

# JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY

## INSIDE:

Emily Bingham Deconstructs  
'My Old Kentucky Home'

SEE PAGE 5

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## Felice Sachs's textile art launches an ongoing Jewish Artists exhibition series at U of L

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

If you venture up to the second floor of the University of Louisville's Ekstrom Library and find your way to the Susan and William Yarmuth Jewish Studies Reading Room, you'll spot a pair of display cases bearing works by fiber artist Felice Koloms Sachs.

A longtime member of the local Jewish community, Sachs – who holds a master's degree in art from U of L -- is the inaugural participant in an exhibition series titled *Louisville Jewish Artists Today*. The Chicago native, a former neonatal intensive care nurse who's lived in Louisville for more than 50 years, has long been fascinated with the act of re-evaluating, repurposing, and ultimately transforming.

"I think of myself as a maker – I make things!" she says, a simple statement that belies the myriad layers of her creative process.

Take, for instance, an "avenue of practice and interest I have gone down: using loved ones' clothing to create useful or wall hung art.," Sachs says. "People hang onto clothing of their dead loved ones sometimes, but don't quite know what to do with them.

"I have been involved in many of these requests," she explains – "For example, a mother's blouse sewn onto a tallit. And then making a 'portrait' of other clothes of this same mother, sewn and stretched as a wall hanging -- à la Alma Lesch -- the sort of mother of fiber art in Kentucky, known for her portraits made with clothes and other relevant artifacts, without the face or other body features."

Sachs's husband of 57 years, Bob Sachs, has been a prime source both of inspiration and, literally, material: "Cutting up and using (his) sweaters, flannel shirts and gardening jeans to create three small lap blankets," or "repurposing casual knit and woven shirt parts into a five-foot-wide wall hanging."

The pieces making up the current Ekstrom exhibit are exercises in comparative miniature – necessary to fit the display cases' modest dimensions. In *Echoes of Tea Time* an ordinary placemat morphs into a lace-covered hand about to pour a libation into a waiting cup, while snippets of text (*Do you take sugar... Yes please*) circle the images below. *Patchwork Family* takes a throw pillow, overlaying a vintage black-and-white photograph of unidentified members of the artist's family centered among machine and hand stitched fabric squares.



L-R Felice Sachs and Natalie Polzer (Photo provided by Andrew Adler)

"A lot of things are what I call 'multi-processing'" Sachs says, "because there's one more than one process in it. It might have painting, stenciling, appliqué fabrics and lots of stitching, and the addition of other embellishments like beads or embroidery."

The only rules are that there are no rules.

"I think that in any kind of art project...as you're working, your mind has its own opinion," Sachs believes. "It says,

See **SACHS** on page 4

## Aided by friends on two continents, Israel's Galilee Medical Center remains underground, undeterred and unbroken

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

From the balcony of her home near Israel's coastal city of Nahariya, Ayala Shaul-Erez has a clear view of the Lebanese border a mere five miles or so to the north. As CEO of Friends of Galilee Medical Center, she coordinates external support of the region's only full-service hospital. And as a wife and mother of a 16-year-old daughter, she is tasked with maintaining some semblance of domestic normalcy – where "normal" is her husband standing guard atop their home, weapon at the ready.

Shaul-Erez knows this drill all too well. "I was born here," she said during a recent Zoom interview – "I remember the First Lebanon War in 1982 and the Second Lebanon War in 2006, so this is the third time. We never left, and we will never leave."

A peculiar routine defines contemporary life in the Western Galilee – a physically striking region of Israel that's also Louisville's Partnership2Gether region. On any given day, Hezbollah may lob a few rockets or send drones across the border into northern Israel, where most are intercepted by the Iron Dome mis-

See **WESTERN GALILEE** on page 15

## I'm going to make an ask



Chief Strategy  
and Impact  
Officer

Matt Golden

You're reading the *Community* paper right now. Maybe you've started with the obituaries; maybe you just read a rabbi's D'var Torah, or maybe (if you're my mom) you went looking for this article. You made a conscious decision to spend a few minutes connecting to Jewish Louisville through this paper. On behalf of the writers and staff here, thank you. For some of us, reading this paper may be the only "Jewish" thing we will do this month. This paper belongs to you and me; it's ours. Because of that, we also share a responsibility to sustain it.

When the forerunner of *Community*

was launched in 1913, the editors provided this introduction:

"With this issue the YMHA 'Chronicle' makes its initial bow. The editors being confirmed optimists look forward to a long and successful career for this periodical. It will be the recognized official organ of the Association. All activities, be they ever so small or most extensive, will receive just consideration and attention in these columns."

Now, 111 years later, we're still giving attention to Jewish stories in Louisville with "just consideration and attention." Our paper has had a "long and successful career" those optimists from more than a century ago could not even have conceived. *Community* has witnessed two world wars, the Holocaust, the founding and flowering of the State of Israel, survivor stories, acknowledging Jewish people at every level of our government, society and walk of life. It has celebrated Jewish life here—all its joys and all its oys—by recording our stories

See **GOLDEN** on page 13



# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### On Chanukah, the light of the world shines brightest



D'var Torah

Rabbi  
Gaylia R. Rooks

Have you ever heard the comment (kvetch) that “the Jewish holidays are so early or so late this year?” Well, they’re extremely late this year! In fact, the first night of Chanukah is Dec. 25. Not that long ago we had ‘Thanksgivukah’ and now the seventh night of Chanukah will be New Year’s Eve.

But on the Jewish calendar, holidays are always right on time – falling on the same date each year. And this year, Chanukah will begin, as always, on the 25th of Kislev.

One interesting note: The idea that Jesus was born on Dec. 25 likely comes from this connection. The date, or even the time of year, is never mentioned in the Gospels or Acts. If indeed the family was en route to Jerusalem, it would have been during one of the pilgrimage festivals that occur in the spring (Passover), summer (Shavuot) or fall (Sukkot). Winter, the rainy season, was not a time to travel and make offerings at the Temple. Just as the Jews adopted and reframed some ancient pagan traditions (in this case celebrating light on the longest nights of the year), Christians adopted and adapted from Judaism.

My favorite little-known fact about Chanukah is that the sixth night is *Chag HaBananot*: A Celebration of Women honored by Jewish communities in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Morocco, Greece and Yemen. Known in Judeo-Arabic as *Eid Al Bnat* (*Chag HaBananot* in Hebrew) -- which translates to *Festival of the Daughters*, it’s observed on Rosh Chodesh Tevet. Rosh Chodesh is traditionally celebrated by women and so it is fitting that the sixth night of Chanukah be dedicated to them. The girls and women of each community refrain from work and gather to recall female Jewish heroes, especially Judith, who lived during the time of the Maccabees and helped prevent the siege of Jerusalem by decapitating Holofernes, the invading Assyrian general.

*Chag HaBananot* festivities vary from community to community, but typically include eating sweets and fried treats, dancing, visiting

the synagogue to kiss the Torah scrolls, and singing well into the night. Girls approaching bat mitzvah age, as well as women who are engaged, are also publicly celebrated during the delightful evening of *Chag HaBananot*.

This year on Dec. 25, the 25th of Kislev, the first night of Chanukah, daylight diminishes, and the ensuing darkness lengthens, but Jews across the globe will be gathering to kindle light. We recall our ancestors, the Maccabees, and all who have inspired us with their “Dedication” (that’s what the Hebrew word *Chanukah* means). We pray that their resilience and faith in miracles will encourage us to share our own light. Even in the darkness, *especially* in the darkness, we can create light. Even when we believe the small things we do can’t possibly make a significant difference -- when it’s hard to believe that miracles still exist -- let us remember the letters on the dreidel that call out, *A Great Miracle Happened There/Here!*

The fact is that there are miracles all around us: tiny little miracles and massive overwhelming ones. If we but open our hearts and our eyes to notice them – and genuinely appreciate them. To be the miracles...

As twilight falls at this moment in our people’s history, when we feel shadows gathering, when antisemitism is increasing so rapidly in our nation and across the globe, we celebrate the miracle of a Louisville Jewish community that has built wonderful synagogues and institutions dedicated to service, learning, and love.

Each of us can find opportunities to increase light -- individually by kindling our own light in our *chanukiyot*, collectively by our actions in the wider world, and as a community by gathering to sing songs, spin the dreidel, and nosh on *sufganiyot*.

This Chanukah, may you and your loved ones experience great joy creating light, shining light, sharing light, increasing it and being the reason that other human beings believe in the goodness of humanity. Wishing you a season of increased light and love, warmth, and wonder. May we light one another’s lights, growing into a beacon of hope that shines around the world. *Chag Urim Sameach* -- blessings throughout this Festival of Lights.

Gaylia R. Rooks is Rabbi Emerita at The Temple

## Snapshots



Trager Family JCC and Jewish Federation of Louisville staff Alison Roemer, Trent Spoolsta, Jordan Leanhart, and David Siskin volunteered at the annual Festival of Trees and Lights, which benefits Norton Children’s Hospital. They shared information about Hanukkah, passed out dreidels and helped to organize the dreidel “Win the Spin” game that was held on the main stage.

## Candles

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

- December 6 @ 5:04 p.m.
- December 13 @ 5:05 p.m.
- December 20 @ 5:08 p.m.
- December 27 @ 5:12 p.m.

## Contacts

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

Send it along to *Community* at [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org).

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all circulation questions. She can be reached at [gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org) or 502-238-2770.

Got an item for the *Community* eblast? Send it to [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org).

## Deadlines

**Got a news item for *Community*?** Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Friday, December 13** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on

**Friday, December 27.**

Submitting an item for *Community*’s weekly eblast? Please submit it by Friday to [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto: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/](http://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/](http://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/](https://facebook.com/JewishLouisville/) or on Twitter, [twitter.com/JewishLouNews](https://twitter.com/JewishLouNews), for the latest Jewish news from Kentucky and around the world.

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Have a correction? Send it to [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org)

# TOGETHER WE GROW

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

-Babylonian Talmud Taanit 23a



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# NEWS

## SACHS

Continued from page 1

‘Well, did you try that? Have you? Won’t you try this?’ You start out with an idea, and sometimes it’s collecting little bits of fabric that you might not want to use, or colors that you might want to use in threads or paint or stenciling. But as you work on it, other things develop. You think, ‘Well, it needs something different here in that corner. It needs a color that I haven’t thought about before.’ The work itself takes charge and carries you along.”

Meanwhile, is a Jewish artist necessarily bound up in Jewish themes? To a degree, Sachs acknowledges, but not inevitably. She’s incorporated the Hebrew letters “Ayin” and “Shin” – the former (the first letter of the Aleph-Bet) representing a beginning. In a work she recalls titling along the lines of “Shattering Peace,” “‘Shin’ is the first letter of ‘Shalom’ – and I broke it up.”

This exhibit of Sachs’s works, which runs through March 1, is acting as a kind of test bed for an ongoing showcase of Jewish artists working in Louisville. Series coordinator is Natalie Polzer, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies in the Department of Comparative Humanities.

“I’d like to use this opportunity, because there might be people who – if they want their work to be fea-

tured, can contact me,” Polzer says. “Then we can arrange for them to send photos” of pieces that might be appropriate to include.

The goal, Polzer adds, “is to display the various kinds of creativity we have in our community. I think it’s important to show how Jews are involved in different cultural endeavors in Louisville.”

U of L is a natural locus for such a project, offering insight to faculty, staff and students alike. “Already I’ve had students say, ‘Look at that work in the library – whose is it?’

The school boasts multiple examples of works by Jewish artists – one of the late surgeon Harold Berg’s mosaics can be seen on the second floor of the Bingham Humanities Building. “Students pass by that all the time,” Polzer says. “There’s a tiny little marker, but I don’t think anybody reads it, so it’s not explicitly identified as a Jewish image of some sort.”

Showcasing Jewish artists, Polzer says, can help broaden perspectives of students who may have grown up in parts of Kentucky where “they’ve never met Jews before.” Indeed, she emphasizes how “it’s important for me to represent the Jewish community in a way that’s extremely positive, that stretches the image of what Jews are and do.”

Whose works might be exhibited after Sachs’s run closes? Polzer doesn’t want to name names quite

yet, though she has several in mind. Meanwhile, Sachs is implicitly acknowledging family connections that reach back over artistic and temporal time.

“My paternal grandmother was an excellent seamstress, making her children’s clothes as they grew up,” Sachs writes in an artist’s statement.

“I was always curious about her treadle sewing machine housed in a closet. I learned to knit at 10 and received my first sewing machine at 13. My first sewing class was at the Sears store where my father worked as a salesman in the furniture department. That was back when

most department stores sold yard goods. The pleasure and inspiration from pattern, color and texture is still with me.”

Art, she believes, can be conduit to a saner, more responsible world.

“In a small way I feel I am participating in conservation and reducing waste by reusing and repurposing a bit of our resources,” she says. “Working with textiles as art and their other practical uses provides a creative outlet and perspective – a happy place. I look forward to continue participating, learning and creating for the rest of my life.”

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## NEWS

# A song steeped in bitterness: Emily Bingham deconstructs 'My Old Kentucky Home' as the SJHS gathered at The Temple

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

There was plenty of activity, inquiry and a fair bit of matters culinary this past Nov. 1 at The Temple, when the Southern Jewish Historical Society (SJHS) opened its 2024 annual conference with a tour of the congregation's archives, a Shabbat dinner and a talk by historian Emily Bingham.

This year's conference was organized by Louisville's Filson Historical Society, which hosted a broad array of lectures and discussions over the course of that weekend.

Bingham, whose family owned The Courier-Journal for generations until selling their media properties to Gannett in 1986, was on hand to share insights from her recent book, *My Old Kentucky Home: The Astonishing Life and Reckoning of an Iconic American Song*.

Her talk followed parallel tracks of Stephen Foster and personalities central to Kentucky's Jewish history. She referenced her earlier research for her dissertation as a Ph.D candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a project that culminated in her first book, *Mordecai: An Early American Family*, published in 2004. That work told how (in the words of a publisher's summary) a "family of southern Jews becomes a remarkable window on the struggles all Americans

were engaged in during the early years of the republic."

