

# B'nai Mitzvah Section, Pages 16-17

# COMMUNITY

FRIDAY VOL. 42, NO. 5 ■ 28 SHEVAT 5777 ■ FEBRUARY 24, 2017

## INSIDE

Grossman's new novel a gripper  
**STORY ON PG. 25**  
New round of bomb threats nationwide  
**STORY ON PG. 26**



## Joyful noises

Cantor David Lipp accompanies the Community Choir on the keyboard during the 46th annual Adath Jeshurun Music Festival. As many as 250 people watched as Jewish a cappella groups Staam (Washington University of St. Louis) and Hooshir (Indiana University) made their second appearances at the festival. Vocalist Jennifer Diamond (foreground) also appeared. See gallery, page 24. (photo by Jerry Wolff)

## Super Sunday, other projects, move Campaign forward

By Benji Berlow  
*For Community*

Donors are the focus of the 2017 Federation Campaign, as we provide thoughtful stewardship, exceptional donor experiences and personalized interactions. We strive to gather feedback from you and adjust accordingly in or-

der to do meaningful outreach.

We convened several gatherings this year to connect with you, our donors and to help you connect with the wider Jewish community in Louisville. These have included Rabbi Irwin Kula speaking about embracing change, more than 100 community members coming together to bake challah at the first Lou-

isville Shabbat Project and Jewish and Arab women from Israel speaking about building bridges.

In February, we hosted our fourth and final program this season in our Women's Philanthropy Connecting Series. More than 30 women connected with theatre, gathering for a pre-show

See **CAMPAIGN** on page 27

## Silverman to talk adoption, Kotel – maybe Holot – at AJ

By Lee Chottiner  
*Interim Editor*

Rabbi Susan Silverman knows a thing

or two about refugees. She's met them.

The American-born rabbi has traveled to Holot, the Israeli detention center in the northern Negev for Eritrean and Sudanese refugees; she has sat with them and listened to their stories.

Sadly, she says there's little the United States can learn from Israel when it comes to dealing with refugees.

"I'm afraid Israel is no beacon of light when it comes to asylum seekers; we are also failing," she told *Community* from

her home in Israel. "Our government is far from stepping up. We've processed



Rabbi Susan Silverman

almost nobody in terms of finding out if they're legitimate refugees, and that's intentional [because] once we do that, we are obligated under international law" to provide asylum so that they can live and work in the country legally.

The government doesn't want to do that, she said, even though many Israelis support it.

Silverman is coming to Louisville. She will be the guest speaker at Congregation Adath Jeshurun during a shabbaton, Friday, March 17, and Saturday, March 18. Silverman's visit is made possible through support from the Jewish Federation of Louisville, Adath Jeshurun and the Jewish Family & Career Services.

A board member of Women at the See **SILVERMAN** on page 27

## Jews, Muslims, Christians express support with 'Circles of Love'

By Lee Chottiner  
*Interim Editor*

Holding hands, praying for peace, parading in frigid temperatures, more than 50 of Louisville's faith-based leaders, including several Jews, gathered at the Louisville Islamic Center on Friday, February 3 — the Muslim sabbath — to form a "circle of love" at the religious site and to show their support for worshippers inside the mosque.

It was one of two such circles of love that day. By sundown — the start of the Jewish sabbath — Muslim leaders, including members of the Muslim Americans for Compassion (MAC), and Christians, held hands inside the sanctuary at Temple Shalom, ringing the congregation as it remained seated. One by one, they each expressed a personal prayer for peace as the Jews watched the remarkable gesture.

Temple Shalom, along with Keneseth Israel Congregation, were victims of hate calls the previous Friday — International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Dr. Mohammed Babar, president of the MAC, later addressed the congregation from the bima. While noting that Jews and Muslims have political differences — he specifically mentioned the Israel-Palestine conflict — Babar said there is more that unites the two peoples than divides them.

"Your lives are as sacred, and your security and wellbeing as important, as the lives, security and wellbeing of our own ... families," Babar said. "We are one human family."

The gathering at the Islamic Center, organized by the Kentucky Council of Churches, came after President Trump's issuance of an executive order banning people from seven mostly Muslim countries from entering the country. It also came after a mass shooting at one mosque in Quebec City, Quebec, and the burning of another in Victoria, Texas.

As they did at Temple Shalom, participants at the Islamic Center joined hands — outside the mosque in this case — while taking turns uttering prayers for peace.

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, of Temple Shalom, chanted *Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu*.

Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport of The Temple, said *Osey Shalom*.

And Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks, also of The Temple, invoked a verse by the late Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai, saying that when people choose war they should have to turn their plowshares back into swords.

Three times the people paraded around the mosque in a circle of love before entering the building, taking off their shoes and walking upstairs to the sanctuary where the service was See **CIRCLES** on page 27

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
LOUISVILLE  
KENTUCKY

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# COMMUNITY

**Community** is published monthly by the Jewish Community of Louisville, Inc., 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205-3216.

USPS #020-068 at Louisville, KY.

The Jewish Community of Louisville is a nonprofit organization. \$26 of your pledge is for a subscription for **Community**.

For more information, call 502-459-0660, fax 502-238-2724, e-mail [jcl@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jcl@jewishlouisville.org) or check out the website [www.jewishlouisville.org](http://www.jewishlouisville.org).

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Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: March 15 for publication on March 24 and April 19 for publication on April 28.

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

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# FORUM

## Ben Gurion's dream is still coming true in Israel

By Sara Klein Wagner  
*For Community*

On May 14, 1948 at the Tel Aviv Art Museum, David Ben Gurion declared Israel a Jewish homeland for all Jews, exploring Jews of the diaspora to support the immigration and up-building of the state.

For 69 years, Israel has welcomed both refugees and immigrants from around the world. We in the diaspora have shared in the collective responsibility of this ingathering and the remarkable building of the nation.

I just returned from Israel with a group of Jewish Federation executives, delving into the complexities and significance of Israel since Ben Gurion's declaration fulfilled the Zionist dream.

As a child, I learned that Israel was the spiritual center of the Jewish people. We needed Israel and Israel needed us.

My mother and her friends volunteered for Hadassah, as did my grandmother even before the state's creation.

I had Israeli teachers, hosted teens from our Project Renewal community and traveled to Israel for the first time with BBYO.



Sara Klein Wagner

The Israel I connect with today still generates pride and ahavat Israel. This recent visit only renewed my commitment to the leadership role of our Federation; it must engage our community with Israel.

Generations of North American Jews shared in the massive ingathering of exiles and building the state that Ben Gurion envisioned. It

is the Federation's role today to ensure every Jew in Louisville has an opportunity to connect with Israel and Israelis, to delve into Israeli life today and understand the significance of the country's past and future.

The priorities of our Federation must include providing resources, educating and advocating for Israel. Annual campaign dollars make this happen.

We should celebrate Israel's success in technology, business, environmental protection, medicine and the arts. She has accomplished so much.

But Israel also has a real problem with poverty. One in three children in Israel live under the poverty line. Funds contributed by North American donors help the most vulnerable there along with the support to the JDC, which cares for oppressed Jews in over 70 other countries.

See **WAGNER** on page 27

## Building community consensus has many steps

By Matt Goldberg  
*For Community*

When important events occur – in Israel or around the world, nationally or locally – the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is often compelled to produce a statement in comment.

Controversial actions by governments (our own or others) necessitate these statements. Whether we agree or disagree, we believe it is important that the Jewish community take stands on certain issues, either alone or in consensus

with other groups.

But this process is important to understand.

What constitutes a consensus? I am not sure there is an easy answer; it is sometimes a moving target. It is somewhere between a simple majority and unanimity, but the actual percentage is undefined.

When we do make these statements of opinion, we claim to speak for the Jewish community and we do that because of our confidence that we do have consensus on a particular item.

Our committee is as diverse as we can make it. Political views, gender, Jewish denominations, age are all factors in the makeup of our JCRC. Diversity of opinions is an important part of how we operate so that we are as representative as we can be and can speak on behalf of the community. We value the opinions of our committee as representative of the community at large.

We also look to see where our national Jewish organizations are on particular issues. We look at the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) which is the umbrella organization for 125 JCRCs (including ours) and 17 national Jewish agencies. JCPA provides us with talking points as well as legislative updates (should they be necessary).

We also look at where organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, AIPAC, See **GOLDBERG** on page 27

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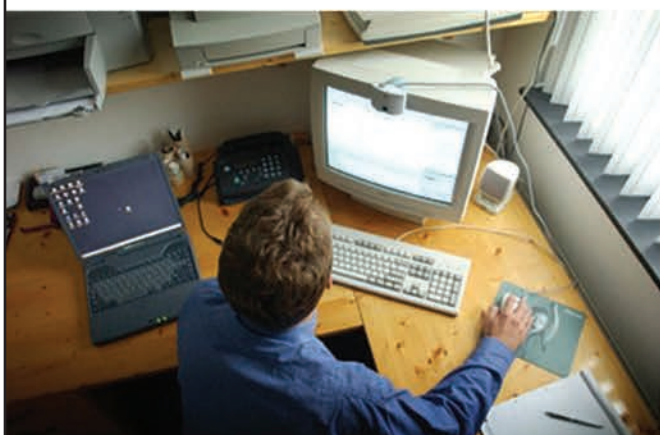
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## Heilman: Jews today shun affiliation; doesn't mean they're not connected

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

When asked what Jews can do about the declining levels of affiliation these days, Uriel Heilman had an interesting answer.

"Have more kids," he told the 40-some people at a recent breakfast talk at Keneseth Israel Congregation, most of whom were of a certain age that made the idea not so viable.

Still, Heilman's tongue-in-cheek response came wrapped in a serious message: American Jewry is shrinking and Louisville is no exception.

The American Jewish community," he said, is being shaped by four trends: drops in affiliation, disregard for traditional definitions of Judaism, demographic shifts and the rise of Orthodoxy.

None of this means Judaism – non-Orthodox Judaism – is dying. In fact, Heilman, an award-winning journalist, cited several new and creative ways in which young people were expressing their Jewishness.

Heilman, senior reporter at JTA, was the 2017 David and Reva Waldman Kahn Scholar in Residence at KI during the weekend of February 4. He also spoke about the Washington political climate and its impact on the Middle East, and he met with teenagers at the High School of Jewish Studies.

But this crowd came to hear about the numbers crunch with which Judaism and other organized religions are grappling.

"American Jews, like Americans generally, are disaffiliating," Heilman said. "You see this among millennials most of all; they're not affiliating with institutions of any kind. And the denominational movements are experiencing this disaffiliation trend very sharply, partic-



Uriel Heilman says Jews today don't like labels. (photo by Lee Chottiner)

ularly in the Conservative movement." (He also noted that growth in the Reform movement is "flat.")

"People don't feel the need any longer to identify with these overarching movements," he added. "They don't like labels."

That doesn't necessarily mean there are fewer congregations, he said. It does mean that many synagogues are exploring Jewishness independent of a denominational identity. Louisville's Congregation Adath Jeshurun is one example.

Likewise, large traditional Jewish organizations such as Federations, B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, find them-

selves competing with smaller, narrowly focused interest groups.

"There's been an explosion over the last 20 years of Jewish organizations with very particular goals, Heilman said, "everything from a Jewish organization that focuses on farming or environmentalism or LGBT rights or pro-Israel advocacy or campus organization. It seems like there's a Jewish organization for everything; there's a Jewish peace corps."

(One such "Jewish peace corps" is called Justifi. It sends Jewish college students and young professionals to far-flung corners of the world to help entities on the ground build up their own community projects and infrastructure. UofL graduate student Jacob Efman just came back from a Justifi mission to Nicaragua. His first-person account is on next page.)

"There's just a million different organizations," Heilman said. There's a lot of innovation happening, a lot going on. But it's no longer these overarching movements. People don't want to be affiliated."

Not only are Jews disaffiliating, but also they're walking away from the self-imposed boundaries past generations set for being Jewish.

Intermarriage for instance. Jewish parents once sat shiva if a son or daughter married out of the faith.

Today, according to the 2013 Pew Research Center of American Jewish Life study, the intermarriage rate is 58 percent, Heilman said, and more than half of the rabbis surveyed say they performed interfaith weddings.

"Now, of course, these questions feel very passe," Heilman said. "The question is not how to prevent intermarriage, not how to fight it, but how to be as welcoming as possible.... It's going to happen

whether you like it or not, the question is how are you going to react?"

Jews also feel comfortable enough in America to assert their rights, Heilman said. The NFL and Major League Baseball have actually rescheduled season opening games because they conflicted with Jewish holidays.

And unlike Eastern Europe, American Jews don't feel threatened by their neighbors.

"The problem is not that non-Jews hate the Jews," Heilman said. "The non-Jews love the Jews; they want to marry us."

"Being Jewish is no longer a stigma," he added.

Today, Judaism is about choice, he said, not about boundaries.

He quoted Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, who said his movement wouldn't even focus on conversion anymore.

"There are plenty of people who want to sojourn in the synagogue and not to convert and still know they're part of the Jewish family," Heilman quoted Jacobs as saying, "and we welcome them."

Still, longstanding Jewish communities continue to shrink as Jews, like most Americans, to move south by southwest and have fewer children (the birthrate here is 1.9 percent compared to 3.9 percent in Israel).

The one growth sector is Orthodox Judaism. Heilman said 27 percent of all Jews under age 18 in America today live in Orthodox households. And their birthrate is 4.1 percent.

"The demographer Steven M. Cohen has said 'Every year the Orthodox population adds 5,000 Jews and the non-Orthodox population loses 10,000 Jews,'" Heilman said.

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# Jewish UofL student spends break lending a helping hand in Nicaragua

By Jacob Efman  
For Community

*“Nicaragua: The land of serene lakes and thermal baths fueled by volcanoes; of polluted water and garbage-fueled fires; Filled with beautiful scenery and trash everywhere. I met those in real need and those who are so willing to give.”*

— **Rabbi Adam Frieberg, Rutgers Hillel**

I had no idea what to expect when I arrived in Nicaragua for an alternative winter break trip with 14 other strangers. Truly, though, the experience turned out to be unforgettable.

My trip was organized by Justifi, a not-for-profit organization that partners with grassroots groups on the ground in Nicaragua and other developing countries. Justifi sends what it calls “Jewish change-makers” to these lands to perform service work that will have a lasting impact on their inhabitants.

Our group helped Sonati and the Peace Project, both local non-profits in Nicaragua that help with schools and the environment. It started in response to the Nicaraguan government providing little to no support to the school system.

Using recycled materials such as cut tires, our group built benches and lunch tables for a school. We also fixed swing sets and helped make a mural of paints, glass tile and bottle caps. We remodeled classrooms and spent valuable time with



Jacob Efman (standing second from the right) and other Justifi participants teach a class at a Nicaragua school. (photo by Rabbi Adam Frieberg)

the children teaching subjects as wide-ranging as good dental hygiene and a higher education.

At first, the language barrier made it difficult to see the impact we had made, but we soon realized that all the children we met were eager to come back for next term.

While also enjoying Nicaragua’s serene lakes and beaches, there was plenty of time spent cleaning up the piles of

trash left scattered. At Laguna Apoyo, a natural reserve and crater lake in the town of Granada, we helped the Peace Project clean all the trash left on the shorefront.

The last couple of days were spent in San Juan del Sur, a beach town bordering Costa Rica where a huge statue of Jesus towers above the houses and shops, reminding all that Nicaragua, like other Spanish-speaking countries, is an over-

whelmingly Catholic nation.

Yet, surprisingly, even here there is a tiny outpost of Judaism — a Chabad house.

The rebbetzin, Chana Atar, and her husband, Rabbi David Atar, have not been in Nicaragua for long, but they have already made their presence known by opening up a kosher restaurant. The Falafel Shop specializes in Israeli food in this once-sleepy town where travelers flock to the surf, including young Israelis. They, along with a few local Jewish residents, volunteers and tourists, come to the Atars to enjoy traditional Jewish food, celebrate Shabbat and holidays and maybe to get a dose of some new Jewish songs, liturgical and anecdotal sustenance.

I found myself in awe eating a Sabich sandwich — a string of mozzarella-type cheese with pickled onion, sometimes ham, a watery sour cream, and a little salt all wrapped in a thick tortilla — on an alley corner where vendors on bikes were shouting “Quesiilllo!”

This trip left me with an experience of feeling both grateful and unsettled. Unsettled because I saw the degree of poverty. Grateful because I arrived knowing no one, and departed with an amazing group of friends.

*(Jacob Effman is a graduate student in the masters of public administration program at U of L.)*

## KI to back USCJ measure on non-Jewish membership

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

Keneseth Israel will support an initiative to allow Conservative congregations to admit non-Jews as members. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) is expected to take up the question next month.

