

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



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FRIDAY Vol. 46, No. 06 | June 26, 2020 | 4 Tamuz 5780

Jewish Louisville joins calls for racial justice

By Community Staff

Jewish Louisville has joined the calls for reforms following the killings of Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, George Floyd and Arnaud Arbery, and it is joining efforts to address the structural inequalities that have existed for centuries in Black communities.

Jews have taken to the streets and to the internet to voice their outrage. They are protesting as individuals, joining community marches such as one organized by Interfaith Paths to Peace, and forming social justice groups. They are reaching out to community leaders and acting in solidarity.

The Federation hosted a community conversation for young people, moderated by Judge Derwin Webb, featuring professional athletes Jamon Brown, Reggie Bonnafon, and Larry O'Bannon, all West End of Louisville natives. They talked about growing up Black in Louisville and the challenges faced because of the color of



Young Jewish Louisvillians joined a recent racial justice demonstration in Central Park. (Community photo)

their skin. Kevin Trager, a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), hosted the program. "We are so fortunate to have mem-

bers of the Black community willing to give their time and share their stories and experiences with young

See **JUSTICE** on page 15

Black-Jewish teacher draws from personal history to comment on protests

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Melanie House-Mansfield became the target of fear tactics at an early age – shortly after her birth, in fact.

"My grandmother (living in England) was called up and she was told if my mother kept on talking, I would die," House-Mansfield said.

Her mother was Amelia Blossom Pegram, a noted South African poet and anti-Apartheid activist, Black and Jewish. Pegram, who today lives in Louisville, had to leave her country in 1963 because of her activities.

House-Mansfield learned quickly to be on the watch for the same kind of hatred that drove her mother from her homeland. Growing up in Elizabethtown, near Fort Knox, where her father, Army Sgt. Major Charles Lenford House Sr., was stationed, she never opened a package mailed to their home.

"My dad, may he rest in peace, was in the military, so any big package that came, my dad would get it X-rayed before opening," she said.

"I lived with the idea that people are there, and things are real."

Today, House-Mansfield, a theater teacher in the Jefferson County Public Schools, self-described "army brat," former Kentucky State University regent and past LMPD Citizen Advisory Board member is well suited to understand the outrage, fear and other emotions felt by Blacks, Jews and other groups caught up in the current crisis.

Peaceful protests and after-dark violence have been going on in cities across the country since the May 25 violent death of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis, Minnesota, police officer. That officer has been charged with murder.

Since then, in Atlanta, the Fulton County district attorney has announced he will seek murder charges against an officer there for shooting a Black man in the back.

"I'm sitting there looking at all this

See **TEACHER** on page 15

Bend the Arc starts 'moral minyan' in Louisville, responding to recent shootings, pandemic

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

"Seek the well-being of the city in which you live... for in its peace you shall find peace."
– Jeremiah 29:7

Farrah Alexander stood in the crowd outside the Jefferson County Courthouse on Friday, May 28, protesting the death of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer.

That wasn't unusual; hundreds of others were at the same rally. What set her apart was her small handmade sign.

It said, in caps: "IF I AM NOT FOR ME, WHO IS FOR ME, AND IF AM ONLY FOR MYSELF, WHAT AM I. AND IF NOT NOW -- WHEN? (HILLEL, PIRKE AVOT 1:14) SHABBAT SHALOM"

"I got some elbow bumps and some Shabbat Shaloms," Alexander said. "I felt like people appreciated it."

Alexander, a stay-at-home mother from

Sellersburg Indiana, and a writer (she has a book about political activism coming out in August), is one of four young Jews empowered to begin a Louisville chapter of the national Jewish social justice organization Bend the Arc.

All four are among the recipients of a 2020 Jeremiah Fellowship, a Bend the Arc leadership program for young Jews, ages 22-32, who want to learn how to mobilize their communities to fight for progressive change.

Taking its name from the above line in the Book of Jeremiah, the fellowships went to 70-75 Jeremiah Fellows in 14 cities around the country this year, including the Louisville recipients: Alexander, Sara Gottesman, Bonnie McCullah and Mitch Wiesen.

The four applied for the fellowship before the shootings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, even before the onset of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, so the Louisville cohorts had expected a quieter

See **BEND THE ARC** on page 15



Farrah Alexander, a Jeremiah Fellow with Bend the Arc, sported a sign at a May 28 protest downtown that quoted Hillel. (photo provided by Farrah Alexander)

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Time is now to defy indifference



D'var Torah

Rabbi Beth
Jacowitz
Chottiner

Breonna Taylor.
David McAtee.
George Floyd.
Ahmaud Arbery.

Tragically, we are now well acquainted with these names. They have become household names. Their lives, and that of so many more people of color, were cut short – callously, unnecessarily.

How should Jews respond? By being visible, being heard, being engaged. In short, we must act.

In recent weeks, Jews have participated in peaceful protests; we have written letters to affect change; we have started Facebook pages and have dialogued with Christians, Muslims and Jews of color. Individually and collectively, we have heeded the prophetic call to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our G-d (and thousands of others), calling for change.

I am proud that members of our community, in Louisville and around the world, are standing up and speaking out against the injustices and disparities that are plaguing our country, for our tradition is clear: The Torah teaches that we are all created b'tzelem Elohim (in the image of G-d).

There is a reason why all of us are descendants of one man and one woman: so no race could claim superiority over others.

I am not surprised that Jews are actively engaged in the Black Lives Matter campaign. We have a long history of fighting for equality and taking leadership roles during the civil rights movement. Here are but a few examples:

- In 1963, Rabbi Joachim Prinz spoke immediately before Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the March on Washington. His moving remarks included the following: "When I was the rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin under the Hitler regime, I learned many

things. The most important thing that I learned in my life and under those tragic circumstances is that bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problems. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence."

- In 1964, a group of 15 rabbis were arrested in St. Augustine, Florida, after heeding the call from MLK to join him in the South. The rabbis were praying in an integrated group when they were arrested. A letter they penned from jail includes the following: "We came because we realized that injustice in St. Augustine, as anywhere else, diminishes the humanity of each of us. If St. Augustine is to be not only an ancient city but also a great-hearted city, it will not happen until the raw hate, the ignorant prejudices, the unrecognized fears which now grip so many of its citizens are exorcised from its soul. We came then, not as tourists, but as ones who, perhaps quixotically, thought we could add a bit to the healing process of America."

- In 1965, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a friend of King's who joined him on his famous march from Selma to Montgomery, in Alabama, said the following: "For many of us, the march from Selma to Montgomery was both protest and prayer. Legs are not lips and walking is not kneeling. And yet our legs uttered songs. Even without words, our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying."

As Rabbi Prinz, the rabbis of the St. Augustine Jail and Rabbi Heschel all taught, we Jews know firsthand the pain and sting of discrimination, hatred and silence. Therefore, let us each pledge to do what we can. Let us not stand idly by. Let us follow where they led.

We are commanded to pursue justice. The book of Deuteronomy is loud and clear on this topic: Tzedek, tzedek tirdof (justice, justice thou shalt pursue). As the struggle for equality and respect continues, let us do what we can, in our own individual ways. Let us be guided by the words of the late Elie Wiesel: "The opposite of love is not hate; it's indifference."

(Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner is the spiritual leader of Temple Shalom.)

Snapshots: Community Garden



The Community Garden has flourished since its move to the grounds of Anshei Sfard in February, JOFEE Director Alayna Altman said. A zero-waste greenhouse has been built from recycled wood and windows. Corn, beans, squash, okra, basil, tomatoes, asparagus, chives and herbs have been put in. Volunteers have added ornamental flowers and a newly constructed archway is holding squash. A Altman expects the garden to be a gathering place for young adults and campers. (photos by Alayna Altman)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in July:

- July 3 @ 8:51 p.m.
- July 10 @ 8:49 p.m.
- July 17 @ 8:46 p.m.
- July 24 @ 8:41 p.m.
- July 31 @ 8:34 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscrip-

tion on hold? Development Associate Kristy Benefield can handle all circulation questions. She can be reached at kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org or 502-238-2770.

