

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE
Jewish Louisville stands
with New Zealand
STORY ON PG. 10

FRIDAY Vol. 45, No. 03 | March 22, 2019 | 15 Adar II 5779

Cantor croons for Louisville



Cantor Randy Herman plays a piano solo at the 48th Annual AJ Music Festival on Sunday, March 17. Herman, the hazan of Bet Torah in Mount Kisco, New York, performed with all the local cantors and religious vocalists, as well as the Jewish Community Choir and Louisville Orchestra Music Director Teddy Abrams. See story, page 12. (Jerry Wolff photo)

JCL condemns Netanyahu's outreach to racist political party

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In an unprecedented move for the Jewish Community of Louisville, its Board of Directors has "condemned" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's outreach to an openly racist political party.

The board took the historic step through a resolution it adopted on Monday, March 11.

"We have never condemned an Israeli prime minister," said Matt Goldberg, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, which recommended the action. "We have issued critical statements of the Israeli government, but we have never condemned an Israeli prime minister by name, and we have certainly never done it with a board resolution."

Netanyahu, who is facing a surprisingly strong challenge from the centrist Blue and White coalition in the April 9 national election, has brokered a political marriage between the right wing Jewish Home Party and the extremist Otzma Yehudit, among whose leaders are disciples of the late anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The two parties, both of which are to the right of Netanyahu's Likud, will run

See **NETANYAHU** on page 23

World Jewish leader to talk status of Jews abroad during visit here

By staff and releases

Rabbi Daniel Frelander understands the issues facing Jews living beyond the borders of the United States and Israel. After all, it's his job.

As president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), Frelander represents more than 1.8 million Reform and Progressive Jews from 1,200 congregations around the globe.

He will address issues facing these communities during his weekend visit to Louisville from April 5 to 7. Programs are being planned at Temple Shalom and The Temple, which are sponsoring his visit, along with the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence.

They hope he will shed light on Jewish life worldwide.

"Rabbi Frelander brings a message of inclusiveness, of full equality to all Jews, irrespective of gender and sexual orientation," The Temple Rabbi David



Rabbi Daniel Frelander

of Temple Shalom expects Frelander's visit to help Jewish Louisville appreciate the unique circumstances Jews in other countries face.

"It's easy to see ourselves in our own Louisville bubble, focusing on our own local successes and issues," Jacowitz Chottiner said. "When Rabbi Frelander comes to town, we will be reminded that we are intertwined with an international Reform Jewish (Progressive) community and energized by their initiatives and successes."

Ariel-Joel said, "a message of embracing all who identify as Jews in our community and of calling for social justice, equality and commitment to peace."

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner of Temple Shalom

On Friday, April 5, at Temple Shalom, the topic will be "Jews Move: Why New Reform Communities are Developing in Asia and Spain." Services will begin at 6:30 p.m. with Rabbis Jacowitz Chottiner and Ariel-Joel leading. Louie Bailey, Jennifer Diamond and Sam Thal will provide the music. An oneg will follow. The Temple is offering bus service to Temple Shalom; RSVPs are required.

On Saturday, April 6, 10:30 am Shabbat services at Temple Shalom will start. A noon lunch and learn will follow. Frelander's topic will be, "Will the Real Reform Judaism Please Stand Up: Understanding Progressive Judaism in North America, UK, Germany, Brazil and Israel."

At 11 a.m., Sunday, April 7, during a brunch at The Temple, Frelander will address the topic "Training Rabbis for Global Judaism: Stories from London, Berlin, Moscow, and Buenos Aires." He will interact with rabbinic students from

Moscow and Buenos Aires via Skype during the brunch. The Brotherhood and Sisterhood are co-sponsoring.

A native of Worcester, Massachusetts who was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Frelander served in senior positions at the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) for nearly 40 years, retiring as its senior vice president.

He has worked on several Reform initiatives, including URJ Biennial conferences, music and worship initiatives, camping and Israel programs.

A gifted musician, he has composed and recorded dozens of popular Jewish melodies, including the well-known "Shalom Rav" and "Lo Alecha" together with Cantor Jeff Klepper.

Frelander also serves on the boards of the Zamir Choral Foundation and the

See **FREELANDER** on page 23



**ANSHEI SFARD
CASE SETTLED
STORY ON PG 15**

THE DASHBOARD

D'var Torah

Serving God by serving others



Cantor
Sharon Hordes

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe...clothing the naked raising the downtrodden providing for all my needs.

-- from the Birkhot HaShachar (morning blessings), Siddur Sim Shalom.

These are among the many morning blessings we are to recite each morning upon waking up. Because we say these words so often, we may run the risk of going on autopilot, not really thinking about how these words could inspire us as we go about our day.

On the surface, the wording of these blessings apparently recognizes God's hand in all of these simple, but miraculous, gifts. However, if we consider that the Hebrew word meaning "to pray", *l'hitpalleil*, is reflexive, by reciting these blessings, we are reminding ourselves that we, too, can do God's work here on earth.

This message has become progressively clearer to me each month as I have joined with other members of the Keneseth Israel family to collect and deliver basic items to Louisvillians living in the various homeless encampments around the city. We are led each month by Eric Yussman, a congregant and long-time Forgotten Louisville volunteer. He provides us with maps detailing where the encampments are that we visit, and he heads the caravans.

We made our first delivery shortly after the High Holy Days this year. Each car was packed with a different category of helpful donations...food, clothing and blankets, or toiletries. Then, at each

stop, we would open our trunks and call out to the people we met, asking them what they needed. Our first stop that evening was an open patch of grass and trees where various people had set up tents. At first glance, it appeared to be a regular campsite, a place where families would go for a recreational weekend away from home. Sadly, for the residents of this campsite, this was home.

I was shocked at the number of elderly and physically disabled folks, eking out an existence in this challenging situation. At the same time, it was heartening to see the younger, stronger members of this community looking out for these more vulnerable folks. As we distributed our donations, we struck up conversations with some of the people who wanted to share their stories. One was a veteran who told us he could probably afford his own place, but he was concerned about abandoning some of the ones who needed his help. Others told us they had jobs, but their incomes weren't enough to pay for even the most modest rent.

This model of literally meeting people where they are is a departure from the traditional non-profits that set up a brick and mortar shelter or food pantry. Volunteers not only meet face-to-face with those they are helping, but they physically deliver the needed supplies directly to the recipients. In the words of Forgotten Louisville's creator, Christen "Tiny" Herron:

"We are not an organization that asks them to come to us. We don't require forms to be filled out or proof of a need. If they ask for something and we have it, we just give it.... We have seen a few success stories of those who actually make it off the streets, get housing, a job, and gain custody of their children. These are the stories that make it all worth it!"

(Cantor Sharon Hordes is a spiritual leader of Keneseth Israel Congregation.)

Mans parties after cancer treatment



Beth Mans, member services director of The J, pops a confetti cannon in the lobby on Thursday, March 14, to mark the end of her chemo and radiation therapy. Her colleagues were there to share the celebration (Community photo by Jessica Budnick)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in February:

- April 5 @ 7:52
- April 19 @ 8:05
- April 12 @ 7:58
- April 26 @ 8:11

Contacts

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

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

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscription on hold? Development Associate

Kristy Benefield can handle all circulation questions. She 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 Community? Send it in by Wednesday, April 17 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Friday, April, 26.

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

Corrections

The first names for Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan, and for Dominique Ray were misspelled in Lee Chottiner's column in the Feb 22 issue, "Religious freedom is a right best remembered by Jews." The names are given correctly online, including the pdf version of the paper.

Have a correction? Send it to lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

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NEWS

Anti-abortion bills pass

ACLU sues to block enforcement as court issues restraining order

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

A federal judge has blocked implementation of a highly restrictive anti-abortion law that the Jewish Community of Louisville (JCL) has come out against.

U.S. District Judge David J. Hale has imposed a temporary restraining order on Senate Bill 9 – also known as The Fetal Heartbeat Bill or Six-Week Abortion Ban – which could have resulted in a near-outright ban on the procedure, on Friday March 15, the same week the bills passed the Kentucky General Assembly.

“Plaintiffs have shown a strong likelihood of success on the merits of their Fourteenth Amendment Due Process challenge to Senate Bill 9,” Hale wrote in his order.

Gov. Matt Bevin has signed the bill into law, but the restraining order prevents the state from enforcing it.

SB 9 would require doctors who perform abortions to first check for a fetal heartbeat and would prevent them from performing the procedure if one is detected. It would provide exceptions for medical emergencies, though proper documentation would be required.

A fetal heartbeat can be detected as early as six weeks into a pregnancy – a time when many women don’t even know they are pregnant.



The Kentucky General Assembly passed two anti-abortion bills in its just-completed regular session.

Bevin has also signed another anti-abortion bill the legislature passed, the Reason Abortion Ban (House Bill 5). That law took effect immediately. An ACLU motion before the court to block that law was pending as of Tuesday.

The Reason Abortion Ban would bar a woman from having an abortion if she decided to have one because of a fetal diagnosis or the sex, race, national origin or ancestry of the fetus, except in cases of medical emergency.

The state argues that HB 5 is an effort to ban “eugenics-based abortions,” not to relitigate the Roe and Casey rulings.

The ACLU is suing on behalf of the state’s only abortion provider, EMW Women’s Surgical Center, to strike down both measures.

“Decisions about whether to end a pregnancy must be made by the woman and her family. But this law takes the decision away from them and hands it over to politicians,” Brigitte Amiri, deputy di-

rector with the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project said in a prepared statement about SB 9. “Kentucky women must be able to have private conversations with their health care providers and must be able to decide whether to have an abortion. We see this legislation for exactly what it is – part of a campaign to prevent a woman from obtaining an abortion if she needs one – and we won’t stand for it.”

The JCL has made clear its opposition to both bills.

“We believe reproductive health decisions are best made by individuals in consultation with their families and health care professionals based on personal religious beliefs,” according to a prepared JCL statement. “We strongly oppose any limitation on a woman’s right to fully exercise her constitutionally protected reproductive rights.”

National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Executive Director Jeanne Freibert called SB 9 “an abhorrent affront to women’s rights to govern their own bodies.”

Attorney General Andy Beshear has called the measure “unconstitutional.”

The courts have struck down legislation similar to the Fetal Heartbeat Bill in other states.

Conspiracy of Kindness

HOW ONE MAN'S BRAVE DECISION SAVED MANY LIVES



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For more information contact Matthew L. Goldberg at 502-238-2707 or mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org

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NEWS

Voter restoration urged Louisville Jew visits civil rights landmarks in Alabama

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Ben Vaughan didn't need to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, to know that civil rights remains a volatile issue in America.

The 36-year-old electrical engineer from Louisville is knee-deep in the struggle right here in Kentucky.

"I'm from the South, so I'm quite aware of the civil rights history in the South," Vaughan said. "There's a big push now within the Jewish community to talk about justice reform. [But] you can't really talk about justice reform without talking about the civil rights movement and how so many things were left undone."

In fact, Vaughan, a member of Jewish Community Relations Council, is personally involved in the fight to restore voting rights to hundreds of Kentuckians who have been unfairly purged from the rolls. More on that later.

Vaughan, a member of the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America, was in Alabama with 84 other Cabinet members from Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, immersing themselves in the history of the civil rights movement.

One of their visits was to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, scene of the Bloody Sunday confrontation between armed police and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s supporters on their historic Selma-to-Montgomery march in 1965.

