

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE
Quest for parenthood
Louisville couple goes
public with IVF saga
STORY ON PG. 4

FRIDAY Vol. 43, No. 7 | 15 Av 5778 | July 27, 2018

Annual Campaign tops \$2 million

New donors added during 2017-18 drive

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The 2017-18 Annual Campaign set some high bars for success: \$2 million in donations, a jump in first-time givers. Mission accomplished on both counts.

In an exit interview on the just-completed campaign. Co-chairs Jerry and Madeline Abramson and Ariel and Faina Kronenberg lauded some impressive numbers from this year's fund drive.

- They exceeded the \$2 million goal, raising \$2,075,579.

- They added 195 new donors to the rolls.

- They inspired 264 donors to increase their giving.

- They pushed the number of total donors to 1,070.

All of which means the allocations committee had more money to distribute this year, according to Jerry Abramson.

"The reality is we set a goal, and we surpassed it," he said.

Stacy Gordon-Funk, vice president of philanthropy, thanked the volunteers who worked on this year's campaign.

"We are extremely grateful the community stepped forward to support the annual campaign by giving so generously. How fortunate we were to have the skilled leadership of the Abramson's and Kronenberg's who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the campaign. We



As a thank you to donors, J campers send a message to Jewish Louisville. (Community photo by William Beasley)

owe much of our success to them and the other volunteers who partnered with the Federation staff"

Ariel Kronenberg took note of those 1,070 donors, broadening the base of JCL support.

"I thought the new donor number was very significant," he said. "There were a lot of people who lapsed over the years that were engaged.... I think that's a big part of that number."

Several younger Jewish Louisvillians gave for the first time, Jerry Abramson said, yet he, too, was impressed by the reengagement of lapsed donors.

"They were reenergized by the energy in the Jewish community in this point in time and they wanted to be a part of it."

When the four co-chairs took the job last summer, they committed to shaking up the traditional campaign.

Again, mission accomplished.

The annual dinner was set aside this year in favor of a series of "Herzlian

events" in which local speakers met with small groups in intimate, mostly home-based settings to speak about their projects and encourage giving. The series is designed for donors of \$5,000 or more.

The series was named for Theodore Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, who coined the idea of small events.

"More people attended, more people pledged, and the expenses were much lower than bringing in a national speaker," Madeline Abramson said.

The Herzlian events will return this coming year, but with a twist. Instead of people just signing up for events, Faina Kronenberg said participants will be invited to a cocktails/appetizer social where the coming speakers and venues will be showcased, enabling guests to choose with their friends which ones to attend.

Faina Kronenberg also plans to tap an

See **ANNUAL CAMPAIGN** on page 23

Architect hired: GBBN hiring puts JTomorrow! on firm foundation

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

For Jason Groneck, and his team, architecture has as much to do with buildings that make a difference as well as condos and retail.

A principal for GBBN Architects, and the project manager for the future J, Groneck said his firm has developed a reputation for designing and developing structures for the nonprofit sector, what he calls "community hubs."

GBBN's hiring is the latest step in JTomorrow! – the project to develop the new J at the Dutchmans Lane campus that will make a difference in Jewish Louisville for generations.

Community hubs matter to GBBN, Groneck told Community in an interview.

"It's one of our key markets," he said. "It's been rooted in our core business going back to the first year of this firm's inception 60 years ago."

In fact, GBBN, which has offices in Louisville, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Beijing, has been involved with 15 community hub projects. Among them:

- The Novak Center for Children's

See **NEW ARCHITECT** on page 23

Israel's new Nation-State Law raises concerns in the Diaspora

By staff and wire reports

Jewish Louisville joined other national Jewish organizations last week in responding to Israel's new law that enshrines in Israel's quasi-constitutional Basic Law that the country is the nation-state of the Jewish people.

In a statement released Friday, July 20, the Jewish Federation of Louisville "condemned" the so-called Nation-State Law, which cleared the Knesset by a 62-55 vote.

The law, which had been sponsored by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, deals largely with the obvious signs of

Jewish independence: affirming the flag and shield as symbols of the state; setting the Hebrew calendar as the country's official calendar; recognizing Jewish holidays and days of remembrance and the national anthem; and naming Jerusalem as the capital.

But it also relegates Arabic to a "special" status instead of an official language, and it promotes the establishment of Jewish-only communities throughout the country.

Non-Orthodox groups in North America are particularly upset about a clause that defines Israel's relationship to Jews abroad, but says nothing about Jewish

diversity within the country itself. Critics call that a capitulation to the ultra-Orthodox parties in Israel, who do not want the state to accommodate the religious practices of non-Orthodox Jews.

"This bill will further undermine Israel's relations with Diaspora Jewry, alienate Israel's non-Jewish citizens, and damage Israel's reputation around the world," The Federation statement says.

With regard to its relationship to the Jewish people The bill says Israel will "act to maintain the connection between the State and the Jewish people in the Diaspora." The Federation statement says that line was added by ultra-Ortho-

dox interests "to intimate that it should be making religious decisions without input from the Diaspora, nullifying what we had hoped was a two-way street in that regard."

"We in Louisville are strong supporters of religious pluralism in Israel," the statement continues, "and this bill seeks to nullify any influence we might have in that regard. Israel continues to discriminate against non-Orthodox Jewry and, in fact, recently forcefully arrested a Conservative Rabbi for the simple act of performing a marriage,,"

See **NATION-STATE LAW** on page 23



The Israel Experience

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THE DASHBOARD

D'var Torah

Let God’s compassion inspire us: Two stories and a blessing

By Rabbi Diane Tracht
For Community

I. The Talmud (Gittin 55b) tells us that Jerusalem was destroyed on the ninth day of Av – our current Hebrew month – on account of two men: Kamtza and Bar Kamtza.

It is told that Ploni decided to throw a feast. He invited his dear friend, Kamtza to a party, but his enemy, Bar Kamtza, received the invitation.

When Bar Kamtza got to the party, he entered his enemy’s home, and found his spot at the crowded table. When Ploni saw him, he stood up from his spot at and walked to Bar Kamtza, hissing, “You are my enemy. What do you want here? Get out.”

Bar Kamtza felt his cheeks growing red and hot. He pleaded with Ploni, “Please, I’m already here. Let me stay, I’ll pay you for all I eat and drink. Just don’t embarrass me by sending me away.”

Ploni said, “No. Leave.”

Bar Kamtza said, “I’ll pay for half the feast, just please let me stay.”

“No.”

“I’ll pay for the entire feast, just don’t send me away.”

“No. You must go.”

The blood that had rushed to Bar Kamtza’s face now drained and he grew ashen. Ploni took Bar Kamtza’s hand and led him to the door.

That night, as Bar Kamtza tried to sleep, he thought of all the leaders and sages around the table. He remembered each face and each person who’d endorsed his shame with their silence. In the morning, he went to the Romans to tell them how the Jews were rebelling.

II. One story (Sifre Bamidbar 133) elaborates on the account in Numbers 27 about Zelophehad’s daughters.

It is told that his five daughters gathered the night after their father had died. They knew that without any brothers, there was no one to inherit their



Rabbi Diane Tracht

family’s land. The daughters gathered to advise each other. They wanted to keep their land; they didn’t want their family name to vanish, but how? Mahla, or maybe Noa, began to speak, saying, “The compassion of God is not like the compassion of people. People have more compassion for men than for women.”

Another sister, Hogla, or maybe Milcah, said, “That’s right. But the one who spoke and created the world is not like people. The one who spoke has compassion on all people alike.”

“That’s right,” said Tirza, quoting Psalm 145, our Ashrei prayer, “as we know, the Lord is good to all, and has compassion on all creation.”

The next morning they took their case before Moses, Eleazar the Priest, the elders, and all Israel. When Moses said he would have to ask God, the sisters smiled to themselves, knowing that God’s compassion would prevail.

III.

A Blessing:

As we journey through this month of Av; to Elul, our month of reflection; and into Tishrei and the new year, may we root into compassion. May we hold ourselves and others as God holds us: with love. May we tend our Earth and the needs of our city and country with our own desire to be good to all. May we strive towards holy kindness for all creation.

(Rabbi Diane Tracht, recently ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, is a chaplain resident at Baptist Health Louisville.)

Snapshots



Holocaust studies students in this year’s VAMPY program for gifted teens at Western Kentucky University work on the latest in the class’ Never Again series of murals. The murals depict themes inspired by the Shoah. This year’s painting is based on Roman Polanski’s 2002 movie, *The Pianist*, and highlights this line: “If we held a moment of silence for every victim of the Holocaust, we would be silent for eleven and half years.” Ron Skillern, who teaches the class, expects to the mural to be exhibited in Louisville after it is completed. (photos provided by Ron Skillern)

Candles

Here are the candle-lighting times for Shabbat in July:

- August 3 @ 8:32
- August 10 @ 8:24
- August 17 @ 8:15
- August 24 @ 8:05
- August 31 @ 7:55

Contacts

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

Send it 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 Kristy Benefield can handle all circulation questions. Kristy can be reached at kbenefield@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 July *Community*? Send it in by Wednesday, August 15 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Fri-

day, August 24.

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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NEWS

Louisville couple sheds light on trials of fertility treatment

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Benji Berlow and Lisa Sobel-Berlow bet against the odds on Derby Day this year. Today, more than two months later, they still don't know if they will win.

On May 6, surrounded by jockey-helmeted doctors, nurses, and family in a surgical suite at the Kentucky Fertility Institute in Louisville, Benji and Lisa succeeded in the first step of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) – harvesting eggs – a process they hope will lead to the birth of a child.

Although no horses or cash is involved in this story, Benji and Lisa kept to the Derby theme by naming the three embryos still in the “race.” The preliminary “winners” were MyHeartsDesire, Curly-Dave, and So-Ber.

The next big day will come sometime at the end of July, when they find out if the one remaining viable embryo, Curly-Dave, can be implanted in Lisa's womb and make it to the finish line, also known as childbirth.

The process already seems more like a marathon than a horse race. The 30-something Louisville couple has been trying for three years to have a child, and this is their second round of IVF. The first try ended when none of four embryos proved viable.

Like many infertile couples, Benji and Lisa had other options, including adoption and surrogacy, but they weren't ready to give up on giving birth to a child from their own egg and sperm.

“We at least want the chance to have our own biological child first, just like any other couple,” Lisa said.

According to Hasidah, a Jewish non-profit organization that assists infertile Jewish couples in becoming pregnant, one round of IVF costs an average of \$12,500. That only covers the procedure itself. Drugs, testing, and other expenses push the average bill to \$24,000 – for just one round of IVF. The total, which often includes more than one round, can easily top \$60,000.

Benji and Lisa work for Jewish Louisville. Benji is the rabbi's assistant at The Temple; Lisa, the engagement & digital media coordinator at the Jewish Family & Career Services. The couple have been open about their efforts to become parents, even blogging about their odyssey and resorting to crowd funding to defray the costs. They raised \$25,000 for their first round of IVF, \$5,000 for their second so far.

For the Derby-themed second round, they qualified for a \$10,000 grant from Hasidah. They also used leftover medication from the first round.

To Rabbi Idit Solomon, founder and CEO of Hasidah (the Hebrew word for stork), cost is a hurdle that no prospective parent should face alone.

“This barrier to treatment is like putting your foot on the brake,” Solomon said, an analogy she repeatedly used.

Solomon knows what she talks about. She and her husband, former New York Times columnist and current University of California at Berkeley Law Professor Steven Solomon, went through years of fertility treatment, spending approximately \$100,000.

“We started with insurance, so a couple of our rounds were covered,” Solomon said. “Then we paid out of pocket.”

She recalled one round where she was at a clinic being tested while her husband was sitting in their car in the park-



Benji and Lisa Sobel Berlow, seen here at a recent family service at Temple Shalom, have been trying to have child for three years. They have gone public about their experiences with fertility treatment. (Community photo by Lee Chottiner)

ing lot lining up consulting work so they could afford the procedure consulting over the phone to pay for it.

