

# JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



**INSIDE:**  
**HAIR**  
Sixties classic  
to rock CenterStage  
STORY ON PG 11

FRIDAY Vol. 46, No. 01 | January 31, 2020 | 5 Sh'vat 5780

## Dim the lights Speakers to address array of topics at 2020 Louisville Jewish Film Festival

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Dani Menkin is fascinated by the human spirit.

A noted Israeli filmmaker, he loves training his camera lens on people overcoming harsh circumstances, facing impossible odds, only to come out on the other side winners, or maybe just healed.

It's a skill he learned in his early days as a sports reporter.

"It shapes the way I tell stories," Menkin said. "In sports, you always want to know what happened next. And in movies, I think it's the same way."

Menkin, together with Yonatan Nir, co-created the film *The Picture of His Life*, the story of the famous Israeli underwater wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum, to be shown at the 22nd Annual Louisville Jewish Festival.

Menkin will speak following the Feb. 16 screening of his film at the Kentucky Science Center.

But he's not alone. Eight speakers are scheduled following films at this year's festival.

Louisville native Daniel Kleinman, who co-wrote the screenplay for *Tel Aviv on Fire*, will speak following the Feb 29 screening of his film at the Village 8.

The other speakers are Asaf Angermann, University of Louisville visiting professor of Jewish thought & philosophy; Corey Shapiro, legal director of the ACLU of Kentucky; Rabbi Diane Tracht of the Jewish Family & Career Services; Michal Kofman, visiting UofL associate professor of sociology; Abby Glogower, curator of Jewish collections at the Filson Historical Society; and Fred Gross, a journalist and Holocaust survivor.

Menkin, who will be making his third appearance at the film festival, said *The Picture of His Life* shows several sides to Nachoum's story, any one of which he could address.

"There are so many layers to this movie," he said. "There's the personal layer of the story, (the personal trauma Nachoum dealt with from the Yom Kippur War and his relationship with his father). He challenged all these

See **TOPICS** on page 23



"Tel Aviv on Fire," co-written by Louisville native Daniel Kleinman, will be screened at this year's Jewish Film Festival. (photo provided)

### Louisville screenplay writer: 'Tel Aviv on Fire' revived my career

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Daniel Kleinman owes the resurgence of his career to an Israeli movie about a Palestinian soap opera.

The Louisville native, screenplay writer and retired professor of film at Columbia University, co-wrote the comedy, *Tel Aviv on Fire*, which will be

screened on Feb. 29 at the 22nd Annual Louisville Jewish Film Festival.

Prior to that project, Kleinman had not written a new screenplay in 20 years. He has just two other feature films to his credit, the last one being made in the 1980s.

"My career has been revived by *Tel*

See **KLEINMAN** on page 23

## Training program coming JCRC, ADL partner to stem hate messages in area schools

While there are no known hate groups openly operating in Louisville area schools, their message is still getting through to students.

Matt Goldberg, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), said kids could easily access hate groups through parents or social media.

That means Jewish children, or children of any minority, can be vulnerable to abuse.

"The Internet is a dangerous place," Goldberg said. "Does a hate group need to operate more than a Facebook page to be efficient? I don't know the answer to that. It (the Facebook page) may be enough."

See **PROGRAM** on page 22



Eighth graders from St. Francis of Assisi School recently demonstrated against anti-Semitism along Bardstown Road, asking motorists to honk their horns in solidarity (photo by Fred Whittaker)

## Meyer Food Pantry rededicated with great fanfare, expanded space

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Boasting four times more space, the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry at the Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) was rededicated Sunday, Jan. 26, amid a ceremony drawing more than 100 people from across Louisville.

Though the pantry is already well stocked for the occasion, people continued to drop off bags of groceries for the pantry at the JFCS entrance before going inside to the

See **PANTRY** on page 22

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# THE DASHBOARD

## D'var Torah

### Lessons we must learn



Rabbi Laura Metzger

Does it seem there have been a lot of funerals recently?

Maybe it's my age. As we get older, we're increasingly aware of death's reality. Or maybe it's the season; there are more funerals in winter, more lives letting go.

Knowing this, though, doesn't remove the weight of loss.

Last winter, as I wrote for Community, I was mourning a dear friend and mentor, Suzy Post. This winter, as I write, I am mourning a dear friend and mentor, Dr. Leah Dickstein. They were both strong women, passionately committed to making life better for other people.

Their deaths leave us feeling not only sad, but exposed. We have become the examples and leaders. We have become the ones who must stand up for righteousness and against bigotry of every kind. We must be the ones creating safe spaces wherein to nurture the strengths of all human beings of all shades, shapes and sexes.

It's a heavy burden and I wonder, am I ready for it? And if not, will I take it on anyway?

The answer is, of course, I have no choice. It is mine now. Yours, too.

This month, we are reading passages in the book of Exodus. We focus on the leadership of Moses and on the plagues that finally forced Pharaoh to give in and release the Hebrews held in bondage. Let's take this a step farther:

The narrative of Exodus is one of leaving one place in order to move towards another. It is leaving a place of safety, albeit a narrow and restricted safety, for a place without boundaries. Indeed, as the story continues, it becomes evident that freedom holds perils. Idolatry tempts. Hunger and

thirst demoralize. Fear hampers. Squabbling paralyzes. The only way forward is a complicated winding route through.

Moses did not feel ready to be a leader. He stumbled and stammered, yet he accepted when God called, as did his siblings, Aaron and Miriam. None was the perfect leader, all became the leaders the people needed, flawed yet capable.

As each generation ages, the generations that follow must step forward and lead. Loss and freedom are part of the same experience. Adulthood means losing the canopy over our heads and becoming the shelter for others. When it's our turn, we must step up and lead.

All our life experiences will give us some of what we need. Life itself will give us some of what we need. And some of what we wish we had, we'll have to do without, and keep doing anyway.

Leah Dickstein taught me, and I share with you, these lessons:

- You must be the person only you can be and do what only you can do.
- You must shape your life so that your values determine your priorities and among those priorities must be your own health, both mental and physical; your family; and your work in the wider world.
- You don't have time to beat yourself up about failures; build on them, let them spur you.
- Never stop learning, teaching, creating and connecting.
- You don't have to do it all. No one can.
- Above all, only you can do what you were born into this world to do. And you must. Only you have the unique set of gifts and limitations that you will use. And you must.

Moses, Miriam and Aaron learned these lessons in the wilderness. We will, too. As did our mentors, we must.

*Rabbi Laura Metzger is an independent rabbi living in Louisville.*

## Snapshots: Plant Box Social



During JOFEE's Jan. 15 Plant Box Social at Ntaba Coffee Haus, about 30 people built planters for use in the home, and socialized. (Community photos by Jessica Budnick)

## Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in February:

- Feb. 7 @ 5:54
- Feb. 10 @ 6:02
- Feb. 21 @ 6:10
- Feb. 28 @ 6:17

## Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community Editor* Lee Chottiner at [lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto: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](mailto:kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org) or 502-238-2770.

Got an item for the Community eblast? Send it to [weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org).

## Deadlines

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Got a news item for *Community*? Send it in by Wednesday, Feb. 19 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Fri-

day, Feb. 28.

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

## Corrections

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## NEWS

**'Element of cruelty'****Kentucky's new ultrasound law being panned by some rabbinic scholars**

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Kentucky's new ultrasound law, which forces physicians at the state's last abortion clinic to subject their patients to their ultrasound images and the sounds of fetal heartbeats – even if the patient objects – is troubling to some Jewish scholars.

Rabbinic authorities interviewed by *Community*, many of whom have written extensively on abortion, used words like “troubling,” “problematic,” even “cruelty” to describe Kentucky's ultrasound law.

The ACLU challenged the law on First Amendment grounds, but the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld it last April. By December, the Supreme Court, without comment, announced it would not review the lower court's decision, allowing the law to take effect.

Judaism takes a nuanced approach to abortion, treating it more as a need than a right. Rabbis do disagree on some of the reasons to perform the procedure.

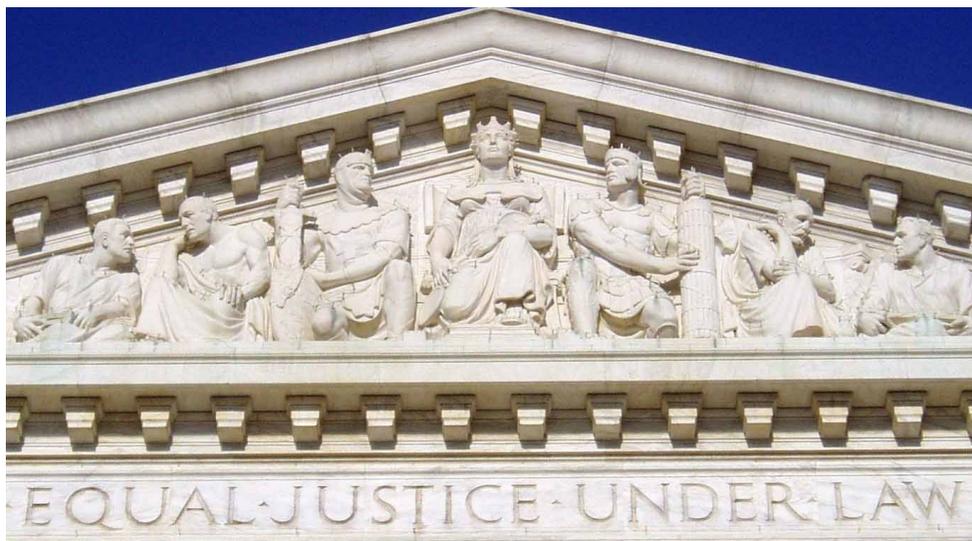
But they agree that the mother's condition and input are vital. Only when the fetus emerges from the womb and becomes a *nefesh* (soul), is its life weighted equally to the mother's, according to Jewish law.

Rabbi Mark Washofsky, the Solomon B. Freehof Professor of Jewish Law and Practice at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, said the justification, or “warrant,” for an abortion must be “maternally indicated.”

The reasons for the procedure, Washofsky said, involve the life and health of the mother (not the fetus).

“If bringing a pregnancy to term would involve significant risk to the mother's life or health, including her mental, psychological and emotional well-being, she has valid grounds to make the decision for abortion,” he said.

Rabbi Jason Weiner, an Orthodox rabbi, chaplain at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles and author of the book *Jewish Guide to Practical Medical Decision-Making* (Urim Press), said he has “mixed emotions” about abortion. Still, he said there are instances when Orthodox Jews will



Rabbinic scholars are troubled by Kentucky's new ultrasound law, which the U.S. Supreme Court allowed to take effect this past December without a hearing. (photo provided)

want access to abortions.

“From that perspective, we can be aligned with certain aspects of the pro-choice perspective,” he said, “because there are times when Jewish law allows us to choose.”

Weiner called blanket rules such as those in the Kentucky act “troubling in Jewish law.” While abortion should be chosen on a case-by-case basis and not used as birth control, he said the law still has an “element of cruelty to it.”

“There is a significant moral decision to be made by the woman,” Weiner said. “It's so hard for many women to make this decision, even when it's allowed by Jewish law.”

Rabbi Danny Schiff, an expert on Jewish law and ethics and the author of the book, *Abortion in Judaism* (Cambridge University Press), called the ultrasound law “very problematic.”

A fetus is “unendingly precious” in Jewish law, Schiff said, and though it is not equivalent to the mother's life, “if you don't have a sufficiently weighty reason [to have an abortion], it is a form of life that is to be respected.”

The ultrasound law is part of a raft of state laws around the country making it harder for a woman to choose abortion and for abortion clinics to stay open.

Last year, following passage of Alabama's law, The Rabbinical Assembly (RA), which represents the Conservative rabbinate, released a statement supporting “full access for all women to the entire spectrum

of reproductive healthcare” and opposing “all efforts by government, private entities or individuals to limit such access or to require unnecessary procedures.”

The RA also came out against “personhood” legislation, which would confer legal rights to a fetus or an embryo.

Abortion is not a choice a woman should make in a vacuum. Rabbi Elliot Dorf, distinguished professor of philosophy at American Jewish University in Los Angeles, said Judaism gives great credence to a physician's opinion on what is best for the patient.

“The Jewish tradition for at least the last 2,000 years has had a virtual love affair with medicine, and it defers to doctors as to what's in the best interest of patients,” said Dorf, who also chairs the RA's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards.

He quoted a midrash about Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi, the codifier of the Talmud, who consulted a physician about an eye disease he had. The doctor proposed three possible treatments, only the last of which did HaNasi accept.

“It's not just the patient doing whatever he or she wants,” Dorf said. “It's very much a discussion between doctor and patient.”

Some reasons for an abortion are not open for debate.

