JEWISH LOUISVILLE

COMMUNITY

NSIDE:

Unity in Community garners support from Isaacs family SEE PG. 12

FRIDAY Vol. 48, No. 11 | November 25, 2022 | 1 Kislev 5783

Combatting Antisemitism

Playing the Long Game

By Matt Golden

3,200 years ago, an Egyptian Pharoah wrote about the people of Israel. His writing, etched on a granite stone, is widely considered to be the first reference to the people of Israel outside the bible. You can still see it to this day, in a museum in Cairo. It stands as evidence that the people of Israel have existed in an everchanging and unbroken line across more than three millennia. There is pride in that.

At the same time, this Pharaoh, Merneptah, did not celebrate that people's existence. To the contrary, the 1213 BCE Merneptah Stele standing in Cairo holds that the people of Israel are "wasted, bare of seed." Pharaoh Merneptah celebrated either the destruction of, or the desire to destroy, the people of Israel. He didn't succeed.

History is riddled with similar stories, all centered around the thought that the Jewish people needed to be destroyed because they were a threat to power. Cicero claimed Jews were too influential in public assemblies and only fit to be slaves in 59 BCE. But just a decade before, the Romans had ejected the Jews from both Judea and Rome. It seems strange that the most famous of all Roman orators would be spending time denigrating Jews, a supposedly defeated people. Yet there it is, Cicero's perception of Jewish power on the one hand and the need to crush the Jews on the other.

In the centuries that followed, the dual nature of Jewish survival and the parallel of hatred remained a constant.

On one side of the coin, as Jews lived in diaspora, they built communities and worked to support and better the kingdoms and regimes in which they resided. Look at Maimonides as an example of that duality. The author of the *Guide for the Perplexed* also served as the personal

rope, there was hope that a new age of acceptance would grow. But by 1545, Martin Luther, the father of Protestantism, declared in his work *The Jews and their Lies*, that the Jews steal Christian children and poison Christian wells. He argued that Jews' homes and synagogues



physician to Saladin.

At the same time, hatred and superstition were heaped upon the Jews. From claims of deicide, to ritual murder, to thievery, to satanic worship and witchcraft, no conspiracy was spared. As reformist ideals swept through Eube burned to the ground.

Time and again this cycle repeats. Jews came to England on invitation from William the Conqueror in 1066 only to be expelled by James I in 1290 in an eco-

See **ANTISEMITISM** on page 4

Overnight camp grants extended beyond Louisville, to all youth in Kentucky

By Community Staff

For the first time, One Happy Camper (OHC) grants and camp financial assistance will be offered not just to families from Louisville with children attending Jewish overnight camps, but to youth from all over Kentucky.

In partnership with the Jewish Heritage Fund, the Jewish Federation of Louisville will offer OHC grants and overnight camp financial assistance for all Jewish youth in Kentucky to attend

sleepaway camp

Children attending camp in their first, second and third years are all eligible to receive OHC grants. Parents do not need to provide income eligibility forms or provide personal financial information. Additional financial assistance is available to ensure children can return to camp in subsequent years, even after year three of OHC. All Jewish youth in Kentucky are eligible for the same grants if they want to attend camp.

The grants are available to any Jewish

youth interested in going to an approved summer camp. A list of camps can be found at www.jewishcamp.org.

Alison Roemer, Senior Director of Camp, Youth and Families for the Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville, has been spending time on the road recently traveling around Kentucky sharing this news. She recently spoke to two religious schools in Lexington to make sure that parents, students and families know about this new op-

See **CAMP** on page 16

The story behind Tim Lorsch's "The Suitcase"

By Jeffrey Jamner

For most of his musical career, Tim Lorsch has been a session musician and a member of the bands in Nashville, but not the featured artist. He is a thorough professional who has always loved playing a support role.

"I have spent my lifetime avoiding the spotlight. I have been perfectly content and happy to be a role player and figure out what it is I need to do to help someone else's vision. And I have never been the instigator or the creator of a vision."

Lorsch did not see himself as a creator, because he didn't really believe that he had a story to tell-until the day that the suitcase arrived.



Tim Lorsch

Prior to that day Tim had developed an interest in his family who perished in the Holocaust. This interest grew after being contacted by a genealogist, after going through boxes of family photos, and after transcribing ten hours of interviews that were produced by two cousins, interviews with his parents and a grand-mother.

Although he understood what it took to tell a story through music, he still did not feel like he had a cohesive story worthy of sharing through his art form. And then, in 2016, the suitcase that had belonged to his father's uncle arrived from the Czech Republic. It was sent to him by a Catholic man named Miroslav Berger who devoted much of his life to finding the possessions of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, and return them to their families.

For five days, the large box containing the suitcase remained unopened. It was too overwhelming to face it so quickly. And after opening the suitcase, and seeing the writing inside that had his Great Uncle's name, an address, and his transport number (from Berlin to Theresienstadt concentration camp),

See **LORSCH** on page 3



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month *Toldot*: Twin Studies



D'var Torah Cantor David Lipp

For those who haven't enjoyed our Louisville-launched comedian Raanan Hershberg yet, fresh off a weekend at the Bardstown and a presentation at the Trager Family JCC, one of his signature bits concerns himself and his twin sister.

With relish he ridicules those who pose the following question: "Let me ask you: Identical?" Every time I hear it, I laugh.

"It's okay for me but I'm not sure how she'd get along looking like a Jewish John Belushi!"

Based on the description of the birth of Esau and Jacob, anyone with eyesight would have to be similarly clueless to ask whether *they* were identical. Esau, the hairy, burly future hunter contrasted with the mild, homebody, stew-cooking Jacob, holding onto his brother's heel as they squeeze their way into our collective histories.

Their conflict begins in the womb eliciting a poetic prophecy from God, predicting that the fight will not end in the womb but lead to battles among nations, peoples. The final phrase is one mom takes to heart. The elder will serve the younger.

When Rebecca decides she loves her younger son more than the elder, is it a subliminal response to the poetry she heard without benefit of epidural, a message singed into her consciousness, or just a confirmation-bias emotional rubber stamp?

If every translation is an interpretation, I would argue that here, it's even more so.

Imagine a language where punctuation applies to every word. In English we have commas and semicolons and periods but for the most part, our sentences are punctuated with pauses and inflections based on the context of what we read and the skill of the writer.

The *Masoretes* of Tiberius over a millennium ago were far more OCD about punctuation — they made sure we knew to what extent every word was connected or distinguished from the one following. And Hebrew allows for words to be understood differently depending on such pauses.

The Masoretic symbol following "The Elder" is *Tipcha*, a disjunctive, whereas the *Mercha* connecting "Will-serve the-younger" is conjunc-

tive. So the seemingly simple reading of 'The Elder will serve the younger' doesn't make as much sense with the pause as "The Elder, the Younger will serve." Did Rebecca mishear the prophecy? Was she in such pain, she missed the pause and the contingent meaning? Were the *Masoretes* mistaken in their punctuation?

I don't think so. I had a conversation with two of my friends, both colleagues who have multiple kids. We were reflecting on an episode of "The Crown" in which Prince Phillip proudly names his favorite child and, much to her chagrin, asserts that the Queen knows whom her favorite is as well. Finally she breaks down and admits she has more affection for one child over the others.

The truth is, being human, we don't have control over our feelings. We do, however, have control over how we choose to respond to and express them.

I believe Rebecca loved Jacob more *despite* the prophecy. I believe she saw that Jacob was a more worthy successor of Isaac and she acted accordingly, fooling her husband into granting him the preferred blessing.

Like vigorous Abraham, Rebecca is far more his proactive successor than her husband. She is no mere cog in God's matriarchal machinery but an active intercessor in the holy machinations of the original family's drama.

The rabbis learn from Rebecca and Isaac that it's sinful to prefer one child over the other. Based on my colleagues' experience, I wonder whether acknowledging the distinctions of love are healthier, at least between parents, when transparent than denied. All families have dysfunction. The most successful have the honesty and abundance of love to soothe and negotiate the rocky promontories of such reality.

Even identical twins differ significantly the moment they enter this world and start interacting with their own individual consciousness.

My family sometimes would say that although we always love one another, there might be moments when like some members of the clan less.

Our ancient patriarch and matriarch had the human right to love one child more than the other. Had they acknowledged this to one another and provided enough combined love to encompass the needs of their differently abled and needy children, the conflicts they helped exacerbate might have been ameliorated.

Shabbat Shalom.

Cantor David Lipp is the hazzan of Adath Jeshurun.

Snapshots







Photos from this year's Festival of Trees & Lights. (left to right, clockwise) Maureen Wishnia Friedman and Jeff Slyn; Alison Roemer reading to children; Matt Golden handing out gelt and dreidels.

Candles

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

- Dec 2 @ 5:04 p.m.
 Dec 23 @ 5:09 p.m.
 Dec 30 @ 5:14 p.m.
- Dec 16 @ 5:06 p.m.

Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community* at **community@jewishlouisville.org**.

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Benefield can handle all circulation questions. She can be reached at **kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org** or 502-238-2770

Got an item for the Community eblast? Send it to **community@jewishlouis-ville.org**.

Deadlines

Got a news item for Community? Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Wednesday, December 21** though sooner is better). The paper should be in your mailbox

by Friday, December 30.

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

Read Community Everywhere...

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

Maybe you like the look of a real paper without the, er ... paper. Then check out *Digital Community* at **jewishlouisville.**

org/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/Jew-ishLouisville/** or on Twitter, **Twitter.com/CommunityLou**, for the latest Jewish news from Kentucky and around the world.

Corrections/Clarifications

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

LORSCH

Continued from page 1

everything began to crystalize for him. For members of our community who watched the 2022 Louisville Jewish Film Festival, you may have already noted some parallels between Lorsch's journey that begins with the discovery of a suitcase in the film "A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto."

