

# JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



**INSIDE:**  
**Maccabiah bound**  
Louisville athlete joins  
Team USA in Israel  
**STORY ON PG. 4**

FRIDAY Vol. 48, No. 6 | June 24, 2022 | 25 Sivan 5782

## LIFE & LEGACY gets four-year extension

By Lee Chottiner  
Managing Editor

As LIFE & LEGACY – a national four-year program that encourages after-life gifts to Jewish organizations through incentive grants – surpasses the 500-commitment mark in Louisville, leaders here have learned that it's not a four-year program after all.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), which initiated LIFE & LEGACY, is extending the program for participating communities by an additional four years.

The extension means an additional pool of matching gifts for partner for communities across North America. In all, \$12.5 million is expected to be delivered to the communities.

The program extension is called

LIFE & LEGACY PLUS.

"We've moved the needle everywhere in four years," said National Director Arlene Schiff, "but there's more needle moving that needs to happen for legacy giving to become a norm.... We hope eight years does the job."

The announcement came at the 2022 LIFE & LEGACY/Create a Jewish Legacy Leadership Gathering, which was held virtually in May. More than 400 Jewish professionals attended.

Philanthropist Harold Grinspoon, founder of HGF, believes extending LIFE & LEGACY can assure legacy giving takes root in the Jewish world, according to Schiff.

"This is a culture change," she said,

See **LEGACY** on page 19

## Pride Parade



Jewish Family & Career Services staff and supporters marched in the 2022 Kentuckiana Pride Parade on Saturday, June 18, in Louisville. The JFCS was one of 115 units in the parade, which started on Market Street in NuLu and finished at the Big Four Bridge, giving hundreds in the city a chance to express solidarity with LGBTQ+ communities on both sides of the Ohio River. Local synagogues also showed their support for Pride Month with special services and programs. (photo provided by the JFCS)

## Stephen Reily, Emily Bingham are named 2022 Ottenheimer honorees

By Lee Chottiner  
Managing Editor

Google Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham. You will find that they both describe themselves as community builders.

But each of this year's Blanche B. Ottenheimer Award winners have chosen very different ways to do their building.

Reily, a lawyer and entrepreneur, uses the marketplace, the arts and the law to affect change across the city.

Bingham, a Louisville native, author and historian, uses history like a mirror, accurately showing readers where they have been and how it is relevant to where they are going.

All differences aside, their work has led both leaders to interactions with, and respect for, the Jewish world over the years.

"Growing up in New Orleans, my family members were always reminding me of the disproportionate



Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham are this year's Blanche B. Ottenheimer award winners. (photo provided by Stephen Reily)

amount of investment that the Jewish community was making in terms of philanthropy and supporting all good causes," Reily said. "In Louisville, I've moved to a city where the same is certainly the case."

The Blanche B. Ottenheimer Award, which is the highest honor

the Jewish Community of Louisville can give, is presented annually to a leader (or leaders) who have made a real difference – improving the quality of life in Louisville, in Kentucky and beyond.

This year, according to Bob Sachs, chairman of the Awards Committee, there was no contest.

"When someone submitted Emily and Steve's names, the members looked at one another and all agreed," he said. "It was the shortest Awards Committee meeting on record."

Blanche B. Ottenheimer was a Jewish Louisville community activist. In addition to serving as president of the National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section, she worked for passage of the city's Model Registration Law, which curbed corruption and led to cleaner elections.

"While we didn't know Blanche Ottenheimer, and we wish we knew more about her, it means a lot to be honored by a community that we

See **OTTENHEIMER** on page 19

## JCL honorees are new, longtime givers to Jewish life in Louisville

By Community Staff

The 2022 Jewish Community of Louisville Award winners, which will be presented on July 14 at the Annual Meeting, include lifetime volunteers to the community, emerging young leaders and indispensable Federation and Trager Family JCC staff members.

Here is a rundown of this year's honorees:

The **Julie Linker Community Relations Young Leadership Award** is named for a Jewish leader who passed away unexpectedly in 1984, depriving the community of a friend. She chaired the Young Women's Division of the United Jewish Campaign and was vice-chair of the Major Gifts Division, of the Women's Division, and was vice-president of the Women's Cabinet of the Federation. This

See **AWARDS** on page 14

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# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### How to break out from our fishbowls



D'var Torah  
Rabbi  
Zack Blaustein

In July of 2021, *The Washington Post* reported that the city of Burnsville, Minnesota, was grappling with an invasive species. Their lakes were infested with – wait for it – goldfish.

Goldfish? Invasive? What can be so wrong with goldfish?

Well, these goldfish weren't the little ones you get in a small bag of water at a fair. These goldfish were the size of a football and weighed up to four pounds! It turns out that the little fish you put in a small bowl remains that size only because it's in the small bowl. However, if you were to put that little Nemo into a freshwater lake, it can live to be 25 years old and grow more than we ever could have imagined. Incredible.

Let's pause for a moment and ask ourselves the following questions:

Are there areas in our lives where we have put ourselves into a little fishbowl?

Have we convinced ourselves that we cannot change or grow in a particular aspect of our lives?

Have we put a cap on our potential merely because we have placed ourselves in a little tank?

"This is what my relationship will be with my co-workers and friends. It is what it is and can't be improved."

"I'm not able to get a better or different job. I have maxed out, and this is all I can do."

"I have a decent enough relationship with my spouse. It's not bad, but it's probably as good as it will ever be."

"How can I possibly be a better parent? What more can I possibly do for my children!?"

I'm sure we can think of more examples of where we have consciously or subconsciously

become complacent with who we are and what we can be.

Of course, one area of our lives that is highly susceptible to the proverbial fish tank is our Judaism, especially our relationship with Hashem and to the Torah.

How satisfied are we with our connection to G-d?

How much Torah study and knowledge do we believe we can learn and grasp?

Do we feel we have maxed out on how much Judaism can be a part of our lives?

The Torah encourages us to dig deep into our souls and tap our reservoirs of abilities that can empower us to reach the loftiest of spiritual heights.

The Tanna Debei Eliyahu states, "Each member of Israel is obligated to ask himself/herself: When will my actions and behaviors reach the level of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob....?"

Me? You think I can aspire to think, feel, and act like the patriarchs and matriarchs?

I can treat my guests like Abraham? Be as holy and committed as Sarah? Be determined and unwavering as Isaac? As wise as Rebecca? As selfless as Rachel?

I can achieve such lofty heights? But I'm already as great as I will ever be. What more can I possibly do?

The Torah reveals to us the invisible glass fishbowl into which we have unknowingly placed ourselves. We have fooled ourselves into thinking that we are giant, fully grown goldfish; that we're as big as the toy scuba diver in the tank.

The Torah urges us to remove ourselves from our limiting fish tank and jump into the sea of aspiration and growth. There, we will find the power and ability to grow and accomplish more than we ever could have imagined.

(Rabbi Zack Blaustein is the director of the Kentucky Institute for Torah Education.)

## Snapshots



Seniors and Active Adults in Louisville have settled in to their new home in the Kohn Family Town Square. They are pictured here enjoying one of their regular lunches at the Trager Family JCC. (Photos provided by Dara Cohen)



## Candles

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

- July 1 @ 8:52 p.m.
- July 8 @ 8:50 p.m.
- July 15 @ 8:47 p.m.
- July 22 @ 8:43 p.m.
- July 29 @ 8:37 p.m.

## Contacts

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

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

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hold? Development Associate Kristy Benfield can handle all circulation questions. She can be reached at [kbenfield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:kbenfield@jewishlouisville.org) or 502-238-2770.

Got an item for the *Community* eblast? Send it to [weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:weeklyupdate@jewishlouisville.org).

## Deadlines

**Got a news item for *Community*?** Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Wednesday, July 20** (though sooner is better).

The paper should be in your mailbox

by **Friday, July 29.**

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

## Read Community Everywhere...

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

Maybe you like the look of a real paper without the, er ... paper. Then check out *Digital Community* at [jewishlouisville.org](http://jewishlouisville.org).

[www.jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version/](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version/).

If you read on the run, *Community's* social media is just the thing. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/JewishLouisville/](https://www.facebook.com/JewishLouisville/) or on Twitter, [Twitter.com/CommunityLou](https://twitter.com/CommunityLou), for the latest Jewish news from Kentucky and around the world.

## Corrections/Clarifications

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

The family of Robert Barry Koach has revised information contained in his obituary in the April 29 issue:

Robert Barry Koach, age 75, passed away on April 5, 2022, in Louisville. He was born on June 12, 1946, to Mildred S. Koach and Sidney M. Koach in Cleveland, Ohio.

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## NEWS

# Bound for Israel

## Local field hockey star to compete at Maccabiah

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

A Louisville field hockey phenom will play for Maccabi USA at the 2022 World Maccabiah Games in Israel in July.

Dylan Breier, 18, a recent graduate of duPont Manual High School, will be in Israel for the games, which run from July 2 to 26.

The Maccabiah Games are akin to the Olympics for Jewish athletes from around the world.

A daughter of Ben and Shelly Breier, Dylan has played field hockey since the first grade and competed for Manual and Bluegrass Field Hockey during her high school career. She also played for International Field Hockey Club of Kentucky (IFHCK) in middle school and was on the Manual lacrosse team.

Breier will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall, where she will continue playing field hockey.

The Maccabiah Games won't be Breier's first trip to Israel. She went there with her family a few years ago for a cousin's wedding. She hopes to see more of the country this time around.

The Breiers are members of The

Temple.

"I'm just excited to play at a high level before entering my first collegiate season, so that is a nice opportunity," Breier said, "and I'm also just excited to explore Israel again and connect there in a deeper way and meet a bunch of new people."

She hasn't played with her teammates yet. They did compete in a tournament over the Memorial Day weekend, but the event conflicted with Breier's high school graduation.

"I'll just meet everyone on the first day, and we'll have a good amount of practice days before we actually start playing to get to know each other," she said. "Other than that, yeah, we'll just start practicing when we get there."

Breier has been named to the KHSAA State Field Hockey All-Tournament and the NFHCA Midwest All-Region teams.

