

FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 7 | July 28, 2023 | 10 Av 5783

At the Filson, history is a community affair

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

About three years ago, Abby Glogower – Curator of Jewish Collections and Jewish Community Archives at the Filson Historical Society – approached the Jewish Heritage Fund with an intriguing proposal: to underwrite a program in which artists and scholars would pursue individual projects boasting strong local connections.

As the Filson itself explains: “The Filson’s Community History Fellowship brings together history advocates from diverse backgrounds and different parts of Louisville. Fellows meet regularly at the Filson to explore topics and tools in historical research, documentation, and interpretation. Fellows use these methods in real time by developing individual history projects of enduring value to their home communities.”

The first six-member cohort of these Community History Fellows spent April to October of 2022 pursuing their respective visions under the shadow of COVID-19. Pandemic realities brought inevitable compromises (more Zooming, fewer in-person gatherings) but the initiative proved conspicuously resilient.

No such restrictions have bedeviled



2023 Filson Community History Fellows (L-R): Mariel Gardner, Kat O'Dell, Donovan Taylor, Amy Shir, Marcos Morales and Nathan Viner (photo by Emma Bryan)

the 2023 Fellows. And two of them – Amy Shir and Nathan Viner – are deeply enmeshed in the Jewish community, past and present. Shir is examining the legacy of the late activist Suzy Post (1933-2019), a former director of what’s now the Kentucky ACLU, who devoted much of her life to the cause of social justice. Viner is exploring links between Jews and traditional Appalachian culture, particularly music.

Though they are a generation apart

– Viner is 27; Shir is on the the cusp of turning 60 – both are anchored in the Jewish life of Louisville. She earned a B.A. in psychology from Wesleyan University and a master’s in public administration from Syracuse; he attended Eliahu Academy (Louisville’s Jewish Day School, which closed in 2008), and graduated from the University of Louisville with a B.A. in philosophy and the humanities.

Shir embarked on a career that, over

See **FILSON** on page 16

Even when rockets strike, Israel’s Galilee Medical Center doesn’t falter

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

The Galilee Medical Center is a nearly 800-bed facility located in the city of Nahariya at the northern tip of Israel. That by itself is unremarkable. What is remarkable is that this hospital in the Western Galilee region – one of Israel’s largest and most sophisticated – must contend with rockets that Hezbollah periodically lobbs in its direction from Lebanon, a mere six miles away.

No wonder, then, that the hospital was the first in Israel to build an underground complex capable of accommodating several hundred beds and ancillary equipment – essentially, an entire subterranean hospital. But such once-and-future construction costs money, lots of it. So does modernizing above-ground infrastructure, buying expensive diagnostic and treatment hardware, and expanding those below-ground facilities.

Enter the American Friends of Galilee Medical Center, which since 2014 has raised just short of \$11 million for the hospital. Senior administrators of GMC have been visiting the U.S. this month, and last week (July 19) were guests of Ralph Green and his wife,

See **GALILEE** on page 19

Hosparus G-Force camp translates grief into hope

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

The afternoon sun was blazing over Cave Hill Cemetery as the hearse, bright white, suitably immaculate, arrived at the gravesite. Cemetery officials opened the rear door, revealing a gleaming silver casket. Pallbearers bore the casket to its temporary resting place: a table erected under the welcome shade of a broad tent. Friends and relatives of the deceased sat quietly.

But this was no ordinary funeral. The casket was empty. The pallbearers and seated guests were children, ages 6 to 12. And during the service that followed, words of comfort came courtesy of Winnie-the-Pooh.

It was all part of a remarkable initiative organized by Hosparus Health of Louisville: G-Force, a four-day summer camp for children grappling with the remnants of personal grief. Each had experienced the recent death of a relative or loved one – perhaps a mother or father, sister or brother, grandmother or grandfather. Here profound sorrow was confronted, acknowledged, and the week progressed, hopefully diminished.

Camp T-shirts bore a declaration: *Grief is a Force of Nature. So Are We.*

This edition of G-Force unfolded during a week in early June. Successive days explored varying perspectives on coping with loss. Tuesday’s opening session took place at the Louisville Zoo, where campers learned how ani-

mals processed death. Wednesday unfolded at the Louisville Science Center, taken up with the biology of dying, with Thursday at Cave Hill. On Friday, campers let their bodies run free at the Trager Family JCC, followed by a closing ceremony at the nearby Hosparus campus.

The camp was organized by two Hosparus therapists: Joe Ferry and Erin Guthrie, who over these four days displayed a careful balance of empathy and practicality. Going to the zoo, for example, was in many respects a typical summer-camp excursion. Here, though, Ferry summoned memories of Helen, the matriarch of the zoo’s western lowland gorilla troupe, who dies in October of last year at the age of 64.

See **GRIEF** on page 5



Lynlee Coleman embraces her daughter, Cameron, at the conclusion of G-Force camp. (Photo by Andrew Adler)

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Jewish survival - what is our secret?



D'var Torah

Rabbi David
Ariel-Joel

This month we begin the last book of our Torah, Deuteronomy.

In this wonderful book, we find a verse that might explain one of the most surprising facts of the history of our people: the secret of how we managed to survive more than 4,000 years, holding to our tradition and to our sense of being part of the people of Israel. How could such a small number of people so impact the history of humankind and contribute to its evolution?

This could be thanks to a wonderful innovation coming from Moses and God: “At that time Adonai set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark of Adonai’s Covenant, to stand in attendance upon Adonai, and to bless in God’s name, as is still the case.” (Deuteronomy 10:8).

One wonders – what was in that Ark of Covenant, and what was the Inheritance of the Lord?

The Levites were the carriers of the Book – they carried the ark in which the Torah was contained, together with the broken tablets and the second set of the tablets of covenant given to Moses on Mount Sinai. In essence, the Levites are the guardians of Jewish tradition and teachings.

The role of the Levites is also

described in another verse: “They teach your precepts to Jacob; they give your instructions to Israel.” (Deuteronomy 33:10).

What is the significance of this role?

Moses dedicates an entire tribe (in fact it is Moses’ tribe; he is a descendent of Levy), to teaching to be the educators of Israel. This heritage of writing, of preserving of ancient heritage and texts – may be the secret to our survival and to our being.

Moses’ act of dedicating an entire tribe to teaching may be what has set us apart and what has kept us as a people – a whole tribe whose task is to keep the memory alive, maintain and promote our cultural heritage, and teach it to the younger generation. This work has become sacred.

The values of the Levites have been summarized in the Dead Sea Scrolls, where it is said: “Their spirit is the knowledge of truth, and justice in the Holy of Holies. The spirit of God is enlightening”.

The Levites are the preservers of our tradition – they are the teachers and educators of our people. Without them, where would we be?

Let us continue to preserve and learn from our texts. Let us ensure the coming 4,000 years of Jewish survival!

May we all enjoy a great summer, and continue to teach and to learn, young and old alike!

David Ariel-Joel is Senior Rabbi at The Temple.

Snapshots



Keneseth Israel celebrated Shabbat in the Park July 21 at Cherokee Park’s Stegner Pavilion. Clockwise from bottom, all L-R: Jon Silpayamanant, Greg Acker and Cantor Sharon Hordes; Brenda Bush and Sheilah Abramson-Miles; Sarah Greenberg, Karen Herold and Julie Segal (Photos by Yonatan Yussman)

Candles

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

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • August 4 | @ 8:31 p.m. | • August 18 | @ 8:14 p.m. |
| • August 11 | @ 8:23 p.m. | • August 25 | @ 8:05 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, August 14** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on **Friday, August 25**.

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.

Read Community Everywhere...

We have you covered, Louisville – online. *Community* stories are posted regularly at **jewishlouisville.org/community/**. That also is where you can find breaking news ahead of our print deadline.

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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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For questions about PJ Library contact
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Jewish Lou

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Be part of something remarkable!

Our recent Community study of Jewish Louisville underscored the characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors reflected by the wide spectrum of Jewish-identifying individuals in the Louisville region. The results are illuminating – charting a path toward creating the most inclusive, vibrant, and welcoming Jewish Louisville possible.

In the coming weeks we will begin gathering small groups. Participants in these think tanks will share ideas and be the creative spark that shapes where we are going.

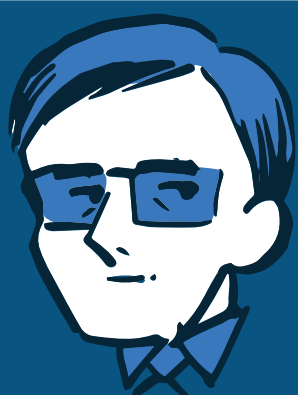
We invite **YOU** to be part of Jewish Lou 502.0.



Interested in being part of our think tanks?

Scan the QR code or go to JewishLouisville.org/502.0 to tell us about yourself.

Questions? Contact Bridget Bard, bbard@JewishLouisville.org



NEWS

Partnership2Gether nurtures vital relationships with Israel's Galilee Medical Center

By Amy Fouts
For Community

When I first started working for the JCC and Federation back in 2012, I learned about Partnership2Gether (P2G) and how it connects 17 cities in the U.S. with Israel's Western Galilee region and Budapest, Hungary. It's a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel and Jewish Federations of North America, combining and promoting people-to-people relationships via cultural, social, medical, educational and economic programs. Yes, all those words make sense, but the whole thing felt amorphous -- how did the program genuinely promote those relationships?

I didn't fully appreciate P2G's mission until I traveled to Israel in 2017 on the Jewish Federation's MOMentum trip. While in the Western Galilee, we did touristy things, like eating an amazing lunch at a farm with homemade cheese and touring the old coastal city of Akko. We also visited Kivunim for special-needs youth, an arts-focused elementary school, and the state-of-the-art Western Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya. We had a delicious family-style dinner and joined in a riveting discussion with Israeli Arab and Jewish women who participated in the Women Leading a Dialogue initiative. We met the people of the Western Galilee and were welcomed as family. It was then that I understood

people-to-people and how as a member of Louisville's Jewish community, the Western Galilee is my home in Israel.

In 2021, I proudly accepted the role of Louisville's P2G Community Liaison with the intent of making P2G less amorphous, so our community could understand what it is and why it matters. P2G is Rabbi David Ariel-Joel's twinning with Israeli students. P2G is the Women Leading a Dialogue multicultural empowerment program. P2G is involvement in global book club discussions. P2G is helping establish medical student externships in the Western Galilee. P2G is a five-day tour of Jewish Budapest in September 2022. And it is so much more.

During this past July 9-14, I traveled to steamy Ft. Worth, Texas for P2G's annual meeting. Its goal was to better define the "much more" that is P2G. The gathering began and ended with a strong camp vibe. Old friends gleefully reunited in the hotel lobby with heartfelt hugs, and we closed with a friendship circle. New participants were welcomed as veritable familiars as their faces had been seen on many a Zoom meeting over the past three years. (It was surprising to learn that people were much shorter or taller than had been imagined!) Out of the 44 of us who gathered, 12 were from Israel and four were from Budapest.

Our itinerary included large group and breakout sessions, where we worked

on our strategic alignment, analyzed our mission and pillars, and reviewed a 2024 work plan. It was wonderful to do this important planning in-person with such passionate and committed colleagues from Israel, Budapest, and other U.S. cities. It was abundantly clear that traveling delegations are key to our goal of building people-to-people connections.

We'll resume Zooming to continue the work we began in preparation for P2G's 25th Anniversary celebration in Israel, slated for November 6-9, 2023. Once

finalized, I'll be excited to share the new mission pillars and the 2024 work plan --including opportunities to travel to Israel --with the Louisville community.

To learn more about upcoming Israel travel opportunities or get involved with P2G, contact Amy Fouts at P2G@Jewishlouisville.org. You can follow Partnership2Gether events on Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/P2GLou>

Amy Fouts is Grants & Outreach Manager at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC



Amy Fouts (third from left) with friends at the 2023 Partnership2Gether meeting in Fort Worth, Texas (Photo by Nammie Ichilov)

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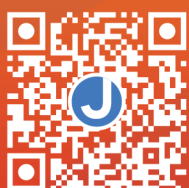
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NEWS

GRIEF

Continued from page 1

"Then we started remembering other animals," Ferry said, "like the mama giraffe who gave birth to a stillborn calf. And we thought, 'Well. I wonder what animals do when they grieve?' So we decided to spend the day learning about what animals do when they encounter death, and if we do anything like they do; what are the similarities and differences? Do they have feelings? Do they grieve in the same way we do? Do they handle death in the same way we do?"

Campers – who attend G-Force at no cost – were diverse in both background and specific experience. The one requirement is that the death of a loved one had to have occurred no more recently than two or three months, or more than two years ago.