Tim Lorsch now had a big story to tell, and as an artist, he felt like he was "the luckiest person on the planet." For the first time he felt ready to begin stepping into the spotlight as a creative artist.

It took five years to develop his vision into a full-length program ready to share with audiences. There were many learning curves related to mastering the complex technology to get the results he wanted out of his electrically amplified string instruments. And then there was the risk that lurks in the minds of all creative artists, "you do it, and you have no idea if this was going to work." But his belief in the power of these stories propelled him.

Now in its third incarnation, Tim Lorsch's "The Suitcase" will come to Louisville on December 8th at 7:00 PM as part of the Trager Family JCC's Three Pillars programming. What will you experience? Tim Lorsch's program will combine storytelling, visual projection of photos and videos, and original music designed to convey the emotion behind the stories that go beyond the words themselves.

All the music for the program is original and performed live on violin, baritone violin (tuned lower than a viola), and cello. Mr. Lorsch uses a process called "live looping" which allows him to create a chamber orchestra by himself without using any prerecorded music. He plays a musical phrase and has that phrase start automatically repeating itself. He then adds another phrase on top of that one. Mr. Lorsch continues to add layers until he has fashioned a full string ensemble producing a listening experience unlike anything you've ever seen or heard.

Lorsch shared why it is important to tell and to hear these stories. He talked about living in an age of "alternative facts" and disinformation. To those who deny the history of the Holocaust, he responds by explaining something unique about this history: when something terrible happens to a group of people,

you usually rely on the personal stories of the victims for historical evidence. In this case, we also have the meticulous records kept by the perpetrators that confirm these events, adding "this is what happened to my family. When you hear their story, I hope that you will feel their humanity."

Want to go?

To purchase tickets to the event, please go to

jewishlouisville.org/3-pillars



The suitcase that had belonged to Tim Lorsch's father's uncle that arrived from the Czech Republic. It was sent to him by a Catholic man named Miroslav Berger who devoted much of his life to finding the possessions of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, and returning them to their families.

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ANTISEMITISM

Continued from page 1

nomic crisis. In Spain, for the better part of 800 years, Jews lived under both Christian and Muslim rule, building flourishing societies either tolerated or formally accepted. This was until they were massacred in the late 1300s, forced to convert, and expelled in 1492. The Holocaust of the 1930s and 40s grew because Jews were a convenient target for the ills confronting a post World War I Germany and fodder for xenophobic nationalism. From Poland to Portugal, from Babylon to Germany, Jews have always been part of the society that grew to hate them.

Against that three-thousand year backdrop, Jewish experience in America should be placed in perspective. Jews survived expulsions, forced conversions, diaspora, pogroms and the holocaust and despite all that, thrived. Here in America, there is no question Jews have flourished. Jews have risen to every level of society, culture and government in a land of acceptance, but the old tropes are here in America too. A little more than 100 years ago, Ulysses S. Grant, hero the Civil War and 18th President of the United States put more Jews in office than any other president before. He was the first president to attend a synagogue service and the first to openly condemn the rising antisemitism in Europe in the 1870s. But he is also the author of General Order 11, which, during the Civil War, expelled all the Jews from Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky. Down the road in Paducah, the Order resulted in the forced march and rough treatment of all the Jews there.

Cue up the old song for today. In October, Ye, the artist formerly known as Kanye, let us know what it means to be Jewish again by claiming the Jews controlled the media. White nationalists grabbed the 405

highway in California to proclaim Kanye was right. Kyrie Irving shared a movie without explanation that, among other tropes, blames Jews for the North American slave trade and, by extension, racism in America. At the same moment, supremacists espoused that Jews are the architects for the "Great Replacement Theory;" a nonsense whereby the Jews are conspiring to replace one race with another as part of a vast conspiracy. Here in our city, flyers were distributed blaming Jews for COVID. Pick a problem and someone is going to blame the Jews.

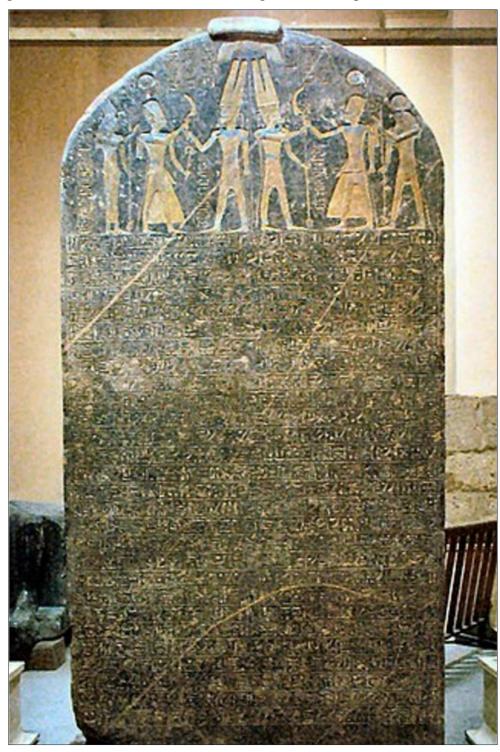
So what does a person do with that knowledge?

First, gain more knowledge. There are any number of sources on understanding antisemitism and ways to continue the struggle against it. If you go to the JCRC website at jewishlouisville.org/jcrc have posted a number of different resources and materials that may help further your understanding. Feel free to reach out to me at the JCRC to discuss any antisemitism you experience or to stand with you if need help. Jews make up only 2% of the national population and 0.2% of the world population. In our metropolitan area of nearly a million, about 14,000 people are believed to be Jewish with another 4,000 or so living in Jewish households. What this means is that most people will have never met a Jew or talked to a Jew about being Jewish. This places a particular responsibility on us to educate our community against antisemitism and "arm" ourselves with knowledge.

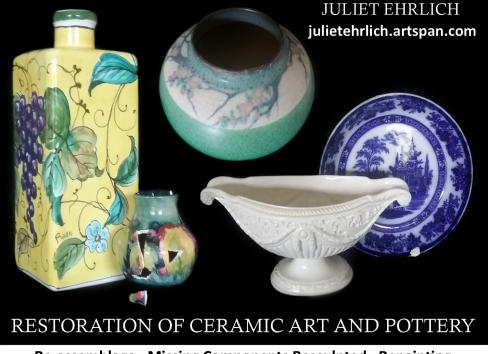
Second, and this may be a controversial point, but do not be afraid to participate in Jewish institutions. Synagogues, the Federation, the JCRC, Jewish Family and Career Services, Hillel and other distinctly Jewish organizations locally and nationally regularly combat antisemitism and offer programming

and support as part of an ongoing community effort. You will find just about every Rabbi, lay leader, or volunteer willing to stand with you. Organized Jewish communities work through their institutions and broaden support for Jews in the places Jews live. An intended consequence of organizational participation is the strengthening of the ability of Jewish institutions to serve the broader community's needs. As we fight for ourselves, we fight for others too.

Third, do not be afraid to have pride in being Jewish. The fact is,



The Merneptah Stele, written 3,200 years ago by an Egyptian Pharoah, is widely considered to be the first reference to the people of Israel outside of the bible.



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Jews have survived because of their connection to a religion and way of life that has outlived empires. That way of life includes, at its core, the requirement to protect the least among a society—the widow, the orphan and the stranger. That willingness to stand up to power is likely why the Jews are hated by the powerful. As Mark Twain wrote, "The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then passed away. The Greek and the Roman followed. The Jew saw them all and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains." The fact that the people of Israel "remain" is nothing short of a miracle. It is ok to "kvell" on that. I have always thought the saddest line in the Torah was, "a new Pharoah arose that did not know Joseph." Exodus 1:8. It is a stark reminder that no matter what a Jewish person can do, no matter how far they may go in society, some new king, dictator, leader or now celebrity will forget their contributions and try and tear them down in the whim of a moment. The Pharoah Mereptah was of that ilk. So are the nationalists, supremacists and xenophobes of today. At the same time, the people of Israel have survived the centuries by combatting superstition with knowledge, by building strong institutions internally and externally, and by loving a religion and way of life in the face of hate.

For more than 3,000 years we have played the long game. Even with all the hate going on in the world today, I still like our chances.

Matt Golden is a lawyer and the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council. In his opinion, the JCRC is the most august body in the Jewish Community, seeking justice and doing tikkun olam. He is admittedly very partial and biased in this regard. He invites comments, suggestions or airing of grievances at mgolden@jewishlouisville.org.

Resources from JCRC

10 ways to Fight Antisemitism.

https://blogs.timesofisrael. com/a-jewish-call-to-action-10-ways-to-fight-back/

Link to Deborah Lipstadt's book on Antisemitism.

https://www.amazon.com/ **Antisemitism-Here-Deborah-**Lipstadt/dp/0805243372

Empowering Students to Fight Antisemitism

https://cdn.fedweb.org/fed-104/309/Responding%2520to% 2520Antisemitism%2520.pdf

State Department's Guide to Antisemitism using the International Holocaust Museum's working definition.

https://www.state.gov/definingantisemitism/

PJ Library's Guide to talking about Antisemitism.

https://pjlibrary.org/beyondbooks/pjblog/february-2022/ how-to-talk-to-children-aboutanti-semitism

Resources for Students combatting Antisemitism.

https://www.ajc.org/CampusLibrary

Holocaust Museum's tools for combatting Antisemitism.

https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism

Excellent glossary of "dog whistles" of Antisemitism.

https://www.ajc.org/translatehateglossary

10 things you can do to fight Antisemitism.

https://f85a608f-8fb7-4215-93dd-424aabb15a3d. filesusr.com/ugd/46fc49_aad-394ca92e04e088ba21f-557b9045ad.pdf

National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section

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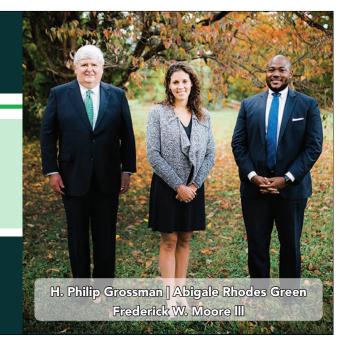
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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are December 21 for publication on December 30 and January 18 for publication on

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

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The appearance of advertising in Community does not represent a kashruth endorsement.

