

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:

'Fauda! Fauda!'

Stars of hit series share how show is changing Jewish-Arab perceptions
STORY ON PG. 13

FRIDAY Vol. 47, No. 1 | January 29, 2021 | 16 Sh'vat 5781

Virtual tour



The Street, a design feature of the new Jewish Community Center, will connect many of its most popular facilities while acting as a thoroughfare-style meeting place for the community. See the Virtual Tour gallery on page 14. (Rendering by GBBN Architects)

Jewish Louisville gets sneak peek at new JCC one year before building's completion

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

More than one year before the new Jewish Community Center of Louisville opens its door, its staff and executives did a walk-through of the new building Friday, Jan. 8 – a virtual walkthrough.

Staff members called in to a Zoom

tour of the future facility, which is under construction at the back of the JCC campus on Dutchmans Lane.

Jerry Abramson, one of five co-chairs of the capital campaign committee, told the staff how important this tour was so they can share the excitement and answer members' questions about what

will be in the new JCC.

"We want you to have the clear understanding of what's coming," Abramson said.

The public joined a live virtual tour on Jan. 14 during the JCC's Capital Campaign Community Kickoff. Doron Krakow, president of the JCC Association of

See **VIRTUAL TOUR** on page 19

JHFE, Federation launch project to enhance Jewish education here

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Jewish leaders have begun an initiative to improve the way Jewish Louisville educates its children and teens.

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence (JHFE) and the Jewish Federation of Louisville are partnering on the community-wide planning process for Jewish youth education, which they say is vital to the future of the Jewish community here.

"We really need to make sure the community is healthy far into the future by focusing on our kids – the next generation," said Eric Goodman, a JHFE board member and chair of the seven-member steering committee that will consider the results of the study.

JHFE and the Federation have already addressed what Goodman calls "two legs" on the stool of Jewish youth engagement and education, offering grants to all local young people for Jewish overnight camp and Israel experiences. Addressing supplemental learning, he said, is the third leg.

JHFE has contracted with Plan A Advisors, a New York-based managerial and consulting firm, to study community youth education here, engaging with parents and children, rabbis and cantors, teachers and other stakeholders.

After that, the steering committee, with input from all major players, will "envision" an education plan that works for Louisville.

Plan A's work, which includes helping to draft a budget, a funding plan and the final report, will be completed this summer.

Goodman said the initiative is concentrating on enhancing the community's Jewish learning, not on starting a day school from scratch.

"We are really focusing on Jewish education for our youth, to make sure it is the best it can be and reaching the most kids possible," he said.

The JHFE may consider a day school model in the future, he added. "It's not a final verdict on the idea of day schools; it just that you have to bite off something you can chew, and this is what we decided to bite off."

Evan Kingsley, a partner in Plan A, said his firm will conduct virtual one-on-one sessions, roundtables and workshops

See **EDUCATION** on page 19

The new Amalek: Racism

Black rabbi stops senseless deaths on Chicago streets

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In every generation, according to tradition, Jews have come face to face with Amalek, an enemy first revealed to them in the wilderness during the Exodus.

Jews believe that Amalek has taken many forms over the centuries. Haman was one. Hitler, another.

But to Jews of color, Amalek is not a person, but an ideal.

"It's racism," said student Rabbi Tam-

ar Manasseh, a Black Jew from Chicago who combats the effects of racism every day in her work. "In every generation, Black people have had to make war with that, with racism, in this country."

Following the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S.

See **MANASSEH** on page 19

Student Rabbi Tamar Manasseh, who leads an effort to stem senseless killings in her Chicago neighborhood, is the subject of a documentary at this year's Louisville Jewish Film Festival.



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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Tu B'Shevat means renewal, and do we ever need it!



D'var Torah

Rabbi Beth
Jacowitz
Chottiner

Watching a tree transform from dormancy to blooming is an invigorating experience. It offers us hope for renewal, a new beginning. We are literally watching nature's promise of a better year.

And that is what we need right now – a reason to believe that our New Year can, and will, be better than 2020.

A friend recently reminded me that we are all incredibly strong. That's true, but our strength needs to be nourished and coaxed out of us. Our Jewish calendar offers a source for strength and inspiration – *Tu B'Shevat* – the New Year of the Trees.

In Israel, on the 15th of *Shevat*, the sap begins to rise inside trees. Buds begin to form; signs of new life and new beginnings emerge. This is what I embrace each year when *Tu B'Shevat* rolls around. Amid the chill of winter (and oftentimes snow, before moving to Louisville), I find my soul and mood are elevated just by knowing that spring is on its way. Truthfully, this holiday does more for me than Groundhog Day. (Sorry, Punxsutawney Phil.)

Renewal is a recurring theme in our tradition. Shabbat, our most important holiday, which we celebrate each week, is a remembrance of G-d's work of creation. When we pray in the morning and at night, we praise G-d for renewing creation daily (*Yotzer Or* and *Ma'ariv Ara-vim*).

On *Rosh HaShanah*, we celebrate the creation of the world. And on *Tu B'Shevat*, we celebrate the renewal of trees (and by extension, nature). In the kabbalistic tra-

dition, *Tu B'Shevat* is closely linked with the renewal of the flow of divine energy.

I need divine energy right now, to renew my spiritual, physical, emotional and mental self; perhaps you can relate. We have all been through much since March 2020. You have lived through this challenging period, so I know I don't have to spell out what has made things so difficult; but let's remember the 420,000-plus deaths in our country, overrun hospitals and ICUs, and health care providers who are beyond exhausted.

Add social unrest, racial inequality, political madness, frustration over the slow distribution of the COVID vaccines and an attack on the U.S. Capitol, and the need for renewal comes into stark focus.

While we can't change what has occurred, we can change our outlook. We can focus on the beauty of G-d's world. We can rejoice in knowing that new life is sprouting in *eretz Yisrael*.

By turning toward the rebirth of nature, we can rejuvenate ourselves, too. As it says in the *Tu B'Shevat Haggadah*, published by the CCAR Press and attributed to Rabbi Israel of Tshortkov:

Israel was likened to a tree which stands naked and frozen in winter. Storms cause the tree to sway and threaten to uproot it. Its situation seems to be without any hope. But even at the height of winter, the tree begins to draw renewed life from the depths of the earth. So it is with Israel: they are put to suffering, but in the depths of darkness the light of redemption is ignited."

Renewal, rebirth, revival, regeneration – these are all themes of *Tu B'Shevat*, the New Year of the Trees. May it also be so for us, our loved ones and all G-d's children in the year just begun.

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

JCC construction progress



Construction continues on the future Jewish Community Center. Work on the concrete exterior panels and steel is nearing completion. The outline/curbing for the new parking lot and driveways is well advanced. The elevator shaft is in and roofing will soon be installed. (JCC photo)

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in January:

- Feb 5 @ 5:53 p.m.
- Feb 12 @ 6:01 p.m.
- Feb 19 @ 6:08 p.m.
- Feb 26 @ 6:16 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, February 17 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by

Friday, Feb. 26.

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

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NEWS

New Kentucky group seeks to restore dreams to Jewish spiritual expression

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

"And Joseph said to Pharaoh, 'Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same: God has told Pharaoh what He is about to do.'"

— Mikkets 41:25

Where would the Jews be, Rabbi Gaylia Rooks asked, had Joseph *not* interpreted Pharaoh's dreams?

"That leads into the whole story of the Exodus," she said, "without which we would never have been enslaved; without which we would not have had Moses and the whole Passover story; without which we would never have gone to Mt. Sinai and received the Ten Commandments."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Dreams figure heavily in Judaism. They have been a pillar of Jewish spirituality for thousands of years. According to tradition, Jews were encouraged to come to the synagogue and ameliorate their dreams – tell them and have them interpreted. It is how they stayed connected with their souls and the divine.

"An uninterpreted dream is like an unopened letter," talmudic sages have said.

But over the centuries, the importance of dreams as spiritual experiences has diminished, relegated to the psychotherapy of Freud, or scientists who considered them so many random discharges of neurons in the brain.

Rooks and journalist Joyce Lynn want to reclaim the spiritual side of dreams.

Last year, the two women co-founded the Kentucky-based Jewish Association of Spirituality and Dreams (JASD), which assists participants in connecting with their dreams and learning from them.

The organization, which recently qualified for 501.c.3 status, encour-

ages the sharing and interpretation of dreams through "dream circles," supportive groups that meet in synagogues, homes, online – pretty much anywhere – to share dreams and foster the dream experience.

In time, Rooks and Lynn hope to publish books and a curriculum, helping rabbis and lay leaders teach the spiritual side of dreams to their own congregations.

They want people to embrace their dreams, not forget them as soon as they wake up.

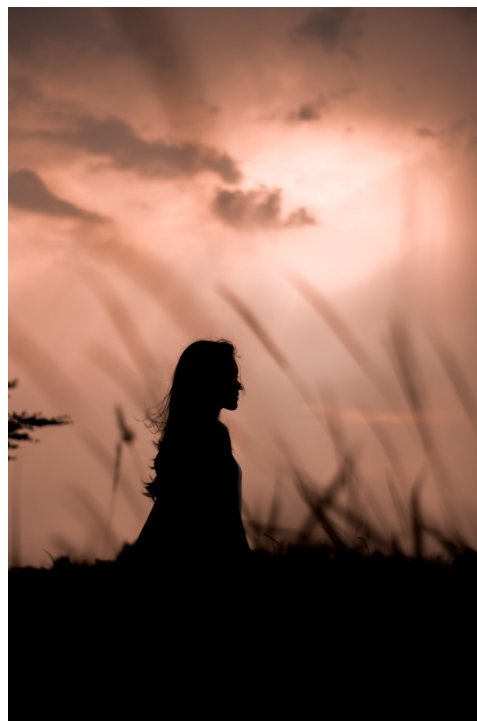
JASD is not dream therapy. Instead, it emphasizes "the transformational rather than the therapeutic," according to the organization's statement, "the educational rather than the psychological aspect of dreams."

Lynn, a Hart County resident and the author of *Dreams and the Wisdom Within* said JASD strives to help people "connect" with the spiritual side of their dreams.

Asked how she knows that Jews, for the most part, have lost touch with their dreams, she quipped, "How many synagogues offer dreams circles, compared with the number that offer mah-jongg games?"

Rooks said the reconnection with dreams is an avenue to two essential goals in Jewish philosophy: *tikkun olam* (healing the world) and *tikkun atzmi* (healing one's self).

