

JEWISH LOUISVILLE

COMMUNITY



INSIDE:

Roth children honor parents in unique way

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FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 12 | December 30, 2022 | 6 Tevet 5783

# Louisville Jewish Film Festival celebrates 25 years of art

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

The Louisville Jewish Film Festival is celebrating its 25th year in 2023, and the festival is going to be the best yet. There will be fifteen films and one short film, with some in-person and others available to watch online. The festival will feature six special event programs, some available live and others available virtually.

Some films will be shown in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium at the new Trager Family JCC for the first time, said Tricia Kling Siegwald, senior director of festivals and special projects. There is a new 27-foot, state-of-the-art projector system being installed in time for the film showings.

"I think with this festival, as always, we are making sure that we have something to offer for everyone in the community," Siegwald said. "And we're always trying to build on our mission of building bridges, educating, enriching and entertaining. That's something we always want to accomplish with this festival. The committee has done a really good job with their voting and were very thoughtful in creating this list of films. We think that the community will feel the same way."

The choices of the films were made by the film festival's committee, which Siegwald said was an honor to work with. "They're so incredibly dedicated, giving of their time and so passionate," she said. "I sit in the committee meetings and listen to the dialogue and it's just



really inspiring. They're so intelligent, dedicated, and I feel like I'm a resource to them to try to help them create the best festival possible. They're just amazing people."

Committee co-chair Keiley Caster said the process for the committee is fantastic. "The committee meets several times starting in August, and - just like Siskel and Ebert - with 15 people debating and trying to persuade others," Caster said. "It's really fun. That's one of the most fun parts of being on the committee. The arguing back and forth and trying to convince others that you're right, and that happens a lot. 'Oh, that's what that meant! That changes my mind. That is good!'"

Caster said he really enjoys being on the film festival committee. "It's a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful

committee. I keep telling them -- and it's always been this way -- that it's the best committee that I've ever worked with. If there's an issue that comes up, like 'Oh, we might need help with this.' Two or three answers pop up immediately. It's just wonderful."

As a tribute to the 25th anniversary, the festival will show "La Haine," a French film that was shown at the original Louisville Jewish Film Festival. The film festival committee watched the four films shown that year, and they decided that "La Haine," a 1995 drama about hate, was the one they wanted to be shown again, Siegwald said. The committee will offer "La Haine" to expand the community outreach. The film received a 100 percent rating on

See **FILM FESTIVAL** on page 4

## Andrew Adler welcomed as managing editor of Community

By Andrew Adler

"I once thought there are no second acts in American lives," F. Scott Fitzgerald famously remarked, and almost forty years ago when I joined the staff of the Courier Journal as a performing-arts critic and reporter, I might have echoed his maxim. But now, twelve years after decamping to the exotic realm of New Orleans, my second act is upon me: I'm the new Managing Editor of Community, the monthly newspaper published by the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Call this a rare opportunity to meld two of my abiding passions – journalistic writing and connecting to the Judaism that helped shaped my view of the contemporary world. Indeed, it's no exaggeration to say that I reclaimed my Jewish identity in the mid-1990s, exchanging Manhattan's Upper West Side for Louisville's Highlands in April of 1983.

I'd grown up the son of a father steeped in Orthodox worship and a mother who was proudly, resolutely secular. Not surprisingly, mom and dad seldom agreed about how I should be reared Jewishly. There was never any doubt in their minds (or in mine) that I was foundationally Jewish, but they were at odds as to the specific tenets of my spiritual upbringing.

My father wanted me to attend Hebrew school as an adjunct to the private-school education I enjoyed from age four onward, working toward a traditional Bar Mitzvah. My mother, on the other hand, was convinced that the pressures of learning Hebrew and prepping for a Bar Mitzvah would do me considerably more harm than good. Eventually her arguments prevailed, a decision my father regretted for the remainder of his life.

My dad died in 1994 at age 68, felled by cancer and a long history of cardiac distress. Had he lived even five years longer, he would have witnessed a transformation in his son that likely would have stilled those bitter regrets.

See **ADLER** on page 7

# SAFE Louisville: Q&A with Bill Altman, Ben Vaughan and Sara Klein Wagner

Community recently interviewed SAFE Louisville co-chairs, Bill Altman and Ben Vaughan, along with Trager Family JCC and Jewish Federation of Louisville's President & CEO, Sara Wagner, for an end-of-year update.

**Q:** Can you remind the community about SAFE Louisville's history and how it came to be?

**A:** (Sara) Almost five years ago, at a meeting of agency and congregation executives, rabbis and board chairs, a question was

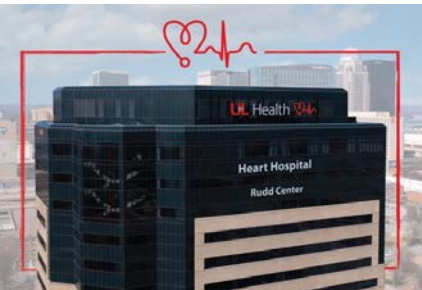
posed to the group by then JCL chair Jon Fleischaker. He asked the group of community leaders to identify the most important issues facing our organizations and how we might work together. The group quickly identified the varying levels of security and protocols in place and the priority to ensure our facilities remain open and inviting places.

The Federation convened additional discussions on the increasing safety and security needs facing all Jewish communities. Our Federation board supported research-

ing what other Federations were doing to create change and support other organizations. Before SAFE Louisville was formally created, board member Bill Altman stepped up to be part of the solution. He dug into the best practices in other communities and worked hand-in-hand with our staff and truly led the formation of SAFE Louisville with the Federation board prioritizing this initiative as a board responsibility.

**Q:** How did you know what security mea-

See **SAFE LOUISVILLE** on page 19



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# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### The Modern Day Maccabee



D'var Torah

Rabbi  
Simcha Snaid

On the morning of May 6th, 1954, Roger Bannister changed the sports world forever. Paced by his teammates, Christopher Chataway and Chris Brasher, and powered by an explosive kick, Bannister ran a mile in under four minutes- 3:59.4, to be exact- becoming the first man ever to do so, breaking through a mystical barrier and creating a seminal moment in sports history.

Bannister's feat was broadcasted around the world. The New York Times declared, "he had reached one of man's hitherto unattainable goals."

However, an interesting phenomenon took place following his record-breaking accomplishment. Other athletes began to achieve this "unattainable goal". In fact, according to the "World Sud-4 Mile Alphabetic Register," there have been over 1,400 male athletes that have since broken this feat.

What changed?

Roger Bannister made the unattainable, attainable. What people thought was impossible, now became possible. Their thinking changed, "if he can do it, so can I!" Roger Bannister's achievement became the motivation for athletes to push themselves to work and train harder to achieve success and greatness that they thought were impossible.

Each and every one of us can inspire others, to look deep within themselves and see the awesome potential and abilities that they have to achieve greatness.

The Talmud in Tractate Yoma, 35b, brings down the following passage which demonstrates a similar impact of having a role model. A poor person comes before the Heavenly Court for their final judgment. They ask, "Why did you not engage in Torah Study?" If he rationalizes his conduct and says, "I was poor and preoccupied with earning enough to pay for my sustenance - this is why I did not engage in Torah study. The Heavenly Court will then ask, "Were you any poorer than Hillel, who was wretchedly poor and nevertheless did all he could to study Torah?" The passage goes on to say that Hillel creates an "obligation" for other people in poverty to rise above their situation and to achieve greatness.

Cv.

The term "obligation" is an interesting one to choose as one might think a sentence like Hillel "inspires" or "encourages" people in similar situations to overcome extremely difficult odds would be more appropriate. However, what this passage teaches us is that watching someone else accomplish a feat which was previously viewed as insurmountable, creates a new "obligation" for us because it makes us realize that such a feat is possible and we are now able to accomplish more than we previously could.

The examples from Roger Bannister and from Hillel demonstrate the power

and the importance of having a role model and a mentor in our lives. Having these types of figures will allow us to overcome limiting beliefs and reach greater heights than we thought possible.

A close family friend, Mr. Joey Rosen, recently has been that "Hillel" for me. It is my hope that in sharing his story, it will inspire each and every one of you to achieve even greater accomplishments in your lives.

After two years of doctor's appointments, heart surgeries, chemotherapy, and many miracles (too long for this article but worthwhile hearing), Joey was finally placed on the transplant list and Baruch Hashem received his new heart on December 1st, 2020.

Throughout this entire process, during which his very active life came to a sudden halt, he displayed unwavering faith in G-d and a constant positive attitude when one could easily have been angry, bitter, and resentful.

Post-surgery, after weeks of intensive care in Vanderbilt University, Joey finally returned to his home in Nashville. There are many "first things" on the list I am sure we could all think of that we would want to do when we would first return home. A nice fresh, hot meal instead of the usual hospital food and a long, refreshing bath in a hot-tub comes to mind. Or perhaps just a moment for ourselves, relaxing on the couch without the constant interruptions of the many medical personnel coming in to check on our health.

But this is not what Joey did for his first act!

It was Chanukah and he wanted to light the candles for the first time this year. He wanted to light the candles to fulfill the beautiful mitzvah, to continue a glorious legacy of generations of Jewish people lighting the menorah no matter what difficult circumstances, national or personal, they may have found themselves in.

Just recently I received a picture of him that looks ordinary but is, in reality, absolutely extraordinary. The picture shows Mr. Joey Rosen, the modern-day Maccabee.

A person, (not a Rabbi) with one act, can inspire us all to dig deep within and stay committed to our magnificent heritage no matter the circumstances. With this one act, Mr. Joey Rosen, shows us what it means to have total faith in G-d, a positive outlook on life and an appreciation and recognition for all the blessings G-d showers upon us. This is truly the message of Chanukah.

The lesson that can be learned from here is two-fold. Firstly, we see the importance of having that role model in our lives, someone who can inspire us to achieve greater things. Secondly, it's important for us to recognize the opportunities in our own lives to be that "Hillel," to be that "Joey Rosen," to be that role model that inspires others to rise and overcome their personal challenges.

Let's take advantage of these opportunities to fully realize our potential and to help others achieve theirs. We should all aspire to become a role model and beacon of hope for others, just like Joey Rosen.