First held at Ramat Gan in 1932 with 390 athletes from 18 countries, the Maccabiah is considered the Olympics for Jewish athletes. Traditionally held every four years, it has been interrupted only by World War II.

The last Maccabiah, which was held



Louisville's Dylan Breier, who will play field hockey at the University of Pennsylvania this coming term, will first represent the United States at the Maccabiah Games in Israel in July. (photo provided by Dylan Breier)

in 2017, attracted nearly 10,000 Jewish athletes from more than 75 countries,

making the games the third largest international multi-sport event in the world, after the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup.

The Maccabi USA delegation sent 1,131 members to the 2017 Games, the largest traveling delegation in the history of Jewish sporting events.

The last Jewish Louisvillians to compete in the Maccabiah were Peyton Greenberg, a swimmer from Northwestern University, who won two silver medals, and Andrea Glazer, an equestrian from Auburn University, who also won a silver. Both competed in the 2017 Games.

### Want to know more?

The 21st Maccabiah Games will run from July 12 to 26 in Israel. The opening ceremony is scheduled for July 14 at Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem. More than 10,000 athletes from 80 countries will compete in 42 sports as well as masters, juniors and paralympic divisions. For the latest information about the Games, including medalists in your favorite contests, visit the official Maccabiah website at [maccabiah.com/en/](http://maccabiah.com/en/).



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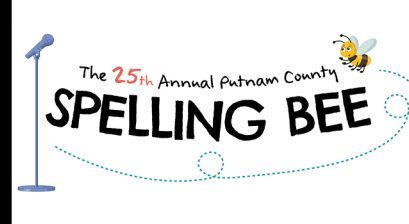
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# NEWS

## KI modifies minyan policy as Jewish world emerges from COVID isolation

By Lee Chottiner  
Managing Editor

As the community continues to emerge from the two-year-old COVID-19 pandemic, Keneseth Israel has revised its weekday minyan policy to tighten conditions under which Zoom worshippers may be counted towards the religiously required quorum of 10.

The KI Ritual Committee has voted to adopt two changes to its policy:

- Those attending minyan via Zoom will only be counted if their cameras are on and they can be seen.

- Torah services will not be conducted if fewer than five people are present in person.

The changes, which took effect on June 7 with the evening minyan, apply only to weekday services. Only YouTube is used for Shabbat and festivals. The old policy, which had been in place since the start of the pandemic began, counted any person on Zoom towards the minyan.

Rabbi Ben Freed said the revisions reflect an effort by KI to accommodate in-person and virtual worshippers while still honoring halachah (Jewish law).

"We continue to hope to see people return in person to services," he said, "but we want to remain accessible to people who are unable to come into synagogue."

At the same time, the decision conforms to recent *teshuvot* (written opinions) by Conservative rabbis who have considered the use of livestreaming during services.

"The Conservative movement has indicated that, if one is to count people online, then there needs to be visual confirmation of their presence," Freed said. "That was the baseline we wanted to bring ourselves to."

The new policy is consistent with other Conservative congregations. Adath Jeshurun also includes Zoom participants in weekday minyan services and permits reading from the Torah if six or more worshippers are present in person, according to Rabbi Robert Slosberg.

It has discontinued Zoom during Shabbat, though people can still livestream services on the AJ YouTube Channel.

Slosberg left open the possibility of more changes to the policy. "It's a work in progress," he said.

Likewise, Freed said the Ritual Committee will continue to monitor the pandemic, its effect on synagogue attendance, and will adjust its policy as needed.

"There may be more changes coming," he said.



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### COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are: July 20 for publication on July 29 and August 17 for publication on August 26.

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

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

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

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

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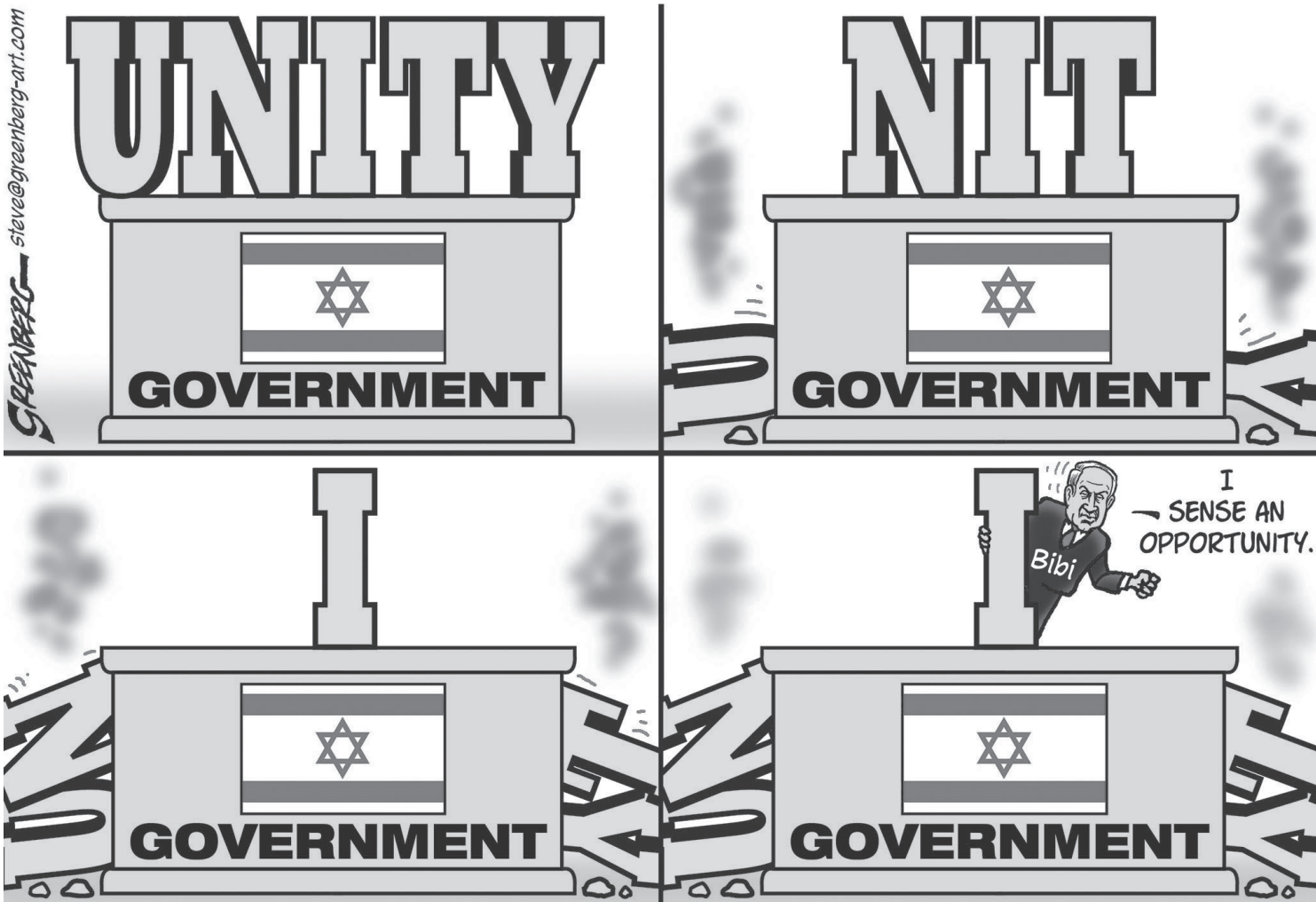
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## FORUM



## Jews' rights threatened, synagogue claims



Human  
Resources

Lee Chottiner

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*

**– First Amendment to the Constitution**

At least one Florida synagogue takes this amendment very seriously. Hats off to Congregation L'Dor Va-Dor of Boynton Beach, Florida, which is suing its own state over its oppressive new abortion law that prohibits abortion after 15 weeks.

In a muscular expression of the Jewish concept *tikkun olam* (repair the world), L'Dor Va-Dor has gone beyond prayers for victims of the new law – the women robbed of their right to make their own healthcare decisions, particularly low-income women who can't afford to travel to states where freedom of choice is respected.

It has gone beyond sermons from the *bima* teaching how the Jewish approach to abortion differs from other faiths.

This congregation is taking Florida to court. The complaint, which was filed in Leon County Circuit Court, claims that the law – signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and set to take effect on July 1 – violates the religious freedom rights of

Jews, prohibiting Jewish women from practicing their faith free of government intrusion, infringing on their privacy rights and on their constitutional right to freedom of religion.

This same Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms.

Funny how some states pick and choose which rights to protect, limiting the First Amendment while giving free rein to the Second.

The congregation's rabbi, Barry Silver, said in an interview with JTA that religious minorities (i.e. Jews) suffer when separation of religion and government crumbles.

"Every time that wall starts to crack," he said, "bad things start to happen."

I am not a lawyer, yet some people who follow these things say L'Dor Va-Dor has a case.

In a May 12 op-ed for *The Washington Post*, Rachel Kranson, associate professor of religious studies and director of Jewish studies at the University of Pittsburgh, predicted such an argument could be made if *Roe v. Wade* were overturned.

"Ideally, this argument would carry a lot of weight," Kranson wrote. "After all, since the installation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, the Supreme Court has been drastically expanding free-exercise exemptions under the First Amendment and granting a remarkable proportion of claims."

Kranson quoted an argument by the Law, Rights and Religion project at Columbia Law School that maintains the court's recent opinions have "created a hierarchy of constitutional rights, with religious rights at the top."

Writing for *Salon* on Dec. 11, 2021,

Lloyd Steffen, university chaplain and professor of religion studies at Lehigh University, said, "The religious protections housed in the First Amendment provide a strong and explicit constitutional foundation for abortion rights (and even for privacy claims since citizens have a right to keep religious beliefs private.)"

Finally, in a March 11 article for the *Kentucky Law Journal*, Staff Writer Joshua Shelepak takes aim at the Mississippi case, which the Supreme Court may use to take down *Roe*. He claims the arguments the state makes are "misleading at best."

