

# JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



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FRIDAY Vol. 46, No. 05 | May 29, 2020 | 6 Sivan 5780

## Community Reopening

### Health & Wellness to lead the way in gradual JCC reopening

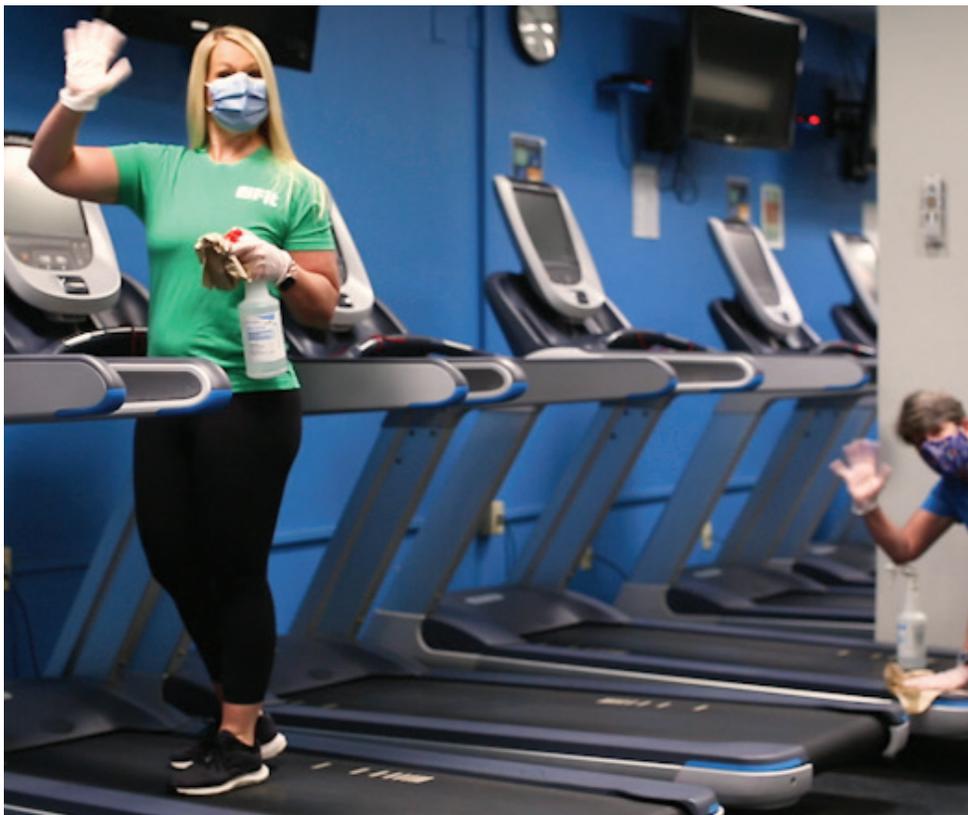
By Lee Chottiner  
*Community Editor*

Following Gov. Andy Beshear's plan for a phased loosening of closures around the state, the JCC has announced it will reopen its Health & Wellness Center on June 1.

It will mark the first phase in the reopening of the Dutchmans Lane facility, which has been closed to the public since March 13.

"Health & Wellness is our first opportunity to open our doors, and it makes the most sense," said Sara Klein Wagner, president & CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville. "People have been cooped up in their houses. Using Health & Wellness to keep a

See **HEALTH** on page 15



Susan Kwasny, senior director of health & wellness, and Amy Stephen, member services director, deep clean exercise equipment as part of the preparation for the reopening of the JCC health and wellness area. (Community photo by Jessica Budnick)

### Anshei Sfarad to become first synagogue to reopen here

By Lee Chottiner  
*Community Editor*

Anshei Sfarad will become the first Louisville synagogue to reopen after two months of closure to stem the spread of the coronavirus. The rest are staying closed for now.

In an emailed announcement Tuesday, Anshei Sfarad said it will reopen, starting with Shavuot, at 9 a.m., Friday, May 29. Minyans will be capped at 16. There will be no kiddush, and worshippers must wear masks, stay at least six feet apart and preferably bring their own prayer books.

Anshei Sfarad had planned to reopen on May 23, but following an Orthodox Union webinar with Dr. Anthony Fau-

See **SYNAGOGUES** on page 15

## Now is the time to 'ReOpen, ReNew, ReCenter,' leadership says

By Stacy Gordon-Funk, Matt Goldberg and Angie Fleitz  
*For Community*

At the Jewish Community Center of Louisville, compassion is part of our DNA.

We see it every day in our Early Learning Center teachers who are seamlessly transitioning from their traditional classrooms to an online rhythm; in our staff that is delivering increased numbers of direct-to-home meals to seniors; and in our supporters who are stepping up to fill the gap where our critical resources have been compromised.

Despite the pandemic, and all the havoc it's caused, the business of serving our community remains strong. Community is who we are.

This will take all of us coming together. Now, more than ever, we are leaning on each other for reassurance and support. Together, we are strong and will remain the vibrant JCC.

As we prepare to reopen our doors, we

are adapting to new and relevant ways of doing things. The health and safety of all who enter our building has been, and always will be, our highest priority.

But because of the pandemic, we are facing necessary higher costs to keep our community safe.

We hope to overcome this challenge through a new initiative we call, ReOpen, ReNew, ReCenter. Here's more about it:

**We will ReOpen.** Starting with the health and wellness areas of our facility, we are reopening and welcoming all of our members who have made us a part of their lives and who are a part of the life and energy of the JCC. We look forward to welcoming our families back, our campers back and anyone and everyone who is and wants to be a part of the Jewish Community Center of Louisville very soon.

**We will ReNew.** It may be tough and it definitely will be different. But we know that with you, we will have a place and a community where we will continue to be welcoming, and we will welcome all.

**We will ReCenter.** We will be open to new ways of doing things. We will be open to new ideas. We will be open to change. We may have to recenter ourselves in how we consider gathering, keeping each other healthy and/or supporting each other.

We are thankful for Bud and Sandy Schardein and Steven Goldberg for taking the lead in supporting the ReOpen, ReNew, ReCenter initiative. We are honored to acknowledge these families for stepping up during a difficult time.

As we protect, first and foremost, the safety and health of our members, funds raised through our ReOpen, ReNew, ReCenter initiative will be used to sustain

the additional staffing, security and supplies needed to operate our JCC.

All acts of kindness are greatly appreciated and we have designated supportive partnership opportunities at the \$500, \$1800 and \$2500 levels. Please consider contributing to this critical cause. Our development team will be happy to speak with you about your gift.

What we do right now matters, and we will be remembered for this moment in time. With renewed hope and strength in fulfilling our mission to be a community rooted in Jewish culture and values providing a pathway in a changing world, we are once again coming together to discover, connect and flourish.

#### Want to help?

For more information or to consider giving, please contact Angie Fleitz at 502-767-1553.

welcome  
back to your **JCC**



# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### Celebrating Shavuot at home



D'var Torah  
Rabbi Shmully  
Litvin

As of this writing, Jews worldwide are observing the holiday of Shavuot, when more than 3,000 years ago, G-d gave the Torah at Mount Sinai.

There is a tangible feeling of *achdut* (unity) when we relive the Torah being given to the entire nation as one.

This always fills me with a sense of purpose and excitement, reminding me that we are all essential to the formation of *Am Yisroel* (the people of Israel) and to our mission to make the world a dwelling place for G-d.

We will not attend services in person this year, but I have some ideas for celebrating the holiday at home – physically apart, but spiritually connected.

Traditionally, on *erev* Shavuot, Jews stay awake all night studying Torah. The giving of the Torah is described as the wedding between us and G-d. Just as a bride goes to great lengths to look her best for the wedding, we spend the hours before our betrothal to G-d adorning and beautifying ourselves spiritually by studying the Torah. It is also taught that the night before G-d gave us the Torah, the Jewish people slept deeply. When G-d arrived to give them the Torah, they were still asleep! To rectify this omission, we remain awake on this night, studying Torah.

Thankfully, we are staying home at a time in the age of the internet when the teachings of our faith and the Torah are more available than ever. Read about the Ten Commandments and prepare some interesting subjects to study. Perhaps each family member can choose a topic or story. Join virtually as the entire nation prepares for the giving of the Torah.

Read the Book of Ruth, the Moabite princess who sacrificed a life of luxury

to live as a poor and simple convert to Judaism. She suffered poverty and discrimination at first, but her piety was noticed by the prominent Jewish leader, Boaz, who eventually married her. She merited to give birth to the ancestor of King David, whose birthday and passing are on Shavuot. Ruth was the quintessential convert. She made a great sacrifice to embrace Judaism with all her heart. Her story teaches us that whoever sacrifices greatly to become a Jew contributes to Judaism in unique ways. It is appropriate to read this book on Shavuot, when the Jewish people converted *en masse* into Judaism.

Another fun home project is to adorn your home with flowers and trees. This helps us remember how the barren Mount Sinai miraculously sprouted greenery when the Torah was given, and the flowers remind us of our happiness over receiving the Torah.

Other observances of Jewish holidays include the lighting of the holiday candles (May 28 at 8:40 p.m., May 29, 8:41 p.m.). We also can delight in festive meals with kiddush, challah and all our favorite foods. Many have the custom of eating dairy dishes on Shavuot, remembering that the Torah is compared to honey and milk. Also, the Jews were unable to eat meat when the Torah was given because the laws had just been given. However, since it was Shabbat, they were unable to slaughter new animals or kosher their dishes. Hence, they ate dairy.

