

INSIDE:

Lessons in resilience

Louisville native tells grandparents' story at Yom HaShoah program

STORY ON PG. 5

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# Hate incidents consistently high

## ADL: Latest report confirms anti-Semitism a nationwide problem

Anti-Semitic incidents in Kentucky rose to a historic high in 2020, according to the latest audit by the Anti-Defamation League, according to *The Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2020*, which was released Tuesday. The findings are part of a pattern of an increase in hate incidents directed at different minority communities nationwide.

Corey Shapiro, a JCRC member and legal director of the ACLU of Kentucky, said the report reflects a “troubling overall increase in hate and extremism” around the nation.

“We should use this report as a catalyst to increase our coalition work with these communities fighting extremism and hate,” he said.

While anti-Semitic incidents declined by 4 percent after hitting an all-time high in 2019, last year was still the third-highest year for incidents against American Jews since ADL started tracking the data.

While the audit signals a continued threat to Jews in the United States; it also serves as a stark warning that all minority or fringe groups – in particular, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, Black Americans and immigrants – are at risk from emboldened hate groups and individuals.

“In many ways,” Pasch said, “anti-Semitism is the canary in the coal

mine.”

Here in Kentucky, the report showed 19 incidents,, an increase from previous years.

“It’s the highest number of cases reported since we started keeping records in 1979,” said James Pasch, regional director of ADL for Kentucky, Ohio, West

Virginia and western Pennsylvania.

Nationally, 2,024 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism were reported to ADL last year.

Matt Goldberg, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), said the Federation is “deeply

See **ANTI-SEMITISM** on page 19



The April 27 release of the annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States by the Anti-Defamation League showed a sharp jump in cases in Kentucky. Local Jewish leaders are calling for vigilance in fighting all forms of hatred.

# New KI rabbi to mix journalism, religion during his rabbinate

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor



Ben Freed

For Ben Freed, journalism and the rabbinate are two similar jobs.

He should know; he’s done both.

Freed, 32, spent four years as a general assignment reporter at the *Ann Arbor News* in Michigan. He also interned at *Sports Illustrated* in New York in 2011.

“When people ask me why I loved being a journalist, I tell them I love asking questions, telling stories and helping people understand the world around them,” Freed said.

So when he started thinking about his next move in life, the son of a Federation executive and a physician decided that being a rabbi would represent an extension of what he was already doing.

“The leap from journalist to rabbi didn’t feel that different when I defined it that way,” he said. “It was a slightly different and really exciting and inspiring way to go about doing a lot of those same

See **FREED** on page 19

# Digital Community

## Filson digitizes past newspapers, available online

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

After two years of work, a browsable, searchable platform for past issues of Community is ready to be debuted online.

The Filson Historical Society and the Jewish Community of Louisville will host a virtual program for the Community Newspaper Digital Archives at 7 p.m., Monday, May 10.

The platform will give Jewish Louisville a new and powerful tool to research the history of the community in general or segments of it: synagogues, agencies, historic dates and individuals, or just someone’s bar mitzvah or wedding announcement.

Abby Glogower, the Filson’s curator of Jewish collections, and Danielle Spalen-

ka, its curator of digital projects, will outlined the new platform – how it was built, how it will work – while Dick Clay, president and CEO of the Filson, and Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the JCL, will speak about the partnership between the two organizations.

“We were looking for something that would be big and exciting,” Glogower said in an interview with Community, “kind of like a challenge for the Filson, a nice overture to the Jewish community and something that people could really enjoy in a lot of different ways.”

The program will include a virtual tour of the new platform, and Q&A from the participants.

The process, which has been under way since 2019, is 70 percent complete with 13,166 pages digitized, but Glogow-

er said the Filson and JCL wanted to roll it out now to generate interest in the project and give people a useful learning resource while they are at home during the pandemic.

The Filson has contracted New York-based Hudson Archival to digitize the papers and build the files into the platform.

It also has chosen Viridian to host the

See **DIGITAL** on page 19

The first known front page of Community – dated September 26, 1973 – can be found in the new Community Newspaper Digital Archives, which will be debuted at a virtual program on Monday, May 10. Back issues of the paper through the 1990s have already been digitized, and the work continues. (Photo provided by the Filson Historical Society)



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# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### Ideas for shaping your post-pandemic world



D'var Torah  
Rabbi  
Shmully Litvin

In conversations with friends from around the commonwealth, one question is on everyone's mind: What will the post-lockdown world look like?

Questions such as ongoing mask requirements, mandate power, vaccine schedules are common.

When I think about the fledgling Jewish nation, born in Egypt, freed by Moses, and being led to an unknown land, I can only imagine their many questions on its journey to Mt. Sinai, which is marked by the upcoming festival of Shavuot. What would becoming the nation of G-d entail? How would their lives and the way they conducted themselves change?

I certainly do not envy leaders of the nations of today or back then, who have had to act under tremendous pressure, in times of confusion and, to the best of their abilities, lead their people in the most difficult of circumstances. That is above my paygrade.

However, one thing I feel is clear. Tomorrow must be different.

While we eagerly await the coming changes, let us resolve together not to simply get back to normal, but to pledge to have a better existence. Let's not forget the lessons of the past year, specifically in our Jewish communities and our connection with G-d.

In *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers), which is studied each week between Passover and Shavuot, we learn: "The world stands upon three things: upon Torah, upon divine service and upon acts of kindness. (Avot 1:2)" I would like to propose the following ideas as a starting point for each person's new and improved G-dly living experience.

Torah: A silver lining of the lockdown has been the unprecedented availability of Torah learning online. Suddenly, attending classes doesn't mean going to a

particular synagogue, temple or school. We do not have to limit ourselves to a teacher, topic or tradition.

We must keep this momentum going. Not since Moses taught the entire nation has Torah been so accessible to all. Teachers from the entire spectrum of Judaism are teaching Torah, free and accessible to all online. Even as we go back to our local offerings, we should continue to offer virtual/online options, leaving this door open to grow in knowledge and Jewish connection.

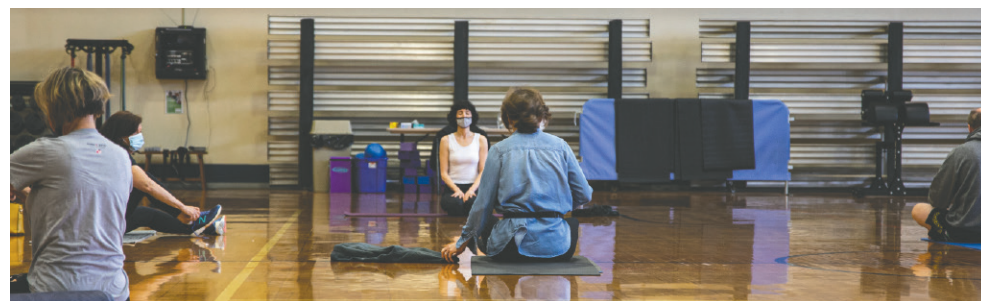
Prayer: One thing many people have mentioned is the difference they have experienced when praying alone. While we are home, we can concentrate without distraction, and pay extra attention to what we say. When we return to *tefilla b'tzibur*, (communal prayer), we should have a new appreciation for the power of prayer and cherish the ability to connect to G-d with the words of prayer.

Acts of Kindness: Throughout the last year, we have seen incredible acts of service and selflessness around the world. We have watched in awe as our health-care professionals put themselves at risk to save as many lives as possible. Countless people have volunteered to help seniors and high-risk individuals with shopping and meals. Even at home, we have spent so much time together.

We should not be so quick to go back to the grind before ensuring we can keep building these important relationships.

As we approach the festival of Shavuot, which begins on the evening of Sunday, May 16, let us try to use our new perspectives to experience the holiday in a new way. Join a tikkun leil Shavuot learning program on Sunday evening. Shavuot morning, you might try to safely find a reading of the Ten Commandments in a synagogue. If you are celebrating the holiday at home, spend some time with your family talking about receiving the Torah, and thinking how we can live our best lives, crafting this world into a dwelling place for G-d, and ushering in the true new era of Moshiach, speedily in our days. May we all experience and internalize the re-giving of the Torah with joy.

## Snapshots



More and more JCC members returned to the fitness area over the past few weeks while still observing recommended safety protocols.



## Candles

Here are the candle lighting times for Shabbat in May:

- May 7 @ 8:22 p.m.
- May 14 @ 8:29 p.m.
- May 21 @ 8:35 p.m.
- May 28 @ 8:40 p.m.

## Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community* Editor Lee Chottiner at [lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lechottiner@jewishlouisville.org). You can also call Lee at 502-238-2783.

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

tion on hold? Development Associate Kristy Benefield can handle all circulation questions. She can be reached at [kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org](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, May 19 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Fri-

day, May 28.

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

Due to an editing error, the Schneider-Martinov engagement announcement in the March issue contained a factual error. The corrected announce-

ment is included in this issue. *Community* regrets the error.

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



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& Chief Development Officer, [sgordon-funk@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:sgordon-funk@jewishlouisville.org)



## NEWS

## Emerging from COVID

## Synagogues take the first steps toward a full reopening



Members of The Temple sat in outlined, socially distant circles on the back parking lot during an outdoor Shabbat service, Friday, April 16. The service was one of many steps Louisville synagogues are taking to reopen following a year of virtual operations due to the COVID pandemic. (photo provided by The Temple)

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

With COVID vaccination rates hitting record numbers nationwide and all people age 16 and up now eligible for the shots, Louisville's synagogues are moving forward fast with plans to reopen.

The Temple and Keneseth Israel have announced detailed plans for gradual reopenings. Other synagogues are in various stages of the process. Anshei Sfard and Chabad were already holding in-person services.

Here is an overview of the reopenings. Contact your synagogue for all the details:

**The Temple's** reopening will take place in several ways:

- In-person indoor Shabbat services resumed Friday, April 23. Eighteen vaccinated congregants may attend on Friday nights or Saturday mornings with RSVP on The Temple website or a call to The Temple office. Worshippers must "check a box" attesting that they have been fully vaccinated.
- Occasional outdoor services for up to 50 vaccinated or unvaccinated worshippers, will be held. The first one happened on April 16.
- In-person b'nai mitzvah services and lifecycle events are already being conducted in the building.
- In-person b'nai mitzvah classes will start in May.
- The number of people allowed at graveside funeral services is increasing from 20 to 40.
- Efforts to encourage Temple and ECEC preschool employees to get vaccinated will continue.

