

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:
AJ's new rabbi
Joshua Corber brings
own style to new job
STORY ON PG. 4

FRIDAY Vol. 48, No. 3 | March 25, 2022 | 22 Adar II 5782

'We deserve good news'

Governor, community leaders cut the ribbon on Trager Family JCC in Louisville

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

In a sign of just how big a deal it was, Gov. Andy Beshear attended the ceremonial ribbon cutting Thursday, March 10th, for the Trager Family Jewish Community Center, the first JCC to be built here in more than 60 years.

Buoyed by reports of dropping COVID rates across Kentucky, Beshear lauded the completion of the center, which he said will use "love and compassion" to help move the state forward.

"We deserve good news," the governor said to waves of applause, "and this ribbon cutting is terrific news



Jewish leaders and Gov. Andy Beshear cut the ribbon on the new Trager Family Jewish Community Center during a March 10 dedication ceremony as Early Learning Center children sat in front. (Community photo by Robyn Kaufman)

for this community, this city and this state."

Four generations of the Trager fam-

ily, the leading patrons of the three-year-old, \$43-million project, were on hand as dignitaries and community

leaders alike spoke about getting the community to this moment, and the new center's significance to Jewish Louisville and the greater community.

See pages 10-11 for more dedication coverage

Afterwards, Rabbi Ben Freed of Keneseth Israel, the newest pulpit rabbi in the city, affixed a mezuzah to the main entrance of the building, and dignitaries cut a ribbon on the walkway as a group of children – the future – sat in front of them.

Speaking for his family, Steve Trag-

See RIBBON CUTTING on page 23

'Books are part of our lives'

UofL opens Jewish Studies reading room – reference center for People of the Book

By Michael Ginsberg
For Community

It should come as no surprise that the University of Louisville, which offers a Jewish Studies program, would now open a Jewish Studies reading room. After all, throughout history, Jews have been associated with books.

From the Book of Life, which is found in liturgy; the Torah itself, which is central to Judaism; to modern novelists, such as Saul Bellow and Philip Roth,

books have chronicled Jewish expression.

Then there is Pirkei Avot, a collection of rabbinic wisdom that instructs Jews to keep in mind that "all your deeds are inscribed in a book;" and don't forget the many authors of everything from comic books to textbooks, to graphic novels to Passover haggadahs.

Thanks in large part to the generosity of Susan and William Yarmuth, Deborah and Rabbi Robert Slosberg and the



The Susan and William Yarmuth Jewish Studies Reading Room will be used for public programs and a place of study for students (photo provided by Ranen Omer-Sherman)

UofL administration, a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sunday, March 20 marked the opening of the Susan and William Yarmuth Jewish Studies Reading Room, a sunny space on the third floor of the Eckstrom Library for reflection, study space, lectures and other presentations.

The room, which is the first physical space on the UofL campus committed to Jewish studies, will be used as a free reading/study space, according to Ranen

See READING ROOM on page 23

'An Amalek in Russia'

Jewish Louisville responds to Ukraine crisis with prayer, checkbooks

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Thirty years ago, when Slava Nelson lived in the Soviet Union, which included her native Ukraine, it was unlike any place most Americans have experienced.

"It was not a country; it was a big prison," she said.

That was then. Today, Ukraine, once the scene of historic persecution of Jews, but now under brutal attack from Russia, has changed.

"I want you to know that Ukraine now is a completely different country.

It's a free country," Nelson said while speaking at the recent Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Refugee Shabbat service at Temple Shalom. "They cannot come back to what they used to [be] under that Russian hegemony, and they will fight. They will fight. They will fight for freedom."

Along with much of the United States and around the world, Jewish Louisville is responding to the four-week-old Russian invasion of Ukraine. Using their pulpits, their prayers and their checkbooks, Louisville's Jews are trying to make a difference.



Slava Nelson (left) and Student Rabbi Tzipi Zilbershtein, both Ukrainian Jews by birth, addressed the war in Ukraine during recent talks to Louisville congregations.

So far, the war has claimed thousands of lives, besieging and leveling cities. Many civilian targets have been hit, spawning Europe's worst humanitarian crisis since World War II.

(Russian President Vladimir Putin denies targeting civilians, a claim which the mayor of Kyiv dismissed with a one-word expletive.)

An estimated 3 million Ukrainians, including Jews, have fled their country.

The Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial has been hit in Russian attacks;

See UKRAINE on page 23



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

This Passover, 'the place' is holy space



D'var Torah

Rabbi
Ben Freed

During the Passover seder, we use one of the rarer names of God: "המקום" *Ha'makom*.

This name of God literally means "the place," and its two best-known uses are in seder and at Shiva minyan when we offer consolations in the name of המקום, *Ha'makom*, in the name of God, in the name of the place.

Even in a day and age of secularization, Passover – and especially the seder – is one of the most celebrated Jewish holidays every year. Its themes of liberation and freedom from bondage are timeless. Even more than that, it's a holiday about gathering as family and friends to celebrate our people's continuing story. It is one of our most tangible Jewish holidays, with food, wine and searches around the house built into the celebration. It's a holiday that is especially hard when we've lost a loved one, such as when a child leaves the nest for college or career opportunities. Any time that coming together in one place, one *makom*, is difficult, challenging or impossible, we feel the absence on a deeper level.

For the last two years, more of us than usual have held seders in a different *makom*, a different place than we were used to or with many empty *m'komot*, empty places, around the table. This year, God willing, many of us again will gather in different places to fill our *m'komot*, our places, with noshing, shmoozing, laughter and song.

For Ariane and me, taking necessary precautions for our family meant that we spent a lot more time at home than usual. Being restricted to my *makom* allowed me to recognize many aspects of the homes Ariane and I shared over the past two years that I may not have fully appreciated before: the way

the natural light hits the walls in the morning and the evening; the balcony in New York where we ate, celebrated essential workers, and even had a couple of dance parties; our new home in Louisville that we have worked hard to furnish and decorate; my partner who I shared the space with; and myriad other little things about our *makom*. Perhaps this can give us a new understanding of why this word *makom*, is also a name for God.

I believe God is all around us and takes many different forms, but we do not always take the time to stay in one place – or one moment – long enough to recognize God's presence within it. On Passover, God is asking us to sit in one place for a few hours with our family and close friends (this year, hopefully, without the distractions of technology and the outside world) and to appreciate the *makom*: the physical place in which we find ourselves, the wonderful people with whom we are celebrating, and *HaMakom*, The Ultimate Place, the Divine.

I encourage you this year during your seder to take a moment to pause when you come to the prayer Baruch *Ha'Makom*, Blessed is God/The Place – it comes towards the beginning of the Maggid section, just after the Four Children.

Look around and appreciate the *makom*, the place, where you are now. Go around your seder table and let everyone share something they are feeling about the space you are in. For some, this might feel celebratory; for others, this could be a difficult reminder of those whose *m'komot* that remain empty. Perhaps, for some, it could even be a recognition of the holiness of your place and your gathering, with an increased appreciation for the presence of the Divine, whose spirit enlivens our places and our festivities.

Wishing everyone a *Chag Kasher V'Sameach*, a happy and meaningful Passover.

(Rabbi Ben Freed is the spiritual leader of Keneseth Israel.)

Snapshots



The Pomegranates class of the JCC's Early Learning Center didn't miss the chance to dress for Purim and to display artwork made specifically for the festival. (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman)

Candles

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

- Apr 1 @ 7:48 p.m.
- Apr 8 @ 7:55 p.m.
- Apr 15 @ 8:01 p.m. (Passover & Shabbat)
- Apr 16 @ 9:01 p.m. (Passover)
- Apr 21 @ 8:07 p.m. (Passover)
- Apr 22 @ 8:08 p.m. (Passover & Shabbat)
- Apr 29 @ 8:14 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.

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

hold? Development Associate Kristy Benfield can handle all circulation questions. She can be reached at 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, April 20** (though sooner is better).

The paper should be in your mailbox

by **Friday, April 29.**

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

Read *Community* Everywhere...

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

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jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version/.

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NEWS

AJ's new rabbi

Joshua Corber promises to bring his own offbeat style to pulpit

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

On Rabbi Joshua Corber's recent visit to Louisville, somebody shared with him the city's unofficial motto: "Keep Louisville weird."

That's when Corber, a 39-year-old Canadian rabbi, and the next spiritual leader of Adath Jeshurun, knew he was home.

"I'm an out-of-the-box individual; there is almost nothing normal about me," Corber quipped. "I take weird as a compliment."

Corber identifies with the offbeat and the laid back. He loves to tell of the story of his orientation week at his rabbinical school, American Jewish University (AJU) in Los Angeles, where he and his classmates jumped on a trampoline at the home of their dean, Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson. Artson watched the scene with a glass of iced tea, sporting shorts and a Grateful Dead T-shirt.

It is that out-of-the-box way of living that Corber brings to his next rabbinate.

A lover of eastern spirituality, he

will make meditation part of AJ life.

A fitness nut and a self-described "gym rabbi," he will deliver devrei torah from a cardio machine at the Trager Family JCC.

A relationship builder, he will seek ways for congregants to share their own personal "Jewish stories."

"I like the idea of small gatherings of different peers where we tell one another our Jewish story," he said. "When someone asks you, 'What's your Jewish story?' It makes you feel like you have a Jewish story."

AJ announced in February that Corber, a Conservative rabbi at a synagogue in suburban Toronto, will succeed Rabbi Robert Slosberg, who is retiring after 41 years. The two rabbis will be on the job together for the coming year before Corber solos.

"Rabbi Slosberg has put a lot of thought into how he wants to make this transition happen," Corber said. "Both of us are going to be on staff, and for that first year, it's really going to be helpful to me to learn the ropes. I think his idea is to try in that first year to get me front and center as much as possible."



Rabbi Joshua Corber

A Conservative Jew – now, you could say Corber has spent his life sampling all that each Jewish denomination has to offer.

Born and raised in Vancouver, Corber grew up at a Reform synagogue, attending Jewish day school, summering at a pluralist-Zionist camp and getting active in Hillel at the University of British Columbia.

While he was at college, the Second Intifada flared up, leading to tension on campus.

"We began to experience antisemitism on campus," he said. "In an ironic way, that kind of emboldened and strengthened our Jewish identity."

By then, he was "dabbling" in multiple forms of spirituality, which would stay with him. "In Vancouver, you have a lot of eastern influence, and so I got very deep into meditation."

A religion, literature and arts major, Corber landed in an exchange program in the United Kingdom, where he had a "transformative experience" while spending Passover with a Chabad family near of London.

"I had such a powerful experience with them that I decided I wanted to be shomer Shabbat and shomer kashruth, lay tefillin and pray every day," he said. "It started from just those things, and then it grew."

But he continued to identify as a Reform Jew even though he was practicing Orthodoxy. "I really like the philosophy, the emphasis on prophetic values of tikkun olam and inclusivity – all of those things we like in the liberal Jewish movement."

Once he went to Jerusalem, though, to study at the Pardes Institute (and later to AJU), he started to figure out who he was as a Jew and what he wanted.

"There are porous boundaries between all the movements, but I didn't really understand what made

someone Reform or Conservative or Orthodox or Yeshivish until I was there [at Pardes], and then I really started to figure out, 'OK I'm not Reform, I'm not Orthodox,' and I didn't think I was Conservative, but eventually it was [AJU] that really helped me realize that the Conservative movement was the best home for my way of being Jewish."

He remains influenced by all his Jewish experiences, though.

"I was Lubavaform," he said, "and now I'm Conservavich."

He will use his hybrid Jewish/religious background to traverse the same challenges facing all pulpit rabbis, not the least of which is the decline in affiliation rates among younger generations.

Corber is realistic, yet optimistic about that trend.

"I don't think we can reverse the tide," he said, "but I think there's still an opportunity to create positive experiences, to create memories and to tune in ... to what our generation is looking for from their Judaism. I think eventually they will come to see the value."

As for the future of organized Judaism, "I don't think that organized Judaism is actually in any real existential danger," he said. "I think perhaps the model of affiliation has to evolve a little bit, and it's really about finding new ways to connect."