"Ultimately, how far you can progress in *tikkun atzmi* might limit how far you can go with *tikkun olam*," Rooks said. "Until you find peace within yourself, and acceptance and love and compassion for yourself, how can you really find it for other people? I think that dreams in particular call out to this two-sided



"Dreams have the power to heal and transform," JASD co-founders Rabbi Gaylia Rooks and Joyce Lynn say.

approach."

While JASD charges fees for services, it is not a member-based organization. The women said they wanted no one to feel excluded because they didn't belong.

JASD does have volunteers. Dr. Linda Bledsoe, associate professor (adjunct) of social psychology at the University of Louisville, will chair the advisory board (which she said she is still assembling) and Barb Fabricant, retired senior scientist at Zeon Chemicals, serves as treasurer.

Rooks and Lynn met years ago when

the two organized a dream-themed minishabbaton for the rabbi at The Temple. At the time, Lynn divided her time between Louisville and San Francisco.

When they reconnected years later, they began talking about a new dreams and spirituality organization for all people, but especially for Jews.

JASD's rollout has been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic – they have run only two online programs to date – but they expect programming to pick up now that their nonprofit status is official.

A journalist whose book about dreams is part memoir, part manual, part spiritual guide, Lynn cites one of her own dreams as inspiration for this project:

She was in a Los Angeles synagogue, walking through the foyer to the education wing. Her shoes – cross-trainers – were wet, so they made marks on the marble floor as she moved along.

She interpreted that dream as a desire to maintain a family tradition. Her parents were active in the Jewish community of Columbus, Ohio, where she grew up.

"This idea of bringing forth the power of dreams in Judaism came out of that dream," Lynn said.

Rooks has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Brandeis University and a doctorate of pastoral counseling from Presbyterian Seminary.

She and Lynn hope to restore dreams as a standard part of Jewish expression, much like Debbie Friedman's *misheberach* prayer has become a standard part of Shabbat services.

That's their dream: "To have dreaming be a natural part of spiritual practice for as many people – Jews and non-Jews – as possible," Lynn said. "Those dreams are the paths to peace and feeling."

Louisville rabbis, professionals supported community following Capitol riot

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

As authorities restored order to the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, following a lawless mob's four-hour takeover, Louisville rabbis and counselors sought to support and comfort worshippers who were feeling a range of emotions, having seen a sight they almost

certainly never expected.

Many observers referred to the takeover as a coup attempt. Others noted that the Capitol had not sustained such an assault since the War of 1812.

Five people, including at least one police officer, were killed and more than 50 other officers were injured.

In addition, the Capitol was ransacked by the attackers, several of whom were armed and/or made noise about capturing and killing the people inside, including Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Still, Congress reconvened that same day to affirm Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the winners of the 2020 presidential/vice presidential elections. They were sworn in on Jan. 20.

Deb Frocht, CEO of the Jewish Family & Career Services, said some of her clients who had fled countries where political violence is the norm, reached out to the agency after the attack, expressing "utter shock [at] what they thought they had left behind."

As order slowly returned to Washington, Jewish clerics in Louisville reached out to their worshippers. Rabbis Robert Slosberg, David Ariel-Joel and Beth Jacowitz Chottiner sent out letters of support to their congregations. They also prepared to address the developments during their Shabbat sermons – and at least one held a special Zoom program – to give people the

Need Help?

The JFCS is offering brief, individual support sessions by phone for anyone in the community who is experiencing anxiety or trauma during this time. To arrange a phone appointment, contact Anita at services@jfcsloville.org or 502-452-6341 x250.

space to express what they were feeling.

"As a congregation, just as the new year begins, let us draw strength and solidarity from the knowledge that, no matter our political party or preferences, we all care deeply and work toward wholeness, in our country and the society in which we live," wrote Ariel-Joel of The Temple.

Ariel-Joel quoted Rabban Shimon ben Gamaliel, who said, "On three things does the world stand: 'On justice, on truth, and on Shalom (peace, wholeness and wellness).'"

He added, "Rabban Gamaliel understood that civil society must rest on shared, civic commitments to justice, truth, and shalom. Without these, the world as we know it cannot stand."

Ariel-Joel also used special prayers from the Central Conference of American Rabbis during Shabbat to address the Capitol takeover.

Slosberg, of Adath Jeshurun, said in his message to the AJ community that Jan. 6,

2021 "will be remembered as an infamous day in American history.

"The fact that the mob was incited by the President of the United States is shocking," Slosberg continued. "Each of us, regardless of the candidate for whom we voted, must be appalled and horrified by this violent assault on our democracy."

He also added thanks to Vice President Pence and Senator Mitch McConnell for their "wise words and actions," saying the nation now "hopefully may begin the long journey to heal as a nation."

Slosberg also attached a lengthy statement from the Conservative movement in response to the attack.

Jacowitz Chottiner, of Temple Shalom, organized a Zoom call the day after the attack, during which participants could express their feelings and share their thoughts and questions about what had happened. Student Rabbi Sam Thal performed music during the program.

"This is a scary day for us," Jacowitz Chottiner said in a message to the TS community Wednesday night, "but I believe peace will be restored."

She also included a prayer, asking God to "bless our country, that it may always be a stronghold of peace, and its advocate among the nations. May contentment reign within its borders, health and happiness within its homes."

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NEWS

Hamas scion calls for Jewish worship on Temple Mount

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The son of a founder of the terrorist organization Hamas said Jews should be allowed to worship on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem – in their own worship space.

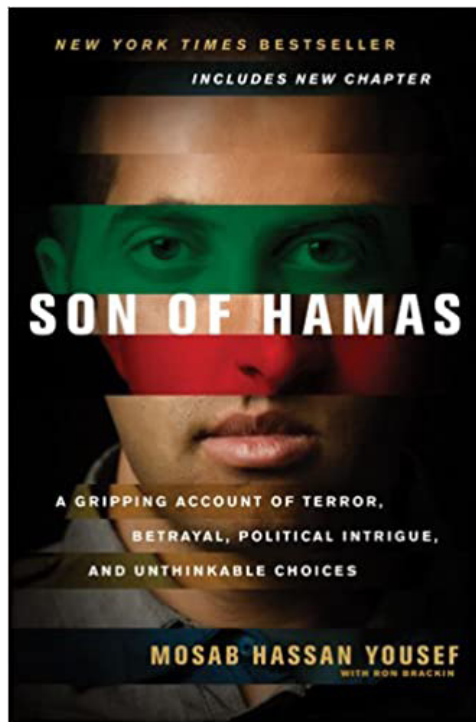
Speaking on the Dec. 27 episode of *Sunday Night Live* on Zoom sponsored by Adath Jeshurun, Mosab Hassan Yousef acknowledged that many Jews consider what he was saying to be “very dangerous,” but he said he didn’t care.

There is room enough on the mount for all three of the major monotheistic religions, he said.

“The Temple Mount is huge, and it has the Christian church and the Muslim mosque,” Yousef said. “We don’t have to destroy other people’s temples, but we can add one more for the Jewish people to worship, to see the Abrahamic religions worshipping together. This is possible; it’s within our ability.”

The church he was referring to appears to have been the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is in the Christian Quarter of the Old City.

In a follow-up comment he emailed to *Community*, Yousef said his suggestion was “hypothetical” and that he meant it as a “challenge [to] the current monopoly on God by all extreme views.”



Mosab Hassan Yousef, pictured here on the cover of his book, believes all three of the great monotheistic religions should have the right to worship at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

He added, “If it was up to me, I don’t mind building a Jewish temple in Mecca!”

The Temple Mount is a flashpoint in Arab-Israeli politics. Israel still recog-

nizes the Jordanian mandate over the Temple Mount – the site of the First and Second Temples – but many Orthodox Jews insist on their right to visit and worship there. Israelis are now allowed to visit but not worship.

Meanwhile, the Muslim *Waqf*, the authority that controls the Temple Mount – home to the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque – opposes any Jewish efforts to assert control over the site.

Nevertheless, Yousef said, the Temple Mount could figure heavily into a two-state solution, which he called “very possible” with compromise by the Palestinians and a little rethinking.

He envisioned a Palestinian state on the Temple Mount similar to the Vatican in Rome – the home of the Roman Catholic Church and the world’s smallest country.

“It’s a state without borders, and it’s a very wealthy, very powerful state,” Yousef said of the Vatican. “In Jerusalem, where they have the Al-Aqsa Mosque, make it into a Vatican and you know what that means? Lots of money, lots of pilgrims.”

Meanwhile Israel could continue to exercise security over the West Bank, which Yousef described as a “defensive line” for the country, while Palestinians build their local economy.

“What do we want with borders and

guns and armies?” Yousef asked. “This we don’t need.”

These were bold visions coming from a man who is considered in many quarters to be a traitor to Hamas.

Nicknamed “The Green Prince,” Yousef, 42, the son of Hamas co-founder Sheikh Hassan Yousef, grew up in Ramallah on the West Bank. He became a Shin Bet informant following his imprisonment by Israel in 1996. There, he witnessed interrogation tactics that he considered humane compared to Hamas’ methods with suspected collaborators.

He began passing information to Shin Bet following his release in 1997, which led to the exposure of many Hamas cells and the thwarting of suicide bombings. He chronicled his career in espionage in his 2010 autobiography, *Son of Hamas*. He has since converted to Christianity.

Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi of Ohavy Zion Synagogue in Lexington, who interviewed Mosab Yousef Sunday, touted his exploits, saying he led a “Palestinian James Bond life,” but Yousef waved off suggestions that he was a hero.

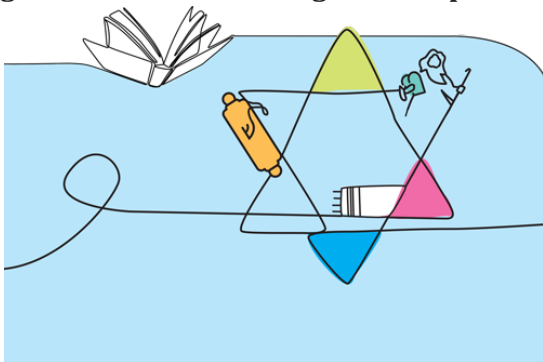
“For me, if I accept to be the hero, I’ll also have to accept to be the traitor,” he said. “I know who I am.”



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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: Feb. 17 for publication on Feb. 26 and March 17 for publication on March 26.

