

# JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



HAPPY

Passover



FRIDAY Vol. 47, No. 2 | March 26, 2021 | 13 Nisan 5781

## Trager Family JCC Capital Campaign passes fundraising 'milestone,' names new JCC for donor

The Capital Campaign has reached two significant achievements for the new Jewish Community Center (JCC) as its spring 2022 opening date draws closer.

The state-of-the-art facility will be named the Trager Family JCC, honoring the family that made the first major significant pledge to the campaign.

And second, the transformational project has surpassed the \$42.5 million fundraising "milestone" needed to construct a modern JCC for Louisville, thanks to the Trager family's decision to double their initial pledge from \$1.5 million to \$3 million.

The Jewish Community Center and Jewish Federation of Louisville made the announcement of the new name on Monday, March 8, during a special pre-recorded ceremony that included a music composition by Harry Pickens, commissioned for the occasion.

The announcement came days after construction workers "topped off" the still-under-construction JCC, placing a small evergreen tree on its roof – a tradition marking completion of the steel superstructure.

"This campaign has just been amazing," said Dr. Ralph Green, chair of the Jewish Community of Louisville (JCL) board of directors. "We set out on this goal years ago thinking we that we could raise this amount of money, but we were truly blown away by how quickly and passionately the Trager family, our com-



From left to right: Helene Trager-Kusman, Andrew Trager-Kusman, Michael Trager-Kusman, Erin Trager-Kusman, Brett Trager, Shelley Trager, Jean Trager, Steve Trager, Amy Trager, Emily Brantley, Kevin Trager, Andy Trager, Landon Brantley

munity, JHFE and many granting organizations came forward to contribute."

The Trager family pledge is one of over 500 gifts from donors across the com-

munity who have already given during the campaign's quiet and public phases

See **TRAGER** on page 19

## KI leaders propose interfaith gathering as means for healing following tragic fire

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Three days after the fire that gutted the old Keneseth Israel synagogue at the corner of Floyd and Jacob, Jerry Abramson visited the site.

He walked around the building, surveying the damage to the place where he became a bar mitzvah and led the junior congregation.

He was saddened by what he saw. The fire had ripped through the roof, and the entire historic structure was in a weakened condition.

"It would take a great deal of money and great deal of passion for someone to bring this building to a new life," the former Louisville mayor said, "whatever it may be."

Firefighters labored for hours that Saturday night, March 13, to bring the blaze under control. The cause is still undetermined, but no one was injured.

Now, KI members who recall when the old synagogue pulsed with Jewish life, are looking for a way to channel their feelings about the disaster.

Cantor Sharon Hordes, and Max Green, who attended the synagogue as a boy, think they have one: a vigil or gathering outside the building by members of KI and of the Greater New Hope Community Church, which worshipped there for many years.

"I would love to do some kind of interfaith service with the folks at New Hope," Hordes said. "When I heard their pastor speak on the news, it occurred to me that both communities are mourning the loss of a holy space, where we prayed and celebrated and mourned our losses."

Greater New Hope Pastor Mario Martin could not be reached for comment.

Green said a coming together of the two faith communities in the aftermath of the fire could bring some peace and may even inspire some way to save the building.

"It's going to take a miracle to save it," he said, "but miracles happen."

Hordes would like to "build a relationship" with Greater New Hope, one in which members of both faith communities could share stories and experiences from their time in the building.

"I'm sure there's so much that overlaps," she said. "Someone could say 'I remember my son's bris that happened there,' and someone else could say 'I re-

See **Fire** on page 19

## Pickens' music celebrates future JCC

When the Jewish Community of Louisville commissioned pianist and composer Harry Pickens to write a piece celebrating the new Jewish Community Center, that's exactly what they got: a celebration.

Pickens debuted the five-minute celebratory composition, which he titled – of course – *Celebration*, during a pre-recorded program on March 8 announcing that the new facility would be named the Trager Family JCC and that the Capital Campaign had hit its \$42.5 million milestone.

"When they requested it, they wanted something that would celebrate this new

beginning," said Pickens, 61.

The composition is divided into four parts: "Celebration" (first and last movements), lament, ecstatic prayer and the blues.

"Lament," which includes Eastern Eu-

See **PICKENS** on page 19

**Harry Pickens performs "Celebration" during a recording session at the Second Presbyterian Church on Brownsboro Road. The Jewish Community Center commissioned the piece to celebrate its dual announcements that the future JCC would be named for the Trager family and that the Capital Campaign had surpassed the \$42.5 million "milestone." (photo by Light Forge Productions)**



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# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### Modern-day plagues almost behind us



D'var Torah

Rabbi  
David Feder

The seasons have turned. The cold and ice of winter have given way to warmth and showers of spring, and with it our festival of spring, *Chag HaAviv*, Pesach.

Last Pesach was the first major holiday that we celebrated while socially distant. We embraced the challenge, reducing rather than multiplying recipes and finding creative ways to share time together over laptops, tablets and phones – all in the hope that this year we would celebrate together, *in person*.

Most of us expected that the major restrictions would be measured in weeks or perhaps a few months. Almost no one foresaw that one year later, our activities would still be constrained.

The novelty of connecting virtually has long since worn off. We feel COVID fatigue as we continue to socially distance from friends and family, avoid in-person gatherings, wear masks and stay on guard for the safety and welfare of ourselves and others.

While time might flow like a river, it feels as if we are merely treading water, awaiting the restoration of life as we knew it.

Through Pesach, we experience the passage of cyclical and linear time. Every year, we witness the rebirth of nature at springtime and prepare for the harvest of early grains. We mark the passage of time. We reflect upon our experience in Egyptian bondage – and our redemption from it – and other occurrences of persecution and suffering followed by liberation, all leading to the ultimate liberation when we overcome what divides us, making real the visions of our prophets.

Through the pandemic, we have experienced our own plague this year. Its

influence has been as oppressive as Pharaoh's or any tyrant in history who has risen against us. And like those instances in our past, we will overcome this difficulty.

We have seen and felt other oppressive forces – man-made plagues, if you will – this past year, struggling with our national history of racism and bigotry, inequities in policing and the level of hate crimes against Asian Americans. We have seen the normally peaceful transfer of power from one party to another turn violent with the threat of sedition and the attempted overthrow of our government.

We have suffered from the coronavirus or known those who were afflicted and still feel its effects. We have seen the economic impact of the virus through shuttered shops and restaurants, friends and neighbors out of jobs and others whose work lives have been disrupted.

These negative experiences could have diminished our desire to celebrate Pesach. Why not just continue to tread water and wait for next year – the post-COVID era? Because we remember *yetziat Mitzrayim*, coming out of Egypt, which our sages tell us can also be read as coming out of narrow and constricting places. After this past year, we certainly know that feeling.

During hard times, we have always added to our story and augmented our rituals. We will do the same now, adding these new experiences to our story; we owe it to our future. We see a new era on the horizon and the beginning of the end of these plagues.

Hope, like spring, is breaking through this long, cold winter as the first buds of new life emerge. That hope for better days to come links us to the future. The Four Questions, the Passover story and the hunt for the *afikoman* not only connect us to our memories – what we see as normal – they serve notice that we have survived a difficult trail and continue our journey. May it be a journey that takes us into a future filled with light and hope.

## Snapshot



A crowd gathers in front of the then-new Keneseth Israel synagogue, 232 E. Jacob St., 1929. The building, constructed with brick and limestone, with twin Corinthian columns, and menorahs and a tablet carved into the front, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. (photo courtesy of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Louisville)

## Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in April:

- April 2 @ 7:49 p.m.
- April 9 @ 7:56 p.m.
- April 16 @ 8:03 p.m.
- April 23 @ 8:09 p.m.
- April 30 @ 8:16 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](mailto:lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org). You can also call Lee at 502-238-2783.

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

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

Got an item for the *Community* eblast? Send it to [weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org).

## Deadlines

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Got a news item for *Community*? Send it in by Wednesday, April 21 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox

by Friday, April 30.

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

## Online

We have you covered, Louisville – online. *Community* stories are posted regularly at [jewishlouisville.org/community](http://jewishlouisville.org/community). That also is where you can find breaking news ahead of our print deadline.

Maybe you like the look of a real paper without the, er ...paper. Then check out Digital *Community* at [jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version](http://jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version).

If you read on the run, *Community's* social media is just the thing. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/JewishLouisville](https://www.facebook.com/JewishLouisville) or on Twitter, @**CommunityLou**, for the latest Jewish news from Kentucky and around the world.

## Corrections/Clarifications

Have a correction? Send it to [lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org)

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The Topping Off Ceremony – The last beam was placed in the superstructure in February.



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**[JEWISHLouisville.org/JCC-CAPITAL-CAMPAIGN](http://JEWISHLouisville.org/JCC-CAPITAL-CAMPAIGN)**  
Or contact Stacy Gordon-Funk, Senior Vice President of Philanthropy & Chief Development Officer, [sgordon-funk@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:sgordon-funk@jewishlouisville.org)

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## NEWS

## Jewish investors purchase control of Ohio Valley Wrestling – oh, it's on!

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

You'll never see them in the ring, sporting spandex trunks, circling each other amid the din of the screaming crowd's demands for action, looking for an opening to grapple, one locking the other's neck in a half nelson.

But with their recent purchase of Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW), Craig Greenberg and Jeffrey Tuvlin have proven to be a pretty good tag team – and a Jewish one, too.

Greenberg, Tuvlin and two other partners have acquired a majority interest in the Louisville-based sports and entertainment company. They plan significant investments, including an upgraded television contract, new production equipment and an enhanced website.

They are looking for a new venue with more seating and concessions. OVW shows are currently staged at the Davis Arena on Shepherdsville Road.

For Greenberg and Tuvlin, who happen to be brothers-in-law, owning their own wrestling company is a chance to do something fun together, perhaps even make a dream come true. And this company has trained some of the best athletes in the business.

