

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:
Notoriously great
RBG remembered
for life well lived
STORY ON PG. 10

FRIDAY Vol. 46, No. 09 | September 25, 2020 | 7 Tishrei 5781

October 8's the date

Virtual groundbreaking celebrates new JCC construction

After two years of raising money to build the new Jewish Community Center, one thing has definitely stuck with Jerry Abramson: People were almost unanimously willing to give.

"We have made an enormous number of calls and had face-to-face meetings," the capital campaign co-chair said, "and most everyone has been honored to be asked to give to the project."

Abramson says that the co-chairs of the capital campaign committee, including Madeline Abramson, Frank and Barbara Weisberg and Dr. Jeffrey Tuvlin, agree with the sentiment.

On October 8's virtual groundbreaking, every individual, family and foundation that stepped up during the leadership phase of the fundraising campaign will see the long-anticipated, ceremonial groundbreaking for the Louisville JCC of the 21st century.

"We are going to make it personal and heartfelt, and we'll have a few surprises along the way," said Stacy Gordon-Funk, senior vice president of philanthropy and chief development officer at the Jewish Federation and JCC. "We are anxious to celebrate as broadly as we can, with the community, that we've achieved this



Children from the Jewish Community Center's Early Learning Center get a sneak peek at the construction site for the future JCC during a recent field trip. The virtual groundbreaking for the JCC will be held on Oct. 8, with construction expected to take 20 months to complete. Visit jewishlouisville.org/groundbreaking for more information. (Community photo)

first groundbreaking goal. I am eternally grateful to those who got us to this point"

Among the speakers for the historic event will be Jon Fleischaker and Ralph Green, co-chairs of the Jewish Community of Louisville board of directors; Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the JCL; Glenn Levine, board chair of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excel-

lence and Steve Trager, CEO of Republic Bancorp and a major supporter of the project.

During the leadership phase, "We spent an enormous amount of time presenting, submitting grant requests and having coffees, breakfasts, lunches with potential donors," Abramson said. "We

See **OCTOBER 8** on page 15

State of the shuls: Presidents' addresses take on added weight during Days of Awe

By Lucy Calderon
For Community

Last year, while standing on the bima of Adath Jeshurun during Rosh Hashanah, Bill Esakov poked a little fun at his members, telling them he would personally fill out their pledge cards if they slept through his president's message.

Things were different this year.



Bill Esakov

For one thing, Esakov wasn't in the building to deliver his address, the last of his three-year term as president. Instead, he will speak via Zoom.

Also, he quipped, the members would have the last laugh on him. "This year, we're on Zoom, and you can mute me."

Other than that, Esakov's speech – essentially a state of the shul address – reflected what has happened to AJ during the COVID-19 pandemic. No major announcements about new programs or initiatives – not until synagogue life can return to some semblance of normal.

"Our building is still closed because it's not safe for our congregation to meet, and we've had to reduce staff and services," he said. "There's nothing to announce," he said. "there's no estimate on when we're going to reopen, so there are no announcements, other than to say this is my last High Holiday Appeal."

Esakov wasn't alone. Across Jewish Louisville, synagogue presidents made their own state of the shul addresses, wrestling with what tell their members about a year unlike any other, how they weathered that year, and what moving forward should look like.

The situation was the same at synagogues nationwide, where presidents addressed their congregations from the perspective of an entirely new reality this year, said Amy Asin, vice president of strengthening congregations at the Union for Reform Judaism. "Buildings have been closed, people are experiencing instability and isolation. And our congregations have been relating to

See **SHULS** on page 15

On the Rise

JFCS counselors help furloughed Jewish communal workers cope

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

By the thousands, workers nationwide in Jewish communal organizations have been furloughed or laid off outright, victims of the coronavirus pandemic and its economic decimation of institutions.

Now, career counselors and social workers from Jewish human service agencies nationwide are volunteering to help those displaced workers assess their career options and find a path forward.

Two of those volunteers come from Louisville.

Cindy Key and Andrea Brown, both career counselors at the Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS), are among 30 counselors and social workers who have signed up for the program, called Rise, which started on Aug. 10.

"There's a lot of fear, confusion and frustration," Brown said, "and I think it's a good time for people to take the op-



Andrea Brown

portunity to say, 'I'm in this position that I don't necessarily want to be in ... but I have this resource now and I can figure out what my next step is going to be.'

Supported by the Jewish Federations of North America and the JPRO Jewish



Cindy Key

professional network, Rise is essentially a website where furloughed workers can select and contact counselors and social workers with whom they can craft a career plan and navigate the effects of job-

See **RISE** on page 15

our COMMUNITY. FUTURE.

>> A new J is on the way! <<

Virtual Ceremonial

GROUND BREAKING

of the **NEW JCC**

October 8, 2020 at 11:00 am

More info on page 9!

THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

We don't need a mountain to study Torah



D'var Torah

Rabbi David
Ariel-Joel

Shanna Tova!

May we all enjoy a good year, a year of good health, joy and most important a year of Shalom, peace and wholeness and wellness.

This month, we will celebrate many holidays, culminating our High Holy Days with a very special holiday – Simchat Torah (the Joy of Torah). At our temple, we wrap our children with an actual Torah scroll (during consecration) and we lay a real Torah scroll on the laps of our preschool students.

For one day every year, despite our differences of ideology and practice, the entire Jewish community, celebrates the most unifying and important idea of our culture – that we are the People of the Book who never stop reading and interpreting it.

No other single aspect of Judaism mattered to our ancestors in the past, nor matters to us today, as much as being a culture of Torah readers.

An ancient interpretation on the revelation in Mount Sinai, tells us that God uprooted an entire mountain and held it threateningly over the people of Israel: “They stood beneath the mountain” (Exodus 19:17).

According to the account, the Blessed Holy One vaulted the mountain over them like a barrel and said to them: If you accept the Torah, well and good; and if not, there will be your graves.”

Quite a teaching.

Lucky for us, God is no longer forcing us to accept the Torah; we have the privilege, and the honor, to study without a mountain hanging over our heads, without the fear of God.

Studying Torah together is a jour-

ney, and like any good journey, you can never know exactly where you are going nor what you will find once you get there.

Exploring the wisdom of our tradition helps us learn about ourselves. We are encouraged to look inside and ask real questions: What is my place in the world? What are my values and goals? Who am I? Am I what I ought to be?

For centuries, Jews have turned to the Torah to learn how to live, to find guiding principles and values. The study of our sacred scriptures from Sinai until today can be an ongoing spiritual and intellectual investigation, a true revelation for each of us as an individual, and for us as a group.

If you ever ask yourself why you should learn Torah, consider this oft-quoted answer by Rabbi Ben Bag-Bag, a disciple of Hillel:

“Turn it and turn it again, for everything is in it.” (Ethics of our Ancestors 5:27)

Torah is a wellspring of wisdom on virtually every aspect of one's life. Religious or ethical, we can find Torah's guidance at every turn, as a source for spirituality and a foundation of values.

We can establish the Torah for ourselves, a vital, dynamic text – as relevant to our lives today as it was 2,000 years ago. When we engage in Torah study, we appreciate its power to guide us through our daily existence, inform our understanding of the world around us and challenge our beliefs and preconceived notions.

In the weeks and months to come, hope to see you as we engage and wrestle with our sacred texts – a process that can enrich our lives and inspire us to always achieve more.

(Rabbi David Ariel-Joel is a senior rabbi at The Temple.)

Snapshots: Pool Party



A masked swimmer clutches a cup of Graeter's ice cream at the Sept. 17 PJ Library Pool Party at the Jewish Community Center. Graeter's provided treats for the event, which capped summer activities at the JCC. (Community photo by Robbyn McClain)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in October:

- Oct 2 @ 7:06 p.m.
- Oct 9 @ 6:55 p.m.
- Oct 16 @ 6:45 p.m.
- Oct 23 @ 6:36 p.m.
- Oct 30 @ 6:27 p.m.

Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community Editor* Lee Chottiner at Ichottiner@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, October 21 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by

Friday, October 30.

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

Corrections/Clarifications

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

The Jewish Community of Louisville
gratefully acknowledges donations to the following

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR
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Year-End Giving Strategies

Advancing Your Philanthropic Personal Mission

Many of us are planning tax-wise giving strategies for the end of the year. 2020 has been a challenging year, yet the commitment to help those in need is a value we hold dear and is expressed by our philanthropy. National data shows that 25% of donors intend to increase their charitable contributions this year, despite the pandemic, making 2020 the 7th consecutive year of increased charitable donations.

If you have new financial or charitable goals, if your plans have changed or if you do not know where to start, we are here to help. We can provide you with resources to guide you whether they are short term or long term.

Below is a helpful checklist to get you started:

Identify Your Goals

Decide what you want to accomplish for your loved ones and community this year.