May we experience the giving of the Torah joyfully. And as we recover from this pandemic, may we merit complete healing for the world, with the final redemption and the coming of the *moshiach*, (messiah). Amen. Happy Shavuot!

*We continue to daven and pray for all who have fallen ill, among them my dear friend Yudi, a young father of six, Chaim Schneur Zalman Yehuda ben Hinda Yocheved. If anyone has names of those in need of healing, please send them to shmully@chabadky.com for inclusion in our prayers.*

## Snapshots: Meal Deliveries



Alayna Altman wheels bags of meals to her car from the JCC kitchen for delivery to seniors. Several JCC staff members have volunteered to make deliveries during the coronavirus pandemic. (Community photo)

## Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in May:

- June 5 @ 8:45 p.m.
- June 12 @ 8:49 p.m.
- June 19 @ 8:51 p.m.
- June 26 @ 8:52 p.m.

## Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community Editor* Lee Chottiner at [lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lchottiner@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, June 17 (though sooner is better).

Submitting an item for *Community's*

weekly eblast? Please submit it by Friday. The eblast is sent out every Monday afternoon.

## Corrections

Have a correction? Send it to [lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org).

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## NEWS

## Berg makes second run for Kentucky Senate in special election

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Dr. Karen Berg is again on the campaign trail.

The Jewish Louisville physician, who ran unsuccessfully for the state Senate from the 26th District in 2018, has been named the Democratic candidate for that same seat in the June 23 special election to succeed the incumbent, Sen. Ernie Harris, who recently resigned with 2½ years left on his term.

She will face Oldham County Republican William “Bill” Ferko. The 26th District includes parts of Jefferson and all of Oldham counties.

If she wins, Berg says she will become the first female physician to serve in the legislature. She could also become the only Jewish member in either house. (Another Jewish candidate, Daniel Grossberg, is running for the Democratic nomination for the 30th House District against incumbent Tom Burch.)

Both campaigns have implications for Jewish representation in Frankfort.

Berg, a diagnostic radiologist at the University of Louisville Hospital, told Community she decided to run because more people with “healthcare expertise” are needed in the capital.

But she also cited her Jewishness as



Dr. Karen Berg could become the first female physician to serve in the Kentucky General Assembly and its only Jewish member if she wins a special election in June.

motivation for the work she does.

“It is important to have leadership in Frankfort that reflects that great diversity of Kentucky,” Berg said. “My faith drives me to be compassionate, respectful and help people in every way I can.”

Most states that border Kentucky have at least one Jewish representative in its legislature, but the Bluegrass State hasn’t had one since Kathy Stein, a Democrat from Lexington, left the House in 2013 to become a Fayette County Family Court judge.

Berg, who lost her last election by

approximately 3,000 votes, likes her chances better this time.

“Since that time, Andy Beshear was able to win the district by almost 10 percentage points,” she said. “He did not actually win Oldham County, but he won enough votes on the Jefferson County side to win the district.”

She also has a new campaign manager – Eric Hyers, who ran Beshear’s campaign.

But there is a big question mark hanging over this campaign: the coronavirus.

Beshear has signed an executive or-

der permitting, for this election at least, a no-excuse-necessary absentee ballot. Typically, Kentuckians can only vote absentee if they can demonstrate that they are unable to be at the polls on Election Day. Secretary of State Michael Adams will send out postcards to registered voters, instructing them how to request a mail-in ballot. In-person early voting will be open from June 8 through 23.

Berg couldn’t say how an uptick in absentee voting would affect her campaign. “It’s going to be a confusing process,” she said.

And traditional campaigning – knocking on doors, shaking hands – is out of the question because of the coronavirus.

Instead, the campaign, like others, is relying on post cards, neighbors calling neighbors and other alternatives, Hyers said.

“Digital organizing, friends reaching out to friends on Facebook, things like those things combined will be really effective,” he said.

#### Want to vote by mail?

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 16.

For more information, contact Kristi Gay, administrator, absentee voting and candidate info, at [kgay@JeffersonCountyClerk.org](mailto:kgay@JeffersonCountyClerk.org) or 502-574-5886.

## Do Jewish lawmakers still matter? ‘Yes, yes, yes,’ one says

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

No Jews have been elected to the Kentucky General Assembly since 2013. Are they missed?

It’s an open question whether Jewish representation in state legislatures is relevant in the 21st century, when organized religion is declining and inter-faith marriage is widely accepted.

In Kentucky alone, the legislature has passed two noteworthy bills important to Jews – the Holocaust education act and the anti-BDS measure – without a single Jewish vote.

So, is a Jewish voice in a legislature – any legislature – really necessary?

“Yes, yes, yes; absolutely,” said Rep. Jared Solomon of Philadelphia, a representative in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. “On the global level, I don’t think anybody, whether it’s legislative, business or nonprofit, can truly achieve excellence unless there’s a diverse grouping of voices. Diversity matters.”

Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said Jewish candidates ought not to shy away from their identity when running for office.

“As a minority faith community, we welcome candidates talking about their faith from a biographical perspective, and even being inspired by their faith,” Pesner said.

But he added, “they should always remember they are running to represent



A picketer brandished a sign equating Jews to the plague during an April 18 demonstration in Columbus, Ohio, against that state’s stay-at-home order. Jewish members of the legislature have spoken out against this and other acts related to the closure. (photo courtesy of [cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com))

a community that includes people of all faiths, and no faith.”

Even today, Jewish lawmakers, by virtue of their heritage, can still find themselves uniquely qualified to respond to certain issues, or even make some news of their own.

In recent months, Jewish lawmakers in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia have done just that, taking lead roles in pushing back, sometimes unsuccessfully, against statements and legislation that many Jews would find threatening or oppressive.

In Ohio, Rep. Casey Weinstein of

Hudson called on a state senator to resign for his Facebook post comparing comments by state Health Director, Dr. Amy Acton, who is Jewish, about re-opening Ohio, to a Nazi.

Weinstein also spoke on Twitter against a protestor at an April 18 demonstration in Columbus against that state’s stay-at-home orders. The protestor brandished an anti-Semitic sign picturing a rat stamped with a Star of David and this slogan: “the real plague.”

“Whenever we have economic challenges, it’s these times we have seen, historically, Jews get attacked and blamed,” Weinstein told Community. “It’s important to have Jewish voices in legislatures to counter that narrative, and to speak truth.”

Weinstein is running for re-election, he said, “against a candidate who keeps calling herself the Christian in the race.”

A similar incident happened in Pennsylvania, where Solomon criticized a state senator from a rural district, with few, if any Jewish constituents, for equating that state’s social distancing restrictions to the Shoah.

Solomon said he is motivated by his own great-grandparents, who fled pogroms in Ukraine, but he said he also saw his criticism of the one senator as a “teaching moment to the rest of the general assembly.”

“If they can connect,” Solomon said, “and they can go back to their constituents and understand why the Jewish

people view comments of the Nazis and the Holocaust that way, then it was worthwhile.”

Two Jewish members of the West Virginia House of Delegates, Evan Hansen of Morgantown and Mike Pushkin of Charleston, spoke up against a bill last session permitting the teaching of religion in public schools as an elective. The bill easily passed both houses and was signed into law by West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice.

Before passage of the bill, a Jewish third-grader spoke against it at a public hearing, saying he was taught about Jesus at his school and made to pledge allegiance to the Bible, JTA reported.

That’s exactly the kind of religious coercion that Hansen, a first-term lawmaker, fears the new law will encourage.

“The way the bill is written, it’s an elective course,” he told Community, “but in many schools across the state, there are very few electives and so some kids are forced to take whatever elective that fits in to their schedule.”

Pushkin, who also voted against the bill, said the debate mirrored the need for legislatures to look like the populace, even its minorities.

“In our country, we’re supposed to have a citizen legislature,” Pushkin said. “It’s supposed to be the closest [branch of government] to the people, so it should look like a microcosm of our society.”

# NEWS

## It's 'common sense'

### Conservative rabbis tout movement's opinion on streaming services

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Although Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel were already streaming services, religious leaders of both congregations have nevertheless applauded recent news from the rabbinic arm of the movement approving the practice of streaming for Shabbat and holidays during the coronavirus pandemic.

"It provides guidelines, which we had implemented weeks ago before the responsum was published," said Rabbi Robert Slosberg of AJ. "It's pretty much common sense."

Noting the "unprecedented time" brought on by the virus, the movement's Jewish law authorities have voted to allow livestreaming with a number of caveats, including that the equipment be set up in advance or that a timer be used to avoid the active use of electricity on Shabbat and holidays, JTA reported.

The Committee on Jewish Laws and

Standards adopted the ruling by a vote of 19 in favor, three against, and three abstentions.

According to JTA, the ruling, which was written by Rabbi Joshua Heller of Congregation B'nai Torah in Sandy Springs, Georgia, is applicable to the current situation only and "its conclusions will need to be reassessed as we transition to a 'new normal.'"

The question of livestreaming on Shabbat and holidays had already been under debate within the movement prior to the pandemic.

"There are two main issues that need to be addressed when talking about online services," said Rabbi Michael Wolk of KI: "Can you constitute a minyan of 10 adult Jews over some virtual platform? Secondly, how can we meet online on Shabbat and holidays when we do not use electricity?"

In KI's case, Wolk will count a minyan over Zoom if 10 Jews have signed on who can see and hear each other. Before Shabbat begins, he sets up the Zoom room, "so that I can just walk

into the chapel on Shabbat morning and get started."

He will manipulate the settings during services to mute and unmute people (something he wouldn't normally do during Shabbat), then walk away from the computer, letting the Zoom room shut off on its own, when services are over.