Their efforts finally paid off. They have three children. Still, the financial obstacles to IVF irked Solomon. There wasn't much help for Jewish couples seeking fertility treatment.

“There were organizations in the Orthodox world, but they just didn't speak to me,” Solomon said. “There was nothing at all, so I thought to myself, ‘Here we are, bemoaning the declining birth rate, and here I am saying I'd love to have Jewish kids, but I need help having them. That was the motivation.’”

The former vice president of Jewish Education & Identity at the Columbus Jewish Federation, Solomon saw firsthand how many resources are spent on raising Jewish children, compared to actually having them.

“I didn't need help raising kids. I needed help in having the kids,” she said. “People were being incentivized to raise their kids to lead Jewish lives. I was losing hope of ever having kids.”

So she started Hasidah in 2013 and gave out her first grants the following year. Since then, more than 300 parents have sought help from Hasidah, which is supported by individual donors. It has awarded 17 grants for IVF, resulting in 11 births. The latest two – twins born to an Orthodox rabbi and his wife from Oakland, California – arrived in late June. Solomon attended the bris and baby naming.

“We now have a minyan,” she quipped. Hasidah also trains rabbis and cantors to change community perceptions about fertility treatment, through counseling and workshops.

“We talk about how to create more sensitivity and inclusion for people who are facing fertility challenges,” Solomon said.

Since Hasidah's founding, other organizations have begun offering varying degrees of help to infertile couples, from full assistance to counseling only. Solomon rattled off the names of organiza-

tions and federations.

There are only a handful, she noted, and that's the problem.

“The fact that I can identify them,” she said, “shows they are the exception and not the rule.”

Reuben Rotman, CEO of Network for Jewish Human Service Agencies (JHSA), which JFCS belongs to, said Hebrew free loan associations across the country, better known for helping families pay their bills, also have dedicated funds for parents for fertility treatment.

“They will accept this as a reason for the loan,” Rotman said. “You don't have to be behind in your credit card.”

There's another bonus: “The money is recycled,” Rotman said. “So when you pay back, you're able to help other families.”

While many couples turn to fertility treatment to become parents, it is only one of several options.

“People have lots of choices, said Judy Freundlich Tiell, executive director of the Jewish Family & Career Services. “I see people who had tried everything from adoption to various kinds of fertility treatments to making the decision that they will get their nurturing needs met in different ways. It's a personal decision.”

Tiell has also seen couples and individuals opt for surrogacy, with all the questions and issues that accompany that choice. As science and technology evolve, even more options will become available.

A licensed clinical social worker, Tiell has been counseling infertile couples and individuals for more than three decades. She also co-founded a Louisville chapter of Resolve: The National Infertility Association, around 1980.

Today, the JFCS continues to provide counseling for families seeking to become parents.

“We have counselors here who are attuned to those issues and help people focus on them and what they mean,” Tiell said. Counseling, she said, helps families

deal with reams of issues related to their difficulty in becoming biological parents.

“It's really taking a look at how one feels about what's going on, that loss of control, that your body doesn't work the way you think it should work,” she said. It could be any one of a number of issues.”

“It can affect a marriage,” she added. “Sometimes it draws people closer together; sometimes it pulls them apart.”

Benji and Lisa seem like a poster couple for prospective parents. Once a month, the couple shows up at Temple Shalom in Louisville, where they perform No-Shush Shabbat for children. Benji strums guitar songs for the little congregants as Lisa sits in the pews, smiling and joining in whenever grown-ups are cued.

Their adventure began three years ago. After failing to get pregnant, they read a veritable library of books and blogs to educate themselves, all while Lisa “meticulously” tracked her temperature with countless ovulation sticks. At the same time, Benji began a series of tests.

After six months of semen analyses, CT scans, genetic testing and other procedures, Benji learned he had a zero sperm count, he was born with one kidney and was missing the tube that connects his testes to the seminal duct. He can produce sperm, but it goes nowhere. On the other side, the kidney and tube contain multiple blockages.

“The way I describe it,” Benji said, “is I have very bad plumbing.”

To take part in fertility treatment, he would have to have his sperm surgically harvested. Doctors recovered six vials of sperm – enough for six cycles – but since it was not in seminal fluid, it could only be used in an enhanced IVF process – called ICSI – where only one sperm can be used at a time.

Meanwhile, Lisa learned that she has a “low ovarian reserve” – fewer eggs than she should have at her age. Normally,

See **IVF** on next page

NEWS

IVF

continued from previous page

doctors expect 15-20 eggs per IVF cycle. Lisa had six in the first round, three in the second.

Each round, she underwent barrages of medication, costing \$700 to \$7,000, depending on discounts. She kept track of pills and prices with a spreadsheet.

She also tried acupuncture to increase her blood flow, lower her stress, and give her some badly needed "me time."

During one interview, Lisa held up her right arm, revealing an enormous purplish bruise where blood had just been drawn to check her medication levels – her "badge of honor," she called it.

Then there was pregnancy screening, anesthesiology and a host of other expenses. The couple that loves and desperately wants to have children became disillusioned with the miracle of birth.

"The fairy tale we're all given ... was ripped away," Lisa said, "and it's not gently ripped away; it's a massacre."

Lisa and Benji hope their story will lighten the ordeal other infertile couples experience.

"There is no standardization of care," Benji said. "No two couples going through this have the same protocol."

Finding insurance is difficult. Some states require insurance, other prohibit it because reproductive technologies have been connected with larger debates including abortion, reproductive choice, birth control, and LGBTQ rights.

Some individual corporations provide coverage. Starbucks, for instance, covers \$15,000 for all employees, full- or part-

time.

Expenses aside, Benji and Lisa are especially driven by the stigma borne by infertile couples.

Rotman, of the JHSA, agreed.

"Families keep asking when you'll get pregnant," he said, "while siblings, cousins, and close friends are starting families."

Since they have gone public, Benji and Lisa say, many others, including some of their friends, have "come out of the closet," as Benji said, sharing their own stories.

"That definitely shows the stigma just within our circles of friends who didn't want to be open about a process that took an emotional toll," Benji said.

If the stigma of failing to conceive can be changed, other hurdles will fall like dominoes, they said. "When insurance companies start covering," Lisa said, "standardized care will follow because insurance companies will require it. But it starts with that cultural stigma."

In the Diaspora, at least, culture plays another role. The fertility rate for Jews is declining. According to the Pew Research Center, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Jews from 2010-2015 was 2.3 children for woman. That's slightly above the 2.1 "replacement rate," the figure typically considered necessary to maintain a stable population.

But a breakdown of the Jewish TFR tells a different story. The fertility rate among Jews in the Middle East and North Africa was 2.8 for the five-year period, but it dropped to 1.8 in Europe and 2.0 in North America.

Fertility treatment alone won't move



Lisa Sobel-Berlow poses with clinicians at the Kentucky Fertility Institute of Louisville, all wearing jockey hats on the day the eggs were harvested. (photo provided by Benji Berlow and Lisa Sobel-Berlow)

those numbers much, Solomon warned, but that's not the point.

"I don't think I'm doing this to increase our birthrate," she said. "Helping people through IVF and fertility treatment in general is getting your foot off the break. We have our foot on the break. I don't think IVF will put [Jews] over the replacement rate where we're flourishing, but we're stopping some of the decline."

Benji and Lisa don't yet know if they are likely to count as part of the decline or add to the growth. MyHeartsDesire did not implant. That leaves them with CurlyDave, a mosaic embryo back in contention.

Mosaic means that some of the five

cells tested from this embryo were abnormal. There were no genetic abnormalities, though, so it is still viable. They hope to transfer CurlyDave by the end of July.

Experiencing more of a roller coaster ride than horse race, Benji and Lisa have learned to accept setbacks.

"Throughout this process we've come to realize there are only so many variables we as humans can control," Lisa said, "and we're doing a pretty good job of controlling them. But there's still that aspect – the supernatural, the spiritual, the higher power – that's ultimately in control."



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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: August 15 for publication on August 24 and September 18 for publication on September 28.

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

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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 lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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FORUM

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steve@greenberg-art.com **GREENBERG**

What if my cousin lived in Israel?

One Friday, 13 years ago last month, I flew to Philadelphia for my wedding. But first I hung out for a couple of hours at the row home of my future brother- and sister-in-law.

That was when I met Alan Bernstein, their first cousin. Just in from Los Angeles for the wedding, Alan volunteered to drive me to my hotel in Metuchen, New Jersey.

I don't really recall much about the drive. There was that moment on the Pennsylvania Turnpike when some guy cut us off, prompting Alan to lay on the horn, but I was riding shotgun, and I completely agreed with his reaction.

Mostly, we just talked and got to know each other. I do remember how he said driving the groom to his wedding was an honor. (He might have said "mitzvah.")

Riding in the back was Alan's 1-year-old son, Isaac, a big kid for his age; we called him El Gordo.

Since our wedding, Beth and I have seen Alan many times. We watched his family grow as twin sisters Natalie and Naomi entered the world.

We see them at b'nai mitzvah, and at funerals. We have flown out to L.A. to visit them, and Alan has brought the kids to Louisville to see us.

In fact, he has taken them to every state in the union – for the experience. He also sends them to a Jewish URJ camp in Wisconsin.

In a time when too many Jews are unaffiliated, Alan belongs, not to one synagogue, but *four* – the one where his family regularly worships and where all his kids will become b'nai mitzvah, the one



Human
Resources

Lee Chottiner

he joined so his son could attend religious school with his friends, the one he joined so his elder daughter could attend religious school with her friends, and the one he joined so his other daughter could attend Jewish day school.

Now *that* is a Jewish father.

Whether it's acting, music or baseball, Alan has made it possible for his kids to grow into their talents.

But he gives his kids more than opportunities; he gives them the intangibles, too, like manners.

On our last trip to L.A., Beth and I took Isaac to a Pirates-Dodgers game at Chavez Ravine. The Dodgers beat the Bucs – my hometown team – in 10 innings, and Isaac never gloated. (I probably wouldn't have been so nice.)

What makes all this remarkable is that Alan, who happens to be gay, has done all this alone. He used a surrogate to have his kids – of all whom are full biological siblings.

Those kids have grown into amazing, talented human beings. They're engaging, mature and proud to be Jewish. I can't imagine our family without them.

So why am I sharing my family history

with you?

A hat-trick of three shocking news items came out of Israel last week – passage of the Nation-State Law, which threatens to estrange Diaspora Jewry; the pre-dawn arrest of a Masorti rabbi for the "crime" of marrying Jews; and yet another new law passed by the Knesset prohibiting single and gay men from using surrogates to have children.

This effectively means that the ultra-Orthodox establishment in Israel, which controls all religious affairs in the country by threatening to topple the government if its positions don't prevail, can determine who gets to be a parent in the Jewish state.

Had Alan Bernstein been born in Israel under this new law, had he grown into adulthood under its repressive restriction, this devoted father and active Jew would not have been able to become a parent.

His three amazing kids would not have been born.

State-sanctioned dogma would have snuffed out a wonderful Jewish family before it ever got started.

You don't know Alan, but you probably know someone just like him, someone whose marital status or sexual orientation doesn't pass muster with the powerful forces in Israel today.

For the sake of the state so many of us love, these shifts in Israel from democracy to theocracy must not be allowed to stand.

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

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FORUM

Justice, justice shall we pursue – even across the border

Many interesting things happened in Israel last week.

The Nation-State Law was passed, which solidifies and codifies a Jewish connection to the country (with a fair amount of controversy) related to issues that deal with non-Jewish Israelis and religious pluralism there.

A Conservative Rabbi was forcefully arrested for performing a wedding in Israel (Conservative- and Reform-officiated weddings are not recognized by the state).