Currently, the USCJ’s Standards for Congregational Practice restrict membership to Jews. But the new language, on which congregations will vote in March, would allow individual synagogues to decide whether to grant membership to non-Jews.

“KI has, for many years, sought to be as inclusive as possible with respect to the non-Jewish spouses of our KI members,” its president, Scott Weinberg, said in a prepared statement. “They are an integral part of our synagogue community, and many have become very active participants in synagogue life.

“For these reasons,” he continued, “KI supports any effort on the part of USCJ to permit non-Jewish spouses to become official members, but for all intents and purposes, KI has been welcoming non-Jewish spouses as if they were members for a long time.”

KI Rabbi Michael Wolk also supports the initiative, stating that Jewish law does not bar non-Jews from joining.

“Being a member of a synagogue is not an issue of halachah,” he said. “Being a member of a synagogue is an expression that you want to be involved in the Jewish community and use the synagogue as your outlet.”

To some extent, Wolk sees the issue as already decided.

“We (KI) already have a fair number of non-Jewish family members who are involved in the synagogue in different ways, both supporting their spouses and children and coming to classes or services because they enjoy them on their own as well,” he said. “There really is

no reason by Jewish law they can’t be members — to me, as I can see. The governing structure is not related to Jewish law.”

He said non-Jews are already listed in the KI membership directory. They show up at services or classes (those who wish to participate) and are generally supportive of their Jewish spouses and children who do participate in synagogue life.

All of which leads Wolk to think the vote is anti-climactic.

“It’s good public relations that they would do this,” he said. “Does it really make a difference in the grand scheme of things? No, I don’t really think it will have any positive or negative effects on United Synagogue or on the Conservative movement. I could be totally wrong, [but] I don’t think this is a big deal.”

The Reform and Reconstructionist movements already permit non-Jewish membership as do several unaffiliated congregations.

Keneseth Israel is the only Louisville congregation affiliated with the USCJ — the synagogue arm of the Conservative movement. Adath Jeshurun has dropped its membership.

The proposed change has been endorsed by the major Conservative institutions in the United States, including the Rabbinical Assembly, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

“Our communities can and must grow stronger, and diversity within and among them will help to make them so,” wrote JTS Chancellor Arnie Eisen in a December endorsement letter. “Our fulfillment of the age-old covenant binding Jews to one another, to the world and to God, must be faithful to what sets us apart — and bold in bringing our tradition to bear in altered circumstances.”

*(JTA Israel Correspondent Ben Sales contributed to this report.)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 1 Gefilte Manifesto Food Demo 7:30 p.m., The J Patio Gallery

Jeffrey Yoskowitz, co-author of the new cookbook *The Gefilte Manifesto*, will hold a live cooking demonstration and discussion of Ashkenazi Jewish food. Books will be available for sale and signing. Contact Michael Fraade at 502-238-2769 or mfraade@jewishlouisville.org for tickets.

### MARCH 3 National Day of Unplugging 24 hours

The National Day of Unplugging is a 24 hour period — running from sundown to sundown — and starts on the first Friday in March. The project is an outgrowth of The Sabbath Manifesto, an adaption of the ancestral ritual of carving out one day per week to unwind, unplug, relax, reflect, get outdoors and connect with loved ones. Contact Benji Berlow at 502-238-2715 or bberlow@jewishlouisville.org for more information.

### MARCH 6 JWRP Israel Trip Information Meeting 6:30 a.m., The J

Participants will learn more about the JWRP Israel trip for Jewish mothers of children under 18 years old. The trip will run from November 28 - December 5. Contact Lenae Price at 502-238-2768 or lprice@jewishlouisville.org for more information.

### MARCH 11-12 Drew Corson Basketball Tournament The J gymnasium

A revival of an old AZA sports tradition, The Drew Corson Basketball Tournament, an overnight event, will attract teens from all across the Kentucky Indiana Ohio Region. Players will stay with families throughout Louisville. The tournament will take place on Sunday, March 12, from 8:30-3:30 at the J.

### MARCH 15 JOFFEE Restaurant Night 6 p.m., Havana Rumba, 4115 Oechsti Ave., St. Matthews

Diners will try Cuban food, hear from restaurant staff about their experiences immigrating from Cuba to the United States and welcome representatives from Louisville organizations working to help immigrants and refugees. Contact Michael Fraade, 502-238-2769 or mfraade@jewishlouisville.org for more information.

### MARCH 17-18 Shabbaton, Rabbi Susan Silverman Adath Jeshurun, 2401 Woodbourne Ave.

Silverman, the sister of comedian Sarah Silverman, is an author, activist and adoptive mom. She has recently written a book called, *Casting Lots*, about her decision to adopt two sons from an Ethiopian orphanage. Additionally, she is on the board of Women of the Wall. She will speak Friday, March 17, on Women of the Wall; Shabbat morning, March 18, on, “What it Means to be Jewish,” and following Kiddush luncheon, on her experiences with adoption. The event is sponsored by Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Jewish Federation of Louisville and Jewish Family & Career Services. Contact Cantor David Lipp at 502-458-5359 or dlipp@adathjeshurun.com for times, dates and costs.

### MARCH 16-APRIL 2 Disney’s Mary Poppins CenterStage at The J

The classic Disney children’s movie is recreated on stage as the Banks family, particularly the children, Jane and Michael, are transformed when a mysterious new nanny, Mary Poppins, joins their household. Tickets are \$20 weekdays, \$22 Saturday nights and Sunday matinees. Visit jewishlouisville.org for tickets and showtimes.



## Abramson touts TPP, other Obama initiatives at Temple Shalom talk

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

As a big city mayor and presidential staffer, Jerry Abramson learned an important lesson about the White House: "Real estate matters."

More specifically, office space matters.



Jerry Abramson (photo by Rich Goldwin)

Going back to the Reagan administration, Abramson, 70, the mayor of Louisville for 21 years, learned that White House directors whose offices were in the West Wing, where 40-45 staffers worked, were physically and figuratively closer to the power than the 900-1,000 employees across the street in the Executive Office Building.

Fortunately for Abramson, fresh from a stint in the Obama administration,

his office was on the second floor of the West Wing, a short walk to the Oval Office, and the Louisville native played a role in many of the domestic achievements of the Obama years.

"It was a great experience. I learned a lot; I hope I helped out a little bit," Abramson said Sunday, speaking to some 90 people at a Temple Shalom Men's Club breakfast, "but it is sure nice to be home."

Abramson, who spent two years as White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, spent much of his 40-minute talk sharing anecdotes from his time working for President Obama.

But he got political, too.

For instance, he touted the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement with Pacific Rim nations, which Obama signed, but Congress never ratified.

Were TPP to take effect, Abramson said, some 18,000 tariffs "would come down completely, so we would have a level playing field to compete."

To put that in terms Kentucky understands, "if you're in the bourbon business, and you want to export bourbon to

Vietnam, it has a 72 percent tariff on it," he said.

The agreement also set limits on smoke stack emissions and restrictions on child labor — things he said China, which competes with the United States on an economic level, doesn't care about.

Not only was it a chance to increase trade, "we would set standards for trade for the next generation — not the Chinese," Abramson said. "With us stepping back, China is stepping in, no standards whatsoever, all bets are off."

Abramson discussed his role in several domestic issues. He said the White House decided to "pivot" to state governments when Congress blocked much of Obama's agenda. By working with governors and state legislators, he said parts of the president's proposals were enacted at the state level.

He cited successes with higher minimum wages, background checks, sick leave, family leave and Generation Indigenious (Gen I).

Gen I is a Native American youth initiative pushed by Obama after he visited a Sioux reservation in North Dakota in

2014 and hearing firsthand about the problems its young people faced. It focuses on helping Native youth overcome barriers to succeed in life.

Part of Abramson's job was to liaison with Native American tribes. There are 556 tribes in the United States, he learned, few of which earn money through casino revenue.

"The reality is there's about 20 tribes that have casinos, maybe 25," he said. "All the rest have great difficulty on their reservations — incredible health care issues, incredible suicide rates, incredible alcoholism, drugs, etc."

Since returning to Louisville, Abramson has been teaching leadership and civics at Bellarmine University. There, he will also develop and direct a new institute for local government leadership, which will train elected officials from across the nation.

He also plans to work with the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties to develop seminars for elected officials that will take place at Bellarmine.

## Shir defended ACA at press conference prior to Senate hearing

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

A Jewish Louisvillian who suffers from Crohn's Disease joined a press conference Wednesday, February 1, in Washington called by Senate Democrats to highlight the adverse impact of repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Amy Shir said she was diagnosed with Crohn's when she was 22 and takes medicines that would otherwise cost her thousands of dollars per month if she didn't have health insurance.

"This disease is also considered a pre-existing condition, which may prevent me from accessing health care in the future unless we all speak up for each other to stop repeal of the Affordable Care Act," Shir said in her statement.

Under the ACA, health insurers may not deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.

"When the long-overdue Affordable Care Act was passed, my family's health insurance premiums dropped more

than a third and included much better benefits thanks to a plan we found on kynect, Kentucky's state-based exchange," Shir said in her statement. "This was an enormous improvement over what we had before the Affordable Care Act when we were basically on our own trying to find an insurance company to sell us a policy."

"Our state and federal government officials talk about helping 'the little guy,' the small business person and entrepreneur," she added, "yet in reality, they're creating an environment where only employees of large companies will have access to affordable health care, especially the large numbers of people like me with financially ruinous, pre-existing conditions like Crohn's Disease, or diabetes, cancer or heart disease."

Concluding, she said, "I'm here today because my health — and my family's security — are in serious jeopardy with the reckless talk of repealing the Affordable Care Act."

Shir said she got the invitation to speak after she told her story during a



Amy Shir speaks at DC press conference. (photo provided)

recent stop by the Save My Care bus tour at the Family Health Center in the Portland neighborhood of Louisville.

"Afterwards, a woman said, 'would you like to go to D.C. next week and testify before a hearing on Obama Care repeal,'" Shir told *Community*.

Sens. Patty Murray (Washington), Al Franken (Minnesota) and Tim Kane (Virginia) — all members of the Senate Health Education Labor & Pensions Committee (HELP), which held hearings the same day on the ACA — were at the press conference.

Shir didn't speak at the hearing itself, but she sat behind former Kentucky Gov. Steven Beshear, who testified in defense of the ACA, saying repeal would create chaos in the insurance market.

Shir said insurance executives, who also testified, echoed that same sentiment.

"There was really a strong message there," she said.

Shir, a self-employed consultant and the mother of two teenagers, was one of two consumers to speak at the press conference. She emphasized the importance of speaking out.

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## New PJ Library head to eye creative programing for families

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

For Madelyn Cerra, building on the success of the PJ Library comes down to one word: programming.

PJ Library is more than a children's book that shows up in one's mail box each month, she said. It means live activities that dovetail with the titles.

She named the annual apple picking at Hidden Hollow Orchard, which corresponds with Rosh Hashanah, as one example. The kids pick apples, hear a shofar and listen to a story.

Problem is, not everyone knows that. "I don't think a lot of people realize that we offer the programs," Cerra said. "We're going to work on the communications piece, and part of that is coming up with programs that excite people and make them want to come out."

Programming and promotion will be challenges for Cerra, a mother of two – Maggie and Josie – who was just hired to be The J's new director of PJ Library and Shalom Baby.



Madelyn Cerra

Sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library sends free Jewish children's books to families around the world every month, encouraging parents to read to their children and share tales of their own Jewish heritage.

One goal Cerra has is for PJ Library to reach children as old as 13. She said it already offers diverse titles for more ma-

ture readers, stories about Jews of color, Russian-speaking Jews and interfaith families.

"They have books that expose us to all that; they're really neat."

To develop programs to match the titles (and the holidays and subjects to which they relate), Cerra said she will rely heavily on a committee of volunteers chaired by Marsha Roth. But she said that panel needs to be expanded.

"We're really looking forward to bringing some new people on the committee and coming up with some new and exciting programs," she said.

As for Shalom Baby, the monthly music program for babies and toddlers, she wants to let families know it isn't just for 1-year-olds anymore.

"I think it should be opened to all families who have little ones who may

be interested," she said.

For Cerra, both PJ Library and Shalom Baby are more than just jobs. Raised as a Catholic, she and her husband, Matthew, looked at the Catholic and Jewish communities in Louisville when deciding where their spiritual home would be.

PJ Library and Shalom Baby opened doors for her, welcoming the whole family into the Jewish community.

"I was just looking to connect," said the Nashville native. "We were looking for something we could do as a family and connect with other Jewish families in the community, which is also my motivation going forward."

Even today, she said she personally looks forward to the monthly PJ Library book. "I feel like I'm learning with my daughter."



## Hamentaschen heaven

Congregation Adath Jeshurun held a hamentaschen baking program Sunday, February 12. More than 60 people attended event, including members from several congregations and unaffiliated Jews. The kids, their parents and Rabbi Robert Slosberg then delivered Hamentaschen and cards to over 75 residents and to the Senior Lounge at the JCC. Tracy Geller, Ellana Bessen, Shane Shaps and Lisa Kaplin co-chaired the program. (photo by Tracy Geller)

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## Jews joined thousands at downtown Rally for American Values

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

Jewish Louisvillians were among the thousands of people to pack the plaza of the Muhammad Ali Center Monday night, January 30, to protest President Donald Trump's executive order barring citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States.

The order was held up by separate rulings at the U.S District Court and Federal Appeals Court levels. The administration has since dropped the appeal.

The Rally for American Values, as it was called, targeted Trump's order, which affected Muslims and refugees. It was met by a weekend of nationwide demonstrations, and rulings by federal judges that temporarily blocked parts of the decree.

The crowd, including young, old, and many children, spilled out onto the streets. Shoulder to shoulder on the plaza, though, beneath a sign lighting up the word "sanctuary," they waved a myriad signs of their own expressing their anger over the order.

Louisville is not officially a sanctuary city — a city where undocumented immigrants can find safe haven — but a grassroots movement is urging city officials to declare it as such.

Jewish Louisville was represented on the stage as well as in the crowd. Rabbi Laura Metzger was among the featured speakers, urging the throng to stand by the values symbolized by the Statue of Liberty.

Referring to the statue, Metzger borrowed a line from the recent presidential campaign when she said, "I'm with her."

She invoked her mother, Ann Block, an advocate for social justice, an NCJW



A little girl holds sign in support of Syrian children at the downtown rally. (photo by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner)

activist and a woman who lent her time to help immigrants, teach women to manage their money and host organizing meetings in her home where she did a little of everything, including pouring coffee for fellow organizers.

The day of the rally was the yahrzeit of her mother, Metzger said. "I can't think of a better way to honor her than to teach what she taught, and live what she lived."

Quoting the Torah, and recalling how Jews were unwelcome in lands around the globe, she added, "We have to welcome the stranger, because we know what it feels like."

Metzger was one of several speakers at the rally. The others were Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, whose office helped organize the event; Donald Lassere, president and CEO of The Muhammad Ali Center; Rev. Steve Henriksen, chair of the board of Catholic Charities of Louisville; Haleh Karimi, executive director of Interfaith Paths to Peace; Shaky Palacios, a "Dreamer" from Mexico; Louisville Metro Council President David Yates; and Ahmaad Edmund of the Ali Center's Council Of Students.

U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth could not attend, but he sent a staff assistant to read a letter from him, in which he stated that he and other congressmen were gathering on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, calling on the president to take back his ban.

While not a declared sanctuary city — Trump had threatened to withhold federal funds to cities that don't hand over undocumented immigrants — Mayor Fischer lauded the city's foreign-born community, saying they are largely responsible for the growth here, and he promised that police would not use their resources to do the work of federal immigration authorities.

He said America is already strong enough to secure its borders without an executive order. However, "Our greatest strength is not our ability to intimidate, but our ability to inspire."

Henriksen, the Catholic Charities

chair, said his organization helped to settle 1,300 immigrants from Louisville last year. He rejected statements from the administration that the order was not anti-Muslim.

"If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck," Henriksen said. "It is our Muslim friends fleeing for their lives [in the countries affected]. It's a duck."

Karimi, of Interfaith Paths to Peace, who is a Muslim from Iran, echoed that sentiment.

She pushed back at statements that the order roots out Islamic terrorists, saying the vast majority of victims of ISIS and similar groups are Muslims themselves.

"We need to stop referring to them as Islamic terrorists and begin referring to them as pure terrorists," Karimi said. "Muslims are not terrorists; terrorists are not Muslims."

"What happened last week, on Holocaust Remembrance Day," she said of the order, "should scare all of us."

