

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

BBYO Sports Reunion

SEE PAGE 9

FRIDAY Vol. 51, No. 10 | October 31, 2025 | 9 Cheshvan 5786

Hostages come home and a banner comes down

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Two years ago – just days after the horrific events of October 7, 2023 – a large banner was put up on one side of the Weisberg Family Lobby at the Trager Family JCC. Bearing the names of the 251 hostages Hamas abducted into Gaza, the banner remained standing as days turned into weeks, weeks turned into months, and months turned into years. As long as hostages remained trapped in Hamas's dank, dark tunnels, so would that display of names. It would come down only after all the hostages were liberated and reunited with their families.

On Monday, October 13, 2025, liberation day finally arrived. By then a mere 20 hostages were still alive, with 13 who perished in captivity still somewhere in Gaza. With great relief and rejoicing, tempered by the residual anguish brought on by the murderous events of October 7 and the subsequent two years of deadly conflict, the survivors crossed the border back into Israel.

Here in Louisville, as the annual run of Jewish holidays was nearing its close, there were similar scenes of

thanksgiving. And on Monday, October 20 – exactly one week after the living hostages gained their freedom – the banner that had stood silently for so long was at long last taken down.

A few dozen people gathered for an early-afternoon ceremony, participants in a collective expression of elation, relief and gratitude. It began with re-

marks from Rona and Yael, our young Israeli ShinShinim, who read aloud Aharon Bass's poem, "New Creation".

"It says that it's our duty to recreate ourselves each and every day," Rona said, "from the depths of chaos, from fragments gathered, from tears that have fallen into a world of renewal, of hopeful anticipation for what lies ahead without forgetting the past – yet always looking toward the future, a future that will and must be better. So, this poem talks about new creation and how – especially as Jewish people



– we have to regrow all the time from hard times...because without that and without our spirit, we wouldn't be so strong."

"Over the past two years, it's been tough to feel like we've been able to keep our feet solidly on the ground," said Rabbi Ben Freed of Keneseth Israel Congregation. "And I think that one of the things we're doing today – and it's so beautiful that we're doing it here as a community – is marking this moment, which is both a very Jewish

See **COMING HOME** on page 4

From the Louisville Ballet stage to the classroom: An innovative study guide encourages new ways of thinking about the Holocaust

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Art is a powerful tool that can be used when exploring difficult subject matter in the classroom, representing the human condition and the world in ways that are nuanced and deeply impactful. As a uni-

See **STUDY GUIDE** on page 16

With 135 years of Louisville's Jewish narrative behind it, the Trager Family JCC's History Wall gives memory a new vision

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

How do you encapsulate 135 years of Jewish life in Louisville? How do you trace the line extending from the Young Men's Hebrew Association of 1890 to the Trager Family JCC of 2025? How do you honor the past while looking ahead to the future?

Answer: You take an ordinary expanse of white façade, cover it with artfully designed geometric figures enclosing photographs from three different centuries, and install three flatscreen monitors displaying images plucked out of the city's most comprehensive and enduring archive.

You have invoked the power of memory. You have created a History Wall.

The History Wall owes its existence to support from the Legacy Foundation of Kentuckiana and the Jewish Heritage Fund, and from the curatorial expertise of the Filson Historical Society, which houses thousands of photographs representing Louisville's rich Jewish narrative.

Located just behind the Dennis & Judith

Hummel Family Gallery space, the Trager Family JCC History Wall invites viewers to pause and consider how Louisville Jews transformed bricks and mortar into gathering places that would resonate for life-time.

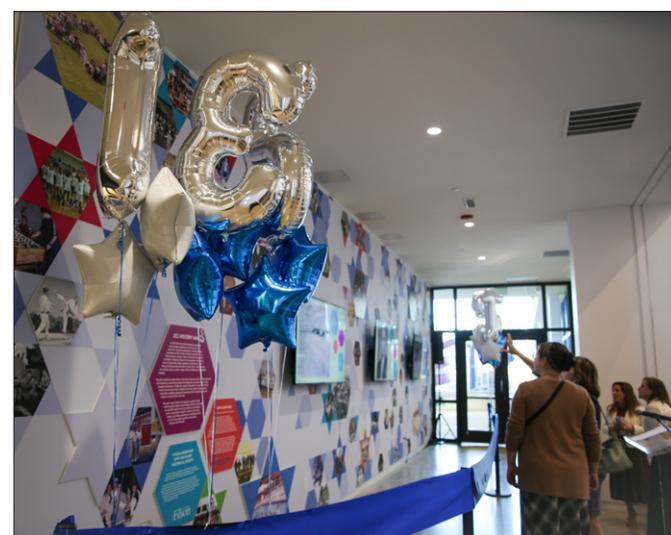
"Welcome everyone and thank you for being here to celebrate the new History Wall, which represents generations of memories, friends and love," Beth Salamon, board chair of the Jewish Community of Louisville, told guests and staff at the Wall's Oct. 21 dedication ceremony. "I want to thank all of our donors, sponsors, leaders, members and staff who have supported Jewish life here in Louisville."

Chan Kemper, who was recently named Deputy Mayor for Law and Compliance in Mayor Craig Greenberg's administration, spoke about her personal connection to the Trager Family JCC.

"Long before I became Jewish by choice, I spent time coming here for events, seeing friends, and feeling a part of something bigger," she said. "This center has been a fixture not only in my life, but

in the life of our city. For 135 years, the Jewish community of Louisville has created a place to gather and to worship and to care for one another. What began with the Young Men's Hebrew Association has grown into a vibrant Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville – a cornerstone of our civic and cultural fabric.

"The new History Wall that is dedicated today captures this story, not only in photographs and names, but in the lives behind them. On behalf of the mayor's office, and that includes our Jewish community," Kemper said. "The mayor often says that our city's strength is our diversity. And nowhere is that more evident than here at the JCC. We're saying that Jewish life will continue to flourish here,



openly and proudly, for the next 135 years and beyond."

Strong connections also bond the Trager Family JCC – and its former incarnation – to the Legacy Foundation of Kentuckiana.

See **HISTORY WALL** on page 18

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THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

On the (Jewish) Road Again



D'var Torah

Rabbi
Scott Hoffman

Between 2018 and 2025, I moved from Long Island to suburban Philadelphia, then to suburban D.C., then to New Orleans, then back to suburban D.C. before arriving in Louisville in May. I've learned to make the best of my peripatetic lifestyle, but while it's posed challenges, it's also afforded me a unique set of opportunities which I am grateful to have enjoyed. When I open my chumash this Shabbat to portion *Lech Lecha*, where we read about the journeys of Abraham and Sarah, I can certainly relate to the hardships they faced, while appreciating that their wanderings were considerably more taxing and dangerous than my own.

Abraham is told to leave his country, birthplace and father's house for an undisclosed place - we the readers know it will be the land of Israel - along with his wife Sarah and their possessions. To fully appreciate how this must have sounded to ancient ears, imagine leaving a place of high culture for what was likely going to be a dusty backwater, like getting a job transfer from Manhattan, New York to Manhattan, Kansas. Abraham and Sarah were willing to undertake the journey, but one imagines they had some misgivings.

In this commentary to the Torah, Rashi (1040-1105, France) indicates that G-d understood Abraham and Sarah's feelings and therefore offered a threefold reassurance: First, G-d understood that wandering from place to place, then as now, was hardly conducive to family life. The couple hadn't yet been blessed with children, but certainly they longed to become parents and must have worried whether the constant strain of relocation would hamper this. Therefore, Rashi says, G-d reassured Abraham and Sarah that they would become the founders of a great nation - and by implication be blessed with children.

Second, anytime you move from one place to another, financial loss is a very real possibility. In ancient times, the risks of being

robbed of one's possessions, or of having them destroyed or lost in a storm, were very real. Additionally, any financial success in one place would likely have to be sacrificed if you moved away. Therefore G-d made a second promise to Abraham and Sarah that He would protect them financially. And that is precisely what happened, as by the end of his life Abraham had acquired considerable wealth.

Finally, though it may not have been at the front of their minds, G-d promised Abraham and Sarah that being nomadic wouldn't decrease their blessing to the world, but paradoxically, would increase it. During my years as an interim rabbi, the highest compliment I received was that my various stints of service enabled me to help four congregations address pressing issues, rather than only a single congregation. The same held for Abraham and Sarah, for by introducing the populations of multiple locations the tenets of monotheism, they helped to spread a desperately needed message to a pagan world. The risks associated with being nomadic were more than made up for by the long-term rewards of increasing human understanding of G-d's presence in the world.

My years of relocating every two years were stressful and challenging. They were also, in all candor, highly rewarding. And best of all, I knew I was walking in the path blazed for me by Abraham and Sarah at the very birth of our faith.

What could be more authentically Jewish than that?

Scott Hoffman is Rabbi of Congregation Adatah Jeshurun

Snapshots



Congratulations to newlyweds, Bud Waski and Wanda Bohannon. They met through the AgeWell program at the Trager Family JCC, and were engaged earlier this year. Bud and Wanda tied the knot this October and chose to host a special lunch with their AgeWell friends catered by Chef Helen Impellizeri as a reception, complete with a beautiful black forest cherry cake to celebrate.

Candles

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

- November 7 @ 5:19 p.m.
- November 14 @ 5:13 p.m.
- November 21 @ 5:09 p.m.
- November 28 @ 5:06 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, November 17** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on **Friday, November 28**.

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

Read Community Everywhere...

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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.

Corrections/Clarifications

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

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*As of October 20, 2025

NEWS

COMING HOME

Continued from page 1

and a very Israeli thing to do.”

Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC, observed that “we’ve been open for about 41 months in this building, and for more than half of it, the banner with 251 names of hostages has been part of who we are. And as Rabbi said, we are taking a moment to acknowledge that our lobby is changing, the heart of our JCC is changing, and that our hearts have been torn for two years.”

Now those torn hearts may finally begin to heal.

*Silence is surrounding
And if you were listening
Maybe, maybe, maybe
You're coming and walking toward me.
Because my song is a gust in the wind
My open window
My source of strength, laughter, and tears
End of my suffering.*

(From a song by Shalom Chanoch, which liberated hostage Alon Ohel wrote on a whiteboard as a helicopter flew him from Gaza to Israel.)

With the release of these 20 living hostages still fresh in our minds, we asked several people – here and in Israel – to share their thoughts on the hostages’ liberation and what might lie ahead. Here’s some of what they said:



Ory Rosin

Ory Rosin, Director of Partnership2Gether Western Galilee Region, who lives in the northern Israeli city of Akko

As I sit down to write about the situation in Israel for your newspaper, I am at my home in

the Galilee, having just returned with my family from a festive ceremony in Lavon village, to which the released hostage Alon Ohel is returning these days. I do not presume to analyze the situation or predict what lies ahead, so I will simply share here some thoughts and feelings from these recent days.

The atmosphere in Israel is celebratory these days. The return of the hostages is something we fought for for over two years through various means, trying to convince decision-makers that no price is too high for saving human lives. We are still in the midst of the first phase of the deal that [envoys Steve] Witkoff and [Jared] Kushner led to end the war in Gaza. We hope that the second phase will also come and the war will indeed end. We hope that Gaza too will receive a “Marshall Plan” that will uproot the hatred and jihadist ideology.

Soon the festive atmosphere will be replaced by necessary healing and rehabilitation processes in Israel, primarily in the border communities in the north and the Gaza envelope, but also throughout Israeli society at large.

The Galilee is already quiet and calm, and the sense of security has returned. We hope that the international agreements led by envoy Amos Hochstein will indeed be enforced and Hezbollah will be disarmed under American supervision. Still, my children occasionally ask where the safe room is in places we visit and “what will we do if there’s an alarm?” when we’re spending time in nature. The psychological healing processes will still take a long time.

