

FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 6 | June 30, 2023 | 11 Tamuz 5783

Karen Berg named winner of the 2023 Ottenheimer Award

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

“Defeat” is not in Karen Berg’s vocabulary. The Kentucky State Senator (D-26), a physician who represents a sizable chunk of Jefferson County, has become one of the nation’s leading ad-

vocates for the rights of transgender children in America. She’s been in the foreground of public debate since her transgender son, Henry Berg-Brousseau, took his own life in December 2022 at the age of 24. Despite a Republican-dominated General Assembly that passed onerous, anti-trans legislation during its

recent session, Berg has refused to back down from her cause. Whether in Frankfort, Louisville or Washington, D.C., – she speaks with the passionate persuasiveness of someone who knows, full well, the anguish brought on by ignorance. As the sole Jewish member of the Kentucky Senate (and with Louisville Representative Daniel Grossberg, one of only two Jews in the General Assembly), Berg is accustomed to being somewhat of an outlier in state politics. Many of her colleagues often seem motivated more by ideology than by logic. But she keeps on keeping on, grounded in grit, science and faith.

“Every cell in my body is Jewish,” says Berg, a diagnostic radiologist who earned her M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Medicine. “I was raised Jewish; I was raised in Jewish medicine – there’s no way to separate one from the other. It’s too integral to who I am, what I believe and what I do not. The ethical practice of medicine is something I’ve studied my whole life, and that I’ve cared about my whole life. So when we’re talking about these things it’s almost intuitive, because of how I was

See **AWARD** on page 17



Karen Berg, shown here at Jewish Family & Career Services during a recent panel discussion on how to support transgender youth. (Photo by Andrew Adler)

What can Judaism do for young adults? Jewish Lou 502.0 wants to find out

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

One of the most pressing issues regarding the future of Jewish life is how to provide young adults with pathways – and not necessarily traditional ones – to engage with the Jewish life of their community. The comprehensive Brandeis University-led Study of Jewish Louisville, released last year, found that almost a third of the area’s Jewish adults were age

See **502.0** on page 27



Bridget Bard and Maya Jamner (Photo by Andrew Adler)

Call it a career: After 42 years, Rabbi Robert Slosberg is retiring from Adath Jeshurun

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

It was 42 years ago that Robert Slosberg – a newly-minted rabbinical graduate of New York City’s Jewish Theological Seminary – arrived at Congregation Adath Jeshurun to work alongside then-Rabbi Simcha Kling. The understanding was that the Cleveland-born Slosberg, who’d just turned 27, would take over from Kling in a transition that would be orderly, deliberate, unhurried. But Kling’s health was failing, and soon Slosberg found himself heading up what was, at the time, Louisville’s sole Conservative-movement synagogue.

Now, four decades later, Kentucky’s longest-serving Rabbi is retiring – stepping down officially June 30 at 5 p.m., when he assumes the title of Rabbi Emeritus. Cantor David Lipp has been named Spiritual Leader, taking over from Rabbi Joshua Corber, who resigned to deal with personal health issues. Earlier this month, Rabbi Slosberg sat down for a conversation with *Community* managing editor Andrew Adler. Below are excerpts from that interview, which has been edited for length and clarity. **After 42 years, what’s your most prominent sensation: exhaustion,** See **SLOSBERG** on page 25

Jewish or not, alcohol and substance abuse is pervasive. But solutions do exist

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

In December of 2015, the *Leviathan Jewish Journal* published an article titled “Jews & Booze” which posed the question: “What is the relationship between Jews and alcohol?” The article cited a 1958 *Time Magazine* column called “Jews & Alcohol,” which itself referred to a Yale study recalling a 1929-31 statistic reporting that out of 100,000 patients being treated for alcoholism, a mere 0.5 percent were Jewish. Modern scientific research identified a genetic mutation, present in up half of all

Jews, that made drinking alcohol decidedly unpleasant. Less drinking, less alcoholism – at least among the affected subset of the population. The “Jews don’t drink excessively” meme has persisted, some say. “I will tell you that when I was in graduate school training, there was this assertion that Jews did not have problems such as alcoholism and substance abuse,” recalled David Finke, CEO of Jewish Family & Career Services. “There is this whole theory behind it,” Finke continued, “about how because alcohol – wine in particular – is intertwined

See **ALCOHOL** on page 25

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

When facing uncertainty, trust in G-d and call AAA



D'var Torah

Rabbi Zack
Blaustein

A couple of months ago, I received a call from a close friend who was in a difficult situation. He was on a day trip with his family and accidentally locked his keys in the car. Although he had the necessary tools to unlock the van, they were an hour away. Always up for an adventure, I agreed to make the round trip.

Life is full of challenges, problems, and uncertainties. As we journey through life, we inevitably encounter dead ends and moments of uncertainty. Naturally, when faced with difficulties, we rely on our talents and abilities to solve our problems. We turn to our intelligence, money, connections, power, experience, and strength, among other things. Only when we fall short do we begin to consider seeking help from G-d. It's as if we say, "I've done everything I can to fix this, but I'm unable to figure it out. I've reached my limit, and this problem is too difficult or complex for me. Now I need you, Hashem to take care of the rest."

By this point it was 9:30 p.m., and we were exhausted. After hours of unsuccessful attempts to unlock the van, our frustration grew. We had reached a point where we couldn't find a solution "on our own." It was a humbling moment that reminded us of the importance of seeking help from Hashem.

In the Gate of Trust in Hashem, the Chovos HaLevavos / Duties of the Heart teach and inspire us

to trust and rely on Hashem for everything. According to the Chovos HaLevavos, Hashem has absolutely no limitations. Nothing is too difficult, heavy, complicated, or elusive for G-d. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-merciful. What appears muddy to us is crystal clear to Him.

By now completely exhausted, my friend asked me, "Should I call AAA?" Somehow, I was unmoved by the question and responded with the same tone and emotion, "Sure." It was only when the AAA truck arrived ten minutes later, and a guy who looked like he unlocked vans for breakfast hopped out and casually approached the vehicle, did I burst into laughter. What we had been working on for almost six hours was resolved within 30 seconds.

Reading earlier, you might have thought, "This isn't a complicated matter. There's an easy solution; he should just call AAA." But suppose we realize that every thought, idea, theory, or plan we ever have comes only from Hashem. If He believes it's best to delay our deliverance, He can do that too, even if the answer is as straightforward as "CALL AAA!"

Therefore, says the Chovos HaLevavos, there is never a time to be stressed out! Bitachon (Trust) in Hashem is the key to a life of peace and tranquility. However, we can only rely on someone we know and trust. As King David said in Psalms 55:23. "Cast your burden onto Hashem, and He will sustain you."

All the best,

Rabbi Zack Blaustein

(Rabbi Zack Blaustein is the director of the Kentucky Institute for Torah Education.)

Snapshots



Ben Norton and Isabela Nibur lead a BBYO Shabbat service at the chapter's last event before summer break. After the service, the teens enjoyed the rest of the night with a pool party.

Candles

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

• June	30	@	8:52 p.m.	• July	21	@	8:44 p.m.
• July	7	@	8:51 p.m.	• July	28	@	8:38 p.m.
• July	14	@	8:48 p.m.				

Contacts

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

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

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscription on hold? Gayle Shoemkaer can handle

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

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

Deadlines

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

The paper will be published on **Friday, July 28**.

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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If you read on the run, *Community's* social media is just the thing. Follow us on Facebook at **facebook.com/JewishLouisville/** or on Twitter, **twitter.com/JewishLouNews**, for the latest Jewish news from Kentucky and around the world.

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

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NEWS

CenterStage has four shows on tap for its 2023-2024 season at the Trager Family JCC

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

One of the most storied shows in the history of American musical theater will open CenterStage's 2023-2024 season Aug. 17 at the Trager Family JCC.

"**Carousel**," penned in 1945 by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, is the latest in CenterStage's "Classics in Concert" series of touchstone theatrical works.

Synopsis: "In a Maine coastal village toward the end of the 19th century, the swaggering, carefree carnival barker, Billy Bigelow, captivates and marries the naive millworker, Julie Jordan. Billy loses his job just as he learns that Julie is pregnant and, desperately intent upon providing a decent life for his family, is coerced into being an accomplice to a robbery. Caught in the act and facing the certainty of prison, Billy takes his own life and is sent "up there." He is allowed to return to earth for one day fifteen years later, and he encounters the daughter he never knew. This fateful interaction instills a sense of hope and dignity in both the child and her mother in a dramatic testimony to the

power of love."

Performances are slated for Aug. 17, 19-20 and 24-26, all in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium.

Next up is "**First Date**," a NYC-blind-date-inspired collaboration among Austin Winsberg (book), with music and lyrics by Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner. The musical opened in March 2022 in Seattle before moving to Broadway a year later for a 174-performance run.

Synopsis: "When tightly wound Aaron is set up with cool girl Casey, a quick drink turns into a hilarious dinner served with sides of Google background checks, fake emergency phone calls, a slew of bad boy and uptown girl exes, and some seriously saucy chemistry. Can this mismatched pair turn what could be a dating disaster into something special before the check arrives, or end up at another table for one?"

Performances are Nov. 2, 4, 9, 10 and 12.

LGBTQ+-themed "**The Prom**," which made its Broadway debut in 2018 – comes in February and March. The musical generated unintended attention last October, when a

New Jersey high school sought, unsuccessfully, to cancel a planned production because of perceived "inappropriate" content.

Synopsis: "Four fading Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage. So when they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town Indiana prom—and the press is involved—they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue...and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the dance on the straight and narrow—but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. Now, Broadway's brassiest are coming to join the fight and they are ready to kick-ball-change the world."

Performances are Feb. 22, 24-25 and 29, and March 2-3.

The 2023-2024 season closes with another widely-celebrated musical: "**She Loves Me**," which had its premiere almost exactly 60 years ago and which – in 2016 – became the first Broadway show ever to be livestreamed. The musical boasts a storied set of creators, led by composer Jerry Bock and lyricist Sheldon Harnick (partners in both "Fiorello!"

and "Fiddler on the Roof"). It will be a fitting way to honor Harnick, who died on June 16, 2023

Synopsis: "Set in a 1930s European perfumery, we meet shop clerks, Amalia and Georg, who, more often than not, don't see eye to eye. After both respond to a "lonely hearts advertisement" in the newspaper, they now live for the love letters that they exchange, but the identity of their admirers remains unknown. Join Amalia and Georg to discover the identity of their true loves... and all the twists and turns along the way!"

Performances are May 9, 11-12, 16 and 18-19.

CenterStage auditions for all four shows are July 8-9 from 1-5 p.m., and July 10 from 6-9 p.m. Callbacks and Dance Call are July 11-12 from 6-9 p.m. Offers for "Carousel" will be sent out Friday, July 14 by 5 p.m. Offers for all other productions will be sent out by Friday, July 31 by 5 p.m.

Auditions are open to actors ages 15 and up (actors under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). For more information about audition requirements, go online here:

www.jcclouisville.org/auditions



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NEWS

Trager Family JCC Senior Adult Programing Director Dara Cohen on her recent visit to Israel

By Dara Cohen
For Community

I had a wonderful time in Israel on the Martin Pear Fellowship for JCC professionals. I was overwhelmed by all that I learned and saw. It definitely strengthened my Judaism, and my ties to the State of Israel. Some highlights: I rode through the desert on an ATV, stopped for a drum circle in the middle of nowhere, and visited one of the most charming little cities in Israel, Binyamina.

In Israel, every person is defined by the community they belong to.

Binyamina Giv'at Ada is a small town of 15,000. In 2021, Binyamin and Giv'at Ada merged. Binyamina is named for its patron, Barron Edmund Benjamin James de Rothschild. It began as a stop on the railway, then became known for growing jasmine for the perfume industry, and eventually became one of the world's top producers of kosher wine. It is a lovely little city, but most importantly should be celebrated for its community building. I learned so much from how its citizens organized themselves and made a place for everyone to be seen, valued, and heard.

A highlight of our trip was visiting Matnas, a bustling community center which offers afterschool programs, provides facilities for seniors, and helps support the nearby Heritage Cultural Center. I had the pleasure of visiting

the Seniors annex of a neighborhood community center whose leader, Anat Zayag, is a part-time employee of the city. Half of her time is spent as a social worker/Holocaust manager of the town.

One of the ways in which citizens help to create community is via neighborhood ambassadors, which helps to increase a sense of community, belonging, and strength. People are opening their homes to get to know their neighbors in small workshops and sessions. The Community Center helps to create the program and then the Ambassador hosts.

Their Senior Community Annex is set up like a small living room, with a community green house and garden outside. All of this encourages equity among the Senior participants, because each of them is contributing.

But wait, there's more: Programing has been developed that allows teens and Seniors to collaborate on such projects as flower arranging, knitting groups, and creating Origami mobiles. This program culminates with teens interviewing Holocaust survivors.

Another initiative is a parenting center next to the Senior Center, where the Seniors will be able to help care for the babies while encouraging young parents. The Community will take ownership of this center and help run it with donations.

All these programs help to alleviate loneliness and create personal

empowerment and connection to the broader community.

So not only did I see fabulous ancient sites, meet interesting people from different tribes and sectors of Israeli society, but I was able to develop an incredible bond with my fellow JCC professionals. We are a very tight group with lots of energy and excitement to bring back to our JCCs. We will be invaluable

resources for one another as we continue and strengthen our communities. Stay tuned, because this is just the beginning.