In finishing her speech, Metzger highlighted the plight of refugees and immigrants when she added her own words to the last line of the Emma Lazarus poem at the base the Statue of Liberty — "I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Metzger added, "I light the way. I hold the door open. I even pour a cup of coffee for someone who's cold and thirsty."

"I'm with her," she said.

## Meals for a Month to augment senior food services at The J

By Phyllis Shaikun  
For Community

It's a fact; people are living longer, and in much better health. The question is, are social services keeping up with longer lifespans?

The J is addressing that question, rolling out a new program that will help seniors eat nutritiously and in their homes.

Senior Adult Director Diane Sadle applied for and received a \$2,800 grant from Meals on Wheels America to fund a pilot program, called Meals for a Month, which began on January 1. The new program offers clients a hot, home-delivered, mid-day meal (salad, entrée, vegetable, bread and dessert) five days a week for four weeks. After that time, clients' needs are assessed to determine if they still require services.

While the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program already coordinated by Sadle goes a long way toward reducing senior hunger and isolation, while allowing seniors to live safely in their homes, she said Meals for a Month will address an unmet need in the community.

"We have had inquiries from clients above the age of 60 in need of home-delivered meals for just an interim period," she said. "Perhaps they were recently released from the hospital or are receiving rehab care in a facility and need kosher

meals. Some are awaiting approval of their MOW application or do not meet Metro Louisville's Nutrition Program criteria. We feel these individuals are overlooked and have a critical need for nutritional support."

Sadle uses a variety of evaluation tools to measure clients' daily living activities and ability to care for themselves to determine their nutritional risk. Continued assistance can be secured through formal enrollment in the MOW program (for those who qualify), a Meals for a Month extension, and/or referrals to local food pantries or congregate lunch programs. The need for services is determined on a case-by-case basis.

All Meals on Wheels America programs, including Meals for a Month, are donation-based. Recipients typically contribute \$3 per meal (whether at The J or home delivered), but the amount is based on what they can afford.

Seniors do not have to be Jewish to take advantage of the monthly meal program. Metro Louisville's nutrition program, local hospitals, rehab centers, synagogues, churches and religious leaders have been asked to provide referrals for individuals over age 60 in need of this new service.

For further information about The J's senior nutrition services, contact Diane Sadle, 238-2749.

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## Purim at Jewish Hospital also celebrates the work done there

By Rabbi Nadia Siritsky  
For Community

Jewish Hospital is getting ready to celebrate Purim, a holiday based upon the biblical book of Esther, which celebrates how the Jews were saved from destruction thanks to the heroic efforts of Esther, who disguised her identity to rescue her people.



Rabbi Nadia Siritsky

The word "Purim" means "lottery." It refers to the method by which the day was initially selected to kill all the Jews in the kingdom. Once the evil plot was foiled, it instead became a day of joyful celebration.

This year, Jewish Hospital, along

with the Jewish Hospital and St. Mary's Foundation, will host a special Purim celebration, where we will have an opportunity to "gamble for good" with card games and dice games and prizes benefiting two special funds – the Patient-Family Assistance Fund and the Adath Jeshurun Pikuach Nefesh Fund.

The event will be held on March 9 at the Rudd Heart and Lung Center, Wagner Conference Center, at 6:30 p.m. We hope to kick off a weekend of celebrations culminating in the actual date, the evening of March 11.

The Patient-Family Assistance Fund provides financial assistance for patients and families' medical needs such as lodging, medicine during their hospital year – often ensuring that miracles are possible for the patients we serve.

For example, a young man located in northern Kentucky was informed that medical maintenance was going to be removed from his mother. The young

man's grief was compounded by the fact that he had no transportation to see his mother before the care was removed or to comfort her as she left this world.

Sobbing, he told the nurses there was no way he would be able to make it to the hospital. Thanks to the Patient-Family Assistance Fund, a transportation company picked him up and brought him to the hospital. He spent a precious hour with his mother before she passed away – an hour he would have missed had it not been for this important fund.

The Adath Jeshurun Pikuach Nefesh Fund was created two years ago, thanks to the dedication and generosity of Rabbi Robert Slosberg and Cantor David Lipp. They helped Jewish Hospital employees raise money through a wonderful concert in order to facilitate pikuach nefesh (the saving of a life).

The fund also provides financial support for Jewish Hospital employees who are refugees from war-torn countries

and are trying to bring their families to the United States. This fund is working with two employees currently, and we look forward to being able to celebrate their safe arrival in this country soon.

These funds represent the many ways in which we continue our mission of bringing wellness, healing and hope to all, including the underserved – by doing *tzedakah* (justice and righteousness) and *tikkun olam* (healing the world).

Whether you support the Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Foundation ([kentuckyonehealth.org/WaysToHelp](http://kentuckyonehealth.org/WaysToHelp)) or come to celebrate Purim (a little ahead of the actual date: [kentuckyonehealth.org/purimcelebration](http://kentuckyonehealth.org/purimcelebration)), we are grateful for all your community support that helps us continue to make miracles possible in our hospital.

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

## Zickuhr's new role at The J: Grow arts offerings beyond CenterStage

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

Long before Marianne Zickuhr came to work at The J, she was already a well-known face around the center.

She appeared in several CenterStage productions including, *Big Fish* and *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. (She's especially proud of the latter, noting that it sold out every show.)

She also did contract services for CenterStage Artistic Director John Leffert, working on the Act Out program and Patio Gallery exhibits.

Now, she works for Leffert full-time. Zickuhr is The J's new arts & ideas program manager.

"They've finally decided to keep me," she quipped.

Zickuhr's job is to grow the arts scene at The J in new and creative ways. She interprets that, in part, as increasing the offerings by pairing the genres.



Marianne Zickuhr

For example: *Seinfeld*, author Jennifer Keishin Armstrong appears here on March 4, so will composer Jonathan Wolff, who composed the music for *Seinfeld* as well as *Will and Grace* and *The*

*King of Queens*.

When the art exhibit *Tapestries of Survival*, by artist Tina Dokken, opens

at the Patio Gallery, a film on the topic also will be screened.

"We want to have two dimensions [to the programming], more if we can," Zickuhr said. "That is a way to use the Arts and Ideas program – like an umbrella."

She also has a couple pet projects in mind, such as creating a live talk show akin to Bravo TV's *Inside the Actors Studio*. Her first guest? John Leffert, of course.

"There is a base of people who love John and CenterStage," Zickuhr said, "so we wanted to have him kick it off and talk about his career and how he made CenterStage what it is."

No stranger to the arts and programming, Zickuhr, a graduate of Indiana University, spent 10 years as the founder

and CEO of Preservation Louisville, and she's a DJ for WXOX (Art FM).

While at Preservation Louisville, advocating for the protection of historic structures and planning workshops for historic property owners, she did her own programming, marketing and everything else.

Life at The J will be different.

"I don't have to do all that now," Zickuhr said. "There are all these people to support me, so that has been a change – and a welcomed change."

Here, she will be building something new.

"They're giving me the space, the resources and the assets to do that, so I'm a lucky girl."



### Baking day

Members of the Louisville Hillel baked challah at the UoFL Interfaith Center on Wednesday, February 15. Pictured are Melanie Scott (left), Aaron Kay-Anthony, Jordan Buster, Sabrina Daisey, Nyet Abraha, Jessica Heinz and Etana Plymnesser. (photo by Benji Berlow)



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## Discovering your inner Esther: Torah Yoga has many lessons for Purim

By Sarah Traugher  
For Community

For Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Flannery, bringing Torah and yoga together in a single class is, as Flannery said, “bringing together two universal truths.”

The two led a “Torah Yoga” class, Thursday, February 16, at Keneseth Israel Congregation, Temple Shalom and Hadassah also sponsored the event.

We sat upright on our mats, barefoot with legs crossed as Flannery reminded us that for the holiday of Purim, we focus on the courageous heroine who convinced arrogant King Haman to spare the lives of the Jewish people. Within the many transactions of our daily lives, we wear many masks. We hide behind irrational behavior or thoughts, self-doubt or complacency. Yet, we all harbor a courageous, most beautiful self — our Esther.

“Why wear something to disguise who we are?” Hordes invites us to ponder as she reminds us of the “crusader for justice” and Jewish queen, Esther.

Flannery introduced the notion that we might discover Esther within our being. The question is, how can one do this through a meditative, slow flow of stretches and twists that may look silly or feel uncomfortable?

Yoga, which means “connection” or “union” in Sanskrit, is not a religious practice; it does not substitute for Passover, rabbinic teachings or going to synagogue. It is an act of expression that empowers adherents to lessen the inner stresses that overrun their minds and bodies during the day.

In other ways, the instructors say, it is



Cantor Sharon Hordes strikes the crescent lunge pose as yoga instructor Lisa Flannery assists a student during the most recent Torah Yoga class at Keneseth Israel Congregation. Hordes teaches the Torah portion of the class. (photo by Debby Rose)

a gateway to manifest one's best self for community, family and G-d.

Yoga has exploded across Louisville, from yoga nidra in the Salt Caves, yoga at the Waterfront, and yoga in bakeries and bars. As an avid yogini (males are yogis), I am most relaxed and allied with my inner calm if the practice elicits clear intension.

So why not yoga with a familiar *kavana*, the Hebrew word for direction of the heart?

With purpose, we rolled onto our backs, closed our eyes and began deep breathing, or *ujjayi*. In fact, the 45-minute practice ended the way it began, in

meditative *shavasana* (prostrated position). Each pose prepared our muscles for the next. The most climactic, a series of stationary runner's lunges and downward facing dogs, were sandwiched between introductory floor exercises and conclusive balances against the last row of pews.

Like most yoga sequences, it flowed as the shape of a bell curve. From time to time, Flannery reminded us of our purposes on the mat. She paused to ask, “How are you feeling?”

Our bodies held on to emotions. We relished these reflective moments to assess hidden lower back pain now whis-

pering through our spine, clenched jaws or tense shoulders pulling at our ears. This awareness and release of body sensation created personal control, stability and empowerment.

We did not leave as we came in. Stretching our spines, opened our hearts and minds to meditate on self-love. We, as was Esther, were girded to maintain a steady calm to stand before the Hamans in our lives.

It's best to approach yoga as an ongoing practice. Good thing Hordes and Flannery will return to help us “peel off all the layers to find our true selves,” in next month's class.



### Finished product

Louisville Hillel leaders Aaron Kay-Anthony, Etana Plymnesser and Jessica Heinz show off their finished products at the UofL Interfaith Center, Wednesday, February 15. (photo by Benji Berlow)

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## Susan Stein brings diaries of Dutch Jewish woman to life in 'Etty'

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

Susan Stein has performed her one-woman play, *Etty*, at Yad Vashem in Israel and before the archbishop of Canterbury in England.

She has reprised it at high schools, religious sites and behind prison walls where inmates have given her unique feedback on the drama based on the actual diaries and letters of Dutch Holocaust victim Esther "Etty" Hillesum.

But the play took on a new meaning when Stein, a New York actress, reinserted a passage from one of Etty's diaries, the one describing the day she registered with authorities in Nazi-occupied Holland as a Jew.

"Inside, the place is bathed in sunlight and [from] the classroom next door, we hear children singing," Stein spoke Etty's words during her January 28 performance at Temple Shalom. "It's as if we come to a doctor's consulting room, not a single voice is raised. A lady asks whether children below the age of 15 have to register as well. One of them says with a cheerful grin, 'even if they're just one hour old, ma'am.'"

Stein had previously removed that passage from the play, but she put it back, saying it has impact now, given President Donald Trump's executive order barring entry to citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries, and talk of a registry for Muslims living in the United States.

"I took that out, but boy! That feels incredibly timely," she told her audience during a Q & A session after the play. "It has a resonance now."

Stein was the Temple Shalom artist in residence Saturday, January 28. During her weeklong stay in Louisville, she performed Etty at the synagogue as well as



Susan Stein chants a psalm on the bima at Temple Shalom while in character as Etty (photo by Lee Chottiner)

Atherton, Louisville Male, and duPont Manual high schools and St. Francis Assisi Middle School.

The synagogue performance came one day after the 72nd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, where Etty was murdered, and one day after hate-filled anti-Semitic voicemail messages were left at Temple Shalom and nearby Keneseth Israel Congregation.

Stein adopted Etty from her diaries after purchasing an abridged version of them at a yard sale for 50 cents. Directed by acclaimed actor, director, playwright Austin Pendleton (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *My Cousin Vinny*, *Catch-22*), the play portrays the evolution of Etty's feelings, religious beliefs and humanity, and the

anti-Jewish decrees of the time.

Etty's entries sometimes lurch from one extreme to another.

"Yesterday, I felt like screaming out loud, 'I want a man, a man all to myself,'" Etty says. "What I really want is a man for life and to build something together. Actually, I want nothing of the kind."

She writes about the grim scenes as cattle cars are boarded at Westerbork transit camp, where Etty worked as part of the Jewish Council. But she also writes, "I have learned to love Westerbork."

Etty began writing her diaries in 1941 at age 27, at the urging of her therapist-turned-lover, Julius Spier. She filled several volumes by 1943 when she and

her family were sent to Auschwitz.

In one entry, Etty states she will go only so far to save herself.

"I wouldn't turn down an exemption on account of my enflamed kidneys or bladder, and I have been recommended for some sort of soft job at the Jewish Council," Etty says. "Jewish Council, this strange agency in Amsterdam between Nazis and the Jews, has permission to hire 180 people, and the desperate are thronging there in droves, but that is as far as I am willing to go. Beyond that, I am not willing to pull any strings. Everyone who tries to save himself must realize that if he doesn't go, another must take his place."

In other entries, she speaks directly to God.

"I'm not finished with you, God, not by a long shot, or with this world," she says. "I shall simply lie down and try to be a prayer."

As an actress, Stein is sometimes frustrated, not by what Etty writes, but by what she doesn't write.

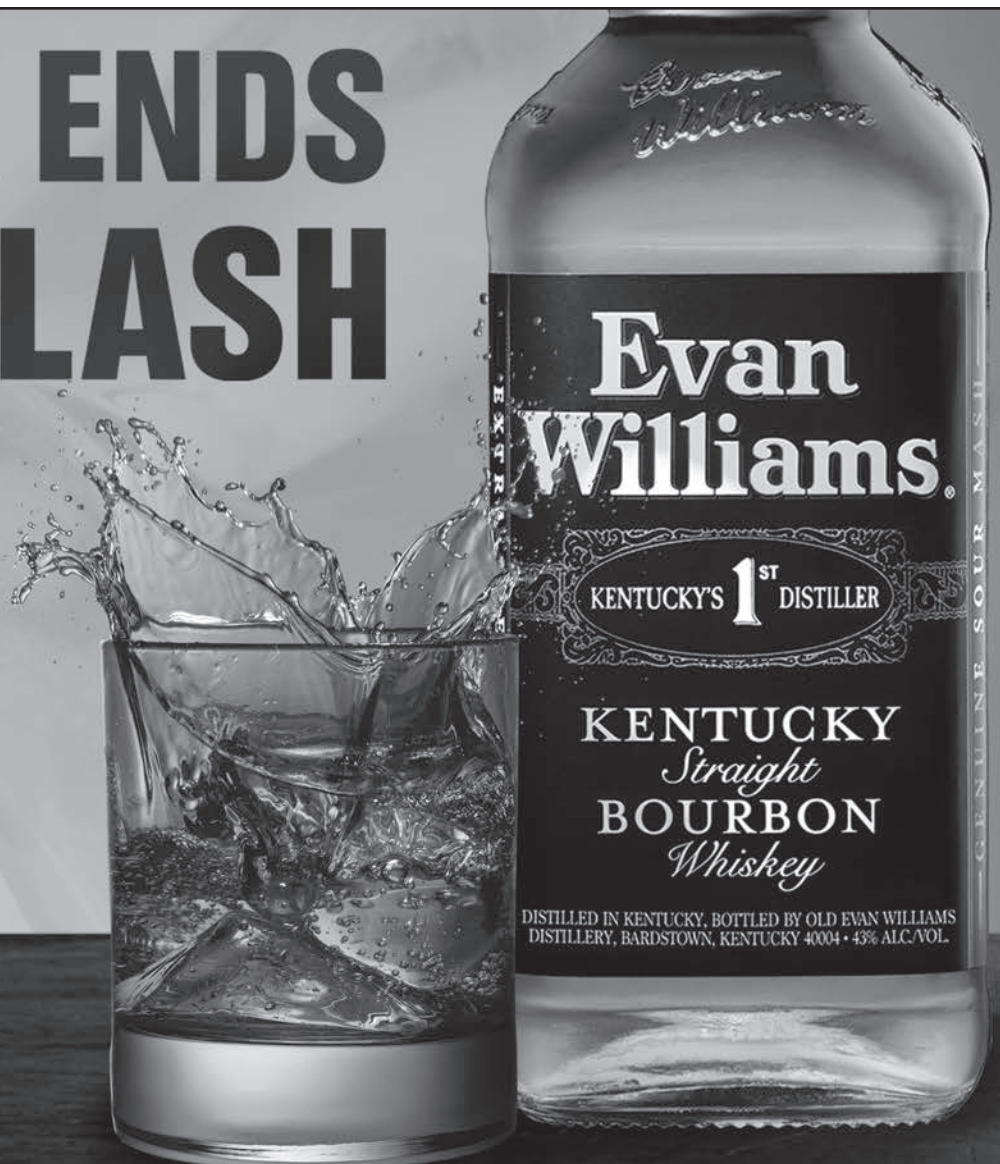
For instance, unlike Anne Frank, who wrote her diary from her Amsterdam hiding place, Etty refused to hide, even though her friends tried once to kidnap her. Yet, she never wrote about the incident, leaving Stein, who speaks only Etty's words, unsure how to communicate what happened.

