

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

Filson will host the Southern Jewish Historical Society's 2024 Conference

SEE PAGE 14

FRIDAY Vol. 50, No. 9 | September 27, 2024 | 24 Elul 5784

A Commemoration and Prayer for Peace

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

In less than two weeks, the international community will mark the first anniversary of an event seared forever in the memories of Jews around the world: the October 7 terrorist attacks by Hamas in Southern Israel. Some 1,200 civilians and soldiers were murdered, and upwards of 250 others were abducted into Gaza as hostages.

On Sunday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m., the community will gather at the Trager Family JCC and join JFCS, Congregations Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel, The Temple and Temple Shalom, and others for *October 7: A Gathering for Remembrance & Prayers for Peace*. As a statement by the Jewish Federation of Louisville shared, "this event will feature Linor Ein-gedy, an Israeli musician from Kibbutz Mifalsim, located in the Gaza envelope. Alongside her melodies

and personal story of October 7, local clergy will lead prayers and moments of reflection together. Louisville's ShinShinim will also share their stories.

"The evening program will include the dedication of a commemorative Nova Tree Grove and Tree of Life mosaic art installation. The 18-tree grove will stand as a living tribute to Jewish unity, resilience, life, wisdom, mitzvot, hope, and community. Honoring the Jewish tradition of placing a stone on a grave as a gesture of respect for the deceased, the mosaic will be permanently installed within the tree grove. For years to come, the tree grove will serve as an open, green space for community members to gather to reflect and remember."

In anticipation of this event, I asked various people in the community and in our Partnership region in Northern Israel to share their thoughts on this darkest of anniversaries. Those contributions follow below.



Memorial at the site of the Nova Festival in Re'im, Israel, April 2024. The flowers pictured are made of metal by an Israeli artist honoring the festival's victims. (Photo by Abigail Goldberg)



Rabbi David Ariel-Joel *The Temple*

If there is one thing that we can all agree on, it is that 2023 was the worst year in the history of the State of Israel. 2023 started with a cold civil war in Israel, which weakened Israel more and more. Our enemies realized that Israel was weakening itself (as the Israeli intelligence warned

the Israeli government at least four times), and chose

to attack on October 7, and since then we have all seen this terrible war and a very complex situation. I have never witnessed a society as desperate as Israeli society this summer.

You asked for a prophecy - a path for Israel after this war. Many Israelis consider that October 7 broke everything. Now, Israel is not a continuation of the old Israel, it is a new beginning: Israel 2.0. In 1948 after the War of Independence, Israelis built Israel. My mother always said that 1949 was the most optimistic and the best year of her life. After this current war, there will be an opportunity to rebuild Israel. Like most Israelis, I am pessimistic about the war, where

it is going, and the ability of the current government to lead Israel. Also, like most Israelis, I am very optimistic about the ability to heal and build a new Israel.

There is a real opportunity to rebuild Israel, not only because hope is our strength, but like all people, Israelis are afraid of what they remember from the recent past.

In 2023 for the first time in Israel, a full right-wing government, including supporters of Kahana, was elected. The right in Israel always had a fantasy that one day there will be a full-fledged right government. How do you destroy a fantasy... realize it. 2023

See **ANNIVERSARY** on page 4

In Louisville, 502.0 offers a path toward a growing, vibrant Jewish community

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Over much of the past year, small groups of Jewish Louisvilians have met to discuss, ruminate, and consider how to move forward in the wake of 2022's groundbreaking, Brandeis University-led "Study of Jewish Louisville." Cohorts ranging from teenagers to seniors met at the Trager Family JCC with one overarching imperative: identify the best ways to translate the Brandeis study's statistics into action - a process dubbed Louisville 502.0.

The Columbus, Ohio-based firm Panoramic Strategy acted as facilitator for these sessions, and earlier this month a

series of meetings were held to present its core findings. It was an opportunity for stakeholders - and indeed anyone curious about the future of Judaism in Louisville - to gain a better understanding of what's emerged from both the Brandeis study and the focus groups that followed.

"I look on this as a three-stage process: the Who, the What and the How of the community," Jon Klein, a Louisville physician and researcher who chairs the 502.0 committee, told an audience gathered Sept. 4 at Jewish Family & Career Services. "The 'Who' is, 'Who are we,' - that was the Brandeis demographic study."

"We learned that we're geographically

widely dispersed across the Louisville and southern Indiana area," Klein said. "And we learned, at least from my perspective, that there are more Jews in this area that I ever realized - certainly more than previous studies had shown."

"The 'What' is, 'What do we think about? How do we build an engaged and vibrant Jewish community? How do we invigorate it? How do we change things? What do we think about this place, and how do we make it better?" Klein said. "And then finally the how is, how do we implement all this? How do we execute this in a way that reaches out to people, that changes things that aren't working and strengthens things that are working?"

See **502.0** on page 11

Sara Klein Wagner joins JCCA Board

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC, is joining the national board of the JCC Association of North America. Her three-year term began this month by attending the national board meetings held prior to JSummit in Chicago.

"I'm proud to have the opportunity and I'm excited to be part of the national dialogue," Wagner says, explaining

See **WAGNER** on page 12

Chag Sameach



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Keeping Hope Alive: A Jewish Action Plan



D'var Torah

Rabbi
Beth Jacowitz
Chottiner

Rabbi Simcha Bunim, a great Polish Hasidic master, taught the following: Every person should have two pockets with a note in each. When one is feeling disheartened or discouraged, she should reach into her pocket and read the note that says: "For me alone the world was created." And when one is feeling arrogant and too full of himself, he should reach into his other pocket and read "I am but dust and ashes."

Not only do I love this teaching for its wisdom, I appreciate that it asks us to hold two contradictory beliefs at the same time, as our tradition often does. For example, we are taught that G-d has the attributes of both *din* and *rachamim* – judgment and compassion. And in *Pirkei Avot*, we learn, "Everything is foreseen, yet free will is given."

As Jews, we are not strangers to finding a way to hold two conflicting concepts at the same time. A modern-day contradiction, for many of us, centers around Israel. While many of us who love Israel and believe the Jewish people deserve a homeland, we are at odds with the current government. This is a disturbing reality that we must face.

On top of the stress of the war between Israel and Hamas, we are surrounded by other forms of uncertainty and discord. Threats to our freedom include, but are not limited to, banned books, laws blocking reproductive rights, sustained racism and attacks on the LGBTQ+ community, a divided nation where many sever ties with those who do not share their views, our democracy hanging in the balance, and increased antisemitic attacks, globally.

If we have days when we want to stay in bed, pull the covers over our heads, and take a break from the world, it's understandable. Life is challenging these days.

Yet, despite the despair we may feel, we must continue to move forward, to do that which enables us to make positive contributions to our community, and keep hope alive.

References to hope, *tikvah*, are found over 3,000 times in the Hebrew Bible and Rabbinic literature. In Psalms, we read: "Have hope in Adonai; be strong and of good courage! Have hope in Adonai!" And

in the Jerusalem Talmud, we read, "As long as a human is alive, he has hope."

Judaism is a religion of action. We are called upon to act, to do, to hope, even when we are surrounded by fears, anxiety, and uncertainty.

Eli Wiesel, z"l, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, was a living testament to the power of hope. He worked tirelessly to make the world better than it was when he suffered through the Holocaust. When asked in an interview how, he clung to hope despite his disappointments and bouts of pessimism, Wiesel replied, "One must wager on the future. I believe it is possible, in spite of everything, to believe in friendship in a world without friendship, and even to believe in God in a world where there has been an eclipse of God's face. Above all, we must not give in to cynicism. To save the life of a single child, no effort is too much. To make a tired old man smile is to perform an essential task. To defeat injustice and misfortune, if only for an instant, for a single victim, is to invent a new reason to hope."

Another Jewish giant, the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the United Kingdom, also spoke of hope. He asserted that hope is the gift of Judaism to the world. He wrote, "People often confuse optimism and hope. They sound similar. But in fact, they're very different. Optimism is the belief that things are going to get better. Hope is the belief that if we work hard enough together, we can make things better." He also said, "Hope is what transforms the human situation."

Despite our despair, now is the time for each of us to act, to make up our minds to do more than we have already done to improve the myriad problems we all are facing. I know we cannot solve all of society's ills, but we must do what we can. As Rabbi Tarfon taught, "It is not upon you to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Action leads to hope. Action is hope.

In the words of Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski, z"l, "Under no circumstances do we ever give up hope; as difficult as things can get, hope is the polar opposite of despair."

As we begin our New Year together, let us remember that Judaism has always placed more emphasis on actions than on beliefs. Let us follow our tradition by acting, thereby infusing hope for a better tomorrow.

Beth Jacowitz Chottiner is Rabbi of Temple Shalom.

Snapshots



Teen Connect is the BBYO Experience made just for pre-high school students who want to enjoy social, recreational, athletic, cultural, and Judaic activities with new friends! Teen Connect brings fun to life for Jewish kids like with trips to amusement parks, dances, pool parties and activities like (pictured above) color wars. (Photos by Abigail Goldberg, Teen Director)

Candles

Here are the candle-lighting times for Shabbat and High Holy Days in October:

- October 2 @ 7:05 p.m. (*RH Day 1*)
- October 3 @ 8:00 p.m. (*RH Day 2*)
- October 4 @ 7:02 p.m.
- October 11 @ 6:52 p.m. (*Yom Kippur*)
- October 16 @ 6:44 p.m. (*Sukkot*)
- October 17 @ 7:40 p.m. (*Sukkot*)
- October 18 @ 6:42 p.m.
- October 23 @ 6:36 p.m. (*Shemini Atzeret*)
- October 24 @ 7:32 p.m. (*Shemini Atzeret*)
- October 25 @ 6:33 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

Got a news item for *Community*? Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Monday, October 14** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on

Friday, October 25.

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

Read *Community* Everywhere...

We have you covered, Louisville – online. *Community* stories are posted regularly at jewishlouisville.org/community/ or scan the QR code below.



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

Maybe you like the look of a real paper without the, er ... pa-

per. Then check out *Digital Community* at jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version/.

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

Corrections/Clarifications

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

TOGETHER WE GROW

Just as my ancestors planted for me,
so I will plant for my children.

-Babylonian Talmud Taanit 23a



Connecting young families to Jewish values, traditions and cultures through PJ Library and other programs



Building the support, infrastructure and partnerships that allow us to respond in times of crisis both here and across the globe



Fighting antisemitism and ensuring that our Jewish community feels safe and protected

This work and so much more is powered by the Jewish Federation of Louisville and donors like you.

The need is great, but together, the strength of our community is greater.



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NEWS

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from page 1

brought a full right-wing government, and this has proven to be the most terrible year in Israel's history, and we don't know how to get out of it. Away from a terrible war. Away from an attempted legal coup. Away from a terrible division within the people. Away from a government, that in the opinion of most Jews in Israel, is the worst in Israel's history. A government that is the cause of these great failures and is

destroying Israel.

The fantasy of the right wing has proven a trauma for most Israelis.

The center looks like a compromise, Like Parve, it is the best if not the only hope for Israel's healing and achieving peace.

Let's hope that the fear of a full-right government, which is currently in power and is leading to the destruction of the State of Israel, will push us to a new place, and create hope for a new Israel.



Cantor David Lipp

Congregation Adath Jeshurun

[Did you think the war would last this long?] No. But in retrospect, unlike previous conflicts, a hostage swap cannot simply return a tense

status quo. The killings too severe, intelligence lapses too egregious, threat of future attacks too predictable. Redemption of captives is a primary Jewish value but Sinwar himself was the beneficiary of a hostage swap. The success of the first swap was more than I expected. A final deal without confidence that Hamas wouldn't be emboldened to attack again, makes it that more complex. Demilitarization needs to be complete, ideally under a trustworthy international regime for the interim.

