

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:
Imagining Heschel
Louisville play to be
staged through film
STORY ON PG. 10

FRIDAY Vol. 46, No. 11 | November 27, 2020 | 12 Kislev 5781

New J taking shape



The superstructure of the future Jewish Community Center is going up on the Dutchmans Lane campus. Steel will continue to be erected until mid-February, but most of that work will be done in January. Precast concrete walls will be hung off the steel and final pieces of the superstructure will be in place by late February. The entire structure will be completed in 2022.

Hitler quotes in KSP slide show spur training review; commissioner quits

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Responding to the revelation that the Kentucky State Police Academy once used quotes from Adolf Hitler in a PowerPoint slide show shown to cadets, a high-ranking state executive is conducting a review of materials used for police training.

Michael Brown, secretary of the governor's executive cabinet, expects to have a preliminary report ready for Gov. Andy Beshear by the end of the year, he told *Community*.

But with Rodney Brewer's recent resignation as commissioner of the Kentucky State Police (KSP), changes are already coming to the way officers are trained in the commonwealth.

Brown, a past state justice and public safety secretary, has requested that police academies, especially the KSP Academy, provide current and past training materials for a full review.

"I'm looking at what classes this [slide

See **KSP** on page 19

Louisville's Jewish officials share unique perspectives on Joe Biden

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth knows that the compassion President-elect Joe Biden showed during his campaign is genuine. He has seen it up close and personal – twice.

And both times involved a Kentuckian.

The first time came during the 2013 Congressional Picnic on the south lawn of the White House. Biden and Yarmuth were chatting when the talk got around to former U.S. Sen. Marlow Cook, a Kentucky Republican and a friend of Biden's when both men served in the Senate.

Yarmuth, who had served on Cook's

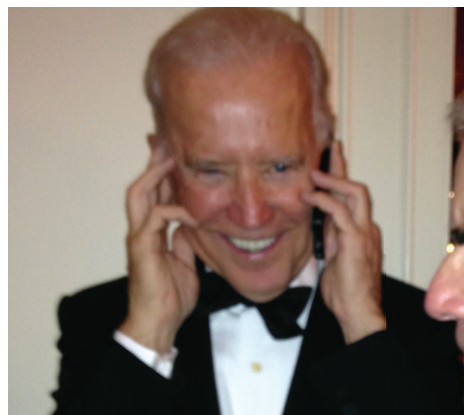
staff, told the then-vice president that his old boss, 85 at the time, was having some "physical limitations," so Biden asked if he had Cook's number.

No sooner had Yarmuth taken out his phone and scrolled down to the number did Biden take it out of his hand and press "call."

"He's standing on the south lawn and they have a four- or five-minute conversation, and it ends with 'love you, love you,'" Yarmuth recalled.

When Biden handed the phone back to Yarmuth, Cook told him, "You made

See **BIDEN** on page 19



Then-Vice President Joe Biden shares a phone chat with former U.S. Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Kentucky, during the 2014 White House Christmas Party. It was the last time the two men, who were friends from their days in the Senate, spoke before Cook died weeks later. (photo provided by U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth)

Louisville synagogues to come together for Chanukah virtual program

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

With the coronavirus continuing to spread, Louisville's five synagogues are coming together to celebrate Chanukah as one community of faith.

The Louisville Council of Jewish Con-

gregations (LCJC), which represents the synagogues, has announced a joint-virtual Chanukah program for Saturday, Dec. 12, called Festive Chanukah Celebration.

The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a havdalah service, a chanukiah lighting and singing, and, at 6:50 p.m. a

performance by comedian Raanan Hershtberg, a Louisville native.

Hershtberg made his national television debut in January on The Late Late Show with James Corden.

"It's a nice small example of what we can and should do together," LCJC

See **CHANUKAH** on page 14

JCL recognizes RedEye staff for KSP coverage

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

For breaking the news that the Kentucky State Police (KSP) had quoted Adolf Hitler in its training materials, the staff of *Manual RedEye*, duPont Manual High School's newspaper, has been recognized by the JCL Board of Directors.

Monday, Nov. 23, Cooper and Satchel Walton, brothers and lead reporters on the story, *RedEye* Editor-in-Chief Payton Carns and advisor James Miller accepted a proclamation Monday at the board's virtual meeting.

"The entire staff of the *Manual RedEye* performed a public service for the Jewish community and all Kentuckians who were outraged and offended at the use of such unacceptable and offensive material by the Kentucky State Police," the proclamation said.

RedEye reported on Oct. 30 that a training slideshow used by the KSP Academy in 2011 had exhorted cadets to be "ruthless killers" and contained three quotes from Hitler, among other historic figures. The story forced the resignation

See **REDEYE** on page 19

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Make this the year of the individual



D'var Torah

Rabbi
Chaim Litvin

One lesson of Chanukah has turned my entire thinking of the coronavirus upside down.

During the last eight months, like all of you, I was challenged by the coronavirus. How would I deal with the difficulties it presented?

I was particularly challenged because of my role as program director at Chabad.

Numerous people who were living paycheck to paycheck before COVID-19 were now worried, alone and despairing, not knowing what tomorrow might bring. The immediate challenge was how to reach them in a safe manner, both for the volunteers and those who we would be assisting.

Thank G-d for the quick action of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence and the Federation, which stepped in and helped the community organizations reach out to their constituents. But it did not end there.

I am proud of Louisville and the amazing steps our community has taken to keep people safe yet still involved. The Jewish Community of Louisville broke ground on our future JCC building with a creative program that included online and in-person participation.

Keneseth Israel sponsored a drive-through sukkah so people could safely make a blessing on lulav and etrog during the holiday.

The Temple instituted numerous Zoom classes and programs, reaching many people who otherwise might not be able to attend; Adath Jeshurun also hosted multiple musical and entertainment presentations through Zoom.

I too was concerned with how to reach the masses, but my view quickly changed. I pivoted my focus from reaching the masses. The masses are home, where they should be, staying safe and

protected during this pandemic.

Instead, I suggest listening to the message of Chanukah and focusing on the individual.

This is the message of Chanukah. On night one, it is one light; night two, two lights – growing each day, spreading more light, dispelling more darkness, reaching out to one more person and increasing that warmth, light and positivity every day.

This pandemic has given us all the incredible opportunity to interact with individuals in a special way. I would like to dedicate this coming year as *the Year of the One* – the year of the individual.

Although large gatherings may not be possible this year, the mitzvah of menorah, and the rebbe's message of the value of every individual, remain the same. So this year I have committed to focus not on the Jewish community, but on every single Jew in the community. Instead of focusing on a giant community-wide menorah lighting celebration, I challenge you to join me in focusing on having the menorahs lit in every individual home across our community.

To do this, I plan to share free menorah kits for any Louisvillian who will commit to light it this Chanukah. For those who have menorahs but need candles, I intend to provide them in a safe contactless manner, all free of charge. Let's get more people on board and light up Louisville one flame at a time.

I also encourage everyone to reach out and brighten the life of one more person. Tell a child the story of Chanukah, when the few overcame the many and G-d helped the weak overcome the mighty.

Use the holiday to call a friend, to send an uplifting email, or to leave some food for a neighbor. Israel, and the world in general, are made up of individuals. This world needs each person to see all others as sacred, to be cherished, supported and uplifted.

May this time of the coronavirus be forever remembered as the time when we shifted our focus back to the individual. That would truly be fulfilling the Chanukah message of lighting up the darkness with goodness and light.

Snapshot:



Students enrolled at Camp J 365 recently made holiday cards – for Thanksgiving and Chanukah – for the residents at Shalom Towers. The cards were left on a table at the high-rise with a sign inviting the tenants to help themselves. (Community photo)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in December:

- Dec 4 @ 5:04 p.m.
- Dec 11 @ 5:05 p.m.
- Dec 18 @ 5:07 p.m.
- Dec 25 @ 5:11 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, December 16 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox

by Friday, December 23.

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 lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org

The Jewish Community of Louisville gratefully acknowledges donations to the following

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OF LOUISVILLE

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JEWISHLouisville.org/DONATE

or contact Matthew Goldberg at 502-238-2707 or MGoldberg@jewishlouisville.org.



For BBYO families, the new JCC will be much more than a building. "BBYO has made my life so much better in every possible way," says Chapter President Katy Roemer. "I've found my true self." Creating connections with others like ourselves, identifying what it means to be Jewish and realizing a deeper relation to a much bigger world is what it's all about. Today, BBYO reaches 70,000 Jewish teens in 700+ chapters across 50 countries around the world and Katy, along with 20+ other very active local teenagers, are a vital part of the big picture.

A new J is on the way!

Make a gift of support. Send a message.

For BBYO parents like Shane Shaps, the new JCC means hope for the future and bringing back a stronger piece of Jewish Louisville life. "If we don't have something ready for them, where will they go?" Shane says. She battled to create a community for her daughter Jenna, but in the end, she founded it on her own. It is her Jewish identity. "My hope for the new JCC is to be a unifier, even starting earlier, where younger Jewish children and youth can come together to build something."

You are invited to join us in building a bigger world for our Jewish teens and all Jewish youth by participating in our 2020 Time Capsule: Capturing This Moment, Imagining Our Future to honor our Louisville BBYO Chapter and celebrate the powerful community they can create.



**2020 Time Capsule:
Capturing This Moment, Imagining Our Future**

Leave Your Wish in the 2020 BBYO Time Capsule.

Mail this form to: JCC, 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205
Or return it to the dropbox in the Patio Gallery

Send a message into the future, preserve a memory;
write a note of reflection, hope, or encouragement.

What the Jewish Community of Louisville means to me _____

My wish for the next generation _____

My name is _____

Date _____

"As Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, I am thrilled to see our local BBYO Chapter step forward with this project. They are an inspirational group of young people. Please consider supporting their efforts with a gift of support and a wish for their future."

—Frank Weisberg

To contribute to this effort: jewishlouisville.org/jcc-capital-campaign or contact Stacy Gordon-Funk, (502) 238-2755 or SGordon-Funk@jewishlouisville.org

NEWS

Louisville family endows Yiddish language, culture series at UofL

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Albert Goldin *loved* Yiddish. He loved the language; he loved the culture. He loved the music; he loved the jokes. He loved all things *Mama Loschen*-related. So, when the longtime Louisville physician passed away earlier this year, his family began looking for a way to honor his memory. The answer was pretty obvious.

Anita Goldin, the wife of Albert Goldin and a big booster of the University of Louisville, has made a significant endowment to the Jewish Studies Program at UofL, called the Albert and Anita Goldin Endowment for Yiddish Culture, which will support an annual series of speakers and artists.

The program, which is slated to begin next year and become an annual event, will bring to town scholars, writers, filmmakers and artists – all researching, preserving or modernizing Yiddish culture.

Speaking to *Community*, Anita Goldin said she wanted to make the gift now, so she, too, could enjoy the series.