One of those family members, Rachel Mordecai Lazarus, became drawn to the Episcopal faith after almost dying in childbirth in 1828, formally converting on her deathbed 10 years later. Bingham recalled sharing that story during a SJHS meeting in Raleigh, N.C.

"So 'thank you' to the Southern Jewish Historical Society," she told listeners at The Temple, "for making intellectual space for that history graduate student all those years ago."

If few people are familiar with the Mordecai narrative, nearly everyone has at least heard – or heard about – Stephen Foster's "My Old Kentucky Home." Foster composed the song in 1853, writing both its music and its lyrics – the latter employing vernacular that would come to be regarded as offensive to Black Americans. The mid-1800s text, famously opening, "The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home," and a chorus extolling "the old Kentucky home far away," presented a vision of social harmony that skirted over the contemporary reality of enslaved African Americans.

In fact, Bingham told her audience, there was "nothing to celebrate; nothing to honor with nostalgia." The predominant theme – reflected in Foster songs bearing such titles as *Camptown Races*, *Oh! Susanna*, *Old Black Joe*, *Old Uncle*

*Ned and Old Folks at Home* – was the tradition of minstrel shows: blackface, rooted in a creation from two decades earlier.

"In the 1830s, a white man named T[homas]D. Rice invented a character and called him 'Jim Crow,'" Bingham said. "His movements and nonsense singing became an international success." Eventually, "some would see in this the genesis, the roots of modern-day prominent men claiming the authentic representatives of what Black life was like. Stephen Foster was writing for a market that could not get enough Black-based minstrel songs."

Slavery was anything but sunny and gay – dark-skinned African Americans, referred to in *My Old Kentucky Home* with what Bingham called "the D-word" (now typically rendered as "people"), saw their families shattered by amid the commerce of buying and selling human beings.

"I ask all my audiences to take a moment," Bingham said, "and imagine this: You have a one in two chance of losing your parent or your child to the slave trade, and you never knew when that moment might come."

She mentioned how "The Courier-Journal – or maybe it was just The Courier at that point – had stories about escaped slaves in Canada writing back to their former masters, begging them for a little money so they could come back to their old Kentucky homes, because freedom sucked.

"These songs were incredibly popular," Bingham said, "so much so that by the 1900s the New York Times advised travelers going abroad to be prepared to sing 'My Old Kentucky Home' or tell a plantation story or two in their own words, or else risk disappointing their foreign friends. The larger point is that American popular music, in its very origins, engraved minstrel stereotypes about Blackness into the American psyche. But this has been suppressed in the public memory, and that's why I didn't learn it in school, and not even in graduate school."

The song has become intractably linked to the state's popular culture: most notably, sung at Churchill Downs just before the running of the Kentucky Derby. And since 1957, The Stephen Foster Story has been performed during summers in Bardstown, Ky., site of *My Old Kentucky*

Home State Park and the 1818 Federal-style home of the same name.

"The place where Stephen Foster wrote the song – what could be more perfect, right?" Bingham said. "Except all that was a hoax. Foster did not write the song there – he didn't even go there."

In a different context, there was an intersection between two American chronologies. "The period from 1900 to 1930 was the time when (we) embraced *My Old Kentucky Home* as a brand," she said.

"It was also important that Confederate monuments sprouted all over the land and -- as you in this audience should know very well -- it's the same period that saw a massive anti-immigration movement in this country, which eventually shut the doors to almost all Jewish people...and it was an easy antisemitism against 1.5 million Jews who had come to our shores."

Clearly, a reckoning was at hand. The revered Black opera singer "Marian Anderson said that the children of all races should be released from the songs of Stephen Foster. Television personality Dinah Shore, born to a Jewish family in Tennessee, heard that call. And when she sang *My Old Kentucky Home* on the Dinah Shore Chevy Show, which had an audience of 40 million people, she used the word 'people' instead of the D-word."

As a prelude to Bingham's talk, SJHS guests perused highlights from The Temple's archival holdings, which embrace nearly two centuries of Jewish life in Louisville. The synagogue itself celebrated its 181st birthday earlier this year, testifying to its enduring vibrancy.

"I was working on the display for Women in Leadership, reading the original minutes of 1903 from the Women of Reform Judaism," remarked Jennifer Sinsky, chair of The Temple's archives committee. "It was amazing to hear their tales of what was going on at the time."

Congregation president Shannon Rothschild told how, even before planning for the SJHS event had begun, "there was an initiative to start digitizing our archives. It's a vast collection."

Ann Niren, who recently took over as curator of the Filson's Jewish collections said that nearly 100 SJHS members attended the conference opening. Though most attending were from the South, a fair number hailed from "all up the eastern seaboard" and elsewhere in the U.S.

Donald Stern, a longtime member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, said that he'd prepared for Bingham's talk by reading her book about the Mordecai family. He likely came across Bingham's account of sculptor Moses Jacob Ezekiel (1844-1917), whose works include the statue of Thomas Jefferson that sits in front of Louisville Metro Hall (formerly the Jefferson County Courthouse).

Created in 1899, that monument may be the most physically tangible example of Louisville's Jewish artistic expression. As for the fate of Foster's most celebrated song, it lives on in one form or another, from state parks to at least one venue where, Bingham quipped, "you can get 'Your Old Kentucky Home pancakes'" – nostalgia served up in Bardstown, not quite far away.



## Momentum on the Road

Strengthening Jewish Identity as a Key to Addressing Antisemitism

DECEMBER 16

Appetizers and Cocktails at 6:15 p.m.  
Program begins promptly at 7 p.m.  
Trager Family JCC  
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**Eve Levy**  
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A magnetic force in the Jewish community, she inspires Jews to connect with their Judaism meaningfully and shares her love of Israel through transformative journeys.



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Through insightful talks on Jewish identity, leadership, and today's challenges, participants will gain valuable tools to inspire change in their homes and communities.

Co-hosted by Momentum participants: Karen Bass, Dara Woods, Deborah Goldberg, Michelle Elisburg, Lenae Price, Beth Salamon, Julie Kling, Kristin Shapira, Jessica Springer, Julie Ciriano, Julia Wall, Shane Shaps, Amy Fouts, Alison Roemer, Becky Ruby Swansburg, and Shannon Rothschild.

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

### COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are December 13 for publication on December 27 and January 20 for publication on January 31.

**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](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org).

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## FORUM

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.

The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference.

The opposite of sacred is not profane, it's indifference.

The opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

—Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel, 1928-2016

The survivor who would not be indifferent.

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## In Israel, the media is both message and mindset



Mindful  
Ramblings

Andrew  
Adler

In its quest to shape the hearts and minds of Jews both inside and outside the country, Israel's media has staked out positions across the political spectrum. By turns fascinating, energizing, exhausting and frustrating, Israeli news media is a microcosm of opinion-making within a nation modest in geography yet vast in ideology.

Even limiting one's attention to English-language editions of newspaper and electronic/broadcast outlets, the stark contrasts between left-and-right of center can landscape be easily gleaned. Add Hebrew-language and social media to the mix, and the landscape becomes exceptionally multilayered.

The ascendancy of digital media means that physical borders have ceased to define the reach of Israel's news organizations. And just as is the case in the U.S., wealthy owners can bend coverage to align with their self-serving imperatives.

"The lion's share of Israeli media is actually controlled by a small group of owners, about ten wealthy families of media moguls," the Center for Media, Data and Society said in a 2020 report.

"Nearly all of the country's major media assets are privately controlled, often part of larger private corporate structures that, under Israeli law, are not required to publish annual financial statements or make relevant financial disclosures to the government, and fiscal or media

regulators," the CMDS observed. "As a result, investigative journalists, analysts and even advertisers in the media market must rely on information leaks and rough estimates of enterprise value, circulation, revenue and income."

All this makes it especially vital to parse a given news outlet so that its biases – both explicit and implicit – provide sufficient context to dissect its coverage.

The broader the bias, the more readily it can be appreciated. I remember my first exposure to an undisguised uber-conservative Israeli news source: Arutz Sheva ("Channel 7"), a one-time pirate radio station founded in 1988 by Orthodox Rabbi Zalman Baruch Melamed.

"It claims to be 'the only independent national radio station in Israel,'" the UK's BBC News observed in a Feb. 24, 1999 article, "and says it was 'established to combat the 'negative thinking' and 'post-Zionist' attitudes so prevalent in Israel's liberal-left media.'"

One of the earliest Israeli news outlets to recognize the borderless reach of the internet, Arutz Sheva was – for me, anyway – a revelation of sorts. Never had I encountered so pronounced a right-wing, in-your-face Israeli news entity. Its website, established way back in 1995, was unabashed in its support of settler presence on the West Bank. Arutz Sheva now broadcasts from its home the West Bank settlement of Beit El.

I vividly recall how Arutz Sheva, with as breathless intensity, reported in August 2005 how Israel Defense Forces personnel were removing almost 8,600 Israeli settlers from Gush Katif in southern Gaza. Its constituent settlements, which were summarily demolished as part of Israel's decision to "disengage" from the Strip, had become an outsized flashpoint. And in the view of Arutz 7, disengagement was an act of catastrophic surrender.

Today, almost 20 years later, the two far-

right members of Israeli's governing coalition – National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezale Smotrich – would like nothing more than to reestablish settlements in Gaza. No doubt they have media allies.

Of course, they also have media opponents. None is more vehement in than Haaretz, the Israel daily newspaper that regards Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the most threatening political leader in the nation's short history.

Many media-cognizant American Jews – me included – regard Haaretz's English language edition as essential daily (make that hourly) reading. Its anti-Bibi stance is unmistakable, often bordering on gleeful.

As I write this on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 21, the paper's web-front leads with the following headline: The ICC [International Criminal Court] Just Issued Netanyahu's Arrest Warrant. He's Counting on Trump to Save Him. Below, under the ongoing "Israel at War" subheading, there's this piece, labeled "analysis," by columnist Amos Harel: BibiLeaks Affair Redirects Fire Toward PMO [Prime Minister's Office], at the expense of Israeli Democracy.

Donald J. Trump's reelection as president will prompt untold column inches, videos, pixels, podcasts and similar emissions from Israeli media – left, center and right. This multiplicity of viewpoints reflects a healthy public discourse, while acknowledging that authoritarians often pay scant heed to opposition forces. Like we Americans, Israelis must decide if they'll hold their leaders to proper account or cede democracy to autocracy – creeping at first, then brazen in its embrace of power – debilitating, depleting and ultimately, destructive.

Andrew Adler is the Managing Editor of Community.

# FORUM

## The Importance of Partnership: Key Lessons on Coalition Building from the 2024 JFNA General Assembly



JCRC

Trent Spoolstra

For as long as I can remember, I have been reminded about the importance of active membership in my community and building relationships with individuals from many walks of life. From my first job out of college as an AmeriCorps-VISTA assigned to a small Catholic non-profit in Indianapolis, to working for the Anti-Defamation League in Chicago helping to combat antisemitism, to now serving Louisville's Jewish community, the importance of community relations has been and will remain a mainstay throughout my career.

It was with this background and two months of experience in my new role that I attended this year's Jewish Federations of North America 2024 General Assembly (GA), which ran Nov. 16-18 in Washington, D.C. For those unfamiliar with this annual gathering, GA is a key event that brings together

more than 2,000 Jewish Federation leaders from across the United States and Canada to meet and exchange ideas on the latest experiences facing the Jewish diaspora community.

Of all the sessions I attended over those three days, the two that resonated most with me focused on Jewish relations with the African American and Evangelical communities. It is these two groups that have been given particular attention by American Jews in the 13 months following the October 7 terrorist attack on Israel. Relations with the African American community go back over a century, with the pinnacle of the partnership arguably being the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Many Jews, however, have felt hurt or disheartened by the perceived lack of support from those in the Black community to condemn the tragedy of October 7 and the sharp rise in antisemitism that followed. Evangelicals have perhaps been our strongest allies since last October given our shared affinity for Israel. Yet many American Jews still feel uneasy collaborating with Evangelicals given long held beliefs of a secret desire to proselytize to Jews or see all of us move to Israel to fulfill an end-times prophecy that will lead to Armageddon. Both sessions I attended at the GA dispelled common misconceptions and provided

insights into improving future relations with each group.

During my session on Black-Jewish relations, the experts highlighted several key points: First, the relationship has had previous difficulties that have ebbed and flowed throughout the years. What the two communities are now facing is nothing new. While there may be individuals in both camps that promote discord, it is imperative to say no to division and yes to collaboration. At the heart of Black-Jewish relations is the universal right to safety and freedom. Experts also emphasized the importance of uplifting Black Jews in the alliance. Ensuring African American Jews have a voice and the opportunity to help bridge gaps between the two groups is vital.

The talk on Jewish-Evangelical relations was equally insightful. American Evangelicals number in the tens millions and are markedly diverse, with membership representing numerous races, observance levels, and political leanings. Organizations like Christians United for Israel and Passages Israel have been instrumental in sending thousands of pastors and students on trips to Israel in which participants come back with a newfound fervor to support the U.S.-Israel relationship. Panelists encouraged Jews to reach out to their Evangelical neighbors and invite them to events like Shabbat dinners to encourage further understanding. One panel member acknowledged that it is natural to go through awkwardness and insecurity for the relationship to grow.

Coalition building can be hard. It can be frustrating. It can at times feel nearly impossible to navigate. Acknowledging this reality, it is understandable for one to ask if coalition building is worth it.

While some in the American Jewish community may think the best option is for us to silo ourselves off and focus completely inward, the Louisville Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) believes it is essential to continue strengthening coalition with various communities, particularly African Americans and Evangelicals. One of the main values of the Jewish Commu-

nity of Louisville, and one of the most important lessons Jews are instilled with at a young age, is *tikkun olam* - repairing the world. We are taught that Jews have a responsibility to repair the world not just for our benefit but for the benefit of all peoples. African Americans and Evangelicals make up significant portions of Louisville's population and share our desire to make our city a better place.