(Rabbi Simcha Snaid is the spiritual leader of Congregation Anshei Sfard.)

## Snapshots



CenterStage Academy performs Fiddler on the Roof, Jr. in first Academy performance in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium.



## Candles

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

• Jan 6 @ 5:19 p.m.	• Jan 20 @ 5:34 p.m.
• Jan 13 @ 5:26 p.m.	• Jan 27 @ 5:41 p.m.

## Contacts

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

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

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscription on hold? Development Associate Kristy

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

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

## Deadlines

**Got a news item for Community?**

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Monday, January 16** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on

**Friday, January 27.**

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/**.

**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/** 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**.

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# FILM FESTIVAL

Continued from page 1

Rotten Tomatoes, so Shapira Foundation Auditorium he committee says to expect a compelling piece of dramatic art.

Opening night of the festival on Feb. 4 will show “Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song,” a documentary about the singer-songwriter and his most famous song. There will be cake, hors d’oeuvres and a champagne toast to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the film festival, and there will be a musical performance by local singer-songwriter Brigid Kaelin and Cantor David Lipp before the film.

Another highlight of the festival will be on Feb. 5 at Adath Jeshurun. “Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life,” will be shown. The film is a documentary about the community’s response to the 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, who was inside the synagogue during the shooting, will be available after the film for a question-and-answer session, along with the filmmaker Patrice O’Neill. O’Neill is also CEO of the Oakland-based non-profit strategic media company The Working Group and leader of Not In Our Town, a movement of people across the country working to build safe, inclusive communities for all. She’s also co-director of United Against Hate Week in San Francisco.

For fans of “Fiddler on the Roof,” on Feb. 11 the festival will show “Fiddler’s Journey to the Big Screen,” about director Norman Jewison’s quest to make

the “Fiddler” movie. The documentary has received several awards, including best documentary at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival and Best Film at Houston Jewish Film Festival. The Trager Family JCC’s CenterStage Academy, which recently performed “Fiddler of the Roof Jr.,” will provide an accompanying short performance with highlights from their recent production.

The closing film on Feb. 19 will be “Farewell, Mr. Haffmann.” The film is a French historical drama about a jeweler in Nazi-occupied Paris who must flee the city. This film will be shown at the Speed Cinema at the Speed Art Museum.

The rest of the films will be available online, where users can watch from their homes.

## Want to Go?

**Festival pass** (\$99), includes all virtual films and two virtual special program events – “The Levys of Monticello” and “The Last Chapter of A.B. Yehoshua.”

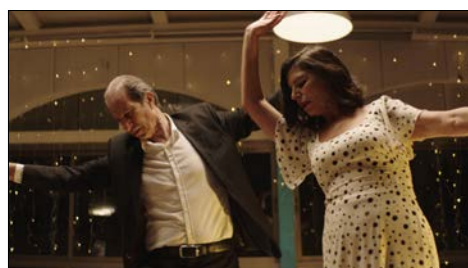
**Live Festival pass** (\$48), includes all live films, live special events, opening night reception with live entertainment, hors d’oeuvres, cake and champagne.

**Individual tickets** (\$12), except opening night (\$18) which includes opening night reception with live entertainment, hors d’oeuvres, cake and champagne.

To purchase tickets, visit [jewishlouisville.org/filmfestival](http://jewishlouisville.org/filmfestival)



Left: Leonard Cohen and his guitar, Bottom Left: Karaoke(top) La Haine (bottom) Bottom Right: Fiddler’s Journey to the Big Screen



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# FILM FESTIVAL

## This year's film festival at a glance

Here are the synopses for the pictures to be shown at the 2023 Louisville Jewish Film Festival

**Hallelujah** – *United States, 118 minutes.* A definitive exploration of singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen as seen through the prism of his internationally renowned hymn, “Hallelujah.” This feature-length documentary weaves together three strands: the songwriter and his times, the song's dramatic journey from record label reject to chart-topping hit, and moving testimonies from major recording artists for whom “Hallelujah” has become a personal touchstone. Approved for production by Leonard Cohen just before his 80th birthday in 2014, the film accesses a wealth of never-before-seen archival materials from the Cohen Trust including Cohen's personal notebooks, journals and photographs, performance footage, and extremely rare audio recordings and interviews.

**Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life** – *United States, 90 minutes.* This touching film documents a community's response to hate and antisemitism in the aftermath of the assault on three congregations at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. The lives of eleven people were taken on October 27, 2018 in the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history. As the Jewish community experiences tremendous grief, they face the resurgence of age-old threats that lead to horrific violence. Together with their neighbors, they meet fear with courage as they confront hate and strengthen the connections they have been building for years. Against the backdrop of a tumultuous period in the country, a traumatized community works together to heal as they experience the impact and dangers of anti-Semitism, racism, hate speech, and gun violence.

**La Haine** – *France, 98 Minutes.* Our featured film commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Louisville Jewish Film Festival, originally presented in 1999. Mathieu Kassovitz took the film world by storm with *La Haine*, a gritty, unsettling, and visually explosive look at the racial and cultural volatility in modern-day France, specifically the low-income districts on Paris's outskirts. Aimlessly passing their days in the concrete environs of their dead-end suburbia, Vinz (Vincent Cassel), Hubert (Hubert Koundé), and Saïd (Saïd Taghmaoui)—a Jew, an African, and an Arab—give human faces to France's immigrant populations, their bristling resentment at their marginalization slowly simmering until it reaches a climactic boiling point. A work of tough beauty, *La Haine* is a landmark of contemporary French cinema and a gripping reflection of its country's ongoing identity crisis.

**Farewell Mr. Haffmann** – *France, Belgium, 115 minutes.* Occupied Paris, 1941: all members of the Jewish community are instructed to come forward and identify themselves to authorities. Talented jeweler Joseph Haffmann (Daniel Auteuil), fearing the worst, arranges for his family to flee the city and offers his browbeaten employee François Mercier (Gilles Lellouche) the chance to take over his store until the conflict subsides. But his attempts to escape are thwarted, and Haffmann is forced to seek his assistant's begrudging protection and to make an unusual pact with Mercier's wife.

**Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen** – *United States, 88 minutes.* In this riveting and joyous film, Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim captures the humor and drama of director Norman Jewison's brilliant vision to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in Eastern Europe while telling a universal story about the importance of family and the fragility of tradition in his iconic musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Narrated by Jeff Goldblum, this film draws on behind-the-scenes footage and never-before-seen stills as well as original interviews with Norman Jewison and his key collaborators, including lyricist Sheldon Harnick, lead actor Topol, production designer Robert Boyle, and many others. They illuminate the untold story behind the making of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Jewison's favorite movie.

**Levys of Monticello** – *United States, 71 Minutes.* When Thomas Jefferson died in 1826, he left behind a mountain of personal debt, which forced his heirs to sell his beloved Monticello and all of its possessions. The *Levys of Monticello* is a documentary film that tells the little-known story of the Levy family, who owned and carefully preserved Monticello for nearly a century – far longer than Jefferson or his descendants. The remarkable story of the Levy family also intersects with the antisemitism that runs through American history.

**Last Chapter of A.B. Yehoshua** – *Israel, 58 minutes.* Referred to as “the Israeli Faulkner” by the New York Times, A.B. Yehoshua was one of the greatest contemporary Israeli writers. In this incisive biography, director Yair Qedar follows the 84-year old writer as he reflects on the final stage of his life. Widowed and suffering from ill health, Yehoshua keeps writing despite his insistence that he no longer wants to. Still possessing a clear-eyed perspective, Yehoshua discusses his complicated heritage (Sephardic father and Moroccan mother) and his belief that both Jews and Arabs are paralyzed by the past. Despite his declining health, Yehoshua remains wholeheartedly engaged with the world and continues to be a source of inspiration.

**My Tree** – *Canada, 103 minutes.* My Tree documents Jason Sherman's journey as an adult to find the tree that was planted in his name in Israel in honor of his Bar Mitzvah. When he discovers that it stands on the remains of a Palestinian village that was destroyed in 1967, he embarks on another journey — to determine his responsibility in helping to cover up the destruction.

**Barren** – *Israel, 108 minutes.* Ultraorthodox Feigi and Naftali are a young childless couple living with Naftali's parents. Naftali travels to Ukraine to pray at Rabbi Nachman's grave for a child. During Naftali's absence Rabbi Eliyahu, the barren healer, is invited to stay for the holiday with the family. Abusing Feigi's trust and desire for a child he forces himself on her claiming it is divinely sanctioned as part of her treatment for barrenness.. When Naftali returns, the couple face a difficult crisis, which raises fundamental questions about faith and trust.

**Karaoke** – *Israel, 100 minutes.* Meir and Tova are an upper-middle-class Sephardic couple, seemingly resigned to live out the rest of their semi-retirement in the banal comforts of an upscale apartment complex in a Tel Aviv suburb. When Itsik, a sexy bachelor from Miami, moves into the building's penthouse, their lives are gleefully upended. Energized by their newfound friendship with Itsik, Meir and Tova undergo personal transformations, but will their relationship as a couple be a casualty of expressing their individual desires? Taking inspiration from his own family, director Moshe Rosenthal focuses on the Sephardic middle class, largely underrepresented in Israeli cinema, as he explores issues of identity: masculinity, the institution of marriage, social status, narcissism and conformity. *Karaoke* is an optimistic portrait of midlife self-discovery, laced with poignant wisdom and barbed humor.

**Cinema Sabaya** – *Israel, Belgium, 95 minutes.* Nine women, Arab and Jewish, take part in a video workshop hosted by Rona, a young film director, who teaches them how to document their lives. With each raw homemade footage shot by the women and shared with the others, the group dynamic forces them to challenge their views and beliefs as they get to know each other and themselves better.

**Reckonings** – *United States, 74 minutes, Free film.* In the aftermath of the Holocaust, German and Jewish leaders met in secret to negotiate compensation for the survivors of the largest mass genocide in history. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman, *Reckonings* is the first documentary feature to chronicle the harrowing process of negotiating German reparations for the Jewish people, which resulted in the groundbreaking Luxembourg Agreements of 1952. Filmed in six countries and featuring new interviews with Holocaust survivors, world-renowned scholars and dignitaries and the last surviving member of the negotiating delegations, the film powerfully models how political will and a moral imperative can join forces to bridge an impossible divide.