While many external threats have been removed, it appears that the internal threat - the one within Israeli society - has become sharper. This is perhaps the greatest concern in these post-war days. The current government has already announced its intention to continue legislation for systemic changes while avoiding the appointment of a state commission of inquiry to investigate the events of October 7th. The political-social polarization continues to grow. This we will need to deal with ourselves, and there is no foreign administration that can help.



Michelle Elisburg

Michelle Elisburg, Louisville pediatrician and president of the Louisville Chapter of Hadassah

From the first of my three trips to Israel since the war started, I have maintained this dichotomy of joy and sorrow, hope and

November of 2023 helped make it clear that there is joy in a broken heart, and it is not only possible but imperative to hold these opposing emotions at the same time. Ultimately, Jewish Joy is how we resist. I will not remove my hostage tag or flag outside my home until the last hostage’s remains are returned. These families deserve to bury their family members with dignity and have closure in accordance with their Jewish, Thai and Tanzanian customs: Leave No One Behind.

I am leery of how this will ever really end; we can see that it didn’t take long for Hamas to break the ceasefire. I don’t trust that the U.S. can simply will peace into being. You can’t just “build it and they will come.” Like many good ideas, the details of implementation are absent.

Will the peace partners pony up to stop Hamas? Is it a good idea to support the anti-Hamas gangs, who are violent in their own way? It feels as though we’re in the Game of Thrones and Winter is Coming – when all the hostile forces formed an alliance to fight their common enemy and then went back to hating each other. I do know there are allies and people like Bassam Eid and Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib who are Palestinians who support Israel while also criticizing many of its government’s policies. If we could identify more people like this to have dialogue, then there is hope for the future. Ultimately, it’s Leonard Cohen and Kabbalah – the cracks are how the light gets in.

fear. The Momentum Unity Mission in

Continued on page 5

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NEWS

Continued from page 4



Rabbi Ben Freed

Rabbi Ben Freed of Keneseth Israel Congregation

Obviously, things continue to be in flux, but here are my thoughts as of right now: It is a time of fragile hope and optimism, but that's more than we've had for going on two years now. Just as we sat in sukkot last week, we pray that the sukkah of peace that has spread over the region will not be blown away by winds of hatred, intolerance, and violence. I pray and hope that the current ceasefire will transform into the seeds of a peace that will allow all who live in the land of Israel and Gaza to live in safety, security, and dignity. I am not a prophet and cannot tell the future, so I do not try to say with any surety what will happen, I simply echo the words of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion: "In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles."

David Y. Chack, Founding Producing Artistic Director of ShPIeL-Performing Identity Theatre

I am euphoric over the release of the Israeli hostages, and I hope for negotiations, so that something of value will emerge after this horror for both Israelis and Palestinians. I also believe as Jews we must continue to support an Israel



David Y. Chack

with democratic values and policies.

Another concern I see, as a Jewish theater-maker, and Holocaust and Jewish educator, is how stories are a powerful tool for definition. Our story in America has been one of incredible achievements. Jews have been leaders in seeking freedoms, equal rights, diversity, medical and scientific advances, in culture and the arts, and more.

Yet a new story may be introduced, as a result of this ceasefire that may divide us. Rifts among Jews and from outside the Jewish community, will create conflicts and may even lead some to question, not just Jewish values, but the value of being a Jew. My touchstones are the great Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Nobel Prize Laureate, Elie Wiesel. They believed that to live as a Jew is not to be a better Jew, but to be a better human being.

Ranen Omer-Sherman, Jewish Heritage Fund Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies at the University of Louisville

This was indeed a day of euphoria and the kind of collective celebration that so rarely unifies Israel and indeed the Jewish world these days. Israelis who tirelessly protested for a ceasefire for over two years deserve our gratitude.

Now it is more urgent than ever that



Ranen Omer-Sherman

we all press for a better future. It is an unprecedented historical opportunity, and we must seize the day. We must not surrender to the Kahanist settlers' fantasy of removing Palestinians from Gaza, Palestinians must renounce Hamas,

and we must instead must vigorously support the two-state solution which remains the only alternative to both Hamas and Netanyahu's cynical vision of eternal war.

I do think we must also consider the Palestinians released and especially those who weren't. I'm thinking of Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti, who Israel [has] refused to release. I mention this because Barghouti, serving a life-sentence on terrorism charges, has long accepted the necessity of coexistence and a two-state solution and is widely regarded by many Israelis and Palestinians alike as the potential Palestinian Nelson Mandela, a voice of reason and a credible leader for a future, more peaceful Middle East.

Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple, who grew up in Israel

We celebrated Simchat Torah this week, and what a special and joyous Simchat Torah it was! Monday morning, beginning at 1 a.m. in Louisville, which is 8 a.m. in Israel, until the last of the hostages returned, was one of the happi-



Rabbi David Ariel-Joel

est days of my life. It was one of the happiest and most special days in the history of anyone who feels part of the Jewish people, and indeed for anyone who lives in Israel. After two extremely difficult years, there was suddenly a

sense that we could start breathing again. A collective day when the entire Israeli society, the Jewish community, and so many of us were glued to the media throughout the day, looking forward to this joyful event. After living with the pain for so long, we can finally rejoice!

Redeeming captives is a deeply rooted Jewish value. Maimonides declared, "There is no greater commandment than the redemption of captives". There was a struggle here—weekly demonstrations for two years. And the people succeeded. The people managed to bring them back. To be Jewish is to belong to a people. Our religion, our tradition, is built on belonging. And it was a day of belonging in the strongest sense possible.

The crucial human challenge we face today is restoring trust in humanity, because only on this basis can we build a life in which humans will thrive. Trust in humanity will allow us to create a life of Shalom, for ourselves, our children, and our children's children.

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COMMUNITY

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FORUM



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Mindful Ramblings: From Rabbi Arthur Waskow, a shared moment of Jewish joy



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

I'm casting my thoughts back 28 years, when my then-fiancée and I were fledgling members of Congregation Adath Jeshurun. AJ would soon be embarking on its annual retreat in the Indiana countryside, and people I barely knew were urging us to attend.

Frankly, I thought the idea was ludicrous. Congregational retreats were for veteran True Believers, the ones who attended synagogue every Shabbat morning, arriving early enough to recite the preliminary prayers, casting exasperated looks at whomever who dared trickle in just before start of the Torah service. We had no business spending Friday night through Sunday afternoon in the close company of relative strangers, confined to an austere lodge in the Hoosier boonies.

No, no, our new shul-mates insisted – the annual retreat was something remarkable, a prime means of experiencing an authentic, distraction-free Shabbat weekend. Besides, the guest scholars would be Rabbi Arthur Waskow and his wife, Rabbi Phyllis Berman.

Rabbi Waskow died this past October 20 at the age of 92. When I learned that he had passed away, all I could think about was encountering him during that long-past AJ retreat.

I'd known of him vaguely: a hyper-progressive celebrated (and more than occasionally denigrated) for his unabashedly liberal, Earth-centered sensibilities. As the founder of Philadelphia's Shalom Center, he literally embraced the imperative of seeking peace, while never shrinking from the parallel necessity to confront perceived injustice wherever he found it.

At our retreat, Waskow spoke at length about these subjects and much more, referring to various books he had written, including his celebrated take on the Passover Haggadah, "The Freedom Seder." But what I remember most vividly about this weekend was when we gathered outdoors for Havdalah – the ceremony that marks the transition from Shabbat to the prosaic reality of work week.

Cantor David Lipp had finished chanting the traditional prayer when Waskow, who was standing a few feet away, walked over; put his arms around me for an encompassing hug, and planted a gentle kiss on my forehead.

It was at that instant when, for what may have been the first time in my life, I tapped into the unfettered joy of my personal Judaism. There was something about the purity of spiritual love that Waskow communicated with that hug and kiss that affected me profoundly. I truly appreciated the residence of my faith, a pathway into that touched what I can only describe as my fundamental soul.

I need to be careful, because I'm probably sounding as though I am wallowing in a kind of silly here to invoke the mystery of the universe, a sensation that the cosmos was ringing, yet that's more or less what coursed through me at that particular mo-

ment.

Indeed, I had only just begun my inquiry into normative Jewish observance, prompted by the anticipation that parenthood was looming on the not so distant horizon. Our yet to be conceived children needed their parents to demonstrate a specific connection to being Jewish. I had few signposts to hang onto. I'd always *felt* Jewish, but seldom *embraced* what could be called a genuine manifestation of interior faith.

Perhaps the fact that I grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, as Jewish an environment as one could possibly imagine, that I had become lazy when it came to matters of spiritual identity. It was easy – too easy, really – to call myself Jewish what almost everyone and everything in my circle was steeped in Judaism of one sort or another. The happenstance of circumstance was sufficient.

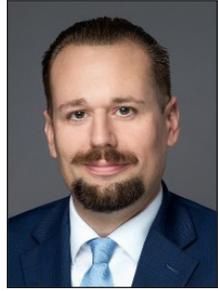
One could say that the distance between West 86th Street and the Indiana countryside could hardly have been more profound, geographically and otherwise. Almost certainly, the several dozen of our *retreatniks* constituted the greatest number of Jews that had ever occupied a single spot in that particular county.

Yet this was the place, on that particular evening, where and when my stumbling amid the landscape of faith gave way to unfettered, uncomplicated exultation. I was right where I was supposed to be. Via Arthur Waskow's gentle hug and kiss, I shared a blessing of incalculable worth.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

Questions for the post post-October 7th World



JCRC

Trent
Spoolstra

Like many individuals this past October 9, I was pleasantly surprised to learn of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas and relieved to see footage of the living hostages finally returning home. I join countless others around the world in continuing to hope and pray that the remains of all the hostages that died in captivity are also returned soon. Whether this current ceasefire will in fact hold and bring a new peace to the Middle East or fighting between Israel and her enemies will resume remains to be seen.

Since the announcement of the ceasefire and the return of the hostages, I have wondered what the 'post post-October 7th' world will look like, particularly as it pertains to Middle East politics, antisemitism, and the ongoing hyper-political partisanship of American society. Are there better days ahead, and how will our Jewish community be able to move on from the struggles of the last two years?

Before October 7th, Israel faced continued hostilities from Hamas and Hezbollah as well as Assad-led Syria. Serious plans to directly attack Iran were long a possibility, but viewed as a last resort. Since October 7th and the ensuing war, Israel has crippled both Hamas and Hezbollah, the Assad

regime has fallen, and Iran's nuclear program has been significantly set back. With all this in mind, what does the future hold for Israel's standing in the Middle East?

The surge of antisemitism Jews continue to experience began close to a decade ago, led by such deplorable events as 2017's 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville and the attack on the Tree of Life synagogue a year later in Pittsburgh. The antisemitism that followed the October 7th terrorist attack on Israel was gasoline poured onto an existing wildfire. In the subsequent days and months, American Jews experienced not just traditional right-wing antisemitism, but now a newly energized antisemitism coming from the political far left. The pinnacle of this left-wing antisemitism arrived when numerous college campuses were overwhelmed with encampments, and the word "Zionist" became weaponized. So, will the current level of antisemitism that has plagued America over the last decade (particularly during the last two years) finally recede, or is this current level of antisemitism the new normal?

The increased hyper-partisanship of American politics over the last several years has also had a negative effect on the American Jewish community. The current political environment has made the work of Jewish Community Relations Councils even more challenging given our responsibility to remain nonpartisan and work with both Democrats and Republicans to achieve our goals. The issues of antisemitism and the Israel-Gaza war have been used as political footballs by both parties for their own gains.

Political extremism laced with antisemitism continues to work its way more and more into mainstream politics from both the far left and right. This raises a defining question: Once the war between Israel and Hamas is definitively over and if the current level of antisemitism and hyper-partisanship continues, how will American Jews continue navigating this challenging political atmosphere?

