



INSIDE:

Bound for museum

Louisville woman to send father's Shoah-era notebooks to USHMM

STORY ON PG 4

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Violins of Hope

Restored Holocaust-era instruments make music in Louisville

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

One by one, as strands of string music filled the vaulted sanctuary, the “Ambassadors of Repair” proceeded down the aisle of the Cathedral of the Assumption, each carrying a violin.

The ambassadors were a diverse group – Christians, Jews, Muslims, children and adults, artists and activists.

The instruments they carried, like human Holocaust survivors, were themselves survivors of that time. And like their flesh-and-blood counterparts, they had stories to tell.

These 10 instruments, part of the Violins of Hope collection, were displayed on the altar of the cathedral this night, Oct. 22, during Repairing the World Through Music and Story: An Interfaith Evening of Healing and Hope.

It was one of 30 events, programs and concerts held for the Violins of Hope during their 10-day stay in Louisville, culminating in a grand performance Saturday, Oct. 26, by the Louisville Orchestra.

The Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Center for Interfaith Relations co-sponsored the evening, which was dedicated to the Jewish commandment



Jeffrey Jamner reads from Elie Wiesel's *Night* as Sara Callaway accompanies on the violin during the Oct. 22 Violins of Hope program at the Cathedral of the Assumption. (photo by Sarah Kelley)

of *tikkun olam* (repair the world). Violins also were part of the Oct. 24 Major Gifts program at the Waterfront Botanical Gardens (see photo gallery, page 15).

The Violins of Hope, string instruments

that survived the Holocaust. Some were played in the ghettos and concentration camps. All tell unique stories of the people who played them and the inhuman-

See **VIOLINS** on page 23

Louisville woman gives father's violin to VOH; hopes to hear it played again

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Linda Leeser always knew her father had played the violin, but she can't recall a time when she heard him play it.

“It's been tucked in my closet since my father died in '81,” she said. “Of all the instruments I know he played, I never heard him play the violin; maybe I was too young. Maybe I heard him on stage, but not at home.”

She understood that many German Jews put their violins away – or gave them away – after the war, too angry with, or ashamed of, their native country for afflicting the world with the Holocaust. Maybe that's how her father, Paul Leeser, felt. She doesn't know.

What she does know is that when it came time for her to decide what to do with the instrument, the answer became obvious.

She would give it to Violins of Hope.

Avshi Weinstein, an Israeli luthier (violin craftsman) who curates the collection of Holocaust-era string in-

See **LEESER** on page 23

‘We’re going to do this’

JCL marks \$30M milestone for Capital Campaign; announcement made in sukkah

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In announcing that the Jewish Community of Louisville is closing in on its \$40 million goal to start construction on the new J at Dutchmans Lane, Sara Klein Wagner couldn't help but draw parallels to the festival of Sukkot.

At a press a conference held Thursday in the sukkah outside The J – the first time a media event is believed to have been held in that sukkah – Wagner, president and CEO of the JCL, told the gathering of reporters, dignitaries and Jewish leaders that the sukkah is a temporary dwelling, originally used to house the Israelites as they made their way out of Egypt and to the Promised Land.

Now, the current center – The J's home since 1955 – will make way for a new facility at the back of the campus. Ground-



Keith Inman, president of Kosair Charities, looks on as children from The Early Learning Center sing at a press conference in The J's sukkah. The media event was called to announce that the capital campaign for the new J had reached the \$30 million milestone. (Community photo by Jessica Budnick)

breaking is expected to happen in 2020.

“It takes transition to get from one point to the next,” Wagner said.

The “Our Community Our Future” capital campaign, organized to raise the funds needed to build a state-of-the art J for the 21st century, has surpassed the \$30 million “milestone,” securing commitments from about 120 donors.

“We're going to do this,” said JCL Board Chair Jon Fleischaker, who announced the milestone. “We're going to get this done.”

Aside from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, which made a \$10 million “cornerstone” gift and an up-to- \$15 million matching grant last year to kick off the campaign, four major community foundations were introduced to the community at the press conference: Ko-

See **MILESTONE** on page 23

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D'var Torah

You gotta have heart



Cantor
David Lipp

According to the rabbinic imagination, the Torah, the blueprint for the universe, existed before the Big Bang, before creation. One might imagine in a universe whose master plan was conceived prior to God's intervention in the laws of physics that the poetry expressed by divine script should start with the letter alef and end with the letter taf, kind of like a very long acrostic, from A to Z.

One might be wrong.

As we finished the reading of the Torah this past week, we concluded with the word Yisrael, ending with the letter lamed and soon thereafter began the Torah again from Bereisheet with the letter bet. Put those two letters together and we come up with the word lev, heart.

A few weeks ago, visiting the Jewish Theological Seminary for its first board meeting of the year, I had an opportunity to visit with the cantorial students at their Wednesday morning get-together, mifgash. As I entered, the professor was teaching them elements of meditative practice and answering a challenging question, the essence of which was that there are certain words he changes in the liturgy because he doesn't believe them intellectually nor do they speak to his heart.

As I was introduced, I decided to riff briefly on the professor's final lesson, providing a connection between his presentation and mine. I reminded the students that the dichotomy between mind and emotion is primarily an ancient Greek innovation in Judaism, a decision to divide aspects of human experience into different categories. But when the Torah uses the word lev, heart, it does not imagine Valentine's Day cards with huge red curvy non-anatomically-correct-but-recognizable blood pumping muscle diagrams. The Torah doesn't seem to view the heart as the symbolic seat of emotion and the head as the sole

container of the mind, of intelligence. The Torah, to the best of our ability to read it contextually, seems to conceive of the heart as containing aspects of both emotion and intelligence.

So, I suggested to the students that they aim their intent, what some call kavanah, to cohere as an experience their heart/mind/soul can fully and authentically express. They should sing what they mean and mean what they sing.

I'm a bit more traditional than the professor I followed. Although I approve of some changes to the words of the liturgy to fit my own community's prayer experience, I generally prefer to adjust my interpretation of the words I'm singing if I encounter a cognitively dissonant or difficult passage. The beauty of musical expression is that it can convey joy, full-throated assent as well as pain, anxiety, even doubt.

After my meeting with the students, I reflected further on our conversation. The heart as the connective tissue between the end and beginning of the Torah-reading cycle could certainly benefit from a more concrete, physical symbolic understanding.

The heart pumps blood throughout the body, energizing the organs, recycling the carbon dioxide back to the lungs to be exhaled. The Torah is the living, pumping heart and soul of our people, it's spiritual DNA. Its stories and rituals, law and lore have animated the imaginations and actions of our people for millennia, through diaspora and homeland, tragedy and triumph, song and celebration.

If we were to imagine a more acrostic approach, one in which the Torah ended with the letter taf and started with the letter aleph we'd be in far less comfortable symbolic territory. Taf aleph spells ta.

A ta is, after all, a cell.

The Torah should liberate, circulate and animate, not enclose.

Shabbat Shalom.

Cantor David Lipp is the hazzan of Adath Jeshurun and current president of the Cantors Assembly.

Snapshots: Harvest Festival



Emma Smith reads a PJ Library book, titled *Something from Nothing*, in the JOFEE Sukkah during the Oct. 20 Harvest Festival on The J campus. The sukkah was made entirely of recycled materials (see story, page 9). About 40 people attended this year's Harvest Festival, which was catered by chef Helen in The J kitchen. (Community photo by William Beasley)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in November:

- Nov 1 @ 6:25
- Nov 15 @ 5:12
- Nov 29 @ 5:05
- Nov 8 @ 5:18
- Nov 22 @ 5:08

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 subscrip-

tion 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, Nov. 13 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Friday, Nov. 22.

day, Nov. 22.

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

Corrections

Beth Salamon, chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Council, referred to only one Supreme Court ruling in her Oct. 30 opinion piece about her visit to the U.S. southern border in Arizona, and her interaction with refugees and the people who were as-

sisting them. An edited version of the piece made it seem as though two rulings were in question. The story was corrected online.

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

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The Western Galilee Partnership2Gether connects 16 Jewish Communities in the USA, Budapest, Akko and Matte Asher.

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The first virtual gathering of our book club will be on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2020, 11 a.m.





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NEWS

Bound for museum

UofL professor, fleeing Nazis, filled notebooks with schoolwork, doodles, art

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

For most Jews fleeing the Nazis, the war years were a dark time shrouded in fear and uncertainty.

Not always so for their children.

Joseph Polzer, in particular, was protected at a chateau in Vichy France from 1940 to 41, where he, his parents and other Jewish families were taken in – one step ahead of the Germans.

To young Joseph and his friends, it was all a big adventure.

“They went swimming and they would walk to school,” said his daughter, Natalie Polzer. “They would skip school and roast potatoes in the woods with a fire. And they would hide out; they had like a secret hiding place in the attic [of the chateau]. It was only happy, happy memories.”

Natalie knows this because her father, while still just a boy, filled three notebooks with his experiences.

During his days at Chateau Du Chaumont near the city of Limoges, Joseph and his friends used notebooks instead of textbooks, writing down all their lessons from school. They even recorded their own report cards.

But Joseph, a creative child who would grow up to become a professor of art history at the University of Louisville, went much further. His notebooks include sketches of himself and the chateau (which has since burned down), cartoons, doodles, even colorful maps of meticulous detail.

Joseph’s notebooks are portals to the lives of Jewish children on the run.

Which is why Natalie, a professor of humanities at UofL, will be donating them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

“I want historians to use these,” she said. “I think they would be very useful to people who are doing research of various things, and there are very few artifacts from these homes.”

Natalie showed her father’s notebooks to Community during a recent interview



Above, Natalie Polzer will soon send her father’s notebooks to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for archiving. Jacob Polzer’s used notebooks for school lessons, sketches and maps while his family stayed in Vichy France from 1940-41 – one step ahead of the Nazis.

at her home in the Highlands. Flipping through the pages of each paperback volume, she would stop at sketches he made of himself and the chateau, a doodle of a woman chasing a man (“He’s just playing around here.”), a cartoon of a postman that went with an essay he wrote, and his maps.

She even produced a roughly folded sheet of paper with ink splotches, which her father used as a blotter. (He drew with a fountain pen.)

She also pointed out the penmanship lessons, math homework, report cards (signed by his father), and another essay he did on Marshall Philippe Petain, the president of Vichy France, who would stand trial for treason after the war.

“Normalcy jumps from these notebooks,” Natalie said.

His parents knew better. The son of non-Jewish Austrian father and a Russian-Jewish mother, both of whom were communists, Polzer was forced to flee Austria in 1938, along with his parents, following the Anschluss (annexation by Germany). They eventually slipped across the border to France, where an agency assisting fleeing Jews, *L’Oeuvre de secours aux enfants* (The Organization for Helping Children), which still exists, put them up at the chateau.

All the while, Joseph’s parents, Mirha and Karl Polzer, protected their son from the reality of the danger they faced.

“There was no indication from what

my father said that anybody was frightened,” Natalie said. However, “my grandmother, her stories were scary.”