**Last Flight Home** – *United States, 106 minutes.* Through intensely intimate verité footage recorded by his middle child, *LAST FLIGHT HOME* documents the heartbreaks and triumphs of Eli Timoner's life, from the founding of Air Florida through devastating setbacks in his business and health to the end he himself chooses. Director Ondi Timoner, a two-time winner of the Sundance Documentary Grand Jury Prize, provides enlightening insight into her family's heart-wrenching journey to find closure, and finally, to embrace death. Woodstock Film Festival Winner of Grand Jury Prize Award; Key West Film Festival Winner of Critic's Choice Award; cal cannabis, he discovers his way out. Not by smoking, but by selling cannabis, which he gets from the other tenants. When love, police, and the local mafia enter the picture, Dov finds himself at a crossroads where he has to decide whether he would be willing to risk everything for what really matters to him.

**One More Story** – *Israel, 90 minutes.* Romantic comedy, Israeli style! An ambitious young journalist, Yarden, is put to the test when her boss (who is also her lover) assigns her to do a story about blind dating in hopes of chasing ratings. Even cynical young millennials believe in true love, right? Yarden's boss promises to publish her first novel if she poses as a prospective date in order to write the piece. *One More Story* is the directorial debut of Israel's beloved comedian and TV personality, Guri Alfi, and it was based on Omer Barak's bestseller, “Wedding Rush,” which received the highest price ever paid for movie rights in Israel.

**The Therapy** – *Israel, 80 minutes.* Set in Jerusalem, this gripping documentary exposes the harmful practices of so-called conversion therapy from within. Director Zvi Landsman compassionately follows the lives of two gay men—Lev (54) and Ben (23)—who underwent conversion therapy and end up testifying before the Knesset about whether or not conversion therapy practices should be made illegal. Lev, a divorced ultra-Orthodox Jew, clings to conversion therapy because it provides the only space where he can be openly gay within a community. In contrast, Ben, seven years into conversion therapy, comes to understand that conversion therapy is extremely harmful, and despite discrimination and alienation from his family, he sets out on a journey of self-discovery and self-acceptance. Featuring footage from one-on-one and group sessions, this documentary is an unprecedented exposé of this abusive, tragic and terrifying practice in ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities in contemporary Israel.

**Holy Holocaust** – *Israel, 17 minutes, Free film.* In this sophisticated animated feature, a dark family secret is revealed unexpectedly and opens an abyss between two close friends. Jennifer, a German black woman, discovers that she is the granddaughter of a notorious Nazi commander, a shocking discovery which has the potential to destroy her 22-year friendship with Noa, an Israeli Jew.

## COMMUNITY

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For more information, call 502-459-0660, fax 502-238-2724, e-mail [jcl@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jcl@jewishlouisville.org) or check out the website [www.jewishlouisville.org](http://www.jewishlouisville.org).

POSTMASTER – Send address changes to **Community**, 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205-3216.

### COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are January 16 for publication on January 27 and February 13 for publication on February 24.

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

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

**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](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org).

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

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## FORUM



## Coalition deals finalized in final step before far-right Israeli government is sworn in

By Philissa Cramer  
*JTA*

Benjamin Netanyahu has signed agreements with the leaders of three far-right political parties that, together with his own Likud party, will form the next Israeli coalition government.

On Twitter, Netanyahu, the incoming prime minister, also released his own list of principles for the next government, including among them indications of the governing partners' widely known ambitions to reduce the power of Israel's Supreme Court and bolster "Jewish identity."

The agreements were a final step required before Netanyahu could be sworn in, and negotiations were underway until shortly before the deadline to reach them. While their contents are not legally binding, the agreements offer a window into the agenda that will drive the country's leadership for as long as the government holds.

Netanyahu signed deals with three parties late Tuesday and early Wednesday, including one with the far-right Otzma Yehudit party and its leader Itamar Ben-Gvir. Ben-Gvir, the incoming national security minister, had made a condition of his agreeing to work with Netanyahu that he would get unprecedented authority over the country's police, and the Knesset passed a law ear-

ly Wednesday granting just that, though without some of the powers that Ben-Gvir had sought.

Many of the other agreements made among the coalition partners have been reported during the weeks of negotiations, and others are becoming clear as the coalition agreements are published. Legislation is expected to permit more gender-segregated events as the result of Netanyahu's agreement with the haredi Orthodox United Torah Judaism alliance, for example, and the right-wing party Noam will get 70 million NIS annually (almost \$20 million) to create and operate a new "Department of State Jewish Consciousness." That party's leader, Avi Maoz, has described himself as a "proud homophobe."

The alliance between Netanyahu and Israel's far-right parties has alarmed many, including hundreds of U.S. rabbis who have pledged to block the parties' leaders from their communities; longtime Jewish leaders who are questioning their unconditional support for Israel; Israeli liberals and moderates who fear that civil rights will be limited; and even the outgoing leader of the Israel Defense Forces, who urged Netanyahu not to insert extremists into the military chain of command.

Aiming to calm the fears of Americans, Bezalel Smotrich, the leader of the Religious Zionist party, took

to the opinion pages of the Wall Street Journal late Tuesday in a column titled "Israel's New Government Isn't What You've Heard." The column was published hours before the Knesset paved the way for Smotrich, who will be finance minister, to take unprecedented authority over construction in the West Bank, his demand to enter a government with Netanyahu.

"They say I am a right-wing extremist and that our bloc will usher in a 'halachic state' in which Jewish law governs," Smotrich writes. "In reality, we seek to strengthen every citizen's freedoms and the country's democratic institutions, bringing Israel more closely in line with the liberal American model."

Netanyahu has also sought to quell the concerns of those, including U.S. leaders, who are alarmed by the coalition that he is firmly in control.

"They're joining me, I'm not joining them," he said earlier this month. "I'll have two hands firmly on the steering wheel. I won't let anybody do anything to LGBT [people] or to deny our Arab citizens their rights or anything like that."

Late Tuesday, Netanyahu's party picked Amir Ohana, a close ally and Israel's first openly gay government minister, to be the Knesset speaker in the next government.

# FORUM

## ADLER

Continued from page 1



Andrew Adler

I'd met a woman in Louisville who, when it was evident we were heading toward marriage and parenthood, made it clear that our children needed a religious upbringing. A product of New Orleans, unabashedly liberal in politics and social issues, she was a disaffected Southern Baptist in search of a faith community that was egalitarian and progressive in dogma and practice. At one juncture she suggested some flavor of christianity that while I was no model of Jewish normative observance, I simply couldn't countenance our contemplated offspring being brought up in anything but a Jewish household. Fine, she said, we can rear him/her as a Jew, but it wouldn't be enough just to lean in that direction. No, our Judaism had to be lived, not merely espoused.

Ok, but how to begin? A few inquiries pointed us in the direction of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, landing one afternoon in the office of Rabbi Laura Metzger. As a Reform-ordained rabbi she couldn't officiate at lifecycle events (B'nai Mitzvot, marriages, etc.), so she took on the role of counselling interfaith couples.

I presumed that Rabbi Metzger would launch us on some stringent, academic course of study. I was mistaken, at least in the immediate term. Because the first thing she told us had nothing to do with study or rigor or anything approaching same. Instead, she urged us to attend a Friday night service: Kabbalat Shabbat, the joyous welcoming of the Sabbath. Not long afterward my fiancée and I found ourselves in the AJ lobby, greeted by people we'd never met, but who belonged to a faith community in which spirituality and joy were powerfully linked.

Something clicked within me – reaching back to the times my late father would implore me to at least poke my head in a synagogue during the High Holy Days, to “remember that I was a

Jew.” He would have been stunned to witness his son learning to read Hebrew, attend services three times daily and lead afternoon/evening minyan services most every Thursday. We bought a house on Millvale Road barely a five-minute stroll to AJ, kashered our kitchen as we shared Friday night dinners with fellow congregants who lived within walking distance, and welcomed a son and daughter into a collective life whose sacred and secular elements existed in resonant symbiosis.

As life changes occurred, we ended up leaving Louisville for New Orleans in 2006. We joined the area's single Conservative shul, Shir Chadash, where Jack and Naomi were bar and bat mitzvahed, and I refashioned a life in which parenthood, not journalism, became the prevalent imperative.

And life being, well, life, divorce thrust me back into singlehood, and with my children now young adults I was ready for a new set of challenges. So here I am.

Not surprisingly, my new role is decidedly multifaceted. But my principal imperative is telling stories within the greater context of Jewish Louisville. Community is a publication that connects with multiple constituencies, reflecting a mission that itself is constantly evolving. I'm especially excited about delving into the recently released Community Study of Jewish Louisville, which offers extraordinary opportunities for exploring who we are and where we want to go. And if there are barriers preventing people from fully embracing Jewish life in our city, it's in all of our best interests to identify them and figure out how we can make them less formidable.

To accomplish all this, I need your help. If there are issues you believe need to be written about, tell me. I want to emphasize that I'm not some sort of editorial sole practitioner. I'll be collaborating with some great people who are part of what we call the Jewish Community of Louisville, particularly Matt Golden, who recently came on board as the first full-time director of the Jewish Community Relations Council. I've already had several conversations with Matt, and I can't think of a better advocate.

Though Community's core imperative is local coverage, I'm fully cognizant about sharing news -- nationally and internationally -- that affects us. And

while a fair number of you continue to read the print edition of Community, I'll be spending a good chunk of my time advancing what I call the digital footprint of what we do. That could mean posting stories in real time on our website, leveraging social media to make sure you're able to keep up with happenings of the moment, and a bit down the line producing podcasts that let you check out conversations with people on the front lines of Jewish affairs.

Meanwhile, I hope you'll keep me in the loop by emailing, texting or (gasp)

calling me. While I can't promise that everything you share will make it into Community, I will promise to listen with as much of an open mind as I can muster. Lots of good stuff awaits as my Act Two moves forward – I'm eager to plunge in.