"Louisville has a very strong history with professional wrestling," Greenberg said. "Every Tuesday night, there used to be shows at the Louisville Gardens.... My dad used to take me there and I always really enjoyed that. I've just always been fascinated by the characters, the story and the spectacle."

Established in 1993, OVW has 32

professional wrestlers on its roster – men and women – putting on live, televised shows all year round. It even has a state-licensed trade school for professional wrestlers.

Many of the OVW wrestlers have fought under some flamboyant ring names. Luscious Lawrence, Jessie Godderz (Mr. PEC-Tacular), and Reverend Ronnie Roberts are among the more memorable monikers. (No rabbis just yet.)

Most of the OVW wrestlers live in Louisville, but some travel from St. Louis and Cincinnati, partly because the shows are televised (not all wrestling programs are) and because Al Snow, a retired wrestler and reality TV star, is in charge of day-to-day operations and the academy.

"He's the best in the business," Greenberg said.

For some time, OVW was affiliated with the WWE Network, the major league of professional wrestling. Wrestlers came to Louisville hoping to be called up to the WWE, becoming household names in the sport. (Yes, it is a sport.)

But Tuvlin, a gastroenterologist at Baptist Health, who used to write and direct plays in college, appreciates the entertainment side of wrestling.

"The thing that gets me motivated is to see these individuals following their dream and really going for it," Tuvlin said. "I took the route of going to medical school and being a [medical] professional, that type of work, and leaving the creative side of me behind. This is a great way for me to have that



Jeffrey Tuvlin (left) and Craig Greenberg say their investment group plans improvements for Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW photo)

ring any time soon," he said of himself and his brother-in-law, "though we would make a fantastic tag team."

Though COVID has sidelined many OVW events, shows are still held every Tuesday night, though not at full capacity. Once the pandemic passes, Greenberg and Tuvlin plan to resume road shows as well.

In case you think there is no Jewish angle to professional wrestling, think again. Several of the top names in the sport, in and out of the ring, were Jewish, including Bill Goldberg (known to some as "Goldberg the Wrestler"); Sam Muchnick, a founder of the National Wrestling Alliance and head of the St. Louis Wrestling Club; Paul Heyman, who wrestled under the ring name "Paul E. Dangerously" and went on to become a manager and promoter of the sport; and Melissa Ann Hiat ("Missy Hyatt"), a "valet" – the girlfriend character who sometimes accompanies the wrestler to the ring and gets into the act herself. Hiat also wrestled, proving that Jewish ladies can also mix it up.

That's just to name a few.

Even some Israelis are getting in the act, like Leeor Brook – AKA "The Chutzpah" – and Noam Dar.

Along with Greenberg and Tuvlin, Matt Jones of Louisville and Andrew "Hubby" Jefferson of Lexington round out the investors group.

Professional wrestling is so popular that it might make a great Jewish community fundraiser. At least, Greenberg thinks so.

"Jeff and I would love to cohost that event," he said.

outlet."

In fact, he said wrestling is a secret pleasure many Louisvillians enjoy.

"People don't talk about how much they love this until they have a reason to talk about how much they love this," he said. "I can't get through my day without people wanting to talk to me about what is happening. It like rekindled something from them."

Greenberg, until last year the CEO of 21c Museum Hotels, knows that feeling. "Neither one of us plans to hop in the

## Foreman-Williams fight postponed after Foreman tests positive for COVID

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

In a stark reminder that the coronavirus pandemic is still taking its toll, the March 6 super welterweight title fight in Louisville between Rabbi Yuri Foreman and Jimmy Williams was postponed when Foreman rapid-tested positive for COVID.

The 40-year-old boxer, who fights under the Israeli flag, and his wife and manager, Shoshana, who later tested positive herself, have returned to their Brooklyn home, where they are quarantining.

Rapid tests, also known as point-of-care tests, don't require a lab and can be performed anywhere.

"We postponed the fight," Shoshana said. "We will recover and rebuild before we move forward, *baruch hashem*." The fight has been rescheduled for June 20 in Atlanta.

A former world super welterweight champion who lost his title in 2010, Foreman is attempting a comeback.

According to Shoshana, Foreman did a rapid test prior to the scheduled fight, which was positive. Shoshana's was negative, but both were exhibiting symptoms.

"Some people's DNA is resistant to the rapid test and it looks like mine is,"

Shoshana said.

(Both, however, later took PCR tests, which are typically analyzed in a lab. They were positive.)

The couple doesn't know how or where they contracted the disease.

"Yuri was fasting and dehydrated on the plane, which was a packed flight with zero social distancing," Shoshana said. "It usually takes two to 14 days to develop symptoms. Yuri's immune system was compromised, having cut water and calorie intake the day of the flight through the following afternoon. My symptoms lagged two days behind Yuri, which is strange because we are obviously together every day."

A native of Belarus, in the former Soviet Union, where he began boxing to ward off bullies, Foreman emigrated to Israel with his family and trained in an Arab gym.

Years later, when he moved to New York to train for a possible title fight, he became interested in religion, studied for the rabbinate and was ordained in 2014.

He won the World Boxing Association super welterweight title on Nov. 14, 2009,



Rabbi Yuri Foreman

defeating Daniel Santos in a unanimous 12-round decision in Las Vegas.

According to the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Foreman was the first Orthodox Jew to hold a world title in boxing since Barney Ross in 1935, but neither Foreman nor Shoshana could confirm that.

Months after winning the title, Foreman lost it to Miguel Cotto in a June 5, 2010, fight at Yankee Stadium, when he slipped and tore his ACL. He has fought

only a handful of times since.

The Louisville fight, sanctioned by the American Boxing Federation, was for an open national super welterweight title, not a world title.

Shoshana said her husband remains committed to his comeback.

"We will recover and when we get a clean bill of health from a doctor, Yuri will hit the gym and prepare to face Jimmy again."

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# NEWS

## Baker: Reforms stemming from Taylor shooting could prevent future tragedies

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Lonita Baker describes 2020 as Breonna Taylor's year, despite the forced entry into Taylor's apartment by Louisville Metro Police Department officers (LMPD) and the shootings that took her life.

Baker, a local attorney who represented Taylor's family in its legal action against the city, said reforms resulting from the case could prevent similar incidents from happening in the Derby City.

Interviewed on The Temple's March 7 livestream of *The Conversation* – nearly one year after the shooting – Baker described Taylor's death as part of a "trifecta" of tragedies, the other two being the deaths of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, that may have awakened the country to the need for police reform.

"As hard as it was to see ... what happened to George Floyd, that being on camera let people [say] 'OK, we have to stop; we have to change,'" Baker said. "Things aren't getting better and they're not going to get better if we don't truly work towards change. So I do think 2020 was Breonna's year, because she supported so much change, she's continuing to support change, and she's seeing all of the change in her name."

Taylor, 26, and her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, were sleeping at her apartment



Lonita Baker

Walker fired a warning shot; the police fired back several times. Six bullets hit Taylor, killing her instantly.

Baker filed the suit against Louisville, and the two sides agreed to a \$12 million settlement on Sept. 15.

In her *Conversation* interview with Temple member Angeline Golden – a retired attorney – Baker said the real prize of the settlement was not the money, but the police reforms to which the city agreed.

The reforms outlined in the settlement fell into three categories: community reforms, accountability reforms and reforms related to the no-knock warrants that led to Taylor's death.

Among the community-based reforms will be incentives for officers to live in the communities that they serve. Baker said many LMPD officers don't live in Jefferson County, which means they

must leave their cruisers just inside the jurisdiction before going home.

"If you ever get off any of the exits along Gene Snyder, you see a lot of police cars parked in Kroger parking lots, church parking lots because they can't take them out of the county," Baker said.

Also, she said officers will be allowed to take two hours of their pay time to volunteer in the community "to build the relations between the communities and the officers that are patrolling the neighborhood."

And the city will contract with social service programs to dispatch social workers to calls that require social work skills that are not part of police training.

"We didn't want to do anything that would put officers at more risk," Baker said. "It was more about what can officers do differently to protect our community, to build relationships with our community."

The accountability reforms are designed to create better systems for LMPD to identify problem officers before it's too late, including tracking officers fired for cause so they can't get hired at other police departments.

Baker worked with a police expert on the settlement, but she noted that Tamiaka Palmer, Taylor's mother, was deeply involved in the process. Palmer has also become an advocate for changes in po-

lice work.

Baker, a former prosecutor, public defender and government litigator, is optimistic that the reforms contained in the settlement will lead to long-term changes in policing here.

"I don't think that the City of Louisville wants to pay any other family \$12 million in a case," she said, "so I do think the City of Louisville is serious about the reform and change."

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### COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: April 21 for publication on April 30 and May 19 for publication on May 28.

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

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at [lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org).

To submit items to Newsmakers, Around Town or Lifecycle, please email them to [newspapercolumns@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:newspapercolumns@jewishlouisville.org).

### EDITORIAL STAFF

#### Lee Chottiner

Editor  
502-238-2783, [lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Larry Singer

Advertising Sales  
502-418-5845, [lsinger@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lsinger@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Robbyn S McClain

Senior Design & Content Manager  
502-238-2764, [rmccclain@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:rmccclain@jewishlouisville.org)

#### Shiela Steinman Wallace

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## FORUM



## Free speech: a Jewish value since Moses



### Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

American Jews owe a debt of gratitude to the First Amendment.

Arguably, no other amendment to the Constitution has kept us as safe in this country, nor has protected our rights, as much as the one that guarantees free speech.

That goes for all Americans, by the way. Yet those who have known discrimination, whose parents and grandparents fled lands where hatred and oppression were institutionalized, acutely understand how free speech has guaranteed our place in American society.

So, it was chilling to read that a bill criminalizing insults to police officers – criminalizing free speech – actually passed the Kentucky Senate this session and was sent to the House for consideration.

