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FRIDAY Vol. 47, No. 12 | December 31, 2021 | 27 Tevet 5782

Torah in action

Jewish world helps tornado survivors



By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Jews in Louisville and elsewhere are stepping up to help the people in the tornado-ravaged region of western Kentucky.

The death toll from the tornadoes, which flattened several communities, causing millions of dollars in damage, now stands at 77, according to the office of Gov. Andy Beshear.

The Tornado Relief Fund, which was set up by the Jewish Federation of Louisville immediately after the disaster, has raised more than \$100,000. The Federation has also identified the Kentucky Red Cross as its chief partner in the relief effort.

"We have fielded hundreds of calls from around the world asking how to help with donations and/or volunteerism," said Stacy Gordon-Funk, senior VP and chief development officer of the Jewish Federation of Louisville. "It has been heartwarming that so many want to help. We quickly set up an online donation mailbox that was shared with Jewish Federations across North

See **SURVIVORS** on page 23

Rabbi Chaim Litvin of Chabad of Kentucky delivers bottled water in Hopkinsville, one of the western Kentucky communities hit hard by the Dec. 11 tornado outbreak. (photo provided by Chabad)

Western Kentucky Jews survived tornado, reflect on lives there

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Jan West's weekend trip to Bowling Green ended abruptly.

A Louisville resident and member of the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents, West and her husband, Jonathan Goldberg – Adath Jeshurun members – were in town for a commencement ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 11. The night before, they attended a party for the regents at the president's home.

At the time, West had no idea that a storm, powerful enough to spawn one of the worst tornado outbreaks in Kentucky history, was bearing down on them.

The weather was warm and a little drizzly, she said, nothing major until the middle of the night when they were back at their hotel.

"The winds were very strong and loud," West recalled. "It was scary, but where we were, it was just very fortunate."

It wasn't until the next morning that they realized just how fortunate they had been.

"We began seeing on our phones everything that had happened," she said, "and I got a text that the graduation ceremony had been canceled."

West was one of several Jews with roots in western Kentucky who recalled for *Community* their experiences during the storm and what life was once like for Jews in the region.

Seventy-seven people are confirmed dead following the locomotive weather that flattened entire communities and caused millions of dollars in damage. At least 12 of the dead were children.

Few Jews live in western Kentucky today, and the region has just one synagogue, Temple Israel in Paducah, which was established in 1871. Today, it has 29 families, according to the Union for Reform Judaism.

"Our Jewish population right here is very, very small," said Fran Johnson of

See **REFLECT** on page 23

IsraAID teams in western Kentucky, but COVID could slow assistance

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

IsraAID has sent teams of specialists to western Kentucky to assist in the cleanup and relief efforts in tornado-stricken areas.

However, further aid from the Israeli-based non-governmental aid agency may be hindered by the resurgent COVID pandemic.

Two teams of Israeli volunteers – nine members in all – are on the ground in

Mayfield, focusing on debris removal and home rehabilitation.

But the latest COVID surge in the Unit-

See **IsraAID** on page 23

Anat Sultan-Dadon (right), Israeli consul general to Atlanta, meets Hopkins County School Superintendent Amy Smith as U.S. Rep. James Comer (red jacket) looks on. Sultan-Dadon visited western Kentucky on Dec. 17, delivering hundreds of backpacks filled with treats and necessities for school children. (photo provided by the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta)



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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Listen to time's rhythm



D'var Torah

Rabbi Beth
Jacowitz
Chottiner

We find ourselves, once again, at the dawn of a new year. While we know that one year will always end in December and another will begin in January, we often find ourselves asking rhetorically: "Where did the past year go?"

Time constantly moves forward, each second passing from the future to the present to the past – within the span of, well, seconds.

Time is both precious and elusive. As we move from one year to the next, we automatically find ourselves reviewing the past year while looking to the future.

We Jews have set ways of marking time: Shabbat, the High Holy Days, *chagim* (festivals) and life cycle events.

Every week, Shabbat brings the opportunity to slow down, stop and experience refreshment – the gifts it offers – all within the realm of time.

On the first of *Tishrei* (Rosh HaShanah), the 15th of *Nisan* (Pesach) or the eighth day of a Jewish boy's life, we also mark sacred moments.

Not only do festivals and holidays connect us with fixed times, so does worship. We recite *Ahavat Olam* in the evening and *Ahavah Rabah* in the morning – prayers that speak of G-d's love for us. We sing *Shalom Rav* in the evening and *Sim Shalom* in the morning – prayers for peace. And we recite two different prayers that celebrate the miracle of creation, *Ma'ariv Aravim* in the evening and *Yotzer Or* in the morning.

Ours is a time-bound religion. We watch the moon, the stars and the calendar.

The gift of time helps us order our lives. It's a tool that shapes our existence.

Too often, though, we feel rushed, like we are racing against time by keeping appointments, meeting deadlines, accomplishing too many tasks.

How many of us hurry from getting the kids to school, to work (in-person or on Zoom), to an after-school activity, to preparing dinner and (hopefully) eating together as a family, to an evening meeting, to folding the laundry and then trying to catch up with our significant others? A full day can leave us exhausted and depleted. A full week can leave us overwhelmed. A full month can leave us depressed. A full year can leave us....

You get the idea.

As we experience these last days of December, setting our sights on 2022, let us commit to *listening* to the rhythm of time. Let us slow down our minds and bodies when we need to and hurry forward only when necessary. Let us balance our time while balancing our lives.

Ecclesiastes says, "There's a time for every purpose under heaven." There's also a secular teaching, attributed to author Marc Levy, that offers a perspective on time:

To realize the value of one year, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of one month, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one hour, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of one minute, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of one second, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of one millisecond, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

May we value the time we have and the people who fill our time.

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

Snapshots



Keneseth Israel teamed up with Louisville BBYO and the JCL to assist with tornado relief efforts in Bowling Green Tuesday. Rabbi Ben Freed of KI led seven teens on the trip. The group worked at two FEMA warehouses, sorting donations. Pictured in the group photo are Anne Miriam Weinberg (left), Hayley Wachsmann, Jacob Hyman, Ethan Schwartz, Ezra Fouts, Richard Davidoff and Abigail Berger. (photos provided by Rabbi Ben Freed)



Candles

Here are the candle-lighting times for Shabbat in January:

- Jan 7 @ 5:21 p.m.
- Jan 14 @ 5:27 p.m.
- Jan 21 @ 5:35 p.m.
- Jan 28 @ 5:43 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

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

hold? Development Associate Kristy Benfield can handle all circulation questions. She can be reached at kbene-field@jewishlouisville.org or 502-238-2770.

Got an item for the *Community* eblast? Send it to weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org.

Deadlines

Got a news item for *Community*? Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by Wednesday, Jan. 19 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Friday, Jan. 28.

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

Read Community Everywhere...

We have you covered, Louisville – online. *Community* stories are posted regularly at 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.

[org/community/community-newspaper/print-version/](http://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, [Twitter.com/CommunityLou](https://twitter.com/CommunityLou), for the latest Jewish news from Kentucky and around the world.

Corrections/Clarifications

In the November issue, a link to the Filson Historical Society, which will soon be changed, was published with a photo gallery of the Jewish Archives Committee. The best link for archival collections at the Filson is filsonhistorical.org/collections/jewish-collections/. This link will take users to the *Community* Digital Newspaper Archives, which will be the first thing they can click on after the introductory text.

Also, photo galleries in the paper now carry captions identifying the subjects of each image. Captions should have been included in the November Gallery about the Archives Committee. They are included in the digital version of the gallery, which can be found on the *Community* web page.

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

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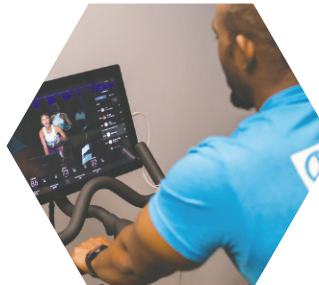


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NEWS

JCL addresses camp counselor shortage, to offer fellowships

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Responding to a dearth of overnight camp counselors this past summer, the Jewish Community of Louisville (JCL) is making the job more attractive by offering fellowships.

The Louisville Camp Fellowship, as the new program is called, will offer \$15,000 in fellowships to young Jewish adults, ages 18-25.

Applicants who commit to at least eight weeks at a Jewish overnight camp approved by One Happy Camper will each qualify for a \$1,000 fellowship. Prorated amounts for shorter periods also are available.

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence is underwriting the JCL program.

The lack of interested counselors is affecting the entire overnight camp system.

"In talking with lots of local overnight camps, it's clear that they struggled to find staff" last summer, said Alison Roemer, JCL senior director of Jewish journeys and experiences, who is overseeing the program. "This was not just local, this was global. It was very challenging to find staff this summer, and we, as a community, wanted to help with that."

Since camps must compete with em-

ployers that frequently pay better, the answer, according to Roemer, is to provide an added recruiting incentive.

Hence, "the fellowships," Roemer said, "[something] that you can put on your resume."

The anticipated results are more role models for campers and young adults staying connected to the Jewish community.

For now, though, it's just a pilot program.

"This is our first year," said Roemer. "We'll see the response and the camps' responses – if it helps them with their recruiting efforts. We anticipate it's go-

ing to be helpful."

To glean that information, Camp Fellows will be asked to report back to the JCL about their experiences, either through video, letter or email.

"We want to know the impact of this fellowship. Did they learn anything new? Did they feel they made a difference in the life of a camper? Are they planning to return to camp in the future? And is it worth it for us to repeat this program?"

