

JEWISH LOUISVILLE

COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

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they will come

SEE PAGE 7

FRIDAY Vol. 50, No. 12 | December 27, 2024 | 26 Kislev 5785

Three Louisville arts groups will give performances honoring International Holocaust Remembrance Day

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Two inmates at a Nazi concentration camp create an opera, only to perish in Auschwitz along with their entire cast and orchestra – except for a pair of prisoners. One of them, a teenage violinist who miraculously escapes death, eventually finds his way to Louisville and becomes concertmaster of the city's symphony orchestra. While it sounds like the premise of a Holocaust film, this is the true story of former Louisville Orchestra concertmaster Paul Kling and "Der Kaiser von Atlantis."

The dual narrative of the opera and Kling -- demonstrating how art can articulate the unspeakable -- will unfold in coming weeks as the orchestra, Kentucky Opera and the Louisville Ballet present works honoring International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which each year falls on January 27 -- the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945.

Music Director Teddy Abrams will conduct the orchestra and a roster of singers on Jan. 25 in a fully staged performance of "Der Kaiser von Atlantis," an approximately hour-long opera composed by Viktor Ullmann with a libret-

to by Peter Kien, written in 1943 while both men were imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camp of Theresienstadt. Ullman and Kien subsequently died in Auschwitz, but their opera survived long enough to gain a foothold in the repertory -- an expression of hope amid manifestations of darkest despair.

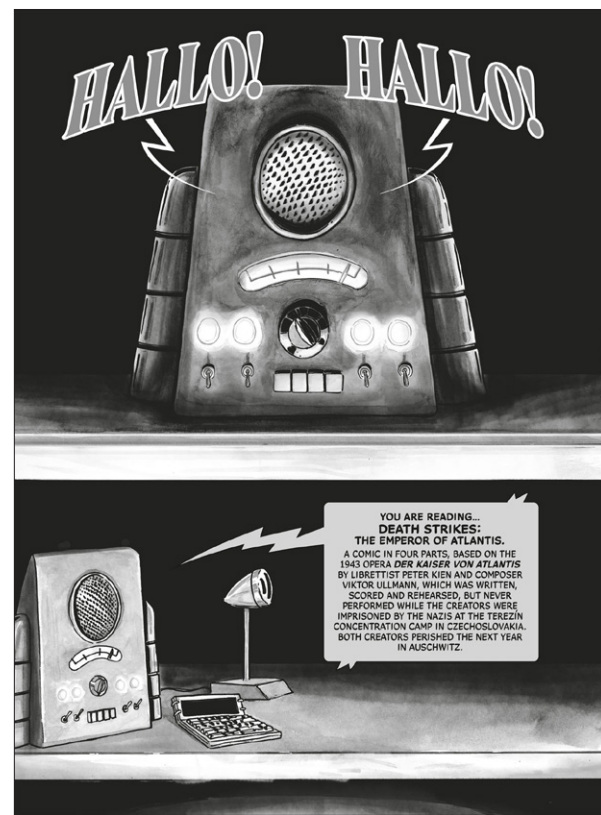
The program at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts opens with Britany Green's "Thread and Pull," the latest entry in the LO's "Journeys of Faith" series highlighting shared themes in Black and Jewish music -- which has included a collaboration between the Jewish Federation of Louisville and several area Black churches.

Feb. 1-2, the Louisville Ballet will present "A Time Remembered," a program comprising Jake Heggie's 30-minute, solo soprano operatic song cycle "Another Sunrise" (in partnership with Kentucky Opera) and "Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project," originally choreographed by Morganfield, Kentucky native Stephen Mills for Ballet Austin in 2005. The Louisville Ballet's performances are a partnership with the Jewish Federation and Kentucky Opera in honor of the late Minx and Sy Auerbach, with underwriting by the Jewish Heritage Fund and the Auerbach family.

(Minx Auerbach will also be honored during a pre-performance Remembrance Dinner Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. at the Galt House.)

Among a constellation of fascinating backstories, "Der Kaiser von Atlantis" (its full title in English is "The Emperor of Atlantis, or The Disobedience of Death") carries an origin narrative with a specifically Louisville connection. One of the Theresienstadt inmates was 14-year-old Paul Kling, already an acclaimed violinist, who was slated to play for an anticipated camp performance of the opera.

That performance never took place -- Nazi administrators regarded the work's sardonic character as an affront to Hitler -- and not long afterward Kling miraculously survived a forced march from Auschwitz by hiding in a forest under the corpse of a fellow inmate. Only one other "Kaiser"-connected Theresienstadt inmate survived after being transported



A page from "Death Strikes: The Emperor of Atlantis," a graphic novel by writer Dave Maass and principal artist Patrick Lay based on Viktor Ullmann's 1943 opera.

Women changing the world, one conversation at a time

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

This past Nov. 22, four Israeli women -- two Jewish and two Muslim -- spoke to staff members at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC. They were the latest delegation from Women Leading a Dialogue -- a group of Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Druze women living in Northern Israel's Western Galilee region, powerful exemplars of interfaith cooperation amid a nation where such cooperation too often is in short supply.

They were visiting Louisville to speak to broad array of audiences, including congregants at The Temple, Keneseth Israel and Temple Shalom, and students at DuPont Manual High School.

Below are excerpts from remarks by the four participants: Maor Levy-Ratz, Shahazad Bargout Swidan, Karin Nathans Gefen and Safinaz Beromi. Also present

was Noah Epstein Friedman, who coordinates the initiative as part of Partnership-2Gether's ongoing programs in Israel's Western Galilee.

Maor Levy-Ratz

In 2020 we had the opportunity to join the third program of Women Leading a Dialogue. It was an opportunity for me to know my neighbors who I lived with, but I didn't know their religions or their way of living. We became good friends, and in 2022 came to the states for the first time as a delegation from five different Jewish communities. It's an amazing group I'm part of -- this is my family.



See **WESTERN GALILEE** on page 16

Beth Salamon takes the baton from David Kaplan as Jewish Community of Louisville board chair

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

After completing two years and six months helming the Jewish Community of Louisville's board, David Kaplan is handing off the position of board chair to Beth Salamon, the current vice-chair and chair-elect.

The JCL comprises the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC. Among other responsibilities, its chair provides leadership to the board, helps guide strategic planning, and represents the JCL to the greater community.

Kaplan has chaired the Federation's Annual Campaign, co-chaired the committee that facilitated the 2009 merger between the Federation and JCC, chaired



David Kaplan

Beth Salamon

the board of the Jewish Heritage Fund, and as JCL chair helped the organization navigate amid the fraught post-October 7 landscape.

Now that he's finishing out a term that See **JCL BOARD CHAIR** on page 17



Happy
Hanukkah!



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

'There is no one as wise as you'



D'var Torah

Rabbi
Yoni Rudansky

אין נבון וחכם כמור
There is no one as wise as you.

But Yosef? What is it that Pharaoh sees in this young Jewish dream-interpreter that makes him think that he is the greatest wheat collector in his entire kingdom? How does dream interpreting translate into business and finance?

Rashi, the great 11th century commentator, sheds light on this question. He suggests that Yosef was not, in fact, the wisest in the land. But in *this* matter, Pharaoh felt there was none wiser. Why? Because there was no one in the world who *understood* and *believed* that a famine was in fact coming. Who really believed this young, unknown, Jewish slave? Sure, Pharaoh could appoint one of his loyal followers to run the Department of Agricultural Gathering Efficiency (DAGE) -- but without truly buying into the problem they wouldn't be all that efficient.

Rashi opens our eyes to a deep concept. In order to be wise and understanding, you need to genuinely *care*. Yosef *believed* that a famine was coming. The devastating effects were real. And he understood deeply that if nothing was done, the country would be lost.

It was that deep care and concern which made Yosef the *most* qualified leader in the country. And it's why he was the "smartest man in the room".

We think that we are intellectual creatures. We are not. Our mental capacity is very much linked to our heart. The more we care, the deeper we can think about how to solve a problem.

It's why my mentors always advised taking responsibility for an organization. An employee can care only so much about their job. But if you take responsibility for the organization, it will push you to do more, work harder, dream bigger, and care more deeply.

So, getting back to our original question. Who is the smartest one in the room?

Both.

The teachers understand and care about the entirety of the classroom and school. There's a special connection they have with every one of their students -- and that care for every child's needs in the classroom is an important factor to weigh in these decisions.

But there's an equal, if not more important, factor to bear in mind. Because when it comes to your own child -- who they are, how they act, and what their needs are, the administration must realize:

אין נבון וחכם כמור
There is no one as wise as You.

Rabbi Yoni Rudansky is director of Louisville's Montessori Torah Academy.

Who is the smartest person in the room? It's an age-old struggle.

The doctor or the patient? The lawyer or the client? And the question that seems most personal and emotional: The teacher or the mother?

Consider the experienced educator with a decade of schooling under their belt -- a Ph.D in hand -- who's seen every type of child over a 25-year career. In other words, they've seen plenty of children "like your child."

Now consider the mother. Perhaps she's a first-time parent who never went to "parenting school." Maybe she's so busy running from job to job, to after-care, guiding homework, cooking dinner and tucking her child into bed that she scarcely has an opportunity catch her breath before the kids wake her back up at 5:45 in the morning.

Who really understands this child better?

"Mrs. Davidson, your son is struggling; we believe he has ADHD and needs X before we can let him back into school."

Deep down, your maternal instincts kick in. You *know* your child. And you *feel* that the school misunderstands your son. But you can't quite put your finger on what's amiss, and besides, the educator isn't interested. They've already made up their mind. Faced with all this, what alternatives do you have?

Pages and pages have been written on the topic. Much ink has been spilled. So many tears have been shed.

As in all areas of life, if you want to know the truth, you turn to the Torah.

[In Genesis 41] Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, had a troubling dream. Seven fat cows had been eaten by seven emaciated ones. None of his trusted advisors could make sense of the dream, until Pharaoh was introduced to a young, good-looking, brilliant, charismatic, and G-d fearing Jewish boy named Yosef. There would be seven years of abundance (think the Roaring 20s) followed by seven years of the most devastating famine (the Great Depression). He advised Pharaoh to mobilize his country -- gather in all the grain and understand how to safely store it for seven years. Ration it out effectively and compassionately to his subjects, while overseeing the trading of national reserves to enrich and empower the land of Egypt.

Crucially, Yosef advised him to appoint a wise man to supervise the operation.

So, who does Pharaoh appoint? Who does Pharaoh feel is the wisest man in the land?

Snapshots



Thirty years ago, Gate of Prayer, designed and constructed by local artist, Craig Kaviar, was dedicated at the entrance to the outdoor pool at the JCC. After years of exposure to outdoor elements, Kaviar returned to the Trager Family JCC this fall to revive and refinish his stunning piece. The gate was funded by Mark and Marci Perelmutter in honor of Sol Max Perelmutter and Theodore Segal. We are thrilled to see the vibrant menorah at our pool gate shining as brightly as in 1994.

Candles

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

- January 3 @ 5:17 p.m.
- January 10 @ 5:24 p.m.
- January 17 @ 5:31 p.m.
- January 24 @ 5:39 p.m.
- January 31 @ 5:47 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NEWS

REMEMBRANCE

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to Auschwitz.

Eventually Kling found himself in Louisville, where he spent the years 1959-1975 as the LO's concertmaster, and a revered violin teacher at the University of Louisville School of Music. Later he moved to Canada, where for two decades he taught at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. He died in January of 2005.



Paul Kling

"It's an incredible story," says Abrams. "I'd heard the name 'Paul Kling,' but didn't know that was his history. And when I found out, of course I started trying to find an opportunity to perform" the opera. "Then a friend of mine, who

runs the program 'Recovered Voices,' brought to my attention that there was a graphic novel of the opera being produced, which sounded like a fascinating but strange idea. How do you take such an obscure and unusual story – and one that is told through musical language, and produce a graphical version of it?"

The novel in question, an adaptation of the opera by Dave Maass and Patrick Lay, was published just this past January. Its illustrations are the basis of projected scenery that will be utilized in the upcoming production, which is being staged by Atlanta Opera's Gregory Luis Boyle.

Abrams was determined to bring the work, conceived inside the Nazis' so-called "model" concentration camp populated largely by artists and intellectuals, to local audiences. "I thought, 'This has to happen,' he says. "It's a necessity."

A necessity and for this Jewish conductor, what became an abiding, passionate imperative.

"I feel like these stories about connec-

tions between Louisville and the greater world, and to global history, are important for us to understand our own heritage. And when I discovered this connection between Paul Kling, this piece of music, the Holocaust and our city, it felt like a story that needed to be told."

The opera, which lay fallow until its world premiere by the Netherlands Opera on December 16, 1975, incorporates highly stylized music and story elements. Two principal characters, Death and the Emperor, spar over who will preside over a conflict in which there are no survivors.

"It's an extraordinary work," says LO chief executive Graham Parker, "and such an important statement for the city of Louisville, and for music that was suppressed during the Nazi era, and obviously for Ullman, who was murdered along with the whole cast. It just seemed a vitally important piece to perform, so we set about doing that."

