

# JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



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**JOURNEYS OF FAITH**  
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FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 3 | March 31, 2023 | 9 Nisan 5783

## ‘What if?’ to ‘What next?’ Celebrating its first birthday, the Trager Family JCC continues to look ahead

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

A one-year-old child can maybe walk, say a word or two and play in the sandbox. A one-year-old Trager Family Jewish Community Center can run, swim, sing, teach, dine, dance, work out, catch a show and play a mean game of pickleball.

Pretty impressive for a building that opened its doors on April 22, 2022. But it's what happens when thousands of people embrace a \$43 million facility where “What if?” is being transformed into “What next?”

The previous JCC had served its members for more than 70 years. Yet its architectural arteries had hardened, and it was woefully inadequate to handle the demands of 21st-century constituents. They were energized, but the building was exhausted.

You won't find much yawning in the new place.

“There were a lot of conversations about how, when you walk into the next JCC,” with one thing in mind, Wagner says, “we (also) want people to see there's other activity going on.”

They built it, and boy, have they come. Since opening, the number of members has grown from 2,400 to almost 3,600,” says Tom Wissinger, JCL's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “It's blown our expectations away.”

Because those numbers refer to “member units,” which can mean

anything from single individuals to large families, the number of actual users is even larger. And that constituency is notably diverse.

“It's been transformational,” says Alan Engel, who was executive director of the Jewish Federation of Louisville from 1988 to 2010. “We're trying to reach out and touch as many people as we can. That's what the word ‘community’ means.”

A key locus of growth has been the

Early Learning Center. Moving to the Trager Family JCC “has changed everything,” says ELC Director Jessica Bush. The school is bigger, and for everyone, even safer. “I would argue that because we're so new, we're probably one of the most secure childcare facilities in the city,” Bush says.

While acknowledging the Trager Family JCC's diverse membership, Wagner makes the point that “we want it to feel Jewish – it is Jewish in purpose



Donors, volunteers and community members gather around the newly unveiled donor wall at a special ceremony in September, 2022 to celebrate and thank the more than 500 donors who generously contributed to the Capital Campaign to make the Trager Family JCC a reality. (Photo by Jolea Brown)

See **BIRTHDAY** on page 15

## Trager Family JCC to host Yom HaShoah commemoration

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

On Monday, April 17, the Trager Family JCC will join the rest of the world in observing Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The hour-long ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. and will unfold on the stage of the Shapira Foundation Auditorium, where, fittingly, CenterStage is mounting a production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Participants will include rabbis and cantors from several area synagogues, plus representatives of the community at large.

“There are facets of this remembrance that are the same from year to year,” says Jeffrey Jamner, a veteran Louisville pianist and educator who's co-chairing this year's event with Matt Golden, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council. Candles again will be lit – eleven of them, symbolizing the six million Jews who were murdered alongside an estimated five million others – in a ceremony introduced by Rabbi Beth Jacobowitz Chottiner of Temple Shalom.

Rabbi Ben Freed of Keneseth Israel Congregation will recite Elie Wiesel's adaptation of the Mourner's Kaddish. Music will be played – perhaps most resonantly, three cantors singing *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* – referencing the compilation of children's drawings and poems from the Nazis' so-called “model” Czech concentration camp, Theresienstadt.

Cantor Lauren Adesnik of The Temple will chant the El Malei Rachamim in memory of community members who perished or survived the Shoah. Missing, however, will be a remnant of survivors who once graced local Yom HaShoah commemorations.

“It's sad and inevitable,” Jamner acknowledged, “and it's now falling on the shoulders of the second and third generations to keep the stories alive.”

The nomenclature, too, is evolving. Where “Holocaust” has been the standard word to describe the historical event, “Shoah” – Hebrew for “catastrophe” – is becoming increasingly prevalent.

It's far from an arbitrary substitution. “The subtext is important,” emphasizes Cantor David Lipp of Congregation Adath Jeshurun. “I don't think most people don't really understand what the word ‘holocaust’ means, but it's a specific kind

See **YOM HASHOAH** on page 23

## All packed and poised to help

By Matt Golden  
Director, JCRC

You likely know that more than any other mitzvah, our Jewish tradition commands us to provide for the stranger. Not just once, either. No fewer than 36 times—and perhaps as many as 46 according to one Talmudic Sage—the Torah compels us to care for the foreigner and the alien in our midst. This repetition is significant for our Torah. In a sacred text that is remarkably sparing with words, this single directive appears more times than even the command to love God. This constant call assuredly guides our

collective Jewish consciousness to care for the refugee and to remember when we were once strangers, too. Our community is working to fulfill that mitzvah, one suitcase at a time.

Every day at our southern border, six to seven thousand human beings, many of them children, attempt to cross over to the United States looking for a new life. Propelled by uncertainty, danger, or simply a desire to feed their families, people just like us leave their homelands and arrive on our doorstep in hope of a better tomorrow. In their present-day journeys, they are not so very different than our parents and grandparents who fled

pogroms or the Shoah just a few decades ago. Most will arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Against that backdrop, each year a professor at Bellarmine University named Frank Hutchins takes several anthropology students to study the impact of immigration at the border from multiple perspectives. Hutchins' class visits the Sonoran desert to bear witness to the places where migrants cross, and where some die. They visit shelters where new arrivals get their first glimpse of this country. They see, first hand, the impact of the drug cartels to the south and the armed

See **POISED** on page 14





# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### Purim, Passover and our responsibility to remember



D'var Torah

Rabbi  
Ben Freed

We are currently between two wonderful holidays on the Jewish calendar: Purim and Passover. Purim, of course, celebrates how Esther and Mordechai worked together to save the Jewish people from the evil Haman, while Passover celebrates our Exodus from Egypt and our collective redemption from slavery.

One of my favorite modern Israeli scholars, Yossi Klein HaLevi, toured America 10 years ago and said that the American Jewish community is divided between "Purim Jews" and "Passover Jews." Each of these holidays is accompanied by a Biblical injunction to *remember* what happened, and the lessons that individuals and communities take from each holiday's memories can impact how we see the world.

In conjunction with the story of Purim, the Torah commands us to remember Amalek and his descendent Haman, both of whom tried to attack the Israelites and Jews simply because they were Jewish. Amalek and Haman are not merely genetically linked, but share an ideology of hatred of the other. They both sought to attack the Jews via trickery and deceit, but were defeated by heroes who outsmarted them.

The command to *remember* these instances of people attacking Israelites and Jews – simply because of who they are – speaks loudly to us today as we attempt to navigate a world in which antisemitism never seems far away. We see echoes of Amalek and Haman in antisemitic rhetoric from pop stars and politicians on the airwaves, and sometimes we even feel them right here in Louisville. One of my LBSY (Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad) students told me recently that other kids were telling so many antisemitic jokes, and making antisemitic statements, that he had to report them to the principal. I said I was proud of him for standing up for himself, but the

mere fact that he was compelled to act is profoundly sad. When we see and hear about such occurrences, it's vital for us to *remember* the lessons of history. According to HaLevi, "Purim Jews" tend to focus on this memory, the one that keeps us safe by keeping us alert and on guard.

But after Purim always comes Passover, and we are also instructed in the Torah to *remember* the Exodus from Egypt and further that we are told over and over to remember that we were once strangers and slaves. That latter reminder is often paired with the instruction to love or respect the stranger among us.

If Purim reminds us to keep our guard up, Passover reminds us that we have a duty to all those who are to this day strangers, slaves, or mistreated and that we cannot simply ignore them because it is convenient for us to do so. When Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, published his first Haggadah in 1941, he wrote: "In truth, the more we dwell upon the story of the Exodus, the deeper will be our understanding of what freedom means, and the stronger our determination to win it for ourselves and for others."

"Passover Jews" share the memories of oppression with "Purim Jews." But where Purim Jews tend toward protectionism, Passover Jews view our communal memories of redemption as inspirations, which can help other marginalized communities navigate the paths to safety and wholeness on which they continue to travel.

Now, none of us are all Passover or all Purim, but as you read this, you might have felt yourself identifying more with one than with the other. That's okay. We need a diversity of voices. As HaLevi says, "Both [Purim and Passover] are essential; one without the other creates an unbalanced Jewish personality, a distortion of Jewish history and values."

These two holidays, held exactly one month apart, provide the opportunity for us to gather as a community. They celebrate our collective ability to overcome great peril, recognize the threats that face us today, and commit to upholding our responsibility to help others who are in need of redemption.

*Ben Freed is Rabbi of Keneseth Israel Congregation.*

## Snapshots



(Clockwise from top) Israel Consul General Anat Sultan-Dadon, Rabbi Shlomo Litvin; Karen Isenberg Jones (Atlanta-based official with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kentucky Representative Daniel Grossberg (D-30), Sultan-Dadon, commemorative medallion from the Consulate General of Israel

## Candles

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

• Mar	31	@	7:47 p.m.	• April	14	@	8:00 p.m.
• April	5	@	7:51 p.m. (Passover)	• April	21	@	8:06 p.m.
• April	7	@	7:53 p.m.	• April	28	@	8:13 p.m.
• April	11	@	7:57 p.m. (Passover)				

## Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community* at [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org).

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all circulation questions. She can be reached at [gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org) or 502-238-2770.

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

## Deadlines

**Got a news item for *Community*?** Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Monday, April 17** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on **Friday, April 28**

Submitting an item for *Community's* weekly eblast? Please submit it by Friday to [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org). The eblast is sent out every Monday afternoon.

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# NEWS

## Sara Labaton: Israel and the U.S. is a family that needs therapy

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

It wasn't terribly long ago that most American Jews had an unshakable bond with Israel.

"This relationship was basically a given going back to the early years of the state, and certainly in the aftermath of the Six Day War," says Sara Labaton, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.

Labaton, who spoke March 9 at the Trager Family JCC, recalled how "I was just reading about somebody near me who took out a second mortgage on his house and gave the \$20,000 to Israel in the middle of" the 1967 conflict.

Today, 56 years later, that commitment is something less than ironclad. Now governed by the most right-wing coalition in its history, Israel is testing norms by which Americans support the nation, and how that support continues to evolve.

"It's becoming increasingly challenging for the Jewish people to live in two homes together," Labaton told her audience, closing out this season's Three Pillars Series in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium.

"If we think of the United States and the State of Israel as constituting two stable, powerful, successful homes where Jews experience a deep and profound sense of at-homeness," Labaton said, "what we're also seeing is that North American Jews and Israeli Jews are growing more and more distant from each other."

All this, Labaton said, raises a fundamental question: "How do we make sense of this relationship when you have Jews in two different countries, speaking two different languages, practicing two different cultures, and even more than that, no longer agreeing on what Judaism even means for American Jews?"

There are crucial distinctions, Labaton emphasized, between relevant American and Israeli sensibilities.

"Judaism for many Israelis means something entirely different, something that's more nationalist, something that's more right wing, and even ultra-Orthodox." So "it sometimes feels that we're practicing two different sets of religions. And yes, I am concerned that that sense of collectivity has dissipated."