Got an item for the Community eblast? Send it to weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org.

Deadlines

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Got a news item for *Community*? Send it in by Wednesday, July 22 (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 lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org.



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NEWS

KI rabbi concludes service

After 8 years, Wolk reflects on time in Louisville and where community goes from here

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Above all else Rabbi Michael Wolk did in Louisville, he will always remember this town as the place where he met his wife.

The year was 2012. Wolk, a Long Island native recently ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, had just arrived in Louisville to take up his new pulpit at Keneseth Israel. One night, he was at a KI Sukkah party.

Heidi was there, too. Clearly, they hit it off.

"Shortly afterwards, she messaged me on Facebook and offered to show me around Louisville, and I took her up on the offer."

Eight years and two children later, starting his family is a highlight of Wolk's time at KI, but not his only one.

He will remember the synagogue as a place where he could grow as rabbi, experimenting with the liturgy, broadening the participation of women, non-Jewish spouses and other components of the KI family.

Wolk, 36, delivered his last sermon at KI on Saturday, June 13. He and his family left days later for Charlotte, North Carolina, where Wolk will assume his next pulpit at Temple Israel.

In his parting interview with Community, Wolk reflected on his time at KI and the changes there.

For starters, he said, it's a congregation that's not afraid to change.

Originally Orthodox, KI left the movement when congregations were pressed to give up mixed seating.

"They called themselves traditional for a while before becoming Conservative," he said.

So when Wolk, the son of a cantor and grandson of a rabbi, arrived here,

he found a congregation where he could try new things.

"I feel like I have had an incredible amount of flexibility with liturgy, with ritual, with practice with experimenting within the services, within the congregation itself."

Some rituals went away while he was here, such as *dukhaning*, the priestly blessing by *kohanim* during the High Holy Days and festivals. But new traditions took hold.

"He found a way to challenge us to try new things while always keeping the foundations of tradition strong," said Cantor Sharon Hordes. "While we don't know what the future will bring for us, I believe we are a more solid, stable congregation because of him."

Women became more active in worship over the past eight years, Wolk said, noting that women in the Conservative and Reform movements, at this point, are "more motivated than men to learn liturgical skills."

And non-Jewish spouses, even non-Jews who have found their way to the synagogue on their own, are playing greater roles in congregation life.

"In New York, if someone converted to Judaism, it would probably be because they were marrying somebody," Wolk said. "Here, I found a lot of people are reaching out on their own, to try to discover something."

To illustrate the evolving role of the non-Jew and convert in synagogue, Wolk once asked two Jews by choice to speak to the congregation about their spiritual journeys during a High Holy Day Musaf service.

"It was very powerful for the congregation to hear from people they see all the time and learn about their backgrounds and how they came to Juda-

ism," Wolk said.

"He helped to attract new members who have since become part of the fabric of KI," Hordes said.

At first, Jewish life in Louisville was different from what he knew back in New York.

"I'm from Long Island, where everything in the Jewish community is post-war," he said. "So I wasn't used to Jews who have been in the same place for four or five generations, since the 1800s, who could talk about remembering their grandparents who founded the synagogue downtown on Floyd and Jacob."

In other words, Jews here seemed "less transitory" than those in the suburbs of New York City.

"It felt very solid," Wolk said. "At the same time, they're also looking for a new identity."

For Wolk, at least part of that identity should be the establishment of another Jewish day school (Chabad and the Orthodox already have their own), which, in fact, is one reason the Wolks decided to move.

But if another day school is in Jewish Louisville's future, it should be established "for the right reasons," he said.

"Many people have said, 'Oh it would be great if we had a Jewish day school here,'" Wolk said. "The question that Louisville Jews should ask is, do they want a Jewish day school here to keep clergy in town? Or do they want a Jewish day school because they think it's important for their own children or grandchildren? If it's the first, if it's just to attract or keep clergy, then it doesn't stand a chance."

He also said congregants must think about what they want from their synagogues.

"Any community has a limited lifes-

pan if it continues to rely on people who show up for services two or three times



Rabbi Michael Wolk, who concluded his eight-year rabbinate at Keneseth Israel in June, has moved his family to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he is assuming a new pulpit. (Community photo by Lee Chottiner)

a year and pay bills, what does Louisville need?" he asked. "Louisville needs, like every other place, to actively engage those people and realize they are going to be or die."

He reserved his parting advice for the community as a whole, urging the organizations that make up Jewish Louisville to find new ways to work together. Progress has been made on that front, he said, but more must be done.

"I understand why it's hard, because we do compete with each other on some level," Wolk said, "but that's got to be in the past."

New AJC office in Louisville opens in Breonna Taylor's memory

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Melanie Maron Pell moved home to her native Louisville in 2013, giving her employer, the American Jewish Committee (AJC), an informal presence in her hometown.

The managing director of regional offices, Pell oversaw the network of 22 AJC offices across the country – all from her home.

But that changed on Thursday, June 18, when AJC President David Harris announced the addition of two new offices – one of them in Louisville – in the names of two Black victims of police violence, whose deaths have sparked protests, the toppling of Confederate statues and calls for racial justice.

The Louisville office was started in memory of Breonna Taylor, who was shot to death in her apartment by Louisville Metro Police executing a no-knock search warrant. The second, office, in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, is in memory of George Floyd, who died when a Minneapolis officer knelt on his neck for over eight minutes de-

spite his pleas that he couldn't breathe.

"We have more than a century of experience in our unswerving commitment to the civil rights struggle," Harris said in a statement. "AJC will bring that dedication and experience to the Twin Cities and Louisville. We want to contribute to the solution on the ground and do so in close partnership with like-minded institutions and individuals."

Pell will keep her current title, as she heads up the Louisville office. She expects AJC's formalized presence here to foster closer working relationships with elected officials and organizations that have similar missions, including the Jewish Community Relations Council.

In fact, she said she is in talks with the JCRC about ways the two entities can work together.

"We're figuring out what it would look like and what it would be," Pell said, noting that the establishment of AJC-Louisville will "catalyze" an already formal relationship with the JCRC and the Jewish Community of Louisville as a whole.

JCRC Director Matt Goldberg said Pell and the AJC have already partnered in establishing the 12th region of the

Muslim Jewish Advisory Council – an AJC initiative rolled out last December.

"Melanie Pell has been a valued member of the Jewish Community Relations Council for years," Goldberg said in a statement. "We are very pleased to see that she will be leading AJC's efforts in Louisville."

Describing herself as "the face of AJC to elected officials in Kentucky," Pell said a major part of her work will be to "deepen" relationships between mayors, the governor and other statewide officials with the State of Israel, connecting officials here with their Israeli opposites and providing travel opportunities there. She even expects Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer to lead a delegation of city officials to Israel next year when he becomes president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Trips to Israel this year by UofL President Neeli Bendapudi and Dean of Students James "Michael" Mardis had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Pell hopes they can be rescheduled as she recruits new travelers from other colleges and universities.

"What we're always trying to do with mayors and secretaries of state is not only

connect them to their Israeli counterparts, but to Israeli technology and innovation to help them do their jobs," she said.

Pell cited a virtual conference in March in which secretaries of state met with Israeli officials, who had just conducted a national election during the pandemic. She said the Americans plied them with questions about social distancing and other safeguards during the voting.

But racial justice will remain one of her highest priorities.

"We are fiercely and authentically non-partisan, but we are deeply committed to our values and the protection of democratic values and our beliefs that a pluralistic nation is a healthy nation," Pell said. "The protection of our institutions of democracy is essential. If they are challenged, then yes, we will be there."

Pell said the establishment of the Louisville and Minneapolis-St. Paul offices had been discussed for years. But the deaths of Taylor, Floyd – and many others – plus the demonstrations that ensued, fast-tracked both ideas.