While the law committee does not hand down rulings that Conservative rabbis must follow, Wolk continued, the rabbis are given different ways to make decisions on pertinent issues.

"Different communities have made different choices," Wolk said, "so I can only address the choices that I have made for Keneseth Israel."

Heller also addressed concerns that allowing livestreaming could lead people to do other things prohibited on Shabbat or holidays.

"The wider intrusion of technology into Shabbat and Yom Tov worship will require greater fences to preserve the sanctity of the day," he wrote. "It is a short step from watching services to

emailing, online shopping, and other activities which violate the letter and spirit of the law."

Indeed, Wolk said, Heller's paper notes that many of these changes are meant to be temporary.

"My feeling is that we will be much more aware of the potential for including people virtually in Jewish life [after the pandemic]," Wolk said, "but we will not count a minyan unless there are 10 Jews physically present. Likewise, I am looking forward to the day when I can return to shutting my computer down before Shabbat and not having to use it on my day of rest."

But some pandemic-induced changes in worship are likely to live on.

"Once you start doing something, it is very hard to stop doing it," Wolk said. "I know what kind of religious practice I want to see after this pandemic, but I also recognize that in this area, like in so many others, we will be living in a permanently changed world."

## Chack: Jewish theatrical group making dramatic readings available online

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

A Jewish Louisville theatrical director and his colleagues from around the country are making Jewish-themed dramatic readings available to the public during the coronavirus pandemic.

David Chack, of the ShPIeL Performing Identity, is also a member of executive board of the Alliance for Jewish Theatre, which last month created Jewish theatre and perfor-

mances online.

Many of the selections have Passover themes, he said, but all deal with Jewish culture

"I pitched this idea for Passover, and it just took off," said Chack, a former executive director of the Alliance. "We have these great monologues and performances. It's more about Passover, [but] it's about Jewish identity during this time period. It's really cool."

The readings and performances are available at <https://alljewishtheatre.org/popups/the-telling-monologues/>.

The offerings include written and performed monologues by American and Israeli writers.

"People in Louisville may not only enjoy them in this time of in-dwelling," Chack said, "but may even want to share them with friends and families since they are artistic expressions that speak to being Jews in this moment."

Those performances are part of a project called the Telling Monologues Project, which includes a packet of

projects from its Magical Dialogue Playwriting webinar in April.

Chack hopes the monologues will enrich Jewish Louisvillians, but also give them an idea how diverse and active Jewish theater is in other cities. For instance, he just did a virtual program in Chicago on Jewish humor that some 300 people attended.

"There's Jewish theatre makers from all over the world, and I thought it was cool," he said, adding, "We've got to raise awareness in this town about Jewish culture."



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

### COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: June 17 for publication on June 26 and July 22 for publication on July 31.

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

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at [lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org](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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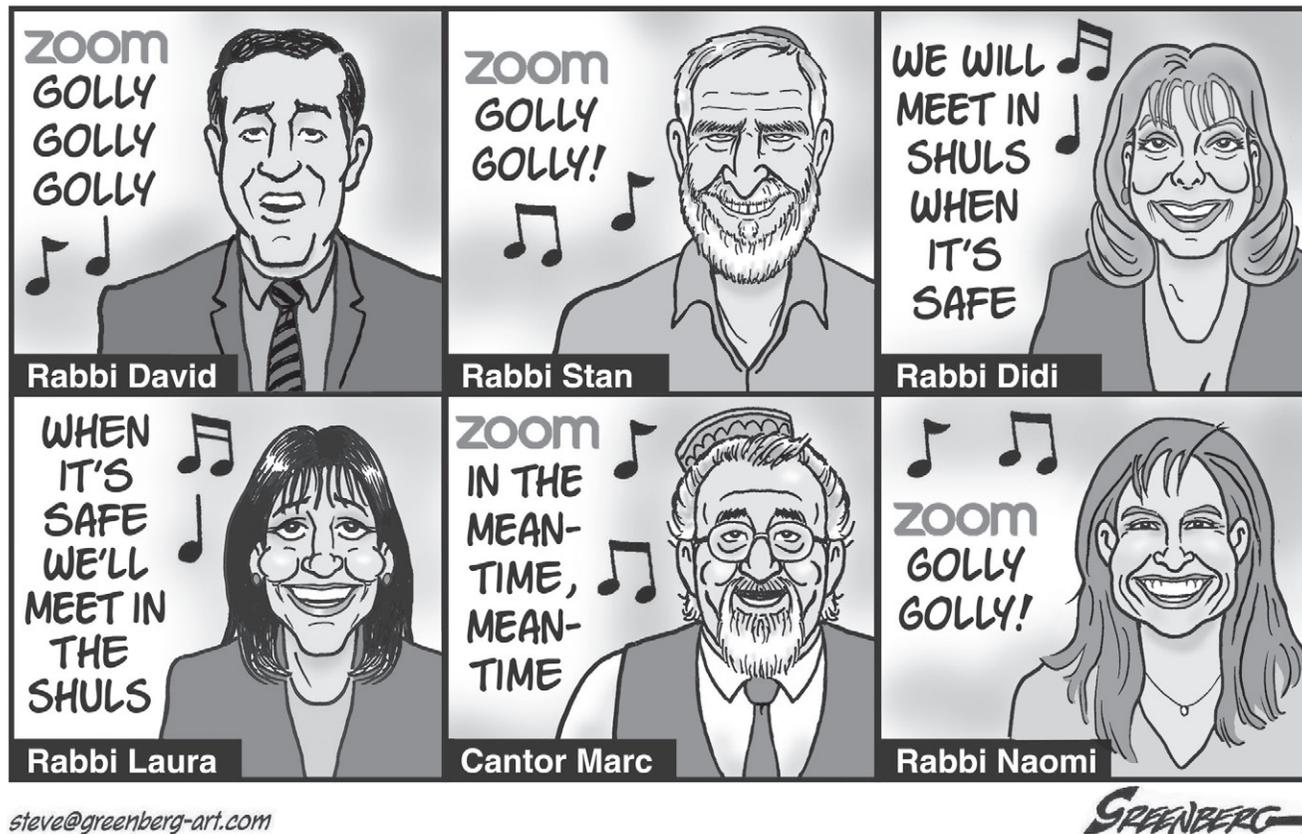
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## FORUM

### A classic Jewish song updated for 2020



[steve@greenberg-art.com](mailto:steve@greenberg-art.com)

## Synagogues stay essential as buildings stay closed



### Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

As *Community* has reported online and in this printed edition, most of Louisville's synagogues have elected not to reopen just now. (See story, page 1.)

Their decisions are in line with what many congregations nationwide are doing in response to the coronavirus and COVID-19.

Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jewish leaders have said they will follow the advice of medical experts and remain closed for the time being – this despite President Donald Trump's assertion last week that churches, synagogues and mosques should reopen now.

At a White House news conference this past weekend, Trump said houses of worship are “essential services” and took aim at certain unidentified governors for remaining closed.

“Some governors have deemed liquor stores and abortion clinics as essential but have left out churches and other houses of worship,” he said. “That’s not right.”

The National Governors Association had no comment on the president's remarks, but Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear has permitted houses of worship here to resume in-person services, though the guidelines under which

they will operate urge places of worship to continue with “alternative services” where “practicable.”

There are good reasons for synagogues to stay closed:

- Singing – either by cantor, choir or Jew in the pew – can facilitate the spread of the virus.
- Many worshippers also belong to the age groups most susceptible to COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

- Jews and non-Jews tend to greet each other with handshakes and embraces when in their places of worship – practices that simply can't be done now for obvious reasons. What if people forget themselves once they're together again?

But here's the main point: Synagogues don't need brick and mortar to be essential. They need committed clerics and congregants to keep them viable. And they have them.

Need proof? Most local rabbis and cantors have reported surges in attendance at their Zoom services and classes since the pandemic began. The same is true at congregations around the country.

“My synagogue is open. It's open every day,” wrote Hazzan Jesse Merlin Holzer of Jacksonville, Florida, on Facebook. “Because my synagogue is not a building. It's the people who are helping each other and their community. It is the prayers for those who are struggling medically, financially and emotionally. My synagogue never closed. It just opened in every home.”

Some brick and mortar synagogues are slowly reopening. In New Jersey, JTA reported, the Bergen County Rabbinical Association has announced

that it expects minyans there to be held starting June 4. (Bergen County is believed to have been the first place in the country to shut down Jewish communal life back in March.)

And in Georgia, some synagogues have experimented with holding services outdoors, where the threat of infection is not thought to be as great. Synagogues in Kentucky may choose to experiment with this model.

Many of the synagogues that have elected to reopen now are Orthodox, which is understandable. It's important to remember that most Orthodox Jews have not worshipped communally during the pandemic, halachically prohibited from livestreaming on Shabbat or accepting virtual minyans. That must make their social distancing far more difficult.

Whatever they choose, the decision to reopen will likely be the most difficult one synagogue leaders have faced. On one hand, Jews crave community; it's integral to the way we worship – has been since the rise of the synagogue thousands of years ago.

On the other hand, the coronavirus is still with us; don't be fooled by the warm weather and happy talk. In fact, most medical experts, including Dr. Anthony Fauci himself, have warned of a second wave of infections this fall. Will that wave be made worse by relaxing social distancing this summer?

Yes, synagogues are essential. No, they are not stores with customers. What they give, though more meaningful in person, is not meaningless online. Prudence in deciding to reopen should be the order of the day.

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

# FORUM

## JCPA takes stands on social justice issues at annual meeting



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

The coronavirus pandemic has changed everything for our community.