"It's not enough to give a good sermon and do a good job at officiating at lifecycle events," he added. "We have to find new programs, new ideas."

Whatever those programs and ideas are, though, he stressed that they are merely vehicles for Jews to build their own relationships – what any Jew really wants out of a synagogue experience.

"The main driving force is relationships, it's building human relationships," Corber said. "If you're looking for Jewish involvement, if you're looking for social engagement or social justice engagement or spiritual engagement or learning, you want to do it where you feel a sense of belonging."

Corber and his wife, Chloe, a trained graphic designer, have two children, Eliana, 5, and Isaac 3.

He plans to start July 1. Meanwhile, he and the congregation will navigate his visa application.

Corber called AJ "a warm caring, heimish place" which might just have a touch of the weirdness he's always looking for.

"Everything about our experience there confirmed that maybe it's not Grateful Dead T-shirt and a trampoline, but they certainly have that sense of informality."

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NEWS

Bentley speech should have been challenged swiftly – Jewish Leaders

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Kentucky lawmakers should have swiftly rebuked one of their colleagues for making bizarre (and false) antisemitic statements during a House floor debate on an anti-abortion bill.

Instead, about two hours passed before anyone spoke up about the rant by Rep. Danny Bentley, R-Russell, according to news reports.

That delay should never have happened, said Melanie Maron Pell, Louisville's chief field operations officer for the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

"Whenever they hear something like this, they should speak up and reject it; don't just sit there and squirm," Pell said. "In the Jewish community, we need . . . our leaders to be unequivocal and swift."

Speaking on Wednesday, March 2, in support of a bill to restrict the use of abortion drugs, including RU-484, Bentley digressed into the sex lives of Jewish women and made false and disturbing statements about RU-484.

A pharmacist, Bentley falsely claimed that RU-484 was cyanide developed by Germans for use during World War II. In fact, it is a steroidal progesterone blocker, developed in France in the 1980s.

He also said the developer of the drug is a Jew, prompting some colleagues to

wonder why that was relevant, and he contemplated the sexuality of Jewish women in trying to explain why certain Jews oppose abortion.

"Did you know that a Jewish woman has less cancer of the cervix than any other race in this country?" he said. "And why is that? Because the Jewish women have only one sex partner. That's the reason. They don't have multiple sex partners. To say that Jewish people approve of this drug now is wrong."

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community Louisville (JCL), expressed astonishment at a state representative making so many unchallenged false statements about Jews.

"No one stands up and says 'Whoa, what's going on here,'" Wagner said. "If you hear something and you know it doesn't sound right, raise your hand and say that it doesn't sound right. Why is that so difficult?"

It was the second controversial incident from the Kentucky legislature in two weeks. On Feb. 23, two Kentucky lawmakers used the term "Jew them down" during a meeting on a bargaining matter.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Louisville, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, the National Council of Jewish Women-Louisville Section and the AJC all called Bentley's speech a "bizarre antisemitic rant."



Rep. Danny Bentley

The lawmaker later apologized, and the JCL "acknowledged" the apology in a statement.

Pell and Wagner coauthored a letter to Senate President Robert Stivers and House Speaker David W. Osborne on Feb. 25, offering virtual training sessions on the tropes and terms that manifest antisemitism. Since then, Jewish leaders have met in Frankfort with Osborne and Rep. Jason Nemes, (R-Jefferson) in a session Wagner has described as "positive."

"Our offer to provide training on

Understanding Antisemitism was well received," she said in a letter to Louisville Jewish leaders.

Senate Republicans have told the *Courier-Journal* that the leadership will add training on antisemitism to the annual training senators receive.

The Anti-Defamation League has also said that it would offer training, said its regional director, James Pasch.

"We expect our leaders to lead, and they can't do that if they're making antisemitic remarks on the floor of the state legislature," Pasch said.

Bentley's remarks followed a proposed floor amendment to the bill by Rep. Mary Lou Marzian (D-Jefferson), which would have carved out an exemption for Jewish women.

"It exempted people of the Jewish faith since their religious teachings say life does not begin at conception," the Louisville Democrat said. (Actually, Jewish law is more nuanced than that, though the needs of the mother are respected.)

The amendment was defeated, which irked Marzian. She noted that the legislature made exemptions for vaccines, mask-wearing, essential services and religious gatherings during the pandemic.

"They exempt people all the time," she said, "but they refused to exempt people this time on this bill."

(JTA contributed to this story.)

Bipartisan effort launched to stiffen Kentucky hate crime laws

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

FRANKFORT – Nearly four years after a gunman shot and murdered her father, Maurice Stallard, at the Jeffersontown Kroger, Kellie Watson still feels as though justice wasn't done.

Standing before a phalanx of cameras Tuesday, March 1, at a Capitol Annex press conference, at times fighting back tears, Watson described the pain she still feels, knowing her father's assailant could not be convicted of a hate crime under Kentucky law.

"It's horrible that here in our own state, in our own home, we were not able to hold him accountable and get the justice that we needed for the hate crime that was committed," Watson said.

A bipartisan bill, introduced that same day to amend the state's hate crime statute, would change that.

The bill, co-sponsored by three state senators from Louisville – Morgan McGarvey and Gerald Neal (Democrats) and Julie Rague Adams (Republican) – could extend prison time for crimes proven to be intentionally committed because of race, color, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Penalties for class A or B misdemeanors would increase by at least half the maximum imprisonment sentence and fines that currently exist. For class D felonies, the terms of imprisonment would increase by one to five years; for class C felonies, five to 10 years; and for class A or B felonies, 10 to 20 years.

Additionally, offenders convicted of hate crimes would not be eligible for probation, conditional discharge, parole or any other



Sara Klein Wagner addresses a press briefing for the hate crime bill.

form of early release.

"When you commit a hate crime, you are not just attacking an individual, you are attacking the entire community," McGarvey said. "We've seen this in Louisville too many times."

In addition to the families of the Kroger shooting victims, representatives of the Louisville and Lexington Jewish communities were present at the press conference to introduce the bill.

Kentucky saw the highest number of antisemitic incidents on record in 2020, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville, said passage of the hate crime bill, introduced at least twice before, is "long overdue."

Wagner described as "raw" the experiences the families of the Kroger victims have lived through, noting that many other families have endured similar attacks.

"That's why this legislation is real and that's why it's needed," she said. "We know

that we need to hold people accountable. We know that we need to deter the perpetrators from committing crimes, and if it stops just one person, then it's worth every effort."

The bill has been filed in honor of Stallard, 69, and Vickie Jones, 67, the other shooting victim.

Both died on Oct. 24, 2018, when a white gunman, who had previously tried to enter a predominantly Black church nearby, opened fire in the supermarket. He shot Stallard, who had been shopping with his grandson, then went outside and shot Jones in the parking lot.

"I never understood a person hating a

person because of the color of their skin; I never did," said Jones' sister, Samuella Gathright.

The assailant was indicted on federal hate crime charges in U.S. District Court. He also was indicted for murder by a Jefferson County grand jury. He has since been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Nevertheless, the attack has raised questions regarding hate crime laws in Kentucky.

"Laws have to be amended to change with the times," said Watson, noting that Congress has amended its federal hate crime law to include lynching. "We have to do so here."

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Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: April 20 for publication on April 29 and May 18 for publication on May 27.

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

Letters to the editor, Lee Chottiner, at lchottiner@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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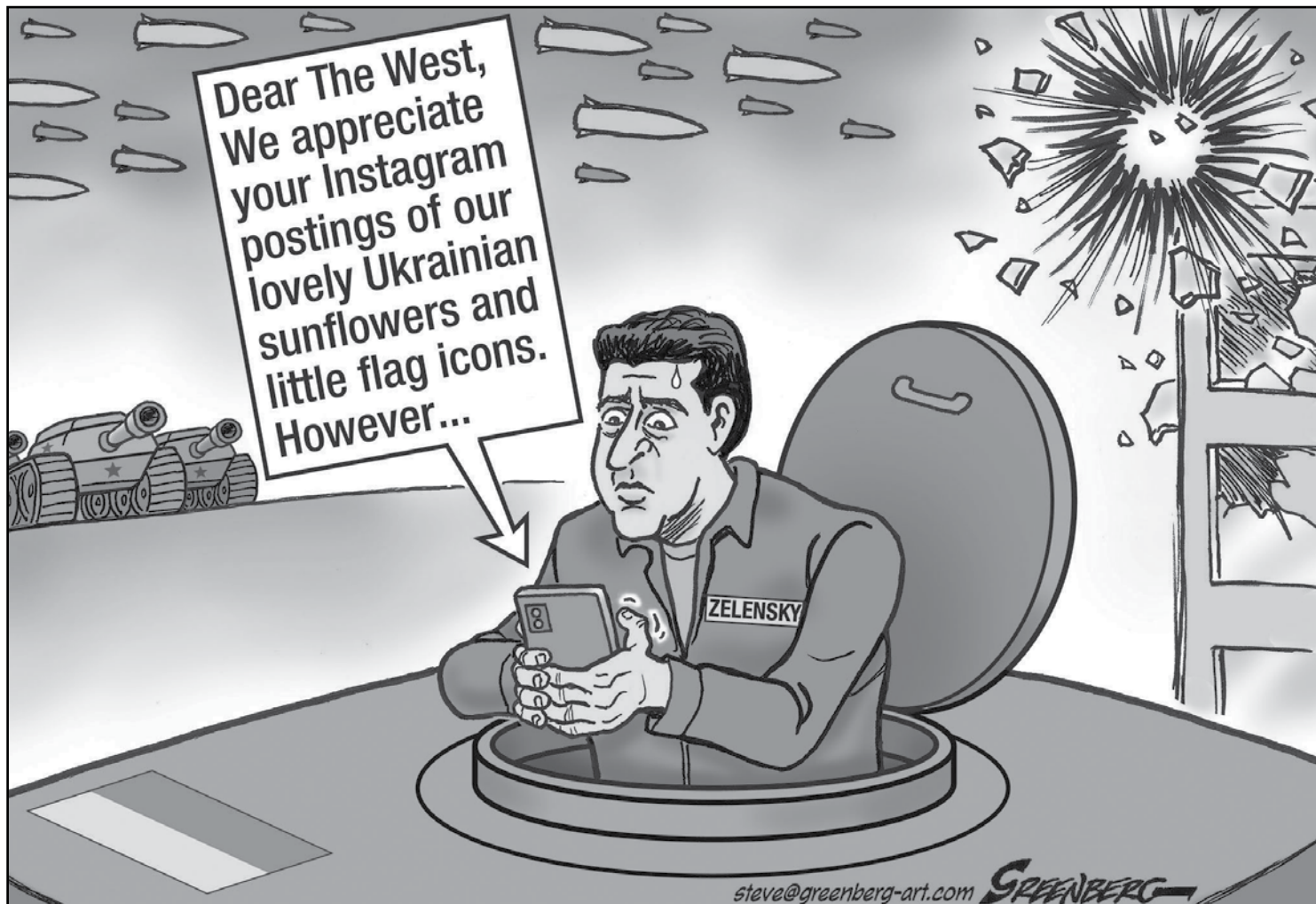
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FORUM



During this war, try being like Amichai



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

This week, I got an email from my friend, Ranen Omer-Sherman, the Judaic Studies chair at the University of Louisville. He wanted to share a poem by the great Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai. He asked me to read it at an open mic session I was organizing, since he couldn't be there himself.

The theme of that open mic: Ukraine:

*Now, when the waters are pressing mightily
on the walls of the dams,
now, when the white storks, returning,
are transformed in the middle of the firmament
into fleets of jet planes,
we will feel again how strong are the ribs
and how vigorous is the warm air in the lungs
and how much daring is needed to love
on the exposed plain,
when the great dangers are arched above,
and how much love is required
to fill all the empty vessels
and the watches that stopped telling time,
and how much breath,
a whirlwind of breath,
to sing the small song of spring.*

A hopeful poem, especially that last

line, "...sing the small song of spring."

