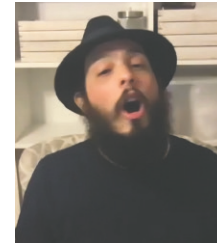


JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:

Ari Lesser

Ari Lesser talks truths with his raps at Sunday Night Live
STORY ON PG. 5

FRIDAY Vol. 47, No. 2 | February 26, 2021 | 14 Adar 5781

The fighting rabbi Foreman's road to title goes through Louisville

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In 2005, Yuri Foreman, a young Belarusian Jew from Israel and a struggling boxer, was living in New York – broke.

He worked in the Garment District of Manhattan by day and trained at a Brooklyn gym at night, all the while dreaming of his shot at the title.

It wasn't easy.

"You mentally, physically, subconsciously hit the bottom, so to speak," Foreman said. "At that time, I was this close to going back to Israel, just quitting."

Foreman had been raised secular and never had much interest in Judaism or any religion, but he decided he needed a spiritual vaccination of sorts, to help him through the tough times.

So, he found a free class at a nearby synagogue and decided to give it a try.

It changed his life.

At the first session, he recalled, the rabbi, a 5-foot-5 man with a gentle voice – the exact opposite of the guys he fought at the gym – immediately caught his attention.

"He says that life is like two boxers in the ring, and I'm like 'what!'" Foreman recalled. "He said that sometimes life is too hard; you find yourself staring at the lights, just like a boxer on his back. Judaism gives you this help, this strength, this inner strength, to get up and continue fighting."

Foreman was hooked. Not only did he stick with the class, but he began study-



Yuri Foreman jabs his opponent, Jeremy Ramos, during his Dec. 5, 2020 bout at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville. The fight, which Foreman won, was his first in nearly four years and is part of the 40-year-old Jewish fighter's comeback effort to reclaim his super welterweight title. His second bout back is scheduled for March 6, also in Louisville. (photos by Jared Sher)

ing with a Chabad-Lubavitch rabbi in 2008 – to become a rabbi himself.

All the while, the lean, determined fighter continued training and defeated Daniel Santos in a lopsided 12-round decision in 2009 in Las Vegas to claim the World Boxing Association super welterweight title.

That was 10 years ago. Since then, Foreman, who fights under the Israeli

flag, has amassed a 35-3 record with 10 knockouts. He was ordained a rabbi in 2014, and he remarried in 2018 -- under a chuppah built in a boxing ring. (He has three kids from a previous marriage.)

It hasn't all been good. Foreman lost his WBA title to Miguel Coto in 2010 fight at Yankee Stadium when he tripped in Coto's corner and tore his ACL. For

See **FOREMAN** on page 19

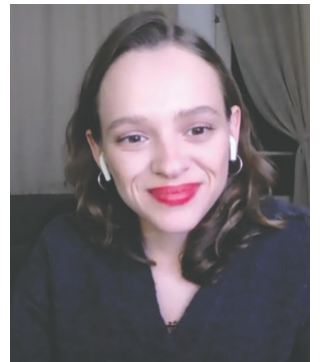
AJ, LJFF, present Golden Globe nominee for film fest interview

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

For Israeli actress Shira Haas, playing a teenage girl with a degenerative motor disease, as she did in the movie *Asia*, had a familiar ring to it.

Haas, 25, was diagnosed with kidney cancer just shy of her third birthday. She said that early-life experience shaped who she is today.

"It's definitely something that is part of me," Haas said in a Feb. 21 Zoom interview with Adath Jeshurun Cantor David Lipp. "I don't really remember myself as well without it. It's kind of like I feel it's the starting point of my life."



Shira Haas

Even though she brought her own experiences to her role in *Asia*, and despite the character's physical struggles, this is not a movie about illness, she said.

"The movie is about life; it's not about death.... It's about our connections with people."

Asia was one of the films screened at the 2021 Louisville Jewish Film Festival which boasted unusually strong star power this year, thanks to Haas.

Her interview with Lipp, which was presented by AJ, had to be moved up one week because she has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for her role in another production, *Unorthodox*, a Netflix series about a Hasidic woman fleeing an unhappy marriage. The awards ceremony will air at 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 28, on NBC.

Haas is the first Israeli actress to be nominated for a Golden Globe and a Primetime Emmy.

Not only did cancer shape Haas' life, it also changed her identity. When she beat the disease at age 5, a rabbi suggested her parents change her name from *Mai* (Hebrew for May), sort of like a rebirth.

"They asked me, 'What name do you want?' And I said 'Shira,'" Haas recalled. "So, basically, I changed my name."

See **HAAS** on page 19

Melton award 'shocks' but completes Deborah Slosberg



Deborah Slosberg said winning the Florence Melton Award is the pinnacle honor of her career. (photo by Bridget Bard)

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Deborah Slosberg had no idea what was up when she Zoomed in January for Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning's International Directors Conference.

What was "up" was the Florence Melton Award. Named for the founder of the global Jewish adult education organization, it's the highest honor it can bestow.

And this year, in a carefully guarded secret, it went to Slosberg, director of the Louisville Melton for the past eight years.

"I was so shocked," Slosberg said.

"Usually, the winners of it know in advance and they have to write a speech; so, this year, they just decided to make it a surprise. Then I didn't have to write a speech."

After this award, added Slosberg, who plans to retire in 2023, "there's nothing else I want to achieve."

As part of the surprise, Adath Jeshurun, which hosts Louisville Melton, announced that it would underwrite the curriculum for an upcoming class. Developed by scholars at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, each curriculum costs up to \$30,000 to sponsor.

Slosberg's honor puts Louisville

See **SLOSBERG** on page 19

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month A 2021 Passover lesson: We'll get through this



D'var Torah

Rabbi
Avrohom
Litvin

In the Passover story, the Jews were faced with the sea on one side and the Egyptian army on the other.

"Let's fight," some cried.

"Let's surrender," others said.

"Let's pray," still others advised.

But Moses said, "Now is not the time to fight or surrender or even to pray. Journey onward, and we will soon see the salvation of G-d."

Another story is told about scientists warning that in one month a meteor would hit the earth, causing the iceshell to shift and water to flood the entire world.

People around the world wondered how best to utilize the remaining days until the impending crisis. Some suggested spending their last days with their families. Others thought to use them to get their affairs in order with friends and acquaintances. Still others called for days of mass prayers.

But in Israel, the Jews gathered, and then one stood to speak.

"Brothers and sisters," he said, "we have only one month to learn how to breathe underwater."

Whatever happens, we need to journey onward.

The first thing Moses taught the newly freed Jewish nation after crossing the sea was that freedom is based upon remembering "to care for the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." In fact, this lesson is repeated over 30 times throughout the Bible. G-d wanted us to realize a fundamental imperative: We were slaves in a foreign land; be considerate and care for others

in need.

This past year with COVID-19, we were all somewhat like strangers. We did not meet with each other face to face. We did not eat with each other; celebrate with each other or even mourn with each other. Rich or poor, young or old, we were all like strangers in a strange place. If we then have become "the strangers," what tangible thing can we do to help each other?

I think there are many answers, but I will focus on just two of them:

First, consider the upcoming holiday of Passover. There are many people in this community who will be physically alone for the seder this year. Will they have what they need to make a seder? Most everyone will probably know of at least one or two people who may not have ever prepared a seder plate and could benefit by receiving everything they need to make their own. I am suggesting you help them.

How else can we fulfill this fundamental teaching of reaching out to the stranger in this unprecedented time in which we all are the strangers? Journey onward – with compassion and caring – and lend a hand to those in need. It is imperative in this moment in time to recognize that lots of people are going through a tough time. Reach out with empathy, with caring, with a smile and with a kind word. To use a phrase that Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear has coined, "We're going to get through this; we're going to get through this *together*."

Passover is the holiday of our freedom. Moses taught that true freedom requires our caring for all others. Only then can we sit with our families and pray for the coming of Moshiach and the day when G-d will bring healing and peace and goodness to the entire world with the resounding prayer: Next year in Jerusalem.

(Rabbi Avrohom Litvin is the regional director of Chabad of Kentucky.)

Snapshot



JCC Arts & Ideas Academy rehearses *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition* on CenterStage. Socially distanced rehearsals have taken place since September 2020. Limited ticket live performances were held on Feb. 25, 27 and 28. To purchase tickets to the virtual performance visit jclouisville.org/academy.

Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in March:

- March 5 @ 6:23 p.m.
- March 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

- March 19 @ 7:36 p.m.
- March 26 @ 7:43 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscription

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, March 17 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox

by Friday, March 26.

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

Corrections/Clarifications

We apologize. Due to a technical glitch, some local obituaries did not appear in the last two issues of *Community*. They are published in this

issue, and safeguards have been put in place to prevent a recurrence.

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



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RSVP to federation@jewishlouisville.org before March 16, 2021.
Event information will be sent the week before the event.

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NEWS

Grandson to remember Ann, Sandor Klein at annual Yom HaShoah program

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Ann and Sandor Klein lived lives that resonate to this day.

Childhood sweethearts from the same village in Hungary, Sandor left for America in 1938, serving as an Army Air Corps sergeant during World War II.

Ann survived the Holocaust, went on to recount her story many times and became the inspiration for a state law mandating Shoah education in Kentucky.

"The events of my grandparents' lives depict a truly American story," said their grandson, Zach Kleinsmith, "encompassing all of the complex, loving and tragic circumstances that can be lived in two lifetimes."

Kleinsmith, a Louisville native now living in Texas, will tell his grandparents' stories during this year's community Yom HaShoah program at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 8.

It's the second year in a row that the program has had to be pre-recorded due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ann and her family were trapped by the Nazis in 1944 when the country was occupied. Deported to Auschwitz, where she survived Dr. Josef Mengele's deadly selection process, she worked in the camp kitchen, surviving the war when most of her family died.

Reunited after the war, she and Sandor, settled in Louisville. For years, she didn't talk about her Holocaust experiences, but in 1996, a professor at the

University of Louisville convinced her to record her story.

After that, Klein spoke often at schools, churches, even at Fort Knox.

She died in 2012. Six years later, after extensive lobbying, the Kentucky General Assembly finally adopted the Ann Klein and Fred Gross Holocaust Education Act.

In addition to Kleinsmith, the student journalists from duPont Manual High School who broke the news about anti-Semitic symbols and quotes in State Police and emergency training videos will be honored at the April 8 program, along with their faculty advisor.

As in past years, 11 candles will be lit to commemorate the victims and liberators of the Holocaust. The students of

LBSY and St Francis of Assisi School will perform the narration.

The other participant are:

- Cantor David Lipp – opening and closing *niguns*
- Matt Goldberg – welcoming remarks;
- Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner – opening remarks;
- Fred Gross – Introduction of speakers;
- Cantor Sharon Hordes – *Anshei Hagafur*;
- Matt and Kathy Karr – musical accompaniment to the scrolling of memorial names;
- Lipp – El Melei Rachamim.

A version of the Mourner's Kaddish adapted by Elie Wiesel will be chanted and closing remarks will be made.

OC3 team dispatches help for people dealing with COVID

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Jeff Jamner, creative consultant for the arts and ideas at the Jewish Community Center, now also serves as a dispatcher.

Jamner heads up the JCC's Our Community Cares COVID response team (OC3). He dispatches designated volunteers – he calls them "helpers" – to assist people who have contracted COVID, or are obliged to quarantine, and need non-medical assistance.

Jamner said OC3 is a response to the high COVID infection rates in recent months, and the threat posed by new variants of the disease. Through the program, people can make sure they have extra help when they need it, while others can volunteer to help.

"It's a way to just kind of create a mini-network for yourself ahead of time," Jamner said.

People can register for OC3 online, naming three people who have agreed to serve as helpers should the need arise.

Jamner notifies those helpers only when the person they have agreed to assist contacts *him*.

"I also notify the clergy if they give me their contact info and want to be included in prayers for healing," he said.

The center operates like 911, but only for nonmedical issues like making grocery runs, picking up prescriptions or just calling to check in. The helpers commit to four weeks.