- Financial Goals
- Charitable Goals

Gather Your Teams

Meet with your team to make sure they understand your priorities*

- Tax, legal and financial advisors
- JCC/Federation development staff

*Most advisors can meet virtually or over the phone during this time.

Utilize Benefits of Various Gift Options

Gifts that can help you save on taxes

- Cash
- Appreciated assets (stock, real estate, etc.)

Gifts that leave your cash flow unaffected

- Donor advised fund
- Bequest or beneficiary
- Qualified charitable distribution from IRA

Gifts that save on taxes and reduce your taxable estate

- Insurance policy
- Charitable gift annuity
- LIFE & LEGACY bequest of retirement assets to JCC/Federation

Frequently Asked Questions

The SECURE Act and the CARES Act affected my plans. Can I make a Qualified Charitable Deduction?

Yes. The requirements for distributions have changed, but you can still take a deduction on a qualified charitable distribution if you are over 70½ years old.

Do you accept gifts from donor advised funds or family foundations?

Yes. Donor advised funds and family foundations are useful wealth management tools for many of our donors. We are happy to assist you in making a donation from either type of account.

Can I make a gift by transferring stock?

Yes. Transferring stock often allows you to make an even bigger impact than donating cash. Be mindful that stock transfers are not immediate. To ensure your gift is received on time, we recommend initiating your transfer two weeks before your deadline.

I updated the charitable portions of my will/beneficiary designations. Do I need to update the JCC/Federation?

Yes. First, we want to ensure there is a documented understanding of what you want your gift to accomplish. Second, deciding to include JCC/Federation in your will is a big decision and we want to recognize your investment. Unfortunately, we miss this opportunity with donors who do not notify us about these designations. Jewish institutions in Louisville are participating in LIFE & LEGACY, a national movement to secure after-lifetime commitments with the aim of building permanent endowments that will sustain a vibrant Jewish Louisville for generations to come. By telling us about your legacy commitment you will be recognized in Louisville's LIFE & LEGACY and at special events throughout the year.

Please contact me if I can assist you in making your philanthropic dreams a reality.

Stacy Gordon-Funk, Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer
SGordon-Funk@jewishlouisville.org

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“...The needs of those served by the JFCS
and JCC are greater than ever this year.”

–Steven Trager, Republic Bank–

Donate at: jfcslouisville.org/golf

NEWS

A Louisville first?

Anshei Sfard to pray outdoors during pandemic Days of Awe

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In an effort to comply with COVID-19 guidelines, Anshei Sfard will hold its High Holy Day services outdoors this year in what might be a first for Jewish Louisville.

The congregation erected a 40-by-60-foot tent in the parking lot next to the mikvah on Dutchmans Lane Thursday, a space big enough to hold about 50 social-distancing worshippers.

Rabbi Simcha Snaid said there wasn't enough room inside Anshei Sfard's synagogue in the Shalom Towers to safely hold the services.

"Last year, we fit 60 people in there," Snaid said. "We took out the tables; people were right next to each other in seats. It was a tight squeeze. That's not going to work this year."

Anshei Sfard and Chabad resumed in-person services this summer.

Under the tent, families may sit together, but all other worshippers will have seats between them.

"Will I say each seat I measure is ex-

actly six feet [apart]? I can't say it will be exactly," Snaid said. "But it will be distant enough to where there is a real separation, and we will all be wearing masks."

The cost of the tent is being covered with a programming grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, which JHFE approved for this purpose. The Jewish Community of Louisville, which owns the parking lot, approved the placement of the tent. It will come down the Monday after Rosh Hashanah for an event and will be re-erected the following Friday for Yom Kippur.

For the ark, the members are using a repurposed bookshelf big enough to hold two Torah scrolls.

It may not be a perfect set-up, Snaid said, but it will do.

"Thank God, the weather is going to be great, but the downside is there may be noise. People may say it's not my usual seat; it's this or that. A couple months ago, we weren't sure we were even going to have the ability to have in-person services. Thank God we're

able to do it in a safe way."

The services probably mark the first time a Louisville synagogue has held High Holy Day services outdoors, other than tashlich, which must be held by a living body of water. Local rabbis and cantors contacted for this story could not recall another time when this has happened.

But Chabad, which also holds in-person services, is offering indoor and outdoor seating this year. And in other cities, some Orthodox congregations have begun holding Shabbat services outdoors as a safety measure.

"These are uncharted waters," Snaid said.

But his members might decide they like praying outside.

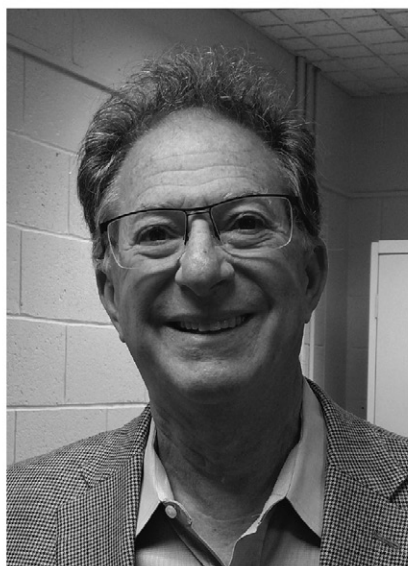
"There is an element of being outdoors where people may feel a stronger connection with God," he said. "You're looking at nature; you see the sky. It reminds you more of God sometimes than being in the synagogue itself. That might be an aspect people will take away."



Rabbi Simcha Snaid, seen here at the entrance to the tent where Anshei Sfard will observe the High Holy Days this year, said moving the services outdoors enables his congregation to worship safely. (Community photo by Lee Chottiner)

The Top Ten Things To Do If You Want To Sell Your House

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Scaled-down Sukkot coming here

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

How do you dwell in a small sukkah during a time of an infectious pandemic? Take your turn.

That's exactly how JOFEE, the Jewish sustainability group in Louisville will observe the Festival of Booths in October – one of several scaled-down Sukkot observances across the city.

JOFEE, which stands for Jewish Outdoor Farming & Environmental Education, will organize a "socially distant Sukkot celebration" with the Young Adult Division on Oct. 11 to celebrate the new Community Garden, said JOFEE Director Alayna Altman.

"The sukkah will be made in advance to ensure social distancing," Altman said. "We'll be giving out Sukkot packages with directions and fruit."

But as for dwelling in the sukkah, "one or two at a time will be allowed inside," she said, "with masks on always."

Contact Altman at aaltman@jewishlouisville.org for more details.

It won't be the only Sukkot program in Louisville.

Temple Shalom members will hold Sukkot services at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2.

Volunteers will decorate the sukkah in shifts on Sunday, Oct. 4. Signups are required. An Ice Cream Dreams truck will be on hand for the volunteers. Email information@templeshalomky.org for details.

The Temple will stream Sukkot ser-

vices at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 3; Erev Simchat Torah at 7 p.m., all on thetemplelouky.org/streaming.

The Temple Young Adults will hold "Stuff Yourself for Sukkot" at 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4 – its first in-person event of the year. The event, which is for ages 22-35, will be marked by eating stuffed foods -- a traditional food enjoyed on the holiday, according to The Temple. Visit thetemplelouky.org/YA-Sukkot to RSVP.

Chabad will roll out its "Family Mobile Sukkah," travelling through Louisville neighborhoods from Oct. 5 to 8, enabling people to simultaneously observe the holiday and CDC guidelines. Contact Rabbi Avrohom Litvin at 502-459-1770 or genesis@chabadky.com to make a reservation.

At Adath Jeshurun, Sukkot services will be held at 10 a.m. on Oct. 3 (first day of Sukkot) and Oct. 4 (second day of Sukkot). All services will be held via Zoom. To subscribe, send your request to info@adathjeshurun.com.

Keneseth Israel will hold erev Sukkot services at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, first day service at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, and 8:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 4.

Anshei Sfard will hold services on the first day of Sukkot at 9 a.m. (Shacharit) and 6:50 p.m. (Mincha/ Maariv); and on the second day at 9 a.m. and 6:55 p.m. Yom Tov ends at 8 p.m.

(Service times for Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah for the congregations can be found in Around Town.)

NEWS

OHC 'guarantees' same camp grant levels to 2020 recipients next year

By Lisa Hornung
For Community

Nationwide, kids missed plenty of camp this summer, forced to stay at home by the coronavirus pandemic. In Jewish Louisville, though, some of those campers are finally getting some good news.

Kids who secured camp grants and scholarships for 2020 through the One Happy Camper program (OHC) will have to re-apply in 2021, said Alison Roemer, senior director of Jewish journeys and experiences at the Jewish Community of Louisville (JCL).

But the good news is they will receive the same level of financial assistance.

"Anyone who got a OHC grant is guaranteed the same amount as 2020," Roemer said.

The news will likely come as a relief to parents who wondered if their children, who have already missed one season at camp, would have to compete with a new class of applicants for the same amount of funding.

OHC grants are completely covered by JCL, using a grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Originally a national grant program, OHC is now the responsibility of local communities.