It has changed the way we interact, the way we eat, the way we raise our children, the way we pray and the way we celebrate holidays and special occasions.

But it has not changed the interests and values we hold dear as individuals and as a Jewish community. We are acting on those values as we confront emergent pressing policy issues.

At the May 8 annual (and virtual) meeting of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), the national public policy umbrella organization for community relations councils, including Louisville's, delegates reached consensus on a number of issues that concern the Jewish community. Using Zoom's polling function, we passed resolutions on several topics, such as aid to Israel, the environment, gun control and support for Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

In addition, because of this pandemic, four new emergency reso-



Expanded mail-in voting is supported by a resolution passed by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs at its annual meeting.

lutions were drafted, voted on and passed.

The first one dealt with codifying a Jewish response to public health crises in general. It obliges our community to support science-driven task forces to advise the government at all levels on containing a pandemic. It also encourages full funding for the Centers for Disease Control and a vigorous fight against pandemic-induced bigotry and discrimination. The Louisville delegation successfully insisted

that opposition to gender and gender-identity discrimination be included in the language of the resolution.

The second resolution addresses criminal justice reform. It recognizes the injustice of having people sit in jail while awaiting their trials because they cannot afford bail – at a time when COVID-19 is decimating jails and prisons. But it goes even further, calling for significant, yet safe, reductions in the prison population with enhanced services for re-enter-

ing society. The Louisville JCRC has been advocating for criminal justice reform.

The third resolution addressed immigration reform. Mirroring some of the efforts on behalf of criminal justice reform, particularly those to reduce detention center populations, for all the reasons given above, this resolution further calls for a suspension of major immigration enforcement, particularly arrests in hospitals and houses of worship. It also calls for the inclusion of immigrants, documented and not, in any health and/or economic mitigation measures.

Finally, the fourth resolution supports voting rights. In this election year, the Jewish community resolves that people should not have to choose between their health and exercising their right to vote. It calls for expanded voting registration and mail-in voting, supporting the U.S. Postal Service and ensuring that any in-person voting is expanded to include early voting.

Our JCRC is proud to have played a role in this national discussion, and we are proud that the consensus in the Jewish community is such that timely issues like these provide the necessary framework for immediate advocacy.

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

## Inside the West Bank with Lois Kohn-Claar

by Joanie Lustig  
for *Community*

On May 12, the Jewish Federation of Louisville Women's Philanthropy Division hosted an opportunity to hear about Lois Kohn-Claar's visit to the West Bank in Israel.

After years of working in the field of education and educational technology, Kohn-Claar devotes herself to Jewish communal service. During the virtual event, Kohn-Claar shared insights about the Israeli-Palestinian relations



The virtual event was hosted through Zoom and covered first-hand stories of Kohn-Claar's visit to the West Bank in Israel.

that she experienced during her trip to Israel with the Encounters Program.

Encounters is a diverse community of Jewish leaders ready to face the com-

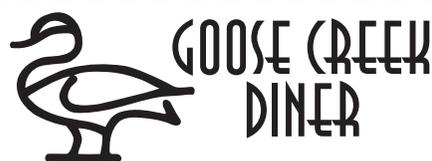
plex stories, people, and places at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The expedition purpose was to listen to and engage with individuals and promote peaceful Israeli-Palestinian relations. The event was hosted by Karen Abrams, Beth Salamon and Linda Schuster and sponsored by Lions of Judah and Women's Philanthropy. There were 47 attendees.

To see a recording of the presentation, visit the Jewish Community of Louisville's YouTube page.

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## FORUM

## Once we reopen

## Navigating what comes next hinges on reliable information



Guest  
Columnist

Dr. Ian  
Mutchnick

*"We never really conquer microbes. At best, we wrestle them to a draw."*

— **Howard Markel, director of the Center for the History of Medicine and the George E. Wantz Distinguished Professor of the History of Medicine at the University of Michigan**

Now that the initial shock of COVID-19 is passing, it will be time to turn our attention to what we can do in the coming months to best manage a virus that is now part of the global environment.

How will we handle re-opening our society? How can we make good decisions about who to trust given that mis- and dis-information seems to be everywhere?

Our first goal was simply to slow the

spread of SARS-CoV-2 (SC2) – the species of coronavirus causing COVID-19 – so that we had enough hospital beds. This worked for the 1918-19 Spanish Flu pandemic, and it appears to have worked this time.

But you can't stay closed forever.

Our goal for the next – deep breath – one to three years will be to keep the number of SC2 cases at a manageable number while protecting those who are more likely to need hospital care.

If you are under 65, your risk of dying if you catch COVID-19 is about 1 in 6,600.

If you are 65 or older that risk goes up quickly as you age.

Patients older than 80 have a risk of about 1 in 200.

For everyone at any age, some health conditions matter.

If you have cardiovascular disease, your risk of death increases by a factor of 10. By comparison, if you are 40, your risk of death is 1 in 6,600; but if you have a cardiovascular disease, it increases to 1 in 660.

For diabetes, the risk increases by a factor of 7; for chronic respiratory disease and high blood pressure by 6; for cancer by 5.

University College London has an online calculator if you wish to explore your risk in detail: [covid19-phenomics.org/PrototypeOurRiskCoV.html](https://covid19-phenomics.org/PrototypeOurRiskCoV.html).

While we open back up, our goal will be to return people under 65 back to as close to normal lives as possible while keeping those at risk as safe as possible until a vaccine is available.

Keep in mind: We are opening because the rest of our lives must carry on, not because we are suddenly safer. COVID is now a part of our lives; it will not be contained or eradicated.

That said, we now have more experience and information to understand how SC2 spreads and how to treat COVID, so at least there is that.

As we reopen, there will likely be sudden surges of SC2 infections in different parts of the world. When that happens, those areas will have to close

again. As we get more data and knowledge, those closures will become more focused and – hopefully – less disruptive to our society. Perhaps people over 65 with coronary disease will be the only ones who need to avoid restaurants – something like that.

When does the SC2 caseload start getting smaller regardless of how much social contact we have with each other? Simply put, when enough of us have immunity from the virus that the risk of rapid growth goes away. This is called "herd immunity." When enough of us are immune to the disease, it is so hard for the virus to spread that it essentially doesn't. Based on what we know about SC2, about 60-70 percent of us must be immune for the effects of herd immunity to be felt. If enough of us get COVID-19 and survive, or if we create and widely distribute a vaccine, then herd immunity can develop.

It is a fair bet that our lives won't get back to "normal" until we are close to herd immunity levels.

Misinformation has swirled around this pandemic like squirrels at a bird-feeder. This is unfortunate but not surprising; everyone is looking for some news, and conspiracy theories have a strange lure to them.

On April 22, two urgent care doctors from Bakersfield, California, promoted – with help from Tesla founder Elon Musk – the message that sheltering in place was unnecessary – an alluring message for people fatigued from social isolation. In response, the American College and American Academy of Emergency Physicians stated officially that "these two individuals are releasing biased, non-peer-reviewed data to advance their personal financial interests without regard for the public's health."

In early May, Dr. Judy Mikovits publicized a claim that the doctors and experts shaping public policy in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic have silenced dissenting voices and misled the public for sinister rea-

sons. She has since been refuted and banned from social media.

SC2 does not give a single jot about your politics. Being Republican doesn't make you less likely to be infected and being a Democrat doesn't make your 82-year-old mother any safer. COVID is complicated, and none of us know all the answers. Spend time following different news sources with good reputations for quality information; this will keep you from believing bad info.

If someone tells you something that runs against what everyone else is saying, give it some time before you accept it. Those two urgent care docs and Dr. Mikovits were roundly discredited within a few days in a way that made clear how bad their information was.

Even for non-conspiracy stories, time can help. There was general disagreement about chloroquine for a few weeks. Then it became clear that it will not help with COVID.

President Donald Trump was not out of line to suggest we should look into it. Neither was Dr. Anthony Fauci for saying that it needed to be studied more. Time worked it out.

Regardless of politics and bias, virtually all the experts are committed to keeping us safe. That doesn't mean some won't be wrong nor that there shouldn't be debate about what is correct, but as we learn more, consensus will become clearer. This will be an excellent way to judge the quality of information, the complexity of which will create situations where experts disagree. This should not undermine our confidence that they are working for a better future, only that truth can be elusive.

This will be a long process, but we have a solid community of caring people to depend on. Reach out for help; we are all here for each other.

*(Dr. Ian Mutchnick, a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council, is a pediatric neurosurgeon at Norton Children's Hospital and Neuroscience Institute.)*

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# FEDERATION

## Dynamics of Jewish memory to change in post-pandemic 'normal'



### Sara's View

Sara Klein  
Wagner

fourth book in the Torah, *Bamidbar*, (In the Wilderness). We prepared for Shavuot, when we received the Torah. While we were not physically present at Sinai, we celebrate receiving the Torah as if we were.

While we are not physically wandering in the desert, we find ourselves again in a wilderness. We are wandering from the pre-coronavirus period to a post-pandemic normal. We need to embrace our new wilderness as a JCC and Federation.

After spending the past seven months encouraging families to participate in One Happy Camper and Passport to Israel experiences, we are heartbroken by the loss of teen trips to Israel and Jewish day and overnight camps. These are jarring losses, and our hearts are heavy for our children, teens and young adult counselors who will miss creating Jewish memories and friendships.

