsoring the Double Your Impact Challenge. The organization will match all new gifts and all increases in gifts over the prior year up to \$200,000. "We're incredibly fortunate to have that opportunity again this year," Wagner said.

Two young adults, Greg Sokoler and Casey Tuma, shared their personal story of how Birthright Israel, a program supported by funds raised by the Campaign, connected them with each other and with Judaism to transform their lives.

Campaign Co-Chairs Jane Goldstein and Jon Fleischaker shared some of their reasons for leading the 2017 Federation Campaign and encouraged everyone present to make their commitments.

The evening also included pre-election political insights from pundits Jeff Berkowitz and Jay Footlik.

## JTomorrow

"We are looking at what's aspirationally possible with a vision of how we're going to bring the community together," Wagner began as she described JTomorrow. "The building we have loved at 3600 Dutchmans Ln., which we all have emotional attachment to and have wonderful memories of – as Stacy likes to say, our iconic building – we know that unfortunately it is not the building for the future for us," she continued. "It is not financially responsible to renovate our current building."

For the immediate future, she stressed, the organization can "continue to live in the building" and "offer the great programs we're offering, but we

know we really need to look at a new building." She called on those present to become the pioneers for future generations.

With Jeff Goldberg to lead the visioning team that is now being recruited, Wagner said, JTomorrow will start with the studies and committee work that has been done over the years and move forward. Chris Bingaman, "an expert in putting projects like this together," she explained, has been hired to move the project forward and a communications plan is being developed.

Where will the building be? "With the info we have to date and potential partners that would like to work with us, we are looking at our property on Dutchmans Lane," Wagner said, "but we have not made that a final decision."

How big will it be? "The size of the building and what's included in it will be dependent on what the community will support," she stated. The vision that is developed will take into account what the JTomorrow team wants The J to be and what successful JCCs look like. It will take into account sustainability and the needs for tomorrow.

In addition to the need for a new building and the steps to be taken to ensure the right decisions will be made as plans are developed and that there will be open communication throughout the process, Wagner spoke about the importance of building community. "People are craving community," she said, "Everyone wants to be a part of a community, and it's our job to help them find their place in ours."

To accomplish this and to be relevant, Wagner says the agency will use collaboration and leadership development, opening the doors to invite people in. "We know that we have to invest in our participants but we need our participants to also participate and invest in us," she said. "We don't want to just fill the seats and not have people have a say or have a stake in what they're coming to."

Opening new pathways for people to become involved in the community is critical. "Each one of us in this room might have had our entry point. The entry point for our children and grandchildren will be much different," she added.

## Birthright Leads to Involvement and Love

Birthright Israel, the program that see **MAJOR GIFTS** page 7



Casey Tuma and Greg Sokoler



Barbara and Sidney Hymson and Arthur Isaacs



Toni Goldman and Laura Koby



Ralph Green, Shellie Branson and Jordan and Abby Green

## Embracing Change

with **RABBI IRWIN KULA**

**TUESDAY, NOV. 29, 2016**

**Community Meeting  
7-9 p.m.**

**Congregation  
Adath Jeshurun  
2401 Woodbourne  
Avenue**

**The Jewish Federation and our community partners invite you to join a Community Think Tank.**

Join Rabbi Irwin Kula, an international thought leader, who will guide a community discussion focusing on the changing demographic, diverse understanding of Jewish identity and changing needs of our institutions.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit [jewishlouisville.org/thinktank](http://jewishlouisville.org/thinktank) or contact Mary Jean Timmel at 502-238-2722.



# MAJOR GIFTS

Continued from page 6

gives Jewish young adults the opportunity to experience Israel on a peer trip, can be a life changing experience, and for Greg Sokoler and Casey Tuma, it certainly was.

Tuma took her Birthright trip in 2008. At the time, she was a recent graduate of Penn State, living in New York and working as an actor. The trip, which she made with other young people involved in the arts, put her "on my spiritual journey with Judaism," she said, and the experience stayed with her.

Five years later she proposed creating another Birthright Israel arts trip. The program leaders agreed and gave her two weeks to recruit 40 people to fill a bus. She succeeded. The program, which she staffs, is now in its 10th season and has become self-recruiting.

Sokoler and two of his friends, all of whom were approaching 26, the cut of age for Birthright participation, signed up for her trip and, despite security concerns as Israel engaged in conflict with Gaza, went to Israel for the trip. Stating that his parents weren't involved in the Jewish community, Sokoler said, "I was the one in my family who was trying to find out where my place was in Judaism."

The connection between the Sokoler and Tuma began on a two-hour Shabbat walk to the hotel from the Kotel (the Western Wall). By day seven, Tuma said, "we were in Tsfat, which is my favorite city in all of Israel. Greg was across the way looking in some shop and I said to one of my mentors, ... I'm going to marry him."

Back in this country, Tuma decided to come visit Sokoler for a month. One month stretched into three, "then that turned into I think I'm going to come and stay forever because I can't be apart from him," she said.

He joined her in leading Birthright trips and they got engaged on the beach in Tel Aviv. They are planning to get married in June, but before they go on their honeymoon, they're going to staff another Birthright Israel trip.

Sokoler thanked those present for supporting the Birthright Israel program. Without the experiences it provided, he would not have seen the importance of marrying a Jew or of being active in the Jewish community. "Thank you for the opportunity to be here," he said and to

help you "understand the impact that you have made here on a small scale," and know that "it reverberates around the world."

## Why the Federation Campaign

Reemphasizing the impact of the Birthright Israel Program and the vision for JTomorrow Wagner had put forth, Jane Goldstein asked Jon Fleischaker to share his reasons for co-chairing the 2017 Campaign.

Fleischaker, a Louisville native whose mother "was extremely active with Jewish Hospital and other Jewish organizations," explained, that he spent a lot of time at The J and at Standard Country Club, when it was Jewish, because "we had no other options. Where if you were Jewish, you had to create your own options because you weren't allowed to be a part of the greater community."

"Times are better now," he continued. "Our children and our grandchildren ... have more options and, as Sara said, we have to change" to remain relevant and a part of their lives.

Fleischaker also believes, "it is extremely important for this Jewish community to be actively involved in the larger community. It is something we not only have to do to preserve ourselves but we have to do it to make larger community better place."

A brief piece his son, Jeff Fleischaker, a lawyer in Allentown, PA, recently wrote speaks strongly to him about why we need a strong Jewish community, so he shared it.

"I was raised to be a proud Jewish man," Fleischaker read. "I did not know or appreciate what that meant for a long time except that when I worked as a public defender in rural Kentucky I did not feel compelled to share my religious learnings with my clients."

"But I know now, as Jews, we are ever vigilant, something that is second nature where the history of persecution is long. It is not just about me or my fellow Jews. I am taught to be vigilant against persecution of any sort."

"Our faith and our history show us that persecution of one will no doubt lead to the persecution of all. So I was taught to stand up, be counted and be proud, don't simply tolerate others. Respect them and appreciate them. Revere their rights as your own."

"Isn't that what the progressive movement or in the old parlance, liberalism,

see **MAJOR GIFTS** page 9



Jeff Berkowitz and Jay Footlik



Bruce Roth and Frank Weisberg



Jasmine Farrier Frockt and JCL President & CEO Sara Klein Wagner



Marie Abrams, Jay Footlik and Marcia Roth



Denise Schiller and Jerry Fine



David and Carolyn Neustadt



Anthony and Vycki Minstein



Sarah and Chuck O'Koon



Cheryl and David Karp



Jim and Julie Ensign



Kate and Allan Latts



Jon Fleischaker and Kimberly Greene



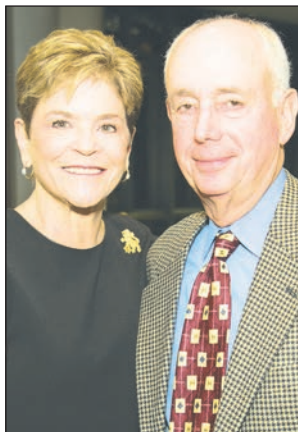
Jeff and Jennifer Tuvlin



Shellie Benovitz and Vycki Minstein



Harry and Annette Geller



Karen and Jeff Weiss



Karen Abrams and Jeff Glazer



Aly and Jeff Goldberg



Rabbi Robert Slosberg and JCL Board Chair Jay Klempner



David and Phyllis Leibson



Jerry and Maura Temes



Robin Miller



# Rabbis Blaustein and Mandel Come to Louisville, Open KITE

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

Two young Orthodox rabbis, Rabbi Zack Blaustein and Yitzy Mandel, and their families have come to Louisville from New York and they have begun the Kentucky Institute for Torah Education (KITE) as a venue for people to learn more about Judaism and explore how Torah can enhance their lives.

They plan on offering a variety of Jewish learning opportunities tailored to the interests of community members. Some possibilities include one-on-one learning and dessert and discussion programs. "We hope to get a location to offer classes in general," Rabbi Blaustein said. There will be some classes for men, some for women and some for mixed groups. The rabbis and their wives will all teach.

"Torah is for everyone," he continued, "and is relevant to every lifestyle." The classes will deal with topics from parenting to marriage to business.

"People can gain tremendous meaning in their lives by seeing how Torah can help them," Rabbi Mandel said. "It can provide a tremendous boost for overall life experiences."

KITE was launched earlier this month with a special Family Fun Day event that included a petting zoo, pony rides and a barbecue that brought the community together.

Rabbi Blaustein was born in Manhattan, but grew up in Hollywood, FL, in a traditional home. He has an older brother and two younger sisters. At age 10 or 11, he became more observant, and in the sixth grade transferred to a school run by Rabbi Avraham Yachnes, whom Rabbi Blaustein described as influential in his life.

A weekend Shabbaton at the Institute for Torah Study in Milwaukee, WI, introduced him to the yeshiva concept of learning when he was in eighth grade, and he decided to go there for high school.

He later went on to study for nine years at the Rabbinical Seminary of America. "There, I gained even greater and deeper appreciation of Torah and living life guided by Torah," he said, and he felt a desire to give back.

"So, when Dr. Hyman and Rabbi Josh Golding came to the yeshiva one day and talked about how Louisville is interested in bringing in young rabbis and families to the city, there was a big buzz in the yeshiva."

"Dr. Hyman was passionate and gave a certain picture of unique opportunities that could be in Louisville, KY," he continued. Intrigued, Rabbi Blaustein visited Louisville, met with Jewish community leaders and felt encouraged that an institution for Torah education would be welcome.

His wife, Rachel, worked at Landers College for Women and the couple spent two years serving as dorm parents, frequently hosting 15 or so guests at Shabbat meals.

The Blausteins have a daughter, Chaviva, who is not quite 2 years old.

Rabbi Mandel grew up in Miami Beach, in a family with eight boys and one girl. After high school, he went to Israel for two years and then entered seminary in Queens where he studied for eight years and developed a lifelong love of studying Torah. He enjoys studying with others and guiding and helping younger students. "Torah has given me an approach to living happily a life with positive meaning."

He's eager to share his joy in Torah, saying, "It's about giving back what I

have received for so many years.

Rabbi Mandel's wife, Mishy, is from Tarzana, CA. He described her as part of the team, and added that she is a speech therapist and will work downtown at a clinic. They have a son, Akiva, 3, and a daughter, Batsheva, 1-1/2.

Rabbi Blaustein and Rabbi Mandel would love to hear suggestions of classes and events from the Louisville Jewish community. "We are here for you," they say. Contact Rabbi Blaustein at [rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org](mailto:rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org) or Rabbi Mandel at [rabbiiym@kentuckytorah.org](mailto:rabbiiym@kentuckytorah.org). KITE



Rabbis Yitzy Mandel and Zack Blaustein

can also be found on facebook at [www.facebook.com/KentuckyTorah](http://www.facebook.com/KentuckyTorah).

## Melton Will Offer Several New Courses

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning will offer several new classes that will run from January through March.

What is Melton?

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning offers a university quality non-denominational Jewish education program using curricula from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Who can/should attend?

Melton is for all adults who are interested in Judaism: Jewish people, people who work in the Jewish community, people considering conversion, people with Jewish family members. You don't have to be Jewish or have prior Jewish education, and you don't have to belong to any congregation or organization to participate in Melton.

How does it work?

The Core Curriculum meets for two and a half hours on Tuesday evening or Thursday morning for 28 weeks. All reading and discussion take place in class; there is no homework, and there are no tests.

The Scholars Curriculum consists of

10 or 20 week courses which focus on a specific subject in Jewish history, Bible or Jewish philosophy.

What classes will be offered starting in January?

On Tuesday evenings, January 10-March 7, Rabbi Laura Metzger will teach Ruth, Judith and Esther from 6:30-7:40 p.m., and Deborah Slosberg will teach *Beresheet* (Genesis) from Adam to Abraham from 7:50-9 p.m.

On Thursday mornings, January 12-May 25, Professor Ed Segal will teach *Beyond Borders: Arab/Israeli Conflict* from 9:30-10:40 a.m.

On Thursday mornings, January 12-March 9, Deborah Slosberg will teach *Shemot* (Exodus) from Slavery to Sinai from 9:30-10:40 a.m., and Cantor David Lipp will teach *History of Jewish Humor: Sinai to Seinfeld* from 10:50 a.m.-12 p.m.

There is a \$125 fee for each class and all classes will take place at Adath Jeshurun.

For information, visit [www.jewish-louisville.org/melton](http://www.jewish-louisville.org/melton) or contact Melton Director Deborah Slosberg at AJ at 458-5359 or [dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com).

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# Schurr Retires from Teaching, Embarks on New Adventures

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

“The times they are a-changin,” Bob Dylan wrote in his popular folk song, and when it comes to Louisville’s Jewish education scene, that is certainly true.

Since 1981, Dafna Schurr has been in Louisville’s Jewish classrooms teaching children and adults of all ages. She taught fourth grade at The Temple. She started with kindergartners and stayed with the students through middle school at Eliahu Academy. She taught at the Louisville Hebrew School and continued to teach there after it became Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad. She was the director and teacher of the Kehila middle school program.

She tutored b’nai mitzvah candidates and those who wanted to learn Hebrew and those who wanted to chant Torah. Through her long career, she taught many of the children who grew up in this



Dafna Schurr

community, and often their children as well. For a time, she even served as The J’s Children’s Department director and was instrumental in building and supervising Gannon, establishing after school services and programming for children, and, for many years worked at The J Summer Camp.

Although it wasn’t an easy decision, at 71, Schurr says the time has come to leave the classroom to pursue other opportunities. Of course, that doesn’t mean sitting still.

“I want to embrace life from a different angle,” she explained, and she’s eager to learn new things. She’s part of the master gardeners community and takes classes and workshops to enhance her skills. She wants to learn Spanish and polish her math skills. She’s also looking forward to doing some traveling and finding things she and her partner, Ed Cohen, can do together.

As a native Israeli, Schurr treasures that connection and often helps with programs that connect Louisville with Israel. She and Cohen chaired Louisville’s Israel at 60 celebration that involved a series of well-attended events, and she helped with several Yom HaAtzmaut celebrations.