This looks very different for

American versus Israeli Jews. I have always been a proponent of a two-state solution but acknowledge that I don't know how to get there. Israelis are rightly concerned that any Palestinian sovereign status will allow for this kind of attack in the future and, if granted in the West Bank, in greater population centers. This will lead to even more deaths of not only Israelis but innocent Palestinians trapped as human shields.

The best writing I have read, until we reach a point where such a danger is not present, are the ideas of Micah Goodman, author of *Catch 67*. He argues that until a two-state solution is plausible from a security standpoint, steps must be taken that give Palestinians as much freedom of motion as possible while maintaining Israeli security. This balancing act has become harder to imagine but is even more necessary to articulate.



Ranen Omer-Sherman

Director of the University of Louisville's Jewish Studies program

The events and aftermath of Oct. 7 weigh on me constantly. I had a connection to three individuals murdered that day and a good

colleague's son-in-law died this week in the helicopter crash of a rescue mission in Gaza.

Though a tremendous proportion of Israelis have been demonstrating week after week for a ceasefire and hostage negotiations, I am not the least surprised that Netanyahu is immune to those cries as well as the wishes of the hostages' families; such is the level of his arrogance and self-regard, such is his desperation to remain in power that he believes prolonging this war is essential. Netanyahu considers himself his country's Churchill. But Churchill, for all his flaws, did not bring a collection of messianic zealots into his cabinet; he did not lead a country while under criminal indictment; he did not leave the state vulnerable

to bulldozers and armed men on motorcycles.

The Israel-Palestine tragedy urgently needs better leadership on both sides, more robust involvement from the international community, including a more robust carrot-and-stick approach from the U.S. administration which needs to be more even-handed in working toward a two-state solution. That is the only rational and humane way to prevent more horrific suffering for both peoples. Israel went to war because of a criminal, horrific massacre. But if Israel continues to engage in mass civilian destruction in response; if we keep harming a population, more than 40% under the age of 15, our only achievement will be creating a new generation of vengeful terrorists and perpetuating the cycle of violence. Netanyahu has no answer for the day after the war. But that answer must be a free and safe future for everyone - citizens of Israel, residents of Gaza, and residents of the West Bank who suffer from settler violence. We must break the cycle of violence.



Becky Admony

Grew up in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, currently lives in Louisville

The seventh of October has changed our life as a Jew in Israel, the United States, and around the world - today, and forever. When I think of that day, it is very hard for me to grasp what has happened to us as a nation. I feel like I am having a bad dream - how did this happen? And there is another side to all this, about which I am not totally surprised. I grew up in the West Bank as a child until I turned 18. That meant living in a small settlement that was surrounded by tiny Palestinian villages. I have a nightmare that has repeated itself for years now, in which a terrorist comes up to my house (we lived on a hill) and sets it on fire, while we are in it.

At the beginning of the Gaza war, I thought, or more accurately hoped, that it would last just a few days or

weeks. But as the war advanced, and all the unknowns became known (for example, the extent of Hamas's tunnel network), I began to realize that it would last much longer. After the first hostage exchange last November, I was optimistic. Unfortunately, resolution seems to get further and further away. After all, we are dealing with a terrorist group. Just as it took years for America to locate Bin Laden, this will take time.

Another tough topic is the growing antisemitism across social media and at various universities in the U.S. Students voice support for Palestine without knowing the relevant facts, or what the phrases they repeat even mean. It is sad and scary at the same time, knowing that in some respects history is repeating itself in regard to the Jewish people.

What will our future look like? I do not know. Sometimes it is terrifying to think about it. I wish we were just at peace.



Beth Salamon

Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council

We could not have imagined the horrific events of October 7th, and we couldn't have imagined that we would still be living through this a year later. Our sense of security as a Jewish people has been shattered across the world and our communities' support for the people

of Israel is now more important than ever. Despite the sadness over the past year, I have personally been inspired to stand with my community at events like this past November's March for Israel and have watched my children wear their Jewish stars with pride. I hope that we will soon have peace, that the hostages will be returned, and that all those who are displaced will be able to safely return to their homes.



Avital Ben-Dror

Assistant Director, Western Galilee Partnership2Gether, a resident of the Western Galilee

For the past year, life in Western Galilee has oscillated between fear from rocket attacks and attempts at normalcy. As an Israeli who lives in the north of Israel, I have witnessed displaced families, shuttered businesses, and ongoing hostage crises, feeling frustrated by the war's duration.

The October 7 attacks initially shocked us, but we rallied together. Volunteering opportunities flourished, from cooking to farming, as we sought to support soldiers and victims. This collective action gave us hope for positive change.

However, as the conflict persists, weariness and distrust have set in. People struggle to envision an end to the turmoil.

Our connection with Jewish communities abroad has been a

beacon of hope. Their support, from rallies to solidarity missions, reminds us that we are not alone.

Here is a personal anecdote that illustrates this bond:

During one of the recent rocket attacks, our dog Luke ran away. When I shared this seemingly minor concern with our overseas friends, their outpouring of support was overwhelming. Their relief when Luke was found safe was palpable, even from afar.

This is just one example, and we are grateful to have our Partnership2Gether, connecting the Western Galilee region with 17 US Jewish communities and the Jewish community of Budapest, for the many friendships, and the invaluable support.

As we face ongoing challenges, we hope for a swift end to the war, allowing us to address our challenges while regaining a sense of safety, trust, and unity.

NEWS



Ben Vaughan

Recipient of the JCL's 2024 Julie Linker Community Relations Young Leadership Award

Oct 7th shattered the thin veneer of protection Israel and Jews worldwide had spent decades building around themselves. The preceding year felt like watching a slow-moving avalanche as world Jewry has had to come to grips with the slow and persistent erosion in the eyes of the world of basic facts about Gaza and Iran-backed proxies Hamas and Hezbollah. The resulting surge of antisemitism and violence targeted

at all of world Jewry, the persistently violent rhetoric, and the political quagmire many countries have found themselves in leave little room for hope that a peaceful solution is possible. We have slowly and violently awakened to a world that is fundamentally broken at its core. More and more we are having to come to terms with the fact that our common enemy does not share any of our core values, but instead insists on perpetuating a double standard in a blatant attempt to redefine the "moral" ground, while most of the world is blind to its dangers.

Sarah Harlan

Executive Director, National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section and principal of Louisville High School of Jewish Studies



As we approach the one-year anniversary of the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, while also preparing for the High Holy Days, I find myself in an intellectual and spiritual conundrum. Like most Jews, I was shocked and surprised by the heinous attack – Israel is supposed to have the most advanced defense system in the world – so how could this have happened? And I'm also saddened and amazed that the war is still ongoing. I'm not a political analyst by any means, but I think that as long as Netanyahu remains

is in power, we won't see an end to this war.

But here's the conundrum: I absolutely believe in Israel's right to exist as a free, democratic country, to defend itself against terrorists, and to always be a safe haven for the Jewish people. Israel and its allies must demand that every single remaining hostage be released. But what I'm struggling with is how we can ever atone for what I see as a "victory, no matter the consequences" strategy. A central tenant of our faith is pikuach nefesh, the sanctity of every human life. We must continue to advocate for a two-state solution: It's the only sane, moral, sustainable path forward if we are ever going to achieve lasting peace for all peoples in the region.

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LINOR EIN GEDY

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An Israeli musician and singer-songwriter from Kibbutz Mefalsim on the Gaza border. Serving as cantor of Sha'ar HaNegev reform congregation for over 8 years and conducts music performances with and in different communities. Her music and singing are inspired by everything soulful and oldies from many genres.

October 7 : A Gathering for Remembrance & Prayers for Peace

Sunday, October 6

4 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC

Please join us as the community comes together to reflect on the tragedy of October 7.

Featuring performances by an Israeli musician and singer-songwriter from Kibbutz Mefalsim on the Gaza border, Linor Ein Gedy. Please scan the QR code to register or visit tinyurl.com/October-7-Gathering.

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COMMUNITY

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COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are October 14 for publication on October 25 and November 15 for publication on November 25.

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

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

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

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

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

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FORUM



GREENBERG — steve@greenberg-art.com

The calendar can be the cruelest of narratives



Mindful
Ramblings

Andrew
Adler

Nearly one year into the Israel-Hamas war we find ourselves in a kind of Middle East purgatory, consigned to endure the slings and arrows of outrageous stasis – hostages being murdered in Gaza tunnels, pagers and handheld radios exploding by the thousands to the north in Beirut – but no improvement in the lives of Israelis trapped in this cycle of perpetual despair.

October 7 was a seismic blow to Israel and Jews worldwide. Twelve months later we are still feeling the aftershocks: the nation we hold so dear, for decades lauded as the region's only true democracy, now is broadly regarded as a pariah state. The Israeli government, defined by a fragile coalition comprising the most extreme of far-right personalities, constantly lurches from confusion to catastrophe. Its prime minister, the onetime "Mr. Security," clings to power while under criminal indictment.

A year ago, did anyone seriously believe this war would still be prosecuted? Did any of us contemplate that a multitude of hostages – alive and dead – would remain confined in the dank blackness of Hamas's underground stronghold. Yet many more tunnels remain intact, testifying to the Sisyphean nature of a conflict where the boulder representing elusive "total victory" keeps rolling down Gaza's intractable hill.

Israel is not accustomed to protracted all-out conflicts. The 1967 war was over in six days; 1973's Yom Kippur War lasted for 19 days; the 2006 Second Lebanon War,

34 days. Compared to these, the current war in Gaza is an anomaly – an anomaly looking more and more like a slog in which nothing except misery and death triumph.

In Gaza, despite killing thousands of Hamas terrorists and disrupting its command structure, the IDF has been unable to eviscerate its opponent. Yahya Sinwar still sits at the top of Hamas's Gaza hierarchy, eluding an entire department of the Shin Bet security service devoted exclusively to killing him. With no credible counterforce available to administer a post-war Gaza, Hamas continues to exercise a measure of domestic authority. It is a repeated assertion of depressing reality.

Meanwhile, the hostages languish, potential agreements between Israel and Hamas for their release dangled one moment, snatched back the next. It is a grotesque display of regional mutual suspicion and political gamesmanship. Caught in the middle are the hostages' families, subjected to what amounts to psychological torture of the cruelest kind.

And as each day passes, principal attention is clearly shifting from the South to the North, from the Gaza to Lebanon. Hezbollah, an order of magnitude more dangerous than Hamas, has become the true existential threat to Israel.

What has been a low-level, tit-for-tat conflict is rapidly accelerating. Rendering pagers and radios into miniature bombs was an undeniable technical coup by the Mossad and related entities, throwing Hezbollah (and much of Beirut's citizenry) into collective trepidation, if not outright panic.

The threat level jumped further on Sept. 20, when Israel carried out one of its highest-level targeted assassinations, apparently killing Ibrahim Aqeel, an upper-echelon Hezbollah commander long sought by the U.S. for planning a series of deadly bombings during the 1980s that

killed 300 Americans. This wasn't a battery of IDF artillery lobbing a few shells across the Lebanese border. It was Israeli military jets leveling a Beirut high-rise building, a foreground-profile operation in the heart of a foreign capital.

This kind of escalation reflects a mindset in Israel's leadership that Hezbollah must now be confronted directly. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is said to be on the verge of firing his defense minister, Yoav Gallant, among the few (relatively) sane voices in the governing coalition. It's a reflection of what is deemed most vital in official policy, a policy in which the hostages slip further and further from the political foreground.