After all the years Stein has spent with Etty's diaries, bringing her words to life, she remains baffled by why the diarist isn't better known. Her work wasn't even published until 1981.

"We all know Anne Frank, but we don't know this woman who says to God, 'If you cannot help us, I shall have to help you, God.'" Stein said. "Why don't we know her?"

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## Bar mitzvah launched career

# Jewish Louisville comic goes national; competed for laughs in NBC contest

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

Raanan Hershberg was 13 when he stood on the bima at Congregation Adath Jeshurun reading his bar mitzvah speech and thanking his mother, "because without her, I wouldn't be here."

The line elicited unintended laughter from the congregation and Hershberg was hooked. Though he later regretted upstaging his twin sister, Rachel, who became a bat mitzvah alongside him, that speech launched him on his eventual career as a stand-up comedian.

"I'll count that as my first gig," he said. Today, Hershberg, 32, lives in New York, but he tours the country delivering his own brand of schtick to live audiences on politics, religion, relationships and growing up Jewish in Louisville. He's even a finalist in a national comic competition.

There's something a little mercenary about the way he crafts his performances, he'll admit.

"To me, stand-up comedy is like this: You say stuff you think is funny, and if they don't laugh, you take it out," Hershberg told *Community* over coffee at a Heine Bros. café. (He still gets back to Louisville, most recently for a gig at the Caravan.)

Actually, he said he'll keep maybe 10 percent of his material in the act no matter how it goes over; that's the stuff that's just for him. The rest is for the audience.

"You're at a focus group every night," he said of the crowds.

Though he likes to bill himself as a "neurotic, overweight Jew from Louisville, KY" on his website, raananher-



Raanan Hershberg caught the comedy bug during his bar mitzvah at Adath Jeshurun. (photo provided)

shberg.com, Hershberg is a little more circumspect about his ethnicity while sipping caffeine.

"I see myself as a comedian first, not a Jewish comedian," he said. "Chris Rock is just a great comedian, not a black comedian."

He does, however, pay homage to Jewish comics, such as Mort Sahl and Leny Bruce, for paving the way for what he does now.

On stage, the bearded flannel-clad joke teller has a salty delivery. Cursing is part of his routine, but not overly so. He says he can play it clean, though, and has. (He's performed at churches and synagogues.)

But when standing before an audience, he said, the comic has to be who he really is.

"It's just the way I speak," Hershberg said of his routine. "The cursing is just

decoration. I can do clean stuff ... but a lot of the comedy I do is just ranting.

"If that's the way you talk, you should bring it on stage," he added, "you should bring who you are on stage."

Hershberg is quickly making his mark in show business. Last year, he came out with his first album *Self-Helpless*; he regularly opens for comedian Kathleen Madigan, and he was a finalist in last November's StandUp NBC competition in Hollywood. The contestants performed for network executives and the winner will receive a lucrative development deal.

Though he stands behind a mic these days, Hershberg, son of Ben and Eileen Hershberg, began his career as a struggling screenplay writer in New York. When that didn't pan out, he came home and tried his hand as a substitute teacher, which has provided some hilarious fodder for his routines.

Then one night, he took the stage during an open mic event at the Caravan, and the rest is history. He would soon host his own comedy nights at the club and tour regional venues.

"I'm sure I was scared," he said, thinking back to that first time on stage, "but I suppose my need for attention overcame my fear."

Even if he doesn't win the StandUp competition, NBC will send Hershberg on a college tour, which should solidify his name with just the audience he wants to reach.

"It's always great to appeal to young people because they'll be around longer to buy tickets."

# J

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## Drew Corson Tourney making a comeback in March; four teams to compete

By Lee Chottiner  
Interim Editor

After a multi-year absence, the Drew Corson Regional Basketball Tournament is returning to The J.

AZA teams from four cities — in the Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio region — will be participating in the two-day weekend tournament from March 11-12. The seeding matches will be played Saturday; the actual elimination games, Sunday.

Drew Corson was a Jewish Louisville teenager and an avid basketball player. He was 15 on August 16, 1994, when he died tragically on the court during the Maccabi Games in Cleveland. The next year, the tournament was named in his honor.

"The kids in Louisville take it seriously," said Andrew Siegel, coach of the team from the Louisville AZA chapter, also named for Drew. "We know it's not the NBA, but we like to win and all the kids are big basketball fans."

Siegel has been involved with Drew Corson tournament off and on since his freshman year in high school. He's been a player, a chapter advisor and now a coach.

"It's fun to have a friendly competition and show what you're made of," he said.



A member of The J shoots a three-pointer in the gym beneath the banners to past Drew Corson Regional Basketball Tournament champions. (photo by Lee Chottiner)

"It's a really great event."

Plus, he added, "it's a good introduction to Jewish youth groups."

Louisville has enjoyed success in the tournament over the years. Pi Tau Pi

AZA won the first in 1995 and again in 1996. Mu Sigma-Resnick AZA won the fifth Drew Corson tournament in 1999.

At the height of the tournament, teams from Louisville Indianapolis, Cincinna-

ti, Dayton and Columbus competed, the larger cities sending two teams instead of one.

Louisville, alone, sent 20-25 AZA players in two teams.

After the local chapters were merged into a single AZA, the new team won the tournament in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

For a while, Drew Corson also had a BBG competition. In fact, local BBG chapters from Louisville dominated early. Royal Blue won in 1998 – the first year of the girl's competition – and L'Chaim BBG won in 2001.

Siegel sees basketball in general, and Drew Corson in particular, as effective draw cards for Jewish teens.

"It's an easy thing to say to a kid, 'Hey, if you sign up, you get to play basketball,'" he said. "It's pretty good for getting a kid's foot in the door; it's a good recruitment tool."

As for reviving the Drew Corson name in connection with the tournament, "it's unfortunate what happened to Drew, but it's good that the community can come together, bring honor to his name and work together for a common goal. It's a good event and I'm glad that we're able to bring it back."

## Funny Girl follows in Streisand's tradition

By David Wallace  
For Community

Barbra Streisand has forever been entwined with Fanny Brice, star of the Ziegfeld Follies in the 1920s, ever since she appeared in the play *Funny Girl* in 1964. Like Brice, Streisand is not a classical beauty, but she fit the part with her unquestionable talent.

The play won no Tony Awards because it was overshadowed by *Hello, Dolly!* but it vaulted Streisand to stardom. The movie came out in 1968 and Streisand shared an Oscar with Katharine Hepburn, who won for *Lion in Winter*.

CenterStage's version runs true to form as it tells the story of "Funny Girl" Fanny Brice who becomes a different kind of Ziegfeld girl through her boundless talent and the ability to play against form.

Fanny is not classically beautiful, but she combines edginess and humor to become a star. Underlying her success is the disaster of her personal life with Nick Arnstein.

Her career soars as his crashes, ending in a prison term for embezzlement.

The play is a series of flashbacks, referencing the rise of Fanny and the fall of Nick.

For the play to be successful, Fanny Brice, played by Jennifer Poliski, must shine without being simply an imitation of Streisand. Poliski is up to the task. She has a powerful singing voice and has the acting chops to create her own version of Fanny.

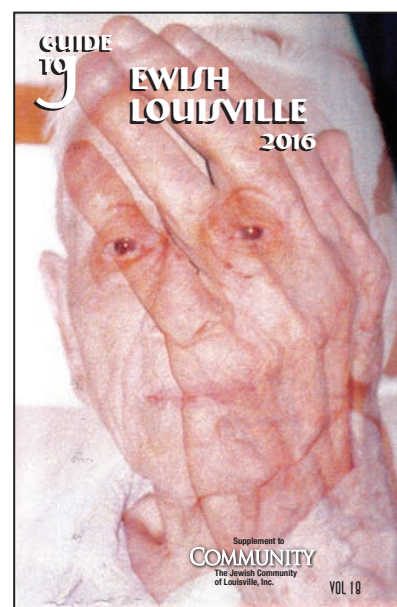
The other key performers do well: Rusty Henle as Nick; Glenna Godsey as Mrs. Brice; and John Youngblood as Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr.

But Frank Goodloe III as Eddie Ryan, Fanny's friend and tutor, stands out. A veteran of CenterStage productions, this part seems to be made for him. His singing and dancing is special and his "friendship" with Fanny adds a poignant

counterpoint to the romance between Fanny and Nick.

The next performance at CenterStage is *Mary Poppins*, March 16-April 2. Tickets can be purchased by calling 502-238-2709 or online at CenterStageJCC.org.

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# PICTURE THIS: SUPER SUNDAY

Photos by Ted Wirth

More than 40 people signed up to make calls for the Annual Campaign at this year's Super Sunday phonathon at The J. The volunteers included seasoned veterans of the event as well as members of YAD and Federation staffers. Approximately 25 people signed up for the two shifts, which, combined, lasted from 9 a.m. to noon. Former Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson also was on hand. The Federation wishes to thank all its supporters for what they are doing to make this year's campaign a success.





# 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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## JFCS FOOD PANTRY

### SUGGESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

- Cleaning and personal needs
- Juice boxes for snack bags
- Mayo, mustard and ketchup
- Toilet paper and paper towels

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



## 2nd Annual Jazz & Jewelry Sale

A fun, girls' night out!  
Live jazz by The Jazzniks  
Wine and hors d'oeuvres

**Thursday, March 2  
5:30 – 7:30 PM**

2821 Klempner Way

Event benefits the JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry Fund

## Save the Date



**Thursday, May 18, 2017**  
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**Please RSVP by April 17th**

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*JFCS Carole & Larry Goldberg  
Family Mitzvah Committee invites  
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### The First Ever Family Mitzvah Purim Supermarket Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, March 19  
10:00 – 11:30 am

Prospect Kroger  
5929 Timber Ridge Drive

**Teams wear costumes and compete for prizes!**

Give the gift of life (chai) for food-insecure JFCS clients (\$18). Choose from chai, double chai or triple chai shopping lists. Teams may also purchase extra items or Kroger cards. All items benefit the JFCS Food Pantry.



**Reservations required:**

Please RSVP Kim Toebe by March 17 at 452-6341 or at [ktoebbe@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:ktoebbe@jfcsloouisville.org)

## CAREER

### NEW JFCS CAREER SERVICE PROGRAMS

#### JFCS Connect

This action-oriented, short-term program plugs job seekers into career coaching, networking opportunities and modern job-searching skills.

#### Senior Workforce Center

The Center offers one-on-one coaching and mentoring services targeted primarily to individuals 65-plus who are experiencing financial strain. Included are traditional job search mechanics, as well as non-traditional features and assessment tools that can help lead to positive job outcomes and financial stability.

#### 50-Plus Self Employment

This program is geared for individuals 50-plus who would like to explore the feasibility of starting or expanding a small business



### JUMPSTART YOUR JOB SEARCH

A four-week workshop to help individuals develop their own strategic job search plan.

Evenings: Begins Mon., March 6, 6pm – 8pm

Days: Begins Wed., March 15, 10am – 2pm

Evenings: Begins Mon., April 24, 6pm – 8pm

**Fee: \$30 in advance, \$40 day of event**

**Register online:**

[jfcsloouisville.org/events-registration](http://jfcsloouisville.org/events-registration)

## INTERNSHIPS FOR JEWISH COLLEGE STUDENTS



A recent study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers shows that employers hiring for a position find relevant work experience more important than a young person's GPA or what college they attended. How is a young person supposed to gain such experience? An internship! An internship will allow the student an opportunity to develop the skills that employers seek, but also may help a young person with the following:

- The opportunity to “test drive” a career. Would I be happier in marketing or advertising? Am I more comfortable working with patients or in a lab?
- Establishing a professional network and possibly finding a mentor.
- College credit or certification potential.
- An introduction to the field's culture and etiquette. Are clients addressed by their first name? Are jeans appropriate for casual Friday?
- Accumulating new skills.
- Gaining a “real world” perspective on an occupation. How much overtime do employees really work? How much time is spent behind a desk versus in the field?

Additionally, The Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University found that 63% of college graduates who had completed a paid internship received a job offer within six months of graduation, compared with 37% of those in an unpaid internship and 35% of those who didn't have one at all.

Jewish Family and Career Services and the Jewish Community of Louisville have offered paid internships for Jewish college students for more than ten years. The internships are in a variety of fields, from accounting to theater. These job opportunities may connect to your major and career goals. In addition to a paid internship, interns will meet regularly to receive professional development around career and employment issues and learn more about the Jewish community in Louisville.

The internship program generally runs for nine weeks and offers full-time positions which are compensated with a \$2,500 stipend. Available positions and the application are listed at [jfcsloouisville.org/education-careers/summer-internship](http://jfcsloouisville.org/education-careers/summer-internship). Preference is given to applications that are received by April 3. If you have any questions, contact Erin Heakin, JFCS Career Counselor, at 502-452- 6341 ext. 246 or email [eheakin@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:eheakin@jfcsloouisville.org).

## CAREER



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## SUPPORT GROUPS

### MARCH 7 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 at 502-452-6341, ext. 249.

### MARCH 9 Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group 1 p.m.

Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Jewish Family & Career Services. Contact Connie Austin at 502-452-6341, ext. 305.

### MARCH 10 Alzheimer's Caregiver Support SSPGroup 2 p.m

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

### MARCH 15 – 10 a.m. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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

### MARCH 16 – 7 p.m. Adult Children of Aging Parents

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

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.



# B'nai Mitzvah Section

## Q&A: Lynn Povich

### How a bat mitzvah helped inspire her book 'Good Girls Revolt'

By Linda Buchwald  
JTA

Men were writers and women were researchers. That's the way it was when Lynn Povich and 45 of her colleagues at Newsweek decided to take a stand.

In 1970, the women banded together and became the first women in the media to file a lawsuit on the grounds of sex discrimination — resulting in the breaking of numerous (although, as we saw last week, by no means all) barriers for professional women.

Povich, who became Newsweek's first female senior editor in 1975, wrote *"The Good Girls Revolt: How the Women of Newsweek Sued Their Bosses and Changed the Workplace."* The memoir, published in 2012, offers a compelling account of the events and the trailblazers involved in the historic case.

And in a historic year that has seen the first female presidential nominee, the book has inspired a TV series, "Good Girls Revolt," which is streaming on Amazon.

The series, based on the book, is fictionalized — it takes place at the made-up magazine *News of the Week*, and most of the characters are invented, too. Still, the series captures the general gestalt of the time and place of the "revolt," from the blatant gender bias to the fabulous

fashions and to the thrills of landing a scoop in the newsroom.

"It's a very personal story for me and my friends," Povich told JTA. "I thought it would be difficult, given what the demands of TV and streaming are these days, to get it to be the way it really was versus what has to be done to make it an exciting, dramatic show."

"The fact is that we weren't famous — that was the point," she added. "We were just a group of young women at Newsweek. And I thought it would give the [show's] writers more leeway to create some backstories."

JTA spoke to Povich about seeing her story on TV, the role Judaism plays in her life and more.

**JTA: Even though it's a fictionalized version, how accurate do you think it is?**

**Povich:** I think it catches the spirit of the story. The actual storyline of the women organizing and ultimately filing the charges is correct. I think they caught the spirit of a newsroom and being young and how exciting it was. The late '60s and early '70s were very exciting, and you have a sense of what the times were like.

**Do you identify with any of the characters?**

No. They were very smart when they fictionalized the characters to take pieces of everybody and put them in. There are little pieces of me in all of these people. I think that most of us would, in this sense, identify with the sense of how thrilling it was to break a story or get

**played out on TV?**

It's interesting — it's us, but not us. So on the one hand, I'm very excited that our story is reaching a larger audience and certainly a younger audience, 46 years later.