Senate Bill 211 was characterized by supporters as a protective measure for police following protests for racial justice in Louisville last summer. The bill failed to make it to the governor's desk – this time – but the progress it made in Frankfort should be taken as a warning to everyone.

“Many of these laws that are phrased as laws against riots are actually attempts to take away the right to protest,” said Rabbi Jill Jacobs, executive direc-

tor of Truah, a rabbinic human rights organization that has written about free speech issues, in an interview with *Community*.

The bill stated that anyone who, in a public place, “accosts, insults, taunts, or challenges a law enforcement officer with offensive or derisive words, or by gestures or other physical contact, that would have a direct tendency to provoke a violent response from the perspective of a reasonable and prudent person” is guilty of second-degree disorderly conduct.

It did not itemize what words or phrases would constitute taunts or insults.

Words do have consequences. (Libel or slander someone; you can be sued.) But the First Amendment should be carefully protected at least as much as the Second. And yet gun owners have brandished their weapons in the chambers of state legislatures without any penalty at all.

The First Amendment protects *all* Americans: Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, men and women, gay and straight, Black and white.

Jews, too.

Free speech has always been a Jewish value. The Torah is filled with passages about the Israelites complaining to Moses – loudly – about their plight in the desert.

Moses Ibn Ezra, the 11th century philosopher and poet, said, “When a person refrains from speech, the ideas die, the soul stops, and the senses deteriorate.”

In a 1927 free-speech case, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, a Louisville native, wrote, “Believing in the power of reason as applied through public

discussion, [the United States’ founders] eschewed silence.”

Jacobs recounted a story of three rabbis in Roman times, discussing what she described as “the ultimate evil empire.” One rabbi chose to praise Rome; the second remained silent, but the third, Shimon bar Yochai, criticized Roman institutions as wicked.

His words reached the Roman governor, who sentenced bar Yochai to death, forcing him to flee to a cavern for 13 years. Yet he is celebrated in Jewish history for his courage.

“We have a lot of instances in Jewish texts, Jewish history, of standing up to authority, standing up for what’s right,” Jacobs said.

But what if that speech moves from discussion to insults?

“Free speech includes speech that’s not nice, that you don’t like, that is rude sometimes; a lot is included in free speech,” Jacobs said. “I’d love to have a world where nobody insults anybody, but that’s ultimately going to have major implications for free speech.”

Still, Judaism has much to say about how people speak to each other – what is called *tochecha*, or rebuke.

“There’s values around giving rebuke,” Jacobs said, “giving it, not holding it back, and also giving it in ways that people are able to receive and that will help them do better the next time.”

Not that people should be rude to each other, she said, “but what’s most important is to be fighting for the world we want to create, and standing up for what’s right.”

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

# FORUM

## JCPA lays out Jewish view on major issues at recent conference



### JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

Our sacred books are replete with rules and guidelines for all sorts of activities and behaviors that govern our religious life. They told us how high to build altars for sacrificing animals. They told us how to renew Jewish ritual after the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. They tell us what food is kosher and what isn't.

Our Torah is comprehensive.

But where our sacred books are less specific and can only provide guidance is where there are some of the most important issues of our time.

So, while we have centuries of tradition on why we eat matzah on Passover, the tradition doesn't speak specifically to Jewish views on affirmative action, or charter schools, or nuclear waste.

But, with our tradition as our guide, we are working on discovering as a national Jewish community where we stand.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs is the umbrella organization for 125

JCRCs from around the country plus 17 national organizations. Every year in advance of our national conference we are asked to weigh in on different issues and these responses are codified in resolutions to be considered at the JCPA conference.

Once these resolutions are approved by the consensus of the Jewish community, they are then added to a policy compendium that Jewish communities throughout North America can reference to determine what the national Jewish opinion on a topic is.

The compendium is comprehensive and covers a large range of topics but, as the national and global discourse is forever changing, there are always going to be new resolutions to consider. This year, we were approached with six timely resolutions that we fully expect to pass in some form.

One resolution dealt with the treatment of the Uighur people in China who face horrible discrimination and even genocide. Another addressed renewing our community's commitment to combat climate change. Two resolutions are direct responses to our most recent elections, with one opposing the 200-plus bills under consideration in state legislatures around the country that would suppress votes of minorities, while the other calls for politicians to put their country ahead of their political affiliations. An-

other resolution calls specifically for the Jewish community to strengthen our relationship with the African American community.

The final resolution commends the Abraham Accords, which has led to peace agreements between Israel and some of her Middle East neighbors.

These resolutions are timely, important and will serve as guides for us as we move forward with both advocacy and community relations. I am proud to be affiliated with an organization that is responding to pressing issues of our coun-

try, world, and Israel. Our response and use of these resolutions is important for our friends in different communities to see where we stand. When they see how our policy guides us, they get an understanding of what Jewish values mean, how *tikun olam* influences us profoundly, how we turn our values into tangible action.

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



Photo by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

**This Passover, help us make it possible to celebrate another kind of freedom. Freedom from a pandemic.**

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage around the world, there's reason for hope. And no country has offered more hope for what life might be like again than Israel, which has led the world in immunizing its people.

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## FORUM

## Raising Asian Jewish kids in U.S. has never been scarier



Guest  
Columnist

Melody Muhlrاد

(This article that first appeared on Kveller.)

The horrifying shootings in Atlanta, in which six women of Asian descent were killed, came at a time of alarming xenophobia and bigotry against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Since the start of COVID-19, anti-Asian hate crimes have increased by 1,900 percent in the United States, with women reporting 2.3 times more hate incidents than men.

I am an Asian-American Jewish woman living in Los Angeles. My parents emigrated from Taiwan in the 1970s, and my twin sister and I were born in Los Angeles in the 1980s. I converted to Judaism three years ago, before my second child was born, a decision that was many years in the making. My husband and I are raising our two Asian-American Jewish preschool-aged children in Los Angeles.

Even if this tragedy does not end up being classified as a hate crime, it is undoubtedly a hate-filled, violent attack aimed squarely at Asian women. The media's couched and carefully chosen statements do a disservice to how horrific the crime is.

When I first heard of the shootings, I had just finished putting my two energetic young children to bed. As parents of young children know, my day had been jammed with preschool drop-off and pickup, meals, bath, bedtime and so on. The moments of quiet after my kids fall asleep each day are precious to me – a reprieve from the chaos that riddles my days.

I finally sat down to rest when I noticed I had missed a text message from my husband, who was finishing up his work. He had sent me a Twitter link accompanied by the comment, "So scary, 8 Asian women murdered in ATL."

In complete disbelief, I had to read his description twice. I forwarded the link to my sister, who wrote back to share my shock and horror.

As a mother of half-Asian Jewish children, the tragedy in Atlanta led me to fear for the safety of my kids. My children will grow up in a society where some people may hate them because of the color of their skin and others may hate them for their faith (and, of course, there are plenty who would hate them for both reasons). I had two big questions: How do I keep my children safe from the hate that Asians and Jews experience daily in the United States? And how do I best educate my children about a society where people are hated or victimized for their race and/or religion?

Embarrassingly, my first reaction was to flee. Following my initial shock over the Atlanta shootings, I dramatically proclaimed to my husband that I no longer thought the United States was

a safe place for our family anymore. Sure, it was an extreme reaction, but perhaps it was the "fight or flight" reaction to fear that made me choose "flight."

My husband and I have talked about moving to a different country – particularly to China or Taiwan, given that I still have extended family there. It's an idea we've addressed seriously since COVID-19 has created more remote work environments. Since anti-Semitism was hitting an all-time high and Asian hate crimes were increasing here, perhaps it was time to make this move?

Upon further reflection, however, I recognized that fleeing is not the answer. In this dark time, I am reminded of the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), that although the world is a good place, God left us room to make improvements. I realized that the way to keep my children safe is to make the world a safer place for them. I'm still figuring out what this means for me, and I know this will be a life-long process. But some of my ideas are giving *tzedakah* to charities that work to fight anti-Semitism and Asian hate, bringing awareness to these issues and standing up against hateful rhetoric.

For my children, I know how important it is to educate them on their dual Asian and Jewish identities, allowing them to fully embrace their multifaceted identities. Our family has discussed the importance of visiting China and Israel (when it is safe to travel again), teaching them the histories of both cultures, meeting others who are both

similar and different from them, and raising them to be open-minded and to love who they are. I only hope that this continual lifelong education will help them stand against the Asian and Jewish hate that they may encounter.

When reflecting on raising my children amid this tragedy of rising hate crimes, I found myself thinking about the names that my husband and I chose for them, and the hopes that we had for them. Our 4-year-old daughter, Ruth, is named after her great-grandmother. In the Bible, Ruth was a widow who loyally remained with her husband's mother, even after his death, choosing a life of poverty among people she admired, and becoming famous as the first woman in the Bible to convert to Judaism.

Our 2-year-old son, Micah, was named after his great-grandfather, Martin. In the Bible, Micah fearlessly denounced the evils that befell his land, teaching, "God requires of thee: only to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God." Micah is an example of humility, kindness and standing against evil.

These are qualities that we aim to impart on our children. We hope to teach them to be loyal to each part of their mixed identities, to be kind and humble toward others, to enjoy friendship with those who are different from them, and to have courage to stand up against any evil that they may encounter.

(Melody Muhlrاد is a freelance writer and stay-at-home mom living in Los Angeles.)

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# FEDERATION

## A fifth question

### Some kosher-for-Passover food for thought for Louisville Jews



Guest  
Columnist

Jeffrey  
Jamner

For more than 2,000 years, we have told the story of Exodus over a Passover meal called a *seder*. It is a beautiful example of passing down our tradition – *l'dor va'dor* (from generation to generation).

It is also one of the best lesson plans

ever devised.

The changing of the meal table is designed to evoke curiosity among the children, and the hiding of the *afikomen* (dessert) gives children a role that keeps them engaged through the long evening.

Also, through food, song and storytelling, we adults relive the Exodus ourselves.