Andrew Adler is the new Managing Editor of Community and can be reached at [aadler@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aadler@jewishlouisville.org).

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# PICTURE THIS: THREE PILLARS



The Jewish Federation of Louisville hosted the second offering in its Three Pillars Series, “The Suitcase” on December 8 at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center. Tim Lorsch, a Nashville-based musician, presented his story chronicling a suitcase that made its way to him in 2016 from an antique store in the Czech Republic with his uncle’s name and transport number on it.

The one-man multimedia show blended storytelling, photos and music to tell one

family’s experience before, during and after the Holocaust. The story, set to original music by Lorsch, reflected on what a family endured as antisemitism grew in Germany, when nationalism, intolerance, and dehumanization were allowed to prosper.

Lorsch spent time with students, who attended the performance, from Noe Middle School and St. Francis of Assisi School via Zoom in the weeks following to take questions from them about his family’s experience and his presentation.



(from left to right, clockwise) Musician Tim Lorsch performing at the Three Pillars event, Lorsch participates in a post-event learning session with students from Noe Middle School via Zoom, JCRC Director, Matt Golden, and JCL President & CEO, Sara Klein Wagner, with students in attendance at the Three Pillars event, Phyllis Shaikun and Linda Goldberg, Dolores Levy and Dara Cohen.



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# PICTURE THIS: HANUKKAH



(Top of page, left to right, clockwise): Misha Feigin playing piano, Kathleen Horn dressed as the dreidel reading a PJ Library Hanukkah story, Mayor-elect Craig Greenberg, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman and Rabbi Freed lighting the menorah, Families playing dreidel in the Dreidel Den together (all photos at the Trager Family JCC's Hanukkah celebration)



(Bottom of page, left to right, clockwise): Families lighting menorahs at The Temple, WDRB Morning Show co-host Candyce Cliff with Trager Family JCC's Robyn Kaufman and Julia Bright Moran (as dreidel) appearing on WDRB to share information about the traditions of Hanukkah, Guests at Adath Jeshurun's Hanukkah celebration, Chabad at 4th Street Live menorah lighting with Avrohom Litvin, Governor Steve Beshear and First Lady Brittainy Beshear, (top) Blair Bailen, Gray Griffin, Zoe Bailen, Whitney Bailen at Adath Jeshurun's Hannukkah celebration, (bottom) Mayor-elect Craig Greenberg, Chaim Litvin, Avrohom Litvin and Mayor Greg Fischer at the Trager Family JCC's Hanukkah celebration, Karl Victor III and Jen Jacobson in attendance at Kol Israel's "A Shabbat of Lights and Unity" event at the Baha'i Center.



# NEWS

## Stacy Gordon-Funk Lauded for Seven Years with JCL

By Community staff

The Jewish Federation of Louisville and Trager Family JCC's Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer (together known as JCL) for the past seven years, Stacy Gordon-Funk, will be leaving the organization for a new role at the Speed Museum. Gordon-Funk has been appointed to the Speed Museum's leadership team as Chief of Advancement.

Gordon-Funk made an enormous impact in her role with JCL leading its annual campaign, Life & Legacy, the Foundation and grant initiatives. Sara Kein Wagner, President & CEO of JCL said, "Stacy's stewardship of the more than \$43 million capital campaign is a testament to her talent and tenacity."

Wagner continued, "It is bittersweet to say goodbye to such an important person in our organization's recent history. We are grateful to Stacy for the warmth and passion that she brought to her tenure."

"Stacy was central to our achieving goals which far surpassed any previous effort by our Jewish community," said Jon Fleischaker, chair of JCL from 2017 – 2022. "We should all be pleased and proud that another major Louis-



Stacy Gordon-Funk

ville civic organization has now sought her help and leadership. We will miss her and we know she will be a great success at the Speed Museum." David Kaplan, chair of JCL and of the Jewish Federation's annual campaign in 2021-22 and 2022-23 also shared, "I am grateful for Stacy's steadfast leadership during the JCC capital campaign that exceeded everyone's expectations. She did this while also juggling the demand of annual campaigns that were greatly impacted by the COVID pandemic. Her ability to connect with donors was unmatched and her warmth and positive attitude set an example for those of us fortunate to work with her."

For questions related to philanthropy or donor gifts, please contact Kristy Benefield at 502-238-2739, [kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:kbenefield@jewishlouisville.org) or Sara Klein Wagner at 502-238-2779, [swagner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:swagner@jewishlouisville.org).

## Craig Greenberg Elected as Next Louisville Mayor



Mayor-Elect Craig Greenberg and his family

By Community staff

Craig Greenberg was elected by Jefferson County voters to serve as Metro Louisville's next mayor. Greenberg, a lifelong Democrat, defeated Republican candidate Bill Dieruf in the Nov. 8 general election.

Greenberg, a Louisville businessman, and his family have long been involved in Louisville's Jewish community, including Greenberg's service on the board of the JCC. Greenberg is married to Rachel and they share two sons, Daniel and Benjamin.

Greenberg has invited all of Louisville to an open house at Louisville Metro Hall, following his private swearing-in ceremony, on Monday, Jan. 2. The open house will run from 1 to 4 p.m. and attendees can meet Greenberg and his family, as well as members of his administration and tour Metro Hall.

*Community will publish a longer story in the next issue including an interview with new Mayor Craig Greenberg.*



CenterStage Academy is a youth (grades K-8) musical theatre training program that gives students the opportunity to discover and develop their talents as performers. Through our programming, each child will work with theatre professionals in three disciplines: acting, singing and dancing.

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For more information about their visit, contact Amy Fouts [P2G@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:P2G@jewishlouisville.org)

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FEDERATION

Roth children make Capital Campaign gift in honor of their parents - one step at a time

By Stephanie Smith  
For Community

*This is the third 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.*

When you raise over \$43 million dollars for a new state-of-the-art facility like the Trager Family Jewish Community Center, it's a monumental feat made possible by generous donors, years of meticulous planning and hard work by all. When looking for a way to honor donors, the Trager Family JCC commissioned its architectural firm, GBBN, to create its Wall of Honor, a design that reflects the Kotel Western Wall, darker, triangular plaques at the bottom, much like the oldest section of the wall, built in 36 B.C.E. Lighter tiles comprise the next layer (8th century C.E.) with the smallest, lightest tiles at the top (13th century C.E.). Each layer is distinct from the others. Along with acknowledgment on the Wall of Honor, the Roth siblings and their spouses came up with a unique way to honor their family's legacy of

philanthropy with their Capital Campaign gift. This trio Dan and Evan Roth and their sister, Jessica Lasser, spent much of their childhood years sitting on the steps at the old JCC building waiting for their dad, Bruce Roth, to pick them up from various programs such as Hebrew School, BBYO events, among others. To honor their parents, Marcia and Bruce Roth, and their time growing up at the JCC, Dan, Evan and Jessica asked that this quote from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, be affixed to the massive staircase in the new building because it exemplifies their family's long history of giving to the Jewish Community: "Real Change, Enduring Change, Happens One Step At A Time." Evan, who resides in New York City, recently returned home for a visit, and stopped by the Trager Family JCC and was moved by the words on the staircase, "It's a beautiful tribute to my parents and it's in such a high traffic area yet it is subtle in a classic way." He says, "Charity starts with knowing our beliefs and the need to connect that is very personal. The Trager Family JCC is so much a part of who we are as a family, we knew donating



**Front Row (From Left): Julius Roth, Goldie Lasser and Hattie Lasser; Middle Row: Sally Roth, Leo Roth, Marcia Roth, Phoebe Roth, Bruce Roth and Levi Lasser; Back Row: Emmett Roth, Evan Roth, Lindsay Roth, Daniel Roth, Lisa Roth, Jessica Lasser, Jack Roth and Ethan Lasser.** in this way would honor our parents and benefit our hometown Jewish community for generations to come." For his part, Dan, who also lives in New York City, remembers those stairs at the old JCC and the sense of community he felt growing up with fellow Jewish children, "When children grow up with one central meeting spot and shared experiences that feels safe to them, it becomes part of who they are as adults. With antisemitism on the rise, The Trager Family JCC warms the heart

when you see the totality of the Jewish experience in a place that welcomes everyone." Jessica, who lives in Boston, says, "While we no longer live in Louisville, we still love supporting the JCC. We have watched our parents, grandparents and our entire family faithfully donate their time and financial resources to build a better Jewish community." Marcia Roth is past president of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and has served as chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Women's and Young Women's Division of the United Jewish Campaign. She is a past president of the National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville section and as a board member of the Jewish Family and Vocational Services. Bruce is treasurer of the Jewish Heritage Fund Board of Directors. He previously served on the Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Hospital HealthCare Investment Committee and as a volunteer for the United Jewish Campaign. Dan and Lisa Roth; Evan and Lindsay Roth and Jessica and Ethan Lasser, made this Capital Campaign gift.



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To learn more about how to create your Jewish legacy, please contact Gayle Shoemaker at [gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org).



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# NEWS & NEWS MAKERS

## Host Jewish teens in your home for the 27th Annual Drew Corson Memorial Basketball Tournament



Students at the 2021 Drew Corson Memorial Basketball Tournament

The 27th Annual Drew Corson Memorial Basketball Tournament, hosted by Drew Corson AZA and Louisville BBYO, will take place Friday through Saturday, January 20-22 at the Trager Family JCC.

The tournament was founded in honor of Drew Corson who sadly passed away in 1994 at the age of fifteen while playing basketball during the Maccabi Games in Cleveland. The next year, the tournament was named in his honor as basketball was Drew's favorite sport.

This year, Jewish teens in attendance will stay in Louisville for a three-day convention-style weekend and we need local families to host these teens. If

you are interested in hosting, please fill out the form at [www.bit.ly/DrewCorsonHost](http://www.bit.ly/DrewCorsonHost) and/or contact Teen Director Abigail Goldberg at [agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org) with any questions.