"In this moment, it felt like the right time to formalize this."

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Nominated to serve as officers of the Board for fiscal year 2021:

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Beth Salamon – Jewish Community Relations Council Chair
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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
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*Jon Fleischaker will remain co-chair for no less than 3-months and no more than 6-months due to the
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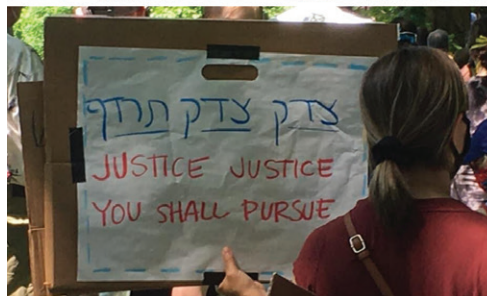
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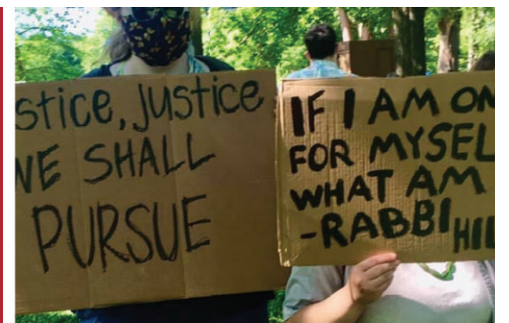
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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: July 22 for publication on July 31 and Aug. 19 for publication on Aug. 28.

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

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at

lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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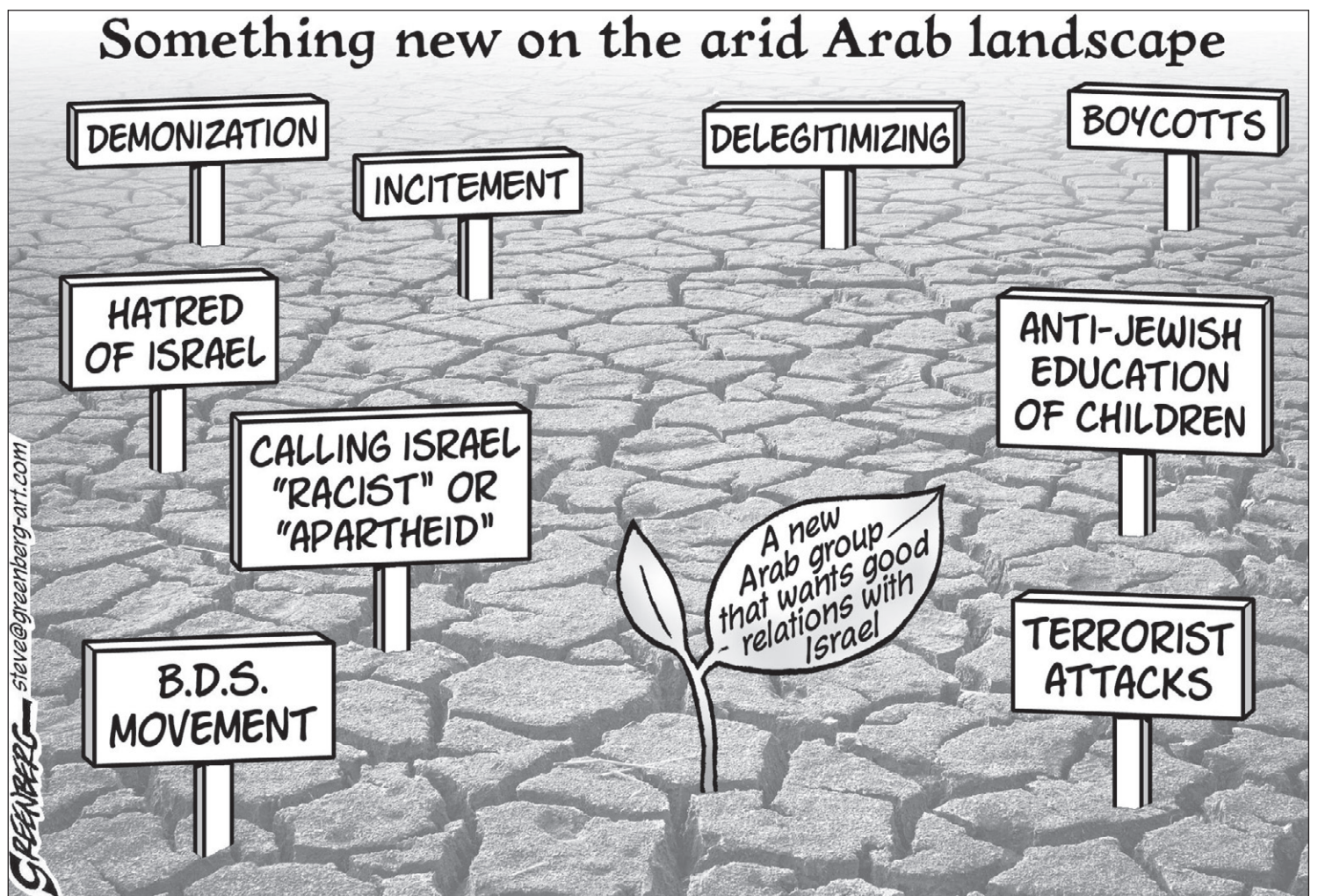
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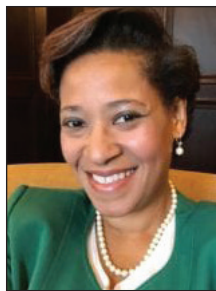
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FORUM



Jews and Juneteenth: A time for coming together



Guest
Columnist

Melanie House-
Mansfield

As Jews, we marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps this year. A somber milestone, recollected in film and pictorial accounts, of what can happen when institutional hate is state-sanctioned.

The world remembered faces of ash-en white, humans – still walking – but reduced to skin and bone, and pits of bodies and bones with smokestacks rising overhead.

Liberation back then was met with compassion, rage, hope, laws of protection and reparations.

There's another liberation day, purely American, that commemorates all-too similar moments.

Juneteenth, which we recently observed. It marks June 19, 1865, the date when enslaved Americans of African descent in Texas found out about The Emancipation Proclamation, decreed by Abraham Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863. For these Americans, this was supposed to be a liberation day, freedom from the yolk of oppression.

While those enslaved Americans of African descent were not captured on films, many famous pictures of them were taken, images of brown, black

and bronze bodies that were slashed, burned, dismembered, emaciated and dangling from trees like perverse earrings left to shine in the sun.

The liberation from Auschwitz and slavery are both etched in generational memory, evoking many tears.

However, even though the parallel lines of black and Jewish experiences intersect at many threaded intervals, intertwining patterns of shared pain, defense, defiance, celebration and points of brilliance, the systems and process that combine our experiences also become different paths through the maze of institutional racism in our equivalent American experiences.

This is why Jews and African Americans must come together to understand that our liberation days are becoming intertwined.

Light is being shed upon the hardened residue of institutionalized racism that exists for those who walk with brown and black skin down a street. Jews must remember the days when stars were placed upon their clothes to mark them as Jews.

As an American of African and Jewish descent, I cannot take my star of brown and black from my skin (nor would I want to). I do not wish to forget my family members who endured the atrocities of the concentration camps, nor can I watch passively as African Americans are captured on film enduring real-time reprehensible treatment that harkens back to the whip, to enslavement and dehumanization. The theatrics of oppression, and the

imagery of its aftermath, are mirrored in the eyes of those who once lay in wait of a cremation at the concentration camps but were liberated just in time. They reverberate in the last looks of those who say, "I can't breathe" then go limp and die.

Let us, as Jews, make our 75th remembrance one that holds up our fellow man. Let us remember that our cultural and ancestral paths have crossed and have been incorporated many times during our histories, and in our present.

I would be amiss if I did not speak to the realities that come with color consciousness. At times, the ideas of being wrapped in lighter pigmentation as opposed to darker have taken their toll upon relations between the Jewish community and the African American.

