

CENTERPIECE

INSIDE

 Tap Dancer Wins
Louisville's Got
Talent

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The J Summer Camp Prepares for Another Great Summer

 by Mary-Kate Smith
Special for Community

When Jewish Community Center of Louisville Assistant Camp Director Kari Semel thinks back on her days as a summer camper, she can recall an abundance of fond memories.

"Camp was, for me, a place where I learned that I could achieve anything I wanted to," Semel said. "It is where I learned about peer support. Camp really shaped both my Jewish and personal identity."

Today, as an assistant camp director, Semel and the rest of the staff create a similarly supportive and exciting environment for campers of all backgrounds at The J.

"I think that camp at The J is a really great place for kids to learn what it means to be successful," she said. "Campers are guaranteed to make friends, to have an awesome time and to be supported by highly trained

staff."

The J Summer Camp boasts not only a 6-to-1 camper-to-staff ratio, it also offers more than 40 specialty camp options including cooking, video games, Lego, sports, art and theater.

Traditional camps also offer exciting opportunities, including daily swim lessons, field trips, crafts, music, games, drama, dance, archery, nature and overnights.

The J Summer Camp employs several specialists to teach and enrich these various programs. A *shaliach*, or Israeli emissary, will share Israeli games, songs, culture and language at camp, giving insight into life abroad and widening the horizons of campers.

Mindy Mannel, director of camp, youth and family, and former assistant director of the J Early Childhood Center, is looking forward to her first summer at upper camp.

"This will be an exciting summer to be at camp," she said. "This summer we will be

building friendships, developing children's social and emotional competency, utilizing



their problem solving skills, strengthening their independence and teamwork. This is a great summer to come to camp."

All campers at The J swim daily, weather permitting.

The J Summer Camp is an American Camp Association accredited day camp, one of only a few in the Louisville area. To gain and maintain ACA accreditation, The J Camp undergoes a thorough review of up to 300 standards ranging from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. The ACA collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross and other youth-serving agencies to assure that current camp practices reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. Camps and the ACA form a partnership that promotes growth and fun in a safe environment.

PASSOVER HOURS

Monday, April 10 Close at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11 Closed
Monday, April 18 Closed

The J Business Offices will be closed Wednesday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 19, but the building will be open.

The J also offers a *Yachad* (inclusion) program that integrates children with special needs into the camp program. Yachad, which is funded largely by the National Inclusion Project, ensures that all children can participate, learn new skills, be successful and make friends. Through Yachad, children receive the support needed to succeed, whether that means the staff monitors diabetes or provides a one-on-one advocate to work with an autistic child. Advocates are available to children with special needs at no additional charge to their families.

Complete information about all 2017 J camps is available online at www.jcclouisvillecamp.org. For more information about registration, contact Mary Dooley at mdooley@jewishlouisville.org. For more information about camp programming, contact Mary-Kate Smith at msmith@jewishlouisville.org.

AZA Drew Corson Basketball Tournament More Than Just Winning and Losing

 By Bruce Snyder
Special For Community

The Louisville A squad won this year's AZA Drew Corson Basketball Tournament, beating the Indianapolis A team for the second straight year on Sunday, March 11.

Louisville guard Gabe Sherman believed his squad was the favorite all along.

"We don't like losing," he said. "We're very good. We are deep. We have 10 guys on our A team and we can all start for everyone. We are a very unselfish team and also very aggressive. That is what makes us good."

JCC teams from Louisville, Indianapolis Cincinnati and Columbus were in the Derby City for this year's contest.

But it's not all about winning.

"It really is about more than just a basketball tournament," Sherman said. "It's not just about basketball. It's about seeing everyone and having a really good time."

"Fun's a big part of this tournament," Indianapolis Forward Eyal Friedman said. "Obviously, you want to win, but everyone comes here because they want to have fun with each other. It's not just winning."

The tournament, which rotates among the four participating cities, is named for Drew Corson, a Louisville teen who passed away while playing in the event back in 1994. The local AZA chapter also is named for Corson.