We could all use a dose of hope as we watch on TV how one country – Russia – savagely invades and degrades another – Ukraine, forcing more than 3 million people to flee across open borders (thank God) to Poland, Hungary, Moldova and Romania.

Many of their countrymen are not so lucky. In the eastern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, thousands of civilians remain trapped, while news reports reliably inform us that the besieged city is being leveled.

This should remind those old enough to remember places like Warsaw, Stalingrad, Leningrad.

Yes, two of those cities are in Russia, begging the question, how can the leader of a country that suffered so much destruction in one war, inflict the same destruction on another country in another war?

I have no answer.

And yet, it could get worse, with the leader of that same country, Vladimir Putin, cryptically saying through a spokesman that he would use nuclear weapons should his country experience an "existential threat," as several news agencies have reported.

An existential threat? What, in the toxic mind of Vladimir Putin, comprises an existential threat? Supplying arms to the Ukrainians to defend their homes? Branding Putin – correctly – as a war criminal? Imposing sanctions, both economic and noneconomic, against Russia in a nonviolent attempted to persuade it to withdraw?

Could any action to help the Ukraini-

ans at so dark an hour be interpreted as an existential threat by this man?

I don't know.

This is the hardest column I have ever had to write. It hardly writes itself. I debate with myself as I type, all the while trying to make sense of the images I see on my TV, of bombed out buildings, blown bridges, ditches filled with bodies, elderly husbands and wives clinging to one another as they join caravans of the displaced.

I was a young man when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. I thought we were fortunate to live in such a time when the future seemed filled with possibilities.

We were fortunate, we just didn't know that it wouldn't last, and we had no idea that some of those future possibilities were downright evil.

I don't know where this war will take us, whether it can be contained to a regional conflict or will erupt into World War III. Whether an "existential threat" means an outright attack or tightening sanctions.

Right now, I'm just thinking about that Amichai poem.

German born, an immigrant to Palestine in 1935, Amichai would join the Palmach, a strike force of the Haganah, fight in World War II for the British army and later for Israel in its war for independence.

He saw plenty of war, yet he could still write a line like "...sing the small song of spring."

He could be that hopeful. Can we?

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

FORUM

Is ‘never again’ now?
Ukraine war ignites a recurring debate



Guest
Columnist

Andrew
Ailow-Carol

Seventy-nine years ago this month, crowds twice filled Madison Square Garden for a pageant, “We Will Never Die,” meant to draw attention to the slaughter of Europe’s Jews by the Nazis. Screenwriter Ben Hecht organized the spectacle and wrote the script; German refugee composer Kurt Weill wrote the score.

Two million Jews had already been killed. The performance included the lines, “No voice is heard to cry halt to the slaughter, no government speaks to bid the murder of human millions end. But we here tonight have a voice. Let us raise it.”

In the self-congratulatory amnesia called hindsight, American Jews often look back on “We Will Never Die” as a watershed in raising awareness about the Holocaust – and a condemnation of America’s failure at that point to stop the genocide. What’s often forgotten is that Hecht had trouble getting major Jewish organizations to sign on as sponsors. “A meeting of representatives of 32 Jewish groups, hosted by Hecht, dissolved in shouting matches as ideological and personal rivalries left the Jewish organizations unable to cooperate,” according to the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies.

This was 1943, mind you, so the debate over whether the United States should commit blood and treasure to the defense of its Allies was already settled.

But the “ideological and personal rivalries” are reminders that Americans were never of one mind about entering World War II, and certainly not about whether and how to save the Jews.

America and its allies are embroiled in a similar debate now, and World War II and its lessons are being invoked by those urging a fierce Western response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Chief among these are Ukraine’s Jewish president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has specifically cited the Holocaust in asking governments, and Jewish groups, to intervene.

“Nazism is born in silence. So shout about killings of civilians. Shout about the murders of Ukrainians,” Zelensky said in a call with American Jewish groups. He spoke about the Russian missile strike near the Babyn Yar memorial to slaughtered Jews, saying, “We all died again at Babyn Yar from the missile attack, even though the world pledges ‘Never again.’”

Dmytro Kuleba, the foreign minister of Ukraine, also invoked “never again,” in a Washington Post op-ed. “For decades, world leaders bowed their heads at war memorials across Europe and solemnly proclaimed: ‘Never again.’ The time has come to prove those were not empty words,” he wrote.

The rhetoric may be soaring, but not everyone is convinced. “I’m seeing the term genocide and the phrase ‘never again’ used more in the context of Ukraine,” tweeted Emma Ashford, a senior fellow at the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security. “I understand why they’re being used – and the resonance they carry – but they’re not accurate ways to talk about a conventional war between states, even one with humanitarian casualties.”

Damon Linker, a columnist at The

See **DEBATE** on page 8

Any gift is meaningful

On March 27, the Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) will celebrate its corps of volunteers. We help the Jewish and larger Louisville communities rise above the barriers that life sometimes presents so all live with dignity and purpose.

Our mission could not be achieved without the help of volunteers. There are many ways our community expresses their Jewish values at JFCS: some donate money; others, services; and still others, time. Volunteer engagement is critical to the mission of JFCS. Everyone’s mitzvah looks different and carries its own impact.

The JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry is one of our programs that couldn’t function without food drives, volunteer hours, in-kind donations and financial support. All are equal and valued.

Since March of 2020, food pantry visits have increased significantly. With dedicated volunteers, we adapted our model to include delivery for clients experiencing transportation barriers.

Financial contributions to the food pantry make it possible for us to order extra items or specialty foods. We also accept any food donations, whether it be through a planned drive or extra items picked up at the store. If the community wants to give, our job is to ensure there are appropriate outlets for them. While other food pantries may have to throw away unused and expired items, that is not our experience at JFCS.

Volunteering at JFCS, as a mentor, at a food drive or in the pantry provides a way for people to learn who we are and what we do. It’s also a reminder that not everything in our community is equitable and there are ways we can serve our neighbors to make a better world. Time spent in the pantry, even a few hours, impacts clients, volunteers and their families. That’s what JFCS’ mission is all about.

Courtney Evans
Louisville
(The author is the director of advancement at the JFCS.)

Bills attacking LGBTQ rights are an assault on Jewish values – and Jewish teens

Guest
Columnists

Idit Klein and Is Perlman

At Purim – a holiday that honors the courage to be our true selves – we were alarmed by the surge of legislative attacks on the rights, safety and dignity of LGBTQ youth across the nation.

Among over 100 pending anti-LGBTQ bills are the recently passed “Don’t Say Gay Bill” in Florida and the terrifying equation of trans-affirming health care with child abuse by the governor of Texas.

We are a queer Jewish communal professional and a non-binary Jewish college student. In the spirit of Purim, we recognize that now is a time when we must fight for ourselves, and we call on our beloved Jewish community to join us in our fight for the rights of LGBTQ people everywhere.

One of us, Is Perlman, grew up in Florida and was blessed with parents who supported the start of their medical transition there. Despite that love and affirmation, Is endured years

of self-loathing and shame due to the onslaught of anti-trans rhetoric in their local communities and the broader world. Indeed, Is was one of the 40 percent of trans and non-binary young people who attempt suicide by age 24. They’ve shared that it was only when they met other LGBTQ Jewish teens and adult mentors through a Shabbaton organized by Keshet – a national organization working for LGBTQ equality in the Jewish community – that they came to understand themselves as not just worthy of basic dignity, but as a holy person who is made in the image of the Divine.

If Is were still a high school student in Florida today, any reference to their identity or experience as a non-binary person could be banned under the newly passed “Don’t Say Gay” law. For the many LGBTQ youth who live in Florida, this bill serves to further marginalize a group that already experiences severe stigma and isolation.

Legislators should be supporting educators to ensure that all students have access to affirming, safe learning environments where they can grow and evolve in the fullness of their identities. Instead, Florida legislators –

See **LGBTQ** on page 8

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FORUM

DEBATE

Continued from page 7

Week, made a similar point. “What Russia’s doing is terrible, but it’s what happens in war. It isn’t genocide, and it certainly isn’t the Holocaust, which is what that phrase refers to,” he tweeted. “Please stop the hype.”

In some ways the debate is semantic. “Never Again” is a phrase popularized by a Jewish militant, adopted by mainstream Jewish groups and eventually absorbed into the global vocabulary as a shorthand for – for what, exactly?

Is it about intervention when a government targets a people or ethnic group for slaughter, as in Rwanda? Does it include campaigns of terror meant to “ethnically cleanse” a region, as in Bosnia or Myanmar?

Is it about a system of “reeducation camps” meant to erase a people’s culture, as the Chinese are doing to the Uyghurs?

Or, as Kuleba defines it, does it mean “stopping the aggressor before it can cause more death and destruction”? According to that conception of “never again,” the Holocaust may have ended with the death of six million Jews, but it couldn’t have begun without unchecked territorial expansion by a brutal regime.

The debate is also highly concrete. If Kuleba is right, history will judge America poorly if it doesn’t do more to stop Russia’s attacks on civilians and its razing of Ukrainian cities.

And yet, while the United States and its allies have committed arms and sanctions meant to cripple Russia’s economy, President Biden has ruled out sending ground troops to defend Ukraine, or enforcing a “no-fly zone” over the country that would make direct conflict with Russian jets inevitable.

The bloody Russian invasion, bound to get bloodier still, has not risen to what most people and official bodies would call a genocide. And even if it were to, it

would be surprising if the United States would commit troops to the battlefield. Most Americans have little stomach for a hot war with Russia; the threat of nuclear escalation is terrifying.

A recent Cygnal poll found that 39 percent of U.S. respondents supported Washington “joining the military response” in Ukraine – a plurality but hardly a landslide. A broad majority still preferred non-military intervention.

The United States, like the rest of the world, has a checkered history in fulfilling the promise of “never again.” Bill Clinton was ashamed of America’s inaction in Rwanda. Barack Obama in 2012 launched a White House task force called the Atrocities Prevention Board, although it didn’t prevent the mass slaughter of Syrians by their own government and Russia on Obama’s watch.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has a Center for the Prevention of Genocide. And yet

as Stalin purportedly said about the Vatican, “How big is its army?”

And yet, many refuse to allow realpolitik to deaden their response to the tragedy in Ukraine. “We can discuss and debate a no-fly zone, but there is one thing we can’t debate, and that is this should be a no-cry zone,” said Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, head of the New York Board of Rabbis, during a recent interfaith service for Ukraine. “We should never, ever see innocent people mercilessly murdered.”

Few could dispute that. But if nothing else, history reminds us that slogans are not policies, and that the very best intentions crash up against self-interest and self-preservation. If nothing else, the debate over “never again” demands more humility and forgiveness in judging the failures of previous generations.

(Andrew Silow-Carroll is the editor in chief of The New York Jewish Week and senior editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.)

LGBTQ

Continued from page 7

and legislators in the dozens of states around the country that have introduced anti-LGBTQ legislation – are playing politics with the lives of LGBTQ youth and undermining their basic humanity. Do not be fooled by these politicians’

rhetoric. Do speak out to condemn how this law will spark shame and fear among LGBTQ youth and no doubt threaten their safety and even their lives.

In Texas, the governor directed the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to open child abuse investigations of parents who provide gender-affirming care for their trans

children. This means that parents who support their trans kids and help them access the health care they need may be subject to investigation, which could lead to their children being taken away. Imagine the terror that parents of trans kids and the kids themselves are now experiencing.

Thankfully, an ACLU lawsuit has thus far blocked implementation of the Texas governor’s directive, but we don’t know if they will succeed in permanently stopping this destructive policy. Already, Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, the largest pediatric hospital in the country, announced that it will no longer prescribe gender-affirming hormone therapies. Hospital officials cited the governor’s directive as the reason for the change. Similarly, many parents of trans kids report that pharmacies are refusing to fill prescriptions and insurance companies are pulling coverage.

