

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:
Israeli Street Fair
First Trager Family JCC festival celebrates Israeli culture
STORY ON PG. 15

FRIDAY Vol. 48, No. 4 | April 29, 2022 | 29 Nisan 5782

It's open!

Trager Family JCC fills with enthusiasts on its first day



Traffic has been steady at the member service desk of the Trager Family JCC since the building's opening on April 18. Tours of the building are being conducted and events are already being held in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium

By Community staff

After two months that included a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, the affixing of a mezuzah, memory sharing and a "l'dor v'dor" candlelight walk – "from door to door" – the Trager Family Jewish Community Center opened Monday, April 18, the only way it needed.

It opened as if it had always been there.

Early risers waited outside at 5:30 a.m. to be among the first to use the fitness center. Parents dropped their kids off at the separate entrance to the Roth Family Education Center. Swimmers dipped into the pools of the Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center. Normal, everyday JCC stuff.

There was fanfare. Musicians played in the Weisberg Family Lobby, serenading members as they went about their business, and designated "ambassadors" led groups on tours of

the facilities.

For the most part, though, the long-awaited building itself was the fanfare.

"We wanted our members and the community to feel at home, to be wowed," said Tom Wissinger, vice president and chief operating officer of the JCC, "but also to have an immediate sense of comfort and familiarity when they walked through our doors."

Wissinger, the COO, along with Laurence Nibur, chair of the construction committee, led the effort on the building project. Chris Carmicle from PLC Management was the project manager on the job.

Members lined up in the new lobby, waiting to swipe their access cards and walk through to a new JCC experience.

People were understandably excited about working out, walking through or hanging out in the newest

Jewish Louisville home.

The opening came one week after the community said goodbye to its JCC home for the past 67 years, now scheduled for demolition within 90 days.

Hundreds gathered on the steps of the old building Sunday evening, April 10, bearing artifacts and swapping memories before lighting candles mounted on Styrofoam cups and marching from the entrance of the old building to that of the new.

See pages 10-12 for more opening day coverage

"From door to door," remarked JCC President and CEO Sara Klein Wagner.

Among those in the crowd was Fina Kronenberg, who recalled arriving in Louisville 15 years ago with her husband, Ariel, their 3-year-old

See **IT'S OPEN** on page 13

Community reacts to Chabad with offers of help following fire

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

The story rising from the ashes of the Louisville Chabad House is not so much that fire destroyed the building, but that a community closed ranks to help.

Since flames burned through the synagogue on Almara Circle Saturday morning, and heavily damaged the house to which it was attached, offers of help have been pouring in from Jewish Louisville and the greater community, said Chabad of Kentucky Regional Director Rabbi Avrohom Litvin.

"So many people have offered to help," he said. "Some wanted to donate ... some put on tefillin to do a mitzvah for us. It was an outpouring of love."

See **CHABAD** on page 13

First program at Trager Family JCC focuses on race, antisemitism

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

As a panel of students, teachers and journalists dissected how Kentucky and German schools treat the subject of hate, one thing became clear: Student discomfort in the classroom was a major issue.

Just how much should Kentucky kids be exposed to the history of racism here? How should the Holocaust be broached to German children?

And how comfortable should students be in both lands when tackling the ugly side of their pasts?

The panel dealt with all these questions during an April 20 program, "A Critical Moment: A Conversation with Jewish Louisville," sponsored by the Jewish Heritage Fund, Jew-

See **A CONVERSATION** on page 13

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Freedom is journeying, together



D'var Torah
Rabbi
Shmully Litvin

The first days of Passover commemorate the Jews leaving Egypt, celebrating our freedom. This year, that freedom seemed to be in question.

As we read on the seventh day of Passover, the fledging Jewish nation, pursued by its Egyptian oppressors, had nowhere to go. Behind them was an angry army; before them, a dangerous sea. What should they do?

Some wanted to return to Egypt; some wished to stand and fight; one group turned to G-d in prayer, and others just gave up. Fascinatingly, G-d told Moses that no group was correct. Rather, they should simply "journey on," move forward, together.

Swallowing their fear, the Jewish nation united and proceeded into the sea. The dangerous sea split and the Jews walked safely on dry land. G-d pulled back the curtain, and what seemed impossible was in fact miraculous. The Jews crossed to dry land and went on, united, to receive the Torah on Mount Sinai.

My dear friends, on the final day of Passover our Chabad House went up in flames. Totally destroyed. Devastation. As I stood there watching the flames, I was numb. Where would we pray, celebrate Holidays and lifecycle events? Our home for helping the community was, in a few short minutes, gone.

Today, I have come to recognize that maybe, just maybe, it wasn't such a tragedy. By divine providence, events transpired in a way in which no one was hurt, and I even merited to save the Torah scrolls. Within minutes of the fire, I felt the warm embrace our community banding together and

supporting us. Jews and gentiles, young and old, from every synagogue and other houses of faith in town. Everyone joined together to support each other, embodying loving their neighbor (vahavta l'reiacha kamocho).

On behalf of Chabad, I express our gratitude and appreciation for the heroic efforts of the many fire companies, EMS and police, who responded to the call. We would also like to thank Sara Wagner, president and CEO of the JCL, together with the board of directors, for allowing Chabad to conduct Shabbat services in the camp building on the JCC campus, the building I grew up praying in and where I watched my father help lead the Jewish community for nearly 30 years.

I don't know why G-d allowed the Chabad House to burn down, but I am grateful that G-d did so after we removed the sacred Torah scrolls. I don't understand why this place of goodness and holiness was allowed to be destroyed, but it was done without a single life lost.

And it brought people together -- lots of people. All kinds of people. Together as one. Let us pledge that in the future, we will maintain this unity without needing tragedies to bring us together. Let us join as one on happy occasions and take joy in each other's accomplishments and achievements.

When we journey forth together, we reveal the g-dliness within, brightening the world and helping us overcome any obstacle. Just as following G-d's path split the sea and ensured the redemption from Egypt; by journeying forward in unity and solidarity, we will once again split the sea, reveal the g-dliness that is hidden in the world, and usher in the era of Moshiach, speedily in our days. Amen.

(Rabbi Shmully Litvin is the director of education for Chabad of Kentucky. He also teaches at Louisville Jewish Day School, LBSY and the Jewish Learning Center.)

Snapshots



BBYO teens make blankets for Blanket Louisville, an organization that distributes blankets to the homeless, as part of JServe, a global day of service for Jewish teens. They also worked in the community garden, seeding, pulling weeds and beautifying the garden to prep it for the summer growing season. (photos by Abigail Goldberg)

Candles

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

- May 6 @ 8:21 p.m.
- May 13 @ 8:27 p.m.
- May 20 @ 8:33 p.m.
- May 16 @ 8:39 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

Got a news item for *Community*? Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Wednesday, May 18** (though sooner is better).

The paper should be in your mailbox

by **Friday, May 27.**

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

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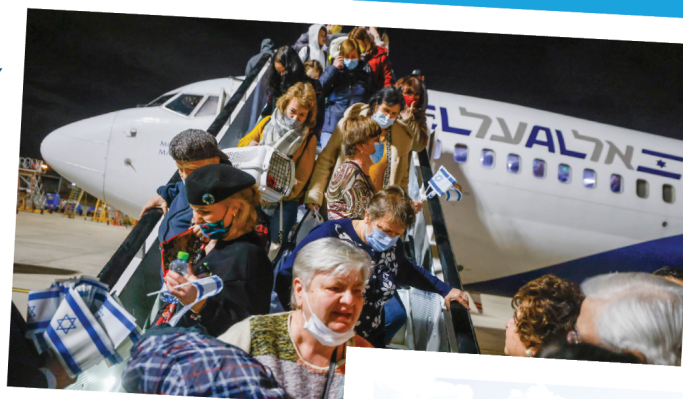
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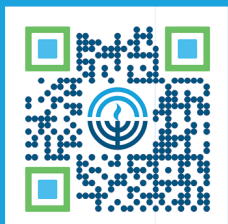
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NEWS

‘Violence is the enemy’

Louisville Mayor Fischer sees Israeli safety, security measures during trip

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

Greg Fischer’s recent trip to Israel was marred by a spate of terrorist attacks that almost came too close for comfort.

The three-term Louisville Metro mayor described one shooting that occurred “100 meters” (328 feet) from his hotel in Jaffa.

It was an incident that reminded him of the challenges that persistent violence poses to a community, be it a city or an entire country.

“Violence is the enemy of progress for both the Israelis and the Arabs,” Fischer said in an interview with Community.

As mayor, Fischer has had to contend with runaway gun violence here (181 homicides in 2021, according to Louisville Metro Police Department).

But Israel is different. When an attack occurs anywhere in the country, Fischer said, there is an “unrelenting focus” on national security and public safety that is not seen here.

“When a life is lost to terrorists [in Israel], the whole country is aware



Mayor Greg Fischer

of it and wants to fight back on it,” Fischer said. “We have become so immune to it in this country. It is a different focus than what the Israelis have on state terror.”

Fischer was one of 12 mayors who were in Israel from March 26 to April 2 for a U.S. Conference of Mayors trip organized in partnership with the American Jewish Committee (AJC). Melanie Pell, AJC chief field officer in Louisville, was along for the trip.

While the mayors got a firsthand look at Israel’s muscular high tech and energy sectors (for instance, they learned about desalinization technology used to bring potable water to arid regions), Fischer said a leading purpose for the visit was public safety and how Israeli cities are prepared for it.

The group visited emergency control centers, which Fischer said

were similar to those in the United States.

Pell said much of the trip was designed to show the security challenges faced by Israelis.

Describing a helicopter tour of the country that the mayors took, Pell said, “They see how narrow it is, how small it is.”

The mayors were also exposed to a Palestinian assessment of the situation. Though a visit to Ramallah in the West Bank was not deemed safe by either side, Dr. Khalil Shikakai, an associate professor of political science and director of the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research, met with the group.

What Fischer learned, from both sides, is that a frustrating stalemate exists, with no apparent way to break the cycle of violence.

“You see two peoples that are just traumatized and have been living with trauma for decades and centuries,” he said “They’re trying to find a way to live together, sometimes in a common space, oftentimes not common space, and with leadership that is not strong enough to get the job done right now.”

The mayors also saw how Israeli cities use cameras and license plate readers to enhance security and reduce the “footprint” of police patrols, how they cope with rapid growth in densely populated areas and how new communities are literally being built “out of the sand there.”

“They have this notion that we can figure out anything,” he said.

Pell said the trips are intended to expose the mayors to as much as possible in a matter of days.