BBYO Louisville City Director Kari Semel said the tournament has evolved to where winning and losing, while important,

are not the main components.

"A lot of our core Jewish values that drive our youth, can be translated through sports, Semel said. "It's great seeing the teamwork out there, and the boys working together. If someone gets injured, the players stop what they are doing because above all else, they are not enemies. They are friends who care about each other."

BBYO Regional Director Jeff Linkon said he makes sure the players walk that fine line between emphasizing winning and looking at the big picture.

"That's something we teach in BBYO besides just our athletic component," Linkon said. "We're a leadership organization, so lessons like that are ingrained in everything that we do."

It's a big part of the reason why after the tournament, all the teams took part in the March 12 #WeStandTogether Rally for Unity on the front steps of The J. The demonstration began shortly after another bomb threat was received at the Indianapolis JCC.

"Our teams had an opportunity to be on stage, representing their communities and their JCC's, because every one of our communities have been under attack with threats," Linkon said. "This is something that touches all of our hearts."

The squads at the tournament were made up of players from eighth to 12th grade. Many have been practicing every weekend since the beginning of the year. While this event is for boys only, there are also plenty of girls involved, cheering on their respective teams.



"For the people who come here, obviously there is a sense of competition, but it is in total friendship," says former Regional Director Laina Meyerowitz. "It is fun to decompress from your regular schedule at school, and with those people you see every day. So we're thankful that we get to come together like this every once in a while."

Regional Leadership Coordinator Samantha Katz said she looks forward to the yearly tournament. "Everyone has their own traditions, but it's interesting to hear how everyone has their own views. It is neat to see how our JCC functions versus every else."





GATORS SPRING SWIM TEAM

April 18-May 19, 2017

PRACTICE TIMES

Ages 10 & Under:
Tuesdays 5-6 p.m.
Fridays 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Ages 11 & Up:
Tuesdays 6-7 p.m.
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Fee:
\$50 one day a week,
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www.jewishlouisville.org/gators

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5:45-6:30 p.m.



TRX Suspension Training is an accelerated full-body cardio and strength workout which uses bodyweight exercises to simultaneously develop power, endurance, mobility, durability, balance, flexibility and core stability.

FEE: \$90
\$72 The J Members

INSTRUCTOR:
Collin Fitzsimmons

www.jewishlouisville.org/trx
502-238-2727

‘Seinfeld’ taught Wolff valuable lesson: Go out on top

By Bruce Snyder
Special For Community

A show about nothing turned into something at Theatre Marketplace. The author of the book *Seinfeldia*, Jennifer Keishin Armstrong, along with the show’s musical creator, Louisville’s own Jonathan Wolff, told stories, showed video clips and examined the cultural impact of the comedy classic.

“The thing that surprised me the most is how vibrant the continuing fan culture is,” Armstrong said. “There are still Twitter wars over *Seinfeld*, and big events. I went to a trivia event that was so intense. People know so much about it that they have to make the trivia questions incredibly hard. It’s incredible.”

Nothing was off limits during the March 4 discussion, presented by The J Arts & Ideas. From famous catchphrases like “yada, yada, yada,” and “No Soup for You”, to the inspiration for famous scenes like Elaine trying to dance, to the show’s music itself, the audience learned there was a reason for just about every plotline.

Wolff described an early meeting he had with creators Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David about why he wanted a bass to be a prominent part of the program.

“Jerry came over to my place. We watched some of his comedy. I noticed his delivery had a rhythmic lilt to it,” Wolff said. “I put a clock on it. It was about 1:10. That became the tempo. I explained we would use a bass. I created a bass line that was so simple, it did not require four beats to hold water. You could start and stop, to allow for the timing of his jokes and his laughs. I knew each monologue would have different timing, so I would need to create a new piece of music for every monologue that we did on *Seinfeld*. Those were the parameters I set up for myself.”

Wolff sees the show’s music as part of its signature. “You need an identifiable signature, so when people hear it from the other room, they will have that Pavlovian response,” He said. “It seems to be surviving. It has legs.”