Is this all we can look forward to: perpetual war? Perpetual calling up of beleaguered reserve forces? Perpetual relocation of families – thousands of them – compelled to evacuate from their homes in the vulnerable north and occupy cramped hotel rooms for what feels like an eternity. Will Hezbollah be pushed back far enough from the border to allow those families to safely return? Or will they be consigned to infinite displacement, refugees in their own country?

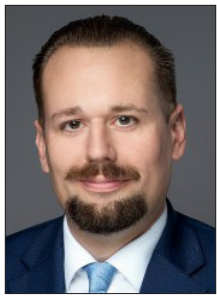
October 7, 2023, soon to give way to October 7, 2024. Of course, we hope and pray for the safe return of the remaining hostages, and for a path to an enduring peace, not just a tenuous respite. Perhaps year 5785 will bring with it a genuine breakthrough.

Still, we must not be naïve. Because as we close out this annus horribilis, the calendar – in the best of times a means to mark junctures of celebration – instead pointedly reminds us that war is a looming presence, day after day after day.

Andrew Adler is the Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

American Jews & Israel after October 7 Addressing the intergenerational rift



JCRC
Trent Spoolstra

asking how I was doing, and in turn I spent the day checking in with my friends in Israel to see if they were safe. I did not appreciate at the time how much life was going to change, not just for Israeli Jews, but for Jews in the United States.

The sharp rise in antisemitism across America following the October 7 terrorist attack was hard enough to confront. But what many (including myself) did not realize was that we as American Jews were also going to face an issue that had been building for some time: the widening generational gap among American Jews when it comes to support for Israel.

For decades following the establishment of Israel after World War II and the Holocaust, American Jewish support for the nascent state was a given. In the often-used analogy of David versus Goliath – an underdog going up against a formidable foe – American Jews viewed Israel as the David fighting for its very existence against the surrounding Goliath Arab countries seeking its destruction. The storyline began changing for some as the conflict gradually became less about the fight between Arabs and Israelis, and more specifically between Palestinians and Israelis. Fast

forward to today and many American Jews (especially from the younger Millennial and Gen Z cohorts) now see Israel as the Goliath fighting the Palestinian David.

The Pew Research Center published a poll in April on how U.S. Jews were experiencing the latest Israel-Hamas war. The vast majority of American Jews agreed that what occurred on October 7 was horrible and that discrimination against Jews had risen since the terrorist attack. However, one can see revealing divides when asked specific follow-up questions. For example, when asked if Israel is conducting the war against Hamas acceptably, 69 percent of Jews aged 50-64 agreed compared to just over half of those between 18-34 years old. When asked if Hamas' reasons for fighting Israel were justified, only 11 percent of Jews over the age of 50 agreed while a stunning 31 percent of Jews 18-34 agreed. Finally, when asked if they have a favorable view of the Israeli government, 64 percent of those aged 50-64 held a favorable view with just 45 percent of those 18-34 years old agreeing to the same.

This growing intrafamilial and intergenerational divide on Israel among American Jews has been known and sidestepped for years, but October 7 and the events of the last 12 months have brought the issue to an inevitable forefront. Jewish families across America were understandably distressed to see the rise of anti-Israel/pro-Palestinian activity at K-12 schools and on college campuses. A small percentage were both bewildered and shocked to discover that their own Jewish children and grandchildren were participating in said activities. Conversations have taken place around some Shabbat and holiday dinner tables on the topic of the war, in which older generations have heard their younger family members use alarming words like genocide and apartheid to describe Israel's past and present actions. It was only a matter of time before American Jews were going

to have to confront the realization that many of their younger Jewish kin did not share their opinions on Israel – opinions they had thought were a given across the mainstream community.

As of this writing, the war in Gaza continues to rage on, there is a serious chance all-out war with Hezbollah will break out, and there is a continual threat from the Houthis and Iran. Eventually, the war will come to an end, news about Israel will recede from daily headlines, the protests on America's streets and college campuses will subside, and Jewish life will return to some kind of normalcy. Yet the world Jews knew on October 6, 2023 is never coming back - both for our brethren in Israel and for us here back home.

Several questions should be asked and some kind of understanding should be reached between different generations in the days ahead:

What does it mean for an American Jew to support Israel?

Where should Israel fit into one's Jewish identity?

What is the acceptable range of opinions regarding Israel inside the American Jewish community, and when do one's views become objectionable?

How do Jewish friends and loved ones who share equally passionate yet opposite opinions about Israel reconcile and find common ground?

These are questions I ponder myself given my strong support for Israel as well as my fear of seeing Jews separate on this topic. Time will tell how we as a diverse community answer these questions. It will not be an easy conversation, but for the sake of future American Jewry and our relationship with Israel it is one we must have.

Trent Spoolstra is the Jewish Community Relations Council Director at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC.

For as long as I can remember, I have been a supporter of Israel. My love for Israel has only grown as I have visited our people's homeland three times and anticipate many more such visits throughout my life. It is because of this that October 7 will forever be a day I will remember where I was, similar to 9/11 or the start of the COVID pandemic. Like most Saturdays, I had slept in but remember checking my phone when I woke up to see a startling email from Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. We as ADL staff never received emails on Shabbat so I realized instantly this was serious. I turned on the television to see what happened and ended up spending the entire day on my couch watching the terrible news unfold. Throughout the day, a couple of my non-Jewish friends reached out to me

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National Council of Jewish Women

<h4 style="color: green; margin: 0;">REGISTER</h4> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">The KY voter registration deadline is Monday, October 7 by 4:00pm.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">To register online or check your registration status visit www.GoVote.Ky.gov</p>	<h4 style="color: green; margin: 0;">REQUEST</h4> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Eligible voters can request an absentee ballot between September 21-October 22 through the Absentee Request Portal at www.GoVote.Ky.gov</p>	<h4 style="color: green; margin: 0;">LEARN</h4> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Find your polling location, early voting locations, and sample ballot at www.GoVote.Ky.gov</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Research candidate positions at the League of Women Voter's Vote411.org</p>
<h4 style="color: green; margin: 0;">VOTE EARLY</h4> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Excused in-person early voting is October 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, & 30.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">No-excuse in-person early voting is October 31, November 1, & 2.</p>	<h4 style="color: green; margin: 0;">GO</h4> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Tuesday, November 5 is Election Day.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Polls are open from 6:00AM-6:00PM. Be sure to bring a valid photo ID.</p>	<h4 style="color: green; margin: 0;">INFO</h4> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">For more information visit www.GoVote.Ky.gov</p>

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PICTURE THIS: JEWISH HERITAGE DAY



Friends enjoying a beautiful day for baseball



Cantor David Lipp ready to throw out the first pitch.

On Sunday, September 8, the Jewish community celebrated Jewish Heritage Day at Louisville Slugger Field. Families were invited to enjoy a Louisville Bats baseball game with friends and family from across the community. (Photos by Kathryn Harrington)



Lisa Sobel-Berlow, Benji Berlow and family.



Doug & Alison Roemer



Jessica Bush with daughter Millie



Jennifer Diamond, Cantor David Lipp & Cantor Sharon Hordes sang the national anthem.

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PICTURE THIS: GRANDPARENTS DAY



The Trager Family JCC Early Learning Center celebrated Grandparents Day on Friday, September 6 with a morning full of crafts, snacks, and a Shabbat celebration. The kids were excited to show off their school and share their daily fun with their very proud grandparents.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)

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(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



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NEWS

502.0

Continued from page 1

As an essential precursor to 502.0, the Brandeis Study benefitted from rigorous collection of demographic statistics.

“When you have data like this, it helps you make good decisions,” Klein emphasized, “as opposed to just making guesses. A really smart guy once said that without data, what you’re saying is just an opinion.”

The principal guide for the event held at JFCS – the first of five such sessions scheduled that week – was David Kaplan, who founded Panoramic Strategy in January of 2017. Kaplan (not to be confused with Louisville’s David Kaplan, chairman of Jewish Community of Louisville), stressed the democratic nature of the 502.0 process.

Fundamentally, “the whole idea is not to think from the top down, to say, ‘What should every institution of person do here?’ It’s the opposite: a grassroots effort.”

The goal, Kaplan explained, is “how do we take what we learned from the (Brandeis) study and bring it to life through actual voices that represent the people we don’t know in our community, just as much as everyone that we do know. And then how do we make sure that what comes out is accessible so that anyone...can pick up this work and decide to take action tomorrow.”

It’s largely a matter of incremental advances, beginning with taking what might be regarded as baby steps.

“My hope is that this is a chance for you to step back and say, ‘What could I do differently tomorrow,’” Kaplan said “What’s one small thing I could do with these insights and recommendations to take one small step forward?”

Kaplan divided his presentation into four components: Process, Insights, Recommendations and Resources.

“Process” aimed to “give you a sense of what we did.” “Insights” asked, “What are the key insights we learned across all the (demographic) cohorts we were able to engage with.”

“Three – what are the high-level six or seven recommendations that someone can pick up tomorrow and start using in their work,” Kaplan said. “And then finally, what are the resources available to the community...a reminder that all of this work is about bringing the community study to life.”

The 502.0 focus groups encompassed five cohorts: Young Jewish Adults (defined as “Jewish adults between the ages of 23 and 34 with no children”), Intermarried Families (“couples with one non-Jewish partner and children under the age of 12”), In-married Families (“Couples where both partners are Jewish and have children under the age of 12”), GenX+ Adults (“Jewish adults between the ages of 45 and 64”), and Jewish Seniors (“Jewish adults aged 65 and over”).

Crucially, Kaplan observed, “it’s not about age; it’s much more about life stage – young families with children, or perhaps recent empty-nesters, with a range of institutional affiliations.

“It’s worth noting that so much of our engagement effort was one-to-one outreach,” Kaplan said. There was deliberately systematic recruitment of potential focus-group participants. “We did surveys; there were ads in the paper, flyers and QR codes at festivals. We had the chance to hear from people

we wouldn’t typically hear from, and frankly, it was exciting to be able to hear those voices.”

In all, some 130 people participated among the five cohorts. One meeting took place prior to October 7 – “we made some adjustments and some alignment work” in the weeks and months afterward.

Many young-adult participants expressed a desire for more alternative programming. “I want to focus on the words ‘alternative’ and ‘different,’” Kaplan said, adding that there were “five insights” especially worth highlighting.

“The first was members of a particular cohort wanting to “engage with other members of their life-stage cohort. The second was that Jewish Louisville is “initially more attractive through social and cultural events,” with “a lower emphasis on religion and affiliation.”

The third insight embraced “inclusive events that go beyond institutions and memberships can showcase a cohesive, collaborative set of organizations that reflect a welcoming community.” Insight four highlighted the necessity of organizing neighborhood-based events, “particularly for our younger generations, who more frequently live outside the urban core.

“And last,” Kaplan said, “was ensuring that “clear communication and strong programming coordination” can bolster “awareness across a broad cross-section of our community.”

Perhaps nothing is as vital as nurturing friendships among young Jewish adults. Indeed, “the biggest participation barrier is that they don’t know someone going to an event,” Kaplan said.

Tellingly, “two-fifths of Jewish adults in Louisville say they’re not satisfied with their level of participation in the community. But we also saw something very different in the think tanks and focus groups, which was that most of these people didn’t know each other – even if they had a kid in the same class where they lived down the street from each other.”

Often it all comes down to relative proximity to what’s going on.

“Folks said things like, ‘I don’t want to travel 20 minutes after my work day as a two-parent, working family with my kids, to go to an event and then (drive) back,’” Kaplan said. “If there were something in my neighborhood, it would be much easier for me to say yes.”

There was consensus among young-adult cohort participants that small is good; big, not so good.