"Some are here because someone or several people they know who have died," Ferry said. "Some are here for an unexpected loss, like the loss of a friend from an ATV accident. Some are here because of the death of a family member or a parent from an illness like cancer. Others are here because of a sudden loss of suicide or an overdose. We're just here to learn about, 'What is this thing called grief?'"

On this zoo day, where laughter abounded, organizers had to carefully nudge them out of their comfort zones. "We're purposely, sort of, stirring their grief a little bit when they are very self-regulated," Ferry explained, "so they can learn without being in a highly aroused emotional state."

Before boarding a bus to the zoo on the first day, the 40-odd campers gathered in a talk circle and broke off into buddy groups. "Everybody knows that everybody's here because someone who has died," Ferry said. "If we did nothing else, they have met 39 other kids who are going through something similar."

The commonality of loss is a powerful engine.

"If you look around the room," Guthrie said, "you can see them just smiling and laughing. And they're talking and doing all these normal kid things. But they all know that they're here because they also share that they've lost

someone that they love. Even when we're not talking about the people in our lives who have died, we're processing and doing work with it. And kids do their work by play and exploration, so being able to use the Science Center and the Zoo and the (Trager Family) JCC and of course, the cemetery -- which is not your usual playground. But if you think about the idea that we learn by play, when we create a simulated funeral service, we're learning by playing."

Playing, and remembering, complete with a kind of communal eulogy. "Lifetimes are stories," Cave Hill Celebrant Michael Hicks told his young mourners, "each having a beginning, a middle and an end" no matter who it was that was lost.

"Let's spend some time thinking about our stories about them," Hicks said. "'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.' So said Winnie-the-Pooh when his friend, Christopher Robin, went off to school, and they had to say goodbye. What a great statement: It meant the life they shared was worth missing. It also means that the deep hurt of that loss is so hard, because the relationship mattered. And it still does."

The next day, Friday – after a morning of stretching, basketball and much laughter at the Trager Family JCC – it was time for the G-Force to close out its collective experience. Speaking to his young campers, Ferry recalled how Hicks had referred to Cave Hill as "a sacred place," not tied to any particular religion, but "a place of honor and respect."

So too was the patch of ground where the campers, seated in a circle, were encouraged to quiet themselves and "simply reflect on our week," Ferry said, and "remember the people we're here to remember." He played a song – "It's OK" – written by 26-year-old Jane "Nightbirde" Marczewski, who performed it on "America's Got Talent" in June of 2021 while disclosing she was grappling with terminal cancer. She died the following year, but not before "It's OK" had become an international anthem of hope.

"We're all a little lost sometimes," Ferry told his campers. "It's ok to grieve. It's ok to feel bad; it's ok not to feel bad. It's ok to feel confused. It's ok



Helene Trager-Kusman leads G-Force campers in stretching exercises at the Trager Family JCC (photo by Andrew Adler)



During a mock funeral at Cave Hill Cemetery, G-Force campers were invited to write messages of remembrance on a blanket that had been draped over a casket. (Photo by Andrew Adler)

to feel angry. It's ok to feel mixed up. It doesn't matter. It's all ok. And it'll be all right."

Ferry read aloud the names of those who had died. The children listened in silence. Some cried. Butterflies were released, fluttering up into the bright afternoon sky.

Parents, who'd remained at a distance while the closing ceremony moved forward, greeted their sons and daughters. Among them was Lynlee Kullman, reuniting with her eight-year-old daughter, Cameron. They'd lost her son and her brother, who'd died in an ATV accident when he was 11, just two months before.

G-Force Camp "was an incredible

experience for her," Kullman said. "She was able to process a lot and ask questions she wasn't able to ask us in the moment when everything was occurring." And "it helped me, because there were a lot of questions – things like funeral traditions, and cremation versus burial -- that were hard for me to answer."

Asked what camp had meant to her, Cameron, still in the present, answered simply, "It makes feel better. It makes me feel ok."

Then mother scooped up daughter, each wrapping their arms around the other. It was a hug that affirmed that, even amid abiding grief, it would indeed be ok.



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

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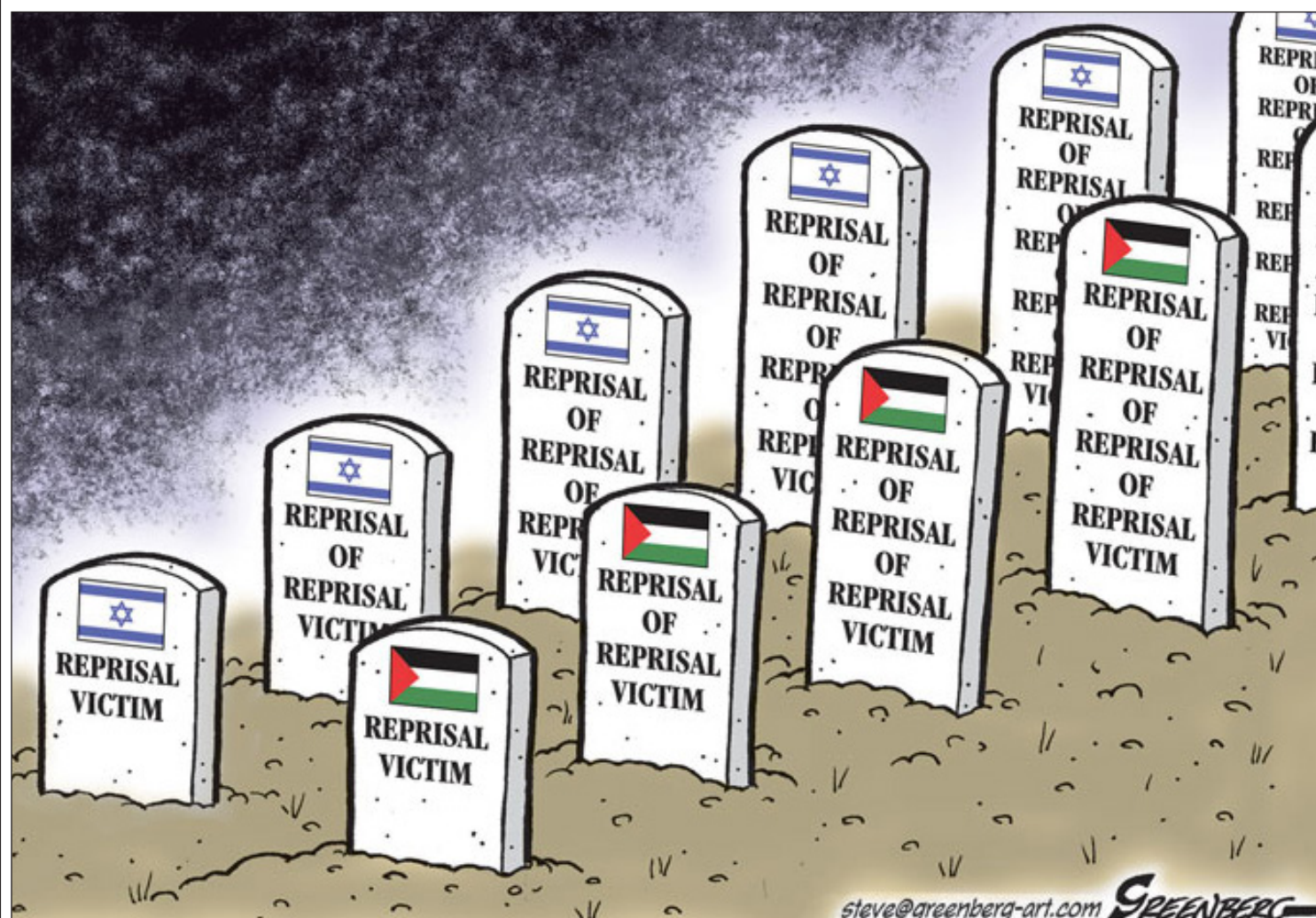
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FORUM



For Julius Robert Oppenheimer, moral justice always had a Jewish context



Mindful
Ramblings

Andrew
Adler

I've thought about J. Robert Oppenheimer for quite some time, long, in fact, before Christopher Nolan's three-hour biopic extraordinaire hit theaters on July 21. Maybe it's because Oppenheimer and I attended the same New York City elementary and high school: Ethical Culture Fieldston (albeit he was Class of '21 and me Class of '75).

The key word here is "ethical," which at this place was no mere bit of fanciful nomenclature. In Oppenheimer's time, and in mine, the core curriculum included a class called, simply, 'Ethics.' As fledgling students, we sat on the floor and listened to stories demonstrating a particular point of view; as we matured, stories gave way to discussion, which in turn gave way to debate. A half-century or more later, I recall those sessions vividly.

The Ethical Culture Schools were founded in the late 19th-century by Felix Adler (no relation of mine, I had to affirm on countless occasions) as a progressive school for the children of working-class parents. Adler was Jewish in a Reform flavor, but the school (and the governing Ethical Culture Society) was not a specifically religious institution. Instead, it

was grounded in what would be called secular humanism: a framework of moral imperatives that depended less on God as it did on good.

Many of my classmates were Jewish – in that respect, Oppenheimer (and his younger brother, Frank, a fellow alum) would have likely fit right in. Moving on to Harvard (skipping Eighth Grade along the way), his Judaism was less opportune to surface – this was a time when quotas would soon limit the number of Jewish students admitted to elite colleges and universities.

Still, J. Robert (his given first name, Julius, was forever tucked under that single initial) knew who he was in heritage and defining identity. Decades later, when in 1942 he was named head of the Manhattan Project laboratories at Los Alamos, his Jewish/Ethical/Pan-spiritual temperament would find their way to the foreground of his conflicted self.

Well before heading up the development of an atomic bomb, Oppenheimer was acutely aware that European Jews were under siege. In this respect he could argue – to himself as well as others – that Nazi evil had to be confronted and defeated, regardless of longer-term consequences.

On July 16, 1945, Oppenheimer pressed a button that triggered history's first atomic detonation – Trinity was successful. As has so often been quoted since, upon witnessing the blinding light of that explosion, he summoned up a line from the Hindu sacred text the Bhagavad Gita: *Now I am Become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds.*

I can imagine that at this moment, Oppenheimer began his transition from

dedicated scientist to conflicted humanist. He knew that others – most notably, Los Alamos physicist Edward Teller (himself half-Jewish) -- were striving to design and construct a thermonuclear device: the hydrogen bomb, in which fission's kilotons multiplied a thousand-fold to produce fusion's megatons.

The Soviet Union would soon detonate its own atomic bomb, and eventually, its thermonuclear cousin. Increasingly convinced that humankind was tumbling toward oblivion, Oppenheimer adopted a contrary posture. But amid this era of Red Scares and the Rosenbergs, contrarians seldom prospered. In 1954, after testifying at a hearing convened by the Atomic Energy Commission, Oppenheimer's perceived Communist sympathies prompted the government to yank his security clearance. The physicist was now a pariah. He died in 1967 at the age of 63.

Circling back to his time at Ethical Culture, I wonder how Julius Robert Oppenheimer remembered those formative years as a secularized American Jew, developing his earliest notions of what constituted universal justice. Intellect unbounded, he could then lose himself within layers of pure science, unaware of the forces that would presently ravage the earth, and which – carrying him to the very edge of morality's cliff -- would send him tumbling over its precipice.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

What does belonging feel like?

Sara's
View

Sara Klein Wagner

In a recent conversation with Rabbi Ben Freed, he shared that his experience at Camp Young Judea motivated his desire to become a rabbi. We smiled and bonded, as many overnight Jewish summer camp alumni do in recalling how the experience -- his at Camp Young Judea and mine at Camp Livingston -- inspired both of us to pursue professional lives that are fundamentally defined by what it feels like to belong to something special, and how that feeling endures here at home. It left me asking some important questions.

What does belonging feel like?

Do you walk into a room where people know your name and are they glad to see you? Can you be yourself? Do

you want to help make this group be even better? Do you know the basic tenets or norms of the group? Does belonging make you feel joy? Secure? Connected? Proud?

When we talk about building a vibrant Jewish community, I can't even imagine what a flourishing future looks like without understanding, what does belonging feel like? In the Study of Jewish Louisville conducted by Brandeis University, my question was asked another way:

To What Degree Do You Feel a Sense of Belonging To...the Louisville Jewish Community and Jewish People? A Great Deal, Any Belonging, or No Belonging?

About half (48%) of all Jewish adults in Louisville feel a great sense of belonging to the Jewish people. However, a significantly smaller portion (18%) feel that same sense of belonging, specifically, to the Louisville Jewish community.