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

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

Email your comments to: Community.

Letters to the editor,

community@jewishlouisville.org.

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

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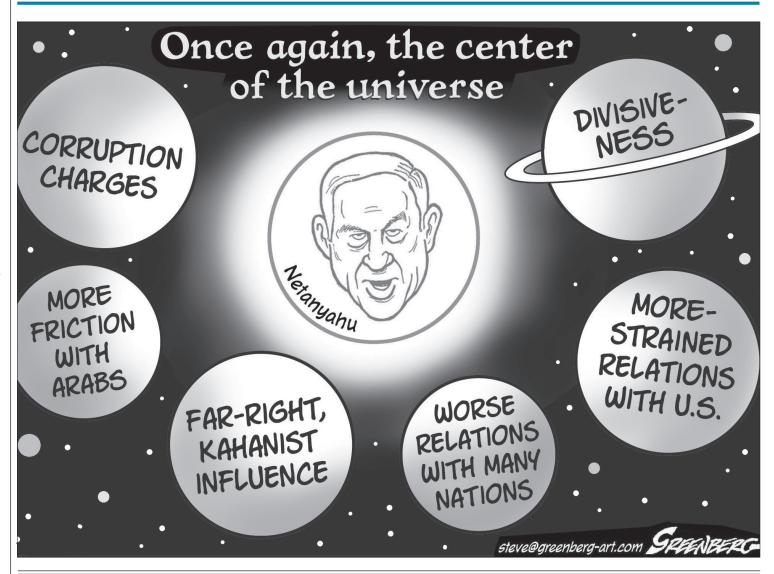
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FORUM



The Torah of the Maccabees: The Light of Faith



Guest Columnist

By Rabbi Dr. N. Siritsky, MA, MSSW, RSW, **BCC**

As we approach the season of Hanukkah, the miracles that this ancient holiday seeks to convey are especially powerful this year. We remember: the little bit of oil that was barely enough for one day, but that lasted for eight days... the small but determined army of Maccabees who managed to fight for justice and overthrow their oppres-

The word "Maccabee" has many roots, but has been attributed by our rabbis to be a reference to the words preserved in the book of Exodus: "Mi Chamocha Ba'Elim Adonai" which means: "Who is like Adonai from all the gods". The rabbis teach that the Children of Israel were running from Ancient Egyptian slavery and entered into the waters with a faith so deep that even when the waters began to almost drown them, they kept mov-

ing forward... they did not give up hope... and it was that faith that led to the great miracle of the waters parting.

In a sense, this is the real miracle of Hanukkah: the courage of the few to persevere... the faith of those who refuse to let fear imprison them... the willingness to wade into uncertain waters and keep hoping and trusting. What kind of courageous faith does it take to kindle the menorah with a little bit of oil that we know is not enough... Do we have this same courage in our own day?

When we make brave decisions that honor our values and ethics rather than letting fear guide us... when we have the courage to depart from what everyone says we should do... when we fight for what is right even if we are just a brave and determined minority, trusting that doing the right thing will be Light enough... These are the ways we kindle faith.

It takes courage to follow one's heart and conscience- especially when everyone says that what we are doing is wrong or when we may pay a price for doing so. As a historically oppressed and marginalized group, that has become the target for increased hatred and violence in recent years, we may find ourselves seeking to try to appease those in power... thinking that this might help us. Fear can lead us to side with the oppressor... this is part of what the story of Hanukkah came to teach us... it is not unique to us. All minority groups are tempted to internalized the messages of those who oppress, colonize or otherwise seek to harm us. We then sometimes weaponize these messages- we become the gate keepers and judges.

Hanukkah reminds us that it takes deep spiritual courage to venture forth into the waters that risk drowning us... to fight for what is right at all costs. And even if it seems like it is not logical, we kindle the lights that become flames that last for as long as we need them to burn. The rabbis further teach that this is the real meaning of the word: "Maccabee" the letters of which have the numerical value of 72 (10=', 2= ב , 20= ב, 40= ה), alluding to the 72-letter Divine Name of the Holy One of Blessing which all of humankind seek to understand and honor... this same Name which was used by Moses to help

See MACCABEES on page 23

FORUM

Zerizut for Kindness: Takeaways from This Year's General Assembly



Sara's View

Sara Klein Wagner

"Kindness is the bomb!" This enthusiastic wisdom was shared by ten-year-old Brianna Shull as part of the Trager Family JCC's first Unity in Community Breakfast.

Brianna and her brother, Marek, shared why they loved Camp J so much and their mom shared how grateful she was for the support provided to the family for Brianna and Marek to attend.

How different would the world be right now if we adults could channel our youthful spirit and energy toward positive understanding rather than rapidly increasing tensions and tribalism? As Jewish leaders, we recognize that we are living in an extraordinary time. There are very serious issues and concerns that we need to address. Those issues and concerns were front and center as five Louisvil-

lians joined over 1,200 Jewish communal leaders in Chicago at the Jewish Federations' General Assembly (GA).

This year's GA focused on responses to the geopolitical challenges and global events impacting the Jewish community, and challenges and opportunities toward building flourishing Jewish communities. Topics that were discussed include the urgency of Jewish communal security, the Jewish Federation's response to the Ukraine crisis and the uncertainties that lie ahead for Jews in Ukraine and Russia. New initiatives and partnerships to combat the rise in antisemitism were also discussed. Also front and center were national initiatives that embraced Jewish demographic changes as the Jewish table expands to welcome Jews from other races and origins.

Global figures, activists, public officials, and communal leaders addressed the audience. The breakout sessions provided the respectful spaces to debate and offer differing perspectives. It was a healthy reminder that the issues we are addressing in Louisville are like those around the country. The conversations in the

breakout rooms and the hallways sounded a bit like creating a contemporary version of the Talmud in real time. Lots of questions and curiosity about big topics from the changing Jewish family and how it will redefine the Jewish future, to the potential opportunities following the Abraham Accords, and the call to repair the world energizing Jewish life throughout this Country. At the heart of many of our most important discussions was how Jewish life, democracy, security and solidarity with others can intersect in meaningful ways.

Jewish Federations of North America Board Chair, Julie Platt, announced that since the launch of LiveSecure last year, the number of Jewish communities in North America that have security programs has increased by 42%. LiveSecure is a \$130 million investment in Jewish communal security that aims to protect every single Jewish community in the U.S. and Canada through a grant issued by Jewish Federations of North America, with matching funds raised by local Federations.

Three days in Chicago with our local leaders, David Kaplan, Beth Salamon, Ben Vaughan and Matt Golden provided us a strong centering moment and we all agreed with the overall sentiment of the GA that we cannot just be about the OY but need to celebrate the Joy in Jewish life.

Back to ten-year-old Brianna's clear-eyed perspective. The Jewish Foundation for Camping published a periodic table several years ago titled *Making Menches*. Both our day and overnight camps provide space for campers to learn and try out new or newish Jewish values. One of the questions posed as part of making *Making Menches*, "During chaotic or challenging experiences, what lessons or values do we want our campers to apply?" Brianna reminded me that kindness or *chesed* is truly the "bomb" to combat the hate around

I am so grateful to every member of our community and want to share my *zerizut* (zest) for kindness and understanding with each of you as we continue to help each and every person that we engage to flourish on a pathway as unique as they are.

Sara Klein Wagner is president and CEO of Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville.







PICTURE THIS: SNOWFLAKE SHOPPE













Scenes from The Snowflake Shoppe held in November at the Trager Family JCC. Over 42 artisans shared their wares and crafts that were available for purchase. The Snowflake Shoppe is a fundraiser for the Early Learning Center.



YOUR LEGACY matters.

You have poured your heart and soul into Louisville's Jewish community and made a difference. Your commitment to Jewish Louisville stands as a testament to your values.

Now is the time to take the next step in making it an enduring part of your Jewish legacy.

As you plan for the future, think about what your Jewish legacy means to you. And please consider the institution closest to your heart in your will or estate plan.

To learn more about how to create your Jewish legacy, please contact Gayle Shoemaker at gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org.







PICTURE THIS: BBYO









(left to right, clockwise) Former Jay Levine BBG member and current Ohio State University Student, Miriam Bird, leads the region in song with her guitar during Shabbat prayers; Israeli Olympic Gold Medalist Ori Sasson shares his gold medal in Judo from Rio 2016 with Louisville teen, Nila Rothman. Also pictured, Maraya Goldstein, Hannah Ciriano, Isabela Nibur, Olivia Dentinger, and Natalie Scaeiwicz; the 68th KIO Regional Board leads the blessing after the meal, featuring 3 Louisville teens, Levi Koby, Ada Weiss, and West Franklin. Over one hundred teens together at the convention; the 68th KIO Regional Board leads the blessing after the meal, featuring 3 Louisville teens, Levi Koby, Ada Weiss, and West Franklin.





PICTURE THIS: THREE PILLARS







Rabbi Steve Leder, Senior Rabbi from Wilshire Boulevard Temple, joined via Zoom for a presentation on Ethical Wills as part of the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Three Pillars Series. Shane Shaps interviewed Rabbi Leder. Also pictured are Shannon Rothschild, Women's Philanthropy, and Stacy Gordon-Funk, Senior VP and Chief Philanthropy Officer for the Jewish Federation of Louisville.