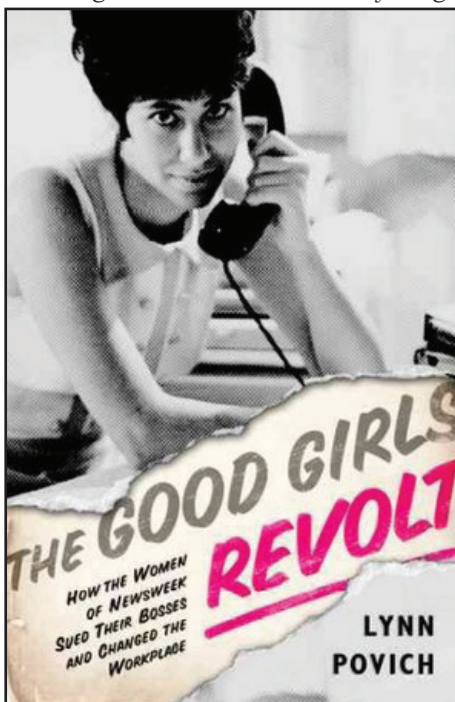
**What was your Jewish upbringing like?**

I was raised in Washington, D.C. We belonged to an Orthodox synagogue until I was about 10 and my parents were very observant. We had Shabbat every Friday night. We went to synagogue on all of the holidays and we had big family gatherings on all of the holidays. When I was about 10, my parents moved to B'nai Israel Congregation, a Conservative synagogue in Washington, D.C. I was one of the first women in that congregation to be bat mitzvahed in 1956 when women were bat mitzvahed on Friday, not Saturday, and you couldn't read the Torah.

I come from a very observant background of people who were genuine in their belief and their faith. I pretty much followed that path. I have continued to observe Shabbat in my house the whole time with my husband and our two kids, and I belong to a Conservative synagogue in New York. I would say that my sense of Judaism is traditional, familial and cultural, that I both enjoy and am proud of.

**Was having a bat mitzvah something that came from you? Or was it something your parents wanted?**

I wanted it. I wanted anything my brothers had. They were bar mitzvahed, so I wanted to be bat mitzvahed. And, in fact, when they said to me they want-



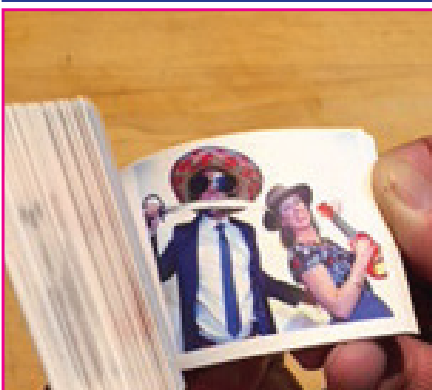
a scoop. But the personal stories of all these women are completely different.

"The Good Girls Revolt: How the Women of Newsweek Sued Their Bosses and Changed the Workplace" was published in 2012 (courtesy of Lynn Povich).

**What is it like to watch your story**

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# B'nai Mitzvah Section

ed me to read everything in English, I said, "My brothers read it in Hebrew, so I want to read it in Hebrew." So I read it in Hebrew because I insisted. I was proud to be one of the first young women in our shul to step on the bima, read Hebrew and become an adult in the eyes of my religion.

## Looking back, does your bat mitzvah seem significant now?

I do think becoming a bat or bar mitzvah is incredibly important when you look back. We are part of a long history of our people and our survival. I believe strongly in preserving our religion, traditions and culture. I'm so glad I did it. It was meaningful to me then and now.

## So even from a young age you were fighting for equal rights. What do you think brought that on?

My father [Shirley Povich] was a sports columnist at the Washington Post for 75 years, but in those days, in the '40s and '50s, he was writing a lot about the lack of integration in major-league sports. He

wrote about when Jackie Robinson came into the league [Major League Baseball] and how black players at spring training had to stay in segregated areas of town because the hotels wouldn't put them up. He won a prize for a series that he did about segregation and Major League Baseball. My sense of civil rights and human rights came from this period when he was very involved with that.

## Do you think there is anything in being raised Jewish that influenced you?

I do think this sense of it's what you do, not what you say — that your deeds count and how you are making the world a better place. And I'm very involved in two nonprofit organizations which do that. One is the International Women's Media Foundation that supports women journalists around the world. I'm also on the advisory board of the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. Newsweek was a very radicalizing action for me. Organizing with other women and realizing together that you actually can make change set me on my

path for the rest of my life.

## How far do you think women have actually come?

In my profession of journalism, women are everywhere. We're in war-torn areas; we're covering the president, not the first lady; we're on Wall Street. Women are doing very well in journalism, except at the top. Journalism isn't unusual that way. Women are not at the top in corporations and many organizations. So I think the glass ceiling is now at the point of top management. We, unfortunately, are seeing things like pregnancy discrimination again, which we felt we had won that battle. The same with reproductive rights that continue to be eroded; we thought we had won that battle. So there's still a lot to be done.

## Is there anything that you think women should be doing?

I think there is a lot women can be doing — and women are doing a lot. I think, culturally, we're in a feminist moment now. It started when a lot of

the celebrities started embracing feminism because there was a period when a whole generation of young women who didn't want to be called feminist, so I'm encouraged by all of that.

I think what's different about this generation is that we mobilized in the streets and within our workplaces, and most of the young people I see are organizing online. I think that has a different effect than it does when you're doing something in person and in a place like an office, where you know the people, the systems, barriers and things like that.

I always encourage women wherever they are working to talk to other women and other men. I don't think a lot of these issues are women's issues. They get labeled women's issues and I think that's the problem. So I think young women and young men have a lot of common interests, and they would do well to start the conversation.

## Why 'Daily Show' host Trevor Noah had a bar mitzvah in South Africa

By Josefin Dolstin  
JTA



Trevor Noah  
© Kwaku Alston

It's hard to imagine that "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah would have a problem getting people to come to his party. But that is precisely what happened to him as a 13 year old when his Jewish mom insisted he have a bar mitzvah.

In an interview with NPR's Terry Gross, Noah spoke of his mom's Jewish identity (she converted to the religion

when he was a child) and struggles as a mixed-race person under apartheid in South Africa, where interracial relationships were banned.

"I lived my life as a part-white, part-black but then sometimes Jewish

kid, and I didn't understand because she didn't make me convert. When I turned 13, she threw me a bar mitzvah, but nobody came, because nobody knew what the hell that was. I only had black friends — no one knows what the hell you're doing. So it was just me and my mom and she's celebrating and she's reading things to me in Hebrew," he said.

Despite the awkwardness, growing up with Jewish traditions seems to have been a positive experience for Noah, who called it "a gift."

"That was the gift my mother gave me. I think that was part of her religious pursuits. My mother's always looking for answers, she's always searching for new information," he said.

Noah's sweet story about his Jewish experience may come as a surprise to some. Last year, Jewish groups slammed the late-night host for postings on social media, in which he criticized Israel and made jokes that some said relied on negative stereotypes about Jews.

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# PICTURE THIS: FILM FESTIVAL OPENER

Photos by Ted Wirth

Since this year's Jewish Film Festival opened with the documentary, "In Search of Israeli Cuisine" – a fusion of different culinary cultures in Israel – the event also included modern Israeli appetizers prepared by Izzys K kosher Catering. The well-attended event took place at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. The film festival, which offered 12 feature films this year, wraps up on February 26.





## NEWSMAKERS

**Scott Koloms**, president of Facilities Management Services, is moving his business into a new headquarters in Portland neighborhood of Louisville, Insider Louisville reports.

IL also reports that Koloms' janitorial services company is the first such business to receive a B Corp designation. B Corps are for-profit companies certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency, according to the B Lab website.

According to IL, Koloms is calling on the commonwealth of Kentucky to adopt the B Corp designation as a legal status here.

**Sarah Provancher** is among the 14 women named as EPIC Award finalists by the Kentucky chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Insider Louisville has reported.

Provancher, president and co-founder of Pro Communications, will learn if she's a winner at the chapter's annual ceremony, Thursday, March 2, 5:30, at Mellwood Arts & Entertainment Center.

The EPIC Awards celebrate women business owners throughout Kentucky and southern Indiana. Even though the finalists do not yet know if they have won, the awards are: Small Business Owner of the Year, Large Business Owner of the Year, The Humanitarian Award, Supporting Partner Award, Member of the Year Award, and the Associate Owner Award.

**Republic Bancorp** posted a 35 percent jump in net income for the fourth quarter over the year earlier to \$10 million or 48 cents a diluted share, reports Insider Louisville.

According to IL, for the fiscal year 2016, Republic's net income rose 31 percent to \$46 million or \$2.22 a diluted share, resulting in a return on average assets and a return on average equity of 1.02 percent and 7.68 percent, the bank said.

"We made meaningful progress toward many of our long-term goals during the year," Republic Chairman and CEO **Steve Trager** said in a prepared statement, "including: (1) expanding our footprint in the Tampa-St. Pete market through a strategic acquisition; (2) launching a digital-only banking platform during the fourth quarter; (3) growing the contribution from our non-traditional business lines at the Republic Processing Group; and (4) further improving our ROA, ROE and our Efficiency Ratio."

**Randi Skaggs**, a local producer, story-slammer and member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, is producing the National storytelling show, *Expressing Motherhood*, which will be performed in Louisville, Saturday, March 25, 8 p.m., at Headliners Music Hall. *Expressing Motherhood* is a traveling stage show that has showcased stories about motherhood onstage since 2008.

Skaggs has been in the Moth Grand Slam four times and won in 2013. She

performed at the Moth Ball in New York City (where Louis C.K. headlined), and has been featured on the Moth Podcast and website.

She actually performed in "*Expressing Motherhood*" in New York talking about her experiences as a new mom and has had her stories featured on "*Kentucky Homefront*."



Randi Skaggs

Skaggs' mother, Judy Skaggs, is part of the cast.

Randi Skaggs has written memoirs, monologues, poetry; written and produced plays Off-Broadway; and keeps a blog called *Bluegrass Momma*. Her work has been featured in *Reader's Digest*, as well as *Kveller*, *Teaching Tolerance*, and the Parents for Social Justice blog. She teaches middle school language arts at Farnsley Middle School in JCPS.

**Joshua White**, a Jewish Louisvillian, is helping to organize a citywide tree giveaway to high school freshmen.

White is partnering with Trees Louisville to host the project to give away seedlings at 40 different high schools. Dates and times for the giveaway have yet to be released.

The project is being financially supported by the Metropolitan Sewer District (\$16,000), Metro Council (\$15,000), Sierra Club (\$500) and private donations (\$500). HDNA is committing volunteer resources.

Louisville Metro is experiencing a swift and serious decline of its urban forest. The area lost more than 54,000 trees a year from blight, commercial development, end of lifespan and poor maintenance. Louisville city officials have committed themselves to replenishing the tree canopy to 45 percent of the total area.

Separately, the Louisville Metro Division of Community Forestry is sponsoring a free tree giveaway at three central locations over March and April.

The giveaways will be held from noon-2 p.m., March 18, at Beechland Baptist Church, 4613 Greenwood Drive; noon-2 p.m., March 25, at Jefferson Community and Technical College, 109 E. Broadway; and 4-6 p.m., April 15, at the 2017 Urban Tree Symposium, Ernest Hall, University of Louisville, 216 Eastern Parkway.

Recipients must be Jefferson County residents and show proof of residency.

There will be a limit of three trees per residence. Contact the Division of Community Forestry at 502-574-3927 for more information.

**Erwin A. Sherman**, a member of The Kentucky Justice Association (KJA) for more than 60 years, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. He is only the fourth person to earn the honor in the 63-year history of the organization.

Sherman is the second oldest member of KJA and, for some 25 years, was the delegate from Kentucky to the American Association for Justice (AAJ), where he contacted members who considered dropping their affiliation.

He has lectured both locally and nationally on aspects of litigation and has been gratified to have trained some 34 lawyers and/or law students in the area of trial litigation.



Erwin Sherman

Having supported the organization for over 50 years, he said he has been fortunate to secure several "adequate awards" and/or settlements, primarily in medical negligence.

He was selected by attorneys with a great many clients in the Louisville Sewer Explosion case to act as the trial counsel. This local case was the largest property damage class action in the history of the U.S. courts.

He also was part of the Hips Road class action in Jacksonville, FL., in the 1980s, representing hundreds of plaintiffs and securing the largest verdict against the United States in a chemical contamination case.

Upon being notified of the award, Sherman said he could think of at least 25 others who deserved it much more than he.

Calling the law a "jealous mistress," he nevertheless has always found time for his daughters, Terrie, Vicki and Susan, about whom, along with his grandchildren he never tires of talking.

Formerly called the Kentucky Academy of Trial Lawyers, the KJA educates lawyers who litigate, helping them to hone their skills and keeping the doors of the courthouse open to every American. Thousands of lawyers have benefited from its training.

## CHAVURAT SHALOM



By Sarah Harlan  
For Community

We've got a terrific lineup of programs planned in March with something for everyone:

- Thursday, March 2 – Lynn Medeiros and Sue Bush of Staging Your Next Move will share tips for organizing, de-cluttering and downsizing. Lunch will include chicken pot pie, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, cornbread and banana pudding.

- Thursday, March 9 – One of our favorites, Two of Diamonds, will present, The Ladies Sing the Blues: A Joyous Celebration of a Unique American Art Form. Lunch will include beef brisket, green beans, roasted potatoes, salad, fresh fruit and assorted desserts.

- Thursday, March 16 – Shelli Carpenter and Darci Freeland will talk about yoga for continued vitality and flexibility and lead a chair yoga practice. Lunch will include roasted turkey, wild rice pilaf with broccoli and carrots, caesar salad, fresh fruit and apple cobbler.

- Thursday, March 23 – Classical pianist Nada Loutfi will thrill us with her piano virtuosity. Lunch will be in the Heideman Auditorium, and the concert will follow in the main sanctuary. Lunch will include chicken alfredo with vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and chocolate trifle and we'll be celebrating March birthdays and anniversaries.

- Thursday, March 30 – Rabbi Nadia Siritsky and Cantor Sharon Hordes will share a program called Healing Through Music and Relaxation. Lunch will include beef stew, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, biscuits and bread pudding.

Please remember to RSVP by the Tuesday before the program to either 423-1818 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com, so that Sarah can insure there's enough of Chef Z's delicious lunch for everyone! And please feel free to share feedback and ideas with Sarah at the same number or email.

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Purim this year is March 12. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Community of Louisville invites you to honor this Purim tradition by contributing financially to the Center for Women and Families and the St. John Center for Homeless Men. Both of these organizations help people who have seen their fortunes turn for the worse and help them get back on their feet towards self-sustainability.

To help the JCRC support the Center for Women and Families and the St. John Center for Homeless Men Women, send your Purim contributions to Jewish Community Relations Council, 3600 Dutchmans Ln., Louisville, KY 40205. Please indicate in the memo line on your check that your contribution is for our 2017 Purim Appeal. You may also make your donation online at [www.jewishlouisville.org/purim-2017](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/purim-2017).

לצדקה,

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Jessica Goldstein, Chair,  
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# AROUND TOWN

## KI brings back Junior Congregation

Keneseth Israel is again offering Junior Congregation, exposing kids to Jewish prayers and an appreciation for Shabbat services. Junior Congregation meets every first Shabbat of the month from 10:30-11:45 a.m. Members pray together while learning the words and the meaning behind them. They also interactively explore the Torah portions. Rachel and David Goldman are the Junior Congregation leaders.

## Bridges offers a welcome to Judaism

A new semester of Bridges: Welcome to Judaism is starting at The Temple. Beginning in March, the discussion-based class, led by Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks and Nadyne Lee, will be offered to those considering conversion, those who are newly Jewish or those who wish to learn more about Judaism. Classes will meet at 1:30 p.m. in The Temple library on Sundays, March 12 and 26, and April 2 and 23. Contact Rooks at (502) 423-1818 or Lee at (270) 230-3448 for more information.

## Gala auction items needed

Keneseth Israel is asking for auction items to benefit a silent auction at its April 30 gala. Several hundred people are expected. Donations will help raise money for Keneseth Israel. Possible auction items include restaurant gift certificates, sports memorabilia, sports tickets, music lessons, artwork, jewelry and vacation rentals. Contact Yonatan Yussman, at [yyussman@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:yyussman@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780.