She also hopes the series will someday move to a new Jewish studies reading room at the Ekstrom Library of UofL. The university announced a fundraising

effort for such a project in 2018.

Ranen Omer-Sherman, the chair of Judaic studies at UofL, is excited about the gift. Up to now, he said, most speakers and programs he's brought to the campus have been "Hebrew-centric."

"We've had a lot of Israeli writers over the years, some really good scholars on Jewish history," Omer-Sherman said. "Through all these years, though, we've done relatively little on Yiddish *per se*, and I'm really excited about having a series that will be devoted exclusively to Yiddish culture."

By no means, he said, is Yiddish today a dusty academic curiosity explored only by aging European professors.

To the contrary, many young artists and scholars are mining Yiddish, unearthing new discoveries, proving the depth and diversity of the language and "producing exciting academic work, and cultural contributions."

The series will showcase Yiddish art, literature and music.

"Musicians, filmmakers, film historians and different artists that are Yiddish in their [work]," Omer-Sherman said. "Visual artists, why not?"

Albert Goldin, who died on July 28 at age 97, grew up in Lima, Ohio, speaking Yiddish to his mother – an emigrant from what is now Belarus.

In Louisville, when he wasn't practicing

medicine, he literally lived Yiddish culture.

He led a Yiddish speakers club at the Jewish Community Center, founded and played clarinet for the River City Klezmer Band and read the *Forward* – in Yiddish.

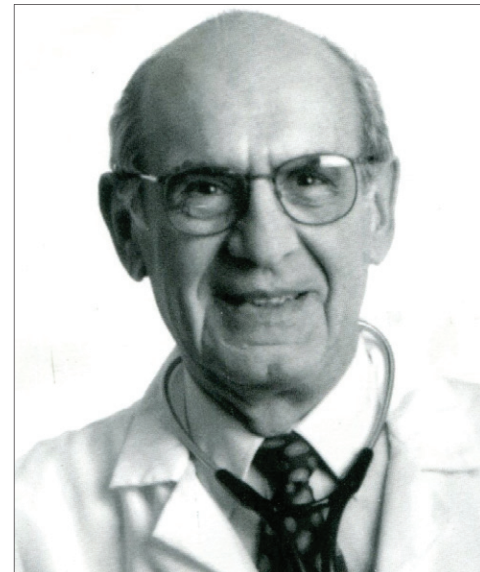
By far, though, his lasting contribution to Yiddish culture was his translation to English of an obscure novel based on the life of Shabbatai Zevi, a false messiah who lived in the Ottoman Empire during the 17th century. Goldin took on the task when he was in his 80s, according to his son, Dr. Harry Goldin.

"He self-published it, but he couldn't find the author or the author's descendants, and the publishing house in Tel Aviv had closed," Harry said. "I think he put advertisements in Yiddish newspapers. He couldn't find anyone, so he just published it with credit to the person."

Both Albert and Anita had strong connections to UofL. He graduated from medical school there and did a fellowship. She earned two master's degrees there – in sociology and social work – and taught in the sociology department.

Together, they audited one course a semester at UofL for at least 30 years.

"I claim that my mother has more credits at the University of Louisville than anyone in the world," Harry said, "but both of them have a strong relation-



Dr. Albert Goldin, who died this year, loved Yiddish so much that his wife, Anita, has endowed a Yiddish culture series at the University of Louisville.

ship to the University of Louisville."

Omer-Sherman expects the first program in the series to be held after the High Holy Days next year ... live.

"We're going to let it (the endowment) ripen until next October," he said. "It will probably be our first in-person presentation of 2021."

JJI stuffs Christmas stockings for immigrant children, adults here

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Christmas will come early this year for many Louisville families, thanks to a group of local Jews committed to bettering the lives of immigrants and refugees here.

Eight to 10 members of Jews for Justice in Immigration (JJJ) gathered in the backyard of the Highlands home of Dr. Ian Mutchnick Sunday, Nov. 1, stuffing Christmas stockings with candy, toys and Beanie Babies, which were delivered that week to the LaCasita Center downtown.

The groups also delivered food staples to LaCasita – beans, plantain chips, espresso coffee and coconut milk – and towels individually wrapped around soap.

Avery Kolers, a member of JJJ, said the



Avery Kolers was one of several JJJ members to stuff Christmas stockings for immigrant families in Louisville on Sunday, Nov. 1. (Community photo by Lee Chottiner)

group stuffed 98 stockings.

"La Casita was excited about it (the project)," Kolers said, "and the staff and volunteers there provided a great list of Latin American treats that would make people feel at home."

Susan Rostov, another JJJ member, brought the idea for the stocking stuffer to the group after someone she knew rescued several Christmas stockings from a dumpster in Old Louisville.

"I contacted Avery and I asked him if this was anything he'd be interested in, and he said yes," Rostov said. "That's how it got started."

Donations came in from the community, which purchased needed items from an Amazon wish list. Additionally, the local chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which promotes the human con-

nection with healthcare among medical students, pitched in.

"They raised a lot of money and bought most of the coffee," said Sara Gottesman, a medical student at the University of Louisville who took part in the stocking stuffer. "We're really lucky they helped us out."

JJJ also encouraged donors to purchase items at local groceries that cater to Hispanic customers.

"Buying locally from Hispanic-American businesses seemed to me important," Rostov said. "I saw the stocking project as only one step in welcoming a population who has suffered indignities beyond sane imagination. The stockings were only one piece of the puzzle. I saw buying locally as a small step to help Hispanic-American businesses succeed in the COVID crisis."

Established in 2019, JJJ is a loosely organized group of Jewish volunteers who support immigrant-led interfaith programs in Louisville, making for a more welcoming city, and a more just immigration policy.

The La Casita Center supports Louisville's Latinx community through education, empowerment, advocacy and wellness.

Under the heading of strange donations, one of the wish list packages from Amazon to arrive at Mutchnick's home contained juice, candy... and a Husqvarna leaf blower.

It wasn't clear if the appliance, which was offered to LaCasita, was sent by mistake. "I'm pretty sure it wasn't on the wish list," Mutchnick quipped.



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NEWS

COVID and the Jews

Scholars, rabbis, journalists talk takeaways about pandemic

By Michael Ginsberg
For Community

Steve Silverman, a healthy, active, skilled physician, died last month from COVID-19 after a three-week hospital stay – alone – tethered to a respirator.

Like others who have died during the pandemic, the funeral of the 71-year-old physician was virtual, “attended” by family and friends on Zoom.

Also, like other Jewish victims, his death raised painful questions: Beyond a virtual shiva, how does the pandemic affect Jews? Is the impact unique? What role does God play in it all?

Rabbis, scholars, healthy living advocates have all wrestled with these questions as the coronavirus continues to tear apart “normal” daily living. They turn to the Torah for answers. They observe how Jews respond to the crisis. And they come away with conclusions that range from optimistic to darkly pessimistic.

“COVID has forced me to again confront the notion of a vengeful God,” said one prominent rabbi, who asked to remain anonymous. “When I see what is happening in the world, I see a power that is very angry.”

COVID can seem like angry disease. It has turned lives upside down, damaging employment, businesses, and education, turning weddings, funerals and “normal” socializing with friends and family into drive-bys.

Jews, like other people, have been hit hard. Some say particularly hard.

“What’s clear is that the Jewish rate of death is exponentially higher in the Diaspora compared to Israel and that the virus is devastating the Jewish world,” journalist Uriel Heilman wrote in *The Times of Israel*. “In many places, the infection and death rate among Jews is also far higher than the local non-Jewish population.”

COVID has closed hundreds of synagogues, Heilman reported. Jewish organizations have slashed budgets and staff. Many Jewish day schools hold virtual classes only and kosher restaurants have closed.

Many b’nai mitzvahs have migrated to YouTube and Zoom, as have Shab-

“The Jewish rate of death is exponentially higher in the Diaspora compared to Israel and ... the virus is devastating the Jewish world. In many places, the infection and death rate among Jews is also far higher than the local non-Jewish population.”

– Uriel Heilman

bat and holiday services. Trips to Israel are suspended; events, including the 38th World Zionist Congress, have gone virtual. Most recently, Orthodox Jews were denied permission to hold a wedding in Brooklyn that was expected to attract as many as 10,000 guests.

It takes work these days to maintain optimism. Still, optimism does survive.

“Jews are unusually adaptive and creative, and we surely will emerge from this crisis with new strengths and with our core values intact,” said Ira Sheskin, a demographer of American Jewry at the University of Miami. “While some individual institutions undoubtedly will not survive an economic crisis that seems likely to dwarf the 2008 recession, the basic building blocks of American Jewish life will weather this storm: the synagogues, educational institutions and organizations that are essential to American Jewry.”

Others see the pandemic through their own life choices. Writing for the *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*, Jeffrey Spitz Cohan, executive director of Jewish Veg, an organization promoting veganism among Jews, interpreted a passage from the Book of Numbers as a warning to stop eating animal products.

“The COVID-19 pandemic should never be viewed as divine punishment,” Spitz Cohan wrote. “Rather, the pandemic can be viewed as something we were warned would happen if humanity continues to confine, kill

and consume animals.”

More common is a message that Jews, under the shadow of COVID, should help the less fortunate.

“The Torah connects our experience of slavery with a command for empathy for all those who are least protected by society,” Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism wrote in **reform-judaism.org**. “Over and over again, the biblical text connects our experience of slavery with a radical empathy with all those who suffer.”

Mijal Bitton, a fellow in residence at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, finds a similar lesson in the Book of Ruth, which begins with a famine that Bitton compares to the COVID-19 pandemic:

“When we think about our communities and neighbors, we can approach them as carriers of contagion, as dangerous, or as fellow beings created in the divine image,” Bitton wrote. “We can become indifferent and callous, invested in only preserving ourselves and ours.”

But people have an alternative, Bitton added. They can double down on their commitment to others instead of

seeing potential threats to themselves.

Pesner shares that viewpoint:

“Our tradition requires of us shared empathy and solidarity in the face of danger,” he wrote. “The coronavirus is sweeping across a broken world. Defeating it will require us to see the humanity in one another and commit to fight for justice during this unprecedented moment of need.”

He noted that knowledge that Jews, as a people, have been here before.

“Not only have we made it through the wilderness intact. We’ve done so while holding on to God’s mandate of justice and mercy for all.”

Ranen Omer-Sherman, endowed chair of Judaic studies at the University of Louisville, lauded American and Israeli Jews for “bold and generous sacrifices” during the pandemic, including shuttering their synagogues for so long. “I am proud of the tremendous numbers of rabbis and cantors who have had to work so hard to adjust to the demands of our new virtual reality and unfamiliar technologies. That shows a great deal of creativity and resilience, the attributes that historically have distinguished Judaism as a whole.”