Centers for Disease Control guidelines – including facemasks and social distancing – for indoor and outdoor services, will be enforced, though temperatures will not be taken. There will be no ongs for now.

"The way we're doing it is a very calculated manner so as to not do it too quickly in a reckless way," said The Temple President Reed Weinberg. "I almost

view this as we're dipping our toe in the water."

Weinberg said the reopening is designed to be "slow" and "flexible" and subject to monthly review by the task force. "We can either expand or contract this, depending on the state of the virus, how it is in Louisville and Kentucky," he said.

For months, The Temple has been holding lifecycle events and social action projects in the building under CDC guidelines.

"We never really, quote, closed," Weinberg said.

**Anshei Sfard** resumed in-person services last year on Shavuot; classes were added a short time later around Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbi Simcha Snaid said anyone may attend as long as they are not sick or exhibiting symptoms.

"You do not have to be vaccinated to come to services," he said. "We are still wearing masks throughout the services and davening in a larger space to allow more room between people."

**Chabad of Kentucky** holds services with a 50 percent maximum capacity.

Rabbi Avrohom Litvin said the synagogue has been reconfigured to provide each participant an individual booth for prayer.

In-person 30-minute services twice a week were introduced in February to allow people to say Kaddish. In March, abbreviated Saturday morning services were added, followed by Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services in April. All services require reservations and follow CDC guidelines.

For Shavuot, a hybrid program of one-hour classes on Zoom followed by two hours of service and classes in person will be used. In-person classes are slated to resume in July, depending on vaccination and infection rates here.

**Keneseth Israel** will reopen its building on May 1 for services and classes. KI has already held outdoor services and classes:

- All services and classes will be held in the main sanctuary.
- Only use the fire exit to the sanctuary; all other areas of the building

will be off limits.

- RSVPs are required for all services and classes; the number of participants will be limited.
- KI will return to its normal service times.
- Worshippers must share a copy or emailed image of their vaccination cards.
- No food will be served after services.

**Adath Jeshurun** has established a reopening subcommittee that includes an attorney, physicians and the vice president of the board.

According to AJ President William Esakov, the subcommittee will determine when to reopen, whether all services should be open at once or in stages and what policies and procedures should be in place.

Esakov expects a draft plan to be shared with clergy and board leaders within the next two weeks with board approval in time for the annual meeting in May.

**Temple Shalom**, which held an outdoor hybrid service for Simchat Torah, had set May 15 as its targeted reopening date, but Ritual & Music Committee Chair Keiron O'Connell, said more issues need to be worked out first.

"We're putting that date back while

we're working out the details," O'Connell said. "It's still our goal to reopen, but we don't have a firm date.

**All the synagogues** say they regularly assess the situation tightening or loosening restrictions as conditions warrant.

As in-person gatherings resume, synagogue leaders say services and programs will continue to be live-streamed in some form, effectively changing the way Jews access synagogue life.

Last year, the Jewish Federation of Louisville, using seed money from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, made grants to the synagogues for installation of cameras in synagogues to live-stream High Holy Day services – a resource the synagogues plan to continue utilizing.

Synagogue leaders say the virtual component is necessary for worshippers who live out of state or can't get to the synagogue on a regular basis, especially shut-ins, travelers and young families with children.

"I think that's part of our reopening," Weinberg said. "We continue to offer those services; they're not going away."

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# NEWS

## Yom HaShoah

### Ann and Sandor Kleins' stories teach resilience, grandson says

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

*For there is always light,  
If only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

—Amanda Gorman  
U.S. National Youth Poet Laureate

Ann and Sandor Klein personified the words of Gorman's poem, living a lifetime of light despite a past pitted with darkness.

They were childhood sweethearts in their Hungarian town of Eger, taking music lessons and performing together in plays, including a Purim shpiel.

But they parted ways in 1938 when Sandor's father, sensing things were getting worse for Jews in Europe, sent his son to study in America before the start of World War II.

Ann was not as lucky. She remained in Hungary, from where the Nazis deported her to Auschwitz in 1944. She worked in the kitchen there, stealing food to survive. Finally, she endured the infamous death march into Germany before the Red Army liberated her.

Her parents and brothers died in the Holocaust.

"Living through the events I described would make anyone resilient," said Zach Kleinsmith, Ann and Sandor's grandson.

Kleinsmith struck the theme of resilience as he told his grandparents' story at the annual Yom HaShoah commemoration on April 8 – the second in as many years to be pre-recorded due to the COVID pandemic.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to gather together next year," said Beth Salamon, chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), who opened the program.

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner read from a Mark Twain essay in her opening remarks. Twain lauded the Jews' contributions to society despite the hardships they endured.

"What is the secret of his (the Jew's) immortality?" Twain asked.

"I'm not sure we have a secret, so to speak," Jacowitz Chottiner said. "But I do believe our tradition shapes us to be resilient."

In his remarks, which he co-wrote with his wife, Sara, Kleinsmith described how Sandor, serving in the Army Air Corps in North Africa, took leave after the war to spend 40 days traveling through Allied military zones in Europe to reunite with his sisters.

When he learned that Ann had survived, he sent her a letter proposing marriage. She accepted and they reunited, eventually moving to Louisville.

They endured more pain when their son, Andrew, was paralyzed following



From top left, Zach Kleinsmith speaks about the resilience of his grandparents, Ann and Sandor Klein. Top right, Ann and Sandor, later in life. Above, a young, newly wed Ann and Sandor.

an accident in college, but they lived long enough to dance at grandson Zach's wedding.

The Kleins became part of a larger story of Holocaust survivors rebuilding their lives as U.S. citizens, Kleinsmith said. "Although their story isn't unique, it is uniquely American."

Kleinsmith's program, which his brother Eli edited, was illustrated by a moving collage of videos and still shots of the Klein family from its earliest days in America to the present.

Especially moving was the video of Ann's final days in a hospice bed in Louisville, surrounded by family and friends, all singing at Ann's request while she enjoyed caramel shakes and wonton soup.

"We tried to soak up every last bit of what she had to offer," Kleinsmith said.

This year's Yom HaShoah program coincided with the third anniversary of passage of the Fred Gross and Ann Klein Holocaust Education Act, a state

law requiring Holocaust instruction in public middle and high schools.

Fred Gross, a survivor who shares the title of the law with Ann, recalled the time he asked her to speak about her experiences to a middle school class in a rural county.

"I believe it was the first time that she had shared her story to a larger group, and like most survivors, she was a bit hesitant to share," Gross said.

"The students were not only moved by

#### Want to watch?

The Yom HaShoah commemoration can be viewed online at [vimeo.com/534658884](https://vimeo.com/534658884). Jeffrey Jamner organized this year's commemoration. The Klein family has set up the Ann Klein Memorial Fund for Holocaust Education at the Community Foundation of Louisville. For more details, call 502-585-4649.

her story, they fell in love with her," he recalled. "And after she spoke, she was moved to tears as she was presented with a bouquet of flowers."

JCRC Director Matt Goldberg used the program to pay tribute to the student journalists and faculty advisors of duPont Manual High School, who broke the news about Nazi statements and symbols being used in state police training materials. He said their reporting is leading to reforms in the way the state's law enforcement officers are trained.

Fred Whittaker, who teaches Holocaust studies at St. Francis of Assisi School, introduced eighth grader Mary Shea Ballantine, who read her essay on the resilience of survivors.

As in past programs, students from St. Francis of Assisi and LBSY lit 11 memorial candles, each representing a group that either suffered at the hands of the Nazis or fought to overcome them.

Cantor Sharon Hordes sang *Ashre Hagafurur*. Cantor David Lipp chanted *Al Malai Rachamin*, and Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport recited The Eli Wiesel version of the mourner's Kaddish, which pairs each line of the prayer with the name of a death camp, a Jewish ghetto or the scene of a modern-day genocide. Matthew and Kathy Karr played the accompanying music as the long memorial list of Shoah victims rolled across the screen, a flickering candle in the background.

The program was presented by the JCRC, the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Rabbi Robert Slosberg closed the program by saying the experiences of the Kleins and other survivors should teach Americans concern for all persecuted people.

"Imagine our loss if the gates of freedom had been shut," he said.

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### COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: May 19 for publication on May 28 and June 16 for publication on June 25.

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

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

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

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

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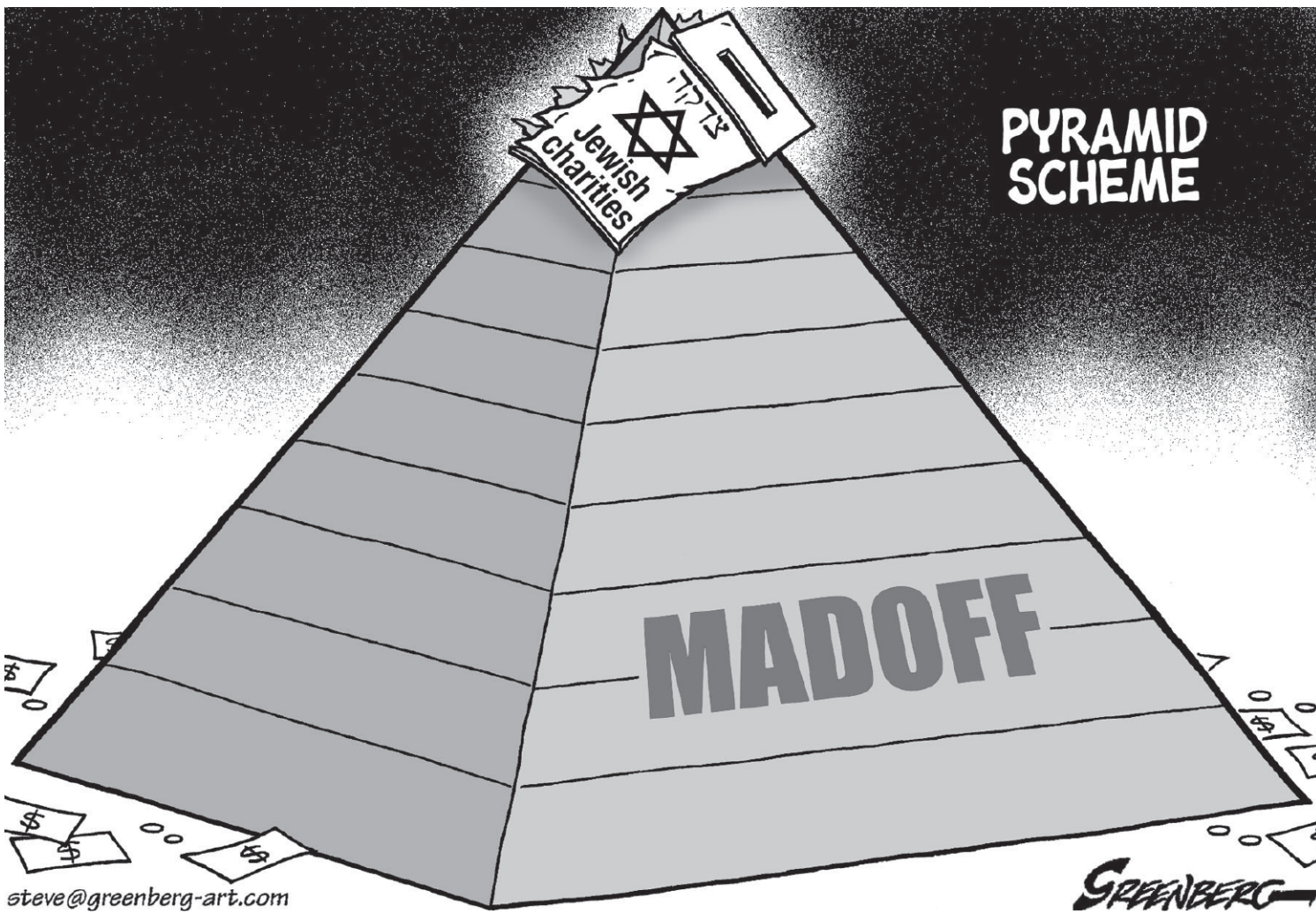
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## FORUM



