



FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 10 | October 27, 2023 | 12 Cheshvan 5784

Israel at War

On the Shabbat morning of October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists breached the Gaza-Israel border barrier and launched an attack that murdered some 1,400 Israelis – predominantly civilians – wounded thousands more, and kidnapped upward of 200 others, most of whom remain hostages somewhere in Gaza. It was the deadliest single day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.



In the aftermath of the attack in Israel, residents share an emotional embrace.

For one of our Camp J shlichim, first came the sirens, then the running and then the rockets.

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Dawn was breaking over Beersheba on October 7 when the sirens began wailing, a sound that every inhabitant of this southern Israeli city knew carried one imperative: run to the nearest shelter before the rockets fell. Adi Damri was one of those residents. Jolted awake shortly after 6 a.m., she – along with her mother and brother –raced out of their home and found their way to at least rela-

tive safety. “We were in that shelter for like an hour,” Damri recalled during a recent WhatsApp video call from her family’s current apartment in Tel Aviv. “They didn’t stop shooting rockets that day through all of the country – there were sirens after sirens.” The “they” was Hamas, which launched an estimated 2,000 rockets from bases in the Gaza Strip while large numbers of terrorists breached the fence dividing Gaza from southern Israel. The ensuing murderous

rampage slaughtered some 1,400 Israelis, about 1,000 of whom were civilians – the greatest single loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust. Scarcely two months earlier, Damri had wound up her summer as a *shlichim* counselor at the Trager Family JCC’s Camp J. From Louisville she’d vacationed in Hawaii with her Israeli boyfriend, returning to Israel with plans to begin university studies. At 23, having served her required stint in the Israeli Defense Forces, See **SHLICHIM** on page 24

Act Now for Israel – and give to secure its future during a time of crisis

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Confronting one of their severest challenges in generations, Jews from Louisville and across the U.S. are responding the way they always have: by joining together as one people and declaring that evil will not stand. Shortly after the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks on Israel, Jewish Federations of North America announced an emergency campaign to raise \$500 million in aid to the nation. Louisville’s share comes to about \$1.5 million in an overall effort that raised a remarkable \$390 million within days of the initial announcement. “This is why we do what we do, why we are who we are,” says Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville. “We’re here not only for day-to-day needs and celebrating the joys of being Jewish, but to take care of the Jewish people wherever they may be.” At the core of everything, Wagner emphasizes, “we believe in a sovereign Israel and a Jewish homeland. And this is a moment where the people of Israel are in a crisis like we’ve never seen before. We’ve seen wars, but never an attack like this,” when Hamas terrorists stormed over the Gaza-Israel border and murdered more than 1,400 men, women and children – most of them civilians – wounding an estimated 3,300 others and kidnapping upward of 200 innocents ranging from infants to the elderly. “Every Jewish Federation has already

See **GIVING** on page 25

Partnership2Gether stands with Israel’s Western Galilee

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

This past October 19, a video was posted on the Facebook page of Israel’s Galilee Medical Center. It showed physician and CEO Masad Barhoum, wearing a ballistic protective vest, telling how his hospital was serving a nation at war. “Shalom, friends,” Barhoum began. “Israel is at wartime. As the closest hospital to any Israeli border – only six

miles from Lebanon – Galilee Medical Center is on the highest alert and phase of emergency preparedness. We have taken steps to protect our patients and staff, such as moving critical care units to the protective underground emergency complex and readied all bomb shelters and security rooms. We maintain close contact with the Israeli Defense Forces and the Ministry of Health and are ready to treat our armed forces and civilians which, literally, guard us.

“This is a very difficult time for the country – maybe the worst scenario that has ever been,” Barhoum continued. “Our hospital stood strong in previous wars and emergencies, and we will stand strong in the hard days ahead. Your support to Galilee Medical Center has always been a vital part of our strength. Our hearts and solidarity (are) with all of Israel, the Israel Defense Forces, and emergency forces. We are ready.” Gaza and Hamas may be the See **P2G** on page 21

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Memories, steeped in the sweetness of cookies and the anguish of war



D'var Torah

Cantor David Lipp

Yom Kippur. Jerusalem.1973. I was 12 years old. Excited to fast the whole day for the first time.

At around 2 p.m., the sirens went off. We turned on the radio.

Marcel Proust is famous for naming *involuntary memories*. A smell or taste reminds us of a gestalt of experience, a holographic re-living of a moment, brought back to mind and soul and sense.

When I arrived at AJ on Shabbat morning of Shemini Atzeret and heard what happened 50 years and a day after the surprise attack of Egypt and Syria on Israel, it brought Yom Kippur, 1973, Jerusalem back.

We heard Prime Minister Golda Meir serious but reassuring. Only much later would I learn how dire the moment was in Israeli history. Movies and books would be written, pundits discuss, a government and party would fall to the opposition.

If Proust's involuntary memory was inspired by the taste of a *Madeline* soaked in tea, mine brought back chocolate chip cookies on a tray.

Many ask me if I grew up Orthodox. I grew up Jewish and, having made Aliyah at age 10, Israeli. I had a bar mitzvah; we observed the important holidays (which for us rarely if ever included Sukkot or Shavuot) but, even if we didn't get to synagogue, we fasted on Yom Kippur.

Part of my memory from that day was seeing hundreds of tanks flowing south seemingly without end.

Lech Lecha, the Torah portion this week, is rich in content: God commands Avram to go to a place he will be shown, a famine, sojourn to Egypt, the splitting of land between Avram and his nephew Lot, the command to circumcise,

both Avram and Sarai getting their names changed (Avraham and Sarah respectively), Yishmael, the surrogate child with Hagar, the hullabaloo this causes between the couple, and the covenant of the pieces. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

It includes the first war in the Torah.

After Lot chooses Sodom, a coalition of four kingdoms attacks the five which include Lot's new domicile, and he is kidnapped. Avram gathers allies and successfully returns with Lot to great acclaim. The king of Sodom offers Avram half the spoils but he refuses them — his allies can have it all. All he wanted was to save his nephew.

Despite the wealth of interpretive opportunity in *Lech Lecha*, this year we have been attacked by an enemy that cares not for laws of war or civilization, an enemy that cannot be appeased by anything but our destruction. If you don't believe me, find the Hamas Charter, the original one. Even if you think being an anti-Zionist is not antisemitic (it is, but for the sake of argument), Hamas adopts a theology of pure and unadulterated Jew Hatred. Antisemitism is too civilized a word for it.

It's easy to say this attack was much worse than the one I experienced as an adolescent. Certainly this one was closer to home, involved more civilian deaths of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust, and the enemy doesn't seem to have any incentive to come to a full peace deal with Israel as Anwar Sadat eventually did.

I hope and pray that God assists the IDF and Israeli government create a new reality in which my involuntary memory of chocolate chip cookies will be only the Proustian variety and not the more vicious replay we witnessed this year.

Their task is harder, but they have an advantage over our eldest patriarch.

They rule a good portion of the land God promised him in this very portion.

Shabbat Shalom

David Lipp is Hazzan of Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

Snapshots



During Sukkot, the Trager Family JCC sukkah was overflowing with wonderful gatherings of friends and music and celebration and joy.

Pictured (L-R): (Top Row) Students in the Early Learning Center learned about Sukkot while spending time in the sukkah; Rye Sherman, Gab Melendez, Waylon Riley and Avery Curtis joined together for a Young Adult Shmooze & Booze in the sukkah; (Bottom Row) Students from St. Francis of Assisi joined Cantor David Lipp in the sukkah for a Newish Jewish Music program; Seniors celebrated Sukkot with Cantor Sharon Hordes.

Candles

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

- Nov 3 @ 6:23 p.m.
- Nov 10 @ 5:17 p.m.
- Nov 17 @ 5:11 p.m.
- Nov 24 @ 5:07 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

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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, November 13** (though sooner is better).

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

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

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

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NEWS

After Oct. 7, Israel's 1948 Declaration of Independence is newly urgent



JCRC

Matt Golden

The modern State of Israel is just 75 years old. We here at *Community* began considering a discussion of Israel's founding document well before the terrorism of October 7, 2023, as part of our

ongoing celebration of Israel's 75th anniversary. But after the Hamas attacks just weeks ago, that founding document took on a new meaning and a new urgency.

To understand the import of this document, you must understand its context. It was May of 1948. The British-controlled mandate in the land was set to expire. Months earlier, in November 1947, the United Nations had recommended that two states—one Arab, Jordan; and one Jewish, Israel—would be created when the British ceded their control of the territory. Homeless Jews from across Europe and the Middle East who had been denied entry by the British overlord's severe limitations on immigration waited

breathlessly for a place to go in a world where no one wanted them.

At the borders of the newly conceived nation, armies massed from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and the new Jordan to join the Arab forces already present in the region. Muslim Brotherhood founder Sheikh Hassan el-Bana promised that, "If the Jewish state becomes a fact, and this is realized by the Arab peoples, they will drive the Jews who live in their midst into the sea."

It is against that backdrop that David Ben-Gurion announced, on May 14, 1948, Israel's independence with the following Declaration. It contains many of the underpinnings of values we hold

sacrosanct: a right of return, democracy, equality of race and religion, and citizenship for those that live in the land.

Almost immediately after the Israeli Declaration of Independence was read, the massed armies attacked Israel by land, sea and air.

We invite you to read it in full below, and we invite you to comment on what the document means to you now, comments that we may publish in the online version of the paper. Please send your submissions to me at mgolden@jewishlouisville.org.

Matt Golden is Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

ERETZ-ISRAEL [(Hebrew) - the Land of Israel, Palestine] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom. Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, *ma'pilim* [(Hebrew) - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive legislation] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restric-

tions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open



David Ben-Gurion presides over the signing of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and announcing the birth of the Jewish State, May 14, 1948. (GPO)

for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and par-

ticipate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE "ROCK OF ISRAEL", WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).

FORUM

Telling our story



Sara's View

Sara Klein Wagner

A week before the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, Howard and I visited the Milwaukee Art Museum. I could not pull myself away from Marc Chagall's painting "The Horseman," as its bright reds and oranges drew me in and piqued my curiosity. Circling back to the painting again and again, I found myself lingering while a docent described the picture to a touring group.

She shared how Chagall's work was largely inspired by his childhood in Russia as a Jew. This piece centers on a mounted figure on a horse with its head turned inward, the animal's image evoking the shape of a human heart. She explained how themes of love, courtship, and family – existed within a Jewish community beset by houses aflame in the background – an obvious reference to pogroms. I

felt a chill as she peered down on her iPad and read – in a flat monotone – the textbook description of a "pogrom":

"The pogroms of eastern Europe were violent rioting and ransacking of Jewish villages," I listened as she continued reading aloud how pogroms were intentionally planned

We must support those in trauma now, and we must tell the story of this attack, painful as that task may be. It is our story to tell, along with our obligation to remain hopeful in the face of unspeakable tragedy.

attacks pulling Jews out of their homes, raping all the Jewish women and murdering as many Jews as possible.

Then, as the docent told the assembled group that the "Russians killed the Jews because they believed

the Jews were responsible for killing Jesus," a couple passed by with the man giving a thumbs-up and smiling as he whispered to his companion: "That's right." At that instant I remembered an ongoing, difficult truth: We cannot assume others understand our history and the legacy of hate our ancestors experienced.

I don't know what message Chagall hoped his painting would prompt. Perhaps its central figures emphasize the resonance of love, hope, and celebration, while somewhere in the background we're reminded never to forget the past. Years from now another generation will understand the October 7 attacks only from what is passed down by survivors, rescuers, historians, and artists. I believe this will be intrinsic to our modern story of the Jewish people – indeed how could it not be. The pogroms in Eastern Europe had a profound impact on the dream of Zionism and the accompanying desire to live freely and safely in a Jewish state.

Today we are carrying the heaviest of hearts and anxieties as more than 203 hostages are being held in Gaza – a circumstance frightening beyond our worst nightmares. We also have

a responsibility to those who were murdered in Israel just as we have to those murdered in pogroms, the Shoah, the Munich Olympics, prior wars and at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue. We must support those in trauma now, and we must tell the story of this attack, painful as that task may be. It is our story to tell, along with our obligation to remain hopeful in the face of unspeakable tragedy.

Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future.
– Elie Wiesel

We will have a future and there will again be days filled with love and even joy, just as Chagall depicted, as we must always remember and honor their lives. May their memories be for abundant and everlasting blessings.

To donate to JFNA's emergency campaign and learn about other resources for information and action, go online at jewishlouisville.org/actnowforisrael.

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

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Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are November 13 for publication on November 24 and December 18 for publication on December 29.

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

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

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

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

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FORUM



Fifty years later, another tipping point of Jewish history



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

Fifty years ago I was a high school sophomore sitting in Earl Clemens' American History class where the scheduled topic was Reconstruction and the rise of the New South in the aftermath of the Civil War. But it was a different conflict that occupied us on this particular Monday: Two days earlier Arab armies had attacked Israel – on Yom Kippur, yet – a surprise, unanticipated, undetected offensive, and 48 hours later things were not looking terribly good for Eretz Israel.

I, and I suspect most of my classmates, were bewildered. At least a third of my approximately 100-member grade was Jewish, and memories of the 1967 Six Day War were still reasonably fresh. “Lightning out of Israel!” was the victory cry then, a divided Jerusalem reunited; the West Bank annexed; Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meier – the personalities and accompanying imagery of a tiny nation basking in its improbable triumph.

But here, a mere six years later, that same nation was under existential threat. Eventually the tide turned in Israel's favor, but there was no

denying that the country had been caught woefully unprepared. Soon came the inevitable investigations and recriminations, but once they'd been appropriately digested, we were certain we'd never again be so grievously deluded.

All that reassurance, of course, came crashing down 50 years and one day later when Hamas launched its murderous rampage against Southern Israel. Comparisons to the Yom Kippur debacle came swiftly, but this was different. At least the previous two conflicts were military in emphasis – armies and air forces pitted against one another; war in a more or less conventional trappings. Hamas carried no such illusions of decency. Its modus operandi was terror at its most extreme – slaughtering civilians. It didn't matter if their victims were infants or seniors, teens, tweens, whomever. Others were kidnapped with the same indiscriminate fervor – hands bound, herded into vehicles waiting to carry them deep into Gaza. At least 200 remain as hostages, most presumably held by Hamas, but some likely in custody of Islamic Jihad and similar groups.

With an estimated 1,400 Israelis dead, the young war has been described as the greatest loss of Jewish life in a single day since the Holocaust. The atrocities reached ghastly levels of heinousness – there was a report that one band of terrorists videoed the murder of an Israeli grandmother, and then uploaded that

video to the Facebook account of her granddaughter.

It's the sort of horror that makes the blood boil and the aggrieved cry out for vengeance. “We are fighting against human animals,” Defence Minister Yoav Gallant declared, announcing that Israel would impose a “complete siege” on Gaza – no food, no water, no fuel, no medicine, nothing. A small amount of humanitarian aid was finally allowed in, Israeli Air Force planes hammering suspected Hamas strongholds while some 360,000 IDF troops massed near the Gaza border.

A massive ground invasion appeared imminent, then delayed, perhaps to allow additional time to negotiate a release of hostages. Meanwhile, a Gaza hospital parking lot was struck in an explosion that killed dozens of civilians. Hamas was quick to blame Israel, but evidence then pointed to an errant rocket fired by Islamic Jihad. Information competing with misinformation amid the marketplace of attack and retribution: the despairing currency of war.

There is no going back now. We have reached one of those tipping points of history, where a tectonic shift has hurled us into some unknown, unforeseen, unfathomable dimension. All we can be sure of is that we can't be sure of anything.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

GLOBE

Inside the volunteer effort to preserve the harrowing testimonies of Israel's Oct. 7 survivors

By Jackie Hajdenberg
JTA

Two days after Hamas killed 1,400 of his fellow Israelis, Raz Elispur saw something on social media that broke through the fog of the crisis. It was a first-person account by May Hayat, written in Hebrew, that explained exactly how she had survived the massacre at the Nova dance party.

Hayat's account described how the day began with a beautiful sunrise and ended with her fleeing Hamas captors who murdered a man in front of her, then covering herself in the blood of other victims to play dead until rescuers arrived hours later.

"It was the first time that we read content from someone, first person, with a face, with a name told from her perspective that tells everything and shares everything," Elispur told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Elispur, a video editor who lives in Tel Aviv, was inspired to take action. Working with his sister, Adi Clinton, he began reaching out to survivors within their own networks to offer to take down their stories. Soon, the project spiraled into something even more ambitious: a sweeping effort to collect survivor testimonies on a website whose name is simply the date of the devastating attack.

"We built this website to make sure that the stories of survivors who endured these unimaginable horrors are never forgotten," October7.org says. "It is our duty to ensure that the world bears witness to these atrocities."

Elispur is often awake until 3 a.m. on Zoom calls with small groups of volunteers from around the world to coordinate the collection, translation, and publication of the stories, which include the first names and last initials of the survivors along with photos and videos from the time of the attacks.

In one story, a soldier describes the daylong ordeal that reduced her

army unit to just seven survivors. In another, a man recounts how he and his running partners initially thought they had been saved by soldiers, only to see both of them murdered by Hamas terrorists. In a third, a woman describes escaping captivity, where her neighbor says she saw her baby daughter shot in the head, with the help of soldiers who fell around her. Many of the testimonies are from the nature party, where 260 bodies were recovered.

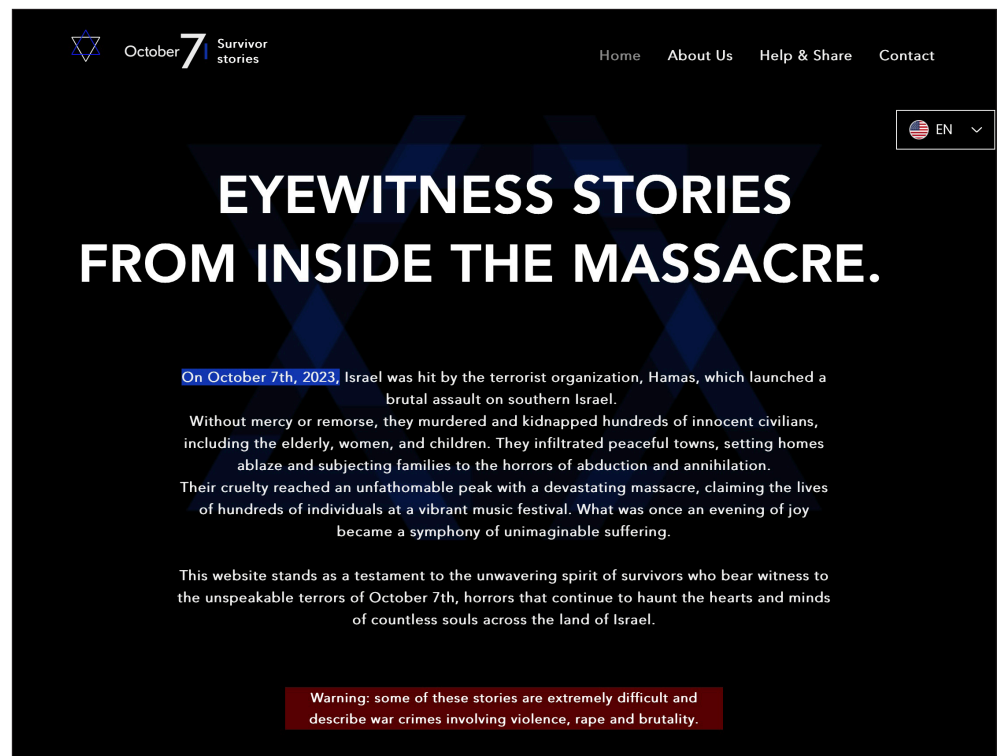
So far, the website has published 100 testimonies, and the number is growing by the day. Some survivors are submitting stories directly, and others first appeared in the Israeli press.

Elispur sees the enterprise as both a way to be useful at a time of communal service and to provide a direct benefit to survivors.

"For them, it's also a way to just let it out, I would say," Elispur said. "But for me, and also for my sister — I think for everyone that read it — when you read it, you can relate to it and you could imagine yourself in the same scenario, as horrible as it might sound."

Given the number of casualties during the Hamas attack, Israeli media has been flooded with obituaries. Survivor testimonies play a different role. For one thing, they can for obvious reasons offer more details about the assault that Israeli civilians faced during the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. They also can offer an antidote to denial and distortion in a climate of misinformation.

Survivor testimonies have been a crucial part of Holocaust education for decades, under the theory that hearing from people who lived through atrocities is a vital component of guarding against future genocides. Now, one organization that has been collecting Holocaust survivors' testimony for the last three decades has announced that it is also taking testimony from Oct. 7 survivors.



Screenshot of October7.org's website.

"At such times, it is essential that we do not give ground to despair," the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation said in a statement. "We have a duty to bear witness, to remember, and to act. We must learn from the experiences of those most affected, particularly the survivors of this deadly genocidal hatred."

So far, everyone the October7.org team has reached out to for testimonies has agreed to have their story shared.

"People are thanking us and [saying], 'Please spread it to the world, please do it,'" Elispur said.

To make the stories widely accessible, they need to be translated — and not by an automatic translation service, which can make errors and, crucially, lose the emotional tenor of the original. The October7.org team includes volunteer translators with knowledge of Japanese, English, German, Arabic, Spanish and French and

is producing stories in each language.

While he says managing the website is tough, Elispur knows the translators have the toughest job because they read the stories so closely, watching as the narratives transition from descriptions of the "best party ever" to scenes of mass death.

"It's super hard for them," he said. "If I take responsibility for one person that reads more than two or three stories a day, I will feel guilty. I myself, when I post those stories, when I do the technical job, for me, it's hard."

The team repeatedly encourages each other to take breaks and spend time with their children in between translations. But the work, too, is a sort of salve in a time of great pain, Elispur said.

"Nothing we can do will bring back the 1,500 people that were murdered," he said. "Nothing we can do will bring back my friend's parents. But if you feel that you did a bit, it helps."

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(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



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- Father of two children, **Foster Parent** to seven medically fragile drug-exposed children who were later adopted into their Forever Homes.





- Served as Board Member with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Habitat for Humanity, and Cane Run Elementary Family Resources Center. Organized and led **Mission Trips** to orphanages in Guatemala and Panama. Active as volunteer with numerous local and regional charitable organizations.
- **Authored** the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges chapter on Reasonable Efforts related to children removed from their homes due to Abuse or Neglect.

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PICTURE THIS: FIRST DATE REHEARSALS

First Date

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

First Date is sure to be a hilarious and heartwarming show as audiences share in the awkward encounters experienced during a blind first date. Below are a few notes about the upcoming production from Director Erin Silliman and Assistant Director Alex Roby:

"This story is a contemporary tale of dating in the modern world. Finding love has, historically, never been easy, but this story takes that process to a different level. Our story examines the inner-worlds of potential partners and their experience on a first date. What is so engaging is the privilege to enter one's private thoughts and see that we all desire to feel accepted, seen, loved, and have common fears of rejection or feelings of doubt." – Erin Silliman, Director of *First Date* and Director of Arts & Ideas at the Trager Family JCC.

"In a world where snap judgments and preconceived notions often guide our decisions, *First Date* reminds us that there is always more to people than meets the eye through the story of two



strangers brought together by fate and a little matchmaking.

As you enjoy the funny and heartwarming moments our characters share, take a moment to think about how appearances can be deceiving and that first impressions aren't always correct. While you may think you have someone figured out from a single glance, everyone has stories waiting to be uncovered." – Alex Roby, Assistant Director of *First Date*.

Want to go?

First Date opens Nov. 2 with 6 showtimes through Nov. 12. Tickets can be purchased by visiting jccloouisville.org/centerstage.

The cast of CenterStage's second production of the season, *First Date*, is well into rehearsals, preparing for opening night on November 2. (Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



 **CenterStage**
at the Trager Family JCC
presents

first 
DATE 

November 2 - 12, 2023

Tickets On Sale Now!



To learn more and purchase tickets, scan the QR code
or visit jccloouisville.org/CenterStage



jccloouisville.org/centerstage



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PICTURE THIS: LION OF JUDAH EVENT



Lisa Eisen was the guest speaker at this year’s Lion of Judah event. Lisa grew up in the Louisville community and now serves as the Co-President of Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies. She spoke about helping more Jews discover the joy of Jewish life, standing up for democracy in the U.S. and Israel, and fighting for gender equity both within the Jewish community and beyond are all key components to strengthening the Jewish future.