The JCRC has an important history of working arm in arm with those in both communities. Last year, we helped lead an initiative via the Louisville Orchestra's *Journeys of Faith* program that brought together four synagogues and four historically Black churches to promote traditional music of both groups. This initiative would not have been possible without the leadership of Rabbis Ben Freed and Beth Jacowitz Chottiner as well as Cantor David Lipp. Our past work with Evangelicals has been equally rewarding. Relationships with key pastors and having Jewish representation at events like Christians United for Israel's (CUFI) A Night to Honor Israel would not have been possible without the efforts of long-time JCRC member Leon Wahba.

As of this writing, the JCRC is currently under reconstruction to create the next chapter of this valuable committee. We will soon lay out a three-year strategic plan emphasizing key areas the council will be focusing on. Strengthening connections with other communities in the pursuit of creating a better Louisville, especially with the African American and Evangelical communities, will undoubtedly be one of our priorities. If we are to fulfill the visions of our Jewish community, such partnerships are not only right but in fact necessary. Please contact me if you have input you would like to share on this topic as our JCRC moves forward.

*Trent Spoolstra is the Jewish Community Relations Council Director at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC. He welcomes you to contact him about community related issues at [tspoolstra@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:tspoolstra@jewishlouisville.org).*

**MUSCLE MONKEY GRILL**

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Featuring  
Delicious Smoothies,  
Açaí Bowls,  
Wraps,  
Paninis,  
Bagels  
and More!

at the

Trager Family JCC

Located in the Kohn Family Town Square

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**PJ Library**

**Jewish Storybooks Delivered Each Month!**

PJ Library sends curated, award-winning storybooks and activities to Jewish children from birth through age 12. The program sparks meaningful conversation and provides opportunities to explore and celebrate Jewish life together.

**Sign Up today!**  
Scan the QR code using your camera app!

For questions about PJ Library contact  
Jordan Leanhart at [jleanhart@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jleanhart@jewishlouisville.org).

# PICTURE THIS: LION OF JUDAH LUNCH & BALLET



New Lions of Judah received their pins at the event. L-R: Beth Salamon, Shannon Rothschild, Amanda Blieden, Mona Schramko, Shellie Benovitz, Kristin Shapira, Kate Latts, Mickey Ruby, Marsha Roth



Guests watching a Louisville Ballet rehearsal



Marsha Roth, Leslie Smart and Phyllis Shaikun



Sarah O'Koon, Kristin Shapira and Shane Shaps



Margie Kohn and Joanie Lustig



Amy Joseph Landon and Anne Joseph

This year's Lion of Judah event highlighted the upcoming Louisville Ballet performance, *A Time Remembered*. The women gathered for lunch at the Louisville Thoroughbred Society, where five women were newly pinned. They heard from Leslie Smart, the Executive Director of the Louisville Ballet, who described the importance of this Holocaust memorial ballet. Guests heard about the power of art as story telling and to bring people together. Following lunch, the women got a sneak peek of February's performance as they sat in on a rehearsal.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



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 including swim, receive homework help, and spend time with their friends.

Transportation available. We will still accept kids even if we cannot transport them.\*

**Optional Add-on Enrichment Classes:**

*Lego, Chess, Monk-Y Warrior*

**CLUB J BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM MONTHLY RATES**

Schools & Times	Times	Member	Non-Member
<b>Club J Before Care</b> Field, Alex R Kennedy	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	\$356.00	\$442.50
<b>Club J After School 2:30</b> St Matthews, Bloom	2:30 – 6:00 p.m.	\$529.00	\$615.50
<b>Club J After School 3:30</b> Holy Trinity, Hawthorne	3:30 – 6:00 p.m.	\$459.80	\$546.30
<b>Club J After School 4:30</b> Field	4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	\$356.00	\$442.50

\* PRICING WILL BE PRORATED BASED ON THE DATE OF REGISTRATION. WE ARE LICENSED BY THE STATE AND ACCEPT CCAP.

**Questions?**

Contact Jesse Barfield  
Youth Program Director  
jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org



Learn more and register with the QR code or at [JCCLOUISVILLE.ORG/CLUBJ](http://JCCLOUISVILLE.ORG/CLUBJ)

\*The JCC is able to transport to the schools listed above, but childcare is available to any child K-5.

**Pool Parties**  
at the **J** Trager Family JCC

**The Best Way to Spend a Special Day!**

- 90 minutes of play time in the water
- 30 minutes in the party room
- Complimentary party coordinator and gift bags

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit [jccloouisville.org/poolparties](http://jccloouisville.org/poolparties)



# PICTURE THIS: YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN

*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, the second-regular season production of CenterStage's 2024-2025 season, was a smash hit. This joyous production was fun for all ages, exploring life's great questions and celebrating the joys of friendship.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



## CenterStage ACADEMY

at the Trager Family JCC



CenterStage Academy is an inclusive and dynamic program that offers students an immersive and enriching theater experience that provides the opportunity to develop skills, talents and imagination with positivity and collaboration. We build a community of acceptance while providing a fun and safe environment for self-discovery and development. The experience culminates with the students performing a full-length, fully produced musical theatre production on our stage.

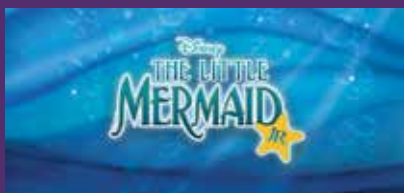
### Fall 2024 Performances



Grades K-3

#### Performances

December 5 at 7:30 p.m.  
December 7 at 7:30 p.m.  
December 8 at 2 p.m.



Grades 4-8

#### Performances

December 19 at 7:30 p.m.  
December 21 at 7:30 p.m.  
December 22 at 2 p.m.



**Purchase Tickets Today!**

Scan the QR code or visit [jcclouisville.org/academy](http://jcclouisville.org/academy)



Disney's

# HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

FEB. 20 - MAR. 9, 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				20 7:30 P.M.		22 7:30 P.M.
23 2 P.M.				27 7:30 P.M.		1 7:30 P.M.
2 2 P.M.				6 7:30 P.M.		8 7:30 P.M.
9 2 P.M.						

**Tickets On Sale Now!**

To Purchase



Scan the QR code or visit [jcclouisville.org/centerstage](http://jcclouisville.org/centerstage)

Questions? Contact us at [JAartsIdeas@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:JAartsIdeas@jewishlouisville.org), or call (502) 238-2797.



# PICTURE THIS: SNOWFLAKE SHOPPE



Snowflake Shoppe is the annual fundraiser for the Early Learning Center at the Roth Family Education Center at the Trager Family JCC. This year, nearly 50 artisans and crafters were spread throughout the Trager Family JCC to kick off the holiday shopping season. Proceeds from the event support the ELC's purchase of much-needed educational toys and equipment to support its curriculum.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)





## Workshops

### Youth Drama Workshops

Unleash your creativity and imagination with our engaging Educational Drama Workshop Series designed for kids in grades 3-8! This dynamic program offers a series of short, jam-packed experiences tailored to inspire budding performers of all skill levels. Through a mix of interactive games, improvisation, storytelling, and character development, participants will build confidence, enhance communication skills, and foster teamwork—all while having a blast! This workshop is perfect for kids in grades 3-8 who are looking to explore the world of drama, whether they are seasoned performers or completely new to the stage.



*with Abby Aida Hopper and Eric Dittman*

**Grades 6 – 8**  
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.



**The Great Debate**  
Saturday, January 18



**Time Travelers**  
Saturday, April 26

**Grades 3 – 5**  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



**Mystery Adventure**  
Saturday, January 18



**Survival Stories**  
Saturday, April 26



To learn more and reserve a spot, please scan the QR code or visit [jewishlouisville.org/youth-workshops](http://jewishlouisville.org/youth-workshops)

## Swim at the Trager Family JCC





**Group Swim Lessons**

- 6-week sessions
- 30-minute lessons, once a week
- Small groups of 4 or fewer

**Accelerated Private Swim Lessons**

- 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



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit [jccloouisville.org/youthaquatics](http://jccloouisville.org/youthaquatics)





## SWIM SCHOOL

WHERE YOUR SWIMMING JOURNEY BEGINS!

# NEWS

## Louisville's ShinShinim join their peers at Washington, D.C. conference

By Alison Roemer  
Senior Director of Jewish Journeys and Experiences

*A Note From the Editor: 2024 marks the inauguration of The Jewish Federation's participation in the ShinShinim program. ShinShinim, an acronym for "Year of Service" in Hebrew, brings Israeli young adults to our country so they can work in our community.*

This past Nov. 10 – 12, our young ShinShinim Israeli emissaries spent three days learning and working alongside their fellow North American ShinShinim in Washington, D.C. On Nov. 11 and 12, Alison Roemer and David Siskin also spent time in Washington immersed in a larger community of ShinShinim supervisors from across the United States and Canada. We gathered to learn, share stories, network, and even play amongst our peers who are guiding Israeli ambassadors in their respective communities. As a group, we discussed how to support our ShinShinim, the best ways to help them grow personally and professionally, and how to lean on each other for guidance through the difficult times we're all living in. The conference was organized so ShinShinim and supervisors overlapped for a few hours.

After the ShinShinim left, supervisors spent time discussing challenges and ideas for supporting them. Together the group learned how to provide boundaries and structure for our young ShinShinim, most

of whom are working their first full-time jobs. There were also opportunities to meet with the Israeli-based team that supports the ShinShinim: The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), which provides mental health services, organizational skills, and ideas for programs and materials. Since this is Louisville's inaugural year hosting ShinShinim, we joined a smaller cohort of communities who are also in the first or second years as hosts. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the program from seasoned veterans, and work with new supervisors to discover what is happening in each community.

Louisville's ShinShinim, Eden and Kyla, enjoyed reuniting with their fellow ShinShinim, whom they met in Israel when they began training for their year of service.

Eden stated that she "had the incredible opportunity to attend a conference in Washington, D.C. focused on leadership, cultural exchange, and community building. Together with peers from Israel, we engaged in meaningful discussions about shared values and the importance of fostering connections across borders."

"The conference offered workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities that deepened our understanding of global issues and how we, as young leaders, can contribute to positive change," Eden added. "Representing Israel in such a dynamic and collaborative environment was both inspiring and empowering. We left Washington

with new ideas, strengthened friendships, and a renewed commitment to working for a better future—both in Israel and beyond."

Kyla shared the following: "Since arriving in Louisville, I've really been enjoying my time here! It's a privilege to work in such a friendly and welcoming community every day. At the conference, we joined the GA (Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly) rally to show our support for Israel. During the event we had great conversations with other ShinShinim, and are excited to use what we've learned back in our community. I enjoyed sharing about the wonderful community and the work I'm doing here and getting new ideas from my friends. The conference helped me gain new skills in leadership and community building, which I'm eager to put into practice in Louisville. I can't wait to bring more new ideas into our programs and continue working alongside such passionate people to make an even greater impact in the community!"

Each year there are over 2,000 applicants for the ShinShinim year of service through JAFI. It's an extremely selective process which accepts only about 200 ShinShinim in the United States and Canada. Kyla and Eden are amazing, vibrant and passionate -- completely dedicated to their mission. Already they've worked with many local Jewish organizations to connect with children, young adults, adults and seniors. Their role is to support our Jewish community, edu-



Alison Roemer and David Siskin pictured with a large group at the ShinShinim Supervisor Conference.

cate, embrace what it means to be Jewish in the United States and bring Israeli culture to Louisville.

If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Kyla and Eden, we hope you'll join one of the many programs they are leading or attending. If you're interested in hosting one of our ShinShinim, please reach out to Abigail Goldberg, [agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org). Hosts are asked to provide a home for approximately three months. Each ShinShinim has their own car and is very busy in the community, but also enjoys getting to know host families and participating in family activities when they are free.

Alison Roemer is Senior Director, Jewish Journeys and Experiences at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC

# J ENRICHMENT

<b>Mondays</b> <i>Lego Club</i> <i>Bricks4Kidz</i>	<b>5 - 6 p.m.</b> For children grades K-5 11 Sessions February - April
<b>Tuesdays</b> <i>Chess Club</i> <i>Urban Chess League</i>	<b>5 - 6 p.m.</b> For children grades 1-5 11 Sessions February - April
<b>Wednesdays</b> <i>Dance/Creative Movement</i> <i>Jane Biek</i>	<b>4 - 4:30, 4:30 - 5 p.m.</b> For pre-k children (ages 3-5) 11 Sessions February - April
<b>Thursdays</b> <i>Monk-Y Warrior</i> <i>Angelica Ortega</i> <i>parkour, gymnastics, calisthenics, yoga, breath work, meditation, &amp; capoeira</i>	<b>4 - 4:30, 4:30 - 5 p.m.</b> For pre-k children (ages 3-5) <b>5 - 6 p.m.</b> For children grades K-5 11 Sessions February - April

\*Holiday closures may effect these dates.

Questions? Contact Jesse at  
[jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org)  
[jcclouisville.org/enrichment](http://jcclouisville.org/enrichment)

## Overnight Camp Grants

### Your child will have an unforgettable summer!

#### Jewish Overnight Camp Grants

- **First-year grants**  
\$2,500 for 4 weeks or \$1,500 for 2 weeks
- **Second-year grants**  
\$2,000 for 4 weeks or \$1,250 for 2 weeks
- **Third-year grants**  
\$1,500 for 4 weeks or \$1,000 for 2 weeks
- Additional financial needs-based assistance available

#### Application Process

- Visit [JewishLouisville.org/Grants](http://JewishLouisville.org/Grants) to learn more or complete a grant request form.
- Rolling applications. Awards will be sent directly to camp.

For more info, scan the QR code or visit [JewishLouisville.org/Grants](http://JewishLouisville.org/Grants)

Email questions to Alison Roemer at [aroemer@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aroemer@jewishlouisville.org).