“There’s no substitute for firsthand on-the-ground experience,” she said. “I tell the groups if you don’t come home more confused, then we have failed you.”

The trip was Fischer’s fourth to Israel, having first visited the country in 1981 as a college graduate and self-described “22-year-old world traveler with a backpack.”

Since then, he has tracked the growth of a country he has come to know well.

“From 1981 to where it’s at today – a modern, creative society – is an incredible amount of progress in a relatively short amount of time,” he said.

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NEWS

Frank Schwartz among 2022 class of MOSAIC honorees

By staff and releases

The Jewish Family & Career Services has announced this year's class for the MOSAIC Awards.

The annual awards dinner, which celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of newcomers to Louisville from other lands, while supporting the work of JFCS, will be held Thursday, May 26, at the Muhammad Ali Center.

This year's honorees are Frank Schwartz (Hungary), Dr. Faten Abdullah (Iraq), Jose Neil Donis (Guatemala), Weiling Liu (China) and Dr. Juan Gustavo Polo (Cuba).

"I am excited and honored to be a part of this celebration of individuals who have overcome adversity to not only improve their own lives but those of the lives they touch," David Finke, CEO of the JFCS, said in a prepared statement.

This will be Finke's first MOSAIC dinner since becoming CEO, and the first in-person MOSAIC since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic.

Singling out Schwartz, a Jewish Louisvillian, in his remarks, Finke added, "It's particularly exciting to me that our 2022 honorees include individuals who have previously utilized our services and individuals, like Frank Schwartz, who have lived out their Jewish identity with *tikkun olam*, giving back to the world to create a better community. We're happy for the Adath Jeshurun community, [which] will be celebrating Frank's award by watching from their annual meeting."

Here is a look at this year's honorees:

Frank Schwartz was born in Budapest and escaped from Hungary in 1956, seeking refuge with his family in Toronto, Canada. He moved to New York in 1960 and served in the Army from 1966 to 68. He graduated from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York in 1972 with



degrees in political science and English literature.

Arriving in Louisville in 1974, Schwartz earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Louisville and led Project Warm, a non-profit providing weatherization education and services at no cost to low-income households. He became volunteer coordinator and then executive director in 2010. "I believe that my work with Project Warm gives me the opportunity to make a difference in the areas of housing and energy efficiency."

Today, Schwartz works to help Cohousing Louisville, a national nonprofit supporting cohousing communities in changing the world. He volunteers throughout the community including Adath Jeshurun, JCRC and The Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Dr. Faten Abdullah completed her medical degree in Iraq, where she practiced reproductive health, family, maternal and child health and family planning for 16 years.



Dr. Abdullah came to the United States as a refugee and utilized community resources to continue her medical practice. She relied on support from JFCS and other agencies to help her through the rec credentialing process and is currently practicing family medicine at Baptist Health in Lexington.

"I am heavily invested in serving the refugee communities, as I was a refugee myself," Abdullah said. "I mainly assist arriving refugees reach their goals in becoming licensed physicians here in the U.S. I dedicate my time to creating a career plan with them, along with donating several resources that aid in the process of recertification."

Jose Neil Donis is an entrepreneur, community activist and mentor who has made a meaningful impact in



Louisville through his leadership at *Al Dia en America*, the first Spanish language newspaper in the city.

Born in Guatemala City, Donis came to Louisville in 2004. Seeing a need for media to serve the rapidly growing Spanish-speaking community, he developed *Al Dia*, which, in its first year, grew from a 24- to 40-page biweekly publication, creating a platform for companies and organizations to reach the Hispanic market.

Donis volunteers in non-profit organizations, including the Hispanic Latino Coalition, Colectivo LatinX, Centro Latino (Shelby), Norton Hospital Children's Foundation, Louisville Public Media, Community Foundation of Louisville and Foundation for the Arts.

Weiling Liu is a professor and head of the Office of Libraries Technology (OLT) at the University of Louisville, which manages systems and provides technical support for UofL libraries. Arriving in Louisville in 1998, Liu has spent 20-plus years making significant contributions to UofL, overseeing the migration of the library catalog system and implementing a robot retrieval system.



Liu is a life member of the Chinese American Librarians Association. She also serves on the board of Association of Chinese Americans in Kentuckiana, through which she led two fundraising events to support the Louisville community and five hospitals in Wuhan, China, in their fight against COVID.

Liu also leads an 11-member dancing group that has been learning, practicing and performing Chinese

dances since 2006. The group performed at the Derby Opening Night in Louisville in 2019.

Dr. Juan Polo was one of the first Cuban American physicians in Louisville to obtain his medical credentials to practice medicine in the United States, serving the community since 1997. An internal medicine specialist with Norton Healthcare, he received his medical degree from Superior Institute of Medical Sciences of Santiago de Cuba, then practiced as an OBGYN in Cuba and the Republic of Burundi.

Polo engages the Latinx community around health education and prevention in Norton Healthcare's La Clinica, a practice dedicated to serving the Latinx community here.

When he came to the United States, Polo utilized JFCS rec credentialing services. Passionate about removing language barriers for Spanish-speaking patients in the medical sphere, he builds meaningful and culturally sensitive relationships.

Want to go?

The MOSAIC Awards Dinner will be held May 26, at the Muhammad Ali Center. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 7 p.m. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative COVID-19 test will be required. For tickets, go to bit.ly/3Ka90l0. Virtual tickets are available to watch the program at home.

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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: May 18 for publication on May 27 and June 15 for publication on June 24.

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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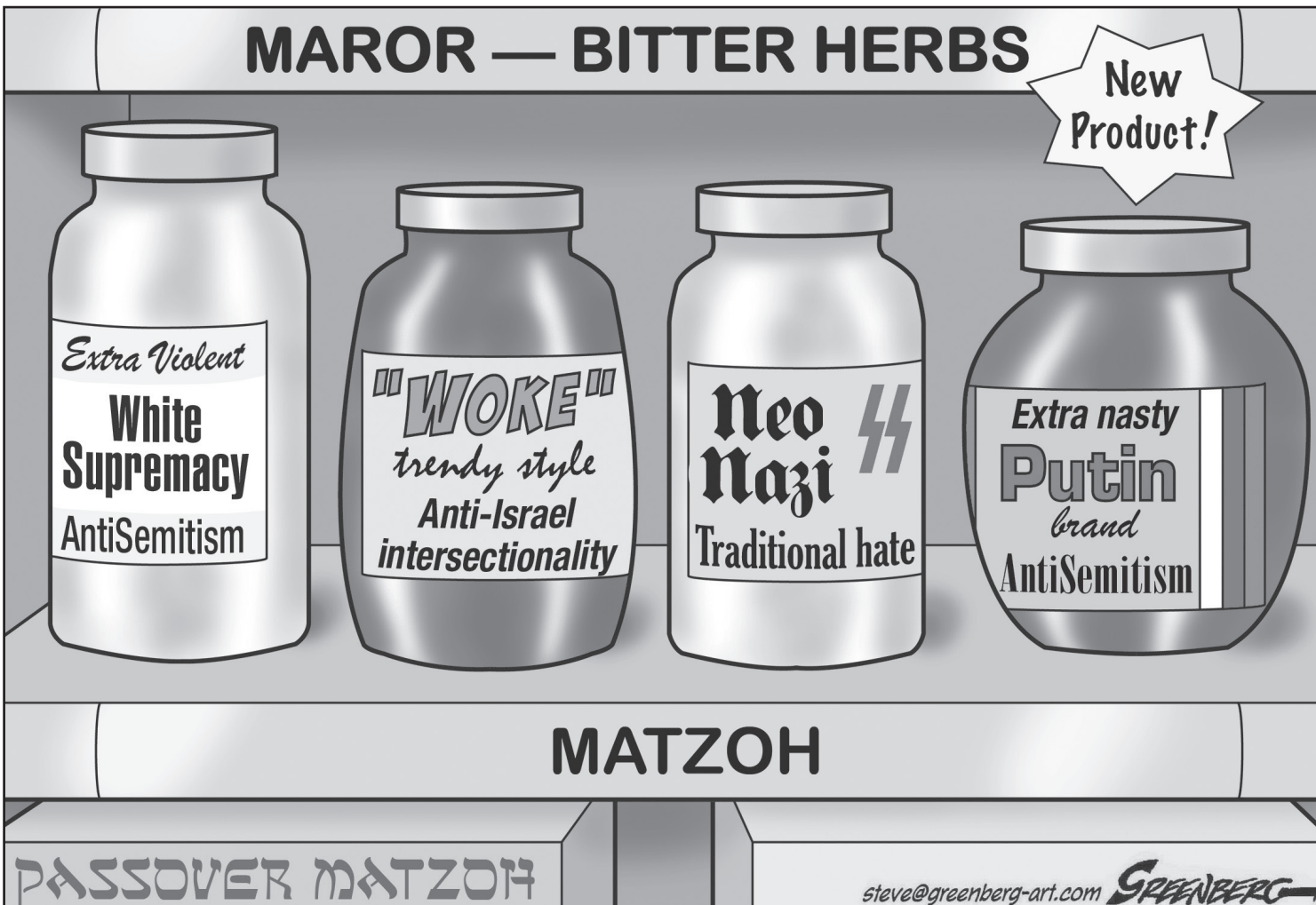
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FORUM



Witnessing history is a tough job



Human Resources

Lee Chottiner

Among the 2,500 people who marched to Auschwitz-Birkenau this year as part of the March of the Living were Ukrainian refugees from the war in their homeland.

The April 28 event, which culminated in the traditional two-mile trek between the Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau camps near Krakow, Poland, is in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

It was not clear how many Ukrainians participated, but their inclusion in what is seen as a lifechanging moment for young Jews is appropriate.

Appropriate because Ukrainians today – Jew and non-Jew, two to three generations removed from the Holocaust – are now facing a genocide of their own.

This is a fact that the Jewish world – the entire Jewish world – must embrace.

What we are witnessing in Ukraine is the clearest example of good versus evil the world has seen since the Holocaust. There is no gray zone here. Vladimir Putin, and the Russian soldiers and sailors who are doing his bidding, are the bad guys. They are committing crimes against Ukrainians, murdering

them, laying waste to their country.

The impact of these crimes reaches beyond Ukraine's borders, wreaking economic hardship around the world and food shortages that will gnaw at the poorest countries first.

Putin and his military are the bad guys here. That should not be in dispute.

Now, what do we do with this realization?

First and foremost, Jews must be on the right side of history. In that area, we can do better.