The LO production is being made possible with significant support from Paul and Viki Diaz, and Dr. Karen Abrams and Dr. Jeffrey Glazer.

Louisville Ballet's "A Time Remembered"

A similar impetus to honor the past is behind the Louisville Ballet's "A Time Remembered." If the program's title sounds familiar, it's probably because the company originally had planned to revive its 1995 production of Israeli choreographer Domy Reiter-Soffer's full-evening "A Time to Remember." But roadblocks to obtaining rights to the music compelled the company to pivot – resulting in the current pairing.



Caitlyn Lynch

Each work centers on a Holocaust survivor. Heggie's "Another Sunrise," commissioned by the Seattle-based chamber music consortium Music of Remembrance and sung by soprano Caitlyn Lynch, tells of Krystyna Zywulska (born Sonia Landau in 1914), author of the memoir "I Survived Auschwitz."

A resident of the Warsaw Ghetto, in 1943 Zywulska was captured by the Gestapo and transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she began writing what a program note describes as "satiric poems that became camp anthems of re-

sistance." Her memoir was published in 1946 under the title "I Came Back," after which she lived quietly until her death in 1993.

The Ballet's production of "Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project" is bound up with the life of survivor Naomi Warren. Born in 1920, in early 1942 she and her family were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where her mother, husband and sister-in-law were murdered.

After three years in Auschwitz, Warren was transferred to the Ravensbruck women's concentration camp, and finally to Bergen-Belsen, where she was liberated by Allied forces in 1945. After the war, she lived in Houston for many years as a businesswoman and Holocaust educator, before dying in 2016 at the age of 96.

Lasting a little under 90 minutes without intermission, "Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project" employs a diverse musical palette of works by composers Steve Reich, Evelyn Glennie, Michael Gordon, Arvo Pärt and Philip Glass. Its movement vocabulary, blending classical and contemporary idioms, is purposeful in its broad accessibility.

"We forget, sometimes, how dance unites all of humanity because there's no language barrier," emphasizes Harald Uwe Kern, the Louisville Ballet's co-artistic director. "Anybody can understand it – you don't have to explain."

"Dance is about expression of feelings," says Helen Daigle, a veteran former company dancer who is now its principal répétiteur and senior rehearsal director. "And if there is something the Holocaust brings about, it is a multitude of feelings. When Stephen (Mills) was explaining where the inspiration for this piece came from and why he (decided) to tackle it, it instilled all of those feelings in us."

"Stephen spoke to the entire company and staff so everyone could be familiar with the process and backstory," says Mikelle Bruzina, the Louisville Ballet's co-artistic director. Such backgrounding was vital in providing dancers with valuable interpretive perspective. "It provides an opportunity," Bruzina points out, "for them to have an inner dialogue."

With its unusual depth of emotion, Mills' choreography ranges widely in thematic embrace – from Adam and Eve to the horrors of the Holocaust and, finally, to a kind of overarching redemption. "It starts joyously with family and community," Daigle explains, "goes into the breaking up of that community, and then right

Continued on page 5



A scene from Deutsche Oper am Rhein's production



Viktor Ullmann

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NEWS

Continued from page 4

into what is absolutely a camp," where "you watch the people, one by one, filter away. There are sections of this ballet where it's hard to be in the studio.

"Then it finishes with the turning of the page, with the joy and hope that the survivors bring to keep the story alive and teach us not to repeat those things."

Since its 2005 Ballet Austin premiere, the work has travelled widely in the U.S. and abroad; its overseas presence included three performances in Israel during the fall of 2013. One of the stops was the northern city of Akko, located in Louisville's Partnership2Gether Western Galilee region.

"We at Louisville Ballet are incredibly proud to bring this meaningful production to the Commonwealth in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Louisville and Kentucky Opera," says Ballet CEO Leslie Smart.

"This remarkable ballet holds deep significance. We are profoundly grateful for the generosity of the Jewish Heritage Fund and the Auerbach family, whose support has made this collaboration possible."

"Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project" is certainly not the only dance piece dealing with the Holocaust. Indeed, one of the Louisville Ballet's most powerful repertory works has been its production of Antony Tudor's 1963 "Echoing of Trumpets," which tells how the Nazis annihilated the Czech village of Lidice on June 9, 1942, murdering 192 men and boys, 60 women and 88 children.

Initiatives like "Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project," "Another Sunrise"

and "Der Kaiser von Atlantis" serve not only to enlighten and entertain, but also to honor the memory of those who perished and those who – like Paul Kling, Krystyna Zywulska and Naomi Warren -- survived one of history's most infamous demonstrations of collective brutality.

"I want to stress how important it was for us, as artistic leaders, to (acknowledge) the 80th anniversary of this event," Kern says. "Because there are people out there who don't even know that it happened or deny that it happened."

"This is a living history," Abrams says, referencing Kling and students of his that still play in the orchestra. "For us to know this information and not celebrate and retell that story in some form would be a terribly missed opportunity. And I think people in town are always fascinated when they learn something about their city that connects with something larger."

Want to go?

The Louisville Orchestra's performances of Brittany Green's "Thread and Pull" and Viktor Ullmann's opera "Der Kaiser Von Atlantis" will be given Saturday, Jan. 25 in Whitney Hall of the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts. The Louisville Ballet's "A Time Remembered" program will be performed Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 2 at 2 and 8 p.m., also at the Kentucky Center.

To learn more about and purchase tickets for these performances and more International Holocaust Remembrance Day community events, visit <https://louisvilleremembers.org> For information about the Louisville Ballet's Remembrance Dinner, go online at <https://www.louisvilleballet.org/remembrance-dinner/>.



A scene from Ballet Austin's production of choreographer Stephen Mills' "Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project" (Photography by Tony Spielberg and Anne Marie Bloodgood)

'Needle and Thread' comes to the University of Louisville on Jan. 27

On Jan. 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day -- dancer Suzanne Miller – in collaboration with Mindy Yan Miller -- will perform a dance of Holocaust commemoration titled "Needle and Thread" at the University of Louisville's University Club Ballroom. on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27. Accompanied by original sound and music, the 7 p.m. performance "creatively integrates contemporary dance and women's traditional textile production to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust."

"Needle and Thread" starts from a list of 600 given names of Holocaust victims collected by Yad Vashem in an extensive and ongoing project: 'Pages of Testimony'. The work is a commemorative performance that develops from the dance and installation practices of Suzanne Miller and Mindy Yan Miller: Mindy sits and sews onto a large, pieced skirt constructed from unwanted garments, adding her thoughts and labor, stitch by stitch. Suzanne wears the skirt and performs a series of embodied inscriptions, tracing each of the given names gathered from the "Pages of Testimony." Allan Paivio's sound design "deploys whispers and song as the

names punctuate and weave through an ambient industrial undertone, contrasted with the calls of songbirds."

An October, 2019 blog entry by Vancouver, B.C. artists Lori Weidenhammer and Lois Klassen on their website slofemists.com carried the following appraisal:

"The components of Needle and Thread were on display while we were there, as if in-waiting for the artists to make them come alive. A circle of clothing stitched together was lying on the floor, ready for one of the performers to take her place in a waist-sized opening in the centre, and another to work on the periphery where more clothing would be attached. Behind this large disc of used clothing, a video projected names from the archives of Yad Vashem (The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre) up the wall like a movie's final credits. An evocative sound work by Allan Paivio repeated this list of first names with softness and intensity."

Want to go?

Admission to the Jan. 27 performance of *Needle and Thread* is free. The University Club Ballroom is located at 200 E. Brandeis Ave.



Suzanne Miller (center) and Mindy Yan Miller perform "Needle and Thread" at Arizona State University in October 2018. (Photo by Anna Clare Spelman)

a time remembered



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COMMUNITY

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Community reserves the right to refuse to publish any letter, to edit for brevity while preserving the meaning, and to limit the number of letters published in any edition. To submit items to Newsmakers, Around Town or Lifecycle, please email them to community@jewishlouisville.org.

Email your comments and letters to the editor to: community@jewishlouisville.org.

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FORUM



In Apt. 8B, the lights of Hanukkah never truly died



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

Growing up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Judaism occupied both the center and periphery of daily life. At the center was my father's abiding, multigenerational connection to his working-class Jewish foundations; the periphery was defined – more or less – by my mother's secular, middle-class sensibilities. But there was one locus of neutral faith intersection: Hanukkah.

Like any number of my friends' households, in my family Hanukkah was celebrated even in the absence of formal religious practice elsewhere. On Rosh Hashanah (first day, anyway) and Yom Kippur I accompanied my father to his Orthodox synagogue on the East Side not far from where we once lived, but that pretty much was the boundary of my principal house-of-worship experience.

True, there were innumerable Bar Mitzvahs (and the occasional Bat Mitzvah) to attend while in middle school, but my mother's insistence that I already had enough to deal with as an adolescent was enough to exempt me from this conduit to Jewish adulthood. On the first night of Passover, we tromped over to New Jersey to my mother's brother Henry (where practically nobody spoke) – second night was spent at my father's sister Edith's in the Queens neighborhood of Howard Beach (where everybody spoke – and spoke – and spoke).

Shabbat was, well, kind of a cipher

that my parents chose not to decode. But Hanukkah was a consistent entry on the annual calendar. Inevitably there was the commensurate anticipation of nightly gifts (typically one big one on the first night, followed by a succession of gradually diminishing recreational diversions. Yet what I recall most vividly is not whatever baubles came my way, but the menorah we rescued each year from its requisite pantry cabinet.

It wasn't a vaguely modern menorah, inlaid with turquoise mosaics but nothing at all grand. The receptacles were maddeningly constricted, which inevitably meant jamming each candle in place, hoping against hope it would topple over and ignite whatever lay nearby.

My father would don a kippah and recite what I now know was an abbreviated blessing, though on the first night taking care to include the Shehecheyanu blessing -- thanking G-d for sustaining us to reach this particular moment in time. The import of that blessing tended to be lost on me, perhaps because my Hebrew vernacular was limited to shalom, mazel tov and – for Pesach – a boisterous declaration of *dayenu!* My father would light the shamash, with myself, my younger sister and my mother following, usually in that order.

It's a stretch to say that I entered anything approaching spiritual grace – the entire process was over in a minute or two, so there was scant opportunity for contemplation. Still, once the menorah was placed in our kitchen window and the lights switched off, I could sense a genuine manifestation of calm. And once the tiny flames had flickered and died, a sense of loss bordering on sorrow.

My father was always an emotionally effusive man, prone to telling me "I love you" when I was well into adulthood. After the Hanukkah candles were lit he'd

hug me and say those words, which from him sounded nothing like a cliché of parental affection. It was at those times that I realized, in my modest fashion, that I was foundationally Jewish.

Such were the small wonders of my Hanukkah observances. I didn't need to be in in shul, dipping into a siddur or engaging in formal declarations of faith. Back in those years I didn't spend much time pondering issues of Jewish identity. I was eminently flexible in that regard, so much so that if I visited a son of interfaith parents – with a menorah on one side of the living room and a Christmas tree on the other – I was unfazed and unconcerned.

The seasonal dualities of Jewish and Christian faith traditions seemed perfectly natural in a city that was fundamentally multiethnic and multi-theological. The lobby of our West 86th Street apartment building was an exemplar of residential tolerance, if not complete authenticity: an artificial Christmas tree with gift-wrapped empty boxes and an electric menorah with orange light bulbs in place of candles.

Not exactly ecumenical, but somehow comforting by virtue of its faux-fir, plug-in flavors of tradition. Upstairs in Apartment 8B all was right with the world, made whole amid our unassuming Hanukkah ceremonies. The narrative never veered right or left from one year to the next. Yet if there was no overt prayer, there was a kind of latent prayerfulness, a not-so-vague acknowledgment of what it meant to be Jewish, illuminated by flickering candlelight that – even when down to the last vestiges of waxen residue – always bore the promise of radiant, sustaining renewal.

Andrew Adler is the Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

If you build it, they will come



Sara's
View

Sara
Klein Wagner

If you build it, they will come.

This whispered quote from *Field of Dreams* has been resonating a lot with me lately. These six words promised a connection for people in search of a place, a community. And when they would come—according to the character Terence Mann at the close of the film: “It’ll be as if they’d dipped themselves in magic waters.” That’s how I feel about this place we built together. There is something special here.

It is difficult to put into words how thankful I am and how proud I feel about our community, but I will try. Here goes:

Dear Jewish Louisville,

It is with heartfelt gratitude and immense pride that I write this end-of-year note of love and awe. Yes, we have uncertainty amid the heaviness of wars and the hostages who remain captive in Gaza. Yet at the same time -- here in our corner of the world -- you are leaning into Jewish life, bolstering your connections as you participate alongside old and new friends. In these vibrant Jewish spaces you are living, learning, and playing.

It’s a gift to have inherited a thriving Jewish community. Together we are building on traditions that have sustained us for generations. You can see it happening right here along Dutchmans Lane, where an ongoing reimagining is unfolding on our Jewish Heritage Fund

Campus. While our work is not yet complete (more on this soon), the Trager Family JCC on the JHF Campus is a testament to our very real desire to foster a Jewish space open to every part of our community. From our front door to the Kohn Family Town Square to every square foot around us is a shared *field of dreams*, carrying the imperative to encourage our friends and neighbors to join us on our collective Jewish journey.