I am an artist. As such, I find connections to my personal histories in all the myriad faces of the poetic muses. However, I must then put it in your hands, dear reader, as to what you will choose to remember or connect to. Will the 75th anniversary of the liberation from the concentration camps just be ours or will we honor all those we lost by helping to uplift and fortify the spark of social justice that should be for all of humanity?

(Melanie House-Mansfield, a Louisvillian of Black and Jewish descent, teaches theater in the Jefferson County Public Schools. She has a Ph.D. in history and literature from Ohio State.)

FORUM

Jewish obligation to work for racial equality should take many forms



JCRC Scene
Matt Goldberg

"What are we doing? What can we do?" These are the questions I have been asked persistently over the last three weeks.

What happened to Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and many others has rightly awakened our country to the extent of racial animosity towards African Americans from positions of power.

It started with police and a call to investigate and re-examine our entire criminal justice system, but it is now addressing fundamental inequities in housing, business, education and health care.

We should ask for justice for Breonna Taylor. We should also ask why so many homes in Russell are boarded up; why drug abuse is rampant in the West End; why health and education outcomes are disproportionately worse there;

nesses and why large swaths of black neighborhoods are food deserts.

The Jewish Community Relations Council recently hosted a webinar for young people. Moderated by Judge Derwin Webb, the panel included three professional athletes and West End natives: Jamon Brown, Reggie Bonnafon and Larry O'Bannon. They talked about growing up in the West End and how it shaped who they were.

Their comments were fascinating. They gave our young people a particular understanding of growing up black in America.

One example they all mentioned that opened our eyes was how they described "The Talk," a conversation all African American families must have when their young men reach a certain age about how to behave when confronted by the police. For us in the Jewish community unaware of this necessary conversation, it really opened our eyes. We see the police as protectors who guard our institutions every Shabbat and holiday. That's very different from the way the black community sees them. We need to internalize this.

When the panelists were asked what we can do, they said educating ourselves to these issues is the most impor-

tant first step.

Another webinar hosted by Jewish Federations of North America featured Bakari Sellers, a CNN contributor, who moderated a discussion with two other leaders in the African American community. They prescribed what should be done to address systemic racism: self-reflection and education.

We are often ignorant of the real-world effect of structural racism, these panelists said. They said we need to participate in government by voting, funding candidates who are addressing these issues, fight voter suppression and advocate for change legislation.

Finally, they said we need to participate in the census.

We have a proud history of supporting equal rights for the black community. Jews were distinctively active in the civil rights movement. Jewish individuals helped desegregation right here in Louisville. Our own Jewish Hospital was one of the first in the country to allow black doctors to train.

But we also must admit our work in recent years on civil rights has not lived up to our history. Now is the time to re-dedicate ourselves to the fight for racial justice.

We will continue to educate our com-



Breonna Taylor

munity on these issues.

We will continue to stand with the local African American community in their demands for justice. We will get out the vote and hold candidates and elected officials responsible for addressing all the manifestations of structural inequalities that exist.

We know what our holy books and traditions demand and we must be "in this" for as long as it takes. This is a movement not a moment.

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

School persisted through pandemic

The Temple Religious School recently wrapped what was surely its most memorable year to date. True to the core values that guide the religious school, we ensured that, pandemic or no pandemic, we continued to offer engaging and meaningful education through the end of May, essentially extending the school year by 11 weeks. Not only did students enjoy virtual teaching from many of our regular teachers, but we were able to take full advantage of the current virtual environment and brought in several Hebrew Union College students to lend their talents.

As The Temple plans for the 2020-2021 school year, we will be building on the great success we had with virtual learning this spring to prepare for all contingencies, from completely virtual learning to a matrix plan that will best fit the needs of Temple families while ensuring that our students and faculty are following recommended safety guidelines. The health and well-being of our community are always our highest priorities.

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel
Louisville

(The author is a senior rabbi at The Temple.)

why there are so few black-owned busi-

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FORUM

Performance and protest

The roles Jews and theatre play in racial justice



Guest
Columnist

David Y.
Chaick

As an Ashkenazi Jew, cis-male and white, I have privilege in American society. So seeing the protests expressing outrage and the need for change after the horrific deaths of Black people, including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, I must oppose my privilege to name what is systemic racism in this country.

To do that, I truly believe that we need to see this moment.

As a mentee of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel's, I worked closely with him doing my doctoral work on Jewish culture and performance, joining him in learning and producing conferences, to fight against hate and to honor memory and identity.

One thing Wiesel would tell us in investigating culture was, what do you see? What does the storyteller/playwright/author want you to see? And what is not seen, but is there under the surface?

The seeing I used with Wiesel then, and still use, is one from theatre and performance and it may be useful for us to understand the Black Lives Matter movement, which is being revealed in our immediate moment as performative. I say this not to minimize the protests and uprisings, but to place them in the context of what performance and theatre does to give voice and represent vision. As one young Black actor said during rehearsal for a play I am directing about civil rights activist and philosopher Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, "This play is

about the fighting of the ideas of racism and segregation. Theatre is another way to protest, to disrupt."

We can see the protests as theatre, performance of immediacy and the power to make change through sight, sound and words. This is what theatre does best. In a visceral way, it illuminates, inspires and works through the dark places. It utilizes creative passion, moving towards catharsis and enlightenment for an audience. In this case, let's replace the word catharsis for protest and enlightenment for justice.

In the past, some of the most poignant moments at protests were performative. Remember the image of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with Heschel, walking arm in arm with a Torah, held by Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, in Montgomery, Alabama. That image of power and forthrightness gave all of us in America pause at the representation we saw. In the same way the ritual of taking the Torah out from the ark in synagogue and a procession ensues, it is as if the Torah was on its way to be read to the people and Heschel's famously poetic phrase rang through, "It is as if my legs were praying."

Moments of protest could also be actual stage performances. When a Mississippi white supremacist murdered civil rights activist and NAACP State Field Representative Medgar Evers in 1963, a protest rally was organized in his memory by actor and folk musician Theodore Bikel. The Austrian-born theatre artist brought Bob Dylan and others to Greenwood, Missis-

sippi, to not only sing "Blowin' In the Wind" and "We Shall Overcome," but to perform Dylan's newly-written song, "Only a Pawn in Their Game" – a cry of pain over Evers' murder.

These two Jews, Bikel and Dylan, with a host of others in the folk music movement (many of whom were Jews) joined the civil rights struggle and put themselves on the line to perform and protest.

Today's protests can also be seen as performance, telling a story with words, images and sound. We see the protestors as they move from place to place chanting "hands up, don't shoot," "no justice, no peace" or the names of those who have been murdered. We see them lie on the ground, staging the last minutes of Floyd or Taylor.

Unfortunately, we also see actions by the police that, in the name of the law, use force to push back and overpower the crowd. In the 1960s, it was fire hoses and dogs. In the 21st century, it is gas, rubber bullets and military equipment.

In contrast to King's and Heschel's performance in the '60s, we saw President Trump go to the church near the White House. But first, the military and police used chemical agents, shields, rubber bullets and batons to clear a path. When the president arrived at the church, he dramatically held up a Bible, afterwards posing with his contingent. That performance conveyed to its audience not only that the president can get from the White House seat of power to a church, but that his arrival

would be somehow consecrated with scripture.

In the June 16 issue of The New York Times, Jenna Wortham writes, "The world is listening. And for all that can feel like superficial performance, there is also an opening. I do feel that receptivity is really precious."

Yes, the world is listening, but it is also seeing the scenes. Through smart phones, TV, social media and streaming, these scenes are performed again and again, searing and entering our souls.

When I went to Auschwitz last year with my theatre students, I brought a young Black woman, an acting student, forward at the gravesite memorial. After we lit candles for the six million Jews, I had her read a quote from Wiesel. She said this was one of the most meaningful moments in her life:

"I am the eye that looks at the eye that is looking," Wiesel said. "I shall look so hard that I shall be blinded. So what? I shall sing. I shall sing with such force that I shall go mad. So what? ... And this vision which hounds me, it is my offering...I am speaking to you."

