

FRIDAY Vol. 49, No. 12 | December 29, 2023 | 17 Tevet 5784

# Anticipating International Holocaust Remembrance Day, ‘Lawyers Without Rights’ exhibit comes to the Trager Family JCC

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

About a dozen years ago, the American Bar Association organized an exhibit examining a subject that, for most people, occupied the fringes of history. Titled *Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany Under the Third Reich*, it'll be coming to the Trager Family JCC Jan. 15 - Feb. 6, overlapping with the ABA's Mid-year Meeting Jan. 31 - Feb 5 in downtown Louisville.

The exhibit, organized here with significant efforts by the Jewish Community Relations Council and local volunteers, "describes how Jewish lawyers were persecuted and deprived of their profession during the Nazi era," says John Rosenberg, a renowned civil rights lawyer who lives in Prestonsburg, Ky. and is a Holocaust survivor.

"There is no record of opposition from other bar members or the German judiciary to this policy," Rosenberg said in remarks five years ago, when the exhibition made a stop in Lexington. "Indeed, as we know, this was just one of the first steps in the campaign by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, which resulted in the murder of six million Jews."

Over the past dozen years, the exhibition has travelled to more than 70 ven-



In this celebrated photograph from March 10, 1933, Munich lawyer Michael Siegel – after going to a police station to inquire why an acquaintance was being held in “protective custody” -- was brutalized by Nazi brownshirts and forced to walk the streets carrying a sign saying, “I am Jewish, and will never complain to the police again.” (Photo by Heinrich Sanden)

ues nationwide -- in December of 2015, it also made a stop (translated in Hebrew) in Israel, where viewers included then-Israeli Supreme Court president Miriam Noor. The exhibit grew out of Simone Ladwig-Winters book *Lawyers Without Rights: The Fate of Jewish Lawyers in Berlin After 1933*, which was published in

1998, in German. The ABA underwrote the English-language edition, which came out in 2018.

"By the time of the Weimar Republic – 1919 to 1933 – at a time when Jews made up less than one percent of Germany's population, the proportion of

See **EXHIBITION** on page 27

## A playground for all is being built at the Trager Family JCC

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

Well before the Trager Family JCC opened in May of 2022, planners had envisioned a facility that would be accessible not simply to people of all faiths, but of all physical abilities.

The most literal example arrives this spring, when the Kids United Play Together Playground opens on the north end of the campus, adjacent to Shalom Tower. It reflects a fundamental, defining imperative: nurture young lives via the power of community.

"A child's understanding of the world often starts with play," Amy Fouts, grants manager at the Jewish Federation of Louisville, wrote in a funding proposal. "At the Trager Family JCC, we do not want anyone's experience of the world to be exclusionary."

To that end, the Trager Family JCC is working with PlayPros, a Kokomo, Ind.-based company that's designed and built numerous playgrounds and playscapes in Kentucky. The Kids United Play Together Playground will be open to all children, not simply those whose parents are Trager Family JCC members.

"Over the past decade we've expanded our accessibility programs so that now they're year-round," says Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC. "So having a play space that everyone can participate in makes a lot of sense. It'll be fantastic for

See **PLAYGROUND** on page 25

# In one kibbutz school, Jewish and Arab children speak the languages of tolerance

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

Five years ago a grand experiment sprouted in our Partnership2Gether Western Galilee region of Israel: a kindergarten on in which Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Druze children would attend while learning to speak Hebrew and Arabic. Founded on the longstanding Kibbutz Evron and dubbed Gan Toot ("Strawberry Gan" – which carries the same meaning in both languages) the community was founded

on the principle that even in the most fraught of times, children of all faiths can thrive amid a multicultural, multiethnic environment.

That principle faced its severest test in the wake of Hamas's October 7 murderous assaults on Israel. While those attacks occurred along the Gaza border in Southern Israel, the parallel threat from Hezbollah along Israel's northern border with Lebanon remains an ever-present concern. The Lebanese border is a mere six miles from the school, within easy range of Hezbollah's

rockets.

Despite these constant threats and post-October 7 disruptions, the kindergarten has carried on, undeterred and undaunted. The overall initiative, called Living Together, reflects trust and cooperation between Jews and Muslims living in close proximity to one another.

Gan Toot is a so-called NGO – a "non-governmental organization"-- akin to a Western private school. "We, the parents, are involved in everything that goes on," explains Shaked Mordechay, whose two young children have attended the school

since its inception. "As members of the NGO, sometimes we upgrade the salaries of the teachers; sometimes we pick out the curriculum – things like that."

It's very different from Israel's system of public education, which Mordechay says hews to more traditional lines. "You might say that the education system is segregated completely. Arabs learn with Arabs; Jews learn with Jews; religious Jews learn with religious Jews; and the Haredim – the ultra-Orthodox Jews – learn with themselves."

See **KINDERGARTEN** on page 26

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# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### A Year of Jewish Unity



D'var Torah

Rabbi Avrohom Litvin

I have a childhood memory of sitting with my siblings at a Passover Seder. We must have been quarreling and then asked our father for some type of gift. I remember my father saying: “A father is most happy and most giving when he sees his children getting along with each other.” Then he added: “And G-d (our Father in Heaven) is most happy and most giving of grace and blessing, when He sees His children united and getting along with each other.” As we say in the pinnacle of our daily prayers: “Bless us O Father as we are all united as One.”

Charles Dickens’ novel *A Tale of Two Cities* begin with the famous line: “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” I think most everyone will readily agree that October 7 was the very worst of times - the worst single day of Jewish slaughter since the Holocaust. I do not mean in any way to make light of the horrific happenings of that day, but might there not be something else here worth noticing?

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Israel on that fateful day, our local Jewish Federation immediately organized a *Stand with Israel* event that brought together the entire community. I believe every Synagogue and Temple was represented. Sadly, it is not all that common for our community to be that well connected and united. But when we gathered with broken hearts after that tragic day, we stood together “like one person with one heart” praying for the safety of Israeli citizens, soldiers and hostages. It was a momentous occasion, but our Federation did not stop there. They also unified and mobilized the community to raise over \$1.5 million dollars to help Israel during its time of need.

Similarly, prior to October 7, Israel was plagued by terrible political discord that seemed to be pulling the nation apart like never before. Now the government and the people are united, and world Jewry is united with them.

Over the past 10 weeks, in Israel and around the world, Jews have been doing more mitzvot than ever before. From baking challah to putting on tefillin to wearing tzitzit to synagogue attendance – our people are coming together like never before -- being proud of their heritage as Jews.

For example, on Dec. 11 here in Louisville, more than 300 people attended a Chanukah celebration at the Trager Family JCC. There were also multiple programs at the Synagogues and Temples. Chabad held numerous community Menorah lightings including my favorite - a Chanukah Ice Skating event was cosponsored by Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel, LBSY and Chabad. Jewish unity brings Divine Favor and Blessing. “Bless us O Father as we are all united as One.”

The danger in Israel is far from over. Besides Hamas in Gaza, there is Hezbollah in Lebanon, and a host of other dangers from both near and far. Antisemitism is raging around the world. Thank you to the Jewish Heritage Fund for helping support added security for our educational sites around the community. But there is more we can and must do. We need more Jewish unity. “Barchanu Avinu Kulanu K’echad – Bless us O Father As we are all united as One”.

I would like to dedicate the calendar year of 2024 as a Year of Jewish Unity. I have spoken with other community leaders and they agree. And when people see it working in Louisville, hopefully it will spread to other communities as well.

A few events already being discussed are a community Tu B’shvat program on Jan. 24; a community Lag B’omer celebration on Sunday morning, May 25; a pre-Shavuot study program on Tuesday evening, June 11 to be held at AJ, plus another community skating event next December for Chanukah.

May G-d protect our soldiers, bring home our hostages, bring peace to Israel and its neighbors and protect all Jews from the evil of antisemitism. “Barchanu Avinu Kulanu K’echad – Bless us O Father as we are all united as One.”

*Rabbi Avrohom Litvin is the longtime leader of Chabad of Kentucky*

## Snapshots



Jimmy Crawford, a regular participant in the Senior Social Club since 2021 and a resident of Shalom Tower, joined forces with Jesse Barfield from the Trager Family JCC Arts & Ideas team to provide a performance of songs from the *Temptations* and *Sam Cooke*. As a former member of Bobby Lester’s *Magnificent Moonglows*, Jimmy’s passion for music shined through, matched by the enthusiasm from other Senior Social Club members as they sang along to some of their favorite tunes. (Photos by Amy Landon)



## Candles

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

- Jan 5 @ 5:18 p.m.
- Jan 12 @ 5:25 p.m.
- Jan 19 @ 5:32 p.m.
- Jan 26 @ 5:40 p.m.

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The paper will be published on **Friday, January 26**.

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# NEWS

## Temple Shalom will be selling its existing building and moving to the Trager Family JCC

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

Temple Shalom has decided to sell its 40-year-old building on Lowe Road and move to a space on the campus of the Trager Family JCC.

Congregants voted last month to approve the move, which Temple Shalom leaders hope will stabilize its finances while injecting new life into the Reform congregation. Partnering with the Trager Family JCC will open up the prospect of joint programming initiatives, with an eye toward attracting younger families that might be put off by traditional worship services.

"We're welcoming them with open arms," Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC, said in a recent interview. "We're excited about working together."

"The possibilities are limitless," says Temple Shalom president Shiela Steinman Wallace. "We're looking to develop a flexible space to accommodate a wide variety of programs – both our own and those in collaboration. We recognize that we need to change and adapt to meet the needs of the next generation. Change is hard, but we understand that we must embrace change."

Conversations about Temple Shalom possibly moving to a new location began in 2021. It had become clear that the existing building, designed by Gerald Baron to accommodate religious school classes that no longer exist, no longer fit the needs of a congregation faced with mounting bills and – like so many synagogues across the nation – declining memberships. At its peak, Wallace said, Temple Shalom comprised about 250 families. The current membership is less than half that.

The existing facility "has served us well," Wallace says. "But there's a recognition that to meet the programming needs of the next generation, significant changes would have to be made."

Multiple pressures are at play. For instance, "the pews are anchored to the floor, which limits what we can do in the sanctuary. The building is in need of significant repairs and maintenance.

Currently, we rent out a good portion of our space during the week to Montessori Torah Academy, and it's gotten to the point where if we need to have meetings during the day, we sometimes have to "ask them" to allow time for us to use our boardroom. On Sunday mornings we have a church that rents from us."

Wallace – Editor Emeritus of *Community* – has long observed the aging of Temple Shalom leadership. "I'm 70 years old. When I joined the temple board I was one of the youngest people," she says. This year, for the first time we have five board members who are 60 and under – one who's in their 40s and a couple in their 50s. That's a big step forward for us. The next generation is starting to come on board."

Not surprisingly, many congregants have forged strong emotional attachments to the existing synagogue. Indeed, when an initial proposal to move elsewhere was put before the membership some years ago, the vote was roughly 50-50. "It ended up splitting the congregation instead of bringing us together," Wallace recalls. "But the realities didn't change. We tried, again, to make it work at our current facility, but it became very obvious that we needed to do something different."

With that goal in mind, Temple Shalom put together a Bayit Committee to identify and evaluate various options ("Bayit" is Hebrew for "Home" – an appropriate moniker for a group tasked with figuring out where best to situate itself).

"We have to find creative ways to survive," says Bayit Committee co-chair Beth Glazier, "to be sustainable, to bring people back in even if you're not going to get them to be members. So how can you get them involved in other ways? How can you get their kids interested?"

A predecessor "Division Committee" – after deciding against various competing options – began looking at the Trager Family JCC as a viable alternative.

Planners were "interested in a collaborative, transformational business," Glazier said. In 2022, the newly formed Bayit Committee picked up on that proposal. "We talked among ourselves and did the pros and cons; got in touch with



Temple Shalom's building on Lowe Road (Photo provided by Carol Savkovich)

Sara and (Federation board chairman) David Kaplan, who is a member of our temple board, and the Trager Family JCC seemed like a marvelous opportunity to put little Temple Shalom – *heimish* Temple Shalom – at the center of Jewish life in Louisville."

There's a lot still to be determined – when the Temple Shalom building will be formally put on the market, an exact timetable for transitioning to the Trager Family JCC, and where in that facility will worship services be held. The Trager Family JCC is developing Phase Two of campus construction, and Temple Shalom could end up in or near the former Anshei Sfard synagogue, or in a dedicated space yet to be built.

Initially "we need a third-party appraisal" of the present Temple Shalom building Glazier says, "and then we'll move forward from there. Our plan – which we're going to discuss with the Trager Family JCC folks – is to begin a transition so that the members of our congregation get used to having a Shabbat service once a month, and maybe having a program there.

"We have a commitment with Mon-

tessori Torah Academy though the end of July, although that could be moved a little bit if we ended up selling the building," Glazier added. "So I assume (the move would occur) sometime over the summer. It would be really helpful for the rabbi (Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, who's currently on a two-month sabbatical) and everybody if we were where we need to be prior to the High Holidays."

"We are planning two phases," Wallace says. "One we're calling the transition and one we're calling interim. The transition is where we are now; where we're completing negotiations and will plan several events at the (Trager Family) JCC or -- maybe one or two a month -- to get our people used to going, so that they feel comfortable, and they know that they're welcome there. The interim will be once we decommission our current building and march the Torahs to their new home."

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## FORUM

# Somewhere in 'the messy middle,' we find the rhythm of our lives



## Sara's View

Sara Klein Wagner

I love how the Jewish calendar creates a rhythm and familiarity that adds meaning to our lives. The cadence and consistency of our holidays and traditions enrich us and our work. In Jewish communal life holidays are not simply a day off, but a resonant, multilayered centerpiece. Yet in the aftermath of October 7, I cannot shake the feeling that this calendar has been forever changed. Now, Shemini Atzeret /Simchat Torah will be associated with the most brutal attack on Jews since the Holocaust. How this will become embedded in our story is yet to unfold as we have had time for reflection. We do know that the Yom Kippur War fifty years ago shares the name of the holiest day on our calendar.