Israel shot down a Syrian fighter jet which crossed into its territory, and it continues to bomb Iranian factories and military sites throughout Syria.

And yet another law that bars single and gay men from using surrogates to become parents has become law.

Yet as the country wrestles with these developments, something happened across the border that speaks to the heart of what Israel could and should be (and what it shouldn't be as well):

In response to Syrian President Bashar Assad's brutal and vicious bombing of his own people, a group of citizens have



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

organized and trained themselves to rescue people buried beneath the rubble of buildings.

These so-called "White Helmets" are the best of Syrian society, risking their lives to save their fellow citizens under the worst conditions. They have been recognized internationally and have even been considered for the Nobel Peace Prize (Of course, the Syrian regime has branded them terrorists).

Recently, as Assad gains the upper hand in the civil war, the White Helmets have been pushed to Syria's borders with Israel and Jordan, with nowhere else to go.

It was a desperate situation. If captured by the approaching Syrian army, the White Helmets were sure to be killed.

But that didn't happen. Israel, at the request of the United States, Canada and the United Nations, rescued these people and their families, safely transporting them to Jordan where they will wait until they are resettled in Europe and Canada.

The Israeli army has such a capacity for humanitarianism, and this is just a small example. It also has treated thousands of Syrians who have approached the border in need of medical care and have provided humanitarian assistance to recently arrived refugees escaping the war and camping out mere yards from the Israeli border.

It is this kind of humanitarianism that should make us all proud to be Zionists.

What is happening in Syria is a moral outrage, and the White Helmets' situation is just a small example. This country is being used by Iran to support Hezbollah in Lebanon and to threaten Israel. Russia uses it to maintain bases in the Mediterranean. Turkey uses it in

its long-running battle with the Kurds -- and Sunni Arab states in a never-ending battle with the Iranian-backed Shia.

So many of the Syrians who have approached the border with Israel now recognize that their true enemy was never Israel, but all these other countries who have their own geopolitical agendas at the expense of innocent civilians.

As Jews, our entire history teaches us to seek justice and act morally. It is why we celebrate Israel's humanity, compassion and contributions to the world, and why we speak up with love and pride when we feel Israel is not living up to this very high standard.

It is also why we are so involved with human rights around the world, injustice in the United States, and charitable endeavors in our own communities.

The Jewish Community Relations Council is the avenue for all of this and we will continue to think and act morally, consistent with Jewish values and interests.

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

Councilwoman moves to overturn Anshei Sfard landarking

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

A Louisville Metro councilwoman said she would vote to overturn the city's historic landmark designation for the Anshei Sfard synagogue.

Barbara Sexton Smith made her position known Tuesday during a meeting of council's planning, zoning & annexation committee to review the designation – a review she requested.

Smith said she arrived at her decision after reviewing the report by the Historic Landmarks Commission, watching video of the property and consulting the Jefferson County Attorney's Office on the criteria used to designate the property as historic.

"This particular property, under my review, does not possess any of character, interest or value as part of the heritage of Louisville Metro or that of the United States of America," Smith said.

Further, "There was nothing in the record that indicated that this property or the structures therein played any particular role in the history of our community," she said.

While the contractors may have used



A resolution has been introduced in Metro Council to overturn Anshei Sfard's landmark status. (Community photo)

quality materials and craftsmanship to build the synagogue and other structures, she added "The architecture did not display any distinguishing elements, and that was part of the criteria."

The committee did not vote since there was no resolution before it. Smith introduced a resolution on Monday.

Council has until September 18 to take action on the landmarking.

Responding to a petition signed by neighbors and other residents to designate Anshei Sfard as historic, the Landmarks Commissions compiled a report on the property and held a public hearing on March 22.

Cynthia Elmore, historic preservation officer for Develop Louisville, gave the committee a brief overview of the report. She said four residents at the March 22

hearing spoke in favor of the designation, while five were against.

In the end, the commission voted 5-4 to landmark the synagogue, saying it met four of its nine criteria for the designation. Four commissioners were absent and did not vote.

The congregation opposes the landmarking, saying it will hamper its efforts to sell the property. The Jewish Community of Louisville has made a conditional offer to buy it, the condition being that the landmark decision be overturned.

Steve Porter, the attorney representing the petitioners, maintains that the building is historic, noting it is the last Orthodox synagogue in Kentucky and represents the movement of the community from downtown to the East End. He called the synagogue's windows "an outstanding example of the use of glass architecture."

Councilwoman Madonna Flood, chair of the planning, zoning & annexation committee, lamented that the issue was before her panel saying the criteria the Landmark Commission must follow in deciding which buildings to protect constitutes "a horrible balancing act."



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FORUM/NEWS

Israel detains rabbi for performing wedding; people are angered

By Ben Sales
JTA

JERULSAEM – As he waited to be interrogated by the Israel Police for conducting a non-Orthodox wedding, Rabbi Dov Haiyun began a Facebook post with three words: “Iran is here.”

Haiyun awoke at 5:30 a.m. Thursday at his home in Haifa to a knock on the door from two police officers who detained him, put him in the back of a van and sought to question him. His crime? Conducting a Jewish wedding outside the auspices of Israel’s haredi Orthodox Chief Rabbinate.

The rabbi was released, sans questions, after a couple hours — he had to head to the Israeli president’s residence for an event celebrating Jewish pluralism.

Israel’s attorney general has since ordered police to stop investigating Haiyun, a Conservative rabbi in his northern city. But news of the incident, which has spread quickly across Israel and to Jews worldwide, has highlighted an obscure law threatening non-Orthodox rabbis with arrest. And it has ignited a wave of protest in Israel and abroad against the Orthodox monopoly over Jewish practice there.

“I feel disappointed in my state that this is what’s happening in my country,” Haiyun told JTA on Friday. “The only country that discriminates between Jews in the entire Western world is Israel. In the United States, I can perform weddings and they recognize me.”

“The police don’t catch criminals this quickly,” he added later.

The law that landed Haiyun in a police

van outlaws any traditional Jewish marriage performed outside the authority of the Chief Rabbinate, the state-sanctioned body dominated by haredi Orthodox rabbis that controls all recognized Jewish marriage, divorce, burial and conversion in Israel. Weddings performed in Israel outside its purview — including all Conservative and Reform marriages — are not recognized by the state.

According to the law, rabbis that perform any non-sanctioned weddings in Israel could also be subject to prosecution — so can the bride and groom.

When the measure was passed in 2013, a Chief Rabbinate spokesman told JTA that non-Orthodox weddings would only run afoul of the law if they were performed using traditional Jewish rites. Haiyun uses a traditional Jewish ceremony in his weddings, so a religious court in Haifa invoked the law and ordered the police to interrogate him.

(Earlier reports that one of the partners in the marriage was a “mamzer” — an individual who was born out of a woman’s extramarital affair and whose ability to marry within Jewish law is highly restricted — appear to be inaccurate.)

Before this week, the law was never enforced. So, though secular Israelis have long chafed at their inability to marry whomever they wanted or how they wanted, the law had not become a centerpiece for protesting the Chief Rabbinate. Campaigns have focused more on instituting civil marriage in Israel or on increased rights for LGBT Israelis.

Some Israelis have also protested the Chief Rabbinate by declining its wedding services. Israel does recognize any

legal wedding ceremony performed abroad, so some Israelis are legally married in a nearby country — say, Cyprus — and then have an unrecognized ceremony in Israel. Some secular Israelis forgo marriage altogether and live in domestic partnership. That Israeli Jews have the right to marry however they want only outside their own country is a frequently noted irony.

A majority of Israelis are interested in weddings outside the Chief Rabbinate’s auspices, according to a 2017 poll by Hiddush, an Israeli organization that advocates for religious pluralism. Hiddush also reports that the number of Israelis registering for marriage with the Chief Rabbinate is dropping. Polls show that a large majority of Israelis oppose the Chief Rabbinate’s control over marriage.

Alternative weddings have become so widespread that Israel’s own Foreign Ministry posted a Facebook video last month advertising them. Against an upbeat soundtrack, the video claims ironically that if you get married in Israel, you can “make it your own style.”

But Haiyun’s experience shows that the wrong kind of Jewish practice can still lead to a morning in the police station. His detainment — and his Facebook post comparing it to Iran’s Islamic theocracy — has led to a street protest. Israelis have also begun an online campaign overlaying their Facebook photos with the message “I also got married outside the rabbinate.”

The incident has prompted vociferous protest from Jews outside Israel, including an angry statement signed by 14 Conservative Jewish groups. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish

Organizations, an umbrella group rarely given to criticizing Israel, issued a statement urging an investigation of Haiyun’s early morning detention (although without criticizing the law itself).

UJA-Federation of New York, the country’s largest and most powerful Jewish federation, called Haiyun’s detention “dramatically inconsistent with Israel’s promise as the home of the entire Jewish people.”

Even the American Federation of Teachers felt compelled to weigh in. The president of the union, Randi Weingarten, who is married to a rabbi, condemned Haiyun’s detention as one of a series of “anti-democratic and nativist actions” in Israel.

Weingarten’s statement also refers to other developments this week that together with the Haiyun incident were the heat, oxygen and fuel of a fiery argument between Israel’s right-wing government and the largely liberal Diaspora.

The day before, Israel’s Knesset passed the so-called Nation-State Law, which officially defines Israel as a Jewish state and has prompted fears in the Diaspora that disrespect for religious pluralism in Israel will be enshrined in law.

Also Wednesday, the Knesset passed a law denying same-sex male couples the right to have a child via a surrogate in Israel.

“I believe in Zionism and believe in its vision,” Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, told JTA. “What concerns me is how far away from that vision the country, under its current government, is headed.”

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THE J

CENTERPIECE



INSIDE

Weather Camp brews excitement for campers
PG. 10

Big hair, big issues

CenterStage's *Hairspray* will blow you away in August

By Elizabeth Gerber
For Community

Hairspray is well known for its upbeat music, fun songs and dances, and most definitely, big hair.

But the CenterStage production, which opened July 19, kicking off the company's 2018-19 season, delivers on so much more. This musical is the story of a girl who wouldn't accept the world as it was and ... did something about it.

Miriam Housewright is lovely as Tracy Turnblad, the big-hearted, plus-size teenager who wants to dance on the "Corny Collins Show." She starts things off with a well-sung "Good Morning Baltimore" as she works her way to school through the streets of her hometown.

But her own dreams will soon collide with the struggle for equality for all.

Housewright brings her own spunky flare to the stage that comes with playing Tracy, and she does it in a way that separates her from Nikki Blonsky, who played the role in the 2007 Blockbuster rendition.

Landon Sholar embodies everything you think Link Larkin should be. He's the "cool" kid with the perfect hair, the stellar talent, and open mind. His portrayal of the character was spot on and thoroughly enjoyable.

Shane Whitehead and Sam Mannino shine as Edna and Wilbur Turnblad, Tracy's parents. While they held their own in their individual roles, they captured the audience's heart when they came together for their duet, "You're Timeless to Me."

Bridgette Thomas and Shelby Brown



Miriam Housewright rocks the house as Tracy Turnblad in the CenterStage production of *Hairspray*. (Community photo by Tara Cocco)

make the perfect evil duo as Velma and Amber Von Tussle, who will do just about anything to capture the title of Miss Teenage Hairspray and take down Tracy. In sharp contrast to the Von Tus-sles, Erin Jump and Tony Harris come together as Penny Pingleton, Tracy's quirky best friend, and Seaweed Stubbs, Tracy's swave detention mate. Together they form the dynamic duo, helping Tracy reach her goal and fight for equality.

Andrea Diggs stuns as Motormouth

Maybelle. She brings a strong presence to not only the stage, but the narrative as well with her rendition of "I Know Where I've Been"—the show-stopping anthem to inclusion. Each note she belted out had the audience cheering along.