Perhaps the most important issue to consider in the post post-October 7th world is how the Jewish community will heal internal strife. The Israel-Gaza war brought to the surface political differences within our community and caused significant divides that need to be addressed. One way our Louisville Jewish community is addressing this discord is through the Year of Civil Discourse initiative that will begin soon. This project will consist of three parts: First, close to 100 individuals have been selected to go through half-day introductory sessions into constructive dialogue taking place November 11, 12, and December 1. The organization leading these training days is Resetting the Table, a nationally recognized institution that specializes in helping individuals have difficult conversations. Second, select individuals that participate in Part One will receive advanced individual training from Re-

setting the Table. Finally, throughout next year, various community-wide events will be held focusing on topics that have divided our community, and those that received advanced training by Resetting the Table will lead us in facilitated conversations. The Year of Civil Discourse's purpose is not to change people's opinions, but for us to learn to have productive and civil conversations about challenging topics we strongly disagree on. My personal hope is that this initiative will not only help bring our Louisville Jewish community closer together but serve as a model that can be used for other Jewish communities across the country.

It has been a long and difficult two years. I have worked as a Jewish professional since 2021, and the crossroad in my career was and remains October 7th. I hope with the end of the war and the return of the hostages, Jews worldwide will find better days ahead and we can finally put the post October 7th world behind us.

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



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NEWS

Lost Tribe Louisville will celebrate 15 years of klezmer Nov. 2 at Vernon Lanes

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

If a word-association game began with *klezmer*, the next phrase out of any Louisville-acquainted with that genre of celebratory Jewish folk music would likely be *Lost Tribe*.

Established 15 years ago, Lost Tribe Louisville's current membership comprises Mark Perelmutter (clarinet, soprano saxophone and flute), Fran Weinstock (vocals), Aaron Boaz (violin), Aviv Naamani (guitar), Carol Savkovich (concertina) and John Thornberry (bass). They are a happily ubiquitous presence at synagogues, libraries, outdoor stages, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs – anywhere where music from the Old World meets New World sensibilities.

The latest of those eclectic performance venues is Vernon Lanes (1275 Story Ave in Butchertown), where Lost Tribe will mark its 15th anniversary and highlight the release of the ensemble's two latest CDs this coming Sunday, Nov. 2.

"We formed in March 2010, when Aviv was working on the first 'KlezmerFest' at the old JCC, Perelmutter – the group's designated spokesperson – recalled during a recent interview. "We learned four songs to be able to do that."

At the time of that May 2010 performance, the band consisted of only four musicians – but as interest in klezmer grew, so did the band. Perelmutter recalls listening at Temple Shalom while another group was playing, "and this guy sits next to me and – not realizing I was going to be one of the musicians – asked if I knew of any local klezmer bands that might be interested in a violinist."

That guy was Boaz, who'd become one of Louisville's busiest, most highly regarded freelance classical string players.

"He told me who he was," Perelmutter said, "and that he had played in the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band in Chicago, which is a very famous klezmer band. He'd just moved to Louisville and was looking to get into another klezmer band, so eventually we brought him on board."

Perelmutter wasn't a career musician – a graduate of the University of Louisville's dental school, he was a partner in a thriving orthodontics practice who'd studied clarinet as a teenager. The klezmer bug bit him in 1993, when the Klezmatics, the best-known klezmer band in the country, played a concert at the JCC.

"That was kind of the beginning of the klezmer revival, in the mid-1980s and 1990s," he said. "That's what turned me on to klezmer music."

"I hadn't played much music while I was raising my kids," he said, "but as they were getting older, I started getting into it a little bit more. I got a klezmer book and a CD and began learning how to play" in that style, unaware that Savkovich, Naamani and Weinstock had already formed the core of what would become the expanded Lost Tribe. "The next thing you know, they were asking me to join their band."

Rooted in 19th and early 20th-century Eastern European secular Jewish music, klezmer (the word is derived from the Hebrew phrase "*kli zemer*," which translates to "instrument of the voice") instantly recognizable with its wailing clarinet and an energy that makes anyone listening want to sway, smile and dance. Its Yiddish aesthetic is exemplified by such standards as "Bei Mir Bistu Shein" ("To Me You're Beautiful"), composed in 1932 for a musical titled "Men Ken Lebn Nor Men Lost Nisht" – roughly, "You could live, but they don't let you."

The song became one of the first great crossover numbers, made famous in a version sung by the fledgling Andrews Sisters in 1937. Their cover confirmed what remains true today: You don't have to be Jewish to love klezmer ("We played in Bardstown Road Presbyterian church a number of years ago," Perelmutter said).

Lost Tribe has recorded its own take on "Bei Mir Bistu Shein," alongside an abundance of lesser known (and virtually unknown) examples of klezmer repertoire (cue "Yidl Mit'n Fiddle"). The band has also recorded klezmer arrangements of such liturgical songs as "L'cha Dodi," sung Friday nights as part of the Kabbalat Shabbat service (you can hear all three of these performances on Lost Tribe's 2013 album, "Beyond the Sambatyon").

The band's members hail from a broad swath of musical backgrounds. "Aaron, of course, is classically trained," Perelmutter said, "but he also has a blues kind of style, as does Aviv – we grew up together as kids, and we were in a jazz group for a short while when we were college-age. John, our bass player, has played rock and bluegrass.

"Carol is a folk music (player) with her concertina," Perelmutter said. "She's also an accomplished recorder player. And Fran comes from the liturgical side – she's sung in choirs probably all her life. I come from



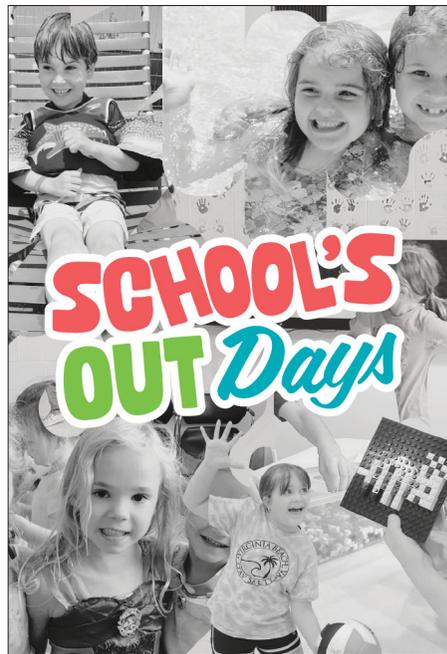
Members of Lost Tribe Louisville (L-R): Aaron Boaz, Mark Perelmutter, Fran Weinstock, Carol Savkovich, Aviv Naamani, and John Thornberry

more of a classical background with my clarinet, but then there's rock and jazz with my saxophone. So (we're) a melding of different styles, which makes our music a little bit more eclectic than straight klezmer."

Why the enduring interest in klezmer, spurred by its revival decades ago? "I think there may have been some nostalgia when baby boomers were growing up," Perelmutter said. "They hadn't really learned Yiddish, because our parents spoke Yiddish when they didn't want us to know what they were talking about, rather

than teaching it to us. The other part was that it was new; it was different."

Though much of Lost Tribe's repertoire reaches back in time, several of its members have composed fresh material for the band. "We are constantly adding new tunes," Perelmutter said. "That makes it fun – How are we going to express this? How are we going to format it? Who's going to take some solos, and what are we going to do in those solos?" So each performance is a little different."



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NEWS

Banner up! The JCC Sports Reunion will include honoring past championship teams Nov. 28 at the Trager Family JCC

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

If there's one passion that united members of the old JCC building, it'd probably be summed up in a single word: Sports.

And those members were pretty good at it, especially the succession of men's basketball teams, which won national JCC championships in 1968 and 1996. They – and winning athletes from such competitions as the JCC Maccabi Games – were honored by having their names affixed to banners raised to the top of the JCC's Large Gym.

These banners will be rededicated and raised once more on the afternoon of Nov. 28, when athletes from recent times to decades past gather for a JCC Sports Reunion at the Trager Family JCC's Goldberg Family Gymnasium. It will be an opportunity to greet old friends and teammates, to recall sweet victories (and a few not-so-sweet defeats), but most of all, to acknowledge how a building could nurture relationships that would endure a lifetime.

And of course, those storied emblems of competitive triumphs.

"This sports reunion is gathering all generations of JCC Basketball players and sports alumni to rededicate the sports banners that hung in the old JCC building in the Large Gym," said organizer Abigail Goldberg, Teen Director/Philanthropy Outreach at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC. Alums of BBYO are also invited. "Basketball isn't the only sport represented. The old JCC hosted such athlet-

ics as softball, tennis, racquetball, fencing, and volleyball. Though they may no longer be played here, their associated memories remain strong."

"Honoring our JCC history and our 135 years of existence, we are telling the stories of important parts of our history," Goldberg said. "Basketball and other sports are a huge part of our story and the generations of people who connected to the JCC through sports leagues and competitions." Additionally, "we are collecting photos, videos, stories, and memorabilia to share during the event."

"I've had several friends who – over the years since the (new) building has gone up – have wanted to know, 'Where are the banners?'" said Evan Rowe, who played on JCC basketball teams during the 1990s.

The old Large Gym loomed large in the lives of JCC athletes.

"For some of those participants, it was their Freedom Hall, their Rupp Arena," Rowe said. He and countless others needed only to glance upward to see the iconography of championship teams hanging from the rafters in silent, majestic tribute.

"We had a track on the upper level, and when I would train, I would see family members of '68, or you knew someone from '76," recalled Rowe, who went on to work for several major league baseball teams. "Everything that I was taught and instilled from everyone at the JCC I took into my own career in athletics."

Jim Goldberg was a member of that 1968 championship squad.

"Growing up in Louisville, I spent all my waking hours at the JCC playing ball," he said. "And when I came back from college (at Indiana University/Bloomington), the first thing I'd do was meet everybody. We'd play basketball for two or three weeks during break."

Goldberg, who now lives in Naples, Florida, has vivid memories of playing the 1968 finals in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Previously, the team had defeated regional rivals from Cincinnati and Detroit, going on to beat a team from New Haven, Connecticut in the national semi-finals.

His Louisville team vanquished a contingent from Brooklyn's Brighton Beach neighborhood. "My recollection was that it was close for a while, and then we kind of ran away with it," he said. When the team returned (via a chartered plane) to Louisville, "there was a big banquet, and they raised the banner in the old gym."

Asked to share specifics of that experience and the banner itself, "I just remember that it was green and white, and had our names on it, including my little brother, Billy, who was the ball boy."

Eight years later in 1976, another championship banner went up in the Large Gym. One of the members of that 1976 JCC team was Mark Behr, whose 1977 squad made it to the national semifinals before losing to a team from New Jersey (he apologized for not remembering who his team beat the year before).

Behr would go on to attend IU, though by then tennis was his principal sport. But his sports cognizance, and many of his most significant friendships, were forged at Louisville's JCC.

"Sports at the JCC is very near and dear to me," he said. "It's one of my true loves, and one of the reasons why I've stayed faithful to the JCC my whole life. I'm sure you've heard this over and over again, but so many people have been touched by the sports department and everything else at the JCC, and at the former YHMA."

Behr and others lauded the contributions of former JCC athletic director Joe Goodman, and Ken Porco, who worked under Goodman before eventually returning to the JCC as Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Director (Porco died this past August 30 at age 87).

"From First Grade on, we would go there for PE after school," Behr said. "Those guys taught us the basic building blocks for proper exercise. But Ken and Joe also instilled in us the importance of a healthy life, and

how to conduct yourself – that winning isn't everything, how to get along with other people, and how to lose gracefully."

Life lessons like these "molded me and tons of other people through the years," Behr said.

Ed Rosen, who served as physical education director at the JCC from 1980 to 1987, spoke about its broad range of sports offerings (which included gymnastics, softball and even fencing), and the busy schedule of club competition.

