

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE
Jewish cancer
survivor put Louisville
on his bucket list
STORY ON PG. 7

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Historic career



Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks of The Temple, surrounded by her family, smiles as she accompanies them on the guitar during the Havdalah service at her December 3 retirement banquet. Rooks, who will now be known as "rabbi emerita," served the Temple for 30 years. (photo by Jay May)

The Temple honors retiring Gaylia Rooks, Kentucky's first woman rabbi, social activist

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Lighting the Havdalah candle from the bima of The Temple – "home," as Rabbi Yael Rooks Rapport called it – she described how the service represents a spiritual separation, a chance to build a better world in the week to come.

"I can't imagine a more beautiful and sacred moment to celebrate my mom," she said.

Yael, her husband, David Moser, her brother, Lev, and their father, Rabbi Joe "Joshua" R. Rapport, led the capacity congregation of 300 Saturday, December 3, in the service as their mother and wife, Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks, accompanied on guitar.

It was the start of an emotional evening celebrating Rooks, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the Temple.

The evening included a banquet, video presentation and proclamations from

U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth and Louisville Metro Councilman Brandon Coan.

(Coan delivered his proclamation for Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, who signed it. Yarmuth, noting that congressmen have no authority to make proclamations, nevertheless declared Saturday – unofficially – "Rabbi Gaylia Rooks Day.")

Though she is officially a senior rabbi at The Temple until June, she will spend her last months on sabbatical.

Rooks is leaving behind a historic legacy. The first woman rabbi in Kentucky, she has served the congregation along with her husband since 1988.

She became a leader in the field of interfaith relations, a fact she cemented when she responded with her congregants to the defacing of the Louisville Islamic Center in 2015, working with others in the community to wash away the spray-painted Stars of David and anti-Islamic slurs.

She has committedly volunteered for the WHAS Crusade for Children, appeared regularly on *The Moral Side* Sunday morning talk show, and overseen liturgical music at The Temple, working closely with the Shir Chadash choir and its director, Louie Bailey.

For her achievements, Matt Schwartz, president of The Temple, announced that Rooks will have the title "rabbi emerita" from now on, and WRJ/Sisterhood President Sandy Braunstein said the annual women's seder, which Rooks started, is being renamed in her honor.

The crowd was a cross-section of Louisville religious leaders – Jewish, Christian, Muslim – not to mention leaders in the city social service sector, all of whom have been profoundly affected by Rooks' contributions. She singled out Dr. Gene March, past head of the doctoral program at the Louisville Presbyterian

New *Community* debuts, sporting new look, new features

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Welcome to your new *Community*. As you can see, we've made some changes to the paper, especially in our appearance. We're a full-color publication now, as we should be. (The world we cover is far from black and white.)

We changed our banner atop page one to reflect a new era for Jewish Louisville's only news source, and to brighten up the look.

Inside, pages will have labels at the top, flagging you to the contents below and helping you to prioritize your reading. News, Arts, Business, Federation, Religion and Globe are some of the labels you are likely to see.

But the biggest change to appearance is our new printer. We welcome AIM Media of Greenfield, Indiana, to the *Community* team. The printer of *Louisville Business First*, AIM immediately impressed us with its expertise and attention to detail. We think you will notice right away the crispness and vitality of our photos, text and general neatness. A good-looking paper enhances your reading experience.

As for content, we hope you like our new *Dashboard* section on page two. *Dashboard* is your jump-off to your monthly reading experience with *Community*. It lassos small, but essential, details that were once scattered throughout the paper: Shabbat candle-lighting times, a feature photo and contact info. We also moved the *D'var Torah* to this section, giving our rabbis and cantors a highly visible forum to start your reading experience on an upbeat note.

Some of our biggest changes are in our content. Not only are we recruiting some exceptional bloggers to write online for us (big shout out to Ruth Greenberg, who writes *Grandparenting in the 21st Century* at jewishlouisville.org/community), but we are excited to introduce a news partnership with our friends at *Louisville Distilled*, one of the inspiring online news entities in the Derby City. *Community* and *LD*

See **COMMUNITY** on page 23

See **ROOKS** on page 23



THE DASHBOARD

D'var Torah

Do you believe in miracles?

By Rabbi Simcha Snaid
For Community

During the Cold War, the world watched in disbelief as the U.S. hockey team defeated the dominant Soviet National Team in the 1980 Winter Olympics.

It is hard to describe how unlikely this victory was. Team USA, an assembly of collegiate and amateur players, was together all of six months. The Soviets were well trained, seasoned professionals who had won every Olympic Gold since 1964.

This was a modern-day David vs. Goliath.

Even though the Americans weren't given a chance by anyone, they defied all odds and beat the Soviets 4-3. In a historic moment of sports broadcasting, Al Michaels said, "Five seconds left.... Do you believe in miracles? YES!"

One significant detail of this story is often forgotten. The game against the Russians was not the gold medal game. In 1980, the Olympic medal was a round-robin tournament. The victory over the Soviets earned the Americans nothing. Earning a medal depended on the outcome of their next game, against Finland.

Team USA fell behind 2-1 after two periods, but rallied to beat the Finns 4-2 and win gold.

While a critical moment (imagine if they didn't take the gold after beating the Soviets), the win over Finland is nowhere near as dramatic. It will never place in the top 500 moments of sports history and will never have the term "miracle" associated with it.

The reason is obvious. The Soviets were invincible. The best hockey team on the planet. The Finns, were mere mortals. The victory over the Soviets was miraculous, but the victory over the Finns appeared ordinary.

The story of Chanukah sounds similar.

The Greek army – well trained, highly skilled and fully armed with the most advanced weaponry of the day – was invincible. On the other hand, the small bands of Jewish fighters were farmers and scholars. They had little training, few weapons and seemingly no chance.

Imagine a group of white bearded, older looking men going to battle with the most powerful army in the world.



Rabbi Simcha Snaid

(It's OK to smirk; it's a funny sight.) Yet, these "soldiers" pulled off the unthinkable. They defeated the mighty Greeks. As we say in the special Chanukah prayer Al HaNisim, "The strong were delivered into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few."

This miraculous victory could only be ascribed to the Divine.

Chanukah is truly a time of miracles. For eight days, we gather to light the menorah, play dreidel and, of course, eat. It is easy to look at those candles and remember the miracle G-d performed for us. Our gratitude and appreciation is palpable.

And then, Chanukah is over. The candles have burned out, latkes have been consumed and the wrapping paper has been thrown away. We return to our normal lives; our usual mundane schedules resume. Seemingly, no "miracles" take place today.

How wrong we are.

We remember that Chanukah feeling we had, yearning to experience it again next year, but we can (and should) experience it throughout the year.

According to Nachmanides, G-d uses open and revealed miracles to teach us lessons. The same G-d who performed those awesome miracles long ago is also involved in our everyday lives.

Everyday occurrences are no less miraculous and no less driven by G-d's hand. We are just more used to them. They are frequently cloaked in what we call "nature." The sun rising or a seed growing into a stalk of wheat or huge tree are as miraculous as the gift of you being able to see and read this. They are taken for granted, but they are as miraculous as the open miracles of Chanukah.

Our challenge is to transfer the excitement we felt for a team chasing a hockey puck into the numerous miracles we are showered with daily by a loving and caring G-d. That will earn us the gold medal for living a full and meaningful life.

(Rabbi Simcha Snaid is the spiritual leader of Anshei Sfard.)

Snapshot



Boxes of gifts from generous staff at The J filled the tables at the Hanukkah Helpers drop-off. The 30-year-old program is a way to get Chanukah presents to children in the Derby City who may otherwise not have any. (photo by Tara Cocco)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in late December and early January:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • December 22 @ 5:09 | • January 12 @ 5:26 |
| • December 29 @ 5:13 | • January 19 @ 5:33 |
| • January 5 @ 5:19 | • January 26 @ 5:41 |

Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Got a news item for the February Community? Send it in by Wednesday, January 17 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by

Friday, January 26.

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



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JHFE grant to enhance Jewish theater offerings in Louisville

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Two edgy theater companies – one here, one in Chicago – will join forces over the next two years to develop productions and a summer “institute” to explore Jewish and other ethnic identities in Louisville.

Bunbury Theatre in Louisville and ShPIeL-Performing Identity in Chicago are the recipients of a two-year grant worth \$70,000 from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. They will use the money to stage two productions each year.

“We hope that this project will expand the reach of stories connected to the Jewish experience and promote multicultural understanding,” JHFE Executive Director Jeff Polson said in a prepared statement.

New plays or productions already developed by both companies could be staged here.

Bunbury already produces plays with Jewish characters and Jewish themes, said Juergen Tossman, artistic director of Bunbury Theatre.

“The community is in some danger of losing people, and I think we want to invigorate it, to bring focus to it, and do it in a theatrical way,” he said.

The collaboration will begin early next year when Bunbury presents *RED*, a Joshua Logan production about the life, work and art of Mark Rothko, *RED* will run from February 16 to March 4.

David Chack, artistic director of ShPIeL-Performing Identity, said the collaboration is a timely response to the spike in prejudice that’s gripping the country.



Juergen Tossman of the Bunbury Theatre (left) and David Chack of the ShPIeL Performing Identity will collaborate on theater projects for the next two years. (photo provided)

“Today’s rise in anti-Semitism, white nationalism, and attacks against Jews and other ethnicities, races, religions and genders demonstrate that this is needed more than ever,” he said.

At the core of the collaboration, he said, is “intercultural sharing,” which explores identities of various groups and how they interact with one another. *Hamilton*, which casts multi-ethnic actors in the roles of actual historic figures, is an example of intercultural sharing.

“People will come and look at their identities and how they merge with others,” Chack said.

The Bunbury is already known for exploring ethnic identity on the stage. In December, it put on *St. Nickaklaus and the Hanukkah Christmas*, the story of an aging Jewish actor and Holocaust sur-

vivor who tries to come to terms with his failing memory and his relationship with his adopted African-American son, estranged daughter and “smoked-up” son-in-law.

The Bunbury-ShPIeL collaboration has been in the planning stages for some time.

“Juergen and I have been talking for the past three years about doing something here,” Chack said. “He was involved in some productions that I brought for my theater project in Chicago.”

The directors approached JHFE this past March with their proposal.

To do this kind of theater, actors must “go deep” and explore their own identities, Chack said.

That’s why the grant also includes an institute component – a summer retreat for performers to work on their skills related to intercultural sharing.

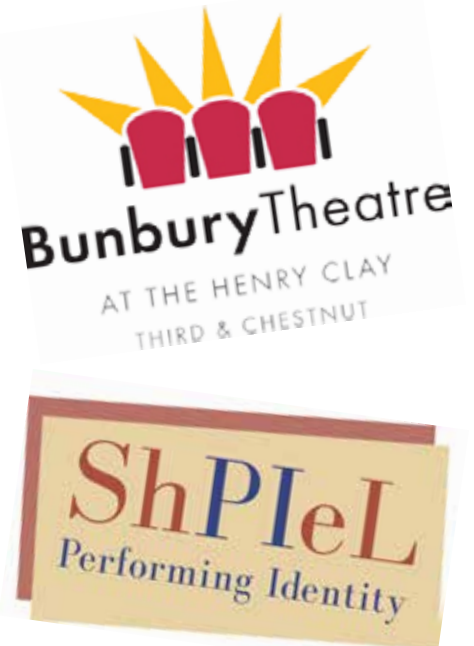
“We want to work with theater artists of all backgrounds,” Chack said. “That’s why this is so exciting. Unfortunately, we get siloed in our cultures and identities.”

The collaboration includes a community component.

“We’ll also work with the community to bring them into the process. This is why we got the grant.”

One way to do that is to strip away the barriers between the production of the play and opening night. Chack said Bunbury recently did a closed reading of a play that could soon be in production, but members of the various ethnic communities here were invited to watch.

“We want to bring people in before the work even begins,” Chack said. “We want to pull back the curtain and reveal the process, so the whole community is involved in the process.”



ShPIeL-PERFORMING Identity is a theatre and performance project with roots in Jewish performance – producing, developing and being a catalyst for works in a transcultural world.

In addition to ShPIeL, Chack is a professor of theater at DePaul University and executive director of the Association for Jewish Theatre.