## Temple Shalom hosts UofL's Hancock

Luke Hancock, who helped the University of Louisville basketball team win the 2013 NCAA National Championship,

will be the guest speaker Sunday, March 5, at the Temple Shalom Men's Club breakfast. His presentation will include a look at the upcoming March Madness, how local teams might fare and which ones might reach this year's final round. The 10 a.m. breakfast costs \$5 and is open to the community. RSVPs are requested by March 2. Contact Temple Shalom at [information@templeshalom-ky.org](mailto:information@templeshalom-ky.org) or 458-4739.

## Jazz and Jewelry supports pantry

Jewish Family & Career Services will host a girl's night out to support the Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry. The second annual Jazz and Jewelry Sale will be held Thursday, March 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the JFCS building, 2821 Klempner Way. Contact Kim Toebe at 452-6341 or [ktoebbe@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:ktoebbe@jfcsloouisville.org) for more information.

## The Temple service offers 'lessons for living'

A special musical service at The Temple on Friday, March 3, 7 p.m. in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center will be based on the themes of holiness and renewal and focus on lessons for living. Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks will lead the service, which will feature some surprise special musical guests.

## Pasta dinner supports AJ Preschool

Adath Jeshurun Preschool will hold a pasta dinner, Sunday, March 5, 5:30 p.m. There will be live entertainment, a magician, prizes and a silent auction. Auction items include condos in Florida and Lake Cumberland, children's items, dining certificates, jewelry and gifts. Call AJ Preschool at 451-3434 or visit [ajpreschool.com](http://ajpreschool.com).

## Farmer to tout New Roots food movement

Joseph Monroe, New Roots Fresh Stop Market farmer, will show how eating locally grown organic food can change your life during a program, Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m., at The J. Call Michael Fraade at (502) 238-2769 or visit [new-roots.org](http://new-roots.org) for more information.

## Women of Reform Judaism Shabbat

The Temple will hold its Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) Shabbat, Friday, March 10, 7 p.m., in the Waller Chapel at The Temple. The service is a celebration of The Temple WRJ in gratitude for all they do for the community. The Temple choir, Shir Chadash, under the direction of Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks and Dr. Louie Bailey will be providing the music, and the oneg will be provided by the WRJ.

## Passover prep workshop planned

Neshei of Louisville will present Duby Litvin, author of *Duby's Pesach Lists*, for a workshop on how to make this Passover the best one yet, Wednesday, March 15, at a location to be announced on its Facebook page. Litvin will offer help with shopping lists, menus, planning guides and seder tips. Contact Chaya Susman, [neshei@chabadky.com](mailto:neshei@chabadky.com), for more information.

## Temple Shalom class to feature rabbi

Temple Shalom will hold an adult education program, Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m., at the synagogue. Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner will speak on the topic, "The Ideal Israelite Woman: A Model From Early Antiquity" – a continuation of her January lesson. She will analyze the lives of the Jewish matriarchs and their importance to feminine issues in general. RSVP to Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739, by March 14. The event is free and refreshments will follow.

## JLearn holds Passover prep classes

Passover will be the topic of a three-week course at the Jewish Learning Center. The class will be taught using the Bible and Mishna, studying Jewish practice and tradition and application for day-to-day life. Each 30-minute class will begin each Thursday night – March 16, 23, and 30 – at 7 p.m. and is free. Contact Rabbi Shmully Litvin at [jlearn@jewishlearning.center](mailto:jlearn@jewishlearning.center) for more information.

## New havurah forming

Organizers of a new havurah are setting up a planning committee and are looking for participants. The first meeting will be held Sunday, March 19, 1-3 p.m. Drs. Ed and Marcia Segal will discuss the activities for the new group, including holidays, study sessions, guest speakers and Shabbat dinners. Call J.D. Segal at 502-454-3579 for more information.

## Rabbi's Shabbat Shtetl Dinner planned

The Temple will host a shtetl-themed rabbi's Shabbat dinner, Friday, March 24, 6 p.m., in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center. In celebrating the food of the shtetl, brisket, cholent, veggies and strudel will be served. Adults are \$5 and children under 12 eat free. RSVP to (502)423-1818 by Wednesday, March 22.

## Dinner and a Movie with Rabbi Rooks

The Temple will host the second in Rabbi Galia R. Rooks' movie series, Reel Theology, Sunday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. Dinner and a movie will include *Jerusalem*, an IMAX film that shows the multiplicity of religious and cultural experience in the City of David. The event is free, but RSVPs are required. Call (502) 423-1818 by Friday, March 24.

## Dinyan at KI being planned

Keneseth Israel will hold Dinyan, Wednesday, March 29, 5:45 p.m. at KI. The event combines a 25-minute musical Mincha/Ma'ariv service will be followed by a family-style seated dinner. There's no charge, though donations to the Dr. Julius Wolk Dinyan Fund are encouraged. Eric Gurevich also will speak about being a bone marrow donor. Contact KI at [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com) or 502-459-2780 to RSVP.

## Joe Buchanan Concert slated

The Temple will host a Joe Buchanan concert, Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1, both at 7 p.m. in the Waller Chapel. Buchanan weaves contemporary melodies together with ancient prayers and spiritual themes.

## AJ celebrates music of Dylan, Cohen at event

Adath Jeshurun will host two live-tappings of WFPK's "Kentucky Homefront" broadcast, Sunday, April 2, from 6:30-9 p.m. John Gage and Cantors David Lipp and Sharon Hordes will perform the music of Bob Dylan and the late Leonard Cohen. Other musicians and storyteller Bob Sachs will participate. Contact AJ at [atadathjeshurun.com/radio](http://atadathjeshurun.com/radio) or 458-5359, or purchase at the door. AJ, Kentucky Homefront, and the Stuart Handmaker L'dor Vador Fund of Adath Jeshurun are co-sponsoring the event.



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# LIFECYCLE

## B'nai Mitzvah



**Dylan Ashley Breier**

Dylan Ashley Breier, daughter of Shelly and Ben Breier and sister of Cameron and Hayden, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, March 4, 10:30 am, at The Temple.

Dylan is the granddaughter of Robert and the late Eileen Breier and Susie Spencer.

She is in the seventh grade at Kentucky Country Day School where she is a member of the drama club, field hockey and lacrosse teams. She has been in the cast of the middle school musical productions *Oliver* and *The Lion King* at KCD. She loves spending time with her friends, playing piano, singing and baking.

Dylan held a bake sale of her own creations and raised close to \$1,000 for Blessings in a Backpack where she also volunteered her time for her mitzvah project.

Dylan and her family invite the community to celebrate her bat mitzvah and the Kiddush luncheon following the service.



**Corey Matthew Singer**

Corey Matthew Singer, son of Scott and the late Julie Singer and brother of Braydon and Camdyn Singer, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah, Saturday, March 11, 10:30 a.m. at The Temple.

Corey is the grandson of Jackie and Neil Gilman and the late Irv Singer of Solon, OH, and Linda Bez and the late Herbet Bez of West Bloomfield, MI.

Corey is in the seventh grade at North Oldham Middle School where he is a member of the band and on the high school swim team. He has also been a member of the Lakeside Seahawks swim team for the past six years.

His other interests include camping, skiing, boating, wakeboarding, music and spending time with his family and friends.

Corey and his family invite the community to join them at this special celebration.

cial celebration.



**Jenna Shaps**

Jenna Shaps, daughter of Shane and Howard Shaps and sister to Ryan, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, March 25, 9:30 am at Adath Jeshurun.

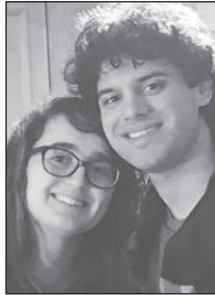
Jenna is a fifth-generation member of Adath Jeshurun and is the granddaughter of Sarah & Charles O'Koon and Lena & Spencer Shaps of Morris Plains, New Jersey.

Jenna is a seventh grader at Kentucky Country Day School. At school she serves on the Citizen Leadership Council (student government) and is the Community Service Chair for the Middle School Drama Society. She competes as a member of the cross country team and the middle school track and field team. She also participates in middle school theatrical productions both as an actress and on the costume design team. Jenna spends her summers as a third-generation camper at Blue Star Camps in North Carolina.

Jenna's bat mitzvah project has been to create hand-sewn headbands, which she sells to raise money for One Happy Camper, an organization that provides assistance for Jewish camping experiences.

Jenna and her family invite the community to celebrate her bat mitzvah and the kiddush luncheon following the service.

## Engagements



**Paul/Short**

Sue and Ron Paul of Prospect happily announce the engagement of their son, Benjamin, to Sydney Short of Indianapolis.

Benjamin's grandparents are Shirley Paul and the late Sidney Paul of Louisville and the late Dr. and Mrs. Harold Moskovitz of Cincinnati. Sydney is the daughter of Rachel and Jeffery Short of Indianapolis; her grandparents are Kathleen Cornelius and John Wolf, and Ronald Cornelius.

Benjamin, a graduate of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, is a software engineer at Microsoft in Seattle. Sydney will graduate from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in May with a degree in electrical engineering.

A September wedding is planned in Seattle.

## Weddings

Marci and Mark Perelmutter are pleasantly surprised to announce the marriage of their son, Stuart Max Perelmutter, to Elizabeth Ann Sawyer.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Tom and Jenny Sawyer of Louisville and the sister of Katharine Sawyer and Caroline Robinson. Stuart is the brother of Todd Perelmutter and Gil Reyes.

Stuart and Elizabeth surprised their parents at New Year's Day brunch at Proof on Main when their brunch guest, Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks performed the ceremony over coffee and zucchini bread. Stuart and Elizabeth broke the glass together to make it official! The couple met while working as staffers for U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth in Washington.

They currently live in Los Angeles.

## Obituaries



**Adrienne Byer**

Adrienne Byer, 89, passed away Wednesday, January 25, 2017.

Born October 23, 1927 in Cleveland, OH, she was a graduate of Ohio State University and received her

Master's Degree from Case Western

Reserve University. She retired from General Electric Information Services in Los Angeles and made her way, along with her husband, David, to Louisville in 1991.

Adrienne was a voracious reader, an avid collector of Asian art, and a *New York Times* crossword puzzle champ. Many a happy hour was spent with a bucket of popcorn "for lunch" at the Village 8 Theater, watching foreign films.

Adrienne was preceded in death by her parents, Helen and Arthur Neiman; and her husband, David H. Byer. She is survived by her daughter, Judge Joan L. Byer (Kevin Katz); and her grandchildren, Alex J. Simon and Casey E. Simon.

The family would like to extend its deepest appreciation to the extraordinary staff at Belmont Village, where she was cared for with incredible companionship and kindness.

Memorial services were held Sunday, February 12, at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Hwy 42. Adrienne requested that donations be made to the Louisville Public Library Foundation, 301 York St., Louisville, KY 40203 - LFPFoundation.org - The Temple or the JFCS Food Pantry.

### Arthur H. Isaacs, M.D.

Arthur H. Isaacs, M.D., 92, passed away Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

He was born to Louis and Sarah Lewin Isaacs on September 1, 1924. A graduate of Male High School, class of 1942, where he was an honor student and a member of the debate team, he went on to receive a master's degree of chemical engineering at the University of Louisville, in 1948.

His true passion, though, was medicine, and he returned to school, graduating from the University of Louisville, School of Medicine in 1956. He did a residency in pediatrics at the old St. Joseph's Infirmary, the precursor of Audubon Hospital.



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# LIFECYCLE

## Obituaries

continued from page 21

He practiced as a solo pediatrician in Okolona from 1959 until 1993, caring for thousands of children.

Arthur enjoyed teaching on the volunteer faculty of the University of Louisville's Department of Pediatrics until his retirement in 1993. He was a member of the Greater Louisville Medical Society and for several years was a delegate from the medical society to the Kentucky Medical Association. Arthur was very proud of his participation as a volunteer in administering Sabin Oral Polio Vaccine in Louisville clinics in the early 1960s when it first became available.

As a medical student, he joined the Phi Delta Epsilon medical fraternity. He also was active as a graduate physician and he served as the secretary of the Sidney I. Kornhauser Foundation, the local philanthropic arm of the fraternity for many years.

He enjoyed attending many cultural activities, and was a supporter of several of Louisville's performing arts companies, including the Louisville Orchestra, the Broadway Series, Actor's Theater and the Louisville Ballet.

He was a member of the Congregation Adath Jeshurun, the Jewish Community Center and B'nai Brith.

Arthur was predeceased by his wife of 37 years, Florence Kreitman Isaacs, and his brother, Avrom M. Isaacs, M.D.

He is survived by his daughters, Lois (Jeff Gushin) and Barbara (Sidney Hymson), as well as his two adoring grandsons, Aaron and Dan

iel Gushin, of whom he was extremely proud.

Funeral services were held Friday, February 17, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the University of Louisville's Department of Pediatrics Resident Education Fund, the Florence Kreitman Isaacs Summer Camp Fund at the Jewish Community Center, Congregation Adath Jeshurun or the donor's favorite charity.



### Esther Wolff Levitz

Esther Reva Wolff Levitz, 75, of Louisville, KY passed away peacefully on Sunday evening, February 12, 2017.

She is survived by Arnold Lev-

itz, her loving husband of 52 years, sons Loren (Tara) and Darren (Elana), and grandchildren Jacob, Ethan, Evie and Emerson. She is preceded in death by her parents, Max and Lena Wolff, and siblings Ann Roth (Don) and Stanley Wolff.

Esther graduated from Memphis State University and taught elementary education and later was a preschool teacher.

She was passionate about her family and helping the community. She spent many years serving as a room mother and den mother and attending countless baseball and soccer games to see her sons play.

At her synagogue, she volunteered for many positions, including vice

president of membership and was honored with Hadassah's Woman of the Year award.

Esther loved having dinners every Sunday with her family, seeing Broadway shows with Arnold and catching-up with her niece Jill and many relatives on the phone. She enjoyed years of playing mahjong and canasta with her friends, and was always known for bringing her famous bourbon balls or Swedish nuts to parties.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 14, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed at Adath Jeshurun cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that expressions of sympathy be made to the American Cancer Society, Pitt Academy or Congregation Adath Jeshurun in her blessed memory. The family is profoundly thankful for the care given to Esther at Norton Brownsboro Hospital and Westport Place and by the staff of Home Instead.

### Jerome Lobred

Jerome Lobred, 96, died Thursday, February 9, 2017, at Sunrise of Wil- lowbrook, IL.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, a retired manager with H & S Hardware and a former associate with Taylor Drugs.

Jerome was a life-long member of The Temple, Temple Men's Club and a volunteer for both, Jewish Hospital and Kentucky Center for the Arts.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Florence Ehrlich and Ralph Lobred and his beloved wife, Babette "Babs" Lobred.

He is survived by his daughters, Roslyn Poole (Michael) of Chicago, IL, Kathy Lobred of Louisville and Beth Price (Jeffrey) of Lyndhurst, OH; his grandchildren, Ellen Ekevag (Per), Jim Poole (Betzi), Leah Peterson (Eric) and Aaron Price (Rebecca); and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 13, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple.



### Martin Allen Shiffman

Martin Allen Shiffman, 82, of West Palm Beach FL, formerly of Louisville, KY, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio

on Nov. 10, 1934. A devoted husband of Eleanor for 60 years, he was also the father of Debbie Perellis (David) of Louisville, Ken Shiffman (Abby) of Atlanta, GA, and Judi Ackerman (Ed) of Jupiter, FL. He also was Papa of grandchildren Brooke, Ethan, Rachel, Aaron, Josh and Seth.

He graduated from Ohio University, married and joined the Army all in 1956. He went on to a long career in retail. His management style made people feel they worked with him, not for him, leading to many long-lasting friendships.

Marty, as he was known, was past master of his Masonic lodge, vice president of Brith Shalom Temple in Louisville, and volunteered his time at hospice, MacArthur Beach State Park, and Citizens on Patrol. He loved his family, his dog, classical music, old movies, watching sports and his hat collection. He was a kind and gentle soul.

Funeral services were held Sunday, February 12, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. The family requests that donations be made in his memory to The Temple, 5101 U.S. Hwy 42, Louisville, KY 40241, and Temple Israel 1901 N Flagler Dr, West Palm Beach, FL 33407.



### Rosalind Hornstein Greiver

Rosalind Hornstein Greiver, died Monday, January 30, at the Episcopal Church Home in Louisville. She was 80.

She was born in Savannah,

GA, to parents Helen and Max Hornstein. She graduated from Savannah High School, majored in art at The University of Georgia, graduated from Armstrong College of Savannah and attended George Washington University.

After college she was a copy writer in radio and TV advertising for a local radio and television station. She then worked in the art department for the *Savannah Morning News & Evening Press*.

In 1961, she married Dr. Philip Greiver, and left her beloved Savannah to move to Louisville, where she attended classes at the Old Louisville School of Art. She also became active in community and medical volunteer work, but art was always her passion.