"To give you an example of how involved everything was at that time, there were four softball fields back where the Center now stands. We had four leagues, 28 teams in a league, a couple of nights a week. It was the hub of activity in this community."

Basketball, though, often occupied pride of place. And the championships weren't confined to the JCC Nationals.

"We developed a JCC team for exceptional players," recalls basketball stalwart Barry Stoler. "Not everybody made the squad, but the good players did. We travelled all over the South and played in what was called the Blumenthal tournament," named after "one of the old-time athletic directors in Atlanta. We flew to Atlanta; we flew to Houston; we flew to Dallas. It was incredible."

Meanwhile, it will soon be banner-up time in the Goldberg Family Gymnasium. "I did a walk-through trying to figure out the best place for them," said Behr, a principal Sports Reunion organizer. Apparently, the banners are in excellent condition.

Behr has been taking the lead encouraging JCC sports alums to attend the Nov. 28 reunion. "I have a list of something like 300 names that were on the banners, so I've been contacting them," he said.

Still, "it's not just a rededication of the banners," Behr emphasized. "It's really about the importance of JCC athletics and sports – for everybody."

"The take-home is how important sports was to us," he said, "and how the JCC allowed us to reach our goals and strengthen our Jewish ties."

The JCC Sports Reunion runs Friday, Nov. 28 from 2-4:30 p.m. in the Goldberg Family Gymnasium. The Reunion will feature "Cocktails, Mocktails, Nosh & Nostalgia, Basketball Challenges & Reunion Photos," with the Banner Rededication slated for 3:30 p.m.

To register, go online at tinyurl.com/5a2bt9fa. If you have any questions, email Abigail Goldberg at agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org

JCC SPORTS REUNION

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PICTURE THIS: MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

The Trager Family JCC celebrated its members with Member Appreciation Week, from October 19-24. Each day included a fun activity including the Fall Family Festival, giveaways, a challah french toast breakfast and more. (Photos by Amy Landon and Mackenzie Lynch)



The fan favorite: challah french toast.



Member Appreciation Week Schedule



Norton Healthcare workers doing free blood pressure tests and glucose screenings for JCC members.



A member enjoying free body scans.



Julia Bright Moran serving challah french toast to members.

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PICTURE THIS: KITES OF HOPE



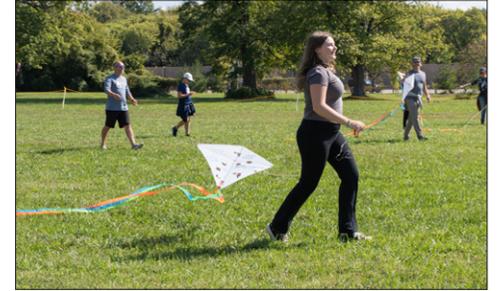
Rabbi Ben Freed spoke about the hope that the Gaza ceasefire might finally lead to peace between Israelis and Palestinians.



Mayor Craig Greenberg

On October 12, the Louisville Jewish community came together for Kites of Hope to fly kites in honor and memory of the lives taken, and changed forever on October 7. We gathered to continue the spirit of a tradition started by the Kutz family (pictured below), who each year led members of Kibbutz Kfar Aza to fly kites with messages of freedom and peace along the Gaza border.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



(L-R) Aviv (54), Yonatan (17), Rotem (19), Yiftach (15), and Livnat (49) Kutz of blessed memory. Photo courtesy of Facebook.



Kites of Hope *in Israel*

In the spirit of connection, our Partnership community joined us in flying kites to continue the spirit of the Kutz family tradition to fly kites with messages of freedom and peace along the Gaza border.

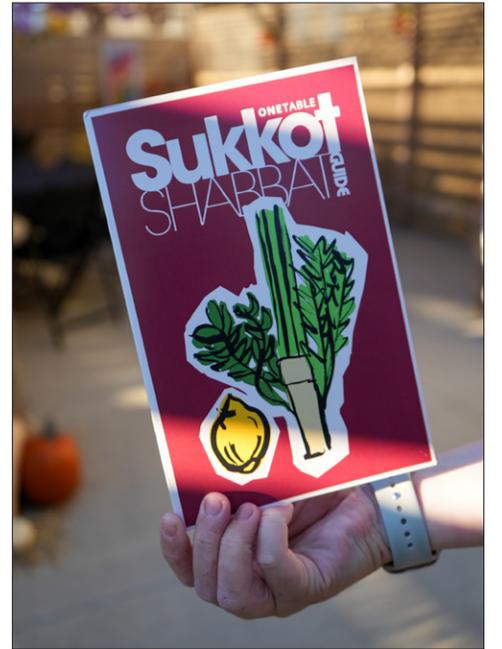
We stand with our friends in the Western Galilee and remember the lives lost, taken, and changed forever since October 7, 2023.



PICTURE THIS: SUKKOT AROUND TOWN

From October 7 - 13, community members gathered in sukkahs across town to celebrate Sukkot. Members of Hillel and NextGen, gathered for delicious meals and to shake the lulav and etrog in the Trager Family JCC sukkah. Members of Keneseth Israel celebrated with crafting and edible sukkahs. And BBYO carved pumpkins at The Temple.

(Photos by Liz Hemmer, Mackenzie Lynch, and other community members)



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Third place winner: "I Was Ok, Then I Wasn't" by Ronald Anderson



Mazin daughters and family (L-R): Arnold Miller, Marilyn Miller, Lauren Hummel, Dennis Hummel, Judy Hummel, Emily (Hummel) Gerding, Oscar Gerding



Bernice and Benjamin Mazin

The Mazin is a regional juried annual art exhibition of 2-D and 3-D art, open to any artist in the United States 16 years or older. The exhibit is designed to foster an appreciation of today's visual art and to reflect the breadth of creative vision of artists. The long-running biennial exhibit, created by Bernice and Benjamin Mazin (pictured left) and funded by the Mazin Visual Arts Fund, is open for viewing during Trager Family JCC business hours until December 7, 2025.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



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Trager Family JCC

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

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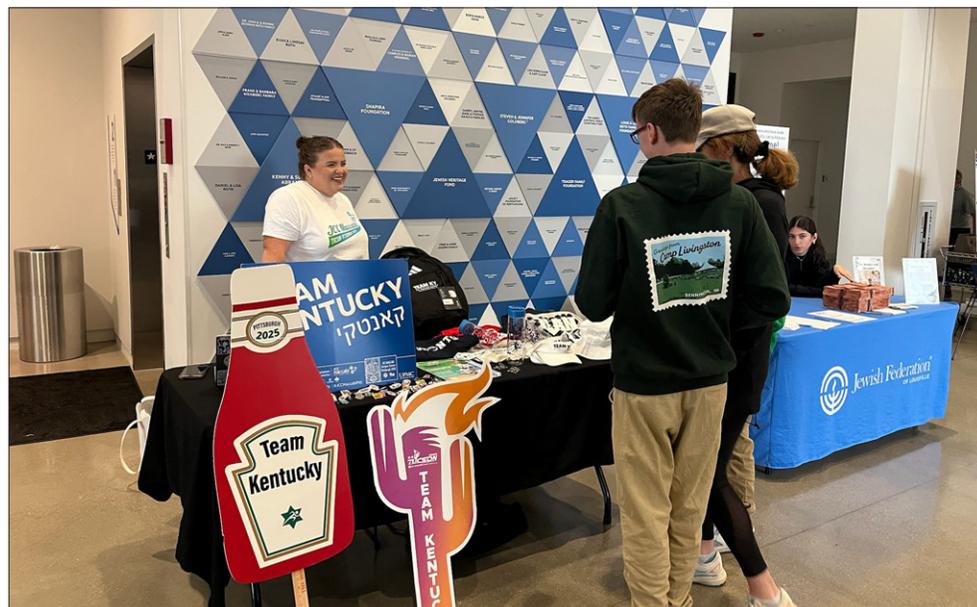
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PICTURE THIS: FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

The Fall Family Festival and Jewish Overnight Camp Fair was bustling on Sunday, October 19 at the Trager Family JCC. Families joined in for a fun-filled afternoon with food, face painting, a bounce house, and arts & crafts.

Camp directors and staff from Jewish Overnight Camps including Beber Camp, Camp Livingston, GUCI, URJ Six Points, and more, were present to answer questions and give parents the opportunity to learn more. The Jewish Federation of Louisville was also available to provide additional information about grants and financial assistance.

(Photos by Alison Roemer)



Festival OF TREES & LIGHTS

NORTON Children's Hospital Foundation

JEWISH CELEBRATION DAY

NOV. 16, 2025

Louisville Slugger Field

FestivalOfTreesAndLights.org

-  Latke Samples
-  Donut Samples
-  Klezmer Band
-  Driedel Demos
-  Hanukah Display
-  Driedel & Gelt Handouts

PICTURE THIS: MUSIKGARTEN



Little ones and their grown-ups shared smiles and music during a recent interactive Musikgarten session at the Trager Family JCC. The educational music class, led by Ms. Cathy Dreszer, brings the joy of music to children from infants (0–18 months) to preschoolers (19 months–4 years) with clapping, singing, and playing instruments.

(Photos by Alison Roemer)



**Perform the Mitzvah of Hospitality:
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Louisville will have two new *ShinShinim* as members of our community from August 2025 - July 2026.

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

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

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To learn more, visit jewishlouisville.org/shinshinim



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Special Grandparents' Musikgarten Class

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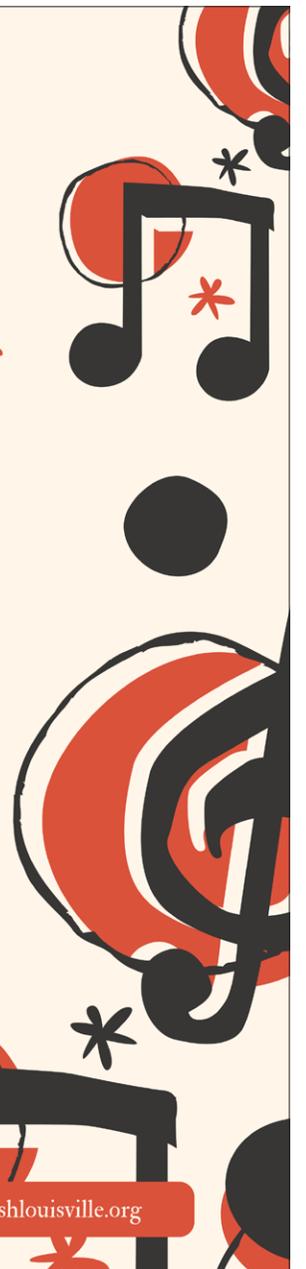
Friday, November 28
10 - 11 a.m.
at the Trager Family JCC

This class is recommended for ages 0-4. We will have snacks and drinks following.

Scan code to RSVP



Questions? Contact Jordan Leanhart at jleanhart@jewishlouisville.org



NEWS

STUDY GUIDE

Continued from page 1

versal language, art can express stories of joy, sadness, courage and fear, helping students understand the human experience in profound ways.

So goes the introduction to the A Time Remembered study guide, which employs the Louisville Ballet's January 2025 production of "A Time Remembered" as a jumping-off point for educating middle and high school students about the Holocaust. That production, which marked the 80th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation, featured a performance of choreographer Stephen Mills' "Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project." Call it an evocation of ultimate tenacity in the face of ultimate horror.

Mills' work was inspired by the astonishing narrative of Holocaust survivor Naomi Warren (1920-2016), who endured three years at Auschwitz before eventually being liberated from Bergen-Belsen. The digital study guide, comprising 76 slides and associated links, incorporates numerous additional survivor testimonies alongside three extended excerpts from "Light." Prodigious interactive, the guide is intended to provide teachers with an alternative, centralized approach to make Holocaust education come alive in the classroom.