Many voices are performing for us in protest. Do we see?

(David Y. Chaick is the artistic director of the ShPIeL Performing Identity with Bunbury Theatre, which has produced several Jewish-themed plays for Louisville audiences about the intersection of anti-Semitism and racism. He is currently working on another play about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.)



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ARTS

Carl Lutz portrayed

Film about Swiss diplomat who saved thousands of Jews to debut in Frankfort

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

When Chris Easterly left for Los Angeles to start his screenplay-writing career, the last thing on his mind was the Holocaust.

After all, the Frankfort native grew up in a town where few Jews live. Further, his education about the Holocaust in high school and college had been, to put it mildly, spotty.

"I had seen 'Schindler's List,'" he said.

Then he met two producers who had the idea for a film about Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews in Budapest during World War II.

Twenty years later, after a long production delay (more on that later), the film *Carl Lutz: Dangerous Diplomacy*, the screenplay for which Easterly wrote, will finally have its theatrical debut at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, at the Grand Theatre in Frankfort.

"I was in my 20s at the time the project started," said Easterly, now 45. "Honestly, learning about Lutz was my introduction to my knowledge of the Holocaust and the history of World War II."

A career diplomat, Lutz served as Swiss vice consul in Budapest from 1942 to 1945. During that time, at great personal risk and against his government's wishes, he issued protection letters to Hungarian Jews. At first, he negotiated

permission to issue letters for just 8,000 for immigration to Palestine. Using a phony number scheme, though, as many as 60,000 received papers.

According to his biographer, Lutz inspired other diplomats in Budapest to save Jewish lives, most notably Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who disappeared in 1945.

After the war, the Swiss government stuck Lutz in an "insignificant job," as Easterly put it, then forgot about him. He died of a heart attack in 1975.

Years later, though, the government finally honored Lutz for what he did. He also became the first Swiss national to be named Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.

Easterly first learned about Lutz from producers Michael Moehring and Bryan Boorujy, who heard about him while doing interviews for Stephen Spielberg's USC Shoah Foundation.

"Chris was still pretty young," Boorujy said. "He was still an assistant working on *Touched by an Angel*, and we hit it off."

They sent Easterly a manuscript by Theo Tschuy, Lutz's biographer. "He loved the story," Boorujy said, "and that's how Chris got involved."

After research in Europe, including interviews with Tschuy, Lutz's stepdaughter, and Jewish survivors, Easterly returned to the States to write the



Carl Lutz is believed to have saved the lives of as many as 60,000 Hungarian Jews during World War II.

screenplay. Then, with the film 80 percent complete, they ran out of money.

Moehring said he sent hundreds of letters to corporate donors, pitching the project. He was inundated with rejection letters.

Life also got in the way. Moehring got divorced, then remarried. Boorujy moved to Florida. Their day jobs took time.

They essentially shelved the project, though they never forgot about it.

"We knew we had to finish it," Boorujy

said. "It was one of those things we felt an obligation to finish. We felt like it was a story that needed to be told."

Five years ago, they resumed work. Boorujy edited the film; reenactment scenes were shot with actors who volunteered their time. Boorujy's daughter even joined the project, doing the animation work.

After 20 years, it's done.

In a way, the time it took to complete the film was a blessing in disguise.

"Twenty years ago, all these streaming services didn't exist," Easterly said. "Even if we were to go on the History Channel, maybe a few thousand people would see it, then it would go away. But now, it will reach a lot more people."

In fact, the film is already available on Amazon ahead of its theatrical debut in Frankfort. It will also be screened in Nebraska and Florida, where the producers live.

In addition to the film, Easterly has worked on shows for Fox and the Cartoon Network. He wrote a screenplay for a Hallmark Channel movie and he produces independent films in Kentucky, where he again lives.

"I'll be here for a while," he said.

Want to go?

Tickets for *Carl Lutz: Dangerous Diplomacy* go on sale July 6. Contact the theatre at 502-352-7469 or grandtheatre-frankfort.org. A Q&A with the writer and producers will follow.

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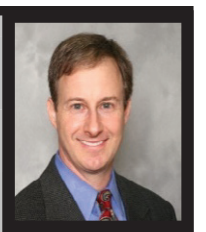
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CENTERPIECE

Kids returning to JCC as Camp J, ELC reopen their programs



The Early Learning Center and Camp J finally opened in June, though both are following state guidelines for keeping their preschoolers and campers healthy during the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. (Community photos)

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Something was missing at the Jewish Community Center following its partial reopening earlier this month – kids.

The Health and Wellness Center was again open to adults for their weight training, aerobics and other classes, but there have been few, if any, signs of young people on the campus.

All that began to change on Monday, June 15, when the Early Learning Center reopened. Camp J followed suit on June 22. Both programs will wrap up on Aug. 7.

“We’re really excited to be reopening, even with all the restrictions,” said ELC Director Jessica Bush. “We are ready to have our kiddos back and to get back towards normalcy.”

Camp Director Mindye Mannel said she also looked forward to getting the campers all together again.

“We know our families look forward to this every summer,” she said, “and we are happy we are able to open once again with all safety measures in place.”

But it isn’t business as usual – for either program.

The ELC opened with 57 kids – the enrollment is expected to climb to 70 by July – using seven of the nine classrooms; the other two will serve as sites for wellness screenings.

Students will have their tempera-

tures checked every morning, and their parents will answer a series of questions (have their children had contact with someone known to have the virus, are they eating and sleeping normally, etc.). Teachers will undergo the same routine.

There will be no swim time and no morning sing-up. One class at a time will be allowed on the playground, and Friday Shabbat celebrations will be on Facebook Live only.

Teachers of older kids will wear face masks; of the younger ones, face shields.

Stuffed toys, rugs and pillows will be removed from the classrooms. “If you can’t wipe it with a Clorox wipe or sanitize it, it can’t be in the classroom,” Bush said.

Parents must drop their kids off at the outside entrances to the ELC and will not be permitted in the classrooms for now. To compensate, teachers will make weekly phone calls to the parents, updating them on their children’s progress. They also will post photos and – something new – videos to the Facebook page.

Perhaps the saddest change of all, the trolley buggy of toddler children that teachers push down the halls of the JCC (to the delight of members and staff) during better times will go away.

“They’ll still load up that buggy and go outside if it’s a nice day,” Bush said, “but they won’t go through the JCC

like they usually would.”

Still, she said, the normal classroom routine should be the same, though she expects the kids’ transition from home to class after such a long break to be challenging – something she has discussed with her instructors.

“What is the social and emotional effect on the children, and how do we help them come out into the world after being home for so long?” she asked. “It’s a complicated answer, but basically, it’s going to be different for every child. But we have lots of good resources.”

As a result, she has told her teachers to go easy on behavioral issues. “It’s going to be a huge transition just remembering how to behave at school,” Bush said.

Camp J began its seven-week season with about 125 campers. Each unit will accommodate up to 10 kids and two campers.

“We’re filling up fast,” Mannel said.

Every unit has two counselors. Their composition will not change during each weeklong session.

“We will be following Healthy at Work guidelines for childcare centers,” Mannel said. “That will mean very limited space and spots at camp. Obviously, we will be following strict distancing guidelines and sanitation and cleanliness guidelines.”

As in past years, the camp is offering traditional and specialty units, all of

which, for now, will be held in the old Anshe Sfard building.

There will be no off-campus programs this summer, no morning or afternoon circles, no field trips, no overnights.

“None of that can be done this year,” Mannel said.

There will be no pool use for the time being. To substitute, Mannel hopes to use slip and slides and water balloons.

“Gosh, anything water-related,” she quipped.