One of many examples: Recently, we opened our doors after regular hours to a group of Orthodox women. Their level of Jewish observance does not permit mixed swimming. So, with a little coordination—including an all-female staff—we offered our first women-only swim. As a Jewish woman, ensuring we can welcome all Jewish women is a must for meeting our mission.

If you build it, they will come.

There is something genuinely warm and special about this place, bound up in a multi-generational and diverse spectrum of people, and by experiences that unfold daily. It’s why the Trager Family JCC is an integral component of our journey.

Everything we do emerges through a Jewish lens. The Talmudic sages believed that teaching children to swim was an essential survival skill that would help children grow into successful, independent adults.

The Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center – while a destination for many – wasn’t truly open to all until we welcomed the Orthodox women I described earlier. We are continually challenging ourselves to meet the needs of the growing and unique community we serve.

Another example is the Roth Family Education Center, home to our Early Learning Center, whose curriculum is based on the JCC As-

sociation of North America’s Sheva Early Learning Framework. Think of this as a rubric incorporating seven Jewish lenses that help guide discussions, resolve challenges, and inspire and inform educators. Sheva opens windows to Jewish values, creating a learning platform that lives and breathes inside the classroom.

The framework provides a shared language and perspective for building communities, piquing curiosity, enhancing relationships, and making the world a better place. Since opening our new doors, children of all backgrounds -- embracing every branch of Jewish practice, Israelis and other faith groups -- have flourished. You only need witness our ELC children sharing the joy of Shabbat, first thing every Friday morning, to appreciate the essence of what we’re all about.

I cannot emphasize this enough: None of this – the Aquatics Center, the ELC, *none of it* – would exist if you had not stepped up to help build and support a vibrant future. Each day our team remains dedicated to infusing all we do with the unique Jewish communal spirit we

call *ruach*, while learning what defines, energizes and sustains us.

If you build it, they will come.

I’m not typically short on words, but just know that I am filled with wonder and gratitude for the sense of community fostered within these walls. Thank you for opening the doors so others may join us.

Kol Tuv,

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

PJ Library

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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.

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For questions about PJ Library contact Jordan Leanhart at jeanhart@jewishlouisville.org.

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NEWS

Affirming Jewish identity – courtesy of *Momentum on the Road*

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Two remarkable women – Eve Levy and Ashager Araro – visited the Trager Family JCC Nov. 16 representing *Momentum on the Road – Strengthening Jewish Identity as a Key to Addressing Antisemitism* – a touring component of an Israeli-based program that aims “to empower women to change the world through Jewish values that transform ourselves, our families, and our communities.”

Possessing unbounded, incandescent energy, they spoke to several dozen women gathered in the Fleischaker-Greene Family Community Room in what was part pep rally, part consciousness raising. A fair number of audience members had participated in Momentum trips to Israel, where they engaged with Israelis alongside the Momentum principle of fostering “unity without uniformity.”

“We took our first group back in 2016 to Israel for I don’t know – eight days?” Lenae Price, a former Momentum trip leader who is Chief Capital Campaign Officer at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC, told Monday’s listeners.

“It ran together, but in the best kind of way – like you were drinking from a hose and it was all delicious,”

Price said. “When we first got there, there were 700 women from all over the world, and they gave us these bracelets that say, ‘Don’t blame; don’t complain.’ – which is pretty funny, because when you get 700 Jewish moms together, we all have one thing in common – which is we sometimes blame and complain.”

There was no sign of kvetching on this Monday evening. Certainly not from Levy, a Momentum educator who after living in the Canadian cities of Montreal, Calgary, plus Denver, Portland – and a dozen years in Jerusalem – settled with her family in the Chicago suburb of Deerfield, Ill., where she is the director of the L’Chaim Center.

As the granddaughter of four Holocaust survivors, her story could hardly have been more personal.

“None of us will ever forget when we heard the news of October 7,” she told her listeners. “And on October 8, people started calling me saying, ‘Eve, you have to rally the community together. We need a prayer rally. We need you to give us some direction.’ And I was so lost. I was struggling. I was in a place of fear, of generational trauma coming from my upbringing with my grandparents. How on earth was I supposed to give any perspective on what was happening in the

world?”

Still, “I remember I had to do it. So we said for the community to come at 8 o’clock to our center – and over 150 people came, and the news stations came – and here I was, not sure what to say. There were no words. I remember going to a side room, and I took out a notebook, which became my diary. I started writing in it every single day for the last 14 months. I wrote things like, ‘If I want to see peace, I need to make peace.’”

Like Levy, Araro praised Momentum for how it intrinsically values diversity and inclusiveness.

“What I love about this organization,” Aaro said, “is that it brings Jewish people from different communities, different walks of life and beliefs of Jewish identity, so none of need to compromise about who we are and what we believe.”

As an Israeli activist of Ethiopian heritage, she learned early on how to straddle parallel ethnic worlds. Despite rising to the rank of captain in the Israel Defense Forces reserves, there were times when her dark skin and Jewish faith made her something of a puzzlement.

“Then the brave one – or people with nerve – will ask me, ‘What are you? Are you Black or Jewish?’ – because in their understanding, one

must come at the expense of the other. I say, ‘No, I’m both Black and Jewish’ – and the come back and say, ‘Yeah, yeah, yeah, whatever.’”

Her mother and father confronted similar, vexing contradictions.

“My parents lived in a majority-Black country,” Araro explained. “They look like any other black person in Ethiopia – you couldn’t tell them apart. But their Black skin didn’t protect them from antisemitism. They were always looked at and treated as Jews. They never could be Ethiopian enough.”

Today, “I live in a majority-Jewish country, but my Jewish identity doesn’t protect me from racism. So when people ask me to choose, I say ‘I refuse to choose,’ because I don’t have the privilege to do so.”

Ultimately, Aaro says, “I have a clear understanding that the way I live my life right now in Israel today is the fulfillment of my ancestor dream. People have died, sacrificed, and bled for me to live the life that I’m living right now. So, there is no way in hell – sorry -- that I’m going to change or give up my Jewishness. I will always fight both antisemitism and racism with the same force, because I’m 100 percent black and 100 percent Jewish.”

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- Indoor & Outdoor Courts for Basketball & Pickleball
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- Free Weights & Weight Machines
- FREE On-Site Babysitting
- Outdoor Family Recreational Pool & Lap Pool with Dive-in Diner

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For More Information: 502.238.2721 | membership@jewishlouisville.org

YOU BELONG HERE.



PICTURE THIS: MOMENTUM ON THE ROAD



Some of the moms from the first Louisville momentum cohort in 2016. Pictured (L-R): Jessica Springer, Paola Gallagher, Dara Woods, Lenae Price, Jasmine Farrier and Julie Kling



Eve Levy and Ashager Araro



Margie Kohn, Vicki Shuster, and Zahava Klein



Debbie Weinstein and Amy Fouts



Eve Levy



Ashager Araro

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)

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
Club J Before Care Field, Alex R Kennedy	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	\$356.00	\$442.50
Club J After School 2:30 St Matthews, Bloom	2:30 – 6:00 p.m.	\$529.00	\$615.50
Club J After School 3:30 Holy Trinity, Hawthorne	3:30 – 6:00 p.m.	\$459.80	\$546.30
Club J After School 4:30 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
**The JCC is able to transport to the schools listed above, but childcare is available to any child K-5.*

Pool Parties
at the 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

PICTURE THIS: MUSIKGARTEN THANKSGIVING



The Jewish Federation of Louisville is a proud partner of PJ Library, which provides families with a free treasury of Jewish books and music. Each month, any child enrolled in PJ Library receives a monthly gift of a high-quality, age-appropriate Jewish book or CD as well as a reading guide, which are carefully selected by a team of experts.

Musikgarten is a 10-week interactive and educational music class for families with children 0 – 4 years old sponsored by Louisville’s PJ Library. Led by Cathy Dreszer, each session includes movement and a variety of music, including Jewish music. On the Friday following Thanksgiving, we held a special single-session class for children and their grandparents (and any other family member that wanted to join). From babies to bubbes, a great time was had by all.

Thanks to the generosity of our local funders, The Stephen, Sandra and Donald Linker Family Fund and The Jewish Heritage Fund, and our national partner, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library is available for free to any child in the Louisville area who wants to participate.





**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.

Learn more at jewishlouisville.org/pjlibrary













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 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
Email questions to Alison Roemer at aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.








PICTURE THIS: HANUKKAH AROUND TOWN

Members of The Temple gathered for their annual Hanukkah Celebration. Guests enjoyed latkes prepared by the Temple Brotherhood and Troop 30, a family sing-along with JLAB, arts and crafts activities, a menorah lighting, and more.



Montessori Torah Academy's Pre-Chanukah Family Fun Day was a fun-filled day for their students as they participated in Hanukkah traditions, played games, and celebrated together.

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 with RSVP:
jewishlouisville.org/hanukkah2024

Scan to RSVP






Swim at the Trager Family JCC



- Group Swim Lessons
 - 6-week sessions
 - 30-minute lessons, once a week
 - Small groups of 4 or fewer
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 - 5 Private Lessons in 5 Days!
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To learn more, scan the QR code or visit jcclouisville.org/youthaquatics





SWIM SCHOOL

WHERE YOUR SWIMMING JOURNEY BEGINS!

PICTURE THIS: CENTERSTAGE ACADEMY



CenterStage Academy provides an immersive, enriching theater experience for children grades K-8. This fall's sessions culminated in a performance of *Finding Nemo Kids* for grades K-3 and *The Little Mermaid Jr.* for grades 4-8.



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.



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



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 jclouisville.org/centerstage

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



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Film Presenting

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Cannes

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NEWS

Book Review: Yishai Sarid's "The Third Temple"

By Ranen Omer-Sherman
Guest Columnist

Yishai Sarid is renowned for his startling portraits of contemporary Israeli society, such as *The Memory Monster*, a disquieting work about the uses of Holocaust remembrance and pedagogy. Sarid's latest novel, *The Third Temple*, won the Bernstein Prize and has received accolades for its unflinching portrait of a postapocalyptic, monarchic Jewish society still at odds with its enemies. A masterful indictment of fundamentalist and messianic ideologies, and a probing meditation on Jewish power and powerlessness over time, the book is written with a great deal of integrity and soul — and is perhaps the most essential Israeli novel in recent memory.

In an indeterminate future, after the monarchic "Kingdom of Judah" has been conquered by the "Amalekites," Prince Jonathan, the youngest son of self-anointed King Jehoaz, is taken prisoner and compelled by his captors to write the chronicles of what has transpired. Sexually disabled since childhood by a terrorist's grenade, he has never been allowed to bask in the pub-

lic glory of Judean royalty as his older brothers do. Until the kingdom's collapse, he supervised the priests of the Third Temple, whose lives are dedicated to the sacrificial butchery of an extravagant number of lambs, rams, bulls, and other hapless creatures on the bloody altar — all while the population begins to starve. For Prince Jonathan, his royal father has become as remote a figure as God himself, yet he still dotes on him, despite being embittered by the fact that after his mother's death, the king married the decades-younger woman Jonathan has loved obsessively since childhood. From his dank prison cell, Jonathan narrates his struggles to stay resolute as rumors of military disasters increasingly unsettle the kingdom, and even as he receives tormenting visitations from an angel of the Lord who commands him to challenge the king's authority (that angelic messenger is terrifying in some scenes and a source of the novel's rare moments of comic relief in others, and turns out to be as vulnerable to human cruelty as the rest of God's creations).