The first *Seinfeld* episode aired in a less-than-desirable time slot, right in the middle of vacation season, July 5, 1989. NBC originally committed to just four episodes. As the show started resonating, the audience and ratings both grew.



Seinfeldia author Jennifer Keishin Armstrong and Jonathan Wolff. (photo by Ted Wirth)

Armstrong said the key to the show was a very basic concept. It was funny.

“That’s more significant than it sounds,” she said. “What they were trying to do with this show is concentrate on comedy, that nothing else matters except to be funny. They succeeded and it worked.”

Armstrong said every episode was based on real life. For example, Elaine’s confusing and laughable dance steps, according to the author’s research, were influenced by none other than the moves of *Saturday Night Live* creator Lorne Michaels.

The episode where Kramer starts the J Peterman Reality Bus Tour was inspired by a bus tour given by Kenny Kramer. He’s the real man upon whom the character Cosmo Kramer is based.

Seinfeld ran for nine seasons and 169 episodes. Most of them are loved. Then there’s the finale, which the website vulture.com ranked as the third worst *Seinfeld* episode.

“I’ve become a defender of the finale,” Armstrong said. “A lot of people hated that finale. I encourage people to watch it again, because part of their disappointment was the hype around it. I’ve watched it many times, for this book. It was a good piece of art on its own. I always say what did you want, to see Elaine and Jerry getting mar-

ried? No, I don’t want to see that. That’s disgusting.

“The only other option was for the finale to do a completely normal episode and pretend it’s not a finale at all,” she continued. “*Seinfeld* is all about how people are stuck together. They can’t get away from each other. They’ll always be together until the day they die.”

The Louisville audience was fortunate to see Armstrong and Wolff together. While Armstrong will continue with her book tour, Wolff retired from show business years ago. After working 75 prime time network TV series, he decided to raise his family here in Louisville.

“Our family needed me more than Hollywood needed my music,” he said. “So we went to Louisville, and lived a quiet life where I could be a full-time PTA parent, field trip chaperone, and assistant coach. We have four kids who were raised in the Jewish community. I still have two in high school. We’ve really enjoyed it.

“Now that they’re older, they don’t need me as much,” he added. “I travel. I give lectures at universities. I give concerts, where I tell stories from the piano. It’s fun. I left because it was time. It was something I learned from *Seinfeld*, to go out on top.”

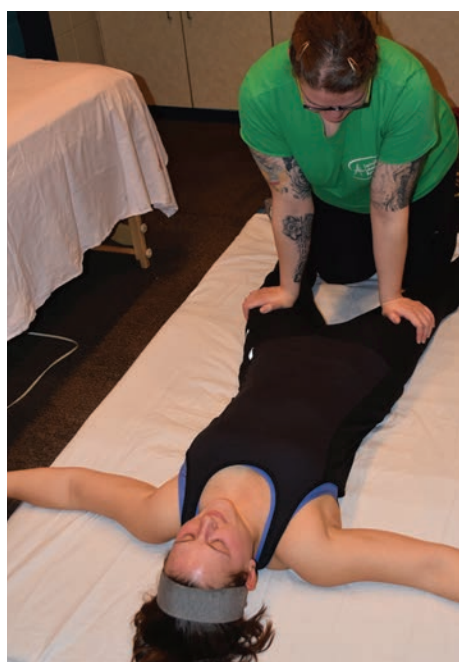
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CLASSES AT THE J:
TUESDAYS
APR 25-MAY 16
THURSDAYS
APR 27-MAY 18
6-9:30 P.M.

Participants must attend all classes in order to be certified.

INSTRUCTOR:
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To register, call 502-238-2727.
For more information, call Johnny Kimberlin at 502-238-2742.



New massage therapy options available at The J!

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Trigger Point | Fertility
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jewishlouisville.org/massage

Tap dancer takes home top prize in Louisville's Got Talent

By Sara Traugher
Special For Community

Daniel Scofield claimed the grand prize of this year's *Louisville's Got Talent* competition, capping the evening with an impressive tap dancing performance.