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

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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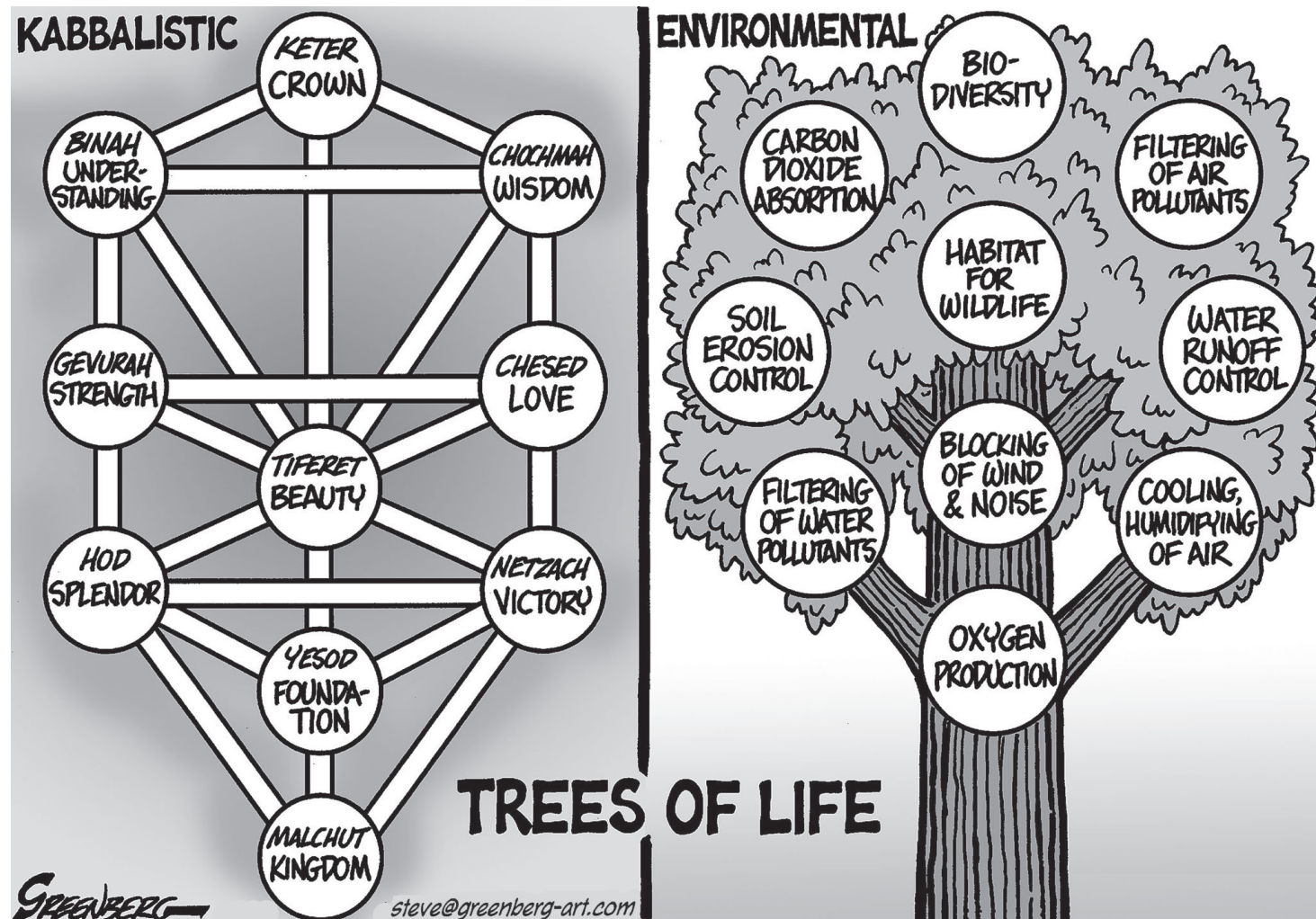
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FORUM



How to battle hate groups – without guns



Human
Resources

Lee Chottiner

On Oct. 27, 2019, Jonathan Mayo was arrested in Pittsburgh.

It was a good thing. Even Jonathan thinks so.

Jonathan, and others, were peacefully protesting then-President Donald Trump's visit to Pittsburgh on the first anniversary of the Tree of Life shootings. Mayo was taken into custody during a downtown demonstration.

No one could have been prouder of what happened than Jonathan himself.

"I got arrested!" he texted me gleefully, shortly after the fact.

A little bewildered, I replied, "Mazel tov?"

"Absolutely!" he insisted.

I have known Jonathan for a long time. A sportswriter, first for the *New York Post*, then for *MLB.com*, he was introduced to me after I became executive editor of the *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*. Jonathan had read my paper, decided it needed a sports column and offered to write one. I eagerly accepted.

For the next three years, in addition to his work at *MLB.com*, Jonathan wrote a column for me about Jews in sports, which was so well received it won a Golden Quill Award for journalistic excellence in western Pennsylvania.

At the time, I wouldn't have thought of Jonathan as a social activist, but after he stopped writing his column, he slowly

moved in that direction.

Why am I telling you all this? January 6, 2021, another day that will live in infamy, revealed the rift that exists in this country in all its ugliness. The United States was savagely attacked – by its own people. And it will probably happen again.

We had warnings. Tree of Life was one. Take that right-wing gunman who murdered 11 innocent worshippers, multiply him by a thousand, and you have something like what happened at the Capitol. Yes, we should be afraid.

But we must not be paralyzed. Instead, we must fight. Not with guns, bombs, flag poles, fire extinguishers, crutches or anything else that can be hurled, bludgeoned or fired.

There are other ways.

Jonathan found a way to fight. He fought with his ideas, and he willingly put his body on the line. Fortunately, the Pittsburgh police, girded in riot gear that day, arrested him peacefully.

So Jonathan chose civil disobedience, an American tradition dating back to Henry David Thoreau and practiced by Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi and many American Jews.

There are yet more ways to fight back:

- Use your voice. *Write!* Many members of Congress feel threatened for voting their consciences on impeachment. They need to hear from you. Write to them; call their offices. It's your way of standing with them.
- Stand with each other. Social media can feel coarse and consuming, especially these days, but it is also a wonderful way to draw strength from one another, to share ideas for action.
- Keep your eyes open. I was amazed by the number of times the photo of Robert Keith Packer, the man clad in that disgusting Camp Auschwitz sweatshirt, was shared on Facebook. Hundreds, proba-

bly thousands, of eyes saw it. He had no place to hide and was soon arrested.

- Above all, take care of yourselves through meditation, sleep, exercise, a conversation with a friend. If you must, put on a pair of boxing gloves and pummel a punching bag. (This, too, is a form of fighting, keeping yourself from drowning in despair.)

It's natural to be frightened on occasions like this, I'm not saying we shouldn't be frightened; this is natural. but we must find our own individual ways to rise above it. The alternative is submission, and we know how that worked out for Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 40s.

Today's militias, which are nothing more than modern-day Nazis, are trying to use fear to assert authoritarian control over us. They have dropped any pretense of believing in law and order. Need proof? D.C. Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, tasered and injured while resisting the mob at the Capitol, felt the crowd strip him of his ammo, his radio, even his badge. Then he heard, "Kill him with his own gun!"

One officer was killed. More than 50 were injured.

Gandhi once told the British, in so many words, that millions of Indians cannot be governed by their colonial masters if they simply do not wish to be governed, hence his nonviolent revolution, which proved successful. (India gained independence in 1947.)

So keep resisting in any meaningful, nonviolent way you can; save the shows of force for the police and Army.

The times are tough, but so are we. (Trust me). And, like the pandemic, things could get worse before they get better. But our democracy is not a luxury; it is an essential of life. Trust yourselves to protect it.

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

FORUM

Summers with sick children teaches healing lessons, rabbi says

Guest Columnist

Rabbi Ari Dembitzer

JTA – As an Orthodox rabbi in Omaha, Nebraska, people often ask me what it's like to live here in the middle of America.

The questions typically go something like this: "How many Jews are there?" "Do you live on a farm?" And of course, "Do you know Warren Buffett?" (The answers: about 9,000; no; I wish!)

After answering these burning questions, I describe Omaha as a city where people are nice for no reason. As someone who grew up in Brooklyn, I have learned a lot from the slow pace and the positive impact that the lack of traffic has on the human psyche.

But my utopian bubble was punctured as I observed the polarization and discord that's happening in America hit here as well. Friends and neighbors have stopped talking to one another over their diverging opinions on political issues, vaccines and masks.

While my new home feels divided, the unity I see during my "summer

job" gives me hope that we can rebuild mutual respect despite our differences.

During the summers, I relocate to New York's Catskill Mountains, where for 20-plus years I have served as the co-director of Camp Simcha, a medically supervised overnight camp for children with life-threatening illnesses and chronic disease.

In camp, our bunks are filled with children and staff from all religious backgrounds and walks of life: Zionists and Satmar Hasidim, Orthodox and secular Jews, and everything in between.

Though they may have differing world views, they discover common ground and find strength in one another.

A few summers ago, I was lucky to meet two incredible young campers: Matthew, a Reform Jew from Dallas, Texas, and Chaim, a Vizhnitz Hasid from Monsey, New York. Matthew had never met a Hasidic Jew, and Chaim had not known any non-Orthodox Jews.

Through their shared experiences as leukemia survivors, these two boys formed a special bond and still remain close friends, sharing in each other's joyous occasions.

Matthew and Chaim inspire me.

"If one is only engaged in their mind, they will lose appreciation of others. They then tend to become argumentative and divisive."

While their day-to-day lives feel different and the challenges that they have faced are daunting, they teach us that what unites us is greater than what divides us. We can learn from one another without sacrificing who we are.

This work requires us to set aside the safety of our own bubbles – and to think about what we can do for others.

In the Talmud, Rabbi Shimon asserts that a person should study Torah all day. Rabbi Yishmoel disagrees, saying one should earn a living and engage with others to complement his Torah learning.

The Talmud concludes that many have tried and failed to study all day. In explaining this conclusion, in his *Sefer Ein Ayah*, Rav Avrohom Yitzchok Ha-Kohen Kook states that when a person studies all day and is not on the same

lofty level as Rabbi Shimon – and does not to do mitzvot or engage with others – all he becomes is in his mind.

If one is only engaged in their mind, they will lose appreciation of others. They then tend to become argumentative and divisive.

At Camp Simcha, our counselors and staff members have one goal: to give each child the most joyous, fun-filled experience possible. When you are compassionate and giving, you tend to look for the best in others. You try to understand others, quickly realizing that life is too short to dwell on what divides us.

Unlike the world of online vitriol, our camp focuses on kindness. We get to know one another, we sing and dance together, we play, talk, ask questions.