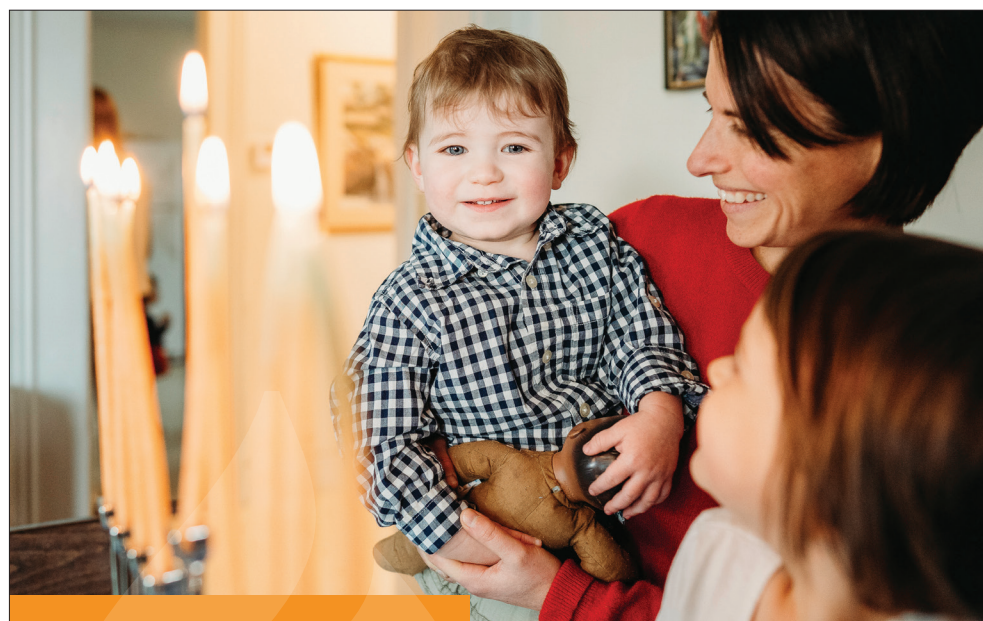
Throughout, Sarid casts a steady gaze on the foibles of Israeli soci-

ety in the present, not least when it comes to the corruption and lawlessness of the insulated monarch who rules over the suffering masses as if he were truly God's gift to the Jews — even when events prove otherwise. Originally published in Hebrew in 2015, the novel feels all the more urgent and timely now, even with its indulgent soupçons of the supernatural. In the tradition of the most powerful dystopian novels, it is a mirror of our own time, reflecting both the ticking time bomb of Israel's growing internal struggle with religious extremists and the relentless hostility of its external enemies. Viewed through the prism of the present moment, it reads like a tender paean to all the vulnerable victims of the violent politics of the Middle East. Yardenne Greenspan's nimble translation captures the wry wit, and tense drama of Sarid's language. An audacious novel fully conversant with Hebrew literary traditions going back to Jeremiah, as well as with contemporary postapocalyptic narratives, *The Third Temple* is not the most uplifting read of the season but it seems like the most essential.

Ranen Omer-Sherman is Professor of Comparative Humanities at the University of Louisville, where he holds the Jewish Heritage Fund Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies and directs the school's Jewish Studies program.



Yishai Sarid's novel, *The Third Temple*



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Illuminating
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As you celebrate the Festival of Lights, honor the spirit of Hanukkah by making a legacy commitment and leave a lasting impact on generations to come.



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It's easier than you think! Contact Frances Skolnick at fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org to learn how to create your legacy.

J ENRICHMENT

Mondays

Lego Club
Bricks4Kidz

5 - 6 p.m.

For children grades K-5
11 Sessions February - April

Tuesdays

Chess Club
Urban Chess League

5 - 6 p.m.

For children grades 1-5
11 Sessions February - April

Wednesdays

Dance/Creative Movement
Jane Biek

4 - 4:30, 4:30 - 5 p.m.

For pre-k children (ages 3-5)
11 Sessions February - April

Thursdays

Monk-Y Warrior
Angelica Ortega
parkour, gymnastics,
calisthenics, yoga, breath
work, meditation, & capoeira

4 - 4:30, 4:30 - 5 p.m.

For pre-k children (ages 3-5)
5 - 6 p.m.
For children grades K-5
11 Sessions February - April

*Holiday closures may effect these dates.



SCAN TO REGISTER

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



NEWS

ShinShinim build community connections

By Our Israeli ShinShinim, Kyla and Eden
Guest Columnists

These past four months in the beautiful community of Louisville have been a dream. We arrived here in late August, and since then, we've been enjoying working in the community each day, constantly looking for new ways to contribute and get involved. Over the past few months, we've had the privilege of leading, opening, and joining countless meaningful programs and activities.

We'd like to share a bit about what we've done so far and what we have planned going forward.

Every week, we share the joy of working with children of various ages, from preschoolers at the synagogues and the Trager Family JCC's Early Learning Center at the Roth Family Education Center to the Club J after-school program and Religious and Hebrew schools, including LBSY and JLAB. We lead activities related to Israel, Jewish holidays, and culture at the preschools. We love seeing the kids' smiling faces each time we interact with them. At Club J, we work with children in grades K-4, coming up with new ideas and fun ways to engage them while teaching about Israel and Judaism. We prepare weekly crafts that are on display at the Camp J building, plus others they can take home. At the Religious schools, we teach prayers and lead weekly activities focused on Jewish values and holidays. We are happy to have built meaningful personal relationships with the kids at all these different places.

One of our favorite activities is Teen Connect, where we organize activities for Jewish middle schoolers. Each month, we have hosted two or three events, and we've really enjoyed getting to know the kids. Our favorite so far was a chocolate-themed activity, where we made chocolate snacks from Israel, including "milk in a bag" and traditional chocolate balls.

We also played Israeli chocolate games and learned the Hebrew names for everything we were making.

BBYO has also become a huge part of our daily lives here in Louisville. From participating in their activities to building relationships with the teens, it's truly one of the most enjoyable aspects of our work. Last month, we led a BBYO Master Chef event, which was a huge success. Together with the teens, we prepared four recipes as a way of remembering the hostages who are still being held captive. We learned about the hostages we honored and discussed ways to keep them in our thoughts. We are looking forward to many more successful activities and programs with the teens.

In partnership with Rabbi Freed, we've also started a Hebrew-speaking club called "Cafe Ivrit," designed for intermediate to advanced Hebrew speakers who want to practice conversational Hebrew in a supportive environment and Hebrew language-oriented games. The program will continue into the new year, and we'd love to see any Hebrew speakers join us!

In cooperation with Partnership-2Gether, we worked with students at the Hebrew schools to send 50 letters from the Louisville community to soldiers in Israel, sharing our support and thanking them for everything they do. Moving forward, we are excited to continue bringing meaningful and engaging experiences to our Louisville community.

December marks Hanukkah and we are so excited to celebrate the holiday by attending Hanukkah parties where we will be leading Israeli dancing and making crafts. We are looking forward to Winter Camp, where we can't wait to teach the campers about this beautiful holiday. We wish everyone a very happy Hanukkah and a beautiful new year!

We have so many fun things planned for the new year as well. During January, we will be leading a cookie-baking activ-

ity at AJ in memory of soldiers who have fallen in the war. We are also planning a women's event for the new year focused on goals and vision boards. We are looking forward to an activity with the seniors in January, focused on our family stories and talking about our immigration to Israel. Beginning in February, we are hosting monthly cooking lessons where we'll make different Israeli foods. We also can't wait for a fun day trip to Perfect North with BBYO and Teen Connect.

We are so grateful for everything we have experienced here so far and CAN'T WAIT for what is to come. We hope to see you at one of our activities or programs, or just around the community at different events.



We stand with the people of Israel

Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE | Trager Family JCC



NEWS

WESTERN GALILEE

Continued from page 1

I have three kids: 14, 13 and 12 – two daughters and a boy, and my husband. My kids were born there at Kibbutz Eilon, which is 1.3 miles from the border with Lebanon. The North used to be one of the most amazing places in Israel for me. I have a flower shop on the kibbutz, but it's been dark because of the war – closed since October 7 – because we were evacuated from the kibbutz.

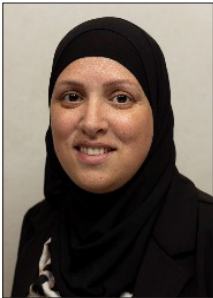
On October 8 at 8:30 in the morning, we got a message from the municipality that we had to leave our house – each of us took a backpack, our dog, and we left. We lived for three weeks with our family in the center of Israel. Then we moved to a hotel in the Negev, and we lived there for eight and a half months in (one) bedroom. We established a K-12 school for the kids in the (nearby) kibbutz. It was hard, but we had a beautiful community there.” Soon afterward, “a family from the States invited us to come here. It was hard to decide that we'd be leaving Israel, our family, friends and community, but we decided it'd be a good opportunity for our kids.”

While we were at the hotel, we saw delegations (who'd been evacuated from Southern Israel), and no one knew what had really happened in the North. So, we started to give lectures here in the States, and also in Europe. I'm so happy to be part of this amazing group. The first phone call when we left our house on October 8 was to these women – that's how close we are.”

Shahrazad Bargout Swidan

I'm from the Arab-El-Aramshe, an Arab village about 200 yards from the (Lebanese) border, with about 1,800 people. In the Western Galilee lives a very diverse population that includes Jews, Arabs, Muslims, Druze and Christians – symbolized by a shared life and coexistence. The aim is to bring different populations together through educational, cultural and community activities.

Since October 7, our life has turned upside down. We received a message from the authorities about evacuating the village for a week. So we packed our stuff in a backpack and drove south to Akko, where I was born and raised. Then they said it would be for two weeks, but it was



getting longer, so we decided to move to an evacuation center hotel. We build a new community in the hotel, which had Arabs and Jews together, but it was very difficult to in one bedroom with teenagers, so decided to rent an apartment,” until this past June, when a larger apartment the family had bought as an investment property became available. “Little by little we learned the paths of life in the city.”

“The war has taken a heavy toll on my family. My son is an officer in the IDF and has been on the front lines fighting for the security of Israel.

Karin Nathans Gefen

I was born and raised at Kibbutz Matzuva,” like Kibbutz Eilon, “1.3 miles from the border with Lebanon. We loved to have guests all day, all the time – on the Sixth of October we sat and drank wine and had plans for the next few days. We didn't know that after the Seventh of October our lives would change. I was part of the team that told all the residents of the kibbutz they'd have to leave, as soon as they could, to go further south. It was something like 1,300 people. We called everyone and said, ‘Take a backpack for two or three days.’ Then I was in Tiberias (located on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee), also in a hotel. (Today) we live in a small apartment without a shelter, so we have to run to another shelter when the sirens go off.



It's important for me to be a part of this group, because this is who we are – to learn and to know my neighbors much better than I knew before.

Safinaz Beromi

I'm a Muslim who grew up in the city of Akko, a lawyer by profession. For the past 11 years I've worked in the Ministry of Finance in Israel. The journey I have travelled has been really, really hard, with many bumps and hardships along the way, as well as successes. It's these experiences that have shaped me into the woman I am today.



I believe in the pursuing of justice. I



A visiting delegation from Women Leading a Dialogue toured the Muhammad Ali Center on Nov. 22, 2024. Pictured (L-R): Noa Friedman Epstein, Safinaz Beromi, Maor Levy-Ratz, Karin Nathans Gefen, Amy Fouts, and Shahrazad Bargout Swidan.

joined this delegation because I believe that powerful women with vision can change the world. This is my second time participating in this incredible group, but this time the circumstances are different. I approached this mission with mixed emotions after October 7 – a few days afterward, me and my family fled abroad to Turkey. October 7 disturbed the bridge of coexistence that had been built between Arabs and Jews. The new reality presents us, unfortunately, with increased racism, extremism, and violation of freedom of expression. It's so sensitive to share anything – for example, from the Quran, or just how I feel today. It's painful to witness the damage on both sides.

It's disappointing to feel threatened, especially when speaking my native lan-

guage, Arabic, or when I'm on the train or in the gym and I can see my coach has his gun on his side. My greatest fear is the potential loss of the coexistence and shared life we once had, and the possibility of raising a new generation filled with hatred and division.

Yet even in the face of such obstacles, she's driven “by a strong desire to highlight the mixed cultures of the Western Galilee,” believing that the differences between cultures can be embraced, even when they are vast and complex. I believe that change can begin within us and our awareness of our attitudes and environment. I have faith that women have the power to change the world, and I have the hope that this change can begin within our group.

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Questions? Contact Jesse at jbarfield@jewishlouisville.org
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Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

NEWS

JCL BOARD CHAIR

Continued from page 1

officially ends Jan. 1, does he have a defining takeaway?

"Just gratitude to have been part of a couple of decades of community building, and seeing the results," said Kaplan, who has been juggling his board responsibilities alongside his job as chief of staff to Louisville mayor (and fellow Harvard Law School alumnus) Craig Greenberg.

"I feel we're on a very strong footing," he emphasizes, coupled with "a sense of satisfaction having gone through the whole system."

Kaplan acknowledges the multi-faceted, absorbing nature of chairing the JCL board. A prime example of interest is the 2022 Brandeis University Study of Jewish Louisville, which identified considerably more Jews living here than previously thought, many of whom yearn to become more Jewishly involved.

Still, he's made important headway – with a particular emphasis on keeping the JCL financially secure.

"One of the things I've wanted to do, that I think is in progress, is steer toward a sustainable strategy that's rational and diversified," he says. "You know, 80 percent of annual campaign dollars are given by 20 percent of the donors."

Kaplan adds that core challenges came into even sharper focus in the wake of October 7.

"What I was able to do is be a voice of reason and stability in a very difficult time," Kaplan says, adding that as board chair he's sought to encourage his fellow board members to solve problems via

analysis and consensus. Here and in the broader community, he says it's a matter of uniting "despite our differences of opinion on what's going on with the war in Israel, coming together against antisemitism, and for the long-term survival of our community."

Indeed, in board meetings "we rarely have a contested vote," Kaplan says. "People are curious, they engage, and they prepare. We feel like we're on the same page, even though people differ on the political spectrum to some degree. What I've enjoyed most is getting agreement, as long as it was a good process, people have good discussions, and we get to a decision."

Over the past six months Kaplan has worked in parallel with Salamon – who's finishing her own term chairing the Jewish Community Relations Council – and Sara Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Federation and the Trager Family JCC.

"The three of us would meet every Monday" via Zoom, he says. "So Beth's been a joint participant with me in decision making and discussions."