The study guide, which meets National Core Standards and Kentucky's own mandates for Holocaust education in public schools, was developed

in collaboration with the University of Kentucky-Jewish Heritage Fund Holocaust Education Initiative. Teachers have already employed the guide in classroom trials, with widespread adoption expected by this coming February.

The guide's origin was part inspiration, part necessity. Typically, the Louisville Ballet buses in students to attend a matinee performance of a given work. But "Light," which runs for almost two hours and incorporates images of nudity, was deemed potentially problematic.

"So we brainstormed a bit about what we could do," recalled Stacey Blakeman, the company's Director of Community Engagement, "and my best suggestion was that we film the performance, use excerpts from it, and then create a study guide that would be a living document that educators can use as an ongoing tool in their classrooms."

"There's no shortage of content out there on the Holocaust – almost too much," said JHF Program Director Jaime Jorrich. "And that was one of the challenges the teachers run into: They're inundated with all these resources, and they don't know how filter down to what will be most useful to them."

The JHF-UK collaboration "is one of the biggest investments that we've made for the past four years out of our Jewish life portfolio," Jorrich said. "A big piece of our mission when it comes to Jewish life is ensuring that

people who identify as Jewish feel safe and accepted."

From the genesis of planning the study guide, a vital partnership was envisioned.

"We reached out to the UK-JHF Holocaust Education Initiative because I'm not a Holocaust expert," Blakeman said. Her thinking was: "I will help lead this project, but I need help. I know dance and I know what dance can do, but I am not a classroom teacher, nor have I ever taught students about the Holocaust through dance."

Blakeman brought in Lauren Hill, a recently retired veteran public school teacher who is one of the leaders of the UK-JHF initiative. "She brought in three teachers from across the state, and we had two rabbis and educator from Louisville."

"We began meeting last November and just started brainstorming about how one could design a guide that really could set students up for success," Blakeman explained. The goal was to produce "an easy tool that educators would want to use in their classrooms, making it as user-friendly as possible. There's so much information that already exists, so how could we link to those resources that have already been created?"

Hill, a native of northern California who spent almost 30 years teaching in Frankfort and Lexington public schools, was already working with teachers statewide on implementing Kentucky's Holocaust education man-

dates – which have been in place since 2018.

Crafting a study guide with input from her UK colleagues "became sort of a subproject," Hill said, "something we felt passionately about. We had three teacher leaders who worked on helping create the study guide: one who taught social studies, one librarian, and one English language-arts teacher – two taught middle school, and one, high school. They all worked with Stacey for a year to make that guide happen."

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Drawing at the Hanukkah Party on December 22, 2025
(need not be present to win)

Scan here



NEWS

plus an array of private and parochial schools – Kentucky’s student population is hugely diverse both in demographics and experiences. Recognizing this reality, the study guide makes no assumptions about what students may know (or may not know) about the subjects it covers.

Under the heading of “Guiding Questions,” the guide sets out a sequence of “What Is” outlines: “What Is Judaism?” “What Is Anti-Semitism?” “What was the Holocaust?” “Who is Naomi Warren?” “What is ballet?” “What is ‘Light/the Holocaust & Humanity Project?’” and lastly, “Who is Stephen Mills?”

Then comes Lesson One: “Exploring ‘Written in Pencil in the Sealed Freight Car’ by Dan Pagis.”

It is the shortest of poems:

*here in this carload
i am eve
with abel my son
if you see my other son
cain son of man
tell him that i*

A “Read and Reflect” section directs students to read the poem aloud with a partner, ask questions, and consider “familiar themes, words, connections, and grammatical choices.” Next, “Discussion Questions” probe deeper – exploring structure, syntax, and perhaps most tellingly, inquires “What emotions does the poem evoke? “What specific words or phrases created that impact?” A subsequent treatment of

“The story of Cain and Abel” observes that, in the Torah, we feel the rage of God finding Abel. In the poem we feel the loss of Eve. Why would the author change that perspective?”

Soon afterward, the study guide presents the first of its excerpts from “Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project” – appropriately, a two-minute segment depicting Adam & Eve, preceded by a projection of Pagis’s tersely evocative verse.

“The neat thing about this is that it includes reading, writing, social studies, visual and performing arts,” said Leslie Smart, Louisville Ballet’s executive director. “Meeting Kentucky academic content standards was a big piece of this. The other piece that I’m hopeful will come to fruition is a documentary we’ve created. Our goal is to have this aired not only on KET, but also on PBS” – though its ultimate disposition will depend on whether the Ballet can secure necessary music rights, which is proving to be a thorny challenge.

“We want to inspire other cities and states across the United States to take this on,” Smart said.

Initially, “we set (the study guide) up as a free resource for middle and high school students across the state of Kentucky,” Blakeman said. “But then we thought, why stop there? You don’t have to live in the state of Kentucky. Let’s put this on our website and make it available to anyone who can go there.”

Meanwhile, as organizers prepare

for the study guide’s official launch, there is another reality that must be confronted: the two-year war in Gaza, and its immediate aftermath. Some students may compare the Holocaust to what they regard as the unwarranted deaths of Palestinian civilians, raising all sorts of questions around the issues of antisemitism, moral responsibility, and the relationship of Israel to the rest of the world.

There is also the challenge of working with students who may be recent immigrants to the U.S, whose English language skills are still developing. Hill recalled arriving at an urban middle school in Lexington, discovering unexpected layers of confusion while teaching her students about the Holocaust.

“I’m standing in front of my class, and I’ve got kids who ran from gang violence in Honduras, and I have Spanish-speaking individuals who can’t understand me,” she said. “I say that the Holocaust was prompted by state-sponsored violence toward a specific group – and one girl said, ‘Did Kentucky help sponsor the Holocaust?’”

Hill soon realized that it was impossible to ignore current events, fraught as they may be. “You can’t talk about the Holocaust without confronting contemporary reality,” she said.

“Ten of us went to Brandeis (University) over the summer (to attend) an institute for middle and high school

teachers,” Hill recalled, “to understand enough about the history of Israel, the history of Palestinians, have a history of the land in Gaza and the West Bank – to be able to at least articulate something to our young people. But it’s still very, very difficult.”

Ultimately, the study guide’s success may depend on whether both teachers and students believe that the Holocaust is more than simply a circumstance of history.

“We’re not only helping our teachers feel comfortable talking about living, breathing Jewish culture and the Holocaust,” Hill said, “but also effective pedagogy” that acknowledges a paradigm shift in how to best connect with students.

“If you’re going to teach like it’s 1985, it doesn’t matter what we do for you,” Hill emphasized. “If it’s just like what a noun and a verb is, they’ve heard it a million times, and it’s going in one ear and out the other because nobody cares.”

Instead, the imperative is “how can we shift the weight you are teaching,” she said, “not just about the Holocaust, but about all the things to make you a more effective educator.”

You can access the A Time Remembered study guide online at tinyurl.com/2uxv4u6v.

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Free for Members

Trager Family JCC

NEWS

HISTORY WALL

Continued from page 1

“A number of our advisory council members also have a long personal history with the JCC,” Anne Monell, the foundation’s executive director, remarked during the dedication ceremony.

“The History Wall was one of the very first grants of the (foundation) in 2022,” she said.

A wait born out of striving to fulfill a timeless imperative.

“There’s a Jewish concept and a saying that is very popular: L’dor v’dor – from generation to generation,” said Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC. “And I think that’s obvious looking at the photos, and at the people who are gathered today in this building.”

Indeed, “one thing we love about the History Wall is that the (video) loops on the screens can continue to grow and change. There are so many stories to tell – so much rich history we hope will prompt you to talk, remember and ask questions, and for the next generation to dream along with us as they build their memories.”

The tangible representation of those memories resides at the Filson Historical Society, where they are a significant component of its vast archive of more than 2 million items.

“The Filson has been a trusted community partner for and repository for thousands of artifacts, manuscripts and family collections from the region’s Jewish community,” said Kelly Hyberger, the Filson’s Director of Curatorial Affairs. “It was only

natural to partner with the Trager Family JCC to develop this History Wall installation.”

It was no easy assignment.

“As you might imagine, sifting through thousands of items, photos and diaries can be quite the task,” Hyberger acknowledged. “It’s the most fun part of my job, but it’s a lot of work.” She lauded the efforts of Filson colleagues Ann Niren, its Curator of Jewish Collections; and Brooks Vessels, its Assistant Museum Curator and Exhibits Designer.

“Nearly 400 staff hours (\$20,000 worth of in-kind support) were devoted to this project,” Hyberger said, “from pulling the selection of photographs from thousands down to dozens, from considering and contemplating the stories we hoped to share – and finally, through the careful design and presentation.”

With the cutting of a broad, blue ribbon, the History Wall was declared officially open. But the dedication morning wasn’t done yet – attendees made their way to the Fleischaker-Greene Family Community Room, where four panelists shared personal stories about their relationships with successive JCC generations.

Cari Hatch exemplified the ideal of “L’dor V’dor” – from generation to generation.

“My grand(father) was David Kling, my great grandfather was Arthur Kling, and my great-great uncle was Morris Kling,” she said. “All of them have all been past (JCC) presidents here, and my mom sat on the board. So we’ve got a strong family history here.”

Perhaps the most resonant – and certainly the liveliest – presentation was deliv-

ered by Jaye Bittner, who recalled working more than 60 years ago as the junior counselor arts and crafts assistant at the old JCC Camp, raking in a tidy \$16 for the entire summer. Later “I became a full counselor, and I think I made maybe \$25 – I don’t know. They still owe me money,” she quipped.

Eventually Bittner became camp director, where campers typically would bring their lunches. Camp officials “worried about the rabbis telling us, ‘Oh my God, what if they bring ham sandwiches?’ I said, ‘I’m not being paid to look under the bread. I am here to run a camp.’”

Dennis Hummel told of growing up in downtown Louisville and attending the YMHA, located at Second and Jacobs Streets. “My parents would drop me off there, and I was greeted by Mr. Congenial, Maurice Richmond, who was the athletic director.

Once the new JCC opened at 3600 Dutchman’s Lane in 1955, six-year-old Dennis was introduced to its impressive swimming installation. “That was the beginning of many, many days at that pool,” he said, “and the beginning of a wonderful time. So much happened at the (JCC),” Hummel said. “It was the center of the Jewish community. You see in the movies where a lot of kids would go to the malt shop, but we all came to the Center, because as somebody mentioned, we weren’t necessarily welcome everywhere in every circle. We had to do it ourselves.”

The JCC was also where Hummel, as a seventh grader, met a girl named Judy Mazin, who would eventually become Judy Hummel – his wife of 56 years (and counting). “I was starstruck, lovestruck,”

he said of that first encounter. “I began my mission to get to know her, and to get to be best friends. And we remain best friends.”

Gerald Temes, a retired (and revered) thoracic surgeon who became one of Louisville’s pivotal Jewish leaders, remembered a time when the city boasted no fewer than “five medical schools and eight hospitals.”

Yet “the community was not well served,” he said, so “a group of Jewish businessmen decided they needed a hospital that would provide service to everyone – free of charge if necessary – and have a place for Jewish doctors to practice without restriction, and for Black doctors to practice without restriction.”

The original Jewish Hospital opened downtown at Floyd and Kentucky Streets, moving to its present location in 1947 when the original facility was decimated by the 1937 flood. Generations later, amid a succession of health-care system sales and mergers, “Jewish Hospital transformed into the Jewish Heritage Fund,” bolstered by a substantial infusion of funds generated by the sale of the hospital properties to the University of Louisville.

Asked by panel moderator Shane Shaps for each panelist “to give us a quick wish for the future of the Jewish community,” Hummel gave an especially encompassing answer:

“I hope we’ll find a way to stay strong, to stay united, and understand that’s the only way forward,” he said. “Because – to borrow ideas from all millennia – if you’re divided, you can be conquered. But if we stay together, be strong, have a vision and know what Judaism is all about, we’ll be fine.”