Applications to be Camp Fellows will be accepted May 1 or until funds are no longer available. Late applications will be considered if funds are

still available.

Roemer pitched the programs to area camps during a Nov. 14 virtual camp fair. She said GUCI, Livingston, Ramah, Beber and Young Judea, all of which were on the call, can now use the news as a recruiting tool.

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NEWS

'A Peace Play' Nobel laureate won prize while in Nazi concentration camp

By Michael Ginsberg
For Community

In 1935, the Nobel Peace Prize Committee awarded the prestigious international award to Carl von Ossietzky, today an obscure German pacifist and activist.

Winning the prize, Ossietzky would join such luminaries as Barack Obama, Mother Teresa, Albert Schweitzer, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr.

But Ossietzky never received the award. When it was announced, he was sitting in a Nazi concentration camp. The German government had pressured the Nobel committee into reversing its decision. However, the committee – under counter-pressure from socialists, liberals and writers who insisted they “send the Peace Prize into the Concentration Camp” – reversed itself again and awarded him the prize a year later, at which time he lay in a German hospital, dying of tuberculosis.

The story won't die. *Ossietzky: A Peace Play*, based on the story of Carl von Ossietzky, will be performed at the Kentucky Center, from Jan. 20 through 30.

“Personally, this is a really important moment for me,” said Zac Campbell-Hoogendyk, author and producer of the play, which will be directed by Megan Massie. “People might think of it as an ego project. I like to think of it as a passion project. It's very important to me that people see this story.”

Campbell-Hoogendyk, who will portray Ossietzky onstage, first learned about him by accident, finding a marked-down book on the Nobel Peace Prize that included less than a page on the mysterious recipient who never



Carl von Ossietzky at Esterwegen concentration camp, 1934. (Sohst, Walter / Kurzbein, Heiner)

claimed the award.

“I pretty quickly realized this was a story that needed to be told,” Campbell-Hoogendyk said.

The story is fascinating.

Carl von Ossietzky was born in Hamburg in 1889. His academic achievement uneven, he left school at 17 to become an administrative civil servant in his native city, but he soon turned to journalism. On July 5, 1913, his article criticizing a pro-military court decision drew charges of “insult to the common good” from the Prussian War Ministry. When Ossietzky was called to make a court appearance after his marriage on May 22, 1914, to the Englishwoman Maud Woods, his young wife secretly paid his fine.

Though Ossietzky's health was poor,

he was called up for military service in 1916. After the war, Ossietzky, now a confirmed pacifist, returned to Hamburg, where he stirred the public with speeches about spreading a “peace mentality.”

He then accepted an appointment as secretary of the German Peace Society. Tiring of office work, though, he became foreign editor for a Berlin newspaper whose editorial policy was nonpartisan, democratic and antiwar.

In 1927, his newspaper criticized the German army for condoning paramilitary organizations. As the editor responsible, Ossietzky was tried for libel, convicted and sentenced to one month in prison.

Ossietzky again found himself in trouble in 1931. Charged with betrayal of military secrets, he was sentenced to 18 months in Spandau prison, but he was released after seven months in the 1932 Christmas amnesty.

As the political situation in Germany deteriorated, Ossietzky nevertheless refused to leave the country. On Feb. 28, 1933, the morning after the suspicious Reichstag fire, he was arrested at home by the secret police, sent to a Berlin prison, then to concentration camps: Sonnenburg first, then to Esterwegen-Papenburg. Other prisoners said he was badly mistreated, having already sustained a heart attack.

The Nazi government, worried about international attention, allowed journalists to meet with him. He was “looking thin and sounding tired,” *TIME* wrote after interviewing him. *TIME* reported that Ossietzky commented, “I will be only too pleased to go to Norway to receive the Prize and in my acceptance speech I will not dig up the past or say

anything which might result in discord between Germany and Norway.”

Ossietzky was never allowed to accept his prize in Norway, and his nightmare continued.

When he was eventually released from prison, it was widely assumed to be on the condition that he refrain from activism. In an eerie *TIME* interview in 1937, von Ossietzky praised the Nazi government, announcing that he had been allowed to accept the prize money. But the article made clear that von Ossietzky's words were not freely spoken: “Hollow-eyed and pale, Ossietzky knew that if he got himself imprisoned again, it would be his death.”

At 48, Ossietzky died of meningitis in a civilian hospital, according to German records. By then he was, as *TIME* wrote, a “long-ailing, worn-out, beaten Nobel man.”

Though a depressing story, director Massey found herself immediately drawn to the story, the play and “the humanity of what was going on.”

“America is at a tipping point,” Massey said. “Those people [in the play] are here today in many forms.”

Campbell-Hoogendyk echoed those thoughts.

“There's a lot of stuff worth fighting for today,” he said.

Want to go?

For tickets, go to **kentuckyperformingarts.org**. Also, the Jewish Community Center is partnering with the production team to hold a “talk back” session after on the Jan. 27 performance – International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Join us!



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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: January 19 for publication on January 28 and February 16 for publication on February 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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The appearance of advertising in **Community** does not represent a kashruth endorsement.

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at

lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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FORUM



Tornado leads to baseball lesson



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

Before the tornado outbreak that ravaged much of western Kentucky, I had no idea that there was any kind of Jewish presence in the towns that were hardest hit.

Since the tornados ... well, you might say that I have become educated.

Not only have I spoken to Jews who grew up in those towns or still live there, but I have learned that they had a very real presence there. Even though they traveled to Paducah or Union City, Tennessee, for synagogue, they called these small towns home, opening businesses, raising kids, watching baseball games.

Baseball games?

I have just learned (forgive me, I'm, still a relative newcomer to Kentucky) that a Major League Baseball club used to hold spring training in the town of Dawson Springs, population 2,452 (before the tornados that killed 14 people there).

And not just any ball club, *my* ball club: the Pittsburgh Pirates, the club I grew up following, and still do.

A member of Temple Shalom enlightened me during the recent Chinese Dinner Shabbat. (He knew of my love for the Bucs, their horrendous streak of

losing seasons notwithstanding.)

The Pirates held spring training at Riverside Park, in Dawson Springs, a spa and resort town at the time, from 1915 to 1917. Other major and minor league baseball teams also trained or played exhibition games there. But the Pirates are the ones best recalled.

Truthfully, the news shouldn't have been so surprising. Not only do the Pirates have a Jewish connection, but they also have a *Kentucky* Jewish connection.

For years, the Pirates were owned by a man named Barney Dreyfuss – no slouch of an owner, he. Dreyfuss, who owned the Pirates from 1900 to 1932, won six National League pennants and two World Series crowns (out of four appearances).

He also owned the Louisville Colonels, of the long-defunct American Association and later the National League, from 1890 to '99.

He invented the first World Series in 1903, built the first steel and concrete ballpark in the Majors – Forbes Field – in 1909 and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008.

And he's a son of Kentucky.

Born in Freiburg, Grand Duchy of Baden (before German unification) in 1865, Dreyfuss immigrated to the United States when he was 16 to avoid

conscription into the German Army. He settled in Paducah, where he worked with the Bernheims (yes, *those* Bernheims), a family to which he was related by marriage through his father's sister.

Dreyfuss moved to Louisville in 1888, and in a few years, became a clerk to an officer of Bernheim Brothers, creators of I. W. Harper bourbon.

But, professional baseball, which was still in its infancy, would be his true calling. He organized amateur teams among distillery workers before acquiring part- and eventually full, ownership of the Colonels. When the National League contracted in 1899, he purchased part of the Pirates and moved his best players, including future Hall of Famer Honus Wagner, to Pittsburgh.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Barney Dreyfuss was way before my time, though I did meet and interview his grandson when he finally made it into the Hall. But like any real Pirates fan, particularly the Jewish ones, I was proud of him. I still fondly remember seeing my first-ever Bucs game in 1968 – in the ballpark that Dreyfuss built.

Pride notwithstanding, I never knew the club trained in Kentucky – a gap in my education. It's not surprising that a team owner who came of age in Kentucky should have brought his club here to train. It's just sad that it took a tornado for me to appreciate this great piece of Kentucky history.

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

FORUM

In a shmita year, why aren't Jews talking more about student debt relief?



Guest
Columnist

Rabbi Emily
Cohen

When I finished rabbinical school in 2018, I entered the “real world” with \$40,000 in student loans. I acted fast, prioritizing repayment over everything else.

Within six months, I paid nearly \$10,000 to eliminate interest, and I continued allocating three times my expected monthly payment. Interest didn't get much chance to build, and when we hit the pandemic pause, I was on track to clear my loans in two years.

I am unbelievably lucky. My parents were able to help me with undergrad (due to generational wealth resulting from many Jews being coded as white after World War II), I had a scholarship covering half of rabbinical school, and my financial education set me up to make the decision to throw as much as I could at my loans as soon as I finished school.

One of my closest friends? Not so lucky. To pay the loans he took for his advanced degree, he would need to pay twice his rent each month just to scrape the top off the principal. His best hope (and current plan) is Public Student Loan Forgiveness, but the problems with that program have been well documented, and it's nerve-wracking to watch his balance go up each month as interest continues to build.

When our current president campaigned, he acknowledged the burden of student loans and promised to forgive \$10,000 per borrower. Some are also calling for student loans to be forgiven entirely due to predatory loan practices coupled with the often-false promise made to my generation that it was through school (and the “good debt” of student loans) that we would reach financial stability. Yet the White House recently announced that a pandemic-induced moratorium on loan repayment

will end in February.

