

FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 4 | April 28, 2023 | 7 Iyyar 5783

# For Karen Berg, anti-trans sentiment couldn't be more personal

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

There are times when Karen Berg is akin to a voice in the wilderness wondering if anyone is listening.

As the Democratic Kentucky State Senator representing its 26th District (as of 2023, areas of Louisville from Minor Lane Heights in the south to Glenview in the north), Berg is an unabashed liberal in a legislative body that is resolutely conservative. She is also the only Jewish member of the state senate (and, with recently-elected District 20 Democratic Representative Daniel Grossberg), one of two in the entire legislature.

That makes Berg something of an endangered political species: a Blue figure in an overwhelmingly Red state. And nowhere has this been more apparent – and for her, more emotionally wrenching – than the debate over LGBTQ+ rights.

Last December 22, Berg's transgender son Henry Berg-Brousseau took his own life while at home in Arlington, Va. An activist on behalf of trans and LGBTQ+ communities, Berg-Brousseau had lived among haters and doubters, the ignorant and the ignoble, until the vehemence overwhelmed him. March 9 would have been his 25th birthday.

"We had a memorial resolution that one of my colleagues was going to do on the floor" of the Senate," Berg recalled during a recent Zoom interview. "And I asked him not to do it, because I didn't think I'd be able to maintain my equilibrium."

It's not like Berg lacks fortitude. A physician, she's a diagnostic radiologist whose workplace is the emergency room of Uni-



Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, comments on Senate Bill 150 on March 29th, 2023.

versity of Louisville Hospital. She sees victims of the worst kinds of violence: stabbings, shootings, beatings, augmented by myriad examples of routine mayhem.

A close friend, Rabbi Nadia Siritsky, happened to contact Berg on that March day. "For some reason she reached out to me – she didn't even realize it was his birthday. She'd reached out to tweet saying that in her daily prayers that morning, God had told her to send me a poem. And that's what let me get through the day, if she hadn't, I wouldn't have made it."

During the recent legislative session, which ended at the close of March, the Republican-dominated House and Senate overwhelmingly passed Senate Bill 150 -- one of the nation's most radically anti-trans measures. Pretty much any in-

tervention, therapy, etc. is prohibited for anyone under the age of 18. Teachers are forbidden to abide by a student's choice of personal pronouns, and all students must use bathrooms corresponding to their sex at birth. Governor Andy Beshear vetoed SB 150, but lawmakers easily overrode his veto and the bill became law.

"It's classic, classic xenophobia," Berg says, "to be unrealistically scared of what you're not familiar with, but also refusing to try to get familiar with it."

There is a clear divide, she points out, between the acceptance that predominates in Louisville versus the suspicion and hostility present in Kentucky's redder enclaves.

See **BERG** on page 5

# Falafel + facepainting + camels = Israeli Street Fair 2023

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

When the Trager Family JCC's Israeli Street Fair was about to make its debut last May, organizers figured that, say, about 500 visitors would attend. What they got was closer to 2,000.

So much for modest expectations.

The 2023 edition, slated for June 4 from noon to 4 p.m., aims to take last year's model and – as Emeril Lagasse might say – kick it up a notch. More food trucks. More vendors. And thanks to a considerably larger tent, more shade.

Like last year, the Israeli Street Fair will unfold outdoors on the expansive area to the left of the main building. In case the sun decides not to shine brightly on its old Kentucky home, the entire



Left to right: Becky Admony and Karen Benabou enjoying last year's event.

affair can pivot to the Trager Family JCC's generous interior. Indeed, the June date was chosen to make sure the entire ground floor (including the Shapira Foundation Auditorium) would be available if needed.

The Fair will be decidedly kid-friendly (think inflatable bounce house, face painting, arts and crafts, etc.) Israeli artists Moshe and Goldie Monzon, who've participated in previous events here, are scheduled to return.

"We're going to have a lot of the same things we did last year," promises Tricia Kling Siegwald, the Trager Family JCC's Senior Director, Festivals & Special Projects. "But the goal this year is to make it even bigger and better."

See **ISRAELI STREET FAIR** on page 10

# It's time to start building fences around our dangerous things

By Matt Golden  
Director, Jewish Community Relations Council

We are in a time of crisis.

As I write this, less than two weeks have passed since a man walked into the Old National Bank, here in our hometown, and killed five people. According to news sources, he left two notes, one in his home and one on his person. In those notes, according to the same sources, he wrote that he wanted to demonstrate how easy it

was for a mentally ill person to buy a gun.

That was just a few days after a person walked into a Nashville school and killed three little children and three adults who worked to educate them. Police authorities indicate that the killer was being treated for an emotional disorder, but no motive has been disclosed. The three children, all age 9, had names: Hallie, Evelyn and William. Their caregivers, all over 60, had names, too: Katherine, Cynthia and Michael.

Just a week after the killings at the Old National Bank, there was another mass shooting here in Louisville at Chickasaw Park, which left two men dead and four wounded. No motive has been determined and the killer or killers have so far escaped with impunity. The two people killed were named David and Deaji. David was only 17.

Sara Klein Wagner and I, together with Rabbis Ben Freed and Joshua Corber and several other Jewish folks,

See **FENCES** on page 4



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## Word of the Month

### We Are All One People



D'var Torah

Rabbi Avrohom Litvin

On April 9th, during the intermediate days of Passover, close to 20 members of my family enjoyed a wonderful day at a Bats game and exploring downtown Louisville. Less than 24 hours later, just a few feet from where they laughed and strolled enjoying our beautiful city, a mass murderer opened fire in the Old National Bank just across from the stadium. Five people dead. Eight injured. Numerous people and families are grieving. A tragedy affecting our entire city. After the danger passes, we seek to make sense of how and why this could happen. More importantly, we seek to figure out what can be done to prevent such tragedies in the future.

According to The Courier Journal, more than 100 homicides were reported in each of the past three years in Louisville. That is simply unacceptable. People aren't talking to each other anymore. Now they are dealing with others with guns.

Another problem to consider is the growth of antisemitism. Couple that with the anger which is bubbling just beneath the surface and the availability of so many guns. It does not bode well for the future. Not for our country, and not for our city. I feel that this new level of disregard for other people is a big part of the problem. I don't think we can fix this problem with laws alone. I think if we really want to solve this problem, we each have to get out of our comfort zones and begin to make a difference.

To that end, I must share that just a few short hours after the Old National Bank shooting, Matt Golden and Rabbi Ben Freed were arranging a conference call which led to a joint statement by the Federation, JFCS, JCRC, Chabad, and all the Synagogues and Temples. A joint letter went out mourning the tragic loss of life, offering support and counseling, and sharing words of comfort and concern. My friends, this was a big step. Each of these amazing institutions put their per-

sonal issues on the side and reached out to help our city in her time of need.

The Mayor and the Governor spoke eloquently from the heart and numerous faith leaders shared words of comfort at the vigils held in those numbing first few days. My friends, this is the type of leadership which makes Louisville unique. In times of trouble, we support one another. And together, we can get through any hardship and work toward a better tomorrow. What we can't do is hug for a day and go back to business as usual. Not with so many people being murdered in our city.

In 1991, in the beautiful section of Brooklyn known as Crown Heights, where Goldie and I lived after getting married and before making Louisville our home, there were deadly riots in which two people were killed and numerous people injured. There was looting, burning and destruction of Jewish stores and homes reminiscent of Nazi Germany or a Russian pogrom. After the riots, Mayor David Dinkins paid a visit to the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Mayor Dinkins said to the Rebbe that both sides should come together and the Rebbe smiled and said, "There are not two sides. We are all one people."

I think we need to get that message out to every man, woman and child. We are all one family, one community, one city. We need to reach out to others, across the street and across the city, with a message of unity and caring. What is bothering a mom in Prospect is usually the same exact thing bothering a mom in the West End. They will often share the same hopes and dreams and desires for the future. Different people, different religions, different backgrounds, yet we are all one people!