Dara Cohen is the Active Adult and Senior Programming Director at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center.



Left to right: Dara Cohen and Becky Metzger, front seat; Rene Cartagena Kariel and Myranda Tetzlaff back seat (Photo by Dara Cohen)

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Trager Family JCC

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

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are July 17 for publication on July 28 and August 14 for publication on August 25.

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

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

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

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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FORUM

U.S. to rejoin UNESCO to counter Chinese influence —news item



Daniel Ellsberg and the ongoing imperative of courage



Mindful
Ramblings

Andrew
Adler

Hearing the news that Daniel Ellsberg – who in 1971 famously leaked the Pentagon Papers to The New York Times and The Washington Post – had died on June 16 at age 92, I couldn’t help considering what it means to put oneself on the line in the name of truth. In other words, what it means to be courageous.

Many younger people likely have never heard of the man or those documents, let alone why they were of defining significance not only for that era, but for ours. Briefly: the Pentagon Papers comprised a monumental, government commissioned, secret history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Or as the Times’ Robert D. McFadden wrote in Ellsberg’s obituary, “7,000 government pages of damning revelations about deceptions by successive presidents who exceeded their authority, bypassed Congress and misled the American people,” the disclosure of which “plunged a nation that was already wounded and divided by the war deeper into angry controversy.”

Ellsberg, who’d spent part of his career as an advisor to then-Defense Sec-

retary Robert S. McNamara, had spent enough time in Vietnam to realize it was a useless, hopeless, ultimately unwinnable quagmire of war. He was so disillusioned that, eventually, he decided the secret history had to be unsecreted. Yet Ellsberg was no reckless leaker. He shared his concerns with various public officials, who remained either unconvinced or too fearful to act.

So he reached out to The Times, where a small number of trusted editors and reporters closeted themselves and spent a year pouring over thousands of photocopied pages. On June 13, 1971, the paper published reporter Neil Sheehan’s front-page story, headlined “Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces 3 Decades of Growing U.S. Involvement.” Five days later, The Post published a similar story.

Not surprisingly, the Nixon administration did all it could to discredit Ellsberg, even ordering a team of future Watergate “plumbers” to burglarize the office of Ellsberg’s psychiatrist, hoping to find something, anything, to use against him. Such was the by-product of fear, paranoia and rampant deceit.

The government had sought to block The Times from publishing the Pentagon Papers, but the U.S. Supreme Court – in New York Times Company v. the United States – upheld the newspaper’s right to publish under the Constitution’s First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of the press.

It wasn’t over for Ellsberg, though.

He and a colleague were charged with espionage, and it was only after charges were dismissed (after revelations of the government wiretapping and related wrongdoings) that both men avoided prison.

Why am I recounting this episode in the pages of Community? Because Ellsberg, even at the risk of personal destruction, was willing to pursue both the principle and practice of right.

Today, more than a half-century later, there are those who believe Ellsberg’s actions were neither legal nor laudable. Nothing here will likely change their minds as to what constitutes personal morality. To me, who was old enough to follow those events as they unfolded 52 years ago, he was staking himself to the cause of right in the face of might.

As Ellsberg said when turning himself in to face the government’s charges against him:

“I felt that as an American citizen, as a responsible citizen, I could no longer cooperate in concealing this information from the American public. I did this clearly at my own jeopardy and I am prepared to answer to all the consequences of this decision.”

Remember Daniel Ellsberg, and what he risked. Remember his determination.

Most of all, remember his courage.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism will accelerate Louisville's efforts



JCRC

Matt Golden

(The following column was published in the June 7, 2023 issue of The Courier Journal)

In an unprecedented step by an American president, the White House recently issued the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. This 60-page plan is the product of nearly a year of governmental work, with substantial input from national leaders, Jewish organizations like the Jewish Federations of North America, the American Jewish Committee, and the Anti-Defamation League, along with their Christian, Muslim and interfaith allies.

Current circumstances could hardly be more serious. Indeed, just

as the White House plan was made public, a jury in Pittsburgh was beginning to hear evidence in the Tree of Life Synagogue murder trial; the deadliest attack on Jews in American history. Among the 11 congregants who died on that day in late October of 2018 were a 97-year-old woman and two developmentally challenged brothers, both in their 50s. The victims were doing nothing more than worshipping at their Sabbath services. The shooter was motivated by hatred of Jewish people. (On June 16, the shooter was found guilty on all 63 Federal counts. He still faces 36 Pennsylvania charges)

Almost five years after that horrible day, antisemitism in America continues to rise, marked by ongoing bomb threats, vandalism, and violent attacks against Jews and Jewish organizations. Even though Jewish people represent only about one-fiftieth of the overall American population, studies have shown that close to two-thirds of religiously motivated hate crimes are antise-

mitic. And the hate is increasing. The plan noted an ADL finding that there were more antisemitic incidents in this country during 2022 than at any time since the ADL began collecting this data. This rise is no less true in Louisville and Kentucky, with several antisemitic incidents occurring right here over the past year. In two examples, bomb threats were called in to our community centers, and our parks were vandalized with antisemitic graffiti. Hatred of the Jewish people is becoming normalized.

To combat this normalization, the White House strategy outlines nearly 200 concrete responses. These include raising awareness of the ongoing threat, celebrating Jewish-American heritage, and increasing cross-community solidarity with other faith-based groups.

Two things really stood out for me.

First, the plan emphasizes teaching young people about the Holocaust. Almost two-thirds of Millennials and Gen Z-ers, don't know that 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust, 60% didn't know what Auschwitz was, and 11% thought Jews caused the Holocaust. As the Strategy observed, "When conducted effectively, Holocaust education provides enduring lessons for all communities...[to learn what happens] when hatred goes unchecked [and] when people are silent as their neighbors are marginalized and murdered." In short, robust education in this area teaches kids and young adults about hate, bigotry, racism and oppression on a broad scale, providing tools essential for improving our society.

Second, the Strategy emphasizes how interfaith partners need to work together to foster everyone's safety. Faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and racial and religious minority groups are all in the crosshairs of terrorists. Working collaboratively on security concerns increases our

collective safety and brings together many disparate voices.

We're already doing some of this work here in Louisville, and the White House's plan will accelerate these efforts. Our local community is working with Jefferson County Public Schools, whose Office of Diversity, Equity and Poverty is encouraging educational cohorts to "teach the teachers" about antisemitism in schools. The University of Kentucky, in conjunction with Louisville's Jewish Heritage Fund, is developing statewide curricula about antisemitism. Our local efforts to enhance safety include reaching out to other faith-based and targeted communities to help bolster their security. Additional collaboration on training and assessments of potentially vulnerable facilities will also help overcome the hatred, bigotry and prejudices Jews and other groups face daily. The strategy depends on what it calls "the extraordinary decency of the vast majority of Americans and the simple truth that we are a great Nation because we are a good people." Amen to that, and I hope you will take the time to read and reflect on the report. This way we can have discussions about how to identify ways to ensure the safety and dignity of all those in our community, and beyond. It is a powerful moment.

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



Happy Independence Day



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PICTURE THIS: ISRAELI STREET FAIR



Pictured: (Top row) Spices for sale at the Israeli Street Fair Shuk; Aerial artist Melanya Ginzburg performing at the Israeli Street Fair; Children playing in a sensory pool seek and find of Israeli Inventions in the Star of David Kid Zone; (Middle row) Attendees creating their own screen printed posters at the Steam Exchange booth; Linda Spielberg volunteering at Meesh Meesh Falafel; (Bottom rows) Gal & Adi, our shlichim for Camp J, with Katy Roemer, Alison Roemer & Kyle Roemer; A young girl enjoying the bounce obstacle course in the Star of David Kid Zone; Carly Mason with her daughter Poppy; Camels Aladdin & Sultan from Honey Hill Farm hanging out and posing for selfies with Israeli Street Fair attendees.

Photos by Andrew Adler and Robyn Kaufman.



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PICTURE THIS: PRIDE PARADE



Pictured: (From left to right by row) Trager Family JCC & Jewish Federation of Louisville Staff participated in the Kentuckia Pride Parade on June 17, 2023; Marchers in the Pride Parade from Planned Parenthood; Amy Stephen handing out “Shalom Y’all” stickers to people that came out to watch the parade; JFCS marched in the Kentuckiana Pride Parade alongside the Trager Family JCC & Jewish Federation of Louisville; Trager Family JCC Arts & Ideas team Logan McNeeley and Erin Silliman led the way with the banner along with other participants, Mimi Housewright and Ryzarya Bradley; Jessica Bush and her son Jack; Jeanette Fishman and Jeff Craig; Kentucky State Representative Daniel Grossberg; Indigo Kwasny danced along the parade path handing out stickers to all.

Photos by Andrew Adler



PICTURE THIS: SUMMER FUN AT TRAGER FAMILY JCC



Top Right: The Trager Family JCC's Early Learning Center's Milk & Cookie Run kicked off their school year with a fun way for students to meet their new classmates while also getting some exercise with cookies at the end.

All other images: Camp J is off to a great start with every activity you can think of, from swimming, to sports, to legos to drama. Campers are having fun hanging out with old friends and making new ones along the way.

Photos provided by Trager Family JCC Camp J & Early Learning Center Staff.



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PICTURE THIS: TEMPLE SHALOM REPAIR AFFAIR



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A group of volunteers from Temple Shalom participated in Repair Affair on June 10. Repair Affair, sponsored by New Directions, is an annual event that pairs teams of volunteers with older or disabled homeowners; projects range from home repair to yard maintenance. Temple Shalom volunteers helped a woman with a recent back injury clean out her back yard and front flower beds to provide an inviting space for her to enjoy with her family and friends. Led by Tikkun Olam chair Avery Kolers, participants were Mickey Barron, Nancy Renick, and Barry Kornstein. (Photos supplied)



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GLOBE

Sheldon Harnick, who made Jewish longing universal in ‘Fiddler on the Roof,’ dies at 99

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

The moment when Sheldon Harnick realized that his new musical might be something special came when he sang the lyrics he had just composed for a new song: “Sunrise, Sunset.”

He was sitting in the basement studio of his friend and collaborator, the composer Jerry Bock, in New Rochelle, New York. It was 1961, and they were in the throes of writing “Fiddler on the Roof.” Bock had originally meant for the melody to be used for one of the flirtations between Tevye’s three older daughters and their male interests, according to “Wonder of Wonders,” a book about “Fiddler” by Alisa Solomon.

Harnick went a different direction — writing lyrics about the agony of unleashing a child into adulthood that would eventually be sung in the musical’s pivotal wedding scene. When he was finished singing, Bock’s wife Patty was weeping.

“We hoped with any luck that it might run a year,” Harnick said in 1981 on “The Songwriters,” a PBS showcase series. “We were totally unprepared for the impact the show would have literally around the world.”

Harnick — whose paeans to Jewish tradition have become internationally appreciated as a reflection of cultural loss — died June 13 at his home in Manhattan. He was 99, and was the last surviving creator of “Fiddler on the Roof.”

Harnick was born in Chicago in 1924, and was in his teens when he first encountered the stories of Sholem Aleichem, which later formed the basis for the musical. But at the time, he “wrote them off,” Solomon quotes him as saying.

Twenty or so years later, a friend gave him Sholem Aleichem’s novel, “Wandering Stars,” about a decades-long show business romance, and Harnick was enchanted. As an adult, Harnick found that Sholem Aleichem’s writing was “wonderfully human and moving and funny,” Solomon quotes him as saying. He had started working with Bock in the late 1950s, and told him and another partner — Joe Stein, who wrote books for musicals — that it could be good material to adapt for the stage.

Stein said “Wandering Stars” was too vast and complex to adapt. But what about Sholem Aleichem’s short stories, which Stein’s father would read to him as a child, in Yiddish? The trio searched Manhattan for an extant English copy of the stories, and found a second-hand copy at a bookshop on Park Avenue South.

Years later, Harnick told Solomon that what appealed to them about Sholem Aleichem’s short stories was the universal longing for a simpler past, rooted in one’s traditions. “Over and above the beauty of the stories themselves, there was another reason why we were all drawn to this material, which can perhaps be best illustrated by a title which Mr. Stein suggested: ‘Where Poppa Came From,’” he said.

They had the first formal meeting in 1961 to plan the musical, and it opened three years later starring Yiddish theater veteran Zero Mostel. “Fiddler” ran for more than 3,200 performances, which stood as a Broadway record for a decade, and won multiple awards. It has had countless revivals in countless languages, including Yiddish, and made stars of people as diverse as Bea Arthur, who played Yente the matchmaker; Bette Midler, as Tzeitel, the eldest daughter;

and Topol, the Israeli actor whose earthy performance as Tevye in the 1971 film classic obscured Mostel’s more Yiddishist take.

In 1964, just weeks after “Fiddler” opened — and not yet aware of its massive impact — Harnick and Bock gave a televised master class on what the musical’s composition involved. They said they started writing a song about a family and then realized it was more about a community. A song about the hurried preparations for Shabbat — in which the daughters reassure their mother, Golde, that they will be ready in time for the day of rest — instead became an iconic one about preserving tradition, which opens the show. They consulted books on Jewish tradition to write it.

“What we would do is do an opening number that tried to compress a lot of traditional things into the opening,” Harnick said. “And as [director] Jerome Robbins said, the show would play against this opening number as though we had a tapestry. From the minute you heard the opening, you would know what this show is about: tradition.”