It's been a transition based on familiarity, mutual respect, and realizing that it's okay to have different approaches to the position.

"I know Beth pretty well," Kaplan says. "I think she'll bring some of her own things to the table." At the same time, he believes "there's going to be strong continuity, because we have some similarities." "She's also an attorney. She approaches problems in the same kind of way: analytically, breaking things down, trying to get agreement, trying to build consensus

and not being impulsive about decision making. We're both strongly pro-Israel -- I think mainstream for the Jewish community. We're both very concerned about antisemitism, but not alarmist."

Closer to home, "I think we're both pro-growth for the Trager Family JCC but wanting to be careful and making sure we don't bite off more than we can chew."

What are his proudest achievements?

"One, continuing the work of ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the Trager Family JCC and the Federation. Two, assisting with the formation of the governor's antisemitism task force and representing the JCL on that body. Three, working to unify the Jewish community in the wake of October 7 around the Israel emergency relief campaign. Four, laying the groundwork for Phase Two of the Trager Family JCC's expansion project to create an even more wonderful summer camp experience, and other valuable enhancements to the Jewish Heritage Fund campus."

Kaplan added an especially resonant memory: "I chaired the JCRC for a number of years in the early 2000s, during the Second Intifada."

As he recalled, "It was a very difficult time. There was literally a truck being driven around town towing a model of an alleged 'apartheid wall' that was intended to criticize the erection of the security barrier to deter suicide bombings."

So "we did two things," he says. "We found allies where we could, which was the beginning of our relationship with evangelical churches, who are supportive of Israel. Even more importantly, we initiated interfaith dialogues at St. Michael's church with the Palestinian community. We invited speakers who steered away from incendiary rhetoric and discussed how to get to a two-state solution. It was productive. I wish that were possible now."

Meanwhile, Salamon is ready to plunge right in.

"I know I'm a volunteer, but I've sort of made it my profession right now," she says. "I get so much out of it and enjoy the work. For a long time, I was learning – and I'm still learning – but I feel I'm getting to the point where I feel confident to take on these roles."

A native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania who attended the University of Maryland at College Park before earning a law degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, Salamon moved to Louisville in 2005 with her husband, physician Michael Salamon.

She became JCRC chair in 2019, in what initially was supposed to be a two-year commitment. "But Covid happened in 2020 and 2021, so I never felt that I got to do the things as chair I would have liked to have done. And just as we were heading out of the Covid time, (director) Matt Goldberg left, and the new Matt (Golden) came in."

As overall JCL chair, Salamon's portfolio will embrace the Federation and the Trager Family JCC. The latter "for me is going to be fun to learn even more about," she says, "because it's such an integral part of the community – an exciting part of this new role. And then, obviously, fundraising is an important and different aspect, where I'll be working closely with Sara (Klein Wagner, President and CEO of the Federation and the Trager Family JCC).

"I love walking into the Trager Family JCC, seeing preschoolers all the way to seniors," Salamon says. "It's a broader swath of the community that I'll be inter-

acting with."

Indeed, "Even though I've lived here for 20 years, I didn't grow up here -- there are whole generations of families to get to know. So I will continue to meet people and learn about their lives and their needs. I'm looking forward to how we can bring more people into the community and meet them where they are."

And while rising antisemitism is a continuing concern, "we don't want it to define who we are as a people," Salamon says. "There's a lovely, beautiful thing about being Jewish – it's a vibrant, wonderful culture. So as much as we want to make sure we fight against the bad, we also want to celebrate all the good and wonderful things about being Jewish. I think that's why we're seeing the surge of people wanting to reconnect with their Judaism, because they're feeling more vulnerable."

"Even post-Covid, people are looking for community, being in person with people," Salamon emphasizes. "It's an opportunity as much as it's something we need to be."

Still, "we always need to be on the lookout" for antisemitism, no matter how "it rears its ugly head," she cautions.

"That's where the JCRC has been an amazing part of the Federation's overall mission, working on different ways to combat it – meeting people in the community, going to schools, all those kinds of things."

Considerable potential lies ahead, Salamon believes. "This (Jewish Heritage Fund) campus has proven what we can do. I'm excited to see how much further we can go"

Certain imperatives are inescapable, no matter who chairs the JCL board.

"One of the things I would want to communicate on my way out of this role," Kaplan says, "is that we need to be strong and outspoken against antisemitism. I think there's a consensus that there's a risk out there, that we need to protect our institutions and our children, particularly against violent threats."

"Where I don't know if there's a consensus," Kaplan says, "is that we need to be outspoken publicly when we see antisemitism as a community. Over the years I think we've become accustomed to working behind the scenes. We need to realize that we're in a new moment now, that we need to call out antisemitism whenever we see it. We need to push ourselves to do that."

"Our community is fortunate to have exceptional leaders taking the time and energy to make our community stronger," Wagner says. "From day one of David's term, he showed a commitment to serving all of Jewish Louisville. He played an integral role in strengthening our board, promoting the Annual Campaign and representing the Jewish community."

"While David's professional life has required a major commitment of its own," Wagner stressed, "he's stayed focused on the most pressing needs in our community, including his role in hiring SAFE Louisville Regional Security Advisor Stuart Lowrey and responding to the atrocities of October 7th. A true leader, David has served the community with wisdom and understanding."

"Beth will bring her own style and passions to the role," Wagner says. "I have enjoyed working closely with Beth in recent years. She's an advocate for the most pressing needs in our community. As a leader, I am confident that Beth's energy -- her *zerizut* -- will serve us all well."

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For More Information: Joe Kirven 502-238-2792 | jkirven@jewishlouisville.org

Congratulations to the 2025 JFCS MOSAIC Awards Honorees

Jewish Family & Career Services was founded in 1908 and has been a beacon of support for Louisville's immigrant population for 116 years. Over the decades, the countries of origin have shifted as global events and trends shaped migration patterns, but one thing has remained steadfast: JFCS' commitment to welcoming and supporting immigrants as they build new lives in Louisville.

This enduring legacy of support for immigrants and refugees is exemplified by the JFCS MOSAIC Awards, a tradition that began in 2006. For nearly 20 years, the JFCS MOSAIC Awards have honored remarkable individuals each year who are refugees, immigrants, or first-generation Americans making significant contributions to Greater Louisville as leaders, changemakers, and humanitarians. Since its inception, the MOSAIC Awards have celebrated over 90 individuals from 43 different countries, showcasing the incredible diversity and resilience of Louisville's immigrant community.

This year's JFCS MOSAIC Awards will take place on May 15, 2025, at the beautiful Mellwood Arts Center. The event will again spotlight five incredible honorees whose achievements have made a tremendous impact in our community.

The 2025 JFCS MOSAIC Honorees are:

- **Dr. Gulalai Wali Kahn** (Pakistan): Medical Caseworker & Health Coordinator, Kentucky Refugee Ministries

- **Diana Paola Duran** (Peru): IT Category Manager, Humana

- **Vy Truong** (Vietnam): CEO & Founder, Kentucky Pharmacy LLC

- **Amina Shale** (Kenya): Executive Director, More Than A Smile Foundation

- **Danial Malik** (Pakistan): University of Louisville, Division of Surgical Oncology

Last year, we created a new honor to recognize a business or company that is making a tangible impact in supporting immigrants and refugees in Greater Louisville. This year's "Corporate Changemaker Award" will be presented to **Norton Healthcare** for its exceptional commitment to supporting our community.

Since the founding of JFCS, meeting the needs of immigrants has been at the forefront of its community outreach. Along with that comes adapting to the times, and to the evolving landscape of immigration in the United States and here in Louisville.

From our history of helping Jewish immigrants in the early 20th century to serving today's diverse populations regardless of country of origin or religious affiliation, JFCS' commitment has remained unwavering.

When thinking about JFCS' course of serving the immigrant and refugee population over the last 116 years, the country of origin varies significantly, but one thing is constant: JFCS will be there for immigrants and refugees when they ar-

ANNOUNCING THE 2025 HONOREES

 VY TRUONG VIETNAM KENTUCKY PHARMACY LLC	 DR. GULALAI WALI KAHN PAKISTAN KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES	 DIANA PAOLA DURAN PERU HUMANA	 DANIAL MALIK PAKISTAN UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE DIVISION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY	 AMINA SHALE KENYA MORE THAN A SMILE FOUNDATION
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2025 CORPORATE CHANGEMAKER
NORTON HEALTHCARE

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 15
MELLWOOD ARTS CENTER

rive in Louisville. We want everyone to feel welcome here in Louisville and to live with dignity and purpose.

The JFCS MOSAIC Awards not only celebrate individual accomplishment, but also serve as a reflection of JFCS' commitment to serving immigrants and refugees. Over the past three years, JFCS has experienced growing needs, specifically for refugees and immigrants. Re-credentialing assistance and addressing critical needs such as employment, mental health counseling, and food security show our dedication to the immigrant population. This commitment to providing help is both something we are proud of in our history and something we are committed to in our future.

The JFCS MOSAIC Awards also offer an opportunity for the community to

come together and celebrate inclusion and diversity. But they are more than a celebration — they are a reminder of the rich tapestry (or, "mosaic") that immigrants bring to Louisville. We hope they are a call to action for the broader community to continue supporting diversity and inclusion. Each honoree's journey highlights the importance of programs and organizations like JFCS that provide vital support.

We hope you'll join us at the Mellwood Arts Center on May 15 for this inspirational celebration. The JFCS MOSAIC Awards stand as a testament to our organization's enduring mission and our unwavering belief that all in Greater Louisville live with dignity and purpose.

To learn more or reserve your tickets, visit www.jfcsloouisville.org.

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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Louisville psychiatrist Allan Tasman wins the 2024 Burlingame Award



Allan Tasman

Allan Tasman, a nationally known psychiatrist and educator, has received the Hartford HealthCare Institute of Living's 2024 C. Charles Burlingame MD Award, honoring him "for his groundbreaking contributions regarding mental health disparities due to socio-economic, cultural, and other social determinant factors."

Tasman is Emeritus Professor, Chair (1991-2015), and Schwab Endowed Chair in Social and Community Psychiatry at the University of Louisville.

"His commitment to serving the disadvantaged began in medical school where he founded the Lexington Free Clinic," his award citation says. "In the early 1990's he conceptualized and spearheaded implementation of an innovative nationally recognized non-profit managed care organization, the Passport Health Plan, which became Kentucky's second largest Medicaid provider. He currently leads the Lancet Psychiatry Journal's Commission on the Social Determinants of Mental Health."

"Dr. Tasman's research has focused on the neurophysiology of cognitive processes. His Connecticut laboratory was one of the first globally to describe functional brain abnormalities in offspring of alcohol addict fathers. His recent research has involved innovative neuromodulation treatments for autism and substance abuse."

"His publications include 38 books and over 340 other scientific publications. He also has founded two scientific journals and is founding lead Editor for all five editions of an internationally acclaimed comprehensive textbook, now named Tasman's Psychiatry. He has been President of five national or international psychiatric organizations including the American Psychiatric Association."

"The award is named for C. Charles Burlingame, M.D., who came to The Hartford Retreat, now known as The Institute of Living, in 1931 as superintendent. Over the course of his career, he transformed the care and treatment of the mentally ill and, just as importantly, reframed the education of those who provide care to those patients."

At JFCS -- honors, awareness and a heartfelt loss



David L. Finke

David L. Finke, chief executive officer of Jewish Family & Career Services, is a busy fellow these days.

On Nov. 21, Finke was honored as one of Louisville Business First's 2024 Most Admired CEO. Additionally, he's co-chairing of

the committee that is organizing the annual NJHSA (National Jewish Human Service Agencies) conference that will take place in Denver April 27-30, 2025.

According to JFCS, "this annual conference brings together over 600 individuals to exchange ideas and experiences among human service professionals, member agency lay leaders and partner organizations from across the globe. Ultimately, it allows JFCS Louisville to better serve our community."

Earlier in November, stand-up comedian (and Lexington, Ky. Native) Ariel Elias was the featured guest of JFCS's 2024 Lillian O. Seligman Contemporary Thought Forum, billed as "A Night of Humor" at The Temple.

Seligman, who died in January 2015 at age 69, was a VA Hospital speech-language pathologist was a JFCS past president and a board member at The Temple. The annual Seligman Forum event allows "guest speakers to offer their perspective on relative topics while bringing awareness to the work and mission of JFCS."



Anita Jarboe

Finally – and sadly – the JFCS family is mourning the loss of Anita Michele Jarboe, who passed away Nov. 28 at age 64 from complications following open-heart surgery. She served as JFCS's receptionist since 2000. "For nearly 25 years, everyone who walked into JFCS was greeted by Anita's warmth and care," a website statement said. "We are already seeing many of our clients remark on how different things feel without her; she truly was a constant in our office amidst sweeping changes in both our workplace and the world as a whole."

"It truly is rare to come across a person as consistently dedicated to everyone around her as Anita was. We feel that she perfectly encapsulated JFCS' vision that all in Greater Louisville hold dignity and purpose, and that all in Greater Louisville deserve to be treated in a way that acknowledges this. We couldn't have possibly found a person to welcome everyone at JFCS who better represented what we strive to be as an organization. We continue to be grateful for the many years she spent with us."