There will be no shlichim (Israeli counselors) or Tzofim (Israeli scouts) on the campus this summer, though Mannel believes both groups are working on virtual programs for campers. She will provide more details as they become available.

Despite the scaled-back offerings, Mannel believes the campers are ready to emerge from pandemic-induced separation.

“They are ready to get out of the house and are done with screen time and TVs,” she said. “Campers and their families seem more than ready to come back to camp.”

Want to know more?

For more information about Camp J’s units and safety guidelines, contact Mindye Mannel at mmannel@jewishlouisville.org. For questions about the Early Learning Center, contact Jessica Bush at jbush@jewishlouisville.org.



From Deb Frockt
JFCS CEO

Growth Mindset

In March, we expected to roll out the new strategic plan adopted by our Board of Directors. Given that 2020 has not gone as any of us anticipated, I want to focus on the strategic imperative that feels most relevant right now.

In the plan, our Board and staff committed to, “Intentionally develop a

growth mindset culture that ensures individual, staff and organizational excellence.” Within six weeks of affirming this strategy, the pandemic compelled us to reinvent our service delivery model in a matter of days. Growth mindset catapulted from concept to reality. To *do* our work, we changed the way we work.

Telehealth and video conferencing for counseling, career and case management services are now our norm. JFCS homecare aides and drivers continue to work on the frontlines, making sure vulnerable seniors are safe at home and able to get to medical appointments. Week in and week out, staff roll up their sleeves to ensure that Food Pantry groceries and goods are delivered to more and more people. The world demanded change, and we are responding.

And then we saw George Floyd killed on the street in Minneapolis. And then we could no longer avert our eyes from Breonna Taylor, killed in her own bed, in our own city. The realities of the pandemic are new, but the realities of violence against Black Americans and systemic racism — which has made the pandemic particularly devastating for the Black community — are not.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are stated priorities for JFCS, but our previously deliberate pace has new urgency. I am thankful our Board and staff have already committed to a growth mindset because it is the only state of mind which will permit us to move forward. We are beginning with self-examination, to understand where we are today so we can set a

course for the future that brings us ever closer to our values.

We are proud to serve our Jewish community and people of all backgrounds across Greater Louisville. Just as the pandemic compelled us to immediate action, the moment and the movement for Black lives compel us to examine our practices and move with urgency to ensure we are aware, informed and intentional in our efforts to expand possibilities.

We imagine a Greater Louisville where *all* live with dignity and purpose, and JFCS exists to play our part in making that vision reality. We are committed to a growth mindset — to reflect, to learn and to change — so that we can better serve each person and every family with respect for their undeniable humanity.

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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS/AROUND TOWN

Miles to lead High Holy Day services at KI



Rabbi Stanley R. Miles will be the High Holy Day rabbi at Keneseth Israel this fall, the congregation recently announced.

"Rabbi Miles has a long history with Keneseth Israel and the Jewish Community of Louisville," KI President Joan Simunic and Executive Director Yonatan Yussman said in an emailed letter to the congregation. "He and his wife, Sheilah, were married at Keneseth Israel before the main sanctuary was even built."

Miles was the first rabbi of Temple Shalom, serving there until his retirement in 2016. He is now the rabbi emeritus of that congregation.

Miles will work with Cantor Sharon Hordes and the Ritual Committee on KI's High Holy Days program.

Simunic and Yussman did not offer details about this year's services, "due to the fluid situation regarding the re-opening of our synagogue," but they "anticipate" offering both in-person and online service options.

They also said the Rabbinic Search Committee continues to seek a perma-

nent or interim replacement for Rabbi Michael Wolk, who left Louisville this month to take up a new pulpit in Charlotte, North Carolina. Community has an interview with Wolk on page 4.

Jewish diversity course to be taught at UofL

A groundbreaking Jewish studies course, which focuses on Jewish culture at the introductory level, will be offered this fall at the University of Louisville.

Introduction to Jewish Cultures (HUM 220) will be taught by Asaf Angermann, visiting assistant professor of Jewish thought and philosophy, from 4 to 5:15 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Aug. 17.

Offering a broad, inclusive perspective on Jewish life and culture, the course "will explore the diverse forms of Jewish identities, practices, and traditions by looking at Jewish cultures in the USA, Israel, Asia, Africa and Europe," Angermann said, "historically and in the present," according to a course description.

The course will address living life as a Jew, Jewish identity, feminism in Jewish culture, the role of racial justice in Jewish ethics, what Zionism is and American Jewish culture.

It also will look at the best Jewish food and the worst Jewish jokes, ac-

cording to Angermann.

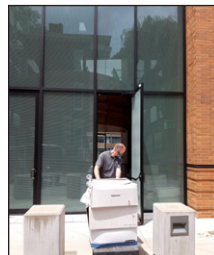
Until now, there have been no introductory-level Jewish Studies courses at UofL, said Associate Professor Natalie C. Polzer, co-developer of the course. "Now, all students at the university, no matter what their program of study, can be introduced to Jewish history, identity and contemporary culture in an accessible, creative way."

She said the course will increase the visibility and positive representation of Jewish life and culture at UofL.

The course will have Cardinal Core General Education designations, helping students to fulfill basic university requirements.

Because of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the course will likely be accessible remotely. Members of the community may register as auditors or for credit. Contact Angermann at asaf.angermann@louisville.edu for more details.

JCL records transfer to Filson starts



Records of Jewish Community of Louisville are now being housed at the Filson Historical Society.

The JCL transferred the first batch of its collection – 37

boxes worth – to the Filson, on June 9. The historical society will review and curate the papers for inclusion in the Jewish Community Archives. More materials will be transferred later.

In all, the collection includes more than 400 boxes of file folders and records, which have been kept at the Standard Club.

This first batch included back issues of Community, which will be digitized and categorized.

Around Town

Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun holds virtual Shabbat worship services via Facebook Live and Zoom, and twice-daily Minyan services via Zoom only. Links to join all services may be found at adathjeshurun.com on the homepage.

AJ is offering four different online programs: "House Calls," when physicians speak on health issues; "Sunday Night Live," an entertainment series featuring comedians and music concerts; "Coffee Break," featuring speakers addressing timely events; and "Tune Up," a wellness series about taking care of yourself. The programs are typically held two to three times per week via Zoom and Facebook Live. Visit the homepage at adathjeshurun.com.

Anshei Sfard

All programs and classes are via Zoom: "Torah for Today: Contemporary Issues,

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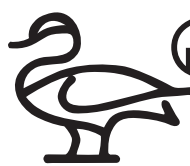
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AROUND TOWN/LIFECYCLE

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Chabad of Kentucky

Chabad of Kentucky has resumed communal worship, conducting three in-person services per week. Thirty-minute services are held on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All CDC social distancing rules will be followed. Chabad also has collaborated with leading rabbis from numerous communities around the world and will provide private booths for each participant.

Reservations are required 24 hours in advance. To reserve a spot, contact Rabbi Avrohom Litvin at service@chabadky.com.

Chavurat Shalom

Ukulele player Jason Parroco will perform on Thursday, July 2; Sarah Harlan and Jeff Springer will make music (Springer on piano, Harlan on vocals) Thursday, July 9; Lindsey McClave, food critic for the Courier-Journal, will speak on Thursday, July 30. Watch the Temple and Community's weekly eblast for July 16 and 23 programs and other updates.

All programs start at 1 p.m. unless otherwise noted. To join via Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85847525684?status=success>; to live stream, visit The Temple's YouTube channel. Contact Sarah at 502-212-2038 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com with any questions.

JFCS

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

Services are being held via Zoom, YouTube and Facebook Live. Also, the following classes and activities

are being offered:

Babka Baking: Tuesday after 6 p.m. minyan, and again Wednesday after 8:30 a.m. minyan;

Mindful Meditation: Wednesday after 6 p.m. minyan;

Challah Baking: Thursday at 11 a.m.

The latest information on these offerings and more can be found at kenesethIsrael.com and facebook.com/kilouisville.

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 kenesethIsrael.com.

