

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:
Permanent Presence
Project Friendship opens
centers in western Ky.
STORY ON PG. 5

FRIDAY Vol. 48, No. 2 | February 25, 2022 | 24 Adar I 5782

Spiritual Successors on their way

Temple Hires Cantor to Succeed Rapport

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In a historic moment for Louisville's oldest Jewish congregation, The Temple has hired its first cantor to be its next full-time spiritual leader.

Cantor Lauren Furman Adesnik, of Atlanta, Georgia, will succeed Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, who is retiring on July 1 after 34 years. She will serve alongside Senior Rabbi David Ariel-Joel.

While The Temple had a student cantor, Mike Jarvis, from 2018 to 2019, "this is the first time in 178 years of our Temple that we are having an ordained cantor," Ariel-Joel said.

In an interview with *Community*, Adesnik said she was "humbled" by her selection.

"What comes through at The Temple is this amazing joy for Judaism and Jewish life and this honoring of history," she said.

She also detected "a real presence for growth and elevation and creativity and that really excited me."

Originally from California, Adesnik



Cantor Lauren Furman Adesnik will be the first ordained cantor of The Temple. (photo provided by Cantor Lauren Furman Adesnik)

has been the cantor of Temple Emanuel of Greater Atlanta since 2013. During her time there, she has developed adult and junior choirs, mentored teen singers, produced a concert series of various genres, incorporated musical congregants into worship and musical programs, revived the synagogue's parody troupe and fostered musical experiences in the greater Atlanta Jewish community.

She also has soloed with the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra, and with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra,

bringing Jewish classical music, musical theater and Yiddish music to metro Atlanta.

Pretty impressive for a cantor who was born with a hearing loss.

"I have worn hearing aids since I was 9," Adesnik said. Nevertheless, it has never affected her singing or her ability to match pitch.

"My hearing loss has never gotten in the way, magically," she said. "This is one of the reasons why I so firmly believe that this is my calling and what I'm meant to do in life."

Coming to a synagogue with no cantorial history poses a challenge, Adesnik said, particularly for worshippers who don't fully understand her role.

Beyond singing, she explained, cantors fully engage in pastoral care, provide a "compassionate presence" at moments of sorrow and joy, craft sermons and teach. (She's teaching a class right now in Atlanta on the history of *Lecha Dodi*, the liturgical poem that welcomes Shabbat.)

And, of course, cantors use their voice-

See **TEMPLE** on page 19

Corber named next rabbi of Adath Jeshurun

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor



Rabbi Joshua Corber

Rabbi Joshua Corber has been hired to be the next senior rabbi of Adath Jeshurun, the congregation announced Tuesday.

Corber, who will start his new rabbinate on July 1, will be responsible for all rabbinic duties at AJ, but Rabbi Robert Slosberg will assist him during a transition period before becoming rabbi emeritus on July 1, 2023.

Corber currently serves as the rabbi

See **ADATH JESHURUN** on page 19

Opening soon: a new JCC

Ceremonial ribbon-cutting slated for Trager Family JCC

By Community Staff

With the final touches being put on the Trager Family Jewish Community Center, the sounds inside the new building have shifted from heavy machinery to small tools and drills putting together children's play areas and gym floors, and mounting directional signs.

The Trager Family JCC is almost ready for its grand debut.

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting will be held on March 10 for a small group of stakeholders and elected officials. A mezuzah will be affixed at that time and the new "front porch" for Jewish Louisville for decades to come will be

See **JCC** on page 19



The front entrance of the new Trager Family Jewish Community Center, where a ceremonial ribbon-cutting will take place on March 10 (Community photo by Robyn Kaufman)

Greenberg defers on shooting, says city shares resolve to end gun violence

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Since the start of his campaign for mayor last year, Craig Greenberg has literally been on the run.

The Louisville lawyer and entrepreneur, who is a lifelong runner, sees his favorite exercise as a great way to introduce himself to the city – both the parts where he is known and not so known.

"I've been running across the whole city," Greenberg said. "There are 623 precincts in Louisville. Before the shooting happened, I've run through 504, so I've been in almost every corner of our

See **GREENBERG** on page 19

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Zoom or shul? I know my choice for Purim



D'var Torah

Rabbi
Avrohom Litvin

I just heard of a young couple that has lived apart during the COVID pandemic.

He lived in New York, she in Canada. The borders were closed, so they couldn't be with each other physically. Thank G-d for Zoom!

They spoke every night and got to "see" each other over the Zoom platform. They felt lucky to have Zoom to keep that relationship alive. They called the company their "relationship life raft."

But a problem has arisen.

Now that the peak of the Omicron variant seems to be passing, and countries are opening borders and adjusting restrictions to reflect this new reality, the husband in New York no longer wants to visit his bride in Canada. He says that Zoom has enabled him to maintain this relationship in a much more convenient way. He says he loves her and wants to stay with her, but only in a more modern "Zoom" relationship.

What do you think of that?

She says no. If he is serious about her, he must see her again – in person. She wants him to come home and commit to a "real" relationship, just as they had before COVID.

She compares his behavior to a grandparent who wouldn't have the grandchildren visit during COVID, instead speaking, laughing and staying in touch through Zoom. Now, the grandparent says a Zoom relationship

with his grandkids is much better because they don't dirty the house and he doesn't have to clean up after they leave.

We are in the month of Adar, the happiest month of the year. Halachah, the code of Jewish law, states: "When Adar begins, we should increase in joy." Since the lunar Jewish year is shorter than the secular solar year, an additional month of Adar is added every two or three years to align the two calendars, ensuring, for example, that Passover always remains in the spring. This is one of those years, so we add a second month of Adar, a double portion of joy.

This is the first leap year since the start of COVID in 2019. Instead of 30 days of joy, we now have 60.

The happiest day of this season is Purim, which begins on the evening of March 16.

How should we celebrate?

For each of us, this is a personal decision that should be made with much thought and deliberation. Do we come back to synagogue and reconnect to G-d in the sanctuary (G-d's home)? Or do we follow the example of the husband in the story and maintain a "modern" relationship through Zoom and the like, instead of fully connecting as deeply as possible.

I respect everyone's right to make their own decision. However, like many people who have spoken to me, I crave that special personal connection with G-d. If things keep progressing as they are, I will attend an in-person synagogue service on Purim – with proper precautions. I hope you join me. I will pray for the Moshiach and the era of health, happiness and true connection to G-d. Amen.

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

Snapshots



Anshei Sfard moved into its new space at 2904 Bardstown Road – the old Six-Mile Creek Distillery office -- in early February. The main floor has been converted into the sanctuary, an office and restrooms. The basement houses the rabbi's study, a kitchen and youth space. A newly constructed ramp to the side door will serve as the main entrance to the synagogue. (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman)

Candles

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

- Mar 4 @ 6:21 p.m.
- Mar 11 @ 6:28 p.m.
- Mar 18 @ 7:35 p.m.
- Mar 25 @ 7:41 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

Got a news item for *Community*? Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by Wednesday, Mar. 16 (though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox by Friday, Mar. 25.

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

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NEWS

Search Underway

SCN head: Jewish communities large and small need security pros

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor



Michael Masters

Like many other Americans, Michael Masters followed the news about the Feb. 14 attempted assassination of Louisville mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg.

However, Masters, a career security expert, saw the incident from a far different perspective.

To him, the shooting demonstrates the need for Jewish communities, large and small, to hire community professionals who know how to keep their leaders, their facilities, their events and services safe.

"It certainly drives home for the community ... the criticality of having this type of program in place," Masters said.

And Louisville will soon have one.

Masters is the national director and chief executive officer of the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security arm of the North American Jewish communities, that works with

Jewish communities, police and other partners to recruit security directors and develop security plans.

The SCN is currently working with the Louisville Jewish Federation to recruit a permanent regional security advisor (RSA) to oversee the development and maintenance of such a plan. The hiring is part of the Federation's SAFE Louisville project, which is cochaired by Bill Altman and Ben Vaughan.

The Louisville RSA will represent the SCN on the ground in Louisville, serving as an "expert security advisor, liaison, and training coordinator" to the community, according to the job description.

"They will be working with the community and each organization to assess the security status of the community and the individual facilities," Masters said.

The RSA also will identify strengths and opportunities for enhancement at each facility, develop a training and exercise program for the whole community, and coordinate with police, the Department of Homeland Security and other security partners.

RSAs also play a role in paying for the plans they help develop, working with communities to access public funding. Among the best known is the \$180 million Federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Support is growing in Congress

to increase that program to \$360 million.

Though a prime focus of the RSA will be the facilities of Jewish Louisville – the JCC, synagogues, day schools, agencies – incidents like the attack on Greenberg show how the expert's work could take him (or her) anywhere in the city.

"We saw the kosher supermarket in Jersey City attacked," Masters said. "Unfortunately, we don't have the luxury of limiting the bad guys to where we want them to be."

While antisemitism has driven the most high-profile attacks on Jews since the Tree of Life shootings in Pittsburgh, Masters warned that every act of violence on Jewish property doesn't necessarily fit that description.

"The incident or impact may not always be from an antisemitic incident or attack," he said. "An issue of a non-custodial parent or an act of workplace violence doesn't need to be motivated by antisemitism if it occurs in a JCC or in a synagogue or at the Jewish day school. They're equally impactful to the facility."

He equated the work of an RSA to an insurance policy. "We are implementing an effort that provides insurance for us in the event of an incident."

A Chicago native, Masters, 43, has spent most of his career in security: chief of staff for the Chicago Police Department;

executive director of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Cook County, Illinois; and senior vice president of The Soufan Group, a strategic advisory firm that assists organizations in the public and private sectors with addressing emergent threats.

He joined SCN in 2017. At the time, there were 22 RSAs in Jewish communities nationwide. Today, there are more than 50.