While it's never a good idea to claim that Jewish text has a single opinion on any topic, debt is a subject with clear limitations. In Leviticus, our ancestors are instructed about *shmita*, which literally means release. Every seven years, Jews were to let the land rest and its volunteer produce be eaten by all. The instruction deepened in Deuteronomy 15:2, with the call to: “...release, every possessor of a loan of his hand, what he has lent to his neighbor. He is not to oppress his neighbor or his brother, for the *shmita* [release] of God has been proclaimed....”

As you might imagine, the practicalities of *shmita* were difficult to enforce. Over time, the practice has largely disappeared from Jewish life. Only in the last few decades has it returned to public consciousness. Which brings us to 5782.

This year is a *shmita* year. Jewish organizations across the denominational and political spectrum are addressing this with intentional slimming down of programming and with fundraisers to alleviate medical debt (another shame of this county).

But I haven't heard many Jewish organizations calling for student loan forgiveness.

I don't blame Jewish organizations for having other priorities. We're going into year three of a public health crisis while reproductive justice, fair housing, voting access and the right of BIPOC simply to live safely are all in jeopardy. And yet? We're a quarter of a way through a tailor-made opportunity to bring Judaism to bear on this pressing public policy issue that deserves attention.

What if we were to apply this one-in-every-seven-year debt release to student loans? What if, every seven years, loan services had to forgive debt? You go to school, you pay a reasonable amount for a maximum of six years after graduation, and then you're free?

Maybe that's wishful thinking, so here's a more realistic thought: cancel interest. Make student loan borrowers pay back their principal, if you must, but make it possible for their balance to go down each month instead of up. After all, we have that instruction in the

Torah too:

“If you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, do not act toward them as a creditor; exact no interest from them.” (Exodus 22:24)

Student debt affects people of all ages but particularly millennials. I have spoken to friends about what they would do without the weight of their student loans. They would save to buy homes or pay their rent without fear. They would

quit the higher-paying, corporate jobs they took to afford to pay their loans and work for non-profits. They would support their aging parents and their young kids properly. They would be able to think beyond their next paycheck, perhaps for the first time.

What a worthy release that would be.

(Rabbi Emily Cohen is the spiritual leader of West End Synagogue in New York City.)



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‘Something for everyone’



Two Israeli kids team up with a burly old pilot realize their dream of making an antique airplane airborne again in the family adventure “Sky Raiders,” one of the offerings at the 2022 Louisville Jewish Film Festival.

LJFF plans a partial return to cinema in '22

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Despite the pandemic that has now lasted two years, the Louisville Jewish Film Festival (LJFF) is slowly reentering the cinema.

Tricia Kling Siegwald, senior director of festivals & special projects at the Jewish Community of Louisville, has announced that the 2022 festival, slated for February, will screen two films at the Speed Art Museum. The rest of the film lineup will be shown virtually only.

The Speed requires all its moviegoers to be vaccinated and masked or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of a screening, and the theater must be at no more than 60 percent capacity.

“Their COVID protocols are outstanding,” said Siegwald, who is running her first film festival. “They’re pretty strict, and we like that. We feel comfortable partnering with them.”

LJFF reserves the right to change its screening plans depending on the COVID surge, she noted.

In all, this year’s festival includes 11 movies and documentaries, two free short-subject films and, in a new twist

for the LJFF, a six-part drama series.

The two films to get live screenings this year are the opening night picture, *Neighbours*, the story of a Kurdish boy in Syria coping with a cruel school teacher who bans the speaking of his language and teaches hatred of the Jews; and *Persian Lessons*, a gripping Holocaust drama about a camp inmate who poses as a Persian language teacher to save his life but who knows not one word of the language.

Both films will be available for virtual screening as well.

As in past years, the festival is a mix of comedies, dramas and family pictures made primarily in Israel, though other countries – Austria, Canada, Israel, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Belarus, Russia and Sweden – are represented.

As in the past, some films will be controversial, such as the documentary *Blue Box*, a critical look at how the Jewish National Fund acquired land in pre-independence Palestine.

Siegwald asked festival-goers to screen the film with an “open mind.”

Same for *200 Meters*, which addresses stark issues related to the separa-

tion barrier between Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and its impact on a father and his hospitalized son. The film is told from both sides of the barrier.

“These films are thought-provoking, and that comes natural for the Jewish community,” Siegwald said. *Persian Lessons* might be Siegwald’s festival favorite, not just because the main character is teaching a Nazi officer a language that he doesn’t know, but because of plot twists, which she declined to discuss, that left her with “goose bumps.”

“You have to see that film,” she urged.

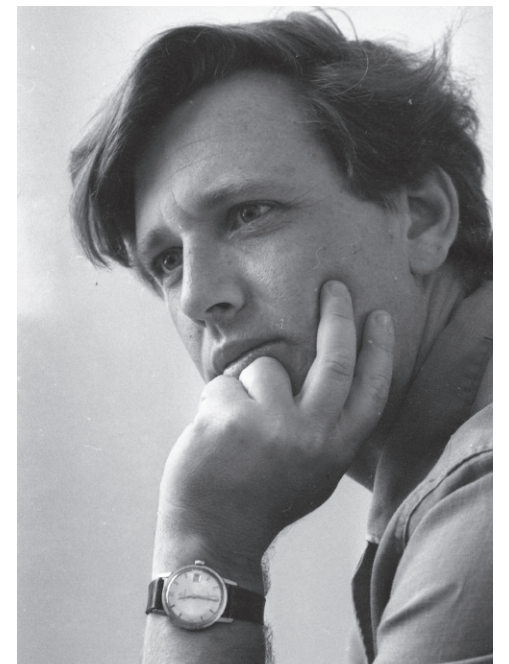
But the marquee attraction to this year’s festival may just be the drama series *Labyrinth of Peace*, a six-episode program about a family in post-war Switzerland and how the war, and the Holocaust, left their mark on a “neutral” country.

Siegwald said the series is a major departure for the LJFF, taking advantage of the binge-watching craze that has taken off during the pandemic.

Other themes are addressed by this year’s films: the challenges of aging, same-sex romance, forbidden love, the

dreams of children.

“Our films definitely are touching on different demographics, which is a goal,” Siegwald said. “Our goal is to try to have a little bit of something for everyone.”



The life of Israeli novelist Amos Oz is remembered in the documentary “The Fourth Window.”

CENTERPIECE



Top three, scenes from “200 Meters,” a film told from both sides of the Israeli security barrier about a Palestinian father’s struggle to see his hospitalized son. Middle, two women – one Israeli, one German –determined to marry, find more than they bargained for in the Israeli comedy “Kiss Me Kosher.” Bottom three, scenes from the grim, yet astonishing, Holocaust drama “Persian Lessons.”

This year’s film festival at a glance

Here are the synopses for the pictures to be shown at the 2022 Louisville Jewish Film Festival:

200 Meters – Italy, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Sweden, 97 minutes: A Palestinian father embarks on a perilous journey to reach his hospitalized son in this family drama about the human toll of oppression.

A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto – Italy, 100 minutes: The discovery of a puzzling photograph sparks a student to probe the history of Rome’s Jewish ghetto and the fate of a little girl.

Blewish – USA, 4 minutes: (viewable for free throughout the entire festival) Being Blewish (Black & Jewish) can be frustrating, especially when people assume that someone can’t be Jewish because they’re Black. *Blewish* is the story of a boy stuck in the middle who learns how he can help create a world where no other child feels the pressure of having to make that choice. Inspired by true events. (*Ezra Edmond* writer, director and animation producer of *Blewish*, will participate in a virtual Q&A session on the film and his own experiences as a Black Jew at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 13. Yehudah Husband will moderate.)

Blue Box – Canada, Israel, 82 minutes: A documented account of how the Jewish National Fund (JNF) acquired land in Palestine before and after the creation of the State of Israel. A stark contrast to the Israeli national claim of “a land without a people for a people without a land,” this compelling documentary will inspire much debate.

Greener Pastures – Israel, 90 minutes: Dov, a 75- year-old widower who feels trapped in the nursing home where he lives, dreams of buying back his old house and returning to it. But his pension is gone. When he realizes that everyone in the nursing home consumes state-sponsored medical cannabis, he discovers his way out. (*Dovale Glickman*, who plays Yehuda in the movie, will appear virtually with Cantor David Lipp at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27, to discuss his career. Glickman also played the role of Rabbi Shulem Shtisel in the Netflix series “Shtisel.”)

Kiss Me Kosher – Germany, Israel, 106 minutes: In this comedy, Shira, after a string of ex-girlfriends, finally finds love with Maria, a German who has uprooted her life to be with Shira in Tel Aviv. The two women plan to marry...eventually, but wedding plans kick into high gear when Shira’s family inadvertently discovers the engagement.

Labyrinth of Peace – Switzerland: A series of six-50-minute episodes about an industrial family dynasty, inspired by true yet little-known events in post-World War II “neutral” Switzerland.

Love It Was Not – Austria, Israel, 82 minutes: the true story of a Nazi officer who falls in love with a Jewish concentration camp prisoner – a taboo romance with decades-long repercussions. (*Dr. Allan Tasman*, professor of psychiatry at the University of Louisville, will speak on Stockholm Syndrome at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17.)

Masel Tov Cocktail – Germany, 30 minutes: A free, short and comical take on modern Jewish life and tropes, encompassing the Shoah and anti-Semitism, and culture of guilt, ignorance, and selective memory, as told by a Russian-Jewish teen in Germany.