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

CenterStage
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NEWS



Plan Now for Year-End Giving

Your giving sustains Jewish life today and builds a vibrant tomorrow.

As 2025 draws to a close, it's a great time to review your charitable giving. New federal tax laws take effect January 1, 2026, which may change how you benefit from your generosity and how your favorite causes are supported. For many donors, completing gifts before December 31, 2025 could be especially advantageous.

Ways to Give:

- **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF):** Make a gift now for an immediate deduction and decide later which programs to support.
- **Gifts of Appreciated Securities:** Donating stocks, bonds, or mutual funds may allow you to deduct the full market value and avoid capital gains taxes.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity or Remainder Trust:** Receive income for life and potential tax savings, with an immediate charitable deduction this year.
- **Cash Gifts or Pledge Payments:** Complete gifts in 2025 to maximize your deduction before new limits take effect.

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While we are not tax advisors, we are committed to helping you work with your own professionals so your giving continues to support the causes that mean the most to you.

When Our Neighbors Call, JFCS Answers With Your Help

“Our community’s strength has always come from our willingness to show up for one another,”
 –Dr. David Finke, JFCS CEO



Jewish Family & Career Services is often among the first to answer the call when uncertainty touches our community. From providing food and rent assistance, to counseling, career support, and care for older adults, JFCS is often that vital lifeline for thousands of our neighbors each year.

More than 2,400 individuals and families turned to JFCS for help last year and that number continues to climb steadily in 2025 (as it has over several years prior). JFCS saw a 20% increase in requests for food assistance through the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry and a significant rise in mental health referrals, particularly among young adults and families last year. Last year, JFCS reached nearly 600 Jewish individuals through intentional outreach events and initiatives reaffirming that our services will always prioritize the Jewish community. When crisis struck, Jewish individuals turned to JFCS first, signifying that our community knows where to find trusted, Jewish focused support when it’s needed most.

Rarely does a client walk through the door with just one challenge, and our agency continues to see more complex and layered needs. That’s what makes JFCS unique; our ability to address multiple challenges at once.

A single mother might come to us for

career assessment and coaching after a job loss, only to discover we can help her feed her family in the interim. The family of an older adult may come to us for transportation assistance and find their loved one can have connection through volunteer phone calls that ease isolation. A young person healing through therapy might also find new purpose through career guidance.

This “wraparound care” often helps clients not only meet their immediate needs quicker but move toward long-term stability and self-sufficiency with greater confidence and resolve.

“JFCS has always been about creating certainty in uncertain times,” said Dr. David Finke, Chief Executive Officer. “Whether someone is facing food insecurity, mental health challenges, or job loss, JFCS helps individuals and families address multiple challenges and move from crisis to stability.”

The harsh reality is, the need for interconnected services has grown sharply in recent years as cuts to vital programs have left larger and larger gaps in areas like senior

care, refugee and immigrant services, and food and rent assistance.

That’s where community support steps in to make the difference.

JFCS is currently in the midst of our Annual Campaign, a vital funding lifeline for us each year, but one that takes on extra significance to JFCS this year.

This is the moment to make a difference. With rising needs and limited funding, every dollar counts toward keeping our pantry shelves full, our counseling services accessible, and our programs for older adults and job seekers running strong. Immigrants, families, and neighbors across Louisville are counting on us; and we are counting on you.

Our Annual Campaign allows JFCS to remain flexible and responsive, addressing emerging needs as they arise and ensuring that no one is turned away. It helps sustain our network of “wraparound care” and support that restores dignity, strengthens purpose, and gives hope to thousands of individuals and families across Louisville each year.

“Community donations make up the difference,” Finke said. “Community support helps us keep families in their homes, food on the table, hope within reach, and help is here when it’s needed most.

“Our community’s strength has always come from our willingness to show up for one another,” Finke added. “For many, this campaign is more than a fundraising effort, it’s an invitation to join in Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, one family at a time.”

JFCS Annual Campaign

How to Give

Gifts to the JFCS Annual Campaign can be made easily and securely online by QR code below; by mail; or by phone by contacting Courtney Evans at (502) 322-1928.



Donors may also give through a donor-advised fund (DAF), IRA qualified charitable distribution, or employer matching gift, all of which count toward the campaign goal.

To learn more about JFCS programs visit:
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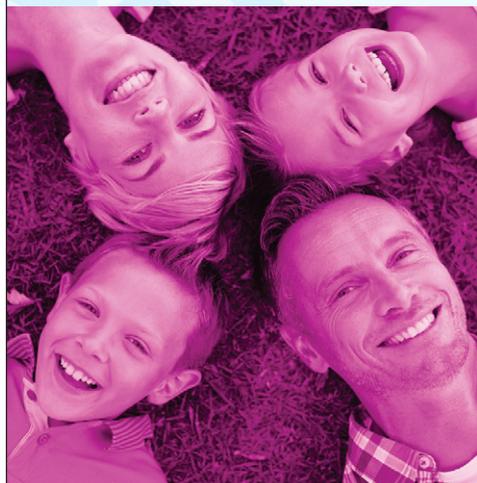
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NEWS & NEWSMAKERS



Chan Kemper

Chan Kemper tapped as Louisville's newest Deputy Mayor

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg has named Chan Kemper – who'd been serving as Deputy General Counsel and leader of the city's Equity in Procurement Task Force – as Deputy Mayor of Law & Compliance. She will continue as Deputy General Counsel.

The move came after Deputy Mayor David James was appointed interim Jefferson County Sheriff following the death of longtime Sheriff John Aubrey. James will serve in the post until a new Sheriff is sworn in.

"I was privileged to be able to say 'Yes'" to Greenberg's request, Kemper said. "I'm very excited."

A member of The Temple who is married to Louisville attorney Aaron Kemper, Chan Kemper's new city government role will involve oversight regarding open records and archives. She will also maintain her position supervising the Office of Equity, and work with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority.

Her new Deputy Mayor position "is perfect for me," Kemper said, "because I get to help people, which is my background (earlier in her life she did a stint in the Peace Corps). "I get to figure out policy questions people need help with."

An alumna of Fisk University in Nashville, Kemper holds a law degree from the University of Cincinnati. Earlier this year she was named winner of the Jewish Community of Louisville's Julie Linker Community Relations Young Leadership Award. She and her husband have two young children: Tavi and Mika.

Kemper is eager to begin this latest phase in her career. "I appreciate Mayor Greenberg's faith in me," she said. "And as I told my husband – 'Maybe I should have gotten into policy and politics 15 years ago.'"



Break out the dreidels – the Festival of Trees & Lights's Jewish Celebration Day is coming Nov. 16

The 2025 Festival of Trees & Lights's Jewish Celebration Day will unfold Sunday, Nov. 16 at Louisville Slugger Field.

All visitors will receive a dreidel and chocolate gelt, samples of latkes and donuts, hear klezmer music, and see a display of menorahs and dreidels along with signage explaining Hanukkah.

Benefiting Norton Children's Hospital, proceeds from the Festival of Trees & Lights – presented by Republic Bank – will provide much needed support for equipment, new technologies, clinical research, child advocacy and health

education for parents, families, medical staff and the entire community.

Meanwhile, volunteers are still needed to demonstrate how to play the dreidel game handouts of chocolate gelt, and donuts -even wear a dreidel costume.

To sign up to volunteer, go online at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49A9A92CABFCC25-52384927-jewish#. You can also contact Volunteer Chair Jeff Slyn by phone at 502-426-5469, or email him at Travis-Tuxy@bellsouth.net.

To help cover the Festival's \$4,000.00 expenses so that all proceeds go directly to help the hospital, donations (which are tax-deductible) will be greatly appreciated and will be publicly acknowledged.

Contact Kaitlin Kilcourse, Development Coordinator, Norton's Children's Hospital for sponsorship: kaitlin.kilcourse@nortonhealthcare.org. You can also donate through the foundation webpage: <https://nortonchildrens.com/donate/>. Enter "LIGHTS" in the text field for custom notes.



Geraldine Litvin

Geraldine "Bubby" Litvin Shaffer Celebrates 100th birthday with Recognition of Friends, Family, Local and National Leaders

Geraldine "Bubby" Litvin Shaffer, the mother of Chabad of Kentucky Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 28 with a gala event at the Marriott East Hotel. She was joined by nearly 100 descendants and many community members.

In honor of her birthday, she received congratulation letters from President Trump, Senator Mitch McConnell, Governor Andy Beshear, U.S. Representative Morgan McGarvey, and Mayor Craig Greenberg.

Her life achievements were read into the Congressional Record by Rep. McGarvey on October 8:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and centennial milestone of Geraldine "Bubby" Litvin Shaffer, who celebrates her 100th birthday on October 28, 2025.

Born in 1925, Geraldine has lived a life centered on faith, service, and love for her family. Together with her beloved husband, Louis Shlomo Leib Litvin, she raised five children, and today, she is the proud grandmother to over 100 grandchildren and great-grand-children, including Jewish leaders in America, Cyprus, and Israel.

Geraldine's devotion to her family is equaled only by her commitment to her community. In Boston, she distinguished herself as both an entrepreneur and education activist. While running a shoe store, she also headed the board of a Jewish school, working tirelessly for its success. In recent years, she has made her home in Kentucky, where she became a matriarch for her entire community. Known for her kindness and generosity, she volunteers her time and reaches out to all with warmth and care. She is a dedicated student of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem

Mendel Schneerson, and is a devout Jew and incredibly proud American.

Mr. Speaker, Geraldine "Bubby" Litvin Shaffer's century of life stands as a remarkable testament to her resilience, faith, and love for others. I ask my esteemed colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please join me in celebrating her 100th birthday and wishing her continued joy surrounded by family and community."



Amanda Blieden

Amanda Blieden's latest role: U.S. co-chair of P2G Western Galilee's Young Adult Committee

Amanda Blieden doesn't like to sit still. Witness the following announcement from Amy Fouts, who coordinates Partnership2Gether's activities at the Jewish Federation of Louisville:

Blieden "is taking on the responsibility of becoming our Partnership2Gether Western Galilee's United States Co-Chair of the Young Adult Committee," Fouts said. "Amanda will be working with Israeli and Hungarian co-chairs to enhance Jewish identity, social networking, professional leadership development and Jewish solidarity."

That's quite a portfolio for Blieden,

but typical for someone who's in the foreground of Jewish volunteerism, locally and nationally.

In 2024, she joined two fellow Louisvilleans – Alexander Blieden (her husband) and Greg Moore – who were selected to join Jewish Federation of North America's Young Leadership Cabinet. This past spring, she was honored with the Jewish Community of Louisville's Lewis W. Cole Memorial Young Leadership Award.

"I've always had this passion for Israel," Blieden says, alongside wanting to foster a sense of mutual belonging among young Jewish adults – "ever since October 7, even more so. "The goal of the (P2G) position is to make them feel that they have a community," here and in Israel.

In other words, she's all about connection. Remember that word.

"How do we connect with each other, and then how do we connect our own communities within the United States.," she says. From there, it's figuring out the best means of linking "the 17 (Partnership) communities in the U.S. to a young adult community in Israel, and a young adult community in Budapest," the Hungarian capital that also belongs to our Partnership region.

Blieden is one of three Young Adult Committee co-chairs – she'll be serving together with representatives in Israel and Budapest.

"Right now it's just the three of us – a start-up. My goal will be to find 17 people to be a part of the committee," she says. "It's something that's really important."

Adult Swim Clinic

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

A swim program for beginner and intermediate lap swimmers. Centered on refining and improving strokes or learning all four strokes from the beginning!

- Beginner and Intermediate Options
- Once a week
- Ages 18-75
- Improve your lap swimming with a coach
- Member: \$110 + tax
Non-member: \$150 + tax

Requirement: You must be able to swim on your own at least one lap.



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit jccloouisville.org/adult-swim-clinics

Limited Spots Available!