Pictured (L-R): (Row 1) Marie Abrams, Madeline Abramson, Lisa Eisen and Mona Brodsky; Margie Kohn and Joanie Lustig; Shellie Benovitz, Mona Shramko, Lisa Eisen and Marsha Roth; Krista Shapira, Robin Miller, Shane Shaps and Julie Ensign. (Row 2) Denise Schiller, Mandy Vine and Maxine Rouben. (Row 3) Abigail Goldberg, Sarah Hyman and Debbie Hyman; Amy Trager and Vicki Goldberg-Minstein. (Row 4) Beth Salomon, Kristen Shapira, Jennifer Tuvlin, Shane Shaps, Bonnie Roth and Sandy Linker.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



Jewish Lou

502.0

Are you part of an interfaith family? We want to hear from you.

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. **We are currently gathering a group of interfaith families for a think tank** to share ideas and help shape where we are going.



Interested in participating?
Scan the QR code and let us know a little about yourself.
JewishLouisville.org/502.0

Questions? Contact Alison Roemer, aroemer@JewishLouisville.org



PICTURE THIS: ISRAEL SOLIDARITY GATHERING



In the wake of the Oct. 7 terror attacks on Israel, Louisville's Jewish community came together on Tuesday, Oct. 10 to mourn, share warm embraces, grieve, and pray. On Day Four of the war, over 500 Louisvillians gathered at sunset in the parking lot of the Trager Family JCC to hear from speakers including civic officials, faith-based leaders, rabbis, cantors and Jewish lay leaders.

Spiritual leaders who made remarks during the program were Archbishop Shelton Fabre, Archdiocese of Louisville; Dr. Steve Kelsey, Minister of Spirit Filled New Life Church; Rabbi Beth Jacobowitz Chottiner, Temple Shalom; Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, Chabad of Kentucky; Rabbi Ben Freed, Keneseth Israel; and Rabbi Simcha Snaid, Anshei Sfard.

David Kaplan, Board Chair of the Jewish Federation of Louisville; Sara Klein Wagner, President & CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville; and Matt Golden, Jewish Community Relations Council Director, also offered remarks during the program.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



JEWISH COMMUNITY SOCIAL

The Louisville Council of Jewish Congregations is hosting the first-ever Jewish Community Social! Anyone is welcome, whether a member of a synagogue, or unaffiliated. Enjoy kosher food, cocktails, a trivia contest, community service opportunities, and plenty of time to socialize and make new connections.

NOVEMBER 12, 2023
5 pm – 8 pm

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Register at:
www.jewishcommunitysocial.com

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GLOBE

Outside U.N., families of hostages and Jewish leaders plead to bring home Hamas captives

By Luke Tress
JTA

(New York Jewish Week) – In front of a crowd of 200 outside the United Nations, Navi Strauss described his cousin, Hagar — who loves traveling, trying new food, listening to Radiohead, and has three children, one of whom celebrated their 10th birthday on Oct. 6.

“Have I humanized it enough?” Strauss said. “Do you know this person? I’m sure you know this person. But she’s somewhere in Gaza and I don’t know where and I don’t know when I’m going to see her next.”

Like hundreds of other Israelis, Hagar and her three children are being held by Hamas, which took the captives when it invaded Israel from Gaza on Oct. 7, killing 1,400 and wounding thousands. At the gathering on Wednesday morning [Oct. 18], relatives of the hostages pressed for their release and criticized the international response to the abductions.

Strauss, other family members of hostages and New York City politicians and Jewish leaders addressed the crowd, vowing to keep the hostages’ plight on the public agenda — and to prevent it from being subsumed by debate over the war between Hamas and Israel.

“I’m not interested in politics, I’m not interested in ‘othering,’” Strauss said. “There are children in danger.”

In all, Israel says it has notified the families of 199 hostages that their loved ones are in Gaza. Hamas says other terror groups operating in the territory are holding about 50 additional people. Hamas released footage of one of the captives on Monday, a video widely understood as a psychological ploy.

“We feel this viscerally in New York. We feel as if these children are our children,” said Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, who is Jewish. “Because of their pain we will not be silent. We are demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages.”

Flanked by students from the Ramaz School, an Orthodox day school in Manhattan, holding fliers with images of the captives, Levine said in Hebrew, “We’re not forgetting and we’re not giving up. We will do all we can to return them home in peace. We promise.”

Also at the rally at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza were New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, who is Jewish; the chair of the City Council’s Jewish Caucus, Eric Dinowitz; other New York City lawmakers; and representatives of the New York Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the UJA-Federation of New York and the American Jewish Committee’s New York chapter; and Shany Granot-Lubaton, a prominent Israeli activist.

Several speakers lamented that the

hostage crisis hasn’t drawn harsher condemnations, decrying what they said was a double standard against Israel.

“Kidnapping is very straightforward. Somehow that message gets lost,” Dinowitz said. “In every generation we face strife and challenges, and in every generation there are people who question our simple right to exist.”

Levine compared the situation to the global outcry when Boko Haram terrorists abducted 276 girls in Nigeria in 2014, sparking a massive international response.

“Where is that level of outrage now?” he said. “Where are the government denunciations? Where is the clear messaging from the United Nations? Where’s the outrage on social media?”

Ahead of the protest, the Ramaz students led the crowd in a rendition of traditional Jewish songs calling for God to help those in distress and protect children. Attendees stood in a circle, some holding images of the hostages and Israeli flags. The conference wrapped up with



Students hold images of Israeli hostages held by Hamas at a rally demanding their release, in New York City, October 18, 2023. (Photo by Luke Tress via JTA)

the audience singing Israel’s national anthem, “Hatikvah.”

In the area around the plaza, fliers with photos of the captives and information about them were taped to streetlights and parking meters, part of an international campaign to raise awareness of the crisis.

Speakers largely did not address how Israel should conduct its war on Hamas or what the outcome of the fighting should be, though Strauss did suggest that arms should be laid down so that the hostage crisis could be addressed.

“There are actual human beings who are in danger right now,” Strauss told the crowd. “Drop the weapons, stop the fighting, prioritize the hostages.”



Call to Action



Medical Doctors Needed in Israel

The Galilee Medical Center is looking for US doctors to volunteer. The most urgent needs are Thoracic Surgeons, Vascular Surgeons and Traumatologists. We encourage all interested medical personell to register as needs may change.

More Information and to register: jewishlouisville.org/p2g.

Cards for Soldiers

Our friends on the ground in Israel are baking and sending cakes to soldiers. Submit digital messages and drawings of support to accompany the cakes.

Send submissions to Amy Fouts, p2g@jewishlouisville.org.

For more information about how you can help Israel, contact Amy Fouts, p2g@jewishlouisville.org



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<https://tinyurl.com/P2GLou>

Visit our website at jewishlouisville.org/p2g.



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JFCS Providing Free Support Counseling

Trauma Counseling Available to Anyone Affected by the Conflict in Israel and Gaza

In times of turmoil and strife, it's often our emotional well-being that bears the most significant burden. The conflict in Israel and Gaza, with its profound impact on countless lives, has left many individuals in our own community grappling with grief, loss, and emotional distress.

The past two weeks have been unimaginable for individuals with family, friends, or cultural and personal ties to Israel and Gaza. What is sometimes overlooked, however, is that violence like this can be triggering to anyone who has experienced similar trauma, violence, or life-altering events.

Louisville's Ukrainian population, for instance, has themselves experienced war and upheaval in their own country and may find the images and stories coming from social media and news accounts triggering. Similarly, individuals living in high-crime areas right here in Louisville may be re-

traumatized as the media coverage of violence and destruction adds to their emotional burden. Children may be asking questions adults struggle to answer.

The “There are seminal moments when an agency like JFCS answers the community's calls for immediate assistance. We are in this moment now,” ~ Dr. David Finke, CEO

near-constant stream of horrific imagery, news reports, and social media can affect people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures.

JFCS understands that everyone's needs, grief, and trauma are unique. In response, JFCS is stepping up to offer complimentary individual trauma counseling sessions to those affected by the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza. These one-time sessions are open to ANYONE in need, regardless of religious affiliation or cultural background, and are FREE of charge.

Our team of experienced grief counselors is dedicated to providing

compassionate support in a safe space. Our therapists are trained to address various aspects of grief, from the loss of loved ones and friends to the trauma of witnessing violence and destruction, even if only seeing these things on social media or the news.

Interested individuals can contact JFCS through our website at www.jfcsloisville.org

or by calling our front office at (502) 452-6341. We have also had at least one support group session and have plans for more as we see the potential that this conflict will not have a swift ending.

“There are seminal moments when an agency like JFCS answers the community's calls for immediate assistance. We are in this moment now,” said Dr. David Finke, CEO. “If we are to live by our core values of Kavod, Chesed, Kehilah, Tzedek, and Avodah (Respect, Compassion, Community, Justice, and Service), we

believe this is our call to action. We are here for you.”

Grief and trauma are complex emotions and manifest in various levels, from individual to the communal. JFCS is here to support all individuals as we believe everyone should live with dignity and purpose.

Helping our friends and neighbors navigate their emotions, find community, and begin the healing process in a safe space is the mission we were founded on as an organization and something we continue to strive toward. WE ARE JFCS! We're here to help the community – the ENTIRE community. We have been here for 115 years. We're here for you today. We will be here for you in the days and weeks to come. You are not alone.

Accessing the free trauma counseling services is easy

jfcsloisville.org or call (502) 452-6341.

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JFCS & Women of Temple Shalom Hanukkah Helpers

Thank you to Women of Temple Shalom, our Hannukah Helpers sponsor, for providing gift cards to Jewish families in our community for the holiday.

If you'd like to support families of all faiths during the holidays and be a Holiday Helper, you too, can purchase gift cards and drop them off at JFCS.

Email Avery at amarkel@jfcsloisville.org for more information.

Do You Have A Truck?



Seeking a volunteer with a truck to help with weekly Dare to Care pick ups for the JFCS food pantry.

Contact Avery Markel at (502) 709-9198, or email her at: amarkel@jfcsloisville.org.

Powered in part by the Jewish Federation of Louisville

Teacher's Pet

A few months ago, my son asked for a turtle for his birthday. Surely, we could get a turtle, not too big of a deal, we just need to buy the turtle, the cage, food and maybe a couple other things right? Wrong! When we entered the pet store - the shopping trip I was expecting did not happen! Instead the associate explained that we would need to purchase a bigger (more expensive) tank than I ever imagined, we would need calcium to sprinkle on the food, a food dish, some fake plants, a reptile hide, a soaking pool, floor chips, a day time and a night time heat lamp (bulbs sold separately), a UV light and a humidifier. And this didn't even include the cost of the turtle! Needless to say, I learned a big lesson about expectations when purchasing a new pet!

When the Upper Elementary students at MTA told me that they wanted a classroom pet this year, I was a little hesitant to say the least, given my prior experience. Getting a classroom pet is a big deal and often a lot of work and commitment on the teacher's part, plus I didn't want another situation like my son's birthday turtle. But there are also so many benefits to having an animal in the classroom, so what should a teacher (and an experienced turtle mom) do?

I made the decision to flip the script and put the work and responsibility on the students. I wanted them to learn everything they needed to know before even setting foot into the pet store! First I asked them to complete some preliminary research on potential class pets. Once they narrowed this initial research down to a specific animal of interest, they then needed to become experts on that animal. I wanted them to know everything there was to know about that particular animal, including information about the natural habitat, the food the animal eats, the animals' known predators, the required conditions for the animal to remain healthy, and the defense mechanisms the animal has to defend itself if threatened. I also wanted my students to determine if the animal they chose is a common pet, and details regarding the degree of difficulty of caring for the animal. After finalizing all of their required research, the MTA Upper Elementary students decided on gerbils!

Now that the students were experts, I asked them to familiarize

themselves with the required materials needed in order to care for gerbils. This included both set-up materials and the materials needed to maintain the animal monthly. They generated a list of all the materials they would need, and we took a quick class trip to Petco for the students to price out these required materials. The students then "did the math" and determined an estimated set-up cost and monthly maintenance cost. (This also included the cost of the animal.) During this time, I found a Classroom Pet Grant through Petco. I decided now that they had a pretty good idea about how much these gerbils would cost, that it would be a great experience for them to help me

write the grant. Together, we completed all the grant expectations and submitted the grant in the hopes of being provided funding!