Campers aren't the only ones getting some good news. The JCL did not ask for grant refunds from the camps where the money was already allocated, Roemer said, effectively donating almost \$90,000 to Jewish camps.

The news came as Jewish Louisville campers, and their parents, spoke to Community about what they missed most about camp and how they tried to compensate for its absence.

Alex Schwartz, 15, was going into his eighth year at Camp Livingston in Indiana when the season was canceled.

"I love camp, and I was really sad not being able to see my friends," he said. "I still talk to them, but it's just different in person."

Alex's mother, Allison Schwartz, said that camp has been an important factor in her son's development.

"It's really taught him so much about himself and his leadership skills," Schwartz said. "It helped him learn at an early age to adjust to uncomfortable situations. It has built his confidence to excel in so many other areas of his life back in Louisville."

Schwartz called camping a "sacred time" for kids like her son, allowing them to "disconnect from social media and the pressures of everyday life and go into a non-judgmental space."

Elise Goldstein's children have mostly outgrown camp now. Her daughter Arianna went to GUCI, and her son Drew, 18, would have been a counselor this year at Livingston. Goldstein herself is a GUCI alumnus.

"Jewish camp gives kids very positive Jewish experiences that are priceless," she said. "They're in a place with

all Jewish kids, everybody's Jewish and, you know, they're amazing opportunities to make friends and strengthen Jewish identity and meet other Jewish kids from around the region.

"I'm very grateful for my personal opportunity to go to Jewish camp," Goldstein added. "It's just a once-in-a-lifetime thing, and our kids have just benefited beyond words at sleepaway Jewish camp."

Robin Weiss said her eight children have greatly benefited from camp. She still has two – Ada, 15, and Noa, 12 – who are at camp age, so it felt strange having them home all summer.

"We are just not used to having the kids home at the summer anymore," she said. "You know, it was just like we didn't even know what to do with them."

The kids, both of whom attend Camp Livingston for separate one-month sessions, benefit from the time apart.

"We can always tell, like in September, they're fairly nice to each other, Weiss said. "By May, it's like, 'Please let camp start soon!'"

Weiss knows there are more serious reasons the kids benefit from camp.

Aside from the physical and social development camp offers kids, Weiss placed an even higher value on Jewish development.

"We can talk about being Jewish all year long, and we can do things that we associate with being Jewish in our family, whether that be going to services or having Shabbat or baking challah, or lighting candles," Weiss said. "But when they go to camp, they can experience the spirit of Judaism, in their friends and in the songs, and it's not something being forced down their throats."

Bob and Shifrah Bornstein have two sons – David, 17, and Jonathan, 13 – who usually attend Beber. This summer David channeled his energy into the culinary arts, learning to smoke chicken and brisket and make his own bagels. At the same time, Jonathan took up golf to while away the summer hours.

It just wasn't the same.

"The kids are able to make friends [at camp] that hopefully they will keep for life, said Bob Bornstein, who, like his wife, went to camp themselves. "Camp instills compassion and empathy for others and helps them to further their Jewish identity, all while having a great time and learning new skills."

Roemer said it is her goal is to help every child who wants to attend Jewish overnight camp to have that opportunity.

"I hope to connect with families who are raising Jewish children to let them know about the One Happy Camper grants and financial assistance that are available to our community."

Want to go?

Families interested in One Happy Camper grants for 2021 can contact Alison Roemer at aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.



Louisville children and teens who received One Happy Camper grants in 2020 are guaranteed the same amount in 2021 if they apply. (Community photo)

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COMMUNITY

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

USPS #020-068 at Louisville, KY.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: Oct. 21 for publication on Oct. 30 and Nov. 18 for publication on Nov. 27.

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

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Lee Chottiner

Editor

502-238-2783, lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org

Larry Singer

Advertising Sales

502-418-5845, lsinger@jewishlouisville.org

Robbyn S McClain

Senior Design & Content Manager

502-238-2764, rmccclain@jewishlouisville.org

Shiela Steinman Wallace

Editor Emeritus

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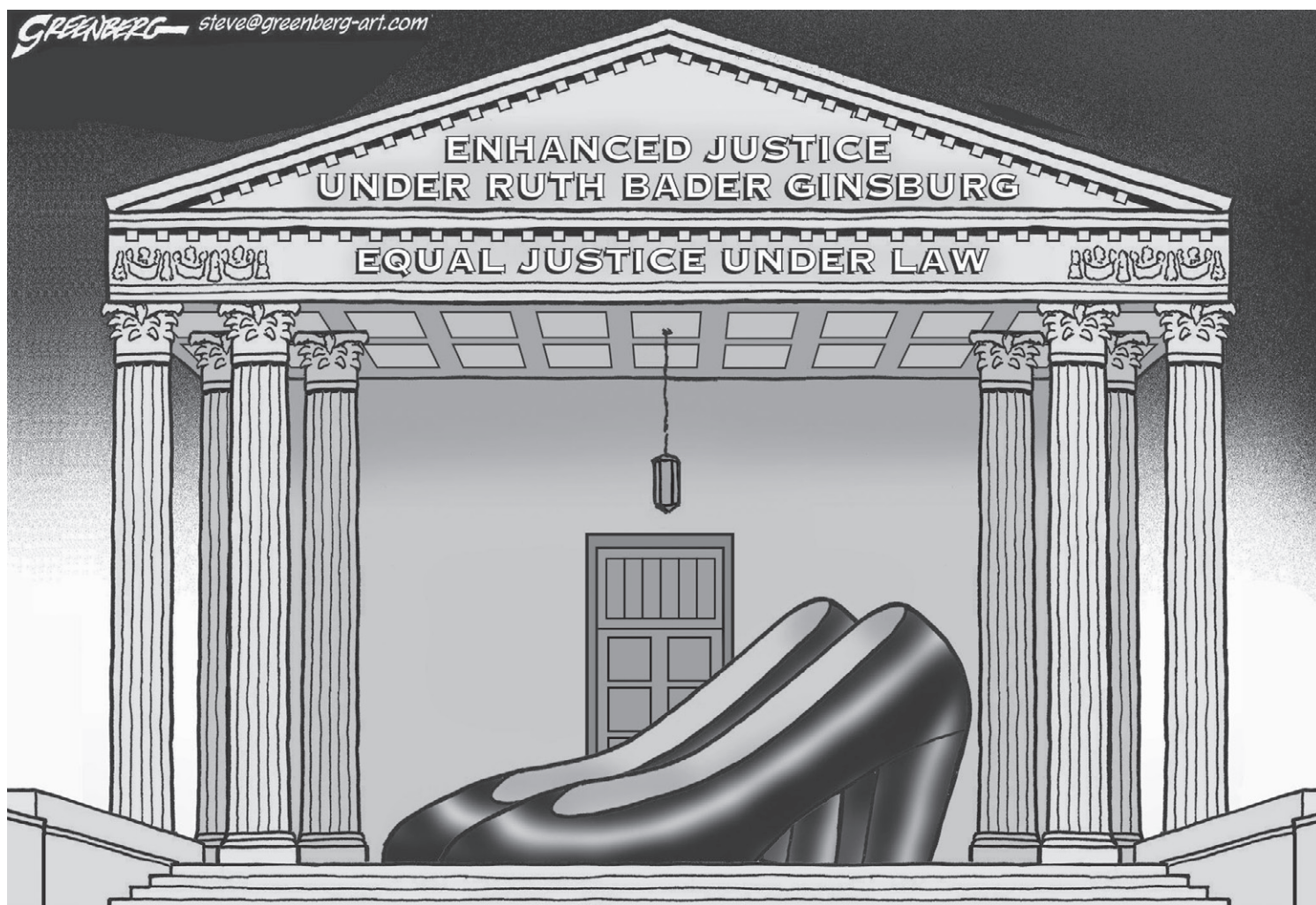
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FORUM



Leading services with empty seats was a challenge



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

I am neither a rabbi nor a cantor, but this month during Selichot, I got a taste of what it's like to lead services in their shoes, during a life-altering pandemic.

Selichot, as you know, is the service of forgiveness or pardon that is held on the Saturday evening before erev Rosh Hashanah. The traditional beginning of the High Holy Day season, it is the time when Torah covers are changed to holiday whites, the *al chet* is chanted for the first time during the Days of Awe, and many Jews hear their first sustained shofar blast of the season.

For some clergy, Selichot this year also marked the first time they have led a service in their synagogues since March, when the country began shutting down for the coronavirus.

Rabbis and cantors in Louisville and elsewhere took to their bimas for the service, which must have felt like an awakening of sorts. After all, so much time has passed while their darkened sanctuaries sat unused.

But this year was only a partial awakening.

While some synagogues, mostly Orthodox, had already resumed in-person services, most Reform and Conservative synagogues have remained closed,

holding virtual services instead. Even as their clergy returned to their buildings for Selichot, they still led the services on Zoom, Facebook or YouTube, chanting the liturgy and performing the rituals in otherwise empty sanctuaries.