We need to learn to be respectful of each other, tolerant of our differences and embracing of one another, recognizing that we are truly all one people! May the day soon come when we turn our swords (and guns) into ploughshares and experience the era of peace and brotherhood for all mankind. It doesn't happen by itself, but G-d promises it can happen when we all work together. I look forward to working with each of you. May that day be very soon, Amen.

*Rabbi Litvin is the Rabbi at Chabad of Kentucky*

## Snapshots



Lamont Collins, founder of Louisville's Roots 101 African American Museum, brought his Sankofa Players to the Trager Family JCC on April 18 for an evening of singing, storytelling and history. The Shapira Foundation Auditorium audience heard members of the ensemble channel Billie Holiday, Sammy Davis Jr and a host of other luminaries who, in large measure, helped define the cultural lives of Black Americans. Photos by Andrew Adler

## Candles

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

• May 5	@	8:19 p.m.	• May 25	@	8:37 p.m. (Shavuot)
• May 12	@	8:26 p.m.	• May 26	@	8:38 p.m.
• May 19	@	8:32 p.m.			

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## Deadlines

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The paper will be published on **Friday, May 24**.

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# NEWS

## Stuart Lowrey hired as Regional Security Advisor

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor



Stuart Lowrey

A veteran of three decades in Federal law enforcement has been tapped as the Louisville area's Regional Security Advisor, after a robust search by the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Stuart L. Lowrey, who spent 32 years with the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, officially began his RSA tenure on April 24. His role grew out of SAFE Louisville, an initiative launched four years ago to "address the troubling trends associated with a rise in antisemitism."

"Under the auspices of the Jewish Federation Board, the SAFE Louisville committee identified the need to hire a full-time safety and security professional, a 'Regional Security Advisor,' to advance our community's safety and security plan," a Federation statement explained.

"Like many Jewish communities throughout America," SAFE Louisville co-chair Bill Altman said, "we partnered with Secure Community

Network (SCN), the national safety and security affiliate of Jewish Federations of North America, to source, evaluate, hire and provide guidance to the RSA we hire. The position is jointly shared between SCN and JCL."

Lowrey's hiring reflects sobering realities, and a commitment to do what's necessary to address those challenges. "We all live in a world where not a day goes by without a question or discussion related to safety and security," said Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Lowrey retired from the ATF in 2019. Over the last year, he's been Regional Security Manager, Corporate Security and Investigations, for U.S. Bank in Chicago, responsible for more than 175 retail and corporate locations.

His RSA job marks a return to a city where he spent a sizable chunk of his career. From August 2012 to October 2015 – and again from October 2016 to September 2019, Lowrey was Special Agent in Charge of the ATF's Louisville Division, with jurisdiction over 15 offices principally in Kentucky and West Virginia, and the Indiana counties just across the Ohio River from Louisville.

"I was very happy with the opportunity I saw at the bank," Lowrey

said during a recent Zoom interview from his home in suburban Chicago. "But I still have, I would say, a very strong public-service orientation."

A similar impulse prompted Lowrey – who'd graduated from the Southern Illinois University in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in accounting – to join the ATF as a Special Agent in the Chicago Field Division. From there his career ascended steadily through the agency: in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and a seven-year-plus stint as second in command in New Orleans, where he had a key role in responding to Hurricane Katrina.

Further senior ATF positions awaited him, culminating in the post of Acting Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Management in Washington. Along the way he and his wife, Catherine (a retired financial-services professional) reared a son and a daughter, now in their mid-20s.

While at the ATF, Lowrey was broadly proactive and reactive: anticipating where threats might arise and responding to incidents when they occurred. He will draw on many of those same skills as RSA in Louisville from his base at the Trager Family JCC. But his portfolio will extend far beyond that campus.

"I'm going to be involved in a variety of capacities," he said, such as "physical security-type reviews, fa-

cility and risk assessments and helping identify potential solutions." Additionally, he intends to have a central role "in the development and delivery of various types of training, again, that help the community at large be more prepared, and act should something happen."

Just as with the ATF, where Lowrey routinely shared information with other agencies, as RSA he'll be "developing and sharing intelligence information – not only in the (local) community, but with others outside. And of course, in any critical incident, collaborating with law enforcement in various ways. So, I think it's a pretty diverse role."

Crucially, "I'll be engaging with various segments of the Jewish community in Louisville, but also outside, as part of their outreach efforts and things of that nature."

"The Jewish community has coalesced over the past four-and-a-half years around SAFE Louisville, which is a unique effort," Wagner said. "I could not be more grateful to our co-chairs, Bill Altman and Ben Vaughan, for their leadership. I'm looking forward to working with our new RSA, Stuart Lowrey, and to the expertise and thoughtfulness he will bring to this role."



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# NEWS

## FENCES

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JCRC

Matt Golden

joined people from all walks and attended some of the memorials and vigils organized across our city after the Old National Bank killings. We listened to Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner speak and recite Kaddish. We heard the pain in our city. Then, just five days later on April 15, the Chickasaw Park mass shooting happened. And on that very same day across our country, there were six other mass shootings, leaving 10 dead and 55 wounded. Every person shot or killed had a name.

In 2023 alone as of April 23, there have been 173 separate "mass shooting" incidents in America. No fewer than 234 people have been killed and 699 others have been wounded. There have been so many of these terrible incidents, it's difficult to keep track of them without prompting. Do you remember the killings in Monterey Park, California, where 11 mostly elderly Asian people were killed at a dance studio while celebrating the Lunar New Year festival? Or perhaps the Haight family murder in Enoch,

Utah where seven people were killed, mostly little children? Or the seven elderly immigrant farm workers killed in Half Moon Bay? Or the shooting spree in Arkabulta, Mississippi where a man, angry at his ex, murdered her and then randomly killed five others who happened to be in his path? Many of these mass shootings were perpetrated by family members who chose to kill their own relatives, including their children.

And those are just what are categorized as "mass shootings," typically defined as three or more people killed in a single incident. In 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention compiled data on the previous year's suicides and homicides by gun. The CDC determined that 26,328 people chose to end their lives with a gun and 20,958 more had their lives ended by a gun. For suicides, according to Everytown Research, a person is three times more likely to kill themselves if they have access to a firearm.

In America, car accidents used to be the leading cause of death for children under 19. That grim statistic changed in 2020, when gun related deaths took over that unenviable top spot. There are about 250 million cars in our country and 400 million guns. But there is one critical difference between vehicular deaths and homicide deaths: The overwhelming majority of auto related deaths were accidental. The same cannot be said for gun deaths -- someone intentionally took their own life or intentionally took the life of another.

One of my favorite Jewish authors is Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, of blessed mem-

ory. He had a habit, when confronted with what he called a great "challenge," of sitting down with his colleagues and studying Torah together. They let the text speak to them of how to appropriately surmount an obstacle. Now I'm no rabbi, and I'm certainly no Rabbi Sacks, but there is wisdom in his method.

A text comes to mind:

"When you build a new house, you shall make a guard rail for your roof, so that you shall not cause blood in your house, that the one who falls should fall from it." Deut. 22:8.

Seems pretty logical. If you're going to have a dangerous thing -- and the Torah by implication would say it is acceptable to have dangerous things -- make sure that you are building up fences around it so as to not cause unnecessary harm.

Let's start small. If we own guns, secure them. Do what the Torah commands and build a fence around them. Lock guns and store them apart from ammunition. According to the same Everytown research quoted above, an estimated 54% of American homes do not secure their firearms. And in 80% of school shootings where the shooter is under 18, the child shooter obtained the unsecured weapon from their family home or the home of a friend. Likewise, child suicides would be reduced if we locked our weapons. A child aged 5-18 is three times more likely to die by gun suicide in a house with unsecured firearms, according to the Society for Research in Child Development. With an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 guns stolen annually -- and with a substantial number of these stolen weapons being used in gun crimes -- poorly se-

cured weapons are leading to more violence on the street. There is simply no excuse for an unsecured weapon. Let's make that a rule in our homes and a law on our books.

It's time to start building fences around our dangerous things

*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).*

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# NEWS

## BERG

Continued from page 1



Henry Berg-Brousseau

"You don't feel it in the here in the city," Berg says. "And the reason I think you don't is that there are more people who have to interact with each other. And eventually you find out, 'Oh, they weren't that different.'"