Other Adult Programs

- Accelerated Swim**
- 5 lessons in 5 days, Mon - Fri
 - All ages and skill levels
 - Multiple dates and times available

- Private Coaching**
- Available as single lessons or packages of 4, 8, and 12
 - 30 minute lessons, once a week
 - All ages and skill levels
 - Scheduled based on mutual availability between the swimmer and instructor

Interested in updates on our Adult Swim Programs? Email us at swimschool@jewishlouisville.org for more information!



AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Congregation Adath Jeshurun and Kol Israel Community of Kentucky present "Judaism and Mysteries of Life, Death, and the World Beyond," a Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton with Rabbi Simcha Raphael, Ph.D., the Founding Director of the Da'at Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy, and Training and works as a psychotherapist and spiritual director in Philadelphia. The AJ portion of the weekend will take place on Saturday, Nov. 1. Rabbi Raphael will give the D'var Torah at our 10 a.m. Shabbat Morning service and will be our Shabbat Scholar at the kiddush lunch. No RSVP is needed. For more information about the Shabbaton weekend, visit www.adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-scholar.

You are invited to AJ's next Shabbat Social Dinner on Friday, Nov. 7 after Kabbalat Shabbat Services. Come at 5 p.m. for Happy Hour before services which begin at 5:45 p.m. Beginning at about 6:45 p.m., join us for a delicious dinner catered by Chef Maureen Hartmann. The cost is \$15 per person; children under 12 are free. RSVP by Nov. 2 at www.adathjeshurun.com/reservations. All are welcome.

Join us at Adath Jeshurun for our next Shabbat-Luck Dinner on Friday, Nov. 21 after services. We start the evening with Happy Hour at 5 p.m. followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:45 p.m. Dinner will feature an entrée by Chef Sean plus many sides, salads, and desserts provided by YOU. For dietary guidelines and to RSVP, visit www.adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck.

Anshei Sfarad

Congregation Anshei Sfarad has open study time every weeknight (Sun-Thu) from 7:45-8:30 p.m. All are invited to come and study with the Rabbi, with a friend or by yourself. You are welcome to study whatever topic you choose and have your personal questions about Judaism answered. Refreshments served.

Shabbos Davening at 9 a.m. including Rabbi's Parsha outline and sermon, followed by a delicious hot Kiddush. Every Wednesday night at 7:45 p.m., Judaism in Action. Current series: Laws of Shabbos. Talmud Trek Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. led by Rabbi Lederman. Lessons to Learn Together Mondays at 8 p.m. on the weekly Parsha. For more information, email rabbilederman@ansheisfarad.com.

Chabad of Kentucky

Chabad announces a new class aimed at anyone who's ever wondered: "What life is all about?" The Kabbalah of Meaning – finding meaning and purpose in life. King Solomon observed in the book of Ecclesiastes that most people struggle with a fundamental question: "What makes my life meaningful?" Jewish mystics and sages have wrestled with this question for millennia. Their wisdom has helped countless generations face life with courage and enthusiasm. The Kabbalah of Meaning offers practical tools for discovering the purpose that connects everything in your life. This course tackles the questions that all people wonder from time to time: What does it mean to be human? What's the difference between feeling meaningful and having purpose? What happens when you truly believe you are created in G-d's image? This course reveals how these seemingly abstract ideas provide practical tools for living a more meaningful life. The six 90-minute classes will be held at the Trager Family JCC Tuesday nights, beginning Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. Cost for the classes is \$89, including the course textbook. To reserve your place or for more information, email chabad-ky@gmail.com or call 502-235-5770.

Chavurat Shalom

This month we'll have insightful discussions and be entertained by some of our favorite musicians. 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 starting at 1:00 pm via ChavuratShalomZoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, Nov. 6 - Harpist Jessica Hyden will perform old favorites as well as new pieces. Lunch will include chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, couscous salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cupcakes.

Thursday, Nov. 13 - No Chavurat Shalom because it's time for Senior University. We've got an engaging and enriching day planned: You'll be able to explore everything from the beautiful new artwork at The Temple to the history and archeology of ancient coins. There will be a chance for Torah study with Rev. Dr. Johanna Bos and learning about (and tasting) with Heaven Hill in our popular Bourbon 301 workshop. We'll start with a light bite before the opening workshops, learn with Rabbi Rapport for our keynote presentation, enjoy a delicious lunch with our traditional mushroom barley soup, and finally we'll all gather for a captivating, closing performance featuring Louisville Orchestra Concertmaster Gabe Lefkowitz. Let us know that you'll be joining your friends from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for this engaging, fascinating, enriching experience at The Temple. RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 or online at thetemplelouky.org/senior-university by Thursday, Nov. 6. The cost is only \$20 for a full day of learning, lunching, and enjoying being together with your fellow Senior University scholars.

Thursday, Nov. 20 - Singer, songwriter and guitarist Tyrone Cotton will provide our entertainment. Lunch will include roast turkey, green beans, mashed potatoes, salad, fresh fruit, and pumpkin pie.

Thursday, Nov. 27 - No Chavurat Shalom: Wishing everyone a very happy, delicious Thanksgiving.

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.

Festival of Trees & Lights

Jewish Celebration Day at Festival of Trees & Lights
Sunday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Louisville Slugger Field
Dreidel demonstrations, doughnuts and latke samples
Give away bags of chocolate gelt and instructions on how to play Dreidel
Music by the Lost Tribe klezmer band
To sign up to volunteer, go online at tinyurl.com/2xe4pk83
Or contact Jeff Slyn, Volunteer Chair, by calling 502-426-5469, or by emailing Travis-Tuzy@bellsouth.net

To help cover Light's expenses:
Contact Kaitlin Kilcourse, Development Coordinator, Norton's Children's Hospital for sponsorship: kaitlin.kilcourse@norton-healthcare.org
People can also donate through the foundation webpage: <https://nortonchildrens.com/donate/>. Enter "LIGHTS" in the text field for custom notes.

This year the proceeds from Festival of Trees & Lights will provide much needed support for equipment, new technologies, clinical research, child advocacy and health education for parents, families, medical staff and the entire community. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be publicly acknowledged.

Filson Historical Society

Through Nov. 9, the Bullitt County Public Library is hosting Americans and the Holocaust, a traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association that examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. The Bullitt County Public Library was selected as one of 50 U.S. libraries to present the touring version of the Americans and the Holocaust special exhibition between 2024 and 2026. This traveling exhibition is based on the one of the same name at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. The Bullitt County Public Library is located at 740 Conestoga Parkway, Shepherdsville, in Meeting Room 2. For more information about this exhibit, visit bcplib.org, or call 502-543-7674 and ask for Brandy. To learn about the exhibit in Washington, visit ushmm.org/americans-ala.

Hadassah, Louisville Chapter

All members of our community (both men and women) are invited to join old Hadassah friends and make new ones as we discover how Louisville's Hadassah Chapter began and created a community over the years. Explore the Louisville Hadassah archives with Dr. Ann Niren, Curator of Jewish Collections at the Filson Historical Society. Learn how you can visit the past to build on the future of Hadassah in Louisville and Israel. This event is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 9 from 2-4 p.m. The cost is \$36. Reservations must be made by Thursday, Nov. 5 online at Hadassah's website. For more information or the registration link (the physical location will be revealed upon registration), please e-mail louisville-hadassahchapter@gmail.com.

Jewish Family & Career Services

Family Mitzvah Day
Join JFCS Sunday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m.-12:p.m. for a Family Mitzvah Day packing Thanksgiving bags for our clients. This is a great opportunity to learn about the JFCS Food Pantry, explore ongoing opportunities, and give back during this season of giving. RSVP at tinyurl.com/jfcsbags

The Lillian O. Seligman Contemporary Thought Forum Night of Humor
Join us Monday, Nov. 10 as we welcome Erik Angel, Ellen Karis, and Gibran Saleem to The Lillian O. Seligman Contemporary Thought Forum. The Night of Humor will present Comedy For Peace, a project that aims to unite Jewish and Muslim communities through humor and mutual understanding. This event is free and open to the public; however, RSVP is required at: www.jfcsloisville.org/seligmanseries

Did you know JFCS offers mental health counseling for individuals, families, and couples? Our licensed clinicians are here to help you navigate life's challenges and find healing. All major health insurance plans are accepted, and a sliding fee scale is available to make counseling accessible to all clients. Call today to schedule your first appointment at 502-322-1905 or email services@jfcsloisville.org.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Keshet Sundays – Welcome to the NEW Jewish High School Experience
Keshet Sundays combines engaging class-

room learning with real-world field experiences alongside inspiring Jewish professionals. Explore your Jewish identity, values, and sense of purpose while diving into topics like justice, leadership, community, and legacy. This is your chance to grow, contribute, and shape your vision for the future—of yourself and your community. The experience will culminate in a meaningful project that puts your learning into action and creates real impact. The program is open to all Jewish High School Students and will meet twice per month. To register, go online at tinyurl.com/bdmj26zy

A project of the new JLE – Jewish Learning Experience.

Keneseth Israel

Join Rabbi Freed every Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC for Jews & Brews to discuss the weekly Torah portion over coffee and cookies.

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

Come join us every Shabbat at 10:30 a.m. for our Shabbat Shalom Club - a space for kids grades 2 through 7 to experience Shabbat every week - as they learn Torah, play board games, and learn the beautiful melodies of Shabbat songs.

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

Kol Israel Jewish Renewal Community of Kentucky

Rabbi Simcha Raphael in Residence
Psychotherapist, Educator and Rabbinic Pastor
Founder and Director of the Da'At Institute – Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training

Friday, Oct. 31, 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Lunch & Learn at the Rudd Heart Hospital Conference Room. Presented by the U of L Trager Institute/Republic Bank Optimal Aging Clinic.

Friday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. – A Hadar Shabbat Oneg of Meditation, Music and Movement, followed by dinner, at the Archdiocese Historical Museum.

Saturday, Nov. 1 (Shabbat Morning), 10 a.m. Adath Jeshurun
D'var Torah, a Kiddish lunch, followed by Scholar in Residence presentation.

Saturday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.
Archdiocese Historical Museum
Havdalah and Ghost Storytelling

Sunday, Nov. 2 at 12:30 p.m.
Trager Family JCC
Presented by the National Center to Encourage Judaism

Admission to all of the above events is free, but reservations are required by contacting Blu by text at 502-277-0544 or by emailing KollIsraelky@gmail.com.

Lost Tribe Klezmer Band

Mazel Tov to Fran Weinstock, Mark Perelmuter, Aaron Boaz, Aviv Naamani, Carol Savkov-

AROUND TOWN

ich and John Thornberry on 15 years together and their upcoming release of two Klezmer CDs, their first since 2013.

Lost Tribe Louisville welcomes the community to celebrate the release of the new CDs, Circle Tanz and Wanderings, with a CD Release Concert Sunday, Nov 2.

Running from 6 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) and including two live music sets, the event will be held in the event space at Vernon Lanes, 1575 Story Ave. in the Butchertown neighborhood. Cover charge is \$5; CDs available for purchase; food available from Vernon Lanes.

Louisville Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

Join Cantor David Lipp for Jewish Journeys: Collective Memories Through Place and Time, a six-week exploration of Jewish history, culture, and identity. Together, participants will uncover the stories of Jewish communities from Greece, Spain, Morocco, Poland, and Israel, examining how shared memory shapes who we are and who we might become. The in-person session meets Thursdays, Oct. 30 through Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Adath Jeshurun. A separate Zoom session meets Tuesdays, Oct. 28 through Dec. 9, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information and to register, visit meltonschool.org/louisville.

Louisville Vaad HaKashrut

The Louisville Vaad HaKashrut will hold its annual meeting Monday, Nov. 17. The 2026 slate of officers is as follows: President: Steven Goldstein; Vice president: Larry Kaplin; Secretary: Sharon Czerkiewicz; Treasurer: Myrle Davis. The election will be held during the annual meeting.