He said theater is a great way to pump up Jewish identity.

“I mean, Broadway theater. C’mon! Where else are you going to find so many Jews in one place?”

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Step-up grant meant to bolster Federation giving in Louisville

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The Jewish Federation of Louisville is depending heavily on a grant to drive interest in this year's 2017-18 Annual Campaign – specifically, a three-year \$30,000 matching grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence.

If successful, as it has been in the past, the grant will encourage many donors to up their pledges, commit to their new levels for three years, and free Federation staff and volunteers to expand the donor base.

"They are very effective," Vice-President of Philanthropy Stacy Gordon-



Stacy
Gordon-Funk

commits to the new level of giving for three years.

Funk said of the so-called "step-up grant," which was awarded in October.

Intended to stimulate giving among women and major donors, the step-up grant allows the federation to match half the increase made by any qualified contributor, so long as that person

For example, if a donor at the \$1,000 level agrees to contribute \$1,800, the Federation can use the grant to match \$400 as long as the donor agrees to contribute at the higher level for three years.

Gordon-Funk announced the grant during a recent interview on the status of the campaign. She said she was pleased with, and deeply appreciative for, the level of giving so far and with the programming designed to generate interest among eclectic groups within the community.

She noted, though, that there's still a long way to go.

"A significant number of funds need to be raised," she said.

The federation has set \$2 million-plus as its goal for the campaign. It expects to get much closer to that goal during its Super Sunday phonathon in late January.

The federation supports legacy organizations, such as The J and Jewish Family & Career Services, and, through those agencies, seniors, young people, and individuals struggling with food insecurity, looking for work and other issues.

The federation, through the JDC, also subsidizes Jewish communities abroad, including Holocaust survivors living on the edge in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

JWRP women back from Israel after 'Shabbat of a lifetime'

By Elizabeth Gerber
For Community

Two years ago, Dara Woods was surfing the Internet when she came across photos her friend had posted of a recent trip to Israel.

She googled the program her friend participated in – the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project – then decided to reach out to it, asking if she could join the Indianapolis chapter on its upcoming journey.

JWRP brings together Jewish women in their own communities to learn, celebrate and grow together in their Jewish faith. That's why Woods couldn't join the Indy chapter.

To her delight, though, JWRP officials talked to her about bringing the program to Louisville.

Woods approached Sara Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville, who loved the idea.

She then participated in the interview process to select the 16 women who would make the trip to further connect with their faith and pass along their knowledge gained to their children.

With the group assembled, they embarked on a 10-day trip that connected the women to their faith as well as their culture.

That was in 2016. This past November, Woods was the Madricha for the JWRP group and used her experience from last year to guide and teach the group.

"We went a day and a half early this year," she said. "We visited our partnership region in the Western Galilee and were able to become exposed to what the Federation is supporting." Susan Rudy, a trip participant says, "I have been involved in partnership programs for over 10 years and visiting the Western Galilee for the first time connected all of the pieces for me. I enjoyed re-connecting with Israelis who have visited Louisville over the years including the women with the Cooking with Dialogue program, and Sveta, a Shlichim chaperone who stayed at my house one summer."

They visited the Cooking with Dialogue group which includes Jewish and Arab Israeli women who traveled to Louisville in 2016 on an outreach mission to the Jewish community.

The women traveled across the country by bus, which included groups of women from other cities –

Austin, Phoenix, Omaha – as well as our native Israelis. Spending time with the natives allowed the Louisville JWRP women to experience what day to day life is like in Israel.

The group floated in the Dead Sea, volunteered with troubled teens in Tel Aviv and participated in other enrichment programs throughout Israel.



The 2017 JWRP Louisville Mission during a visit to Jerusalem. (photo provided)

Upon returning to the states, these women began a year-long commitment to further live and grow in what they learned from their trip overseas.

"Not only is the trip physically and emotionally draining, it is designed to reignite the spark of Judaism in Jewish women," Woods said. "The year-long commitment is in place to help these women continue growing in their faith, creating relationships and developing ideas on how to raise their children in the Jewish faith with the toolbox they have been given from the trip."

As a rule, women are limited to participating only one time in the JWRP. Woods Dara, who acted as *madricha*, or team leader, was an exception. Her experience as a participant on the trip the first year, enabled her to help women prepare for their trip, process happenings and feelings during the journey and debrief after their return home.

In addition to Woods, Jennifer Jacobson, Jennifer Shrensker, Cari Hatch,

Amy Adams, Michelle Bornstein, Micah Daniels, Julie Ellis, Anna Feitelson, Amy Fouts, Nicole Gaston, Elizabeth Geller, Heather Gladstein, Julie Hollander (co-city leader), Alison Roemer, Susan Rudy, Allison Schwartz, Joan Simunic, Becky Swansburg (co-city leader) and Hunter Weinberg joined this year's mission.

"This trip really is a Shabbat of a lifetime," Woods said. "It's really special to spend Shabbat in Jerusalem and see the way life is lived there."

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COMMUNITY

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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: December 13 for publication on December 22 and January 17 for publication on January 26.

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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The appearance of advertising in **Community** does not represent a kashruth endorsement.

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

Lee Chottiner

Editor

502-238-2783, lcottiner@jewishlouisville.org

Kristy Benefield

Community Subscriptions

502-238-2739, kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org

Ben Goldenberg

Marketing Director

502-238-2711, bgoldenberg@jewishlouisville.org

Bella Hodge

Sr. Graphic Designer & Web Manager

502-238-2778, bhodge@jewishlouisville.org

Shiela Steinman Wallace

Editor Emeritus

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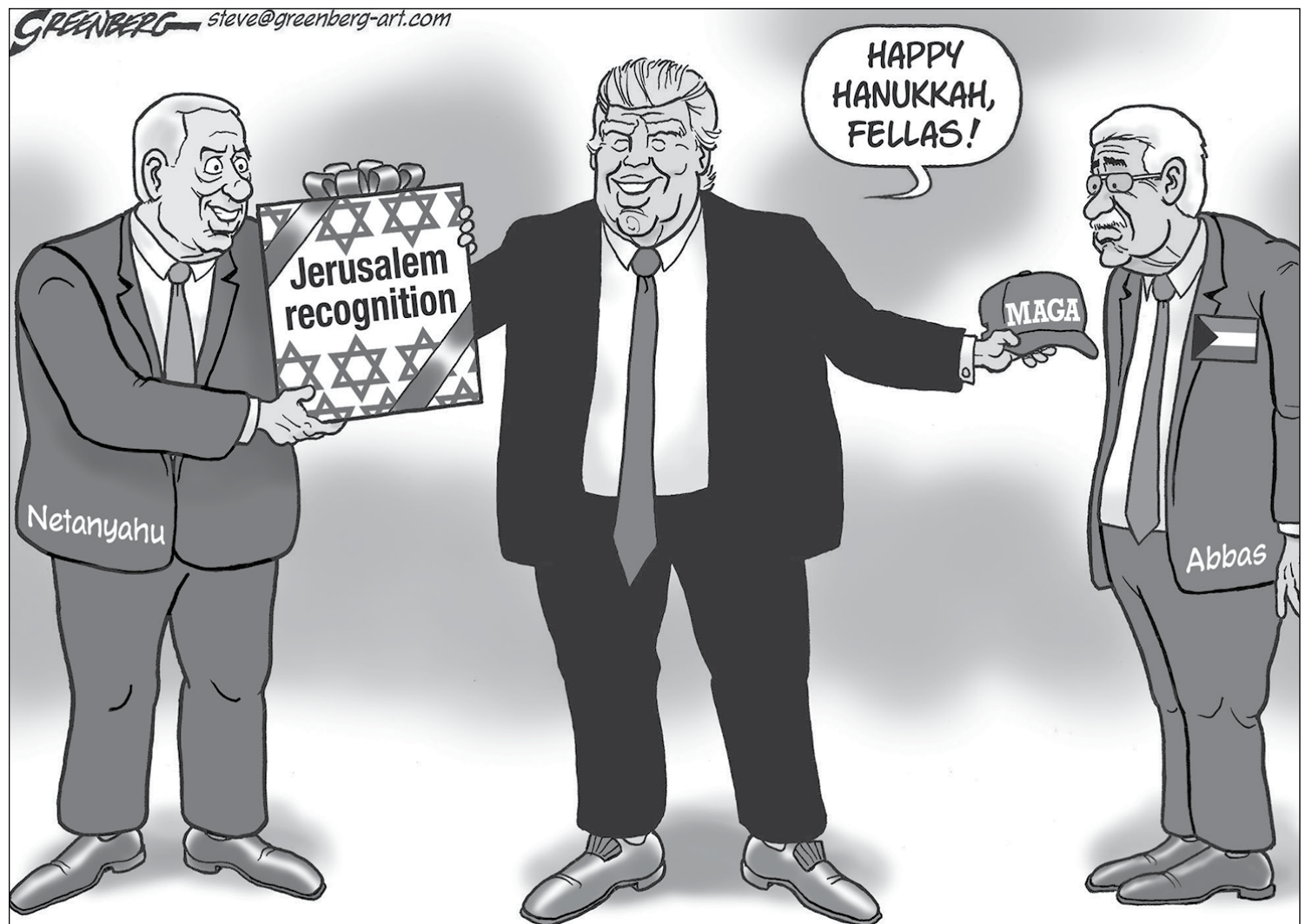
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THE FORUM



Year in Review: Could 2017 crises lead to 2018 breakthroughs in peace process, interfaith ties?

The Jewish Community Relations Council concerns itself with many issues affecting Jewish Louisville, and this year has been a remarkable one to say the least, for good and bad reasons.

On the international front, we saw an increase in global anti-Semitism. The rise of far-right groups around the world, particularly in Europe, are disconcerting. Just this week, the Austrian Freedom Party, which has roots in neo-Nazi circles, is now a junior partner in the Austrian government.

In Hungary, the right-wing Jobbik Party, also with anti-Semitic and Fascist roots, has gained seats in that country's parliament, and a sizeable share of the electorate.

Other countries of Europe – Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden – are seeing substantial rises in anti-immigrant and xenophobic parties and attitudes.

In addition to these right-wing groups, anti-Semitism is emerging elsewhere. Since President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, kosher shops in Paris have been attacked and two synagogues in Sweden have been firebombed.

For Israel, little has changed this year, which is both good and bad. On the security front, aside from occasional attacks, the country remains safe. No major conflagrations with the Palestinians occurred this year. Israel's alleged attacks against militarily significant sites in Syria have not been answered, and it appears that the Jewish state has created a strong deterrence that is keeping things calm.

Israel continues to grow its military strength and capabilities. It has made diplomatic inroads with previously hos-

tile countries (e.g., Saudi Arabia).

On the diplomatic front, though, a long sought-after peace agreement with the Palestinians seems as far away as ever, and prospects for a renewed peace push are increasingly dim. There is a distinct lack of trust about intentions on



Matt Goldberg

both sides, and it is increasingly unclear whether any individual or country can bridge that gap.

The Israeli government has backtracked on an agreement to provide an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall, maintaining the ultra-Orthodox status quo that is negatively affecting worldwide Jewish support for Israel. Again, the prospects for positive developments on this front are slim. The JCRC, along with most other Jewish communities around the world, will be taking further steps to affect change and have diaspora voices heard.

Domestically, developments this year that threaten Jewish values (and laws and programs that express those values) have left many Jews uneasy. Attacks on transgender rights, healthcare, reproductive rights, environmental responsibility and poverty programs will only fuel Jewish efforts in 2018 to do what we can to protect those negatively affected here at home.

Of course, one major U.S. news item that took place this year, which especially concerns Jews, is what happened

in Charlottesville, Virginia. We saw anti-Semitism on full display in a manner we had not seen for many years. Neo-Nazis chanting "The Jews will not replace us!" and members of the Charlottesville Jewish community leaving their synagogue by the back door following Shabbat services (and after hiding their Torah scrolls) raise the specter of darker times in our history.

In addition, the equally horrible actions taken against our friends in the African-American, Latino and immigrant communities, and a tepid response from President Trump, all left a loud and clear wake-up call to Jewish Louisville. We should renew our bonds with all groups targeted by those perpetrators in Charlottesville.