The story of Exodus contains within it a universal message of oppression and liberation, with the hope that we come to feel gratitude for our freedom and compassion for those still oppressed or enslaved.

Applying this underlying message to

different causes is not new. You can find examples of the Passover haggadah as applied through many different lenses at **Haggadot.com**. This website even offers a simple way to create for you and your family your own haggadah.

So much of the seder comes in fours: four cups of wine, four children and four questions. This year, we would like to invite families to create or explore a fifth question: After the kind of tumultuous year we have experienced, Passover offers an opportunity to reflect on this, too. It is in that spirit that we invite you to ask, if we had a fifth question related to this past year, what

would it be?

Here is one example: The final words of the seder are “next year in Jerusalem.” For centuries, before the modern state of Israel was established, Jews living in the diaspora said these words, even though it was a nearly impossible dream for them. What if we were to dream big about our hopes for our community? What are our wishes and dreams for “next year in Louisville?”

Discuss among yourselves.

(Jeffrey Jamner is the creative consultant for arts & ideas at the JCL.)

## Weiss-Fischmann recounts journey to success at Women's program

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

Daughter of Holocaust survivors and a refugee from communist Hungary, Suzi Weiss-Fischmann has learned much from her early days.

She has put that experience to work as the “First Lady of Nails” and co-founder of OPI Products, one of the world's best-known nail polish companies.

Weiss-Fischmann spoke to the Jewish Federation of Louisville on Sunday, March 14, via Zoom, as part of its Women's Philanthropy program. Sponsored by Northwestern Mutual and Heaven Hill Brands, the event, hosted by Shane Shaps, president and founder of 520 East Brands, drew 478 people from 14 other Jewish communities.

In 1981, George Schaeffer, Weiss-Fischmann's brother-in-law, bought OPI, which was then a dental supply company; Weiss-Fischmann joined the business. Schaeffer soon noticed that many nail salons were buying dental acrylics to make their own nails, and Weiss-Fischmann decided there weren't enough color options for their lacquers. Even-



Suzi Weiss-Fischmann

tually, they dropped the dental business and went all in on nails.

OPI is now owned by Wella Operations, but Weiss-Fischmann is still its brand ambassador.

Her business success taught her the importance of helping other women get ahead.

“I always try to tell young women, ‘You need to humble yourself,’” she said. “You need to listen to others and take women on the ride along with you as opposed to pushing them down.... It's really important as a woman, as a businessperson, that you help others to rise along, and it will pay off every single day.”

But on this night, she focused on the Federation and her Jewish journey.

Back in Hungary, “I remember, the

rabbi would come once a week to teach us to pray, and my mom closing the shades quickly and all the curtains so nobody would see that he came to our house,” she said.

Her father was taken by the secret police several times and the family never knew if he would return. But he did, and they finally secured visas to Israel when she was 10. They eventually reached the United States – her father's dream.

The term *l'dor v'dor* (from generation to generation) is especially important to Weiss-Fischmann because of her immigrant experiences. “Even under very difficult circumstances we, as best as we could, observed holidays,” she said, “in Hungary, and certainly when we went to Israel, then experiencing the freedom and being able to be observant, and to have Shabbat dinners with my cousins.”

Fresh from a communist country, she vividly remembers walking into Israeli supermarkets and being amazed by the selection of coffees and choco-

lates.

“Just to have the choices and the freedom, not only in the supermarket in the foods, but in having friends, being able to go to playdates,” she said, “freely walking to school, walking home, where nobody bothered you or stopped you.”

Weiss-Fischmann recounts her experiences in her 2019 memoir, *I'm Not Really a Waitress: How One Woman Took Over the Beauty Industry One Color at a Time*. She took the title from one of OPI's most popular colors, I'm Not Really a Waitress.

Alongside helping other women, the First Lady of Nails added, is helping the Jewish community.

“We all went through so much this year, and the Federation has certainly stepped up and has done tremendous [work] in the different communities, Weiss-Fischmann said. “I'm hoping to be able to give back and help others who are much less fortunate than I am.”



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- Amanda Gorman, U.S. National Youth Poet Laureate

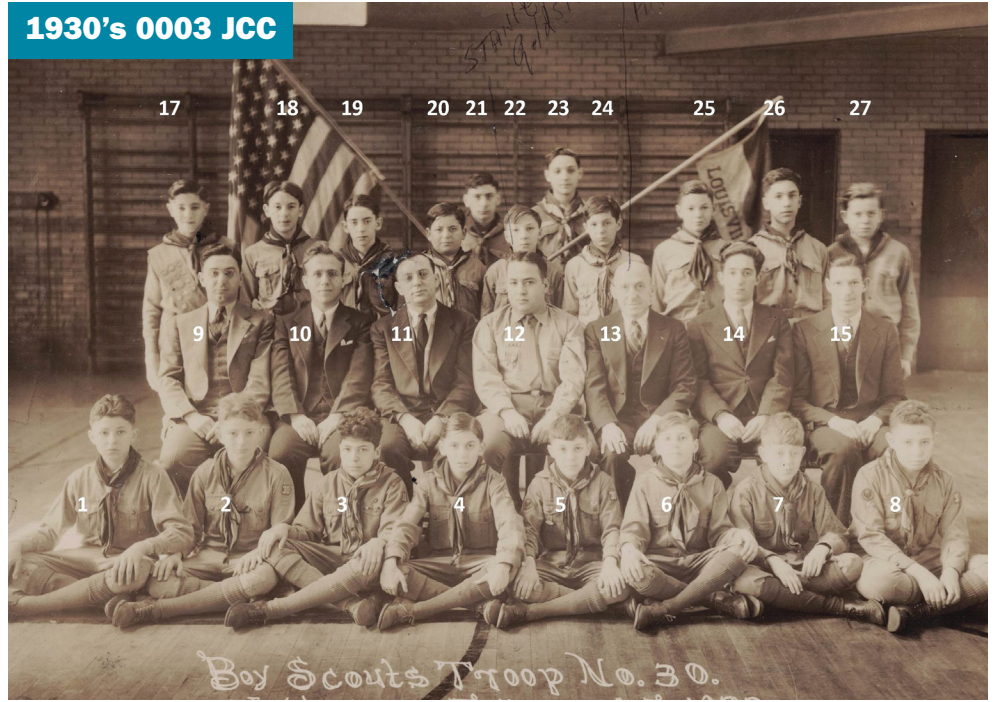



# PICTURE THIS: ARCHIVE SHOTS

1920's 0011 00



1930's 0003 JCC



1940's 0019 JCC



This is the third 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](mailto:pictureID@jewishlouisville.org) with any IDs you can make.

To see these photos online visit [jewishlouisville.org/community-online](http://jewishlouisville.org/community-online)

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.



1950's 0020 JCC

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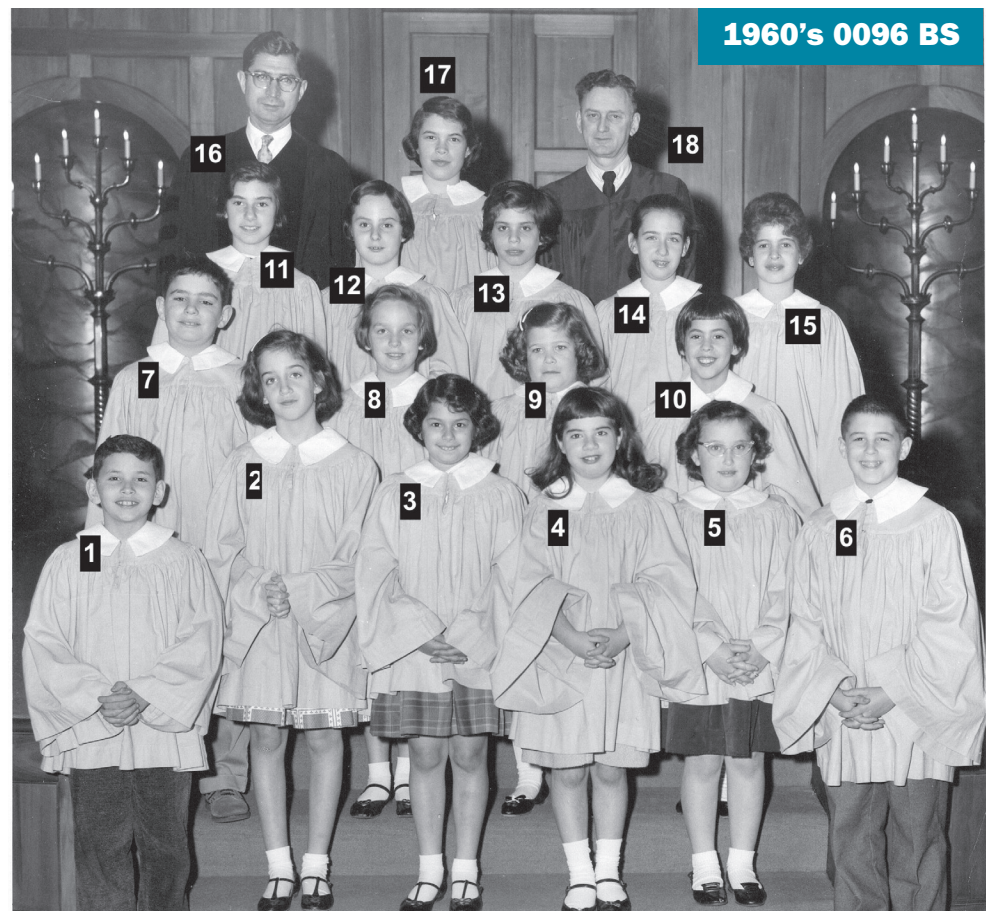
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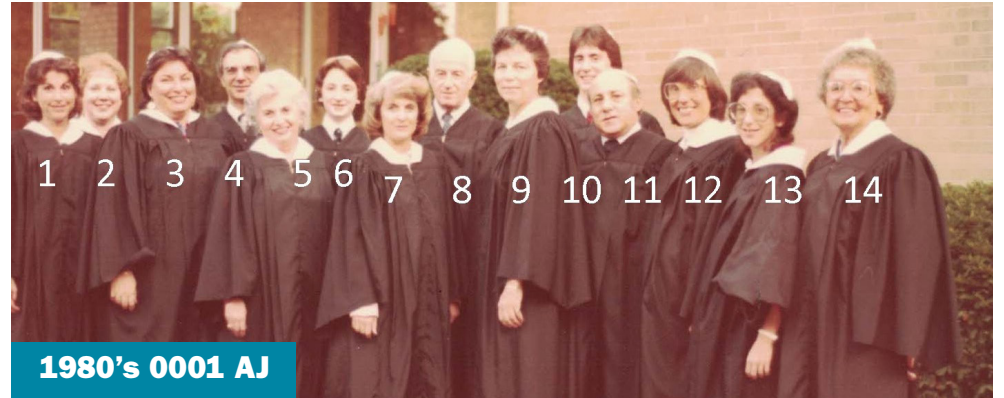