“Aversion to institutions came up just as much as aversion to synagogues,” Kaplan told his community leadership listeners. “I can tell you that, unanimously across the groups – and I don’t care about age or life-stage – folks are saying it’s not about the institution; it’s about the people.”

There was a great deal of emphasis that evening on being willing to take chances with novel approaches, and not to let fear of failure deter stakeholders from venturing into uncharted territory.

“As someone who’s spent the last 40 years being a scientist, experimentation I know something about,” Klein said. “By and large experiments don’t work, and that’s something you (know) when you begin the experimentation process.”

Klein cited “an amazing speech by Franklin Roosevelt when he was running for president the first time. He said the country calls for ‘bold’ – and here’s the missing word, ‘persistent’ experimentation. We’ve got to be

persistent as a community in trying something – and if it doesn’t work, try something else.”

“You could take any moment in time, but we are where we are,” Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC, observed a few days after the JFCS presentation.

“We’ve got great things that are happening in this community,” she said, and “we have challenges that every community faces. We’ve learned we have the blessing of knowing more about ourselves, and being able to take the time to actually listen to people.” The imperative then becomes, Wagner said, “how bold can we be to change things up and try things differently, while taking nothing away from what this

community does exceptionally well: the relationships, the core grounding, and the warmth people feel from the groups they’re part of.”

Everyone has different needs, and different backgrounds that inform those needs. “I’m lucky enough to be from Louisville,” Wagner said. “I have friends who I grew up with. I have people I’ve met during my decades of living here and coming back after college to work here. Some people have been here for two years and quickly found their people, we can be connectors.”

Here Wagner acknowledged a fundamental truth that defines much of 502.0. “As David Kaplan said, the first thing we learned is people are looking for their people.”

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NEWS

WAGNER

Continued from page 1



Sara Klein Wagner

that the national board comprises both lay leaders and JCC executives from communities throughout North America.

Headquartered in New York City, JCCA is made up of 172 JCCs and Jewish camps in the U.S. and

Canada. Its mission statement is short and direct: "JCC Association connects the JCC Movement, advancing and enriching North American Jewish life." Collectively its member JCCs employ 35,000 full and part-time staff – more than any other Jewish organization in North America.

Its portfolio is similarly vast. The Association administers the JCC Maccabi Games, billed as "the largest organized Jewish youth sports experience in the world." JCCA's early childhood education program serves an estimated 35,000 children; its network of 25 Jewish community sleepaway camps attracts 22,000 overnight and 70,000 day campers. Its chaplaincy division provides religious and related services to approximately 10,000 Jewish active-duty military personnel.

Wagner is one of about a dozen JCC CEOs on the national board, alongside close to 40 Directors-at-Large. She

points out that her selection reflects Louisville's history as a foundational member of the YMHA-based JCC movement – among the 10 oldest, she says.

"We have a lot to share," Wagner emphasizes, "specifically, as a community others look to recognizing our successful merger of the JCC and Federation 15 years ago.

"I get called weekly by Federations and JCCs – whether by professional or volunteer leaders – who want to talk about, 'How did you get to where you are? Was it the right move for your city?'"

Wagner recalls a time while she was in graduate school at Brandeis University, and her class spent several days in New York City "to visit with leaders of national organizations."

"We met with everyone from what was, at the time, the UJA (United Jewish Appeal) to the JCC movement, Hadassah – the flagship organizations of Jewish Communal life."

Those few days ended up being critically important to Wagner's evolution as a Jewish leadership professional.

"We learned not only what we needed to know about how to work in our individual communities, but to understand the national network," Wagner says. "I remember walking into the JCC national office and just feeling at home, because I grew up at the JCC – I chose the field primarily because of my experiences growing up at the Louisville JCC and going to overnight summer camp."

Joining the JCCA board is an especially appropriate means of giving back, to "contribute to the conversation at the national level," as Wagner puts it.

Still, it would be a mistake to assume that the Association's national office dictates all aspects of policy. Instead, it's more of a decentralized organizational dynamic. Policy "is run by the national office," Wagner says. "The expertise is in the field. We use the JCC executive directors (Tom Wissinger at the Trager Family JCC) and CEOs, and have for many years, to be the conveners for learning, discussions and problem solving.

"For example," she says, "when we were exploring building a new JCC, there was a cohort of a few JCC directors or execs. The national organization knew who the right people were who were living the experience, and put those experts in the room to share their knowledge. So it's not really top-down – it's more of a collaborative effort."

Or as Wagner likes to say, "everyone JCC is connected by the larger movement and our shared vision to build and inspire Jewish lives by creating a platform for connection, learning and growth."

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

J Trager Family JCC

NEWS

12 men, 67 years and an unbreakable bond renewed during a reunion at the Trager Family JCC

By Frank Weisberg
Guest Columnist

All 20 of us were just starting high school in 1957 when we joined the Harry C. Resnick AZA Chapter of BBYO at the old Jewish Community Center in Louisville. We graduated high school in 1960.

After graduation, many of us stayed in close contact. In 1997, several other Resnick AZA alumni from different years got together and discussed a compelling idea: inviting all the past Resnick AZA chapters to join in a reunion in Louisville to honor our chapter advisor, Charles L. Weisberg. Many of the boys (now men) said he was “like a second father” to them. The result ended in a wonderful reunion held at our Jewish Community Center in Louisville.

The JCC was our home away from home. Other AZA and BBG chapters – plus other independent boys & girls clubs – met there weekly. It was a true hub

Past Resnick AZA alums came from all over the United States. There were 128 attendees from East Coast to West Coast who attended the gala event. We published a booklet showing everyone’s high school graduation photo, accompanied by facts about them at the time. We had several events, including our Friendship Circle, that were enjoyed immensely by the entire group, it was a fabulous weekend

of renewing old friendships.

Approximately a year later our Resnick AZA, Class of 1960, decided to have its own reunion in Louisville at our home, the Jewish Community Center.

We set a date, contacted our brother Alephs and everyone came to the reunion. Our group has many doctors, psychologists, lawyers and businesspeople. The psychologists helped plan our first meeting which was held in the Boardroom, graciously provided to us. We immediately pushed the large rectangular tables against the wall and opened a generous space in the center. We created a Friendship Circle with 20 chairs -- one for each of us. There was nothing in between us, physically or mentally. Physically, we could see one another with no obstructions in between. Mentally, because we’d known one another so well as kids and young teenagers – Therefore, there were no airs to put on. In addition, each of us knew each other’s parents and in many cases, we even knew the grandparents.

THE RULES OF OUR FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE:

1. We all agreed to speak openly about our lives after graduation from high school, our college years, getting married (or divorced), having and raising our children, our life’s work and our hobbies.



Pictured: (L-R) Fred Morguelan, Frank Weisberg, Kenny Krebs, Jay Brodsky, Joe Goldberg, Eddie Mueller, Arnold Friedman, Stuart Yoffee, Roger Davis and Louis Kort.

2. “Everything said in the room stays in the room” - Jewish Honor!

It took almost the entire day for 20 guys to go through and open up their lives to all their old buddies. There were times we had great laughs and there were times we had tears. But everything stayed in the room. Over the years this created quite a rock-solid bond between each of us. It’s a wonderful feeling to feel so close to people you’ve known for more than 60 years.

In retrospect, we’ve had about six or seven reunions. We started off having them once every five years and more recently have been having them every two years.

Our most recent reunion was held in Louisville this past Sept. 14-15 at the Trager Family JCC. Our brother Alephs flew to Louisville from all parts of the country: California, Washington State, Florida, North Carolina, Arizona, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky. We all met for a Welcome Dinner on Thursday evening. We kibbittzed a lot.

On Friday morning, we had the first of four sessions, each lasting about three hours.

The first session was devoted to our Friendship Circle. Out of the original 20 boys, only 12 men are left. Eight of the 20 have passed away over the years. However, we still put 20 chairs in the circle. We had framed photographs of our brother Alephs who’d passed away and placed each framed photograph on its own chair. That way we could look at them, remember them, and feel their

presence in the room. It was a way of having them with us.

Our second session was led by one of our physician brothers. The subject was “Aging,” an appropriate subject for a group of 82-year-olds.

Each of us have our own medical issues, so it was a great help to learn what we should be doing to maintain healthier, longer lives.

Our third session featured our brother, Oliver, a seasoned psychologist who led more discussion about aging. We found that there were many common issues we all faced. Valuable lessons were learned by all.

For our fourth session we’d invited a past Resnick member who was three years younger than we: Jerry Abramson – a Resnick AZA club member from the Class of 1963. He spoke about his days in the Resnick AZA, how he became a lawyer, and later served 21 years as Louisville mayor.

It was a wonderful weekend and we all pledged to be there two years from now.

We understand how special it’s been to have stayed for so long. Many of our other childhood friends who were in clubs always say how they wish they could have the same with their group. I always tell them the same thing: “All it takes is one individual to get it started.”

Frank Weisberg is a longtime visual artist, a devoted advocate for Jewish life in Louisville, and a generous contributor to the Trager Family JCC, where the first space visitors encounter is the expansive Weisberg Family Lobby.



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NEWS

Filson will host the Southern Jewish Historical Society's 2024 Conference Nov. 1-3.

By Ann Glazer Niren
Guest Columnist



Ann Glazer Niren

As *Community* reported in a previous issue, I recently accepted a position at the Filson Historical Society as its new Curator of Jewish Collections. My job embraces several core components: maintaining and growing our Jewish Community Archive, community outreach, creating programming, working with scholars and students on a variety of Jewish subjects, and supervising interns and volunteers. I am happy to report that I have jumped into these activities with both feet in my nearly two months on the job.

One of my first tasks after I completed my onboarding was to immerse myself in all aspects of the Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference. This year, the SJHS is holding its annual meeting in Louisville, the first time it's ever taken place in Kentucky. The theme is "Home and Belonging in the Jewish South." Dozens of scholars from the U.S. and abroad will descend on our fair city Friday, Nov. 1 through Sunday, Nov. 3. My friend and

predecessor, Dr. Abby Glogower, initiated the idea of bringing this conference to the Filson, and I am very grateful for her diligent work on this project over the past year. In addition, the Jewish Heritage Fund provided a generous grant that helped make the convention possible.

Most of the presentations will be at the Filson Historical Society, 1310 South Third Street in Old Louisville. The Nov. 1 sessions include papers on medicine, slavery, and the Holocaust. That afternoon, attendees will board busses for a program entitled "History Close to Home: An Evening at the Temple." First, everyone will participate in a tour of The Temple's archives, one of the most complete and extensive collections of any synagogue in Kentucky. Rabbi Joe Rooks Rapport, Rabbi Emeritus at The Temple, explained the significance of this magnificent compendium of artifacts, books, and manuscripts:

"The Temple Archives is a museum quality, climate controlled, 1,000 square foot space – a permanent holding of historic materials chronicling the significant people, places, and events of the past 180 years since its establishment as Kentucky's first Jewish congregation in 1843. The Temple Archives contains holdings on its history, rabbis, and lay leaders, as well as its leadership in the broader community. As a synagogue at the forefront of the development of Reform

Judaism in America, the expansion of the role of women in congregational life, and the engagement in community affairs, The Temple Archives offers a wealth of material to scholars and the broader public alike."

On a recent visit to The Temple, I was fortunate to sneak a preview of this special place, and I was not disappointed. I was especially intrigued by several Torah scrolls which survived the Holocaust, and by early prayerbooks of Reform Judaism. Rabbi Rooks Rapport and Jennifer Sinski, Archives Committee Chair, are to be commended for their assiduous work in maintaining the history of their congregation and the greater Louisville Jewish community.