# PICTURE THIS: SENIORS' THANKSGIVING LUNCH



The Senior Social Club members gathered at Keneseth Israel to celebrate Thanksgiving. Together with staff, the seniors enjoyed delicious food crafted by Chef Helen Impellizzeri and celebrated another year of friendship and camaraderie at the Trager Family JCC.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)



## Pass On Values Instead of Taxes

With careful planning, a legacy gift from retirement assets can perpetuate values and traditions meaningful to you and reduce the estate tax burden for loved ones.\*



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

To learn more about leaving a legacy, contact Frances Skolnick at [fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org).

\*Seek advice from a financial advisor, attorney, or tax professional to discuss your personal situation.

## MUSIK GARTEN

Bring the joy of music to your child's life!

Join us for a wonderful interactive and educational music class with Ms. Cathy Dreszer.

10-week Session  
January 12 - April 2  
at the Trager Family JCC

0-18 months: Sundays, 10:30-11 a.m.

0-18 months: Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m.

19 months-4 years: Sundays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

JCC Members: \$75 | Non-members: \$100



To register, scan the QR code and select the session you would like to attend.

Questions? Contact Carly Mason, [cmason@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:cmason@jewishlouisville.org).

Learn more at [jewishlouisville.org/pjlibrary](http://jewishlouisville.org/pjlibrary)



# NEWS

## GOLDEN

Continued from page 1

throughout it all. 'In short, it has been a love letter to our people.

Every month, a print version of our paper goes out to more than 6,000 homes, just like yours. Our electronic version is available to anyone, anywhere via our website. It is a free monthly paper. We employ photographers so we can capture the experiences of our kids, our seniors, community connections and our life events. Our writers and editors tell the stories of the people in our community that make us unique; our partnership with national and international Jewish press agencies allow us to share Jewish stories from across the globe. Our paper reflects the joyous fact that the Louisville Jewish community is more than any one facility, more than any one rabbi, more than any political party, more than any single definition of Judaism.

Yet the care and stewardship of the *Community* paper is only one small thing that we—again, you and me—do here at the Jewish Federation. We help our most vulnerable. We provide meals, social events, and mental and physical activities to our seniors to directly improve their health and well-being. Last year alone, the Nancy Abrams Kitchen at the Trager Family JCC served over 15,000 free and subsidized meals to seniors, providing healthy, fresh food including the home delivery of kosher meals to Meals on Wheels recipients. Our in-house Chef, Helen Impellizeri, is a treasure.

We support our future through our work with kids. We know that early con-



The Roth Family pictured outside the Roth Family Education Center at the Trager Family JCC.

nections to Judaism through Jewish education and making Jewish friends is key to a growing and thriving Jewish future. We operate the Trager Family JCC Early Learning Center at the Roth Family Education Center, which weaves Jewish values and traditions throughout the curriculum for 165 kids. In partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, we send free Jewish books to Jewish households—more than 4,000 books to 350 Louisville families—through our operation of PJ Library. We give camp grants to allow children to attend Jewish camps regardless of financial ability, providing more than \$230,000 in assistance last year alone. Because of all of us, more than 25 first-time campers and nearly 60 kids were able to experience their connection to Jewish culture and friendships that would not have been available to them otherwise.

Together, we raised more than \$1.5 million in the wake of October 7 for emergen-

1 Thanks to the work of Fred Joseph, Jane Goldstein, a grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund and a partnership with the Filson Society, some issues of the *Community* and the *Chronicle* are now available all the way back to April 1913 online.

cy funding to humanitarian aid in Israel. Because of the longstanding relationship between Jewish Federations and those aid organizations in Israel, your dollars were able to make an immediate impact. The Jewish Federation of Louisville helped build a bomb shelter for preschool kids—Jewish and Muslim—in our Partnership region in the Western Galilee. We provided aid so that Israeli Jewish children could come to U.S. summer camps to escape the horrors of war, at least for a month. And rather than shy away from our connection to the people of Israel, we have two Israeli teens working with us for this entire year to strengthen our bonds through our *ShinShinim* program. We do the same work at home and provide financial support and partnership to every area synagogue and to Jewish Family & Career Services.

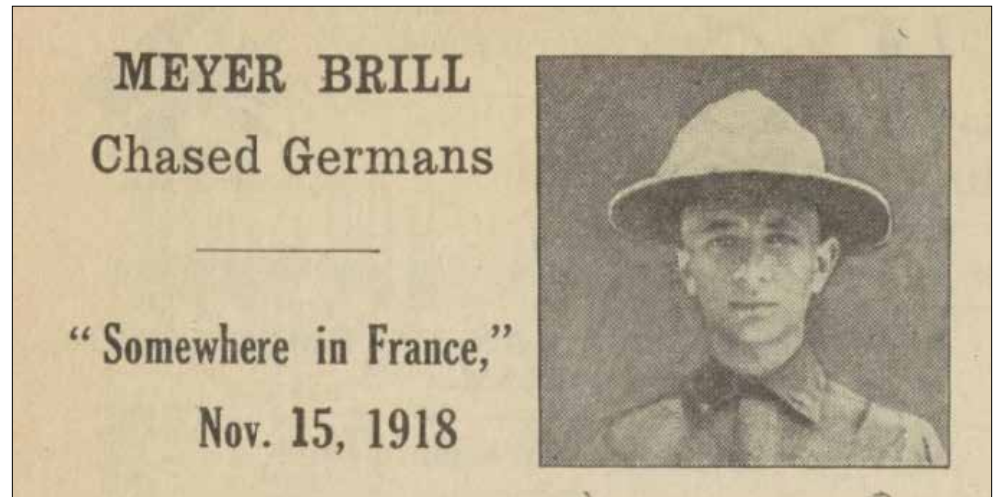
Community safety is one of our highest priorities. Our Regional Security Advisor has provided more than 150 security assessments throughout our community and to every Jewish organization in Louisville. We are expanding and partnering with other Louisville community organizations to enhance our safety and their safety as well.

All of this is, of course, in addition to operating the Trager Family JCC, Kentucky's only Jewish Community Center. More than 1,500 people a day come through our doors, making us the front porch for the Jewish community. In our house, you can see CenterStage productions (we're the oldest community theater in Kentucky), enjoy our award-winning facility, join in fitness and aquatic programs, and watch our campus grow as we strive daily to do even more. The truth is, we're doing what we've been doing for more than a century.

But here is a truth as well. The *Community* paper, the security network, the day camps and grants, this entire facility -- none of that works without donors and volunteers. In other words, none of it works without you. And for every one of the 111 years that people have been reading our words in these papers, those same people have recognized the importance of doing their share to help. They have contributed.

I titled this article as clearly as I could, because I am making an ask. We are a non-profit organization. We are asking for financial help to keep our *Community* paper thriving, to keep sending children's books to households for free, to keep feeding seniors healthy meals, to keep subsidizing kids' camp and education initiatives, and to keep maintaining and expanding our support for the synagogues and other Jewish organizations in our midst. *There is not a single thing we do that isn't important.* We are growing our reach, expanding our support for high school and college students, creating new and meaningful programming for adults, and dreaming of a future where we can fulfill more needs, preserve our past and work towards our future. All of that depends upon your financial support of our annual campaign. Inside this newspaper, you will find an envelope and below this article you will find a QR code. We want your decision to support our causes—again, yours and mine—to be easy to fulfill. But it does start with your contribution to keep our more-than-a-century of work going forward. Together, we grow.

In an article entitled *A Letter from France*, printed in our January 1919 edition, a young army corporal from Louisville named Meyer Brill recounted his ex-



periences being at the front during World War I and surviving trench warfare fighting for the United States. He shared his dreams of returning from Europe and "lounging around the lobby" telling stories surrounded by his friends. Most importantly, he stressed how much his local paper meant to him when he received it at the front. "It tends to bring back fond memories," he concluded. Meyer would go on to marry Fannie Berkowitz here in Louisville, and have two children, Elaine and Stanley. When Meyer's daughter, Elaine Brill Kahn, passed in 2013 leaving children and grandchildren—exactly 100 years after this paper was founded—the *Community* reported that too. We have an obligation to everyone who came before us to keep providing them the "just attention and consideration" those editors hoped for in 1913. Please consider making a meaningful contribution to the

Jewish Federation to help us maintain that legacy.



Matt Golden is Chief Impact and Strategy Officer of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC.

# Hanukkah Celebration

Monday, Dec. 30  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Trager Family JCC

Join us for latkes, donuts, crafts, games, dancing, and live music featuring Lost Tribe!

This event is FREE & open the community!  
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Trager Family JCC

Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE

## NEWS

## At JFNA's 2024 General Assembly, the watchword was 'Unity'

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

We asked four members of Louisville's Jewish community to share some thoughts after returning from Jewish Federations of North America's 2024 General Assembly, which ran Nov. 16-18 in Washington, D.C. Here's what they said:

### Mike Fine

As a recent Joseph J. Kaplan Young Leadership Award winner, I was invited to attend JFNA's 2024 General Assembly in Washington, D.C. The timing was solemn. The GA arrived on the heels of decisive state and federal elections in the United States, mob attacks on Jewish soccer fans in Amsterdam, and Hezbollah's rocket launches into Israel's heart. Occurring about one year removed from October 7, it provided me with an opportunity for introspection, learning and connection (reconnection?) by way of 2,000+ attendees from across North America.

I am better able to contextualize the outcome of the recent elections and voice my concerns around antisemitism - whether on college campuses, in daily life, or the halls of government. Frank Luntz, a national news contributor, and Mark Mellman, a pollster and political consultant, contextualized the "Jewish" vote during a standing-room only panel. They cautioned attendees about our country's growing political stratification along lines of class and educational achievement. They advised us to name and fight antisemitism taking root in the extreme wings of both major political parties. Mr. Luntz reminded us about the importance of language when denouncing antisemitism. He armed attendees with a new and more effective vocabulary - using "H" words like humanity, human rights, inhumane, to which most listeners will respond positively.

I was surprised to agree with ideas espoused by Sheryl Sandberg, former COO of Meta; and Bari Weiss, founder of The Free Press. Ms. Weiss asked attendees to realize that we are living inside history and not just looking back on it. For generations, American Jews had been able to "sleepwalk" - as she put it. We must be more vigilant given recent events. Ms. Sandberg plugged Screams Before Silence, her recent documentary film exploring sexual violence by Hamas during 10/7. Ms. Sandberg has been holding screening events for the documentary across college campuses - the same ones where Jewish undergraduates have been experiencing hostility. To me, it seems like an excellent way to educate students and combat antisemitism with each step. I applauded vigorously when Sheryl avowed that rape is a war crime, and it should be punished accordingly.

### Beth Salamon

Outgoing chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council and incoming board chair of the Jewish Community of Louisville

The General Assembly this past weekend inspired me for the moment that we are in. The theme this year was Unity, and even though there was a lot of focus on the rise in antisemitism in the U.S. and around the world after Octo-

ber 7, there was also a sense of the Jewish community standing together and leaning into our Jewish pride. So many Jews are finding strength and solidarity with each other and there is a noticeable surge in Jewish communal life. I personally attended seminars on how to meet the moment we are in with programming and engagement across different age groups.

Also, as incoming board chair, I was fortunate to have the time to meet with board chairs from across the country and hear from experts on board leadership. The political junkie in me enjoyed the deep dive into election results and legislative priorities -- and it's always amazing to see the political people I follow on social media in real life. Most importantly, I loved the chance to bond with the nine other Louisville attendees.

### Becky Admony

I was excited to go and didn't know what to expect. The experience started when some of us met at the Louisville airport to travel as a group. The location was perfect: Washington, D.C. From the very first moment it just felt like a big gathering of a very large extension of my family (Meshbach).

Wherever I went, random people would come up to me and just start talking. It was thrilling. We all had a lot to talk about. The age gaps, the cultural differences and the fact that we were from all over the United States, did not seem to matter at all. We had a great deal of things to say and share with one another. It felt like we are all in this together. We're all going through similar things in our personal life and community-wise.

The schedule had a variety of activities and different lectures to choose from. We were well taken care of. Everything was effectively organized even to the smallest details. The top two events I liked the most was the rally- "We stand together"- it felt powerful and inspiring. It was at the local stadium and the program was great. There were many speakers and other entertainment. The second event I liked a lot was the last speech of the event. Sheryl Sandberg read a poem she wrote and it was very powerful. She spoke about how we are kind of ignoring what's happening around us. According to her, we really need to awake to our new situation as Jews around the world and to be more aware. This experience truly inspired me to attend other gatherings similar to this one, and I'm very glad I was a part of it.

### Bill Altman

I decided to attend the General Assembly for the first time in over 20 years because I was interested to see how Jewish leadership addressed the unprecedented times and troubling issues faced by Jews in America—the surge in anti-Semitism across the political spectrum; strained relations between Israel and the West; divergent political perspectives between American and Israeli Jews; and inter-generational divides on the Israel/Palestine conflict.

The GA did not disappoint. There were sessions with top notch speakers on all of these topics and more. I left the meeting with three impressions. First, across America there is a surge among Jews seeking engagement with other Jews as a result of recent events. And while there



The Jewish Federation of Louisville sent ten community members to the GA in Washington DC from November 10 through 12 (From L to R, Cantor David Lipp, Bill Altman, Amy Fouts, Trent Spoolstra, Amy Joseph Landon, Beth Salamon, Greg Moore, Sara Klein Wagner, Mike Fine, and Becky Admony.)

were some ideas presented on how to provide opportunities for engagement, there was also an honest acknowledgment that our Jewish institutions must adapt to the forms of engagement that people want. This resonated with me as we in Louisville continue to digest and develop a community-wide plan to respond to the Brandeis study which came to the same conclusion—unaffiliated Jews want engagement, but not necessarily with the programs we've done in the past. Second, there were insightful sessions on conflict both within Jewish communities and between the Jewish community and other groups. Neverthe-

less, the sessions focused on the importance of creating constructive forums for having conversations—even difficult ones—and provided tools to facilitate these conversations.

