

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

The Israeli Arts and Culture Festival begins May 15

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FRIDAY Vol. 50, No. 4 | April 26, 2024 | 18 Nisan 5784

Celebrating Two Years and Looking to the Future at the Trager Family JCC

By Thomas Wissinger
Vice President and COO, Chief Operating Officer

As I sit here on April 18, 2024, marking the two-year anniversary of the opening of the Trager Family Jewish Community Center, it is only natural to reflect on the journey that brought us to this point. What makes the journey so special is that the Trager Family JCC was truly a community endeavor. The countless hours spent by volunteers helping to dream of what the Trager Family JCC could be - whether that is by participating on one of the many committees created or by attending a community charrette and/or focus group -- should instill a tremendous sense of pride in this place. All of the donors who generously supported this project should know that their contributions allowed us to open the doors to the community, and the community's response has been overwhelmingly positive. Every person that has come into the Trager Family JCC over the past two years has been vital in creating the exact sense of community that we were hoping to build when we first began dreaming of a new home many years ago.

However, anniversaries are not only a time to reflect on our accomplishments, they are also a time to look forward to what the future may have in store. Today we begin a new journey, taking the first step in our Phase 2 campus development

plan, the Blieden Family Playground. We will cut the ribbon, opening this inclusive play area on May 13 and it will be shared with the entire Louisville community. The Blieden Family Playground will provide a much-needed space where children with differing abilities will be able to play alongside their friends. Our Yachad program and philosophy of inclusion has been a cornerstone of our Camp J and Early Learning Center programs for years, and we are extremely proud to bring the Yachad mission to the greater community through this playground.

As you've probably noted, I said that the Blieden Family Playground is only the first step in our campus's Phase 2 development plan. So what else will Phase 2 involve? Well, here's some context: A few years before the Trager Family JCC opened its doors, we acknowledged how vital it was to provide a facility that would serve the entire community. We wanted to make sure that our new building and its surroundings offered programming - and a physical space - that would make everyone who walked through those doors feel welcome and cared about.

Phase 2 carries that dream and sense of purpose beyond the walls of the Trager Family JCC. In our future development, we plan to create a campus that fulfills what the Trager Family JCC has always envisioned: create spaces and programs



Jonathon Raley and Jessica Bush greet members in the lobby to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Trager Family JCC.

that provide opportunities for people to come together. The Blieden Family Playground is a defining space that will allow families with children of all abilities to commune with one another and find their sense of belonging. We look forward to developing a "Family Park"

that includes the new playground, an inclusive water play area and the Benovitz Family Pavilion and restroom facilities. Our hope is that the Family Park concept becomes a sought-after destination for the community to create long-lasting

See **JCC 2nd BIRTHDAY** on page 21

2024 Yom HaShoah Commemoration will tell Halina Preston's Story

By Matt Golden
JCRC Director and General Counsel

The intricate stories of the Holocaust are as unique as snowflakes, melting. Each story of loss or survival is extraordinarily rare and precious but fading. Yet, when combined, those individual tragedies lose their definition and become one inconceivable catastrophe. Two-thirds of Europe's Jews died in the space of a few years; the unbelievable losses they suffered, and that humanity suffered with millions of other deaths, defy comprehension. Perhaps then, it is only by studying the individual story—the tiny grain of sand in the mountain of loss—that we can even begin to do honor

to the Holocaust and fulfill our responsibility to keep those memories alive. This year, at our Community's commemoration of Yom HaShoah, we will do exactly that, focusing on the story of loss and the survival of Halina Zipporah Wind Preston, who survived a 14-month ordeal hiding in German-occupied Lviv Poland. Her son, David Lee Preston, protects her legacy and the diaries that Halina kept amid the darkness.

Halina's story is as much about luck as it is about perseverance. From hiding with her family in the basement of their home while her grandmother was shot knocking at the kitchen door, being sent away by her family from her home

See **YOM HASHOAH** on page 20

Chef Adeena Sussman joins the Louisville Community for A Playful Plate to benefit the Community Inclusive Playground

By Amy Joseph Landon
Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

On March 27, the Louisville community was honored to host renowned chef and best-selling cookbook author, Adeena Sussman for two events as fundraisers for the Trager Family JCC's new Community Inclusive Playground, which is opening soon.

An afternoon event at Bourbon Barrel Foods was an intimate gathering with a cooking demo from Adeena. A Playful Plate was an evening affair, where guests of the event enjoyed a de-

licious menu created by Adeena, heard from the guest of honor, and mingled with a diverse group of guests from throughout the community. The evening event also welcomed Jill Moore, of Landscape Structures, who designed the new playground. Ms. Moore's life experience of having to use a wheelchair since she was a small child played a significant role in the design of the Blieden Family Playground.

Chef Sussman's remarks highlighted the importance of cooking in her life and how food has the power to bring people together. Hearing about her

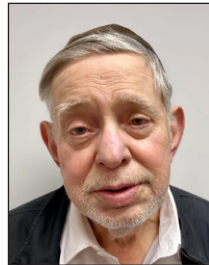
See **PLAYFUL PLATE** on page 9



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Was God Silent During the Holocaust Tragedy



D'var Torah

Rabbi Hillel Smulowitz

The following poem was found on a cellar wall in Cologne Germany, where Jews hid from Nazis:

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when feeling it not.
I believe in G-d even when he is silent."
Silence....

Is G-d ever really silent? And if so, how do we interpret G-d's silence? Eli Weisel was possibly the first to capture in his writing the unavoidable inner tension one feels when dealing with the Holocaust: namely that it is an event in human history so profoundly unbelievable, so distant and yet so personal that we are numbed into silence and yet uncontrollably compelled to speak.

We talk about it and write about it so that we may remember and grieve. Certainly history teaches us that hatred and prejudice if unopposed, leads only to pain, social calamity and spiritual darkness.

Anyone who views the Holocaust as a "Jewish problem" is clearly living an illusion, for the way in which a society reacts to its cultural diversity, the way it treats its minorities is an unmistakable barometer of its mental health. Eleven million lives were lost, between Jews and non-Jews. All those individual hopes and dreams that could have so profoundly influenced the course of mankind - found a cure for cancer, written a symphony or found the right words to appease an angry society. Eleven million souls - Jews, Christians, and others - deprived of the right to experience life, to enjoy a sunset or derive joy from children. To destroy all those hopes is to wage war with G-d!

How do we deal with grief related to the Holocaust? First, let us never forget what

happened, but never become cynical about life. People have demonstrated an unlimited capacity for good.

In order to enter the main sanctuary of the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, one must first pass through the "Corridor of the Righteous Gentile." It is a very moving experience. This area depicts and describes hundreds of individual acts of heroism; of Catholics and Protestants concealing and helping Jews, often at the cost of their lives. Not only individuals but countries as well are deserving of praise. Norway, Denmark, Greece, Bulgaria where demonstrations, church involvement, and military resistance finally succeeded in driving out the Germans in September of 1944.

Finally, we should never forget the Americans who lost their lives liberating the camps. I hope and pray that Jews never lose sight of the significant contributions made by other faiths. We must find a way to internalize and personalize the Holocaust, both individually and nationally.

Perhaps nothing more fully captures the purity and worth of the human soul than an excerpt from a poem written by an unknown child from within a concentration camp.

"Try to open your heart to beauty,
Go to the woods someday and weave a wrath of memory there.

Then, if the tears obscure your way...
You'll know how wonderful it is to be alive."

In 1980, United States Congress passed a resolution designating a week each year as "Days of Remembrance of Victims for the Holocaust." This year Sunday, May 5th through Sunday, May 12th has been designated as Days of Remembrance.

Rabbi Hillel Smulowitz is the former Principal-Director of the Louisville Jewish Day School and a Retired Army Chaplain

Days of Remembrance (Yom Hashoah) in 2024

When it falls on a Sunday, Yom Hashoah is observed on the following Monday. In the United States, Days of Remembrance runs from the Sunday before Yom Hashoah through the following Sunday.

This year, Yom HaShoah is Monday, May 6, 2024.

Snapshots



Students at Hillel at the University of Louisville joined together for a Passover Seder on April 16.

(Photos provided by Hillel.)



Candles

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

- May 3 @ 8:18 p.m.
- May 10 @ 8:25 p.m.
- May 17 @ 8:31 p.m.
- May 24 @ 8:37 p.m.
- May 31 @ 8:42 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

Got a news item for *Community*? Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Monday, May 20** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on **Friday, May 31**.

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

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That also is where you can find breaking news ahead of our print deadline.

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

Corrections/Clarifications

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Jewish Federation of Louisville Trager Family JCC

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To us, here for good means being here for..



Our Growing Community

With over 18,000 Jewish residents – including a growing number of young adults and families – the Jewish Federation is expanding to meet the needs of our ever-changing Jewish community.



Our Vulnerable Populations

Our commitment to care runs deep, embracing seniors, the most vulnerable, and those living with disabilities. Access to meaningful Jewish life is ensured for everyone in Jewish Louisville.



Our Global Jewish Community

Our impact reaches around the globe. We are committed to building the support, infrastructure, and partnerships that allow us to respond immediately whenever there's a need.

Jewish Federation of Louisville is here for you and our community.

But the needs of our community are ever-expanding, and to reach the heights that we have only imagined, we need your support. Thank you to everyone who has answered the call and made your 2024 Annual Campaign contribution.

If you haven't, today is your day.



Make an Impact Today!

Visit [JewishLouisville.org/HereForGood](https://www.jewishlouisville.org/HereForGood)



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OF LOUISVILLE

NEWS

Mazel Tov to Lisa Moorman

By Amy Joseph Landon
Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

After nearly 27 years of dedicated service to our Jewish Community of Louisville Family as Human Resources Director, Lisa Moorman has decided to retire.

Lisa started her career at the JCC in 1997 and has served in many roles, including administration, philanthropy, finance, accounts payable, payroll, benefits, and accounting. After the Federation merger, she assumed the role of HR Director.

One of her closest colleagues has been Federation president and CEO Sara Klein Wagner. "I am personally so grateful to Lisa for her dedication and care of hundreds or maybe thousands of employees over her career," Wagner said.

During her tenure, Lisa met her husband Chris, visited Israel in 2019, met Dr. Ruth at a JCC-sponsored event, and has enjoyed being part of the community, learning about Jewish culture, and developed lasting friendships other staff, past and present. She received the Arthur S. Kling Award (given to a staff member who shows dedication to the mission) in 2013.

VP and Chief Operating Officer Tom Wissinger praised Lisa's service to this Community "As a staple of the Jewish Community of Louisville for more than 25 years, Lisa will be sorely missed. Lisa has welcomed literally thousands of employees to the JCL during her time with us. Her professionalism and ability to connect with all employees is a rare gift and not easily found. We wish Lisa the best as she enters into retirement."

Please join our community in congratulating and thanking Lisa for what has been an outstanding career!



Lisa Moorman

Jonathon Raley joins JCC staff as Engagement & Development Director

By Amy Joseph Landon
Community Editor



Jonathon Raley

Jonathon Raley has been named Engagement and Development Director at the Trager Family JCC.

Born in Bullitt County, Kentucky, Jonathon attended the University of Louisville, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Communication with a concentration in Mass Media Broadcasting and PR. He minored in English and Religious Studies. Jonathon lives in Louisville with his husband, two teenaged kids, and two dogs.