“If her (the mother's) life would be endangered by the fetus's birth, then the abortion is mandated by traditional Jewish law,” Washofsky said. “In other cases, where abortion is warranted, she is entitled, but not required, to make the decision for abortion.”

Dorf agreed, though he also said, “If a woman or couple do not want to have a child, that is a good reason to use birth control; it is not a reason in and of itself to abort.”

(The morning after pill, he added, does not constitute abortion because it prevents fertilization.)

Washofsky called laws like Kentucky's that restrict or impede a woman's right to choose an abortion “a violation of religious freedom.”

“They deny to a woman the right to make a decision that Jewish law grants them,” he said.

Schiff lamented the growth in anti-abortion laws, saying they widen a cultural rift in America.

“The abortion debate is highly polarized; there is a real lack of a middle ground,” he said. Judaism “has always tried to have a robust discussion about the ethical appropriateness of an abortion.”

That discussion becomes harder to have, he continued, as the abortion debate strays deeper into legislating the practice.

“The placement of the abortion debate within a legal framework has made it difficult for us have a reasonable conversation about it,” Schiff said.

He added that the old Jewish adage – the law of the land is the law – “only goes so far if the law isn't ethical and reasonable.”

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# NEWS

## Temple Shalom votes to stay in Lowe Road home; 'fresh start' held

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

The congregants of Temple Shalom needed a two-thirds vote to move into The Temple's Klein Center and give up its current home on Lowe Road. But on Sunday, Dec. 22, more than half of them voted to stay.

The outcome of the vote – 135 to 56 to not move to The Temple – was not a surprise to Temple Shalom President Rich Goldwin.

"When we started having conversations with the folks from The Temple, I said I really did not think that we would get a two-thirds vote in favor," Goldwin said. "We did our best to try and put together a program we thought might be helpful, but in the end, it just wasn't what people wanted."

The sentimentality that members have toward the Lowe Road building played a large part, Goldwin said.

"The furnishings were made by members of Temple Shalom, and they just don't want to leave that. And there were serious questions as to whether or not the Klein Center would have worked for us."

Temple President Reed Weinberg said his congregation was excited by the prospect of having two congregations on one campus.

"That said, I totally respect their (Temple Shalom) decision," he said. "My position – and I'm sure the position of most people at The Temple – is if they want to stay where they are, we hope that they succeed, and



Temple Shalom voted against a proposed space-sharing arrangement with The Temple this past December and will remain at its current location on Lowe Road. (Community photo)

that would be great for the Jewish community if they did."

Matt Schwartz, immediate past president of The Temple, has been involved with the discussions and negotiations since the beginning.

"Certainly, we're disappointed just because we've enjoyed the process of engaging with them more, seeing if there was a path that would be helpful to both of us," Schwartz said. "But the fact is, we've had a long-standing positive relationship with Temple Shalom. We do a lot of joint programming, and we've had a lot of interaction, and I think we'll continue that and will probably expand upon it. And if there's something in the future

that that develops, we will still be here."

Weinberg said the just-completed negotiations between the two congregations will continue.

"I think that over the past 12 months we've seen tremendous synergy amongst all the congregations of Louisville," he said, "and I think that's very important."

Temple Shalom now must make a concerted effort to stay in the building, finding ways to raise money and attract new members.

"There were a variety of factors that I think drove people to choose the way they did," Goldwin said, "so now we're asking everybody, 'OK, you can agree

or disagree, but let's get back together and let's be a unified congregation again."

That process began on Sunday, Jan. 5, when Temple Shalom held a members-only "Fresh Start" event to renew ties, look forward and put the space-sharing debate behind them.

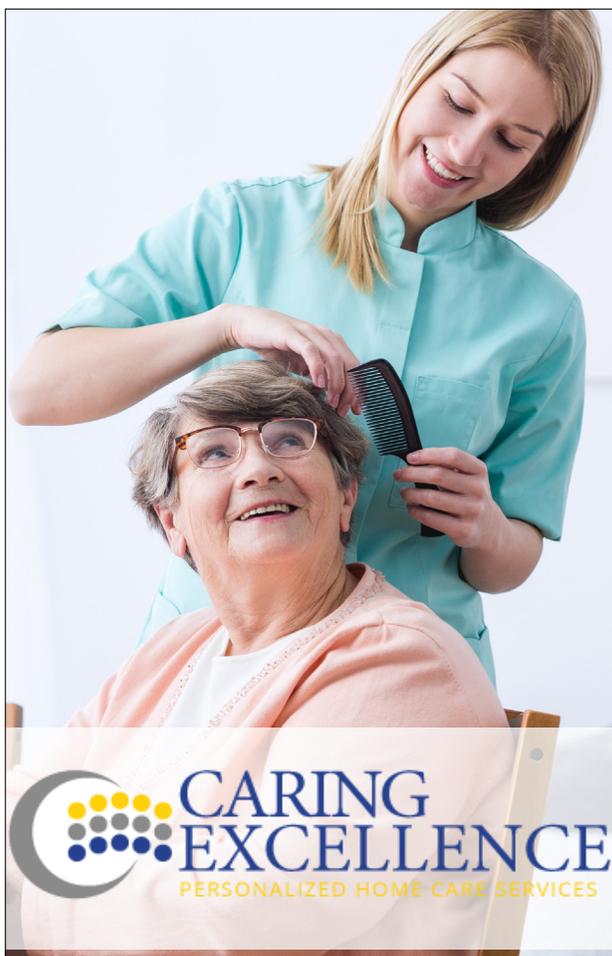
And many congregants stayed after the Dec. 22 vote to hear the final count and discuss ways to move forward. One member volunteered to be a volunteer coordinator. Another chose to lead the organization's Second Night Seder, which last year had 120 participants.

"That's the kind of thing that we want," Goldwin said. We want more things that the members will participate in."

Goldwin said the congregation is already holding a regular bingo night on Tuesdays to raise money. "We're just taking a look at everything we do, and not just from a financial point of view, but how we interact with the members," he said. "What can we do to make our place more attractive to some of the younger or unaffiliated families?"

While fundraising is important to the congregation's future, he said engagement is the goal.

"We're going to try some new things, not just fundraising; it's trying to get people more involved with the life of the congregation. "I think this has been quite a distraction for us, but now we can go back to being Temple Shalom again."



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Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: Feb. 19 for publication on Feb. 28 and March 18 for publication on March 27.

**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** 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](mailto:lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org).

To submit items to Newsmakers, Around Town or Lifecycle, please email them to [newspapercolumns@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:newspapercolumns@jewishlouisville.org).

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## FORUM



## Vote WZC because you care – you really do



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Lee Chottiner

Every year, there are fewer Jews who recall a time when there was no State of Israel.

Fewer who recall the Holocaust, the decimation of European Jewry and attempts by survivors to enter (often illegally) British Mandate Palestine.

Fewer who recall the angst of sitting around a radio on Nov. 29, 1947, listening to the United Nations General Assembly vote, country by country, on a proposed resolution to partition Palestine into two states, and the elation when it became clear that the measure had passed and that the first Jewish state in nearly 2,000 years would be born.

Fewer who recall the fear felt as the British withdrew, as the surrounding Arab states attacked, and the relief and pride as Israel survived its war for independence.

Fewer who recall any of that.

Today, most Jews have only known a strong Israel, a hi-tech power, source of cutting edge medical research, popular apps, fashionable footwear, great beaches, and iconic writers, artists and actors.

Conversely, some wince at government

policies on annexation, Arabs and national identity. Others are rightly angered by the second-class treatment of Reform and Conservative Judaism in the country.

The Israel we know today is very different from the one born in 1948. Even more reason to engage with it.

Voting is currently under way for the 38th World Zionist Congress. Quite literally, the WZC, which meets every five years, is the parliament of the Jewish people. Theodor Herzl convened the first congress in 1897 in Basil, Switzerland.

This year, 500 delegates will be chosen from 15 separate slates running the range of Zionist ideology; 190 of those delegates will come from Israel, 145 from the United States and 165 from the rest of world.

When the WZC meets in Jerusalem from Oct. 20 to 22, it will determine the leadership, and influence the policies, of Israel's national Institutions: the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish National Fund, and others that, all told, allocate nearly \$1 billion annually for Israel and Diaspora communities. That matters.

Voting runs through March 11.

Some Jews ask, why vote at all? If they don't describe themselves as Zionists, and they wonder why their Jewish identity must be so tightly woven to Israel, then why pay \$7.50 to cast an online ballot?

It's a fair question, and Zionism must answer it to stay relevant in 2020. Here's my take:

Israel occupies a central role in Jewish life, be it religious, cultural or political.

We pray facing Jerusalem.

We send our kids on Israel trips.

We vacation there ourselves. (I proposed to my wife there.)

We sit in darkened theaters watching Israeli movies (shameless plug for the film festival), or in our living rooms watching Israeli TV on Netflix.

We feel elation when good news comes from the country.

We feel troubled, even angry, when the news is bad.

For better or worse, we are connected to the place.

I'm not speaking to Jews who admit they're Jewish when asked, but never walk into a synagogue, never visit Israel, never give to a Jewish cause nor do a single thing to identify as Jewish. This column is not directed at Jews in name only. They have made their decision.

I'm talking to you, the one holding this paper in your hand or scrolling through it online. If you read this paper, even just a few stories, you care about Israel. Don't deny it.

But if you do care, how then to influence Israel in ways that matter to you? Most of us will never make aliyah.

Voting in the WZC is one of the easiest, most meaningful ways. It allows you to support candidates who think as you do and will act on your behalf.

It's like voting in a national election; you trust your candidates to carry out your will.

Visit [azm.org/elections](http://azm.org/elections) to study the slates and get details on how to vote. Do it because you care. You're reading this, so I know you do.

*Lee Chottiner is the editor of The Jewish Louisville Community.*

# FORUM

## King teaches civil rights struggle not over until all are equal; Jews must stay engaged



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

This month, we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a time when we recall the words and deeds of the great civil rights leader, and remind ourselves of his contributions to making America what it is today.

This is a proud moment for Jewish Americans, too. Many of our leaders contributed to King's struggle.

When I see one of the more famous photos of King marching, I naturally look to his left to see Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Guided by the biblical principle, "Justice, Justice you shall pursue," Heschel, one of the leading Jewish figures of his day, famously remarked that he was praying with his feet when he marched with his friend.

Things have improved immensely for

African Americans since the turbulent 1960s. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was landmark legislation aimed at treating all people decently.

A blow was struck against the separate drinking fountains and lunch counters of the Jim Crow Era, barriers to voter registration and discrimination in federal assistance programs.

However, to paraphrase Rev. Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College, Louisville's historically black institution of higher learning, treating people decently is not a substitute for treating them equally.

We still have a long way to go; the fight for civil rights is not over. African Americans are not treated equally, and the Jewish community must re-engage in their struggle.

The criminal justice system is a prime example of inequality. African Americans are victims of over-policing. They are far more likely to be stopped and arrested than whites. The percentage of the U.S. prison population that is African American is about 40 percent, (39 percent for whites) even though they constitute only 13 percent

of the population. Mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug crimes affect the African American community more than any other.

This mass incarceration is huge financial drain on families and communities, resulting in loss of income, travel costs for prison visits and legal fees.

The cash bail system also disproportionately affects communities of color. African Americans charged with crimes are often enticed to plead guilty, regardless of guilt or innocence, because they cannot afford the bail or the loss of income that would result from months in jail awaiting trial.

What's more, Kentucky is one of the few states where convicted offenders lose their rights to vote for good after their sentences are completed. By executive order, Gov. Andy Beshear has restored those rights to some of the 140,000 individuals who have lost them, but many more are still prevented from exercising their basic democratic right.

These laws and rules are effectively racist, even if that was not their original intent. They affect the black community

more than any other.

Equal treatment for all Americans, constitute the civil rights issue of our time, and the Jewish community must rise to the occasion. Here's how:

- Support efforts to reform the criminal justice system by making it a voting priority when choosing a candidate.
- Champion support for organizations in the black community, such as Simmons College, working to address some systemic problems.
- Lobby your state lawmakers for voter restoration and against laws that will make it harder for the poorest, most vulnerable Kentuckians to vote.

In the Talmud, Rabbi Tarfon says, "It is not your responsibility to complete the work, but you are not free to desist from it either." We have a history of fighting for justice. Let us renew that fight until equality for all is not just an aspiration, but a reality.

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

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## FORUM

## The keys to understanding American anti-Semitism — and fighting back



Guest  
Columnist

Rabbi Lord  
Jonathan Sacks



To combat surging anti-Semitism in Europe and America, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks turns to the holidays of Purim and Chanukah for guidance.

LONDON – The last two festivals to be added to the Jewish calendar prior to modern times – Purim and Chanukah – are both about anti-Semitism. There is one obvious difference between them: Haman, of the Purim story, wanted to kill Jews. Antiochus, of the Chanukah story, wanted to kill Judaism.