Finally, I left the conference with a ray of optimism after a very difficult year and a difficult couple of weeks. There was optimism generated by Israeli victims of October 7 sharing not only their grief, but also their strength and belief in the future. Optimism that our Jewish leadership is focused on the right issues, confronting difficult issues honestly and with creativity. And optimism in the resiliency of the Jewish people.

All New!

SUNDAY FUNDAYS

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PROGRAMMING

FOR JCC

MEMBERS

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**First Sunday: Art**  
*Weisberg Family Lobby*

**Second Sunday: Chess**  
*Weisberg Family Lobby*

**Third Sunday: Bricks4Kidz**  
*Weisberg Family Lobby*

**Fourth Sunday: Gardening**  
*Camp J Building Garden*  
*3700 Dutchmans Ln*

This programming is "drop-in" style and classes will rotate weekly, but be the same monthly.

Children 12 and under are not permitted to be unsupervised.

Questions? Contact Jesse at  
jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org  
[jccloouisville.org/sunday-fundays](http://jccloouisville.org/sunday-fundays)

# NEWS

## Chabad of Kentucky announces second offering in its Jewish Life and Learning Series: *Science of Motion*

By Rabbi Avrohom Litvin  
Guest Columnist

Chabad of Kentucky is launching *Science of Motion*, the second program in its new *Life and Learning* series. It has been a two-year journey to this point and much has been learned along the way.

The devastating fire that destroyed the Louisville Chabad House just over two years ago also held a silver lining: bringing our community closer together. Jewish and civic leaders joined to support Chabad, reflected in the words of then-Mayor Greg Fischer, "We will get through this tragedy together and we will emerge stronger."

A new Chabad Center was envisioned. But what type of facility would ever be more meaningful than the initial Chabad Center, which hosted communal prayer and acted as the headquarters for all Chabad activities throughout the Commonwealth? After numerous community meetings, surveys, and lots of listening, a new idea began to emerge. Chabad would create a Center for Jewish Life and Learning, where people could participate within a warm Jewish context -- regardless of background or affiliation. It would be a place where Judaism could be celebrated joyfully and meaningfully. There would be myriad opportunities to expand the mind, excite the heart, and touch the soul amid a wide range of

learning venues for all ages.

Then came October 7, 2023.

In the wake of the massacre and the subsequent surge of worldwide antisemitism, it quickly became apparent that the core mission of this new center would have to evolve.

We developed a three-pronged approach to programming. Each component would act as a resource to foster a sense of pride and Jewish awareness to members of our Synagogues and Temples. Individual programs would aim to engage with unaffiliated Jews living in Louisville, celebrating the joy of Judaism. And finally, each aspect would include children from the wider secular community. The goal? To gain an appreciation of ancient Jewish traditions, along with their timeless life lessons -- serving as a pathway toward cultural diversity, inclusion, and overcoming prejudice. Through hands-on learning and by sharing a message of tolerance, we hope to foster respect for all cultures.

Before considering the building of a new Chabad Cultural Center to house these programs, we decided to first create programming as a sort of "proof of concept." After hundreds of hours of research and development, we unveiled our inaugural program. Dubbed "Jews and Chocolate," it told about the discovery of chocolate in 1400s Spain, relating how numerous Jews were closely in-

involved as chocolatiers. After their expulsion from Spain and then from Portugal, these Jews maintained tremendous resilience, faith, and optimism, immigrating to countries throughout the world bringing, chocolate in hand.

The second program, *Science of Motion*, will present the narrative of Chanukah in a fascinating way. Students will hear the story of the Festival of Lights, discovering how the Greeks forbade the study of Torah and the teachings of Torah and Jewish traditions to children. Yet even under these onerous burdens, people continued to fight to be allowed to practice their religion freely. They continued to teach Torah secretly to the children and if soldiers approached, the children would hide their books and play the seemingly harmless game of dreidel. Thus, dreidel became a symbol of overcoming Jewish persecution.

At this point in the story, there'll be a pause to learn about Newton's three principles of motion, participants conducting experiments revolving around the spinning of the dreidel. The story continues as the children learn about the miracle of the oil, when the Jews found just enough oil to light the Menorah for one day -- yet it lasted eight days until new oil could be procured. At this point, the program will pause again to allow the students to perform such hands-on experiments as crushing olives into a

paste and using a centrifuge to create olive oil from that mixture, thus learning about both centrifugal force and density.

The story continues with the lighting of the menorah, and each participant will be encouraged to be a light in the darkness when recognizing such issues as bullying, racism and antisemitism. Rabbis and Cantors will each share messages of the lights of Chanukah applicable to both the Jewish and secular communities.

*Science of Motion* will be presented the morning of Sunday, Dec. 8 for Hebrew School students, followed by community sessions during the afternoon. Monday, Dec. 9 is reserved for the Club J after-school program.

Additional *Life and Learning* programs under development for 2024-2025 include Environmental Science (incorporating lessons in nurturing the world via tikkun olam), a Matza bakery, Shofar factory, and an exciting offering for adults: Jews and Bourbon.

To register for *Science of Motion* or for more information on any of these programs, call Rabbi Avrohom Litvin at 502-235-5770 or email [Chabadky@gmail.com](mailto:Chabadky@gmail.com).

Rabbi Avrohom Litvin is the longtime leader of Chabad of Kentucky



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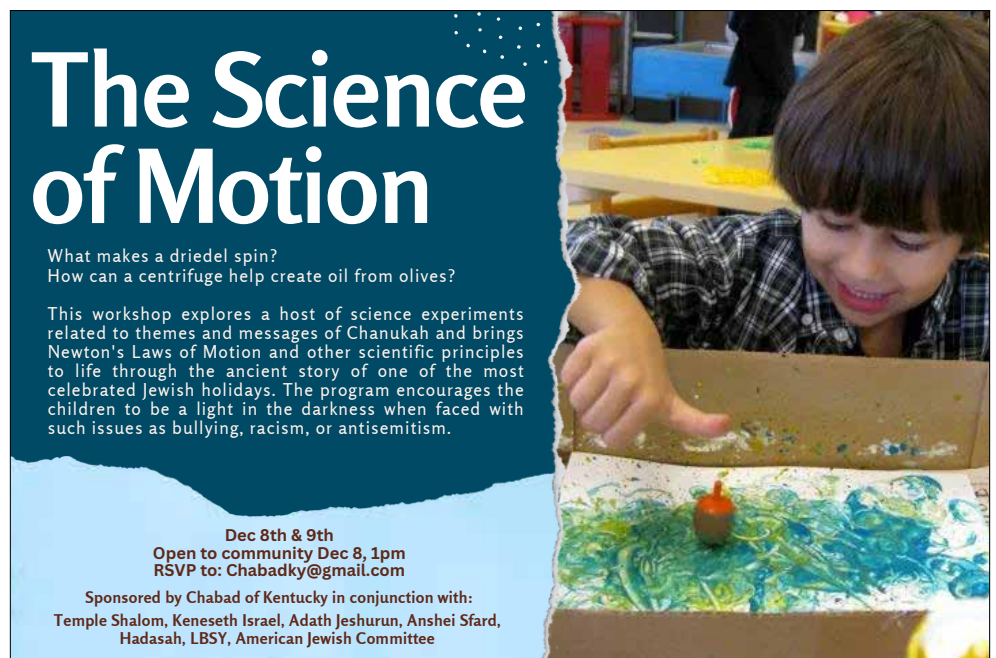
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2 p.m.

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**J** Trager Family JCC  
[jccloouisville.org/newyou](http://jccloouisville.org/newyou)

For More Information: Joe Kirven 502-238-2792 | [jkirven@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jkirven@jewishlouisville.org)



**The Science of Motion**

What makes a dreidel spin?  
How can a centrifuge help create oil from olives?

This workshop explores a host of science experiments related to themes and messages of Chanukah and brings Newton's Laws of Motion and other scientific principles to life through the ancient story of one of the most celebrated Jewish holidays. The program encourages the children to be a light in the darkness when faced with such issues as bullying, racism, or antisemitism.

**Dec 8th & 9th**  
Open to community Dec 8, 1pm  
RSVP to: [Chabadky@gmail.com](mailto:Chabadky@gmail.com)

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# Get a Jump On The Season of Giving

With the holiday season upon us, even amid challenges in the world, our hearts turn naturally toward joy, gratitude, and acts of generosity. This time of year, brings a renewed appreciation for the people around us - family, friends, and neighbors - and a desire to honor those connections through acts of kindness and giving.

Tuesday, December 3, offers you a chance to jumpstart the spirit of giving this year. Giving Tuesday, created in 2012, is a global movement celebrated the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Its goal is to shift focus from “consumer-driven days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday” to what this season is truly about “giving”. The impact is immense, with tens of millions of dollars raised and countless lives touched each year around the globe by rallying worldwide support causes close to people’s hearts.

At JFCS, Giving Tuesday is a crucial opportunity to help fight food insecurity for families in our community. Donations to JFCS through Giving Tuesday will support the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry, which provides essential food and resources to families in need across Louisville. By joining Giving Tuesday’s “Global Day of Giving”, you can help JFCS bring dignity and purpose to our neighbors facing food insecurity during the holidays and beyond.

Giving Tuesday is an ideal opportunity to touch many lives in Louisville. Every contribution to JFCS goes directly to en-

hancing and fueling our efforts to combat food insecurity in Louisville through our pantry.

Food insecurity is more prevalent in Louisville than many realize. JFCS distributes an average of 6,500 pounds of food a month, which is an increase of over 60% from three years ago. According to the Greater Louisville Project, Louisville ranks second among its peer cities for children who are experiencing food insecurity, which is 17% of children in Louisville. Additionally, according to the Jewish Federation of North America, a study found that 19% of Jewish households in the United States are struggling to make ends meet.

The demand for services continues to grow. This includes demand at our main pantry location at JFCS, and our satellite pantry for the residents of Shalom Towers. People of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances rely on the pantry to provide not only supplemental meals, household and personal hygiene items, but also a sense of dignity and stability. For some families, a visit to our pantry means the difference between being hungry and having a meal.

Beyond providing food, The Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry acts as a gateway to additional JFCS services. Many families who first come to us for food assistance also wind up benefiting from our case management services, mental health services, career services, and support groups, all of which help them over-

come barriers and work toward long-term goals.

Every donation you make to JFCS on Giving Tuesday will go directly to expanding the resources and reach of our food pantry. For example:

- **\$25 provides shelf stable items for our community members!**
- **\$100 provides household items and cleaning supplies to families!**
- **\$250 provides food for a family of four for an ENTIRE month!**
- **\$1500 provides food for a family of four for SIX months!**
- **\$3000 provides a family of four for an ENTIRE year!**

Your generosity has a lasting impact, as it not only fills pantry shelves but also brings relief and hope to families facing hardship.

Join us in the fight against food insecurity! Tuesday, December 3, let’s come together for Giving Tuesday, and strengthen Louisville’s commitment to compassion and community. By supporting JFCS and the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry, you’re helping us provide food, resources, and care to families in need.

Visit our website at [www.jfcsloouisville.org](http://www.jfcsloouisville.org) on December 3 and join your friends and neighbors making a difference on Giving Tuesday with a gift to the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry.

Thank you for standing with JFCS and making a difference in the lives of your neighbors.

## GIVING TUESDAY

### WHO:

The JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry

### WHAT:

Giving Tuesday is a global movement celebrated the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Its goal is to shift focus from “consumer-driven days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday” to what this season is truly about “giving”.

### WHEN:

Tuesday, Dec. 3

### WHERE:

Go to: [jfcsloouisville.org](http://jfcsloouisville.org) on or before Dec. 3 to make a gift.



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## Exploring the Possibilities Of Life in Retirement?

JFCS is looking to speak with individuals navigating life's next big transition from career to retirement.

Your input will help us design programs and services that provide meaningful support and opportunities for personal growth for people just like you.

Be part of making a real difference!

Email Mary Hancock  
[mhancock@JFCSLouisville.org](mailto:mhancock@JFCSLouisville.org)

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# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

## Trager Family JCC and Federation of Louisville welcome two new staff members

Recently we welcomed two new staffers – Jordan Leanhart and Liz Hemmer -- to positions at the Trager Family JCC and Federation of Louisville. Below, each of them tells a bit about themselves, and what they hope to accomplish in their new roles.



New Staffers L-R: Jordan Leanhart and Liz Hemmer (photo by Amy Landon)

I'm **Jordan Leanhart**, the PJ Library Coordinator for the Louisville area. I was born and raised here in Louisville and am so excited to have joined the PJ Library team. I have two little boys, Sawyer (5) and Parker (2), who are both proud PJ kids. I graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 2014 with a B.A. in Theatre and previously taught at Adath Jeshurun Preschool for almost eight years. Reading has always been a passion of mine and getting to share that

passion -- not only with my own children but children throughout the area -- was a major draw to this position. I feel that sharing Jewish stories with people of all ages, no matter how you "do Jewish," is so important, and PJ Library is the perfect avenue to introduce the youngest members of our community to their heritage.

My main goal when it comes to my role with PJ here in Louisville is engagement. So few members of the community at large even know what PJ Library is. We currently send books to almost 400 children from 0-9 years old each month, yet that's just a fraction of the Jewish children being raised here in Louisville. PJ Library also has a program for upper elementary and middle school children, PJ Our Way, which currently serves almost 75 children in Louisville aged 9-13, as well as a PJ Grandparent program. I would love to engage more families in all our programming opportunities. At the end of the day, sharing Jewish stories, engaging children in daily reading, and instilling the value of lifelong learning are my utmost priorities. Education is a key piece to tikkun olam and after all, don't we all want to repair the world?

**Liz Hemmer** here. I recently graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Hospitality Management. I was born and raised in Louisville, where I'd go see CenterStage shows with my grandma and participate in events with my youth group here.