Dancing to choreography that resembled the dash and grace of Fred Astaire, Daniel captivated the audience as he shuffled, swung and jumped across the stage. He performed the classic, "Cheek to Cheek" – the version sung by Anthony Strong – with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin.

Daniel won \$400 and professional talent coaching.

But he was not the only talented performer who competed Sunday, February 26, the fourth year that CenterStage has presented the annual contest.

Never a dull moment, 20 diverse singers and dancers, chosen from 50 auditions, competing in two age groups – 6-12 and 13-18 – sang harmonies, solo covers and originals, and danced ballet and tap selections.

Jake Latts, a celebrated local actor fresh

from his portrayal of Tevye in KCD's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, acted as presenter for the evening, while Keith Kaiser from WDRB emceed the event. Both entertained between acts, with Kaiser asking Latts, at the end of the night, "Of all the talents you've seen, name one talent you don't have."

While a panel of judges settled on its own favorites, everyone in the audience also had a hand in choosing a winner, using the ballots in their programs to vote for the People's Choice Award.

They selected Annie Dauk, Haley Cohen and Ella Witt, who performed *Flying Away* from Fun Home, music by Jeanine Tesori and lyrics by Lisa Kron. Robust harmonies and overlapping lines from each singer intertwined to symbolized three different stages of a girl's life: One spread her arms, standing on a chair pretending to fly; another solemnly sat; the third wrote a message to her father. The girls won \$100 and a gift basket.

Lachley McCubbin won in the 6-12 age group. The first act of the night's show, she blended acting and singing in "Naughtiness" from *Matilda*, music and lyrics by Tim

Minchin. With control of voice and body language, sitting, standing upon and dancing around one prop – a wooden block with a big letter M – she adopted the role of the determined, lovably mischievous Matilda. Lachley took home a \$200 for her performance.

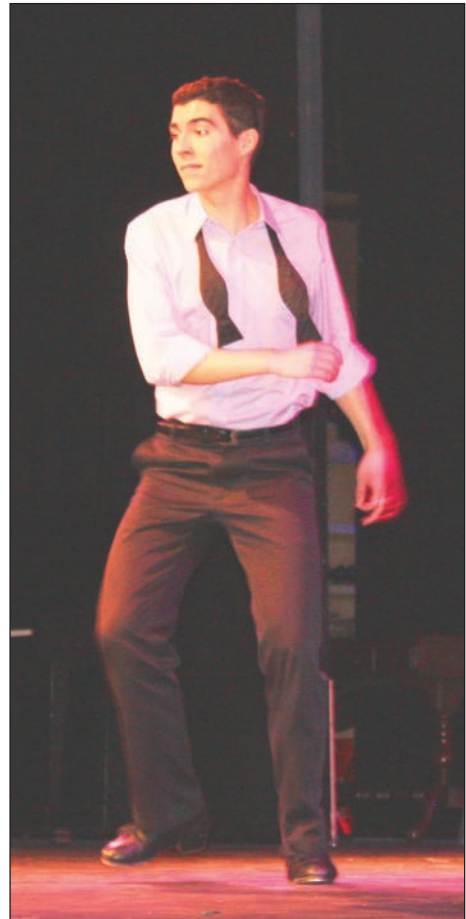
Marita Gonzalez, who performed her original composition, "Muddy Water," won in the 13-18 age group. Gonzalez, with her solo guitar, was a natural on stage. Her calm demeanor and sincere confidence told the audience that this girl has a future ahead of her. She, too, claimed a \$200 prize.

Louisville's Got Talent raised more than \$6700 for CenterStage's Acting Out touring theater troupe, which visits area schools and community centers to present educational and relevant musical theater to students at all grade levels. The total cash and prizes valued over \$2,000.