Most of all, we build up each other without losing sight of our unique identities and what makes us each so special.

As Rav Kook teaches, the way to increase harmony within diversity is to engage and to give to one another.

(Rabbi Ari Dembitzer is the co-director of Chai Lifeline's Camp Simcha and rabbi of Beth Israel Synagogue in Omaha, Nebraska.)



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FORUM

Biden needs adequate tools to combat right-left domestic terrorism



Guest
Columnist

Kenneth L.
Marcus

The Capitol riot should be a wake-up call for those who did not hear the alarm four years ago at Charlottesville. The riot wasn't just an assault on the seat of America's government, although it is surely that, but also a development that if not forcefully addressed may endanger Americans throughout the 50 states.

The Justice Department expects the number of people charged in connection with the Capitol riot to be the hundreds. Congress and the Justice Department are right to address the issue of insurrection first.

It is now increasingly clear that many in the riot aimed to undermine American democracy. So President Joe Biden and Congress must address the threat to all of us: The rioters clearly signaled that they mean to harm not only elected officials but ordinary Americans.

A proper response must protect all of the groups to whom the rioters intend harm. Many rioters were motivated by racial hatred and anti-Semitic beliefs. Several displayed known symbols of hate: Confederate flags, signaling anti-Black racism, or the white nationalist "Kekistan" flag, or a Three Percenters flag, reflecting hatred of Muslims and immigrants. One rioter even wore a "Camp Auschwitz" shirt.

The riot, however, was just the tip of the iceberg. The latest FBI hate crimes report, issued in November, shows that hate crimes in 2019 surged to their highest level in a decade. The report documents 7,314 hate crimes committed in a single year, including a record number of hate murders. These figures are simply too high. So what do we do about it?

Some are now arguing for hate speech laws, but this would actually undermine our work. Richard Stengel, the transition team leader for the U.S. Agency for Global Media, has urged new legislation to curb Quran burning and misinformation about Russian election interference. Such speech laws raise multiple dangers, including political bias, governmental favoritism and outright censorship.

Some progressives may relish the idea

of suppressing right-wing hate speech. But they should consider that future conservative governments, given the same weapons, may restrict progressive speech. Consider, for example, Poland's use of hate-speech laws to persecute LG-BTQ activists who criticize the Catholic Church.

Instead, begin by beefing up police departments. Calls to "defund the police," proliferating in the light of the Black Lives Matter movement, can undermine efforts to protect minority civil rights. Basic law enforcement is needed to protect all populations, including the most vulnerable, from physical violence. The funds need not go to exotic initiatives. What is needed is basic law enforcement.

A recent report from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, which I directed over a decade ago, urged funding police departments to improve data reporting on hate crimes. Conservative commissioners dissented from the report, observing that it overemphasized right-wing crimes.

The dissenters are correct to insist on evenhandedness in a field that is too often politicized. At the same time, to adequately respond to hate crimes committed in this country, we must understand where, why and how often they are happening.

Improved reporting is also needed at colleges and universities. Swastika vandalism, for example, has been underreported based on dubious guidance from federal bureaucrats. The Department of Education recently rescinded that guidance, but still permits colleges to rely on it.

We also must do more to combat domestic terrorism. This year, a joint report by the Anti-Defamation League and the George Washington University Program on Extremism revealed the dearth of reliable data on domestic terrorism. The report's primary focus is white supremacy, and the report noted that the National Counterterrorism Center, which was created to produce integrated, interagency assessments on terrorism issues, is troublingly not permitted to do so with respect to domestic terrorism. The report also urged the FBI to provide clear data on its efforts to understand white supremacist violence.

If left unchecked, this type of hate can fester within American higher education. A comprehensive response must address places at which young Americans are radicalized. This includes not only right-wing white supremacist orga-

nizations, but also left-wing university activities that promote violence.

Consider, for example, that convicted hijacker Leila Khaled, a leader in the designated-terrorist organization Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was just this year invited to speak at San Francisco State University, New York University and the University of Hawaii at Manoa (remotely). Khaled's events were canceled only when Zoom refused to cooperate, understanding that allowing the events to be hosted on its platform could violate anti-terrorism laws.

At Northeastern University, Students for Justice in Palestine announced an event to study the PFLP's "strategies and theory." At this event, students expected to learn how to conduct "armed struggle taking the form of guerrilla warfare at first and developing in the direction of the protracted people's liberation war" against their "enemies." Their enemies include the "world Zionist movement," as well as Israel, Arab moderates and "world imperialism" (read: the United States and its European allies). In other words, they would learn that the proper response to political disagreement is not civil dialogue but "armed struggle."

What America needs, in the wake of the Capitol riot, is not for political dissidents – whether they come from the left or the right – to preach armed violence.

We should not pretend that such adulation of terrorism has no impact on

real life any more than we can pretend that online white supremacy groups are harmless. At the University of Illinois, mandatory diversity training last year included praise for the terrorist Khaled. It is unlikely a coincidence that this campus has also experienced an uptick in anti-Semitic incidents. It was announced recently that the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights will investigate the university based on an anti-Semitism complaint backed by the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights, the organization that I founded and now run. The university has pledged to address the problem. Time will tell whether it delivers.

Last April, on the campaign trail, Biden marked the one-year anniversary of the deadly shooting at a synagogue in Poway, California, with a commitment and plan to combat hate crimes. If the president is serious about this commitment, his new attorney general cannot permit hate and terrorist activity to fester. After the Capitol riot, this must be priority No. 1.

Kenneth L. Marcus is chairman of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and author of The Definition of Anti-Semitism. He served as assistant secretary of education for civil rights from 2018 to 2020.



I've chosen to participate in the LIFE & LEGACY program to recognize the multiple Jewish organizations that have had such a significant impact on our lives including the JCC, Temple, JFCS and Federation. As a newcomer to Louisville in 2000, we not only met friends through these organizations, I was fortunate to become actively involved in many leadership roles. Without a doubt, the Louisville Jewish community has shaped our lives here!

— Susan Rudy

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FEDERATION

Volunteers to answer the call on Super Sunday; will you?



Sara's View

Sara Klein
Wagner

I admit it, I have always loved Super Sunday.

I love the energy, the hoopla, the happy warriors who show up each year to make calls – and a difference.

This year, we will continue to make a difference. But Super Sunday will be different from any other; our volunteers are showing up virtually.

While we will not gather face to face, volunteers are still showing up in every sense of the word.

My first Super Sunday in 1990, as a new Federation staff member was very special. The phone-a-thon was held at the Kentucky Center to support Operation Exodus, the national campaign to support newly freed Jews from the Soviet Union. As community volunteers gathered downtown to make calls, the need was clear.

Operation Exodus provided a lifeline for individuals and families in their

most stressful and vulnerable moments. Communities across the globe, from Louisville to Tel Aviv, stepped forward to transform more than 1 million lives.

My affinity for phone-a-thons only expanded as I worked with our Federation's annual Super Sunday committees over the years.

Before cell phones, preparing for the big day was always fun, yet exhausting. We purchased extra phone lines and taped down dozens of extension cords.

But the hoopla of a fun theme, with tote boards made on the kitchen floor of a volunteer's home and always having too many volunteers to work the first shift, added to the excitement.

I am not the only one who enjoyed it all. The happy warriors, who returned every year for Ruthie's tuna fish and the sense of community, played an important role in improving lives.

Technology has changed everything. The recent Lion of Judah International conference, which brought more than 4,700 attendees together, showed that virtual gatherings are a powerful way to connect thousands of women in a personal way.

Thankfully, we have the technology for Super Sunday on Jan. 31. Our volunteers will call you remotely, but they will still connect one-on-one with the shared purpose of helping the most

vulnerable in our Jewish community.

As the COVID pandemic continues to spread, Super Sunday is more important than ever. The 2021 Annual Campaign, with its "Here for Good" theme, needs our collective support.

More and more, we are hearing from local families and individuals who feel stressed and uncertain as the pandemic alters their lives. Seniors and young adults alike are facing job loss, food insecurity and isolation. They are counting on the Federation for relief. As it was with Operation Exodus, the need

is clear.

Our tradition teaches that giving from the heart is a mitzvah. It is extra special to assume the responsibility of asking others to give. On Jan. 31, your gift will provide for the needs of our Jewish community during these most uncertain times. When we dial your number this year, please answer the call.

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

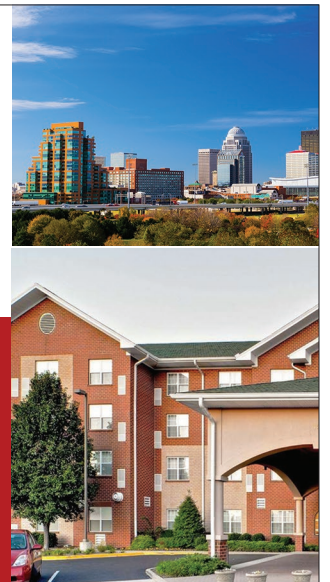
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PICTURE THIS: ARCHIVE SHOTS



The Louisville Jewish Archives Committee is seeking help from *Community* readers to identify photos from its collection, which depicts 100 years of the JCC (formerly the YMHA), Federation and other Jewish institutions. The photos will be retained by JCC, but some will be given to The Filson Historical Society.

If you recognize any of these individuals or events, email pictureID@jewishlouisville.org with the selected photo number and we will email you a digital file of the picture and a form to be returned to the committee.

Members of the Archive Committee are Alan Engel, Abby Glogower, Stuart Goldberg, Jane Goldstein, Larry Magnes, Chuck O’Koon, Maxine Rouben, Mike Shaikun, Steve Shapiro, Don Stern, Shiela Wallace, David Weinberg, Ed Weinberg, Allan Weiss, and co-chairs Fred Joseph and Frank Weisberg.



PICTURE THIS: ARCHIVE SHOTS

1930's 0002 JCC



1940's 0006 00



1940's 0008 00



1970's 0021 JCC



1980's 0002 JCC



2000's 0001 JCC

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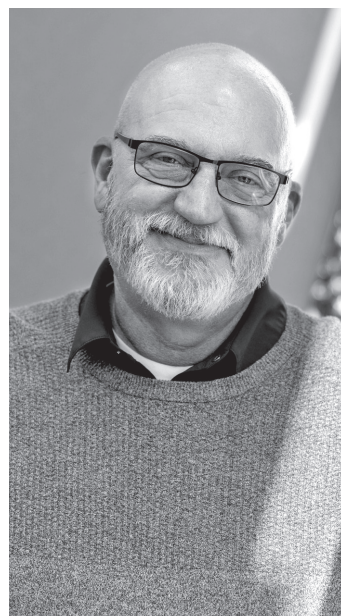
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Career Services

HELPING PEOPLE NAVIGATE CAREER EXPLORATION AND TRANSITIONS.