Three weeks ago, I sat in on a lecture by Gil Hoffman, senior political correspondent for *The Jerusalem Post*. He spent much of his time extolling the achievements of Israel – the Abraham Accords, COVID response, and the humanitarian response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

All good points, but even this veteran reporter had to admit that Israel's response to the invasion has been muted at best.

Israel, Hoffman said, is aware that both Russian and Ukrainian communities live in Israel and that Russia maintains a formidable military presence in neighboring Syria, which could pose a problem should the Israeli Air Force be forced to conduct operations over the border against Iran and its proxies.

Therefore, according to Hoffman, Israel had chosen to confine its condemnation to the United Nations and play the role of mediator in the war.

"Let us be Switzerland," Hoffman said. "It looks good, it feels good, maybe, to the world, and brings us respect."

But he conceded that not being

"overtly" on the right side in this war could be a bad look for the country.

So far, there are no signs that mediation efforts by Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett have yielded results. As of this writing, Russia has failed to guarantee another civilian corridor out of Mariupol, and it has bombed railway stations immediately following the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

While Israel wasn't born of the Holocaust, as some have said, many survivors – several from Auschwitz-Birkenau, the destination of the March of the Living – transplanted their lives there, making the cruelist genocide in history a rooted part of the Israeli memory.

Israeli and diaspora Jews have a moral obligation to be on the right side of history during this struggle. After all, we are witnesses to man's inhumanity, which comes with responsibility.

Thankfully, Israeli leaders are speaking out more forcefully on Ukraine since the reports of civilian killings in Bucha and other areas near Kyiv. Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, who could become prime minister next year if the governing coalition holds, has even condemned the killings as a war crime.

The March of the Living is more than a march; it's a reminder. Jews must be the strongest of opponents to genocide whenever it occurs, no matter the cost or danger. It goes with the territory of being witnesses.

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

FORUM

HB3 signals need for federal law protecting women's reproductive rights



JCRC
Scene

Beth
Salamon

Kentucky General Assembly members have once again shown their extreme hostility to reproductive choice in the just-completed legislative session, overriding the governor's veto of the anti-abortion bill HB 3.

In doing so, they have made Kentucky the only state that would essentially ban all abortion services. This bill is so broad, with so many restrictions that abortion providers say they could not continue to provide their services in the state without violating it.

This extensive bill does the following:

It bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy and places new restrictions on abortions in which a patient takes medication to terminate

a pregnancy.

It bans receipt of abortion medications by mail, even though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration permits this.

It creates a new bureaucracy to certify and register anyone who manufactures, ships or dispenses the medication.

It requires abortion providers to collect and report detailed information from patients.

It adds new restrictions for girls under 18 seeking abortions, including asking permission from a judge when a parent is not available in circumstances that include sexual abuse, domestic violence or neglect.

It requires fetal remains to be cremated or buried by a licensed mortuary but is unclear about disposing tissue from medication abortions and miscarriages.

Finally, it provides no exception for women who become pregnant due to rape or incest.

A federal judge has issued a temporary restraining order blocking enforcement of this onerous bill. In 2019, Kentucky also passed a six-week abortion ban, which has also been suspended by a federal judge

pending legal challenges.

While the Jewish position on abortion has always been complex, it respects the needs of women. The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), which represents 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 16 national Jewish agencies, including the four denominations of Judaism, has issued the following guidance for the Jewish position on reproductive choice:

Human life is to be valued and protected; A woman has a legal right to make her own decisions about accessing the full range of reproductive health care....

The decision to end a pregnancy, while difficult, is a personal one best left to the woman in consultation with her physician. The JCRC and JCPA trust women to make the best choice. Governors, legislatures, courts and state agencies ought to do the same.

Instead, many states are electing to tell women when, how and even if they may access reproductive health services in a disturbing trend that robs women of their rights. This

year, the Supreme Court will decide whether Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that legalized a woman's right to make her own reproductive choices, will be overturned or curtailed.

This is why Federal legislation is needed now more than ever to guarantee the right to choose an abortion. Without that guarantee, the right will disappear in many states. Women's access to reproductive services will depend on where they live, their ability to travel to states where services are still available, their ability to pay, even their citizenship or immigration status.

JCRC and JCPA oppose any legislative effort to deny a woman's constitutionally protected right to access reproductive health services.

The Louisville JCRC strongly condemns the passage of HB3. Additionally, we also urge Congress to pass the Women's Health Protection Act, which would permit healthcare providers to deliver abortion services without regard to these draconian laws. Now is the time to act.

(Beth Salamon chairs the Jewish Community Relations Council.)



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FORUM/GLOBE

What I can tell you as the Jewish mother of a transgender child



Guest
Columnist

Sen. Karen
Berg

I was asked to write about raising a transgender child from the perspective of a Jewish mother. Typically, I would write such a piece beginning in my head. With time, the words would form themselves and I would simply commit them to paper. On this subject, that never happened.

The truth is, raising a trans child from the perspective of a Jewish mother is no different than raising any other child. For the first 14 years of my child's upbringing, I didn't know I was raising a transgender child.

Were clues missed? Maybe. One night in particular may have meant something:

We were at orientation for preschool at The Temple. At one point in the evening, Arlene Kaufman called all the children to the bima, directing the boys to her right and the girls to

her left.

My 2-year-old biologically female toddler walked straight to the boy's side. Arlene took our child by the hand and walked them over to the girls. He (back then, she) stayed in the girl's line for seconds before toddling right back to the boys, clearly insisting on staying there.

My husband and I were both concerned that night. What happened was clearly noticeable, but neither of us knew what to make of it.

It was around puberty that my child began showing signs of severe depression, including self-harm. As any parent would do, we sought the help of therapy. Why was this kid, who had always been happy and healthy, suddenly withdrawing and so sad?

Our initial adventures into pediatric psychotherapy were not helpful. Psychiatrists we consulted were ignorant about whether a child this age (mind you, we were going on 14 by this time) could even know if they were transgender. The first told me he was treating a child who thought he was a wolf, the message being my child was delusional as well.

As a physician, I knew nothing about transgender children, but I knew I needed help.

So, I went online and I learned. A wonderful woman in the city

introduced me and my husband to a trans gentleman she knew. He sat with us over dinner, trying to explain all this. He mentored my son.

I found out about Louisville Youth Group, a program for LGBTQ kids who meet weekly for two-hour mixed educational and social programs in hopes of finding a place where they might belong.

I learned about the Fairness Campaign and the social and political work they were doing for LGBTQ rights. This was another place for my child to "belong."

I learned things that were both simple and hard for me to grasp. I learned that gender identity and sexual orientation are two different things: Gender identity is inside, how you view yourself internally. Sexual orientation comes later and has to do with who you find yourself physically attracted to as you mature.

Trying to explain gender identity, I sometimes think of an analogy to religion. People can be born and raised in one religion and yet end up strongly identifying with another. It's an internal belief system that people on the outside can't deny. You can say you weren't born or raised that way. In our religion, you may even say that's not what your genes show. But you can't truthfully tell someone that is not how they should feel inside.

I imagine if your child is clearly happier, more at peace, with the congregation they find, and you allow yourself to realize that they have found a place where they felt included, whole and heard, then most Jewish mothers, like me, will be happy for them.

I could talk about the ungodly

high suicide rates among trans youth and how terrifying it is when you realize your child is included in those statistics.

I can tell you that gender affirmation, a supportive family and community have all been shown to decrease suicidal tendencies in trans kids.

I could also talk about what it is like to watch ignorance, fear, bullying and microaggressions destroy your child over time.

And I could talk about the anti-trans legislation being adopted all over the country, including Kentucky, and what this says to the trans kids who are trying to get through the day with some semblance of safety and, God willing, belonging.

I can tell you that trans kids don't make up their identities just to get attention, neither do they go back and forth from gender to gender.

I can tell you there are more trans people out there than you may think. Most adults just simply pass and do not want you to know they are trans.

I can tell you, as a mother raising a trans child, the things I pray for are understanding and inclusion. We are all created in God's image.

It turns out I could talk a lot.

(Sen. Karen Berg, D-Jefferson, the only Jewish member of the Kentucky General Assembly, voted this month to sustain Gov. Andy Beshear's veto of a bill to ban transgender girls from middle school, high school and college women's sports teams. She urged transgender kids not to give up, even though the legislature overrode the veto, making the bill law.)

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Shapiro launches ads in Pa. governor's race with nod to Shabbat

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

Josh Shapiro, the Pennsylvania attorney general who is running for governor, launched his first TV ads on broadcast stations statewide on Tuesday and the first thing he mentioned is his affinity for the Jewish Sabbath.

"Whether my day starts here in Bloomsburg, Uniontown, or anywhere in Pennsylvania, I make it home Friday night for Sabbath dinner because family and faith ground me," Shapiro said, as the camera zooms in on a pair of challah breads under a cloth on the Shapiro family table.

Pennsylvania is a swing state that narrowly went for Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election. Democrats do well in the two major metropolitan centers, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, but in order to win must appeal to conservative values in the state's center — where Shapiro hopes his emphasis on family and faith



Josh Shapiro

may resonate.

The one-term attorney general is the only Democrat running for the nomination, while nine Republicans are duking it out for their party's nomination.

Shapiro, 48, in 2020 rose to prominence resisting efforts by former President Donald Trump and his Republican allies in the state to stop the presidential vote count or reverse it. Trump, who won Pennsylvania in 2016, lost it in 2020, but mounted a court battle over the vote count.

Shapiro also joined at least 40 lawsuits by Democratic attorneys general against Trump administration policies, more often than not winning. He led a 2018 investigation into child abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in his state that led to

See **SHAPIRO** on page 9

GLOBE

What Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter could mean for Jewish users – and antisemitism – on the platform

By Gabe Friedman
and Philissa Cramer
JTA

Let's get one thing out of the way: Elon Musk is not Jewish.

But his acquisition of Twitter comes amid longstanding problems with antisemitism and hate speech on the platform – and Jewish users fear his free-speech orientation could make things worse.

Musk's purchase of the social media company, for a reported \$44 billion, will likely take months to complete and could be derailed in any number of ways. And while the serial entrepreneur is known for acting quickly and decisively – sometimes on matters far more picayune than CEOs typically attend to – there's no guarantee that he would make sweeping changes even if he does assume ownership.

Still, some Jewish users and advocates are hoping that a change in leadership at Twitter could shake up dynamics that many have decried – or at least not set back efforts to address them that are already underway.