It was the difference between Nazi Germany and Soviet Communism.

But there is another difference that has renewed salience after the horrifying knife attack in Monsey, New York. What saved Jews on Purim was behind-the-scenes influence: Esther's influence in the royal court. But the danger of anti-Semitism remained. What if hatred returned and this time there was no Esther around to save the Jews? That is one reason, according to the Talmud, why we do not say Hallel on Purim.

On Chanukah, by contrast, Jews fought back and won. The Maccabees became a symbol of Jewish activism, of refusing to live in fear. As a symbol of this, the original custom was to light Chanukah lights outside the front door of the house, or at least in a window facing the street, to publicize the miracle. Today, we see the lighting of giant menorahs in the most prominent public places of cities throughout the world.

Chanukah tells us not to curse the darkness, but instead to bring light to the world. It tells us to fight back and not to be afraid.

The shocking events in Monsey, together with those in Jersey City, Poway, Pittsburgh and elsewhere, are proof that the darkness has returned. It has returned likewise to virtually every country in Europe. That this should have happened within living memory of the Holocaust, after the most systematic attempt ever made by a civilization to find a cure for the virus of the world's longest hate – more than half a century of Holocaust education and anti-racist legislation – is almost unbelievable. It is particularly traumatic that this has happened in the United States, the country where Jews felt more at home than anywhere else in the Diaspora.

Why is it happening now?

First, because of everything associated

with the internet, smartphones, viral videos and above all, social media. These have what is called a “disinhibition effect.” People are far more hateful when communicating electronically than when speaking face-to-face.

Cyberspace has proved to be the most effective incubator of resentment, rancor and conspiracy theories ever invented. Anti-Semitism thrives on conspiracy theories, versions of the Blood Libel and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, updated for the 21st century.

Second, because of the way people encounter these phenomena: often alone, in the privacy of their own homes. This allows them to be radicalized without anyone realizing it is happening. Time and again, we read of people carrying out horrific attacks, while those who knew them recall not having seen any warning signs that they were intent on committing evil attacks.

The most dangerous phenomenon of our time is the “lone wolf” attack, because it is so hard to predict. The internet is particularly dangerous for loners, people for whom the normal process of socialization – learning to live with others who are not like us – has broken down.

Historically, though, the most important factor in the rise of anti-Semitism is the sense among a group that the world as it is now is not the way it used to be, or ought to be.

The far left has not recovered from

the global collapse of communism and socialism as ideologies. Hence the assault on Jews as capitalists and libertarians.

The far right feels threatened by the changing composition of Western societies, because of immigration on an unprecedented scale and low birth rates among the native population. Hence white supremacists.

Many radical Islamists are troubled by dysfunctions in the Muslim world. Hence the emergence of anti-Zionism as the new anti-Semitism.

These concerns do not, in and of themselves, lead to anti-Semitism. One other factor must be added.

When bad things happen, good people ask, “What did I do wrong?” They put their house in order. But bad people ask, “Who did this to me?” They cast themselves as victims and search for scapegoats to blame.

The scapegoat of choice has long been the Jews. They were the archetypal outsiders. For a thousand years, they were the most prominent non-Christian minority in Europe. Today, the State of Israel is the most significant non-Muslim presence in the Middle East. It is easy to blame Jews because they are conspicuous, because they are a minority and because they are there.

Anti-Semitism has little to do with Jews – they are its object, not its cause – and everything to do with dysfunction in the communities that harbor it.

Anti-Semitism, or any hate, becomes dangerous in any society when three things happen: when it moves from the fringes of politics to a mainstream party and its leadership; when the party sees that its popularity with the general public is not harmed thereby; and when those who stand up and protest are vilified and abused for doing so.

All three factors exist in Britain now. The same must not be allowed to happen in America.

What, then, must we do? The first priority must be to strengthen security in Jewish venues, to intensify police patrols and to develop habits of vigilance. The British Jewish community has a fine example in its Community Security Trust which, with the support of government grants, monitors risks, enlists thousands of volunteers to stand security duty and works closely with the government and local police forces. “Lone wolves” tend to seek soft targets, and the Jewish community must ensure as far as possible that there are no soft targets.

Next, we must recognize that while we have enemies, we also have friends – and they are many and strong. In Britain, as we faced a leader of the opposition who many of us felt has made his party a safe haven for anti-Zionists and anti-Semites, it was enormously important that non-Jews from all walks of life came out in our support. It made us feel we were not alone.

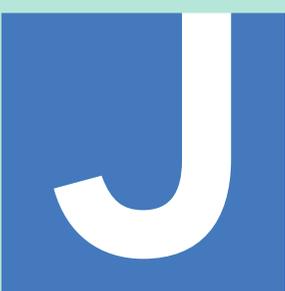
Many surveys in the United States have shown that Jews are the most admired of all minorities. We cannot fight anti-Semitism alone. The victim cannot cure the crime. We need to make friends who will stand with us and help lead the fight. This is best done by explaining how anti-Semitism endangers everyone, because the hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews.

Lastly, we must never forget the message of Chanukah: Fight back. Never be afraid. Whatever the threats, be proud to be Jewish and share this pride with others.

At times, our history has been written in tears, yet we have outlived every empire and every civilization that sought to destroy us. Our spirit, symbolized by the Chanukah candles, is indomitable. Where others spread darkness, let us bring light.

*Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks served as Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth from 1991 until 2013. He can be followed on social media @ RabbiSacks or RabbiSacks.org.*

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# FEDERATION

## Donor Profile

### Shellie Branson loves life, shaping living in Jewish Louisville community

By Bruce Snyder  
For Community

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series of profiles leading up to the conclusion of the 2019-20 Annual Campaign*

Dr. Shellie Branson is smiling wide these days.

The pediatric dentist enjoys all aspects of her life, professionally and spiritually.

"There's a lot of amazing Jewish leaders in this community," Branson said. "They seem to give their time and money generously. That's inspiring to us. We want to be part of it."

So Branson and her husband, Dr. Ralph Green, have become ingrained in Jewish Louisville. Both contribute to the Federation. In fact, Green is scheduled to become the chair of the board of directors in June.

They want to help local Jews connect with their roots and spirituality.

Our Jewish community is very open to everyone," Branson said. "I feel like if you lived here and haven't been a



Dr. Shellie Branson wants to help people connect with their Jewish roots. (photo provided)

part of it, just give it a chance, even if it is just walking in the doors of The J. If you could try to reconnect, I think you would be totally engaged, and you wouldn't be sorry."

A native Louisvillian, Branson loves

what she does. She has practiced pediatric dentistry here for more than 30 years. "It's gone by fast," she said. "I have no plans to retire. It's a rewarding job."

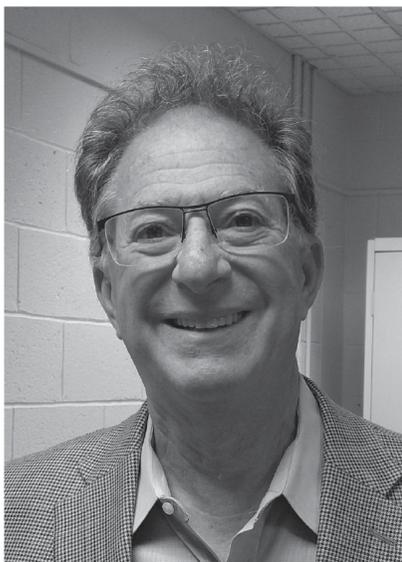
Branson's practice is more than a business. It is a family environment.

"I really care about my employees a lot," she said. "I care that they are happy and do a really good job. I think our patients feel that. They feel the connection we have to each other. When I'm at work, I'm thinking about these parents driving all over, leaving work early, picking their kids up, rearranging their schedules. I try to connect with every one of them, and that is why I love this so much." It's important to feel professionally fulfilled, she said. "I try to mentor young people to figure out what they like and to not just get any job. I hope I pass that on to them."

That same energy motivates her to give to the Federation, and back to the Jewish community. "In New York, everyone you know is Jewish. Here, you have to go out of your way to see your Jewish friends and do something Jewish. I think the Federation tries really hard to fill a missing link between synagogue and your secular life. I think they do a really good job."

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THE J

# CENTERPIECE

*'Flow it, show it'*

## Hair unfurls on CenterStage with '60s passion

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

Peace, love and protest will take over CenterStage with the 1960s classic musical, *Hair*.

Audiences will be sure to recognize the classic songs from the show, such as "Aquarius," "Good Morning, Starshine," "Let the Sunshine In" and, of course, the title song, "Hair."

The show, created by two hippies, James Rado and Gerome Ragni, along with com-

poser Galt MacDermot, and was produced for Broadway by Michael Butler, tells the tale of a tribe of flower children who protest the Vietnam War, racism, brutality, stereotypes and injustice – all things people do (or should) protest today.

"There's a true heart to this," said CenterStage Artistic Director Frank Goodloe III.

Keenly aware that some people in his audiences may have been hippies, or at least hit the streets to protest the war or some other injustice. Goodloe wants this production of *Hair* to strike a chord with them. "As they got older [maybe they] forgot about that part and haven't continued to protest and fight for things," he

said. "We definitely wanted to make sure that we drove that home in this show."

The set and costumes are a lot easier to pull off for *Hair* than more elaborate CenterStage productions. Many of the costumes were clothing already in the CenterStage locker or the cast members' closets. And while the set will be nice, the show could just as well be performed on a bare stage.

"Why not," Goodloe said. "The play is really about the interaction of the characters."

The most basic costume of the show comes during a scene in which the characters get naked. But don't worry, Goodloe said, in this production, actors will only strip down to their underwear.

"We have talked to the cast, and there's not actually going to be nudity; they'll get down to bras and panties," he said. "And even then, we've done it in a very tasteful way where nothing is seen. It's more for the fact that in the '60s, people did get naked to protest something, so this is

a pretty vital part about how much this tribe or family is standing up for what they believe in."

Goodloe and Assistant Director Scott Goodman spoke to the cast and allowed them to decide what they wanted to do about that scene. "No one's been pressured, and even if they don't feel like getting down into their bras and panties or just underwear, they don't have to," Goodloe said. "I told everyone to be comfortable with what they felt comfortable with."

The cast is a mixture of new and seasoned CenterStage actors, he said. Josh O'Brien, who plays Burger, and Lauren McCombs, who plays Sheila, are returning to CenterStage after a hiatus. CenterStage regular Tymika Prince, who was in *Dreamgirls*, plays Dionne, and Derek Palmer, also of *Dream Girls*, plays Hud.

Claude is played by Jake Minton, and Daniel Smith plays Woof.

The music, of course, is timeless, and is sure to evoke feelings from the theatergoers, Goodloe added.

"I hope that as





people leave, they will feel inspired to to fight for justice and to fight for a world of peace and love and harmony, which is what I think we all want," he said. "But I think a lot of us aren't standing up and do anything about it, myself included."

In times of uncertainty, *Hair* is not just a fun play to see, it's an absolute necessity.

"I'm like, 'We need to have this,'

and 'This needs to happen,' but I don't do a whole lot," Goodloe said. "The show has inspired me to make sure I go out and do more."

**Want to go?**

*Hair* will play from Feb. 6 to 22. Tickets are available at [JewishLouisville.org](http://JewishLouisville.org) or by calling 502-459-0660. Guests who bring five cans of food for a food drive will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to the

Mother-Daughter Brunch before the Mother's Day matinee of *Mamma Mia*. There will be a panelist discussion with activists Jessica Loving and Doug Magee after the performance on February 9.



The cast of "Hair" eagerly stepped into their characters during dress rehearsals at CenterStage. (Community photos by Jessica Budnick)

## Jews from all backgrounds joined anti-war movement

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Two months before his induction into the Marine Corps, James Straus stood in Chicago's Grant Park, as police, under orders from Mayor Richard J. Daley, confronted a throng of anti-war demonstrators. He recalls buses of cops pulling up to the park where the National Guard formed a buffer in front of the protestors. The police hit the ground at the corner Michigan and Balboa, then charged the crowd.

It wasn't long before tear gas covered

the park. It was really something," said Straus, a Lexington native. "I think I became more of an entranced observer rather than jumping up and down protesting, even though I was very much against the war and for a [presidential] candidate who would stop the war."

It was August 1968, and tens of thousands of young people, opposed to the war in Vietnam, took to the streets of the Windy City as the Democratic National Convention nominated Hubert Humphrey for president. Riots broke out in the streets as police and demonstrators clashed.

Half a world away, the Tet Offensive, a series of brutal surprise attacks by North Vietnamese army and Viet Cong guerillas that captured much of South Vietnam, pushed many Americans to oppose the war in Indochina.

Straus, a recent graduate of Yale, who supported the presidential campaign of Sen. Eugene McCarthy, was one of them. "The Tet Offensive had changed the perceptions of what was going on," he said. "Walter Cronkite

came out in opposition to the war."