Kids in the chateau who had just one Jewish parent – called “half-Jews” – were distinguished from the other Jewish kids with two Jewish parents.

“They didn’t have all the [same] classes with them,” Natalie said. “They didn’t participate in religious services with them.”

By 1941, Joseph and his parents managed to enter America, sponsored by Quakers, but keeping quiet about their communist sympathies.

After Joseph died on Nov. 17, 2018, Natalie decided to donate the notebooks to the USHMM, spurred by a photo of her father playing at the chateau, which she found on the museum’s website. He had been misidentified in the caption.

When she contacted the museum to point out the error – and why she knew it was an error – “they jumped on me right away,” she recalled. “They really want things – especially children’s art – [about] children’s experiences; that’s the one thing they really want to add to their collection.”

In fact, the museum staff combed its archives for details about Natalie’s father and shared them with her. In return, she decided to give them the notebooks.

Raymund Flandez, communications officer for the USHMM, said it was the museum’s procedure not to comment on donations of artifacts until after they have been received.

Not only does Natalie hope her father’s notebooks will be helpful to researchers, she also wants them to cast a spotlight on at-risk children today.

“So many children live in pain, anxiety and fear, owing to poverty and lack of safety and family security,” she said. “In whatever way we can, our priority as a society should be to protect our children.”



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NEWS

J-LEAD to nurture future Jewish leaders in Louisville

By staff and releases

The Jewish Federation of Louisville is starting a program to cultivate future Jewish leaders here.

J-LEAD: Young Adult Leadership Program will introduce young adults to the Louisville and global Jewish community, cultivate leadership skills, create a sense of community among its participants and provide meaningful interaction with Jewish Louisville's current leaders.

It also will provide participants with invitations to Federation events and the opportunity to be paired with volunteer mentors.

The 16-member J-LEAD consists of younger adults from their mid-20s to early-30s. Some are married, but none have children. Some grew up in Louisville, others are newcomers.

"It's a combination of people who reached out to me and were looking to get more involved in the Jewish community," said Sarah Baron, leadership engagement manager of the Jewish Federation of Louisville, who is staffing J-LEAD. "I also heard from people who were already involved, who let us know a new person was moving to the community."

J-LEAD is a continuation of a Federation pilot project done two years ago and enhanced by ideas Baron gleaned from talks with federations in New Orleans,



The new logo for J-LEAD, a program designed to attract and develop future leaders of Jewish Louisville

Cincinnati and Minneapolis that have their own leadership initiatives.

"One of the most important things is to build opportunities for members of the cohort to get to know each other and build a sense of community," she said. "This is the next generation of leaders for our entire Jewish community, so it is important that the Federation make this investment to help prepare the next generation to take on these leadership roles."

The initial J-LEAD participants are David Raffman, Alexis Levy, Logan Burden, Kevin Trager, Andy Trager, Carly Geer Mason, Danny Mason, Elliot Mitrani, Joe Freedman, Avery Markel, Sarah Flarsheim, Yuvi Friedman, Lauren Lazarus, Levi DeFilipp, Daniela Reuter and Maja Reuter.

Baron met individually with each participant "to see what they were looking for, the impact they wanted to make and how the program can benefit them as professionals."

Participants give different reasons for getting involved with J-LEAD.

"I hope to gain a better understanding of the federation and the Jewish community in Louisville," said Kevin Trager. "I also expect to meet and develop relationships with other young adults in the Jewish community, in addition to learning how to be a leader in my professional life."

Avery Markel, who recently moved to Louisville from Detroit, said she wanted to develop her understanding of the community and "explore my role as a lay leader versus a professional."

David Raffman said he is interested in "developing a great network of young professional Jewish adults who want to make an impact on their community."

J-LEAD kicked off with a happy hour on Sept. 24 at Galaxie. A Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Workshop was held Sunday, Oct. 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Jewish Family & Career Services.

Also, a program, called Behind the Scenes of Volunteer Leadership, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Family & Career Services. Shannon Benovitz, Heather Gladstein, Jordan Green and Ben Vaughan – board members of Adath Jeshurun, The Temple, JFCS and the JCL respectively – will be panelists, discussing what it's like being a young Jew in a leadership position and how they can make an impact.

Rabbi Diane Tracht will lead a volunteer activity.

More activities are scheduled for after the first of the year.

In addition, J-LEAD will provide participants with professional headshots and invitations to donor events pairing with volunteer mentors.

Baron expects to have a new J-LEAD class every other year depending on interest.

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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: Nov. 13 for publication on Nov. 22 and Dec 11 for publication on Dec. 20.

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

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

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

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

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

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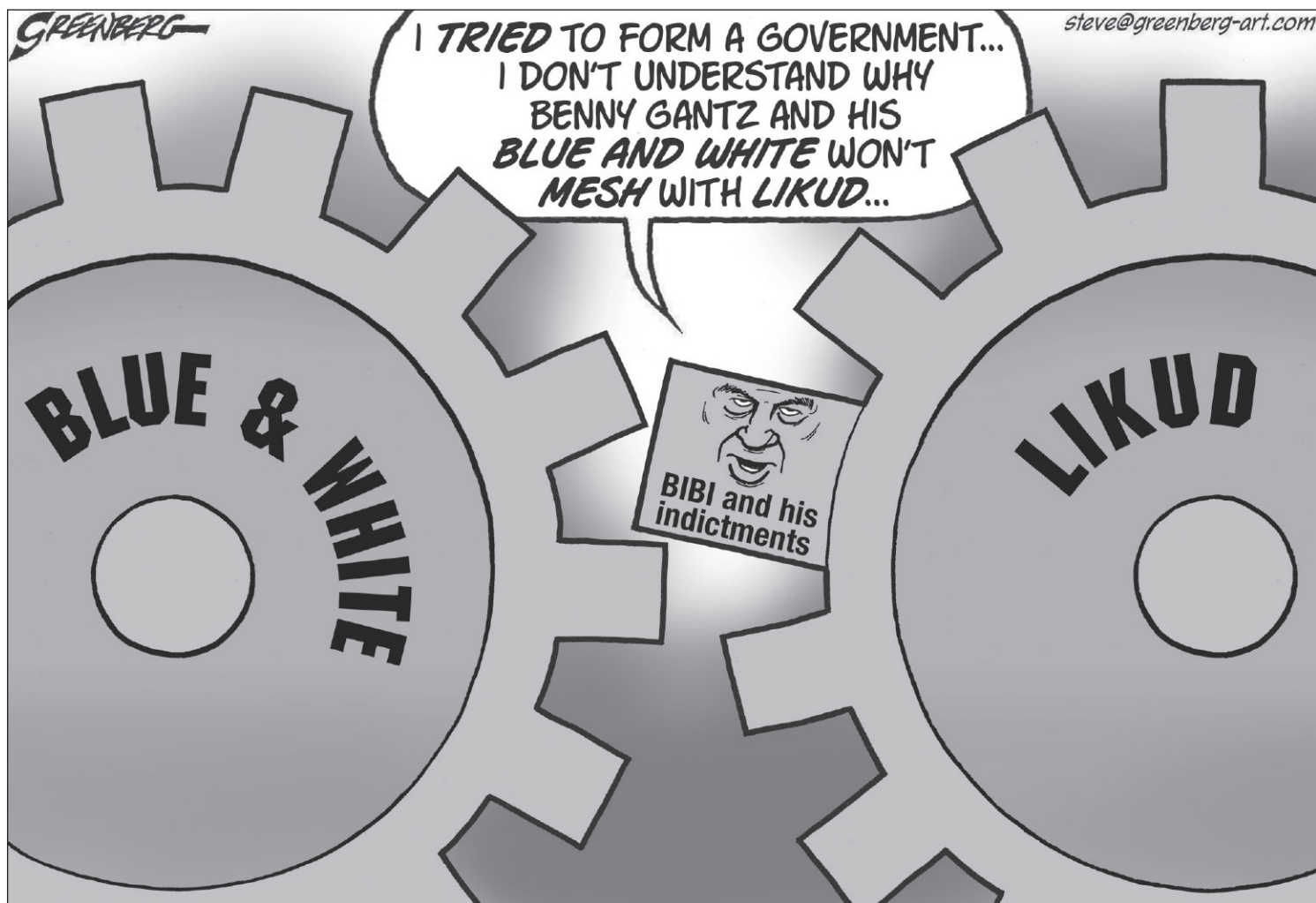
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FORUM



Remembering Pittsburgh for philo-Semitism



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

Recently, after a program at my synagogue, I ducked into the Highlands Kroger to pick up a carton of milk before going home.

I walked briskly to the dairy case, selected my item, then lined up at the checkout line to pay up and get out.

What I didn't know is that I had absentmindedly left my kippah on my head. I might have forgotten altogether had not the bagger at checkout – literally, a kid – noticed it.

“Great kippah!” he said.

Whoa! Not only did the kid know what it was, he *liked* it. It didn't dawn on me at the time, but I had just been the target of a random act of *philo-Semitism*.

As you know, philo-Semitism is the opposite of anti-Semitism. Lexico defines it simply as “friendship towards or support of Jews.”

And you probably never hear it mentioned in the news. The recent uptick in anti-Semitism worldwide grabs all the headlines.

No apologies for that. Bad news is urgent. It requires immediate attention. It can even be a matter of life and death. As

Walter Cronkite once wrote, “What you don't know can kill you.”

And the news has indeed been bad. A synagogue in Germany was attacked on Yom Kippur, killing two bystanders outside. Jews are being accosted on the streets of Europe AND America ... frequently in Brooklyn.

Jews everywhere are thinking twice before wearing a kippah in public, or anything that may identify them as Jewish.

American synagogues, Js and other Jewish institutions are hardening their security as never before, taking a lead from European Jewish communities that have already done so. We all must be vigilant.

Nevertheless, there's a danger to the Jewish world in succumbing to this wave of anti-Semitic news. We can lose our perspective, come to see enemies everywhere, retarding the very lessons that Judaism teaches.

True, anti-Semitism *is* everywhere, but so is philo-Semitism. It's just not as extensively covered. Nor do we, as Jews, necessarily look for it.

Writing for the Orthodox Union website in 2017, Rabbi Jack Abramowitz said even when we hear about philo-Semitism, “we're not likely to do our best to foster it.”

Sometimes, though, philo-Semitism comes looking for us.

In 2017, Temple Shalom received a threatening message on its voicemail. The following week, leaders in the Chris-

tian and Muslim communities, including an imam, walked into its sanctuary prior to the start of Shabbat services and joined hands, forming a “circle of love” around the seated congregation.

I think about moments like that as we reach the one-year anniversary of the shootings at Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha synagogue in Pittsburgh, my hometown. My uncle, Dr. Herman Hailperin, was the rabbi there for decades, a giant in the Conservative Movement.

I was just a kid when Uncle Herman died, not even a bar mitzvah. But I knew him well enough to know he would take no joy in Jews building walls between themselves and the world. He preferred bridges. He would want us to remember, even in times like these, that there are far more philo-Semites than anti-Semites.