Neighbours – Switzerland, France, 124 minutes: In a Syrian/Turkish border village in the early 1980s, 6-year-old Sero experiences his first year at school. A cruel teacher has arrived to turn the Kurdish children into pan-Arab comrades. He bans the Kurdish language with his baton, orders the worship of Assad and preaches hatred of the Jews. The lessons confuse Sero, as his longtime neighbors are an endearing Jewish family. (*Director/Writer Mano Khalil* will appear virtually to discuss the film project.)

Persian Lessons – Russia, Germany, Belarus, 127 minutes: A young Belgian man narrowly avoids execution in a concentration camp by swearing to the guards that he is not Jewish, but Persian. This lie temporarily saves him, but then Gilles is assigned a seemingly untenable mission: to teach Persian to an officer who dreams of opening a restaurant in Persia (Iran) once the war is over. (*Director Vadim Perelman* will participate in a discussion virtually on Sunday, Feb. 13.) (This film contains strong language and may not be suitable for children.)

The Fourth Window – Israel, 86 minutes: The amazing, yet troubling, telling of the life of Amos Oz, a celebrated Israeli writer whose work have been translated into 45 languages. But his success was laced with tragedy. His mother committed suicide when he was 12, and his daughter accused him of being physically and mentally violent, ending all communication with him. (*Nurith Gertz*, a friend of Amos Oz and author of a bestselling book about their four-decade friendship will speak virtually at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 20.)

Sky Raiders – Israel, 103 minutes: A 13-year-old boy, Yotam, is obsessed with flying, but his overprotective mother won’t let him anywhere near planes. When his classmate, Noa, finds an antique plane in the local junkyard, they team up with Morris, an 80-year-old grumpy former pilot, to restore the plane in time for an annual air show.

(For more information about the LJFF, including dates and ticket purchases, visit JewishLouisville.org/FilmFestival. Tickets go on sale Jan. 5 at \$12 per film and \$99 for a full festival pass – \$45 savings)

PICTURE THIS: TORNADO RELIEF



Pictured here: IsraAID volunteers assisting with the cleanup following the Dec. 11 tornado outbreak, Chabad and Temple volunteers delivering necessities to western Kentucky, including baked goods for tornado survivors and first responders. (photos provided by Keren Benabou, IsraAID, Chabad of Kentucky and The Temple)



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NEWS

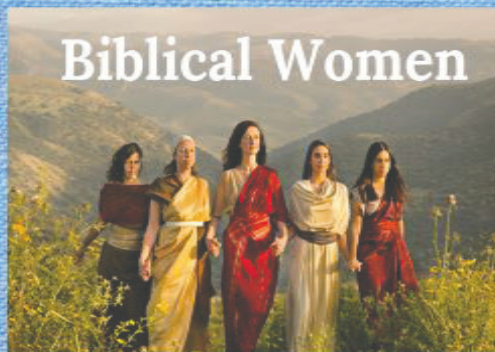


Drew Corson tourney is back

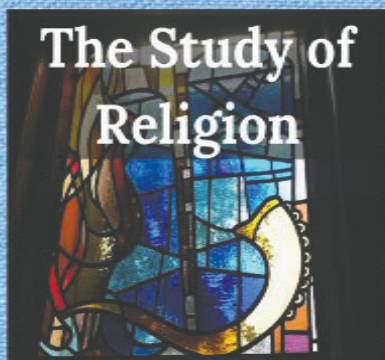
Drew Corson AZA and Ner Tamid BBG (Cincinnati) were the big winners in the 26th annual Drew Corson Basketball Tournament on the weekend of Dec. 4 at the Louisville Jewish Community Center. Drew Corson won the AZA tournament with a 30-14 win over Indy Brea Sheath AZA (Indianapolis), while Ner Tamid took the BBG title with a 14-8 win over B'Yachad BBG (Indianapolis). About 100 teens from Louisville, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis played basketball and participated in Jewish programming – Havdalah and candle lighting for the last night of Chanukah. (photos provided by Abigail Goldberg)

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GLOBE

Jewish artist wants Swiss museum to return her paintings, citing concerns of art purchased from Jews under duress during war

By Cnaan Liphshiz
JTA

A Swiss-Jewish artist has asked the Zurich Art Museum to return her paintings due to concerns that the museum features works bought for below-market prices from Jewish refugees in dire circumstances in the years leading up to and during the Holocaust.

Miriam Cahn, 72, made her wishes known publicly this week, the Tachles Swiss-Jewish newspaper reported.

"I no longer want to be represented at the Zurich Art Museum and would like to withdraw all of my work from it. I will buy them back at the original price of the purchase," she wrote in a letter obtained by Tachles.

Cahn, a feminist artist whose work has won numerous awards, wrote the letter in response to a controversy that has been swirling for years concerning the Emil Bührle Collection, which is a central element of the museum's new extension that opened earlier this year.

Emil Georg Bührle was a tycoon who accumulated considerable wealth selling arms to Nazi Germany and used his wealth to purchase the artworks that currently make up the collection named for him. The museum has faced criticism for acquiring the collection due to allegations the collection contained art whose provenance had not been properly

researched or that had been purchased from Jewish sellers who felt compelled to settle for a fraction of the market price.

Alexander Jolles, the president of the Bührle Foundation which manages the collection, appeared to defend the collection at a press conference Dec. 15. Jolles said that Switzerland, which was neutral during World War II, had no antisemitic policies in the 1940s and that some artworks bought from Jewish dealers in those years changed hands in ethically acceptable circumstances.

"It is not the case that every legal transaction that a Jewish emigrant has carried out in Switzerland and the USA and in other unoccupied areas is suspect and can primarily be regarded as forced due to persecution," he said.

The Bührle Foundation says that none of the collection's 200 artworks were looted or unethically obtained from Jews, but it has also said it will facilitate the establishment of an external review to prove this.

Separately, the Museum of Fine Arts Bern last week said it would return two artworks by Otto Dix to a Jewish family, the heirs of Ismar Littmann from Wrocław, due to evidence suggesting – but not proving – it was looted from them, Tachles reported.

The paintings came from Cornelius Gurlitt, the son of an art dealer who tar-

geted Jewish art owners ahead of and during World War II. Cornelius Gurlitt died in 2014, leaving his father's collection to the Bern museum. It accepted the collection, stipulating it would return any work suspected as looted.

Out of approximately 600,000 artworks stolen by the Nazis, more than 100,000 have never been returned, according to Deutsche Welle. Some of them hang in museums and private collections across

Europe and beyond while others are the subject of drawn-out legal fights.

So far, only five countries – Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands – have set up national committees to determine the provenance of suspect artworks. Such committees were a key requirement of the Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, a landmark document agreed upon in 1998 by 44 countries.

IOC: Countries that ban Israeli athletes won't be allowed to host competitions

By JTA

Countries that bar athletes from other countries will not be allowed to host international sports championships, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said in a recent letter.

The statement followed the cancellation of the men's squash world championship last month, which was set to be held in Malaysia on Dec. 7, after the country refused to allow Israeli athletes to participate in the contest.

Israel and Malaysia do not maintain diplomatic relations and Israelis are barred from visiting the South Asian country. Malaysia's former prime minis-

ter Mahathir Mohamad once said he was "glad to be labeled antisemitic."

"We urge all [international federations] to be extremely vigilant when allocating and organizing international sports competitions," leaders of the IOC wrote in a letter, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The IOC leaders said that international sports associations must receive written confirmation from countries hosting championship games that all countries will be allowed to participate and treated equally. Those countries that do not ensure equal participation will "exclude themselves from the right to host international sports events until all the necessary assurances can be obtained and respected."



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The JCL Archives Committee continues to review decades of photos for possible inclusion in The Filson Historical Society's Jewish archives. A limited number of photos are suitable. Shots of special events, locations or identified individuals generate the most interest. The committee is requesting help identifying the locations and subjects of the photos printed here. Send your details to Jennifer Tuvlin at JTuvlin@jewishlouisville.org. Please include the photo numbers that correspond to your information.

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GLOBE

Desmond Tutu, anti-apartheid leader, related to Jews, assailed Israel's treatment of Palestinians

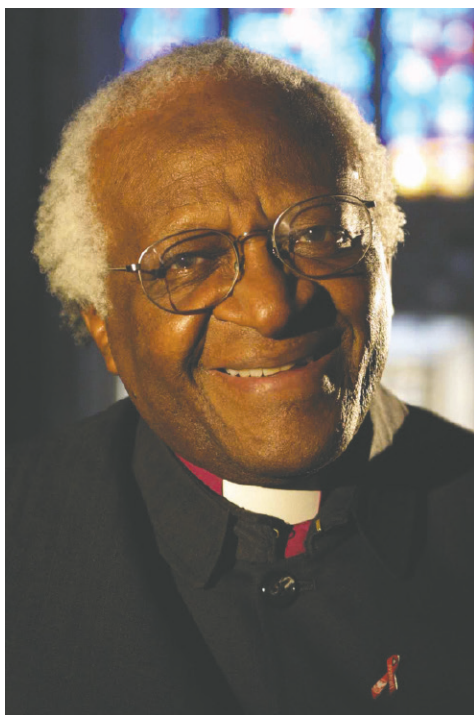
By Shira Hanau
JTA

Desmond Tutu, the archbishop who identified closely with the historical suffering of the Jewish people in his forceful advocacy against apartheid in South Africa, died Sunday at age 90.