The huge group of 65% who feel any belonging to Jewish Louisville leaves me hopeful -- if we are willing to actively listen and seek to understand why this wide swath of people don't feel a greater sense of belonging

to our Louisville Jewish community -- that the potential change for these individuals is palpable and achievable. The study identified clear barriers to participation. For example: More than one-third (35%) of Jewish adults under 45 do not participate in activities in the Jewish community because they feel limited by a lack of confidence in their Jewish knowledge. Another 41% indicate that they do not know many people. Other obstacles include cost, uninteresting activities, and feeling unwelcome.

I know I have said this before, but how fortunate my colleagues and I are to see, firsthand on a daily basis, what a true sense of belonging accomplishes. We see it in our Camp J campers who sometimes come with a friend, or often eager to make new friends who learn to be part of a new group or unit. We see it in our group exercise classes, in aqua fitness or senior groups -- and if a regularly attending member doesn't show up, someone else reaches out to check on that person. We see it in our Center-Stage family of committees and performers, who count on each other to bring stories alive.

The Jewish Lou 502.0 committee so far has met twice, and their enthusi-

asm for involving and empowering new voices is fantastic. Thank you to our steering committee members -- Head Jon Klein, Bill Altman, Rachel Klein, Jasmine Farrier, Simon Isham, Avery Markel, Benji Berlow, Abby Glogower, and David Kaplan (ex officio) -- for your wisdom and energy. At our last meeting we realized that not every volunteer in the group was originally from Louisville, a wonderful nod to the strength of making Jewish Louisville one's home.

Jewish Lou 502.0 is the next step we will take together to listen and empower others. It's also a chance to try out new approaches and provide opportunities for every member of our community, as well as those who are already participating. Because we all know that belonging -- connecting to a shared purpose -- largely determines how we see ourselves in the world. So if you haven't yet checked out the 2021-22 Study of Jewish Louisville, you can find it online at tinyurl.com/yc2rhtv3. Jewish Lou 502.0 encourages us to better understand the most pressing issues raised by this invaluable study.

Please fill out this short online survey at tinyurl.com/3u8s5spz, or contact Jewish Lou 502.0 project manager Bridget Bard here at the Federation via email at bbard@jewishlouisville.org, or by phone at 502-238-2780.

I know Rabbi Freed and I agree that every day can't feel like Maccabiah at camp or a sing-down in the Chadar (dining hall). Yet we know Jewish Louisville abounds with warm and spirited folks, who can feel a vital sense of belonging to both the Jewish People and our Louisville Jewish community -- if we are ready not only to confront those barriers, but to tear them down.

Shalom Shalom,

Sara

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

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PICTURE THIS: JCL ANNUAL MEETING



Top Right: David Kaplan and Sara Wagner presenting Bill Altman with his award; Micah Daniels-Golden and George Polur; Dr. Karen Berg, David Kaplan, Rabbi Rachael Pass (Karen's daughter), Sara Wagner; Award winner Margie Hubert, Dara Cohen, Suzy Gessner and Ann Lennon; Bill Altman standing left with his parents, Gloria and Irwin Altman, and Jerry Abramson; Robin Stratton and David Finke; Katie Bright, Dan Moran and Andrés Orrego (Photos by Kathryn Harrington)



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PICTURE THIS: GATORS SWIM TEAM



The Trager Family JCC Gators Swim Team recently competed in the annual Louisville Swim Association Division 3 Championship Meet at Mary T. Meagher Aquatics Center. Pictured are Gators Swim Team members (Top Row) Quinn Rhodes and Maggie Haynes; Olivia Schulten, Hadley Baird and Evelyn Weinrich; Skye Weinrich, Leah Sheets, Jack Schulten and Matthew Koronkevitch. (Bottom Row) Kendall Geller and Ava Hulsewede; Gators Swim Team members (Photos by Artem Koronkevitch)



Osteoporosis Workshop

August 22, 2023 | 12:45-1:30 p.m.
Led by Kayla Lim PT, DPT of Mind Body Physio

Free – Reservation Required

Osteoporosis is a condition that causes bones to become weak and brittle, which can lead to fractures. Physical therapy can help prevent and treat osteoporosis. This workshop will include exercises and demonstrations to improve bone density, balance, and flexibility, as well as recommendations for maintaining a healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of fractures.

Please RSVP to sguessner@jewishlouisville.org
by Friday Aug 18, 2023.



NCJW

National Council of Jewish Women
Louisville Section



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PICTURE THIS: WEISBERG SCULPTURE DEDICATION



Clockwise from top left: Brothers Ron, Alan and Frank Weisberg; center and right, Denise Courshon-Weisberg and Charlotte Mark; Sara Wagner welcoming dedication guests in the Weisberg Family Lobby; Frank Weisberg with Barney Bright's bronze sculpture *Tree of Life*.





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JOIN THE JCC CROCS

The JCC Crocs is an adult swim team that will offer fun and challenging workouts for adult lap swimmers, beginners to advanced, ages 19 and older.

Schedule beginning Monday, August 7:
Monday and Wednesday 6 – 7:15 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 6:45 – 8 p.m.
Saturday 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$55 a month
Practices will be offered at the Outdoor Lap Pool with Coaches Kristen Crawford and Chloe Falbo

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jkimberlin@jewishlouisville.org



*The JCC Crocs is for adults 19 years of age and older. Swimmers MUST know how to swim and be comfortable swimming laps. This is not a learn-to-swim program.

PICTURE THIS: REPUBLIC BANK GOLF

THE REPUBLIC BANK PLAYERS CHALLENGE

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Top row, from left: Jeff Greenfield & Mitch Greenfield, 2023 Committee Chair; Sara Klein Wagner, Logan Pichel, President & CEO of Republic Bank & Trust Company, David Finke & Brandon Jagers. Jagers was a player on the 1st Place Team along with Travis Goetz, Hunter Hayes & Trevor Clines; 3rd Place Team, Jimmy Bornstein & Howard Klein (shown), along with Jay Nussbaum & Uri Glattstein.

Middle row, from left: Hunt Schuster & David Kohn; George Demaree, Toni Coleman, Teri Raque & Pedro Bryant, Executive Vice President Republic Bank & Trust Company; Adam Wishnia & Jake Wishnia.

Bottom row, from left: 2nd Place Team, Sam Weinberg, Jim Morguelan, Jim Fine & Bruce Miller; Jeff Simon, Nate McCauley, Alexander Blieden & Howard Kaplin; Nancy Hublar, Colleen Morris, Julie Hayes & Beverly Bromley.

Other Winners Include: Most Accurate, Bubba Johnson; Longest Drive, Jim Morguelan; Closest to the Hole, Ken Kinderman; Putting Contest, Steven Goldberg.

(Photos by Kathryn Harrington)



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JFCS to expand addiction services

Addiction is a widespread problem affecting millions of people across the country. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 40.3 million Americans aged 12 and older battled a substance use disorder in 2020.

Spurred on by the isolation and stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, the proliferation of fentanyl overdose deaths, particularly for our youth, and the significant toll it has taken on families and communities we are seeing an increased need for specialized support and counseling services. And the long-standing myth that addiction is not a problem for Jewish youth and adults only adds to the tragedy.

The numbers of American Jews impacted by substance abuse are not widely published. A recent study, however, approximated that 10% of Jewish families in New York reported having substance abuse problems within their household. The overwhelming majority also reported they were not seeking help for these issues.

Substance abuse has tremendous ripple effects. It impacts family decision-making, family communications, and relationships both within family of origin and throughout the extended family. That is one of the greatest unspoken tragedies of substance abuse.

Recognizing this social issue, Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) recently

announced the expansion of services designed address the impact of substance abuse in a family. The program offers individual, couples, and family counseling services with a focus on understanding and working through addiction.

"We've long recognized the urgent need for accessible and comprehensive addiction counseling services within our community," said Dr. David Finke, CEO of JFCS. "Through this program, we hope to provide a safe and supportive environment for individuals, couples, and families affected by addiction, by fostering healing and recovery."

The program will cater to individuals at various stages of their addiction journey, including those with current non-crisis level addiction issues, individuals in recovery, and loved ones of individuals in active addiction or recovery. JFCS will use a holistic approach, ensuring clients receive comprehensive support tailored to their unique circumstances.

Kathryn Cowart, LPCC-S, Assistant Director of Programs at JFCS, highlighted the significance of offering counseling and support services for loved ones and family members.

"Addiction affects not only the individual struggling with it but also their loved ones," Cowart said. "Through this program, we aim to equip families with the tools they

need to navigate the challenges of addiction, heal together, and foster healthy relationships."

Counseling services will be delivered by highly-qualified and compassionate mental health professionals. By employing evidence-informed therapeutic approaches, the program will address the underlying causes of addiction, develop coping mechanisms, and promote resilience in both individuals and families.

With case management services also available, JFCS can connect clients with additional resources, such as employment support, to ensure comprehensive care and long-term recovery.

Individuals seeking counseling services through the program can expect a confidential, non-judgmental, and supportive environment where they can explore their addiction, work towards recovery, and rebuild their lives. JFCS is committed to promoting inclusivity and cultural sensitivity, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background or faith, feel welcome and understood.

As JFCS continues to expand its range



of services, the addictions program reflects the organization's dedication to addressing the evolving needs of not only the Jewish community, but the Greater Louisville community as a whole. By providing comprehensive addiction counseling and support, JFCS aims to make a meaningful impact on individuals and families affected by addiction, fostering resilience, healing, and hope.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact JFCS at services@jfcsloouisville.org.



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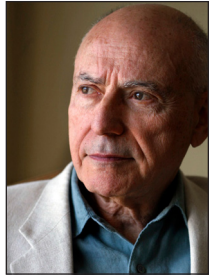
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NEWS

The “Jewish” in Alan Arkin’s artistry

By David Y. Chack
For Community



Alan Arkin

be able to see a sprawling anti-war novel by Joseph Heller -- with anti-Vietnam War reverberations -- on screen.

But I came away devastated by Arkin’s ability to embody the overall madness of war via an interplay of intellect, language, emotions, and body that produced a transcendent performance. Like a great dancer Arkin did the same, and under Mike Nichols’ direction, shaped a Yossarian with biting humor, grace, and beauty.

From then on, Alan Arkin performances were my mainstay. They included: “The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter,” “Popi,” “The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming,” “The In-Laws,” “Glengarry Glen Ross,” “Escape From Sobibor,” “Little Miss Sunshine,” “The Kominsky

Method,” and others.

Describing Arkin in light of dance is not a stretch. Early in his life, he trained with Benjamin Zemach -- a pioneer in modern dance with Martha Graham, and a founding member of the Habimah Jewish Theatre.

Arkin continued to hone his craft in the improvisatory incubator of The Second City in Chicago and its predecessor, Compass Players, which spawned other figures who changed theatre, comedy, and film like Paul Sills, Mike Nichols, Elaine May, Joyce and Byrne Piven, Ed Asner, Sheldon Patinkin, Eugene Troobnick, Joan Rivers, Paul Sands, Barbara Harris, and many more.

At Second City, groundbreaking acting teacher Viola Spolin, incorporated theatre games and play, communicating her systematic method through a process of “Talmudic questioning,” and by incorporating such Judaism-based ethical principles as welcoming the stranger and seeking freedom. Similarly, she emphasized the notion of an ongoing dialogue with the ‘other,’ developed by one of the 20th century’s greatest Jewish philosophers, Martin Buber in his seminal work, “I and Thou.” This method led to the famous “yes, and...” one could employ to find the essential truth of a given scene. Arkin melded all of this into a perfect expressive amalgam.

Recently I spoke with Arkin’s son, Matthew, who is both an accomplished actor and an acting teacher. When I asked about his father’s Jewish identity, Matthew said, “He was reluctant to admit to his Judaism. He was more into Eastern philosophy. And yet, (he) conceded that others saw him as Jewish and that many of the parts he played were Jewishly inspired.

“There was a time when my father had just completed an interview,” Matthew recalled. “I asked him how it went. He said, ‘Not good. He asked a lot of stupid questions, for instance: “Why do I usually play a certain ‘type’ of character?” I said to him that first I read the part and then if I like it, I do it and if I don’t, I don’t.’

“But Dad,” Matthew responded, “you do most often play a certain kind of character.” His father shot back, “What type of character do I play?” Matthew answered, “You most often play a character who is looked at as crazy, because you are the only sane one in an insane world.”

Matthew said to me, “It’s like in the book, Nothing Sacred, by Douglas Rushkoff. He wrote, ‘Don’t worry about Jewish observances, going to temple, holidays, etc. Instead, there are three Jewish pillars — iconoclasm, monotheism and social justice.’ For Dad that meant smashing idols.”

Over Alan Arkin’s illustrious career in film, television and theatre, winning an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Tony Award, nominations for six Emmy Awards — he chose roles that leapt out for their irascibility, their power to stand up for the ‘little guy,’ giving voice to the voiceless, and by smashing idols in order to wake us up.