"It's a very small bridge," Vaughan said, but with "unique aspects" and markers describing its place in history.

The group also visited civil rights institutions and landmarks in Birmingham and learned more about the Jewish role in the struggle.

That roll wasn't always what it's made out to be.

"It's a complicated story," Vaughan said. "The Jewish community in the South was actually split pretty much down the middle on the civil rights aspects. Some people didn't want to deal with it; some people supported it. We were not the purveyors of civil rights justice that a lot of times we are held up to be. And a lot of that goes to don't rock the boat."

But Jews were targets, too.

On April 28, 1958, Temple Beth-El, in Birmingham almost became a scene of devastation when 54 sticks of dynamite were bundled in a canvas satchel



Members of the Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama – scene of the 1965 Bloody Sunday confrontation between armed police and civil rights demonstrators – on a recent visit to civil rights historic sites in that state. (photo provided by Ben Vaughan)

in a basement window well outside the Conservative synagogue. The explosives never went off because the fuse had fizzled out.

That was only one of many attacks, or near attacks, on synagogues across the South.

The Beth El incident foreshadowed the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in 1963 that killed four black girls.

The Cabinet members visited other sites and institutions dedicated to the movement, including the Lynching Memorial in Montgomery, dedicated to the darkest chapter of the segregated South.

"From documents that they could gather from newspapers and public sources, they compiled a list of all the names of lynching victims that they knew of [from] all the states in the south – by county," Vaughan said. "And they have actually carded those names into boxes that those counties could actually come and collect to put up a memorial."

One of those victims was a Jew, Leo Frank, who was hanged in Georgia 1915, after being accused of murdering a girl in a pencil factory he owned.

"He's the only acknowledged Jew [to have been lynched]," Vaughan said. "There are so many aspects to lynching that there's so little information on. Of the thousands of names that they have, they don't think it's even 10 percent of the people who were actually lynched."

Vaughan said the country has struggled with its "inability ... to reconcile with civil rights issues and what we have done as far as slavery goes."

He noted that other countries with catastrophic histories – Germany, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa – have gone through some form of national reconciliation with their pasts.

"The U.S. has not reconciled with what it has done," he said. "While civil rights were an advancement in the rights of people, it was not a statement of public acknowledgement of what actually happened."

While the Cabinet itself does not take political positions, individual members get involved in justice reform, voter registration and perhaps more important, voter restoration.

Vaughan is involved with the Voter Registration Coalition on a constitutional amendment in Kentucky to restore voting rights to convicted felons who have served their sentences.

"There's already significant voter disenfranchisement and voter suppression in our state," Vaughan said. "There are currently 312 former felons who aren't allowed to vote, and we're talking about people who may have had a joint in the 1970s but have actually [committed] no violence. The things that people get felonies for and get disenfranchised is ridiculous."

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Venues currently supervised and certified by the Vaad:

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

Services provided by the Vaad:

- ◆ Consultation on kashruth and of kosher products at local businesses and companies

List of local businesses providing kosher catering (must request to have Vaad supervision when ordering):

- ◆ 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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COMMUNITY

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

USPS #020-068 at Louisville, KY.

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

For more information, call 502-459-0660, fax 502-238-2724, e-mail jcl@jewishlouisville.org or check out the website www.jewishlouisville.org.

POSTMASTER – Send address changes to **Community**, 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205-3216.

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: April 17 for publication on April 26 and May 15 for publication on May 24.

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.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

To advertise, please contact our sales representative at 502-418-5845 or e-mail communityadvertising@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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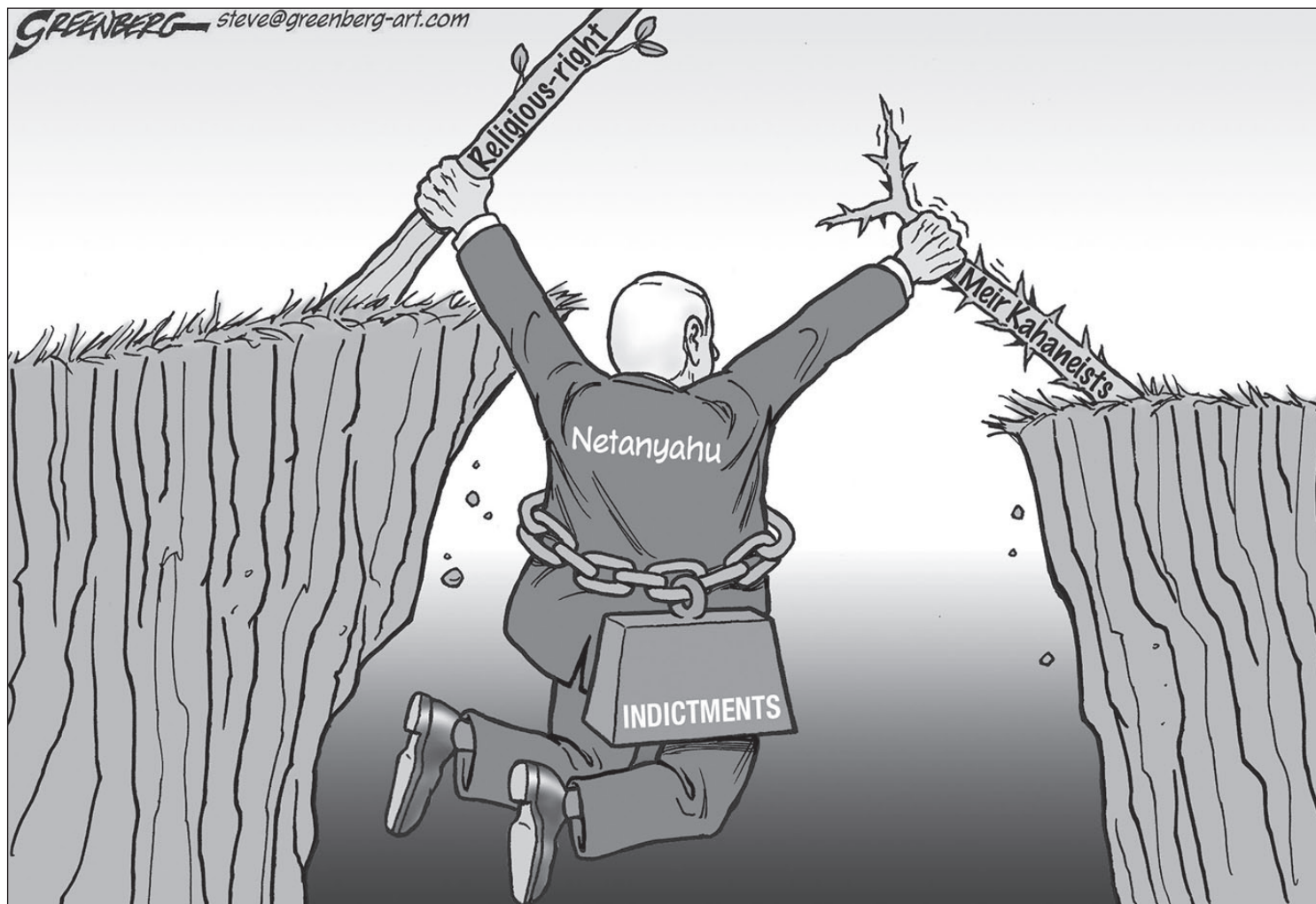
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FORUM

GREENBERG — steve@greenberg-art.com



Message to both sides: Leave the trees alone

When Brazilian photojournalist Sebastiao Ribeiro Salgado returned to his country in the 1990s after covering the genocide in Rwanda, he discovered a different kind of genocide at home.

His home state of Minas Gerais, in southeastern Brazil, had been virtually deforested. Only 0.5 percent of the woods remained.

Worse, the loss of this tropical forest habitat meant that the plants, birds, mammals and reptiles that once called it home were also gone.

Minas Gerais had become an ecologically lonely land.

Instead of lamenting the loss of something irreplaceable, Salgado and his wife, Lelia Deluiz Wanick Salgado, decided to do the impossible. They *did* try to replace it.

Surprisingly, they have succeeded.

The Salgados attempted afforestation – the process of planting trees in barren lands. They founded the Instituto Terra in 1998, which recovered 1,502 acres of cattle land and began planting native trees there in 1999.

Twenty years later, the land has gone from barren and lifeless to lush and green; the forest is coming back. Nearly 3 million trees have been planted. Even wildlife, including some rare species, are returning.

Tree geeks – and I am one – must draw inspiration from this story – a classic example of *tikkun olam*.

And it's not the only one:

Australia has embarked on a massive tree-planting initiative, setting a goal of 1 billion new trees in the ground by 2050.

The Indian state of Madhya Pradesh set a Guinness World Record in 2017 when 1.5 million volunteers planted 66 million trees in 12 hours.



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

Even in Louisville, which is losing some 54,000 trees a year to development, neglect and extreme weather, tree-planting initiatives are ... umm, taking root.

The University of Louisville, through the \$5 million Green Heart Project, is planting thousands of trees and shrubs in urban areas, studying their impact on human health. Tree giveaways have taken place at dozens of schools; churches and synagogues have planted trees on their own grounds; and an anonymous donor contributed \$1 million in 2016 to plant trees throughout the city.

And, of course, there is Israel, where the Jewish National Fund has planted more than 240 million trees since its inception in 1901, marching steadily toward the goal of “making the desert flourish.”

Make no mistake; deforestation, a factor of climate change, is very real. About 31,000 square miles of rainforests a year are being lost – about the size of one South Carolina per annum.

Trees are the lungs of the planet, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. If they go away, the earth can't breathe.

When forests disappear, so do the flora and fauna – sources for medicine and food – natural beauty that makes life worth living.

And yet, in Israel, which has seen so much success with afforestation, there are disturbing examples of trees being used, not as sources of life, but as weapons of war.

Palestinians were recently accused of uprooting 50 trees planted in the West Bank in memory of Ori Ansbacher, a 19-year-old woman who was raped and murdered in a forest outside Jerusalem by a Palestinian man.

Bomb balloons have been floated across the Green Line from Gaza to touch off wild fires. And Palestinian terrorist leaders have openly promoted the idea of using forest fires as a weapon against the Jewish state.

But Jewish settlers also have sap on their hands, having cut down groves of olive trees in the West Bank belonging to Palestinians farmers. B'tselem, an Israeli organization that monitors human rights in the West Bank, documented 10 cases between May and July last year in which more than 2,000 trees, grapevines and barley fields belonging to Arab farmers were destroyed.

Whether Israel's future lies in a one- or two-state solution, who can say? But the ecology of the land is intermingled; it can't be divided. If it is irreparably degraded, Arabs and Jews will all suffer, their claims to the land notwithstanding.

When that happens, we can only hope more people like the Salgados will step forward on both sides of the Green Line, ready and able to do the impossible.

For the sake of the future, leave the trees alone.

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

FORUM

Sometimes, criticizing Israel is necessary



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

As Zionists and supporters of Israel, we follow what goes on there closer than your average person.

We tend to hear sooner about important events making Israeli headlines. Our ears perk up when we hear Israel mentioned in the news. We can name, with varying degrees of ability, some of the leading political figures there.

We are also aggrieved when Israel is criticized unfairly. We bristle at the unfair treatment Israel gets in international forums such as the United Nations. We defend her against attacks and seek to thwart any efforts at promoting BDS (boycott divestment sanctions).

Because of the forces arrayed against Israel in the international arena, we generally couch our criticism in praise, or we hold our fire altogether when the Israeli government does something that we find truly offensive.