Your Federation and JCC leadership team, including the board of directors and our staff, understand that the future is in our hands. The months ahead will be challenging. The recovery period will demand effort and new thinking. It will be a time that sparks our imaginations, motivating us to

focus on the most pressing needs for our community. Our GPS through the wilderness begins this summer, focused on four specific areas:

#### Stabilize

We are helping those who need us right now. We have served more senior meals than ever over the past two months. Our Federation has been raising funds through the Rapid Response Fund, ensuring that our community can continue to connect and is physically safe and healthy as we return together.

#### Re-imagine

This is the time for flexibility, open dialogue and new concepts. Whether exploring new platforms for Jewish connections or coming together in new environments, we must challenge ourselves and our community to think outside of the box.

#### Rebuild

Accepting that our world (and our community) will look different when the pandemic has passed, we are implementing sustainable measures, allowing us to continue to grow and

develop safe, healthy connections.

#### Renew

The future is in our hands as together we create a collective vision to move forward – although a vision that may look different from what we expected, even a few months ago – that continues to inspire our children, helping them create their own Jewish memories.

The modern *Bamidbar*, the wilderness in 2020, is our place in time to recalibrate our Jewish community and kickstart new Jewish memories. These memories may be different from ours, though they will be meaningful and relevant.

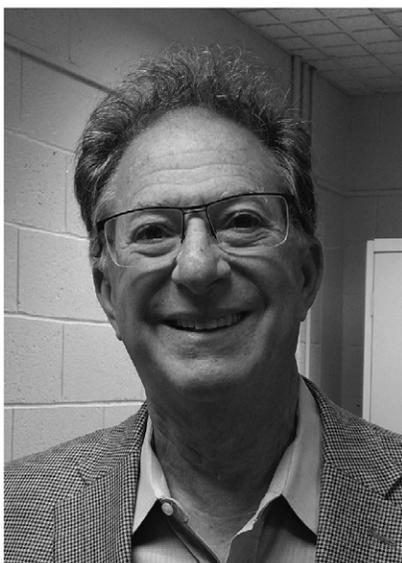
What Jewish experiences can we develop together in a time and place we did not plan for? Like our ancestors in the wilderness, we need to care for each other; we need to remain flexible; we need to inspire moments that will be passed to future generations.

Please join me, the Federation and the JCC on the journey as we create a meaningful future together.

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

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### Governance Committee of the Jewish Community of Louisville, Inc.,

Jon Fleischaker, Karen Abrams, Ed Cohen, Michael Gold, Ralph Green, Ariel Kronenberg, Robin Miller, Amy Ryan, Scott Weinberg

**announces the following slates for election at the Annual Meeting of the Jewish Community of Louisville to be held**

**Virtual Annual Meeting on  
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.**

Please R.S.V.P. to Mary Jean Timmel at [mtimmel@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:mtimmel@jewishlouisville.org)  
or 502-238-2722 to receive a Zoom registration link.

**Nominated to serve 3-year terms commencing with the fiscal year 2021:**  
Chris Brice

**Re-elected to serve 3-year terms commencing with the fiscal year 2021:**  
Madeline Abramson  
George Polur

**Nominated to serve as officers of the Board for fiscal year 2021:**  
Jon Fleischaker – Co-Chair\*  
Ralph Green – Co-Chair  
Jeff Tuvlin – Vice-Chair  
David Kaplan – Vice Chair  
Jeffrey Goldberg – Treasurer  
Becky Ruby Swansburg – Secretary

**Appointed to serve on the Board in accordance with the by-laws due to the positions they hold:**  
Beth Salamon – Jewish Community Relations Council Chair  
TBD – Program Cabinet Chair  
Rabbi Beth Jacowitz-Chottiner – Representative of the Louisville Board of Rabbis & Cantors

Additional nominations may be submitted by petition to the JCL secretary with a minimum of 36 signatures by JCL members in good standing at least 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

\*Jon Fleischaker will remain co-chair for no less than 3-months and no more than 6-months due to the COVID-19 virus. Approved by the JCL Board and amended in the bylaws.

# 'The test of our lives'

## Senior Center warns clients about scamming during COVID crisis

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Tara Stone has been sending her Meals on Wheels clients more than just food during the coronavirus/COVID crisis. She's been sending warnings, too.

"Along with the meals, I have found several articles about frauds and scams that come out with the COVID virus," said Stone, director of the JCC Senior Center.

The articles are documented evidence that seniors are vulnerable in more ways than one during this pandemic. Not only are they more susceptible to COVID than their younger, healthier neighbors, they also are easier prey for con artists.

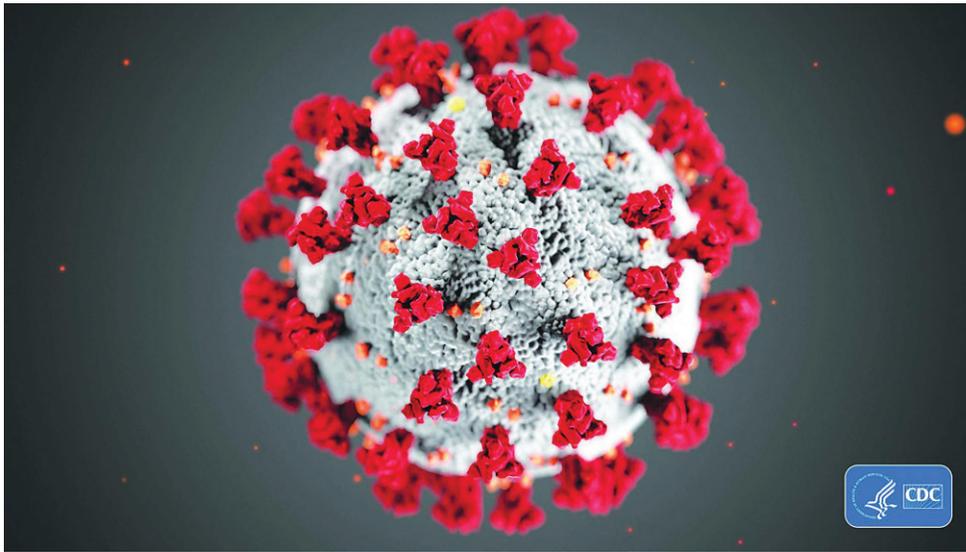
"I sent one [article] about how they're preying on Medicare recipients, things like that," Stone said. "There's another about charities asking for money to support COVID recovery; people will pose as a charity to get money from people."

So far, she hasn't heard that of any her clients have actually been scammed, but she remains alert to the threat.

And the threat is very real. Gov. Andy Beshear's office recently released a public warning, noting a surge in electronic scamming. It said callers claim to work for utility companies or co-ops, threatening to disconnect service without immediate payment.

In March, the Kentucky Public Service Commission issued an order that halts disconnections for non-payment and fees for late payments.

"We are in the test of our lives," Beshear said in the statement. "Let's make sure we don't let anyone take advantage



The coronavirus pandemic has prompted a rise in scams against homebound senior citizens. JCC Senior Center Director Tara Stone is providing her clients with information about what to look out for.

of us at this time."

Warnings also are coming from the federal government.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received reports of scam and hoax text message campaigns and scam robocalls that offer free home testing kits. They promote bogus cures, sell health insurance and "prey on virus-related fears."

Some text scams, according to the FCC, are impersonating government agencies.

And charity scamming during the COVID crisis, like Stone said, also has snared seniors. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is warning against scammers who take advantage of generous donors by claiming they are legitimate charities.

To thwart them, the FTC recommends three steps individuals can take to make

sure callers are who they say they are:

- Are they a registered public 501(c)(3) organization? Request their employer identification number (EIN); if they don't have one, don't donate. If they do, visit Charity Navigator at [charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.advanced](http://charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.advanced) to check it.
- Question the caller about the charity's mission, goals and success record. If the caller struggles to answer, don't donate.
- Google it. Do you own research on

the charity. Most reputable nonprofits have dot.org websites instead of dot.coms, according to Charity Navigator. You should find the EIN there as well.

Stone said she is constantly looking for news about the latest scams.

"I want to make sure our clients are as informed as possible," she said, "so anything I find online, I send home with the meals."

She combs through publications from organizations such as Meals on Wheels and AARP – entities whose clientele are primarily seniors – to find article son scamming.

"I just sort of pay attention to the things they are saying," she said. "As people get lonely, different organizations that seem legit call around. I want them to know what is legit and what is not."

Since the crisis, the number of Meals on Wheels clients that the JCC serves has tripled, each client getting five meals a week.

Not every delivery comes with a scam warning, Stone said. "Usually, every week I've done something to send home."

But the feedback has been positive. "Very good feedback," she said. "They're grateful for the meals, and they're grateful for the information."

**welcome back to your JCC**

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Our Health and Wellness areas will reopen starting June 1. The safety and health of our members and staff is our first priority and we invite you to review our procedures and policies, along with what is available to members at the current time, on our website at [www.jewishlouisville.org](http://www.jewishlouisville.org).

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## From Deb Frockt JFCS CEO

Looking for work and keeping on a career path can be challenging anytime. But, pursuing that first job straight out of college or taking that next step after a layoff can be downright overwhelming in the midst of the pandemic and extreme economic disruption we are living through.

During this crisis, I spoke with one person in our community who shared their work history with me. It was a consistent, productive journey until the bump in the road came and then compounded. Now unemployed, and with a spouse whose

longtime job became uncertain because of necessary social distancing, this person was understandably shaken and wondering what to do next.

As individuals, the partners in this couple had successfully charted career paths. Together, they had established a stable financial picture. What once seemed certain — paying the mortgage, saving for retirement, taking a modest vacation — all of it became precarious, virtually overnight. They didn't change, but the world around them did.