I'm the new Active Adult event manager and Hillel program manager here at the Trager Family JCC. What drew me

to these positions was wanting to create wonderful memories with people in my community and making them feel special when coming to events that I help plan. The senior program has a special place in my heart -- I want to help our seniors learn and understand that no matter what age you are, you should be active and keep living your life to the fullest. Also, being the new Hillel program manager genuinely represents me coming full circle. While at Alabama I was an intern at Hillel, where I helped rebuild our campus community. That's exactly what I want to do for the University of Louisville's campus. Both new roles are very special to me, and I can't wait to grow our community at U of L and here at the Trager Family JCC.

## Louisville Vaad HaKashruth elects officers for 2025



Steve Goldstein

The Louisville Vaad HaKashruth officially approved its slate of 2025 officers during its annual meeting Nov. 18 at the Trager Family JCC.

Steven Goldstein was elected president of the Vaad, which supervises kosher food preparation locally and oversees the Louisville Community Mikvah (ritual bath). Other officers are: Vice president, Larry Kaplan; Secretary, Sharon Czerkiewicz; and Treasurer, Myrle Davis.

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Trager Family JCC (Nancy Abrams Kitchen), and Krispy Kreme, 3000 Bardstown Rd (this location was set to reopen on Tuesday, Nov. 26 after being closed following a fire earlier in the year). Rabbi Yaakov Lederman of Anshei Sfard will continue as kashruth administrator.

## AFP Louisville names Robert McKiernan and Dr. Richard Wolf and Mary Bert Wolf as Philanthropists of the Year



Dr. Richard S. Wolf and his wife, Mary Bert Wolf

The Association of Fundraising Professionals' Greater Louisville Chapter has named Robert McKiernan its Philanthropist of the Year -- Individual in the Small/Medium Non-Profit category, representing nominating organizations with annual operating budgets of under

\$15 million. The late Dr. Richard S. Wolf and his wife, Mary Bert Wolf, were honored as Philanthropist of the Year representing nominating organizations with budgets of over \$15 million.

Both awards were given during AFP's observance of National Philanthropy Day during a breakfast ceremony Nov.

15 at The Olmsted

McKiernan, who was recognized for his longstanding support of Family & Children's Place, is a CPA who this past August took a new position as Finance Manager with ScionHealth Louisville. Previously he was Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis for CareRing Health, after spending nine years with Charter Communications.

He's married to Becky Temes McKiernan, and is the son-in-law to Maura and Jerry Temes.

"When I think about a donor who has made an impact at Family & Children's Place in the past year, I think about Bob McKiernan," Alexis Asamoah, the organization's Development Assistant, remarked during a pre-recorded video segment.

"Bob started giving to our agency back in 2016 -- a small gift, maybe once or twice a year," Development Director Kristen Millwood added. "Then in 2022 he decided to become a monthly donor and dedicate his gifts to his father. Shortly after that, he...asked if there was an opportunity to honor his brother (Don) in some way through our agency...We were initially thinking about naming a room in our facility after Don for a smaller donation, but Bob had a larger dream, and he came in with a pledge of \$10,000. We ended up choosing to plant a tree in honor of his brother this September. Bob quoted his brother who said, 'Don't be charitable when it's convenient for you. Be charitable when people need it.'"

"I'm just a speck in my wife Becky's universe," McKiernan quipped during his brief acceptance remarks. "I'd like to say thank you so much -- and continue giving. I'd also like to say that one reason funds are so low at this time for non-profits is because of the tax structure -- we need to be cognizant and aware of our leaders out there, and making sure they are incentivizing giving to organizations."

Richard Wolf died on Oct. 23, 2023, at the age of 93. A prominent and much-loved pediatrician, he came to Louisville from in 1957 and eventually became medical director of Children's Hospital. He served on the Louisville Orchestra board and was a longstanding member of The Temple, where he co-chaired its building committee. He and his wife also commissioned multiple stained-glass installations at Norton Children's Hospital, Norton Women's and Children's Hospital, and Norton Auditorium.

Mary Bert Wolf accepted the award during the AFP ceremony.

"I don't think there's been a stronger advocate in our community for children's health, truly, than this couple," Lynn Meyer, Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer for Norton Healthcare, said during The Olmsted's ceremony.

"Just this month, November, we cut the ribbon on our new West Louisville Hospital," Meyer added. "Dr. Wolf was so proud of that project. The legacy of Dr. and Mrs. Wolf, and the reach that's been felt across decades of families in our community...is incredible."

**UPCOMING LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSES**

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

**Jan 2 – 4**      **Jan 18 – 20**  
 Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. all days    Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. all days

**Feb 8 – 9, 15 – 16**  
 Time: 1 - 6 p.m. all days  
 More dates available online for 2025.

**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

**J Trager Family JCC**

To learn more & register, visit [jcclouisville.org/lifeguard](http://jcclouisville.org/lifeguard)

# AROUND TOWN

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

## Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun invites you to join us on Friday, Dec. 20 for our final Shabbat-Luck dinner of 2024. Our vegetarian potluck now features a veggie or fish entrée from Chef Sean. The evening begins at 5:45 p.m. with Kabbalat Shabbat services, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Visit [www.adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck) for more information about dietary guidelines and to RSVP. We ask that you sign up by midnight Dec. 15.

David L. Finke, Ph.D., CEO of Jewish Family & Career Services, will be the Shabbat Scholar at Adath Jeshurun Saturday, Dec. 21 after Shabbat morning services. Services begin at 10 a.m. followed by a kiddush lunch at noon sponsored by the Julie Olson Shabbat Scholar Fund. David will speak at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Hanukkah-palooza is coming to Adath Jeshurun Saturday, Dec. 28 at 6 p.m. Bring your own menorah to light candles, do crafts, play in bounce houses, and enjoy a catered dinner with latkes and sufganiyot. It's an all-ages affair and the whole community is welcome. The cost for dinner is \$5 for adults and children over 13, with a household maximum of \$20. Children 12 and under are free. Make your reservation at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com) no later than Dec. 23.

## Chabad of Kentucky

Chabad of Kentucky announces second offering in its Jewish Life and Learning Series: Science of Motion will present the narrative of Chanukah in a fascinating way. Students will hear the story of the Festival of Lights, discovering how the Greeks forbade the study of Torah and the teachings of Torah and Jewish traditions to children.

Participants will learn about Newton's three principles of motion, conducting experiments revolving around the spinning of the dreidel. Children learn about the miracle of the oil, when the Jews found just enough oil to light the Menorah for one day -- yet it lasted eight days until new oil could be procured. At this point, the program will pause to allow students to perform such hands-on experiments as crushing olives into a paste and using a centrifuge to create olive oil from that mixture, thus learning about both centrifugal force and density.

The story continues with the lighting of the menorah, and each participant will be encouraged to be a light in the darkness when recognizing such issues as bullying, racism and antisemitism. Rabbis and Cantors will each share messages of the lights of Chanukah applicable to both the Jewish and secular communities.

Science of Motion will be presented the morning of Sunday, Dec. 8 for Hebrew School students, followed by community sessions during the afternoon. Monday, Dec. 9 is reserved for schools and the Club J after-school program. To register or for more information, call Rabbi Avrohom Litvin at 502-235-5770 or email [Chabadky@gmail.com](mailto:Chabadky@gmail.com).

Chabad of Kentucky to Host 4th Street Live Menorah Lighting

Chabad of Kentucky will light a public menorah at 4th Street Live Dec. 29 -- Kentucky's largest Menorah -- from 5 - 7 p.m., with the actual Menorah lighting taking place promptly at 6 p.m.

The program will include free bowling, a bounce house, and traditional holiday treats. In addition, this year's menorah lighting will be accompanied by a Project Friendship bike giveaway to more than 50 children from families facing financial hardship. Rabbi Chaim Litvin, director of Project Friendship, explained: "It is a blessing and a pleasure to be able to give out these bikes to so many children and help them celebrate the holiday season."

"The Menorah serves as a symbol of light and hope for us today especially amidst the darkness of the rise of antisemitism," said Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, Director of Chabad of Kentucky. "The flames of the Menorah shine into the night, reminding us that even when confronted with darkness, each of us can be the light to illuminate our surroundings. Each single act of kindness lights the darkness and makes a profound transformation for goodness in the world."

The Menorah lighting is part of the worldwide Chanukah campaign launched by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, in 1973. This year's global campaign is expected to reach 8 million Jews in more than 100 countries. Chabad will erect some 15,000 large public menorahs and sponsor over 6,500 Chanukah menorah-topped cars, bringing the Chanukah message of hope and joy to help millions more people celebrate Chanukah with pride. During this holiday season, Chabad plans to distribute approximately 32 million Chanukah candles, more than 700,000 menorah kits, 350,000 family at-home Chanukah kits and 2.5 million holiday guides in 17 languages.

Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel and Chabad Join to bring Community Together for Chanukah at Alpine Ice Arena Jan. 1 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel Congregation and Chabad of Kentucky will again join to offer the entire community a free evening of holiday fun and family ice skating at the Alpine Ice Arena, located at 1825 Gardiner Lane. There will be Jewish music, kosher refreshments and a grand menorah lighting. Reservations can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/HanukkahSkate>. The entire community is invited to celebrate Chanukah and Jewish Unity at this free community event.

## Chavurat Shalom

This month we'll be exploring some important topics and enjoying wonderful music. 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, Dec. 5 - Professor Mike Tracy, emeritus director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at U of L, will bring his saxophone to entertain and educate us. Lunch will include chicken piccata, roasted potatoes, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and red velvet cake.

Thursday, Dec. 12 - The new Jewish Community Relations Council Director, Trent Spoolstra, will join us to share about the post-October 7 landscape and the JCRC's role here in Louisville. Lunch will include grilled salmon, mashed potatoes, green peas and carrots, cole slaw, fresh fruit, and pumpkin pie.

Thursday, Dec. 19 - Paul Troy, Senior Crime Victim Advocate at Jewish Family & Career Services, will bring important information and lead us in Crime Victims Bingo. Lunch will include pasta and meatballs, Caesar

salad, fresh fruit, and cookies and brownies.

Thursday, Dec. 26 - No Chavurat Shalom while we're hibernating over winter break.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 p.m. Tuesday if you'll be attending that week in person by calling or emailing Sarah at 502-423-1818 or [sarahharlan86@gmail.com](mailto: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

Your Voice Matters

As life changes, so do your needs and priorities. Share your ideas on retirement and life after a career. Your perspective is invaluable. If you would like to be part of shaping programs at JFCS that truly matter and make a difference, contact Mary Hancock at [mhancock@jfcsloouisville.org](mailto:mhancock@jfcsloouisville.org). Together, we can ensure the next chapter is as fulfilling as ever. Help us build services that enrich lives and foster new beginnings.

Women of Temple Shalom Hanukkah Helpers

For over 30 years, the Women of Temple Shalom (WOTS) have proudly coordinated the Hanukkah Helpers project, ensuring that every child can experience the joy of Hanukkah. This year, WOTS is providing Walmart and Target gift cards for qualifying families with children up to 21 years old. If you or someone you know could use some extra support to make this holiday special, please call JFCS at 502-322-1905 to request enrollment in the Hanukkah Helpers program.

Help JFCS Continue Its Legacy of Service to the Community

Each fall as the holiday season approaches, Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS) launches its yearly Annual Campaign, inviting community partners and supporters who believe in our mission to make a financial gift that allows JFCS to continue providing essential services to our community. From mental health services to career coaching, from senior care to food assistance, every dollar given to the Annual Campaign is a step toward fulfilling our mission to help individuals and families in Greater Louisville live with dignity and purpose. Make a gift today and be part of JFCS' growth and legacy. Go to: [www.jfcsloouisville.org/give/](http://www.jfcsloouisville.org/give/)

## Jewish Federation of Louisville

Dec. 16 at the Trager Family JCC  
Momentum on the Road: Strengthening Jewish Identity as a Key to Addressing Antisemitism  
Through insightful talks on Jewish identity, leadership, and today's challenges, participants will gain valuable tools to inspire change in their homes and communities.

Featured guests:

Eve Levy -- Momentum Educator and Co-Director of L'Chaim Center  
Ashager Araro -- Israeli-Ethiopian Activist, influencer, recipient of the "Light of Israel" award and a former IDF Lieutenant

Appetizers and Cocktails at 6:15 p.m.  
Program begins promptly at 7 p.m.

RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/7kenknrx>

More information: Email Amy Fouts at [afouts@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:afouts@jewishlouisville.org)

One Happy Camper Grants Now Available  
One Happy Camper grants and camp financial assistance are open to Kentucky residents under the age of 18 identifying as Jewish and attending an approved camp.

First-year campers: Youth attending camp for the first time are eligible to receive up to \$2,500 for a session of 19 days or more, and up to \$1,500 for an 11-18-day session.

Second-year campers: Kentucky campers who received a One Happy Camper grant in Summer 2024 may be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 for a session of 19 days or more, and up to \$1,250 for an 11-18-day session.

Third-year campers: Campers attending camp for third year may be eligible for a \$1,500 grant.

If additional financial assistance is needed beyond the One Happy Camper grants, or for children past year 3 of camp, we want to help. Please note, all applications and inquiries are confidential. No financial documentation will be requested. Funding is provided through the generosity of individual donors, the Jewish Heritage Fund and the Federation's Annual Campaign.

For more information, reach out to Alison Roemer, [aroemer@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aroemer@jewishlouisville.org).

## Keneseth Israel

This year, learn how to "Do Jewish at Home" for Hanukkah. Attend all three of our classes on Dec. 8, 15 and 22 at 6:30 p.m. to learn about the real story of Hanukkah, the basics of Hanukkah lighting, some great Hanukkah songs and even how to make latkes with chef Sasha Chack. Attend two of the three classes to be eligible for a micro-grant of \$100 to host your own Hanukkah event. RSVP required at [tinyurl.com/DoingJewishAtHome](http://tinyurl.com/DoingJewishAtHome)

Join Cantor Hordes as she takes you on a journey through the sun salutations, and meditations of Torah Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Some yoga mats are available, but please bring your own if you have one.

Kids and families, come join us for our Family Shabbat on Dec. 6. Starting at 6 p.m. there will be a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a delicious meal. This event is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child. Please RSVP to [tinyurl.com/KIShabbat](http://tinyurl.com/KIShabbat) or call

# AROUND TOWN

502-459-2780.

