

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY



INSIDE:
Trager Family JCC
Participates in
Pride Festival
SEE PAGE 9

FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 5 | May 26, 2023 | 6 Sivan 5783

Jubilation in bronze Sculpture honoring Charles and Marian Weisberg back on display at the Trager Family JCC

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

When you come through the front doors of the Trager Family JCC, swipe your membership card and stroll into the Weisberg Family Lobby, you see it: a bronze sculpture of a tree growing up and outward, its branches extending left and right, topped by figures in motion captured for an instant, forever frozen in time.

Created in 1989 by renowned Louisville sculptor Barney Bright, the Tree of Life was commissioned by Weisberg brothers Frank, Ron and Alan and their respective families. They wanted to honor their parents – Charles and Miriam Weisberg – and chose Bright to be their artistic facilitator. (He died in 1997 at the age of 70.)

For more than three decades, the sculpture occupied a spot inside the former Jewish Community Center. When the old JCC closed in early 2022,

the piece was brought to the Trager Family JCC and put in storage. But the intent was always to put it back on public display.

A few things had to be taken care of before that could happen, principally crafting a new base that would complement Bright's sculpture. Interior designer Robin Miller, a former Federation staffer who now sits on its board, was tasked with finding an appropriate person to take on the assignment.

The project fell to Logan Blankenship, a young Cincinnati furniture maker who on this day was preparing to secure Bright's sculpture to an imposing slab of veneered white oak. Tape measure in hand, he made some final calculations "because we want to make sure it fits perfectly," he said.

A mere block of wood simply wouldn't do. White oak "is a higher quality wood," explained Blankenship, who'd been hands-on since the preceding October. "It's very durable, very



(L-R) Brothers Frank and Ron Weisberg stand next to the Barney Bright Tree of Life sculpture dedicated to their parents, Charles and Marian Weisberg, at the Trager Family JCC. (Photo by Robyn Kaufman)

strong. You can basically make white oak about any color you can imagine, from extremely light to extremely dark. So that gave us flexibility when I sent samples over, for the group to pick out what color they wanted to go with."

The trick was figuring out how to secure the sculpture to the base without any distracting elements. "The focal

point is the sculpture, not the base," Blankenship emphasized.

In other words, what's most important is how Bright depicts figures in various activities: orchestra musicians, swimmers, a circle of dancers whirling à la Matisse. A figure stands at a lectern, speaking to a group of

See **WEISBERG** on page 23

JCRC Chair Beth Salamon elected to the National Council of Jewish Women's national board

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Beth Salamon, State Policy Advocate Chair at the Louisville chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, has been elected to the NCJW's national board.

Salamon has long and deep experience in community affairs. She joined the Jewish Community Relations Council in 2009, and has chaired the JCRC since July of 2019. An alumna of Temple University's law school, she's drawn on her legal background while confronting some of the thorniest public issues of the day.

"Beth Salamon is as strong as new rope," says JCRC director Matt Golden.

See **SALAMON** on page 4



Beth Salamon speaks at this past March's NCJW Reproductive Freedom Breakfast (Photo courtesy of NCJW Louisville)

From shuls to science to social justice, the Jewish Heritage Fund is a pivotal philanthropic force

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

The Jewish Heritage Fund was established in 2012 and seeded with \$100 million worth of proceeds when the Jewish Hospital organization became part of KentuckyOne Health. Another significant infusion of endowment dollars came in 2017. Over the past decade – during which its assets would grow to approximately \$300 million – JHF would become the principal philanthropic engine supporting Jewish interests in Louisville and throughout much of Kentucky. No other funding source reaches as far and as deep or touches as many lives in the regional Jewish universe. Indeed, since its founding JHF has distributed more than \$80 million

in grants to 110 recipients across the communities it serves.

"The Jewish Heritage Fund has been a true partner," emphasizes Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC., adding that "the creation of the JHF provided the gift of experimenting, taking risks and dreaming."

Under Polson the Fund has demonstrated "an understanding of the impact of matching gifts and support during the pandemic," Wagner says, while at the same time "bolstering our collective response to growing security needs and ensuring that the recent demographic study of Jewish Louisville became a reality. The JHF has committed itself to innovation, excellence and caring. How

See **JHF** on page 5



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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

This Shavuot, one Rabbi is making Teshuva



D'var Torah

Rabbi Joshua Corber

It's curious and ironic how a person can be a committed, observant Jew for his entire adult life but, on the other hand, is unable to broker an honest relationship with G-d. I confess: For the past two decades I have and do believe Torah is a Divine document; I've practiced mitzvot diligently and, have been passionately devoted to Jewish life and teachings – , but until recently, I knew not what it meant to have faith and possessed almost no capacity to trust in G-d. Oddly enough, the Israelites went through a similar experience at Mt. Sinai, an experience our community will soon celebrate on Shavuot (beginning May 25 at sundown).

Camped around the base of Mt. Sinai, having already marveled at the power of G-d at the Red Sea, and now upon seeing the mountain covered in smoke, the Earth shaking, the Universe vibrating, the Israelites have their *Na'aseh v'Nishma* moment – we will obey, and thereafter we will understand. This disposition is considered by the Sages to be the highest crest of faith because we 'preceded understanding with acceptance'; we had seen enough proof of G-d's existence and providence to resolve to obey even that which we did not yet understand.

Yet mere days after this supposed climax in faith, when Moses does not return at the exact time expected, immediately the tribes clamor against Aaron demanding a molten deity to worship. This monumental lapse in judgment is forever etched into the collective Jewish consciousness. It is the Jewish parallel to the Catholic concept of Original Sin, only it is not innate; it is caused. More importantly, it is not inalterable; we can fix our wrongs. Moreover, by fixing this defect we can come to an even higher level of faith than whence we started.

The true miracle of Shavuot is not the thunderous blasting of a nonlocal shofar vibrating the Universe, nor the smoking earthquake-fire that consumed the mountain when G-d spoke. The most miraculous event at Mt. Sinai was that the Israelites performed *teshuva*, were forgiven, and thereby ascended to new heights.

Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik was considered the preeminent giant, the *Godol* of American Judaism throughout the mid-twentieth century. His annual lectures on *teshuva* ([repentance, but literally 'return']) was the most anticipated event of the year for Orthodox Jews. Throughout his many published works, Rav Soloveitchik, known colloquially as *the Rav*, identifies three distinct, albeit overlapping Jewish typologies; *religious man*, *halakhic man*, and *the [lonely] man of faith*. Rabbi Pinchas Peli, a close friend and later biographer of the Rav, attempts to chisel out a fourth typology, known as Repentant Man. This fourth archetype, Peli implies, is the product of a spiritu-

al evolution mandated by the directive of the three primary archetypes so, in a strange way, Repentant Man is the most highly evolved of them all. This is supported *where the penitent stand, even the completely righteous cannot stand*.

There is no need to belabor the philosophical moorings of making *teshuva* except to say that one of the key ingredients, for Peli, Soloveitchik and the great Maimonides, is *CONFESSION*; One can be penitent and penitent know in their hearts the wrongs they have done. But until they express them in written or spoken words, they remain nebulous, and thus their repentance is incomplete. *Teshuva gemura*, complete return to G-d, requires one to confess publicly. So here goes...I am a person in active recovery from alcoholism. It is a disease, not a crime or misdemeanor; I did not decide to become addicted to alcohol. Nevertheless, in my failure to recognize and address this problem I have created tremendous difficulties for other people; wife and children of the husband and father they need and deserve. I deprived my synagogue and the Louisville Jewish community of the rabbi they chose and wanted as a leader.

Were it not for the loving and truthful admonition of my Adath Jeshurun family, for which I am eternally grateful, this disease would have cost me much more. It could have taken my life. It is for this reason that I have made the difficult but necessary decision to resign from my position as Senior Rabbi of Adath Jeshurun. My time here was too short, but if I am to share one thing of importance which I have learned here let it be this; *alcoholism is a disease that affects Jews equally as it does the rest of the population*. In fact we are even more at risk due to our communal stigma, our delusional insistence we are immune and that it is a moral failing. As a result our Jewish brothers and sisters, husbands, wives, friends, daughters, sons are dying of a disease which is entirely treatable. This is madness. If you are suffering from this or any addiction, please reach out to someone and ask for help. You do not have to face this alone. I share my story out of conviction that we as a community MUST break the stigma around addiction. Millions of Americans suffer from addiction; many are dying and many more still suffering. Give us a fighting chance.

There is now great hope and an open road before me. So long as I remain humble and honest with myself, I will become a better man, husband, father, rabbi than I have ever been. I know now that, while I have had many powerful, inspiring experiences on my Jewish journey, the most radical transformation of faith and healing is yet to come. This is good news.

Hag Sameach Y'all

Joshua Corber is Senior Rabbi at Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

For those suffering from addiction, there is help. Our partners at Jewish Family & Career Services offer peer-based alcohol support and counseling, intervention and treatment services to the broader community to further recovery. JFCS can be reached at (502) 452-6341.

Snapshots



Since 2006, Jewish Family & Career Services has hosted the MOSAIC Awards to "recognize Louisville's diverse leaders, changemakers, and humanitarians who are making an impact in our community." This year's event took place on Tuesday, May 9, when five recipients were honored during a reception and dinner at The Olmsted. MOSAIC, by the way, is short for Multicultural Opportunities for Success and Achievement In our Community. Pictured L-R: Kentucky State Representative Nima Kulkarni, one of the evening's five recipients; JFCS CEO David Finke. (Photos by Andrew Adler)

Candles

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

• June 2	@	8:43 p.m.	• June 23	@	8:52 p.m.
• June 9	@	8:47 p.m.	• June 30	@	8:52 p.m.
• June 16	@	8:50 p.m.			

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

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Got a news item for *Community*? Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Monday, June 19** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on

Friday, June 30.

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

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NEWS

SALAMON

Continued from page 1

"She is an unbelievably fierce advocate for the Jewish people and, even more importantly, for just causes that impact our community. I also think she has one of the most impressive moral compasses that I have ever seen in anybody; she has an innate ability to know what is the 'right thing to do' and isn't afraid to do it. Our community is lucky to have her and our JCRC is lucky to have her as our Chair."

In her advocacy role at Louisville NCJW, Salamon tracks the progress of bills in the state general assembly that affect Kentucky women and families, particularly regarding access to reproductive healthcare. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* – with ramifications extending throughout most of the nation – makes her ascendancy to the national board particularly relevant.

The battlelines are stark. During just the past several weeks, debate has raged over the availability of mifepristone (a.k.a. RU-486) for medicinal abortion. As an island of blue in the ocean of red that is Kentucky, Democratic Louisville has the unenviable task of going up against the overwhelmingly Republican legislature.

"It's a barrier, but it's also an opportunity," Salamon acknowledges. "We have to take what we feel is the right thing to do and find a way to make it work. And you know, not everything about Ken-

tucky is necessarily a negative. I think living in a smaller state, you get opportunities on national boards and things like that."

Founded in 1893 and now numbering about 180,000 members, NCJW calls itself "the oldest Jewish women's grassroots organization in the country, continually guided by Jewish values that call on us to improve the lives of the most vulnerable women, children, and families."