Not everyone, needs helpers, Jamner

said; many people already have networks of people to fall back on.

Still, a segment of Louisville feels isolated and could use help.

For example, Jamner recently learned of a couple that just moved to Louisville with no friends other than those in their retirement community, so he volunteered to be one of their helpers.

There are no privacy issues involved, attorneys have advised Jamner, since those signing up for the program are choosing to share their private information with people they designate. Otherwise, all information is kept confidential.

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville, said OC3 is intended to make sure everyone has a support system and stays connected.

"The pandemic has reminded us all just how important our relationships are," Wagner said. "I encourage community members to reach out and be part of OC3. We are stronger together."

Jamner said the program is set to last through April, but it could be extended if necessary.

"It's going to take a while for those infection numbers to come down," Jamner said. "There's going to be precautions for a long time. This is just a way for people to get ahead of the curve."

Want to join?

To sign up for OC3, or volunteer to help others, visit bit.ly/3udnzc3.



OC3 is a dispatch center of sorts for people in need of nonmedical assistance during the coronavirus pandemic.

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NEWS

Ari Lesser talks truths with his raps at Sunday Night Live

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Ari Lesser has no problem telling you what kind of Jew he is:

*"You know I'm a party Jew
Ashkenazi-but-I-still-love-a-Sephardi Jew
a fast-rapping Jew
the toe-tapping Jew
I'm-a-gonna-get-the-whole crowd-to-start-clapping Jew
a free-thinking Jew
I'chaim-drinking Jew
with-a-beard-and-hat-like-Abe-Lincoln Jew
wearing-a-suit Jew
keeping-kashrut Jew
HaShem's-the-only-one-I-salute Jew
I'm a singing Jew
CD-slinging Jew
... I'm a Chabad a Jew
a loving-God Jew
and some might say
I'm an odd Jew..."*

He goes on for a while like that, but you get the idea.

Lesser, 34, is a rapper, and he's laying down some knowledge about being a Jew. His videos have attracted as many as 500,000 views.

In his Feb. 14 appearance on Adath Jeshurun's Sunday Night Live program, the Cleveland native rapped about Shabbat, Purim, giving thanks and the eshet chayil (woman of valor), to name just a few topics.

To be a Jew is to be all about gratitude, Lesser said.

"To give thanks to HaShem is really the essence of Yehuda and Yehudim," he said. "If we're not being grateful and if we're not showing gratitude, I can honestly say you're doing it wrong; you're not doing Judaism right."

His raps also get political, touching on BDS, the Holocaust and double standards affecting Israel.

Particularly, he rapped about Middle Eastern Jews, how the wave of Jewish refugees from Arab countries following the 1948 War for Israel's independence receives scant attention, compared to the plight of the Palestinians, and how critics are not always aware that Jews are indigenous to the region:

*"Jews are indigenous to the Middle East
and all we're asking is for a little peace."*



Rapper Ari Lesser lays down knowledge about Israel and being Jewish during his Feb. 14 appearance on Sunday Night Live. (Community photo by Lee Chottiner)

*Been oppressed ever since we were
dispossessed
enslaved, arrested and put to death.
But we persevered never disappeared
been in Israel for thousands of years.
Thank God we've been able to overcome
still living in the land where we come
from."*

Not that he is intolerant of criticism of Israel. He leaves up critical comments on his YouTube videos if they are constructive and generate discussion. He even raps in one song about understanding the longing Palestinians feel for returning to the places where their families once lived.

But he draws the line at vicious anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial – themes that he targets with his razor-sharp raps.

"There's just crazy, racist anti-Semitic people out there," he said between songs. "People really, strongly believe things like the Holocaust never happened.... I have gotten into intense arguments with people.... They really believe this is a fraud that's being perpetuated on the world."

So he wrote a song addressing the Holocaust and the strident way so many people deny that it happened:

*"Now Nazi Germany had a fixation
on attaining racial purification.
They wanted a white bread Aryan nation
no place for Jews in their civilization."*

The song is a history lesson of sorts, rhythmically teaching about Operation Reinhard, the cattle cars, the examina-

tions upon arrival in the camps. Its format is graphically like Billy Joel's We Didn't Start the Fire.

"Wow, I think that's the first rap I've heard about the Holocaust," Cantor David Lipp observed at the end of the song.

Lesser can keep it light, too. He can rap on the spot about any animal his audience names. This night, he came up with hilarious lyrics about dogs, cats, goldfish, octopuses, even pterodactyls.

And he can poke a little fun at his own people, as he did in his Shabbos rap:

*"Gotta get going
because I like showing
up early for shul
so that can read slow
and I'm saying the Shema
do the Amidah swaying
staying focused to keep
up with the praying.
The chazan is cruising
so fast it's confusing
and most of the Jews in the back
are just schmoozing.
But soon we're all crunching
on cookies and munching
that cholent and kugel
at the kiddush luncheon.
People start pouring
I'chaims ignoring
the speech by the rabbi
because it's so boring."*

Lesser grew up in a culturally Jewish

family in Cleveland Heights and studied political science at the University of Oregon, where he also connected with hip hop music.

He made his first visit to Israel in 2012 on a Taglit-Birthright trip, and stayed in the country for a year, studying in Jerusalem and Safed. While there, he became a Nazirite, refraining from cutting his hair or drinking wine. He also is a vegan.

He has written hundreds of songs, many of which are political and well-researched. In his song, Boycott Israel, an indictment of the BDS movement, he relied on information from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

His rap – the lighter ones, the political ones, the historical ones – all touched some listeners. Midway through the program, Lipp told him that one woman, listening from her hospital bed, had texted on Facebook that "this is just what she needs."

So just for her, Lesser rapped a rhyming version of Psalm 20, which many Jews say when praying for a refuah (recovery):

*"May HaShem answer you when things
go wrong.
May the name of Yaakov's God keep
you strong.
May he send you help from the holiest
place.
from Zion may he support your case."*

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COMMUNITY

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

USPS #020-068 at Louisville, KY.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: March 17 for publication on March 26 and April 21 for publication on April 30.

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

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at

lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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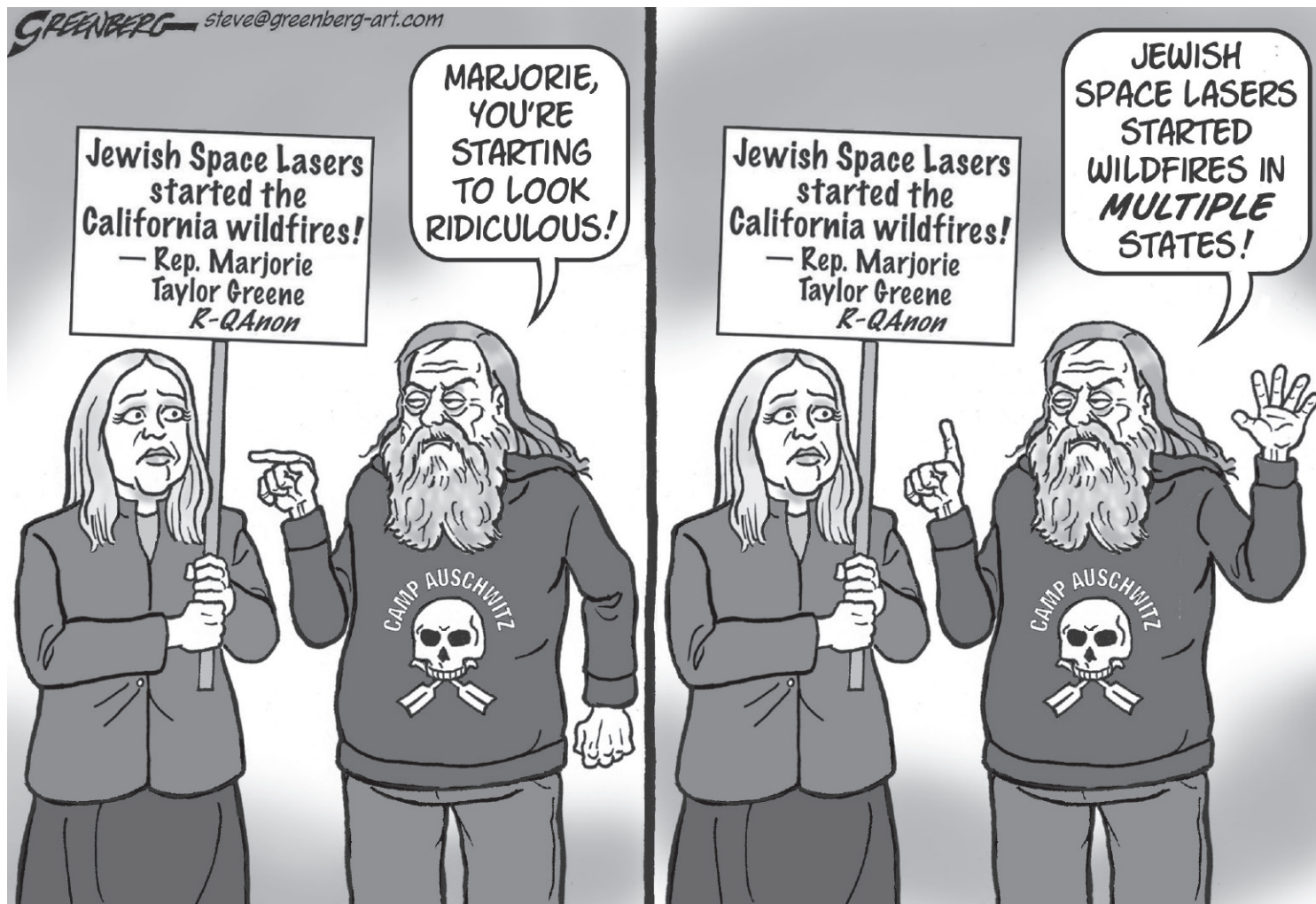
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FORUM



Twerski's toughest fight is also ours



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

As a kid growing up in Pittsburgh, what I knew of Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski came exclusively from the 6 o'clock news.

I knew he was a doctor, a rabbi and, of course, a Jew. I also knew that he helped many people, including sports celebrities (*especially* sports celebrities) battle drug and alcohol addiction.

What sticks in my memory was an interview he once gave to a local TV station about one of his most famous patients, former Cleveland Indians pitching ace "Sudden" Sam McDowell. *Sam McDowell!* Being treated by this Orthodox rabbi-physician for addiction? I was enthralled by the interview. (The fact that he pitched for the Tribe and not the Pirates, I conveniently overlooked.)

The rabbi-physician described in detail the control McDowell had over his fastballs and curves over the years, but not his illness.

Twerski came into my life on and off over the years. He would sometimes call me at *The Jewish Chronicle*, where I was the executive editor, pitching his

latest book for review, which I usually did. After all, he had a built-in audience in the Burgh. Why *wouldn't* I review them?

I attended some of his lectures. After I married Beth, and she became the rabbi in Wheeling, West Virginia, she invited him to speak there, and he graciously accepted, speaking at a Catholic-affiliated hospital to a largely non-Jewish audience.

I was always impressed by the ease with which he moved from the Orthodox to progressive Jewish circles and to the non-Jewish world. It didn't matter with whom he spoke as long as he was speaking the truth.

My most vivid memory of Twerski, who died from COVID on Jan. 31, was a talk he once gave at the Squirrel Hill Bookstore, in the heart of Pittsburgh's Jewish neighborhood, about his then-latest title, *The Shame Borne in Silence*, an honest look at domestic violence in the Orthodox community.

He opened his talk by describing in detail how much he loved to write, which was true. (He wrote some 60 books over his lifetime.)

"But this one I didn't enjoy writing," he said. I could see the pain on his face.

Why *would* he enjoy writing about this subject? He was shedding light on an issue that many people in the Orthodox and non-Orthodox worlds did not want illuminated. Many Judaica stores refused to carry Twerski's book on domestic violence. In some cases, his public appearances required police

protection, underscoring the disdain he faced for writing on a "taboo" topic.

As Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, former executive vice president of the Orthodox Union, later told JTA, "To this day, he (Twerski) is defamed in certain circles because he dares to speak about it."

Twerski was nothing, if not a man of conviction. He spoke the truth, even when he knew it wasn't popular. He understood that the Jewish community was not immune from the social ills that existed in non-Jewish circles. He did not hide from such issues; he faced them head-on. He understood better than most that meaningful change doesn't come to a community simply by accentuating its positive attributes. Sometimes, you must face its secrets, too.

I respected him for his courage, as do many Jews, some of whom are still living in the shadows where this fine rabbi and physician dared to shed some light. It's a never-ending struggle, but he didn't desist from doing his share of the work.

Want to honor the memory of Abraham Twerski? Speak the truth, even when it's hard, even if you risk losing friends. In the end, your legacy will be intact, and your community will be better for the effort. Take it from Twerski.

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

FORUM

The Holocaust will always be a part of my heritage; here's why

Guest
Columnist

Rabbi Hillel Smulowitz

Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, I knew that my parents' families perished in concentration camps, but I never understood why they did not talk about it.

As I got older, through my own experiences as a rabbi and a witness to history, I came to realize how painful it was for them. "Not all victims were Jewish," Elie Wiesel wrote, "but all Jews were victims."

Here is something of what he meant:

At the close of World War II, U.S. and British servicemen described in graphic detail what they saw as they liberated Nazi concentration camps – rows upon rows of skin-covered skeletons who met their eyes, people starved to death, laying in their own filth.

The city of Assisi, Italy, home of St. Francis, turned itself into a place of refuge, organized by Padre Rufino Niccaci. Hundreds of Jews were hidden in towns, ancient monasteries and convents. They were given fake identity papers, sometimes rosaries, and were dressed in religious habits. Some 32,000

Italian Jews and thousands from other countries were successfully hidden by Christians.

Protestants and Catholics saved the lives of many Jews, including "hidden" children who were raised as Christians. Isidor Grunfeld, a *dayan* (judge) of the London Bet Din, would walk among them at Anglican schools, singing *Shema, Dayeinu*. Several responded to the familiar chant.

These stories are often forgotten in our day. The challenge of our generation is to overcome this amnesia.

When I was principal of the Louisville Jewish Day School, I bought textbooks and directed teachers to talk about the Holocaust in grades 6-8, but one parent objected, saying she didn't want her child to learn about this part of Jewish history.

"Is it OK to teach about the different cultures of the world?" I asked.

"Of course," she said.

So I said her child was learning about Jewish heritage.

One of the most beautiful poems I ever read was found scratched out on a wall where Jews were hiding:

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining,

I believe in the love even when not feeling its embrace,

I believe in G-d even when he is silent."

When I was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, I knew a devout Catholic, a retired helicopter pilot. We became close friends and when his wife became ill with cancer, I sent her this poem. A year later, before she passed away, she told her husband that she wanted to be buried with it.

In the 1960s, two events attracted world attention on the same day: Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin's flight into orbit and the trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem. One was a space pioneer; the other, a butcher of men, women and children.

These two events represent the conflict facing humankind: light or darkness. To understand this, we need only read the first pages of the Tanakh, that man was created of the dust of the earth and was endowed with part of the soul of G-d.

All people have two conflicting elements. One pulls us down to earth, perpetuating selfish, egotistical behavior. The other – the soul – draws us to dedicate our life to the divine and help others. The cosmonaut verses Eichmann.

When I was in Israel studying for ordination, I attended the Eichmann trial twice. He sat in a bulletproof booth because of the threats to his life.

After a 12-months trial, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol had three days to decide: either sentence Eichmann to life in prison, or to death. I remember listening to the news at midnight at my aunt's home when it was announced that Eichmann had been hanged, his body cremated and his ashes scattered at sea so no Nazi followers could ever have a place to worship him.

In the 1970s, when I attended a workshop in Israel with 14 other rabbis, we met with Prime Minister Golda Meir and President Ephraim Katzir. Meir said something that has remained with me ever since: "The future of Israel is dependent on the education you give children in the diaspora."

For me, the Holocaust has always been a part of my life, although a difficult part.

We have an obligation to ourselves, to children and to grandchildren, to teach them not to forget the Holocaust. Then we can say never again Auschwitz! Never again Dachau! Never again Treblinka!

(Rabbi Hillel Smulowitz, past principal of the Louisville Jewish Day School and a retired Army chaplain, has lectured on the Holocaust in Italy, Germany, Japan, Korea and the United States.)



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FORUM

American Jewish poetry teaches us plenty if only we explore it



Guest
Columnist

Michael
Jackman

Have you read any Jewish poetry lately? Would you?

Those aren't really fair questions. If you have been to synagogue, if you have read the Hebrew Bible, if you have recited any of the liturgy, you have read plenty of Jewish poetry.

But I mean aside from that. Something recent, say published in the last 100 years. Something American. Something like this excerpt from *Debate with the Rabbi* by Howard Nemerov:

You've lost your religion, the Rabbi said.

It wasn't much to keep, said I.
You should affirm the spirit, said he,
And the communal solidarity.
I don't feel so solid, I said.

Or this bit, from Cynthia Ozick's *In the Synagogue*:

I do not understand
the book in my hand.

Who will teach me to return?
Loss of custom, ruin of will,
a memory of a memory
thinner than a vein.
Who will teach us to return?

Do you feel the way these two speakers in the poems do? Do you know people who do?

These poems don't avoid the sore spots of Jewish identity in America; they *press* on them. I'm talking about sore spots you may not even know you have until you have read the words. Here's how Richard Michaelson laments the situation in *The Jews That We Are*:

A generation after the Holocaust
and I know no Hebrew. No Yiddish.
No Torah.

I fast only on the Day of Atonement
and even then I've been known to cheat.

A generation after the Holocaust
and I apologize for my grandfather's
bent back and wild gestures.

Michaelson's words clang like a bell for some of us who grew up at that time. Reading American Jewish poetry can help us express or freshen our attention to the Jewish experiences we have.

So far, I have not tried to define what American Jewish poetry is. I'm skipping over debates about what a poem needs to express to be Jewish poetry. "After all," writes John Hollander in his essay, *The Question of Jewish Poetry*, "can anything a Jew experiences...not be a Jewish experience?" I'm not trying to be subtle and excavate buried themes

that may or may not reflect a Jewish world view or psyche. My criteria is blunt: Jews writing poetry about things that matter to Jews.

I think we need this. Of course, I would say that. I teach poetry. I'm a poet, I'm a Jew and a lot of my poetry meditates on "things that concern Jews" or at least, this Jew.

But I'm not the only one who thinks it's vital for Jews to engage with the modern version of this ancient Jewish art. John Felstiner, a writer, translator of Romanian Jewish poet Paul Celan, and himself a Jew, writes: "American Jews – not hyphenated Jewish-Americans any more, but Jews living as such in America – dearly need what poetry offers to imagine their survival."

What survival could Felstiner mean? Perhaps the next greatest threat since the Shoah. The one that comes from being able to live your life free from state-sponsored oppression and imminent threat of death. The kind of survival that allows persons, but perhaps not a people, to survive, due to the fading of – let's call it Jewish spirit, Jewish communal solidarity, as Nemerov wrote. The kind of survival that might benefit from reading how poet Shirley Kaufman re-imagines Sarah and Hagar today, in *Déjà Vu*:

Jet planes fly over their heads...

[Sarah] brings the food to the table
where he's already seated
reading the afternoon paper
or listening to the news...

Hagar shops in the market.
There's a run on chickens, the grapes
are finished and the plums are soft.
She fills her bag with warm bread
fresh from the oven ...

Muriel Rukeyser, a Jew and a poet who occasionally investigated the condition of being a Jew in her work, wrote in *The Life of Poetry*: "If we are free people, we are also...free to choose our past, at every moment to choose the tradition we will bring to the future."

But Rukeyser prescribed poetry to help deal with that freedom, and the "clusters of events and emotions which require new ways of making them more human." She expressed those "clusters of events and emotions" in her *Letter to the Front*, a sequence of 10 poems:

To be a Jew in the twentieth century
Is to be offered a gift. If you refuse,
Wishing to be invisible, you choose
Death of the spirit, the stone insanity.
Accepting, take full life. Full agonies:
Your evening deep in the labyrinthine blood
Of those who resist, fail, and resist;
and God
Reduced to a hostage among
hostages.

You see how a good poet can fill the emotional cup to the brim, can cross generations and bear witness to events and experiences, letting us re-experience them, feel them, confront them.

I do not understand
the book in my hand.

Who will teach me to return?
Loss of custom, ruin of will,
a memory of a memory
thinner than a vein.

Who will teach us to return?

In the Synagogue
Cynthia Ozick

That's not to say that reading American Jewish poetry will be solely a dreary affair, pressing down hard on the bruises of our personal and corporate existential questions. You might find feeling and familiarity in "Teshuvah," part of Robin Becker's sequence, *In the Days of Awe*:

Turn from evil and do good the
Psalmist says turning
Round the turn turn the key clock
the turn turn in time
time to turn words into footsteps to
lead the young colt to the field

to turn from the old year the old self
You are ready
to turn and be healed only face
only begin

But it often will be the poetry of dissonance, confusion, doubt, as the dictum of creative writing states, that if you're going to bother writing something, you should bother writing something that matters. To many *American Jewish* poets, what matters is how to make one identity out of these two fraught words.

Poetryfoundation.org is a good place to start exploring. Just type "Poems of Jewish Faith and Culture" in the search box to be taken to a curated collection that includes articles and selected works of Nemerov, Allen Ginsberg, Emma Lazarus (of Statue of Liberty fame: "Give me your tired, your poor, / your huddled masses..."), Alicia Ostriker, Marge Piercy, Charles Reznikoff, and many others.

Join me in reading American Jewish poetry. Explore Jewish life and identity, and the various "clusters of events and emotions" that we must navigate.

(Michael Jackman is a senior lecturer in writing at Indiana University Southeast.)



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GLOBE/LOCAL

Garland to Lee: 'Senator, I'm a pretty good judge of what an anti-Semite is'

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

WASHINGTON – Merrick Garland turned emotional when asked Monday during his Senate confirmation hearing why he wanted to be the U.S. attorney general.

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., wanted Garland to explain why he chose his career path, using his family history leaving Russia's Pale of Settlement, "in confronting hate and discrimination." Booker noted that Garland had been asked and answered the question when they met privately.

"I come from a family where my grandparents fled anti-Semitism and persecution," the erudite and soft-spoken judge said before pausing for several seconds to gather himself. "The



Merrick Garland

country took us in and protected us, and I feel an obligation to the country to pay back – this is the highest, best use of my own set of skills to pay back. I want very much to be the kind of an attorney general that you are saying I could become."

Garland, 68, also said that combating white supremacists would be a priority should he lead the Justice Department, particularly in the wake of the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, which included far-right extremists along with visible displays of racism and anti-Semitism.

He called the attack "heinous" and "sought to disrupt a cornerstone of our democracy: the peaceful transfer of power to a newly elected government."

Garland has said a critical point of his career was in 1995, when he di-

rected the prosecution of the white supremacists who bombed a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing at least 168 people.

In 2016, then-President Barack Obama had nominated Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court, but the Republican-led Senate at the time would not allow his nomination to advance.

Garland would be the fifth Jewish official in President Joe Biden's Cabinet. When Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, pressed him on whether he would work with anti-Semites, alluding to conservative media attacks on Kristen Clarke, whom Biden has nominated to head the Justice Department's civil rights division, Garland defended Clarke and said in a rare show of annoyance: "Senator, I'm a pretty good judge of what an anti-Semite is."

Beshear names Gilbert to Consumers' Advisory Council

Lance Gilbert of Louisville, an executive and CEO of Net Results Group, has been appointed to the Kentucky Consumers' Advisory

Council (CAC) by Gov. Andy Beshear.

Gilbert replaces Jeannine Smith, whose term has expired. His term expires on Sept. 8, 2023.