That's where my experience comes in.

My wife, Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner of Temple Shalom, had asked me to join her as vocalist for Selichot this year. It wasn't a new experience for me. I can carry a tune, and I know the liturgy well enough to stay out of trouble, so I have worked with her before, both here and at her last pulpit in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Still, standing on the bima, singing to row upon row of empty seats, knowing full well that worshippers were nevertheless watching me from somewhere in cyberspace, felt awkward. Sometimes, if the faceless members were unmuted, I could even hear them.

The only other souls in the sanctuary were the past president, who ran the production equipment, and my daughter, who helped change a Torah cover. That was it – the entire live, in-person congregation.

The only comparison I can make is with C-SPAN's televised coverage of Congress, when members of the House and Senate give impassioned speeches from the wells of their chambers with few, if any, of their colleagues there to listen, save for the presiding officers.

By no means was this Selichot experience the same as holding virtual services from the rabbi or cantor's home during Shabbat, as we have done all spring and summer. In those cases, the clergy can stand or sit in front of their computer

screens, communicating with their congregants. They can watch them stand for Shema, unmute for the Mourners Kaddish or lead some English reading. It's not the total service experience, but at least it's interactive.

When you're standing on the bima, though, leading services for empty seats, you are deprived even of that.

So it doesn't surprise me that some clergy have told me how they struggle with reaching worshippers with whom they cannot share physical space. Like actors, singers, comedians and politicians, rabbis and cantors also thrive on audience reaction. When there is none, they must somehow compensate.

Now, thanks to my Selichot experience, I have had a taste of their challenge – *only* a taste. Selichot was merely a prelude to the High Holy Days. Imagine doing this on Rosh Hashanah (days one and two) and Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre, Yizkor, Neilah). Imagine the sanctuaries just as empty but the virtual congregations many times larger – and still invisible.

Try to imagine it. I cannot. But many of our clergy have now experienced just that.

I hope you signed on to High Holy Day services this year, and I hope you found them as meaningful as possible under the circumstances. Even if you didn't, though, take a moment to consider the rabbis, cantors, volunteers and professional staff who worked hard to bring these services to you. Trust me, it wasn't easy.

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

FORUM

Do UAE, Bahrain treaties mean Israel-Arab peace is a reality?



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

We recently saw a historic event in Washington D.C. Representatives from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Israel signed a normalization and peace agreement under the auspices of the United States.

Although there have been clandestine contacts with these nations for years, to see such a visible display of rapprochement was something that was hardly expected.

There are geo-political and strategic reasons for these three nations to sign agreements, the most pressing being

Iran, which is just across the Persian Gulf from UAE and Bahrain. Because of Iran's proximity and regional dominance, allying with Israel, the strongest military power in the Middle East, makes strategic sense.

And there are other tangible benefits. As part of the agreement, the United States has agreed to sell the UAE F-35s, its most advanced warplane. Israel already has an activated squadron of them.

While Israel has been successfully fighting a proxy war against Iran, targeting its missile locations and air bases in Syria, part of this agreement will surely include significant increases in military and intelligence cooperation between the three nations.

Furthermore, the agreement serves to ingratiate UAE and Bahrain with the United States, Israel's closest ally. These are not the first peace treaties Israel has negotiated with Arab states, but there is reason to hope that they will lead to

warmer relations than exist with Egypt and Jordan. Significant military and intelligence cooperation are planned, as is outreach in civilian sectors (agriculture, water conservation and hi-tech).

Israeli hospitals have already signed agreements with their counterparts in the UAE. Universities have done the same.

Finally, The UAE is expecting an influx of tourists from Israel, and Abu Dhabi, its capital, is the first and only city in the world to mandate that hotels have kosher options.

While this agreement is rightly seen as the start of a new era in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict is far from over.

The Palestinians, which have legitimate grievances, deserve their own state. They are not going anywhere, continuing to live under military occupation even though there are legitimate and justifiable security reasons why the occupation might exist.

Clearly, this agreement shatters Arab

unity on the Palestinian issue. (There are rumors of several other Arab and Muslim nations ready to sign similar agreements with Israel). Palestinian leaders recognize that they are worse off now than they were before these agreements were signed.

A two-state solution to the Palestinian Israeli conflict is a moral and strategic imperative. It has always been the most viable solution. The small minority who advocate for a one-state solution with Palestinians given full citizenship in a greater Israel are wishing for something that simply will never happen.

The full implications of these agreements will play out in the weeks and months ahead.

True, work must still to be done on the Palestinian front, but any time adversaries take steps towards understanding and cooperation is a good thing.

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

Getting ready for November election means making a voting plan



Guest Columnist

Ruth Greenberg & Beth Salamon

(This is the second in a three-part series by NCJW, Louisville Section, about voting in the November election.)

Voting hasn't always been easy for everyone, but this year feels particularly challenging.

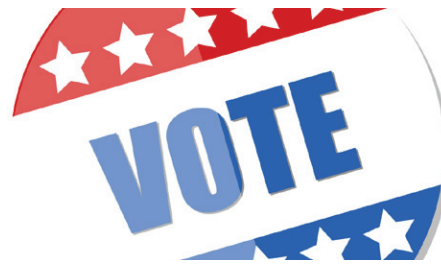
For many Louisville voters, concerns about exposure to COVID-19, a lack of information about which polling centers will be open or where drop boxes for mail-in ballots will be located, coupled with allegations that the postmaster general violated campaign finance laws and the Russians are interfering with our election, are heightening their anxiety

about the Nov. 3 election.

Fortunately, Kentucky is now at the forefront of states providing voters with safe, secure voting options for this, perhaps the most critical election in our lifetimes. At a recent Zoom event hosted by the Frazier History Museum and sponsored, in part, by NCJW, Louisville Section, Rick Green, editor of the Courier-Journal, called the voting plan forged by Governor Andy Beshear and Secretary of State Michael Adams "a great win for the voters of our commonwealth." He praised the two political leaders for having the courage to strike a deal in the current national environment.

Further, Secretary Adams stated, "Ultimately, what we got was an election process that's fair," and Amina Elahi, city reporter at WFPL News, reported that the deal created "a measure of relief among Kentucky voters," many of whom "felt lots of anxiety around voting during the primary."

Now that Kentucky voters have a safe, secure voting plan for the national election, it's up to each of us to develop a personal voting plan that will ensure we all



ballot.

Have a Question?

If you have questions about voter registration, polling locations, absentee ballots or anything else, submit your questions to elections@jewishlouisville.org. And Attorney Seth Gladstein will respond promptly with up-to-date answers and information.

Tzedek tzedek tirdof — justice, justice, shall you pursue — is a guiding NCJW imperative. We have an obligation to secure access to health care, welcome immigrants and care for those in poverty. The Talmud teaches us that anyone who sees harm and doesn't speak out is held responsible.

Make your voting plan today to ensure that your voice is heard on Nov 3.

(Ruth Greenberg is a writer, blogger and member of NCJW, Louisville Section. Beth Salamon is the state policy advocate of NCJW-Louisville and the chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council.)

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FORUM

Louisville teen recounts Israeli schooling during pandemic



Guest
Columnist

Orli Feder

My high school experience has not been anywhere near that of an average American teen.

I've spent the last four years attending an international boarding school in Israel that is part of a program called Na'ale Elite. The program, which encompasses several boarding schools throughout the Jewish state, prides itself on being a totally free boarding school experience for Jews from around the world. I attend a school called Mosenson Elite Academy in Hod Hasharon, near Tel Aviv, while my brother, Ari, goes to a school a few hours north that also is a part of Na'ale Elite.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated overseas study here. By mid-March, we were on a break for Purim, a time off expected to last just a few days. On the last day, though, the school announced that the break would be extended until after the weekend while the Israeli Ministry of Education deliberated whether to close schools for a longer period due to COVID-19.

Back then, the whole world seemed to be collapsing into chaos. Some of the worst stock market drops in history were recorded, and the World Health Organization classified COVID-19 as a global pandemic. In Israel, amid this chaos, the Ministries of Education and Health decided to close schools through the Passover break.

Once this decision was made, my counselor called my mother in Louisville, explaining that I would need to fly home in the coming days, if not that very night! My mother sat on the phone for hours with the airline, trying to get me a ticket. Days later, I flew home.

At the time, there were few regulations for flying. No one wore a face mask and no social distancing rules were in place. I arrived in the states, packed in with hundreds of people, like sardines, awaiting passport control. Miraculously, even under these conditions, I did not contract COVID.

I expected my trip home to last about a month, but as the days dragged on, everyone realized that the situation was not getting better. Schools closed for longer periods, and I began studying via distance learning, which proved to be somewhat difficult considering the time difference. (Louisville is seven hours behind Israel, so an online class scheduled for 8 a.m. there would start at 1 a.m. for me.) Fortunately, my teachers excused me from these early classes and recorded the lessons so I could listen later.