Whether on a local or national level, NCJW focuses its attentions on a portfolio of core issues, affecting women, children and families. Not surprisingly, reproductive freedom tops the list, along with various iterations of healthcare. Beyond those parameters, NCJW grapples with such concerns as immigration, equal pay and paid parental leave, gun violence, supporting the Ukrainian people, and efforts by the Israeli government to weaken its judiciary.

"We rely on Beth's knowledge of issues – as well as her connections to community leaders, like-minded organizations, and local and state officials – to guide us through NCJW's advocacy work," says Nancy Chazen, NCJW Louisville's executive director. "She is a valuable liaison between the National

NCJW office and our office here to lead the policy efforts in Kentucky."

In terms of priorities, "right now, reproductive rights are first and foremost in my mind," Salamon says. "And I'm really proud of the fact that NCJW

leans into being progressive and Jewish at the same time – it occupies a faith-based space with a different narrative. Choice is definitely one of those areas where I think we can have great impact."

The Supreme Court's June 2022 decision in

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization – coming almost 50 years after *Roe v. Wade* codified a constitutional right to abortion – was an undeniable blow. Yet Salamon believes that, taking a long view of law and legislation, it's still possible to produce meaningful post-Dobbs reforms.

It might be that "strategy-wise, we start saying 'Okay, this has been 50 years in the making, but maybe we can do the same thing the other side did, which is chip away at the total ban that we have now,'" she says, "and at least see if we can get some common-sense exceptions placed in the law."

Salamon's election to the National Board reflects her longtime commit-

ment to moving the needle of significant social change.

"What a wonderful recognition of Beth's talent and work," says Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC. "There is no doubt she will be a significant thinker and participant in setting the national agenda and priorities of the organization. I look forward to seeing the impact."

There are 58 NCJW sections in the U.S., though much of the activity has centered on areas with larger Jewish populations. Indeed, one of Salamon's incentives for joining the national board was to help balance its representation.

"I think the national organization is realizing that they need some diversity," she says. "It's just my gut feeling about this – I don't have confirmation. But we would go to national board meetings, and in some of the redder states, we're finding that the national messaging was challenging. So I think they're trying to broaden their national board perspective."

"We are thrilled for her, both professionally and personally, to serve on the national NCJW board," Chazen says, adding that Salamon "will give a voice and perspective on issues in a state that is often challenged in providing social justice, like reproductive freedoms, for women and families. We know she will 'Kentuckian-ize' the discussions of these issues to help identify actionable advocacy work in a state like ours."

"... I'm really proud of the fact that NCJW leans into being progressive and Jewish at the same time – it occupies a faith-based space with a different narrative."

–Beth Salamon



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NEWS

JHF

Continued from page 1

fortunate are we all.”

Earlier this month *Community* Managing Editor Andrew Adler sat down with Jeff Polson, the Jewish Heritage Fund's president and CEO, to talk about the fund's core programs and its post-pandemic strategies. The interview, conducted in JHF's offices on the 16th floor of downtown's PNC Tower, has been condensed and lightly edited for clarity.

I wanted to begin with a phrase I saw in your mission statement that says, “We will encourage responsible risk-taking in pursuit of excellence.” Tell us a bit about what “responsible risk-taking” means, and how that notion has evolved in a post-pandemic environment.

If you go back to the origins of who we are, you can trace it back to 1903 with the founding of Jewish Hospital. Over the decades Jewish Hospital developed a reputation for medical innovation and for medical firsts, so they were willing to take risks as was related to medical care. As we as an organization, and our board, started having conversations about ‘What is our mission?’ And the vision – the ‘responsible risk-taking,’ seemed like it was part of our DNA.

How that translates into grantmaking is working with our community partners, who really are the backbone of what we do, and helping them understand that it's not about the things that are proven, but that we're willing to take chances and experiment with different ways of doing things. It's understanding that even if a specific initiative isn't successful, if we learn something then it's worth the investment, because hopefully it'll help them submit better grants.

Consistent with its Jewish Hospital origins, JHF devotes the bulk of grantmaking resources to address healthcare issues. In 2022, for example, about \$5.2 million in grants for Health. The next biggest support category, slightly more than \$3.15 million, was went toward supporting what JHF calls Jewish Life, followed by \$900,000 in grants to U of L's Health Sciences Center.

At present, JHF is centering its Health energies on at-risk adolescents, which the fund defines as comprising 12 to 24-year-olds.

We spent quite a few rounds of grantmaking just to understand the landscape. And then we wanted to focus more closely on a specific area, so we looked at the community as a whole – where grant dollars were going, and where grant dollars weren't going. And we identified the adolescent population. We saw a lot of funds flowing into pre-K and early child/prenatal (programs). There weren't a lot of dollars, particularly philanthropic dollars, going into this adolescent/young adult age. So about three-and-a-half years ago, the board made the decision.



(L-R) Jewish Heritage Fund Program Officer Jaime Jorisch with President and CEO Jeff Polson (Photo by Andrew Adler)

Qualifying for a grant is a multi-layered process.

It begins with a conversation with one of our program officers. And if there's alignment, they'll be invited to submit an application...And if there's not alignment, we want them to know upfront, so they don't spend valuable time on a grant that wouldn't align with what we're looking to fund.

That application is then reviewed by staff. We often work with partners to answer questions that we anticipate. Then a recommendation goes to the grants committee...(who) use our recommendations as a starting point. It's then referred to the full board, which makes the final decision.

(At this point were joined by Jamie Jorisch, JHF's program officer for Jewish Life)

I'm focused on building relationships with all Jewish organizations, and the folks in leadership positions there. The more I know about what they're thinking and doing, the more helpful we can be as our role of the funder in trying to find opportunities...and the kind of impact we want to make. We think of our interactions with our partners or our grantees in a relational way, not a transactional way.

Jewish Life recipients include familiar names: area synagogues, the Jewish Federation of Louisville/Trager Family JCC, National Council of Jewish Women, several university based Jewish Studies programs, the Filson Historical Society's Jewish Community Archives, and so on. Is there an example of a newer group entering the mix?

(Polson): There are organizations we work with that further Jewish values, like the (Journeys of Faith) grant we did recently with the Louisville Orchestra that highlighted Jewish and Black composers. That was a large, sophisticated organization, but we still needed to get to know them and what they were trying to accomplish.

(Jorisch): I'd like to just add that

some of the organizations doing the most impactful work are those small, really grassroots organizations that don't have a big staff and don't have the know-how and the training to be able to write a perfect grant. So in those cases, we'll go the extra step and check our expectations about what we're looking for, and perhaps not hold them to the same bar as someone who has a complete, professional development.

Jewish Heritage Fund grants typically range from a few thousand dollars to well into six figures. This past month, JHF gave \$500,000 to Goodwill Industries of Kentucky to help construct an Opportunity Center in West Louisville, which will embrace a broad array of social service industries.

(Polson): The Goodwill grant was interesting to us because a number of partners we work within a regular basis are co-locating there.

The past 18 months have been tough on a lot of financial portfolios. Did JHF's assets take a substantial hit?

(Polson): It's no different from your 401(k) or my 401(k) that fluctuate with the market, but that's the important role of the investment committee, and why we have an outside investment firm that's tasked with monitoring that on a regular basis...It's always the goal for the endowment to be stable or growing. But significant periods of downturn – all foundations may face that. Thus far our board and investment committee have been effective in ensuring that funds are available for us to meet requests, and that we're able to continue to invest in all the communities we serve.

Is there ever a danger of getting too close to recipients, particularly those with a long history of receiving JHF support? Can you have a multi-year grantmaking relationship and still remain objective?

(Polson): We have a role to play, but the partners are the ones doing the hard work, who are on the front lines. We're temporary stewards of these funds that we hope are generational. We're just lucky to have the seats right now.



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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.

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

Email your comments to: **Community**, Letters to the editor, community@jewishlouisville.org.

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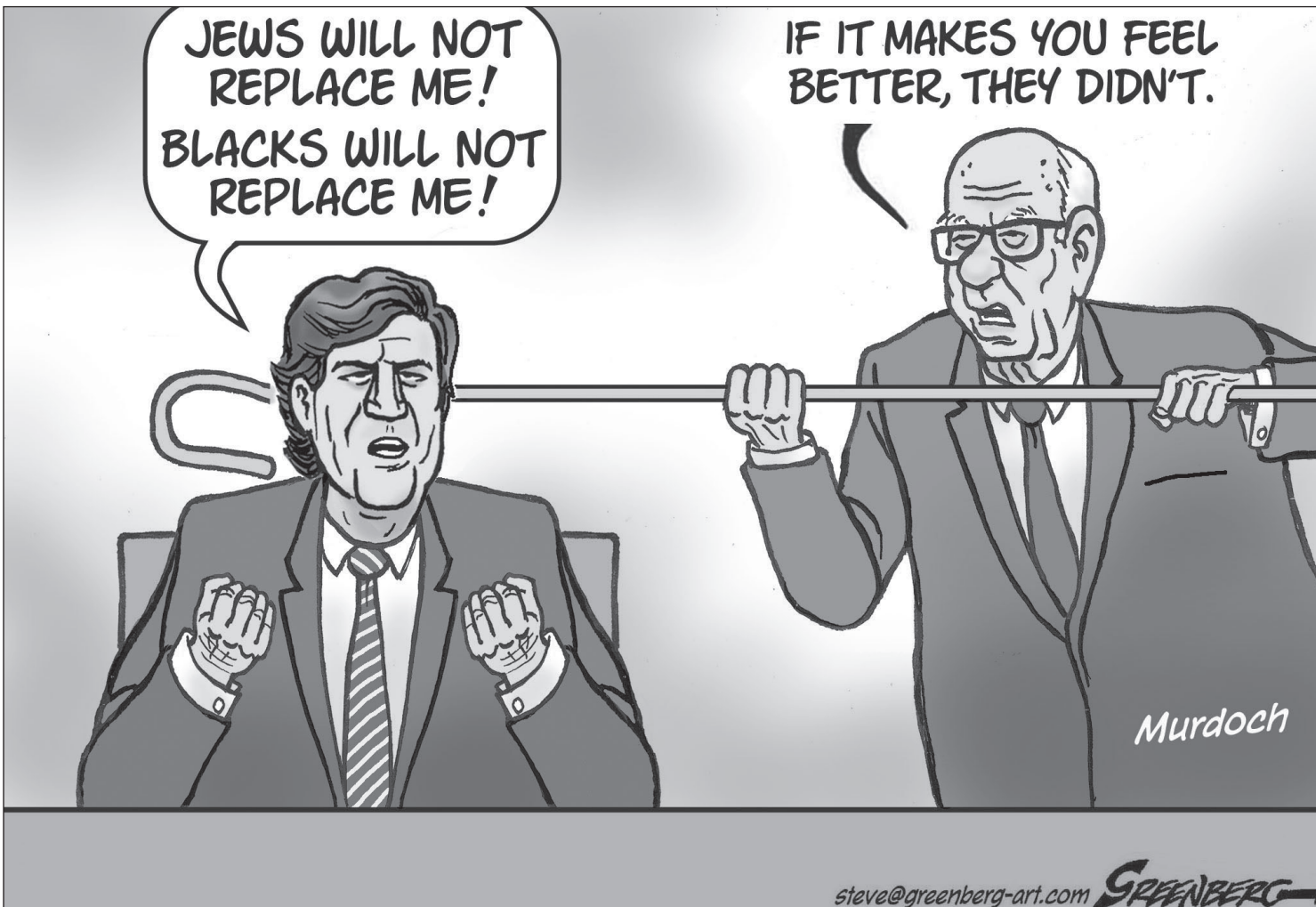
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FORUM



Looking for God in all the right places



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

Never having been a 12-year-old girl, I can't claim membership in the fellowship of first-hand Judy Blume acolytes. But with all the buzz accompanying the recently released film adaptation of "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," I decided that further resistance was futile. So I hopped on to Amazon, downloaded the 1970 novel's Kindle edition, and spent the next hour reading, thinking and wondering.