Suspected oil spill may be worst in Israel's history

Israel closed its Mediterranean beaches to deal with what its officials say may be the worst oil spill in the country's history.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority on Sunday called the suspected spill one of the "greatest ecological disasters to afflict Israel since the founding of the state." It said that 170 out of 190 kilometers of coastline, or 105 out of 118 miles, have been affected by the spill. The consequences will be felt for years, its statement said.

Thousands of volunteers are clean-

ing tar off the beaches and animals, including birds and turtles, have been found covered with tar. The Israeli army said it would also send soldiers to help with the cleanup.

It's not clear what ship is responsible for the spill, which is believed to have occurred around Feb. 11 some 20 miles from shore.

"We are making every effort to find those responsible for the disaster," Gila Gamliel, Israel's environment minister, said on Twitter.



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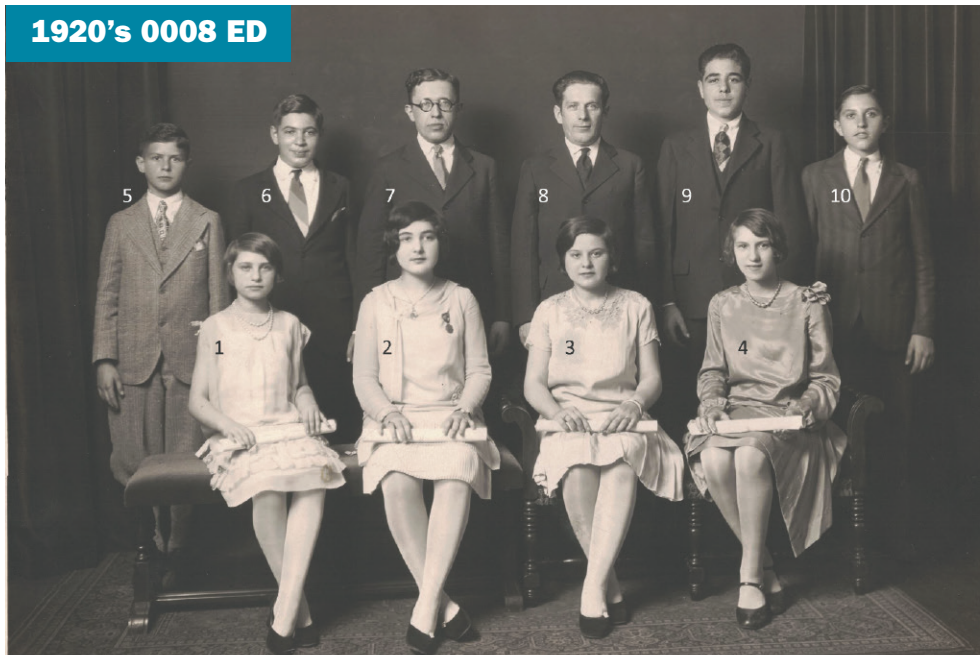
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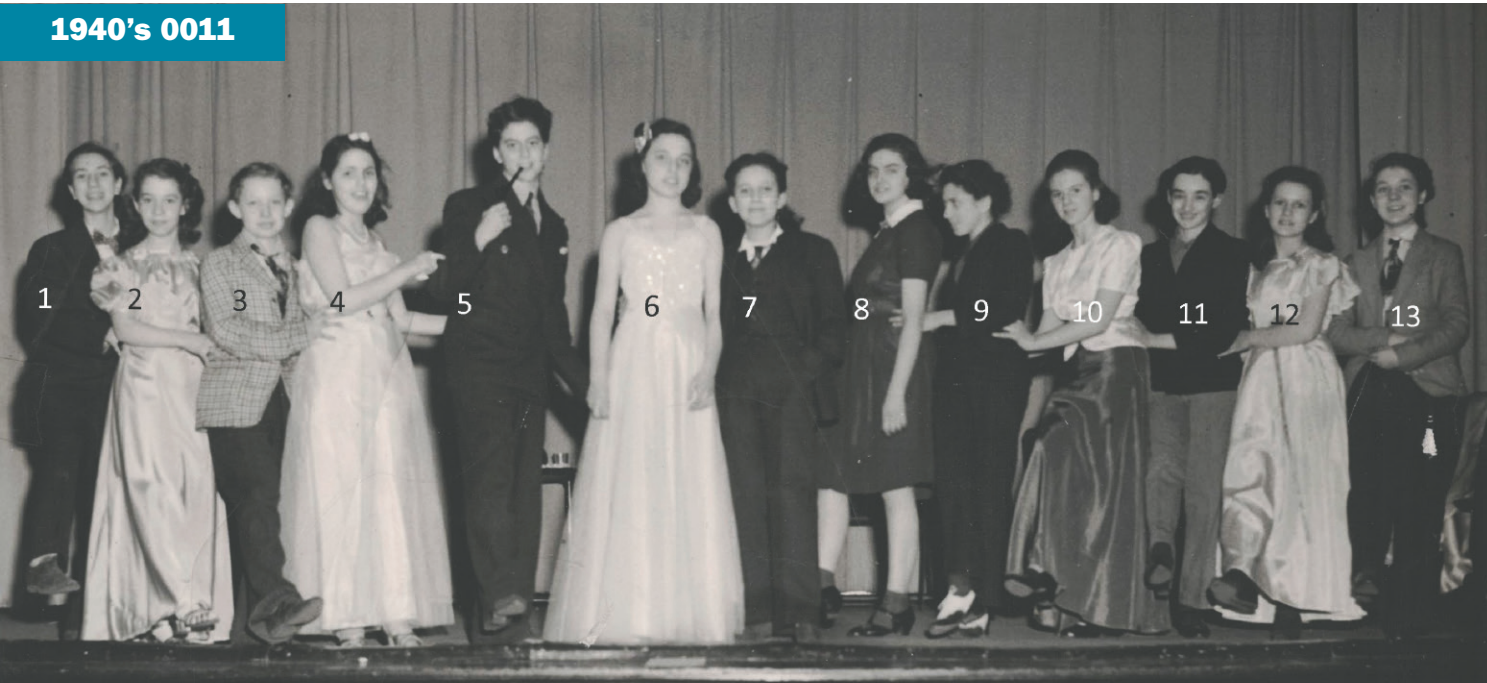
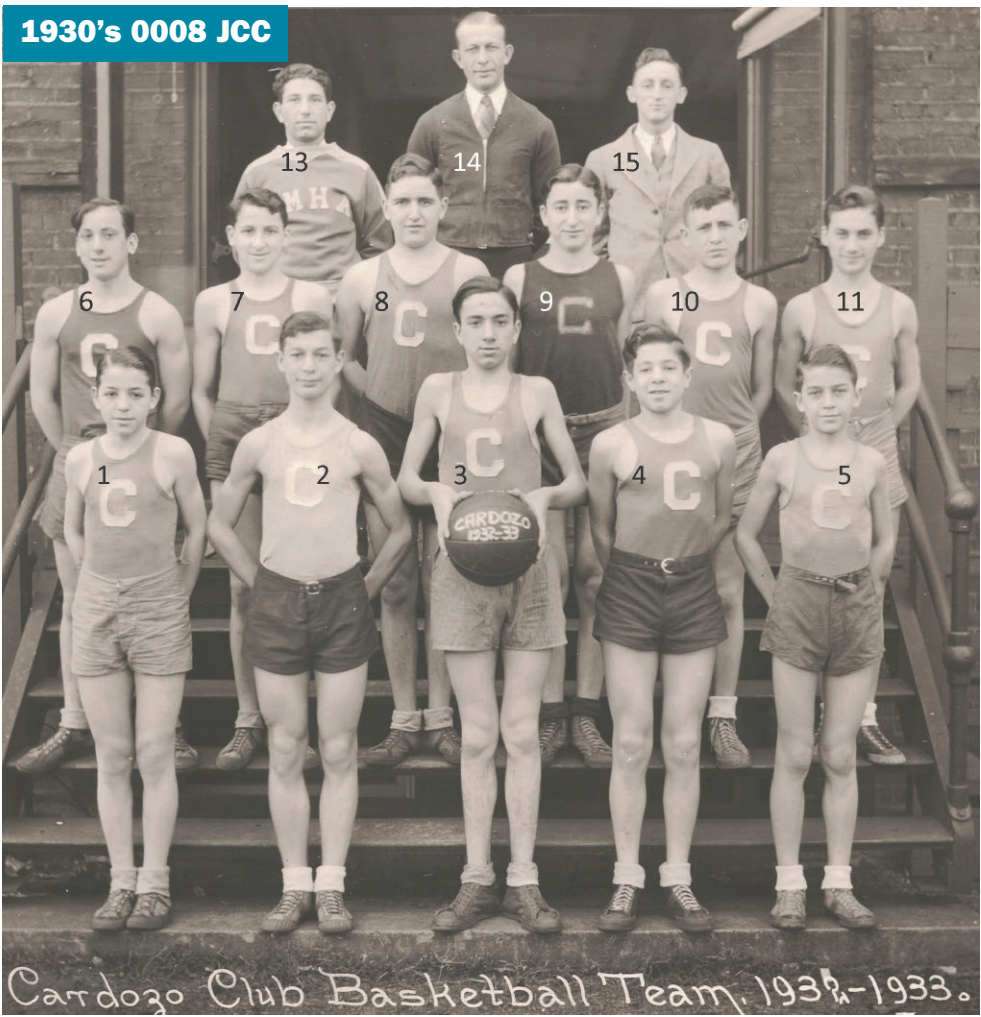


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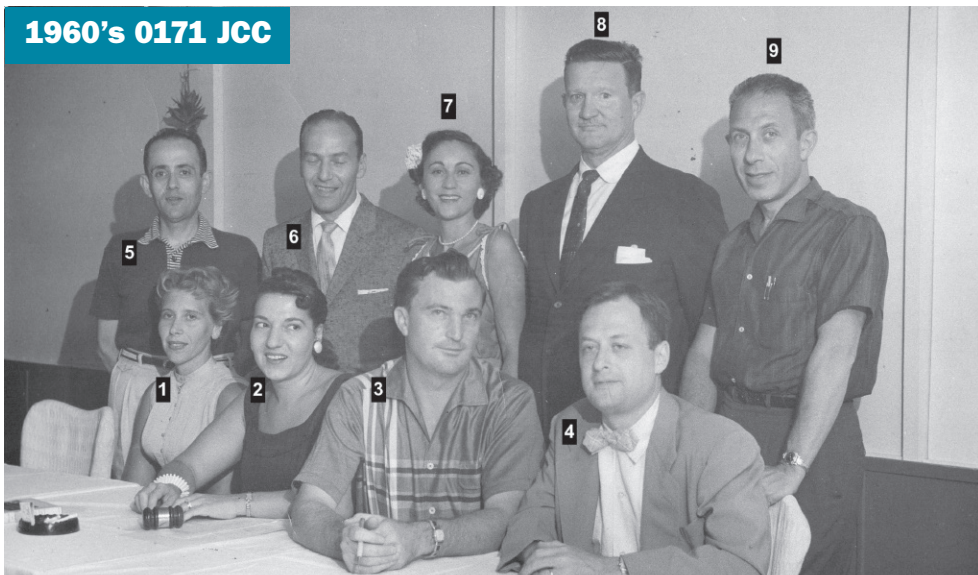
This is the second in a series of photo galleries made possible by the Louisville Jewish Archives Committee. The panel is seeking help from Community readers to identify photos from its collection, which depicts 100 years of Jewish life in Louisville. Many of the photos will be retained by the JCC, but some will be given to The Filson Historical Society. Email pictureID@jewishlouisville.org with any IDs you can make. 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.