Louisville High School of Jewish Studies

Preparations for the 2020-21 school year are underway for students in grades 9-12, regardless of synagogue affiliation. The first day of school will be Sunday, Oct. 11. Classes will meet approximately two times per month. The school offers instruction in kabbalah, Jewish feminism, Jewish superheroes, Torah Yoga and religious instruction.

Visit louisvillehsjs.org/register/ to register online or contact Sarah Harlan at hsjsarah@gmail.com for more information.

NCJW-Louisville

The Nearly New Shop has reopened with new store hours and policies. 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 shopnearlynew.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@templeshalom.org for details.

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

The Temple

The Temple, Temple Shalom and the Jewish Community Center will partner with the World Zionist Organization to offer weekly Zoom classes on Israeli society and spoken Hebrew every Tuesday during July.

Practical Hebrew, at 5 p.m. starting July 7, will include games and activities led by native Hebrew speakers. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/practical-hebrew.

Windows into Israeli Society, at 6:30 p.m., will include sessions on several topics:

Jewish vs. Israeli, July 7 – a short film, Tateh, about a secular kibbutznik who becomes a Breslover Hasid, and a discussion about the historic tensions between these identities;

Check Points, July 14 – a short film, Barriers, about the West Bank's checkpoints, and a discussion about different perspectives on the conflict and suggested solutions;

Her Story in Song, July 21 – a look at Israel's diversity through its groundbreaking female musicians;

My Heart is in the East, July 28 – a study of the differences and similarities among Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews, including history, customs and culture of their countries of origin.

RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/israeli-society.

The Temple will celebrate Independence Day Shabbat on Friday, July 3. The take-home picnic-style dinner is \$10 for adults if ordered by June 26 (\$15 afterwards) and \$4 for children

12 and under. Orders must be placed by noon, Wednesday, July 1. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/independence/. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will lead the virtual Tot Shabbat at 5 p.m. and the patriotic service at 7 p.m. Dinner pick-up instructions and zoom information will be shared with RSVPs.

B'nai Mitzvah

Kehos Litvin

Kehos Litvin will celebrate his bar mitzva at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, with a "CAR Mitzva" and concert. People will drive by his podium adjacent to the Louisville Jewish Day School on Dupont Circle, congratulating him and receiving a dinner in a box. They will then park facing the school.

At 7 pm, Kehos will be elevated in the air in a lift to recite his speech, followed by a concert in his honor. The community is invited, but reservations are required by July 2. Email Carmitzva@Chabadky.com.

Obituaries

Charles M. "Chuck" Friedman



Charles Michael "Chuck" Friedman passed away Saturday, May 29, 2020, in Louisville, of complications from COVID-19.

Born in Louisville on May 16, 1945, a

son of Frances (Lipshutz) and Henry Friedman, he attended Waggener High School and graduated from Vanderbilt University. He was drafted and became an Army officer during the Vietnam War. He returned to Louisville and graduated from the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

An extraordinary athlete, Chuck played many sports. He competed in intramural baseball and varsity football until he graduated from law school, then he became a football referee for 42 years. He was president of the Kentucky Football Officials Association for several years. An expert skier, he headed the Paoli Peaks and General Butler Ski Resorts ski patrols. He also was a marathon runner and competitive bicyclist.

Chuck practiced commercial and labor law for over 45 years, losing only four cases. He took being an "officer of the court" very seriously, displaying honesty, hard work, knowledge and caring. He was a strong advocate for justice. Chuck will be remembered best for his storytelling. He could tell the most mundane story in the most fascinating way, weaving a tale, utilizing carefully chosen words, leading his listeners to an enthralling finish, always ending with his small, familiar whimsical smile. He will be sorely missed.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Dr. Diane Tobin (who loved him more than words can express); his children, Judi Quirke (Patrick), Craig Friedman (Sarah), Grant Friedman (Hallie), Allie Friedman; his step-daughters, Courtnee Bennett and Joslyn Overby (Manny); his grandchildren, Madeline Quirke, Parker Friedman, London Friedman, and Ella and Harry Overby; and by many friends and colleagues.

Chuck was cremated. His ashes will be buried in Cincinnati, near his in-laws, Harry and Bertha Tobin, at a later date. Donations in his honor can be made to



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the Animal Care Society in Louisville where he picked out and rescued his beloved dog, Winnie.

Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

Myra (Feldman) Goldstein

Myra (Feldman) Goldstein, 79, died on Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

A native of Chicago, she taught kindergarten in Des Plaines, IL, before meeting and marrying her late husband of 50 years, Armond L. Goldstein of Louisville.

Her family was the center of her life. She enjoyed classical music, reading, gardening and the culinary arts.

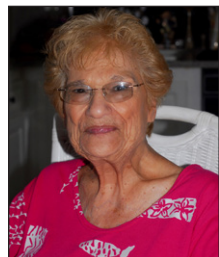
She was preceded in death by her parents, Irving and Gertrude Feldman, and her husband.

Myra is survived by her daughter, Caryn Goldstein; her son, Harry Goldstein; and grandson Henry Goldstein Ouellette, both of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and her sister Fraeda Greenburg (Robert).

A Zoom memorial is to be arranged.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in Myra's memory to the Alzheimer's Association and the Janet & Sonny Meyer Food Pantry at Jewish Family & Career Services.

Ruth Thelma "Ruthie" Ran



Ruth Thelma "Ruthie" Ran (né Hornstein) passed away Thursday, May 28, in a Sunrise, Florida, a victim of COVID-19.

Born Nov. 27, 1930, in Philadelphia, a daughter of the late Jack and Mollie Hornstein, the third of five siblings (one brother and three sisters), Ruth graduated from Olney High School. She worked for a short time before meeting and marrying the man who would be-

come her soulmate, best friend and husband, Milton Ran, in September 1950. They moved to Louisville in 1958, shortly after the birth of their second child. There, throughout most of the '70s, Ruth owned and managed "Ruthie's Place," a women's apparel shop on Hikes Lane. The family regularly attended services at Adath Jeshurun.

When both her children left the home, Ruth joined her husband, a traveling salesman, on the road. Together, they worked the deep South and the southeastern states for New York-based Talbott knitwear until Milton retired.

The couple moved to Sunrise, living there until Milton's death in 2010. Ruthie remained there until her death.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Louis Hornstein, and a sister, Evalyn Baeder.

Blessed by her memory are her son, Jerry Ran (Sharon) of Louisville; her daughter, Mindy Ran (partner Willem Staal of Amsterdam); three grandchildren, Scott Ran (Shannon) and Lacy Ran, both of Louisville, and Benjamin Porter (fiancé Emma Smeets of Amsterdam); four great-grandsons, Chris and Carson Ran, CJ and Caleb Powell, all of Louisville; her sisters, Florence Blank (Philadelphia) and Marsha Segal (Louisville) and by extended family and special friends, including Stanley Blumenthal.

A private graveside service will be held. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV), PO Box 2024, Darien, CT 06820.



Ann Barbara Shifrin

Ann Barbara Shifrin (nee Obritzki), 78, of University Heights, Ohio, passed away on Friday, May 28, 2020.

Born in Louisville on November 5, 1941, Ann was the beloved wife of Harvey Shifrin; devoted mother

of Seth (Alena) Shifrin of New York, Ian (Julie) Shifrin of Maryland, Zalman (Leah) Shifrin and the late Henry (Julie Kaplan) Shifrin; loving grandmother of Serena, Gabby, Jonah, Yaakov Yosef, Menachem, Etta Fayga, Sara Nechama, Josie and Ezra; dear sister of Ruth (Hector) Gonzalez of Kentucky; dearly loved aunt of Howard DiSanto, Lewis "Coqui" Gonzales and Danny Gonzales, and cherished cousins.

The graveside service was private.

Contributions in Ann's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Matan B'Sayser or Bikur Cholim. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.bkbmc.com for the Shifrin family. Arrangements were by Berkowitz-Kumin-Bookatz.