But there are certain times when we must speak loud and clear, and this is one of those times.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's outreach to the Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) party is outrageous and offensive. This party is the ideological descendant of Rabbi Meir Kahane, a racist who was banned in the Knesset for his anti-Arab positions. Otzma Yehudit has called for mass expulsions of Arabs, separate facilities for non-Jews, loyalty oaths and death penalties for non-Jews who, in some way, speak out against Jews (not to mention their complete opposition to any peace deal with the Palestinians).

This kind of thing is inherent in every form of nationalism in every country, and Otzma Yehudit is certainly the underbelly of Zionism.

By itself, this party would be hard-pressed to muster enough voters to enter the next Israeli government, though they have won Knesset seats in the past. That's why the prime minister, who finds himself in an unusually tough election, has acted to ensure their supporters are not wasted. He has combined them with another small party, Jewish Home.

Now, they are demanding ministerial posts should Netanyahu be re-elected.

Having this party in a governing coalition makes Israel advocacy that much harder; our moral high ground begins to crumble beneath our feet.

Thankfully, the Israeli Supreme Court has just banned one of Otzma Yehudit's senior members, Michael Ben-Ari. That's good, but things should never have gotten to this point.

Netanyahu must disavow this party. He must create a space where Arab Israelis feel welcome in their own country and have the same rights as everyone else.

He must, but we're not holding our breath.

That is why, for the first time in a very long time, the Jewish Community of Louisville criticized him without qualification. We notified our regional Israeli consulate of our displeasure with the prime minister, and they in turn forwarded it to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

It is because we care so much about Israel that it grieves us when something like this happens.

Shootings in New Zealand

The recent mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, were shocking, but not surprising.

Hate crimes and speech are rising precipitously around the world. Memorial vigils are a regular occurrence. Thoughts and prayers are important, but so are acts to break down communal barriers.

Reaching out to the vulnerable through civic engagement and following the Golden Rule (a new initiative through Catholic Charities aimed at welcoming new Americans) are ways to reduce hatred. Let's all embrace them

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



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FORUM

Lipp meets Abayudaya

Conservative cantors connect to Ugandan Jews during mission

By Cantor David Lipp
Guest Columnist

Uganda? You're going to Uganda? On Safari? To see the gorillas?

No, not to see the animals. A mission to the Jewish community.

There are Jews in Uganda? Are they like the Ethiopians?

Yes and no.

Let me tell you a story.

In the 1890s, Christian missionaries converted many Ugandans. One convert, Semei Kakungulu – warrior, statesman and tribal leader – became disillusioned with western imperialism and the Christian parts of the Bible. It is said that he tore out those pages and studied and meditated on what remained – what we think of as the Hebrew Bible. He guided his followers to observe the laws of Moses, and an organic Judaism was born.

They called themselves The Abayudaya, which is Luganda for The Jewish People. They shaped for themselves a religious life based on their reading of the Bible, following the laws given to Moses and his people. They sacrificed and roasted the Pascal lamb on Passover, as Torah commands. Eventually, they gave music to biblical prayers – the Shema, the Psalms. Post-biblical teachings had not reached them, including most of the prayers in the prayer book.

In time, the Abayudaya discovered there were other Jews in the world who had a rich history and traditional practices that had developed since the writing of the Bible. In the 1960s, when Uganda became independent, Israel opened its first embassy there and the Abayudaya met modern Judaism. Ancient practices were replaced with those we know and cherish – the Passover seder, prayers and western music to accompany them.

In the 1970s, under dictator Idi Amin, Judaism was illegal; the Abayudaya suffered in number and spirit. But they rebuilt after Amin's fall with the leadership of young men such as Rabbi Gershom Sizomu (who merits a story of his own). Their distinctly African musical expression has lifted familiar prayers into new dimensions, even as they've adopted western sounds as well.

(Sizomu will visit Louisville at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, April 7, to speak about his community during a program at Adath Jeshurun.)

In the early 2000s, a group of Conservative rabbis accepted the Abayudaya into the Jewish world through a mass mikvah immersion. The community believed this was a mere formality since they had been living as Jews for 80 years, circumcising their sons, observing Kashrut and the Sabbath.

So why a mission now?

Members of the Cantors Assembly (CA) were called to action last October when a member of the Abayudaya, Assimwe Rabbin, was denied a visa to study at a Conservative yeshiva in Israel; the Israeli Rabbinate did not consider his community Jewish.

Responding to Rabbin's visa rejection, nine cantors and two spouses (a musician and a lawyer) embarked on a solidarity mission in February. We had weekly Zoom meetings, comparing vaccinations, visas, drivers, hotels, flights and packing lists.

We formed three working groups: recording, interviewing and education.

Mike Stein (Los Angeles) had visited the community many times and arranged studio time to record current



Cantor David Lipp speaks to Rabbi Gershom Sizomu of the Abayudaya following a Torah dedication in the Stein Synagogue of Nabugoya. (photo by Cantor Jesse Holzer)

musical practice and add instrumentation. He and Jeremy Stein of Milwaukee, a flautist, continued to the Kenyan Jewish community to make more music after the rest returned to the U.S. The recordings will likely form a Hagadah supplement.

Mike Weis (New York), the CA's director of communications, worked with Jesse Holzer (Florida) and master interviewer Steve Stoehr (Chicago) to record conversations with Rabbi Gershom, community leaders, Rabbin and Gershom's brother, J.J., who recently opposed the Conservative community he helped create, advocating Orthodox affiliation. (The issue may be less religious and more a challenge to his brother's leadership and management style).

One of the interesting tensions in our meetings with the Abayudaya was who gets to learn from whom. The community is still in the process of becoming one with world Jewry. They want to learn our music, our traditions, our liturgy. For our part, we want to absorb their exotic colors, rhythms and stories to strengthen and inspire our own sometimes ennui-laden Judaism. Rabbi Gershom would ask us to lead services and we would counter that we flew thousands of miles to hear him!

At our best, we did both. The two days of Rosh Hodesh, the New Month, offered a perfect opportunity.

On the first day, they did the prayer-leading. We were surprised that the weekday liturgical music was western-

derived, not African in sound.

On the second day, the visiting cantors led services, introducing new sounds to the community. Afterwards, each of us taught for five minutes whatever we wanted a group of budding prayer-leaders to know: when to take tefillin off on Rosh Hodesh, Pirkei Avot, kavvanah (proper intent and concentration) in prayer. For the first time in cantorial history, we ended ahead of time.

Many of us also visited five of the eight Abayudaya communities, most of which were not far from the city of Mbale, the

center of Ugandan Jewish life, in the southeastern part of the country. We also toured NGOs that dug aquifers so that clean water that could be delivered to rural communities in ways that didn't allow for the accumulation of standing water.

In the process, we learned that most Ugandans have no employment at all and depend greatly on outside funds. So the CA made the largest single order of kippot and challah covers – each handmade – in the history of the community.

We were especially gratified to learn during our stay that Rabbin, whose rejection had compelled our mission, received his Israeli visa and left for yeshiva in Jerusalem while we were there.

Our mission came away with a profound respect for their endurance. We were in awe of their piety and faith, had an appetite for the joy and authentic expression that pours through their music. The experience renewed our hope that Judaism can foster diverse expressions of religious passion and practice.

Most importantl, we chose to learn from our brothers and sisters of the Abayudaya, committing ourselves to their success, material and spiritual, to be there for them in any way we can.

The work has just begun.

(Cantor David Lipp, of Adath Jeshurun, is the incoming president of the Cantors Assembly.)

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FEDERATION

Joshua Society coming here

National giving society to bridge gap in Louisville, inspire gifts at a higher level

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The Jewish Federation of Louisville is establishing a giving society here to bridge a wide gap between donors in the community.

The Joshua Society, a national giving society for households of the Jewish Federations of North America, is relatively new; it was started two years ago. The chapter here will provide a necessary midway point for donors who deserve recognition.

Currently, donors in Jewish Louisville can belong to Major Gifts, which has a giving level of \$5,000, or the King David Society (\$25,000).

There's nothing in between. "It was supposed to be a more attainable level than jumping from 5 to 25," said Matt Goldberg, Jewish Community Relations Council director and the federation professional shepherding the new society. "We thought that it would be a wonderful thing to acknowledge the



Bob Kohn, a member of the Joshua Society, hopes the new chapter will inspire giving among young adults. (photo provided)

people at that giving level. Ten thousand dollars is a significant sum for anybody."

Bob Kohn, a Louisville attorney who already gives at that level, is working

with Goldberg to establish a chapter of the society here.

"If somebody perhaps is at, to use an arbitrary figure, \$7,500 or \$8,000 as a family," Kohn said, "hopefully we can get them to move up the \$10,000 level."

Anyone who already gives \$10,000 will automatically belong to the Joshua Society and should receive a letter sometime in April or May, Goldberg said. A reception will be planned shortly thereafter.

Kohn said certain perks could be offered as benefits to giving at that level: financial planning, estate planning, etc.

But joining the society means more than financial incentives, Goldberg said.

"We need to acknowledge them, recognize them, and recognize that they are leaders in the community and they're setting an example for the entire community to get to higher levels."

The federation has been talking about starting a new giving society here long before it knew the Joshua Society existed. The idea was to encourage more "one ask giving" among its supporters instead

of returning to them again and again for different programs and services.

"Rather than nickel and diming a person for the film society or CenterStage – whatever it is – combine all these things into one," Kohn said. "We've talked about the concept ... where you would make one contribution and get various benefits out of it."

He hopes the Joshua Society will be more appealing to younger givers – people in their 20s, 30s and 40s.

That will likely require a change in strategy, Goldberg said, but he believes the federation "camaraderie" still appeals to young people.

"I think, for the younger generation, our message has to change a little bit," he said. "But part of giving to any organization, particularly federation, is yes believing in the mission, but it's also about the camaraderie, people in your pack of friends, you give. That's an important part of giving."

Message from Gia: Year in Israel was the right choice



Sara's View

Sara Klein
Wagner

Less than a year ago Gia Blum, a senior at Atherton High School and J camp counselor, participated with a group of five Louisvillians on the annual March of the Living.

Gia spent a week in Poland and a week in Israel. Those two weeks inspired Gia to change her plans for after high school, deferring her first year of college to spend a year in the Jewish state.

"Gia was curious and inspired during her time in Israel and started asking questions about further opportunities early into our trip," said Kari Semel, former teen director at The J. "I also took a gap year in Israel at Gia's age, so it's been incredible being a part of her experience."

According to Gia, her Israel experience has been just that – incredible. She recently sent me an update on what she is doing there. I thought you would enjoy reading it. Here it is:

"Living in Israel has been nothing that I've imagined, but perfect in every way.



Gia Blum visits the Western Wall (photo provided)

For four months I lived in Jerusalem, where I spent my time visiting the most amazing sites and meeting people from every religion and culture. From the Kotel, to the Holy Church of the Sepulchre, to Temple Mount, I learned more and more about people, and more and more about what it means to be Jewish.

"In January, I moved to Tel Aviv, where I started volunteering for Magen David Adom, the national ambulance service in Israel. It's given me the opportunity to do something that matters and help people that really need it.

"The decision to live on the other side of the world for a year wasn't an easy one to make; it meant leaving behind the people, the culture and the language that I knew, but there's no doubt in my mind that I made the right decision.

My experience in Israel has been so rich and taught me so much about the

world. I'm coming out of this year Stronger, happier and more connected to my Judaism than I ever was before."