Hidden in these challenges, though, could be cause for optimism. Our relations with other faith and ethnic groups are getting better. Charlottesville became a rallying point, not just for Jews, but the entire country, and old alliances are being renewed.

Israel's improving relations with the greater Arab world (spurred mostly by a mutual distrust of Iran) might – just might – increase the possibility for movement towards a two-state solution. Our efforts with friends in Israel to push for religious pluralism have dramatically increased as awareness and concern of the fraying relationship between Israelis and Diaspora Jews is growing.

We hope 2018 is a happy year for our community here and around the world, and that your hopes and prayers, whatever they may be, are fulfilled.

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

Jewish businessman, survivor of deadly cancer, goes nationwide with story

Shortly after Jason Mendelsohn learned that he had stage 4 HPV-related tonsil cancer, the 44-year-old Florida businessman began making videos to each of his three kids – just in case.

Just in case he wasn't there for their b'nai mitzvah, their weddings, the birth of their children – his grandchildren.

"I actually said one day you're going to be married. I'm not going to be there. This is what's important," he recalled.

That was in 2014. Today, Mendelsohn, now 48, is cancer free.

Instead of getting on with his life, though, the Orlando-based insurance appraiser is dedicating it to other victims of this dreaded, but largely unheard of, disease.

He has joined the executive board of the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance, the national organization dedicated to detection and treatment of head and neck cancers. Until recently, he was the only member of the panel who was not a physician.

He also joined the board of the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute.

And he travels – extensively – giving interviews, raising money, connecting with other cancer survivors and generally spreading the word about the virus that affects three out of four adults by the time they're 30, and is treatable.

"My goal is to have my story told on seven continents in as many languages as possible – to save lives worldwide," he said.

Sitting in a Louisville Panera during a recent visit here (he came to town to tour bourbon distilleries – something from the bucket list he compiled while fighting the cancer), Mendelsohn pulled back the top of his overcoat, revealing a long,



Lee Chottiner

neck. After 10 days of antibiotics and steroids, he had a biopsy done. It confirmed the worst.

That diagnosis led to a radical tonsillectomy, a neck dissection, 42 lymph nodes removed, seven weeks of chemo and radiation therapy, and a feeding tube.

"I couldn't swallow my own saliva for a month," Mendelsohn said. "It was brutal."

Slowly, as he started to heal, word of his illness leaked out.

While still in bed, a client of his called to say he was doing the Ride to Conquer Cancer – a two-day, 150-mile cycling trek to benefit Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. He mentioned Mendelsohn in a video he made, wrote his name across his jersey and suggested Mendelsohn ride with him next year – after he beat the disease.

Such a tall ambition for a guy still undergoing therapy who never actually rode a touring bike before, but when he was well enough, Mendelsohn began training with a local bike shop employee who heard about his case. He raised

crescent-shape scar on the right side of his neck. It's a constant reminder of everything he almost lost. It extends from the bottom of his right ear to the center of his throat.

Doctors think he contracted the virus more than 25 years ago while in college. One day, in 2014, he felt a bump on his

\$25,000 on Facebook in eight weeks. Organizers for the event even asked him to speak at the opening day ceremony.

This was about when he realized he had a story to tell and a difference to make.

News outlets began asking him for interviews, including *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*, which did a segment about him.

He's organizing Smash Cancer Tennis Tournament at the USTA National Campus in Orlando. It's tentatively slated for November 2018 and will benefit the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance.

Recently, he went live with a slick-looking website – www.SupermanHPV.com – which tells his story. It's based on the name his friends gave him as he recovered from the treatment. They bought him a Superman T-shirt and figures.

He's committed to helping people with the disease find transportation to the hospitals where it's treated (a major problem, doctors tell him) and find dental care for problems caused by the cancer (loss of saliva, jaw problems).

All of which is good stuff, but why is this a Jewish story? It's not like HPV-related cancers are Jewish genetic diseases, such as Tay-Sachs or Crohns.

True, Mendelsohn is Jewish. (His twin daughters celebrated their b'nai mitzvah in Israel – on Masada.)

And the Jewish press has saturated him with coverage. So far, the *Oregon Jewish Life*, *Canadian Jewish News*, *Heritage Florida Jewish News*, *The New York Jewish Week*, *Atlanta Jewish Times*, *Intermountain Jewish News* (Denver), *Washington Jewish Week* – and us – have published stories.

But this is a Jewish story, Mendelsohn said, because lives – Jewish and non-Jewish – are at stake. Mendelsohn is trying to save lives.

As it says in Mishna Sanhedrin, "Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world."

"It may sound hokey," Mendelsohn said, "but people want to protect people, and it's a good story."

Besides, he added, his hope is "that fathers will no longer have to make videos to their kids."

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



Jason Mendelsohn, who survived HPV-related tonsil cancer in 2014, visited Louisville recently to tour the bourbon distilleries – a thing to do that had been on his bucket list. (photo provided)



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When women rabbis say ‘#MeToo,’ communities must pay attention

Rabbi Hara Person
Guest Columnist

NEW YORK – In a recent talk at Temple Emanuel here, former first lady Michelle Obama spoke about how women live with tiny cuts that build up over time, cuts that we endure without noticing, even as we bleed. That is what it is to be a girl and a woman in this world, she said, urging women to own our scars, and to find power and healing in doing so.

The last weeks have been a sobering reminder that sexual misconduct is rampant in every profession, not just in the entertainment industry or in politics. It is a reminder – as if we needed a reminder – that to grow up a girl is to expect, if not accept, unwanted comments, remarks, touching and assault. As women, in our personal lives and professional careers, we all have our stories, our workarounds and our scars.

The conversation about sexual harassment and sexual assault in our society comes at a time when the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the professional organization of Reform rabbis, stands ready to launch the Task Force on the Experience of Women in the Rabbinate. This need became evident in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election, the publication of “The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate” and a study we undertook on rabbinic professional satisfaction. Although women have been Reform rabbis for 45 years, it is painfully obvious that these issues are still a fact of everyday life.



Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, seen here with JCRC Director Matt Goldberg, officiates at the candle lighting for the recent Kentucky Homefront Chanukah Party. Women rabbis, and their experiences, have become a focus of the #MeToo movement. (photo by Tara Cocco)

The rabbinate is no exception to the conversations going on in the wider world about women’s experiences. It is the rare female rabbi who, if married to a man, has not been asked if her husband is also a rabbi. Or the joke we all hear: If the wife of a rabbi is a rebbetzin, what do you call the husband of a rabbi? (Lucky.) While seemingly harmless, such comments nonetheless undermine the credibility and authority of women as rabbis.

And the comments don’t stop there.

There are these lines, uttered at board meetings or during the oneg or even at a funeral, like “I’ve always wanted to kiss a rabbi,” or “If rabbis looked like you when I was a kid, I would have come to synagogue more.”

There’s a kind of sliding scale to the comments, from bad to worse:

“Rabbi, please cross your legs when seated on the bimah, otherwise it’s too distracting.”

“Rabbi, are you pregnant? Your breasts look bigger.”

And so on, and so on.

Women rabbis are counseled to wear lipstick or told not to wear lipstick. We

are told that our clothing choices are too revealing or too dowdy. Our shoes are too sexy or too old fashioned. Our voices are too soft or too strident. We’re too emotional or we’re too cold. We’re called by our first names while the male rabbi is called Rabbi Last Name. We’re called kiddo, babe, sugar, sexy, honey. We’re advised to get home quickly from board meetings so that we can make our husbands happy.

And it isn’t just laypeople. There are stories as well of rabbis in positions of power preying on younger, more vulnerable rabbis, inappropriate touching or comments during supervisory sessions and jokes that are not in the least bit funny.

In only four short decades since the first ordination, there are now nearly 700 women members of the CCAR, the first rabbinic organization in history to admit women as full members. In this time, women rabbis have made profound progress. The adoption in the 1980s of egalitarian liturgical language and gender-neutral God language in our prayer books and Haggadot have opened prayer and Jewish practice in important new ways. The development of new life-cycle rituals allowed for the sanctification of experiences previously outside traditional Jewish practice. The publication of the groundbreaking and award-winning *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary* highlighted and canonized feminist Torah scholarship.

However, women rabbis still experience substantial obstacles: gender-based bias, inappropriate comments, sexual harassment, sexual assault, lack of proper institutional support, undermining behavior, and issues related to contracts, pay equity and parental leave. Intertwined with these challenges are issues of sexuality and gender nonconformity.

The CCAR already has in place a robust ethics code and rigorous ethics process to address instances of rabbinic misconduct. Whether these experiences happen in congregations, in communal or institutional settings; in rabbinic school or student placements; whether they happen with colleagues or with laypeople, when complaints are reported, they are responded to with the seriousness that they deserve. WRN, the Women’s Rabbinic Network, has been tackling these issues for decades and is currently spearheading an important project on pay equity with Women of Reform Judaism.

But we must do even more to create safe and sacred communities for both those who are participants in those communities and those who serve them. The time has arrived to open a community-wide conversation beyond the ethics process about these experiences, and examine the way that women in the rabbinate face systemic and ongoing challenges.

The responsibility to strengthen the Jewish community and enhance the professional and personal lives of Reform rabbis is central to the mission of the CCAR – it is our ethical and professional mandate to address these deeply troubling challenges. The Task Force on the Experience of Women in the Rabbinate will study the realities facing women to identify their root causes and potential solutions. It will engage our membership, laypeople and partner Reform institutions. Ultimately, it will create change for the good and bring healing, hope and greater strength to our rabbimates and the communities we serve.

(Rabbi Hara Person is the chief strategy officer for the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the publisher of CCAR Press.)





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Louisville, world process Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

President Donald Trump's decision Wednesday to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital stirred many Jews to rejoice that their legitimate claim to the ancient and holy city had finally been accepted. But many others feared the news would breed more violence in the region and make a peace deal harder to achieve.

In making his historic announcement from the White House, Trump said he was directing the State Department to begin the process of moving the embassy from Tel Aviv. Hours after the announcement, though, Trump signed a waiver putting off moving the embassy by another six months.

The Czech Republic and the Philippines have also expressed willingness to move their embassies. The Czech Republic has already recognized the area comprising West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but its foreign ministry has said its embassy would remain in Tel Aviv until Israel and the Palestinians negotiate an agreement.

"This is nothing more or less than a recognition of reality," the president said. "It is also the right thing to do."

But the president also reaffirmed America's commitment to a lasting peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, announcing that he is sending Vice President Mike Pence to the region to reaffirm that commitment.

Notably, the president did not say he recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel alone, stating that the final status issues, including borders and sovereignty, were being left to the parties to negotiate. He also called for the status quo on holy sites to be maintained.

The president did not set a timetable for moving the embassy from its present location in Tel Aviv, but he directed the State Department to begin the process of hiring architects and planners. He acknowledged that his decision, while historic, is also potentially volatile.

"We call for calm, moderation and for the voices of tolerance to prevail over the purveyors of hate," Trump said.

Nevertheless, voices from the around the world were urging the president not to take this step. Pope Francis expressed "profound concern" over the decision.

The Palestinian Authority called for three days of rage and Palestinian Media Watch reported Saeb Erekat, chief negotiator for the PLO, as saying the decision means "the end of the entire peace process and the pushing of the region – with its peoples and borders – into the furnace of violence, chaos, extremism and bloodshed."

Demonstrations against Trump's decision broke out in Turkey as the government threatened to cut ties with the Jewish state.

Most European Union states also opposed the decision to recognize.

Meanwhile, the future of the two-state solution process, of which the United States has always been a leading supporter, has been called into question. U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth panned Trump's decision for not getting any "concessions" in return from Israel.

"It's a move that to me makes no sense," the Louisville Democrat said. "It diminishes the ability of the United States to be an honest arbiter in any peace process, and it basically puts us further at odds from many countries in the region, not to mention many of our western allies."

Yarmuth also feared for the safety of



A Haredi Jew worships at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. President Donald Trump's recent decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was met with joy and consternation around the world and even within the Jewish community. (photo provided)

Americans living abroad, who could become soft targets for terrorists.

But Trump, who fulfilled a campaign promise with the decision, said "old challenges demand new approaches."

Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which accepts the City of David as the capital of Israel and pledges to move the embassy there, but it includes a waiver clause enabling the president to delay its enactment.