Straus was one of many young Jews who joined the '60s anti-war movement, which will be dramatized in CenterStage's production of *Hair* from Feb. 6 to 22.

Some became leaders of the movement. (Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin gained notoriety at the Chicago convention by running a pig for president.) College students such as Straus, academics such as Noam Chomsky, and performers such as Bob Dylan and Peter Dinklage all joined the cause.

It was the Jewish Beat poet Allen Ginsberg who coined the expression "Flower Power," which described the passive, non-violent resistance to the war, which is depicted in the play. Some Jews tried ducking the draft by claiming conscientious objector status, but draft boards had a response to that. Speaking to the Wexler Oral History Project of the Yiddish Book Center, Mark Gerstein, a student activist at the time who became a history teacher, said Jews claiming conscientious objector status could be asked if they would have fought Hitler.

Many young married couples with children also opposed the war. Ronnie and Marie Abrams of Louisville joined several anti-war demonstrations.

"John Kennedy affected us," said

Marie. "We were young when he ran for office. I think that was the entre for many people like us. Kennedy kind of inspired people to get involved."

In Straus' case, he not only demonstrated for peace, but he went to war, reporting for induction to the Marines on Oct. 1, 1968. He served six months in Vietnam, primarily in the Quang Tri Province.

He did it, not because he wanted to ("I was hoping the war would be over by then"), but because he thought it was wrong that people of privilege could get out of serving. "It wasn't hard for people who were privileged to stay out of the war, to come up with some reason – often bogus – to become ineligible for the draft. Folks could take teaching jobs, come up with phony disabilities, join the Peace Corps, hide in the reserves. I just didn't think it was right."

Looking back, though, Straus, who practices law in Louisville, said his Chicago experience reinforced his "pain" over how the war had divided the country, and his respect for those who had the courage to oppose it.

Those demonstrators, he said, did make a difference. "It was those opposed to the war, led by a young generation, that finally forced politicians who couldn't figure a way out of the mess to let loose of the tar baby, to force an end to the thing."



# NEWS

## 'Bucket list' activities

### New Senior Center director to focus more on pre-retirees

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

For Tara Stone, the word "senior" does not necessarily equal "retired." That's why the new senior activities director at The J is focusing her effort on people ages 55 and up, "bringing more programming to those who are getting ready to retire." Stone, who succeeds Diane Sadle as senior director, started her new job on Jan. 1.

Her focus will build on Sadle's work, which reached out to baby boomers with more travel and out-of-building activities. Stone also wants to emphasize physical, mental and spiritual activities, acknowledging that seniors are more active than are sometimes perceived.

"When people think of our senior adult program, they think it's all for the elderly, and not necessarily for those who are spry, active and able to do," Stone said.

She said she wants to change that. She hopes to promote existing activities at The J, such as pickleball. But she also has new activities in mind,

which she is not yet ready to name.

But she did say plans to offer what she calls "bucket list" activities to her members.

"Maybe there's an instrument they want to learn to play or a language they want to learn, some place to go," Stone said. "To me, there's so much opportunity."

She also plans to commit more of the center's resources to cognitive programming.

"That's something I am passionate about," said Stone, whose grandmother had Alzheimer's. "I've spent a lot of time with Alzheimer's and dementia [clients]."

In fact, At Sunrise Senior Living, where she previously worked as activities and volunteer coordinator, 75 percent of the residents had some kind of "cognitive impairment."

By offering more fitness activities for the mind, she said, she hopes to prevent, or at least delay, impairment in clients who don't yet exhibit the symptoms.

(Being "intellectually engaged" may stimulate the brain, according to the

National Institute on Aging. Citing studies, it said activities such as volunteering or taking up hobbies improve thinking ability while improving one's outlook and teaching new skills.)

This is not Stone's first stint at The J. A native of Elma, Michigan, she moved to Louisville in 2010 and started work at the then-Jewish Community Center in 2011 – as a 90-day temp.

By the time she left – in 2017 – she held the position of wellness and member experience director, overseeing seniors, fitness and customer service.

After she left, she ran a boutique and DIY jewelry-making business and taught an afterschool art class at the Americana Community Center, which serves Louisville's refugee, immigrant and underserved populations through education and family support.

She worked Sunrise Senior Living prior to returning to The J.

Mindful that the Senior Center serves Jews and non-Jews, Stone nevertheless promised to maintain the Senior Center's Jewish holiday activities, noting that the majority of her clients are Jewish.



Tara Stone will continue reaching out to baby boomers as The J's new senior director, offering so-called "bucket list" activities to her clients. (Community photo by Jessica Budnick)

"We will definitely keep our traditional holiday celebrations and Friday Shabbat," Stone said.

**Want to go?**

See page 17 for J Senior Center activities.

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Like anyone, our neighbors want to feed those they love. Regardless of the complex circumstances our clients face, they want – and deserve – a dignified way to access food and other essentials to care for themselves and their families.

For many years, our community has shown love through food by supporting the Pantry. Sonny and Janet Meyer show love through food, not only with their unwavering support but also by inspiring so many others to join them. The dedicated weekly volunteers who stock the Pantry shelves, attentive to every detail and committed to quality, show love through food. The hundreds of people and many Jewish organizations who donated 8,000 pounds of food and other essentials during the Feeding Families Food Drive show love through food.

As JFCS prepares to open an expanded and remodeled Pantry, made possible with the support of a Dare to Care/CareSource Hunger Innovation Grant, we’re building on all that love to better serve our neighbors with respect for their undeniable humanity.

A larger footprint at the front of our building means every Pantry shopper will browse more shelves stocked with requested options. Increased refrigeration and freezer

capacity will help us offer more healthy proteins like fish and eggs, dairy products, and fresh produce. People shopping for personal needs items, like feminine hygiene and incontinence products, will now be able to make their selections privately.

Weekly evening hours will make the Pantry more accessible for working people. We have a staged rollout to open our Pantry to neighbors in surrounding ZIP codes in a manner consistent with our security procedures. Using our client-centered case management approach, we’ll have the opportunity to assess shoppers’ other stability markers because we know from experience – when you need food, you probably need other things, too.

Love through food is as individual as the taste of my grandmother’s sweet and sour stuffed cabbage on my tongue. Love through food is as universal as every parent and grandparent being able to ask their children, “What can I make you?” and having the food to do it.

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## ARTS

# Thirty Years War revisited

## 'Mother Courage' given Jewish treatment in ShPIeL's latest production

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

When German playwright Bertold Brecht wrote his classic work, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, in 1939, he set the story in 17th century Europe during the Thirty Years War between the armies of Catholicism and Protestantism.

But when the ShPIeL-Performing Identity reprises the play in Louisville next month, it will have distinctly Jewish and Kentucky flavors.

The ShPIeL's treatment of *Mother Courage* will be a cabaret-style musical, including a mix of klezmer and bluegrass music by Gregory and Abigail Maupin.

It will have "comedic, meditative moments and outright protest."

And that's just how Brecht would have wanted it.

"I'm not working against the play's intentions as a cabaret-style, comic, and also dramatic piece of theatre; Brecht wrote it that way," said David Chack, artistic producing director of the ShPIeL. "That's what Brecht is uniquely known for. Think *Mack the Knife* in Threepenny Opera, which Brecht wrote about a murderer. Or Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. All are comic and all are dark."

Chack said the ShPIeL's rendition of *Mother Courage* takes a rare look at the plight of Jews during a dark time while remaining true to the spirit – and shtick – of Brecht's play.

He thinks *Mother Courage* sends the right message for today's troubled times.

"They are a warning for what may come due to evil, suffering and exile," Chack said, "and, in the case of *Mother Courage*, to putting a stop to always looking for the next war and the xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and exile that



Above, Asaf Angermann, UofL professor of Jewish thought & philosophy (left), and ShPIeL Artistic Director David Chack at a rehearsal for the troupe's production of "Mother Courage." Right, Rita Hight, who plays the lead role in the play, in costume. (photos provided)

comes with it. How timely is that?"

Set in during the Thirty Years War, one of the most violent periods in European history, *Mother Courage* tells the story of a cunning canteen woman with the Swedish army, who makes her living from the war. Over the course of the play – a period of many years – despite her resourcefulness, she tragically loses all three of her children, Swiss Cheese, Eilif, and Katrin, to the very war from which she makes her living.

Louisville actress Rita Hight, who plays Mother Courage in the ShPIeL production, sees many parallels with her character and the Jewish mother.

"It's very maternalistic outlook," said Hight, who is Jewish. "Her children are everything to her, and the Jewish mother – almost a cliché -- does almost everything for her children."

Even though Brecht did not infuse



overt Jewish characters or content into his play, which some critics consider to be the greatest of the 20th century, the plight of the Jews certainly influenced him while he wrote it. His wife, Helene Weigel, who played the role of Mother Courage, was Jewish, as were several writers, artists and performers within his circle of friends.

One of them was the German philosopher and essayist Walter Benjamin, who killed himself in 1940. In a 1933 note to

Margaret Steffin, Brecht's lover and collaborator, Benjamin wrote, "Listen to this: the Vienna gas board has stopped supplying gas to the Jews. (But) a consequence of the gas consumption of the Jewish population was that the gas company lost money, since it was precisely (the Jews)...who did not pay their bills (because they used) the gas to commit suicide."

Hight says Weigel, Brecht's wife, had much in common with Mother Courage.

"She doesn't have a permanent place. She is a wanderer. She makes her living in retail, that traditionally Jewish [occupation] and that's how she survives."

Related to the production, Chack, along with Asaf Angermann, visiting professor of Jewish thought & philosophy at the University of Louisville, Janna Segal, assistant professor of theatre arts at UofL will make up an all-Jewish panel discussion on Brecht and Contemporary Politics at the 48th Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture on Feb. 20 at the Brown Hotel. Chack's topic will be "Is Mother Courage the Wandering Jew?: Performing Exile, Creativity, Resistance and Brokenness."

"The style, the writing [of the play] is exquisite and the way Brecht constructs it is masterful," Chack said. "The translation by Tony Kushner is magnificent and so connected to today as well as to a Jewish sensibility."

### Want to go?

*Mother Courage and Her Children*, translated by Tony Kushner and produced by the ShPIeL-Performing Identity, will be staged from Feb. 6 to 23, Thursdays through Sundays, at Locust Grove, 561 Blankenbaker Lane. Tickets can be purchased at [brownpapertickets.com/event/4492137](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/4492137) or at the door. Registration for the Louisville Conference at [thelouisvilleconference.com](http://thelouisvilleconference.com).

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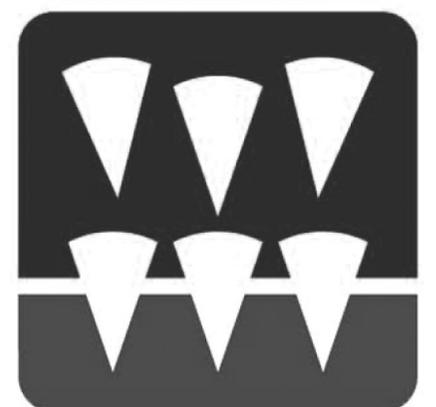


# PICTURE THIS: COMMUNITY TELETHON

This year's Community Telethon, which took place, Sunday, Jan. 12, at The Jewish Community Center, raised \$166,445 for the Annual Campaign from 179 unique donors. With staff, more than 40 community partners volunteered to make calls that day. This year, the Federation also is planning two "mini-telethons:" Wednesday, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m., at Bravo's, 206 Bullitt Lane, and Thursday, March 19, 5:30 p.m., at HopCat, 1064 Bardstown Road. Contact Sarah Baron at sbaron@jewishlouisville.org to sign up. (Community photos by Jessica Budnick)



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## NEWS

## NCJW to defend abortion, voter rights, immigrant protection during session

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

In the current session of the Kentucky legislature, which opened Jan. 7, the National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section, will be tracking (and opposing) any bills that undermine voting rights, place vulnerable immigrants at risk and threaten a woman's access to abortion.