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

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NEW ZEALAND SHOOTINGS

Louisville vigil held

Jews join other faiths in acts of healing, unity here, nationwide

By staff and wire reports

Jewish communities here and nationwide attended vigils and services at mosques in their communities, expressing support and concern in the wake of the murder by a white supremacist of at least 50 Muslim worshippers at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Bend the Arc Jewish action organization created an interactive map to allow users to locate a vigil or solidarity rally near them.

In Louisville, many Jews turned out at a vigil at Jefferson Square Park on Saturday afternoon, March 16, joining hundreds of others from all faiths, or no faith at all, to show their solidarity with the Muslim community.

U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth, told the crowd they had all attended “far too many vigils” and he had run out of things to say.

So he read a letter written by South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, to his city’s Muslim community, which the congressman said reflected his feelings.

“The diversity of our community is its strength,” Yarmuth said, quoting Buttigieg, a Democratic candidate for president. “And the members of the Islamic community have greatly enriched this city, in your worship, in your service, even by the diversity of nationalities



U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth speaks at a vigil for victims of the New Zealand mosque shootings at Jefferson Square Park.

among your number. We would be poorer without you.... I wish to tell you not only that you are loved, but also that you are needed.”

“You have an equal claim on the blessings of life in this community and a great deal to contribute,” the letter concluded, “and so we are thankful to count you among us.”

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner of Temple Shalom said it is critical, especially now, for everyone to do what they can to bring about “more unity in our world.”

“The day can and will come when all of us will sit under our proverbial grapevines and fig trees, and no one will harm us,” Jacowitz Chottiner said. “We cannot despair, for there is work to be done.”

Other Jewish leaders attended the vigil, including Jewish Community of Louisville President and CEO Sara Klein Wagner and Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport of The Temple.

The JCL issued a statement shortly after news of the New Zealand attacks Friday.

“The huge loss of life in this incident needs to serve as a reminder that our work to combat causeless hatred must continue,” it said. “May this be the last senseless act of violence and may peace and justice win out always.”

Elsewhere:

- The Levine Center to End Hate and the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester organized members of the Jewish community to stand outside of the Islamic Center of Rochester on Sunday to show support and solidarity, including with messages on handmade signs.

- Two Cleveland-area rabbis were scheduled to speak Sunday at an interfaith vigil for peace and understanding organized by the suburban Chagrin Valley Islamic Center.

- The Islamic Center of Boulder, Colorado invited the Jewish community to

attend a multi-faith vigil on Sunday “to honor the victims, to pray for them and to call for peace.”

- San Francisco’s Bay Area Jews attended prayers on Friday afternoon at several mosques, with Jewish groups encouraging their members to attend.

- The New York Jewish community joined hundreds of fellow New Yorkers who gathered at Washington Square Park for an interfaith prayer session and vigil. The event was moved to an earlier time to allow Sabbath-observant Jews to attend.

- In Great Britain, a Labour Party lawmaker called for action against a neo-Nazi radio station called Radio Aryan, which broadcasts anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate.

- And in Pittsburgh, scene of the Oct. 27 shooting of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh is raising money to help the Muslim community of Christchurch, New Zealand. “Unfortunately, we are all too familiar with the devastating effect a mass shooting has on a faith community,” Meryl Ainsman, chair of the board of the Pittsburgh Federation, said in a prepared statement. “We are filled with grief over this senseless act of hate.”

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THE J CENTERPIECE

Emotional missives

Eighteen women prove power of the pen in debut of 'The Letter I Never Sent'

By Michael Ginsberg
For Community

One wrote a letter to her "soon-to-be ex-husband." Another wrote to "my student who dropped the F-Bomb."

Others wrote to doctor, therapist, "crush," dad, mom, lost friend, police officer, stranger, lost-and-found sister.

The letters – and writers – poured out anger, sadness, grief, humor and many mixed emotions. All were personal and revealing.

None of the letters were mailed.

Eighteen women read their letters to an audience of about 130 at the J on Saturday, March 2, for a one-time-only (for now, at least) performance of "The Letter I Never Sent." The women had submitted their letters in response to an invitation from The J via social media, radio and print to "Stop wishing you had said something . . . Get on stage and actually say it!"

They did.

Some women – no men responded – paused for a tissue break. Some paused to compose themselves. Writers and audience paused intermittently to listen to live performances of songs with themes that echoed those in the letters.

The letters were packed with emotions, confessions, apologies, accusations, lessons and expressions of love.

Betty (not her real name) told her "soon-to-be ex-husband" how angry she felt about his behavior during their marriage, but she admitted making the mistake of "desperately" wanting "to be the person to save you from yourself." As if to slap a stamp on the letter, she ended with a sarcastic, "Sayonara, sweetheart."

Fighting back tears and pausing to compose herself, Jenni Lohrey read her letter to her deceased mother, telling her she hoped "to be the mother that you were to me" and apologizing for fussing when her mother wanted to touch her pregnant belly.

"If you were here now, I would let you touch my belly as much as you want," Lohrey wrote. She also let her mother know she had learned to say, "I love you."

Andrea (not her real name) wrote a different kind of letter to her mother, ex-



Eighteen women – no men – read intensely personal letters before a live audience at "The Letter I Never Sent."

plaining angrily how the parent's "conditional love" and favoritism had emotionally scarred her.

"I'm still learning that I don't need approval from anyone but myself," Andrea wrote, adding that she had "learned to forgive and move on."

Gwendolyn Evans forgave her father for the pain, anger and self-doubt she carries and for his continuing refusal to acknowledge her.

"I love you, and I forgive you, but I am done chasing after you," Evans wrote. "I know that I am smart, beautiful, intelligent, loving, talented and wise enough to know that it is your loss and not mine."

Intense as most of the letters were, there were some light moments, too.

Darian Vasquez, age 13, wrote a whimsical, charming letter to her would-be sweetheart – her "crush." And Mindy Badia's tongue remained firmly in cheek as she delivered a lesson to her "F-bomb student" in Spanish 1 class – substituting "Smurf" for the F-word and explaining when the F-word was and wasn't appropriate.

Anger dominated Carly's (not her real name) letter to a younger sister who had disappeared for five years. "I was con-

vinced you were dead," she wrote. The sister finally called – collect – to ask a favor, and eventually returned home. Abandoning her withering tone at the end of the letter, Carly confessed, "It scares me to love you, but I do, anyway."

Ten years after her sister committed suicide, Christine O'Hara described and displayed a wide range of emotions, dominated by deep sadness and loss. "Did I tell you I love you on that last day?" she asked. "We were supposed to get old together," she cried. "I want you here. I want to make more memories," she insisted. "How could anyone ... call you selfish," she shouted as she dismissed those who had blamed her sister for choosing to end her own life. "I want

people to remember how you lived, not the manner in which you died."

Lauren Nallia poured anger liberally as she wrote to a doctor she remembered having blamed her for a mysterious illness he was unable to diagnose. Rhythmically, bitterly spitting out statements, each starting with "Dear doctor," Nallia fumed at her physician for telling her, "It's all in your head."

Nallia wrote, "Those encounters with your disbelief have enveloped me with anxiety." She ended with a verbal slap in the face: "Dear Doctor: You gave up."

Katheryn Wilson's therapist didn't give up, and Wilson thanked her tearfully for talking her out of suicide. "Your words saved my life," Wilson wrote. "Thank you for keeping me alive.... I truly thought 21 would be my last year on Earth. You gave me nine more years."

Christina Iliff gave herself a good talking-to in her letter to herself. She apologized – "I'm sorry I have let you down"; she blamed herself – "Your status as a woman is dependent on the love of a man"; and she accused herself of "self-sabotaging," with a harsh judgment – "I hate who you've become."

However, at the end of her bruising self-condemnation, Iliff admitted in the letter, "I love you."

Finally, Sharon Cummings, offered her two granddaughters this loving advice: "If you only look around, you will be found."

Considering the setting for these letters, Cummings just as easily could have concluded, "If you only write it down, you will be found."

These authors wrote it down. They found missing parts of themselves, and they – along with their audience – were richer for it.



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ARTS

Cantors' concert coming

Randy Herman owns crowd at AJ Music Festival, prelude to May concert

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Cantor Randy Herman is equal parts clergy and performer.

The accomplished singer, pianist and hazan displayed both sides Sunday at the 48th Annual AJ Music Festival. The show, titled "In the Key of Play: Rock & Reparte," delighted the audience of some 520.

While Cantor David Lipp clearly enjoyed sharing the stage with Herman – they even did a cantorial duet, something you rarely see in Louisville – he admitted that this year's festival is just an "appetizer."

"It's a sneak preview for two months from now," Lipp said, a reference to the Cantors Assembly's 72nd Annual Convention, which will be held in Louisville from May 19-23, when he will be installed as president. Some 130 cantors will gather at AJ that week for what is being billed as the "Captivating Cantors' Concert."

Stay tuned.



Cantor Randy Herman of Bet Torah in Mount Kisco, New York, performs with the Jewish Community Choir during this year's AJ Music Festival. (photo by Jerry Wolff)

On this night, Herman, Lipp, Cantor Sharon Hordes, student Cantor Mike Jarvis, vocalist Jennifer Diamond, Louisville Orchestra Music Director Teddy Abrams and the Jewish Community

Choir held the stage by themselves, singing pop songs and show tunes from all genres, while Herman showcased his own compositions.

One of his standout pieces, "King

David's Spaceship," a whimsical song about a boy who imagines the great Jewish monarch flying through the heavens in his own spacecraft, was made into an animated video by AJ's own Yehuda Husband. The video premiered at the festival. Even Herman, who sprinted down the aisle after the screening to hug Husband, swore he hadn't seen it before.

The rest of the show was split between classic hits selected by the performers and Herman's own work.

Abrams accompanied Herman on clarinet for a honkytonk tune the cantor called "Yofi Tofi" (Hebrew for Super Duper).

"Ptach Libi" (Open My Heart), an unplugged number, brought Lipp on the guitar together with Herman.

And "Ahava Rabbah" (Great Love) showed the cantor could rock.

"This is what happens when a yid goes a little crazy and thinks he's Ray Charles," Herman quipped.

See **AJ MUSIC** on page 22

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For more information on how you can leave a legacy gift, please contact Jennifer Tuvlin at 502-238-2735 or jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org.

*As of March 19, 2019

JFCS NEWS, CLASSES & EVENTS

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



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

JFCS FOOD PANTRY

SUGGESTIONS FOR APRIL

- Soup
- Canned fruit
- Snack Bars
- Canned carrots
- Hot cereal
- Spaghetti

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.

EVENTS



THURSDAY, MAY 23
MARRIOTT HOTEL 280 W. JEFFERSON ST.
5:00pm Cocktail Reception 6:30pm Dinner & Program



A salute to International Americans who have made significant contributions in their professional fields and in our community

PURNA VEER – India A nationally recognized entrepreneur at the helm of V-Soft Consulting Group Inc.

JAMES RACINE – Haiti A professional violinist and arts educator.

KEISHA DEONARINE – Trinidad & Tobago Executive Director for the Passport Foundation.

SUREKHA KULKARNI – India Social entrepreneur of the Beaded Treasures Project.

FRED GROSS – Belgium Award-winning journalist and author of *One Step Ahead of Hitler: A Child's Journey Throughout Time*.