"Mississippi argues that '[n]owhere else in the law does a right of privacy or right to make personal decisions provide a right to destroy a human life,'" Shelepak writes. "The problem is that the question of fetal humanity is a moral and philosophical one, and people will answer that question differently based on their religious beliefs. The Catholic view, for example, is different than the Jewish view."

He added, quoting Lehigh's Steffen, "If the Court were to accept Mississippi's argument, they 'would be taking governmental action to establish a belief that contradicts those who in the free exercise of their religion deny that belief.'"

In other words, it would establish one religion's beliefs over another's – ours. That seems reason enough for a synagogue to go to court. One wonders if others will follow.

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



# FORUM

## Epilogue

### Outgoing JCRC director reflects on seminal events during his Louisville years



JCRC  
Scene

Matt  
Goldberg

I have been the director of community relations for the Jewish Federation of Louisville for the last 12 years. As I wrap up my tenure here, I am reflecting on some of the highs and lows we have experienced during that time.

The work has changed dramatically over 12 years. We have employed different tactics on different subjects as the Jewish world, and the world in general, have changed.

Still, three incidents stand out as seminal events for our community, changing what we do and how we do it:

**The 2014 war in Gaza:** Israel's wars with Hamas have had common

themes. Israel has strong advantages militarily, and it uses them effectively. Its advances in military technology (particularly the "Iron Dome" missile defense system) have allowed Israel to press its military objectives.

But Israel always loses the diplomatic battle during these fights. Hamas cynically uses civilians to obfuscate its military infrastructure, causing significant damage to Palestinian areas.

This [subterfuge] leads to us, as Israel advocates, to always play defense during the protests of Israel's actions.

Things have changed in recent years; Israel has become stronger militarily, economically and diplomatically. Its advocacy used to be an exclusive fight against its delegitimization. Now, it is more holistic, promoting the Israeli people and culture.

**The defacing of the River Road Mosque:** Jewish Louisville has always enjoyed cordial relations with the Muslim community. Together, we

have worked on several social justice programs.

Yet, when the mosque was defaced, our relationship grew even closer. After I first learned of the attack, I immediately got in the car with my family, drove down there and appeared on the local news with a leader from the Muslim community.

The show of solidarity that night and over the next few days was transformative, having a profound effect on us all. It demonstrated the power of relationship building and the tangible effect it can have on the community.

**The murder of Breonna Taylor:** This seminal event for Louisville focused on issues that we had not addressed and deepened our relationship with the Black community and some of the leading civil rights institutions in the city, including the Urban League. It made us think about, and commit to, reforming criminal justice and creating economic opportunities in the West End. Like much of Louisville, Breonna's murder and

the subsequent demonstrations had a profound effect on us, leading to JCRC programming that significantly departed from what we used to do.

I will miss so many things about Louisville, but at the top of that list are the people. I am so grateful for my committee chairs and members, senior staff and colleagues, and the wonderful people of Jewish Louisville with whom I interacted daily. Thank you for investing in me your confidence to represent our community. Jewish Louisville is a vibrant, special place with a limitless future; I will forever consider myself a Louisvillian, wherever I live.

*(Matt Goldberg, his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters, Rachel and Molly, are moving to San Diego, California, where he will become the director of caring and community relations for the Jewish Federation of San Diego County.)*

## Letter to the Editor

### 'Inspiring' participation

I would like to thank Sara Wagner for sharing her Louisville Melton experience ("Buffalo and Uvalde beg question: How can a community be present for mourners?" May 27). The course Sara cited, Love, Loss & Wisdom is part of Melton's newest series, Living Wisdom.

As president & CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville, Sara, and her enthusiastic, meaningful participation and public recognition are inspiring.

Deborah Slosberg  
Louisville

*(The author is the director of Louisville Melton.)*

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FORUM

Jewish environmental thought not ready for climate crisis, but tradition is



Guest  
Columnist

David  
Zvi Kalman

Smoke from California’s fires is regularly bad enough to tint the sun on the other side of the country. Pakistan and India just experienced a devastating heat wave. In the Middle East, temperatures have risen by 1.5 degrees Celsius, more than twice the global average.

Climate change, and its punishing effects, are here, and getting worse, yet Jewish thinking and advocacy on climate change are still stuck in prevention mode. The Jewish organizations that have blossomed to meet the political moment, not to mention the rabbis, activists and rank-and-file Jews who are engaged on this issue, are largely focused on one bottom line: Judaism demands that we care for the planet before it is too late.

This sentiment remains important and I support it, but it cannot be the only Jewish message for the moment. This is because “we” — the Jewish people — are likely powerless to affect the environment on a scale that would make a difference. It is also because, whether we like it or not, it is too late. As a scholar interested in the Jewish future and as a member of a research team devoted to Judaism and the natural world, I believe it is time to expand our understanding of what “Jewish environmental thought”

can be.

The problems with mainstream Jewish approaches to addressing climate change, which scientists say is rapidly approaching a breaking point, are twofold.

First, unlike many other environmental problems, climate change can’t be meaningfully curtailed through individual behavior; for better or worse, it is primarily in the hands of national governments and the energy sectors that they regulate. In the United States, it is largely for the worse: Legislative deadlock and the current Supreme Court’s deregulatory impulses make it hard to imagine tighter regulations on emissions, and domestic political polarization severely hampers America’s ability to exert influence over the 85% of global emissions that are produced outside its borders. These realities undermine much Jewish thinking on climate change. Rabbis can tell their congregants that they should care for the planet until they’re blue in the face, but if their ideas are to be greeted with something other than a nod of agreement, a wistful sigh, and eventual indifference, they cannot solely focus on the possibility of political change.

Second, the “it’s too late” piece is harder to hear. Even if humanity radically changes its ways in the next decade, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says it must, disasters aggravated by climate change are already here, and many people — especially young people — operate under the assumption that they will get worse. Despite this, messages from Jewish leaders largely continue to focus on prevention, frequently insinuating in the process that climate catastrophe is on us if we fail to act. Such messages

were appropriate in the 1980s, when disaster merely loomed on the horizon. Now, however, this line of thinking will increasingly be heard as nothing more than a grand “I told you so.”

We can address both of these problems by expanding our conception of what Jewish environmental thought is supposed to be. Even as we continue to push for sensible climate policy, we must make realistic plans to greet the future, as well. Rather than doubling down on messages of prevention and personal responsibility, hoping to achieve a better result perhaps by being more emphatic about it, Jewish environmentalism must help people adapt to the stresses of our warmer world, offer consolation to those who are mourning the one that we are losing, and prevent us from treating the present climate as “normal” by reminding us of the truly normal climate that will soon be out of living memory.

The Jewish tradition is already well suited for these tasks. As examples: rabbinic Judaism’s central narrative about moral failure leading to the loss of a land bears a striking similarity to the contemporary climate crisis, and the long process by which all types of Judaism dealt with that tragedy speaks to its ability to reinvent itself around a story of loss and recovery, a story which has served it well through other periods of persecution. In terms of memorializing tragedy, Jewish tradition continues to commemorate events that took place more than two millennia ago, and the imperative to never forget continues to be highly motivating.

An expanded Jewish environmentalism also offers us the chance to reconsider a basic question: is this line of thinking for the benefit of the world, or just for

other Jews? While politically minded environmental thought is strongly incentivized to spread universal messages, it does so by focusing on stories that Christians and Muslims will find relatable — Adam being charged with stewarding the world, Noah and the flood — and ignoring a much larger set of stories and ideas that are particular to Jewish tradition. The proposed new kinds of thinking might ironically be better capable of speaking specifically to Jewish interests, developing ideas about how to adapt to a changed planet that draw from the particulars of Jewish history.

Shifting Jewish environmental thought in this direction is not without its risks. As with any strategy that takes climate change to be inevitable, this line of thought could be accused of propagating a dangerous fatalism and sapping environmental activism of its energy. The risks are serious, but Jewish educators and leaders must understand that new ideas are crucial because environmental fatalism has already become the accepted wisdom. Many young people already assume that their entire lives will play out in a world of radical climatic decay, and this plays a powerful dampening effect in their ambitions to change even non-environmental aspects of the world. Jewish environmental thought, like the environment, is out of time. It is time to embrace this reality and think about the subject anew.

(David Zvi Kalman is the scholar in residence and director of new media at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. He holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.)

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# FORUM

## Overturning Roe would infringe on religious freedom of Orthodox Jews

Guest  
Columnists

Dov Linzur &  
Sara Hurwitz

As Orthodox rabbis, we were devastated by the news that the Supreme Court is poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. If this happens, states will be free to pass laws to prohibit or strictly limit abortion, and approximately 25 of them are prepared to do so or already have. Such legislation would impact the lives of tens of millions of women.

It would also be an unconscionable infringement on the religious freedom of Orthodox Jews.

A strategy of the anti-choice camp is to claim that women make the decisions to terminate a pregnancy for trivial reasons. That is the opposite of our experience. A few years ago, one of us was approached by a pregnant woman whose husband had a history of erratic and violent behavior. She herself had just learned that the fetus she was carrying had a severe congenital birth defect and she did not believe that she had the capacity to care for such a child. Carrying out the pregnancy would wreak havoc on her delicate and compromised family situation. She was deeply

conflicted about which decision was the right one. Had Jewish law offered her no choice – as she had initially believed – it would have robbed her of any moral or religious agency. No wonder, then, that she felt trapped and helpless.

This changed when she was presented with the fact that, according to some Jewish decisors, abortion was an option in her case, for reasons we'll explain. She was able to own her agency, to grapple with the competing ethical and religious mandates, to consult with a halachic (Jewish legal) authority and to give weight to her own and family's well-being.

The final choice she made isn't what is relevant here. It is that she was empowered to make it.

We believe that halacha is binding and that protecting human life is one of its highest values. Our commitment to halacha is not contradicted by our pro-choice beliefs but expressed by them. We have seen how many false assumptions exist when it comes to Orthodoxy's approach to questions of when life begins or what a woman's autonomy entails. So, we are writing together – as two leaders of Orthodox seminaries – to clarify misconceptions and to challenge those who claim that there is one "authentic" Jewish way at this personal decision.