Work is, of course, a paycheck and a livelihood. It's a means by which we care for ourselves and our family. And for many of us, it is also a deep element of identity — of purpose and meaning, dignity and self-definition, beliefs and values, passions and aspirations. Work is often part of the complex, personal equation that helps us place ourselves in the world.

Anyone who has ever been a job seeker or the loved one of a job seeker knows the search and its unknown timeframe can

be extraordinarily stressful. Even in non-COVID times, we can be isolated, anxious and depressed when our employment situation is uncertain. And anyone who has ever been part of a family knows those emotional realities usually affect the whole family unit.

As of mid-May, Kentucky was clocking the highest number of unemployment claims in the country with over 745,000 people, or one in three workers out of a job. This number does not include first time job-seekers, such as recent graduates. It doesn't necessarily count the self-employed and small business owners who may now be financially struggling, even if not technically unemployed.

JFCS is here for anyone in the community who is facing employment, financial or emotional challenges as a result of this crisis. With the generous support of the United Jewish Louisville Rapid Response Fund, JFCS is pleased to now offer **Careers During COVID**.

**Careers During COVID** is a customizable service package that is free and open to anyone in the community, including recent graduates who may be living out of the area. This holistic offering begins with a 30 minute planning session with a coach, followed by up to three hours of service that may include any combination of career and job search counseling; finance and budgeting coaching; and, mental health counseling.

If you or someone you know would benefit from these individually tailored services, please let us know. JFCS is here for times like these. We are here for you.

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# BOOK REVIEW

## 'Apeiogon' examines Israel-Palestinian conflict through eyes of two fathers

By Ranen Omer-Sherman  
*For Community*

There may never be a truly definitive study of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but award-winning Irish writer Colum McCann's latest attempt is astonishingly good.

Apeiogon surely succeeds more than most when it comes to creating an empathic, morally and aesthetically imaginative portrayal of the extent to which this tragedy -has wreaked havoc on innocent human beings on both sides. McCann is drawn to the moral implications of poet Rainer Maria Rilke's observation that "we live our lives in widening circles that reach out across the entire expanse."

Or, as Rami Elhanan, one of the two bereaved men at the heart of this story, vigorously underlines in his copy of Palestinian critic Edward Said's *Culture and Imperialism*, "Survival, in fact, is about the connection between things." In today's reality, that remains an essential truth.

In McCann's book, Elhanan, an Israeli graphic designer, and Bassam Aramin, a scholar and former political prisoner, are loving parents whose worlds are torn viciously apart when

their daughters become victims of horrific violence.

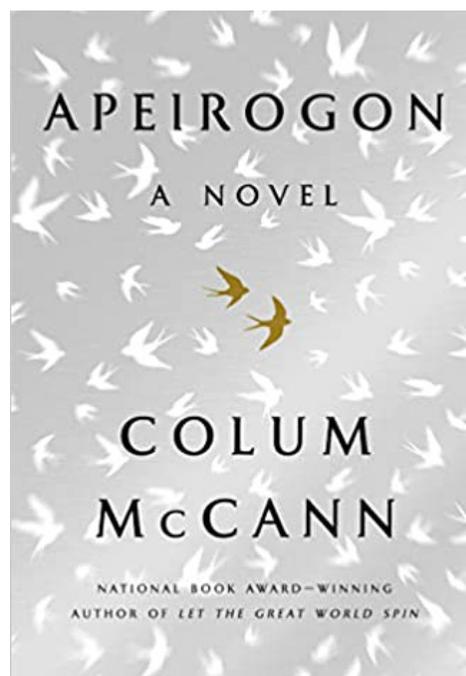
While it is unclear what drew McCann to their entwined stories of unbearable loss, he succeeds brilliantly in capturing the complexity and humanity of his subjects.

The book is structured as a compilation of 1001 interwoven fragments (many as short as a few sentences), which often serve as a midrashic commentary on the interviews the author conducted with Bassam and Rami. It illuminates life in Israel and under occupation in ways that seem meditative or even musical.

Nonlinear, circling back on itself, and ever-expanding, this labyrinthine work brilliantly captures the essence of the author's approach – constantly testing the possibilities of the form, igniting the reader's imagination.

Its title, which derives from the Greek word for "boundless," refers to a shape with an infinite number of sides.,

Most important, McCann's stylistic daring never outshines the plainspoken nobility and moral bravery of the two grieving fathers. He brilliantly captures the essence of the author's



approach – constantly testing the possibilities of the form and igniting the reader's imagination.

The two have frequently spoken together around the world as tireless opponents of the occupation and champions of peace. Their intimate friendship and support for one another over many years makes this an absorbing tale of

hope and love against very great odds. The book also addresses what it means to challenge and overcome the dangerous mythologies of one's tribe.

There are also gripping anecdotes concerning the tenuous origins of the groups Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle, especially those like Rami, raised in a bubble of Zionist self-righteousness and ignorance about the daily lives of Palestinians.

But what ultimately emerges most memorably are the poignant details of the close relationships between the men and their young daughters. Eerily, the girls seem to have shared many of the same passions and quirks.

McCann is a generous, tender and inquisitive storyteller. His poetic prose glimmers with startling imagery. Apeiogon's fragmentary narrative teaches us how the broken pieces might yet make us whole.

*(Ranen Omer-Sherman is the JHFE-endowed chair in Judaic studies at the University of Louisville.)*

### Book Review

*Apeiogon*, by Colum McCann, Random House 2020, Hardcover, 463 pages, \$28

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# AROUND TOWN & LIFECYCLE

## Adath Jeshurun

AJ is hosting virtual Shavuot services in conjunction with Keneseth Israel. Tik-kun Leil Shavuot will be held at 5:45 p.m., Thursday, May 28. The evening will feature music, learning with Cantor David Lipp, Rabbi Michael Wolk and a guest speaker, Rabbi Menachem Creditor, discussing "The Future & Past of Sinai." First day Shavuot services will take place at 10 a.m., Friday, May 29, and at 5:45 p.m. Second day services and Yizkor will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 30. All services will be streamed at facebook.com/adathjeshurun or on the Zoom link available at adathjeshurun.com.

Virtual Shabbat services are streamed Saturdays at 10 a.m. Virtual Minyan services take place twice a day, weekdays, at 7:15 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., and Sundays at 8:45 a.m. All services may be accessed through Zoom and Facebook Live. Visit adathjeshurun.com for details.

AJ is offering four different series of online programming: "House Calls," which features physicians speaking on health issues; "Sunday Night Live," an entertainment series with comedians and music concerts; "Coffee Break," featuring speakers discussing timely events; and "Tune Up," a wellness series. The programs are typically held two to three times per week via Zoom and Facebook. For details, visit adathjeshurun.com.

## Anshei Sfar

All programs and classes are via Zoom: "Torah for Today: Contemporary Issues, Timeless Torah," Tuesdays at 8 p.m.; "Spice of Life," Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; "Make a Prophet," Thursdays at noon; and "Talmud Trek," Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Contact Rabbi Simcha Snaid at rabbisnaid@ansheisfar.com.

## Chabad of Kentucky

Rabbi Avrohom Litvin is holding a six-part course on Facebook entitled, "Judaism in the Home," which teaches the basics of the faith. To join, call 502-459-1770.

Chabad plans to resume in-person services in late June, observing all CDC guidelines (masks, social distancing, etc.). To register, call 502-459-1770.

## Chavurat Shalom

Pianist Denine LeBlanc will perform at 1 p.m., Thursday, June 4. Contact Sarah Harlan at 502-212-2038 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com for details about future programming.

## JFCS

During the coronavirus pandemic, the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry continues to provide weekly service to approximately 100 people through curbside pickup and porch delivery. The pantry continues to receive staples from Dare to Care, but additional items must be purchased from retail outlets. Donations can be made at jfcsloouisville.org/donate/. The pantry also is accepting donations in need, including cleaning products, diapers and hygiene products.

JFCS offers practical and emotional support groups that deal with aging, stress

management, problem-solving, self-care, boundary setting, safety and long-term care. Learn more at jfcsloouisville.org/senior-services/.

## Keneseth Israel

KI will hold Shavuot services in conjunction with AJ. See AJ's Around Town items for details.

KI hosts services and classes on Zoom until further notice. The link is zoom.us/j/76637576

Updates on service times and events will be posted at kenesehisrael.com.

## NCJW-Louisville

The Nearly New Shop reopened with new store hours and policies on Friday, May 22. The resale store will now be open Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. New policies include limiting the number of customers within the shop, customer use of face masks and acceptance of donations. Spring Fling coupons will be honored through June 30. Call 502-454-6633 or visit shop-nearlynew.org for more details.

## Temple Shalom

Virtual Shabbat Experiences are streamed Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Zoom and Facebook Live; Havdalah, Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. Contact information@templeshalomky.org for details.

Torah Study is streamed Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Email the above address for details.

## The Temple

All services and programming are online. Shabbat services will be streamed at the-templelouky.org/streaming/. Adult education and religious school will move to virtual classrooms. Visit thetemplelouky.org/virtual/ for details.

The Temple volunteers provide support – grocery shopping, meal delivery, prescription pickup – to those in need. Visit thetemplelouky.org/help/ for details.

Members who would like to speak to a rabbi, including a home visit, can call The Temple at 502-423-1818 to make arrangements.