An animal lover, she and her dog, Lola, provide support to people in stressful situations. They like to visit children

in hospitals and seniors in homes. Schurr was certified to train therapy dogs in California and is training Lola now. Working with WAGS (Wonderful Animals Giving Support) to schedule their visits.

Schurr was born in Tel Aviv and the family then moved to Rehovot, but she spent most of her childhood in a small town in the Lower Galilee region, Kiryat Tivon, which she described as “a beautiful place overlooking the Jezreel Valley.”

When she came to the United States, she and her then-husband planned to stay in Houston for two years so he could pursue post-doctoral studies. Their situation changed and they stayed there for two more years before coming to Louisville.

“When I came to this community,” Schurr observed, “I was really embraced and welcomed by so many people. It really felt like home and the adjustment was very easy.” As an Israeli, she felt that the community treated her as an asset and showed “a lot of warmth and kindness,” she added.

Having earned her teaching certification from an Israeli seminary that was part of the University of Haifa, Schurr explained, “I felt like I was equipped with what the community needed” a Hebrew and Judaic teacher.

“I always cherished children and I always was very fortunate to be able to be part of their growing up,” she said. “It was very rewarding.”

The time available for children’s Jew-

ish education is very limited, Schurr explained, and to take full advantage of it, Louisville’s Jewish schools are continually looking a different curricula and improving on what they do with the goal of providing children the solid base they need “to be active, knowledgeable members of the community.”

It’s been an interesting journey to see “how things have changed over the years,” she continued, as Louisville’s Jewish educators strive to “be more productive with less time” and to introduce technology into the classroom.

Teaching afforded Schurr the opportunity to learn from her colleagues and students. “I always thought if you’re open to students, open to children, observe them, try to be sensitive and see their needs, that you learn a lot about humanity generally.”

She based her teaching on the Hebrew phrase, “hanoach lana-ar l’fi darko, teach the youth by their ways, which means you have to be sensitive and realize that there are differences in the students in your class, taking into account each student’s needs and style of learning.”

She treasures the relationships she has built over the years with her colleagues – teachers, administrators, parents and coworkers.

Schurr has three adult children, Barak Schurr and Hila Schurr, who live in the Los Angeles area, and Ori Schurr, who lives near Louisville. Her partner in life is Ed Cohen.

## JCRC Interfaith Chanukah Party: A Fun Way to Share Jewish Traditions

by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

Have you ever heard Chanukah referred to as the “Jewish Christmas” even though there is no connection between the two holidays other than the time of year they occur?

To help clear up the confusion and share the beauty of Chanukah, the Jewish Community Relations Council will host its annual Interfaith Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 11, from 3-4:30 p.m. at The J.

The light of the season is worth celebrating together, so you’re invited and bring your friends. People of all faiths are welcome. Cantors Sharon Hordes of Keneseth Israel and David Lipp of Adath Jeshurun will sing and lead Chanukah songs and the story of the holiday will

be shared and candles will be lit.

And, of course, there will be latkes and *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts) because it wouldn’t be a party without the traditional holiday foods, cooked in oil.

Every Chanukah celebration is also an opportunity to do a mitzvah, so bring canned goods and nonperishable items for the Jewish Family & Career Services Food Pantry or monetary donations for the Janet and Sonny Meyer Food Pantry Fund.

To ensure there is enough food for everyone, register online at [www.jewishlouisville.org/InterfaithChanukah](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/InterfaithChanukah). For more information, contact JCRC Director Matt Goldberg, 502-238-2707 or [mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org).

Jeff Slyn is the chair of this program.

This program is co-sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace.

al Committee, and Jay Footlick, who has similar credentials with the Democrats. University of Louisville Political Science Professor Jasmine Farrier Frock mod-erated their discussion.

Farrier defined politics as “a nonviolent coordination of conflict for self-government.” Then she guided the speakers to talk about their lives and advocacy and the ways they contribute to the Jewish community, support for Israel as a bipartisan issue, other potentially unifying issues and ways to overcome the divisiveness of the election.

While Footlick said the leaders of the Democratic party and solidly pro-Israel, he expressed concern about a growing divide within the party and the increasing strength of the BDS (Boycott, Divest and Sanction) movement.

Berkowitz said that both parties were solidly pro-Israel. “I’m delighted that there is tremendous bipartisanship and I can only hope that that is a springboard for healing the country after one of the most divisive elections in our history.”

The two did not agree on other issues that might bring unity to the country under either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, but both felt that there are many people on both sides of the aisle who are willing to work together and build stronger communities.

## Jewish Family & Career Services Launches Two New Workforce Assistance Programs

### Senior Workforce Center

Throughout its history, Jewish Family & Career Services has adapted its programs and services to meet the changing needs of the community. Following a growing demand for employment services by people who have retired or are nearing retirement, JFCS has established the Senior Workforce Center to serve financially vulnerable older adults by helping them gain improved financial security from employment or self-employment and/or improved personal financial management. Orville Blackman is the new program’s director.

Participation is limited to people who live in Louisville/Jefferson County and the wider Kentucky-Indiana Metropolitan Statistical Area. Participants will benefit from job readiness workshops, personal employment coaching and assessments that will help in aligning job opportunities to match the skills and strengths of the participants.

The job readiness workshops will cover a range of both traditional job search mechanics such as resume writing and interviewing, as well as non-traditional features such as stress management and motivational interviewing that can positively affect job outcomes.

Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in personal, one-to-one employment coaching and/or mentoring services that are designed to help each participant create a personalized employment action plan that is aligned with each participant’s profile, workshop objectives, assessment results, higher demand sectors/jobs and workforce needs.

Seniors who are interested in accessing employment services through the Senior Workforce Center should contact Orville Blackman at 502-452-6341 or [oblackman@jfcslouisville.org](mailto:oblackman@jfcslouisville.org).

### JFCS Connect

Kendall Thirlwell was the JFCS Employment Specialist who developed the award-winning KCCGO at the Kentucky Career Center, which had a near 80 percent employment outcome rate. Her new position, as Employment Program

manager, will be leading a new initiative, JFCS Connect.

The mission of the JFCS Connect program is to encourage, empower and employ individuals who face challenges in obtaining employment. She will work to connect both youth (ages 18-24) and adults to job readiness development, training, education and employment opportunities.

This program will also consist of a workshop series focused on job search strategies, as well as assistance with employer networking. Thirlwell will work to expand employer engagement by developing relationships with potential employers, as well as coordinating networking events in which businesses can participate. She looks forward to connecting candidates with employers in need of talent.

The first JFCS Connect program will be a four-session series of workshops beginning mid-November.

If you are unemployed or underemployed and are interested in participating in this program, you can reach Thirlwell at 502-452-6341 or [kthirlwell@jfcslouisville.org](mailto:kthirlwell@jfcslouisville.org).

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## MAJOR GIFTS

Continued from page 7

or even older parlance, civil rights, is all about?

“So I stand. I stand because that is what I was taught and what I will teach my daughters today and next week.”

After sharing his son’s thoughts, Fleischaker added, “We are living in a time when not just anti-Semitism, but racism, intolerance are exploding all around us. It’s a part of the presidential campaign, one candidate in particular, and it is growing.

“It is something that we have to stand up against. Not just anti-Semitism – we have to stand up against any kind of intolerance, because that’s who we are. That’s how we make the world a better place [in which] to live. In order to do that, we need strong Jewish institutions; we need a strong Jewish Community of Louisville; we need a strong community relations effort.”

Fleischaker and Goldstein appealed to everyone present to stand up and help make this Campaign a success.

### Guest Speakers

Becky Swansburg introduced the guest speakers, Jeff Berkowitz, who has a long history of working with leading Republicans and the Republican Nation-



# Associate Justice Elena Kagan Accepted Brandeis Medal Award on October 24

by Lisa Goldberg  
Special to Community

One hundred years ago, native Louisvillian Louis Brandeis was appointed to be a Supreme Court Justice, the first Jewish person to be appointed to the post. The Louisville community has honored that milestone by a year of events marking the occasion.

In 1982, the University of Louisville D. Brandeis School of Law established the Brandeis medal to recognize individuals whose lives reflect Justice Brandeis' commitment to the ideals of individual liberty, concern for the disadvantaged and public service. It is the highest honor the school presents and is given annually. The award winner comes to Louisville to present a program.

On October 24, the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law awarded the Brandeis Medal to Elena Kagan, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The medal was

presented to Justice Kagan by Susan Duncan, dean of the Brandeis School, at a ceremony on campus.

Before receiving the medal, Justice Kagan participated in a panel discussion, where she was interviewed by Professors Laura Rothstein and Justin Walker. Formerly, Walker was a student of Kagan's at Harvard Law School.

Justice Kagan shared memories of her time as a clerk for the late Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African American justice to serve on the Court and commented on the often unseen relationship the justices share outside of the Court.

She recalled how Chief Justice John Roberts was the first to call her to congratulate her on her confirmation, despite it being nearly 3 a.m. in Australia, from where he was calling. The relationships of the members of the Court were noted by the tradition of all justices having lunch together after major Court rulings, regardless of the outcome. While on some occasions this is not easy, Justice Kagan values this tradition and sees it as important.

Justice Kagan also shared amusing memories of a basketball injury suffered at the Supreme Court's own basketball court (what she referred to as "the highest court in the land") and how former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor told her that it would not have happened had she taken aerobics instead. She also fondly remembered her late colleague, Justice Antonin Scalia and the close friendship they formed, even though they disagreed on many issues.

As only the fourth woman appointed to serve on the nation's highest court, Justice Kagan is aware of her place in history; however, she does not necessarily believe that the presence of three women changes the ideological makeup. She believes it is valuable, however, for male and female students and others to see women on the court and in professional roles.

A number of local attorneys, judges, alumni of the law school and members

of the university community attended the event. Students from Central High School, with whom the law school shares a partnership, were also in attendance.

Mashayla Hays, a Central High graduate and current second year Brandeis School student, presented Justice Kagan with a t-shirt with Muhammad Ali's famous quote, "Float Like a Butterfly, Sting Like a Bee," inspired by the Central High School mascot, the yellow jackets and honoring the late Muhammad Ali.

Katie Bonds, Student Bar Association president presented her with Muhammad Ali boxing gloves to recognize Justice Kagan's exercise regime of boxing. Professor Rothstein presented Justice Kagan with a box of animal crackers, one of Justice Brandeis' favorite late night snacks. She later continued another tradition, by accompanying Justice Kagan in placing a wreath at Justice Brandeis' grave at the law school portico.

Justice Kagan, who grew up in a Jewish family on the Upper West Side of New York City, is a graduate of Princeton University, Oxford University and Harvard Law School, where she served as its first female dean.

Prior to her 2010 appointment by President Barak Obama, Justice Kagan served as the first female U.S. solicitor general. She currently occupies the same seat on the Supreme Court once held by Louis Brandeis.

Previous recipients include Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer, Abner J. Mikva, Professors Samuel Dash and Arthur Miller,

Brandeis biographer Melvin Urofsky, and legal journalist Linda Greenhouse. Urofsky has been a speaker at JCC/Federation events on previous occasions.

In another event on October 24, Jeffrey Rosen, author of the most recent Brandeis biography, gave a talk sponsored by the Filson Historical Society. The event at The Temple, was attended by about 500 people. In his talk, Rosen emphasized the significant influence that the Louisville community had on developing Brandeis's principles.

The Brandeis School of Law, the Jewish community and legal community have honored Brandeis' appointment centennial with several other events during 2016. These include David Dalin's presentation at The J last April, during which he recounted the presence of Jews on the Court as described in his forthcoming book, *The Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court from Brandeis to Kagan: Their Lives and Legacies* (Brandeis University Press 2017).

Other events included the May presentations by Laura Rothstein about Brandeis and his connection to Louisville at the Kentucky Bar Association Annual Meeting and at the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference. In June, Lance Lieberman (Kentucky native and former dean of Columbia Law School) gave a talk at the law school's Warns/Render Conference about the Brandeis influence on labor and employment. On October 19, the Supreme Court Historical Society and the Brandeis School of Law recognized Justice Brandeis at an event at the Supreme Court in Washington, DC, at which Urofsky spoke.



Susan Duncan, dean of the Brandeis School, presented the Brandeis Medal to Justice Elena Kagan.

## Temple Shalom Installs Its Second Rabbi Ever, Celebrates Its 40th at Gala

by Lee Chottiner  
Special to Community

First, the founding members of Temple Shalom stood before the congregation.

Then into the sanctuary marched Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and her mentor, Rabbi Sam Joseph of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

One by one, the past presidents of Temple Shalom, the current executive committee, the youth group leaders and Clay Callam, Jacowitz Chottiner's first bar mitzvah as the congregation's spiritual leader, followed the rabbis down the aisle.

Finally, cradling a Torah, an emotional Rabbi Emeritus Stan Miles walked in as the 100-plus worshippers gave him a standing ovation.

He joined the procession, now standing before the bima and placed the Torah in the founders' arms. They passed the scroll down the line until it again reached Miles. Then he placed it in Jacowitz Chottiner's arms.

So began the Friday, November 11, installation ceremony of Jacowitz Chottiner as only the second rabbi in the congregation's 40-year history. The ceremony kicked off a weekend of celebration for Temple Shalom, which culminated with its ruby anniversary gala at the Standard Club.

Miles seemed to grasp the moment's significance. Speaking at the installation, he said Temple Shalom was poised to follow a Jewish Louisville tradition: rabbinic longevity.

"Adath Jeshurun has had three senior rabbis in 100 years," he said. "I hope we follow that tradition. I think we will."

This reporter is the husband of Jacowitz Chottiner.

The installation ceremony is an American invention, according to Joseph, the Eleanor Sinsheimer Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish Education and Leadership Development at HUC-JIR.

"A spiritual leader in Eastern Europe was seldom installed," he said. "There, where the rabbi was not given a temporary contract for one, three or five years,

but was presented with a *k'tav rabbanut* – a contract with life tenure that was signed by all the worthies of the community – the rabbi was not officially installed. Here, where the position of the rabbi is sometimes precarious and insecure, a vast number of people would gather at a banquet and install him with all the pomp and ceremony that American Jewry is noted for."

Joseph called Jacowitz Chottiner "a very special text person," saying she "embodies one who believes that living a full, rich, meaningful Jewish life is a special gift for us Jews."

"She teaches us about this kind of life," he continued. "She guides us, counsels us and supports us as we learn and live Jewishly. And, as is to be expected of one who is our rabbi, Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner lives this life herself."

The next night's gala was a ruby-studded evening – literally. (Costume rubies dotted the banquet tables and ruby colored drinks were mixed up at the bar.) A raffle was held for everything from a basket of bourbon to jewelry to babysitting sessions to lunch with the rabbi. Shir Adat, the choral group from Temple Adath Israel in Lexington, provided the entertainment.

Stuart Milk, president of the Harvey Milk Foundation and an international human rights activist, was the keynote speaker, offering a sober assessment of LGBT rights around the globe.

Longtime Temple Shalom members – President Keiron O'Connell; Immediate Past President Matt Dectrow; Treasurer Adam Mather, who grew up in the congregation; and Miles – gave their own takes on the history of the congregation.