## Jewish diplomat sounded genocide alarm



### Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

April, 1915. Disturbing reports began to reach the U.S. Embassy in the Turkish capital of Constantinople, and the desk of Henry Morgenthau, Sr.

The ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, and a Jew, Morgenthau was learning of the mass deportations, and mass executions, of the Armenian population. Dispatches from the U.S. consulates in the interior of the country streamed in with eyewitness accounts of the horrors.

Alarmed by the reports, which one of his consuls described as “a carefully planned scheme to thoroughly extinguish the Armenian race,” Morgenthau forwarded the reports to Washington. He even cabled the Department of State on July 16, 1915, saying, in no uncertain terms, that “a campaign of race extermination is in progress.”

To little avail.

When he returned to the United States in 1916, “drained by his failure to avert this disaster,” as one account put it, Morgenthau spent the remainder of the war raising funds for the survivors. He also published *Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story*, a memoir of his time in Turkey. In it, he included a chapter about the Armenians in which

he described “The Murder of a Nation.”

“I am confident,” Morgenthau wrote, “that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this.”

He could not have imagined that the Holocaust would befall the Jews of Europe more than 20 years later. But to this particular crime against humanity he was a witness.

The Armenian Genocide, which killed approximately one million people (the estimates vary), has long been denied by Turkish authorities, and the scope of the crime has escaped official recognition by the U.S. government.

Until now.

On Saturday, April 24, President Joe Biden, fulfilling a campaign promise, became the first U.S. president to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

“We honor the victims of the *Medz Yeghern* (Armenian for the “Great Evil Crime”) so that the horrors of what happened are never lost to history. And we remember so that we remain ever-vigilant against the corrosive influence of hate in all its forms.”

He chose Armenian Remembrance Day to release his historic statement.

While this gesture – 106 years after the fact – will likely chill relations between the United States and its NATO ally, Turkey, Biden said that is not the intent of his statement.

“We do this not to cast blame,” the president said, “but to ensure that what happened is never repeated.”

And as Jews know, 80 years after the Holocaust, Germany is also a NATO ally; it has diplomatic relations with

Israel; and Jewish life is again taking root in that country.

Recognition of a historic fact need not be the end of the road, but the beginning of a journey.

Jews should celebrate this statement by Biden, which comes two weeks after the annual observance of Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day. After all, history should be about nations, races and ethnicities coming together to shed light on all crimes against humanity.

And no one should compare the level of suffering in one genocide to that of another. There’s no point. It shouldn’t matter that six million Jews were murdered compared to one million Armenians, or that the Nazis turned killing into a science compared to the tactics of another era.

What matters is that human suffering must be recognized no matter the scope or the victims – a lesson that is slowly being learned in this country with regard to racial justice for Black Americans.

When Morgenthau chose not to be silent in the face of Armenian suffering, he did the most Jewish thing he could, whether he knew it or not. Today, Jews should follow his example, and the president’s, bearing witness to the suffering of others – here and abroad, now and in the future.

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



# FORUM

## A tale of two countries Election consequences take different tolls in U.S., Israel



JCRC Scene

Matt Goldberg

Elections have consequences. It's a true statement of which we are reminded after every election.

Some candidates run uncontested. Others face formidable opponents in tight races.

Every 10 years, the U.S. Constitution calls for a census to take place, its findings determining allocation of federal dollars and legislative representation.

The 2020 election was important for many reasons, an overlooked one being that elections for state governments determine who decides what legislative districts look like for the next decade. Here in Kentucky, our current legislature will soon redraw legislative maps. Political gerrymandering has a long history in America. Since the 1780s, it has also been used to marginalize people of

color and dilute their vote.

The Jewish community has a long history of opposing this practice, recognizing the inherent inequity in its use. We support impartial and politically neutral drawing of political districts that will not unnecessarily favor either political party. We share the concerns of many about its targeted use against minorities.

As Kentucky prepares for redistricting, we must watch carefully what is being done. Our legislators will need to hear from us about our concerns related to redistricting.

The Jewish Community Relations Council is proud to join the National Council of Jewish Women-Louisville Section and the League of Women Voters of Kentucky in co-hosting a program dedicated to this important issue. At 7 p.m., Thursday, May 13, we will hear from Dee Pregliasco of the League who will explain how redistricting Kentucky's legislative districts affect metro, state and federal elections, and how we can voice our opinions on this issue.

Meanwhile, in Israel —

Elections have consequences...except maybe in Israel.

Last month, Israel held its fourth election in two years, the previous three fail-

ing to produce a stable government. This latest election increasingly looks like a prelude to a fifth vote.

Israel's parliamentary system, including a multitude of different parties, is splintered so much that getting to 61 seats in the Knesset — the minimum for any governing majority — is difficult to achieve. While this last election was clearly a victory for the right wing, two such parties, New Hope and Yisrael Beitenenu, have sworn not to sit in a government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

So, Netanyahu needs both the Religious Zionist Party, an extremist, right-wing Jewish party; and Ra'Am, an Islamist Arab party, to join his coalition. But both have sworn not to if the other one is in it.

If Netanyahu cannot form a government in the next two weeks, and the president does not grant him an extension, Yair Lapid, head of the centrist Yesh Atid party, will likely be given a chance — a difficult task since he will have to bring together right- and left-wing parties, whose only commonality is opposing Netanyahu. Such a national

unity government would be possible, though very precarious.

What does this mean for two of the issues American Jews care about most in Israel, Israel-Palestinian peace and religious pluralism? Because of the right-leaning majority in the Knesset, prospects are bleak for a resumption of meaningful talks with the Palestinians, though a wildcard could be increased pressure from President Biden.

But a Lapid-led government might favor religious pluralism. Such a government would leave the ultra-Orthodox parties in the opposition and would include Yisrael Beitenenu, which is hawkish on issues involving the Palestinians but secular and in favor of breaking the monopoly the ultra-Orthodox have on religious institutions.

Let's hope both democracies in both countries work to represent the true will of the people.

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



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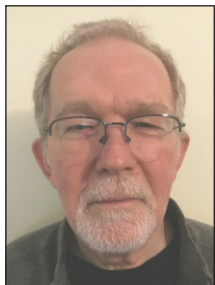
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## FORUM

# Visit to Treblinka

## Grim facts recounted at bucolic scene of mass murder



Guest  
Columnist

Keiron O'Connell

In Warsaw. Up at 6:15 am. It's a beautiful June morning as we board the bus and drive to the *Umschlagplatz*, the final staging area before deportees from the ghetto were loaded on the trains to Treblinka – and likely death.

We leave the *Umschlagplatz* and begin the drive to Treblinka. A 45-minute train ride at the time of the Shoah is today a 2½-hour bus drive over narrow country roads through small villages. However, that 45-minute train ride in 1942-43 may have taken a day or more under conditions of excruciating suffering for the passengers, packed into freight or cattle cars.

Arrival at Treblinka. Imagine a bucolic country scene under an azure sky with small puffy clouds and bright sunshine. We are in a clearing in the woods. Birds are singing. Otherwise, there is silence and peace. I imagine similar days 75 years ago while half a kilometer distant, industrialized mass murder is underway.

Children, women and men are being unloaded from rail cars, forced to strip naked, all body hair shaved by *sonderkommandos*,

then rushed to their deaths by carbon monoxide poisoning in a gas chamber. Finally, the lifeless bodies are reduced to ashes on pyres and thrown into one of five pits.

We stop in the small museum to view a model of the site when it was in operation. Our guide explains the process, how it functioned.

The murder site was dismantled by the Nazis after the final transports from the Warsaw ghetto had been “liquidated,” eliminating the evidence. Such horror could not be hidden. After the war, the site was converted to a memorial by the Communist government.

Enormous symbolic railway ties lead the way to the disembarkation point where the rail cars disgorged their human cargo. Then, a line of standing stones, seven of them, memorialize the countries from which the victims came: Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, Belgium. These stones usher the witnesses to venture further along a cobbled road into a field of thousands more standing stones, naming the individual towns and villages of origin of more than 925,000 murdered Jews and an unknown number of Poles, Roma and Soviet prisoners of war.

In the center-front stands a colossal stone structure, almost megalithic in nature and scope. Maybe an ancient Stonehenge, but not designed to catch the solstice light, more to reveal the darkness that can afflict the human soul. Maybe a symbolic pyre to record the sacrifice of innocents. Whatever,



The pastoral setting of Treblinka today shrouds the horrors of the death camp that once existed there. (photo provided by Keiron O'Connell)

this is a place of unrequited evil, and only that. We come to witness and remember and to re-commit. What is done cannot be undone. The suffering that happened here cannot be retracted, the evil done never forgiven.

We gather around Howard Chandler, 88, a survivor of the death camps, as he explains that his mother and younger brother were taken to Treblinka to be murdered. He tells us how, by stealth and luck, he escaped their fate, and with his father was used as slave labor.

We then stand with Howard at the stone that lists the name of his town of origin, Wierzbnik, Poland, and together recite the Kaddish. Finally, we regather for a memo-

rial service conducted by the students and teachers who are with us. We try to connect with heaven, from the entrance to hell. Truly, “Out of the depths we cry to you, Oh Lord.”