Even though the students were now experts and had priced out the required materials, and even helped me write a grant, they were not finished yet! They needed to create a plan for how they would care for the animals daily, when the animal's cage would be cleaned and by whom, and what would happen to the gerbils over the weekends and extended breaks. Their next task was to synthesize all that they have learned and decided upon, and write a formal proposal to Rabbi Meyers, our head school, to showcase their knowledge and expertise, and to

convince him to allow us to bring gerbils into our classroom. In addition to the written proposal, they also drafted a slide deck and an oral presentation in preparation for their official meeting with Rabbi Meyers. Their meeting was serious business, and Rabbi Meyers asked them to consider some of his concerns, many of which the students hadn't thought of. After some intense negotiations, Rabbi Meyers asked the students to create a terms and conditions document citing what each party agreed to with regards the expectations of allowing gerbils into our classroom. As they finalized the terms and conditions and both the students and Rabbi Meyers signed the document, I received an email that we received the grant from Petco! Yay!

One of the largest focuses within the Montessori Upper Elementary and Middle School classrooms is providing students opportunities to work through 'real world' situations. As their teacher, and really just their facilitator, throughout this process, I had the pleasure of watching our students work through each of the steps required to become a serious and responsible pet owner!

I wanted them to learn everything they needed to know before even setting foot into the pet store!

This week's article is written by Amy Danino, our Upper Elementary general studies teacher

Snapshots



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PICTURE THIS: FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL & CAMP FAIR



The Fall Family Festival and Jewish Overnight Camp fair at the Trager Family JCC included 8 overnight camps from around the region (Camp Livingston, Beber Camp, GUCI, URJ Six Points, Camp Young Judaea, Camp Ben Frankel, Interlaken, and Camp Nageela Midwest). Children also enjoyed a bounce house, face paint and crafts. Gift bags were handed out from the Membership department to kick off Member Appreciation week. In addition, a latke bake-off produced three finalists who will compete at the Festival of Trees and Lights on Sunday, November 12.

(Photos by Kathryn Harrington)

SNOWFLAKE SHOPPE

at the Trager Family JCC

Come Shop!

November 18 & 19, 2023

The Snowflake Shoppe kicks off the holiday shopping season with a wide range of artisans, crafters and more.

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All proceeds will assist in purchasing much needed educational toys and equipment to supplement our program.

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Questions? Contact Alison Roemer at aroemer@jewishlouisville.org

JewishCamp one happy camper | Trager Family JCC | Jewish Federation of Louisville | Jewish Heritage Fund

PICTURE THIS: UNITY IN COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



The Unity in Community fundraising breakfast was held in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium on October 24. Attendees heard from Guest Speaker, Mayor Jerry Abramson as well as Graham Parker, Executive Director of the Louisville Orchestra and Teddy Abramson, Music Director of the Louisville Orchestra. Funds raised directly address the increasing need for assistance with Trager Family JCC tuition, membership dues and senior lunch program.

Pictured (L-R): (Row 1) Renee Campbell, Joey Blake, Jane Emke, Krista Gwynn, Rose Smith, Navada Gwynn, Navada Jr. Gwynn and Jerry Abramson; (Row 2) Sarah Teeters and Gerina Weathers; Chester Misbach, Mike Eichengreen and Steve Goldberg. (Row 3) Jerry Abramson; Matt Schwartz, Rabbi Ben Freed and Stuart Lowrey. (Row 4) Joey Blake, Jane Emke, Pat Stewart, Jackie Raymond and Joyce Bridge. (Photos by Kathryn Harrington)





An Evening for Friends and Conversation

With Special Guest, Dana Gordon
Jewish entrepreneur, mother, jeweler, and founder of *Dana Rebecca Designs*
Q&A moderated by Shane Shaps

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Work the Metal, Room 4
1201 Story Ave, Louisville, KY 40206
7:00 – 9:00 PM
Desserts & Cocktails

Co-Hosts
Julie Ensign, Robin Miller, Maxine Rouben, Julie Strull, Becky Ruby Swansburg, Betsy Prussian, Susan Rudy, George Polur, Samantha Simon, Maya Jaimner

A Jewish Federation of Louisville Annual Campaign solicitation event.

RSVP to afouts@jewishlouisville.org by Nov. 21



NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Steve Trager named University of Louisville's 2023 Wilson Wyatt Alumnus of the Year



Steven E. Trager

Steven E. Trager, whose family is among the most significant forces in contemporary Louisville philanthropy, has been named the University of Louisville's 2023 Wilson Wyatt Alumnus of the Year.

A 1985 graduate of U of L's Brandeis School of law, Trager currently serves as Executive Chair of Republic Bank – founded in 1983 by his late father, Bernard Trager. He earned his undergraduate degree in 1982 as a Finance major at the University of Texas at Austin. Apart from his Republic Bank responsibilities, he's a member of Bellarmine University's Board of Trustees, and is President of the Trager Family Foundation.

Perhaps the most visible example of the Tragers' generosity is the Trager Family JCC, which opened in April of 2022. U of L boasts the Trager Field Hockey Stadium, the 90,000-square-foot Trager Center, Trager Plaza, located between the Miller Information Technology Center and Lutz Hall, and the Trager Institute for Aging.

The Wyatt alumnus award is named after Wilson Wyatt (1905-1996) – who was Louisville's mayor from 1941-1945 and Kentucky's lieutenant governor from 1959-1963. He attended U of L both as an undergraduate and law student and was a senior partner in what was Kentucky's largest law firm: Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs.

Jane Emke honored as one of 13 winners of this year's WLKY Bell Awards



Jane Godchaux Emke

Jane Godchaux Emke was among 13 winners of 2023 WLKY Bell Awards honored Oct. 5 with a reception along Churchill Downs' Millionaires Row.

Emke's citation read: "A force to be reckoned with, Jane Emke has served her community in a multitude of ways. She has devoted her volunteer efforts to the Crescent Hill Library, American Lung Association, Louisville Central Community Center, and most recently Ronald McDonald House, and the VA Hospital. She is a past President of the National Council of Jewish Women and has been active with the organization for fifty-two years. A strong voice for civil rights, Jane Emke is a recipient of the Lyman T. Johnson Award and also received the Center for Women & Families Woman of Distinction Award."

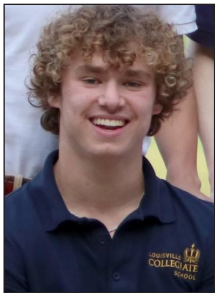
Additionally, she has been a resolute voice in ongoing efforts to reduce gun violence in Louisville.

This was the 46th anniversary of the Bell Awards, which are presented annually by the WLKY Spirit of Louisville Foundation. As the WLKY website explains: "The Bell Awards program recognizes adults and high school youth who have demonstrated the true 'Spirit of Louisville' through selfless volunteer efforts and seeks to inspire all residents to engage in community service. Each adult Bell Award recipient will receive a \$500 charity grant from Presenting Sponsor Republic Bank, and the Youth Service Honor Recipients will receive a \$1,000 cash scholarship award from the Brown-Forman Corporation.

"In addition to the 13 WLKY Bell Award honorees, the Founda-

tion and Mayor Craig Greenberg present[ed] the "Mayor's Spirit of Louisville Award" to Cathe Dykstra, Chief Possibility Officer at Family Scholar House, and the Foundation and Churchill Downs present[ed] the "John Asher Spirit Award" to Carolle Jones Clay, Senior VP-Managing Director of Community Relations for Republic Bank & Trust Company."

Mazel Tov to...



Ben Norton

Mazel Tov to **Ben Norton**, a senior at Collegiate, for being named a National Merit Semifinalist. Ben is the son of Kim and Dr. Scott Norton and the brother of Alex Norton.

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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Saturday, Oct. 28 after morning services, there will be a presentation by Shabbat Scholar Sam Hawkins. Hawkins was one of the Black Six, falsely arrested in 1968 for inciting a riot and eventually acquitted. He will share his experiences and talk about the legacy of those turbulent times. Kiddush will be sponsored by the Julie Olson Shabbat Scholar Fund.

Tot Shabbat returns to Adath Jeshurun Saturday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. This 30-minute service is geared toward parents and little ones, ages 0-6. Grandparents and older siblings are welcome. Participants will pray, learn, hear stories, and then enjoy some kid-friendly food at the Shabbat Kiddush Lunch (including an ice cream bar). RSVP at www.adathjeshurun.com/tot-shabbat.

Adath Jeshurun invites you to Hanukkah-palooza! Join us Thursday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. for a fun-filled first night with crafts, activities, bouncy houses, and Hanukkah songs. After minyan at 5:45 p.m., we'll light the candles and enjoy a latke dinner (and sufganiyot, of course). Please RSVP at www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations by Dec. 1.

Saturday morning, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m., Adath Jeshurun will welcome Jeremy Dauber, author of *Jewish Comedy: A Serious History* and *Mel Brooks: Disobedient Jew* as its Shabbat Scholar. Dr. Dauber will deliver the D'var Torah during services and will speak after a Kiddush Lunch sponsored by the Julie Olson Shabbat Scholar Fund. All are welcome.

Also Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. Adath Jeshurun will welcome Jeremy Dauber to speak about his book *Mel Brooks: Disobedient Jew*. This biography, part of the Yale University Press Jewish Lives series, is "a spirited dive into the life and career of a performer, writer, and director who dominated twentieth-century American comedy." Jeremy Dauber is the Atran Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture at Columbia University. He also serves as Director of Columbia University's Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. Funding provided by The Charles & Jean K. Erskine Fund of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and the Jewish Heritage Fund Endowment. This event is open to the public and tickets are \$5 per person. Make your reservation at www.adathjeshurun.com/jeremy-dauber.

Anshei Sfard

Classes are held weekly by Rabbi Simcha Snaid: A Night Kollel Ahron V'Leah – open learning from 8 p.m.-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

Chabad of Kentucky is pleased to announce that all services are being held at the Camp J building at 3700 Dutchmans Lane (formerly Congregation Anshei Sfard). We extend our thanks to Jewish Family & Career Services for allowing us to use their building to hold services during the summer. We also extend our thanks to Jewish Community of Louisville for allowing us to use the Camp J building and we invite the community to share in all our services, classes and programs.

A new class designed to introduce you to *The World of Kabbalah* will be taught at the Trager Family JCC on six Wednesday evenings starting Nov. 1.

Have you ever wondered, "What is Kabbalah?" and, "Why does it generate so much interest?" Or perhaps you've wondered, "Were Marc Chagall, Isaac Newton, and Madonna all aspiring Kabbalists?" Kabbalah has captured the imagination of Renaissance philosophers, early scientists, modernist artists, contemporary celebrities, and countless others through history. What's behind the buzz? Could Judaism's esoteric tradition hold profound answers for your life?

Chabad of Kentucky invites the community to join us for a transformative journey of knowledge with our new course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute: *The World of Kabbalah*. We'll get a comprehensive look at Kabbalah's core teachings and unearth deep insights into the human condition to inspire real-life growth and self-understanding. Cost for the course is \$89, including a student textbook. For more information contact Instructor Rabbi Avrohom Litvin at Chabadky@gmail.com.

Chavurat Shalom

We're showcasing a delightful array of musical talent this month. Lunch will start at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium and our program will start at 1:00 pm. All programs will also be available via [ChavuratShalomZoom.com](https://www.ChavuratShalomZoom.com) for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, November 2 - Guitarist/pianist Misha Feigin will share his beautiful music with us. Lunch will include chili, grilled cheese, couscous salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cupcakes.

Thursday, November 9 - Pianist Nada returns with another awe-inspiring concert. Lunch will include baked chicken with an orange apricot glaze, barley pilaf, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and bread pudding.

Thursday, November 16 - Singer, songwriter, guitarist Tyrone Cotton will join us. Lunch will include roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and pumpkin pie.

Thursday, November 23 - No Chavurat Shalom—wishing everyone a very happy, delicious Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 30 - Fan favor-

ite Bernie Schweickart will tickle the ivories for us. Lunch will include beef stew, broccoli, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate cake.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 pm Tuesday if you'll be attending that week in person by calling or emailing Sarah at 423-1818 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.