Bock interjected to explain that it wasn’t as easy as Harnick was making out.

“What Sheldon did was condense one thousand pages... into a seven minute song,” Bock said. “So in effect, the opening of our show now, I think, helped us get on the road to other people outside of the Jewish people being able to appreciate what our story was.”

In a 2011 documentary, “The Legacy Project,” Bock described the elation he felt when Harnick successfully set words to one of his melodies. He called them “moments of truth.”

“And they come when a lyric is finished and Sheldon sings the song for the first time,” he said in the documentary, released after his

death in 2010. “There is nothing like that moment.”

Harnick and Bock had already written a Pulitzer Prize-winning musical infused with Jewish themes about Fiorello LaGuardia, New York’s first Jewish mayor, called “Fiorello!” They would go on to other successes together and apart, and stopped working together years after “Fiddler” due to a dispute over a musical about the Rothschild family, according to an obituary in The New York Times.

But the lyricist never got over “Fiddler’s” success and global appeal. In a 2019 documentary on the show, he recalled attending an early Tokyo performance and being asked: “Do they understand it in America? It’s so Japanese.”

Not long after the show debuted, Harnick recalled in 1981, he realized it had an emotional depth he had not anticipated. He was at the theater watching Mostel and Maria Karnolova as Golde perform “Do You Love Me?,” a song about how even long married couples don’t truly know one another, and he burst into tears.

“I left the theater so I wouldn’t disturb anyone and I asked myself why I was crying,” he said. “Then I realized without knowing it I had put into the lyric deep feelings about my own parents — about what they had and had not been to each other. Sometimes it seems we only think we know why we write like we write.”

Harnick was married for a time to the Jewish director and comic writer Elaine May, who survives him, and is survived by his second wife, Margery Gray, their son and daughter, and four grandchildren.



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Elder Abuse Awareness Takes Center Stage in June

"Around the world, a silent epidemic of elder abuse is denying seniors the ability to age with dignity, security, and grace." That is the opening sentence of a proclamation signed by President Joe Biden designating June 15, 2023 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the United States.

June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Month. It serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by older adults and the duty society shares to stop the unconscionable incidents of abuse, neglect, or exploitation that happen to senior citizens each year.

According to the National Institute on Aging (NIA), each year, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited in the United States alone, each year. The NIA estimates that with every case of elder abuse that comes to the attention of authorities, there are 23 cases never brought to light.

The Senior Crime Victim Services program at Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) works with seniors and their families to combat this alarming statistic as well as serve the elderly community in Greater Louisville in a variety of other ways.

It is part of the agency's vision that all "live with dignity and purpose". JFCS provides a wide array of programs for seniors because they know the needs of older adults can be multifaceted.

Programs that help families identify and access critical resources while planning for future care needs, or counseling tailored



JFCS Senior Crime Victim Advocate, Paul Troy received the Champion of Adult Maltreatment Prevention (CHAMP) award from Gov. Andy Beshear on July 15 (Elder Abuse Awareness Day) for his work with elder crime victims in the Greater Louisville community.

to older adults, or support services for grandparents raising grandchildren, are all part of JFCS's Klein Older Adult Services.

"The Telephone Reassurance Program is a great example of how JFCS serves older adults," said Mauri Malka, Senior Director of Programs at JFCS. "This program provides isolated seniors with regularly scheduled calls from trained volunteers. These calls not only help monitor status, but they also opportunities for socialization and to check on their overall well-being. You'd be amazed

at what a simple phone call can do to brighten someone's day."

As Elder Abuse Awareness Month takes center stage this month, in July JFCS is taking part in "Give65," a nationwide two-and-a-half day (65 hours) fundraising event for charitable organizations who serve aging adults.

"The Give65 program is focused on creating a community of organizations across the country serving their local senior population. We're excited to be included

with nonprofits across the country in this effort," said Courtney Evans, JFCS Director of Advancement.

Give65 begins at 9 a.m. on July 11, and ends at 2 a.m. on July 14. Proceeds must go to senior-serving programs, Evans said, and Give65 has set up financial incentives for donors participating.

"We can receive an incentive bonus if we can reach \$5,000 in donations," Evans said. "Give65 will match that for a total of \$10,000. So any gift, large or small can have twice the impact."

Providing support and resources to older adults is not only a way JFCS lives out its Jewish values; the agency hopes it is playing a greater role in helping create an inclusive and caring community for every generation, according to its CEO, Dr. David Finke.

"When I think of The Greatest Generation and all the sacrifices they made for us, we owe it to them to ensure they live with dignity and purpose. It's a responsibility that extends to our entire community," he said. "When we honor the invaluable contributions of our elders, we enrich our collective well-being."

If you would like to receive information on how you can participate in Give65, email Evans at: cevans@jfcsloouisville.org.

If you would like to volunteer in the Telephone Reassurance Program, or would like more info on Klein Older Adult Services for you or a loved one, go to the JFCS website at: www.jfcsloouisville.org.

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For More Information



Self Correction - How NBA stars are born

Soooooooooooo.....

I'm about to expose insider information here and let you in on one of the biggest secrets to Montessori's success. Once you know what I'm about to share, you are hereby ready to start your own Montessori program*.

The secret sauce?

Self-correction.

When a work is self-correcting, a student gets clear, instant feedback on whether they've found the right solution or not.

What does this look like in the classroom?

Imagine a Hebrew-English matching game played between two students. The students are matching the Hebrew word cards to their English translations. When they are ready to check their work, they flip the cards over and see if the numbers on the back match, letting them know instantly if they are correct. Students don't need to rush to a teacher to "check their work". They check it themselves.

There are *hundreds* of examples of self-correcting works in our classrooms. All of them build confidence and autonomy, eliminate the crutch of traditional testing, and result in needing less external feedback.

Let's look at a real-life example of the value of self-correction.... basketball (shout out to my brother Elias who has taught me all I know about the sport)**!

When you shoot a basketball, there is clear feedback if you got the ball in the hoop or not. You don't need someone hovering over your shoulder telling you whether or not you scored. You can see and adjust your shot slightly as needed. You still need guidance and coaching, but a lot is learned from the visual feedback of the activity itself.

*You don't
always need
someone
hovering over
your shoulder
telling you
whether or not
you scored.*

Now take a moment and imagine two very different scenarios.

Scenario one: You are a 10-year-old kid and you like playing basketball. You're not the best at it, not even second-best, but hey, it's fun, and you spend your free time practicing. Eventually, you tone up your skills, and over a few months, you become a decent basketball player. You still aren't the best at it, but you are getting better, it's great exercise, and it's fun!

Scenario number two: You start off at the same level as above, you're still practicing, but after a few days, your coach hands out grades based on your performance. Your grade (in bright red numbers)?

62.

Now, how motivated are you to keep practicing?

And if you do, how much will you enjoy it?

Swap out basketball with math or science and require students to keep "playing", only now with red numbers hovering over their heads. Is anyone starting to lose their motivation 🤔?

The point isn't that you should be oblivious to your skill level. And everyone needs a coach (we call them teachers 🧑🏫).

But by leaning towards self-correction, our students build independence and learn to grow from their mistakes on their own. In other words, self-correction is an important component of self-motivation.

I have a lot more to say about self-correction and testing.

But maybe I'll first let this sink in for y'all.

Looking forward to hearing your feedback.

Have a wonderful month,

Rabbi Shmuel Meyers

*Oh wait, you don't want to start your own school from scratch? Well, whaddya know? We've gone ahead and done all the hard work over here already for you already 😊.

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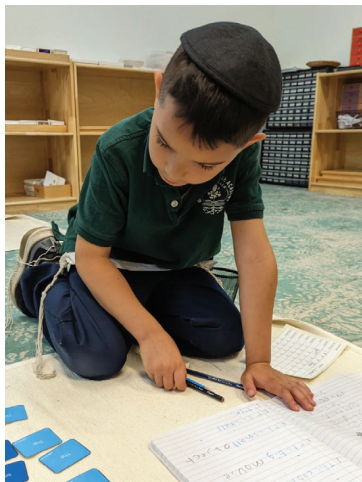
** what's the point of writing a monthly newsletter if I can't give a shout-out to my little brother 🧑🏻 once in a while?)

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 by
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GLOBE

Moms For Liberty chapter apologizes for quoting Hitler in its newsletter

By Andrew Lapin
JTA

An Indiana chapter of Moms For Liberty, a group that has advocated for book bans in school districts across the country, apologized for quoting Adolf Hitler in a newsletter this week.

The group's chapter in Hamilton County, north of Indianapolis, released the first edition of its newsletter, The Parent Brigade, on June 21, 2023. Atop its masthead was a quotation attributed to Hitler reading, "He alone, who OWNS the youth, GAINS the future."

On Thursday, the chapter's president apologized for the quotation. An amended version of the newsletter with "context" for the quotation was posted online before the whole quote was later deleted and the newsletter reposted without it.

"We condemn Adolf Hitler's actions and his dark place in human history," the group's chair, Paige Miller, wrote in a statement posted to social media. "We should not have quoted him in our newsletter and express our deepest apology."

Founded in 2021 in Florida to oppose what it calls indoctrination in public education, Moms For Liberty now has dozens of chapters nationwide, a growing national profile and an uneasy

relationship with Jewish-themed books.

At least one of its national chairs is Jewish, and the group has publicly supported haredi Orthodox yeshivas that are under fire for allegedly falling short of secular education requirements and other standards. But Moms For Liberty members have also been a driving force behind the removal of Jewish and Holocaust-themed books from schools, including a successful effort to remove an adaptation of Anne Frank's diary from a Florida school district. Chapters have also aligned themselves with extremist groups like the Proud Boys, and the left-leaning Southern Poverty Law Center has called them a hate group, sparking criticism from Republicans.

The quotation in question is sourced to a 1935 speech Hitler gave introducing the antisemitic Nuremberg Laws. It was previously quoted publicly in 2021, when Mary Miller, a Republican congresswoman, recited a version of the quotation during a rally shortly before the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 of that year. Miller, who said "Hitler was right on one thing," initially defended her use of the quotation before apologizing.

On Twitter, Moms for Liberty responded to the email by writing, "Everyone knows Hitler is bad" and calling coverage of the quotation

"intentional dishonesty in reporting," though it added that "The chapter shouldn't have quoted Hitler without condemning him at the same time."

Moms For Liberty co-founder Tiffany Justice responded to the quote with a statement that seemed to compare President Joe Biden to Hitler.

"Our Moms condemn Hitler and all he represents," Justice tweeted above a screenshot of an article about Biden criticizing parents'-rights activists. Alongside a picture of a finger pointing at the article, she wrote, "Controlling the minds of the youth through government schools was done by Hitler, Lenin and Mao. Millions have died because of these monsters. They thought they owned the children. Sound familiar?"

The kerfuffle occurred as Moms For Liberty prepared to host its first-ever annual summit. Several candidates for president are scheduled to make appearances, including Republicans Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, along with Democratic candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Most of the group's activism nationally has revolved around fighting discussion of LGBTQ identity in schools, as well as matters related to race. The other items in the Hamilton County newsletter had included criticism of a local high school receiving an award from the It Gets

Better Foundation, which advocates for LGBTQ youth. Immediately below the Hitler quote, there was another one from the group's national co-founders, Justice and Tina Deskovich: "Moms For Liberty will not be intimidated by hate groups!"

Among the figures condemning the newsletter is Miles Nelson, the Jewish Democratic nominee for mayor of Carmel, Indiana, which is located in Hamilton County. Nelson tweeted, "This hate speech has no place in our community."

The chair of the county Republican Party, Mario Massillamany, also condemned the newsletter, telling the Indianapolis Star, "I don't think that we as a society can say enough about the atrocities that the poor Jewish people had to go through."

According to an Indiana public radio report, the "context" the group provided for the quote had stated, "The quote from a horrific leader should put parents on alert. If the government has control over our children today, they control our country's future. We The People must be vigilant and protect children from an overreaching government."

Mazin art fair 2023

deadline for entry August 25
opening reception October 22

The Mazin is a regional juried biennial Art Exhibition of 2-D and 3-D art, open to the residents of Kentuckiana 18 years or older. The exhibit is designed to foster an appreciation of today's visual art and to reflect the breadth of artistic vision of local artists.



for more information please visit
<https://jewishlouisville.org/mazinartfair>



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4:15-4:30 p.m. Snack
4:30-5:00 p.m. Gym games or playground time
5:00-5:30 p.m. Enrichment activity (Drama, Art, Nature, Sports)
5:30-6:00 p.m. Homework help, group games, free choice



CLUB J AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DATES

First Semester Dates

August 9 – December 22
Closed: Sept 4, Sept 25 (Yom Kippur), Oct 2-6, Nov 6-7 & Nov 22-24

Second Semester Dates

January 9 – May 24
Closed: Jan 15, Feb 19-20, April 1-8, April 23 & 29 (Passover), May 3 & May 21

Register at
[JCCLOUISVILLE.ORG/CLUBJ](https://jccloouisville.org/clubj)

Questions? Contact Katelyn Graves, kgraves@jewishlouisville.org

ANNUAL AWARDS

AWARD

Continued from page 1



Karen Berg

raised."