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

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: Dec. 16 for publication on Dec. 25 and Jan. 20 for publication on Jan. 29.

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

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

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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.

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, rsmcclain@jewishlouisville.org

Shiela Steinman Wallace

Editor Emeritus

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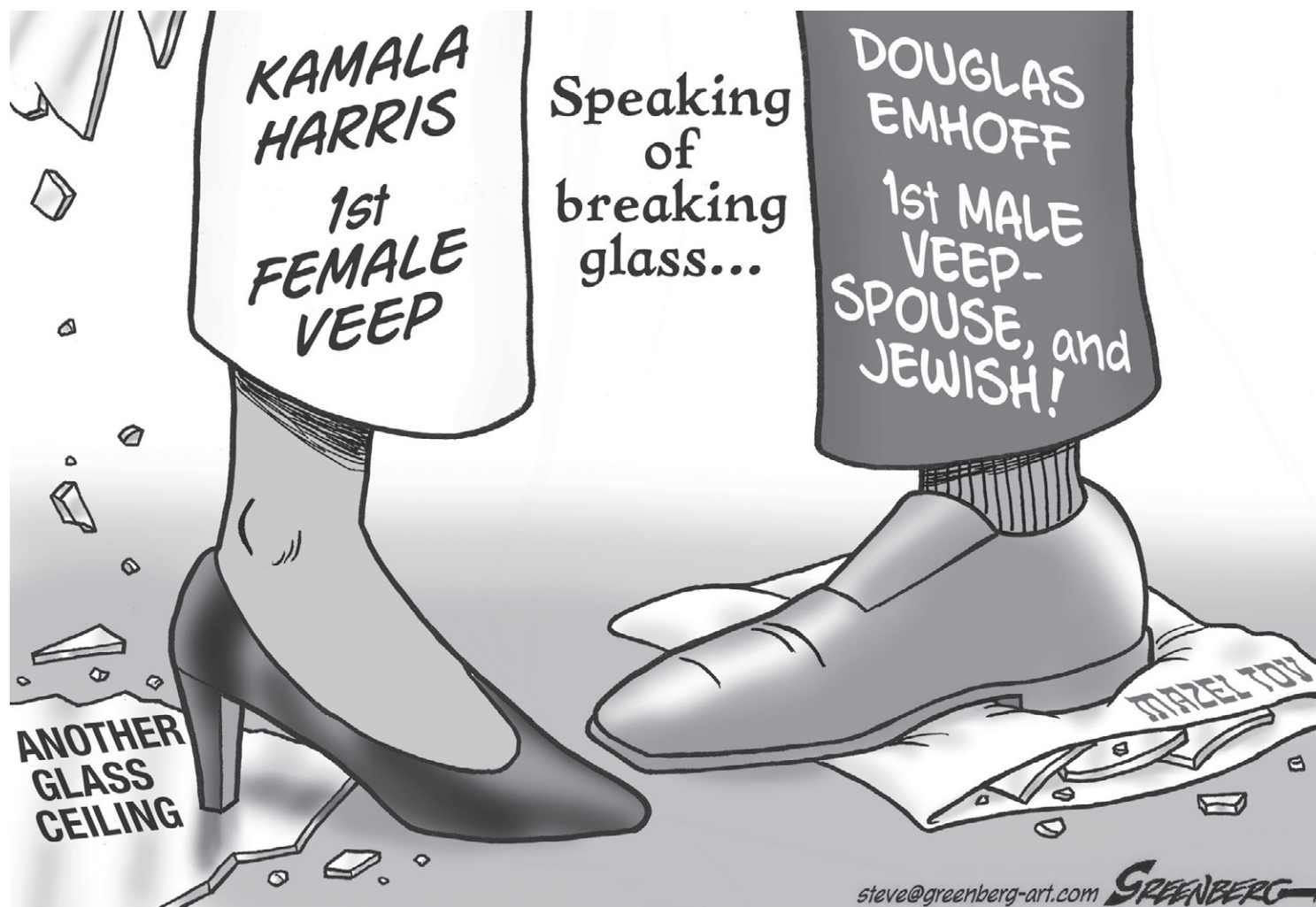
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FORUM



Don't be afraid of Holocaust comparisons



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

CNN Chief International Correspondent Christiane Amanpour has come under fire for comparing what she called President Donald Trump's "assault on values" and Kristallnacht.

Speaking on Nov. 12 on her show, *Amanpour*, the veteran journalist stirred more than a little ire when, after describing the infamous pogroms of Nov. 8-9, 1938, as a "warning shot across the bow of our human civilization" – which was true – she compared them to "four years of a modern-day assault on those same values by Donald Trump."

That was her sin, using Holocaust-era references to score political points. And she got hammered for it.

Amanpour's remark, which she has since walked back, was clumsy, inappropriate and just plain wrong. It's also the latest of many such remarks American figures of all political stripes have made, using Holocaust comparisons to bludgeon their political rivals.

The result is usually the same: inflamed civil discourse cheapening the memory of the victims.

But the Amanpour incident poses a question: is it ever acceptable to make

Holocaust comparisons?

For deeper understanding, yes, but not for political gain.

Black Americans have been criticized for comparing their experiences to the Shoah by speaking of their own "holocaust." Immigration activists have referred to detention centers for migrant children on the southern border as "concentration camps." The term has also been applied to the detention camps for Japanese Americans during World War II.

Those who make these comparisons have been targeted by others, who believe the Holocaust was a uniquely terrible moment in world history. And it was a time of desensitizing morality, when murder was boiled down to an ugly science and most of the world, hearing cries for help, just looked the other way.

But should we always treat this as an event unto itself, never to be referred to or compared to, as new acts of inhumanity occur, or old ones are recalled?

I have struggled with these questions. And I keep going back to Poland, 2014.

That was the year my wife and I traveled there with a group from Classrooms Without Borders, a Pittsburgh-based organization that sends schoolteachers and students to countries where the Holocaust unfolded.

For the students, mostly non-Jews, it was a chance to see for themselves, not through textbooks, how far humanity had fallen. For teachers, it was an opportunity to learn new and improved

ways to teach the Holocaust.

In our group were a few Black teachers, some from predominantly Black schools. Their responses to what they were seeing have stuck with me.

One teacher said she could use what she was learning to teach her students to understand that the suffering of their people – slavery, Jim Crow, lynchings, church burnings – didn't happen in a vacuum. Others have suffered, too. She saw value in teaching that.

A music teacher from Pittsburgh's performing arts high school was so moved by what he saw that he organized an a cappella group of students that sang Negro spirituals on the grounds of Birkenau. It was a symbolic union of two peoples that had suffered for so long.

They brought their own cultural touchstones to what they were seeing. *They made comparisons.*

The generation that witnessed the Holocaust is almost gone, and the Jewish world has long considered how to keep their memory alive when they are no longer here. Textbooks, documentaries and movies are important, but they can do only so much.

The living, including those who are not Jewish, must see themselves in the Jewish collective experiences. Armenians, Black Americans, Native Americans, Rwandan Tutsis, Darfurians, Bosnians, Cambodians, Uyghurs, Rohingyas have all suffered unspeakable atrocities. And this list only scratches the surface.

If they compare their experiences to

See **CHOTTINER** on page 7

FORUM

Biden's election to bring changes: here are some



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

The 2020 election, which feels like it has gone on forever, should nevertheless be a source of pride for Americans, who exercised their right to vote in staggering numbers.

This election saw the largest turnout in decades, a sign of how much Americans cherish this right and of how strongly we felt about the candidates on the ballot.

The results also show how divided the nation is. The House and Senate are now relatively close to parity.

So when President-elect Joe Biden takes office in January, he will dramatically change many of the policies of President Donald Trump. The Jewish community can expect many of those changes to significantly affect issues it holds dear. Let's examine some of them:

Criminal Justice Reform

This has been an issue of primary concern in recent years, especially in Louisville. Trump did champion the bi-partisan First Step Act, which was, as its name suggests, just a first step in addressing the fundamental inequities in the criminal justice system, particularly for people of color. Biden has promised to go much further, calling for comprehensive reform of sentencing, law enforcement and post-incarceration rights.

If Congress remains divided, passage of major legislation will be difficult, but the new attorney general will still have considerable influence in this area. Expect the new administration

to spend political capital on this issue.

Immigration

Biden is diametrically opposed to Trump's positions on this issue, and he will clearly move in a different direction. He has promised to end the ban on immigration from Muslim countries on the first day of his administration. He is expected to support "dreamers" – undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children. He opposes construction of a new physical barrier on the southern border and he has generally promised to undo all of Trump's immigration directives. Much can be done with executive orders on this issue; expect immediate and recognizable change.

Israel

Trump dramatically upended traditional U.S. policy on Israel in several ways:

He withdrew from the Iran Nuclear Deal, replacing it with sanctions, a move supported by Israel. He abandoned a land-for-peace policy based on the June 1967 borders, putting forth a peace plan for the Palestinians that incorporated roughly 30 percent of the West Bank as a permanent part of Israel. He moved the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and he recognized the Golan Heights as part of Israel.

It is unknown how much of this will be rolled back under Biden. He has expressed a desire to re-enter the Iran deal, but that might be easier said than done. He will surely abandon the Trump peace plan but hasn't indicated if he will move the embassy back to Tel Aviv. He has promised to restore financial aid to the Palestinians, but that might not be possible without congressional approval.

Environment

This probably represents the starkest change from one administration to the next. Trump famously denied climate

change was occurring and his political appointments and executive orders reflected this stance. He also withdrew from the Paris Climate Accords, which abdicated U.S. leadership on this critical issue.

Biden has promised to rejoin the Paris Accords immediately, has advocated for revolutionary clean energy and environmental justice policies and, while he did not endorse the

Green New Deal, he has called it a model and framework for the environmental challenges.

If Republicans hold the Senate, Biden's legislative agenda will be severely curtailed, but a change in administrations will certainly usher in big changes on this issue.

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

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CHOTTINER

Continued from page 6

ours — even if there is no comparison — it makes them fellow travelers of sorts. They know where we have been and appreciate our pain. It's better than not knowing at all.

Next Kristallnacht, I wouldn't mind seeing programs where people of different colors, races and religions weigh our pogroms against their own histories of victimization. Maybe the comparisons would come up short, but at least they would be teaching opportunities.

At a time when so many children learn next to nothing about the Holocaust in their classrooms, would that be such a bad thing?

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

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NEWS

Sacks in the Ville

Local clergy remember visit by famous chief rabbi

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

On an April morning in Louisville, in 2004, Jonathan Sacks felt thankful for freedom.

The famed British rabbi and scholar, in town to accept the coveted Grawemeyer Award in Religion, had just wrapped up a breakfast meeting with the Louisville Board of Rabbis and Cantors (LBRC). He and his wife, Elaine, had some free time, so Cantor David Lipp and his wife, Rabbi Laura Metzger, offered to show them the city.