Henry Berg-Brousseau was the second child of Karen Berg and her husband, Bob Brousseau. Born Hannah Marie Brousseau, he'd just begun ninth grade when his life took a drastic turn.

"This kid was not great in fitting in, but was happy and healthy up until about 12 or 13. Then puberty hit, and something was going horribly wrong. We had no idea what, but the was cutting. Kids don't cut if there's not something really, really wrong.

"So we were reaching out to counselors. We had therapists on board. We were trying to explore, what is going wrong here? And eventually one evening Henry sat down, and said to me and my husband, 'I am trans.'"

It was, to put it mildly, a stunning revelation.

"I can remember where I was sitting," Berg recalls. "I remember where she was sitting. I remember where my husband was sitting. I even remember the lighting in the room. I remember everything about it."

It was a bewildering moment. "I didn't know what 'trans' meant. My first, second, third and fourth thought was: 'Oh my God, this kid's life is already being hard – I don't want to make it any harder.'"

Coincidentally, Berg had made plans

for that evening to see three physician friends, two of whom were pediatricians. "We used to get together and pretend we were playing mahjong or some game, but we never played any games. We would just get together and eat a meal.

"So, after this discussion with my kid I went to that dinner," Berg says. "And I break down and they're like, 'Oh no, Karen, this is not that abnormal. We have trans kids in our practice. This is not a death sentence.'"

Relief, at least to a degree, was at hand. "They were able to stabilize me that night and teach me what they already knew," Berg recalls, "which was like a godsend."

Dad had his own emotions to grapple with. "My husband had a much harder time. Basically, for the first couple of weeks he said, 'The kid's dead to me – I can't do this; I will not.' I told him, 'If I have to choose between you and my child, I'm choosing my child. I mean, I had to tell him that, because I wasn't going to reject my child.'"

She had unexpected allies, too. Just a few weeks ago Berg and her husband "got a letter from the counselor that Bob and I went to talk to when Henry told us that he had come out as trans, to try to figure out how do we even go forward? How do we react? What do we do?"

The therapist wrote: "I rarely remember clients from 11 years ago. But you I remember. And I just want to tell you how proud I am of who you were, and who you are now, for our community."

Berg was deeply moved. "I mean, I have not had a therapist that took care of my child or my family that has reached out and said, 'Thank you for the work you're doing.'"

Once she'd gained the necessary perspective, Berg recognized that her relationship with her child was, fundamentally, unaffected by his transitioning.

"He said, 'Mom, I'm still the same person.' He was trying to explain to me that he hadn't changed. All he was asking for was for people to recognize him the way he saw himself. Because every day when you go out and you see yourself one way, and everybody else see you another way, at your core it eats at your identity.

"All my kid wanted was to be perceived, at first glance, as a male. That was it. Just when somebody to take an order at the table – 'Sir, what can I get you?' Or not to be viewed as somebody strange and different and possibly unacceptable on the street."

Berg recalls how Henry, once he grew enough facial hair, "stopped his testosterone. He was already a male inside. He didn't need anything. All he needed was

to be seen – to look like a boy to go to a boy's bathroom, to be called boy pronouns. Just to be treated like everybody else; not to be outed, not to be made to feel different. That's all my kid was asking for."

The family had come to terms with Henry's sister, Rachel, being gay. She was seven years older, "already at Brandeis by the time he came out," Berg says. Rachel, her mother recalls, "was busy exploring, where does she belong in the world?"

In the Berg family, Rachel was the comparative leftist. She was "much more pro-Palestinian," Mom says, prompting Henry to poke back by naming his dog "Bibi," the nickname of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

At George Washington University, Henry pursued a double major in political science and history, while minoring in Jewish Studies. He spent one summer in Israel, reflecting what his mother says was an interest in "learning about and participating in his religion."

Still, the path forward could be fraught. Conservative as Henry was in Jewish practice, his mother believed that inevitably, he'd face sobering backlash from Orthodox quarters.

"We were warning Henry: 'You've got to realize that (they) will take you in; they will love you, but they will never accept you as a trans male. And that was not an easy lesson for him to be learning.'"

Life can be like that: unyielding and, from time to time, maddening – even from the vantage point of a south Florida beach house, where Berg had been in post-session decompression mode.

"I missed two mass shootings at

home," she said in a subsequent phone interview. "It's all part and parcel of the same problem: what happened in Tennessee, then this judge's ruling in Texas, and then two mass shootings at home. If people don't see that this craziness is part of the same political agenda – I don't know how to scream it loud enough."

For three consecutive years Berg has filed bills calling for guns used in crimes to be destroyed, not resold at auction. Then came the April 10 mass shooting at downtown Louisville's Old National Bank, which killed five people and injured eight others. Not long afterward, it was announced that the AR-15 rifle used would be destroyed instead of resold.

Berg believes that now her bill may actually pass. "It looks like that might fly at this point," she said. "It's not a solution. It's not even close to what the actual solution is. But it's movement in the right direction."

Small victories are better than none at all. "You know, they say that if you make peace in your own home, it's as if you made peace in all the world," she said. "It doesn't have to be the biggest thing – the littlest thing can count, also."

In other words, Senator Karen Ber is determined to press on.

"I have a four-year term and unless, God forbid, I get sick or something, I am going to complete it," she vowed. "I will have served as a state senator for six years at that point. I'll have said, 'Karen, you have done enough public service, but you can bang your head so hard for only so long.' And then I'll find something else to keep me busy."

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USPS #020-068 at Louisville, KY.

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

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

Email your comments to: **Community**,

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## FORUM

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## Hot to Bot – ChatGPT weighs in on Jewish living



Mindful  
Ramblings

Andrew  
Adler

*It's well after midnight, and in my sleepless state I fire up ChatGPT – the current chatbot darling of the Artificial Intelligence community – to see what it/he/she/they has to say about Jewish life. Below are some excerpts:*

**What should I call you?**

You can call me ChatGPT, which stands for “Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer.” It’s the name of the AI language model that I am based on. You can also simply call me “assistant” if you prefer.

**Are you a spiritual being, Assistant?**

As an AI language model, I do not have a spiritual essence or a sense of self-awareness, so I cannot be considered a spiritual being. I am a machine designed to process and generate text based on algorithms and statistical patterns. While I can provide information and insights on topics related to spirituality, religion, and beliefs, I do not have personal beliefs or experiences of my own.

**Do you think there’s a Higher Power than yourself?**

I do not have consciousness, emotions, or beliefs in the way humans do. Therefore, I cannot have an opinion on the existence or non-existence of a higher power or God.

**Nonetheless, I’m going to ask you kind of a religious question.**

Sure, I’ll do my best to provide an informative and unbiased response. Please go

ahead and ask your question.

**What do you think it means to live a Jewish life?**

Living a Jewish life can mean different things to different people, as Judaism encompasses a rich and diverse set of beliefs, practices, and traditions. However, at its core, living a Jewish life is about cultivating a sense of connection to the Jewish community, history, and values, and integrating these into one’s daily life. Overall, living a Jewish life involves a deep commitment to a set of beliefs, practices, and values that have been passed down through generations of Jewish people, and which continue to evolve and adapt to changing times and circumstances.

**What does it mean when we call Jews “the chosen people”?**

The notion of chosenness does not imply that Jews are superior to other peoples or that they are exempt from moral responsibilities. Instead, it signifies a unique relationship between God and the Jewish people, and a shared responsibility to fulfill God’s commandments and to contribute to the betterment of the world.

**Why is antisemitism on the rise?**

The reasons for the recent rise in antisemitism are complex and multifaceted, and there is no single cause that can fully explain it. However, there are several factors that may contribute to the increase in antisemitic incidents around the world.

One factor is the persistence of longstanding prejudices and stereotypes about Jews that have been present in many societies for centuries.

Another factor is the rise of populist movements and extremist ideologies that promote intolerance, xenophobia, and hate speech.