Days after the Pittsburgh shootings, thousands of people marched down Forbes Avenue, mere blocks from the synagogue – Jews and non-Jews, Semites and philo-Semites – healing each other, in a massive act of philo-Semitism.

I spent a good hour that day live streaming that march, wishing I were there.

Pittsburgh should not be remembered for the hate that triggered the shootings, but for the rush of love that followed. Philo-Semitism *is* a thing. As Abramowitz suggested, though, it must be fostered.

Lee Chottiner is the editor of The Jewish Louisville Community.

FORUM

Israel's broken electoral system needs fixing – fast



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

Such a chaotic political scene in Israel!

We have a retired general, Benny Gantz, being tasked with forming the next government – the first time in 11 years someone other than Benjamin Netanyahu has had that job – after a close election in which neither center-left nor right wing secured enough seats in the Knesset for a natural majority.

We see deals proposed, and rejected. We see calls for unity ignored, and we see a sinking lament as no progress is made, and no one knows what comes next.

Which is exactly what happened six months earlier.

To quote Yogi Berra, “it’s like déjà vu all over again.”

Gantz, leader of the center-left Blue and White party, was given the mandate to form a government last week, after

Netanyahu, current prime minister and leader of the right wing Likud, announced he had failed to do so himself.

Their efforts follow the second national election in six months in which neither side has won the 61-seat majority needed to govern in the 120-seat Knesset.

To recap how Israel got into this jam, the country went to a second election in September because, following the first vote, one party, Yisrael Beiteinu, led by Avigdor Lieberman, refused to join the governing coalition Netanyahu was trying to cobble together. Lieberman, who has become a kingmaker in Israeli politics, insisted that Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) Jews serve in the army, something to which the religious parties strongly object.

Deadlocked, the country went to a second vote, and even though Blue and White narrowly defeated Likud at the polls, winning 33 seats to 32, the president of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, who decides which party gets the first shot at trying to form a government tasked Netanyahu with the job, believing he had a better chance for success.

Turns out, he didn’t. The prime minister, who is facing the likely prospect of a criminal indictment on corruption

charges, couldn’t convince Gantz to join a national unity government. The general refuses to share power with a man who has dark legal clouds hanging over his head.

Stymied, Netanyahu was forced to hand the mandate back to Rivlin who has now given it to Gantz. Unfortunately, his chances of success are about as good, and maybe a little worse, than his counterpart.

If he fails, Rivlin could conceivably give the mandate to a Member of Knesset (MK) who might prove more persuasive than Netanyahu or Gantz. Or he might just call for a – wait for it – third election.

Confused? Yes, so are most people.

Nobody can agree on a government, but it seems as though everyone can agree that a third election would be a national disaster – something that should be avoided at all costs.

The problem is there is no guarantee that a new election would yield a clear path to a new government. The results could be the same as they are now, maybe even murkier.

But two things we know for sure: Netanyahu, Israel’s political magician for over a decade, is not nearly the force he once was, and Gantz, though his power

is ascending, is still not strong enough to govern on his own.

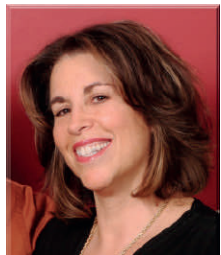
Israel cannot move forward with a caretaker government; the consequences for security, the economy, and international and domestic affairs are too dangerous to consider.

As American Jews, sitting on the sidelines watching this mess unfold is frustrating, not to mention heart wrenching, but we’re also learning a hard lesson: Israel’s political system is broken. The percentage of the national vote needed for a political party to enter the Knesset is 3.25 percent. That’s way too low and part of the cause for the current paralysis. Too many parties can win seats in the parliament, leaving coalition building as the only means for running the country.

Whenever the next government is seated, its first order of business ought to be fixing the electoral system so such long-lasting chaos can never happen again.

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

Preparing for peace: two examples of peacemaking in Israel



Guest Columnist

Lisa Shapiro

Who knew that the Jewish people were the devil in disguise?

Yet this has been our reputation among many Syrians...except, that is, the Syrian war victims who have been treated at the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, Israel. They have discovered that Israelis are just people...with heart.

In Gaza, too, many residents think Jews are heartless. Yet when women from a nearby moshav (Israeli community) show up at the border checkpoint with offers of food and assistance, offering help in procuring them medical care, minds are changed, hearts are opened.

Peace has a chance.

I was moved by many social justice programs on my recent trip to Israel, which was led by Rabbi David Ariel-Joel. Both the hospital and the moshav experiences that I was privileged to see embodied a quote I once heard: “Peace imposed from the top to the bottom shall not stand without the hearts of the people being ready. Once the hearts of the people are ready, peace can happen.”

The Galilee Medical Center, located just six miles from the Lebanese border and close to Syria, exemplifies two seemingly contradictory Jewish values: preserving the sacredness of life, while at the same time exercising the duty of self-defense.

The hospital operates under a government mandate of *adam l’adam* (a person is a person), a term coined by its director, Dr. Masad Barhoum. The hospital must treat an enemy just as it would an Israeli.

Wounded Syrian civilians hear of the hospital by word of mouth. When they are picked up at the Syrian border by the Magen David Adam (the Israeli equivalent to the Red Cross). Often terrified, having been told that Israelis are Satan, they fear being murdered as traitors by their government for coming to Israel, but they run the risk.

The Galilee Medical Center is the main treatment center for Syrian civilian casualties who seek life-saving care across the border. More than 2,400 Syrian men,

women and children had been treated there by April 2018.

The average Syrian stays 20 days, some up to a year, going through as many as 20 surgeries per person. Their injuries, frequently the result of high-velocity weapons, include penetrating head wounds and oral and maxillofacial trauma. Over 70 percent of Syrians seeking treatment come here even though The Galilee Medical Center is not the closest hospital to the Syrian border.

Concerned that their patients could be discovered seeking treatment in Israel, hospital staff cut out any Hebrew labels from their clothing before sending them back to Syria. Instead of giving them crutches

made in the Jewish state, they procure them from Jordan, so no Hebrew lettering is imprinted.

Even though the hospital is “preparing the hearts of the people for peace,” it does have to prepare for war. The facility is so close to the Lebanese border that it boasts Israel’s first and only fully operational underground hospital. Empty beds, gurneys and medical equipment are stacked up in the lower basement, waiting for the next attack. Within 30 minutes of an alert, patients can be re-located there. The cardiology department was built just above the fortified ER, enabling rapid transfer of cardiac patients.

At Moshav Netiv Ha’Assara, only a few yards from the Gazan border (in the shadow of an imposing security wall), our ears were threatened by a low, male roar of rage from the other side: protests.

Nevertheless, an elderly woman, Roni Keidar, who lives in the moshav, invites groups to her compound to build compassion for Gazans. They make beautiful art projects – mosaics of peace.

“Angry neighbors are dangerous neighbors,” Keidar said.

She and others from her moshav lead small groups to the checkpoints to ask Gazans on the other side if they need assistance with things such as Israeli visas for specialized medical care.

To see a doctor in Israel, the average Gazan needs papers from three entities: Gaza, the Palestinian Authority, and the Israeli government. These moshav women assist them with the task of cutting through the Israeli bureaucracy. They also offer them



A security barrier between an Israeli moshav and the border with Gaza has been decorated with symbols and slogans for peace. (photo provided by Lisa Shapiro)

FORUM

Sanders is 78, but he could represent the future of American Jewry

By Aaron Freedman
Distributed by JTA

NEW YORK – There has been plenty of discussion of Sen. Bernie Sanders: how he fared in the recent Democratic debate in Ohio after his recent heart attack, whether he can come back in polls that show him drifting into third place behind Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren and how his campaign's new emphasis on electability against Trump will fare with voters.

Less discussed is the fact that Bernie Sanders epitomizes what it means to be an American Jew in 2019.

For Sanders' critics, this idea almost seems laughable. A Morning Consult survey of American Jews in May found that 47 percent supported Biden, the former vice president, compared to just 11 percent for Sanders. (Granted, Sanders still placed second in the poll, and Biden's national poll numbers have substantially dipped over the past few months while Warren's have ascended.)

The reason, a chorus of Jewish commentators allege, comes down to some variation of Sanders being "a Jew in name only," as the conservative pundit Ben Shapiro put it in 2016.

The Forward's opinion editor, Batya Ungar-Sargon, summed up the familiar arguments in a recent op-ed.

"Sanders isn't religious," she wrote, "he doesn't have any close ties to institutional American Judaism, and has long had a reputation for being cagey about

discussing his Jewish identity."

It is certainly true that Sanders is far from the mold of the last Jewish candidate on a presidential ticket, Joe Lieberman. An observant, die-hard Israel supporter, Lieberman fit the mold of institutional American Judaism familiar to those raised in Jewish day schools and summer camps.

But to say that Sanders does not tell a "Jewish story" is to miss the messy, contradictory and polarized nature of American Jewry today. For as much as Sanders seems alien to many of the shul-going, institutionally affiliated older Jewish Americans, he is deeply representative of the silent majority for whom social justice movements take the place of synagogue and Israel is more often a cause for kvetching than kvelling.

Though he is 78, Sanders represents the future – and increasingly, the present – of American Jewry.

Even as American Jews remain fairly united in opposition to Donald Trump (only 24 percent voted for him in 2016), we disagree sharply on much everything else. According to survey data from Pew and the American Jewish Committee, 44 percent of Jewish Americans say religion is not important in their lives and 59 percent consider being Jewish "mostly a matter of ethnicity or culture."

Then there's Israel. Sanders has insisted that he is a supporter of the Jewish state, describing himself as "100 percent pro-Israel," but a critical one: He said in 2016 that "if we pursue justice and



Bernie Sanders, seen here at a town hall in Vermont, could reflect the changing face of American Jewry, despite his age. (photo provided by sanders.senate.gov)

peace, we are going to have to say that Netanyahu is not right all of the time." Earlier this year, the longtime senator proposed leveraging U.S. aid to push Israel to change some of its policies.

A majority of Jewish Americans share this outlook: 59 percent describe themselves as pro-Israel but critical of some or all of the current Israeli government's policies. Six years ago, half of American Jews thought Israel should dismantle at least some West Bank settlements; that share is now at two-thirds, according to Pew Research.

From 2013 to 2018, the share of Jews who identify as politically liberal has jumped from 49 percent to 64 percent, according to data from Pew Research. While in 2013 Sanders was part of the 36 percent of Jews who did not identify with a particular denomination, now he is in the company of 44 percent of our community.

That's particularly true with Jewish youth, who are less religious, more liberal and more critical of Israel than our older co-religionists. Among Jews who've been married in the past 25 years, it's more common than not to marry a non-Jew, as Sanders himself did.