Directed by Frank Goodloe III and choreographed by Maggie Patten, the production pops with scenic designer Nick Potter's set. Lighting Designer Nick Dent and Sound Designer Aaron Thompson's work helps to move the show along by

placing emphasis on various moments of and ensuring an enjoyable experience.

Set in the 1960s, in the heat of the civil rights movement, *Hairspray* still holds relevance in today's society. Intertwined through all the fun, the timely message towers higher than the hairdos in the production – equality for all.

That is exactly the message Director Goodloe wanted to portray. His hope is for each person in the audience to take a little bit of Tracy with them as they exit the theater. And why not? The world could use more Tracy Turnblads – people who truly see people as individuals and want a better world.

Want to go?

Hairspray opened Thursday, July 19 and runs through Sunday, August 5. You can purchase your tickets by calling the Jewish Community Center at 502-459-0660.

If you're coming to the final performance on August 5, be sure to stick around afterwards for a special CenterStage program, "Setting the Stage for Equality," a panel discussion exploring the ways to build an equal Louisville for everyone. Performance Director Frank Goodloe will be joined by members of Louisville Urban League, Jewish Council of Public Affairs, The Bail Project and Showing Up for Racial Justice. The event is free, and light hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Panel attendees can receive a \$4 discount on their August 5 *Hairspray* tickets with code PANEL4.

Players Challenge closest to the pin, despite the rain

By Lenae Price
For Community

For the first time in more than a decade, The Republic Bank Players Challenge at the Standard Club was almost rained out.

Ironically, the special gift for each player at this year's event, which took place on June 25, was a reverse umbrella.

Fortunately, the rain finally let up around 1 p.m., allowing the players to take to the fairways.

"Despite the rain, everyone had a great time and we were able to raise money for so many families," said Mark R. Behr, co-chair for the tournament. "We've decided we may need to give out sun tan lotion instead of umbrellas to help bring the sunshine next year."

While the players waited for the rain to subside, they enjoyed lunch sponsored by Salsarita's Fresh Mexican Grill and bid on exciting auction items. Shortly after the tournament began, a group of almost 40 ladies played mahjong, canasta and bridge.

The afternoon of friendly competition and comradery wrapped up with cock-

tails sponsored by Heaven Hill Brands and a catered dinner and awards ceremony. Congratulations to the following golf winners: First place: Lance Gilbert, Jeff Jasnoff, Jason Gilbert, Matt Jasnoff; second place: John Grossman, Heather Grossman, Julia Barker, Jeremy Barker; third place: Jason Greer, Danny Mason, Mac Telle and Richard Schultz; longest putt: Matt Jasnoff; straightest drive: Jim Morguelan and Heather Grossman; closest to the pin: Jim Fine and John Grossman; longest drive: Mac Telle.

The Republic Bank Players Challenge is a collaborative fundraiser for The Jewish Community Center (The J) and Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS). This year's event was a tremendous success raising more than \$88,000 in sponsorships, donations, registration fees, and silent auction revenue. The funds are shared by both organizations and supports families in need through scholarships, subsidized counseling, and other family-oriented programming.

We are grateful to Republic Bank for their continued commitment to our Jewish community and for their many years of title sponsorship of this special event. We also thank Kindred Healthcare, Jew-



Golfers watch the fourth of their foursome drive at the Players Challenge on June 25. See the photo gallery on page 14 for more highlights. (Community photos by Tara Cocco)

ish Heritage Fund for Excellence and Kosair Charities for stepping up in such a big way to support families in need.

(Watch next month's Community for an ad thanking this year's sponsors and all of the companies and individuals that donated to the silent auction.)

CENTERPIECE

Tzofim Friendship Caravan



AUGUST 6
10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
At The J

The whole family will enjoy Israel Scouts Tzofim Friendship Caravan's engaging entertainment of singing, dancing, and celebrating Israel. The Caravan's celebration of Israeli culture will resound with kids and families of all ages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
visit jewishlouisville.org/tzofim

Weather Camp rains rewarding times on kids

By Mary-Kate Smith
For Community

Summer is heating up for Camp J, especially for the new specialty Weather Camp.

WLKY's Matt Milosevich, a meteorologist and ELC parent, leads this new camp, which was held for rising third to seventh grade campers, during July 16 through 20.

"The kids love it," Camp Director Mindy Mannel said. "It's something totally different than we have ever done before."

During the week, campers visited the National Weather Service and WLKY's studio. While at the NWS, they learned about all different types of weather in the Kentuckiana region.

"We saw their control room and their radars, and after that we went to WLKY's studio," Assistant Camp Director Katelyn Graves said. "The kids got to film their own weather report in front of the green screen. It was really cute."

The visits may have inspired some campers to even become weathermen and women.

"We have a couple aspiring meteorologists," Graves said. "A couple of kids, their dream job is to be a meteorologist, so they are very excited."

Mannel said there is value in giving campers an adult role model from the community.

"[Matt] is someone they see on TV," she said, "and they are like, 'I want to be that job. I want to be that person.'"

In addition to the field trips, the campers also learned about weather on campus at The J. The campers set up a weather station at Camp J that will provide



Weather campers visited the set of WLKY to learn more about meteorology. In the background are some of the screens used for the weather forecast. (Community photo by William Beasley)

vide accurate weather readings. They also also met with The J's Jewish Outdoor Food Environmental Education Director Michael Fraade, who talked with them weather and crops.

One Weather Camp counselor said the campers also made paper airplanes, conducted cloud experiments in bottles, and took temperature readings around The J. They also tasted treats baked in the heat of the sun.

"We are actually making solar ovens right now," the counselor said. "We have got s'mores waiting for us outside."

Weather Camp concluded on July 20 with a trip to the Louisville Science Cen-

ter IMAX to see the documentary film Extreme Weather.

Mannel said she is excited about the success not only of Weather Camp but also of the other new and returning traditional and specialty camps.

"There are so many new contractors," she said. "For specialty camps, there are so many new options. That's been good. I think that has brought in a lot of new kids and sort of some new energy."

Traditional camp continues to focus on incorporating Jewish values, according to Teen Director Becca Waller. "The [superhero] theme has been a hit. The kids love it."

Israel Experience comes to Louisville in August

The Israel Experience, a celebration of the Jewish state, will be held at The J on Sunday, August 19 from noon to 3 pm. Admission is free and the entire community is welcome.

The J campus will be transformed

into the State of Israel with fun, family-friendly activities in each city, including arts and crafts in the artistic city of Tzfat, an archeological dig at the coastal Caesarea, IDF boot camp in the desert city of Be'ersheva, salt water experi-

ments at The Dead Sea, and games in Haifa, a street fair in Tel Aviv and other cool activities in Jerusalem and several other Israeli communities.

Israeli-style food, wine and beer will be available for purchase.

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CENTERPIECE



Kids at the community pool celebrate the 4th of July Bash in their own wet way. In addition to swimming, there was a sack race, a splash contest, raft race and a hoola hoop competition. The Dive-in-Diner was also open. (Community photo by Tara Cocco)

FAMILY YOGA

Join us on the first Sunday of each month for Family Yoga!

1:30 p.m. at The J Aerobics Studio.
Free for all ages.



SENIOR CALENDAR

(Unless otherwise noted, all programs begin Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m.)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

12:15 P.M.

Lunch & Show: Hairspray, \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

12-2:30 P.M.

Adult Social Club Paid-Up Membership Luncheon: an annual free event for all current members of the Adult Social Club. Volunteers will be honored. Sweet Harmony will perform a variety of pop, rock, doo wop and show tunes. Transportation will be provided upon request.

AUGUST 14

Classical pianist Nada will return for another performance. Refreshments will be served after program.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

12:30 P.M.

Lunch & Learn with guest speaker Rabbi Diane Tracht, chaplain resident at Baptist Health Louisville. Her topic will be "Hello? Goodbye," exploring how people show up in relationships and how they conclude them.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

5:30 P.M.

Gourmet Dining Club at Bristol Bar & Grill on N. Hurstbourne Parkway for dinner. Cost of transportation is \$4.

AUGUST 21

Bingo sponsored by Creekside on Bardstown Road: Come learn about Creekside, a new assisted-living facility being built near Bashford Manor. Bingo will follow a short discussion of the facility.

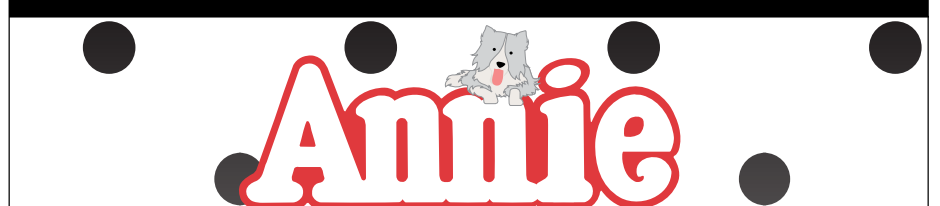
AUGUST 28

Singer, songwriter, and guitarist Tyrone Cotton will return, performing blues, folk and rock music. Refreshments will be served after the program.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Boomer Wall Exercise Class has been renamed "Regain & Maintain." The class will help with balance, coordination, and stability. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the dance studio.

2018/19 SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW



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LIFE & LEGACY

Profiles in Legacy

Frank Weisberg gives back to community through art

By Ruth Greenberg
For Community

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of profiles of Jewish Louisvillians who have left their mark on the community through the LIFE & LEGACY program and their own work.)

The Weisberg family's commitment to Jewish Louisville began with Charles and Marian Weisberg, who held every imaginable volunteer position in the community.

Frank Weisberg has continued that legacy, most recently through a pledge to LIFE & LEGACY with his wife, Barbara.

Frank's legacy also is visible at major Louisville institutions such as the Kentucky Center for the Arts, the Louisville Visual Art Association, and the Brown Theater, where paintings by Frank, a successful artist, adorn the walls.

Frank found his passion for painting at age 40, many years prior to his retirement from Bass & Weisberg Realtors. A doodler since childhood, he enrolled in a painting class at a friend's suggestion. Thirty-three years later, he paints in the same studio where he took his first lesson.

His first painting was inspired by a photo he saw of late night talk show host Johnny Carson's living room, which was dominated by a large painting over the fireplace of a blue polo jacket hanging



Frank Weisberg has left a living legacy through his artwork. (Community photo by Tara Cocco)

from a wooden hanger. Mesmerized by it, Frank completed a larger-than-life, totally painting of his own blue polo jacket six months later.

That first project reflected his style as an artist. His love for clothing, food, everyday objects and "in your face" subjects defines his body of work, which consists of approximately 70 paintings (he's not sure how many), all of them created in the heroic realism or trompe l'oeil styles.

His first one-man show, "Closet Series," which hung in the Patio Gallery in 1998, featured paintings of his own clothing as well as several of Barbara's shoes. Over

the years, his work has received high praise and can be found hanging in the headquarters of the Kentucky Center for the Arts, Louisville Fund for the Arts, Jewish Hospital and JFCS.

He has won two Best of Show Awards from the Woman's Club of Louisville, and his work has been featured in numerous publications.

Frank used to prefer showing his paintings at one-man exhibits, even loaning instead of selling them.

Now, he is beginning a new chapter in his career, producing a signed and numbered limited edition series of giclees (inkjet reproductions) of his paintings,

which are for sale.

A Louisville native, Frank is proud of his city, his artistic accomplishments and his family's history of giving back.

His pledge to LIFE & LEGACY is the latest in a long history of supporting Jewish Louisville. He and his brothers funded the 1992 publication of Jewish Louisville and have endowed The Weisberg Family Wellness Fund, The Marian Weisberg Youth Theater Fund and The Charles L. Weisberg BBYO Fund. These entities reflect their family's legacy, which benefits the community and the arts.

The magnificent bronze Tree of Life, created by sculptor Barney Bright, is an example of that commitment. Commissioned and funded by the Weisbergs, it captures the essence of The J.

