

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

High Holy Days Guide

SEE PAGE 26

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Akko's biggest casualty of war: Livelihoods

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Consider the following statistic:

In 2003, the Northern Israeli city of Akko (better known outside Israel as Akko) could boast only a single bed and breakfast. Twenty years later there were close to 250 B&B's and similar independent short-term rentals, reflecting a remarkable surge in tourism that attracted upward of 2 million visitors annually from inside and outside the country.

Then came a cruel double blow – Hamas's October 7 attacks in Southern Israel, and Hezbollah's ongoing rocket barrages launched from Lebanon in the North. Many residents had to be hastily relocated out of range of rocket assaults. Stores and hotels were shuttered. The area's tourism industry, once the region's principal economic engine, went into freefall.

"The war presents us with enormous challenges," says Heidi Benish, the Israel-based coordinator of Partnership-2Gether Western Galilee, which counts Louisville among its constituent cities. "Many businesses in the Western Galilee are struggling with heavy losses in sales, temporary closures, and even permanent shutdowns. Tourism, restaurants, agriculture and hospitality – central sectors in our region, have been hit particularly hard."

When you live just a few miles from the Lebanese border, stress is an inevitable component of daily living. "It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say we are under quite a high level of tension right now,"

Michael Aronson, a past Israel P2G co-chair, told participants during a recent Zoom call for P2G Western Galilee representatives.

"Beyond the rockets that are showered on us from time to time," Aronson continued, "we're all (wondering), will there be a response from the Iranians or from Hezbollah which would go beyond what we've been experiencing for the past 10 months."

Iran's April 13, 2024 mass rocket attacks on Israel marked a critical juncture amid the shadow war between the two nations. A further tipping point occurred on July 31, when agents -- widely believed to be from Israel -- assassinated Hamas political head Ismail Haniyeh by detonating a bomb hidden in his Tehran guest apartment.

The uncertainty about when and how Iran will react has been debilitating, Aronson says. "The general feeling is, 'Do it already – let's get it over with.'"

Idan Ishach Erez and her three children evacuated from the Akko area on Oct. 8, leaving behind her husband and what had been a thriving dried-fruit business. But the anguish of separation became so pronounced that two months ago, children in tow, Erez returned home. "My family was apart, and it was hard to keep everything together," she told her Zoom friends, sharing screenshots of limes and lychees drying on racks of meticulously arrayed metal trays ("no added preservatives; no added sugar," she pointed out proudly).

Even under the threat of Hezbollah rockets, coming back home was a col-



Better Days: Owner Idan Ishach Erez explains the ins and outs of preserving bananas to guests visiting her family's dried-fruit business in the northern Israeli town of Akko. (Screenshot)

lective relief for everyone involved. Still, considerable challenges remained, including the fact that most of their workers were still under evacuation.

Then, on March 21, a Hezbollah missile struck their main factory building, reducing much of the structure into heaps of twisted steel. Erez and her husband immediately set to rebuilding, only to see a second missile land on their property on June 28.

Since then, their main opponent has been the government's arcane bureaucracy. They hope to be finished re-building by the end of August, when happiness can be defined largely by dried bananas and assorted fruit rollups.

"Idan, we appreciate you doing this, because so many of us have had the good fortune of going to your factory and experiencing your beautiful place. I know it's not easy to talk on this level -- you've been in our hearts," said LaDonna Fishkin, President of the Jewish Federation of Peoria.

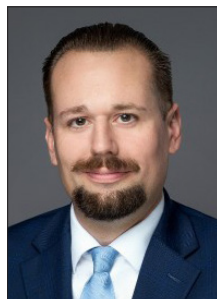
The once-postponed 25th anniversary P2G Galilee trip is slated to take place this coming February in Akko and the Western Galilee, which will coincide with observances of Tu B'shevat – often referred to as "The New Year for Trees."

Meanwhile, as Aronson emphasizes, "everyone in our region is doing their

See **PARTNERSHIP** on page 4

JCRC welcomes Trent Spoolstra as new director

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor



Trent Spoolstra

The Jewish Federation of Louisville has hired Trent Spoolstra, currently Associate Regional Director of Anti-Defamation League Midwest, as the new director of the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council. He takes over early next month from Matt Golden, who is shift-

ing to a part-time Federation role – Chief Strategy and Impact Officer -- since becoming JCRC head in October of 2022.

JCRC is the principal liaison between the Federation, Louisville's Jewish Community, and the community at large, which makes its director – in many key respects – the public face of the organization. Golden was the first full-time JCRC here, and under his watch has made a special point of reaching out to diverse faith collectives, building relationships with an array of area churches and mosques. He's also devoted considerable energy addressing rising antisemitism – initiatives made even more relevant

See **SPOOLSTRA** on page 15

Ralph Green named to JFNA's National Board

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor



Ralph Green

Ralph Green, a prominent Louisville oral surgeon with long and deep service with the Jewish Federation of Louisville, has been elected to Jewish Federations of North America's national Board of Trustees.

"I've been very active in the community here in leadership roles," Green

says. "I want to translate that to the national level. And I want to do the opposite: bring national issues and methods, if you will, back to Louisville to benefit our community."

Louisville belongs to what JFNA terms "Intermediate" sized Federations, a category that includes trustees from such cities as Memphis, New Orleans, San Antonio, and the Canadian capital of Ottawa.

Green will serve an initial 2024-25 term, with an option to continue for up to four more years. As a Trustee, he will commit to attend four meetings per year of the entire board (either in-person or virtually) and serve on one or more

See **GREEN** on page 13

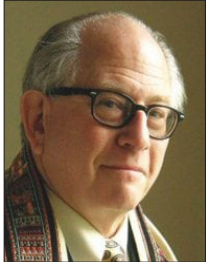
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Word of the Month

Elul 5784 the Overture to the High Holydays 5785



D'var Torah

Rabbi Stanley Miles

I have always loved classic American musical theater. Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II were exemplars of this genre for much of the 20th mid-century. Every Rodgers and Hammerstein musical began with a beautiful rousing overture to set the mood for the story to unfold. When I begin to consider the High Holydays every year, my first stop is not Rosh Hashanah. Judaism doesn't begin with the change a new year brings. One must seriously work for the new year's arrival with intense preparation. We must create an overture of actions. Judaism provides a path for us to take: *Cheshbon Hanefesh*, an accounting of the soul.

Cheshbon Hanefesh developed during the 19th century as a part of the Mussar movement in Judaism. Mussar was designed to lead us to ethical behavior and has become popular in recent years. I want to share my personal path for *Cheshbon Hanefesh* which has become an important part of my year as I strive to live my Judaism.

The Overture commences on Rosh Hodesh Elul, the first day of the 12th and final month of 5784. This year it is very late: Tuesday, September 3 at sundown. At that time, I will review my personal Jewish calendar for the first 11 months of 5784. I will revisit the events and my relationships during the past year considering my successes and, more importantly, my failures. I will think of the people I helped and those I hurt; those who helped or hurt me.

This is an emotionally challenging

process. Why bother? If Elul is the Overture, the finale is Yom Kippur when we atone for our sins before G-D.

Cheshbon Hanefesh during Elul gives us time to both approach and be approached by those we hurt and who hurt us.

Now it's time for the hard part: I will try to encounter those folks I remember hurting, in person, to apologize to them. Yes, this is a challenge, but only the first step. I also ask them what I can do to earn their forgiveness. Over the last 40 years, I've noticed 3 types of reactions:

Surprise: The folks I encountered had no memory of the action that emotionally weighed me down. Their reply -- 'I can't remember what you did but if it makes you feel better, I forgive you.' This group was the majority.

Gratitude: Yes, they remembered what I did and they began by thanking me for my honest candor. At times, they asked me to do something to merit forgiveness, which I gladly did.

Anger: Yes, they remembered the incident. As far as they were concerned our friendship or relationship had ended. I did what I could do to no avail.

After these encounters I begin my waiting process. Will those who hurt me approach? Sometimes, yes; more often, no.

Yet, after *Cheshbon Hanefesh*, I feel better, much better. I have done my best to conclude the year and commence the New Year with a clean slate.

I send my fervent wishes to you for thoughtful Elul 5784, and a 5785 of peace, understanding and freedom for the hostages in Gaza!

Rabbi Stanley Miles retired in 2016 after 39 years of service with Temple Shalom. He remains active teaching courses for adults, sharing his love of Judaism both inside and outside the classroom.

Snapshots



On August 25, a Mezuzah was hung at the entrance of the Roth Family Education Center in honor of Frankye Gordon's Birthday. Through the generosity of her family and friends, this gift launched our Mezuzah Campaign which will offer a special opportunity to dedicate a mezuzah in honor of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion.



To honor someone special in your life, contact Jonathon Raley, jralley@jewishlouisville.org

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)

Candles

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

- September 6 @ 7:46 p.m.
- September 13 @ 7:35 p.m.
- September 20 @ 7:24 p.m.
- September 27 @ 7:13 p.m.

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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, September 16** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on

Friday, September 27.

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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*As of August 16, 2024

NEWS

PARTNERSHIP

Continued from page 1

utmost to try and maintain some kind of regular routine – trying to maintain businesses as if there’s no war, despite the fact that there are missiles, sirens, calls to go into safe rooms, evacuations, and so on – stress is in the air.”

Perhaps no one appreciates those on-the-ground challenges better than Danny Arama, who heads up Akko’s main tourism office.

“I don’t know how many of you have visited or may visit Akko, but Akko is one of the most beautiful cities in Israel – one of its (principal) historical cities.” But “as you know, we’ve had a lot of crises in the last few years: first, the coronavirus, and after that, the riots we had” on the night of May 11, 2021, when Arab rioters tossed a Molotov cocktail into the Efendi Hotel, setting it ablaze and killing 84-year-old Avi Har-Even, formerly the head of Israel’s space program.

There was a degree of irony in that eruption of ethnic violence, because Akko had built a considerable reputation in fostering tolerance and cooperation between Arabs and Jews, who had lived peacefully in close proximity to each other. About 65 Jewish establishments were either destroyed or damaged during the riots.

Yet both sides managed to set aside threads of hatred and regain much of the squandered trust (2019 had seen the best-ever tourism numbers in Akko, where close to 2.3 million people visited the city.

It was all lost in the aftermath of Oct. 7, which “just killed all the tourism in the area,” Arama said – not only from international visitors, but from domestic Israeli travelers.

“In this region, 40 percent of the population depends on tourism as their source of employment,” said Michal Shiloah Galnoor, Managing Director of Western Galilee Now in Akko, “so the effect is huge. It’s devastating. The northern part of this region is closed and is a war zone completely. Then a few kilometers south, we’re not evacuated, (so) it’s where we all live. I live in a village seven kilometers from the border. It’s hard to live here right now. But it’s my choice not to leave. For me, part of that choice is supporting, as much as I can, small businesses and tourism operators, because it’s heartbreaking.”

Akko itself is barely hanging on. “The city is empty, just empty,” Arama added, more than a hint of fatigue and despair in his voice. “I’ve been working for 20 years with tourism in Akko, and I’ve never seen the city like this. It’s the first time I’ve seen the city just empty, without anyone coming inside. Anyone. And I don’t know what it will be like after the war. I don’t know if the city will wake up like we woke up from other crises.”

He lends assistance when he can, but there’s only so much one person can do. “We try to help them, together with the government, together with the tourism department,” Arama explained. “But it’s very hard, because there’s no one to come in and buy, or sleep in (B&Bs) and hotels.” He knows several owners who’ve effectively given up the fight. “A

few businesses have closed, and a few businesses don’t want to open again.

The U.S.-based Federation representatives on the Zoom call clearly commiserated, while at the same time frustrated that they couldn’t do more. “I just wanted to tell you how hard it is for us to be watching, knowing so many of our friends we’ve made in the Western Galilee.”

Akko is a proudly multicultural, multiethnic community where Israelis and Arabs live in close proximity. The post-Oct. 7 environment, consequently, affects a diverse set of constituencies. Residents who live in Akko’s Old City “are buying in the market,” Arama said, but practically nobody else is – including Israelis who used to visit the historic city, but for now are avoiding it. No wonder the unemployment rate among local tour guides is nearly 100 percent.

So what can we in America do to help out beleaguered Partnership friends?

“Well, my obvious answer would be, come and visit us,” Aronson said. “But don’t do it right now. We are very much looking forward to you coming, but I would postpone coming until things are a little clearer.”

Akko is slated to host the 25th Anniversary Partnership2Gether international



What remained of the dried-fruit factory’s main building after it was struck by a Hezbollah missile. It has since been rebuilt. (Screenshot)

conference in February 2025. Already postponed once – the rescheduled gathering is again under threat from Hezbollah.

Regardless of such threats, American Federation reps are determined to keep Israel as a destination country. “I’ve been there a zillion times,” Toledo’s Fagie Benstein declared in a voice steely with determination, “and I hope to continue my pattern of a zillion times.”

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NEWS

In Detroit, the 2024 JCC Maccabi Games prove to be an engine for enduring friendships

By Elizabeth Davis
Guest Columnist

The 2024 JCC Maccabi Games hosted in Detroit, MI, saw nine Kentucky teens -- eight from Louisville and one from Lexington -- come together to make up the Team Louisville delegation. Team Louisville is grateful to be sponsored by the Trager Family JCC and Jewish Federation of Louisville. Team Louisville was led by Abigail Goldberg, Delegation Head (Teen Director at the Trager Family JCC), AJ Wolfe (U16 Boys Soccer Coach), and Elizabeth Davis (Star Reporter Intern). Louisville athletes participated in three sports: soccer, basketball, and baseball, participating on mixed teams with athletes from cities across the country. I watched teamwork build between them, their teammates, and coaches. That dedication to building friendships through teamwork and passion for their sport was incredible to watch.

Arriving at the JCC Maccabi Games as Team Louisville's media personnel, I was on the sidelines watching our team succeed in more ways than one. While the week-long games are focused on watching our teens hit a home run, score the winning goal, or make a basket in the nick of time, witnessing the teamwork and Jewish camaraderie was one of the biggest highlights for me.

Mixed teams are a great way for teens to play with one another from all different parts of the country. Team Louisville's 14U soccer coach, AJ Wolfe, brought together a mixed team of Louisville athletes who were paired with soccer players from Cleveland and Boston. One member of AJ's team, Sammy Springer of Louisville, said about the JCC Maccabi games, "I really love sports, and it [JCC Maccabi] helps me feel connected to Judaism, but mostly sports and friends." During the last few minutes of the soccer match to qualify for the Bronze Medal game, I watched Sammy run out onto the field and place himself in the middle of the goalie box, and ultimately save the ball from going into the net no fewer than five times. Everyone on the field was so excited to see Sammy's pride in helping the team win the game.

Each day was jam-packed with the teens waking up from the homes of their host families, arriving at the venue where they would play their sport,

and then heading back to the Detroit JCC where they would head off for an activity. Each day was filled with possibilities to make new friends both on and off the playing field. Arly Weinstein of Lexington, a 14U girls soccer team player, made friendships with the girls in her mixed team. Despite Arly being from Lexington while teammates hailed from California and Ohio, the physical distance between the states didn't impact the relationships that were made among them. Even in her second year participating in the JCC Maccabi Games, Arly told me about that the Games were the best part of her summer and she wanted to have the experience again. "I just love meeting new people and playing [soccer] with other Jews," Arly said just before the Bronze Medal match her team won. Arly has been playing soccer for as long as she can remember and her love for the sport is inspirational.