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

Join the K.I. Men's Club Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 5 p.m. for their annual Pasta Bingo. The night will include a first night candle lighting at 6 p.m., plus dreidel and Hanukkah crafts for children. Reservations required by Sunday, Dec. 22. RSVP by contacting the KI office at 502-459-2780 or email [Men'sClub@KenesethIsrael.com](mailto:Men'sClub@KenesethIsrael.com). The cost is \$20 for Men's Club members; \$25 for non-members; \$5 for children 6-12; 5 and under are free.

Bounce castles! Dreidel! Food! Fun! And best of all -- totally free. Come enjoy yourself at our Hanukkah Carnival Sunday, Dec. 29, 3-5 p.m.

Keneseth Israel Congregation offers Daily Minyan services Sunday-Thursday at 6 p.m.; Sundays at 8:45 a.m. at Adath Jeshurun; Monday and Thursday at 7 a.m. at Keneseth Israel. Minyan services are offered in person and on Zoom at [tinyurl.com/kiczoom](https://tinyurl.com/kiczoom). Join us for Shabbat services Fridays 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](https://tinyurl.com/KICYoutubelive). Please visit [kenesethisrael.com](https://kenesethisrael.com) for information.

## Kol Israel "Renewal" 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 <https://aleph.org/virtualprograms/>

The new way to Jew in the Lou A Shabbat of Lights and Unity KICK's 3rd Annual Renewal Interfaith Chanukah Revival Friday, Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Earth and Spirit Compassion Center. Contact Blu by texting 502-255-0777 or by emailing [kolisraealky@gmail.com](mailto:kolisraealky@gmail.com) for necessary reservations and more info. Free to all friends and "Seekers".

We've gone back to having our Adat Ha'Araphel (Congregation of the Cloud) services on the second and fourth Shabbat mornings of the month, Dec. 14 and 28. To sign up for the Zoom link call/text preferred, or by leaving voicemail for Blu at 502-277-0555.

## Louisville Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

Louisville Melton invites you to enroll in Members of the Tribe, taught by Cantor David Lipp. In this short six-session quest, we'll dive deep into a fundamental, challenging question: "What is the overarching purpose of living Jewishly?" We'll discuss the responsibilities, pressures, and misconceptions that come with being called "the Chosen People." A deeper understanding of "the Tribe" informs and enriches both the nation's collective actions as well as individual responses to life's big questions. Zoom Session: Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m., Jan. 7-Feb. 11. In-Person Session: Thursdays 11a.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan. 9-Feb. 13. Learners may attend one or both sessions. To register or for more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5bbpcrcf> or

email [sisham@adathjeshurun.com](mailto:sisham@adathjeshurun.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 was set to reopen Nov. 26 after being closed due to a fire earlier in the year).

## National Council of Jewish Women -- Louisville Section

Have a Voice in Frankfort NCJW, Louisville Section is looking for members who'd like to step up their advocacy game and join together to meet with some of our Louisville-based KY legislators ahead of the upcoming January session. Our goal is to learn about the issues that will be on the agenda in January so that we can take a proactive approach to advocating for reproductive freedom and other issues impacting women, children, and families. We anticipate some small group meetings with the legislators in December, identifying the issues that we want to address, and then organizing a lobbying day in Frankfort for all interested NCJW advocates in January.

Please contact Executive Director Sarah Harlan at [executivedirector@ncjwlu.org](mailto:executivedirector@ncjwlu.org) or 502-458-5566 if you're interested in joining this effort!

Mark your calendars for Monday, Dec. 16, as we gather to celebrate 130 years of NCJW's advocacy and service on behalf of women, children, and families in the Louisville community. Dr. Ann Niren, Curator of Jewish Collections at the Filson Historical Society, will guide our exploration of the Louisville Section's history. Invitations will be coming to your mailbox and inbox soon, so you can reserve your spot for this inspiring event.

## 2025 Mah Jongg Cards

It's time to order your National Mah Jongg League 2025 Mah Jongg cards and support your NCJW section at the same time. Prices are the same as last year: \$14 for standard print cards and \$15 for large print cards. We'll be taking orders now through Jan. 27, 2025, so call the NCJW office at 502-458-5566 to order your cards today. An online order form will be available soon.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events and trainings we have planned: Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025: Interfaith Repro Rights Training— learn how to promote the message that reproductive rights and freedoms are Jewish and interfaith values.

## 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-Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. All proceeds help to serve women, children, and families in the Louisville community.

## Temple Shalom

Joel Chasnoff at Temple Shalom Israeli comedian Joel Chasnoff will be in residence at Temple Shalom Dec. 13 and 14. During Shabbat evening services, which start at 7 p.m., he will speak on Life in Israel Post-October 7. On Saturday, following services, at noon, we will have a lunch and learn, and he will speak on The Israeli Army's Code of Ethics. That night, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m., Chasnoff will perform his stand-up comedy. The event includes a wine and cheese recep-

tion. Tickets for this event are \$36 for members and \$54 for non-members. Checks may be sent to the synagogue; tickets may also be reserved online at [www.templeshalomky.org](http://www.templeshalomky.org) (select "donate" then "Joel Chasnoff"). For more information, contact the synagogue office at 502-458-4739.

## Lunch'n'Learn, Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 1 p.m.

All are welcome at our next Lunch'n'Learn at Temple Shalom; our speaker will be Ann Niren, Curator of Jewish Collections at the Filson Historical Society, who will talk with us about her work. RSVP by Dec. 13 to [engagement@templeshalomky.org](mailto:engagement@templeshalomky.org).

Shabbat Services, Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

The community is invited to participate in Shabbat services at Temple Shalom. Services are led by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and members of the congregation.

## The Temple

Adult education at The Temple continues weekly: Monday night classes including Beginning Hebrew with Rabbi Matt, Advanced Hebrew with Mark Goldstein, Text Study with Rabbi David, and Intro to Judaism with Rabbi David; Temple Scholars is on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. with Rabbi David and 10:45 a.m. with Rabbi Matt; and Torah Study with Rabbi David is on Saturdays at 9 a.m. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to [thetemplelouky.org/adult-education](http://thetemplelouky.org/adult-education).

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

It's December, and time again to go shopping for all your Hanukkah and holiday needs at the WRJ/Sisterhood Gift Shop. Visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop](https://facebook.com/wrjtemplegiftshop). To make an appointment, please call Sheila Lynch at 502-896-9736, Marlene Ornstein at 502-291-5699, or Karen Waldman at 502-425-4360.

Our next semester of Intro to Judaism begins Dec. 2 featuring Jewish Festivals with Rabbi Matt. The Intro to Judaism class is a wonderful way for people who are considering becoming Jewish, interdating, and intermarried couples to learn together about Judaism. More information at [thetemplelouky.org/adult-education](http://thetemplelouky.org/adult-education).

It's time to order your 2025 Mah Jongg cards and support your WRJ/Sisterhood at the same time. They're the same price as last year, \$14 for a regular size print card and \$15 for a large print card. They'll be sent right to your address, so please include your complete address along with your name. Let us know how many you'd like, make your check payable to Sisterhood Gift Shop, and make sure you place your order no later than Jan. 31, 2025, no exceptions. If you have any questions, call or Sheila Lynch at 502-896-9736 or email her at [sgltcher@aol.com](mailto:sgltcher@aol.com).

Come join Rabbi Matt for a special Tot Shabbat Friday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.. Our new Tot Shabbat will be a monthly, 15-minute service with our youngest members in mind, but will also be a chance to meet other families. This event is open to all. After Tot Shabbat ends at 6:15 p.m., we will have a family dinner and will welcome all the families to stay for dinner. Tot Shabbat and the dinner are free to attend, but if you plan to stay for the meal, an RSVP is required at [thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner](http://thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner), so we have enough food.

Join us Friday, Dec. 13 for a family friendly dinner at 6 p.m. and Erev Shabbat services at 7 p.m. led by our Grade 5 students. Please make your reservation by calling 502-423-1818 or registering online at [thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner](http://thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner).

Join us for our Temple Annual Hanukkah Celebration Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. This wonderful event will feature The Temple Brotherhood 1,000 Latke Dinner and Latkes with Troop 30 volunteers, a photobooth sponsored by WRJ/Sisterhood, a special JLAB Hanukkah Family Sing-Along, Arts and Crafts led by The ECEC Parent Committee, Family Hanukkah Menorah Lighting (bring your hanukkah), and more. Come celebrate the Festival of Lights with your fellow Temple Members. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/hanukkah](http://thetemplelouky.org/hanukkah).

Don't miss our Chinese Dinner and a Movie as we watch Keeping Up with the Steins Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. All hilarity breaks loose in this heartwarming coming-of-age comedy when three generations of Fiedlers collide in a crazy family reunion. As they prepare for the biggest Bar Mitzvah on the block, they begin to see that they're much more alike than they'd originally thought. Please register at [thetemplelouky.org/chinese-dinner](http://thetemplelouky.org/chinese-dinner) or by calling 502-423-1818.

Come join the Mitzvah Makers Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 2 p.m. as we make sandwiches that will be given to the Louisville homeless community in need. Before the event, please bring donations to The Temple to help us with this tikkun olam project including bottles of water, individual bags of chips, loaves of bread, and sandwich bags. Additionally, if you have some small hotel/sample size toiletries (shampoo, bars of soap, lotion, mouthwash, toothbrushes and toothpaste), please bring those as we'll be making bags to hand out. RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making](http://thetemplelouky.org/sandwich-making).

## Trager Family JCC

CenterStage Academy will present Finding Nemo KIDS and The Little Mermaid Jr. in December

You can catch performances of Finding Nemo KIDS (Grades K-3) Dec. 5 and 7 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15. The Little Mermaid Jr. (Grades 4-8) will be performed Dec. 19 and 21 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20. All performances will be given at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Foundation Auditorium. For tickets and more information, go online at [jclouisville.org/academy](http://jclouisville.org/academy).

Please join us at the Trager Family JCC on Monday, December 30, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for a Hanukkah Celebration. There will be latkes, donuts, crafts, games, dancing, and live music featuring Lost Tribe! This event is FREE and open to the community. Please RSVP at [jewishlouisville.org/hanukkah2024](http://jewishlouisville.org/hanukkah2024).

## University of Louisville Ekstrom Library

Now through March 1, 2025, Louisville Jewish Artists Today is displaying the work of versatile local textile artist Felice Sachs (M.A. from U of L). A color and texture-rich array of her recent small pieces is on view in the Jewish Studies Reading Room of the Ekstrom Library on U of L's Belknap Campus. This the first of many planned exhibits of contemporary Jewish art in Louisville.

# LIFECYCLE

## B'nai Mitzvah



### Louisa Roma Barber

Louisa Roma Barber, daughter of Anne Smith and Joseph Barber, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple.

Louisa is in the seventh grade and is homeschooled. She loves art, music, and comedy for its ability to bring a little joy in difficult moments. She goes to a local art studio every week and was the featured Student Artist this summer at the gallery. She practices White Crane Karate and enjoys spending time with her friends at the dojo. She wants to continue to homeschool through high school to allow time to work, spend time in the art studio, assist teachers at The Temple, and gain more independent life experiences. She hopes to be an art teacher someday, or do something involving building or mechanics. She loves spending time in the woods and helping with the larger farm animals and messy jobs around her home. For her mitzvah project she and her brother cleaned up creeks and waterways, removing trash after every heavy rain.



### Oliver Wheeler Barber

Oliver Wheeler Barber, son of Anne Smith and Joseph Barber, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple.

Oliver is in the ninth grade and is homeschooled. He has already acquired nearly a semester of college credits through college level equivalency exams, and recently completed the Natural Resources and Environmental Science Academy program through 4-H. He practices White Crane Karate at a wonderful dojo and enjoys being outside and hiking. He plays tabletop games at a local game shop whenever he can, or with his dad and uncles. He loves reading, talking about history, and taking care

of his flock of chickens. For his mitzvah project he and his sister cleaned up trash from local waterways, removing dozens of bags of trash. He hopes to continue achieving college credits while in high school and pursue a career where he can contribute and live a quiet rural life.

## Obituaries



### Alexander Donenberg

Alexander Donenberg, 86, died peacefully in his home on November 9, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky. He was preceded in death by his wife, Tatyana, and his parents, Miron and Gaylia Donenberg.

Alexander was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, on May 18, 1938. He earned his mechanical engineering degree in his hometown, and in 1979 he and his family immigrated to the United States. His unwavering dedication and hard work marked his career as an air pollution control engineer with Fisher-Klosterman.

Despite his dedication to work, Alexander had a vibrant spirit. He loved to read, often immersing himself in books during his free time. His adventurous spirit also led him to travel with his family, which included visiting his childhood friends. His love and care for his family, especially as a devoted father and husband, were always evident.

Alexander's death has created an irreplaceable void in the lives of those who knew him. His daughter, Yekaterina "Kat," feels his absence profoundly and misses him tremendously.

Visitation took place on November 17, at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by a funeral service and burial in The Temple Cemetery.



### Marie Hertzman

Marie Hertzman, 92, passed away peacefully at her home with her family and loved ones by her side on Friday October 25, 2024.

Marie was born in Nashville TN on September 12, 1932 to Jenita and Harry

Blum. Following her graduation from the University of Michigan, she worked as a disc jockey at WKDA in Nashville.

While visiting Los Angeles, her beauty and grace attracted the attention of Cecil B. DeMille who invited her to take a screen test for the Ten Commandments. She chose instead to return to Nashville to take care of her mother after her father's recent passing.

She moved to Louisville, KY in 1954 to marry Charles Hertzman. She was a dedicated housewife, mother, and volunteer for various charities and organizations. As a mother, she enjoyed supporting her children's activities, especially as a tennis mom, traveling extensively to tournaments throughout the Midwest and South.