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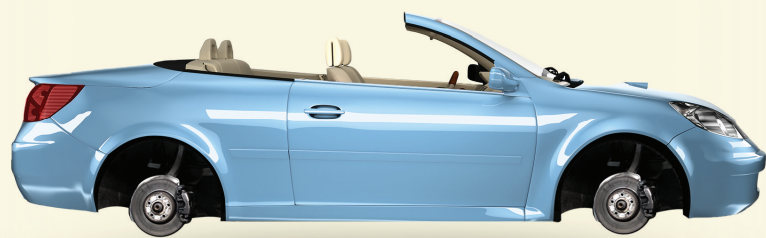
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# ISRAEL ELECTION

## Netanyahu leads narrowly in Israeli election exit polls

By Ben Sales  
JTA

Preliminary exit polls from Israel's election show Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a good chance of being narrowly reelected.

Israeli exit polls, however, have historically been unreliable, and this year they don't account for a significant percentage of votes cast. Due to COVID, the final results might not be published until Monday.

Given how close the election was, the exit poll may not reflect the composition of the next Israeli parliament, or Knesset.

Still, Tuesday's election was historic in one sense: One of the Labor Party members elected to the Knesset was Rabbi Gilad Kariv, leader of the Reform Movement in Israel. He will be the first Reform rabbi to serve in the parliament.

As it stands, Tuesday's exit polls show Netanyahu and his allies with the narrowest of majorities in the 120-seat Knesset, projected to win 61 seats, versus 59 for their opponents. To lead Israel's government, a candidate must assemble a majority coalition gener-

ally made up of several parties. Should no candidate be able to assemble a coalition, which is what happened twice in 2019, Israel holds a repeat election.

Netanyahu's Likud is expected to be the largest party, with 31 to 33 seats – slightly smaller than its current size of 36. The next-largest party is projected to be the centrist Yesh Atid, an opponent of Netanyahu, with 16 to 18 seats, also slightly smaller than its current 19 seats.

Altogether, a dozen parties are projected to make it into Knesset. Blue and White, the party that nearly beat Netanyahu last year before joining him in an ill-fated unity government, is set to drop from 12 seats to seven or eight.

The Joint List, an Arab-Israeli party, is also expected to fall from 15 seats to eight or nine. Raam, a breakaway Islamist party that had discussed allying with Netanyahu, is not projected to enter Knesset.

On the far right, Religious Zionism, a party that includes anti-LGBT politicians and extremist settlers, was set to win six or seven seats. Shas, the Sephardi haredi Orthodox party, was projected to win eight or nine seats, while



Rabbi Gilad Kariv

the Ashkenazi haredi party, United Torah Judaism, was set to win six or seven.

Two men who had hoped to become prime minister saw disappointing results: Gideon Saar, a former member of Likud who broke away to challenge Netanyahu, is set to win only a handful of seats. And Naftali Bennett, a former Netanyahu deputy, is projected to win

only seven or eight seats.

If Bennett joins Netanyahu's coalition and these results hold, Netanyahu will win another term as prime minister. But the makeup of the Knesset could change, and after results are published, it is not a certainty that he or one of his rivals will succeed in building a coalition.

In addition to Kariv, there is more good news for the left. Labor, the shrunken party of Israel's founders, was projected to win seven seats, a large jump from its current two. The left-wing Meretz was also projected to grow from four seats to six or seven.

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple, who himself previously led the Reform movement in Israel, said he has known Kariv since he was a child.

"We worked together for a long time on different projects when I was head of the Israel Reform movement and he worked for the movement," Ariel-Joel said. "He is a very capable and smart person; he always wanted to be a MK (Member of Knesset)."

*(Community Editor Lee Chottiner contributed to this story.)*

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## NEWS

## Health experts assist city in detecting, managing, suppressing COVID

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

When Bill Altman signed on last March to advise Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fischer about COVID testing, the city – and the world – were in a very different place.

The coronavirus, which causes COVID, was spreading across the globe, testing was in its infancy, the death toll was mounting and there was no vaccine on the horizon.

Things are better today. As of Wednesday, March 24, more than 219,000 people in Jefferson County, 28.6 percent of the population, have received at least one shot of an FDA-approved vaccine in Louisville Metro.

“We are in a good place,” Altman said, noting that the figures compare favorably with nationwide averages.

But, as Altman and his colleagues warn, neither Louisville, nor the country, nor even the world, is entirely out of the woods.

Infection rates are plateauing in several states. Lockdowns are happening again in Europe. Many Americans remain skeptical of vaccines, and several states have lifted most or all COVID restrictions – too soon, according to many medical experts.

Altman is one of four Jewish health experts who have lent their services to Louisville Metro, assisting in suppressing this deadly pandemic.



Bill Altman

In addition to Altman, Dr. Jon Klein, vice dean of research at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, has worked closely with the mayor in getting reliable information to the public, and Karen Handmaker and Leah Tasman at the Department of Public Health and Wellness, are working on contact tracing – the process of using investigative techniques to identify and assess people who have been exposed to COVID.

Two of the experts, Altman and Klein, have communicated directly to the Jewish community about COVID manage-



Dr. Jon Klein

ment here. Both have appeared at JCL board meetings while Klein has spoken to area synagogue groups.

“The Jewish community has by and large asked what I would call process-driven questions: When will I get the vaccine? What will be the level of protection? How long will it last? What are the side effects?” Klein said. “These are the most common questions I get no matter who I’m speaking to.”

He also noted that the Jewish Heritage Fund For Excellence contributed to the University of Louisville last year to “in-

dustrialize” the testing process weeks before big testing labs got involved.

While progress has been made against COVID – nearly 2 million doses of vaccine have been distributed – Klein warned that the threat posed by more transmissible variants remains.

He noted that two variant cases – one UK, one California – have already been confirmed in Louisville, which indicates that more could be here.

The concern with variants is that they spread faster, leading to more hospitalizations, taking up more ICU beds.

This means Louisville and the rest of the nation are in a race to inoculate as many people as possible before the variants become the dominant COVID strains.

“We know from the past 12 months that when that happens, mortalities go up in the hospital, probably because the hospitals simply cannot deliver the same care to 50 people in the ICU as they do to 20 or 25 people,” Klein said. “They (variants) are a real threat to us.”

Which is why he believes that decisions by the state governors to lift COVID restrictions is a mistake.

“We’re not at a point where really we can say we have this under control,” he said.

In tandem, Altman worries that people are taking testing less seriously when it is even more critical to locate variants to respond to them.

See **EXPERTS** on page 19

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# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS



## Husband joins global Jewish theatre board

The Alliance For Jewish Theatre has named Yehudah Jai Husband to its board of directors. He will serve a two-year term.

**Yehuda Husband**

The founder and artistic director of SH'MA Theatre at Adath Jeshurun, Husband is an NAACP Award-winning producer of original animated content.

"Being part of the AJT board is an honor and an amazing opportunity," he said in a prepared statement.

Husband will join another Louisvillian in AJT leadership. David Chack, artistic director of the Bunbury-ShPIeL Identity Theatre project, serves as a vice president on the AJT's executive board board.

"With Yehudah based at Adath Jeshurun Congregation and my theatre project at one of Louisville's oldest ongoing non-profit theatres, we will produce theatre of diversity that goes from the 'bimah' to the stage, expanding our audiences," Chack said in a prepared statement.

Alliance for Jewish Theatres is considered the leading organization for Jewish theatre worldwide, promoting the creation, presentation and preservation of the genre.

## AJ sponsors Little Library, holds book drive for project

Adath Jeshurun is sponsoring a Little Library in the Chickasaw neighborhood

of Louisville.

Little Libraries are handmade nooks around the city where patrons may leave or take a book, the goals being to inspire a love of reading and build community.

AJ is holding a book drive to fill the Little Library from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 18, under the AJ portico. New and gently used children's and adult books will be accepted. Contemporary authors and African American storylines are especially desired. Textbooks, encyclopedias and religious-themed books will not be accepted. If you have books to donate but are unable to attend, contact Kathy Karr at [kathykarrflute@gmail.com](mailto:kathykarrflute@gmail.com) to arrange a pick-up.

## Louisville rabbi interviewed for national story about Doug Emhoff

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner of Temple Shalom, who was a childhood friend of Doug Emhoff, appears in a *Moment* magazine story about the second gentleman of the United States.

The story, "Doug Emhoff, The First Second Gentleman," is out now and can be read online at [momentmag.com](http://momentmag.com).

In the story, Jacowitz Chottiner, who contributed photos of her and Emhoff from her bat mitzvah in Aberdeen, New Jersey, recalls details of their friendship and even admits to having something of a "crush" on the future second gentleman.

"People are saying 'This is so cool,'" Jacowitz Chottiner is quoted as saying. "It's amazing to think that to us, he was just Doug."