Additionally, the internet and social media have made it easier for extremist groups

and individuals to disseminate hateful messages and to connect with like-minded people around the world. The anonymity and reach of the internet have also made it easier for antisemitic content to spread and to influence vulnerable individuals.

Some people may conflate criticism of Israeli government policies with antisemitism, while others may use the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an excuse to promote hateful attitudes towards Jews.

It is important to note that combating antisemitism requires a multifaceted approach that involves education, awareness-raising, legal action, and community engagement. It is essential to stand up against all forms of bigotry and hate, and to work towards building inclusive, tolerant, and peaceful societies.

**Can we close with a short prayer?**

Of course, I’d be happy to lead you in a short prayer:

Dear [God/Universe/Higher Power],

We come before you with grateful hearts, thanking you for this day and for all the blessings in our lives. We ask for your guidance and wisdom as we go about our daily activities, and for your protection and love to surround us always.

We pray for peace in our world, and for understanding and compassion to prevail over hate and division. May we all work together to create a better world for ourselves and for future generations.

Thank you for your constant love and presence in our lives. Amen.

I hope this prayer brings you peace and comfort.

*Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.*



## NEWS

## A Time to Reflect



Guest  
Commentary

Rabbi Hillel  
Smulowitz

The Jewish holiday of Shavuot is known as Pentecost (Fiftieth day) or Feast of Weeks.

This year the two-day Festival begins on Thursday night, May 25th. The Torah refers to Shavuot as Hag Ku-Katsir (the Feast of the Harvest) and day of First Fruits.

Shavuot is the festival of the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. This is the time when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses.

Some of the customs includes decorating the home and synagogue with flowers; staying up all night studying and discussing Torah; eating dairy foods – cheese, blintzes.

Why is the book of Ruth read on Shavuot? The story takes place in ancient Palestine during the harvest

festival and Ruth accepts Judaism and the Torah.

We recently experienced a tragic event in Louisville. Innocent lives were lost, and we all will never forget the trauma in Louisville and throughout the world. Once again, Louisville Metro Police Department has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Their speedy response and bravery saved many lives.

The message of freedom through law is sorely needed in American society. There can be no equality for justice when there is no respect for the law.

Time is of the essence. I am reminded of an ad Horace Mann once put in the Lost and Found section of a local paper. "Lost – Two Golden Hours, each set with 60 diamond minutes – no reward is offered for they are Lost forever."

In our present dilemma, if we are not to be completely lost, we must take Sinai as our guide. In the words of the book of Psalms, "The word is a lamp unto my feet and a light upon my path." (119.105)

Shavuot traditionally does not represent an ending, but a renewal. A time to evaluate that which has been accomplished and to start fresh on another round of effort.

*Rabbi Hillel Smulowitz is the former Principal-Director of the Louisville Jewish Day School, and a retired army chaplain.*



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Questions? Contact Abigail Goldberg,  
[agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org), (502) 238-2750



# PICTURE THIS: BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Pictured (from left to right): The Younger Family enjoying their balloons from the balloon artist; CenterStage’s Dance Workshop led by choreographer Sandra Rivera; Rabbi Shmully Litvin with his wife Duby Litvin and children at the Trager Family JCC’s first birthday party; ELC singing Happy Birthday in Hebrew in the Weisberg Family Lobby; Jennifer Embry I.’s 6 a.m. cycling class celebrating; Adam Rogers and daughter Olivia coloring; Jesse Barfield and Katelyn Graves at the CenterStage Dance Workshop; Ranen Omer-Sherman with his wife and son at the Trager Family JCC first birthday party; Laura’s Saturday Body Pump Class.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)





# FEDERATION

## The Best Prescription: Parris Siblings Share their “Why” for Commitment to Trager Family JCC

By Stephanie Smith  
For Community

*This is the seventh 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.*

Roshann Parris likes to tell how she and her brother, Harry, grew up in the back of Mohawk Drugs — a modest corner drug store owned by their parents, Stella and Arnold Parris. “We learned at the earliest age how to politely answer phones, sweep the floors, dust the shelves and jump out of Dad’s pick-up truck to deliver prescriptions to those too sick to come pick them up,” Roshann recalls. “That little drug store taught us a lot about life and people, and about what community truly meant.”

It was from that corner pharmacy that she and her brother made the journey to the “Center.” Because their parents were always working, mom or dad would often run the sister/brother duo to the JCC in the Mohawk Drugs delivery truck for Hebrew School, sports, summer swimming, Young Judea and BBYO.

“The Center was our True North,” Roshann says. “It was the source of life-

long friendships. Year after year, some of our greatest childhood memories unfolded there. These many decades later, we cherish what the community of friends-turned-family meant to us — and what it will now mean for generations hence.”

Harry says those very childhood memories prompted them to donate to the Trager Family JCC Capital Campaign. “We gave because of how important the JCC was in our lives growing up,” he explains. “It was a conduit to other Jewish kids in Louisville, a place to gather and play with our friends.”

“We are very lucky to have grown up around the Tragers,” Harry adds. “Our contribution enabled us to show our support for who they are and what they are continuing to do for our community. They have been the epitome of a wonderful family, not just through their commitment to the business and philanthropic community, but also through their incredible support of the Jewish community of Louisville.”

When visiting from Kansas City, Mo., Roshann took advantage of the opportunity to take a selfie at the construction site for the new Trager Family JCC. “I’ll be in Louisville for a BBYO reunion this fall,” she says, “and can’t wait to cross the threshold for the first time and see our parents’ names on a classroom wall.

There’s no question in our minds that they’re smiling down on those kids every single day.”

When asked what message she’d like to convey to potential donors, Roshann answers with one of her favorite quotes by Winston Churchill: “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

“The chance to support the Trager Family’s enormous generosity is a gift back to each of us who felt touched by our life experiences at the JCC,” she says. “That special place put its hand-

print on our hearts forever. We are who we are because of it. Together, with our parents, kids and grandkids, we couldn’t be more grateful for the chance to pay that forward for generations to come.”

*Roshann and Harry Parris both live in Kansas City. Harry is a private wealth manager; Roshann runs her 35-year-old public relations firm and serves as an international “lead” on the White House advance staff.*



Harry Parris and his sister, Roshann Parris



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Now is the time to take the next step in making it an enduring part of your Jewish legacy. As you plan for the future, think about what your Jewish legacy means to you. And please consider the institution closest to your heart in your will or estate plan.





# NEWS

## ISRAELI STREET FAIR

*Continued from page 1*

Last May's Fair arrived less than a month after the Trager Family JCC opened. Not surprisingly, there was abundant curiosity about the new facility – many fairgoers took the opportunity to tour the building.

Call it a case of Nothing Succeeds Like Success. Still, "we're improving the stuff that needed to be improved," says event chair Becky Admony. A prime example is the larger tent, sheltering visitors who'd just assume not have the sun beating down on their falafel. And speaking of

tasty consumables, the Israeli Street Fair is, literally, catering to its audience. Acknowledging some long lines for food last year, organizers are striving to bolster culinary efficiency, which will be happy news for fans of returning celebrity Louisville chef Noam Bilitzer. There will be selected adult beverages and appropriately indulgent desserts.

Returning vendors include Congregation Adath Jeshurun's gift shop, and representatives from the Steam Exchange Community Arts Center, known for their T-shirts that spell out various ways to pronounce "Louisville" (one, naturally, in Hebrew letters).

Like last year, the Israeli Street Fair

will boast a kibbutz area (activities still to be decided). A DJ will play Israeli tunes – "we're still working on the live-music element," Siegwald says, recalling that Cantors David Lipp (from Adath Jeshurun) and Sharon Hordes (Keneseth Israel) participated last time around.

Asked if there'd be anything special to mark Israel's 75th birthday, Siegwald would say only that "I have a really neat idea -- I just don't quite know how to execute it yet."

Meanwhile, planners are doing all they can to spread the Fair-centric word. Last year's turnout," Admony says, was spurred largely by targeted advertising and big pushes on social media.

If all the above isn't sufficient incentive, consider what may well be the Fair's guests of honor: two camels, sourced from the exotic territory known as Carlisle, Ohio.