The Orthodox position on abortion is not the same as that of the Catholic Church. In fact, there is no one "Orthodox position" on abortion.

Jewish law is rarely, if ever, univocal on issues. Its beauty and power lie in its decentralization and in the multiplicity of opinions articulated by those who interpret it.

When it comes to abortion, the opinions run the gamut, from those who see the fetus as merely a part of the mother's body to those who rule that abortion is tantamount to murder. The status of the fetus might also be quite different depending on the stage of development, whether first, second or third trimester, with an increasingly shrinking range of justifying circumstances as the fetus becomes more fully developed.

It would be wrong to characterize any of these positions as either pro-life or pro-choice. Jewish law is not so simple.

As distinct from much of the contemporary "either/or" discourse around abortion, Jewish law embraces a "both/and" approach. There is both a mandate to protect life, even a future life, and, at the same time, a religious obligation to protect the health and psychic well-being of every human being. Because a fetus is not seen as a full life, these two mandates exist in an ongoing tension.

Halacha embraces the complexity and messiness of our lives and rejects simplistic, prepackaged answers. Orthodox women grappling with the question of whether to have an abortion will be guided by their consciences and their faith and consult with a religious

advisor to guide them regarding Torah values and ethical and religious-legal obligations.

To deny women the right to choose is to assume that they cannot be responsible to give this consequential decision the full weight that it deserves. It is to infantilize women, to exhibit a lack of trust in them to be responsible moral agents. And in the case of women committed to Jewish law, it is to rob them of the ability to be true not only to the dictates of their conscience, but to their faith as well.

If the Supreme Court removes the protections of *Roe v. Wade* and states adopt legislation that limits or eliminates a woman's right to choose, we and our co-religionists will be effectively barred from acting in accordance with our religious beliefs and from being guided by our moral compass. Taking away choices about one's pregnancy undermines central values of Jewish law: engaging a range of options, bringing to bear competing Torah values, and owning the complexity of one's reality.

*(Dov Linzur is the president and rosh hayeshiva of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School. Sara Hurwitz is co-founder and president of Maharat, the first institution to ordain Orthodox women as clergy. She also serves on the rabbinic staff at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, New York.)*



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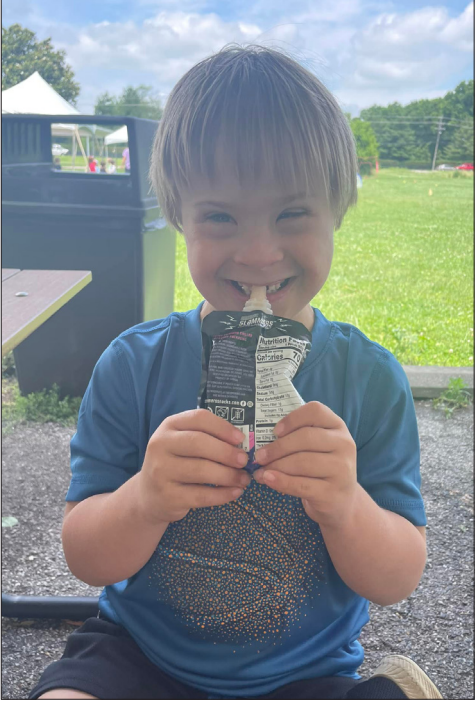
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# PICTURE THIS: CAMP J OPENS



This year, Camp J will welcome over 600 campers during the summer. Every group enjoys time in the pool each day. Pictured here are campers dressed as their favorite characters, participating in cooking camp, gardening, playing at the pool, coloring in art class, and playing chess. Over 200 campers attend each week. (Community photos by Robyn Kaufman and camp staff)





# PICTURE THIS: CENTERSTAGE ACADEMY



This year's CenterStage Academy presented *Broadway Bound*, a cabaret production, May 19-22 at Bellarmine University. Various numbers from several Broadway shows were performed. The cast included Addie Angermeier, A.J. Azzerello, Rosemarie Bariteau, Ava Boyd, Jackson Cato, Liam Curry, Madie Edelen, Elli Keeley-Fine, Livi Knapke, Charley Manz, Aliza Moss, William Paxton, Kaiya Peterson, Leah Rasnake, Jocelyn Spyke, Gracyn Stockwell, Maggie Stone, Levi Tasman and Vana Winterton. (photos by Kathryn Harrington)





# AWARDS

## BBYO leaders to be honored for achievements at Annual Meeting

By Abigail Goldberg  
For Community

The annual BBYO awards will be handed out at the Jewish Community of Louisville's Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 14. These awards recognize young people for their achievements in the Jewish community, at school and in the community at large.

Here are this year's winners:

The **Joseph Fink BBYO Community Service Scholarship** is a four-year scholarship presented to a senior who was an active member of their BBYO chapter during all four years of high school and performed a significant amount of community service during high school. The recipient is also active in their school and in the community-at-large. The recipient will receive this scholarship for four years as long as they stay in school. Award-ees will also receive up to \$300 per year over four years, up to \$1,200. This year, awards go to **Jenna Shaps** and **Katy Roemer**.



Jenna Shaps

A recent graduate of Kentucky Country Day School, Jenna will attend Indiana University this fall as a media advertising major. She was active in BBYO locally as *morah* (vice president of recruitment), *s'ganit* (vice president of programming), and *n'siah* (president). Jenna also served as regional *mazkirah/gizborit* for the 2020-21 term and as *n'siah* for the 2021-22 term for the Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio Region of BBYO. Jenna went to CLTC, IC, Movement Makers and numerous local and regional conventions throughout high school. She was the yearbook editor and volunteered with the lower school at KCD. Jenna is a member of Adath Jeshurun.

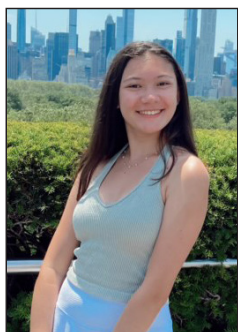
A recent graduate of St. Francis School, Katy will attend the University of Kentucky this fall, majoring in



Katy Roemer

chemistry. She eventually plans to attend pharmacy school. Katy served as chapter *morah*, *shlichah* (vice president of Jewish enrichment) and *n'siah*. She attended CLTC, IC and traveled to Israel in 2021 with BBYO. She was involved in numerous local and regional conventions during high school and also volunteered with Americana World Community Center, Gilda's club and the Jewish Community Center's After School Program. Katy is a member of The Temple.

The **Stacey Marks Nisenbaum Award** is presented to an incoming high school junior or senior who is a leader in BBYO, strengthening and growing the program, while staying active at school and in the community at large. This year, awards go to **Nila Rothman** and **Ada Weiss**.



Nila Rothman

A rising senior at duPont Manual High School, Nila has served as her chapter's *gizborit* (vice president of fundraising), and *n'siah*. She tutors at The Temple, where she is a member, and is a leader in Jay Levine BBG.



Ada Weiss

A rising senior at duPont Manual High School, Ada has served locally as *gizborit*, *s'ganit*, and *morah* and was recently elected regional *morah* for the Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio

Region. Ada consistently learns from her international counterparts and volunteers with friends to be a better leader in the region. She is a member of Keneseth Israel and attends Camp Livingston.

The **Ellen Faye Garmon Award** goes to an incoming high school junior or senior who is involved in their BBYO chapter and community, working to strengthen and grow both. This year's winner is **Alex Schwartz**.



Alex Schwartz

A rising senior at Ballard High School, Alex has volunteered with J-Serve for two years and with Shabbos Friends at JFCS, celebrating Shabbat with seniors at Magnolia Springs. He teaches tennis with Rising Stars of Kentucky Tennis, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting youth tennis in underserved communities. Alex won a gold medal for recreational tennis at the Maccabi Games in Los Angeles. He is a member of The Temple and attends

Camp Livingston.

The **Stuart Pressma Student Leadership Development Award** is presented to incoming high school juniors or seniors who are involved in their BBYO chapter while keeping up devoted community service. This year, the award goes to **Nicole Scaiewicz**.




Nicole Scaiewicz

A rising junior at North Oldham High School, Nicole has served as *s'ganit* and *n'siah*. She will again serve as chapter *n'siah* for the fall term. Nicole volunteers with The Temple and works in the Hebrew School. Nicole has built meaningful relationships and continues to improve her leadership abilities through BBYO. She traveled to Israel in June 2022 on a "Passport to Israel" trip. Nicole is a member of The Temple.



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Thursday, July 14

Trager Family JCC

5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception (with music by The Tribe)  
6 p.m. Program

Join the Jewish Community of Louisville as we honor our award recipients and elect our 2022-23 board officers.