For Table Sponsorships and Tickets, Contact JFCS

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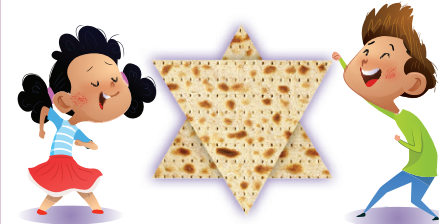
- Matzo
- Matzoball Soup Mix
- Horseradish
- Passover Cake Mix
- Grape Juice
- Potato Kugel Mix
- Macaroons

Monetary donations also may be made to the Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry Fund.

The Carole & Larry Goldberg Family Mitzvah Event

**Assemble Food Packages
April 7 11am – 12pm**

Activities for the entire family

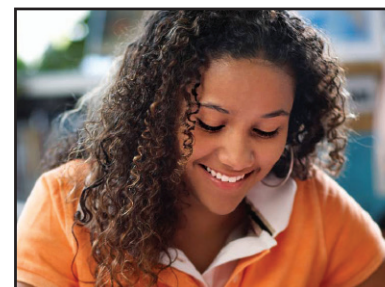


RSVP to Rabbi Diane Tracht at 502-452-6341 by April 1

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SUPPORT GROUPS

April 2, 4pm

Caregiver Support Group

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

April 11, 1pm

Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group

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

April 15, 12:30pm

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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

April Date (T.B.D.) 7pm

Parents of Young Adults in Interfaith Relationships

Meets at JFCS. Contact Diane Tracht: 502-452-6341, ext. 250.

April 17, 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.

April 18, 7pm

Adult Children of Aging Parents

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

FORUM

Historic hand transplant a reminder that miracles abound



Jewish Hospital

Rabbi Nadia
Siritsky

How often during the day do we stop and give thanks for our hands?

When we look at our hands, do we see them critically, looking at age spots or less than perfect nails? Or do we recognize them for the miraculous gifts that they truly are?

Recently, Jewish Hospital hosted a reception to honor the 20th anniversary of the first successful hand transplant in America, which put Louisville on the world map as an innovator and leader in health care.

Present was the first hand transplant recipient, Matthew Scott, who shared how his life had been transformed by this miracle. For the first time, he said, he could hold his two children's hands,

experiencing things that most of us take for granted.

Leading surgeons and professors at the reception described how this medical breakthrough transformed transplantation and reconstructive surgery. The 14½-hour procedure, which required an 18-member team, was performed by surgeons from Kleinert Kutz Hand Care Center and Christine M. Kleinert Institute for Hand and Microsurgery. The transplant was part of the Louisville Vascularized Composite Allograft program in partnership with the University of Louisville.

Jewish Hospital, part of KentuckyOne Health, was proud to host this event. Our hands are truly miracles. They demonstrate what is enduring.

During times of transition, it is helpful to refocus on what is enduring. This is a powerful way that religious practice can ground us in a changing world.

We are reminded of this wisdom every week as we turn our focus to the Torah portion. No matter what happens in our lives, we return to these ancient words to root ourselves in narratives which have sustained us for thousands of years.

The *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers) teaches: "Turn it and turn it again, for

all is in it; see through it, grow old and worn in it; do not budge from it, for there is nothing that works better than it."

When we return to the Torah portion of the week, with new insights and perspectives developed from a year of living, then we root our lives in Torah and ground ourselves in the wisdom of generations who have come before us.

But with every new interpretation, we breathe new life into ancient words, transforming the text of Torah into a tree of life.

Through the practice of Torah study, we contextualize our daily experiences in that which is sacred and enduring. A poem inspired by the kedushah (holiness) prayer states: "Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles.... Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed... that we will reach out for holiness and exclaim in wonder: How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it!"

Too often, we focus upon those things that are lacking for us and forget the miracles and blessings that have been entrusted to us. Working in healthcare, we are given unique opportunities to be reminded of our blessings.

I was honored to give the invocation at the hand transplant anniversary. Among other things, I said:

"Today we give thanks for hands... Today we give thanks for the hands that have been given and the hands received... For the hands that have soothed and comforted

For hands that have operated and performed healing miracles

For hands that have been restored and hands that have been transplanted

For the hands that have gone on to love and create and work and heal.

It is my hope that every week, as we turn to the Torah, we will turn it and turn it, recognizing that all the blessings for which we pray have already been given to us. We have been tasked to actualize them through our choices and actions.

May this historic anniversary give us all a deeper awareness of the miraculous blessings which are present all around us, if we would only stop and notice them.

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

EVENTS CALENDER

Chavurat Shalom for April

Thursday, April 4 – The 70th anniversary of the Broadway opening of South Pacific will be celebrated with Sarah Harlan on vocals and Sara Robinson on piano. March and April birthdays and anniversaries also will be marked. Lunch in the Heideman will include a deli platter, chicken and rice soup, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and celebratory cake. The program will be in the chapel.

Thursday, April 11 – Lisa Klein will lead a chair yoga practice. Lunch will

include three-cheese quesadillas, Mexican-style rice, Mayan-style lima beans, Caesar salad, fresh fruit and Mexican-style chocolate mousse with raspberries.

Thursday, April 18 – Nada will perform on piano. Lunch in the Heideman will include cheese tortellini with smoked salmon, broccoli with roasted red peppers, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and banana pudding. The concert will be in the main sanctuary.

Thursday, April 25 –No Chavurat Sha-

lom for Passover

Chavurat Shalom is an opportunity for Jewish senior adults to meet socially and share ideas. Lunch is \$5 and reservations are due by the Tuesday before the program. Please 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 other-

wise noted in the listing, with lunch starting at noon, followed by our program at 1 pm. Transportation can be scheduled by calling Jewish Family & Career Services at 502-452-6341. Transportation is \$5 round-trip. Chavurat Shalom is funded by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, The Temple, The Temple Brotherhood and Sisterhood, NCJW, the Jewish Federation of Louisville, and other donors.

The J Senior Calendar for April

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 12:45 P.M.

"The Two of Diamonds" will perform. Refreshments will be served after program. March birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 12:45 P.M.

Lunch followed by the CenterStage production of "Annie" Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 12:45 P.M.

Author and motivational speaker Robert Mueller

will update give an on Hosparus and "Keeping it all Together." Refreshments will be served after program.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 12:45 P.M.

Pianist Jeff Springer will perform blues, jazz Broadway and classical tunes. Refreshments will be served after the program.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7:00 P.M. AT ADATH JESHURUN

John Gage will perform. Refreshments will be served.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 7:30 P.M. AT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

An intergenerational, interfaith model seder sponsored by the Bensinger family in memory of Judith Bensinger. Hebrew school students will take part and Cantor Sharon Hordes will lead. Gerry Burns will cater the dinner. Cost is \$5 for members, RSVP by April 10. Transportation is available for \$3.

Kids' Activity Calendar

SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 10 - AUGUST 9

"Are we there yet?" Go on VACATION with Camp J!

For children 2 years - 10th grade.

Traditional and Specialty camps available, as well as services for special needs campers.

jewishlouisvillecamp.org

Questions? Contact

mmannel@jewishlouisville.org.

We have also opened **Pre-Camp** for the 3 weeks prior to camp starting. If you are in need of child care from May 20 – June 7, you can register on the Camp J website!

KID'S NIGHT OUT

APRIL 13

6:30-10:30pm

For kids 2 years - 6th Grade

jewishlouisville.org/KNO

Contact Katelyn Graves at
kgraves@jewishlouisville.org

SPRING CAMP

APRIL 1-5 | 9AM-4PM

Swimming, arts, sports, and special events every day!

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Questions? Contact kgraves@jewishlouisville.org.

CenterStage
at the Jewish Community Center



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GLOBE

Anshei Sfard appeal dropped; JCL proceeds with shul sale

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

After more than a year of debates, council votes and a court challenge, the Anshei Sfard property dispute is finally settled.

That means the Jewish Community of Louisville can proceed with its plans to purchase the synagogue at 3700 Dutchmans Lane to expand The J campus next door.

"This expansion ensures we develop a true campus that will serve the community for generations to come," JCL President and CEO Sara Klein Wagner said.

The plaintiffs in the case, who wanted to see the synagogue protected as a city landmark, have dropped their appeal after a circuit court judge dismissed the case.

"Regardless of our differences, it's time to work together towards a greater good tomorrow," Avram Kahn said.

Anshei Sfard President Myrle Davis cheered the news.

"We are thrilled to be able to put the landmark issue behind us and move forward with the sale of Anshei Sfard's building to the Jewish Community of Louisville," Davis said. "The sale will allow our congregation to focus positively on rebuilding and growth. In fact, Anshei Sfard has over 100 people attending our Purim Seudah."

Jon Fleischaker, chair of the JCL Board of Directors, expects the sale to be finished sometime before June. What happens after that, he couldn't say.

"Obviously, we're committed to keep the mikvah in operation until it is re-located, and we will cooperate with the Vaad (the owner of the ritual bath) to keep it operating," Fleischaker said.

He said the ultimate use for real state remains a topic for discussion.

"Having this property gives us options we wouldn't otherwise have in terms of available property to develop if we wanted to and could afford to."



THE REPUBLIC BANK PLAYERS CHALLENGE

JUNE 24, 2019

JOIN US FOR A PARTY ON THE GOLF COURSE

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LOUISVILLE ALSO GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING

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PICTURE THIS: LADIES AT 'CAKEMAKER'

Pomegranates and Lions of Judah women who went on JWRP Israel trips enjoyed a reception and screening of the film "The Cakemaker" on Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Speed Museum. They also got a private tour of the Adele and Leonard Leight Collection. Two new Pomegranates attended and Bonnie Roth was pinned as a new Lion of Judah. (Community photos by Jessica Budnick)



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Louisville's got Talent

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Visit www.CenterStageJCC.org/talent
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 CenterStage
at the Jewish Community Center 

PICTURE THIS: BEER GOT YOUR TONGUE

More than 60 young adults gathered at the Foundry at Glassworks on Feb. 21 to learn from Louisville native and Moody Tongue Brewmaster Jared Rouben and pastry chef Shannon Morrison during the Beer Got Your Tongue event. Attendees paired each layer of a decadent 12-layer German chocolate cake with Moody Tongue beers. (Community photos by Tara Cocco)



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PICTURE THIS: ISRAELI DISTILLER

Israeli craft distiller Yuval Hargil was a guest of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and Heaven Hill Brands at a reception on Wednesday, March 13, at the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience downtown. Samples of Hargil's spirits, including a gin made entirely of Israeli ingredients, were available for tasting. (Community photos by Jessica Budnick)



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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

New executives join JCL



Angie Rose

The Jewish Community of Louisville has added two new administrators to its staff. Angie Fleitz is senior director of development and Angie Rose is the vice president of communications.

A Louisville native, Fleitz is a graduate of Centre College and the University of Louisville, where she studied business administration.

She previously worked for Brown Forman Corporation, the Kentucky Derby Museum and, most recently, Solid Light, Inc., a design services firm, where she was executive director of business development.



Angie Fleitz

An Indiana native, Rose is a graduate of Grand Canyon University in Arizona and Indiana University School of Social Services.

An experienced healthcare industry administrator, Rose previously worked at Washington County Memorial Hospital, Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Healthcare, Baptist Health Floyd and Humana. At JCL, she oversees all aspects of marketing and promotion as well as production of *Community*.

Freibert named NCJW director

Jeanne Freibert has been hired as executive director of the NCJW Louisville. She started on Jan. 6.