The head of the Anti-Defamation League, which has publicly pressed Twitter to identify and flush out antisemitism on the platform, sounded an alarm in a tweet thread shortly after the news broke. "Twitter has made some strides in tackling this hate in recent years," the group's CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, tweeted. "So while we want to be cautiously optimistic about how @ElonMusk will run the platform, he hasn't demonstrated any focus on these issues to date. We worry he could take things in a very different direction."

Like all social media platforms, Twitter is filled with a mixture of good-faith users, bad actors and bots. But over the past decade, Twitter has seemed to deal with as many, or more, antisemitism controversies in the public eye than any other platform.

The topic exploded into public consciousness in 2016, amid the runup to that year's presidential election. Jewish journalists became prime targets of bots that spread misinformation and of antisemites emboldened by the rise of white supremacist groups that together made up a new movement known as the "alt right." Reporter Julia Ioffe detailed how the antisemitism she was inundated with on Twitter translated into real death threats.

Antisemites began identifying prominent Jews online with what's called an "echo" symbol, or a group of three parentheses. The echo was often highlighted on Twitter, and Jewish users eventually acted to reclaim



Elon Musk

the symbol and proudly trumpet their Jewish identities, voluntarily putting the parentheses around their names on their Twitter profiles. Jonathan Weisman, a politics editor at The New York Times, Weisman even wrote a book with it in titled (((Semitism))) Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump.

Twitter acknowledged the problem but did not solve it. In January 2018, the ADL – which eventually joined Twitter's Trust and Safety Council and has developed an "Online Hate Index" tool to detect antisemitism on social media – estimated that over the previous year, more than 4 million antisemitic tweets were published in English alone, sent by over 3 million unique Twitter handles.

The company has also been dogged by widespread allegations that it doesn't prioritize combatting antisemitism and banning antisemitic users.

At the same time, the platform has been a fertile space for Jewish ideas and conversation, even facilitating new areas of discussion between Jews and non-Jews and across Jewish denominations. Several rabbis have also found large audiences on Twitter.

But in the wake of the Musk news, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg pointed her followers to her Substack email newsletter, in the event that Twitter's new owner could exacerbate its issues.

"I can assure you that rampant antisemitic harassment already exists on Twitter – as does rampant racist harassment, transphobic, homophobic, sexist, ableist harassment and many intersections therein – and that Twitter already does an atrocious job of managing this, or taking significant

threats to people seriously," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Musk has also become known as one of the internet's most puzzling populist provocateurs. He supported the grassroots group of investors behind the Gamestop stock saga; became close friends with fellow agitator Kanye West; and has become quick to troll any prominent detractors with anti-establishment rhetoric that can at times feel pulled straight out of a raucous Reddit thread.

His orientation toward electoral politics has remained a mystery, but one of his pet issues is clear: He describes himself as a staunch advocate of seemingly unfettered free speech. In reality, he has moved to quash his own critics through a variety of means, and the specifics of what his professed beliefs would mean for Twitter are yet to be seen.

Jack Dorsey, Twitter's co-founder and former CEO, espoused a belief in absolute free speech that frequently collided with the company's efforts to manage hate speech. It was not until late 2020 that Twitter said it would ban Holocaust denial, a decision it announced weeks after Facebook did the same thing.

But Dorsey appeared to undermine that commitment during a Senate hearing later that month, when he said Holocaust denial would constitute "misleading information. But we don't have a policy against that type of misleading information." Dorsey stepped down as Twitter's CEO last fall.

Musk sees Twitter as a stand-in for a vanished public square, where people with differing perspectives and ideologies can engage in open conversation. As some vowed to leave Twitter over his purchase, he said he wished they would stick around.

"I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means," Musk recently tweeted.

Musk has offered few details, and in fact suggested that he doesn't have a crystal-clear vision for some of the company's most vexing questions, including how to handle tweets that some charge are hateful.

Greenblatt acknowledged Musk's framing of social media as a public square – but he lamented the consistent consolidation of its owners.

"It strikes me as deeply troubling & potentially dangerous that 2 people – Musk & Mark Zuckerberg – essentially control the public square. Seems like a sad day for democracy," Greenblatt tweeted.

Jewish groups are already clam-

oring to convey to Musk what they would like to see him change on the platform.

The Council of European Rabbis issued a statement calling for Twitter to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism – which has drawn its own scrutiny – for use in its content moderation.

Some of the definition's examples of antisemitism include certain criticisms of Israel, including ones that call the Jewish state a racist endeavor. Critics say it shuts down parts of free speech.

Many Jewish users have long wanted Twitter to permanently boot Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader who regularly calls for the violent destruction of Israel, among other antisemitic things. Dorsey had deemed Khamenei's tweets "saber-rattling" and never firmed a policy on controversial statements by international leaders.

Some believe efforts to police Twitter and other social media users has already gone too far, and that Musk could revitalize what they see as an overly censored space. American-Israeli author Yossi Klein Halevi argued in a tweet after Musk's purchase announcement that "pro-Israel voices are arbitrarily removed" from Twitter. He called on Musk to "level the playing field and let us debate" on Israel.

(Musk has not commented on Israeli politics or policy, even as he weighs in regularly on matters of public interest. His engagement with the country appears to be limited; he climbed Masada and visited then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his home during a 2018 visit that Musk said was largely personal in nature.)

Conservative columnist Jonathan Tobin, writing last week, argued that the ADL's efforts to "squell free speech" leads to a "slippery slope from censoring Nazis to shutting down any political speech or reporting that powerful people dislike."

But most of the Jewish conversation aimed in Musk's direction focused on his promise of unrestricted free speech, and the anxieties that the concept has unleashed in relation to hate speech.

"I, as are many other people of more marginalized backgrounds than I, very – realistically, I think – am concerned that Musk will remove what few protections currently exist and make Twitter a place where harassment, abuse and possibly even doxxing is rampant and tolerated," Ruttenberg said.

SHAPIRO

Continued from page 8

major reforms.

Shapiro has never been shy about his Jewish roots; he attended a Jewish day school and so do his kids. In the ad that debuted Tuesday, April 26, he includes a high school

photo of himself and his wife Lori ("my high-school sweetheart"), in which he's wearing a Hebrew Coca-Cola T-shirt. The ad, entitled "Banana Split," ends with the Shapiros and their four children enjoying ice cream at the parlor where Josh and Lori had their first date.

To stream the commer-

cial, go to [youtube.com/watch?v=f2gHTeULnzU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2gHTeULnzU).

Shapiro's Jewish family has featured in his past promotional material. In a video he posted to YouTube after announcing his gubernatorial run in December, he goes over favorite family photos, and the first is of his son being elbowed in the back by

the late Jewish Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg at a White House Chanukah party.

PICTURE THIS: IT'S OPEN!



From top left: Lynn Tasman, Lisa Lanzet and Sara Reinking in a group exercise class; a member works out in the weights area; Lulav class students enjoy their first time in the Lewis and Ellen Bizer Family Recreational Pool; Staff members Mary Edrington, Gayle Shoemaker, Angie Fleitz and Susan Kwasny at the front desk; the Sunflower class plays in the Betty and Sheldon Isaacs Gymnasium; Assistant Personal Training Director, Jamie Udeze, assists a member at the first small-group training class in the performance studio; the first members to enter the Trager Family JCC on April 18; Marina Latiff and Ann Lennon play Mah Jongg in the Kohn Family Town Square. (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman and Kathryn Harrington)



PICTURE THIS: IT'S OPEN!



From top left: Assistant Personal Training Director, Jamie Udeze works with Gail Grayson; members work out at the health and wellness center; Pickleball games underway in the Goldberg Family Gymnasium; Wheat class students play in their new classroom in the Roth Family Education Center; lifeguard training and swim lessons in the Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center. (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman and Kathryn Harrington)

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PICTURE THIS: IT'S OPEN!



From top left: Leslie Small-Stokes, ELC Director Jessica Bush and Rachel Small-Stokes; Personal Trainer Sylvester Davis instructs a member during a workout; community members join a ceremonial procession from the old JCC to the new; the caterpillar tunnel in the JPlay room; a young reader celebrates books at the Dr. John & Bonnie Seidman Family PJ Library Book Nook; member Cindy Jury in a spinning class; members seek assistance at the member services desk; the Olives class enjoys their first time in the Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center. (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman and Kathryn Harrington)



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NEWS

IT'S OPEN

Continued from page 1

daughter, Emma, and a lot of bills.

Then they met Annette Sagerman, then-membership director of the JCC, who “welcomed us, and we have loved the JCC forever,” Kronenberg said. “It’s a beautiful part of the fabric of our lives in Louisville.”

Prior to the candlelight walk, many members strolled through the Patio Gallery one last time, scribbling their memories on the bare walls with Sharpies, reading what others had already written, or taking snapshots of their favorite anecdotes.

Many used the forum to recall meeting their future spouses in the building, learning to play basketball or how to swim, or just hanging out after school.

For some families, the building had been a generational experience.

Cari Hatch, a granddaughter of late David and Margot Kling, said she re-

cently watched her son, Cooper, become one of the last children to take a swimming lesson in the old indoor pool – the same pool where she swam laps with her grandfather, a past JCC president.

“Just knowing it was the last time and seeing that pool ... I saw a memory of him,” Hatch said, tearing up. “Everywhere, I saw memories of my grandparents.”

Among the crowd were several past JCC and Federation board chairs, many of whom were asked to carry artifacts from the old building: a plaque, a silver groundbreaking shovel, a basketball and a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order.

That last artifact was carried by Dennis Hummel, JCC president from 2004 to 2006, who described the small book in his hand as “apropos.”

“My wife and I met here in the seventh grade,” Hummel said, changing subjects. “It was a Club 7 Halloween

Party.”

Of course, they lived “happily ever after.”

Others will remember the old building not just for a specific memory, but for what it gave them.

Jennifer Jacobson, an accounts director for Ohlinger Studios, a book and periodical publishing company, works from home, so going to the JCC to work out or attend a function became her way to connect with people.

“The J has given me a friendly, warm, loving place for human connection,” she said. “It sounds corny, but we felt like part of the JCC family.”

Say Hello, Say Goodbye

If you are interested in owning a piece of nostalgia, contact **capitalcampaign@jewishlouisville.org**.

Pieces of the old JCC, including gym floor, racquetball court and bricks will be available for purchase.



Frank Weisberg adding his memories of the old JCC on the walls of the patio gallery

CHABAD

Continued from page 1

Rabbis, Jewish Federation of Louisville and JFCS leaders, and Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fischer called to offer their support.

Until further notice, Chabad services will be held in the old Anshe Sfard building on the JCC’s Dutchmans Lane campus.