It has been nearly 40 years since legislation was first proposed to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation, with gender identity added more recently. We have been active in a national Jewish community campaign led by Keshet to support the passing of the Equality Act that would at long last give LGBTQ people the civil rights protections that everyone deserves in their homes, jobs, public services and more. If the Equality Act were federal law, it would be impossible for states to target LGBTQ young people with this spate of senseless, cruel legislation and policies.

At age 18, Is has already spoken publicly in multiple settings about what enabled them to survive their teenage years as a young trans person: access to trans-affirming health care and connections with other queer Jewish youth. Speaking with such vulnerability is never easy. But Is continues to do so because they understand the catastrophic impact of threats to the safety and wellbeing of trans youth everywhere.

Polls consistently tell us that a clear majority of American Jews support LGBTQ civil rights. We know from our own experience in the “Yes on 3”

campaign to preserve transgender rights in Massachusetts that when called upon, our Jewish communities do take action: Over 70 percent of synagogues and other Jewish organizations played an active role in the campaign and helped us win. This is just one of many examples we could offer that demonstrate how American Jewish communities have learned about, grown to support, and eventually have moved to take meaningful action on LGBTQ rights issues.

In this season of Purim, we invite Jewish communities nationwide to join us in heeding Mordechai’s words urging Esther to act: “Perhaps you have come to your ... position for just such a time as this?”

The crisis for LGBTQ young people, especially trans youth, should concern all of us. There are so many ways to make a difference: speak out against harmful legislation with your state legislators and urge your senators to pass the Equality Act; mobilize people in your local Jewish community or organize an educational program; tell a trans kid in your life that they can count on your support. We need every Jewish community member to recognize this time as a time for action. Only then, will all LGBTQ youth be able to live with safety, dignity and the certainty that they, like every human being, are indeed holy.

We know from Is’ experience, and that of countless other trans young people, that trans-affirming care is the opposite of abuse; it is health care. Often, it is life-saving care. As a community whose highest value is pikuach nefesh, saving a life, we call on Jews everywhere to say to trans youth: Your life matters and we will fight to save it.

(Idit Klein is president and CEO of Keshet, a national organization that works for the full equality and inclusion of LGBTQ Jews in Jewish life. Is Perlman is a Jewish non-binary first year student at Columbia University and a Keshet youth leader.)

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YOM HASHOAH

Remembering the Quanza

Film slated for 2020 Yom Hashoah program to be seen in Louisville at last

By Community staff

This year's Yom Hashoah program will finally include a film about a steamship bound for freedom, which Jewish Louisville was supposed to have seen two years ago.

Nobody Wants Us, a documentary by Laura Seltzer-Duny, will be shown at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, at Adath Jeshurun. It tells the story of the passengers on the steamship Quanza – 80 Jewish refugees fleeing German-occupied Belgium in 1940 – which docked in Norfolk, Virginia.

For a time, no one knew if the Quanza would face the same tragic fate as the SS St. Louis, the steamer, with more than 900 Jewish passengers aboard, that was denied permission to dock in Havana, Cuba, and then Florida in 1939. (The U.S. Coast Guard even shadowed the vessel in case its captain tried grounding it.) Finally, the St. Louis was forced to return to Europe, where many of its passengers died in the Holocaust.

The Quanza was spared that fate, thanks in part to the activism by

Norfolk Jews, who secured government permission for its passengers to disembark on U.S. soil.

Nobody Wants Us had been scheduled for screening at the 2020 Yom Hashoah program, but the event was canceled due to the outbreak of the COVID pandemic.

Seltzer-Duny, whose film was nominated for an Emmy Award, will be the featured speaker at the program and will be interviewed by her cousin, Cantor Sharon Hordes.

Jeffrey Jamner, creative consultant for ideas at the Jewish Community of Louisville, said the film is especially timely now, given last year's refugee crisis in Afghanistan and the crisis unfolding in war-torn Ukraine.

"This is why the story of Jewish refugees on the SS Quanza, and the heroes who stepped up to help them escape, connects the past with the present," Jamner said. "This will truly be a Yom Hashoah program for our times."

Seltzer-Duny describes the Quanza story as one of "human spirit."

She called the Jews of Norfolk



The steamship Quanza in the port of Hampton Roads, Virginia. (photo by Charles Borjes, The Virginian-Pilot, September 13, 1940; photo courtesy of Norfolk Public Library, Sargeant Memorial Collection)

who got involved "heroes who chose to stand up and not be bystanders, who got out of their comfort zones and made a difference."

Passionate about inspiring the next generation through strong educational programming, Seltzer-Duny has screened her film in 366 junior and senior high schools. Two Louisville schools are scheduled to show it in April.

Keeping the stories of Holocaust survivors alive by passing their experiences from one generation to the

next – to have their stories "baked into our culture," Hordes said – is central to Yom Hashoah.

This year's program will also honor the memories of three survivors who recently passed away: Elias Klein, Gila Glattstein and Fred Gross.

Rabbis and cantors from Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel, The Temple, Temple Shalom and Anshei Sfard will have roles in the program, which also will be streamed on YouTube.

Want to go?

Registrations are required to attend this year's Yom Hashoah program, either in person or on YouTube. (Watch the Community eblast for the link.) To attend in person, bring proof of vaccination and booster; masks must be worn indoors. Those who register will be sent the private YouTube link to the program on April 27, and another link to screen the 43-minute film, *Nobody Wants Us* anytime between April 26 and May 1. Excerpts of the film will be shown during the program itself.



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MEDIA RIBBON CUTTING

Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center sure to delight families

Johnny Kimberlin can be forgiven for thinking that the Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center at the new Trager Family JCC is the feature attraction of the building. After all, he is the aquatics director.

And the new aquatics center finally gives him the chance to do the kind of activity programming that the old center with its three-lane pool simply couldn't handle.

At the old JCC, he could have just one activity at a time in the pool. In the new center, he feasibly has the space for swimmers doing laps, the swim team training for a meet and instructors giving lessons – all at once in the same lap pool – while the recreation pool can simultaneously hold aquatics lessons, and kids just splashing around and lugging down the water slide.

“One-stop shopping,” Kimberlin said. “Everything happening at once.”

The new aquatics center has a little of everything:

- A “beach entry” so parents can walk their small children into the recreation pool (no wading pool needed) while a plastic alligator, mushroom and an “ombrello twirl” that shoot jet streams of water – much like a water theme park. (There are steps and rails, though,

for those who choose to use them.)

- A vortex pool, with currents of water moving in circles beneath the surface – much like water circling a drain – that is perfect for therapy, training or just relaxing;

- A six-lane lap pool, 25 yards long, 11.5 feet deep, and starting blocks at each lane that make the center capable of hosting competitions sanctioned by USA Swimming, the national governing body for competitive swimming in the United States – the body that selects the U.S. Olympics Swimming Team;

- Chair lifts that reach the lap and recreation pools and a newer, larger hot tub, making the entire aquatics center handicapped accessible; and

- A three-tier corkscrew water slide. Children in the community have been waiting anxiously for months for its opening.

The aquatics center is serviced by four family changing rooms with direct access to the pools as well as the men's and women's locker rooms.

The activity inside the center is viewable from two banks of floor-to-ceiling windows: one on the first floor, in the cafe, where parents can sit and watch the activity; and one



Lexi Garrison and Johnny Kimberlin pose inside the new Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman)

on the second floor fitness center.

In addition, a third bank of exterior windows literally bathe the entire aquatics center in natural light – far different from conditions in the pool room at the old building.

Kimberlin expects the water park attractions, the lap pool, vortex pool and hot tub at the new JCC will draw yet more children and adults to the Trager Family JCC.



MEDIA RIBBON CUTTING



“This is a dream come true for the whole community and we are so thankful to the donors, foundations and leaders who made this happen”
– Stacy Gordon-Funk



“It’s been a long road that has come to fruition. It’s a mighty looking building. Going to be great for the community.”
– Jay Klempner



“It’s a labor of love, someplace my children will play in, and something I never thought I’d be lucky enough to be a part of.”
– Laurence Nibur

Memories from the March 10 media ribbon cutting at the Trager Family JCC. From top left to right: Goldberg Family Gymnasium; PJ Library reading nook; Weisberg Family Lobby; the entrance to the Shapira Foundation Auditorium – the new home of CenterStage; the mezuzah affixed to the entrance of the Trager by Rabbi Ben Freed; Sara Klein Wagner at the podium; classroom in the Roth Family Education Center; Cantor Lipp and Cantor Hordes performing; Gov. Andy Beshear addresses the guests from the podium; New fitness equipment in the Health and Wellness Center; Children from the Early Learning Center were present at the ribbon cutting.



“I think of my parents; our donation was for our parents. My father was the president of the JCC. I wear his ring today to commemorate it.”
– Frank Weisberg



ART

AJ Music Festival welcomes Cantor Azi Schwartz after a two-year delay

By Lisa Hornung
For Community

The Adath Jeshurun Music Festival celebrated its 50th year on Sunday, March 20, by welcoming Cantor Azi Schwartz, the senior cantor of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, to perform his mix of traditional and new Jewish music, and show tunes, for a crowd of about 300 people.

An internationally renowned singer and recording artist, Schwartz was scheduled to perform at the 2020 music festival, but the show was canceled at the last minute when the COVID pandemic hit Louisville.

Two years later, the show finally went on, and Schwartz was worth the wait, Cantor David Lipp said.

"He's a really nice guy, and not everybody with that much talent is that nice," Lipp said. "He has a huge job in New York. He's very successful and very well known. He travels around like this all the time with huge payouts, and if it goes to his head, I've never seen it. I just have to say, that is really rare. And it's a

pleasure to be his friend."

Schwartz sang in front of a nearly sold-out audience at AJ, along with his accompanist, David Enlow, Lipp, Cantor Sharon Hordes and the Jewish Community Choir.

"It was very special, very moving to be here," Schwartz said. "Two years after the pandemic, a canceled concert, to come back and to see the sanctuary with so many people and hearing them sing together. It's very, very special."

Enlow said the Park Avenue Synagogue works with emerging students and established composers to bring new music to the Jewish tradition, hoping that "in our time on this earth, we might strike up something new that will move people in a new way."

One such song was "Sim Shalom," written by Zina Goldrich and performed by Schwartz and Hordes.

"We believe religion means that nostalgic or museum type of thing," Schwartz said. "[But] it's a very living and breathing tradition. So, we love the old, but we also sanctify the new, and we invest a lot in creating an experience

that is worth participating in."

The pandemic accelerated that investment. Park Avenue Synagogue started offering livestreaming in 2014, but with the COVID outbreak, it invested in newer technology, pivoting safely to online services.

"We had a 50-piece orchestra of the players from the Metropolitan Opera who were out of a job, who came to sit where the congregation sits and play music in a socially distant safe way," Schwartz said.

The AJ festival began with Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" (half in Hebrew, half in English), then proceeded to "Hayom," "T'Amtzeinu," "Avinu Malkeinu," "Lu Yehu," "Tzur Yisrael," "A Yiddishe Mame" and others.

He even sang a show tune, "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*.

Possibly Schwartz's most famous song is "Adon Olam," sung to the tune of "You'll Be Back" from the musical *Hamilton*. Schwartz performed it Sunday to great response from the audience.

He sang "Jerusalem of Gold" – a tribute



Cantor Azi Schwartz performs for a packed house at Adath Jeshurun. (Community photo by Lisa Hornung)

to his hometown – then went directly into a rousing "Oseh Shalom," ending with the audience standing, clapping along to the music.

Schwartz lauded Lipp's role in the concert, calling him "a dear friend and mentor" who was determined to put on the show – COVID or no COVID.

"It's due to his charisma that he was able to not give up. He said, 'let's wait, we're gonna be able to do it,' and here we are."

Reclaimed Treasures

LO concert pays tribute to Black, Jewish composers who faced adversity

By Bill Doolittle
For Community

It's a concert with an unusual cast of composers.

Two are Jewish musicians who fled Europe during the 1930s. The third is an African American whose grandparents followed the Underground Railroad to Canada – and freedom.

What do they have in common?

According to Louisville Orchestra Music Director Teddy Abrams, each experienced authoritarian oppression in which the stage for their music was somehow denied.