Certainly he read scripts to see if he liked them. But he was a mensch; he chose his roles wisely and with artistic care. In an interview with Dick Cavett, Arkin pointed out that he didn’t want roles that were two-dimensional. Instead, he sought to tell complex stories about the human condition that expressed drama as well as comedy, that were empathetic as well as being thought-provoking -- and so that we would always keep asking, “yes, and...”

David Y. Chack is adjunct professor in Jewish and Holocaust Theatre at The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago and Producing Artistic Director of ShPIeL Theatre, Louisville, presenting the Smiles of a Summer ShPIeL Showcase July 28 - 30 at Keneseth Israel Congregation (shpielperformingidentity.com).

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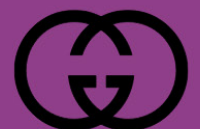
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The Art of ReStart: Perspectives on a Broken Printer

A student came into the office a little while back.

She was trying to make a photocopy of her artwork to share with her classmates.

"It's not working," she said and asked if I could help her fix it.

After flexing my (minimal) IT skills , neither one of us could really figure out what was wrong.

"Can I teach you a magic trick to use when this happens?" I asked, "It works for printers, laptops, phones... even people!"

She rolled her eyes, skeptical this was just a bad Rabbi Meyers joke* or something.

I reached for the printer, turned it off, then back on.


"Try it now," I said.

She pressed the button.

Voila ✨!

To her excitement, it worked.

Fresh copies in hand, she asked me, "Ok, Rabbi Meyers. But how does this work on people"?


"Simple," I said. "Sometimes, all we need is a restart and a break. When we're well-rested, well-fed, and our 'cup' is full , solutions appear out of nowhere."

I'd like to think she left the office with more than just a fresh copy but also with a fresh perspective.

I started to think about my own perspectives on restarting. I didn't have to look much further than our own Jewish heritage.

In many ways, this is the message of Shabbos.

If we were "On" for seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, and


all 120** years of our lives, we'd quickly burn out, lose creative juices, and lose sight of our goals .


Our Torah's ancient wisdom teaches that there's a better way. We are given defined times to pause.


Once a week from Sundown to Sundown .

Whether (I think) I need it or not.

No matter what.

No matter how much work I have left to do, I connect with my family  on Shabbos.

No matter what else I'd like to create (physically), I create connections with my soul and Jewish heritage on Shabbos .

No matter what the world throws at me, I take a step back. I rest, recharge, and renew on Shabbos .

And you know what?

When I return to my work and my problems on Sunday, I have a fresh perspective.

New solutions appear.

It's not just a trick for fixing printers and laptops.


It's the wisdom our people have been following for millennia.

And it works.

Wishing you all a meaningful, restful, and enjoyable Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Shmuel Meyers

*Me? Bad Jokes? Never! 

**Throughout the ages, our people have blessed each other with the words, "may you live to 120 years", the age Moshe Rabbeinu (Moses) was when he passed away. Here's to hoping we all get there .

*"When we're
well-rested,
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Snapshots



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NEWS

FILSON

Continued from page 1

four decades or so, has shifted from senior corporate finance to an emphasis on social justice – a natural adjunct to Post's own points of emphasis. Viner landed an internship at the Criterion Channel, renowned for its collection of classic films, soon afterward gaining a full-time position as a programming coordinator.

"I get a lot of energy from this group," Shir says. "They're young; they're creatives. They're all working on very different projects. And they care about each other. We promote each other and show up at each other's events. I don't know if I would ever have known these people if Abby hadn't had this cohort."

"We wanted to bring together people from different backgrounds who were interested in history work that found meaningful to them as individuals, and to their communities," Glogower explains.

Initially, "we thought about starting the program with just an open call: 'Apply to be a Community History Fellow,'" she says. "But we were worried that if we did that, we wouldn't end up with enough true diversity. So we've been working directly through outreach with community partners, within networks, and asking friends and (others) to recommend people to us. Then

we've been approaching these people and saying, 'Tell us about a project you want to work on, and would this be a good fit for you?'"

As a ground-zero strategy, being proactive has paid off. "It's been a little more like recruitment," Glogower says. "The idea is that, if the program keeps going, it will grow into more like an open application process."

For Viner, good intentions and good luck aligned in his favor. "It was very serendipitous when I came to Abby, because I'd been chewing on thoughts about Jewish artists who focused on the South."

He'd spent a week at the Cowan Creek Mountain Music School in Whitesburg, Ky (a city best known as the home of Appalshop). "They kept naming all these different recordings, or players and books about the music, and it was just like, 'John Cohen,' 'Art Rosenbaum' – and I'm thinking, 'What's happening?' That's what my project is all about."

Cohen is a fascinating personality. Born in 1933, he was founding member of the New Lost City Ramblers, while making a name for himself as a musicologist photographer documenting folk musicians in Appalachia. He gained attention for his 1963 film *The High Lonesome Sound*, demonstrating unusual sensitivity toward the plight of local residents, many of whom were mired in poverty. He died in 2019 at the age of 87.

"I'm going to screen it at the Speed (Art Museum) Cinema on October 8," Viner says. "I'm going to get a 16mm print of the film from Indiana University, which is the real thing, a beautiful black-and-white, 30-minute documentary."

For Viner, encountering Cohen's works was akin to an expressive thunderclap. "I got his photography book – there's not much writing in it. He doesn't talk too much about being Jewish. There's a little paragraph where he talks about being a kid in New York City who went to shul with his grandfather, who was Orthodox."

Now, "I know so much about John Cohen," Viner says. "I know how people from the area felt about him recording him, because I've been there and asked them."

Viner had the makings of a project – a first step.

"So I started refining it, trying to figure it out," Viner recalls. One especially useful action was connecting with Nathan Salsburg ("a Jewish kid!" Viner exclaims), a Louisville-based folk guitarist who curates a digital archive devoted to Alan Lomax, the ethnomusicologist who spent much of his career making field recordings of 20th-century folk musicians.

"Eventually I came to Abby to hear her thoughts about what was possible," Viner says. "That's when she said, 'Well, there's an opening in this program, if

you have any interest.'" Such a collaboration made perfect sense. "Because I have a background in film curation," Viner observes, "it was coalescing into, probably, a film program."

His proposal quickly hooked Glogower, the daughter of a modern orthodox Michigan rabbi who came to the Filson in 2017 after earning a Ph.D in Visual and Cultural Studies from the University of Rochester.

As she learned more about Viner's intentions, her interest gave way to a kind of giddy anticipation. "In my mind I'm like, 'Nathan, I'm obsessed with your project. Please do this – *please* do this,'" Glogower says. "Because, heck, I'm not from here; I don't know anything about banjo music. I feel like an outsider, so I want to learn about this."

Shir's route to the Filson was more circuitous. "I'm a 'boomeranger,'" the Louisville native quips, "having grown up in this Jewish community and having left for places like New York and Berkeley and Atlanta, and then coming back. I brought a lot of progressive social justice activism with me that I picked up everywhere I lived. So Suzy Post was a real mentor to me when I moved back and ran for state representative in 2006."

Though Shir's run was unsuccessful, the experience reinforced her belief in personal and professional opportunity, particularly via shared imperatives.

(Continued on page 17)

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

– Photographs, storytelling, and original curation by Andrew Feiler



Photo: Elroy & Sophia Williams – Sophia's grandparents, former slaves, acquired and donated land for a Rosenwald School. © Andrew Feiler.

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

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

EXHIBIT CLOSES AUGUST 4, 2023! VISIT TODAY!

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Friday, July 28, 12:00-1:00 pm (EDT) | Hybrid • Free

Kentucky Unsettled: The Erasure of Native Homeland
Kelly Hyberger



This lecture explores the complex and shifting boundary of the western frontier in the second half of the eighteenth century. By looking at how land in what is now Kentucky was distributed and claimed by competing colonial, Native, and American interests, this talk will explore concepts of colonialism, property ownership, and sovereignty.

Friday, August 4, 12:00-1:00 pm (EDT) | Hybrid • Free

The Legacy of Black Louisville Educator, Author, and Community Leader, Joseph Seamon Cotter, Sr. • Emma Bryan and Natalie Woods



Join Filson Community Engagement Specialist and Public Historian Emma Bryan and the Manager of the Western Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, Natalie Woods as they share more information about the life and legacy of Cotter and the digitization of his papers, which are among other important Black Louisvillians' housed in the archive of Western Library.

Register online at filsonhistorical.org/events/upcoming-events. Presented by Dinsmore Family Wealth Planning.

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NEWS

"We stand on each other's shoulders," she says. "Now Karen Berg is a state senator, and we have (state representative) Tina Bojanowski and (former state representative) Maria Sorolis, so Democratic women are winning out there."

Meanwhile, Shir had met Post and soon realized they were in sync. "Suzy and I just formed a bond. Like Suzy, I've always been interested in the broader community here and the injustices of our segregated city...so when she passed away in early 2019, I realized that here was someone who meant so much to me and a lot of my peers, but that there are a lot of young Jews who don't know Suzy."

"My project is making sure that young Jews know the legacy of Suzy Post," Shir says. "That they understand desegregation and women's rights and Title Nine, how she was part of the underground railroad that sheltered folks who didn't want to serve in the Vietnam war -- and that she was the first executive director

of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition tackling affordable housing, which is still a persistent problem here."

To those ends, Shir will meet with young Jewish adults at the Trager Family JCC Sept. 7 from 6-8:30 p.m. and visit classes at Louisville's High School for Jewish Studies on Oct. 22. The idea, she says, is to use Post "as a prompt (about) the issues she dealt with and what she did about them, and then having young Jewish adults break off into small groups and have conversations about what's meaningful to you, and how might pursue activism on those issues."

Like Shir, Viner's relationship to his native city is complex and deeply personal. His project amounts to "a reckoning with the identity of being a Jewish person from Louisville, Kentucky -- being Jewish here as part of a southern city, but also part of a diasporic community that's constantly in conflict with assimilation."

Community History Fellows are, by design, ambassadors as well as creators.

"The whole point of the program is also to build relationships, and pipelines," Glogower says, particularly in predominantly Black areas of Louisville. "Historically, museums, historical societies and cultural institutions, have a bit of a diversity-pipeline problem." Both the 2022 and 2023 CHF cohorts have not only acknowledged diversity -- they've embraced it as a core value. It's one reason why the program gained vital support in the first place.

"I'm really grateful to the Jewish Heritage Fund for taking a chance on this idea," Glogower says. "Because normally, grant projects seek to be very quantitative -- 'We're going to get this many people in chairs for this lecture' -- I basically came to them and I was, like, 'I need a lot of money to do very slow work with a small number of people. And I want to pay them money, and I want to feed them. So it was a very

different kind of thing. But I felt in my heart, what's there to lose in trying. And they took a chance on this program, which was such an honor."

The JHF committed initially to fund two cohorts of Community History Fellows. "We do have to figure out how to make it sustainable," Glogower acknowledges, "because my colleague, Emma Bryan (the Filson's Community Engagement Specialist) are doing this on top of our other jobs at the Filson. So we're in the process of trying to gather feedback from the Fellows. We're listening and learning, because I do want to keep it going."

Besides Amy Shir and Nathan Viner, the 2023 cohort of Filson Community History Fellows comprises Mariel Gardner, Marcos Morales, Kat O'Dell and Donovan Taylor. You can learn about them and their projects at <https://tinyurl.com/544nm2h8>

Twenty years after merger, "Mayor for Life" Jerry Abramson recalls how we moved from division to unity

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

It was two decades ago that -- after generations of missteps and misstarts, pledges, projections and all manner of political maneuverings -- the City of Louisville and Jefferson County reconciled their differences and became one entity: Metro Louisville.

Nobody was more responsible for merger's eventual success than Jerry Abramson, who served five terms as Louisville's first Jewish Mayor, garnering the admiring (usually, anyway) moniker of "Mayor for Life." Earlier as a member of Louisville's Board of Alderman (Metro Council post-merger) and afterward as Kentucky's Lieutenant Governor under Steve Beshear, Abramson became the model of a savvy, pragmatic and unabashedly enthusiastic politician.

That enthusiasm was on full, unfettered display earlier this month, when Abramson reflected on 20 years of merger during an hour-long talk at the Filson Historical Society. The room was filled with friends and former colleagues, as well as those simply curious about what merger was all about, and how Mayor Jerry and his allies managed to pull it off.

It was something of a jolt to be reminded that merger first came up for a vote in 1956. That effort failed -- as did subsequent initiatives in 1982 and 1983 -- before finally succeeding in 2000. Merged government took effect on Jan. 1, 2003.