"Now, if you poll North American Jews, you will hear many reasons for this. You might hear, 'the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.' You might hear about the occupation. You might hear about the lack of egalitarian prayer at the Western Wall. You may hear: 'Well, American Jews, if you're so deeply invested in this project, come and live here. Sacrifice in the way we sacrifice – put your money where your mouth is.' Or you may hear Israeli Jews saying, 'American Jews – they're assimilating – there's no longer a future vibrant Jewish life in North America.'"

"So what I want to argue is that, in order to sustain this relationship, we need to reimagine it, and we need to reconceive how we think, how we talk about, and how we practice Jewish peoplehood. Is there a model we (can) turn to for thinking about Jewish collective identity?"

Much of the evening was structured as a give-and-take between Labaton and members of her audience. It was

an eclectic assembly: older and younger, American-born and Israeli-born, passionate Zionists and reticent Revisionists.

The pervading metaphor suggested a husband, wife and a couple of kids just trying to get along.

"I'm a family therapist," one listener told her, prompting Labaton to reply, "I actually think that American and Israeli Jews could use a good dose of family therapy."

Not a biological family, she explained, but "a mythic family or an imagined family. There are options for entering in. But there are really no options for exiting a family, with some exceptions -- if there's abuse or neglect, yes, but for the most part we are kind of stuck with our family, right? We all have to sit around the same Thanksgiving table."

Points of view can be radically different, Labaton observed, depending on precisely where you sit. She gave the example of the 2015 agreement in which Iran would curtail its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of sanctions against the country. President Trump unilaterally withdrew from that treaty in 2018.

"From the Israeli point of view, it was unfathomable that American Jews were supporting President Obama and supporting the Iran deal," Labaton said. "Bibi (Netanyahu) argued, 'You're our family; you know this is not going to be great for Israel. What are you doing?'"

"And what was the response of American Jews?" Labaton recalled. "I think American Jews said, 'Look maybe we were siblings at one point, but we both grew up. Maybe we married other people. Our immediate family now is America, which means we support American interests...So we're concerned about you; we're committed to you. But that is not going to transcend our sense of obligation to America.'"

Some give-and-take with the audience followed. David Chack, a longtime Louisville theater producer, director and writer, spoke about what he termed "a conflict of stories" told in Israel and America. What happens, he asked, when a given narrative dies?

Labaton seized the moment. "I wasn't going to talk about this," she said, "but my research is around sacrifice. And what I learned was, for Israeli Jews, the Binding of Isaac is their core national myth. And for liberal American Jews, it is not."

"I would argue," she continued, "that a more central story is Abraham fighting with God (not to destroy) Sodom and Gomorrah – for the ideals of justice and righteousness. Those are more tailored to the American Jewish identity. Now the question is, where does family come in? We have these two different narratives, these two different identities. Can family still serve as some type of glue to keep us together? That's a question we're going to hold on to."

More audience exchanges followed, such as: Will conversions to Judaism made by non-Orthodox rabbis in America be recognized by Israel, and, will intermarriage dilute Jewish populations until few Jews remain? Then Labaton suggested an intriguing dichotomy: Despite the resonance of traditional religious practice in Israel, "American Jews might actually choose to opt out," decid-

ing "that Israel is actually not a place where they can feel comfortably and robustly Jewish, because it's not a place where liberal Judaism thrives."

A few minutes later, an older man stood up and made one of the evening's most telling remarks. "When a Jew misbehaves in a big way, the hair goes up on my neck," he said. In contrast, "I expect certain kinds of behavior – not screwing over other people, especially in big ways."

Labaton broadened his point into something quasi-universal. "When a Jew sins, it hurts everybody," she said. "I'm half-Sephardic, so my Yiddish isn't great. What I think the word is 'Shanda,' right? It's a Shanda" – a scandal, an act of shame.

It means, collectively, that "there's something humiliating. It's not you; it's not your kids. You may not have any communal, familial, any connection to them – but it hurts. And I think that's what's going on here. There's something almost bodily about our connections, and if one person hurts, we all hurt; if somebody does something wrong, we feel it as well."

Labaton closed her hour-long talk with a story about Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the second-century sage who, the Talmud relates, spent 12 years hiding in a cave with his son to elude Roman authorities, studying Torah every day and night.

Rabbi Yochai, the story goes, compared the idea of communal hurt to a man sitting on a ship next to his companions. The man takes a tool and begins to bore a hole in the vessel directly below him.

As Labaton related, "his fellow travelers said to him, 'What are you doing?' And he said to each of them, 'What does it matter? I'm only boring under my own place,'" prompting the objection that "the water will come and flood the ship for us all."

In other words, "we're all on this ship together," Labaton said. "And either we have to leave the ship, or we have to prevent this borer from boring a hole which will sink us."

"What I think is so powerful about this metaphor is that it creates a much more robust sense of partnership. The problem is, somebody else might say: 'No, no you, Sara, you're the one who's boring

the hole. You're the problem.'

"We're going to have to work that out," she acknowledged. Yet though the hole in the ship threatens everyone, there is also an assertion of collectivity.

"I think what this midrash does is to encourage us to actually forge a true partnership," Labaton told her listeners, "where we have to speak up, where we have to be social critics. We're not meant to be outsiders looking in, philosophically and criticizing – we're meant to be in it."

"That's what I hope for the future of North American and Israeli Jews and with Israel," Labaton said. "I hope we can achieve that type of partnership where, on one hand, we have some sense of familial (connection), where we also agree to be in the same ship together and call each other out. It's hard. It's challenging. It's not fun. But I think that's what the dream of Zionism and Israel is actually all about."



Sara Labaton, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, speaking March 9, 2023 at the Trager Family JCC.

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## NEWS

# Reclaiming African American history through song

## Trager Family JCC to host a Sankofa on April 18

By Matt Golden  
Director, JCRC

One of the very best things about our new home at the Trager Family JCC, one of the things I am most proud to be part of, is that our halls carry the voices and echoes of this entire Louisville community. Over the course of the next few weeks, our place will convene meetings on immigration justice, host our Louisville Board of Cantors and Rabbis' historic meeting with Catholic leadership, site the National Council of Jewish Women's reproductive freedom breakfast, commemorate Yom HaShoah *and* (to the point of this article), the Trager Family JCC will spotlight and support one of the premier African American Museums in our area, Roots 101. We will be honored to host a Roots 101 Sankofa in our home. You are invited.

Before I describe this Sankofa more, a bit of history is important. When Beth Salamon—the Jewish Community Relations Council Chair and all-around-excellent-human—and I started working together last fall, we began connecting with those Louisville institutions that are “bending the arc” toward justice. In

that journey, we were very fortunate to visit Roots 101 and meet Lamont Collins who, almost single-handedly, developed and nurtured the facility into a prestige center for understanding our collective African American history. Founded in 2019, by 2021 Roots 101 had been named one of USA Today's Top New Attractions, and one of the South's Extraordinary Museums according to Southern Living in 2022.

After meeting with Lamont and touring his museum, Beth and I were invited to a Sankofa. As we learned, “Sankofa” is a word taken from a Ghanaian proverb that says, “It is not wrong to go back for what you left behind.” The Roots 101 Sankofa uses the device of music to “go back” for the lost history and contributions of African Americans in America – a history which has been “left behind,” indeed, often willfully obliterated. Via that imperative, the Sankofa is building a brighter future. Employing a series of songs, Roots 101 Sankofa weaves the story of African American experiences so that we can all understand the pain, but more importantly, the *pride* in this narrative. As Beth and I bore witness to this Sankofa—of going back for the past—we

were both struck by how important this story is and convinced that more people should hear it. We wanted to open our spaces to the act of Sankofa.

On April 18, 2023 at 7 p.m., we will do exactly that: The Trager Family JCC will host a Roots 101 Sankofa.

Together with the JCRC, two donors made this possible. The Arnold J. Levin & Don Powell Fund for Ecumenical Outreach support programming designed to bring opportunities such as this to the fore, and to build bridges in our very diverse community. Through these donors' vision and their fund's generous support, ticket sales for this event will *solely* benefit the Roots 101 African-American Museum and its mission.

And through their support and the support of people like you, we will be able to witness the Sankofa and highlight African-American history through storytelling, dance, music, theater, and spoken word. The Sankofa will feature live performances by the Sankofa Players with narration by Lamont himself, as he guides us through the journey and realities of people throughout the African diaspora.

**Please join us** on April 18, at 7

p.m. at the Trager Family JCC to witness the Sankofa from Roots 101. If you would like to obtain tickets, you may go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-sankofa-experience-tickets-549805973467> or use the QR Code to your left. If you need more information contact me below.



Again, there is something very special about our new home. It is assuredly a venue for us to gather, work and play for ourselves. But even more so, it was designed to be a place where we would share the stories of others, and where we would elevate the community around us. Like the Sankofa that envisions a brighter future, our space certainly seems to be fulfilling that promise.

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



Pictured: Members of the Sankofa Players, who will be performing April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC (Photos by Two Hearts Media (above) and Marrisra Harris at right).



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NEWS

2023 BBYO International Convention

By Lisa Hornung  
For Community

What happens when you get thousands of Jewish teens together for fun, fellowship and learning? A worldwide movement of young leadership, Jewish identity and an imperative of battling antisemitism.

A group of Louisville teens traveled to Dallas to attend the BBYO International Convention this year, and several were recognized for their contributions and success at the local level.

This year's IC on Feb. 15-20 saw about 3,200 teens, including those from 44 countries, comprising what a press release described as the largest gathering of young Jewish leaders in the world. The 2023 convention theme, "Now Is Our Time," represented "not only a celebration of the current strength and spirit of the teen-led BBYO Movement, but also an empowering invitation to young people worldwide to advocate for causes about which they are passionate," the release said.

Louisville teen director Abigail Goldberg called the event fun and inspiring. "Seeing a youth-led movement -- where Jewish teens are passionate about building leadership and community around the world -- is inspiring," she said, "which is why I love my job."

Fifteen teens from Louisville attended the convention, accompanied by four adults. Two members of Louisville's delegation were on the IC Steering Committee: Violeta Higuera and Nila Rothman. They had to apply and be accepted for those positions, Goldberg said.

Drew Corson AZA was recognized for its Game Changer grant. "The group received funds from BBYO to help grow the club, and it's working. They're definitely in a rebuilding stage," Goldberg said. "But they are growing, which is exciting."

The attendees got to hear from a plethora of speakers, including Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Gabby Douglas, March for Our Lives co-found-

er David Hogg, professor and anti-Semitism scholar Deborah Lipstadt, and others.

This year, teens chose to rally around a local organization, Dallas Hope Charities, to collect donations for those in need. Dallas Hope Charities provides food, shelter, and services that instill dignity, stability and "Hope For All," and is focused on helping homeless LGBTQ+ youth. Participants were asked to bring pens, pencils, highlighters, socks and Band-Aids to help build Worthy Bags.

On Friday night, the convention had Separates, where BBG and AZA went to explore their own uniqueness. BBGs discussed the traditions of BBG and explored the bonds of sisterhood; while the AZA focused on building brotherhood and fighting antisemitism.