In the space between Simchat Torah and the next holiday, Hanukkah, we as a people shared nine weeks of both internal and external pain and struggle. For more than two months we have been aware that

all eyes are on the Jewish people more than ever before. Non-stop headlines, social media debate and protests abound. Real anxiety and an increase of antisemitism in North America has also prompted us to look inward as we acknowledge a renewed intensity of our Jewish connection. I have observed increased attendance at events and community gatherings. The most common refrain is that people just want to be together and not have to explain how they are feeling. I have also observed that the depth and level of dialogue is genuine and a sign that our community yearns to talk, to learn and to listen. As I have written before in this column, I am privileged to serve this Jewish community that I grew up in and I am humbled by the commitment, resilience, and compassion I witness every day. Those efforts have been undeniably significant. Our professional team has worked nonstop since October 7 addressing concerns about antisemitism, security, education, and led a campaign that has raised nearly \$1.6 million to support humanitarian needs in Israel. That list grows daily. These tireless individuals have provided light for all of us during the darkest of moments.

We must remember that these darkest of times are neither the beginning nor the end.

This space, this moment as Elana Stein Haim wrote in the Times of Israel, *Ha-*

*nukkah as the Messy Middle:*

"Hanukkah reminds us that miracles are possible and that seemingly unwinnable wars can be won. But it also holds lessons about partial victories, imperfect heroes, and incomplete belonging.

We tell the story of Hanukkah, in our liturgy and in our songs and in the rituals we use to celebrate the holiday, as the decisive end of a frightening conflict: the good guys win, the bad guys lose, and the Temple is rededicated with Divine imprimatur.

But that is not the full picture of how Hanukkah was experienced in its day: alongside the joy and triumph, there was loss, uncertainty, and ongoing strife. This reality of Hanukkah as the messy middle holds lessons of perseverance for us today, as we celebrate the holiday while the State of Israel fights a war which could last a long time, and whose outcome is unknown."

Our tradition encourages questioning and debate. We are not all of one mind. In the lead up to their Hanukkah story, Jews did not agree on everything. Hanukkah is celebrated as a miracle, but at the time, it is likely that some members of the community grew closer after the Maccabees' triumph, while others did not. We watched over the past year as Israelis filled the streets in protest over the proposed remaking of their judicial system.

After October 7, divergent thoughts and perspectives remain, but for many, what mattered most was the imperative of unity. At this critical time in history, we don't yet know how such renewed sense of belonging will transform our Jewish community. But I am hopeful that this renaissance of feeling part of a community -- in learning from others and embracing our spirituality -- will help us create what comes next.

Consider what we've accomplished amid this messy middle. In between holidays we have celebrated the release of captives; we have come together in communal gatherings; and we have supported Israelis with humanitarian aid. Meanwhile we are having vital conversations throughout our community, understanding that the days and weeks ahead will be difficult. We, too, are not immune from the tragedy of war. We mourn the innocent lives that were lost on October 7, for the trauma that will last for years for victims and their families, and we mourn the innocent lives lost in Gaza during the war with Hamas. This is not the end, and it is not the beginning of our story. It is part of our journey together as *Klal Yisrael*, the whole Jewish community.

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

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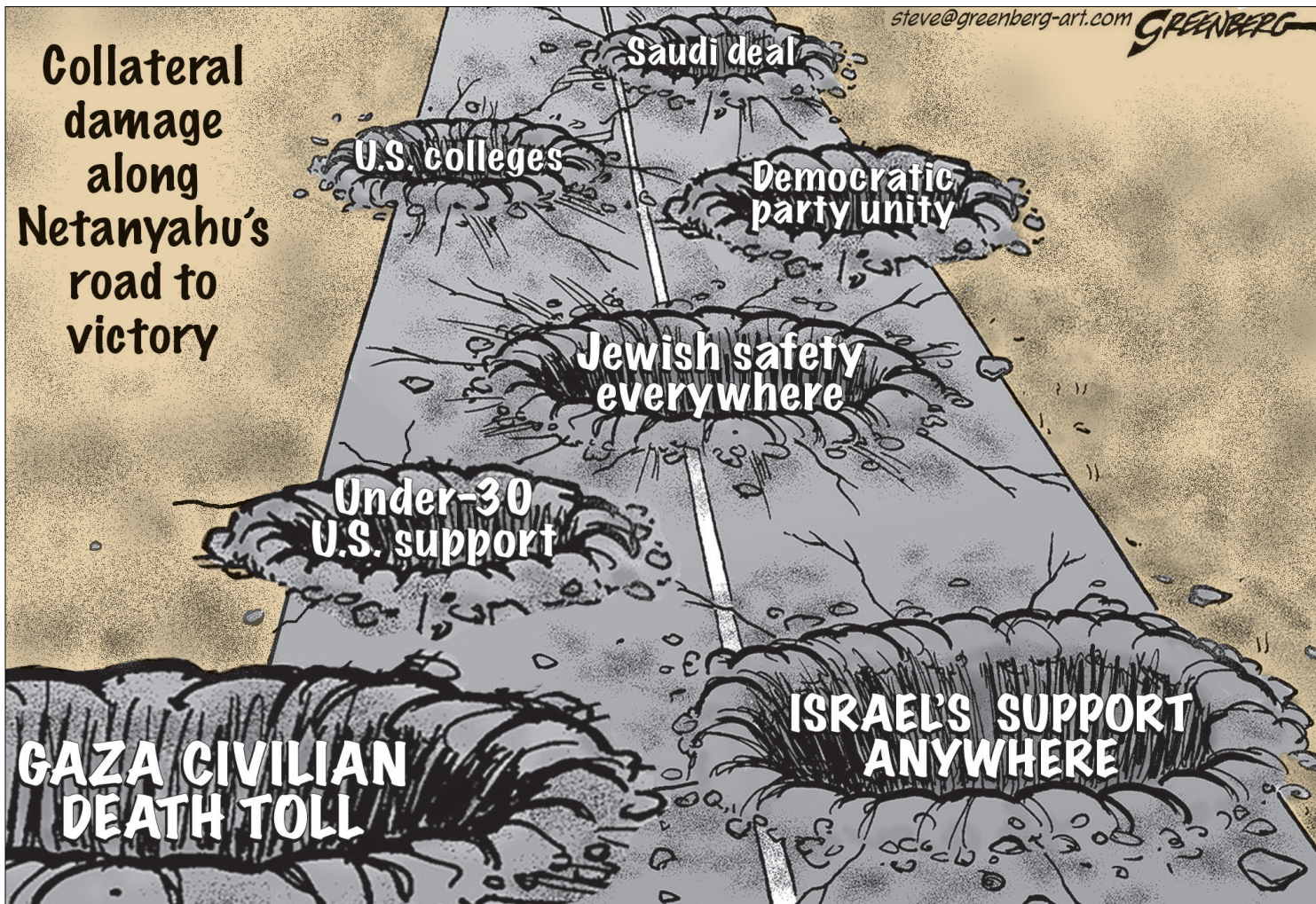
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## FORUM



## Since when did ‘context’ become an excuse for hate?



### Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

You’d think that anybody who rises to be president of Harvard, MIT or the University of Pennsylvania would have enough savvy not to botch testifying before a congressional subcommittee exploring anti-semitism on college campuses. But that is precisely what Harvard’s Claudine Gay, MIT’s Sally Kornbluth and Penn’s Elizabeth Magill managed to pull off earlier this month.

The CEO’s of these so-called bastions of academic excellence couldn’t bring themselves to condemn – outright and unequivocally – speech any reasonably discerning person would recognized as hateful: calling for genocide.

Granted, this subcommittee was not the friendliest of venues. The principal interrogator was Representative Elise Stefanik, a New York Republican who has cannily positioned herself as a power player in conservative circles. There were moments in the back-and-forth where she was as much bent on tripping up her subjects as in drawing out clear answers. Such is the game of D.C. political sparring, and only the most naïve of guest participants would fall for the ruse before them.

Again, Stefanik’s question was simple enough:

“Ms. Magill, at Penn, does calling for

the genocide of Jews violate Penn’s rules or code of conduct -- yes or no?”

Magill’s answer: “If the speech turns into conduct it can be harassment -- yes.

Stefanik: “I am asking specifically calling for the genocide of Jews -- does that constitute bullying and harassment?”

Magill: “If it is directed and severely pervasive, it is harassment.”

Stefanik: “So the answer is yes?”

Magill: “It is a context-dependent decision.”

Here Magill was channeling her inner-lawyer -- not surprising for a former dean of Stanford Law School. But that same lawyerly tack, that instinct to parse every phrase, every word, was her undoing. You’re being asked if advocating mass death for Jews is acceptable, and all you can answer is that it’s “context-dependent”?

Fallout was immediate, sharp, vicious. Donors pulled or threatened to pull gifts amounting to tens of millions of dollars. Magill, barely two years into one of the most prestigious academic gigs on earth, was hanging onto that gig by the barest of threads.

The very next day, in classic “what-I-really-meant-to-say” fashion, Penn issued a “clarification” in which Magill said: “In that moment, I was focused on our university’s longstanding policies aligned with the U.S. Constitution, which says that speech alone is not punishable. I was not focused on what I should have been -- the irrefutable fact that a call for genocide of Jewish people is a call for some of the most terrible violence human beings can perpetrate.”

It must have been humbling -- if not humiliating -- for Magill to utter those words -- assuming they were even her own. In-

deed, it’s ironic that before she appeared on Capitol Hill, Magill was prepped by one of Philadelphia’s most prominent law firms. Didn’t anyone anticipate this most inevitable of questions? Couldn’t somebody have told her to reply in the simplest, most direct manner possible? “Calling for the genocide of Jews is not only bullying and harassment --it’s grotesque, deplorable and unacceptable under any circumstances. Period.”

But Liz Magill didn’t say that. She couldn’t bring herself to declare that such language, and the sentiments behind that language, goes far beyond any acceptable boundaries. Instead, she retreated into the shadow of blind tolerance. She failed Penn. She failed Jews. She failed herself.

Days later, after twisting in the winds of pervasive condemnation, Magill resigned. Harvard’s Gay managed to keep her job, barely, after the governing Harvard Corporation voted to back her. MIT’s Kornbluth, to her presumed relief, emerged with only a few scratches.

I followed this mini-saga closely as it lurched from day to day, place to place, threat to threat. Almost three months after the events of October 7, Jewish students at too many colleges and universities are under what amounts to siege. They’re being told to shelter in their dorm rooms, traverse their campuses in groups when they do out, and consider tucking their Stars of David out of public view. They deserve all possible support from the people who run these institutions. Instead, they must wonder if they’ll be safe -- while their supposed guardians worry about context.

*Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community. To contact Andrew, email him at [aadler@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aadler@jewishlouisville.org).*



## FORUM

## A baby with two heads



JCRC

Matt Golden

From the JCRC perspective, I could have written about a lot of things we did last week. There was a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C., where 30 eighth graders learned how to combat antisemitism. There was a trip to Frankfurt to witness the unveiling of a gun-safety law focused on reducing suicides and mental health-related violence in Kentucky. There was our Zoom presentation with Israeli intelligence analyst Avi Melamed about Iran's involvement with Hamas. But for me at this juncture, what may be most important is a story from Jewish antiquity: the baby with two heads.

There are a surprising number of references to two-headed babies in Jewish literature. Why? I don't know, but there are. Typical of our Jewish texts, these examples of two-headed babies usually arise in the form of a question. Such as, "If you have a two-headed baby, on which head does the tefillin go?" And between which eyes? If you have a two-headed, first-born baby, do you pay one redemption price or two? If you have a two-headed baby, does the baby inherit only one portion of the estate? Or should the two heads share equally with the single-headed siblings?" Arguments inevitably ensue.

Regarding the last example's debate over whether a two-headed baby gets one share of an inheritance or two, a proposal was made to solve the question. The suggestion: hurt one of the heads and see if the other head cries out. If both heads cry out, the person with two heads is deemed to be a single individual. If, on the other hand,

only one head cries out, they are considered two separate identities. In short, if they could not share in each other's pain, they were not "one."

There is much to be learned from this debate right now.

Before October 7, there was a major schism forming in the American Jewish diaspora over the future "heart" of Israel. The reelection of Benjamin Netanyahu and the appointments of cabinet ministers like Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich were discussed and debated in pulpits, around dinner tables, and at JCRCs in communities across the United States, including our own. The dismantling of the Israeli Supreme Court's "reasonableness" standard forced many here in America to "pick a side" over what Israel should stand for. We were polarized, and most here chose the side against the government and against the dismantling of principles we hold dear. We felt we were standing for Israel.

Yet on October 7, when Hamas terrorists applied a "hurt" in Israel, the American Jewish diaspora "cried out." We were the proverbial two-headed person. We felt the visceral nature of the death, destruction, rape and torture. We looked at the elderly and the children held hostage as our own. The pain many of us felt was as real here as it was in Israel. In that space, it felt natural to stand up in that unity, at least for me. The Federation and clergy held rallies and discussions; we raised money for humanitarian causes in the emergency as part of a nationwide effort; we worked with Jewish Family & Career Services to support people in need of healing; we enhanced security at our Jewish institutions, and we put up reminders to not forget our hostages. Importantly, we are making outreach to our Muslim friends in the community as they struggle, too. We are still doing those things every day. In those actions, we feel like we "stand with Israel" in all the ways that define who we are.

I want to take a minute and explain that phrase, "standing with Israel" and what it means to me. I believe in a Jewish state. I believe in the people of Israel. I believe that for the past several thousand years, when people wept "by the waters of Babylon," or cried out amid pogroms, inquisitions, as dhimmi, in ghettos, in exile, or as they were gassed and burned, the idea and ideal of Israel was what they wept for. And the joy of standing in a place of self-determination as Jews where Jewish values could be the ideal, that was worth crying for too. History has shown us that we need a Jewish state. That is what standing with Israel means to me.