I leave bemused. My psyche cannot take this in. A blessing? Who would want such understanding? Who could carry the burden of such knowledge?

Silently, we return to our bus in the parking lot and leave this bleak place. We return to Warsaw emotionally exhausted.

(Keiron O'Connell, a past president of Temple Shalom, traveled to Poland with his wife, Paula, on a 2017 seminar by Classrooms Without Borders.)

JEWISH LOUISVILLE

## COMMUNITY

### Access for All: The Digital Community Debut

In 2019 the Jewish Community of Louisville and the Filson Historical Society embarked on an exciting preservation project: digitizing the complete chronicles of Louisville's Jewish Newspaper, *Community*. Join the Filson's Curator of Jewish Collections, Dr. Abby Glogower and Curator of Digital Projects, Danielle Spalenka for a discussion of the digitization process and a hands-on tour through the new, fully searchable online *Community* archive.

Additional remarks by Dick Clay, President and CEO of the Filson Historical Society, and Sara Wagner, President and CEO of the JCL.

May 10, 2021 7:00 pm

to register email  
federation@jewishlouisville.org

Contact jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org for more information.

Special Thanks to the Louisville Jewish Archives Committee for their tremendous work enabling us to reach this milestone and their commitment to preserving Jewish Louisville. Committee Members: Alan Engel, Abby Glogower, Stuart Goldberg, Jane Goldstein, Max Green, 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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# FEDERATION

## Small gift, big impact

## 7-year-old supports Capital Campaign with her own \$10 donation

By Lee Chottiner  
Community Editor

Recently, a note, handwritten with pencil on ruled paper, arrived at the Jewish Community Center for Stacy Gordon-Funk. Here's what it said:

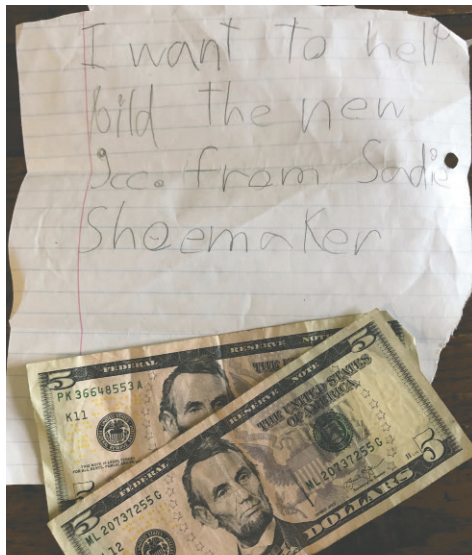
*"I want help bld the new Jcc. From Sadie Shoemaker"*

Enclosed were two semi-crisp five-dollar bills – from Sadie's "tooth-ferry" money.

Gordon-Funk, senior vice president and chief development officer of the Louisville Jewish Federation, has received many donations for the future JCC, but she was especially moved by this one.

"I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the community, but to receive this note and contribution from 7-year-old Sadie, it's hard to express my feelings in words," Gordon-Funk said. "She really understands what philanthropy means... I feel honored she wanted to be a part this campaign."

Sadie, a 7-year-old first-grader in the Jefferson County Public Schools, liter-



The two five-dollar bills and note that 7-year-old Sadie Shoemaker sent to the Capital Campaign

ally grew up at the JCC. She started the Early Learning Center (ELC) at age three months and stayed through her Pomegranates year. She made friends there and just feels safe.

"The JCC is like her happy place," said her mother, Gayle Shoemaker.

Sadie still goes there with her moth-

er every day to drop off her younger sister, Annie, at the ELC. Every time, she watches construction of the new building, knowing it will open soon and that one of her favorite activities, swimming, will be better than ever.

"She talks about the new water pool a lot," Shoemaker said, "and the slide. She's so excited."

Shoemaker works part-time in philanthropy at the Federation, sending out gift acknowledgements and thank you notes. Not long ago, she talked to Sadie about her work and what it means.

"It resonated with her because, about a week or two later, unsolicited, she walked up and gave me \$10 from her 'tooth-ferry' money."

The proud mom called her daughter's act of giving "heartwarming."

"It meant a lot to me that she had that feeling of generosity within her," Shoemaker said. "There was no division because she's a little kid. This is her community, too, and she wants to be a part of it."

The size of Sadie's gift – or any gift

– is not what's most important to Gordon-Funk.

"Every gift matters. Every gift counts. In the true essence of *tzedakah*, charitable giving begins in the heart and soul of the donor translating into making the world a better place."

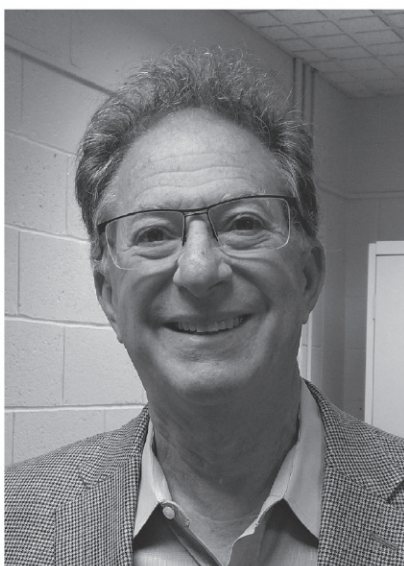
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# PICTURE THIS: ARCHIVE SHOTS

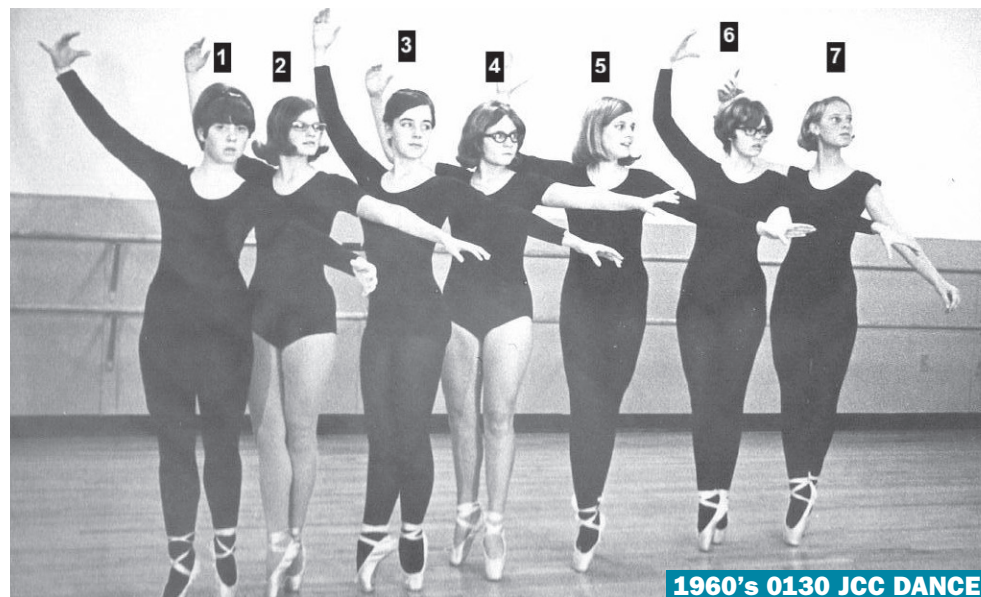


*The Filson  
Historical  
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This is the fourth in a series of photo galleries made possible by the Louisville Jewish Archives Committee. The panel is seeking help from Community readers to identify photos from its collection, which depicts 100 years 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)

Visit [filsonhistorical.org/events/events-calendar/](http://filsonhistorical.org/events/events-calendar/) to learn about upcoming events offered by the Filson Historical Society.



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David Kaplan, *Chair, 2021 Jewish Federation of Louisville Annual Campaign*

Around the world, in Israel and, of course, right here at home, the Jewish Federation of Louisville is positively affecting Jewish communities. Please contact Kristy Benefield, [kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org) or go to [www.jewishlouisville.org/donate](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/donate) to take advantage of this campaign match.



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# PICTURE THIS: YOM HAATZMAUT



Jewish Louisville turned out – in person – for the annual Yom Haatzmaut/Israel Independence Day celebration on April 11 at the JCC. While still wearing face-masks out of an abundance of caution, they still enjoyed games, balloon toys, planting seeds and treats all while learning about Israel. (Community photos by Sarah Provancher)



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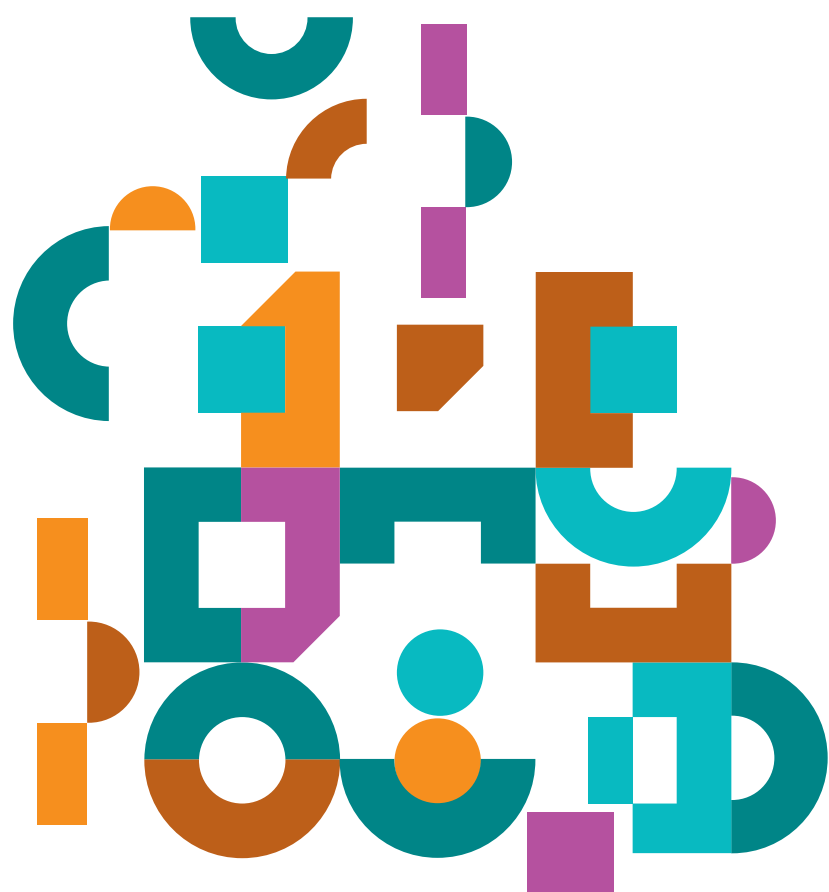
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## ARTS

## ‘Call me Kat’ star Mayim Bialik speaks at virtual KI fundraiser

By Lisa Horning  
For Community

Jewish actress Mayim Bialik, a child star who grew up to be a neuroscientist, just can't shake the acting bug.