For Jewish millennials like me, it is refreshing to have a presidential candidate like Sanders who, as David Klion has written in Jewish Currents, expresses his "Jewishness," an ethnic and cultural identity rooted in family history and

present life here in America, rather than just Judaism, a religion, or Zionism, a political ideology. In a time of rising, violent anti-Semitism in the United States and increasing discontent with the policies of Israel, Sanders speaks to the contemporary Jewish moment with his call for "war with nationalism and racism in every aspect of our lives."

"My father's whole family was wiped out by Hitler and his white nationalism," Sanders said at the Young Leaders Conference in Atlanta earlier this year. "Too many people have fought over the years, too many people have died against racism to let it resurface and flourish in America."

I once was a committed Zionist who attended Jewish day school. As a young kid, I remember my pride in helping my dad put up a Gore-Lieberman campaign poster. But like many of my peers, I became alienated with the injustices I saw political elites perpetrate in the United States and Israel, and American Jewish organizations' unwillingness to challenge them. Now, as a mostly secular democratic socialist, I'm glad to have a presidential candidate who is not just Jewish, but Jewish like me. And, increasingly, Jewish like most of us.

(Aaron Freedman is a freelance writer and journalist living in Brooklyn. The views expressed here are his own and not necessarily those of JTA or Community.)

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SUKKOT

'Kentucky Chique'

JOFEE erects 100-percent recycled sukkah on J Campus

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Sitting in a grove of "legacy trees" to the rear of The J campus, the little sukkah reflected the very mission of JOFEE: It was sustainable.

The frame was made of reclaimed wood from a construction site, the thatch on the roof consisted of cornstalks and other growth from the Community Garden. The linen – the walls of the temporary dwelling – was donated by CenterStage.

Even the potted evergreens decorating either end of the entrance were being reused; JOFEE Director Alayna Altman spotted and retrieved them from Home Depot, where they had been sat out as trash.

Inside, hay bales covered with tablecloths and pillows provided the seating.

"Very Kentucky chique," quipped Louisville carpenter Yuval Friedman, who helped build the sukkah.

All told, Altman and Friedman erected the frame in 20-30 minutes on Thursday, Oct. 10. Then, with the help of young Jewish Louisvillians, they had it decorated in an hour, just in time for a chili cookout and a tutorial on building your own sukkah.

Total cost of the this 100-percent recycled sukkah: \$40 for decorations.

Now, that's a Sukkot bargain.

The Sukkah Building Workshop, as the event was called, was something Altman has wanted to do since her hiring as JOFEE director.

"I wanted to do something hands-on," she said. "I wanted to do something creative."

There was serious prep time that went into the project. Altman and



Jewish Louisvillians relax in the JOFEE sukkah. (photo by Alayna Altman)

Friedman, an Israel-born construction foreman, ran 2-by-4 wall boards from a demolished house through a table saw, turning them into 2-by-2s that were perfect for sukkah construction.

And Altman, a trained artist, created step-by-step directions for building a sukkah in the form of watercolor paintings.

Susman Construction provided the tools and wood.

Chabad also pitched in with the food for the cookout and advice for a halachic sukkah.

Sukkot is called the Festival of Booths. Considered the most joyous of the Jewish festivals, the main symbol of the holiday – the sukkah – also reopresents the fragility of human life with its flimsy design and thatched roof through dwellers must see the stars at night, according to tradition.

After the cookout party goers learned how to build their own sukkah by constructing from scratch yet another one. They broke off into teams, each built one of the three walls.

The second sukkah was painted by kids at the Oct. 20 Sukkot Harvest Festival at The J's Pavilion.

Then there was the location for the sukkah: a grove of trees on the campus, mere feet from the din of the Watterson Expressway. They are called the Legacy Trees, sycamores, apple and other species donated over the years by local families, which have since matured into fine shade trees.

"I think it's a great space," Altman said of the grove. "We need to prioritize the old growth trees on the new campus."

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NEWS

Roots leaders here

Rabbi, Palestinian to speak of peace-seeking efforts at Louisville program

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Hanan Schlesinger is an Orthodox rabbi, and a settler living on the West Bank of Israel.

Shadi Abu Awwad is a Palestinian student and activist, also from the West Bank.

You may not think they would have much in common, but they're coming to Louisville in November to prove you wrong.

Schlesinger and Awwad are members of Roots, a grassroots collaboration of Palestinians and Israelis to build a model for coexistence. Their mission is to nurture understanding, non-violence and personal transformation.

The two will speak about their work at a Nov. 10 program at The Temple. Dinner will start at 6 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m.

"When we think of an Israeli Settler, especially an Orthodox rabbi, we think of an extremist, not a peace activist," said Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple. "And yet, we are going to meet one who is part of a movement of Jewish settlers and Palestinians who are trying to change the bitter reality on the ground by working together to educate and to create a new reality; a reality of hope and peace."

Originally from New York, Schlesinger, who lives in Alon Shvut, southwest of Jerusalem, is a founder of Roots



Shadi Abu Awwad (left) with Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger (Roots photo)

and currently serves as its director of international relations. Prior to Roots, he taught Jewish studies at various seminaries and colleges, as well as the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. He spent two years in the Judaic Fellows Program in Boca Raton, Florida, and over 10 years in Dallas Texas as rosh kollel (head of school) of the Community Kollel and later as founder and executive director and community rabbinic scholar for the Jewish Studies Initiative of North Texas.

Awwad, 27, a resident of Beit Ummar, near Hebron, and a leader of the roots

youth group, is a recipient of the Roots scholarship and is a university student in Bethlehem. Though he was imbued with hatred of Israel at a young age, his family underwent a transformation, becoming leaders of a Palestinian movement for reconciliation with the Jewish state.

Founded in 2014, Roots works primarily among those who have traditionally been marginalized by, threatened by, and opposed to peace and compromise: religious settlers, religious

Muslims, and veterans of the Palestinian armed resistance. They have found that through these programs:

- Each side discovers the humanity of the other, overcoming suspicion and building trust.
- Tensions ease, improving life on the ground.
- Perspectives are transformed, creating the foundation from which peace can sprout.

The Palestinians and Israelis involved in Roots do not hide the many deep disagreements between them. They are profoundly aware of the complexities of the conflict and of the lack of equality between the two sides. What unites them is their honest search for human understanding and nonviolent resolution to the conflict.

In addition to The Temple, Temple Shalom, JCRC, Interfaith Paths to Peace and Middletown Christian Church are co-sponsoring Awwad and Schlesinger's visit to Louisville.

Want to come?

Cost of the Roots dinner is \$10 for adults, free for children 12 and under, \$5 for reservations made by Monday, Nov. 4. To RSVP call 502-423-1818 or visit thetemplelouky.org.

Advertorial: LIFE & LEGACY supports Louisville Jewish Film Festival

The 22nd annual Louisville Jewish Film Festival is not set to open until early February, but planning has been underway for months. Committee co-chairs, Keiley Caster and Janet Hodes led an ambitious and dedicated team in viewing over 50 award-winning international films in order to make the critical selection.

In addition, for this year, Mark Prussian, an active festival volunteer, is lending his business acumen as development chair, with impactful results. The films, consisting of comedies, documentaries and feature films, will be shown at many different venues, including Bellarmine University, Speed Cinema at Speed Art Museum, The Louisville Science Center's 4-story digital theatre, Baxter and Village 8 Theatres.

One of the longtime benefactors of the Festival was Louis Levy. Louis established the Louis Levy and Wilma Probst Levy Film and Theatre Arts fund at the Jewish Community of Louisville and then added to it through a LIFE & LEGACY gift upon his passing. This Fund subsidizes ticket prices for the Film Festival and allows Marsha Bornstein and her committee to put together an outstanding program of diverse films and notable speakers. Wilma Probst-Levy was so inspired by her husband Louis' commitment to the Festival that she too made a LIFE & LEGACY commitment to ensure future funding for our Festival. In addition to her generous donations, Wilma enjoys attending the festival and seeing their many friends who live here in Louisville which she considers her second home. Wilma states, "[m]y planned gift to the annual Louisville Jewish Film Festival will strengthen the fund established by my husband, Louis Levy, after he co-founded the festival. It is important that we continue to offer quality films to both our Jewish community and broader Louisville community so that they

can experience our rich Jewish heritage and cultural identity."

One of Wilma's earliest memories of tzedakah is filling up the JNF blue box in her home with spare change. Wilma's early exposure to giving back molded her into a life-long philanthropist who has spent years with worthy causes such as the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington D.C., which will open in 2022, as well as memberships with the Brandeis National Committee and the Southern Jewish Historical Society, among many others. Wilma develops a passion for all endeavors and Louisville cherishes her support and dedication to the Jewish Film Festival.

Donations can be made to the Louis Levy and Wilma Probst Levy Film and Theater Arts Fund or directly to the Louisville Jewish Film Festival. LIFE & LEGACY commitments can be made to any organization or synagogue of your choosing and Jennifer Tuvlin would be happy to discuss how you too can formalize a gift to support the Jewish program or institution that has impacted your life. **Contact jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org.**



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THE J CENTERPIECE

Knight takes bishop

J's new chess group competing in area tournaments, going regional in '20

By Lisa Hornung
For Community

Corban Seavers learned to play chess with one of the best players he knew – his father.

"He didn't just throw a board in front of me and have the pieces there," Seavers recalled. "He taught me about opening strategy. He taught me about tactics, and he taught me about the features of every piece."

In other words, Seavers' father taught him how to win.

Now, Seavers is passing those lessons on to young competitors at The J – as chess coach Check Mates chess team. They have already started playing in events.

But the word "team" doesn't adequately describe the Check Mates. They're also a club since the kids get together after school for something they enjoy.

They're a class because they are learning the game.

And they're a team because they compete.

Over the summer, Camp J offered a chess camp, taught by Seavers, director of the West Louisville Chess Club, who also teaches after-school chess classes in the Jefferson County Public Schools. Seavers approached The J about offering further chess study as part of its Youth Enrichment program.

That idea led to the class for kids in second through fifth grade, said Katelyn Graves, youth program manager and

assistant Camp J director.

Kids from the chess camp have signed up for the Check Mates as well, according to Graves. Others have learned about the group and their interest is piqued.

"They were like, 'we wanted to go to chess club. We'll be back later today,'" Graves said. "It's gotten some kids together that I don't think would have met otherwise."

Seavers said all kids are welcomed in the Check Mates whether they know the game or not.

"No matter what their skill level is, they'll learn something," he said. "The guys [in the class now] are great. So, it's a great opportunity for anybody to come in and make new friends. We go out to the tournaments, gain some good experiences, and possibly make friends in other parts of the city."

One member, Seth Scarborough, an 8-year-old third grader at Kentucky Country Day School, has been playing chess since the first grade. He got interested in the game after attending camp.

"I like that we get to learn a lot about chess," he said of the Check Mates.

While Seth was already involved in the chess club at KCD, his mom, Robin Scarborough, said the Check Mates has taught him much more.

"At KCD they just play and have fun, and it's not so much about strategy or anything like that," she said. "But at The J, Coach Corbin – who is a very good coach in my opinion – he makes it feel more like a team, like they're getting better at it, and winning tournaments."