Frank has chaired the committee to create the Louisville Jewish Archive, which recently culminated in a formal agreement with the Filson Historical Society. His generosity is well known. Through LIFE & LEGACY, he continues to support Jewish Louisville for future generations.

Want to help?

To make a LIFE & LEGACY pledge, ensuring that Jewish Louisville remains vital and secure for generations to come, contact Jennifer Tuvlin at jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org.



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Event Hosts:

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Heather and Seth Gladstein
Melissa and Mark Roth
Margaret & Justin Shuster



For more information, please contact
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JFCS NEWS, CLASSES & EVENTS

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- Breakfast and snack bars

Remember, donations can be made at your local synagogue.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

August 6, 4pm & June 5, 3pm Caregiver Support Group

Meets first Monday of month at Christ Church United Methodist, 4614 Brownsboro Rd.
Contact Connie Austin: 502-452-6341, ext. 305.

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

August 9, 1pm Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group

Meets second Thursday of month at JFCS.
Contact Connie Austin: 502-452-6341, ext. 305.

August 10, 2pm Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Meets second Friday of the month at JFCS.
Contact Kim Toebe: 502-452-6341, ext. 103.

August 15, 10am Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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

August 16, 7pm Adult Children of Aging Parents

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

August 20, 12:30pm Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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

EVENTS



PANCAKES 4 THE PANTRY

August 12 5 – 7pm



Zeggz Restaurant
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CHILDREN UNDER 3 EAT FREE

Benefits the Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry Fund

To check availability of tickets call 502-452-6341 ext. 103

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August 2 and 3 10am – 12pm

Space is limited! Workshop is \$60.

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Monday and Tuesday 7–9pm \$170 includes book

Register: jfcsloouisville.org/college-quest

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Tuesday, July 31

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For more information contact: Erin Heakin, 502-452-6341 ext. 246

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PICTURE THIS: PLAYERS CHALLENGE

Here are some scenes from this year's Republic Bank Players Challenge. For all the details, see the story, page 9. (Community photos by Tara Cocco)





The Israel Experience

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 19
12-3 P.M. AT THE J**

The J will be transformed into a giant map of Israel with activities representative of the cities of Israel.

- Make your own works of art in the northern city of Tzfat
- Enjoy street food in Tel Aviv
- Place a message in the Western Wall
- Explore the Dead Sea
- And much more!



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ARTS/ENVIRONMENT

Drama troupes to partner on two plays, workshop

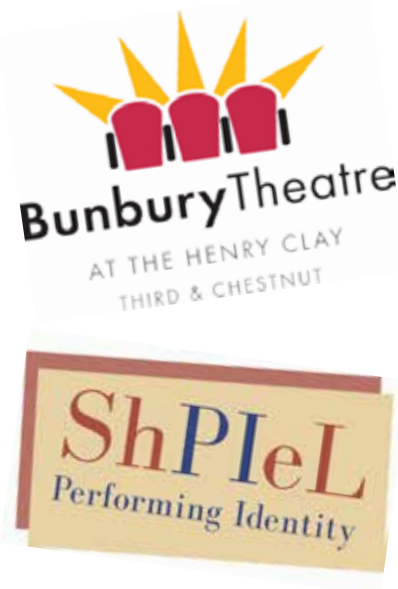
By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Two cutting-edge theater companies – one in Louisville, one in Chicago – will collaborate this coming year to bring plays with Jewish elements to the Derby City.

They also are offering a series of workshops to groom artists, including theater artists.

Louisville-based Bunbury Theatre and the ShPIeL Performing Identity of Chicago, who worked together earlier this year on the production of *Red*, will continue their collaboration on Sunday, July 15. The all-day workshop is designed to “deepen” local theatre, engage the community, while helping local artists create, using their own unique identities.

The workshop runs from 9-5 at the Henry Clay Theatre, downtown. Cost to register is \$50.



David Chack, artistic director of the ShPIeL and professor of dramatic arts at The Theatre School at DePaul University, and Juergen K. Tossman, producing artistic director of the Bunbury, expect to hold other workshops this coming season.

“We’re giving you the space and the programming to find that [identity],” Chack said.

Tossman said the participants may not leave the workshop with fully developed ideas for projects, but they might discover a “seed of an idea” that can awaken a memory or inspiration from the artist’s past. From there, ideas for projects will come.

Chack and Tossman also announced that their companies will collaborate this season on two productions with distinct Jewish threads:

- *The Jewish Joke*, which runs from October 4 to 22, is described as a “drama

about comedy.” The story deals with the Hollywood blacklisting of the 1950s, in which many Jewish artists were caught up.

- *The Green Book*, which runs from February 8 to 24, 2019, is based on a book of the same title developed by a New York mailman, Victor Hugo Green, which became an indispensable guidebook for African-American travelers through the Jim Crow South. In the play, a Holocaust survivor, who was liberated from Buchenwald, uses the book to meet up with an African-American G.I. who liberated him.

Both productions, which were previously staged by the ShPIeL and Pegasus theaters in Chicago, are being made possible here by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and the New World Foundation.

Green projects take root at The J, JOFEE head says

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The J has become a greener center this summer, thanks to what its members

eat, how they eat it, and what they do with the waste when they’re done eating.

Michael Fraade, director of Jewish outdoor, food and environmental education (JOFEE) has undertaken three proj-

ects this summer to make the food and waste streams at The J more ecologically friendly:

- At the pool, JOFEE has placed three recycling bins. Also, there is now also a healthy food option on the diner menu -- hummus and vegetables – the humus being made locally by Naked Humus under Vaad supervision.

- At the pavilion, where J campers eat their lunch on nice days, three recycling bins and compost bins each have been situated, with older campers separating plastic from leftover food after the meals.

- At the Senior Center, biodegradable plates, bowls, and cups have been ordered to replace polystyrene serving products, which are made from petroleum-based plastic and is a possible human carcinogen.

All three projects are enough done to keep The J’s Hazon Seal of Sustainability. Hazon is a national Jewish environmental organization working to build healthier, greener Jewish communities. It awards the Seal of Sustainability to synagogues, JCCs, and Federations that have met defined goals for achieving greater sustainability.

“The idea behind the seal is for this to be a continuing process,” Fraade said. Each year, at least three projects are se-

lected to make The J a greener facility and maintain its seal.

Hazon first awarded the seal to The J in 2017.

The cost behind this year’s projects is modest. JOFEE spent \$000 on the bins, but Fraade noted they were a one-time expense.

Serving products for the senior center will have to be reordered periodically, but Fraade said he was “pleasantly surprised” to learn that they didn’t cost much more than polystyrene.

“Truth be told, it doesn’t cost a couple hundred more per year. I was pleasantly surprised by that.”

He said JOFEE will split the cost difference with the Senior Center.

“The building was built at a time when sustainability was not in play.”

“As a building, we’re not necessarily leading the way. In terms of an organizational consciousness, it’s something that people have been picking up on over the past couple years.”

His mere presence, Fraade added, demonstrates that.

“People want programming, and they want the building itself to reflect the ways we can contribute to the solution.”

“It’s the kind of thing that encourages behavior change.”

New Peloton Bikes at The J!



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Poolside Havdalah

AUGUST 11 | 6-8 p.m. | The J

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For more information, please contact Shannon Benovitz
at sbenovitz@jewishlouisville.org.

Jewish Federation
OF LOUISVILLE

FORUM

Raising the flag for organ donation in Kentucky

By Rabbi Nadia Siritsky
For Community

The Trager Transplant Center at Jewish Hospital joined with representatives from Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA) in July to dedicate a new "Donate Life" flag that will be permanently on display in the lobby of the Trager Transplant Center.

The purpose of the flag is to remind people of the importance of organ donation.

Every day, 22 people die, while waiting for an organ, because not enough people have signed up to be donors. At this moment, more than 1,000 Kentuckians are waiting and praying for an organ that can save their lives. Many of them are at Jewish Hospital, too ill to leave their rooms.

In Judaism, we recognize the sanctity of life, celebrating with "T'chayim" and prioritizing it in the way we follow Jewish law. This flag is a reminder of the sacred obligation to encourage more people to donate. For grieving families, it can bring great comfort to know that their loss has been transformed into a life-saving gift for others.

At the July 13 ceremony, we were blessed to hear from a transplant recipient, who spoke movingly about how he feels called to live for two people, as well as the mother of a transplant donor, Shelly Adkins, who also serves as philanthropy officer for Trust for Life. She shared the following:

"My 6-year-old son, Keegan, in his final act of kindness, became an organ donor; saving the lives of four children and one adult. Keegan became my First Responder family's newest hero. We always knew that our little Keegan would have grown up to



Rabbi Nadia Siritsky

be a policeman, firefighter or paramedic, and although his life was cut short, he was still able to complete his earthly mission: he became a life saver through organ donation. And with that decision, Keegan not only gave the gift of life to his recipients, but he gave us, his parents, the ultimate gift of peace and comfort on our darkest day. By being an organ donor, he gave us an extended family and a network of resources through KODA. Since the day Keegan went to Heaven, we've been supported, held up, and given an outlet for our grief through these organizations, specifically, the Donor Family Aftercare program. We are surrounded by other families who truly understand what we're going through, and our loved ones are honored and remembered for the lives they saved with touching ceremonies and memorials.

"Most recently, through the success of KODA's Aftercare program, I was able to correspond with several of our son's organ recipients, and I'm so happy to report that on June 26, we met the first of five: a beautiful, healthy, 15-year-old girl who lives her life with purpose and passion. Just a few days after that, the recipient of one of his kidneys, whom I've yet to meet, informed me that one of her grandsons was given the name Keegan, named after the hero that gave her a kidney. Granted, our lives will never be whole again, and grief is something we will live with for the rest of our lives. But because there are five people alive today all because of my little man, I live with a peace and a deeper understand-

ing of what love for our fellow man truly is."

Working at Jewish Hospital, we are blessed to hear and witness miraculous and moving stories such as this every day. The talented and dedicated health care team that treats our patients and their families is truly phenomenal, and I am blessed and inspired by them every day.

Over the past year, the Trager Transplant Center, in collaboration with the University of Louisville, has experienced marked growth. Along with surpassing several historical milestones, more organs have been transplanted than ever before in the program's 53-year history, including the 500th heart, 900th liver, 3,000th kidney and 5,000th organ over-

all.

But what is most encouraging is that, with each organ transplanted, another network of friends and families become sensitized to the miraculous alchemy that transforms grief into life-saving medicine. The number of people who have been helped by our transplant program is truly amazing, and a reason to be proud.

With the High Holy Days around the corner, as we contemplate the prayers that remind us of our own mortality, may we be inspired to have the conversations and make the decisions that can bring blessings to others.

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

The Jewish Community of Louisville gratefully acknowledges donations to the following

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HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN YARMUTH RECEIVING THE 2018 BLANCHE B. OPPENHEIMER AWARD

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CHAVURAT SHALOM

On Thursday, August 2, Patty Hansel, community relations director at The Grand, a new senior living facility, will speak about her assisted living facility. Lunch will include cheese quesadillas, black bean and corn salad, Mexican style rice, fresh fruit and Mexican-style chocolate mousse.

On Thursday, August 9, an in-house talent show; participants will share their talents in arts such as poetry, tap dance, painting, origami and guitar. Lunch will include salmon cakes, mashed potatoes, green peas and carrots, cole slaw and chocolate trifle.

On Thursday, August 16, Rabbi Nadia Siritsky will talk about preparing for the Jewish New Year. Lunch will include pasta and meatballs, Caesar salad, fresh fruit and cookies and brownies.

On Thursday, August 23, Alan Zukof and Steve Bradley will perform on guitar, piano, and vocals in the Waller Chapel. July and August birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated. Lunch in the Heideman will include barbecue chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and celebratory cake.