More than 100 teens across the Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio (KIO) region will travel to Louisville to participate in this annual event, hosted at the Trager Family JCC. Teens can look forward to Shabbat services with KIO traditions and ritual programming on Friday, Saturday's basketball tournament and evening social programming. Sunday will be full of celebration as we cheer and watch the championship games, cheer on our local alumni in an Alumni vs. Drew Corson AZA basketball game, enjoy a delicious brunch, and end with an award ceremony. Teens that don't play in the tournament are also encouraged and welcome to join.

## Young philanthropist raises more than \$2,000 to fight antisemitism

According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), 2021 was the highest year on record for documented reports of harassment, vandalism and violence directed against Jews. The watchdog group has tracked these incidents since 1979, and it says 2022 will look a lot like last year.

These record-breaking numbers pres-



Fifth-grader Camden Ignatow stands with ADL Regional Director James Pasch

ent as part of a consistent, five-year upswing in the number of antisemitic incidents, unprecedented in the ADL's three plus decades of data collection.

Camden, a fifth grader at Norton Commons Elementary, watches the news and noticed the uptick of stories about antisemitism. Jewish himself, Camden's desire to share a positive story had such an impact on him that he took action. Through an email effort, various presentations and a video that captured the hearts of a community, Camden raised more than \$2,000 that he donated to the Anti-Defamation League to fight antisemitism.

What began as his class service project has become a lesson to us all about how one child can inspire many.

In an interview on WAVE 3 News, Camden said, "It's honestly really cool to feel like I'm doing something. Because honestly when I started this project, I thought I would raise like \$50. I

didn't think it would turn into this big of a deal."

"Camden showed his classmates, he showed this school, his community, that there's no such thing as being too young to be a leader. I'm so incredibly grateful and thankful," said ADL Regional Director James Pasch.

His parents, Ali and Andrew, had this to say about his effort, "We're so proud of Camden and what an impact he is making. This has gone way beyond a school service project."

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Contact Courtney Evans at 502-322-1928 or [cevens@jfcslouisville.org](mailto:cevens@jfcslouisville.org) to learn more.



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# AROUNDTOWN

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

## Adath Jeshurun

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.

Rabbi Corber will be leading a new series of monthly Tot Shabbat services beginning on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. These are family-friendly Shabbat morning services geared to children ages 0 - 6 and their parents. Older siblings and grandparents are also welcome. The Kiddush lunches on those days will include special kid-friendly food. So that AJ may prepare enough food, please make a reservation using the link on the homepage of the AJ website at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com). Tot Shabbat is open to the community.

AJ will sponsor a ladies-only Jewish Family Feud event featuring a Tu B'Shevat-themed 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](http://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](mailto:frankyegordon@aol.com)

AJ Sunday Night Live will return on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. The program will consist of a discussion with Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin and Imam Abdullah Antepli. The Topic will be "The Elephants in the Room: Israel, Palestine, Zionism, and the Role of Religion in America." To receive the Zoom link, subscribe to AJ's weekly newsletter on the homepage of the AJ website at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com). Sunday Night Live is open to the community.

AJ will honor 2022 Co-Minyanares of the Year, Calvin Lee and Christian Lee, at Minyanair Shabbat on February 24 & 25. A kiddush supper will be held on Friday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person for Minyanaires and \$15 per person for guests. Reservations are required at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations) and the reservation deadline is February 17. On Saturday, Feb. 25, Minyanaires will participate in the service and have special honors. All events are open to the community.

The AJ Annual Music Festival will be held on Sunday, Mar. 26 at 7 p.m., and will feature the cantorial vocal trio, "Shul Sisters." A shared desire to use music to lift women's voices brought together acclaimed vocalists Cantor

Laurie Akers of Illinois, Cantor Rachel Brook of Illinois, and Cantor Rachel Goldman of Texas. Admissions are \$15 per person. Sponsorships are also available. More information is available at [www.adathjeshurun.com/musicfestival](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/musicfestival). This event is open to the community.

## Anshei Sfard

Shachris starts at 9 a.m. at 2904 Bardstown Rd. Once a month Shachris is at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center. Call the office 502-451-3122 or email [carla@ansheisfard.com](mailto: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 Bureau and uncover the many laws of daily living, Sunday - Thursday from 8:45 - 9:10 p.m.

## 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](mailto:Rabbi@Chabadky.com) or 502-235-5770 for details.

Chabad will host a new class entitled BookSmart which will endeavor to uncover Judaism's most important titles and the authors who wrote them. From the Five Books of Moses, to the Talmud, from the plethora of ancient manuscripts, printed volumes and digital books of modern day, this class will share the magic of our books through an immersive tour of its central titles and authors. The six-week class will be held each Wednesday beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at the Trager Family JCC. The fee is \$80. (textbook included). For more information, email [chabadky@gmail.com](mailto:chabadky@gmail.com) or register at [myjli.com/learn/louisville](http://myjli.com/learn/louisville).

## 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, Jan. 5 - No Chavurat Shalom while still on winter break.  
Thursday, Jan. 12 - No Chavurat Shalom

while the Temple office is closed for an off-site staff meeting retreat.

Thursday, Jan. 19 - Rabbi David will talk to about the tumult in Israeli politics. Lunch will include roasted chicken with an orange apricot glaze, wild rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, kale salad, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

Thursday, Jan. 26 - Cantor Lauren will bring her guitar and sing Yiddish songs and zemirot. Lunch will include beef pot roast, mashed potatoes, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and assorted pick up sweets.

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](mailto: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

Musikgarten classes will begin in January at the Trager Family JCC. The new session is set for January 8 - March 26. This interactive and educational music class is led by Ms. Cathy Dreszer. Each Session is ten classes and the days and times are: Sundays, 10 - 10:45 a.m. - 18 month-4 years; Sundays, 11 - 11:30 a.m. - 0-17 months; and new this year, - Wednesdays, 10 -10:45 a.m. - 18 months-4 years. The cost is \$75 for Trager Family JCC members and \$85 for non-members. Register at [thejcampbrainregistration.com](http://thejcampbrainregistration.com).

Join the Dream Circle for Women: Sacred Dreaming for Tikkun Atzmi and Tikkun Olam, Healing Ourselves, Healing Our World, Monday, Jan. 9, to explore the power of dreams to guide your daily life. The Dream Circle now meets on the second Monday of the month from noon - 1:30 p.m. in the Barbara Brick Reading Room at the Trager Family JCC and on Zoom. Themes explored: sacred dreaming as a spiritual practice, finding and expressing our voices; nighttime visits from departed loved ones; dreaming for positive social change. Joyce Lynn, Jewish Association of Spirituality and Dreams ([JASD28.org](http://JASD28.org)) co-founder, journalist, and author of "Dreams and the Wisdom Within," facilitates. No prior dream work necessary. For information and to register, email [dreaming@JASD28.org](mailto:dreaming@JASD28.org). Jewish Federation of Louisville, Women's Philanthropy sponsors the monthly event.



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# AROUNDTOWN

## 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](https://tinyurl.com/kiczoom). Shabbat services and Holiday services are offered in person and on YouTube-Live at [tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive](https://tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive). Please visit [kenesethisrael.com](https://kenesethisrael.com) for times and covid policies.

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.

## Kentucky Institute for Torah Education

KITE has a weekly Light of Torah class Monday nights at the Trager Family 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](mailto:rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org) to RSVP or for the zoom link.

[rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org](mailto: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](mailto:rabbizb@kentuckytorah.org) for the location or with any questions.

## Kol Israel Community of Kentucky

An in person, Renewal Oneg, Service and Shabbat Dinner will take place on Friday, Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. Space is limited. Call 502-341-1595 or [KolIsraelKY@gmail.com](mailto:KolIsraelKY@gmail.com) for reservations.

Inner Peace for Challenging Times, a Community-Wide Jewish Meditation Gathering will take place on Monday, Jan. 9 at 9 p.m. Jewish communities from around the country will gather to experience inner spaciousness and healing. The 40-minute session will include transformational teachings, Hebrew chanting, and deep silence, all led by Reb Brian Yosef Schachter-Brooks from Torah of Awakening. Register and join the Zoom with this link, <https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvcO-opjsoH-tU7StlMpW3uc-a25FgnJgMy>. This program is in partnership with ALEPH Alliance Jewish Renewal (National) and Interfaith Paths to Paths to Peace. RSVP to [KolIsraelKy@gmail.com](mailto:KolIsraelKy@gmail.com) or 502-341-1595.

Jewish Renewal Friends from across the country will gather for Shabbat Saturday, Jan. 21 with the Bloomington, IN Renewal Congregation. Torah and Song provided by Rabbi Marc Labowitz, davening by Chaiyla Lerner. The Zoom opens at 10:15 a.m. for schmoozing and services begin at 10:30 a.m. Reservations necessary by calling 502 431-1595 or [KolIsraelKY@gmail.com](mailto:KolIsraelKY@gmail.com).

## Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Trager Family 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 is selling 2023 Mah Jongg Cards through January 14. Place your order online at <https://ncjwlou.org/home/ourwork/2023-mah-jongg-card-sales/> or contact the NCJW Office at 502-458-5566 or [office@ncjwlou.org](mailto:office@ncjwlou.org).

## 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](https://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](https://thetemplelouky.org/adult-education) for more information.

It is that time again to order your 2023 Mah Jongg card(s). The prices are \$14 for a standard card or \$15 for a large print card. Please send or bring a check or cash to The Temple by January 30 with your name and address and/or a list of all the people who will be ordering from us this year. Please call Sheila

Lynch at 502-896-9736 for questions.

The Temple invites congregants to attend Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. More information at [thetemplelouky.org](https://thetemplelouky.org).

Pickleball courts are open at The Temple. Registration opens every Friday for slots the next week. Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. & Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. At least two of the four players need to be members of The Temple. Be sure to sign the waiver and bring your own ball and paddles. Register online at [thetemplelouky.org/pickleball](https://thetemplelouky.org/pickleball).

Join the Mitzvah Makers on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 11:30 a.m. to make sandwiches for the Louisville homeless community. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making](https://thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making). Before the event, please bring donations to The Temple to help with this tikkun olam project including: bottles of water, individual bags of chips, loaves of bread, and sandwich bags. Additionally, bring small hotel/sample size toiletries (shampoo, bars of soap, lotion, mouthwash, toothbrushes, and toothpaste) as we will be making bags to hand out.