The fire began sometime around 4:30 a.m., Saturday – the last day of Passover and during Shabbat. After firefighters declared the building safe at 9 a.m., Litvin’s sons, Rabbis Shmully and Chaim, removed the Torahs as well as some prayerbooks and tallises from the sanctuary, and services were held at Litvin’s house.

That’s when the fire flared up again. “Just as we got to Yizkor, we saw

billowing smoke from the Chabad House,” Litvin said.

While the cause of the fire has not yet been announced by firefighters, “they have told me they have no reason to suggest any foul play or arson,” the rabbi added.

He said the blaze was started by a grease fire in the kitchen, though that could not be confirmed as of Sunday. More details about the cause could be released on Monday.

The cause of the fire is being investigated by St. Matthews Fire Protection District, said its public information officer, Rick Tonini. But he said a separate report will be made by an arson investigator for the Louisville Fire Department (LFD).

Major Pat Dalrymple, battalion chief of District 4 of the LFD, said the fire began in the house then rolled to rear where the vinyl siding

Chabad House was attached.

“From the siding back, it will be a complete loss,” he said.

Tonini said the fire could be seen from blocks away. He spotted it as he approached the scene from Breckenridge and Dutchmans Lane.

“The sky was filled with smoke,” he said, “so it was really rolling.”

Everything in the Chabad House was lost, even the artifacts presented during a rededication ceremony months ago.

“Nothing is salvageable,” Litvin said. “Not a stitch.”

The occupants of the house, a Jewish family of five, including a newborn baby, escaped unharmed, according to Rabbi Boruch Susman, the owner of the dwelling.

Susman couldn’t say if any part of the house is salvageable

The Chabad House is one of four

Chabad facilities in the area. The others are Louisville Jewish Day School on Dupont Circle, Project Friendship on Breckenridge Lane and Chabad of Prospect.

Approximately 30 firefighters from Louisville, St. Matthews, Buechel, Jeffersontown and Fern Creek responded to the call.

Litvin couldn’t say when, or how, Chabad would be rebuilt – only that it will.

“We will certainly provide for the community in a bigger and better way,” he said.

For now, though, “it’s too soon; the wound is too fresh.”

Want to help?

Chabad will soon hold a Gathering of Unity and Thanksgiving.

A CONVERSATION

Continued from page 1

ish Federation of Louisville and 89.3 WFPL. It was the first event at the Trager Family JCC since its opening on April 18.

Moderated by LPM reporters Stephanie Wolf and Jess Clark, the program was based upon a recent documentary Wolf and Clark recorded for LPM. Clark covered the Kentucky angle from Frankfort while Wolf traveled to Germany.

Teachers in both lands face major challenges addressing what Wolf called “their painful pasts.”

In Germany, even though a Holocaust studies curriculum is required in each state, critics contend that teachers do not get adequate training and must do their jobs amid a backdrop of spiking extremism, antisemitic crimes and continued claims in some quarters that the Holocaust didn’t happen.

Still, most officials acknowledge that Germany’s crime against humanity must be faced, Wolf said. She

spoke to one official in the German state of Bavaria who believes discomfort is critical to teaching the dark side of his country’s history.

Many Kentucky lawmakers disagree, having just passed, over Governor Andy Beshear’s veto, an anti-critical race theory bill, which could discourage state teachers from fully addressing racism or connecting it to present day race issues.

Kentucky now joins a growing number of states that have passed laws suppressing the teaching of race, sex and transgender issues.

Lawmakers say they are not suppressing these subjects, merely protecting children who shouldn’t be made to feel uncomfortable.

But Black high school students on the April 20 panel were vexed by this thinking.

“I think the bill is crazy,” said Lorraine Griffin, a junior at Louisville Male High School. “In my school, my whole life, all we talked about was white history. We never talked about Black history.”

Kumar Rashad, a Black panelist

and a teacher at Breckenridge Metropolitan High School, said Black children have always felt uncomfortable in schools that don’t teach their history in a country that has made their history “illegal” since the days of the slave trade.

When lawmakers cite discomfort of children for stifling classroom discussion, Rashad said, they only want to protect white children ... and white supremacy.

Keith Meador, a Holocaust studies teacher at Central High School, said there is value in children from different backgrounds learning about the struggles of other groups.

For example, he said, the Central student body is more than 90 percent Black, with no Jewish students. Yet they study the Holocaust.

When Meador teaches American history, he said, he sometimes swaps the word “nativism” for “racism” to get his students thinking in different ways about hatred affecting many groups. In Louisville, he noted, more than 100 people were killed in rioting in the 1840s merely because they

were Catholics.

“That’s my job as a teacher, to make them (the students) different when they leave me in May as when they came in August,” Meador said. “There has to be some type of push.”

When the program was opened to the audience for comments, one man agreed generally with the panelists, though he disagreed with making children uncomfortable in class.

A woman who used to teach history said she couldn’t imagine teaching the course today in the current climate.

Another woman professed astonishment at lawmakers who suppress the teaching of history.

“If you don’t teach history,” she said, “it comes right around again.”

And several audience members said they were taught little, if anything, about race and the Holocaust in their own schooling. One man said he knew little about what happened in Europe until he grew up and went to work in a bank.

There, he met a man with numbers tattooed on his arm, he said.

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ISRAEL

Yom Haatzmaut celebration hits the street this year

By Community staff

The Trager Family Jewish Community Center will celebrate Israeli independence in May by taking it to the street.

An Israeli street; specifically, a facsimile of an Israeli street.

Israeli Street Fair – the title of this year's Yom Haatzmaut celebration – will run from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 15, on the grounds of the Trager Center and is expected to become an annual event.

Tricia Kling Siegwald, senior director of festivals & special projects, said the event will maintain the family appeal of past Israeli celebrations, but will also reach out to singles, seniors and other demographics.

"Families are so important," Siegwald said, "but we want to have something for other folks, too."

A "kibbutz" hangout area will be set up at the corner of the building while a stage, a shuk with an art and vendors market, food trucks and the traditional Kid Zone will be set up in the side parking lot.

To give the grounds the air of an Israeli street scene, facsimiles of familiar Israeli streets will be erected: Ben-Gurion Boulevard, Bialik Street, Rehov Bograshov Street, Herzl Street, King George V Street and Sderot Rothschild.

The food (vegetarian only) will include:

- Meesh Meesh Falafel by Chef Noam Bilitzer of the Red Hog;
- Israeli desserts, including ice cream with tahini, date syrup, shredded halva, chopped pecans;
- Lil Cheezers;
- All Thai'd Up;
- The Cocktail Truck
- Tikiz Shaved Ice and Ice Cream Truck;



The intersection of Ben Yehuda and A.M. Luntz streets in Jerusalem, a popular Israeli destination. For Yom Haatzmaut this year, The JCC will replicate the energy of an Israeli street to celebrate the country's independence.

- Mr C's Cheesecake;
- Mocktails Truck

The Kid Zone will include an inflatable obstacle course, face painting, henna tattoos, spice painting, Jewish and Israel arts and

crafts with focuses on edible maps of Israel and hamza hand art.

The art and vendors market will feature Ashlee Phillips, resident artist at the Speed Museum, who will show photography, art and jewelry.

The other artists and vendors

will be: the Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel giftshops; paintings and artwork by Bob Teitel and other Temple Shalom artists; napkins by Amy Fouts; silkscreen printing by the Steam Exchange; greeting cards by Shauntrice Martin; nails and cosmetics by Crystal Burton; Afrocentric home décor by Albert Shumake IV; children's apparel by Ebony Campbell; the Serene Nights Candle Co.; hair bows, earrings and other items by Amy Johnson Lage; wooden wall hangings, frames and plant stands by Jessie Conaty; sauces and marinades by Nancy Ghosheh at Tastefully Simple; aromatherapy-type bracelets by Holly McKinney; door hangers, wooden decor and earrings by Ashley Gat; earrings, tumblers, shirts and keychains by Bree Missey; bourbon barrel repurposed items by Sara Bankhead Hagan at Whiskey Business; Yolantha Harrison-Pace from The Corner Sto' at Julietta Market in Lexington; and handcrafted goods from refugee women and teens served by MAYA Collection (a non-profit business);

The shuk committee is creating a 10x10 tent for the event.

For music, DJ Aaron Thompson will play music beginning at noon – one hour before the start of the festival. Cantor David Lipp will sing the Israeli national anthem, Hatikvah, and will perform with Cantor Sharon Hordes and vocalist Jennifer Diamond. Lipp also will sing from the LBSY religious school.

Want to go?

For more information on the Israeli Street Fair, go to jewishlouisville.org/israelistreetfair.

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NEWS

'Let us be Switzerland'

Hoffman explains Israel's more neutral position on Ukraine war during visit here

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine grounded on half a world away, Gil Hoffman tried to explain Israel's mixed response thus far to the unprovoked war.

While the Jewish state condemned the invasion at the United Nations, Hoffman, senior political correspondent for *The Jerusalem Post*, explained at a March 29 Chabad program in Louisville that the country was holding itself out as a mediator between the two sides.

"For a change, it's nice to be a mediator and not one side of the conflict," he said. "Let us be Switzerland; it feels good. It looks good, maybe, to the world and brings us respect."

Israel's position is complicated, he said, by its significant Russian and Ukrainian communities.

Further, given Russia's military presence in neighboring Syria, Hoffman said Israel would want Russia to "get out of the way" during some future military air raid over that country to blunt Iranian activity.

Nevertheless, Hoffman acknowledged that it does not look good for Is-



Gil Hoffman

rael to fail to come out strongly for Ukraine as it reels from pulverizing Russian attacks on its cities and widespread killings of its people (war crimes, some world leaders have branded them).

"We're not overtly on the obvious right side," he said, "and that can look bad." (The situation has changed since Hoffman's appearance. Israeli leaders are making more forceful statements since the reports of the civilian killings at Bucha and other towns near Kyiv. Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has accused Russia of war crimes, according to *The Times of Israel*.)

Hoffman came to Louisville as part of a 10-state speaking tour. He also touched on the surging refugee crisis in eastern Europe churned by the war. Over 5 million Ukrainians, many of them Jews, have fled the fighting.

Recently returned from covering the crisis from the border with Moldova, Hoffman described refugees encountering an IsraAID tent when they first

crossed the border. The rabbi at a synagogue around the corner from his hotel had set out mattresses in the building while he constantly cooked for them, drove to the border to pick up refugees and bribe officials – even on Shabbat – "to save lives."

He was clearly moved by the people in the Eastern European countries who were opening homes and reaching out to refugees as they crossed the borders.