Through the years, Roz was active in many organizations and held multiple board positions. Among them were Jewish Hospital and the Jewish Hospital Foundation. She was also president of the Jewish Hospital Guild and spent many wonderful years volunteering her time for the hospital. She also served on the EMS board, the Civil Services board and the board of the Friends of the Waterfront – to name a few. She worked vigorously and devotedly in the mayoral campaigns of Jerry Abramson.

Roz was always involved in her son's schools, starting with the boards of Keneseth Israel Pre-School and Louisville Jewish Day School (she was also co-president of its PTA). She worked with the theater arts department for Atherton High School – publishing newsletters and theater programs – and was a life-long member of Keneseth Israel Congregation, and its sisterhood, serving on its board as well.

Roz realized the importance of daily exercise and took up running in 1977. She ran for 26 years and managed to do a few marathons during this time. She became widely known for her long early morning runs throughout the Hayfield neighborhood and Cherokee Park.

When her sons left for college, she finally, at her husband's urging and support, went back to creating art. She studied with many well-known local and national artists and became an accomplished artist herself. She especially enjoyed painting with Claudia Hammer and the Friday morning group affectionately dubbed "Go Figure" – as figurative work was her greatest interest.

After her husband, Phil, retired, they spent winters in Tucson, AZ, where she became involved with an art group there. It was her great fortune to meet Linda Ahern, artist and owner of Toscana Studio and Gallery, where she painted. She displayed her work there and became part of many

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# D'VAR TORAH

## Purim is more than spinning gregars; here's how to do it

By Rabbi Yosef Levy  
For Community

The great Talmudic sage Hillel was born in Babylonia in the first century B.C.E. As a young man, he came to the Holy Land to study Torah at the feet of the sages of Jerusalem. An impoverished, but brilliant, student, he eventually became a famous Torah scholar and the *nasi* (president) of the Sanhedrin.



Rabbi Yosef Levy

Hillel is often mentioned together with his colleague, Shammai, with whom he often disagreed on the interpretations of Torah law: Shammai often followed the stricter interpretation, but Hillel tended toward a more lenient understanding of the law. In the great majority of cases, his opinion prevailed.

Hillel encouraged his disciples to follow the example of Aaron the High Priest to "love peace and pursue peace,

love all G-d's creations and bring them close to the Torah." Hillel was a humble and patient man, and there are many stories that illustrate this.

One famous account in the Talmud (Shabbat 31a) tells about a gentile who wanted to convert to Judaism. This happened not infrequently, and this individual stated that he would accept Judaism only if a rabbi would teach him the entire Torah while he, the prospective convert, stood on one foot. First he went to Shammai, who, insulted by this ridiculous request, threw him out of the house. The man did not give up and went to Hillel. This gentle sage accepted the challenge.

"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor," Hillel said. "This is the whole Torah; the rest is the commentary; go and learn it."

Rabbi Akiva (who lived in the second half of the first century and the first half of the second century C.E.) said: "Love your fellow as yourself."

This is what *Ahavas Yisrael* (love your fellow) is; the rest of the Torah is commentary. As we approach the holiday of Purim, which begins Saturday night, March 11, we celebrate the day with its four special mitzvahs (commandments):

- Hear the Megillah – Head to your synagogue to hear the whole Megillah. The Megillah, a.k.a. The Book of Esther, is the scroll that tells the Purim story. Listen to the public reading twice; once on Purim night, and again on Purim day. This year, that's Saturday night, March 11 and Sunday day, March 12. Pay attention; it is crucial to hear every word.

- Give to the needy (*matanot le'evyonim*) One of Purim's primary themes is Jewish unity. Haman tried to kill us all. We were all in danger together, so we celebrate together, too. Hence, on Purim day, we place special emphasis on caring for the less fortunate. Give money or food to at least two needy people during the daylight hours of Purim, March 12. In case you can't find any needy people, your synagogue will likely be collecting money for this purpose. At least place two coins in a charity box.

- Send food gifts to friends (*mishloach manot*)

On Purim, we emphasize the importance of friendship and community by sending gifts of food to friends. On Purim day, March 12, send a package containing at least two different ready-to-eat food items and/or beverages (e.g., pastry, fruit, beverage) to at least one

Jewish acquaintance during the daylight hours of Purim.

- During Purim day, March 12, gather your family, maybe a guest or two, and celebrate with a festive meal. Traditionally, this meal begins before sundown and lasts into the evening.

The table should be bedecked with a nice tablecloth and candles. Wash for bread or challah, and enjoy a meal featuring meat, wine and plenty of Jewish songs, words of Torah and joyous Purim spirit. Sing, drink, laugh, have fun together.

May we take this opportunity to care for one another and may we merit the coming of the Moshiach now! Have a Happy Purim.

(Rabbi Yosef Levy is a Chabad rabbi and the OU Kosher expert and rabbinic field representative for the states of Kentucky and Indiana.)

...  
Shabbat candles should be lit on Fridays, February 24 at 6:13 p.m., March 3 at 6:20 p.m., March 10 at 6:27 p.m., March 17 at 7:34 p.m. and March 24 at 7:41 p.m.

## PURIM AROUND TOWN

### Hadassah calls for hamentaschen recipes

The Louisville chapter of Hadassah is asking its members to share their favorite hamentaschen recipes. Bring a plate to share, along with copies of the recipes, at a private event, Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. Cybil Flora will be on hand with recipes and tips. RSVP to Michelle, 645-4739.

### JLearn announces classes

JLearn will offer three classes about Purim, Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m., at the Jewish Learning Center, 110 Dupont Circle. The classes will look at the kabbalistic (mystical) and talmudic (legalistic) views of the holiday and offer a woman's perspective. Rabbis Avrohom, Shmully Litvin and Fraidy Litvin are the presenters. Admission is free. Contact Shmully Litvin at jlearn@jewishlearning.center for more information

### AJ-KI hosts Purim program for all ages

The jointly sponsored Adath Jeshurun-Keneseth Israel evening Purim

program, set for Saturday, March 11, 6:15 p.m., will include dinner, hamentaschen, a costume parade, a Megillah reading done to Beatles music, magic show and a mask-making project. Cost is \$10 per adult 13 & over. Children 12 and under are free. RSVP to adathjeshurun.com/purim or call 458-5359 by March 3. Reservations are required.

### Not Quite the Whole Megillah at The Temple

The Temple will hold its annual Purim party, Saturday, March 11, 7 p.m., in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center. Food, drinks and games will all be provided, as well as prizes for wearing a costume. The event is free, but RSVPs are required. Call (502)423-1818 by Thursday, March 9.

### Purim in the Jungle at Chabad

Chabad House will host a Purim in the Jungle, Saturday, March 11, 7:45 p.m. There will be a Megillah reading, hamentaschen and other treats. The reading starts after Motzei Shabbat services and Havdalah. Contact Rabbi Boruch Sus-

man at chabadhouse@chabadky.com for more information.

### AJ-YAD have Purim night for young adults

Adath Jeshurun and YAD are co-sponsoring an after-party Purim celebration for young adults, Saturday, March 11, 9 p.m. The party, which is for ages 21 and over, will feature magic, Purim-inspired cocktails and a hamentaschen bar. Cost is \$10 per adult and includes two drink tickets. Reservations are required. Contact AJ at adathjeshurun.com/purim or 458-5359 by March 3.

### Chabad holds 'Purim in the Orient'

Chabad will highlight the Jews of Asia with a Purim feast and celebration, Sunday, March 12, 5 p.m., at The Pointe, 1205 E. Washington St., Butchertown. An Asian dinner will be catered by The Catering Company of Louisville. Jewish and Asian music will be presented as well as origami and fan making booths. Costumes are encouraged. Cost is \$35, \$15 for children under 12. There is a \$10 discount on tickets before March 1. Contact Chabad at 502-459-1770 or chabad@chabadky.com.

### Synagogues co-host family Purim

Keneseth Israel and Adath Jeshurun will jointly sponsor a Family Purim, Sunday, March 12, 1:30 p.m., at Keneseth Israel. There will be Purim stations for baking hamentaschen, creating mishloach manot, making a megillah and arts & crafts. The event is free of charge, but reservations requested. Contact KI at 459-2780 or rsvp@kenesethisrael.com.

### Purim Service and Celebration at The Temple

The Temple will hold a family Purim celebration, Sunday, March 12, from 5-7 p.m. A short family service led by the second and third graders will begin the evening, followed by a family dinner with dessert by Steel City Pops. There will be many family and kids activities to choose from and a no-rehearsal Brotherhood choir. Dinner is \$5 for all

adults; kids 12 and under eat free. RSVP to The Temple by Friday, March 10, at 502-423-1818.

### Purim at Temple Shalom

A Purim celebration will be held at Temple Shalom, Sunday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to noon. There will be breakfast, Purim Schpiel, games and a costume contest with prizes for adults and children. Call Temple Shalom, at 502-458-4739 for more information.



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

## LIFECYCLE

art shows. Linda was a dear friend, supportive and encouraging and always there for her. She and Phil made many good friends there, were involved in the Jewish community and many museums and parks in the Tucson area.

Roz belonged to the Louisville Visual Arts Association, the Speed Art Museum, the Southern Arizona Artists Guild and the Tucson Museum of Art.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her beloved husband of 52 years, Phil. She is survived by her two sons, Michael (Lori) in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, and Jonathan (Jamie) in Atlanta Georgia; a brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Ste-

phen and Sandi Hornstein in Atlanta, GA; a sister-in-law, Florence Cohn in St. Louis, MO; 10 grandchildren, Yosef, Dovid, Moshe, Meir, Shooey, Sarah Esther, Chisky and Yehuda (Israel) Justin and Sarah (Atlanta); and five nieces and countless cousins throughout the country.

A special thank you to Dr. Jane Cornett and the incredible staff at The Episcopal Church Home for their care and compassion.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 1, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to donor's favorite charity.



# PICTURE THIS: AJ MUSIC FESTIVAL

Photos by Jerry Wolff

Voices, in all their ranges, were the focus of this year's Adath Jeshurun Jewish Music Festival. The Louisville Jewish Community Choir – a cross-section of Jewish Louisville, young and old – opened the program, and campus a capella groups Staam (Washington University of St Louis) and Hooshir (Indiana University), each making a return appearance at the festival, sang a selection of Jewish and Israeli music – Oseh Shalom, Al Hanisim, Yerushalayim Shel Zahav and Lecha Dodi. They also performed contemporary music, such as Stitches by Shawn Mendes. Cantor David Lipp and vocalist Jennifer Diamond brought the show into the audience's laps as they came down the aisle singing as a duet. All the performers finally gathered on the bima for a memorable finale. As many as 250-275 people attended this year's festival, which actually began over Shabbat as Hooshir and Staam made the rounds of area synagogues, singing samplings of their music.





## ‘Horse Walks into a Bar’ takes a dark look at a funny man

By Ranen Omer Sherman  
For Community

David Grossman continues to surprise his readers with his latest novel, *A Horse Walks Into A Bar*. The acclaimed Israeli novelist again addresses grief, society and the individual in sly, round-about ways.

The story centers on a comedian's single, disastrous nightclub appearance, which begins on a raucous note of hilarity before veering into wildly unexpected terrain.

The novel's chief protagonists are the comic Dov Greenstein and a reluctant member of his audience, District Court Justice Avishai Lazar. The two have not seen each other since boyhood and Dov's show provides the unlikely occasion for their fraught reunion.

During the tense evening, we gaze over the shoulders of the audience, watching these two characters struggle to resurrect memories of their earlier bond, which are buried beneath the detritus of the long eventful decades. Just who are they to one another?

Meanwhile, after opening with a thoroughly Israeli routine of macho, ribald banter, Dov's sudden refusal to deliver more of the jokes his audience anticipates gradually alienates the restive crowd.

Soon, Dov seems at war with his old fans. He teases, insults and cajoles them throughout a bewildering performance that ultimately turns self-destructive or redemptive. We witness the genius of Dov's artistic control and the wrenching loss of it. Or do we?

Meanwhile, Avishai's childhood recollections of Dov's mistreatment by those who bullied him provide jarring inter-

ludes, reveries culminating in a remote desert pre-military youth camp where tragic events cause the staff to hastily arrange Dov's return home without disclosing what awaits him.

At one point, despite his growing anxiety on the long, desert drive, young Dov is distracted by the recklessness of the Jeep's driver, *"What a terrible driver he is, how he's veering all over the place, onto the shoulders, into every pothole."*

That may well be Grossman's sly, metafictional wink at the reader. The

novel certainly takes its own detours, twists and turns. Yet while the destination may seem elusive for many pages, every disquieting moment heightens the suspense and ultimately proves psychologically rewarding.

While Mark Twain's famous adage, "Humor is tragedy plus time," has inspired many artists, only rarely has it been turned inside out to such memorable effect as Grossman grippingly portrays the collapse of Dov's crass and calculatedly cynical stage demeanor to reveal a deeply wounded and troubled psyche it once protected. Precisely when he is seen at his most vulnerable, we meet a second audience member who knew Dov, a mysterious woman whose own tragic, quietly heroic role is revealed to memorable effect.

Though the audience largely abandons the tormented comic by the end of this train wreck of an evening, Grossman's readers should be transfixed. There are moments when Dov's abrasive qualities resemble Israel itself, bearing its weighty load of armor – what Grossman once called the sense of "permanent guard duty" – to such a degree that it loses sight of its own human nature. For that seems to be at the heart of this story, the audience, anticipating jokes, becomes squeamish and outright hostile when confronted instead with the naked

turmoil of a man's life.

By the end of this raw and gripping novel, readers may be left wondering whether this emotionally searing performance by a faltering comic is really a sly allegory about the novelist or any artist brave enough to smuggle some brutal truth into his art.

Might this demanding, increasingly censorious audience be a surrogate for the increasingly unreceptive Israeli public, immured against facing certain truths and impatient with Grossman's conscientious role as a witness to inconvenient realities, his resolute voice raised against the corrosive injustices of the occupation?

Hinting at but ultimately refusing to directly answer such questions, *A Horse Walks into a Bar* consistently fascinates.

*(Ranen Omer-Sherman is the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence Chair of Judaic Studies at the University of Louisville.)*

### Want to read it?

*A Horse Walks Into A Bar*, by David Grossman, translated by Jessica Cohen, Alfred A. Knopf, 2017, 208 pages \$24.95 ISBN: 978-0451493972

## Finally, a book for Jews with Alzheimer's has arrived

By Lisa Keys  
JTA

NEW YORK (JTA) — The book is large and fits comfortably on a lap. The color photographs nearly fill each page.

Each image depicts real people doing everyday Jewish things — a young girl eating matzah ball soup; a bubbe and her grandchildren lying in the grass; a man wearing tefillin, praying. The sentences are in large print; they are simple ("Mother says the blessing over the candles") and easy to read.

But the book is not for young children learning how to read, nor is it for parents to introduce Judaism to their preschoolers.

Rather it is designed for those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease, a progressive type of dementia that causes a slow decline in thinking, memory and reasoning. The book — a series of independent pictures and captions — requires no memory to read and follow along, allowing those with memory-loss issues to enjoy and engage with each image on its own terms.

*L'Chaim: Pictures to Evoke Memories of a Jewish Life*, by Eliezer Sobel, is probably the first book of its kind — a Jewish-themed book created explicitly for adults with Alzheimer's or dementia.

"There's such a richness to Jewish content and imagery and history and culture," Sobel, 64, told JTA. "There are so many Jewish people in Jewish nursing homes, and Jewish families with loved ones who have dementia."

Sobel's family is among them. The author took inspiration from his mother, Manya, 93, a refugee who fled Nazi Germany and has suffered from Alzheimer's for 17 years. As her memory deteriorated, her language slowly disappeared with it, Sobel said. Eventually, a few years ago, it seemed gone for good.

However, "One day I walk into the living room, and she was thumbing through a magazine, reading the big print headlines aloud, correctly," he recalled. "I said, 'Omigod! Mom can still read!'"

Sobel, who lives in Red Bank, New Jersey, said he headed to the local Barnes & Noble to get her a picture book for dementia patients.

"It seemed like the most obvious thing

even though some 5.8 million Americans have Alzheimers, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Inspired, Sobel — a writer (previous books include the novel "Minyan: Ten

area of publishing, namely the realistic representation of images and ideas for people with memory and cognitive impairment.")

Plus, Teplow added, "There are lot of Jewish people who have Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Certainly it's an important project for the Jewish community."

For Sobel, having a Jewish-themed follow-up to "Blue Sky" was a bit of a no-brainer.