The Temple will host a special MLK Shabbat service on Friday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Let us all come together to create impactful dialogue and work toward the sacred mitzvah of Tikkun Olam, repairing our world. This year, we will have Joe Leavell w/1 Purpose Gospel Choir from Louisville, Kentucky.

The Temple will have Blankets and Blessings, a group of people who get together one Monday morning a month to make two types of fleece blankets for fellow congregants. Our clergy delivers one style to members who are in the hospital or unable to leave home. We also make soft, colorful blankets given for baby naming. All the blankets are made from fleece, in a wide variety of patterns and colors. None of the projects requires any sewing or great skill. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susan Waterman at [Susan.Waterman1@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.Waterman1@gmail.com).

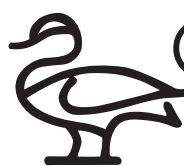
Sing Shabbat with Cantor Lauren is for anyone who would like to feel more comfortable with Shabbat prayers and music, anyone who loves to sing, and for music lovers and community-minded folks alike. You do not need to have any singing or sight-reading experience. This class is open to everyone, and please RSVP so that we know how many materials to make at [thetemplelouky.org/sing-shabbat](https://thetemplelouky.org/sing-shabbat). Spring classes are January 23, February 20, March 20, April 24, May 15, and June 5.

Everyone is welcome to join us for Family Shabbat on February 3. A family-friendly dinner is at 6 p.m. and Erev Shabbat Services at 7 p.m. led by our Grade 5 students. Dinner is \$10 per person and free for children 12 and under. Dinner is \$5 when you RSVP before Tuesday, Jan. 31. Please make your reservation by calling 502-423-1818 or registering online at [thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner](https://thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner).

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B'nai Mitzvah



**Blake Leigh Ignatow**, daughter of Andrew and Ali Ignatow and sister of Charley and Camden, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 7 at 10:30 am at The Temple. Blake is the granddaughter of Nancy and the late Bruce Kranz, and Stanley and Evelyn Ignatow of Cincinnati.

Blake is a seventh grader at Francis Parker School of Louisville (formally known as St. Francis School in Goshen). She loves to dance! She is a member of MAGIC, which is a non profit youth dance company and can usually be found at her dance studio. Blake also enjoys participating in the drama department and playing field hockey and basketball at her school. When she is not dancing her way through life, she loves spending time with her family and friends. She especially likes snuggling with her two puppies, Arabell and Talullah. Please join us after her service for light refreshments and pastries. Her service will be streamed via The Temple.

**Nessa Dani Kaplan**, daughter of Fai-na and Vadim Kaplan, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, February 4, at 10:30 am at The Temple. Nessa is the sister of David Boris Kaplan.

Nessa is in the seventh grade at Lou-



isville Collegiate School. She has a competitive spirit and participates on LCS Robotics and Golf teams. You can also see Nessa in various theater productions around the city as she loves acting, dancing and singing. Nessa is an animal lover and adores her two dogs, two Guinea pigs, two parakeets, and chinchilla. Nessa's volunteer project reflects her passion for reading by collecting books for schools so that the kids can enjoy them.



**Oliver Abney Wells**, son of Amy Gumer and Jon Wells, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday January 28th 2023 at Keneseth Israel Congregation. Oliver is the grandson of Myrilan Gumer and the late Bruce J. Gumer and Ellen and Dr. Randall Wells. Oliver is a 7th grade honor roll student at North Oldham Middle School.

Oliver is a lead runner of the his school State winning cross county team, where he became 14th in the state this year. He is a strong part of the NOMS wrestling team and one of the fastest on the track team. He started lacrosse 2 years ago. He

now plays with the Mustangs and Mingos teams and won the Bluegrass Lacrosse League Championship 7th /8th AA.

Oliver has a very wide range of talent and is a very strong entertainer. He is playing the role of Tin Man, in his school musical Wizard of Oz. While also playing saxophone in the his middle school band and being part of art club.

Oliver is a member of KUNA/The Kentucky United Nations Assembly, and is looking forward to learning and debating world issues again this year. He is also the leader of the 7th grade Polaris house(student council) at North Oldham Middle School. Oliver has enjoyed his time with LBSY, where he has learned how to help other communities that may be different and doing social action projects for members of our community.

Weddings



**Hanna Amy Newstadt and John Greene Riney** Hanna Amy Newstadt and John Greene Riney were married on September 18 in Goshen, Kentucky. The ceremony was officiated by Rabbi Robert Slosberg, Rabbi Joshua Corber and Cantor David Lipp.

Hanna is the daughter of Drs. Robyn and Mark Newstadt. She graduated from Washington University in St Louis with

a degree in chemical engineering, and is currently pursuing her doctorate in physical therapy at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

John is the son of Drs Eugenie and Richard Riney. He graduated from the Business school at Washington University in St Louis, and is currently working as a strategy and operations manager at Farmer's Business Network.

Obituaries



**Hanan (Henry) Spilman Berg-Brousseau** Hanan (Henry) Spilman Berg-Brousseau died in his home in Arlington, Virginia, on Friday, December 16, 2022.

He was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, a city he fought to improve through his extensive work with the Fairness Campaign. While a student at Louisville Collegiate School, he advocated for the rights of transgender people by organizing a protest against gay conversion therapy, speaking to the Kentucky Senate Education Committee, and participating in other local and national causes. His speech to the committee was shared on John Oliver Tonight. He was awarded Collegiate's Outstanding High School Senior in 2016 and the Butterfly Award in 2015 by the Women's Center at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological



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Seminary in recognition of his advocacy for the transgender community. Henry attended George Washington University, where he double majored in Political Science and History with a minor in Jewish Studies. He was proud to be a founding member of GWU's chapter of Delta Lambda Phi, an LGBTQ+ fraternity. After graduating in 2021, Henry served as the Deputy Press Secretary at the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC. He was an active member of the Stonewall Kickball League of DC, an avid knitter, and a lover of The West Wing. He will be remembered for his drive to make this world a more accepting place, his ambition to use communications and politics as a force for positive change, and his eagerness to make everyone around him feel loved.

Henry is preceded in death by his grandparents, Pearl and Harold Berg z"l, and Robert and Mary Brousseau. He is survived by his parents, Karen Berg and Bob Brousseau; his sister, Rachael Pass; his Nanny, Odessa Riley; his uncle, David Brousseau; his aunts, Amy Berg, Dena Nelson, and Lauren Berg; his extended family and friends, and his beloved dog, Bibi.

The funeral will be at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 21st, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave, Louisville, KY 40204. Visitation will begin at 11:30 a.m. Burial to follow in The Temple Cemetery.

Following the service, visitors are invited back to the Berg family home for shiva from 6 pm to 8 pm at 608 Jarvis Lane, Louisville, KY 40207.

Donations in honor of Henry Berg-Brousseau to The Fairness Campaign, 2263 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206, or The Trevor Project, Attn: Development,

PO Box 69232, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

## Manny Frockt

Manny H. Frockt, 98, died Sunday, December 4, 2022 in West Palm Beach, FL, but in the family's sadness, they celebrate a life filled with success and love. He survived WW II, heart surgery and cancer. He was born June 17, 1924 in Chattanooga, TN to the late Louis and Gussie Morris Frockt.

Manny was a former partner with Frockt & Klingman, Attorneys at Law. He was honored during his legal career and featured more than once in the newspaper for his work on behalf of clients. He represented clients from all walks of life, both working-class and powerful.

Manny was a WWII veteran of the US Army (serving from 1942 to 1945), and being a recipient of several medals from the Army and the Government of France and but most notably, the Congressional Gold Medal, for his services with the Ghost Army, 23rd Headquarters Special Troops. This honored the Ghost Army's "unique and highly distinguished service in conducting deceptive operations in Europe during WWII".

As a young man, he was active in the Masons. He was a former St. George Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Kosair Shrine member. Later in life, he celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, in his 70's. After retiring and moving to Florida, he volunteered at the Reform Temples in Wellington and Lake Worth, FL.

As a father, he took his family on trips around the country. He was with them at Rock's Little League games and for Shelley's dance recitals. And the family, all

went fishing together. On Sunday mornings, he filled the house with music from Broadway shows, blasting from the Hi-Fi.

Of course, Manny, "Bub", was most proud of his family. He and Esther created a loving home. They extended that love to their children and grandchildren. They danced at their 50th wedding anniversary party in Florida. Bub was thrilled to celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of his oldest Great-Grandchild, Ellie.

He is survived by his son, I. Joel "Rocky" Frockt (Gina K. Calvert); his daughter, Shelley F. Elias; his grandchildren, Susan Frockt (Robert Clifton), Jennifer Ruben (Herman), Benjamin Elias (Elaine) and Kevin Elias (Josephine); and six great-grandchildren.

The family will conduct a private graveside service on Thursday, December 8th. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Ghost Army Legacy Project, 1305 S. Michigan Ave #1164, Chicago, IL 60605 or to the Anti-Defamation League, 605 3rd Ave, New York, NY 16158.



**Miriam Harriet Goldstein Goldman Godhelff**

Miriam Harriet Goldstein Goldman Godhelff died on Monday, November 21, 2022. She was born at midnight on September 17/18, 1923. Miriam al-

ways celebrated her birthday on the 18th, with all of her official documents showing that date until in the mid-2000's, when her birth certificate revealed the 17th.

She was the last remaining child of Henry Goldstein and (Hannah) Dorothy Zillman; her older sister, Riva Drutz, died in December 2019, and her younger brother, Irvin Goldstein, in November 2019.

Miriam's grandparents, Sol Goldstein and Minnie Shapinsky, helped establish Congregation Adath Jeshurun on Brook and College Streets in the early 1900's.

Miriam's childhood, like her adulthood, was one of unconditional love and of family. She was also proud to have voted in every election.

She, like her siblings, was an advocate of early childhood development. She believed that each child was unique in their own right, how children were to always have fun and always be respected for the individuals that they are, not what society or what the goals of their parents demanded.

Miriam's daughter remembers sitting with her mother on their back steps, enjoying a quiet summer evening during her turbulent teenage years. It was an unspoken time of a parent saying to a child, "No matter what you do, I will always love you and be there for you."