They talked about its earliest days meeting at the JCC, to the time that Bellarmine University hosted the fledgling congregation, to its first building – a house on Taylorsville Road so small that Torah processions on Simchat Torah were done outdoors (a tradition that continues for the first and final *hakafot* to this day) – to its current location on Lowe Road where most of the bima and fower furnishings were built by members.

see **INSTALLATION** page 11

## The Top Ten Things To Do If You Want To Sell Your House

1. Hire me, Lou Winkler.  
(I will take care of the other nine things.)



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# Community Comes Together for Shabbat Project Challah Baking and Havdalah

by Louisville Shabbat Project Committee

This past month, the Jewish world took a well-deserved collective deep breath as it celebrated Shabbat together as part of the 2016 Shabbat Project. An estimated one million people took part in celebrations in over 950 communities on and around the Shabbat of November 11 and 12 – not just in unique Shabbat programs, but in city-wide pre-Shabbat “Challah Bakes” and post-Shabbat “Havdalah Concerts.” The Louisville community joined this global movement with many special programs and services at our local synagogues.

The Louisville Shabbat Project was spearheaded by a committee of 14 women from across the religious spectrum in our community. Together, they coordinated the first ever Great Big Challah Bake on Wednesday, November 9 at the J where over 100 participants came together.

The group truly personified the idea

of the weekend because there were so many people from different walks of Jewish life mixed together at the tables. They came from different generations and backgrounds.

Led by Bari Mitzmann, the director of Women’s Learning for the Las Vegas Jewish Experience, participants learned the special qualities for each ingredient that goes into challah. They followed Doby Litvin as she shared how to separate “challah” and say the *bracha* (blessing) over it before she shared how to braid four-strand and six-strand loaves and make challah rolls.

For many in attendance, this was their first time ever making challah and they were given the chance to choose to make whole-wheat, traditional white or gluten free loaves.

One participant shared, “Being with my friends, and many other Jewish women, and all of us working side by side, making the same thing, this one special thing that connects us together

... challah.”

Many others echoed another participant when they said, “I thought this was a great event and can’t wait for next year!”

On Saturday afternoon, November 12, the J’s JOFEE Fellow Michael Fraade led a small group on a wonderful and informative nature hike through Cherokee Park. The two-hour journey began and ended at Big Rock.

One participant said that she was inspired by the Shabbat Project to go “technology free” and that it sparked communication about what Shabbat means to her and her spouse.

The Louisville Shabbat Project also invited the community to join together in celebration of Havdalah (the ceremony that ends Shabbat and begins the regular week) at Big Rock. Fifty members of our community came out in the cold to sing, make s’mores, enjoy hot cocoa and meditate on bringing more unifying light to our community.

The evening began with everyone gathering in a circle for the traditional blessings demarking the end of Shabbat accompanied by Benji Berlow on the guitar. Following the ceremony, Rabbi Avrohom Litvin led a small group in meditation reflecting on the spirit of the weekend and the Torah portion of the week, *Lech Lecha*.

Then a small group began to sing camp songs with the guitar and drum as everyone gathered around for a Kumzitz (Yiddish for come sit) while a group of yeshiva students visiting from St. Louis gathered a group to dance as they sang into the night.

The committee thanks The Jewish Federation, The J, and the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Our first year with the Louisville Shabbat Project would not have been possible without your support. We invite the community

to stay tuned as we make plans for future community wide Shabbat projects.

Members of the Louisville Shabbat Project Committee are Rachel Blaustein, Sandra Chack, Amy Faust, Jodi Halpern, Doby Litvin, Frady Litvin, Goldie Litvin, Mishy Mandel, Lenae Price, Cori Roth, Hindy Snaid, Lisa Sobel-Berlow, Chaya Susman and Heidi Wolk.



Many more photos are available at [www.jewishlouisville.org](http://www.jewishlouisville.org)

## Jewish Learning Center Open in Louisville

The Jewish Learning Center is now open and available for all of Louisville to enrich their lives with a wide variety of educational programming. In the past few weeks, this new community resource has already seen hundreds of people attending its initial programs with many more expected as the center offers more educational alternatives.

On Tuesday, September 6, the Louisville Jewish Day School and the Gan Torah Preschool found a permanent home at the Jewish Learning Center, which recently opened at 1110 Dupont Cr. Goldie Litvin, principal at the school said, “The Jewish Learning Center has enabled us to reopen our school in the most central location to the entire Louisville Jewish community.”

Parents from across the community and as far away as Ft Knox love the new location and all of its amenities for the children learning and recreational needs.

On Sunday, September 25, Learning Center’s grand ribbon cutting was held. Members of most every facet of our community were on hand to celebrate and welcome to the Jewish Learning Center into the educational opportunities offered in our city. Mayor Greg Fischer sent a letter of congratulation honoring the JLC for providing “fine religious based program for citizens of all ages and learning needs.”

On Monday, November 7, the Jewish Learning Center officially began its adult education offerings by presenting a course from the International Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. Only certified teachers who have mastered the



Letter from Mayor Greg Fischer presented to Rabbi Litvin by Eric Friedlander, Director of Community Services

JLI teaching strategies and who attend continuing education programming are able to teach these courses. Rabbi Avrohom Litvin is the only instructor with these qualifications in Kentucky.

The newest educational presentation at the Jewish Learning Center is JLearn, which opened on Thursday, November 10. JLearn offers three simultaneous classes from 7-7:50 p.m. and three additional classes from 8-8:50 p.m. every Thursday.

Rabbi Shmully Litvin, community coordinator of the Jewish Learning Center explained, “Our goal is to create a safe space to explore Jewish Learning for all people, regardless of affiliation, background or previous knowledge. Many people have shared with me that they have always had questions and never felt comfortable bringing them up in other venues. The Jewish Learning Center aims to be that community resource, where every question is respected and information is shared in an upbeat and positive manner.”

## INSTALLATION

Continued from page 10

Miles, who spent 38 years as Temple Shalom’s rabbi, recalled leading his first service in the JCC patio gallery. He saw a portable ark built by David Kling, containing a Torah on loan from Adath Jeshurun, copies of the newly revised Union Prayer Book, and an art exhibit on the walls.

“On three of the four walls, nudes, nudes, nudes – great exhibit,” Miles said. “We talk about spirituality. That didn’t do much for it.”

Speaking at the gala, Jacowitz Chotiner told members and guests from other congregations that Temple Shalom’s founding followed the tradition of Avram setting out for Canaan – in other words, starting anew.

“In many ways, the founders of Temple Shalom were like Avram,” she said. “They were called to start a new congregation, one that would be smaller and more intimate than the congregation that was being formed from the merger”

that created The Temple.

“From what I understand, there were naysayers who said it couldn’t be done,” she added, “but like Avram, our founders had the necessary faith and courage to move forward, heeding the call they felt in their hearts, minds and souls. They let their vision be their guide, and look how far we’ve come!”

**Available Exclusively Online at [www.jewishlouisville.org](http://www.jewishlouisville.org):**

Sheilah Miles Installed as President of WRJ’s Central District

Von Seltmanns Share Story of How Love Can Overcome Forebears Nazi Past

Rep. Yarmuth Gives Temple Shalom Audience Post Election Analysis

Partnership Connection with Budapest Pays Off for Galilee Hospital

Leonard Cohen Dies

AJC and ISNA Launch Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council



## Ladies’ Chanukah Party

Co-chairs Aly Goldberg & Faina Kronenberg

### Gather Your Girlfriends & Join Us For a Ladies’ Night Out!

Tuesday, Dec. 13 | 7-9 p.m.

## The Standard Club

## 8208 Brownsboro Road



Bring your friends and indulge your passions:

- Painting
- Dessert decorating
- Get a massage
- Enjoy a signature cocktail, appetizers & desserts

Don’t forget to wear your craziest Chanukah apparel for prizes & bring a donation for the JFCS Food Pantry.

Register in advance at [jewishlouisville.org/ladies-CHANUKAH-party](http://jewishlouisville.org/ladies-CHANUKAH-party)









# Lipstadt Respect as a Teacher; for Standing Up to Holocaust Deniers

The students and their teacher: Scott Weinberg, Deborah Lipstadt, Aaron Pedowitz and Debbie Atlas



Lipstadt said the personalized Louisville Slugger bat she received is one of only a few thank you gifts she feels is worth keeping.



PHOTOS BY TED WIRTH. MANY MORE AVAILABLE AT WWW.JEWISHLouisVILLE.ORG



KI Rabbi Michael Wolk asked several questions.



by Shiela Steinman Wallace  
Editor

That Emory University professor and author Deborah Lipstadt is widely heralded for winning the court battle in England when David Irving sued her for libel for calling him a Holocaust denier is an indisputable fact. That she is an excellent and popular teacher is borne out by the full classrooms for every course she teaches.

But when she came to Keneseth Israel Congregation in Louisville on Thursday, November 10, to speak about her experiences during the trial, the full extent of her impact on students became evident to all. Three Louisvillians, Debbie Atlas, Aaron Pedowitz and Scott Weinberg, hold her in such high regard that all three wanted to introduce her, and rather than agreeing to let one of them do the honors, each of the recounted how Lipstadt and her classes changed the course of their lives.

In fact, Lipstadt only agreed to come when Weinberg, now president of KI, reached out to her. He had been in her class when she was served with Irving's lawsuit. Her appearance also coincided with the release of the movie *Denial*, based on her book with the same title that details her legal battle with David Irving.

In the United States, she explained, if a person sues another for libel, the burden of proving the charges falls on the accuser. British law, she continued "is the mirror image of American law." If a person sues another for libel, the burden of disproving the charges falls on the accused. So when David Irving sued Deborah Lipstadt for libel, she had to go to England and find a way to prove in court that David Irving is a Holocaust denier.

There is, of course, extensive documentation of the horrors of the Ho-

locoust, from survivors' testimony to meticulous records kept by the Nazis detailing what they did to whom when and where. Irving twisted the documentation to provide a differing perspective.

And Irving was a formidable adversary, because he had already established a reputation as a respected writer of history books. It was only when he wrote about the Holocaust that he twisted the facts to suit his own purposes rather than documenting them for what they were.

Lipstadt and her legal team decided to use Irving's own writings on the Holocaust against him rather than relying on other sources. They also decided not to call on Holocaust survivors to testify because they did not want subject victims of Hitler's persecution to reliving the horrors under oath or cross examination by Irving.

By comparing what Irving wrote to original documentation, they were able to generate 100 linear feet of documentation to prove Irving twisted and distorted the facts to suit his own theories through omission of details, reporting events out of sequence and other maneuvers.

One example Lipstadt cited was Irving's account of Kristallnacht, the anniversary of which was observed the day before she spoke in Louisville. In his writings, Lipstadt said, Irving made Hitler out to be a defender of Jews in the face of unplanned, unprovoked violence.

As evidence, Irving said a telex communication Hitler sent called for rioters to stop the violence against the Jews, therefore, he was protecting them.

In that telex, Lipstadt explained, Hitler called for an end to arson against the Jews. He issued that call because the fires were getting out of hand. When the synagogues and Jewish businesses and homes burned, the flames quickly outpaced the fire departments' ability to control them. That meant that fires intended to destroy Jewish property spread to non-Jewish homes and businesses. Hitler never called for an end to the violence, only an end to the arson in order to protect Aryan property.

Score one for Lipstadt and her team. The work was painstakingly meticulous, but Lipstadt and her team traced back the sources Irving cited and documented case after case where Irving altered the timeline of occurrences, twisted the meaning when documentation didn't match his narrative and omitted details or lied in his writings.

The detail they presented in their overwhelming evidence enabled them to prove in court that Lipstadt had not libeled Irving because when Lipstadt wrote that Irving was a Holocaust denier, she was merely stating a verifiable fact.

After she was exonerated and she began speaking about her experiences, Lipstadt found the survivors would seek her out and thank her for taking on David Irving. She found this disconcerting. After all, while her battle with David Irving was difficult and she suffered throughout its five year duration, it was nothing compared to what the survivors had experienced.

It was only after her cousin explained to her that for many survivors, it seemed that no one cared about what had happened to them until she stepped up to challenge the bad guys. So even though she felt she could never repay the survivors for thanking her, she had to let them.

The evening started with a VIP meet and greet at which patrons received a copy of *Denial*, which Lipstadt signed for them, and concluded with a question and answer session and a dessert reception.

As a token of appreciation for Lipstadt coming to Louisville, Weinberg presented her with a personalized Louisville Slugger bat and promised to have it shipped to her home so she would not have the hassle of trying to figure out how to board a plane with it.

Keneseth Israel hosted the program. It was made possible by a grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

## TUVLIN

Continued from page 1

together to build endowments that will sustain them in the future.

The HGF will match 33 percent of each community's LIFE & LEGACY budget for four years up to a maximum of \$100,000 a year. The Federation has also received a grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence to cover the expenses of the program.

The program provides structure, training, mentoring and monetary incentives to ensure the community's success in integrating legacy giving into its philanthropic culture. It is a community-building enterprise that emphasizes collaboration and works to create a united, strong Jewish community for future generations.

"My position will be to work with every agency that signs on through the Louisville effort," Tuvlin explained, "assisting them with their administration and the formation of committees to find these legacy gifts."

Louisville is in the fifth cohort of communities the Grinspoon Foundation has recruited. That means the program already has a track record of success. "Most other communities that have engaged in legacy donations through the LIFE & LEGACY program have far exceeded any requirements the Grinspoon Foundation had established to be member of program," Tuvlin said. "And it hasn't just been in big cities. It's been in smaller and mid-size cities as well, and they've had equal success."

"It's a fantastic opportunity for our community to work together to ensure the future of Jewish Louisville," Tuvlin continued. "There are simply too few Jewish people in this city for us to be competing for dollars. LIFE & LEGACY promotes different agencies working together to get commitments for the future." The cities that have had the most success are the ones where the Jewish agencies and organizations have worked together.

There will be a LIFE & LEGACY kick-

off and informational event on December 1 with Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY consultant Christine Kutnick. In addition, Louisville is fortunate that LIFE & LEGACY National Director Arlene D. Schiff will be in attendance. For more information, contact Jennifer Tuvlin, 502-238-2719.

Over the years, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation has been a tremendous philanthropic partner for Jewish communities across North America, including Louisville. The HGF started PJ Library, the program that sends high quality Jewish books and CDs to young Jewish children every month, encouraging families to engage in Jewish discussions and participate in Jewish activities.

It is also responsible for the JCamp 180 program which has provided professional support to the J Summer Camp program here in Louisville, enabling this wonderful program to do strategic planning, improve financial planning and fundraising, use technology effectively and to engage in leadership development.

In her role as PJ Library director, Tuvlin saw the original program, which, once a month, sends high quality Jewish books and CDs to children from birth to age 6, expand to PJ Plus, which extended the program to 7 and 8 year olds, and later through PJ Our Way to offer options to 9 and 10 year olds and through PJ Grandparents, to send book to seniors so they could read with their grandchildren.

During her tenure, she also developed special programs to complement the program. Among these efforts, she oversaw the Rick Recht concert and instituted the successful fall Tea and Fashion Show program.