After the archival tour, we will enjoy a lovely Shabbat meal, followed by Dr. Emily Bingham giving the Beeber Family Keynote Lecture, sponsored by the Helen Stern Fund. Bingham will speak about her latest book, *My Old Kentucky Home: The Astonishing Life and Reckoning on an Iconic American Song* (Knopf, 2022), which explores the many ways in which our Kentucky state song and its attendant history are mired in fallacies and misinformation. There will be a question-and-answer session after her talk, followed by a Shabbat evening service and a delicious *Oneg*.

On the morning of Nov. 2, conference attendees will have three options: morning services and Torah study led by long-time Filson volunteer Rabbi Stanley Miles; a tour of the Filson, led by Filson staff; and a tour of Old Louisville, especially Querbacker Court, home to many 20th century Jewish families. Economic inclusion consultant and former Filson Community Fellow, Amy Shir, will lead this tour, which will be repeated in the afternoon. Following sessions on

the Confederacy and investigations of individual Louisville Jewish families, Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter, assisted by Mark K. Bauman, will present the conference's keynote address. By late afternoon, when we may need a pick-me-up, we will enjoy bourbon tastings. What is more representative of Kentucky than bourbon, but is it Jewish? Actually, yes. Historically, Jews, such as philanthropist Isaac Bernheim, have played a key role in this industry in our state. On the evening of Nov. 2, Grace Rogers and Nathan Viner will present a concert of Appalachian and Jewish music at the Louisville Women's Club. Like Shir, Viner was a Filson Community History Fellow.

The conference concludes on Nov. 3 with an SJHS membership meeting and a roundtable dealing with "Oral Histories and the Southern Jewish Experience." After a full schedule of events, attendees will return to their respective homes, having fed their minds, bodies, and souls, and having made new friends and connections. Hopefully, they can return to our River City and the Filson another time for further research.

For more information on the conference, go to filsonhistorical.org/sjhs2024. If you are just interested in attending the Friday night event at the Temple, there will be a separate registration for community members; look for more information about how to register for the Friday night event soon on our website.

If you have questions, have potential items for donation, or if you simply want to learn more about the Filson Historical Society (particularly our Jewish collections), please email me at aniren@filsonhistorical.org, or call me at 502-635-5083, extension 243. Meanwhile, I hope to see you at the Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference in November.



UPCOMING LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSES

Learn life-saving water safety, rescue, CPR & first aid skills.

Sept 30 - Oct 2

Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. all days

American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric First aid,
CPR & AED Certification

Nov 2

Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Become a lifeguard at the Trager Family JCC and your course fee is free!

*Subject to hiring approval. Must pay for the course up front. If hired, the course fee will be reimbursed after 30 days of employment.

JCC Member Price: \$250 • Non-Member Price: \$300



To learn more & register,
visit jcclouisville.org/lifeguard



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Diane Levine

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Wagner's new grandson*

In honor of Linda Engel

*In honor of Michael & Phyllis
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*In honor of Ralph Green being
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TRAGER FAMILY JCC

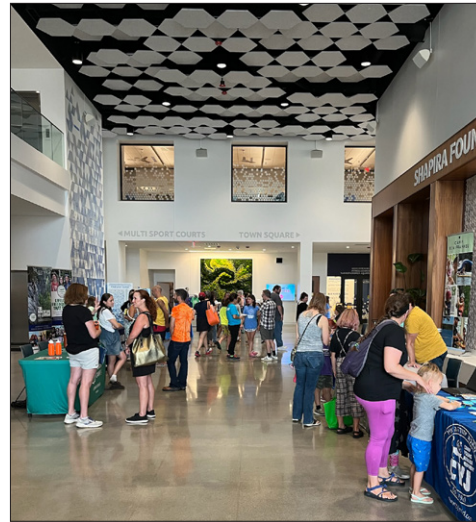
In memory of Richard Berkowitz

Kim & Stuart Frankenthal



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502.459.0660 • jewishlouisville.org

PICTURE THIS: FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL



The Fall Family Festival at the Trager Family JCC on September 21 provided local families the opportunity to learn about the wonderful world of Jewish overnight camps and celebrate the start of fall. Family participated in a variety of fun fall activities and were able to visit with overnight camps from around the region to learn about the wonderful experiences they offer. Overnight camps are a great way for kids to make lifelong friends and connect with their Jewish culture. Overnight camp is an experience not to be missed! The Jewish Federation of Louisville is thrilled to offer financial assistance to your future camper. Learn more about One Happy Camper grants and other financial assistance at jewishlouisville.org/campgrants.



Swim at the Trager Family JCC

- Group Swim Lessons**
 - 6-week sessions
 - 30-minute lessons, once a week
 - Small groups of 4 or fewer
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 - 5 Private Lessons in 5 Days!
- Pool Parties**
 - 90 minutes of play time in the water
 - 30 minutes in the party room
 - Complimentary party coordinator and gift bags

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Trager Family JCC | SWIM SCHOOL
WHERE YOUR SWIMMING JOURNEY BEGINS!

Women Leading a Dialogue

November 1-2, 2024

Come hear from Israeli women, Jewish and Arab, who have created friendships and better understanding with their neighbors of other faiths.

For more information on locations, times and RSVPs, please visit jewishlouisville.org/leadingdialogue.

Medical Mission Information Zoom Call

October 10 | 3-4 p.m. EST, Zoom

Physicians are invited to collaborate with their Galilee Medical Center counterparts from January 12-16, 2025 to receive medical credentials and obtain a temporary Israeli medical license. Join the Zoom for more information about this medical mission.

RSVP:
tinyurl.com/medical-info-session

Partnership2Gether's October 7th Commemoration

October 27 | 11:30 a.m. EST, Zoom

P2G Western Galilee invites you to a memorial Zoom event, to include a panel of Western Galilee residents affected by the October 7th attack and a performance by Matte Asher Community Center's choir and dance company.

Learn More & RSVP:
jewishlouisville.org/partnershipt2gether
To gather as a minyan for the Zoom contact Amy Fouts.

27th Anniversary Celebration

February 25-28, 2025

Join us in the Western Galilee for meaningful experiences: 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.

Rediscovering Our Past



JFCS Relaunches Oral History Project

Our personal stories are what make us unique. They are what define each of us, and they also connect us to others. Sharing stories of our personal journeys is a powerful way to preserve our histories. It empowers us to leave a lasting legacy for future generations, helping others understand the richness of our experiences. This is exactly the mission of the JFCS Oral History Project.

Through these efforts, we hope to capture the stories of more individuals in 2025, creating a vibrant tapestry of voices that will contribute to the larger understanding of Jewish life and identity in Louisville.

The Oral History Project began in 2001 with a simple but profound goal: to capture and archive the stories of Louisville's Jewish community, so that the community's legacies would not be lost. Over the years, members of the community – from families with deep roots in Louisville to immigrants, all with diverse Jewish backgrounds – have documented a wide range of experiences. By 2017, JFCS had completed 207 interviews, all of which currently reside at the Filson Historical Society.

But this project isn't just about collecting history; it's also about connection. For our seniors, sharing personal stories can be a deeply meaningful experience, enhancing their senses of belonging and well-being. By aligning this project with the JFCS Klein Older Adult program, our goal is to provide a valuable outlet for older adults to reflect on their lives and share their wisdom with others.

JFCS is excited to announce the relaunch of the Oral History Project this fall! This time, the project will be even more expansive, featuring a new partnership with the University of Louisville to craft meaningful interview questions that delve into Jewish identity, careers, family life, religious rituals, and even experiences with antisemitism. Our goal remains the same as it did back in 2001: to ensure that these stories not only preserve individual memories, but also serve as a resource to better understand the Jewish Community.

Now we need your help! Whether you're interested in becoming a volunteer or feel inspired to share your own story or that of a loved one, we invite you to join us in this important endeavor. In January, we will hold a volunteer training for anyone who would like to interview individuals and capture their stories. By participating, you'll help us preserve the voices of the past and build a bridge to the future.

If you would like to volunteer or share your story, please reach out to us.

cevans@jfcsloouisville.org

Together, we can ensure that the legacy of Louisville's Jewish community endures for generations to come.

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Rank	Name	Address	Cash contributions Fiscal year 2023	In-kind contributions Fiscal Year
1	Humana Foundation/Humana Inc.	500 W. Main St. Louisville, KY 40202	\$25 million	\$11.5 million
2	Brown-Forman Corp./Brown-Forman Foundation	600 Olive Way Louisville, KY 40202	\$15.1 million	NA
3	Crescent Southern Indiana	12000 Capital Center Dr. S.E. Ellettsville, IN 47120	\$9.88 million	\$7.18M
4	LO&E and KY Energy LLC	220 W. Main St. Louisville, KY 40202	\$5.85 million	NA
5	ISCO Industries Inc.	500 Whitehall St. 2nd Louisville, KY 40202	\$5.53 million	NA
6	The Kroger Co.	5600 Shelby Square Dr. Louisville, KY 40225	\$5 million	\$3.17 million
7	Churchill Downs Inc.	600 W. Main St. Louisville, KY 40202	\$4.34 million	\$3.00 million
8	Republic Bank & Trust Co./Republic Bank Foundation	501 W. Market St. Louisville, KY 40202	\$2.79 million	NA
9	Trilogy Health Services LLC/Trilogy Health Services Foundation	1000 Northpark Plaza #400 Louisville, KY 40225	\$2.61 million	\$80,000
10	Delta Dental of Kentucky Inc.	6500 One Station Rd Louisville, KY 40223	\$2.23 million	\$20,000

Benefiting the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry

JFCS High Holidays Food Drive

Collecting through the High Holidays until Sunday October 20th

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or at JFCS on Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m.

Family Mitzvah Opportunity

Bring your family to learn about the food pantry and experience a **Family Mitzvah** on

Oct. 20



Scan QR code or email mkleener@jfcsloouisville.org

The Lillian O. Seligman Contemporary Thought Forum presents

A Night of Humor

Monday, November 11th

Featured Comedian:

Ariel Elias

7:30 p.m.

at The Temple

5101 US Highway 42
Louisville, KY 40241



Scan the QR Code to register for this **FREE** event!

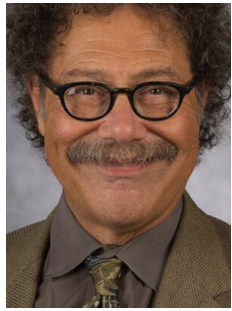
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*Source: Louisville Business First, Corporate Philanthropists, Large Companies with Revenue of More than \$50 Million, Aug. 16, 2024 - Aug. 22, 2024

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Louisville's David Y. Chack will be Chicago-Bound



David Y. Chack

Louisville's David Y. Chack, who has long been a fierce advocate for Jewish theater, is participating in a symposium titled *Challenging the Narratives of Racisms*, slated for Oct. 28-30 at Chicago's DePaul University, where he is an adjunct professor at The Theatre School.

Chack will moderate an Oct. 29 presentation examining *The Rise of Nationalism, White Supremacism and Supremacism in the U.S.*, which features American historian Pamela S. Nadell. Her latest book, *Antisemitism: An American Tradition*, is to be published next year.

In Louisville, Chack is best known as the artistic director of ShPIeL Performing Identity Theatre. He's also a member of the Executive Board of the Alliance for Jewish Theatre.

The DePaul symposium describes itself as "a series of events exploring key narratives within the United States that challenge and hold up a mirror to the rise of racism, supremacist nationalism, and

reflect on how we heal from hatred. Through performance, discussion, and storytelling, these events will aid audiences in understanding the context that has brought the United States to this point and ideate how we fill the need for repair."