The demand for RSAs (they're called security directors in some communities) has grown as threats to smaller Jewish communities have become more acute.

"We have seen the threat shift," Masters said. "Unfortunately, we've recognized from Charleston to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Charlottesville and of course Colleyville that some of our greatest threats were in our smaller or midsize communities, sometimes more rural communities. So, we work very diligently with communities to address that."

Masters said the RSA, whoever is hired, won't be invisible to the community.

"We inform our team members that if they're looking at the back side of a desk regularly, they are probably not doing the job correctly. This is a highly engaged, out-in-the-community position."

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NEWS

Project Friendship opens three permanent aid centers in western Kentucky

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Project Friendship, the social service arm of Chabad of Kentucky, is opening three new permanent centers – two in western Kentucky, one in Louisville – to provide clothing and other essentials to the needy.

The openings of the centers, called “friendship corners,” were announced at a media event on Monday, Feb. 14, at the Project Friendship warehouse on Breckinridge Lane. Several dignitaries, including Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman and Anat Sultan Dadon, Israel’s consul general to the southeastern United States, spoke at the event.

The corners, which join a network of approximately 50 such facilities across the state, provide clothing, coats, boots, kitchenware, household items and one luxury: jewelry.

“It would be something special for people who lost everything,” said Project Friendship CEO Rabbi Chaim Litvin.

The two western Kentucky corners, in Bowling Green and Madisonville, will assist survivors from last December’s tornadoes as they rebuild – an effort that will take years.

“You’ve now seen the tip of the iceberg,” said Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, re-



Rabbi Chaim Litvin shows off the stocked warehouse of Project Friendship in Louisville, which supplies friendship corners across the state. (Community photo by Lee Chottiner)

gional director of Chabad of Kentucky. “The needs (of those communities) are much more than the one-time help many organizations have given them. We’re standing by for as long as it takes western Kentucky to get back on its feet.”

Project Friendship was on the ground shortly after tornadoes tore through western Kentucky on Dec. 10, devastating towns, killing 77 people and causing millions of dollars in damage.

Within days, Project Friendship had

delivered more than \$1 million in necessities, including pallets of bottled water provided by the Israel Consulate, to stricken areas in Bowling Green, Hopkinsville and Mayfield.

The third corner, to be housed in the volunteer lounge at the Jewish Family & Career Services, will be open to anyone who can access the Meyer Food Pantry.

JFCS Chief Executive Officer David Finke said interagency cooperation like this is essential to provide a safety net

for Kentuckians in need.

“Unless we all have partnerships across agency lines,” Finke said, “we will not be able to serve the likes of our children and families in our commonwealth.”

Also at the event were Eric Friedlander, secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and Melissa Goines, director of the Division of Family Resource and Youth Service Centers. Chabad also played a taped message from U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Chaim Litvin said all corners in the network occupy rooms in other facilities – schools, community centers, social service agencies – to hold down costs.

Nevertheless, there are expenses related to such an operation, with transporting items from the warehouse to the corners being the biggest.

Project Friendship also relies on volunteers to sort and pack the items at its warehouse.

“We fundraise for it; that’s what we do,” Chaim Litvin said. “We get the items at no cost, and we give them away at no cost. [But] picking them up and dropping them off cost money. It’s a skeleton budget.”

Litvin said no one, not even he, takes a paycheck.

“No has made anything off this enterprise; it’s strictly a social service.”

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Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: March 16 for publication on March 25 and April 20 for publication on April 29.

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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.

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

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FORUM



Time to flee USA? Not without a fight



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

Should American Jews be scared these days?

Bluntly, yes.

When a Tennessee school district can ban Maus, the seminal graphic novel of the Holocaust, the answer is yes.

When a governor – Ron DeSantis of Florida – outrightly refuses to condemn a Nazi rally in his state, the answer is yes.

And when a high-profile Jewish candidate for mayor in our own city is the target of an assassination attempt, the answer is yes. (Although the motive for the attack is still not clear.)

These are terrible times.

So, what's to be done?

I hear this question often; I even ask it myself.

Every day, we're bombarded with chilling news reports of myriad ways our country is skidding towards authoritarianism, but rarely do they include ways to fight back.

It's frustrating. At least, for me.

The question popped into my head again on Jan. 29 when I saw Ossietzky: A Peace Play at the Kentucky Center for the Arts. Carl von Ossietzky, a journalist who won the 1935 Nobel Peace Prize while held prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp – he was not Jewish – used his newspaper to speak

out against the horrors of the Third Reich, including antisemitism. It was only after the Reichstag burned in 1933 that he realized his cause was lost. By then, though, it was too late. He was arrested shortly after the fire and died in captivity in 1938, never having been allowed to travel to Stockholm to accept his prize.

Who wants to wait for the Capitol to burn? We have already seen it assaulted by a violent mob intent on a coup d'état. That was enough.

I decided to answer the question myself. How can we fight back?

- Don't be silent; speak out. Use your voices, your clubs, your bimas, your social media (your newspaper columns). Shout it to the proverbial rafters; you see what is happening and you won't stand for it. Form a loud and proud groundswell of resistance.

- Don't let your friends, your relatives, (your plumbers, your waiters, your cashiers), anyone, parrot lies about stolen elections and peaceful Capitol demonstrators without challenging them. A lie only gets stronger when it goes unchallenged.

- Don't support vendors who sponsor TV shows that spew hate rhetoric. Hate-mongers have First Amendment rights, but that doesn't mean we must subsidize their speech.

- Go to Frankfort. Go to Washington! Put your faces in front of your representatives, even those who disagree with you. Demand that voting rights be protected, that teachers be free to teach this country's history without fear of backlash, that women's reproductive rights be protected. If these leaders don't listen to you, support candidates who will, even if they don't seem to have a chance at the polls. (Upsets do hap-

pen.)

- Don't stop with your elected officials. Lobby your civic leaders, your charitable groups, your community organizations. No entity should be silent.

- Jews must speak with one voice whenever possible – Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and of no affiliation. This is not merely a question of religion; democracy is under assault.

But if we do all this and the country continues its slide into authoritarianism, much like Germany's Weimar Republic did in the '30s, what then?

Let's look at history again. Some German Jews saw the signs in time to get out. Will we feel the need to flee? Will we know when the time is ripe?

I truly hope it never comes to that, but the warning signs are ominous. What's more, a growing number of American Jews are, indeed, making contingency plans to get out.

JTA reported in a sobering 2020 story, just after Donald Trump refused to condemn white supremacists during a presidential debate, that immigration attorneys in Canada were noticing a marked increase in interest by Jews in moving there. "In my life," one lawyer said, "I have never seen what I'm seeing."

Maybe it will happen; maybe American Jews will flee, just as some German Jews did, more than 80 years ago.

Maybe it's baked in by now. Maybe the dye is cast.

But not without a fight. Make that your mantra.

Not without a fight.

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

FORUM

The problem with vilifying Israel: It doesn't work



JCRC
Scene

Matt Goldberg

This past month, Amnesty International, a historically reputable human rights organization, released a report falsely accusing Israel of being an apartheid state.

The Feb. 1 report, titled Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity, claims, according to an Amnesty statement, "human rights violations – including seizures of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible transfer, drastic movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians – that together constitute

a system of apartheid under international law."

This report is so cartoonishly one-sided that it is not taken seriously by anyone with pro-Israel sentiments. Most Jewish organizations have already condemned it. The United States, Canada and many countries in Europe have refuted its main finding. Even Mansour Abbas, the head of an Arab party in the Israeli government has rejected its claim that Israel is an apartheid country.

I am not going to challenge every claim in this report; there are many such refutations to be found online. My concern is that it pushes any possibility for a peace deal between Palestinians and Israelis further away, and two issues serve as examples.

First, fatal flaws in this report completely overshadow legitimate concerns in the way Israel treats Palestinians in the West Bank. (Gaza is different due to Hamas' control of the area.)

Mansour Abbas is right about apartheid. However, there is certainly discrimi-

nation against Palestinian citizens of Israel, and we see it plainly in the economic and social disparities between Jewish and Arab cities.

While not rising to the level of apartheid, Israel's policies and actions can and must be improved upon, and Zionist circles should be calling upon the Israeli government to do just that.

However, with such a one-sided report, our natural and correct instinct is to circle the wagons, reject the criticism out of hand, and double down on our support for Israel. The result, of course, is that any meaningful change in Palestinians' lives becomes much harder to make.

Secondly, this report provides Palestinians and their heartfelt supporters false hope that its findings will lead to changes in Israeli policy. They probably won't. Israel views Palestinians through the lens of an existential security concern, believing that they will not be satisfied with anything less than the destruction of Israel. Palestinian endorsement of this report only confirms that message for many

Israelis. Supporters of Palestine around the world who believe that calling Israel an apartheid state will somehow change the status quo are simply making an incorrect assumption.

That's a tragedy.

There is little doubt that Israel is getting stronger militarily, economically and diplomatically. Even Turkey, one of Israel's fiercest critics, is now reaching out to Israel to improve diplomatic ties. Pressure campaigns like BDS and human rights forum attacks have all failed and will continue to fail.

But there's one thing that won't fail (I believe): rapprochement.

There is an adage that Israel can resist any pressure except a hug. That is very true. I hope, for the sake of both Israelis and Palestinians, that more hugs will lead to the peaceful two-state solution both Palestinians and Israelis deserve.

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

Letters To The Editor

Cantor Lipp lauded

Hazzan David A. Lipp of Congregation Adath Jeshurun was conferred the degree of Honorary Doctor of Music by the Jewish Theological Seminary on Feb. 2.