And always laugh, especially over a goof that she did. That was a legacy passed on from her mother, to her, to her daughter.

Like her surprise 50th birthday party at a restaurant, she had never been to. The surprise was on her family as she was only 49 years old, and the reason she had never been to that restaurant was because they refused to serve Blacks. We then realized how many stores, restaurants, and amusement parks we just did not go to.

She was very proud that she voted and did vote every election. A few days before she went into the hospital, she was not feeling well and would not get out of her bed or eat. Honi told her that her ballot would not count if she died before election day. She immediately got out of bed, dressed, and ate. And every day afterwards asked about the election and who won.

A classic Southern Magnolia, she weathered all tragedies with grace and determination, be it the Great Depression, the 1937 Flood, World War II, and the loss of her son and two husbands.

Miriam was a graduate of the 1941 class at Atherton High School. In 1945 she graduated with a Home Economics major from the University of Louisville, where she helped founded the first Jewish sorority, that she then helped incorporate it into the national sorority Delta Phi Epsilon, Omicron Chapter.

In 1945, she married the "love of her life," Sidney Goldman. When he died in 1955, she took over the store that he had founded a few years earlier, Okolona De-

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partment Store on Preston Highway. She managed the store alone until she married Jack Godhelf in 1958. They ran the store until it closed in 1982. She then worked with her son, Marvin, at his mail-order office supply business, Papyrus Place, and took it over after he died in 1999. Jack died in 2010.

Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren remember how any drawing given to "Grandma Mirky" was a work of art proudly displayed near school pictures and vacation memories. Her kitchen table was where you'd get a made-to-order meal and even some unsolicited advice, both served with a heaping helping of love. Miriam's signature beaming smile in every photograph showed her pride for her family, friends and time spent together. Miriam loved to send birthday cards, was an avid reader, took many vacations and cruises over the years, and never, ever missed a hair or nail appointment.

Miriam is survived by her daughter, Honi Marleen Goldman, daughter in law, Pam Raidt, her grandchildren Mara White (Jeff), Robbyn McClain (Sam) and Sydney Goldman along with great-children, Ben, Sari and Grant White, Liliane McClain, Caroline and Ben Peters and by many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Visitation will begin at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, November 27, 2022, and will continue with the funeral service at 11:30 A.M. at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Avenue. Burial will be at Congregation Adath Jeshurun Cemetery between her two husbands. Shiva and evening visitation information is available by calling the funeral home at 502.458.9560.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made in Miriam's name to NCJW's Reproductive Rights Project ([jewsforabortionaccess.org](http://jewsforabortionaccess.org)); Legal Aid ([laslou.org](http://laslou.org)), the Louisville Urban League ([LUL.org](http://LUL.org)) or the donor's favorite charity.



**Mitchell Netter**

Mitchell Netter, 92, passed away December 4, 2022. He was preceded in death by parents, Herman and Goldie Netter; his sister Irene Cohen Smith, and his brother Isaac Netter.

Mr. Netter was a loving husband, father, and "Paw Paw." He is survived by his beloved wife of 75 years, Virginia, his son, Ronald L. Netter, Sr. (Pam), his daughter, Candy N. Harrison (Larry); four grandchildren, Mitchell Lee Netter (Jennifer),

Brandon N. Harrison, Ronald Lee Netter, Jr. (Amber), and Kristen H. Luken (Chris); nine great-grandchildren, Max, Kayli, Kyle, Claire, Lynnlee, Knox, Carly, Eleanor, and Madison; and his sister Ella Bass Goodman.

Mitch was born and raised in Louisville, attended Male High School, where he played football, and is a member of the Male High School Hall of Fame. He was a member of The Temple Adath Israel Brith Shalom and a former member of the Jewish Community Center, where he was inducted into their Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Netter won the Louisville heavyweight division of the Golden Gloves Championship in 1949, representing the Young Men's Hebrew Association (Y.M.H.A.). He went on to win the All-Southern Golden Gloves boxing title. He defeated the Indiana state champ in 1950. Mitch and his wife, Ginny, were award-winning ballroom dancers. Professionally, Mitch had a long, successful career in the wholesale produce business as co-owner of Netter Produce Company with his wife, Ginny.

A funeral service to honor Mr. Netter will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at The Temple, 5101 US Hwy 42, Louisville, KY 40241. Family and friends may visit at The Temple from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The burial will be private at The Temple Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Mitchell Netter may be made to The Temple or Hosparus Health.

## Andrew Aaron Venetiane

Andrew Aaron Venetianer, 39, died on November 30, 2022. He was the son of Edmond and Julie Venetianer, and both preceded Andrew in death. He is survived and missed by his extensive family, friends, and community. His great sense of humor, advocacy, community involvement, and generosity of himself and time will not be forgotten.

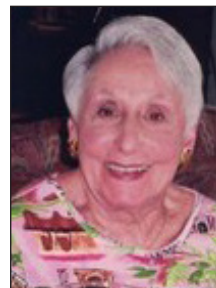
As an enthusiastic sports fan, Andrew cheered for the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, and the Louisville Cardinals.

Andrew generously gave his time to a variety of causes, including the ARC of KY. In 2013 he was honored as Youth Advocate of the Year by the ARC program, receiving the Suzy Riffe Memorial Award. In 2015, Governor Matt Bevin appointed him to the Kentucky Commission on Services & Supports for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Other Developmental Disabilities (HB 144 commission) and reappointed by Governor Andy Beshear in 2019. Andrew continued his outreach through seminars at Spalding

and Bellarmine University, along with presenting to numerous other programs. He volunteered at the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry at JCFS.

As a final gift to humanity, Andrew gave the gift of life to others as an organ donor. May his memory be a blessing.

Memorial donations to Dreams With Wings, 1579 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205, with "In Memory of Andrew Venetianer" in the memo line.



**Sylvia Turk Weinberg**

Sylvia Turk Weinberg passed away peacefully in her home this morning at the age of 99. She was surrounded then, as she had been throughout her life, by love, exceeded only by that which she always gave.

Sylvia was born in Louisville to Jacob Carl (Akiva) Turk and Pearl Cohn. She and Morris Weinberg were married in 1944 immediately upon his return from the war. They bore four children - Nan Myndell Siegel (Richard), Harris Weinberg (Dana Corvin), Faye Weinberg (Alan Roth), and Perri Schenker (Mike). Sylvia was gifted with 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, all of whom she called her precious ones. Sylvia knew how deeply she was loved by all of them, and all of us knew how deeply we were loved by her.

Sylvia worked with Morris in their grocery store, supporting their family. Later, after the store was sold, she had the opportunity to pursue other callings. She was an internationally published poet. She was an original founder of Louisville's Interfaith Paths to Peace. She was a patron of the arts and a philosopher and theologian who encouraged love and thoughtfulness in all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Sam Turk, and her husband, Morris. It was among her daily prayers that none of her children predeceased her, a prayer that took on greater fervency the older she became, and a prayer that was blessedly answered.

Services were held Friday, December 9, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at Herman Meyer and Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Avenue, followed by burial at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Visitation will begin at the funeral home at 12 p.m. The chapel service will be live-streamed beginning at 1 p.m. from [facebook.com/HermanMeyerSon](https://facebook.com/HermanMeyerSon)

Shiva information will be held from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m. beginning Saturday, December 10th through Thursday, December 15th. The address is available by calling the funeral home.

Donations in Sylvia's memory may be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation, 40205; the Louisville Chapter of Interfaith Paths to Peace, 2500 Montgomery St, Louisville, KY 40212; Dare to Care Food Bank, P.O. Box 35458, Louisville, KY 40232; or a charity of your choice.



Karen Pass

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# NEWS

## SAFE LOUISVILLE

*Continued from page 1*

sures would be effective?

**A:** (Sara) In 2018, at a national conference of Federation executives, I was asked to introduce Michael Masters, the National Director and CEO of Secure Community Network (SCN), who was leading a session on security just weeks after starting his new position. It was clear that SCN was a much-needed component and there would be an increasing presence as the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized Jewish communities in North America. This was prior to the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. My colleagues and I left the conference grateful that Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) had the foresight to create SCN several years earlier and were reassured by the opportunity for communities our size to take advantage of the resources.

**Q:** What specific actions did you then take to get SAFE Louisville off the ground?

**A:** (Bill) Once we decided to develop a community-wide safety and security plan, we took three steps to get started.

First, under the auspices of the JCL Board of Directors, we convened a committee—now known as SAFE Louisville—comprised of representatives from each of the synagogues and Jewish agencies in our community. Many institutions already had security committees convened, so SAFE Louisville is comprised of these lay leaders as well as professional staff and clergy.

Second, we developed a charter for the committee, defining what the scope of our work would be and the terms of engagement. For example, we decided to develop a community-wide security plan, to seek funding for our collective work, and to strive to make our community as a whole safer and more secure. At the same time, we agreed that each agency must retain the right to make decisions on their own behalf, not only to make their organizations safer, but also to strike a balance between security and maintaining a welcoming environment.

Third, the SAFE Louisville committee decided to work with SCN to conduct a baseline security assessment of each Jewish agency in Louisville to identify security strengths, vulnerabilities, and mitigation measures. From that baseline assessment, we developed a plan—what we called “Phase One”—to bring each agency to a minimum standard of physical security by having exterior locks/entry control, alarm systems and related physical security measures.

**Q:** What is the status of the Phase One plan?

**A:** (Ben) With this Phase One plan in hand, we approached the Jewish Heritage Fund (JHF) to seek financial support for enhanced security. We are very grateful that JHF was able to support our enhanced security efforts. Getting through Phase One has been challenging during COVID, supply chain issues, and the fact that much of the work that has to be done is driven by volunteers. But I’m happy to report that the security contractor we retained to complete the Phase One physical security mitigation work is nearly finished.

**Q:** In addition to physical security, were there any other safety and security measures taken during Phase One?

**A:** (Bill) One of the most important facets of any safety and security plan is to provide training to facility staff, volunteers and the community at large. At the end of the day, the most effective security method is for the community to be aware, be able to identify security threats and to know what to do in the face of a security event. The SAFE Louisville committee worked with

SCN to provide a range of training sessions to the Louisville community.