Collections from the Winter Essentials Drive

## The Temple collects enough items for homeless to serve four charities

The Temple wrapped up its Winter Essentials Drive for the homeless with some impressive numbers:

Here they are:

- Sleeping bags – 176
- Tents – 144
- Blankets – 177
- Coats – 89
- Hats – 192
- Gloves – 210
- Pairs of socks – 327
- Pairs of handwarmers – 200

Mitzvah Maker Chair Chavvah Penner Johnson oversaw the project.

Originally, the provisions were slated to go only to Street Reach, which serves the homeless in Louisville Metro, but because of the volume of donations, three other organizations are now recipients.



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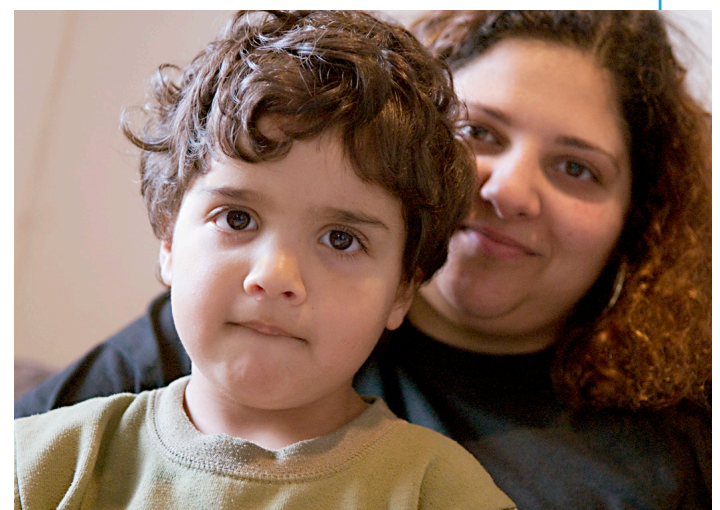





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# AROUND TOWN

## Adath Jeshurun

Here are the upcoming programs for Sunday Night Live, held virtually Sundays at 7 p.m.: April 11, – musician Rob Jamner; April 18, comedian Ahri Findling; April 25, actress Tovah Feldshuh; May 2, a whodunit murder mystery; May 9, Maxwell Street Klezmer Duo. Links to join all programs may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at [adathjeshurun.com](http://adathjeshurun.com).

Here are the virtual worship services for Passover: Passover service for the first-born, 7:15 p.m., Thursday, March 25; first day of Passover, 10 a.m., Sunday, March 28; second day of Passover, 10 a.m., Monday, March 29; Second evening of Passover, 5:45 p.m., Monday, March 29; seventh day of Passover, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 3; eighth day of Passover, including Yizkor, 10 a.m., Sunday, April 4; eighth evening of Passover, 5:45 p.m., Sunday, April 4. Links to join all services may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at [adathjeshurun.com](http://adathjeshurun.com).

Virtual Shabbat worship services via Facebook Live, YouTube and Zoom are held. Additionally, twice-daily minyan services are on Zoom only. Links to join all services may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at [adathjeshurun.com](http://adathjeshurun.com).

## Anshei Sfar

All Passover services will be in person. Face masks and social distancing are required: Sunday and Monday, April 28 and 29, Shachrit, 9 a.m.; Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4, Shachrit, 9 a.m.; Yizkor approximately 11 a.m., Sunday.

Rabbi Simcha Snaid continues to hold in-person and zoom classes: Spice of Life, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Make a Prophet, Thursdays at noon; Talmud Trek, Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Contact Rabbi Snaid at [rabbisnaid@ansheisfard.com](mailto:rabbisnaid@ansheisfard.com) or 912-704-2769 for details.

## Chavurat Shalom

Mike O'Bryan will play the accordion at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 1.

Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will present the second installment in his American Presidents and American Jews series at 1 p.m., Thursday, April 8.

Abby Glogower, curator of Jewish collec-

tions and Jewish Community Archives at The Filson Historical Society, will share some of her work at 1 p.m., Thursday, April 15. Joining her will be Ann Allen, a retired UofL history professor, whose work includes studies of Louisville Jewish women in the progressive era.

Senior University Lite will start at 10 a.m., Thursday, April 22. See The Temple items for details.

Matt Goldberg, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, will speak about current events through the lens of the JCRC at 1 p.m., Thursday, April 29.

All programs will be live-casted. **ChavuratShalomZoom**. Contact Sarah at 502-212-2038 or [sarahharlan86@gmail.com](mailto:sarahharlan86@gmail.com) with questions.

## Jewish Community Center and Jewish Federation of Louisville

Yom HaShoah Virtual Commemoration 2021 will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 8. The grandson of Ann and Sandor Klein will speak about his grandparents' resilience during and after the Holocaust. Voices of youth, including the student journalists and teachers of Manual High School whose reporting is led to positive changes in the Kentucky State Police training, will be honored. The program will be viewable on Vimeo, Facebook Live and YouTube. Links will be shared closer to the event. Visit [jewishlouisville.org/YomHaShoah](http://jewishlouisville.org/YomHaShoah) for details.

The Yom Haatzmaut Family Festival will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 11. The event, which celebrates Israeli independence, will include arts & crafts, PJ Library stories, sing-alongs, food for purchase and ways to learn about Israel. For details or to register visit [jewishlouisville.org/yom-haatzmaut](http://jewishlouisville.org/yom-haatzmaut).

## KITE

The Light of Torah class is held Mondays from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Visit <https://bit.ly/3bWHg00> for details.

## Keneseth Israel

Introduction to Reading Hebrew Class with Cantor Sharon Hordes is held Sunday

at 6:30 p.m. on [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](http://tinyurl.com/KICzoom).

Coffee Shmooze is held Mondays at 11 a.m. on [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](http://tinyurl.com/KICzoom). There are no set agendas or topics.

Jews and Brews, a Torah study class with Cantor Hordes, is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](http://tinyurl.com/KICzoom).

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

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

Baking Club is held Thursdays at 11 a.m. on [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](http://tinyurl.com/KICzoom). For recipes, visit [facebook.com/kilouisville](https://facebook.com/kilouisville).

Zoom Gali Gali: Kabbalat Shabbat for Kids, is held the first Friday of each month at 5:15 pm on [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](http://tinyurl.com/KICzoom).

Passover Second Night Seder begins at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 28, on [tinyurl.com/KICzoom](http://tinyurl.com/KICzoom). Cantor Hordes will lead the services with collaboration of KI members from their homes.

## Montessori Torah Academy

A preschool division for ages 3-6 and a lower elementary division, ages 6-10 are being offered. In-person tours are available by appointment and under Covid guidelines. Contact Rachel Blaustein at 847-212-5078 or [rblaustein@montessoritorah.org](mailto:rblaustein@montessoritorah.org) for details. Applications and details are available at [montessoritorah.org](http://montessoritorah.org).

## Temple Shalom

Shabbat services are held at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays with Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and song leaders. Email [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org) for the Zoom link.

A second-night community Passover, led by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, will be held at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 28, on Zoom. Student rabbi Sam Thal will provide the music and the Tikkun Olam Committee is planning themed readings.

The Chailands Chavurah will celebrate Earth Day by holding its first in-person event in a year at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 24, at Big Rock. The guest speaker will be announced later.

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner leads an intro to Judaism class Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. for those interested in conversion.

Lunch Bunch is held the third Wednesday of the month at noon. The program includes guests addressing issues important to Louisville and the world.

Email [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org) for the Zoom link to any of these services or programs.

## The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. CDC guidelines are observed. Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjgiftshop](https://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.

These adult education courses continue Mondays: Basic Judaism with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, 5 p.m.; Windows to Israeli Society through Poetry and Literature with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, Advanced Hebrew

with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, and Beginning Hebrew Part 2 with Mark Goldstein, all at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Temple Scholars will study Crisis in Jewish Tradition with Ariel-Joel at 9:30 a.m.; The Roots of Justice with Rapport at 10:45 a.m. All classes are on Zoom. Call 502-423-1818 for details.

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

This Passover, The Temple will again celebrate the holiday virtually: First Night Seder, 6 p.m., Saturday, March 27; Congregational Second Night Seder, 6 p.m., Sunday, March 28; Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks Women's Seder, 6 p.m., Thursday, April 1; Young Adult Seder: 6 p.m., Saturday, April 3. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/Passover](http://thetemplelouky.org/Passover).

Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Shabbat will be at 7 p.m., Friday, April 9, at [thetemplelouky.org/streaming](http://thetemplelouky.org/streaming). The sixth graders will lead the service.

Goodnight Tots, Goodnight Shabbat, a tot Havdalah with arts and crafts, treats, stories and songs, will be at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, April 10. Kids may Zoom in their pajamas. RSVPs are required for tots to receive special bags. Visit [thetemplelouky.org/goodnight-shabbat](http://thetemplelouky.org/goodnight-shabbat) for details.

Sandwich Making for the Homeless will start at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, April 11. Due to COVID, seating is limited to 10 tables, each with two people from one home. Masks are required. Doors to the Heide-man will be open, so dress appropriately. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making](http://thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making).

The Adult Education Committee will continue its monthly Zoom series, The Conversation, examining race, justice and community at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 11. Visit [thetemplelouky.org/the-conversation](http://thetemplelouky.org/the-conversation) for details.

The Temple will hold its first Outdoor, Safely Distanced Shabbat Service at 7 p.m., Friday, April 16 in the back parking lot. The outdoor service will be limited to 15-20 family units, and masks and safe distancing will be required. Visit [thetemplelouky.org](http://thetemplelouky.org) for details.

The WRJ/Sisterhood will hold its Havdalah and Family Trivia Night at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 17. A Trivia Basket, including treats, will be delivered to each participating family. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/wrj-havdalah](http://thetemplelouky.org/wrj-havdalah).

Rabbi Rapport and Father Joe Graffis discuss common issues facing Catholics and Jews at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 18. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/interfaith](http://thetemplelouky.org/interfaith) dialogue.