183

Refugees and immigrants were assisted in career recredentialing and career ladder. This is a 50% increase in the number of people served than in 2019.

537

Louisvillians were guided through career exploration and transitions. This is a 75% increase in the number of people served than in 2019.



Jewish Life

HELPING PEOPLE EXPRESS JEWISH VALUES THROUGH SERVICE AND ACTION.

52

Holocaust survivors received support to help them live with dignity.

Family Strengthening

HELPING PEOPLE NAVIGATE LIFE'S CHANGES AND CHALLENGES THROUGH A CLIENT-CENTERED CASE MANAGEMENT APPROACH.

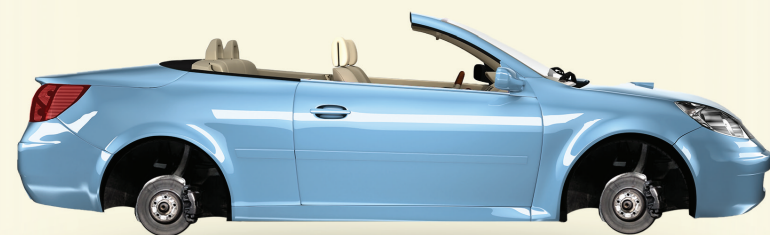


203

Individuals and families were given better access to food, toiletries and household necessities. This is a 45% increase in the number of people served than in 2019.

754

People were provided holistic family strengthening services and direct assistance.



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Adults, youth and children were provided with counseling and psychiatric services.



Counseling Services

HELPING PEOPLE IMPROVE EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND REALIZE LIFE GOALS.



Klein Older Adult Services

HELPING OLDER ADULTS LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE; HELPING FAMILIES THROUGH THE AGING PROCESS.

847

Older adults and family caregivers were given support to help manage the aging process. This is a 32% increase in the number of people served than in 2019.

Navigate Enterprise Center
HELPING PEOPLE PURSUE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

186

Refugees, immigrants, and other underserved community members were supported in their pursuit of economic self-sufficiency and becoming entrepreneurs.



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ARTS

'Fauda! Fauda!'

Stars of hit Israeli series share how show is changing Jewish-Arab perceptions

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In *Fauda*, the hit Israeli drama series, an elite unit of Israeli Shin Bet agents operates in Palestinian cities, breaking up terrorist rings and thwarting dark operations.

But two of its co-stars, Boaz Konforty and Yaakov Zada Daniel, say the impact of the series, which is preparing for its fourth season, runs much deeper in Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Speaking Sunday, Jan. 17, on Adath Jeshurun's Zoom program, *Sunday Night Live*, Konforty and Daniel said the program is changing the way Jews and Arabs see each other, humanizing the other side, even if viewers from one side don't always agree with the other's politics and tactics.

"It's not about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Konforty said. "It's about the people."

In *Fauda* – Arabic for "chaos" and the distress signal that agents use when they are in danger – Daniel plays Eli, the field head of the unit who is brought back from Europe to take over after his predecessor is killed in action. Konforty plays Avichai, the sniper who provides cover for the rest of the team while it conducts its operations.

The show, which is produced in Israel, has garnered international acclaim (and sometimes criticism) for its realistic depiction of Israel's special-operations units and for its empathetic depictions of Palestinians, both civilians and militants.

Interviewed by Cantor David Lipp, a big fan of the show, the actors spoke about their own backgrounds, how they got their parts and what they brought to their roles. They also dispelled a few misconceptions the show makes about real life agents.

For instance, Daniel, who served in such a unit before going into acting, said real operations are done more quickly than those on the show because of the danger. "In the show, you can see we're staying a long time in Gaza, in an



A screenshot from AJ's Jan. 17 *Sunday Night Live* program when Cantor David Lipp interviewed two cast members from the hit Israeli drama series *Fauda*, Boaz Konforty and Yaakov Zada Daniel.

Arab village," he said. "In real life, it's not happening."

And Konforty said women are not part of the unit, again because of the danger. So, a scene like one from season 2 when Nurit, the lone woman in the unit, is cornered on a rooftop by an angry mob that assaults her, would not happen.

"The idea of a woman [held] in captivity by the Arab guerillas is problematic in Israeli eyes," he said.

Fauda is giving Israeli and international audiences an appreciation for the lives of these undercover agents and the personal challenges they face. Post-traumatic stress is one; juggling their secret military lives with their home lives is another.

Asked by Lipp what their favorite scenes from the show are, both actors chose the same short clip from season 2: nighttime at their hideaway after an especially dangerous operation. Avichai sits in front of a fire drinking tea. Eli comes out and sits next to him, sharing a bonding experience.

"It's a very quiet, very small scene, but I love it," Konforty said. "I think it represents the twilight zone between being a soldier and being a civilian. Avichai can't go home before making

an adjustment from what he's just been through.... So, he just sits there.

"That's one of the aspects [of the show] that's very interesting to me, how these characters combine their military world with their civilian world," he continued. "When I was a soldier, I was

a full-time soldier; the civilian aspect wasn't something I had to cope with."

The cast of *Fauda* is a cross-section of society. Arab actors play Arab roles; Jewish actors, Jewish roles. Each group brings its own experiences to the parts.

But sometimes, there are gaps in the experience. Language for instance. In Israel, Jewish actors aren't nearly as proficient in Arabic as the Arabs are in Hebrew.

Konforty especially sees that as a limitation

"We learn our lines phonetically," he said. "I wish I learned Arabic, then I could improvise in the scenes."

But Daniel, whose Arabic is better because of his actual service in the unit, said the show has inspired many Israelis to learn the language.

"Arabic became a very sexy language in Israel because of the show," he said. "I'm very happy it happened because, like Boaz, I think Arabic is a must in Israel."

(All three seasons of *Fauda* can be streamed on Netflix.)

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PICTURE THIS: VIRTUAL TOUR



Featured are renderings of the new JCC interior and exterior images. Images by GBBN Architects.

The “heart” of the new building is a floor-to-ceiling glass entrance with a gathering area that leads to a central feature of the building: “the street.”

The “street” is an interior thoroughfare running the length of the building, connecting members to every section of the JCC.

The “soul” will include a large auditorium space that will house the JCC’s theatre program and will allow for large and small functions alike. The “soul” will also serve as the home for the JCC’s senior programming, as well as the kitchen, co-working spaces and a café. This space is also near the pool and auditorium.

The “body” of the new JCC will provide programming for all ages and include an indoor aquatics center with 6-lane, 25-yard lap pool, recreation pool with slide and a zero-depth entry pool with spray features. The “body” also includes a state-of-the-art fitness center that includes a multi-use gym space with a full indoor basketball court, an indoor half court, two group exercise rooms, a functional training room, cycle studio and an elevated running track that will be larger than the current one.

The “mind” is the Jewish Education Wing that will house the Early Learning Center (ELC), LBSY and other enrichment programming. A defining feature of the “mind” is the “natural play” courtyard that is surrounded by 12 classrooms. The additional classroom spaces, beyond the current JCC’s capacity, will allow for more young families and children to be part of the ELC experience. The ELC will also have a private entrance.



LJFF

Actors, filmmakers to meet community virtually during film festival

A lineup of special events has been arranged to complement the movies and documentaries at this year's Louisville Jewish Film Festival, which will be offered virtually:

- Saturday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m., following the screening of *Shared Legacies*, a documentary about the alliances of African Americans and Jews, Asaf Angermann, visiting professor of philosophy and Jewish Thought at the University of Louisville, will moderate a discussion with Louisville Metro Council President David James and Farrah Alexander, author and Jeremiah Fellow with Bend the Arc.
- Saturday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., after *Aulcie*, a biography of basketball legend and Israeli American Aulcie Perry, filmmaker Dani Menkin will discuss the project and his relationship with Perry.
- Thursday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., after *They Ain't Ready for Me*, the story of Tamar Manasseh, a Black rabbinical student who founded Mothers Against Senseless Killings, Manasseh and Brad Rothschild, the director and producer, will discuss their journey and the making of the documentary.
- Along with *Breaking Bread*, a documentary film about Jewish and Arab Middle Eastern chefs who eschew politics to focus on food and friendship, menus and recipes will



be shared with filmgoers, along with tips and tricks to find ingredients for the dishes.

- Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. after *Advocate*, the story of Israeli attorney Lea Tsemel, who defends Palestinians in Israeli courts, Ranen Omer-Sherman, JHFE-endowed chair in Judaic studies at the UofL, will moderate a discussion with Rachel S. Harris, associate professor of Israeli literature and culture at the University of Illinois. The Jewish Studies Program at the UofL is co-sponsoring the event.
- Sunday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m., after *Asia*, the story of single mother, her daughter and their changing relationship, Ophir Award-winning actress Shira Hass, who plays the daughter, Vika, will give a live-streamed discussion of her career and films. Haas is perhaps better known for her roles in *Unorthodox* and *Shtisel*. Her presentation is sponsored by Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Haas has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for her role in *Unorthodox*.



Louisville Melton Trimester Three Feb. 16th - May 6th 2021

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Cantor David Lipp
Mondays 7:00 - 8:15 pm or
Thursdays 11 am - 12:30 pm

Jews in America: Insiders and Outsiders
Rabbi Stanley Miles
Thursdays 9:30 am - 10:45 am

Devarim: Comparative Literature based on the Book of Deuteronomy
Deborah Slosberg
Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:45 pm or
Thursdays 9:30 - 11 am

Jewish Mysticism: Tracing the History of Kabbalah
Rabbi Laura Metzger
Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:45 pm or
Thursdays 11 am - 12:15 pm

Members of the Tribe
Rabbi Stanley Miles
March 16th - May 6th
Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:45 pm or
Thursday 11 am - 12:15 pm

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Jewish Federation
OF LOUISVILLE

AROUND TOWN

Jewish Community Center

The JCC is looking for a new director of camping who can take the highly regarded program to the next level. The director is responsible for oversight of all camping for children ages 5-11, the JCC teen camp programs (grades 6-12) and is director of Camp J. The director reports to the senior director of Jewish journeys and experiences. Visit bit.ly/3qVw9tz for the complete ad. Apply to aroemer@jewishlouisville.org with a resume and cover letter.