Jeanne Freibert

"I am incredibly honored to be part of such an amazing organization and look forward to spreading the word about all we do," Freibert said in a prepared statement. "In addition to community service projects, we are planning exciting new events, including a mindfulness seminar and fashion show."

A graduate of Murray State University and Cameron University in Oklahoma, Freibert spent 15 years as a special education and art teacher in Oklahoma, Maryland, Georgia and Kentucky before moving into new sectors.

From 2016-18, she worked as interim-director and program director for Dress for Success, a worldwide organization

providing professional attire and work readiness skills to women starting new careers. She also served on the board, executive committee and is still on the advisory council.

For the past year, she has been at JMF LLC, a nonprofit consultant firm.

Freibert said NCJW wants to build upon its solid foundation by recruiting new members.

"People of any gender or faith seeking ways to make positive impacts in our community are encouraged to join NCJW or volunteer at Nearly New Shop," Freibert said.

Foundation honors Callen

The Dermatology Foundation has honored Dr. Jeffrey P. Callen with its Lifetime Career Educator's Award.



Dr. Jeffrey P. Callen

Callen received the award at the American Academy of Dermatology's annual meeting on March 2 in Washington D.C. His wife, children and grandchildren were present.

Callen has been chief of the Division of Dermatology at the University of Louisville since 1988, teaching and mentoring hundreds of medical trainees and practicing physicians.

In recent years, he has received two other national awards: Master of Rheumatology in 2016 (his area of practice includes auto-immune diseases that affect the skin), and he was named Master of Dermatology in 2017.

Film Fest attendance bump

The Louisville Jewish Film Festival reported a slight increase in attendance during the just-completed 21st annual festival.

According to the director, Marsha Bornstein, about 1,500 people turned out to for this year's festival, "slightly higher than last year, which was higher than the year before."

She added that she was "pleased" by how many non-Jews saw this year's lineup of movies, documentaries and short-subject pictures.

IPP honors Friedlander, Phelps

Interfaith Paths to Peace (IPP) presented Mitzi Friedlander with its Lifetime Service to Peace Award during its annual Recipe for Peace dinner on March 7 at the Olmstead.

IPP also recognized Rev. Joe Phelps with the Lee B. Thomas Jr. 2019 Peacemaker of the Year Award.

A lifelong supporter of interfaith dialogue and peacemaking, Friedlander and her late husband, Fred, were founding members of IPP. She has been a vocal advocate for social justice, participating in Open Housing marches and the 1964 March on Frankfurt.

A retired Baptist minister, Phelps was a force in the faith-in-action movement during his time at Highlands Baptist Church. He has also been an advocate for corrections inmates and racial reconciliation.

John Gage of *The Kentucky Homefront* and Linkin' Bridge, an a capella group and finalist on *American's Got Talent*, provided the evening's entertainment. Rabbis Bob Slosberg of Adath Jeshurun and Beth Jacowitz Chottiner of Temple Shalom took part in the program. Several Jewish leaders were in attendance, including members of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Interfaith Paths to Peace is a grassroots community peace organization, established in 1996.



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GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Thank you!

Meats freeze well. All orders MUST be prepaid by cash or check and received absolutely NO LATER than April 16! No credit cards accepted. Please make your checks to Women of Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Road, 40220. Can't drive or need help? Pre-arranged delivery after 2:00. Questions? Contact Ellen Gray at 777-4875 or lifesgreatgray59@gmail.com.



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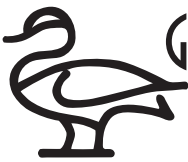
KentuckyOne Health, including Jewish Hospital, has many volunteer opportunities at its Louisville facilities that we are seeking individuals to fulfill.

No matter whether you are interested in transporting patients to their area of service, helping family members track their patients during a procedure or sitting at the information desk to assist visitors, we have a need.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Danni Kiefner,
Director, Volunteer Services, at
dannikiefner@
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AROUND TOWN

(Editor's note: To make Around Town more user friendly, items for adult education, services and regular weekly and monthly events are being grouped under separate headings. Also, more photos and color will be used to make the entire section easier on the eyes.)

Homeless Outreach

Keneseth Israel's next Homeless Outreach project will be Thursday, April 4, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Participants will make sandwiches and care packages. (Bring your own supplies (bread, peanut butter and jelly, blankets, underwear, socks, flashlights, etc.) They will then caravan downtown to distribute food and supplies to the homeless.

Chief Rabbi of Uganda

Adath Jeshurun will host Rabbi Gershon Sizomu, the first native-born black rabbi in Sub-Saharan Africa and chief rabbi of Uganda, at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, April 7. He will share the story of his personal journey and the 100-year history of Abayudaya community. Rabbi Sizomu grew up during the devastating reign of Idi Amin, who outlawed Judaism. The event is free.

'5101 Overtures'

The Temple will screen reruns of the *5101 Overtures* at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 14. In 1977, icebreakers with Adath Israel and Brith Shalom resulted in two magnificent musical performances that came to be known as the *5101 Overtures*. Preserved on VHS tapes, they have been recently digitized to DVD. A reception in the atrium will follow the screenings.

KI Gala

Keneseth Israel's gala will be held Sunday, April 14. This year's theme is "What She Taught Me," honoring the women who came before us. Silent and live auctions, an aerialist floor show, dancing, and keynote speaker Cantor Paula Pepperstone are among the attractions. Visit kenesethisrael.com/gala-2019 for tickets and commemorative journal ads.

Sunday Night at the Movies

Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will host a screening of the next part of *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II* on Sunday, April 28, at The Temple. A pizza dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the film and discussion at 7 pm.

Please RSVP by April 26, at thetemplelouky.org or 502-423-1818 if you plan to attend.

Brown Bag Blessings

Brown Bag Blessings, Adath Jeshurun's program to help feed the homeless is Sunday, May 5, at 12:30 p.m. AJ members and friends prepare brown bag lunches to serve the homeless. Pizza and refreshments will be served, and activities include making sandwiches, packing lunch bags and decorating cards. Donations of bottled water, peanut butter, jelly, and small bagged snacks are needed. This event is free. RSVP at adathjeshurun.com/brownbagblessings.

AJ Book Club

The AJ Book Club is currently reading Millard Salter's *Last Day* by Jacob

M. Appel. The book will be discussed at the next meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at AJ. Contact Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or 502-458-5359.

Concert with 130 cantors

Adath Jeshurun will host a once-in-a-lifetime musical performance with more than 130 cantors performing together, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 22. The event, which is part of the 72nd Annual Cantor's Assembly Convention, is open to the community. Visit adathjeshurun.com/CantorConcert for tickets.

AJ Preschool Summer Camp

Enrollment is now open for AJ Preschool's 2019 Summer Camp, which runs June 3 to July 26. Children 6-weeks old through age 5 may enroll. Camp opens as early as 7:30 a.m. and runs as late as 6 p.m. Children may enroll for as little as two weeks, or as many as eight weeks. Themes for the two-week sessions include Under the Sea, Pirate Adventure, Nature, and Camping. Registration closes on April 1. Contact AJ Preschool at 502-451-3434.

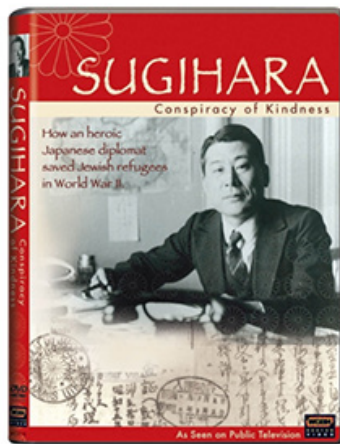
AJ Cemetery Information

Begonias and/or boxwoods may be ordered for gravesites in the AJ Cemetery. Headstone-cleaning is also available. Arrangements can be made at adathjeshurun.com/cemeteryplantings. The deadline for ordering headstone cleaning is April 15.

Sugihara documentary

Temple Shalom will screen the PBS documentary *Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness*, at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, April 28. The film is a prelude to the community-wide Yom HaShoah program, featuring the daughter of a Jew saved by the famous Japanese diplomat during World War II, which will be held Wednesday, May 1, also at Temple Shalom. RSVPs are encouraged. Call 502-458-4739. Light refreshments will be served following the screening.

Bridge Club



"Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness"

The Keneseth Israel Bridge Club meets Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the small chapel. RSVP to gwishnia@gmail.com.

Adult Education

Lunch and Learn

Rabbi Michael Wolk will hold his next Lunch and Learn at noon, Thursday,

April 4, at The Bristol on Main Street. The class is free (food sold separately). RSVP to mwolk@kenesethisrael.com.

KI scholar-in-residence

Rabbi Simcha Raphael, founding director of the Da'at Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, will be the 2019 David & Reva Waldman Kahn Scholar-in-Residence program April 5-7. Raphael is an adjunct professor of religion at LaSalle University and a psychotherapist in Philadelphia. He will speak Friday night and Saturday on the afterlife and end-of-life issues. He also will speak at Saturday lunch and learn and a Sunday brunch on spiritual guidelines for dealing with living and dying and Jewish burial traditions.

Herman Meyer & Son is co-sponsoring the residency. RSVP to gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

Kabbalah Month by Month

Cantor Sharon Hordes leads a class on kabbalah seen through each Hebrew month. The class meets every second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The next session is Thursday, April 11.

Pragmatic Spirituality

Pragmatic Spirituality, a discussion group facilitated by Dr. Courtney Snyder and Marty Snyder, meets Sundays at 10 a.m. at Adath Jeshurun to discuss universal themes. The April 14 session will address the topic "Mirror Neurons: The Neurobiology of Empathy and How We Inspire One Another." The April 28 topic will be "Silence & Laughter: The Glue of Friendship."

Torah Yoga

Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Flannery lead a class at Keneseth Israel that blends yoga and Torah study. Temple Shalom and Hadassah are co-sponsors. The next session is 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 16.

Torah Study

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple leads Torah study sessions Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the Fishman Library. Coffee, bagels and cream cheese will be served.

Jews and Brews

Rabbi Michael Wolk leads a Torah study session over coffee Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in The J library.

The Temple classes

The Temple is offering the following adult education classes on Wednesday mornings:

"Building Character: Jewish Principles of How to be a Good Person," 9:30-10:35 a.m. with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel.

"The Torah of our Lives," 10:45-noon, with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport.

The following Monday night classes are offered:

"Advanced Hebrew: The Temple Torah Study Circle," 6-7 p.m. with Rapport.

"Text Study: Beliefs and Lessons From Our Bible," with Ariel-Joel, 7-8 p.m...

"Beginning Hebrew, Part 2," 7-8 p.m., with Mark Goldstein (Students should have knowledge of the Alef Bet. Email

mdgoldstein01@gmail.com to register.

"Basic Judaism: Holy Days and Festivals." 7-8 p.m., with Rapport.

Kabbalah 1 Classes

Adath Jeshurun's "Kabbalah 1" class will be held Wednesdays April 3 through May 29. The session start at 6:45 p.m. Elliott Rosengarten will teach class, which will not meet on May 22. The cost of the eight-week course is \$49. Contact Rosengarten at eyedoc1770@aol.com for details.

Worship

Imagine Shabbat

The next "Imagine Shabbat," an innovative approach to morning services, will be on Saturday, March 23 at Keneseth Israel. Breakfast with Cantor Sharon will run from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m., following by interactive Torah study (9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.), an abridged traditional Shabbat service (10:30 a.m.-noon) and an enhanced kiddush lunch. The event is free, but reservations are required. Email gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or call 502-459-2780.