As someone who'd never before participated in the JCC Maccabi Games, it was overwhelming at first to acclimate myself to the environment, but the relationships I built with my peers and the athletes made it all worthwhile. I was so excited to wake up each day and watch Team Louisville make memories with new friends and cheer them on at all of their games. My favorite thing was the energy and excitement radiating off all the athletes. I enjoyed hearing their stories about their experiences at their games and the activities they were going to do with their friends that night.

When I asked one Team Louisville athlete, Owen Yoffe (boys soccer) about what most excited him about participating in the JCC Maccabi games, he excitedly answered that he was eager for opening ceremonies at Little Caesar's Arena. That night when I again met up with Owen, he delighted in sharing with me how his soccer games went. One thing that I learned about Owen was that he is an amazing cheerleader for his teammates and appreciates being there regardless of whether he wins or loses.

Owen was motivated initially to be part of the JCC Maccabi Games because of his dad. "My dad did Maccabi Games and it seemed fun to be part of a bigger Jewish community," he said. Indeed, learning that his dad was a past Maccabi Games athlete made me

realize just how expansive this program is. It extends to generations like this father-son duo. Owen was always so welcoming to everyone around him. I found it especially sincere when he went to watch a soccer game and cheer on the team that earlier had beaten his own. All these athletes, regardless of their individual sports, displayed exceptional sportsmanship alongside their Jewish peers. It was so special watching these teens develop friendships out of not only proximity to one another, but also via friendly competition.

As I walked around the closing ceremony party, I made it my mission to find all of Team Louisville's athletes in their element. Seeing Judah Gladstein in line for the ferris wheel with all his friends, Clay Fennel and Sammy Springer playing the arcade games, and the rest of Team Louisville walking around with their friends, laughing and having fun, I understood how special this week was for them. The night ended on a high note with the passing of the torch to next year's host cities and an amazing drone show. As I watched all the athletes hugging goodbye, I heard many teens telling each other, "See you next year!" I think that was the perfect way to end such an exciting week. We can all look forward to "next year," when we'll see all our friends again and play our favorite sports together. Thank you to the entire Detroit JCC Maccabi Team for being such incredible hosts!

In 2025, the JCC Maccabi Games will be hosted in Tuscon, AZ (July 27-Aug 1), and Pittsburgh, PA (Aug 3-8). The Games are open to Jewish athletes, ages 13-17, and Team Louisville is already beginning to organize for Summer 2025. If you are interested in joining and participating in the JCC Maccabi Games, please email our Delegation Head, Abigail Goldberg, at agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org.

Elizabeth Davis was a multimedia reporting intern at the 2024 JCC Maccabi Games.



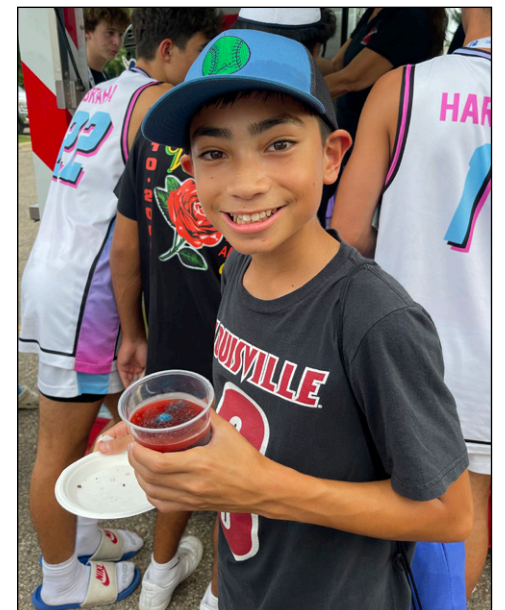
Pictured above, Team Louisville getting ready to walk out at the Opening Ceremony hosted in Little Caesars Arena.

Team Louisville's Ethan Grabush and his mixed-city team won the Bronze medal for U14 Baseball (Ethan is pictured below). Congrats to Ethan and his team!

Team Louisville's Arly Weinstein and her mixed-city team won the Bronze medal for U14 Girls Soccer (Arly, left, is picture with her teammate below) Congrats to Arly and her team!

Pictured playing basketball, Team Louisville athletes, Leo Cha, Lucas Kling, and Judah Gladstein, had a great time at the JCC Maccabi Games participating in the 3v3 Basketball Tournament.

(Photos by Elizabeth Davis)



COMMUNITY

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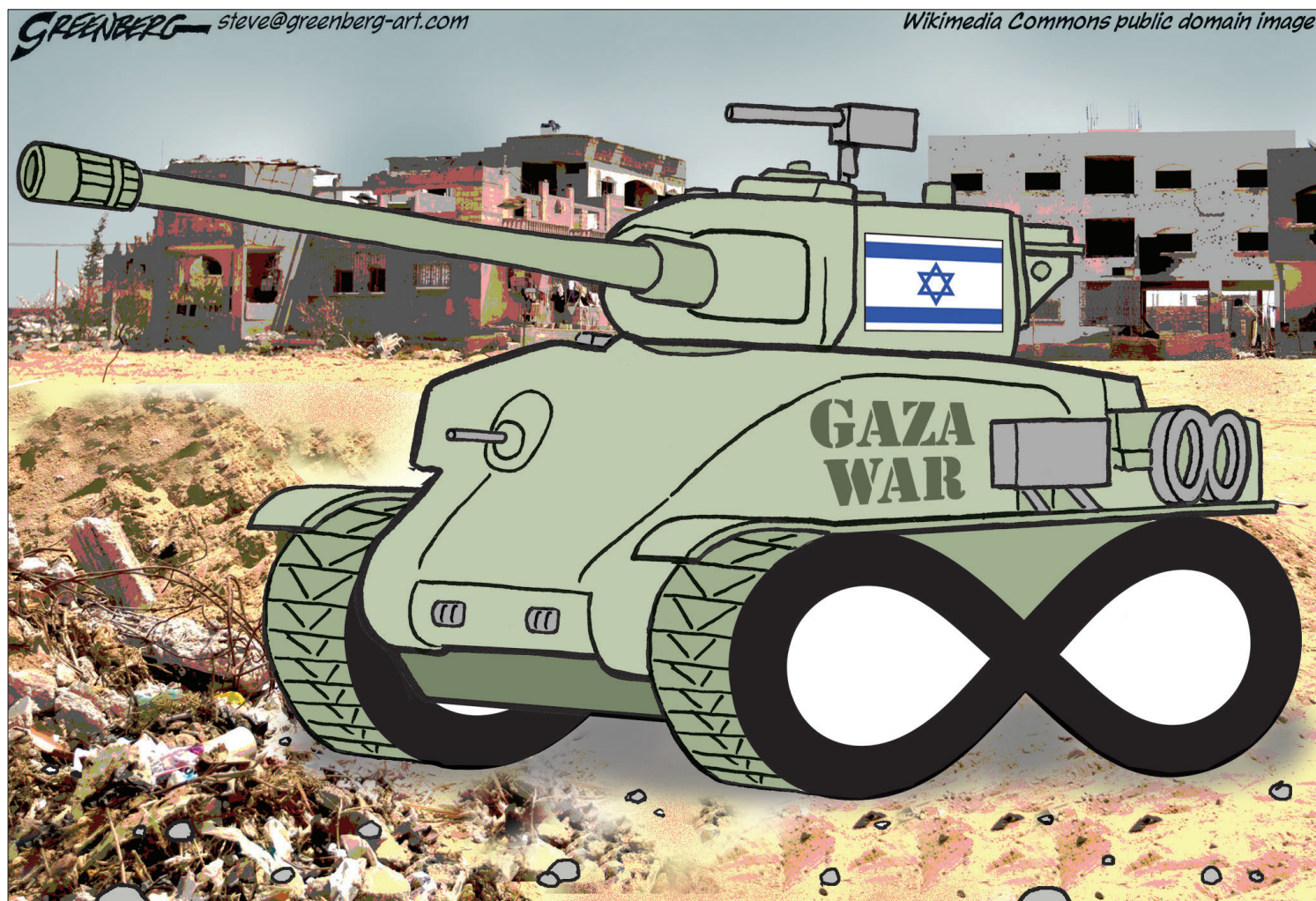
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FORUM



A glimmer of hope emerges from the darkness



Mindful
Ramblings

Andrew
Adler

This is a column about hope.

I was going to write about something else entirely this month until a few days ago on Tuesday, Aug. 27, when news broke that IDF soldiers had rescued a Hamas-held hostage from Gaza, alive and by current accounts, reasonably well.

The now-former hostage in question is Farhan al-Qadi, a 52-year-old Israeli Arab of Bedouin heritage. Nobody had heard from him or about his condition since his abduction, along with so many others, on Oct. 7.

Circumstances of his rescue are not entirely clear. First reports out of Israel was that members of the IDF's elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit, acting on relevant intelligence, extracted him from one of Hamas's still-remaining tunnels, rushed him into a waiting helicopter and flew him back to Israel (you can view IDF bodycam video of that final segment on numerous online platforms).

Not long after the IDF's initial announcement, the New York Times ran a story – quoting two unnamed senior Israeli sources – saying that what transpired was actually a miracle by chance: a naval commando unit, while seeking out Hamas fighters, happened upon al-Qadi alone in a room about 75 feet underground. Somehow he'd eluded his guards and found temporary sanctuary in this space. One can only imagine his eventual fate had fate itself not intervened.

Absorbing as this bit of narrative certainly is, what struck me most powerfully was that al-Qadi was Arab. We tend to think of Israel only in terms of its Jewish population, but in fact it is a decidedly multi-ethnic citizenry. Three-quarters Jewish, yes, one-fifth Arab, plus a smattering of Christians and Druze, some Circassians, and others.

I mention this not solely in the name of demographic comprehensiveness, but as a demonstration that on Oct. 7 Hamas didn't exempt anyone from its murderous rampage. If a person was human, they were shot, incinerated, or abducted into Gaza. It was an exemplar of equal-opportunity horror.

Al-Qadi was among numerous Arabs who make their living working in Jewish enclaves close to the border with Gaza. On Oct. 7 he was working as a guard – unarmed, yet – on a kibbutz. His crime in the eyes of Hamas? Breathing.

The proximity of Arabs and Jews in Israel has always fascinated me. Of course there are inequities, sometimes, substantial ones. But the balance of cultures reflects a duality that can be, when it works, truly edifying. Certainly in our Partnership2Gether Western Galilee region – situated in the now hyper-precarious area of northern Israel – it's routine for Israelis to shop in Arab villages, and Arabs in Israeli villages.

On Oct. 7 Farhan al-Qadi was simply doing his job, a job that happened to be protecting fellow Israelis. By Oct. 8 he'd exchanged that job, his family, his friends, people he'd known and people he never met, for 10 months trapped underground. There his Hamas captors fed him just enough to keep him alive. Nobody said, 'He's Arab, not Jewish, release him.' His value as a human bargaining chip, as it is for his fellow hostages – alive or dead – trumps all other considerations.

Al-Qadi's rescue was an infusion of glad narrative amid an otherwise bleak landscape of despair and death. His family, as they should, is rejoicing in his emergence from blackness. "It's better than being born again," his brother has said.

There's a photo, provided by Soroka Medical Center in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, that I find particularly telling. In it al-Qadi lies in his hospital bed, a smile crossing his lips. Holding his hand is a man wearing a taqiyah, the traditional Muslim skullcap. Looking on is a physician. He's wearing a kippah.

As this is an authorized hospital photo, I suppose it's possible the image was posed. I really don't care. It's the visual juxtaposition of faiths that I care about: Arab man in Jewish hospital, his family nearby.

Meanwhile, the dreary sequence of meetings in Qatar goes on, more or less. From one day to the next, prospects for a ceasefire and release of at least some of the remaining hostages lurches from one extreme to the other: a dance where the partners despise each other.

At least Farhan al-Qadi has regained the literal light of freedom. I wonder if he's been told yet that 17 of his fellow Bedouins died on Oct. 7?

For the moment, anyway, let wonder and joy carry the day. And for the families who still count members among the remaining hostages, let al-Qadi's rescue provide a glimmer of new-found hope.

"They are still waiting to see their loved ones back today," his brother Khatem al-Qadi said when interviewed by Israeli television, as quoted by The Times. "We are wishing for all the hostages to be released and for there to be a deal now."

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

Siman Tov u'Mazel Tov

Sara's
ViewSara
Klein Wagner

Milestones celebrated with family and friends are part of our Jewish tradition. Last Shabbat, family and friends spent the morning at Adath Jeshurun celebrating the "bride and groom," Phyllis and Michael Shaikuns' 60th wedding anniversary. We sang the traditional Siman Tov, as was likely sung at their wedding. My takeaway from this celebration was that I want to hear more stories from the Shaikuns and so many others who have contributed to the stability and strength of our Jewish Louisville community and the gift of community they have received in return.

When speaking to the couple on the

bimah, Cantor Lipp said, "If I were to try to list what you two have done in your professional lives, volunteer lives, Jewish community lives, in your synagogue lives, we would be here until Tuesday." Michael explained they met 61 years ago, and he immediately knew she was the one. He also knew he wanted to be in the Synagogue to give thanks for the blessings in their lives, and as he said, "The blessings are standing here, children and grandkids and friends." Phyllis, who is rarely at a loss for words, thanked everyone for being there and "for loving us the way we love you."

Phyllis shared a sentiment that resonates with many but is rarely expressed so openly. She recounted how her father-in-law once said she would always be a foreigner because she wasn't born in Louisville. However, Phyllis explained, "I don't consider myself a foreigner. I consider myself part of the community and anything Michael and I have given, we have gotten back in great repayment." This heartfelt expression of gratitude underscores the

couple's deep connection to the community.

I have worked with Michael and Phyllis for many years as they gave their time, wisdom and support. Phyllis was also my colleague at the Federation. She has shared how wonderful it was to be on the professional side and to experience firsthand what it takes to care for and build community.

As we reflect on 60 years of marriage for the Shaikuns, we can also think about the next generation of people who are just getting their start here. Now is a perfect time to get involved. Based on data from prior community studies and more recently reinforced by the study of Jewish Louisville by Brandeis University, we know that approximately half of us were born in this city and half moved here. Whether you are brand new, newish, or just ready to learn more, we have two opportunities for you.

First, join us for an "Insights into Action" session where Panoramic Strategies will present their findings and recommendations on how we can

embrace what we've learned over the past year through focus groups and think tanks to build a stronger, more connected community. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, September 4th, at 5:30 PM at JFCS and is open to the community. Registration is required at jewishlouisville.org/502insights.

Secondly, we are creating a robust Shalom Louisville project to help you find a place to connect. We are looking for both volunteers and those interested in learning more about our community. Please check out Jewishlouisville.org/shalomlouisville, where you can answer a few questions to help us get to know you.

For more information, please reach out to me at swagner@jewishlouisville.org.

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

To every purpose there is a season at the Trager Family JCC

State of
The JThomas
Wissinger

Well, it's over... and it sure went by quick. Even after living in Louisville for more than a decade, the end of summer and the return to school seems to come sooner every year. Harkening back to my own childhood in Western Pennsylvania, the end of summer and the return to school arrived at Labor Day, not the calendar turning to August. Maybe one day I won't be surprised when it's already time for my kids to go back to school.