Together, SAFE Louisville and SCN conducted training for the community, focused on identifying and reporting suspicious activity, countering active threats and providing lifesaving first aid. Two training programs were introduced to the community titled, “Countering Active Threat Training” and “BeAware.” Thus far, we have conducted nineteen training sessions at the Trager Family JCC and at other facilities.

**Q:** How has SAFE Louisville’s approach to safety and security compare with what other Jewish communities have done? Specifically, do many other Jewish communities work with SCN?

**A:** (Ben) As a part of SCN’s national cabinet, I have had the opportunity to network with other members and people in communities similar to ours. Most every community is experiencing the same issues and being a part of SCN helps us understand how other communities deal with these issues. SCN was developed for just this reason. Nothing that we do is just us. We work closely with SCN and our network to address our work in a more neutral fashion and to have the connection to the FBI and law enforcement agencies that we wouldn’t have on our own.

**Q:** How is the work that SAFE Louisville is doing being funded?

**A:** (Sara) As Ben noted, we have been incredibly fortunate to have had the local support of the JHF and Jewish Federation. JHF has provided funding in recent years to be able to upgrade security measures congregations and local agencies, assessments and staffing. Funds from the Federation annual campaign, designated gifts from donors and funding from our Federation’s Jewish Foundation have all supported this important work. In addition, our JCL staff has managed the work of SAFE Louisville for the past several years including the leadership of Tom Wissinger, VP and COO, Brian Tabler, Facilities Director, and Paul Reece, Security team member.

(Ben) It’s a multi-faceted approach. Funding for our security work comes from local sources, national sources and governmental sources. Echoing Sara and Bill, JHF has very much stepped up and been foundational force. They recognize the need for what we are doing and they are financially backing the plan that we have put together. Nationally, SCN has developed a grant fund that has been used to establish training systems that mid-sized communities like ours can tap into to help bring them in line from security system standpoint. The Federal government’s Department of Homeland Security, through FEMA, also has established the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. This grant program provides security funding to cities and institutions around the country, including churches, mosques, Black communities, to name a few. SCN has done a great job in helping to advocate among Congress to increase this funding by approximately 400% over the years. SCN has also helped our community in writing grant applications to obtain this funding. SCN understands the common language, the process and how to get needed information from officials to fulfill these applications. They have been adamant that Jewish communities apply and receive this funding and have provided the framework to help us get approved. To date, our Jewish community has received over \$500,000 from the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

**Q:** What are the next steps for SAFE Louisville now that Phase One is nearly complete?

**A:** (Bill) There are three key measures we are working on next.

First, the SAFE Louisville Committee decided over a year ago to hire a fulltime

security professional - a Regional Security Advisor (RSA) - to help drive our community-wide safety and security plan. The RSA will conduct ongoing security assessments, provide periodic training, respond to specific security threats, facilitate applying for grant support, and provide overall expertise and support for our constantly evolving plan.

Second, we are in the process of evaluating each Jewish agency’s ability to monitor security threats through cameras and other means so that we can bring every institution to an adequate level of monitoring security, just as we did with physical security. Third, we are developing a more sophisticated communications system so that we are better prepared to act quickly and to communicate in real time in the face of security events. If there are threats reported to us from local, state or federal sources, who needs to know and how quickly? If there is a threat made against one institution, how will that threat be communicated to others in the community? Rest assured that we do have communication protocols in place, but with technology we can improve our methods/timing of communication both within our community and with law enforcement to make our community safer and more secure.

**Q:** Can you give an update on the hiring of a new Regional Security Advisor (RSA) and how this individual will work with the community?

**A:** (Sara) As many may know, this past summer we hired our first RSA, a former law enforcement officer who served as a senior member of LMPD during a most difficult period for our Louisville community. Recognizing the concerns and the desire to ensure our community remain focused on our safety and security goals, our RSA chose to resign the position.

(Bill) Since then, we have relaunched our search process, having spent time listening to our community and have made enhancements to the search process including expanding our hiring panel. It is and has always been our highest priority to ensure that we have the highest caliber person in the position. We are working closely with SCN as they recruit these individuals for SAFE Louisville’s consideration for our next RSA.

(Sara) As we start the new search process, we are including some additional elements. One complimentary effort is joining JEDI, a new JFNA effort. JEDI stands for Jewish, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. JEDI was designed to support Federations and JCRCs striving to ensure that all of our day-to-day work embraces the diversity of the individuals we serve. JEDI includes a specific focus on safety and security plan-

ning and protocols. The timing of joining this cohort is ideal for us.

We want our community to understand that the RSA is not dictating agency or congregation security protocols but rather serves as a resource to advise each group on what best meets their needs. The RSA will be a resource and a point person to understand the unique needs of every group and the external threats.

**Q:** What can the community look forward to from SAFE Louisville and how can the community be involved in the SAFE Louisville initiative?

**A:** (Ben) The ultimate goal for our community is to feel confident in our ability to identify threats in our community, to react to threats and feel safe in knowing that we have made ourselves as small of a target as possible for people who intend us harm. If harm is committed against, we will be in a position to help ourselves repair our community.

I emphasize that this is not an end-goal situation. This is something that we will continually revise and maintain. It’s like the maintenance on a building - just because we have waxed the floors doesn’t mean we stop cleaning the floors.

(Bill) We will continue to provide ongoing training for our community, and we encourage everyone to attend. These are incredibly effective programs in terms of awareness and readiness.

We will also be hosting community forums in 2023 to share additional information and have important discussions. Security and safety goes beyond physical risks and threats. We will also be addressing natural disasters and how our community responds. These include tornadoes and floods that our state has seen over the past year. We must create an “all hazards approach” and that’s what we will look to our community to help us build.

(Sara) I am so grateful to Bill Atman and Ben Vaughan for co-chairing the SAFE Louisville committee. They have led our community forward and made us more resilient and stronger. They have devoted countless hours of their time and we are all better for it.

We look forward to the day very soon when our community has the most well-trained members as well as the most up-to-date security system, communication, action plans and protocols.

Finally, we look forward to sharing our learnings and expertise with other marginalized or minority communities, be it those who are threatened or attacked because of race, religion, sexual orientation or for any other reason. Once we have confidence in preparing in our community, we look forward to reaching out and sharing.



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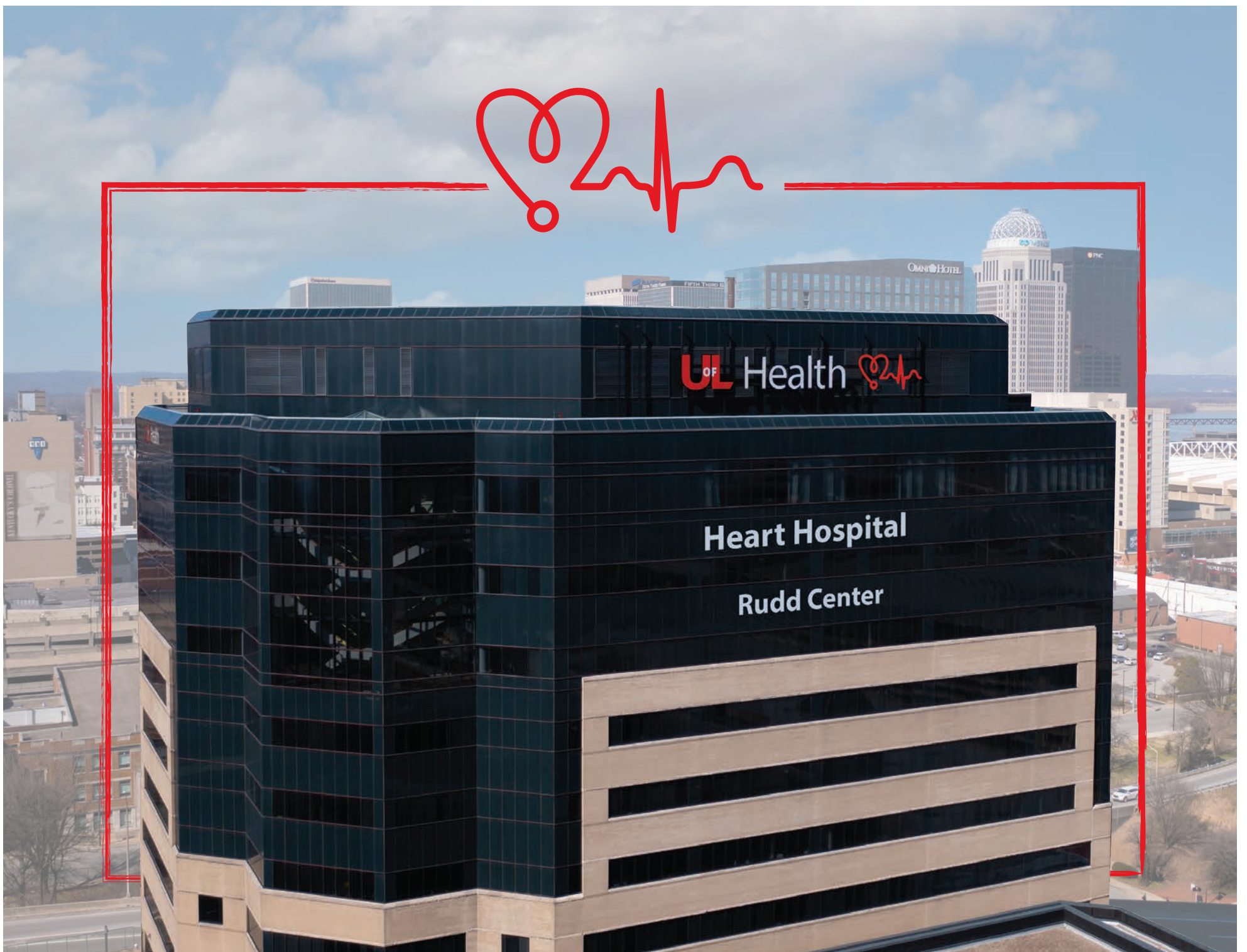
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