Contributions in Anita Jarboe's honor can be made to Louisville's Have a Heart Clinic (haveaheartclinic.org) or to JFCS.

Israel's Joel Chasnoff offered context and comedy Dec. 13 - 14 at Temple Shalom



Joel Chasnoff at Temple Shalom

On that Friday night, Chasnoff spoke about *Life in Israel Post-October 7*, continuing the following day with a discussion on *The Israeli Army's Code of Ethics* – an appropriate topic for a former IDF Lone Soldier (Lone Soldiers, if you're not familiar with the term, are those "with no family in Israel to support him or her: a new immigrant, a volunteer from abroad, an orphan or an individual from a broken home," according to lonesoldiercenter.com).

"How does the IDF navigate the moral dilemmas of war?" he asks. "For that, Israeli soldiers have Purity of Arms, Israel's code of battlefield ethics, referencing and inspired by several Torah verses."

This is a guy, by the way, who's written a book about his IDF service called "The 188th Crybaby Brigade," subtitled, "A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago fights Hezbollah."

Chasnoff saved his stand-up comedy routine for that Saturday evening. He's quite an eclectic fellow – another of his books, co-authored with Ian Westermann, is "Essential Tennis: Improve Fast-

er, Play Smarter and Win More Matches."

More apropos to his Temple Shalom show is this statement from his website, joelchasnoff.com:

"Resilience is a core part of Jewish DNA, and humor is our secret weapon."

Rabbi Robert B. Slosberg is CLOUT's first Jewish president



Rabbi Robert Slosberg

Rabbi Robert Slosberg, rabbi emeritus at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, has been elected co-president of CLOUT – Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together.

Long active in the grassroots community action organization, Slosberg

will serve alongside co-president Jonathan Berkley of Centennial Olivet Baptist Church. He's the first Jewish president of CLOUT, which was founded in 1991 to address local issues of access, equality and social justice. In 2019, AJ became the inaugural Jewish congregation to officially join CLOUT.

Between this past August and early October, CLOUT engaged in 50 "listening sessions" throughout Jefferson County to gauge public concerns over relevant community challenges. Findings drawn from these sessions will be presented April 7 during CLOUT's annual

"Nehemiah Action Assembly," described as "the city's largest and most diverse gathering of Louisville citizens to address our most critical community problems."

JHF is bringing OneTable to Louisville



Jewish Heritage Fund

Thanks to a grant earlier this year from the Jewish Heritage Fund, OneTable is coming to Louisville.

OneTable bills itself as a culinary conduit to Jewish unity: "Through peer-led Shabbat dinners and our signature digital platform, we make community accessible, inclusive and meaningful to all."

With a national footprint and aimed principally at Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s, OneTable "invite[s] you to hold Jewish tradition in one hand and beliefs, experiences, and passions in the other."

As JHF's Jaime Jorrisch explains, "Through the platform, hosts receive resources, guidance, and financial support (called Nourishment Credits) to create meaningful experiences, while guests can RSVP to Shabbat dinners, fostering community connections."

Jorrisch adds, "OneTable has already made a huge impact in over 500 cities nationwide, supporting more than 120,000 Shabbat dinners and empowering over 20,000 hosts to bring people together. Now Louisville has a landing page and field manager assigned to work with organizations and individuals in the community who want to partner with them to leverage the platform."

To learn more about OneTable, go online to <https://dinners.onetable.org>.

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AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Join Kyla and Eden, our community's ShinShinot, for a special baking event at Adath Jeshurun Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Taste of Memories, or Matkon Im Zikaron, remembers fallen Israel Defense Forces soldiers by cooking their favorite recipes and telling the stories of their lives. We'll be baking two cookie recipes and talking about the soldiers who enjoyed them. The cost is \$5 per person and is underwritten by the Harold and Frankye Klein Gordon Event Fund. Please RSVP for this event no later than Jan. 12 at www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations.

Adath Jeshurun will honor its 2024 Co-Minyanaires of the Year Elliott Rosengarten and Al Wax Jan. 24-25. All are invited to celebrate the award winners at a festive dinner on Friday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. Reservations are required at www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations. Saturday, Jan. 25, the celebration continues during Shabbat morning services beginning at 10 a.m. Minyanaires will participate in the service and receive special honors, followed by a special Kiddush lunch.

In the spirit of the popular TV game show Family Feud, AJ ladies and friends will team up and square off against one another to compete at AJ's Jewish Family Feud Sunday, Feb. 2 at 11 a.m. This is not a trivia contest, and no specific knowledge is needed to play. Win prizes and enjoy a delightful lunch. The cost is only \$10 per person, but reservations are required at www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations by Monday, Jan. 27. All ladies in the community are invited to attend. This event is generously subsidized by the Harold and Frankye Klein Gordon Event Fund of Congregation Adath Jeshurun. For more information, contact event chairperson Marla Gordon at 773-230-179 or by emailing marlasg@aol.com.

Chabad of Kentucky

Chabad of Kentucky is pleased to announce that the University of Louisville basketball program's Peyton Siva will light a public menorah Dec. 29 at the 4th St. Live Chanukah celebration with Kentucky's largest Menorah, from 5-7 p.m., with the actual menorah lighting to take place promptly at 6 p.m.

Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, Director of Chabad, explained this year's choice to light the menorah. "Peyton has inspired thousands of youngsters to better themselves and the Chanukah message this year is to "Be a Light" and light up the darkness with acts of goodness. I can think of no one better than Peyton Siva to share this important message".

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/HanukkahS-kate>. 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, Jan. 2 - No Chavurat Shalom while we're still hibernating over winter break.

Thursday, Jan. 9 - Singer, songwriter, guitarist Tyrone Cotton will join us. Lunch will include beef stew, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

Thursday, Jan. 16 - Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher will guide us on a Judaic learning exploration. Lunch will include salmon cakes, roasted potatoes, braised cabbage, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and assorted desserts.

Thursday, Jan. 23 - Mike O'Bryan, our favorite accordion player, will entertain us. Lunch will include eggplant parmesan, angel hair pasta with broccoli, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and tiramisu.

Thursday, Jan. 30 - Harpist Jessica Hyden will share her talents with us. Lunch will include chicken fajitas, rice pilaf, corn and black bean salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate cake.

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

Filson Historical Society

Join the Louisville Orchestra and the Filson Historical Society Jan. 21 at the Filson for a powerful evening exploring Der Kaiser von Atlantis, an opera composed during the Holocaust. Led by LO Music Director Teddy Abrams and moderated by Adath Jeshurun Cantor David Lipp, the event features live performances by LO musicians, a panel with LO Creators Corps composers, and expert insights on its historical significance.

Reception from 5:00-5:55 p.m., followed by the program running from 6 to 7 p.m. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/4cheuzd4>. The Filson is located at 1310 S. Third St. in Old Louisville.

Filson members can use the code FILSON to receive 15% off tickets to the LO's concert Saturday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts.

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 mhancock2jfcslouisville.org. Together, we can ensure the next chapter is as fulfilling as ever. Help us build services that enrich lives and foster new beginnings.

Your Rights Matter: Understanding Rights of Refugees and Immigrants during Uncertain Times

Join JFCS for a special panel discussion on the rights of refugees and immigrants. Whether you will personally be affected by policies, are a service provider, or want to educate yourself as a community member, you are welcome to learn. Tuesday, Jan 21, at JFCS (2821 Klempner Way). This event is free, and childcare will be provided. RSVP is requested for planning purposes at: www.jfcslouisville.org/yourrights-matter.

Help JFCS Continue Its Legacy of Service to the Community

Did you know that the JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Food pantry served nearly 800 individuals last year? Did you know that JFCS Clinical Services, Career & Economic Opportunities, Family Stability and our Klein Older Adults have all seen an increase in clients? The need for JFCS and its pillars of service to the community is great. Help us continue our legacy and growth in the community with a gift to JFCS's yearly Annual Campaign. 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's growth and legacy. Go to: www.jfcslouisville.org/give.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

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 at aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.

Keneseth Israel

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.

Join Cantor Hordes as she takes you on a journey through the sun salutations, and meditations of Torah Jan. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Some yoga mats are available, but please bring your own if you have one.

Kids and families of all kinds -- come join us for our Family Shabbat on Jan. 17 Starting at 6 p.m. there will be a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a delicious meal. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child. Please RSVP to tinyurl.com/KIShabbat or call 502-459-2780.

Have a toddler in your life? Come join us for our Tot Shabbat. Join us Jan. 11 and 25 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 the closing Shabbat service song.

New member to Keneseth Israel? Or maybe looking at joining the KI community? Then come to our New and Prospective Member Shabbat Dinner. Starting at 6 p.m. enjoy a Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a Shabbat dinner. While this event is free, RSVPs are strictly required at tinyurl.com/KICKiddush. Please include every person that will be attending.

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. 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. Please visit 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/virtual-programs>.

Congregation of the Cloud bi-monthly re-

AROUND TOWN

newal service
Shabbat mornings as we gather to participate, kiddish following

Sat., Jan 11 and 25 at 10:15 a.m.
Shabbat of Light and Unity

Friday, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m.
As we celebrate Rosh Chodes! and the Buddhist and Tao New Year together.

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/5bbpcrf> or email 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, and then organizing a lobbying day in Frankfort for all interested NCJW advocates. Please contact Executive Director Sarah Harlan at executive-director@ncjwlu.org or 502-458-5566 if you're interested in joining this effort.

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, so call the NCJW office at 502-458-5566 to order your cards today.

Make sure you mark your calendars now for NCJW's annual Mah Jongg Mania Event Sunday, Feb. 9, starting at 10 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC. Registration is only \$12/person for a fun morning of friendly mahjong games, plentiful snacks, and prizes.

Want to learn to play mahjong? Register for our fun day of play and you can sign up for free lessons at the same time. Lessons will be offered on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m., in the Community Room at the Trager Family JCC.

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

MLK Shabbat, Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m.
Join us for a Shabbat celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will have a guest speaker and special music. Oneq to follow.

Lunch'n'Learn, Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 1 p.m., location/topic to be determined.

All are welcome at our next Lunch'n'Learn at Temple Shalom. Watch Community's Monday eNews blast for more information or contact Engagement Coordinator Slava Nelson at engagement@temple-shalomky.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 Chotiner and members of the congregation.

The Temple

Join The Temple Young Adult Group Monday, Dec. 30 at 7 p.m. for a night of fun. We'll have Hanukkah-themed food and drinks, light our huankkiot together (bring your own hanukkiot), and watch the movie *The Night Before*. This event is free to attend for all young adults, but an RSVP is required so we make sure we have enough food at 502-423-1818 or at thetemplelouky.org/night-before.

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.

The Temple invites congregants to attend Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. More information at 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://www.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.

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 Sister-

hood Gift Shop, and make sure you place your order no later than Jan. 31, no exceptions. If you have any questions, call or Sheila Lynch at 502-896-9736 or email her at sgltcher@aol.com.

Join us for a joyful weekend of song with Cantor Rosalie Will. Friday, Jan. 10, we will have a special Shabbat musical Tot Shabbat with Cantor Rosalie and Rabbi Matt, followed by a Family Dinner and then Grandparents & Great-Grandparents Shabbat featuring the musical leadership of Cantor Rosalie, Jennifer Diamond, and Shir Chadash. Saturday, Jan. 11, we will have a special musical Shabbat morning service at 10:30 a.m. Finally, to round out the special weekend, Cantor Rosalie will be spending Sunday, Jan. 12 with our JLAB students. A huge thank you to the Bertram & Elaine Klein Family Music Fund for making this weekend possible.

Come join Rabbi Matt for a special Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10. Our new Tot Shabbat will be a monthly, 15-minute service with our youngest members in mind, but will also provide an opportunity 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. Tot Shabbat and the dinner are free to attend, but if you plan to stay for dinner, an RSVP is required at thetemplelouky.org/grandparent-shabbat, so we have enough food.

Join us Friday, Jan. 10 for a family friendly dinner at 6 p.m. and Erev Shabbat Services at 7 p.m. as we honor our grandparents and great-grandparents. Please make your reservation by calling 502-423-1818 or by registering online at thetemplelouky.org/grandparent-shabbat.

Join Rabbi Matt on Saturday, Jan. 11 and Feb. 1 at 10:30 a.m. for our first pair of monthly Learner's Service and Lunch & Learns. In this discussion-based service series, we'll be learning about the history and function of the blessings in the Shabbat Morning Service, translating them together, and learning some of the special melodies that accompany many of these prayers. At 11:30 a.m., directly after services, everyone is invited to a special Lunch & Learn to continue the conversation. The service and Lunch & Learn are open to all with no background knowledge needed. Lunch is provided for the Lunch & Learn and is free for all, but an RSVP is required so we have enough food. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/learner or by calling 502-423-1818.

Please join us for a special MLK Shabbat service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. This year, we will host a musical group from St. Stephen Baptist Church.