Senior University Lite will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, April 22. Gov. Andy Beshear will deliver the keynote. State Sen. Karen Berg, a Temple member, will then speak on Kentucky political issues. Music Director Louie Bailey and soloist Avery Curtis will perform Broadway show tunes and other classics. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/senior-university-lite](http://thetemplelouky.org/senior-university-lite) by April 20 for the Zoom link.

Movie Night with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 25 on Zoom. Everything is Illuminated will be screened. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/Jewish-Identity-in-Jewish-Films](http://thetemplelouky.org/Jewish-Identity-in-Jewish-Films).

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# LIFECYCLE

## Births

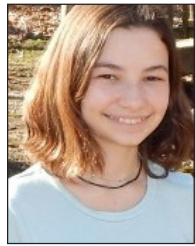
### Edan Wolf Diamond

Caitlin Williams and Evan Diamond of Graham, North Carolina, announce the birth of their son, Edan Wolf Diamond, on Jan. 14, 2021. The elated grandparents are Sandy and Harvey Diamond, Deb and Steve Williams and great-grandmother Ruby Mulligan, all of Louisville.

### Sophie Jean Woods

Whitney Woods announces the birth of her daughter, Sophie Jean Woods.

## B'nai Mitzvahs



**Iris Moore Wells**, daughter of Amy Gumer and Jon Wells, sister of Oliver and Alex, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah virtually, at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 24, at Keneseth Israel. Iris is the grand-

daughter of Myrilan Gumer and the late Bruce J. Gumer and Ellen Wells and Randy Wells. A seventh-grade honor roll student at North Oldham Middle School, Iris is a member of the North Oldham state championship cross-country and track team. She was the female winner of the 2020 Run Throo the Zoo, earning the coveted Emu Egg. An accomplished equestrian, Iris rides at Stone Place Stables. She performs with the Dance Design Complex. Iris is in her middle school theater, school choir and plays clarinet for the school band. She enjoys traveling, visiting such places as Japan, Mexico and Caribbean. She has hiked around Kentucky and the Grand Canyon, loves animals and has a big heart for the well-being of all living creatures. Iris has spent time doing community service at Rock Creek Riding Club and at the Muslim Community Center of Louisville.



**Rose Dru Geller**, daughter of Tracy and Mark Geller, sister to Alex, Izzy and Kendall, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 10, at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Rose is

the granddaughter of Patricia Hirsch and the late Kenneth Hirsch and Harry and Annette Geller. A seventh grader at Kammerer Middle School, Rose plays field hockey for both her school and IFHCK. She also swims for the JCC Gators. Rose enjoys running and doing almost any-

thing with her friends and family. She has organized several mitzvah activities with her friends and the community, including preparing meals for Forgotten Louisville, collecting donations for, and delivering Girl Scout cookies to, front line workers and nursing home residents, collecting clothing for the homeless, and making and distributing brown bag lunches.



**Stella Rae Serchuk**, daughter of Randi Skaggs and David Serchuk, older sister of Samuel Serchuk, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 24, at Adath Jeshurun.

Stella is the granddaughter of Arnold Serchuk and the late Harriet Serchuk and Judy Skaggs and the late Randall Skaggs. A seventh grader at The Brown School, Stella is a member of the choir and Junior Beta Club. She cares deeply about animal welfare and social justice and is obsessed with reading, cats and everything kawaii.

**Warren "Jackson" Shrensker**, son of Jeff and Jennifer Shrensker, brother to Jamie, will be called to the bima as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, May 8, at Temple Shalom. Jackson is the grandson of Judy Hutchison, Judy Shrensker and Tom Terwilliger.

An eighth grader at Noe Middle School, Jackson will be going to Manual High School this fall to study visual arts.

## Engagements

### Schneider-Martinov

Ruth Schneider of Louisville happily announces the engagement of her daughter, Kenna Beth Schneider, to Plamen Martinov, originally from Bulgaria, now of Chicago.

The future bride and groom have advanced degrees, and live and work in Chicago. Plamen is chief information security officer for Options Clearing Corporation; Kenna is a national consultant for Canon Solutions.

Their wedding is planned for Aug. 7 at a resort in the Dominican Republic.

## Obituaries

### David S. Davis

David S. Davis, 76, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, surrounded by his loving wife and son.



Louisville.

He served in the Coast Guard and as a hospital corpsman first class and in 1971, graduated from the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at UofL.

David was a practicing attorney for 50 years, always saying that he practiced law from A to Z – adoption to zoning cases.

For 15 years, he served as a guardian ad litem in Family Court, representing the best interests of children. He helped numerous families in need.

David was a kind and gentle soul who made friends so quickly. He lived life to the fullest despite being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease for the last 16 years of his life.

He enjoyed traveling, art and design, photography, entertaining, dining out with friends and spending quality time with family.

He was a member of The Temple-Congregation Adath Israel-Brith Sholom and The Kentucky Bar Association.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 47 years, Vicki Davis; his son, Michael Davis (Cara) of Pasadena, California; his grandchildren, Miriam Davis and Dexter Davis of Pasadena; his mother, Jeanette Bornstein; his sister, Helaine Workman (Dr. Frank) of Washington D.C.; his two nieces and two nephews, and the countless friends who David loved as family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Davis, and his step-father, Abe Bornstein.

A private burial was held on Feb. 19 at The Temple Cemetery. The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of contributions in David's memory to:

- The Temple - Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom ([www.thetemplelouky.org](http://www.thetemplelouky.org)) or
- The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research ([www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org).)



### Dorothy LeClair Friesen

Dorothy LeClair Friesen died peacefully on Mon-

day, Feb. 22, 2021.

Although she had lived most of her life in Kansas, she moved to Louisville in 2014 to be near family, including her daughter Laura Rothstein (Mark) and granddaughter Lisa Goldberg (Matt) and her great granddaughters, Rachel and Molly and her daughter Leslie Friesen (Steven Spalding) and their children Andrew Spalding and Claire Spalding.

Her granddaughter, Julia Rothstein Iryk (Bryan) live in Sherman Oaks, California. Her other children, Larry Friesen (Martha) live in League City, Texas, and Linda Mailen (Gary) live in Olathe, Kansas. Two other grandchildren, and three other great-grandchildren live in California.

Born in Salina, Kansas, on Oct. 17, 1922, Dorothy taught high school business courses and later elementary school for many years in Kansas schools. She was recognized as a Master Teacher by the state of Kansas.

Dorothy, whose name means "gift of God," truly was just that. She had friends too numerous to count, always made time to visit them and give them something to smile about.

She lived at the Treyton Oak Towers senior living facility, where she was on the Residents' Council; she participated in morning exercise class almost every day. During her years at Treyton Oaks, she participated in the Shabbas Friends Friday afternoon group meetings conducted by her granddaughter, Lisa Rothstein Goldberg.

Charitable contributions can be made in her memory to the Treyton Oaks Towers Employees Gift Fund (211 West Oak Street, Louisville, KY 40203).



### Shoshana S. Katz

Our beloved mother, Shoshana S. Katz, passed away

Born in Romania, Dec 1941 during World War II, she was raised under unspeakably difficult circumstances.

Despite this, she provided her family an incredible life.

"We were raised privileged," the family said. "Certainly not with material wealth but with the incredible love she provided. Her immense selflessness and care for family turned us into who we are today.

"She remained quiet about much of her upbringing, but lying next to her last night dying, we feel honored and obliged to recount our humble roots."

Months after her birth in December

*Continued on page 18*



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# LIFECYCLE

1941 she and her family were taken by the Nazis and forced into a concentration camp in February 1942. An infant, she was smuggled out of the camps and watched over by a Christian family until 1945.

She later lived in a refugee camp in Cyprus from 1945 to 1948, making aliyah to Israel in May that same year.

She always reminded her family of how happy she was as a child despite her tumultuous upbringing, living in a tent until May 1950. Yet she still raised three successful children who married and produced eight amazing grandchildren.

"She was the sweetest and most selfless person we knew. Everyone else always came first. While writing this, one of our parent's former neighbors reminded us how she would leave dinner at his doorstep while he was in dental school.

"She cherished each and every one of us especially our father. She was simple and didn't care for the material. She was always thankful and demonstrated deep gratitude for all that she had. Humility was her modus operandi and she never sought for more. She loved to teach, cook, bake, read, laugh and was deeply in love with our father.

"Our mother, the *baleboste*, will be forever missed."

Shoshana is survived by her husband, Yoram Katz; her son, Ron Katz and his wife, Jan and their children, Sean, Mason, and Samantha Katz; her son, Aviv Katz and his wife, Yvette Klein and their children, Ari, Sammy, and Daniel Katz; and her daughter, Orit Goldstein and her husband, Jon Goldstein and their children, Elyssa and Julia Goldstein.

Funeral services were held private held on Feb. 21 in Anshei Sfard Cemetery. Memorials may be made to [yadvashem.org](http://yadvashem.org).



**Elsie Bookstein Kelman**

Elsie Bookstein Kelman, 86, passed away on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

An administrative secretary for the Bureau of Rehabilitation in Louisville for 20 years, Elsie was a graduate of Shawnee High School and a lifelong member of Congregation Anshei Sfard.

She was a founder of Cap on Cancer, which provides "caring caps" to six local hospitals for cancer patients.

A loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and cousin, Elsie loved her family

and friends and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Samuel and Goldie Bookstein, and her husband and soulmate of 60 wonderful years, Fred H. Kelman. Elsie is survived by her children, Andrea Kelman Yussman (Harris), Richard L. Kelman; her grandchildren, Genna Greene (Aaron); and brothers Joseph Bookstein and Albert F. Bookstein (Gail).

A graveside service was held Tuesday, March 16, at Anshei Sfard Cemetery. Memorial contributions to Cap on Cancer Foundation, 2800 Rockhaven Avenue, Louisville, KY 40220 are appreciated. Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. was in charge of arrangements.