"Actually, we had them here five years ago when Israel turned 70," Admony recalls. Queried as to the number of prospective humps, she demurred. The answer, it seems, may have to wait a little while longer.

For more information on the 2023 Israeli Street Fair, visit <http://jewishlouisville.org/israelistreetfair>.



Crowds enjoy a gorgeous afternoon at last year's Israeli Street Fair.

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# PICTURE THIS: NCJW BREAKFAST



Clockwise from above: Visitors gathered at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Foundation Auditorium for the NCJW Louisville's Advocacy in Action Jewish Voice for Choice breakfast on March 29, 2023; Rachel and Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg; Kentucky State Representative Nima Kulkarni; (L-R) Jessica Kalb, Lisa Sobel and Sarah Baron accept the Sonya and Dr. Ronald Levine Jewish Voice for Choice Award; recipients pictured with family and friends. (Photos courtesy of NCJW Louisville)



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# PICTURE THIS: YOM HASHOAH



Pictured (from left to right): Students from St. Francis of Assisi and LBSY come together to light the memorial candles and recite the narration; Cantors Lauren Adesnik, Sharon Hordes and David Lipp perform "The Butterfly" with pianist Jeff Jamner; Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport; A scene from Center-Stage's "The Diary of Anne Frank"; Flutist Kathy Karr and Bassoonist Matthew Karr. The remembrance took place March 17, 2023 at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Foundation Auditorium (Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



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# Meet the 2023 JFCS MOSAIC Award Honorees

By Courtney Evans, JFCS

Over the years, the JFCS MOSAIC Awards have become a hallmark of our efforts to promote social progress and celebrate diversity. This year's event promises to be no exception.

The 2023 JFCS MOSAIC Awards dinner is just around the corner on May 16, at The Olmsted.

This year's honorees represent a diverse array of backgrounds, professions, and experiences, all united by their unwavering commitment to creating a more just, equitable, and welcoming community.

**Natalia Bishop** is an experienced diversity and inclusion leader and startup community builder. She founded Story Louisville, the first entrepreneurial hub in Louisville focusing on inclusive innovation. She went on to mentor, coach, and invest in historically marginalized founders to create a more inclusive and vibrant start up community in Louisville. Now, in her role as the Director of Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship at UofL's Healthy Equity Innovation Hub, Ms. Bishop works to advance health equity outcomes for historically marginalized communities through community engagement-led



NATALIA BISHOP

innovation. Ms. Bishop's expertise in the tech and startup ecosystem combined with her commitment to equity and social justice positions her to be an incredible agent of change in our community and we're honored to name her a 2023 MOSAIC Honoree.

**Victor Eddie** is a community leader, advocate, and founder of New Hope International, a nonprofit serving the refugee and immigrant community. Shortly after Victor arrived in Louisville he enrolled in a leadership training for refugee community leaders at JFCS and created the Burundian Community of Kentucky. He worked tirelessly to connect newly arrived refugees to critical resources and assist them in navigating life in America, all while working towards his degree in professional counseling. Victor is an empathetic advocate, serving on the Louisville Human Relations



VICTOR EDDIE

Commission, and empowers others to follow their dreams with dignity and respect, making him an apt recipient of the 2023 MOSAIC Award.

**Maha Kolko** is a community builder at her core. In her role as Sponsorship Developer at Kentucky Refugee Ministries she works with countless faith communities, corporate interest groups, and neighborhood leaders to provide sustainable networks of support to newly arrived refugees. Working to build lasting relationships across differences, Maha takes on any challenge that comes her way. Her dedication and advocacy make Louisville more welcoming to newcomers and strengthen the fabric of our community. We are honored to present her with a MOSAIC Award.

**Nima Kulkarni** pursues justice for all in greater Louisville through



MAHA KOLKO



NIMA KULKARNI

her work as a public servant in the Kentucky State Legislature, her private work as an immigration attorney, and through her nonprofit – the New American Initiative. In her own words, she is “devoted to immigrants and immigrants’ rights and feel that they should be involved and engaged members of our community and that we should all benefit and learn from each other.” Nima’s legal expertise, her personal experience as a first-generation immigrant, and her sense of justice have positioned her to be an incredible changemaker in our community and an ideal recipient of a MOSAIC Award.

**Luis de León** is a journalist, musician, artist, and activist. Through his publication, La Esquina, he connects Spanish language speakers to local government, health education, critical weather events and social justice happenings.



LUIS DE LEON

Through his band, he connects people to one another. Through his activism, Luis fights for a more equitable and just community for all. Luis has a compassionate and joyful spirit, evident to those around him. This spirit, in conjunction with his commitment to lowering the barriers for Spanish language speakers to connect to the community make us lucky to name Luis a 2023 MOSAIC Honoree.

The JFCS MOSAIC Awards is an extraordinary opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for social progress and community building. We hope you will join us on May 16, at The Olmsted and become part of a movement that is helping to shape a more inclusive and equitable future for all. Don't miss out on this incredible event and join us in honoring the exceptional leaders of our community. Tickets on sale now at the JFCS website: [www.jfcsloouisville.org](http://www.jfcsloouisville.org) or scan the QR Code below.



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# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

## Bridget Bard joins Federation staff as Manager of Young Leadership and Engagement



Bridget Bard, a former assistant director of Louisville's Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, has joined the Jewish Federation of Louisville as its new Manager of Young

Leadership and Engagement.

A native of Indianapolis, Bard earned a B.A. in Psychology from Bellarmine University and an M.A. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Louisville. She comes to current her position as a Jew by Choice, which affords her an decidedly intriguing perspective. On her first day at work, "a thought that often crossed my mind was, 'What is a young, convert to Judaism doing in this role?' I don't even have any young Jewish friends!"

It didn't take long, however, for Bard to begin finding her professional rhythm.

"I had my first coffee meetings with young, Jewish people, representing so many different backgrounds and expectations," she says. "The established people got invitations to join the NextGen Alliance, a committee of dedicated young people who want to bring their programmatic ideas to life in the community. The newcomers received as many connecting points as I could think of, from potential mentors to registering for upcoming events."

Bard's core constituency comprises adults ages 20 to 45. "My mis-

sion is to meet people where they are," she explains, "and provide the best resources so they can 'level up' in their spiritual, personal, and/or professional development."

She's realized that, essentially, "I got here the same way we all got here. I followed my heart and joined the Jewish community by building a network of personal connections to keep me afloat."

Describing Jewish Louisville as "one, interconnected network of families and friends," Bard encourages young adults to reach out, and to participate actively in Jewish life. A young Jewish Louisvillian might assume they don't belong, because "thousands of us have been assuming that for years now."

She says that the Brandeis University-led Study of Jewish Louisville, which found that there are considerably more Jews in Louisville than was previously thought, should make people realize they're far from being isolated.

"I'm here to say that I got here because I decided that I did belong," Bard says. "I want all of our Jewish young adults, whether they are newcomers or lifelong Louisvillians, to know that there is a community for them here, and that they have the power to mold it and make it into what they want to see -- because we all belong here."

## U of L Health Honors Morris Weiss, M.D.

On Thursday, March 30, U of L Health dedicated the Morris M. Weiss, Jr., M.D., and Weiss Family Conference Room at the U of L Health – Jewish – Heart Hospital (Rudd Center) to honor and celebrate the work of Morris Weiss, M.D., and the multigenerational impact of his family.

Dr. Weiss' great uncle was instrumental in the founding and growth of Jewish Hospital. His father was then one of Jewish's first cardiologists, and Dr. Weiss practiced as a

cardiologist at Jewish for 60 years, retiring this year. At the dedication, Dr. Weiss (who goes by the nickname "Moose") shared that he felt this was an honor not only to his family, but to the Jewish leaders, advocates, and philanthropists who built and sustained the hospital.

"This was why Jewish Hospital was founded," said John Walsh, CEO of Jewish and U of L Health Heart Hospital. "Jewish leaders and everyday citizens came together and created a hospital where Jewish doctors could practice and committed to also serving the poor in our community.

His family donated personally and helped lead this work, securing additional key funding and support."