"I got to see Jews helping non-Jews, non-Jews helping Jews," he said. "Everyone was doing their part."

Turning to Israel, Hoffman made two points:

First, there won't be serious peace talks with the Palestinian National Authority while Mahmoud Abbas, 87, remains its president.

"I think he's proven that he's not going to be a peacemaker," Hoffman said, noting that Abbas has not designated a successor. "He's in the 17th year of a four-year term. He's been smoking two packs a day every day for 70 years. It's a wonder to medical science that he's still alive today."

Second, Israel's historic governing coalition, which includes parties from across the political spectrum, will achieve little for however long it stays

in power. Beyond hatred for former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Hoffman said the coalition partners have little in common.

"We have a government built on that hate," Hoffman said. "Is hate enough to keep a government going for a full four-year term? The answer is, yeah, probably. But will they feel good about themselves accomplishing nothing? No."

(Since Hoffman's appearance here, one Cabinet member has defected from the coalition, loosening its grip on power.)

Hoffman also offered a warning to American Jews: Israeli leaders, though popular with conservative Republicans here, have not done enough to build bridges among Democrats and progressives.

That could hurt Israel down the road with the party whose leader, President Joe Biden, often speaks of his friendship with the late Golda Meir.

"The next Democratic president of the United States – and I don't know if this will be in two years or six years or 10 years – will not be someone who was friends with Golda Meir," Hoffman said. "That's something we have to be prepared for."

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GLOBE

'You get exposed to a lot'

Vaughan gets refugees update in Israel as Young Leadership Cabinet term closes

By Lee Chottiner
Community Editor

On his last trip to Israel as a member of the Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America, Ben Vaughan learned the latest on the two newest waves of refugees fleeing violence in their own lands.

One is coming from Ethiopia, where a civil war is underway; the other, from Ukraine, where a Russian invasion has laid waste to many parts of the country.

The Cabinet mission ran from March 28 to April 4, but Vaughan flew to Israel in late February as an observer to the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Board of Governors meeting. He remained in the country in the interim, working remotely from Tel Aviv.

Both events taught him about the latest waves of newcomers to the country.

He met Yaakov Hagoel, acting chairman of the Executive of JAFI, who was about to fly to Poland to oversee assistance to Ukrainian refugees fleeing the country.

From him, Vaughan learned that Israel had established a field hospital



Members of the Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America pose in the official residence of Israel President Isaac Herzog during a recent visit. Ben Vaughan of Louisville (hat) is kneeling at the lower left. (photo provided by Ben Vaughan)

inside Ukraine, that JAFI was setting up call centers to expedite aliyah of displaced Jews and renting buses to go into the war-torn country to assist with the extraction of refugees.

"They're going all over Ukraine," Vaughan said. "Obviously, they can't get into Mariupol, and they can't [go] into eastern Ukraine, but they're pretty much all over Ukraine."

The buses are carrying Jews and non-Jews alike across the borders.

"They're taking anyone who can get

out," Vaughan said. "This is a very fluid situation; the buses are running when they can run."

Because of the danger, JAFI has removed its staff from the country, including schlichim who were working at an orphanage in Odessa, but those emissaries returned to Black Sea port city to help with the evacuation of the children.

"They did that under their own initiative," Vaughan said, "not under

the auspices of JAFI."

During the visit of the Leadership Cabinet, Vaughan and his colleagues saw an Ethiopian absorption center in Beer Sheva, where immigrants from the 1990s are still undergoing the process of resettlement.

The process is particularly hard for the men, who were farmers and herders back in Ethiopia but lack the language and skillsets to find work here, he said. So, the center is setting up community gardens to help them reconnect with their identities by doing a job they find familiar.

Vaughan said another wave of Ethiopians, as many as 3,000, are being taken in as that East African country fights a war with rebels from its Tigray region in the north.

Critics have claimed that some of the new arrivals have no Jewish ancestry, according to a November story in *The Times of Israel*. That same claim has dogged earlier arrivals.

The issue has led to family separation in some cases.

"We met a father [at the absorption center] who came to Israel, but had to leave some of his children be-

See **VAUGHAN** on page 18

welcome home

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GLOBE/NEWS/NEWSMAKERS

VAUGHAN

Continued from page 17

hind,” Vaughan said.

Also during his Cabinet visit, Vaughan toured several sites designed to mainstream people with special needs or build bridges between Israelis, Palestinians and other Arab peoples.

Those sites include a JDC program in B’nai Brak for to teach technical skills to ultra-Orthodox Jews.

They also visited a Kfar Silver Youth Village, an education home for at-risk youth owned by World ORT that includes a farm and an agricultural-based boarding school with an accelerated STEM program; Kiryat Moriah where JAFI trains its shlichim; the Na Laga’at, a nonprofit arts and culture center for the deaf and blind; FeelBeit, an art center for Israeli and Palestinian artists who use their work to bridge issues; and Israel-Is, an organization of young Israelis seeking to improve the country’s global image through a network of backpackers, social media influencers and young people from the Arab world.

Cabinet members also talked to leaders in Israel’s LGBTQ community about the issues they face in their country, and they met for 30 minutes with Israel And President Isaac Her-

zog met the group at his residence in Jerusalem.

The Leadership Cabinet is a national network of young adult leaders from across North American Federation system, brought together to share experiences and understanding of the work and impact in their own communities and in Jewish communities across the world.

Vaughan, 39, who joined the Cabinet in 2015, has visited India, Morocco, Spain, Georgia and Russia during that time. He also made two trips to Israel, including his most recent. Other planned trips were canceled because of COVID.

You get exposed to a lot of things that you don’t typically get exposed,” Vaughan said of the experience “It really exposes you to the breadth of what the Federation and Jewish Agency does.”



Joyce Bridge

NCJW honors Joyce Bridge with award

Joyce Bridge is the 2022 recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Award – a National Council of Jewish Women honor that recognizes significant

contributions in the fields of education, family life, and *tikkun olam*.

She is the 26th member of the NCJW, Louisville Section, to receive the award since it was first presented in 1966.

“I have such awe for those who have received this before me,” Bridge said in a prepared statement. “I only hope I can live up to their legacy.”

Bridge began her career in New Jersey, working at several companies before volunteering in schools, hospitals and social service groups while also a being a stay-at-home mother.

She later returned to work full-time for the Community Action Program, which ran senior citizen centers, Head Starts, and heat assistance, worker training and crisis-intervention programs. After she became its director, the program evolved into the Domestic Violence Program, working with the court system.

Bridge also worked for the Superintendent of Elections, was director of operations for a computer company and a claims manager for a major moving company before relocating to Kentucky.

Here, Bridge became president of a garden club, headed her neighborhood organization, volunteered for Flower Buds and Gilda’s Club, and worked as a docent at the Speed Art Museum.

After attending NCJW lunches and events and helping at the Nearly New Shop’s annual Fashion Encore and Spring Fling events, she became presi-

dent of the Louisville Section in 2015 – a position she still holds.

She worked with other NCJW members to start Court Watch, which resulted in the Family Recovery Court – one of her proudest accomplishments.

“This is what NCJW is about and knowing it will continue and expand through the state is the best anyone can wish for, Bridge said in her statement. “There are so many women and children impacted by this program and its future. The women of NCJW have always stepped up to the hard work and will continue to do so.”

I make house calls!

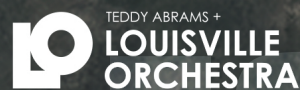


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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

AJ's next Shabbat-Luck Dinner will be held on Friday, April 29 at AJ. The pot-luck meal will follow the conclusion of Kabbalat Shabbat services, which begin at 6:30 p.m. Challah, wine and serving utensils will be provided. All dishes must be vegetarian or dairy. Meat and ingredients containing meat by-products may not be brought into the synagogue. Dishes must arrive in disposable aluminum pans. Pre-packaged items must contain a kosher symbol. AJ's kosher kitchens are not used for pot-luck dinners. Proof of vaccination is required. Contact Frankye Gordon at 502-459-0422 with questions or go to bit.ly/37sR7f2 to sign up.

An in-person trivia night will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 15. Participants can play on their own, be matched with a team or make a team with friends. Submit the names and email addresses of all participants by Wednesday, May 11, to AJKnowledgeNight@gmail.com. That's also where questions can be submitted to Jonathan Lippman and Andrea Olinger.

In-person, twice-daily minyan services have resumed. All services also continue on Zoom. Morning minyan is held Mondays through Fridays at 7:15 a.m., Saturdays at 10 a.m., and Sundays at 8:45 a.m. Evening minyans are held Sundays through Fridays at 5:45 p.m. No Saturday evening services are held.

Gravesites in the AJ Cemetery are available for purchase. The current price of \$3,375 per grave (which includes perpetual care) is valid through June 30. Purchase prices increase on July 1. For more information, contact Assistant Cemetery Warden Steve Evans at 502-310-2900 or sjthecpa@gmail.com.

Anshei Sfard

Visit Anshei Sfard at 2904 Bardstown Road or call 502-451-3122 for more information. Shabbat services are held Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Classes held weekly are Talmud Trek

II, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.; Spice of Life, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

A worldwide learning of a page of Mishna Berurah a day will take place every evening from 8:45 to 9:10 p.m. This work of the Chofetz Chaim goes through the laws of daily living and how people should properly conduct themselves.

Chabad of Kentucky

"What Makes Jewish Law JEWISH?" a new six-part class, is being offered. The class will explain the basis and unique quality of Jewish civil law and examine when it is a legal requirement to act in response to something morally reprehensible.

Classes will be held on Wednesday nights, beginning May 18, at the Jewish Learning Center, 1110 Dupont Circle. The fee is \$80, including textbook. Contact Rabbi@chabadky.com or call (502) 459-1770.

(In lieu of the April 23 fire at the Chabad House, Community will push out an online notice with dates, times and venues as soon as they are available.)

Chavurat Shalom

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

May 5 – The Kentucky Derby and Cinco de Mayo will be celebrated with games and activities (lunch: cheese quesadillas, Mexican-style rice, black bean and corn salad, fresh fruit and chocolate mousse – Mexican style).

May 12 – Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport will present "A Woman's Place is on the Pulpit: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Women Rabbis and the 100th Anniversary of the First Bat Mitzvah" (lunch: salmon cakes, mashed potatoes, green peas and carrots, Cole slaw, fresh fruit and cupcakes).

May 19 – Beth Olliges will lead a spring sing-along (lunch: pasta and meatballs, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and cookies and brownies).