In her remarks to Hazzan Lipp, Hazzan Nancy Abramson, director of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music, Jewish Theological Seminary, included the following: said:

"Hazzan David A. Lipp, you have served Congregation Adath Jeshurun ... for over a quarter of a century, teaching congregants and community members, Jewish and beyond, from pre-school to adult education. You have officiated and pastored to your Jewish community and congregation and represented them in inter-faith programs and concerts. Immediate past-president of the Cantors' Assembly, you helped meet the changing needs for both virtual and in-person programming. Mazel Tov!"

Please join us in saying mazel tov to Hazzan Lipp for his many contributions to the Louisville Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

Dave & Debbie Weinstein
Louisville

All Jews are equal

The beauty of Judaism is that our religion does not demand that one size fit all. There is no such thing as "authentic Judaism."

Jewishness does not require another person's approval, scrutiny or scorn. Every Jew is equal in how they choose to celebrate and observe this religion.

I respect and defend all Jewish religious beliefs and customs, but I vehemently denounce anyone, especially another Jew, espousing a "holier than thou" proselytizing.

I am a Jew, just as the many generations before me. My daughters and grandchildren are Jewish.

No one is entitled to insult and infringe on my rights as a Jew, as a woman, as a resident of Louisville, of Kentucky or the United States. This includes anyone claiming to elected officials, the news media and the public that they represent

or speak for all the Jews of this commonwealth.

None of us, including all unaffiliated Jews and members of the congregations in Louisville, are any more or any less Jewish than anyone else.

Honi Marleen Goldman
Louisville

Cash goes farther in food drives

When I moved to Louisville, I volunteered for the JFCS Food Pantry, driving to the synagogues in town the day after Yom Kippur, collecting food from the various food drives. It took me and other volunteers several trips.

The food lined the hallways and took yet more volunteer hours to sort. Some of it had to be disposed of because it expired or was not packaged according to Dare to Care standards. There was even a box of rice that was older than me!

It would take hours to keep the stock "rotated," by moving soon-to-be-expired items to soup kitchens, so they could be used quickly.

The social worker in me knew there had to be a better way to do this. There is.

Food pantries will never tell you, for fear of sounding ungrateful, that they would prefer you stop the food drives and just donate cash. Not only does it save them the time of sorting donations, but due to the structure of food pantry systems like Dare to Care (of which JFCS is a part), the money you spend on buying food can be stretched even further; for the price of a bag of groceries, the food bank could in fact buy an entire pallet. Seems like a no-brainer.

Additionally, cash allows the food pantries to supply gift cards to individuals who may have specific dietary needs and, of course in the Jewish community, keep kosher.

Every time I see piles of food and donation bins, I silently cringe. Not because I don't support the cause, but because I know there is a better way. This Purim, and in future food drives, as you fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot Le'evonim

(gifts for the poor), skip the food drive. Just send a check. You're doing a bigger mitzvah. No more volunteers sorting. No more expired food. And the money does

more. Wins for everyone.

Lisa Goldberg
Louisville

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FORUM

In response: Colleyville was about antisemitism – period



Guest
Columnist

David Chack

Rev. Martin Brooks' Jan. 28 column in Community about the synagogue standoff in Colleyville, Texas, shows off the alliance between Jews and other leaders who have the courage to care. I do not take lightly how difficult it may have been for Rev. Brooks to speak out, so his words are much appreciated.

I want to offer some additions, even some friendly correctives, to what Rev. Brooks wrote, in the spirit of building bridges and presenting a perspective of Jews as not only a religious group, but also as a people.

Since his article was published, antisemitic events have continued: vandalism and attacks on Jews and Jewish-owned buildings and synagogues in Chicago; a neo-Nazi rally in Florida; the banning of Art Spiegelman's MAUS about Jewish genocide in the Holocaust; and others I haven't even heard about. Yet this isn't new, nor did it begin with the Holocaust or even with many European Jews fleeing

pogroms to come to America.

When Shakespeare wrote The Merchant of Venice in 1600, he had never met a Jew. We had been exiled from England about 300 years earlier, accused of draining blood from Christian children. Shakespeare took that "othering" and the libel of needing blood for rituals and coupled it with edicts that made Jews into the moneylenders and bankers in Christian Europe. From these blood lies, he wrote one of the world's most performed, though antisemitic plays, portraying a despicable Jewish moneylender, Shylock, who wants to cut a pound of flesh from the merchant Antonio as forfeit for his bond.

Expanded upon over the centuries, this trope became more conspiratorial, depicting Jews as seeking world domination through capitalism, or socialism, or in secret plots such as The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, and depicting Jews in grotesque caricatures. Films and plays such as The Eternal Jew and Jew Suss showed these conspiracies to a sympathetic public.

Today, the lies include beliefs that Jews control the news media and Hollywood, that Jews invented COVID or, alternatively, are behind a vaccine plot, and that Holocaust survivor and financier George Soros is behind the BLM protests and a conspiracy to replace white people with people of color. This "great replacement theory" is why neo-Nazis and white su-

premacists in Charlottesville chanted "Jews will not replace us."

All of this demonstrates the insidious nature of antisemitism, bleeding into a British Pakistani believing he could access America's reins of power by taking Jews hostage at a synagogue near the federal penitentiary where an al-Qaida terrorist is being held.

And the reason he went to a synagogue? It wasn't to stifle religious "freedom" as many have indicated. It was more like Willie Sutton explaining why he robbed banks: That's where the money was. The same goes for synagogues; that's where recognizable Jews can be found.

So, when Rev. Brooks laments that "all people of faith can't fling their doors wide open..." I must respectfully disagree with that universalization. Like the massacre at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, this is about hating Jews as a people, who are perceived to have dark powers and control the world. This is not a situation that other houses of worship share with us.

Antisemitism doesn't care whether a Jew goes to synagogue or has "faith." Antisemitism is the "othering" or demonizing of Jewish people, as individuals and as a group, which leads to stereotyping, libeling, generating systemic conspiracy theories, violence and genocide. Jews know this. Antisemitism is real; it didn't start with the Holocaust and Hitler; it continues, and it is dangerous.

As a former JCC associate executive director in Louisville, I know what it is like to make decisions affecting people's lives in dealing with antisemitism. I had to deal with high alerts issued by the police when a known shooter of Jews, Blacks and Asian-Americans was heading towards us down I-65.

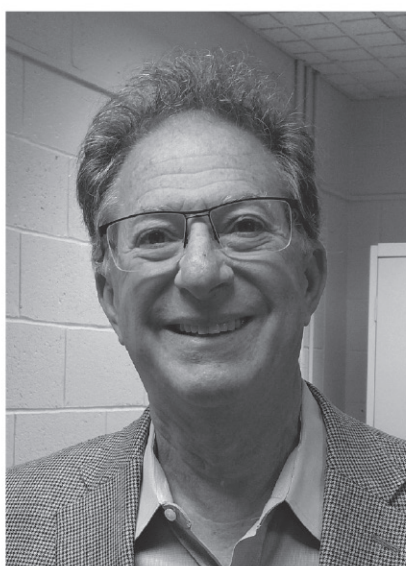
But as a professor who teaches Holocaust theatre/performance and Jewish representations in theatre and popular culture, I also see antisemitism as a system that has evolved towards us that is not due to faith or religious practices. We are a people who occupy a unique insider and outsider status. It is in the enmity born out of this phenomenon that antisemitism lives.

Rev. Brooks asks the readers to contemplate, "How does your faith inform the way you treat others?" Instead, I would encourage them to vigorously interrogate our faith, culture and nationalism and ask how that leads us to supremacy. Only after that kind of soul searching can we genuinely respond to the other – not seeking someone in need of being saved, but as someone who quite possibly is there to save us.

(David Chack is the artistic director of the ShPeL Performing Identity and a professor of theater at DePaul University in Chicago.)

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CenterStage says 'Goodbye and Hello' at its old space



Sara's View

Sara Klein
Wagner

CenterStage, the oldest operating theatre company in Kentucky, has brought so much joy to so many audiences.

And the show goes on. There is more to come as CenterStage enters a new era at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center.

Last week, longtime supporters of CenterStage said goodbye to our current home at the current JCC – actors, volunteers, committee members, and grateful fans – gathered one last time in the Linker auditorium to give the space a proper send-off.

While the Omicron variant kept the crowd at this “Goodbye and Hello” event small, the gathering was warm, focusing on the last 20 years of CenterStage – a time of love, laughter, drama and song.

I want to share some of the remarks made at that gathering.

Erin Jump, director of Arts & Ideas for the JCC, kicked off the evening, by noting the space has housed 107 Mainstage productions since 2000 and 17 Academy



Andy Epstein, Erin Jump read a display of the building at the 'Goodbye and Hello' event.

performances since 2013 – up to 150 performances in all.

“When you consider how many shows of every production we had – some three, some eight – and how many people this auditorium can hold,” Jump said, “I’m confident in saying that we shared our art with hundreds of thousands of people.”

She thanked the people who built the theatre, those who continue to help CenterStage grow, and members of the board, including the current chair, Sarah Harlan.

She even thanked the stage itself, “where we’ve danced and fallen, sang and yelled, forgotten our lines, missed our entrances, and laughed and cried all

the way through it.”

Erin noted that Andy Epstein, compared the evening to the plot of Sondheim’s Follies where a group of friends reunite in a theatre that is scheduled for demolition.

Harlan, the CenterStage chair, said she has been involved with the company for more than 20 years, first as a stage mom, then as chair of the annual fundraiser, Light Up CenterStage, and finally joining the board.

“I love what we do here at CenterStage and strongly believe in our mission of bringing the joy of live, community theatre to as many people as possible,” she said. “I’m so proud to continue our oldest community theatre in the state’s

tradition of delivering entertaining, educational, challenging, beautiful works of art to our audiences.

But now, Sarah is looking forward to CenterStage’s new home.