I wasn't doing this simply on a whim – there was method in my literary mandering. Margaret is the daughter of an interfaith couple: Mom is Christian, Dad is Jewish, but there are no Christmas trees vying with menorahs for pride of place in the family's living room. Instead, the parents are rearing their child in a deliberately non-religious household.

Margaret, however, is uneasy amid this sectarian hyper-neutrality. She is on a kind of vision quest, seeking – if not spiritual fulfillment, at least some degree of spiritual enlightenment. In another context, it's what we might call an identity crisis, except that here, identity is chronically elusive.

Life isn't exactly an unalloyed delight for this pre-teen. The family has just moved from an apartment in Manhattan to a house in New Jersey, where a spacious yard is scant recompense for lost friends and presumed delicatessen medi-

ocrity. As if this cultural uprooting wasn't enough, Margaret (and the small circle of girls that become her new companions) are grappling with the slings and arrows of imminent puberty. Who'll be first to get her period? To begin to fill out her training bra (not including another girl who's already attained physical womanhood)? When, and exactly how, should one kiss a boy?

Blume's frank treatments of such concerns were startling in 1970, and fifty-odd years later, sensibilities haven't improved all that much: "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" is still routinely yanked from school library shelves. The girls' collectively chanted mantra – "We must, we must, we must increase our bust!" – is for some adults an affront to decency and an invitation to debauchery. (BTW, is the word "bust" part of any current-day teenager's anatomical vocabulary?)

All this is fascinating in its own way, but not central to my interest here. I'm far more intrigued with how Margaret parses religious dogma, regardless of which specific faith is involved. A key personality is her Jewish paternal grandmother, Sylvia, whom Margaret adores. Unlike her maternal grandparents – who disowned Mom for marrying a Jewish man – Sylvia has always been friendly to Margaret's mother.

Nonetheless, Bubbe would like nothing more than for her granddaughter to embrace Judaism. When Margaret attends synagogue services on one Rosh Hashanah, Sylvia proudly introduces her to the resident Rabbi. Could this be a spiritual tipping point? Perhaps.

Not quite. Margaret is a restless soul, yearning to understand, to belong, to adore.

"My parents don't know I actually talk to God," she muses. "I mean, if I told them

they'd think I was some sort of religious fanatic or something. So I keep it very private. I can talk to him without moving my lips if I have to. My mother says God is a nice idea. He belongs to everybody."

A bit later: "You know God, my new friends all belong to the Y or the Jewish Community Center. Which way am I supposed to go? I don't know what you want me to do about that."

Ecumenically diverse, Margaret bookends her shul visit by accompanying a friend to a Catholic church, where mysteries of the confessional box suggest a revised set of possibilities. "Still, I didn't really feel you, God. I'm more confused than ever. I'm trying hard to understand but I wish you'd help me a little

Yet it's in her private, one-on-one conversations with God that Margaret finds her spiritual truth. Hers is an intimate embrace, not burdened by anyone else's expectations. For all of her adolescent insecurities, she is remarkably confident in evolving as an empathetic human being.

Margaret's God is no *El Shaddai*, the God Almighty who reveals himself to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Her revelation – indeed, her claim to genuine self-identity – is that a truly compelling relationship with God acts in partnership with her own willingness to step outside her once-constraining boundaries.

By the close of Margaret's narrative, having at long last gotten that elusive first period ("Now I am growing for sure. Now I am almost a woman!"), allows herself an interlude of spiritual gratitude:

"Are you still there, God? It's me, Margaret. I know you're there God. I know you wouldn't have missed this for anything! Thank you God. Thanks an awful lot...."

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

We are all at Sinai

Sara's
View

Sara Klein Wagner

Seven weeks ago we celebrated Passover and the exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, and we began counting the Omer – literally, the days leading up to the festival of Shavuot. We left behind the shackles of slavery to rejoice in Shavuot: both a communal gathering and an acknowledgement of becoming a people by receiving the Torah, together, at Mt Sinai.

While the revelation at Sinai was over 3,300 years ago, there is a midrash that has been passed down that says we were all at Sinai. I love the expression we often use when meeting someone familiar: “We must have stood together at Sinai.” I have always connected with that imagining of that all Jews were present at Sinai. Not just those who left Egypt, but every Jew – past, present and future, young and old, even those yet to choose to

become Jewish. The miracle of Torah was received by each person in a way every one of them could understand.

So how is this relevant and meaningful in 2023/5783?

I’d put it this way: that standing together is crucial if we are truly to care for and support each other. As a community we honor inclusivity by recognizing how, just as each person at Sinai was unique, so is each one we stand with today.

Did the Israelites simply show up at Sinai? Were they prepped? Encouraged? Like us, they needed details, time, and preparation. When we work to bring people together today, we must share expectations and openness to ensure that everyone knows they are included – whether they are LGBTQIA, interfaith families, young and old, regardless of their abilities. Shavuot vitally reminds us to make certain we genuinely embrace those of us who struggle to fit in, because there are myriad ways to live an authentic Jewish life. Just as we were all at Sinai, the future belongs to all of us.

I love the expression we often use when meeting someone familiar: “We must have stood together at Sinai.”

What are some opportunities on the horizon for you to participate in? In June we will join the community walking in the Kentuckiana Pride

Parade. We are completing raising funds for a special project to build a new, disability-accessible playground on our campus to make certain all children can

play and interact together. And we still need your support for the 2023 Federation Annual Campaign. The campaign is the oxygen of our community. You may never know or see the faces of the people you help locally or across the globe. The families struggling to stay safe in Ukraine, or those who need our help here at home, were also standing alongside us so many years ago at Sinai. As we continue to unpack our demographic study, we will develop new pathways to bring our Jewish community closer together and stand together again, 3,300 years later. Please join me as we celebrate the Shavuot harvest festival and share our love and bounty.

To learn more about the Pride Parade, the Children United Playground

and the 2023 Annual Campaign, please contact Angie Fleitz, Senior Development Director, by calling (502) 238-2767 or via email at afleitz@jewishlouisville.org.

Kol Tuv (all the Best),
Sara

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

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**Trager
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FORUM

Honoring the legacy of Henry Berg-Brousseau



Guest
Columnist

Rabbi Dr.
Nachshon
Siritsky

On April 28th, on the front page of the Jewish Community of Louisville's monthly newspaper, I was proud and heartened to see the wonderful article about Dr. Karen Berg's courageous battle for justice in the name of her son, Henry Berg-Brousseau, z"l (may his memory be a blessing and a revolution).

Dr. Berg's battle is desperately needed, against the terrifying and traumatizing tidal wave of hatred sweeping the country. At this very moment, 474 anti-LGBTQ bills are making their way across the US. Democratically elected representatives who are transgender are being silenced and removed from office. Democracy itself is under attack.

Many of you may know that I am a second generation-Holocaust survivor. Watching this is terrifying to me. The playbook is not as different as we want to believe from the one that legitimated the policies that sent my grandfather to Auschwitz and my father into hiding.

Every Yom HaShoah memorial service, we vow: "never again." We read the poem of the Rev. Martin Niemöller and tell ourselves that we would have been different:

First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Sadly, the time has come for us to translate our vows into reality. As we

speak, many in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are contemplating suicide. In particular, those who identify as transgender and nonbinary are at a much higher risk for experiencing bullying, harassment, threats, violence, murder and suicide -- and that is just for those who feel safe enough to self-identify.

Coming out of the closet opens us up to violence. But, living in the closet feels like death, and it often leads to death. I know, because this is not just a statistic. This is my life, too.

Many of you know me as Rabbi Nadia. You may remember me as "the lesbian rabbi" who served at The Temple from 2002-2008, or you may remember me as the rabbi who worked to create policies and processes for transgender patients during my time working with KentuckyOne Health, or as the rabbi who called out Mayor Fischer on television for failing to arrest Breonna Taylor's killers.

What most of you do not know is that I began identifying as transgender almost 30 years ago. Tragically, due to multiple acts of violence, discrimination and threats that I personally endured, I decided to closet myself six months before I was ordained. I grew my hair, pierced my ears, bought a feminine wardrobe and went into hiding.

I thought I could compartmentalize myself. I even believed that I could make a bigger difference if I did so, because Kentucky was not ready for a transgender rabbi. I told myself that my being gay was hard enough for most people to accept. I imagined that my Calling to bring healing and justice to the world would be more impactful, and my voice would be louder, if I stayed hidden.

Maybe this is true. I will never know. What I do know is that those years of hiding took their toll on me in ways that I am just now beginning to understand. In too many ways, my voice was muffled -- not just by the world, but by the violence I inflicted upon myself by continuing to repress my truest self/Self in the name of a safety that was suffocating.

It took leaving a country where my very existence felt illegal and unsafe,

and leaving so much else that was suffocating my truest self/Self, for me to begin to heal the profound traumas that threatened to drown me. It is not possible to heal in an environment that denies us the right to be who we were created to be.

I am just now beginning to find my voice to assert my truth. I now proudly identify as transgender nonbinary and prefer the pronouns "they" or "we." I add the pronouns "we" because, to me, all third-person pronouns feel "othering," and because I have always seen myself in the struggles of others and I pray that more people will see themselves in mine.

I believe that the only way to do the "tikkun" (healing justice) that we are commanded to do, is by beginning to see beyond what separates us from one another. Judaism teaches that we are all created in the Divine Image. The Torah uses the word "Elohim" to refer our Creator: this is a plural word.

Instead of arguing over the use of male language or female language to refer to the One in Whose Image we were created, I believe we should instead just use "they" language. This would be an excellent exercise to practice using this "new" pronoun: they. It is not new, but we are being told that it is, because so much of Judaism has been repressed as well. How many of us know that the Talmud references as many as eight genders? Transphobia is also a war against the many religions that assert nonbinary Truths.

When someone we know and love tells us that they have a new name and a new pronoun, the way to unlearn what we thought was true is to practice retelling the stories and memories we have of them, using their correct name and pronouns, until it finally becomes our "new normal." Let's start practicing this skill by learning to use "they" to refer to the One in Whose Image, we were ALL created.

One of the things that helped me begin to feel safe to articulate my truth was being immersed in an environment where the default pronoun for all people was "they." It takes a while to practice this, but the difference is profound and lifesaving. At least, it was for me.