May 26 – saxophonist Anthony Minstein and pianist Ashley Wilson will perform (lunch: barbecue chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and bread pudding).

Filson Historical Society

Forgotten Foundations: Louisville's Lost Architecture, is on view through Sept. 23. A post-Civil War building boom made downtown a business hub with grand buildings serving as visual symbols of Louisville's economic power. As people and businesses relocated to the suburbs over the 20th century, downtown declined and many architectural gems were demolished. The exhibit illuminates what was lost and inspires building anew. Included is a special section, *Bricks and Mortar, Soul and Heart: The Evolution of the Young Men's Hebrew Association and the Jewish Community Center 1890-2022*. Contact Abby Glogower at AbbyGlogower@FilsonHistorical.org to schedule a group tour.

Keneseth Israel

All Shabbat, minyan and festival services are held in-person in the main sanctuary. Shabbat and festival services continue to be livestreamed on YouTube; go to tinyurl.com/KICyoutubeLIVE to watch. Daily minyans continue via Zoom; go to tinyurl.com. Visit kenesethisrael.com for service times and updates to the COVID policies.

The intermediate level Hebrew Class meets at 5 p.m. on Zoom. The class addresses reading and translating Hebrew texts with a focus on liturgy. A learner's minyan – an abbreviated service – follows at 6 p.m.

Jews and Brews with Rabbi Ben Freed is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom and in person. The weekly Torah portion is studied.

In other events, a Yom Hazikaron service will be held on May 4; a Lag B'Omer service on May 18; and My KI Fam-

ily 2022, a gala celebrating the spiritual community, 6 p.m., June 12.

Kentucky Institute for Torah Education

The next Light of Torah class will be at 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 2, via Zoom. Contact Rabbi Zack Blaustein at rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org to register or for the link.

KITE will hold its third Dads Trip to Israel from Oct 24 to 30. The trip is highly subsidized by KITE and Momentum. Go to momentumunlimited.org/apply-form-man to apply. Email Rabbi Blaustein at rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org for details.

Kol Israel Congregation of Kentucky

The Next Bloomington Shabbat morning minions with "Reb" Leon and Jackie Olenick will be held at 10:15 a.m., Saturday, May 7. RSVP to KolIsraelky@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

Next Community Wide Jewish Meditation will be held at 9 p.m. Monday, May 9. RSVP at kolisraelky@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

A Renewal oneg and Shabbat dinner, with interfaith community participation, will be held at 7:15 p.m., Friday, June 6, at a private home in Highlands-Douglass. RSVP at kolisraelky@gmail.com or call 502-341-1595.

Temple Shalom

Shabbat services are held in person Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Masks are optional. Friday services continue to be livestreamed. Call 502-458-4739 for the Zoom link.

A Sisterhood Shabbat will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 20.

Women of Temple Shalom (WOTS) is sponsoring a Holland bulb sale in partnership with Temple Israel in Memphis. Bulbs can be ordered now and will be delivered to Temple Shalom in time for fall planting. Buyers will be notified upon their arrival. To select and order, visit tisisterhoodbulbs.com, or email Sandy Flaksman at sflaks37@att.net or Carol Eckler-Ungar at cceckler@bellsouth.net for a brochure. Online credit card orders only.

Mix, Mingle & Movie Night will be held at 6 p.m., Sunday, May 1. *Delta Jews*, a documentary about Jewish life in the Mississippi delta, will be screened. Afterwards, A.W. Rosenthal, a Temple Shalom member who grew up in Mississippi, will share his experiences. Cost is \$7. Pizza and drinks will be served.

Temple Shalom Book Club will meet at 2 p.m., Thursday, June 2, outdoors at Des Pres Park (weather permitting). Book picks are *A Play for the End of the World*, by Jai Chakrabarti, and *Surprised by God: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion* by Danya Ruttenberg.

The Temple

The Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open by appointment. Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop](https://www.facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop). Also, an online shop is coming. Contact Sheila Lynch, 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein,

Continued on page 20

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AROUND TOWN/LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 19

502-329-2276, or Karen Waldman, 502-425-4360, for appointments.

Adult education continues. Advanced Hebrew with Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport meets Mondays at 6 p.m.; Temple Scholars with Rabbi Rapport, Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m., teaching "Jewish Art and Artists;" Torah Study with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, Saturdays at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person. For more information, go to thetemplelouky.org/adult-education.

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

The Temple will have a Mother's Day Shabbat at 7 p.m., Friday, May 6.

Mitzvah Makers will meet at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 15, to make sandwiches for the homeless. To RSVP, go to thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making.

Rabbi Rapport and Father Joe Graffis will hold their next virtual gathering at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 15, discussing common issues between Catholics and Jews. Please RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/interfaith-dialogue/.

The Yale Spizzwinks, the world's oldest underclassman a cappella group, will perform Monday, May 16. Louisville native and Temple member Jake Latts is part of the group. Doors open at 7 p.m.; the show starts at 7:30 p.m. There will be one 15-minute intermission. Tickets are available at spizzwinks.ticketbud.com/the-yale-spizzwinks-louisville, at the door, or by contacting Jake at jake.latts@yale.edu.

Blue Jean Shabbat and Consecration will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, May 20.

The 2021-22 and 2020-21 Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will be celebrated for beginning their Jewish learning journeys.

A celebration party honoring Rabbi Rapport for his many years of service will be held on Saturday, May 21. The event will express appreciation for all he has meant to the congregation and Louisville. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/rapport-celebration.

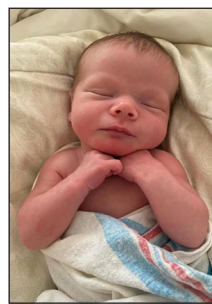
Rabbi Ariel-Joel will lead a hike at Woodland Garden at the Parklands at 8:45 a.m., Saturday, May 21. The hike is part of a monthly hiking adventure for all ages, but strollers are not recommended. During the summer, hikers will meet in the morning; during the winter, in the afternoon. The Temple will provide water bottles. Sign up at thetemplelouky.org/hiking-with-rabbi-david.

Goodnight Tots, Goodnight Shabbat, a tot havdalah with Rabbi Rapport, will be held 6:30 p.m., Saturday, May 28. Arts and crafts, special treats, stories and songs will be featured. RSVPs are required to receive "special bags." Respond at thetemplelouky.org/good-night-shabbat.

Movie Night with Rabbi Rapport will be held Sunday, May 29. *Welcome to Kutsher's: The Last Catskills Resort*, the history of Kutsher's Country Club in New York, will be screened. The film will be shown via Zoom. Go to thetemplelouky.org/movie-night for more details.

The Temple Trager ECEC will hold a pancake brunch at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, May 15 in the back parking lot. The incoming school director, Julie Simon, will be on hand. Cost is \$5/plate (not to exceed \$30 per family). For more details, go to thetemplelouky.org/pancake-brunch.

Births



Rory Dunn Minix
Paula and Britt Brockman announce the birth of their grandson, Rory Dunn Minix, born Feb. 24. The parents are Coulter and Megan Minix of Washington, D.C.



be called to the Torah as b'nai mitzvah at 5 p.m., Saturday, May 14, at The Temple. Jonah and Rachel are the grandchildren of Stephan and Helen Sweitzer of Louisville and Karen and the late Steve Feller of Boca Raton, Florida.

A seventh grader at Kentucky Country Day School, Jonah enjoys playing basketball and baseball. A sixth grader at Kentucky Country Day, Rachel enjoys playing volleyball and lacrosse. Both love their dogs, Walter and Gus. They hang out with friends, spend a month each summer at Beber Camp and take family vacations. For their volunteer projects, they assisted their favorite teacher with baking classes and donated the money to breast cancer research in her name.



William Taidgh and Samuel McKiernan, sons of Rebecca and Robert McKiernan and brothers of Caroline, will be called to the Torah as b'nai mitzvah on Saturday, May 28, at The Temple.

They are the grandsons of Maura and Gerald Temes and the late Carol and Kenneth McKiernan.

Will and Sam are sixth graders at Kammerer Middle School. They play on the school's baseball team and are

B'nai Mitzvah



Noa Chottiner, daughter of Lee and Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 28, at Temple Shalom. Noa is the granddaughter of Babette "Bobbie" Jacowitz of Manalapan, New Jersey, the late Burton J. Jacowitz, and the late Leonard and Meida S. Chottiner.

A sixth grader at Meredith-Dunn School, Noa dances with the Louisville Dance Alliance and The Vandivier Ford Dance Company, and she performs at Commonwealth Theatre Center. Noa also attends summer camp at the Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) in Zionsville, Indiana. She loves reading, watching movies, skating on her long board and hanging out with friends and her basset hound, Schenley. For her mitzvah project, Noa made audio recordings of a children's novel for LibriVox.

Jonah and Rachel Feller, son and daughter of Eric and Becca Feller, will

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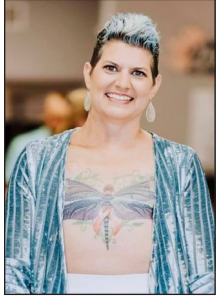


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LIFECYCLE

members of the Beta Club. They look forward to their fifth summer at Beber Camp in Mukwonago, Wisconsin. For their Pledge 13 project, they are collecting items for The Kentucky Humane Society.

Obituaries



Alana Auslander-Price

Alana Auslander-Price died Wednesday, April 6, 2022, a week shy of her 47th birthday.

Alana, who had courageously battled metastatic breast cancer for 9½ years, was a bright light of hope to all that knew and loved her.

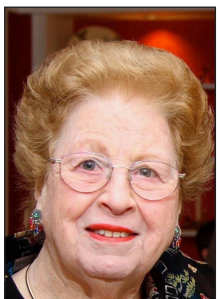
The Louisville native graduated from Manual/YPAS High School, completed her bachelor's degree in music education from Western Kentucky University, and her master's degree in music conducting from Middle Tennessee State University. She taught music in three states over a 16-year career, ending as the band director at Seneca High School. Alana impacted hundreds of young lives until being diagnosed with cancer at age 37. She then found her true passion in working for the YMCA Northeast LIVESTRONG program, supporting others on their cancer journeys.

She was a member of Louisville Winds, Twisted Pink, Hope Scarves and Keneseth Israel Congregation.

Alana leaves the light-of-her-world daughter, Jada her husband, Jon; her parents, Michael and Lee Ann; her sister, Marissa; her parents-in-law, Larry and Jacquie Price; her brother-in-law and family, Nick, Jessie, and Berkley; her uncles and aunts, Bobby and Becky, Brian and Mitzi, Beth and Janine; cousins Sheila (Imre), Rachel, Adam (Martha), Lynn (Gino) and a host of other aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who were inspired by her daily.