Berg is concerned with a wide array of healthcare issues – Kentucky's loss of more than 500 physicians over the past year, to cite one recent example. Yet it's the transgender issue – reflected in the array of states besides Kentucky that have passed anti-trans legislation – that defines her national and even international presence.

Earlier this month, she joined other families with trans children at a White House event hosted by President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. Berg has been the subject of stories in The Washington Post, NBC, The Today show, NPR, and a host of other media outlets. Last week, a film crew from New York flew up to Louisville to tape an interview with her for Japanese television.

Winning the Ottenheimer Award is further confirmation that she's not by herself in this fight.

"To have the Jewish community and the medical community both stand behind me is, honestly, the wind beneath my wings," she says. "It gives me the strength to keep going."

Berg has spoken with trans people in their 70s and beyond who are coming out after decades in the shadows. "And the reason they're doing it is to protect the children," she says. "They have stayed in the closet their entire lives because it was the safest place for them to be. But what's happening now is forcing them to say, 'I can't live this way. I'm going to have to stand up and tell the world who I am.'"

Just as Karen Berg is standing up for them.

...

Recipients of the 2023 Jewish Community of Louisville Awards, which were presented June 29 at the Annual Meeting, include lifetime volunteers to the community, emerging young leaders and indispensable Federation and Trager Family JCC staff members.

Here's a rundown of this year's honorees:

The Julie Linker Community Relations Young Leadership Award is named for a Jewish leader who passed away unexpectedly in 1984, depriving the community of a friend. She chaired the Young Women's Division of the United Jewish Campaign and was vice-chair of the Major Gifts Division, of the Women's Division, and was vice-president of the Women's Cabinet of the Federation. This year's winner is **Kevin Trager**.

Many people know Trager as press secretary to Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg. But well before he moved into city government this past January, Trager was active as a member of



Kevin Trager

the Jewish Community Relations Council, carrying on a tradition of service established by his late grandfather, Bernard Trager. Today the grandson sits on the board of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and is a frequent visitor to the building that bears his last name: the Trager Family JCC.

"I think about 'L'dor V'dor' – 'from generation to generation' Trager says, "starting with my grandfather, who I was very close to for the first 20 years of my life. For him it was always about giving back to the community he grew up in, and which gave him so much."

"The Jewish community was such a big, important part of his life, and then in my parents' lives. So for me to get to serve, and be a part of the decision-making process, is really an honor."

The Joseph J. Kaplan Young Leadership Award is named for a leader in Jewish education and president of the Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) – the predecessor of the Jewish Community Center. Kaplan encouraged people to remember Jewish Louisville in their wills. The Award was established during his lifetime. This year's winner is **Mike Fine**.



Mike Fine

A prominent tax attorney and partner in the law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, Fine is entering his third year as board president of Jewish Family & Career Services. Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, he lived in Washington, D.C. before coming to Louisville in 1996 when his wife joined the University of Louisville's History Department faculty.

Fine boasts a fundamentally inclusive mindset. "You don't have to be Jewish to be a member of the (Trager Family) JCC – and you don't have to be Jewish to receive services from JFCS," he says. "These are resources that are here and available to everyone in the community." He's proud that JFCS has a deep, expansive footprint.

"Everything the agency does isn't contained at the corner of Dutchmans and Cannons Lane," he emphasizes. JFCS "has a growing presence in other pockets of the community, including work at the Shawnee Community Center in the West End, and with various Goodwill Industries campuses throughout the city. We have staff members who go out to Jefferson Community & Technical College to provide services to students there who are refugees and immigrants."

The Lewis W. Cole Memorial

Young Leadership Award is named for an organizer of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, the predecessor to the Federation. A committed Annual Campaign volunteer, Cole devoted his life to Jewish Louisville. This year's winner is **Solange Minstein**.



Solange Minstein

Active with the Louisville Jewish Film Festival – touted as the longest-running film festival of any kind in the city – Minstein helps coordinate an enterprise that draws an eclectic audience to view what she calls "challenging, poignant, provocative and touching" cinematic fare. The Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary earlier this year with a run at the Trager Family JCC – Minstein's third as a festival planner.

"Film is literature in motion – a way to connect emphatically and sympathetically with messages, themes and teachings outside one's comfort zone," says Minstein, who cites seeing Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" on the big screen as her favorite-ever moviegoing experience.

But the Festival is only one aspect of Minstein's Jewish involvement. Since 2013 she's taught at the Louisville High School for Jewish Studies, and earlier in her life she served on a young-adult committee at The Temple. She was president of Hillel at the University of Kentucky, where a year-long course on Jewish thought and teachings encouraged her to reach beyond traditional engagement boundaries once back in Louisville.

Minstein called it an example of "just being able to take a profound experience from my college years and bring it to my students, to teach them that Judaism doesn't have to be the synagogue. It can (go in) a lot of different ways. Judaism is constantly evolving and adapting to what modernity calls for."

The Elsie P. Judah Memorial Award is named for the woman who, with Ronetta Mayer, established the Golden Age Group for active seniors. It honors volunteer service to the Senior Adult Department. This year's winner is **Margie Hubert**.



Margie Hubert

Stop by the Trager Family JCC's Town Square any given weekday around noon, and you're likely to find Hubert helping serve lunch to dozens of appreciative (and hungry) seniors. She began volunteering more than a year ago, but her commitment became especially vital after her husband died this past August.

"This is so fulfilling because the grandkids are in college, and I have one son – they're all doing their thing,"

she says. Helping lunchtime seniors is an affirming activity. "It gets you out of the house. You come in the front door and everybody's smiling. I've never seen a person frown. It's just a happy place."

When she's not dishing out noon-time sustenance, Hubert takes frequent advantage of numerous fitness classes at the Trager Family JCC. "I take classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I love dancing."

The Ronald & Marie Abrams Volunteer of the Year Award, whose extent namesakes exemplify community service, goes to **Bill Altman**.



Bill Altman

Over the past three years, Altman has been among the community's most significant figures admin the realms of public health and physical security. During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the retired healthcare executive and Federation board member served as a principal advisor to then-mayor Greg Fischer and the city's Department of Public Health. Altman has also co-chaired SAFE Louisville – a multi-year initiative tasked with securing area Jewish facilities, and which led to the recent hiring of Stuart Lowrey as Regional Security Advisor.

"I have felt for the last five years or so a sense of discomfort for the first time in my life," Altman says, "about being Jewish in America -- around safety -- and also around my desire to be active in the Jewish community while feeling safe. So when I was asked to work on the SAFE Louisville initiative, I gravitated toward that, because I can't think of anything more important than creating a safer and more secure Jewish Louisville – but to do so in a way that results in an open, welcoming and vibrant Jewish community."

Altman also serves on the steering committee coordinating follow-ups to the Brandeis University-led 2021-2022 Study of Jewish Louisville. "It really speaks to what kind of Jewish community we're going to have in the future," he says, emphasizing how "we have a tremendous opportunity. At the same time, at least in my judgment, we're at a crossroads where our Jewish community and its institutions could – through inertia – dwindle."

No matter what his involvement, Altman says he "couldn't have asked to work with better people – nice people, fun people, and people I can learn from."

The Arthur S. Kling Award honors the memory of a prominent Jewish Louisville leader, who served as president of the YMHA. He was instrumental in establishing the original JCC on Dutchmans Lane, starting the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Conference of Jewish Organizations, which ran the United Jewish

ANNUAL AWARDS

AWARD

Continued from page 17

Campaign. This year, the award, which recognizes outstanding performances by JCL staff, goes to Trager Family JCC Membership Director **Julia Bright Moran**.



Julia Bright Moran

Bright Moran is in her sixth year as membership director, taking the job shortly after returning to Kentucky in what she calls the “Bluegrass Boomerang.”

Since the Trager Family JCC opened a little over a year ago, she’s had little chance to catch her breath. “Membership has been booming at what feels like exponential rates,” she said, breaking off from an interview to answer a phone call from a prospective member and schedule a tour.

Thanks to the new building, “people recognize who we are” she says. “And we’ve had a lot of returning members, which has been a lot of fun – talking to people about how they remember

growing up in the old building, or how their kids’ first job was being a lifeguard for one summer.”

“It’s really nice to see people coming back at different phases of life,” Bright Moran says. “One of the things that makes this such a special place is that we’re so multi-generational. You have people who come and rely on us heavily when their children are young – they’re building community, getting to know people and forge relationships. Then you have folks coming back to us now that they’re in their senior years. Their kids are grown and they have grandkids, and it can be a whole three generations on one fun pool day.”

Bright Moran says that winning the Kling Award, to say the least, was a surprise. “I was pretty floored,” she recalls. “I had no idea that’s why I was being called up to Sara’s office,” she says, referring to Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC.

“It’s a huge honor, and I’m very touched,” Bright Moran says. “I’m very thankful.”

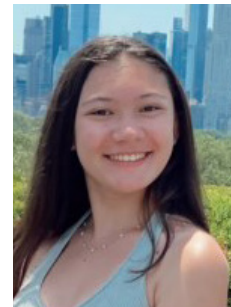
BBYO leaders honored for achievements at Annual Meeting

By Abigail Goldberg
For Community

The annual BBYO awards were handed out at the JCL Annual Meeting June 29 at the Trager Family JCC.

Abigail Goldberg, Teen Director and Philanthropy Outreach, presented the awards, which recognize young people for their achievements in the Jewish community, at school and in the community at large:

The **Joseph Fink BBYO Community Service Scholarship** is a four-year scholarship presented to a senior who was an active member of their BBYO chapter during all four years of high school, and who performed a significant amount of community service during high school. The recipient is also active in their school and the community at large. The recipient will receive this scholarship for four years as long as they stay in school. This awardee will receive up to \$500



Nila Rothman

per year over for years, up to \$2000.

This year the award goes to **Nila Rothman** and **Ada Weiss**.

Nila, a recent duPont Manual and YPAS (Youth Performing Arts School)

graduate, will be attending Skidmore College in the fall as a business administration major. Nila says, “I would not be where I am today, going to Skidmore College and confidently moving away from home, if it weren’t for my experiences in BBYO.” Nila was active in BBYO locally as Gizborit (vice president of fundraising), Mazkirah (vice president of communications), and N’siah (president). She held leadership roles at regional conventions and the BBYO International Convention. She attended numerous local and regional conventions throughout high school. Nila is highly active in her school



Ada Weiss

community, assisting in engineering classes, helping to make the class more efficient. She has participated in BBYO J-Serve throughout high school, taught B’nai Mitzvah class, and has

been a Hebrew assistant at The Temple for several years.

Ada, another recent duPont Manual graduate, will attend the University of Cincinnati in the fall and will major in social work. Ada served as chapter Morah (vice president of membership), S’ganit (vice president of programming) and was elected to the 68th regional Morah. As regional morah, Ada inducted over 120 BBG’s into the region at Spring and Fall conventions. She has attended numerous local and regional conventions throughout high school. At the 2023 BBYO International Convention, Ada was awarded the Star of Deborah silver and gold award for her duties as regional Morah. Ada has volunteered with Louisville’s Little Orphan Kitten rescue, Best Buddies at Manual High School and has participated in BBYO J-Serve for five years.

Ada is a member of Keneseth Israel.

The **Tony Levitan Award** is given to an outstanding high school senior who was an athlete while in high school, and who demonstrated outstanding character and leadership throughout their participation in team sports and Jewish communal events.

The recipient will receive up to \$600. **Alex Schwartz** and **Carly Schramko**.



Alex Schwartz

Alex is a recent Ballard High School graduate who will attend Indiana University in the fall. Alex played varsity tennis throughout high school, has been involved locally as chapter Go-

dol (president), and has attended multiple local and regional events. Alex was a member of the National Honor Society and FBLA, and has volunteered with Uspiritus, Supplies Overseas, Feed Louisville and J-Serve. Alex says, “Tennis has shown me that success is not solely measured by wins and losses, but rather by the progress made and the lessons learned along the way.” Alex is a member of The Temple and attended Camp Livingston for many years.

Carly Schramko is a recent graduate of Assumption High School and will attend Elon University in the fall. Carly has played tennis



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For more information about trips to Israel, contact Amy Fouts, p2g@jewishlouisville.org

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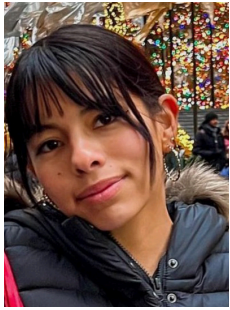


ANNUAL AWARDS



Carly Scharmko

and basketball throughout high school and plans to play club tennis while in college. Carly has attended numerous local BBYO events and has volunteered with Best Buddies, Gilda's Club and J-Serve. Carly says, "Tennis has played a big role in my high school career and I am very proud of what I have accomplished." Carly is a member of Adath Jeshurun, and attended Beber Camp as a camper for several years. This year Carly will be a counselor at Beber Camp.



Violeta Higuera

Morah and N'siah. Violeta has participated in numerous local and regional events including CLTC (chapter leadership training convention) and will attend ILTC (International Leadership Technical Convention) this summer, and Kallah (a BBYO summer leadership program). She works as a teacher's aide at The Temple religious school, and led a shabbat service at the BBYO International Convention. Violeta is the president of the Jewish Student Association at her school. She's a member of The Temple.