Sacks wanted to go a park, Lipp recalled, so they drove to Dog Hill in Cherokee Park – a green sweep of ground studded with trees – where Sacks got out of the car and said a bracha.

When Lipp asked him why – after all, he lived in London, a city famous for Hyde Park and other green spaces – Sacks explained that because he was chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth (the United Kingdom), he was a possible target for attack, so he couldn't just go for a walk in the park.

"It was literally and figuratively just like a breath of fresh air for him," Lipp said.

Sacks died on Nov. 7, in London, losing his third bout with cancer. He was 72.

Sacks won the Grawemeyer, a \$200,000 prize at the time, for his book, *Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*, which he discussed during his acceptance speech before a capacity crowd at the Jewish Community Center.

In his book, the rabbi argues that religious coexistence is best achieved by valuing religious differences as God's design, not by converting or killing others of different faiths.

"Those who are confident in their faith," he explained, "are not threatened by the different faiths of others, but enlarged by them," reported Shiela Wallace, editor emeritus of Community, who covered Sacks' speech.

It is for his landmark books, such as *Dignity of Difference*, plus his relentless struggle against anti-Semitism, that Sacks will be remembered.

One of the leading proponents of Orthodox Judaism for a global audience, Sacks spent 22 years as chief rabbi, stepping down in 2013. During that time, he emerged as the most visible Jewish leader in the United Kingdom and all of Europe, offering Jewish wisdom to the masses through a regular segment he produced for the BBC.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who presented Sacks with a lifetime achievement award in 2018, called him "an intellectual giant."

A rabbi who walked a narrow line between the progressive and Orthodox wings of Judaism, Sacks was criticized by both sides.

But in Louisville, he did attend the LBRC breakfast meeting even though

its members included rabbis and cantors from across the spectrum as well as women and gay clergy.

"He was really a true pluralist and inclusive persona," said Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple (Reform), who still uses Sacks' commentary on the prayerbook in his Torah study class.

Though Sacks' books addressed pressing social and political issues of the time, he was normally averse to mixing religion and politics – something he discussed with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) in August.

"When anger erupts in a body politic, there is quite often a justified cause," he told JTA's opinion editor, Laura Adkins. "But then the political domain has got to take that anger and deal with it very fast, because anger exposes the problem but never delivers the solution."

But Sacks did take public stances on Israel and anti-Semitism.

He spoke out publicly when Britain's Labour Party became engulfed in an anti-Semitism scandal under its previous leader, Jeremy Corbyn, calling Corbyn an anti-Semite.

"That is why Jews feel so threatened by Mr. Corbyn and those who support him," Sacks said in 2018 during an interview with the New Statesman.

That judgment paved the way for the current British chief rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, to harshly condemn the Labour Party – a precedent-setting event in British Jewish life.

Corbyn was replaced in April by centrist Keir Starmer, who has apologized for how anti-Semitism was allowed to flourish in Labour's ranks under Corbyn. In a statement on Twitter, Starmer, who is married to a Jewish woman, called Sacks "a towering intellect whose eloquence, insights and kindness reached well beyond the Jewish community."

Sacks was also vocal in his opposition to the forces that lead to anti-Semitism on the far left and the far right.

"Anti-Semitism has little to do with Jews – they are its object, not its cause – and everything to do with dysfunction in the communities that harbor it," he wrote in a January op-ed for JTA.

In 2017, in a widely circulated YouTube video, Sacks called anti-Zionism a new form of anti-Semitism, arguing that it denies Jews the "right to exist collectively with the same rights as everyone else."

Sacks branched out beyond religious and Jewish cultural thought as well.

In 2017 he delivered a Ted Talk about "facing the future without fear" and what he called a "fateful moment" in Western history after the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president. He cited Thomas Paine and anthropologists to make an argument about returning to a culture of togetherness.

Born in London in 1948, Sacks studied at Cambridge University. While

a student there in the '60s, he visited Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the spiritual leader credited with transforming Hasidic Chabad-Lubavitch Judaism in New York.

Sacks recounted that meeting during his Louisville visit, when he met with students of Chabad's Torah Academy.

"He told them the story of how the rebbe set him on his path as a rabbi, instead of becoming a barrister (lawyer), as was his plan," Rabbi Avrohom Litvin recalled, "and challenged them to become great Jewish leaders themselves."

Sacks went on to become the principal of Jews College in London, now called the London School of Jewish Studies, and a pulpit rabbi at the Golders Green synagogue in the late '70s, then at the Marble Arch synagogue, both in London. He became chief rabbi in 1991.

"Rabbi Sacks was a giant of both the Jewish community and wider society," Marie van der Zyl, president of the U.K. Board of Deputies of British Jews



Jonathan Sacks

said in a prepared statement.

Sacks is survived by his wife, Elaine, three children and several grandchildren.

(JTA reporters Ben Harris, Cnaan Liphshiz and Gabe Friedman contributed to this story.)

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FEDERATION

Keeping each other balanced while standing on one foot



Sara's View

Sara Klein
Wagner

My dad loved to show us he was strong enough to walk without a walker. He would hold his hands out like airplane wings and pull one foot up to demonstrate his balance – well into his 90s.

He also loved the famous story of the man who wanted to convert to Judaism, but only if a rabbi would teach him the entire Torah while he stood on one foot. Hillel responded to the challenge by teaching, "What is hateful to you, do not do to others. That is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary. Go and study it."

In the eight months since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic here, we have learned and grown as Hillel suggested: We have remained focused on caring lovingly and unconditionally

for all.

The pandemic began just when my father passed away. Like many of you, I have since experienced a whirlwind of emotions and decisions, moments of celebration, anxiety for our community and nation, tribalism, sadness, hope, optimism and love. For the most part, I have taken few opportunities to pause and reflect. After all, the real world requires constant attention.

I am sometimes teased for having a good memory, and I do love to connect people to one another and to past experiences. So, I wonder, if I were to hit a pause button right now, what stories would be passed down about this time? How did we pivot to become a stronger Jewish community? Did we use this moment to advance our vision of a post-COVID Jewish Louisville?

When my fragile-looking dad stood on one foot, we implored him to put both feet solidly on the ground. I can relate to his desire to demonstrate that we have got this under control, to not dwell on vulnerabilities. Yes, the uncertainties are real; people are experiencing loss; remaining connected is hard. I am optimistic, though.

I have seen firsthand that we are a

strong, resilient people. Together, we are holding each other up every day, ensuring that our lives remain vibrant, meaningful and secure.

Personally, I have never felt more supported by, and connected to, this community. Our Federation and JCC are navigating new challenges every day, and so many people are holding one another up, standing together, helping each other find new paths forward.

As we celebrate a very different Thanksgiving this year, I want every Federation and JCC donor and member to know just how much you mean to this community. To our staff, board members and partners, please know how important your role is and how grateful we are to share this moment with you. There are many inspirational memories to be made.

During this Thanksgiving season, if you feel wobbly on one foot (and we all will at times), let us continue to help each other find our balance.

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



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ARTS

Imagining Heschel

ShPleL play delayed by COVID can be seen as pay-per-view film

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The show must go on in the Jewish theatre, but David Chack has just given the old saying new meaning for the 21st-century.

The ShPleL Performing Identity, a theater project that has staged several Jewish-themed plays in Louisville, was all set in March to open its latest production, *Imagining Heschel*, the story of the 20th century rabbi and humanitarian, Abraham Joshua Heschel. An all-Louisville cast had been assembled and rehearsals were ready to go.

Then came COVID.

"We were prepared to start actual physical rehearsals ... then all the COVID stuff started to emerge and then we went into lockdown," recalled Chack, ShPleL's artistic director. "We really weren't sure what to do."

Chack soon became very sure of what to do: Acting on an idea from a friend and filmmaker in Chicago, he turned the play, which he produced, directed and adapted, into "theater on film."

Eight months later, *Imagining Heschel: Selections from a Play*, is set to debut Dec. 1 online on a pay-per-view basis.

The film, which will run through Dec. 20, can be accessed through the website of the Louisville-based Bunbury Theatre, which collaborated with the ShPleL to put on the production.

The title of the one-hour show, which Chack shortened from two hours, now has the subtitle *Selections from a Play*. It was added at the request of the playwright, Colin Greer, making clear to audiences that they are not seeing the complete production.

But Chack said cutting the run time also makes sense for a time when everyone is pushed online for so many reasons, taxing their attention spans.

"What you are seeing is an adaptation, so it can be on film," he said, "so it won't be a strain on the people who are watching it."

Theater on film is not an unheard-of genre. It has been done to great success with such productions as *Newsies* and, more recently with *Hamilton*.

But there's one big difference this time: *Hamilton* was a \$20 million production, Chack said. "I had \$15,000; that's it, but I had to raise it from scratch."

He's not complaining, though. In fact, he's understandably proud of the work.

Shot at the Commonwealth Theatre Center and at the studio of Videobred, the Louisville-based company that filmed the production, *Imagining Heschel: Selections From a Play*, highlights moments from the rabbi's life and work.

The main story line follows Heschel's respectful, though sometime



NBC reporter Carol Radnor, played by Lindsey Palgy, interviews Heschel in *Imagining Heschel: Selections From a Play*. Palgy is the only Jewish actor in the cast.

tense, interaction with Cardinal Augustin Bea on *Nostra aetate*, the historic Vatican declaration intended to repudiate anti-Semitism and usher in a new relationship between Catholics and Jews. Heschel agrees to go to Rome to serve as an advisor on the Vatican talks, but only after he travels to Alabama to join Martin Luther King on his historic Selma-to-Montgomery march.

In fact, the film/play deals more with Heschel's efforts at the Vatican than with the civil rights movement in America, said actor Tom Luce, who portrays him. Interesting, he said, in that *Nostra aetate*, also known as Vatican II, didn't resolve all the differences between Catholics and Jews, as Heschel had hoped.

There's a lesson there, said Luce, who is not Jewish and knew little about Heschel before taking the role.

"We all need to keep working toward the end where we can achieve understanding and respect for each other's different religions, different point of view," he said. "Whatever it is, it takes work and here's a man who dedicated his entire life to that."

More dramatic is the rabbi's relationship with his driver, a young Black man named Jonah, a fictional character, who has decided to join the Army and go to Vietnam – a decision that dismays Heschel. Jonah, played by Jason Maina, an 18-year-old Louisville actor, is angered by the treatment of Blacks in America and argues with Heschel about everything from God to violence to racial justice.

"For me Jonah does definitely act as a source of internal and external conflict for Heschel," Maina said. "I had never seen him as Heschel's conscience, which is an interesting take as he plays such an influential role in it as seen in the dream sequence. For



Heschel has many difficult discussions about race and justice with his driver, Jonah, played by Jason Maina.

me, Jonah represents a sort of home for Heschel in a literal and metaphorical sense."