After a few months of distance learn-

ing, in-person classes finally restarted in some form. No longer were there full days of learning – just a few classes. Near the end of the school year, though, exams had to be taken, either in the school or at an embassy. I could either drive to Washington, D.C., three times to complete my tests or fly back to Israel for the remaining month of the term. Together with my parents, I decided it would be best to return to Israel.

I flew back in early June, with far more regulations in place. Face masks were now required, along with an empty seat between each passenger on the flight.

When I touched down in Tel Aviv, I was automatically sent to a government-run quarantine hotel, where I remained for 14 days. Surprisingly, the period seemed to pass quickly. There was a beautiful view of Jerusalem from the roof, so I went up there almost every day and sat at the edge, enjoying the view and breathing fresh air. When my quarantine ended, I returned to the dorms, where I spent the last month of the school year.

I flew home again in mid-July. It now seemed as though newer, stricter restrictions were being added every time I boarded an aircraft. Before each flight, including connections, health declaration forms needed to be filled out by every passenger and everyone's temperature was checked before boarding. Luckily, I stayed healthy throughout all this back-and-forth traveling.

In a year for the history books, it wasn't just my junior term that was affected by the pandemic. Now, my senior term is off to a rocky start, and the future remains uncertain. But there has been one benefit: I'll have a good story to tell for years to come.

(Orli Feder, a Louisville teenager, is in her senior year at Mosenson Elite Academy in Hod Hasharon, Israel.)

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FEDERATION

The High Holy Days is a time to reflect and renew



Sara's View

Sara Klein
Wagner

Welcome, 5781!

The Jewish new year sounds like a fresh beginning, a new start. It is reassurance during strange times that the Jewish calendar remains a constant in the world. The cycle of holidays, festivals and Shabbat create a rhythm and reminder that the seasons will come and go as they always have.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, many people have shared that they often lose track of the days and weeks. Those working from home have lost the transition and distinction between work time and workspace with limited boundaries. While most of us are not spending

the High Holy Days together with friendly hugs, kisses and handshakes or wishing a shana tova (a good year) in person, the rituals of this moment remain. The reflection on the past year, asking those we wronged for forgiveness and thinking about the year ahead, is still so relevant.

Sept. 17 marked my 30-year work anniversary since I returned to Louisville, excited and nervous to become the community relations director at the Jewish Federation. I began my new position just three days before Rosh Hashanah. Each High Holy Day season since 1990, I consciously take time to consider both my personal and communal reflections and renew.

I am not alone in my personal loss this past year. My sweet and kind dad, age 94, passed away just as COVID-19 began to change our lives. He cared so deeply about Jewish life and Jewish community that it has made my work life that much more poignant as our Federation and JCC staff and volunteers have navigated through the past seven months. We try our best every day to fulfill our vision:

Inspiring meaningful lives while transforming our Jewish future. This vision has remained a guidepost during this period.

Last Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we could not have imagined the year ahead. A global pandemic, hurricanes, devastating wildfires and calls for racial justice that cannot be ignored. Remarkably, our Jewish community allows us to pause and celebrate a new year filled with hopes and dreams. As always, we let go of what went wrong; we honor the sweetness of life and we make plans to do better, to listen wholeheartedly, to take responsibility and to make our world better.

Over the past seven months, I have been inspired by our Federation and JCC staff and volunteers for their ability to serve the community. Together, we have delivered 10,600 meals to seniors, provided a respite from isolation through virtual and in-person fitness classes, hosted numerous online events to bring people together for learning and gathered our youngest children back together

for preschool.

We have also provided a sense of normalcy for summer campers and quickly created an extension of camp for children to attend non-traditional virtual learning at the JCC.

I am also so proud of our Jewish community for coming together to raise and distribute over \$420,000 through the United Jewish Louisville Rapid Response Fund. Together, with the generosity of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and generous donors, we granted these dollars to 13 Jewish agencies, schools and congregations to assist during the pandemic.

As I reflect on the year that just ended, I am grateful to each of you. During the most difficult of times, I am humbled by the effort and determination of our team to provide love and care and meaning to so many lives.

Lshana tova. May 5781 be a year that brings health and happiness to us all.

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

Why We Give: JCC supporters share their motivation

"Everything I do has to last at least three generations."

— Minx Auerbach

This quote, which was shared by Minx's three children, Rob Auerbach, Dr. J. Keith Auerbach and Penny Auerbach Friedberg, distills the motivation of so many multi-generational families to make their commitments to the new JCC.

One can walk past plaques on walls or named buildings that designate a family, foundation or individual gifts to our JCC, but how much do we know about why they chose to support not just a facility, but a legacy institution?

Many families that generously donated lead gifts to the JCC's Capital Campaign had one significant thing in common – the desire to honor the legacy of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who felt so supported by their Jewish community.

Kate Shapira Latts recalled stories

about her grandparents and great-grandparents who used to live in small towns throughout Kentucky. They would converge in Louisville around the programs and activities of the JCC and Federation because it was where the Jewish community was centered.

She credited the Jewish community for providing her family with opportunities for education, life and leadership.

The Auerbach family believes its connection to Jewish life in Louisville and Jewish values were critical elements in its establishment in America. Around the turn of the century. Tracing their ancestry back to the 1600s where their father's great-great-great grandfather was the chief rabbi of Prague, they, like many Jewish families, nevertheless came to this country in the early 20th century to start a new life.

The Auerbachs arrived as "impoverished immigrants from Poland and Russia," said Keith Auerbach. His great-grandparents worked hard to raise their

families, instilling in them, and future generations, the Jewish value of hard work.

Penny Auerbach Friedberg said, "For us, it's about honoring our parents, so that others can use and enjoy a facility and a community that they cared so deeply for and gave them so much."

Latts shared a similar story of her great-grandparents, Max and Annie Shapira, who immigrated to the United States around the same time. They settled in New Haven, where they had five sons. Max first sold notions, such as thimbles and threads and eventually grew his business into a chain of department stores throughout central Kentucky. When prohibition ended, Latts' grandfather, Edwin, was approached about investing in a start-up distillery. After a few years, the family became the sole owners of that business – Heaven Hill.

The Shapiras credit the Louisville Jewish community for supporting and

grounding their family in Jewish values and opportunities.

Both current generations of Auerbachs and Shapiras understood the need for a new JCC to continue Jewish identity and culture in Louisville.

"As our current JCC has existed for not one but two generations," Kate said, "we are now ready for a new JCC that can continue to evolve and be adaptable for third and fourth generations."

Latts is looking forward to watching construction of the new JCC over the next 20 months.

"It's so exciting that our community has been able to raise this much money and energized so many people so quickly," she said.

For more about the ground breaking of the New JCC, please see Page 1 of Community.

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NEWS

Ginsburg gave 'very Jewish speech' during her Louisville visit

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

When Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited Louisville in 2003 to speak at the Annual Louis D. Brandeis Lecture, it was probably the toughest ticket in town.

Some 700 people were crammed into a hall at the Seelbach Hotel downtown – lawyers, students, professors, the Jewish community (in force), and descendants of Brandeis – all anxious to hear from the diminutive Supreme Court justice.

But Laura Rothstein, then-dean of the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville, recalled that Ginsburg “insisted” upon a slight change to the program before it began.

“She insisted that the dinner not be served before her speech,” Rothstein said. The jurist thought that speaking while guests finished their meals or as waiters cleared away dishes, glasses and forks would be too distracting.

She was right.

“It was wonderful,” Rothstein said of the speech. “From then on, we always did it that way.”

The story typified Ginsburg, who died Saturday, Sept. 19, after 27 years on the bench. The justice was always precise and deliberative, especially with her words.

“What you’re always struck by was just how diminutive she was and how much power she had in her voice and language,” said David Friedman, former general counsel of ACLU Kentucky, who also was at the dinner. “She was petite, and she came across so strong.”

Her remarks that night were very Jewish, literally tracing the history of Jews on the highest court in the land.

Ginsburg described how the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice almost wasn’t Brandeis. President Millard Fillmore nominated Judah P. Benjamin, then a Louisiana senator, in 1853, but Benjamin, who would join the Confederate Cabinet during the Civil War, declined.

That paved the way for Brandeis, whom President Woodrow Wilson nominated in 1916, followed by Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur Goldberg, Abe Fortas, Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan.

Even if some of those justices were nominated because they were Jews, Ginsburg said the court has evolved over the years, from a body where a so-called “Jewish seat” existed to one where Jewish jurists were nominated less for their ethnicity and more for their merits.

In her case, and Breyer’s, both nominated by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and 1994 respectively, each had taught law for several years and served on federal courts of appeals before moving up to the high court.