## Award Winners

Blanche B. Ottenheimer Award  
**Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham**

Ronald and Marie Abrams Volunteer of the Year Award  
**Leon Wahba**

Lewis W. Cole Memorial Young Leadership Award  
**Michael and Mollie Weisberg**

Joseph J. Kaplan Young Leadership Award  
**Andrew and Helen Trager-Kusman**

Julie Linker Community Relations Young Leadership Award  
**Farrah Alexander**

Elsie P. Judah Memorial Award  
**Emily Podgursky**

Arthur S. Kling Award  
**Susan Kwasny and Kristy Benefield**

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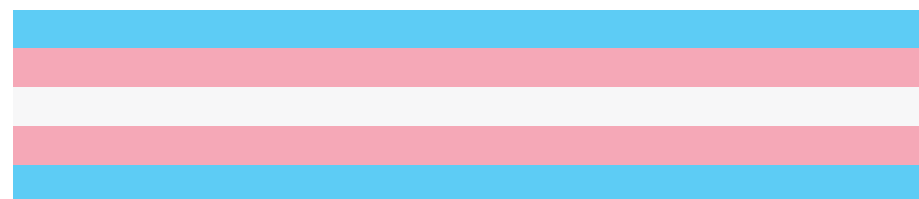
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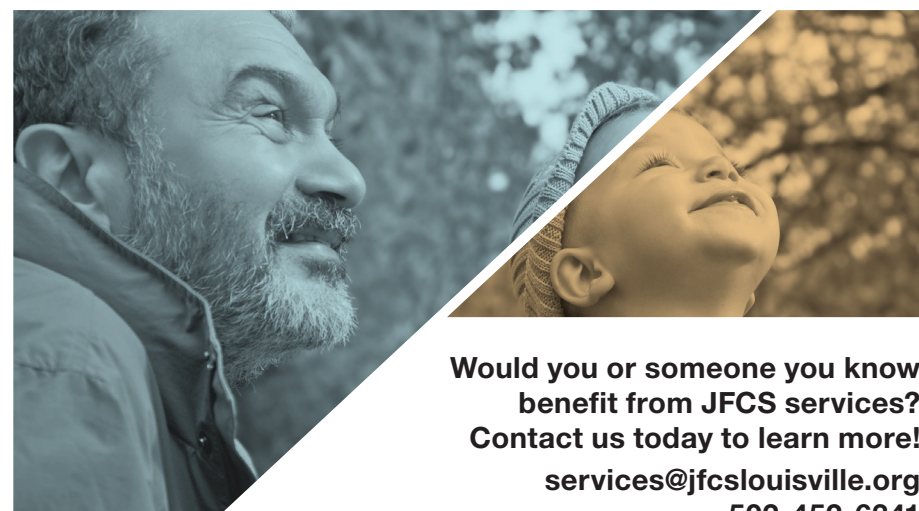


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# AWARDS

Continued from page 1

year's winner is **Farrah Alexander**.



Farrah Alexander

An author and activist, Alexander has served on the JCRC Board for 1½ years, but her first community experience came as a member of the Louisville chapter of Bend the Arc, a national

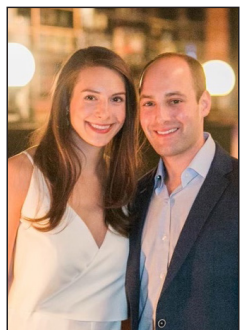
social action organization for young progressive Jews seeking to make positive change based on Jewish values.

"We got together in such a tumultuous year for Jewish Louisville (2020), and we very early took a proactive, instead of reactive, stance on racial justice," she said. "I built some relationships with other young Jews that I'm really happy to maintain and have."

She is the author of two books: *Resistance in the Bluegrass: Empowering the Commonwealth*, a history of civil rights and political activism in Kentucky including recent movements; and *Raising the Resistance: A Mother's Guide to Practical Activism*.

A Sellersburg, Indiana, resident and mother of two, Alexander is a student at the Indiana University McKinney School of Law and a summer intern at ACLU-KY.

The **Joseph J. Kaplan Young Leadership Award** is named for a leader in Jewish education and president of the Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) – the predecessor of the Jewish Community Center. Kaplan encouraged people to remember Jewish Louisville in their will. The Award was established during his lifetime. This year's winners are **Andrew and Helene Trager-Kusman**.



Andrew and Helene Trager-Kusman

Andrew and Helene met on JDate while living in Washington. They returned to Louisville where they are raising their son, Harper, 3, and are expecting another child in December.

Both parents are active in Jewish Louisville. Andrew, a Louisville native and chief strategy officer at Republic Bank, served on the JTomorrow! committee and was active in the capital campaign to build the Trager Family JCC.

Helene, who grew up in suburban Maryland and went on a birthright mission while in college, joined the young leadership program at the Federation and is on the board at the Jewish Family & Career Services.

The family belongs to The Temple. "We believe Judaism is about community, and we support each other as a community," Andrew said.

Added Helene, "We always identified closely with the Jewish religion.

There is this strong bond to us and the community because of the same values everyone has."

That's always been important to me."

The **Lewis W. Cole Memorial Young Leadership Award** is named for an organizer of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, the predecessor to the Federation. A committed Annual Campaign volunteer, Cole devoted his life to Jewish Louisville. This year's winners are **Michael and Mollie Weisberg**.



Michael and Mollie Weisberg

Michael, a fourth generation Louisvillian, and Mollie, the daughter of Jews by choice, see themselves as emerging leaders in the community who want to pass their love of traditions to their 5-year-old son, Arlo.

"My grandfather was advisor to my father and uncle at BBYO, and my father was my advisor, so I want to be Arlo's advisor," Michael said. "Things like that I want to carry on ... to give back and show some leadership."

Mollie said the Federation has been a springboard of sorts for giving back. "Being part of the Federation, we get to help strengthen the Jewish community's involvement in that kind of stuff – social justice causes."

Jewish life is important to the young parents, who keep Shabbat every Friday night. "We love it, and we want to instill in Arlo everything that is wonderful about it," Mollie said. "The new JCC really helps. He's made new friends now because we're at the pool so much."

A businessman who keeps crazy hours, Michael had some advice for young Jews thinking about getting involved: A little bit goes a long way.

"Being involved doesn't necessarily mean it's going to take up a lot of your free time," he said. "Being involved has been stigmatized.... We need to get the word out that committing to something ... is really not going to take up all of your free time. Everybody does a little."

The **Elsie P. Judah Memorial Award** is named for the woman who, with Ronetta Mayer, established the Golden Age Group for active seniors. It honors volunteer service to the Senior Adult Department. This year's winner is **Emily Podgursky**.

Podgursky has been volunteering and delivering meals for the Senior Program for 13 years. She started as a volunteer with JFVS, and began delivering meals for the JCC program in 2009.

It is "her job" to deliver the meals to the residents of Shalom Towers, Active Adult and Senior Programming Director Dara Cohen said, doing it rain or shine, and always with a smile.

She doesn't speak Russian, but

Podgursky manages to communicate with her clients with smiles and hugs, Cohen said.

"They all love seeing her each week," Cohen said. "One client told me it always brightens his day."

The **Arthur S. Kling Award** honors the memory of a prominent Jewish Louisville leader, who served as president of the YMHA. He was instrumental in establishing the JCC on Dutchmans Lane, starting the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Conference of Jewish Organizations, which ran the United Jewish Campaign. This year, the award, which recognizes outstanding performances by JCL staff, goes to **Susan Kwasny and Kristy Benefield**.



Susan Kwasny

Kwasny has experienced the JCC as a member and an employee. She joined in 2005 to work out, then went to work here in 2006.

"I was exercising, and I told one of the instructors at the time that I always wanted to teach fitness classes," Kwasny recalled. "She said, 'Well, I'll show you how. I'll get you certified.' Three months later, I was certified and teaching. I've been here ever since."

Kwasny became the director of the Kindred Active Adult Program in 2016 then the senior director of health and wellness in 2017 – the position she still holds. In her current job, Kwasny oversees the fitness, membership, member services, sports and senior departments as well as the kitchen.

"It really entails all the adult experiences in the JCC..., she said. "With my team, we oversee the experience from the time they join."

She loves the diversity of her job. Every day brings a different challenge or task, and she is always interacting with the members.

But she still finds time for her first love, teaching five classes a week, "everything from spin to step to boot camp."

Kwasny said she couldn't do it all without her staff, which can swell to 100 during busy seasons. "They make me look good every single day."



Kristy Benefield

taking minutes at board meetings, and updating the *Community* mailing lists. Interestingly, her work is made easier by four years' experience in

Army Intelligence.

And what did she do there? "Those are secrets I can't reveal," she quipped.

Seriously, Benefield, who left the service with the rank of sergeant, worked as a specialist in "human information gathering" with a language specialty of German, serving at the Army's Defense Language Institute in San Francisco and at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. She also traveled to Germany to translate documents. "There's some analyst stuff here" in her Federation work, Benefield said, "and I'm good at uncovering stuff."

After leaving the service, she was the southwest Virginia coordinator for the American Cancer Society and facilities manager for Fidelity Investments in New Hampshire.

She met her future husband in the Army, which is what brought her to Louisville.

Her work isn't all about crunching numbers. Part of her job is to research the donors to the JCC, especially the families that established endowments. She uses the *Community* database at the Filson Historical Society to cull and record information. She finds families' stories engaging.

"I'm learning what was in these people's hearts and minds when they established these endowments," she said.

This year's **Ronald & Marie Abrams Volunteer of the Year Award**, whose extent namesakes exemplify community service, goes to **Leon Wahba**.



Leon Wahba

A refugee from Cairo, Egypt, with his family, Wahba is always looking for ways to give back to Jewish Louisville.

"I have Great debt to repay the Jewish community of

Louisville, which sponsored our immigration to the United States and welcomed us in 1959 when we first arrived in Louisville," he said.

A 1967 graduate from the University of Louisville, Wahba had 30-plus-year career in banking, working here, in Cleveland and in Belgium, before retiring in 2005. Wahba and his wife, Helen, a Louisville native, then returned home and went to work for the community.

He has been treasurer of the Federation and chaired its Allocation Committee and Jewish Community Relations Council and. For two years, he headed the Annual Campaign, and he has been a regular volunteer at the Sunday Phonathon for more than 16 years.

Together with Helen, an active member of the NCJW, Louisville Section, they support Gilda's House.

Small wonder Wahba was a 2011 MOSAIC honoree by the Jewish Family & Career Services.



# ARTS

## Bunbury-ShPIeL's 'Indecent' in production after five-month delay

By staff and releases

After a five-month postponement due to the COVID pandemic, the Bunbury-ShPIeL Identity Theatre Project of the Bunbury Theatre is about to stage a Jewish play about, well... a Jewish play.

*Indecent*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, the story behind the controversial 1923 production *God of Vengeance* by acclaimed Yiddish writer Sholem Asch, will open on Thursday, July 28, at the Henry Clay Theatre and will run through Sunday, Aug. 14.

The play had been scheduled to open in February, but the surge of the Omicron variant of COVID forced the company to delay rehearsal and the subsequent opening until summer.

*Indecent* centers on a small band of performers and klezmer musicians as they tell the story of Asch's social justice drama, which was successfully performed in Europe and America on Yiddish theater stages.