Jewish Family & Career Services

The conflict in Israel and Gaza, with its profound impact on countless lives, has left many individuals in our own community grappling with grief, loss, and emotional distress. JFCS is offering a FREE mental health counseling session to anyone in the community who may be struggling regardless of faith or cultural background. Our therapists are trained to address various aspects of grief, from loss of loved ones and friends to the trauma of witnessing violence and destruction, even if only seeing these things on social media or the news. Contact JFCS at www.jfcslouisville.org or by calling 502-452-6341.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

The Jewish Federation of Louisville encourages all to visit and share a new website portal created to inform, provide donation information and encourage all in our community to *Act Now for Israel*. This website page is updated almost daily with resources. Please visit www.jewishlouisville.org/ActNow-forIsrael.

[#BlueRibbonsforIsrael](https://www.BlueRibbonsforIsrael.org) has been launched by the Jewish Federations of North America. The blue ribbon symbolizes support and solidarity for the safe return of the hostages taken by Hamas terrorists in Israel. It symbolizes solidarity with the hostages, their families, and all who care about their safety. Wearing a ribbon publicly unites you with people of all religions, races, nationalities, ethnicities, ages, and generations and demonstrates for the people of Israel that they are not alone and that good people across the globe are with them and their families during this dark time. Learn how to make your own blue ribbon or purchase ribbons from Amazon by visiting [blueribbonsforisrael.org](https://www.blueribbonsforisrael.org).

On November 9, 1938, 85 years ago, Nazis began unleashed terror across Germany, raiding Jewish homes, vandalizing and burning synagogues, and smashing and looting Jewish businesses. The carnage that they left behind gave the night its name, Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass. It was also the first time the Nazis arrested Jews because they were Jews, with 30,000

men being taken away in the night. Those Jewish people were taken to places whose names are now etched in our memory: Buchenwald, Dachau, and Sachsenhausen and other concentration camps. It was a turning point in the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

We will gather at Temple Shalom November 9, 2023 from 7-8:30p.m. to remember what happened 85 years ago -- to remember, reflect and pledge never again. Please note that registration is required for this free event. To register, go online at JewishLouisville.org/Kristallnacht85.

Are you part of an interfaith family? We want to hear from you. Our recent Brandeis University-led 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. We are gathering a group of interfaith families for a think tank on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. to share ideas and help shape where we are going. Interested in participating? Please RSVP at <https://jewishlouisville.org/502.0>.

We had such a great response to our recent food drive that we're making it an ongoing project. Please join the Jewish Federation of Louisville in supporting the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry with donations of non-perishable foods, personal care items and cleaning supplies. All items can be dropped off at any time at the Trager Family JCC in the Food Drive bin near the Kohn Family Town Square.

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 jewishlouisville.org/502.0.

Keneseth Israel

Keneseth Israel Congregation offers daily minyan services at 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, and 7:30 a.m. Monday and Thursday. Minyan services are offered in person and on Zoom at tinyurl.com/kic-zoom. 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.

Torah Yoga comes Thursday, Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Jews & Brews takes place every Wednesday.

AROUND TOWN

day at 11 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC. The next Jews & Brews: After Hours is slated for Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Awry Brewing, 1025 Barret Ave.

Kol Israel Community of Kentucky Rabbi Nachshon Siritsky will lead an international Zoom-based joint Kol Israel Renewal/Reform Judaism in Atlantic Canada on Friday, Oct. 27 at 5 p.m.

To get the Zoom link, reserve by calling 502-341-1595, or emailing **Kol.Israel.Ky@gmail.com**.

An Inner Peace for Challenging Times Jewish Meditation Gathering will be presented Monday, Nov. 13 at 9 p.m. (and on the second Monday of each month). The 40-minute sessions include transformational teachings, Hebrew chanting, and deep silence, led by Reb Brian Yosef Schachter-Brooks from Torah of Awakening. Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/4camnn6r> Presented in partnership with ALEPH Alliance Jewish Renewal (National) Interfaith Paths to Paths to Peace.

Louisville Council of Jewish Congregations

The Louisville Council of Jewish Congregations is hosting the first-ever Jewish Community Social on Sunday, Nov. 12 from 5-8 p.m. at The Pointe, 1205 E. Washington St. Anyone is welcome, whether a member of a synagogue or unaffiliated. Enjoy kosher food (all Vaad-approved), cocktails, a trivia contest, community service opportunities, and the opportunity to socialize and make new connections. Admission is \$10; babysitting is available with advance registration for children 12 months and up at no cost. Register at jewishcommunitysocial.com. Made possible by a grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund.

Louisville Melton School

How often do we stop and acknowledge the time-honored highs and the lows of our lives as Jews? *Highs and Lows: Communal Days of Joy and Sorrow*, a brand new 6-week course, will be offered in two formats: Tuesday evenings 6:30-8 p.m. via Zoom taught by Cantor David Lipp, and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in-person at Adath Jeshurun, taught by Rabbi Laura Metzger. The cost is \$179, which includes textbooks. Register and find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/3yej8jr3>. Scholarships are available; email sisham@adathjeshurun.com to apply.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

The Louisville Vaad HaKashruth will hold its annual meeting Monday, Nov. 20. The 2024 slate of officers is as follows: President: Steven Goldstein; Vice president: Ayala Golding; Secretary: Sharon Czerkiewicz; Treasurer: Myrle Davis. The election will be held at the annual meeting.

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Trager Family Jewish Community Center (Nancy Abrams Kitchen) and Krispy Kreme, 3000 Bardstown Road.

Moishe Pod: Louisville

The Moishe Pod: Louisville is a part

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

Join the Pod for a Halloween Happy Hour at Ten20 Bardstown Rd (2200 Bardstown Road). Come anytime between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. First drinks are on us and costumes are encouraged.

Come axe all the problems in your life Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at our axe throwing event! While these axes aren't deadly - stress is. Join us at our new house to release all the stress from your day! RSVP at tinyurl.com/MPSocials.

Temple Shalom

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

The Temple

The WRJ/Sisterhood Gift Shop is now open Tuesday from 2-5 p.m., Thursday from 11:30 a.m. - 3 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.

Adult education continues at The Temple: Text Study with Rabbi David, Beginning Hebrew with Mark Goldstein, and Intro to Judaism are on Monday nights; Temple Scholars on Wednesday mornings with Rabbi David and Cantor Lauren; Song Circle with Cantor Lauren on the Second Thursday each month; and Saturday Torah Study with Rabbi David starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person will be every Saturday. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to thetemplelouky.org/adult-education for more information.

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.

Join The Temple Brotherhood on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. for our tradi-

tional Turkey Poker Tournament in the Klein Center where we will serve our traditional pizza, pretzels, chips, dip, and peanut butter.

Bring the family and join Cantor Lauren for Shabbat Bop on Friday, Nov. 3 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.

Join The Temple for a special Shabbat service on Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. as we honor our veterans and the founding of our Temple. Then on Saturday, Nov. 11, join us for Shabbat morning services at 10:30 a.m. featuring the No-Rehearsal Choir. The oneg will feature homemade matzo, gravelax, and bourbon.

Please join the Mitzvah Makers on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 11:30 a.m. as we make sandwiches for the Louisville homeless community. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making. Before the event, please bring donations to The Temple to help us with this tikkun olam project including: bottles of water, individual bags of chips, loaves of bread, and sandwich bags. Additionally, if you have some small hotel/sample size toiletries (shampoo, bars of soap, lotion, mouthwash, toothbrushes, and toothpaste), we will be making bags to hand out.

Join The Temple Brotherhood on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. for their Fall Hike to Bernheim. Hike will meet at The Temple at 10 a.m. to carpool to Bernheim Forest. There will be a morning hike, lunch, then an afternoon hike followed by ice cream or a drink, courtesy of the Brotherhood.

The Temple is excited to bring Cantor Rosalie Will for an Artist in Residence weekend Nov 17-19. Highlights include Friday Night Worship, Saturday Kid-dush Lunch and Learn, Camp-style Kumsitz/Sing-a-long, and more. More information at thetemplelouky.org/artist-in-residence.

Trager Family JCC

CenterStage presents *First Date* Nov. 2-12.

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

That's the streamlined story served up by the musical comedy *First Date*, which CenterStage is presenting Nov. 2-12 at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira

Foundation Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased by visiting jcclouisville.org/centerstage.

The Trager Family JCC is pleased to welcome Cantor David Lipp on guitar for Newish Jewish Music. The performance will take place in the Kohn Family Town Square at Café Olam Monday, Oct. 30 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. The gathering is free to attend.

Join us at the Trager Family JCC for a Candlelight Concert on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. This evening of live acoustic music by candle light features Joan Shelley, and Nathan Salsburg & Friends. Tickets are \$20. Learn more at jcclouisville.org/candlelightconcert. Sponsored by Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Life & Legacy, the Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Are you age 13 to 18 years old and want to learn about Interpersonal and Leadership Development, Civic Engagement, and how to participate in a Social Justice Action Project? Then consider joining the Neighborhood Youth Board at the Trager Family JCC. We're looking for youth to represent Metro District 8 who are Louisville residents with a connection to District 8, are willing to attend mandatory, bi-weekly meetings, and who commit to serving a minimum of one year. You can apply and learn more by going online at jcclouisville.org/NYB. Sponsored by the Trager Family JCC and Louisville's Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods.

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 jewishlouisville.org/the-j/health-wellness for more information or email Member Services Director, Amy Stephen, at astephen@jewishlouisville.org. For those interested in memberships, visit jcclouisville.org/lets-go or email membership@jewishlouisville.org.

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NEWS

P2G

Continued from page 1

southward flashpoint of Israeli anguish, but to the north there is no shortage of collective anxiety. Hezbollah, like Hamas an Iranian terrorist proxy, for years has periodically lobbed rockets over the Lebanese border into Israel. The two sides have been trading skirmishes, while the world waits to see if Hezbollah – emboldened by Hamas's murderous attacks on Oct. 7 – will open up a large-scale second front.

Such a potential escalation, too, is a prime concern of Partnership2Gether, a longtime cooperative initiative of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Louisville is one of 16 American cities – along with Budapest, Hungary – that partner with the Israeli coastal city of Akko and the regional municipality of Matte Asher.

Akko is just north of Haifa, Israel's third largest city and its principal port. Nearby lives Dan Ravitch, whose father, Dave, is a past U.S. P2G chair. Dan Ravitch made aliyah in 2011, served in the Israel Defense Forces with an Iron Dome mobile air defense unit and met his Israeli wife, Shirlee Greenwald. Currently he divides his time between Israel and the U.S., where he grew up in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

For the time being, anyway, "I feel safe," Ravitch said recently via Zoom from his Israel home. "We're far from the (Gaza) front. We know where our shelter is – right next door, which we've visited – both voluntarily and involuntarily – a few times over the last week."

Of course, in times like these, safety is a relative concept. "I think the best way of understanding is from my wife. She said that when she was younger, the Intifada made public spaces no longer safe. It took a long time for people to feel comfortable again going outside. And when the rocket firings started in the early 2000s, homes felt unsafe. But this is different."

The sheer scope of Hamas's incursion – some 1,400 Israelis murdered, others wounded or raped, more than 200 taken hostage – was not only a shock, but it was also an unprecedented shock.

"I served in the Iron Dome during Operation Protective Edge (the 2014 Gaza War), and we had a lot of rockets," Ravitch recalled. "We had discussions about where it was going to get worse. We were talking about Iran; we were talking about (North) Korea – there was Korean missile launching testing constantly during the operation, and we felt it must be related. But we didn't have the same kind of fear" as now.

"We used to say, 'We'll get into the shelter'; 'I have good insurance' – it's not the same anymore."

On Oct. 7 Ravitch was visiting in the U.S. while his wife was in Israel to celebrate her father's birthday the preceding Friday. He awoke early Shabbat morning to find that hours before, she'd texted him that 6,000 miles away from where he was at that moment, something terrible was unfolding.

At first Ravitch assumed it was an enhanced rocket attack. He thought,



Masad Barhoum, CEO of Northern Israel's Galilee Medical Center

"Okay, there's a lot of rockets – we're going to hit them back.' It made no sense to me what I read after that. I couldn't do anything to try to understand. It still doesn't make sense how such a thing can happen here."