Abramson described the peculiar pre-merger establishment: a mayor and 12 Aldermen running the city; a Judge-Executive and three Fiscal Court commissioners (A, B and C Districts) administering Jefferson County. In odd parallel were about 90 suburban "cities," some as small as a few blocks. The city, with its large number of Black residents, was overwhelmingly Democratic; the county was pre-

dominantly White and Republican.

The resulting muddle sometimes bordered on the absurd. Abramson told, with a more than a hint of gleeful bemusement, how parking lot of McMahan shopping center in Hikes Point straddled, literally, the city-county border.

"Half of it was in the county; half of it was in the city," Abramson recalled. "So if you had an accident in the parking lot, you'd call 911, and they'd say, 'City or County,' because they'd switch you, and then you'd say, 'I'm in the parking lot of McMahan,' and they'd say, 'Are you on the East side or the West side?' That was the exact reality we had to deal with at that time."

Opposition to merger took many forms. Various constituencies feared their voting leverage would be diluted, that city and county police forces wouldn't get along, or that because the city's public-sector agencies were unionized and the county's weren't, chaos would ensue. Petty self-interest too often won out over the broader picture.

Most egregious from an economic perspective, divided government made it hugely difficult to persuade new businesses to relocate to Louisville -- or was that Jefferson County?

"The mayor and the city of Louisville would meet the decision-maker at the airport, and I'd say, 'Welcome to Louisville! Please locate within these 60 square miles.' And the judge would say, 'Welcome to Jefferson County! Please locate outside those 60 square miles.' The next thing you'd know, he or she would get back on the plane and say, 'Call me when you get your act together.'"

Circumstances improved significantly in 1985 with the signing of the City-County Compact, which created a framework that the competition to convince businesses to relocate. Meanwhile, the Kentucky legislature had passed a law forbidding Louisville and

Jefferson County from ever completely combining, arguing that three bites at the merger apple was enough.

But an all-out blitz by Abramson and his allies succeeded in again putting the merger question before the General Assembly, and this time, they prevailed. And when merger was put on the ballot for the fourth time, in 2000, voters said yes.

A key strategy, Abramson explained, was transferring the task of drawing new, population-equitable districts away from politicians, and ceding it instead to the University of Louisville's Department of Geography and Geosciences. There, a team of graduate students helmed by Dr. David Imbroscio managed to accomplish what partisanship seldom could: design voting districts that didn't leave traditionally marginalized constituencies -- most notably Black voters -- in the political wilderness.

"He did it, and did it perfectly," Abramson said. "African-Americans were assured that (voting districts) would, at least, reflect the percentage at the time we had in the community, if not more so."

Petty squabbles remained -- one police department had stripes on its uniform pant legs and the other department's didn't. City police cars were white; county vehicles were blue ("so we got gray," Abramson said).

"And the final thing I'll say," Abramson shared, "is the reason Louisville is called 'Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government.' It's not



Jerry Abramson spoke at the Filson Historical Society July 21, 2023 about the 20th anniversary of City-County merger (Photo by Andrew Adler)

'Louisville Metro.' Everybody says, 'Louisville Metro,' but nobody calls Indianapolis 'Indianapolis Marion-County Unigov.' Nobody says 'Nashville-Davidson County Metro' -- they say 'Nashville.'"

But "we were very concerned the first year that the county would think the city took them over. So rather than saying, 'Welcome to the city of Louisville,' we said, 'Welcome to Louisville Metro.' The reality -- and I argue it and beat the drum to the media and everybody: It is, 'The city of Louisville.'"

Jerry Abramson served as Mayor of Louisville from 1986-1999 and 2003-2011, and as Kentucky's Lieutenant Governor from 2011-2014, resigning to become Deputy Assistant to the President and White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Obama administration. He left that post in 2017 and returned to his hometown of Louisville. Currently he is Executive-in-Residence at Spalding University, and a member of the University of Louisville Board of Trustees.

GLOBE

American Anthropological Association votes to boycott Israeli academic institutions

By Andrew Lapin
JTA

An association for American anthropologists has voted to formally boycott Israeli academic institutions, seven years after shutting down a similar vote, in a sign of the shifting tides of the Israel debate on American college campuses.

The American Anthropological Association, which represents thousands of anthropologists in academia and the professional space, announced Monday that its members had voted to endorse a resolution that forbids the association from collaborating with Israeli academic institutions. More than 70% of the association's voters supported the boycott, though only 37% of its eligible members voted, the association said.

The boycott applies only to formal collaborations with the association itself, and it does not apply to individual Israeli academics, so its practical impact is likely to be limited. Still, the resolution is a notable symbol of Israel opposition in academia, not least because it reverses a similar vote seven years ago.

"This was indeed a contentious issue, and our differences may have

sparked fierce debate," the group's president, Ramona Pérez, said in a statement. "But we have made a collective decision and it is now our duty to forge ahead, united in our commitment to advancing scholarly knowledge, finding solutions to human and social problems, and serving as a guardian of human rights."

As written, the resolution calls Israel an "apartheid regime from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea." It pledges to continue the boycott "until such time as these institutions end their complicity in violating Palestinian rights as stipulated in international law."

In 2016, the AAA's membership narrowly rejected a resolution to boycott Israeli institutions. Since then, several academic groups have taken concrete steps toward boycotting Israel. The Middle East Studies Association voted last year to endorse the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement targeting Israel; other academic groups, including the American Studies Association, have also backed BDS resolutions.

Pro-Israel groups quickly condemned the AAA vote. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, director of the AMCHA Initiative, a pro-Israel campus

advocacy group, called it "a dark day for higher education" and said the group's "commitment to academic BDS is likely to spread throughout the university like wildfire and have rippling effects for years to come."

Another pro-Israel group, the Deborah Project legal firm, threatened to sue the association in the lead-up to the vote, claiming the resolution as written would put it afoul of laws in some states endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Association's definition of antisemitism.

The results of the vote, which took place in mid-July, were announced

the same day that Israel's Knesset voted into law a controversial judicial reform bill that has divided the country and prompted fears that it would erode the government's checks and balances. The AAA's boycott focuses on Israel's treatment of Palestinians, accusing Israeli academic institutions of being "complicit" in the state's crimes by suppressing academic freedom and hindering Palestinian universities. The resolution also ties the AAA's advocacy to anthropology by noting Israel has used "anthropological frameworks and methods" to further "ethnic cleansing."



Students at Tel Aviv University on the first day of the new academic year, October 10, 2021. A new vote by the American Anthropological Association plans to endorse a boycott of Israeli universities in accordance with the BDS movement, but not of individual Israeli scholars. (Flash90 via JTA)



Please Join Us!

Young Adult Forum (Ages 25-45)

Meeting topic: Dilemmas Inside
Israel and Jewish Communities Around
the World

RSVP: tinyurl.com/P2G-YAF-923

September 3, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Zoom



Book Club

Discussion about *Who By Fire: War, Atonement, and the Resurrection of Leonard Cohen* by Matti Freidman
RSVP: tinyurl.com/P2G-BookClub-923

September 10, 2023, 1 p.m., Zoom

To gather in person for the Zoom, with refreshments, contact Amy Fouts.

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

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Mazin exhibition 2023

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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>



NEWS

GALILEE

Continued from page 1

Shellie Branson, in their Glenview home.

The medical center opened in 1956, and while there has been frequent expansion during the ensuing decades, some buildings haven't been modernized since the early 1980s. Currently there are major plans to revamp its internal medicine building (\$29 million), its surgical facilities (\$27 million), establishing a PET-CT scanning center to treat cancer patients (\$7 million), as well as a host of smaller projects. While the Israeli government covers GMC's basic operating costs, these capital projects rely largely on private donors for funding.

Among these is adding to the existing underground hospital facilities. Though officials don't believe Hezbollah deliberately targets GMC, the hospital hasn't entirely escaped the ravages of conflict. In 2006, a rocket hit the hospital dead-on, causing significant damage (but thankfully, no casualties) to its Ophthalmology department.

Here, the business of healing is inextricably bound up with the business of warfare. During the 2006 Second Lebanon War, GMC was the epicenter of treatment for wounded Israeli soldiers. A 2015 article in the journal *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* summarized the "extraordinary circumstances" this way:

"(The hospital) was able to utilize a 450-bed underground facility that maintained full hospital functionality throughout the conflict. In a major feat of rapid evacuation, the entire hospital population was relocated under the cover of darkness to these bunkers in just over 1 hour, thus emptying the building prior to the missile impact."

Now all Israel hospitals are required to have similar defenses against rocket, chemical and biological attack. The threats are ongoing – on a Shabbat during this year's Passover holiday, 32 rockets landed in the vicinity of the hospital.

"We had great luck because we'd exactly finished renovating the underground NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) for the little babies," Moshe Mey-



Galilee Medical Center in Israel's northern city of Nahariya.

ouhass, a retired Israel Defense Forces colonel who's now the hospital's chief operating officer, said while attending the Green/Berman reception.

In what he called "a very speedy process," Meyouhass recalled, "we took all the babies down, and they stayed there for a week and a half. This is a symbol of what can happen in this area." The Syrian conflict of 2013 was another test of the hospital's resources. Not surprisingly, the hospital is renowned for its successful treatment of trauma and battlefield victims.

Reflecting the population in the Western Galilee – Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druze, many of whom are economically disadvantaged – GMC serves one of Israel's most diverse constituencies. Notably, the hospital's chief executive officer – Dr. Masad Barhoum – was the first Israeli Arab ever to lead one of the nation's hospitals.

Trained as a family medicine physician, Barhoum has shepherded several major projects since becoming CEO in 2007. The hospital is affiliated with Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Medicine, a conduit for medical students, residents and fellowships. In 2022, GMC's dental program entered into a partnership with the University of Rochester (N.Y.)'s Eastman Institute for Oral Health. The partnership has made GMC a leading destination for maxillofacial surgery.

"We recruit very good doctors and they become stars at our hospital," Barhoum said, mentioning its neurosurgery program as another achievement. The hospital also is one of the few that has a da Vinci robotic surgical system (cost: \$2 million). And "we are first in interventional neuroradiology

– we do 600 procedures – the highest in Israel."

Agencies like American Friends of Galilee Medical Center are critical to the success of GMC's planned infrastructure modernizations ("We're investing in cement," Barhoum quipped). But beyond bricks-and-mortar, the ties between the two groups are emotional as well as fiscal.

Alan Engel, a longtime leader in Louisville's Jewish community, now serves as AFGMC treasurer. He became involved more than 10 years ago when organizers asked him to shepherd the process of gaining tax-exempt status. The more familiar he became with the hospital's core mission, the more he was impressed.

"The fact that they served everybody," Engel said, "it wasn't just Jews. That was the real hook that got me because I thought, 'My God, these people, who are under such duress every day.' So when they asked me I said, 'Yeah, I'll do it. Because I really believe in the hospital, and I believe in their mission.'"

Engel was especially taken with a collaboration between AFGMC and the hospital: "the emergency response group program."

"That was where we took doctors from all the Partnership2Gether communities to Israel for a week, and they



(L-R) Louisville physician Jon Klein talks with Dr. Masad Barhoum, CEO of Israel's Galilee Medical Center (photo by Andrew Adler)

got training in emergency-response medicine. The idea, originally, was that if there was a war in Israel and the hospital was involved, and its doctors had to go out in the field, these (Partnership) doctors could go over there and fill in for the regular doctors. Fortunately, that never happened."

Updating existing surgical suites is crucial to the hospital's financial health. "It's a big issue for us," Barhoum acknowledged. "Because (elective) surgery brings money; internal medicine doesn't bring money."

Still, tending to the population of Western Galilee remains the hospital's defining imperative. "They are our family," Barhoum says. And we have to take care of them."

For more information on American Friends of Galilee Medical Center, go online at <https://afgmc.org>. To learn about the hospital, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3j7umhh5>.

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NEWS AND NEWS MAKERS

Kentucky Bar Association honors Shelly Gilman for a lifetime of professional service



Pictured: Shelly and Nancy pictured with their sons Stephen and Matt.

The Kentucky Bar Association has named longtime Louisville attorney Sheldon “Shelly” Gilman as 2023’s recipient of the Bruce K. Davis Bar Service Award for meritorious service.

“The Bruce K. Davis Bar Service Award is given to attorneys who take time from their practices to provide personal, professional and financial support to the Kentucky Bar Association,” a KBA news release said, adding, “this award expresses the appreciation and respect for such dedicated professional service.”

Now retired from active law prac-

tice, Gilman spent many years a partner in the Louisville firm of Lynch, Cox, Gilman & Goodman. He was admitted to practice law in Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, the District of Columbia, U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

An alumnus of Ohio University and Case Western Reserve University’s law school, Gilman served four years as a member of the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps with duty assignments at the U.S. Army Missile Command, the Office of the Judge Advocate General and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He’s a member of the KBA’s Ethics Committee and – for 30 years – has been closely associated with the Ethics Hotline.