His interest in world religions propelled him into his first job at Bethlehem High School in Bardstown, KY, where he taught Religion. He calls it "one of the most rewarding jobs you could have" because he experienced eye-opening moments where students understood there was a larger world around them. He discovered early on, that though his job was to teach his students about world religions, he learned a lot from them, too. Years later, his connection with his students

has not diminished. "I still consider them 'my kids'" Raley explains, "it's amazing to see their impact on the world."

He continued to make an impact on families while working at Gilda's Club. Working in Development, he planned events that helped their mission of providing emotional and social support for people living with cancer along with their friends and family. Throughout the planning process, he appreciated accounting for varying perspectives, and seeing how a great event can leave an amazing impact beyond fundraising, becoming a way to bring people together. It was there he found his love of community building.

From these experiences, he says, "I learned from some of the best." His connection to the Trager Family JCC began when he joined the fitness center. After coming to the facility regularly, he recognized, "this mission is more than just the four walls – it's really about the people." He realized people can find meaning in all stages of life – there is something for everyone here. "Trying to wrap my mind around the breadth of what we do here is the biggest challenge so far. Seeing what we do and how it brings the community together has been really eye-opening. The kind, open, and welcoming members have really been phenomenal."

He is honored to be in a new position and to see where it leads. He is looking forward to seeing events, engagement, and fundraising from a 30,000-foot view. He is interested to see how all of our departments, from CenterStage to Early Learning Center to Aquatics interact, and how those teams can create programs that excite, unite and engage our community. Mostly, he is excited about meeting our members and getting to form relationships with so many people who interact with the JCC.

Jonathon would love to meet you for coffee, lunch, or a post-workout drink of water. Feel free to reach out to him to say hello at jralley@jewishlouisville.org.

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For questions about PJ Library contact Gab Melendez at gmelendez@jewishlouisville.org

NEWS

Amid our quick-click, tech-driven world, let's remember the power of human connection



Sara's View

Sara Klein Wagner

Everything we want seems to be just a click away. You want something to eat? It'll be here in minutes from anywhere in Louisville. Need a flight? You can travel across the world with the tap of a screen. Want to know anything at all? Mr. Google can answer all your questions. We can even check what our friends are doing on Instagram or Facebook at any hour. It's all merely a touchscreen or a "hey Siri" away. Yes, it seems everything is easy if we're attached to our phones.

Yet, amid this world of instant gratification, I have begun to wonder about the implications for Jewish philanthropy. Giving online is just as easy as anything else. In fact, with a quick post, the generation of an email, or a text, we can reach hundreds or thousands of people in the blink of an eye, asking to support meaningful missions and causes from our Jewish lens. This is clearly impactful. But this has also renewed in me the need to refocus on the interpersonal connection that must accompany the new digital age including philanthropy. In short, this new age is making me lean into the power of "individuals."

Of course, the Jewish Federation, like many Jewish philanthropies, existed way before this recent technology. In fact, our collective giving to the Jewish Federation here in Louisville dates back more than 90 years. And for 33 of those 90 years, I have had the privilege of participating as a Jewish professional and giving to those annual campaigns (yes, I stared when I was ten).

Throughout my professional life in Louisville, I have been awestruck by the generosity of our donors; you have contributed tens of millions of dollars to ensure we can fulfill every part of our mission. One of the first, Operation Exodus, happened just as I arrived back in Louisville. In the three decades since then, I have had a front row seat as we rescued Jews from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. I have witnessed campaigns that provided resettlement and relief here and in Israel. I have been able to shake hands and hug our friends from Ukraine and Addis Ababa. Our collective efforts have helped teens go on the March of the Living and we have provided medical equipment to the Western Galilee hospital. Just this week, our Federation Board of Directors approved an \$18,000 grant to help build a safe room for both Arab and Israeli children in a shared kindergarten I visited last month.

33 years of experiencing change for the good. The efforts you, our donors, support are constant and cumulative, and my gratitude cannot be measured. I simply want to say thank you for letting me witness your neshamah and your love of the Jewish people and Jewish causes.

And I do want to stress that this impact is cumulative. Three decades have flown by and, I am now seeing the teens I traveled with on the March of the Living raising children of their own and enabling them to live Jewish lives. Past young leaders now serve as our Board members and representatives of our executive team. In the full circle of impact, our own BBYO alum, Abigail Goldberg just returned from Israel as a named Merrin Fellow. She was empowered there to teach the next generation of leaders who will continue to strengthen Jewish life. L'Dor v'Dor, our Federation annual campaign continues to invest in people.

We are approaching the end of the 2024 Federation annual campaign Here for Good. We are well on our way to an impactful giving season, and I am sure you have seen emails and texts from us about it. As said at the outset, these innovative technologies that are pulling us together should not isolate us from the people we are helping. We must remember that the buttons we "click" to give or the email with an ask is connected to a person. We must lean into that.

In fact, no amount of technology can take the place of our "people connection." The past 33 years have proven that to me. Today, we still care for our most vulnerable, we still feed our elderly, we still provide Gather Grants and support platforms for Jewish meaning and engagement.

There is nothing on a phone or computer that can substitute for the welcoming, inviting, and safe environments we provide for people to gather. We are also meeting the challenges of the moment - growing numbers of people who are isolated and lonely, rising antisemitism, and polarization all around us. That can only be combated with connections to people.

Yes, our team of volunteer leaders and Jewish professionals understand the world we live in and the desire for quick answers and instant results, but our work of strengthening and caring for Jewish life in Louisville and across the globe is a lifetime endeavor rather than an instantaneous fix. It takes work and it takes you.

We all need to walk alongside one another on our journey, and we all need to support our youngest and oldest community members and everyone in between. That happens when we connect with people. This year, take a few minutes to remember that the connections we really seek are not found in technology, they are found with other people, so join us as we charge into a stronger, more vibrant Jewish future. Please, consider supporting the 2024 Annual Campaign and the people connections this campaign will make possible.

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

Louisville Sends Three Representatives to the PJ Library International Conference

By Laura Arfa, Alison Roemer, and Gab Melendez
Guest Columnists

The PJ Library International Conference took place in Springfield, Massachusetts on April 8 - 10. The theme of this year's conference was Simcha (Joy). Thanks to our partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Louisville sent PJ Library Parent and Community Volunteer Laura Arfa, Gab Melendez, Jewish Program Outreach Manager, and Alison Roemer, Senior Director, Jewish Journey and Experiences, to the conference. The attendees discussed how to find and create moments of joy through our Jewish values and bring these moments back to share with our own communities.

Approximately 300 attendees from 13 different countries committed to finding ways to connect Jewish families through the Jewish values PJ Library books offer. The Louisville attendees participated in sessions about designing highly curated experiences for families, which inspire people to continue to actively participate in future events. The conference

featured many peer-learning sessions focused on building relationships with children, parents, and grandparents to get entire family units more involved in their Jewish communities. Alison Roemer feels that "one of the best parts of the conference is sharing ideas with other PJ Library professionals and making connections that will continue through the year." The Louisville cohort had several opportunities to collaborate with our friends from the Federation of the Bluegrass (in Lexington) and are planning a joint program in the summer.

Interactive sessions focused on finding ways to be creative with the use of art to share the values that are most important to us. Other sessions demonstrated how music can touch the soul and that cooking Jewish food passed down through families for generations can bring joy and comfort during a Shabbat dinner and other special holidays. Each theme not only helps shape our Jewish identity, but also connect us through ideas and values we can all share and enjoy together. The team came back ready to create new programming throughout the year and are excited to get started.



Young Adult Seminar Budapest, Hungary

September 17-22, 2024

Explore beautiful Budapest, participate in inspirational workshops, make life-long connections!

A highly subsidized trip of a lifetime for Jewish 25-45 year olds.
Travel and learn with peers from Israel, Hungary and the U.S.
Deadline to register is May 15, 2024.

For more information, contact Amy Fouts at p2g@jewishlouisville.org.

P2G Book Club

A captivating book club discussion centered around *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. This novel was inspired by the true story of the Sarajevo Haggadah.



***Date Change* June 9, 2024, 1 p.m., Zoom**
RSVP: tinyurl.com/P2GBookMay2024

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

More P2G events happening with the Israeli Arts and Culture Festival.
Learn more at jewishlouisville.org/israeliartsandculture.

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COMMUNITY

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

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are May 20 for publication on May 31 and June 17 for publication on June 28.

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

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

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

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

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

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FORUM

GREENBERG steve@greenberg-art.com



For American Jews, 2023 was yet another year of rising hate



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

Anyone doubting the fraught nature of contemporary American Jewish life need only to scan the Anti-Defamation League's recently released annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents to be reminded – via statistic after sobering statistic – that we are living in a world of abundant hurt and hate.

"In 2023, ADL tabulated 8,873 antisemitic incidents across the United States," begins a summary of findings announced April 16. "This represents a 140% increase from the 3,698 incidents recorded in 2022 and is the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. In fact, ADL tracked more incidents in 2023 than in the previous three years combined."

More specifically, "incidents increased in all major Audit categories. Assault incidents increased by 45% to 161 incidents, vandalism increased 69% to 2,177 incidents and harassment increased 184% to 6,535 incidents."

Not surprisingly, October 7 was the tipping-point impetus for the sharpest jump in such occurrences. "Between October 7 and the end of 2023, ADL tabulated 5,204 incidents -- more than the incident total for the whole of 2022." Indeed, "after October 7, ADL observed explicitly antisemitic and anti-Zionist rhetoric at 1,352 anti-Israel rallies across the United States. Leaving out all Israel-related incidents,

antisemitic incidents still rose by 65% to 5,711 over the 3,457 non-Israel-related incidents recorded in 2022."

That's a lot of numbers, and I wouldn't blame you if your eyes began to glaze over amid this panoply of depressing data points. The ADL's results confirm – not that there was any real doubt – how our nation has fragmented into hyper-divisive identity groups. They regard Jews at best with suspicion, and at worst with pure, unabashed hatred... "This represents a remarkable reversal from the early 2010s, when antisemitic incidents were at some of the lowest levels in the history of the Audit."

Consider what that means. In scarcely more than a decade, we've gone from a reality defined by relative tolerance and respect between Jews and non-Jews, to a skewed circumstance in which Jewish Americans all too often find themselves under siege.

Tellingly, ADL refined its statistical methodology in the wake of the October 7 attacks by Hamas, "when we saw an explosion of anti-Israel activism that incorporated expressions of opposition to Zionism, as well as support for resistance against Israel or Zionists that could be perceived as supporting terrorism or attacks on Jews, Israelis or Zionists."

"When they occur during public activism (such as at protests), in confrontations between individuals or in the form of vandalism (such as graffiti), these expressions constitute an implicit attack on the great majority of American Jews who view a relationship with Israel to be an important part of their religious, cultural and/or social identities. Such rhetoric can be traumatizing to many American Jews and has led to their exclusion from some spaces simply because of that element of how they define and express their Jewishness."

Two elements stand out here. The first alludes to how the word "Zionism" – rooted in the late 19th-century movement by European Jews to establish a homeland free of endemic persecution – has been demonized into a synonym for apartheid occupation and accusations of genocide. The second reflects how the mere act of attending a synagogue service has become an exercise of risk versus reward.