Besides Chack's session, scheduled events include #Charlottesville – a "devised" performance piece by Priyanka Shetty referencing the Aug. 11, 2017 "Unite the Right" rally, during which Heather Heyer died after being struck by a car that had been driven into a crowd of counter-protestors. There will also be a one-man presentation of *Otto Frank*, which grew after actor/writer Roger Guenveur Smith (who's frequently collaborated with filmmaker Spike Lee) visited Amsterdam's Anne Frank House.

If you want to learn more about the DePaul symposium, go online at tinyurl.com/yc467s9w. And remember, Chicago is only about a five-hour drive from Louisville.

Jerry Abramson at The Temple on Oct. 17

Where can you get the onetime Mayor for Life and a plate full of brisket? At The Temple's *A Special Brotherhood Dinner with Jerry Abramson*, that's where.

The Thursday, Oct. 17 event is the latest of this year's presentations



Jerry Abramson

by The Temple Brotherhood, which brings in community leaders and other intriguing guests for food and fellowship. You don't have to be a Brotherhood member to attend – for \$18, you'll get a meal (a vegetarian option will be provided) and plenty of lively conversation.

Abramson, of course, is among the most successful and eclectic politicians ever to make Louisville their home. Though best known for his two decade-long year mayoral tenure (both prior to and after the city and Jefferson County merged in 2003 to become Louisville Metro), he also served on the old Louisville Board of Aldermen, and was Lt. Governor of Kentucky under Steve Beshear (Andy's father). He capped his political career with two years as the Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in Barack Obama's administration.

These days you can often spot Abramson working out at the Trager Family JCC, where he and his wife, Madeline, are active members. A conspicuously gifted raconteur, no doubt he'll have plenty to say at The Temple on Oct. 17. The evening is scheduled to start with dinner at

6:30 p.m.

To RSVP and for more information about the Temple Brotherhood and its event calendar, email Michael Friedman at mfriedman@sustainablemgt.com, or by phone at 502-314-5687.



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October 20 – December 8



For info or to register:
jccloouisville.org/krav-maga



Perform the Mitzvah of Hospitality: Be a Host Family

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

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

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

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

To learn more, visit
jewishlouisville.org/shinshinim



AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

For Selichot this year, Adath Jeshurun and our partner congregation Keneseth Israel welcome the Joshua Community Connectors and No More Red Dots, two organizations in Louisville who work tirelessly to prevent, manage, and transcend gun violence 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 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 www.adathjeshurun.com/selichot2024.

The community is invited to Sukkot Under the Stars: An Elegant Dinner at AJ Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. The first 40 reservations will dine in the sukkah with additional seating available inside. The delicious meal will be catered by Chef Maureen Hartmann. The cost is \$18 per person. To make your reservation, visit www.adathjeshurun.com/sukkot.

Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m., Adath Jeshurun will host the 2024 Israel Naamani Memorial Event featuring Nancy E. Berg, co-editor of Exile and the Jews: Literature, History, and Identity, the first comprehensive anthology examining Jewish responses to exile from the biblical period to our modern day. Dr. Berg is professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at Washington University in St. Louis. Admission is free but reservations are encouraged. The Naamani Memorial Lecture Series was established in 1979 to honor the memory of Professor Israel T. Naamani, admired scholar and teacher at the University of Louisville, and beloved Jewish community member. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies program and the Department of Comparative Humanities at U of L.

Chabad of Kentucky

Saturday, Oct. 19 at 8 p.m., Chabad will host a Sukkos Celebration at the Sukkah of Rabbi Chaim and Fraidy Litvin. The program will begin at 8 p.m. with Havdalah, followed by a chance to enjoy Jewish music, a wide variety of smoothies, and other refreshments. All are welcome. Contact RabbiChaim@chabadky.com for more information.

Sunday, Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m. Chabad will host Pizza in the Hut outside the Camp J building at 3700 Dutchmans Lane. Make your own pizza with toppings of your choice and shake the Lulav and Esrog. All are welcome. Contact Rabbi@Chabadky.com for more information.

Monday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., Chabad invites the community to say L'chayim and enjoy Soup in the Sukkah at the Sukkah of Rabbi Avrohom and Golda Litvin. This has been an annual event in Louisville for many years and all are invited to come, chat, say L'chayim, enjoy a nosh and wish each other Happy

Sukkos. Contact Rabbi@Chabadky.com for more information.

Chabad invites the community to attend a new class entitled: Nurturing Relationships: Jewish Wisdom for Building Deeper, Richer Connections in All Your Relationships. This course will explore the timeless Jewish guidance on building, nurturing, and growing enduring relationships with family, friends, and the people around us. It's not about marriage, it's not about dealing with family drama and it's not about how to talk to your co-workers or neighbor. Instead, it is about building the specific core skills that can enhance all those relationships. This class will teach practical ways in which each of us can be that person who truly listens, who knows how to diffuse tension, and who brings out the best in everyone they meet.

The class will meet on six Wednesday evenings beginning Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC. The instructor will be Rabbi Avrohom Litvin. The cost for this series will be \$89, including the handbook. Email Chabadky@gmail.com to reserve your place or to find out more information.

Chavurat Shalom

Even though we won't be meeting every week this month with all of the holidays, we've still got some fun entertainment lined up. Lunch will start at Noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium, unless noted below, and our program will start at 1 p.m. All programs will also be available via Zoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, Oct. 3 - No Chavurat Shalom. Wishing everyone a shanah tovah u'metukah, a sweet, happy, healthy New Year 5785!

Thursday, Oct. 10 - Get ready for some High Holy Day fun and games. Lunch will include baked tilapia, roasted cauliflower, barley with sautéed vegetables, asian style slaw, fresh fruit, and cupcakes. NOTE: We'll be meeting in the Klein Center this week.

Thursday, Oct. 17 - No Chavurat Shalom. Chag Sukkot Sameach!

Thursday, Oct. 24 - No Chavurat Shalom. Chag Sameach again as we wrap up Sukkot and observe Shemini Atzeret.

Thursday, Oct. 31 - Our favorite accordion player, Mike O'Bryan, will delight us with his musical talent and great sense of humor. Lunch will include roast beef, green beans with almonds, mashed potatoes, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and rice pudding.

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 423-1818 or sarahharlan86@gmail.com.

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

Brotherhood, NCJW, and many other generous donors.

Jewish Family & Career Services

2025 JFCS MOSAIC Awards Nominations Open Until Oct. 15

Do you know an immigrant, refugee, or first-generation American who has come to Louisville and made a difference to the community? Help us share their story! We're looking for today's leaders, changemakers and humanitarians from Louisville's diverse community for the 2025 JFCS MOSAIC Awards. Along with individual MOSAIC Awards, we are also looking for a business or company that has made a tangible impact in supporting immigrants and refugees and is creating positive change within our community. Now in its 20th year, the JFCS MOSAIC Awards is one of our most cherished traditions and brings over 400 guests together for a night of celebration of Louisville's diversity. To nominate an individual or business, go to our website before October 15: www.jfcsloouisville.org.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Sunday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m., the Trager Family JCC will host October 7: A Gathering for Remembrance & Prayers for Peace

You're invited to the Trager Family JCC for a community gathering in honor of the victims and survivors of the October 7 attacks.

This meaningful event will feature Linor Ein-Gedy, an Israeli musician from Kibbutz Mifalsim, located in the Gaza envelope. Alongside her melodies and personal story of October 7, local clergy will lead prayers and moments of reflection together. Louisville's ShinShinim will also share their stories.

The evening program will include the dedication of a commemorative Nova Tree Grove and Tree of Life mosaic art installation. The 18-tree grove will stand as a living tribute to Jewish unity, resilience, life, wisdom, mitzvot, hope, and community. Honoring the Jewish tradition of placing a stone on a grave as a gesture of respect for the deceased, the mosaic will be permanently installed within the tree grove. For years to come, the tree grove will serve as an open, green space for community members to gather to reflect and remember.

Advance registration is required for this event. To register, visit tinyurl.com/october-seventh.

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.

High Holiday tickets are available now on our website, kenesethisrael.com, or by calling our office at (502) 459-2780.

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.

Louisville High School of Jewish Studies

HSJS 2024-25 has had a terrific start to the school year, and the good news is that any and all Jewish high school students who want to be part of our ruach-filled community can still register!

We held our "elective speed dating" session on our first day and have now custom-crafted a schedule full of engaging and meaningful electives. Students will be able to explore everything from Jews and Video Games to Jewish Cooking to LGBTQ Judaism to Jews, Technology, and Pop Culture to Jewish Jewelry/Craft-Making 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!

Go online at louisvillehsjs.org register to register today. We have generous financial aid available; go online at louisvillehsjs.org/scholarships to register with scholarship assistance.

Questions? Contact Principal Sarah Harlan at hsjssarah@gmail.com.

Louisville Vaad HaKashrut

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Trager Family JCC (Nancy Abrams Kitchen), and Krispy Kreme, 3000 Bardstown Rd. (this location is closed indefinitely after a fire earlier this year).

National Council of Jewish Women – Louisville Section

Are you concerned about the big

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AROUND TOWN

election coming up in 6-1/2 weeks? It's time to 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. One of the key issues we're following is the proposed KY Amendment 2, which would allow public funds to go to private schools. We urge you to go to protectourschools.com to learn how you can help spread the word to Vote No on 2!

Contact Executive Director Sarah Harlan at executivedirector@ncjwlou.org or 502-458-5566 and let us know how you want to make a difference in this year's critical election.

Nearly New Shop

One way you can support NCJW's important advocacy work is by visiting our Nearly New Shop in the Mid City Mall, 1250 Bardstown 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 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. All proceeds help to serve women, children, and families in the Louisville community.

Fashion Encore: September 28-30, 2024 You read that right—Fashion Encore, our biggest shopping event of the year, is happening right now! 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.

Temple Shalom

High Holidays at Temple Shalom All are invited to join us for the Holidays at Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Road. For High Holiday tickets, please contact the office at 502-458-4739. Erev Rosh Hashanah is October 2, at 7 a.m., with oneg to follow. Rosh Hashanah services are at 10:30 the next day, Oct. 3; Tashlicht will be at 1 p.m. at Brown Park, followed by the family service. Second Day Rosh Hashanah services will be held Friday, Oct. 4.

Kol Nidrei is Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., with the Yom Kippur morning service the next day at 10:30 a.m. In the afternoon, there will be a family service at 1 p.m. Members can reflect and listen to classical music with Daniel Epstein at 3:15 p.m. and cello music from Ellen Weiss at 4 p.m. Yitzkor is at 4:45 p.m. with Neilah immediately to follow.

Sukkoth at Temple Shalom

We start our celebration of Sukkoth with decorating the Sukkah Sunday, Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. with light snacks. Erev Sukkoth services are Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. Schmoozing in the Sukkah is Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. with a deli meal (vegetarian option available). Yitzkor is Saturday, Oct. 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Simchat Torah, Friday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. Join us as we celebrate Simchat Torah joyously with music from Lost Tribe. All are welcome.

The Temple

Join us for Every Day is Like a Gift: An Evening with Nova Festival Survivor Din Teslera Oct. 9 at 6:15 p.m. as we welcome Din Tesler, a 21-year-old survivor of the October 7 Nova Music Festival attack in Re'im. This event will provide a first-hand account of unimaginable courage and resilience in the face of tragedy. Open to all members of The Temple and the greater Jewish community of Louisville, this is an opportunity to come together in solidarity and hear his story. RSVP: thetemplelouky.org/Survivor (live stream available on The Temple's YouTube page). For resources to talk with children and to donate to the Israel Reform Movement Resilience Fund, please go to thetemplelouky.org/israel-resources.