Does that mean that I stand up for all the wrongs Israel does as a nation? Of course not. As I write this, there are at least 18,000 Palestinians dead in a war instigated by Hamas. Those people are human beings with hopes and dreams and their precious lives are no more. Israeli soldiers are being killed in clashes with Hamas. A few days ago, an Israeli soldier killed three escaped Israeli hostages. Two Christian women were killed in the last enclave of Christianity in Gaza. To me, there is no "collateral damage" in war -- there is only damage. Again, in my opinion, Israel can prosecute a war surgically and narrowly and prioritize the negotiation for the return of hostages. I believe it must. In voicing that opinion, I feel that I am standing with Israel, too. There will be people who disagree with me and, in so doing, they stand with Israel in another way.

It should not be lost on us that there are moms and dads here in our community whose sons and daughters are deployed in Israel right now. They need and deserve our support. There are members of our community that believe sending a card to a soldier or displaced person is the best that they can do in the moment. There are people here pointing to the rocket strikes from Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Golden Lions, and Yemen-

ese Houthi rebels that have been unrelenting since the war began. There are those who stand with Israel in the face of Hamas's political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, who vows to attack again, and again, and again, until Israel is no more. All of them stand for Israel, and all stand for Israel in a different way.

And we must acknowledge that there are members of our community who do not feel this way at all. Since I began drafting this article, I had the opportunity to meet with several people in our community who manifestly want peace. Their disappointment in the Netanyahu regime is genuine and they cannot fathom the civilian losses being justified in Gaza. They want a cease fire. You may agree with them, or you may not. They may be in a minority, but keep in mind that they are part of the people Israel, and they feel the pain of this war just as much as anyone else. In meeting with them, I stand for them, too.

I first discussed the person with two-heads with Rabbi David over lunch a few weeks ago. I must tell you that the concept of a story about someone intentionally hurt to prove a point was initially off-putting. However, as a metaphor, the idea that we can be inexorably intertwined in our pain and in our grief with a people across the ocean, or just across town, is apt. That we can simultaneously grieve the loss of Jewish life and the loss of Palestinian life is a testament to some sages who knew, a thousand years later, that we would still need to study the story of a baby with two heads.

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

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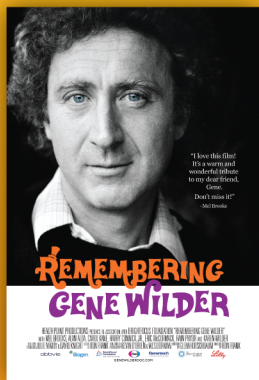
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# NEWS

## From Louisville to Israel – an on-the-ground Momentum perspective

By Michelle Elisburg  
Guest Columnist

On Oct. 7, 2023, I awoke to the news of the devastating Hamas attack on Israel with the desperate need to do something. When Momentum, an organization that empowers women to change the world through Jewish values, announced a Nov. 12-20 Unity Mission for mothers, I immediately responded, “Hineni. Here I am.”

The mood at Israel’s Ben-Gurion Airport was somber with signs for bomb shelters amid photos of the 240 hostages. Reminders were everywhere in the country, with protest installations in prominent areas, from giant blindfolded teddy bears and empty baby strollers, to hourglasses representing the desperate passage of time.

Over the course of the week, our group of international and Israeli women and Mothers of Lone Soldiers cooked and baked challahs, harvested produce, and delivered donated supplies. We witnessed examples of communities giving what they have to those in need, from furnishing shelter for displaced foster teens to Mogen Dovid Adam’s “Human Milk Bank” that distributes donated breast milk. We heard harrowing stories from survivors about the attack, despite their despair that “there are no words.” We marched with the families of hostages as

they walked from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, displaying our “Bring Them Home Now” dog tags, while relatives begged us to retell their stories. As Hadassah Louisville Chapter president I made a special trip to Hadassah Hospital, where staff treat trauma victims with critical care, rehabilitation and mental-health services. I brought the Kentucky General Assembly Israel Caucus Proclamation of support for the staff, and my handmade crochet dolls for the children. The Israelis we met encouraged us to find time for joy and live Jewishly publicly, which gives them strength - we lit candles, said prayers, sang songs and danced.

Store owners appreciated our business, as there were no tourists. Repeatedly they thanked us for coming, while also expressing disbelief that we were there during a war. When I asked one merchant if I could give her a hug, she replied, “No, can I give YOU a hug?” I lost all skepticism that we were not providing enough of a service by coming.

At the United Hatzolah command center, we heard from first responders to the Nova festival. These volunteers risked their own lives saving injured concert-goers, including one who bandaged himself and kept fighting. We were also privileged to host a barbecue with the IDF’s elite Duvdevan counter-intelligence unit. As the soldiers received bags with gifts and let-

ters, they expressed gratitude for the support of strangers from all over the world. One young man had recently married but did not have time to celebrate, so we celebrated for him. His comrade hoisted him on his shoulders and the mothers joined the rest of the unit in singing and dancing. Another soldier had just celebrated the bris of his newborn son at the base. They thanked us for coming and giving them power to fight for and protect the community. Despite dangers and concerns, we felt and saw so much unity, joy, hope and celebration of life.

Our Momentum leaders assured us that in Judaism there is still a place for joy even when our hearts are broken. The resilience we experienced ourselves and witnessed in others comes from this ability to hold the broken and the whole simultaneously.

Now Hanukkah has started, despite some Israelis asking, “How can it be Hanukkah when it is still Simchas Torah?” I’m asking how can it be Hanukkah when it feels like Pesach? Memes calling to “Let My People Go” are on social media, while I also consider how removing drops of wine from our cups acknowledges all suffering. In Sderot, one of the communities attacked, at the place where it seems as if time stopped, where the Pesach exodus was reenacted when the people evacuated the town without time to de-



Louisville’s Michelle Elisburg, shown here front center holding the banner, was among about 80 moms participating on a Nov. 12-20 Momentum “Mother to Mother” Israel Unity Mission trip to Israel (photo courtesy of Michelle Elisburg)

construct their sukkahs, a 40-foot-menorah was erected as a beacon of light in the darkness.

As story bearers, we carry with us the tale and personal connection commanded in the Haggadah: “In every generation you must see yourself as being personally taken out of Egypt.” All week we sang *Hatikvah* (“Hope”) and *Am Yisrael Chai* (“The people of Israel live”), because this is our story as well, and we are going to shout it to everyone and demand that they listen.

Michelle Elisburg is a Louisville pediatrician and president of Hadassah Louisville Chapter.

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# PICTURE THIS: HANUKKAH AROUND TOWN



(Left) Congregants of Adath Jeshurun light candles at their Hanukkah celebration. (Photo provided by Adath Jeshurun)

(Below) The Kol Israel Community of Kentucky light candles at their Shabbat service and Hanukkah celebration. (Photo provided by Kol Israel)



(Top left and below) Over 300 people attended The Temple's Annual Hanukkah Celebration. The night included the famous 1,000 Latkes Brotherhood Dinner served by Troop 30 and 30GT, arts and crafts from the Temple Religious School and Trager ECEC, Hanukkah Hootenanny singing, community menorah lighting, photobooth, and more. (Photos provided by The Temple)


(Below middle left) The Dreidel reads stories to young children at the Trager Family JCC's Hanukkah celebration. (Photo by Robyn Kaufman)

(Below middle right) Chabad of Kentucky hosted Mayor Craig Greenberg and Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman to light the menorah in downtown Louisville. (Photo by Andrew Adler)





(Below) Families gathered at the Trager Family JCC for music, latkes and doughnuts, dreidel games and crafts for the kids at the annual Hanukkah celebration. Rabbi David Ariel Joel, Sara Klein Wagner, Mayor Craig Greenberg and First Lady Rachel Greenberg. (Photo by Robyn Kaufman)





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# PICTURE THIS: WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY EVENT



The Jewish Federation of Louisville Women's Philanthropy Event this year was held at Work the Metal and included special guest speaker, Dana Gordon, Jewish entrepreneur, mother, jeweler, and founder of Dana Rebecca Designs. Women enjoyed desserts, cocktails and an evening of great conversation.

Pictured (L-R): Top row: 2023-2024 Momentum Cohort members: Alison Roemer, Kristin Shapira, Michelle Brooks, Julia Wall, Shane Shaps, Lee Weinberg and Shannon Rothschild; Shane Shaps and Sarah O'Koon; Fraidy Litvin, Danielle Krinsky and Laura Disney; Laura Arfa and Samantha Simon. Bottom row: Mandy and Eva Vine; Julie Ensign, Robin Miller, Amy Gilbert; Michal Kruger, Betsy Prussian, Tamar Schwartz and Lori Garmon; Evalyn Grossman and Barbara Schwartz. (Photos by Jolea Brown)

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# Thank You for Making An Impact This Year

## CEO Dr. David Finke Reflects Back on 2023 for JFCS

As we celebrate the close of another transformative year, I am filled with gratitude for your commitment to JFCS and our shared vision of **Expanding Possibilities for All**.

Your support this year has fueled our impact on aging adults and ensured they are able to age in place and with dignity. You have helped turn dreams into reality for immigrants and refugees here in Louisville and helped us celebrate the diversity they bring to our city. You've helped more individuals receive mental health services during vulnerable times, and you've supported families who are experiencing difficulty putting food on the table. **When one person's possibilities are expanded, our communities' possibilities are expanded.**

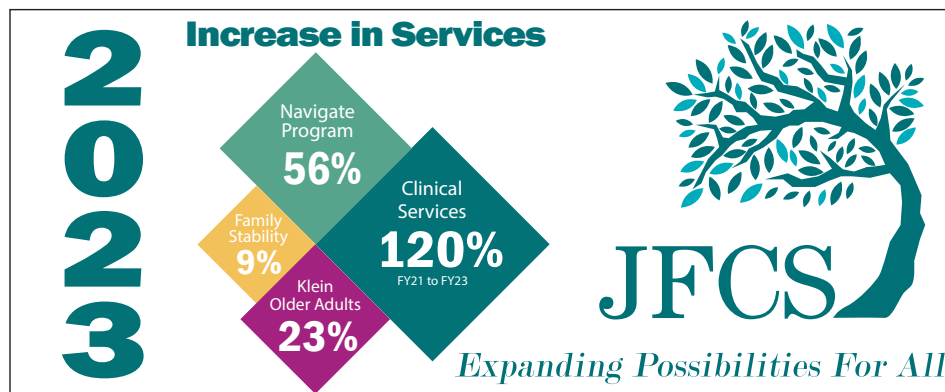
As I reflect on the milestones we achieved this year, the challenges we overcame, and the collective strides



Dr. David Finke  
JFCS CEO

forward we made in serving more of our friends and neighbors here in Louisville, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your indispensable role in that journey.

In the past two years, our **Clinical Services saw a 120% increase** in clients receiving mental health supports. This year, our **Navigate Program helped 56% more** community members begin the process of running their own small business. Through our renewed emphasis on addressing youth support systems, 318 young adults received one or more services from JFCS. The **Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry experienced a 35% increase** in



requests for food assistance over last year, and our **Klein Older Adult program saw the demand increase 23%** (all of which we anticipate continuing to grow next year).

One of the things I'm most proud of at JFCS was our ability to pivot and respond immediately with emotional trauma support, and grief processing opportunities for the entire community as war broke out between Israel and Hamas.

**We were able to meet these and other needs in the community thanks to YOU.** You are our driving force, our partners in hope. Together, we have sown the seeds of lasting

change that will shape an even brighter year ahead.

As we begin 2024 with a strategic vision for the future, and renewed emphasis on creating a diverse, inclusive, and equitable society, I want to take this opportunity to also renew JFCS' promise to you. With your support we can continue **Expanding Possibilities for Louisvillians of ALL faiths** and cultural backgrounds in 2024 and in the years ahead, guided by our Jewish values of Kavod, Chesed, Kehilah, Tzedek, and Avodah. Just as we've done for 115 years.

Thank you for empowering JFCS, and for making a meaningful impact on many lives this year!

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## NEWS

# Amos Oz on Israelis, Palestinians, and coexistence

By Ranen Omer-Sherman  
Guest Columnist

Ever since becoming a citizen in Israel in 1975 where I helped establish a desert kibbutz and served in a combat unit, Amos Oz, one of Israel's greatest writers and voices of conscience, has rarely been far from my mind. This past year I published the edited volume *Amos Oz: The Legacy of A Writer in Israel and Beyond*, in which 18 scholars from Israel and around the world offer gripping analyses of his urgent and profoundly universal works about political and romantic dreamers, whose heartfelt struggles with both their own human frailties and those of the state offer profound distillations of the Israeli spirit. Oz died of cancer back in 2018, yet during these terrible post-October 7 days, his thoughts about Israelis, Palestinians, and coexistence seem more relevant than ever.

Oz liked to describe himself as "a peacenik, not a pacifist. Pacifists turn the other cheek because they think that war is the worst thing in the world. I don't turn the other cheek, because for me not war but aggression is the worst thing in the world. And aggression must sometimes be defeated by force."

Apropos of that philosophy, when the Israel Defense Forces last invaded Gaza during Operation Protective Edge in 2014, Oz responded to a German interviewer with two questions. First: "What would you do if your neighbor across the

street sits down on the balcony, puts his little boy on his lap and starts shooting machine gun fire into your nursery?" Second: "What would you do if your neighbor across the street digs a tunnel from his nursery to your nursery in order to blow up your home or in order to kidnap your family?" At the time, Oz supported Israel's response to the missiles fired by Hamas, but only in the form of a "limited military response and not unlimited military response. Destroy the tunnels wherever they come from, and try to hit strictly Hamas targets and no other targets," he cautioned. If Israel exceeded that level of force, there would be "no way in the world to avoid civilian casualties among the Palestinians." He concluded that a more sustained military intervention in Gaza would only result in "a lose-lose-situation. The more Israeli casualties, the better it is for Hamas. The more Palestinian civilian casualties, the better it is for Hamas."