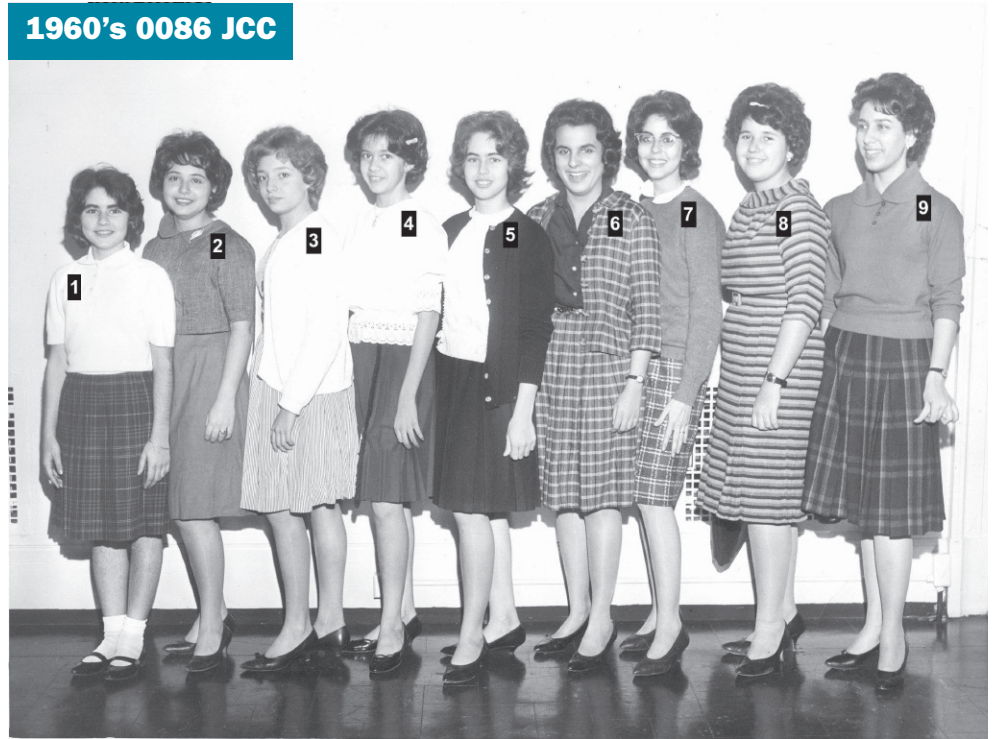
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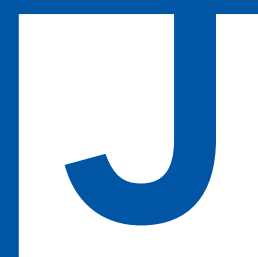
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FILM REVIEW

Asia is a great movie because it needs 'less' to be great

By Michael Ginsberg
For Community

Spoiler alert: Don't read this if you (A) haven't seen the Louisville Jewish Film Festival movie *Asia* and still hope to see it, (B) have seen it and are still too emotionally shaken to discuss it or (C) don't like movies that try to be more than simply "good stories," for whatever reason. (including my wife, who I'll call "Jeri," because that's her name).

Actually, Jeri loved *Asia*, but she often scolds me when she thinks I'm too critical of movies. "Can't you just watch a movie without analyzing it?" she has been known to say, with a touch of annoyance in her voice.

Back to *Asia*. It's much more than simply a "good movie." What makes it more is less.

It is missing scenes that explain everything; it is missing unflawed characters. And it is missing scenes where tragic characters find happiness, like losing their virginity just before they die too young. (I included that



line in this review for the same reason that "just good" movies include those scenes.)

Asia doesn't pander in the way I just did. It tears apart viewers and brings tears to viewers by avoiding those kinds of cheap ploys. So, the tragic character dies a virgin, and the movie ends without following up an assisted suicide with courtroom scenes in which the assister must justify her assistance. It doesn't consummate a sex scene, because some sex scenes should not be consummated and the character who tries to consummate a sex scene with good intentions doesn't have to feel good for trying. And viewers don't have to see the mother of the tragic character come to peace with her daughter's death and her role in it.

Asia left me feeling emotionally raw. It left me without consummating my attraction toward satisfying endings that complete a cycle of hurt and healing. That's not how life always works, that's not what makes a movie more than "good," and that's not what makes a movie review more than "OK."

Asia is a great movie, and this is

a great review. If you don't agree, don't see *Asia* and don't ask me why I thought it was a great movie.

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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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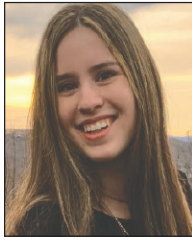
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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS/AROUND TOWN



Shaps named to head KIO regional

Jenna Shaps has been named regional n'siah (president) for the Kentucky Indiana Ohio (KIO) region of BBYO. She will work with the regional board to plan conventions and support the local chapters.

A junior at Kentucky Country Day, Shaps previously served as regional mazkirah/gizborit (secretary/treasurer). In Louisville, she was chapter n'siah, siganit (vice president of programming) and morah (vice president of membership).

KIO, which includes chapters in Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Louisville and Indianapolis, offers activities such as ice skating, overnight camping, communal Shabbat celebrations and leadership training. In her new position, it is anticipated that she will continue to grow as a leader and leave a lasting impact on the region.

BBYO provides Jewish teens with meaningful Jewish experiences, preparing them to become future Jewish leaders in their communities and in the world at large.

BBG announces new officers slate

Here is a list of Jay Levine BBG officers for the spring term:

N'Siah – Nila Rothman
S'ganit – Maraya Goldstein
Morah – Ada Weiss
Sh'lichot – Katy Roemer and Miriam Bird
Mazkirah – Owen Weiss
Gizborit – Clara Weiss

In addition, Drew Corson AZA is looking for teens to plan and attend activities. Interested teens can respond to aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.

BBYO registration is open to eighth- to 12-graders. Membership is \$149.

AROUND TOWN

Adath Jeshurun

Sunday Night Live, a virtual series of speakers and entertainers, is held Sundays at 7 p.m. Upcoming programs: Feb. 28, mentalist/magician Jason Suran; March 7, pediatrician Dr. Karen Abrams; and March 14, comedian Marty Pollio. Links to all programs may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

The Annual Music Festival will be held virtually at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 21. "Divas on the Bima," a musical group consisting of four cantors, will perform traditional Jewish music, Israeli pieces and songs from Broadway. Links to join may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

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

Anshei Sfard

In-person Shabbat services are held at 9 a.m. Social distancing and face 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@ansheisfard.com or 912-704-2769.

Chabad of Kentucky

Seder-in-a-Box kits are available for Passover seders. Each kit includes matza, wine or grape juice, and a seder plate with all of the traditional foods. A step-by-step guide and Passover haggadah also are included. Email Rabbi@Chabadky.com by March 16 to order. Kits will be ready for distribution or pickup on March 24.

A model seder class will be held prior to Passover at 7 p.m., Monday, March 22. Email Rabbi@Chabadky.com to register.

Chabad is offering to sell (and then buy back) anyone's chometz (leavened food) to help them fulfill the holiday tradition of clearing these products from homes. Email Rabbi@Chabadky.com for details.

Hand-made shmurah matza can be purchased at \$20 per pound or three matzas for \$10. The matza is made rapidly, using grain protected from water from the time of harvest to ensure it does not rise prior to production. Email Rabbi@Chabadky.com by March 12 to order.

Chavurat Shalom

Beth Olliges, lead singer for Two of Diamonds, will perform a sing-along at 1 p.m., Thursday, March 4, via ChavuratShalomZoom.

Denine LeBlanc and Kathy Karr will perform short pieces for flute and piano by American and French composers at 1 p.m., Thursday, March 11, via ChavuratShalomZoom.

AARP volunteer Deborah Turner will discuss living longer and smarter with downsizing and de-cluttering at 1 p.m., Thursday, March 18, via ChavuratShalomZoom.

Ann Waterman, keyboardist/vocalist and humorist with Two of Diamonds, will lead a sing-along, including Passover parodies, at 1 p.m., Thursday, March 25, on ChavuratShalomZoom.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Suzi Weiss-Fischmann, the "First Lady of Nails" and co-founder and brand ambassador of OPI Nail Lacquer, will join a conversation with the Federation Women's Philanthropy at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 14. A daughter of Holocaust survivors, Weiss-Fischmann is considered the go-to authority by beauty editors and fashion designers. She will discuss her road to success and her view on tikkun olam. Shellie Benovitz, Carly Geer Mason, Vycki Goldenberg-Minstein, Helen Gurewich, Betsy Prussian, Shannon Rothschild, Beth Salamon and Margaret Shuster are hosting the event. The Zoom link will be sent prior to the event. RSVP to Federation@jewishlouisville.org. Northwestern Mutual and Heaven Hill are sponsoring the program.

Keneseth Israel

The Introduction to reading Hebrew class, taught by Cantor Sharon Hordes, is held Sundays at 6:30 p.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

Coffee Shmooze, a no-agenda get-together over coffee, is held Mondays at 11 a.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom. Bring your own coffee.

Jews and Brews, a weekly Torah-study class, meets Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

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

Kabbalah Month by Month, a class for kabbalistic teachings and meditations using Hebrew months and holidays, meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

The Baking Club meets Thursdays at 11 a.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom. For exact dates and recipes, check facebook.com/kilouisville.

Zoom Gali Gali: Kabbalat Shabbat for Kids meets the first Friday of each month at 5:15 pm on tinyurl.com/KICzoom. The service includes songs, stories from the Torah, lighting candles, kiddish, motzi and blessing the children.

Cantor Hordes will lead the services for the second night of Passover with collaboration of KI members from their homes. The program begins at 6 p.m. on tinyurl.com/KICzoom.

Louisville Hadassah

Hadassah's national book club – One Book, One Hadassah – will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 8. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein will interview Kristen Harmel, author of The Book of Lost Names, a historical novel based on true accounts of World War II document forgers who helped smuggle children out of Nazi-occupied France. Nonmembers may join by visiting hadassah.org/join. To register, visit bit.ly/3u5kf2A.

Temple Shalom

A Purim celebration with Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and Student Rabbi Samantha Thal will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26. The evening will include parodies, songs, a Megillah reading, a shpiel and a game of Purim Jeopardy. Email information@templeshalomky.org.

Temple Shalom will join HIAS in presenting Refugee Shabbat at 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 5. The service will include an update on HIAS' efforts to support refugees at the southern border. Ann Waterman will provide music. Email information@templeshalomky.org.

Chailands Chavurah will present ethnomusicologist Rachel Adelstein for a presentation of music performed in British synagogues at 6:45 p.m., Saturday, March 20. Email chailands@templeshalomky.org.

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and song leaders hold Shabbat Experiences Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Email information@templeshalomky.org.

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner leads her Introduction to Judaism for those considering conversion Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Email information@templeshalomky.org.

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner will lead a second night community Passover seder at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 28. Email information@templeshalomky.org.

The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. CDC guidelines are observed. Visit facebook.com/wrjgiftshop. 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 continue at 6 p.m. Mondays: Advanced Hebrew with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport and Beginning Hebrew Part 2 with Mark Goldstein. Rabbi David Ariel-Joel is teaching a new class, Windows

to Israeli Society through Poetry and Literature, Mondays at 6 p.m. Third semester Basic Judaism will start Monday, March 1, at 5 p.m. On Wednesday, Temple Scholars on crisis in Jewish Tradition will meet at 9:30 a.m.; The Roots of Justice with Rapport, 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.

Grade 4 will lead Family Shabbat at 7 p.m., Friday, March 5, at thetemplelouky.org/streaming.

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

The Conversation, featuring attorney Lonita Baker on the killing of Breonna Taylor, will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 7 on Zoom. March marks the first anniversary of Taylor's death; Baker, who represents Taylor's family, brings a unique perspective to the milestone. Visit thetemplelouky.org/the-conversation.

WRJ/Sisterhood Shabbat services, honoring WRJ's dedication to The Temple, will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, March 19. Visit thetemplelouky.org/streaming.

Rising Kindergarteners or Grade 1 students not previously enrolled are invited to the annual Kindergarten Open House at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 21. To join, RSVP to Sarah Harlan at sarah@thetemplelouky.org.

Movie Night with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 21 on Zoom. An American Pickle will be screened. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/Jewish-Identity-in-Jewish-Films.