These double flashpoints are indicative of how suspicion and antagonism surge forward in spasms of overwrought rhetoric – rhetoric that can easily descend into raw, undisguised and unapologetic violence, or threat of violence. We see it on our streets, and on college campuses where some Jewish students no longer feel safe, as protests over the war in Gaza become a conduit for outright hatred. The ADL Audit confirms what so many of us already know: to be Jewish is to be a potential target of America's darkest impulses.

You can read the complete Audit online at tinyurl.com/4v3d72tp.

A personal note: If you read JCRC Director Matt Golden's guest contribution in this space last month, you know that on March 19, I suffered a heart attack and underwent an emergency quadruple coronary artery bypass graft at Norton Audubon Hospital. The succeeding weeks have been a considerable challenge, and there are more to come. But I have been bolstered – physically, mentally and spiritually – by the extraordinary expressions of support from my wonderful colleagues, family, friends, clergy, and numerous others. To all of you – I offer thanks, peace, and the hope for mutual serenity.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community. To contact Andrew, email him at aadler@jewishlouisville.org.

FORUM

Jewish Heritage Month



JCRC

Matt Golden

We have celebrated Jewish Heritage Month in this country since 2006. This may be a little-known fact to you; it was assuredly a little-known fact to me until very recently. When the month-long commemoration was created, the goal was to “celebrate the rich history of the Jewish people in America and honor the great contributions they have made to our country.” In the 370 years since the first recorded arrival of a Jewish person to these shores in 1654, there is no question that a tiny population of Jews—never larger than it is now at around 2%—has contributed mightily to this country’s success.

When we speak about those contributions, we usually speak in terms of individual leaders who made a difference by their example. People like Francis Salvador, the first Jew ever elected to hold public office in the colonies and the first Jew to die, in August 1776, fighting for the Continental Army. Or Colonel Solomon Bush, the highest-ranking Jewish officer of the Revolution, who became the first Jew to join a Quaker abolitionist society to oppose slavery in 1782.

Let me say that I enjoy these histori-

cal anecdotes that accompany the now 18-year-old Jewish Heritage Month. As someone who enjoys history, I find meaning in studying Jewish people like Salvador and Bush from the birth of this country. But since the JHM commemoration is now 18 (and old enough to vote), I vote that we try to begin to think about it in a new way. Jewish heritage doesn’t need to be “long ago” or “far away” -- it should be part of the fabric of who we are. In short, for this month-long celebration to have meaning, we need to localize, we need to internalize, and we need to observe Jewish Heritage it in our midst.

First, let’s localize. Think about Max Nahm, a former chair of the Federal Reserve Bank here in Kentucky who helped convert Mammoth Cave into a National Park. Or while we’re on parks, Isaac Bernheim, who donated one of the largest parks in our region for the benefit of this area. Then there’s Adele Brandeis, an art administrator who helped preserve the art of Shakertown. Or Stephen Frank, a Jewish pioneer who died in the city that would become our state capital and who gave the place its name. So, if you go to Shakertown, or Frankfort, or Mammoth Cave or Bernheim during May, you can celebrate a little Jewish heritage, locally.

Then, let’s internalize. Lewis Dembitz, a Louisville City Attorney was a Kentucky delegate sent to an 1860 political convention to abolish slavery and pick a presidential candidate. The candidate chosen? A young man named Abraham Lincoln who was also Kentucky-born. Dembitz’s nephew, Louis Brandeis, also a Louisvillian, would become our nation’s first Jew-

ish Supreme Court Justice and one of the most fervent protectors of civil rights in American judicial history. Similarly, Rebecca Rosenthal Judah—whose placard appears outside our Trager Family JCC campus and whose family still lives in Louisville—worked to gain Louisville women the right to vote. Or Suzy Post who strove to guarantee rights for others during the civil rights movement as executive director of the Kentucky ACLU. Or living treasure John Rosenberg, a holocaust survivor who protected the rights of Eastern Kentuckians through the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund. So, many of the rights and freedoms we enjoy and that are a core part of our identities, were shaped in one small part or the other by a Jewish person from right around the corner. They impacted us.

Finally, let’s be a little more observant. When some people think about Jewish Heritage, I am afraid that they do not see it as a living legacy happening all around them. They are not seeing the contributions being made by local Jewish leaders right now, in this minute, who are shaping the institutions from a Jewish lens. We should do a better job in honoring them by simply opening our eyes. For that very reason, I am going to describe just a few of these folks without even naming them; you do them the honor of finding out who they are and to the Jewish Heritage that they have made and are making.

Some are easy to identify, we have a Mayor, Lieutenant Governor and Presidential Cabinet Director that you can find many days pedaling away on a stationary bike. But we also have a guy on the pickleball courts who led the Covid vaccination

initiative for our city during the worst epidemic of our lifetime. There’s the former judge who enforced desegregation in our schools who attends our Federation programming. Then there’s the person on our walking track, who, along with his wife, is helping keep the future of journalism alive at a Kentucky school that neither of them went to—this after a career advocating for First Amendment rights. Or the Kentucky prosecutor that made it her mission to protect the rights of the mentally infirm. Or the woman who spent the last decades advocating for exploited children right here in Louisville. Or the several women who are presently leading national Jewish organizations. These are local folks right here, right now, Jewish leaders who make Jewish heritage a living entity. There are so many that this small list does not do them justice.

As I said before, I had no idea that Jewish Heritage Month was a “thing.” So here is how I would ask that you celebrate it: localize it, internalize it, and be observant of those that are making our Jewish heritage as we speak. And if you would be so kind, do not be afraid to share with me some of the local Jewish leaders who have made, or are making, a difference in your life right now.

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.

May 9 - 19, 2024

Tickets On Sale!

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				9 7:30 P.M.		11 7:30 P.M.
12 2 P.M.				16 7:30 P.M.		18 7:30 P.M.
19 2 P.M.						

A Toast to Moms

Wine Tasting & Theatre Experience

A collaboration with LouVino

Saturday, May 11 | 6 p.m. | Trager Family JCC

Purchase tickets and learn more at
jccloouisville.org/toast-to-moms

CenterStage

at the Trager Family JCC

Questions? Contact us at JAartsIdeas@jewishlouisville.org or call (502) 238-2797.

To Purchase

Scan the QR code

or visit,
jccloouisville.org/centerstage

PICTURE THIS: JEWSHI, A JEWISH EVENT



Jew-shi Adult Cooking Class was held at The Temple on Sunday, April 14. Participants discovered the art of blending traditions into delectable bites.

(Photos provided by The Temple)



Your Values and Traditions Can Live Forever

Your legacy gift can make it happen!



Be remembered forever with a gift to the Jewish Federation of Louisville in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

To learn more about leaving a legacy, contact Frances Skolnick at fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org.

SAVE THE DATE



*International
Lion of Judah
Conference*

Jan. 12-14, 2025

Don't miss out. Registration opens summer 2024. Open to philanthropists recognized as Lion of Judah in their local communities.

Visit lionconference.org for updates.

Contact Daniele Hurwitz, Senior Director Women's Philanthropy, at dhurwitz@jewishlouisville.org or 502-238-2780 for more information.

PICTURE THIS: PLAYFUL PLATE

PLAYFUL PLATE

Continued from page 1

experiences in Israel, having lived there for several years, served as another reminder of our connections to our friends and family in Israel. She reminded everyone in the room that one of the most important things we can do to help those across the globe is to not forget what is happening in Israel – to keep talking about it, and not to let it get lost in the shuffle of daily life.

Jill recalled her childhood without many opportunities to play with other kids because of her physical differences. Hearing her first-hand accounts of how important inclusion is and why all kids should have access to play together were inspiring. Her story reminds us of how this new playground, in addition to our inclusivity program at Camp J, are truly experiences some members of our community can only get at the Trager Family JCC.

This event was a great success, helping raise \$36,000 toward our goal for the playground. A special thanks to the event committee, led by Linda Schuster and Linda Spielberg.

Jennifer Tuvlin reiterated, “The crowd was fantastic, and it demonstrated that our community loves to come together and support the needs of not just the Jewish community but greater Louisville.”



Pictured L-R: Marlene Schaffer, Carole Spielberg, Ben Schaffer



Pictured L-R: Chuck O’Koon, Bruce Roth, Larry Kaplin



Pictured L-R: Karen Sherman, Suzanne Dougherty, Alayna Altman

(All photos by Kathryn Harrington)



Pictured L-R: Co-Chairs Linda Spielberg and Linda Schuster with Chef Adeena Sussman



Pictured L-R: Abby Green, Rebecca French, Carly Mason



Pictured L-R: Joanie Lustig, Margie and Bob Kohn, Chef Adeena Sussman, David Kohn



Chef Adeena Sussman and Host/Emcee Tony Vanetti

Thank you



FOR HELPING MAKE OUR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND A REALITY BY SPONSORING A PLAYFUL PLATE WITH CHEF ADEENA SUSSMAN

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Silver Sponsors:



Councilman
Brent Ackerson

THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS
Linda Spielberg & Linda Schuster, Co-chairs

Beth Salamon, Carlyn Altman, Ellana Bessen, Marlene Schaffer, Samantha Simon, Rebecca French, Amanda Blieden & Debbie Weinstein

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Heaven Hill Brands
What Chefs Want



Join us!

Ribbon Cutting & Naming Ceremony for the **Blieden Family Playground** at the Trager Family JCC

Monday, May 13 • 10:30AM

This inclusive play area will be shared with the entire Louisville community – providing a space where children with differing abilities will be able to play alongside their friends.



PICTURE THIS: SENIOR SEDER



The Intergenerational, Interfaith Model Seder was sponsored by the Bensinger Family in memory of Judith Bensinger. Rabbi Ben Freed led the Seder with the LBSY students and Chef Helen Impellizzeri provided a beautifully catered meal to follow the Model Seder.



Carl Bensinger



Dive into **Aquatics**

Swim Lessons are Available for All Ages at All Levels!

J Trager Family JCC

For Information:
jewishlouisville.org/swimschool
 502-238-2758
swimschool@jewishlouisville.org

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REPUBLIC BANK

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STANDARD CLUB

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SUPPORTING TWO ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE.

JFCS | **J** Trager Family Jewish Community Center

FOR INFORMATION:
ANGIE FLEITZ, AFLEITZ@JEWISHLouisville.org

PICTURE THIS: CAMP J - SPRING BREAK CAMP



The Camp J building came alive with activity the first week of April as kids from across the city joined us for a week-long adventure during Spring Break Camp.



Build Community with a Gather Grant

Gather Grants are a path to creating the most inclusive, vibrant and welcoming Jewish Louisville possible. The Jewish Federation is offering young adults (25-45) the opportunity to create their own Jewish experiences, through Gather Grants.

WHO? Young adults between 25-45 years old

WHAT? Subsidized programs, events and experiences that are Jewish in nature; think Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, or events bringing Jews together.

HOW? Submit an application today!
Find the application at JewishLouisville.org/nextgen or contact Daniele Hurwitz at dhurwitz@jewishlouisville.org for more information.





Jewish Lou

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Be part of something remarkable!

Our recent Community study of Jewish Louisville underscored the characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors reflected by the wide spectrum of Jewish-identifying individuals in the Louisville region.