Corban Seavers instructs three young Check Mates in the finer points of chess. (Community photo)

He's really good."

Seth described the pointers he's picking up.

"We learned the Seven Deadly Tactics, and some good strategy," he said. "Some things about special pieces, and that rooks that will always have the same amount of space, no matter what, except bishops don't."

Rooks and bishops are two of several chess pieces available to each player. The rook moves perpendicularly, while the bishop moves in an X fashion.

Graves calls Seth "our master chess player," but members can have plenty of chess experience or none at all.

So far, the Check Mates have competed in two tournaments in Louisville,

and they will continue to practice in preparation for the Queen City Classic in Cincinnati in March 2020.

Organizing more regional events, though, will cost money.

"We'd love more financial support, business support," Seavers said. "I'd like to be able to start taking the kids to out-of-state tournaments."

Want to join?

The Check Mates meets 5:45 p.m. Thursdays at The J. It's \$85 for members, and \$100 for non-members. For more information, visit jewishlouisville.org.

27 years at The J

Diane Sadle made the senior center the hot spot for its active older adults

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

When Diane Sadle took over as senior adult director of The J (then called the Jewish Community Center) in 2002, she inherited a group of members largely in their 80s and 90s, who stayed at the center, taking part of in-house programming.

What a difference 17 years make.

Today, as Sadle prepares for her retirement on Dec. 31, she caters to a group she describes as "younger seniors" – people on the move who want to travel, exercise, think and be as active as they were when they simply were "younger adults."

In other words, the Baby Boomers have arrived.

"We feel the future is in the Baby Boomer population," Sadle said, "and we're trying to do programming at The J to bring Baby Boomers in."

Enter a project started on her watch called "High Time," which has taken her seniors to Nashville, Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Chicago, Florida, Atlanta and Mackinac Island.

They also take at least one day trip per month.

"The seniors wanted to travel, and they didn't want to do it on their own," Sadle said. "They wanted someone else

to do the driving."

Since High Time's inception, the trips have attracted 40 to 50 people per getaway; the day trips, 25 to 45.

In addition, her seniors go on dining excursions, see plays and exercise in classes arranged by Susan Kwasny.

Working out and getting out are not mutually exclusive ideas, Sadle said. To travel, "one needs to be fit."

Margot Kling, senior adult committee chair, attributes the energy in the senior program to Sadle.

"It's been tremendous," Kling said. "We have every religion, every color; it's really a great diversified program. I don't think things happen mechanically. I think there always has to be someone behind it, and Diane has been very instrumental."

High Time is one of Sadle's proudest achievements as senior adult director, but it's hardly her only one. As the head of program, she interacts with federal and state agencies and NPOs that serve her clients. She oversees the kosher kitchen.

She still arranges traditional in-house programs: Lectures, musical performances, lunches, Jewish holiday celebrations.

Most important, she offers a pair of sympathetic ears to her clients, who still wrestle with life's challenges, and feel the

gamut of emotions that go with them.

For that part of her job, Sadle draws upon her background as a school teacher.

"You have to have a lot of patience when our seniors are not feeling that well," she said. "You have to lend an ear."

Kling said Sadle's personality has endeared her to the seniors.

"She listens, which is very important with seniors," Kling said. "You know, some of these people have no one to talk to, and she sits there and listens."

Sometimes, she wonders what kind of program would have attracted her parents to the senior center. That lodestar trends to guide her work at the senior center.

Originally from New Jersey, Sadle moved to Louisville with her husband, Elliott, in 1990. They raised two sons here: Justin, director of Jewish student life at the University of Kentucky, and Glenn, assistant manager of a Walgreens in Louisville.

"The J was a second home for the kids," Sadle said.

She started at the then-JCC in 1992, working as part-time nutrition site manager for then Director Lynn Hamburg Goldstein. At first, she supervised just the lunchtime program, but she took on more responsibilities as she became full-time and assumed new positions.



Diane Sadle has catered to an active, travel-enthused group of older adults during her tenure as The J's senior adult director. (Community photo)

"I did more than just the lunch," she quipped.

Sadle isn't sure yet what she'll do after she retires, but she will follow husband Elliott's lead.

"I'm probably going to volunteer. My husband still teaches Tai Kwon Do and volunteers at our synagogue, which I'll probably do.

But she won't leave The J entirely.

"I'll be around," she said.

PICTURE THIS: UNDER THE SUKKAH



The Annual Harvest Festival drew dozens of children and adults to the JOFEE Sukkah, where they decorated the booth, read books, played games and got their faces painted. (Community photo by William Beasley)

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Thanks to everyone who participated in the JFCS Feeding Families Food Drive!

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JEWISH HOSPITAL

From strength to strength: Jewish Hospital passes to UofL



Jewish Hospital

Rabbi Nadia
Siritsky

The High Holy Days is a time for reflection. I have found myself contemplating the many blessings and miracles that have been possible thanks to Jewish Hospital.

Jewish was formed over 100 years ago as Jewish Free Hospital to provide care to Jewish refugees and immigrants and all others who were in need of medical care. This mission evolved, helping it become a regional, national and world leader in advancing innovative health care, in large part thanks to its partnership with the University of Louisville, School of Medicine.

This founding mission has continued to evolve. We continued to pioneer historic feats of treatment, putting Louisville on the medical map. From the World's first reported repair of a digital artery in 1962 to a number of worldwide firsts in hand and arm transplantation, to the

world's first successful heart transplant following the use of a Thoratec ventricular assist device in 1985, to the world's first minimally invasive saphenous vein harvest (heart) in 1996 to the world's first two-level percutaneous transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion in 2003 to the world's First Sequent™ Meniscal Repair in 2011 to being the first in the region to perform directional deep brain stimulation for treatment of tremors and Parkinson's disease in 2017... there are more firsts than can fit into this whole newspaper.

In 2005, Jewish Hospital HealthCare Services partnered with Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) to form Jewish Hospital and St. Mary's HealthCare, which in 2012, led to the creation of KentuckyOne Health, the largest not-for-profit health system in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This enabled Jewish to preserve its mission to caring for the underserved while continuing to advance medical research and pioneering care that have made a difference to this community and beyond.

The sale of Jewish to CHI also led to the creation of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence (JHFE). JHFE is now the second largest nonprofit foundation in Kentucky, dedicated to improving community health, funding medical research

and providing support to the local Jewish community.

The Jewish Community of Louisville has been profoundly blessed by the leadership and support of JHFE. It provides valuable funding to synagogues, Jewish programs and events, ensuring Jewish continuity by engaging community leaders in important conversations about Jewish life in the 21st century.

JHFE has also ensured the continued legacy of Jewish's mission to improve the health and well-being of greater Louisville, supporting medical research and the sacred work of nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving health and well-being here.

While JHFE advances the legacy of Jewish's founders, the hospital has, itself, proudly supports the work of local organizations, providing leadership and boosting city-wide public health and violence prevention initiatives.

As we prepare for the sale of Jewish and KentuckyOne Health to the UofL, thanks to the generous financial contributions of a number of entities, including Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Foundation, JHFE and CHI, we are grateful that the university shares our commitment to the underserved and our passion to advance medical research and improve the lives of all.

When we conclude reading a book of Torah, we recite these Hebrew words: *Hazak, hazak v'nithazek*, which means, "be strong, be strong and we will be strengthened." The origins of this tradition are traced back to the actual physical strength to lift the Torah, but it has come to reflect a much larger spiritual expression related to endings and new beginnings. During Simchat Torah, when we complete the book of Deuteronomy and immediately return to Genesis, we affirm our faith that every ending is also a new beginning.

This Hebrew phrase is an affirmation of strength and wisdom gained, and an expression of hope for the ways this strength will propel us to further blessings and strength in the chapters to come.

So it is for us at Jewish Hospital. We were strong, we are strengthened by the sacred healing mission that continues to inspire us as we conclude this chapter of our story, and we pray for continued strength as we begin our new chapter as a part of University of Louisville Health.

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

Chavurat Shalom for November

THURSDAY, OCT. 31

The Silvernotes, will return to perform a Halloween concert. Lunch will include grilled chicken piccata, couscous, broccoli with roasted red peppers, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and assorted pick-up sweets.

THURSDAY, NOV. 7

Abby Glogower from the Filson Historical Society will speak. Lunch will include chicken pot pie, quinoa salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and caramel spoon cake.

THURSDAY, NOV. 14

Mike O'Bryan will play the accordion. Lunch will include meatloaf, roasted potatoes, green peas and carrots, Caesar salad, fresh fruit and triple chocolate cake.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

The Two Sara(h)s will return with a musical program in the Waller Chapel. Lunch in the Heideman Auditorium. Lunch will include Chef Z's soon-to-be-famous chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and bread pudding with a bourbon caramel sauce.

THURSDAY, NOV. 28

No Chavurat Shalom due to Thanksgiving.

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, unless otherwise noted. Lunch starts at noon,

followed by the program. Transportation can be scheduled by calling JFCS at 502-452-6341. Transportation is \$5 round-trip. Chavurat Shalom is funded through 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 Center for November

TUESDAY, NOV. 5, 12:45 P.M.

Teddy Abrams, director of the Louisville Orchestra, will speak about his plans for the orchestra and play the piano. Refreshments will be served after the program.

TUESDAY, NOV. 12, NOON

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon in the Patio Gallery. Afterwards, Sweet Harmony will perform pop, rock, doo wop and show tunes. Please bring a canned food item for the Jewish Family & Career Services Food Bank.

TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 12:45 P.M.

Musical Entertainment Tuesday. Jason Parroco will perform on the guitar and ukulele. Refreshments will be served after the program.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 9:30 A.M.

Children's Museum Indianapolis-Treasures of Ancient Greece exhibit. Leave The J at 9:30 a.m. Stop at Shapiro's for a deli lunch followed by the Children's Museum visit. The Treasures of Ancient Greece Exhibit contains more than 150 Greek artifacts, some on display outside Europe for the first time. Cost is \$38 for members, \$48 for nonmembers.

MONDAY, NOV. 25, 11 A.M.

The J Book Club will discuss *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

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

Classical pianist Nada Loufti will return to perform classical musical selection. Refreshments will be served.



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PICTURE THIS: VIOLINS OF HOPE



Some 130 people attended the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Major Gifts program on Thursday, Oct. 24, at the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The evening was one of the 30 programs for the Violins of Hope and included one of the collection's luthiers, Avshi Weinstein, and music by Richard Lin, gold medalist at the 10th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. The theme from *Schindler's List* was performed on a Violin of Hope. (Community photos by Jessica Budnick)

FEATURE

Orthodox jeweler – Brooklyn mom – juggles work, home, faith

By Lisa Hornung
For Community

Ladies enjoyed each other's company and fine jewelry at the Davis Jewelry Frieda Rothman trunk show Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the Hurstbourne Country Club.

Ashley Davis Signman, vice president of Davis Jewelers hosted the event in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Louisville to highlight her Judaism and her connections with the Jewish community. A portion of the sales from the trunk show went to the Federation, Signman said.