When I was a kid, fall's arrival always brought on a mix of emotions for me. On the positive side of things, football season was starting. There is nothing quite like throwing on a set of pads and football uniform to make you feel like fall is around the corner. On the other hand, Labor Day weekend was always the swan song of care-free days, long nights, and the ability to live life without a calendar or clock. That's quite a difference. But what fall seemed to signify most was returning to a schedule.

These days I still get excited for football season, but I also get excited for the schedule and uniformity that the school year brings my family. There is something comforting about being in a similar setting surrounded by familiar faces, yet also having new challenges to conquer. Each year is an opportunity to set oneself up for success in a new venture, to tackle a new chal-

lenge, or look for that new opportunity. This combination of the familiar, but something new, the routine and the extraordinary, is the opportunity that is presented to us every fall.

So, I recommend embracing the dichotomy that the fall brings - a period of change and return to normality - and make the Trager Family JCC a part of yours and your family's routine. Whether you are coming by yourself or bringing along your family and friends, the Trager Family JCC has something for everyone.

Our Health and Wellness program is second to none in Louisville. Whether you like to run on a treadmill, lift weights, ride a Peloton, or join a group exercise class, the JCC has enough options to fit into any schedule. For parents with young children, our JPLAY drop-off childcare program allows parents to concentrate on their own physical, mental and emotional wellbeing knowing that their child is in a safe and fun environment. If you want to elevate your fitness goals, come speak with one of our personal trainers.

Maybe you are more of a swimmer. During the transition of seasons, you can swim both outside in our heated lap pool or inside at the Yarmuth Family Aquatic Center. If you want to enjoy the day with your family, our outdoor pools stay open through Labor Day, and year-round, we are proud to offer the recreational pool inside the Trager Family JCC with spray features, a vortex pool and a slide for the whole family to enjoy. My 8-year-old highly recommends the vortex pool.

If fitness is not for you, we have many other ways to add the Trager Family JCC to your schedule. CenterStage has just closed its 2024-25 season-opening production of *The Music Man*, selling out nearly every performance. What a show! The talent that graces our stage

is truly exceptional, and if you haven't seen a show in the Shapria Foundation Auditorium, there is no better time than during this season.

Some of our families have already made the Trager Family JCC part of their routine by enrolling in the Club J Before and After school program. Offered in the Camp J building on our Jewish Heritage Fund campus, Club J provides a helping hand to parents whose schedules don't allow them to get their children to and/or from their school at the designated times. Oh, the kids also have a ton of fun as they get to experience their favorite activities and programs of Camp J, year-round, in a truncated form. This fall, we will also offer additional enrichment programs for kids of all ages, so stay tuned for more information.

The falling temperatures outside bring new and exciting activities to our senior department. Whether it's going to see a performance, visiting local attractions, taking part in a Spanish or memoir-writing course, or becoming a part of our daily lunch program, come see what the JCC Senior and Active

Adult Department has for you. You can also participate in many of the senior-focused group fitness and aquatics exercise classes alongside those of similar abilities.

The fall has always been a unique juxtaposition of the old and the new, uniqueness and uniformity. As I see my kids off to their school bus each morning, I reminisce about who they were but also proudly look upon who they are becoming. This time of year affords us another opportunity to create the schedules and successful habits that carry us through until next summer. So, why not make the Trager Family JCC a part of yours and your family's routine? If you don't know how the JCC can fit into your schedule, give us a call and we will gladly assist you in helping make the Trager Family JCC part of your life.

Thomas Wissinger is Vice President of the Jewish Community of Louisville and Executive Director of the Trager Family JCC.



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PICTURE THIS: THE MUSIC MAN



CenterStage opened its 2024-25 season with a crowd favorite, *The Music Man!* as part of the annual "Classics in Concert" Series, this production featured a 16-piece orchestra on our stage. Centerstage boasted five sold-out performances in the six-performance run in addition to welcoming over 200 season subscribers to kick off the year!

The season ahead features exciting titles such as *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Disney's High School Musical*, and *9 to 5*. In addition to these mainstage musicals, CenterStage is also producing a play in collaboration with Drag Daddy Productions and Louisville Pride Foundation. Set to open in September, *BENT* is a harrowing story of resilience and love in a time of extreme persecution.

Tickets are on sale now for all productions this season. Get your today by visiting our website at jcclouisville.org/centerstage or by calling our box office at (502) 238-2797!

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



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PICTURE THIS: GOLF SCRAMBLE



2nd Place Team (L-R) Jeff Keier, Tom Love, Sidney Abramson and Geoff Novak



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Photos by Kathryn Harrington & Mackenzie Lynch



Rich Shay



Steve Trager & Doug Gordon



Ladies PGA Team (L-R) Bobbie Ramsey, Janet Miller, Belinda Gates and Linda McQuillen



Republic Bank Teams



Greg Moore & Elizabeth McCray



David Kohn, JFCS Board Chair

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PICTURE THIS: SENIOR OLYMPICS

On August 9, members of our Seniors program captured the excitement of the Summer Olympic Games. Fun was had by all as they brought the spirit of competition to the Trager Family JCC.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)



Kathleen Horn & Mickey Nibur



(L-R) Eddie Turpin, Ellen Buche, Deann Jones & Suzy Gessner



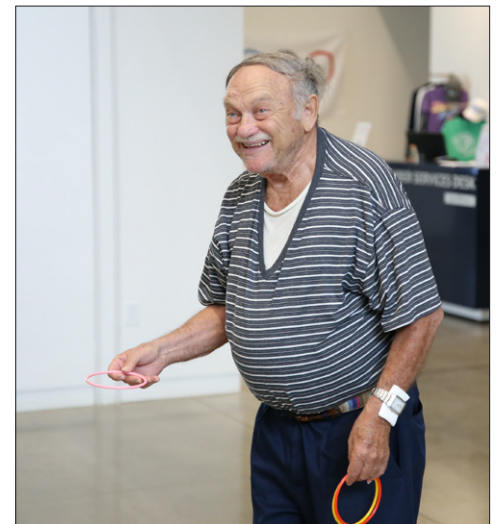
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PICTURE THIS: JEWS & CHOCOLATE



On the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 18, Chabad of Kentucky hosted the first of two sessions devoted to the tantalizing (and tasty) subject of “Jews & Chocolate.” Among the satisfyingly smeared participants were students from LBSY, veteran chocolate mavens Tami and Dan Penner of Temple Shalom, plus Rabbi Ben Freed and wife Ariane Barrie-Stern. A second session is slated for Sunday, Sept. 22.

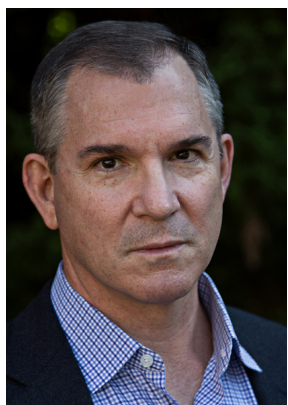
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The twists and turns of American politics are unpredictable, but the tone is a troubling given. It's one of grievance. More and more Americans are convinced that they're losing because somebody else is winning. More and more tally their slights, measure their misfortune, and assign particular people responsibility for it. The blame game has become the country's most popular sport and victimhood its most fashionable garb.

Grievance needn't be bad. But what happens when all sorts of grievances—the greater ones, the lesser ones, the authentic, the invented—are jumbled together?

Frank Bruni has been a prominent journalist for more than three decades, including more than twenty-five years at *The New York Times*.

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GLOBE

On white nationalist's show, Georgia state official Kandiss Taylor said Jews are 'controlling everything'

By Jackie Hajdenberg
JTA

A Republican state party official in Georgia appeared to agree with the host of a white nationalist TV show who said Jews run the government, responding, "They're controlling everything."

Kandiss Taylor, who chairs the Republican Party in her southeast Georgia congressional district, appeared on a mid-February episode of "The Stew Peters Show," whose namesake host lives in Florida and has a history of promoting antisemitic rhetoric and Holocaust denial. Peters and Taylor discussed the arrest of a man accused of vandalizing a rainbow crosswalk mural in south Florida honoring the LGBTQ+ community.

In the episode, which the liberal media watchdog Media Matters for America reported Monday, Peters said, "No more funding our own demise — bioweapons and forever wars from the Jewish lobby that basically runs our entire government. And they run this as well, don't they?"

Taylor responded, "Yeah they run this. 100%. They're controlling everything."

The comments were condemned by Georgia's only Jewish state representative, Democrat Esther Panitch, who

called on the state Republican Party to condemn the exchange.

"Ok, @GaRepublicans, it's time to show the Jewish community of Georgia that you reject antisemites. Let me know if I can be of assistance," she wrote on X.

"We always knew she was extreme," Panitch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I just didn't realize her extremism went after Jews. I mean, I'm not surprised, but I was not aware of these specific comments."

Panitch also told JTA that nobody from the Georgia Republican Party had reached out to her about Taylor's comments.

"You can't pretend to be a friend to the Jews, or to support us, and allow your officials to make these statements without any remarks," she added.

This is not the first time this month that Taylor has been in the public eye for comments about religious discrimination. In an Aug. 17 episode of her podcast, "Jesus, Guns and Babies," Taylor said that only Christians should be permitted to run for elected office.

"We shouldn't be electing anyone in government — local, state or federal — that is not a Christian," Taylor said. "That is how we take back this nation."

In a now-deleted post from October 2023 screenshot by Media Matters, she

responded to a post on X that said, "This has become very clear to anyone who can see: The Democrat Party has been overtaken by Marxist trash who hates Jews." In her reply, Taylor wrote, "Hey, We have some Marxist trash using our R who pander to the Jews. Not much difference."

In a statement posted to X, Taylor declared her opposition to antisemitism and support for Israel and Jews. She did not directly address the exchange with Peters.

"I have been made aware of the Media Matters hit piece on me," Taylor wrote. "I want to state unequivocally that I support the State of Israel, that I support the Jewish people around the world, and that I categorically reject antisemitism in all forms. I have been proud to stand with the Georgia Republican Party on supporting Israel and rejecting antisemitism whenever and wherever it occurs."

To Panitch, Taylor's statement isn't

enough.

"This isn't an apology," Panitch said. "The fact that she's in leadership at the Georgia GOP says that they do not take the antisemitism within their ranks seriously. They can use whatever platitudes they want, which I appreciate for them saying anything, but if they're going to allow their members to say that Jews control the world, without any repercussions, then they're just words."



Kandiss Taylor, GOP Chair of Georgia's 1st Congressional District, in an episode of her podcast, "Jesus, Guns and Babies". (Screenshot)



ACADEMY





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NEWS

GREEN

Continued from page 1

board committees.

He acknowledges that his onboarding process will take some time to gel. "I am so new at this, I don't yet know the whole dynamic of the organization," Green says. "I've sat in on a few Zoom board meetings, and our Intermediate Federation meetings. We haven't really gotten to the nuts and bolts of how we interact on a local level with the national organization."

Green has held various senior positions within the Jewish Community of Louisville, which comprises the Federation and the Trager Family JCC. During fiscal-year 2021, he was co-chair (along with Jon Fleischaker) of the JCL's board of directors, serving as chairman through 2023-24.

That vantage point has afforded Green insight into the intersection of philanthropy and administration. "From both a funding, programming and resource standpoint, we've had a strong relationship with JFNA," he says. "I call it a 'best practices' thing. There are a lot of different approaches, different communities, and so forth. If something works well in one place, it might work well here – there might be things we, as a Federation community, haven't thought of. We don't need to reinvent the wheel every time we do something. We're a group for a reason. We have similar sizes

and similar issues."

Green's ascendancy to the National Board is especially welcome after an extended period without a Trustee voice at the National level.

"Louisville hasn't had anyone on the JFNA board for a very long time," acknowledged Sara Klein Wagner, president of Louisville's Federation and the Trager Family JCC, "certainly not that I can remember in the past 20 years. But his national role looms considerably larger than as merely a point of pride.

"It's important to make sure that we can talk to one another about how to interpret what's going on a national or international level," Wagner added, "and what that means to us here. For instance, during the Israel Emergency Campaign (launched shortly after the October 7 attacks), if I were in contact with only much smaller communities or much larger communities like New York or Boston – you can't compare the peer relationships.

"We have so many opportunities to connect with volunteer leaders and professionals," Wagner said. "Bringing young leaders up in a Federation system when you're a community of 14,000 Jews is much different than a community of 100,000 Jews."

For someone so steeped in Jewish leadership, Green is decidedly modest about his achievements. For decades he's forged a career as a leading oral and maxillofacial surgeon, though

these days he's content to ply his profession on a part-time basis. Married to Louisville pediatric dentist Shellie Branson, he's a familiar presence at the Trager Family JCC and elsewhere around town.

Founded in 2009 after the merger of the United Jewish Appeal, the United Israel Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations, JFNA has an enormous presence in the international Jewish landscape. Collectively its "nearly 400 independent Jewish communities raise and distribute more than \$2 billion annually," according to JFNA's website.

Though his JFNA committee assignments are still pending, Green already has an idea of where he'd like to concentrate his energies.

"First and foremost, I want to be involved in something having to do with Israel. That's my biggest desire."

Green's old enough to recall times generations ago when Israel was under existential threat, most notably the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Fast forward to the Hamas attacks of October 7, in which almost 1,200 civilians and military personnel were murdered, with an additional 250 people taken into Gaza as hostages, and the enduring scope of Israel's challenges becomes all too clear.

JFNA and its predecessor organizations have always responded with considerable financial and humanitarian aid.

"Throughout the history of Israel, there have been multiple emergency campaigns," Green says. Immediately after October 7, JFNA launched such an effort that to date has raised almost \$900 million in crisis support. Recipients include "people hurt by the attack, families, displaced people, and all kinds of social services that have to be provided to Israelis."

Green is fully cognizant of the fraught nature of Israel's military presence in Gaza, and the challenges parsing support for the nation.

"We have a large constituency," he acknowledges, "and certain parts of our constituency don't necessarily agree on our support for Israel, which baffles me." He points out that JFNA does not channel funds directly to the Israeli military. "We support Israeli social services, plain and simple."

Though he's eager to plunge into his role as a JFNA Trustee, Green realizes he'll need to balance eagerness with a degree of patience. Drawing on more experienced board members will be crucial to achieving his own multifaceted goals.

"They know we've got to get our feet wet and learn the lay of the land," he says. "That'll be my whole first year. In my second year I'll be a lot more active."

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GLOBE

A Jew and a Palestinian are leading a daily run for a ceasefire in Gaza during the Democratic convention in Chicago

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

Richard Goldwasser and Anan Abu-Taleb have been running together for years. But this week, the pair have been getting an especially early start — commuting from their homes in the suburbs to Buckingham Fountain, a lakefront landmark here, to pound the pavement in support of a ceasefire in Gaza.

Goldwasser, an American Jew who grew up in the suburb of Skokie, and Abu-Taleb, a Palestinian-American who grew up in Gaza, have been running together for five years. Introduced by a mutual friend, they discovered that they're both avid marathoners.

Now, with tensions and protests over Israel and Gaza swirling in and around the Democratic National Convention, they've invited others to join them on morning runs every day of the convention that, they hope, will be a small gesture to bring about a ceasefire in the 10-month-old conflict.

At 7:30 on a bright and chilly morning this week, Goldwasser and Abu-Taleb were joined by about a dozen other people wearing gray T-shirts with the slogan "Ceasefire now-Hostage/Prisoner release." The group runs a four-mile loop between the fountain and McCormick Place, a convention site, to the south.