Our Community Cares (OC3), a non-medical COVID response effort by the JCC, helps coordinate assistance for people in need, including meal delivery, supportive phone calls or just watching a movie together. Visit bit.ly/2KQXSMC for more information.

Adath Jeshurun

Sunday Night Live, a series of speakers held Sundays at 7 p.m., has the following upcoming programs: Jan. 31, Infectious disease specialist Dr. Michael Saag; Feb. 7, storyteller Susan Stone; Feb. 14, singer/rapper, Ari Lesser; Feb. 21, mentalist/magician, Jason Suran; Feb. 28, actress and *Unorthodox* star Shira Haas. Links to the programs may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

Virtual Shabbat worship services are held on Facebook Live, YouTube and Zoom. Twice-daily minyan services are on Zoom only. Links to the services may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

Minyanaires, including 2020 AJ Minyanaire Michael Kleinman, will be honored during Shabbat services at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 13. Dr. Bruce Tasch will deliver a D'var Torah. Links to the services may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

A Purim sing-along and family-friendly animated Purim story, "Live! Werk! Purim," will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday Feb. 25. The Maariv service and virtual Megillah reading will follow at 7 p.m. Another virtual Megillah reading is set for Friday, Feb. 26, during the morning minyan at 7:15 a.m. Links to the programs and services are in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

Anshei Sfar

In-person Shabbat services are held at 9 a.m. Social distancing and face masks are required.

Parent/child learning is offered Saturdays from 7 to 7:45 p.m. at the synagogue. Pizza is served and a story is told. Social distancing and masks are required.

Rabbi Simcha Snaid leads three weekly classes on Zoom or in-person: Spice of Life, 7 p.m., Wednesday; Make a Prophet, noon, Thursday; Talmud Trek, 9:30 a.m., Sunday. Contact Snaid at rabbisnaid@ansheisfar.com or 912-704-2769.

Chabad

In-person Megillah readings will be held at the Chabad House at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 25; 8 a.m., Friday, Feb. 26; and elsewhere in the community during the day. Individual Purim kits with coins for charity and foods to share with others will be available. To register for one of these readings, contact Chabad at Rabbi@Chabadky.com or 502-235-5770.

Chavurat Shalom

Accordian player Mike O'Bryan will perform via **ChavuratShalomZoom** at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4.

Singer/songwriter/guitarist Tyrone Cotton will perform via **ChavuratShalomZoom** at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11.

Harpist Jessica Hyden will perform via **ChavuratShalomZoom** at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18.

The Spaced-Out Trio (Anthony Minstein, and Kathy and Matthew Karr) will make their Chavurat Shalom debut at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 25, playing 20th Century French and American Chamber music on **ChavuratShalomZoom**.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

The Women's Division will hold a discussion with Suzi Weiss-Fischmann, Jewish mother, author, and co-founder and national brand ambassador of OPI Nail Lacquer, at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 14. More details will follow.

Keneseth Israel

Cantor Sharon Hordes teaches an Introduction class to reading Hebrew, Sundays at 6:30 p.m. at tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

Coffee Shmooze is held Mondays at 11

a.m. at tinyurl.com/KICzoom. There is no agenda. Come with coffee and hang out.

Jews and Brews, a study of the weekly Torah portion with Hordes, is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

Mindful Meditation is held with Hordes on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

Torah Yoga with Hordes and Lisa Flannery is held the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

The Kabbalah Month by Month class with Hordes is held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

Baking Club is held Thursdays at 11 a.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom. Dishes prepared will include babka, avocado blueberry cheesecake, crepes and challah. Check facebook.com/kilouisville for dates and recipes.

Zoom Gali Gali: Kabbalat Shabbat for Kids, is held Fridays at 5:15 p.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom. The program includes Shabbat songs, stories, candle lighting and Kiddish.

Louisville Melton

Trimester 3, which begins Feb. 16, will have the following courses: Jewish Medical Ethics: A Conversation for the 21st century; Jewish Mysticism; Comparative Literature: Deuteronomy (Devarim); Jews in America; and Members of the Tribe (part of new introductory series). Contact Deborah Slosberg at dslosberg@adathjeshurun.com or visit adathjeshurun.com/melton.

NCJW

NCJW, Louisville Section, is selling its \$30 Shopping Spree Cards for 2021. This fundraiser, which supports NCJW, including its retail stores, will run from Feb. 8 to 20 and Aug. 9 to 21. A listing of participating retailers is available at ncjwlou.org. Call 502-458-5566 to order cards or order online at ncjwlou.org.

The Community Foundation of Louisville is accepting applications for NCJW-Louisville scholarships through March 12. Eligible students must be of the Jewish faith, reside in Kentucky, have completed at least one semester of college or university, have a cumulative GPA 2.5 or higher and demonstrate financial need. The application is available by cflouisville.org/apply-today/apply-online/.

Temple Shalom

Cindi Sullivan, executive director of Trees Louisville, will speak at the Tu B'Shevat-themed Shabbat Experience, at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 29. She will talk about the state of the city's tree canopy. Contact Temple Shalom for the Zoom link at information@templeshalomky.org.

The next Chailands Chavurah, to be held at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20, will celebrate Black Jewish history. Be'Chol Lashon, a national organization promoting Jewish racial and cultural diversity, will send a speaker. Email chailands@templeshalomky.org for the Zoom link.

A Purim Shabbat will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26, featuring holiday

songs, a reading of the Megillah and other activities to be announced.

The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. CDC guidelines are observed. Visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/wrj-giftshop. Also an online shop is coming. Contact Sheila Lynch, 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein, 502-329-2276, or Karen Waldman, 502-425-436 for appointments.

Adult education courses at 6 p.m. Mondays include Advanced Hebrew with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, Text Study with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, Beginning Hebrew Part 2 with Mark Goldstein. Third semester Basic Judaism will start March 1. On Wednesday, Temple Scholars on crisis in Jewish Tradition will be at 9:30 a.m.; The Roots of Justice with Rapport at 10:45 a.m. All classes are on Zoom. Call 502-423-1818 for details.

Saturday Torah Study starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom.

Sandwich Making for the Homeless will start at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 7. Due to COVID, seating is limited we will be to 10 tables, each with two people from one home. Masks will be required and doors to the Heideman will be open, so make sure to dress appropriately. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making/.

The Conversation will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 7 on Zoom. The program examines race, justice and community. Visit thetemplelouky.org/the-conversation.

Interfaith Coffee will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8. The topic is "Judaism's Greatest Hits: Explaining Judaism While Standing On One Foot." Rabbis Ariel-Joel and Rapport are the presenters. RSVP by Feb. 4 at thetemplelouky.org/interfaith-coffee-2021.

Scout Shabbat, honoring Troop 30 and 30GT, will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, at thetemplelouky.org/streaming. Rabbi Rapport will lead.

Interfaith Shabbat will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 19 at thetemplelouky.org/streaming. Fred Whittaker, Holocaust studies teacher at St. Francis of Assisi School in Louisville and a 13-year advocate for Kentucky's new law mandating Holocaust education in public schools, will be the guest speaker.

Purim Shpiel Shabbat for grades 2 and 3 will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26, at thetemplelouky.org/streaming. "It Happened in Shushan" will be staged. This will be a special, Zoom-presented, COVID edition of the play.

Movie Night with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 28 on Zoom. Crossing Delancy will be screened. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/Jewish-Identity-in-Jewish-Films/.

Grade 4 will lead Family Shabbat at 7 p.m., Friday, March 5, at thetemplelouky.org/streaming. A Shabbat dinner catered by Chef Z will be prepared for homes. Cost for adults is \$10 with RSVP by Feb. 24 (\$15 afterwards), free for kids 13 and under. Visit thetemplelouky.org for more details.

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LIFECYCLE

Harry Geller was a long-time Jewish Louisville leader, JCC board member

Harry Geller died peacefully at home on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021. He was 93.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life and wife of 63 years, Annette Fleck Geller, and by his loving parents, Louis and Ida; and siblings Dora Snider, Sam Geller, Max Geller, Leah Fursetzer, Jerry Geller, Mary Ann Popowsky and Esther Oleisky.

There are people in this world who quietly devote themselves to making the world a better place, always working hard. Harry Geller was such a person.

Born in Fargo, North Dakota on Dec. 5, 1927, Harry served two years in the Army Air Force and attended North Dakota State University, graduating with honors in 1951 with a mechanical engineering degree.

Afterwards, Harry began working for General Electric. He moved to Louisville in 1953 to take a position at the new GE Appliance Park and stayed with the com-

pany for 41 years, retiring in 1992 as a general manager.

He met Annette when he created a dating service for Jewish singles and decided to keep her for himself.

Family was everything to Harry and Annette. Harry is lovingly remembered by his children, Larry (Julie) Geller, Sally (Daniel) Weinberg, Mark (Tracy) Geller, and David (Betsey) Geller; his grandchildren, Heather (Chad) Clink, Natalie Geller, Zachery (Allie) Weinberg, Schuyler Weinberg, Alexander, Isabelle, Kendall and Rose Geller, Sydney Abigail, and Hannah Geller; his great-grandchildren, Sawyer, Holden and Parker Clink, and Talia and Lillian Annette Weinberg; his brother, Aaron Geller, and his sister-in-law, Barbara Geller.

Harry served on the Jewish Community Center's Board of Directors for 25 years. He volunteered on multiple committees during this time. He also became

a member of the Jewish Community of Louisville board.

Harry's home away from home, was his beloved synagogue, Adath Jeshurun. He served on its board of directors for 42 years, and its executive committee, finally earning the title "Board Member for Life."

Harry was known for his precision. Everything from the sanctuary chairs at AJ during a renovation, to the timeline at every family event, to a travel itinerary, everyone received their marching orders in triplicate.

Harry and Annette were devoted to each other and their family. They set a wonderful example for all of us to follow.



Harry Geller

They loved being together. Nothing made them happier than being together with their family. Friday night Shabbat dinners, grandchildren's activities, traveling to nephew's and niece's life cycle events, and the recent joy of great-grandchildren. They even recreated their home to move closer to family and make our new family hub. Harry and Annette would hold hands and smile appreciating the wonderful family they made.

The family is forever grateful to the many wonderful caregivers who enabled Harry and Annette to remain at home, maintaining their independence and living out their days with dignity.

Contributions to the Congregation Adath Jeshurun-Annette and Harry Geller Chumash Fund, 2401 Woodbourne Avenue, Louisville, KY 40205, are appreciated.

Private services were steamed on Facebook.