Saturday morning offered a variety of Shabbat experiences, including one celebrating Israel's 75th birthday; a Knowledge Station where students could ask a rabbi whatever was on their minds; Shabbacappella, featuring Pizmon, an a cappella group from Barnard College;

"Time for Sports Shabbat;" "Time for Torah: Sephardic Orthodox Shabbat Morning Service;" a musical theaters Shabbat; and more.

Sunday gave teens the opportunity to explore the city. "That was the sightseeing day," Goldberg said, "so people went from the Dallas Cowboys Stadium to various museums and aquariums and waterparks -- and just exploring Dallas.

After five days of programming, the teens were treated to a concert, featuring LoudLuxury, Cash Cash, and 24kGoldn.

Higuera especially enjoyed being able to connect with her pals. "It was such a fun and great opportunity to see my CLTC (Chapter Leadership Training Conference) and previous IC friends," she said.

Goldberg lauded the resonance of BBYO's openness: "BBYO is the largest pluralistic Jewish youth organization," she said. We accept teens of all Jewish backgrounds, whether they were raised Orthodox, keep kosher and keep Shabbat, or (if) this is their first touch with Judaism, which is really incredible."



**Pictured: BBYO teens at a table together at the Spark! Museum on a sightseeing trip. The teens participated in a creative thinking and imagination workshop where they used aluminum cans to create butterflies; Rachel Wolff (ONR) and Violeta Higuera (Louisville); Entire KIO delegation; Noa Weiss (Louisville), Jess Handmaker (Columbus), Isabela Nibut (Louisville) at Friday night Shabbat dinner; Louisville teen Violeta Higuera holds mic for torah reader during Shabbat service; Louisville teen, West Franklin (left), at AZAABBG Sports day playing in a basketball tournament; Isabela Nibur and Nicole Scaiewicz at AZAABBG sports day playing in basketball tournament.**





## COMMUNITY

**Community** is published monthly by the Jewish Community of Louisville, Inc., 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205-3216.

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## FORUM



## Is the word ‘humility’ in Netanyahu’s vocabulary?



### Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less,” C.S. Lewis wrote in his celebrated 1952 apologetic, *Mere Christianity*. I think he was on to something.

It’s easy to talk about being humble, to invoke modesty (spiritual and temporal) as a moral standard worth pursuing. Walking the talk, however, typically disintegrates into a morass of good intentions all too seldom fulfilled. This is a pervasive frustration both in America and abroad – and Lewis’s arguments aside, not limited to Christian theology.

No, humility (or the lack thereof) is a resolutely ecumenical thing. When we allow our will to take over – adopting an egocentric view of life – we risk tumbling from the moral precipice headlong into oblivion.

I’m not invoking this as an exercise in pop psychology (and by the way, kudos to Adath Jeshurun Cantor David Lipp for sharing Lewis’s quote with congregants at a recent Kabbalat Shabbat service).

Nope – I’m thinking of the craziness

now gripping Israel, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeks to upend the judicial norms that have held fast for decades, if not generations. In Bibi’s world, humility seems in conspicuously short supply.

Now I don’t pretend to be any kind of expert when it comes to Israeli politics. Tom Friedman I’m not. But I’ve followed Netanyahu since he was Israel’s ambassador to the U.S. from 1984-1988, concurrent with my early years writing for *The Courier Journal*. He was articulate in his idiomatic spoken English – elegant, even – and a persuasive advocate for Israel and its foreign policy. He was and almost 40 years later, remains, a model of self-assurance.

I do believe that Netanyahu loves his country and, in his own way, wants it to thrive. Like any prime minister, he has no greater responsibility than securing Israel from existential threat. He understands the threats from Hamas, from Iran and Hezbollah, from the terrorists who infiltrate and murder.

This isn’t the place to debate the extreme-right government’s stance on settlements much of the world deems illegal. What’s at stake, and what demonstrates a decided absence of humility, is Netanyahu’s belief that governance need not be subject to genuine question. If he succeeds in ramming through his “reforms,” the government would have the power to choose judges, and the Supreme

Court’s authority to strike down unjust laws would be gutted. The Knesset, functioning under his ultra-conservative coalition, will be able to do largely as it pleases without fear of judicial rebuke. That is the rawest kind of hubris.

The controversy has sparked extraordinary pushback. Large numbers of Israelis are protesting in the streets. Elite reserve units of the Israeli Air Force refused to report for voluntary duty. Officials accustomed to reticence are speaking out.

Just days ago, Netanyahu fired Defense Minister Yoav Gallant after Gallant dared to criticize Bibi’s radical legislation. Even more massive street protests erupted, unions went on strike and Israel’s Consul General in New York resigned.

Oh, and President Biden was said to be “deeply concerned” over the Gallant’s dismissal.

When Israel’s staunchest ally is “deeply concerned,” Israeli governments tend to take notice. And with his citizenry in rebellion mode and a facing genuine threat of civil war, Netanyahu has now been forced to delay his assault on Israeli democracy – compelled, against his own instincts, to exhibit a sliver of humility.

Think of yourself less, Bibi.

*Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.*



## NEWS

# Put yourself in the story



## Sara's View

Sara Klein Wagner

Telling our story is the heart of Passover. While we will not literally be together, we are bound together as We, the Jewish people simultaneously gather again around the Seder table to retell the story of the Passover, the Exodus of our Jewish ancestors from Egypt. The message and the tradition never grows old as we continue to find their relevancy. So as we reflect on the past, this is also a perfect time to consider our role in the modern story of the Jewish people.

Today we have myriad choices of how to live our lives and engage in Jewish life. I could not be prouder and more humbled to work in our Jewish community, and to see the impact we are making while keeping our eyes focused on what comes next.

For thousands of years as a people we have shared stories, via written and oral laws and traditions. The gift of study and learning has evolved over millennia. It's progressed from rabbinic Ju-

daism developing the Talmud -- elevating debate and carrying conversations from generation to generation -- to the present, where we can choose a podcast to learn from each other and continue to grow. Our resilience as a community lies in understanding the past while moving forward embracing the world that we live in.

So there's a poignant spirit as we prepare our homes for Passover. We begin by removing the chametz (bread and any leavened grain), creating a shopping list for the Seder plate which itself has evolved from its six traditional elements. Now we add an orange, to remember women, LGBTQ+ and marginalized Jews. Meanwhile, our senior leadership team at the Federation/Trager Family JCC has delved deep into our own big-idea version of the Four Questions, which we call the Four Whys.

One example: Why are we transforming the Jewish future?

This "Why" is easy: The one constant in life is change, as Rabbi Irwin Kula taught us seven years ago when he spoke to leaders in Louisville. We embrace change to meet the needs of a changing world, reflected in family life, technology and more. The recent Study of Jewish Louisville demonstrated that we have much work to do, amid a plethora of opportunities to meet many more people and understand their needs.

Transforming our Jewish future

means committing to effect change, an imperative that will provide a space for flourishing Jewish life in Louisville and around the globe. To make this happen also requires a vibrant community of leaders, people who are well educated Jewishly. They are generous with either their time or funds -- or both -- and they have the instinct to take care of each other.

How will they tell our story?

Our post-pandemic world faces numerous challenges. Isolation has taken a toll on mental health, a war still rages in Ukraine, antisemitism is increasing, and Israel is in a crisis moment testing the future of its democracy.

These challenges, however daunting, will not deter us. Quite the opposite. Our story will be one of inspiring meaningful lives, empowering a sense of belonging and renewed energy to learn, celebrate and flourish. Together we will lead as we declare our core values: Klal Yisrael -- Jewish peoplehood. Areyvut -- caring unconditionally for one another Tikkun Olam -- repairing the world, and Torah -- recognizing the significance of Jewish learning.

This story needs each of you if it's to fulfill its promise. For nearly 90 years the Federation Annual Campaign has changed lives and addressed our community's most fundamental needs. Together we have rescued, resettled and revitalized Jewish life. Now we are poised

to provide for this generation and the next. -- Transforming our Jewish Future to best serve the unique needs of today requires care and support.

In the coming days we again remember those who were slaves in Egypt, and people today whose lives are so intertwined and connected. On this Passover, please consider being part of our collective responsibility to care for our community by making a pledge to the 2023 Federation Annual Campaign.

Our campaign staff is in rebuilding mode, and we could use your help. Please email me at [swagner@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:swagner@jewishlouisville.org) if you can volunteer to call other community members. And to make a pledge to the Federation's 2023 Annual Campaign, call Angie Fleitz at (502) 238-2767, or email her at [afleitz@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:afleitz@jewishlouisville.org).

We learn by asking questions. I would love to hear from you about your most pressing questions related to transforming and strengthening our Jewish future.

Chag Sameach -- Happy and joyous Passover!

*Sara Klein Wagner is President and CEO of the Trager Family JCC and Jewish Federation of Louisville*

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# PICTURE THIS: THE CHALLAH PRINCE



Over 200 guests attended the Challah Prince (Idan Chabasov) workshop at The Temple on March 12. Attendees gathered to get expert tips on braiding challah. They included (left to right) Linda Spielberg and Marlene Schaffer; and (bottom right) Tenley Levine and her mom, Amy Levine. (Photos by Jolea Brown)



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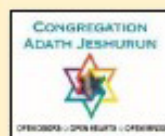
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# PICTURE THIS: MAJOR GIFTS



About three-dozen guests gathered March 14 for an early evening Federation Annual Campaign Major Gifts event at the Prospect home of Kate and Allan Latts. Teddy Abrams, music director of the Louisville Orchestra, was the featured speaker. (Left to right) Elaine Weisberg, David Kaplan, Frank Weisberg & Ron Weisberg; Jae Green and Shellie Branson; Kate Latts, Jennifer Tuvlin & Michael Solomon; Teddy Abrams; Bill Altman, Sara Klein Wagner & Ralph Green; Frank Weisberg, Jon Klein, Laura Klein & Julie Ensign. (Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



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# PICTURE THIS: PURIM



Rabbis, families, kids, congregations, synagogues and Jewish organizations celebrated Purim throughout the Louisville community by dressing up, making and gifting hamantaschen and shaking groggers.

Purim kids at Congregation Adath Jeshurun; Rabbi Joshua Corber and friend at Purim; Trager Family JCC's Early Learning Center paraded through the Weisberg Family Lobby after their Purim Spiel; Storytime with The Temple Librarians at Purim; The Temple grades 2 and 3 performing *It Happened in Shushan*. (Photos courtesy of The Temple and Peter Pearlman for Adath Jeshurun)



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# PICTURE THIS: JOURNEYS OF FAITH

## “Journeys of Faith” Concert

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

There’s a moment in composer Joel Thompson’s *To Awaken the Sleeper* where a whirlwind of instrumental chaos gives way to noble figures in the horns – what Thompson describes as “a clarion call, a prophetic vision” of what a more just nation might achieve.

Such an imperative could well apply to Journeys of Faith, a months-long partnership among four pairs of area synagogues and historically Black churches that culminated (for now, anyway) with a March 11 concert by the Louisville Orchestra at the Kentucky Center’s Whitney Hall.