In the backdrop of both storylines is a world on fire, struggling with the civil rights movement, anti-Semitism and fallout from the Holocaust.

Heschel is at the center of it all.

"Within the main story is the questioning and the whole investigation of what does it mean to be a person of faith and also to protest the world around us," Chack said. "What are we really achieving? Have we achieved anything? This a question that came up for Heschel so much."

Greer, a playwright and historian, wrote *Imagining Heschel* in the 1990s, looking back at the turmoil of the '60s. But Chack, who worked with Greer for five years revising the play, infusing more Jewish touchstones,

said its message is just as meaningful today as the country grapples with violence against Blacks, the backlash against migrants and threats to women's rights.

"It's like everything he was writing about has come true," he said. "We're back in the streets."

Want to go?

Imagining Heschel: Selections from a Play can be accessed at bunburytheatre.org. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students) on a "pay-per-view" basis. Group sales can be arranged by contacting bunburytheatre@gmail.com. The film wouldn't be possible without a \$30,000 grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, which Chack is using for this project and others in the spring.

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NEWS

Pittsburgh becoming hub for white supremacists two years after Tree of Life synagogue shootings

By Ben Sales
JTA

In the days after the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in American history, Pittsburgh became a symbol of the enduring dangers of hatred, as well as the Jewish communal solidarity that followed the synagogue shooting.

Two years later, the city has become a symbol and pilgrimage site of a far more insidious sort: for white supremacists who see the Tree of Life gunman as an inspiration.

Those who monitor extremist activity say Pittsburgh has become a hub for white supremacist activity. In just the past several weeks, a white supremacist group held a march down a main boulevard there. About 100 people attended a white supremacist music festival in the area. A vocal white supremacist who had posted a call online to murder local Jews was released from prison. And flyers with white nationalist slogans have papered the city.

"We have, since 2018, seen a dramatic increase in white supremacist-related violent incidents and in the overall presence of white supremacists within our [area]," John Pulcastro, an FBI supervisory intelligence analyst, said at a symposium last week at Duquesne University's Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law. His comments were first reported by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

"If anyone thinks that this is not a huge issue in this area, having worked this for over 20 years, I can tell you this area is worse than any I have seen throughout the entire country," he said. "It's very, very important to understand that it is here."

Mass shooters have long aspired to imitate previous high-profile attackers. The "Columbine effect," in which school shooters seek to follow the example of the two teens who opened fire on a Colorado high school in 1999, has been observed more than 100 times, according to Mother Jones, a progressive magazine that documented the phenomenon.

White supremacists follow the same



People pay their respects outside the Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha synagogue in Pittsburgh following the shootings there on Oct. 27, 2018. White supremacist activity has been on the rise in western Pennsylvania since that day. (davynin photo)

pattern. In their manifestos, the shooters in the attacks in El Paso, Christchurch and Poway, California, all referenced previous far-right attacks and the ideas that motivated them.

Security specialists in the Pittsburgh Jewish community say white supremacists have come to the western Pennsylvania city in part because of the synagogue shooting, which killed 11 people. The far right, they say, views the shooter as a role model — something that has already been apparent in white supremacist forums online, where they refer to the gunman by name as a "saint."

(And he's not alone: A T-shirt celebrating the Boogaloo anti-government

extremist movement features a picture of the Poway synagogue assailant.)

"The shooter is typically revered in some of these white supremacist neo-Nazi organizations," said Shawn Brokos, the local Jewish federation's director of community security. "So for that very reason, Pittsburgh was placed on the map and became synonymous in many ways with white supremacy, solely based on the events of Oct. 27," the date of the attack.

She added, "There's momentum that has been gained due to the synagogue shooting."

Analysts all cited the recent white supremacist demonstration as particularly concerning. A Texas-based

extremist group called Patriot Front brought more than 100 members to march down the city's Boulevard of the Allies on Nov. 7, according to the FBI, blasting a smoke machine and carrying a banner reading "Two parties, one tyranny" in capital letters. The crowd, largely if not entirely men, wore military-style gear and sunglasses.

The group has a relatively small presence in Pittsburgh, said James Pasch, the region's director for the Anti-Defamation League, which means they brought in members from across the country.

Patriot Front, which espouses violent white nationalism and evolved from a group that was active at the 2017 far-right Charlottesville rally, has also embarked on a flyers campaign in Pittsburgh. Its red, white and blue propaganda bears slogans like "America first" (a slogan also favored by President Donald Trump) and a map of the United States alongside the words "Not stolen, conquered." The Ku Klux Klan has also posted flyers across the city that tend to be densely typed pages of racist invective.

The flyers and anti-Semitic graffiti have been seen in the Jewish neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, where the synagogue shooting occurred, and elsewhere. In early September, Brokos also received multiple reports of someone yelling anti-Semitic profanity at Jews in Squirrel Hill.

"Propaganda and flyering have increased because it's a way to increase their presence and their message without identifying themselves," Pasch said. "It's a way to remain anonymous while spreading hate."

Pasch said the flyering isn't limited to Pittsburgh. In neighboring Ohio, he said it increased more than fivefold from 2018 to 2019. Pasch also said that Patriot Front is responsible for about two-thirds of the white supremacist flyers in the country.

"They're marking their territory, just like old gangs used to," Pulcastro said at the symposium. "They're recruiting."

See **PITTSBURGH** on page 13

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NEWS

PITTSBURGH

Continued from page 12

They're trying to push for individuals to come to the fold who also find this material and ideology appealing."

The Patriot Front demonstration happened about a month after a white supremacist concert called "Won't Say Sorry: A night for the white working class." Days earlier, a white supremacist who had posted a call online to murder Jews in Squirrel Hill was released from prison.

Day to day, hate does not feel like it's in the atmosphere in Squirrel Hill, said Ellen Surloff, who was president of one of the congregations in the Tree of Life building, the Reconstructionist Dor Hadash, at the time of the shooting. But she's worried about white supremacist violence — especially amid the current political tension.

Surloff said that having experienced a previous attack only makes her more sensitive to the danger.

"Any time you hear that somewhere you are is a center for white supremacy, it's not good," she said. "My reaction is that in this political climate, this is like a tinderbox. You're just waiting for the match to strike."

Surloff added, "I always fell into the camp of 'it can happen anywhere.' So being part of a community that experienced it, you can be aware of how much damage can be done by just one

of these people."

Pasch said the heightened activity in and around Pittsburgh mirrors a rise in white supremacist activity nationwide — and on extremist websites.

"My largest concern remains the growth of white supremacist ideology and hate online," he said. "It knows no geographic boundaries and people can cross state lines to commit acts of hate."

Brad Orsini, Brokos' predecessor, said that even as Pittsburgh Jews continue to process their trauma from the 2018 shooting, the community has remained prepared for hate to strike again.

"I think there is a higher level [of risk] in Pittsburgh because of what happened," said Orsini, the senior national security advisor of the Secure Community Network, which coordinates security for Jewish institutions nationwide. "However, I do see the Pittsburgh Jewish communal program doing everything they can to keep that community safe."

Surloff said that because communal activity has mostly been put on hold due to the pandemic, the risk of attack feels lower now. But she knows the same extremist forces are still out there — and in her city.

"There's a feeling that here we are, two years later, and how do you fight this?" she asked. "The internet is out there. The weaponry is out there."

Tom Hanks joins campaign to turn Pittsburgh synagogue into anti-racism center

By JTA

Actor Tom Hanks and singer Billy Porter have agreed to help lead a fundraising campaign to help turn Pittsburgh's Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha synagogue (TOL * OLS) into an anti-racism center.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Joanne Rogers, wife of the late television show host Fred Rogers, will also be members of a "cabinet" to support the renovation of the TOL * OLS building, where a gunman killed 11 Jews on Oct. 27, 2018, Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said in a statement last week.

"Through this effort and with the support of people of all backgrounds, we will transform a site of hate and



Tom Hanks

tragedy into a site of hope, remembrance and education," the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle quoted Myers as saying.

The community is raising funds for the project in a campaign titled "Remember. Rebuild. Renew." Reports about the campaign did not specify its fundraising goal.

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NEWS

NCJW gift to JCC reflects history and impact of Louisville Section

By Sarah Provancher
For Community

Celebrating its 125th anniversary, the Louisville section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW-Louisville) has a lengthy and impressive history of significant volunteer work.

In the 1910s, the organization “Americanized” newly-arrived Jewish immigrant girls.

In the 1920s, its members volunteered as teachers in public schools and to “little sisters,” who were mentally challenged.

In the 1960s, it helped establish Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Kentucky.

Beyond social action, NCJW has been an advocate for political issues important to women. Helen Rothchild Joseph, grandmother of Fred Joseph of Louisville and president of NCJW from 1919 to 1921 said in a 1920s *Courier-Journal* story, “Our platform is always open to the civic, legislative and interests of the city at large.”

Today, NCJW-Louisville continues to be politically active. This year, it co-sponsored Children’s Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Frankfort. It launched Promote the Vote, a voter-engagement

Jewish Women of Louisville To Work for Americanization

**Mrs. Ottenheimer Announces Completion of Plans to Raise
Local Quota of \$3,000 to Further Programme
of National Organization.**

A headline from a 1920s *Courier-Journal* story about NCJW social action.

initiative, and it co-sponsored community discussions on racial injustice.

It also established the Jefferson Family Recovery Court, providing funds to operate it for three years. NCJW-Louisville’s resale store, the Nearly New Shop, has been in business for 64 years.

The 650-plus members of NCJW-Louisville meet regularly to determine how and when and where they can best provide for women and children.

“In this time of COVID, we are pleased to continue our support of so many important programs throughout the community, especially ways to help our seniors during the pandemic and in its aftermath,” said executive direc-

tor Nancy Chazen. “Many of these opportunities are in partnership with the JCC and Federation and we couldn’t be more thrilled to reinvigorate our relationship with our key community partner.”

NCJW recently made a \$5,000 gift to the JCC to be a part of the “Wall of Honor” in the new JCC that is under construction.

“We are excited to honor our legacy partnership with NCJW and looking forward to our future work together supporting and advocating for seniors in our community,” said Madeline Abramson, co-chair of the JCC Capital Campaign Committee.