In fact, the 45-year-old actress, who made it big in the CBS sitcom *Big Bang Theory*, is in front of the camera again; this time, she's in the new Fox comedy, *Call Me Kat*, set in Louisville.

However, while acting is the profession she loves, Judaism – particularly the teaching of *tikkun olam* – defines her life.

"The love for finding compassion and beauty in every person," Bialik said in a pre-recorded message to Keneseth Israel, "those to me are Jewish values, the notion of, you know, building a life around helping others."

Bialik spoke at KI Sunday, April 18, for its virtual fundraiser: "Brunch with Mayim: Finding Positivity in a Changing World." The fundraiser attracted some 175 people.



Mayim Bialik, who made a pre-recorded address to Keneseth Israel this month, is starring in a new Fox sitcom set in Louisville, "Call me Kat." (screenshot by Lisa Horning)

Bialik's career journey took root in the '80s on the set of the NBC TV series *Blossom*. There, between shoots, the 11-year-old actress studied with a tutor, who ignited her love for science.

She went on to earn a Ph.D. in neuroscience from UCLA, where she researched a genetic disorder caused by a loss of function of specific genes in newborns. The title of her thesis: *Hypothalamic Regulation in Relation to Maladaptive, Obsessive-compulsive, Affiliative, and Satiety Behaviors in Prader-Willi Syndrome*.

As soon as she finished the program, though, Bialik returned to acting. She said she needed health insurance. That eventually led to her role in *The Big Bang Theory*, where she played – no surprise – Dr. Amy Farah-Fowler, a scientist.

Her current gig, *Call Me Kat*, which is based on a British show, is about a 30-something single woman – a former University of Louisville professor – who spends the money her parents set aside for her wedding to open a cat café in the Derby City.

Bialik, who spoke at a Louisville Jewish Federation event in 2011, said the show highlights the Southern charm and "laid-backness" of the city without mocking it.

Raised Reform and now Modern Orthodox, Bialik, who is a distant relative of the poet Chaim Nachman Bialik, described her grandparents as Eastern European immigrants and her parents as "Bohemian" types – artists and docu-

mentary filmmakers.

Her mother distanced herself from Judaism, but Bialik embraced it. She loved Hebrew school and studied Judaism in college, including Hebrew and Yiddish. She keeps a kosher household and follows the traditional Jewish calendar.

That's especially true for Shabbat, she said.

"Just the notion that there's a day on which I don't serve anyone, I'm not required to do my work," she said, "that's a real blessing that I get every week, that we all get every week."

She likes Judaism's communal rituals, singling out KI customs such as kiddush after services, and noting the part rituals play in bringing Jews together.

"Those things stayed with me, and I know y'all do that as well, as do many synagogues, because those are often the kinds of things that keep the community feeling together."

## Divas on the Bima perform at AJ's Virtual Music Festival

By Lisa Horning  
For Community

Despite the global pandemic, Adath Jeshurun hosted its annual music festival on March 21 via Zoom with the touring Divas on the Bima performing for an audience of 150-plus.

The Divas are Cantors Jen Cohen, of Temple Beth Shalom, Cherry Hill, New Jersey; Magda Fishman, B'nai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton, Florida; Alisa Pomerantz-Boro, Congregation Beth El, Vorhees, New Jersey; and Elizabeth Shammash, Temple Adath Israel, Philadelphia.

The quartet sings traditional Jewish music along with pop, folk, jazz and musical theater.

Cantor David Lipp of AJ said he has known the Divas for years through the Cantors Assembly, of which he is currently president. He knew he wanted to host them for this event.

But producing a show through Zoom posed a challenge. In the past, Lipp has participated in recorded events, but at this festival, which was a hybrid version, each Diva pre-recorded a video of a song, then did their own live introduction, explaining why they chose their selections, connecting with the audience more like they would during a live concert.

"Whenever I put on a virtual program, there's always a concern about something going wrong," Lipp said. "Not that things don't go wrong in live performances, but I've almost forgotten what those are like. That this one came together so smoothly was overwhelming."

Pomerantz-Boro sang "Out Here on My Own" by Michael Gore for the movie *Fame*.

"This song resonated with me because it reminded me that we are never truly alone," said Pomerantz-Boro. "We can feel love and strength and coming together as a community to sing, to pray, to celebrate and to mourn, and to know that G-d gave each one of us the strength to get through all of the challenges in our lives."

Cantors Fishman and Shammash sang *Summertime*, by George Gershwin, in Yiddish. Fishman's next song – *On Borrowed Time*, by David Friedman, fit this



A screenshot of Divas on the Bima, a hazzan singing group that performed at the virtual Adath Jeshurun Music Festival on March 21. (photo provided by Cantor David Lipp)

time of pandemic, with lyrics like these:

*There was a time when I believed that life held guarantees*

*There was a time when I was sure my future was secure,*

*But life had other plans, the future's in God's hands*

*And knowing that just makes me love you even more*

Fishman took note of the song's relevance: "We sometimes have to let go and love people and understand that we are on borrowed time," she said.

Cohen played a mashup of *Grandma's*

*Hands*, by Bill Withers, and *If I am Not for Myself, Then Who Will Be for Me?* by Yonatan Razel.

Shammash performed a tribute to Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg, singing "As If I Weren't There," from the musical *Stars of David*. The song is based on an interview with Ginsburg, in which she described how she was left out of the

prayers when her mother died because only men were allowed.

Lipp performed *Afikoman Mambo* with the AJ Choir, including Cantor Sharon Hordes of Keneseth Israel. He also joined the Divas to sing *Salaam*.

The Adolf and Sara van der Walde and Israel Rosenbloum Charitable Fund supported the music festival.

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Beth Salamon, NCJW, Louisville Section's State Policy Advocate and JCRC Chairperson, and Matt Goldberg, Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Louisville, will moderate the discussion. The event is open to the public and attendees can submit questions and preview LWVKY's proposed maps prior to the webinar.

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# NEWS

## Greenberg announces his run for mayor

By staff and releases

Louisville businessman Craig Greenberg, a Democrat, announced his candidacy for mayor Wednesday, entering a growing field of candidates from across the city.

If he wins, it will mark the return of a Jewish Louisvillian to the Mayor's office. Jerry Abramson held the position for 20 years, first as mayor of the old City of Louisville, then of the consolidated Louisville Metro.

In an interview with *Community*, Greenberg said Jewish principles plus his own family history – his grandparents left Germany ahead of the Holocaust – will inform how he runs his campaign and his administration if elected.

"The stories they (his grandparents) told and were passed down to my mom always focused on equality, treating people with dignity, always giving people the same opportunities," Greenberg said. "Those are all principles that weigh heavily on me."

Greenberg cited five planks in his campaign platform. First was restoring trust in the police and its leaders



Craig Greenberg

through reforms and accountability.

He said any police reform in Louisville must be a collaborative effort.

"I think it's the job of the city government, the mayor, the city council, chief of police, the civilian review board and ultimately all the members of the po-

lice department," Greenberg said.

As part of police reform, he supports more community professionals responding to non-violent calls and greater training on deescalating the need for force.

His platform also calls for:

- creation of jobs by focusing on

growing local businesses and supporting entrepreneurs;

- expanded affordable housing by building 15,000 new units in his first term;
- establishment of a Louisville Department of Education to strengthen and enhance coordination among Louisville's pre-K schools and colleges;
- a two-term limit for mayors.

Formerly the CEO of Louisville-based 21c Museum Hotels, Greenberg currently co-owns Ohio Valley Wrestling, a local professional wrestling and entertainment company.

A lifelong Democrat, he has served on the Board of Trustees at the University of Louisville and boards of Metro United Way and Louisville Jewish Community Center. He also chaired the March for Dimes' March for Babies.

He and his wife Rachel, a former public school teacher at Wheatley Elementary School, have two teenage sons.

*Community* only reports on news of interest and pertinence to Jewish Louisville and does not make political endorsements.

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# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

## Jewish Louisvillian honors COVID victims on website



Martha Greenwald

A Jewish Louisville poet has founded a web-based organization honoring the memory of Kentucky's COVID-19 victims.

Martha Greenwald says her organization, WhoWeLostKy.org, which encourages families and friends to share their memories as a form of healing, has already archived 20 stories.

Some submissions are just a few lines; others, several paragraphs long. Greenwald offers tips for writing remembrances at her website.

The idea for the project came to her last October when Kentucky Health Commissioner Dr. Steven Stack, at one of Gov. Andy Beshear's 4 p.m. press briefings, asked viewers to send him snail mail – not emails or social media posts – explaining how the pandemic had affected their lives.

"As a poet and someone who had taught writing for 18 years at UofL, I was intrigued by his request," Greenwald said. "I started thinking about the possibilities of asking people to write about their lives and post their responses, rather than having reporters do it for them."

Greenwald has spoken to many people about her ideas and looked at similar

projects elsewhere in the country.

"There are many sites memorializing COVID-19 victims," she said, "but I wanted to do something different, specific to Kentucky, and in synch with Governor Beshear's approach to the crisis within the state."

Beshear has tweeted about her project, which has been featured on news outlets across the state.

"The site is not political," Waldman said. It "aims to help people grieve in a safe, secure environment away from social media."

Eventually, Waldman hopes to expand the project's scope, including a multilingual website; free online and in-person writing workshops; an anthology; outreach and curriculum options for teachers who wish to use the website in their classrooms; and season-specific writing prompts and templates to help Kentuckians at particularly difficult times.

She has filed to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Waldman compared the submissions to lighting yahrzeit candles.

"It feels like the whole state is lighting yahrzeit candles. Obviously, the tradition of lighting candles to memorialize occurs in many cultures and religions beside Judaism, but we all come to this pandemic experience with our own personal contexts."

## JCC hires senior adult, camp directors



Dara Cohen



David Siskin

The Jewish Community Center has announced two additions to its staff: Dara Cohen as senior adult programming director and David Siskin as director of camping.