Tutu, the first Black archbishop of Cape Town, used his role as a church leader to bring religion into the fight against apartheid, South Africa's repressive system of racial segregation. Advocating for nonviolence and, later, restorative justice, Tutu gained renown far beyond South Africa, earning a Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

In the years preceding and during the negotiations to end apartheid in South Africa, Tutu frequently praised the many South African Jews who opposed the apartheid system and worked alongside Black South Africans to transition to an equitable system of governance. He often invoked the Holocaust, comparing the struggles of the Jews under Nazism to the struggles of Black South Africans under apartheid.

Speaking to a gathering of British Jews in 1987, he spoke of that shared experience of exclusion and persecu-



Desmond Tutu

tion.

"Your people know what one's talking about, having suffered because you belonged to a particular racial group. You were forced to wear arm bands.

We don't carry arm bands ... they just have to look at us," Tutu said, according to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency dispatch from the event.

But Tutu's identification with the Jewish people did not spare them from his criticism. While consistently defending Israel's right to exist and calling on Arab nations to recognize Israel, including when speaking to Palestinian audiences, Tutu was a frequent critic of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and questioned how people who had survived the Holocaust could perpetrate an occupation of another people.

"The Arabs should recognize Israel, but a lot must change also. I am myself sad that Israel, with the kind of history and traditions her people have experienced, should make refugees of others. It is totally inconsistent with who she is as a people," he said in a 1984 speech at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

Tutu also criticized Israel for continuing to work with South Africa on military matters despite apartheid.

"Israel's integrity and existence must be guaranteed. But I cannot understand how a people with your history would have a state that would collabo-

rate in military matters with South Africa and carry out policies that are a mirror image of some of the things

from which your people suffered," he said in his 1987 speech to British Jews.

Those comparisons, along with remarks that some Jewish leaders called antisemitic, earned Tutu criticism from some Jewish leaders. In his 1984 JTS speech, he addressed some of that criticism while further fanning its flames with references to a "Jewish lobby."

"I was immediately accused of being antisemitic," Tutu said in his speech, referring to the reaction to an earlier speech. "I am sad because I think that it is a sensitivity in this instance that comes from an arrogance – the arrogance of power because Jews are a powerful lobby in this land and all kinds of people woo their support."

In a 1989 visit to Israel and the West Bank, Tutu made the controversial suggestion during a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, that the Nazis ought to be forgiven for their crimes against the Jewish people. The suggestion reflected Tutu's role as the

See **TUTU** on page 17

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GLOBE

TUTU

Continued from page 16

chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which aimed to move the country into a new era by allowing those who participated in apartheid to atone for their sins and to let victims of the system air their grievances and, in some cases, receive reparations.

"We pray for those who made it happen, forgive them and help us to forgive them, and help us so that we, in our turn, will not make others suffer," he said, according to a JTA dispatch from the time.

Jewish leaders criticized Tutu for his remarks. "For anyone in Jerusalem, at Yad Vashem, to speak about forgiveness would be, in my view, a disturbing lack of sensitivity toward the Jewish victims and their survivors. I hope that was not the intention of Bishop Tutu," Elie Wiesel said at the time.

(Earlier that year, Tutu had suggested that he and Wiesel could work together to mediate peace in the Middle East.)

Despite his comments, Tutu was frequently honored by Jewish organizations. In 1989, he was honored for his work fighting racial discrimination by the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York. In 2003, Yeshiva Univer-

sity's Cardozo Law School gave him an award for furthering world peace.

In 2009, the same year that then-President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Tutu was disinvited from giving a speech at a Minnesota university over remarks he had made about Jews and Israel.

Abraham Foxman, then national director of the Anti-Defamation League, urged the university not to rescind the invitation.

"Tutu has certainly been an outspoken, sometimes very harsh critic of Israel and Israeli policies, and has sometimes also used examples which may cross the line," Foxman told JTA at the time. But Tutu "certainly is not an antisemite and should not be so characterized and therefore refused a platform."

In 2015, Tutu addressed an event hosted by the Israeli organizations Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle on Israel's Memorial Day for Israeli and Palestinian parents who lost children to the conflict in a short video speech.

"If change seems impossible, consider our experience in South Africa," he said. "You can make it happen in Palestine and Israel, too."



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—Matshona Dhliwayo

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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Fouts named new P2G liaison here

Amy Fouts is the Jewish Community of Louisville's new Partnership2Gether (P2G) community liaison, the local emissary to the community's partnership regions in Israel and Eastern Europe.



Amy Fouts

Fouts assumed her new role in July. "I have learned so much and made amazing friends through my participation in Partnership2Gether," Fouts said in a statement. "These friends are not just in Israel, but also Budapest, Indianapolis, San Antonio, and Buffalo."

P2G is a global platform promoting people-to-people relationships focused on the mutual exchange of ideas to enrich Jewish continuity, identity and cultural between Jews in Israel, Budapest and the United States.

Louisville is one of 16 U.S. cities in the partnership that includes the city of Akko and the Matte Asher region, both in the western Galilee, and Budapest, Hungary.

Fouts has worked with the JCL for over 10 years, securing programmatic and capital grant funds. She continues

in that job in addition to her new responsibilities.

Louisville is playing a major part in two upcoming events: On Jan. 16, Louisville women will host a P2G Rosh Chodesh gathering for the month of Shevat. JCC JOFEE Director Alayna Altman, will be the guest speaker. Women of all ages may participate.

Also, a Young Adult Meet-Up event for all U.S. partnership cities is planned for March on Zoom. Young leaders, 25-45, may take part.

What to know to vote in Kentucky in 2022

NCJW, Louisville Section, is sharing voter registration information with eligible voters here.

- Register or check your registration info at **GoVoteKY.com**. Many people have been purged from the voting rolls, so everyone needs to make sure that all their voting information is correct, including phone numbers and email address. Those who do not have internet access can call the Jefferson County Board of Elections at 502-574-6100.
- A change in party affiliation must be done before Dec. 31. Kentucky has closed primaries, so a person can vote only for the candidates of the party in which they registered.

Independents may vote in the primary for non-partisan races only.

- People who will turn 18 on or before Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, can register to vote now. They can then vote in the May primary even at 17. The deadline to register for the primary is Monday, April 18.
- Convicted felons who are U.S. citizens must answer questions about their conviction(s) to determine if they are eligible to vote now or must go through the process to restore their right to vote. For more details, visit **civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov**.

Kentucky's primary is Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Up-to-date alerts can be found at **ncjwlou.org/home/our-work/vote/**.

Share assists vulnerable seniors

Meals on Wheels is again participating in the Subaru Share the Love event.

Through Jan. 3, for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will

donate \$250 to the customer's choice of participating charities, including Meals on Wheels.

The Jewish Community Center, which is a member of Meals on Wheels America, will receive a share of the donation from Subaru.

Over 13 years, Subaru has helped Meals on Wheels deliver more than 2.5 million meals nationwide to seniors in need. For more information, visit **mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove**.

I make house calls!

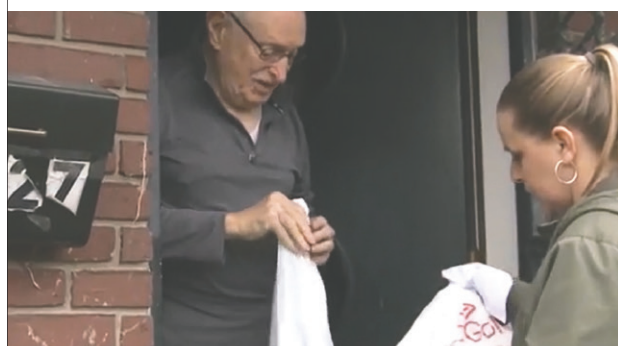


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AROUND TOWN

Adath Jeshurun

In-person Shabbat services are held Fridays at 5:45 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks must be always worn. All other worship services are held virtually. Links to these services are provided in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

A "Virtual Trifecta of Celebrity Chefs" will be cooking on three upcoming Wednesdays at 8 p.m. All chefs will provide the recipes in advance for those who want to bake along: On Feb. 16, Chef Paula Shoyer will make a dry rub salmon, mango coleslaw and chocolate babka; on Feb. 23, "The Challah Prince" will bake a multi-braid royal challah, pita with zaatar, and bagel Yerushalmi – all from the same dough; on March 2, Chef Dini Klein will prepare lentil and squash tomato soup, sesame noodles with veggies and chicken (or tofu) all in one pan. Links to these programs are provided in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

The Adath Jeshurun Annual Music Festival is set for 7 p.m., Sunday, March 20. Cantor Azi Schwartz of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City, a vocal performer and recording artist, will be featured. Go to adathjeshurun.wufoo.com/forms/2022-aj-music-festival-a-admissions-sponsorship to purchase admissions and/or to become a sponsor.

The AJ Gift Shop is open for business. To schedule an appointment, call Sue Lev-

itch at 502-608-1312. The AJ staff also can assist with purchases. Masks must be worn while in the synagogue.

Anshei Sfard

In-person Shabbat services begin at 9 a.m. on Saturdays. Attendees not vaccinated are asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Talmud Trek II meets Sundays at 9:30 a.m.; Spice of Life learning, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Contact the office 502-451-3122 or Rabbi Simcha Snaid rabbisnaid@ansheisfard.com for details.