In 2016, Gilman received the Louisville Community Foundation’s Wilson Wyatt Award for “outstanding professional and charitable service to the Louisville and Kentucky communities.” He and his wife, Nancy, are also longtime members of Congregation Adath Jeshurun – where for many years he’s been the stalwart leader of Monday morning minyan

Bruce E. Blue receives the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries



Bruce E. Blue

Blue was in the recycling industry for 53 years. He founded and was CEO of Louisville’s Freedom Metals for 36 years, beginning his career at his family’s recycling business.

Blue was a member on the National Executive Committee, the National Board of Directors, as Chair of the National Audit Committee and of the National Convention.

He serves on the Board of Directors and Finance Committee of Simmons College. Additionally, Blue is a past-President of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, and the Windy Hills City Council.

Bruce E. Blue has received the prestigious 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. It is the most prestigious award the Association gives.

Nancy Chazen resigns as executive director of NCJW, Louisville Section to become executive director of The Temple



Nancy Chazen

Nancy Chazen announced July 6 that she was stepping down as executive director of National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section, to become the new executive director of The Temple. Her last day at NCJW was to be July 28.

“I have been privileged to serve as NCJW’s Executive Director since October 2019 and in this time, it has been my honor and joy to represent this organization to the membership, our community, and the NCJW headquarters,” Chazen said.

Meanwhile, “the search process for my successor will be underway shortly,” Chazen said, “to ensure the transfer of NCJW knowledge and the relationships with our advocates and community partners is seamless.”



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GLOBE

Key congressional committee OKs a hike in funding for the antisemitism monitor

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

Deborah Lipstadt and Felix Klein visit the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe during a meeting of special envoys and coordinators to combat antisemitism in Berlin, Jan. 30, 2023. (Wolfgang Kumm/picture alliance via Getty Images) By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) —A congressional committee approved an increase in funding for the office of Deborah Lipstadt, the State Department's antisemitism monitor, from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million.

The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee approved the bill, which pays for State Department and foreign operations, late Wednesday. It now goes to the full House, and must be reconciled with parallel Senate legislation. Senators who focus on antisemitism hope to get similar language into the corresponding Senate bill.

Earlier this month, a bipartisan slate of lawmakers who belong to the House's Task Force for Combating Antisemitism got the funding increase into the bill's committee report, which conveys the bill's legislative intent.

"The dangerous and distributing rise in antisemitism requires unprecedented investments in the Office of the Special

Envoy so that the Special Envoy has the staffing and resources it requires to accomplish its work," said a release Wednesday from Rep. Grace Meng, the New York Democrat who is a co-chair of the task-force. Lipstadt's title is special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism. The other co-chairs are Rep. Kathy Manning, a North Carolina Democrat, and Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican. The other lawmakers involved in getting the funding in the committee report are Democrats Susan Wild of Pennsylvania and Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, and Republicans María Elvira Salazar of Florida, David Kustoff of Tennessee and Don Bacon of Nebraska.

The amount is \$500,000 more than the \$2 million sought earlier this year by lawmakers who focus on antisemitism, who sent letters to the U.S. State Department and to appropriators asking for the funds. It also comes after the Biden administration rolled out a comprehensive strategy for combating antisemitism in May.

In pressing for the increase, lawmakers have cited what reports say is a spike in antisemitic attacks and rhetoric both domestically and abroad.

"Antisemitism is a tangible and growing threat faced by both the American Jewish community and Jews around

the world," said a letter sent to House appropriators in March and signed by 83 House members from both parties. A similar bipartisan letter signed by 33 senators was sent to Senate appropriators in April.

Lipstadt, who is a noted scholar of the Holocaust, needs the money for travel and for staff as demand for her presence overseas increases, the Jewish Telegraph

Lipstadt, who is a noted scholar of the Holocaust, needs the money for travel and for staff as demand for her presence overseas increases, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned. She has traveled extensively in Arab Gulf states to promote education about Jews as nations in the region normalize ties with Israel. This week, she was part of a delegation that traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina for a commemoration of the 28th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, in which 8,000 Muslims were killed during the Bosnian War.

Jewish groups that have pressed for the increase praised the approval. "We're hopeful that number will stay in the final appropriations bill," said Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League. "The data is clear: We are facing a crisis of rising global antisemitism with incidents and attitudes at historic highs both in the U.S.

and in many countries abroad. This funding increase will ensure the office can grow to meet the challenges of the day and have the necessary resources to carry out its important work of fighting antisemitism around the world."

Elana Broitman, the Jewish Federations of North America's senior vice president for public affairs, said in a statement that the funding will help Lipstadt "ensure we are leveraging all of our diplomatic tools to help improve the safety and security of at-risk Jewish communities and hold world leaders to account."



Deborah Lipstadt and Felix Klein visit the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe during a meeting of special envoys and coordinators to combat antisemitism in Berlin, Jan. 30, 2023. (Wolfgang Kumm/picture alliance via Getty Images)

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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 Group will present *A Satisfied Mind* at AJ on August 27 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and August 28 and 30 at 7:00 p.m. Written by Yehudah Husband and featured at the 2018 Alliance for Jewish Theatre Conference Playwright's Showcase, *A Satisfied Mind* is a period-dramedy set in 1940's Atlanta that chronicles the sometimes hilarious—sometimes heart wrenching friendship between an atheistic Jewish businessman and his holy-rolling, evangelical housekeeper. Touching on issues of tolerance, coexistence and religious imperialism, *A Satisfied Mind* is a powerful commentary on the intersection of tribalism and unconditional love with music, laughter, and thought-provoking drama for the whole family. Open to the community. General admission is \$20 per person. Students and Seniors ages 65 and over are \$15 per person. Admissions may be purchased at www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations.

Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel will present a Shared Selichot Program on Saturday Evening, September 9, 2023, at Adath Jeshurun. The evening will begin with Ma'ariv at 8:25 p.m. and will continue with a viewing of *The Right to Read*, a film by Jane Mackenzie. Following the film, hear reactions from Karen Williams & Carissa Jury (CLOUT) and LaToya Whitlock (Decode Project). Beginning at 10:30 p.m., learn about CLOUT's All Kids Reading! issue campaign and the Decode Project at a Dessert Reception. The night will conclude with a Selichot Service in Chapel at Adath Jeshurun at 11:00 p.m. Visit AdathJeshurun.com for more information.

Adath Jeshurun will hold its annual Cemetery Service on Sunday, September 10 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. We come together at the place where so many of our dear ones sleep their eternal sleep. In a way that we cannot explain, we feel closer to their spirit by being near their final resting place. We pay tribute to them by visiting their graves and by remembering them most vividly. The service takes place in the Adath Jeshurun Cemetery, 2926 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40217.

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.

Chavurat Shalom

We're bringing you inspiring musical and informative programming 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 pm via ChavuratShalomZoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, Aug. 3 - The Flute Song Trio will be making their Chavurat Shalom debut. Lunch will include Hot Browns, mac & cheese, broccoli, fresh fruit, and chocolate bread pudding.

Thursday, Aug. 10 - Alzheimer's Association volunteer, Barbara Staats, will present, "Effective Communication Strategies." Lunch will include salmon cakes, mashed potatoes, green peas and carrots, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and lemon blueberry trifle.

Thursday, Aug. 17 - Chavurat Shalom friend, Bob Mueller will share his "15 Ways to Get the Most Out of Life." Lunch will include pasta and meatballs, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, cookies, and brownies.

Thursday, Aug. 24 - Beth Olliges will return to lead us in a late summer sing-along. Lunch will include beef pot pie, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and banana pudding.

Thursday, Aug. 31 - Time for a Game Day! Lunch will include sweet and sour chicken, rice, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cupcakes.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday if you'll be attending that week in person by calling or emailing Sarah at 502-212-2038 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

Filson Friday – The Legacy of Black Louisville Educator, Author, and Community Leader, Joseph Seamon Cotter, Sr.

Aug. 4, 12-1 p.m.

Join Filson Community Engagement Specialist and Public Historian Emma Bryan, Kentucky writer Bernard Clay, and the Manager of the Western Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, Natalie Woods as they share insights into the life and legacy of Joseph Seamon Cotter, Sr (1861-1949), an educator, author, and community builder who devoted his life to advocating for equitable education and fair housing for Black Louisvillians. In-person and virtual options. Free, but registration required.

Jazz at the Filson

Aug. 20, 3-5 p.m.

Vibraphonist Dick Sisto presents a tribute concert to the legendary masters of vibraphone, Bobby Hutcherson and organist Joey De Francesco. The concert at the Filson will be high flying with everything from originals by Hutcherson and other jazz greats to funk, groove, blues and ballads. In-person only. \$30 for Filson members, \$35 for non-members

History Inspires Showcase

Aug. 24, 6-7 p.m.

Join us for an evening of history-in-

spired creativity as members of the regional artistic community speak about how the Filson's collections have aided their pursuits of self-expression. To celebrate Filson's newly launched History Inspires Fellowship, musicians and visual artists who've recently utilized the Filson's collections will share about the materials that were the muse for a body of work. In-Person only. Free for Filson members, \$15 for non-members.

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@jfcsloisville.org.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

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 6:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7:30 a.m. Monday and Thursday. Minyan services are offered in person and on Zoom at tinyurl.com/kiczoom. Join us for Shabbat services Friday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services and Holiday services are offered in person and on YouTubeLive at tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive. Please visit kenesethisrael.com for information.

Join Cantor Hordes for Torah Yoga on August 3rd at 6:30 p.m. for a journey through the sun salutations, and meditations on Torah. Some yoga mats are available, please bring your own if you have one.

Kids and families of all kinds, come join us for our Family Shabbat on August 4th! Starting at 6:00 p.m. there will be a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a delicious meal. This event is free but please RSVP to tinyurl.com/KICShabbat or call (502)459-2780.

Jews and Brews with Rabbi Ben Freed is held Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. on zoom and in person at the Trager Family JCC—the weekly torah portion is studied. Rabbi Freed will also be doing another Jews and Brews: After Hours on August 10th at 7:30 pm at a brewery TBD.

Bored and hot on these long Shabbat days? Join us for a delicious Shabbat treat at Graeter's on Bardstown Rd. at 6:00 p.m. on August 12th! This event is

free but please RSVP to rsvp@kenesethisrael.com or call (502)459-2780

Join KI for our end of summer festival! Starting at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday August 13th, come and enjoy fun games, bounce castles, and carnival food at no cost! New attendees to KI will receive free High Holiday tickets! RSVPs appreciated but not required at info@kenesethisrael.com or at (502)459-2780.

Come join us for Shabbat in the Park on Friday August 18th! Starting at 6:00 p.m., meet us at Stegner Pavilion in Cherokee Park celebrate Shabbat to enjoy a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a bring your own dairy picnic and a sweet treat on us! In person and online at tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive.

Join Rabbi Ben Freed from Keneseth Israel and Rabbi Shani Abromowitz from Ohavay Zion at KI on August 23rd at 6:30 p.m. for the first live taping of Kentucky's hit new jewish podcast - Bluegrass Shmooze! Sit in as they interview Louisville's two Jewish mayors - Craig Greenberg and Jerry Abramson - to get a peek into the Mayor's office and discuss how Judaism impacts their work in public service.

Have a toddler in your life? Come join us for our Tot Shabbat! Join us August 26th at 11:00 a.m., to enjoy a toddler friendly shortened service and a sweet treat followed by coming into the main sanctuary to dazzle everyone with their rendition of closing Shabbat service song.

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 rab-bizb@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 rab-bizb@kentuckytorah.org for the location or with any questions.

Kol Israel Community of Kentucky

KICK is again collaborating with Congregation Beth Shalom in Bloomington, Ind. for a series of Jewish Renewal Services. The next service will be Saturday, Aug. 12 at 10 a.m., accessible via Zoom. Going forward, services will be held the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. For more information and the relevant Zoom link, email kolisraelky@gmail.com, or call 502-341-1595.

LBSY

LBSY (Louisville Beit Sefer Yachad), a community school with students from Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel and Temple Shalom, is looking for energetic and creative teachers for the 2023-24 school year. We have a new curriculum based on Jewish values, with a strong Hebrew component, that we will be using in all grades. Classes meet Sundays 9:30am-12:30pm and Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm. In addition to general class time, our students are involved in school wide events to foster a community environment for our students and families. Our year begins August 27 and classes will be held in the old Anshei Sfard build-

AROUND TOWN

ing next to the Trager JCC. If interested, please contact Bev Weinberg, Head of School, at 502-802-3855 or email her at lbsy.bev@gmail.com.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

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

National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section

NCJW, Louisville is hiring for an Executive Director. For questions and interest, contact the NCJW Office at (502) 458-5566 or office@ncjwlou.org.