Please join The Temple Brotherhood Sunday, Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. for a Fall Foliage Hike with Tom Block, Isaac W. Bernheim's great grandson. Brotherhood will arrange for the entry fee at Bernheim Forest although donations are always accepted. Lunch can be purchased at Isaac's Café or you can bring your own. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/fall-foliage.

Join The Temple Brotherhood for A Special Brotherhood Dinner with Jerry Abramson Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. You are cordially invited to enjoy an intimate dinner and conversation with Jerry Abramson, Louisville's "Mayor for Life," 55th Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States, and forever community champion. This special event is sponsored by The Temple Brotherhood. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/jerry.

The Consecration Service for Kindergarten and First Graders is Friday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. There will be a family dinner before the service at 6:00 p.m. with Klezmer Band Lost Tribe and the Annual WRJ Cake Walk as part of the Oneg Shabbat after services. Please join us! RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/consecration.

Join The Temple Brotherhood Oct. 26 at 10:30 a.m. for our Torah Celebration featuring the inclusive Brotherhood No-Rehearsal Choir singing during regular Saturday morning services. The oneg will include homemade matzah, gravlax, and bourbon.

Join us for a hands-on Challah and All Its Uses class, led by Jess Kalb and Nancy Chazen, Sunday, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. In this fun and interactive workshop, you'll learn the art of braiding and baking challah, explore creative ways to incorporate it beyond Shabbat blessings, and discover new recipes and techniques. Whether you're a seasoned baker or a beginner, this class will leave you inspired to bring the rich traditions of challah into your everyday life. Don't miss out on this delicious opportunity to learn and connect! RSVP: thetemplelouky.org/Challah.

We have expanded streaming to provide multiple options to participate in our High Holy Days virtually: If you have a Smart TV, you can watch them on our YouTube channel, Roku Channel, or

Apple TV Channel. On your computer, go to our YouTube page or Facebook page. On your phone, download our mobile app – Search for The Temple – Louisville, KY in the Google Play or Apple Store.

Trager Family JCC

CenterStage's Production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* opens Nov. 7. It was 57 years ago that *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* opened off-Broadway at Theatre 80 in New York's East Village (Gary Burghoff, who'd later become famous as M*A*S*H's Radar O'Reilly, played the title role). Clark Gesner's Peanuts-inspired musical has enjoyed a healthy life over the ensuing decades, proving that modest creations can be more than modestly rewarding.

The show has Charlie Brown and the entire Peanuts gang explore life's great questions as they play baseball, struggle with homework, sing songs, swoon over their crushes, and celebrate the joy of friendship.

It comes to the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Foundation Auditorium in early November, with performances slated for Nov. 7, 9, 10, 14, 16 and 17. For tickets, go online at jccloouisville.org/centerstage. And always remember, happiness is a warm puppy.

Registration is Still Open for Club J at the Trager Family JCC. Club J is a before & after-school program set in our fun Camp J environment run by our Camp J Staff. Children enrolled in Club J will play games, participate in a variety of activities each week, receive homework help as needed, and get to spend time with their friends. Transportation is available to and from select schools.

For information on Club J sessions and how to register, go online at jccloouisville.org/clubj.

Neighborhood Youth Board Wants You Neighborhood Youth Boards were developed with the need and desire to center youth voices within Louisville and increase civic engagement at the community level. The goal of NYB is to facilitate interpersonal development, encourage youth to be active members in their community, and increase advocacy for community development.

NYB will serve as the training ground for Social Justice Youth Development (SJYD), leadership development, and the promotion of civic engagement. Participants will engage in activities designed to elevate youth voice and offer a leadership role in youth-led efforts to facilitate a positive impact on our city's youth culture. Participants will attend meetings twice a week towards the development and implementation of a social justice action project at the end of the year.

Requirements:

Applicants must be available to meet twice a week throughout the school year at the Trager Family JCC (3600 Dutchmans Lane). Applicants must attend at least four meetings per month and obtain permission for excused absences for any meetings missed.


Applicants should be interested in social justice, advocacy, and civic engagement. Applicants must be willing to consider alternative viewpoints and communicate respectfully through discussions and experiential learning.

Participants must have a connection to District 8 (i.e. lives in District 8, go to school in District 8 or is a member of the Trager Family Jewish Community Center, etc).

For additional information, visit jccloouisville.org/nyb or contact Zion Smith, District 8 Site Coordinator, at zionsmithky@gmail.com or Alison Roemer at aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.

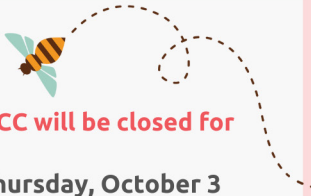
The Trager Family JCC Youth Enrichment program provides regularly scheduled, structured, and supervised activities for children outside of the regular school day. Our enrichment classes promote positive youth development and offer a variety of learning opportunities, including STEM programs, gross motor skill development, cooking, recreation, and social development.

To learn more about Youth Enrichment classes and to register, visit jccloouisville.org/enrichment or contact Jesse Barfield, Youth Program Director, at jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org.




The Trager Family JCC will be closed for

Rosh Hashanah	Thursday, October 3
Rosh Hashanah	Friday, October 4
Yom Kippur	Saturday, October 12
Sukkot	Thursday, October 17
Shemini Atzeret	Thursday, October 24



Reminder



Early Closing of 6 p.m. (no evening classes or JPlay)

- Wednesday, October 2
- Friday, October 11
- Wednesday, October 16
- Wednesday, October 23

LIFECYCLE

B'nai Mitzvah



Avi Ohayon

Avi Ohayon, the son of Moshe Ohayon and Drew Allen and the brother of Sharon and Rachel, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah Saturday, Oct. 19 at 5:00 p.m. at The Temple. Avi is the grandson of Israel and Fany Ohayon of Be'er Sheva, Israel.

Avi is in the seventh grade and is excited to have recently moved to a new family home. He enjoys playing tennis, tinkering with computers, reading suspense novels, and helping his grandparents around the house. Avi's volunteer projects include supporting the Louisville Urban League in its Equity Initiative, which provides educational opportunities to college-bound high school students of color, as well as assisting Educational Justice, a local nonprofit focused on empowering middle school students from low-income backgrounds.



Ryan Lincoln Wachsman

Ryan Lincoln Wachsman, son of Melanie and Sean Wachsman and brother of Hayley, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10 a.m. at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Ryan is the grandson of Jeff and Sheila Wachsman of Louisville, Ky., and Marc and Renee Wolkoff of Beachwood, Ohio.

Ryan is an eighth grader at Louisville Collegiate School where he is on the cross country, track, swim, and robotics teams. He has insatiable curiosity, a witty sense of humor, and a kind heart. When he's not busy with school activities, Ryan enjoys spending time with his friends and his dog, Phoenix. For his mitzvah project, Ryan is making enrichment toys for the dogs at the

Kentucky Humane Society.

He has attended LBSY since Kindergarten and looks forward to working there as a madrich next year.

Obituaries



Norton S. Frank

Norton S. Frank passed away suddenly in Delray Beach, Florida, on August 24, 2024, at the age of 71. Norton, a native of Louisville, was born on Dec. 30, 1952, to Elaine G. and Henry S. Frank, both of whom predeceased him.

Norton served as a Chief Deputy Clerk in the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk of Jefferson County. After working there for over 35 years, he retired to Florida in 2022. He swiftly became a part of his new community and was warmly embraced wherever he went. He enjoyed playing golf, bowling, and was a member of the Villagio Reserve bocce ball team. Norton was a former president of Louisville Lodge #14, B'nai Brith, past Shamash and Chief Duffer of the Duffers Clambake Group and was a lifelong member of The Temple.

Norton is survived by his wife of 24 years, Marcia L. Frank; his sisters, Joanne Stein (Bob) of Englewood, New Jersey, and Julie Ensign (Jim) of Louisville, Kentucky; his brother-in-law, James Lefkowitz of Phoenix, AZ, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Those who wish to make a donation in Norton's memory can do so to North Shore Animal League (animalleague.org) Port Washington, NY; the Jewish National Fund (my.jnf.org/donate-today/Donate); or The Temple (thetemplelouky.org/donate).

Rita Wolfson Goldstein

Rita Wolfson Goldstein, a lifelong resident of Louisville, Kentucky, died on August 26, 2024, at the age of 85 due to heart failure.

Rita was born Hanna Rita Wolfson



on July 13, 1939, to Lester and Pearl Wolfson in Louisville. She graduated as valedictorian from Atherton High School in 1957, took voice lessons at The University of Louisville School of Music at Gardencourt, and married in 1959. Before staying home to rear her children, Rita trained and worked as a medical laboratory technician. She launched her second career, in banking, beginning in 1979, retiring only when health problems forced her hand at the age of 77.

She was an avid reader and crossword puzzle enthusiast, a lover of Motown and Broadway musicals, a bridge player, and an animal lover. Before arthritis made it impossible, Rita enjoyed sewing and needlework. Later in life, she developed a love for soccer, supporting Louisville City and Racing Louisville F.C., Liverpool F.C., and whatever team her grandson played on. She was fiercely dedicated to her family, ran an extremely tight and tidy ship at home, and was seemingly indefatigable until her final illness. She was a life-long member of Keneseth Israel Congregation.

Rita is survived by her children Steven Goldstein (Stacy Cambron), Perry Goldstein (Cynthia), and Jessica Goldstein (Matthew Whitworth); grandchildren Olivia, Madeline, and Benjamin Goldstein, Nathan Goldstein and Matthew, Jackson, Sam, and Leanna Morgan, and Simon Whitworth; and brother and sister Stewart and Leona Wolfson. Her family will miss her fierce loyalty and unmistakable voice.

Her children would like to thank the many dedicated nurses at Norton Audubon Hospital, family friend Lisa Brooks, and the team at Mercy Works Senior Care for the excellent care they provided during her final months.

Funeral services were held August 30 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc.,

followed by burial at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to Save the Children, The Smile Train, Kentucky Humane Society, Keneseth Israel Congregation, or a charity of the donor's choice.



Helene Ruth Judah

Helene Ruth Judah, 93, died peacefully on Sept. 6, 2024. She was born to Louis and Gertrude Brownstein in Louisville on

March 31, 1931.

Throughout her life, Helene Ruth cherished her Jewish identity. She was a member of The Temple, B'nai Brith, and the Temple Sisterhood. As a child and teenager, she practically lived at the YMHA. Her greatest joy in life, aside from her loving husband, Morris Judah Jr., were her children and grandchildren. She adored being with them, and her love for them was boundless; their laughter and playfulness always brought a sparkle to her eyes. In addition to being a devoted mother and grandmother, Helene Ruth was a consummate homemaker, an avid golfer, and an accomplished bridge player. She met her loving husband, Morris, while bowling.

Helene Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Morris, and her sisters, Bernice "Bee Cee" Hildebrand, Harriet Jean Winner, and Anna Fay Michelson.

She is survived by her sons and their spouses, Marc Leibson (Miriam Klein), Steve Leibson (Pat Cochran), and Jim Leibson (Xiaohua Jiang); her beloved grandchildren, Shaina, Adam, and Jaaron; and her stepchildren and their families, Mark Judah (Joan, Dustin, Benjamin) and Sharon Sharpe (Gary, Brian, Melissa).

Funeral services were held Sept. 9 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in The Temple Cemetery. Memorial donations are welcome to

Continued on page 21

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LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 20

the donor's favorite charity.



Blake Alan Present

Blake Alan Present, 59, passed away on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, surrounded by his son Ethan and his wife of 25 years, Rachel.