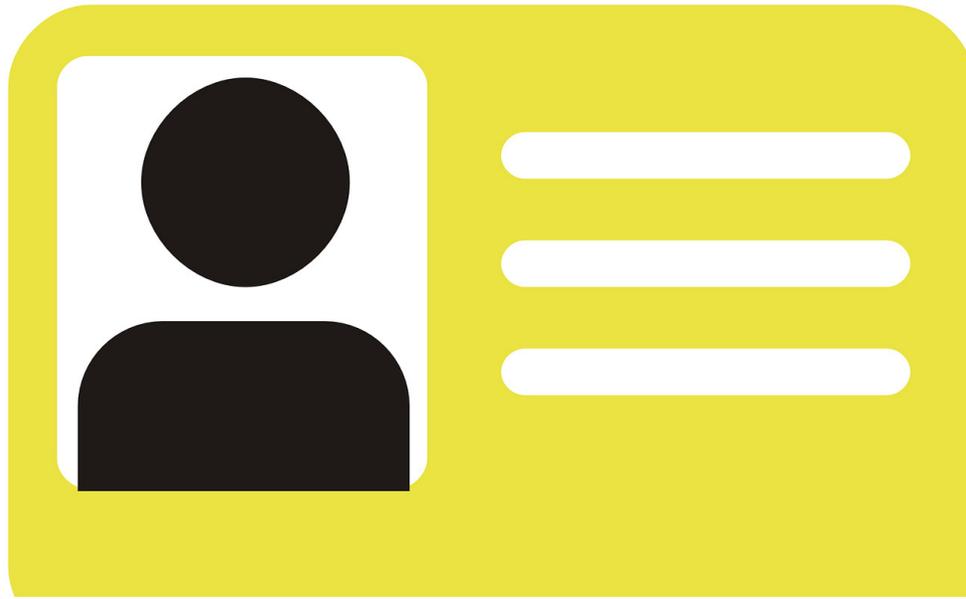
It's a big job.

In a Jan. 20 statement, NCJW-Louisville came out against two pieces of legislation: Senate Bill 1 would require public agency employees to "use their best efforts" to support the enforcement of federal immigration law, while Senate Bill 2 would require photo IDs for in-person and absentee voters.

Days later, State Policy Advocate Beth Salamon, using information provided by ACLU Kentucky, added a bundle of new anti-abortion bills to that list.

Since SB1 would require public agency staffs to enforce immigration laws, the harmful side effect would be that immigrants facing health and safety risks may not seek help.

"Notably, this would include employees of domestic violence and sexual assault centers, who handle confidential information and must protect the privacy rights of survivors," Salamon said.



A bill pending in the state legislature requiring photo ID for in-person and absentee voting would create hardship for poor, elderly and disabled voters, NCJW-Louisville says.

Ultimately, SB 1 "was designed to force public employees to assist in the detention and deportation of Kentuckians, including Kentucky children."

SB 2, which has already cleared the Senate and is pending in the House, makes it more difficult for the poor, the elderly, and the disabled to vote, according to the NCJW.

"NCJW believes that we should be

making it easier, not harder, for people to vote, and there is no evidence that voter fraud is a problem in Kentucky," Salamon said.

Supporters of the photo ID bill say it would increase confidence in the voting system, but opponents say there is no documented problem with voting fraud; plus the bill's provision granting free photo IDs to voters who have none could

cost the state millions of dollars.

The anti-abortion legislation includes House Bills 67, an anti-abortion amendment to the state constitution stating there is no legal right to the procedure; and 142, an abortion gag rule prohibiting payment of public agency funds to any entity that supports abortion. Senate Bill 9, would supposedly protect infants "born alive an abortion." The ACLU said the bill is a reaction to false stories of abortions after birth, and labeled the legislation as "the ultimate solution to an imaginary problem."

The NCJW also will use the session to lobby for funding Family Recovery Courts, which help substance abusers get treatment, rebuild their lives and keep custody of their children (See News & Newsmakers, page 00).

As part of their advocacy, NCJW was represented in Frankfort at the 16th annual Children's Advocacy Day on Jan. 23, and it will take part in the March 19 Reproductive Rights Rally.

"We usually find it more effective to work in coalitions and will continue to work with our coalition partners."

NCJW also will send out "action alerts" to its members, urging them to contact their representatives when key votes are coming up.

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"There was no decision. Of course I am leaving a legacy gift to the JCC and Adath Jeshurun. The Louisville Jewish Community has helped me survive and thrive. The first time I witnessed a charitable act was at the JCC. My aunt, who worked at the JCC for 65 years, helped a man who showed up needing food and some fresh clothes. That clicked and I realized people can make a difference; I then understood why I always put coins in my blue tzedakah box and never went to Sunday School at AJ without some change to donate. There is no way that I could pass up giving tzedakah through a legacy gift for future generations in Jewish Louisville."

— **Jaye Bittner**

You too can create an endowment to preserve Jewish Louisville's programs and organizations that matter to you. Contact Jennifer Tuvlin at **502-238-2719** or [jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org) to endow your Jewish values.



# SENIOR AND YOUTH EVENTS

## Chavurat Shalom for February

### THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Jason Parroco, ukelele and guitar player and Hosparus Health manager of community outreach, will appear; January and February birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated. Lunch will include chicken and dumplings, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and celebratory carrot cake.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 13

Piano-guitar duo Alan Zukof and Steve Bradley will perform in the Waller Chapel. Lunch will include baked chicken with an orange apricot

glaze, barley pilaf, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and cherry cobbler.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Accordion player Mike O'Bryan will perform. Lunch will include hoisin salmon, couscous, roasted cauliflower, Asian-style slaw, fresh fruit and assorted desserts.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 27

Irene Zahler and Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will share video of her past performances, augmented by supplemental, historical information. Lunch will include vegetable lasagna,

ratatouille, Caesar salad, fresh fruit and triple chocolate brownies.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

University of Louisville music students of Stephen Mattingly will perform. Lunch will include all-beef hot dogs, baked beans, cole-slaw, fresh fruit, and cookies and brownies.

*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. RSVP to 502-423-1818 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com. A*

*vegetarian option is available if requested in advance. All programs will be held in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center at The Temple, 5101 U.S. Hwy. 42, unless otherwise noted. Lunch starts at noon, followed by the program at 1 pm. Transportation can be scheduled by calling 502-452-6341; the charge is \$5 round-trip. Chavurat Shalom is funded by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, The Temple, The Temple Brotherhood and Sisterhood, NCJW, the Jewish Federation of Louisville, and other donors.*

## The J Senior Center for February

### TUESDAY, FEB. 4, 12:45 P.M.

AARP presentation following lunch in the senior adult lounge.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 7:30 P.M.

Opening night of the Jewish Film Festival with Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles, cost of admis-

sion and transportation is \$20 for members, \$23 for nonmembers. RSVP by Jan. 27.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 11, 12:45 P.M.

Tu B'Shevat seder with Rabbi Nadia Siritsky and Cantor Sharon Hordes. Holiday foods (grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates) will

be served. For participants 60 and over, a \$3 donation is suggested; under 60, \$5. Call 502-238-2743 by Feb. 7 to RSVP.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 11 A.M.

Derby Dinner Playhouse presents Saturday Night Fever. Cost of admission and transporta-

tion is \$40 for members, \$48 for nonmembers. RSVP by Feb. 14.

### TUESDAYS, 11 A.M.

Crochet Club, open to all levels, in the Senior Adult Lounge

## Youth activities for February

### FEB. 15, 29

Enjoy a night out while your kids have fun here at The J! We start the night off with time for dinner and games. Older kids have an opportunity to go swimming while the preschoolers get to hang out in our play room. We end the night together with a movie and snacks. For children 2 years old through sixth grade. Cost is \$35, Members \$25, + \$10 per additional child from the same household. Register at jewishlouisville.org.

### FEB. 3, 14, 17-21, 24

School's Out Days at the J! When schools are closed, bring your child to the J to learn and play. Schools Out Days are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. with optional extended care. All days include sports, arts and crafts, swimming and more. Bring a bathing suit, towel and lunch! Schools Out Days are for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Register at jewishlouisville.org.

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# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

## Wax to mark 30th summer at Beber



Michael Wax

Michael Wax, a lifetime Beber Camper, has finished his first year as camp director and will soon mark his 30th summer at the Wisconsin-based camp.

"It's a dream come true; I love what I do," Wax said. "I'm happy to do something I started when I was 10 years old and keep doing it."

The son of Al and Sally Wax and brother of Jenny Castellano – all of Louisville – Wax, 48, has been going to Beber since 1982 as a camper, counselor and staffer. He took time off to finish school and start his career.

He returned to Beber in 2007 as assistant director and was promoted to director in January 2019.

Married with children, Wax is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Louisville, where he earned his MBA and JD.

Located north of Chicago, Beber is a nondenominational Jewish summer camp that draws about 700 kids from across the country each summer.

As he begins his second year as director, Wax's chief goals are to update the camp's facilities and focus on health and safety.

He credited his time at The J, coaching sorts and working jobs, for his passion for Jewish communal work.

"I spent six days a week from eighth grade to high school work-

ing and also participating in the BBYO," he said, "so the JCC was really a meaningful place for me. The J was really an important place for me; it shaped me."

## Kehr to retire from JFCS, counselor for 28 years



Lauren Kehr

Lauren Kehr, a licensed therapist at the Jewish Family & Career Services for 28 years, will retire in February.

"Lauren has dedicated her life to service and advocating for the rights and interests of others," JFCS Senior Director of Programs Mauri Malka said in a prepared statement. "She's been a valued colleague who's committed to social work and to mentoring new professionals and students in this field. Her compassion and dedication to our clinical team and JFCS will be missed."

Kehr, who joined the JFCS in 1991, has counseled thousands of clients during her time at the agency and trained over a dozen student therapists.

Her clients have been fiercely loyal to Kehr; some even send their children to see her.

Kehr has seen several changes at the JFCS during her time there, including a new location, three directors and expanded programming to meet community's needs.

"It's been my good fortune to work for an agency that embodies my own personal values – humanity, justice and kindness," Kehr said.

"Counseling is a marvelous profession, and I'm gratified to have contributed to my clients' successes."

## Crowdus gets grant to study Jewish music



Miranda Polzer Crowdus

Miranda Polzer Crowdus, a research assistant in ethnomusicology and Jewish studies at the Hochschule for Music, Drama and Media in Hannover, Germany, with Louisville roots, has been awarded a renewable 100,000-euro research grant by the German Federal Foreign Office for her project titled The Disappearing Musical-Liturgical Traditions of the Romaniote Jews.

The project, which will be conducted from 2020 to 2022, is intended to reach beyond academic circles, generating broader knowledge and concern for disappearing musical traditions worldwide.

The project will create a documentary film, portable museum installation, including interactive audio-visual components, which will be displayed in Hannover, Athens, Berlin and New York.

A professionally recorded CD with an accompanying booklet in multiple languages will accompany the installation.

The culmination of the project will be an open access digital tool to enable the preservation and transmission of disappearing global musical traditions.

A 2007 graduate of the University of Louisville with a degree in mu-

sic, Crowdus has master's degrees from Bangor University (Wales) and the University of Cambridge, and a Ph.D. from the City University of London. She has published extensively on Jewish music and culture.

Her mother, Natalie Polzer, is a professor of Jewish and religious studies at UofL.

## SNL raffle raises thousands for Family Recovery Courts

The National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section, raised more than \$24,000 through a months-long raffle sale for two tickets to New York to see an episode of Saturday Night Live.

The winning names were drawn Monday, Jan. 6, at the SNL office at the Mid-City Mall.

According to Jane Emke, the NCJW sold 247 chances for \$24,700.

In addition, the raffle generated \$17,000 in gifts for seed money for three new Family Recovery Courts in Clay, Kenton and Daviess counties. The Jefferson County recovery court is already in operation with NCJW support.

Family Recovery Courts work with substance abusers to enter treatment, straighten out their lives and eventually regain custody of their children.

But the state does not support these courts, so they rely on private support, such as the NCJW's, to stay open.

The NCJW plans to make Family Recovery Courts one of its priority objectives in the next legislative session, which open on Jan. 7 and will end on April 15.



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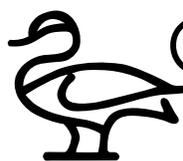
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# AROUND TOWN

## Tsabari this year's Naamani speaker



Ayelet Tsabari

Award-winning Israeli author Ayelet Tsabari, the 2020 Naamani Memorial Lecture speaker, will appear at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16, in the Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom

Library, at the University of Louisville. She will address *The Art of Leaving*, which also is the title of her memoir.

A Yemeni Jew, Tsabari grew up in a Tel Aviv suburb, served in the Israeli army and later moved to Canada, where she studied film and photography and directed two documentary films. Essays from her memoir have won a silver National Magazine Award and a gold Western Magazine Award. Her first book, *The Last Place on Earth: Stories*, won the Jewish Book Council's Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction and was a New York Times Book Review's Editors' Choice and Kirkus Reviews' Best Debut Fiction of 2016.

A reception and book-signing will follow the lecture. Contact Joshua Boydston 502-852-0460 or Joshua.boydstun@louisville.edu for reservations. The Naamani Memorial Lecture honors the memory of former UofL political scientist Israel Naamani. UofL's creative writing program is a co-sponsor.

## Training Wheels

The Temple Training Wheels preschool will teach about Shabbat at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 2. The program will include crafts and food. RSVP to Lexie Beauchamp at [religiousschoolassistant@thetemplelouky.org](mailto:religiousschoolassistant@thetemplelouky.org) or Sarah Harlan at [education@thetemplelouky.org](mailto:education@thetemplelouky.org).