Yet two weeks after its English-language opening at Broadway's Apollo Theatre on Feb. 19, 1923, city officials shut it down for depicting a love affair between two women,

calling the display "indecent."

Vogel weaves several subplots throughout the production, portraying real life characters such as American playwright Eugene O'Neill and Asch himself.

"The play is about the play, what's happening to the cast and the relationships that change the cast," David Y. Chack, artistic director of the Bunbury-ShPIeL Performing Identity, has previously said. "It's basically about an arc of a play within a play."

He called Vogel's work "wondrous storytelling" with "an enduring message of love and survival." Chack also said is relevant to today's events.

"We continue to struggle with the controlling of women's bodies, censorship, supremacism and antisemitism," he said.

*Indecent* first appeared on Broadway in 2017, following an Off-Broadway production at the Vineyard Theatre.

Chack, who also is a professor at the Theatre School of DePaul University in Chicago, previously directed Louisville productions of *The Green Book*, *A Jewish Joke*, *Imagining Heschel* and *Mother Courage*, all containing strong Jewish themes or



The playbill for "Indecent"

connections.

He also organized the 2021 online-hybrid TEATRON Festival

of Jewish Theatre and has directed and consulted on theatre works in Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles and New York, most recently (pre-pandemic) *Oslo* as part of Broadway Series Chicago and *Hitler's Tasters* (post-lockdown) in New York City.

Now in its 38th season, the Bunbury Theatre produces and develops productions that bring to focus issues of social identity.

*Indecent* is being produced with support from the Jewish Heritage Fund, Fund for the Arts, and the Kentucky Arts Council.

### Want to go?

Tickets to *Indecent* go on sale on June 27 at [bunburytheatre.org/indecent](https://bunburytheatre.org/indecent). Prices are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors (65 and up), \$12 for students (25 and under). On Wednesday, July 27 – Preview Night for the show – tickets are half price. Opening night is Thursday, July 28, and the play will run Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 pm, with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. until closing. For more ticket information, email [bunburytheatre reservations@gmail.com](mailto:bunburytheatre reservations@gmail.com) or call 502-585-5306.

*Shalom!*  
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# NEWS/NEWSMAKERS/GLOBE

## AJC honors IU, Ukrainian Hillels at global forum

The American Jewish Committee has honored students at the Hillel chapters in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, and Indiana University (IU), where students marshaled an effort to create campus-wide solidarity against rising acts of antisemitism.

The Hillels received the AJC Sharon Greene Award for Campus Advocacy, which recognizes college-based advocates who fight antisemitism and support Jewish life on campus.

The awards were presented at the AJC Global Forum on June 14 in New York.

The IU Hillel was recognized for its launch last fall of the Red Mezuzah Project in response to rising antisemitism on

campus. It distributed nearly 1,000 mezuzahs to non-Jewish students and faculty who wanted to show solidarity with the Jewish community. Each one reads, "I stand with my Jewish friends."

The IU Hillel also helped create the university's antisemitism task force, which is made up of Jewish and non-Jewish students.

"Sometimes, antisemitism on American college campuses can seem like a lonely battle," AJC Chief Executive Officer David Harris said in a statement. "What IU Hillel was able to accomplish was nothing short of remarkable."

Also receiving an award was the Hillel community in Kharkiv, whose office was destroyed early in the war by Russian bombs. One of its members, Serafim Sabaranskiy, was killed while serving on

territorial defense.

The five Hillel chapters in Ukraine have been among the groups that have received grants from AJC's Stand with Ukraine Fund, which raised over \$2.4 million.

"We should all be inspired by the Hillel chapters in Ukraine for continuing to support Jewish students in a time of war and sacrifice," Harris said. "AJC is proud to stand in solidarity with them."

### Mazel Tov to...

**David Jaffe** on his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati. Rabbi David Jaffe and his partner, Rabbi Becca Diamond, will be spiritual leaders at Temple Kol Tikvah in Davidson, North

Carolina.



Mike Harlan, pictured here with Scouts from Troop 30, installed a peace pole on The Temple grounds. (photo provided by The Temple)

**Troops 30/30GT** for recently installing a peace pole at the entrance to the Temple's mishkan t'filah, commemorating Troop 30's 100th anniversary, and appreciating The Temple's sponsorship of the Scouting program. The pole reads, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in Hebrew, English and four other languages.

## Israel headed to fifth election since 2019 after historic governing coalition collapses

By Cnaan Liphshiz  
JTA

After weeks of fending off threats to their governing coalition, Israel's top leaders have announced that they will instead seek to dissolve the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and hold new elections.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid announced their decision Monday, setting Israel on a path toward a fifth round of elections since 2019 and potentially allowing Benjamin Netanyahu, Bennett's predecessor, to regain power.

Lapid will become interim prime minister until the formation of a new coalition, assuming that lawmakers sign off on the bill to dissolve the government. An election could take place Oct. 25, according to Israeli media.

"Attempts to stabilize the coalition have been exhausted, leading to this decision," Bennett and Lapid said in a statement, which they followed with a press conference Monday night, June 20, in Jerusalem.

The announcement follows several



Naftali Bennett (left) and incoming Prime Minister Yair Lapid were coalition partners in the Israeli government that collapsed this week. Lapid will serve as the caretaker PM until the next election in October.

months of political uncertainty following the defection of at least two coalition lawmakers, Nir Orbach and Idit Silman, from the razor-thin coalition headed by Bennett, a right-wing, pro-settler politician, and Lapid, a centrist candidate favored by secular, middle-class voters.

Their coalition, formed a year ago after years of repeat elections, was held together primarily by a desire to prevent Netanyahu, who had been prime minister since 2009 and was facing trial on corruption charges, from holding onto power. (The trial is

now underway; Netanyahu has denied the charges against him.) The left-wing, right-wing and, notably, Arab lawmakers whose parties formed the coalition agreed on little else.

The coalition made history as the first Israeli government to include an Arab party.

But its ability to act withered as each lawmaker defected.

The situation reached crisis levels earlier this month when lawmakers failed to renew regulations extending Israeli law to Jewish settlers living in the West Bank. Netanyahu had urged members of his party, Likud, to vote against the bill and force a governance crisis, even though Likud and other right-wing parties have long supported extending the regulations.

Netanyahu's gambit succeeded. Bennett said the looming expiration of the so-called "Judea and Samaria" law was the reason that he and Lapid decided to dissolve the government.

"In talks with security officials I understood that in 10 days, the State of Israel will enter a deadlock," he said. "Our efforts unfortunately did not succeed, and my friend Yair and I decided to have elections at an

agreed-upon time."

Netanyahu welcomed the decision to go to elections in a statement Monday, as did other opposition lawmakers who believe that right-wing parties will prevail with the voters.

"This evening means very important news to Israelis," Netanyahu said. "After a determined fight by the opposition in the Knesset and much suffering by the Israeli public, it is clear to everyone that the most incompetent government in Israeli history has come to the end of the road."

In a statement, Lapid thanked Bennett for "putting the country before his personal interest" and said that he would push lawmakers to tackle tough issues, including the high cost of living and security threats from Iran and Hamas, during the limbo period before the next government is formed.

"What we need to do today is go back to the concept of Israeli unity. Not to let dark forces tear us apart from within. To remind ourselves that we love one another, love our country, and that only together will we prevail," Lapid said.

## Which European countries are best for Jews? New study offers unexpected answers

By Cnaan Liphshiz  
JTA

**BUDAPEST** — Antisemitic sentiment is especially prevalent in Italy and Hungary, according to multiple surveys. But a first-of-its-kind index combining different measures of Jewish experience found that they are also the best countries in Europe for Jews to live in.

The index, unveiled Monday, June 20, is based on a study that combines polling data and policy information to create a single quality-of-life metric for Jews in the 12 European Union countries with sizable Jewish communities, according to Daniel Staetsky, a statistician with the London-based Institute for Jewish Policy Research who wrote the report for the European Jewish Association

in Brussels.

"The goal with this report is to take the excellent data we already have about how Jews feel, about how prevalent antisemitism is, and combine it with government policy measurables," Staetsky said during a conference held by the European Jewish Association in Budapest.

He said the results may challenge preconceptions about which EU countries are most hospitable to Jews. For example, Germany scored high when it came to government policies relating to Jews. But Jews there report a weak sense of security, leading to an overall middling score.

The index is primarily a tool "to demand concrete action from European leaders," Rabbi Menachem Margolin, head of the European Jewish Association. "We welcome

statements against antisemitism by European leaders. But more than statements is needed."

The European Jewish Association will make individual recommendations to each country surveyed, Margolin added at the press event. It was part of a two-day event sponsored by multiple Jewish organizations, including the Consistoire in France, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israeli government, about how European Jewish communities can aid the one in Ukraine.

Titled "Europe and Jews, a country index of respect and tolerance towards Jews," the study ranks the 12 countries surveyed as follows: Italy: 79, Hungary: 76, Denmark: 75, the United Kingdom: 75, Austria: 75, the Netherlands: 74, Sweden: 73,

Germany: 72, Spain: 70, France: 68, Poland: 66, Belgium: 60.

To come up with the ranking, Staetsky gave each surveyed country grades on multiple subjects, including the Jewish sense of security, public attitudes to Jews and the number of Jews who said they'd experienced antisemitism. The grades were based on major opinion polls in recent years, including those conducted by the Action and Protection League, a group that monitors hate crimes against Jews in several European countries, and the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency.

The study combined those scores with scores the author gave to countries' government policies, including their funding for Jewish communities, whether they had

See **STUDY** on page 19



# AROUND TOWN

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

## Adath Jeshurun

Minyan and Shabbat services take place both in-person and virtually. Morning minyan meets Mondays through Fridays at 7:15 a.m., Sundays at 8:45 a.m.; evening minyans, Sundays through Fridays at 5:45 p.m. (There are no Saturday evening services.) Kabbalat Shabbat services start at 5:45 p.m.; and Shabbat morning services, 10 a.m. Masks and proof of vaccination with booster are required. Links to virtual services are included in AJ's weekly emailed newsletter. Go to [bit.ly/3QuDVZ4](https://bit.ly/3QuDVZ4) to subscribe.