Tuvlin grew up in Louisville and has been a leader both as a young adult and as a teen. In 2009 and 2010, she co-chaired the Young Adult Division of the Federation Campaign and in 2009, received the Lewis W. Cole Memorial Young Leadership Award for all her hard work.

She chaired the Campaign's Pomegranate division in 2011, co-chaired the Women's Division event with Rachel

Shoretz in 2012 and is a member of the Women's Philanthropy Cabinet.

She serves as secretary of the board of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and is a member of the JCC, Congregation Adath Jeshurun, The Temple and National Council of Jewish Women. In the community, she is a member of the PTAs at Dunn Elementary School, Meyzeek Middle School and DuPont Manual High School. She has also held many positions, including serving on the Site Based Decision Making Council at Dunn and as High School University liaison at Manual.

In the past, Tuvlin was a member of the JCC's Board and chaired its Early Childhood Department. She was also on the Keneseth Israel Preschool Board and helped with the formation of the merged Sunday School program for Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel and Temple Shalom that today is part of Beit Sefer Yachad.

Although she was born in New York, Jennifer Tuvlin moved to Louisville with her family in 1980. She was very active in BBYO and won the Ellen Faye Garmon Award while she was in high school.

She did her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan and attended law school at Emory University. Before returning to Louisville, she worked as an attorney for eight years, concentrating in reinsurance and coverage law.

She and her husband, Jeff, a gastroenterologist, came home to Louisville in 2004. They have three children, Andrew, 16; Ethan, 13; and Jared, 10.

"I was ready to for new challenge," Tuvlin said, "so I'm excited to continue working with Jewish Community of Louisville but with a different focus. I care about the Louisville Jewish community greatly – not just for my family, but for everyone else – and about having a successful Jewish community. I think that a legacy gift is great way to ensure that many of our programs can continue and that we will be able to develop new ones for what people want today as Jews."



# Reflections for a Month of Gratitude

by Rabbi Dr. Nadia Siritsky  
Vice President of Mission  
KentuckyOne Health

This month, Jewish Hospital and University of Louisville Hospital honored Veterans Day with a special tribute of a four-man color guard who did a presentation of colors provided by the Jeffersonstown Le-

gion 244, organized by our department of diversity and inclusion.

We paid tribute and remembered all those who sacrificed their lives so that we could be free. For the first time, we were able to show our appreciation to all of the men and women who have served our country, and who now serve our community, by being part of the healing mission of KentuckyOne Health.

## Book Review: *Judas*

by Dr. Ranen Omer-Sherman  
Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence Chair of  
Judaic Studies, University of Louisville

*Judas*. By Amos Oz. Translator Nicholas de Lange. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 320 pages, \$25.

Considering how often he has been called a “traitor” by fellow Israelis (from his early involvement in Peace Now to his recent comparison of violent West Bank settlers to neo-Nazis, which earned him death threats), it should hardly surprise that Oz has long been preoccupied by its fraught significance.

The exceedingly malleable nature of just what “treason” and “loyalty” really signify enlivened earlier works (especially *Panther in the Basement*’s portrayal of a child of Jewish underground fighters’ friendship with a British soldier during the Mandate). Now in his penetrating new novel *Judas* (published as *The Gospel According to Judas* in Hebrew), Oz places the “virus of treachery” front and center, delivering his most thoughtful and perhaps urgent statement yet concerning the uneasy relationship between nationalism and critical citizenship.

*Judas* is a stately but thoroughly entertaining work, brimming with intricate storylines and characters who are brilliantly alive and get under one’s skin. Woven around a structural triptych consisting of the story’s “present” set in the harsh Jerusalem winter of 1959-1960, the chief protagonist is a young biblical scholar whose investigation of the portrayal of Judas in the early Christian imagination leads to a startling conclusion, and lastly a beguiling alternate history of Roman Palestine told by none other than Judas himself.

Initially, antihero Shmuel Ash seems to be one of Oz’ more familiar types, a luftmensch sharing many of the dysfunctional and antiheroic qualities of his predecessors (as early as the tragic paratrooper in his classic story “The Way of the Wind”).

We meet Shmuel at a moment of acute crisis: university studies abandoned, romantic life in ruins, beleaguered by asthma, he faces a bleak financial horizon. But just when prospects look particularly dire, Shmuel finds employment as caregiver and increasingly, argumentative foil, for a cynical old man named Gershom Wald.

Gershom’s bookish household includes the provocative presence of Atalia, daughter of the late Shealtiel Abravanel, who spent his last days scorned by society for his dovish views on coexistence. Embittered by those who drove her compassionate father into a kind of exile, Atalia is also scarred by the particularly horrific death of her husband, Gershom’s son Micha, in the 1948 War.

Ultimately Atalia emerges as one of Oz’ most outspoken female characters. Here she vehemently confronts the helplessly infatuated Shmuel with her disgust over the destructive force of male ambition and desire: “I can’t love men. You’ve held the whole world in your hands for thousands of years and you’ve turned it into a horror show. A slaughterhouse.”

And elsewhere: “You wanted a state. You wanted independence. Flags and uniforms and banknotes and drums and trumpets. You shed rivers of innocent blood. You sacrificed an entire generation. You drove hundreds of thousands of Arabs out of their homes. You sent shiploads of Holocaust survivors straight from the quayside to the battlefield. All so there would be a Jewish state here. And look what you’ve got.”

In recent interviews, Oz has forcefully observed that many of the most significant leaders in history were called traitors by many of their own people, most poignantly his late friend Shimon Peres, who loved arguing with the novelist and faithfully read all of his books (he also cites Lincoln, de Gaulle, Gorbachev, Begin, Sadat, Rabin, even the prophet Jeremiah).

In that light, Shmuel appears cast as the author’s ideological proxy when he declares, “Anyone willing to change will always be considered a traitor by those who cannot change and are scared to death of change and don’t understand it and loathe change.”

Defending the audacious utopianism of Atalia’s late father, Shmuel remarks that “Abravanel had a beautiful dream, and because of his dream some people called him a traitor.” In many vital moments *Judas* reads like the powerful zenith of Oz’s imaginative and persistent interrogation of the toxic mingling of messianism and politics that have taken root in the Jewish state.

Oz has other irons in the fire of this intricate story. Deeply concerned with the ugly distortions at the foundation of Christian anti-Semitism, Oz has said that the figures of both Jesus and Judas have allured him ever since his teenage years on kibbutz. Moreover this turns out to be something of a family story considering that his great-uncle, the renowned historian Joseph Klausner, aroused heated controversy with his 1921 book *Jesus of Nazareth* reclaiming Jesus as a devout Jew.

In *Judas*, alternating chapters explore the fruits of Shmuel’s scholarship, the insidious ways that Judas came to be seen as “the incarnation of treachery, the incarnation of Judaism, the incarnation of the connection between Judaism and betrayal” and the “hated archetype of all Jews, in every country and century” in the Christian imagination.

But when Shmuel’s research leads him to boldly conclude that Judas was the most *faithful* of Jesus’ disciples it becomes apparent that Oz has crafted a subtle allegory not only linking events in ancient Palestine and the tempests of modern Zionism and the state of Israel but with the fatal distortions to which Western Civilization has too often succumbed.

Oz’ poetically precise language is as potent as ever and in the novel’s deepest strata, which suddenly plunges the reader into ancient Jerusalem and the tormented mind of Judas himself, the effect is almost visceral, a shocking contrast to the rest of this cerebral novel. In fact, it’s utterly spellbinding. And for all its lofty historical and political themes, *Judas* also succeeds as a rather unusual love story, filled with pathos and longing.

Ever since his early masterpiece *My Michael*, Jerusalem has figured prominently in Oz’ fiction and *Judas* rewards with achingly beautiful and lingering descriptions of its famous light, alleys, stony houses of worship and pervasive melancholy. *Judas* also reads like an especially urgent and profoundly universal work, its characters’ heartfelt struggles with their own human frailties as well as those of the state resonating far beyond Israel itself. By its conclusion, the reader recognizes that there are many forms of betrayal, not least the states and revolutions that destroy innocent people.

Astonishingly, at the age of 77 Oz has written one of the most triumphant novels of his career. As so often in the past, translator Nicholas de Lange superbly captures the intricate nuances and shifting moods of Oz’s Hebrew.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we take this moment to pause and give thanks for the courage and self-sacrifice of those who died in the name of justice, freedom, democracy and peace. We remember everyone who perished so that this country could be formed and protected. Let us recommit ourselves to doing all that we can to ensure that the values and ideals for which they fought, remain a shining beacon in our country. May we fulfill our own civic responsibility to ensure that peace and justice be their legacy.

My father, who survived the Holocaust, still remembers the American soldiers who came to the town where he was hiding, and brought with them the news of freedom and the hope of deliverance from tyranny, hatred, oppression and a violence that I pray we will never know again.

Let us take this month to give thanks for all those whose lives and sacrifices make it possible for us to live in this country. Let us commit to doing everything that we can to work for a world where their ideals and values are actualized.

May the Eternal One watch over our country, and may we be blessed with wisdom. This coming Thanksgiving, may we also take some time to remember all those individuals who perished so that we may live in this country that we

now call home, and rededicate ourselves to ensuring that each of our neighbors feels at home in this country as well, for as the Torah reminds us: “Be kind to the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

In honor of Thanksgiving, I want to share the following Native American Prayer:

*Oh, Great Spirit Whose voice I hear in the winds,  
And whose breath gives life to all the world,  
hear me, I am small and weak,  
I need your strength and wisdom.  
Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes  
ever behold  
the red and purple sunset.  
Make my hands respect the things you have  
made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.  
Make me wise so that I may understand the  
things  
You have taught my people.  
Let me learn the lessons you have  
hidden in every leaf and rock.  
I seek strength, not to be greater than my  
brother,  
but to fight my greatest enemy - myself.  
Make me always ready to come to you  
with clean hands and straight eyes.  
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,  
my Spirit may come to you without shame.*

(Translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in 1887; published in Native American Prayers - by the Episcopal Church.)

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# Getting Ready for Chanukah



## Festival of Trees & Lights Marked Its 27th Year

by Honi Marleen Goldman  
*Special to Community*

The 27th annual Festival of Trees & Lights was held Friday, November 11 through Sunday, November 13 at Louisville Slugger field. The 2016 festival, presented by Republic Bank and hosted by the Children's Hospital Foundation, presented Christmas trees, wreaths and other holiday items and a Chanukah section that

featured dreidels, *chanukiot* (Chanukah menorahs) and other items.

The Lights exhibit this year added story reading by PJ Library on Jewish Heritage Day (Sunday, November 13), along with the complimentary donut holes, dreidels and chocolate gelt.

Marianne Zickuhr of CenterStage and Betsy Schwartz, The J's Senior Director of Camping and Youth Services and PJ Library, had a huge crowd of children listening to Chanukah tales.

The gift shops from Adath Jeshurun Congregation, The Temple and Temple Shalom had a special display of menorahs, dreidels and other Hanukkah items. Signage and handouts explained Chanukah, menorahs and dreidels while Chanukah songs filled the air. The display was in a blue draped area and the floors were painted with blue dreidels, menorahs and Jewish stars. The children's area had a special table just for dreidel games and Chanukah activities.

The proceeds from this year's Festival of Trees & Lights will benefit the orthopaedic and spine services at Norton Children's Hospital by providing additional state-of-the-art equipment for treatment of orthopaedic and spine issues, additional specialists who can address a growing demand, and expansion of multidisciplinary clinics to provide patients with a single area in which to see all of their specialists.

Every year, more than 12,500 children in Kentucky and Southern Indiana seek medical attention for injuries and issues for everything from broken bones and



Dreidels and chocolate gelt were given out during the Festival of Trees and Lights. At another table, volunteers gave out donuts.

sports medicine injuries to hip injuries and neuromuscular function problems like cerebral palsy, to spine and scoliosis issues. Children who suffer from lifelong

diseases, disabilities and deformities also need management services.

Honi Marleen Goldman was the chair of the Light's Committee.

## The 'Only Jew at the Dinner Table' Feeling

by Elline Lipkin

Kveller via JTA – When I was four weeks from my due date with my first child, my husband and I moved into our first home in a small enclave of Los Angeles. After renting in an area that was Hipster Central, we were stunned to find ourselves smack in the middle of a quasi-suburb. But then again, after turning the corner into new parenthood, we generally found ourselves stunned at all times.

Forward a few blurry years to last fall when my then-3-year-old son just started preschool. My husband and I picked a

co-op that emphasized play-based learning, involved parents and a seemingly diverse community.

All was well until the holiday season settled in and I heard the songs that he would be learning during December. Many were what I'd call "American standards" rather than explicitly Christian-themed – "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," much of which struck me as ironic in the 70-plus degree weather. There was the token "Dreidel, Dreidel," but a deep-seated dread began to creep in as I realized this nod to Chanukah was just the start of a long road in which my young son would learn that when it came to celebrating religious holidays, both in school and within American culture at large, such a small place would be made for him.

My classroom workday fell during the week of the all-school holiday party and his teacher, I suspect a little panicked about the upcoming performance, singled out my boy to shout "Merry Christmas!" at the end of their practice. I lurked in the back and cringed. I had brought latkes that day for the class snack, only to hear his teacher introduce them to the kids as "hash browns." In the moment, I was too baffled to know what to do.

Years ago, as a literature graduate student, I fell in love with Laurie Colwin's writing. Her descriptions of mood were always disarming and charming in their accuracy. But the phrase that won me over described being seated at a dinner party and having the "only Jew at the

see **ONLY JEW** page 15

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HANNUKAH HELPERS coordinated by JFCS and Temple Shalom. Please contact either of them for your gift options. All items must be returned unwrapped by early December.

DECEMBER 9 OR THE 16TH AT USPIRITUS: BE AN ELF! Wrap presents for children at 2125 Goldsmith Lane. Need 8-10 people each shift 10-12 and 12-2pm.

DECEMBER 11 AT WELLSRING: Holiday Brunch December 11 at noon at Wellspring's Concord House 3337 Breckinridge Lane or contribute to a wish list for eight wonderful ladies managing their mental health issues. Contact Amy for the WISH LIST – a perfect opportunity to re-gift!! We have several ladies who wear 4X-6X and LOVE gently used coats, outfits, and size 11 silver rings!!

DECEMBER 24 AT TEMPLE: Rabbi David will again be making sandwiches Saturday December 24, 2 pm at The Temple to take to St Vincent DePaul Men's Shelter. Contact Becky 423-1818 for your assignment!

DECEMBER 25 AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE (550 S. FIRST STREET): Join in hosting a brunch for families at Ronald McDonald House. RSVP to Marcy Rosengarten at 641-8870.

DECEMBER 25 AT ST VINCENT DEPAUL (1026 S. JACKSON STREET ON CHRISTMAS): We promised 10-12 Lunch volunteers 11:30-1pm, 1026 S. Jackson Street. Call Amy 425-0373. Servers should be 13 or older. This is our only serving option.