"We're both runners, we're both grand-

parents," Goldwasser, 59, said as he warmed up. "I mean, I don't think we're going to change people's minds overnight, but I think if we could introduce the idea of getting to know the other and trying to understand their perspective, I think it's a start."

The men also say the run is a small sign of resistance against the divisions that have widened between Jewish and Arab Americans since the launch of the Israel-Hamas war. Chicago has large Jewish and Palestinian communities.

"What we're doing here today, and what we have been doing for the last few years, is bringing people together, like there's people here we have never met," said Abu-Taleb, 65, a former mayor of suburban Oak Park who moved to the United States at age 19. "But our message resonates with them because they understand that when you treat others equally and as human, it's so much easier to talk to them, to collaborate, and it's hard to hate them."

Goldwasser, a lawyer who once clerked for an Israeli Supreme Court justice and sat for years on the board of the liberal Israel lobby J Street, got up just after 5 a.m. to travel from his home in the suburb of Highland Park to the run's starting point.

He and Abu-Taleb had originally planned something much grander: a marathon through the West Bank and Is-

rael. But the COVID-19 pandemic and other logistical hangups got in the way. Then, Abu-Taleb said, Goldwasser proposed a shorter daily run during the Democratic convention. Word has spread through social media, word of mouth and a letter to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Seven people showed up on Monday, and numbers have grown every day since. On Tuesday, one of the participants was Lily Greenberg Call, the former Biden administration staffer who quit to protest U.S. support for Israel. She was in town with IfNotNow, the Jewish group that is harshly critical of Israel.

"He called me last week and he said, 'Hey, I have an idea that we do this run together during the DNC,'" said Abu-Taleb. "We meet every morning, and like, I'm 100% in."

The running path is about three and a half miles from the United Center, where the convention is taking place, but they've come closer than that to the ac-



Anan Abu-Taleb, left, and Richard Goldwasser before they start their morning run alongside Lake Michigan, Chicago, Aug. 21, 2024. (Ron Kampeas)

tion: On Tuesday they passed by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the vice-presidential nominee, who was also jogging.

Ahead of the Wednesday run, Goldwasser tagged Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders on social media, and invited them to lace up.

"Not too late to head over to Buckingham Fountain for our 7:30 AM run," he wrote. "Or join us tomorrow."



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NEWS

SPOOLSTRA

Continued from page 1

amid a post-October 7 environment.

Under a newly restructured senior leadership hierarchy, Spoolstra will report to Golden, with the two collaborating on how best to hone the Federation's message amid an ever-changing environment.

"Matt opened the door wide for us to see what it would look like and feel like to expend double the energy than we'd ever been able to in this area," explained Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Federation and the Trager Family JCC. "So when we started this search again, we knew we needed to find a professional who could help build on how we approach community relations" -- whether here, in Frankfort (where Golden was a particularly strong voice), wherever the Federation's collective voice needs to be heard. "We're very lucky we found whose experience has been in a national Jewish organization," Wagner said of Spoolstra, "because he has such a large perspective on what's going on in North America."

With that context in mind, Spoolstra's ADL involvement has equipped him to meet potentially divisive challenges head-on at JCRC, with a constant eye toward remaining deliberately and consistently objective.

"My job is to remain non-partisan," he emphasized during a recent interview, speaking via Zoom from his Chicago office. "Whether extremism comes from some group on the far left or the far right doesn't matter -- it's antisemitism."

The fundamental imperative, Spoolstra observes, is "how you go about confronting it."

"There's a kind of national movement right now in the American Jewish community of figuring out how we re-engage with (our) coalition partners. How do we change the narrative to understand that? Yes, there was a terrorist attack against Israel half a world away that affects American Jews here. When you're talking about antisemitism, it has to be fought on both sides."

Spoolstra agrees that it's vital not to mistake American Jews simply as a collective that thinks one way, regardless of the issue. "The American Jewish community is not a monolith," he says. "There are religious observance differences. There are ethnic differences. There are national differences."

Still, Spoolstra sees "a silver lining in the gray cloud" -- disparate Jewish constituencies determined to unite to oppose forces that could undo them. "Different synagogues and organizations speaking together, in one voice saying we will not tolerate antisemitism."

As a prime example, he cited a press conference earlier in the week, coordinated by ADL Midwest director David Goldenberg. The gathering included representatives from the local Federation, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the American Jewish Committee -- in Spoolstra's words, "all talking about heading to the DNC (Democratic National Convention) in Chicago,"

when large-scale protests against the war in Gaza were expected.

He joined ADL Midwest in June of 2021, with a mandate (according to his LinkedIn page) "to counter anti-semitism/anti-Zionism across five and a half states and develop the next generation of ADL Midwest leaders."

Spoolstra is bringing his own brand of energy to his new position. "He's got great experience, enthusiasm and willingness to just listen," said JCRC Chair Beth Salamon, citing Spoolstra's ADL tenure, plus his background as a teacher and Hillel advocate. "I think they are going to be his great strengths."

Coming in as JCRC director, Spoolstra will build on a mission already well established. "How we go about achieving that mission may be tweaked a bit and maybe streamlined a bit," Salamon said, "but our core values will stay the same."

Born in Indianapolis, Spoolstra (the name reflects his father's Dutch heritage) graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2013 with a B.A. in Political Science, going on to earn a M.A. in International Relations and Affairs from Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government and Public Service in 2020. In between he spent a year in South Bend with AmeriCorps-Vista as an Abandoned Housing Specialist, and two years as a Junior Investment Analyst/Implementation Specialist in the Indianapolis area.

Embarking on "a spiritual journey," Spoolstra found himself drawn to perspectives of Jewish belief. "I knew the basics of Judaism," he recalls, "and started delving more into it. It was a religion that just clicked for me. I think I was just at the right place and the right time in my life."

Thus empowered, Spoolstra began a formal course of conversion preparation. "I studied under a rabbi at the local synagogue in South Bend," he says, "and went through a class that met once a week on Monday nights."

It took a while locating an appropriate mikvah to complete his conversion -- there were none in South Bend, so he had to travel to a Chicago suburb in order to fulfill the traditional conversion process.

Now, nine years later, Spoolstra's personal Judaism has expanded in scope -- both spiritually and practically. "What I've learned on my Jewish journey is that Judaism is not just a religion. It's not just an ethnicity. It really is a peoplehood. It was made clear when I was becoming Jewish that I was joining a people. And that was something that really resonated with me."

Though he considers himself part of the Conservative movement, Spoolstra has eagerly embraced the intrinsic diversity of his adopted faith. Besides being active in Texas A&M's Hillel chapter, "I've gone to Sephardic high holiday celebrations. When I was in Israel, I visited with Ethiopian communities. I can go to an Orthodox synagogue; I can go to a Sephardic synagogue. At the end of the day, we're all Jews."

As a young adult professional,

Spoolstra is ideally positioned to build relationships with Jewish college students. "Here at ADL, I'm winding down partnerships I have with seven or eight different Hillels," he says, with a broad portfolio that included "doing check-ins (with students), going to their annual events, or setting up training to understand and identify antisemitism and anti-Zionism. I look forward to continuing to do that" with the JCRC in Louisville.

"I want to have a solid relationship and let them know that JCRC is here for them" Spoolstra says. Stress levels have risen sharply among many Jewish college students, who've had to run the gauntlet of encampments and protests steeped in ugly, hateful rhetoric.

"The typical things college students worry about -- whether you're Jewish or not -- are exams, getting into this fraternity or sorority, or living on your own for the first time. The last thing a Jewish student should have to worry about is antisemitism."

It's an A-to-Z challenge: Antisemitism in one breath, Zionism in another. The latter has become something of anathema among those who equate it with a bitter variation on apartheid colonialism.

"A lot of it comes from a place of ignorance," Spoolstra believes, "from people who don't know what that term really is. So if you've seen a

TikTok or Snapchat video, or something on Facebook, and you attribute Zionism as evil. I mentioned this to students a couple of weeks ago, that there are people who equate Zionism with racism, white supremacy and colonialism, and it's like: 'Well, if that's what Zionism was, who would be a Zionist?'

"Part of being a JCRC director -- about being a Jewish professional -- is that Zionism is not a dirty word," Spoolstra emphasizes. "We know from Pew Research Center polls about American Jews, that the vast majority base their definition of Zionism on the belief that the State of Israel has a right to exist, and that Jews have a right to self-determination. There are about 80 to 85 percent of American Jews who agree with that statement. There are millions of Americans who would agree with that statement as well. We need to own that word again."

Indeed, "we need to tell people, 'You can be a Zionist and disagree with the Israeli government. You can be a Zionist and not like every single thing the Israel Defense Forces, or certain members of Israeli society, are doing. So I think that part of the American Jewish community reclaiming that word is saying, 'No, it's not an ugly word. It's not a dangerous word. It's powerful.'"



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JFCS Community Chat to Help Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Starting a small business is a journey filled with challenges and rewards. Many are driven by the desire to be their own boss and create something of their own. However, the road is often fraught with financial and operational hurdles. The JFCS Navigate program has been supporting small businesses throughout Louisville for almost 30 years. We continue to support and grow small businesses as they overcome the obstacles faced in making their dreams a reality.

On September 10, Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) will host the next installment of its Community Chat Series, focusing on "Making Your Dreams a Reality: Starting Your Own Business."

The JFCS Community Chat will feature a panel of distinguished local business leaders and experts who will share their experiences and strategies for overcoming these obstacles. Panelists include Valecia Quinn, Navigate Director at JFCS; Dave Christopher, President & Founder of AMPED; Natalia Bishop, Founder of Story Louisville; and Alisia McClain, Founder & Executive Director of TECH-Nique Inc. Each brings a wealth of knowledge from diverse sectors, offering attendees a comprehensive view of what it takes to succeed in building a small business.

"Starting a small business is not just about having a great idea; it requires careful planning, resilience, and access to resources," said Quinn. "The goal of this JFCS Community Chat is to help equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools they need to turn their dreams into reality."

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy locally, and nationwide. According to the Small Business Association (SBA), there are 33 million small businesses in the United States and make up 39.4% of the entire private sector payroll. Small businesses employ 61.7 million Americans, which equals 46.4% of private sector employees.

Attendees to the event (which will be at JFCS offices at 2821 Klempner Way) will hear from those who have navigated the path to success and also discover the wealth of resources available to help aspiring entrepreneurs on their journey towards making the dreams a reality.

JFCS's Community Chats are quarterly events that bring together experts and community members to discuss pressing issues affecting the Greater Louisville area. These events are free and open to the public, though attendees are encouraged to RSVP for planning purposes. The series provides a platform for learning and advocacy, fostering a supportive environment where community members can gain valuable knowledge and resources.

As always, JFCS Community Chats are free and open to the public. For planning purposes, JFCS asks that people RSVP at the QR code to the right. This event is an excellent opportunity for anyone considering starting their own business or looking to support local entrepreneurs in Louisville. Don't miss out on this chance to gain valuable insights and become part of a thriving community of innovators and business leaders.

Jewish Family & Career Services



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Starting Your Own Business



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Our Panelists


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Dir. of JFCS Navigate
Jewish Family & Career Services


Dave Christopher
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<p>Alzheimer's Support Group Starts Sept. 19 3rd Thursday at 11 a.m. In-person with Zoom option <small>In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association</small></p>	<p>Parkinson's Support Group Virtual option starting Sept. 19 3rd Thursday at 3pm Currently offered virtually <small>In collaboration with KIPDA</small></p>

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Contact Jeff Brown at 322-1905.

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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Zachary Ellis honored for research on Covid-induced cluttering



Zachary Ellis

It's a mouthful – "The Institute for Challenging Disorganization's Graduate Student Research Award" -- but Zachary Ellis looks to have swallowed it whole.

Ellis, the grandson of Louisville's Dr. Gerald and Maura Temes, is pursuing a Ph.D. in community psychology at DePaul (he did his undergraduate work at the University of Alabama). The ICD award, which includes a \$1,000 grant, is given annually for "innovative research projects investigating chronic disorganization and its various causes, treatments, and health effects."

As a recent news release from DePaul further puts it: "Chronic disorganization encompasses a range of conditions, from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder to hoarding, obsessive compulsive disorder, traumatic brain injury, and more. The condition can cause substantial distress, including persistent anxiety and a reduced quality of life."

"Chronic disorganization encompasses a range of conditions, from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder to hoarding, obsessive-compulsive disorder, traumatic brain injury, and more. The condition can cause substantial distress, including persistent anxiety and a reduced quality of life."

Ellis's research project comprises a pair of studies "examining the relationship between clutter and Covid-19, particularly the phenomenon of reactance – a negative motivational reaction that occurs when individuals experience a loss or restriction of their behavioral freedom."

What does that mean in more on-the-ground terms? "The practical implications of this study," Ellis says in DePaul's news release, "may help to inform decluttering professionals on how to tailor their programs and interventions to meet the needs of different

demographic groups."

Ellis' project is comprised of two studies examining the relationship between clutter and COVID-19, particularly the phenomenon of reactance – a negative motivational reaction that occurs when individuals experience a loss or restriction of their behavioral freedom. The initial study explores the impact of successful decluttering projects as a measure of restoring control for women most at risk of the phenomenon. It also compares instances of reactance throughout the United States at the beginning of the pandemic and across different geographic regions. The second component will be a follow-up study comparing the effects of decluttering initiatives on control and fear across multiple age groups.

"The practical implications of this study may help to inform decluttering professionals on how to tailor their programs and interventions to meet the needs of different demographic groups" Ellis explains.

Rabbi Yaakov Lederman new leader of Anshei Sfarad and the Vaad



Rabbi Yaakov Lederman

Rabbi Yaakov Lederman is the new spiritual leader of Congregation Anshei Sfarad. He'll also head up supervision of Louisville's Vaad Hakashruth, which is in charge of local kosher certification and – among other responsibilities – oversees the area's Louisville Community Mikvah, a bath designed for ritual purification.

Born in San Diego, Lederman comes to Louisville from New York, where he studied for 11 years at Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim (the Rabbinical Seminary of America) and received Semicha (ordination) in both *Yoreh Yoreh* and *Yadin Yadin* talmudic traditions.

Why come here from a far larger city?

"First of all, Louisville is a great place to live," Lederman answered. "I've heard that from everyone." He's



Rabbi Simcha Snaid

We spoke to the students and to the teachers."

Lederman takes over as Rabbi from Rabbi Simcha Snaid, who led Anshei Sfarad since coming to Louisville in 2016. He recently moved to Rochester, N.Y. to serve as Interim Rabbi of Congregation Beth Hakneses Hachodosh.

At the Louisville Vaad, Lederman will work with the board president, currently Steve Goldstein, a longtime, stalwart advocate for the organization and its mission. Goldstein and Sheila Lynch are members of Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

A onetime 7th grade math teacher, Lederman describes Anshei Afard as an "energetic" congregation. But he regards its small size as an incentive to grow.

"My attitude," he says, "has always been that it's more about where you're headed than where you are now."

come here with wife Rivka and their four young children, who are now enrolled in Montessori Torah Academy. "We did our research before coming," Lederman says. We came and visited the school.

Our ShinShinim have arrived!

The ShinShinim program is the "year of service program" that offers Israeli high school graduates an opportunity to delay mandatory service in the Israel Defense Forces and serve Diaspora communities. The program allows communities to meet young Israeli ambassadors who perform meaningful service prior to entering the army.