## Anshei Sfard

Shabbat services are held at 9 a.m. at 2904 Bardstown Road. Classes held weekly are Talmud Trek II, 9:30 a.m. Sundays; and Spice of Life, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

## Chabad of Kentucky

Chabad is holding services until Aug. 15 at the following times and locations: 8:45 p.m. Fridays at the home of Rabbi Avrohom and Goldie Litvin; 10 a.m. Saturdays at Jewish Family & Career Services, 2821 Klemptner Way; 8:30 a.m. Sundays at the Jewish Learning Center, 1110 Dupont Circle. Contact Chabad at [Rabbi@Chabadky.com](mailto:Rabbi@Chabadky.com) or 502-235-5770 for more details.

## Chavurat Shalom

The group meets Thursdays at noon. Lunch is held in the Heideman Auditorium, followed by the program at 1 p.m. All programs are also livestreamed via ChavuratShalom-Zoom. Masks are optional for fully vaccinated participants. To attend in person, RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday on the week of the program by contacting Sarah at 502-212-2038 or [sarahharlan86@gmail.com](mailto:sarahharlan86@gmail.com).

July 7 – Harpist Jessica Hyden will perform (lunch: all-beef hot dogs with toppings, baked beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit and blackberry cobbler).

July 14 – Alan Zukof and Steve Bradley will entertain on guitar and piano (lunch: tuna salad, noodle kugel, bagels, marinated vegetable salad, fresh fruit and strawberry trifle).

July 21 – Pianist Nada will perform (lunch: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, Caesar salad, fresh fruit and chocolate mousse).

July 28 – Two Sara(h)s for the price of one will perform Broadway show tunes (lunch: smoked salmon, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, cole slaw, fresh fruit and chocolate cake).

## Keneseth Israel

Daily minyan services are offered in person and on Zoom at [tinyurl.com/kiczoom](https://tinyurl.com/kiczoom). Shabbat and holiday services are offered in person and on YouTubeLive at [tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive](https://tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive). Visit [kenesethisrael.com](https://kenesethisrael.com)

for times and COVID policies.

Jews and Brews with Rabbi Ben Freed is held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays on Zoom and in person at the Trager Family JCC; the weekly Torah portion is studied. Rabbi Freed will also lead Jews and Brews: After Hours at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 14, at a brewery to be determined.

Intermediate level Hebrew class meets at 5 p.m. in person and 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.

Shabbat in the Park will be held Friday, July 8, in person at the Stegner Pavilion next to Hogan's Fountain, or online at [tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive](https://tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive). Bring your own dairy picnic food; dessert furnished by KI.

Cantor Sharon Hordes leads Torah Yoga every third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Some yoga mats are available; please bring your own if you have one.

Big Questions: Jewish Answers: a monthly four-part class series taught by Rabbi Freed, which covers the contemporary issues of systemic racism, abortion, gun control, and immigration began Monday June 20.

Family Shabbat, a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a meal, is held every fourth Friday of the month at 6 p.m. RSVP at 502-459-2780 or [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com).

Join KI for a Shabbat treat at Graeter's on Bardstown Rd. at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 16. RSVP to [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com) or call 502-459-2780.

## Kentucky Institute for Torah Education

The Light of Torah class will resume at 7:30 Mondays in July in the Barbara Brick Reading Room of the Trager Family JCC. Light refreshments will be served. There is also a Zoom option. To RSVP or for the Zoom link, contact Rabbi Zack Blaustein at [rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org](mailto:rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org).

KITE will conduct its third Dads' Trip to Israel from Oct 24 to 30. The trip is highly subsidized by KITE and Momentum. To apply, visit [momentumunlimited.org/apply-form-man](https://momentumunlimited.org/apply-form-man) or contact Rabbi Blaustein at [rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org](mailto:rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org).

## Louisville High School of Jewish Studies

Registration for the 2022-23 school year is now open. Classes will start on Sunday, Sept. 11, at The Temple and will meet roughly two Sunday afternoons per month. This year, the first day will include an "elective speed dating" session. Students will learn about possible course offerings and then rank them, enabling the staff and faculty to "custom craft"

a curriculum. The courses will include Jews and Science Fiction, Jewish Cooking, The Abrahamic Faiths, The Periodic Table of Midot, LGBTQ Judaism, Torah Yoga and others. Go to [louisvillehsjs.org/register/](https://louisvillehsjs.org/register/) to register.

## Kol Israel Kentucky

Inner Peace for Challenging Times, a communitywide Jewish meditation with Interfaith Paths to Peace, will be held at 9 p.m., Monday, July 13. Reb Brian Yoseph will lead.

The next Bloomington Shabbat Renewal, live and Zoom will take place at 10:15 a.m., Saturday, July 2. Reb Leon and Jackie Olenick will lead. Register at [KolIsraelKy@gmail.com](mailto:KolIsraelKy@gmail.com) or 502-341-1595.

The international network of ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal will celebrate the yahrzeit and life of Reb Zalman-Schachter, the founder of the movement, at 8 p.m., Sunday, July 3, on Zoom. Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, family and friends, will lead. Email [KolIsraelKy@gmail.com](mailto:KolIsraelKy@gmail.com) or call 502-341-1595 for reservations.

## Temple Shalom

Summer of the Arts, a series of creative events, will begin with a "paint and sip" master painting class led by Bob Teitl on Sunday, July 24. A group visit to Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience on Sunday, July 31 (sold out) will follow. WhoDunnit Mystery Theatre will present an interactive musical murder mystery on Sunday, Aug. 21, with a buffet catered by Olive Garden. For more information, contact Engagement Coordinator Slava Nelson at 502-830-4968 or [engagement@templeshalomky.org](mailto:engagement@templeshalomky.org).

Shabbat services are held in person on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. No-Shush Shabbat, Temple Shalom's family-friendly service, is held monthly, with story time, child participation and music by Benji Berlow.

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

Weekly Bingo parties are held on Mondays at Breckenridge Bingo Hall. Doors open at 5:30.

Men's Club breakfasts are held monthly, usually on the second Sunday of the month. Senior Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise advertised. Both series feature guest speakers and/or special entertainment. Reservations are required. Email [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org) for details.

Women of Temple Shalom (WOTS) is again offering special 8-ounce jars of kosher honey for Rosh Hashanah. The jars arrive decorated with a festive label and include a personalized card reading "Shana Tova — Wishing you a Healthy and Happy New

Year." This card also lets the recipients know that a donation has been made in their honor to Women of Temple Shalom. The cost is \$13 per jar, including free shipping in the U.S. through Aug. 1; \$6.50 per jar afterwards. Order online at [orthoney.com/SLK](https://orthoney.com/SLK) by September 1 for guaranteed delivery by Rosh Hashanah. For more information, email Frankie Bloom at [FrancesBloom12@gmail.com](mailto:FrancesBloom12@gmail.com).

Temple Shalom Book Club will meet at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 4, at Carol Savkovich's home for breakfast and discussion. Book selections are *Jewish Cooking in America: A Cookbook* by Joan Nathan, and *Marc Chagall: My Life* by Marc Chagall.

## The Temple

The WRJ/Sisterhood Gift Shop is open Tuesdays from 2 to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop](https://facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop) or call Sheila Lynch (502-896-9736), Marlene Ornstein (502-329-3376) or Karen Waldman (502-425-4360) for an appointment.

Saturday Torah Study with Rabbi David Ariel-Joel starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person. Visit [thetemplelouky.org/adult-education](https://thetemplelouky.org/adult-education) for details.

Shabbat services are held Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Go to [thetemplelouky.org](https://thetemplelouky.org) for details.

Independence Day Shabbat – Cantor Lauren Furman Adesnik's first service – will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, July 1. After services, a Red, White, and Blue Oneg Shabbat will be sponsored by the WRJ/Sisterhood.

Monday Morning Minyan with Cantor Adesnik will be held on July 4, 11 and 18 at 7:30 a.m.

Mitzvah Makers will make sandwiches for the homeless at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, July 17. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making](https://thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making). Before the event, please bring bottles of water, individual bags of chips, loaves of bread, sandwich bags and small hotel/sample size toiletries (shampoo, bars of soap, lotion, mouthwash, toothbrushes, and toothpaste), for bags to hand out.

WRJ/Sisterhood will hold Game Day from 1 to 3 p.m., Sunday, July 31, in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center. mah jong, bridge and board games will be played. Please bring unexpired food items for the Sonny and Janet Meyer Food Pantry. RSVP by July 24, to [khwaldman@gmail.com](mailto:khwaldman@gmail.com) or [sarahharlan86@gmail.com](mailto:sarahharlan86@gmail.com). Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated.



# LIFECYCLE

## Births



### Levi Reece Weiss

Julia, Mike and Brady Weiss of Atlanta, Georgia, welcomed Levi Reece to the family on April 10, 2022. Levi is the grandson of Joanie and Craig Lustig of Louisville and Robin and

Steve Weiss of Boynton Beach, Florida. The great-grandparents are Margie and Bob Kohn of Louisville and Arlene and Gary Lustig of Plainview, New York.

## Obituaries



### Stuart Alan Greenberg

Stuart Alan Greenberg, 73, of Glen Ellen, California, formerly of Louisville, died Saturday, Dec. 25, 2021, at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, California.

Born in Louisville on March 18, 1948, a son of the late Rayna and Hymie Greenberg, Stuart graduated from Seneca High School in 1966 before joining the Marine Corps. He served from 1967 to 1971.

He went on to study psychology at the University of Kentucky and landscape architecture at the University of Arizona in Tucson. But, in 1978, Stuart studied farrier science (horseshoeing) at Colorado Northwestern Community College in Steamboat Springs.

Horseshoeing became his lifelong passion and career. He shod for 43 years and also taught farrier science at the Santa Rosa Junior College in California for over 30 years.

In 2011 Stuart was inducted into the EQUUS Hall of Fame by the Sonoma County Horse Council – a testament to his years of humble and dedicated service as a classical farrier, teacher and mentor to hundreds of equestrians in Sonoma County. His students included owners, veterinarians and aspiring farriers. He consistently received the highest

evaluations for his class.