For Passover, The Temple will celebrate the holiday virtually. Passover member bags and carry-out seder meals will be provided and four Zoom seder opportunities are planned: The Annual First Night Seder at 6 p.m., Saturday, March 27, led by Rabbi David and Jennifer Diamond; Congregational Second Night Seder at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 28, with the confirmation class and Rabbi Rapport; the Annual Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks Women's Seder at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 1, led by Rabbi Rooks, Mikki Adams, and Nancy Gall-Clayton; and the Young Adult Seder at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 3, led by young adult leaders. More information, including how to sign up for meal orders, can be found at thetemplelouky.org/Passover.

UofL Jewish Studies Program

The Sixth Annual Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence Annual Lecture will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, April 18. Asaf Angermann, visiting assistant professor of philosophy and Jewish thought, will address "The Sexology of Racism: Magnus Hirschfeld on Prejudice, Sex, and Race in the 1930s." RSVP at Kelly.morris.3@louisville.edu.

The 2021 Naamani Memorial Lecture will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 7. Miriam Udel, associate professor of German studies and Jewish studies at Emory University, and an authority on Yiddish language and culture, will address the topic, "Honey on the Page: The World of Yiddish Children's Literature." RSVP for Zoom link at Kelly.morris.3@louisville.edu.

LIFECYCLE

Milton Murray Greenbaum was a Temple Shalom founder and its first president

Milton Murray Greenbaum, a successful engineer and a founding member of Temple Shalom, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021 in Louisville. He would have celebrated his 91st birthday Feb. 10.

Milton was a loving father and husband with one son, Sandor "Sandy" Russell (Vivian); and two grandchildren, Sam and Madeline.

Milton's wife of 59 years, Janet, preceded him in death on April 25, 2014.

A child of the Great Depression, Milton was born to impecunious parents, Sam and Bertha, in Washington Heights, a predominantly German-Jewish New York City neighborhood near Harlem.

As a boy, his family and friends spoke German with greater facility than English, binding them together by language and religion.

Both his parents left Germany as teenagers for economic reasons a decade before the Nazi Era.

Milton's father spent most of his career as a retail meat purveyor, a line of work for which Milton showed little affinity.



Milton Murray Greenbaum

He attended Stuyvesant High School on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, which required a two-hour daily commute by subway. Stuyvesant provided a superior education, which he and his brother took for granted, but nevertheless required extraordinary dedication.

Milton became the first in his family to be college educated, attending City College of New York. By this time, the family had moved to Woodside in Queens County, where his father owned a butcher shop. There, Milton "learned the trade," starting out as a delivery boy on a bicycle and ending up with all-too-sharp instruments in hand.

Milton graduated CCNY with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. His college career was interrupted with a brief and not especially noteworthy military career, much of which was spent as a patient at the Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver.

A freshly minted civil engineer, Milton went to work for a company specializing in road construction. At the time, President Eisenhower was developing the interstate highway system and Milton worked on the design of I-95 in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It was around this time that he met and married a charming, young immigrant nursing student from the Netherlands training in New York City. In due course, Janet gave birth to Sandy.

Milton's employer ultimately transferred him to Louisville to work on I-64, a major east-west highway. Milton left his employer and launched his own firm, M.M. Greenbaum and Associates, professional engineers. He sank roots in Louisville, where he spent the rest of his life.

He joined friends in founding Temple

Shalom, serving as its first president from 1976 to 78, built a successful business and became a respected pillar of his community.

His business, now well run by Sandy, remains a monument to Milton's vision, tenacity and professionalism.

Milton was active in engineering and civic organizations, from which he received numerous awards, including the Daniel V. Terrell Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

He was president of the American Consulting Engineers Counsel and Scoutmaster of Troop 30 of the Boy Scouts of America.

Always friendly, thoughtful and happy to help or share, Milton is remembered by many friends and respected by all those with whom he worked.

Funeral services were held Friday, Feb. 5, in Cave Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Rd, Louisville, KY 40220. Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

Births

Ryker Reas

Todd and Devie Comer Willett are delighted to announce the arrival of their first great-grandson, Ryker Reas, on Sept. 4, 2020. He is the son of Miranda and Skyler Reas. Miranda is the oldest daughter of Cara Comer Willett Harp, Ryker also is welcomed by many aunts, uncles, cousins, "greats," and especially his great-great-grandmother, Gita Comer.

Griffin Emmet Tasman Hathaway

Rabbi Sarah Tasman and Kyle Hathaway of Silver Spring, Maryland, announce the birth of their son, Griffin Emmet Tasman Hathaway, who was born on Sept. 15, 2020. Proud grandparents are Allan and Cathy Tasman of Louisville, Leslie Hathaway of Schererville, Indiana, and Greg Hathaway of Crown Point, Indiana.

Dylan Brook Lefkoff

Meredith and Ryan Lefkoff of Atlanta, announce the birth of their third daughter, Dylan Brooke, on Jan. 2, weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces. She is the sister of Macey Rae and Evie Lynn Lefkoff;

the granddaughter of Faye and Craig Lefkoff of Atlanta and the late Miriam Gordon Fine and Dennis Fine; and the great-granddaughter Barbara and David Gordon, Elaine Seigel of Aventura, Florida, and Harold Lefkoff and the late Evelyn Lefkoff of Atlanta.

Obituaries



Henry M. "Sonny" Altman, Jr.

Henry M. "Sonny" Altman, Jr., 84, passed away on Monday, Dec. 21, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Laurie Altman Kupferman; his sister, Ann Altman Stein; his brother-in-law, Ed Stein; and his parents, Henry M., Sr. and Anne W. Altman.

A graduate of Male High School and the University of Louisville, Sonny was a practicing CPA for over 44 years, the last 15 as Managing Partner of Deming, Malone, Livesay & Ostroff. He also served as president and CEO of

Pittsburgh-based Computer Research, Inc., from 1973 through 1975. He served in the Army Reserve with the 100th Division, doing two tours of active duty.

Sonny was chair of Jewish Hospital HealthCare Services, University Medical Center, Passport Health Plan, Community Foundation of Louisville, Trustee Advisory Council of the Kentucky Hospital Association, American Hospital Association's Committee on Governance and the AHA Leadership Development Committee, Standard Country Club and The Temple Men's Club.

In addition, he was a member of the boards of Louisville Medical Center Development Corporation (now Nucleus), Cardiovascular Innovation Institute, American Cancer Biorepository, Louisville Collegiate School, Volunteers of America, Institute for Bioethics, Health Policy and Law, American Hospital Association's Trustee Alumni Leadership Network Advisory Committee, Louisville Orchestra Foundation, Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, Republic Bank & Trust Company, Hilliard Lyons Trust Company and Almost Family, Inc.

He was a founder of Actors Theatre of

Louisville and has served on the boards of Jefferson County Riverport Authority, Kentucky Society of CPAs, The Temple, Jewish Family and Career Services, Spalding University (Board of Overseers), Jewish Community Federation, American Jewish Committee and Greater Louisville Health Enterprises Network.

Sonny earned numerous honors and awards during his lifetime including membership in Phi Kappa Phi national honorary fraternity, outstanding alumnus of University of Louisville Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi national accounting fraternity, Male High School Hall of Fame, the inaugural Health Care Governance Award from the Kentucky Hospital Association, Jefferson County Millennium Award, City of Louisville Distinguished Citizen Award, Volunteers of America Tribute Dinner honoree and the Metro United Way Community Solutions Health Leadership Award. He was a long-time member of the Standard Club.

At the time of his death, he was a member of The Temple, where he was a chair for the Cemetery Committee.

Sonny is survived by his wonderful

Continued on page 16

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wife of 59 years, Barbara Cassell Altman; his son, William "Billy" (Jan); his daughter, Kerri Altman Dixon (Dennis); his grandchildren, Jacob Kupferman, Linkon (Courtney) and Austin Altman, all in Chicago, and Andrew and Allison Dixon, both of Louisville; and his great-granddaughter, Avery Altman. Also surviving is his sister-in-law, Joan Miller (Nathan) of Indianapolis and numerous nieces, nephews and their children.

The graveside service and interment were held Dec. 23, 2020, in The Temple Cemetery.

Memorial Gifts are appreciated to:

- Barbara and Henry Altman Fund at the Community Foundation of Louisville, 325 W. Main Street, Suite 1110, Louisville KY 40202;
- The Temple Cemetery Beautification Fund, 5101 U. S. Highway 42, Louisville KY 40241.

Carolyn Kimmelfield Balleisen

Carolyn Kimmelfield Balleisen died in her home on Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, after battling a long illness. She was 90.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Carolyn graduated from Barnard College in 1950 with a degree in economics. She became one of the first women admitted to Columbia Law School, graduating in 1952.

Carolyn worked as a researcher on the American Law Institute's Tax Law Restatement Project, where she became a national expert on partnership taxation. She then joined the law firm of Lord, Day & Lord as an associate, where she worked on corporate tax

questions. She later wrote several articles on partnership taxation, taught law briefly at the University of Louisville after moving from New York in 1969, and, after an extended break from the profession, developed a taxation and estate practice at the Louisville law firm of Tilford, Dobbins, & Buckaway from the late 1980s through the early 2000s.

Carolyn had a strong commitment to public service. A Zionist and active member of Americans for Democratic Action, she participated in many non-profit organizations. In New York, these included the American Jewish Committee, the Citizens Housing Planning Council, which worked to expand affordable housing, Citizens Union, a good government organization, the League of Women Voters, and the American Bar Association's Committee on Partnerships.

In Louisville, Carolyn became active in several local and state organizations. Through the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, she worked on issues related to social services and school desegregation. She joined the inaugural board of the Kentucky Housing Corporation in 1972, working to redirect subsidized loans to low-cost housing projects.

During the 1970s and 1980s, her most significant community service focused on equitable access to childcare and preschool, through both Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C), and the creation of a Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) across the state.

A longtime board member of the Kentucky Dance Council, she served as president in 1978 and was instrumental in bringing Mikhail Barishnikov to perform at the Louisville Ballet. She also served for a time as chair of the Jefferson County Cable Television Commission, as a director of Louisville's Metro United Way and as a member of the Education Committee of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce.

Carolyn was predeceased by her first husband, Paul Tenen; her second husband, Donald H. Balleisen; and her daughter Wendy Balleisen Finger.

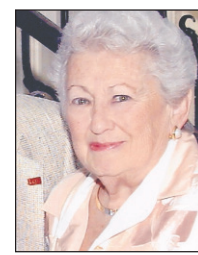
She is survived by her daughter Ellen Margaret Balleisen; Wendy's husband, Michael Finger; their daughter, Cassandra; her son, Edward James Balleisen (Karin Shapiro), and their sons, Zachary and Aaron.

For most of her adult life, Carolyn struggled with bipolar disorder. She also coped with a series of neurological disorders. Throughout, she retained a fierce mind, a strong sense of Jewish identity, a commitment to civic engagement and social justice, and a deep love of family.

A memorial service was held virtually on Dec. 6, 2020. The family asks that donations in her memory be made to Jewish Family and Career Services of Louisville (<https://jfcslouisville.org/donate/>) or 4-C (<https://www.4cforkids.org/about/donate/>).

Gladys Lowenthal Bass

Gladys Lowenthal Bass, 94, of Louisville and Boca Raton, Florida, passed away



Wednesday, Feb. 10, at her Louisville home surrounded by loving family.

She died from COVID-19 and "a broken heart," just eight weeks after her soulmate and husband of 74 years, Lewis "Sonny" Bass passed away, also from COVID.

Born on Aug. 31, 1926, in Lexington, Gladys attended Morton Middle School and Henry Clay High School, where she was a cheerleader. She could always be counted on to provide a helping hand at the family business, Lowenthal's, in downtown Lexington.

The youngest of eight, Gladys lost both of her parents soon after graduating high school. Her brothers and sisters remained close throughout their lives, relying on Gladys to plan annual family reunions.

After graduation, Gladys attended the University of Kentucky before meeting Sonny in Cincinnati while visiting her brother. It was love at first sight and they built a beautiful life together.