Shavuot services can be streamed at youtube.com/thetemplelouky: erev Shavuot, 7 p.m., Thursday, May 28; morning services, 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 29, Tik-kun Leil Shavuot will be held via Zoom on May 28. Asaf Angerman will teach at 8 p.m.; Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, 9 p.m. Email rabbidaj@gmail.com for access

## Births



**Maia Lillian Crowdus**

Miranda and Shaun Crowdus of Hannover, Germany, formerly of Louisville, announce the birth of their daughter, Maia Lillian (Maia Shoshana) Crowdus on 16 Nisan (April 10, 2020). Maia has two brothers, Tobias and Gabriel, and a sister, Talia. Her grandparents are Natalie C. Polzer of Louisville and Karen and Jerry Crowdus of New Bern, North Carolina.

## Colton Harp

Cara and Ray Harp announce the birth of their son, Colton, who was born Friday, April 24. Colton is the brother of Miranda, Hailey, Q, Collin, Hailey Ray and Jack, all of Colesburg; the grandson of Todd and Devie Comer Willett of Colesburg, and Geraldine and Ray Harp of Louisville; and the great-grandson of Gita Comer and Stan and Betty Willett, all of Louisville. He also has many aunts, uncles and cousins.

## Obituaries



**Nancy Sue Balf**

Nancy Sue Balf, 91, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 28, in Louisville, at the Nazareth Home. She was a graduate of Louisville Girls High and the University of Louisville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Betty and George Slyn, her beloved husband, George S. Balf, and brother Alan Slyn.

She is lovingly remembered by her children, Cindy Balf, Stephen Balf (Frances) and her pride and joys, granddaughter Becca Balf and her fiancé Matt Hartmeier.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to JFCS Food Pantry, 2821 Klempner Way, Louisville, KY 40205; American Heart Association, 300 S. Riverside Plaza, Ste 1200, Chicago, IL 60606-6637 or the donor's favorite charity.

Nancy was buried in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery, during a private service. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



**Ian Matthew Carey**

Ian Matthew Carey passed away suddenly on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. He was 42. A veteran, Ian proudly served his country for 10 years.

Those who know him, even just a little, lost a shining light in their lives.

Ian is survived by his mother, Paula Carey (Michael Poole); his brother, John Bradley Carey Jr. (Glenda Carey); two step-sisters, Meghan Poole and Lauren Harding; his grandmother, Patricia Carey; his niece, Caroline Rae Carey; his aunts, uncles, cousins and many great friends.

He was predeceased by his father, Johnny Carey.

A celebration of Ian's life will be held at a later date. Donations in Ian's memory are appreciated and can be made to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or The Healing Place, Development Office, 1020 W. Market, Louisville, KY 40202.



**Dr. Philip J. Feitelson**

Dr. Philip J. Feitelson, 78, died Friday, May 8, 2020, from the lingering effects of pneumonia. His wife of 50 years, Anne, and members of his loving family were by his side.

A 1959 graduate of Atherton High School, he attended the University of Michigan for three years before being accepted to the University of Louisville Medical School, where he graduated in 1966 in the top 1 percent of his class. He became an internal medicine resident at UofL and a nephrology fellow at The University of Chicago Hospital.

He began 45 years of internal medical practice with Dr. Angelo Ciliberti for two years. He then started his own practice, which lasted for 43 years until his retirement in 2017.

Dr. Feitelson worked 24 hours a day, seven days per week, with little more than an occasional long weekend to attend a Michigan football game. He would speak with anyone wearing Michigan attire, acknowledging them with "Go Blue."

He was adored by thousands of patients and respected by peers.

Gifted with unflappable disposition, unique intelligence and a dedication to the practice of medicine, Dr. Feitelson had an instant and endless smile for friends and strangers despite any complexity of the moment.

He was assisted by his staff of six who believed in him and his virtues: Rosanne, Linda, Kim, Sandy, Carl, and wife Anne all worked tirelessly to uphold his high standards of care.

Dr. Feitelson and his wife, Anne, were members of the Louisville BOP Club, which provided a social outlet of regular dances. He was a member of The Temple, the American Medical Association and the Jefferson County Medical Society.

In addition to his wife, Dr. Feitelson is survived by his three children whom he loved dearly and was proud of, Anna Feitelson (Terry McCurry), Jeremy Feitelson (Amy Landwehr), and Greg Feitelson (Shan Feitelson); his sister, Maxine Bizer (Jerry Bizer); his nine treasured grandchildren, Hannah, Emily, Caroline and Parker McCurry, and Adrik, Amara, Madeline, Bella and Alex Feitelson; his nieces and nephews, including Emori Bizer Carrara and Meredith Bizer; and a brother- and sister-in-law.

Graveside services are private. Burial will take place at The Temple Cemetery. Remembrances can be made to The Temple, 5101 Highway 42, 40241 or Hosparus Health, 3532 Ephriam McDowell Dr., 40205.



**Janet Francis Hoenig**

Janet Francis Hoenig, 72, passed away suddenly on Wednesday April 29, 2020, in Louisville after a short battle with cancer.

She was preceded in death by her

# LIFECYCLE

parents Henry M. and Stella M. Hoenig and her brother Stephen Hoenig, whom she missed dearly.

Janet attended Louisville Collegiate School and graduated from the University of Kentucky. She worked as a first-grade teacher at many local Jefferson County Public Schools, including Zachary Taylor Elementary School from which she retired. Her impact on students and parents was great and celebrated by many, years after her retirement.

She is survived by her loving husband of 20 years, Larry Hieatt; her two children, Phillip (Sarah) Terrell and Erin Broxson; and her two step-children, Michelle (Robert) Cundiff of Louisville and Michael (Jackie) Hieatt, all of Louisville.

She will be greatly missed by her 12 grandchildren whom she adored.

Janet had a big personality that filled every room she entered with stories and laughter. A headstrong woman who never backed down from a challenge, she will be remembered for her unique, outgoing personality and her ability to turn brief interactions with strangers into lifelong friendships.

Her passion for teaching children was core to her identity and one of the great joys in life. She was an avid reader of books, loved her home away from home, Charleston, South Carolina, enjoyed browsing yard sales, starting arguments and talking about her grandchildren.

Janet will be buried at The Temple Cemetery. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.



## Carol Ann Leibson

Carol Ann Leibson of Louisville passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Born in Louisville on July 29, 1933, a daughter of the late Herbert W. and Elva Doris Cook, Carol graduated from 18th Street Baptist Church High School and attended Campbellsville University, formerly Campbellsville College, where she received a music degree and was voted

“Most Beautiful” student – twice.

She married the love of her life, the late Alan Nathan Leibson, on Dec. 7, 1969. They were married for 46 years.

Carol was an active member of the Jewish community, involved with The Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Center, the National Council of Jewish Women, The Nearly New Shop and the Louisville Jewish Day School.

She also was a dedicated member of The Temple, singing in the choir and holding positions in the Sisterhood.

A loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend, Carol was a woman of unshakable faith, always putting others before herself. She was a divine gift to her many friends and will be profoundly missed by all who knew her.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Herbert L. Cook; her sister, Patricia S. Bailey and her nephew, Lt. Col. Andrew Lynwood Cook.

Carol is survived by her daughter, Andrea Leibson Richardson; her son, Aaron Charles Leibson; her two grandchildren, Jacob Foster Richardson and A. Lindsay Richardson; her sister, Paula F. Julian and many close family and friends.

A private graveside service will take place at The Temple Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple Sisterhood, 5101 US-42, Louisville, KY 40241.

The family acknowledges Sunrise of Louisville for its dedicated and loving care.



## Philip J. Levy

Philip J. Levy passed away on Friday, May 15, 2020. He was 93.

A Male High School graduate, Phil enlisted in the Army Air Force and was stationed in the Philippines. Upon his return, he attended the University of Louisville and began working in the family business, Jacob Levy & Brothers.

In 1965, when Jacob Levy retired, Phil became president of the company. He ran and developed the business, later known as Levy's Lumber & Building

Centers, for over 30 years.

He enjoyed golf, tennis, bridge and horseracing. A UofL Cardinals fan, he held season tickets to the basketball team for over 60 years.

He was passionate about music and had an uncanny ability to play the piano by ear. He enjoyed Broadway tunes, jazz and big band, especially the music of Buddy Rich.

Phil was inducted into the Male High School Hall of Fame in 2000. He served a term as president of the Kentucky Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association and was on the boards of Actors Theatre, Louisville Jazz Society, Jewish Hospital, KMAC, UofL Board of Overseers, and Family Health Centers. He was a member of The Temple.

He and his loving wife of 68 years, Belle Tevis Atlas Levy, traveled together throughout Europe. They also spent many years going to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Over the past 25 years, they spent each winter in Longboat Key, Florida.

More than anything, Phil loved his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sam and Eva Levy; and his sisters, Goldye Opper and Isabel Helman.

In addition to Belle, he leaves to cherish his memory his daughter, Sally Levy; his son, Steven Levy (Shelley); his granddaughters, Katie Levy and Stephanie Levy, his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Stanley and June Atlas; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

The family expresses its gratitude to Sunrise of Louisville for its dedicated and loving care.

Phil will be dearly missed.

Services will be private. Arrangements are by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

In Phil's memory, donations may be made to The Temple or the charity of the donor's choice.



## Jonah Neal Liebman

Jonah Neal Liebman of Louisville died unexpectedly on Friday, April 24, 2020, at his home of unknown causes. He was 25.

Born July 4, 1994, in Louisville, he attended Kentucky Country Day School through the ninth grade, and graduated from Trinity High School in 2012. He attended college at Washington University in St. Louis and was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in environmental earth science, graduating in 2016.

In April, he earned a Master of Science in applied geography through the Department of Geography and Geosciences at the University of Louisville. His career ambition was to become a geoscientist in the parks system.