Sigman and Rothman have worked together before, but for the Louisville show, Sigman decided to change things up. "I said, 'You know, I really want to do something different,'" Sigman said. "I really want to tap into the Jewish community. I think it'd be important and something fun for the local market to hear your story, to have a connection to a brand and the designer, and would you be open into doing something that was an off-site event?" To me, it was an opportunity to showcase beautiful jewelry, meet the designer, but re-engage a little bit more in the Jewish community."

A Brooklyn, N.Y., native, Rothman has her design offices there. She takes her inspiration from the grit and industrial nature of the borough, turning it into



Freida Rothman, together with Brand Manager Susan Rutenberg, speak at the Oct. 24 trunk show. (Community photo by Lisa Hornung)

beautiful pieces.

An Orthodox Jew, she is the mother of four children, ages 7 to 19. Her father is a jeweler, and she followed in his footsteps designing jewelry for other brands. Her husband and now-business partner, Matt Rothman, encouraged her to launch her own line, which has grown to the successful fashion line that it is today.

Rothman is named for her great-grandmother, who died in Bergen-

Belsen Concentration Camp three weeks before its liberation. All four of her grandparents are Holocaust survivors. "It teaches you optimism, and it teaches you to

always look at the beauty of life," Rothman said.

While her kids wonder why anyone would want to hear their mom speak, Rothman said she gets it.

"It's exciting for people to hear about my religious background in this modern

world," she said, "how I slow down, I stop every weekend on Shabbos, I shut my phone down, and on holidays I turn off my phone."

While it's not easy balancing business and religion, "I do it anyway because I'm proud to carry on my grandparents' legacy. It was so important to them – they literally died for it."

Shellie Branson wanted to meet Rothman because of her background and success. "I thought that it was really interesting that she was an Orthodox Jewish woman trying to make her way in this designer world," Branson said. "And I wanted to see her new jewelry."

Kate Latts wears Rothman's jewelry, but she wasn't aware of her background. "I was really intrigued by the event because I have had a number of Freida Rothman pieces over the years," she said, "and I had never really made the connection to her Jewish faith and involvement. So when I heard that she was coming, I thought it'd be super fun to come."

Davis said she hoped people left her event with more than just jewelry.

"I hope everybody gets to leave with a beautiful piece of jewelry that they can always look back and point to it and share that story when somebody compliments them to say, 'You know, I met the designer in person.'"

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contact Joanie Lustig at 502-238-2705 or jlustig@jewishlouisville.org



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Whether it's a Jewish overnight camp or a teen Israel experience, kids and teens discover who they are—and who they want to become—while having the time of their lives. **The Jewish Federation of Louisville, with the support of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence**, is happy to sponsor the One Happy Camper grant for first-time Jewish campers with up to \$2,500 for the first year, and teens are eligible for a \$4,000 Passport to Israel grant for a first Israel experience. Both grants provide additional support opportunities for the second and third years.

JewishLouisville.org/Grants

Questions? Email Camp/Israel@JewishLouisville.org



NEWS & NEWSMAKERS



NCJW Louisville hires new director

Nancy Chazen has been named the new executive director of the NCJW-Louisville Section. She joined the chapter on October 1.

Chazen is responsible for the administration of all the chapter's programs and activities, which advocate for and support the social and economic rights of women, children and families.

She brings a diverse background in advertising, communications, nonprofit volunteering and management, office administration within the Jefferson County Public Schools, and as a cooking teacher at The Temple's Chester B. Diamond Religious School.

"I am eager and excited to work on behalf of the NCJW and its members to continue their successes," Chazen said in a prepared statement, "and to further pursue my personal commitment of doing good – performing mitzvahs – to help others in the community in a larger, more impactful effort."

The NCJW-Louisville engages in philanthropy, advocacy, community service, programming and education. It also runs a nonprofit resale store the Nearly New Shop in the Mid-City Mall.



Shalenko named fitness director

Mat Shalenko is the new fitness director of The J succeeding Matt Vamvas, who is leaving to pursue new career opportunities, though he will continue at The J as a personal trainer. Shalenko is a National Exercise Trainers Association

certified personal trainer. He is also certified in Group Fitness, Kettlebell, Functional Movement Systems and Cancer Exercise Training.

A graduate of Sullivan University with a degree in Culinary Arts, Shalenko has studied over 100 dietary theories, practical lifestyle management techniques and innovative coaching methods with some of the world's top health and wellness experts.

Rothschild to focus on camping, Israel at JCL

Shannon Rothschild has joined the Jewish Community of Louisville as its overnight camp/Israel specialist. She will help launch The J's newly enhanced One Happy Camper and Passport to Israel initiatives. Rothschild, who comes from the health and business sectors, will enhance her strategic development work towards both the introduction of the new Camp/Israel grants initiative to the overall community and the recruitment of participant families. The JCL is partnering with the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, on this new program to provide significant grants for children and teens to attend overnight summer camp and travel to Israel. A graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans, Rothschild received several degrees, including Jewish studies. She also completed two master's degrees in business and health administration at Indiana University. Among her first projects, she will participate in the next Jewish Women Renaissance Project trip to Israel in December.

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Jennifer Tuvlin at jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org



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TREE OF LIFE – ONE YEAR LATER

What happens to the memorial objects left at the site of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting

By Ben Sales
JTA

PITTSBURGH – Eric Lidji remembers people leaving objects in sets of 11. Eleven white feathers. Eleven Jewish stars. Eleven egg-shaped sculptures. But mostly, Lidji remembers the stones – some 2,000 of them spread around the other memorials left at the synagogue in simple tribute to the 11 Jews who died there at prayer on Oct. 27, 2018. After the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, thousands of teddy bears arrived from across the country. In Pittsburgh, people left stones.

Lidji understood: Stones are what Jews traditionally place on gravestones. But the stones left at the Tree of Life synagogue were not to mark the victims' final resting place but their place of death.

"You're seeing the outpourings of all humanity in some sense," Lidji said. "There's a lot of notes, there's a lot of posters. There's a lot of objects. Some of them are so unique, it's hard to even categorize them."

As the designated archivist of Pittsburgh's Jewish community, Lidji has taken it upon himself to collect, preserve and document as many mementos of the shooting and its aftermath as he can find. Everyone in Squirrel Hill — the intimate Jewish neighborhood where the shooting took place — has been processing and remembering the attack in their own way. But aside from those who survived the shooting, Lidji's labor of remembrance has been among the most physically tangible.

"Our constituency has not been born yet," Lidji said. "The big thing that an archive does is it preserves original things so that people in the future can have access to something that was created a long time before they were born. This community is not going to forget this event for a long time, but there will come a time in the future when not only was most of the community born after this event, but maybe their parents were born after it." For eight years Lidji, 36, has worked in various capacities at the Rauh Jewish Archives, which has been collecting the documentary and material history of the



Memorial notes to Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha in the wake of the shootings there have been kept by the Rauh Jewish Archives of the Senator John Heinz History Center. (photo courtesy of the Rauh Jewish Archives)

Pittsburgh area's Jewish community for three decades. He became director two years ago.

Housed in the Heinz History Center museum, the archive consists of shelves upon shelves of boxes under fluorescent lighting. Lidji said a busy year for the archive would involve collecting about 100 linear feet of material, most of it decades old.

At last count, Lidji has collected 171 linear feet of memorial objects and notes connected to the shooting. Along with some staff and volunteers, he cleared all of the memorial objects from the synagogue grounds a couple weeks after the shooting, and then again about five weeks later around Hanukkah. Lidji has also catalogued memorial items mailed to the synagogue over the past year. The majority of the collection is paper, including the very first item he collected: the program and seat cards for the vigil held the day after the shooting at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. He is also amassing a digital archive of articles, websites and social media posts related to the attack.

"A lot of the letters are so intimate that if you didn't know what had happened, you would almost think the nature of the tragedy was something on the family level," he said. "It's really remarkable to watch people process a large public event on a personal level."

One of the most intensive tasks was preserving the makeshift memorial that community members assembled around the synagogue. About a dozen people, most of them volunteers, brought thousands of individual items inside, laid them on butcher paper to dry them, separated out the notes and composted the flowers. The process took nine hours.

Lidji cannot publicly display many of the objects he has catalogued because most of the collection is owned by the congregations that prayed at Tree of Life, not the archive itself. But photos of the objects showcase a range of artistic and emotional responses to the shooting.

There is a tree painted on a wine bottle, perhaps an homage to the synagogue's name. There is a wooden bowl, sent by a local church and filled with green paper cut in the shape of leaves, each one

bearing a message of comfort. There is an intricate wicker Jewish star. Colorful rows of origami cranes. Quilted hearts.

"A lot of these things, especially the art objects, you get the sense that this is coming from someone who either is a professional artist or, if they're not professional, art is such a large part of their life that this is how they process things," Lidji said. "There's something I find interesting about people bringing, almost as an offering, a piece of something that they do."

Archiving the year of mourning, he said, has amounted to a second full-time job, as the regular work of the archive has continued apace. And even a year later, items continue to stream in. After the High Holidays, Lidji attempted to collect booklets from neighborhood synagogues that reference the attack and its victims.

"Whatever pain those of us who are several rungs removed feel is so vastly different from the people who were close to it," he said. "What we're dealing with is sad, and sadness is a part of life. It's nice to have a role to play."

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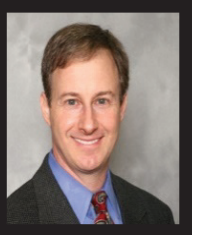
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AROUND TOWN

Jack's Place Dedication

"Jack's Place," The Temple's new gathering place in its lobby, will be dedicated to Jack Benjamin, in recognition of his lifetime of work, during Friday services on Nov. 1. The dedication will take place at a special oneg following the 7 p.m. services. Additionally, a new exhibit, presented by the Archives Committee, spotlighting several Louisville businesses owned by former and current Temple members, will open.

Homeless Outreach

Keneseth Israel will make sandwiches and care packages for the homeless at 5:15 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3. Bring your own supplies (bread, peanut butter and jelly, blankets, underwear, socks, flashlights, etc.) At 6:15 p.m., the group will caravan downtown to give out food and supplies to the homeless. RSVP **502-459-2780** or gkahn@kenesethisrael.com.

Family Fun Night

Temple families will gather for a night of activities from 5 to 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3, at Louisville Gymnastics, 2722 Chamberlain Lane. A staff-monitored gym and Ninja Warrior obstacle course will be open and a food truck will be available to buy dinner. There also will be a no-charge beer and wine bar. RSVP online or at 502-423-1818.

NIFTY Luncheon

Temple Shalom Men's Club will be preparing and serving a luncheon to visiting NIFTY members on Saturday, Nov. 9. The men are asking for help to prepare, serve, and clean up afterwards. John Silletto. Visit information@templeshalom-ky.org to sign up.