The results are illuminating – charting a path toward creating the most inclusive, vibrant, and welcoming Jewish Louisville possible.

We are gathering groups that represent Generation X and active adults age 65+ for think tanks on May 20 to share ideas and help shape where we are going.



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

Questions? Contact Alison Roemer, aroemer@JewishLouisville.org

ISRAELI ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, May 15 - Tuesday, Aug 6

- May 15* Knock Knock Theatre Production
- May 21* Dayan Family Concert
- June 2* Israel Family Festival
- June 2-5* Israeli Artist: Moshe Monzon
- June 6* Israeli Film
- June 26-Aug 6* Israel Photo Exhibit

Learn More JEWISHLouisville.org/ISRAELIARTSANDCULTURE



This program is proudly supported by:



Kohn-Berman Endowment for the Arts Fund • Leon T. & Ursel Eichengreen Fuchs Music Fund • Irving Klempner Jewish Cultural Arts Fund
Murrel D. and Tobie Marks Klein Jewish Holidays Fund • Dr. Louis & Bea Brownstein Ringol Performing Artist Fund
Annette Simon Sagerman Special Events Fund • Arthur David Kreitman Jewish Performing Arts Fund

NEWS

Celebrating Israeli Art and Culture: A Vibrant Festival Experience Coming in May

By Tricia Kling Siegwald
Senior Director of Festivals and Special Events

The past six months in Israel have been unlike any other in its history. But while our hearts are heavy, we also hope for a time when strife gives way to lives rich with peace and promise. In that spirit, and in honor of Israel's 76th birthday, the Trager Family JCC is celebrating Israel's vibrant arts and cultural heritage with a nearly three-month deep dive into the expressive soul of this ever-resilient nation.

The Israeli Arts & Culture Festival – running May 15 through Aug. 6 – will showcase a broad array of Israeli theatre, music, film, family activities, visual arts and more. The committee, led by Becky Admony, has carefully curated a festival with something for everyone. "This year, more than ever, it is crucial to join one another and celebrate our identity, and independence as Jews. Of course, not forgetting and remembering the ones that are still being held in captivity and pleading for their freedom. By doing so, we will have a sense of unity, and being part of something big. The festival will include all types of activities, for all ages of groups," says Admony.

The festival kicks off with a production of *Knock Knock*, which is written and performed by Israeli Niv Petel. Petel's emotional one-man show portrays a single mother whose job as an army liaison officer is to knock on the doors of families and deliver the worst possible news to the parents of young children killed during compulsory military service. Her world is turned upside down when the time comes for her only son to wear the army uniform. This heartwarming story blends drama and comedy, evokes an emotionally rich narrative about a family facing the call of war. Ticket-sale proceeds from *Knock Knock* will be donated to support trauma and relief efforts in the Western Galilee, Israel.

Enjoy the sites of Jerusalem from the comfort of your own home with Israeli Educator and Guide, Muki Jankelowitz, who will be joining us via Zoom. Jankelowitz, previously Director of Education Services at the Israel JCC Association, will guide us through a virtual exploration of Jerusalem's iconic landmarks, sacred sites, and hidden gems. Immerse yourself in the rich history and diverse culture of this timeless city.

Music lovers won't want to miss the Dayan Family Concert which will showcase the best of Israeli music through

the generations. Avi, Shuli & Moshe Dayan are professional musicians with deep experience performing around the world. Their show combines Israeli music with photos of the Israeli landscape and descriptions from the Dayans throughout the performance. RSVP is required.

Our Family Festival will be a day filled with fun Israel-related arts & crafts, face painting, a bounce house, a Dead Sea mud station, music, storytelling and more in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium. Israeli artist Moshe Monzon and his wife Goldie will join us for the festival to showcase and sell beautiful Israel created jewelry, tapestries, kippot, mezuzahs and more. If you can't make the festival, stop by the Trager Family JCC lobby each day through June 5 to see their beautiful creations.

An Israeli-produced film will be a highlight for any film buff. Israeli cinema has gained international acclaim for its compelling storytelling, artistic vision, and exploration of Israel. The festival's film will be selected soon. Stay tuned to jewishlouisville.org/IsraeliArtAndCulture for a film announcement.

To complete the full Israel experience of the Arts and Culture Festival, the Trager Family JCC will host a photo

exhibit, *Israel Through Our Eyes*. The community is invited to submit captivating images captured by you, to be selected and shown in this exhibition that will highlight the beauty, diversity, and complexity of Israel and its land.

Entries are open now at jewishlouisville.org/IsraeliArtsAndCulture now. All are invited and encouraged to submit digital photographs. We welcome all photos, from stunning landscapes and architectural wonders to intimate portraits and candid snapshots, or any image that meets the exhibit's goal of offering a visual perspective of Israel that evokes emotions or sparks curiosity.

Stop by and immerse yourself in these photos while gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of its people, culture, and heritage.

We're looking forward to celebrating Israel's rich culture with you. We hope you'll join us for one of these many pieces of Israel we can bring to the Louisville community, whether it's theater, music, film, or photography, the festival promises a rich tapestry of experiences celebrating Israel. Whether it is through laughter, tears, or moments of reflection, the festival reminds us of the power of art to unite, inspire, and transform lives.



Perform the Mitzvah of Hospitality: Be a Host Family

Louisville will have two *ShinShinim* as members of our community from August 2024 - July 2025.

ShinShinim are a select group of promising Israeli high school graduates who choose to defer their enlistments in the Israel Defense Forces so that they can spend a year as Israeli ambassadors in communities around the world.

Our *ShinShinim* need a place to call home and are relying on the warmth and southern hospitality of Louisville families.

Hosting a young Israeli in your home is an exciting and enriching opportunity for the entire family. Host families everywhere regard this as a deeply meaningful experience. Hosting a *Shinshin* may only last a few months, but the relationships last a lifetime.

To learn more, visit
jewishlouisville.org/shinshinim



Annual Community Yom HaShoah Program

featuring
The Lviv Sewer Diaries
Guest Speaker David Lee Preston



Monday, May 6, 2024, 7 p.m.
at Keneseth Israel Congregation

Please register at jewishlouisville.org/yomhashoah2024



JFCS MOSAIC Awards Celebrate, Cultivate Diversity

Jewish Family & Career Services has served the refugee and immigrant population in Louisville for over 115 years. To honor this history, JFCS created the *Multicultural Opportunities for Success and Achievement in our Community* (MOSAIC) Awards in 2006 as a way to highlight those in the refugee and immigrant community who have made an incredible impact here in greater Louisville.

Since 2006, 87 outstanding individuals have been named JFCS MOSAIC Awards Honorees and recognized for the contributions they have made to better the quality of life for all in Louisville. A large part of those contributions come from the unique perspective they bring as refugees and immigrants.

On May 14, we will gather at the Mellwood Art Center to once again honor a new cohort of Louisvillians whose actions and deeds stand as a shining example of what can be accomplished through passion, perseverance, and hard work. As one past honoree described it, the evening is an opportunity to not only celebrate, but also cultivate the diversity that Louisville uniquely brings to the region.

More than any other single event, the JFCS MOSAIC Awards embodies the Jewish values JFCS was founded on. They show our respect for the undeniable humanity of each person (Kavod). They prove our actions are rooted in compassion and empathy (Chesed). The awards themselves help build connections that strengthen individuals and build community (Kehillah). They highlight JFCS' advocacy

to foster fairness and equality (Tzedek), and they recognize those whose "service to others" has proven to hold the power to repair our world (Avodah).

While initially an award for individuals, there are companies and corporations here in Louisville who recognize the potential of a strong and vibrant immigrant and refugee community, and work to make tangible change to support them in the workplace. For this reason, JFCS added the "Corporate Changemaker" Award to this year's MOSAIC Awards celebration. The inaugural "Corporate Changemaker" Award will go to GE Appliances for the work they do to support refugees through sustainable employment and language access.

When immigrants and refugees come to this country, they bring their diverse cultures, their unique experiences, and their hope for a better future - all of which make our community stronger and more vibrant.

Over the course of the past year, JFCS has expanded services for refugees and immigrants significantly through multiyear federal and private foundation grants. One such program helps new refugees save for a house, car, education or to start a business through a match savings program. JFCS is also working with employers in creating a safe space for refugees and immigrants who work at their company. Additionally, JFCS is working with older adults where language barriers are an issue with waivers for the citizenship test. Thanks to funding from the Jewish Heritage Fund, JFCS is working with other agencies in a refugee and immigrant youth data collection project to find out



Since 2006, the JFCS MOSAIC Awards has honored 87 outstanding individuals from the immigrant and refugee community for their contributions to Louisville and becoming leaders, changemakers and humanitarians in our community.

the specific needs of these youth in our community and how we can serve them.

In April, Forbes Magazine ranked Louisville seventh on its list of "best cities to move to" based on indicators like low crime, inflation, and overall quality of life, prompting the Courier-Journal to write "There's a reason Louisville has been called Possibility City."

The possibilities truly are endless here, and much of that is owed to our welcoming of immigrants and refugees

to our community. From individuals and families who come to America with a dream and the determination to make it a reality, to businesses and companies like GE Appliances who create a thriving work life for them, to organizations like JFCS that help them become established in our community, Louisville is a better place because of the immigrants and refugees who have come to call our great city home!

We hope you will join JFCS this year on May 14 and help us celebrate diversity!

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THE JFCS MOSAIC AWARDS

New for 2024
Corporate Changemaker Award

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MAY 14
6 PM
Mellwood Arts Center

Thanks to our title Avodah (Service) Sponsor
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University of Louisville

Amos Izerimana
Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs

Juanita Perez
La Casita Center

Dr. Patrick Pössel
College of Education and Human Development
University of Louisville

Dr. Waqar Saleem
UofL Health

Scan for individual or table reservations

JFCS
Expanding Possibilities For All

Services for Immigrants & Refugees

Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) believes all in Greater Louisville should live with dignity and purpose. We welcome refugees and immigrants and have a variety of programs and services to support you in your journey.

- N-648 Waiver Assistance**
N-648 waiver available for individuals to access the citizenship test.
- Career Assistance**
Career laddering and credentialing services for refugees and immigrants.
- Match Savings Benefits**
Match Savings program for a house, car, education, or capital for starting a small business.
- Start a Small Business**
Small business advising, technical assistance, and loans for entrepreneurs.

NEWS/NEWSMAKERS

Louisville area teen Abigail Berger Named a StandWithUs Jewish Teen Intern

Abigail Berger was selected to be a StandWithUs Kenneth Leventhal High School Intern for the 2024-2025 school year. The applicant for this competitive program must be nominated by a teacher, mentor or community leader. The StandWithUs Kenneth Leventhal High School Internship is a year-long program for student leaders in 11th and 12th grades who want to proactively impact their local schools and communities. Leventhal Interns learn about Israel, how to effectively combat antisemitism, and gain leadership skills. The interns then share this education with their peers through interactive and creative initiatives and programs. Leventhal Interns will travel to Los Angeles for two leadership conferences during the school year. They'll hear from world renowned speakers, build relationships with other student leaders, and train with StandWithUs staff members.

Abby is a rising senior at Floyd Central High School in Floyds Knobs, Ind. where she is one of the only Jewish students. She is a teaching assistant for the second grade at The Temple Religious School and will be a Counselor-in-Training at Beber Camp this summer. As the Executive Producer of the high school TV programs, she has produced shows with Jewish content and plans to attend college and study broadcast communications.