Since then, every president until Trump has exercised that clause.

Zionist groups were generally supportive of the move.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) tweeted that the announcement "is an important, historic step for which we are grateful. We urge the president to quickly relocate our embassy to Israel's capital."

It added, "Relocating the embassy to Jerusalem does not in any way prejudice the outcome of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, to include establishing two states for two peoples and resolving Palestinian claims to the eastern portion of the city and the disposition of holy places."

But J Street, a liberal Zionist organization, called Trump's dramatic change in U.S. policy "an unhelpful step with no tangible benefits, only serious risks."

"Israel's capital is in Jerusalem," the statement continued, "and it should be internationally recognized as such in the context of an agreed two-state solution that also establishes a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem. In the absence of that final agreement between the parties on the city's status, blanket recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital is premature and divisive."

In Louisville, Jewish response to announcement ran the gamut.

Rabbi Michael Wolk of Keneseth Israel said the policy shift poses serious questions for Israel.

"In the short term, will this move lead to violence against Israelis and Jews?"

he asked in a statement to his congregation. "In the longer term, how will this move affect the chances for peace in the region? Will it bring obstinate participants among Palestinians and Israelis to a serious negotiating table or will it provide another reason to stay away and continue an unhealthy stalemate? I do not know the answers to these questions."

Ranen Omer-Sherman, professor of Jewish studies at the University of Louisville, criticized Trump for harming the U.S. standing in the peace process.

"As an Israeli citizen and former combat soldier, I am dismayed that he has so cavalierly thrown away any pretense of America as a neutral player in this devastating conflict," Omer-Sherman said. "I am saddened by the increased likelihood of bloodshed."

Likewise, Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple, who grew up in Jerusalem, questioned the wisdom of the move if results in more violence.

The rabbi said he is "offended by the fact that the nations of the world, all of them, do not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

That said, "I am not sure that it is wise diplomatically to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital at this moment," Ariel-Joel said. "Jerusalem is a city that all three major religions see as holy and sacred, and as we know from past experience, this declaration can cause bloodshed."

"It is not worth it if people in Israel will be killed because of it," he added. "I rather stay offended by the fact that America, my country now, does not recognize Jerusalem – my birth place – then watch people being killed because of it."

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From Trump to trees, Brandon Coan had a busy year in office

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

As Brandon Coan's first year on the Louisville Metro Council comes to an end, he finds one of his chief legislative achievements in the crosshairs of the Trump administration.

The Metro District 8 Democrat, the only Jewish member of council, was a primary sponsor of an ordinance passed in October – what Coan generically calls a “separation ordinance” – prohibiting Louisville Metro Police and other city officials from assisting federal authorities in enforcing U.S. civil immigration laws.

The Justice Department, in a letter to the city, questioned the legality of that ordinance, saying it could violate a federal law prohibiting city officials from preventing the sharing of information with the Feds about undocumented immigrants.

In other words, the Justice Department came close to labeling Louisville a sanctuary city. The Trump administration has threatened to punish sanctuary cities by withholding federal assistance, as much as \$500,000 in Louisville's case.

But Coan, along with the county attorney, have defended the ordinance, saying it doesn't prohibit and does not breach federal law because the city doesn't collect information about immigrant status anyway.

“We don't ask people what their immigration status is unless, in very few instances, where federal law requires it,” Coan said in an exclusive interview with *Community*.

“It doesn't matter to us what someone's immigration status is because we



Metro Councilman Brandon Coan is finishing his first year in office (photo by Lee Chottiner).

don't discriminate based on immigration status.”

He said Louisville is more a city of “refuge” than a “sanctuary city” avoiding language that could send up red flags in Washington.

“People have been coming here from around the world for a long time,” he said.

The dust-up wasn't the only controversy the freshman councilman found himself in during 2017.

During a June 2 rally at the base of the Big Four Bridge on National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Coan “pleaded” with the Kentucky General Assembly to reconsider its “strict prohibition on local firearms control,” calling gun violence “a uniquely urban problem in our rural

state.”

And he joined the struggle to enact a comprehensive tree ordinance in the city, proposed an amendment to require Louisville or its contractors to replace any trees they remove.

He said he's not satisfied with the bill, which addresses trees only public rights-of-way and not private property, but he set his own goal to plant 1,460 trees in his district and the same number elsewhere in the city before his term is up. (On the day he met with *Community*, he said volunteers were planting 116 trees along the Bardstown-Baxter corridor.)

In reflecting on his first year in office, Coan clearly touched on issues that resonate with Jewish voters. Refuge has been historically sought by Jews fleeing oppression; gun control divides Jews as it does the country, and planting trees is part and parcel to the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam (mend the world).

But the first-term councilman preferred to talk about the infrastructure he is building to serve his constituents.

“I'm literally trying to be build an organizational culture,” he said. “We have created a few neighborhood organizations that didn't have any.”

He also is using the Internet, starting an electronic newsletter, which includes updates on issues in his district and reprints from community newsletters, that has gone from zero to 3,500 subscribers (his goal is 8,000).

He also is doing podcasts at his website **louisville.ky.gov**.

“It's a community place where everyone can plug in,” Coan said.

Coan has created a strategic plan at his web site that lays out his goals and

objectives for his term, including upgrading roads and sidewalks, and some that have already been achieved, such as \$5,000 loans for District 8 businesses to improve their accessibility.

A lifelong Louisvillian, Coan grew up a member of the Temple (he played on the alumni team during the recent Drew Corson Memorial Basketball Tournament).

A lawyer by training, the Tyler Park resident previously served as an advisor to Mayor Greg Fischer from 2011 to 2012.

While he doesn't believe any issues he deals with are uniquely Jewish, one that Coan continues to watch, and which has special interest to the community, is the mayor's assessment of city monuments review of all city public art, including statues, for the purpose of identifying any that could promote bigotry, racism or slavery.

That assessment was a response to what happened earlier this year in Charlottesville, Virginia, when white supremacists used a city decision there to take down a statue of Robert E. Lee, to hold torch lights demonstrations reminiscent of the Nazis in the 1930s and marched by the only synagogue in town in an overt threat to its worshippers.

Coan, who watched the demonstrations on TV, was disturbed by them, but he contended that monuments in Louisville must still be revisited to see how today's residents see them.

“It's what they mean today, what they're being used for today,” he said. “That's of concern to me and that's of concern to the Jewish people.”

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Parents ponder establishing new Jewish day school in Louisville

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

When Richard Sagman was offered the job of vice president of products for Twin Spires, a subsidiary of Churchill Downs, he simply couldn't refuse.

"It was just a great opportunity as a job," the 45-year-old gaming executive said, "so that's what brought us here."

That said, Sagman, his wife, Tamar, and their two kids, Benjamin, 13, and Gefen, 12, thought hard about the religious life they would find here.

A modern Orthodox family that had spent the last three years in Las Vegas, the fastest growing Jewish community in America, the Sagmans were used to having whatever they wanted Jewishly.

Las Vegas has its own chapter of the Tzofim (Israeli Scouts), in which their kids were active. Benjamin studied in a *chavruta* – a study group – consisting of other boys his own age.

And of course, they went to a Jewish day school. (Las Vegas has four.)

Moving to Louisville meant sacrifices – no Tzofim, no *chavruta*, and no day school.

"We almost didn't come because of that," said Sagman, whose kids attend Kentucky Country Day School. "It was a real challenge coming here because it didn't have what we're used to."

Sagman's concerns resonate with other parents in the Jewish Louisville, particularly among the Orthodox.

Anshei Sfard, the city's only Orthodox congregation, has less than 35 families (mostly retirees) and is preparing to move into Shalom Towers. The synagogue, the congregation's spiritual home since 1957, is for sale.

To revive the community, the Orthodox rabbinate here says two things are indispensable: a community mikvah and a day school. The mikvah already exists, although the Louisville Vaad HaKashruth, which runs it, will have to move the facility when the synagogue property is sold.

But the lack of a day school is a bigger problem.

"What younger [Orthodox] family is going to necessarily want to move here when there is no schooling option for their kid past kindergarten?" asked Rabbi Simcha Snaid of Anshei Sfard.

Snaid wasn't just talking about a yeshiva-type school, but a comprehensive institution that teaches general studies – math, sciences, English, social studies – alongside halachic Judaism, and is committed to excellence all around.

Some parents and rabbis are again meeting and discussing the idea of starting a new school (Chabad already runs one), and some community leaders have endorsed the idea in principle.

How to do it, though – opening a school that meets the needs of Jews from all movements, including the unaffiliated – is something with which parents and religious leaders are grappling.

A small group of Louisville parents, from all streams of Judaism, recently took a small step toward that goal.

They met in a private home in Louisville the week of November 15 to gauge the interest in a new day school and what the next step should be.

Rabbis Zack Blaustein and Yitzzy Mandel, of the Kentucky Institute for Torah Education, helped organize the session, which featured speaker Rabbi Bentzion Chait national director of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim-Rabbinical Seminary of America in New York.

In an email to *Community*, Chait described the meeting as "mostly positive" and "very well attended."

"There was an animated lively discussion," Chait wrote. "People from a wide



Jewish parents have met to discuss the feasibility of starting a new day school in Louisville. Some rabbis have joined the conversation. The meetings are expected to resume in January. (photo provided)

range of Jewish experiences asked many excellent questions (a good sign). My take away: In spite of the hurdles we know of and those we have yet to fully consider, there is a lot of positive energy and a sincere desire to move forward. This was a very good first step."

Community was not invited to the meeting, which drew approximately 20 people by some counts, but some parents commented on the session afterwards.

Bekie Admony said no particular model was pushed at the meeting. "They (Chofetz Chaim) realize every community is different."

"Actually, [Chait] told us we had to start from zero, put in our own mission and vision, she added. "But they weren't going to press on any kind of way we should do it."

She said the parents, who expect to meet again in January, realize they will have to fundraise to support the project.

She said she is committed to starting a new school here, feeling "guilty" that her kids don't get the same Jewish education she received while growing up in Israel.

Rabbi Michael Wolk of Keneseth Israel, who also attended the meeting, spoke cautiously about the project.

"A day school will only succeed in Louisville if it actively involves all the congregations as well as Jews not affiliated with a congregation," Wolk said in an email to *Community*. "It should not be labeled or act as an arbiter between Orthodox, Conservative, or Reform."

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple (Reform) also said the push for a new day school could be hobbled if all three movements aren't fully integrated.

"I believe that the ... synagogues will insist that leadership roles should be fully egalitarian and inclusive (i.e. women as rabbis and Cantors, LGBTQ as rabbis and Cantors, and so on)," he wrote in an emailed statement to *Community*. "Also the 'who is a Jew' question can become

an issue, with children to Jewish fathers and the mutual acceptance of converts."

Louisville hasn't had a widely attended Jewish day school since Eliahu Academy closed in 2008. The community's experience with Eliahu demonstrates that practical challenges to running a day school must be addressed.

Eliahu opened in 1953 with 21 pupils. Within six years, enrollment had climbed to 86, 48 of whom came from Orthodox, the rest from Conservative and Reform

households, according to Herman Landau's history of the Jewish community, *Adath Louisville*.

While keeping the lights on at Eliahu was often a struggle, Landau wrote that the school had its successes, too. In a report to the trustees in 1974, then-Principal Rabbi Simon Murciano wrote, "The scholastic records of the Academy graduates are, on average, better than the scholastic records of public school children. Forty-four percent of our graduates ranked higher scholastically than children from public schools."

For now, at least, a day school that caters to all streams, and the unaffiliated, appears to be the working model.

That's the kind of school Snaid said he attended while growing up in Savannah, Georgia. His classes included girls as well as boys from Reform and Conservative synagogues.

"It 100 percent worked," Snaid said, "and the teachers were 100 percent sensitive to that. No one ever said go home and tell your parents [they weren't religious enough]. That never ever happened."

"It was, if you want to call it, technically an Orthodox-run school, meaning that the approach – what was taught – was the authentic beliefs of what the Torah is, and what it has to offer. At the same time, there was never a push that this is what you need to be."

He envisions the same kind of school here.

"I would say the potential is endless here. There's a lot of young families who are interested in expanding their connection to Judaism, and that, G-d willing, is what I would like to try to create."