"It's not just one era, it's not just one people," Abrams said. "It's parallel stories of people around the world saying they love this music, but they don't accept the people who create it."

That's the theme of an April 30 LO concert "Reclaimed Treasures," the first in a multi-season series at The Kentucky Center.

Leading the cast of composers is Erich Wolfgang Korngold, an Austrian Jew who composed operas as a teenager and appeared destined for classical music fame. However, with the rise of Nazism, Jewish musicians found fewer opportunities to work. Sensing more trouble, Korngold left for America.

He went to work in Hollywood, making movie soundtracks. His 1936 work for Anthony Adverse won an Oscar. Several movie scores followed, including *Sea Hawk* and *The Adventures of Robin Hood*.

Other composers, also fleeing Europe, followed Korngold: Dimitri Tiomkin, a Russian Jewish immigrant, scored *High Noon*, and Alfred

Newman won a shelf full of Oscars for *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Camelot*.

"And Korngold was the pioneer of it all," said Abrams, who sees the cinema as a great part of American culture. "The sad thing is that many of the great things these composers wrote, beautiful as they are, are not celebrated or played on symphonic stages, because that's not how they were produced. It's somewhat lost, unless you are a film buff, like me. I love movies."

As the war ended, Korngold returned to classical music. In 1945, he composed his "Violin Concerto in D Major," which LO Assistant Concertmaster Julia Noone will perform.

Composer Ernst Toch's story lacks the Hollywood fanfare, but his escape was even more dangerous.

A promising young composer in Germany, Toch was invited to attend an important music conference in Florence, Italy, which he did. Afterwards, however, instead of going home, Toch gave his Nazi minders the slip and boarded a train for Paris. There, he sent a telegram to his wife, Lilly, in Berlin: "I have a pen."

Lilly, who had been waiting for that cryptic message, immediately left with their daughter to join Toch in Paris. The family then traveled to London, New York and finally Los Angeles.

In 1954, then-LO Music Director Robert Whitney commissioned Toch to compose a piece to be premiered by the orchestra and recorded on its First Edition label. It is that piece, "Notturmo," that the orchestra will perform for Reclaimed Treasures.

African American composer Robert



Teddy Abrams: People around the world love the music performed in Reclaimed Treasures, "but they don't accept the people who create it."

Nathanial Dett contributes the most ambitious work. A full choir and vocal soloists conducted by Kent Hatteburg, director of choral activities at the University of Louisville, will join the orchestra for Dett's oratorio, "The Ordering of Moses." It's a full-blown retelling of the Exodus story, with Moses parting the Sea of Reeds and the Israelites escaping Egypt – a Hebrew Bible tale shared by Black and Jewish worshippers.

"The Ordering of Moses," premiered in 1937, performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra at its prestigious May Festival, where it earned an enthusiastic review in *The New York Times*. However, a nationwide NBC radio broadcast was abruptly cut off during the performance. Why that happened isn't clear, Abrams said, though suspicions persist that the broadcast was

interrupted because of complaints to stations about Black music being played on a classical program.

"It may have just been technical, or something else," Abrams said. "But whatever, it is at least symbolic. Literally cutting off someone's potential. Cutting off the stage they deserve."

The concert, sponsored by the Jewish Heritage Fund, is the first in a multi-season series sponsored by the Brown-Foreman Foundation.

Want to go?

Reclaimed Treasures will be performed at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at The Kentucky Center. For tickets, go to louisvilleorchestra.org/concert/classics-reclaimed-treasures/.

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Thursday May 26, 2022 | 6:00 p.m. | The Muhammad Ali Center

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UKRAINE

In appeal to Israel

Zelensky invokes the 'final solution': 'You cannot mediate between good and evil'

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

In a searing 12-minute speech addressing the "people of Israel," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky likened the "final solution" the Nazis sought to impose on the Jews to Russia's ambitions for Ukraine.

Zelensky also appealed, yet again, for military assistance and criticized the government of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett for trying to maintain relations with both Ukraine and Russia.

Zelensky, who is Jewish, acknowledged the sensitivity of Holocaust analogies in his speech Sunday, but he said they were apt in this case.

"The invasion of Russia into Ukraine is not just a military operation, as they present it in Moscow. This is a comprehensive and unjust war that is aimed at destroying our people, our country, our cities, our culture our children – everything that makes Ukrainians Ukrainian," he said. "All the things that Russia is wickedly destroying while the world watches. So, I can make this parallel, this comparison of our history to yours. ... They didn't want to leave any remnant of you and now they don't want to leave any remnant of us."

Zelensky said Russian claims that the war would provide Russia security were similar to Nazi claims that the removal of the Jewish people would ensure the security of Germany.

"They called this 'the final solution to the Jewish question,' you remember

well, and I am sure you will never forget, but listen to what they are saying in Moscow, they are once again saying 'the final solution,' but now they are referring to us, to the idea of Ukraine," he said.

He used the phrase "people of Israel" multiple times in the speech, which directly addressed members of the Knesset, most of whom logged in via Zoom, but was also broadcast live, including in downtown Tel Aviv, where crowds of supporters cheered and waved the flag of Ukraine.

"You have to answer these questions and afterward live with those answers," he said. "Ukrainians made their choice 80 years ago, we saved Jews, and there are among us righteous gentiles. The people of Israel, you also now have a choice."

Some Ukrainians sought to rescue Jews, but many others collaborated with the Nazis in seeking the extermination of the Jews. Ukrainian collaborators played a notable role at the Babyn Yar massacre site, where a Russian strike near the start of the current war gave Zelensky and his government grounds to appeal to Jewish sensibilities in seeking support for Ukraine.

Zelensky thanked Bennett's government for its support of Ukraine at the outset of his speech; Israel has delivered humanitarian assistance to the country.

But as he drew to a close, he excoriated Israel's government for not making hard choices and called on it to



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky: "... they don't want to leave any remnant of us."

deliver to Ukraine batteries of its Iron Dome anti-missile system and to allow in Ukrainian refugees.

He said he did not understand what the calculus was of the Israeli government, which has held back in forcefully condemning Russia and has resisted calls for more assistance, and which has claimed its relative neutrality could be useful in helping to broker an end to the war.

"What is this, apathy, calculation or mediation without picking a side?" he said. "I leave the answers to you,

but I want to emphasize, apathy kills, calculations can be wrong, one may mediate between countries but not between good and evil."

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid thanked Zelensky after the speech but suggested that assistance would come in the form of humanitarian aid and in allowing in greater numbers of Ukrainian refugees. Israel has so far agreed to allow in at least 25,000 Ukrainians who would not otherwise be eligible for citizenship.

"We will continue to assist the Ukrainian people as much as we can, and we will never turn our back on people who know the horrors of war," Lapid said on Twitter.

Israel is wary of delivering military assistance to Ukraine because of the presence of the Russian military in neighboring Syria. Israel reportedly has received Russian green lights to strike Iranian targets in Syria.

The analogy to the Holocaust did not go down well among some Israelis, nor did Zelensky's bid to depict Ukraine's Holocaust era record as one wholly of assistance to Jews.

"I appreciate the Ukrainian president, and I support the Ukrainian people in my heart and in my actions, but one cannot rewrite the terrible history of the Holocaust," Israel's communications minister, Yoaz Hendel, said in a tweet. "A genocide took place on Ukrainian soil. War is terrible, but comparisons to the Holocaust and the final solution are risible."

Babyn Yar in his backyard

Holocaust survivor, 95, recounts ordeal of escape from Ukraine

Dinah Spritzer
JTA

Before this month, the last time Evgeny Pavlovskiy left Kyiv was during World War II, when his Jewish family hid from the Nazis in the Ural Mountains.

At 95 and suffering from several serious ailments, he was content living alone just two houses away from the entrance to Babyn Yar, where the Nazis killed and buried more than 33,000 Jews on two days in 1941. When his son moved to Israel earlier this year, he decided to stay in his native land.

And when rumors of war began to swirl earlier this year, he was unmoved, like so many other Ukrainians who could not believe that Russian President Vladimir Putin would attack their country.

"My father did not want to leave Ukraine no matter how hard I pressed," said Mykhailo Pavlovskiy. "By the time I finally persuaded him, no one was around to help."

Evgeny Pavlovskiy ultimately made three solo attempts to flee the Russian shelling and artillery. His journey to Poland, a drive that would have nor-

mally taken eight hours, lasted three days.

Pavlovskiy's great escape represents the wartime resilience of both Jews and Ukrainians, two groups he identifies with full-heartedly. It also makes him likely to be the oldest refugee to have fled the war in Ukraine on his own, rather than alongside younger family or friends.

"I would like my story to help people and to inspire them," Pavlovskiy said. "And I have another message, I want Russians to stop killing Ukrainians. They started World War III without realizing it, and now they are destroying the homes and lives of peaceful people. They should stop!"

After war erupted in February, Mykhailo persuaded his dad that Russian saboteurs might invade his home and murder him.

So Pavlovskiy made an 11-hour journey by train from Kiev to Lviv, a trip that normally takes roughly six and a half hours.

Evacuation train cars from Kiev intended for six people are typically packed with twice as many passengers, who wait for hours and sometimes days with the hopes of board-

ing. They only have the clothes on their backs and personal items they can stuff in a small backpack or purse.

"The most difficult and heroic thing, for which I thank him every day, is that my father got on that evacuation train," said Mykhailo. "Before the trip, my father tried not to drink or eat anything, because there was no toilet. He sat for 11 hours without moving."

Then things got worse. Upon trying to leave Lviv for Poland, Pavlovskiy had to stand in a line for seven hours in the hopes of finding safe transport.

"He had a serious mental breakdown," said Mykhailo. "He felt that everyone had abandoned him; he was crying."

The younger Pavlovskiy stayed in constant contact with his father as he tried to leave the country. "Really his only support was my voice on the cell phone," Mykhailo said. "He didn't meet anyone he knew during his entire journey."

Mykhailo wanted to rescue his dad himself but could not easily leave Israel because he only recently immigrated there.

Meanwhile, strangers in Kyiv took pity on the ancient refugee and found

him a hostel. He tried again to leave from Lviv to Poland via bus, but logistical obstacles and concerns about Russian shelling thwarted his journey.

Mykhailo was then able to reach friends who helped his father get on a bus to Poland that was operated by Caritas, a Catholic charity. When he crossed the border, he joined more than 3 million Ukrainians who have left their country since Feb. 24.

It took Pavlovskiy six hours to make it to Tomaszow Lubelski, a Polish border town. He stayed there for a day and was sent to Lublin, and then on to Warsaw to reunite with his son.

The father and son are among thousands of Jewish Ukrainian refugees in that city, where they are receiving support from multiple Jewish charities, including the From the Depths Foundation, a group focused on memorializing the Holocaust that says it has spent \$25,000 on food, clothing and other supplies for refugees in Poland.

While Pavlovskiy's immediate family survived the Holocaust by fleeing to the Urals – "They didn't know what a Jew was there," he said – relatives and

UKRAINE/NATION

BABYN YAR

Continued from page 15

friends left behind were murdered.

"My aunt was betrayed by her husband, he personally drove her – she was disabled and could not walk – and handed over to the German authorities," he said. "They killed her."

Those traumas were in the past for

Pavlovskiy before the outbreak of the war, before Russia dropped bombs across his country, including adjacent to Babyn Yar March 1 in a shelling that has come to be a symbol of Russian aggression.

"My father received a decent pension and help from the Hesed," Mykhailo explained, referring to a Jewish char-

ity. "A woman came to my father's house four times a week to cook and clean. He loved his life in Ukraine and already misses it a lot."

As for Mikhailo, a licensed psychotherapist, he is happy to be in Israel with his wife and children, and hopes he can help refugees process the trauma they are going through. But he

also wishes to defend his native country. "I want to go back and fight," he said. "But my family won't let me."

Alona Cei contributed reporting.

Hebrew Union College could stop ordaining Reform rabbis in Cincinnati

By Andrew Lapin
JTA

Since 1875, Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati has been minting Reform rabbis – but it may not for much longer.