In what amounted to an affirmation in triplicate, music director Teddy Abrams conducted the Louisville Orchestra in a program of works by Thompson, Tyler Taylor and Leonard Bernstein. The occasion offered an all-too-rare sharing of project and purpose, the spiritual and the symphonic.

Presented in the shadow of a damning U.S. Justice Department report on abuses by members of the Louisville Metro Police Department against Black citizens, the concert was as much challenge as entertainment. As narrator (and Louisville Metro District 4 Councilman) Jecorey Arthur declaimed texts by James Baldwin amid Thompson’s music – the weight of recent history was unmistakable.

“I was trying to create a musical picture very similar to the ones we saw on our television sets,” Thompson told listeners that evening, referencing the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection in which viewers witnessed “the Confederate flag in the U.S. capitol for the first time ever.” His score and Baldwin’s language considered

“what is the role of justice; what is equality?”

Following the performance of Taylor’s aurally fascinating *Revisions* – a product of the LO’s conspicuously innovative Creators Corps residency initiative – it was on to the evening’s musical anchor: Bernstein’s 1949 Symphony No. 2, titled *The Age of Anxiety* after W.H. Auden’s 1948 book-length poem about four disaffected souls in World War Two-era New York City, with pianist Sebastian Chang on hand as keyboard partner.

Bernstein felt a kinship with Black Americans – in 1970 he hosted a gathering at his Manhattan apartment to raise funds for the Black Panthers, an event Tom Wolfe famously skewered in a New York Magazine article titled *Radical Chic: That Party at Lenny’s*. Politics and alleged posturing notwithstanding, Bernstein had genuine sympathy for disaffected humanity.

“He was a true activist,” Abrams told his listeners. “He marched himself. He was the person who integrated the New York Philharmonic.”

Not to mention a person with an eclectic, spiritual restlessness reflected in much of his music.

On the preceding Saturday (March 4), Abrams had conducted the LO in Bernstein’s Symphony No. 3, *Kaddish*, titled after the Jewish prayer praising God that is also typically recited on the anniversary of a loved one’s death. He returned to that theme in remarks to the audience before performing *The Age of Anxiety*.

“The Kaddish asks, ‘How can you believe, how can you believe in God, how can you have faith and have some form of spirituality when confronted with a world that is so deeply unjust?’

Journeys of Faith, now in the second year of a four-year commitment funded

largely by the Jewish Heritage Fund, acknowledges how Black and Jewish histories are each bound up in catastrophe.

“Both of our communities have dealt with unthinkable tragedy,” Abrams said. So “how do we maintain a sense of identity, a sense of humanity, and a sense of believing in something beyond. That’s what this piece asks.”

Assumptions carry potential perils, in and out of the concert hall. “Despite my name, which doesn’t sound very Jewish,” orchestra CEO Graham Parker remarked during a post-performance reception, “I am Jewish. ‘Also, my husband and I have two Black kids – we adopted (them) at birth. So raising two Black children in a Jewish household, this journey is very personal to me – very, very personal. I have seen what it’s like for my son to experience racism in Israel. I’ve seen what it’s like for my daughter to navigate her way through being a young Jew. I’ve seen the challenge of that, and I’ve seen the beauty of it, too.”

Journeys of Faith has been an exemplary collaboration, Parker said. He cited participation by the Jewish Heritage Fund under president Jeff Polson, the Trager Family JCC, and the Jewish Community Relations Council led by Matt Golden, who acted as the ultimate middleman in pulling the project together.

“We’re going to do this again next year,” Parker promised, “and we’re going to make it bigger and better.”

Meanwhile, Saturday’s concert proved an ideal, mutual energizer. “It was so powerful,” Cantor Sharon Hordes of Keneseth Israel Congregation said afterward. “I felt it in a visceral way – it took me to all kinds of places.”

Her KI colleague, Rabbi Ben Freed, acknowledged that he was far from the world’s greatest expert on classical mu-

sic. Still, he appreciated “having had the chance to do the learning and the interaction and the connections leading to these pieces that made them, at least to me, so much more meaningful and impactful.”

Asked what might come next in KI’s partnership with Burnette Ave. Baptist Church, Freed answered that initially “we’re going to get all of our people together to do a kind of reflection. And then my hope is that we’ll continue getting to know each other, and continue to learn from each other. It doesn’t matter where it leads us, because that’s the whole point of relationships: to connect.”

Tina Hillman, a congregant from Spirit Filled New Life Ministries Church, lauded those kinds of opportunities for Jews and Blacks to join in a common purpose.

“It means that I get to mingle with other people and learn about their culture,” she said. And her reaction to the music, especially Thompson’s piece? “It was awesome – absolutely awesome,” Hillman declared. “It had my heart beating because it was so dramatic.”

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner of Temple Shalom echoed a desire for forward progress. “I’m going to meet with Bishop (Steven) Kelsey” of New Life “to review what people wrote, to get a sense of what they’re interested in. We already have liaisons from each congregation that are willing to take the next steps to organize some of the things we come up with.”

Those could include more “social things,” Chottiner said. “It’s going to be more discussions, some community service/social action programs. It could be someone wanting to learn about Judaism. It’s open ended. Bonds have been made, and we’re very grateful for that.”



Cantor David Lipp and Pastor Wanda Mitchell-Smith; Louisville Orchestra CEO Graham Parker and Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner; Rabbi Ben Freed and Louisville Orchestra Director of Development Holly Neeld; Composer Joel Thompson and Louisville Orchestra Music Director Teddy Abrams. (Photos by Andrew Adler)





# NEWS

## Rep. Daniel Grossberg hosts Israel Consul General Anat Sultan-Dadon

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

FRANKFORT – You know it's not a typical mezuzah hanging when you're the sole Jewish member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, and your featured guest is Israel's Consul General to the South-eastern United States.

Yet here was Representative Daniel Grossberg (D-30, encompassing parts of Louisville) – kippah on his head, blessing on his lips – affixing an olive-wood mezuzah to the doorpost of his office in the Capitol Annex. Looking on was Consul General Anat Sultan-Dadon, who was in through Frankfort as part of a multi-state tour marking Israel's upcoming 75th birthday.

Grossberg, not quite three months into his first term as a Representative, had just dashed across the capitol grounds from the House Chamber to his new digs on the Annex's fourth floor. And since it's always useful to have a Rabbi on hand for such ceremonies, Rabbi Shlomo Litvin was there to present Grossberg with a banana-sized mezuzah and provide a dose of spiritual context.

(Technically speaking, a mezuzah isn't the decorative exterior case, but a slip of parchment inscribed with several verses from the Torah, principally the Shema, that is tucked inside)

"I'll have you explain the mezuzah that was selected and why it was selected," Grossberg said to Litvin, glancing at the small gathering of people present, "and

let's see if you can be as impactful as you were yesterday and bring tears to their eyes like you brought to mine."

"So I went through a couple of Judaica options with Daniel," Litvin recalled, "and the one we finally chose was made by an artist in Israel. And it's made from olive-wood. Olives are one of the Seven Fruits of Eretz Israel" – the land of Israel. And when an olive is crushed, the resulting oil, its "essence," remains.

The resulting olive-wood mezuzah touches on multiples themes," Litvin said. "Number One, to have something that grew in Israel to now be on the wall" next to Grossberg, who is "someone who recognizes his roots are in Israel and is growing here in Frankfort."

Additionally, "to have the idea that even when the day gets difficult, even when you feel crushed by everything around you, it doesn't change who you are. It just brings out your essence – because you're an olive, and that's how you're grown."

Litvin having delivered the appropriate metaphor, it was time for Grossberg to offer the requisite blessing: "Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam Asher Kidishanu B'Mitzvotav V'Tzivanu Likbo'a Mezuzah" – ("Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with God's commandments and commanded us to affix a mezuzah.")

Accompanied by a chorus of "Amen's," Grossberg pressed the mezuzah against his office doorpost, leaning into the task with just a hint of hesitancy. "You're not

going to hurt it," Litvin promised.

Amen to that.

Earlier that day – much earlier, in fact – Sultan-Dadon was a guest of the Kentucky Jewish Council at the 55th Governor's Prayer Breakfast, held this year at nearby Kentucky State University.

Politics, at least the contentious sort, were decidedly de-emphasized. "These are celebrations," she said of her Israel-at-75 tour of regional statehouses. "They are bipartisan. There was a bipartisan resolution celebrating relations with Israel. And I think that's a reflection of the really broad support."

With only two Jewish members of the General Assembly and miniscule numbers of Jews outside Louisville and Lexington, longtime beliefs can be tricky to negotiate. For that reason alone, "it's on all of us to bring the message of who we are," Sultan-Dadon said. "Even with one Jewish Representative – in some states, we don't have any – even one or two can make a difference in just sharing what the Jewish people, our values and traditions are about, and what the state of Israel is about."

Having said all that, Sultan-Dadon emphasized that examples of ignorance, or worse, must be countered swiftly and unmistakably. Told of an incident in February of last year, when a Kentucky legislator used the phrase "Jew them down" during a committee hearing, she touched upon the harsh realities of her mission.

"Unfortunately, we are seeing a very concerning rise in expressions of antisemitism," she acknowledged. "And I think in

the instances you mentioned, what was important to see were the condemnations of that. It needs to be exposed and it needs to be addressed and it needs to be condemned, so that people do not perceive the climate to be one that legitimizes antisemitism."

There are instances of tangible, significant progress, Sultan-Dadon observed.

"I'm glad to see Kentucky actually leading the way," she said. "Kentucky was the first state in the United States to adopt the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) working definition of antisemitism. That is of incredible importance, because if you don't know what antisemitism is and what falls under antisemitism, you can't really begin to address it. And in that regard, Kentucky took a very, very important step."



Kentucky State Representative Daniel Grossberg (D-30) affixes a mezuzah to the door frame of his Capitol office in Frankfort (Photo by Andrew Adler)

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# FEDERATION

## From strangers to stakeholders: How Bill and Amy Ryan supported the Capital Campaign

By Stephanie Smith  
For Community

*This is the sixth 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.*

Some 18 years ago, Bill and Amy Ryan -- with 2 ½ year old twins in tow -- moved to Louisville from Cleveland. Not knowing anyone, the couple had to find a place for their twin daughters, Rachel and Haley, in a hurry. The Trager Family JCC made room for the girls in its Early Learning Center (ELC), then called the J-tots program, where they attended for one year.

Rachel and Haley also spent many summers and winters at Camp J, served as camp counselors and participated in BBYO programs. In addition, Rachel worked as a fitness instructor. College students now, Rachel attends The Ohio State University and Haley goes to Indiana University.

Amy Ryan says, "I grew up going to

the JCC in Cleveland, so I knew where to turn to find our Jewish home. We made friends right away with other parents in the ELC."

She adds, "Making our Capital Campaign gift was our way of saying 'thank you' for the years of fellowship our family has experienced. It doesn't matter what type of Judaism you practice or if you're not Jewish, The Trager Family JCC welcomes everyone."