DECEMBER 25 AT THE TEMPLE: "Fill the Freezer Event." Join Margie Kommor to make and pack soups, kugels and desserts to fill our freezer for congregants who may need some TLC through-out the year. A great family event, no reservations needed just show up. December 25 from 2-4.

DECEMBER 25 AT MARYHURST: Temple Shalom is hosting their annual brunch.

Menorah up October 23rd at Temple Shalom. Dreidels up week of October 31st. Gifts due back December 5th to Temple Shalom. 1st wrapping session December 7th. Final wrap December 10th.

Please email Amy at [agb706@ovasco.com](mailto:agb706@ovasco.com) ASAP and before December 11 regarding Merry Mitzvah options unless there is other contact information.

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# Getting Ready for Chanukah



dinner table" feeling.

I should have known this day was coming – that the early corollary for the “only Jew at the dinner table” feeling is being the only Jewish kid in your class. Feeling left out, or included, is simply part of American culture, I rationalized to myself as I listened to the singing. But recognizing what now seemed inevitably difficult for my son was a bad feeling. What would happen next year when more of his preschool classmates could talk about Santa? Another previously unknown dilemma started to take shape when I considered how to handle the, “Is Santa real?” question.

I grew up in a suburb of Miami Beach where all the major Jewish holidays so emptied out the public schools I attended, the principal decided that no one needed to fill out an excused absence form on those days. I would see half of my schoolmates, at least, at our local shul. I swear my social life peaked the year I turned 13, as some weekends filled with a trio of events divvied up between Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday evening bar and bat mitzvah parties. I knew that being Jewish meant being in the minority – statistically and otherwise – in the United States, but it didn't feel that way in the suburb where I lived.

By contrast, my husband grew up overseas as a “Foreign Service Brat” where he suffered a sense of double exclusion – often enough, he was the only American, never mind being the only Jew as he attended a range of private schools. There was no exemption from chapel. For him, being Jewish is practically defined by isolation. After his birth in Hong Kong, his parents tried to fly in a mohel from Japan so they could hold

a bris, but in the end couldn't arrange it. His Jewish identity is a long series of trying to embrace a sense of absence.

In the Reform household where I grew up, we disdained anyone who had a “Chanukah bush,” and were openly critical of the commercialism of the Christmas season. Neither my husband nor I yearn for the pageantry of Christmas, although I do think it's a natural reaction to finding yourself always on the outside looking in.

We're still figuring out how observant we want our household to be, particularly as we come from communities that were so polar opposite in how comfortably we were able to wear our Jewish identities. But I had never before thought about how my son would have to navigate his own sense of exclusion and inclusion, and how difficult it would be to watch him recognize he will likely be the one left out.

The year before, when we lit the Chanukah candles, our then 2-year-old burst into a round of “Happy Birthday” at seeing the colored candles and matches emerge. I got to see the light reflected back in his tiny, enraptured face as he understood that something beyond a birthday, but equally special, was taking place. And he has definitely caught on about presents.

Since the moment he's been born, realizing all the ways my child could be hurt, has been a painful preoccupation – worse yet is the thought that there's only so much I can do to prevent any of it happening. How to handle his burgeoning education – religious and otherwise – is something my husband and I are still learning. Standing in the back of his classroom and realizing how inevitable it is he will feel the loneliness of

being the only Jew in the classroom was suddenly a lot to swallow.

At the moment, it feels like all I can do is counter this with the sense of celebration I hope he'll also know, and the knowledge that within the array of experiences that growing up Jewish carries, a sense of difference is something also shared.

*(Elline Lipkin is a research scholar at UCLA's Center for the Study for Women and also teaches poetry for Writing Workshops Los Angeles. She is the author of a book of poems, “The Errant Thread,” and “Girls' Studies,” a nonfiction book about girlhood in America. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and young son.)*

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## KULA

Continued from page 1

is heard to assure the strength of the Jewish community in Louisville.

The steering committee that organized Rabbi Kula's visit is made up of the professional leadership of our community including directors, rabbis and cantors. Sara Wagner, Jewish Community of Louisville president and CEO, noted, "this is an important step for our Jewish Louisville community. As our steering committee worked together over the past six months to make this a reality, we have had the opportunity to share our hopes, concerns and dreams for the community."

"Each of our organizations is meeting the needs of many community members," she continued, "but certainly not all. As a group we have committed to work together to best meet the needs of those currently involved, to better understand what needs we are not meeting, who we are not reaching and prioritize for long terms changes that are facing our community. We recognize we cannot take anything for granted."

"Rabbi Kula has a unique ability to define the changes in our society and Jewish life in general," she added. "As a result of Rabbi Kula's visit our organizations have agreed to work together to prioritize real change and ensuring we bring the community closer together."

"This community think tank is a wonderful opportunity to hear what the most pressing issues are and better understand the steps we will be taking together," she said.

In addition to leading the open meeting, Rabbi Kula will meet privately with leadership of the agencies and congregations.

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is investing in the future of the Louisville Jewish community by making grants that encourage community discussion and effective planning. Toward this goal, JHFE made it possible to bring Rabbi Kula to Louisville, creating this opportunity for open dialogue.

CLAL is a national leadership training institute, think tank and resource center that helps Jewish communities encourage pluralism and openness, promotes dynamic, inclusive Jewish communities, in which all voices are heard, nurtures volunteer, professional and rabbinic leaders, and helps people reimagine Jewish life.

An internationally renowned speaker, Rabbi Kula has inspired people worldwide by using Jewish wisdom to speak to all aspects of modern life and relationships. An engaged and thoughtful trader in the global marketplace of ideas, he led a Passover Seder in Bhutan; consulted with government officials in Rwanda; helped build cultural and interfaith bridges in Qatar; and met with leaders as diverse as the Dalai Lama and Queen Noor to discuss compassionate leadership in the 21st century.

Additional biographical information on Rabbi Kula was printed in the October 28 edition of Community and can be found at [www.jewishlouisville.org/embracing-change](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/embracing-change). RSVP for the event at [www.jewishlouisville.org/thinktank](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/thinktank).

## PLURALISM

Continued from page 1

Jewish Community Relations Council Director Matt Goldberg says, "The opportunity to see Rabbi Kariv and Yizhar Hess on the same stage is unprecedented anywhere and the issues they will talk about are crucial to the future of the State of Israel and our relationships with it. This conversation will be dynamic and informative. I am thrilled our Jewish community will have such a historic opportunity."

Born and educated in Tel-Aviv, Rabbi Kariv first became involved with the Reform Movement in high school where he joined Congregation Beit Daniel, the Center of Progressive movement in Tel-Aviv.

While at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rabbi Kariv joined the national staff of the IMPJ, served on the Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) and founded the Young Adult Leadership Forum. He studied in the Israel Rabbinical Program of the Hebrew Union College and was ordained as a Reform Rabbi in 2003.

Rabbi Kariv has been active with

the IMPJ for the past 17 years. He first joined the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the legal and public policy arm of the IMPJ, as the director of the Public Policy and Social Action Department and later became IRAC's associate director.

A prolific and in-demand writer and able negotiator, Rabbi Kariv led the negotiations on the Kotel issue together with leaders of the Conservative Movement, Reform Movement, JAFI (the Jewish Agency for Israel), and JFNA (Jewish Federations of North America), which resulted in a historic decision to create a pluralistic section of The Wall for men and women to pray together.

Yizhar Hess is a 10th generation Jerusalemite who served in the IDF and went on to earn his law degree and joined the Israeli Bar. He also holds an M.A. in Jewish studies and is working towards a Ph.D.

Hess has been the deputy director at the Shorashim Centre for Jewish Studies and he served as the Jewish Agency's community *shaliach* (emissary) to Tucson. On his return to Israel, he worked for the Jewish Agency as Director of Partnerships.

## PJ OUR WAY

Continued from page 1

who want to connect to Judaism in fun and engaging ways."

"I am so glad about making the Design Team," David said. "I feel like I am the luckiest person in the country right now. It means so much to me. I am looking forward to the team to accomplish many goals."

"First, I would like to learn and improve the reading and reviewing skills that I already have or will need for the future. Second, I like the opportunity to be the first to read and review pre-chosen Jewish Heritage books and encourage many people to read them by our team's reviews. Third, I would like to get people to expand their choice of reading and encourage them to read more often. Fourth, I would like to meet kids around the country who share my interests. Fifth, I would like to learn how to make persuasive videos to get people to read many different books."

David is a fifth grader at Louisville Collegiate School. He attends Religious School and Hebrew School at The Temple, and was one of the students selected to help lead Erev Yom Kippur children's services this year.

He is a good student, who was selected for the advanced learning program and has a wide variety of interests. He is a member of his school's Math Busters and Quick Recall teams, is active in the Lego Robotics and Coding Clubs and takes piano lessons. He is interested in science and enjoys focusing on DNA and genetic research. He enjoys gymnastics and lacrosse and is a member of the swim team.

In addition, he likes Minecraft, movie making, horseback riding and theater productions. And most importantly, David loves to read.

David isn't exactly sure when he was enrolled in the PJ Library program, but he thinks he was only 3 years old or may-

be younger. "The books are very interesting," he said. "Sometimes I even read my sister's books and I enjoy them very much."

He particularly enjoys the Jewish aspects of the books because he values his Jewish heritage.

"I would like to thank my mom for encouraging me to apply for the team and helping me by filling out the forms with me and videotaping my book review," David said. "Thank you!"

David's parents are Vadim and Faina Kaplan.

The PJ Our Way program is supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation based in Agawam, MA. Sign-up at [www.pjourway.org](http://www.pjourway.org).

## REVIEWS

Continued from page 2

sense of the word. The songs, for the most part, are pedestrian, written in broad form to outline both the absurdity and the sinister quality of violence in a world on the edge of madness in the tradition of Stanley Kramer's movie *Dr. Strangelove or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Bomb*. In that classic movie, actor Slim Pickens rides a bomb to the earth in cowboy style that will lead to the destruction of the world. *Assassins* makes the same point by pointing guns at the audience and singing its way to perdition.

Next: *Funny Girl*, January 26-February 12, 2017.

### The Shinonome Choir Visits Louisville

by Robert Sachs

Special to Community

A choir made up of Japanese Christian Protestants singing Hebrew and Yiddish songs: Sounds like the beginning of a joke. But it's not. It's real, it's devout, it's disarming and naively lovely. And on Thursday, November 3, thanks to the efforts of Cantor David Lipp, the Shinonome Choir, also known as *Makheilat Hashachar*, made Louisville one of six stops in its 10-day 2016 tour of the United States. The 25-person choir (fourteen kimono-clad women and eleven tuxedoed men) enchanted a full house at Congregation Adath Jeshurun with songs sung in Japanese, Hebrew and Yiddish.

Cantor Lipp introduced the concert and noted the importance of non-verbal communication in Japanese culture. Bowing, for instance, is a sign of gratitude. It is also, he said, a sign of apology. But on this night, there was nothing for which to apologize. The choir, which is made up of volunteers from across one

He is known as one of the leading voices in Israel promoting Jewish Pluralism and represents the Masorti-Conservative Movement in the negotiations with the Israeli government regarding egalitarian prayer at the Kotel (the Western Wall).

David M. Mallach is a long-time leader at Jewish Federations. He has held positions with UJA-Federation of New York, Jewish Federations of North America and United Jewish Communities of MetroWest in addition to his post with UIA.

For 12 years, Mallach was the managing director of the Commission on Jewish People at UJA-Federation of New York. The COJP works to build bridges among different Jewish communities in NY, Israel and around the world. It also seeks to strengthen the ties of Jewish communities with the surrounding environment in which they reside.

More detailed biographical information can be found at [www.jewishlouisville.org/pluralism](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/pluralism).

For more information about the event, contact Mary Jean Timmel, 502-238-2722 or [mtimmel@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mtimmel@jewishlouisville.org).

[pjourway.org](http://pjourway.org).

PJ Library is an award-winning Jewish family engagement program designed to strengthen the identities of Jewish families and their relationship to local Jewish community. Created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library started in 2005 by providing free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to 200 families. Now, more than 140,000 children between the ages of six months and eight years receive the books in 200 communities in the United States and Canada.

For more information, visit [www.jewishlouisville.org/pjlibrary](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/pjlibrary) or [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org).

hundred Protestant congregations in Japan, was disciplined, diligent and dedicated. Their beautiful voices were a testament to the power of music as a basis for cross-cultural understanding.

The choir is part of an organization called Japan Christian Friends of Israel that was founded in 1946 by the reverend Takeji Otsuki. They are Christians who view the Jewish people as their true friends and they do everything they can to support us as well as Israel. This support is central to their mission.

In 1966, during his first visit to Israel, Rev. Otsuki made his way to the Western Wall. So moved was Rev. Otsuki by the experience that he wrote a poem of devotion to Jerusalem. The poem depicts Jerusalem first as a widow and then as princess.

I found it somewhat similar in tone to the Song of Songs found in our Bible. It was put to music and presented to us, accompanied by a cello solo, entitled "Elegy: The Song of the Wailing Wall." It was heartrending to both the audience and the choir, with several members weeping during its rendition.

The program opened with a section called "With Prayers for Peace," two songs sung in Hebrew and a medley of Israeli folk songs familiar to many in the audience. This was followed by "Japanese Melodies," five songs, mostly a capella, that included energetic movement and clapping. After the "Elegy," we were treated to traditional Jewish songs, songs of prayer – with Cantor Sharon Hordes and Cantor Lipp as well as the Community Choir – and modern Israeli songs. The evening ended with two encores, "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav" and "Hatikva," the national anthem of Israel and a prayer for Israel.

Felice and I drove three of the singers back to their hotel and, as they left us, one said softly, "We pray for you." It was clear that she meant it.



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## TEEN TOPICS



Senior Justin Bass answering a question during Ellie Bodker's reverse scavenger hunt program.

by Charles Bessen

BBYO KIO Regional Shaliach

(Vice President of Jewish Heritage, Community Service and Social Action)

From October 18-31, the Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio region of BBYO was lucky enough to be visited by Ellie Bodker, who is currently serving as the international president of BBYO.

BBYO, which is the world's leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement, has grown immensely, with 19,000 active members throughout North America, and reaches over 80,000 Jewish teens in more than 35 countries around the world.

As BBYO's international n'siah, Bod-



Regional President Laina Meyerowitz and International President Ellie Bodker

ker deferred admission to Syracuse University to embark on a gap year, during which she travels around the world visiting various BBYO communities. In Louisville, Bodker spent time with local teens and assisted in creating development and growth plans for Louisville BBYO.

Bodker came to Louisville during an exciting month, which culminated with the KIO region's first convention of the year, Spirit convention. During her stay, Bodker spent most of her time with Jay Levine BBG and assisted in the chapter's preparation for spirit convention, and even had a cameo in the chapter "hype video."

Laina Meyerowitz, who is currently serving as KIO's regional n'siah, described the event by saying, "[Ellie] exposed the girls to an international side of BBYO they hadn't seen before."

Bodker also spent time with the Louisville BBYO chapter boards, and enjoyed getting to know members of both Jay Levine BBG and Drew Corson AZA. Bodker listened to the officers describe their BBYO experiences and offered helpful advice to improve the quality of the program.