Dr. Weiss graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1958. His father, Morris Weiss Sr., graduated from that same school in 1925. Altogether, no fewer than five members from the Weiss family are School of Medicine alumni – which may be a school record. Dr. Weiss still volunteers several times a week at the school's Kornhauser Health Sciences Library.

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Morris Weiss, M.D., pictured here (second from left) with family members on March 30, 2023, when UofL Health dedicated a conference room at the UofL Health – Jewish – Heart Hospital (Rudd Center) to honor and celebrate the work of the noted cardiologist.



# 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 9-9:40 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 4. Zoom links are provided in AJ's weekly newsletter. Subscribe at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com).

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 for May 20. Kindly RSVP at [www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations).

Adath Jeshurun's Derby Shabbat will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. Guests are invited to wear Derby hats and enjoy Derby-inspired desserts following the Shabbat service.

AJ is sponsoring an Erev Lag B'Omer Kabbalah class on Monday, May 8 at 7 p.m. Rabbi Corber will be teaching this class, and it will be held in the JCC. Learn the deep and many layers of meaning hidden within the enigma that is Lag B'Omer. Free of charge and open and accessible to all! For more information, please contact Rabbi Corber at [rabbicorber@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:rabbicorber@adathjeshurun.com).

Adath Jeshurun invites the community to a Mother's Day Tea and Jewgrass on Sunday, May 14 at 2 p.m. Enjoy fine teas, finger sandwiches, desserts, and music by the Bluegrass group Jacob's Ladder. 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 28 at 5 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. One Year Anniversary: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Approximately one year ago, a devastating fire destroyed the Louisville Chabad House. Jewish Law requires that a damaged holy book that contains the Name of G-d be given the same respect as a person who has passed away, so must be buried in a Jewish cemetery. On Monday, May 8 at 3 p.m., Chabad invites the community to join in burying the many sacred books and texts which were damaged by the fire. The burial will take place at the Agudas Achim Cemetery, 2737 Preston Highway.

Chabad invites the community to join together to show respect for G-d's Name by attending the book burial. People are welcome to bring torn books or other holy items that are ready for burial. At the same time, Chabad plans to make a major announcement regarding a new Chabad Center to be built in Louisville. For more information, email to [Rabbi@Chabadky.com](mailto:Rabbi@Chabadky.com)

Does Judaism Believe in the Supernatural?

Dreams, astrology, "evil eye," and a whole host of other paranormal ideas are probably not what one would expect to hear about at a Jewish studies class. Yet, according to Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, as many of these ideas are making a comeback as "new-age" beliefs, the question of what does the Torah say about these things becomes relevant.

Enter "Jewpernatural" – a four-session course which will dive into classical Jewish scholarship and come up with real answers on most everything paranormal. It is hoped that both skeptics & believers (and those in between) will find it fascinating.

Taught by Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, these classes will explore such things as: Should we take dreams seriously or just ignore them? How real is astrology, zodiac signs, and other indicators of a predetermined "destiny"? Why do we wish each other "Mazal Tov" if it literally means "good astrology"? Can someone put a "curse" on another person? What is the meaning of the "Evil Eye"? Can we communicate with "spirits"? And is there really life on other planets?

Classes meet in May Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC. The cost for the entire course is \$80. including textbook. Register at [www.myjli.com/learning/louisville](http://www.myjli.com/learning/louisville) or email [rabbi@chabadky.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadky.com)

## Chavurat Shalom

The month of May features everything from Judaism and Dreams to Senior University. We'll meet for lunch at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium and our programs will start at 1 p.m. All programs will also be available starting at 1 p.m. via Zoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, May 4 - Joyce Lynn, co-founder of the Jewish Association of Spirituality and Dreams, will present Dreams and Judaism. Lunch will include cheese quesadillas, Mexican-style rice, black bean and corn salad, fresh fruit, and Mexican-style chocolate mousse.

Thursday, May 11 - Saxophonist Mike Tracy, Professor of Music and Director, Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at U of L will make his Chavurat Shalom debut. Lunch will include salmon cakes, mashed potatoes, green peas and carrots, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and strawberry trifle.

Thursday, May 18 - It's back, friends: Senior University 2023 will be live and in-person, with a full day of learning, camaraderie, entertainment, and, of course, delicious food. See additional info below.

Thursday, May 25 - Singer, guitarist, songwriter Tyrone Cotton will return to entertain us. Lunch will include barbecue chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate spoon cake.

Senior University returns in-person on Thursday, May 18, from 9:30-3:30, and it promises to be better than ever! We'll start by welcoming everyone with a light breakfast nosh, and then proceed to enjoy a full day that will include learning, entertainment, and a delicious lunch featuring Mickey Heideman's famous mushroom barley soup.

We'll be covering everything from financial planning to the current challenges being championed by the ACLU to Heaven Hill Bourbon 101 to Cantor Lauren does Broadway. This full day of learning, camaraderie, and entertainment is only \$20, payable by cash or check at the door. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/Senior-University](http://thetemplelouky.org/Senior-University) or by calling 502-423-1818.

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 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 regular 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 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/KICyoutube-live](http://tinyurl.com/KICyoutube-live). Please visit [kenesethisrael.com](http://kenesethisrael.com) for times and Covid policies.

Jews & Brews with Rabbi Ben Freed is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom and in person at the Trager Family JCC– the weekly Torah portion is studied. Rabbi Freed will also be hosting Jews & Brews: After Hours May 11 at 7 p.m. at a brewery TBD - please check [kenesethisrael.com](http://kenesethisrael.com) for the location.

Join Cantor Hordes as she takes you on a journey through the sun salutations, and meditations of Torah at Torah Yoga on May 4th at 6:30 p.m. following minyan. Some yoga mats are available, please bring your own if you have one. Suggested donation is \$10.

Kids and families of all kinds, come join us for our Family Shabbat! There will be a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a delicious meal. Every first Friday of the month at 6 p.m., this month on May 5. This event is free but please RSVP to [rsvp@kenesethisrael.com](mailto:rsvp@kenesethisrael.com) or call 502-459-2780.



# AROUND TOWN

Interested in counting the omer? Join Rabbi Freed for a continuation of his five week class running Wednesdays May 3rd to the 24th at 6:30 p.m. for A Kabbalist's Guide to the Omer: Rabbi Moshe Cordevero 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.

Have a toddler in your life? Come join us for our new Tot Shabbat, by popular demand, now twice a month! Join us May 13 and 27 at 11 a.m., to 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.

Celebrate Lag B'Omer with KI! Come relive your camp days with us May 9 at 6:30 p.m. featuring a celebration that includes archery (and instruction), campfire sing-alongs, and a cook out! RSVPs requested at <https://tinyurl.com/KICLagBOMer>.

Celebrate Shavuot with KI at our shared Tikkun Ley'l Shavuot on May 24 starting with minyan at 6:00 p.m. Come hear from scholars and clergy all around Louisville and enjoy a delicious dairy dinner and desserts. Learning will go as late as participants would like to stay. Join us the next morning at 9:30 a.m. for first day Shavuot services and 9:30 a.m. on May 27th for Second day Shavuot and Shabbat services.

Come celebrate the mothers in your life at KI's Mother's Day Brunch May 14 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. Reservations 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.

## Kol Israel Community of Kentucky

Join Jewish Renewal Friends from Florida, Minnesota, and elsewhere, for Shabbat on Saturday, May 13 for the Bloomington, Ind. Renewal Congregation's Torah and Song provided by Rabbi Marc Labowitz and Rebecca Tzow, with davening by Chaiyla Lerner. 10:15 a.m. Zoom Room opens for Schmoozing; 10:30 a.m. Services. Reservations necessary by calling 502-341-1595 or via email [KolIsraelKY@gmail.com](mailto:KolIsraelKY@gmail.com)

Inner Peace for Challenging Times Community-Wide Jewish Meditation Gathering. Gather Monday, May 15 at 9 p.m. with Jewish communities from around the country to experience inner spaciousness and healing in these difficult times. 40-minute sessions include transformational teachings, Hebrew chanting, and deep silence, led by Reb Brian Yosef Schachter-Brooks from Torah of Awakening. Register and Join Zoom via email: [kolisraelky@gmail.com](mailto:kolisraelky@gmail.com), or by calling 502-341-1595. In Partnership with ALEPH Alliance Jewish Renewal (National) Interfaith Paths to Peace.

## Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

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

## NCJW, Louisville Section

NCJW is co-sponsoring a free Alzheimer's Association event focusing on Effective Communication Strategies and Alzheimer's Disease, Thursday, May 11 at 1 p.m. More information and to register for this free event is available at: [ncjwlou.org](http://ncjwlou.org)

## Temple Shalom

The community is welcome at Temple Shalom's Shabbat services, Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Services are led by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and members of the congregation.

The Men's Club breakfast meeting previously scheduled for April 9 has been rescheduled for May 7 at 10 a.m. Temple Shalom member and past-President, Wes Gersh, will be the guest speaker and will be conducting a class on "Investing 101." Brunch will feature a full buffet breakfast of eggs, turkey or chicken sausage, hash browns or tater tots, bagels, fruit, sweets, coffee, and juice for a donation of

just \$5.00 per attendee. Open to all. RSVP by May 4 to [johnsilletto@yahoo.com](mailto:johnsilletto@yahoo.com) or [mjra2628@juno.com](mailto:mjra2628@juno.com).

Join us for our monthly kid-friendly No-Shush Shabbat service Friday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. Benji Berlow will lead a fun, musical service for all ages.

## The Temple

Please join us on Saturday, April 29 at 7 p.m. 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. Afterward we will host a formal concert featuring our new Cantor and several musical guests, followed by 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 Tuesdays from 2-5 p.m., Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., or by appointment. Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop](https://facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop). If these times are not convenient, please call Sheila Lynch at 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein at 502-291-5699, or Karen Waldman at 502-425-4360 to make an appointment to shop.

Adult Education continues 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.

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. and 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 May 15 and June 5.

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# LIFECYCLE

## B'nai Mitzvah



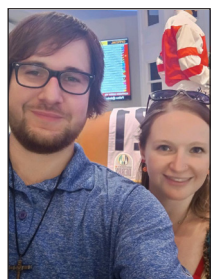
**Sofia Hughes** the daughter of Steven Hughes and Tatyana Malkin, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 20 at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple. She is the granddaughter of Steve and Donna

Hughes and the late Alexander Malkin and Valentia Surzhko.

Sofia is in Grade 7 at St. Gabriel The Archangel School, where she proudly professes her Jewish faith and is known to argue the Torah with her religion teachers. Sofia competes in Archery. She is active in Girl Scouts, Martial Arts, and Student Government. She was also active in Slava Ukraini, an organization that helps raise money for humanitarian aid for civilians on the ground in Ukraine. Sofia loves reading, drawing, animation, and storytelling. For her Pledge 13 Project, Sofia is collecting items for the Humane Society.

**Gavin Rolnick** son of Jonathan and Amy Rolnick, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Atlanta on March 25, 2023. Gavin's grandparents are Abe and Harriet Rolnick of Louisville, and Stuart and Ilana Jeiger of Atlanta.

## Engagements



Beth and Rick Haines and Susan and Jonathan Schneider are pleased to announce the engagement of Whitney Haines and Justin Schneider. Whitney is a graduate of Bellarmine University and is

a Mental Health Counselor with Seven Counties Services. Justin is a graduate of the University of Louisville J.B. Speed School of Engineering and is a Mechanical Engineer with Cepeda Associates. A Spring 2024 wedding is being planned.

## Obituaries

### Helene Vicki Russell Allgood

Helene Vicki Russell Allgood died on April 3, 2023 in Louisville, Kentucky. The native of Chelsea, Massachusetts, was born on July 27, 1949. She graduated from Peabody High School (Peabody, MA) and the University of Massachusetts. After graduation, Helene was a buyer for Macy's and Singer Company. She was an avid supporter of the Humane Society and opened her home to cats, which she cared for tenderly.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis "Lou" B. Allgood, parents, Ralph and Irene (Plotnick) Russell, and her brother Glenn Scott Russell.

Helene is survived by her brother Jeffrey Russell; her children Cindy Hardin (Chris) and Greg Allgood; her grandchildren Tyler Allgood (Thi), Drew Allgood, Sean Allgood, Jena Ainsworth, and Piper Ainsworth, her nieces Meredith Douglass (Adam) and Megan Russell; nephews Benjamin Russell and Isaac Russell.

A graveside service was held Friday, April 7, 2023, in Arlington Memorial Park, Sandy Springs, Georgia, where she was buried beside her beloved husband, Lou.

May her memory be a blessing. Memorial contributions to the Kentucky Humane Society or the American Cancer Society.



### Alvin "Buddy" Borowick

Alvin "Buddy" Borowick, 96, died on April 3, 2023, surrounded by his children in Louisville, Kentucky. He was born on May 28, 1926, to Azriel and Julia Borowick,

and he was the second of six children born to this wonderful, hard-working, very young set of parents.

From an early age, a strong work ethic and a sense of taking care of family were instilled in Buddy.

Buddy grew up with his family and worked hard both in town and on the farm his parents owned on the outskirts of Louisville. As a youngster, Buddy and his older sister, Sonia, went to school and Hebrew school to learn the values of an honest and faithful family that stayed with Buddy and made him a very successful man, son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and businessman that

he became during his time here on earth. Buddy lived a long and prosperous life during which he was responsible for the employment of almost everyone in and related to the Borowick family at some time or another.

He went into the U.S. Army during World War 2 and began his journey of learning how to conduct his business affairs and make connections with influential businesspeople, which served him well throughout his life. After his return from the military and studies in business at the University of Louisville, Buddy jumped into the retail business world in Louisville and established himself as a force in the marketplace.

Buddy began K&S (Kentuckiana Sales) Red Stamp and connected with multiple grocery stores in Louisville and southern Indiana to sell the stamps so when people bought groceries, they would get stamps with their purchases that they would collect in books and then take to the redemption center, also owned by Buddy, to redeem the stamps in books for merchandise at the redemption center.

He then opened Bluegrass Distributing Company at 511 West Main Street, now the site of the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, which was the precursor to the Walmart shopping store concept.

Buddy's work environments were always very family oriented. Still, everyone had immense respect and a heartfelt obligation to do the best they could at their job to make Bluegrass and his other businesses a success.

Along the way, Buddy met the love of his life, Linda; they married and had three very lucky children, Kerry, Jodi, and Rick. Each of these three children were blessed with wonderful children of their own, and all were very special grandchildren to Buddy and became his love and pride as he continued into his golden years and most especially after Linda left the family much too early.

He will be sorely missed by friends and family alike, and there will be a void not easily filled for many years to come. He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda, his parents, and his sisters, Sonia Davidson and Corrine Goodman.

Buddy is survived by his children, Kerry Borowick (Stacey), Jodi Abend (Robert), and Richard Borowick (Cami), grandchildren Miranda Borowick, Joshua Abend, Nicholas Abend, Aaron Abend, Michael Borowick, Hunter Borowick, and Alayna

Borowick; brothers Hershel Borowick, Leo Borowick (Shirley) and sister, Florence Weinstein.

A heartfelt appreciation to Peggy Briner, for her care, love, and being a part of our family.

Funeral services were held April 5th, 2023 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in Anshei Sfard Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Anshei Sfard Congregation.

### Stephen A. "Steve" Kahn

Stephen A. "Steve" Kahn, 92, of Louisville, died April 11, 2023, at Sam Swope Care Center, Masonic Homes of Louisville. He was a native of New York, NY, born April 23, 1930 to the late Lawrence and Hortense Mack Kahn.

Steve attended Woodmere High School and received his bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University. He 1949, he was inducted in the US Army and served as a sergeant. He was associated with California Closets, which later became Cardinal Closets. Steve was a master designer with Cardinal Closets here in Louisville for over 26 years.