Amy Ryan is Vice President of Learning and Professional Development, CenterWell Home Health, a division of Humana Inc. She lent her unique skill set as a member of the Jewish Community Louisville Board of Directors, where she served from 2009 to 2021. "I helped with the merger of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC to form Jewish Community Louisville Inc.," she recalls "In addition, I knew we needed a new building. It is amazing to me that we were able to raise the needed funds in middle of a pandemic."

Her husband, Bill Ryan, Founder/Principal, Ryan Consulting, has also volunteered his time for Jewish organizations. He spent 2010-2016 on the board of Jew-

ish Family & Career Services, and served on the JTomorrow! Innovation and Engagement Workgroup that focused on gleaned community feedback about the new Trager Family JCC in the early stages of the project.

Amy Ryan loves the new facility

and looks forward to again getting involved with the organization. "There is great energy in the new Trager Family JCC," she says, energy "that is centered around a strong Jewish community."



Left to right: Haley, Ann, Rachel and Bill Ryan (photo supplied).

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# NEWS

## POISED

Continued from page 1

U.S. citizen militias to the north, who use these refugees as pawns in larger political and socio-economic conflicts. Hutchins stresses the “human-ness” of each one of these encounters; every person comes to this country with a different story -- and little else.

As a testament to his empathy, Hutchins does not stand idly by. Besides teaching, he compels each of his students to carry with them an extra suitcase. These suitcases are filled with clothes, shoes, and medical supplies that go directly to local migrant shelters near the border. Those shelters, in turn, provide direct support to people in need. Hutchins and his students travel light for themselves so they can carry more for others in that “extra suitcase.”

Earlier this winter, in one of my first acts as Jewish Community Relations Council Director, I met a woman with an iron will named Susan Rostov, who told me about Hutchins and his efforts. She proudly informed me that it was our Jewish obligation to fill these suitcases this year as she and Avery Kolers had before, and that others, like the JCRC, should be stepping up now. Once stated, there was never any question.

During the weeks that followed, many Jewish organizations heeded the call to help fill Hutchins’ suitcases. A prime example was Project Friendship, run by Rabbi Chaim Litvin of Chabad. In his mission, Rabbi Litvin donates literally tons of clothes and shoes to dozens of shelters across our Commonwealth, do-

ing his part to help those here at home. But Rabbi Litvin also came through for the stranger at the border, heaping boxes of goods to help people none of us would ever see.

Likewise, Dignity Grows, a project of the Jewish Federation, assembled packages of medical supplies and other care products to be sent south as well. While Dignity Grows has a significant impact here in Louisville—providing feminine hygiene products to poor and at-risk residents—the program did not hesitate to send these materials to folks in need elsewhere. Organizers made no distinctions based on where a person came from, only that that they were strangers in need.

The Louisville Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women also contributed to the effort. In addition to providing advocacy on important issues impacting our community, NCJW operates a facility that provides low to no-cost clothes and goods to people in need, while providing employment opportunities to Louisvillians. Leveraging her organization’s resources, NCJW Executive Director Nancy Chazen quickly collected products to also aid those in need at the border.

The ability and willingness of individuals and organizations to rally around this cause was profound, but two things struck me about the collective effort to fill those suitcases. The first is Susan Rostov herself, who for years has championed immigration, cultural and arts issues, and who has made this city a better place by virtue of her sheer force of will. Witnessing her efforts, one realizes how a single, tenacious person can impact others a world away. Not only have Hutchins’ suitcases been filled, but Susan

has also “lit the fire” to convene interfaith immigration meetings with the JCRC and others at Jewish places like Temple Shalom and the Trager Family JCC.

The second thing that struck me was the symbolism of Jews filling suitcases. For many Jews, the vision of the single suitcase immediately evokes other times and places. Those of you who saw Tim Lorsch’s Three Pillars Series performance here this past December know what I mean. The stories we have from our parents and grandparents fleeing towns and villages with only a single bag. The Nazi’s command to travel to “relocation centers” with only a suitcase for each person. The sepia-toned photographs of piles of these suitcases outside Theresienstadt or Auschwitz as memento mori of lives lost. Yet, by honoring one of our fundamental mitzvot in filling those suitcases, we were also reclaiming, in some small way, the image of the empty suitcase that haunts

our past.

Granted, this is just one small effort in a sea of need, but it was and remains vitally important. It is also a source of pride that we can step up and help anonymously folks that may never know our contributions. If you are interested in helping or becoming involved, please feel free to contact me or other members of the JCRC. Several organizations are organizing and coalescing as I write these words. At the very least, those suitcases are going to need to be filled again next year -- and Susan and I look forward to your help.

*Matt Golden is a lawyer and the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council. In his opinion, the JCRC is the most august body in the Jewish Community, seeking justice and doing tikkun olam. He is admittedly very partial and biased in this regard. He invites comments, suggestions or good stories at [mgolden@jewishlouisville](mailto:mgolden@jewishlouisville).*



Rabbi Chaim Litvin shows off the stocked warehouse of Project Friendship in Louisville, which supplies friendship corners around the state. (Photo by Lee Chottiner)

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# NEWS

## BIRTHDAY

Continued from page 1

-- those are our roots and that's our future. And we want everyone to be part of the story."

That narrative's future is already apparent. The front of the main property is being developed into green space and an area to accommodate overflow parking. There will be updated, modern signage at the entrance.

The most ambitious expansion will be sited to the left of the Trager Family JCC. Half the funds necessary have already been raised to construct a fully accessible playground. A new, covered pavilion will rise behind Shalom Tower, eventually joined by one or more soccer fields.

Perhaps the biggest priority is how to grow the summertime Camp J. "We're still in the master planning, dreaming stage of what that might look like," Wagner says.

Trager Family JCC members are invited to celebrate the Trager Family JCC's first birthday! The celebratory week will kick off on Sunday, Apr. 16 from 2-4 p.m. with a birthday party that will include cake and many family activities throughout the building. During the week, the Trager Family JCC is planning a fitness contest, dance workshops and backstage tours in our CenterStage space, as well as parties with our youngest members in the ELC and with our seniors. For more information and to RSVP, visit the Trager Family JCC's Facebook page at [facebook.com/louisvilleJCC](https://facebook.com/louisvilleJCC).



**Katy Holtgrave & Marty Graff**  
Him: "We both work out regularly – we run into each other and we chat."  
Her: "It's great. Everything's new, like the power racks and the treadmills."



**Delores Levy, 95** – who's been a JCC member for 66 years. "You need sociability. I come over here to do my volunteer job, which is accepting money for this luncheon. I've made new friends."



**Suze Higbee with daughter, Blair, who turns 3 in April.**  
"She's a little shy by nature, and at first didn't want to come to J Play. But over time she started to really love it. And today it was her idea to come– it's her favorite now." (All photos by Andrew Adler)



**Deidric Tupper and daughter Vivian, leaving the ELC at the end of the day.**  
"We liked the family feel that they had, and the fact that they offered a lot of things that other places didn't." – things that were enriching as opposed to just physically engaging."



**Tom Lim with his daughter, five-month-old Alexis,** "When we submerged her (in a class) she took it like a champ."



**21-year-old twins Hale and Josh Bowler**  
Hale: "We live about 10 minutes away, and they've got a good family plan."  
Josh: "It's one of the nicest gyms I've ever worked out in, and the basketball courts are fantastic."

# יום הולדת שמח

## Yom Huledet Sameach! Happy Birthday!

Come April 16 2-4 p.m.  
and celebrate!



## GLOBE

# For American Zionist LGBTQ group, Israel's right-wing government has created an urgent crisis

By Jackie Hajdenberg  
JTA

The annual gala of A Wider Bridge, a Jewish LGBTQ group, had all the trappings of a festive event: Guests arrived in cocktail attire finery — one woman wore a tiered, ruffled rainbow dress — to enjoy salad, rice, chicken, an assortment of desserts and schmoozing — and to celebrate the achievements of four activists.

But even though it was the group's first in-person gala since before the COVID-19 pandemic, the mood wasn't entirely celebratory. Throughout the speeches and sideline conversations was the sense that A Wider Bridge — which advocates for the LGBTQ community in Israel, and for Israel in the U.S. LGBTQ community — was entering a new and uncertain era.

"For Israeli LGBTQ, the ground has shifted beneath their feet," the group's executive director, Ethan Felson, said in a speech to the crowd of about 200 attendees. Citing LGBTQ activists in Israel, he added, "Calls to crisis hotlines are up. Incidents of emotional and physical violence are up in Israel against the LGBTQ community. ... You can imagine the challenges the trans community is facing — a full assault on their rights and on their lives."

The crisis Felson depicted has materialized under a new Israeli government that includes vocal anti-LGBTQ officials in senior positions, whose signature legislation to reform the judiciary threatens the set of LGBTQ rights that Israel has long pointed to as evidence of its open society.

That new reality has complicated the work of A Wider Bridge both in the United States and Israel, and interspersed in the night's program — speeches celebrating four honorees, some stand up comedy from Jewish comedian Judy Gold, and even a recorded video from Vice President Kamala Harris — was an acknowledgement of the challenges facing LGBTQ rights in Israel. It has also caused the group to double its donations to Israeli LGBTQ groups this year.

"I've been in this work for 35 years, and through very complex times, I've never felt a greater sense of urgency," Felson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the event. "The urgency of this moment overshadows everything I've certainly done in my career."

The gala, which took place in an event space lined with golden pillars whose arched windows overlooked Manhattan's Union Square, occurred at the same time that Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich visited the Hasidic community in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Smotrich has called himself a "proud homophobe" and sits in Israel's governing coalition alongside Avi Maoz, who heads the anti-LGBTQ party Noam. The coalition also includes haredi Orthodox parties that have long opposed LGBTQ rights.

Legislation the coalition is now advancing to sap the Supreme Court of much of its power and independence also endangers LGBTQ rights in Israel. While same-sex couples are not permitted to legally marry in Israel, the court ruled in 2006 that the country must recognize same-sex marriages performed abroad. A court decision in 2021 also paved the way for LGBTQ couples to have children via surrogacy.

"The conversation about the Israeli LG-

BTO community has changed dramatically," Felson said. "The Israeli LGBTQ community was always perceived as safe, secure and successful and not among the vulnerable constituencies. But that wasn't an accurate picture. It's always been vulnerable to conversion therapy, transphobia, violence. And there are ministers in this current government that make those situations worse, that play on those vulnerabilities."

But Felson said that the core work of A Wider Bridge in the United States — to cultivate relationships between Israeli LGBTQ groups and those here — will not be diminished because of who is in power.

"We love Israel as much today as we did yesterday, as much as we did last year," he said. "We hold Israel and its LGBTQ community close. And a country is more than its leaders at any time."

He added, "We never lobbied for a government. We never were in this to support a government. And so it has been a truism of everybody involved in this conversation about Israel that there have been governments that have come and gone, with which we've aligned or haven't aligned — that doesn't change the equation of our connection to a country."

Since the beginning of the year, A Wider Bridge has donated \$180,000 to 20 different Israeli LGBTQ organizations — the same amount it has given annually in recent years. At the end of the evening, Felson announced an emergency campaign to raise another \$180,000, adding that the organization received a \$75,000 anonymous match to start off the campaign.