The matriarch of the Bass family, Gladys made life easy for Sonny and their three sons, effortlessly managing the household while encouraging Sonny in his many endeavors. They shared love from countless friends, the joys of traveling the world, the satisfaction of their shared generosity and the love of their three sons and their families.

When Sonny and his partners started Heritage House Nursing Homes in 1961,



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As the recent pandemic and economic crisis has shown, we all need a support system. For anyone who faces hard times, the Federation is there to ensure they have the resources to regain their footing when life takes a devastating turn. As COVID-19 changed our world, the Federation didn't just continue our work. We evolved, innovated and found even more ways to provide support, which we will incorporate into our work, after this crisis has passed.

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the predecessor of Humana, Gladys mopped floors, vacuumed or worked the front desk to help get their first nursing home open.

The ultimate hostess, Gladys loved entertaining. The Bass home in Rolling Fields always was a hub of activity, with Gladys perfectly executing swim parties, themed dinners and wonderful family reunions.

Gladys and Sonny were huge University of Louisville fans and supporters. They enjoyed many tournament trips and loved hosting parties for players and coaches.

They also were generous supporters of the Louisville community and UofL, providing seed money for the Bass-Rudd Tennis Center and the Gladys and Lewis "Sonny" Bass Family Scholar House, both on UofL's campus. Gladys also actively supported the Bass Family Foundation.

She was a member of Standard Country Club, Cardinal Golf Club, The Jewish Community Center and Boca Tecca Country Club in Boca Raton. Gladys was a member of The Temple and Congregation Adath Jeshurun, and she belonged to the Wall Street Women Investment Group.

Though Gladys loved her family foremost, her friends also knew how much they were loved. Her loving spirit, beautiful smile and unending patience blessed this world for 94 years and all who knew her are better for it.

Gladys is survived by her sons, Mitchel (Delores) of Parkland, Florida, Ned and Steve (Terri) of Louisville.

She also is survived by her nine grandchildren: Richard (Stacy) of Miami, Nikki (David Walker) of Raleigh, North Carolina; Jodie, Dr. Heather Bass Zamanian (Kaveh), Anna Bass-Wilson (Cara), Joel Richardson (Sherry), and Ben, all of Louisville; Elle Woodruff (Suzy) of San Diego and Jason Gunoe (Dawn) of Canal Winchester, Ohio.

Also cherishing her memory are her four great-grandchildren: Henri, Lily and Bella Zamanian of Louisville and Remmi Spinks of Chicago; her niece and nephew, Sarah Liebman and Michael Lowenthal, both of Frankfort; her nephew, Stuart Lowenthal (Donna) of Lexington; and a cousin, Barbra Katz of Santa Barbara, California.

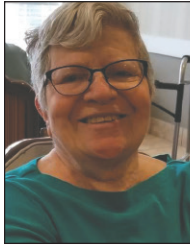
In addition to Sonny, Gladys was preceded in death by her parents, Manual and Sarah Lowenthal; her two sisters, Lillian Epstein and Selma Liebman; and her five brothers, Herschel, William, Sanford, Sidney and Joe Lowenthal; and her grandson, Elliott Joseph Bass.

Special thanks to Michelle and Larry Smith who were wonderful caregivers and friends; All the 24/7 caregivers with Ellen Joffe at JB Medical Consultants, all who pampered Gladys in her final days; and to her amazing personal physician, Dr. Carmel Person. Likewise, thanks to Drs. Gary Fuchs, Britt Brockman and Ted Steinbock.

Instead of flowers, Gladys requested donations to the Gladys and Lewis "Sonny" Bass Family Scholar House (familyscholarhouse.org), CASA (casariverregion.org), Maryhurst (maryhurst.org), Gilda's Club of Louisville (gck.org), The LGBT Center at University of Louisville (louisville.edu/lgbt), or the charity of your choice. Burial was private. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. made the arrangements.

Marcia Rae Applebaum Isaacs

Marcia Rae Applebaum Isaacs, 77,



formerly of Louisville died Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, in Cedar Park, Texas.

Born Marcia Bailen on March 21, 1943 in Louisville, Marcia attended Atherton High School and became part of the first

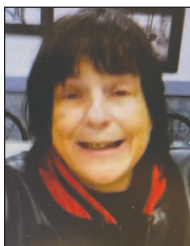
group of Key Punch Operators for the City of Louisville.

Later, she provided childcare in her home and through the Ganon program at the Jewish Community Center, where she was a member. She also belonged to Temple Shalom.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alex and Bertha Stengler Bailen; her first husband, Norman Applebaum; and her second husband, Sheldon Isaacs.

Marcia is survived by her son, Stephen Applebaum, and her daughter, Michelle Stevens (Matt); brothers, Edwin "Jerry" Bailen (Irene Beattie) and Ivan Bailen; grandchildren, Alec Suell, Jacob Suell (Hannah), Kane Stevens, Gabe Applebaum and Madison Phieler; her nephew, Ben Bailen; her great-granddaughter, Natalie Stevens, and The Bailen, Isaacs and Applebaum families.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 4, at Cave Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Temple Shalom Building Maintenance Fund, 4615 Lowe Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40220 (<https://templeshalomky.org/donate/>)



Melinda J. Kaplan

Melinda J. Kaplan, a lifelong Louisvillian, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021. She was 60.

Born Dec. 25, 1960, a daughter of the late Rita and David Kaplan, Melinda was a Seneca

High School Graduate, class of 1978, and a graduate of Bellarmine University with a degree in accounting.

During the day, her in-depth understanding and love of numbers filled her day as a legal assistant and accountant. Her artistic side was filled with creativity, planning parties and spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her brother, Lawrence "Larry" Kaplan; her aunts, Mildred Stern, Sylvia Plasner and Toby Horvitz; her cousins, Michael Horvitz (Haviva Kushner Horvitz), Myrle Davis, Sheri Horvitz, Deborah Horvitz, Lisa Plasner; and many other family members and friends.

Melinda's funeral service was held at Keneseth Israel Cemetery on Jan. 13. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. handled arrangements. Donations in memory of Melinda are appreciated to Congregation Anshei Sfard, 3700 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 42005



Nelya Khaskina

Nelya Khaskina, died Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, in Louisville. She was 80.

Born in Russia on Aug. 25, 1940, she was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Her Husband Boris Khaskin preceded her in death.

Nelya never failed to radiate positive energy. When she smiled, the world felt at ease, and the pain of everyone around her seemed to vanish. Nelya always put others before her and never wished for anything in return.

She loved her daughter and grandchildren more than anything in the world and wanted nothing other than for them to be happy, healthy and never hungry. She was the family's greatest gift – a beacon of joy, a source of inspiration, and a well of everlasting, unconditional love. May her memory forever be a blessing. She is at peace now and will never be forgotten.

Nelya is survived by her daughter, Yelena (Alexander Ioffe); and her grandsons, Michael and Jacob.

Funeral services were private.



Roberta "Bobbie" Fell Kletter

Roberta "Bobbie" Fell Kletter, 87, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, at Sunrise Senior Living in Louisville.

Born and raised in Bloomington, Indiana, by her parents, the late Rose and Irving Fell, she attended University High School, where she was Homecoming Queen in 1950 and graduated in 1951.

In 1952, Bobbie met Harry Kletter, now deceased, a businessman from Louisville who proposed to her at the Kentucky Derby. They married on Aug. 9, 1953, in Bloomington.

Family and friends were everything

to Bobbie. She and Harry had four children, whom they raised in Seneca Park. She especially enjoyed going out with her lunch bunch.

Bobbie was involved in helping Harry develop and operate business ventures over the years, including Industrial Services of America.

She attended Indiana University and later graduated from the University of Louisville in 1980 with a degree in physical education.

Bobbie loved swimming, tennis and racquetball. She bowled in leagues, played mahjong and bridge.

Bobbie loved to fly. She earned her private pilot's license, belonged to the Ninety-Nines women's flying organization for years and was president of the Louisville chapter. She also belonged to B'nai B'rith Women and Hadassah.

Bobbie loved going to the Kentucky Derby and other horse races.

She and Harry were avid travelers for business and pleasure. They enjoyed the beaches, scuba diving, Las Vegas, Europe and taking her children and grandchildren on trips and cruises.

Besides her parents and husband, Bobbie was preceded in death by her sister, Eleanor Fell.

She is survived by her brother, Arthur Fell (Teri); her children, Debbie Kletter Montz (Art), Alisa Kletter Pipkin (EJ), Ron Kletter, Tina Kletter List (Ed); her grandchildren, Eric and Adam Montz, Carter, Meredith, and Tyler Pipkin, Alexis List; her niece, Mia Fell Diercks; and her nephews, Scott Caulfield and Matt Kletter.

Continued on page 18

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LOUISVILLE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

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STACY MARKS NISENBAUM FUND

In memory of Susan Marks

Marcia & Donald Gordon

BETTY AND IRVIN ZEGART FUND

In memory of Murray Toborowsky

Patty & Marvin Coan



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A private graveside service in Valhalla Memory Gardens, Bloomington, Indiana.

The family thanks Bobbie's caregivers, staff and friends at Sunrise Senior Living for all their care and compassion.

Donations can be made in memory of Bobbie to the JCC of Louisville 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40205 or the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

Murrel Kohn

Murrel Kohn, 83, died Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

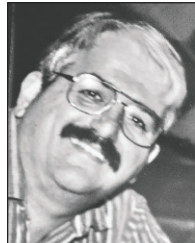
Formerly of Louisville, Murrel attended Atherton High School and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business.

He was a CPA in Louisville and Tel Aviv, where he made his home for the last 50 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Abe Kohn.

Murrel is survived by his wife, Irit Kohn; his daughters, Yael and Maya; his son, Danny; four grandchildren; and his sister, Susan Kohn Goldberg of Indianapolis.

The funeral service and the interment were held in Tel Aviv on Feb. 14. Donations may be made to the donor's favorite charity.



Stephen "Steve" A. Koloms

Stephen "Steve" A. Koloms, 77, died peacefully Thursday, Dec. 9, 2020, in Louisville. He'll be remembered as a congenial, lifelong tinkerer with a sly sense of humor.

Steve is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Karen Harlan Koloms; his daughter, Malka Hayman (Daniel) of Los Angeles; his son, Benjamin Koloms of Bangor, Maine; and his stepsons, Michael Harlan (Elaine), Jimmy and John (Gina) Harlan.

His extended family include his grandchildren: Illiana Oginskis of Miami; Joshua and Gabe Oginskis of Los Angeles; and six Harlan family step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren.

Steve was predeceased by his parents, Ruth and Robert Koloms and his brother Jerome Koloms.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 16, 2020, and were livestreamed via Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial was

in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff.



Susan Carol Marks

Susan Carol Marks (nee Hechtman) passed away in her home in Boynton Beach, Florida, on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, after a courageous 37-year battle with Parkinson's Disease and other complications, including COVID-19. She was 79.

Born and raised in the Bronx, New York, Susan attended the Performing Arts High School and Taft High School, graduating in 1959. She then moved to Louisville, with her family, where she enrolled at the University of Louisville, where she helped start her sorority and eventually earned a teaching degree.

After graduation, Susan became a Jefferson County elementary school teacher. Sharing the gift of learning with her students became her most meaningful achievement.

In 1984, she became a state finalist of the "Teacher in Space" project and dreamed of being the first civilian educator to fly into space.

After retiring from teaching due to her Parkinson's diagnosis, Susan began volunteering for the American Parkinson's Disease Association of South Florida in 1996, serving for more than a decade.

In 1995, Susan and her husband, Buddy, moved to Parkland, Florida, and, soon after, to Boynton Beach. She loved to host parties, lay by the pool, decorate her home and spend time with her grandchildren, which brought her the greatest joy.

Susan loved a fun night out, dancing with her friends with a glass of white Zinfandel (with ice) in hand. You would often see her dancing away behind Buddy as he played the piano.

She was also known as a connoisseur of fashion, always dressing "to the nines" in her finest jewelry and memorable outfits.