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PICTURE THIS: Kentucky Homefront Chanukah Party

Kentucky Homefront brings Chanukah to Bluegrass homes

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Live, from Louisville, it's ... Chanukah!

That was a true statement Sunday, December 10, as Louisville Public Radio's *Kentucky Homefront* taped a special live performance from The J auditorium featuring music of the Festival of Lights. A crowd of 140 enjoyed the program while noshing on latkes and sufgauyot.

The show, dubbed the "Kentucky Homefront Chanukah Party" – an interfaith celebration – aired the following week on WFPK radio. The Jewish Community Relations Council sponsored the event.

In welcoming his listeners, *Kentucky*

Homefront host John Gage said Chanukah "helps us to hold on to hope and reminds us to look for light in the midst of darkness."

The Temple/Community/Choir, an ensemble of young and old singers from the various congregations and Hebrew schools, opened the program with *O Chanukah O Chanukah*, *Sivivon Sov Sov* and *I have a Little Dreidel*.

The rest of the performers were Rabbi Gaylia Rooks and four members of the Shir Chadash, Cantors David Lipp and Sharon Hordes, vocalists Jennifer Diamond, Brigid Kaelin and Jai Husband. The band included Aaron Bibelhauser, Steve Cooley and Dennis Ledford.

Their selections included a classical

Italian version of *Moaz Tzur* (Diamond); *Ocho Kandelikas*, a Ladino melody (Hordes); a bluesy version of *Sufganiyot* (Lipp) a country-western song called *Mazel Tonk* (Kaelin) and Adam Sandler's *Chanukah Song* (Husband).

Throughout the program, between songs, students from St. Francis of Assisi School walked on stage, each posing a question about the history and meaning of the holiday to one of Louisville's rabbis or cantors – eight questions for eight nights of Chanukah.

The most provocative of the questions was posed to Rabbi Laura Metzger: Is there a military aspect to the holiday, since it celebrates a Jewish victory over Syrian oppressors?

Yes, there is, Metzger said, noting the victory by the few but determined Maccabees over a larger and more powerful force.

"But war is not what we want to celebrate," she said. Over time, the sages shifted the focus of the holiday "from the military might to the role of providence."

"Though we accept the need to have military power, we dream of a time when military force is not necessary," Metzger said. The true emphasis, she added, is on "celebrating the miracle while gazing at the Chanukah lights in gratitude and awe."



JFCS NEWS, CLASSES & EVENTS

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



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

JFCS FOOD PANTRY

SUGGESTIONS FOR JANUARY

- Cereal
- Fruit
- Ketchup
- Jelly/Jam
- Ravioli

Remember, donations can be made at your local synagogue.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

January 2, 4pm

Caregiver Support Group

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

January 11, 1pm

Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group

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

January 12, 2pm

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

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

January 17, 10am

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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

January 18, 7pm

Adult Children of Aging Parents

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

January 22, 12:30pm

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Meets at JFCS. Contact Jo Ann Kalb at 502-452-6341, ext. 335.

J-MAP

THE JEWISH MENTORSHIP ALLIANCE FOR PROFESSIONALS

Jewish Family & Career Services is accepting applications for our second cohort for J-MAP – The Jewish Mentorship Alliance for Professionals. The program is designed to help young professionals in the Louisville Jewish community navigate career advancement and professional development.

On January 11, the first cohort of 10 mentors and young professionals will celebrate the completion of a six-month pilot program. One participant shared, "I've discovered resources I can use to strengthen my skill sets and improve my job prospects."

Applications for the second cohort are being accepted on the JFCS website now through the end of January. Young professionals who have been in the workforce for at least one year will be paired with mentors who have worked in their profession for at least five years. One mentor shared, "It's rewarding to provide a Jewish young adult with life and work advice."

The pairs will meet monthly with support from JFCS professional staff. The pairings will be based on career interests, professional and personal goals. There will be a few professional development workshops which will be open to both current participants and alumni.

An informational session will be held at JFCS on January 22 from 6:30-8:00pm. The program is free and is funded in part through a Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence grant. Contact Erin Heakin, eharkin@jfcsloouisville.org or Lisa Sobel-Berlow, Isobel@jfcsloouisville.org for more information.

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SAVE THE DATES

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March 18 – Purim Family Mitzvah

May 17 – MOSAIC Awards



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PICTURE THIS: LBSY FUNDRAISER

Hundreds packed the Standard Club for the Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad (LBSY) annual fundraiser gala. The guests, including sponsors who ponied up substantial sums of money to support the school, were treated to an open bar, dinner and the comedy of Louisville comedian Mark Klein. LBSY is a K-7 religious school for children from Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel and Temple Shalom. (photos by Debby Rose)



PICTURE THIS: Women's Chanukah Party

More than 125 women of all ages celebrated Chanukah together at the second annual Women's Chanukah Party Monday, December 11, at the Standard Club. The women enjoyed painting, cookie decorating, assembling toiletry care packages for Meals on Wheels, socializing and eating delicious food, including latkes. (photos by William Beasley and Tara Cocco)



From Hilda to Martin, Jewish Hospital is where miracles happen

By Rabbi Nadia Siritsky
For Community

The menorah that burned brightly during the month of December, in the center of the circle of Abraham Flexner Way, was a gift to Jewish Hospital by Janet Lynch, in honor of her grandparents' legacy left to this hospital, and to the community.

The menorah is a symbol of light, hope and faith at a time of year when the world becomes increasingly dark. It serves as a call to justice and freedom in an era when we are reminded of just how precious those values are.

My prayer is that, regardless of their beliefs or traditions, our patients and families will see the promise of the lights on the menorah as a promise that miracles are still possible in our own day, and that each of us will be reminded of our own ability to illuminate their darkness with our compassion and acts of kindness.

On Tuesday, December 12, the first night of Chanukah, we had the honor of kindling the menorah with the Fox family, who joined together, as they do every year, at Jewish Hospital. They remembered their beloved Aunt Hilda ("Hindy") Fox, preserving a decades-old tradition here.

Hilda Fox was a nurse leader at Jewish Hospital for many years, before passing away in 1956, the fourth night of Chanukah that year, at age 42. By lighting the menorah, the Foxes keep alive the memory of her dedication and commitment, indeed the dedication of all nurses at Jewish Hospital.



Rabbi Nadia Siritsky

Jewish Hospital has always served as a beacon of hope and justice to the community. Created at a time when Jewish doctors were not allowed to practice at other hospitals, and when Jewish patients could not receive culturally and religiously appropriate medical care, it continues to be a haven for people of all faiths, traditions and ethnicities, ensuring that all people have access to world-class health care.

The experience of being marginalized, discriminated against and needing to flee oppression in other lands led Jewish Louisville to create a hospital where all people could feel respected.

Established in 1903, our hospital was created to provide care for poor, refugee and immigrant Jews, and to provide a hospital where Jewish physicians could practice, in an era where neither were possible in surrounding hospitals.

Sara Greenstein, served as the first female president of Jewish Hospital's board of trustees (1962-1965), and led efforts to desegregate patient rooms and medical staff. She was instrumental in making Jewish Hospital the first in Louisville to be racially integrated.

Free medical care simply isn't possible in today's climate, but Jewish Hospital continues to find ways to care for the underserved, ensuring that we do not



Martin Nhial and his family (photo provided)

turn away anyone who needs care. We continue to treat the poorest and sickest patients in Kentucky.

This year, we celebrate a new miracle: Some time ago, Congregation Adath Jeshurun joined with employees of Jewish Hospital to create the Pikuach Nefesh: Saving Lives Fund with Saint Mary's Foundation, raising over \$10,000. On December 16, Martin Nhial welcomed home to Louisville his beloved wife and three children, thanks to this generous

philanthropic initiative.

Martin is a devoted employee of Jewish Hospital, working as a surgical tech, beloved by his co-workers.

He is also one of the approximately 75 "Lost Boys" who now call Louisville home. Having survived the destruction and slaughter of his village in South Sudan in 1986, he fled, hid and journeyed by foot throughout the desert, until finally, in 2000, he became one of the 3,600 boys who entered the United States as part of a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and State Department resettlement program.

Martin's wife, whom he met in refugee camp, and his three daughters will finally be reunited with him, in Louisville, after so many years apart.

This is a Chanukah miracle, and I give thanks for the blessing and opportunity to have been able to work with Rabbi Robert Slosberg and Cantor David Lipp, and our amazing Jewish Hospital family, as well as the generous and compassionate members of Adath Jeshurun to finally make this dream a reality.

May the many miracles of Chanukah inspire us to look to the future with hope, faith and confidence that together, regardless of whatever changes the future may hold for us, we will continue to make more miracles happen. If we believe we are too small to make a difference, let us remember that like the few drops of oil that miraculously burned brightly for eight nights, each of us can make a difference in the lives of others.

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

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GLOBE

Mike Pence again delays Israel trip

WASHINGTON – Vice President Mike Pence again has delayed a trip to Israel.

Pence's spokeswoman, Alyssah Farah, said Monday that the trip would now take place in January. She said the delay was so the Trump administration could preside over a much-anticipated tax overhaul favored by Trump. Pence might be needed to cast the deciding vote in the closely divided Senate.



Mike Pence

"The largest tax cut in American history is a landmark accomplishment for President Trump and a relief to millions of hard-working Americans," she said in a statement. "The Vice President is committed to seeing the tax cut through to the finish line. The Vice President looks forward to traveling to Egypt and Israel in January."

Pence originally was slated to travel over the weekend, and then delayed the trip until the middle of this week, citing the tax vote. A White House official told JTA that would delay Pence's travel until Wednesday, which would push meetings in Israel into Shabbat and Christmas. The official said Jason Greenblatt, Trump's top negotiator, would continue as scheduled to the region this week. Pence would get to the region by mid-January, the official said.

It's not clear yet when the tax vote will take place, although some reports say it will be scheduled as early as Tuesday.

The trip originally meant to encompass Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian areas was also circumscribed because Palestinian leaders refused to meet with Pence in the wake of President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Far-right party joins Austrian government

The far-right Freedom Party will hold the interior, defense and foreign ministries in a coalition government with the conservative People's Party in Austria.

The Freedom Party garnered the third-highest vote total in the October elections, behind the center-right People's Party and the center-left Social Democrats. The results appear to be a result of the refugee crisis in Europe.

People's Party head Sebastian Kurz, who at 31 becomes Europe's youngest

leader, focused his campaign on the issue of limiting migration, while the Freedom Party ran on a hardline anti-Islam platform. Austria accepted one of the highest proportions of refugees during the 2015 crisis.

The new government will be sworn in next week. Freedom Party head Heinz-Christian Strache will serve as the country's vice-chancellor under Kurz.

The Jewish Community of Austria has said that the Freedom Party, which was founded in the 1950s by a former Nazi SS officer, is tainted by fascist tendencies and rhetoric, and that the anti-Islam party's public rejection of anti-Semitism is lip service.

Some 9,000 Jews live in Austria, according to the Jewish Virtual Library figures for 2016, making them about 0.1 percent of the country's population.

The Freedom Party last joined the Austrian government in 2000. At the time, Israel recalled its ambassador from Austria and downgraded relations between the two countries. Israel is not expected to react the same way this time, due to common interests in fighting radical Islam and stemming illegal immigration.

Palestinian girl filmed provoke IDF soldiers

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian teenager who was filmed slapping and harassing Israeli soldiers in the West Bank was arrested.

Israeli security forces made the arrest overnight Monday. The girl, identified by Hebrew media as 17-year-old Ahed Tamimi, and two other girls were caught on camera Friday slapping and harassing the soldiers in an apparent attempt to provoke a violent response.

The army said the girl was arrested for taking part in violent riots in the West Bank village of Nabi Saleh on Friday.

The girls filmed their confrontation of the soldiers with cellphones. However, the soldiers did not strike back in the video taken by another bystander, and only deflected the harder blows.

The army said a preliminary investigation into the incident showed the soldiers "acted professionally and were not dragged into violence." It also said the soldiers could have arrested the girls at the time because they "used physical violence and prevented soldiers from carrying out their duties."

Tamimi is well known as a leader of youth protests against Israeli soldiers in the West Bank. The video of her confrontation with the soldiers was widely shared by pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian activists on the web. Supporters of Tamimi have started a campaign for her release under the hashtag #FreeAhedTa-

mimi.