Bodker also spent much of her time with JCL's Teen Director, Kari Semel. Semel, who created an itinerary for Bodker's stay, which included meetings with important community members and employees at the JCC. Staff who met with Bodker called her "impressive and motivating."

When asked to describe her experience with Bodker, Semel said, "Ellie was fantastic to have in Louisville! Her passion and knowledge about BBYO are inspiring, and she embodies a level of maturity that most teens could only imagine."

The Louisville BBYO teens had a fantastic weekend at Spirit Convention,

which took place during the last weekend of October. The Spirit Convention is the largest annual BBYO event in the Kentucky Indiana Ohio region, and offers an opportunity for chapters to come together and compete for the coveted Spirit Stick.

Bodker not only assisted teens in preparation for the event, but also attended the convention, and played a major role in facilitating programs

throughout the weekend.

These programs taught the teens about two of Bodker's main priorities: recruitment and community service. Joey Schuster, who is currently serving as Drew Corson's chapter president, states, "Ellie's reverse scavenger hunt program was charming. We learned a lot from her, and can't wait to see her again at International Convention."



Louisville BBYO board members enjoy dinner with Ellie Bodker.

## Subaru Share the Love Campaign Helps J's Seniors, Meals on Wheels Program

The Senior Adult Department is again participating in the Share the Love Campaign with Meals on Wheels America and Subaru.

As a participating Meals on Wheels America member, the J will receive a share of the revenue raised by Kentucky Subaru dealerships. By selecting Meals on Wheels America as your charity of choice, when you purchase or lease a Subaru by January 3, 2017, you can help the J deliver nutritious meals and other important services to Louisville's older adults in need. For more information, visit [www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove](http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove).

From now through January 3, 2017, Subaru will donate \$250 to the customer's choice of participating charities for every new vehicle sold or leased. There are four national charities from which to choose: Meals on Wheels America, ASPCA, Make-a-Wish and the National Park Foundation. In Louisville, the JCC's Senior Adult Meals on Wheels program is actively participating by raising awareness of the Share the Love Event.



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## JFCS CALENDAR

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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 fax | (502) 452-6718  
 website | [jfcsloouisville.org](http://jfcsloouisville.org)

### JFCS FOOD PANTRY

#### Suggestions for December

- Aluminum foil
- Salt and pepper
- Mashed potato and stuffing mixes
- Gravy mix

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

## LUCKY'S MARKET Bags for Change



### Support JFCS by Shopping at Lucky's Market

Nationally, Lucky's Market is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the cities where its stores are located by partnering with organizations to address vital local needs. This season, JFCS was voted to be one of three recipients of Lucky's Louisville Bags for Change.

Beginning now through January 28, 2017, please shop for your groceries and household items at Lucky's Market, 200 N Hurstbourne Pkwy, and bring your own re-usable bags. For each bag you bring in and use, you will receive a wooden

dime. You can then choose to place your wooden dime in the JFCS bin. The dimes add up during this period, then Lucky's DOUBLES the donation - doubling the impact JFCS makes in our community.

Help spread the word to your friends. This is an awesome opportunity to raise funds and spread the awareness of the important work of JFCS for individuals, families, immigrants and refugees, and seniors.

### CAREER



**DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 9**  
**Jumpstart Your Job Search**  
**Daytime & Evening Times Available**  
 Starting to look for a new job? In four weeks, develop a strategic job search for getting your resume to the top of the stack. To register, contact Erin Heakin at 502-452-6341 ext. 246.



**DECEMBER 13**  
**AARP Work for Yourself 50+**  
**6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at JFCS**  
 Work for Yourself@50+ will help low- and moderate-income adults age 50+ gain the knowledge, support, and resources they need to make informed decisions and take the right first steps toward successful self-employment. Call toll free at 888-339-5617 to register.

### COUNSELING

#### SOLUTIONS TO SENIOR HUNGER For Adults 50 and Older By appointment only at JFCS

For older adults with food insecurities, JFCS offers assistance for determining SNAP eligibility. JFCS counselors take clients through the entire application process. Contact Naomi Malka at [nmalka@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:nmalka@jfcsloouisville.org) for more info.



### EVENTS



#### DECEMBER 18 Carole & Larry Goldberg Hanukkah Helpers Family Mitzvah Event 1pm at JFCS

Help our volunteers unload donated Hanukkah gifts at JFCS. Activities will include gift sorting, snacks, & arts + crafts. Contact Kim Toebbe at 502-452-6341 ext. 103.



From now through February 2, 2017, JFCS will be collecting new, gently used and antique jewelry for its Jazz & Jewelry event scheduled for March 2, 2017. Items may be dropped off at JFCS.

For more information contact Kim Toebbe at 502-452-6341 ext. 103.

### SUPPORT GROUPS

#### DECEMBER 6 Caregiver Support Group 4 p.m.

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

#### DECEMBER 8 Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group 1 p.m.

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

#### DECEMBER 9 Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group 2 p.m.

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

#### DECEMBER 15 Adult Children of Aging Parents 7 p.m.

Meets on the third Thursday of the month at Jewish Family & Career Services. Contact Mauri Malka, 502-452-6341 ext. 250.

#### DECEMBER 19 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren 12:30 p.m.

Meets on the third Monday of the month at Jewish Family & Career Services. Contact Jo Ann Kalb, 502-452-6341 ext. 305.

#### DECEMBER 21 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren 10 a.m.

Meets on the third Wednesday of every month at Kenwood Elementary, 7420 Justan Avenue. Contact Jo Ann Kalb, 502-452-6341 ext. 305.

Support groups are facilitated by JFCS and funded by KIPDA Area Agency on Aging through the Older Americans Act and the Cabinet for Health Services.

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## NEWSMAKERS

**Alan N. Linker** has been elected to the Argent Trust Company's Board of Directors. Linker, an attorney, member and management committee member at **Seiller Waterman LLC**, brings almost 40 years of business, trust and estate planning experience.



Alan Linker

He graduated, cum laude, from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

**WhoDunnit Murder Mystery Theater** has won a 2016 International Centre for Women Playwrights 50/50 Applause Award. WhoDunnit is one of the 107 awardees on five continents recognized by ICWP. The 50/50 Applause Awards recognize theaters whose 2015/16 season included at least 50 percent plays by women playwrights. In WhoDunnit's 2015/16 Season, Louisville resident **Ann S. Waterman** wrote all five plays.

WhoDunnit is one of only two winners in Kentucky, and the only one in the Louisville area. A full list of the winners can be found on ICWP's website, [www.womenplaywrights.org/50-50-awards-2016](http://www.womenplaywrights.org/50-50-awards-2016).

**Almost Family Inc.** (Nasdaq: AFAM) signed a \$128 million deal to buy a controlling interest in the home health and hospice assets of Community Health Systems Inc.

Almost Family has signed an agreement to acquire an 80 percent controlling interest in CHS Home Health, a subsidiary of Franklin, Tenn.-based Community Health Systems Inc. *Insider Louisville* reported in its October 31 edition.

The company said the deal would make Almost Family "the third-largest Medicare home health provider in the U.S."

**William B. Yarmuth** is Almost Family's CEO.

**Nancy Gall-Clayton's** play, *Bernice Sizemore's 70th Birthday*, was read as Pandora Theater Company introduced its PlayDates series. This November celebration of local playwrights was followed by a talk-back session with the cast, the playwright and Pandora's Artistic Director Michael Drury. PlayDates is a three-part series of readings of plays on LGBTQ themes written by local playwrights.

The Louisville Orchestra's **Bob Bernhardt** marked 35 years as the principal pops conductor of the Louisville Orchestra with a special performance of music by film composer John Williams on Saturday, November 5. The LO was joined by the University of Louisville Cardinal Singers and the Louisville Youth Choir for this performance.

**The Baxter Avenue Theaters** has replaced the seating in its eight theaters with power reclining chairs. The seats are numbered, so patrons will be able to select their seats, and kiosks are being added to enable theater-goers to handle their own transactions. Additional improvements are planned.

**The Litvin family** was featured in an article, "Next Generation of Bluegrass Rabbis Comes of Age in Kentucky; New Learning Center in Louisville Marks Three Decades of Building Community," on the website [www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org).

The November 6 article by Lori Samlin Miller provides an overview of the family's work, from their arrival in Kentucky and the establishment of Chabad of Kentucky in 1985 to the present as

Rabbi Avrohom and Goldie Litvin and many of their adult children and their spouses open the Jewish Learning Center and engage the community in a wide variety of activities.

In its annual list of performing arts organizations in its October 28 edition, *Business First* identified **CenterStage** at The J, with **John Leffert** as the artistic director, as the 11th largest in the Louisville area.

In its coverage of the list, *Business First* featured a few community leaders who work in different fields as supporters of the Arts. In the field of education, the newspaper identified **Dr. Allan Tasman** of the University of Louisville School of Medicine as a member of the Actors Theatre of Louisville Board of Directors.

**Louis Waterman** has been selected to serve on the University of Louisville Board of Overseers, *Business First* reported in the same issue.

Also, in its "Fast 50" supplement, *Business First* identified the Louisville area's 50 hottest companies. **CandyRific**, with President and CEO **Rob Auerbach** made a repeat appearance, coming in at number 39 with a 38.7 percent growth rate. **GlowTouch Technologies** with President **Vidya Ravichandran**, a Jewish Family & Career Services MOSAIC Award winner made the list at number 50 with a 17.5 percent growth rate.

In *Business First's* October 21 edition, the paper looked at vulnerabilities in Louisville's dining scene. When considering the financial factors that lead to restaurant closings, they talked with **Matt Salzman**, managing partner and CEO of Louisville's Pallas Partners Inc. that is behind the **FreshFire Bar-B-Q** chain. They also looked at **Smoketown USA** as one of the restaurants that closed recently. Owner **Eric David Gould** announced on Facebook that he closed the restaurant to pursue new adventures after reaching his goals with the business.

In its annual list of nonprofit organi-

zations in its October 28 edition, *Business First* identified the **Jewish Community of Louisville**, with **Sara Klein Wagner** as the president and CEO, as the 24th largest in the Louisville area.

In its October 14 edition, *Business First* identified **Andrew Welenken**, the chef de cuisine at The English Grill as one of 20 people to know in retail and restaurants

The **Kalashnikov Clowns** celebrated their one-year anniversary with a First Birthday Show on November 4. According to an *Insider Louisville* story published on November 1, the troupe uses the Russian style of clowning that **Tatiana Malkin** brought with her to Louisville from the former Soviet Union. She and her partner, **Steven Hughes**, both members of the troupe, were featured in the article.

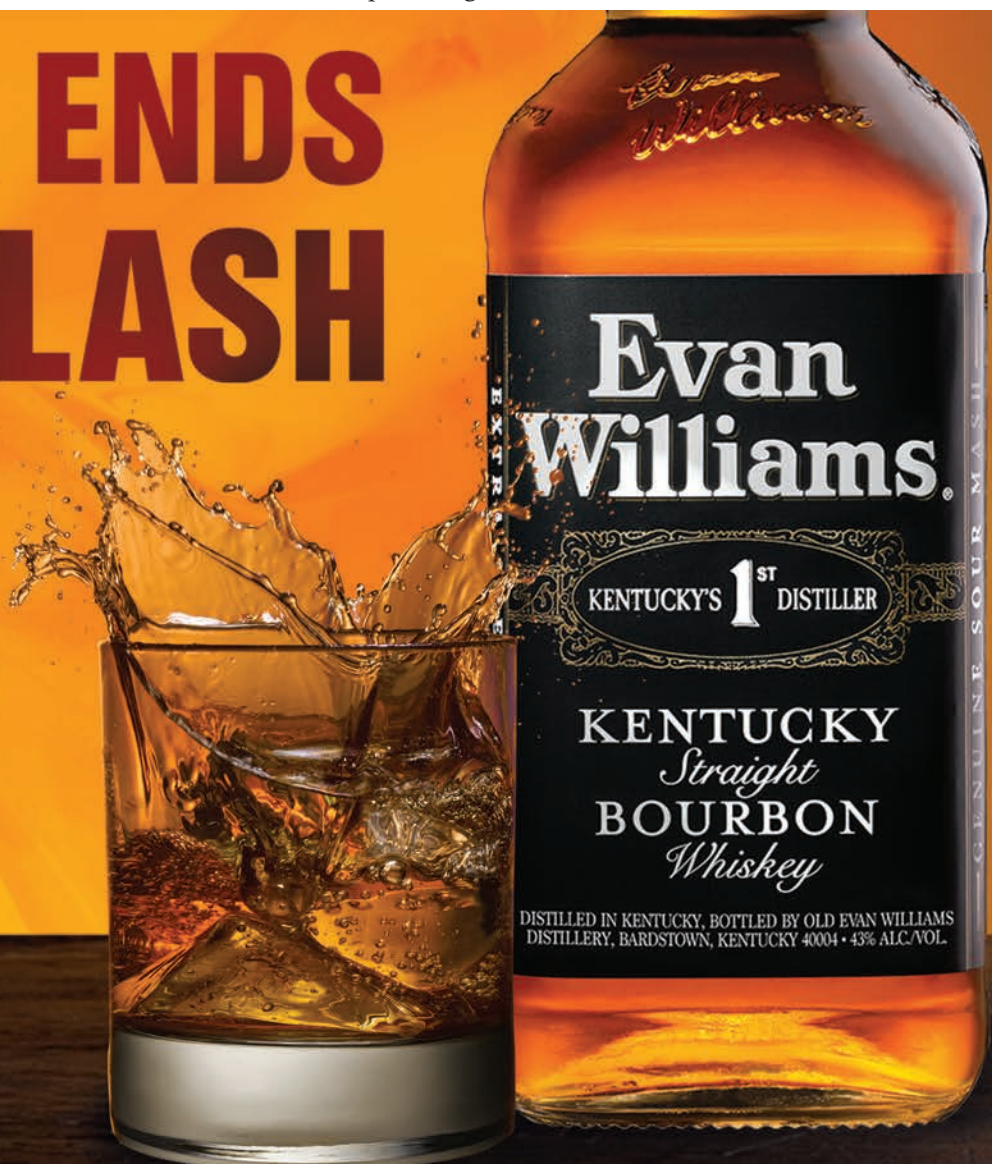
**KentuckyOne Health** opened a new Emergency Department at **Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital**. The \$9 million renovation and expansion more than doubles the size of the Emergency Department, brings new technology to patients' bedsides and improves the overall workflow of the department, which reduces patient wait times.

**Summer Auerbach** and **S. Brandon Coan**, along with co-chairs **Bill** and **Barbara Juckett** led Louisville Public Media's \$7 million Raise Your Voice capital Campaign. On Tuesday, November 14, LPM announced the successful completion of the campaign.

### Correction

In the October 28 edition of *Community*, the photographers at the Women Breaking Barriers events with the delegation of Arab and Jewish Israeli women from the Western Galilee were not identified. **Deborah Rose** took the photos at the event at the Muhammad Ali Center; **Ted Wirth** took the photos at the River Road Mosque; and **Shiela Steinman Wallace** took the photos at The Temple.