Susan's spirit is carried on by her husband of 57 years, Buddy; her sister, Judi; her son, Rodney (Julie); her daughter, Melanie (Ken); and her grandchildren, Sabrina, Sophie, Sydney and Ryan.

It was in Susan's soul to dance, which she did as long as she was physically able in a weekly Boca Ballet Parkinson's dance class called BBT4PD. Donations

to this nonprofit organization in Susan's honor are appreciated. The address is: Boca Ballet, 7630 NW 6th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33487 (BBT4PD/Susan Marks in the note section).

A bright and loving spirit, Susan's memory will live on in everyone's hearts and minds. We know that she is likely dressed in one of her fashionable red dresses, dancing away to her favorite songs.

Virtual funeral services were held on Jan. 27. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. made the arrangements.

David M. Nitishin



David M. Nitishin, 55, of Dallas, Texas, and a longtime resident of Louisville, passed away surrounded by his family, on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021.

A loving father and grandfather, David enjoyed spending quality time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed cooking and playing with his dogs, Bella and Rocky, and was devoted to his Jewish faith.

David is survived by his wife, Donna Nitishin; and their five children, Lauren Risen (Zach), Lindsay Ratterman (Josh), Hannah Burnett (Ricky), Julia, and PFC Jonathan; his beloved granddaughters, Hazel Risen, Genevieve Burnett, and Amelia Ratterman; his brothers, Arnold (Michele) and Jeff; his lifelong friends, David Goldstein, Jeff Rose, Barry Aaron, Isaac Russo; and many more close friends and family.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Morton and Maxine Nitishin.

David was laid to rest at Agudath Achim Cemetery in Louisville. Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. In lieu of flowers, donations to Congregation Adath Jeshurun "in Memory of David Nitishin" (www.adathjeshurun.com/Donate) are appreciated.

Rosalene Pressburger

Rosalene Pressburger, 101, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2020, in Dallas, Texas.

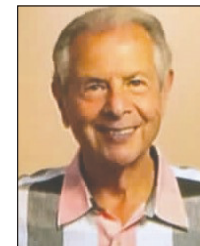
Born Oct. 26, 1919, in Louisville, a daughter of the late Dora and Israel Goldberg, she was predeceased by her husband, Alfred; her two sisters, Jeanette Roseneck and Gertrude Cohen; her brother, Hyman Goldberg and her parents.

Rosalene is survived by her daughter, Dr. Karen Kosowsky (Larry) of Dallas,

and her son, Maury Pressburger (Tina) of Skokie, Illinois; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020 at in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

Rosalene's family appreciates donations to Chai Lifeline, a children's health support network helping families of children with life-threatening and lifelong illnesses: Chai Lifeline, 151 West 30th Street, New York, NY 10001



Murray Toborowsky

Murray Toborowsky, 80, died unexpectedly on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020.

Born Oct. 20, 1940, in Perth Amboy, N.J. a son of the late Julie Sher and David Toborowsky, Murray graduated from the

University of Kentucky, then returned to New Jersey to teach history in a school district there. But he returned Louisville, where he met his future wife, Bonnie Zegart Stoler.

He was retired from Bill Collins Ford and a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, of which he was a current board member and remembered as the "Cemetery Warden," a position he held for many years.

His passion for history and teaching included lectures on "Jews in American History" at Rollins College. He also presented on Abraham Lincoln and his Jewish friends, acquaintances and how these connections may have influenced the direction of American history.

Murray always had a smile on his face, loved life and was loved by everyone.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Larry Toborowsky.

Murray is survived by his loving wife Bonnie; his beloved children Leigh Toborowsky (Beata), David Toborowsky (Annie) and Nancy Grzesik (Art); two sisters, Beryl Wild (Frank) and Soni Capolupo (Joe); seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He also is missed by his stepchildren, Dr. Robert Stoler (Andrea), Kevin (Stephanie) Stoler, and Kimberly Schiller (Ron).

A private graveside for immediate family was held. Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.

Memorial gifts may be made to Betty and Irvin Zegart Senior Adult Fund at the Jewish Community Center, 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205



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NEWS

FOREMAN

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the better part of a decade, he fought just a handful of times.

That's where Louisville comes in.

The fighting rabbi is making a comeback. In his first bout in nearly four years, Foreman, now 40, defeated Jeremy Ramos on Dec. 5, 2020, in an eight-round decision at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage.

He is slated for another fight at the same venue on March 6 against Jimmy Williams, a younger, taller opponent with a longer reach.

If he gets past Williams, he may get another shot at the title.

Why is he doing this?

"I'm having my second wind at 40," Foreman said. "Boxing is something I fell in love with as a kid. Hashem gave me a drive. Hashem gave me mental strength. He gave me quite a few gifts in that sport, in that field."

He sees his journey as a source of inspiration for others. "I'm not trying to convince people they should box, but when you are mentally and physically aligned and you have in front of you a worthy goal, anything is possible."

Foreman's wife and manager, Shoshana Foreman, said her husband's



Rabbi Yuri Foreman

quest for a second title is his way to eventually walk away from the sport without regrets.

"If he doesn't [try], there's going to be a void, an eternal what-if," Shoshana said.

She is not concerned about Foreman's

Want to go?

The Foreman-Williams fight will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage. Visit <https://bit.ly/3rTzU37> for tickets. A meet and greet with Foreman for ticket holders will be held at 3 p.m., March 5, at the Peerless Distillery.

age. In fact, at this stage in his development, it might be an advantage.

"Really, we've cleared out all the toxicity," she said. "He's grown so much spiritually and personally, and with that wisdom, his age works in his favor."

Judaism informs the way Foreman trains, how he fights, even how he talks about fighting. For instance, unlike Louisville native Mohammad Ali, he doesn't boast before bouts.

"God willing, I'll beat Jimmy Williams," he said.

He doesn't see anything unusual about a rabbi in the ring. If anything, he says it's consistent with the history of the faith.

"I'm always trying to remind people, especially the Jewish people, that we are a nation of not just the priests, but we are also a nation of warriors," Foreman said. "Our whole history is compiled with a lot of the greatest warriors, starting with

King David.

Even Abraham fought, Foreman added. "[He] was not a stranger to the sword."

Strength is a necessary life component for Jews, Foreman said, something he learned firsthand when his family arrived in Israel from the former Soviet Union. He found it hard to find a gym, so he began training at one in Kfar Yasif, a predominantly Arab neighborhood.

At first, "they wanted to take my head off in sparring sessions," Foreman recalled, "but they saw I can fight, and when I fight back, you respect that person."

Eventually, he and his sparring partners became supportive of one another, understanding that they all wanted the same thing: to be a champion.

He equated what happened in that gym to what can happen with a future peace treaty.

"We supported each other," Foreman said. "There were no differences suddenly, just a little difference in the mirror, darker [skin], lighter, that's it."

"The same can happen with living in peace. Let's not talk about religions; let's not talk about what Torah says, what Koran says, what the New Testament says. Let's just think about how we can live harmoniously."

SLOSBERG

Continued from page 1

Melton in good company. Last year, the Florence Melton Award went to the Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan. Other past winners were the Meltons at Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles; Cape Town, South Africa; and MetroWest, New Jersey.

In fact, Rabbi Rachel Bovitz, executive director of Melton, said the program Slosberg runs typically exceeds the offerings of Melton schools – they're called "communities" – much larger than Louisville's.

"Under Deborah's leadership, It's just been thriving in terms of the number of classes it offers, the faculty she's built up and the number of classes she offers per year," Bovitz said.

This year, Louisville Melton has more than 100 students enrolled, filling 12 different classes taught by an eight-member faculty, including Slosberg.

Interestingly, enrollment has not suffered because of the coronavirus

pandemic.

"It's actually gone up this year," Slosberg said. "People are at home and everything is on Zoom. People can take more courses because it's just easier to stay in your pajamas, put on a top and Zoom in."

Even students from other countries are taking the Louisville courses, which are advertised on the Melton website.

Which is why Slosberg believes the Melton program is permanently changed by the coronavirus. "There are things that have come out of the pandemic that I don't think will go away."

Louisville Melton has come a long way since Slosberg took it over eight years ago, when it was virtually non-existent.

She had taught at Eliahu Academy for 10 years – a job for which she was recruited by its principal, Barbara Nefouse. When the school closed, she tutored privately for a while before becoming AJ's adult education coordinator.

In 2013, Slosberg's husband, Rabbi Robert Slosberg, agreed to bring the dormant Melton – a community

program – under AJ's roof to revive it.

"Gradually, Melton took on more and more of my time," Slosberg said, and in the past few years it's just been full-time Melton."

Today, the program not only offers Melton's core curriculum, plus electives in Jewish literature and culture, but offerings Louisville Melton develops itself. Rabbi Laura Metzger takes charge of that project.

It also joins in Melton travel experiences to Israel and other parts of the world.

Louisville Melton recently hired an administrative assistant, Bridget Bard, to handle the community's growing technical end.

Slosberg sees the Louisville Melton as more than a way for adults to brush up on their Jewish literacy. She says it is a gateway to the entire Jewish community.

For example, many of her students were disassociated from organized Jewish life. "Because of Melton, [they] started becoming interested in the synagogue and in other Jewish communal organizations."

Other students (and this year, two

instructors) are not Jewish.

"It builds community," Slosberg said of Melton. "It builds relationships with the people in the class, which extend to relationships outside of the class, and gets people involved. It brings people to the Jewish community."

Founded in 1986 with an endowment from the Florence Melton Institute, Melton is considered the largest pluralistic adult Jewish education network in the world, with 50 communities and offices in Jerusalem, Chicago and New York City.

Globally, Melton educates about 4,000 students per year, Bovitz said. Most of its communities are in North America, South Africa and Australia, though thanks to the Internet, students everywhere are now taking advantage of it.

One reason for Melton's success in Louisville, Bovitz believes, is Slosberg's success in building relationships with her students.

"She's always picking up the phone and checking on them in case they don't make it to class, Bovitz said. "It's really a labor of love."

HAAS

Continued from page 1

She doesn't know why she chose Shira, which means song in Hebrew, but the performer, who has sung in some of her roles, thinks it was more than just chance.

"I think there are no coincidences," she said.

Asia is about a single mother, Asia, and her sick daughter, Vika (Haas' role), Israeli immigrants from Russia. As Vika's condition worsens and her desire to live a more normal life takes hold, the mother-daughter relationship, distant at first, begins to change.

Making this movie was an emotional

experience, Haas said. The "hard core" final scene was done on a closed set without rehearsal – because it couldn't be rehearsed. She and her co-star, Alena Yiv, who played Asia, left the set drained.

Then there was a "hard and beautiful scene" in which her character tries to commit suicide, and is stopped in time by her mother, that was cut. Haas said she and her co-star, Liv, were committed to that scene, so she was "devastated" to learn that it had been taken out because it conflicted with the direction of the film.

Haas said she came to agree with that decision. At the time, though, "it broke my heart that they took it away."

Like her other pictures, Haas prepared for the role meticulously. She always

studies her scripts reverently. In this case, though, she also met with physicians and patients living with the same disease as Vika's. (She said it was ALS, though the film never names it.)

She learned as much as possible about living with the disease before performing. "I was so, so ready for it that on the day on set, I knew exactly where I was in each scene."

For a 25-year-old actress, Haas has already lined up some impressive credits. In addition to *Unorthodox* and *Asia*, she appeared in *A Tale of Love and Darkness* (2015), which was Natalie Portman's directorial debut; she co-starred with Jessica Chastain in *The Zookeeper's Wife* (2017) and with Harvey Keitel in the biblical drama *Esau* (2019).

She's also a cast member of *Shtisel*, which is in its third season on Netflix.

She said the characters she plays bear little resemblance to her in real life, which is part of their attraction.

Another attraction is the languages and dialects she must master for these films. For instance, she had to become familiar with Yiddish (and German) for her role in *Unorthodox* and speak with a Polish dialect in *The Zookeeper's Wife*.

That one detail is indicative of the preparation the actress commits to each role.

"There's a lot to learn from language," Haas said, "and I want to learn as much as possible."



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