So what might Oz say of our current tragic impasse? I have no doubt that even now he would steadfastly advocate for the path he insisted was the only genuine future for both Israelis and the Palestinians, as he said late in life: "My suggestion is to approach Abu Mazen (moniker of Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority) and vigorously pursue renewed negotiations for "a two-state-solution and coexistence between Israel and the West Bank. When Ramallah and Nablus on the West Bank

live on in prosperity and freedom, I believe that the people in Gaza will sooner or later do to Hamas what the people of Romania did to Ceausescu."

One of Oz's three surviving children is the historian Fania Oz-Salzberger, who like her father, identifies herself as a proud member of the moderate Israeli left and who shares his vision of an Israel with equal rights for Jewish and Arab citizens. Like many other Israelis she has been scarred by the horrors of the October 7 massacre and recognizes the need for a military response. But Oz-Salzberger is also agonized by the deaths of many innocents, including an appalling number of children. In a recent op-ed published in *The New Statesman*, she expresses great pride in "the triumph of Israel's civil society. The same citizens who protested on behalf of Israeli democracy turned overnight into a volunteer-based emergency force on October 7. Pro-democracy organizations were the first respondents to the victims, their families, and the evacuees." By way of contrast, she sharply condemns "Netanyahu's clownish ministers and their dismal political appointees who are unequal to the task." For those who find themselves in despair at this time, Oz-Salzberger believes that tremendous numbers of Israelis are eager to repudiate the extremists who have led Israel to disaster and are drawn to the center and moderate left parties. While some may still wish to see a one-state solution, Oz-Salzberger (like her father) insists that in the aftermath of so much horrific violence, the one-state solution is now effectively dead: "Neither in this generation nor in the next will Gazans and Israelis become fellow citizens. A secure and democratic Israel next to a reasonably stable Palestine, governed by the Palestinian Authority or its reliable heir, remains our best hope." Fortunately, the current U.S. administration agrees: "In our view, it has to be a two-state solution", President Joe Biden stated on Oct. 25, underscoring America's likely foreign policy when Israeli operations in Gaza are over: "And that means a concentrated effort for all the parties to put us on a path toward peace."

That urgent effort is essential for the lives of Israelis and Palestinians alike. Compromise is never easy, but peace depends on it. Here too, it is worth remembering one of Amos Oz's most powerful



Israeli Author Amos Oz

declarations about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

"My definition of a tragedy is a clash between right and right. And in this respect, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a tragedy, a clash between one very powerful, very convincing, very painful claim over this land and another no less powerful, no less convincing claim. Now, such a clash between right claims can be revolved in one of two manners. There's the Shakespeare tradition of resolving a tragedy with the stage hewed with dead bodies...But there is also the Chekov tradition. In the conclusion of a tragedy by Chekov, everyone is disappointed, disillusioned, embittered, heartbroken, but alive. And my colleagues and I have been working...not to find the sentimental happy ending, a brotherly love, a sudden honeymoon to the Israeli-Palestinian tragedy, but a Chekovian ending, which means clenched teeth compromise." The future we all yearn for will clearly depend on the bravery and wisdom of both sides to achieve that "clenched teeth compromise."

Ranen Omer-Sherman holds the JHF Endowed Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Louisville.

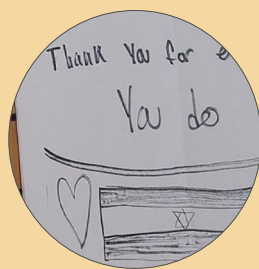


## Please Join Us!

### 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.

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### Interested in a solidarity and service mission trip to Israel?

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For more information about Partnership2Gether, contact Amy Fouts, [p2g@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:p2g@jewishlouisville.org)



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## Communication: It's Much More Than A Game

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And it's one of the core values we want to impart to the next generation.

So when I was deciding on a game for the staff to play during one of our staff in-services, I jumped at the opportunity to arrange a communication activity. I later played this same game with the students, who loved it as much as the staff.

Everyone sat in a large circle. I told players to write down a sentence about anything they'd like and pass that sentence along to the player on the left. That player would take a new sheet of paper, draw a picture of the sentence, and pass it along to the person on the left, who wrote a sentence about what they thought the picture was. The cycle repeated until the message was returned to its original owner.

Suffice it to say the message had warped and changed in many funny ways along its journey through the room. In the context of a game, this was hilarious and comically entertaining. In real life, however, miscommunications can have unintended results. We used the opportunity to strategize what to do about avoiding those results and how to create a school with good communication habits.

This got me thinking about the communications Hashem (G-d) has sent us throughout the ages.

We know that historically, the Chanukah story occurred at a time when there was no longer direct prophecy, aka communication, in Israel.

This made it a time ripe for existential miscommunications between Hashem and His People.

*In the context of a game,  
this was hilarious and  
comically entertaining.  
In real life, however,  
miscommunications can  
have unintended results.*

Does Hashem still love us?

Does Hashem still want us to continue along the path outlined in the Torah?

Do we still have a uniquely special role to play in history?

These were questions the Jewish people had to grapple with collectively as a nation.

Then along came the Greeks. The very fabric of our heritage, tradition, and faith was torn away from us by a foreign nation that forbade us from all Jewish practices. Our people were brutally forced to accept a foreign culture against their own will. The communication from the Greeks was clear – your way of life is no longer relevant. Move on.

But we know, that isn't how the story ends.

Hashem showed us that with His help, we can accomplish great things. He allowed a small team of righteous warriors to defeat a massive army - an unprecedented victory in antiquity. He allowed a small jug of oil to last long enough for us to know that we still matter to Him. He showed us through His actions that we still have our special mission in history.

Chanukah is about listening to messages and communications from the One Above.

Hashem continues to communicate with us in 5784. His communications are loud and clear.

A small flame, a small idea, is growing here in Louisville.

It is the idea that every child counts.

That every child has a special role.

That children thrive in an environment where they're given the right degree of educational challenge.

And this idea is working. It's a flame that is growing brighter and brighter. It's one we are grateful to be a part of.

I continue to be excited about the communications Hashem has in store for us.

I hope you are too.

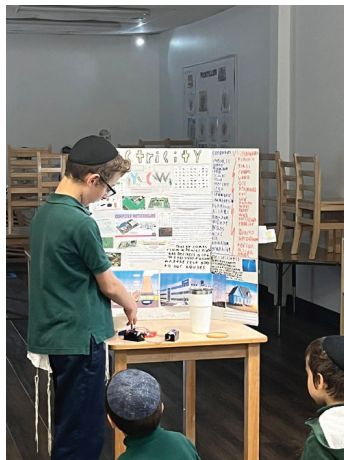
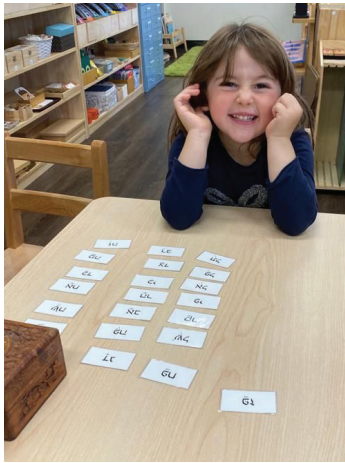
Wishing you a Chanukah full of light, inspiration, and joy.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Shmuel Meyers



# Snapshots



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# TOGETHER IN SONG



Join us for a captivating evening of musical diversity and virtuosity at our upcoming classics concert, *Together in Song*, part of the Brown-Forman Foundation Classics Series. This concert will feature works by Jewish composers and gospel arrangements performed by the St. Stephen Mass Choir. Collaborating with renowned artists such as Jason Clayborn, David Krakauer, Anthony Russell, and Dmitri Gaskin, this program promises to be a captivating fusion of classical, spiritual, and contemporary compositions.

#### Program Overview:

- The event begins with selections from Aaron Copland's "Music for the Theatre"
- Experience the soul-stirring rendition of traditional hymns like "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" by the St. Stephen Mass Choir
- Immerse yourself in the mesmerizing accordion artistry of Dmitri Gaskin in "Stranger," featuring the vocals of Anthony Russell
- Revel in the clarinet brilliance of David Krakauer in "Concerto: The Fretless Clarinet" with the enchanting movement "Ancestral Grooves"



**JAN 13 | 7:30 PM**

**Whitney Hall**

Tickets Available at  
[louisvilleorchestra.org](http://louisvilleorchestra.org)



Teddy Abrams, conductor

David Krakauer, klezmer clarinet

Fred Wesley, trombone

SoCalled, loops

Dmitri Gaskin, accordion

Anthony Russell, vocals

Angela Brown, soprano

St. Stephen Mass Choir

Kevin James, Choir Director

Jason Clayborn, vocals

With significant  
support from:





# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

## JewBelong billboards in Louisville confront antisemitism

If you happened to be driving near the University of Louisville this past month, you might have spotted a billboard – unmistakable in bold white lettering against a hot pink background – bearing the message: “Let’s be clear: Hamas is your problem too.”

That billboard was one of three put up in Louisville with funds from JewBelong, a New York City-based organization that employs in-your-face graphics amid its ongoing fight against antisemitism. JewBelong has been erecting similar billboards for years, ramping up its activity

in the wake of Hamas’ October 7 attack on Israel.

The company isn’t exclusively in warning mode – it describes its mission as “Supporting Joyous Judaism and Confronting Antisemitism,” often adopting a decidedly irreverent tone. “Think of us as the friendly, kinda funny kid from your geometry class who explained in simple language and without judgment only what you needed to know for the test,” touts its website. “We provide straightforward explanations, readings and rituals to help warm your heart. We promise never to JewBarrass you because we’ve been there.”

Still, JewBelong has gained most of its attention from messaging that is, to say the least, provocative. “We’re just 75 years since the gas chambers,” one billboard declares. “So no, a billboard calling out hate isn’t an overreaction.”

Or as the organization puts it:

“These days, antisemitism is growing, and well, it can be hard to be a Joyous Jew when there’s a target on your back. That’s why we’re raising awareness about the problem! JewBelong’s

brave approach calls out Jew-hate. Our signature pink and white billboards, billboard trucks, website, and strong social media presence powerfully confront antisemitism as well as support Joyous Judaism. This loud and proud message is starting important conversations, creating excitement in the Jewish community, and garnering mainstream media attention!”

JewBelong’s three Louisville billboards – located near I-65 and Eastern Parkway, I-65 and Arthur St; and I-264 and Louisville Ave. -- will remain up through the end of December.

## Louisville Orchestra continues its “Journeys of Faith” series Jan. 13



Louisville Orchestra music director **Teddy Abrams** (Photo: The Louisville Orchestra)

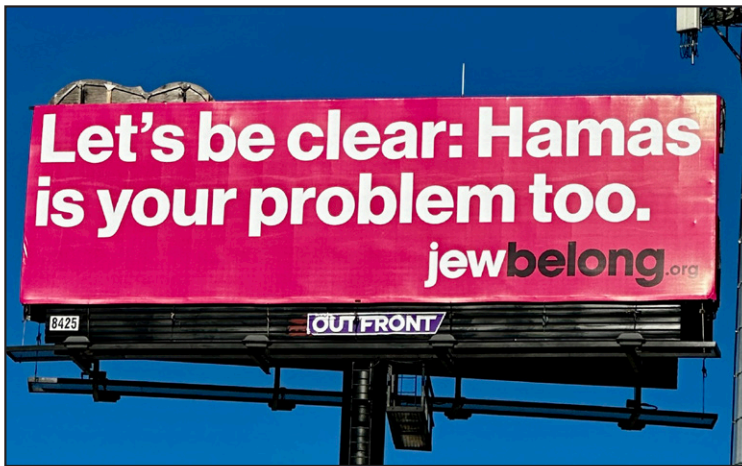
Continuing its “Journeys of Faith” concerts featuring works by Black and Jewish composers, the Louisville Orchestra will perform a program embracing gospel and klezmer musical traditions Saturday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Center for the Arts’ Whitney Hall.

Music Director Teddy Abrams will conduct the program, titled “Together in Song: A Celebration of Black and Jewish Roots Music.” Participating artists include soprano Angela Brown, klezmer clarinetist David

Krakauer, accordion player Dmitri Gasin, vocalists Anthony Russell and Jason Clayborn, trombonist Fred Wesley and the St. Stephens Mass Choir.

The orchestra will also perform selections from Aaron Copland’s 1925 “Music for the Theatre.” Support for “Journeys of Faith” includes significant underwriting from the Jewish Heritage Fund and the Brown-Forman Foundation.

For tickets, go online at [www.my.louisvilleorchestra.org/together-in-song](http://www.my.louisvilleorchestra.org/together-in-song).



Above, one of three billboards put up in Louisville by JewBelong, a New York-based organization that employs bold graphics to emphasize its fight against antisemitism. This particular billboard is located just off I-65 and Eastern Parkway. It will remain there until the end of December. (Photo by Andrew Adler)

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\*Special offer valid through 1/31/24



# AROUND TOWN

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

## Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun will honor 2023 Co-Minyanares of the Year David Goldstein and Kelly Fox on January 26-27, 2024. All are invited to celebrate the award winners at a festive dinner on Friday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com). On Saturday, January 27, the celebration continues at Shabbat Morning Service beginning at 10:00 a.m. Minyanaires will participate in the service and have special honors, followed by a special Kiddush lunch. We are delighted that Dr. Bruce Tasch will once again deliver a lively and insightful D'var Torah. Also, our youngest future minyanaires are invited to Tot Shabbat on Shabbat morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Yarmuth Family Chapel (reservations on the AJ website).

Talmud and... TikToks? Miriam Anzovin, creator of the popular #DafReactions series, will visit Congregation Adath Jeshurun on Saturday, February 24, 2024. She will give three talks in which she shares her practice of daily study of the Babylonian Talmud in the Daf Yomi cycle from the viewpoint of a formerly Orthodox, now secular, Millennial feminist. Go behind the scenes with Miriam as she shares her process for creating authentic, heartfelt, hilarious commentary which puts ancient discourse in direct communication with modern internet culture, pop culture, and current events. This event is cosponsored by the Louisville Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, The Charles & Jean K. Erskine Fund of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and the Jewish Heritage Fund Endowment. Reservations are open now at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com).