I say "lifesaving" because the pressures that kept me hidden brought me to a place where I lost the will to live. Despite all my faith and all my training and all my privilege and all my years of therapy...despite being a rabbi and a chaplain and a social worker and a therapist, with a doctorate in ministry and pastoral counseling -- despite having intervened in the lives of so many people who struggled with mental health challenges and having served as vice president of the country's largest free-standing nonprofit psychiatric hospital -- despite all of this, I found myself actively wishing for death and found myself choosing it in ways that scared me.

This is the power of hatred. Systemic violence and discrimination, promoted in overt and covert ways, and enshrined in law, slowly infiltrates our

psyche until we begin to drown in the hatred that is being poured over us -- especially if it is reinforced by those closest to us who fear the vicarious stigma that comes with being connected to someone that is a target for hatred and violence...all of these and more contribute to forcing people into closets that can, and often do, kill.

Fundamentally, this issue is about saving lives. Far too many people who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, like so many other "equity-seeking groups," face discrimination, violence, harassment, assault and murder. But we also are forced to endure, in silence and shame, unique forms of harm such as being disowned by family, friends and communities of faith, retraumatized every time we seek to do basic things like use a restroom, along with countless other daily and profound intersectional harms worthy of an article unto itself.

The commandment of "Pikuach Nefesh" (saving a life) supersedes every other commandment. So why isn't every Jewish community across the country fighting the tidal wave of hatred making its way into legislation across the country? Why is this not our top priority?

Sadly, I know the answer to this only too well, for I was silent too. I realized the full weight of my own silence and complicity when I read the front page of the April newspaper and saw myself named "Nadia" and "she." Ever since Henry died, I have wondered what might have happened if I had found the courage to come out earlier. This question haunts me every day.

I will never know. But in my grief, I made a vow to Henry that I would dedicate the rest of my rabbinate to fighting queerphobia and transphobia in his honor. I dedicate my life to fighting on his behalf and doing everything I can to ensure that no other person experiences what he did, nor what I did, nor what so many others are suffering at this very moment.

The Torah states in Leviticus 19:16 that we should not stay silent while our neighbor's blood is shed. I commit to doing everything I can to ensure that Henry's death is a revolution of life-saving blessings for all who are drowning under the same tidal waves of hatred and shame and trauma. I pray that each of you, who are reading this today, will join me in this sacred mission and do the same.

Rabbi Dr. Nachshon Siritsky, MA, MSSW, RSW, BCC now goes by the name "Naj" and uses the pronouns "they/we". In this slow healing journey toward becoming, they are also learning to feel safe enough to sometimes prefer the pronoun "he" as a means of undoing the damage of years of being called "she". Rabbi Siritsky serves on the advisory board to Kol Israel Community of Kentucky, the first Jewish Renewal community in the state. They now live in Canada, and work with the Nova Scotia College of Social Workers, as well as leading the Reform Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada.



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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Paraders will kick off the 2023 Kentuckiana Pride Festival

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

A contingent from the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC will be among the marchers and walkers participating in the Kentuckiana Pride Parade, slated for Saturday, June 17 from noon-1 p.m. The event kicks off the Kentuckiana Pride Festival, which runs from noon-10 p.m. principally at Waterfront Park's Big Four Lawn, 129 W. River Road.

This will be the first time the Federation and the Trager Family JCC will be part of the parade since before the pandemic – the spring of 2019.

"The parade consists of organizations from all over the city and the state that come together," explained Susan Kwasny, Senior

Director of Health and Wellness at the Trager Family JCC, "everyone from Yum! to Norton Healthcare and Jefferson County Public Schools.

"We're just participating in the sense that our staff or board members, or family members, will be walking in the parade," Kwasny said. "So we're working on a slogan, and hopefully we'll have banners and T-shirts and all sorts of fun stuff."

How many of the above will come? "It's been four years since we did it, so it's hard to know," Kwasny said. "We'll be reaching out to our staff soon."

Whatever the turnout, participating in the parade speaks to the overall mission of the Federation and the Trager Family JCC. "Part of what we hope to include with a slogan, or with our T-shirts, is to focus on one of our core values: 'Areyvut,'" said Erin Silliman, Arts & Ideas Director



at the Trager Family JCC. "And that just means caring unconditionally for one another. So that goes along with repairing our world, caring for our community and everyone in it."

Festival organizers estimate that more than 20,000 people will attend the event. It's presented by the Kentuckiana Pride Foundation, which

states its mission as "promoting social, economic, and health equity of Kentuckiana's sexual and gender minorities. We advocate pride, celebrate achievements, and educate leaders."

For more information on the Kentuckiana Pride Festival and Parade, go online at kypride.com.

Six-year-old Lexington, Ky. boy stars in road-trip movie



Dani Menkin, a two-time Israeli Academy Award-winning writer and director, will have two of his films screened Saturday, June 17 at Baxter Avenue Theatres Filmworks, 1250 Bardstown at Mid-City

Mall. One of them, *Little Town*, stars **Grant Stevens of Lexington, Ky.** And oh yes, Grant was all of six years old when the film was made in 2020.

Menkin summarizes his film this way: "Jason, a failed stand-up comedian in his 40s, takes his son on the road to *Little Town* to find his dead mom. They drive with Lauren, a free-spirit soul who is trying to help them get to their destination and follow their dreams."

Aulcie – the sequel to Menkin's 2016 documentary *On the Map* – tells "the story of basketball legend Aulcie Perry,

from Brooklyn, who led the 1977 Israeli basketball team to its first European Championship (against what was then the Soviet Union).

Little Town will be shown at 6:30 p.m., followed by *Aulcie* at 8:30 p.m. Afterward, Menkin and Grant will be available to answer questions. Menkin will also talk about his most recent film, *Colleyville*, which deals with antisemitism.

For more information, go online at village8.com/baxter_home.htm.

Ben Norton named a NFTY board vice president

Ben Norton has been selected for the 2023-2024 North American Federation for Temple Youth (NFTY) Ohio Valley Regional Board as their Religious and Cultural Vice President. NFTY is the Reform Jewish Youth Movement. Ben is a junior at Collegiate in Louisville, Kentucky. He says, "I believe I bring perspective and experience to sharing Jewish knowledge and culture that will make NFTY a more fun, valuable, and meaningful space."

Louisville pediatrician preps for a dance competition spotlight

Michelle Elisburg, a pediatrician and president of the Hadassah Jewish Women's Louisville Chapter, is in heavy-duty prep mode for her turn on *Let's Dance Louisville* Saturday, June 17 at the Louisville Marriott Downtown. Cocktails & Silent Auction begin at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m., with the dance competition getting under way at 8 p.m.



Michelle Elisburg

The event – a riff on the popular TV show *Dancing with the Stars* – is a charity benefitting the Cathedral of the Assumption's programs to feed hungry and houseless people in Louisville. Elisburg is one of 12 "celebrity" participants dancing this year. The evening is sponsored by Derby City Gaming.

"Apparently physicians are considered celebrities, because quite a few of us have competed," she says. "We

are paired with a professional dancer and have about four months to learn a dance and routine for the gala event on June 17."

For more information, call the Cathedral of the Assumption at 502-657-5222.

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PICTURE THIS: CHABAD OF PROSPECT LAG B'OMER



Under brilliant blue early evening skies, Chabad of Prospect hosted a Lag B'Omer barbecue May 9 at its expansive campus on Almara Circle. Guests ate burgers, hot dogs and corn on the cob while children romped on brightly-colored bouncy houses and – with conspicuous dexterity – tried their hands deftly slipping wooden blocks out of a Jenga Tumbling Tower. Lag B'Omer is a so-called “minor” holiday on the Jewish calendar, observed on the 33rd day of the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot. Many Jews mark the holiday by getting haircuts, having weddings and, yes, consuming copious amounts of grilled meat.

Group photo (L-R): Larry Singer, Rabbi Ben Freed, Kentucky State Representative Daniel Grossberg, Erica Grossberg and Ariane Barrie-Stern. (Photos by Andrew Adler)



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For information: Carly Mason, cmason@jewishlouisville.org



ANNUAL MEETING

.....2023.....

Thursday, June 29

Trager Family JCC

5:30 p.m. Cocktails
6 p.m. Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Join the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC as we elect our officers and new board members as well as recognize and celebrate our award winners.

Proposed Slate of Officers

David Kaplan - Chair
Becky Ruby Swansburg - Vice Chair
Beth Salamon - Vice Chair
Jeff Goldberg - Treasurer
George Polur - Secretary
Ralph Green - Past President

Nominees for New Board of Directors Members

Jon Salomon
Julie Strull
Barbara Schwartz
Kate Latts

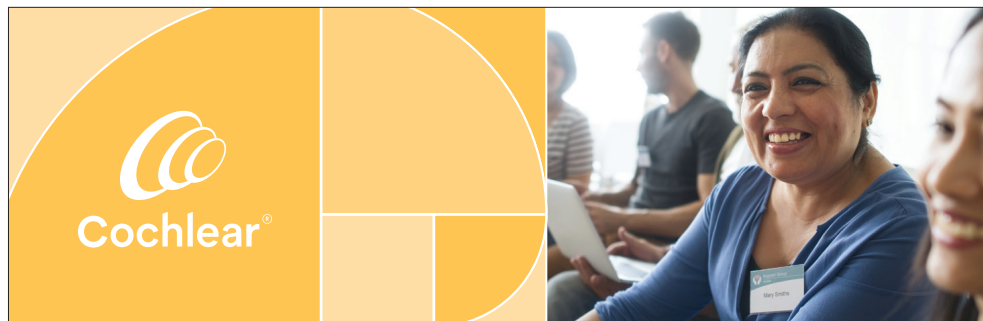
R.S.V.P. to Adam Cohen at
502-238-2722 or acohen@jewishlouisville.org.

PICTURE THIS: BOOK BURIAL

On May 11, Chabad of Kentucky Rabbi Avrohom Litvin led a ceremonial book burial at Agudath Achim Cemetery. Jewish law proscribes that damaged books with the name of G-d, and religious articles such as prayer shawls, be respectfully buried, never simply discarded. These were damaged during last year's fire that destroyed the existing Chabad of Kentucky facility. A new Chabad Center will be built at a site yet to be determined.

(L-R): Rabbi Avrohom Litvin prepares to place a charred prayer shawl in the adjacent grave; Leah Friedman helps in the burial ceremony while children from the Louisville Jewish Day School look on; a young onlooker gazes into the open grave containing items damaged in last year's fire.

(Photos by Andrew Adler)



Hearing health Q&A

If your hearing aids are no longer enough, join us for a free and educational event to learn about hearing loss and implantable solutions for you or a loved one.

**Tuesday, June 13, 2023
1:00pm – 3:00pm (EDT)**

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MTA Moments

ISSUE 1

The Power of YET

“What are the three most important letters in the alphabet?” I asked the MTA elementary class one morning.

I was barraged with answers.

“A, B, C,” answered one girl.

“A, E, I,” called another one.

“Y, O, U,” shouted a boy.

While those are all good answers, I explained, I believe the three most important letters are Y, E, and T.