(L-R) Kyla & Eden

Our ShinShinim, Kyla and Eden, arrived in Louisville on Aug. 18 and are already off to a great start bringing Israel to our community. Throughout their stay here, you will have many opportunities to meet and get to know them, whether at Youth and Family Programs, the Trager Family JCC Early Learning Center, and at Jewish organizations and programs across Louisville. We are so excited for you to meet them! Be sure to follow their activities on Instagram at @LouisvilleShinShinim.

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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

The sound of the Shofar calls out to us each year at the High Holidays, but how exactly do you get a ram's horn to make such a clear blast? And what exactly are we supposed to be listening for? Join Keneseth Israel and Adath Jeshurun clergy and shofar blowers to learn about the traditions of shofar blowing and how exactly to purse your lips to get a perfect t'kiyah. This Elul class will meet at Keneseth Israel (2531 Taylorsville Road) on Sunday, Sept. 8 and Sept. 15 after the 6:15 p.m. minyan as we prepare together for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The community is invited to Adath Jeshurun on Friday, Sept. 20 for Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:45 p.m. and our next Shabbat-Luck Dinner around 7 p.m. Before we all get busy with the High Holy Days, let's take time to relax with friends and enjoy a good meal. Chef Sean Haggerty will provide a delicious vegetarian entrée, and participants are asked to bring a vegetarian appetizer, salad, side, or dessert to help make the meal extra special. For kosher guidelines and to RSVP, visit adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck.

For Selichot this year, Adath Jeshurun and our partner Keneseth Israel welcome the Joshua Community Connectors and No More Red Dots, two of the many organizations in Louisville who work tirelessly to prevent, manage, and transcend gun violence. They do this -- working globally and with individuals -- through mentoring, housing, counseling, and coaching. Join us on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. as we share music, spoken word, film, and inspiration to prepare for the High Holy Days. The Selichot service will begin at 10 p.m. following the program and a short reception. The program will be followed by a dessert reception at 9:30 p.m., with the Selichot service beginning at 10 p.m. in the Yarmuth Family Chapel at Adath Jeshurun (2401 Woodbourne Avenue). Participation in the evening is free, but reservations are encouraged at adathjeshurun.com/selichot2024.

Chabad of Kentucky

Chabad of Kentucky has created a new audio-visual educational program titled Jews and Chocolate. It is the first in a series of educational programs aimed to promote Jewish culture, awareness and values. It is aimed at both the Jewish community as well as the general community and is primarily geared to families with elementary-school-age children. The goal is to provide every participant with a positive Jewish life lesson and to promote respect and cultural diversity.

The program is being co-sponsored by the Louisville Hebrew School and all our community Temples and Synagogues. All families and children attending Hebrew School or members of any of the Synagogues and Temples are invited to attend for free when attending group sessions with each hosting organization. Hillel, Next Gen, and Club J have also arranged group sessions.

The regular cost for the program is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. A second day has been added on Sept. 22. Reservations can be made through the Synagogues and Temples or by email to Chabad at Chabadky@gmail.com. School teachers interested in bringing a school class are invited to call Chabad at 502-459-1770 to find out more specific information and to arrange a time on Sept. 23 for school groups to attend.

Chavurat Shalom

We've got another month of fabulous musical entertainment in store for everyone. Because of renovations to the auditorium at The Temple, lunch will start at noon in the Klein Center, 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, Sept. 5 - Pianist Nada will enthrall us with a classical music program. Lunch will include all-beef hot dogs with all the toppings, baked beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and blackberry cobbler.

Thursday, Sept. 12 - Pianist and guitarist Misha Feigin will be performing. Lunch will include tuna salad, noodle kugel, marinated vegetable salad, fresh fruit, and strawberry trifle.

Thursday, Sept. 19 - Time for Bernie Schweickart to perform popular music through the decades on the piano. Lunch will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate mousse.

Thursday, Sept. 26 - Harpist Jessica Hyden will perform for us. Lunch will include smoked salmon, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, cole slaw, fresh fruit, and chocolate cake.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday if you'll be attending that week in person by calling or emailing Sarah at 502-423-1818 or sarah-harlan86@gmail.com.

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.

Jewish Family & Career Services

JFCS Community Chat Sept. 10: "Making Your Dreams A Reality: Starting Your Own Business" Every small business starts with a dream. The next installment of JFCS's popular Community Chat Series will be Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. at JFCS and will focus on helping aspiring entrepreneurs learn about starting their own business. Panelists for this chat include: Valecia Quinn, Navigate Director at JFCS; Dave Christopher, President & Founder of AMPED; Natalia Bishop, Founder of Story Louisville; and Alisia McClain, Founder & Executive Director of TECH-Nique Inc. As always JFCS Community Chats are FREE and open to the public, but an RSVP is requested for planning purposes. RSVP at this link: jfcsloouisville.org. Spe-

cial thank you to Metro Councilman Ben Reno-Weber for helping make this event possible.

With support from KIPDA (Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency), JFCS will soon launch a series of new support groups to provide valuable resources and assistance to family members and friends caring for people aged 60 years and older. The groups include: Alzheimer's Support Group (in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association) starting Sept. 19, General Caregiver Support Group Aug. 29, and a new in-person option to its current Parkinson's Support Group starting Sept. 19. JFCS support groups are facilitated by professionals experienced in geriatrics, ensuring caregivers receive expert guidance and insights tailored to their specific needs. For complete details, times and to enroll in any of these support groups (or other JFCS support groups), email services@jfcsloouisville.org, or call 502-452-6341.

Do you know an immigrant, refugee or a first-generation American in Louisville who has made a lasting difference? Help us recognize these leaders, changemakers and humanitarians by nominating them for the 2025 JFCS MOSAIC Awards. Nominations will open Sept. 1 and run through Oct. 15. We also recognize the "Corporate Changemaker," a business or company that has made a tangible impact in supporting immigrants and refugees and is creating positive change within our community. Go to our website at jfcsloouisville.org for the nomination form.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Panoramic Strategies will present their findings following a year of listening to diverse community voices and recommendations on how we can embrace these learnings to build a stronger, more connected community. This important presentation will be given Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Jewish Family & Career Services, 2821 Klempner Way across from the Trager Family JCC.

Space is limited, so please register at tinyurl.com/mr3xzk9s. If you have questions, you can email Sara Klein Wagner at swagner@jewishloouisville.org.

Keneseth Israel

Keneseth Israel Congregation offers Daily Minyan services at 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 8:45 a.m. on Sundays 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 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat and Holiday services are offered in person and on YouTubeLive at tinyurl.com/KICyoutubelive. Please visit kenesethisrael.com for information.

Join Rabbi Freed for Jews & Brews every Wednesday at the Trager Family JCC at 11 a.m. Join him for a beer on him at another installment of Jews & Brews: After Hours on Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Hi-Wire Brewing.

Have a toddler in your life? Come join us Sept. 14 and 28 at 11 a.m. for Tot Shabbat, where toddlers enjoy an age-appropriate shortened service and a sweet treat, followed by coming into the main sanctuary to dazzle everyone with their rendition of closing Shabbat service song.

Celebrate our last Shabbat in the Park at Stegner Pavilion in Cherokee Park. Come enjoy a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. followed by a BYO dairy picnic dinner. Dessert is on us.

Come enjoy a sweet Shabbat treat on the long summer days. Join for our last Shabbat and Sundaes at Graeter's Ice Cream on Bardstown Rd. Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. RSVP at tinyurl.com/Shabbat-Sundaes or by calling (502) 459-2780.

Bounce castles! Games! Food! Fun! And best of all -- totally FREE! Come enjoy yourself at our End of Summer Festival on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 3-5 p.m. Free High Holiday tickets will also be given away to those who have never been to Keneseth Israel.

Join Keneseth Israel and Adath Jeshurun clergy and shofar blowers for this Elul class on Sept. 8 and 15 at 6:15 p.m. to learn about the traditions of shofar blowing and how exactly to purse your lips to get a perfect t'kiyah.

High Holiday tickets are available now on our website, kenesethisrael.com, or by calling our office at (502) 459-278.

Kol Israel Community of Kentucky ALEPH -- the Alliance for Jewish Renewal -- has a full slate of virtual events scheduled over the coming months. You can get information and registration links by going online at aleph.org/virtualprograms/.

Friday, Sept 6 at 6 p.m. Shabbat Oneg and Dinner

Join us in person as we welcome the awe-inspiring month of Elul thru Renewal Judaism's Service of Meditation Music and Movement. Led by Lauren Schipper

Open to ALL seekers, regardless of age. Taking place at a private home, so reservations are a must. Free, but space is limited. Call Blu at 502-277-0555 or

AROUND TOWN

email KolIsraelky@gmail.com.

Thursday, Sept 12 Give for Good Volunteer as an ambassador to help Kol Israel Community of Kentucky raise awareness and support your “new way to Jew in the Lou.” Contact Karl Victor, President and G4G Chair at 502-277-0555 or KolIsraelky@gmail.com.

Shabbat Mornings Sept. 14 and 28 at 10:15 a.m.

Join us as we worship with our friends in Bloomington and across the country in the

“Congregation of the Cloud”

10:15 for schmooze

Services begin at 10:30

Contact Blu 502-277-0555 or KolIsraelky@gmail.com for Zoom link

Shabbat Love Friday Sept 20 at 5:45 p.m.

Kol Israel’s monthly virtual prayer service with our Spiritual Leader Rabbi Nachshon Siritsky

Music, meditation, Torah reading and more. In Hebrew and English. Renew your spirit and connect with your spiritual family.

Please message Blu for this Zoom Link.! All seekers welcome.

Louisville High School of Jewish Studies

Registration is still open for the 2024-25 school year for any and all Jewish high school students who want to be part of our ruach-filled community. We’ll be offering another year of engaging and meaningful Jewish learning starting on Sunday, Sept. 15. We currently meet on Sundays from 1-3 p.m. at The Temple, roughly twice a month, eliminating most conflicts in our students’ busy schedules.

On our first day we’ll hold an “elective speed dating” session, when students will learn about the courses we offer, and then rank them, enabling us to build a year of learning that’s custom-crafted for our students. They’ll be able to explore everything from Jews and Sci Fi to Jewish Cooking to LGBTQ Judaism to Jews, Technology and Pop Culture, and more.

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to stay connected with your Jewish friends, explore a wide variety of subjects taught by an amazing faculty, prepare for Confirmation, and fulfill the mitzvah of Jewish learning and engaging. TA at JLAB at The Temple or one of LBSY’s madrichim? Don’t forget to register for HSJS.

Follow this link to register today. We have generous financial aid available; click here to register with scholarship assistance. Questions? Contact Principal Sarah Harlan at hsjssarah@gmail.com.

Louisville Melton School of Adult Learning

Take a literary journey with Rabbi Stan Miles into the Jewish communities of Europe during the Holocaust — sobering, profound accounts of extraordinary courage in the face of an unprecedented struggle for survival. For 10 sessions, learners will have the chance

to examine first-person narratives found in diaries and memoirs, gaining remarkable insight into this devastating period of modern Jewish history. Both young and old writers — authors, poets and journalists, some who survived and many who did not — describe the growing Nazi threat, coping in the ghettos, and imprisonment in death camps. Their unforgettable stories help us understand the real events of the Shoah and its legacy for us today. Class will be held in-person at Congregation Adath Jeshurun on Thursday mornings, from 9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m., starting Sept. 5. Scholarships are available. To register or get more information, visit tinyurl.com/5bbpccrf.

Louisville Vaad HaKashrut

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Trager Family JCC (Nancy Abrams Kitchen), Trager Family JCC Outdoor Café (Dive -n-Diner) Memorial Day - Labor Day; and Krispy Kreme, 3000 Bardstown Road.

National Council of Jewish Women -- Louisville Section

Thursday, Sept. 12, NCJW will be participating in the Community Foundation of Louisville’s annual Give for Good Louisville, an online giving extravaganza that has the power to make a substantial impact on the critical work that NCJW, Louisville Section does in our community. We invite you to be part of this inspiring event and help us surpass our goal.

Government Outreach and Voter Engagement Committee WANTS You!

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.

One way you can support NCJW’s important advocacy work is by visiting our Nearly New Shop in the Mid City Mall, 1250 Bardstown Rd. 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 a.m.-5 p.m. All proceeds help to serve women, children, and families in the Louisville community. All jewelry and accessories are 30% off through this Wednesday, and our Fabulous Finds are 30% off this Friday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, it’s not too early to mark your calendars for Fashion Encore, proudly sponsored by Republic Bank Foundation, coming up next month, Sept. 28-30. We’re bringing you our biggest shopping event of the year a whole month earlier so you can get a jump on your fall fashion reset, start your holiday shopping before the High Holy Days, and check out all the extra special items we only bring out for this special sale. Want to get early access

to all the best fashion deals? Join us for our Fashion Encore VIP Night on Thursday, September 26, from 5-8 pm. Tickets to this exclusive shopping event are only \$25 and are available by calling 502-458-5566 or by emailing us at office@ncjwlou.org or executivedirector@ncjwlou.org.

Speed Art Museum

Thursday, Sept. 5

Global Speed Lecture: Jane Kallir

Transatlantic Tastemaker: Otto Kallir & Austrian Modernism

5-6 p.m. | Reception

6-7 p.m. | Lecture

YOU ARE INVITED to join us on Thursday, Sept. 5, for the next installment of our acclaimed Global Speed Lecture Series featuring Jane Kallir. Jane will share the remarkable story of her grandfather Otto Kallir (1894-1978), who founded the original Neue Galerie in Vienna in 1923 and was instrumental in promoting and preserving the legacies of Austrian Modernists Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka, Alfred Kubin, and Egon Schiele.

In 1930, Otto Kallir published the first catalog raisonné of Egon Schiele’s oil paintings—a book that became crucial in reconstructing the provenances of works that were looted in the Holocaust. In 1938, when Nazi Germany annexed Austria, Kallir was forced to flee. Because the modernists in whom he specialized were considered “degenerate” by Hitler, he was able to take much

of his inventory with him. However, when he finally arrived in New York in 1939, he discovered that none of these artists had any international standing or market.

Jane Kallir will discuss how her grandfather’s efforts gradually helped put Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka and other Austrian modernists on the international map. She will also describe her family’s flight from Hitler, and Otto Kallir’s pioneering efforts to help collectors recover Nazi-looted art after World War II.

If you have any questions about the evening, please reach out to Kellie Springfield Zubli at 502-634-2717 or kspringfieldzubli@speedmuseum.org.

Global Speed is a community lecture series featuring international figures in the art world, to inform on global art topics.

Temple Shalom

Shabbat Services, Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for Shabbat services at Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Road. Friday night services can also be joined via Zoom; the link can be obtained by calling the office at 502-458-4739. Note that the Friday service start time will move to 7 p.m., starting with the first Shabbat of September. Additionally, on the weekend of Labor Day, services will be on-line only.



Jewish Heritage Day

WITH THE LOUISVILLE BATS
SUNDAY, SEPT. 8 AT 1:05 P.M.

Louisville Slugger Field, 401 E Main St, Louisville, KY 40202

Cantor Hordes, Cantor Lipp and Jennifer Diamond perform the national anthem • Meal voucher for kids 12 and under • Bounce House in the Hall of Fame • Kids’ post-game run the bases • Shalom Y’all/Louisville Bats t-shirt (for purchase)



Scan the QR code to purchase tickets!