Maraya Goldstien

Maraya, a rising senior at Ballard High School, has served locally as Mazkirah, S'ganit, and Morah. Maraya has taught B'nai Mitzvah classes at The Temple, and volunteers at Wilder Elementary and Kammerner Middle School. Maraya has participated in numerous local and

regional events and has attended J-Serve for four years. She's also attended the BBYO International Convention the last two years. Maraya is a member of The Temple.

The Ellen Faye Garmon Award is given to an incoming junior or senior in high school who was involved in their BBYO chapter and community, working to strengthen and grow both. Recipients will receive scholarships toward a BBYO convention.

This year, the award goes to **Matthew Schwartz** and **Leah Schuhmann**.



Matthew Schwartz

Matthew is a rising junior at Ballard High School. He's volunteered with J-Serve for several years and with FBLA, Feed Louisville and Home of the Innocents. Matthew has attended the Drew Corson Basketball tournament for two years. He is an active member of Drew Corson AZA attending multiple local and regional events. Matthew is a



Leah Schuhmann

member of The Temple. Leah Schuhmann is a rising senior at duPont Manual High School. Leah was recently elected to the 69th Kentucky Indiana Ohio (KIO) regional board serving as Shlichah (vice president of Jewish programming). Leah is an officer for Best Buddies at her school and a member of the National Honor Society. Leah has participated in multiple local and regional events over the past year. She will be attending ILTC this summer. Leah is a member of Keneseth Israel.

Abigail Goldberg is Teen Director and Philanthropy Outreach at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center

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NEWS AND NEWS MAKERS

Max Shapira Honored by UJA Federation New York



From left: Allan Latts, Jake Latts, Max Shapira, Kate Latts and Lindsey Latts, in front: Ellen Shapira (Photo and below by Michael Priest Photography)

Max L. Shapira, executive chairman of Heaven Hill Brands, was honored by UJA Federation New York's Wine & Spirits Division during a June 21 ceremony at Manhattan's Harmonie Club. Shapira was given the Samuel Bronfman Memorial Award, named for the late Canadian philanthropist who founded Distillers Corporation Limited – the company behind the Seagram's brand.

Shapira became chairman of Heaven Hill Brands in September of 2022. His daughter, Kate S. Latts and her husband, Allan Latts, are co-presidents of the company.

The June 21 event was titled, "The Challenges are Great. Our Resolve is Greater."

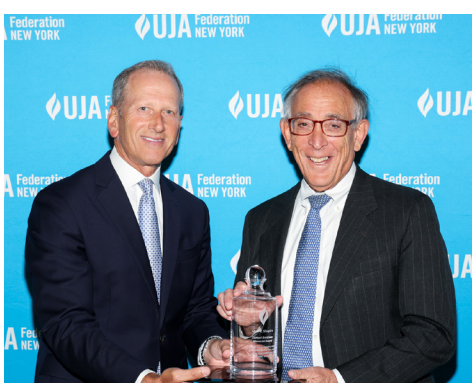
"Under Max's leadership, Heaven Hill

Brands has undergone steady expansion – through internal product development, brand acquisition, and international growth – that has taken the company beyond its traditional roots as a bourbon distiller," a ceremony brochure detailed.

"Heaven Hill Brands now ranks among the leading distilled spirits suppliers in the United States and is the largest independent, family-owned and led company in the industry."

The Shapira family has been among the most generous supporters of Louisville's Jewish community. A tangible example is the Shapira Foundation Auditorium at the Trager Family JCC, where performances, lectures and other events testify to the Shapiras' enduring legacy.

"We are so lucky to have had Max



Roy Danis, chair of UJA Federation New York's Wine & Spirits Division, presents the Samuel Bronfman Memorial Award to Max Shapira.

as our Honoree," says UJAFed's Sophie Leibowitz. "He is a genuine leader and committed philanthropist who has dedicated decades to the industry and the Federation. He has already inspired so many and will have a ripple effect for generations to come."

FCS hosts panel on how to support transgender youth

Jewish Family & Career Services has been notably proactive in advocating for the rights of transgender children. So it wasn't surprising that on Tuesday evening, June 6, JFCS hosted a panel of four people who occupy the front lines in efforts to counter trans prejudice

with trans fact.

The panel included two physicians: Kentucky State Senator Karen Berg – a diagnostic radiologist whose trans son, activist Henry Berg-Brousseau, took his own life this past December -- and Louisville pediatrician Karen Abrams, herself a parent of a trans youth.

They were joined by JFCS licensed clinical social worker Melissa Roth, and Stuart Walker, a trans man who is programming director for Sweet Evening Breeze, a Louisville organization that provides services for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness.

After Kentucky ACLU legal director Corey Shapiro gave an overview of current issues, the panelists – questioned by JFCS CEO David Finke – offered highly personal perspectives on the present state of transgender rights in Kentucky.



Left to right: Stuart Walker, Karen Berg, Karen Abrams and Melissa Roth participated in a June 6, 2023 panel discussion hosted by Jewish Family & Career Services. (Photo by Andrew Adler)

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NEWS AND NEWS MAKERS

"Children and adolescents want to be loved and respected for who they are," Abrams emphasized. "And the vast majority of young children are color blind, race blind and gender blind."

Much of the evening turned on respect (preferred pronouns, names or nicknames), and how to counter such legislative roadblocks as Senate Bill 150, passed during this past session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Language matters – a lot.

Years before he came out as an adult, Henry was engaging in self-harm and grappling with "severe mental anxiety," Berg says, recalling how she was flummoxed. "Obviously we had psychiatrists, we had therapists, we had doctors, but he didn't have the words – he wasn't able to tell us until he got older, (when) he heard the words and he got online, and he learned about this."

Walker, who came out as a college freshman and considers themselves as non-binary, had a different experience. "So I can't say what I wished my pediatrician had done." Though their parents "did allow me to explore my identity, I wished they had talked to me about it."

And for anyone wondering if their child was simply "going through a phase," social-worker Roth offered this advice: A child being "insistent, persistent and consistent," she said, "is the difference between a phase and something that's real."

A Rosenwald School retrospective via photographs and recollection

"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 in rural communities. 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 photographer Andrew Feiler spent more than three years documenting the remaining schools and the stories that live on in generations of graduates. This body of work became a book by the same title, published by University of Georgia Press in 2021." – Notes from the Filson Historical Society

On a recent Thursday evening, Feiler spoke to a Filson audience about his project. The second half of his hour-long presentation was especially engaging, as it consisted of Feiler interviewing Frank Brinkley and his brother,



Brothers Frank Brinkley and Charles Brinkley Sr., interviewed by photographer Andrew Feiler June 15, 2023 at the Filson Historical Society (Photo by Andrew Adler)

Charles Brinkley Sr. The brothers, who are now in their 80s, attended a Rosenwald School in Cairo, Tenn. during the 1940s and 1950s.

Education was the central dynamic of both brothers, each of whom earned undergraduate and graduate degrees. Frank Brinkley taught high school science and math; Charles Brinkley went on to become a middle school principal. Their four sisters are also Rosenwald School alums.

Their achievement was all the more remarkable considering that students from pre-K through Eighth Grades sat in a single room, typically with only a single teacher – their father.

"We had science, math, social studies – and English and math every day," Frank Brinkley recalled. "My father would give a little test to the kids when they first got there – some would be just

five years old. But one advantage was that he always used some of his students to teach others, and I always enjoyed doing that."

The Filson will present two follow-up Rosenwald events: another talk by Feiler July 14 from 6-7 p.m., and a "Field Trip" bus tour of surviving Rosenwald Schools in Jefferson County July 15 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information on either of these events, go online at filsonhistorical.org, or call (502) 635-5083.

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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun's Sh'ma Theatre will perform the play Beau Jest during the third week in July. Beau Jest tells the story of Orthodox Jewish parents who ask their daughter to bring home the great guy she's been dating -- but he's not Jewish. In order to please her parents, the daughter hires an actor to pretend to be her Jewish boyfriend. Four performances will be offered: July 16 at 3 and 7 p.m., and July 17 and 19 at 7 p.m. General admission is \$20; students and seniors ages 65 and over, \$15. For more information, see the flyer on the homepage at www.adathjeshurun.com. To make a reservation, visit www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations.

Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel, and The Temple are hosting a shared Tisha B'av Observance on Wednesday, July 26 at 9 p.m. and Thursday, July 27 at 7:15 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. All observances will be held at Adath Jeshurun. For more information, visit the AJ homepage at www.adathjeshurun.com.

Anshei Sfard

Classes are held weekly by Rabbi Simcha Snaid: A Night Kollel Ahron V'Leah -- open learning from 8pm-9:30 p.m. Monday -- Thursday for anyone to come & learn; Spice of Life, Wednesday 7 p.m.; Discussion on the timeless lessons from Mishlei -- the Book of Proverbs, Sunday mornings 7:45 -- 8:30 a.m.; Talmud Trek II, Sunday 9:30 a.m. Women's learning Sunday evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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.

Chabad of Prospect

A Picture This item last month gave an incorrect location for Chabad of Prospect. Its correct address is 6900 Transylvania Ave, River Bluff, Ky.

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.

Pianist David Shapero will return Thursday, July 6. Lunch will include all-beef hot dogs, baked beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and blackberry cobbler.

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.

Filson Historical Society

Join the Filson Historical Society for these upcoming events! For more information, registration, and membership visit www.FilsonHistorical.org

Friday, July 14, 6:00 pm: A Better Life for Their Children: A Rosenwald Schools Journey. Andrew Feiler will give a lecture on his journey traveling 25,000 miles and documenting the Rosenwald Schools.

Saturday, July 15, 9:00 am-4:00 pm: Bus Tour -- The Rosenwald Schools of Jefferson County. The Filson will host a tour of the Rosenwald Schools of Jefferson County, KY, along with a stop at the Division Street School in New Albany, IN. Registration fee covers transportation during the event and a box lunch.

Friday July 21st, 12 pm: Filson Friday -- Reflecting on Twenty Years of Louisville Metro: A Conversation with Jerry Abramson. 2023 marks 20 years since the City of Louisville and Jefferson County governments merged to create Louisville Metro. Louisville's "Mayor for Life" Jerry Abramson will discuss the complex history and process of this significant local event.

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@jfcslouisville.org.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

The Republic Bank Players Challenge is set for Monday, July 24 at Standard Club. The annual golf outing benefits Jewish Family & Career Services and the Trager Family JCC to help secure better lives for individuals and families overcoming life's challenges with confidence and dignity. The day will include contests, prizes, networking, bourbon tasting, food trucks & great golf in an optimal setting. Register today at <http://www.jewishlouisville.org/golf>.

Organizers are continuing to use data and information gathered in the recent Brandeis University-led Study of Jewish Louisville to better serve the community. Throughout the next several months, the Jewish Community of Louisville will convene several cohorts of community members, based on age and life-stage, to share their thoughts and ideas for the future of Jewish life across Louisville. If you are interested in participating, you can fill out a short survey to tell a little about yourself. As the various cohorts are defined and the groups are scheduled, organizers will reach out to invite appropriate community members to participate. You can find the survey at <https://form.jotform.com/231514885564059>.

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 -- when 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 July 7. 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.

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

An Inner Peace for Challenging Times Jewish Meditation Gathering will be presented Monday, July 10 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/psz7hd2v> My Presented in partnership with ALEPH Alliance Jewish Renewal (National) Interfaith Paths to Paths to Peace.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

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

Moishe Pod: Louisville

The Moishe Pod: Louisville is a part of the international non-profit organization Moishe House, which aims to bring together young adult Jewish communities from around the world. Moishe 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 Moishe Pod might host, email moishepod.louisville@gmail.com.

Temple Shalom

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

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: <https://tinyurl.com/4jpnk3ms>

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 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.

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

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 this link for more information or email Member Services Director, Amy Stephen, at astephen@jewishlouisville.org. For those interested in memberships, visit jclouisville.org/youbelong or email membership@jewishlouisville.org.

LIFECYCLE

B'nai Mitzvah



Sarah Elizabeth Rothballer, daughter of Stacey and William Rothballer, and sister of Aaron, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, July 29 at 10:30 am at The Temple.

Sarah is the granddaughter of the late Kenneth Grossman, and Barbara G Grossman, of Paramus, New Jersey, and the late Richard Rothballer and Smokey Rothballer, of Niles, Michigan.

Sarah began her Bat Mitzvah journey in 2022. Her quest to learn about her Jewish heritage drove her to meet weekly with Rabbi David. The more she learned, the more her desire grew to be confirmed as well as pursuing becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Sarah has completed her Confirmation, and had the honor of being in Rabbi David's first Confirmation Class.

Sarah is a junior at South Oldham High School. She is active on the SOHS cheer team, Beta Club, and works part time teaching gymnastics. Sarah is a goal-driven individual who is relentlessly driven to achieve her goals. Sarah's motto is work hard and never give up as she aspires to make the world a better place.

Obituaries



Benita Berman

Benita Berman, 85, died on June 10, 2023, in Louisville, KY. Benita was born on October 12, 1937, in Chicago, IL, to Dr. William and Mrs. Sylvia Schutz. Her family relocated to Louisville, KY, when she was a young girl. Benita graduated from Atherton High School and went on to study at the University of Louisville.

She married Dr. Gerald Berman, the love of her life, and had celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary at the time of his death in 2013. Throughout their marriage, they enjoyed numerous adventures. They loved traveling all around the world, especially to their cabin in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. They were season ticket holders to Actors Theatre and the Broadway Series; they loved going to concerts and trying new restaurants.