Feel the music

Temple Shalom member Ann Waterman, member of the group Two of Diamonds, will accompany Shabbat services on the clavinoia at 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 29, at Temple Shalom.

Celebration Shabbat

All who are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries in April may join a group aliya at Adath Jeshurun Shabbat Service, which starts at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 6.

Celebrate Shabbat

Chabad will celebrate Shabbat with an interactive prayer service followed by a deli luncheon at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 6. The program is offered free and is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call 502-459-1770 for details.

No Shush Shabbat

Temple Shalom will hold its next No Shush Shabbat at 6:30 Friday, April 12. Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and Benji Berlow lead the interactive PowerPoint family service. Afterwards, kids will stay for pizza and a movie, while parents go out to dinner. RSVP to 502-458-4739 or information@templeshalomky.org.

Brotherhood Shabbat

The Temple will honor its Brotherhood on Shabbat at 7 p.m., Friday, April 12.

Short and Sweet Family Service

Students in grades K through 7, their parents, and their families may join a family service at Adath Jeshurun at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 13. The informal service and includes a story. Students will join the main service afterwards to help lead the closing prayers.

See **AROUND TOWN** on page 21

AROUND TOWN / LIFECYCLE

AROUND TOWN

continued from page 20

Guided meditation

Chabad will offer one hour of pre-Passover guided meditation at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, April 13, at Chabad House, 1654 Almara Circle. The meditation will be followed by a short audiovisual message from the Lubavitcher Rebbe on preparing for Passover. This program is free and is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call 502-459-1770 for details.

YH/Holocaust Memorial Shabbat

The Temple will mark Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day with a special Shabbat at 7 p.m., Friday, April 26. The sixth grade class will lead the service.

BLT: Bagels Lox and Tefillen

Chabad will hold a morning service and brunch at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, April 28. The event is free and sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call 502-459-1770 for details.

Passover

AJ Passover services

Here are dates and times for Adath Jeshurun Passover worship services: The service for the first born, Friday, April 19, 7:15 a.m., followed by breakfast; kosher community seders, Friday evening, April 19 (for those with advanced reser-

vations), two seders are being offered. Visit adathjeshurun.com/seder for reservations. Services on the first day of Passover, Saturday, April 20, 9:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.; second day services, Sunday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. and at KI at 5:45 p.m.; seventh day services are Friday, April 26, at 9:30 a.m. at KI and 5:45 p.m. at AJ; eighth day services and Yizkor, Saturday April 27, 9:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Sitters are available by contacting Barb Embry at 502-458-5359.

Anshei Sfard Seders

Anshei Sfard's Passover seders will be held at approximately 9:20 p.m., Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, at the home of Rabbi Simcha and Hindy Snaid, 3706 Dutchmans Lane. The seders are free, but reservations are required by April 15. Call 502-451-3122 or visit facebook.com/ansheisfard.

Chabad seder

The Chabad community seder will be held on Friday April 19. Three generations of the Litvin family will lead. A \$36 donation for adults (\$18 for children and students) is suggested. RSVP by April 5 to 502-235-5770.

KI Passover Seder

Keneseth Israel will hold its Passover seder at 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 19, at KI, following 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat and Passover services.

Chef Gregoire Guiot of Mirabelle Gourmet Catering will cater the meal,

which will feature matzo ball soup, brisket, potatoes and veggies, dessert, and kids and vegetarian menus. Rabbi Michael Wolk and Cantor Sharon Hordes will lead the seder. Cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for Children 7 to 11, free for kids under 7.

Send checks to Keneseth Israel or pay online at kenesethisrael.com/payment/.

The Temple Seder (first night)

The Temple will host its first night seder at 6 p.m., Friday, April 19, in Heideman Auditorium. Chef Z of Personal Touch will cater the meal. Cost is \$15 for Temple members; \$20 for adult non-members; free for children 12 and under. Reservations for non-members will be taken from March 23 through April 12 on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment is required upon reservation; all reservations must be honored. The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is supporting the seder.

Temple Shalom seder

Temple Shalom will hold a second night community seder at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 20. Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chotiner will lead the family-friendly seder. Guests may request to sit with another family. Each table will accommodate eight people. Cost is \$18 per person ages 11 and up. The office must receive payment by April 5. Contact Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 or information@templeshalomky.org

The Temple Seder (second night)

The Temple will host its second night seder at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 20, in the Heideman Auditorium. The confirmation class of 2019 is hosting the event with songs, skits, activities for all ages and a hagadah created by the class.

Cost is \$15 for adult Temple members, \$20 for adult non-members, free for children 12 and under. RSVP by April 12; payment is required at the time of RSVP. Checks should be made out to "The Temple" or RSVP at thetemplelouky.org. Call 502-423-1818 for details. The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is supporting the seder.

Gaylia R. Rooks Women's Seder

The annual Gaylia R. Rooks Women's seder is slated for 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 24 in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center. This year, the seder will be held on the sixth night of Passover, using a hagadah written by Temple women. WRJ (Sisterhood) is hosting the event. Chef Z of Personal Touch will cater; vegetarian entrées are available. Cost is \$15 for adult WRJ/Sisterhood members: \$20 for adult non-members: free for children 12 and under. The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is supporting the seder.

Young Adult Bourbon & Bread

After Passover ends, The Temple's Young Adult Group will gather for a bourbon tasting and a carb-filled dinner at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 27.

Birth

Emma Sloane Tiell



Scott and Lindsay Tiell are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Sloane, who was born on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019, in Rockville, Maryland. The proud

grandparents are Bob and Judy Tiell of Louisville and Dan and Cathy Hodin of North Potomac, Maryland.

B'nai Mitzvah

Maraya Sarah Goldstein



Maraya Sarah Goldstein, daughter of Elise and Craig Goldstein and sister of Drew and Arianna, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, May 25, at 10:30

am at The Temple.

Maraya is the granddaughter of Betty and Francis Wolff and Sandra and Ronald Goldstein of Moultrie, Georgia.

At Kammerer Middle School, Maraya plays on the field hockey, soccer and lacrosse teams and is a peer partner. In this role, Maraya volunteers each day with students with learning challenges. She is passionate about this program and dedicates her mitzvah project to helping bring additional resources to the

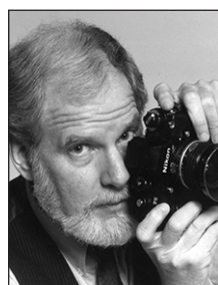
classroom to benefit the students with whom she volunteers.

Outside of school, Maraya enjoys reading, cooking, art projects, bike riding and spending her summers at Goldman Union Camp Institute. Maraya and her family invite the community to celebrate her becoming a bat mitzvah and the kiddush luncheon following the service.

Obituaries

Gordon Baer

Gordon Baer of Cincinnati, Ohio, died Saturday, March 16, 2019.



Born in Louisville on June 7, 1940, a son of the late Raymond and Blema Baer (Sandler), Gordon became an award-winning photographer with a wide range of subjects.

He studied fine arts at the University of Louisville, where his interest in photography grew and he moved toward photojournalism. While still in college he became a stringer and freelance photographer for major publications.

He worked as a staff photographer at the *Cincinnati Post and Times Star* from 1966 to 1971. During that time, his National Guard unit was activated in response to the Pueblo Crisis and he spent time in Korea and Panama.

After he left the *Post*, he maintained a freelance business until his retirement, but he continued to provide photo essays to newspapers. His work has appeared in *Life*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune* and *National Geographic*.

In 1982, he received the University of

Missouri/National Press Photographers Association/Nikon World Understanding Award for his documentary images of the post-war trauma of Vietnam veterans, later published in *Vietnam: The Battle Comes Home*.

His work also included the coverage of the civil rights movement, a dying aunt, strip mining in eastern Kentucky and a Kentucky chair maker.

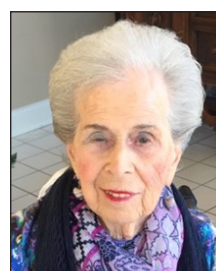
Asked by a reporter what type of photography he preferred, Gordon didn't hesitate: "portraiture." That should come as no surprise from a man who never met a stranger and showed an insatiable curiosity and profound compassion for his fellow human beings. His photography and his life reflected his easy, natural bond with people from all backgrounds.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Shirley VanAbbema and many cousins, in-laws and friends.

A graveside service was held at Anshei Sfard Cemetery on March 18. A memorial will be held in Cincinnati at a date to be determined.

Memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson's Support and Wellness Center in Cincinnati (parkinsoncincinnati.org) or to the Kennedy Heights Arts Center (kennedyarts.org).

Harriet Platoff Dicter



Harriet Platoff Dicter, 97, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019, at Cherokee Park Rehabilitation.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman M. Dicter; her son,

Richard M. Dicter; her parents, Harry and Rosa Platoff; her two brothers, Edward and Alvin Platoff; and her sisters, Emma Platoff and Lillian (Jacobs).

She is survived by her daughter, Barbara (Jerry) Lozner, and her grandchildren, Amy (Steven) Rodriguez, Joshua (Melissa) Lozner and Stacy (Keith) Kaplan; and her eight great-grandchildren, Alex, Jessica, Ava, Tessa, Noah, Abigail, Liliana and Eleanor.

A Special Thanks goes to her doting nieces, Marcia Schuster, Roz Schneider, Polly Waldman, Pam Buren, and nephew Charles Niren (Marilyn) who consistently visited and gave loving attention to her. Their children also visited often and shared their time.

The care given by her nurses, caregivers, aides and staff at Cherokee Park Rehab and by Hosparus Louisville was invaluable.

Graveside services were held Friday, March 1, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. attended to the family.

Donations may be made to Hosparus of Louisville or Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

Jack Czerkiewicz



Jack Czerkiewicz died peacefully at Jewish Hospital on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, with his wife and daughter by his side.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Czerkiewicz moved to Louisville as a

young adult.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years,

See **OBITUARIES** on page 22

LIFECYCLE

OBITUARIES

continued from page 20

Sharon Green Czerkiewicz; his daughter, Bailey; his mother, Edith Czerkiewicz; a sister, Mazil Mizrahi (David); and two brothers-in-law, Bill Sachs (Betsey Goldfarb) and Artie Green (Barb); and by six nieces and nephews, and four great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Simon; and a sister, Penina.

As an active community volunteer, Czerkiewicz was particularly proud to work with Keneseth Israel Congregation, the Kentucky Institute for Torah Education and the Louisville VAAD Hakashruth, which presented him with its Volunteer of the Year award in 2017.

He was also a UofL fan and recently became a Purdue University fan where his daughter is attending college. Anyone who ever met Jack knows his biggest joy in life was watching his daughter Bailey grow up.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Feb. 24, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Friends may express their sympathies by donating to Keneseth Israel Congregation, J. Graham Brown Cancer Society, or to a charity of your choice.

Sylvia Gilbert

Sylvia Gilbert, 96, died Thursday, March 14, 2019, in Louisville.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Sylvia lived in Louisville for the past 13 years, which she always said was the best decision she ever made and added years to

her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Gilbert; her sister, Tillie Mann; and her son, Melvin Gilbert.



Sylvia is survived by her other children, Mark (Judee) of Dallas, Texas, and Lance (Amy) of Louisville; her grandchildren, Becca, Jason and Alanna Gilbert, Sean Erickson (Gloria); two great-grandchildren, Connor and Ethan; nieces and nephews, Myra Smolev, Sydra Miller (Grant), Leah, Henry, and Julia Miller and Karliin Mann.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, March 17, at New Montefiore Cemetery, West Babylon, New York.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to The J Senior Adult Center or the charity of your choice.