Why? Put those letters together and you have a superpower. The word ‘yet’ bridges the gap between what is out of our grasp and our reality. With the word ‘yet,’ nothing is impossible. The YET superpower acknowledges that sure, I have a challenging time doing that right now... but I’ll find a way to master that skill.

“I can’t do math” turns into “I can’t do math **YET**.”

“I don’t know how to read” is now “I don’t know how to read **YET**.”

“I’m not good at spelling” becomes “I’m not good at spelling **YET**.”

The kids were quiet for a moment (can you imagine?); they’d never thought that adding three letters to the end of a sentence can change everything. Since then, YET has become the mantra of the classroom. I often overhear the students correcting each other—“Don’t say you can’t... Say you can’t **yet**!”

(Of course, I get a taste of my own medicine when “You can’t have recess now” is immediately corrected by students to “You mean you can’t have recess YET, Rabbi Meyers!” What can I say? They catch on quickly.)

Right here in Louisville, a generation of YET superheroes is being born. Montessori Torah Academy (MTA) combines Montessori education methods with a focus on traditional Jewish learning and Torah values. The result? Children who are proud of their Jewish identity and absolutely love learning.

Wait, hold up. Monte-what?

The Montessori method is a child-centered education method that fosters independence and creativity. It’s a place where children learn hands-on. It’s a place where children have total freedom of movement. It’s a place where three-year-olds learn from the six-year-olds in the same classroom (and gain tremendously! Check out myth #3 below). And it’s a place where children are their own greatest teachers.

Sounds impossible? It’s really not.

Though there are thousands of Montessori schools in the United States, there are still waaaay too many misconceptions surrounding our unique method. Let’s debunk a few, shall we?

MYTH #1: Montessori schools are too rigid.

DEBUNKED: We have fun all day! Maria Montessori, the founder of this awesome method, believed that ‘play is the work of the child.’ Children learn best when guided by their curiosity. That “play” you see in a Montessori classroom is a child using hands-on activities to learn core ideas about the world around them and discover their YET superpowers.

MYTH #2: Montessori schools are only for the very wealthy.

DEBUNKED: As with any private school, tuition rates vary greatly. In MTA’s case, tuition is more affordable than the average private school in the United States. Plus, there are great scholarship and financial aid options.

MYTH #3: Children don’t benefit from mixed-age classrooms.

DEBUNKED: Kids grow a TON in mixed-age classrooms. Our Primary class has children aged 3-6. On a daily basis, our 3-year-olds look up to their older classmates, amazed at what they’ll someday be able to achieve. It ignites their YET, exciting them to learn more. On the other side, our 6-year-olds serve as role models for their younger classmates and are constantly reminded of how far *they*’ve come.

MYTH #4: Montessori children don’t transition smoothly into traditional high schools or colleges.

DEBUNKED: Research shows quite the opposite. The Montessori system prioritizes giving students life skills, so they can succeed wherever they are. So, sure, Montessori students will experience big changes when transitioning to a traditional school, but they’ll be well prepared—with an academic edge and ingrained socialization skills.

TLDR? We’re pretty obsessed with giving our students a school that fosters growth, creativity, and a love for Judaism. That’s why, instead of forcing our students to memorize textbooks, we use learning models that fuel curiosity. The kind of models that inspire children to turn their “cants” and “dongs” into YETs. We see children as unfinished products. We understand that our students are constantly growing and developing, working hard to reach their YETs. The MTA environment fosters a true love for self-learning in students.

Because when you are learning the subjects *you* want to learn in the ways that speak to *you*, what’s not to love?

Wishing you a wonderful month, filled with meaning and joy.

All the very best,

Rabbi Shmuel Meyers

P.S. We all have our YETs—goals we want to achieve and skills we want to learn.

What’s your YET? I’d love to hear from you! Share your YET via email: smeyers@montessoritorah.org.

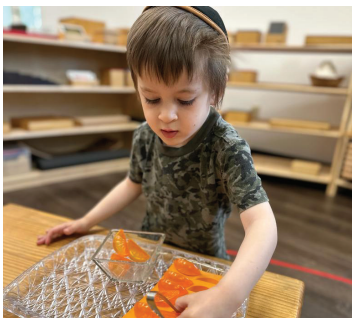
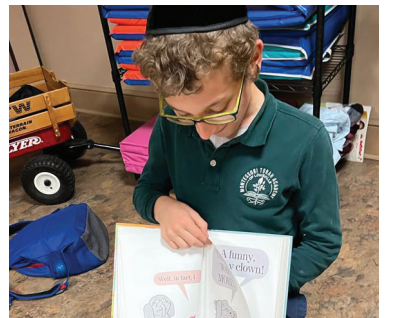
“Don’t say
you can’t...
Say you
can’t **yet!**”

Enjoyed what you read? Keep an eye on this space. We’ll be back with more fun stories and ideas.

This issue of MTA Moments is sponsored
anonymously in honor of Jake and Carol Wishnia

To sponsor an issue of MTA Moments please contact Ms. Taylor Burch at taylor@montessoritorah.org

Snapshots



Happening AT MTA

Bridging Ceremony

Please join us on Thursday, June 1st
at 2 pm as we honor and celebrate
the growth and achievements
of our bridging students.

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JFCS Community Chat to focus on transgender youth

Navigating adolescence is a tumultuous journey, filled with self-discovery, growth, and unique challenges. For parents of transgender youth, helping guide their children along this already complex path can become an even more daunting and emotionally charged experience.

Recognizing the vital role parents play in the well-being of transgender youth, JFCS is proud to present the upcoming installment of their transformative Community Chat series: “Supporting Transgender Youth.”

After the resounding success of the inaugural Community Chat in March, “Fighting Food Insecurity in Louisville”, JFCS has again assembled a panel of experts who will discuss the unique challenges and support mechanisms in place for parents of transgender youth.

The event will be Tuesday, June 6, at JFCS (2821 Klempner Way), and is free to the public, however an RSVP is requested.

“The transgender community faces many challenges, often struggling to find acceptance and understanding in society,” said Therapist Melissa Roth, a



Dr. Karen Abrams



Dr. Karen Berg

Licensed Clinical Social Worker at JFCS, who will serve as one of the panelists for the event. “It’s natural to have questions about their child’s gender identity and how relatives, friends and community members can help. Answering some of those questions is what we hope to accomplish at this event.”

Along with Roth, other panelists scheduled to attend the June 6, event include: Dr. Karen Abrams, a pediatrician at Kaplan Barron Pediatric Group; Stuart Walker, Program Coordinator at Sweet Evening Breeze, a non-profit devoted to addressing homelessness among the LGBTQ+ community; and KY State Senator Dr. Karen Berg, MD. The evening will be



Melissa Roth



Stuart Walker

moderated by JFCS CEO, David Finke, Ph.D., with a special welcome address by Corey Shapiro, Legal Director at ACLU of Kentucky.

Embracing inclusivity and understanding, JFCS aims to create a safe space for parents, educators, and community members to explore the unique challenges faced by transgender youth and provide invaluable insights, dispel misconceptions, and encourage support networks for families of transgender youth.

JFCS recognizes that supporting transgender youth requires a village, with parents playing a vital role in creating a nurturing environment.

Through the Community Chat series,

JFCS hopes to start community-wide conversations about crucial topics facing Louisvillians, to address how residents can utilize the resources available or advocate for equality in the Greater Louisville community on some of the pressing issues facing us today.

For more information on this and other scheduled Community Chats, please visit the JFCS website at: jfcsloouisville.org.

You can also reserve your seat by scanning the QR code below.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- What:** JFCS Community Chat
Topic: “Supporting Transgender Youth”
When: June 6 at 6 p.m.
Where: JFCS, 2821 Klempner Way
Free Event Open to Public

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• Canned spinach
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• Graham crackers
• Dried fruit
• Cookies
- Granola bars
• Chips
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• Olive oil
• Salt & Sugar
• Flour
- Personal care items:**
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• Toothpaste
• Mouthwash
• Kleenex
- Cleaning products:**
• Spray
• Dish soap
• Laundry detergent

June 11

Drop off at JFCS at 2821 Klempner Way



For questions contact Avery Markel JFCS Volunteer & Events Manager at 502-709-9198.

FEDERATION

Retired physician and his family invest in long-term health of Jewish Community and Trager Family JCC Capital Campaign

By Stephanie Smith
For Community

This is the eighth 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.

In 1972, Dr. Jerry Temes and his wife, Maura, came to Louisville when he joined the faculty of the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He and Maura, originally from New York State, raised their Jewish family here and have been part of the JCC and the Trager Family JCC for more than 40 years. Jerry, a retired thoracic surgeon, says, "My children, Becky, Julie and Stephen, loved all the activities here for children like BBYO, and Becky worked as the director of the Early Learning Center."

Maura and Jerry were Young Leadership Award winners, and Maura was the first female president of the Louisville Hebrew School. She also served on the Jewish Community Relations Council for several years. The couple's daughter, Julie, a fellow physician, served on the Jew-



Dr. Jerry and Maura Temes

ish Community of Louisville and the former JCC board of directors.

Jerry first got involved with the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Annual Campaign in 1980 when he was asked to chair the effort. "That fundraising experience further cemented my involvement in the Federation

and the Trager Family JCC," he recalled.

The Temes are generous donors who want people to know about the importance in investing in the future of the Jewish community. To that end, they have included the LIFE & LEGACY program in their estate plan.

Jerry adds, "If we want organizations like the Trager Family JCC, Jewish Family & Career Services, local synagogues and others to survive for our children and grandchildren, we need to plan for that now by leaving gifts

that will help many generations to come."

In addition to their planned gift and annual donations, Jerry and his family contributed to the Trager Family JCC's Capital Campaign. Appropriately, there is signage bearing their family's name on the entranc-

es to the Federation Conference Room.

"We wanted to make a meaningful family donation to build and support the new facility," Jerry says. One of the early pioneers of the Jewish Heritage Fund, he chaired the board at Jewish Hospital and is also a past board chair of the Jewish Community of Louisville.

He concludes, "Results of the recent Jewish Louisville Study show we have more Jews than ever in Louisville. We need to plan for that by donating now and making gifts that last far after we're gone."

LIFE & LEGACY is a partnership between the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Jewish Community of Louisville, with the support of the Jewish Heritage Fund, that promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit synagogues, social service organizations and other Jewish agencies in Louisville and across the United States. Through training, support and monetary incentives, LIFE & LEGACY motivates Jewish organizations to integrate legacy giving into their philanthropic culture to assure Jewish tomorrows.



YOUR LEGACY matters.

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

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

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



Jewish Federation
OF LOUISVILLE



PICTURE THIS: DIGNITY GROWS



Volunteers from across the community came together for the Jewish Federation of Louisville's monthly Dignity Grows Packing Party at the Trager Family JCC.

Dignity Grows provides individuals in need with essential feminine hygiene products so they can attend school and work and participate in community life without interruption. Over 250 local tote bags were packed and then delivered to women and girls experiencing period poverty at various schools, homeless shelters and other human service organizations. The April event was held in association with the Mayor's Give A Day Celebration of Service.