2023-2024 Shopping Spree Cards are now available, with the program kicking off Aug 7. This is a fundraising campaign to support NCJW, as well as supporting local businesses. To buy a card and for more information, contact the NCJW office at 502-458-5566, via email at office@ncjwlou.org, or at <https://tinyurl.com/333hn2az>.

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.

Temple Shalom will hold its rescheduled Silent Disco Sunday, Aug. 6 at 1:30 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC. Tickets are free for Temple Shalom youth, \$7 for non-member youth, \$10 for Temple Shalom members, \$15 for non-members. Ticket prices include admission to the event, snacks and glow sticks. RSVP by July 31 to Slava Nelson at engagement@templeshalomky.org or 502-830-4968.

The Women of Temple Shalom's opening meeting will be a brunch Aug. 20 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Jewish Family & Career Services. Courtney Evans, JFCS' Director of Advancement, will share stories of how the long-time Hanukkah Helpers program has benefitted at-risk Jewish children. Brunch guests are requested to bring items for the JFCS food pantry.

For more information, email Kathy Karr at kathykarrflute@gmail.com, or Joan Epstein at mjra2628.eps@juno.com.

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.

We have expanded our pickleball times at The Temple! Join us for this FREE and exciting way to stay active. Registration opens every Friday for slots the next week. Mondays from 5 - 7 p.m., Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesdays from 5 - 7 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.

Bring the family and join Cantor Lauren for our first Shabbat Bop on Friday, August 4 at 5:45 p.m. in the Klein Center. The Temple's Shabbat Bop is a special program designed specifically for families with young children. We invite you and your loved ones to join us for an evening filled with joy, connection, and Shabbat ruach (spirit). We will meet the first Friday of each month, start with nosh, have an engaging Shabbat service with Cantor Lauren, and then end with a delicious family dinner. More information and RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/Shabbat-Bop.

Calling all Mahj, Bridge, Scrabble, or any other fun game players: the next WRJ Game Day is coming up on Sunday, August 6, at 1 p.m. in the Heideman Auditorium. Grab your fellow gamers, a donation for the JFCS Sonny and Janet Meyer Food Pantry, and join us for a fun afternoon. Please let us know if you'll be joining in the fun and RSVP to Sarah Harlan at sarahharlan86@gmail.com.

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, August 13 at 9 a.m. (please arrive by 8:45 a.m.) at Bridge over the Ohio - downtown Louisville. If you're interested in attending, please sign up at thetemplelouky.org/hiking.

Prepare for the High Holy Days at Elul with Cantor Lauren. Join us for a special educational series preparing for the High Holy Days. RSVP online at thetemplelouky.org/Elul to sign up for one or more classes (all classes are at 6 p.m. in the Levy Great Hall of the Klein Center: August 14 - Soundscapes; August 21 - Death and Immortality: Unetaneh Tokef; August 28 - All Sacred Vows and Promises: Kol Nidre; and September 11 - There's a Cantor on the Bimah

Join us for an important conversation on Sunday, August 20 at 6 p.m. with Keith Talley Sr., the president and CEO of LHOME. LHOME is a mission-driven nonprofit financial institution that provides affordable loan products and financial coaching services to low-income homeowners and small businesses as well as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) populations in the Louisville-Jefferson Metropolitan Statistical Area. LHOME is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), certified by the CDFI Fund at the U.S. Treasury. More information and RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/LHome.

Trager Family JCC

The JCC Crocs is a new adult swim team that will offer fun and challenging workouts for adult lap swimmers, beginners to advanced, ages 19 and older. Practice will begin Monday, Aug. 7 and will be offered at the Outdoor Lap Pool with Coaches Kristen Crawford and Chloe Falbo. The JCC Crocs is open to all; the cost is \$55/month. Participants must know how to swim and be comfortable swimming laps. For more details or to sign-up, contact Trager Family JCC Aquatics Director Johnny Kimberlin at jkimberlin@jewishlouisville.org.

CenterStage Season Tickets are now on sale. for the 2023-24 season. Season ticket holders receive a variety of benefits, such as saving 15% on tickets to MainStage productions, plus discount-

ed prices for all other season offerings. CenterStage's MainStage productions for the 2023-24 season are Carousel (in August), First Date (in November), The Prom (in February) and She Loves Me (in May). For more information and to purchase season tickets, go online at <https://tinyurl.com/25rb3fkW>.

The Mazin Art Exhibition will be hosted this fall at the Trager Family JCC with an opening reception on Sunday, Oct. 22. The exhibition is accepting 2D and 3D art from artists in the United States 16 years or older. Winners of the exhibition will get cash prizes. The exhibit is designed to foster an appreciation of today's visual art and to reflect the breadth of artists' creative visions. Deadline for entry is September 8. For questions, email jartsideas@jewishlouisville.org or call 502-238-2763. For information and/or to submit artwork, go online at <https://tinyurl.com/mjtu2asc>.

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 jccloouisville.org/youbelong or email membership@jewishlouisville.org.

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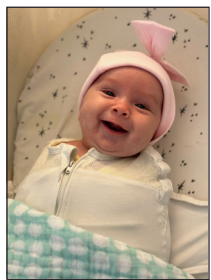
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Births



Lena Antone Payton-Katz

Dr. David and Barbara Myerson Katz, who recently moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, are thrilled to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Lena Antone Payton-Katz, on May 4, 2023 in Charlottesville. The proud parents are Dr. Claire Antone Payton and Jonathan Myerson Katz. The ecstatic big sister is Naomi Chaya Payton-Katz. Lena is named in loving memory of Jonathan's great-grandmother, Lena (née Leja Kleinman) Katz, matriarch of the Katz family, and Claire's late father, Michael Antone Payton, a newspaperman in New Mexico and Nevada who became an influential political consultant in Washington. Lena's Hebrew name, Leah, connects her to the Biblical matriarch, who, along with her sister Rachel "built up the house of Israel" - and to the princess and general of the Rebel Alliance, as befitting a baby girl who landed, with consummate endurance and bravery, on Star Wars Day. May the force of all their foremothers and forefathers be with Lena and Naomi. May their lives be blessed and joyful, and may they bring bless-

ings and joy to the world.

Rose Aviv Rooks

Mazel tov to Rabbi Gaylia R. Rooks and Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport on the birth of their granddaughter, Rose Aviv, who was born on July 3, 2023. Proud parents are Rabbi Yael Rooks Rapport and David Moser. Big brother James shares their happiness. Paternal grandparents are Beth and Bill Moser.

B'nai Mitzvah

Ruby Jane Kessler

Ruby Jane Kessler, daughter of Shannon and Dan, and sister of Eleanor will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, August 19 at 10:30 a.m., at The Temple. Ruby Jane is the granddaughter of Arlene and the late Edward Kessler, and Peter Dolan and Sherry Wanner. Ruby Jane and her family invite the community to celebrate her becoming a Bat Mitzvah and join them for a Kiddush reception following the service. Ruby Jane is an eighth-grade student at North Oldham Middle School in Goshen where she swims for the high school team. She also swims for Lakeside Swim Club and plays volleyball for KIVA. She loves to read, hang out with her friends, and tool around any screen in front of her. Ruby Jane is very passionate about Formula One

racing and doesn't enjoy missing a race for Sunday School. She is thankful to her dog Georgie, who helped comfort her during her Torah studies. For her Bat Mitzvah project, she is working to collect money and equipment for the underprivileged in order to help them attend swim lessons.

Sophia Nicole Kravchuk

Sophia Nicole Kravchuk, daughter of Anna and Igor Kravchuk, and sister of Valery will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on August 26 at 10:30 a.m., at The Temple. Sophia is an eighth grader at Kentucky Country Day School. She recently began studying Hebrew in 2022 and has made tremendous progress. She is an avid figure skater and has skated since she was five years old. Sophia has performed in the Nutcracker on Ice for several years as well as many synchronized skating competitions, solo skating, and more. Sophia has two dogs, Buddy and Scrappy, with whom she always enjoys spending time. She expresses her passion, love, and care for animals by volunteering at a local pet shelter as her mitzvah project

Samuel Robert Springer

Samuel Robert Springer, son of Jessica and Jeffrey, and brother of Maximus, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday September 2 at 10:30 a.m., at The

Temple. Sammy is grandson to Karen and William Gladstone and Jennifer and Bob Springer. Sammy is a rising seventh grader at Oldham County Middle School. He plays soccer, flag football, and enjoys extracurricular activities like guitar, Drone Club and Chess Club. Based on the amount of time he commits to it, Sammy's greatest love is talking. Sammy is also an avid reader, Rubik's Cuber, and loves time with friends both in-person and virtually through video games. He enjoys time with his brother and his dog, Quinn. He has a tender heart for the environment and animals which he expresses through energy conservation efforts in the home and volunteer time with Adopt Me! Bluegrass Pet Rescue in Oldham County.

Obituaries



Paula Joan Erdelyi

Paula Joan Erdelyi, 76, is singing with angels after being greeted by her lifelong friend, Sister Annina of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. She transitioned on July 7, 2023. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pa, to Sylvester Vin-

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cent Erdelyi and Helen Agnes Cooper Erdelyi. Paula loved all things Pittsburgh.

Paula met the love of her life, Larry S. Myers, M.D., and celebrated their 40th anniversary this week. They met in San Antonio while both were employed at Fort Sam Houston's Psychiatry Clinic. Paula and Larry made Louisville their home in 1992.

Paula valued education and earned her Bachelor's degree in psychology at Central Michigan University, and her Master's in psychology at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. Later, she was working on her doctorate in Social Work at the University of Oklahoma, but moved to Europe before she could finish. Paula's career was vast and included work with children, couples and families. She was a Fellow with the national organization ZERO TO THREE, for which she wrote articles and presented at national conferences. Paula was an active member of numerous professional organizations.

Paula loved children, advocated for children, wanted an optimal world for children, and believed that every child should have the best start possible in life. She made everyone feel like family, especially those who needed safety, caring and attention.

Paula was the greatest of animal lovers, domestic and wild. She loved dogs as much as she loved her hippos and pandas. Paula shared her deep love of music with everyone. Her piano teacher in Pittsburgh believed that she could train as a concert pianist. Paula sang at family celebrations and loved her voice lessons. Bruce Springsteen was Paula's go-to channel.

Paula's faith was deep and meaningful. She was devoted to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Paula spent many years volunteering as a spiritual leader at the Episcopal Church Home, leading ritual prayer and arranging seders for the residents.

Paula's professional contributions were numerous. She trained, mentored, supported and provided a safe space for many disciplines of clinicians at several social service agencies, including Bingham Child Guidance Center and Seven Counties Services. Her love, empathy, grace, kindness and wisdom were a trademark of how Paula approached all people in her personal and professional lives. She was considered a ray of sunshine to all who know her. Paula's legacy of loving-kindness will live on through all the lives she touched.

Paula is survived by her husband, Larry S. Myers, M.D.; her daughter, Karyn Larson of Mt. Airy, Md. and her daughter Kathryn Kirby (Tim) of Searcy, Ark; her grandchildren of whom she was very proud, Zachary Kirby (Ashley) of Hanahan, S.C. and her great granddaughters, Emersyn and Madelyn, and grand-

son, Mitchell Kirby of Little Rock, Ark.; the Libby Family of Knoxville, Tenn.; Rev. Richard Cooper of Pittsburgh; and a host of other loving family and friends.

The family wishes to thank the excellent staff for the care provided at the Critical Care Unit at Norton Brownsboro Hospital.

Funeral services were held July 10th at Herman Meyer & Son. Donations may be made to ZERO TO THREE; NARAL Pro-Choice America; The Temple Children's Fund; Kentucky Humane Society, or to a charity of the donor's choosing.



Dale "Dee Dee" Schneider Hyman

Dale, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, aunt, great-aunt, great-great aunt, cousin and friend, to all who knew her. Dale was a kind, generous, loyal and caring individual, born in Louisville, Kentucky on February 27, 1945. She married the love of her life David Lynn Hyman in 1964 and they were happily married for over 58 years.

Dale loved art and she pursued her passion for the arts in many ways, but she was very proud of her Bachelor's degree in Art History that she earned from the University of Louisville in 1988. Dale also had her professional Real Estate License.

Dale was preceded in death by her parents, Sarah and Irving Schneider; her mother and father-in-law, Eleanor and Max Hyman; her sisters who she adored and who adored her, Anita Goldberg (Jack) and Marlene Weisberg (Charlie); nephew Thomas Esrey; and great-nephew, Warren Sparks.