Or visit <https://fevo-enterprise.com/24JewishHeritage>

AROUND TOWN

Women of Temple Shalom Happenings
All are welcome to join us on Sept. 4, from 1-3 p.m., when we will meet at Locust Grove for a lecture on Treaties, Expansion & the Northwest Territory from the Indigenous Perspective; cost is \$8 at the door.

Selichot, Saturday, Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m.
Join us for our High Holidays kick-off event. We will have a cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs, and vegetarian options. We will also have s'mores around the firepit. Following the meal and dessert, we will celebrate Havdalah and Selichot, with a brief service to welcome the High Holidays. Following the service, we will change our Torah covers to reflect the season. Please RSVP to engagement coordinator Slava Nelson by Sept. 18 at 502-803-4968 or by emailing engagement@templeshalomky.org.

The Temple
Saturday Torah Study with Rabbi David will be offered every Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. in person and via Zoom. 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 has been

leading monthly hikes. 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 last hiking adventure this summer will be on Sunday, Sept. 1 at Harrods Creek – Green Trail. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/hiking.

Join The Temple Brotherhood for their Kick-Off Texas Hold'm game beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5 in the Klein Center. Dinner (pizza, pretzels, beer, soda, and celery) included.

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the New Year for the Animals with a special pet-centered Shabbark service. This short Shabbat morning service will be held outside (weather permitting) and will include a special blessing for our pets. After the service, we will have a pawsome doggie-bag oneg for the pets and a free barbeque for the humans. We will also have booths featuring games for the pets, information on local shelters, and more. Shabbat services are open to all, but if you would like to attend the pawsome oneg and barbeque, please RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/shabbark with your name and your pet's name so we can make sure to have enough food. See you there and Shabbark Shalom!

Join The Temple Brotherhood for their Opening Dinner on Sept. 12 featuring

lower to high-end tequila tasting with a presentation by Anthony Minstein, including his photos of trips to Tequila, Mexico. Business meeting is at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and the presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. Contact Michael Friedman to RSVP at mfriedman@sustainablemgt.com or 502-314-5687.

Get ready for an action-packed evening at the School Bus Figure 8 Races with The Temple Brotherhood. Doors open at 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 with free parking available. To sit with The Brotherhood, plan to arrive by 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$10 for children, available online or at the gate (cash only). Before the main event, enjoy a bus ride around the course from 6 to 7 p.m. While the menu is limited, food and drinks will be for sale. Feel free to bring seat cushions or blankets to make the aluminum bleachers more comfortable. For more information, please contact Michael Friedman to RSVP at mfriedman@sustainablemgt.com or 502-314-5687.

Join The Temple Young Adult Group on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 3:30 pm at the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience (528 W Main St. Louisville, KY 40202) for our first outing of the year - Get Your Bourbon On. The afternoon will begin with a private tour and tasting followed by a private gathering at the Evan Williams Speakeasy for more schmoozing and

drinks. This event is for anyone age 21 to 40 and is free to attend. RSVP is required - please contact The Temple Office at 502-423-1818 or register at thetemplelouky.org/youngadult.

Trager Family JCC
CenterStage Academy registration opens Sept. 3 for Fall 2024 sessions. CenterStage Academy provides an immersive, enriching theatre experience for children (grades K-8) of all experiences and backgrounds. It's an inclusive and dynamic program that offers students the opportunity to develop skills, talents and imagination with positivity and collaboration. This fall, grades K-3 will be doing a production of Disney's Finding Nemo Kids, and grades 4-8 will be doing a production of Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsals will begin late September. For more information, visit jclouisville.org/academy.

Musikgarten Returns – Sept. 8 Through Nov. 17
Bring the joy of music to your child's life! Join us for a wonderful interactive and educational music class with Ms. Cathy Dreszer. Ages 0-17 months: Sundays, 10:30-11 a.m. 18 months-4 years: Sundays, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Cost is \$75 for JCC Members; \$100 for Non-members. To register, go online at jclouisville.org/pjlibrary. For more information, email Carly Mason at cmason@jewishlouisville.org.

Trager Family JCC

Fall Family Festival & Jewish Overnight Camp Fair

Sunday, Sept. 22, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon with food, face painting, a bounce house and arts & crafts!

Show your camp spirit by wearing your favorite camp t-shirt!

The first 200 kids will get a Trager Family JCC swag bag!

✦ Visit with Camp directors and staff from Jewish Overnight Camps.

Beber Camp	Camp Young Judea
Camp Ben Frankel	GUCI
Camp Livingston	URJ Six Points

✦ Learn about grants and financial assistance that are available from the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Questions?
Contact Alison Roemer, aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.

SCAN TO REGISTER

Trager Family JCC

Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE

JEWISHCAMP one happy camper

J ENRICHMENT

Mondays
Ukelele Class

Tuesdays
Chess Club

Thursdays
Bricks4Kidz

Fridays
Cooking Class

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For children grades K-5
September 9 - November 18

Cost: \$200 Members, \$250 Non-Members

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For children grades 1-5
September 10 - November 19

Cost: \$200 Members, \$250 Non-Members

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For children grades K-5
September 12 - November 21

Cost: \$275 Members, \$325 Non-Members

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
For children grades K-5
September 13 - November 22

Cost: \$275 Members, \$325 Non-Members

*Holiday closures may effect these dates.

SCAN TO REGISTER

Questions? Contact Jesse at jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org
jclouisville.org/fallenrichment

LIFECYCLE

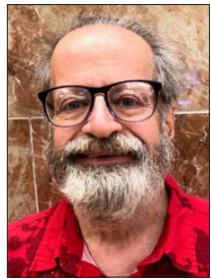
B'nai Mitzvah



Shai Sarah Bornstein

Shai Sarah Bornstein, daughter of Michelle Bornstein and Leonard Temes, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Shai is the granddaughter of Marsha and Ed Bornstein of Louisville, Kentucky and Sandra^{z1} and Marvin Temes of Toronto, Canada. Shai is an eighth grader at Louisville Collegiate School. She is a creative spirit who loves art, singing and acting. She enjoys playing field hockey and basketball on her school teams and taking tennis lessons. Shai has attended Beber Camp in Wisconsin for four summers and intends to raise scholarship funds for potential campers as her Mitzvah project. She has attended LBSY since First Grade and looks forward to working there as a *madricha* next year.

Obituaries



Ivan Howard Bailen

Ivan Howard Bailen, 67, died on August 14, 2024. He was born in Louisville on October 7, 1956, to Bertha (Stengler) and Alex Bailen. Ivan's passion for teaching began at a young age. While a senior at Atherton High School, he spent two hours a day visiting elementary students, which confirmed his career choice. He attended Jefferson Community College and later the University of Louisville, where he obtained his B.S. in 1978 and M.Ed. in 1980.

Initially, Ivan mentored kindergarten and first-grade students in reading. Although he intended to become an elementary teacher, he pursued a master's degree in special education. Ivan enjoyed a fulfilling career teaching special education at Myers Middle School.

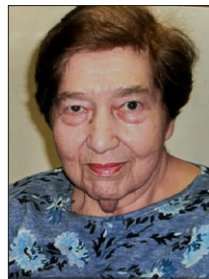
During his retirement, he enjoyed playing golf and mahjong and serving as

a bingo caller. He attended U of L football, baseball, and swimming matches and traveled the world with a group of retired educators. He also opened a dog-sitting business, filmed lectures for Belarmino University, and served on the College of Education and Human Development Advisory Cabinet, supporting ideas and special initiatives in the Dean's Office.

Ivan was a member of the Jefferson County Teachers Association, the Kentucky and National Education Associations, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the American Radio Relay League.

Ivan is survived by his brother Edwin "Jerry" Bailen (Irene Beattie), his niece Michelle Stevens (Matt), his nephew Stephen Applebaum, and many great-nieces and great-nephews and his extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Marcia Applebaum Isaacs.

The funeral service took place August 18 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Memorial donations honoring Ivan's life may be made to the U of L College of Education & Human Development, or the American Red Cross.



Anna Belenkaya

Anna Belenkaya, aged 86, died on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky. Anna, who was born on May 5, 1938, in Minsk, Belarus, led a remarkable life colored by both tragedy and resilience. Orphaned during World War II following the tragic loss of her parents, Luba and Boris Furman, Anna and her sister Sima found strength and support in their aunt's care. Their journey eventually led them to relocate to the United States in 1993, where Anna built a new life.

Anna was predeceased by her husband, Nyuma. She is survived by her loving son, Boris Belenky, and his wife Eugeniya; her cherished daughter, Luba Zalmanoff, and her husband Alexander; her devoted sister, Sima Furman, as well as four beloved granddaughters and four great-grandchildren. Her legacy lives on through the family she held dear.

Funeral services were held August 9 at

Herman Meyer & Son. Her burial was in The Temple Cemetery, honoring Anna's memory and the rich tapestry of her life.



Jill Alison Burns

It is with great sadness that the family of Jill Alison (Cohen) Burns announce her passing, after a long battle with lobular breast cancer, on August 7, 2024, in Louisville, KY.

Born on August 15, 1965, in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Bellmore, NY, Jill is survived by her husband of 33 years, Jim; their two children, Samantha (Thomas Luft) and Jake (Lucia); her mother, Carol Cohen; and her brother Jeff (Dianne Suárez Lasa). Her passing comes after the loss of her father, Julius Cohen.

Jill's love for animals generated a houseful of loving pets over the years, including Romeo, Beau, and Archie who are also missing her.

Jill received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and a master's degree in elementary education from Hofstra University.

In addition to her most cherished role as a mom, Jill was an educator and synagogue administrator for over 25 years. Her teaching days began in Merrick, NY, and her passion for education continued in metro Atlanta as the education director for Congregation Dor Tamid. After returning to New York in 2018, Jill served the Jewish communities on the South Shore of Long Island as an administrator for Merrick Jewish Centre and most recently, Temple Avodah of Oceanside.

During a three-year break from her career, Jill became a food truck entrepreneur. She launched and managed the first franchised mobile food concepts in Atlanta that included cookie, pretzel, and European café trucks.

She was laid to rest privately at The Temple Cemetery in Louisville. A memorial service was held at Temple Avodah of Oceanside, NY on August 15. Arrangements were entrusted to Herman Meyer & Son. Donations in her memory can be made to The Temple Youth Education Initiative Fund.

Lee Loevenhart Grossman

Lee Loevenhart Grossman, age 95,



passed away on August 1, 2024. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Carolyn Grossman, to whom he was married for 65 years. Lee was born in Chicago, Illinois, and moved to Louisville in 1936 with

his mother and sister following the death of his father. Lee Graduated from Male High School and the University of Louisville School of Business. He married Carolyn on June 12, 1951, and shortly thereafter served two years in the Army stationed in Ludwigsburg, Germany, in a field military hospital.

Lee spent his career in his family business, Loevenhart's Men's Store, one of the pre-eminent local men's stores of its era. Loevenhart's was established by Lee's grandfather, Lee Loevenhart, at Third & Market in Louisville in 1898. It was operated by a succession of family members until Lee became President in 1963. Lee moved the store to Oxmoor Center in 1971 and was joined in the business by his son Ken in 1982. Loevenhart's closed in 1995 after 98 successful years in business.

Lee served a term as president of the Board of Directors of Oxmoor Center and also on the boards of the Better Business Bureau, Jewish Hospital and Metro United Way's Successful Young Children's Committee. He enjoyed writing oral histories in the Jewish Community and participated in the No Child Left Behind reading program affiliated with Jefferson County Public Schools.

He had many hobbies and activities he enjoyed including tennis, photography, bird watching, and his beloved exercise programs at the Jewish Community Center and Fitness 19. These activities, in addition to his love for his wife Carolyn, his sons, their wives, four grandchildren and two sons in law who called him "Pops," kept him fulfilled and happy in his "golden years". He was enriched by many Louisville friends and family.

He met his wife Carolyn when she was only 16 and he was 19. He loved and cared for her beyond measure. He is survived by his two sons, H. Philip Grossman (Evalyn) and Kenneth R. Grossman (Marcy), grandchildren Emori Keyer

Continued on page 22

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LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 21

(Will), Hayley Alpert (Max), Jack Grossman, Ethan Grossman, and three great-grandchildren.

Recently, he was a beloved resident of The Glenview Condominiums, Dominion Senior Living, and Westport Place Health Campus. In addition to the wonderful staff at these facilities, "Mr. Lee" was also cared for by loving caregivers affiliated with Caring Excellence, all of whom are appreciated more than can be expressed – although he wouldn't want to name them individually because he would feel so very badly if he left anyone out. We know how he was cherished in these years by many, and he cherished each of you too.

It would be a lost opportunity if we did not say something about his philosophy of running a business, which was truly a gem for him. He was a proud merchant who always treated his staff, his customers, and his friends with respect every time they walked through his doors. He welcomed customers into the store like they were guests in his house. He ran the store with precision and great pride. His boys grew up at the store and agree working there was like attending a master class.

What follows is an excerpt from a sermon inspired by Lee and written by one of the many seminary students who worked at the store over the years and for whom Lee Grossman offered help to him beyond his wages. This employee's observations below are a portrait of Lee Grossman -- one that will be recognized by all who knew him. We honor him with this special memory:

"Mr. Grossman placed a suit upon a customer's shoulders making sure there was no roll of fabric behind the neck, the vent didn't pull, and the body of the coat was sufficiently tapered. He measured each sleeve from the tip of a customer's thumb; he knew the dominant arm is often longer than the other. He knelt before each customer and adjusted the length of the pants, so the back of the pants leg touched the top of the heel, and the front was tapered to caress the top of the shoe. When a customer returned to retrieve his outfit, Mr. Grossman insisted he try it on so he could make sure he had correctly made every measurement...

Every person who entered the store was to be treated with dignity and respect. Every person was valued and appreciated for taking the time to wander through the merchandise. It didn't

matter whether someone looked as if they couldn't afford a pair of socks or appeared to be financially secure. Each person mattered.

I watched Mr. Grossman measure many men as suits made their way from his store racks to their closet racks in their homes. Since then, I have tried to take the measure of the man who offered me a gracious gift. Some believe the measure of a man is best shown when the chips are down, the odds against him, when he has the chance to be a coward or a hero. I have come to believe a man's measure is better taken not when his options are few, but when they are limitless, not when he has to choose to fight or flee, but when a multitude of choices are available. Perhaps one can best determine the measure of a man when he doesn't have to do anything at all....

Humility, justice, and mercy are choices, too...

Our measure is not what we have accomplished or what we possess; our measure is who we choose to be, how we choose to live every extraordinary ordinary day of life. Amen."

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Lee's memory to The Temple-Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom Endowment Fund, St. Jude, and Hosparus Health Louisville.

The funeral was private, as he requested. Arrangements were entrusted to Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.



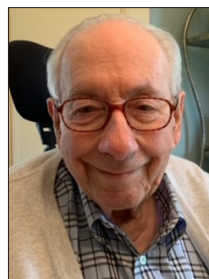
Betsy Ress Jacobson

Betsy Ress Jacobson, 86, died peacefully in her sleep in Southbury, CT. July 23, 2024.

Betsy was born and raised in Providence, RI. She graduated from Barnard

College in New York City and was a long-time resident of Westchester and Putnam Counties, NY, where she was active in the Jewish community. More recently she lived in Sandy Hook, CT.