The 2024 Music Festival, endowed by the Adolf & Sara van der Walde and Israel Rosenbloum Charitable Fund, will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Adath Jeshurun. Our featured performer this year is Cantor Danny Mendelson. For those who were at the Cantors' Convention in Louisville in 2019 he sang with his dad Cantor Jack Mendelson. He is an amazing talent and I hope you'll come hear Mendelson Mayhem & Friends! Reservations are open now at [www.adathjeshurun.com/musicfestival](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/musicfestival).

## 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 now 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.

## Chabad Offers "Advice for Life" Classes

A new class entitled Advice for Life shares the Lubavitcher Rebbe's teachings and advice in six critical areas of life: Health, Money and Career, Family and Home, Spirituality and Relationship with G-d, Challenge and Adversity, and Emotional Well-Being. The series will be taught by Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, for six Wednesday nights beginning Jan. 31, and will be held at the Trager Family JCC.

The Rebbe dedicated much time to meeting and corresponding with world leaders, politicians, spiritual heads, community leaders in many areas of life including education, medicine, law, science, and the arts. At the same time, the Rebbe found endless hours for ordinary individuals from every walk of life. Bulging sacks of mail arrived daily at his doorstep, and his published correspondence is voluminous. Private audiences (yechidut) lasted entire nights several times a week. Later, the Rebbe distributed "Dollars" – dollar bills for charity – weekly, along with personal blessings and guidance to each of the thousands who filed by for a brief but powerful exchange. Now, many of those lessons will be available to our community.

*Community Seder for Tu B'shvat planned for Jan. 24.* The 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat is known as the New Year for Trees. There is a custom which goes back at least to Rabbi Isaac Luria in Israel in the 16th century to celebrate this day with a "seder" similar in some ways to the better-known Seder for Passover. It includes the drinking of wine (or grape juice), eating of fruits grown in the land of Israel, and celebrating in song and praise to G-d.

This community program will be held at the Camp J building on the Trager Family JCC campus. At the deadline for this paper, this event was being cosponsored by KI, AJ, LBSY and Chabad, but other groups are invited to join in and the entire community is invited to attend. Dinner will be from 5:30-6 p.m., with the program itself taking place from 6-7 p.m. A committee is being formed to provide more information, but for now you can get more information by emailing [Rabbi@Chabadky.com](mailto:Rabbi@Chabadky.com).

## Chavurat Shalom

We'll kick off 2024 with some engaging learning and beautiful music. 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** for those who need to join us remotely.

**Thursday, January 11** – Rabbi David will lead us in an exploration of the current situation in Israel. Lunch will include cheese tortellini with smoked salmon, broccoli with roasted red peppers, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and banana pudding.

**Thursday, January 18** – Saxophonist Mike Tracy, Professor of Music and Director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at U of L will perform. Lunch will include roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, kale salad, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

**Thursday, January 25** – Cantor Lauren, accompanied by Temple Music Director Louie Bailey, will share some beautiful music with us. Lunch will include chicken and dumplings, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and carrot cake.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday if you'll be attending that week in person by calling or emailing Sarah at (502) 423-1818 or [sarah-harlan86@gmail.com](mailto:sarah-harlan86@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](http://www.FilsonHistorical.org).

## Jewish Family & Career Services

The 2024 JFCS MOSAIC Awards ceremony will be May 14, at the Mellwood Arts Center. This is the 19th year honoring refugee, immigrant and first-generation Americans in Louisville who have changed the community by being a Leader, Changemaker, or Humanitarian. Honorees will be announced in January, along with our new award this year, the JFCS MOSAIC Corporate Changemaker, given to a Louisville business who exemplifies what it means to support refugees, immigrants, and first-generation Americans in a direct, impactful way. Contact Courtney Evans at [cevans@jfcslouisville.org](mailto:cevans@jfcslouisville.org) if your company would like to help sponsor the 2024 JFCS MOSAIC Awards.

Through community support, JFCS has been able to meet a 120% increase in requests for mental health services over the past two years; a 23% increase in services provided to older adults; a 56% increase in helping our friends and neighbors realize their dream of running their own business and much more! In the season of giving, every act of kindness counts! As the social service arm of the Jewish Community, your support of JFCS is vital in helping us touch lives all across Louisville. Let's continue making a collective impact together. Give the gift of change by contacting Courtney Evans at [cevans@jfcslouisville.org](mailto:cevans@jfcslouisville.org).

*Struggling with Addiction or Substance Abuse?* JFCS offers individual, couples, and family counseling services to help assist in understanding and working through addiction as well as providing support for loved ones and family members. Caring, compassionate and experienced mental health counselors are available to work with those with current, non-crisis level addiction issues, those in recovery, and/or loved one or family members that have someone currently in active addiction or recovery. If you or someone you know is struggling with non-crisis addiction and substance misuse issues, please contact us at (502) 452-6341 or email: [services@jfcslouisville.org](mailto:services@jfcslouisville.org).

Following months of collaboration, introspection, and careful consideration

by staff, stakeholders and our Board of Directors, JFCS is excited to announce its Three-Year Strategic Plan. We believe this plan sets a clear course for JFCS to evolve and adapt to the ever-changing community landscape and continue Expanding Possibilities For All in Greater Louisville for many years to come. We welcome you to see the plan at: [www.jfcslouisville.org/strategic-plan/](http://www.jfcslouisville.org/strategic-plan/)

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](http://www.jfcslouisville.org) or by calling (502) 452-6341.

## Jewish Federation of Louisville

### Musikgarten Registration Now Open

Parents who want to provide their children with a fun, family-friendly introduction to music can now register for Musikgarten classes, held Sunday mornings at the Trager Family JCC. The winter session runs Jan. 7 through March 24. During each 30-45-minute session, children from infants to four-years-olds can enjoy a wide variety of musical experiences with their family, their teacher and with visiting musicians.

Musikgarten exposes young children to folk, classical and popular music in a hands-on, nurturing format designed to stimulate their senses and pave the way for a life-long joy of all things musical. Since parents, uncles, aunts or grandparents can join in, youngsters feel comfortable and secure learning new things. And, since exposure to music stimulates the mind, Musikgarten helps children get ready for pre-school and beyond.

You can register your child by pointing your web browser to: <https://jcclouisville.my.site.com/s/registration> and clicking on the "Children's Programming" tab. The winter session is \$75 for Trager Family JCC members and \$90 for non-members. If you have any questions, email Carly Mason at [cmason@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:cmason@jewishlouisville.org).

Be part of something remarkable! Our recent Community study of Jewish Louisville underscored the characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors reflected by the wide spectrum of Jewish-identifying individuals in the Louisville region. The results are illuminating – charting a path toward creating the most inclusive, vibrant, and welcoming Jewish Louisville possible. We are currently gathering small groups to participate in think tanks. Participants will share ideas and be the creative spark that shapes where we are going. Interested in being part of our think tanks? Go to [JewishLouisville.org/502.0](http://JewishLouisville.org/502.0) to tell us about yourself.

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



# AROUND TOWN

for Israel. This website page is updated almost daily with resources. Please visit [www.jewishlouisville.org/ActNow-forIsrael](http://www.jewishlouisville.org/ActNow-forIsrael)

**#BlueRibbonsforIsrael** 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](http://blueribbonsforisrael.org).

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.

## Keneseth Israel

Keneseth Israel Congregation offers Daily Minyan services at 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Sundays, and 7:30 a.m. Monday and Thursday. Minyan services are offered in person and on Zoom at [tinyurl.com/kiczoom](http://tinyurl.com/kiczoom). Join us for Shabbat services Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services and Holiday services are offered in person and on YouTubeLive at [tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive](http://tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive). Please visit [kenesethisrael.com](http://kenesethisrael.com) for information.

Join Rabbi Freed for *Jews & Brews* every Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC. And you can enjoy a beer on him during another installment of *Jews & Brews: After Hours* Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Akasha Brewing, 909 E. Market St.

Have a toddler in your life? Come join us for our Tot Shabbat Jan. 13 and 27 at 11 a.m. to enjoy a toddler-friendly shortened service and a sweet treat, followed by coming into the main sanctuary to dazzle everyone with their rendition of closing Shabbat service song.

Kids and families of all kinds, come join us for our Family Shabbat on Jan. 5. Starting at 6 p.m. there will be a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a delicious meal. This event is free but please RSVP to [tinyurl.com/KICShabbat](http://tinyurl.com/KICShabbat) or call 502-459-2780.

Join Cantor Hordes as she takes you on a journey through the sun salutations, and meditations of Torah January 4th at 6:30 p.m. Some yoga mats are available, please bring your own if you have one.

Join us for Shabbat Shalom club - a space for kids K through 5 to experience Shabbat! From Torah to games - there is something for every kid. Every Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.

Join Keneseth Israel and Adath Jeshurun as they partner together to bring "Heschel's Passover Eve," a production by Israel's national theatre, to Louisville on MLK day - January 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Roots 101! The solo performance of, "Heschel's Passover Eve" meets Rabbi Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel a few days before the Seder to which he invited his friend and traveling companion, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, in April 1968. To learn more about the production visit: [www.heschels-story.com/](http://www.heschels-story.com/)

## Kol Israel Community of Kentucky

With the ongoing participation of Rabbi Nachshon Siritsky, KICK is expanding to offer regular events once a month via Zoom for international online visitors, alongside in-person gatherings for Friday night Shabbat services and light dinners. The next of these Meditation, Music, and Movement sessions takes place Friday, Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m. which will be led jointly by Rabbi Siritsky on Zoom and a special local guest. The in-person component will be held at a TBA location, followed by a vegetarian oneg dinner. Free, but space is limited. To RSVP, email coordinator Avram Kahn at [KolIsraelKy@gmail.com](mailto:KolIsraelKy@gmail.com) or call 502-341-1595.

The Jan. 19 service is part of a spiritual initiative dubbed *Shabbat of Love*. With the support of the Jim Joseph Foundation, Jewish Federations of North America created Shabbat of Love to embrace the Jewish people, to spread love for who we are, and to make more Jewish-positive spaces during one of the hardest times in our history. This initiative will encourage people of all ages, backgrounds, and affiliations to come together with each other and their supportive neighbors to experience the sacredness of Shabbat and to center Jewish pride and joy.

With highly inclusive messaging and building on the momentum of the March in Washington, we all hope to catalyze the largest celebration of Shabbat in North America while centering a simple yet important message - let's love being Jewish, and let's love each other.

## 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 here. Scholarships are available; email [sisham@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:sisham@adathjeshurun.com) to apply.

## Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

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](mailto:moishepod.louisville@gmail.com).

## National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section

NCJW Louisville Section's Repro Rights committee is hard at work planning the next Reproductive Rights training session to be held in January. Attendees will learn about the Jewish perspective on women's rights and reproductive freedom and gain the skills needed to be able to effectively share that critical information in our community. Watch the JCL weekly email for the date and time.

One way you can support NCJW's important advocacy work is by visiting our Nearly New Shop in the Mid City Mall, 1250 Bardstown Road. We have everything from gently used designer outfits to great gifts for kids to housewares and furniture and everything in between. We're open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. All proceeds help to serve women, children, and families in the Louisville community.

## 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.

*Friday, Jan. 12, MLK Shabbat, 7 p.m.*

All are invited to a special service to honor the work of The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. We will be joined by our friends at Spirit Filled New Life Church, led by Archbishop Steven M. Kelsey. The service will include special readings and songs, including music from the church's choir. An oneg will follow.

*The Cure for Hate: Dinner, Service, Film, and Discussion, Jan. 26, 6 p.m.*

Temple Shalom invites the community to a special screening and discussion of the film *The Cure for Hate*, which documents former skinhead and Holocaust denier Tony McAleer's visit to Auschwitz/Birkenau. Mr. McAleer is also author of the book *The Cure for Hate*, chronicling his change from violent extremism to radical compassion. He also founded the non-profit Life After Hate to help White Supremacists leave the movement. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a short Shabbat service. Then, the film will be screened, followed by a discussion with Mr. McAleer.

*Tu B'Shevat Seder, Sunday, Jan. 28, 12:45 p.m.*

Join for a celebration of Tu B'Shevat, celebrating the earth and the birthday for the tress. The Seder will include music, readings, and tasting the traditional Tu B'Shevat foods. More information to follow.

## The Temple

Don't forget to do all your B'nei Mitzvah, wedding, or "treat myself because I can" shopping at the WRJ Gift Shop: we've got beautiful jewelry, Judaic ritual items, books, *mezuzot*, and other great merchandise. All proceeds go to help support all the good work we do on behalf of our Temple family so it's a win-win! Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop](https://facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop). To

make an appointment, please call Sheila Lynch at 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein at 502-291-5699, or Karen Waldman at 502-425-4360.

Adult education continues at The Temple! Text Study with Rabbi David and Beginning Hebrew with Mark Goldstein are on Monday nights; Temple Scholars on Wednesday mornings with Rabbi David and this month special guest, Professor Asaf Angermann; and Saturday Torah Study with Rabbi David starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person will be every Saturday. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to [thetemplelouky.org/adult-education](http://thetemplelouky.org/adult-education) for more information.

Intro to Judaism is starting a new semester at The Temple on Monday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. led by Rabbi David who will be teaching about Jewish Festivals. This class is a wonderful way for people who are considering becoming Jewish, interdating, and intermarried couples to learn together about Judaism. For more information, please go to [thetemplelouky.org/monday-classes](http://thetemplelouky.org/monday-classes) or email Rabbi David.

The Temple invites congregants to attend Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. More information at [thetemplelouky.org](http://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](http://thetemplelouky.org/pickleball).

Join WRJ/Sisterhood for their January Program: The Impact of Early Trauma on Child Development on Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. Jennifer Sinski, PhD, will lead us on an exploration of current research on trauma and its effect on brain development in children, as well as how that research can be applied in learning settings.