Other speakers also discussed the changing situation for LGBTQ Israelis in forthright terms. In a prerecorded video, Rotem Sorek, CEO of Ma'avaram, a transgender advocacy organization in Israel, said that since the new government coalition took over, she has noticed an increase in phone calls to her organization's crisis call center.

"What's happening right now is there is a shift in power, a particular new brand of transphobia," Sorek said. "People start to believe that trans people are not regular human beings."

Harris' prerecorded remarks didn't address the situation in Israel and instead focused on honoree Roselyne "Cissie" Swig,

a longtime donor to the group from San Francisco who received its Tzedek Award. But Swig herself sounded a note of concern about LGBTQ rights in Israel in her acceptance speech.

"I'm old enough now to have been part of the beginning of Israel," said Swig, who is in her early 90s. "What I think it's going through right now, from a legal point of view, is a little unsettling for me, and I'm sure others. And I would prefer that it was

more stable."

But Felson said that although his group is facing a new set of daunting challenges, he doesn't feel like he and his colleagues are alone.

"People are keenly aware now that there are problems that can't be swept under the rug," he said. "These are not debates about fine policy points. This is an existential debate."

## Why is this EMS organization different than all other EMS organizations?



In the United States, disaster relief, ambulance, and blood services are handled by an array of organizations. In Israel, there's one organization that does it all — Magen David Adom. As Passover approaches, whatever crises Israelis face — including terror or rocket attacks — MDA will be there to save lives.

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## GLOBE

# 'Fabelmans' flops at the Oscars, but Hollywood's Jewish history gets a nod

By Andrew Lapin  
JTA

With seven nominations for his most personal film ever, this could have been Steven Spielberg's biggest year at the Academy Awards. But the hot-dog fingers had other plans.

"The Fabelmans," the director's highly personal dramatization of his Jewish upbringing, didn't win a single one of the Oscars it was nominated for March 12. Spielberg's film lost out on the biggest categories, including best picture, director, actress, and original screenplay, all to the same movie: chaos-theory multiverse comedy "Everything Everywhere All At Once," where the aforementioned hot-dog fingers play a starring role.

But while the most Jewish movie came up empty-handed, other Jewish stories played out on the movies' biggest night. Here's what you need to know.

## 'Fabelmans' follies

Spielberg's autobiographical opus may have come up empty-handed Sunday, but it got a booby prize: "The Fabelmans" was host Jimmy Kimmel's favorite punchline. Kimmel used his monologue to drop a series of jokes about the film, including dubbing Spielberg and star Seth Rogen "the Joe and Hunter Biden of Hollywood"; speculating that nominated co-star Judd Hirsch was actually absentee Tom Cruise in a mask; and warning anyone plotting to slap him Will Smith-style, "You're gonna have to go through the Fabelman to get to me."

Later, Kimmel kept up the bit, introducing Paul Dano and Julia Louis-Dreyfus to present an award. Kimmel billed them as "Steven Spielberg's dad and Jonah Hill's mom," referencing not only Dano's role in "The Fabelmans," but also Louis-Dreyfus' part as a clueless white Jewish mother in the much-maligned Netflix film "You People."

## Getting loud for 'All Quiet'

"All Quiet on the Western Front," Netflix's grueling drama about German soldiers on the frontlines of World War I, ended the night with four Oscars: international feature film, original score, cinematography and production design.

In addition to having a Jewish producer, the movie was also adapted from a novel and 1930 film that both met the ire of the Nazi party and were tarred as Jewish plots to destroy the German state.

Another anti-dictator winner on Sunday was "Guillermo Del Toro's Pinocchio," which won the animated feature Oscar. Set in Fascist Italy, the Netflix film features a scene of Pinocchio mocking Il Duce himself, Benito Mussolini.

## A Jewish 'Goonies' brother for life

One of the most heartwarming moments of the evening was the best supporting actor win for Ke Huy Quan for "Everything Everywhere All At Once." Quan, a former child actor, had abandoned his onscreen career for decades before his big comeback role last year. In his emotional acceptance speech, Quan gave a special shout-out to "my 'Goonies' brother for life," Jeff Cohen — a Jewish former child star turned entertainment lawyer. Cohen and Quan appeared in "The Goonies" together in 1985, and when Quan landed his big "Everything Everywhere" role, Cohen negotiated the terms of his deal.

## Jamie Lee Curtis and Sarah Polley

There were a couple big-name Oscar winners with Jewish parents. Immediately after Quan's big moment, veteran actress Jamie Lee Curtis picked up her first-ever Oscar, also for "Everything Everywhere." It was also a big moment for the "Halloween" star. "My mother and my father were both nominated for Oscars in different categories," Curtis noted during her speech. Tony Curtis, Jamie Lee's Jewish father, was one of the biggest stars of Golden Age Hollywood yet received only one Oscar nomination, in 1959 for "The Defiant Ones." Jamie Lee Curtis is involved in restoring the a in her grandparents' Hungarian hometown, where no Jews now live.

Another winner with a Jewish father: the writer-director-actor Sarah Polley, who won best adapted screenplay for "Women Talking." Polley explored the secret of her biological parentage in her 2013 documentary "Stories We Tell." "Women Talking" is set inside a different religious community: an isolated Men-

nonite society in which the women have been systematically, sexually abused by the men.

## Navalny and the neo-Nazis

The winner for best documentary went to a profile of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, whose 2020 poisoning by KGB agents after he publicly criticized Vladimir Putin was an international scandal. Navalny is currently imprisoned in Russian solitary confinement; the filmmakers dedicated the award to him. The documentary also details an aspect of Navalny's campaign more controversial to Western observers: his onetime support of the "Russian march," a gathering of Russian neo-Nazi organizations.

## Diane Warren's no-win situation

Did you know the songwriter Diane Warren is a 14-time Academy Award nominee? Singer Sofia Carson reminded everyone in the middle of the evening's first performance for best original song. Warren, who is Jewish, joined in the performance of "Applause," her composition from the feminist documentary "Tell It Like A Woman." She has never won an Oscar, and unfortunately for her, the streak continued Sunday night as the

viral sensation "Naatu Naatu," from the Indian film "RRR," took the prize. (As a consolation, Warren received an honorary Oscar at the Governor's Awards preceding the telecast.)

## Another Jewish shutout

Also drawing blanks was "Tár," the cerebral classical-music psychological drama with somewhat inexplicable Jewish themes.

## Hollywood's Jewish history gets a nod

The broadcast included a promotional video for the Academy Museum, which opened last year to celebrate the history of Hollywood. In the video, a curator named Dara Jaffe explains that one of the museum's roles is to "bring important film histories to light, from the Jewish immigrants who founded the Hollywood studios to the early innovators of African-American cinema." The inclusion is notable because the museum drew steep criticism when it first opened for giving short shrift to the industry's robust Jewish history; Jaffe was appointed to put together a permanent exhibition about that history in response. The exhibition has not yet opened.



Steven Spielberg, who didn't win any Oscars, poses with Ke Huy Quan, who did, and Spielberg's wife Kate Capshaw at the 95th Academy Awards in the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, March 12, 2023. (Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles Times via Getty Images)

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# AROUND TOWN

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

## Adath Jeshurun

Join Rabbi Joshua Corber for Informal Meditation & Prayer every Shabbat morning from 9:00 - 9:40 a.m. in Adath Jeshurun's Yarmuth Family Chapel. Evening Meditation sessions are offered on alternate Thursdays from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. The next session will be held on Thursday, May 4th. ZOOM links are provided in AJ's weekly newsletter. Subscribe at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com).

Adath Jeshurun is sponsoring a Community Passover Seder on Wednesday, April 5th at 6:15 p.m. Space is limited to the first 220 paid reservations received, and they are processed on a first come first served basis. Details about the Seder may be found at the bottom of the AJ homepage at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com). Reservations may be made online at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations).

Rabbi Corber is leading a new series of family-friendly Tot Shabbat Services at Adath Jeshurun. These services are geared towards parents and children ages 0 - 6. Grandparents and older siblings are also welcome to attend. Participants will pray, learn, and hear stories, and then enjoy some kid-friendly food at AJ's Shabbat Kiddush lunch. All services will be held in the Yarmuth Family Chapel and will begin at 10:30 a.m. The upcoming Tot Shabbat services are scheduled on April 15th and May 20th. Kindly RSVP at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations).

Adath Jeshurun's Sh'ma Theatre group is producing the play, Egyptland Performances will be held at AJ on April 23 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and April 24th and 26th at 7:00 p.m. Egyptland features the story about the Cohen family, one of a handful of Jewish families living in Bullitt County, Ky. Upon learning the lessons of Passover, the son tries to convince his family to emancipate the two enslaved people they own. Adult language. Ages 13+ recommended. Open to the community. Details about the performance may be found at the bottom of the AJ homepage at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com). General admission is \$20 per person. Students and Seniors ages 65 and over are \$15 per person. Admissions may be purchased at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations).

Adath Jeshurun is hosting a day-long retreat led by Rabbi Joshua on Sunday, April 30th from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Earth & Spirit Center on Newburg Road. Join Rabbi Corber for a day filled with community-building activities,

mindful listening, nature walks, introspection, small group-reflection, and time to bond with one another and cultivate empathy. This event is open to the community. Details about the retreat may be found at the bottom of the AJ homepage at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com). Reservations are required and cost \$43 per person, and may be made at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations).

Adath Jeshurun invites the community to a Mother's Day Tea and Jewgrass on Sunday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m. Enjoy fine teas, finger sandwiches, desserts, and music by the Bluegrass group, Jacob's Ladder. This event is open to the community. Details may be found at the bottom of the AJ homepage at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com). Reservations are required and cost \$5 each for adults, and children are free of charge, and may be made at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations).

Rabbi Robert B. Slosberg will be retiring at the end of June after 42 years of exemplary service to Congregation Adath Jeshurun. AJ is hosting a Retirement Celebration in his honor on Sunday, May 28th at 5:00 p.m. at the synagogue. Special tribute will also be paid to Deborah Slosberg who is retiring after 14 years as Louisville Melton Director, and Robin Silverman who will be retiring after 35 years as Synagogue Administrator. The Celebration is open to the entire community. Reservations are required; the cost is \$5 per person. Reserve your space at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations).

## Anshei Sfard

Weekly classes: Talmud Trek II - Sunday from 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Daily following maariv: Mishnah Berurah - Laws of Daily Living, learn a page a day of the Mishnah Bureuah and uncover the many laws of daily living,

## Chabad of Kentucky

Services are now being held in the Anshei Sfard building on the Trager Family JCC campus. Contact Chabad at [Rabbi@Chabadky.com](mailto:Rabbi@Chabadky.com) or **502-235-5770** for details.

## Chavurat Shalom

Chavurat Shalom is meeting in person for fully vaccinated participants Lunch will be served at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium with programs starting at 1 p.m. All programs will also be available starting at 1 p.m. via **ChavuratShalomZoom** for those who want to participate remotely.