Bonnie Teri Stein Cohen



Bonnie Teri Stein Cohen passed away Saturday, March 9, 2019, at home, surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Pittsburgh on September 12, 1943, the daughter of Florence and Louis Stein, Bonnie was a generous and loving spirit. She took great joy in cooking for her family and friends. She was especially known for

her chicken soup, kreplach, chopped liver, cheesecake and rugelach.

During her life, Bonnie had three careers: beautician, caterer and realtor. She loved them all because "they came to a happy conclusion."

As a caterer, she created beautiful occasions for generations, from bris to bar mitzvah to wedding.

Bonnie gave of herself to everyone who needed her. She didn't know any other way to be. She will be dearly missed by her family and everyone who knew her, especially those who have eaten at her table. She was a member of Keneseth Israel Congregation and the Sisterhood, NCJW-Louisville Section and Hadassah.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Harold Cohen; her brother Joseph Stein and her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Martha and Simon Oskie.

Harold was the love of her life for over 54 years. They were partners in life and in love, working, laughing and holding hands every day. Together they made their home and their table expand to take in family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Michael (Dara); daughter, Ilene Asuncion (Lorne) and her two grandchildren, Josephine and Fisher Asuncion, whom she adored.

She loved and was loved in return by many nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members. Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 12, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation, the JFCS Food Pantry or donor's favorite charity.

John Jay Dorkin



John Jay Dorkin, 82, died at home on Friday, March 1, 2019, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Diane, and his parents, William and Selma Dorkin.

John's first time in Louisville, he worked as VP and program director at WLKY-32. He left Louisville for Detroit, where he managed the ABC station for seven years.

He returned to Louisville in 1988 as general manager and president of WDRB-41. After retiring from WDRB, he worked with Creation Films making documentaries.

He was a community leader, actively working with the Kentucky Humane Society and Dare to Care.

A sports lover, John watched just about every game on the TV with his sons. He was an accomplished golfer and longtime member of Standard Country Club.

John is survived by his wife, Anne; his sons, Eric, Steven and David; his granddaughter, Emma Lambert Dorkin; his brother, Fred (Harriet) and his sister, Ellen (Roger) Vacco. Through his marriage to Anne, he gained 16 grandchildren and extended family members.

A celebration of John's life was held on Sunday, March 10, at The Temple. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple, Dare to Care, Habitat for Humanity or Water with Blessings.

More than 400 pay tribute to activist Suzy Post at Ali Center

By Lisa Hornung
For Community

Hundreds gathered at the Muhammad Ali Center Sunday, March 10, to celebrate the life of civil rights activist Suzy Post, who died Jan. 2 after a long battle with cancer.

The committee that organized the event expected about 300 people, but more than 400 attended. There were 50 additional folding chairs brought in, but many still had to stand in the back of the room. Betty Baye of the Courier-Journal emceed the event, which included speeches from those who worked with Post in her activism and songs such as Amazing Grace and We Shall Overcome.

Cantor David Lipp sang Psalm 23 and led the Kaddish.

"I'm very honored to kind of represent all of our elected officials here today," said Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, speaking on behalf of city leaders, "to really pay [tribute to] one of our most significant and loved citizens of all time at the home of the Greatest of All Time."

"[Post] spoke the truth," Fischer continued. "And sometimes that truth made people uncomfortable, but there's no question that it's made our city a better city and has inspired many of us here in many different ways, me included."



Suzy Post's children and grandchildren enjoy a light observation of their mother and grandmother during a March 10 tribute ceremony at the Muhammad Ali Center. (Lisa Hornung photo)

Fischer said he presented Post the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Keeper of the Dream Award, which is one of the highest awards the city of Louisville gives out.

"During her decades of activism, Suzy would be on the front lines whenever and wherever the fight for justice and equality was being fought," he said. "Inspired by an activist family, Suzy's tireless commitment to just causes has

lifted countless lives and left an indelible imprint on many of our community's most potent institutions of justice."

He particularly cited Post's work with the ACLU of Kentucky and the Metro Housing Coalition.

"She stood up when many in our community sat still. Fighting for school desegregation, housing equality and so much more. Above all she loved Louisville and fought to make its wonders

open to all."

Other dignitaries in attendance were U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth, former Mayor Jerry Abramson, former Miss America Heather French Henry, state Senator Gerald Neal, state Rep. Mary Lou Marzian and Metro Councilman Bill Hollander.

Many speakers in the ceremony called for attendees to take up the cause against injustice.

"Don't just let your life just rust away. Pick up the staff, carry it on to freedom land," said activist Mattie Jones. "My brothers and my sisters, freedom is not free. Everyone has to make a choice. As the song said, 'What side are you on boys and girls?'"

She added, "Suzy, we're marching on. Freedom! Freedom! Freedom! Let us march on my brothers and sisters until victory is won."

Post's son, David Post, thanked the committee and said the family is proud of the tribute to his mother.

Quoting Cantor Lipp, "This is an occasion to remember a passing, an emptiness, but also to remember and acknowledge what's going to fill that space, which is the love and the spirit and force that we're going to contribute to carrying on that legacy."

AJ MUSIC

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He also performed with the Jewish Community Choir on "Hine MaTov" and the slightly comical "HaKohen Gadol" (The Great High Priest).

Much of the music any baby boomer could dig.

Herman backed up Hordes as she belted out Carole King's "I Feel the Earth

Move." Likewise, with Diamond as she sang Rodgers and Hart's "My Funny Valentine."

And Abrams spelled Herman on the keyboard as Lipp sang "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

In a nod to St. Patrick's Day, Lipp also sang "Danny Boy" – slightly altered for a Jewish crowd.

Herman comes by his musical chops honestly. The grandson of vaudevillians, the Grand Rapids, Michigan, native

studied theater and ... psychology at the University of Michigan. He has recorded his own CDs and worked as a musician and actor in Europe and America. He was invested as a cantor in 2008 by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Late in the show, Herman tugged at the hearts of Jewish parents everywhere when he sang "Nicole," a romantic melody he wrote for his wife. He got married in his 40s, putting an end to his parents' angst over when he would settle down.

A photo gallery of the happy couple flashed on the screens as he sang.

So what did he do for an encore?

He sang Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely" as photos of Herman's daughter, Kaya, were projected.

Hope springs eternal.

(The music festival was underwritten by the Adolf & Sara van der Walde and Israel Rosenbloum Charitable Trust.)

NEWS

NETANYAHU

continued from page 1

together in the election and could join the government if Netanyahu wins.

"The teachings of Meir Kahane and leaders of Otzma Yehudit are inconsistent with Jewish values and precepts," the JCL resolution says. "Prime Minister Netanyahu's attempts to encourage an electoral relationship with the inherently racist Otzma Yehudit party is to be condemned [and] Otzma Yehudit should be forbidden to be seated in the Israeli Knesset."

The resolution further states that Otzma Yehudit should be "boycotted" in Israel and the United States.

The resolution reaffirms the JCL's support for a two-state solution – one Jewish, one Palestinian – living side by side.

It also states that all minorities living in Israel should have the same rights as Jewish citizens.

That last point apparently refers to a March 10 statement by Netanyahu on social media that Israel "is not a state of all its citizens."

The JCL joins a long list of Jewish organizations that have come out against Netanyahu's arranged marriage with Jewish Home and Otzma Yehudit. Among them are the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

AIPAC's opposition is especially notable since it rarely takes a position contrary to Israel, and Netanyahu is slated to speak at its annual policy conference later this month. Benny Gantz, a leader of Blue and White, will also speak.

Otzma Yehudit, which is Hebrew for "Jewish Power," stands for a greater Israel from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. It calls for the annexation of the West Bank and the resettlement of Palestinian and Israeli Arabs in Arab countries. It also wants to restore Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount and cancel the Oslo Accords.

According to JTA, Party head Michael Ben-Ari has called Kahane his rabbi and his teacher. Another party leader, Baruch Marzel, one time a Kahane aide, holds a party every year at the grave of Baruch Goldstein, who in 1994 massacred 29 Palestinians at the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple, who previously led the Reform Movement in Israel, has called Otzma Yehudit "a true danger to Israel's democracy, and to Israeli society."

Nevertheless, he said they do have influence in Israel, having been elected to the Knesset twice before.

Thirty-eight Religious Zionist American rabbis have signed a petition condemning the merger.

Conversely, The National Council of Young Israel (NCYI), an Orthodox synagogue organization, defended Netanyahu's deal, but 22 NCYI synagogues quickly declared that the organization was not speaking for them and called upon leadership to "cease making all political pronouncements."

NCYI President Farley Weiss later clarified the statement, saying it did not speak for individual synagogues.

(JTA contributed to this story.)

FREELANDER

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Mary McDowell Friends School. He is married to Rabbi Elyse Frishman, editor of the Reform siddur Mishkan T'filah.

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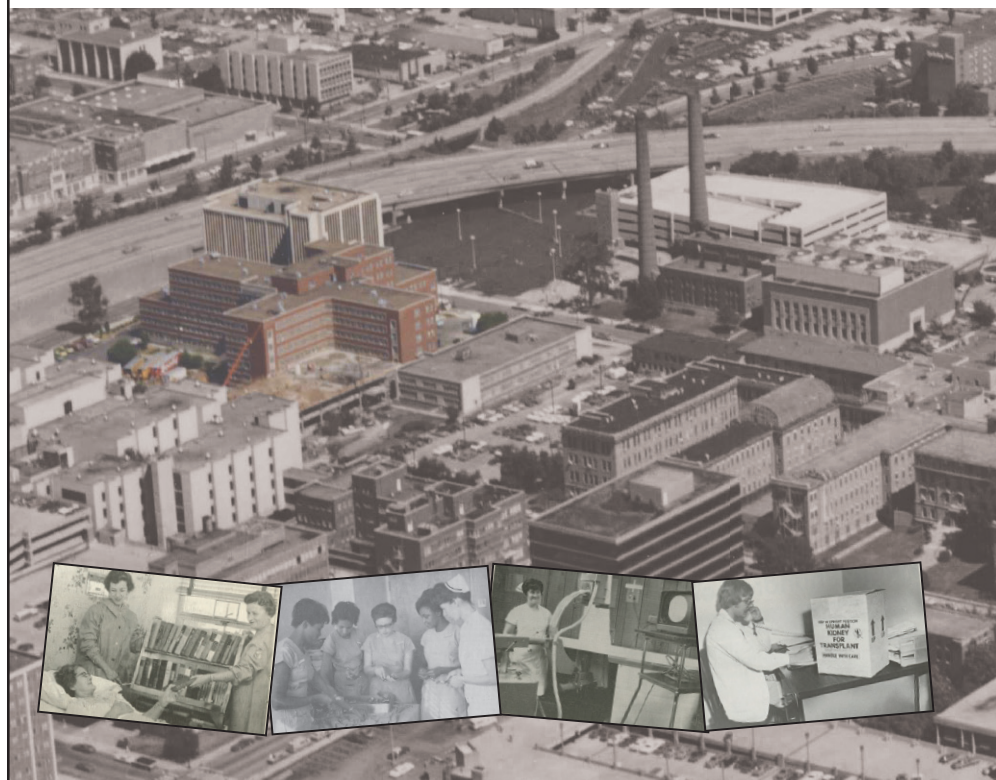
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