To learn more about Dignity Grows, contact Lee Ann Alsop at lalsup@jewishlouisville.org.



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



Jewish Federation
OF LOUISVILLE



bbyo

PICTURE THIS: CANTOR ADESNIK'S INSTALLATION



Lauren Adesnik has been performing cantorial duties at The Temple for almost a year, but it wasn't until the evening of April 29 that she was officially "installed" in her position. As The Temple explains: "An installation ceremony is an especially holy moment that signifies the sacred pact between clergy and congregation." The April 29 event included blessings before the Ark, acknowledgements of the cantorial search committee, plus performances by Cantor Adesnik and the Temple Choir Shir Chadash.

(clockwise from top left): Moshe Adesnik, Lavender Adesnik, Emily Albrink Katz, Cantor Lauren Adesnik and Leah Partridge; Rabbi David Ariel-Joel and Cantor Lauren Adesnik; Cantor Lauren Adesnik performs. Temple Choir Shir Chadash performing: Justin Hersh, Karen Abraham, Jacqueline Hersh, Fran Weinstock, Leni Sweet, Mike Harlan, Sarah Harlan, and Cantor Lauren Adesnik, with Dr. Louie Bailey on piano; Formal Installation at the Ark reciting the Three-Fold Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26); Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, Cantor Lauren Adesnik and Rabbi Cantor Scott Colbert.

Photos by Cooper Burton



A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools That Changed America

– Photographs, storytelling, and original curation by Andrew Feiler

May 26-August 4, 2023



Photo: Frank Brinkley and Charles Brinkley, Sr., - Educators, Brothers, Rosenwald School Former Students. © Andrew Feiler

This exhibit is sponsored by Stock Yards Bank & Trust and Skipper and Hana Martin.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, a visionary partnership between a Black educator and white Jewish business leader launched transformational change across the segregated South. *A Better Life for their Children* is a traveling photography exhibition about the Rosenwald Schools that Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald partnered in creating between 1912 and 1937 to serve Black students. The program built 4,978 schools across fifteen southern and border states including 155 in Kentucky. Rosenwald schools created educational access for African Americans in places where it had been severely restricted. Of the original schools, only about 500 survive, 3 of which are in Jefferson County. Atlanta-based Jewish photographer Andrew Feiler spent more than three years documenting the remains of these schools and the stories that live on in generations of graduates.

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The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St.
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Exhibit Opening

This exhibit is sponsored by Stock Yards Bank & Trust and Skipper and Hana Martin.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet the curator in the gallery to engage in conversation and answer questions. At 5:15 pm, the curator, staff, and sponsors will share short remarks. This exhibit opening is free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged.

Thursday, June 15, 6:00-7:00 pm (EDT)
The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St.
Hybrid • See website for pricing

A Conversation with Andrew Feiler, Frank Brinkley, and Charles Brinkley Sr. on Rosenwald Schools

Join Andrew Feiler for a moderated discussion with Frank Brinkley and Charles Brinkley, Sr., educators, brothers, and former students of the Cairo School, a Rosenwald School located in Sumner County, Tennessee.

Scan the QR Code for more information and to register



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GLOBE

Israel to invest \$40 million in North American day schools

By Jackie Hajdenberg and Philissa Cramer
JTA

Citing “a major crisis in Jewish education,” Israel’s Diaspora ministry plans to pour about \$40 million into training educators at Jewish schools in the United States and Canada.

Amichai Chikli, Israel’s minister of Diaspora affairs, announced the initiative, called “Aleph Bet” after the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, on May 15. He hopes enrollment will increase at Jewish day schools, fearing that “we are losing large parts of the Jewish people,” and said the initiative would “focus on training teachers for Jewish education and Israel studies as well as principals for Jewish day schools,” according to the Jerusalem Post.

Chikli did not elaborate on how his ministry would spend the allocation of NIS 150 million, nor did he detail when funds could start making their way into North American Jewish schools. His office did not respond to a request for comment. Israel’s governing coalition plans to approve a state budget next week, ahead of a May 29 deadline.

North American Jewish schools have received varying levels of Israeli government support for years, according to Paul Bernstein, CEO of Prizmah, a nonprofit supporting Jewish day schools. He said staff members of day schools were optimistic about the additional funding despite lacking details about where it would go.

“There’s quite a lot of chatter. People are excited by the fact that the State of Israel really sees the importance of Diaspora education, and is recognizing that the strength of the Diaspora is integral to [a] strong Israel and strong relationships,” Bernstein said. “Irrespective of all

that’s going on in the world, that is a very positive and important long-term development.”

The announcement comes at a time of tension between Israel’s right-wing governing coalition and North American Jewish communities. A chorus of U.S. Jewish leaders has criticized the government’s proposed overhaul of Israel’s judiciary, and last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled a speech at a signature conference of North American Jews in Tel Aviv in the face of anti-government protests. Chikli, who assumed his role in January, has defended the judicial overhaul while acting as an ambassador of sorts to an often skeptical audience of Diaspora Jews.

Chikli, whose father is a Jewish educator in Mexico, had previously indicated that he sees Jewish day schools abroad as an important destination for Israeli aid. He has said repeatedly — including on Monday — that children who do not attend Jewish day schools are at risk of being lost to the Jewish people.

“We are in the midst of a crisis where it is possible to lose an entire generation of Jews,” he said during the funding announcement.

Early in his tenure, Chikli floated the idea of working with philanthropists to subsidize day school tuition in the Diaspora. More recently, he has signaled that covering tuition — which can range from several thousand dollars at haredi Orthodox yeshivas to more than \$40,000 a year — is less of a priority.

“Jewish education in private schools is very expensive, and at times out of range for the average family,” he told Hamodia, a haredi publication, in April. “This is where we step up to the plate. This isn’t to say we’re giving out free scholarships ... but we invest, as noted earlier, in the teachers, in the



A Bible class at Barrack Hebrew Day School in Bryn Mawr, Pa. (JTA photo courtesy of Barrack Hebrew Day School)

school systems, to ensure Jewish education, and continuity of Jewish generations. We want to raise the pride of Jewish studies teachers.”

Attending a Jewish school is widely considered a strong predictor of lasting Jewish identity, although that may be because parents who prioritize Jewish identity are more likely to send their children to Jewish day school. Enrollment in Jewish schools in North American Jewish schools is growing, largely because of the growth of Orthodox communities, where the vast majority of children attend private Jewish schools.

Outside of those communities, most North American Jewish children do not attend Jewish day schools. But the pandemic saw Conservative, Reform and nondenominational day schools grow as well, according to a survey by Prizmah, following more than a decade of decline. The survey found that schools have maintained those enrollment gains even as the pandemic has ended.

Meanwhile, Hebrew schools and other supplemental Jewish schools have shrunk by nearly half since 2006, according to a recent report by

the Jewish Education Project. Chikli did not specify whether any of the new funding could go to such schools.

Chikli’s father, Eitan Chikli, is the rector of the Hebraic University in Mexico City, which receives some funding from his son’s ministry. Previously, he was the longtime director general of Israel’s TALI Education Fund, which promotes pluralistic Jewish education in Israeli schools and also produces materials for use in Jewish schools abroad.

The elder Chikli told the Jerusalem Post in January that he would not discuss the funding his university receives with his son, who he said is fastidious about avoiding conflicts of interest. But he said that teacher training was an urgent problem for Jewish schools.

“The biggest problem Jewish people in the Diaspora face today is Jewish education and lack of a high level of teachers for Judaic studies,” Eitan Chikli said in January. “The most difficult problem is that there is no new generation of proper teachers for Hebrew and Judaism.”

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GLOBE

Hundreds of rabbis say Biden's plan to fight anti-semitism should embrace a disputed definition

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

More than 550 rabbis are calling for the Biden administration's forthcoming strategy on fighting antisemitism to include a definition of anti-Jewish bigotry that has come under debate.

The letter was sent as progressive groups are seeking to dissuade the administration from using the definition because they believe it chills legitimate criticism of Israel. The letter's signatories disagree with that assessment.

"IHRA is critically important for helping to educate and protect our congregants in the face of this rising hate," said the rabbis' letter, which was sent to the White House on May 19 via the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The acronym IHRA refers to the 2016 working definition of antisemitism crafted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

"We believe it is imperative that in its National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism, the administration formally embrace the IHRA Working Definition as the official and only definition used by the United States government and that it be used as a training and educational tool, similar to European Union countries' use of the definition in their Action Plans," the letter said.

The IHRA document consists of a two-sentence definition of antisemitism followed by 11 examples of how antisemitism may manifest. Most of those examples concern speech about Israel that the IHRA defines as antisemitic. Israel critics, and some progressive supporters of Israel, say two of those examples are so broad that they inhibit robust criticism of Israel: "Applying double standards by requiring of [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation" and "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor."

The letter's signatories hail from all three major Jewish denominations, though the list of names includes few leaders of the movements. The Reform movement has said IHRA is a useful guide but has opposed using it in legislation.

Among the signatories are rabbis known to be close to President Joe Biden, including Michael Beals, a Delaware rabbi who played a prominent role campaigning for the president in 2020, and Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, the rabbi who protected his congregants during a hostage crisis at a Texas synagogue last year.

If the Biden administration does include the IHRA working definition in its plan,

it won't exactly be a surprise. Soon after his inauguration, a Biden administration official called the IHRA document an "invaluable tool," and one month later, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the administration "enthusiastically embraces it." The working definition has been endorsed by past administrations of both parties and, in 2019, Donald Trump signed an executive order instructing the Department of Education to consider it when weighing civil rights complaints concerning Jews. It has been adopted in varying forms by a range of national and local governments, universities, professional sports teams and other bodies.

But now, according to Jewish Insider, progressive groups are asking the Biden administration to forgo including the definition in a soon-to-be-published strategy to combat antisemitism. Biden said at an event on Tuesday that the strategy would have 100 recommendations for action, and insiders say it may be published as soon as next week.

A number of coalitions have proposed alternative definitions that contain more limited definitions of when anti-Israel speech is antisemitic. The letter from the rabbis does not mention Israel, but cautions against adopting a definition other than IHRA's.

"We believe the adoption of any definition less comprehensive than

the IHRA definition would be a step backwards for this administration and make our work on the ground significantly harder," it said.

In a meeting this week with members of the press, Biden's lead antisemitism monitor, Deborah Lipstadt, who is a member of the administration's antisemitism task force, would not say if the IHRA definition would make it into the strategy, according to her. She said it was "effective" and helped her in her work, but added, "I'm not going to preempt what the White House is going to say or not say."

William Daroff, the CEO of the Conference of Presidents, said the notion that the IHRA working definition inhibits Israel criticism has been belied by the "slew of people critical of Israeli policy [who] have not been muted because of the IHRA definition." Daroff pointed in particular to widespread criticism of the Israeli government's plan to weaken the judiciary, which critics have said would undercut Israel's democracy and remove a curb on human rights abuses.

"A comprehensive report on antisemitism might not be comprehensive without defining antisemitism," Daroff told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "It might undercut American efforts to combat antisemitism abroad by weakening the clear importance of the IHRA definition."