CHANUKAH

Continued from page 1

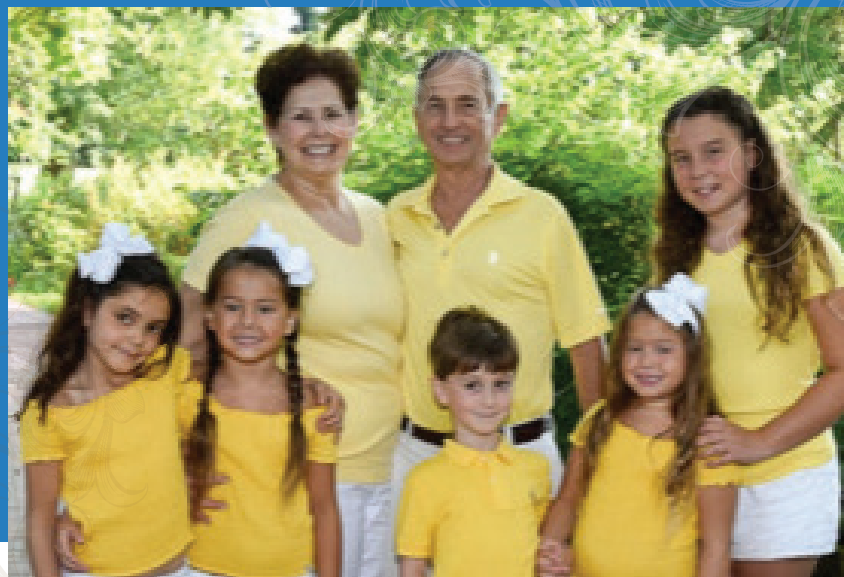
Chair Matt Schwartz said of the program.

But it’s not the only example. Since the LCJC was formed three years ago, representatives have met regularly, “talking about how we can help each other, things we can learn from the others and how can we better the community.”

They also cooperated on the Rosof study, an analysis of synagogue life in Louisville, paid for by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence for Excellence, which was completed about a year ago.

The study made several recommendations to the synagogues for preserving and strengthening religious life here, including greater collaboration. The Chanukah party is an example of what the study advocated.

“We basically just thought about the idea, that wouldn’t it be a nice opportunity to bring the whole community together – members of congregations and not members of congregations,” Schwartz said.



“The best part of watching our granddaughters’ involvement in Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad is to see their smiling faces, laughter and hands on involvement while learning about Judaism. This is why we have chosen to leave a Life and Legacy gift to Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad and Keneseth Israel Synagogue. We want our grandchildren to know that giving back to our community, helping to secure the future of synagogue life in Louisville and Jewish education is a high priority for us.”

— Beverly and David Weinberg

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NEWS

Jewish leaders to hold senior positions in Biden Cabinet

By staff and wire reports

President-elect Joe Biden is assembling a Cabinet that, so far, is one of the most heavily Jewish in decades.

Biden has named Antony "Tony" Blinken as his secretary of state, Alejandro Mayorkas as his homeland security secretary, and sources close to the president-elect say Janet Yellen is his choice for treasury secretary.

He previously tapped Ron Klain to be his chief of staff – a high-ranking White House position, though not a Cabinet-level job.

Biden has also named John Kerry as his climate czar, a new position reflecting the importance the president-elect attaches to combatting climate change. Though a Catholic, Kerry learned during his 2004 run for president that his grandfather was Jewish. His brother, Cameron, had already converted to Judaism after marrying his wife.

Biden's Cabinet picks are subject to Senate confirmation.

A career diplomat, **Blinken** is the son Donald Blinken, who served as U.S. ambassador to Hungary under President Bill Clinton. But his grandfather, Meir Blinken, was a noted Yiddish author, and his stepfather, Samuel Pissar, was a Holocaust survivor and attorney who went on to advise President John F. Kennedy and multiple French presidents.

Pissar, who survived three concentration camps, also worked for the United Nations. He wrote a libretto titled *Kaddish – A Dialogue With God* at the behest of Leonard Bernstein and penned an award-winning memoir about his Holocaust experiences.

Pissar was liberated from by a Black G.I. – a story Blinken himself has retold.



Tony Blinken



Janet Yellen



Alejandro Mayorkas

Yellen, who previously served as U.S. Federal Reserve chair under Presidents Obama and Trump, would be the third Jewish treasury secretary in a row after Steven Mnuchin and Jack Lew.

A daughter of "not particularly observant" Polish Jewish parents, Yellen grew up in Brooklyn. At Yale, she was mentored by Jewish professors Herschel Grossman and Joseph Stiglitz.

While she and her husband, economist George Akerlof, a Nobel Laureate, lived in Berkeley, they were members of Congregation Beth-El, where their only son went to preschool.

In the 2016 presidential campaign, an ad Trump ran featured Yellen and Jewish investor and philanthropist George Soros. Jewish groups denounced the video for juxtaposing them with the "levers of power in

Washington" and "global special interests."

Mayorkas, a Latino Jew, who has emphasized the heightened threat facing American Jews, was born in Cuba to a Cuban Jewish father and Romanian Jewish mother. Like Pissar, his mother survived the Holocaust.

As a deputy secretary, Mayorkas worked closely with Jewish groups and spoke often about the specific threats

facing American Jews.

Speaking in 2016 to the annual Washington conference of the Orthodox Union about nonprofit security grants, Mayorkas said, "The need is most acute in the Jewish community because of the ascension of anti-Semitism and hate crimes we see."

Mayorkas is a board member of HIAS, the Jewish immigration advocacy group.

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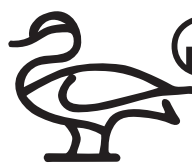
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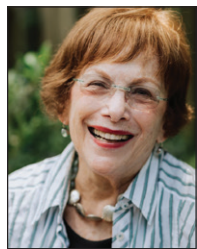
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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Zegart wins Governor's Award in the Arts for 2020



Shelly Zegart of Louisville is among this year's recipients of the Governor's Awards in the Arts, which celebrate contributions of Kentuckians and Kentucky organizations to the state's art heritage.

Zegart, who won the Folk Heritage Award, was among nine individuals and organizations to be honored.

A founding director of the Kentucky Quilt Project, Zegart curates exhibitions, organizes lectures and writes on all aspects of quilt history and aesthetics. She was the executive producer and host of *Why Quilts Matter: Arts & Politics Documentary*, a nine-part series that appeared on public television in 2013.

Zegart has bought and sold fine quilts for more than 30 years, building many public and private collections. Her personal collection was acquired and exhibited by the Art Institute of Chicago in 2002.

Zegart also is the founder of Kentucky to the World, a project that tells the stories of extraordinary Kentuckians, exhibiting the best of the state's human resources.

"This recognition is one to which any artist, arts advocate, or arts presenter

of significance in Kentucky aspires to," Zegart said. "My Governors Award in the Arts brings the extraordinary vision and aesthetic achievements of Kentucky quilt making to the attention of the public, and respects and celebrates the medium of quilting as a form of artistic expression."

Other 2020 award recipients are Michael Johnathon of Fayette County (Milner Award); Silas House of Madison County (Artist Award); Tidball's of Warren County (Business Award); Artists Collaborative Theatre, Pike County (Community Arts Award); Paducah Symphony Orchestra, McCracken County (Education Award); City of Somerset, Pulaski County (Government Award); Al Día en América, Jefferson County (Media Award); and Tom T. Hall, native of Carter County (National Award).

Subaru Share the Love returns again

Meals on Wheels network is again participating in the 2020 Subaru Share the Love Event, through which Subaru and its dealers have helped deliver more than 2.3 million meals to seniors nationwide.

From Nov. 19, 2020, through Jan. 4, 2021, for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to the customer's choice of participating charities.

Meals on Wheels has been a national participating charity since the inception

of the event. As a member of Meals on Wheels America, the Jewish Community Center will receive a share of the donation from Subaru vehicles sold.

One in four seniors lives alone in isolation and one in seven seniors might not know where their next meal is coming from.

The JCC provides meals, visits and safety checks to the seniors in Louisville. This vital support helps keep seniors in their own homes.

Bush named CEO of JSW Steel USA



Mark B. Bush has joined JSW Steel USA Texas and JSW Steel Ohio as CEO of JSW Steel USA. He will lead the overall business for JSW, which includes production and sales in Baytown, Texas, and

Mingo Junction, Ohio.

A steel industry executive for over 20 years, Bush previously led the SSAB Steel Southern Business team in Houston and was general manager of SSAB Steel operations in Mobile, Alabama.

He and his wife, Stephanie, have relocated to the Houston area.

Bush is the son of Brenda Bush and the late Karmen Bush and grandson of the late Blanche "Bubbe" and Harry

Norman and the late Hannah and Maurice Bush.

A show to go on at the Louisville Jewish Film Fest



The Louisville Jewish Film Festival

(LJFF) will be back for its 23rd season in February – pandemic or no pandemic.

But it will be a different festival than in previous years.

"Our 23rd annual festival will look and feel very different, prioritizing your safety and comfort with a reimagined virtual experience," LJFF Director Marsha Bornstein said in a prepared statement. "What won't change: world-class films, stimulating speakers, and a celebration of diversity."

Bornstein said the festival committee has selected many historical and current documentaries for the upcoming festival, as well as comedy, satire and feature films.

As more details become available. Community will deliver them via its newspaper and social media.



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Thank you for being adaptable, flexible and most of all, **STRONG together.** Your membership and participation mean so much to the hundreds of seniors who receive the 400 meals a week from our kitchen, and our children – of whom hundreds have had the opportunity to just be kids at Summer Camp, Camp J 365 and in our Early Learning Center (ELC) programming.

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AROUND TOWN

Adath Jeshurun

The Sunday Night Live series is held on Sundays at 7 p.m. Upcoming programs include comedy by Eddie Bornstein, Nov. 29; Dr. Jon Klein discussing vaccines, Dec. 6; and John Gage of the Kentucky Homefront leading Chanukah songs and stories, Dec. 13. Links for all programs can be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. To subscribe, send a request to info@adathjeshurun.com.

Eight nights of virtual Chanukah celebrations will be held this year. Programs include nightly menorah lightings, songs and stories. Links to join all programs may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. To subscribe, send your request to info@adathjeshurun.com.

Virtual Shabbat worship services will be conducted via Facebook Live, YouTube and Zoom. Twice-daily minyan services are held via Zoom only. A schedule and links to join all services may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. To subscribe, send your request to info@adathjeshurun.com.

Anshei Sfard

Parent/Child Learning is offered Saturdays at 7 p.m. in the synagogue. Pizza will be served, and Rabbi Yitzi Mandel will tell a story. Social distancing and face masks are required.

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

Chabad

All services are Chabad House are cancelled per the governor's directions. All in-person classes at Louisville Jewish Day School also are cancelled but will continue online until Dec. 7.

A drive-in Chanukah Experience and Grand Menorah Lighting will be held on 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Village 8 Theater. Participants can park on the side of the theater and enjoy the program in their cars. All audio and music will be transmitted through car radios. Individually wrapped Chanukah doughnuts and drinks will be provided to each vehicle. Chanukah menorahs and candles will be available free of charge. Call Rabbi Chaim Litvin at 502-442-2208 for

more information.

Chavurat Shalom

Jason Parroco, Hosparus health hospital specialist, and a ukulele and guitar player, will perform at 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, via [ChavuratShalomZoom](https://www.zoom.us/j/9127042769).