CenterStage recognized this year's judges: Robert Curran, Louisville Ballet artistic director; Ian Derrer, Kentucky Opera general director; Gabriel Lefkowitz, Louisville Orchestra concertmaster; Tamika McDonald, professional vocalist and actress; and Matt Wallace, Kentucky Shakespeare producing artistic director.

CenterStage also thanked its sponsors for their support: Bingham Greenbaum Doll, Northern Trust, Kate & Allan Latts, Max & Ellen Shapira, Najlas, Dancensation Studios, Kristen Dobrodziej, The Lapinski Family, Jake Latts, Ellen and Richard Miller, The Price Family, Judy Shapira, Susanna Westerfield, Lenihan Sotheby's Realty, Stuart and Colleen White, Jennifer and Dr. Jeff Tuvlin, Dr. Kenneth and Shelly Zegart, Elizabeth and Brandt Tilis, The Kamen Family and Cynthia M. Gonzalez.

Finally, the company recognized last year's winner, 7-year-old Vaughn Michael Ramirez and 2014's winner, Kylie McGuffey.



Daniel Scofield, Bingham Greenbaum Doll Grand Champion of *Louisville's Got Talent* 2017

Giving all the performers special recognition, Latts said. "Together we can make a difference. [We] extend gratitude to all who auditioned."



Ella Witt, Haley Cohen and Annie Dauk, the Jake Latts People's Choice Winner of *Louisville's Got Talent* 2017

Seniors Learn to Date Again in Movie

A movie that proves it is never too late to date, *The Age of Love*, will be shown at The J Patio Gallery on Thursday, March 30, at 1 p.m. The showing is free for everyone as part of the Kindred Active Adult Series. Dessert and drinks will follow the movie.

Born in the years before World War II, none of the 30 registrants for Rochester, NY's first senior speed dating event dreamt of being flung into the high-tech social scene of the new millennium. But now, as posters go up, local media buzzes and anxious anticipation grows, these typically overlooked elders lay their hearts on the line, fearlessly confronting realities of physical appearance, romance and loneliness, loss and new beginnings.

An 82-year-old bodybuilding champ, bitingly divorced in his 50's, imagines someone new by his side; a skydiving widow dulls her loss by pursuing younger men; an on-line-dating addict searches the web for Mr. Right; a romantic discards his portable oxygen for a sunset tango on the beach; a 1940s movie fanatic who escaped an abusive marriage still seeks her "Fred and Ginger" romance. Faced with feelings "even our own kids never ask about," each dater's intimate confessions blend with revealing vérité to shed light on the unexpectedly intense and complex feelings that lurk behind wrinkled skin and thinning hair.

The event arrives, and seniors, coiffed and polished, show up armed with ice-breakers and nervous attempts at humor. As the

five-minute "dates" begin, they seek common ground in medical ailments, senior discounts and Big Band memories. Yet, beneath the hearty banter simmer ageless hopes and fears: Will they be harshly judged over looks and deficiencies? Will inner desires match real-world possibilities? And can they reach past old loves and losses and open up to a stranger once again?

It's only days later, as results envelopes are torn open by anxious hands, that the moment of truth arrives. And it's suddenly clear how little changes in the realm of love—not awkward teenage anxieties, not the delight at being desired, and not the clumsy tears at rejection.

Several first dates that lead to unexpected comedy and distress. One man can't stop talking about his hospitalizations, a woman claims to be matched with the wrong date, and one couple, crammed in a cluttered kitchen, struggle to summon any small talk at all. But then, there is the first glimmer of a pairing that might evolve into a new and mature love.

Playful and wise, passionate and inspiring, these senior daters entertain and enlighten with a candor that puts media stereotypes to shame. Something's clearly at stake in each life, whether the find the love or not, they are determined to grow and learn and try.

Register online for free tickets in advance at www.jewishlouisville.org/ageoflove.



Aqua Yoga
Tuesdays • April 4-25*
9:30-10:30 a.m.
*No class on April 11
Wednesdays • April 5-26
7:30-8:30 p.m.
www.jewishlouisville.org/aquayoga

J LAP POOL OPENING



OPENING APRIL 16
NOON-6 P.M.
When the air temperature is over 60 degrees.