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# AROUND TOWN

## The Temple Offers Saturday Morning Torah Study

On Saturday mornings, 9-10 a.m., meet with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel at The Temple in the Fishman Library before the morning service to read and discuss the Torah portion of the week over coffee, bagels and cream cheese, and other treats.

## The Temple Has Options for Study on Monday Nights

On Mondays, 7-8 p.m. Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will lead a text study class at The Temple. The class will examine "Joshua and Judges – The Books Reform Jews Never Study" in depth and try to see their beauty and why they represent the Golden Age of our Biblical tradition.

At the same time, Rabbi Gaylia Rooks will teach Hebrew Alef. This is a beginning course for those who have not yet mastered the alef-bet and want to learn

how to read as well as some basic vocabulary.

Advanced Hebrew Study Circle will meet from 8-9 p.m. This is a study circle, or chavurah, which will guide the study of biblical and prayer book Hebrew in preparation for leading four Shabbat morning services throughout the year. Together the class will learn the history and meaning of the words we pray, study Torah to read and chant, prepare interpretations on the weekly Torah portion, and share the prose and poetry of the creative English readings of the Reform prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*.

Basic Judaism meets from 8-9 p.m. Topics are covered in three six-week sessions, the first of which is Life Cycle Events Rabbi David Ariel-Joel.

## The Temple Scholars Program Meets Wednesdays

The Temple Scholars program is held

at The Temple on Wednesdays. The next class meeting is November 23, 9:30-10:35 a.m. with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel. This session, the topic is What is a Jew? Dilemmas of Identity in the 21st Century.

The class will grapple with the challenges and explore the opportunities of the 21st century Jewish identity. What are the essential features of being Jewish? What is the place of boundaries in today's changing Jewish community? How do Jewish communities in North America and in Israel view their identities differently, and what can we learn from one another?

During the 10:50-12 p.m. session, Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will cover The Golden Age of Spain, the greatest flowering of Jewish life and learning in the long history of our people. Together the class will explore five centuries and more of Jewish life in Muslim Spain: the life and works of great scholars, poets and philosophers, Moses Maimonides, Judah Halevi, Abraham and Moses Ibn Ezra; Jewish statesmen, explorers and scientists, remarkable women, Jewish-Muslim Interaction, and flowering of a uniquely mystical branch through Zohar and Kabbalah.

Space is limited. Please call The Temple for registration, 502-423-1818.

## Study with Rabbi Wolk at Jews and Brews

Join Rabbi Michael Wolk of Keneseth Israel for Jews and Brews, a one-hour class where participants study the weekly Torah portion through the prisms of both ancient and modern commentary while enjoying a cup (or cups?) of coffee. All in the community are welcome to attend; free and open to the public. Jews and Brews meets weekly on Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m. at the JCC Coffee Shop. For more details contact Yonatan Yussman, KI executive director, at [yyussman@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:yyussman@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780.

## Adath Jeshurun Hosts Celebration Shabbat

Come to Adath Jeshurun on Saturday, December 3 to celebrate your birthday or anniversary. All who are celebrating a birthday or anniversary in the month of December are invited to participate in a group aliyah during morning worship services beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## AJ Schedules Two Shabbat Scholars Programs

Mark your calendar for Saturdays, December and 10, and come to Adath Jeshurun for the Shabbat Scholars program at 12:15 p.m. following the Kidush lunch. On December 3, Dr. Michal Kofman from the University of Louisville will speak on "Arbitration and the Construction of a Moral Homeland in the 1940s." On December 10, Marcia and Ed Segal will speak on "Voices from within Borders," an extension of the Melton course, "Beyond Borders," taught by Ed Segal. The community is invited.

## AJ Provides Prayer Book Hebrew Classes

Adath Jeshurun's Prayer Book Hebrew classes will take place on Sundays, December 4 and 11. Beginning Prayer Book Hebrew is at 10:30 a.m. and Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew is at 11:30 a.m. Subsequent classes will take place on January 8, 22 and 29. Please contact Deborah Slosberg for more information and registration at [dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com).

## Jewish Learning Center Offers JLI and JLearn Courses in December

The Jewish Learning Center is offering two new programs during December.

The first program is a three part lecture series created by the International Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, "Success – Jewish Secrets for Leading

a Productive Life." This lecture series will explore topics such as "How to Unleash Your Inner Creativity," "How to Gain Friends and Resolve Conflicts" and "How to Overcome Procrastination and Turn Our Dreams into Reality." The classes will be presented on Monday nights, December 5, 12 and 19, at 7 p.m. The instructor is Rabbi Avrohom Litvin. Reservations are required by calling 502-235-5770 or by emailing [Rabbi@chabadky.com](mailto:Rabbi@chabadky.com).

The Jewish Learning Center will also offer JLearn, a chance for participants to learn almost any subject in one of a wide variety of types of learning options. On Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15 and 22, there will be two rounds of study offered. From 7-7:50 p.m. there will be a class in Ethics, Jewish Law and Talmud; and from 8-8:50 p.m. there will be classes in Chassidic Philosophy, Bible and Jewish Femininity.

The goal of the Jewish Learning Center is to enable every person who desires to explore Jewish learning on any level to be able to do so. Therefore, classes may be added or adapted based on the interests of participants. JLI classes have a fee to cover the cost of materials such as textbooks and the audiovisual aids prepared for study. JLearn classes are offered at no charge. The Jewish Learning Center is located at 1110 Dupont Cir. and all are welcome.

## Karimi to Speak at Temple Shalom First Monday Series

The Temple Shalom First Monday Series for Adult Education resumes for this season on Monday, December 5, at 7 p.m. The presenter, Haleh Karimi, the executive director of Interfaith Paths to Peace, will speak on "What It Means to Be a True Moslem."

Karimi, a Shiite Moslem, is well known in our Jewish community, and helped organize the interfaith Thanksgiving dinner at Temple Shalom last year.

RSVP to Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 by December 3. There is no charge and a Q&A and refreshments will follow the talk.

## The Temple Introduces Stop & Chat with a Rabbi

Join Rabbi David Ariel-Joel from The Temple on Thursday, December 8 from 12-1:30 p.m. at Day's Coffee, 1420 Bardstown Rd. (at the corner of Edenside Ave.) for a Stop & Chat with a Rabbi. Feel free to discuss any topic from personal issues, to religious questions and everything in between. All in the community are welcome. The event is free and open to the public. Coffee is on Rabbi David.

## Next Torah Yoga Is December 8

Join the group at Keneseth Israel for a class combining the Jewish and yogic traditions on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. The group looks at ways in which these two wonderful traditions support each other and share many commonalities. In addition to discussion, the workshops always offer an experiential component, such as yoga, meditation and breathing practices. The teachers are Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Flannery. This program is co-sponsored by Hadassah of Louisville. All are welcome to attend; free and open to the public.

## AJ's Short & Sweet Congregation Set for December 10

Join Deborah Slosberg on Saturday, December 10, at 10:30 a.m. for Short & Sweet Jr. Congregation at Adath Jeshurun. Short & Sweet is a family service for students in grades K through 7, their parents and grandparents. The community is invited.

## KI Has Bi-Monthly Children's Shabbat Service

On the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, Keneseth Israel has a Child see **AROUND TOWN** page 21

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# AROUND TOWN

dren's Shabbat Service from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Join the congregation for a high energy service with stories, singing, prayers, Torah and learning. Services conclude by joining the whole congregation in the main sanctuary prayers to lead "Ein Keloheinu" and "Adon Olam." For more details, contact Yonatan Yussman, KI executive director, at [yyussman@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:yyussman@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780.

## Cantor's Cabaret Concert Is December 10

For those of who you missed last year's cantor's concert featuring Harry Pickens and the cantors of Louisville in "Stars of David: Jewish Voices from the American Songbook" – the cantors will be reprising their greatest hits for this concert on Saturday, December 10, 7-9 p.m. at Keneseth Israel. For more details, contact Yonatan Yussman, KI executive director, at [yyussman@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:yyussman@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780.

## White to Address Environmental Issues at Temple Shalom

Josh White, an environmental activist and bioengineer, will speak at the next Temple Shalom Men's Club breakfast Sunday, December 11, at 10 a.m. at the synagogue.

A 2016 Democratic candidate for Louisville Metro Council District 8, White has made reforestation in a city that is losing more than 50,000 trees a year and grappling with serious urban heat island problem, his signature issue. He is the leader of the Highlands Tree Planting Initiative, a grassroots program for educating and developing economical best practices for tree plantings in the Highlands and beyond. He also is organizing a tree-giveaway to high school freshmen across the city.

RSVP to Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739. A \$5 donation for breakfast is requested.

## The Temple Brotherhood Chanukah Latke Dinner Planned

Please join The Temple for its annual Brotherhood Chanukah Latke Dinner Spectacular on Sunday, December 11, 5-7 p.m. All the delicious latkes you care to eat for only \$5 for adults and free for children under 13. RSVP to The Temple at 502-423-1818 no later than Wednesday December 9.

## Come to Give-A-Jam to End Homelessness

The Sixth Annual Give-A-Jam to End Homelessness will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 6-11 p.m. at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne St. The evening will feature live performances by local musicians and artists, soups from Louisville's best chefs, a silent auction and a cash bar. Admission is \$20 and includes 10 food/drink tickets. All proceeds will benefit the Coalition for the Homeless' efforts to end youth homelessness. For more info and to purchase tickets, visit [www.louhomeless.org](http://www.louhomeless.org).

## Rabbi's Shabbat Dinner at the Temple Is December 23

Join The Temple on Friday, December 23, at 6 p.m. for their Chanukah-themed Rabbi's Shabbat Dinner. There will be latkes and lots of other yummy Chanukah food to celebrate the beginning of the Festival of Lights. Adults are \$5 and kids under 13 eat free. RSVP by Wednesday, December 21, to 502-423-1818.

## Make Sandwiches for the Homeless at The Temple

Join Rabbi David Ariel-Joel and other Temple volunteers on Saturday, December 24, 2-3 p.m. as they prepare sandwiches for those in need. The food will be delivered to St. Vincent DePaul

homeless shelter. Volunteers are asked to contribute to the materials needed. RSVP to Becky King at 502-423-1818 by Thursday, December 22.

## Fill the Freezer Event at The Temple

The Temple Caring Committee will host its annual Fill the Freezer event on Sunday, December 25, from 2-4 p.m. These freezer meals will be used throughout the year for families who are experiencing illness, death in the family or, in general, those in need a special gesture. RSVP to Becky King at 423-1818 by Thursday, December 22.

## Chabad Presents Chanukah Family Skate on December 25

This year Chanukah runs December 25-January 1. Chabad will offer a Chanukah event each night from dinner and a movie to a public menorah lighting, led by Mayor Greg Fischer. There will be special events for children, seniors and women, allowing each of these segments of our community to celebrate Chanukah with programs directed especially to their specific needs.

On Sunday, December 25, the community is invited to Alpine Ice Area from 5-7 p.m. for a Family Skating Adventure. There will be Jewish music, kosher refreshments and a grand menorah lighting all offered free of charge to all. Reservations are encouraged. Calling 502-235-5770 or email [rabbi@chabadky.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadky.com). More details about Chanukah programming will be available in the next edition of Community.

## Men's Club Chili Bingo Announced

Join Keneseth Israel for their annual chili bingo on Sunday, December 25, 5-8 p.m. It will be fun for the whole family. Chanukah candles will be lit. For more details, contact Yonatan Yussman, KI executive director, at [yyussman@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:yyussman@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780.

## Chinese Dinner and a Movie Is a Tradition at The Temple

Enjoy Chinese food and a movie at The Temple on Sunday, December 25. The movie to be shown will be *Zero Motivation*. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the film at 7. RSVP to The Temple by Monday, December 19, at 502-423-1818.

## KI Plans Family Chanukah Festival

Join us at Keneseth Israel for a very fun Chanukah festival Tuesday, December 27, 4:30-6:30 p.m. It is especially designed for families and children of all ages. There will be bounce houses and game booths, arts and crafts, and lots of yummy food, like latkes. Includes candle lighting and singing. For more details, contact Yonatan Yussman, KI executive director, at [yyussman@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:yyussman@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780.

## Join the Fun at Vodka Latke Chanukah Party

Save the date. Last year's event was so much fun, Keneseth Israel is doing it again! KI is hosting an open bar Chanukah party at a bar (location TBD) on Thursday, December 29, 5-8 p.m. Get your Chanukah drink on with wine, bourbon, vodka and special cocktails, in addition to a gourmet latke bar, appetizers, music, dreidels and gelt, and a menorah lighting. Price to be determined. For more details, contact Yonatan Yussman, KI executive director, at [yyussman@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:yyussman@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780.

# LIFECYCLE

## B'nai Mitzvah

### Gabriel "Gabe" Eli Stein

Gabriel "Gabe" Eli Stein, son of Pam and Robert Stein and brother of Drew, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, December 3, at 5:30 p.m. at The Temple. Gabe is the grandson of Ethel Lowenbraun and the late Stanley Lowenbraun, and Carol and Arnold Zegart.



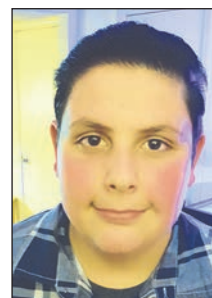
Gabe is in the seventh grade at Anchorage Public School, where he is a member of Mathcounts, Academic Team, STEM Club and Chess Club. He plays the saxophone, and particularly enjoys being a member of the Jefferson/Oldham County Youth Service Band. Gabe also enjoys being goofy with his cousins, brother and friends, playing video games and playing tennis. Gabe is participating in the Jewish Family & Career Services Pledge 13 Program by working with first through third graders during Religious School. Last spring, he also volunteered as a weekly tutor for a sixth-grade student at Carrithers Middle School.

Gabe and his family invite the community to celebrate his bar mitzvah as part of the Saturday evening Havdalah service.

### Maximilian "Saul" Beauchamp

Maximilian "Saul" Beauchamp, son of Amy and Beau Beauchamp and brother to Lexie and Roman, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m., at The Temple.

Saul is in the seventh grade at Parkview Middle School and enjoys being a member of the school choir and theater group. He is currently working



on his mitzvah project, training his English Bulldog, Munchkin, to become a therapy dog for children with physical and mental disabilities as well as the elderly. This is a cause that is very dear to his heart as his Dad has a seizure disorder and has his own service dog to assist him. Once Saul has completed the training, he will be able to take Munchkin to hospitals to bring joy and comfort to children and elderly individuals. Saul is also a proud member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Saul and his family invite the community to celebrate his bar mitzvah and the celebration afterwards at The Temple.

## Wedding

### Myerson Katz/ Tedesco

Dr. David and Barbara Myerson Katz are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca Sara Myerson Katz (left, in photo), to Donna Patricia Tedesco, daughter of John and Susan Tedesco of Sherburne, NY.



The wedding was officiated by Rabbi Edie Meyerson (no relation), a friend of Rebecca's from their years at Brandeis University, on July 16 at Misselwood at Endicott College in Beverly, MA.