Jonah was a dear friend to many in the community. As a child, he competed through the U.S. Chess Federation and played on the national champion kindergarten team.

He loved baseball, playing from little league through high school, creating

many enduring friendships with teammates, families and coaches in St. Matthews, Middletown, and Lyndon. Jonah also played travel baseball with the Bats and Panthers and played varsity baseball with the KCD Bearcats and Trinity Shamrocks.

He and his family attended The Temple, where he became a bar mitzvah.

Jonah is survived by his parents Curt (Amy) Liebman and Karla Guess (John Rademaker); his brother and best friend; Jared, his favorite sister Shayna; his step-brothers Dalton and Dylan; his grandparents Bobby and Betty Guess of Kuttawa; and many loving aunts, uncles and close cousins.

He also is survived by Ali Rost, the love of his life. They were looking forward to a bright future and many happy years together.

Jonah also was the grandson of the late Martin and Annette Liebman, and the nephew of the late Neal Guess.

Visitation is set for noon, Sunday, May 31, at Herman Meyer & Son Inc. A memorial service will start at 2 p.m. Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear masks and respect social distancing. Do not visit if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Donations may be sent to Red River Gorge United ([rrgunited.org](http://rrgunited.org)).



## Simon Munits

Simon Munits, 73, died Sunday, April 26, 2020, in Louisville.

Born in Debaltsvo, Ukraine, Simon was a mechanical engineer.

After his retirement, he pursued his hobbies of fishing, woodworking and making furniture.

Simon is survived by his wife, Jenya; his daughter, Gala Blinetsky (Alec); his son, Alex Munits (Yelena); his grandchildren, Margarita, Alexis, Victoria and Dennis; and his siblings, Irina and Vladimir.

Simon will be buried at The Temple Cemetery during a private service.



## Sofia Zlatina

Sofia Zlatina, 94, died on Monday, May 18, 2020.

Sofia was moved from her home at Shalom Towers to Jefferson Rehabilitation. Her family spent hours with her every day until the pandemic restricted their visits.

Sofia is survived by her son, Yuriy Zelichenok, (Tsilya), who will remember here as a loving and doting mother.

Her pride and joy were her grandsons, Vadim (Natalie) and Greg (Anna). Sofia's love multiplied with her great-grandchildren, Emily, Allen, Emma, and Leah.

Sofia had a private graveside service in The Temple Cemetery. Funeral Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

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[jewishlouisville.org/legacy](http://jewishlouisville.org/legacy)



# NEWS

## HEALTH

Continued from page 1

healthy mind, body and soul is what we're here to provide."

The JCC also will reopen its outdoor lap pool for lap swimming only, "pending guidance from our state government and the Jefferson County Board of Health," Aquatics Director Johnny Kimberlin said. The family and indoor pools will remain closed.

Health & Wellness is part of a gradual reopening process in Jewish Louisville. The Nearly New Shop, run by the National Council of Jewish Women, reopened with new store hours and policies on Friday, May 22 ([shopnearlynew.org](http://shopnearlynew.org)); synagogues are making plans for an eventual reopening. An-

shei Sfard is reopening this week (see story, page 1) and Chabad of Kentucky will resume services in late June.

Once Health & Wellness reopens, it will operate differently, reflecting the new reality of life during the coronavirus pandemic.

Plans are being made now for operating in the new environment, according to its director, Susan Kwasny. The center, which is following CDC guidelines and those from the governor, has instituted several changes to the way it is run.

### Among the changes:

- Exercise machines will be made available, with appropriate spacing to ensure proper social distancing.
- Group fitness classes will be limited

- to nine per class, plus the instructor.
- Group fitness class signups will be done at the Health & Wellness desk.
- The center will close every day from 1 to 2 p.m. to sanitize the facility.
- No group sports, including racquetball, pickleball and pickup basketball, will be played.
- The capacity for each exercise room will differ and staff will monitor them for compliance.

"We are training all our desk staff, floor staff and all our fitness instructors," Kwasny said.

She also said her staff is implementing a process to thoroughly sanitize and conduct more deep cleanings throughout the day.

"We're hoping people will be understanding of our safety guidelines," Kwasny said. "We know that things

will be different, that the center will be different, just as the world is different today."

She said the staff is looking for guidance from the governor, and will make further decisions based on what he suggests.

Forty-five part-time desk and fitness staff will return to work.

While the reopening is being done in phases, Kwasny doesn't know yet how long this first phase will last. She did say class sizes will likely increase under phase II and the new cleaning protocols will stay in place.

But she said the Health & Wellness can be run safely.

"We feel confident that we can put these draft guidelines into effect," she said, "to minimize any safety risks."

## SYNAGOGUES

Continued from page 1

ci, the OU asked its members to stay closed a little longer.

Rabbi Simcha Snaid of Anshei Sfard said the reopening is being done in phases. In phase one, older worshippers are still being asked to stay home.

"I have an older congregation and they have been told not to come until we make it to a different phase, where things are safer for them to come out," Snaid said. "I have also told my shul that anyone who does not feel comfortable in coming for any reason should not come."

The main difference between phases one and two, Snaid said, will be the size of the minyan. He added that these decisions are based on guidelines from the OU and Agudath Israel America.

Anshei Sfard isn't alone. Many Orthodox synagogues are about to reopen; some, particularly in the New

York area, already have.

The closure has been especially difficult for Orthodox congregations, which, unlike other movements, believe they are halachically prohibited from streaming services on Shabbat. They also believe that a virtual minyan does not replace the halachic requirement of at least 10 men to read from the Torah.

"We can't read the Torah and do Zoom streaming on the computer for our services," said Davis, president of Anshei Sfard. "We have to get together or individually daven (pray)."

The Beshear administration has released guidelines for reopening houses of worship, though first among these points is to encourage the continuation of "alternative services."

Most Louisville synagogues are doing just that, and many have reported attendance surges for their virtual services and programs.

"Until doctors tell us there's a minimal risk and it would be unlikely for people to be harmed, we're just not go-

ing to do it (reopen)," said Rabbi Robert Slosberg of Adath Jeshurun.

Even if AJ reopened, and all the worshippers appeared healthy, he said, one asymptomatic member could still infect an entire minyan.

"You could even take their temperature and they would be normal," Slosberg said, "but they'd be infected. Then the whole place gets it. This is a very infectious disease."

The Temple has sent a message to its congregants that they are preparing for an eventual reopening, though it is staying closed for now.

"We've been working on an updated strategy ever since the governor posted the new guidelines," said The Temple President Reed Weinberg. "We're going to continue zooming and streaming all services and activities right now. We might consider having a limited number of people in the building, but nothing is finalized until we have a multi-step plan."

Early in the pandemic, The Temple did stream services from its building

with just the rabbi and a couple of participants on the bima, but it has moved away from that model.

"At this time, we're not allowing people into the building," Weinberg said. "Before, you would let a person sit on the bima to light the candles or say kiddush. Now, they're just zooming those people in."

The rabbi and music leaders still gather in the same space, he added.

Temple Shalom and Keneseth Israel have also confirmed they will not open right away. KI Executive Director Yonatan Yussman said his congregation is following CDC and Rabbinical Assembly guidelines as it considers its final decision.

Chabad Rabbi Avrohom Litvin said he misses the "fellowship" of actual services, but the need for prayer has not diminished.

"During times of crisis," he said, "there is a different way to connect to God, which is through private prayer."

## Global Jewish leaders meet in videoconference to address community needs after coronavirus

By Marcy Oster  
JTA

JERUSALEM — As many Jewish communities struggle to stay afloat amid the coronavirus pandemic, Jewish leaders from around the world convened a videoconference on Tuesday, May 26, to prepare for when the crisis ends.

The leaders of 30 regional umbrella organizations held a roundtable forum convened by The Jewish Agency for Israel and Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs to assess the devastating impli-

cations of the coronavirus on the communities and the steps to address their most pressing needs.

The discussion included the need for assistance to weather the crisis; how to effectively collect and distribute aid; promoting unity and understanding; meeting the current and future needs of Jewish education; and preparation for future outbreaks of anti-Semitism.

Each organization was asked to be represented solely by a president and/or CEO to ensure that the forum includes those with the authority to make meaningful policy decisions.

"For the first time in the history of the State of Israel, we established a formal forum to assist Jewish communities around the world," Jewish Agency Chairman Issac Herzog said in a statement. "This is not meant to be an ad hoc emergency response to a specific community, but rather to understand, to map, and to assist com-

munities through a rehabilitation period that is expected to be long and, in some cases, grueling."

## Commercial flights will not resume to Israel until at least mid-July

By Marcy Oster  
JTA

JERUSALEM — Commercial flights will not resume to Israel until mid-July at the earliest, according to the head of Ben Gurion Airport.

Shmuel Zakaim, the airport's managing director, told the Israeli news website Ynet that even when the flights eventually restart, the number of departing planes will remain low

some time.

"Social distancing regulations at airports won't allow us to increase passenger capacity," Zakai said. "If we'll keep up at this pace, we'll see a few dozen flights departing from Ben Gurion Airport starting mid-July and not earlier. As long as there is no vaccine for coronavirus and the disease keeps moving across countries there will be no significant change."

The new regulations will require travelers to arrive four hours early for a flight, at which time they will receive a temperature check, wear face masks and remain social distanced in waiting areas. They will not be allowed to have any non-travelers accompany them.

The Jerusalem Post confirmed that senior Health Ministry officials recently visited the airport to review plans for reopening some commercial travel, though no concrete plans or dates were set.

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