Chabad of Kentucky

In-person Shabbat services are held Fridays, 20 minutes before sunset and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., preceded by a class on prayer at 10 a.m. Following services, a hot cholent kiddush is served. Attendees not vaccinated are asked to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Weekly in-person services are held Sundays at 8:30 a.m., followed by coffee, cookies and chumash, studying the weekly portion; Monday and Thursday Mornings at 7:20 a.m.

Meditation from Sinai, a new class on Jewish meditation, will begin Wednesday, Feb. 2. The course will be taught over six lessons.

Chavurat Shalom

The group meets Thursdays. Lunch starts at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium; the program, at 1 p.m. All

programs will also be available via **ChavuratShalomZoom**. In-person participants must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask while inside, except while eating or drinking.

Jan. 6: No Chavurat Shalom.

Jan. 13: Paul Troy from ElderServe will share information about financial abuse (lunch: fried chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, fresh fruit and lemon blueberry cake).

Jan. 20: AARP volunteer Deborah Turner will share tips on aging gracefully (lunch: roasted chicken with an orange-apricot glaze, wild rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, kale salad, fresh fruit and apple cobbler).

Jan. 27: Rabbi David will speak on the topic, "The First Hybrid Government of Israel: Success of Not?" (lunch: baked tilapia, couscous, broccoli with roasted red peppers, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and assorted pick-up desserts).

RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday if attending in person; contact Sarah at 502-212-2038 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com.

Keneseith Israel

Shabbat and minyan services are held indoors in our main sanctuary and Zoom. Go to keneseithisrael.com for details. An intermediate level Hebrew-reading class is held Sundays at 5 p.m. on Zoom and in person. A learner's minyan follows.

Jews and Brews with Rabbi Ben Freed is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. (on Zoom and in-person)

Shabbat Shira is held in person at 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 14 and 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 15. The Friday program includes a musical Kabbalat Shabbat with dinner; the Saturday program, a Havdalah concert, Israeli dancing and an enhanced kiddush. RSVPs are required for both programs. Contact KI at rsvp@keneseithisrael.com or 502-459-2780.

Torah Yoga will be held in person at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 20.

Kol Israel Congregation of Kentucky

A 2022 Renewal New Year's Day Zoom Gala will be held at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 1. Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael will offer blessings, predictions, Oracles, music, art and prayer. Pay what you can.

Shabbat morning services with the Renewal congregation of Bloomington, Indiana, will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday Jan. 8. Rabbi Leon and Jackie Olemick will lead.

Inner Peace for Challenging Times, a communitywide Jewish meditation, will be held the second Monday of each month, starting at 9 p.m., Monday, Jan. 10. Reb Brian Yoseph Schachter-Brooks will leading.

All programs require advance registration

Continued on page 20

Perelmuter & Goldberg

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AROUND TOWN

Continued from page 19

to receive links. Contact **Kolisraelky@gmail.com** or call 502-341-1595.

Temple Shalom

Shabbat services are held Fridays at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, with Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and a song leader. Saturday services will resume at 10:30 a.m., Jan. 8.

Jewish Poetry Night, an open mic event, will be held at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 10, at Vines Wine Bar & Spirit Shop, 1985 Douglass Boulevard. Readers may recite works from established Jewish poets or their own verse. Email **chailands@Templeshalomky.org** for details.

MLK Shabbat will be held in-person and on Zoom at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 14.

A Tu B'Shevat seder is being planned, which includes a seder at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 16, at the synagogue. For reservations, contact Temple Shalom Engagement Coordinator Slava Nelson at **engagement@templeshalomky.org** or 502-458-4739.

Temple Shalom, in conjunction with Trees Louisville, Temple Shalom will participate in a day of service on Monday, Jan. 17, planting and mulching young trees.

The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. Visit its Facebook page at **facebook.com/wrjgiftshop**. Also, an online shop is coming. Contact Sheila Lynch, 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein, 502-329-2276, or Karen Waldman, 502-425-4360 for appointments.

Monday night adult education classes are Advanced Hebrew at 6 p.m. with

Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport; Basic Judaism at 7 p.m. with Rabbi Rapport addressing holy days and festivals; and Text Study at 7 p.m. with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel teaching "When God was Young."

Temple Scholars meet Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. with Rabbi Ariel-Joel teaching "Torah of Optimism for an Uncertain Future" and with Rabbi Rapport at 10:45 a.m. teaching "Jewish Art and Artists." Saturday Torah Study starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person. Go to **thetemplelouky.org/adult-education** for more information.

Indoor Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings are held in person. Go to **thetemplelouky.org** for details.

Mitzvah Makers will make sandwiches for the homeless at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 9. RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/**

sandwich-making.

An MLK Shabbat Service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. Pastor Bishop Michael Priester, spiritual leader of the Promised Land Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker.

Goodnight Tots, Goodnight Shabbat will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15. Rabbi Rapport will lead a tot Havdalah with arts and crafts, treats, stories, and songs. RSVPs are required for tots to receive treat bags. Go to **thetemplelouky.org/goodnight-shabbat** for details.

Rabbi Rapport will lead the Annual Founder's Day Shabbat Service, which celebrates the 1843 charter, at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 21. The service will feature the music from the classical age of Reform Judaism and will be led from the Sinai Edition of the Union Prayer Book.

Rabbi Rapport and Father Joe Graffis will lead an interfaith dialogue at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23, addressing common issues between Catholics and Jews. RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/interfaith-dialogue**.

Brotherhood Shabbat, honoring The Temple's Brotherhood, will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 28.

Repro Shabbat will be celebrated on Saturday, Jan. 29, starting with Torah study at 9 a.m. followed by morning services at 10:30 a.m. Repro Shabbat falls on the Shabbat when Jews read Mishpatim, the Torah portion with the verses that form the basis of the Jewish approach to reproductive freedom. It is an opportunity for congregations, organizations and communities to celebrate reproductive health access, reproductive rights and justice and to learn more about Judaism's approach to these issues.



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LIFECYCLE

Births

Allison Schaffer and Jorge Gonzalez of Chicago announce the birth of their daughter, Dahlia Penelope Gonzalez, on Sept. 29, 2021. Dahlia is the daughter of Marlene and Benjamin Schaffer of Louisville.

B'nai Mitzvah



Skye Addison Pohn, daughter of Jordan and Hilary Pohn, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 8 at The Temple. Skye is the granddaughter of Gail and Betty Pohn of West Palm Beach, Florida, and William and the late Valeri Bornstein of Louisville. A seventh grader at Kentucky Country Day School, Skye is a competitive ice skater, having competed across the region. She enjoys vacationing in Florida and Colorado, and an animal lover. (She adores her two dogs, Fred and Rosy, and her three cats, Bernie, Mittens, and Sparky.) For her volunteer projects, Skye helped Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy and Louisville Skating Academy camps and competitions.

Obituaries



Natalie Muriel Goldberg Davis

Natalie Muriel Goldberg Davis, 90, of Louisville, passed away on Monday, Dec. 6, 2021.

Born in St. Louis on Nov. 29, 1931, to the late Saul and Marie

Goldberg, the family moved to Los Angeles while Natalie was a toddler.

She graduated from Susan Miller Dorsey High School and attended secretarial school. Growing up in Los Angeles, though, she would retain a lifelong interest in movie stars and their personal affairs.

An extended visit to cousins in Louisville led to her move here in 1953 and to her marriage to Arthur "Skip" Davis.

Natalie worked for several years at Standard Oil of Kentucky before start-

ing a family. Later she worked at the Pendennis Club from the early 1970s to 1988 and juggled assignments among several temp agencies until fully retiring at the age of 81.

Natalie was interested in history and visiting museums and cultural sites. She traveled throughout the United States and visited the United Kingdom, India and Australia. She also enjoyed attending travelogue programs. Outgoing and gregarious, Natalie always made it a point to talk to and get to know people. She had an uncanny ability to remember people's names, and she maintained correspondence with several people she met on her trips for many years.

She loved music, especially Broadway musicals and the songs of her favorite singers: Steve and Eydie, Barbara Streisand and Tony Bennett.

She was passionate about sports (mostly basketball, football, and baseball) and a dedicated Louisville Cardinals fan.

Her biggest joy throughout her life, though, was spending time with her family, including her two sons, her five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Natalie was preceded in death by her brother, Melvin "Mel" Goldberg; and her grandson, Brent Davis.

She is survived by her former husband, Arthur "Skip" Davis; her sons, Henry "Hank" Davis (Donna Duley Davis) and Brian "BJ" Davis (Sheila Murphy Davis); her nieces, Patrice Goldberg and Claudine Goldberg Bushnell; her four grandchildren, Ashley Davis Sigman (Jay), Amy Davis Bowling (Eric), Emily and Shayna Davis; and her great-grandchildren, Asher and Juliette Sigman and Theo and Estelle Bowling.

Burial was in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

The family is grateful to the nurses, aides and staff of Westport Place Medical Center and Hosparus Health of Louisville, for their compassionate and devotion to Natalie in her final months.

Sympathy may be expressed as donations to the World Wildlife Fund, 1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, NW, P.O. Box 97180, Washington, DC 20090-7180 or the Environmental Defense Fund, 1875 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20009.



Harold Louis Gordon

Harold Louis Gordon, 90, passed away peacefully, on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, one week shy of his 70th wedding anniversary.

A proud graduate of Male High School and Butler University (Go Dawgs!), Harold enjoyed two careers: insurance agent and pharmacist.

He was dedicated to the community, volunteering at Jewish Family & Career Services, Meals on Wheels, Dare to Care, and Supplies Overseas.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents, Irvin, Dorothy and Esther Gordon.