An active member of Keneseth Israel, Cohen has also served on the board of the Meyer Food Pantry at the Jewish Family & Career Services for many years. As part of her new position, she will provide Meals on Wheels to seniors. Once the state approves in-person senior adult activities, she will also coordinate senior lunches, activities, events and classes.

Siskin has worked for JCCs in Phoenix, Tampa, Charleston, South Carolina, as well as Louisville. He was most recently the youth and teen program manager in Tampa. His son is in the Wheat class at the Early Learning Center.

## Mazel tov to ...

**Temple Shalom** for meeting its \$1,800 goal for construction of a new

Habitat house in Louisville.

Tikkun Olam Committee chair Avery Kolers announced on April 6 that the committee met its goal. The dwelling is for a family of Somali refugees. Construction will begin later this spring.

**Lisa Sobel-Berlow** for being nominated as a candidate for the Man & Woman of the Year campaign, a fundraising competition benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She is competing to raise funds for cancer cures, honoring her grandfather, Homer A. Sobel z"l, who passed away from leukemia in 1981. To become a member of her fundraising team, sponsor the virtual Grand Finale on May 15 or donate until May 15, visit [bit.ly/LLSMWOY21](https://bit.ly/LLSMWOY21).

**Julie Waterman**, for being featured in the 15th District PTA eletter, which covers public school PTA/PTSAs in Jefferson County, and the newsletter for Maryhurst, a residential school for girls. A retired teacher, Waterman's work at the Clothing Assistance Program, has "transformed and improved" the operation. Click here for the story: [bit.ly/3tnBRWv](https://bit.ly/3tnBRWv).

**Mike Harlan** for being awarded with the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor Boy Scouts of America can award to a volunteer, for his work with Troop 30 and Troop 30GT.

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# AROUND TOWN

## Adath Jeshurun

Here are the upcoming programs for *Sunday Night Live*, held Sundays at 7 p.m.: May 2, interactive whodunnit murder mystery; May 9, Mother's Day concert with Maxwell Street Klezmer Duo; May 23, Truth or Laughs interactive comedy game; and May 30, Music & Conversation with Teddy Abrams and Amit Peled. Links to join all programs may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe on the homepage at [adathjeshurun.com](http://adathjeshurun.com).

Here are the times and dates for virtual Shavuot services: May 16 at 7 p.m., Tikkun Ley'l Shavuot with guest Rabbi Rami Shapiro; May 17 at 10 a.m., Shavuot Day 1 service with Rabbi Shapiro; May 18 at 10 a.m., Shavuot Day 2 service. Links to join all services may be found in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe on the homepage at [adathjeshurun.com](http://adathjeshurun.com).

Virtual Shabbat services are held 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](http://adathjeshurun.com).

## Anshei Sfard

Worship and classes sessions are offered in person; masks and social distancing are required. Shabbat services begin at 9 a.m. Rabbi Simcha Snaid's classes are New Talmud Trek Tractate, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.; Spice of Life, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; and Make a Prophet, Thursdays at noon. Contact Rabbi Snaid 912-704-2769 for details.

## Chabad of Kentucky

Chabad will hold a hybrid Shavuot program, accommodating Zoom and in-person participation. The three-hour program will begin at 7:15 p.m., Sunday, May 16, with a pre-holiday Shavuot study on Zoom. The segment will incorporate Jewish history, law and kabbalah regarding the meaning and traditions of lighting Sabbath and holiday candles. This portion of the program will conclude with a candle-lighting ceremony

at 8 p.m. At 8:15 pm, the Shavuot program will switch to in-person at the Chabad House on Almara Circle, including prayers, classes and individual kid-dush and cheesecake for participants. This segment will conclude at 10:15 p.m. A holiday service will start at 10 a.m., Monday, May 17, including the reading of The Commandments at approximately 11:15 a.m. The second day holiday service will start at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 18, including the Yizkor memorial service at approximately 11:15. Reservations are required for both services.

## Chavurat Shalom

All programs are held Thursdays at 1 p.m. on [ChavuratShalomZoom](https://www.facebook.com/ChavuratShalomZoom).

Classical pianist Nada will perform on May 6.

Harpist Jessica Hyden will perform on May 13.

Flutist and clarinetist Anthony Minstein will perform a mostly classical concert on May 20.

Mike O'Bryan will play accordion and lead a sing-along on May 27.

## Keneseth Israel

Introduction to Reading Hebrew with Cantor Sharon Hordes is held Sundays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person. RSVPs are required for in person – [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

Coffee Shmooze is held Mondays at 11 a.m. on Zoom. There is no agenda or topic. bring your own coffee.

Jews and Brews with Cantor Hordes studies the weekly Torah portion Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom and in person. RSVP required for in person – [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

Mindful Meditation with Cantor Hordes meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person. RSVPs are required for in person – [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

Kabbalah Month by Month with Cantor Hordes, Kabbalah study through the lens of Hebrew months, meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person. RSVPs are required for in person – [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

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

## Louisville Hadassah

Louisville Hadassah will join Hadassah Greater Kansas City's Virtual Walk for Health program, honoring nurses, physicians and allied health professionals for their service during the pandemic, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day) on Zoom. Contact Michelle Elisabeth, Louisville chapter president, at [meehadassah@gmail.com](mailto:meehadassah@gmail.com).

## Montessori Torah Academy

Montessori Torah Academy offers a pre-school division, ages 3-6, and a lower elementary division, ages 6-10. In-person tours are available by appointment and under COVID guidelines. Call Rachel Blaustein at 847-212-5078 or [rblaustein@montessoritorah.org](mailto:rblaustein@montessoritorah.org). Applications and other information are available at [montessoritorah.org](http://montessoritorah.org).

## NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section and the Jewish Community Relations Council are co-hosting the League of Women Voters of Kentucky's (LWVKY) discussion of "Why Kentucky Legislative Redistricting Matters to You" at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 13. The virtual event will cover redistricting in Kentucky and its impact on elections. Kentucky, like many states, has unequal representation because of gerrymandering. LWVKY has developed redistricting maps that propose compact legislative districts. Dee Pregliasco, vice-president of the LWVKY, Beth Salamon, NCJW, Louisville section state policy advocate and JCRC chairperson and Matt Goldberg, director of the JCRC, will moderate the discussion. Go to [ncjwlou.org](http://ncjwlou.org) to register and submit questions. A Zoom link and link to LWVKY's proposed maps will be provided.

## Temple Shalom

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

Chailands Chavurah with Rabbi Jacowitz Chottiner will mark Lag B'Omer with an outdoor host an outdoor discussion around the fire pit at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 1. Email [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org) for details. Bring your own lawn chairs and refreshments.

Temple Shalom will join Adath Jeshuurn for Tikkun Leil Shavuot at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 16. Rabbi Rami Shapiro, co-director of the One River Foundation and an authority on contemporary spirituality, will teach.

Torah study with Rabbi Jacowitz Chottiner is held Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Email [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org) for the Zoom link.

Rabbi Jacowitz leads an Intro to Judaism class for those considering conver-

sion on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Email [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org) for the Zoom link.

## The Temple

Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. Contact Sheila Lynch, 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein or 502-329-2276. CDC guidelines are observed. Visit [facebook.com/wrjgiftshop](https://www.facebook.com/wrjgiftshop).

Adult education courses continue Mondays at 6 p.m. Advanced Hebrew with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport and Beginning Hebrew Part 2 with Mark Goldstein will be conducted. On Wednesday, Temple Scholars' *The Roots of Justice* with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 10:45 a.m. All classes are on Zoom. Call 502-423-1818 for details.

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

Sandwich Making for the Homeless will start at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 2. Due to COVID, seating is limited to 10 tables, each with two people from one household. Masks are required. Doors to the Heideman 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 2 p.m., Sunday, May 2 on Zoom. Visit [thetemplelouky.org/the-conversation](http://thetemplelouky.org/the-conversation) for information on this month's discussion.

Mother's Day Shabbat services will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, May 7, at [thetemplelouky.org/streaming](http://thetemplelouky.org/streaming).

An outdoor Happy Hour will be held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 13, on the back parking lot. Drinks will be provided. Social distancing will be followed. RSVP is required at [thetemplelouky.org/happy-hour](http://thetemplelouky.org/happy-hour).

A celebration for the Confirmation Class of 2021/5781 will be held during the erev Shavuot service, 7 p.m. Sunday, May 16. Rabbi Rapport will officiate.


Tikkun Leil Shavuot, the traditional time of study on erev Shavuot, will be held at 8 p.m., Sunday, May 8, on Zoom. Rabbi David Ariel-Joel will facilitate a session titled, "Moses speaks and God answers with God's own Voice."

Shavuot Morning Services will be at 10:30 a.m., Monday, May 17, on [thetemplelouky.org/streaming](http://thetemplelouky.org/streaming).

An outdoor Blue Jean Shabbat will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, May 21. RSVP and social distancing will be required. Streaming will be available. [thetemplelouky.org/blue-jean](http://thetemplelouky.org/blue-jean) for details.

Rabbi Rapport and Father Joe Graffis will address common issues between Catholics and Jews, 2 p.m., Sunday, May 23. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/interfaith-dialogue](http://thetemplelouky.org/interfaith-dialogue).

Movie Night with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 23 on Zoom. *Fiddler on the Roof* will be screened. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/Jewish-Identity-in-Jewish-Films](http://thetemplelouky.org/Jewish-Identity-in-Jewish-Films).




## Let's Talk Louisville

Join the Federation, Jaime Jorrich, JHFE Program Officer and Eric Goodman, Member of the JHFE Board of Trustees, for conversation and an update on Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence's study of Jewish Youth Education in Louisville.

**Thursday, May 6, 2021 • 5 pm**

[to register\\_email\\_federation@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:to_register_email_federation@jewishlouisville.org)

Contact [jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org) for further information

 Jewish Federation of Louisville **HERE for GOOD** Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence



# LIFECYCLE

## Births

### Edan Wolf Diamond

Leiah and Cooper Benson announce the birth of their daughter, Talia Blake Benson, on March 2, 2021. The proud grandparents are Maxine and David Rouben and Julie and David Benson.

## B'nai Mitzvahs



**Sage Hallie Snyder**, daughter of Charisse Levine Snyder and Bruce Snyder, sister of Brayden Jesse, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 5, at Adath Jeshurun. Sage is the granddaughter of Rhoda

and Allan Levine and the late Phyllis and Alfred Snyder. A seventh grader at Kammerer Middle School, Sage is an accomplished poet, Girl Scout, saxophone player and scholar. She is part of Justice Now, an organization fighting for equality in Louisville and is proud to be a headlining poet for her school system's Justice Fest. Passionate about fighting food insecurity, Sage is helping to create a food pantry at Kammerer for students and families in need. She has created a food donation service project that encourages donations to food banks. As part of her Girl Scout troop, she has contributed to Blanket Louisville, volunteered at a nursing home, and gathered donations for the military. Sage regularly performs the Ashrei as part of Shabbat services at her synagogue.