On Thursday, August 30, Ben Kennedy from Humana will address timely topics related to staying vital as seniors. Lunch

will include bowtie pasta with smoked salmon, steamed broccoli, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and caramel spoon cake.

On Thursday, September 6, Two of Diamonds will celebrate the seasons with a whole spectrum of tunes. Wear bright colors and sing along. Lunch will include beef stir fry, jasmine rice, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and bread pudding.

Chavurat Shalom is an opportunity for seniors to meet socially and share ideas. Lunch is \$5 and reservations are due by the Tuesday before the program at 1 pm. RSVP to 502-423-1818 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com. A vegetarian option is available if requested in advance. All programs will be held in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Hwy. 42, unless otherwise noted. Lunch starts at noon, followed by the program at 1 pm. Transportation can be scheduled by calling Jewish Family & Career Services at 502-452-6341. Transportation to Chavurat Shalom is \$5 round-trip. Chavurat Shalom is funded through the generosity of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, The Temple, The Temple Brotherhood and Sisterhood, NCJW, the Jewish Federation of Louisville, and other donors.

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

New hires at The J to enhance CenterStage

The J has announced new hires and promotions for CenterStage.



• Erin Jump has been hired as the CenterStage educational program director.

A regular part of CenterStage Main Stage productions, both on stage and behind the scenes, Jump comes to The J after teaching music education in the Shelby County Public Schools. She will oversee the Acting Out, CenterStage Academy and Spotlight Camp programs, as well as youth cultural, art instructional programs. She started on June 2.



• Anne Ensign-Urteaga, the former CenterStage operations manager, begins her new position as the arts and ideas operations and events director. In her new role, she will oversee the Arts and

Idea's Speaker Series and adult enrichment event programming, though she will continue to work with all components of CenterStage.



• In other hiring news, Becca Waller joined The J on May 29 as teen program director. She spent the past year in Copenhagen, Denmark, working as a Jewish Service Corps BBYO Fellow with The American Jewish Joint

Distribution Committee. Becca was responsible for creating and facilitating innovative youth and adult programming, providing youth leadership training, consulting and mentoring, as well as collaborating with BBYO to develop a vision for long-term programs for local youth. She also spent a year in Beer Sheva, Israel, as an English-teaching fellow with Masa Israel. Waller is a graduate of the University of Louisville, native Louisvillian and a former member of the local BBYO program.

J athletes bound for L.A. Maccabi Games

Matt Vamvas, fitness director at The J, will lead a team of athletes to next

month's Maccabi Games in Los Angeles from August 5 to 10.

This year's team consists of six kids, ages 14 to 16. Two will compete in basketball, one in lacrosse, two in tennis and one in baseball.

The opening ceremonies are Sunday, August 5. *Community* will have a wrap-up story when the team returns home.

Louisville native named to '36 Under 36'



CHICAGO – Emily Pevnick, 30, a Louisville native, has been named to the seventh annual "Double Chai in the Chi: 36 Under 36" list of young Jewish movers and shakers in Chicago.

Presented by the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago's Young Leadership Division (YLD), the list shines a spotlight on the faces of Chicago's Jewish future and recognizes the amazing contributions of this generation.

The young professionals featured are noted for making a difference through their work, giving back in their free time, and earning distinction in the Jewish community and beyond.

U.K.'s Labour Party defers anti-Semitism definition vote

LONDON – Britain's Labour Party has deferred a vote on a motion that would call for the party to accept the internationally recognized definition of anti-Semitism rather than the softened version it was criticized for approving.

Lawmakers were told Monday evening at a parliamentary party meeting that the vote would not be held until September, after Parliament returns from summer recess.

The emergency motion -- proposed by lawmaker Louise Ellman and seconded by Ruth Smeeth, both Jewish -- called for the party to include in its permanent code of conduct, known as standing orders, the full International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, or IHRA, definition and all its examples.

The vote is scheduled for Sept. 5, a week after the lawmakers return from recess.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn did not attend Monday night's meeting, though it is traditional for the party head to speak to lawmakers at the final meeting before the summer break, the Jewish Chronicle reported.

Earlier this month, the party's ruling body and leadership endorsed a code of conduct that excluded several of the IHRA examples of anti-Semitism, including accusing Jews of "being more loyal to Israel" than their own country; claiming that Israel's existence is a "racist endeavor"; applying a "double standard" on Israel; and comparing "contemporary Israeli policy" to that of the Nazis. Party members apparently felt such definitions would chill criticism of Israel.

Labour under Corbyn, a hard-left politician who has called Hezbollah and Hamas his "friends" and who is fighting accusations of harboring anti-Semitic sentiments, has come under intense scrutiny in the media over anti-Semitic rhetoric by party members.

In 2016, an interparliamentary committee accused Labour of creating a "safe space for those with vile attitudes towards Jewish people."

Corbyn has maintained that Labour will not tolerate racist rhetoric by its members. Dozens were kicked out over anti-Semitic statements. However, the party has kept on many Labour members whom Jewish community leaders said engaged in anti-Semitic hate speech. In recent months, Corbyn for the first time has encountered protests over his party's anti-Semitism problem during work visits abroad.

"I feel very emotional, deeply depressed and almost tearful," Labour lawmaker Margaret Hodge said after the meeting, according to Sky News. "This is the party I have been in for 50 years. Labour was the natural home for Jews."

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- ♦ The J Outdoor Café (Dive-n-Dine)
- ♦ KentuckyOne Health Jewish Hospital (kasher kitchen only)
- ♦ The Arctic Scoop: 841 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy. (They have pareve options and are available for any occasion at any off-site venue)

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- ♦ Bristol Catering (kosher catering available at off-site venues such as The J, synagogues, etc.)
- ♦ The Catering Company - Michaelis Events (kosher catering available at off-site venues)
- ♦ Hyatt Regency Louisville (kosher catering only)
- ♦ Louisville Marriot East (can host kosher events but does not have kosher catering service)
- ♦ Other venues may be approved only upon request for kosher supervision

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GLOBE

Israel shoots down Syrian fighter jet that entered Israeli airspace



Israel shot down a Syrian jetfighter over its airspace Tuesday. The Russian-made Sukhoi, similar to this one from the Czech air force, was either a model 22 or 24, Haaretz reported a military spokesman as saying. (photo provided)

JERUSALEM – Israel shot down a Syrian fighter jet that penetrated more than a mile into its airspace.

Two Patriot missiles intercepted the Russian-made Sukhoi on Tuesday afternoon, the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement. The plane reportedly crashed into the Yarmouk area in Syria; it was not immediately confirmed if the two pilots ejected before the plane was downed.

The IDF said the plane was under surveillance as it approached and breached the border.

The missiles set off Code Red alerts throughout Israel's Golan Heights.

According to the IDF, there has been an increase in fighting in Syria near the border with Israel since Tuesday morning as well as activity by the Syrian air forces.

"The IDF is on high alert and will continue to operate against the violation of the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement," the IDF said, referring to the agreement on disengagement between Israel and Syria following the Yom Kippur War.

Syria's official state-run SANA news agency cited an unnamed military source as saying that the warplane had been hitting rebel targets in the area of Sidon on the outskirts of the Yarmouk Valley in Syrian airspace when it was struck it.

"The Israeli enemy confirms its adoption of the armed terrorist groups and targets one of our warplanes," the military source told SANA.

On Monday, Israel for the first time fired the David's Sling missile defense system following the launch of two Syrian surface-to-surface missiles that appeared likely to land in Israel.

In 2014, Israel's military shot down a Russian-made Syrian jet that had entered Israeli airspace over the Golan Heights.

Stone that fell from Western Wall removed for examination

JERUSALEM – The large stone that fell from the Western Wall to the egalitarian prayer plaza was removed for examination and preservation.

A crane was used by the Israel Antiquities Authority on Wednesday morning to remove the stone, which weighs about 400 pounds.

It was transferred to the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, which will be responsible for the examination and preservation of the stone and for returning it to its spot if deemed appropriate.

The stone was dislodged from its position and crashed to the egalitarian prayer plaza below on Monday morning, hours after the Fast of Tisha B'av ended. One woman was praying on the raised platform when the stone fell and was not injured. Hours earlier, the area was full of worshippers.

The smaller of the section's platforms, on which the stone fell, was closed until further notice. Experts from the Israel Antiquities Authority were called to the scene to examine the area.

Archeologists will now work to determine what caused the stone to fall and to make sure that others will not also fall.

Man charged in arson attempt on 250-year-old synagogue in England

LONDON – A man was charged with arson after allegedly attempting to burn down the Exeter Synagogue.

Exeter is an ancient city in southwest England. The synagogue is the third oldest in the country. It was dedicated in 1764.

Tristan Morgan, 51, of Exeter, was charged with arson and with the intent of endangering life on Monday in the Exeter Magistrates Court. He reportedly was caught on surveillance cameras pouring a fire accelerant in to the synagogue building and trying to light it. There was only slight damage to the building.

Meanwhile a joint statement calling for mutual respect, unity and tolerance signed by the Bishop of Exeter, president of Exeter Synagogue, Exeter Mosque, Exeter City Council and Devon and Cornwall Police, was issued on Tuesday.

"We would like to thank the members of the public who helped us on Saturday night, the Police and Fire Service for their amazing response, and to the wider faith community for their excellent support. We live in a wonderful city that has demonstrated tolerance and support for each other at times of need," Exeter Synagogue President Richard Halsey told local media.

"Tolerance and mutual respect are hallmarks of a civilized society, and I would implore everybody, regardless of

their religion, to condemn any action that seeks to intimidate or harm others. Everybody should be free to practise their religion, and I ask Christians to stand in solidarity alongside our Jewish neighbors and people of all faiths," The Bishop of Exeter, Rt Rev'd Robert Atwell said.

Dutch city blocks Turkish developer's plan to turn synagogue into eatery

AMSTERDAM – A Dutch municipality rejected a Turkish entrepreneur's plan to transform a 125-year-old synagogue into a restaurant.

The city council of Deventer in the east of the Netherlands last week deemed the plan "inconsistent with the building's character," a decision which blocked the plan of developer Ayhan Sahin to turn the tall, neo-Moorish style Grand Synagogue into an eatery, Joods.nl reported. He bought the building in January.

Tom Fürstenberg, chairman of Deventer's Beth Shoshanna Jewish community, made up of several dozen members, said he was "relieved" following the decision. In April, he had told the regional newspaper De Stentor that it would be "scandalous" if the municipality approves Sahin's plans.

Fürstenberg had also said the plan ran contrary to agreements made with Sahin. The Jewish community had hoped to continue to be able to use the establishment for religious purposes under new ownership.

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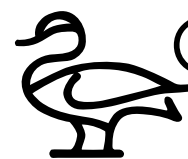
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AROUND TOWN

Hairspray wraps in August; audience to talk issues

The CenterStage production of *Hairspray* will run at The J through August 5. Based on the book by Thomas Meehan and Mark O'Donnell, the musical, set in 1962 Baltimore, is about the lovable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, and her only desire: to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show." Her journey to

fame and the fight for civil rights and equality highlight this 1960s-set musical. Visit jewishlouisville.org/the-j-centerstage/2018-19-season/hairspray-2/ for tickets.

Following the final performance of *Hairspray* on August 5, CenterStage will host a program, "Setting the Stage

for Equality," a panel discussion exploring the ways to build an equal Louisville for everyone, reflecting an issue addressed in the play.

Performance Director Frank Goodloe will be joined by members of Louisville Urban League, Jewish Council of Public Affairs, The Bail Project and

Showing Up for Racial Justice. The event is free, and light hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Panel attendees can receive a \$4 discount on their August 5 *Hairspray* tickets with code PANEL4.

Melton, AJ Israel Seminar

Louisville Melton and Adath Jeshurun are co-sponsoring the Biblical In-Sites Israel seminar from July 8 to 18, 2019. The seminar will be an on-site textual encounter with patriarchs, matriarchs, kings, prophets, soldiers, judges, and the land itself. Visit meltonseminars.org/Melton-Biblical-Insites.aspx for the itinerary or contact Melton Director Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359 with questions.