Join us at The Brotherhood Torah Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Learn more about The Brotherhood, a welcoming space for all Jewish individuals and their partners. Discover a vibrant community and shared values.

Everyone is invited to a special MLK Shabbat with Baritone Gregory Rahming on Friday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. discussing Walking with Martin Luther King Jr.: A Sermon in Song that emphasizes the African American Experience during the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Join The Temple on Sunday, Jan. 14, 21, and 28 at 9:30 am for Raising Jewish Children. This three-part informational session provides not only guidance to help families understand Jewish history and values, but also shares information on how the Jewish community helps to enhance families' values. RSVP for one or more of the sessions at [thetemplelouky.org/raising-jewish-children](http://thetemplelouky.org/raising-jewish-children).



# AROUND TOWN/LIFECYCLE

All adults and accompanied children are invited to help "Fill our Freezer" on Sunday, Jan. 14 as we bake cookies together that our Clergy will bring to our congregants when they visit them throughout the year. A pizza lunch will be served in the Heideman Auditorium immediately following Religious School at 12:00 pm, and then baking will begin. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/fill-the-freezer](http://thetemplelouky.org/fill-the-freezer).

Classical Services are held on special occasions throughout the year at The Temple, celebrating our history as a founding congregation of American Reform Judaism. This month on Friday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m., we honor Isaac Bernheim (1848-1945), a devoted member of The Temple, a Louisville distiller, and philanthropist who, in 1929, bequeathed 14,000 acres of land – the Bernheim Forest and Arboretum – to the people of Kentucky. To celebrate the man and his legacy, we have an Annual Sabbath service in the Classical Reform style featuring a professional choir under the direction of Dr. Louie Bailey.

Please join the Mitzvah Makers on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 11:30 a.m. as we make sandwiches for the Louisville homeless community. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making](http://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 us for the annual WRJ-sponsored Tu B'Shvat Seder on Monday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. as we celebrate the birthday of the trees. There will be all the varieties of tree fruits to sample, a meaningful and inspiring service and music, plus the always anticipated chocolate fondue. All are welcome. Please RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 or go to [thetemplelouky.org/trees](http://thetemplelouky.org/trees).

Join us for a Family Shabbat on Friday, Jan. 26 with dinner at 6 p.m. for dinner and Erev Shabbat Services at 7 p.m. led by our Grade 5 students. Dinner is \$10 per person and free for children 12 and under. \$5 when you RSVP before Tuesday, Jan. 23. Please make your reservation by calling 502-423-1818 or go to [thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner](http://thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner).

tion by calling 502-423-1818 or registering online at [thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner](http://thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner).

The Louisville Orchestra will be performing Mahler's 6th Symphony on April 27. To prepare for this concert, the Brotherhood will hold three educational classes following Shabbat Services on Jan. 6, Feb. 23 and March 29. Additionally, immediately after the concert, the Brotherhood and Temple members are invited to a private audience with Concert Master Gabe Lefkowitz. Although this event will be open to everyone, Brotherhood members will receive a discounted ticket price. If you have never experienced a Louisville Orchestra performance, now is the time, and this is the one. For more information, go to [thetemplelouky.org/mahler](http://thetemplelouky.org/mahler).

## Trager Family JCC

You Bring the Audience, We Bring the Show. CenterStage Acting Out is a professional touring theatre troupe that travels to schools, community centers, and senior facilities to present educational and relevant musical theatre to audiences of any age. No buses, no chaperones, no permission slips: We bring the show directly to you. For more information, email or contact Jesse Barfield at [jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org).

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 [jccloouisville.org/NYB](http://jccloouisville.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](http://jewishlouisville.org/the-j/health-wellness) more information or email Member Services Director, Amy Stephen, at [astephen@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:astephen@jewishlouisville.org). For those interested in memberships, visit [jccloouisville.org/youbelong](http://jccloouisville.org/youbelong) or email [membership@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:membership@jewishlouisville.org).

## University of Louisville Jewish Studies Program

Screening of "The Cure for Hate" followed by Q & A with producer Tony McAleer, a once committed member of the Aryan Nation and upholder of the ideology of Neo-Nazi White Supremacy who left the top leadership of the group to co-find NGO Life After Hate. The first International Holocaust Remembrance Day event to be held at the University of Louisville. Thursday, Jan. 25, 4 p.m., Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville. Free and open to the public. For more information contact [Natalie.Polzer@louisville.edu](mailto:Natalie.Polzer@louisville.edu).

## Births

**Emily Cohen** and **Jonathan Pearson** are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, **Jamie Orion Cohen-Pearson**, born Thursday, November 9, 2023. Jamie is the grandson of **Trish and Joe Cohen** of Louisville and the grandson of **Elaine Lloyd** and **David Pearson** of Manchester, England.

Mazel tov to **Amanda and Alexander Blieden** on the birth of their son, **Spencer Aaron Blieden**. His big brother **Ari** is so excited to have a new best friend!

**Stephanie and Chuck Sarasohn** joyfully announce the birth of their granddaughter **Silvia Rebeca** in New York City on September 7, 2023. Proud parents are **Julie Sarasohn** and **Miguel Windt**, and big sister **Aviva**. Paternal grandparents are **Susana Windt** and **Antonio Sanchez** of Spain. Great grandmother is **Maria Lidia Rey Bermudez**, also of Spain.

## B'nai Mitzvah



### Lucas Kling

Lucas Kling, the son of Julie Kling, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 13, at 10:30 am at The Temple. Lucas is the grandson of Susan and Robert Kling of Louisville. Lucas is in seventh grade at Highland Middle School. For his Pledge 13 project, Lucas has selected Dare to Care. He is generous, kind, smart, and funny. Lucas loves spending silly time with his friends, traveling, biking, swimming, getting kisses from his dog, and sports including cross-country, basketball, and soccer. He loves technology and enjoys playing video games and virtual reality. Lucas enjoys working by cutting lawns and other entrepreneurial activities.



### Aaron Maccabee Fouts

Aaron Maccabee Fouts, son of Amy and Nathan Fouts and brother of Ezra, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 27, at 10:30 am at The Temple. Aaron is the grandson of Alice and Stuart Gandell, newly residing in Louisville, and Jackie and Steve Fouts, from New Washington, Indiana. Aaron is in the eighth grade at Community Montessori in New Albany, Indiana. For his Pledge 13 Project, Aaron has been cleaning up trash along the Ohio River and making fleece scarves for people in need during the cold winter months. Aaron is a voracious reader and enjoys playing soccer, sculpting in clay, snuggling with his cats, and playing the piano.

## Obituaries



### Miriam Bornstein Broderson

Miriam Bornstein Broderson, 92, died November 27, 2023, in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. She was born December 18, 1930, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Sam

and Fannie Bornstein, both of blessed memory.

She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and thoroughly enjoyed volunteering to help elementary students with their reading. She loved to cook and bake, talking to her friends on the phone, playing Mahjong and spending holidays with her family.

Her husband, Isaac "Ike", her sisters, Minnie Shavinsky and Sadie Bornstein and her brother, Abe Bornstein, predeceased her in death.

Miriam is survived by her children, Dr. Hal Broderson (Dr. Laura) and Marla Lynn Broderson; grandchildren, Seth (Allison), Joshua (Erica) Torey, Ty (Allison) Broderson, and Richard and Carlos Price-Sanchez; and two great-grandchildren, Isabella Rose and Maya Parker Broderson.

She was a member of Keneseth Israel Congregation, a life member of both Hadassah and Keneseth Israel Congregation Sisterhood, C.J.W. Louisville Section, and the Trager Family Jewish Community Center.

Funeral services were held November 30, 2023 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. with burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Cantor's Fund at Keneseth Israel Congregation or the Trager Family Jewish Community Center.



### Dr. Leonard Alan Goddy

Dr. Leonard Alan Goddy, an orthopedic surgeon for more than 40 years, a leader of Louisville's Jewish community, and a passionate provider of medical care

to underserved children and families, died on December 10, 2023, at his home in Louisville. He was 90.

Dr. Goddy was an innovator and early adopter of new medical technologies. He helped introduce to the U.S. and popularize the use of the external fixator, a technique pioneered by a Soviet doctor, to treat difficult fractures, lengthen legs and realign legs and arms. His long-running orthopedic clinics at Kosair Crippled Children's Hospital on Eastern Parkway and Norton Children's Hospital improved the lives of many thousands of children.

Having experienced prejudice and antisemitism as a youth, he worked assiduously to strengthen support for younger Jewish families. As president of Congregation Adath Israel, he led its merger in 1977 with Louisville's other Reform Jewish congregation, Beth Shalom, and oversaw the construction of a new Temple building and pre-school on US-42 and Lime Kiln Lane. He remained a long-time board member and

*I make house calls!*



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# LIFECYCLE

trusted advisor to the Temple's rabbis and leadership.

After his retirement, Dr. Goddy served from 2005 to 2018 on the Board of Governors of Family Health Centers of Louisville. This not-for-profit center with seven clinical locations, established in 1976, provides primary and preventive care to more than 40,000 people, regardless of their ability to pay. He was twice elected as chair, from 2009-2011 and 2013-2015.

Dr. Goddy was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, where he attended Taylor Allderdice High School. He graduated from Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA, then enrolled in medical school at the University of Louisville, graduating in 1958. He began his orthopedic practice in 1963. As a young doctor, he was a ringside physician for WAVE TV's weekly boxing broadcasts and at Golden Gloves fights. With his close friend Dr. Ronald Levine, he examined boxers for the 1960 Olympic trials at Freedom Hall; one young fighter with remarkable reflexes told him, "Doc, you're taking care of the next heavyweight champion." The young boxer was Muhammad Ali.

Dr. Goddy served as a lieutenant colonel and surgeon at the U.S. Army's 8th Field Hospital in Na Trang, Vietnam. There he treated seriously wounded U.S. servicemen, Vietnamese civilians and scores of North Vietnamese prisoners. When the newly assigned Special Forces commanding officer badly broke his leg on a parachute jump, Dr. Goddy saved his field command by treating him in country; the grateful C.O. made Dr. Goddy an honorary Green Beret, a rare honor.

A loving and fiercely loyal father, grandfather, and friend, Dr. Goddy was preceded in death by his parents, Abe and Jeanette "Shankey" Fineman Goddy; his sister, Carol Tobin Lewis; and his wife and equal partner of 57 years, Lynn Francis Cassen Goddy.

He is survived by his loving partner of 10 years, Donna Stone; his children David Goddy (Cecilia Schmidt); Karen Goddy (Kai Palchikoff); Suzanne Weintraub (Bruce); and grandchildren Sonya Goddy (Najeeb Tarazi), Julian Goddy, Alec Palchikoff, and Jordan, Adam and Jillian Weintraub.

Donations can be made to The Temple, Family Health Centers of Louis-

ville, Jewish Family and Career Services, and the Lewy Body Dementia Association.

Funeral Services were held December 14 at The Temple, with burial in The Temple Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.



**Shirley Jean Forman Kozlove**

Shirley Jean Forman Kozlove passed away at age 95 on December 10, 2023, at her home under the care of hospice. She is survived by her only daughter,

Robin Bolonkin, grandchildren Martin Goldsmith (Brooke), Blake Goldsmith (Amy), and Hallie Bolonkin; great-grandchildren Ella Goldsmith, Olivia Goldsmith, Skyler Goldsmith, Anne Phipps, and Mallory Phipps and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Morris and Fanny Forman, husbands, Harry Flax, Wolford Marx Trau, Alvin Jerome "Jerry" Kozlove, special friend Morris Strauss, twin sister Sara Jane Forman Weisberg (Malcolm), and younger sister, Alyse Forman Weiss (Morton).

Shirley graduated from Atherton High School and attended the University of Louisville to pursue art. She was a talented artist and handprinted skirts for Stewart's Dry Goods, when she was a teenager. She made and sold hand-painted wooden dolls with her twin sister. She made bedspreads, curtains, and clothing. She also painted many portraits of her family.

She was a member of The Temple, a previous member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, and a lifetime member of Hadassah, the Standard Club, and the Trager Family Jewish Community Center.

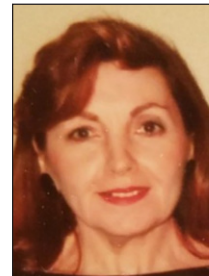
Shirley loved people and thrived being around them. She was a golfer, tennis player, and bowler and enjoyed playing Mahjong, Canasta, and Bridge. When she could no longer drive, she continued to play Bridge on her iPad. She loved her grandchildren dearly and loved spending time with them.

Shirley instilled a sense of responsibility in her only child by ensuring

she knew how to run a household. She was determined Robin would not be spoiled. She set a wonderful example by caring for her mother, Fannie Mae Forman, when she was ill. Shirley loved her family and would do anything for them. She was generous and caring and always showed concern for others. She was a devoted wife to her husbands, yet there were many misfortunes as she lost each one by death. She was strong and always rebounded and made a new life for herself.

As we bid farewell to our beloved Shirley, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend, we remember the happiness and joy that she brought to our family as her love was unconditional.

Funeral services were held December 13 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. with burial in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, the American Heart Association or the donor's favorite charity.



**Sonia Sophia Paran (Nee Lewis)**

Born in Glasgow, Scotland U.K. on December 15, 1936. Died in Louisville Kentucky USA November 29, 2023. Retired Hairstylist and

Cosmetologist.

Pre-deceased by: Her mother Lily, her father Samuel and her brother Maurice. Survived by her spouse of 54 plus years, Mr. Jan Paran, her Scottish sister-in-law Rosemary Lewis and her children Glenda, Daniel, and Abigail; and grandchildren living in Scotland and England.

Her sister-in-law Esther Lee Paran Geil and Esther's youngest son, Donald L. Geil and his wife MaryAnn and their children who all reside in Honolulu, Hawaii. Also by Esther's eldest son Martin F. Geil, his wife Jazmin and their children who all live in Los Gatos, California

The body has been bequeathed to the University of Louisville School of Medicine for medical research.