Palestinians have often provoked highly publicized clashes with Israeli soldiers in Nabi Saleh, a village in the central West Bank.

Technion opens campus in China

The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology became the first Israeli university to open a campus in China.

On Monday, the Guangdong Technion Israel Institute of Technology opened in Shantou, in the Guangdong province on the southeast coast. The university is a partnership between the Haifa-based university, the Li Ka Shing Foundation, and the Guangdong provincial and Shantou municipal governments.

The school will offer undergraduate and graduate programs in engineering and science. Some 3,000 students are expected to attend the school in its first decade. The campus includes 13 buildings, 29 classrooms, 14 teaching laboratories and 55 research laboratories.

Israeli soldiers arrested for beating Druze soldier

Two Israeli soldiers have been arrested for an on-base attack against a Druze soldier.

The soldier, who said he was beaten by fellow soldiers on his base in northern Israel, was taken to the hospital Thursday with a broken nose and cuts to his

head and face. He also was kicked and punched all over his body until he lost consciousness.

The arrests were made Sunday night. The soldier's commanders informed the Criminal Investigation Division, the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement, and an investigation is underway.

"The IDF denounces any incidences of violence, and any such events are dealt with harshly," the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said.

The base commander reportedly refused to immediately take the beaten soldier for medical care, waiting four hours before sending him to an emergency room. The soldier was ordered sent home for five days of rest, and said he was beaten again after returning to the base from the hospital before traveling home.

The second attack necessitated another trip to the hospital, according to Ynet.

The soldier reportedly was beaten after refusing to leave his dorm room immediately when called to do so.

His family posted photos on social media to show the severity of the injuries, including his bloodied face and blood-spattered uniform.

The assaulted soldier's grandfather, Said Hussein, in an interview with Ynet said of the attack: "To beat a soldier in the IDF until he loses consciousness requires an investigation. This is not the army I served in 30 years ago. I didn't send my grandson to the army for this kind of thing."

The Jewish Community of Louisville gratefully acknowledges donations to the following

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ARTS

Short Story: Rain-soaked prophet at the picture show

By Moshe Ben-David
For Community

The other day, my wife and I slipped into an argument about which movie to see. That reminded me of an amusing episode that occurred some years ago:

One Sunday afternoon, my wife and I went to see a movie, Dr. Doolittle. I really wanted to see another movie, Saving Private Ryan, which was playing at another theater, but my sweet wife cast a veto.

"Yours is foolish," I declared.

"And yours is gorish," she retorted.

"But yours is too silly."

"And yours is too ugly."

My wife is very squeamish when it comes to blood and gore. We went back and forth for a while, but the usual winner prevailed.

There was a long line in front of the outside window at the theater. It normally wouldn't bother me, since we had ample time, but the movie-goers formed a

straight line, which placed a dozen of us out from under the canopy of the building. We were exposed to the elements.

That still wouldn't have phased me, but one of those elements was a light rain. A few movie-goers opened umbrellas, but most didn't have them since they didn't expect to be standing in the rain.

I suggested to my wife that we should wait under the roof until it was our turn. Unfortunately, it turned out to be self-defeating since more people came to the end of the line as others moved up.

"That's it!" I fumed. "They can't be oblivious to the customers' discomfort. I am going to see the manager."

"Don't make waves," warned my concerned spouse as the people in line turned to look at us.

I walked into the theater and saw a guy in uniform. I asked if he worked there. When he said that he did, I urged him to remedy the situation. As he and I walked toward the line outside, I couldn't help

wondering why on earth those good people stood helplessly in the rain. I mean, couldn't they serpentine? Couldn't they form parallel lines? I love Kentucky. Kentucky is my adopted state. But I suspect that some Kentuckians spike their coffee with bluegrass.

We approached the line. It was still drizzling lightly. At the end of the line stood my wife – a native Kentuckian. Her new outfit was steadily getting wet. My check for this outfit had not yet cleared the bank, so I turned to the employee.

"Well, what are you going to do about the line?"

"Nothing, I'm afraid," he said, then added cynically, "Next time, bring an umbrella."

"There is a time for everything," the Bible says. Don't misunderstand me; I have a decent sense of humor. But that quip at that moment was not funny.

"Get me the manager," I demanded. I was seething.

Fortunately, the manager who introduced himself as Jason, was more resourceful than the "comedian." He opened the ticket window next to the one already manned. In fact, he manned it himself. The line was cut in half at once.

A couple hours later, as we were leaving the theater, my wife expressed her displeasure with my behavior earlier. "But honey..." I started to defend myself, as an elderly couple stopped us.

"Aren't you the one who was upset about the line earlier on?" the woman asked.

"Yes, well...eh...."

"Thank you very much for getting us out of the rain," she said, smiling.

There you have it. No one is a prophet in his own land.

(Moshe Ben-David is a Louisville storyteller.)

'Happiness Prayer' an essential handbook for living well

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The Happiness Prayer, the first book by Rabbi Evan Moffic, is a how-to book to achieve happiness in times of stress.

Not only that, it is a helpful handbook for rabbis and other spiritual leaders for

interacting with troubled congregants while finding peace in their own lives.

This is no truer than in the author's own case.

Moffic, a Reform rabbi from suburban Chicago, writes about how, upon becoming the lead rabbi of a "large and historic congregation" by age 30, the challenges

he faced proved daunting.

"Two thousand people turned to me for help with the pains and tragedies of life – broken marriages, problems with their children, the deaths of parents and grandparents, and much more," he wrote.

He also had to grapple with his own personal crises.

"I also lost a close friend – a medical resident with everything going for him – to suicide. My wife and I had just had a baby, and it had not been an easy pregnancy. Our oldest child had medical problems. Nothing was the way it was supposed to be."

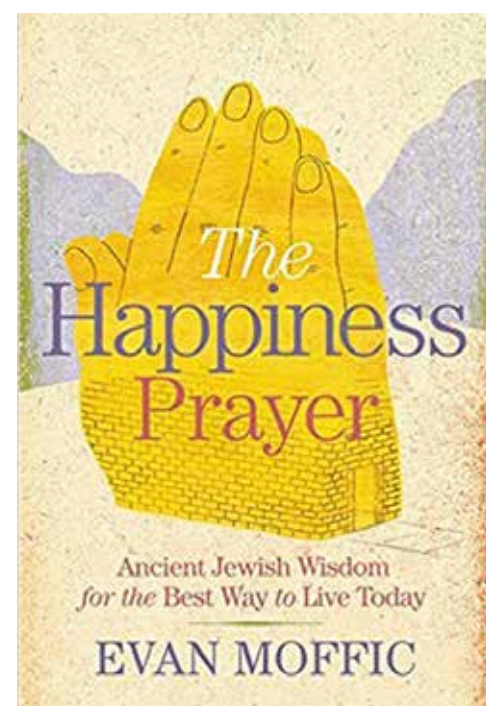
So the young rabbi turned to his tradition for comfort; specifically, *Eilu Davarim* ("These are the Words"), which Moffic calls "The Happiness Prayer." It's a 10-verse prayer that has been part of Jewish worship for hundreds of years, and it forms the outline for his book.

"I realized the words I was saying were not directed only toward God," he wrote. "I was also saying them to myself. And the prayer saved me. It gave me a new perspective. It infused vitality into my leadership and family. It renewed in me the joy of learning and teaching and serving as a moral and spiritual guide. People now call me 'the smiling rabbi.'"

That's what the prayer did for him. Here's why it can work for others:

"The prayer works because it illuminates a new approach toward happiness. The modern English word *happiness* comes from the Middle English *hap*, as in *happence* and *haphazard*. The origin suggests that happy life is a result of randomness and luck.

"The Hebrew word for happiness – *simcha* – demands intention," Moffic added.



The book addresses what the prayer teaches: honoring those who gave life, being kind, lifelong learning, inviting others into your life, being there for others, celebrating good times, supporting yourself – and others – in times of loss, praying with intention, forgiving, looking inward and committing.

A light, yet inspiring read, it's worth picking up.

Book Review

The Happiness Prayer: Ancient Jewish Wisdom for the Best Way to Live Today, by Rabbi Evan Moffic, Center Street 2017 208 pages. \$25.

Written by
Alfred Uhry

Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize
for Drama

JAN. 11-21, 2018

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
7	8	9	10	11 7:30 p.m.	12	13 7:30 p.m.
14 2 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	15 7:30 p.m.	16	17	18 7:30 p.m.	19	20 7:30 p.m.
21 2 p.m. 6:30 p.m.						

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AROUND TOWN

Chinese dinner, movie at The Temple

The Temple will serve Chinese food Sunday, December 24, at 6 p.m. A movie will be screened at 7 p.m. RSVP to The Temple by December 22 at 502-423-1818.

Lunch and Learn

Keneseth Israel Rabbi Michael Wolk will lead his monthly study session over lunch at The Bristol on Main Street, Thursday, January 4, at noon. Food is sold separately. RSVP to mwolk@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

GUCI song leader at Temple Shalom

Sam Thal, song leader at URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) and her home synagogue, Congregation Shaare Emeth in St. Louis, will be the song leader for Temple Shalom services on Friday night and Saturday morning, January 5 and 6. Friday services begin at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday services start at 10:30 p.m.

AJ Celebration Shabbat

All who are celebrating a birthday or anniversary in the month of January are invited to participate in a group aliyah at Adath Jeshurun, Saturday, January 6, during the morning service at 9:30 a.m.

Movie night at The Temple

The Temple will hold a monthly movie night with pizza and soda Tuesday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m. *Keeping the Faith* will be screened. RSVP to The Temple by January 8 at 502-423-1818.

Torah chanting class at The Temple

Matthew Derrenbacher will teach Torah chanting at The Temple Wednesdays at 6 p.m., starting January 10. The class is open to all levels of chanting and Hebrew ability. Sign up by January 9 at 502-423-1818.

No Shush Shabbat at Temple Shalom

Temple Shalom will hold No Shush Shabbat Friday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m. The PowerPoint service, music, instruments and stories for an engaging time for children and families. Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner will lead and Benji Berlow will sing and play guitar. Call Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 for details.

MLK Shabbat at The Temple

The Temple will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat featuring The Temple Choir, Shir Chadash, Friday, January 12, at 7 p.m. A guest speaker will address the congregation.

AJ Brown Bag Blessings Packing Party

Adath Jeshurun will host a packing party for its community outreach program, Brown Bag Blessings, Sunday, January 14, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers will pack lunches to be donated to Room in the Inn, a mobile homeless shelter in Bullitt County. Visit www.adathjeshurun.com/brownbagblessings to sign up.

AJ Spiritual Pragmatism group

Adath Jeshurun will host a packing party for its community outreach program, Brown Bag Blessings, Sunday, January 14, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers will pack lunches to be donated to Room in the Inn, a mobile homeless shelter in Bullitt County. Visit www.adathjeshurun.com/brownbagblessings to sign up.

WRJ Game Day

The Temple Sisterhood will run the WRJ Game Day Sunday, January 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. Please bring a canned good for JFCS Food Pantry. Refresh-

ments will be served. RSVP to The Temple by January 10th at 502-423-1818.

MLK Mitzvah Opportunity at The Temple

The Temple will pack food for children in need, Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Day. In partnership with Love the Hungry, volunteers will pack age shelf-stable, nutritionally complete meals to be shipped overseas and to local families as well. RSVP to The Temple by January 12 at 502-423-1818.

Temple Shalom Senior Lunch Bunch

The Senior Lunch Bunch of Temple Shalom will meet Wednesday, January 17, at a local restaurant. The time and place will be determined. Call Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 and ask for Rich Goldwin.

Torah Yoga at KI

Keneseth Israel Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Flannery lead yoga class that includes Torah study, Thursday, January 18, at 6:30, at KI. Temple Shalom and Hadassah co-sponsor the class. Contact at rsvp@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780 to RSVP.

Family Dinner & Tot Shabbat at The Temple

The Temple will host its Family Dinner & Tot Shabbat Friday, January 19. Dinner, which will start at 6 p.m., is \$5 for adults; kids under 12 eat free. The kid-focused service will start at 7 p.m. Call 502-423-1818 by January 10 for reservations.