Louisville Native Deborah Cohen Named Executive Director of Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs at Northwestern University

Deborah Cohen, the Richard W. Leopold Professor of History in Northwestern's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, has been named executive director of the Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs effective immediately. A scholar of European and global history, Cohen has served as interim director of the Buffett Institute since January.

As executive director, Cohen will oversee the Buffett Institute's mission to foster interdisciplinary teaching and research about the world beyond the borders of the United States. The Buffett Institute connects researchers from Northwestern's 12 schools to government, industry, nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations worldwide. In all its endeavors, the Buffett Institute brings academic expertise to bear on

the challenges facing people around the globe today.

Elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2018, Cohen has held fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the National Humanities Center, the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, the American Council of Learned Societies (Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship) and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

At Northwestern, Cohen has been awarded the Clarence ver Steeg Faculty Award for her mentorship of graduate students and the Charles Deering McCormick Professorship for excellence in teaching. From 2020-23, she served as chair of the history department.

Cohen was raised in Louisville, where she enjoyed JCC activities. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and taught at Brown University before joining the Northwestern faculty in 2010.

Louisville teen, Leah Schuhmann, Selected as a Designer in Annual KMAC Couture

Leah Schuhmann was selected to participate in designing, fabricating, and then modeling an original design for the annual KMAC Couture event at KMAC Museum. This year's theme was Runway for the Roses. The selection process is rigorous, and it is a great accomplishment to be chosen.

Leah is currently a senior at duPont Manual High School and is active in

BBYO. She is the daughter of Keneseth Israel Cantor, Sharon Hordes.

Chabad of Kentucky Pioneers Innovative Jewish Cultural Programs, Combating Antisemitism with Education and Unity

In an inspiring endeavor to foster cultural diversity and combat antisemitism, Chabad of Kentucky has embarked on a groundbreaking series of Jewish cultural programs, captivating audiences with immersive experiences that bring ancient traditions to life. Spearheading this initiative is Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, Regional Director of Chabad of Kentucky, who seeks to share a vision of enriching both the Jewish and general community with vibrant celebrations of Jewish heritage.

The inaugural program, a captivating twist on the Passover story and the traditional matza bakery, left attendees spellbound as they were transported through time via a state-of-the-art 25-ft wide angle screen, synchronized projectors, and enveloping surround sound. Actors skillfully portrayed the epic narrative of The Exodus, captivating the imaginations of all who attended. From witnessing the miraculous transformation of water into blood to joining Pharaoh in his humorous refrain of "Who let the frogs out?", the experience was both educational and entertaining.

Students at the Louisville Beit Sefer

Yachad (LBSY) were particularly enthralled, actively participating in the ancient art of matzah-making. Guided by experienced mentors, each participant eagerly embraced the process, from sifting and grinding to rolling and baking their own individual matzah. Through hands-on engagement, they forged deep connections to their heritage, instilling a sense of pride and belonging.

Looking ahead, Rabbi Litvin revealed plans for the next installment in the series: "Jews and Chocolate," slated for August 18 - 19, 2024. This delectable journey will explore the rich history of Jews' contributions to the world of chocolate, tracing their pivotal role in bringing this beloved treat to the New World. Participants will have the unique opportunity to craft their own chocolate delights and truffles, immersing themselves in a sensory experience that celebrates both tradition and innovation.

For those eager to partake in the upcoming "Jews and Chocolate" program or learn more about future events, inquiries can be directed to Rabbi Litvin at Rabbi@Chabadky.com. All are invited to join the Chabad Jewish Cultural Initiative on a journey of discovery, celebration, and solidarity, enriching lives and building a brighter future for all.

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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun is celebrating Derby Shabbat on the first Saturday in May! Join us May 4 at 10 a.m. and wear your Derby hat. After services, the Kiddush lunch will be sponsored by Rabbi Robert and Deborah Slosberg in honor of their 70th birthdays. All are warmly invited to join us for the celebration.

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, at 12:30 p.m., Adath Jeshurun and the Speed Art Museum will present A Photographic Memory, directed by Rachel Elizabeth Seed. The director will appear following the film's showing for an in-person discussion. The showing is free, and tickets will be distributed from the Speed Cinema box office kiosk starting at 12:00 p.m. Filmmaker Rachel Elizabeth Seed was only 18 months old when her mother, renowned journalist Sheila Turner Seed—an ambitious Jewish intellectual well ahead of her time—unexpectedly passed away. Driven by a desire to uncover what her mother left behind; Seed embarks on a journey to meet with people whose lives were touched by her. This program has been made possible through generous support from the Stuart A. Handmaker L'Dor VaDor Fund. For more information, visit www.adathjeshurun.com.

There's nothing like gathering around a table for Shabbat dinner with friends. Join us at Adath Jeshurun on Friday, May 17 for food, friendship, and fun. The meal will take place following the conclusion of Kabbalat Shabbat services around 7 p.m. This is a potluck meal featuring shared vegetarian dishes. The dinner is free of charge and open to the community. Visit www.adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck for complete food guidelines and to RSVP.

Chabad of Kentucky

A new JLI (Jewish Learning Institute) helping to guide people through some of the most complex medical issues will be offered at the JCC Trager Family JCC. The four-part class will be led by Rabbi Avrohom Litvin and will be presented on four consecutive Wednesday nights, starting on May 15 at 7:30 pm.

The first class will look at emerging new treatments and the risks involved. Discover how Judaism guides a patient who is faced with risking their life in the hope of extending their life. Class Two will focus on the precarious balance of extending life and reducing suffering. Students will discover how Judaism values a dignified approach to end-of-life issues.

Class Three will explore questions of pregnancy through the lens of Jewish texts, including the question: Is a fetus a human life or part of the mother's body? Class Four will focus on the Jewish view outlining the respect due to the human body and how the sanctity of human life continues even after death.

The cost for the four-week course is \$89, including textbook. For more information or to sign up, please call Rabbi Litvin at 502-235-5770 or email chabad-ky@gmail.com.

Chavurat Shalom

We've got an amazing array of programming lined up this month. Lunch will start at noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium, unless noted below, and our program will start at 1 p.m. All programs will also be available via Zoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, May 2 - Jessica Hyden will delight us with her beautiful harp music. Lunch will include deli platter, beef vegetable soup, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cupcakes.

Thursday, May 9 - Beth Olliges will entertain us with a spring sing along. Lunch will include salmon cakes, mashed potatoes, green peas and carrots, cole slaw, fresh fruit, and strawberry trifle.

Thursday, May 16 - No Chavurat Shalom since it's time for Senior University 2024! See more details below.

Thursday, May 23 - Pianist David Shapiro will play a lovely variety of music for us. Lunch will include barbecue chicken, roasted potatoes green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate spoon cake.

Thursday, May 30 - Singer, songwriter, guitarist Tyrone Cotton returns with his heartwarming musical style. Lunch will include beef hot dogs, baked beans, broccoli salad, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

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 sarahharlan86@gmail.com.

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

Senior University 2024 is coming up this month on Thursday, May 16. We've got a terrific lineup of engaging and entertaining speakers and performers planned. We'll start with a light breakfast and a captivating opening presentation. Then we'll move to our inspiring and informational workshops, where you'll be able to choose among: Dr. David Finke, CEO of JFCS; Rabbi David Ariel-Joel; Reverend Dr. Johanna Bos; and elder law attorney, Lee Shaw. We'll all gather together at the end of this wonderful day for a performance by (Grammy-winning) Louisville Orchestra musicians Kathy and Matt Karr.

And it wouldn't be Senior University without Mickey, Carol, and Maureen Heideman's famous mushroom barley soup for lunch. Let us know that you'll be joining your friends from 9:30 am-3:30 pm for this engaging, fascinating, enriching day of learning and camaraderie at The Temple. RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 or online at thetemplelouky.org/senior-university by Thursday, May 9. The cost is only \$20 for a full day of learning and lunching with your community friends.

Hadassah of Louisville

#EndtheSilence, Hear Our Voice Community Workshop
Sunday, April 28, 2024 · 1:30 pm ET; Registration required by April 25 www.events.hadassah.org/Louisville-Voice. Join us for a community workshop on education, advocacy, and healing from the sexual violence against Israeli women on October 7, consisting of a meaningful conversation on gender-based violence (GBV) as a tactic of war. This non-political discussion will focus on expanding our understanding of the impact of GBV and war trauma around the world, as well as the effect on our community. The discussion will include reflection on global and local opportunities that support healing and peacemaking. Our facilitator is Dr. Susan Rhema, LCSW, PhD, from the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work and Family Science. Dr. Rhema has extensive experience working with clients who have been affected by war violence. Questions? Michelle at 502.645.4739

Jewish Family & Career Services

TICKETS ON SALE NOW The 2024 JFCS MOSAIC Awards is May 14, at the Mellwood Art Center. Join us for a night of inspiration as we honor five outstanding individuals who came to this country as immigrants, refugees, or is a first-generation American and have become leaders, changemakers and humanitarians in the Louisville community. Along with these outstanding individuals, we are honored to name GE Appliances as the first recipient of the new Corporate Changemaker Award. Individual and table reservations available at: one.bidpal.net/2024jfcsmosaic/ticketing. Corporate sponsorships still available at: cevans@jfcsloouisville.org.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Join us at Keneseth Israel on May 6 at 7 p.m. for the annual community Yom HaShoah commemoration, as we hear from author David Preston, who will speak about Phyllis Sterling Jacobs, a Holocaust Survivor who spent nearly two years underground in the sewer beneath Lviv. Mr. Preston will share her diary he recently uncovered. Members of the Jewish clergy and community will come together and commemorate those that lived and died during the Shoah. Register at jewishlouisville.org/yom-hashoah2024.

Help us learn more about the Louisville Jewish Community's interests. We hope you can attend one of the focus groups for two new demographics - Adults over 45. We'll welcome you to share your

thoughts and input -- and most important -- be a part of the creative spark behind the future of our Jewish community. Dates and times will be announced soon, but you can register now and we will be in touch as soon as details are released. Your time and commitment to this important project are appreciated. Go to jewishlouisville.org/502.0 and register, and we will be in touch.

Keneseth Israel

Keneseth Israel Congregation offers Daily Minyan services at 6:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 8:45 a.m. on Sunday at Adath Jeshurun, and 7:30 a.m. Monday and Thursday at Keneseth Israel. Minyan services are offered in person and on Zoom at tinyurl.com/kiczoom. Join us for Shabbat services Friday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services and Holiday services are offered in person and on YouTubeLive at tinyurl.com/KICyoutube-live. Please visit kenesethisrael.com for information.

Join us for a Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 12 at 11:30 a.m., hosted by the KI Sisterhood. The event will include an Intergenerational Fashion Show, with clothes provided by the NCJW Nearly New Shop. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$7 for children 4-11, free for children under 3. Reservations are due no later than May 5. Please send checks to Keneseth Israel sisterhood, c/o Sharon Czerkiewicz, 3200 Furman Blvd, 40220. No refunds.

Join the Keneseth Israel community on Sunday, May 19, as we fan out across Louisville and Southern Indiana to volunteer at a variety of local charities in need of help, such as environmental cleanup, serving food at a soup kitchen, helping in animal shelters, and so much more.