Thursday, April 6 - No Chavurat Shalom. Wishing everyone a happy, meaningful Passover.

Thursday, April 13 - Our favorite accordion player, Mike O'Bryan, will entertain us with his great music and sense of humor. Lunch will include chicken pot pie, quinoa salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and caramel spoon cake.

Thursday, April 20 - David Shapero will tickle the ivories and play a little bit of everything. Lunch will include grilled salmon, green peas and carrots, roasted potatoes, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and triple chocolate cake.

Thursday, April 27 - Paul Troy, Senior Crime Victim Advocate at JFCS, will join us for the first of a two-part series on recognizing and combatting crimes targeting the senior adult community. Lunch will include roasted turkey breast, green beans, roasted potatoes, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and bread pudding with a bourbon caramel sauce.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday if you'll be attending that week in person by calling or emailing Sarah at 212-2038 or [sarahharlan86@gmail.com](mailto:sarahharlan86@gmail.com).

## Jewish Federation of Louisville

The Jewish Federation of Louisville will host a Yom HaShoah event Monday, April 17 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC to honor and remember those who died in the Holocaust. While Shoah refers specifically to the Jewish people, this remembrance is a community-wide program that also commemorates additional sufferers of Nazi atrocities, and those who perished amid other genocides.

This ceremony includes various speakers, music and the Lighting of Eleven Candles with narration recited by and candles lit by students from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, The Temple Religious School and Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad (LBSY). Additionally, CenterStage will perform final scenes from its production of The Diary of Anne Frank. To register, visit [jewishlouisville.ejoinme.org/yomhashoah](http://jewishlouisville.ejoinme.org/yomhashoah). The Yom HaShoah remembrance will also be livestreamed on YouTube -- check back closer to the event date for the relevant link.

The Jewish Community of Louisville has grants available to help send children to Jewish overnight camp and on a teen trip to Israel. For more information or to RSVP, contact Alison Roemer at [aroemer@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aroemer@jewishlouisville.org). Also, the Louisville Counselor Fellowship is available again this year. The program, which provides a stipend of \$1,000 in addition to regu-

lar camp pay, aims to encourage Jewish young adults, ages 18-25, to work at Jewish overnight camps. Click here for additional information.

## Keneseth Israel

Keneseth Israel Congregation offers Daily Minyan services at 6:00 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](http://tinyurl.com/kiczoom). Shabbat services and Holiday services are offered in person and on YouTube Live at [tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive](http://tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive). Please visit [kenesethisrael.com](http://kenesethisrael.com) for times and covid policies.

Jews and Brews with Rabbi Ben Freed is held Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom and in person at the Trager Family JCC-- the weekly Torah portion is studied.

Looking for something to do after Passover? Join Rabbi Freed for a five-week class starting Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. for A Kabbalist's Guide to the Omer: Rabbi Moshe Kordevero wrote that Sefira, the period between Passover and Shavuot in which we count up the 40 days of the Omer, contains elements of counting, of storytelling, and of the shining of a sapphire stone. Join the class to learn about how the counting, storytelling, and radiance can teach us about the Divine and ourselves.

Join Cantor Hordes as she takes you on a journey through the sun salutations, and meditations of Torah at Torah Yoga on April 20th at 6:30 p.m. following minyan. Some yoga mats are available; please bring your own if you have one. Suggested donation is \$10.

Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut are around the corner - celebrate with KI! On Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30 p.m., come hear Yom Kippur war veteran Zack Melzer discuss his experience, followed by an Israeli celebration.

Have a toddler in your life? Come join us for our new Tot Shabbat! Every last Saturday of the month, this month on April 29th at 11:00 a.m., where they will enjoy a toddler friendly shortened service and a sweet treat followed by coming into the main sanctuary to dazzle everyone with their rendition of closing Shabbat service songs.

Come celebrate the mothers in your life at KI's Mother's Day Brunch May 14th at 11:30 a.m., featuring an intergenerational style show - sponsored by the Keneseth Israel Sisterhood. RSVP at [info@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:info@kenesethisrael.com) or by calling our office at **(502) 459-2780**. Reserva-



# AROUND TOWN

tions are due no later than May 5.

## 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 7:30-8 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.

KITE is having learning classes on The Path of the Just Saturday nights at 8 p.m. 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.

## 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

The Nearly New Shop's Derby Sale is slated for Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16. This sale will feature Spring and Derby items we've been that have been saved just for this event. [shopnearlynew.org](http://shopnearlynew.org)

## Temple Shalom

Second Night Passover Seder The annual congregation seder will be held Thursday, April 6 at 6 p.m., at Temple Shalom Open. The dinner will be prepared by Bristol Catering. Seating is limited, so RSVP March 31 to Slava Nelson at 502-830-4968 or [engagement@templeshalomky.org](mailto:engagement@templeshalomky.org).

Mix, Mingle and Movie Marking the 75th anniversary of Israeli independence, Temple Shalom will screen the documentary "Six Days in June," a recounting of the Six-Day War, Sunday, April 23, 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members (pizza and soft drinks included). RSVP by April 10 to Slava Nelson at 502-830-4968 or [engagement@templeshalomky.org](mailto:engagement@templeshalomky.org).

## The Temple

Please join us on Saturday, April 29 at 7:00 pm at The Temple for our Installation of Cantor Lauren Adesnik. Be a part of this sacred and historic moment as we welcome our first Cantor in 180 years. An installation ceremony is an especially holy moment that signifies the sacred pact between clergy and congregation. The ritual is an extraordinary experience for both the new clergy and the congregation, filled with music,

blessings, and spoken words shared by all. We will host a formal concert featuring our new Cantor and several amazing musical guests. After the concert, we will have a dessert and drink reception to celebrate. Child-care will be available with RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/installation](http://thetemplelouky.org/installation).

The WRJ/Sisterhood Gift Shop is now open Tuesday from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., Thursday from 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., or by appointment. Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop](https://www.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 at The Temple! Text Study with Rabbi David, Beginning Hebrew with Mark Goldstein, and Intro to Judaism with Cantor Lauren are on Monday nights; Temple Scholars with Rabbi David and Cantor Lauren are on Wednesday mornings; and Saturday Torah Study with Rabbi David starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person will be every Saturday. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to [thetemplelouky.org/adult-education](http://thetemplelouky.org/adult-education) for more information.

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

Pickleball courts are open at The Temple! Join us for this FREE and exciting way to stay active. Registration opens every Friday for slots the next week. Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. & Thursdays from 2:45 p.m. - 4:45 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](http://thetemplelouky.org/pickleball).

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](http://thetemplelouky.org/sing-shabbat). Remaining Spring classes are, April 24, May 15, and June 5.

This year for Passover, The Temple is excited to gather in person again! We will host three different Seders to attend AND the option to pick up a Passover meal by Chef Z, with Haggadot featuring artwork from our members. There are three Seder options:

Annual Traditional First Night Seder - Wednesday, April 5 at 6 p.m. with Rabbi David and Cantor Lauren. Creative Musical Second Night Seder led with our Confirmation Class; Thursday, April 6 at 6 p.m., with Rabbi David, Cantor Lauren, Jennifer Diamond, and The Temple Tunes; and the Annual Gaylia R. Rooks Women's Seder sponsored by the WRJ/Sisterhood, Tuesday, April 11 at 6 p.m. with Cantor Lauren. To RSVP visit [thetemplelouky.org/Passover](http://thetemplelouky.org/Passover)

Whether celebrating at home or at The Temple, you can order a Passover meal made by the amazing Chef Z. This year's Passover menu offers the following options: Tender beef brisket topped with a savory gravy or grilled salmon with raspberry onion jam or Chef Z's famous vegetable frittata.

All meals include vegetarian matzo ball soup, a mixed green salad, rosemary and garlic roasted potatoes, and flourless chocolate cake for dessert. Children's meals will be available for in-person seder with grilled chicken at no charge.

Member in-person Seder: \$15 per meal; Member pickup meals: \$25 per meal (first 50 orders at \$15 per meal); Non-member meals (pickup and in-person Seder): \$30 per meal; Seder plates with ritual food: \$10 per plate (available for pickup meal orders).

## Trager Family JCC

CenterStage will present The Diary of Anne Frank, April 13-16 in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium at the Trager Family JCC. For nearly two years, Anne, her father, mother, and sister, joined with the Van Daan family to hide in a secret annex space above her father's former office in Amsterdam, as the Nazis deported Dutch Jews to their deaths. In her secret attic, Anne comes of age: she laughs, plays, fights with her mother, and falls in love for the

first time. Despite her oppressive circumstances and the horrors that surround her, Anne's spirit transcends, as she voices her belief, "in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart." For tickets, visit [jcclouisville.org/centerstage](http://jcclouisville.org/centerstage).

Trager Family JCC members are invited to celebrate the Trager Family JCC's first anniversary! The celebratory week will kick off on Sunday, April 16 from 2-4 p.m. with a birthday party that will include cake and many family activities throughout the building. During the entire week, the Trager Family JCC is planning a fitness contest, dance workshops and backstage tours in our CenterStage space, as well as parties with our youngest members in ELC and our seniors. **Click here for more information and to RSVP.**

African-American history -- told via storytelling, dance, music, theater and the spoken word -- will be the focus of live performances by the Sankofa Players Tuesday, April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC. The event features narration by Lamont Collins, founder and CEO of Louisville's Roots 101 African-American Museum, who will guide audience members through experiences of people throughout the African Diaspora. Tickets are \$25. Seating will be limited, and RSVPs will be required. To RSVP, call (502) 384-1940 or go online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-sankofa-experience-tickets-549805973467>



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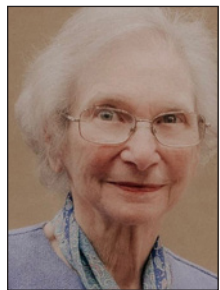
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# LIFECYCLE

## Obituaries



### Lois Kleinman Flarsheim

Lois Kleinman Flarsheim, 86, died in Louisville on March 6, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, Philip, her son, David, her parents, and her

brothers, David, and Spencer.

Lois was born in New Jersey to Jacob and Sylvia Kleinman on June 9, 1936, but moved to the Bronx as an infant. After WWII, the Kleinman family moved to Louisville. Lois attended Longfellow Elementary, Highland Junior High, and graduated from Atherton High School. While in high school, Lois worked as the arts & crafts counselor at YMHA summer camp on the grounds of the future Jewish Community Center.

After high school, Lois moved to Florida with her parents but soon decided to return to Louisville. She received an art scholarship to U of L and graduated with a BA in Fine Arts in 1958. During her senior year, mutual friends introduced Lois to Phil Flarsheim. They wed in November 1958 and were married for 53 years until Phil's death in 2012.

While raising three children in the 1960s and 70s, Lois was an active member of Temple Adath Israel, including the sisterhood and religious school. She and Phil were also active in the local chapter of The National Conference of Christians and Jews (now the National Conference for Community and Justice). At various times, she taught preschool, painted eglomise, sold real estate, and worked as a graphic artist.