KI Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Keneseth Israel will hold a family-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by dinner Friday, January 19, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family. RSVP to rsvp@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780. Pay online by visiting kenesethisrael.com and clicking "pay" at the top of the page.

AJ Super Shabbat

Adath Jeshurun will host Super Shabbat, a student-led Shabbat service, Saturday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m. Students ages 18 and younger will participate in blessings, Torah readings, and aliyot. The Kiddush lunch following the service will feature desserts baked by families and students in the congregation.

Communication class at JLC

Jewish Learning Center will explore communication in the 21st century in a six-part class, *Communication: Its Art and Soul*, Monday nights at 7 p.m., starting January 22.

The class will focus on listening, communicating through silence, clarity, words that influence and conflict resolution.

The cost is \$80, including the textbook. Visit myjli.com to register or contact Rabbi Avrohom Litvin at 502-235-5770.

AJ Shabbat dinner with AIPAC

Adath Jeshurun will host guest speaker Adam Teitelbaum with AIPAC at a Shabbat dinner Friday, January 26. He will address the Palestinian-led BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement. The service will begin at 5:45 p.m. with dinner to follow. Reservations are required by January 19. visit www.adathjeshurun.com/aipacdinner to RSVP.

The Temple Founder's Day Classical Shabbat

The Temple will hold its Annual Founder's Day Classical Shabbat Service Friday, January 26, at 7 p.m. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will lead from the Union

Prayer Book.

Sunday Night at the Movies

The Temple will host Sunday Night at the Movies with Rabbi Joe R. Rapport Sunday, January 28. Pizza will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by the movie at 7

Rapport will discuss episodes from the *National Geographic* limited series *Genius*, which tells of the life and legacy of Albert Einstein. The pizza is free. RSVP by January 26 to 502-423-1818.

Tu B'Shevat Dinyan

Keneseth Israel will hold its Tu B'Shevat Dinyan Tuesday, January 30, at 6 p.m. A 25-minute musical Mincha/Ma'ariv service will be followed by a family-style dinner catered by Izzy's Catering, featuring a special Tu B'Shvat-themed menu. Cost is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family. RSVP to 502-459-2780 or rsvp@kenesethisrael.com. Pay online by clicking on "pay" at the top of the web page.

AJ Short and Sweet Family Service

Students in grades K through 7, their parents, and grandparents are invited to AJ on Saturday, February 3, at 10:30 a.m. for the Short & Sweet Family Service, followed by a Mac & Cheese Kiddush lunch.

Interfaith Coffee at The Temple

The Temple's WRJ/Sisterhood will host its Annual Interfaith Coffee, Monday, February 5, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The topic of this year's program is major Jewish holidays. Baked goods will be

served. RSVP by February 2 to 502-423-1818.

Temple Shalom Craft Fair seeks exhibitors

Temple Shalom is accepting applications for booths for its upcoming craft fair Sunday, February 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 and ask for Cari Hatch, or email tsfundraising@gmail.com.

AJ Book Club

The AJ Book Club is currently reading *He, She and It* by Margie Piercy. The novel examines gender roles, human identity and artificial intelligence, political economy, environmentalism, love, and storytelling in post-apocalyptic America. The book will be discussed at the next Book Club meeting Sunday, February 25, at 2 p.m. at AJ. Contact Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359 for details.

KI Shabbat Unplugged

Keneseth Israel holds a Shabbat dinner every second Friday of the month. Catered by Chef Sasha Chack, the dinner immediately follows Friday night services, which begin at 6 p.m. A *tisch* follows dinner. Cost is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family. RSVP to 502-459-2780 or rsvp@kenesethisrael.com. Pay online by clicking on "pay" at the top of the page.

See **AROUND TOWN** on page 20

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www.CenterStageJCC.org/talent or call 502-238-2709

Around Town

continued from page 19

AJ Pragmatic Spirituality discussion group

Holistic psychiatrist Dr. Courtney Snyder and business & leadership advisor Marty Snyder lead the Pragmatic Spirituality Discussion Group at Adath Jeshurun on Sundays at 10 a.m. The group will discuss a universal theme based on a brief inspiration from a spiritual thinker. The January 7 topic will be "The Power of Play, Levity and the Imagination." On January 21, it will be "Science, Religion, Spirituality, Mysticism, Superstition – What Do You Mean?" Visit www.adathjeshurun.com/spiritualpragmatism for details.

AJ Hebrew classes for adults

Adath Jeshurun offers adult beginning and intermediate Hebrew classes on Sunday mornings beginning at 10:30 a.m. Taught by Deborah Slosberg, the classes are free. Sessions will begin January 21 and 28. Contact Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or call 502-458-5359 for details.

Rosh Chodesh Girls Club

Girls in grades 4-8, may join Keneseth Israel Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Yussman every month to celebrate Rosh Chodesh. The girls meet after LBSY at The J, room 113, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The girls use art, drama, games, music and Jewish tradition to learn how to impact the world in a positive way. Contact Hordes at Shordes@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780 for details. Cost is \$54.00 per family.

Temple Bible class on women

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will teach "The Great Women of the Bible" Mondays, 7 p.m., at The Temple. The class will study the stories of the daughters of Lot, Tamar, Miriam, the daughter of Pharaoh, Ruth, Michal and Esther. It also will examine their contributions to the larger biblical narrative. The class will not meet on December 25, and January 1 and 15.

Hebrew classes at The Temple

New Hebrew language classes will be taught at The Temple Mondays at 7 and 8 p.m. starting January 8.

The 7 p.m. class, which is for beginners and starts January 8, will be taught by Temple member Mark Goldstein, a graduate of Hebrew Union College. The goal of the course is to enable students to be more comfortable and confident accessing the Hebrew language of the prayer book. No prior Hebrew knowledge is needed to join the class.

The 8 p.m. class, which is for advanced students, will be taught by Rabbi Joe R. Rapport. The students will study biblical and prayer book Hebrew in preparation to lead four Shabbat morning services during the year. History, Torah study and prose and poetry *Mishkan T'filah* will be included.

The Temple Scholars

The Temple Scholars program will meet Wednesdays. There will be classes on December 27 or January 3.

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will teach "1917, 1947, 1967: The Legacy of The Past, and The Future of Modern Israel" from 9:30 to 10:35 a.m.

Rabbi Joe R. Rapport will teach "A History of the Jewish People in 36 Objects" from 10:50 a.m. to noon.

Basic Judaism class at The Temple

The Temple will hold Basic Judaism classes Mondays at 8 p.m. The second semester, taught by Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, begins Monday, January 8. Life cycle events will be taught.

Torah Study at The Temple

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel leads Torah study Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Fishman Library of The Temple. Coffee, bagels and cream cheese are available.

Torah Lunch Bunch at Temple Shalom

The Torah study group of Temple Shalom will meet on Tuesdays, January 9 and 23, at noon. Participants may bring their own lunches.

Song-leading classes at Temple Shalom

GUCI song leader Sam That will lead a series of song-leading classes on Saturdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom on January 6, February 3, March 3 and April 7. There is no cost to attend. Guitar skills are encouraged, but not required. Participants should bring instruments if they have them. RSVP to Temple Shalom, 502-458-4739. JFHE is underwriting the classes.

KI Mahjong Club

Keneseth Israel holds a bi-weekly mahjong game at KI every first and third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. in the small chapel, except on Jewish holidays. RSVP to gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or call 502-459-2780.

Jews and Brews

Keneseth Israel Rabbi Michael Wolk leads Jews and Brews, a weekly one-hour Torah study class over coffee, Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at The J Library.

Chavurat Shalom

Compiled by Sarah Harlan
For Community

On Thursday, January 11, Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will talk about the Kaddish, what it is, why it is said and how Judaism views heaven and hell. Lunch will include beef pot roast, roasted potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and pineapple upside down cake.

On Thursday, January 18, Rabbi Joe R. Rapport will talk about Martin Luther King, Jr., the Jews, and the civil rights movement. Lunch will include fried chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, caesar salad, fresh fruit and banana pudding.

On Thursday, January 25, Matthew Derrenbacher will present a talk about the Jewish origins of the health industry. Lunch will include a deli platter, three-bean soup, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cookies and brownies.

On Thursday, February 1, accordion player Mike O'Bryan returns.

Chavurat Shalom is a community-wide program for Jewish seniors that meets in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Highway 42, unless otherwise noted. Lunch, catered by Chef Z, is available at noon for \$5, followed by the program at 1 p.m. RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 or emailing Sarah Harlan at sarahharlan86@gmail.com by the Tuesday of the week you plan to attend. Vegetarian meals are available if requested by the Tuesday before the event. Transportation can be scheduled by calling Jewish Family & Career Services at 502-452-6341. Transportation to Chavurat Shalom is \$5 round-trip.



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LIFECYCLE

Kenneth Rowland, broadcast journalist, covered Louisville for decades

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Kenneth Franklin Rowland, 91, a long-time broadcast journalist in Louisville whose coverage touched on everything from natural disasters to the civil rights movement, passed away Monday, November 27, 2017.

Rowland's audience will always remember him for his customary signoff: "My time is up, thank you for yours."

"Ken was very creative," said his wife, Edith "Edie" Rowland. "He knew his city and he knew politics."

In fact, Rowland spent the bulk of his career in Louisville, working as a reporter and news anchor at WLKY from 1964 to 1970 and again from 1977 to 1986, and at WHAS from 1970 to 1977.

He covered some of the most important events in the history of Louisville and Kentucky, including the 1974 tornado, court-ordered busing and the Hyden mine disaster and civil rights marches in Louisville, at one of which, Edie said, he was nearly hit by rock, but still managed to interview Martin Luther King Jr.

Edie said her husband was on the air for hours. "He was the only reporter who knew the city block by block and he was able to tell people when to scatter."

He also covered the 1980 and 1984 Republican National Conventions for WLKY news.

An excellent judge of talent, Ken hired and mentored a young Louisvillian, Diane Sawyer, who later went on to national prominence as an aide to President Richard Nixon, and a journalist for CBS and ABC news.

He received numerous awards and recognition for his work, culminating in his induction into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

Born on April 4, 1926, in Marysville, Kansas, a son of the late Mary and Frank Rowland, Ken grew up on a 200-acre farm, where he learned the virtue of hard work, self-reliance and the belief that it is more important what you know than who you know. He passed these principles to his children and grandchildren.

During his senior year in high school, he enlisted in the Army Air Corp and served on the crew of the B-29 from 1944-1946. He was assigned to a base in Okinawa, Japan where he flew over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, two and half months after the dropping of the atomic bombs that ended World War II.

After his discharge, he attended Kansas State University and completed his studies at the National Academy of



Kenneth Rowland

Broadcasting in Washington, D.C.

He began his broadcasting career in Wilmington, Delaware. He also worked in Salina, Kansas, and Omaha, Nebraska, before coming to Louisville. Here, he first worked as news director and program director for WKLO radio before moving to TV.

Edie said her husband belonged to a generation of television reporters who did everything.

"They carried their equipment with them," she said. "They wrote the scripts, they directed the stories, they developed the film."

Upon retiring from the anchor chair, he became director of research for Linker Capital Management from 1986 to 2013. In addition, he produced a business report for WDRB three nights a week from 1990 to 1998.

Active in his community, Ken served as president of the Jaycees in Salina and was a member of the Louisville chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, a professional journalism society, serving two years as its president.

He also MC'd or spoke at several JCC and Hadassah functions, Edie said.

Ken also became an avid supporter of University of Louisville athletics and watched his grandchildren compete in their athletic contests. He preferred attending UofL games instead of watching them on television, saying that he enjoyed being out among Louisvillians, whose support he always appreciated.

The family would like to thank the staffs at Seneca Place and Springhurst Pines for Ken's care.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Gladys Maxwell; his brother, Arland Rowland; and the mother of his five children, Phyllis Rowland.

Ken is survived by his wife of 53 years, Edith Rowland; five children, Kathy Korfhage (Richard), Karen Slusher, Linda Palicki (Robert), Steve Rowland (Marguerite) and Eileen Bartos (George); a step-daughter, Linda Seligman Turner (Larry); 12 grandchildren, Kim Slusher, Jason Korfhage, Nicole Curry, KOLEEN Slusher, Phillip Palicki, Lauren Stampfer, Christopher Bartos, Andrea Funken,

Natalie Landry, Marshall Rowland, Travis Rowland and Stephanie Rowland; and eight great-grandchildren, Jack, Aidan, Anna Caroline, Clara, Max, Jake and Kendall.