## Brunch & Games

Temple Shalom Men's Club will present Brunch & Games at 10 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 9. Brunch will be followed by poker and other games. A \$5 donation for brunch is requested. RSVP by Feb. 7. Contact Temple Shalom at 502-458-4739 or [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org).

## Jewish Poetry Night

Chailands Chavurah of Temple Shalom will hold its next Jewish Poetry Night, an open mic event, at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10, at the Vines Wine Bar & Spirit Shop, 1985 Douglass Boulevard. RSVP to [Chailands@templeshalomky.org](mailto:Chailands@templeshalomky.org) and please indicate if you wish to read.

## World Zionist Congress

Chailands Chavurah of Temple will discuss the ongoing voting for the World Zionist Congress at its next program, 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22, at a private home in the Highlands. Havdalah will be followed by a pot luck meal and then the program. Email [chailands@templeshalomky.org](mailto:chailands@templeshalomky.org) to RSVP.

## Interfaith Coffee

The Temple WRJ/Sister will hold its next Interfaith Coffee from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Monday, Feb. 24, in the Heideman Auditorium and Main Sanctuary.

This year's theme is "Louisville's Jewish Supreme Court Justices: A History of the Louisville Jewish Community through the Stories of Our Two Supreme Court Justices." Members are encouraged to bring their baked or bought breads, cookies, sweets and healthy items. Please bring contributions to The Temple before Feb. 21, label "Interfaith."

## Homeless Outreach

Keneseth Israel will make sandwiches and care packages for the homeless at 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26. Bring your own supplies (bread, peanut butter and jelly, blankets, underwear, socks, flashlights.) The group will caravan downtown at 4:45 p.m. to give out food and supplies to the homeless. RSVP to 502-459-2780 or [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

## Sandwiches for the homeless

The Temple's seventh and eighth graders will make sandwiches for the homeless at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 1, in the Heideman Auditorium.

## Sh'ma Theatre auditions

Adath Jeshurun's SH'MA Theatre Group will hold auditions for its new play, *A Satisfied Mind*, written by Yehudah Jai Husband. The play is a comedic drama about a reclusive Jewish businessman and his friendship with his holy roller housekeeper. Auditions will be held for the following four roles: a Caucasian male age 40s-60s; an African American male, mid 20s-30s; an African American male child, 8-10; and an African American female child, 8-10. Auditions will be held at AJ on Sunday, Feb. 2, and Monday, Feb. 3, and are by appointment only. Contact Husband at 502-500-5167 or at [jai@ajajoint.com](mailto:jai@ajajoint.com).

## Kindergarten consecration

Adath Jeshurun will hold a consecration ceremony for its 2020 kindergarten class at 5:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, during AJ's Annual Minyanaire Dinner. The Kabbalat Shabbat service will be held at 5:45 p.m., followed by a Shabbat dinner and the consecration at 6:30 p.m. Call 502-458-5359 or visit [adathjeshurun.com/minyandinner](http://adathjeshurun.com/minyandinner) to RSVP.

## Bridge Club

The Keneseth Israel Bridge Club meets Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the small chapel. RSVP to [gwishnia@gmail.com](mailto:gwishnia@gmail.com).

## Worship

### Tot Shabbat

Keneseth Israel will hold its next Tot Shabbat from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 1. The service is geared to children up until kindergarten. A kiddush lunch will follow. Miriam Bird and Rabbi Michael Wolk will lead. The regular service will still start at 9:30 a.m.

### No Shush Shabbat

Temple Shalom's next No Shush Shabbat will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7. Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottner and Benji Berlow will lead an interactive family service follow by dinner, on Temple Shalom, at the synagogue.

### Interfaith Shabbat

Darryl Glass, minister to students at

Fern Creek United Methodist Church and active in homeless outreach, will speak at The Temple's next Interfaith Shabbat, 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7.

## ShabbaTTogether

Chabad of Kentucky's next ShabbaTTogether will be held Feb. 7-8. The program will highlight disability inclusion and mental health and wellness. An "inclusive" havdallah program will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. For details, email [Rabbishmully@chabadky.com](mailto:Rabbishmully@chabadky.com).

## Short and Sweet Family Service

Students in grades K through 7, and their families, make take part in Adath Jeshurun's next Short and Sweet Family Service at 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 8. Rabbi Robert Slosberg will lead.

## Shabbat-Luck Dinner

Adath Jeshurun will host a Shabbat-Luck dinner on Friday, Feb. 14, a vegetarian/dairy potluck meal taking place after the conclusion of Kabbalat Shabbat services, around 6:30 p.m. Wine and dessert are included. No meat, nor meat by-products, may be brought into the building. Contact Cybil Flora at [flora1cl@gmail.com](mailto:flora1cl@gmail.com) for more information. Sign up at [adathjeshurun.com/potluck](http://adathjeshurun.com/potluck).

## Mini Minyan

Adath Jeshurun will hold its next Mini Minyan from 11 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 15. The program is for children ages 2-6 and their parents. Kentucky Homefront host John Gage will lead the music and storytelling.

## Service, dinner

Chabad will celebrate Shabbat on Friday, Feb. 14, at the Chabad House, 1654 Almara Circle. Kabbalat service starts at 6 p.m. 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.

## Shabbat Scholar

Asaf Angermann, UofL visiting assistant professor of philosophy and Jewish thought, will be Adath Jeshurun's next Shabbat Scholar on Saturday, Feb. 15, around 12:15 p.m., following the kiddush lunch. His topic will be "Love and Strangers: Modern Jewish and African American Perspectives."

## Scout Shabbat

The Temple will hold its Scout Shabbat, honoring Troop 30, at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 21. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will lead. E-cycle donations will be collected.

## Torah Yoga service

Rabbi Diane Tracht will lead her next Torah Yoga service for children from 11 to 11:45 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 22 at Adath Jeshurun. The service, which is connected to mussar (the Jewish practice of ethical qualities in body and spirit), is for grades K-7 and their parents. Wear comfortable clothing. Contact Tracht at [dianetracht@gmail.com](mailto:dianetracht@gmail.com) for details.

## Shabbat deli luncheon

Chabad will celebrate Shabbat at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 22, with a kosher deli kiddush luncheon to follow. The program is sponsored in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence.

Call 502-459-1770 for details.

## Family Shabbat

The Temple's next Family Shabbat will be held Friday, Feb. 28. Dinner will start at 6 p.m., Tot Shabbat (with one), 6:45 p.m., Family Shabbat (led by the fourth graders), 7 p.m. Cost for dinner is \$10 for adults, free for children 12 and under, \$5 for RSVPs made before Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 502-423-1818 or [thetemplelouky.org](http://thetemplelouky.org).

## Adult Education

### Adult Education Series

Chabad will offer Judaism's Gifts To The World, a four-week class exploring notable values and attitudes that Judaism has shared with humanity, on Mondays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Jewish Learning Center, 1110 Dupont Circle. The fee is \$60. To register, call 502-459-1770 or visit [myJLI.com](http://myJLI.com). The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is a sponsor.

### Lunch and Learn

Rabbi Michael Wolk's next lunch and learn will be held at noon, Thursday, Feb. 6 at The Bristol on Main Street (food sold separately). RSVP to [mwolk@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:mwolk@kenesethisrael.com).

### Kabbalah Month by Month

Cantor Sharon Hordes teaches a kabbalah class based on each Hebrew month's holidays, Torah portions, healing areas, astrological connections, and more. The next session is 6:15 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6. RSVP to 502-459-2780 or [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

### Family history class

Abby Glogower, curator of Jewish Collections at the Filson Historical Society, will lead a two-part class on organizing and preserving one's family history on Mondays, Feb. 10 and 17 at Keneseth Israel. Each class will follow minyan at 6 p.m. and a catered dinner. The cost is \$10 per person, which covers everything. RSVP by Friday, Jan. 31 to 502-459-2780 or [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com). Pay at [kenesethisrael.com/payment](http://kenesethisrael.com/payment) or by check. The Dr. Julius Wolk Dinyan Fund is sponsoring.

## Rabbi Dalia Marx



Rabbi Dalia Marx

Rabbi Dalia Marx, a Reform rabbi and 10th-generation Jerusalem resident, will be The Temple and Temple Shalom's scholar in residence from Feb. 14 to 19.

The Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem, Marx is involved in various research projects and is active in promoting liberal Judaism in Israel. She writes for academic and popular journals and publications and teaches in various academic institutions in Israel and Europe.

## Imagine Shabbat

Keneseth Israel's next Imagine Shabbat, which experiments with the traditional service model, will be held Saturday, Feb. 15. Breakfast with clergy will run from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m.; inter-

# AROUND TOWN/LIFE CYCLE

active Torah study, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m.; abridged traditional service, 10:30 a.m. to noon; "enhanced" kiddush lunch, noon.

## Torah Yoga

Cantor Sharon Hordes and Lisa Flannery's next Torah yoga class will be at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20, at Keneseth Israel. Temple Shalom and Hadasah are co-sponsors. RSVP to 502-459-2780 or [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

## Monday classes at Temple

The Temple offers the following adult education classes on Mondays: Advanced Hebrew, 6 to 7 p.m.; Text Study, Praying from My Heart vs Praying from the Prayer Book, with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, 7 to 8 p.m.; Beginning Hebrew Part 2 with Mark Goldstein 7-8 p.m. (to register, contact Goldstein at [mdgoldstein01@gmail.com](mailto:mdgoldstein01@gmail.com)) Contact The Temple for details.

## Wednesday Temple Scholars

The Temple offers the following Scholars classes on Wednesdays: Nationalism and Tribalism in a Global Era with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, 9:30 to 10:35 a.m.; American Jewish Herstory with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport from 10:45 a.m. to noon. Contact The Temple for details.

## Torah study

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel leads Torah Study Saturdays in the Fishman Library before the morning service. Coffee, bagels and cream cheese are served.

## Jews and Brews

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

## Brown Bag Torah study

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner leads Torah study Tuesdays at noon at Temple Shalom. Participants bring their own lunches.

## Tu B'Shevat

### Mini Mensches

The Temple will mark Tu B'Shevat by introducing its Mini Mensches program for fourth through sixth grades at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9, in the Klein Center. The students will socialize, and work on a tikkun olam project.

### Tu B'Shevat Seder

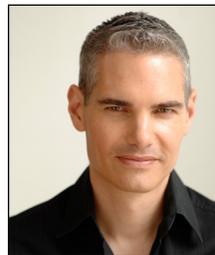
The Temple will hold its annual WRJ-sponsored Tu B'Shevat seder at 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10. The seder will include all varieties of tree fruits, music and chocolate fondue. Cost is \$10 for adults, free for children 12 and under, \$5 for RSVPs before Tuesday, Feb. 4. RSVP to 502-423-1818 or [thetemplelouky.org](http://thetemplelouky.org).

## Purim

### Hamantaschen bake

Adath Jeshurun's annual Hamantaschen Bake will be held at 12:45 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 23. Following a pizza lunch, participants learn to make hamantaschen for themselves and for Jewish nursing homes and assisted-living residents. Cards to go with the pastries will be decorated. Cost is \$5 per family. RSVP by Feb. 17 at [adathjeshurun.com/hamantaschen](http://adathjeshurun.com/hamantaschen) or at 502-458-5359.

## Chasnoff for Purim



Joel Chasnoff

Temple Shalom will present Jewish comedian Joel Chasnoff for a Purim performance for adults on Sunday, March 8. Chasnoff is the author of *The 188th Crybaby Brigade*, a satirical memoir about his service in an Israeli army tank unit. The Chicago native has appeared on stage and screen in nine countries, including two off-Broadway shows and a USO comedy tour in Korea and Japan. He has appeared at more than 1,000 Jewish events in North America, Europe and Israel. More details about the show will be released as they become available.

## Purim Magic

Chabad will hold a family Purim program – Purim Magic, Illusion and Deli – at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 11 at Standard Country Club. Call 502-459-1770.

## B'nai Mitzvah

### Matthew Spencer Schwartz



Matthew Spencer Schwartz, son of Allison and Ari Schwartz, brother of Alex, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, at The Temple.

Matthew is the grandson of Terry and Jeffrey Weis, Marcie Schwartz and Mark and Janet Schwartz.

A seventh grader at Kammerer Middle School, Matthew is a member of the tennis and baseball teams and founder of the school ski club. He has attended Camp Livingston for the past six years. Matthew loves spending time with his friends, playing sports, playing with his dogs and snow skiing as much as he can.

In addition to volunteering 13 hours of community service, Matthew is donating a portion of his bar mitzvah gifts to the Camp Livingston Scholarship Program.