UofL Kristallnacht Lecture

Dr. Joern B. Soltau will deliver a commemorative lecture for Kristallnacht at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15, at the University of Louisville Health Sciences Campus, K-Wing, Room 2003 on 555 South Floyd Street. Soltau, acting chairman of the Department of ophthalmology & visual sciences, will speak on the topic "The Dangers of Anti-Semitism: Inhumane Medical Experiments of the Holocaust – from Genetics to Genocide." It is part of the Harry C. Stephenson Visiting Professor Series and the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Grand Rounds.

Family Havdallah Dance Party

The Temple WRJ Sisterhood will hold a family-friendly, fun event, beginning with Havdallah and including a DJ and loads of fun activities at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 16.

'Jest A Second!'

Adath Jeshurun's new Shema Theatre Group will present Jest A Second on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 3 and 7 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. The production is a comedy about a Jewish family gathering to celebrate the birthday of its ma-

triarch, while other members of the family have additional news and expectations to share. Admission is \$3 per person. Reservations may be made at adathjeshurun.com/play.

Recycling in Louisville

Karen Maynard, public education officer for the Solid Waste Division of Louisville Metro, will be the speaker at the next Temple Shalom Men's Club Breakfast at 10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 8. She will address the current challenges facing recycling in Louisville and how synagogues can become greener. All plates and utensils for the breakfast will be reusable.

Family Chanukah Bash

Adath Jeshurun's Family Chanukah Bash will be held at 6:15 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 22. A family Chanukah meal will be served. Cantor David Lipp will lead the music. Bring your own menorah for a community candle-lighting. The event is free for children ages 12 and under, and \$5 for adults. Reservations are required by Dec. 16. To RSVP, visit adathjeshurun.com/chanukahdinner.

Festival of Trees and Lights

Volunteers are needed at the Chanukah display for the 30th Annual Festival of Trees and Lights. Needs include setting up on Nov. 13 and 14 and on Nov. 17 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and taking down the exhibit. Volunteers also are needed to greet people at the Lights Exhibit from Nov. 15 to 17, at Slugger Field. The exhibit will showcase menorahs and dreidels from the area synagogues. Educational handouts will explain Chanukah. Sunday, Nov. 17, is Jewish Heritage Day at the festival with free donuts holes from noon to 2 p.m.; storytelling with PJ Library (noon, 1 and 2 p.m.), and the klezmer band, Lost Tribe, playing at 1 p.m. The Lights exhibit is again being sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Louisville. For details, contact Honi Goldman, chair of the Lights Committee at **502-451-4564** or email: honigoldman@gmail.com.

Worship

GUCI/No Shush Shabbat

Jeremy Klotz, director of the Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) will be at Temple Shalom's next No Shush Shabbat at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 1. He will give a presentation about the camp to families. Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and Benji Berlow will lead services. An oneg will follow.

Celebration Shabbat

All who are celebrating a birthday or anniversary in the month of November are invited to participate in a group aliyah during Shabbat morning worship services at Adath Jeshurun, beginning at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 2.

Tot Shabbat

Keneseth Israel will hold a Tot Shabbat ser-

vice at 10:45 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 2. The service is geared to children up until Kindergarten, with stories and singing, followed by a Kiddush lunch. Miriam Bird and Rabbi Michael Wolk will lead. The regular service will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Family Shabbat Dinner

The Torah will be unrolled in The Temple's main sanctuary, as seventh and eighth grade students demonstrate their reading skills on Friday, Nov. 8.

Dinner will start at 6 p.m., followed by Tot Shabbat at 6:45 pm and service at 7 p.m. Cost of dinner is \$5 for adults who RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 5 and \$10 afterwards (free for children under 13). RSVP for dinner to **502-423-1818**.

Shabbat with Friends

Chabad will celebrate Shabbat on Friday, Nov. 8 at the Chabad House, 1654 Almara Circle with a Kabbalat Service at 6 p.m., incorporating song and dance. A three-course traditional Shabbat dinner will follow. The program is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call **502-459-1770** for details.

Imagine Shabbat

Keneseth Israel will hold its next Imagine Shabbat, an initiative to make Shabbat morning services more inspiring, on Saturday, Nov. 9. Breakfast with Cantor Sharon Hordes will begin at 9:15 a.m.; interactive Torah study, 9:45 a.m.; abridged Shabbat service, 10:30 a.m.; "enhanced" Kiddush lunch, noon.

Shabbat-Luck Dinner

Adath Jeshurun will host a Shabbat-Luck dinner on Friday, Nov. 15. "Shabbat-Luck" is a vegetarian/dairy potluck meal taking place after the conclusion of Kabbalat Shabbat services around 6:30 p.m. No meat, nor meat by-products, may be brought into the building. Contact Cybil Flora at flora1cl@gmail.com or visit adathjeshurun.com/potluck for details.

Family Shabbat

Keneseth Israel's next Family Shabbat will begin at 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15. Musical services will be followed by a meal. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (\$20 maximum per family). Visit kenesethisrael.com/payment to pay or send a check to KI.

Veterans Day Shabbat

The Temple will honor veterans at its Nov. 15 Shabbat service, starting at 7 p.m.

Torah Yoga Service

Rabbi Diane Tracht will lead a 45-minute service of meditation and yoga from 11 to 11:45 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 16. The service, which is connected to mussar, the Jewish practice of developing ethical qualities in body and spirit, is for students in grades K-7 and their parents. Students will join the main service afterwards.

Please wear comfortable clothing. Contact Tracht at dianetracht@gmail.com for details.

Save Bernheim Shabbat

A special fall Bernheim Shabbat, featuring a guest speaker to talk about how the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest is under threat, is slated for 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 22, at The Temple. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will lead the service in the classical Reform style. Louie Bailey will direct the choir.

Mini Minyan

Adath Jeshurun will offer Mini Minyan, a new Shabbat program for children ages 2-6 and their parents, from 11 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 23. John Gage, host of Kentucky Homefront, will lead the music and storytelling.

Beginners Service, Luncheon

Chabad will celebrate Shabbat with an interactive prayer service followed by a kiddush luncheon at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 30. Prayer, Bible Study and song will be woven into an inspiring and meaningful Shabbat experience. A kosher New York Style Deli lunch will follow the program, which is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Call **502-459-1770**.

Adult Education

'Kinderland-Cinderland'

The Temple Adult Education Committee will present a documentary on the experiences of four Jewish school friends living in pre-World War II Germany, Kinderland-Cinderland, at 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3, in the chapel. Sibylle Tiedemann, the director of the film, and Ann Dorzback, a member of The Temple, will lead a discussion following the screening. A reception will be provided. Kinderland-Cinderland tells the everyday story of fascism, its banalities, shabbiness, and meanness.

Life-Coping Course

Jewish Learning Institute will offer a new adult education program, Worrier to Warrior, at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 4, to help people deal with life challenges by combining positive psychology with Jewish wisdom. Interested students may call 502-459-1770 or visit myJLI.com to register. The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is partly sponsoring the course.

Lunch and Learn

Rabbi Michael Wolk's next lunch and learn class will be at noon, Thursday, Nov. 7, at The Bristol on Main Street. RSVP to mwolk@kenesethisrael.com.

AJ Book Club

The AJ Book Club is currently reading If All the Seas Were Ink, a Memoir, by Ilana Kurshan. The book will be discussed at the next Book Club

continued on next page

AROUND TOWN / LIFECYCLE

continued from previous page

meeting at 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 10, at Adath Jeshurun. Ted Shlechter will facilitate the discussion.

Kabbalah Month by Month

Cantor Sharon Hordes teaches a kabbalah class through the prism of each Hebrew month's holidays, Torah portions, healing areas and astrological connections. The class meets every second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The next session is Nov. 14. RSVP to gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

Torah Yoga

Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Flannery's next Torah yoga class will be at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21. Temple Shalom and Louisville Hadasah. RSVP to gkahn@kenesethisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

Rabbi Sarah Tasman

Adath Jeshurun will host Rabbi Sarah Tasman, a Washington, D.C.-based educator and spiritual leader, on Saturday, Nov. 23. She will speak on the topic, "Take Your Time: Marking Life Transitions." Services begin at 9:30 a.m. Tasman also will be the Shabbat Scholar at the kiddush lunch, speaking on "Creativity on trends in Jewish engagement, responding to new needs of the Jewish Community."

Torah Study

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel leads Torah study on Saturdays, from 9 to 10 a.m., in the Fishman Library before the morning services. Coffee, bagels and cream cheese are served.

Monday classes

The Temple offers a series of adult education classes on Mondays: Advanced Hebrew from 6 to 7 p.m.; "Praying from My Heart vs Praying from the Prayer Book," a text study class with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, from 7 to 8 p.m.; Beginning Hebrew, Part 2, with Mark Goldstein, from 7 to 8 p.m. (email mdgoldstein01@gmail.com for registration).

Temple Scholars

The Temple Scholars classes meet Wednesdays at The Temple: "Nationalism and Tribalism in a Global Era," with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, from 9:30 to 10:35 a.m.; and "American Jewish History," an American Jewish perspective through the eyes of women, with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapoport, 10:45 a.m. to noon.

Brown Bag Torah Study

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner leads her Brown Bag Torah Study sessions Tuesdays at noon at Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Road. Participants should bring their own lunches.

Jews and Brews

Rabbi Michael Wolk leads Toah class over coffee Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in The J library.

Births

Max Linker Elkington

Jessica and James Elkington welcome a son, Max Linker Elkington, who was born Sept. 16, 2019, in Chicago. He is the little brother of Owen. His grandparents are Sandee and Steve Linker of Louisville and Annee and David Kettle of Great Britain.

B'nai Mitzvah

Dylan River Paz Winner



Dylan River Paz Winner, son of Millie and Louis Winner and brother of Aspen, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 16, at The Temple.

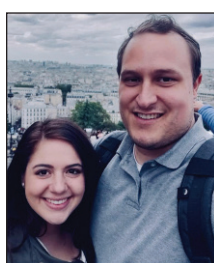
Dylan is the grandson of Selma and Jim Potash, Judy and Edward Winner, and Linda and Michael Gornek.

A seventh grader in the Math Science Technology program at Meyzeek Middle School, where he plays the violin in the orchestra, Dylan is an active member of Boy Scout Troop 30. He loves spending time with his dogs, listening to music, reading and playing video games.

Dylan is participating in the Jewish Family & Career Service's Pledge 13 program for his mitzvah project. Dylan and his family invite the community to celebrate his bar mitzvah and the Kiddush luncheon following the service.

Engagements

Balf-Hartmeier



Frances and Steve Balf of Louisville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Becca Balf, to Matt Hartmeier, son of David and Tina Hartmeier of Beaverton, OR.

Balf is the granddaughter of Betty and Julius Loeser of Sarasota, Florida, and Nancy Balf and the late George Balf.

Hartmeier is the grandson of Lorraine Smith of Yakima, Washington and the

late Lee Smith and the late Melvin and Paula Hartmeier.