Inank you.

You are the reason we have a thriving JCC, active summer camps, engaging programming, flourishing Jewish Family & Career Services, enthusiastic BBYO teenagers, interactive Hillel students, crucial assistance with community security/safety and trusted relationships with our Partnership cities in Israel – some of the many valuable causes supported by the Federation's annual campaign.







JEWISH FAMILY & CAREER SERVICES

Location: Louis & Lee Roth Family Center | 2821 Klempner Way | Louisville, KY 40205 502-452-6341 | jfcslouisville.org



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For students 15-18

December 27-29 | 12 - 2 p.m.

JFCS will host a LAUNCH Boot Camp for students exploring their options post-high school. Sessions will cover career exploration, post-secondary planning and self-advocacy. Use your winter break to plan for the future! Lunch provided.

Call Andrea at 502-322-1912 to register.



Powered in part by the Jewish Federation of Louisville

FEDERATION

Darryl and Teri Isaacs pledge \$100,000 matching gift to kick off JCC's "Unity in Community"

By Stephanie Smith For Community



Long before he married his wife, Teri, Darryl Isaacs spent his child-hood hanging out with his older brother at the Jewish Community Center. His parents even met at the JCC where they formed lifelong friendships. Darryl and Teri recently showed their support for the JCC with a \$100,000 matching gift pledge to kick off the organization's "Unity in Community" initiative.

Isaacs says, "I came to the JCC as a child and teenager; however, as a young law student, I had a very limited budget. The Jewish community made it possible for me to come to the JCC. Now, it's my turn to pay it forward so others can take advantage of the wonderful programs and services offered here like Camp J, the Early Learning Childhood Center, the Healthy Senior Program and much more.

I believe making a pledge like this is what my parents would want me to do. My wife, Teri, and I encourage others whose lives have been touched by this special community to make a financial commitment to its future."

The community has answered the Isaacs' call for support, "So far, we are making progress toward the match, and we are asking donors and friends of JCC to help us meet



Heather Shull

our fundraising goal so we can continue to build this caring community," says Angie Fleitz, Senior Director of Development, JCC.

Fleitz adds, "Here at the JCC, thanks to donors like Darryl and Teri, we turn no one away. At the JCC, you will find the support of community in nurturing the full potential of all who pass through these doors."

Donations make it possible for the JCC to provide scholarships for families with children in the Early Learning Center or those with chilsays she was so grateful to receive a financial break so that her children, Marek and Brianna, could attend Camp J, "It was a lifesaver for me. I work full-time and felt safe dropping my children off because I knew they would be in a safe environment where they could succeed."

Shull adds, "Thanks to camp advocate, all camp staff and the inclusive community, my children



(left to right) Rachel and Stanley Albert, Lorna and Leon Figa, Sheldon and Betty Isaacs, Donald and Marcia Gordon, Jake and Carol Wishnia

dren with differing abilities who need specially trained advocates at camp. Contributions make it possible for someone of modest means to join the JCC so they can achieve their fitness goals in an environment that welcomes everyone.

She says, "We span the generations as we provide seniors with wonderful meals that bring them comfort, prepared with love. We celebrate the friendships and activities here at the JCC that make their lives richer and fuller – a vital part of our 'Unity in Community'."

Jim and Mitzi Schatz, a couple who are participating in the JCC's Healthy Senior program, know all about it. Upon relocating to Louisville, they found the home away from home they needed at the JCC, "It feels like family, a place to go where everyone is so kind to us," says Mitzi.

Jim adds, "I was a politician and Mitzi was a librarian and we missed that community you find in the workplace. The JCC provides us with a place to meet people with similar experiences – we're building relationships here."

For her part Heather Shull, a single parent of two foster adopted children with differing needs,

thrived beyond anything I could have imagined. Children like mine truly need a village of support and we found that at the JCC."

This year, the Trager Family JCC provided \$250,000 in necessary funding:

\$110,000 in tuition assistance to families in need so that their children could attend summer camp, preschool, and afterschool programs.

\$75,000 in membership support for families in financial crisis, refugee families, and our community's first responders.

Through our Senior Lunch Program and Meals on Wheels, which is open to anyone 60 years and older, we subsidized over \$65,000 for hot, nutritious, kosher meals to vulnerable seniors throughout our community. During the height of the pandemic, the yearly number of meals prepared and delivered doubled in a single year, exceeding 21,000

Fleitz concludes, "We estimate the need for financial and nutrition assistance will increase by 40 percent in the immediate future. This is the perfect time to support the 'Unity in Community' initiative. I hope all donors are as touched as we are by Darryl and Teri Isaacs matching gift."

To learn more or support the initiative, contact Angie Fleitz, Senior Development Director - Philanthropy & Outreach, Jewish Federation of Louisville & Trager Family JCC at 502-238-2767 or afleitz@jewishlouisville.org.

Make your donation today and receive 2022 tax benefits

Check out the ways you can make your annual gift or complete your pledge to support The Jewish Federation of Louisville:

CASH Drop by our office to say hello and make your donation in person.

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CREDIT CARD We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express; donate online at https://jewishlouisville.org/federation/donate.

CALL The Philanthropy Department at 502-238-2739.

Did you know that if you are 70-1/2 years old or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 in IRA benefits to our Annual Campaign without incurring any withdrawal or tax penalties upon making the distribution. As always, please contact your professional tax advisor for further tax-related information.

Nephew gathers donations to remember his aunt with Wall of Honor gift

By Stephanie Smith For Community

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the stories behind the generous capital campaign donors who make up the Wall of Honor Tapestry of Giving at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center.

Max Green will tell you that upon the suggestion of his cousin Jake Wishnia, he had no trouble gathering donations in memory of his Aunt Pauline Pearson for the Trager Family Jewish Community Center Capital Campaign. More than 25 people contributed to remember the lady who was the "heart and soul" of the JCC for more than 40 years. Many often referred to her as "Miss JCC" and she loved that, according to Green.

Pearson started her career in 1941 at the Y.M.H.A. and served several JCC presidents over her career at the place that felt like home to her. Green recalls, "Anytime a child would come into the JCC, she would give them a dime to buy candy. Without children of her own, she doted on my brother, Steve, and I and she so treasured the



Even after she retired. Pauline lent her time and talent to the JCC and received the distinction of Volunteer of the Year.

children who came into JCC.

He adds, "Aunt Pauline was a fixture at the JCC. When you walked in the door, there she was at her type-

Always willing to lend a hand to others, she would give children rides to the JCC to help their parents. She was always involved in Jewish fundraisers, bingo and enjoyed playing MAH JONGG alongside her friend Annette Sagerman. "Aunt Pauline and Annette were fixtures at the JCC, and they loved it."

Green's best friend and neighbor



Pauline Pearson receiving a Jewish community service award, surrounded by past YMHA and JCC presidents and Jewish community leaders including Norbert Friedman, Alex Berman, Lewis Cole, Samuel Steinfeld, Joseph Kaplan, and Morris Kling. Photo credit: The Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY

growing up, Gayle Glazer, loved living on the same street, Cawein Way in the Hikes Point area, near Pauline and shared these fond memories, "I loved Pauline, she was so good to us children. We would gather at her house, and she always made us feel so special. One time, she even took us to Bernheim Forest to collect leaves for a school project in middle school.

We thank Max Green for sharing this story with us.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LOUISVILLE GRATEFULLY

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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Trager Family JCC and Jewish Federation Hosting Hannukah Skating **Night at Paristown on**

The Trager Family JCC and Jewish Federation of Louisville will host a Skating Night in Paristown on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. to celebrate Hannukah. Ice skating will be available for all families. To receive two dollars off ice skating, use the code JCC. To sign up, visit jewishlouisville.org/paristown.

PJ Library reaches 50 million books milestone



PJ Library, the flagship program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), celebrated the delivery of its 50 millionth free book to Jewish families this summer. What started out in 2005 as a small project has now grown to affect the lives of millions of Jewish children worldwide. Books are translated into seven languages and then delivered to over 680,000 kids each month across more than 35 countries.

The Jewish Federation of Louisville has partnered with the HGF since 2001 to bring PJ Library to the Louis-ville Jewish community. "Just last year (2021) we were able to send 3,359 PJ Library books and 745 PJ Our Way books to families in our community,' said Katelyn Graves, PJ Library Coordinator in Louisville. "We are thrilled to be a small part of this incredible milestone.

Each child enrolled in PJ Library receives a monthly gift of a high-quality, age-appropriate Jewish book or CD as well as a reading guide to enhancing the family's experience. Jewish children between the ages of 6 months and 8 years are encouraged to sign up at jewishlouisville.org/federation/ **get-involved/pj-library.** For questions, please contact Katelyn Graves at kgraves@jewishlouisville.org.

BBYO Alumni creates first ever oral history project



In connection with its 100th anniversary, BBYO is launching its first Alumni Oral History Project. BBYO members are encouraged to share their stories and verify their profiles. This is the first effort of its kind for BBYO and will help to create a living history for members both old and new, with the participation of every Aleph and BBG.

Starting this past October, all BBYO alumni should have received information via mail, email, or phone call asking to verify their profile and share a story about their time in BBYO.

If BBYO alumni didn't receive the information or have questions about it, they are encouraged to call 1-888-861-7115.

JFCS receives \$45,000 from Kosair Charities

Kosair Charities awarded Jewish Family and Career Services (JFCS) \$45,000 for its Family Strengthening Program to help families navigate life's challenges and changes through a strengths-based, case management approach.

Over 125 partner organizations statewide lend their expertise in child abuse prevention efforts as part of the Face It Movement. Each community-based organization uniquely focuses on ending the cycle of child abuse by promoting healthy family relationships and educating, preventing, and providing healing treatment for child abuse and neglect.