Song leader Thal at Temple Shalom

Song leader Sam Thal will return with her camp-inspired music to Temple Shalom for services at 6:30 p.m., Friday, August 3, and 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 4.

Celebration Shabbat

Adath Jeshurun will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in the month of August with a group aliyah during its worship service at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, August 4.

Shabbat and Sundaes

Keneseth Israel's next Shabbat and Sundaes will be at 6 p.m., Saturday, August 4, at Graeter's on Bardstown Road. KI members receive a free treat up to \$5 – dine-in only).

Hebrew reading crash course

Adath Jeshurun is offering five free 1½ hour lessons in reading Hebrew. The course, taught by Deborah Slosberg, teaches the Hebrew alphabet and basic prayer book reading skills. Classes begin at 10:30 a.m. and run on five consecutive Sundays: July 29 and August 5, 12, 19, and 26. Contact Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359.

WRJ/Sisterhood Game Day

The Temple's WRJ/Sisterhood is having a game day from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, August 5, in The Klein Center. Bring your own mahjong or bridge group or come solo. Board games also will be

available. The event is free, but please bring an unexpired food item(s) for the Meyer Family Food Pantry. Refreshments will be served. RSVP by August 3 to 502-423-1818.

Home-Hospitality Taste of Melton

Louisville Melton will host Home-Hospitality Taste of Melton, a series of three sessions that will include a brief sample Melton lesson in a home setting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 7, at the Robin Wolff residence (dessert and coffee), RSVP to robinwolff7206@gmail.com; 9:30 a.m., Thursday, August 16, at the home of Sandy Harrison (light brunch), RSVP to ssotsky@gmail.com; and 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 6, at the home of Stephi Wolff, (light brunch, RSVP to stephiw@mac.com. Contact Melton Director Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359 for more details.

Shir Chadash Shabbat

Keneseth Israel's next Shir Chadash ("A New Song") will be held at 6 p.m., Friday, August 10. The abridged Kabbalat Shabbat service will focus on communal singing and a chavurah-style.

No Shush Shabbat...

Temple Shalom will hold its next No-Shush Shabbat at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 10. The relaxed evening service includes opportunities to get up and move to music, playing instruments and listening to stories, making for an engaging time for children and families. Rabbi Beth Jacobowitz Chottiner will lead and Benji Bellow will sing and play guitar. Call Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 for details.

...And Kids Stay, Adults Play

Following No-Shush Shabbat, parents and friends will meet for dinner at Mimi's Café, 615 South Hurstbourne Parkway with a complimentary first glass of wine or beer and hors d'oeuvres. Meanwhile, the children will enjoy pizza and a movie at the synagogue. Call Temple Shalom, 502-458-4739 for details. The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is underwriting the program.

Temple Shalom Men's Club

The next regular brunch meeting of the Temple Shalom Men's Club will start at 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 12. A \$5 donation for the brunch is suggested. Contact Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739.

Melton class openings

Louisville's Melton still has openings in its fall classes, which meet Tuesday evenings or Thursday mornings. Visit jewishlouisville.org/Melton for details or contact Deborah Slosberg, director, at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359.

Pragmatic spirituality discussions

Dr. Courtney Snyder and Marty Snyder facilitate a pragmatic spirituality discussion group at Adath Jeshurun to discuss universal themes based on inspiration from spiritual thinkers. Sessions take place on Sundays at 10 a.m. The August 12 topic is: "When Fear Holds Us Back: Shifting Our Focus from Ourselves to Serving a Higher Good," on August 26, "May the Nourishment of the Earth Be Yours: Returning to Ourselves Through Nature and Travel." Contact Courtney Snyder at cbsnyder12@gmail.com for details.

Blue Jean and Tot Shabbat

The Temple's annual, end-of-summer Blue Jean and Tot Shabbat is slated for 5:30 p.m., Friday, August 17. Tot Shabbat will begin at 6:15, followed by Blue Jean Shabbat service at 6:30. The Tot Oneg will follow the service in the library. RSVP to 502-423-1818 by August 15. The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is underwriting the program. The dinner is free.

Lunch and Learn

Rabbi Michael Wolk will lead his next Lunch & Learn class at noon, Thursday, August 16, at The Bristol on Main Street. The class is free (food sold separately). RSVP to mwolk@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

Torah Yoga

Keneseth Israel, Temple Shalom and Hadassah offer a Torah Yoga class the

third Thursday of each month at KI. Lisa Flannery leads the yoga; Cantor Sharon Hordes, the Torah study. The next session will be on August 16. RSVP to rsvp@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

Community Big Rock Shabbat

A special Big Rock Shabbat, co-sponsored by Keneseth Israel, Adath Jeshurun and Temple Shalom, will begin at 6:30 p.m., Friday, August 17, at Big Rock Park. Bring a picnic blanket, dairy/vegetarian food, drinks and games. Some seating is available. The complementary dessert will be from Arctic Scoop. RSVP to gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

Back-2-Shul Shabbat

Adath Jeshurun's Back-2-Shul Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, August 25, will be led by children of all ages and feature songs chosen by the participants. Blessings, Torah readings and even the desserts at the kiddush lunch will be prepared by participants 18 and younger. Visit adathjeshurun.com/back2shul to sign up.

Temple Shalom Craft Fair

Temple Shalom is accepting applications for its craft Fair, which runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, August 26. Booth set-up will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Vendors may receive an application by contacting Temple Shalom, 502-458-4739 or fundraisings@gmail.com. The Men's Club will operate food concessions for the event.

AJ Book Club

The AJ Book Club is currently reading *Norwegian by Night* by Derek B. Miller. The book will be discussed at the next meeting at 2 p.m., Sunday, August 26, at Adath Jeshurun. Contact Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359.

Young adult outing

The Temple's Young Adult Group will hold a free event at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, August 26, at Flying Axes, 146 N. Clay St.

See **AROUND TOWN** on next page

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AROUND TOWN/LIFECYCLE

Around Town

continued from previous page

The outing is for ages 22-36. Food and a drink ticket are included. RSVP to The Temple at 502-423-1818 by August 24.

Rabbi's Shabbat Dinner

The Temple's next Rabbi's Shabbat Dinner – a welcome for student Cantor Mike Jarvis – will be at 5:30 p.m., Friday, August 31. Cost is \$5.

Jarvis will serve as student cantor for Shabbat, again during the High Holy Days and then one weekend per month through the spring. He will assist the rabbis, the choir and b'nai mitzvah

students, and be part of special events. RSVP to 502-423-1818.

Night of Storytelling

Adath Jeshurun's Pre-Selichot "Night of Storytelling" starts at 8 p.m., Saturday, September 1. The work of Interfaith Paths to Peace and a presentation titled "In the Heart of the other: A Muslim and a Jew Trade Stories" are part of the program. Havdalah and refreshments begin at 9:30 p.m., followed by the traditional Selichot service at 10 p.m. The program is free.

AJ annual cemetery service

The annual Adath Jeshurun cemetery service will start at 11 a.m., Sunday, Sep-

tember 2, at the cemetery, 2926 Preston Highway.

AJ Sukkah Dinner

Adath Jeshurun will host an "elegant" Sukkah dinner, Friday, September 28, in its sukkah following the 5:45 p.m. service. The adult-oriented dinner costs is \$15 per person. Visit adathjeshurun.com/sukkotdinner for reservations or call 502-458-5359. The dinner is limited to the first 55 RSVPs and the deadline is September 21.

Jews and Brews

Rabbi Michael Wolk leads "Jews and Brews," a one-hour Torah study class over coffee, Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in

The J library.

Mahjong club

Keneseth Israel's mahjong club meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. in the small chapel, except on Jewish holidays. All levels invited. RSVP to gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or call 502-459-2780.

Temple Torah study

The Temple holds Torah study with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the Fishman Library before the morning service. There will be coffee, bagels and cream cheese.

B'nai Mitzvah



Hailey Lanier Hertzman

Hailey Lanier Hertzman, daughter of Allen and Michelle Hertzman, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 18, at The Temple.

Hailey is the granddaughter of Marie Hertzman and Phil Cochran, the late Charles and Ann Hertzman and the late Muriel and Tildon Mcmasters.

A rising seventh grader at Kentucky Country Day School, she is a member of the tennis, field hockey and lacrosse teams.

In addition to sports, she enjoys arts and crafts, cooking, cheering for University of Louisville basketball and football, spending time with her friends and vacationing in San Diego.

Hailey is participating in the Jewish Family & Career Services Pledge 13 program. She volunteers at The J's Gendler Grapevine Fresh Stop Market and at My Dog Eats First and Lemonade Day.

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



Lilly Madelyn King

Lilly Madelyn King, daughter of Nikki and Ted King, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 6 p.m., Saturday, August 25, at The Temple.

Lilly is the granddaughter of Jackie and Mark Posnansky, of Louisville, Suzi and Jim King, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and the great-granddaughter of Rosita Kaplan, of Louisville.

An incoming seventh grader at the dePaul School, she is a competitive gymnast with Kentucky Gymnastics Academy, and has been competing in the sport since age 8. She has earned numerous state titles and was one of 16 gymnasts chosen to represent the state Kentucky at regional championships in April.

Lilly also enjoys reading, art and spending time with family and friends.

For her mitzvah project, Lilly collected more than 120 new and gently used gymnastics leotards to be donated to gymnasts in need around the world through the organization Left Over Leos. She also created inspirational notecards for Blessings in a Backpack, and wrapped

holiday gifts for children in need through Kosair Charities Kids Volunteer Club.

Engagements



Perellis-Rothchild

Debbie and Dr. David Perellis of Louisville, Kentucky, announce the engagement of their daughter, Brooke Perellis, to Brent Rothchild, son of Dawn and Barry Rothchild of Cincinnati.

Brooke's grandparents are Eleanor and the late Martin Shiffman of Palm Beach, Florida, and Harriett "Mutzie" and the late Dr. Maurice Perellis of Louisville.

Brent's grandparents are Gail Kamen and Dr. Neil Blum of Cleveland and the late Norman J. Kamen and Gloria and the late Eugene Rothchild of Cincinnati.

Brooke is a 2012 graduate of Miami University currently working in public relations and marketing for TMP Worldwide. Brent is a 2012 graduate of The Ohio State University currently pursuing his MBA at the FUQUA School of Business at Duke University.

The couple will be married in July 2019 in Louisville.

Obituaries



Maurine Kommor

Maurine Kommor, 89, passed away Thursday, June 28, 2018, at Episcopal Church Home.

Born in Louisville on September 25, 1928, she was the third of four children born to Hyman and Yetta Lyons Cohen. She was a graduate of Girls' High and attended the University of Louisville.

Maurine was an office manager, working for Oscar Ewing Dairy and American Standard. When her husband of 68 years, the late Dr. Zollman Kommor, opened his practice, she worked with him until they started their family.

She was a member of Keneseth Israel Congregation, a life member of KI Sisterhood, past president of the Women Auxiliary of the Medical Society, and a member of NCJW-Louisville Section. She also was a Kentucky Colonel.

Maurine enjoyed being with family and friends, often going out to eat and gathering in each other's homes, playing

cards and simply talking and being together. She took pride in her family and all that they have achieved.

In addition to her husband and parents, Kommor was preceded in death by her sisters, Margie and Harriet; and her brother, Stanley.

She is survived by her loving family, her children, Steve Kommor (Susan), Dr. Ross Kommor (Leigh), Candy Kommor Coppaken (Paul), Maury Kommor and Dr. Michael Kommor (Margie); and 10 beautiful and smart grandchildren, Erin, Max, Madison, Michelle, Kennedy, Regan, Alex, Katie Rose, Will and Abigail.