**Maya Ciriano** will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, May 8, in a Havdalah service at The Temple. A daughter of Julie and Steve Ciriano, Maya has two older sisters, Hannah and Rebecca Ciriano. She is the

granddaughter of Richard and Myrna Cohen of Columbia, South Carolina, and Joe Ciriano of Durham, North Carolina. A seventh grader at Kammerer Middle School, Maya plays field hockey with Kammerer and the International Field Hockey Club of Kentucky. For her bat mitzvah project, Maya, who loves animals, volunteers with Woodstock Foundation, helping with dog and cat adoptions.



**Levi Alkon Gladstein**, son of Heather and Seth Gladstein, and brother of Judah, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah, 5:30 pm, Saturday, May 15, in a Havdalah service at The Temple. Levi is the grandson of Julie and

the late Lawrence Adelman of Boca Raton, Florida, and Rolla and the late Dr. Mark Gladstein of Prospect. A seventh-grader at Louisville Collegiate School, Levi plays for his school's basketball team, spends his summers at Camp Nebagamon in Wisconsin, and participates in St. Matthew's Little League, where he has played each baseball season since he was 4. For his bar mitzvah project, Levi is collecting new and gently used books for West End School.



**Cooper Jax Nevel**, son of Lori and Marc Nevel and brother of Phoebe, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 29, at The Temple. Cooper is the grandson of Bonnie and Paul Nevel of Arlington

Heights, Illinois, and the late Phyllis and Marshall Cooper. A seventh-grader in the Westport Middle School Montessori program, Cooper is involved with Best Buddies and is an assistant in the special education classes. He loves to babysit, bake, cook, and play baseball and flag football. He spends his summers at Camp Chi and loves to hang out with his family and his dog, Payton. Cooper's love of baking led him to his bar mitzvah project: Cookies for a Cause. He raised money by baking cookies and selling the cookie tins. He donated \$2,350 to the Ronald McDonald House Charities to support families of hospitalized children during their hospital stay. Cooper's whole family is proud of him and his accomplishments.

## Engagements

### Schneider-Martinov

Ruth Schneider is extremely happy to announce the engagement of her daughter, Kenna Beth Schneider to Plamen Martinov. Plamen is originally from Bulgaria, and his family came to Chicago in the mid 1990's. Both bride and groom (to-be) have advanced degrees and live and work downtown, where they plan on staying indefinitely. Plamen is chief information security officer for OCC and Kenna is a national consultant for a large IT corporation. Their wedding is planned for Aug. 7 in the Dominican Republic.

## Obituaries



### Marla Fine Feinstein

Marla Fine Feinstein, 59, of Louisville, unexpectedly passed away on March 28, 2021. She lived most of her life in Houston, Texas but returned to her hometown of Louisville several years ago.

The middle daughter of Gerald Fine and the late Marcia Fine, Marla had a special relationship with her father, absolutely adoring him. She valued his guidance and kind words.

Both were avid runners. They ran the Derby Mini Marathon together in 2018 – a special memory that they shared.

Marla graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in nursing. A dedicated and compassionate nurse, she worked in many different nursing fields. Her patients adored her sweet soul making them feel special, loved and safe.

Marla had two sons, Taylor and the late Max Feinstein, who were the light of her life. She loved both of them dearly and was so proud of the men they had become and their accomplishments. The loss of her dear son, Max, left an irreparable hole in her heart, and she cherished every memory of him.

In addition to her father, Marla is survived by her son Taylor; her sisters, Halle Fine Nussbaum and Missy Fine Rottner, and nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service was held on March 30, honoring her life.

### Isaak Gurvich

Isaak Gurvich, 96, died Monday, April 12, 2021, in Louisville. He was predeceased by his wife, Reva.

He is survived by his children, Inna Gurevich (Iosif Ocheretner) and Leonid Gurevich (Raisa); his four grandchildren, Stan, Gariy, Pavel and Alan; and one great-grandson, Nathan.

Private graveside were Wednesday, April 14, at The Temple Cemetery.



### William Levy

William Levy, 94, died Monday, March 29, 2021, in Boynton Beach, Florida, after a short illness.

Born July 2, 1926 in Louisville to Victor and Rebecca Greenberg Levy, he graduated from Male High School and attended the University of Louisville before being drafted.

William served in the Army in France and Germany during World War II, earning the French Legion of Honor.

After returning home, he earned a degree in business from Indiana University.

A lifelong Louisville resident, his dream was to retire and spend winters in Florida. At 84, he decided to relocate permanently, where the weather was perfect for his golf game. He spent hours on the links. William belonged to Standard Club, Cardinal Club, Boca Teeca, and Westchester Country Club. He especially enjoyed playing in tournaments with his sons and grandsons.

An avid Bridge player, he enjoyed competitive play at Coral Lakes Bridge Club, often coming in on top of its division. He also enjoyed playing at the Jourdan's Bridge Club and the Louisville Bridge Club with friends as partners who always used his system. He felt his biggest thrill playing at Jourdan's with his grandson, winning their division.

His friends and neighbors in Florida considered him a real Southern gentleman, always friendly, interested in others, and congenial in all situations. He loved live entertainment, attending every performance available in Louisville and Florida, often as a season subscriber.

The Louisville Cardinals sports teams were a life-long passion of his. The last thing he watched on television was the women's basketball team victory over Oregon to advance to the Elite 8. William was a season ticket holder for over 50 years for basketball and football.

He loved to travel, especially with the family. His favorite family vacations included a Mediterranean cruise, Hilton Head Island, celebrating his 90th birthday, and a Las Vegas trip to renew his marital vows with Judith and their family at the Elvis Chapel. But the best trips of all were the bonding experiences he went on with his grandsons after they graduated from high school.

His career spanned more than 50 years, working in the family business, Levy Lumber and Building Center – a trailblazer in the home center industry and one of the first "Do It Yourself" businesses in the country. In 1990 the company received the National Home Center's Pioneer of the Year Award from the National Home Center Association. At the time, William served as the company's vice president. He also served as president of the National Supply Distributor's Association of America.

Levy provided leadership to many non-profit organizations in Louisville. Besides serving on the Metro United Way Self-Support Committee, he served on numerous Louisville Jewish community boards, including Jewish Hospital, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family & Vocational Service, Louisville Hebrew School, Four Courts Senior Center and Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

As vice-president of the Jewish Community Federation, Levy took particular in-

*Continued on page 18*



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# LIFECYCLE

terest in the senior population. In 1976, he chaired the Federation's Council on Aging. This committee started the first nutrition program for seniors at the Jewish Community Center and provided transportation for the elderly to JCC programs.

Levy chaired the Federation's Housing for the Elderly Committee, tasked to build a HUD apartment building for elderly and disabled seniors. The result, the 150-unit Shalom Tower, was accomplished in record time, and its proximity to the JCC enabled seniors to participate in JCC programming without transportation. Levy went on to chair the Shalom Tower board.

William was a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Louisville, Temple Torat Emet in Boynton Beach, St. George Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Kosair Temple Shrine and B'nai B'rith. He was a Kentucky Colonel, Kentucky Admiral and a member of numerous social organizations.

B'nai B'rith named Levy its "Man of the Year" in 1981 for service to the community. Mizrahi Women gave him the same honor. In 1990 he received the Council of Jewish Federations' National Endowment Achievement Award, and in 1994 he received the Jewish Community Federation's Ronald and Marie Abrams Volunteer of the Year Award.

In 1951, William married Dorothy Lubofsky. They had two sons, Dr. Alan Levy and James Levy. Following her death in 1991, William established the Dorothy Levy Memorial Fund at Adath Jeshurun to bring educational and cultural programming to the community annually.

In 1993, he married Judith Pope.

A devoted husband, loving father and involved grandfather, William enjoyed family gatherings and vacations. He was preceded in death by his parents Rebecca and Victor, and his sister Phyllis Glazer (Martin).

He is survived by his two sons, Dr. Alan Levy (Tamara) and James Levy; grandsons, Hudson and Cameron; niece Ann (Howell) Niren; great-nieces, Pamela and Amy Niren; step-sons, Mark Kohlman (Marla) and Joel Kohlman (LiFong); step-daughters, Laura Glass (Daniel) and Tasha Futch (Reggie); step-grandchildren, Taryn and Kennedy Kohlman; Leo Kohlman; Daniel (Malorie), Liam, and Reilly Glass; Christian, Angela, Taylor and Jordan Futch. All of Judith's grandchildren were born after William and she were married.

A memorial service was held Thursday, April 1.

The family appreciates memorial donations to the Dorothy Levy Memorial Fund, c/o The Jewish Federation, Attn: Stacy Gordon-Funk, 3600 Dutchmans Lane, 40205, (502) 459-0660; or the charity of your choice.



## Dr. Jane Portnoy

Jane Portnoy, 75, died on Sunday, March 28, at the Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania.

Portnoy, professor of ophthalmology at the Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania, was the first woman board-certified ophthalmologist in Kentucky.

Educated at Woodmere Academy and Mount Holyoke College, she completed her medical training, internship and residency at the University of Louisville, followed by a fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at the University of Iowa.

She spent more than 10 years in practice in Louisville followed by 27 years in Philadelphia, first at Temple University, and for the last two decades at Scheie.

Regarded as a brilliant diagnostician and a physician who brought the "human touch" to medicine, Portnoy also was the author of A Jewish Calendar of Festive Foods, a cookbook based upon the Jewish months and holidays.

Though destined for distinction as a doctor, she began her career as a teacher of French at Scarsdale High School; her love of French culture and cuisine was lifelong.

She also danced, participating for several summers in the American Dance Festival at Connecticut College, where she studied with Alvin Ailey and Merce Cunningham, and tap-danced well into her 70s. She also was an expert gardener and knitter.

Portnoy was passionate about music, singing in synagogue and community choirs her entire life.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Cantor Marshall Portnoy, and their children, Julie Beth Portnoy, Simon (Alex) and Michael Portnoy; a grandson, Jordan Max Simon; and a brother, Daniel Zuger.