Join us Friday, Jan. 24 for a family-friendly dinner at 6 p.m. and Erev Shabbat Services at 7 p.m. led by our Grade 4 students. Please make your reservation by calling 502-423-1818 or by registering online at thetemplelouky.org/family-shabbat-dinner.

Join Rabbi Matt Sunday, Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. for a special Adult Ed Cooking session on kugel making. In this class, we will learn about the different types of kugel and make our very own. All are welcome to attend, but RSVP is required so we can make sure to have enough supplies. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/kugel.

Join The Temple and Temple Shalom for an inspiring weekend of music, spirituality, and community as we welcome renowned Jewish musician Dan Nichols for an unforgettable program. Friday, Jan. 31, we will be at The Temple for Family Shabbat Dinner at 6 p.m., Musical Shabbat Service at 7 p.m., plus a Community Oneq Shabbat after services. Saturday, Feb. 1, we will be at Temple Shalom for a Meditative Shabbat Service at 10:30 a.m., a Bagel Lunch at noon, and a Havdalah service with a camp-style sing-along at 6:30 p.m. All events are free and open to all, but space is limited. For more details or to RSVP, visit thetemplelouky.org/DanNichols or call 502-423-1818.

Trager Family JCC

Trager Family JCC Hanukkah Party -- Monday, Dec. 30 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Join us for a Community Hanukkah Celebration featuring music, crafts, activities, and food. Everyone in the community is invited to this FREE event. RSVP (required) at jewishlouisville.org/hanukkah2024.

Trager Family JCC programs assist vulnerable seniors

Meals on Wheels is participating in the Subaru Share the Love event. Through Jan. 2, for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate a minimum of \$300 to the customer's choice of participating charities, including Meals on Wheels. The Trager Family JCC, which is a member of Meals on Wheels America, will receive a share of the donation from Subaru. Over 16 years, Subaru has helped Meals on Wheels deliver more than 4.6 million meals nationwide to seniors in need. For more information, visit mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove.

Come join us Thursday, Jan. 16, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. for the first event of our Active Adults program, exclusive to members. We're kicking things off with a fun evening of Mahjong and Rummikub. Enjoy a selection of light appetizers and refreshing drinks with your friends and sign up as a team. Be sure to bring your own Mahjong and Rummikub sets for your table. If you're coming solo, no worries -- you can still sign up and we'll provide Rummikub and Mahjong for some tables. Just remember to bring your own card. We can't wait to see you there!

University of Louisville

The University of Louisville's annual observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Needle and Thread —A Holocaust Memorial in Dance, Music and Stitches, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

Performed by international dancer Suzanne Miller with Allan Paivio and Mindy Yan Miller at the University Club Ballroom, University Club on U of L's Belknap Campus. Free adjacent parking lot. The event is free and open to the public. For information and to RSVP, email Natalie.Polzer@louisville.edu or at 502-852-3406.

Now through March 1, 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

Births



Meirav Halleli Barrie Freedstern

We're delighted to welcome one of the newest members of our Jewish community, Meirav Halleli Barrie Freedstern, with a very happy mazel tov to proud parents Ariane Barrie-Freedstern and Rabbi Ben Freed – and to grandparents Gary and Eileen Freed, and Susan Barrie and Larry Stern.

We know that our friends and colleagues from Keneseth Israel, where Rabbi Freed serves as senior Rabbi, are kvelling at their newest member as are we all.

Rabbi Freed wanted to share that mother and daughter are happy and healthy. He added that he's been "unbelievably touched by the support from the community at large, and especially the support from the Jewish community."

Editor's note:

On behalf of all of us at the Federation and throughout Jewish Louisville who've been impacted by Rabbi Freed and the gifts he's brought to our community, we wish nothing but happiness and health for him and Ariane, and Meirav, our newest member of the tribe.

served in the Air Force during World War II.

During his life, Jack was the director of adult services and membership at the Louisville Jewish Community Center for 15 years and Executive Director of The Temple for 21 years. In November 2019, The Temple honored Jack's lifetime of work through the dedication of "Jack's Place," a gathering place in its lobby.

He was a University of Louisville sports fan, enjoyed many annual, multi-generational family vacations, and participated in weekly Sunday night dinners at Louisville restaurants with his family. Jack was also an accomplished crossword puzzle solver and carpenter, helping build everything from dollhouses and birdhouses to homes for Habitat for Humanity.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Max and Julia Benjamin, his brother Fedor, and his wife Mary Pfeiffer of 28 years.

Jack is survived by his sister Clara; his stepdaughters Shirley (Steve), Judy (Dan), and Holly (Chuck); his son Max Benjamin; nephew Mike; and nieces Karen, Julie, and Susan.

Although Jack is gone, he will live forever in our hearts.

Funeral services were held December 3, 2024 at The Temple, followed by burial in The Temple Cemetery. Remembrances can be made to The Temple in honor of Hans (Jack) Benjamin.

Obituaries



Hans (Jack) Benjamin

Hans (Jack) Benjamin, age 97, passed away on November 30, 2024, after a long and fulfilling life. Born in Beuthen, Germany on May 6, 1927, he immigrated to the

United States of America with his brother Fredy by Kindertransport to escape the Nazis in June 1938.

Hans settled in Louisville, Kentucky with relatives until his parents and baby sister arrived a year later. He attended the Aron Trade School, where he would receive the name Jack from a teacher who said, "We don't want any German names in our class." After graduating from DuPont Manual High School, he



Theodore Thomas Harlan

Theodore Thomas Harlan, 65, passed away on November 26, 2024 at the Hildegard House in Louisville, Kentucky, after a long illness. Ted was born in Louisville

on May 4, 1959, to parents Sheila Joyce Strunk and James Alpheus Harlan. He graduated from Berea College in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in industrial arts. Ted had a lifelong career as a woodworker, creating award-winning artistic furnishings, some of which have been shown in galleries all over the world, and has an original work in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution. He combined his skill as a woodworker with his love of music and taught himself the art of guitar building, then

created the Harlan Woodworking School to teach furniture and guitar making to others.

Ted's musical career began as a teenager when he discovered his mother's Martin guitar and learned basic chords from family friend Roy Gentry at the Doo Wop Shop. He listened for hours to recordings of Doc Watson, Flatt & Scruggs, JD Crow, and the Newgrass Revival, patiently imitating their styles. He and compatriot Steve Cooley honed their skills in campground jam sessions, at bluegrass festivals, and various venues throughout the 1970s. Ted started his first band, the Phuzz Street Knuckle Busters, while in college and went on to play with numerous artists, in studio sessions with Roy Gentry & Memphis Beck, Sam Bush, the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra, and with Rockabilly artist Lance Kaufman and the Bodanglers.

Ted is preceded in death by his father and mother, brother Lee Harlan, and sister Judy Harlan Burnham. He is survived by his wife Debra Richards Harlan, stepfather Kenneth O. Pyle, brother Andrew Pyle, sisters Megan Harlan, Kay Harlan Gunckel, and Nikki Harlan Graham, and nieces Theda Joyce Griffith and Myra Hazel Pyle, and nephews Wren Harlan Pyle and Joseph Augden Pyle. Ted is also very much missed by his four rescue kit-

tens, and his beloved pup Dobie.

Friends wishing to honor his memory may do so by making a donation to the Hildegard House, P.O. Box 5613, Louisville, KY 40255, where his final days were made lovingly peaceful, or to their preferred animal rescue foundation.

A musical celebration of Ted's life will be held on December 15th, at his wood shop at 930 Mason Ave, Suite A, from 1:00 -6:00 p.m.

Kenneth E. Matlow

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of Kenneth E. Matlow's death in Louisville, Kentucky, on December 15, 2024, at the age of 78. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Ethel Matlow, and his beloved wife, Rowena.

Kenneth proudly graduated from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, and throughout his life, he embarked on several fulfilling careers, earning numerous awards that recognized his exceptional skills and dedication to service. He was not only a talented handyman but also someone who was always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. Friends and family cherished his even-tempered nature, and he found great joy

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

JEWISH FEDERATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Frank & Barbara Weisberg's 50th Anniversary

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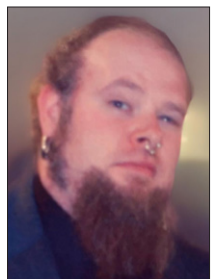
Continued from page 22

in outdoor sports.

Together with Rowena, Kenneth enjoyed many adventures traveling the country, discovering new sights, and connecting with people. His remarkable ability to engage in small talk fostered countless meaningful relationships, leaving a lasting impact on everyone he met.

Kenneth is survived by his son, Kenneth W., and his loving brothers, Austin (Pam), Robert, and Stuart (Denise), who will continue to carry on his legacy of kindness and warmth.

A graveside service was held at Cave Hill Cemetery on Thursday, December 19, 2024. Memorial donations may be made to The Home of the Innocents, 1100 E Market St, Louisville, KY 40206.



Joshua Bernheim Penner

Joshua Bernheim Penner died unexpectedly on December 3, 2024, in Prospect, KY, at the age of 45.

Josh was a gifted musician, mastering a variety of instruments, including drums, guitars, dulcimers, and bagpipes. His passion for music flourished during his time at Francis Parker High School, where he graduated in the Class of 1997. He then attended Antioch College, graduating in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in music. He was an integral part of several bands,

showcasing his talents across different genres and composing his own musical scores. Driven by his love for music, he founded J & J Old Louisville Music Shop, where he was an accomplished luthier.

A true Renaissance man, Josh explored an extensive array of artistic endeavors, ranging from chainmail creation, blacksmithing, charcoal sketching, photography, and woodworking, including building his own guitars. He and his wife Jenny enjoyed spending time together, whether outdoors or at home, watching movies.

Josh leaves behind cherished memories with his wife, Jenny; his father, Dr. Daniel B. Penner, and stepmother, Carol Penner; his sister, Chavah Johnson (John); his stepbrother, Brian Waddell; his brother-in-law, Jeff Dickey; and his nephews, Eli, Sam, and Austin. He was predeceased by his mother, Virginia Penner.

A funeral service was held December 8 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial at The Temple Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Francis Parker High School Music Fund, honoring Josh's enduring legacy and love for music.



Stuart H. Robenson

Stuart H. Robenson, 79, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away on December 15, 2024.

Stuart was the loving husband of Nancy Robenson

and the proud father of Jeff (Kim) and Todd (Julie). He was the devoted son of Esther and Ben Robenson and son-in-law of Emanuel "Manny" and Ruth Weinstock, all of whom are deceased. Stuart was the adoring grandfather of Kyle Robenson and Owen and Olivia Robenson, as well as the brother-in-law of Judy Weinstock. Stuart is lovingly remembered by his family members and many friends, colleagues, and clients.

As a teen, Stuart worked at his father's grocery store and was active in BBYO as a member of the Resnick AZA club. Stuart attended and graduated from Seneca High School in Louisville and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Stuart spent his childhood and early adult years as a congregant of Keneseth Israel Congregation. Following Keneseth, he spent the rest of his life as an active, proud member of The Temple, where he also served on the Board of Trustees. He enjoyed his career as a Certified Public Accountant, most recently at Welenken CPAs, where he was the managing partner for many years and contributed to the firm's growth and success for more than 40 years. Prior to working at Welenken, Stuart worked as a Controller for Chase Barlow Lumber Company and Peterson Electric.

Stuart was a lifelong fan of the Louisville Cardinals and later came to appreciate and enjoy the success of the Kentucky Wildcats and Indiana Hoosiers when his sons attended those universities. In his free time, Stuart enjoyed boating, fishing, working in the yard, and spending time with family and friends.

Stuart maintained friendships from all stages of his life and, more than anything, was known by all he knew and touched as an incredibly kind and gentle soul.

Funeral services were December 18 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial at The Temple Cemetery.

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GLOBE

On a mission to Auschwitz, I found hope amid the ashes

By William C. Daroff
JTA

Last month, I returned to Poland for my fifth visit, this time as part of the European Jewish Association's annual mission to Auschwitz. The gathering brought together Jewish and non-Jewish leaders from across Europe and beyond, united by the urgency to confront rising antisemitism and the shared challenges of our time.

I laid a wreath at Birkenau — a somber reminder of the atrocities our people endured and a call to action against the resurgence of hatred today — and I was honored to give the keynote address.

Krakow has always been a city of profound historical and personal significance to me. Nearly 30 summers ago, between my undergraduate and graduate studies in the U.S., I first walked its streets as a student at Jagiellonian University, delving into the history of Eastern European Jewry and the Holocaust. Living just down the hall from me in the dormitory was Heidi, a graduate student at NYU I did not yet know but who would soon become my wife. Our shared experiences in Krakow formed the foundation of our life together. Returning to this city now, decades later — having raised two daughters who for me symbolize Jewish resilience and continuity — reminds me of the miracle of our survival.

I visited Krakow again to work on Jewish-Polish reconciliation and yet again in

2022, in the early days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, when the shadow of war once again loomed over Europe. But this time, my return was marked by a different crisis: the resurgence of antisemitism, fueled by the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in Israel and violent acts like the recent attacks on Jews in Amsterdam after a soccer match.