Marie enjoyed socializing with her family and friends. She enjoyed reading, world travel, needlepoint, games and puzzles. Her love of games actually led her to be a contestant on the game show Concentration where she was successful in winning five games over a full week! She also was an enthusiastic sports fan rooting for both UofL and her alma mater Michigan. Marie was a member of The Temple and Standard Country Club.

Marie later was blessed to meet and marry Phil Cochran where they spent 37 years together, traveling and enjoying a wonderful life until Phil's death in 2021.

She is predeceased by her late husband Phillip Cochran, her parents Jenita and Harry Blum, and her brother Lawrence Blum. She is survived by her loving children Joe Hertzman (Kelly), Allen Hertzman (Michelle), Jill Prolman (Dave McGuigan); three step-children Lisa Cochran Hall (Bob), Daphne Kessler (Rick), and Michelle Edson; and grandchildren Nick Hertzman (Shelby), Julie Mullins (Fitz), Rachel Hertzman, Alec Hertzman, Abby Stedman, Becca Prolman, Andy Prolman, Hailey Hertzman, Samantha Kessler, Ryan Kessler, Shelby Edson, Grace Edson; and great-grandchild John Hertzman.

The Hertzman Family expresses profound gratitude to her amazing caregivers, Laura, Alicia, JoAnne, Sarah, Terry, Paula, and Selena, and her wonderful physical therapist, Tony Kolter, who all brought great joy, love and kindness to Marie.

Visitation was held at The Temple, on Monday October 28th followed by a graveside service at The Temple Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made

to The Temple, Louisville, KY, Jewish Federation of Louisville, or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Memphis TN.

Arrangements under the direction of Pearson's, "Where Louisville Goes to Remember."



### Donald Gene Setters

Donald Gene Setters, 72, died in Louisville, Kentucky, on October 2, 2024, at the Louisville East Post-Acute Center. He was born in Louisville on September 7, 1952,

to Lodena and Willard Setters, both of whom preceded him in death.

Don graduated from Durrett High School in Louisville in 1970. He never married and had no children. He worked primarily as a construction inspector, first for the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District and later for the Water and Sewer Authority in Key West, Florida. After his retirement, Don traveled extensively throughout the United States until health issues gradually slowed him down.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Roger Dale and Muriel F. Setters, whom he cherished deeply, as well as his niece and nephews.

A private service was held on November 2, 2024, at the family plot in Bethel Church Cemetery in Ribolt, KY.



### Vicki Shuckman

Vicki Shuckman, a vibrant and loving individual, passed away peacefully on November 16, 2024, in Louisville, KY. She was 67 years old. She was preceded in death by her beloved mother,

Carol Shannon, whose memory lived on through Vicki's warmth and compassion.

Born on August 4, 1957 in the heart of Louisville, Vicki blossomed into a remarkable woman. After completing her studies at Eastern Kentucky University, she embarked on a fulfilling career as an X-ray technician, where she dedicated herself to caring for others and

*Continued on page 21*



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# LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 20

contributing to their well-being. Vicki, known as the former Miss Vicki Shannon, met her soulmate, Lewis Shuckman, in a serendipitous encounter that led to their marriage in 1979. Together, they nurtured and raised their three beautiful daughters, instilling in them the values of kindness, hard work, and determination.

In addition to her family life, Vicki took on the role of president at Shuckman Fish Company and Smokery. Her passion for her work was evident, and she was deeply respected in her community.

Vicki is lovingly remembered by her devoted husband, Lewis; her three daughters, Lauren, Shannon, and Whitney, who carry forward her legacy of love; her father, Jack Burks; her cherished grandchildren, Blake, Brennan, Savannah, and Sophia, who brought her immense joy; and her siblings, Kim McCure, Johnny McFarland, and Michelle McFarland. She leaves a deep impact on all who knew and loved her, and her spirit will continue shining brightly in their hearts.

A celebration of Vicki's life will be held in the near future. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

### Francine "Fran" Weingarten

Francine "Fran" Weingarten, age 86, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Tuesday morning, November 6, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

Fran, born on June 27, 1938, grew up in the vibrant borough of Brooklyn,



New York with her devoted parents, Frank and Nettie Goldstein. In pursuit of a fresh start, she moved to Louisville after marrying her husband, Harvey. They built a life together filled with fond memories

and cherished traditions. Fran delighted in spending quality time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, often sharing stories and wisdom that can be passed down through the generations.

Throughout her life, Fran supported her family and friends. She exemplified the values of love, kindness, and resilience. Fran is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Harvey, her caring parents, and her cherished sister.

She is survived by three children: Steven Weingarten and his wife, Julie; Andrew Weingarten and his wife, Lee Ann; and Nanci Whitsett and her husband, John. Fran's legacy continues through her nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, who will forever hold her memory in their hearts. Additionally, she is survived by 14 granddogs, two grandhorses, and a grand tortoise.

A visitation to honor Fran's life was held November 8 at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by a funeral service and burial in The Temple Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Brown Cancer Center, The Temple, or a charity of the donor's choice.

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## GLOBE

## Sotheby's to auction a Ten Commandments tablet with a disclaimer: Israel always wanted it to be put on public display

By Asaf Elia-Shalev  
JTA

The oldest stone inscription of the Ten Commandments will go up for auction next month, but with an important disclaimer: Israel allowed the 1,500-year-old tablet to leave the country 20 years ago only on condition that whoever owns it ensures that it's always available for public display.

Sotheby's is planning to note this history on the web page advertising the sale, according to Sharon Mintz, the senior Judaica specialist for the auction house.

Mintz said in an interview that she'd like to see the tablet end up with a public institution but that the terms of the sale do not include any such requirement.

Beyond the artifact's cultural significance, its history and ultimate fate matter because of an ongoing reckoning over the antiquities trade, which has forced many collectors and museums to relinquish objects that had been looted from their country of origin.

The issue was far less prominent 20 years ago when an American rabbi named Shaul Shimon Deutsch re-

quested a license to export the ancient Samaritan tablet. The Israel Antiquities Authority agreed, but only on the condition that the artifact be publicly displayed. Deutsch was allowed to sell it to a third party under the same condition. Deutsch complied, taking the tablet to his Living Torah Museum in Brooklyn.

The tablet remained there until 2016 when Deutsch decided to put it up for auction. As part of the sale, the requirements of the export license were publicized, and an anonymous buyer purchased the artifact for \$850,000. After that, it disappeared.

Steven Fine, a history professor at Yeshiva University, attempted to track down the Ten Commandments tablet several years ago. He was gathering the most important ancient Samaritan artifacts from museums and libraries around the world for an exhibit on the role of the Samaritan people in the history of Western and Jewish civilizations. A small ethnoreligious group, the Samaritans are thought to be descendants of ancient Israelites, whose religion developed and diverged over the millennia alongside Judaism.

The tablet tells an incredible and uniquely Samaritan story. Created

1,500 years ago, it surfaced during a 1913 railroad excavation, only to be used to pave the entryway to a house near the present-day Israeli city of Yavneh. For 30 years, the artifact — 113 pounds and two feet tall — sat face up, battered by foot traffic. In 1943, a scholar recognized its significance and translated the ancient inscription.

The 20 lines of text matched the commandments known to Jewish tradition, except for one: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" was missing. Instead, the tablet included a commandment to worship on Mount Gerizim, a Samaritan holy site in the West Bank.

Hoping to include the tablet in his exhibit, Fine reached out to Heritage Auctions, which had arranged the 2016 sale, as well as to his contacts in the Samaritan community, but his inquiries came up empty. He had to do without it when "The Samaritans: A Biblical People" ran at the Museum of the Bible in 2022 and 2023.

Earlier this month, word reached Fine about a major Samaritan artifact up for auction at Sotheby's: The Ten Commandments inscription had resurfaced. According to Sotheby's, the seller, who has chosen to remain anonymous, is the same person who bought the artifact from Deutsch eight years ago.

"I would have loved to have used it," Fine said. "I am glad that it has resurfaced and hope that it is exhibited soon."

Israeli authorities have not taken any known action regarding the requirement of the export license during the eight years the tablet was out of public view.

A spokesperson for the Israel Antiquities Authority released a written statement suggesting the agency would not likely get involved.

"This artifact was traded on the antiquities market more than 100 years ago and is not classified as a state treasure," Yoli Schwartz said in an email. "It has been privately owned since the Ottoman period, meaning that Israel's Antiquities Law does not apply to it."



The oldest inscribed stone tablet of the Ten Commandments is up for auction with Sotheby's. (Sotheby's)

The tablet will be available for public viewing at Sotheby's offices in New York from Dec. 5 until the auction on Dec. 18.

Mintz, Sotheby's Judaica specialist, said there is reason to be optimistic that the tablet will end up either in a public institution or with a private individual who places it on permanent loan to a public institution.

"I anticipate that this will go to an institution that will immediately put it on public display," Mintz said. "My track record for placing objects back into institutions is pretty good recently. I am mindful of public access to treasures of Judaica."

Mintz organized the sale of the most expensive book ever purchased at auction last year, a 1,100-year-old nearly complete Hebrew Bible known as the Codex Sassoon, which sold for \$38.1 million. The buyer immediately donated it to ANU—Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv. Earlier this year, Mintz helped Sotheby's auction off the Shem Tov Bible, a 14th-century text written in Spain, for \$6.9 million. It was purchased by a group that committed to donating it to a major Jewish library. Also this year, Mintz was involved in a Sotheby's sale that resulted in the \$500,000 Moss Haggadah being donated to the National Library of Israel.

There's no guarantee the same will happen with the tablet. Ultimately, the highest bidder will win.





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## NEWS

## WESTERN GALILEE

Continued from page 1

sile-defense system.

The few residents who weren't evacuated after October 7 have become accustomed to the sound of sirens, prompting a dash to the relative safety of nearby bomb shelters. And if one or two missiles manage to get through, those same residents survey the damage and begin rebuilding what was destroyed, grateful at least to be alive.

Shaul-Erez says that the current conflict, in which Hezbollah fighters may at any moment pour into Israel, bears its own hallmarks of anticipation and anxiety.

"Yes, it's a bit different," she acknowledges. "The last two times, we didn't have a situation where I was in a shelter with my daughter and my husband was on the roof with a rifle."

Not surprisingly, October 7 was a tipping point. "When we heard what had happened in the south, we had alarms that said terrorists were on the way, so we had to be prepared. And during the Second Lebanon War there was no Iron [Dome], so every missile they sent fell. And in '82 we slept in the shelter."

Two years from now her daughter will turn 18 and begin service in the IDF, a rite of passage for almost all young Israelis. Currently "her father is in the army (reserves)," Shaul-Erez says, "but so are many men right now."

The situation is difficult, but we're okay. The alarms and bombings sometimes are

really close, and we can hear them day and night. But again, I think as Israelis, we're tougher than other people – so I can laugh about it."

Still, the threat is real and constant.

"One day I came home and there were several alarms. My daughter and I went to the shelter, and there were around 30 missiles that fell in our place of living," Shaul-Erez recalls. "It was like an earthquake."

Travelling to and from her office is anything but a mundane 15-minute commute – not when a rocket and drone attacks are a constant threat. "Sometimes cars get hit," she says, "and once or twice the road got hit. But we have food, we have water, and we have electricity. I mean, it could be worse."

The Nahariyya-based medical center also has food, water, and electricity – though since the outbreak of hostilities its functioned almost entirely from a fortified underground facility. That means most of the existing above-ground structures are not being used, "so it's a good chance to renovate and upgrade" areas that would ordinarily be difficult to access, Shaul-Erez says.

One prime example is a new, 60-bed gynecological facility, which will be situated in what she describes as something "between a shelter and a building" that "will serve women during this war, not just the next one – if there will be a next one."

The hospital has long specialized in caring for wounded personnel, soldiers and civilians alike, whether they be Jews, Arabs, Christians, Druze, whomever.

This past October 13, 17 people injured from fighting in southern Lebanon were brought to the medical center for treatment. All 17 survived.

Three days earlier, a very different event took place: a premature infant getting his *brit milah* – ritual circumcision – 100 days after his birth in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit.

"I don't know of any precedent in the world of a NICU like ours, where we have been operating continuously in an underground protected hospital complex, amidst a war zone, with missiles and explosions overhead," Masad Barhoum, the medical center's director (himself a Christian Arab), said at the time. Appropriately, the below-ground complex has its own synagogue, where a rabbi had traveled from Jerusalem to perform the ceremony.

"This event underscores not just our medical professionalism but also the importance of tolerance and respect for all religious traditions," Barhoum remarked.

"The staff and the management and I think the workers understand the fact that fact that everyone is underground saves lives," Shaul Erez says. "And the patients the most."

Overall capacity has been reduced from 777 beds above ground to 430 beds underground. Still, because so many people living in vulnerable areas have been evacuated to safer regions of Israel, fewer residents need extended in-patient care. Additionally, she points out, "the medical sector tries to release patients to their homes as fast as possible."

Friends of the Galilee Medical Center –

and its U.S. affiliate, American Friends of GMC – have continued to raise funds on behalf of the hospital. "We are trying our best to help the medical center in any way we can," Shaul-Erez says.

No matter the circumstances, it can be a tense way to live. Faced with the continuing pressure from Hezbollah, customary, pleasurable diversion is often the first casualty.

"I lived in the States for a year and a half in the Bay Area (of California)," she recalled, where "life was so peaceful. Israelis are stubborn – there's no way we give up."

Yet even when pressures are greatest, Israelis tend to persevere. "Israelis are stubborn," Shaul Erez emphasizes. "There's no way we give up."

"Living under a life threat is something I can understand, something I can relate to," she says. "But it's not something I think about every day (except) in summertime, when you can't go to the beach to swim" because beachgoers would be vulnerable to air attacks. It's those kinds of small things that make you understand the situation.

Asked if recent months have been especially stressful, Shaul-Erez answered in the affirmative, citing the psychological aftermath of Iran's massive Oct. 26, 2024 ballistic missile attack on Israel.

Perhaps the only means of coping is to embrace a bit of absurdity.

"I got some WhatsApp (messages) from a few friends," she remembered, "that said, 'The next step is alien invasion.'"

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