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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel are hosting a shared Shavuot Celebration of Learning Thursday, May 25th at 6 p.m. at Keneseth Israel. Shared Shavuot Day-1 worship services on Friday, May 26th will be held at 9:30 a.m. at KI. AJ's Shavuot Day-2 worship service and Yizkor on Saturday, May 27th will be held at 10 a.m. at Adath Jeshurun. For more information, see the flyer at the bottom of the AJ homepage at www.adathjeshurun.com.

A waiting list has been established for those still wanting to attend Adath Jeshurun's May 28th Retirement Celebration honoring Rabbi Robert Slosberg, Deborah Slosberg, and Robin Silverman. Reservations will be filled only if others cancel. To add your name to the waiting list, please see the link on the AJ homepage at www.adathjeshurun.com.

Adath Jeshurun morning minyan on Memorial Day, May 29th will be held at the special time of 8:45 a.m. Mourner's Kaddish will be recited in memory of AJ members who lost their lives serving in the United States Armed Forces: Fedor Benjamin, Sidney Brownstein, Michael Caller, Ernest Palm, Oscar L. Sessmer, Robert C. Stern, Stanley Sweitzer, and Daniel Wilson. The AJ office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Adath Jeshurun's Sh'ma Theatre will be performing the play *Beau Jest* during the third week in July. *Beau Jest* tells the heartwarming story of Orthodox Jewish parents who ask their daughter to bring home the great guy she's been dating. But wait – he's not Jewish! In order to please her folks, the daughter hires an actor to pretend to be her Jewish boyfriend. Come to AJ and enjoy this hilarious Jewish family comedy! Four performances will be offered: July 16th at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., July 17th and 19th at 7:00 p.m. General admission is \$20 per person. Students and Seniors ages 65 and over are \$15 per person. For more information, see the flyer at the bottom of the homepage at www.adathjeshurun.com. To make a reservation, visit 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.

Camp Livingston

Camp Livingston will host its free 2023 Community Day Sunday, June 11 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Located in Bennington, Ind, the camp will offer such events as swimming in the lake and pool, arts and crafts, and a cookout with Kona Ice. Registration closes June 5. For more information and to register, go online at <https://www.camplivingston.com/communityday/>. Additional information can be found on the Community Day Facebook page: tinyurl.com/mrn-zsyxe. Sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC.

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 or 502-235-5770 for details.

Chavurat Shalom

We've got great entertainment and important, meaningful information to share this month. We'll meet for lunch at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium and our program will start at 1:00 pm. All programs will also be available starting at 1:00 pm via ChavuratShalomZoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, June 1 - Harpist Jessica Hyden will return with her enchanting music. Lunch will include hamburgers with all the fixings, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

Thursday, June 8 - Mike O'Bryan will entertain us with his lively accordion and sense of humor. Lunch will include chicken piccata, braised cabbage, roasted potatoes, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cookies and cream trifle.

Thursday, June 15 - Fan favorite pianist, Bernie Schweickart, will play for us. Lunch will include eggplant parmesan, angel hair pasta with broccoli, caesar salad, breadsticks, fresh fruit, and tiramisu.

Thursday, June 22 - Paul Troy, Senior Crime Victim Advocate at JFCS, will join us for Part II of his series on recognizing and combatting crimes targeting the senior adult community.. Lunch will include chicken fajitas, rice pilaf, corn and black bean salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate cake.

Thursday, June 29 - In celebration of Pride Month at The Temple, we'll examine Judaism and the LGBTQ community with members of our Temple family. Lunch will include beef stroganoff with egg noodles, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and assorted desserts.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 pm Tuesday if you'll be attending that week in person by calling or emailing Sarah at 212-2038 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com.

Chavurat Shalom is a unique opportunity for Jewish senior adults to meet socially and share ideas. Chavurat Shalom is funded through the generosity of the Jewish Heritage Fund, The Temple, The Temple WRJ/Sisterhood, The Temple Brotherhood, NCJW, and many other generous donors.

Jewish Family & Career Services

The suicide rates of transgender youth can drop by up to 40% with the presence of one adult in their lives who affirms their gender. JFCS is hosting a virtual support group for Parents of Transgender Children. This group provides resources and support for adults who want to learn more about how to best support their children as they explore their identities. You can learn more about this support group, which meets on the third Monday of each month, by registering at services@jfcsloouisville.org.

JFCS is proud to announce the next

installment of JFCS Community Chat! series, Supporting Transgender Youth Tuesday, June 6 at 6 p.m. at JFCS (2821 Klempner Way). Community chats are quarterly events that bring together a panel of experts and activists who discuss pressing needs and topics affecting the Greater Louisville Community. Join us as our panel discusses the unique challenges faced by transgender youth, provides invaluable insights, dispels misconceptions, and encourages support networks for families, friends and caregivers of transgender youth. Featured panelists are pediatrician Karen Abrams, Kentucky State Senator and physician Karen Berg, JFCS clinical social worker Melissa Roth, and Sweet Evening Breeze Program Coordinator Stuart Walker. RSVP at tinyurl.com/3ykuxxkb.

Keneseth Israel

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

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., so next on June 2. This event is free but please RSVP to rsvp@kenesethisrael.com or call 502-459-2780.

Have a toddler in your life? Come join us for our new Tot Shabbat, by popular demand, now twice a month, 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.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 27th for Second-day Shavuot and Shabbat services.

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 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 for the location or with any questions.

Kol Israel Community of Kentucky

Jewish Renewal members from Kentucky, Florida, New Jersey, Minnesota, and elsewhere can participate in an online Second Day Shavuot this Saturday May 27 hosted by the Bloomington,

Ind. Renewal Congregation. Torah and Song will be provided by Rabbi Marc Labowitz, with davening by Chaiyla Lerner. The Zoom room opens at 10:15 a.m., with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary: Call 502-431-1595 or email KolIsraelKY@gmail.com

An Inner Peace for Challenging Times Jewish Meditation Gathering will be presented Monday, June 12 at 9 p.m. The 40-minute sessions include transformational teachings, Hebrew chanting, and deep silence, led by Reb Brian Yosef Schachter-Brooks from Torah of Awakening. Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yfbbv866>. Presented in partnership with ALEPH Alliance Jewish Renewal (National) Interfaith Paths to Paths to Peace.

A Renewal Oneg, Service and Shabbat Dinner (with a special guest) will take place Friday June 24 at 6 p.m. Space is limited – call 502-341-1595 or email KolIsraelKY@gmail.com for reservations.

Louisville Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

Louisville Melton will host a free brunch Sunday, June 11 at 11 a.m. at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 2401 Woodbourne Ave. After the meal, Melton staff, faculty, and students will speak about developments at Melton, including news about programming for the 2023-2024 academic year. RSVP at tinyurl.com/mr2ww2je by May 30. For more information about this event, email Louisville Melton Director Simon Isham at sisham@adathjeshurun.com.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

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

Moishe Pod: Louisville

The Moishes Pod: Louisville is a part of the international non-profit organization Moishes House, which aims to bring together young adult Jewish communities from around the world. Moishes Pod: Louisville is open to all young adult Jews regardless of observance level. It will be hosting three free events a month to bring the young adult Jewish community together in a welcoming environment. For more information or to pass along suggestions for an event Moishes Pod might host, email moishepod.louisville@gmail.com.

Moishes Pod Louisville will celebrate Pride month with a Pride Shabbat, Friday, June 9 at 7 p.m. RSVP at tinyurl.com/MPShabbat.

NCJW, Louisville Section

NCJW is co-sponsoring the free, interfaith event, Reproductive Justice: Why it Matters for People of Faith Sunday, June 4 from 3:30-5 p.m. More information is available online at 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

AROUND TOWN

Chottiner and members of the congregation.

Join us Friday, May 26, as we celebrate Shavuot at Temple Shalom. We will begin with a dairy pre-Oneg at 5:30 p.m., with blintzes, cheesecake, Graeter's ice cream, and more. At 6:30 p.m., we will unroll one of the Torah scrolls and participants will have the opportunity to read as part of our Shavuot observance. RSVP by May 22 to engagement@templeshalomky.org. Yitzkor and Shabbat service Saturday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Torah Study will meet every other week. We are studying Pirkei Avot between now and Shavuot. The next class will be Tuesday, June 6 at 1 p.m. Use this Zoom link to join us: tinyurl.com/4jpnk3ms.

Join us for *Repair Affair*. Last year, Temple Shalom's Repair Affair team did yard work and outside maintenance that allowed an elderly couple to remain in their home. If you are interested in participating this year, Saturday, June 10, please email chailands@templeshalomky.org to volunteer. More details will be provided once we know the number of volunteers we have. No experience is necessary, and you can participate for a few hours or for the entire event.

The Temple

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. 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.

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

Pickleball courts are open at The Temple! 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. 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.

Join The Temple's No Rehearsal Brotherhood Choir on Saturday, June 3 at 10:30 a.m. as they sing, and sponsor the Oneg Shabbat following services will feature homemade matzah and gravlax.

Join us for Hiking with Rabbi David! Sunday hiking adventures are for all ages; however, strollers are not recommended. The Temple will provide hikers with an awesome water bottle to not only ensure hydration but also as a keepsake for your own hikes. Our next hike will be Sunday, June 11 at 9 a.m. (please arrive by 8:45 a.m.) at Parklands Turkey Run Paw Paw Trail. If you're interested in attending, please sign up at thetemplelouky.org/hiking.

The Temple will have a special Father's Day Shabbat on Friday, June 16 at 7 p.m. as we honor all the fathers in our community.

Join The Temple Brotherhood for our 15th Annual Father's Day Trap Shoot on Sunday, June 18. We will leave The Temple parking lot at 9 a.m. and carpool to Indian Creek Shooting Range in Georgetown, Indiana. We will have refreshments and trophies. RSVP to mfriedman@sustainablemgt.com.

The Temple is celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Pride month. Pride Shabbat honors our LGBTQIA+ members and families. This year we are honoring especially the memory of our beloved friend, Henry Berg-Brousseau ^{z"l} (of blessed memory), who grew up as a member of The Temple and was always loved and supported by our community. We are so proud of Henry's achievements and will always cherish his memory. Pride Shabbat is Friday evening and Shabbat morning, June 23-24, 2023. Friday service at 7 p.m. will have our Temple member, Henry's mother, State Senator Dr. Karen Berg, speak and share the legal struggles and discrimination that LGBTQIA+ are facing in our State.

Shabbat morning at 9 a.m. we start with a special Torah study led by Rabbi David and Prof. Rev. Johanna Bos on LGBTQIA+ issues in the Torah and Jewish sources. Shabbat services begins at 10:30 a.m., our LGBTQIA+ members will be leading services and Rabbi Rachael Pass (Henry's sister) will be de-

livering the sermon. We will also view a special video about what it means to be a LGBTQIA+ member at our Temple. Voices of Kentuckiana, the only LGBTQIA+ choir in KY will participate in the service, which will be led by Shir Chadesh and Avery Curtis. After the service, there will be a 30-minute performance led by Voices of Kentuckiana. There will be a special free lunch catered by Chef Z to all who attend (RSVP is needed at thetemplelouky.org/pride). The desserts will include the famous WRJ/Sisterhood rainbow cake, and we will bless Sarah Harlan's delicious handmade rainbow challah.