Representatives from Kosair Charities and JFCS at a recent news conference.

"Through our funding provided by Kosair Charities' Face It Movement, we ioin in the fight to eradicate child abuse by serving individuals and families holistically at every and stage of life," said David Finke, CEO of JFCS. "By providing therapy and wrap around services that support families with a trauma informed approaches we help create a safer and healthier Louisville.

Rabbi Slosberg Nominated for Rabbinic Human **Rights Hero Award**

Rabbi Robert B. Slosberg has recently been nominated to receive the "2023 Rabbinic Human Rights Hero Award" by T'ruah. This award is presented annually to two extraordinary Jewish clergy who take personal and professional risks in the service of human rights of all people. T'ruah is an organization which brings the Torah's ideals of human dignity, equality, and justice to life by empowering rabbis and cantors to be moral voices, and to lead Jewish communities in advancing democracy and human rights for all people. Rabbi Robert B. Slosberg has served as a spiritual leader of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Louisville, Kentucky, since his rabbinic ordination in 1981.

Trager Family JCC programs assist vulnerable seniors

Meals on Wheels is again participating in the Subaru Share the Love event. Through Jan. 3, for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to the customer's choice of participating charities, including Meals on Wheels.

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



from Subaru.

For over 15 years, Subaru has helped Meals on Wheels deliver more than 2.5 million meals nationwide to seniors in need. For more information, visit mealsonwheelsamerica.org/ sharethelove.

Not in the market for a car?

The Trager Family JCC is collecting toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.) for our seniors in need. Items can be dropped off in the Community Room through January 2.

Dr. Karen Abrams Speaks to Students at Montessori Torah Academy

Recently, Dr. Karen Abrams gave the students at Montessori Torah Academy of Louisville a fun and insightful presentation on safety.

The students enjoyed Dr. Abrams reading to them from a funny book and then discussed important safety topics such as the detrimental effects of smoking, what to do if you're lost in a store, the importance of buckling up, and the benefits of healthy eating.

Dr. Abrams also held an open and engaging discussion focusing on how keeping an eye on safety is important at home, on the road, and everywhere.

The students came up with their own safety tips that they themselves can implement and teach to others. The students walked away from the presentation with a greater awareness and sensitivity toward the importance of staying safe, and of their personal responsibility to ensure the safety of those around them.





Israel will not cooperate with FBI inquiry into the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh

By Ron Kampeas

Israel will not cooperate with an FBI investigation into the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh, the Palestinian American journalist who died in May in an exchange of fire between Palestinian and Israeli troops, Israel's defense minister said.

"The American Justice Department's decision to investigate the regrettable death of Shireen Abu Akleh is a grave mistake," Benny Gantz, Israel's defense minister, said Monday on Twitter. "I made clear to American representatives that we stand behind Israeli soldiers, we will not cooperate with any outside inquiry and we will not allow interference in Israeli internal matters.

Such an investigation is significant because the Biden administration's State Department has already signed off on Israel's finding that an Israeli soldier likely shot the fatal bullet, and that there was no evidence that the killing was intentional. The FBI may be ready to investigate whether the shooting was intentional, as Palestinian officials and Abu Akleh's family have alleged. Gantz, who deleted and then reposted his tweets, said the Israeli inquiry was "independent and professional."

The FBI routinely investigates alleged crimes against American citizens overseas and even has a dedicated department for such investigations. But it is rare if not unprecedented for the agency to investigate whether a soldier in an allied army is liable for a killing.

Reports of the FBI investigation first appeared Monday in multiple outlets, including Haaretz and by Axios' Israel-based correspondent, Barak Ravid, and mostly cited Israeli sources. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has asked the White House, the State Department, and the FBI for confirmation.

A State Department spokeswoman referred JTA to the Justice Department but added: "Our thoughts remain with the Abu Akleh family as they grieve this tremendous loss. Not only was Shireen an American citizen, she was a fearless reporter whose journalism and pursuit of truth earned her the respect of audiences around the

world." A Department of Justice spokesman declined to comment.

'This is an overdue but necessary and important step in the pursuit of justice and accountability in the shooting death of American citizen and journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh,

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Democrat from Maryland who spearheaded calls for further investigation of Abu Akleh's killing, wrote on Twitter, where he shared a news report about the FBI investigation.





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For more information, contact Alison Roemer, aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.







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For more information, contact Alison Roemer, aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.





CAMP

Continued from page 1

portunity.

"We want every Jewish child and teen in Kentucky to be able to attend camp each summer," Roemer shared. "Camp is transformative for our Jewish youth and it is our goal to make it as accessible as possible. Family finances should not prevent a child from attending overnight camp."

As one parent stated as part of an anonymous survey in 2022, "My boys loved their camps! When they came home, they were more independent and self-assured. They were full of stories and new friendships. Camp is what they have looked forward to all year long and because of sleepaway camp, they both have a stronger connection to Judaism."

Youth attending camp for the first time are eligible to receive a OHC grant of up to \$2,500 for a session of 19 days or more and up to \$1,500 for an 11 - 18 day session. If additional assistance is needed, families are invited to apply for further support. Additional information on second and third year grants, as well as financial assistance, is available at jewishlouisville.org/grants.

Passport to Israel Grants Now Available

Roemer is adamant that trips to Israel



Youth from Louisville at Camp Beber.

are equally as life-changing for youth and young adults. "Passport to Israel" grants are available to those age 15-24 who identify as Jewish and from the Louisville area. First-time youth traveling to Israel for more than 21 days through an organized program can receive up to \$4,000 and second-time travelers can receive up to \$2,000.

"For so many of our youth, going to Israel is the trip of a lifetime," says Roemer. "So many parents tell us how their children's eyes have been opened up to a global level of understanding and how they further appreciate their Jewish culture, place in the world and meaning in their lives. The friendships made on a trip to Israel will last a lifetime."

Roemer reiterated that the Jewish

Federation of Louisville does not want financial barriers to be a hindrance. An additional incentive for Israel travelers is the Root One voucher (www.rootone. org), available for most trips, which provides an additional \$3,000. Combined with the \$4,000 from the Jewish Community of Louisville, a teen's trip to Israel is essentially paid for in full. Roemer encourages all families with children who identify as Jewish to contact her and learn more about the opportunities available.

One Happy Camper Grants

One Happy Camper grants are open to all Kentucky residents under the age of 18 identifying as Jewish and attending an approved camp. A list of camps can be found at jewishcamp.org.

First-year campers: Youth attending camp for the first time are eligible to receive up to \$2,500 for a session of 19 days or more, and up to \$1,500 for an 11-18-day session.

Second-year campers: Louisville campers who received a One Happy Camper grant in Summer 2019 may be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 for a session of 19 days or more, and up to \$1,250 for an 11-18-day session.

Third-year campers: Campers attending camp for third year may be eligible for a \$1,500 grant.

Passport to Israel Grants

Passport to Israel grants are open to all Louisville-area residents age 15-24 identifying as Jewish and attending an organized Israel trip that is 21 days or longer. Birthright Israel is not included.

First-time travelers: Youth traveling to Israel for the first time on an organized trip are eligible to receive up to \$4,000.

Second-time travelers: Youth traveling to Israel for the second time on an organized trip are eligible to receive up to \$2,000.

For more information, visit **jewishlouisville.org/grants.**For questions, email Alison Roemer at **aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.**













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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

AJ's Family Chanukah Party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 5:30 p.m. The evening will consist of a traditional Chanukah dinner, community menorahlighting, crafts, songs, and two bounce houses. Adults are \$5 each and kids are free. Reservations are required at **www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations** and the reservation deadline is December 13.

Rabbi Corber offers "Informal Meditation & Prayer" every Shabbat morning from 9:00 - 9:40 a.m. in AJ's Yarmuth Family Chapel. Rabbi Corber's next evening meditation session will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. The meditation sessions are open to the community, and a future session is also scheduled on December 15.

AJ will sponsor a ladies-only Jewish Family Feud event featuring a Tu B'Shevatthemed lunch and an interactive quiz game. The event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 12:30 p.m. at AJ. Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations are required at www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations and the reservation deadline is January 23. For more information, contact Event Chairperson, Frankye Gordon, at 502-381-7927 or **frankyegordon@aol.com.**

AJ's virtual series, "Sunday Night Live" will return on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. The program is "The Imam and the Rabbi - The elephants in the room: Israel, Palestine, Zionism, and the Role of Religion in America." The virtual guests will be Imam Abdullah Antepli and Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin. To receive the Zoom link, **visit www.adathjeshurun.com.**

Anshei Sfard

Shacris starts at 9 a.m. at 2904 Bardstown Rd. Once a month Shachris will begin at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center. Call the office 502-451-3122 or email **carla@ansheisfard.com** for more information on the date.

Weekly classes include Talmud Trek II – Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Spice of Life – Wednesday 7 p.m.; Parent/Child Learning Saturday 7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.; Mishnah Berurah – Laws of Daily Living, learn a page a day of the Mishnah Bureuah and uncover the many laws of daily living, Sunday – Thursday from 8:45 - 9:10 p.m.

Save the Date for Chanukah Dinner on Monday, Dec. 19 at the Standard Club.

Chabad of Kentucky

Services are now being held in the Anshei Sfard building on the Trager Family JCC campus. Services, classes and programs during the upcoming High Holy Days will be held there. Contact Chabad at **Rabbi@Chabadky.com** or 502-235-5770 for details.

Chavurat Shalom

Chavurat Shalom is meeting in person for fully vaccinated participants with lunch starting at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium, and the program starting at 1 p.m. Upcoming events include: Thursday, Dec. 1 - Singer, songwriter and guitarist Tyrone Cotton.