Sunday: 12-5:45 p.m.
Monday-Friday: 12-6 p.m.
Saturday: 12-5:45 p.m.

See the full pool schedule online at:
www.jewishlouisville.org/pool-schedule.

PICTURE THIS: SPRING SING



A packed house of proud parents and family watched as children from the Pomegranate, Olive, Wheat and Barley classes performed during the annual Spring Sing on Sunday, March 5. The event is also a fundraiser for The J ELC, with a silent auction raising more than \$6,000.



PICTURE THIS: ELC FAMILY SUPPORTS GLEN'S ARMY



On Sunday, March 26, Pamela Pettit, a teacher at The J ELC, will shave her head in support of the St. Baldrick's Foundation and Glen's Army. Glen Bayne, now 4, was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma two years ago. Glen celebrated one year free of the disease last October and will scan again on April 10. Glen's Army is a group of parents, teachers and friends who are fighting the disease with the family. The J ELC family supported several fundraisers, including a CureSearch Walk in 2014 where they raised more than \$13,000. Donations for Pamela's head shave can be made at <https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/pamsdonationpage>



Rock Steady Boxing

Tuesdays & Thursdays • Starting April 4 • 4:30-5:30 p.m.
For men and women diagnosed with Parkinson's disease

Fight your way out of the corner and start to feel and function better!

Fee: \$120, \$100 The J Members
\$20 drop-in fee



www.jewishlouisville.org/rocksteadyboxing

SENIOR CALENDAR

MARCH 28

ElderServe Presents: "Eating the Rainbow: Love your Colorful Fruits & Vegetables, 12:45 p.m.

Join us for this colorful class on the benefits of "eating the rainbow." You will learn how to add more fruits and vegetables to your diet and simple, effective ways of becoming more active. There will be a healthy snack and low-impact exercises to increase physical activity, an important part of weight management and health.

MARCH 29

Intergenerational, Interfaith Model Seder, 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Bensinger Family in memory of Judith Bensinger & Margot Barr. Join us for this annual event with the Hebrew School students. Cantor Sharon Hordes from Keneseth Israel Congregation will lead us in the service followed by a catered dinner prepared by Gerry Burns. Cost of event: \$5/M, \$8/NM. RSVP by Wednesday, March 22.

MARCH 30

The Age of Love film screening, 1 p.m.

Free screening of the documentary *The Age of Love*, which follows 30 70-to90 year olds who sign up for a speed dating experience. They lay their hearts on the line to in search of love. The film will be shown in the Patio Gallery as part of the Kindred Active Adult Series.

APRIL 4

Senior Retirees Meeting, 12:45 p.m.

Jerry Abramson will speak about his time as White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and give insight into life in Washington, DC. He will also reveal his future plans. Refreshments will be served.

APRIL 10-18

The JCC Nutrition Site will be closed on Monday, April 10, to Tuesday, April 18, for Passover. Normal schedule will resume on Wednesday, April 19.

APRIL 20

Louisville Orchestra's Music without Borders Concert, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrates American music with a kaleidoscope of ensembles, including several varieties of chamber groups, Teddy Abrams and the Louisville Orchestra musicians, playing a variety of music from American composers at The Temple. Cost of ticket & transportation: \$20/M, \$23/NM. RSVP by Wednesday, April 12.

APRIL 25

Elderserve Presents "How Sweet It Is: Limiting Sugar in Your Diet," 12:45 p.m.

Learn about how foods high in sugar sneak into your diet and the effective way to reduce consumption of these foods.



Spring Camp is April 3-7

Come join us in the festivities! This year for Spring Camp we are going around the world in celebration with themes ranging from Chanukah to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Each day we will celebrate a different festival with crafts and games. On Thursday, April 6, we will take a field trip.

Monday-Friday • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Extended day options available.

Registration is open online at
www.jewishlouisville.org/springcamp