Benita and Jerry were avid UofL fans and were basketball and football season ticket holders for many years. In her later years, Benita rejoiced in volunteering at The Temple on Thursday afternoons, where she was known for making everyone feel welcomed and was beloved by the staff. She also volunteered at the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Louisville Section.

Above all was her family, with whom she shared many wonderful adventures with near and far and was a supportive mother and grandmother. Benita is survived by her children, Gregory (Ellyn) Berman and Cara Berman (Michael Jacobson); grandchildren Naomi

Berman Jacobson, Amanda, Zachary, and Samuel Berman; her sister Frances Glick, her brother-in-law Stanley Berman, and many nieces and nephews.

Benita was buried in The Temple Cemetery during a private funeral service.

Memorial donations may be made to The Temple or the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Organization (komen.org) 13770 Noel Road, Suite 801889, Dallas, TX 75380.



Laura Potash Russell Coleman

In memory of a woman who touched so many lives as a wife, mother, sister, and friend and through her work as therapist, Dr. Laura Bradford Coleman will be missed. It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to Laura who passed away peacefully on May 28, 2023. Beloved wife of Keith Coleman and the late David Russell, loving mother of Tom Cravens (Kimmi) and George Russell (Marisa), dear sister of Jim Potash (Selma), Shelly Satton (the late Jack) and Fran (the late Isaac), loving grandmother to Tom (Emily), Cameron and Mason; our dear aunt, cousin and friend to many.

Laura was born August 22, 1945 in Louisville, Kentucky to parents the late Ester Bernice (Becie) and Leonard Potash. She later pursued studies at the University of Louisville, Tennessee Technological University, and International College, ultimately earning her Ph.D. Laura devoted the entirety of her adult life to helping others. Her philosophy involved "living as fully as possible no matter what is happening in your life." Through this belief about life, she fought through her own physical challenges as a four-time cancer survivor. Laura was also a perpetual student and never stopped educating herself. Early in life Laura was a teacher for students with special education needs and she returned to teaching later in life as life coach. She helped so many people as a trauma wellness coach and developed a course on trauma coaching for children which she taught online for coaching students.

As a scholar and therapist, she had a private practice as a licensed psychologist and wrote a daily blog. Laura's daily Facebook posts often said things like, "Good Morning beautiful souls!!" "We come with nothing, we go with nothing, but one great thing we can achieve in our beautiful life is...a little remembrance in gratitude!" "Birth is not our choice, death is not our choice, but the way we live our life is ABSOLUTELY our choice!"

Laura had a unique understanding of people who experienced feeling out of control and unable to manage their addictions. Laura celebrated more than 50 years of sobriety, and believed strongly in daily affirmations which she relied on in her recovery. During her life, Laura affected many people's lives through her acts of kindness. She had a beautiful, loud, contagious laugh that affected everyone and will always be remembered.

Private memorial service. Contributions in Laura's memory may be made to To Write Love on Her Arms or the

charity of your choice. Members of NA and AA are invited to make a contribution to those organizations.



Richard S. Frank

Richard S. Frank, 95, passed away at home on June 20, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Hannabel London and David Frank, and his daughter, Janet Frank.

Richard was an avid UK fan, and he loved to go fishing with his friends. He worked for Cross Motors for 51 years. He was a devoted and loving husband to his wife Marylin, and he cherished time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Marylin; his children, Dr. Jeff Frank (Robyn) and Sharon Radin (Cliff); his grandchildren, Lindsey, Lauren Rager (Chris), Nikki Spielberg (David), and Jared; and his great-grandchild, Jackson Rager.

Graveside services were held at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Donations can be made to Hosparus, Keneseth Israel Congregation, or the donor's choice.

John Glickfield

John Glickfield, 73, of Corydon, Ind, died Sunday, June 11, 2023 at Todd Dickey Nursing & Rehab in Leavenworth, Ind. He was born October 9, 1949 in Durham, N.C. to the late Dr. Charlotte Woods and David Glickfield. He was a retired shipping manager in the transportation industry.

He is survived by his children, Elliot Glickfield of Houston, Tex, Gaele Glickfield of Ocean Shores, Wash., Rabbi Jacob Glickfield (Sarah) of St. Louis, Mo., Isaac Glickfield of Miami, Fla, and Shayna Glickfield of Key West, Fla; a sister, Ann DeBacker (Richard Pagel) of Broomfield, Colo.; a brother, Mark Woods (Debbie) of Milltown, Ind; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 12th at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., Burial followed in The Temple Cemetery. May his memory be for a blessing.



Lois Marks

Lois Marks, 83, died on June 7, 2023, in Louisville, Ky. Lois was born in Bronx, N.Y. on May 15, 1940, to the late Charles and Sophie (Markowitz) Lees. She will always be remembered as a devoted wife and a wonderful mother to her three daughters. Lois cherished her family above all else, and her warm and loving smile always made them feel supported, safe, and loved. She was an excellent cook and loved entertaining, often preparing everything for each event.

Lois was a founding mother of Keneseth Israel Preschool, the KI Sisterhood, a lifetime member of Hadassah, NCJW-Louisville Section, and a member of both Keneseth Israel Congregation and The Temple.

In death, she rejoins the love of her

life, husband, Dr. Ivan "Pudgy" Marks, daughter, Stacy Marks Nisenbaum, her parents, and her three sisters.

Lois is survived by her daughters, Alyson Greenfield (Avi) and Caryl Hemmer (Todd); her grandchildren, Daniel (Lillie), David and Elizabeth Hemmer, Sloan, and Zoe Greenfield; her brother-in-law Buddy Marks, sister-in-law Bennie Zelkind, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held June 9th at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy donations may be made to the Stacy Marks Nisenbaum Memorial Fund at JCL, 3600 Dutchman's Lane, Louisville, KY 40205.



Carol O'Koon,

Carol O'Koon, 80, died in Louisville on June 7, 2023. Born on December 30, 1942, she was a proud native of Louisville and the daughter of Mathew and Ruth

Waford. She graduated from Waggener High School, the University of Louisville, and went on to graduate from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority, the Dental Hygiene Society, and Keneseth Israel Congregation. She enjoyed her career as a practicing dental hygienist for over forty years, developing lifelong friendships with her patients and colleagues. She also enjoyed many memorable adventures over the years with her best friend Vicki. When she wasn't traveling the world with Howard, she was enjoying time at home with her flowers and many golden retrievers they rescued throughout the years. Her sense of humor and pranks kept all of her friends and family laughing. The love and support she poured into raising her children carried over to her most cherished title as the "Best Grammie" to her grandchildren. She had special bonds unique to each grandchild, which will be treasured as they grow and thrive with the love she poured into each of them.

Carol is survived by her husband of 38 years, Dr. Howard O'Koon; her daughters, Julie Helman Maldonado (Oscar) and Robyn Helman Ngo (Bee), Wendy O'Koon and son, Kevin O'Koon (Stacey). She was the beloved grandmother of Layla Maldonado, Jet and Phoebe Ngo, Hadley, and Audrey O'Koon; She is also survived by her brother, Ron Walford (Charlotte), and numerous family and friends.

Funeral services were June 11th at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Golden Retriever Rescue & Adoption of Needy Dogs (GRRAND.org), P.O. Box 6132, Louisville, KY 40206.



Bruce David Prizant

Bruce David Prizant, loving husband, father, and granddad, died Friday, June 16, 2023, at U of L Jewish Hospital in

LIFECYCLE

Louisville, KY. He was 75 years old.

Bruce was born in Louisville on September 3, 1947, to parents Ruth (Hildebrand) and Lewis Prizant. He graduated from Atherton High School, and attended Indiana University, where he joined Sigma Alpha Mu. When his frat brother John Oppenheimer got married to Anne Fliegelman, John's mother decided Bruce would be the perfect rehearsal dinner date for Anne's sister Ellen. Before long, Bruce and Ellen were married too, and this September would have been their 50th anniversary.

Bruce graduated from University of Louisville Law School in 1972, practicing family law, and civil and criminal litigation. He spent the last 3 years of his career assisting hundreds of families with adoptions, and he loved working in this fully positive and joyful sector of the legal system. Always a staunch advocate for children, he helped found the Louisville chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and volunteered with them for 23 years, mentoring children involved in the court system. In 2007, he was honored nationally as the CASA Man of the Year.

Making friends everywhere he went, Bruce loved sharing photos of his sons and grandchildren with strangers and life-long friends alike. He loved watching his grandson dance and his granddaughter play field hockey. He was an enthusiastic sous-chef to his wife and an accomplished grill master. Bruce always loved to flex his artistic side, whether that meant chiseling abstract stone sculptures or decorating holiday cookies. A die-hard U of L fan, in 2015 he hesitated to replace his out-of-date TV, because it would mean losing U of L's 2013 basketball championship game from the DVR. He was dedicated to exercise, and taught himself yoga from a book, which he practiced daily for 3 decades. Also self-taught were his famous card tricks, which he continued performing to the very end, delighting his doctors and nurses in his final days.

Bruce died surrounded by his family, after a 25-year battle with cardio myopathy and a valiant, final nine-month fight in U of L Hospital. He is mourned by his wife Ellen, sons Loren (Jane—Bruce always considered her a daughter, and didn't believe in in-laws) and Evan, brother Steven, grandchildren

Teller and Amelia, and many cousins and loved ones. His older brother, Roger, passed away in 2009.

Donations in Bruce's honor can be made to CASA or Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS). He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



Barry Schermer

Barry Schermer 85, formerly of Louisville, Kentucky passed away on June 2, 2023 in Freehold Township, New Jersey where he resided for over 30 years.

He was born on May 24, 1938 to Anna and Harry Schermer. He was predeceased by Joan Switow, sister, Edward Switow, brother-in-law, Abe Levine, uncle, Louis Levine, uncle, Fannie Monen, aunt and Eleanor Schermer, wife. He is survived by HarryeNe Switow Cooperman, niece and Ron Cooperman, Marcie Cooperman, great niece, Amy Cooperman great niece, Efraim and Yochana, great-great nephew and niece.

Barry spent his childhood at 1530 Second Street and lived with his parents and extended family. Barry and Joan shared such wonderful stories about how much fun they had with all of the Jewish families and the lasting bonds of friendship they formed that was carried through well into their adulthood. In the early 50s Barry and his extended family moved to a house on Sheila Drive. New friendships were formed and so many family dinners and holidays were enjoyed.

Barry attended Cochran Elementary School, Male High School and the University of Louisville. His affection for U of L and especially men's basketball was his passion. In 1959 Barry was the manager of the Final Four basketball team under head coach, Peck Hickman. Basketball became a central focus in his life and also for the entire Levine/Switow family for over 50 years. His love for the game and acquired coaching skills led him to teach and coach teams. Young Barry's first experience was coaching the J.C. Club team at the YMHA in the early 50s. Later in life he coached Resnick, AZA and the J.C.C. team that won the National Basketball

Championship in 1968. He was always admired by his team members as such a nice and caring coach.

Barry was a great salesman and in his early career he worked for a pharmaceuticals company, Pillsbury, and Xerox. He would share with his family the newest samples of vitamins and Pillsbury's Funny Face flavored packet drinks! Barry's love, respect and pride for Judaism was a major part of his life. In 1978, he became president of AJ and was so proud to be an integral part of the synagogue.

Barry was always very devoted to his family and friends in Louisville and then in his new home in New Jersey. He was such a fun-loving and caring Uncle Barry. He was greatly loved and will be deeply missed.

A graveside service was held on June 2, 2023 at Beth Abraham Cemetery under the direction of Bloomfield-Cooper Jewish Chapels, Ocean, NJ.



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NEWS

SLOSBERG

Continued from page 1



Rabbi Robert Slosberg (Photo by Jay May Photography)

elation, or eman- cipation?

I don't think it's exhaustion or eman-cipation. I don't see my life changing that much – I'll still be coming to minyan and participating in AJ's life – I just won't have the responsibility. And having been through the pandemic, there's also the sense that we made it. It was a really difficult three years.

Has that responsibility weighed heavily on you?

I've never seen it as a burden. I felt it was a commitment, a way of life. But there is a lot of responsibility. I mean, there have been people who have called me in their darkest hour, sometimes even in dangerous moments where I've had to respond and represent the congregation.

Slosberg had graduated from a joint degree program, earning a B.A. in History from Columbia University alongside his rabbinic degree from JTS. His seminary training, steeped in almost a century of tradition, focused considerably more on books than on bimahs.

There was training in counselling, which I thought was really, really helpful, but I don't think there was any preparation for

being a rabbi. Even with an internship, you don't grasp the enormity of the responsibility. I'm told it's gotten much, much better, and there's a greater focus on the practical aspects of the rabbinate.

Was your becoming a rabbi inevitable?

I considered medicine. But once I latched on to the rabbinate, it was so meaningful to me that I never wavered.

Were your parents observant?

They were pretty secular Jews. We joined the Conservative synagogue only because it was on the same block as our home.

It turned out that Columbia and JTS had more to offer than just academics – the future Deborah Slosberg.

I happened to be the (student) president of the school, and one day the dean called me into his office and said, 'Look, there's this new girl coming to transfer into the program and I want you to make her feel at home. We met in an elevator. At the end of my senior year of undergraduate school – 1976 – we were married. (Three children would eventually follow.)

What are some of the most significant changes you've observed during your tenure?