Blake was born June 1, 1965, in Richmond, Indiana, and grew up in Evansville, Indiana. He graduated from Harrison High School and then went on to the University of Cincinnati, where he was an active member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. After graduating with a political science degree, Blake served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army as a military intelligence officer at Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Arizona. His military service earned him Top Security Clearance as he worked with Hughes Aeronautics, monitoring drug surveillance between Central America and the United States.

Blake then moved to Houston, Texas, where he met his wife, Rachel, at a Jewish singles Torah study group. He started a 30-year career with the Houston Police Department, working in three departments: gang task force, juvenile sex crime, and

narcotics. He honorably retired as a senior police detective. While in Texas, he continued his education and earned a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Houston.

His hobbies included avidly working with his son on creative gifts for friends and family by either using his laser engraver and 3D printer or creating personalized leather gifts. He enjoyed creating household objects using his woodworking tools. Among his many other interests, he was a certified cave scuba diver, an avid ham radio operator, and an active member of the Houston Rodeo Committee.

He loved to duck hunt and brought many ducks home from Kroger, where he claimed that he had shot them. Along with hunting ducks, he also loved to fish and brought home many fish from Kroger as well.

Blake's life was always full of laughter and joy, being with his wife and son. Everyone who knew Blake knew him as an intelligent and conscientious man and will always have fond memories of him.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel, and son, Ethan; his parents, Phyllis and Andrew Present of Louisville, Ky; his grandmother, Mary Present; his sisters, Hope Patterson (Eric) and Brooke Blackford (John); and nephew, Luke Patterson and nieces Harper, Lolly, and Piper Blackford.

A funeral service was held August

2, 2024, at Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery in Houston.

In honor of Blake, donations can be made to the HPD 100 Club, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to the families of fallen police officers and firefighters, at www.the100club.org/survivors-fund.

David G. Schneider

David G. Schneider, born February 20, 1947, passed away peacefully Friday morning, August 30, 2024 at Valhalla Post Acute Home in



Louisville, KY. Preceded in death by parents Patricia and Abe Schneider. Survived by his former wife Ruth B. Schneider, daughters Britney and Kenna

Schneider.

David was a 1964 graduate of St. X High School. In 1969 he graduated from the University of Kentucky

Continued on page 22



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GLOBE

Continued from page 21

School of Architecture, followed by completing his graduate studies at UCLA. David was a Professor of Architecture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, then moved home to Louisville, where he spent the next several decades as the City of Louisville Architect.

David's longtime passions included rebuilding and racing Porsches, playing the drums (was in a band in high school called the Centaurs), and creating contemporary oil lamps – which are on display at KMAC Contemporary Art Museum. He had a love for University of Kentucky basketball and his best friend, a Border Collie named Celtie.

David was known for his exceptional talent and dedication for architecture, shaping many of Kentucky's cherished landmarks with his innovative designs and meticulous craftsmanship. His work was not just about buildings, it was about creating spaces that brought people together and enriched their lives.

Arrangements were entrusted to Ratterman Funeral Home. We want to thank the staff at Valhalla Post Acute for the excellent care they provided. Any contributions to honor David's memory can be made to American Stroke Association, or KMAC Contemporary Art Museum.

Calvin Shrader

Calvin Shrader died on Sept. 2, 2024. Mr. Shrader was a graduate of the State University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Science degree and from the University of Pittsburgh with a Master of Letters degree. Mr. Shrader's career was spent with various divisions of the Associated Dry Goods Company of New York, NY, The May Departments Stores of St. Louis, MO and Federated Departments Stores of Cincinnati, Ohio. No services are planned.



Richard E. Berkowitz

The closing bell rang for Richard E. Berkowitz, 91, of Savannah, Georgia on August 30, 2024. Dick, to most who knew him, in his

final days asked us to remember him as Richard or "ME."

In addition to his political extremism, Dick was a devoted family man. As the only child of Abe and Estelle in Birmingham, Alabama, Dick leaves a legacy of 29 children through genetics or marriage: a previous marriage of 15 years and 52 years to Lynn.

Ten children -- Debra (Martin) Darvick; Amy (Steve) Trager; Lisa (Martin) Thaler; Daniel (Tamara) Berkowitz; and Abby (Brian) Nelson.

Fourteen grandchildren – Elliot (Elizabeth) Darvick; Emma (Scott) Penkava; Kevin (Andy) Trager; Emily Trager (Landon Brantley); Henry (Jessica) Thaler; Dagny and Blake Nelson; and Stella and Max Berkowitz.

Five great-grandchildren -- Olivia and Leah Darvick; Collins and Cameron Trager; and Julie Trager Brantley.

Dick was equally devoted to his country, his colleagues and was an ardent Zionist. After graduating from the Georgia Military Academy in 1950 and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1954, he initially served in the United States Marine Corps and was then stationed in France with the Army Finance Corps. Upon graduating from the University of Miami Law School in 1960, he moved to Atlanta to begin his 42-year career as an investment banker and stockbroker.

First hired by Courts & Company, Dick oversaw the Initial Public Offerings of such well-known companies as Golden Flake, Liberty Overalls and Orkin Pest Control -- rising to become at that time in 1967, the youngest General Partner of a Wall Street firm, ever. In 1970, Dick opened the Atlanta office of Drexel Burnham. He retired in 2009 after a 20-year stint with Oppenheimer & Co.

Dick's commitment to doing the right thing and living a principled

life was bar none. No one who met Richard Berkowitz left the encounter with a neutral opinion of him, one way or the other, and his passing leaves a void in all who knew him.

A graveside service was held September 2 at Bonaventure Cemetery. Donations may be made to Hadassah Hospital or Tunnels to Towers.

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Questions? Contact Jesse at jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org
jccloouisville.org/sunday-fundays



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

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NEWS

'Let kids be kids again' – Campers2Gether gave 1,500 Israeli teens a respite from the strain of post-October 7 relocations

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

The immediate horrors of October 7 were followed by myriad physical and psychological aftershocks, affecting Israelis regardless of who they were or where they lived. Pernicious and persistent, they have upended norms long thought to be inviolable. Even amid a society accustomed to spasms of regional conflict, the levels of collective wartime stress have not been simply debilitating – they've been, for some, destructive.

Hamas in the South and Hezbollah in the North posed threats that could not be ignored, prompting upheavals of unprecedented scope. Never before in Israel's history a such a traumatic shock forced hundreds of families to leave their homes, with scant notice, and evacuate to areas of comparative safety in the center of the country. The strain has been especially severe on the nation's children, who've seen their routines upended as they find themselves uprooted from their comfort zones and compelled – day after day, week after week, month after month – to cobble together normality out of what's decidedly anything but normal.

Happily, a respite was at hand. This summer, about 1,500 Israeli teens ages 14-16 spent two weeks abroad hosted by Jewish overnight camps in North America, Europe and elsewhere. Dubbed Campers2Gether, the initiative was organized by the Jewish Agency for Israel in collaboration with Federations and their various Partnership2Gether counterparts in Israel. Groups of 20 teens – accompanied by adults trained in trauma counseling and general psychological support, traveled together to their respective camp locations.

Organizing groups covered all expenses. The Jewish Federation of Louisville contributed \$18,000 to sponsor several of these Israeli teens, who lived in the Partnership2Gether's Western Galilee region before the threat of Hezbollah rockets forced them to relocate.

Spending two consecutive weeks at an overnight camp was a new experience for most participants. Extended stays in summer overnight camps are a decidedly un-Israeli phenomenon. Israeli teens are much more apt to attend day programs at nearby community centers, or perhaps an occasional sleepover.

But there are exceptions. Avital Ben Dror, the Community Engagement Coordinator for P2G's activity in the Western Galilee and Budapest, Hungary, sent her daughter to camp near the Hungarian capital of Budapest for four consecutive summers.

"She loved it," Ben Dror said during a Zoom interval from Israel.

"It really changed her. I think it connected her Jewish identity, because here it's something you take for granted. There she met people from all over the world who were trying to keep their Jewish identity, with prayers and songs and dancing. It was so much fun."

This summer's Campers2Gether program carried a dual benefit: the teens basked in the sanctuary of American camp life, while their parents enjoined a much-needed break from being in constant close quarters with their children – entire families often have had to occupy a single hotel room.

"Those parents have so much stress right now," Ben Dor acknowledges, "so they really appreciated this time."

The Campers2Gether initiative is a powerful demonstration of how eager Jews and Jewish organizations are to bolster the spirits of Israelis grappling with unparalleled challenges.

"The community is excited about it," says Shelley Kedar, the Jewish Agency for Israel/Hillel International's Vice President for Israel Education and Engagement. "They're investing a lot of money and time and effort."

"The biggest message I would love to come out of this story," Kedar says (also speaking from Israel via Zoom) is that since October 7, a lot of Jewish communities have been asking, 'What can we do?' So, they've been sending money and volunteers and support and love."

Campers2Gether is an example of kicking that commitment up a notch or two. "This is one of the ultimate expressions of what Jewish communities can do – opening camps to these campers, investing money in training for teams and staff," Kedar says. "And it's not like this is the only thing that camps do; it's just one project. It's one of the most incredible acts, not just of solidarity, but of Jewish peoplehood."

While individual camps had their own distinctive cultures, they shared a defining imperative.

"Campers2Gether takes the transformative power of the Jewish summer camp setting to the next level at a time of unprecedented need for the Jewish people," Mark Wilf, chairman of The Jewish Agency's governing board, said in a statement earlier this year. "The program will generate positive experiences for affected Israeli teens, utilizing the camp community to convey a healing sense of unity, while simultaneously providing a platform for global Jewish youth to understand Israel on a personal level."

Shlomit Nazar, an Israeli teacher whose family lived not far from the Gaza border, understood all too well how events of October 7 shattered the innocence of nearby young people.

"These children witnessed unspeakable horrors and have managed to silently soldier through the better part of the year living in hotels, studying in tents that serve as makeshift classrooms," she wrote recently in a piece distributed by the Jewish News Syndicate, "and hoping that when they shut their eyes at night, they won't relive the evils of that day."

Campers2Gether was an emotional lifeline for Nazar and the 20 Israeli teens who accompanied her for two weeks at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, located near the town of Wingdale, NY.

"Most of them were students I had taught at Nofey Habsor in the Gaza Envelope," Nazar said. "I have taught there for 15 years and have known some of my students for even longer. We came into this experience together with a high level of familiarity and trust. And I was determined to empower them with an opportunity they so urgently needed – an opportunity for all of us to decompress; find comfort in one another; and most importantly, for the children to learn what it's

like to be free of worries, even if temporarily."

Of course, there were significant differences compared to what an American Jewish teen might take away. "A camp experience is home away from home, right?" Kedar says. "But if you think of these campers, they're not leaving home to go to a home away from home – they are leaving a temporary residence to go to camp and returning to a temporary residence."

Indeed, "there are parents who are involved with (IDF) reserve duty from the north, protecting their own kibbutzim," she says. "The parents come in uniform from protecting their own places, and they tell you the most incredible stories – 'This rocket missed me,' or people who've lost their jobs and are continuing on. So I think what the Jewish people are doing – what the Jewish community of Louisville, Kentucky is doing – is incredible. It's a mishpucha feeling. Okay, our mishpucha is in trouble, so we are going to get them to summer camp. I think it's something to be celebrated."



Top: (Campers hugging) Participants in the Campers2Gether program from the Gaza border area hug at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires in the summer of 2024. (Photo by Jen Roman/Jewish Agency for Israel)

Bottom: Shlomit Nazar – who teaches at the Nofey-Habsor school in the Gaza Envelope -- accompanied 20 Israeli teens for two weeks at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. (Courtesy photo)

Alan R.

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