Funeral arrangements are private. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Dr. Jane Portnoy Memorial Fund at the Scheie Eye Institute at Penn Medicine. Please mail checks, payable to "Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania" with "In Memory of Jane Portnoy" written on the memo line to: Penn Medicine Development, Attn: Mary Tong, 3535 Market Street, Suite 750, Philadelphia, PA 19129.



## Dr. Stuart Urbach

Dr. Stuart Urbach, 95, passed away peacefully on Monday March 8, 2021. He was married to Sherrie for over 59 years, who predeceased him.

From serving in the

Korean War to playing the trumpet and French horn in various bands, Stuart lived a big life, making a lasting impact on many people.

He loved tennis, ping pong, hiking and looking through his microscope. He had enthusiasm for people of all walks, endless curiosity and many opinions.

He loved to teach and was dedicated to healing. He continued to work and engage with others, took French horn lessons until the pandemic, and was learning to bake bread.

His last major adventure was traveling from Kentucky to Alaska at 94.

Stuart is survived by his sister, Adele; his children, Kathy (Bruce), Rob, and Michael; his grandchildren, Amelia, Kelsey and Kallie; beloved nieces and nephews; and zillions of friends.

The family will miss him terribly and continue to find inspiration in how he lived. Memories, thoughts and photos of Stuart can be shared at celebrating-stuart-urbach.com/. Donations in Stuart's memory may be made to the Amyloidosis Foundation, amyloidosis.org/. A spring celebration of Stuart's life is being planned.

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# NEWS

## ANTI-SEMITISM

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disturbed” by the increases.

“Each of these incidents represents Jewish Kentuckians who were horrified to experience the harassment, acts of vandalism and violence directed at them because of their faith,” Goldberg said in a prepared statement. “We hope this report serves as a wakeup call for all in our state that hate against all groups is alive and well and that the time to act is now.”

He urged people to speak up whenever they see something anti-Semitic or against other minorities. “I think of myself as Louisville’s ADL, and I strongly encourage people to contact me if they experience or observe any hate incident.” To contact him call **502-238-2707** or email **mgoldberg@jewishlouisville.org**.

Broken down, the Kentucky incidents include 12 cases of harassment, six of vandalism and one of assault.

Extremism accounted for much of the jump in Kentucky, with groups and

individuals inspired by extremist ideology responsible for six, or 32 percent, of all the incidents – double the national rate of 16 percent.

Five of those six incidents were white supremacist propaganda distributions featuring anti-Semitic content or targeting Jewish individuals or institutions.

Perhaps the most disturbing incident in the audit happened last December in Lexington to a Jewish man at a Chanukiah-lighting outside the Chabad of the Bluegrass building near the University of Kentucky. He was run over by a driver yelling anti-Semitic slurs.

But there also have been cases of bullying, religious taunting and graffiti in addition to the spread of extremist literature.

Nationally, the audit found 1,242 incidents of harassment, an increase of 10 percent from 2019. Reported acts of vandalism and assault declined by 18 percent and 49 percent, respectively. There were no anti-Semitic fatalities reported in 2020.

“While any decline in the data is encouraging, we still experienced a year

in which anti-Semitic acts remained at a disturbingly high level despite lockdowns and other significant changes in our daily lives and interactions with others,” Jonathan A. Greenblatt, ADL CEO and national director, said in a prepared statement.

Incidents were reported in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Those with the highest numbers of incidents were New York, 336; New Jersey, 295; California, 289; Florida, 127; and Pennsylvania, 101.

Across the river, Indiana reported 17 cases, up slightly from 15 in 2019 and 2018.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected incidents. In some cases, Jews and other marginalized communities were blamed or scapegoated for spreading the virus.

“In many ways Jews across the region and in Kentucky were combatting two out-of-control viruses,” Pasch said.

Once the pandemic became more widespread, incidents of anti-Semitism at schools and colleges dropped precipitously as learning moved online.

But anti-Semitic “Zoombombing,”

the intentional disruption of live videoconferences, increased.

In 2020, ADL recorded 196 incidents of anti-Semitic videoconferencing attacks, 114 of which targeted Jewish institutions.

The information in the audit is culled from law enforcement agencies, community leaders, media reports and research by the Center on Extremism at the ADL.

ADL is calling for an across-the-board response to hatred by public leaders and policy makers to improve protections and strengthen hate crime laws. It also advocates for Holocaust and genocide curricula in the schools and support pro-Israel students on college campuses.

“In 2021, we need to be hypervigilant about hate in all of its forms, Pasch said. “There needs to be a holistic approach to dealing with it.”

### Want to read it?

To read the executive summary of the ADL audit, visit **adl.org/audit2020**, where you can also download the complete report.

## DIGITAL

*Continued from page 1*

platform, the same outfit that hosts online newspaper collections from the National Library of Israel.

So far, the Filson, which is paying for the project, has put up \$16,000 for digitization, \$10,500 to host the platform, and \$4,000 to back up all the materials that are online – “cold storage,” Glogower calls it.

She estimates another \$6,000 will be needed to finish the digitization, plus \$6,000 per year to keep the platform online and \$1,500 to finish the back-up.

In all, the Filson has spent over \$30,000 on the project and anticipates spending another \$10,000 to finish it.

“A lot of people don’t really understand what goes into archiving and preservation – all the labor and costs that are involved,” Glogower said. “It’s not just an institutional version of chucking things

chaotically in an attic or basement.”

Glogower and Hudson overcame certain hiccups to get the project to this point. For one, Hudson was forced to shut down for a period due to COVID, slowing its progress.

For another, Glogower found putting together a complete set of printed issues of Community harder than she expected. The JCL had two sets, neither of which was complete.

“I had to go page by page, through thousands of pages, to make sure we were assembling one complete set for the digitizer,” she said.

The platform can be expanded in the future to add digitized issues of the YMHA Chronicle – the forerunner of Community – and the Kentucky Jewish Post & Opinion, but there are some legal issues to sort out. While the JCL owns the rights to the Chronicle, the rights to the P&O rest with the Indianapolis-based Jewish Post & Opinion.

### Want to see?

Digital Community can be accessed at **filsonhistorical.org/collections/jewish-collections/**

For now, the platform will host only Community.

Spalenka, the digital projects curator, said the project is major step forward in the Filson’s work in digitization.

“It really launched the Filson’s digital preservation program,” she said. “Just because you digitize something doesn’t mean those digital files are preserved. We have been digitizing materials for years but something this big and important prompted us to ensure long-term access and stability that follows digital preservation standards in the field.”

She hopes Digital Community will be a means to teach its users that digitization means more than just scanning items.

“This project involved years of work,”

Spalenka said, “but the end result is truly incredible.”

The first issue of Community, as a newspaper, rolled off the presses in September 1973. At first, the paper came out twice a month, but eventually moved to a monthly circulation.

Digital Community will be accessible through the Filson and Jewish Louisville websites once it is rolled out. Access will be free.

Glogower said the Filson’s partnership reflects the kind of relationship it hopes to establish with communities around the city.

“What this is really about long term was partnership,” she said, “we’re partners in preservation.”

Community Editor Emeritus Shiela Steinman Wallace initiated the digitization project to chronicle the history of Jewish Louisville. A committee was assembled to move the project forward.

## FREED

*Continued from page 1*

things that I had been doing as a journalist.”

That was six years ago. Today, Freed, who is about to be ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, has been hired as the next rabbi of Keneseth Israel Congregation. He starts his new career on July 1.

The tools Freed honed as a reporter will serve him well at his new pulpit.

“Being a journalist taught me to listen, which is an incredibly important role of a rabbi,” he said. “I think the first thing that we do as rabbis is listen and ask questions.”

Also, telling stories – through a eulogy, a D’var Torah or some other genre – is a cornerstone of a rabbi’s work.

“There is so much that is storytelling,” Freed said.

KI Executive Director Yonatan Yussman said Freed is prepared to be a pulpit rabbi from day one, even though he is just now being ordained.

“A lot of times, rabbis right out of rab-

binical school need some time to become an experienced rabbi,” Yussman said, “but even from his references everyone said Rabbi Freed is ready on day one to go straight from the gates, which is extremely rare.”

Yussman added that Freed’s fiancée, Ariane Barrie-Stern, a drama graduate from The New School in New York, will become KI’s first artist in residence.

“We’re creating that [position] right now,” Yussman said. “She will be working at KI and in the community in terms of teaching those arts and hopefully putting on a theater production at Keneseth Israel.”

Freed said he and Barrie-Stern are excited to work with Yussman and Cantor Sharon Hordes.

A fourth-generation Texan, Freed gets his love of Judaism straight from his parents. His earliest memories are of Shabbat dinners, usually with guests, singing, laughing and sharing stories.

His mother, Eileen Freed, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, and his father, Dr. Gary Freed, a professor of pediatrics (primarily health policy and services research) at the University of Michigan, also founded a day

school when the family lived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

But it was when the Freeds moved to Australia for three years, leaving their son, already on the staff of *The News*, and a roommate – another young Jewish journalist – to live in their house, that Freed’s love for Judaism evolved.

The roommates turned the dwelling into a “Moishe House” of sorts, holding Shabbat dinners and building sukkahs for Ann Arbor’s young Jewish adults.

One night, while the two were cleaning up after a Shabbat dinner, Freed’s friend reflected on how he grew up without much Jewish culture at home, though he did have a bar mitzvah.

Since moving in with Freed, he continued, he now wanted this type of life for himself and wanted to help others experience it.

Freed described that talk as a “light bulb event.” Thereafter, he thought seriously about becoming a rabbi.

Freed is aware that he starts his career at a time when organized religion is declining, and many Jews are finding their spiritual needs fulfilled in other ways (“on a yoga mat...in an ashram... on a mountain”).

Yet he is convinced that Judaism re-

mains equipped to give young and old Jews what they need to live full lives.

“We have this amazing Jewish spirituality that Jews can plug into, and that’s exciting,” he said. “I want people to be able to plug into their traditions – their ancestors’ technology – for what it means to be spiritual.”

But Judaism is not just what happens within the four walls of the synagogue, Freed added. He looks forward to meeting with his colleagues and learning how they can collaborate.

In fact, he said the top item on his “checklist” so far is to get to know the entire community.

It’s not like the soon-to-be cleric doesn’t know what to expect from the rabbinate. He’s already held several rabbinic internships during his years at JTS, in Jerusalem, on college campuses, in Riverdale, New York and Little Rock, Arkansas – that last stint a solo pulpit.

Freed described his time as student rabbi as being “a rabbi with training wheels.” He always had his mentors to fall back on and to bounce ideas off.

“Now,” he said, “I’m ready for the training wheels to come off.”





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