We've become much more involved with social action and justice than we were, say, in the 70s and 80s. We were not very connected to Israel. And I don't think we were involved in the general community as much as we are today. A lot of doors were closed to Jews, you know, pre-80s. That's why there was a Jewish country club (the

Standard Club) and the need for a Jewish Hospital. Now there's not a week that goes by where there's not someone in the community, who's not Jewish, who comes to me for help of some sort.

Ambition can be a hard thing to, to judge, especially when you're thinking about one's own ambition. After one decade, maybe two decades, were you thinking, 'I want to move somewhere else.' Maybe get back to Cleveland, or move up in the rabbinical hierarchy, nationally?

What mattered was doing what I wanted to do. The size of the congregation didn't really matter. I was fulfilled. And you know, with a bigger congregation there are a lot more funerals – and the few I've done out of town, they were all-day affairs. I wanted to be part of people's lives. There are trade-offs. Yes, I could have made a lot more money somewhere outside Louisville, but I'm not sure I would have been as fulfilled.

Deborah Slosberg carved out her own legacy as director of the Louisville Melton School for Adult Education, as did Robin Silverman – who's also retiring this month after 31 years as synagogue administrator. That's a lot of continuity.

Part of it is the sense of loyalty to the congregation. When someone on the staff has been sick, we've never abandoned them – not once. We've had people with cancer and we didn't. Now we're under Cantor Lipp's leadership, and we're going to have a lot of new faces, but I'm sure they'll find this to be a great place to work. It's not an easy job – and everyone has their

own mishigas about what they expect out of the synagogue.

Given Rabbi Corber's unanticipated resignation amid your pending retirement, Cantor Lipp has a tremendous task ahead of him. How will he and AJ manage?

He's going to do just as he's done when I was out of town. He very capably runs the congregation, and I think we're going to bring in a guest rabbi for the High Holidays to work with him and (his wife) Rabbi (Laura) Metzger. Look, I think he's the only person who could really help with the healing and moving forward of the congregation. And I will be volunteering. I won't be doing funerals and things unless asked by the cantor, but I will help in any way that I can. It's been a difficult year, but we all have a great deal of affection for Rabbi Corber, and we want him to focus on his health. The congregation has been very supportive of that.

The Brandeis University-led Study of Jewish Louisville acknowledges that the road ahead is anything but certain.

We've got a lot of people who went to college and then on to graduate school, and they leave owing a great deal of money. They're in debt. So I think money is an issue. And with dual-religion families, there are people who are pulled in different directions. It's a huge challenge. I think we've got people in place who can help navigate these waters, but my guess is that we're going to have to have to do things differently, and reinvent how religion is experienced in Louisville.

ALCOHOL

Continued from page 1

with religious rituals like Shabbos and Seders – that somehow inoculates the Jewish community from rates of substance abuse." Alcohol becomes a benign accompaniment to food, not a binge-worthy element on its own.

Anecdotal narrative notwithstanding, there's no denying that alcoholism and related substance abuse remain significant challenges in populations of all backgrounds. Indeed, Finke cited one New York State survey concluding that "more than 10 percent (of those surveyed) acknowledged substance abuse in their families – of which 90 percent said they wouldn't seek services."

It's that second number – the 90 percent – that's especially worrisome. "It's a stigma issue," Finke says. That shame would diminish "if we were willing to talk about it, so that's part of why it's important, particularly among my clients."

There are any number of available recovery resources. Twelve-step programs like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are ubiquitous (NA has birthed all manner of sub-programs – the blackboard in one facility listed meetings for "CMA" – Crystal-Meth Anonymous).

Just as traditional 12-step programs emphasize the value of sharing "experience, strength and hope," similar collectives remind participants that they're not alone in their efforts to heal. At JFCS, "we have a support group that gets going on Sunday evenings," Finke says. Soon, informational flyers will be distributed to, among other places, area synagogues and the Trager Family JCC, offering access to a "peer-led recovery group." Additionally, "we have therapists on staff who going to be available to work with family members."

When talking about addiction and sub-

stance abuse, this last point is crucial. "I think it's a family disease," Finke says, though "you have to be cautious about that phrasing, because some people will (think) that the family causes the disease – but it is a disease that affects the entire family."

Therapy – valuable that is for many people – is not the only path toward recovery. Other modalities have proven successful where talk therapy by itself isn't enough.

Medicinal detox has long been employed to treat addiction, especially alcoholism. Traditionally, the process is managed in a hospital setting – inpatient or outpatient, depending on individual circumstances.

But such requirements can be both expensive (if insurance doesn't cover the cost) and inconvenient. One alternative is in-home detox, which offers the parallel benefits of privacy and the emotional security of familiar surroundings.

The nation's leading in-home-detox provider is Aware Recovery Care, founded in 2011 in a joint venture with Yale University physicians. Headquartered in Wallingford, Conn., Aware Recovery now operates in more than 10 states, including Indiana and – since this past December – Kentucky.

"I'm not aware of any other organization that has attempted to scale our model into homes nationwide," says company chief operating officer Martha Mather, a Louisvillian who previously headed U of L Health – Peace Hospital, the city's largest in-patient psychiatric facility.

"It's a pretty innovative approach to treatment," she explains. "where we literally convert the home into the treatment center. We have a multi-disciplinary team that goes into the home to work with adults who are 18 years and older that have a primary substance-use issue." Aware team members typically visit clients two to four times weekly during a year-long process, in which oral withdrawal medication is combined with support therapy.

"If there's a need for a psychiatric evalu-

ation the nurse practitioner can do that," Mather says, and if appropriate "prescribe anti-anxiety or anti-depressant" medication. Other team members include a designated "certified recovery advisor" psychotherapist, "and a clinical coordinator who might be a social worker or a nurse."

"This made sense to me," Mather says, "for individuals that have childcare responsibilities and couldn't leave their home for 20 to 30 days for a long-term (inpatient) program, or professionals where it would be a hardship to leave their places of employment for an extended period of time."

A key component of the Aware teams are the "peer recovery coaches" – people who themselves have grappled with substance abuse. "I think about 80 percent of our staff overall are in recovery," she says. "This is passion-driven work for our employees."

The Aware system is far from perfect – half of the clients who begin treatment don't complete it. Still, according to Mather, a 50 percent success rate is better than what many alternative strategies achieve.

Mather and Finke agree that no program will succeed unless a person, whether in the grip of alcohol, heroin, opioids, whatever – genuinely wants to recover.

"An individual absolutely has to be self-motivated," Mather says. "Now, there are times where there's a family that's strongly encouraging it and maybe the client is, you know, sticking their tow in the water. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. This is a hard illness to treat."

Because casual drinking is accepted and often encouraged in social settings, alcohol – legal, inexpensive and available almost everywhere – is especially tough to counter. The pandemic, in which people were stuck at home, alone, for extended periods, brought its own set of challenges.

"Research is showing that the pandemic impacted mental-health factors," Finke says, "so there are higher rates of anxiety, higher rates of depression, higher rates of

substance abuse and higher rates of suicide. That's not surprising when you think about what happened in the pandemic, which is that people had to isolate. We're social beings, so isolation is never in our best interest."

Unlike Aware's age-18-and-up clients, JFCS serves younger teens as well as adults. Still, like their older counterparts, teenagers must want to get better. "If an adolescent doesn't buy in to the need to do things differently," Finke says, "it's very difficult to drag them in and be successful. They have to see the benefit."

It all comes back to reclaiming a degree of personal agency.

"You need to have a voice," Finke says. "And that's true of any client. If they feel like they have no say," like a teen "who gets picked up at school, not told they're going to see a therapist and then is dropped off at the therapist's office – that's not going to be very successful."

Ultimately, breaking a multigenerational pattern of substance abuse may be the greatest challenge of all – whether or not a person happens to be Jewish.

"There's a saying in psychology literature that we're drawn to what's familiar and familial," Finke says. "So we learn to parent by the way we were parented. We learn to embrace life the way we saw the people closest to us embrace life. Now that may be healthy, and it may be unhealthy, but there are a lot of ways to mitigate it. That's where intervention comes in."

Indeed, "there are plenty of people who live successful, healthy lives without any of the side effects of depression or alcoholism or substance abuse," Finke believes. "And by and large, those are people who've had some mitigating factor – whether its actual treatment to help them recognize patterns they need to change, or whether it's a significant figure in their life who helped them to see things differently."

GLOBE

Chabad opens Germany's largest Jewish center since WWII

By Toby Axelrod
JTA

BERLIN (JTA) — Germany's largest Jewish center since World War II and one of the largest of its kind in the world opened on Sunday in Berlin with a dedication ceremony that included diplomats and communal leaders from around the world.

The Pears Jewish Campus, which covers over 80,000 square feet and cost \$43.7 million to build, will be run by Berlin's Chabad-Lubavitch community. By the next school year in the fall, all of the community's current pupils — a reported 550 in all — will move out of their current locations around the city and into the new building.

The campus also features an indoor basketball court and gym that can double as a lecture or reception hall, a movie theater, a music studio and a kosher deli. The seven-story building, which is entirely open to the public, stands out like a sapphire situated on an otherwise typical Berlin street, with blue glazed brick-work on a curved facade.

Local Chabad director Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he was grateful to finally see the campus open after four years of construction that continued uninterrupted during the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's very beautiful, it's a place for exchange," he said. The idea is to "create awareness and knowledge of what Jewish

life is about. It's not just about fighting antisemitism. It has to be connected with positivity."

"There are millions of Germans who don't even know what Jews are," he elaborated at Sunday's ceremony. "Let's have positive cooperation, face to face, through dialogue, through shared, positive, joyful, lively, future-oriented Jewish life."

Approximately 90,000 Jews in Germany are members of congregations, from Reform to Conservative to Orthodox, under the umbrella of the Central Council of Jews in Germany; another 100,000 who identify as Jews are unaffiliated. When Teichtal came to the German capital with his wife, Leah, in 1996, there were fewer than a handful of Chabad congregations in Germany. Today, there are 20 Chabad communities across the country, according to the Chabad website.

Twenty years ago, Teichtal started the tradition of lighting a large Hanukkah menorah at the city's iconic Brandenburg gate, within view of the U.S. embassy. His mantra has always been to bring light into the darkness. On Sunday, too, he spoke of the new "beacon of light and tolerance" that has risen on the lot facing Westfaelsicher Street.

He has long been focused on raising funds to support new Jewish schools in the capital. Chabad kindergarten, elementary and high schools have functioned alongside other Jewish educational offerings here, including those funded by the Berlin

Jewish Community and by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

The new site will also have programs for adults and for people of all faiths, Teichtal said. The building has direct access through an inner courtyard to a Chabad synagogue and the Szloma Albam House community center, which opened in 2007 in a former Berlin utilities company building transformed by architect Sergei Tchoban. He also designed the new building.

The new campus bears the name of its major funder, the British-based Pears Foundation, but contributions also came from the federal and state governments, private companies, foundations and other private donations.

Speaking from Brussels on Friday, Rabbi Menachem Margolin, head of the European Jewish Association, called the new campus "a great example of the renaissance of Jewish life in Europe, in Germany, and in Berlin in particular."

The greatest danger to that renaissance, he said, comes from political threats to religious freedom, including the rights to perform ritual circumcision and to carry out kosher slaughter. He called the Berlin campus "an example to all Jewish communities across Europe."

"If they approach Jews in the right way, as Rabbi Teichtal does, they will see more Jews coming back to Judaism," he said.

The campus is cut off from the street by a wall and a glass fence. The protective wall is an eye-catcher, decorated with stylized

graffiti, sending a message of welcome rather than fear, said Ron Prosor, Israel's ambassador to Germany.

"People who have clichés about Orthodox Jews will be surprised here," said Prosor, whose father fled Berlin to then-Palestine with his parents in 1933. "They will be surprised by the colorful graffiti wall and by the impressive entrance, but much more by the openness with which they will be received."

Among the speakers at the dedication ceremony were Israel's Chief Sephardic Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef; Berlin Mayor Kai Wegner; Central Council of Jews in Germany President Josef Schuster; and Raed Saleh, a member of the Berlin Senate.

Saleh, who is of Palestinian background and was born in the West Bank, called the new campus "a statement — set in stone — on behalf of freedom in our country, freedom in Berlin, freedom of our people."



The Pears Jewish Campus in Berlin is seen at its inauguration ceremony, June 25, 2023. (Toby Axelrod)

In their classroom, Torah is a three-ring circus — by design

By Andrew Silow-Carroll
JTA

For a brief and slightly embarrassing period in my teens, I wanted to run away with the circus. I sent a letter to Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus, asking for an application to their Clown College in Sarasota, Florida. I got back a polite letter saying I was too young to apply, but they invited me to visit backstage during their next residency in New York.

For some reason, I didn't take them up on their invitation. And the next time I had any contact with Ringling Brothers, I was running away from the railroad tracks where the circus was parked in Philadelphia. I was on assignment for a national magazine to uncover evidence that the children of circus performers were being exploited. I didn't find what I was looking for, and I have what might be an invented memory of a circus strongman in tights blocking my way. Needless to say I didn't get any backstage invitations from the management.

When I started covering Jewish affairs, I assumed my circus days were over. That is, until I received a copy of "Under One Tent: Circus, Judaism, and Bible," an intriguing new book edited by Ora Horn Prouser, Michael Kasper and Ayal Prouser. It's a fascinating if at times unwieldy mashup of the history of Jews and circus, an introduction to what the editors call "Sacred Arts," and a primer on how dance,

circus skills and other movement can enhance the study of Jewish text.