“I’m beyond grateful and excited about the possibilities that await us in the new Trager Family JCC,” she said. “I know change is hard, and dealing with a global pandemic is definitely no picnic. But what I can tell you, with complete confidence, is that CenterStage is going to grow and thrive in our new performance space. I can’t wait to launch our next season, continuing our more than 100-year history as Kentucky’s oldest and best community theatre!”

Listening to Erin and Sarah, hearing memories shared throughout the night and seeing the room light up as performers took the stage individually to perform one last time in this beloved space was a special night. I am so grateful to this wonderful community of volunteers and professionals for what they do. I, too, believe that we must build on a tremendous history to create a bright future that is yet to come in our new home at the Trager Family JCC.

(Sara Klein Wagner is the president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville. A photo gallery of scenes from the “Goodbye and Hello” event can be found on page 10.)

JASD: Wake up to the power of your dreams

What if the Jewish community gathered together to share their dreams, those ethereal messengers of the night? What if the dreamers paid special attention to dreams occurring on Shabbat or reflected on the meaning of their dreams in relation to the Torah portion of the week? What if the community of dreamers focused on tikkun atzmi and tikkun olam, healing ourselves and our world? What positive insights and actions might flow from listening to our dreams?

To explore those possibilities the Jewish Association of Spirituality and Dreams (JASD) is presenting The Dream Circle for the Louisville Jewish community March 13 and 20 at the JCC.

The mission of JASD is to embrace dream awareness as a fundamental pillar of Jewish spirituality and a spiritual practice for all faiths. JASD programs dispel the notion propagated in traditional texts that it is only men, prophets and royalty who receive divine guidance and recognize divine will. The sage wisdom of dreams enables all of us, regardless of religion or identity, to expand our potential, experience spiritual growth, and foster the common good.

The Dream Circle will emphasize the

educational rather than the psychological, the transformational rather than the therapeutic, and the spiritual rather than the scientific aspects of dreams.

Dreams have guided others in previous dream circles to self-care during the time of COVID; to understanding why a recurring dream about losing her purse signaled the loss of her identity as a woman and how to find herself again; and the need to raise the awareness of others to the prevalent issue of homelessness.

JASD co-founders, Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks, rabbi emerita of The Temple, and Joyce Lynn, author of two books on dreams, will lead the two-part Dream Circle March 13 and 20 at the Jewish Community Center.

The Dream Circle will be held Sundays, March 13 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the JCC. Registration: \$36 (\$20 for ages 13-30). A virtual option is available. For more details contact Dreaming@JASD28.org. Register at JewishLouisville.org/dreams.

The Jewish Federation of Louisville-Women’s Philanthropy, National Council of Jewish Women Louisville Section, and Louisville BBYO are co-sponsoring the event.



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**Sunday, March 13th
and
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10am-11:30am: Sessions

\$36 registration fee
(\$20 for ages 13-30)

Jewish Community Center
Virtual option available

Information and registration available at:
JewishLouisville.org/dreams





PICTURE THIS: CENTERSTAGE



CenterStage’s ‘Goodbye and Hello’ event, a sendoff to its old theatrical space in the Linker Auditorium, took place on Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Jewish Community Center. The event centered around saying goodbye to the Linker, which has been home to many CenterStage productions over the years, while looking forward to the new space at the Trager Family JCC. Performers, board members and stagehands joined the ceremony. (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman)



Pictured: Rusty Henle, Andy Epstein, Erin Jump



Pictured: Mimi Housewright



Pictured: Erin Jump, Amber Sneed



Pictured: Sarah and Mike Harlan

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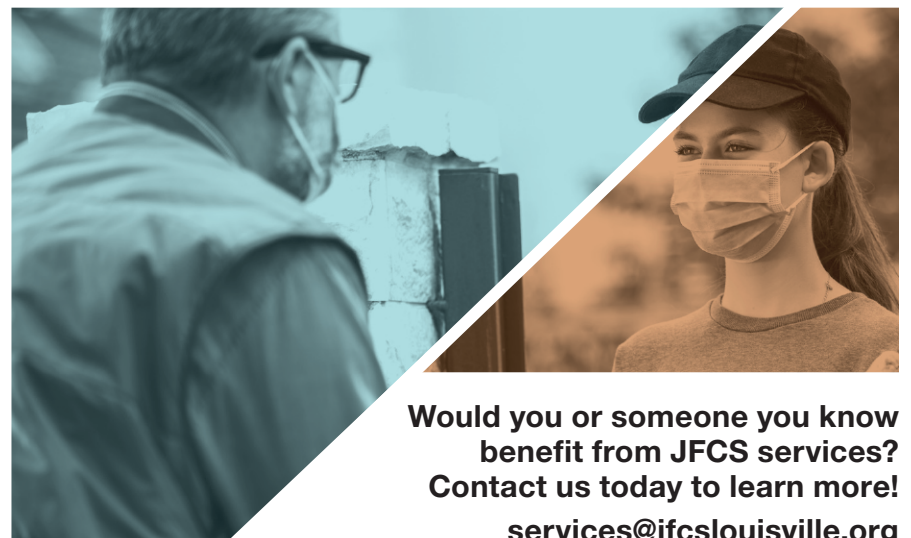
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REGION

'Somebody had to do it'

Gay Jewish liberal – rabbi's husband – runs for Congress in deep-red West Virginia

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor



Barry Wendell hardly fits the mold for a West Virginia politician. Not only is he a liberal Jew in a red state, he's a recent arrival and a gay man married to

a rabbi.

Yet Wendell, 72, could still become the Democratic Party's candidate this fall in the state's newly redrawn Second Congressional District.

The retired two-term Morgantown city councilman recently decided to run for Congress, waiting until the filing deadline to see who else would file.

"Somebody had to do it and I just felt like I needed to step in," he said.

Wendell will meet Angela Dwyer of Martinsburg, a political newcomer who is African American, in the May 10 Democratic primary.

Wendell knows he would face a quixotic, if not impossible, challenge to win the general election in November. Every county in heavily Republican West Virginia went for Donald Trump for president in the 2020 election, giving him

nearly 70 percent of the state's votes.

West Virginia lost one district in the 2020 census, meaning the Democratic candidate in Wendell's district will likely face one of two Republican incumbents, GOP Reps. David McKinley or Alex Mooney, each of whom each of whom has name recognition and campaign war chests topping \$1 million – an advantage Wendell said he can't match.

"As a Jew, of course I believe in miracles that happen every day," Wendell said. "But it probably would take a miracle."

Wendell said he wouldn't be running were it not for his husband, Rabbi Joe Hample of Congregation Tree of Life in Morgantown, the home of West Virginia University and the most Democratic city in the state.

"He really encouraged me to do this," Wendell said. "If he had said, 'I don't think you can do it do this,' I wouldn't have done it."

Hample explained it this way: "Isn't it a Jewish value to stand up and be counted? At the beginning of the Book of Numbers, we stand up and we are counted. I think that's huge."

A native of Baltimore, Wendell studied urban affairs at Tulane University before working for the Social Security Administration in Miami for six years. In 1984, he moved to Los Angeles, where he turned to substitute teaching, worked as a can-

torial soloist and tutored b'nai mitzvah students. He and Hample married in 2008.

The couple moved to Morgantown, in the northern part of the state, in 2012, and Wendell was elected to the city council in 2017 and 2019.

On his Facebook page, he says he supports restarting the Extended Child Tax Credit, raising the national minimum wage and ensuring that benefits are available to miners suffering from black lung disease. "I am adamantly pro-choice," he added.

The lack of a marquee name on the Democratic ballot speaks to the party's weakness in the Mountain State, according to John Kilwein, chair of the political science department at West Virginia University. Famously or notoriously, depending on one's politics, Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin hangs on to his seat by frequently parting ways with his party.

"There's a problem with the Democratic Party when there's not someone more prominent, maybe a member of the House of Delegates or [state] Senate, who's running," Kilwein said. "That Mr. Wendell is the guy should sound the alarm bells for the West Virginia Democratic Party."

Though supportive of his husband's campaign, Hample said he will limit his participation during the race.

"I have to be the rabbi of the Democrats and the Republicans," he said. "But I feel like I can stand up strongly for inclusion issues. I believe in a society where everyone is validated, and everyone has dignity, and everyone has rights. I will take a stand on those kinds of issues."

Wendell's campaign comes at a frightening time for American Jews, with the hostage-taking at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, vandalism at Chicago synagogues and the attempted shooting of Louisville mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg making headlines.

Still, neither man is prepared to let the times muzzle him.

"It's too late for us to die young," Hample said. "People who believe in democracy don't deserve to prevail unless they have the courage of our convictions and the willingness to stand tall."

Wendell simply added, "I personally can't live a fearful life."

Over the coming months, Wendell will learn how local voters will react to a liberal, gay, Jewish candidate. But he believes he may be the kind of

person West Virginians need to hear from – locally and in Washington, D.C.

"I get that it's odd," he said, "but maybe it is the ideal candidate, somebody who can come in and say something completely different from what they expect."



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FORUM

After Colleyville: Hostage will never again let antisemitic tropes go unanswered

By Jeffrey R. Cohen
Guest Columnist

If I have learned anything over the past month, it is that racist tropes are not harmless words. They must be actively and consistently challenged.

You know them and so do I. The racist tropes peddled about Jewish people are plentiful. What you may not know is that antisemitic tropes caused my friends and me to be held hostage at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas.

Our Shabbat morning service on Jan. 15 began normally. I had just sat down after the morning Amidah. Within a few seconds, I heard that unmistakable sound of an automatic pistol chambering a bullet. A man we invited into the synagogue on that cold morning so he could warm up was screaming. He waved his gun at us and threatened to blow us up with a bomb.