Matthew and his family invite the community to celebrate his becoming a bar mitzvah and to join them at the kiddush luncheon following the service.

## Obituaries

### Dr. Leah Joan Dickstein



Dr. Leah Joan Dickstein, 85, former president of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), Vice President of the American Psychiatric Association, and Founder and President of the Association of Women Psychiatrists (AWP) passed away after a short illness on Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Born on Aug. 17, 1934, in Brooklyn, New York, a daughter of William David Chernoble, an immigrant from Russia and printing press operator, and Sa-

dye Rebecca Engelman, a teacher, she developed an early interest in mental health as she helped care for her own mother who struggled with depression, and her younger sister, Renee, while her father served in the Navy during World War II.

At 16, Leah graduated from Erasmus Hall High School and went on to Brooklyn College, where she was told she had no scientific ability and should not consider attending medical school. Instead, Leah earned master's degree in teaching.

She married Herbert Dickstein, another Brooklyn native, in 1955, and helped him complete medical school in Ghent, Belgium, where he attended due to restrictive quotas on Jews in U.S. medical schools.

When they returned to the States, Leah spent seven years as a sixth-grade teacher at PS 110 in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and had her first son, Stuart.

Herbert then helped Leah complete premedical courses at Queens College. The family then moved to Louisville, where she was accepted at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She graduated in 1970 as one of six women in a class of over 120.

"Dr. D," as she became known to her patients and students, spent 37 years in Louisville as a psychiatrist, professor and administrator at the medical school, treating, mentoring, and befriending thousands of medical students, residents, faculty and staff. She served as associate dean of faculty and student advocacy, associate dean for student affairs and director of the Division of Attitudinal and Behavioral Medicine and Arts in Medicine Program. She co-founded and directed the Health Awareness Workshop, a week-long orientation event that sought to develop physician, physical and mental health before it was in vogue.

Leah had two more sons, Daniel and Steven, and the entire family helped in her nationally recognized program that taught generations of future physicians how to maintain their humanity during their careers.

As a clinician, Leah was available day or night, giving out her home number to all patients in an era when there were no cell phones.

A regional and national leader, she loved attending professional meetings worldwide, developing a large cadre of physician women leaders, whom she helped break the "Lexan ceiling" – a term coined by her husband, Herbert, to describe the barriers that women faced. She also mentored "men of good conscience."

In a highlight of her travels, she decided during the First International Conference on Women's Health in Shanghai, to lead a Passover seder in a government office, which, at one time, had been a synagogue, her Chinese hosts told her.

Beginning in the 1980s, she became a researcher of the Holocaust. She lectured, wrote, and conducted video interviews of survivors – Jewish and Catholic – in the United States, Europe and Israel. In all her professional adventures, her family was by her side, serving as cameramen or schleppers.

She served on many local boards, including Adath Jeshurun, JFVS, the JCRC Yom HaShoah Commemora-

tion, UofL Hillel, UofL Medical School Alumni Association, St. Francis School, and Planned Parenthood.

She also belonged to the American, and Kentucky Medical Associations, Greater Louisville Medical Society, and Friends of the Kornhauser Library.

Leah is survived by Herbert, her husband of 64 years; her sons Stuart (Dr. Nancy Shapiro) of Cambridge, Dr. Daniel (Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs) of Barrington, Rhode Island, and Dr. Steven (Dr. Elissa Nelson) of White Plains, New York; and adored grandchildren, Zev, Gefen, Jacob, Yona, Maddie and Hannah.

The funeral was held in Cedar Park and Beth El Cemeteries, Paramus, New Jersey. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Leah's memory to the Association of Women Psychiatrists, PO Box 570218, Dallas, TX 75357-0218, or [association-ofwomenpsychiatrists.com](http://association-ofwomenpsychiatrists.com).

## Riva Jane Drutz



Riva Jane (Goldstein) Drutz, 98, passed away on Friday, Dec. 20, at Nazareth Nursing Home/Clifton. A Louisville native, Riva graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in applied arts. She then completed a master's degree in teaching, specializing in early childhood education, from the University of Louisville.

She was married to Ben Drutz for 46 years before his death in 1994.

Riva held offices in the Association for Children Under Six, at the local and state levels. She taught kindergarten at the Eliahu Academy and transitioned to Adath Jeshurun as director of the preschool, while also teaching kindergarten.

On Sundays, Riva taught at Temple Adath Israel. After 14 years as Director of the AJ preschool, she stepped down but continued to teach kindergarten as well as Sunday school.

After 21 years at AJ's preschool, she retired and volunteered to call for Tele-Care for 20 years.

Away from the classroom, She was a watercolorist and a firm believer in daily exercise. Her motto in life was, "Do what you can; something is better than nothing."

Riva is survived by a son, Michael; a daughter Debbie Lutkenhoff (Bob) of Cincinnati; two grandsons, Evan of California, Keith of Cincinnati; two great-grandchildren, Sierra and Lincoln; a sister, Miriam Godhelff, two sisters-in-law, Daisy Goldstein and Clarice Drutz.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, Irvin Goldstein.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 23, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy to Congregation Adath Jeshurun; The AJ Preschool; Senior Club at The J; Dorothy and Henry Fund c/o Adath Jeshurun or any charity of the donor's choice.

# LIFE CYCLE

Continued from page 20

## Irma Faye Green

Irma Faye Green, 81, died Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, in Louisville.

The eldest child of Jack and Minnie (Rosenberg) Green, Irma was retired from the Workers Compensation Office in Frankfort.

She is survived by her brother, Irving H. Green.

Graveside funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 23, in Anshei Sfarad Cemetery.

## Rabbi Louis Allen Rieser



Rabbi Louis Allen Rieser, 71, died Wednesday, Jan. 15, at his home in Boynton Beach, Florida.

Born in Louisville on Nov. 5, 1948, a son of the late Albert and Ellen Rieser, Reiser was the rabbi for several Hillels during his career and served the congregation of Temple Israel in Greenfield, Massachusetts, from 1982 until 1997. His last position was Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry, New Hampshire, where he served from 1997 until his retirement in 2011.

He has published extensively on many topics, and authored *The Hillel Narratives*, which was published in 2009. Even after his retirement, he remained active, regularly teaching at

local synagogues and founding Nishmat Torah, a program teaching adult spirituality and meditation.

Rieser was a longtime teacher for The National Havurah Summer Institute.

He was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1975 and was a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

He received an honorary doctorate from HUC-JIR in 2000.

Rieser is survived by his wife, Connie; his children, Micha Rieser and Zev Rieser (Britta); and eight grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Sunday, Jan. 19, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1½ Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038.

## Richard G. Segal



Richard G. Segal, a longtime practicing attorney in Louisville, died Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

Born Dec. 9, 1937, in Philadelphia, a son of the late Jacob and Irene Segal (Siegal), Richard was a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College and University of Pennsylvania Law School, and passed the Bar in the Pennsylvania, Kentucky

and Indiana. A partner in the law firm of Segal & Shanks, Richard recently retired, finishing his career at Lynch, Cox, Gilman and Goodman.

He enjoyed a good golf game, lunch out with friends, good conversation and fun. Mostly, he enjoyed family time and was blessed to have family around for good times and through his final days.

Possessed of a great wit, he enjoyed sharing stories from his many interesting, and often hilarious, trials.

He was a member of Standard Country Club, the Masons and was a Kentucky Colonel.

He was devout in his beliefs and was a member of The Temple.

Richard is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marsha Segal; his sons, Dr. James E. Segal (Caroline Lussky) and Brian E. Segal (Christon); and grandchildren, Dalton Segal, Caroline Courtenay, William Courtenay, Andrew Segal and Jack Segal.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Edith and Charlotte, their spouses, and his grandson, Colin Alexander Segal.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 9, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. In his memory, contributions may be made to The Temple or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Betty F. Younger

Betty F. Younger passed away on Sun-



day, Jan. 26, 2020, at Forest Springs Health Campus.

Born in Louisville on March 2, 1924, the daughter of the late Raymond and Carolyn Frankel, Betty was a nurses' aide during World War II, later attend-

ed the University of Louisville, then became a real estate agent.

She enjoyed family and friends, and was active in PTAs, National Council of Jewish Women, Adath Jeshurun Sisterhood and B'nai Brith.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin D. Younger; her son, Robert (Christine) Younger; and daughter, Sally (Peter) Younger.

She is survived by her daughter, Peggy Younger; a son, Jon (Kim) Younger; son-in-law, Peter Pearlman; and nine grandchildren, Marcee (Steven) Woza-dlo, Jeremy Younger, Joshua Younger, Barbara Sloss, Leslie Kornblith (Nick), Bernard Pearlman, Zachary Shields, Noah Younger and David Younger. She had eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Jan. 27, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Donations may be made to Adath Jeshurun or the Sally K. Younger Fund at Adath Jeshurun, the American Cancer Society or Hosparus Health.

## The Jewish Community of Louisville gratefully acknowledges donations to the following

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#### THE JUDITH BENSINGER SENIOR ADULT FUND

In Memory of Estelle Gordon Cohen  
Carl Bensinger

#### THE JILL SIMON PRESIDENT'S FUND

In Honor of the special Birthday of Jill Simon  
Lois & Ivan Marks  
In Honor of the Birthday of Jill Simon  
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#### THE SIDNEY WINCHELL FAMILY FUND

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Nancy Balf  
Wishing Good Health and Joy in 2020 and Beyond to  
Arlene Brest  
In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of the Grandson of Evie  
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#### JAY LEVINE YOUTH FUND

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Buddy Goldberg  
Diane Levine

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

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In Memory of Dr. Leah Joan Dickstein  
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In Memory of Richard Segal  
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In Memory of Stanley Kreinik  
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#### JCC NEW BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Dorothy Rouben  
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In Honor of the Retirement of Mickey Shuster  
In Memory of Susan Salamon  
In Memory of Dorothy Rouben  
Shallie Branson & Ralph Green

#### JCC NEW BUILDING FUND – PAULINE PEARLSON FUND

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Sam Gordon  
Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Arthur Davis  
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Max Kreitman  
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## GLOBE

## Key points of Trump Middle East peace plan explained

By Gabe Friedman  
JTA

President Donald Trump unveiled his long-awaited Middle East peace plan on Tuesday, and the release event was a doozy.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joined Trump at a news conference and compared it to President Harry Truman's recognition of the State of Israel in 1948. Netanyahu also snuck in the fact that as part of the plan's starting framework, he will look to apply Israeli sovereignty over territory that much of the international community considers illegally occupied.

In the most basic sense, the plan is a two-state solution. But the statements from Trump and Netanyahu, along with the text of the plan, which was released in full (181 pages) have already triggered a wave of speculation and more than a little confusion.

Here's a breakdown:

#### Two states, sort of

At its core, the plan proposes a two-state solution, ideally envisioning an autonomous Palestinian state. This line of thinking, endorsed by every U.S. president dating back to Bill Clinton in the 1990s, has lost some support since Trump took office.

However, as U.S. Ambassador David Friedman stressed in a phone call with reporters following the news conference, Israel would retain security control over

all the land that would include a Palestinian state. So even though the Palestinians would have their own system of government throughout their state, Israeli forces would still be allowed to patrol and exert their will in the area.

That is essentially how Israeli soldiers act now. They are not a constant presence in Palestinian areas, but they move in and out as they please.

But another provision of the plan – allowing Palestinians to move freely between the West Bank and Gaza – would be a major change. Palestinians currently cannot move between the two areas without Israeli approval, which is rarely granted. Family members and others would no longer be separated as they are now.

#### Borders for a Palestinian state

The plan also contains something that past U.S. proposals haven't included: a specific map that delineates what the potential Israeli and Palestinian state borders would be.

The proposed Palestinian state would consist of most of the West Bank (about 80 percent, according to estimates), the mostly undeveloped territory between Jerusalem and Jordan, and Gaza.

The plan also leaves the possibility of later adding the so-called "Triangle" — a collection of Arab towns adjacent to the West Bank but part of Israel proper — to a Palestinian state, if both parties agree.

#### Controversial moves for Israel

Under the plan, controversial parts of

the West Bank would become officially recognized Israeli territory.

This includes all of the Israeli "communities" — code word for settlements — that are dotted throughout the potential future Palestinian state, as well as the Jordan Valley.

#### A four-year time frame

The plan gives the Israelis and Palestinians four years to accept these borders.

Netanyahu announced at Tuesday's news conference that during that time, Israel will freeze any new settlement construction that would encroach on the Palestinian state outlined in the peace plan.

However, he also said that Israel will look to immediately "apply its laws" to existing settlements and the Jordan Valley, whether or not the Palestinians signal that they will buy into the U.S. proposal.

#### Subtle semantics

To some, this may sound like Netanyahu is using the plan's release as an opportunity to annex that territory right away, as he has long desired.