The day will begin with a community breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at Keneseth Israel. Then, everyone will go off to their respective community services sites. To sign up, go online at kenesethisrael.com/mitzvahday.

Kol Israel Community of Kentucky

Adat Ha'araphel -- Congregation of the Cloud -- Saturday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. These Zoom-based Shabbat morning services will take place on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Email taoadmin@taocenter.net for Zoom details.

Louisville Melton School

Why is the Hanukkah story in some

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

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Jewish Federation of Louisville

AROUND TOWN

Bibles, but not the Tanakh? What other stories of Jewish heroes and heroines (like Judith) or other gems of advice (from Solomon and Sirach) are out there? To find out, join Louisville Melton for *Almost Lost in Translation: Five Jewish Stories from the Septuagint*, a Louisville Melton Original course developed and taught by Dr. Melanie-Préjean Sullivan. Class will be held on Thursday mornings, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in-person at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, May 9 through June 6. Register at adathjeshurun.wufoo.com/forms/q17i3enj10au191/.

Refresh with us! In "Press Pause: Rest, Assured," we will explore Shabbat and the role of time in Judaism. Along with other prescribed Jewish practices that ask us to pause, reflect and refrain from business as usual. Together, we will reflect on the practices that allow us to start anew, week after week, and year after year. This course is taught by Rabbi Stan Miles and will run Thursdays from July 11 to August 15, 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. in-person at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Scholarships are available! Please contact Simon Isham at sisham@adathjeshurun.com for more information. Register at meltonschool.org/louisville.

Louisville Vaad HaKashruth

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

NCJW Louisville Chapter

Jewish Voice for Choice Award Breakfast

Save the date: NCJW's 2nd Annual Jewish Voice for Choice Award Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, May 22, from 7:45 - 9:30 am at the Trager Family JCC, featuring Kentucky State Senator Dr. Karen Berg as our keynote speaker. We'll be honoring this year's recipients of the Sonia and Dr. Ronald Levine Jewish Voice for Choice Award, Dr. Ernest Marshall and Carol Savkovich. Sponsorship opportunities available; call the NCJW office at 502-458-5566. Stay tuned for more details coming your way soon.

Are you concerned about the big election coming up this fall? Join our Government Outreach & Voter Engagement Committee and help us engage voters and advocate for reproductive freedom, improving the quality of life for women, children, and families, and promoting the Jewish ideals of social justice. For more information, contact Executive Director Sarah Harlan at executivedirector@ncjwlou.org or 502-458-5566 and let us know how you want to make a difference in this year's critical election.

Nearly New Shop

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. We will be closed on the 4th for Derby and on the 27th for Memorial Day.

We've got lots of great deals this month that will help you spruce up your wardrobe, get ready for Derby, or treat yourself, just because you can:

1st-3rd: 50% off hats
6th-11th: 30% off vintage clothing
13th-18th: 30% off shirts
20th-31st: 50% off jackets
24th: 30% off Fabulous Finds (always the last Friday of the month)

Temple Shalom

Temple Shalom's Tikkun Olam Team is bringing back the Chailands Chavurah, an ongoing series of events intended to inspire, inform and build community. Our first program, slated for Saturday, June 15, will be this year's Repair A-fair! an annual community-wide effort to provide free home improvement to qualifying homeowners over 60. If you are able to commit a few hours to help older and less fortunate Louisvillians with minor repairs and beautification, then please RSVP to Avery Kolers at chailands@templeshalomky.org. You don't have to be a skilled carpenter, electrician, etc. to help out.

The community is invited to join us for services Friday nights at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10:30. Watch the weekly eblasts from Community for updates as we plan some innovative new ways of celebrating Shabbat.

Mothers' Day Shabbat, Friday, May 10, 6:30 p.m. Join us as we honor Mothers during services, sponsored by WOTS, the Women of Temple Shalom. Services will include special readings and a special oneg. All are welcome!

The Temple

Join us for Saturday Torah Study with Rabbi David starts at 9 a.m. on Zoom and in person will be every Saturday. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to thetemplelouky.org/adult-education for more information.

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

This summer, Rabbi David will host a monthly hike. Sunday hiking adventures are for all ages; however, strollers are not recommended. The Temple will provide hikers with an awesome water bottle to not only ensure hydration but also as a keepsake for your own hikes. Our next hiking adventure will be on Sunday, June 2 at Bernheim Forest. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/hiking.

Every year, The Temple Brotherhood has an off-site Chinese dinner. This year, we will be at Jasmine Bistro on 2420 Lime Kiln Lane on Thursday, May 11 at 6 p.m. The dinner is included in Brotherhood dues. Non-members are welcome at \$25 per person. Business meeting is at 6:00 and dinner is at 6:30. Contact Michael Friedman to RSVP at mfriedman@sustainablemgt.com or 502-314-5687.

Join Carole Goldberg and her fabulous pie brigade for a special Oneg in honor of Mother's Day, following Shabbat Services on Friday, May 10.

Senior University 2024 is coming up this month on Thursday, May 16. We've got a terrific lineup of engaging and entertaining speakers and performers

planned. Let us know that you'll be joining your friends from 9:30 am-3:30 pm for this engaging, fascinating, enriching day of learning and camaraderie at The Temple. RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 or online at thetemplelouky.org/senior-university by Thursday, May 9. The cost is only \$20 for a full day of learning and lunching with your Temple family.

Join us for a delicious dinner and an outdoor service to dedicate our new Tree of Life Menorah sculpture on Friday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. The Tree of Life commonly represents the interconnectedness of everything in the universe. It symbolizes togetherness and serves as a reminder that we are never alone or isolated, but rather are connected to the world. It can inspire fresh hope and fuel our strength to keep moving on with complete faith. It represents an eternal bonding of the physical realm that we are rooted in and the spiritual realm we are reaching for. It is a reminder of the universal connection to Mother Earth and our dependence on her to flourish and grow.

The Temple is hiring a new Maintenance Team member to help support our amazing maintenance team (Terry and Gene,) with all the responsibilities needed to keep The Temple in proper working order and appearance. This is a full-time position with flexible scheduling hours for late afternoon or evenings, with mandatory weekends. There is an option to live rent-free in The Temple's two-bedroom apartment in exchange for property management responsibilities! Qualified candidates should submit a resume to Santa Brink, our Front Office Coordinator, at santa@thetemplelouky.org.

Trager Family JCC

CenterStage Presents "She Loves Me"

May 9, 11, 12, 16, 18 & 19, 2024

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

A Toast to Moms: A Wine Tasting and Theater Experience

May 11, 2024, 6 p.m.

Join us in celebrating mothers and all the love they bring into our lives! A blend of relaxation and entertainment, our guests will enjoy a wine tasting experience led by a wine expert, small bites complementing each wine, and reserved seating for our production of *She Loves Me!* Tickets are \$50. Buy tickets online at jclouisville.org/toast-to-moms.

Join us for a vibrant celebration of Israeli arts and culture, May 15 - August 6! Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Israeli creativity through a series of safe community events designed for all ages and interests. From captivating performances to thought-provoking film, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Delight your taste buds with a food tasting featuring authentic flavors, or explore family-friendly activities that

promise fun and excitement. Be inspired by visiting artists and delve into the visual journey of a captivating photo exhibit. Come and experience the magic as we bring a taste of Israel right to the Trager Family JCC! For information on the lineup of events, go online at jewishlouisville.org/israeliartsandculture.

Knock Knock, A Theatre Production - May 15 at 7 p.m. at the Shapira Foundation Auditorium

How would you raise your child if you knew that one day their turn will come to hold a rifle?

Knock Knock describes what it's like to be a parent in the shadow of armed conflict. The play follows the journey of Ilana, a single mother whose job as an Israeli Officer of Casualty Notifications is to knock on the door of families whose children have been lost in war. Her conflict between motherhood and duty reaches a deafening climax when her only son chooses to serve on the front line of battle. This heartfelt story, portrayed through drama and comedy entirely by Niv Petel, evokes an emotionally rich narrative describing the internal conflict among families when they are faced with the call of war.

Join us for this special performance and post-show Q&A with the performer.

Tickets, \$18, are required. In light of the tragic events in Israel, ticket-sale proceeds from Knock Knock will be donated to support trauma and relief efforts in the Western Galilee, Israel. To purchase tickets, go online at jewishlouisville.org/knock.

There's no better way to spend your summer than working at the Trager Family JCC, you'll join a great team and have fun getting to know our members and campers. We are currently hiring lifeguards, swim instructors, pool gate attendants, Dive-in Diner staff, and Camp J counselors. We are seeking camp counselors to lead our groups, inclusion advocates to work with our campers with special needs, and specialists to lead activities. To apply, visit jewishlouisville.org/hiring.

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B'nai Mitzvah



Judah Benjamin Gladstein

Judah Benjamin Gladstein, son of Heather and Seth Gladstein and brother of Levi, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah during a Havdalah service at 5:30 pm on Saturday, May 25 at The Temple. Judah is the grandson of Julie and the late Lawrence Adelman of Boca Raton, Florida, and the late Rolla and the late Dr. Mark Gladstein of Prospect. A seventh grader at Louisville Collegiate School, Judah plays for his school's basketball and lacrosse teams. He spends his summers at Camp Nebagamon in Wisconsin, where he developed a love for fishing and water skiing. This coming summer he will represent Louisville in basketball at the JCC Maccabi Games in Detroit, Michigan. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Judah volunteered at Gilda's Club Kentuckiana.



Molly and Robert Swansburg

Molly and Robert Swansburg, children of Becky Ruby Swansburg and Michael Swansburg, will be called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday, May 11 at 10:30 am at The Temple. Rob and Molly are the grandchildren of Martin and Michele Ruby.

Molly and Rob are seventh graders at Louisville Collegiate School. Molly loves art, reading, and playing lacrosse. Rob enjoys playing soccer for LouCity Academy, reading, and playing cards. For her Pledge 13 project, Molly made bracelets to raise money for Magen David Adom, raising nearly \$900. Rob coordinated groups of his friends and

classmates to clean trash from Metro Louisville parks. Rob and Molly enjoy attending GUCI in the summers to further their connection to Judaism.



Elizabeth Ava Yoffe and Claire Evelyn Yoffe

Elizabeth Ava Yoffe and Claire Evelyn Yoffe, daughters of Kristen and Bryan Yoffe, and sisters of Owen Yoffe, will be called to the Torah as a B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday, May 18, at The Temple. Elizabeth and Claire are the granddaughters of Jo Ann Yoffe and the late Phillip Yoffe and Kathy and Frank Koncewicz of Birmingham, Alabama.

Elizabeth is in the seventh grade at Walden School where she is on the basketball, archery, and track teams. When Elizabeth is not busy with school activities, she enjoys hanging out with her friends and family and spending time outdoors hiking. She also enjoys her summers at GUCI where she has fun and fosters her Jewish identity.

Claire is in seventh grade Advanced Placement classes at Kammerer Middle School, where she enjoys playing the flute in the band and participates in several honor bands. Claire recently completed her first season on the Ballard High School color guard and winter guard teams. Claire loves to read, create art, and hang out with her friends and family. Claire is also looking forward to her summer at GUCI.