The board of directors for Reform Judaism's historic seminary is set to vote next month in New York City on a proposal to stop enrolling rabbinical students in Cincinnati, citing sharply declining enrollment and increased competition from seminaries that are not part of the Reform movement.

Under the proposal, the Cincinnati campus would continue to host the American Jewish Archives, the country's largest research hub for American Judaism; a library and museum; and, for now, the school's doctoral program.

But aspiring Reform rabbis would enroll instead at the movement's seminaries in New York and Los Angeles, where many of them have lately preferred to go anyway. Another set of rabbinical students would enroll in a new program, a mix of online coursework and low-residency workshops in Cincinnati, in an initiative that HUC President Andrew Rehfeld says is essential to preserving the school's relevance in an increasingly crowded rabbinical school landscape.

"If we're going to remain a vital and vibrant institution, we have to be sensitive to the choices that our students are making, and not simply our hopes, or what used to be in the past," Rehfeld told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

That past has been a storied one. Cincinnati is the birthplace of the American Reform movement under Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, who disdained New York. More than a century after Wise's death, his adopted city is still regarded as Reform Judaism's intellectual hub.

But the movement has long struggled with the costs – financial and otherwise – of dividing rabbinical training across three American seminaries. (All students spend their first year at a fourth campus, in Jerusalem.) Three times in the last several decades, HUC's board has considered restructuring its rabbinical school, and three times opponents within the movement have fended off any changes.

Now, a team of movement leaders has concluded that the time has come to act, driven in part by rapidly declining revenue in the form of dues from Reform congregations. Those dues generated \$14 million in 2006 but are expected to top out at \$5.4 million a year over the next three years, according to the movement's calculations.

"We are making this hard call now, rather than waiting until we are forced



Isaac Mayer Wise, the architect of Reform Judaism in America, founded the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

to make emergency decisions," Rabbi Andrea Weiss, HUC's provost, writes in one portion of the proposal.

But even though the movement would retain its Cincinnati footprint, and base its new "low-residency" rabbinical training program there, the proposal is igniting debate among students, graduates and congregations over whether Reform Judaism is turning away from its historic mission.

Hundreds of HUC alumni attended virtual town halls the school held last week and on Sunday to discuss the proposal, where feedback was divided, according to people present on the calls. (The Central Conference of American Rabbis, the professional association for Reform rabbis in the United States, is not taking a formal position on the vote, its chief executive, Rabbi Hara Person, told JTA.)

Many rabbis – including some ordained in Cincinnati – expressed support for the proposal. They spoke of the city's shrinking prominence as a center of Jewish communal life compared to other Midwestern cities such as Chicago; the difficulty of convincing potential rabbinical students to live in Cincinnati for four years; and the infeasibility of continuing to fund a campus that is attracting so few students.

Others outlined strong opposition – many echoing Wise's belief that Reform Judaism should embrace the Jews who live and worship in the middle of the country.

The proposal feeds into "the real or

perceived biases towards the coastal communities felt by many of us in the Reform movement," Rabbi Joseph Black, a graduate of HUC's Cincinnati campus who currently leads Temple Emanuel in Denver, told JTA. Some critics of the proposal are hoping to organize Reform synagogues to oppose it.

Rehfeld rejects such criticism, noting that the current proposal does not go as far as previous ones that did not advance.

"I have no intention, under my watch at HUC, [of] abandoning Cincinnati, or abandoning the middle of the country," he said, noting that as a former executive director of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, he has a long track record of supporting Midwestern Jewish communities. "That is why we are looking for ways to leverage this as an

opportunity, rather than simply taking the path that others have said – you know, 'close the campus.'"

The publicly available recommendation, authored by Weiss and Rabbinical School Director Rabbi Dvora Weisberg, represents nearly two years of planning, including hundreds of interviews with HUC faculty, students and alumni. The team found that enrollment had fallen by 60 percent in Cincinnati over the past 15 years, far outpacing a 37 percent overall enrollment decline across the three campuses.

Coupled with the Pew Research Center's recent findings that a growing

number of American Jews do not identify with any denomination, the authors concluded, "The total pool of Jews who might consider applying to rabbinical school is only going to decrease in the foreseeable future."

Meanwhile, they cataloged an explosion in non-denominational seminaries, such as Hebrew College in Boston, and noted that graduates of some of those programs have taken positions in Reform synagogues.

"All the factors that have driven students to come to HUC are no longer as strong as they once were," Rehfeld said. And because of competition, he added, "We can't rest on the laurels of confidently saying, 'Well, anyone that wants a job in the Reform Movement has to come through us.'"

The proposal also cites a recent investigation, commissioned by HUC from the law firm Morgan Lewis, that revealed a decades-long culture of sexual harassment at the rabbinical school.

"In the wake of the release of the Morgan Lewis report, questions have been raised about how the scattering of authority, responsibility, and oversight over our multi-campus structure contributed to the history uncovered by the investigation," the proposal says, pinning part of the problem on "running multiple residential programs in multiple spaces."

The proposal team considered other configurations for consolidating rabbinical training but ultimately chose Cincinnati for elimination because of its small enrollment, relatively few opportunities for local internships and the perception that Ohio is not as hospitable for LGBTQ students as New York or California. (Jews of color might also prefer the relative diversity of New York and Los Angeles, people on the virtual town halls said.)

They also cited data showing that graduates of all campuses are working in synagogues across the country, suggesting that Midwestern and Southern congregations will still be able to hire rabbis from among those ordained in New York and Los Angeles.

Current students of the Cincinnati campus say that if the proposal is approved, future Reform rabbis will miss out on opportunities that cannot be replicated on the coasts.

Madeline Budman and Aaron Torop, married third-year rabbinical students, were sent to Cincinnati despite preferring both New York and Los Angeles. (The school stopped assigning students to campuses against their preferences in 2020.) After being

See **HUC** on page 17

NATION/NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

HUC

Continued from page 16

disappointed at the time, they quickly realized that training in Cincinnati has its advantages.

They love the lower cost of living, while classmates in New York work multiple jobs to afford school; the intellectual stimulation of taking classes with graduate students; and the campus's focus on fieldwork and student pulpits – having its students serve rural communities where they would often be the only rabbis at their synagogue. Budman has been serving a small congregation in Marion, Ohio, while Torop works with one in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Torop, whose mother, Rabbi Betsy Torop, was also ordained in Cincinnati and currently works for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, believes that more could have been done to avert the worrying trends HUC administrators say they are trying to address with the proposal.

"They're saying because there are not enough students here, now we're going to close the program," Torop said. "But they haven't invested in trying to get more students in the door."

"I'm so deeply disappointed in how the leadership is approaching this," Budman said. "Maybe make a better program, and then it'll make HUC more competitive."

The authors of the consolidation proposal have a vision for what such a program could look like. They are urging HUC to launch a program that caters to the needs of potential rabbis who may not want to or be able to uproot themselves for five years and take on potentially tens of thousands of dollars of debt. HUC's rabbinical school tuition this year is \$27,000.

Such a program would combine online courses, real-world training in local synagogues and travel for short periods to Cincinnati, where students would be taught by professors from across the campuses, according to the proposal.

"This would enable us to welcome more students who are called to the sacred work of the rabbinate but unable to geographically relocate to a campus city, while also expanding the number of communities served by rabbinical and cantorial student leadership," the proposal says.

The consolidation proposal requires two-thirds of HUC's board to support it. The board, made up of leaders from across the movement, meets April 10 and 11 in New York.

Whatever happens during that meeting, it's clear that conditions are evolving for the Reform movement and its training of rabbis.

"HUC was founded when it was, how it was, and where it was because of particular historical dynamics, and

those have undeniably changed," said Shari Rabin, a historian of American Jewry at Oberlin College. "I certainly don't envy those in charge of making this decision."

"That being said," she added, "I would personally be sad to see the role of Cincinnati diminished. It has a rich history and even if its Jewish population is relatively small, it is a powerful reminder of the importance of places outside of coastal cities, where large numbers of American Jews live and flourish."

Norman takes helm as JCL's finance officer



Paul Norman

Paul Norman has been named chief financial officer of the Jewish Community of Louisville (JCL).

Norman moved to Louisville from New York in January to start his new role with the JCL.

Norman's professional experience includes serving as a CFO for private equity owned companies in the consumer and commercial marketplace over the past 16 years.

Prior to his service as a CFO, Norman worked at JP Morgan Chase, Citi-

group and in the public accounting sector for 21 years supporting finance and multiple business groups.

Mazel tov to...

Amy Fouts on joining the Partnership2Gether (P2G) Management Team. She expects to attend her first meeting of the team on April 11.

Fouts became the Jewish Community of Louisville's P2G liaison in July 2021.

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JUNE 20 – 24	Responsibility	Snapology STEAM Survivor 2nd-8th	Cooking Tasty Tales K-3rd	STAGES 3rd - 6th	TNBA Basketball Camp 2nd-8th	STEM Ninja/Samurai Showdown 2nd-4th
JUNE 27 – JULY 1	Curiosity	Snapology MEGA Machines 2nd-8th	Cooking Food Science K-6th	STAGES 3rd - 6th	iMovie 2nd-6th	Martial Arts K-2nd
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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun will provide a virtual second seder via Zoom at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 16. Cantor David Lipp will lead and musician Chava Mirel will accompany. For the Zoom link, subscribe to AJ's weekly newsletter at adathjeshurun.com.

The April 24 *Sunday Night Live* program will feature actress Janet Rodgers in a 50-minute solo performance depicting the true story of Irena Gut, a young Catholic Polish girl who saved 12 young Jews from the Nazis during World War II. The performance begins at 7 p.m. To receive the Zoom link, subscribe to AJ's weekly newsletter at adathjeshurun.com.

Families with loved ones buried in the Adath Jeshurun Cemetery may order seasonal begonias for their gravesites. To have flowers planted by Mother's Day (weather permitting), order by April 12 at adathjeshurun.com/cemeteryplantings.

In-person Shabbat services have resumed on Fridays at 5:45 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Proof of vaccination, including a booster shot, is required. Masks are optional. Virtual services continue on Zoom and YouTube.

Anshei Sfard

Anshei Sfard has moved. The new ad-

dress is 2904 Bardstown Road 40205. The telephone number is still 502-451-3122.

Weekly classes are Talmud Trek II, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.; and Spice of Life, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat services are held Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Chabad of Kentucky

Shabbat services are held Friday evenings, 15 minutes before sunset, Shabbat morning services start at 10:30 a.m., preceded by a prayer class at 10 a.m. Following services, a hot kiddush is served.

The Louisville Tefillen Club meets Sundays at 8:30 a.m. at the Chabad House. An informal class for study of the weekly Torah portion also is held.

A limited number of hand-made kosher for Passover shmura matzos are available for \$24 per pound on a first-come first-served basis. To order, email to Rabbi@chabadky.com.

Chabad is offering to match people to seders. For more information, email Rabbi@chabadky.com.

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 per-

son; contact Sarah at 502-212-2038 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com. All programs also are viewable via ChavuratShalomZoom.

April 7 – harpist Jessica Hyden will perform (lunch: assorted sandwiches, tomato soup, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and caramel spoon cake).

April 14 – No Chavurat Shalom due to preparations for Passover.

April 21 – No Chavurat Shalom during Passover.

April 28 – pianist Jeff Springer will play (lunch: meatloaf, roasted potatoes, green peas and carrots, Caesar salad, fresh fruit and triple chocolate cake).

Filson Historical Society

The Filson's new exhibit, *Forgotten Foundations: Louisville's Lost Architecture*, explores the rise, fall and revitalization of the city's urban core. During a post-Civil War building boom, downtown became a business hub, with buildings serving as a visual symbol of economic power. However, as people and businesses moved to the suburbs over the 20th century, downtown declined. Many architectural landmarks were demolished to make way for urban renewal and freeway expansion. Through architectural and photographic records, the exhibit records what was lost as Louisville strategizes how to keep downtown

viable and to preserve historic buildings in a changing city. This exhibit also includes a special section entitled *Bricks and Mortar, Soul and Heart: The Evolution of the Young Men's Hebrew Association and the Jewish Community Center 1890-2022*. The exhibit will be on view through Sept. 23, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. An in-person opening event will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 25. Go to FilsonHistorical.org. Group tours can be arranged with Abby Glogower, curator of Jewish collections, at AbbyGlogower@FilsonHistorical.org.