The parallels between the past and present are stark and chilling. Standing in Krakow, just weeks after Jews were hunted in the streets of Amsterdam, I could not help but reflect on the 86th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Then, as now, hatred unchecked has spiraled into violence. That history has left us with scars, but also with lessons to be learned — first and foremost that we cannot remain passive in the face of such threats. There are other lessons as well:

From mourning to mobilization: Oct. 7 marked the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. The slaughter of 1,200 Israelis — most of them civilians engaged in mundane, life-affirming acts — was a shattering moment for our community. Yet the horror did not end there. The massacre was celebrated in Western capitals, with protests erupting in support of Hamas's barbarity. Social media amplified the vitriol, emboldening antisemites to bring their hatred into the public square.

Amidst this darkness, however, we have witnessed extraordinary resilience. Across the Diaspora, Jewish communities are ris-

ing to meet this moment. In the United States, synagogues are fuller; Jewish symbols are more visible, and advocacy has reached unprecedented levels. These are not mere reactions to trauma but acts of defiance and pride.

I've seen this firsthand in the mobilization of Jewish advocacy groups at school boards, city councils, and Congress. This grassroots activism is making a tangible difference, from securing protections for Jewish students on campuses to advancing the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism in state legislatures. These efforts demonstrate that enduring is not a passive act — it is a proactive, determined stance against those who seek to harm us.

Unity and self-defense: The Holocaust and Oct. 7 remind us of the perils of statelessness and the necessity of a strong, secure Israel. The State of Israel is an indispensable guarantor of Jewish safety. Its ability to defend itself and to serve as a refuge for Jews worldwide is central to our collective strength.

But this moment also demands unity. The divisions that occasionally splinter Jewish communities must be set aside in the face of existential threats. From the exiles of antiquity to the pogroms of the shtetl, from the Holocaust to the atrocities of Oct. 7, history has shown that Jewish survival depends on our ability to stand together.

Hope amid the ashes: To return to Krakow, a place steeped in Jewish history and scarred by unspeakable horrors, is to con-



The author, right, and Dumisani Washington, CEO of the Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel, lay a wreath in memory of the Jewish victims at Birkenau, Nov. 26, 2024. (Courtesy)

front both the depths of our suffering and the heights of our resilience. As I stood at Birkenau, I was reminded of the enduring spirit of our people. We are here. We endure. And we will not be cowed.

But hope alone is not enough. It must be paired with action — political advocacy, education and the relentless pursuit of justice. Our history is one of perseverance and progress. We have faced darker days and emerged stronger. As I reflect on the mission to Krakow and the work that still lies ahead, I am inspired by the unity and determination of our community. Let us ensure that this moment of reckoning becomes a turning point for global Jewry — a moment when we not only endured but rose to build a stronger, safer future.

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

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GLOBE

Meet Yaniv Bazini, the Israeli forward who propelled U of Vermont to its first soccer championship

By Jacob Gurvis
JTA

Yaniv Bazini scored 14 goals for the University of Vermont's Division I soccer team this season, making him one of the top scorers in the entire country. But on the eve of the championship game, he was still thinking about one particular goal from well over a year ago.

It was Oct. 14, 2023, and UVM was leading Binghamton University 4-0 late in the game — their second contest since the brutal Hamas attack on Bazini's native Israel only one week prior. Bazini suited up on Oct. 7, but he was, understandably, distracted.

One week later, he scored his first goal since the attack, in which Hamas killed 1,200 and took 250 hostage. After netting UVM's fifth goal of the 5-0 win, Bazini ran to the sideline, grabbed an Israeli flag, and draped it across his back.

"When everything happened in Israel a year ago, I said, well, I won't really help if I come back to Israel, but I can be the best ambassador, and to show people the real face [of Israel], not the one that they see in the social media," Bazini, 25, said in an interview on Monday.

He was speaking just hours before taking the field as UVM faced Mar-

shall University in the NCAA DI soccer championship. It was UVM's first-ever appearance in the College Cup Finals.

"Everybody has such a great energy and attitude towards what we want, and the same goal," Bazini said. "Every game, we take it one at a time, and that's why we got here."

The Catamounts eked out the win, 2-1, nabbing the national title. They wouldn't have made it to the finals without their Israeli forward, who clutched an Israeli flag during his turn with the championship trophy.

Bazini's 14 goals this season were a team high, and he scored in six of UVM's seven postseason games, including a clutch game-tying goal in Vermont's semifinal win over Denver on Friday. He narrowly missed his attempts on the goal on Monday.

Bazini, a senior, was named to the America East All-Conference First Team in 2023 and 2024, and the All-Tournament Team this season. His 30 points this season tied for third-most in program history, and he ended the season just one goal away from tying the single-season goal record of 15.

Bazini was born in Ness Ziona in central Israel and moved to the United States after his military service to pursue soccer. He played one season at North Carolina State University before transferring to UVM for the 2022 sea-



Yaniv Bazini celebrates after the 2024 Division I semifinals, Dec. 13, 2024, in Cary, North Carolina. (Anthony Sorbellini/NCAA Photos via Getty Images)

son. Bazini said he was drawn to UVM because of the soccer program and its staff. He's the only Jewish player on the team and has been pleasantly surprised by the outpouring of support he's received in Burlington, where he's been involved with the campus Chabad.

"I did not know that there are so many Jewish people in Burlington," he said. "Before I came here, I said, well, I'm going to a kind of small place, so I know that most of the Jews are in the

big cities. So I did not expect to have [this community], but such a great community."

It hasn't been an easy few years to be Israeli in Burlington, or at the University of Vermont. The City Council came close to becoming the first in the United States to boycott Israel, pulling a resolution in 2021 amid allegations of antisemitism. This year, the council narrowly blocked a citizen-led initiative to declare Burlington an

Continued on page 26



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GLOBE

Continued from page 25

“apartheid-free community,” a protest against the current war. (The city was also the site of a shooting of three Palestinian students in an apparent hate crime one year ago.) Before the current war, the university drew criticism for permitting an allegedly antisemitic climate, in part over its handling of anti-Israel protest; it agreed in April 2023 to do more to protect Jewish students from antisemitism.

On Monday night, as Bazini and his teammates competed in North Carolina, the Burlington City Council again debated the “apartheid-free community” ballot measure. It failed to advance after the 10 council members present split on whether to permit it; the five who supported it all wore keffiyehs, the scarves that have become a symbol of pro-Palestinian solidarity.

“It’s hard to see that people are ignorant and just antisemitic, or just going with something that is not right, just to be part of something,” Bazini said about the general climate in Burlington. “So it is sad and frustrating, but I think throughout the year and a half that it’s going on, I grew up and understood that it’s a waste of time to talk with them or to deal with that.”

He continued: “You kind of understand that there are those people in the world, and you will never understand it, and you just kind of need to try to do the best to show the face of the reality of Israel or the Jews, or whoever it is, because it is a good face.”

Bazini echoed a sentiment that many Israelis have expressed about Oct. 7: that it feels like it never ended.

“It makes you take everything in perspective,” he said. “And it took me a while to play like myself, and it’s hard until today. You still read the news every day, and you’re still in it, so it’s the same day since Oct. 7.”

Bazini represented the U.S. team at the 2023 Pan American Maccabi Games in Argentina. Preston Goldfarb, who coached the team, has high praise for Bazini.

“I have had some outstanding strikers and players over my 52-year career in soccer, but Yaniv is without question one of the purest strikers and most complete players I have been honored and privileged to coach and to remain close with,” Goldfarb said through a Maccabi USA press release.

After helping his team nab the na-

tional title, Bazini is aiming to give Israelis something else to be proud about this week. The MLS, America’s professional soccer league, holds its player draft on Friday, and Bazini is hoping to hear his name called. If he’s not chosen, Bazini plans to pursue professional soccer elsewhere, possibly in Europe or Israel.

If he joins the MLS, Bazini would be at least the third Israeli player currently in the league, joining the Philadelphia Union’s Tai Baribo and Charlotte F.C.’s Liel Abada. Bazini doesn’t take the opportunity to represent Jews and Israelis lightly.

“It means everything,” he said. “I got so many messages in the past couple days of kids that are impacted, and not only my soccer, but how I show that I’m Jewish and not afraid of it. By doing ‘Shema Yisrael’ at every beginning of the game or halftime, or every time I score, every time to thank God.”

“I impacted a lot of people, and I’m happy that I’ll be in a bigger stage, that I can impact even more people and give them the power not to hide their identity,” he added.

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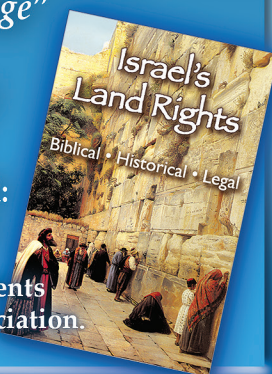
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GLOBE

Massad Boulos, Trump's new Middle East adviser, touts roadmap to Palestinian state

By Ron Kampeas
JTA

Massad Boulos, President-elect Donald Trump's advisor on Middle Eastern and Arab affairs, said that the United States would have to discuss laying out a "roadmap" to Palestinian statehood if it hopes to establish relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi officials have long made it known that they would not establish ties with Israel absent progress toward a Palestinian state. But for Boulos — a Lebanese-American businessman and the father-in-law of Trump's daughter Tiffany — to emphasize the point is significant because other Trump appointees, in addition to Trump himself, are seen as close to the Israeli right, which rejects Palestinian statehood.

"I think the issue of a roadmap that would lead to a Palestinian state is an important part of the discussions between the United States and Saudi Arabia," Boulos said in a wide-ranging interview last week with *Le Point*, a French magazine. "It is certainly a very important point."

Boulos, 53, framed the focus on Palestinian statehood in terms of expanding the Abraham Accords, the 2020 normalization agreements between Israel and four Arab countries that were Trump's signature foreign policy achievement in his first term.

Trump has spoken repeatedly about expanding the Abraham Accords. In the in-

terview, Boulos said that many additional countries would initiate ties with Israel if Saudi Arabia did so.

"It is important to remember that Saudi Arabia is not demanding the creation of a Palestinian state today, but it is asking for a vision and a road map for it, that's all," he said. "Today, the president's priority is to resume discussions on the Abraham Accords, with, of course, Saudi Arabia first. Because we know very well, and the president has said it, that once we agree with Saudi Arabia on Israel, there will be at least 12 Arab countries that will be immediately ready to follow suit."

It's not clear how much influence Boulos will have with Trump. Another relative, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, spearheaded the Abraham Accords in Trump's first term in addition to taking point on a wide range of other issues. Boulos had campaigned for Trump in Michigan, which has a large Arab-American population and which the president-elect won.

"Massad is an accomplished lawyer and a highly respected leader in the business world, with extensive experience on the International scene," Trump said when announcing Boulos' position on Truth Social, the platform Trump owns. "He has been a longtime proponent of Republican and Conservative values, an asset to my Campaign, and was instrumental in building tremendous new coalitions with the Arab American Community. Massad is a dealmaker, and an unwavering sup-

porter of PEACE in the Middle East."

Before Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, launching Israel's multi-front war, a deal with Saudi Arabia was also a primary goal of President Joe Biden as well as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But Netanyahu opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state, and has doubled down on that position since the Oct. 7 attack. Most Israelis also oppose Palestinian statehood.

Also opposed to a Palestinian state is Mike Huckabee, Trump's pick for ambassador to Israel, who supports Israel perpetually controlling the West Bank, which would preclude Palestinian statehood. Trump's former ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, also supports Israel's West Bank settlements.

Trump has also named pro-Israel hawks to other key positions, including Florida Rep. Mike Waltz as national security adviser; Rep. Elise Stefanik as United Nations ambassador; Fox News pundit Pete Hegseth as defense secretary, and Marco Rubio as secretary of state.

Boulos would not address calls from far-right figures in Netanyahu's coalition to annex the West Bank, but said that as of Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20 there would be a "very clear and precise policy on this issue, and one that must be respected."

Before the Abraham Accords were signed, Trump had proposed a peace plan that would have seen expanded Palestin-

ian autonomy in the West Bank — though Israeli settlements would have remained in place and Israel would have security control over the entire area.

Palestinian leaders immediately rejected the proposal because it stopped short of giving them statehood — but Boulos feels that it was tantamount to endorsing a Palestinian state.

"If you look at the plan that was proposed in 2020 by President Trump, it spoke very clearly about an eventual Palestinian state," he said.

On Iran, Boulos echoed Trump in saying there should be a new nuclear deal to replace the one Trump pulled out of in 2018 at Netanyahu's behest. Boulos also noted that Trump has not spoken of regime change in Iran. "He has not spoken about regime change, but only about a nuclear deal, and that he is ready to negotiate with the current regime," he said.

Boulos was careful in the interview, repeatedly saying that he did not want to say too much before Trump assumed office, invoking the belief that the United States should have only one president at a time. That marked a contrast with Trump, who is already conducting an aggressive foreign policy.

"As you well know, we are still in the transition period and we don't really have the right to interfere in U.S. foreign policy, as long as the Biden administration is still in power and guides American diplomacy," Boulos said.



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