He is survived by his loving wife, Frankye Klein Gordon; his daughter, Marla; his son, Doug (Karen); his grandchildren, Evan (Jessica) and Brian (Kaitlin); his great-grandchildren, Miles, Andi and Graham; and his loving brothers and sisters' in-law, David and Barbara, Bernard and Diane, Sam and Marlene, Harvey and Arlene.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 15, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Donations in Harold's memory are appreciated at the Harold & Frankye Gordon Fund at Congregation Adath Jeshurun (adathjeshurin.com) or the food pantry at Jewish Family & Career Services (jfcslouisville.org).



Ruby S. Gordon

Ruby S. Gordon, 81, died Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021.

Born in Louisville, a daughter of the late Abe and Fannie Zimmerman Pozitzer, Ruby graduated from University of Louisville with a bachelor's degree in social work. She received her master's degree from Kent School of Social Work.

Ruby was a supervisor with Shield Development Services for five years. She then worked with the Hillebrand House and the Jefferson County Health Department. She also directed the TB, methadone and drug court programs at the Health Department.

After retiring from social work, Ruby volunteered with Friend for Life, Cast-

ing for Recovery and Reel Recovery. She was a 2005 Bell Award recipient and a docent at Actors Theatre.

Beside her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Gordon; and her brother, Alan Pozitzer.

Ruby is survived by her daughters, Florence Mills (Troy) and Phyllis Ghazi (David); and two grandchildren.

A graveside service was held for Ruby on Dec. 10 at Cave Hill Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Friends for Life Cancer Support Network, 4003 Kresge Way, Suite 100, Louisville, KY 40207-4652 or at friend4life.org/donate/; Senior Care Experts, 145 Thierman Lane, Louisville, KY 40207; or Reel Recovery Fly Fishing for Men with Cancer, 160 Brookside Road, Needham, MA 02492 or at reel-recovery.org/how-to-help/donate/.



Julie Lauderback Hawse

Julie Lauderback Hawse, 62, passed away in Louisville on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021.

Born in Danville on June 17, 1959, a daughter of Margaret

and the late James Louderback, Julie was a licensed clinical social worker in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia. During her career, she avidly advocated for veterans, battered women, the elderly, children, sufferers of post-traumatic stress syndrome, anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, childhood trauma and addiction.

Her desire was to empower her patients to find the best version of themselves.

Julie earned her masters of science in social work and a doctorate in divinity. She was a member of Psi Chi Honor Society, Kent School Alumni Association, National Association of Social Workers, Kentucky Society of Clinical Social Work, American Case Management Association, the American Mensa Association and Temple Adath Israel.

She deeply loved God, her Jewish community, her family and 11-year-old Pomeranian, Sophie. She loved all animals, the outdoors and especially the beach – her "happy place," as she often said.

Continued on page 22

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LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 21

She loved to paint, cook and volunteer. She always tried to bring light to the world through her compassion and positivity.

In addition to her mother, left to cherish her memory is her husband, Donnie G. Hawse; her son, Timothy (Darlene) Grossman; her grandson, Thomas M. Grossman; her brother, Michael Lauderback; and her sister, Beverly (Kelli) Burton.

In addition to her father, Julie was predeceased by her son, Donovan Lauderback.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Lexington Cemetery with Rabbi David Wirtschafter of the Temple Adath Israel presiding.

In honor of her legacy and in lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America ADAA.

John Elkan Herzfeld

John Elkan Herzfeld, 93, died Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, in Prospect.

A 1946 graduate of Male High School and a 1950 graduate of the University of Louisville, John served as a lieutenant in the Navy during the Korean War.

He spent most of his career with Atlantic Envelope Company, where he progressed from salesman to general manager.

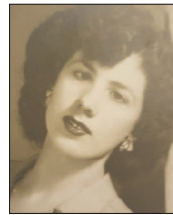
Away from work, he was an avid fisherman and community volunteer.

John is survived by his wife of 67 years, the former Eve Goldman; his daughter, Susan Glazer (Mark); his son,

John Herzfeld III; and his grandchildren, Katy Hurt (Wes), Michael Glazer (Sarah), Dylan Holland (Meghan) and Treavor Martin; and three great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and a brother, Bob Herzfeld.

Most of all, John leaves a legacy of love, wisdom, patience and compassion. Everyone who knew him became a better person.

The family will have a private remembrance. Contributions to Hosparus Health of Louisville, the Prospect-Goshen Rotary Foundation or a charity of your choice are welcome.



Sylvia (Parnes) Osoffsky
Sylvia (Parnes) Osoffsky, passed away

Thursday, Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving morning – at age 94. She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel; her daughter, Debra; and her granddaughter, Steffanie.

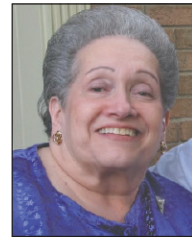
Sylvia loved family and friends and going out to eat. She was fond of knitting and made numerous afghans, hats and scarves. Her favorite food was chocolate.

She was a member of Hadassah, Amit Women, ORT, Congregation Anshei Shalom and Temple Shalom.

Surviving are two brothers, Israel Ray Parnes and Philip Parnes; her sons, Harris (Sheila) and Michael (Betsy) Osoffsky; her grandchildren, Dana Osoffsky,

Sam Osoffsky, Hedley Stickell and Danielle Stickell; and great-grandchildren, Sacha and Constantin Khazai, Josephine and Juliette Heintzman, Sylvie, Flora and Lachlan Pendygraft.

A graveside service was held Sunday, Nov. 28, at Anshei Sfard Cemetery.



Arlene Gumer Skolnick

Arlene Gumer Skolnick, 79, of Louisville, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, surrounded by family.

Arlene dedicated her lifetime to her family, friends and community. She was a loving, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and cousin. A selfless person, she always gave her family's happiness and needs top priority.

She often said you can never tell anyone too much that you love them, and she always ended a conversation with a family member by telling them – usually several times – just that.

Arlene never met a stranger. She had a unique gift for attracting new friends without trying. People were drawn to her instantly, at ease in her presence. A day with Arlene was never boring.

Arlene was the longest-tenured president of the Keneseth Israel Preschool, the president of the Louisville Hebrew School, and the founding president of the Central Agency for Jewish Education.

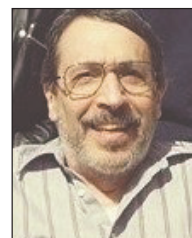
She was a vice president and member of the Board of Directors of Keneseth Israel Congregation, where five generations of her family have belonged and where she was a lifetime member of the Sisterhood. Arlene was active for many years in the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the recipient of many honors, including the Young Leadership Award.

She was predeceased by her parents, Isaac "Ike" and Frances Newman Gumer, and her brother, Bruce Gumer.

Survivors include Arlene's devoted husband of 58 years, Judah Skolnick; her five children, Frances, Susan, Larry, Cory (Meg) and Michael (Franci); her grandchildren, Sophie, Ethan, Cate and Molly; her sister-in-law, Myrtilan Gumer; her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Jill and Jerry Flecker; her cousin, Jeffrey Gumer; many nieces and nephews; and many other beloved relatives.

A service was held at the Keneseth Israel Cemetery on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Arlene was passionate about social issues, social justice, nature and wildlife. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests expressions of sympathy be made in her memory to the Arlene Skolnick Nature Education Endowment Fund at the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, P.O. Box 130, Clermont, KY 40110, bernheim.org/tributes, or by calling 502-215-7138.



Dr. Michael Speigel

Dr. Michael Speigel, 75, died Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, in Louisville.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, on June 27, 1946, the middle son of Jacob and Sylvia (Levin) Speigel, Michael earned his degree from the University of Cincinnati and graduated from the University of Louisville Dental School. He moved to Louisville to be close with his large

family.

Michael grew his dental practice, which was located in The Chrysler Professional Building on Bardstown Road, until his retirement in the late 2000s.

Michael cherished his role of father to David and Jeff. He did Cub Scouts and baseball with Jeff and taught David how to juggle and make balloon animals.

Michael was a magician and an active member of The Louisville Magic Club, where he earned awards as a masterful close-up performer. His fascination with the performing art began early in his life, entertaining his family and friends with sleight of hand. He stayed with it and was an active member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, achieving the Order of Merlin.

Michael had numerous hobbies that involved hand dexterity, including playing piano, making origami and 3-D greeting cards, and calligraphy.

Besides his parents, Michael was preceded in death by his son, Jeff, and his brother Alan.

He is survived by his younger brother, Robert (Mary Anne); his son, David (Erin McGuire); his daughter-in-law, Sarah Kimmel; and his six grandchildren, Kyla (18), Toby (15), Simon (15), Lainie (13), Isaac (10), and Colin (2 months).

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Nov. 24, in Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to National MS Society, PO Box #91891, Washington, D.C. 20090; Christian Care Communities, 12710 Townepark Way, Louisville, KY 40243, or The Louisville Magic Club, 5512 Pavilion Way, Louisville, KY 40291.



Simon "Si" Wolf

Simon "Si" Wolf, 91, died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, in Louisville.

Born in Philadelphia on Nov. 22, 1930, the son of the late Louis and Helen (Simelovitz) Wolf, Simon graduated

from the University of Kentucky Pharmacy School in 1958 and went on to own the Koby Drug Store. He retired as a pharmacist from Kroger.