Betsy is survived by her husband of 52 years, Kenny Jacobson, originally from Louisville, KY; her son, Michael (Kim), and granddaughters Emma and Abby.



Irwin Gilbert Levitch

Irwin Gilbert Levitch passed away peacefully on July 22, 2024.

Born June 29, 1932, in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Gil was pre-

deceased by his parents, Philip and Bertha Levitch. He was a proud graduate of St. John's Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, he graduated from the University of Kentucky. Nonetheless, he was a die-hard University of Louisville fan.

Gil began his career in radio broadcasting and then marketing for his father's liquor distributorship. Later, he was president of Louisville Display Service, Inc., a specialty advertising company, for over 50 years and worked almost until the day he passed.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Goldstein Levitch, son Paul Levitch (Kim

Tabler), daughters Debby Levitch, Karen DeJarnette, and Pamela Schwab (Dan); twin sister Carlyne Gilbert, sister-in-law Jane Goldstein, and seven grandchildren Casey Schwab, Riley Schwab, Laney Schwab, Isaac Levitch, Benham Levitch, Aria DeJarnette, and Ben DeJarnette.

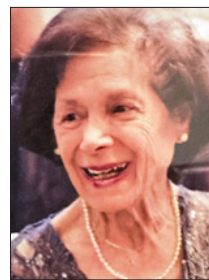
A special thank you to caregiver Connie Means and the people of Hosparus of Louisville.

A graveside service was held July 24 at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

Donations may be made to Hosparus of Louisville or Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

Howard Lawrence Mocerf

Howard Lawrence Mocerf died at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix, AZ on August 14 at the age of 78. Howard was the dearly beloved husband of Diane (Perlut) for 45 years; dear brother of Sharon Friedenberg, brother-in-law of Phyllis Dee and Donn Perlut. Howard was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1946. He earned degrees from Washington & Lee University in Virginia and the University of Louisville Law School. He began his legal career at the National Labor Relations Board in Cincinnati before joining major law firms including Duane Morris and later Greenberg Traurig. He took special pride in representing the Jewish Federation of Chicago for fifty years. He cherished his friends and longtime colleagues but he most especially cherished his relationship with his wife Diane. The funeral will be held in Scottsdale.



Charlotte Prussian

Charlotte Prussian, 103, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, died July 31st, 2024.

She is survived by her children, Mark (Betsy) Prussian of Louisville, Ky., Suzanne Prussian and

Francine (Paul) Hack; grandchildren, Mara (Andrew) Moss,

Jay (Tara) Hack, Dana (Joel Haney) Prussian and Dorrie (fiancé Derek Wolfe) Prussian; great-grandchildren, Nathan Moss, Samantha Moss, Jonah Hack and Jasper Hack. Also survived by many other loving family members and friends.

Charlotte was the beloved wife of the late David L. Prussian and sister of the late Harold Weingarden and the late Bernice Graff.

Interment was held at the Adat Shalom Memorial Park Cemetery in Livonia. Contributions can be made to Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network or to Hospice of Michigan or to Norton Children's Hospital Foundation. Arrangements were by The Dorfman Chapel.

2024-25 B'nai Mitzvot

Adath Jeshurun

2401 Woodbourne Ave
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Sept. 14, 2024
Shai Bornstein

Oct. 19, 2024
Ryan Wachsman

Nov. 9, 2024
Aaron Shaw

Nov. 16, 2024
Zoë Bailen

Nov. 23, 2024
Jude Tasman

Feb. 1, 2025
Fay Davidson

Mar. 1, 2025
Caleb Cartwright

Apr. 26, 2025
Madison Fox

Sept. 6, 2025
Chloe & Jordan Rosenthal

Keneseth Israel
2531 Taylorsville Rd
502-459-2780

Sept. 14, 2024
Ella Goldsmith

May 10, 2025
Billie Price

May 31, 2025
Maddie Behr

Nov. 8, 2025
Lily Shuster

Nov. 29, 2025
Rosie Moses

The Temple
5101 US-42
502-423-1818

Oct. 19, 2024
Avi Ohayon

Dec. 14, 2024
Louisa and Oliver Barber

Feb. 22, 2025
Lila Roth

March 1, 2025
Camden Ignatow

March 15, 2025
Asher Gallagher

March 22, 2025
Rivkah Dougherty and Isabella Tasman

April 26, 2025
Jacob Broyles

May 10, 2025
Levi Lubrick

Mar. 22, 2025
Isabella Tasman

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NEWS

Amid rising antisemitism, an undaunted NAJL meets in Louisville

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

The National Association of Jewish Legislators, which comprises more than 240 Jewish state legislators in close to 40 states, met in Louisville earlier this month. It marked a particularly auspicious time for NAJL, which – after operating independently since its founding in 1977 -- will become an integral component within Jewish Federations of North America.

“I’m honored and humbled to be in the room with all of you,” Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC, told attendees during a welcome breakfast on Aug. 6. “We share roots, and we share traditions.”

Wagner lauded NAJL members “for getting up every day as Jews, but more importantly as citizens in our United States and saying, ‘This is what I want to do with my time.’”

“We live by our Jewish values,” she emphasized, exemplified by “action, respect, and of course hope for a better future. So, thank you for the work you’re doing in your state capitals and in your communities.”

Matt Golden, the Federation’s General Counsel and Chief Strategy and Impact Officer spoke in his capacity as outgoing director of the Jewish Community Relations Council. “Kentucky has a complicated relationship with its Jews,” he said.

“Not too many people know this, but the Jews were expelled from Kentucky during the Civil War,” Golden said. “We were not allowed to be part of the hospital system. We were excluded from workout facilities. So, we started our own Jewish facilities, our own Jewish hospital.”

Fast forward to the here and now, when there is a thriving local Federation serving 14,000 Jews, with an extraordinary Jewish Heritage Fund and even a Jewish Mayor (and Jerry Abramson before him). “We’ve elected Jewish congresspeople,” Golden said. “We have state Jewish elected officials. We have an antisemitism task force – one of the first places in the country to do that.”

Louisville’s current Jewish Mayor, Craig Greenberg, spoke about moving

to Louisville in 1984 when his father was hired as a Jewish Hospital administrator. “And ironically, at the time we moved here there were no Jewish people in the senior leadership team of Jewish Hospital.”

“Thank you for your public service,” Greenberg said. “Thank you for choosing Louisville, and I look forward to continue working with each and every one of you to end antisemitism in our cities, in our states, and across the country.”

Anat Sultan-Dadon, Israel’s Consul General for the Southeastern U.S., spoke of what she believes are misguided calls for a ceasefire in Gaza. “If only those voices were calling on Hamas to cease their fire, to lay down their weapons and to release the hostages, this would have been long over.” While the rest of the world counts the war’s length in months, the hostages “are counting in seconds.”

“We continue to fight those who proudly state they seek to destroy us, and not only in Gaza,” she said, “whose goal is not only the destruction of Israel. It is the destruction of the values we all share.”

When one listener said that she was trying to reconcile supporting Israel with her intense disapproval of the current Netanyahu-led government, Sultan-Dadon responded that such support superseded any political considerations.

“The need to fight Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran is not about a specific government or a specific coalition in Israel,” she said. And sometimes there truly are certain absolutes: “There is no daylight in ensuring our survival.”

Moreover, Sultan-Dadon said, “we are seeing antisemitism all around the world being legitimized, including here in the United States. This is a crucial point in time in which we all need to educate ourselves to better use our voices to share the truth, and to clarify what others seek to distort.”

“It is not good enough to say the words ‘never again’ when what we are witnessing around the world is ‘once again.’ When Jewish children are being bullied, harassed, and attacked in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and universities, this is not about this or that. Policy in Israel.”

Strong words. But even under reality’s

harsh glare, on this morning the mood was decidedly upbeat and optimistic. The JFNA/NAJL merger is a prime indicator of legislators’ eagerness, wherever they serve, to advocate and collaborate. The imperative may never have been more pressing, but these legislators appear undaunted.

Ultimately, “the fact that dozens of Jewish state legislators from around the country chose to meet in Louisville -- and chose our Jewish Federation as the sponsor of the event,” Wagner said, “is a testament to the important, ongoing work we are doing here.”



Mayor Craig Greenberg with Consul General Anat Sultan-Dadon and members of NAJL and Jewish Federations of North America



KY State Senator Karen Berg with a representative from Maryland



JCL Board Member Melanie Pell with KY State Representative Adrielle Camuel from Lexington

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LOUISVILLE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

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Shane & Jeffrey O’Koon & families*

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*In honor of Steve & Amy Trager
Richard Dale*

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

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Wagner's new grandson*

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In memory of Lee Grossman

Harris Berman

Jane Kreinik

Marking One Year

Sunday, October 6

Please mark your calendars for a community gathering in honor of the victims and survivors of the October seventh attacks. More details to come.



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GLOBE

For rabbis writing High Holiday sermons during the Israel-Hamas war, procrastination pays off

By Jacob Gurvis
JTA

On the morning of Oct. 7, Rabbi Erez Sherman was preparing for the Yizkor memorial service at his Conservative synagogue, Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. He had written a sermon, somewhat presciently, about memory. It was titled “Hard to Say Goodbye.”

Then he received a text message from his predecessor, Rabbi David Wolpe, who was three hours ahead in Boston: “Change your sermon.”

News had broken about Hamas’ surprise attack on Israel, and while Sherman said he typically doesn’t use technology on Shabbat and holidays, it became clear that this was no typical holiday. For his sermon that day, Sherman ended up reading text updates from someone in a shelter in Ashkelon, near the Gaza border.

Now, as rabbis across the United States prepare their sermons for the upcoming High Holidays, the first since Oct. 7 sent shockwaves across the Jewish world, many are acutely aware that similar last-minute changes could be needed yet again. As the Israel-Hamas war continues and the U.S. presidential election approaches, the volume and pace of news show no sign of abating. For any rabbi interested in preaching on current events, that uncertainty pres-

ents a challenge.

But as Rabbi Nicole Guzik, Sherman’s wife and co-senior rabbi, points out, it’s a challenge with which rabbis are — often somberly — familiar.

“I hate to say it, but look what has happened during the months of September and October,” Guzik said. “What was it like to be a rabbi during 9/11? What was it like to be a rabbi during the Yom Kippur War? Being a rabbi is being able to pivot and to give meaning and significance and the grounding of Torah to current events.”

Rabbi Jennifer Frenkel, the senior rabbi at Congregation Kol Ami, a Reform synagogue in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, said High Holiday sermon-writing often boils down to “the art of procrastinating.” That’s especially true, she added, when the holidays fall as late as they do this year — Rosh Hashanah begins Oct. 2, nearly three weeks later than it did last year.

“I think clergy have learned a lot since 9/11, since all these things tend to hit around the holidays, about being open to needing to scrap everything we’ve thought of and start again,” Frenkel said.

Frenkel, who plans to speak about current events for one of her High Holiday sermons, said she has been collecting resources and brainstorming with colleagues. But while in a typical year

she would likely have an initial draft by this point, Frenkel said she has not yet started writing that sermon.

“That process, I imagine, is going to start much later than it has,” Frenkel said. “Certainly with the situation in Israel ever evolving, the political climate in the country. So that’s kind of where I am — not very far at all. But I think that’s the best place to be right now, just staying open to the meaning that we’re finding in the day to day.”

Guzik, who is planning to speak about the Gaza war on Rosh Hashanah, said the conflict has actually simplified rabbis’ preparations in one key way — when it comes to choosing sermon topics.

“You know you’re going to speak about Israel,” Guzik said. “I would be shocked if one of the five sermons that people deliver, [if] one’s not about Israel, that would be a very hard thing for me to hear. I think it kind of relieves that uncertainty. I think the question will be the direction.”

Rabbi Ariel Rackovsky, who leads Congregation Shaare Tefilla, a Modern Orthodox synagogue in Dallas, said he has recently been writing his Shabbat sermons later than usual and, where possible, avoiding references to specific events that could quickly become outdated.

For the High Holidays, he said, he plans to keep his sermons focused on

broader subjects that can be written ahead of time with little risk of requiring changes, and when he talks about Israel, current events will not be “the sole focus” of his remarks.

“Given that the specific reality may change, not just from one day to the next but from one hour to the next, my discussions are going to focus on the types of themes that you can prepare for in advance, that you can anticipate,” Rackovsky said.

Michele Lowe, a playwright who advises rabbis across the country on their sermons, said many of the rabbis she is working with ahead of this High Holiday season are planning to speak about the war and antisemitism, even if they gave similar sermons last year or in the months since Oct. 7.

Lowe is advising roughly two dozen rabbis on 37 sermons for this fall — her largest workload since she began moonlighting as a so-called “rabbi whisperer.” Most of her clients are Reform rabbis and the majority are women, she said.

Lowe said that any rabbi who chooses to speak about the war knows that they will likely need to continuously edit their sermons until the day they deliver them.

“Because this is something that is unfolding literally by the day, I think that if

Continued on page 25

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 Jewish Federation
OF LOUISVILLE



GLOBE



Nicole Guzik and Erez Sherman, the husband-wife team of co-senior rabbis at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. (Courtesy of Sinai Temple)

Continued from page 24

they are going to be preaching about the war; for example, they know that," Lowe said. "It's absolutely not a surprise."

Lowe said the current moment reminds her of another recent crisis that accelerated ahead of the High Holidays: the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, even as vaccination rates increased, the spread of the Delta variant cast uncertainty over how synagogues would approach the holidays.

"Everyone thought in July of 2021, everybody's going to stay healthy, things are going to be OK," Lowe said. "And then what ended up happening was, the more the summer came on, a lot of those sermons had to get rewritten."

On the plus side, Lowe said, giving a sermon about the war or other current events during the High Holidays provides rabbis a luxury often not available to them on a typical Shabbat: Time.

While she usually encourages brevity — "I'm of the belief nobody ever complained that the sermon was too short," she quipped — Lowe said High Holiday sermons

are often closer to 20 minutes, sometimes twice as long as a typical Shabbat offering.

As rabbis tackle — or revisit — these topics on the High Holidays, length is not the only factor to weigh. There's also the question of navigating the political climate in one's own congregation, a reality that differs in each community.

At Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, Sherman said the clergy have historically tended to steer clear of politics — an approach that drew criticism when Wolpe argued for it.

"We don't give political commentary, we give spiritual food for the soul, and I think that's an important aspect," Sherman said. "Anybody can go read the

news on whatever site they would like to, but when you're going to come to a synagogue on Shabbat, on holidays, on High Holidays, I think people want to feel connected three ways: To each other, to a deeper sense of themselves and to God."

Sherman said his community includes members of all political stripes, and that he and his colleagues "really try to present ideas of how to think and not what to think." That apolitical approach does not apply to Israel, however, which he said has been a topic of conversation and education "literally every week" since Oct. 7.

In fact, that's a practice Sherman said his congregants have validated. About five or six months after the war began, Sinai Temple's rabbis asked lay leaders whether they should stop talking about Israel.

"When we asked our leaders, should we go back to what we were doing pre-Oct. 7, they said, 'No, we're not enjoying what you're doing, but we crave it,'" Sherman said.

To Frenkel, the appeal of an Israel sermon — for both the rabbi and the congregation — is the opportunity to use Jewish tradition and text to draw meaning out of a difficult situation, an exercise that can be repeated, even on the same topic.