Without turning around, I picked up my phone from the chair next to me, dialed 911, and returned it, screen side down, to the chair. I stood up and faced our attacker. I slowly moved so that I was in line with an exit. Many of you saw the headlines and are aware of the terror that unfolded over the next 11 hours. One of us was released after about six hours; the other three, including Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and me, escaped by running out a side door five hours after that.

We were fortunate. This man wasn't like the attackers in Pittsburgh, Poway or Paris. Instead of a hate-filled white supremacist who wanted to kill as many Jews as possible, our attacker had a specific demand. He wanted to free a person being held in a U.S. federal correction center. And he thought we could get that done.

"Jews pull all the strings. Jews control the banks. Jews control the media. Jews control the government," he repeatedly told us.

He demanded we get the "chief rabbi of the United States" on the phone. Both Rabbi Cytron-Walker and I explained that, unlike the United Kingdom, where our attacker was from, there is no head rabbi in the United States – not that a chief rabbi would have that kind of power in the first place.

Our attacker frequently told us not to worry because President Biden and former President Trump would listen to his demands rather than allow even one Jew to get hurt. He had clearly bathed in racist tropes about my community.

People who say "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" do not know what Jewish people live with on a day-to-day basis. They do not understand what other marginalized communities live with either. Words have caused, and will continue to cause, harm. And those little throw-away tropes that we all endure may be the most damag-

ing because, when repeated often enough, people begin to believe them.

When not addressed directly, racist tropes make all of us bystanders to hatred and participants in another's suffering. We expect them from the skinheads, and we hope good people will ignore them. We roll our eyes as our friend winces and apologizes for the crazy older relative whom everyone accepts is a racist.

We live in a society where we hold on to the premise that racists are the minority. We say nothing because we don't want to bring attention to ourselves or to the comments. Sometimes, we even tell ourselves that "we are stronger than those who hate us."

We very well may be. But that doesn't mean that the actions of the hateful should be coddled or tolerated.

I say "we" because up until recently, I didn't speak up either. But racist tropes do not automatically dissipate. They must be challenged consistently and vigorously.

How many of us have been taught that if we ignore the taunt, do not engage, the bully the bully will go away? That didn't work in elementary school; it will not work now. Words matter. Words influence. Repeated racist tropes dehumanize. Unchallenged words signal acceptance.

As I reflect on how to challenge hatred, here are several things I am committing to do:

First, question what I hear in the mo-

ment and on the spot. I will do better about asking, "Did I hear you correctly? What did you just say?" By making the speakers repeat what they say, I believe we can force them to acknowledge their words and confront social norms. It also empowers others to speak out as well.

Second, inform the individual that their comment is unacceptable. I will do better about sharing something like, "Statements like that are not acceptable here." I do not believe it is helpful to call the speaker a racist or antisemitic because I do not want people to shut down and not hear what I am saying.

And third, respond to the trope with truth and appeal to the speaker's sense of right and wrong. I might share, "Both the fascists and the communists used antisemitic tropes as propaganda. They needed a scapegoat to blame for their failings. Don't follow in their footsteps."

Will that approach keep the attacker out of the next synagogue or Black church, or from stalking another Asian-American woman? Probably not. But if we don't challenge racist tropes, we have no hope they'll ever stop. Far too many people will be threatened and harmed, and I don't want anyone else to go through what I did.

(Jeffrey R. Cohen, vice president of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, was one of four hostages who escaped a gunman on Jan. 15.)

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Angélica NEGRÓN: *Fractal Isles*
Leonard BERNSTEIN: Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

WORLD PREMIERES

FESTIVAL OF LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC 2

Teddy Abrams, conductor
11 MAR 11AM 12 MAR 8PM
Kentucky Center

Aaron COPLAND: *El Salón México*
Gabriela Lena FRANK: *Concertino Cusqueño*
Jose Pablo MONCAYO: *Cumbres* ("Summits")
Clarice ASSAD: *Nhanduru*
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For more information on these concerts, visit LouisvilleOrchestra.org/concerts. Season tickets still on sale!

Covid protocols apply



NEWS & NEWSMAKERS/AROUND TOWN

Vaad opens virtual kosher food coop for Passover

The Vaad Hakashrut of Louisville has partnered with Kansas City Kosher Coop to bring kosher-for-Passover products to Louisville.

Anyone interested in deliveries taking advantage from this virtual coop should go to kckoshercoop.com. Open an account and select Louisville from the dropdown list.

After opening an account, there also will be an opportunity to donate to the local Jewish Family & Career Services Dare to Care Food Bank, assisting it in making Passover food and meals available to those in the community who lack the means to do so on their own.

Orders must be placed on or before March 2. Pickups are scheduled for March 30 at the old Anshei Sfard synagogue auditorium from 5 to 7 p.m.

Contact Vaad President Ayala Golding at ayagolding@gmail.com for details.

AROUND TOWN

(Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the community.)

Adath Jeshurun

AJ is offering a virtual series of celebrity chefs: Feb. 23, "The Challah Prince" will feature a multi-braid royal challah, pita with zaatar and bagel Yerushalmi, all

prepared from the same dough; March 2, Chef Dini Klein will feature a lentil and squash tomato soup, sesame noodles with veggies and chicken (or tofu), all prepared in one pan. Pre-registration is required. The pre-registration link, menu and ingredients are provided in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

Adath Jeshurun is sponsoring a virtual interview with Israeli actor Dov Glickman, 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27. Glickman gained international acclaim for his role in the Netflix series *Shtisel*. He is currently nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards. Pre-registration is required, and a link is provided in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

The next *Sunday Night Live*, at 7 p.m., March 6, will be a virtual presentation, "Reckoning with Charlottesville: Lessons from the Unite the Right Rally." The presentation will be given by Michael Signer, the mayor of Charlottesville, Virginia, during the deadly "Unite the Right" rally on Aug. 11, 2017. Pre-registration is required; a link is provided in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Subscribe at adathjeshurun.com.

The Adath Jeshurun Annual Music Festival will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 20. Cantor Azi Schwartz, senior cantor of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City and a renowned performer and recording

artist, will be this year's guest. Go to adathjeshurun.wufoo.com/forms/2022-aj-music-festival-a-admissions-sponsorship to purchase admissions.

Anshei Sfard

Anshei Sfard has moved. Its new address is 2904 Bardstown Road 40205. The phone number is still 502-451-3122.

Weekly classes are Talmud Trek II, 9:30 a.m. on Sundays; and Spice of Life, 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Shabbat services begin at 9 a.m. on Saturdays. All participants should wear masks and practice social distancing.

Purim in the Jungle will be held Thursday, March 17. The Megillah reading will begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner and entertainment at 5:30 p.m. The location is to be determined. Cost is \$18/adult in advance; \$10 children 6-12 (under 6 free); \$20/adult at door and a \$50 max per family. RSVP at 502-451-3122 or at the Eventbrite link at ansheisfard.com.

Chabad of Kentucky

In-person Shabbat services are held on Fridays, 15 minutes before sunset and Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m., preceded by a prayer class at 10 a.m. A hot cholent kiddush is served after services. Weekly in-person services are held on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. – followed by Torah study – Mondays and Thursdays at 7:20 a.m., and Tuesday evenings 15 minutes before sunset.

The Megillah will be read at 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 16 and 8 a.m., Thursday, March 17. Costumes are encouraged for both services, in person at the Chabad House, 1654 Almara Circle.

A Purim in Hawaii-themed party will be held on Thursday, March 17, at the Standard Club. The evening will include a Hawaiian dinner, a smoothie bar, Hawaiian music and entertainment. Cost is \$18 per person and \$12 for children 12 and under, \$60 for families. Sponsorships at 100 include two adult tickets. Contact Rabbi Litvin at rabbichabadky.com or 502-235-5770.

Chabad is holding a program at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 19, to give thanks for coming through the pandemic. A kid-dish deli luncheon will follow at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Contact Rabbi Litvin at rabbichabadky.com or 502-235-5770.

Chavurat Shalom

Lunch is held Thursdays at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium; the program follows at 1 p.m. In-person participants must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask while inside, except while eating or drinking. RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, to attend in person; contact Sarah at 502-212-2038 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com. All programs also are viewable via ChavuratShalomZoom.

March 3: Singer, songwriter, guitarist Tyrone Cotton will perform (lunch: cheese quesadillas, Mexican-style rice, black bean and corn salad, fresh fruit and Mexican-style chocolate mousse).

March 10: Rabbi Rapport will present, "A Biography of Bagels, Lox, and Cream Cheese" (lunch: salmon cakes, mashed potatoes, green peas and carrots, cole slaw, fresh fruit and chocolate trifle).

March 17: Pianist Bernie Schweickart will make his Chavurat Shalom debut (lunch: pasta and meatballs, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and cookies and brownies).

March 24: Classical pianist Nada will perform (lunch: barbecue chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and a dessert).

March 31: Mike O'Bryan will play the accordion (lunch: bowtie pasta with smoked salmon, steamed broccoli, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and caramel spoon cake).

Filson Historical Society

Forgotten Foundations: Louisville's Lost Architecture is a new exhibit exploring the rise, fall, and revitalization of our city's urban core. The exhibit will be on view through Sept. 23. During a post-Civil War building boom, downtown became a business hub with grand buildings serving as a visual symbol of Louisville's growing economic power. As people and businesses relocated to the suburbs over the 20th century, downtown declined. Many architectural gems were demolished during urban renewal and freeway expansion. This exhibit helps us remember what was lost. The exhibit also includes a special section, *Bricks and Mortar, Soul and Heart: The Evolution of the Young Men's Hebrew Association and the Jewish Community Center 1890-2022*. Admission is free; masks are required. Go to FilsonHistorical.org for more details.

Keneseth Israel

Shabbat services, minyan and holiday services are indoors in the main sanctuary and streamed via Zoom. Visit kenesethisrael.com for service times and updated COVID policies.