For their mitzvah project, they are collecting and donating hygiene products for the homeless. Elizabeth and Claire would like to thank Rabbi David for all his help and support to prepare them for this joyous occasion. The Yoffe family invites the community to celebrate their B'nai Mitzvah and join them for the Kiddush luncheon.

Obituaries



Gary Fox

Gary Fox, MD, 88, passed away on April 8, 2024. Dr. Fox was born and raised in Louisville, KY and graduated from the University of Louisville in 1956.

He earned his medical degree from the University of Louisville in 1961 and served as a physician in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 – 1964. He then began a more than 50-year career as a neurologist in private practice, with the Jewish Hospital, Norton Healthcare and IU Health Arnett systems. After his retirement from IU in 2022, he continued to work part-time with Midwest Dysphasia Consultants, through March 18th.

Dr. Fox served as an instructor in medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine from 1969 – 1971 and again from 1991 – 1992. He also served as a Neurological Consultant for the Humana Heart Institute International Total Artificial Heart Project from 1984 – 1987 and as Medical Director for the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at Humana Hospital Audobon from 1986 – 1987.

Outside his distinguished career and dedication to serving his patients, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, as well as a lifelong UofL Cardinal fan.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Mary Elizabeth Fox, with whom he shared his passion for travel throughout the world and collecting art and memorabilia. He is also survived by his son Sheldon Fox (Debbie), his son Jeff Fox (Melanie), his son Gregg Fox (Leslie), his daughter Traci Fox, his stepson William Glass, his grandchildren Bryan Fox (Angela), Matt Fox (Morgan Abbott), Carly Adajian (Dan), Davis Fox (Kennady), Drew Fox and Madison Fox, and his great-grandchildren Bryan Davis Fox Jr. (JR), Michael Abbott Fox, Cameron Abbott Fox and Leah Louise Fox (Weezy). In addition, he is survived by his sister, Marcia Feldstein. He is preceded in death by his parents, Leopold and Lillian Fox, and his beloved

son, Bryan Lee Fox.

The family is indebted to Tevin Beard for his unwavering devotion and support during Dr. Fox's last years.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Adath Jeshurun or the charity of one's choice.

Funeral Services were held on Thursday, April 11 at Herman Meyer & Son Funeral Home, burial followed in the Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

Dr. Andrew Michael Roberts

Dr. Andrew Michael Roberts was born in Brooklyn, New York on March 28th, 1948, to Murray and Lillian Roberts. He passed away on February 8, 2024 in Vacaville, California, surrounded by his wife, Ann and his two sons, Jeffrey and Daniel.

Andrew grew up in the idyllic town of Tarrytown, NY on the Hudson River near New York City. Throughout his life, he explored the natural world through photography, camping, and hiking. One of his great pleasures was taking his family on vacations throughout the United States. It was often during these times that he instilled his values in life, of being kind, selfless, and principled.

As a young man, he crafted sailboats and enjoyed spending time with his future wife, Ann. From a young age, he developed an interest and skill in woodworking and design. This was a great hobby that led to many creative projects that he cherished working on with his sons, Jeffrey and Daniel. Together, they used tools handed down in the family from generation to generation. He was a loving husband, proud father, dedicated educator, scientist, and scholar, with an unmatched sense of kindness and passion for both his career and family.

Andrew cared about and loved others in a way that we must continue to emulate. He was intuitive and wise, diligent, compassionate, and loving. He was proud of his sons, always believing in and supporting their growth and endeavors. Andrew taught his sons about what matters most in life — and that is one of his lasting legacies.

His career as a physiologist began at New York Medical College where he earned a PhD in Physiology. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the

Continued on page 19

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LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 18

University of California San Francisco, Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI) from 1979 to 1982. At the CVRI, he was the Parker B. Francis Fellow in Pulmonary Research from 1982 to 1983.

After his fellowship, he moved to Louisville, Kentucky with his family. He was a scientist at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics for 37 years. His work produced hundreds of scientific findings, disseminated in many seminars and hundreds of publications, which continue to promote the advancement of physiology and its clinical applications to the medical field.

His voluminous work helped advance the field of neural control mechanisms involved in the regulation of the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, including the changes that occur during pathophysiological circumstances that occur in acute respiratory distress syndrome, ischemia-reperfusion injury, and pulmonary hypertension.

He worked closely with the National Institute of Health and founded the Kentucky Chapter of the American Physiology Society, with which he was closely involved. During his tenure in Louisville, he took joy in teaching hundreds of graduate, medical, dental, and nursing students, contributing to the birth and foundation of many careers.

Andrew retired in 2022 as Professor Emeritus, and moved to California to be near his sons, who are both practicing physicians. He is survived by his wife and soulmate, Ann, and their sons, Jeffrey and Daniel.

Andrew was a treasure to his family and to so many who knew him well. His life and legacy are carried on in our memories, in our hearts and forever embodied in the fabric of our lives. As one of his colleagues and close friends said, "his departure brings us pain, but let us remember the beauty and significance of his life." May his memory be a blessing. A celebration of his life is being planned in California.

Donations in memory of Andrew

may be made to Rabbi David Ariel-Joel Discretionary Fund at the Temple, 5101 US 42, Louisville, where Andrew and his family were active members.

Gifts in memory of Andrew Roberts can also be made to:

The Andrew M. Roberts Ph.D. Memorial Award for Excellence in Physiology which is intended to reward academic achievement and encourage cooperative learning of physiology among dental students. The award is given in memory of Andrew M. Roberts, a Department of Physiology faculty member for nearly 4 decades as a nationally recognized researcher and educator in the area of physiology. He taught physiological concepts to dental students with distinction for more than 20 years and served as the physiology course director in the Dental School during much of this period.

You can make a gift by check, made out to the "The Andrew M. Roberts Ph.D. Memorial Award for Excellence in Physiology" and mailed to:

University of Louisville Foundation, Inc.
c/o PNC Lockbox
PO Box 772050
Chicago, IL 60677-2050



Nicky Scott Spivak

Nicky Scott Spivak, 61, passed away on April 3, 2024 in Augusta, GA.

Son of Edith Shirley Fine and Albert Spivak, Nicky was born on December 11, 1962 in Louisville, KY. Nicky grew up in Louisville, KY, graduating from Atherton High School in 1981, followed by the University of Louisville, and then spent the next several decades living in various places across the country including Tampa, FL, Phoenix, AZ and Augusta, GA.

Nicky loved classic rock and food. There was no vacation with Nicky that didn't revolve around the restaurant plans, nor a visit that didn't involve him walking up to dogs or small babies.

Nicky loved being a part of the Jewish community and opening his home to college students and local newbies to come share a meal during the Jewish holidays. Nicky most recently served as the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center and Federation of Augusta.

Nicky was a loving and supportive father to his two children, Alexis (Michael) Warriner of Arlington, VA and Brian Spivak of Charlotte, NC. Nicky is survived by his two children, as well as his siblings, Randy (Diane) Spivak and Gary (Brenda) Spivak of Louisville, KY and Shelley (Rob) Kriegshaber of Co-

lumbia, SC.

Services were held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at Herman Meyer and Son, Inc. Funeral Home followed by burial at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Donations can be made to the Jewish Community Center/Federation of Augusta, earmarked for Augusta Jewish Family Services. (JFS@jewishaugusta.org).

AFTER 76 YEARS, WE'RE STILL FIGHTING FOR A JEWISH STATE.



In 1948, as Israel fought for its independence, the medics of Magen David Adom were there, treating wounded soldiers and civilians alike. Today, as Israel celebrates Yom HaAtzma'ut, MDA is still treating the injured — even under fire. But for MDA to continue being there for Israel, we need to be there for MDA. **Make a donation at afmda.org/give.**

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NEWS

YOM HASHOAH

Continued from page 1

in Turka right before the remainder of the 6,000 Jewish residents of that village were killed, being betrayed by her landlord in Lviv to German custody only to walk out of the Weisenhof prison through an unlocked gate, to being saved by Polish Catholic sewer workers for more than a year, hidden underground, the precious jewel of her life almost lost. Almost every other Jew in the Lviv Ghetto in Poland was murdered.

Somehow, during that ordeal, Halina kept a diary comprising of 167 handwritten pages of poetry and prose in her native Polish. Halina was brought into the light when Allied forces liberated Lviv in 1944 and, in 1947, made her way to America with her diary. Her diary did not see the light of day until 2015, 35 years after her death. Her story of survival was dramatized by Agnieszka Holland in the Oscar-nominated Film, *In Darkness* in 2011.

We will hear and honor Halina's story—and the story of her husband George Edward Preston, who survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald—told by their only son, David Lee Preston.

“On Yom HaShoah six years ago, I gave Louisville the first taste of my mother's sewer writings, which I'd discovered three years earlier when

cleaning out my childhood home in Delaware,” David said. “This year I will share more passages from those notebooks.”

David spent 40 years as a writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer. One of his articles - a remembrance of his father - was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and received awards from the Overseas Press Club of America and the Associated Press Managing Editors of Pennsylvania. He has been a senior editor at CNN.com and his articles have appeared in the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal.

We are extraordinarily honored to have David Lee Preston present in our community, and he is graciously donating his time to our annual Yom HaShoah commemoration.

As a community, we have maintained our Yom HaShoah commemorations for decades. As we change with the world around us, it is important to keep the tenets of this commemoration alive. This is especially so right now. The Hamas attacks, the war in Gaza, the lives lost have made the Shoah seem somehow more distant. Yet, as Rabbi Leonard Devine, z'l, said at a Yom HaShoah commemoration more than 45 years ago, we must keep these memories alive.

“[T]he more we dwell on what the victims endured, the more profoundly we must attempt to make our Judaism a meaningful and vital factor

in the framework of our lives. Those six million Jews were killed because they were Jews, because their Jewishness represented something abhorrent and detestable. . . They were a symbol of human conscience, of dedication to humaneness. We have to make that symbolism live because they are not here to do it. In this sense, all of us are a shattered remnant.”

From the April 1977 issue of Community.

Please join us for this year's community Yom Hashoah commemoration, jointly brought to you by the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the synagogues Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel, the Temple and Temple Shalom, which will take place at 7 p.m. on May 6, 2024 at Keneseth Israel. Please register by going to jewishlouisville.org/YomHaShoah2024.



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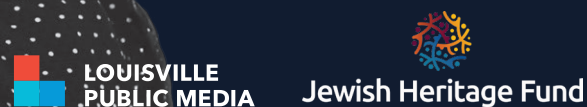
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NEWS

JCC 2ND BIRTHDAY

Continued from page 1

memories with their own families, but also with others, strengthening the community bond.

We are especially grateful to the donors who have named two key parts of our Family Park: Mark and Susan Blieden and Ann Leah Blieden for the Blieden Family Playground, and Shellie Benovitz for the Benovitz Family Pavilion. Their generosity and foresight, reflecting their deep roots in Louisville's Jewish community, are ensuring that our Family Park dreams come true.

Taking an even more extended view, in future phases we hope to create a campus that helps accentuate our incredible summer camp program while also providing homes for our partnering Jewish agencies. This vision combines a renovation of our current facilities with the building of new amenities and structures. Our Camp J can look forward to new programming spaces, natural play

areas, adventure courses, outdoor shelters, and sports and gardening areas, while our partner agencies will have access to these same amenities, in addition to administrative, educational and cultural spaces. We want our partners to feel at home on a vibrant and engaging Dutchmans Lane campus.