Rebecca is the granddaughter of the see **LIFECYCLE** page 22



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# LIFECYCLE

late Janet and Joseph Myerson of Philadelphia, and the late Helen and Nathan Katz of New York and Louisville. Donna is the granddaughter of Theresa Pantaleo and the late Frank Pantaleo, and the late John and Theresa Tedesco, all of New York.

Rebecca graduated from Brandeis University, and received a Master's degree in English literature from the University of Massachusetts-Boston, and a certificate of advanced graduate study in developmental literacy from Boston University. She is a human resources support specialist in the corporate headquarters of Orchard Supply Hardware in San Jose, CA.

Donna graduated from Tufts University, and received a Master's degree in human factors in information design from Bentley University in Waltham, MA. She is a user experience researcher at Facebook corporate headquarters in Menlo Park, CA, and is the co-author of two books on user experience research.

Rebecca and Donna live in San Jose, CA.

## Obituaries

### Elsie W. Ballew

Elsie W. Ballew, 98, of Paducah, died October 28 surrounded by her loved ones. Earlier in the week she had talked with many family and friends, visited with great grandchildren and held and petted her "granddogs."



Ballew was born November 2, 1917 in Brooklyn, NY to Russian Jewish immigrants, Aaron and Sarah Weintraub. She is preceded in death by her parents, her eight siblings, her husband, James Ellis Ballew (Trader Mike), and her sons, Leonard Ballew and Alan Ballew.

Ballew is survived by her four loving children, Joseph Ervin Ballew of Euless, TX, Suzanne Ballew of Chicago, IL, Dr. Laurie Ballew (Joyce Sims) of Paducah, KY, and Michael Ballew (Michele) of Boynton Beach, FL; and three daughter-in-laws, Phyllis Ballew of California, Terri Ballew of Symsonia, KY and E-Ling Ballew of Memphis, TN. She has 17 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren.

Ballew grew up in Malden, MA, and moved south when she married the love of her life, James "Ellis" Ballew. They were married 46 years until his death in 1983.

When the Ballews and their children moved to Paducah, she became active in Temple Israel. She was involved in the women's organization, Temple Israel Sisterhood, for many years, and served in the positions of secretary and president. Ballew loved the temple, its congregation and all it stood for in her Jewish faith.

More than anything, Ballew loved her children. She was always a devoted mother, supportive of her children, encouraging and proud of their lives and accomplishments. She was an avid and knowledgeable reader, often reading four books per week. She felt that one of the greatest gifts she had was the joy of reading. She was involved in the literacy program at the Paducah Public Library and helped to teach many adults to read.

One of the highlights of Ballew's life was when her daughter, Suzanne, took her to Israel for an 80th birthday present. Ballew loved her religion, was strong in her faith and the Israel trip was a glorious testament for her.

Ballew exemplified her faith. She was kind to the stranger, generous in deed

and giving. She had many pets throughout the years after her children were grown and believed that animals should be treated with kindness and love. This was shown with the love of her own pets and her three granddogs, Toby, Jackie and Dottie.

Ballew loved and enjoyed being with her friends. She made great friends wherever she lived. She moved to Louisville for a 10-year period to live with her daughters, Laurie and Joyce. During that time she made lasting friends with neighbors Buddy and Helen and friends at The Temple. She was involved in Chavurat Shalom (Circle of Friends) and Saturday morning Torah study.

When Laurie and Joyce moved back home to Paducah, Ballew moved back home too, once again she was reacquainted with old friends and made new ones.

Ballew will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She had a dynamic and charming personality and usually "lit up the room." Her children extend a special thank you on Ballew's behalf to her friends and the staff of Jackson Oaks, and most recently to the caring and loving staff at The Lakes of Paducah, Debbie Larson of Lourdes Hospice, and the kind and gentle caring of Dr. Richard Smith.

Funeral arrangements were coordinated and arranged by Herman Meyer & Son Funeral Home of Louisville, and Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah. Graveside services were at Temple Israel Cemetery with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of Louisville officiating. The family asks those who wish to remember Ballew to donate to the Paducah Public Library, 555 Washington St., Paducah, KY 42003; McCracken County Humane Society, 4000 Coleman Rd., Paducah, KY 42001; Paralyzed Veterans of America, www.pva.org; or their favorite charity.

### Stewart "Stuart" Harold Snyder

Stewart "Stuart" Harold Snyder died on October 30 in Louisville, just a few blocks from where he had grown up 93 years earlier.



He was the youngest of nine children born to Morris and Sarah Snyder, immigrants from Russia. Snyder's childhood was marked by the Great Depression, the 1937 Flood and the struggle of a large family with little money.

When he was a student at Male High School, Snyder knew that America would soon be at war with Hitler's Germany. To prepare himself, he studied German. The U.S. Navy then shipped him out to the south Pacific and assigned him to the fighting Seabees.

After the war, Snyder earned a B.A. from Columbia University in New York City and worked as a door-to-door encyclopedia salesman in Florida, a radio disc jockey in Oregon, a professional whistler in California, a dancing instructor with Arthur Murray, a TV salesman at Sun TV in Louisville and, for more than 50 years, a stockbroker with Hilliard Lyons.

Not long after World War II, Snyder married a fun redhead named Nancy Beth Alley. They had three children: Sara, Steven and Laura. Their children were Snyder's greatest joy and Sara's untimely death from cancer in 2011 was his greatest sorrow. Snyder was helped through that tragedy by the woman who had become his best friend and life companion, Norma Pendleton.

Snyder filled his extraordinary life

with work until almost the very end. At age 92, he was still driving to work at Hilliard Lyons.

Following a short illness, Snyder passed away with Norma at his bedside. In addition to Pendleton, he is survived by his children Steven Snyder and Laura Shine, his grandsons Sam Snyder, David Snyder and Max Edmonson, and daughters-in-law Rabbi Jean Eglinton and Teresa Willis.

Sometimes Snyder was moody and impossible. At other times he was witty and charming. But at all times he was a generous man who adored his children, his grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Burial was in The Temple Cemetery. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. handled the arrangements.

Donations in Snyder's honor may be made to the Home of the Innocents in Louisville, to Temple Adath Israel Brith Sholom Congregation or to Louisville Public Media.

### Edward Switow

Edward Switow, 91, passed away on October 31, in Scottsdale, AZ, where he resided a little over a year. He was a resident of Louisville for 89 years.



He was born on January 10, 1925 to Frances and Simon Switow and was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Milton Switow, CPA.

Switow was a proud veteran of WWII and served as a gun crewman, light artillery in the 76th Infantry Division. He was a graduate of Speed Scientific School at the University of Louisville.

Switow worked at Louisville Gas and Electric and at GE Appliance Park as a Mechanical Engineer. Switow and his wife, Joan, were season ticket holders and avid fans of the UofL Cardinals basketball. They enjoyed traveling with the team, including a Dallas trip to the NCAA Championship.

Switow's pride and joy was spending time with his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren who resided in Kansas City. He was a very proud Poppa of two granddaughters.

Switow is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Joan Switow; daughter and son-in-law, Harryette and Ron Cooperman; and granddaughters, Amy Cooperman and Marcie Cooperman Komaiko and her husband, Richard Komaiko.

Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

### Fay Baron

Fay Baron, 69, of Lebanon, KY, died Wednesday, November 2, at the Norton's Hosparus Inpatient Unit.

She was a native of Brooklyn, NY, born April 2, 1947, to the late Herman and Lillian Yatkowitz.

She retired as a dental assistant.

She is survived by her loving husband, Victor H. Baron; her daughter, Crystal Sue Baron (William Hafley, Sr.); her six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Burial was in The Temple Cemetery. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. handled the arrangements.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple, Hosparus or the donor's favorite charity.

### Michael B. Segal

Michael B. Segal, age 94, passed away November 12.

Segal was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Elsie Segal; his first wife, Helane; son, Robert Segal;



brothers, Walter and Arthur; his sister, Bessie Mae Younger; and grandson, Chase Harrison.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Suzanne Segal; daughters, Barb (Marc) Goldenberg, Jane (Ken)

Kershner; sons, David (Kathy) Segal and Miles (Carol) Harrison; daughter-in-law Alethea Segal; grandchildren, Natalie (Jared) Pruitt; Karen Winefordner; Jenny (Matt) Hay; Annie Catherine, Richard and Caroline Segal; Ben (Rachel), Sam (Stephanie), and Hannah Goldenberg; Alden Harrison and Ali, Will and Robin Kershner; as well as two great granddaughters, Reagan Pruitt and Eliza Hay.

The Louisville native was in the Army and served in the 101st Airborne Division and was awarded two Silver Stars. He was very proud of his service and wore a World War II Veteran hat at all times during his later years.

After an honorable discharge from war, the Kentucky Colonel worked as a salesman. In Louisville, he met the first love of his life, Helane Kuhn, and married in 1949. The couple started their family in Kuhn's native Portsmouth, OH, where he worked as a food broker and freelance journalist.

Far too early, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and died in 1972. Dedicating his life to cancer research, Segal served as a volunteer State Crusade Chairman and national featured speaker for the American Cancer Society (ACS). He was later named the executive director of the Franklin County unit and moved his family to Columbus.

Always the lucky man, he met the second love of his life, Suzanne, in 1978 and married in 1980. The couple loved to travel and made memorable trips and friends as they visited Alaska, Australia, South Africa, Israel, Egypt and Europe, among others.

Upon retirement, Segal was not one to slow. He began working with SCORE, helping small business owners expand their companies and taught basic business principles to inmates at Marysville Prison.

He was also a dedicated volunteer at Mount Carmel East hospital in the surgery waiting room and loved to talk to anyone who would listen. The fundraiser extraordinaire raised money for ACS, Temple Beth Shalom, Shawnee State University and many other causes.

His biggest source of pride was always his family. He loved all dearly and said he would grow up with his last grandchild. He was forever a playful man – constantly getting on the floor to play with Legos, even when his knees should have stopped him, or having his nails painted by his granddaughters and brushing their hair. He loved passing on magic to his grandchildren, teaching many sleight of hand tricks and performing countless productions.

Burial was in Green Lawn Cemetery.

The family asks that donations be made to the Temple Beth Shalom or the American Cancer Society, Ohio division in his name. Online guestbook at www.epsteinmemorial.com.

## In Memoriam

### Rose Rita Wurmser

In remembrance of Rose Rita Wurmser, a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt and friend.





# D'VAR TORAH

by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner  
Special to Community

When the Sea of Reeds split, there was a great divide. It was a good divide – for it allowed the Israelites to cross over from slavery into freedom. The divide allowed our People to begin their journey towards the Promised Land and all that it held for them – all that G-d had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Today, there is another a great divide. Unlike the one at the Sea of Reeds, though, I wouldn't say this one is good. This is a divide that separates us from each other, that compartmentalizes the people of our country into different categories and groups;

a divide that focuses on our differences more than our similarities. This divide does not honor the biblical verse, "va'yivra Elohim et-ha'adam bi'tzalmo, b'tzelem Elohim bara oto, zachar u'nikayva bara otam," "And G-d created man in His image, in the image of G-d He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).

The divide is real; it exists. Denying this fact will not be helpful; burying our heads in the sand will accomplish nothing.

Rather, we need to acknowledge the reality with which we are confronted, the reality in which we live. And once we allow the divided state of our nation – and all its ramifications – to sink in and permeate our beings, we can then begin the work of repair, of action.

I must admit that I don't know exactly

what this looks like, but I do know what our tradition teaches; we have pillars of wisdom and strength to guide us:

*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof, "Justice, justice thou shalt pursue."* (Deuteronomy 16:20)

*Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hibatel mi'menah, "You are not expected to complete the task, but neither are you free to abandon it."* (Pirkei Avot 2:21)

"That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary; go and learn." (Rabbi Hillel, Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Shabbat 31a)

"What does God require of you? Only to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

"To humiliate a person is tantamount to shedding blood." (Talmud, Baba Metzia 58b-59a)

"You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Gen 22:20)

"You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your G-d, am holy." (Leviticus 19:1)

If we are to heal our divided nation, we must invest in our relationships; we must see the spark of the divine that dwells within every person, and we must remember the Israelites who wandered through the desert for 40 years. Once leaving *Mitzrayim*, the narrow places, the Israelites faced many challenges

along the way. But they persevered and made it to the Promised Land.

If we follow their lead, and the precepts of Judaism, then we too will be able to face the challenges ahead of us, persevere, and work towards keeping the promises our great land has to offer.

•••

Shabbat candles should be lit on Fridays, November 18 at 5:10 p.m., November 25 at 5:06 p.m., December 2 at 5:05 p.m., December 9 at 5:05 p.m., December 16 at 5:06 p.m., December 23 at 5:09 p.m. and December 30 at 5:14 p.m.

•••

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, the rabbi of Temple Shalom (Reform), has volunteered to provide Torah commentaries for Community.



Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner

## CHAVURAT SHALOM



Chavurat Shalom meets in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Highway 42, unless otherwise designated in the listing. It is a community-wide program and all synagogue members and Jewish residents are welcome.

If you haven't been to a Chavurat Shalom program in a while, you have been missing out on a ton of fun. The group looks forward to seeing you soon.

### Thursday December 1

Come play Bingo with your friends – it's been too long since Chavurat Shalom had a game day. Lunch will include Chef Z's soon-to-be-famous chili, grilled cheese, pasta salad, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

### Thursday December 8

Jennifer Diamond will sing jazz standards and there might even be a surprise special guest. Lunch will include grilled salmon, vegetable medley, couscous, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and turtle trifle. The group will be in the Heideman for lunch and the

Chapel for the program.

### Thursday December 15

Crowd favorite, The Two of Diamonds, will perform. Lunch will include grilled chicken breast with sundried tomatoes, onions, and olives, orzo salad with roasted vegetables, roasted red potatoes, vegetable medley, fresh fruit, and chocolate covered brownies.

Chavurat Shalom will not meet on December 22, 29, and January 5 for a brief winter break. The program staff looks forward to seeing you for some more entertaining and stimulating programs on January 12, 2017.

Come see what all the buzz is about with Chavurat Shalom's new caterer, Chef Z, and make sure there is enough for everyone by reserving your place at 502-423-1818 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com by the Monday of the week you plan to attend. A healthy and nutritious lunch is available at noon for \$5, followed by the program at 1 p.m. Vegetarian or vegan meals are available for \$5 upon request in advance.

Transportation to Jewish events, such as Chavurat Shalom, can be scheduled by calling Jewish Family & Career Services at 502-452-6341. Transportation to Chavurat Shalom is \$5 round-trip.

Funding for Chavurat Shalom is provided by the Jewish Community of Louisville, National Council of Jewish Women, a Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence grant, The Temple's Men of Reform Judaism and Women of Reform Judaism, and many other generous donors.

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KentuckyOne Health

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Contact Danni Kiefner, Director, Volunteer Services, at [dannikiefner@kentuckyonehealth.org](mailto:dannikiefner@kentuckyonehealth.org) to begin your volunteer experience today.

Our volunteer application is now online at [www.KentuckyOneHealth.org/volunteer](http://www.KentuckyOneHealth.org/volunteer).



# HAPPY HANUKKAH

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