A visitation and celebration of Sonia's life will be held at a later date

Donations may be made to the Crusade for Children, St. Jude, Public Tele-

vision or the Trager Family JCC.



**Herman (Hy) Stein**

Herman (Hy) Stein passed away on October 6, 2023 at 87 years old. He was a loving husband to Barbara, his wife of 61 years, and a beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

ther.

He was born in Brooklyn, NY and studied at Baruch College, followed by graduate work at Columbia University, where he received his Ph.D in Operations Research, a mathematical discipline focused on using analysis to improve how individuals and organizations make decisions.

After living in Brooklyn, Poughkeepsie NY, Albany NY, and Needham MA, Hy and Barbara relocated their family to Louisville in 1977. Hy worked both in the private sector (KFC) and taught Math and Business at the University of Louisville and Bellarmine University.

In his 50s, while teaching at Bellarmine, Hy discovered acting. He began acting in community theater throughout Louisville and Southern Indiana, including stints with The Little Colonel Players, Bunbury Theater, Clarksville Little Theater, and Bellarmine. With a booming voice and knack for both comedy and drama, he performed for the next 20 years. He especially loved performing in Louisville's Shakespeare in the Park.

Hy and Barbara moved to New Jersey in the weeks prior to his passing. He was preceded in death by his oldest son, Richard (Mara) of Chicago and Israel, and is survived by his wife Barbara, sons Gerald (Rivka) of Lakewood, NJ and Michael (Judith) of White Plains, NY; his 15 grandchildren (Gavriella, Layla, and Shimon of Israel); Avishua, Raimie, Shefa, and Tirra of White Plains; and Yechezkel Meir, Yosef, Chana, Shaya, Chaya Esther, Naftali Zev, Shloimie, and Yitzchak Isaac of Lakewood; also 5 great-grandchildren (Batsheva, Nechama, Tema, Ezra, and Henya). Hy was a generous and loving grandfather, remembered for his humor, humility, patience, and affection.

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## GLOBE

# What is antisemitism? At a Jewish studies conference, scholars use the archives as a guide — and a warning

By Andrew Silow-Carroll  
JTA

Did a New York City coffee shop's workers quit over the owner's pro-Israel stance? Was the library at Cooper Union barricaded to protect Jewish students inside from an angry pro-Palestinian mob?

Ten weeks into the Israel-Hamas war, these are the kinds of stories fueling angry debate on social media, with Jews charging bigotry and critics of Israel saying antisemitism is being weaponized to silence them.

These weren't the kinds of events being debated — at least formally — at the 55th annual convention of the Association for Jewish Studies, held this week in San Francisco. Some 1,000 scholars gathered to network and share their latest research, which in the case of historians, Bible scholars and philosophers tends to look backwards, sometimes by centuries.

But the war weighed heavily during the conference, turning historical issues into debates very much of the moment. A presenter would be discussing, say, Jewish attitudes about contraception in the 1950s and be asked why Jewish concerns about safety are ignored by campus Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs. At a session on what it's like to be one of the few Jewish studies scholars at small or Christian colleges, panelists commiserated about being expected to speak for

all Jews about the turmoil in the Middle East.

At one session — it had the seemingly uncontroversial title "Hurdles in the Archive: Pinpointing Antisemitism" — the moderator even warned that the panelists would be discussing the challenges of researching historical antisemitism in various archives, not current events. "So although we are, all of us, very conscious of issues around antisemitism now," said Deborah Dash Moore, the acclaimed historian at the University of Michigan, "this is looking back."

Good luck with that. Even discussing antisemitism in the mid-20th century, the presenters were foreshadowing the current discourse around events like those at the coffee shop and Cooper Union. Who gets to define antisemitism? If Jews call it antisemitism, must you believe them?

Riv-Ellen Prell, like Moore a force in Jewish studies for the last four decades, described her research at the University of Minnesota into an incident of alleged antisemitism at the dental school in the late 1930s. Three Jewish women in the dental hygiene program were told by an administrator — "for their own good," according to the archive — that the school couldn't guarantee them jobs once they graduated because many dentists wouldn't hire Jews. The women took this as an unspoken hint to quit, and a local Jewish newspaper editorialized against a "system set against

Jews."

In 2019, when the university was thinking about renaming buildings named after alleged segregationists and antisemites, a regent said Prell's interpretation of the documents unfairly tagged the dental school as antisemitic. The regent insisted that the dental program administrator was a product of her time, thought she was being helpful, and wasn't a Nazi or a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

This exasperated Prell, who said it's a historian's job to read primary documents and interpret them in context.

"Various administrators at the university believed they were entirely innocent of anti-Jewish behavior," she said. "They believe that all Jews they encountered were grateful to them."

Ari Kelman, of the Stanford Graduate School of Education, was similarly asked to comb the university's archives for evidence of anti-Jewish discrimination in the 1950s. There was a document quoting an administrator who was worried that

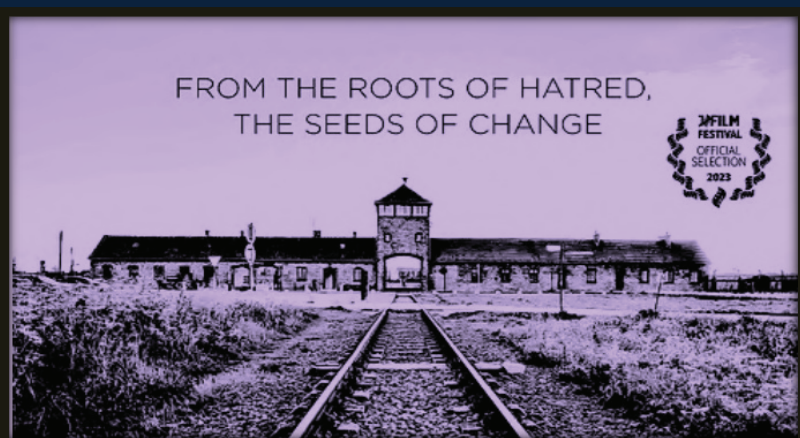
if the school weren't careful, there would be a "flood of Jewish students" from two heavily Jewish high schools in Los Angeles, Fairfax High and Beverley Hills High. But did Stanford ever act on his bias, the way the Ivies once imposed quotas on Jewish students?

Kelman's archive search came up empty until he found a tally of high schools represented at Stanford in the years after the administrator's remarks. Sure enough, enrollments from the two "Jewish" high schools dropped dramatically.

See **ANTISEMITISM** on page 24



The Association for Jewish Studies held its 55th annual conference in San Francisco, Dec. 16-20, 2023. (JTA photo)



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# NEWS

## Amy Joseph Landon joins the Jewish Federation of Louisville and Trager Family JCC as Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor



Amy Joseph Landon

Growing up in Louisville, Amy Joseph Landon trod the typical path of a young Jewish woman: religious studies, followed by a Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation. But it was a Keshet Kentucky trip to Israel as a teenager that helped transform her Jewish identity from the amorphous to the resonantly real.

"I don't always love the word 'magical,' but it feels like nothing you've ever seen," says Landon, who's joined the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC as Senior Director of Marketing and Communications.

"It's just a whole different sense of community, being in Israel where you're in the majority, not the minority," she says. "It really opens your eyes to the security challenges they faced. We were there not too long after the public-bus bombings" in February and March of 1996, when

suicide bombers killed 33 Israeli civilians and 12 IDF soldiers. "We had to be on all private transportation – and that felt very different from anything you'd experience in Louisville, Kentucky."

One of her chaperones on that 1996 trip was Sara Klein Wagner, now President and CEO of the Federation and Trager Family JCC.

"Amy was in Keshet Kentucky during the first year of the program," Wagner says. "That was a fantastic group – it included Becky Swansberg, who's now our vice-chair – and a lot of other great young Jewish adults. There, and in subsequent programs, Wagner observed a young woman with considerable potential for service to the Jewish community."

"Amy and her group took on big questions," Wagner recalls. Two decades later, that eagerness remains. "Amy is steadfast and inquisitive."

She also boasts a comprehensive résumé. Landon comes to her new role after spending 14 years with the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Clermont, Ky – the last eight as Manager of Communications and Marketing. Before that she did stints as an educator at the Kentucky Derby Museum and the Muhammad Ali Center. A native Louisvil-

lian, she holds a B.A. in American Studies from Wesleyan University and a M.A. in Museum Education from George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

If her family name sounds familiar, it's probably because the architectural firm of Joseph & Joseph is especially known for designing several now-historic Louisville synagogues and the last JCC. The company was sold years ago, but the physical spaces are a continuing reminder of its local significance.

Landon is the first to acknowledge that she's not especially observant in formal Jewish practice ("I have a friend who jokes that I'm what's called a 'Gastro Jew,' who shows up in celebrations that involve Jewish food," she quips). Nonetheless, she's fully invested in the Jewish community. Indeed, while a member of the Federation board, she served on a committee tasked with parsing the Brandeis University-led Study of Jewish Louisville.

Coming into her new job barely two months after the horrific events of October 7, Landon acknowledges the imperative before her. "Right now, connecting with the Jewish community is more important than it ever historically has ever felt in my lifetime," she says. "I haven't felt

antisemitism in the last few years that's ramped up since the Israel war" began. "All those things make it feel like I don't want to take this community for granted."

Quite a contrast from her Bernheim position, where the predominant sentiment was, she quips: "Yay, trees!"

Still, in many respects Landon is a natural fit for sharing Jewish stories. After graduating from St. Francis School in Goshen, Ky. (now the Francis Parker School), she spent a summer interning with the Federation, doing data entry to maintain in-house client databases. "So I got to review lists of kids who were in the Jewish Day School, and put that on their parents' records, and helping give the philanthropy team the big picture of how their donors were involved in the community. Also, my dad was a (Federation) board president, so I got to go to events with him."

No matter what, Landon wants to present a compelling, evolving narrative about the Federation and the Trager Family JCC.

"We always want people to feel ownership and connection to whatever it is we do," she says. "To me, the storytelling is finding what resonates with people so they will keep coming back to learn more."

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# GLOBE

## ANTISEMITISM

Continued from page 22

The university ultimately apologized for discriminating against Jewish students.

Kelman called the tally a “smoking gun,” but one that only made sense in — here’s that word again — “context.”

“How do you identify antisemitism when you see it, especially when it doesn’t look like Brown Shirts [Nazi paramilitary], or nobody’s using the language of ‘communists’ or other sort of coded terms for Jews?” he asked. “How do you know what it looks like?”

Brittany P. Tevis, a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies at Columbia University, said that rather than asking whether something is antisemitic, it may be more useful to ask “whether or not Jews’ rights have been infringed upon. Because unlike a metaphysical concept, like antisemitism, rights are definable and they have been legally defined.”

Tevis, who will soon offer what Moore called the first course about anti-Jewish discrimination and the American legal system to be taught in an American law school, described her research into a workplace discrimination claim in 1940s Massachusetts. Although the evidence of antisemitism is “murky,” she, like Prell and Kelman, defended the historian’s right to name antisemitism when they see it.

Which brings us to the café and Cooper Union cases. In both incidents, initial reports suggested pretty clear cut instances of antisemitism, or anti-Zionism border-

ing on Jew hatred. In the case of the café, the Israeli owner reported that his pro-Palestinian employees quit and, according to his lawyer, tried to “force it to close in retaliation for proudly displaying the Israeli flag.” When word of the incident got out, supporters flooded the place.

But a New York Times followup suggested the story was more complicated: Workers complained that they hadn’t signed up for the owner’s pro-Israel activism at a fraught time, and some of the workers, especially the women, were uncomfortable when some customers began questioning the café’s pro-Israel stance. They denied they were antisemitic.

The Times also dug into viral allegations surrounding an Oct. 25 incident at Cooper Union’s campus in Manhattan. Initial reports, and a six-second video, suggested that Jewish students were trapped in a school library by pro-Palestinian demonstrators chanting, “Free, free Palestine.” The Jewish students said they felt threatened, although campus police said they were on the scene and saw no cause to intervene. A protester said, “in no way was this an attack on Jewish people.”

It’s hard to know how historians will describe these incidents in decades to come, especially when they remain murky in the moment. Should people “believe Jews” when they say they feel threatened as Jews? Is anti-Zionism antisemitism — and do such distinctions matter when protesters are pounding on a library door? “At no time were they yelling out that they wanted to kill people,” the Cooper Union Police Department later said of the library protesters. A fair distinction,

or a pretty low bar?

In her response to the AJS panelists, Lila Corwin Berman of Temple University gingerly suggested that historians can go too far in finding evidence of antisemitism when other explanations might suffice. “Sometimes I feel like when there’s a desire to name a very particular force and determine that this is what was happening, there tends to be a politics of not wanting to ask some of the more interrogating questions,” she said — for example, what were the Jews’ motivations in reporting these incidents as antisemitism, and what are the motivations of institutions that commission historians to investigate their archives.

“I get that,” Prell later replied. “But what complicates that is [the question],

how do you analyze power?”

In her presentation, Prell said she is interested in the policies and processes that prevent people from holding those in authority responsible for antisemitism.

“Our moment demands that we insist that without understanding the mechanisms and lived experience of racism and antisemitism, no document, whatever it states, will ever speak for itself,” she said. “Archives will otherwise be repositories for historical evidence to be dismissed, minimized and ridiculed as falling short of the elusive definition of, in this case, antisemitism.”

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.



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# NEWS

## PLAYGROUND

*Continued from page 1*

Camp J because that's who we are, but also to invite other people to come to our campus and see how everybody is welcome. That's so important to all of us."

The new playground will be located behind Shalom Tower, next to an existing walkway expressly designed to be accessible to people with disabilities.

"This playground has been designed so that children who children who have differing levels of ability and challenges are able to play right alongside their friends who don't have the same issues to deal with," explains Tom Wissinger, COO of the Trager Family JCC. "So getting to the playground has to be just as convenient as being on the playground. We want to make sure -- as soon as you pull into our parking lot -- that you're going to have a great experience regardless of wherever you are in life."