The intermediate level reading Hebrew class meets at 5 p.m. on Sundays on Zoom and in person. A learner's minyan follows at 6 p.m.

"Make Service Meaningful Again" with Rabbi Ben Freed and Cantor Sharon Hordes is held at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays on Zoom and in person. The class explores the meaning, history and melodies of Jewish prayer. Jews and Brews, a Torah-study session with Rabbi Freed, is held at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays on Zoom and in-person.

A family-friendly musical Kabbalat Shabbat with guest Lior Zoref will be held at 5:45 p.m., Friday, March 4. RSVP to rsvp@kenesethisrael.com.

The Shabbat service and installation of Rabbi Freed will be held at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 5. An enhanced Kiddush lunch will follow. RSVP to rsvp@kenesethisrael.com.

A family-friendly havdallah service with Israeli dancing and activities for kids will be held at 7:15 p.m., Saturday, March 5.

Live! Werk! Purim! – The Director's Cut, an animated film by Yehudah Husband, will premiere at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 16. A Beatles-themed evening service with Megillah reading will follow.

A Purim Shacharit service with Megillah reading will be held at 7:15 a.m., Thursday, March 17.

Kol Israel

Continued on page 15

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AROUND TOWN

Continued from page 14

Shabbat Morning Services with the Bloomington, Indiana Renewal Congregation will be held via Zoom at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 14. "Reb" Leon and Jackie Olenick will lead. Pre-registration is required. Go to kollisraelKY@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

"Inner Peace for Challenging Times," a Jewish meditation and ongoing program, is presented the second Monday of each month. The next session will be held at 9 p.m., Monday, March 19. Reb Brian Yoseph-Schachter Brooks will lead. Pre-registration is required. Go to kollisraelKY@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

The Mystical Exodus in Jungian Perspective: Transforming Trauma and the Well-spring of Renewal, will be held at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 15. Dr. Shoshana Friedman will lead. The class will explore the teachings of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and other rabbis and teachers in the Jewish Renewal movement, midrashic texts and the Jungian theory on healing from personal and collective trauma and reconnecting with the cultural and collective unconscious. Pre-registration is required. Go to kollisraelKY@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Jewish Community Center (kitchen), JCC's Dive-n-Diner (an outdoor café) from Memorial Day to Labor Day, UofL Jewish Hospital (kosher kitchens only), Krispy Kreme, 3000 Bardstown Road.

Temple Shalom

Shabbat services are held both in-person and via Zoom and Facebook Live at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Call 502-458-4739 for Zoom links.

The HIAS Refugee Shabbat service, organized by Tikkun Olam group, will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 4. HIAS stands for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, one of the oldest and best-known organizations committed to supporting refugees and asylum seekers. Email tik-kunolam@templeshalomky.org for details.

To coincide with Passover, a time associated with cleaning and renewing the home, Temple Shalom volunteers will hold an Ohio River "sweep" or cleanup on during April, along a tributary of the river. More details will follow.

Torah Study with Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner is held Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

The annual Purim carnival will be held from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, March 13, with face painting, games, balloon art, a costume contest and a *shpiel* about the Shushan TV news team covering events at the palace. RSVP to 502-458-4739 or engagement@templeshalomky.org.

Temple Shalom's Book Club will meet at 2 p.m., Thursday, April 7. Book picks are *Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh, and America's Fight Over World War II, 1939-1941* by Lynne Olson, and *Promised Land: A Novel of Israel* by Martin Fletcher.

The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop](https://www.facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop). 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.

Adult education continues at The Temple. Monday classes are Advanced Hebrew at 6 p.m. with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport; Basic Judaism at 7 p.m. with Rabbi Rapport teaching "Jewish Concepts and Basic Beliefs;" 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 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 details.

For Passover, The Temple will hold a hybrid celebration. Four different seders will be hosted for in-person or virtually attendance. Pick up Passover meals by Chef Z, with a new haggadah with artwork by the members. Contact Santa at 502-212-2028 or go to thetemplelouky.org/Passover for details.

Congregants may attend indoor Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. More information at thetemplelouky.org.

A Shabbat service led by the fourth-grade students will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, March 4.

Mitzvah Makers will make sandwiches for the homeless at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, March 6 at 11:30. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making.

Shabbat services honoring WRJ's dedication to The Temple will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, March 11.

Grades 2 and 3 will present a Purim Shpiel, *It Happened in Shushan*, at 7 p.m., Friday, March 18. Harriet Feder authored the *shpiel*, which is adapted by Carol Heideman (with later adaptations by Sarah Harlan, Jackie Glass, and Ben Tobin).

Movie Night with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 20. *The Matchmaker* will be screened. A teenage boy growing up in Haifa in 1968, gets a job working for Yakele, a matchmaker, and mysterious Holocaust survivor, whose office behind a cinema shows only love stories. Through him and his art, the boy begins to learn the mysteries of the human heart. Go to thetemplelouky.org/movie-night for more details.

The Annual Isaac Mayer Wise Shabbat Service with Rabbi Rapport will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, March 25, honoring Wise, the founder of Reform Judaism in America. Music from the classical age of Reform Judaism and the Sinai Edition of the Union Prayer Book will be employed.

Goodnight Tots, Goodnight Shabbat will be held at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 26. The tot havdalah includes arts and crafts, treats, stories and songs. RSVPs are required for tots to receive special bags. Go to thetemplelouky.org/goodnight-shabbat for more details.

Rising Kindergarteners or previously unenrolled rising Grade 1 students may come to an annual Open House at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 27. RSVP to Sarah Harlan at sarah@thetemplelouky.org.

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B'nai Mitzvah



Hayden Paige Breier, daughter of Shelly and Ben Breier and sister of Dylan and Cameron Breier, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah 10:30 a.m., Saturday, at The Temple. Hayden is the granddaughter of Robert and the late Eileen Breier of Miami, and Susie and John Spencer.

A seventh grader at Kentucky Country Day School, Hayden plays field hockey, runs track and swims for the varsity swim team. She loves snowboarding in Colorado and wakeboarding in the Florida Keys. Hayden has been working with Free2Hope for her service project, raising almost \$4,000 for women who are victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking. She also worked with The Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy and The Center for Women and Families.



Lincoln Schwartz, son of Rachael and Brian Schwartz and brother of Jedidiah, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 26, at The Temple. Lincoln is the grandson of Alan and Maria Schwartz of East Northport, New York, Laura and Seymour Goldstein of Plainview, New York, and Lynn and the late Corinne Smith of Fayetteville, New York. A seventh grader at North Oldham Middle School, Lincoln is a member of the GATES (Gifted and Talented Educational Services) program, the Academic Team, and the Beta Club. In his free time, Lincoln enjoys reading and writing fiction, watching every Marvel and Star Wars movie and television show available, spending time with his brother, and traveling. For his Pledge 13 project, Lincoln has been volunteering his time at the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry at Jewish Family & Career Services, helping clients shop for groceries and organizing donated food.

Obituaries

Obituaries

Cynthia Gail Balf
Cynthia Gail Balf, 70, died peacefully on Friday, Feb. 11, in Louisville, Kentucky at Baptist Health Hospital. A graduate of Seneca High School, Cindy worked at Family Clothing and Furniture and the U.S. Census Bureau. Cindy lost her eyesight around 20 years ago, but she amazed everyone with her ability to adjust and live independently. She was preceded in death by her parents, Nancy and George Balf. Cindy is lovingly remembered by brother, Stephen Balf (Frances) and her niece, Becca Hartmeier (Matt). Funeral services were held on Monday, Feb. 14, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to University of Louisville, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Services, c/o HSC Development, 132 East Gray Street, Louisville, KY 40202.



Jack Bergwerk
Jack Bergwerk, 91, passed away on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022, at Harmony Retirement Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Jack attended New York University, became an officer in the Air Force and married to his beloved wife of 60 years, Corinne Bergwerk, who passed away in 2017. Jack was a marketing director at Celanese Corporation. He and his team were responsible for developing a super absorbent polymer technology marketed to the disposable diaper industry. In 1977, his entire division was transferred to Louisville. He was a dedicated member of The Temple, where he served on the board and was membership chairman. In addition, he was a member of the Men's Club and of SCORE. During the summer of 2019, Jack moved to an independent living community in Asheville. He quickly became an active member of the resident council committee and fully engaged within the community. Jack is survived by his two daughters, Ellen Kaplan (Ken) and Bonnie Levy (Steven Heiney); his grandchildren, Matthew Kaplan (Amy), Jeremy Levy (Chloe), and Jake Levy; and his great-grandchildren, Lyla, Cruz, Kane Kaplan and Charlie, Rylie and Bradley Levy; and by his companion, Rachel Diamond. Graveside services were held Sunday, Feb. 6, at The Temple Cemetery. In Jack's memory, donations may be made to The Temple, 5101 US-42, Louisville, KY 40241.

Debbie Goldstein
Debbie Goldstein passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022. Born in Louisville on Aug. 16, 1955, Debbie loved animals as a child, rescuing everything from ducks to a horse to a flying squirrel. She was a fierce animal advocate. She loved to sing, dance and perform – from high school until her first child, Rachel, was born. She wrote poetry and lived for family vacations. Most of all, Debbie loved her children, family and close friends. They were her world. She did everything she could to make her kids happy. She loved them with every ounce of her soul. Debbie is survived by her husband of 34 years, Alan; her daughters, Rachel and Emily; her mother, Martha Meyer; and two brothers, Michael and Steve. She was preceded in death by her father, Herb Meyer, former police chief and mayor in Jeffersontown. Her mother worked in the school cafeteria and was a lovely homemaker. All who knew Debbie were better for it. She could brighten anyone's day, never forgetting to send someone a card for their birthday, for any holiday or just to

Jaclynn Goldman
Jaclynn Goldman, 65, died Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, at Baptist Health. A graduate of Seneca High School, Jackie, as she was better known, worked as a legal secretary in the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorney's office for over 20 years. She was the secretary for Joe Gutmann, one of the chief prosecutors. After she retired, boredom set in, so she got a job on the Caesar's Southern Indiana boat as a blackjack dealer. She worked there for several years before re-retiring again.