Regardless of whether we look toward our past or forward to the future, what remains is a spectacular present that so many people have made possible. The Trager Family JCC reflects the community's shared beliefs and values and what it means to take care of and provide for one another, while creating communities within communities. Thank you to everyone who has helped us get to the second birthday of the Trager Family JCC and please know that we could not be more excited to share this future with you.

Thomas Wissinger is COO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC



The Blieden Family Playground will open on May 13, 2024.

JFCS Preserves and Relaunches Oral History Project

By JFCS Staff
Guest Columnist

Our stories are what make our experiences unique and are what allow people a glimpse into the qualities defining who we are. Allowing others the opportunity to learn about these experiences, experiences that shape how we view the world, is a valuable way to ensure our legacy is carried on for generations to come. Our experiences create our stories, our stories form our worldview, our worldview affects how we interact with others, and our interactions with others are how our legacy is formed.

Jewish Family & Career Services started the Oral History program in 2001 with the goal that the stories collected would carry a legacy, a legacy both for the individuals sharing them and for the entire Jewish community. Judy Tiell has held an integral role in the Oral History project, both during her time as former CEO at JFCS and over the course of the last six months as a volunteer working to preserve the project. As Judy recalls, "The Oral History project was created and developed by Ann Friedman, of blessed memory, who served as director of Klein Older Adult Services. Preserving Jewish memories of our older adults was the original purpose, but it branched out as the project grew. Volunteers who recorded the histories found this volunteer job to be very meaningful and new relationships were created. The

stories cover vast ground - families with long histories in Louisville and families who were recent immigrants. People were members of all congregations and families had wide varieties of Jewish experiences." This was truly a community-wide project. As such, it serves both as a piece of history Jewish families can cherish and as a resource that the broader community can utilize to learn about the Jewish experience.

This project was very close to Ann Friedman's heart. Her family is looking forward to seeing such a meaningful project preserved and relaunched at JFCS.

By the middle of May, these stories will be available on JFCS' website through the Filson Historical Society thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteers Judy Tiell and Rabbi Stanley Miles. "I am so excited that these histories will be available on the JFCS website and through the Filson Historical Society. They will be available to read, learn and enjoy. They tell the story of Jewish Louisville in very personal ways," Tiell remarks.

As JFCS Director of Advancement, Courtney Evans summarizes: "The Oral History project is an asset for the community that JFCS will carry on for the whole Jewish community. This opportunity to preserve the stories and legacies of individuals who have given so much to our community is a core value of JFCS and something we are proud to continue."



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GLOBE

L’Dor v’Dor: To Grow their Families, Jewish Moms Fight Kentucky’s Abortion Ban

By Ben Potash and Aaron Kemper
Guest Columnists

Jews believe in reproductive freedom. Of course, saying that Jews believe anything is tricky. There are, after all, three opinions in a room of two Jews. But even the most conservative Jews in the world have a more permissive view on abortion than does Kentucky law. Kentucky law defines life beginning at conception, and it defines a human life as nothing more than a sperm that has met an egg.

When the nation’s Supreme Court killed reproductive freedom in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, we as Jews, Kentuckians, and attorneys felt the need to stand up and fight. Together with our brave clients, Lisa Sobel, Sarah Baron, and Jessica Kalb, we filed a lawsuit against then-Attorney General Daniel Cameron demanding our state courts overturn the obscene laws standing between mothers, their children, their doctors, and their God.

The Louisville Jewish community has laid the groundwork for this lawsuit. The attorney-authors of this article met at summer camp at the Jewish Community Center in elementary school and lived together in college. Aaron has known Lisa since elemen-

tary school, and they attended high school at Ballard High School with another Plaintiff, Sarah’s husband, Dustin.

Collectively between the Plaintiffs and their children, we share the joy of raising six young daughters. Echoing the sentiment of l’dor v’dor, we wish to pass on a more just and compassionate world to our children, to further the future of the Jewish community, and build on the strong work that has been done for so long by organizations like the JCRC, the NCJW, and the Jewish Federation.

Like many of the professional Jewish women we’ve met through those organizations and throughout our community, our clients rely on *in vitro* fertilization (IVF). We recently saw IVF’s legality called into question in Alabama when Alabama’s IVF clinics began to shutter. The law the Alabama court chose to interpret, their state’s so-called “Human Life Protection Act,” (HPLA) is word-for-word identical to Kentucky’s HPLA. A similar outcome is not only possible here, but because of the absurd ways these statutes are put together, it is the likely outcome unless we do something about it.

Our lawsuit challenges the HPLA,

and the body of abortion restrictions put into play by our legislature. Those laws deeply affect reproductive rights, particularly those concerning the use of IVF technologies, which two out of the three plaintiffs in this case have relied upon. Under the state’s definition of a fetus as a human life, our clients could be prosecuted for murder for discarding excess IVF embryos. This is the logical legal outcome of the HPLA law here.

The state’s rigid stance also includes no exceptions for genetic anomalies or non-viable fetuses, which forces women to carry pregnancies to term despite the certainty that the fetuses will not survive childbirth. When those mothers miscarry at home, they may face criminal charges simply for surviving the ordeal.

These draconian measures contradict our Jewish values. The commandment to “be fruitful and multiply” highlights the importance of procreation, viewing children as a profound mitzvah. However, Jewish law does not define life as beginning at conception, and it places a paramount importance on the preservation of life, especially a mother’s health—including mental health—above all. By providing no exceptions for a woman’s

mental health or in cases of rape or incest, Kentucky’s legislation starkly conflicts with these values.

As in Alabama, extremists pretended that we were delusional, that IVF was safe, that the law adequately protected mothers, and our case was pointless.

It can’t happen here, they told us. The then-Attorney General drafted his own opinion, promising that he’d never prosecute our clients for undergoing IVF. The lawyers on the other side of our lawsuit called our claims “self-inflicted” and “fictional.” As Jews, our ears perk up when we hear others dismiss our concerns about the erosion of civil liberties with, “it can’t happen here.” We know all too well it can, and it already is.

We have been in litigation in our local circuit court for over a year and a half. Both sides agree on the facts, the only remaining issues are legal. We are set for oral arguments on both parties’ motions for summary judgment. Regardless of who wins, the decision will be appealed. We are still at the early stages of this litigation, but with our community at our side and our faith to guide us, we are confident that justice will prevail.

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GLOBE

Israel signs agreement with South American soccer federation, paving way for elite international competition

By Juan Melamed
JTA

Israel's soccer association has signed a cooperation agreement with South America's soccer confederation that opens the door for it to compete in the continent's elite tournaments, such as the Copa America, alongside soccer powerhouses like Argentina and Uruguay.

Israel currently plays in the Union of European Football Associations and has given no indication that it is about to bolt that organization to become a member of the South American association, called CONMEBOL. But in the agreement, announced on Thursday, Israel and CONMEBOL pledged to increase collaboration in soccer development, coaching, refereeing, and women's and youth football programs.

More significantly, it could pave the way toward Israel's future participation in the South American federation's prestigious tournaments, the Copa America and the Copa Libertadores. The Copa America tournament, which is one of the most-watched soccer competitions in the world, typically includes two teams from FIFA's other soccer federations. Japan and Qatar both competed in 2019, for example.

"I very much hope that the Israeli

national team will be part of one of the major tournaments organized by CONMEBOL, perhaps even the Copa America," Israel Football Association chairman Moshe Zuares told The Athletic.

"This is a particularly exciting, historic moment, an international breakthrough for the Football Association," Zuares said in a press release. "We signed an agreement for cooperation with giant powers, world champions, countries where football is a cornerstone, a culture."

<https://twitter.com/ISRAELFA/status/1778303197636960615>

The agreement has been in the works since a visit to Israel by CONMEBOL President Alejandro Dominguez in September, shortly before Hamas' Oct. 7 invasion launched the ongoing war in Gaza.

"During my visit to Israel, I learned how much you love the game," Dominguez said during the meeting, according to Israeli media. "Football connects cultures, no matter how great the geographical distance, and can contribute to peace."

The agreement is a rare bright spot for Israeli athletics in the six months since the Israel-Hamas war began, during which Israeli athletes have faced backlash and, in the case of one Israeli

soccer player in Turkey, brief police detention.

In one incident that occurred at a qualifying game for the Copa Libertadores tournament, fans were ejected for accusing Israel of genocide as their team, a century-old Chilean soccer squad founded by Palestinian immigrants, qualified for the tournament's main group stage. FIFA has also faced calls from a number of countries — including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — to ban Israel from international competition.

The pressure has come surrounding other sports as well. Leah Goldstein, a record-setting endurance cyclist and Israeli military veteran, was disinvited from a Canadian International Women's Day event after the organizers drew criticism; the event was eventually cancelled. In international hockey, Israeli teams were briefly banned from an international youth world championship.

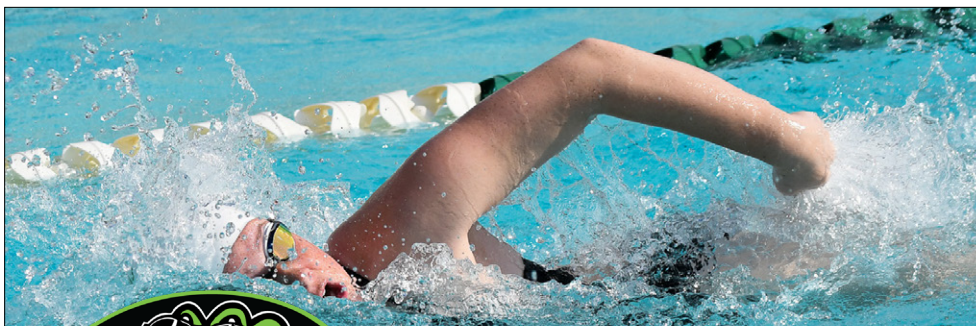
Israel has played in the Union of European Football Associations for three decades, and has not left that organization, according to the Athletic. Until 1974, Israel was a member of the Asian soccer confederation, but was expelled following a campaign by Arab states in the wake of the Yom Kippur

War the previous year.

Israel's national soccer program has enjoyed a string of success in the past year, and will be on the world stage this summer in the country's first Olympics appearance since 1976. Israel is also coming off a third-place finish in its first-ever appearance in last year's FIFA U-20 World Cup and a semi-finals appearance in the UEFA European U-21 Championship.

Israel's surprising run in the U-20 tournament, which was hosted by Argentina, galvanized South American Jews and drew scores of Jewish and Israeli fans. The tournament had been moved to Argentina after the initial host, Indonesia, objected to Israel's participation.

Argentina, which won the 2022 World Cup, has a history of particularly warm relations with Israel's national team — having played friendly matches against it in 1986, 1990 and 1994. In 2018, however, Argentina canceled a match against Israel after facing pressure from the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. CONMEBOL also includes two-time World Cup winner Uruguay, as well as five-time winner Brazil and Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.



2024 JCC Gators Summer Swim Team

The JCC Gators swim team is for children ages 5-18.

Practices will begin the week of May 20 and the season will run until around July 15. There will be an abbreviated practice schedule the first week, May 20-May 24.

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