A flurry of WhatsApp messages was exchanged among Ravitch and a small group of IDF reservist buddies. For whatever reason they were being called up, but he wasn't. "It drove me nuts because it would have made my decision much easier" – to stay in the U.S. or return immediately to Israel.

Formerly director of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley's Camp Ideal, and having just finished a stint working for that Federation, which is located in South Bend, Indiana, Ravitch also found himself without full-time employment. "I was taking time off for the holidays before I started something new, doing some side jobs. But nothing felt important – like, how can I cut the grass when all this stuff is happening?"

In Israel, males who are physically fit customarily serve in the reserves until they are 40 – for officers of a certain rank, 45. About to turn 31, Ravitch would ordinarily qualify, but because he'd spent numerous extended periods the U.S., he'd lost his status as a permanent Israeli resident. So maybe he'll be called up, and maybe he won't.

Ravitch's connections to Israel are long and deep. He made his first trip to Israel when he was 15 as part of a P2G teen group, visiting the Galilee region while staying with area families. "It was influential for me because that was right after the rocket attacks from the Second Lebanese War, so we were visiting homes and learning about it. That was in 2007, learning all about what it's like to live with rockets falling in your home."

That was before Iron Dome, and it was only a few years later that I decided to make Aliyah – mostly my town helped me do it through my youth group. So I came here for a year, and my father in the meantime had gotten very involved with Partnership. When I was in the army, my father would come over with a delegation. Most recently I worked for the Federation in South Bend – my wife was the liaison (in Israel) for the Partnership connection. But as a couple we've volunteered and worked with them for the last three years."

Ravitch has spoken to various U.S. Federations about his experiences in Israel – Federations in Louisville and Nashville, for example. "The (Galilee) Medical Center, of course, is in the middle of everything," he said. "Having



Dan Ravitch pictured with young friends at Camp Ideal in South Bend, Indiana

Hezbollah as a neighbor is no fun. I've dealt with rockets from Hezbollah during my military time. We know they have the ability to get anything they want over the (Lebanese) border. In Gaza, whatever they're getting is only over the Egyptian border or snuck in. But Lebanon has the capacity to do a lot more damage.

"The threat from Hezbollah has been intensifying," Ravitch observed. "They are shooting anti-tank missiles into towns or military bases, and those aren't something that can be intercepted quickly. They're not like a rocket that's got time to go up and come down – they're just straight across. Those are scary. The other day we had drones over our homes, so we all were in shelters – we heard the boom! as they were intercepted. So our partnership region is right there."

In the Western Galilee these days, the uncertainty alone is debilitating. "Everybody's on edge," said Alan Engel, a veteran Jewish Federation of Louisville leader.

"They've mobilized the underground facility (which was the first of its kind in Israel), including its neo-natal unit. And they have a couple of major priorities," such as "the maxillofacial department, for reconstruction of war injuries. The second is their trauma center – getting all the machinery they need to deal with patients."

"Meanwhile, Jewish Federations of North America's \$500 million emergency campaign to aid Israel, as of Oct. 19, has already sent \$450,000 directly to the hospital to purchase much-needed medical equipment."

Because "God forbid there's an outbreak in the North," Engel said, "they're going to be right in the middle of it."

With each passing day the situation in Northern Israel is growing more fraught, more perilous.

"Our friends in the Western Galilee are now experiencing constant bombing," said Amy Fouts, Partnership2Gether Community Liaison at the Jewish Federation of Louisville. She recounted a recent Zoom call with Heidi Benish – the incoming director of P2G for the Western Galilee – and outgoing director Iris Posklinsky, both of whom were logging in from that endangered region.

"Heidi took the call from her safe room and Iris was driving, hurrying to pick up her son and bring him home," Fouts said. "It was frightening to think that something might happen to her while she was on the road. But their dedication, to keep working and have these calls with us when under attack,

while their kids of age are serving in the army, is awe inspiring. I gain my strength from them."

Amid all the turmoil in Israel, living in the U.S. can feel even more distant than usual.

"Being here, while my friends are there, I feel so helpless," Fouts admitted. So she took action. "Inspired by the *Empty Shabbat Table* installations that appeared in Tel Aviv and Rome, I wanted to create something for myself to understand what 200 lives held hostage means," she said.



Amy Fouts responded to the crisis in Israel by creating a yarn-based art work, *What is 200?*

Fouts's weekend response took the form of what she calls "trauma crafting" in the form of an in-process piece titled *What is 200?*

"I looked at the news to understand who was being held hostage and to honor them in some way," she explained. "On a canvas, I punched 200 holes and threaded 200 pieces of yarn: different colors representing different demographics or countries. At the far left are 30 light blue strings for the children. At the far right are the elderly (dark blue with sparkl.e) and the deceased (black).

Israeli citizens are represented, in the center, by white yarn.

"Other countries included are US, Britain, Thailand, Portugal, Germany, France, Argentina, Spain, and Netherlands," Fouts added. "The strings that are flipped up are for hostages that have been released. This piece is unfinished. It will be complete when all are returned home."

LIFECYCLE

Births

Hugo Harrison Frank

It is with great pleasure that we announce the birth of our newest grandson, Hugo Harrison Frank. He was born Aug. 11, 2023, and weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces. He is welcomed by his parents, Lisa Strauss and Jonathan Frank of Washington, D.C., and by his big brother, Benjamin. His grandparents are Paula and Armand Frank of Louisville, Ky.; and Suanne Strauss and the late Harvey Strauss of Maple Glen, Penn.

B'nai Mitzvah



Daniel S. Katz

Daniel S. Katz, son of David and Anna Katz, and brother of Miriam and Ella, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on November 4 at 10:30 am, at The Temple. He is the

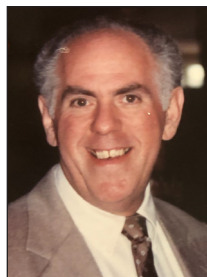
grandson of Sue and Michael Minks, Cynthia and Michael Shain, Kevin Katz and Joan Byer, Galina and Vladimir Oleynikov. Daniel and his family invite the community to celebrate his becoming a Bar Mitzvah and join them for a Kiddush luncheon following the service.

Daniel is a seventh grader (Advanced Placement), a soccer player adept at all positions, a Gracie Jiu-Jitsu practitioner (green-white belt) with several competition medals, and a Cadet Master Sergeant (Squadron Aerospace NCO) in Civil Air Patrol, US Air Force Auxiliary.

He has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his schooling and has his sights set on attending the US Air Force Academy. He has flown a Cessna 182 and a glider three times in each platform. He completed his Basic Encampment this year and will complete NCO Leadership School before the end of the year. He is currently competing in a National Cyberspace competition called Cyberpatriot in addition to his duties as a C/MSgt. He has contributed over 430 hours of service to his community, state and nation, including becoming fully qualified to support life-saving missions for the US Air Force. He has also assisted in the rescue of three individuals from automobile crashes. Any contributions to his Bar Mitzvah are requested to sponsor a

wreath on the grave of a US veteran - you can see more at wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/44020/Overview. Daniel and his fellow cadets will place the wreaths on December 16, 2023.

Obituaries



David Howard Friedman

David Howard Friedman, a lifelong resident of Louisville, passed away on October 1, 2023, at the age of 81, while receiving care at Baptist Health. David was

the son of Manny and Libby Friedman and a loyal Congregation Adath Jeshurun member. He received his education at Fern Creek High School, UofL, and UK Pharmacy School, and worked at Taylor Drugs and Rite Aid for 40 years. Following his retirement, he worked part-time at the VA Outpatient Pharmacy, volunteered with Dare to Care, and was an avid sports fan.

David is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Rosalyn "Roz", his children Mitchell Friedman, Heather Mahlinger, and Grant Gipe, his sister Barbara Gordon (David), brother-in-law Michael Sontz (Jennifer), and several nieces and nephews who were all dear to him. He also maintained lifelong relationships with his Resnick brothers, whom he enjoyed.

A graveside service was held October 4 at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. David's family requests that donations be made to the Janet & Sonny Meyer Family Food Pantry at JFCS or Congregation Adath Jeshurun.



Helene Katz

Helene Katz died peacefully on Saturday, October 14th, 2023, in Louisville, Kentucky. She was born in Kingston, New York, but moved to Ellenville as an infant, where she was raised by

her mother. Helene attended elementary and high school in Ellenville before pursuing her education at NY State Teacher College in Fredonia.

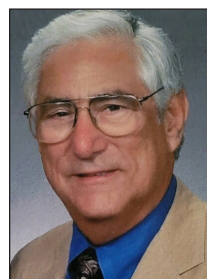
Later in life, Helene settled in Sayville

on Long Island, where she worked as an elementary school teacher in The Bay Shore Schools and then as a guidance counselor at Islip High School. She was an active member of the local community, serving as the chairperson of The Islip Arts Council and as a member of The East End Republican Club Board. Helene also served as a Republican Committee person in Sayville and took a year off from work to be The Suffolk County Director of Cultural Affairs. In her free time Helene enjoyed golfing and was a member of the golf leagues of West Sayville and Timber Point Golf Club. She was also a freelance journalist who won the Long Island Press Club Award for Best Feature in Print.

After retiring from the school system, Helene moved to Louisville, Kentucky to live near family. She remained active in Louisville, playing Bridge, becoming a Silver Life Master, and writing feature articles for Louisville Woman (now Today's Woman). Helene also served two terms on the board of Louisville Public Media and was a member of Temple Shalom, where she participated in the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. She worked with the Fund for The Arts, The Louisville Orchestra, and the Metro Book Club.

Helene made many friends in Louisville, and she had an exceptional talent for never forgetting a name. She was predeceased by her mother, Sadye W. Katz, her aunt and uncle, Mildred and Michael Diamond. Helene leaves behind a small, close-knit family to cherish her memory: her sister and brother-in-law, Maura and Dr. Gerald Temes, and their children, Stephen Temes, Dr. Julie Ellis (Dr. Les), and Rebecca McKiernan (Robert), as well as seven Temes grandchildren, Amanda and Lindsey Temes, Zachary and Joshua Ellis, and Caroline, William, and Samuel McKiernan, and cousins Deanna Mendel and Arlene Borko.

Graveside services were held October 17th at The Temple Cemetery, in Louisville. Memorial Donations to the Louisville Orchestra or the Melton School.



Ronald L. Levine, M.D.

Ronald L. Levine, MD, 94, passed away on October 15, 2023. He was born and raised in Queens, NY. After graduating from

the University of Denver in 1951, he was drafted during Korea and worked at Fort Knox in the Army Medical Research Lab.

Dr. Levine obtained his medical degree at the University of Louisville in 1959 and practiced as a family practitioner in Pleasure Ridge Park. During that time, he sometimes worked as a boxing ring physician and even administered to Cassius Clay, later known as Muhammed Ali. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather as well as a lifelong UofL Cardinal fan, and he shared his passion for sports with his family.

He returned to the University of Louisville from 1963-1966 as a resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology and spent the next 30 years in private OB/GYN practice. After retiring from private practice, he served as Professor and Chief of OB/GYN at the University of Louisville. In 1999 he received the Outstanding Teaching Professor Award and was an honoree at the 21st Annual Jewish Hospital Doctor's Ball in 2016.

Dr. Levine was very active in family planning, serving as Medical Director of the local affiliate and then as Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Southeast region of the U.S. and as a member of the National Medical Committee of Planned Parenthood. In 2012 he received the Planned Parenthood of Kentucky's Founders Award at the annual state-wide fundraiser.

Dr. Levine served as a trustee on the Board of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) and was President in 1998. In 2001 he started the cadaver course in OB/GYN laparoscopic surgery at the University of Louisville which continues to this day. Last year, he was honored by AAGL by being appointed an honorary life member of the board. He served a term as President of the Alumni Association Board of the UofL School of Medicine and was past president of the Louisville OB/GYN Society and the president of the medical staff of Jewish Hospital in 1979, as well as chairman of OB/GYN at St. Anthony Hospital.