Harpist Jessica Hyden will perform at 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, via [ChavuratShalomZoom](https://www.zoom.us/j/9127042769).

Beth Olliges, lead singer from Two of Diamonds, will perform at 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 17, via [ChavuratShalomZoom](https://www.zoom.us/j/9127042769).

There will be no programs on Dec. 24, 31 and Jan. 7. Programming will resume on Jan. 14, when Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will discuss the results of the U.S. election and its impact on Israeli politics. Contact Sarah at sarahharlan86@gmail.com.

Keneseth Israel

Coffee Shmooze is held Mondays at 11 a.m. Bring your own coffee and come hang out at [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](https://www.tinyurl.com/KICzoom).

Jews and Brews, a Torah study class with Cantor Sharon Hordes, is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](https://www.tinyurl.com/KICzoom). Mindful Meditation with Cantor Hordes is held Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](https://www.tinyurl.com/KICzoom).

Torah Yoga with Cantor Hordes and Lisa Flannery is held the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](https://www.tinyurl.com/KICzoom).

Kabbalah Month by Month, a class on kabbalistic teaching, based on the Hebrew months, is held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](https://www.tinyurl.com/KICzoom).

Baking Club is held Thursdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom. Check [facebook.com/kilouisville](https://www.facebook.com/kilouisville) for dates and recipes.

NCJW, Louisville Section

Mah Jongg cards for the 2021 National Mah Jongg League are on sale. Standard print cards are \$9; large print cards, \$10. A portion of the amount collected for each card sold benefits NCJW's mission and operating expenses. Orders are being accepted through Jan. 15. Call NCJW at 502-454-6633 or order online at [ncjw-lou.org](https://www.ncjw-lou.org).

Temple Shalom

A virtual candle lighting, paired with a

special program, will be held each night of Chanukah. Email information@templeshalomky.org for details.

Shabbat services with Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and a song leader are held Fridays at 6:30 p.m.; Havdalah, Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. (note the time change). Email Temple Shalom at information@templeshalomky.org for the Zoom links.

Rabbi David Bloom will be the next guest at the Chailands Chavurah, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, immediately following havdalah. Bloom will discuss violence in Jewish ethics – a research topic he is currently addressing. Email chailands@templeshalomky.org for details.

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

The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop currently has no daily hours but will open by appointment. Customers must wear masks and observe social distance. Contact Sheila Lynch at 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein at 502-329-2276 or Karen Waldman, 502-425-4360 for appointments.

Adult education classes are being held on Zoom:

On Mondays at 6 p.m., Advanced Hebrew with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport,

Text Study with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel and Beginning Hebrew Part 2 with Mark Goldstein; on Wednesday, Temple Scholars: 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 Rabbi Rapport. Call 502-423-1818 to register.

Torah study with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel is held Saturdays at 9 a.m. on Zoom.

Chanukah lighting will be held Dec. 10, 13 and 17 from 5:15 to 5:30 p.m. at the corner of Lime Kiln and US-42. RSVPs are required. Visit [thetemplelouky.org/hanukkah-lighting/](https://www.thetemplelouky.org/hanukkah-lighting/). There will be Chanukah member bags and songs. Latkes from the Brotherhood and jelly doughnuts from the WRJ/Sisterhood will be provided. Social distancing will be followed.

The next Interfaith Dialogue will be held at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, on Zoom. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport and Father Joe Graffis will discuss common issues between Catholics and Jews. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/interfaith-dialogue/](https://www.thetemplelouky.org/interfaith-dialogue/).

Mitzvah Makers will make sandwiches for the Louisville homeless community at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 and 27. Due to COVID, the event will be limited to 10 tables, each with two people from one home. Masks will be required and doors to the Heideman, (explain) so dress appropriately. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making/](https://www.thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making/).

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B'nai Mitzvahs



Zachary Mason Gordon will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, Nov. 14, at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Illinois. Zach is the son of Tracy and Lyle Gordon. His grandparents are Sam and Marlene Gordon and Karen Kettler of Louisville. He is an avid golfer and loves to hang out with his family and friends, especially his dog Izzy. His mitzvah project is making and selling dog treats to benefit the Illinois Humane Society.

Edward Rothschild III, "Trey", will become a bar mitzvah on Saturday, Dec. 5, in a private havdalah service. Trey is the son of Shannon and Edward Rothschild II, brother to Reagan and Emory, and a grandson of Frances and Edward Rothschild of Louisville, and Heather and Ronald Melrose of Austin, Texas. An eighth grader at St. Francis School in Goshen, he enjoys swimming, playing and designing video games, and spending time with friends, family and his two puppies. For his mitzvah project, Trey made 500 sandwiches and collected hygiene products for the homeless of The Forgotten Louisville. He also collected books through Louisville Reads for Home of the Innocents.

Engagements



Haskell-Wise

Rodney and Amy Haskell announce the engagement of their daughter, Bailey Haskell, to Daniel Wise, son of Ellen and Joey Cavanaugh, and Dale Wise.

Bailey and Dan work at Seneca High School, where she is the choral director and he the band director. Both teach Humanities.

A wedding is planned for the fall of 2021.

Weddings

Tasman-Linsky

Sheila and David Tasman announce the recent marriage of their daughter, Leah Tasman, to Zac Linsky, son of Norm and Susan Linsky, of Washington, D.C. The couple was married on Oct. 25, in a private COVID-safe outdoor ceremony. Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks officiated.

Leah is the granddaughter of Martha Frockt, the late Anakrana Kaplan, Pacy Davis, Bernie Tasman and Buddy Frockt.

Zac is the grandson of the late Marcelyn and Alvin Vener and Abram and Lillian Linsky.

Zac works in real estate development and Leah works for Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness.

Obituaries



Annette Fleck Geller

Annette Fleck Geller died peacefully on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020. She was 86.

A native of Louisville and a lifelong member of Adath Jeshurun, Annette was also active at

the Jewish Community Center.

She loved to dance, take Pilates and play cards with her friends consistently for over 50 years.

Her greatest love, was her husband, Harry, who survives her. They shared a wonderful, loving life for 63 years. They traveled the world, but they were happy anywhere if they were together.

Annette cherished her family and friends. She graciously hosted all Shabbat and holiday gatherings and delighted in an overflowing table.

Her time with her grandchildren was always the most special. She would bake, go to movies, paint pottery, and made lots of special memories. Her love of family extended to her many nieces and nephews where she always looked forward to lifecycle gala events.

Annette was preceded in death by her loving parents, Samuel and Hannah Fleck.

In addition to Harry, she is survived by her sister, Bunny (Allen) Sabbath, and brother, Stanley (Laurie) Fleck. She is lovingly remembered by her children Larry (Julie) Geller, Sally (Daniel) Weinberg, Mark (Tracy) Geller, and David (Betsey) Geller; her grandchildren, Heather (Chad) Clink, Natalie Geller, Zachery (Allie) Weinberg, Schuyler Weinberg, Alexander, Isabelle, Kendall, Rose Geller, Sydney, Abigail, and Hannah Geller; and her great-grandchildren, Sawyer, Holden and Parker Clink, and Talia Weinberg.

Graveside services were held Sunday, Nov. 1. Contributions to Congregation Adath Jeshurun's Annette and Harry Geller Chumash Fund, 4601 Woodbourne Ave, Louisville, KY 40205 are most appreciated.



Irving Harry Green

Irving Harry Green, 84, died Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center.

Born Oct. 10, 1936, he was a proud veteran of the Army and an employee at Gateway Supermarket, a family business.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Minnie Green; his sister, Irma Green; and his uncle, Joseph Rosenberg. He is survived by his cousins, Gary Rosenberg and Patricia Cohen (Joseph).

Committal services were private and done with military honors in the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff.

Sonia Gordon Hess

Sonia Gordon Hess, 95, died Monday, Nov. 16, 2020 in Louisville.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, her family moved to Louisville when Sonia was 10. She grew up to become a psychologist, serving the Jefferson County Juvenile Court for 27 years and volunteering as a mentor at Noe Middle School. She also taught psychology at The University of Louisville.

Sonia was an honorary member of the Phi Kappa Phi Society at the University of Louisville and Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society.

Dedicated to family, the Jewish community and cultural arts, Sonia served as president of The Temple Sisterhood, forming the Junior Choir during her term. She also served on the Temple board, the Social Action Committee, and taught Sunday school.

She was a life member of the National

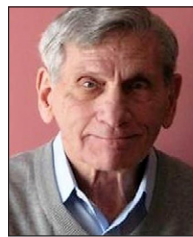
Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah and the Temple Sisterhood, and was a charter member of the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the American Museum of Jewish History.

She and her husband, Howard, formed the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue, which still meets 40 years later.

She was preceded in death by her husband of over 60 years, Howard Hess; her daughter, Dr. Ann Hess (Joel Sokoloff), her parents Charles and Rebecca Baron Gordon; her parents-in-law, Betty and Albert Hess; a sister, Dolly Gordon Sturman (Dr. Stanley), a brother, Dr. Armond T. Gordon (Ruth), and sisters-in-law Freddie Hess Burstyn (Joe) and Jean Hess Morris (Jacques).

She is survived by three children, H. Allen (Elaine) of Vienna, Virginia, Dr. Steven (Wendy) of Philadelphia, and Barbara (Jay McCrensky) of Bethesda, Maryland; her grandchildren, Deanne Hess Kaczerski (David), Carly Hess Noreen (Jacob), Adam McCrensky, Kevin Hess (Evan), Nathan McCrensky, Nikki Hess and David Hess; and her great-grandchildren, Logan Kaczerski, Zoe Kaczerski, Mia Kaczerski and Jackson Noreen, Ryder Noreen, Lily Noreen and her sister-in-law Betty Hess (Marvin) Morse.

Funeral services were held virtually on Nov. 19. Memorial gifts may be made to the Albert & Betty Hess GUCI Scholarship Camp Fund at The Temple.



Hilbert B. Marx

Hilbert B. Marx, 93, passed away peacefully at Baptist Health Hospital on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020.

A native of Granite City, Illinois, Hill moved to Louisville as a teenager. He graduated from Male High School and, as a member of ROTC, joined the Army.

In 1946, Hill returned home and started his career in sales of promotional products. He later owned Specialty Advertising, Inc.

His love for his work was evident by the numerous awards and accolades he received during his 70-year career, from which he retired in 2019.

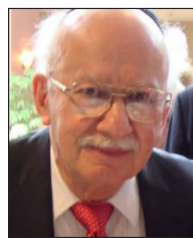
Always quick-witted, Hill's puns and "dad jokes" will be missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded by his wife, the former Lucy Cohen, his brother Allan and nephew Wesley Arbeitman.

Hill is survived by his three children, Lee (Cheryl), Scott and Laurie Lynne; his granddaughter, Beth (David) Bowen; two great-grandchildren; his sister, Betty Arbeitman; her son, Ken of Missouri; a niece, Tara Cohen of Texas.