"It seemed natural to me," he said. "It's who I am; who we are. Especially my mother, the history of her Holocaust experience — it was a big part of my growing up, how she and her family got out, what they experienced."

Sobel's mother arrived in the U.S. at age 14, shortly after Kristallnacht in 1938. Though she escaped Germany with her immediate family — her grandmother was left behind and died in a labor camp — she remained scarred by her experiences and raised her kids to be wary of outsiders.

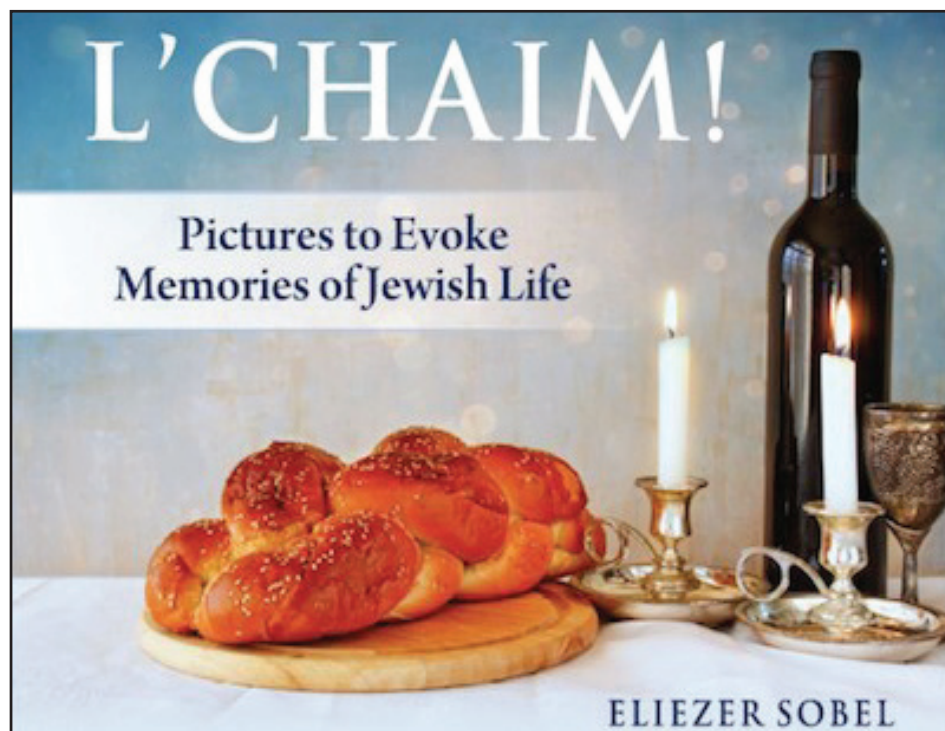
"Fair Lawn, New Jersey, was kind of like 'Leave It To Beaver' — perfectly safe and lots of Jewish families," Sobel said of his hometown in the New York City suburbs. "But my mom kept an axe under the bed when my dad wasn't home."

The family kept kosher; they had Friday night Shabbat dinners and Sobel attended synagogue on Saturdays with his father.

"My mother's idea of keeping Shabbat was she didn't clean the house; she'd do something she enjoyed," he recalled. "We'd drive — but not past the rabbi's house."

Sobel said that while he and his mother "were at loggerheads for a lot of my adult life," when her Alzheimer's set in, she was released from her terrible memories.

"It was almost a blessing to be around her; someone who radiated love and welcoming to everyone," he said. "I was freed up to feel and express my love for her, which had been bottled up since my teenage years."



in the world," he said.

Instead, he learned that such a thing didn't really exist. After unsuccessful trips to bookstores and searches online, Sobel called the National Alzheimer's Association. He said the librarian he spoke with on the phone was stumped at first — she said that while there were more than 20,000 books for caregivers, she didn't know of anything for the patients themselves.

Eventually the librarian turned up a few books for Alzheimer's patients: Lydia Burdick has a series of three books for adults with the disease, including "The Sunshine On My Face." In subsequent years a few more have appeared, such as those by Emma Rose Sparrow. Still, the market for such products is very small,

Jewish Men in a World That is Heartbroken") and leader of meditation and creativity retreats — published his first book for adults with dementia, "Blue Sky, White Clouds: A Book for Memory-Challenged Adults" in 2012. Like "L'Chaim," the book is a series of large color photographs of things like birds, trees and babies with captions such as "The baby is fast asleep" and "Snow covers the trees."

"If patients see the pictures, say the names of the pictures, make some comments or are in any way affected by the books, that's a good thing, period," David Teplow, a professor of neurology at UCLA, told JTA. (Teplow provided a blurb for "Blue Sky": "It certainly appears to be necessary to fill a void in this



# After much prodding, Trump condemns anti-Semitism

By JTA

President Donald Trump denounced anti-Semitism a day after bomb threats to at least 10 Jewish community centers across the country and a large-scale cemetery vandalism in the St. Louis area.

Under pressure to condemn anti-Semitism in the wake of what has been called an uptick in incidents since he was elected, Trump told MSNBC on Tuesday morning, “Anti-Semitism is horrible and it’s going to stop, and it has to stop.”

The president made the remarks at

the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., after taking a tour. His daughter Ivanka was with him on the tour; a day earlier she had called for the protection of religious institutions and used the hashtag #JCC, and called on her father to do the same.

Asked by reporter Craig Melvin if his statement meant he was denouncing anti-Semitism “once and for all,” Trump replied: “Of course, and I do it whenever I get the chance to do it.”

Last week, Trump was asked during a news conference about the prior JCC bomb threats and what the government’s

response would be to “an uptick in anti-Semitism.” Although the reporter did not suggest Trump was anti-Semitic, the president answered by denying he is an anti-Semite and called the question “insulting.” He ordered the reporter – who is an Orthodox Jew – to sit down, and did not answer the question.

Trump later told Melvin in a one-on-one interview about the racial divide in America that the tour was “a meaningful reminder of why we have to fight bigotry, intolerance and hatred in all of its very ugly forms. The anti-Semitic threats targeting our Jewish community and our Jewish community centers are horrible, are painful and they are a reminder of the work that still must be done to root out hate and prejudice and evil.”

Jewish groups and political leaders have called on Trump to speak out against anti-Semitism, especially after four waves of bomb threats called in to dozens of JCCs across the country in the past five weeks.

On Tuesday morning, Trump’s opponent in the 2016 election, Hillary Clinton, in a tweet called on Trump to condemn anti-Semitism.

“JCC threats, cemetery desecration & online attacks are so troubling & they need to be stopped. Everyone must speak out, starting w/ @POTUS,” she wrote.

In a related development , A Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization

has offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who made false bomb threats to Jewish community centers.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, made the offer Monday, hours after bomb threats were called in to 11 JCCs across the country, leading most of them to evacuate their buildings while police and FBI searched for explosives.

The threats – the fourth wave in about five weeks – targeted JCCs in Birmingham, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Paul, Tampa, Albuquerque, Houston, Milwaukee, Nashville and Buffalo.

Louisville has not been targeted by the bomb threats, but the staff has been briefed on security protocols and knows what to do in the event that a threat should be made.

“It is the duty of American Muslims to offer support to the Jewish community and any minority group targeted in the recent spike in hate crimes nationwide,” CAIR’s national executive director, Nihad Awad, said in a statement. “We hope this reward will aid in the swift apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrators.”

Awad noted the “tremendous level of support” offered to Muslim Americans by the Jewish community when Muslims have been targeted by hate in recent months.

## Are your Adult Children Relocating?

Keep your adult children connected to the Jewish Community. The Jewish Federations of North America has a national network which works in partnership with Jewish Federations all across the country. Simply fill out this form completely and mail or fax it to the address/fax below, and we'll send their names to the Federation in their new hometown.

Your son's/daughter's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names/ages (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

New home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Community your son/daughter moved from: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:

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or Fax (502) 458-0702 • e-mail: [kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org)

# YAD

## YAD RED RIVER GORGE HIKE SUNDAY, MARCH 19 | NOON

Join YAD for an exciting day trip to Red River Gorge, one of Kentucky’s most beloved natural resources, as part of a joint event with the Cincinnati JCC’s young adult group. Together we will make new friends, go for a hike and explore what Judaism has to teach us about the outdoors. A carpool will be available from The J and will leave at 9:30 a.m.

To register, visit  
[www.jewishlouisville.org/YADhike](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/YADhike)

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Tuesday Evenings 7:50-9 p.m.  
Mar. 14 - May 23, 2017 | \$125 or \$50 book fee if in Bereshit I

### Shemot II Revelation & Revolution

Thursday Mornings 9:30-10:40 a.m.  
Mar. 16 - May 25, 2017 | \$125 or \$50 book fee if in Shemot I

### Jews in America

Thursday Mornings 10:50 a.m.-Noon  
Mar. 16 - May 25, 2017 | \$125

### Magicians, Witches, Angels & Demons in the Bible & Beyond

Tuesday Evenings 6:30-7:40 p.m.  
Mar. 14 - May 23 | \$125  
Thursday Mornings 10:50 a.m.-Noon

### New Melton Courses Beginning March 2017

All courses take place at Adath Jeshurun. Scholarships are available for all classes. Register online at [www.jewishlouisville.org/melton](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/melton). For registration by phone, information on courses and scholarships, contact Melton Director Deborah Slosberg at 502-458-5359 or [dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com).

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning is sponsored by Congregation Adath Jeshurun in collaboration with the Jewish Community Center and with support from Congregation Anshei Sfard, Keneseth Israel Congregation, Temple Shalom and The Temple. This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and the Dorothy Levy Memorial Fund. Scholarships provided by the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

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## CIRCLES

continued from page 1

already in progress.

They sat quietly on the floor to the rear of the room as the imam, Mohammed Wasif Iqbal, spoken of mercy to his congregants.

He said mercy was not something to be shown just to Muslims, to adherents of any particular faith, or even to people in general. Mercy is something to be constantly expressed, even to animals.

"Show mercy to a goat, and God will show mercy to you," Wasif said.

Rev. Peggy Hinds, interim executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches, said she was pleased, not only with the turnout, but the response from the Muslim community, which invited the visitors into its mosque and shared its food with them after the service.

"The Muslim community feels sup-



Imam Mohammed Wasif Iqbal, flanked by members of the Louisville Muslim community, stands in front of the year-zelt plaques at Temple Shalom as they help form a "circle of love" around the members of the synagogue. (photo by Lee Chottiner)

ported," said Hinds, a Presbyterian minister. "That alone was worth doing it.

"Plus," she added, "we get to experience part of their prayers, and that was good for us. For some, it may have been the first time. There is a wonderful cadence and calmness [to the prayers]. I just wanted to close my eyes and listen."

Wasif said his congregation does appreciate the support. Happily though, it's not unusual. By his count, at least 600 visitors came to the Islamic Center in 2016 as talk of Muslim bans and a Muslim registry made headlines during the campaign season.

"This is something regular, almost on a weekly basis," he said.

The Temple's Rapport also expressed admiration for the gathering — inside and outside the mosque.

"Nice expression of unity," he said. "We should all be able to pray together."

## CAMPAIGN

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reception before seeing *Funny Girl* at The J on February 9. John Leffert, CenterStage artistic director, spoke about the iconic role Fanny Bryce has played in the Jewish community and several actors visited the women at the reception to talk about their experience in this classic musical.

We deeply appreciate how many members of our community answered the call and gave generously on Super

Sunday, January 29. This event has become a community outreach initiative as we strive to connect with our donors in meaningful ways. In just a few hours, our dedicated volunteers connected with more than 200 donors. In addition to securing over \$55,000 for our campaign, volunteers took time to thank donors who have already pledged. We thank all of our volunteers who came out to help us make the calls, including former Mayor and Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson.

Stay tuned for more community outreach telethons throughout the cam-

paign to both thank our donors and enable us to reach our goals for 2017. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Geoff Brooks, senior campaign manager, at [GBrooks@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:GBrooks@jewishlouisville.org).

Thanks to Super Sunday and our campaign volunteers, February marked a significant step closer to our JHFE challenge grant. We just passed the halfway point of our \$200,000 challenge grant with Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, but we still need more help. Once again, you can double your impact with every new dollar given to the 2017

Federation Campaign.

We still have much more to go to help us offer *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). Whether it's providing social services to those in need, helping ensure the best in Jewish education, or strengthening Jewish communities, you can make difference. Please consider donating to the Federation Campaign at [www.jewishlouisville.org/donate](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/donate).

(Benji Berlow is the Young Adult and Hillel director of the Jewish Federation of Louisville.)

## SILVERMAN

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Wall, Silverman, will speak on the struggle to bring pluralistic worship to Judaism's holiest shrine.

The mother of five children, including two adopted boys from Ethiopia, and the author of a new memoir about her experience, *Casting Lots*, Silverman also will beat the drum for adoption in the Jewish world, promoting her nonprofit organization, Second Nurture, which provides guidance to prospective families.

But she also hopes to talk about Holot and the refugees she has met there. She believes Israel is missing a chance to affect positive change in the global refugee crisis.

"The thing about Israel is, we're a start-up nation; we have such a great ability to be partners in solving the problems of the world," Silverman said. "So why don't we take Holot and make it a start-up university and teach the Eritreans on what it takes to create a start-up nation? Create a curriculum, then export it to expat Eritreans around the world. Then, when it's safe to go back to Eritrea, we'll have this army of people that can build a democracy."

The sister of comedian Sarah Silverman and the daughter of atheists, Silverman hardly expected to become a Reform rabbi.

Yet after meeting her future husband, Yosef Abramowitz, an environmental and political activist who co-founded

the Arava Power Company — a solar energy developer, she gravitated to religious study and ultimately the rabbinate.

As a Women of the Wall board member, Silverman has been in the thick of the struggle to attain social and legal recognition of women's rights to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah, collectively and aloud, at the Kotel.

As a mother, she sees adoption, not just as a means to help childless couples, but parentless children.

"The paradigm for most people is adoption is a way for people to become parents if they have fertility issues," she said, "but I want to flip that paradigm and say adoption is a good way for children outside of families to get parents.

We also have to remember that adoption is for the sake of the child to have a family." She said an estimated 81 million adults have considered adoption.

She said Second Nurture ([communityadoption.org](http://communityadoption.org)), which will eventually assist families from all backgrounds, but for now, concentrates on Jewish homes, is about helping families who have considered the route to realize how feasible it is.

"We come to a synagogue and say here is the situation; here are the needs. We are guessing there are 10 of those 81 million adults in this synagogue right now, how can we help you move forward?"

## WAGNER

continued from page 2

We also know political decisions are made in Israel — on security, settlements, religious equality — that resonate with some and isolate others. None of us should disengage, though, and I am pleased to report that our recent com-

munity forum on religious equality was highlighted during one of the trip's sessions.

Our Federation encourages respectful, meaningful dialogue in our community. Israel was created for the Jewish people. As American Jews, it is our responsibility to continuously build our relationship with her.

Israelis are making choices every day

that inspire me. For example, Yad by Yad, a public school in Jerusalem open to Arabs and Jews, which we visited, has become a beacon of hope. These families are ensuring that their children will grow up knowing and understanding each other.

Let us help you connect to Israel through our community programs and through partnership2gether with the

Western Galile or taking a trip to Israel!

There is still much to do to fulfill Ben Gurion's dream. With your help, we can make it come true.

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

## GOLDBERG

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HIAS and others are on particular issues and see if there is a consistent message.

To further gauge consensus, we check how the Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Orthodox movements address issues on which we intend to release statements.

Finally, I listen to the comments from the general community. I encourage everyone to contact me with their opinions on particular issues.

Obviously, it is impossible to know the opinion of everyone in Jewish Louisville, and we do not pretend to speak on behalf of every single Jew here. Ad-

ditionally, we might misread where our community is on a particular issue. We feel confident, though, that when we speak on behalf of the community we do so with the consensus of the Jewish community behind us.

Again, if you would like to discuss any issue that we are addressing, feel free to contact me at [mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org)

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### Matanot L'Evyonim

Every year, the JCRC helps to raise money around Purim for a particular charity. This year, we have chosen two: the Center for Women and Families and the St. John Center for Homeless Men.

Matanot L'Evyonim is a wonderful Purim tradition of charity and these two

organizations could not be more worthy. They help people whose fortunes have reversed, helping them become self-sustaining once more. If you are interested in making a donation, please go to [jewishlouisville.org/purim-2017](http://jewishlouisville.org/purim-2017).

The JCRC "advocates for and promotes the universal interests and values of the Louisville Jewish community on a local, national and international level," according to its mission statement. "Through advocacy, consensus building, direct service, and community collaborations, the JCRC builds support for Israel, social justice, and friendship with the diverse communities of Louisville."

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

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