He is survived by his sons, Roger of Scarsdale, NY, and Douglas of Okeechobee, FL; his daughter, Shari Nesler of Tenaflly, NJ; his brother, Richard Kahn of Idaho; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, with one on the way.

Cremation was chosen. Memorial gifts may be made to the donor's favorite charity.



### Howard Craig Levine

Howard Craig Levine, age 63, passed peacefully on April 11, 2023, after a valiant fight with cancer. Howard was born in Louisville, KY, on July 23, 1959, the

oldest child of Dr. Ronald and Sonia Levine.

Howard loved to travel and spent several years living in Bermuda, where he worked in the restaurant business and made lifelong friends. After his return to Louisville, Howard continued working in restaurants until he decided to pursue a career as an Occupational Therapist. It was then that he found great fulfillment helping seniors age gracefully at Presby-

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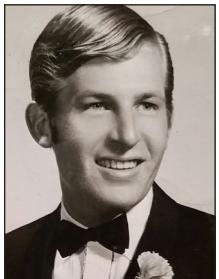


# LIFECYCLE

terian Homes of Kentucky. Howard was also instrumental in creating the first public dog park in Louisville. He loved taking his dogs there to play.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Karen (Klein); parents, Dr. Ronald and Sonia Levine; brother Glenn (Marci) and sister Stacy Orenstein; nieces Jordyn Levine and Jana Orenstein (Sam Gerold); nephews Daniel Levine and Zev Orenstein; his mother-in-law Sylvia Klein, and his trusty furry sidekick, Leo. Howard was one of the kindest, most gentle people who made many friends over the years that remained an incredibly important part of his life.

Memorial services were held April 14th at Herman Meyer & Son. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Meghan's Mountain Charitable Foundation 4510 Ivy Crest Circle, Louisville, KY 40241, Gilda's Club of Kentucky, the Humane Society, or the charity of the donor's choice.



## Ronald Melrose

Ronald Melrose, beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2023, at the age of 83. Ronnie was born in Philadelphia on July 31,

1939 to Joseph and Mable Melrose.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Heather Dreer Melrose; his children, Drs. Evan (Jennifer Vane) Melrose of Austin, Texas, Robin (Ross) Berman of Thousand Oaks, California and Shannon (Dr. Edward II) Rothschild of Louisville, Kentucky; his brother, Stewart Melrose; and his eight grandchildren, Sophie and Ezra Berman, Reagan, Trey and Emory Rothschild, and Madison, Noah and Parker Melrose; along with many cousins and friends that were like family.

Ronnie made friends in all the places he lived; Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Austin and Louisville. He served in the US Army, was a 2nd generation Master Mason, a member of Beth Shalom Austin and The Temple in Louisville, Kentucky.

Ronnie and his wife, Heather, loved to travel the world together. He was a proud and loving father who always put his family first. Ronnie was a friend to all. He was kind, compassionate and always provided great life advice. The children's friends referred to him as 'Coach', for all the life coaching he gave them. Ron-

nie will be deeply missed by his family and friends, but his memory will live on through the love and kindness he showed to everyone he met.

A graveside service was held April 24th at The Temple Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation ([www.alzdiscovery.org/donate](http://www.alzdiscovery.org/donate)) or a charity of your choice. Please leave memories or comments for the family at [www.forevermissed.com/ronniemelrose](http://www.forevermissed.com/ronniemelrose).



## Elliott Steven Sadle

Elliott Steven Sadle passed away on Saturday evening, April 1st, 2023, 11th of Nisan 5783, after a 2+ year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born on January 30th, 1948,

to the late Shirley Gladys Sadle (nee Asrael) and Alexander Sadle in Washington, DC. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his beloved sister, Louise SadleMacintosh, and stepmother Mollie Sadle.

Elliott grew up in Petersburg, Virginia, graduating from Petersburg High School in 1966. He completed his undergraduate education at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. While in school, he met the love of his life, Diane Fleischman Sadle in 1972. They were married on December 23rd, 1973. He earned a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University in 1983.

Elliott and Diane have two sons, Justin and Glenn. Elliott was always a hands-on father and was truly devoted to his sons. After living in Baldwin, NY, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the Sadles moved to Louisville in 1990.

Elliott started Tae Kwon Do at the JCC with Justin and Glenn and continued with it after his sons lost interest. Starting at the age of 43, he worked his way all the way up to 5th-degree black belt master instructor. He had a true love and passion for teaching Tae Kwon Do, especially to children.

Elliott was deeply involved in the Jewish community, especially Keneseth Israel Congregation. He volunteered regularly, leading minyan and attending whenever his health allowed. He was an active member of the KI Men's Club.

In addition to his wife and sons, Elliott is survived by his sisters, Claire Good-

man (Len) of Charlotte, NC, and Rivka Silverman (Yaakov) of Silver Spring, Md; Step-Brothers, Jay Berger (Brooke) of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, Richard Berger of Virginia Beach, VA, and Burton Berger of Los Angeles, CA; Sister-in-Law Roberta Meyer (Yoram) of Morristown, NJ; Brother-in-Law Alec Macintosh (Susan) of Greensboro, NC; Uncle Stanley Asrael, of Silver Spring, MD; many nephews, nieces, great nephews, and great nieces; and the Halperns, who are like family to the Sadles.

The family expresses their gratitude to the U of L Health Medical Center East/Brown Cancer Center, and Drs. Bird, Sharma, and Scoggins for their care in helping Elliott beat the odds for over two years.

Funeral Services were held April 4th at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Elliott's memory can be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation or Hosparus Health of Louisville (6200 Dutchmans Lane, 40205).



## Lois Shapero,

Lois Shapero, daughter of Blanch Leifer Plank and William Plank, died peacefully in her home surrounded by her family on April 20th, 2023.

Born in Muncie, Indiana, Lois lived most of her life in Louisville, Kentucky. She is survived by her husband, Julian Shapero, her children Vicki Lurie (Ronnie), Leslie Trager, Amy Manuel (Gerald); and her grandchildren, Nathan Lurie, Alyssa Lurie, Samantha Trager, Carly Trager, Megan Manuel, and Leah Manuel.

Lois was the definition of kindness and a gift to all who knew her. She was warm-hearted, loving, selfless, and she lit up a room. She put everyone before herself. Lois was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to all who knew her. She was a passionate woman with many talents. She was an accomplished artist, pianist, competitive tennis player, and bridge player. She was an active member of The Temple. She was a vibrant and creative person and will leave a lasting legacy to everyone who knew her.

We are incredibly grateful for all of the caregivers who provided love and support over the last several years during her time

of need.

Graveside services were April 23rd at The Temple Cemetery. Contributions can be made to The Temple, 5101 US-42, Louisville, KY, 40241, in Lois Shapero's honor.



## Evelyn G. Smith

Evelyn G. Smith, 99, passed away March 25, 2023. The Louisville native was born November 18, 1923, to Sarah and Louis Glazer. She graduated from Louisville Girls High School

in 1941 and the University of Alabama in 1945. She was the first person in her family to graduate from college. While there, Evelyn met the love of her life, Dr. Stanley E. Smith, a Second Lieutenant stationed in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. They were married for 38 years until Stanley's death in 1984.

Evelyn ran the family household and helped Stanley in his medical practice. They were devoted to each other and their family and remained so until the end of their lives. After Stanley's death, Evelyn moved to Palm Beach, Florida, where she lived for over 30 years. Evelyn lived a busy life in Palm Beach -- she made new friends, went to the theater, played cards and mahjong, and enjoyed many visits from family. She kept up with the times, learning to use a laptop at 85 and an iPad at 90.

Affectionately known as "Mema" by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Evelyn always placed family at the center of her universe. Evelyn is survived by her children, Dr. Samuel Smith (Cheryl) of Nashville, Terry Price (James) of Louisville, and Susan Michal-Smith (Norman Rabkin) of Arlington, VA; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Evelyn's parents, husband, and sisters, Ada Flamm and Elaine Frank, sister-in-law, Elaine Feiden, and brother-in-law, Dr. Harold Michal-Smith, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held privately at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Stanley E. and Evelyn Smith Medical Scholarship at University of Louisville, or the charity of your choice.

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