Keneseth Israel

Shabbat services, minyan and festival services are held indoors in the main sanctuary. Beginning March 25, all Shabbat and festival services will be live streamed on YouTube. To watch, go to tinyurl.com/KICyoutube-LIVE. Daily minyans will continue on Zoom. Visit kenesethisrael.com for service times and COVID policies.

The intermediate level reading Hebrew class meets Sundays at 5 p.m. on Zoom. An abbreviated service will follow at 6 p.m.

Make Service Meaningful Again is held Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in-person. Rabbi Ben Freed and Cantor Sharon Hordes teach the meaning, history, and melodies of Jewish prayer.

Jews and Brews with Rabbi Freed, a Torah-study class, meets Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom and in-person.

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AROUND TOWN

An erev Passover service will be held at 6 p.m., Friday, April 15, followed by a seder catered by The Bristol and led by Rabbi Freed and Cantor Hordes. Reservations must be made by March 25. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for Children 7-11, and free for kids under 7. Email rsvp@kenesethisrael.com for reservations and the link for meal selections and payments.

MY KI Gala Celebration will be held at 6 p.m., Sunday, June 12. More details will follow

Kentucky Institute for Torah Education

Light of Torah class is held on Zoom Mondays at 7:30 p.m. RSVP to Rabbi Zack Blaustein at Rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org for the link.

Charoset Around the World and Wine Tasting will be held on Sunday, April 3. Details to follow.

Kol Israel Congregation of Kentucky

The Next Bloomington Shabbat morning minions with "Reb" Leon and Jackie Olenick are on April 2 and April 23, which will include Passover Yizkor. RSVP to Kolisraelky@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

Shemaryahs Minions are held Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom. The services, which use a traditional siddur, last 30 to 40 minutes. Service leaders share contemporary melodies. RSVP at kolisraelky@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

A community meditation, "Torah of Awakening," will continue at 9:30 a.m., Monday, April 11. RSVP at Kolisraelky@gmail.com or 502-341-1595.

Louisville Hadassah

The Every Move Counts fitness initiative is returning in May with new features including opportunities to sponsor milestones on virtual U.S. and Israel adventure maps. Go to bit.ly/3ipwTEV to register.

One Book, One Hadassah with writer Lisa Barr, will return at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 7. Barr is the author of *Woman on Fire*, a historical fiction thriller with strong female characters and a researched look into the art world. Go to bit.ly/3KWcp20 for details.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Jewish Community Center (kitchen), JCC's Dive-in-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 in person on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Where practical, please wear masks and practice social distancing. Masks and hand sanitizer are available at the entrance to the building. Friday services are also live-streamed. Call 502-458-4739 for the Zoom link.

To coincide with Earth Day, the Tik-kun Olam team will hold a park cleanup from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, April 24, at Carrie Gaulbert Cox Park, 3730 River Road. A cookout is planned to follow the project, which will be the first of other cleanups planned for parks and along the Ohio River. Children under 16 may participate if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Waivers must be signed to participate. Contact engagement@templeshalomky.org to RSVP.

The WOTS Book Club will next meet at 2 p.m., Thursday, April 7. The club is reading *Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh, and America's Fight over World War II, 1939-1941*, and *Promised Land: A Novel of Israel*. Email Carol Savkovich at savkofam@bellsouth.net.

A congregational Passover seder will be held Saturday, April 16. More details will come.

The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. Visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop. 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. The Monday classes are Advanced Hebrew at 6 p.m. with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport and Text Study at 7 p.m. with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel teaching "When God was Young." Temple Scholars meets at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays with Rabbi Ariel-Joel teaching "Torah of Optimism for an Uncertain Future" and with Rabbi Rapport at 10:45 a.m. teaching "Jewish Art and Artists." Saturday Torah Study starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person. For more details, go to thetemplelouky.org/adult-education.

Indoor Shabbat services are held Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Go to thetemplelouky.org for more details.

Starting in April, Rabbi Ariel-Joel will host a monthly Sunday hike for all ages; strollers are not recommended. The hiking group will meet in the morning during the summer, in the

afternoon during winter. The Temple will provide water bottles as keepsakes. Go to thetemplelouky.org/hiking-with-rabbi-david to sign up. The first hike will be 8:45 a.m., April 3, at Beckley Creek Park at the Parklands.

The Temple is holding a hybrid Passover celebration this year, hosting four different seders to attend either in person or virtually. Pick-up Passover meals by Chef Z are available and a new haggadah with artwork by the members will be used. For details, contact Santa at 502-212-2028 or go to thetemplelouky.org/Passover:

- **Annual First Night Seder** – 6 p.m., Friday, April 15 at 6 p.m.;
- **Congregational Passover Seder** led by the confirmation class – 6 p.m., Saturday, April 16;
- **Young Adult Seder** – 6 p.m., Monday, April 18;
- **Annual Gaylia R. Rooks Women's Seder** led by the WRJ/Sisterhood – 6 p.m., Thursday, April 21.

The rabbis will lead a special short Shabbat service before the Passover seder at 5 p.m., Friday, April 15, and a Passover Yizkor service at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 22.

Rabbi Rapport will lead Goodnight Tots, Goodnight Shabbat, a tot Havdalah, at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, April 23, with arts and crafts, treats, stories and songs. RSVPs are required for tots to receive special bags. For more details, go to thetemplelouky.org/goodnight-shabbat.

Rabbi Rapport and the Grade 6 class will lead the Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Shabbat at 7 p.m., Friday, April 29.

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

JOSEPH FINK BBYO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of David Smith's 75th Birthday

In memory of Sandy Berman

In memory of Stuart Greenberg

Diana Fink

In honor of Diana Fink's Retirement

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LIFECYCLE

Births

Aviva Aurora Windt

Stephanie and Chuck Sarasohn announce the birth of their granddaughter, Aviva Aurora Windt, who was born on Jan. 27, 2022. The parents are Julie Sarasohn and Miguel Windt of New York City. Paternal grandparents are Susana Windt Krausz of Madrid, Spain, and Antonio Sanchez Rey of Sevilla, Spain. Great-grandparents are Lydia Rey Bermudez and Antonio Sanchez Taboada also of Spain



Aurora Gonzales

Natalia Mahecha and family announce the birth of her daughter, Aurora Gonzales, born in Louisville on Feb. 28.

B'nai Mitzvah



David Aaron Bussell, son of John and Debbie Bussell, was called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, March 12, at Temple Shalom. David is the grandson of Sha-

ron Bleicher Pressman of Louisville, Sam and Gayle Pressman of Tamarac, Florida and John and Mabel Bussell of Taylorsville.

An eighth grader at Westport Middle School (Montessori Program), David is a member of the regular and electric orchestra where he plays the violin. He has been playing the violin for six years. He also enjoys making music, watching movies and learning about cars. For his Pledge 13 project, David volunteered at the Sonny and Janet Meyer Food Pantry at Jewish Family & Career Services. He still enjoys volunteering when he has the time.



Leo Griffin Hasselbacher, son of Lauren and David Hasselbacher, brother of Henry Hasselbacher, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 5 p.m., Saturday, April 30,

at The Temple. Leo is the grandson of Linda and Sam Stein and Martha and Peter Hasselbacher, all from Louisville.

A seventh grader at Louisville Collegiate School, Leo plays soccer, basketball and runs track. He also participated in Math Counts competitions. Leo loves video and board games. He previously attended URJ 6 Points Summer Sports Academy and plans to return this coming summer. Leo's service

project has been to volunteer time at the Sonny and Janet Meyer Food Pantry at Jewish Family & Career Services.

Obituaries



Sanford "Sandy" Lee Berman

Sanford "Sandy" Lee Berman, 72, passed away peacefully in Louisville on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022.

Born in Louisville on Oct. 8, 1949, Sandy had three great loves in life: his family, Judaism and the practice of law.

A graduate of Seneca High School in 1967 and the University of Missouri (1971), and the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville (1974), Sandy practiced law for 47 years in Louisville through private practice, including as a partner at Frockt & Klingman and Maze, Berman and Frockt. He also served as an assistant in the Jefferson County Attorney's Office. In addition, he ran for judge and taught classes on business law at Sullivan University.

Sandy was jovial, kind, social and content. He was a devout father, proud grandfather, mentor to many, and loyal friend. He lived a full life, loved to have a good time, and appreciated a good sense of humor. He was a lifelong Louisvillian who loved his hometown. He never knew a stranger and always knew someone wherever he went in the city.

Sandy was active in the Jewish community of Louisville and a supporter of Israel. He followed politics and world affairs.

He also enjoyed golf, travel and was an avid University of Louisville, Indiana University, and Green Bay Packers fan. But nothing brought him greater joy than simple moments with his family and friends.

Sandy was a member and leader of many civic organizations at different periods of his life. He was the past president of the Okolona Business Association. He served on the boards for the Louisville Jewish Day School, the Kentucky Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, the Shelter House, and Boy Scouts of America Lincoln Heritage Council. Sandy was a charter member of the Okolona Jaycees, and a member of the Okolona Merchants Association, the Rotary Club Foundation, the Louisville Bar Association and the Kentucky Bar Association. He was a member of the Bonnycastle Club where he formed many close friendships. As a child, he was a Boy Scout and member of the Rauch AZA Chapter of B'nai Brith Youth Organization, and various theater groups.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Marilyn Berman; his brother, Lawrence Berman, and his step-mother, Judith Berman.

He is survived by his two beloved daughters, Lauren Lipsky and Em-

ily Pevnick, four treasured grandchildren, Shea, Leah, Eliana, and Talia, two sons-in-law, Brandon Pevnick and Scott Lipsky; his former spouse, Darcy Berman; and his brother, David Berman.

A graveside service was held at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery on Feb. 28. Donations may be made In Memory of Sandy to the Jewish Family & Career Services and the Arthritis Foundation, 2908 Brownsboro Rd # 117, Louisville,

KY 40206.



Bonnie (Myers) Bloom

Bonnie (Myers) Bloom, 80, of Louisville, died on Thursday, March 10, 2022. Always caring and nurturing, Bonnie was a nurse and a

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LIFECYCLE

community volunteer.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Allen; her sons, Rob Bloom (Chad Whitehouse) and Steve Bloom (Paula); her grandchildren, Rachel, and Isaac; and her brother, Lenny Myers.

A celebration of Bonnie's life was held Saturday, March 19, at The Temple.

Donations for Lung Cancer Research in memory of Bonnie may be made at ALKPOSITIVE.ORG or ALK Positive, Inc., 6595 Roswell Road, Suite G2310, Atlanta, GA 30328; The Temple, 5101 U.S. 42, Louisville, KY 40241, or another charity of the donor's choice.

Howard S. Galkin

Howard S. Galkin, 83, died Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Norton Audubon Hospital.

Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, on July 24, 1938, the oldest child of the late Ted and Ida Galkin, Howie served in the Army and became a sales representative for Kenmark Optical.

He enjoyed blues, jazz and watching old-time black-and-white movies, including war dramas and westerns.

Howard kept fit working out at the YMCA and was a member of Temple Shalom.

He is survived by his wife, Denise; his son Scott; his daughter, Lisa

(Wayne); his granddaughter, Alexis; and his sister "Gigi" Gloria (Jerry) Kaminetzky.

Graveside services were held Thursday, March 3, at Agudath Achim Cemetery. Contributions In Memory of Howard Galkin may be made to Congregation Anshei Sfard or Temple Shalom.

Scott Galkin

Scott Galkin, 46, of Louisville, died Thursday, March 10, 2022, at his home.

A native of Louisville, born here on April 22, 1975, he was a self-employed landscaper.