A graduate of Miami (Ohio) University, Balf is a strategic account executive for United Healthcare in Dallas. Hartmeier is a graduate of the University of Oregon and is a sales account manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, also in Dallas.

An October 2020 wedding is planned.

Anniversaries

Barbara and David Gordon



Barbara and David Gordon will be married 60 years on Nov. 1.

Barbara, the former Barbara Friedman, is the believed to be the oldest, longest practicing dental hygienist in Kentucky. She is a 1956 graduate of Atherton High School and a 1958 graduate of the University of Louisville Dental Hygiene Program.

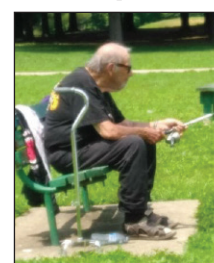
David is a 1954 graduate of Male High School,

David attended Butler University and the University of Kentucky. He is the former owner of Cliff's Liquors, CSC Liquors, Port-A-Can, and is now with Anytime Waste Systems.

The couple has three children, Miriam G. (Dennis), both deceased, Michael (Angela) and Ronda (deceased) and Phillip (Jane); 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

David Kaplan



David Kaplan, 91, died peacefully on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019.

David was an attorney and long-standing member of the Kentucky Bar Association. He practiced civil and criminal law, including arguing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, until his retirement in 2013.

An avid car collector, who loved to show his vehicles, he once won the Carl Casper International Championship for his Volkswagen limousine.

He enjoyed camping and fishing with

his family.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rita, and his parents Julius and Bessie.

David is survived by his children, Lawrence "Larry" and Melinda; his sisters, Mildred Stern of New York and Sylvia Plasner; his sister-in-law, Toby Horvitz; and many nieces and nephews of multi-generations.

A graveside service was held in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial gifts may be made to Congregation Anshei Sfard and Keneseth Israel Congregation or the donor's favorite charity.

Shiva begins Tuesday, October 22, 2019, after sundown at Congregation Anshei Sfard, 3630 Dutchmans Lane, 2nd Floor.

Aviva Nadia Kleinbaum



Aviva Nadia Kleinbaum, 72, of Saline, Michigan, died Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

Kleinbaum is survived by her husband Robert Kleinbaum; her children, Dr. Ian (Stephanie) Mutchnick of Louisville, Aric (Caryn) Mutchnick and Daniel (Sarah) Kleinbaum; her grandchildren, Gabe, Mimi, Zander and Asher; and her siblings, Ora, Ilana, Amira and Nissim.

The funeral was held on Friday, Oct. 18, at Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Interment followed at Washtenaw Memorial Park.

Memorial donations may be made to Beth Israel Congregation of Ann Arbor, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, at 2000 Washtenaw Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

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Register at JewishLouisville.org/FederationNight

For more information, contact Joanie Lustig 502-238-2705
or jlustig@jewishlouisville.org



VIOLINS

Continued from page 1

and the inhumanity that could have destroyed them.

Now, restored by Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein, and his son, Avshi, the violins make music again, they travel the world have been played by some of the finest orchestras.

But Avshi Weinstein, who addressed the audience, told them their individual histories are just as powerful. In fact, “We believe the story is more important than the instrument.”

Interspersed between musical interludes on the violin and the kamancheh (a string instrument from the Middle East), adherents of the three major faiths told personal stories of pain and healing to the near-capacity audience.

Jeffrey Jamner, pianist and arts educator for the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, and the son of Holocaust survivors, recounted two personal stories from his own family: one of the horrific fate of his uncle along a death

march, the other an inspiring anecdote his mother told of erev Yom Kippur in Auschwitz, when the women in her barracks joined in the chanting of Kol Nidre ... and the guards didn’t stop them.

Jamner also read a passage from Elie Wiesel’s Night as violinist Sara Callaway accompanied him, playing Beethoven’s Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61, 2nd Movement.

Fred Whittaker, a Holocaust educator at St. Francis of Assisi School, recounted his own journey to understanding the Catholic’s own painful role in the Shoah, keeping alive for centuries false stories of Jews poisoning wells and killing God.

“The Holocaust exists painfully within the center of the Catholic faith,” he lamented.

But Whittaker also told the story of Father Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan friar, who sheltered Polish Jews in a monastery before the Nazis arrest him. At Auschwitz, “he prayed with the dying and gave away his meager rations” before volunteering to die by starvation in place of another inmate.

Nasra Hussein, an 18-year-old Muslim, born in Kenya, the daughter of

Somali Bantu parents, shared her own story of growing up in Louisville amid “struggles of personal identity and kinship” that existed between Africans and African Americans.

Hussein compared overcoming the opinion’s held by each group of the other to “challenging the norm of a single story.”

Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, who introduced the tikkun olam theme, recounted the silence that existed among survivors and witnesses to the Holocaust after the war. Eventually, he said survivors and witnesses alike broke their silence; the truth came out. Healing began.

“We must break the silence to build a world of hope,” Rapport said.

The principal performer of the evening was Johnny Gandelsman, playing the processional music as the instruments entered the hall as well as selections from contemporary composers.

But another musician, Jon Silpayamanant, playing the kamancheh, performed a piece by Misirh Ibrahim Efendi, a 19th-20th century Jewish Ottoman composer. Silpayamanant performs with a group called Transito, which focuses

on the music of Sephardic Jews.

The Ambassadors of Repair, those given the honor of carrying the violins into the sanctuary, Matt Gold Goldberg, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council; Kendra Foster, a member of the Center for Interfaith Relations board; Dr. Muhammad Babar, president of Muslim Americans for Compassion; Bob Owings, a parishioner at the Cathedral of the Assumption; Rafael Shah-Bozeman, a fifth grader and Suzuki violin student; Katie Quinn, an eighth grader at St. Francis of Assisi and a Shoah studies student; Elana Berger, a musician and student at Floyd Central High School and a member of its symphony orchestra; Mohammed Al-Mosawi, a UofL student whose high school Holocaust studies created an awareness “shared experience” with his parents – Iraqi refugees; Kenneth “KJ” Wilson Jr., a violin student since age 3 and a UofL music and sociology student; Scott Koloms, a leader in the conscious business movement and founder of Canopy, which strives for good business in Kentucky.

LEESER

Continued from page 1

struments with his father, Amnon Weinstein, accepted the violin this past week while in Louisville for VOH programs. Weinstein also accepted a photo album of Leeser’s father.

“The most important part [of the violin] is the story behind it,” he said.

The violin will travel with Weinstein to other exhibitions before being taken to Israel for restoration.

“Unconsciously, I think I’ve been waiting for the right person, the right program,” Leeser said. “I’ve used this metaphor before, but I feel the universe sometimes taps us on the shoulder ... to do the right

thing. So when I heard of Violins of Hope, I knew I wanted them to have the violin.”

In accepting it, Weinstein, a trained luthier (violin craftsman), could tell that it was made in Germany around 1898. It has a crack, and strings on the bow are coming apart, but nothing that can’t be repaired.

Paul Leeser was born Hanborn, Germany, near the city of Duisburg. While not a professional musician (he trained as a mechanical engineer at the University of Cincinnati), he was gifted, his daughter said.

His family came to the United States in 1937 as conditions for Jews in Germany deteriorated.

“There was an awareness on my grandmother’s part that the handwriting was on the wall,” Leeser said. “I know they owned a dry goods store. Already there were

signs on the window and people were told not to shop there.”

Paul was 16 when he left Germany and came to Cincinnati, where stayed until he graduated from college and got a job in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Leeser, a trained social worker, came to Louisville in 1976 for graduate school, and never left. She is married to Frank Schwartz.

Whether her father’s violin travels with others from the collection, Leeser can’t say. She does take comfort in knowing it’s in good hands.

And she would like to hear it make music once more.

“I would love to go to Israel and hear it played again,” she said, “but who knows.”



Avshi Weinstein and Linda Leeser pose with the violin Leeser has donated to the Violins of Hope collection. (Community photo by Jessica Budnick)

MILESTONE

Continued from page 1

sair Charities, WHAS Crusade for Children, the James Graham Brown Foundation and the Gheens Foundation.

The Brown Foundation committed \$500,000 to the project; Kosair, \$250,000; Gheens, \$100,000; Crusade for Children, \$85,000.

At the next milestone, the JCL will launch the public phase of the capital campaign and meet its goal.

Keith Inman, president of Kosair Charities, said The J’s work dovetails with his organization’s mission.

“This is a community that helps the fragile, that helps the strong,” Inman said. “It helps those who are challenged and helps those of abundance. It helps the entire community, and that’s what Kosair Charities is about as well.”

Barry Allen, president and treasurer of the Gheens Foundation, quoted from The J’s own grant application when he said his founders would be pleased to know The J’s mission, “which focuses on ‘the heart, the mind, the body and the soul of all it serves, will now be a part of their stewardship legacy.’”

Dawn Lee, president and CEO of the WHAS Crusade for Children, which has supported Camp J for the past five years, said her organization sees its gift as an “opportunity” to expand the partnership.

“This group makes such a conscious decision to include children who have special needs in their camp programs,” Lee said of The J. “For us, that’s what made the difference.”

Mason Rummel, president and CEO of the James Graham Brown Foundation, said The J project was in keeping with the directions its founder, James Graham Brown, left in his will to do things

that improve the image of Louisville and the state by helping its people.

She also said the foundation’s grant marks a continuation of a giving tradition Brown established with The J, then known as the Jewish Community Center, going back to the 1950s.

“You all are doing exactly what we think we are supposed to be doing, too,” Rummel said. “The partnership is an honor.”

To cap the program, Norma Cahen, director of the Early Learning Center early learning at The J, explained the significance of the lulav and etrog, which are taken up by Jews on Sukkot. Then 30 children from the Early Learning Center sang two songs for the crowd.

In acknowledging the capital campaign chairs – Jerry and Madeline Abramson, Frank and Barbara Weisberg and Dr. Jeffrey Tuvlin – Wagner noted that the work to make a new center pos-

sible has been going on for quite a while.

“We’re on a journey right now, and the most exciting part of about being gathered here in our sukkah ... is that we have been on a journey for close to a decade,” she said. “We’re so excited to be turning a major corner, but we didn’t do it by ourselves.”

Traditionally, she told the audience, the roof of a sukkah is left incomplete, so whoever dwells in it can see the stars at night.

“That’s exactly what we’re doing as we reach for the stars in building the next iteration of what The J will be for Louisville,” Wagner said. “I invite you...to dream a little bit with us about the generations of people that are going to take advantage of being with us, of engaging and growing every day.”

SHAPIRO

Continued from page 7

food and sometimes medicine.

Adam l’adam (a person is a person)

“After an attack,” one Israeli told me, “we still have to share the same road, shop in the same markets...and must fight our inner fanatic.”

These are two examples of Israelis trying to forge friendships, programs and alliances, which create an infrastructure among shechanim (neighbors.) When we learn with each other – about each other and from each other – peace can ensue.

Lisa Shapiro, LCSW, has been a Louisville resident for 33 years. She is a psychotherapist in private practice.

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