The family is especially grateful to the YMCA-Northeast LIVESTRONG group, the entire staff at CBC Group, and the Lincoln Elementary Moms for their support and kindness to our family.

A service was held Monday, April 11, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by burial at Cave Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Alana's name to LIVESTRONG at YMCA- Northeast, 9400 Mill Brook Rd, Louisville, KY 40223; Twisted Pink, 8016 Vine Crest Ave, Suite 2, Louisville, KY 40222 or Hope Scarves, 141 N. Sherrin Ave, Louisville, KY 40207.



Betty Bass Wolff

Betty Bass Wolff, 90, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 18, 2022, surrounded by her family.

Born in Louisville, Betty graduated from J.M. Atherton High School for Girls. After attending the University of Illinois, in 1953, she married the love of her life, Francis Wolff.

Betty was a true people person, fiercely loyal to her group of life-long friends.

She enjoyed being around friends and cherished any opportunity to attend recitals, graduations, sporting events, theater productions, outdoor concerts, festivals, or any social gathering.

Hosting celebrations for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, birthdays, anniversaries and other happy occasions brought Betty great joy. Proud of her Jewish heritage, she was a long-time member of The Temple.

Throughout her 60+ years of marriage to Francis, Betty enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and Europe. She especially enjoyed visiting California, where she had the opportunity to win a new car on *The Price is Right* – a memory she treasured.

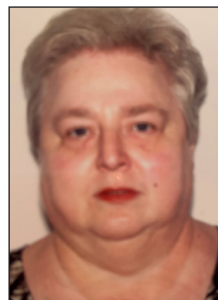
During her latter years, Betty made many new friends at Grove Pointe Assisted Living, including residents, caregivers and staff members. During her final days, she received excellent medical care at the Palliative Care Unit of Baptist Health Louisville and Hosparus Health.

Betty was predeceased by her husband, Francis, and parents, David and Yetta Bass.

Survivors include her children Mark and Robin Wolff, Jonathan and Stephi Wolff, Sheldon Wolff, and Elise and Craig Goldstein; her grandchildren, Jacqueline and Michael Friedman, Jordan Wolff and Samantha Soden, Aaron Wolff and Keith McDowell, Emily, Isaac and Levi Wolff, and Arianna, Drew and Maraya Goldstein; her great-grandchildren Matthew and Remi Friedman; and her sister, Beverly Leifer.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Temple – Hess Camp Fund, Adath Jeshurun – Slosberg Minyan Fund, or the charity of the donor's choice.

Funeral services were private. Arrangements entrusted to Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.



Ellen Leah Bluwol

Ellen Leah Bluwol passed away peacefully Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Born in Berlin, Germany, on June 12, 1946, a daughter of the late Saul and Toby Bluwol,

Ellen and her parents immigrated to the United Sector of Berlin from Warsaw, Poland later that same year. They then immigrated to Louisville in 1949 under the auspice of the United Jewish Appeal. Ellen became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1964.

A graduate of Atherton High School, Ellen worked for many years as a bookkeeper for Strasburg's Dry Goods and later for a polling survey company.

She was a devoted fan of the Louisville Cardinals, attending all home games until health issues prevented her.

Ellen never met a stranger and was always ready to talk about the Cards.

In addition to her parents, Saul, Ellen was preceded in death by her sister, Deborah J. O'Rourke.

Her only surviving family is her brother-in-law, Brian O'Rourke, who wishes to thank St. Matthews Care for the care she received there.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, April 18, at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.



Norma Feldbaum

Norma Feldbaum, 90, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 17, 2022, surrounded by her family.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Norma met her husband, Stuart, at a wedding in Louisville. Together, they celebrated 67 years of marriage before his

passing in 2018.

Norma and Stuart loved to explore new places, and they traveled the world. They had a wonderful life together.

Norma lived a life of service. She was president of Keneseth Israel Congregation, founding president of the Marcy Hyman chapter of B'nai B'rith, volunteer at Jewish Hospital, and she read books with grade school children. Norma committed herself to giving back to her community. Her eyes lit up when she was helping others.

When she wasn't volunteering, Norma

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LIFECYCLE

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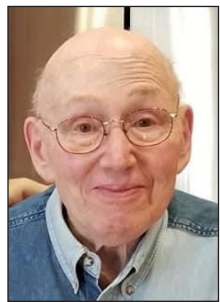
ran Goldy's Shoe Mart, a family-owned ladies' shoe store on Preston Street, which had a successful business for more than 40 years. Even in her retirement, women would approach Norma to share fond memories of how she helped them find the perfect shoe.

Left to cherish Norma's memory are her children, Debbie, Alan (Terry) and Karen (Debra Greenleaf); and her grandchildren, Sarah and Daniel.

In addition to her husband, Harold Stuart Feldbaum, Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Rose and Leo Margulis.

The family is grateful for the care Norma received from Drs. Priya Balakrishna and Morris Weiss, and her support team, Kathy, Mike, and Alma at Treyton Oak, and Courtney, Christina, Ashley, and Liz, at Hesperus.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 18, at Keneseth Israel. Burial followed in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to Keneseth Israel.



Barry Friedson

Barry Friedson, 85, of Louisville, passed away with his family by his side on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Born in New York City on Dec. 11, 1936, a son of the late Sol and

Rose Friedson, Barry graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a chemical engineer and obtained his masters degree from Stevens Institute of Technology.

His proudest moments as a professional were as a businessman. He was cherished by the teams he led in the flavors and fragrances manufacturing industry.

Barry was a committed philanthropist, donating his time and money to many causes in Louisville and to the global Jewish community.

An avid runner for many years, Barry ran in the New York City Marathon.

He was a connoisseur of antiques and the arts, a card player and a golfer (or he attempted to be). Always quick witted with a joke or rhyme, he gave everyone

in the room with him a smile.

Barry loved spending time with his family and friends at the Village Crossing Retirement Community, especially spending time with Maryanne Cooper.

Barry is survived by his loving children, Jeff Friedson (Christine), Ilene Currier and David Friedson (Debbie); and his sister, Jamilla Morley.

Barry was happily married to his beloved Sandra Friedson for 28 years and Gloria Friedson Soltes for 25 years prior – the mother of Jeff, Ilene and David.

Funeral services were held Sunday, April 24, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. Burial followed in Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Cemetery-North.

Donations in memory of Barry may be made to Gilda's Club Kentuckiana, 2440 Grinstead Dr, Louisville, KY 40204.



Bob Koach

Robert Barry Koach passed away on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Cleveland, Ohio. After four decades of living with, fighting and treating Crohn's Disease, he died of complications

from pneumonia and a raging infection resulting from his suppressed immune system.

Born in Cleveland on June 12, 1946, a son of Mildred S. (Koach) Schneider and Sidney M. Koach, Bob grew up in Shaker Heights, attending the public schools there. After four years' service in the Navy on aircraft carriers Essex and Forrestal, he returned to Shaker Heights and earned a degree at Cuyahoga Community College. He went to graduate from Baldwin Wallace University in 1974 then earned a master's degree in clinical psychology at Western Michigan University in 1978.

After many public and private sector jobs in his specialty in Michigan, capped by his experience as supervisor of a mental health crisis center in Saginaw, Bob moved to Louisville in 1984 to become a staff psychologist at the HealthAmerica HMO.

He ended his career as a professor at what was then Jefferson Community College, later KCTCS, Southwest.

Bob loved psychology and was passionate about his work, which frequent-

ly won him gratitude and loyalty from patients. He did good in the world.

He loved jazz, classical music, theatre, dance, motorcycles and bad puns. Open and frank; if you were ever wondering, Bob would tell you what he thought (sometimes even if you weren't wondering). He was a warm and loving parent to several generations of kittens and cats.

He was the love of her life to his wife, Gail (Smiley) Koach, who survives him. Also surviving are his brother, Jules Koach (Lani) of Shaker Heights; his niece, Jennifer Hocken (Josh) of Holly Springs, North Carolina; his grand-niece Autumn Hocken; grand-nephew, Aiden Hocken; and several cousins in Cleveland, Florida, California, Texas and North Carolina.

A graveside service was held at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York, on April 11.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to a Ukraine relief fund of your choice, SeriousFun.org, or The Animal Care Society (animalcaresociety.org) are appreciated. Arrangements were by Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.



Freda Ann Swilling

Freda Ann Swilling, 75, passed away on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Her beloved husband, Mark, was at her side.

All who knew Freda loved her and will miss her, especially Mark, her husband of 30 years.

Besides her husband, Freda is survived by her step-daughter Erica Jill Scott (Kris); and her niece, Kim Hampton-Ison.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, April 12, at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.



Clara Louise Wasserman Rowe

Clara Louise Wasserman Rowe passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, March 25, 2022. She was 94.

A native of Louisville, Clara was the ideal Jewish woman, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and aunt. She was loving and patient, always supportive and never judgmental, and always ready to listen and guide by example.

She also was an ardent proponent of her family and her faith.

She loved her synagogue, Keneseth Israel, where she was always seen for Shabbat services and congregational events.

Her friends were friends for life. She loved to cook and was an expert in the preparation of Ashkenazi Jewish fare. She never failed to remember, and always acknowledged, the birthdays and anniversaries of her friends, children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, nieces and nephews.

Clara never spoke disparagingly about anyone. Instead, she always complimented everyone she knew or met. She was there if you needed her. She never complained about giving her time and emotional commitment. She donated to charities of faith, the sick, and the needy passionately. She is a person after which people should pattern their own lives.

She was the original "nice person," her family said.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Rowe; her parents, Phillip and Mary Wasserman; and her sister, Frances Shaikun.

Clara is survived by her three children, Lewis (Ilean), Maxine (David Rouben), and Phyllis (the late H. Miles Cohn); her beloved grandchildren, Evan Rowe, Adam Rowe, Jared Rouben (Alexis), Leah Rouben-Benson (Cooper), Camden Rouben (Amelia), Jeremy Cohn (Elissa), and Alex Cohn (Kat); and her great-grandchild, Talia Benson.

A service was held Wednesday, March 30, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by burial at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Donations in Clara's honor may be made to The Harold Rowe College Cookie Fund at Keneseth Israel, 2531 Taylorsville Rd, Louisville, KY 40205 kenesethisrael.com/support-keneseth-israel/; The Capital Campaign for the Trager Family Jewish Community Center, jewishlouisville.org/jcc-capital-campaign/be-a-part-of-it/; or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, jdrf.org/donate/.

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