Thursday, Dec. 8 - Beth Olliges will lead a winter sing along.

Thursday Dec. 15 - Classical pianist Nada will perform.

Thursday, Dec. 22, 29, and January 5 - No Chavurat Shalom over winter break.

RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday if you'll be attending in person by calling or emailing Sarah at 502-212-2038 or

sarahharlan86@gmail.com. All programs will also be available starting at 1 p.m. via Zoom for those who need to join remotely.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Jewish Federation of Louisville, Women's Philanthropy is sponsoring Dream Circle: Sacred Dreaming for Tikkun Atzmi and Tikkun Olam, Healing Ourselves, Healing Our World. The Dream Circle's next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 15 (every third Thursday of the month) from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Joyce Lynn, Jewish Association of Spirituality and Dreams co-founder and author of two books on dreams, facilitates. The meetings are inperson at the Trager Family JCC or on Zoom. For information and to register, email **dreaming@JASD28.org**.

Keneseth Israel

Keneseth Israel Congregation offers Daily Minyan services at 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7:30 a.m. Monday and Thursday. Minyan services are offered in person and on Zoom at **tinyurl.com/kiczoom**. Shabbat services and Holiday services are offered in person and on YoutubeLive at **tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive**. Please visit

kenesethisrael.com for times and co-vid policies.

A Family Shabbat will be held on Friday, Dec. 2, starting at 6 p.m. Families can enjoy a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a shabbat dinner. RSVP for in person or online at

tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive.

Jews and Brews with Rabbi Ben Freed is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom and in person at the Trager Family JCC the weekly torah portion is studied. Rabbi Freed will also be doing a Hanukkah themed Jews and Brews: After Hours on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 pm at Ten20 Brewing in Douglas Loop

Beginner level Hebrew class meets on Sundays 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 – which has an abbreviated service – follows at 6 p.m.

Rabbi Freed will host a class series on Mysticism. This three-part hybrid class continues on Monday, Dec, 5, at 6:30 p.m. and will explore Jewish mysticism from its origins in the Bible and Talmud through the Zohar and Chassidut and finally to its modern expressions by JuBus and at the Kabbalah Center.

Cantor Hordes will host Torah Yoga where she takes all on a journey through the sun salutations, and meditations of Tora. The class will take place in Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Hanukkah on Friday, Dec. 18 at the family carnival. Starting at 3 p.m., families will enjoy a bouncy castle, face painting, latkes, and more.

Havdalah will take place on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. A Chinese dinner, drinks and trivia will take place after at this adult's only event! Babysitting is provided. \$5 per person donation suggested.

Pasta dinner and a night of bingo will be a part of the Men's Club on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 5 p.m. The cost is \$20 for non-Men's Club members, \$15 for KI Men's Club members, and \$5 for children 6-12. Reservations are required by December 21.

Kentucky Institute for Torah

Education KITE has a weekly Light of Torah class Monday nights at the JCC, in the Barbara Brick Reading Room from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Light refreshments are served. There is also a Zoom option. Contact Rabbi Zack Blaustein at

rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org to RSVP or for the zoom link.

KITE is having a Saturday night learning class in "The Path of the Just" at 8:20 p.m. Saturday nights. Study a classical, ethical work in a fun and relaxed environment. Contact Rabbi Zack Blaustein at **rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org** for the location or with any questions.

Kol Israel Community of HaKashruth Kentucky The following venues

A Community Wide Jewish Meditation Gathering will be held on Monday, Dec. 12 at 9 p.m. via Zoom only. Transformational teachings, Hebrew chanting, and profound silence will be part of the event that will be led by Reb Brian Yoseph Schacter- Brooks from "Torah of Awakening." The event is sponsored by ALEPH Alliance, and Interfaith Paths to Peace. Registration is necessary and can be made by emailing

KollsraelKy@gmail.com or 502-341-1595.

A "Shabbat of Light and Unity, Renewal Judaism and the Baha'i Community, A Shared Experience" will be held in person only at The Baha'i Center (3808 Bardstown Rd.) on Friday Dec. 9, 6 p.m. Services will be led by Guest Rabbi Na-

dia Siritsky and will highlight the shared theological beliefs of the Baha'i Community and the progressive denominations of Judaism specifically Reform, Reconstructionist and Renewal. A traditional Shabbat Dinner of Glatt Kosher Chicken Soup, as well as vegetarian and vegan dishes, will be served. The event is sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace and advance reservations are necessary. RSVP to **KollsraelKy@gmail.com** or 502-341-1595.

The Renewal Shabbat Morning service will take place on Zoom on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10:15 a.m. and is be held through a partnership with Aleph Network Bloomington, Indiana congregation. Reservations are necessary and can be made by contacting **Kolisraelky@gmail.com** or by calling 502 341-1595

Louisville Melton

The Fall Session of classes is underway with classes including Pray it Forward and Members of the Tribe from the Living Wisdom Series. Star and Crescent, Israeli Literature, and a Louisville Melton Original, Searching for Meaning will also be offered in the fall. Please contact Bridget Bard about registration as the registration process is different this year; bbard@adathjeshurun.com or

502-458-5359. Financial assistance is available.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

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

NCJW, Louisville Section

NCJW, Women's Philanthropy and Hadassah are sponsoring a Mah Jongg event on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC. Register for the event at https://ncjwlou.org/home/ourwork/mah-jongg-card-orders/.

NCJW will host a shopping event at Empowering Beads on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. Profits from Empowering Beads,



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a social enterprise offering unique handcrafted jewelry, jewelry-making classes, and jewelry parties, are donated to support local disadvantaged women. To register for this free event, contact the NCJW office at 502-458-5566, office@ ncjwlou.org or at https://ncjwlou.org/ home/ourwork/empowering-beadsshopping-event/.

NCJW and the Trager Family JCC are sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, Dec. 15 from 12 – 5 p.m. in the auditorium at Congregation Anshei Sfard. Walk-ins are welcome but register in advance for a specific time slot at **https://www.redcross.org/** (enter sponsor code: JCCLOUKY) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

The Temple

The WRJ/Sisterhood Gift Shop is now open on Tuesdays from 2 - 5 p.m., Thursdays from 12:30 - 3 p.m., and Fridays from 1-4 p.m. Visit the shop on Facebook at **facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop**. If these times are not convenient, please call Sheila Lynch at 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein at 502-291-5699, or Karen Waldman at 502-425-4360 to make an appointment to shop.

Adult Education continues with Study with Rabbi David, Beginning Hebrew with Mark Goldstein, and Basic Judaism on Monday nights; Temple Scholars with Rabbi David and Cantor Lauren on Wednesday mornings; and Saturday Torah Study with Rabbi David at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person will be every Saturday. For a full schedule and descriptions, visit to

thetemplelouky.org/adult-education for more information.

The Temple invites congregants to attend Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. More information at **thetemplelouky.org.**

Pickleball courts are open at The Temple on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Thursdays from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. At least two of the four players need to be members of The Temple. Waivers need to be signed and bring your own ball and paddles. Register online at

thetemplelouky.org/pickleball.

Join The Temple for Bagels and Belonging on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 9:30 a.m. to learn more about the benefits of Temple membership and how to get involved. Brunch will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Heideman Auditorium, and Clergy will kick off our informational session at 10 a.m. RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 or at **thetemplelouky.org/bagels.**

A special Volunteer Shabbat service will be held to honor the many volunteers on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

All are invited to the Fabulous, Fine & Funky Jewelry Show and Sale on Sunday, Dec.v11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to purchase fine and funky jewelry from local vendors.

The Annual Temple Brotherhood Hanukkah Latke Dinner resumes this year on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. RSVP at the**templelouky.org/hanukkah** or by calling 502-423-1818. BYOM (Bring Your Own Menorah)!

The Temple's Hanukkah candle lighting before Shabbat Services will be held on Friday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Following will be Oneg Shabbat, with Hanukkah treats, including Jeff's donuts and hot chocolate. The annual Chinese Dinner and a Movie will take place on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. The Israeli film, *Noodle* (2007) will be shown. Register at

thetemplelouky.org/chinese-dinner by Tuesday, Dec. 20 or by calling 502-423-1818.

Join Mitzvah Makers on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 11:30 am to make sandwiches for the Louisville homeless community. RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making**.

Temple Shalom

Temple Shalom will host Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Joshua Garroway, Ph.D., from Dec. 2-4 for a series of lectures. Dr. Garroway serves as Professor of Early Christianity and the Second Commonwealth at HUC-JIR in Pasadena, CA. He earned his doctorate from the Religious Studies Department at Yale University and was ordained at the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday, Dec 2 at 6:15 p.m.: Pre-oneg sponsored by the Women of Temple Shalom before Friday night services Topic: The Origins of Christianity and its Parting of the Ways with Judaism

Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10:30 a.m.: Presentation and kiddush luncheon after services Topic: Jewish-Christian Dialogue: Ancient and Modern

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 10:00 a.m.: Breakfast provided by Temple Shalom Men's Club Topic: Conversion to Judaism: Ancient and Modern

All events are at Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Road. Reservations are required for each event by Wednesday, Nov. 23. Please email

info@templeshalomky.org or call (502) 458-4728 to make a reservation.

Trager Family Jewish Community Center

The Trager Family JCC will host Hanukkah in the Lobby on Monday, Dec. 19 from 4 - 6:30 p.m. The event will take place in the Weisberg Family Lobby with latkes, donuts, live music by Misha Feign, crafts, games and a Hanukkah story at 4:30 p.m. This is a drop-in event and reservations are not needed.

The Trager Family JCC and Jewish Federation of Louisville will host a Skating Night in Paristown on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. to celebrate Hannukah. To purchase skating tickets through the Trager Family JCC and receive \$2 off per ticket (skating tickets are \$15/person), visit jewishlouisville.org/paristown. For more information, email Alison Roemer at aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.