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LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 16

say she was thinking of them. She had an infectious laugh and could win anyone over, as could her charm. The world was brighter with her in it.

Debbie was interred at Cave Hill Cemetery during a private service on Feb. 9. A celebration of her life is scheduled for May.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to The Louisville Zoo, Falls of the Ohio Foundation, and Polar Bears International.

Melissa Rachel Klein

Melissa Rachel Klein, 57, died peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2022, following a long illness. Her brother, Mark, was by her side.

Born in Louisville on Jan. 21, 1965, a daughter of the late Rita and Norman Klein, Melissa attended school in Louisville. After years as a constant companion to her mother, she relocated to Sacramento, California, where she lived out the rest of her life.

Melissa was a larger-than-life personality who charmed those around her with her good nature, persistence, and joy in everyday pleasures. She was a keen sportswoman, a Special Olympian of many years, and an accomplished artist. (Some of her work was regularly displayed and sold through her connection at the ALTA Short Center program in Sacramento, where she worked as an aide.)

Besides being a student for many years, Melissa loved to travel and had an adventurous spirit. She visited Australia and New Zealand with her mother, and later returned to New Zealand on her own to visit her brother and his family.

Passionate about animals, she was a long-time supporter of the Louisville and Sacramento zoos.

Melissa is survived by brothers Howard and Mark; her sister-in-law, Wendy; her nieces, Lilly and Sage, and her nephews, Norman and Shilo.

Donations in Melissa's memory may be made to Northern California Special Olympics at support.specialolympics.org/a/northern-california.

Grace H. Levitan

Grace H. Levitan died Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, in Louisville. She was 99.

A daughter of Isadore and Emma Levitan, Grace was born on July 22, 1922. After earning her bachelor's degree, she taught high school mathematics in New York. Upon her return to Louisville, she taught Sunday school at The Temple.

Grace was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Dolores "Dolly" Chitlik (the late Jacob).

She is survived by her nephew, Alan, and his wife, Sarah; and their children, Jacob, and Lauren, which shared a birthdate with Grace; and her niece, Linda Chitlik.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. In memory of Grace, contributions may be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

Gail (Weinberg) Levy

Gail (Weinberg) Levy, 81, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022.

Gail taught elementary special education in the Jefferson County Public Schools for many years for many years. After her retirement, she volunteered at Norton Elementary.

She was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women-Louisville

Section, Hadassah and Keneseth Israel Sisterhood. She also was a founding member of the KI preschool.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Phillip R. Levy, and her parents, Sol and Libby Weinberg.

Gail is survived by her younger brother, David Weinberg (Beverly); her daughters, Laura Levin (Gary), Susan Levy, and Judy Zagorin (Mark); her grandchildren, Emily, Deborah Levin, Eliezer, Yehoshua and Shmuel Zagorin; her nephews, Scott Weinberg (Hunter); her niece, Lindsey Rossen (David); and many other family members.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation, 2531 Taylorsville Rd, Louisville, KY 40205.

Alan Samuels

Alan Samuels, 79, of Louisville, died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, at his home.

Born May 1, 1942, in London, England, a son of the late Sam and Rachel Goldberg Samuels, Alan was a driver with Enterprise and Alamo Car Rentals.

Alan's life story mirrors that of the soul. He left home at a young age, attended a Jewish boarding school and received a good Jewish education, and then he journeyed from place to place, finally ending up in Louisville.

Yet, he never forgot his family, his mum, his cousin Stephanie, her children Sasha and Cheryl, and even their children.

Alan was a world traveler. He was intelligent. He always remained a Brit with a love for his Chelsea football team and an affection for cars. He was generous, both to his family and to those in need. May his life in his soul be remembered for blessing.

Graveside services for Alan were held on Friday, Feb. 4th at Agudath Achim Cemetery, 2737 Preston Highway.

Dr. David Tasman

Dr. David Tasman, 70, died on Shabbat, Jan. 22, 2022, five days before his next birthday.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila Davis Tasman, his children, Michael (Jen) and Leah (Zac Linsky); his mother Martha Frockt; his brothers, Jerry (Mina) and Ronnie (Marda); his granddaughters, Ana and Mila Tasman; and nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

David was a beloved educator for

countless residents in the Orthodontic department at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry for over 35 years. He received tribute letters from so many of them that had a similar theme: "You have been consistently mentioned as the favorite teacher or one of the very best teachers during residency."

Alumni regularly referenced his treatment of them and their patients with the highest level of respect, always putting their needs and those of patients and the residents first...evidence for the claim that "one person can behave in a manner that makes the world a better place" and "to be in that rare category of one whom everyone loves is truly unique and special. Level-headed, consistently engaging yet calm demeanor, direct and focused attention to your questions, always taking the time to respond to each resident and quick to put you at ease with a smile."

David was accomplished in so many areas and knowledgeable beyond belief. He was a bright, brilliant man with vision. He was always working on something with his hands, creative solutions to practical problems. He was a master at bending wires to hold things together or keep them apart. This was true for household solutions and orthodontics. He had a patent pending for an innovative 3D imaging Orthodontic device.

As a boy, David loved being a HAM radio operator, the last emergency broadcast system in a disaster. He talked to people all over the world. It was a big part of his commitment to safety. Protecting his family and loved ones always came first.

Some called him a hero, when at their weekly synagogue softball game, he saw a friend collapse on the field. He always taught that one must act in milliseconds, and so he did. If not for the mouth-to-mouth CPR, his friend would have died. He never wanted any acknowledgement for it and would have preferred no one knew he was the one who recognized what was going on and acted. He was a low profile, private, humble person.

David drew from his professional and life experiences to build up others, which continues to impact countless lives. He demonstrated the grit and perseverance for doing the right thing, and he emphasized the importance of being an independent and critical thinker. He was a wise and compassionate person, who used little words to get to the point.

He never stopped learning, lived by the words that "everything is subject to change," and showed his love through actions. David was the sweetest man, kind, gentle and loving. His life has touched so many, and these ripples are endless.

Donations can be made to the David Tasman Memorial Donation Fund at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, gift-funds.stjude.org/DTasman.



Marlene S. Weisberg

Marlene S. Weisberg passed on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022.

A native of Louisville and a graduate of Atherton High School, Marlene's family was always first in her thoughts and loving actions. She has too many friends to mention, but Marlene always shared love with all she met.

Marlene was a member of The Temple. She was preceded in death by husband, Charles "Charlie" Weisberg; her parents, Irving and Sarah Schneider; and her sister, Anita Goldberg (Jack).

For the past many years, she has been in the loving company of James Michael "Mick" Gannon.

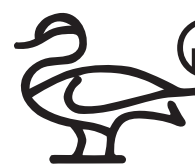
Marlene is survived by her sons, Eric David Gould (Lynn) and Keith Trau (Valerie); her younger sister, Dale Hyman (David); her two brothers, Charles "Chuck" Schneider (Susan) and Sam Schneider (Martha).

She is loved by her grandchildren, Steven Trau (Heidi) and Rachel Kelly (James). She loved to see and talk to her great-granddaughters, Tori Trau and Nora Kelly. She also was a loving aunt, great-aunt, and valued cousin to the children of family members.

Marlene was laid to rest by her family with a private graveside service on Monday, Feb. 7. A Celebration of Life will be announced to friends and family at a later date. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple, Hosparus Health or a charity of your choice, in her name.

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NEWS

Arizona Jews sue to stop state from executing people with Zyklon B, used by Nazis to gas Jews during World War II

By Nicole Raz and
Mala Blomquist
Jewish News of Greater Phoenix

Leaders of Arizona's Jewish community are suing the state to prevent it from using hydrogen cyanide – the same lethal gas that was deployed at Auschwitz – to carry out capital punishment.

During the Holocaust, the Nazis used pellets of Zyklon B, a hydrogen cyanide formulation, in the gas chambers at Auschwitz and other death camps. At the height of Auschwitz's operations in 1943 and 1944, an average of 6,000 Jews were gassed to death each day there.

Using the gas in executions in the United States is “tantamount to approving of what the Nazis did,” said Janice Friebaum, former vice president and spokesperson for the Phoenix Holocaust Association.

“It’s a very painful way to kill a person and it’s fundamentally inhumane,” Friebaum said. “To think that it was done to millions of people during the Holocaust is horrific enough, but to think that 70 to 80 years later we’re thinking of using it as a method of capital punishment is mind-boggling.”

Arizona ended the use of execution by lethal gas in 1992, but allowed the use of gas for people who had already been sentenced at that time, leaving 17 people potentially subject to this form of execution.

The state is currently seeking warrants of execution for two death row inmates, Frank Atwood and Clarence Dixon, both of whom would be eligible to be executed by gas.

Arizona has not carried out an execution since 2014, and the last time it did so with hydrogen cyanide gas was for Walter LaGrand in 1999. Lagrand displayed “agonizing choking and gagging” and took 18 minutes to die, according to an eyewitness account published by the Tucson Citizen at the time.



Zyklon labels from Dachau concentration camp used as evidence at the Nuremberg trials. Leaders in Arizona's Jewish community are suing that state to prevent the gas from being used to execute Death Row inmates. (USHMM archives)

(LaGrand, a German citizen, reportedly chose the method of execution because of its resonance with the Holocaust.)

The Guardian broke the news last year that Arizona was refurbishing its gas chamber in preparation to carry out executions, which it last carried out in 2014. The newspaper also reported that the state was buying chemicals that could form Zyklon B.