B'nai Mitzvahs

Avery Elizabeth Curtis, daughter of Kevin and Alisa Curtis, sister of Olivia and Embry Curtis, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 20, at The Temple. Avery is the granddaughter of Roger and Linda Handorf and the late James and Loretta Curtis; she is the great-granddaughter of the late Oscar and Lorraine Wurtenberg. A recent graduate of Bellarmine University with a bachelor's degree in music in jazz studies, Avery was the lead vocalist in many jazz ensembles there. She is the member relations coordinator at The Temple and fills in for Jennifer Diamond as the soloist for services.

Owen Everett Yoffe, son of Kristen and Bryan Yoffe and older brother to Elizabeth and Claire, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 27, at The Temple. Owen is the grandson of Kathy and Frank Konciewicz of Birmingham, Alabama, and Jo Ann Yoffe of Bradenton, Florida, and the late Phillip Yoffe. A seventh grader at Kammerer Middle School, he participated in the All-County Band and the Master Class in trombone. He also participates in robotics and ski club. He loves attending summer camp and hanging out with his friends. Owen organized a successful service project, collecting blankets, socks

and jackets, and preparing meals for the homeless.

Engagements

Minstein-Shepherd



Anthony Minstein and Victoria Goldenberg-Minstein announce the engagement of Mr. Minstein's daughter, Solange Minstein, to Ian Stuart Shepherd, son of Scott and Karen Shepherd of Newburgh, Indiana. Solange also is the daughter of Hildegard Ernst Pile of Hudson, Kentucky.

Solange graduated from the University of Kentucky and received her master's degree from the University of Louisville. She is an analyst at Humana.

Ian graduated from Ball State University and is an engineer at WLKY.

A COVID-safe wedding for the immediate family is planned for April 24. A larger celebration is scheduled for May 14, 2022.

Obituaries

Ellen Behr Bizer



Ellen Behr Bizer, 92, passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 25, 2020, in her home with her daughter, Lynn, son-in-law Gino DeMarco and caregivers by her side.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1928, Ellen and her family enjoyed the financial successes of their generations of hard work. She was 7 when the Nuremberg Laws erased her citizenship in the country of her birth.

At 10, Ellen's life in Germany ended abruptly when she, her family narrowly escaped Nazi Germany four months before the outbreak of World War II, reaching the safety of America.

Ellen, who spoke no English when she arrived, went on to graduate from Atherton High School for Girls in 1947. One year later, she married Dr. Lewis S. Bizer, beginning their 48-year-long life together.

In addition to raising their two children, Lynn and Larry, Ellen became a licensed optician and worked with her husband for most of their marriage.

In 1995, Ellen joined other members of the Behr Family to fund The Ida and Bernhard Behr Holocaust Memorial Education Fund, which sends students of all de-

nominations, grades 6 to 12, to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. This annual trip provides the students with the opportunity to learn about one of the darkest times in modern history.

Ellen was a reserved woman with a kind, gentle smile that welcomed those who met her. She was unflappable in stressful situations, always facing life's difficulties with the grace and poise of the refined woman that she was.

Ellen was fortunate to have had Marvin and Patti Coan as long-term close friends who enriched her life with regularity. Furthermore, she was assisted by Pamela Thomas for over 35 years. Ellen's family is appreciative of her caregivers, Jenny Kalloo, Dione Melo, and Beth Tarus.

Ellen was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Lewis S. Bizer; sister Lilo Auslander son, Larry Bizer, granddaughter Amy Bizer, nieces Gail Auslander Zemon and Bonnie Bizer, and nephew Steve Auslander.

Ellen is survived by her daughter, Lynn Bizer DeMarco (Gino), granddaughter Emily Bizer; great-niece Shelia Auslander (Imre Noth), niece Janine Auslander, nephew Dr. Michael Auslander (Lee Ann); great-nieces Marissa Auslander, Alana Auslander-Price (Jon), Dr. Rachel Mather; great-nephew Adam Mather (Martha),

Continued on page 18

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LIFECYCLE

nephew Dr. Jerry Bizer (Maxine); great-nieces Dr. Emori Bizer Carrara (Tony), Meredith Bizer; nephew Dr. Wayne Bizer (Sue), great-nephews Dr. George Bizer (Anna), Andy Bizer (Jessica), Brandon Coan (Summer), Spencer Coan and many other family members.

Due to the pandemic, the funeral service was private.

Remembrances are appreciated in the form of contributions to The Ida and Bernhard Behr Holocaust Memorial Education Fund in care of the Jewish Community Center, 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville Kentucky 40205, 502-238-2722.

Harriet Gail Baron Dunski



Harriet Gail Baron Dunski, died Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020.

Born and raised in Louisville, a daughter of the late Goldie and Leo Baron, Harriet graduated from Atherton High School in 1956 and from the University of Louisville in 1963 with a dental hygiene degree.

She was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshuran until she moved away in 1968. Although Harriet spent almost the next 5 decades in St. Louis, MO, she always considered Louisville to be her home.

A great dog lover, Harriet would stop in the middle of anywhere to pet any pup that she saw. Dogs loved, too. Her "grand-dogs" got very excited every time they went to her house to visit. She loved to pet and feed every dog and read any dog book she could find. Dog statues and pictures decorated her entire house, as this beautiful creature gave her so much pleasure.

Harriet was also very interested in Jewish history, the Holocaust and was an avid reader. She kept a list of books in her purse that she planned to read someday. The list kept getting longer, even when she knew she may not have time left to get through it. Harriet volunteered frequently at the Jewish Used Book Sale, simply to get first pick. She also loved movies and frequently enjoyed watching them at home with her children and grandkids.

Harriet also adored her loving husband of 57 years. Those who knew them couldn't imagine one without the other.

Harriet was the beloved wife of Naph-tali "Neil" Dunski; dear mother and mother-in-law of Dr. Sharon Dunski Vermont (Dr. Laird) and Michelle Dunski (Bryan Hicks); dear grandmother of Sage and Jordyn Vermont; dear sister and sister-in-law of the late Stanley Baron (late Shirley) and the late Fanny Joyce Cook (late Milton); dear sister-in-law of Etti Shahan (late Shmuel) and Rachel Marom (Yossi); and a dear aunt, cousin and friend.

Harriet's legacy is that of pure love for family. She showed love with hugs, food, stories and her time. She was the best mother; husband and "Gimmie" that anyone could ask for. She will be missed tremendously.

A private family graveside service was held in Chesterfield, Missouri. Memorial contributions preferred to Congregation B'nai Amoona, the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, or the Humane Society of Missouri. Visit bergermemorialchapel.com for details.

Ivan Lee Goldstein



Ivan Lee Goldstein died Friday, Dec. 25, 2020, just one day shy of his 83rd birthday.

Born in Louisville on Dec. 26, 1937, a son of the late Aaron "Harry" and Helen Goldstein, Ivan was a graduate of Manual High School and the University of Kentucky School of Pharmacy. He worked as a pharmacist for nearly 50 years.

Ivan loved traveling the world, visiting museums and historical sites. He also read about the history of ancient Egypt.

He loved building Shaker-style furniture, spending time with his children and grandchildren, eating foods of "dubious" nutritional value and tending to his roses.

He disliked getting lost in cities around the world, furniture pieces made with press board, diet, exercise and any yard you could describe as "natural."

He was a member of Keneseth Israel Congregation and a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Freemason.

Ivan had an explosive laugh, a quick wit and a tremendous work ethic. He adhered to a rigorous code of personal ethics and preferred in his professional life to work in traditionally underserved communities, both in Louisville and in rural parts of Kentucky.

His family will miss his curiosity, off-kilter humor, generosity, work ethic and honesty.

Ivan leaves behind his wife of 32 years, Ruth Franke Goldstein; his children, Steven Goldstein (Stacy Cambron), Perry Goldstein (Cynthia), Jessica Goldstein (Matthew Whitworth); and his grandchildren, Olivia, Madeline and Benjamin Goldstein, Nathan Goldstein and Matthew, Jackson, Sam, and Leanna Morgan, and Simon Whitworth.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved brother, Sam; his sister-in-law, Marcia; and many friends.

Due to pandemic restrictions, graveside services were private. Memorial gifts may be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation, The Amyloidosis Foundation or a charity

of the donor's choice. Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

Mercedes Ben-Avi Nibur



Mercedes Ben-Avi Nibur passed away Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, a week shy of her 77th birthday, after a 14-year battle with breast cancer.

Born in Marrakech, Morocco, she grew up with a global mind, becoming a citizen of the world and a proud American.

She studied in Morocco until graduating high school at 16, then moved to Paris to study languages at The College of Sorbonne, which she completed with honors. She then met her family in Israel, where they had made aliyah.

Mercedes served in the Israeli Defense Forces as a translator due to her language skills (and possibly good looks), working directly with Gen. Moshe Dayan.

After her IDF service, she moved to London for a job as a translator in the private sector. She worked there for two years, during which time she met and was courted by a funny American – her future husband, Ivan ("Mickey").

They soon married and moved to Los Angeles in 1970, where Mercedes taught private language classes to Hollywood stars.

Four years later, Mickey's career led them to Detroit, where they started a family. Mercedes frequently gave her time and energy to the Jewish community there.

After eight years, Mickey's employer relocated the family to London. Mercedes, an avid traveler, took advantage of the move by planning trips throughout western Europe as well as Israel to visit family.

After three years in London, Mercedes and Mickey chose Louisville to make their home, moving here in 1986. She immediately connected with the Jewish community, finding a place for her family in it. They originally joined Keneseth Israel, sent their children to Eliahu Academy and spent summers at the JCC. Eventually, they became members of The Temple, where Mercedes taught Hebrew and Sunday school. She also became a proud member of its Sisterhood, planning and leading The Temple's annual interfaith program for well over a decade. She also delighted singing in the volunteer choir, Shir Chadash.

She taught adult classes at Ursuline College, served on the Jewish Community Relations Council and proudly supported The Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Watching her children thrive and grow gave her the greatest pleasure, only exceeded by becoming a grandparent and great-grandparent.

Mercedes was the oldest of nine siblings, who used to call her "sister-mother" and the "chief of staff" – titles she gladly bore. A consummate host, she entertained 50-60 people annually for Rosh Hashanah and Passover, and frequently hosted or attended dinner parties with friends.

Her home and parties, often called the "United Nations," were an eclectic mix of people, personalities, occupations, ethnicities and backgrounds. She was happiest making food for others, even until the week before she passed.

She was always a forceful, strong-minded person, not afraid to express her point of view.