Alice Baron Smith

Alice Baron Smith died peacefully on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at her home in Louisville.

Born in Louisville on March 3, 1955, a daughter of the late Shirlee Younger and Stanley Arnold Baron, Alice attended Waggoner and Ballard high schools and the University of Louisville. After marriage in 1976, she and her loving husband, Daniel Smith, lived and worked throughout the South, a time she credited with providing her great personal growth, during which she made

lifelong friends, explored new pursuits, such as flying, and continued to work and manage her growing family.

She returned to Louisville in the early '90s and enjoyed many years back with family and friends, old and new, before she and Daniel moved to Seattle in 2017 to spend time close to their son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Although they loved being near their son and his family, and were happy in Seattle, her health necessitated a move back to Louisville in 2019.

Alice was a loving, devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She cherished her circle of friends, loved to travel, enjoyed dancing, needlepointing, reading, good food and new experiences.

She also loved her home away from home on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

She will be remembered for her sense of humor, her laughter and the love she gave in great abundance.

In addition to Daniel, Alice is survived by their two children, Samuel Procter Smith and Sarah Ashleigh Smith; her daughter-in-law, Adrienne Newell Smith; her grandchildren, Marion and Vivienne Smith; her sisters, Carol Baron Peterson and Janice Baron Bird; and her step-mother-in-law, Judith Ciani Smith.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Cancer Research Institute.

Funeral arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

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NEWS

JUSTICE

Continued from page 1

Jewish men and women whom they've never even met," Trager said. "I think listening is one of the most important things we can do right now."

The JCRC joined the calls for passage of Breonna's Law, which will end the practice of no-knock search warrants and require the use of body cameras. Metro Council passed the bill two weeks ago and Mayor Greg Fischer signed it into law.

When 50 community organizations, led by the Louisville Urban League, submitted a petition to the city on June 19 demanding action on several issues facing the Black community, it went with Jewish support.

This "path forward," as it is called, is a comprehensive document created with community input that identifies the problems plaguing the Black communities...not only unequal treatment by the police, but deficiencies in healthcare, and structural inequities in housing, jobs and education.

"This is a comprehensive document

from the black community and we felt it imperative that we lend our voice," said JCRC Director Matt Goldberg. "It is important that we stand as allies with our friends and neighbors in the Black community, and they need our support in the quest for fundamental change."

As of this publication, the Jewish Family & Career Services, National Council of Jewish Women-Louisville Section, and Rabbis Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and Robert Slosberg had signed on to the petition.

"The one consistent message we hear from Black community leaders is we the need to educate ourselves to the systematic racism that exists and the need to act on that by voting and supporting actions that address these underlying issues," Goldberg said.

In addition, rabbis have taken to their virtual bimas to address the current challenge, and have invited speakers from the Black community to speak to their congregants.

Two Jewish social justice groups, Bend the Arc and Jews for Justice and Immigration (JJI), have increased their visibility in Louisville since the

shootings.

Nationally, Bend the Arc, a national social justice organization for young Jewish adults, is establishing a presence in Louisville, making the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement its prime focus here (see story this page). Another group, Jewish Louisville for Black Lives, is organizing on Facebook.

A locally homegrown organization, JJI has also been active in the protests. Its members have been attending BLM protests and other events, including the interfaith prayer vigil sponsored by Interfaith Paths for Peace.

Avery Kolers, a member of JJI, said he is taking part in the protests because Judaism teaches it.

"I think it's my responsibility," he said. "I think Jewish tradition teaches ... that when someone is treated inequitably, then it's the responsibility of everyone to affirm the full equality of each other. How do I affirm that? By being there when asked to be there to affirm it."

Want to help?

Here are web and email addresses for entities taking an active role in the fight for racial justice:

Jewish Federation of Louisville – jewishlouisville.org

Go Vote Kentucky – govoteky.com

Jewish Family and Career Services www.jfcslouisville.org

Louisville Urban League – lul.org

LHOME -- lhomeky.org/

Bend the Arc -- bendthearc.us/

Jews for Justice in Immigration -- @LouisvilleJJI (Twitter), JJILouisville (Facebook)

Simmons University -- simmons.edu/

Jewish Louisville for Black Lives – (private Facebook group)

Synergy Project -- leanintolouisville.org/synergyproject/

EmpowerWest -- empowerwest.com/

The Bail Project – bailproject.org

BEND THE ARC

Continued from page 1

roll-out of their fellowships.

They had planned to attend a retreat in Pennsylvania, then a national conference in Washington, D.C., where they would take part in an action.

Then the pandemic hit. Then Taylor and Floyd were killed.

"This is completely different than what we intended," Alexander said.

Since the shootings, the fellows have shown up at a memorial for Taylor at her apartment and at a June 7 vigil in Central Park, along with other Jewish Louisvillians, hosted by the Interfaith Coalition for

Immigrant Justice.

They also are working with the Louisville chapter of Black Lives Matter, prioritizing their cause.

"We decided to prioritize supporting Black Lives Matter because they are at the forefront of the movement for racial justice in Louisville," said Gottesman, another of the Jeremiah Fellows here. "We've already gotten involved by taking some actions according to their public demands."

The pandemic has changed the way the fellows interact with the national organization and with each other.

"If things were normal, they would be meeting in person regularly, and I would be meeting them in person three times throughout the fellowship," said Judy

Robbins, a Bend the Arc Jeremiah Fellowship organizer, who is mentoring the group. "Now, our coaching and organizing occurs over Zoom."

But each fellow is still obliged to commit 25 hours a month to organizing, curriculum and training, she said.

Bend the Arc, describes itself as a "movement" of progressive Jews working together to make the country "inclusive, equitable and supportive of the dignity of every person across race, class, gender and faith."

In Robbins' words, "Showing up Jewishly is how we like to say it."

Formed in 2012, Bend the Arc is already established in 19 cities around the country and is looking to become established in 11

others, including Louisville.

While the Louisville fellows are prioritizing Black Lives Matter, fellows in other cities are concentrating on immigration or criminal justice reform, to name a couple of issues.

Robbins said Bend the Arc's overarching goal for 2020 and beyond is "to build a multi-racial democracy where are all free and safe."

The goal of the fellowships, which end in August, is to make sure the chapter doesn't then as well.

"We would like to launch what we call a 'moral minyan,'" Alexander said, "really launch a group of active Jews fighting for social justice."

TEACHER

Continued from page 1

emotion going on and I'm like, wow!" House-Mansfield said. "It is as though the stuff my mother used to tell me is happening all around me now."

Here are some of her other take-aways:

- Peaceful acts can steal the spotlight from vandals. House-Mansfield said she has been struck by waves of people taking a knee before police, cleaning up after lootings and generally performing acts of peaceful protest.

"It helps us emotionally, on a rational level, and I have to commend people who do that," she said.

- Clerics must stand together. "For the leaders of Black churches in Louisville, and synagogues and mosques, this is a good time," House-Mansfield said. "This is a time for rab-



Melanie House-Mansfield (left) with her son, Israel, and her mother, South African poet Amelia Blossom Pegram (photo provided by Melanie House-Mansfield)

bis, imams, preachers and priests to come together and lead. It's a time for governors and the mayors, everybody, to really sit down and figure this out.

But it's also a time for our better angels to come out."

- The country may be ripe for

"truth and reconciliation commissions" like those that were held in South Africa after the fall of apartheid. Enacted by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the commissions were forums through which victims and perpetrators of violence alike could testify, seeking reparations or amnesty, and enabling the country to move forward.

Given the tension between police and people of color, House-Mansfield thinks the idea could work here, too.

"That's really what we need. As Jews, we had truth and reconciliation," she said, referring, in part, to the Nuremberg trials, "but for African Americans, we never had that happen for real. The disparities in health care and institutionalized racism have never been addressed."

"The biggest issue, she added, "is people don't have a voice; people don't have power and people don't feel safe."

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