That news prompted an immediate outcry locally and beyond.

The lawsuit, which the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona filed this week on behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater

Phoenix and two members of the local Jewish community, represents a new frontier in the effort to avert the state's plans.

The lawsuit alleges that the state statute that allows cyanide gas to be used for a form of execution violates the Arizona state constitution's prohibition

on cruel and unusual punishment. It is not, its plaintiffs say, a broad challenge to capital punishment in principle or a defense of the men facing execution.

“We are not arguing the merits of the death penalty, nor the guilt or innocence of the defendants – simply that because of our tragic history we have a unique lens to declare that the use of Zyklon B is a cruel and barbarous practice whose usage has no place in modern society,” said Paul Rockower, executive director of the Phoenix JCRC and one of the individual plaintiffs. The other, Alan Zeichick, is a JCRC board member.

“Under no circumstances should the same method of execution used to murder over 1 million people, including Jews, during the Holocaust be used in the execution of people on death row,” said Jared Keenan, senior staff attorney with the ACLU of Arizona. “Arizona has acknowledged the horrors of cyanide

gas as a method of execution and eliminated it in all but a narrow set of cases – it’s time the court eliminates the use of cyanide gas for execution once and for all. Regardless of where people stand on the matter of capital punishment, it’s clear that use of this barbaric practice is cruel and must be abolished.”

The next step for the lawsuit is a hearing on March 7, where the defendants in the case – including the state of Arizona; the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry; Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich and others – will have a first chance to make the case for letting execution by gas continue in the state.

“What we’re asking the court to do is essentially order the defendants to tell us and the court, whether there are any facts or if anything has changed since the protocol that’s been in place since the late 1990s,” said Keenan. “We just want to know if there’s anything new that’s changed that would allow the government to essentially argue that its current use of cyanide gas, or plans to use cyanide gas, doesn’t violate the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.”

Jewish tradition prescribes the death penalty in some situations. In practice, though, Jewish courts have rarely, if ever, carried out executions, and many Jewish leaders in the United States have long advocated against the punishment. (Israel abolished the death penalty in 1954.)

Tim Eckstein, chairman of the JCRC board, said the lawsuit is rooted in that tradition.

“Thousands of years ago, Jews shunned mutilation, burning at the stake, and throwing the condemned into a funeral pyre – common practices in other cultures,” he said. “Today, those same moral and ethical values require us to take a stand against a practice that we know, from very recent history, is cruel, inhumane and will highly likely cause severe pain and suffering.”



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NEWS

TEMPLE

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es to build “sacred relationships” among their congregants.

“It’s not about performing on the bima on Shabbat or holidays, it’s about serving as a prayerful pastoral presence” Adesnik said. “For those who have never experienced a cantor, they may think we’re just limited to Jewish music, and that may be true for some cantors, but for me I feel I share my Judaism in a very well-rounded way.”

Though not yet in Louisville, Adesnik is already thinking of programming on which to build her cantorate here.

She hopes to start a musical series of artists-in-residence, a “symphony in the sanctuary,” much like she has done in Atlanta, highlight Jewish classical music and themes through symphonic and vocal works, and incorporate instruments

into Shabbat services.

“Right now, I’m in the building block stage” she said of her plans.

A graduate of the University of Southern California with a bachelor’s degree in music and vocal arts performance, Adesnik was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2013.

As a student cantor, she has served congregations in Connecticut and New Jersey.

Her husband, Moshe, the son of a rabbi and a microbiologist, develops software for T-Mobile. Together, they have a 10-month-old daughter, Lavender, and a 6-year-old standard poodle, Wally.

They also have a booster in Rapport, who has spoken with Adesnik and said he is “thrilled” that she is joining the Temple staff

“This was a very competitive process and we are blessed to have found a cantor with the energy, enthusiasm, love

of families and children, and of course such a beautiful voice,” Rabbi Rapport said.

He added that Adesnik was a classmate of his daughter, Rabbi Yael Rapport, at HUC in New York. Ariel-Joel said the congregation decided to hire a cantor for the first time, with 92 percent of the members at an annual meeting voting in favor.

The vote followed “a year of discussions, meetings and a true congregational process,” Ariel-Joel added.

He called the congregation’s experience with then-Student Cantor Jarvis “an essential part of the process that made the decision easier.”

“We got extremely lucky that the best candidate we had, our number one candidate, agreed to serve the Temple,” Ariel-Joel said. “Cantor Lauren is an amazing person, a true mensch.”

ADATH JESHURUN

Continued from page 1

of Beit Rayim, a Conservative Egalitarian congregation in Ontario, Canada. He and his wife, Chloe, have two children: Eliana, 5; and Isaac, 3.

Corber’s hiring caps a two-years hiring process to find a successor to Slosberg, who has served AJ for 41 years.

Corber will become just the fourth rabbi of AJ since 1917. The congregation was established in 1856.

Though the Corbers visited Louisville during the search, AJ could not hold large gatherings for members to meet them because of the pandemic, and rules associated with international travel.

Community will publish an interview with Corber as soon one can be arranged.

JCC

Continued from page 1

formally dedicated.

With COVID protocols still in place, the numbers of guests will be limited at the event, but it will be live streamed.

The ribbon-cutting, as it is currently envisioned, will take place just outside of the main entrance. Presentations by Jewish Community of Louisville leadership, music by Cantors Sharon Hordes, David Lipp and vocalist Jennifer Diamond, along with small-group tours are all planned.

As of the Community print deadline, an official opening date for the center had not been set, although Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Trager Family JCC and Jewish Fed-

eration of Louisville, said that an announcement will be made in the next couple of weeks.

The Trager Family JCC also will share details with members in early March about how to use and access the new facility, new programming opportunities and digital sign-up options via a new app.

Parents of Early Learning Center, Club J and Camp J participants will be notified soon of new procedures and protocols related to childcare in the new building.

Once the building opens, tours will be offered to current members who would like to have a more personalized experience with the layout of the new facility and best ways to navigate it.

In addition, scheduled tours will be

available to those interested in learning more about and joining the Trager Family JCC.

Tricia Kling Siegwald, senior director of festivals & special events for the Trager Family JCC, said plans are underway for several additional celebrations over the spring and summer. The entire community will be invited to an expanded Yom Haatzmaut/Israel Day cultural festival, which that will feature music, food, crafts, games and fun for all ages.

Also, the Jewish Federation of Louisville will have events thanking and honoring the many families with commemorative “named” spaces in the new building as well as celebrating the more than 500 donors whose vision and donations to the Capital Campaign

brought the \$43-million-project to life.

As soon as the last punch list is complete and final inspections take place, the Trager Family JCC will open its doors to everyone in Louisville.

“There is no doubt that this will be a moment for the history books,” said Stacy Gordon-Funk, senior vice president of philanthropy and chief development officer for the Jewish Federation of Louisville, and one that many will remember for decades to come. We are thrilled and honored to share it with our entire Jewish community and the community of Louisville.”

Want to come?

To RSVP and receive the Zoom link for the live streamed ribbon-cutting on March 10, please email kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org.

GREENBERG

Continued from page 1

city on foot and I met with people from all corners of the city representing all political ideologies.”

That’s what Greenberg, the only Jewish candidate in the upcoming mayoral primary, wanted to talk about Monday in an interview with Community: the people he has met, and the issues they have in common.

He talked about the need to end gun violence in Louisville, a city that had 188 homicides last year.

But he wouldn’t address what other people are saying about the Feb. 14 attempt on his life or his accused attacker, 21-year-old Quintez Brown. He declined to speculate on a motive for the shooting and he refrained from mentioning Black Lives Matter (BLM) by name.

BLM, through its Louisville Community Bail Fund, posted Brown’s \$100,000 bond last week. He remains free, though he wears an ankle bracelet, enabling authorities to track his whereabouts.

That alone drew scathing rebukes from, among others, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who referred to Greenberg as a “Jewish Democrat,” to Brown



Craig Greenberg

as a “far left Black Lives Matter and defund-the-police activist” and to BLM itself as “the radical left [that] bailed their comrade out.”

Greenberg declined to respond.

“I’m not commenting on what others are saying about this matter; I don’t

think that’s appropriate at this time,” he said. “There are so many other issues in our city we need to address.... All these things are also related to making a safer city.”

He did confirm that he agrees with BLM on at least one issue: mental health treatment for offenders behind bars.

He wouldn’t comment on Brown’s bail or BLM’s opposition to cash bail other than to say “I think what happened in my case is a reflection of a criminal justice system that is broken.”

Earlier, though, Greenberg had said, “It is nearly impossible to believe that someone can attempt murder on Monday and walk out of jail on Wednesday.”

He kept returning to gun violence, his signature issue, calling for violence intervention programs to reduce homicide rates, investment in law enforcement (particularly for community policing and crime prevention) and more spending on the root causes of poverty.

Brown is accused of standing in the doorway of Greenberg’s campaign office on Feb. 14, taking aim at the candidate with a 9 mm Glock and firing. One shot grazed Greenberg’s clothing before campaign workers barricaded the door.

Police apprehended Brown and the

weapon not far from the scene, according to news reports. He is charged with attempted murder and four counts of wanton endangerment.

Greenberg, who said he has never met Brown, confirmed that the shooting will change the way he conducts his campaign.

“We are taking precautions so we can proceed with my campaign in a safe manner,” he said. “I plan to continue to meet with a lot of people and to have a very active campaign, but we will be taking a new set of precautions as we move forward.”

He wouldn’t say what those precautions will be.

Neither would he say campaigning by all candidates could change because of the attack, though he confirmed speaking to several of his opponents since the shooting.

“I have this new unwanted experience that informs my feelings and my actions on the issue of eliminating gun violence in our city,” Greenberg said. “I know I am blessed to still be here today and that many others have suffered worse from gun violence.”



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