He was preceded in death by his father, Howard S. Galkin.

He is survived by his mother, Denise Cohen Galkin of Nevada; his sister, Lisa Carver (Wayne) of Nevada; and many friends.

The family has chosen cremation. Memorial gifts may be made to Congregation Anshei Sfard or Temple Shalom.



Siddy Nancy Rosenberg

Siddy Nancy Rosenberg died suddenly in Florida, on Thursday March 10, 2022, at the age of 72.

Born in Fresh Meadows, Queens, New York, a daughter of the late Max Rosenberg and Olga Rosenberg (Roth), Siddy obtained her bachelor's degree from Queens College.

She lived most of her adult life in Louisville, where she raised her two children and was an active member of The Temple.

Professionally, Siddy was a systems analyst at PNC Bank and Humana before retiring.

She spent her retirement actively volunteering in many projects, including the Temple Gift Shop and Temple Cemetery. She also had a passion for Jewish genealogy, spending hours researching, updating her family tree and helping others.

In 2018, Siddy bravely decided to move to Florida to be closer to her sister, Mimi, and enjoy the warm weather. She continued to be an active member of The Temple, attending multiple classes and services via Zoom and completing other volunteer projects. Her passion for genealogy continued as she worked for the Jewish Records Indexing Poland.

Siddy will be remembered for her giving, selfless nature, being a loyal friend, and her unwavering dedication to her children and family and her unparalleled organizational skills.

Siddy is survived by her loving daughter, Amy (Eiferman) Nishman; her daughter-in-law, Melissa Nishman; her son, Daniel Eiferman; her daughter-in-law, Ilissa Eiferman; her grandchildren, Julia, Abigail, and Jeffrey Eiferman, Kai, and Eitan Nishman; her sister, Mimi Met, and her nephews, Michael and Jamie Met and their families.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be sent to The Temple Cemetery Beautification Fund (templelouky.org/donation-old/) or Jewish Genealogy (jewishgen.org/jewishgen-erosity/).

Siddy's funeral service was held on Sunday, March 20 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Interment followed at The Temple Cemetery.



Shelton R. Weber

Shelton R. Weber of Louisville, died Tuesday, March 8, 2022. He was 92.

A Louisville native, Shelton was born on Jan. 7, 1930, graduated from Male High School, where he is a member of its Hall of Fame, and he went on to receive a degree in accounting from Indiana University in 1951. He graduated from Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville in 1954.

A successful attorney, he served in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Office as a 1st lieutenant from

1954 to 1956. Later, he became an assistant county attorney under Judge Marlow Cook.

He went on to become a founder Shelton and senior partner in the firm Weber and Rose.

In 1951, he married Anita Sugerman of Cleveland, Ohio, who survives him.

Shelton served on many civic boards, including the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Louisville and Jefferson County Youth Commission, Children's Theater, Welfare Advisory Board, Neighborhood Development Corporation and the Jefferson County Police Merit Board.

He also became director and vice president of Metro United Way, receiving its prestigious Allen Award for continuous service, and served on the board of the Louisville Orchestra.

Active in the Jewish community, he was president and an honorary lifetime director of The Jewish Family & Career Services and founder and national president of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies.

Shelton was chairman of the board of Jewish Hospital and Jewish Hospital Healthcare Services and national chairman of the board of governors of Volunteer Trustees of Not-For-Profit Hospitals.

He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Brandeis School of Law, was a member and treasurer of The Temple, and a lifetime member of the Louisville, Kentucky and American bar associations.

In addition to his wife, Anita Weber, Shelton is survived by his daughter, Alice Galoob of San Francisco; his son, Richard Weber (Robin) of Northbrook, Illinois; his four grandchildren, Jenna Galoob Artaz (Matt), Lindsey Galoob Goyne (Matt), Evan Weber (Kathryn) and Daniel Weber (Dana); and his two great-grandchildren, Piper Artaz (Jenna) and Shai Weber (Evan).

A memorial service was held on Friday, March 11, at The Temple. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple, The Jewish Family & Career Services or a charity of the donor's choice.

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NEWS

RIBBON CUTTING

Continued from page 1

er, CEO of Republic Bank, described how his parents instilled in him (and ultimately his children) the importance of philanthropy.

“They taught us very clearly: To those who much is given, much is expected,” Trager said. “That message very clearly has been sent through multiple generations and we all feel that way.”

Overall, The Tragers, a leading Louisville banking family, gave \$3.5 million to the project.

And they still aren’t done, Speaking for five younger Tragers, Michael Trager-Kusman announced a gift of \$150,000 to fund JCC camping tuition and family memberships for refugees over the next two years.

“It’s important that the JCC stand for inclusion and openness,” Trager-Kusman later told *Community*, “and I think we achieved that with this gift.”

The Trager Family JCC, which has been under construction for approximately 18 months, represents a quantum leap forward from the current center, which was built in the 1950s and will be razed soon to make way for a new entrance to the Dutchmans

Lane campus.

With 107,000 square feet of space, the Trager Family JCC includes a year-round indoor aquatics facility, a modern 37,000-square-foot fitness space with more than 50 cardio machines, a new performance room, an early learning center for preschool children and a multipurpose auditorium space – the new home of CenterStage.

The Trager Family JCC was designed and built based on ideas put forward by the community members in a series of “charrettes” – stakeholder meetings – that were held early in the process.

“Our architects from GBBN heard every word you said when you told us what you wanted in your next JCC, said President & CEO Sara Klein Wagner. “They built within the building a heart, a mind, a soul and a body.”

JCL Chair Dr. Ralph Green said the new building continues the mission of the first JCCs, known then as settlement houses, which opened in cities across America some 150 years ago.

“Today ... generations later, we are all so proud to be able to create this beautiful and special space to welcome all who wish to join with the Jewish community of Louisville, to gather, to learn to create, to be healthy

and to enrich our entire community together.”

He noted that more than 500 donors – individuals, corporations and foundations – contributed to the project.

Jon Fleischaker, who chaired the JCL for three years, during much of the design and construction process, said the Trager wasn’t built just for Jews.

“We made a concerted effort to involve the entire community in this,” he said, noting that people and entities from across Louisville “really responded to the idea ... that while we are the Jewish Community Center, we are also a center for the entire community.”

One of those contributors – the largest, in fact – was the Jewish Heritage Fund, which gave \$25 million to the project – the largest gift in its history.

“I truly believe it will be transformational for the Jewish community, just as the JCC has been for decades,” said JHF Chair Glenn Levine.

Some 100 people gathered at the JCC Thursday for the event while more than 150 watched on Zoom. All of them were integral to the project, Wagner said.

“Everyone who is here and everyone who is watching online had

something to do with making today possible,” she said.

Though Jewish Louisville celebrated Thursday, more than one speaker reminded the crowd that a brutal war was raging half a world away in Ukraine, and the fighting is scarring, among the entire population, some 200,000 Jews who still live there.

In fact, JCCs and synagogues in Ukraine, previously homes of communal and spiritual programming, are now becoming places of refuge as Russian shelling pulverizes cities and towns.

Wagner mentioned one JCC in the southern port city of Mykolaiv, founded by a married couple who used the proceeds from selling their deceased parents’ apartments to finance the ambitious project.

“Now, under fire, the Mykolaiv JCC has turned into a refuge,” Wagner said, “providing food and medicine to the elderly, taking care of people with special needs, helping those who can’t evacuate, and even getting ready for the upcoming holiday of Purim.”

Then she called for a moment of silence.

READING ROOM

Continued from page 1

Omer-Sherman, chair of Jewish Studies at UofL,

“But we will be holding most public programming there in the future beginning this fall,” he said. “It is also open to Jewish book group meetings in the community.”

Bookcases line three walls of the 2,800-square-foot space that used to house the university’s writing center.

Some of Rabbi Slosberg’s eventually donated 2,000-book collection now fill these shelves, which frame a series of internet-wired tables with chairs.

On the fourth side, a floor-to-ceiling series of windows opens the room to a sunny, grass-covered quadrangle, certainly inviting students to take a break from reading to daydream and maybe come up with inspiration that will lead to yet more books.

Slosberg said the space reminded him of the times he woke up in the

middle of the night to read, and the job he had, working in his seminary library.

“Books are part of our lives,” he said. “We wanted to leave something to Louisville, and what a beautiful home this is for the books.”

Slosberg said hearing that the Yarmuths were involved made the decision to donate his books “the quickest decision I’ve ever made.”

The inspiration was similar for Natalie Polzer, a professor in the UofL

Jewish Studies program, when she wandered into the abandoned writing center room, closed to students.

“When I saw the green coming through the windows, I said, ‘Oh, this will be the reading room.’”

And that’s what it now is: a home for books, book people and people about to be seduced by books.

UKRAINE

Continued from page 1

synagogues and JCCs are serving as refuges for the displaced and at least one Jewish Ukrainian soldier has died in the fighting.

Ukraine’s Jewish president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has become a global symbol of resistance, making daily addresses to implore the West for greater assistance. Zelensky has addressed the British and Canadian parliaments, as well as Congress, during which he switched to English to make a personal appeal to President Biden for more help in defending his country.

As the war continues, Jewish Louisville continues to respond. Local rabbis have addressed the crisis from their pulpits. The Kentucky Institute for Torah Education held a 10-minute prayer via Zoom for the people of Ukraine. The Jewish Family & Career Services has provided counseling and support to Ukrainian clients.

Senior Director of Programs Mauri Malka, one counselor meeting with Ukrainians here, couldn’t give details from the sessions, but she reported “a sense of sadness and helplessness” pervading them.

Another JFCS caseworker, Aaron Guffey, said some of his clients with family in Russia told him they are scared to speak out about the invasion for fear of being arrested.

“Our clients are concerned about the safety of their family members and are upset that there isn’t more they can do to help,” he said.

During a recent Shabbat service, Adath Jeshurun Rabbi Robert Slosberg interviewed a Ukrainian rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Tzipi Zilbershtein, who is from Kyiv and whose family is still there.

Zilbershtein, who plans to return to Ukraine after her ordination in May, is using her Ukrainian bank account to help individuals back home with immediate needs. Among the people she has helped are a cancer patient and an epileptic running low on their medications, individuals who can’t afford to fill their gas tanks and those who need food and transportation to get across the border.

This is the kind of help I provide people,” Zilbershtein said via Zoom. “I only help people who really need money right now.”

She hears of people in need through her parents, who are still in Ukraine.

Slosberg said AJ is raising money to support Zilbershtein’s efforts, and donations are coming in every day.

“The nice thing is she is able to immediately help people without going through intermediaries,” Slosberg said. “We’re giving her funds without conditions; we just want her to help people.”

In a nod to the Purim festival this month, Slosberg branded Putin, without actually naming him, as the villain in this war.

“We are dealing with an Amalek in Russia,” he said, using a term synonymous with enemies of the Jews.

Beyond Louisville, Jewish organizations are stepping up, raising funds to help beleaguered Ukraine.

The Jewish Federations of North America has launched a \$20 million campaign, which the Jewish Federation of Louisville is supporting, to help Ukrainian Jews who want to make Aliyah, and to provide other forms of assistance.

The digital news outlet *ejewishphilanthropy* has reported that the Federation of Jewish Communities of Ukraine is providing staples – nonperishable food and water – to those in their communities.

Other organizations raising funds include the World Union for Progressive Judaism, HIAS, Hillel International, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Masorti and the Orthodox Union.

When Nelson’s family first arrived in Louisville, she recalls how they nervously walked through the airport sky ramp, not knowing what they would find at the other end in the terminal.

What they found were members of the Louisville Jewish community, who gathered to welcome them to their new home.

“To this day and ‘til my very last day, I will remember that light at the end of the tunnel,” said Nelson, who went on to become the JCC’s acculturation director, helping other Soviet Jews arriving here.

The next day, they were taken to the JCC, which she equated at the time with the “Taj Mahal.”

So it was with some pride that she told the congregation that Kyiv today has its own JCC, three times the size.

“It’s so beautiful and gorgeous,” Nelson said, adding “if it will survive.”



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