“In contrast to Frankfurter, Goldberg and Fortas ... no one regarded Ginsburg and Breyer as filling a Jewish seat,” Ginsburg said in her speech. “Both of us take pride in, and draw strength from, our heritage, but our religion simply was not relevant to President Clinton’s appointments.”

Nevertheless, Ginsburg told her audience, she drew inspiration from Jewish teachings. She said artwork adorning her chambers bore the Jewish com-

mandment, “Zedek, zedek.” (Justice, justice shalt thou pursue.)

“They are ever-present reminders of what judges must do ‘that they may thrive,’” she said.

While Rothstein described the speech as “very Jewish,” she also thought Ginsburg made a cogent point about what the court ought to be.

“It also focused on a legal issue, which was the role of the courts,” she said. “I think we’re seeing that now: is the role of the courts to be representative of people in the country?”

Friedman experienced firsthand how Ginsburg worked on the bench when he argued a civil liberties case before the Supreme Court in 2005, *ACLU of Kentucky v. McCreary County et al.* He argued that displays of the Ten Commandments at two Kentucky courthouses violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

“She was very quick and very precise, and of course she had a beautiful Brooklyn Jewish accent,” quipped Friedman, a native of Queens.

But Rothstein will always remember Ginsburg as a breaker of glass ceilings, particularly as a law professor at a time when law schools had so few women on their faculties.

“I really credit her for blazing trails in academia,” she said, “which she’s not well known for, except in academia.”

Shadowing today’s turbulent times, Ginsburg took a moment to laud Brandeis for the Louisville native’s approach the law.

“Law as protector of the oppressed, the poor, the minority, the loner is evident in the life body work of Justice Brandeis,” Ginsburg said.

Those words could easily be written about Ginsburg today, Rothstein said. “That’s particularly poignant to see those connections, especially right now.”



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg shares a moment with students and faculty from the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at UofL the night of her speech at the Louis D. Brandeis Lecture at the Seelbach Hotel, Feb. 11, 2003. Ginsburg used her speech to discuss the history of Jews on the Supreme Court and how the so-called “Jewish seat” evolved over the years. (photo by Tom Fougousse/University of Louisville)

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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Ehrlich touch marriage of justice, art in Bar article



Louisville sculptor Juliet Ehrlich has written a feature story for the September issue of BARbriefs – the publication of the Louisville Bar Association – which is a first-person reflection on the process of monument creation and a tribute to judges and lawyers.

The story, “Magistrates and Monuments” <<https://bit.ly/3ijzY7Z>> included an image of Ehrlich’s relief sculpture, “Lady Justice,” which graced



the cover of that issue and is pictured here.

Ehrlich’s corporate, public and private art commissions have been placed in the United States and internationally. Seventeen of her pieces have been commissioned by the U.S. State Department for foreign embassies. She recently became one of two sculptors to be awarded a three-month residency at the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

BBYO offers vouchers for Israel travel

BBYO is offering a limited number of \$3,000 travel vouchers for Jewish teens in North America who are considering one of the organization’s summer programs in Israel in 2021.

The vouchers are being made available regardless of financial need.

This is the first year the RootOne travel vouchers, as they are called.

BBYO has enhanced and expanded its offerings for 2021, with programs, flexibility, and dates to fit more interests and schedules.

Registration for BBYO summer programs is totally risk-free, with deposits fully refundable through March 2, 2021.

“The availability of \$3,000 vouchers, and risk-free refundable, we expect our Israel travel programs to fill up very quickly for next summer,” Robyn Judelsohn, senior vice president of immersive experiences at BBYO, said in a

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

*As of September 25, 2020

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS/AROUND TOWN

prepared statement.

The RootOne Initiative is funded through the Marcus Foundation, and is powered by The Jewish Education Project.

RootOne travel vouchers may also be applied to opportunities that connect a BBYO program in Israel with other BBYO travel and leadership experiences in Europe and North America, for an even fuller summer of exploration.

Visit **bbyopassport.org/israel-2021/** for more information about the vouchers.

Local teens make NMSP semifinals

Four Jewish Louisville high school seniors have advanced to the semifinals of the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP).

They are Benjamin Burke of Louisville Collegiate School, and Samantha Ogburn, Warren Van Nort and Yael Wagner of duPont Manual High School.

The four are among 16,000 semifinalists nationwide in the 66th annual NMSP, all competing for some 7,600 scholarships worth more than \$30 million.

The scholarships will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

Over 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to reach the finals, and more than half will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Adath Jeshurun

Virtual Shabbat worship services are held via Facebook Live and Zoom, and twice-daily minyan services via Zoom only.

The fall series of virtual programs focusing on education, entertainment, wellness and social justice will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 14, with "Coffee Break." The programming can be accessed via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Worship services for the festivals will be held at 10 a.m. on the following four mornings: Oct. 3, Sukkot, day 1; Oct. 4, Sukkot, day 2; Oct. 10, Shemini Atzeret and Yizkor; Oct. 11, Simchat Torah. All services will be held via Zoom. Links to all services and other events may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. To subscribe, send requests to **info@adathjeshurun.com**.

Anshei Sfard

Yom Kippur services this year will be held in a tent on the parking lot in front of mikvah to allow for social distancing during worship. Services begin at 9 a.m., Monday, Oct. 28. Reservations are required as seating will be assigned.

To order lulav & etrog sets for Sukkot, contact Rabbi Simcha Snaid at **rabbisnaid@ansheisfard.com** or 912-704-2769, or call the office at 502-451-3122. Standard sets cost \$45; deluxe sets, \$55; super deluxe sets, \$75. Orders must be made by Sept. 24, with payment made at that time.

Classes continue via Zoom or in person while practicing social distancing: "Tal-

mud Trek," Sundays at 9:30 a.m.; "Spice of Life," Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; "Make a Prophet," Thursdays at noon. Contact Rabbi Simcha Snaid at 912-704-2769 or **rabbisnaid@ansheisfard.com** for the Zoom link.

Chabad

Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre services will be held at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27; Yizkor services, noon, Monday, Sept. 28; holiday Yizkor services, noon, Saturday, Oct. 10. All services will last 60 minutes.

The Genesis, Part 1, class, which looks at Adam, Noah and Abraham, will be held on Tuesday evenings on Oct. 13, 20 and 27 via Zoom. Student materials will be supplied.

Chavurat Shalom

Abby Glogower, Jewish collection curator at the Filson Historical Society, will share her research on Rabbi Martin Perley, at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 1. Visit **ChavuratShalomZoom** to join the program.

Music students from the University of Louisville will play guitar at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 8. Visit **ChavuratShalomZoom** to join the program.

Singer/guitarist/songwriter Tyrone Cotton will perform at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15. Visit **ChavuratShalomZoom** to join the program.

Senior University 2020: The COVID Edition, will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Oct. 22. This year's program will feature Corey Shapiro, legal director of ACLU-Kentucky, who will talk about key issues his office has addressed this year. Also, Student Cantor Mike Jarvis will perform. Email Sarah Harlan at **sarahharlan86@gmail.com** to register.

Beth Olliges, of Two of Diamonds, will perform a sing-along at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 29. Visit **ChavuratShalomZoom** to join the program.

Contact Sarah Harlan at 502-212-2038 or **sarahharlan86@gmail.com** for more information.

Filson Historical Society

During October – National Family History Month – Abby Glogower, curator of Jewish collections, will host a two-part program on Zoom, "Archiving Your Personal and Family History: An Inclusive Two-Part Workshop for a Variety of Pasts," on Oct. 6 and 13. The program is free to the public, but registration is required. Visit **filson.simpletix.com/** for details.

High School for Jewish Studies

Classes will meet Sundays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., roughly twice monthly, starting on Oct. 11. Topics include kabbalah, science fiction, Jewish sources on racial justice, Torah yoga and many other subjects. The year will begin virtually with all pertinent connection information to be shared before opening day. Scholarship assistance is available <louisvillehsjs.org/scholarships/>. Visit **louis-**

villehsjs.org/register/ to sign up.

Keneseth Israel

Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10. Simchat Torah services will be held at 6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 (drive-in) and at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 11.

Mindful Meditation with Cantor Sharon Hordes is held on Join us Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Cantor Sharon Hordes leads the Jews and Brews Torah study sessions Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom.

Cantor Hordes and Lisa Flannery lead Torah Yoga, co-sponsored by Temple Shalom and Hadassah, first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Cantor Hordes teaches Kabbalah Month by Month, which addresses Jewish mysticism through the months of the Hebrew calendar, on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

The Baking Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Upcoming recipes are avocado blueberry cheesecake, crepes, and challah. Check **facebook.com/kilouisville** for dates and recipes.

Visit **tinyurl.com/KICzoom** to access all classes.

Temple Shalom

The sukkah will be decorated in shifts on Sunday, Oct. 4, to provide for social distancing. An Ice Cream Dreams truck will be on hand for the volunteers. Email **information@templeshalomky.org** for more details.