Horn Prouser and Kasper are associated with the Academy for Jewish Religion, the nondenominational seminary in Yonkers, New York. Ayal Prouser is co-founder of Time Flies Circus. The book grew out of AJR's Sacred Arts program, which uses "embodied" arts to explore the Jewish canon. Like the National Endowment of the Arts, which funds circus performers, they insist that circus is an art form, one that includes gymnastics, acrobatics, juggling, clowning and "equilibratics" (tightwalking and other balancing acts).

Beyond the performance aspects, they also recognize the "heritage, codes, and history of circus." The editors contribute a chapter on Jewish circus history, which begins with Resh Lakish, the Talmud sage who was said to have performed as a gladiator at Rome's Circus Maximus. Their Jewish circus hall of fame includes the mime and Holocaust survivor Marcel Marceau, the Belgian resistance fighter and lion tamer (no kidding) Sara Hauptman and Paul Binder, the cofounder of the nonprofit Big Apple Circus.

Performer and researcher Stav Meishar writes about Jewish circuses under the Nazis. Famed outfits run by three Jewish families in Germany — the Blumenfelds, the Lorches and the Strassburgers — did not survive Hitler. Meishar mourns the "nearly complete annihilation of the German-Jewish circus royalty."

But the focus of the book is on educational technique. Drawing on Howard Gardner's theory of "multiple intelligences," the editors and their contributors set out to demonstrate how movement generates insights beyond the written word. The editors offer an "awkwardly Freudian" example from Genesis 24, when the patriarch Isaac beds his wife Rebecca in the tent of his late mother Sarah. At a workshop held at Limmud NY, the annual Jewish learning festival, three women were urged to consider the episode while forming an acrobatic pyramid, stretching to hold each other in balance. One student came to understand the Bible passage as "referencing intergenerational maternal and female support — everyone doing their part."

This approach may strike some as, well, a stretch, but there is a long history of using art and drama to teach the Bible. In 1995, Peter Pitzele wrote his book "Our Father's Wells," a popular introduction to what he called "Bibliodrama" — learning Jewish text through the theater arts. Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie, founder of the experimental NYC congregation Lab/Shul, uses such techniques in his "Storahtelling" workshops and performances. Brooklyn artist Deborah Ugoretz offers workshops in Jewish paper cutting and manuscript illumination, promising to "reveal the deeper meaning found in texts and ideas."

I may be the last person able to make light of an approach that combines circus

and Torah: This week I start teaching an online class in Judaism and humor that suggests you can unpack a Jewish joke using the techniques of Torah study and come out with insights that are no less valuable or "serious." Traditional yeshiva-style learning emphasizes that there are as many ways to understand the Bible as there are clowns in a tiny car, and Sacred Arts aims to uncover a few more. "Reading, imagining, and thinking produce one sort of understanding," the editors write. "Making and doing produce another."

If that means reading about the Binding of Isaac while walking a tightrope, as one student does in the book, why not?

So go ahead, Torah teachers: Send in the clowns.



Students at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, New York study a biblical text through circus movement, 2022. (Ora Horn Prouser, from "Under One Tent")

NEWS

502.0

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18-34. They're emerging from college, beginning new jobs, getting married and starting families.

But to appeal to this cohort, it's vital to understand from its members what kinds of connections they're seeking, and what barriers may stand in their way. That's where the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Bridget Bard comes in. As Manager of Young Leadership and Engagement, she was hired earlier this year specifically to work with this age group. And because her portfolio's initial phase -- dubbed "Jewish Lou 502.0" -- is directly related to the Brandeis study, she's a natural professional to help elicit answers from her young-adult stakeholders.

Bard was hearing buzz about the study even before she first read it. Following an initial Zoom session, "I saw there was going to be a town hall, and I immediately put it on my calendar to go. I was excited to hear what was going to happen."

"So I went to the session and felt invigorated by the whole thing," she says. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh, this is a race to find these new people to engage with, and reintroduce ourselves as a Jewish community.'"

Thus inspired, "I even made flyers and went out to PRP (Pleasure Ridge Park) to put them up in coffee shops,

and went all around the city saying to people, 'Hey, did you know that we're over here?' I was so excited that I finally lifted my head up a couple of weeks later, and it was a rush to engage with this new information that had just been released to us -- to open the floodgates."

To focus and facilitate its efforts, the Federation team is collaborating with Panoramic Strategy, a Columbus, Ohio-based firm that calls itself a "social purpose consultancy." The firm, Bard explains, will organize and lead gatherings "to hear what people's experiences have been, what their stories are, what works and what doesn't work." The goal -- broadly, is to "build the future of our community together."

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Federation and the Trager Family JCC, emphasizes the collaborative nature of the project.

"The Brandeis Study of Jewish Louisville is truly a gift to our community," Wagner says. Indeed, "we are not alone in this quest to learn more about our community, and to thoughtfully and purposefully plan for the future."

Testifying to that common imperative, over the past four years, "25 Federations have completed or are in the process of completing demographic studies," Wagner says. "We are grateful to our partners at the Jewish Heritage Fund for their leadership in helping bring the study to fruition. The question is, what comes next?"

One possible answer emerged this past April in Chicago during a meeting of the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly.

"Jack Wertheimer, professor of American Jewish History at the Jewish Theological Seminary, shared that we need 'Jewish Think Tanks,'" Wagner recalls. "He suggested that we need to understand why people are not participating, and why others do participate."

With Jewish Lou 502.0 as its first initiative, a steering committee is already in place, comprising "the group of people who are going to guide the whole rest of the project," Bard says. "Then there are our 'Connectors' -- people who are the best connectors in the community, the ones who can say, 'Hey, you've participated with us before -- now we need you to spread the word.' What we're hoping for is that our champions can tell 10 of their friends, or at least five of their friends. We want to really expand our reach."

"Having as diverse a group of people attend the focus groups as possible is the goal," says steering committee chair

Jon Klein. "And it's a pleasure to find out that there are these self-organizing groups of Jewish friends, and two-faith-family friends, who have formed outside the establishment and recognized institutions in the community."

Planners are putting together a series of four, three-hour Think Tanks. Two groups of 20-25 members would commit to attend a pair of those sessions through the summer, each meeting to be guided by Panoramic Strategy facilitators.

To encourage unfettered discussions, the Think Tanks will be held "on neutral ground," Bard says. "We're trying to reach more of the folks who are 'just Jewish,'" she emphasizes. "They might not be very religious, or they just might not have community" connections.

Bard has begun recruiting like-minded peers to help identify potential Connectors -- people like Maya Jamner, a 28-year-old flight attendant with Southwest Airlines who's moving back to Louisville after an extended stint in Chicago. The two women met earlier this year after a Yom Ha'Shoah event hosted by the Trager Family JCC when Wagner got them together.

Bard made a persuasive pitch. "The way she explained it to me," Jamner recalls, "was that she's trying to increase engagement with people who aren't necessarily affiliated with a synagogue. And as someone who's been living in Chicago for five years and is strongly in touch with my Jewish identity, but who never became affiliated with a synagogue, that really resonated with me."

Indeed, "I think there are a lot of young people who are connected with their Jewish identity, but who aren't doing things the traditional way that our parents did," Jamner says. "Maybe the pandemic had something to do with that. We got out of the habit of necessarily going to a place you know, once a week, and I feel like a lot of people my age -- myself included -- are looking at how to find our way in the community."

The Federation team wants two principal cohorts to participate in the upcoming Think Tanks -- areas of inquiry that are dubbed "headlines" "We're starting out by identifying young adults, ages 23 to 34, with no kids who are Jewish and living in Kentucky," Bard says. "The other is interfaith families with children 12 and under. That's where statistics become important. So there were conversations with Matt Boxer, the Brandeis study's principal researcher, who helped us (understand) the scale of who we were looking for in these popu-

lations."

Recruiting for Think Tank participants began with a "soft launch" during the June 4 Israeli Street Fair at the Trager Family JCC, where Bard had an information table set up. She had conversations like:

"Did you follow the Brandeis study about Jews in Louisville?" "Oh, I don't know" about it. "You know, the one where we found out that there are way more Jewish people here than we thought."

There were some who, when queried, replied that they'd at least heard about the study. "Either way, there were very few 'Not interested,'" Bard says. "So that was really encouraging."

Fairgoers had the opportunity to fill out interest questionnaires, and at the Trager Family JCC's front desk, there's a 502.0 display with a QR code visitors can scan for more information.

"I'm very optimistic that many (prospective participants) will come to the focus groups," Klein says. "The (Brandeis) study taught us that there is a very high percentage of the community that simply is no longer -- or which never was -- engaged with (foundational) institutions. If that's 40 to 60 percent of the community that's not affiliated with traditional institutions, for this to succeed we've got to engage them. It's an absolute requirement."

Not surprisingly for someone who's a professor and Vice Dean for Research at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Klein is a great believer in data-driven analysis. "We may have a working model -- a hypothesis, if you will -- of how institutions work, the structure of the Jewish community and what it can do," he says. "But the great thing of having been a scientist for 40 years is that you find out that the hypothesis is frequently wrong, and that you may have to rethink it."

Whatever the outcome, Jewish Lou 502.0 is making a case for relevancy -- and at the same time, residency.

"I know as I've gotten older, wanting to get back in touch with my roots has been important to me," Jamner says. "And I think that's the exact type of person that Bridget is looking for."

For more information on Jewish Lou 502.0, you can go online at this link: www.jewishlouisville.jotform.com

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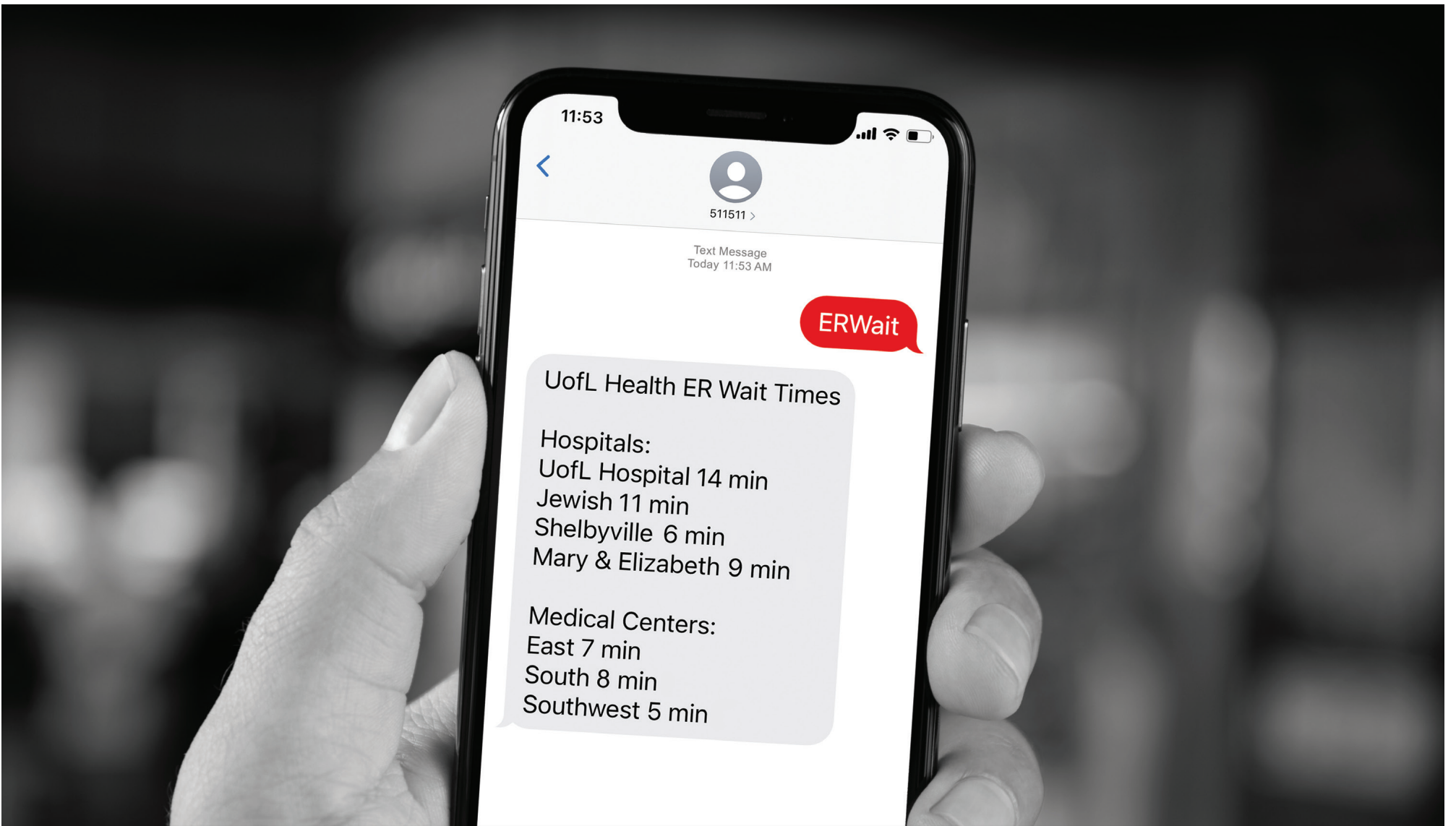
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