Hill was a member of Adath Jeshurun.

Virtual funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 25 via Facebook. Expressions of sympathy can be made to Adath Jeshurun or the charity of the donor's choice.



Dr. Raymond E. Russman

Dr. Raymond E. Russman, 87, passed away on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020.

Born in Louisville on Jan. 5, 1933, a son of the late Hyman and Sarah Russman, Raymond graduated from Dupont Manual High School, the University of Louisville and, in 1957, the

UofL School of Dentistry.

That same year, Raymond and Carolyn Kessel became the last couple to be married at the Adath Jeshurun synagogue when it was located downtown.

Two months later, Raymond, now in the Army, was assigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana. There, he served two years as the base dentist, holding the rank of captain. Later, Carolyn joined him in Louisiana.

After the couple returned to Louisville in 1959, Raymond opened his dental practice on Preston Highway. After one year, he moved to Whipps Mill and after 12 years, to Lyndon Lane, where he practiced for 35 years. During 50 wonderful years, Raymond did what he loved, and all his patients loved him; particularly those who couldn't afford dental care and were treated for free by "Doc Russman."

Raymond and Carolyn, who were married for 63 years, loved to travel, play cards and spend time with their many friends and family.

Everyone who knew Raymond loved him and the numerous stories he told.

Left to honor his life are his wife Carolyn; his daughter, Kim (John) Reinhardt; his son, Steven (Robin) Russman; his granddaughters, Jennifer (Dan) Moore and Emily Reinhardt; his great-grandchildren, Asher and Ellie Moore; and his twin brother, Sherrill Russman.

Contributions in Raymond's memory to Keneseth Israel's General Fund or the charity of your choice are appreciated.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, Nov. 8, at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.



Sonya Marlene Simon

Sonya Marlene Simon, devoted wife, mother and grandmother, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020.

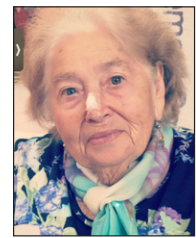
Born in Wichita, Kansas, a daughter of the late Beatrice and

Milton Zelinkoff, Sonya attended Smith College, where she obtained her undergraduate degree. She went on to receive her master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her twin sister, Sandra Rosenblum.

Sonya is survived by her husband, Dr. Sanford Simon; her daughter Evalyn Grossman (Phil); her son, Dr. John Simon (Dr. Armity) of Phoenix, Arizona; and by five grandchildren, Emori Keyer (Will), Cezanne Simon, Keenan Simon (Kelsey), Hayley Alpert (Max), and Zoe Simon.

Virtual funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 25, via Herman Meyer & Son. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple in Louisville or by the planting of a tree in her memory.



Ida Badova Spivak

Ida Badova Spivak, 94, died Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020, at her home. She was a native of Kirovograd, Ukraine, born Oct. 26, 1926 to Zinovi and Brana.

She is survived by her daughter, Zina Spivak (Yuriy) and her son, Michael Spivak (Slava); her grandsons, Slava Spivak (Katja) and Mark Spivak (Leslie); and three great-grandchildren, Alexis, Nicholas and Alex.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, Nov. 18, at The Temple Cemetery.

NEWS

BIDEN

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my year."

The same thing happened a year later at the White House Christmas party. Again, Biden and Yarmuth chatted. Again, the talk got around to Cook, whose health was seriously failing by then. Again, Biden asked if they could call him. He and Cook talked for about 10 minutes that time amid the din of a crowded party.

"That's the last time he ever talked to him, because Marlow died not too long after that," Yarmuth said. "But that's who he (Biden) is; he's just this wonderful, thoughtful, very human person."

Yarmuth and former Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson have both seen the personal and professional sides of the incoming president. Both shared their impressions in separate interviews with *Community*.

For Abramson, who served in the Obama administration as director of intergovernmental affairs, Biden's sense of humor stands out.

He was working in his office in the West Wing of the White House one day when he walked Biden.

"He sat down in front of my desk and said we should spend more time together," Abramson recalled. "I said, 'Mr. Vice President, if you want to spend more time together, I'm certainly willing and would love to, but why?' He said, 'Because we're the two oldest guys in the West Wing.'"

Biden was 74 at the time; Abramson, 69.

Abramson worked closely with Biden during his White House days.

"Any time he was going to give a speech to an association of mayors, of governors, of county executives, we

would meet, along with his speech writers, and talk through issues of importance to those groups," said Abramson, who frequently traveled with the vice president aboard Air Force 2.

He sees Biden as well-suited to be president now, when health, economic and environmental crises grip the country and the world.

"As he enters office, his in-box is full," Abramson said. "He's going to have to multi-task in a major way."

He described Biden as an engaged leader, calling him an "excellent listener" and "very inquisitive" during their meetings together.

"He would not be a micro-manager, but he would be very comfortable in a collaborative relationship with his staff," Abramson said, "and ultimately, when decisions were made, to turn to his staff and ask them to coordinate accordingly."

Abramson and Yarmuth had front-row seats to major issues that Biden worked on, including those of special interest to Jews.

Both men described Biden as a strong supporter of Israel, though there were disagreements.

"He, along with President Obama, were very much opposed to the expansion of the settlements, and he, as well as President Obama, were strong supporters of a two-state solution," Abramson said.

Biden also backed the Iran Nuclear Agreement, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu strongly opposed.

Yarmuth, one of a core group of congressmen to support the nuclear deal, said he and his colleagues got White House briefings about the agreement, some conducted by Biden himself.

"He had no conciliatory inclinations with Iran," Yarmuth said. "He just deeply believed, as did Barack, that this was the



Jerry and Madeline Abramson with then-Vice President Joe and Dr. Jill Biden during a holiday party at the U.S. Naval Observatory – the official residence of the vice president – December 2015. (photo provided by Jerry Abramson)

best way to demilitarize the region, and that it was in Israel's benefit to do it."

Yarmuth believes Biden will be in a good position to broker the elusive peace agreement on the West Bank. "He has credibility with both the Palestinians and the Israelis."

He also predicted that Biden will be good on many domestic issues that Jews care about: church-state separation and refugees among them.

Even with divided government, Abramson said Biden, who spent nearly 40 years in Congress and has a history of working with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, has the skillset to reach compromises.

"Every time that President Obama got into difficulty with the Republican-led Senate, Joe Biden was the person sent

to the Hill to work out a resolution," he recalled. "As a result, resolution of many issues were worked out."

One personal issue for Biden then, and likely after he becomes president, remains research to end cancer, the so-called "moonshot." Biden's older son, Beau, died from brain cancer.

The president-elect headed a task force on cancer in the last year of the Obama administration, presenting findings that addressed transforming research and the "research care ecosystem" (prevention, diagnosis, treatment). The effort, renamed Cancer Breakthroughs 2020, still exists, focusing on immunotherapy.

"That's still out there as a personal concern for him," Abramson said.

KSP

Continued from page 1

show] was presented to and where did it fit in the curriculum – if it was actually in the curriculum at all," Brown told *Community*.

But he also wants to go beyond the quotes.

"We want to go to what is the philosophy of our training," Brown said. "Are there images or descriptive phrases or anything that either go against our training philosophy, our law enforcement philosophy, or might be offensive to any of the constituents we serve or the cadets themselves."

Beshear has promised changes in education and recruitment designed to make police across the commonwealth more culturally attuned to minorities.

In a recent Zoom call with Jewish leaders, the governor pledged to involve them in changing the way Kentucky trains its police, avoiding blind spots that may offend minorities.

"We asked the leaders on the call, as we develop materials, to review them to and to potentially offer materials for us and to offer their time for some of those potential trainings, too."

Student journalists from *Manual RedEye*, the newspaper of duPont Manual High School, broke the news about the slide show on Friday, Oct. 30, reporting that at least three quotes from Hitler were used, one of which stating that the use of

violence was the "first essential for success."

Another slide implores cadets to be "ruthless killers" and to have a "mindset void of emotion."

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville, said Beshear reached out to the Jewish community after news of the quotes surfaced. The governor also signaled he was eager to meet with the commonwealth's Jewish leaders via Zoom, which happened the following Monday.

"He agreed to have a larger conversation with the leaders of the Jewish community, which I think was a wonderful first step," Wagner said, "and we are all looking forward to partnering with the governor and his office."

Brown said the PowerPoint had evolved from earlier presentations dating back to 1998, with titles such as "Warrior Values" and "Warrior Mindset," and invoking the words of other historical figures, including Robert E. Lee. They also use lines from the Christian Bible; specifically, the Book of Hebrews.

Albert Einstein and Franklin D. Roosevelt, among others, also are quoted.

Beshear said he was "horrified and furious" when he first heard about the PowerPoint.

"I found out about this through social media, which is also unacceptable," he said. "There is no excuse and no reason it (the quotes) should ever have been in any training material. Period."

Beshear criticized the KSP's initial

response to the report, which he said "should have been that this is not acceptable training material [and] we're going to immediately find out when and how it was used and we're going to take appropriate corrective action."

Soon thereafter, KSP Commissioner Brewer announced his resignation. Beshear, who met with reporters the day after, would not say if he asked the commissioner to go.

The news broke as Louisville and other Kentucky communities continue to wrestle with giving police the cultural training they need to serve diverse minorities.

The Black community has long complained of unequal and confrontational treatment by police. The tensions finally erupted this year, not long after Louisville officers shot to death Breonna Taylor in her apartment while exercising a no-knock search warrant.

"We're very concerned with the larger question of training and changing the culture in law enforcement with regard to Jews and other minorities – African-Americans, Muslims," said Jon Fleischaker, outgoing co-chair of the JCL Board of Directors. "That's all part and parcel to the same problem."

Beshear said the proposed state budget he will submit to the General Assembly in January will include funding to recruit more diverse police forces at the state, county and city levels.

REDEYE

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of the KSP commissioner and prompted a statewide investigation into the training of Kentucky police officers.

JCL co-chair Jon Fleischaker, a communications attorney who has represented the *Courier-Journal* in freedom of information cases, lauded *RedEye* for its investigation.

"I've got a lot of experience dealing with publications and media," Fleischaker told the young journalists, "and what you all did over a short period of time was extraordinary."

The Waltons said they learned about the slideshow through their father, an attorney, who obtained the slides in the discovery phase of a police shooting lawsuit. "We got pretty lucky," Satchel said.

They pulled the story together in two weeks, quoting four to five sources. (Several KSP officials did not return calls.) They have since written follow-ups as the story continues to unfold.

Editor Carns described the response to the story as "crazy."

"I knew it was going to be a big story; I didn't know it was going to get as big as it did," she said. "We've gotten a lot of emails for donations; it's gotten national recognition with *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. It's gotten even worldwide coverage in newspapers. It's something that I just never thought a high school paper could reach."

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