Netanyahu was careful not to use the word "annex," preferring the "apply its law" usage. That could be his way of making the dramatic move more palatable to the international community, which undoubtedly will criticize the Israeli leader. He is bringing the idea to a Cabinet vote on Sunday.

Moving forward, look for the language

over this issue to be debated.

#### Hamas has to go

Another key part of the plan involves dismantling Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Hamas currently governs Gaza with an iron fist, so removing it would significantly change the coastal strip.

Palestinian officials also would have to agree to stop its policy of paying the families of terrorists who attack Israelis.

#### High-speed rail

The plan also aims to create a high-speed rail connection between the West Bank and Gaza, two Palestinian areas that feel physically sequestered because of Israeli security policies. The plan says that the accord has the "potential to facilitate more than \$50 billion of investment over ten years." It's not clear where that would come from, but it likely means the United States and Arab states.

#### Slim chance of success

It's safe to say, at least at this point, that the plan's chance of success — success meaning that the Palestinians will agree to it — is close to nil.

Its mere release is a win for Netanyahu. The only thing that might worry him is the reaction from Israeli settlers, one of his key demographics.

The Palestinians will almost certainly will object. The proposed lack of security control is a likely deal breaker, and the settlements present all kinds of complications. It would be a Swiss cheese state.

But could it jump-start new talks? Stay tuned.

## PANTRY

Continued from page 1

party. Later, staffers handed out reusable shopping bags for future donations.

The new pantry is more visible than its old space toward the back of the building. It is now located just off the main lobby and has two rooms instead of one — one for storage, the other an open shopping space where clients may make their own grocery/personal needs selections.

That last feature is a big reason why the JFCS secured a \$10,000 Dare to Care/CareSource grant to upgrade the pantry, according to Laura Frankrone, partner development coordinator at Dare to Care Food

Bank.

"People can shop as if in a store," Frankrone said. "We really liked that concept."

The new pantry, which serves about 120 people per month, also has two new refrigerator/freezers donated by General Electric, better addressing the constant problem of food insecurity in the community.

"What you see in the new pantry is truly moving us from strength to strength," said JFCS Chief Executive Officer Deb Frockt.

In welcoming guests to the grand reopening, Frockt said the food pantry serves clients who find their incomes "insufficient to meet their basic needs."

People have too little to eat for many different reasons, she said,

including taking care of others' needs before their own. Frockt described one woman, the owner of a service dog, who fed her pet before she ate.

In paying tribute to the community work of Sonny and Janet Meyer, the namesakes of the pantry, and bemoaning the divisiveness and hate speech across the country, Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fischer urged everyone present to "be loud with compassion and kindness, and make sure that prevails in society."

To make room for the revamped pantry, which was formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, JFCS has moved its Quiet Room, a "respite" where clients can wait for their appointments, across the hall.

Frockt also thanked the Jewish Federation of Louisville, the Jewish

Heritage Fund for Excellence, Metro United Way and her predecessor, Judy Freundlich Tiell, for supporting the pantry.

Though the ceremony was billed as a "grand reopening," the pantry stayed open during its move to the new space.

"Seamless service," Frockt said.

Finally, Sonny Meyer said the grand reopening comes on the heels of a High Holy Days food drive in which the community donated more than 8,000 pounds of groceries, often utilizing the most modern way to perform the mitzvah.

"We had Amazon trucks showing up for days," Meyer told the crowd. "Thank you, thank you, thank you again."

## PROGRAM

Continued from page 1

That's why JCRC is working with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to bring to the Louisville area a professional education program to help teachers, administrators and curriculum specialists, stemming anti-Semitism in their schools.

The program, which is still in the planning stages is expected to be rolled out in a few months.

It would bring ADL staff here to train educators how to spot hate activity and how best to respond when incidents occur.

Specifically, the program will be initially rolled out in Oldham County Public Schools, where the most recent

anti-Semitic incidents have been reported. (Other recent anti-Semitic activity has been reported at a local private school, with the head of the school responding in an appropriate and constructive manner).

In addition, the program will work to establish a "No Place for Hate" designation that schools could earn by meeting certain criteria.

This effort comes at a time when violence against Jews in America is surging.

In Brooklyn, several Orthodox Jews have been attacked and beaten.

In Jersey City, two gunmen opened fire at a kosher supermarket, killing four.

In Monsey, New York, a machete-wielding man entered the home of an Orthodox rabbi during a Chanukah party, injuring five guests,

one of whom remains hospitalized, comatose, and tethered to a respirator.

There has been no report of violence against Jews in local schools, but anti-Semitic slurs — and swastikas — have been reported. The JCRC has sent speakers to those schools — Holocaust survivor Fred Gross, rabbis, Goldberg himself — to talk to the students and school officials.

"Any time there are incidents of anti-Semitism, we want to meet with heads of school," Goldberg said. "We want to make sure they are handling it properly."

He added that the ADL already has free curricula online that teachers can use in their classrooms.

Some schools are being proactive in their responses to anti-Semitism. For instance, eighth graders at St.

Francis of Assisi School recently demonstrated along Bardstown Road in support of the Jewish community. Motorists honked and waved to back them.

In the past, Goldberg said, school officials didn't always take anti-Semitism so seriously, treating the incidents as one-time events.

That's changing, he said.

"People are more aware of the atmosphere here, in the world or the country," he said. "Heads of school want to nip this in the bud before it becomes a real problem."

Still, he's concerned that some anti-Semitic incidents in the schools go unreported.

"My fear is, for every issue we hear of, there's one we have not heard of," Goldberg said. "We can only deal with the issues we have heard of."

# TOPICS

Continued from page 1

things on the journey he's taking, shooting big animals under water without protection, showing nature can live in harmony."

Menkin could also speak on his plans to remake his previous documentaries, including *On the Map* and *Dolphin Boy*, as feature films.

"What I do now is turn my documentaries into narratives. All the films I have had, I'm working on turning them into feature films, even though I shot them as documentaries."

As for the other speakers:

- Glogower will speak after the screening of *Carl Leammle*, a film about the founder of Universal Pictures who saved more than 300 Jewish families during the war. She said she will make connections between the film and local Jewish history.
- Angermann is the only speaker who will appear following two screenings – *The Unorthodox*, about the founder of Israel's Shas Party, and *Born in Jerusalem and Still Alive*, a dark comedy about a young man who leads tours of terrorist attack sites. He said he will give background and context for both films. "For *Born in Jerusalem*, I will talk about the situation in Israel and in Palestine in the late 1990s-early



The 22nd Annual Louisville Jewish Film Festival runs Feb. 9 through March 3.

2000s and daily life under constant danger of terrorist attacks," he said. "For *The Unorthodox*, I will speak about some systematic racial discrimination in Israel that led to the formation of the Shas party, and whether it provided a solution to the problem." He will not give a full political analysis and history of Shas.

- Tracht will speak after *Shoelaces*, the story of an estranged father of an adult special needs son, who becomes his chief caregiver after his ex-wife dies. Tracht will moderate a conversation about whatever the audience brings to

the table. "Maybe there will be people with special needs who will talk about their own experiences, maybe people who just really like movies will talk about the plot," she said.

- Shapiro will speak after *Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz*. He will address how this story of a Nuremberg war crimes prosecutor "compels us to follow the rule of law, weaving his views that the United States should join the International Criminal Court."
- Kofman will speak after the screening of *Leona*, the story of a Jewish woman in Mexico City

who discovers forbidden love. He will facilitate a discussion on issues of gender, the development of identities in a contemporary Jewish Latin-American context and the transformation and interpretation of Jewish ritual.

- Fred Gross will be speaking after, *The Light of Hope*, the story of a Red Cross nurse who helped hundreds of Jewish refugees on the Spanish border during the war. He said he will use his talk to focus on "heroes on the side of life."

For instance, he said, Italian diplomats in Nice, France were instrumental in saving Jewish lives, including his own.

"They are all my light of hope," Gross said. "I am forever grateful to them."

### Want to go?

The 22nd Louisville Jewish Film Festival runs from Feb. 8 to March 3. Thirteen documentaries and feature films will be presented. The opening night picture, *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, the story behind the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, will be screened at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, at Bellarmine University's Cralle Theatre. A post-reception and music by Emily and Monty Fields will follow. Visit [jewishlouisville.org/filmfestival](http://jewishlouisville.org/filmfestival) or call 502-459-0660 for tickets, times, dates and venues.

# KLEINMAN

Continued from page 1

*Tel Aviv on Fire*," he told *Community*, "and I'm very pleased by that."

The movie is about Salam, a struggling Palestinian writer from Jerusalem who works on a popular soap opera produced in Ramallah, *Tel Aviv on Fire*. Salam gets ideas for the storyline from the Israeli commander at the checkpoint he passes through each day to and from work. But when the commander presses him for an ending that will please his wife – a big fan of the show – that conflicts with the producer's own ideas, he finds himself in a difficult situation. Who shall he please?

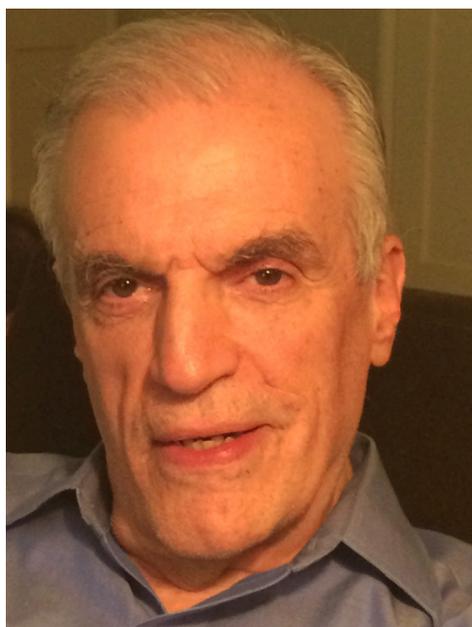
"It's a comedy," Kleinman said of the movie. "There are obvious comments on the nature of the conflict in Israel, but we were going for comedy."

*Tel Aviv on Fire* is Kleinman's first foreign language film, though he wrote the screenplay in English.

The idea for the film came from his writing partner, Sameh Zoabi.

"Dan was my professor at Columbia, and he always had a great insight and gave constructive criticism on my scripts," Zoabi said. "So when I had the idea for *Tel Aviv on Fire*, I shared it with him. The idea was in its early stage, and we started meeting and fleshing out the idea."

The story is based on real life moments Zoabi experienced,



Daniel Kleinman

Kleinman said.

"When his first feature film came out, there were people who told him it was too Jewish; there were people who told him it was too Arabic. He wanted to make a film about being caught between two narratives."

The collaboration was perfect for Kleinman, who prefers writing with a partner.

"If he (Zoabi) gives me an idea, I try to give it back to him a little better and vice versa," he said. "We spark each other; it's very nice."

Since its release, *Tel Aviv on Fire*, which has played in theaters around

the world, has garnered many accolades.

It won the Ofer, Israel's version of the Academy Award, for best screenplay, was nominated for the European Film Award for best comedy and won the Asia Pacific Screen Award for best screenplay.

Best of all, it has played at Arab and Jewish film festivals to rave reviews.

At the Westside JCC (Manhattan), Kleinman said the audience "was in stitches from beginning to end."

The same for festivals in Austin and Haifa, he said, though he sensed in Haifa that the Arabs and Jews in the audience were reacting differently to the jokes.

While he sees the movie as a comedy, Kleinman believes its positive reception is due, in part to its honest treatment, sans politics, of living in what many in Israel have called "the situation."

"I think it won these prizes because it's not only funny, but because it has some significance behind it."

The son of Louis Kleinman, who worked for the L&N Railroad for 50 years, and Blumie Krentzman Kleinman, Kleinman said he grew up hanging out at the JCC and was even present for its grand opening.

He graduated from Atherton High School in 1961, considered something of a math genius.

"I was going to be a mathematician," he said. "If you looked at old files of

the *Courier-Journal*, you would find a few articles about me as a high school wiz in mathematics."

Which is what he studied at Princeton University, but he also ran the film series, charged with selected the movies that played on campus each week.

"In those days, you had to run 16mm films; there was no video," he said. "They'd send it in reels of 16 mm and I was picking which films to show .... When the cans came I was able to screen them in my dorm privately; I just fell in love with film."

After college, instead of continuing his math studies, he attend film school at New York University and eventually taught there before moving to Columbia.

In addition to *Tel Aviv on Fire*, his other feature film credits are *Rage* (1972), a drama with George C. Scott, and *Ultra Warrior* (1990), a sci-fi comedy.

He's written several other screenplays that have not been made into movies.

For his next project, Kleinman is teaming with Zoabi again to write a romantic comedy set in the Arab world.

"It's pure joy to work with Dan," Zoabi said. "That's why I continue to work with Dan."

Likewise for Kleinman.

"This is the first time I found a writing partner with the same comedy instincts I have."

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