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LIFECYCLE

Births

Mazel tov to Zachary Cohen and Kenyon Laing on the arrival of Sonja Jessica Laing-Cohen on October 4, 2022. She is named for her great-grandmother, who emigrated to the United States from Brusilov, Ukraine in 1910. Elated grandparents are Kenny and Jeri Cohen and Elizabeth Laing.

Obituaries



Dr. David M. **Faber**

Dr. David M. Faber, age 57, died suddenly on November 2022.

The New York native was a renowned general

and vascular surgeon in Kentucky for over 20 years, most recently at Spring View Hospital in Lebanon, Kentucky.

David, above life itself, loved his daughters Lauren and Alyssa. He enjoyed spending time with them, including taking them to volleyball and music practices or assisting with their homework.

Dr. Faber saved many lives throughout his career, including diagnosing his brother, Jon, with cancer when other physicians had failed.

David is survived by his daughters, Lauren and Alyssa, his mother, Karen Faber, and his brother and sister-in-law, Jonathan and Stacey

Gravesides will be held on Thursday, November 17 at 11:30 a.m. in Keneseth Israel Cemetery, 2800 block of Preston Highway, Louis-

Expressions of sympathy to J. Graham Brown Cancer Research Center



Barry Richard Horowitz

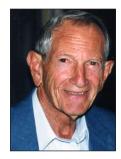
Barry Richard Horowitz, died on November 5, 2022. He was a native of Brooklyn, NY, October born 10, 1942, to the late Edward and

Helen Cohen Horowitz. He was a retired professor from the University of Louisville, where he taught

School for 38 years.

He is survived by his brother, Bruce Horowitz of Whitehouse Station, NJ, and many, many close friends & colleagues.

Funeral services will be 1:00 pm Wednesday, November 9th, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Avenue, with burial to follow in Keneseth Israel Cemetery, Temple Shalom section. Visitation will begin at 12 noon.



Robert S. Linker

Robert S. Linker was born September 6, 1923. He passed away on November 1, 2022 at the age of 99. Bob was the son of Alvin and Fayette Linker.

He attended Male High School, was in ROTC, captained the bowling team, and played football. He graduated Cum Laude in 1939 and enlisted in the Army in 1942. Bob attended Indiana University, where he was on the swim team, was a member of the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, and graduated with a B.S. degree from the I.U. School of Business. He served in the Army from 1944 to 1950. During that time, he served in two theaters; and was recalled in

electrical engineering at The Speed 1951 during the Korean War. Bob was a member of the Louisville Rotary Club, The Temple, B'nai Brith, St. George Masonic Lodge, and a Kentucky Colonel. He met his gorgeous wife, Beatrice Brauer, in Belmar, NJ. Their romance bloomed via correspondence while he was in the service, and they married on February 19, 1947. He worked in the family business, Linker Distributing Company, and became president after the passing of his father, Alvin.

His son, Alan (Laurie), is an attorney with McBrayer PLLC. His daughter, Linda (Bill), is an Alternative Medicine Specialist. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Dena (Marc), Lisa, Brian (Jennifer), Jenny (Michael), Jodi (Steve), Jessica (Bradley), and Julie, and his greatgrandchildren, Jacob, Lyla, Roxie, Skylar, Stella, Cecelia, Josh, Lucas, and Ramona Beatrice.

His major pastimes and hobbies included playing drums, tennis, reading, humor, and telling jokes. He kept his mind sharp with word jumbles and playing Free Cell.

Married for 71 years, Bob was devoted to the love of his life, his beloved wife, Bea, who died in 2017. One of his greatest joys was traveling with her and collecting memorabilia of their extensive worldwide travels. Together they went on 14 cruises which were his favorite vacations. On those cruises, he served as Master of Ceremonies for many talent nights.

In Hollywood, they toured most of the big studios, where Bob mingled with many TV and movie stars. While there, he also enjoyed a Sugar Bowl game and one Super Bowl game.

They flew the Concord to London and returned on the Queen Elizabeth 2.

Funeral services are private. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Julie Linker Fund administered by the Jewish Federation of Louisville, 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205.



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Dr. Ivan Marks

Dr. Ivan "Pudgy" Marks, 83, died Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at Baptist Health Louisville. He was a native of Louisville, born June

13, 1939, to the late Lou and Zelda Shapiro Marks. Dr. Marks received his DMD from U of L in 1963 and completed a three-year residency in oral surgery at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center (1963-1966). He was a diplomat of the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, a member of the Kentucky Dental Association and the Louisville Dental Society. He was a member and past president of Keneseth Israel Congregation, a member of KI Men's Club, The Temple, past member of JCC (JCL) and a member of the Hall of Fame at Louisville Male High School.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his beautiful daughter, Stacy Marks Nisenbaum.

Pudgy is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Lois Lees Marks; his adoring daughters, Allyson Marks Greenfield (Avi) and Caryl Hemmer (Todd); his precious grandchildren, Daniel (fiancé, Lillie Mills), David and Elizabeth Hemmer, Sloan and

Zoe Greenfield; his brother, Martin "Buddy" Marks; his sister, Bennie Zelkind and many doting nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to Dad's compassionate, Vanessa, Donna, Gloria and Ophelia.

Funeral services will be 12:00 p.m. Friday, October 21st at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Avenue, with burial to follow in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10:30 a.m. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the "Stacy Marks Nisenbaum Memorial Fund" at 3600 Dutchman's Lane, Louisville, KY 40205 (Attn: Stacy Gordon-Funk).

Shiva Services will be held at the home of Todd and Caryl Hemmer, 8716 Summit Ridge Drive, Louisville, KY 40241. The times are as follow: Friday, October 21st from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, October 22nd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 23rd from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m



Mark S. Weiss

Mark S. Weiss, age 78, died on November 14, 2022, in his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on February 25,

1944, to (the now late) Edward and Evelyn Weiss.

Mark was a star athlete who was recruited to attend Tulane University on a football scholarship. He was also an innovative entrepreneur ahead of his time. In 1971, he founded Call-a-Mart, a computer-driven delivery grocery store. Several years later, he founded the Farmer's Garden Restaurant, which he later transformed into the healthy fast-food chain the Fresher Cooker. He devoted the last half of his life to quietly helping others in his community and beyond.

He was a member of Chabad of Kentucky, Congregation Adath Jeshurun, and Congregation Anshei Sfard.

Mark is survived by his wife, Sandi (Tanenhaus); his adoring daughters Melissa Weiss Mazer (Ken), Karen Weiss Goldfarb (Les), and Lesley Weiss Zwick (Micha); and his beloved grandchildren, Alex, Lena, and Mira Mazer, Miles Goldfarb, and Emma, Madelyn, and Elliot Zwick; his brothers Dr. Bernard Weiss (Lynn) and Gary Weiss (Kay); and his many loved cousins, aunts, nieces, and nephews.

Visitation will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, and will continue with the funeral service at 2:30 pm at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Avenue.

The burial will follow in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

May his memory be a blessing. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Chabad of Kentucky, 1622 Almara Circle, Louisville, KY 40205; or the National Brain Tumor Society, **braintumor.org**

Correction

In the last edition of the Community newspaper, an obituary for **Daniel Stein** had wording that should have read and conveyed the brutal reality of his death. Daniel was shot and murdered in Akron, Ohio.

Gun violence is too prevalent in our society and the Jewish community is not immune to its reach.

Our condolences go out to the Goldberg and Stein families as they mourn Daniel.

Rose Smith, Executive Director and founder of The Ace Project for gun violence survivors, and Deborah Goldberg, volunteer of Project Friendship, have been working together for almost two years. Now, more than ever they are supporting each other as the wave of gun violence grows without discrimination.

This is why we all have to continue to work together as a community.





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GLOBE

From Jack Antonoff to Doja Cat to Flora **Purim, this year's Jewish Grammy** nominees span every genre

By Gabe Friedman

This year's slate of Jewish Grammy nominees offers a litsomething for evervone.

The nominees for the 2023 Grammy Awards, announced on Tuesday, include prominent Jewish names from pop and rap, but they also recognize Jewish musicians and writers in classical music and other less popular genres.

Here's the full (and varied) list: Jack Antonoff, a New Jersey Jewish day school grad who has become one of pop's most in-demand producers and songwriters, thanks to his work with the likes of Taylor Swift and Lorde, is up for producer of the year — an award he won last year.

Doja Cat, a Jewish rapper and pop star, is up for five: including record of the year, best solo pop performance and best music video, all for her song "Woman."

Mel Brooks, still going strong at 96, is nominated in the best audiobook category for "All About Me!: My Remarkable Life in Show Business.

James Ginsburg, son of the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg and an accomplished classical music producer and record label owner, is up for best classical producer of the year.

Hans Zimmer, the prolific blockbuster film scorer and winner of four previous Grammys (and two Oscars), is nominated in the best soundtrack compilation category for his work on "Top Gun: Maverick."

Randy Rainbow, the musical comedian who often mocks political figures, is up for best comedy album for "A Little Brains, A Little Talent."

Tony Kushner, the playwright who through his collaborations with Ste-

ven Spielberg has become one of Hollywood's most prominent Jewish screenwriters, is nominated for best musical theater album, for a revival of the 2003 musical he cowrote with Jeanine Tesori, "Caroline, or Change." The show features a range of music, from spirituals to Motown to klezmer. (The soundtrack to Spielberg and Kushner's "West Side Story" remake is also nominated in the compilation category.)

Flora Purim, a Brazilian-Jewish jazz and world music icon who is known for recording and collaborating with greats like Chick Corea and Dizzy Gillespie, is nominated for best Latin jazz album, for "If You Will." her first solo release in over a decade.