An avid fan of the gameshow *Jeopardy*, if you called her during the program, she would hang up on you.

A deeply creative and artistic person, she knitted incredible baby blankets that are warming babies across the globe, she crafted magnificent jewelry by hand – a passion she shared with her daughter, who carries that creative side of her.

She was an animal lover, and often called both the dogs and humans she loved "peasants."

Mercedes is preceded in death by her parents, Yoshua and Alegria Ben-Avi; and her brother, Elias Ben-Avi.

In addition to her loving husband of 51 years, she is survived by her two beloved children, Laurence Nibur (Laura Pearson) and Amanda Masters (Chris); her grandchildren, Isabela Nibur, Hunter, Jonathan Heath and Sloan Pearson; her "grand-dogs," Olive Oyl, Bennie, Lily, Jack, Casper and Griffin, and her great-grandson, Kameron Pearson.

She also is survived by her devoted sister and her husband, her sister-in-law, and six brothers and their wives who live in Israel, Holland and Philadelphia. She has numerous cousins, nieces and nephews who mourn her from across the globe. She will be missed by her dear friends in Venezuela, Switzerland, France, Israel, England, Detroit, and here in Louisville.

The family thanks Dr. Jeffrey Hargis of the Norton Cancer Institute for his 14 years of care and devotion, and her primary care physician, Dr. Priya Balakrishna with MDVIP. The family is forever grateful for the personal commitment these physicians provided and truly considers them family. Thanks also to Hosparus for its guiding hand, and Angie and Brenda from Home Instead for their kindness and gentle help.

A graveside service was held. In lieu of flowers, donations in her honor can be made to either Rabbi Gaylia Rooks Music Fund at The Temple, or to The Jewish Community of Louisville J Tomorrow! Capital campaign in support of the new building.



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NEWS

VIRTUAL TOUR

Continued from page 1

North America, will be also joined the call.

The work is being done as the JCC continues to raise money for the \$42.5-million project. So far, more than 400 donations, from individuals and foundations alike, have been received.

Chris Carmicle of PLC Management, the owner's representative on the project, led the tour, which took the staff through every nook on both floors (there is no basement) of the future JCC.

He highlighted the commons areas, the multipurpose space, the subtle design features that reflect Jewish symbolism and the use of windows and natural light that will make the center feel much larger than its 106,000 square feet.

The building is divided into four sections:

- The Heart: the main entrance, commons areas, gallery space, a café and a thoroughfare-style area running through the building, called "The Street;"
- The Body: state-of-art aquatics center, fitness center, group exercise studios, gyms and a running track;
- The Soul: the senior center, a teen

space – called "The Garage" – and other areas that "activate the soul and bring people together," Carmicle said;

- The Mind: The Early Learning Center and Jewish education and LBSY.

A couple design elements of the JCC reflect the Jewish character of the building, like lines on the precast walls to resemble the stripes on the tallis and suspended six-point ceiling tiles to suggest the Star of David.

Security is seamlessly blended into the campus and JCC, which is safer by being built at the back of the campus. Multiple security experts have been consulted to develop the features that will protect the building.

The floor plan, fluid and simple to navigate, will lead to the gallery space, the new PJ Library reading nook, all areas connected by The Street, where people can meet, sit and watch pool activities through a long bank of windows.

On the second floor, there will be another gathering space amid administrative offices and "huddle rooms" for meetings.

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville (JCL) said this space will reunite the staff, many of whom have been working at home for 10 months because of the

coronavirus.

"This is the home for all of us," Wagner said. "This is where we will be living together."

The Aquatics Center, a highly touted feature of the building, will include a lap pool with six 25-foot lanes, a recreation pool with a water slide, zero-depth entry and a hot tub. Parents can watch their kids swim from a second-floor bank of windows while working out on ellipticals or treadmills. The outdoors pools will remain and will continue be a destination for members during the summer.

JCC Aquatics Director Johnny Kimberlin said the new center will provide the freedom to hold multiple pool activities at the same time.

"The JCC has always been the place where so many individuals grew up learning to swim and the new facility will enhance these opportunities as well as provide a place for families to convene around aquatics," he said.

The rest of the fitness center will be equipped with AV-capable exercise machines, three group fitness studios, a cycle studio, full- and half-basketball courts and a longer running track where 12 laps will equal a mile – all making the new JCC more competitive with fitness

centers around Louisville.

"The new JCC health and wellness facility is a chance for us to offer an enhanced experience for our members," Health & Wellness Director Susan Kwasny said.

The multipurpose room – the future home for JCC and arts and culture programs – will have capacity for 250 people. It will be built with movable walls that creates spaces for smaller, more intimate functions

"The concept was flexibility," Carmicle said. "We can break this up and will have groups of 20, 60 or 250 in this space, most importantly, so we can use this space as much as possible."

Finally, the education wing will have its own reception area leading to 12 classrooms, each with its own bathroom and sink.

Several staff members commented in the Zoom chatroom expressing their anticipation of the new facility.

Angie Becker, accounts payable and payroll coordinator, said, "Such a fantastic space and wonderful design."

JOFFEE Director Alayna Altman said, "WOW! It's beautiful!"

Carmicle said the center will be ready for use by the spring of 2022.

MANASSEH

Continued from page 1

Capitol by extremists, including white supremacists and neo-Nazis, she believes Jews of all colors are coming to understand that they all face the same Amalek.

"It's not just a Black problem anymore," Manasseh said in a recent interview with *Community*. "It's not just a complexion problem anymore. It changed on Jan. 6. The new Amalekites are the ones who said 'Jews will not replace us;' it's the ones who stormed the Capitol. That's the new Amalekite. Those people are going to have kids and grandkids."

Manasseh, who made national headlines for sitting in a lawn chair on a street corner in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood, is the subject of a documentary, *They Ain't Ready for Me*, which will be screened in February at the Louisville Jewish Film Festival. She and Brad Rothschild, the director and producer, will discuss the film afterwards.

"I was really intrigued by Tamar's story and her work," Rothschild told *Community* in a statement, "but what pulled me in was where she credited her Judaism for her activism. Her personality

jumped out at me."

In 2015, Manasseh founded Mothers Against Senseless Killings (MASK). Frustrated by the shooting death of a young mother trying to break up a fight at the corner of 75th Street and South Stewart Avenue, Manasseh started going to that street corner every day, barbecuing, playing music, bringing games for kids – diffusing situations.

Today, MASK has grown into a community-building organization, fighting violence and hunger, and helping people access city services, educational opportunities and decent housing.

A 42-year-old mother of two who has completed her rabbinic studies at the Israelite Academy in New York (she expects to be ordained once the pandemic subsides), Manasseh said the violence in her neighborhood is a direct result of the racism facing Black people.

That's why she stresses that MASK, which boasts as many as 300 volunteers, is more than a neighborhood watch group.

"It wasn't just the idea of us sitting there [on a street corner] that reduced violence, it was the idea of us being able to address the issues that inspire gun violence," she said.

MASK's first project was to plant crimson king maple trees on spots where

children and adults had been killed. But she realized how little that was when a child told her where he wanted his tree to be planted.

"Sure, this is a beautiful way to memorialize someone," Manasseh said. "However, no one should be memorializing a 14-year-old, so what do we do to keep them from getting to this point?"

That's what brought her and others to that street corner – and other street corners.

"We know where violence is going to happen, and if we go there and do these things, we believed that the violence would stop, and it did."

Through MASK, Manasseh said, she's living her Jewishness, which she described as "big tent" and meeting the people where they are, instead of waiting in a synagogue for them to come to her.

"Sometimes you have to bring it to them. And I think there's a lot more of that starting to happen," she said. "It's accessibility; it's spirituality – understanding of God – that's accessible to everyone."

As a result of coming to that street corner every day, she agreed that she is demystifying Judaism for those who know little about it. She said she literally shows people what the holy days are, how mitzvot are performed.

Most importantly, her neighbors come

to know Jews, which strikes a blow at anti-Semitism.

"It's really hard to be anti-Semitic if you know Jews," she said.

A real estate agent before entering rabbinical school, Manasseh quipped that she chose this calling because "I can't cook."

Seriously, she said women are encouraged to become homemakers in her community, not the male-dominated rabbinate.

"You're not encouraged to be a leader" if you're a woman, she said. "You can be a doctor; you can be a lawyer; you can be an astronaut if you want to. You just can't be a rabbi."

But she will be. In fact, she said she will be the first woman to be ordained from her academy.

And she hopes she won't be the last. "I was paving the path for girls like my daughter," Manasseh said.

MASK, which has already expanded to New York City, Memphis and Mississippi, is poised for further growth. Manasseh hopes to establish chapters from Detroit to Louisiana.

Including Louisville?

"Absolutely," she said. "There's a chance I come to Louisville. My best friend is from there... If I'm invited, I'm coming. That's what I do."

EDUCATION

Continued from page 1

with parents, teachers, clergy, leaders of the various institutions and, of course, the students.

But he plans to go further afield than that.

"We're also speaking with overnight camp directors," Kingsley said. "They might have a sense of who Louisville's kids are, what they come to overnight camp knowing and wanting to learn."

For similar reasons, he also will contact the Jewish studies program at Indiana University, noting that many local kids go to college there.

Kingsley said Louisville, given its size and intimacy, could become a "model" for similar size cities launching their own Jewish learning studies.

"The community is small enough to grasp its parameters and get to know its key players," he said, "and it's large enough to put in place a range of programs and have significant impact."

He stressed, though, that Plan A would not impose a plan on the Jewish community.

"It's not Plan A's job to tell Louisville's Jewish community what to do," he said "It's our job to facilitate a planning process, so that the plan you adopt is Louisville's plan and is unique to your com-

munity."

JHFE Executive Director Jeff Polson reaffirmed the organization's commitment to community education, though he stopped short of committing to funding the plan until his board sees the details.

"We have got to see, as anyone would, what the recommendation is," Polson said, "what the level of community support is behind it, and then we'll share it with our board."

Joining Goodman on the steering committee are Becky Swansburg, Carol Jones, Corey Shapiro, Erik Siegel, Heather Gladstein and Jasmine Farrier-Frockt.

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO

of the Jewish Community of Louisville, is an ex-officio member.

She said the study is part of a joint Federation-JHFE initiative that includes subsidizing Jewish overnight camp and Israel experiences, providing all local children from Jewish households with these opportunities.

She called the initiative, Jewish Journeys.

"This is an exciting time for our community," Wagner said. "JHFE and Federation are working collaboratively and in partnership, already propelling Jewish engagement for all children to a new level."



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