"For many [congregants], they haven't been in the synagogue to hear every Israel sermon that we've given, or every sermon on antisemitism, or every sermon on the meaning that we find in community right now," Frenkel said.

"These sermons are kind of the heavy hitters. Are we going to echo some of the things that have already been said this year? Absolutely. But I think there's always a new angle."

Rackovsky has experience revising his sermons quickly. In 2018, American-Israeli activist Ari Fuld, whom Rackovsky knew personally and who had a relationship with Rackovsky's synagogue, was stabbed and killed by a Palestinian teen in the West Bank days after Rosh Hashanah. Rackovsky said he found a way to incorporate Fuld's "legacy and what he stood for" into his Yom Kippur sermon that year.

If he has to adapt his sermons this fall, he hopes it's for a brighter reason.

"I hope that that pattern doesn't hold up this year," he said. "But on the other hand, there's already been so much bad news that it's not like you're starting from a place where you're talking about how great things are and suddenly they're not."

While last-minute changes to High Holiday sermons have historically been prompted by tragedy — 9/11, COVID spikes, war in Israel — Guzik isn't ruling out the possibility that good news could throw a wrench into her sermon this year.

"Say suddenly on erev Rosh Hashanah, I get news that — God willing it happens much earlier — a deal has been reached and the hostages are being released, you better believe that my sermon is changing," she said.

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www.adathjeshurun.com

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Saturday, Sept. 28

8 p.m. Selichot Program and Service

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Ley'l Rosh Hashanah

5 p.m. New Year's Eve Party
5:45 p.m. Ley'l Rosh Hashanah Service

Thursday, Oct. 3

Rosh Hashanah, First Day

9 a.m. Morning Service
10 a.m. Family Service with Rabbi Susan Leider
1 p.m. Tashlich – Lower Millvale Rd.
5 p.m. Shared Tashlich & Mincha with Keneseth Israel - Big Rock Pavilion

Friday, Oct. 4

Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

9 a.m. Morning Service
10 a.m. Family Service with Rabbi Susan Leider

Friday, October 11

Kol Nidre

6:45 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

Saturday, Oct. 12

Yom Kippur

9 a.m. Morning Service
10 a.m. Family Service with Rabbi Susan Leider
2 p.m. Rap & Reflect
5 p.m. Ask the Rabbis
5:20 p.m. Mincha, Neilah, Ma'ariv
7:45 p.m. Final Shofar Blowing
7:55 p.m. Break the Fast

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Erev Sukkot

5:45 p.m. Afternoon Service
6:30 p.m. Sukkot Under the Stars Dinner (*reservations required*)

Thursday, Oct. 17

Sukkot, First Day

10 a.m. Sukkot Service

Friday, Oct. 18

Sukkot, Second Day

9:30 a.m. Shared Sukkot Service with Keneseth Israel at KI
5:45 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Thursday, Oct. 24

Shemini Atzeret

10 a.m. Shemini Atzeret Service & Yizkor
5:45 p.m. Mincha
6:30 p.m. Shared Dinner & Ice Cream with Keneseth Israel (*reservations required*)
6:45 p.m. Havdalah and Simchat Torah Service, followed by crafts, with music by Lost Tribe

Friday, Oct. 25

Simchat Torah

10 a.m. Shared Simchat Torah Service with Keneseth Israel
5:45 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Anshei Sfard

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502-451-3122

Wednesday Oct. 2

Erev Rosh Hashana

7:05 p.m. Candle lighting
7:05 p.m. Mincha

Thursday, Oct. 3

Rosh Hashana, Day 1

9 a.m. Shachris
Shofar – not before 10:30am
6:50 p.m. Mincha
8:06 p.m. Maariv
Candle lighting after 8:21pm

Friday, Oct. 4

Rosh Hashana, Day 2

9 a.m. Shachris
Shofar – not before 10:30 a.m.
6:50 p.m. Mincha
8:05 p.m. Maariv
Candle lighting after 8:20 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 11

Erev Shabbos/Yom Kippur

4:30 p.m. Mincha
6:51p.m. Candle lighting
7:05 p.m. Kol Nidrei
7:09 p.m. Fast begins

Saturday, Oct. 12

Shabbos/Yom Kippur

9 a.m. Shachris
Yizkor – not before 10:30 a.m.
5:45 p.m. Mincha
8:08 p.m. Maariv/Shofar
8:08 p.m. Fast ends

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Erev Succos

6:44 p.m. Candle lighting
6:44 p.m. Mincha

Thursday, Oct. 17

Succos, Day 1

9 a.m. Shachris
6:40 p.m. Mincha
7:46 p.m. Maariv
Candle lighting not before 8:01p.m.

Friday, Oct. 18

Succos, Day 2

9 a.m. Shachris
6:40 p.m. Mincha
7:45 p.m. Maariv
Candle lighting not before 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 23

Erev Yom Tov

6:35 p.m. Candle lighting
6:35 p.m. Mincha

Wednesday, Oct. 24

Shemini Atzeres

9 a.m. Shachris
6:30 p.m. Mincha
7:37 p.m. Maariv
Candle lighting not before 7:52 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Simcha Torah

9 a.m. Shachris
6:30 p.m. Mincha
7:35 p.m. Maariv
7:50 p.m. Candle lighting

Chabad of Kentucky

3700 Dutchmans Lane
502-459-1770

All services will take place at the old Anshei Sfard building, 3700 Dutchmans Lane. There is no cost to attend.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Rosh Hashana Eve

7:05 p.m. Mincha

Thursday, Oct. 3

Rosh Hashana, First Day

9:30 a.m. Shachrit
10:30 a.m. Torah Reading
11:45 a.m. Blow Shofar
6:40 p.m. Mincha
7 p.m. Tashlich
8 p.m. Evening Service

Friday, Oct. 4

Rosh Hashana, Second Day

9:30 a.m. Shachrit
10:30 a.m. Torah Reading
11:45 a.m. Blow Shofar
7 p.m. Mincha/Maariv

Saturday Oct. 5

Shabbat

10 a.m. Learning
10:30 a.m. Shachrit

Friday, Oct. 11

Erev Yom Kippur

3:15 p.m. Mincha
6:45 p.m. Greetings and Candle Lighting
7 p.m. Kol Nidrei

Saturday, Oct. 12

Yom Kippur

10 a.m. Morning Service
11 a.m. Torah Reading
12 p.m. Yizkor Service
5:15 p.m. Mincha
6:30 p.m. Neilah

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Shemini Atzeret

Chabad invites the entire community to an evening of joy and celebration entitled "Dance for Israel." (Simchat Torah is celebrated one day earlier in Israel than in America).

This is the time that our enemies tried to extinguish our joy. Our defiant response is to increase in the joy of traditional singing and dancing with the Torah to emphasize that Am Yisroel Chai - the Nation of Israel lives on. The festive program will begin at 7:45 pm. Reservations are encouraged, please email Chabadky@gmail.com.

Thursday, Oct. 24

Shemini Atzeret

10 a.m. Morning services
11:15 a.m. Torah reading

The Yizkor memorial service will be held at 12 noon to commemorate those who were tragically killed at the Simchat Torah massacre in Israel last year on this date as well as all of the other righteous souls who called back to heaven by G-d.

Evening prayers with dancing at 8:00 pm. We will continue the "Dance for Israel" program, cementing Simchat Torah as a living expression of Am Yisroel Chai - The Nation of Israel lives on.

Friday, Oct. 25

Simchat Torah

10 a.m. Morning Service.
11 a.m. Dance for Israel Part 3. We will institute a third round of dancing for Israel recognizing that three times creates a permanence and transforms these singular acts into an eternal tri-

pod of joy that will never be broken again.

Keneseh Israel

2531 Taylorville Road
502-459-2780
www.kenesethisrael.com

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Erev Rosh Hashanah

6 p.m. Evening Service
7:15 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Seder

Thursday, Oct. 3

Rosh Hashanah, First Day

9 a.m. Morning Service
5 p.m. Tashlich at Big Rock Park

Friday, Oct. 4

Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

9 a.m. Morning Service
6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, Oct. 11

Kol Nidre

7 p.m. Kol Nidre

Saturday, Oct. 12

Yom Kippur

9 a.m. Morning Service
3 p.m. Class with Rabbi
5 p.m. Mincha and Ne'ilah

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Erev Sukkot

6 p.m. Evening Service

Thursday, Oct. 17

Sukkot, First Day

9:30 a.m. Morning Service

Friday, Oct. 18

Sukkot, Second Day

10 a.m. Morning Service at AJ
6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat at KI
7 p.m. Dinner in the Sukkah

Saturday, Oct. 19

Shabbat Chol Hamoed

9:30 a.m. Morning Service
3-8 p.m. Open Sukkah at Rabbi's Home

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Hoshana Rabbah

7:15 a.m. Morning Service at AJ
6 p.m. Evening Service

Thursday, Oct. 24

Shemini Atzeret

9:30 a.m. Morning Service
5:45 p.m. Afternoon Service at AJ
6 p.m. Dinner at AJ
6:45 p.m. Simchat Torah Service

Friday, Oct. 25

Simchat Torah

10 a.m. Morning Service at AJ
6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat

Temple Shalom

4615 Lowe Road
502-458-4739
www.templeshalomky.org

Saturday, Sept. 28

5:30 p.m. High Holiday Kickoff Cook-out and Selichot Service

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Erev Rosh Hashanah

7 p.m. Services (oneg will follow)

Thursday, Oct. 3

Rosh Hashanah, First Day

HIGH HOLY DAYS

10:30 a.m. Morning Service
1 p.m. Tashlich at Brown Park
1:30 p.m. Family Service at Brown Park Pavilion (at the synagogue in case of inclement weather)

Friday, Oct. 4, Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

10:30 a.m. Second Day Services
7 p.m. Shabbat Shuvah Services

Saturday, Oct. 5 Shabbat

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Shuvah Services

Friday, Oct. 11 Kol Nidrei

7 p.m. Services

Saturday, Oct. 12 Yom Kippur

10:30 a.m. Morning Service,
1 p.m. Family Service,
3:15-3:45 p.m. Classical Music with Daniel Epstein
4-4:30 p.m. Cello Music with Ellen Weiss
4:45 p.m. Yizkor (Memorial Service)
Neilah (Concluding Service), immediately following Yizkor

Sunday, Oct. 13

11 a.m. Decorating the Sukkah, light snacks provided

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Erev Sukkot
7 p.m. Services in the Sukkah

Saturday, Oct. 19

5:30 p.m. Schmoozing in the Sukkah

Friday, Oct. 25 Simchat Torah

7 p.m. Featuring music from Lost Tribe

Saturday, Oct. 26

10:30 a.m. Yizkor Service

Reservations are required for on-line and in-person attendance on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for security reasons, both for in-person and on-line services; in-person attendees will receive a ticket, and on-line participants will be emailed links. A donation to underwrite the cost of services is requested. Suggested Amount: \$72 per ticket. No minimum donation required. Tickets can be purchased via check to Temple Shalom or on-line at www.templeshalomky.org, in the donation section.

RSVPs are requested for Selichot Cook-out, Decorating the Sukkah, and Schmoozing in the Sukkah so that we have enough food for everyone. RVSPs can be sent to Slava Nelson at 502-830-4968 or engagement@templeshalomky.org.

The Temple

5101 US-42
502-423-1818
www.thetemplelouky.org

Saturday, Sept. 28 Selichot

7 p.m. Selichot Service (Waller Chapel)
8 p.m. Oneg Selichot (Jack's Place)

Wednesday, Oct. 2 Erev Rosh Hashanah

6 p.m. Classical Service (Sanctuary)

6 p.m. Children's Service (Waller Chapel) followed by Oneg in the Temple Trager ECEC

8 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, Oct. 3 Rosh Hashanah

10 a.m. Rosh Hashanah service (Sanctuary)

10 a.m. Hugim & babysitting (ECEC) for infants to grade 3, please pre-register on The Temple website.

10 a.m. High Holy Day Your Way (Fishman Library) for grades 4-6, please pre-register on The Temple website (Tashlich at Captain's Quarters Dock immediately following services)

Friday, Oct. 4 Shabbat Shuvah

7 p.m. Shabbat Shuvah (Waller Chapel) followed by Oneg

Saturday, Oct. 5 Shabbat Shuvah

9 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Shuvah Service

Sunday, Oct 6

10:30 a.m. Service of Remembrance

Friday, Oct. 11 Erev Yom Kippur

6 p.m. Classical Kol Nidrei service (Sanctuary)

6 p.m. Children's service (Waller Chapel)

8 p.m. Kol Nidrei service (Sanctuary)

Saturday, Oct. 12 Yom Kippur

10 a.m. Yom Kippur service (Sanctuary)

10 a.m. Hugim & babysitting (ECEC) for infants to Grade 3; please pre-register on The Temple website.

10 a.m. High Holy Day Your Way (Fishman Library) for Grades 4-6, please pre-register on The Temple website

12 p.m. Educational session: with Rabbi David (Fishman Library)

1 p.m., Educational session: with Rabbi Matt (Fishman Library)

2:30 p.m. Afternoon service (Sanctuary)

3:45 p.m. Yizkor service (Sanctuary)

4:45 p.m. Concluding service (Sanctuary)

(Break the Fast immediately following services)

Thursday, Oct. 17 Sukkot

10:30 a.m. Sukkot Morning Service (Waller Chapel)

Friday, Oct. 18

6 p.m. Family Dinner (Heideman Auditorium)

7 p.m. Kindergarten and Grade 1 Consecration with WRJ Cake Walk (Waller Chapel)

Thursday, Oct. 24 Sukkot/Simchat Torah

10:30 a.m. Festival Yizkor service (Waller Chapel)



P2G Book Club

November 3, 1 p.m., Zoom

This captivating novel, set in 1947, delves into themes of language, loyalty, and betrayal against the backdrop of historical turmoil.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/P2GNovBook

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



27th Anniversary Celebration in the Western Galilee

February 25-28, 2025

Join us for opportunities to make new friends from the U.S., Israel and Budapest! Open to all community members, staff and lay leaders - including first timers.

Volunteer with local Israelis, learn about new initiatives in the Western Galilee, and meet heroes of resilience. Highly subsidized. Add-on travel opportunities available.

For more information, contact Amy Fouts, afouts@jewishlouisville.org.

Connecting PERSON 2 PERSON PEOPLE 2 PEOPLE

Partnership2Gether is an extraordinary global platform promoting people-to-people relationships through cultural, social, medical, educational, and economic programs.

Follow Partnership2Gether events on Facebook:

<https://tinyurl.com/P2GLou>

Visit our website at jewishlouisville.org/p2g.



SNOWFLAKE
SHOPPE
at the Trager Family JCC

Call for Vendors!

November 24, 2024

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

Support the ELC!

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



For more information,
Scan the QR code,
or visit
jclouisville.org/snowflakeshoppe

Emergency Room Wait Times at Your Fingertips

Text ERWait to 511511

In a medical emergency, every second counts. That's why UofL Health offers the most ER locations in the region with shorter wait times. And now, when you **text ERWait to 511511** you can get a list of wait times at all 7 ER locations. We also have expert Urgent Care *Plus* centers nearby.

We offer safe, fast, compassionate care close to home. And we accept most insurances, including Medicare and Medicaid. So there's never a reason to put your health on hold. That's the Power of U.



U^{OF}**L** Health

THAT'S THE POWER OF **U**

To find the nearest location, visit UofLHealth.org