Stuart's farrier technique is a dying art. He forged all his own shoes, making each set at home before leaving for his shoeing appointments.

His practice evolved into shoeing horses that needed special care and rehabilitation. Stuart viewed helping the horse as his primary focus, whether it was a little girl's pony with founder, or a retired horse needing comfort during its senior years.

When he was not shoeing horses, Stuart enjoyed blacksmithing, creating custom fireplace tools and irons, and small decorative pieces. Another of his great pleasure was riding his Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Stuart was an active member of the Western Farriers Association, the American Farriers Association and a lifetime member of the NRA.

Stuart was dedicated to his practice of Transcendental Meditation for 50 years. He became a teacher of TM, studying with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in Spain in the early '70s.

Stuart lived life on his terms. He had a unique style and grace rarely found these days. He was honest to a fault and always spoke his mind. Stuart was a consummate gentleman, polite, gracious and generous. He was a true and proud American patriot. He will be greatly missed by his family and wide circle of friends, who will never forget the memorable cadence of his voice.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his nephew, Greg Ashley Greenberg; and his sister-in-law, Terry Saltzman Greenberg.

He is survived by his sister, Judy Greenberg Guetig (Mark); his brother, James Greenberg (Carrie), two grandnieces and one grandnephew.

Contributions may be made in memory of Stuart to the USO, Dept. WS, P.O. Box 96860, Washington, DC 20090-6860, or Hillsdale College, 33 E. College St., Hillsdale, Michigan 49242, or to the charity of your choice.

### Andrew "Andy" Hill Schosser

Andrew "Andy" Hill Schosser, 39, died unexpectedly on Friday, May 20, 2022.

Andy graduated from Ballard High School and moved to San Francisco to pursue his love of art and skateboarding. With his friends, Andy skated in Toronto and New York, where he also lived, Lon-



don, Nice, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Mallorca, Paris, Stockholm, California and Oregon.

Andy loved living on his sailboat, the "Banana Wind," in the San Francisco Bay. He lived every day to the fullest.

Andy taught those around him to be unencumbered and secure in who they are. He had unconditional love for everyone without judgement. He had a sharp wit and charm for miles. He was warm, joyful, and fearless. He lived life full throttle and to the beat of his own drum. He was kindhearted and loved by everyone – people and animals alike. He was sentimental and everybody's best friend.

He is survived by his parents, James and Robin; his sister, Hillery (Chuck) Harlow; and three nieces, Hadley, Berkeley and Paisley.

He valued his friends, Aaron Lomax, Tom Parrish, Will Thompson, Troy Allman, Chip VanHam, Matt Wells, Joe Russell, Paul French, and Mark Schultz.

A celebration of Andy's life will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., July 23, at Wildwood Country Club, 500 Bardstown Road. Burial is private. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Andy to the Arrow Fund, P.O. Box 1127 Prospect, KY 40059, (thearrowfund.com) or to the donor's favorite charity.

### Mayya Shneydman Zak

Mayya Shneydman Zak, 82, died Thursday, May 26, 2022, at Baptist Health Louisville.

She was born April 16, 1940, in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), Russia, formerly the Soviet Union. She completed school in Russia and received her degree in mechanical engineering. In the United States, she worked in alterations. Mayya was a member of The Temple.

Maya was preceded in death by her husband, Solomon Zak; and her parents, Shoya and Sarra Nemzer Akselrod.

She is survived by her two brothers, Iliya Akselrod of Carmichael, California, and Arkady Akselrod of Fair Oaks, California.

A graveside service was held Friday, June 3, at The Temple Cemetery.

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# NEWS

## LEGACY

Continued from page 1

“and these things take time.”

Under the terms of the program, participating organizations can earn incentive grants from HGF if they meet certain “benchmarks” for legacy giving by their members.

Legacy gifts are donations made by donors that take effect after their deaths, either by including an organization in their wills or making it a beneficiary on their insurance policies.

But under LIFE & LEGACY PLUS, the communities will set their own benchmarks, drafting work plans in which they lay out things to do to strengthen legacy giving where they live.

Once HGF approves the work plans and releases funding, the plans will be implemented.

The funds will be released based on a 2-1 match by the community: HGF will give up to \$50,000 per community in the first year, matched by a \$100,000 local commitment; up

\$45,000 in the second year (a \$90,000 match); \$40,000 in the third year (an \$80,000 match); and \$35,000 in the final year (a \$75,000 match).

The matches come from the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Jewish Heritage Fund, which have partnered with LIFE & LEGACY.

“The LIFE & LEGACY initiative in Louisville must not be taken for granted,” said Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Community of Louisville. She said that 349 donors, have already joined together “to ensure the love they have for Jewish life in Louisville will continue to grow and thrive.”

In Louisville, LIFE & LEGACY has generated 514 after-life commitments as of May 19, supporting nine local synagogues, schools and agencies to date – the equivalent of \$12.2 million in future estimated gifts, according to the local coordinator, Jennifer Tuvlin.

In turn, those gifts have released \$372,324 in incentive grants from HGF.

“Once again, Louisville’s Jewish community has demonstrated its gen-

erosity,” Tuvlin said, “514 legacy commitments in under five years demonstrates that our community wants to preserve our Jewish institutions and ensure they have a vibrant future.”

Nationally, HGF has helped its partner communities secure more than 34,000 legacy commitments, valued at over \$1.3 billion. Of that amount, \$149 million has already been placed in organizational endowments.

Started in 2012 to “normalize” legacy giving and to build cultures of giving within Jewish organizations, LIFE & LEGACY today operates in 73 communities across North America and is still open for new ones to participate.

HGF settled on the extension after commissioning Rossoff, a California-based consulting firm, to evaluate LIFE & LEGACY. Rossoff interviewed at least half the organizations that finished the four-year program, along with coordinators and organizations, before recommending that more work be done to sustain legacy giving.

Grinspoon, Schiff said, believes leg-



A program of the HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

acy giving is a positive power that can sustain Jewish communities, and he wants local givers to experience that power.

“Harold is committed to the power of legacy giving,” she said. “He knows how meaningful being a philanthropist has been to him. He wants to give others that opportunity.”

Asked if this will be the only extension of LIFE & LEGACY, Schiff was noncommittal.

“Harold is generous,” she said. “Harold is always looking at what is needed to have an impact and reach our goals.”

## OTTENHEIMER

Continued from page 1

have such a debt to,” Reily said.

A graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School, Reily, who once clerked for Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, is managing director & CEO of IMC Licensing, a product development company; co-founder and chairman of Curated Media, which connects consumers with special-interest content, and founder and chairman of Seed Capital Kentucky, which supports sustainable farming and the local food economy.

He directed the Speed Art Museum from 2017 to 2021.

And he ran for Louisville Metro Council from District 8 in 2016, finishing second in a field of seven by 116 votes.

As a lawyer and philanthropist, he has championed the plight of some 300,000 Kentuckians, disproportionately Black, who cannot get their criminal records expunged even though they have served their time

and stayed out of trouble. The Reily Reentry Project, a program he funds at the Louisville Urban League, has been responsible for a majority of all criminal expungements in Kentucky since it was created in 2018.

He also serves on the board of LHome, a community development financial institution with roots in Jewish Louisville that provides business and home loans in low-income areas.

“Capital is not distributed as evenly as talent and ideas,” Reily said. “As an entrepreneur, I know I had access to capital – my own and others – that a young Black 30-year-old in my position never would have had access to. So, LHome’s job as the only home-grown CDFI is to get capital into the hands of people who banks aren’t naturally lending money to.”

A graduate of Harvard University with a Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bingham sees the attraction of history as reminding people living today just how relevant their lives are.

She is the author of *My Old Ken-*

*tucky Home: the Astonishing Life and Reckoning of an Iconic American Song, Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham, The Southern Agrarians and the New Deal*, and she is currently working on another book.

But it was through her first book, *Mordecai: An Early American Family*, that Bingham’s career intersected with the history of American Jews.

*Mordecai* is a story of a Jewish family living in North Carolina in the early 19th century and how they wrestled with their American and Jewish in South. The research for the book was the basis for her dissertation at UNC.

But it also opened doors to the Jewish world for Bingham. She did research at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, living in the dorms and meeting with preeminent American Jewish scholar Rabbi Jacob Rader Marcus.

“That was an amazing and intellectual writing experience for me,” Bingham said. “I adored learning about this 19th century family, I was very, very taken with their incredible

talent and ambition and their aspirations as Americans, and their determination to be American citizens and what that meant to them.”

“Whenever I do a project, the best part is being taken down a road that’s not familiar,” she continued, “and for me that unfamiliar road in this case was Jewish history and specifically Jewish American history and even more specifically Jewish history in the American South.”

Her latest book, *My Old Kentucky Home*, the story of the classic but tragic song about a slave sold away from his native Kentucky, still stirs raw feelings today in an America where equality can still be elusive.

Bingham isn’t afraid to address difficult issues in her books.

“To me, the only reason I really want to write history is to help people who are living today understand that they too are in the course of history,” she said, “that they are shaped by what happened before, even if they don’t know it, and that they are part of shaping what’s coming after.”

## STUDY

Continued from page 16

adopted a definition of antisemitism, and the status of Holocaust education and freedom of worship.

Under that scoring system, Germany received an overall score of 72 despite having the best score (89) on government performance on issues related to Jews and a solid 92 when it came to the prevalence of antisemitism. But a relatively low score on Jewish sense of security (46) hurt its overall score, among other factors.

In the case of Hungary, “the score it received reflects the reality on the ground,” according to Shlomo

Koves, the head of the Chabad-affiliated EMIH umbrella group of Jewish communities in Hungary. “Jews can walk around here, go to synagogue, without the slightest fear of harassment,” he said.

But the prevalence of antisemitic sentiments in Hungarian society – an Anti-Defamation League survey from 2015 found that about 30 percent of the population hold them – “shows there is work to be done here, too, in education and outreach,” Koves said.

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