Dan Auerbach, the frontman for the rock duo The Black Keys, is nominated in the same category as Antonoff, for his production work outside of his band. Auerbach's father is Jewish, and the rocker noted earlier this year that he lost several relatives in the Holocaust. (The Black Keys are up for two separate awards, including best rock album for their latest, "Dropout Boogie.")

The 65th Grammy Awards will take place Feb. 5 in Los Angeles and will be broadcast on CBS.

All the Jewish players and storylines to watch in the 2022 **World Cup**

By Gabe Friedman

It's a World Cup like no other in recent memory - starting in late November

That's because it'll take place in Qatar, where temperatures won't usually fall under 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

The headlines going in are focused on the country's widely-criticized human rights record. The preparations for the first World Cup hosted in the Arab world have taken years to complete, have cost more than \$200 billion and, according to human rights organizations, have led to the deaths of thousands of migrant workers.

Qatar also has no diplomatic relations with Israel, leaving Israeli fans in a tense situation — more on that

But beneath these headlines, there are other Jewish angles to the world's biggest sports spectacle. Let's dive in.

The US has 2 Jewish players Jewish professional men's soccer players from the United States who compete on the world stage are a

rare phenomenon. But this year, the U.S. men's national team has two on its roster — including the likely

starting goalie.

Matt Turner, a 28-year-old New Jersey native who didn't seriously begin playing soccer until he was 14, struggled to prove himself through high school, college and through the start of his professional career. After going undrafted in Major League Soccer, Turner joined the New England Revolution in 2016 and finally in 2020 ascended to the upper echelon of the sport's goalkeepers. He's now the backup keeper for Arsenal F.C., one of the top clubs in England's Premier League.

Turner's father is Jewish and his mother is Catholic, but he identifies more with the Jewish tradition, according to a profile in The Athletic. Turner's great-grandparents fled Europe during World War II because they were Jewish, he explained on soccer journalist Grant Wahl's podcast, and he obtained Lithuanian citizenship in 2020.

Turner's teammates on defense include DeAndre Yedlin, a Seattle native who was raised Jewish but has said he practices Buddhism. Yedlin has a large Hebrew tattoo on his right shoulder in honor of his greatgrandparents.

Yedlin, who is of African-American, Native American and Latvian heritage, is in his first year of a fouryear contract with the MLS team Inter Miami after spending five seasons with the Premier League's Newcastle United. He is the only player on the U.S. roster with World Cup experience; he served a bench role in 2014.

While Yedlin's playing time this year may not be much different, his off-field presence is seen as an asset.

"He's a glue guy," said USMNT coach Gregg Berhalter. "He's there for the team, he creates atmosphere for the team. Sometimes he's a shoulder to cry on or to talk to. Other times he's a motivator."

(A third member of the U.S. team, forward Brenden Aaronson, is not Jewish, but has occasionally elicited questions about his background due to his Ashkenazi-sounding surname.)

A pair of Jewish Telemundo announcers are back

Telemundo's coverage of the tournament, as it has for years, will feature plenty of "goooaaaaaals.'

That's because it will include sixtime Emmy award-winner Andres Cantor, the Argentine-Jewish announcer who perhaps is most responsible for popularizing long goal calls in the English-speaking world.

He will be joined by one of his mentees, two-time Emmy nominee Sammy Sadovnik, who has been with Telemundo since 2007 and covered sports since 1989. He's a proud Jew from Peru who visits Israel every

Israel isn't in the tournament and hasn't qualified since 1970

Israel's first and only appearance in the World Cup was in 1970. That half-century hiatus is not due to a lack of talent.

Israel was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation, joining in 1954, and would enjoy international success culminating in winning the 1964 AFC Cup. But Israel's success was overshadowed by geopolitics many AFC member countries began to boycott playing Israel over time.

In 1958, Israel won its World Cup qualifying group without playing a single opponent due to protests. In 1974, the AFC expelled Israel from the confederation in a 17-13 vote organized by Kuwait.



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MACCABEES

Continued from page 6

split the waters... this Name which speaks to the miraculous healing power of Unity.

The Kabbalists have much to teach about the number 72, which includes the 70 nations of the world along with the Holy One and Israel to become the closest expression of unity that we can imagine. There is deep wisdom in all of these complex and beautiful teachings, but at their core, we can summarize this Torah, while standing on one foot:

Be courageous enough to be true to what you understand is right. Do not let fear guide you. Learn from others and work toward unity, justice and healing. Even if it seems impossible, be willing to keep moving forward to do what you believe you have been called to do.

These teachings have certainly played a powerful role in my own life, since last I worked at KentuckyOne Health and Interfaith Paths to Peace. My spouse and I have found our way to Canada where we have continued to advocate for these principles in a new context. We have faced the unknown and found our footing, choosing faith over fear again and again and

again. In the process, we have been blessed to be part of the creation of several new communities and organizations that advocate for these principles proudly and courageously: In particular, the Reform Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada, as well as here in Louisville, the Jewish Renewal community of Kol Israel Community of Kentucky.

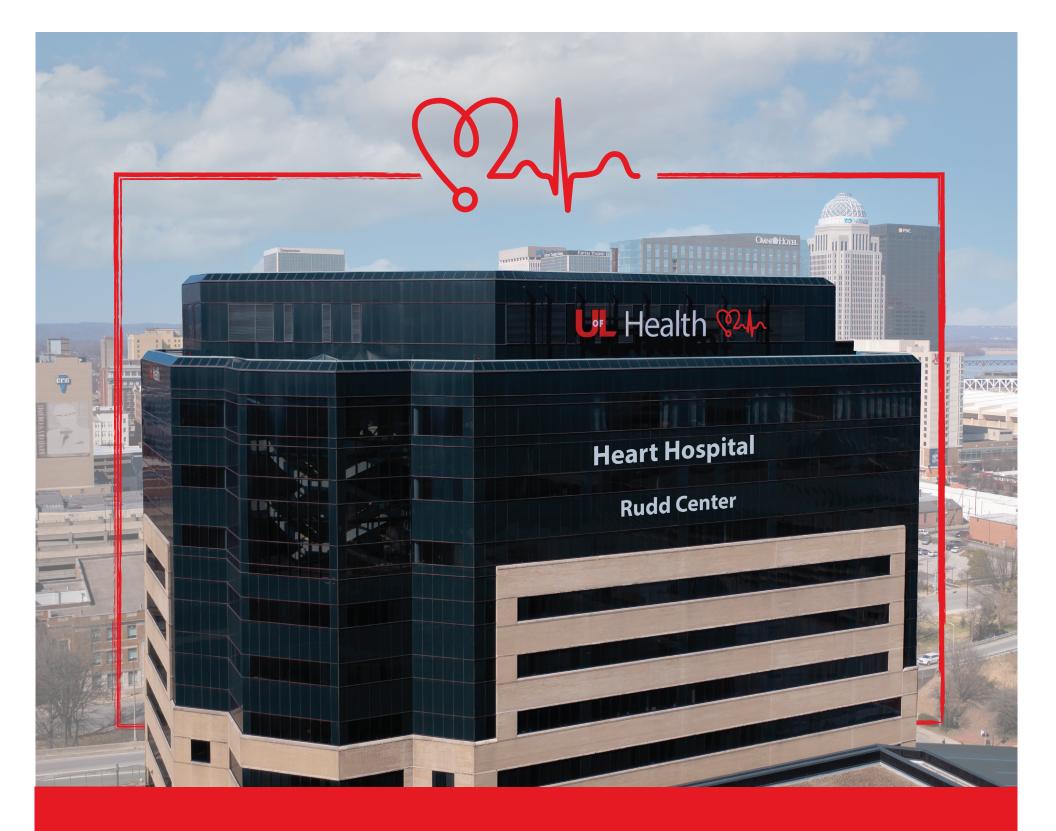
Both communities advocate for the unconditional welcome of all who wish to connect with progressive Jewish values regardless of identity or ability to pay... Increasingly, this unconditional welcome, especially for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and interfaith families has become a litmus test for many amongst us who are looking for a community where we can work to advance our values, and engage in the sacred healing work of Tikkun Olam (the healing of the world).

It remains somewhat countercultural in some circles to affirm this big tent approach to faith and identity, one that welcomes the opportunity to learn from other communities of faith, in the service of the unification of the Holy One of Blessing. But, like the Maccabees fought for their understanding of Judaism in order to ensure Jewish continuity, so am I proud and grateful to be advocating for a new understanding of Jewish faith and identity, with the help of these new emerging communities...

I am excited to be co-leading Shabbat services with Jason Hiner of the Bahai Community on Friday, December 9th. While working with Interfaith Paths to Peace, I was deeply struck by the number of beliefs and teachings that we share. In a world where all of us may sometimes feel like our voices can be drowned out by those voices that proclaim values that feel wrong or unethical, it can be especially powerful to come together with others to assert our belief that religion should not divide us, but rather inspire us to keep moving forward into the unknown... kindling light where we find darkness and bravely speaking our truth, even when we think we are the only ones who going to do so.

In this way, let us prepare for the miracle of Hanukkah, that asserts that what we have to offer and who we are IS enough. The brave few can make a difference and the drops of oil can burn brightly long after we feared was possible. May this be the year when begin to believe in the miracles that are possible when we come together. Rabbi Dr. N Siritsky, MAHL, MSSW, RSW, BCC first came to Louisville in 2002 to serve as a rabbi at the Temple. In addition, Rabbi Siritsky helped to create Chavurat Shalom and was chair of the Louisville Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Serving as Vice President of Jewish Hospital and KentuckyOne Health from 2014-2019, Rabbi Siritsky also worked with Interfaith Paths for Peace before moving back to Canada.





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