Maggie Kimberl, content editor of American Whiskey magazine, will be the next guest at the Chailands Chavurah, 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26. A University of Louisville alumnus, she will speak about kosher whiskey and the Jewish history of distilling. Email **chailands@templeshalomky.org** or **information@templeshalomky.org** for the Zoom link.

Shabbat services with Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner are held Fridays at 6:30 p.m.; Havdalah, Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. Email **information@templeshalomky.org** for the Zoom link.

Torah study with Rabbi Jacowitz Chottiner is held Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Email **information@templeshalomky.org** for the Zoom link.

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah services will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 9; Yizkor services, at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10.

The Temple

To join The Temple for High Holy Days, visit **thetemplelouky.org/hhd** for a full schedule and links.

Adult Education starts Monday, Oct. 12. Contact The Temple at 502-423-1818 for registration information. Monday courses include Basic Judaism with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel at 5 p.m., Advanced Hebrew with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport at 6

p.m., Text Study with Rabbi David at 6 p.m., and Beginning Hebrew Part 2 with Mark Goldstein at 6 p.m.

On Wednesdays starting Oct. 14, Crisis and Dealing with Crisis in Jewish Tradition at 9:30 a.m. with Ariel-Joel, and the Roots of Justice at 10:45 a.m. with Rapport. All classes are held on Zoom.

Simchat Torah services will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 9; Sukkot Yizkor services, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, both on YouTube.

Catholic Jewish Dialogue is held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, 2:30 p.m. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport and Father Joe Graffis will speak. RSVP to **benji@thetemplelouky.org**.

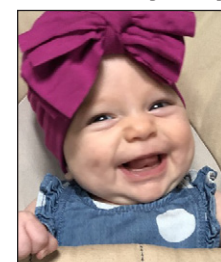
Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will speak on the topic "Unsung Jewish women" at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 18. Thirteen women will be featured. RSVP for Zoom link at **thetemplelouky.org/unsung-women/**.

Senior University Lite will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Oct. 22. Corey Shapiro, legal director for ACLU Kentucky, will talk about key issues in 2020. Student Cantor Mike Jarvis will stream a concert. RSVP to Sarah Harlan at **sarahharlan86@gmail.com** for the link.

Movie Night with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 25, presenting a series of Jewish identity films: Gentlemen's Agreement, Fiddler on the Roof, Stranger Among Us, Defiance and Denial; RSVP for Zoom link at **thetemplelouky.org/Jewish-Identity-in-Jewish-Films/**.

Births

Naomi Chaya Payton-Katz



Dr. David and Barbara Myerson Katz announce the birth of their granddaughter, Naomi Chaya Payton-Katz, on June 20, 2020 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The proud parents are Dr. Claire Antone Payton and Jonathan Myerson Katz.

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Naomi Chaya is named in loving memory of Claire's great-grandmother, Ruth Naomi Kerr Wallingford, an early 20th century newspaper editor in Kansas; and Jonathan's grandmother, Helen Metelitz Katz, Hebrew name Chaya, who was an economist in the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

B'nai Mitzvahs

Elijah Peppers

Elijah Peppers will become a bar mitzvah on Saturday, Oct. 15, at The Temple. A student at Jeffersonville High School, he plays basketball and plays the trumpet. He is the brother of Gregory, Izach, Malachi and Solomon.

Teller Hayes Prizant

Teller Hayes Prizant, son of Loren and Jane Prizant and brother of Amelia, will become bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at The Temple. He is the grandson of Ellen and Bruce Prizant and Joyce Nall of Owensboro. A seventh grader at Western Middle School for the Arts, he majors in dance. He is active in soccer, tumbling and trampoline. He created a greeting card with a drawing and description of his Torah portion for his Pledge 13 project, to send to Temple members who have had limited social interactions because of COVID-19.

Isabela Marisol Nibur

Isabela Marisol Nibur, daughter of Laurence (Laura) Nibur and Lauren Kaplan, sister to Sloan, Jonathan and Hunter, will become a bat mitzvah on Saturday, Nov. 7. Isabela's grandparents are Ivan and Mercedes Nibur (Louisville); Dr. Brad and Pam Stephenson (Deltona, Florida); Dr. Steven and Sharon Kaplan (Milwaukee); and Dr. Roy and Aida Lott (Houston). A seventh grader at Louisville Collegiate, Isabela plays field hockey and basketball. She enjoys singing, dancing, summer camp, movie nights with family, and her dogs.

Obituaries

Bernice S. Brill

Bernice S. Brill, 99, died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020.

A life-long Louisville resident, Bernice was born on Oct. 24, 1920, a daughter of the late Herman and Hannah Sandler.

She was a member of The Temple, Women of Reform Judaism-Louisville Chapter, and Hadassah. She also enjoyed playing mahjong and card games with her extensive network of friends.

Bernice was also preceded in death by her husband, Irvin D. Brill; her son,

Jeffery Alan Brill; and her sister, Pauline Gurwitch.

Her surviving daughter, Penny Brill, in a lovely tribute, recalls:

"I know everyone believes their mother is the best. But I truly think that honor goes to my mom, Bernice Brill. As I think back over the years, I think about how we laughed together, cried together, shopped together, and how much she did for me and how much I love her. At almost 100 years old, she still showed me the way. One of the fondest memories is going downtown to shop and have lunch at Stewart's almost every Saturday morning when I was growing up. Just a little "girl time."

A graveside service was held on Aug. 27 in The Temple Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made in Bernice's honor to The Temple.

Penny (Patricia A.) Brill



Penny (Patricia A.) Brill passed away on Monday, Aug. 31, 2020.

Retired from a long and distinguished career at Brown-Forman, she was a member of The Temple and a resident of The Glenview, where she had served as secretary of the board and participated in its lively discussion group, The YaYas. She was also a president and board member of the WhoDunnit Murder Mystery Theater, having delighted audiences in her many stage roles.

Penny was preceded in death by her brother, Jeffery Alan Brill; her father, Irvin D. Brill; and most recently by her mother, Bernice S. Brill.

A graveside service and burial were held in The Temple Cemetery.

Ann Waterman, a close friend, recalls that Penny was widely known and loved for her kind heart and ready smile even during hard times, always quick to place the welfare of others above her own. She asks that those who wish to make contributions in Penny's honor to The American Cancer Society, the Animal Care Society and especially to individuals in their communities in need of assistance at this critical time.

Zikhronah livrakha; may her memory be a blessing.

Lawrence M. Kozlove

Lawrence M. Kozlove, 75, died Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, in his hometown of Louisville.

Born Aug. 31, 1945, a son of the late Milton and Jean Rose, Lawrence was in

the first graduating class of Seneca High School, where he won state in swimming for the 100-yard butterfly. He was a graduate of University of Louisville.

An expert card player, Lawrence was called "the greatest bridge player Louisville has seen." He also was a world champion player, winning the World Series of Poker and the World Poker Tour.

An Army veteran, Larry served in Vietnam. Upon his return, he began a career in banking, starting at Citizen Fidelity, moving on to Bank of Louisville and retiring with Republic Bank.

He was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and served as a board member for many organizations, including the Kidney Disease Program Inc., The Easter Seals, The Heart Association and The Healing Place.

After 10 years living in Florida, Larry decided to return to Louisville, to be with the son, and in the city, he so loved.

Larry is survived by his wife of 38 years, Ellen; his beloved son, Philip (Meg); his sister, Elaine Berman (Ron) of Mobile, Alabama; and his extended family.

Graveside services were held Friday, Sept. 4, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. In honor of Larry, and his spirit of giving, memorial donations to Adath Jeshurun or the donor's favorite charity are appreciated.

Richard L. Stein



Richard L. Stein passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, in Chicago. He was 55.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, the oldest of three boys, his family moved to Louisville in 1977. He attended Ballard High School and was active with the National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY).

He started college at the University of Louisville, then moved to Chicago where he graduated from Skokie Yeshiva and Northeastern College with a degree in mathematics. He later received a master's degree business from DePaul University.

Professionally and in his personal life, Richard was a genius at identifying challenging situations and creating processes and pathways to resolve them. He was a problem solver who used wisdom, wit, compassion and empathy to help dozens of people.

Family was important to Richard, who enthusiastically embraced his roles as

husband, father and uncle.

He is survived by his wife, Mara, of Chicago; his children, Gavriella, Layla and Shimon, all of Israel; his parents, Barbara and Hy Stein of Louisville; and his brothers, Gerald (Rebecca) of Lakewood, N.J., and Michael (Judith) of White Plains, New York; and many nieces and nephews who adored him for his humor, compassion and love of everything family.

Arrangements were by Chicago Jewish Funerals-Skokie Chapel

Charles M "Chuckles" Topcik



Charles M "Chuckles" Topcik passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, a son of the late to the late Esther and Jack Topcik, he was an accountant whose hobbies included watching the stock market and collecting antique cameras.