You are invited to join WRJ/Sisterhood for snacks and desserts at our closing meeting on June 25 at 1 p.m., to hear Dr. David Finke, CEO of Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) speak with us about transgender youth. There is no charge for the program, but we ask you to bring an unexpired food item(s) for the Sonny and Janet Meyer JFCS Food Pantry. Please RSVP to sarah@thetemplelouky.org by June 22.

Join us for a special Independence Day Shabbat. Rabbi Rachael Pass will be our visiting Scholar in Residence from June

30 to July 4. She will deliver the sermon on Friday night, June 30, 2023, teach our Torah study class on Shabbat morning, chant Torah and deliver the D'var Torah for Shabbat morning service, and lead morning Minyan that Monday. Please join us.

Trager Family JCC

The Trager Family JCC will host its 2nd Annual Israeli Street Fair Sunday, June 4 from 12-4 p.m. The event will feature Israeli Music, Food Trucks, Falafel, Cocktails & Mocktails, Arts & Crafts, Kid Zone and a Market showcasing local artists. Admission is free. For more information and a list of participating vendors, jewishlouisville.org/israelistreetfair.

All Trager Family JCC members are invited to join one of its many fitness classes, sign-up for personal training, join a basketball, futsal or pickleball game, or the new running club. Visit jcclouisville.org/health-wellness for more information or email Member Services Director, Amy Stephen, at astephen@jewishlouisville.org. For those interested in memberships, visit jcclouisville.org/youbelong or email membership@jewishlouisville.org.



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B'nai Mitzvah



Eli Cha, the son of Dr. Yong Cha and Dr. Michelle Brooks, and brother of Leo, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 10 at 10:30 am at The Temple. Eli is the grandson of Elliot and Sheri

Brooks of West Palm Beach, Florida, and Bum (Bill) and Keum (Sue) Cha of Seattle, Washington.

Eli is in the ninth grade at The Academy of Louisville in St. Matthews. For his Pledge 13 Project, Eli selected the Shabbos Friends program through JFCS. Eli has led the Shabbos prayers and provided companionship during Shabbat to Jewish seniors at The Forum at Brookside and at The Legacy at English Station. Eli has also volunteered at the JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Family Food Pantry and has raised money for the Red Cross with a lemonade stand. Eli enjoys reading, playing with his dog, visiting the local cat cafes, volunteering, and traveling.



Nicol Dayana and Asher Zevi Cohen, children of Jonathan and Rebecca Cohen, siblings of Joseph, Leah, Inanna, Dia, Kate', Aryeh, and Amari, will be called to the Torah as Bat and Bar Mitzvah at

10 a.m., Saturday June 3, at Adath Jeshurun.

The grandparents are Stuart and Bonnie Cohen and the late Richard and Nancy Lasky. Nicol and Asher attend the Waldorf School of Louisville. Nicol plays soccer and runs track. She enjoys art and listening to music. Asher helped found the Earth Club at his school and loves being outdoors. Nicol and Asher participated in the JFCS Pledge 13 program, focusing their volunteer efforts on food insecurity, including volunteering to serve meals at St. Vincent de Paul and helping stock the JFCS Food Pantry. Nicol, Asher and their family invite the community to celebrate their B'nai Mitzvah and to the kiddush luncheon following the service.

Obituaries



Lawrence Allen "Larry" Brody

Lawrence Allen "Larry" Brody of Louisville, Kentucky passed away on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at the age of 91. He is survived by his beloved wife, LuAnn Brody (nee

Lorber); loving daughter, Sharon Seigel (Jon); cherished grandchildren, Eric Dunn (Rae), Adam Dunn, Erin Kincaid (Will), Emily Seigel, Parker Brody (Gina), and Sam Brody; adored great-grandchildren, Camden Kincaid, Walter Kincaid, Annemarie Brody, Julio Gomez Torres; loving nieces and nephews, and a caring staff at Magnolia Springs.

Larry was predeceased by his parents, Michael and Lillian Brody; daughter, Susan Dunn (Lester); and son, Michael. Larry was a devoted husband of 69 years, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

After graduating from Male High School, Larry earned a degree in accounting at the Indiana University School of Business and then entered the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant. He was a hard-working man who successfully ran Brody Floor Covering for over 50 years. Larry enjoyed volunteering with SCORE, ushering at The Temple, and ushering with LuAnn at the Kentucky Center for the Arts. He was intelligent, well-read, had a great sense of humor and loved a good joke. Larry was interested in current events and enjoyed lively discussions on a variety of topics, listening to your opinion and often, offering a counterpoint. Larry was remarkably computer and technology literate and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He will be missed by many but will always be in their hearts.

Graveside services were held Sunday, May 7 at The Temple Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society or American Heart Association.

Geraldine Snyder

Geraldine Snyder, 103, universally known as Gerry, was born in 1919 and experienced the last century and this one in good health and appreciation. She was the 4th daughter of Esther and Jacob



Simon. Her sisters predeceased her: Sadye (Maurice) Grossman, Ethyl (Dave) Paritz, and Leona (Gus) Frank. Jake began as a peddler in the South, saving funds to start a men's store at 9th & Market, where the

family worked and lived above the store; later moving the business to 3rd Street. Gerry grew up on Floyd Street in a duplex shared with older sister Sadye's family. As a girl, she loved accompanying her father as a jobber as he sold and delivered merchandise to smaller retailers. She attended and savored her days at Girls High before studying Sociology at U of L.

She married Sam Snyder, who predeceased her when they were 65 years old. In their years together, these two fabulous people were quite a couple and had a full life. They were part of the Greatest Generation and imparted those values to their sons, Marty (Courtney) and Larry (Melinda). In 1957, Gerry and Sammy built a house on Almara Circle so that the family could walk to the new Jewish Community Center.

Through the years, Gerry loved to work: first at her family's store; then she and Sammy ran their liquor store at Preston & Walnut (in the former Snyder's Kosher Butcher Shop); she later joined Stevens Marketing, where she excelled in lining up the people needed (especially her grandchildren and their friends) for the marketing studies. When she announced her retirement because she was giving up

driving at night, the Stevens insisted she stay, and they would chauffeur her. The next owner did the same.

She was a volunteer through much of her life. Red Cross, door-to-door collections, Den Mother, synagogue volunteer, organizing carpools for her sons' and friends' activities, etc.

Regardless of age, she was close with her immediate and extended family. She was always fiercely independent but loved their company without ever wanting to inconvenience any of them, including her grandchildren: Caryn (David) Paget, Kim (Nick) Schmitt, Eric (Morgan) Snyder, Suzanne (Paul) Snyder, and Sophie Snyder, eight great-grandchildren, and lots of loving nieces and nephews.

Throughout her life, she was blessed with wonderful friendships. As circumstances changed and deaths came, new friends miraculously appeared. That was the case at Magnolia Springs, where she loved living during her last dozen years. She had no complaints there – or anywhere – just a deep appreciation of what life had given her. Just last Saturday, she expressed her happiness living at Magnolia Springs. Our gratitude goes out to all its wonderful staff. Her independence and fun were extended by her amazing caregivers, Toemica Jackson and family.

We have lost a role model of independence, integrity, good judgment, and satisfaction with one's lot in life.

A graveside service was held on May 3, 2023, at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Donations to the American Red Cross or the Trager Family Jewish Community Center (JCC).

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NEWS

WEISBERG

Continued from page 1

men, women and at least one child – the warm family dynamic celebrated in cool metal.

There was still one major question left unanswered: Where in the Weisberg lobby to display the Weisberg sculpture to its best advantage? Should it be near the front windows to capture the morning and afternoon light? Or perhaps against the broad, white wall to the right of the Shapira Foundation Auditorium? It needed to be accessible, while at the same time protected from unintended bumps and minor collisions with curious visitors.

"The sculpture obviously is three-dimensional, and we'd like to view it from different angles," Miller said, as the piece was wheeled out from a side corridor into the main space. "So I have a couple of ideas – some of them are artistic, and some of them are logistical."

She gazed around the veranda facing those lobby windows, fixing her eyes on a small assemblage of chairs and couches. Nearby stood Frank Weisberg, along with his older brother, Ron. Alan, who lives in Florida, would join them for a formal dedication ceremony slated for June.

With assurances that furniture positioning was flexible, organizers tried several additional spots for the sculpture. "We're looking to give it a little

more of a prominent spot," Miller said. "And wouldn't it be cool if people could literally walk around it 360 degrees. But I don't think that's a really safe idea – with the amount of children, you could have someone go *clunk*."

Eventually it was decided to locate the piece – at least for the time being – just beyond the Minx & Sy Auerbach Veranda. It's angled slightly so visitors can peer around it without feeling cramped.

Moments after the sculpture was wheeled into place, Frank Weisberg – himself a longtime painter and a generous local philanthropist – stepped up to share a favorite story about its genesis.

"When my dad was retiring as president of the Jewish Community Center, I said to my brother Ron and my brother Alan, 'This is a big deal – we've got to do something really, really nice. Barney Bright was the most well-known sculptor in the state of Kentucky for years and years and years. He knew my dad, he knew my mom and he knew my grandfather, and I was friendly with him. Every Saturday I would go and visit Barney and another sculptor, Paul Fields, on Frankfort Avenue.

"So anyway, we call and say, 'Barney, we'd like for you to look at the Center.' The executive director (Al Cheistwer) took us through the entire building, and showed us all of the different things we do at the Jewish Community Center. And Barney says, 'all right...I'll call you in a couple of days.'

"Well, a couple of days go by. A week



(L-R) Ron and Frank Weisberg with sculptor Barney Bright (seated), soon after the Tree of Life sculpture was completed in 1989. (Photo courtesy of Frank Weisberg)

goes by. Two weeks go by – but I don't hear from him. So I call him and say, 'Barney, what's going on?' And he says, 'Frank, I gotta tell you, I've been a little pissed off at you.' I said, 'Wow.' He said, 'You gave me a task that was just too hard to be able to capture in one sculpture piece. But last night I had a dream – I dreamt about it' So he built a clay model and says, 'These are the things the Jewish Community Center is all about.'"

There are a few sculptural Easter eggs as well. When you look at the or-

chestra conductor's face, it's Bright's. Other figures bear faces of Weisberg's parents, with one man, cocking his ear, representing Bright's hard-of-hearing grandfather.

None of them realized they'd been immortalized in bronze until the sculpture was unveiled. "They were just so amazed and happy," Weisberg recalled.

"So anyway, that's why this was made," he said, looking at the Tree of Life with evident pride. "And I just love the story behind it."

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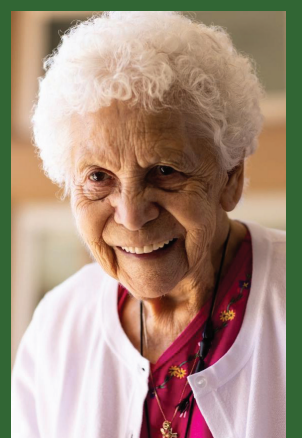


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