Si was an Army veteran of the Korean War, a member of Congregation Anshei Sfard, Alpha Zeta Omega pharmaceutical fraternity, Jefferson County Academy of Pharmacists, Kentucky Pharmacist Association, the Veteran Drug Club, and the Senior Adult Social Club at the Jewish Community Center. In 2002, he was nominated and received the National Award for Gold Standard for Ageing.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Carolyn Monfried Wolf; his son, Stuart D. Wolf; and his sister, Frances Rosenthal.

Si is survived by his children, Larry Wolf (Janice) and Roselyn Donnell (Steve); three grandchildren, Melanie Whitham (Thom), Lauren Coffey (Sean), and Ryan Wolf (Brandi); and four great-grandchildren, Connor and Callie Whitham, Laine Coffey and Finley Wolf.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 8, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.; burial followed in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Senior Adult Social Club at the JCC, Friends For Life, Reel Recovery of Kentucky & Indiana or the donor's favorite charity.

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NEWS

SURVIVORS

Continued from page 1

America. The core Jewish value, *Areyvut*, caring unconditionally for another, has been embraced by so many, including the over 600 donors and foundations who have contributed over \$100,000 to the Tornado Relief Effort."

Further, every available slot for the Dec. 16 Red Cross blood drive at the old Anshei Sfard building was filled. More blood drives are anticipated.

Women of the Federation's Jewish Philanthropy Division worked hard this past week baking and collecting donations at the Anshei Sfard building for people in the hardest-hit areas.

Three Jewish participants – Keren Benabou, Sylvia Mond, Ronen Danino – were among a larger group, called Western Kentucky Strong, that traveled to Bremen, Muhlenberg County, to distribute clothes, food, gifts for children and desserts at a local agricultural center. The dessert table was set up with a sign that read, "BAKED WITH LOVE [from] THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LOUISVILLE."

Benabou said they also distributed

lunches to first responders, nursing homes, halfway houses and residents who couldn't leave their damaged homes for fear of looters. She said there was even enough food, much of which was donated by KFC and a Muhlenberg County restaurant, to be brought to Louisville for donation at a 28th Street community kitchen.

"It's just literally people doing something nice," she said.

Across Louisville, Jews have been loading up cars and trucks, delivering all kinds of supplies to the stricken areas.

Chabad of Kentucky was the first Jewish organization to the area, delivering \$50,000 worth of bottled water, which was purchased by the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta. It is following up with truckloads of winter apparel and other necessities from its Project Friendship warehouse.

Jews from across the area have volunteered to help Chabad sort items for delivery.

"Our aid will not only be material," Chabad Education Chair Rabbi Shmully Litvin said. "We will be a source of support and spiritual healing as well."

Members of The Temple, including

Boy Scout Troop 30, delivered items from the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry, at the Jewish Family & Career Services, to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mayfield on Dec. 18. The supplies included (among other things) food, flashlight, batteries, water, first aid supplies, clothing, blankets, toiletries, feminine hygiene and baby products.

Help has also come from the Jewish world beyond Louisville.

Israel's Consul general to Atlanta, Anat Sultan-Dadon, visited Hopkins County on Friday, Dec. 17, delivering to the local school district 400 backpacks filled with water, snacks, games and writing materials for the children. The diplomat promised to make return trips to the region.

Teams from the Israeli non-governmental aid agency IsraAID – specialists in the field of disaster relief – are in the stricken areas to assist with the cleanup (see story, page one).

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville, said she has received many calls from across the Jewish spectrum offering their sympathies as well as tangible

assistance.

Among the organizations that have reached out are Jewish Federations of North America, JCC Association of North America and Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

Wagner also has conferred with Mindy Haas, executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass (Lexington) about ways that the two federations could work together to offer help.

Likewise the JCL is talking to the Red Cross about long-term ways to stay involved in the relief effort.

"[They] really asked that we stay on the list that [they] can be reach out to after the initial fervor of people rushing into help wanes," Wagner said, "so we can help when some of this dies down and they need more help. It's the long game."

Want to help?

Go to the **The Tornado Relief Fund** (Jewishlouisville.org/WKYDonations) where contributions are still being accepted. Those who wish to contribute in other ways can contact Stacy Gordon-Funk at sgordon-funk@jewishlouisville.org.

REFLECT

Continued from page 1

Mayfield, a board member at Temple Israel who rode out the storm with her husband and puppy in a closet of their home. "Most of the children have gone to college and gotten jobs away from here."

The tornado damaged the home of a Temple Israel couple in Dawson Springs, Johnson said. "I don't know the extent, but they can't live in it at the moment."

West, who grew up in Mayfield, said several Jewish families once called that town home.

"It's so sad, just to see all those beautiful buildings [destroyed]," she said. "When I was growing up there, most of the stores on the courthouse square were owned by Jewish people."

Debbie Hamontree, daughter of Temple Shalom members Caroline and A.W. Rosenthal, still lives in Mayfield, where she is a surgical technician at Jackson Purchase Medical Center. She compared the hospital emergency room after the tornado to "a war zone," the unit filling with patients with broken bones and lacerations covering their bodies.

"Not a single spot on their bodies hasn't been massively bruised,

scratched, scraped – road rash injuries," she said. "What got me the most were the kids, 1- to 2-year-olds."

Hamontree, a trained weather spotter for the National Weather Service, knew for days in advance that a potentially severe storm was coming.

The day it struck, "you could feel it in the air," she said. "When I went to work in the morning, it was rather cool, but when I got off, just the humidity, the air temperature, the feeling; you knew it could be worse than we had originally thought."

IsraAID

Continued from page 1

ed States has raised questions about the dispatch of more teams, according to IsraAID spokesman Ethan Schwartz.

"Israel just introduced travel restrictions designating the U.S. a 'red country' COVID-wise," Schwartz said, "so that affects our capacity to send more teams in the coming weeks."

Omicron has replaced Delta as the dominant COVID variant here, accounting for 73 percent of all new infections as of Tuesday, Dec. 21, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

IsraAID, a humanitarian organization that responds to emergencies worldwide, brings help such as operating search-and-rescue missions, rebuilding communities and schools, and providing aid packages, medical assistance and post-psycho traumatic care.

In addition to Kentucky, IsraAID just announced that it is sending a team to the Philippines to assist in relief work following Super Typhoon Rai, which killed at least 375 people.

Following her visit to the region on Friday, Dec. 17, Anat Sultan-Dadon, Israel's consul general to Atlanta, first told *Community* that IsraAID teams were on their way.

IsraAID is working with its U.S. coun-

terpart, Team Rubicon, on cleanup efforts and other tasks.

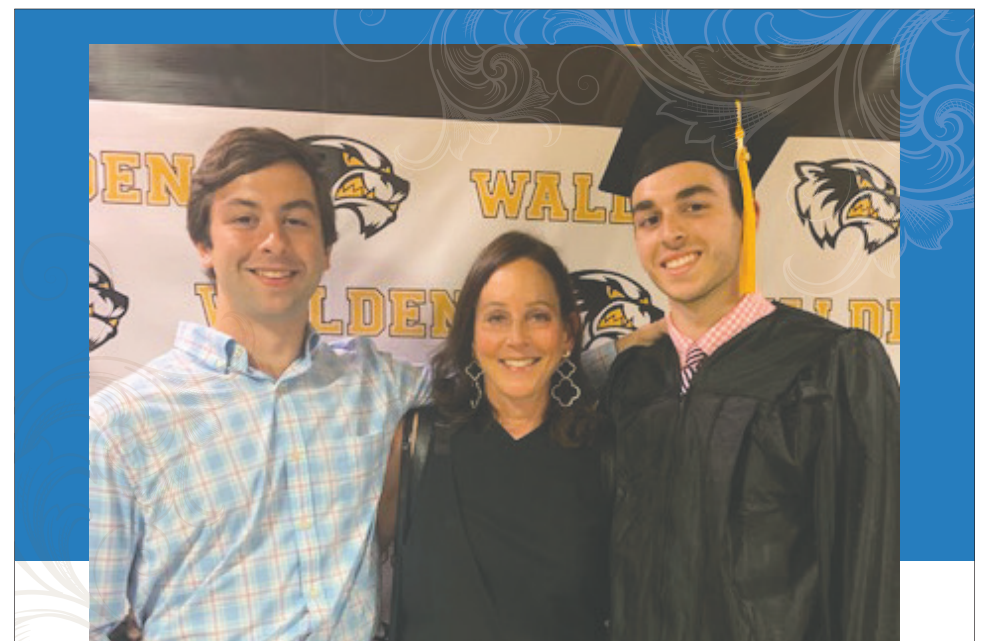
Vulnerable families unable to handle "physically intensive work" will get priority from the teams, which include volunteers with "specific expertise" in the tasks at hand, according to information provided by IsraAID via the consulate.

This is not the first time IsraAID has responded to a natural disaster on U.S. soil. Since 2017, its teams have provided disaster relief to hurricane-hit communities in Florida, Texas, North Carolina and Puerto Rico, and to wildfires in northern California.

"Our thoughts are with the communities across the affected area who have been left reeling by [the] tornadoes and with the families who have lost loved ones," IsraAID CEO Yotam Polizer said in a prepared statement. The teams, he added, will "do everything they can to support people in need."

Sultan-Dadon delivered 400 backpacks loaded with water, snacks, games, hygiene products and writing materials to Kentucky school children. She also met with local leaders and toured some of the damage.

She said will return to the region while there is "an Israeli presence here for the foreseeable future," an apparent acknowledgement of the long rebuilding period to come.



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

— Susan Rudy

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Deputy Director of Clinical Research
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