The family would like to extend its deepest gratitude to Dr. Jane Cornett for her wonderful care.

Funeral services were held Sunday, July 1, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation or The Temple.



Doris Spencer Gerber Lansky

Doris Spencer Gerber Lansky, passed away Tuesday, June 26, 2018, in Memphis, Tennessee. She was 90.

Born in Louisville on March 13, 1928, the daughter of the late Melvin "Mose"

and Celia Gerber, she was a member of Hadassah and Temple Israel Sisterhood.

In addition to her parents, Lansky was preceded in death by her brother, Leonard Gerber and her sister, Alice Lyons.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheri Lansky Rudner and her husband, Henry G. Rudner; two grandchildren, Melanie Herron (Brandon), Jonathan S. Rudner (Alexandra); and three great-grandchildren.

The family is grateful to the staff of the Memphis Jewish Home and Rehab and to her beloved caregivers, Dwan, Shanta and Tavesha, for their loving care of Mom in her final months.

Funeral services were held, Sunday, July 1, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Avenue. Burial followed in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. The family requests memorials be made to the Memphis Jewish Home and Rehab or Temple Israel.

Annette Suzan Liebman

Annette Suzan Liebman of Louisville passed away peacefully on Friday, June 22, 2018. She was 87.

Born December 9, 1930, in Louisville, the second child of Paul and Yetta Suzan, Annette was raised here where she met her husband, the late Martin Liebman, in her early 20s. They married in 1954 and had three children.



After living in Indianapolis and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the family settled in St. Louis.

Skilled as a bookkeeper and office manager, Annette worked for the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems (CBNS) at Wash-

ington University and as the office manager at Clayton Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Clayton, Missouri.

She kept high standards in her work life and with her

friends and family. In 1996, she and Marty retired to Louisville.

She is preceded in death by her

In addition to her husband, Annette was preceded in death by her sister, Geraldine Lurie; and her brother, Jack Suzan.

She is survived by her brother, Larry (Barbara) Suzan; her children, Curt (Amy) Liebman, Ellen (Scott) Glatstein, and Harry (Jody) Liebman; her nine grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

There was a private graveside service and burial. Memorial contributions may be made to Operation Smile, 3641 Faculty Blvd, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23453 (www.operationssmile.org) or the charity of your choice.

Barbara Tevis "Barbie" Meyers

Barbara Tevis "Barbie" Meyers, 74, died Friday, July 6, 2018 at Norton Women's & Children's Hospital, St. Matthews.

A native of Louisville, she was born May 14, 1944, to the late Theodore and Doris Lederer Meyers. She was a graduate of Centenary College and received her master's degree from Peabody University.

Barbie was a speech therapist, a volunteer for Jewish Hospital and the Louisville Ballet, and a member of The Temple, Hadassah and NCJW-Louisville Section.

She is survived by her sister, Carole Snyder; a niece, Sara Yamin; a nephew, Richard Yamin (Jennifer) and their children, Reid and Bryce Yamin; and several cousins.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 9, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to WHAS Crusade for Children, JFCS Shabbos Friends or the donor's favorite charity.

Annalee Shrager Pollock

Annalee Shrager Pollock of Louisville, passed away peacefully Saturday, July

See **OBITUARIES** on page 22

LIFECYCLE

Obituaries

continued from page 21

14, 2018, in Miami.

Annalee was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun for more than 70 years and rarely missed a Saturday morning service. For over 50 years, she volunteered at both the Jewish Hospital and the American Red Cross where she served as a disaster worker during hurricanes and floods and assisted military family members in need. A lover of travel, she journeyed throughout the world. Annalee was a prolific reader and considered her library card a valued possession.

She was an independent woman, devoted to her family, who remained alert, smart, and always opinionated. Her family will miss her.

Annalee was the beloved mother of Gary Pollock and Rachel Pollock Singerman (Roger Jeremiah), grandmother of W. Mae Singerman (Padraig O'Donoghue), aunt of Karen Fields (Alan Linker) and great-grandmother of Havi-va and Shira O'Donoghue.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William L. Pollock; and her sisters, Jennie Shrager Katz, Florence Shrager

Fields, and Ida Shrager Anger.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 17, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Donations in Annalee's memory may be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 2401 Woodbourne Avenue, Louisville, KY 40205.



Eileen Meyer Renco

Eileen Meyer Renco, 50, died Tuesday, July 3, peacefully at Norton Hospital Brownsboro after an illness.

She is survived by her husband of almost 20 years

Harry Renco; her daughter Emily Renco; her parents, Janet and Jack "Sonny" Meyer; and many beloved extended family and friends.

Born November 23, 1967, in Louisville, Eileen graduated from Atherton High school and the University of Arizona, where she received a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising.

She also attended the Mid-America College of Mortuary Science, receiving

an associate degree in mortuary science and embalming.

Eileen was a fourth-generation owner of Herman Meyer and Son, Inc. and worked there for over 23 years. She loved helping people in their hardest times and will be missed by all.

She was a former vice president of Funeral Auto, past president of Falls City Funeral Directors, former board member of Jewish Funeral Directors of America and a partner of Funeral Directors Vault LLC.

She was a previous member of the Junior League and life member of NCJW-Louisville Section.

At the Temple, she was on the board of trustees, the religious school committee and the preschool committee. She was a teacher at the high school of Jewish studies, and a member of the Parents Association of Louisville Collegiate School.

She loved being a part of anything in which her family was involved.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 5, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Janet & Sonny Meyer Family Food Pantry at the JFCS, 2821 Klempner Way, Louisville, KY 40205, the Meyer-Renco Youth Cultural Fund at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Highway 42, Louisville, KY 40241, Collegiate School or BBYO.



Stanley R. Wolf, Sr.

Stanley R. Wolf, Sr., 90, passed away Thursday, July 19, 2018 at Baptist Health Louisville.

A Louisville native, he was born October 4, 1927, to the late Joseph

Wolf, Sr. and Rose Milner Wolf.

He was an Army veteran, a former salesman with Consolidated Sales and later had his own pawn store.

Stanley was a Kentucky Colonel and a member of Temple Shalom.

In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his first wife, Janett Wolf; and a grandson, Joel Ferguson.

He is survived by his wife, Vera B. Wolf; his children, Linda S. Wolf, Rusty Wolf, Judy Miller (Jack) and Kathy Ferguson (David); his step-sons, Chris Hartung (Lisa) and Trey Hartung (Amie); five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 23 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. Burial followed in Resthaven Memorial Park. Expressions of sympathy may be made to WHAS Crusade for Children or American Lung Association.






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NEWS

Annual Campaign

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untapped donor pool, working with a friend on a fall program to connect with Russian Jews.

Her husband, Ariel, noting the increase in donors from the 800 range of past campaigns, said he believed there were still more untapped human resources in the community, which numbers approximately 7,500.

"There's still potential out there," he

said.

Jerry Abramson praised the Women's division for its series of successful events during the campaign, as well as the men's day program at Churchill Downs.

The co-chairs also singled out the 25 members of the Leadership Cabinet – a cross-section of the community – and other volunteers who worked the phones for donations, as well as Federation staff for their behind-the-scenes efforts on all the events.

"We didn't do it, Jerry said of the co-chairs. "We did it with the help of a lot of people."

Madeline addressed the 264 donors who upped their pledges this year.

"The fact that we had 264 donors increase shows a sign that people have confidence in the leadership of the Jewish community here," she said.

She also noted that fewer than 100 donors gave at a lower level.

"Everybody has a story," Madeline Abramson said. "We had people who were retiring, whose spouse had passed away. They wanted to be supportive, but they couldn't give at the same level they had been giving."

When the two couples teamed up

last summer as co-chairs, the idea was for the Kronenbergs to learn from the Abramsons' experience, then step in to a senior role for the next campaign and train another couple.

That is still the plan.

"For us, it was amazing to work with Madeline and Jerry," Ariel Kronenberg said. It was an honor, because it created kind of an energy. People liked to see the older generation and the younger generation working together to bring this campaign to a successful conclusion."

Nation-State Law

continued from page 1

taking him out of his bed at five in the morning."

That's a reference to Rabbi Dov Hailun of Haifa, A Masorti (Conservative) rabbi who was recently arrested after the Haifa Rabbinical Court filed a complaint against him, saying he married a couple in violation of state and religious law. Police released Hailun later that morning, ironically in time for him to attend a program at the president's residence on religious pluralism in Israel.

"This is outrageous, obviously, and this [law] only further sanctions discrimination against Reform and Conservative Jewry in Israel," the Federation state-

ment says.

The statement also criticized portions of the law that recognize the formation of Jewish communities in Israel as a national value, without according similar statuses to non-Jewish groups.

"This law is superfluous since the reality is that this already happens," the statement says. "By codifying it, non-Jews now see a law that they might consider discriminatory on its face, as they are not-included in this 'national value.'"

Finally, the statement says the downgrading of Arabic, an official language of Israel since its founding, "will only further alienate the sizeable Arab minority in Israel...."

"The reality is that the business of the State of Israel (in all its forms) is really conducted in Hebrew," the statement

says, "making this reclassification unnecessary. Israeli Arabs will feel even more like strangers in their own country."

Other Jewish organizations – Jewish Federations of North America, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the American Jewish Committee, and the Anti-Defamation League – have come out forcefully against the bill and have urged the government to modify it.

Also in Louisville, Rabbis Robert Slosberg and David Ariel-Joel, both with long histories as advocates of religious pluralism in Israel, aligned themselves with statements by the Masorti movement (which Slosberg helped craft as chair of the Masorti Foundation Board) and Rabbi Gilad Kariv, executive director of the Israel Movement for Reform

and Progressive Jewry.

Some Orthodox groups have supported the bill. The National Council of Young Israel, which represents the Orthodox synagogues of the Young Israel movement, stated, "Passage of this bill was vital to ensure the continuity of the connection between the Jewish people and the State of Israel, and publicly pronouncing that Israel is the Nation-State of the Jewish People is an essential legislative act that is long overdue."

Prime Minister Netanyahu called the bill's passage "a defining moment" for the country.

"Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people," he added, "and respects the rights of all its citizens."

New architect

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Health – a University of Louisville physician and medical office building project;

- The YUM! Practice Facility for UofL men's basketball and women's volleyball;
- It also designed the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's Otto M. Budig Theater;

- The Erie Art Museum in Erie, Pennsylvania;

- School buildings in Ohio and Kentucky with gym and aquatic facilities.

While this project will be GBBN's first JCC – Groneck believes – it won't be its first Jewish project. In Cincinnati, GBBN is working on the Holocaust and Humanities Center at Union Terminal. That facility is scheduled to open in November.

All these projects involve uses one would expect to find under the roof of a JCC, he said.



Jason Groneck

For this project, Groneck will head a team that will do the architecture, planning, exterior and interior design work. It will "consult out" all mechanical, electrical plumbing and engineering services.

To assist with the project, GBBN has engaged Brandstetter

Carroll, a Lexington firm that specializes in aquatics.

The next step in the process is to complete "discovery phase" – what the firm calls the process of defining the project.

Parts of the process are already completed, including the focus groups, drafting a vision statement and project goal and department programming sessions.

Next up, Groneck and his team will make observations of the existing space,

assessing the outdoor pools, identify "design drivers" for JTomorrow! and finalizing the program, a step that includes square footage requirements for the future center.

He hopes to complete the discovery phase by late August.

A University of Kentucky graduate and an architect for 15 years, Groneck moved to Louisville in 2010 to help open GBBN's office here. In 2015, he was named to Louisville's Business First's "40 Under 40" list.

He remarked on the opportunity to enhance the Jewish experience in Louisville.

"Reflecting the essence of the Jewish culture and values into programing that's opening, welcoming to anyone, I think is a major mission and design challenge for this project," Groneck said. "It's not just a building, it's not just about the architecture, it's about enhancing people's lives, so I think that's kind of where our head is."

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