Dale is survived by her husband and best friend, David L. Hyman; her children, whom she adored, Lawrence Craig Hyman (Yaiza) of Tenerife, Spain and Todd Everett Hyman (Susan Persky Hyman) of Bethesda, Maryland; her grandchildren, who she loved dearly, Meghan Hyman, Sarah Hyman, Ezekiel (Zeke) and twins, Spencer and Felix Hyman; her brothers, Charles Schneider (Susan), Sam Schneider (Martha) of Dothan, Alabama; her sister-in law, Ann Hyman Spiegel (Ted) of Boynton Beach, Florida. Dale had 12 nieces and nephews, Diane, Keith, Howard, Steven, Elise, Wayne, Marc, Eric, Larry, Todd, Ashley and Alaine; 16 great-nieces and nephews and three great-great nieces/nephews.

A special thank you to daughter-in-law, Debbie Shaikun Hyman, who played a significant role as a care giver to Dale and was always there to assist both Dale and David.

Funeral services were held July 4th at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., with burial in The Temple Cemetery. Donations can be made to

the American Cancer Society or the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation.



Thelma Rosenberg Kreitman

Thelma Rosenberg Kreitman, age 86, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2023, with her family by her side.

She was born March 23, 1937, in Louisville, Kentucky, just a few weeks after the Great Ohio River Flood. She was the third child of Abe (Alvin) and Celia Rosenberg. She is preceded in death by her husband, Emanuel Kreitman, who passed in December 1986, and her son Richard Kreitman who passed in March of 2013.

She was also preceded in death by each of her three siblings, sister Ethel Mitzman (Leonard), brother Samuel Rosenberg (Shirley; deceased), and brother Leonard Rosenberg (Marie).

Thelma is survived by her sons Irving Kreitman, and Alvin Kreitman (Jayme Linker Kreitman), her grandchildren: Cailey, and Eran (Melissa McLeod Kreitman), and great-grandchild Jacob. She is also survived by her granddaughter Cristie Kreitman Corum (James) and their children Hailey and Zachary. She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by dozens of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends whom she adored and cherished her time with, even up to her final moments.

So many friends, cousins, and even distant relatives will be quick to tell you how strong of a person Thelma was and how much of an impact she had on their lives. She was fearless and smart, loved her family and friends, and made a difference in people's lives. She raised three sons, one of which was handicapped, while her husband traveled for work many months out of the year. Thelma became her nieces' and nephew's favorite aunt and a best friend to many.

In her younger years, she was a devoted reader and crossword puzzle solver. Thelma was creative and even toyed around with writing a short story and a full-length novel, which she never published. She has always enjoyed debating politics and world issues. Some would call her over-opinionated, and nearly everyone called her smart.

Thelma faced a lot of adversity in her life; along with her own ongoing battle with various illnesses, she lost her husband at age 50 and was forced to find a way to support herself. She went to work for several years and started investing, and in doing so, she was able to build a nest egg for herself and continue to help her sons be successful in life after losing their father.

Her family will forever remember her as their cherished Mom, their

Aunt, their cousin, their friend, and their Bubbie (and Bub as Zachary affectionately called her).

Visitation was on July 21, 2023 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by a funeral service, and burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

In memory of Thelma, donations may be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation.



Sharon Leah Stone

Sharon Leah Stone, 81, was summoned to her eternal reward on June 28th in Louisville, Ky. She was born on September 5, 1941, to the late Rubin and Sophie Loeb in Taylorville, Illinois.

She met her companion of 57 years, Dr. Howard Stone, at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago where they both worked. They married in 1966 and, after a brief stint as an Air Force wife, made Louisville their home in 1971.

Always prepared to cook a meal for 20 people on short notice, she was frequently found at Kroger buying "the one thing" she went there for, along with 100 others that she "just remembered." She loved to travel and dreamed of living on a cruise ship in retirement for the simple pleasure of having someone else put a napkin in her lap and clear the table after decades of seemingly no-one lifting a finger to help.

She gave freely of her time as a board member of Congregation Anshei Sfard, serving as President of its Sisterhood, and overseeing kosher cooking compliance in the synagogue's kitchen. As a retired geriatric nurse, she volunteered with Hospice of Louisville and was known for bringing holiday gifts for patients at Louisville East Nursing Home where she worked as the Director of Nursing.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Howard Stone; her brother, Dr. Phillip (Donna) Loeb; sons Benson (Marlena), Rubin (Eliandry) and Louis (Cecilia) Stone; grandchildren Sara-Shifra (Aryeh) Ness, Elisa, Samson, Steven, and Sophie Stone; youngest grandchildren, Alvin and Abdiel; dear friends Toby Horvitz, Paul Tackett, Julie Artrip, Richard and Joyce Herde, and 4-legged best friend, Shmura. She was preceded in death by her sister, Helene Loeb Zukof.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Baptist East Hospital for their compassionate care during Sharon's final days.

Funeral services were held June 30th at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., 1338 Ellison Avenue, followed by burial in Anshei Sfard Cemetery. Donations may be made to Congregation Anshei Sfard in Louisville, Ky.

GLOBE

The death penalty is no Jewish value



Guest
Columnist

Cantor Michael
Zoosman

The thousands of members of “L’chaim! Jews Against the Death Penalty” stand firmly against the dangerous developments taking place in the Bluegrass State regarding the resumption of state killings. As the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty has reported, in September 2010 the Franklin County Circuit Court ruled that the Kentucky Department of Corrections (KDOC) could not carry out executions under current regulations because they contained inadequate safeguards. In 2019, the Court issued another ruling in favor of the people challenging the regulations. KDOC therefore agreed to make additional changes to the regulations rather than appeal the Court’s decision and now is making changes to its execution protocol. Adopting these deeply flawed protocols is a legitimate step towards restarting executions in the

Commonwealth.

Lest some might feel that this is not relevant for the Jewish community, consider that members of L’chaim (Hebrew: “To Life”) and

I have corresponded for years now with a Jewish man on Kentucky’s death row as he has endured the psychological torture and inherent human rights violations that come with any so-called “Row of Death.” Indeed, there are many reasons why it is also a “Jewish issue” to advocate that the United States join the 70% of nations across the world who have abolished the death penalty. Let there be no doubt: traditional Jewish law allows for capital punishment, albeit with prodigious safeguards to avoid wrongful execution. Like many nations, the USA, with its wrongful conviction epidemic, miserably fails to meet these fail-safes, which are encapsulated by Maimonides’ famous standard: “It is better to acquit a thousand guilty persons than to put a single innocent one to death.” (Sefer HaMitzvot, Prohibition 290). The reputable and neutral Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) concludes that “the death penalty carries the inherent risk of executing an innocent person. Since 1973, at least 190 people who had been wrongly convicted and

sentenced to death in the US have been exonerated.” For many others already executed – including some I have known personally – their spirits and their loved ones still await posthumous exoneration.

Modern meta-studies cited by DPIC also have disproven the implied presumption in some rabbinic sources that the death penalty might act as a deterrence to crime, and that its abolition might “multiply the shedders of blood in Israel.” (Makkot, 7a) These studies “show no link between the presence or absence of the death penalty and murder rates.”

The inherent injustice of the continual racist and unfair application of capital punishment also is a slap in the face of the well-known Jewish dictum of “Tzedek, tzedek tirdof”- “Justice, justice shall you pursue. (Deut. 16. 20) As DPIC scathingly reports, in the USA “racial bias against defendants of color and in favor of white victims has a strong effect on who is capitally prosecuted, sentenced to death, and executed.” The death penalty also consistently and unconstitutionally targets those with mental illness and intellectual disability, as well as the indigent.

Moreover, capital punishment is always cruel and unusual punishment. As I have witnessed directly time and again in my correspondence and conversations with the condemned, it constitutes psychological – and often in the end physical – torture. I have seen it lead a pen pal of mine, who prison authorities ruled sane, to attempt suicide as he counted down his days to death. For all these reasons, I – who used to support the death penalty before I became a Jewish prison chaplain and my eyes were opened to its horror – now am vehemently opposed to the state-sponsored killing of defenseless prisoners.

But, for Judaism in the 21st-century, there is more to consider....

For many of the members of L’chaim who, like me, are direct descendants of Holocaust survivors, the shadow of the Holocaust is inextricably linked to the firm rejection of the death penalty in all cases, even that of the Pittsburgh

Tree of Life shooter. L’chaim inherits this torch of abolition from many Jewish leaders who vociferously protested against Israel’s only other execution: that of infamous Nazi perpetrator Adolf Eichmann in 1962, whose state killing Jewish theologian and philosopher Martin Buber called a great “mistake.”

Famed Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel best articulated L’chaim’s stance when he famously said of capital punishment: “Death is not the answer in a civilized society.” Wiesel made no exception, stating unequivocally in a 1988 interview: “With every cell of my being and with every fiber of my memory I oppose the death penalty in all forms. I do not believe any civilized society should be at the service of death. I don’t think it’s human to become an agent of the angel of death.” This applies for any human being – from Adolph Hitler to the Tree of Life shooter.

Perhaps most damning, L’chaim members will never forget that lethal injection, the most common American form of execution, is a direct Nazi legacy, first implemented in this world by the Third Reich in their infamous Aktion T4 protocol to kill people deemed “unworthy of life.” That program was devised by Dr. Karl Brandt, Hitler’s personal physician. This is indeed the legacy that the Bluegrass State continues. Various states also continue to utilize gas chambers, and Arizona even has approved the use of Zyklon B, of Auschwitz infamy. No Jewish argument about the death penalty in the 21st century should ignore these facts. This is why we chant: “NEVER AGAIN to state-sponsored murder!”, and instead “L’chaim...to Life!”

Cantor Michael Zoosman, an alumnus of Jewish Theological Seminary, is a former prison chaplain who co-founded the Facebook group L’chaim! Jews Against the Death Penalty. He frequently serves as a guest cantor in the Washington D.C. area, and lives in College Park, MD.

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GLOBE

Mary Ann Hoberman, a kids' writer whose poems drew on the warmth of her loud Jewish homes, dead at 92

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

Poet and children's book author Mary Ann Hoberman, whose own childhood in a "very loud, raucous, opinionated" Jewish household inspired the family themes that infused her books, died on July 7 at her home in Greenwich, Conn. She was 92.

The author of dozens of children's books, including "The Llama Who Had No Pajama," "The Seven Silly Eaters" and "You Read to Me, I'll Read to You," Hoberman was named "Children's Poet Laureate" by the Poetry Foundation, a title she held from 2008-2011.

The theme of family was prominent in two of her most celebrated books, "A House Is a House for Me" (1978), which won a National Book Award, and "All Kinds of Families!" (2009), which whimsically celebrated what a sociologist might call non-traditional families.

"Eggs in a carton can seem like a family/ So can a loaf with its slices of bread/ Celery stalks or a big bunch of carrots/ They sleep in the fridge with a drawer for a bed," she wrote.

Born Mary Ann Freedman in 1930, Hoberman said that her family moved frequently before her parents "fetched up" in New Haven, Connecticut. There, she told an interviewer, "my

mother's mother and her family lived and some of my father's family, as well. And some of my memories have to do with this large extended family. No one had very much money. They were immigrants. There was a great warmth, a lot of Yiddish speaking — which they kept from me — because it was the secret language that grownups could communicate with."

Those memories inspired the "very strong love" of family that she incorporated in many of her books.

"It all has to do with this very loud, raucous, opinionated family, chattering around in various languages and just drinking tea in glasses with cherries in them. That was what they did around the kitchen table," she said. "And I, sitting there wanting to understand what they were talking about and not always succeeding, but just feeling very good to be a part of it. Yes, I loved that very much."

She drew most explicitly on her Jewish, Depression-era childhood in "Strawberry Hill" (2009), a novel about Allie, a 10-year-old girl whose family moves to a new town. When a friend of a friend calls Allie a "dirty Jew," it leads to lessons in difference and tolerance.

Hoberman grew up mostly in Connecticut, where her father was a salesman who, after some years of

struggle, would found a Jewish country club, according to the Washington Post.

She received an undergraduate degree in history from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and, 35 years later, a master's degree in English and literature from Yale University. In 1951, she married Norman Hoberman, an architect, who illustrated her first book, "All My Shoes Come in Twos" (1957), based on poems she had written for her children.

Her husband died in 2015; one of their sons, Perry, would later illustrate some of his mother's books. Hoberman

phoos survived by Perry and three other children, Diane Louie, Chuck Hoberman and Meg Hoberman; a brother, and six grandchildren.

In addition to her book-writing, Hoberman taught writing and literature from the elementary through the college level. She co-founded and performed with "The Pocket People," a children's theater group, and "Women's Voices," a group giving dramatized poetry readings.



Mary Ann Hoberman was the author of dozens of children books, including "Strawberry Hill" and "All Kinds of Families!" (Legacy Photo via JTA)



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