In 1986, Lois and Phil moved to Memphis for a few years and then to Roanoke, VA, where they lived for 20 years. In Roanoke, Lois was an active member of Temple Emanuel, organized an annual benefit luncheon for Friends of Greenvale School, and became a docent at the Roanoke Fine Arts Center (now the Taubman Museum of Art).

Lois and Phil returned to Louisville in 2009. Lois continued to enjoy Torah study at The Temple, Actors Theater, the Louisville Orchestra, and weekly bridge games for many years.

Lois is survived by her children William "Bill" Flarsheim (Georgia) and Claire Levine (Donovan Bruns); daughter-in-law, Bonnie Simon; grandchildren, Philip Flarsheim (Amanda Bronson), Sarah Flarsheim-Tyler (Dylan Tyler), and George Flarsheim; and her great-grandsons, Quentin Flarsheim, and Harvey Tyler.

Funeral services were held, March 9th at 2:30 pm at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Ave. followed by burial in The Temple Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Lois to The Temple or Jewish Family and Career Services.



### Ruth Franke Goldstein

Ruth Franke Goldstein died on March 15, 2023. She was born in Newton, Iowa, to the late Lloyd and Mary Franke. In addition to her

parents, she is predeceased by her beloved husband, Ivan, and brother John Franke.

She graduated from Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois, and the University of Kentucky, College of Pharmacy. From a small child, her passion was art and she worked in many mediums, including pottery and stained glass.

Ruth is survived by her brothers, Bill and Jim Franke of Lexington, her sister, Betty Franke of Naples, Florida, sister-in-law Mary Franke of Lexington, two nieces, a nephew, and two grand-nieces of Franklin, TN. She is also survived by two stepsons, Steve and Perry Goldstein, stepdaughter, Jessica Goldstein, and nine step-grandchildren, all of Louisville, and countless good friends.



### Robert Greenburg

Robert Greenburg, 88, died March 19, 2023, in Louisville. He was preceded in death by his wife, Fraeda, and his parents, Arthur and Goldye Greenburg.

Bob, a Chicago native, received his bachelor's degree at

Roosevelt University and soon moved to Louisville with his wife Fraeda. He owned Mr. Robert's Liquors in St. Matthews, was a die-hard sports enthusiast, especially watching UofL games with his family, and was a member of Keneseth Israel Congregation. Above all, he loved spending time with his family.

Bob is survived by son Morrie and daughter Laura Schindler (Stephen); grandchildren Drew and Jason (Jessica) Schindler and Nicole Prostko (Bobby); and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held privately in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.



### Thomas Charles Passo, M.D.

Thomas Charles Passo, M.D., passed away on March 1, 2023, in Louisville, Kentucky. He was born in Missouri on September 24, 1945, and spent

most of his youth in Indianapolis, Indiana. Tom graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Indiana University School of Medicine with a focus on internal medicine and cardiovascular disease. Being a doctor was one of the great joys of his life.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Nellie (Pine) and Charles Passo as well as his beloved brother, Michael Passo. Left to honor his life are his loving daughter Briana Passo Kinkad, son-in-law Kristan Kinkad and grandsons, Finnegan and Fisher Kinkad, along with the countless patients he served and other loved ones.

Tom was a voracious reader and generous tipper. He enjoyed the earthly goods he obtained, such as the Porches of the past or the Suburban of the present. He was always up for a good meal, drink, and beautiful work of art. But in the end, they were all just "things," and ultimately, he considered them inconsequential. Serving people and connecting with them was his true passion.

A very generous man is what can be said about Tom. He willingly gave away much of his earnings to various

causes, including wounded warriors, support animals, and education. He offered support to anyone and seemingly everyone - from sponsoring a little league team (he loved baseball) to strangers who approached him on the street. "Giving is a mitzvah," he would say. He didn't always associate charity with religion earlier in his life. It was a core part of his being.

Although he was always a spiritual person, Tom converted to Judaism later in life. His hunger for knowledge through travel and reading led him to uncover many wonders. But it was his Jewish faith that opened a channel of intellectual and ethereal solace unmatched by any other interest - outside of medicine, of course.

Per Dr. Passo's request, no funeral or memorial service will occur. Instead, Tom's family asks that you donate in his honor to DonorsChoose, JFCS Louisville, or the organization of your choice. Letters of remembrance and condolence can be emailed to t.c.passo.memorial@gmail.com or mailed to Herman Meyer & Son Funeral Home, Inc., P.O. Box 4052, Louisville, KY 40204.



### Dr. Jack M. Perlman

Dr. Jack M. Perlman, 86, died in Louisville, Kentucky, on February 27, 2023. He was born to Charles and Lee Perlman on March 9, 1936, in Madison, Wis-

consin.

Dr. Perlman graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Medical School.

He married Jeanne Perlman in 1957. They had four children together. He was widowed in 1973. Jack married Nickie Perlman in 1974, and with her two children, they now had six children together. They traveled often and enjoyed many outings together, both with each other and with their children.

He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Kentucky Medical Association, and The Temple.

Dr. Perlman is survived by his wife, Nadine "Nickie," his children Dan Perlman (Henry Tapia-Castillo), Karen

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# LIFECYCLE

Geisenberger (Bob), Herb Kosterlitz (Allison), Michele Perlman (David Harris), Mike Perlman (Felicia) and Jeff Perlman (Rosemary); his grandchildren, Wes and Eli Geisenberger, Jody, Cassie, Olivia and Lea Kosterlitz, Rachel, Jeremy, Samuel, Leah, Josh, and Bekah Perlman; his great-grandchildren, Kinlee and Hagen Maynard and Harper Hanson; his sister, Barb Berkowitz and nephews, Ben Berkowitz (Noreen) and Jeff Berkowitz (Daniel Chao).

A memorial service was held on March 5, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc...

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the following funds at The Temple Rabbi Gaylia's Fund for Music, David Ariel-Joel Adult Education Fund, the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association.



## Nataliya Malkina

Nataliya Malkina, 92, died March 9, 2023, in Louisville, KY. She was born on October 15, 1930 in Kharkiv, Ukraine. She was preceded in death by her

husband, Vulf Malkin and her son, Alex Malkin.

She was proud of her native country and would share the most amazing stories of her childhood with her family. She was a voracious reader, a crochet artist of fine detailed work, and enjoyed interacting with the children and providing them with books when they would visit.

Nataliya is survived by her granddaughter, Tatyana Malkin and her husband, Steve Hughes; and great-granddaughter, Sofia Hughes.

Funeral services were held March 13 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in The Temple Cemetery.



## Nanette Fox Silverstein

Nanette Fox Silverstein, age 81, passed away Sunday, March 12, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gertrude and Dan Fox, and her son,

Evan Silverstein.

Nanette graduated from Atherton High School, class of 1959, and was a stay-at-home mom for many years. In the 1960's she was an advisor to a BBG chapter and was active in many local clubs and organizations.

In the 1970s, she worked at Shillito's Department Store at Oxmoor Cen-

ter. In 1987 she became a teacher at Adath Jeshurun Preschool, where she remained until 2020. Much loved by more than a generation of 3 and 4-year-olds, she thrived working with the children, the teachers, and the school. One of her greatest pleasures was to see the children again as they grew into adults.

She was a wonderful hostess in earlier times, a fine baker, and a great cook. Of course, she loved her family. Nanette and her husband, Mark, were off to see the world by land and sea when she was not in class.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Silverstein, daughter Betsy Prussian (Mark Prussian), granddaughters Dana Prussian (Joel Haney) of New York City, and Dorrie Prussian of Birmingham, MI.

Funeral services were held March 16th at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Donations may be made to the JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry or the charity of your choice.

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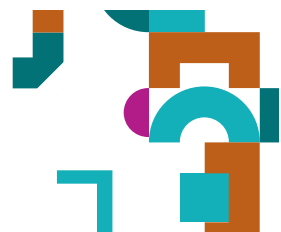
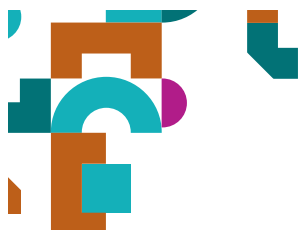
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# NEWS

## YOM HASHOAH

Continued from page 1

of a reading.” He cited a portion of the Book of Leviticus that details ritual sacrifice, in which an entire animal is consumed by flame as an offering to God.

“To the extent that one theologically understands the Holocaust, as a kind of martyrdom of the Jewish people to God...is fine,” Lipp says. “But I think most of us don’t see it that way. I also don’t think most people, when they say ‘Holocaust,’ think of that. It’s not the connotation of it, but the denotation of it. So for people who don’t buy into the theology, Shoah, which basically means ‘unmitigated catastrophe,’ is a better term.”

One person who could not escape the Shoah was Anne Frank. The Dutch teenager and her family, along with several others, took refuge in the secret annex of an Amsterdam commercial building from July 1942 until August 1944, when the Gestapo discovered their hiding place. Anne and her sister Margot eventually were transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where both sisters died of typhus in the late winter of 1945.

The Trager Family JCC’s CenterStage deliberately planned its production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* to coincide with the Yom HaShoah commemoration.

Director Ariane Barrie-Stern is excited about her cast, comprising both teenage and adult actors. She also points out that that Anne’s diary is as much a coming-of-age testament as it is a catalog of

depravation, which makes it (and the play) an ideal entry point for audiences of all backgrounds, not Jewish ones.

Anne’s diary entry that reads, “I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart,” is often held up as a testament to her spirit and hope. Yet she wrote it from the comparative sanctuary of her hiding place, before she was transported to Bergen-Belsen.

Musing about Anne’s predicament and ultimate demise, Lipp mentioned Dara Horn’s *People Love Dead Jews* -- Reports from a Haunted Present, comprising a dozen essays touching on the peculiar emphasis on how Jews died, as opposed to how they live.

“It’s one of the best books I’ve read recently about Holocaust education and how it proceeds,” Lipp says. “One of the things she writes about is why Anne Frank and (Elie Wiesel’s death-camp memoir) *Night* are touchstones for the American understanding of the Holocaust. Because if you look at the subtext of Anne Frank’s ‘I still believe that people are good,’ it’s like, it makes people feel good about the fact that – as horrible as it was – it was a happy ending, right?”

But Horn, Lipp points out, suggests a very different perspective. “She asks what might (Frank) have written if she’d been able to bring her diary to Bergen-Belsen the day before she was exterminated? Might she have been a little angry? And if she had, would her diary be the touchstone of hell? Because as powerful as Anne Frank is, it’s important to wonder what she might have said after Bergen-Belsen, not before.”

aLipp adds. “We’re at the mercy of

somebody who liked us last week, but this week, not so much. We should use our power taking care of ourselves, but also to take care of those we have the

power to help. Both of those things can be aided by remembering – in a productive way, and in an honest way – what happened to us.”



(Left to right) Cantors Lauren Adesnik of The Temple, Sharon Hordes of Keneseth Israel Congregation, and David Lipp of Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Seated, pianist Jeffery Jamner (Photo by Andrew Adler)



## YOUR LEGACY matters.

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

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



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