Asked what "accessibility" means to him, Wissinger answered this way:

"I would say it's easy in and out of structures. It's so the playground itself is navigable for those that might be in a wheelchair or have mobility issues so you're not having loose gravel," but instead "a consistent surface where you can go wherever you want...and have free reign of the entire playground."

"Another the great thing about the design for this playground is that, instead, instead of having separate equipment that those with some, phys-

ical special needs are right next ones are in the same piece of equipment. Someone in a wheelchair could play next to somebody that's not in a wheelchair. We want them playing not just side by side but playing with each other.

PlayPros is no stranger to the Trager Family JCC. The company "helped us with our wedge playground for ELC (Early Learning Center) children, so they're logical partners," Wissinger says. "They worked with a local non-profit organization called the DREAM Foundation, which specializes in doing these type of play structures for children," employing what are known as "Universal Design" principles in accord with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Visitors won't encounter anything especially exotic.

"There are swinging apparatuses; there swinging apparatuses," Wissinger says, "basically everything we'd find in a traditional playground -- just slightly modified so more children can take advantage. There'll also be such things as play panels with sounds that promote sensory experiences." Overall the new playground will measure about 5,000



**A rendering of a portion of the Kids United Play Together Playground to be built on the Trager Family JCC campus (Courtesy of PlayPros)**

square feet, though Wissinger emphasizes that "it's not a 'square' -- more like a fancy, curvy structure." With shade from the summer sun, he adds.

"Exclusion from community play spaces happens locally; most of Louisville's playgrounds are not inclusive or accessible for all children," Fouts says.

"Children learn by doing," she emphasizes. The new playground's design "meets a child's curiosity with developmentally appropriate challenges, building comfortably on the skills they already possess to help them gain new skills."

"By striking this balance and achieving a 'just right fit,' children are encouraged to challenge themselves in

ways that they can control and manage. And all kids benefit from physical activities, such as balance and coordination, muscle strength and endurance, cardiovascular exercise and motor planning. Building confidence and contributing to their positive self-esteem occurs when children are empowered to choose activities that capture their interest."

*To find out more about how you can help support the Kids United Play Together Playground, contact the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Angie Fleitz at 502-238-2767, or via email at [afleitz@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:afleitz@jewishlouisville.org).*



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# NEWS

## KINDERGARTEN

*Continued from page 1*

Not so at Gan Toot. “We picked for our kids something different,” he says. “We wanted them to know their neighbors. So every (Jewish) preschooler is from Nahariya (Israel’s northernmost coastal city), or Kibbutz Evron, which is very close to Nahariya. The Arabs come from either Nahariya or Mazra’a, an Arab village nearby; and there are some from other kibbutzim.

“Most of the parents come to our preschool knowing that the agenda is to bring Arabs and Jews closer. Some parents just like the very good education system, which is considered far better than an ordinary city education system. So they go on a walk in the kibbutz, and everything feels safer, a lot like a small community.”

“We needed to something to bring Jews and Arabs together,” says Sagi Shelev, Living Together’s CEO. “So we organized a meeting in Mazra’a. I live in Kibbutz Evron, and there’s just a fence that separates us. From this came the idea to make something so our children will grow up differently.”

Shelev met a young Arab mother with a daughter the same age as his daughter. From there, “we started to bring in families who wanted their children to grow up together. We want our children to live together and speak the languages of each other and not to be afraid of each other. Even in how we celebrate

holidays. For some of us, Independence Day is the biggest day because that’s when Israel was established – and for my friends who live in Mazra’a, it’s a horrible holiday.”

It soon became apparent that the parents had as much to learn as their children did. “My background was pushing me very hard,” Shelev says. “I lost my brother during the Second Lebanon War of 2006. At that time there were stickers that said, ‘We will win! We will win!’ but no – in a war, everybody loses. Some more and some less, but everybody – and we must find a way to live together and find solutions that are not war.”

War, though, has a way of pushing aside nobler considerations. Not surprisingly, security issues shot to the foreground of everyone’s consciousness after October 7. Gan Toot lacked a safe room capable of resisting the kind of assaults perpetuated by Hamas.

“When word broke on the 7th of October, it was obvious we could not open the preschool,” Modechay said, explaining that “most preschools on kibbutzim are in old buildings, without bomb shelters.

“Just for reference, there are two kinds of bomb shelters in Israel,” he explained. “There are the large public underground shelters, where the stairs are literally underground. And then you have the apartment sort of shelter, which is a safe room. It’s a room built from steel with a reinforced door. The windows have blast shields, so they are considered safe

from rocket attacks. So we got approval from the kibbutz to transfer into a public shelter. They opened that shelter, maybe two floors down, and we transferred all the equipment and everything, and the kids went there for a month or so. Just this week, they got back to their original building, because we upgraded what we had.”

Gan Toot still needed a customized, secure safe room capable of accommodating 22 students, teachers and support staff. But because the school is an NGO, funds to design and build such a space would have to be raised privately.

An information sheet from Living Together puts it this way: “While new facilities in Israel are required by law to include an internal shelter, building a safe room in old buildings such as ours is done on a voluntary basis, and with no government support. At present, the kindergarten has only an old-fashioned security room, built in the 1980’s, and far from meeting today’s standards of threats.

“Due to our precarious geographic location, we had already been planning to construct such a safe room which meets today’s needs and regulatory requirements, funds permitting. Yet under the present circumstances, a safe room capable of meeting contemporary threats has become an immediate necessity.

“During the month of October, we were forced to completely pause the kindergarten’s activities, waiving the

parents’ monthly (tuition) payments. Meanwhile, we continued to pay our staff’s salaries, adding a financial burden to our mission. By November, we managed to partially reopen the kindergarten in a makeshift location, a bomb shelter in Kibbutz Evron. The next crucial step is to build a safe room/ bomb shelter as part of the kindergarten structure, and for that we urgently seek funding.” The project is budgeted to cost approximately \$61,000, of which about \$13,000 has been raised so far.

October 7 was an extreme test of whether bonds of trust, established over the preceding five years, would hold.

“I work in a big hospital in Tel Aviv called Ichilov,” says supervisory nurse Kamel Hazbon, an Arab Gan Toot parent, “where all the time Arab and Jewish staff worked together in a good environment. But after the Seventh of October something was broken. Some of the Jewish staff started looking at Arab staff as if they were criminals, that they are Hamas, but we are not Hamas. We are against Hamas. This was the first time I was thinking of leaving Israel. I told my wife, ‘Why are we still here? Why should our children grow up in this environment? Let’s go to the U.S. or Canada and start over.’”

In time Hazbon’s anger and anxiety subsided. “After two months, everything was better,” he said. “And I’m so excited because my child, Majd, is now speaking Hebrew better than me.”



**At the Gan Toot/Living Together Kindergarten, Arab and Jewish children learn to speak each other’s languages in an atmosphere of friendship and tolerance.**

**Top left and right: children, teachers and staff enjoy class time in a re-purposed bomb shelter on Kibbutz Evron in the Western Galilee Partnership2Gether region. Top center: Jewish parent Shaked Mordechay with his daughter, Ya’ari (which roughly translates to “my forest”). Bottom left: Arab parent Kamel Hazbon and family. Bottom right: Gan Toot/Living Together CEO Sagi Shelev (all photos courtesy of Gan Toot/Living Together).**



# NEWS

## EXHIBITION

Continued from page 1

Jewish lawyers in Germany hovered between 25 and 30 percent," lawyer and historian Douglas Morris said this past October during a discussion of the book at Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law. "In Berlin, almost half the lawyers were Jewish." From the time the Nazis assumed power in 1933, those lawyers faced what was, literally, an existential crisis.

"You really don't appreciate the rule of law until it doesn't exist," Stephan Göcken, executive director of the German Federal Bar, told the Jewish Journal Palm South in November 2022.

"The Lawyers Without Rights project -- the exhibit and book -- is about how one government -- the Third Reich in Germany -- systematically undermined fair and just law through humiliation, degradation and legislation leading to expulsion of Jewish lawyers and jurists



2016 Kentucky Humanitarian Award winner John Rosenberg, far right, with his wife, Jean, and son, Michael (Community photo)

from the legal profession for no other reason than they were Jewish or had Jewish ancestry," Göcken said.

(Göcken and Ulirich Wessels, president of the German Federal Bar, will be in Louisville for the ABA meeting.)

Meanwhile, International Holocaust Remembrance Day arrives Jan. 27, and in Kentucky few memories of that era are as vivid as Rosenberg's. He was seven years old when he witnessed one of modern history's darkest events: Kristallnacht -- the Night of Broken Glass -- which unfolded on Nov. 9, 1938, and which is widely considered the tipping point that ushered in the Holocaust.

In Rosenberg's native city of Magdeburg, he and his parents were forced to watch as Nazis bombed their synagogue interior and set holy scriptures aflame. That same night, his father -- along with all the town's adult males -- were taken to Buchenwald concentration camp. Several weeks later the father was released, and after an interval spent in a Dutch internment camp, Rosenberg, his parents and younger brother boarded one of the last ships to leave Europe for the United States.

For John Rosenberg, America became both a refuge and an opportunity. His family had settled in the Carolinas, allowing him to earn an undergraduate degree from Duke University and a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Soon he'd be off to Washington, D.C., working in the Justice Department's Civil Rights division from 1962-1970.

But the tug of social justice was strong, and Rosenberg spent the next three

decades at the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky, a.k.a. AppalReD Legal Aid. He settled in Prestonsburg, Ky., and gained a national reputation for representing the impoverished and disenfranchised.

Prestonsburg is a long way from Magdeburg, and 2023 is generations removed from 1938. Yet the experience of Kristallnacht and what followed remains seared into Rosenberg's memory. Indeed, at age 92, he often speaks about that night, recollections particularly relevant International Holocaust Remembrance Day approaches.

"The synagogue was bombed from the inside," says Rosenberg, recalling that "we were told (the Nazis) were afraid that if they burned it down, they might damage a hospital that was pretty close. The next day when we returned to our apartment, they'd ransacked it, and it was pretty much unlivable."

Small details stood out. "That morning the Nazis showed up to arrest my father," Rosenberg says. "There was a fellow standing there at the door. And my mom -- like a Jewish mother -- said, 'Can you wait a few minutes so I can make him a sandwich?' He waited a little bit, then took my father down the street. My mom finished the sandwich and said, 'Here, go run after your dad and give him that sandwich,' so I ran down the street and caught up with him."

Typical maternal behavior, Rosenberg says. "My mother was always pretty gutsy. I mean, she's holding my two-year-old brother, and there was a big bonfire burning up prayer books. She said my comment was, 'Alles kaput' -- 'everything's broken.' She asked this Nazi standing there with his gun, 'Are you going to kill us?' He said he didn't know -- that was his answer."

All this was being digested through a seven-year-old's lens.

"In a way it's very scary, and it's part of an adventure. I tell students that while we were on the ship coming over, the movie we saw was *The Wizard of Oz*, which hadn't been out very long. It was in English, but it wasn't difficult to understand. We landed in New Jersey, but my mother had some family here already -- her younger sister" in the Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights. "She gave me a quarter and told me to take good care of it. A quarter was a lot of money to a Jewish immigrant family in 1940."

Rosenberg's father was among the fortunate Jews to obtain exit visas.

Nazi authorities arrested 125 Jewish men," John Rosenberg recalls. "The first couple of days were spent in the local jail; I think initially they thought they'd be going home at night, but they crammed them into a couple of cells and took them to Buchenwald. They were there for 17 days -- pretty horrific days -- he didn't like to talk about. They lost about 25 of their number."

Upon release, the remaining men were given 30 days to get out of Germany. "My father was probably among the last. He was a Jewish school teacher who as-



Visitors examine informational panels as part of the American Bar Association's travelling exhibition, *Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany Under the Third Reich*. The exhibition will be on display Jan. 15 - Feb. 5 in the Trager Family JCC's Weisberg Family Lobby as part of the ABA's 2024 Midyear Meeting in Louisville. (Photos courtesy of the American Bar Association)

sisted the rabbi of the congregation." After arriving in the U.S. and unable to find work in New York City, a friend of a friend suggested he go south, ending up in Spartanburg, S.C. as an itinerant lay leader of religious services -- supplementing his income working as a janitor in a textile mill.

Soon afterward the rest of the Rosenberg family joined him, settling in Gastonia, N.C. not far from Charlotte, into what was then racially segregated society. "I don't know if I'd ever seen a Black person before we moved there," John Rosenberg says.

"I think that stayed with me as I became a lawyer," he says, suggesting "that somewhere along the way, I'd be able to work -- in some way -- to get rid of this caste system that we had in the South. Working in the Civil Rights Division, and here in Eastern, trying to make the system a little better for people who can't afford lawyers. That's has been a really wonderful way for me to serve."

These days Rosenberg is a respected (some might say revered) figure in Prestonsburg. He's among at least two Jewish residents (along with his law partner, Ned Pillersdorf). There is a core Jewish community 73 miles to the east in Huntington, where it's possible to attend regular synagogue services. "Huntington is probably more liberal than most of the other" nearby locales, Rosenberg says. He allows himself a laugh: "Some congregants call it the San Francisco of West Virginia."

Has he observed any increased anti-semitism since the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel? Not in Prestonsburg, anyway. "I mean, we've been here for 50 years, and they've named a square downtown Rosenberg Square -- which is about as Jewish as you can be in Eastern Kentucky."

Meanwhile, Rosenberg continues to advocate on behalf of the voiceless. On Dec. 15 he received the latest of his numerous accolades: an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky. Proud as he was of that honor, it may have paled compared to what had unfolded a mere five days earlier back in Magdeburg: the dedication of a new city synagogue, a declaration of hope not far from where a seven-year-old boy had born witness to the fires of hat.

The exhibit *Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany Under the Third Reich* will be on public display Jan. 15-Feb. in the Trager Family JCC's Weisberg Family Lobby. For more information about the exhibit, go online at [lawyerswithoutrights.com](http://lawyerswithoutrights.com).

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