Dr. Levine was a trendsetter in laparoscopic surgery and was one of the first who performed this surgery in the United States, and around the world teaching others. He has co-authored five books and solo wrote 16 book chapters and 34 published articles. He also lectured on various topics from Planned Parenthood and gynecological laparoscopic surgery to pelviscopic surgery,

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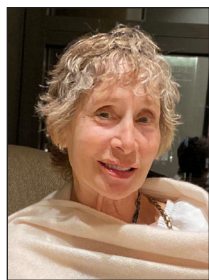
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LIFECYCLE

operative gynecological endoscopy and so much more. He had a passion for teaching which showed with the number of lectures surpassing 100.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 68 years, Sonia Cohen Levine, who gave him the necessary support to maintain his busy professional schedule and with whom he enjoyed travel throughout the world. He is also survived by his daughter Stacy Orenstein and her children with Josh, Jana (Sam Gerold) and Zev (Lindsey); his son Glenn Levine (Marci) and their children Jordyn and Daniel; sister-in-law Martha; and his daughter-in-law Karen Levine. He is preceded in death by his parents Nathan and Frances Levine; Sonia's parents Herman and Mae Cohen; his brother Harvey Levine; Sonia's sister Bonnie Wabner (Charles); and his beloved son Howard Levine.

The funeral was held October 18 at The Temple, with burial in The Temple Cemetery. Donations can be made to The Temple; Planned Parenthood; the Sonia & Ronald Levine Family Charitable Endowment Fund of the Jewish Foundation of Louisville; and NCJW-Louisville Section.



Laura Phyllis Melon

Laura Phyllis Melon, aged 73, passed away on September 28, 2023, after a brief illness. She was a resident of Louisville, Kentucky.

Laura was born to Rubie and Miriam Melon on July 19, 1950, in Newark, New Jersey. She grew up on Lehigh Avenue and attended Maple Avenue Elementary School. In 8th grade, her family moved to West Orange, and she graduated from Mountain High School in 1968. She pursued higher education at The University of Toledo and received her Bachelor's degree in education from Kean College. Laura lived on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, where she held many exciting jobs. She taught elementary and middle school in Manhattan for many years and also worked for the City of New York at the Housing and Public Development. Additionally, she worked as a baby doula for many exciting clients.

In 2002, Laura moved to Louisville to reunite with a long-lost pre-teenage crush, pediatrician Lawrence Wasser.

They married in 2003 and enjoyed over twenty years together.

Laura is survived by her husband, Dr. Lawrence Wasser, her son Zachary Katz (Maggie DiChiara); her brother Bill (Pam Grace); stepdaughter Emily Puterbaugh (Rex); and stepson Jacob Wasser (Bryce). Her grandchildren, Elias, Noemi, Jack, Nina, Calvin, Reese, Myah, and Avi, also mourn her loss. Funeral services were held October 2nd at Herman Meyer & Son. Donations to adopt a bench in Cherokee Park to honor Laura's memory may be made to Olmsted Parks Conservancy at (502) 456-8125.



Carolyn Neustadt

In 1995, the Center for Women and Families named Carolyn Neustadt one of its Kentuckiana Women of Distinction, noting that she'd "made her influence felt in such disparate

fields as child welfare and public television [and as] a leader in Louisville's Jewish community."

Carolyn died at 91 in Denver, 1,100 miles from Louisville, but her influence lingers in the community she called home for nearly 70 years. She co-founded Kentucky Youth Advocates and Shelter House, lobbied the state legislature, courted judges, and twisted many a politician's arms on behalf of at-risk kids. As vice president for development at WKPC-15, Louisville's PBS station, she raised money for quality broadcasting. She established The Temple's Chavurat Shalom "Circle of Friends" program for seniors, served on the Jewish Community Federation's and Jewish Community Center's boards, and on the Kentucky Arts Council, helping shape those organizations' policies and programs. She campaigned for countless Democratic candidates but worked collegially with Republican officials on her causes. In 1977, the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) gave Carolyn - its Louisville Section president from 1970-1973 - the coveted Hannah G. Solomon Award for exceptional civic contributions. Only Alzheimer's disease could slow her down.

A leap-year baby, Carolyn was born on Manhattan's Upper West Side to Ruth Rubin Jacobson and Samuel T. Jacobson on Feb. 28, 1932, joining older brother Daniel Jacobson, all of blessed memory. She graduated from the Birch Wathen School before enrolling at Connecticut College for Women. Barely out of her teens, she married David H. Neustadt, a young doctor from Evansville, IN, doing an internal medicine residency at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital. While David completed one of the NIH's first funded fellowships in rheumatology at Lenox Hill and Columbia-Presbyterian, Carolyn finished her higher education at Columbia University's School of General Studies. David, a University of Louisville medical-school graduate, brought his bride back to Louisville, where he'd later establish the U of L Department of Medicine's Division of Rheumatology, become Jewish Hospital's Chief of Medicine and Medical Staff President, and a U of L clinical professor in medicine.

As a couple, they played tennis and bridge and rarely missed a U of L Cardinals' basketball home game or a Louisville Orchestra concert. Although they

enjoyed fine dining, Carolyn packed David a daily peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich for lunch at his medical-office desk. They moved from their Smithfields Road home to Treyton Oak Towers in 2016.

David, a U.S. Army veteran, died on Veterans Day 2019, two weeks shy of his 94th birthday on December 2. In 2020, Carolyn relocated to Denver, home to daughter Susan Deflorian - a retired special-education teacher and Realtor - her husband, Fritz Deflorian, their son, Adam Deflorian (Danielle Deflorian), and great-grandchildren Emily and David Deflorian. In addition to Susan, sons Dr. Jeffrey Neustadt, a retired St. Petersburg, FL, pediatric orthopedic and scoliosis surgeon (Susan Harris Neustadt) and Robert Neustadt, a Northern Arizona University Spanish professor (Erika Hess) survive, as do grandsons Nicholas Deflorian (Yan Ling) and Gabriel Neustadt, granddaughters Sydney Neustadt, Tasha Hess-Neustadt, Camila Hess-Neustadt, and great-grandchildren Eli and Lydia Deflorian.

Many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends treasure memories of Carolyn's generosity, compassion, beauty and grace and activism. She died in hospice care at Denver's Balfour at Riverfront, her children by her side. She was buried next to David at Louisville's The Temple Cemetery following funeral services September 29th at Herman Meyer & Son. The family suggests donations to Kentucky's NCJW-Louisville Section, the Louisville Orchestra, or Humane Borders.

Lawrence S. Weinberg

Lawrence S. Weinberg, age 85, died October 7, 2023, near his family in Chicago. He was a beloved father, grandfather and friend who will be missed by all.

He was born in Louisville on June 8, 1938, and graduated from Atherton High School. He returned to Louisville after graduating from Bradley University, becoming the 3rd generation owner of N.I. Weinberg Company, a paper and janitorial supply distributor, before retiring in 1997. He was a member and active participant in the remodeling of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, a Master Mason with St. George Masonic Lodge #239 F&AM, a member of Scottish Rite, and Kosair Shrine.

Loving father of the late Neil (Jami), late Heidi Jacobson, Mark (Renee Foster) a loving father-in-law of Bob Jacobson (Linda Corn). He was the proud grandfather of Sami and Josh Weinberg, Greg, Ricky, Diana and Steven Jacobson, and Hershel Foster-Weinberg. He was known to all for his sense of humor, love of dogs and passion for his Louisville heritage. He loved hearing about his grandchildren and all of their adventures and accomplishments.

A graveside service was held October 10th at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Contributions may be made in his name to BrightFocus Foundation's Alzheimer's Disease Research program.

Richard S. Wolf, M.D.

Richard S. Wolf, M.D., 93, passed away on October 17, 2023. He was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating from The Ohio State University in 1952 and the University of Cincinnati Medical School in 1956. Dr. Wolf then moved to Louisville in 1957 to complete his training in Pediatrics. He spent 30 years



as a beloved pediatrician to countless children and their families. In 1984, he progressed to Medical Director of Children's Hospital. He served Norton Healthcare with distinction

throughout the rest of his life.

Dick was a builder and a dedicated and tireless advocate for children, young and old. He lived and breathed the projects that he was passionate about and spearheaded a number of important projects throughout his career. These included establishing the Children's Hospital Foundation Office of Child Advocacy, Safety City, and the Kentucky Poison Control Center. He played a crucial role in every major milestone in the expansion of Norton Children's Hospital, including overseeing the construction of the new Norton-Children's Hospitals, restoring the Old Medical School Building, and creating a permanent location for the Ronald McDonald House. Additionally, he co-chaired the building committee for The Temple at Lime Kiln Lane and U.S. Highway 42.

Dr. Wolf was a major supporter of the arts and served on the boards of both the Louisville Orchestra and Philharmonic Society. With his wife, Bert, he commissioned numerous stained glass art installations at Norton Children's Hospital, Norton Women's, and Children's Hospital, and the recently installed Covid project at the Norton Auditorium. These pieces are often meant to encourage interaction by children and adults alike. At The Temple, he oversaw the creation of several more stained glass works that tell stories of religious holidays and history in living color. He was the spark for creating Children's Hospital's "Just for Kids" hot air balloon logo.

Dr. Wolf ensured that financial stability was always a hallmark of the projects he championed.

Dick's passion extended to his large family as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a devoted U of L Cardinal fan. He and his wife, Bert, shared a love of travel and photography. They've explored over 95 countries on seven continents, capturing the essence of the people and places with award-winning photographs.

He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Mary Bert; daughter Cathy Schuster (James) and their children Jon, Michael, Lisa and Ben; daughter Elizabeth Phillippi (Jeff) and their children Curtis and Daniel; daughter Mary Lou Schmidt (Steve) and their children Alex (Giovanni), Sami Heywood (Andy) and Kevin (Jacqueline); son Michael Wolf (Paula) and their children Hanna Buckner (Ben) and Bree (Shay); and three great-grandsons Logan and Theo Buckner and Taliesin Heywood. He is also survived by his sister, Barbara Altman.

He is preceded in death by his parents Burnie and Anne Wolf.

A Celebration of Life was held at The Temple on October 20. Donations may be made to The Temple, Children's Hospital Foundation, Louisville Orchestra, or the donor's charity of choice.

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NEWS

SHLICHIM

Continued from page 1

she was eager to get on with the business of living. Now those plans were on indefinite hold, the business of living having been replaced with the business of simply surviving.

Like many Israelis at that moment, Damri was getting much of her information via smartphone. What she saw and heard was horrifying.

"The Hamas terrorists hijacked victims' Facebook and TikTok (accounts) and broadcast live how they killed them," Damri said. "Seeing Israeli people being executed live on TikTok, Israeli families being abducted live on Facebook."

Many young victims had been attending the outdoor Supernova techno rave a mere three miles from the Gaza-Israel border, marking the close of Sukkot with a "festival of peace and love" that turned into a scene of bullets, blood and death. At least 260 people, predominantly in their teens and early 20s, perished.

"We saw people running from the rave online," Damri said. "We saw people being abducted. We saw women being raped on social media. And these things traumatize you forever."

As if that wasn't abhorrent enough, Damri has had to contend with extremist naysayers. "The weird thing is that people keep telling me these are lies, and we all made everything up. When I saw this with my own eyes."

How does she feel in the face of such reactions, including demonstrations on various U.S. college campuses? "Mostly sad and frustrated," she said. "In their eyes I'm the occupier who's occupied this land for 75 years, and my people deserve this massacre because of the occupation. You never expected them to say those things about you, your community, your state. To criticize the government is fine, but there is a difference in criticizing Binyamin Netanyahu or the government of Israel and supporting atrocities by Hamas. People were murdered brutally, and I am the bad guy by defending myself, by being proudly Israeli, Zionist and Jewish?"

Meanwhile, Damri spends most of her time inside her family's apartment, located on the second floor of a seven-story building. "It's not really safe to go outside because there are rockets all day long," typically intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome mobile air defense system, she explained. Indeed, midway through our WhatsApp conversation, there was an audible *boom* in the background – apparently yet another Hamas-launched rocket destroyed in the sky by an Iron Dome missile.

She and her family have helped some of those displaced by the Hamas actions in the south. Hamas "burned to the ground something like 22 towns (near) the Gaza Strip," Damri said. "So there are people in hotels who lost their houses, and now Lebanon is sending rockets from the north," fired by Hezbollah – like Hamas, backed by Iran – prompting



Pictured (L-R): Adi Damri, brother Elay and mother Ora

additional evacuations.