Services were held Thursday, November 30, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple, Kentuckiana Stroke Association or the WHAS Crusade for Children.

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LIFECYCLE

Obituaries



Joseph Davis

Joseph Davis, 85, passed away Sunday, November 19, in Atlanta, Georgia, surrounded by his family.

His home was in Louisville, but he lived the last three years in Naples, Florida. He and his

wife were evacuated to Atlanta ahead of Hurricane Irma this past September.

Born August 6, 1932, Joe was son of the late Abe and Rebecca Davis of Louisville, and brother of the late Arnold Davis.

He graduated from Male High School in Louisville, attended Indiana University and the University of Louisville. He graduated from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review, in 1956. After serving in the Army, he became an advisor to Rauch AZA (1950's), president of Louisville Chapter B'nai Brith, a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, St. George Masonic Lodge of Kentucky #239, and a Kosair Shriner of Louisville.

Joe is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Ruth Kahn Davis; daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Aaron Weinstein of Atlanta; son Dr. Mark Davis and his fiancé, Dr. Lauren Harshman, of Needham, Massachusetts; grandchildren Stephanie & Mia Weinstein of Atlanta and Eric and Michael Davis of Needham.

Joe was truly loved by all. He brought a deep sense of caring and support for those he knew even for the briefest of time; and, heartfelt concern for those he did not. He was passionate about his family, and had a strong interest in American art, especially American folk art. He will be forever remembered as a loving, supportive, trusted and uniquely positive man in the hearts of all who knew him.

Funeral Services were held Wednesday, November 22, at at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Contributions in Joe's memory can be sent to Jewish Federation of Louisville, Congregation Adath Jeshurun or The Home of the Innocents.

Leonid Dayen

Leonid Dayen, 88, died Thursday, November 30, 2017, at Seneca Place.

A native of Ukraine, Leonid was a famous Soviet journalist. He was a member of the Soviet Society of Journalists and the Soviet Society of Writers, and an accomplished author of more than 30 books of poetry and prose.

His name was included in the "top 100 poets of the 20th century" and he interviewed the first Russian Cosmonaut to travel into space, Yuri Gagarin.

Leonid is survived by his wife, Anna Malinsky; his daughter, Alla Chopvsky (Lenny); his son, Igor Dayen (Irina); his brother, Naum Dayen of Boston; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 1, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial took place at Beth El Cemetery in New York.



Mary Patricia Francis

Mary Patricia Francis, 80, died Friday, November 24, 2017 at Oxmoor Lodge Senior Living, surrounded by her family and friends.

Born October 11, 1937, in Lexington

to the late Alma Hatton Francis and William Parker Francis, Pat graduated from nursing school in Lexington in 1958 and obtained two master's degrees in nursing and teaching. She obtained her Advance Registered Nurse Practitioner degree (ARNP) and worked as a nurse practitioner.

She spent much of her career volunteering with Native Americans in the Dakotas and in Mexico, as well as with "at risk" youth in Louisville. She was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Carmelo Colon, and her son, Jonathan Parker Williams.

She is survived by her daughters, Mary Rossdeutscher (Karl) and Alma Gary (David Eaton); her son, James Colon (Mary Lou); her grandchildren, Wesley Rossdeutscher (Alison), Josiah Rossdeutscher and Parker Gary (Hayden Sowders); and her great-grandchildren, Trey and Oliver Rossdeutscher.

Graveside services were held Monday, November 27, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Evelyn Goodman

Evelyn Goodman, 93, died Sunday, November 26, 2017, at Baptist Health.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Evelyn was born March 2, 1924, to the late Louie and Sophie Kossoff.

A writer and editor all her adult life, Evelyn was a learned and bright woman whose first chapter of life focused on her career. She moved from New York to England to Israel by way of schooling at University of Michigan.

Evelyn worked at Random House publishing as an editor. Meticulous about her work, she became an avid reader and researcher, collecting a diversified library of books. Even with failing vision, she continued to find pleasure in learning.

She moved to Lexington to work at the University of Kentucky School of Dentistry and assist professors in publishing a book, an accomplishment of which she was proud.

Chapter 2 began when she met Larry Goodman in Lexington and married him at the age of 56. She became a travel partner, homemaker and wonderful grandmother. They were happily married for 23 years until Larry's death in 2004.

Through the adversity of loss, Evelyn strove to maintain her independence and autonomy. She lived in Lexington until recently when she moved to Louisville.

Evelyn enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to the fullest. Her kindness, love and caring led to a strong bond between she and her family.

Evelyn also had a strong Jewish identity, supporting Israel and many Jewish organizations.

In Louisville, she remained close to her family and participated in all its activities. She will be greatly missed.

Evelyn is survived by her son, Steven Goodman; his wife, Susan; two grandchildren, Jenny (Todd) and Jason; and two great-grandchildren, Emory and Brooks.

Graveside services were private. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Hadassah or the donor's favorite charity.



Abraham D. Paper

Abraham D. Paper, of Aurora, Colorado; died Wednesday, November 15, 2017. He was 96.

Born December 5, 1920, in Fargo, North Dakota, to the late Samuel and Bertha Paper;

Abe was the seventh of 10 children and the last survivor.

He served in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II.

An Optometrist, Abe practiced in Louisville for 30 years. He loved tennis, bridge, Minnesota college football and his family. He was the best patriarch and beloved by all his family.

In 1946, Abe married Phyllis J. Levine Paper, who preceded in him in death.

Abe is survived by his children Jan (Maury Kroopnick) Fisher and Don (Kathy) Paper; his grandchildren, Molly (Jeremy) Goldsmith and Jonathan Fisher; great-grandchildren, Adam and Emily; and by nieces, nephews, and many admirers.

A service was held Sunday, November 20, in Denver. He was interred in Mount Nebo Memorial Park. Contributions may be to Shalom Park, 14800 East Bellevue Drive, Aurora, CO 80015.



Arnold M. Schneider

Arnold M. Schneider, 93, died Thursday, November 23, 2017, at Baptist Health.

He was a plant and production manager for Universal Container Corporation, serving

the whiskey barrel industry, and a retired insurance agent with Traveler's Insurance.

He was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and JCC, and a driver for the Adath Jeshurun gift shop and JFCS Meals on Wheels.

Arnold is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Roslind Jacobs Schneider; his daughter, Suzy Schaffer (Jack) of Houston, Texas; his sons, Jon Schneider (Wendy Fox) of Skokie, Illinois; and Sheldon Schneider (Meg) of Lexington; his sisters, Naomi Pressma and Marianne Morguelan; and his grandchildren, Alyssa, Jeremy and Jonathan Schaffer, and Allison, Mallory, Samantha, Ross and Julia Schneider.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 26, at Herman Meyer & Son, 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Congregation

See **OBITUARIES** on next page



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Rooks

continued from page 1

Theological Seminary, "without whom I never would have gotten my doctorate."

She added, "I learn from all of you, especially my interfaith friends."

A video was played showing highlights from Rooks' career and recorded well wishes from friends and colleagues. One of them was Rabbi David Ellenson, former president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, who spoke glowingly of Rooks, one of his former students.

But the evening belonged to Rooks, who spoke last.

She paid tribute to her husband for his

"gentle encouragement for what I might become," and her children. ("Everything that is gentler, kinder and more loving in me, I learned from you.")

She said each person who was present, along with those who called, wrote and texted, was special to her in a different way.

Reflecting on the way she spent her life, Rooks asked – in jest – why on earth anyone would want to become a rabbi.

The answer, to her, is obvious.

"What more fulfilling way could there be for someone to spend a life? I became a rabbi because the rabbi gets to be there when life seems to be coming apart or coming back together."

Being a rabbi, she continued, is an honor.

"There are entrances to holiness everywhere – the birth of a child, the bar mitzvah of a son, the ordination of a daughter, weddings, funerals, festivals and feasts," Rooks said. "That's one reason I wanted to become a rabbi. People allow me the sacred opportunity to experience with them precious entrances to holiness."

"Called to the rabbinate" in the 10th grade – before Sally Priesand became the first woman rabbi in America – and ordained herself in 1984, Rooks said she had been privileged to serve a congregation where she been "paid to be a mensch."

"People expected me to be caring and righteous. They entrusted me with tzedakah, and I was blessed to be part of

their mitzvah of healing the world."

As her work as an active pulpit rabbi comes to an end, Rooks said she will now take time to consider what comes next on her journey.

"Now, with a six-month sabbatical ahead of me, to clear my mind and clean the ashes off the altar of my ever-burning spark of the divine, it's time to listen once again for that still small voice," she said.

"It's quite greedy of me, I recognize, to hope to hear God's call so clearly once again," she added. "Most people never experience that kind of intimate encounter once in their lives, and here I want it twice. But whether I will be that incredibly blessed, I am already eternally grateful."

Community

continued from page 1

have already begun sharing content of interest to both our readerships; you may even see us cooperating on joint projects. Stay tuned.

Of course, we hope *Community's* con-

tent continues to engage and inspire you. Maybe you won't always like or agree with what we write, but that speaks to the strength of our eclectic following, and the nature of newspapers in general. As our sages say, we comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

Last, but certainly not least, we have tweaked our name. Check out our ban-

ner again. From now on, we are the *Jewish Louisville Community*, a branding decision we hope will tie us closer to the people we serve.

We hope you like the new *Jewish Louisville Community*, and don't be shy about sending us your feedback to readerswrite@jewishlouisville.org. We may even print some of them. After all,

this is your paper. We want you to see yourself here; we want you see the questions and issues you deal with every day; we want you to see Jewish Louisville in all its flavors.

We want you to see home.

Obituaries

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Adath Jeshurun, the JFCS or the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation.



Shirley Bass Schramm

Shirley Bass Schramm, 90, died Wednesday, November 29, 2017, at her home in Dallas.

She was a lifelong resident of Louisville until 2013, when she moved to be with her children.

She was married to Ted Schramm for 54 years before his passing in 2002.

A 1945 graduate of Girls' High, Shirley attended the University of Louisville for three years and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in library science. Later she was the head librarian at the Highland Park branch in Louisville and librarian at the Kentucky Home School for Girls.

She and her husband were deeply involved with Eliahu Academy while their four children were students there, from 1955 until 1978.

She was a member of Congregation Anshei Sfard, Amit Women, and Hadassah, for which she served as Louisville chapter president and regional board member, as well as frequent volunteer at

the Purple Plum, the local chapter's consignment store on Bardstown Road.

She was honored by the State of Israel Bonds in 1980. Shirley was a longtime participant in and supporter of the Highland Minyan at Four Courts. She volunteered for Telecare for many years, and took charge of the Candy Stripper program at Jewish Hospital.

A lifelong opera fan, she was a member of the Kentucky Opera Guild.

She is survived by her four sons, Lenn (Deborah) Schramm of Jerusalem; Marc (Sharon) Schramm of Columbus, Ohio; Alec (Laurel) Schramm of Los Angeles; and Eric (Bonnie) Schramm of Dallas; as well as by 15 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren (with one more due any day).

Burial was held December 1 at the Anshei Sfard cemetery in Louisville. Donations may be made in her memory to Hadassah.



Caroline "Carolyn" Simon Shapin

Caroline "Carolyn" Simon Shapin, passed away Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at Treyton Oak Towers. She was a graduate of the University of Louisville School of

Music and became a high school music teacher and a private piano instructor.

She was a life member of the Association of the Louisville Orchestra, a member of the Music Teachers Association, Friends of the School of Music, Speed Museum, NCJW-Louisville Section and Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

During World War II, she worked for the American Red Cross Home Service Department, giving service to military families.

For many years, she volunteered for the Fund for the Arts, the Channel 15 Auction, and the Everyone Reads program for which she received recognition for outstanding commitment to her stu-

dents.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, Maurice and Celia Simon; her husband, Nathaniel Shapin; and her brother, Dr. William J. Simon.

She is survived by her son, Lawrence A. Shapin (Ladonna Nicolas); her sister, Rebecca Wall; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services were held December 17 at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Louisville Orchestra or the Louisville Youth Orchestra.

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