He was well known, though, for his performances as a clown. Topcik spent many years visiting children in hospitals as Chuckles the Clown and became actively involved with Camp Quality, a camp for kids battling cancer. His dedication to clowning and volunteerism inspired his family to continue his legacy of helping others.

He was a proud Mason for over 50 years, belonging to both the Grotto and Kosair Shrine fraternal organizations. He also was a member of Keneseth Israel Congregation.

He enjoyed spending holidays and celebrations with his immediate and large extended family.

Topcik was preceded in death by his young daughter, Laura.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Evie Lou Topcik; his children, Carolyn (Kevin) Bleicher of Boulder, Colorado; Jeanne (Scott) Aronoff of Mason, Ohio, and Deborah Topcik of Washington, D.C. He is also survived by his two grandsons, Andrew and Samuel Aronoff of Mason; his sister, Marcia Topcik of Las Vegas, Nevada; a niece and nephew, many cousins and extended family. A special thanks to Mike Keith.

"A Smile is Love" is a quote that exemplified his outlook on life. To honor his memory, let's all smile.

Donations may be made in his honor to Keneseth Israel Congregation or Kosair Charities.

Graveside service were held Thursday, Sept. 3, at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

May his memory be a blessing.



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NEWS

OCTOBER 8

Continued from page 1

carried the message that was probably very similar to the one carried 60-odd years ago," when the current JCC was built.

"But more work remains" Gordon-Funk said. "We are inviting the entire community in to get involved."

Contributions will still be needed to complete the project, which includes construction, demolition of the current JCC and Anshei Sfard buildings, "greening" of the campus, building a new entrance at the four-way Dutchmans Lane-Cannons Lane intersection and other campus needs.

Which is why, according to Abramson, the groundbreaking ceremony will mark the end of one campaign phase – the leadership phase – and the start of another – the community phase.

other – the community phase.

"During the community phase, everyone has the opportunity to contribute any amount to show their commitment to this once-in-a-lifetime project," Abramson said.

The construction of the new JCC, which should take approximately 20 months to complete, will be done in five phases, one of which has already started: site preparation, foundation and steel erection, exterior cladding (prefab concrete walls, windows, roof), interior work (flooring, masonry, drywall, wiring, plumbing) and moving (taking equipment, supplies and furnishings from the old building to the new).

Finally, "opening day," said Laurence Nibur, chair of the construction committee. "We will look forward to welcoming the entire community to our new JCC home."

He said the most "visible" moment to the public may be phase 2, which is ex-

pected to begin this winter. People will begin to see the steel superstructure rise from the back of the campus like an Erector set.

"They'll see the building take shape," Nibur said, "the literal skeleton of the building."

Serving as the board's liaison to GBBN Architects and the contractor, Calhoun Construction, Nibur said his volunteer job will continue throughout the project. Along with senior leadership, Nibur joins a series of owner-contractor meetings to regularly monitor checklists and make decisions as they arise.

The work that has started, Abramson noted, could not have happened without the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, as they were the lead partner with the JCL to create a transformational project.

"There is no question that because of the cornerstone gift of the JHFE and their willingness to match us dollar for dollar, the community believed this

would happen," Abramson said.

He also cited the contribution of the James Graham Brown Foundation, the Gheens Foundation, Kosair Charities and the WHAS Crusade for Children, all of which have supported the project.

"Many of the donors and contributors, who I spoke with, gave because of the impact that the JCC had on their lives and wonderful memories of growing up at the JCC," said Abramson. They also gave because they know the importance for their children and grandchildren to have a Jewish Community Center for them to enjoy in the future."

Abramson continued, "This is now the Jewish icon that the community at large thinks of when they think of the Jewish community."

To get involved, please contact Stacy Gordon-Funk at Sgordon-funk@jewishlouisville.org or (502) 608-6519.

RISE

Continued from page 1

lessness.

Rise volunteers offer services along three tracks: careers, which is being accessed largely by professionals ages 25-45, and resilience (wellbeing during unemployment), which is more popular among workers over 45.

A third track – loans – which is favored by people ages 35-45, advises clients on obtaining short-term, zero-interest loans.

The Rise website attracted more than 7,544 visitors in its first month of operation, mostly to the careers track, according to JPRO, with Louisville among the top six Jewish communities accessing that particular area.

Though still a new project, Rise is al-

ready yielding benefits, said JPRO Chief Executive Officer Ilana Aisen. "We just got word from someone that she landed a fabulous job within the Jewish community," Aisen said, [and] "We've had very warm, appreciative and positive responses to the offerings as a whole, in particular, the career coaching."

Key, who is currently working with one furloughed worker, said each Rise volunteer has slightly different experience, training and specialties, so workers can individually select counselors whose skillset best suits them.

"The reason that the counselors were selected was to give as much diversity as possible," Key said. "You can pick someone in your geographic area or someone who has a specialty that's important to you."

During their sessions with clients, the counselors can address as many as three

"key areas of response": financial stability, emotional support and career development.

They can also counsel their clients individually or through peer groups.

"For many people, this will be a crossroads, so it will be an opportunity that is a mixed blessing in a lot of ways," Key said. "They have an opportunity to look at what they have been doing, what their strengths, their interests, their talents, their experiences [are], and where they would like to continue using them."

Some people may return to their old positions, she said. Others know their old jobs are probably gone.

Approximately 20,000 employees – 20 percent of the 100,000-strong Jewish community workforce nationwide – have lost their jobs since March, according to JPRO.

In addition to JPRO and JFNA, the

Institute for Jewish Spirituality, International Association of Jewish Free Loans, Jews of Color Initiative, Leading Edge, Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies and others, are partnering in the Rise initiative.

Which makes the effort all the more important.

Aisen said the program was developed for two reasons: It's in keeping with Jewish values, and it preserves contacts with the human resources that Jewish communal institutions need to operate – now and in the future.

"When we take care of our workforce, the story and narrative in the Jewish community becomes a positive one," Aisen said. "It becomes a narrative of retaining the talent and to recruit talent in the future."

SHULS

Continued from page 1

their congregants in new and exciting ways," Asin said.

Asin said synagogues have gone beyond streaming services when it comes to connecting with members. "There has been a burst of creativity in congregational life," she said. "Right now, congregants are in places of deep need and our congregations are meeting that need, including in Louisville."

Locally, synagogue presidents – speaking live from their buildings, via Zoom or on pre-recorded messages – addressed ways to meet those needs in their speeches.

For instance, Reed Weinberg, president of The Temple, talked about developing an infrastructure for virtual members.



Reed Weinberg

"Going virtual has opened new membership levels [for people who live out of state]," Weinberg said.

"We have out-of-state people who were Temple members who are logging on to our services who have reached out to us and said

want to help."



Wesley Gersh

Temple Shalom President Wesley Gersh plans to pay tribute the volunteers of his congregation and will ask all members to commit to serving on a some committee to fill some vacant position.

"It's going to be about bringing everyone together; I think that's important," Gersh said. "We [already] have a great group of people stepping up to the plate and getting what needs to be done and I think that's fantastic."

He also planned to urge members who don't yet know well the rabbi, Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, to reach out to her. (This reporter is married to Jacowitz Chottiner.)

"Call her, have coffee with her, but get to know her," Gersh said, "because once you do you'll learn how lucky we are to have her."

Weinberg hoped to strike a note of "hope and positivity" in his message, noting that moves are already happen-

ing to bring people back to the building in some form. A socially distant ice cream social was held outdoors in September, and b'nai mitzvahs with safety measures are already happening inside.

But the pandemic forced The Temple to make major changes, he will say, some of which will not go away and even after members begin returning in regular numbers.

"There is probably a new normal that comes out of this," Weinberg said. "We don't look at that as a negative thing; we look at that as a positive thing."



Myrle Davis

Myrle Davis, president of Anshei Sfard, who shared her remarks through the synagogue bulletin and with her board members, said she spoke of her members as "vision holders" for the congregation, reminding them that growth for a small synagogue like theirs is possible. She noted that two new families have recently joined us and the congregation has "new energy to be a positive mainstay in our community."

"We hold fast to the idea of family and growth," she said.

Leigh Bird, president of Keneseth Israel, used her address to acknowledge that Jews interact differently with the



Leigh Bird

Jewish world now because of the pandemic. "We'll continue to look for creative ways to be Jewish when we can't congregate," she said.

Bird talked about exploring and understanding people's "whys" – their personal motivations for living Jewishly. She asked KI leaders to share their own whys, which will form the bulk of her remarks.

She also planned to reach out to the members, listening to their thoughts about where KI is and where it is going.

"I look forward to having conversations with our members about their whys in the coming months," Bird said.

Finally, the presidents remained realistic that the pandemic is still here.

Gersh said he wanted to restart the congregation's weekly bingo fundraiser, but only if it's safe, he added, noting that at least one member has died this year from complications related to COVID-19.

"I'm going to put safety above all else," he said. "We lost a member, and it was tragic, I don't want to lose anyone else."

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