Damri acknowledges that on that fateful morning she and her family, by dint of geography and sheer chance, were lucky to avoid Hamas's frenzy of destruction.

"They got (within) 15 minutes of Beersheba," she said. "It's the only city the terrorists didn't get into."

Not to say the danger is past – far from it. "The scary thing is that a lot of terrorists went inside Israel on October 7, and they're still hiding. We can't really find them. Some of them may be just like normal civilians from Gaza that took advantage of the (border) wall being bombed. The military stopped them, but they're still everywhere. So you can't go on buses or public transportation."

And day or night, she listens for the sirens' warning wails. When they sound, she sprints. "I go looking for my dog and get out of my home as fast as I can," she said. "It doesn't matter how I'm dressed – I'm just running to the shelter. But my mom is 60 years old, and it's tough to go up and down the stairs three or four times in one hour. I have an old neighbor who can't go down, so she just hides in a certain corner."

Damri's mother is a civilian IDF employee working in human resources. Her brother, now 18, had his mandatory service postponed because Adi was abroad in Louisville this past summer – a delay she believes may have saved his life.

When Damri did her required IDF service she was posted to military intelligence, a branch of the IDF that – like its counterparts in the Shin Bet domestic intelligence agency and elsewhere – conspicuously failed to anticipate and detect Hamas's plans.

What does she believe went so terribly wrong?

"I just think that for many years, nothing seriously was happening between Gaza and Israel," she said. "And we have a great defending infra-

structure and Iron Dome, so we can save ourselves. There had been terrorists getting into Israel before, but nobody expected this size of attack to happen."

The resulting fallout, physical and emotional, is intense, unrelenting, debilitating, arbitrary.

"I knew a friend who was at the rave, and who luckily survived," Damri said. "I don't know how. He was talking (by phone) to his sister who told him, 'There are terrorists! Drive as fast as you can!' He got shot but not severely, so he just kept driving to get to the north. He's safe now. But he ran away with only one friend, and now all of his other friends are dead. I know so many people who lost friends and family. I have some who serve in the IDF and who lost more than 20 friends in one day. There were like 50 girls who were supposed to be lookouts on the border of Gaza, who did nothing to harm innocent people, just watching the wall. They were all murdered."

Faced with one awful narrative after another, a reasonable question is, simply, how does someone like Adi Damri manage to keep from unraveling?



"And this is me braiding challah before Shabbat. Religious Jewish women in Israel believe that doing 'hafrashat challah' will help our soldiers at war and will bring us peace."

"Everybody is dealing with it differently," she replied. "I have friends who are always active: helping, donating whatever they can. Myself, unfortunately, is more depressed. I'm just staying at home – I'm too scared to go out. I'm a very bubbly person, so this is so different from my (normal) personality. I can't go out and have fun when so many people have died, and I don't feel safe outside because I don't know how many terrorists are left in Israel right now. I don't know if they're waiting across the street."

"It's going to take a lot of time to process what's going on and get better," Damri realizes. "I don't think there is any Israeli who isn't traumatized."

Meanwhile, what message would she like to send to her friends back in Louisville?

"I just want to say to them, 'Leave politics aside; choose love, not hate, peace, not war. Share in the grief of innocent victims – all we need here is your love and support.'"



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NEWS

GIVING

Continued from page 1

begun raising significant funds to provide for the needs of the people, families and communities impacted,” JFNA says. “The funds will be divided, as needed, between urgent humanitarian needs, such as medical supplies and equipment and housing, and longer-term rebuilding and rehabilitation, ranging from rebuilding homes and infrastructure trauma counseling.”

Louisville’s Jewish community has a long history of stepping up in times of acute need. Wagner recalled how Louisville raised funds to support Operation Exodus’s 1990 initiative to resettle Russian Jews in Israel, and Operation Solomon to airlift more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in May of 1991.

More recently, when the call went out “for Louisville to resettle a contingent of new arrivals,” Wagner added, “we far exceeded the goal we were given as a community – and I anticipate we’ll exceed the goal we’ve been given for this campaign. That’s what we do when people come together.”

Wagner acknowledges that the emergency fund raising comes just as the Louisville Federation is launching its own annual campaign, which this year aims to raise a minimum of \$2 million. There’s a key difference, however: The JFNA emergency campaign needs its donations immediately, while pledges to the Louisville Federation’s annual campaign aren’t due until December 31, 2024.

Despite the overlap between the two initiatives, Wagner believes that local donors appreciate the extraordinary nature of the emergency fund-raising, and will continue to support the Louisville Federation’s annual campaign that benefits a tremendous range of area needs.

She points out, too, how JFNA is uniquely positioned to efficiently raise distribute funds.

“We’ve had relationships and partnerships with people on the ground who’ve been doing work for over 75 years, and even before the state was created. We are connected to the existing infrastructure and its hospitals and trauma centers. These aren’t strangers. That’s why I feel confident this is the quickest way to make sure funds will be allocated to those who need it the most. Because 100 percent of the dollars raised both here in Louisville and sent through JFNA are going to help humanitarian needs on the ground – making sure the most vulnerable, who don’t have the time to fund-raise on their own, will get what they need.”

“It is a major task,” acknowledges Alan Engel, a veteran of numerous Louisville Federation projects on behalf of Israel, “but the community has the wherewithal to do it. We just have to make the case – and the case is survival.”

To donate to the JFNA’s emergency campaign and learn about other resources for information and action, go online at jewishlouisville.org/actnowforisrael.



Volunteers packing emergency food boxes for Latet, an Israeli non-profit aid organization. (Photo by Yakir Amos)



Jewish Agency for Israel assisting Israelis with accessing financial assistance for support. (Photo by Jewish Agency for Israel)

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GLOBE

As Israelis await a ground war in Gaza, normal life has ground to a halt

By Uriel Heilman
JTA

Living in Israel these days feels like existing in a state of suspended animation.

We're caught in an uneasy in-between moment: after the shocking events of Oct. 7 and before the uncharted territory of a dangerous ground war of uncertain duration and scope.

We know how it started, but we don't know how it will end.

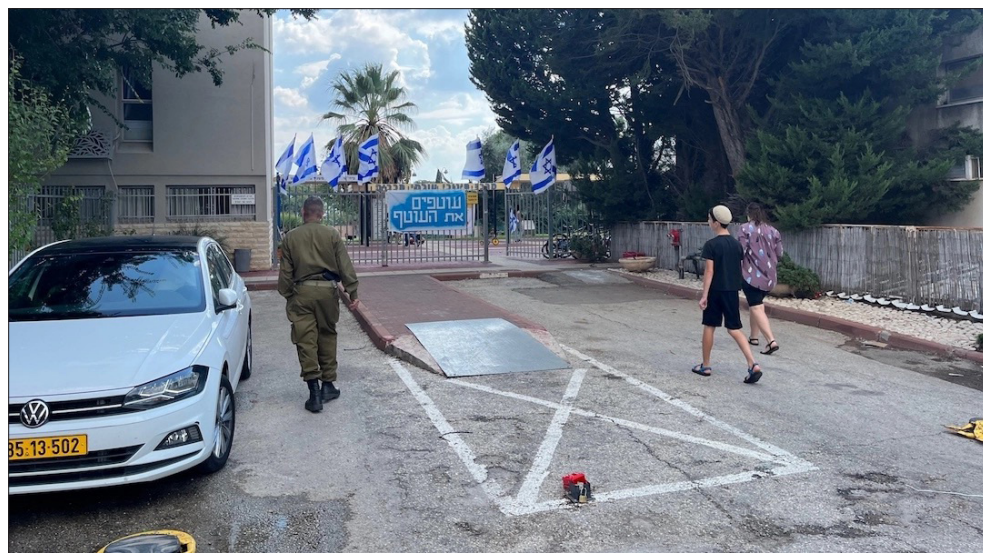
Everything feels different from before the Hamas attack. With 360,000 Israeli reservists mobilized, a huge swath of Israelis aged 20 to 50-something have disappeared from homes, families, workplaces and communities. My son's homeroom teacher has been called off to war. My neighbor's son. My brother.

In the central Israeli city where I live, located alongside the West Bank security fence, armed volunteers staff makeshift checkpoints at city entrances. Unarmed residents like me have been deputized for neighborhood watch duty, cruising

around in siren-bearing vehicles equipped with walkie-talkies and instructions to report any suspicious characters or activity.

Businesses are operating with skeletal staffs, if at all. Major Israeli employers have announced furloughs. Traffic is light because so few people are commuting to work. Non-essential services are being cut or reduced, from recycling to library hours. Schools that had been shuttered since before the war are starting to reopen, but on reduced schedules because they can't have more students than can fit into their bomb shelters. Universities are closed until December — at least.

With shipping traffic to Israel disrupted and international flights sharply reduced, Israelis are experiencing shortages. Some local food manufacturers can't staff their factories or pick the produce in their fields because they depend on Palestinian day laborers who are now barred entry into Israel, or Thai farmworkers who left after at least 24 of their countrymen were killed in Hamas' attack. The first



An entrance to a hotel housing evacuees from Israel's southern war zone in Modiin, Israel. (Photo credit: Uriel Heilman)

week of the war, supermarkets ran out of tomatoes and cucumbers. Last week it was eggs.

Tourists have disappeared, entertainment venues and many restaurants remain closed, and shuttered museums are moving important holdings to safe places.

Israel's hotels are bursting at the seams, however, filled with many of

the 200,000 or so Israelis who have been evacuated from their homes near the front lines. This already small country roughly the size of New Jersey feels even smaller with areas near Gaza and Israel's northern border now closed military zones. Every day the authorities announce more evacuations.

Continued on page 27



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GLOBE

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What little activity there is in this country of nearly 10 million is focused on the war effort. Volunteers are sending toiletries, cigarettes and fresh underwear to soldiers at the front. Psychologists and social workers are counseling the newly bereaved. In my neighborhood, friends are providing meals to an evacuee family whose father was gravely wounded in Hamas' initial attack (more than 5,000 Israelis have been wounded since the fighting began). Teenagers are helping farmers harvest their unpicked produce before it rots. Tech-savvy entrepreneurs are operating a civilian-run "war room" in Tel Aviv to try to help with the more than 200 Israeli hostages.

Behind everything looms the great unknown of where this war will lead and whether it will engulf all of Israel.

Hamas shocked Israelis two weeks ago with its brutal attack; one can only guess what surprises it's planning for Israeli ground troops once they roll into Gaza. Hezbollah has been testing Israel along the country's northern border with Lebanon with daily artillery attacks and attempted infiltrations; Israel has fired back. If the militia's Shiite backers in Tehran press He-

zbollah to mount a major attack, a hard-pressed Israel could find itself fighting a two-front war with an adversary far more potent than Hamas. Several days ago, Houthi militiamen in Yemen fired missiles toward Israel. U.S. warships in the Red Sea intercepted them.

Clashes between Palestinians in the West Bank and the Israeli military are growing daily. Israeli authorities say they've thwarted numerous attempted terrorist attacks and have arrested more than 800 Palestinians. Israel has fast-tracked firearms permits for settlers in the West Bank, and settlements there are rushing to bolster their perimeter security.

Every day brings news of additional Israeli deaths — from fighting in the West Bank, rocket fire from Gaza, anti-tank fire from Lebanon. Three weeks ago, a single deadly incident might have dominated a full day of the news cycle; today it's swallowed by a torrent of new developments and fatalities.

Israel is still finding corpses, identifying bodies and burying the dead from Hamas' surprise attack, and the airwaves are filled with heroic tales of Israeli soldiers and ordinary citizens who rushed southward on that terrible Saturday to try to save loved ones and strang-

ers.

The scenes of death and destruction caused by Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip get limited attention here; Israeli media are more focused on the fight ahead and Israeli suffering. The main news from overseas, aside from President Joe Biden's interventions on Gaza, are the demonstrations and condemnations of Israel coming from protesters in Europe, American college campuses and Arab capitals.

Now Israel appears to be in a lull — the quiet before the storm. The incessant rocket attacks from Gaza have become more sporadic

and shorter in range; Hamas may be conserving what remains of its arsenal for the next stage of fighting. The hundreds of thousands of Israeli soldiers massed along the country's borders are in a holding pattern, ready and waiting for orders from above.

Along with them, all of Israel is holding its breath.

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