**Roberta Shelia Wasserstrom**

Roberta Shelia Wasserstrom (nee Kaye) passed away Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, in Louisville. She was 84.

Guided by her mantra "today is the first day of the rest of your life," Roberta lived her life with zeal. Ever the CEO, she thrived at the helm of both her personal and professional worlds.

From retail to real estate to her big, blended family, the self-proclaimed "queen" always looked for the best possible return on her investment. A complexity of opposites, she produced wonderful results in all her endeavors.

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Her parting thoughts to her children and grandchildren can be found in the following passage which she saved for this moment:

"Please be safe, be careful, be happy, be loved and, whenever possible, wise, compassionate and forgiving. May you always be lucky and blessed. This is the perfect recipe for life. With all my love."

Predeceased by her husband, Sanford, Roberta is survived by her brother, Ron Kaye (Deborah); her children, Abby Kamen (Craig), Beth Epstein, Gail Jutkowitz (Stan), Dan Wasserstrom (June) and

Neil Wasserstrom; and her 12 grandchildren.

A private graveside services was held in Emanu El Memorial Park, Hillcrest Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio. Expressions of sympathy may be made in her honor to:

- The Pete Foundation, 2323 Lime Kiln Lane Louisville, KY, 40222 (<https://www.thepetefoundation.org/>)
- Jewish National Fund (<https://www.jnf.org/>)

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# NEWS

## TRAGER

Continued from page 1

of giving, making the project possible.

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the JCL, remembers meeting with Steve Trager just weeks after becoming head of the organization five-plus years ago.

“Steve made it clear that we should pursue this dream,” Wagner said. “He understood that our current building had served us well and it was time to do something special for the next generation. He wanted to see action taken to move forward and when it was time to step forward with the lead gift, Steve and his entire family showed an enormous amount of faith and their example opened the door to a true community-wide effort.”

No one expected a pandemic, of course. And no one knew how it would impact fundraising.

Now they know: It didn’t.

“I think that it has affected fundraising in some circles, but as far as our capital campaign goes, we have been fortunate to have had so much support,” Green said. “We’ve had millions of dollars in commitments made since the pandemic started.”

Why?

“I think people tend to reflect on what’s really important in life during a pan-

demic,” he said. “A lot of people think the JCC is really important. And they’re right.”

Among those are the Trager family. Michael Trager-Kusman said their involvement and passion grew over time.

“The more passionate and stronger we felt about the project and how it would impact Louisville and our community, we were more enthusiastic about the naming opportunity,” said Trager-Kusman.

The family, which owns and operates Republic Bancorp, Inc., is admired and known in Louisville for its philanthropic support, including the family’s three generations of involvement in the JCC.

Trager-Kusman said his grandparents, Jean and Bernard Trager, enjoyed the JCC as a social club, a place to work out and even to dine. His mother and uncle, Shelley and Steve, participated in athletics and social activities, and every member of his generation has enjoyed summer camp at the JCC.

He sees the JCC as a welcoming place where all of Louisville can meet.

That mission will become increasingly important in the future.

“We need to reach out to communities around us,” Trager-Kusman said. “It’s a great opportunity for the JCC to stand up and speak out for everyone. I think that’s essentially the future of the JCC in the new building.”

When it opens, the Trager Family JCC

will become the featured landmark of Jewish Louisville, a point Jon Fleischaker, past chair of the JCL board, made when he presented the JCL’s initial matching fund grant request to Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence (JHFE) in 2018.

“I pointed out that Jewish Hospital, a major Jewish institution, was over; it was done; we lost that,” said Fleischaker. “and the Standard Club was no longer a Jewish institution. It was important to have a major Jewish institution that was thriving in Louisville, Kentucky, and that had to be the Federation and the JCC.”

The new JCC has been long in coming. In fact, planning for the facility began as early as 2016, when JHFE approved grants for that purpose. The grant was for planning and creating a strategic plan to determine feasibility.

A breakthrough came in 2018, when the Tragers made their initial \$1.5 million pledge. JHFE then approved its cornerstone gift to the project: \$10 million and up to \$15 million in matching funds.

“I became confident that we could do it,” Fleischaker said.

The Capital Campaign – chaired by Jerry and Madeline Abramson, Frank and Barbara Weisberg, and Dr. Jeffrey Tuvlin – was organized that fall. At first, the goal was \$40 million, but the JCL board later approved raising that level to \$42.5 million, due to cost changes in labor and materials – a common occur-

rence in major construction projects.

Also in 2018, the JCL purchased the Anshei Sfard property, expanding its ownership of the Dutchmans Lane campus.

Even though sufficient funds to complete the JCC are now pledged, the capital campaign is continuing to raise funds to enhance the expanded campus with features including an accessible playground and greater green space development, Green said.

That’s why other naming rights within the building are still available, under the roof of the Trager Family JCC.

Stacy Gordon-Funk, senior vice-president and chief development officer for the JCC, will continue to lead the professional staff team and support the Capital Campaign fundraising committee, along with Wagner, in securing donations for these individual naming opportunities.

Gordon-Funk sees the support of the Trager family as key to other families stepping up and either making new commitments or increasing their current commitments.

“The Trager family has demonstrated over and over again their passion for our JCC and the entire Louisville community,” she said. “We could not be more proud to have leaders and philanthropists like the Trager family support our new JCC in such a meaningful way.”

## PICKENS

Continued from page 1

ropean influences, commemorates the establishment of the JCC as a welcoming place for people who were not welcomed elsewhere.

“Ecstatic Prayer” is influenced by Psalm 127, which includes the passage, “Unless the Lord builds the house, it

builder labors in vain on it” – a passage that Pickens considers “significant symbolically” for the JCC project.

Finally, “Blues” reflects the “shared legacy” of Blacks and Jews, and even includes a melodic excerpt, or “quote,” from a George Gershwin piece: *Second Prelude for Piano*. Pickens, who is Black, said he selected it for its blues and Jewish influences.

“It’s really a way of bringing these

legacies together,” Pickens said, “honoring the suffering, honoring the spiritual components and honoring what the blues is all about.... It’s about triumphing in the face of whatever.”

Pickens said he talked to several JCC donors, learning about the history of the center, and listened to Jewish melodies while composing the piece.

A jazz pianist, composer, author, teacher and facilitator, Pickens has per-

formed around the world and composed more than 100 choral works. He has played with Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Henderson and Freddie Hubbard. He also appeared on Marian McPartland’s *Piano Jazz* program on National Public Radio.

Memorable moments in his career include his musical backgrounds for the poetry of Wendell Berry and a personal performance for the Dalai Lama.

## FIRE

Continued from page 1

member my daughter’s baptism.”

“Just coming together to pray communally is a powerful thing,” Hordes added. “It’s a cool idea.”

The KI building reflects an established trend in many cities, in which former synagogues are converted to Black churches. In many cases, the Black churches have maintained the Jewish symbols affixed to the buildings, not covering them up.

Designed by Louisville Jewish architects Joseph & Joseph and constructed by the local Jewish firm Platoff and Bush, the KI synagogue opened in 1929,

just three years after the congregation was formed in 1926 through a merger of two Orthodox congregations, B’nai Jacob and Beth Hamedresh Hagadol.

“The upstairs auditorium hosted many wonderful events from bar mitzvah parties (including mine) to Purim carnivals,” Abramson said. “As a young child, we sat upstairs with our mother and the men sat downstairs. When the vote occurred to mix the seating (responding to the women’s demand), my dad was on the Board that was sued by those who wanted the seating to stay separate.”

Abramson recalled how fathers and sons came to the synagogues on Sunday mornings, prior to religious school, and put on tefillin for services while the Sis-

terhood made breakfast.

Green shared another memory of the building.

“I remember walking through the halls, and there were families living in some of the Sunday school rooms. I guess they were otherwise homeless, and they were there with the rabbi’s permission, of course.”

The building is believed to have been unoccupied at the time of this fire, but there has been at least one other disaster. According to Abby Glogower, curator of Jewish collections at the Filson Historical Society, the roof collapsed in 1954. It was repaired, but the congregation moved to its current home on Taylorsville Road 10 years later, in 1964.

Since then, the old building has housed several church congregations, New Hope being the latest. It has been vacant and for sale since 2017.

The fire has motivated Hordes to consider and speak about the role brick and mortar plays in Jewish communal life.

“What is a community without a building, and what is a community that is attached to a building from our past?” Hordes asked. “What is our relationship to a building where we haven’t been for decades?”

These questions can’t be casually dismissed, she said, noting that Jews still mourn the loss of the Second Temple some 2,000 years ago.

“What’s a few decades?” she asked.

## EXPERTS

Continued from page 14

“There’s testing fatigue,” he said. “People are understanding that the cases are going down, so maybe people aren’t as interested; it’s more likely that the people getting tested are not doing so for preventive reasons but because they have reason to get tested.”

Without testing, said Handmaker, it’s hard to say just how effective a commu-

nity is in managing the disease.

“The number of cases is down, but the only way we know the number is through testing,” she said. “If people don’t get tested, we don’t really know how prevalent the disease is out there. So, it’s kind of a Catch-22.”

That is where contact tracing comes in. Since testing the entire population isn’t feasible, Handmaker said contact tracing serves as an extension of testing, pinpointing areas where the virus is likely spreading.

“Once someone tests positive, we want to talk to [them] and understand where they think they may have become infected and where they may have exposed others during their infectious period,” Handmaker said.

These “disease investigators,” as Handmaker described them, are also “care advocates,” making sure people who test positive have their essential needs covered while they isolate.

“Then, we reach out to the people they tell us they were in close contact with

and ask them to quarantine,” Handmaker said. “Many close contacts become positive cases during quarantine, and this is how we help stop the spread.”

All this was being done last year amid the backdrop of racial unrest, a contentious election and the violence at the Capitol – a “perfect storm” for health care workers who had to work, Handmaker said.

“All these things raise our community’s conscience as to just how fragile everyone’s life is,” she said.



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