The Vaad recently sent its annual fundraising letter to members of the community asking for support for the upcoming year. Our twin missions are supporting the availability of kosher food in Louisville and maintaining the only mikvah in Kentucky. This year we are beginning a long overdue renovation of our mikvah. If you did not receive a letter, visit tinyurl.com/vaadletter. If you'd like to make a donation visit tinyurl.com/vaaddonation.

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

Montessori Torah Academy

MTA is Hiring a Toddler Lead Teacher
Montessori Torah Academy is growing, and we're looking for a warm, dedicated Toddler Lead Teacher to join our team. This role offers the opportunity to shape young lives in a setting that is both Torah-rooted and Montessori-inspired.

If you love working with children, believe in the power of curiosity and independence, and want to be part of a supportive school community, we'd love to hear from you.

Apply today or share this opening with someone who might be a great fit at montessoritorah.org/our-team/join-our-team

National Council of Jewish Women – Louisville Section

Join Us in Our Important Work
While the Nearly New Shop is now closed, NCJW Louisville is not slowing down. We are excited to carry forward our work together, advocating for women, children, families, marginalized groups, and individual rights and freedoms, just like we've been doing for the past 130 years. If you're not already involved, please join us—whether you're interested in reproductive rights advocacy, voter engagement, organizing NCJW get-togethers, bringing smiles to the faces of kids served by Gilda's Club, or other NCJW projects, we would love to have you join in our mean-

ingful and impactful work. Please reach out to Executive Director Sarah Harlan at executivedirector@ncjwlu.org or 502-458-5566, and let us know how you'd like to get involved.

2026 Mah Jongg Cards

It's time to order your National Mah Jongg League 2026 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. 30, 2026, so call the NCJW office at 502-458-5566 to order your cards today. An online order form will be available soon.

Temple Shalom

Let's Play Mah Jongg, Sunday, Nov. 2, 1-3 p.m. All levels of players (including beginners) are welcome at our monthly mah jongg gathering. Light snacks are provided, and reservations are required. Please text Janet at 502-553-2332 to let us know you'll be joining us.

Lost Tribe Louisville's CD Release Party, Sunday, Nov. 2, 6-8:30 p.m. at Vernon Lanes
We celebrate the release of klezmer group Lost Tribe's two new CDs at Vernon Lanes, 1575 Story Ave., Butchertown. The band, which includes Temple Shalom's own Aviv Naamani and Carol Savkovich, often provides music at the synagogue's joyous occasions. There is a \$5 cover charge; food and drink are available for purchase as well.

Save the Date! Artist-in Residence Mark Rubin Dec.12-13

Mark Rubin, the "Jew of Oklahoma," will speak about the Museum of Southern Jewish Experience Friday, Dec. 12, as part of Kabbalat Shabbat starting at 6:30 p.m. Mark is a well-known Southern musician and songwriter whose genres range from Klezmer to Bluegrass to Folk to Jazz and everywhere in between. More information to come on the concert.

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

All are welcome at our weekly Shabbat services. Friday nights are streamed on YouTube. Call the office at 502-458-4739 for more information.

The Temple

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

The Fall semester for adult education at The Temple has begun. Torah Study with Rabbi David is on Saturdays at 9 a.m.; Temple Scholars is on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. with Rabbi David and 10:45 am with Rabbi Matt; and Monday night classes include Hebrew Bet with Rabbi Matt, Text Study with Rabbi David, and our next semester of Intro to Judaism with Rabbi David. The Intro to Judaism Class is a wonderful way for people who are considering becoming Jewish, interdating, and intermarried couples to learn together about Judaism. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to thetemplelouky.org/adult-education for more information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's Senior University Thursday, Nov. 13. We've got an engaging and enriching day planned: You'll be able to explore everything from the beautiful new artwork at The Temple to the history and archeology of ancient coins. There will be an opportunity for Torah study with Reverend Dr. Johanna Bos and learning about (and tasting) with Heaven Hill in our popular Bourbon 301 workshop. We'll start with a light bite before the opening, keynote presentation, enjoy a delicious lunch with our traditional mushroom barley soup, and we'll all gather for a captivating, closing

performance featuring Louisville Orchestra Concertmaster Gabe Lefkowitz. Let us know that you'll be joining your friends from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for this engaging, fascinating, enriching experience at The Temple. RSVP by calling 502-423-1818 or online at thetemplelouky.org/senior-university by Thursday, Nov. 6. The cost is only \$20 for a full day of learning, lunching, and enjoying being together with your fellow Senior University scholars.

Please join us for a special Shabbat as we honor all veterans Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

Come join Rabbi Matt for a special Tot Shabbat Friday, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m. Our Tot Shabbat will be a monthly, 15-minute service with our youngest members in mind will be 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 and will welcome all the families to stay for dinner. Tot Shabbat and the dinner are free to attend, but if you plan to stay for dinner, an RSVP is required at thetemplelouky.org/thanksforgiving, so we have enough food.

Join Rabbi Matt Saturday, Nov. 22 at 10:30 a.m. for our monthly Learner's Service and Lunch & Learn. In this discussion-based service series, we will 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 for a special Lunch & Learn to continue the conversation from services. The service and Lunch & Learn are open to all and no background knowledge is needed. If you would like a Zoom link for the lunch and learn, please email rabbimatt@thetemplelouky.org. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/learner or by calling 502-423-1818. Cost is \$5 for Members by this Thursday, Oct. 23, \$10 for Members at the Door, \$18 for Non-Members, Children 12 and under are free.

Trager Family JCC

Mazin Art Exhibition 2025

The exhibition runs through Dec. 7 on the Dennis & Judith Hummel Family Gallery Wall. The Mazin is a regional juried annual Art Exhibition of 2-D and 3-D art, open to the any artist in the United States 16 years or older. The exhibit is designed to foster an appreciation of today's visual art and to reflect the breadth of creative vision of artists.

Club J Before & After School Program Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 school year

Club J is a before & after – school program set in our fun Camp J environment run by our Camp J Staff. Children enrolled in Club J will play games, participate in a variety of activities each week, receive homework help as needed, and get to spend time with their friends.

Transportation is available from the Trager Family JCC to these schools: Field and Alex R Kennedy; transportation is available from these schools to the Trager Family JCC: Bloom, St. Matthews, Holy Trinity, Field and Hawthorne.

Learn more by going online at tinyurl.com/yeyws36v

Fall Enrichment Classes

Monday – Thursday Every Week (see the link below for times)

JCC Members as well as non-members can now register for new enrichment classes this fall. Each week kids can explore their creativity with sports, chess club, dance and Monk-y Warrior. View times and age details by going online at tinyurl.com/sumsvnew

CenterStage Presents Company
Nov. 6, 8, 9, 13, 15 & 16

Tickets on sale now

On the night of his 35th birthday, confirmed bachelor Bobby contemplates his unmarried state. Over the course of a series of dinners, drinks and even a wedding, his friends explain the pros and cons of taking on a spouse; the habitually single Bobby is forced to question his adamant retention of bachelorhood.

Teen Drama Workshops – registration opens Oct. 31.

Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for an exciting four-part Teen Drama Workshop designed for beginner and intermediate-level actors. This dynamic series will explore key aspects of performance, including improv, stage combat, observation techniques, scene study, and monologue work, led by instructors Erin Silliman and Logan McNeely. This program is for grades 9-12 and is open to all levels of experience.

Snowflake Shoppe

Sunday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Snowflake Shoppe kicks off the holiday shopping season with a wide range of artisans, crafters, and more. Event proceeds will support the Early Learning Center to purchase much-needed educational toys and equipment to supplement its program.

For details and information about becoming a vendor or sponsor, go online at <https://tinyurl.com/jafkrkzk4>

University of Louisville Ekstrom Library

Through February 2026
Jewish Artists of Louisville Series, featuring Multi-Media Works by Rabbi Laura Metzger
The Jewish Studies Reading Room, Ekstrom Library, 3rd Floor.

Rabbi Laura Metzger of Congregation Adath Jeshurun is also an accomplished artist, working in pen-and-ink alongside various flavors of complementary media. "Drawing teaches you to see," she explains in an Artist Statement – and beginning at the end of this week, you can view a selection of her works as part of Louisville Jewish Artists Today – an ongoing series of exhibits in the Jewish Studies Reading Room of the Ekstrom Library on U of L's Belknap Campus. The series is organized and guided by Natalie Polzer, a professor in U of L's Department of Comparative Humanities.

"Constant discovery thrills me," Rabbi Metzger says, adding: "I hope, in looking at these pieces, you see something in a way that's new to you."

I make house calls!



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e-mail: msegal@semonin.com

LIFECYCLE

Mazel Tovs



Rachel Nance & Justin Pakdaman

Mazel Tov to Rachel Nance, daughter of Lisa and Jeff Nance of Edmonton, Kentucky, and Justin Pakdaman, son of Dr. Sean and Foroogh Pakdaman of Los Angeles, California, who were married on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at the Omni Louisville Hotel. The couple resides in Louisville.



Jon Goldenberg & Daria Penner

Mazel Tov to Jon Goldenberg and Daria Penner on their September 27, 2025 wedding in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Jon is the son of Vycki Goldenberg-Minstein and Anthony Minstein of Louisville and Terri and Glenn Goldenberg of South-west Carolina. Jon's grandmother is Ann Zimmerman of Louisville. Daria is the daughter of Marci and Marc Penner originally from Carmel, Indiana. The couple resides in Denver, Colorado.

B'nai Mitzvahs



Harper Ryan Blackford

Harper Ryan Blackford, daughter of Brooke and John, and sister to Lolly and Piper, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 15 at 10:30 am at The Temple. She is the granddaughter of Phyllis and Andy Present and Tish and Bobby Blackford. Harper is a seventh grader at North Oldham Middle School. In her spare time, she loves playing field hockey, taking pictures, exploring new places, and being with friends. Summer camp at GUCI is one of her happy places. For Harper's mitzvah project, she has been volunteering and playing guitar for residents at a local assisted living facility.



Eleanor Kessler

Eleanor Kessler, daughter of Shannon and Dan and sister of Ruby Jane, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 8 at 10:30 am, at The Temple. Eleanor is the granddaughter of the late Arlene and Ed Kessler and Sherry and Peter Wanner. Eleanor is a seventh-grade student at North Oldham Middle School where she plays on the volleyball team and will swim for North Oldham High School. She also plays club volleyball at KIVA. Eleanor loves to read, listen to Taylor Swift and Freya Skye, hang with her sister, and enjoy her friends. Eleanor loves to watch U of L volleyball first and foremost, is very passionate about sports, and watches as many games, races, and matches as possible. She is thankful to her dog, Georgie, who helped comfort her during her Torah studies.

Obituaries



Mikki Adams

Amelia "Mikki" Franklin Adams, of Louisville, KY, and Cape May, NJ, passed away peacefully on October 14, 2025, surrounded by her beloved family and friends. Mikki was born on January 28, 1945, in El Paso, Texas, to Samuel E. Franklin and Deborah Grossman Franklin. The family moved to Buffalo, where Mikki's sister, Barbara "Bobbie," was born. After relocating several times across the Midwest, they eventually settled in Louisville when Mikki was 15. She graduated from Seneca High School and went on to attend the University of Kentucky, earning her B.S. in 1966. She later earned her law degree from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law and received her J.D. in 1974. Mikki began her legal career as a Public Defender and later moved into private practice. Throughout her life, she remained committed to pro bono legal work, offering her time and expertise to those most in need—often taking on cases others wouldn't, simply because it was the right thing to do. She retired from law in February 2025, after

decades of tireless service.

A fierce advocate for justice, Mikki lived by the Jewish principle of tikkun olam—the belief in "repairing the world" through social action and compassion. Throughout her career, she championed civil liberties, civil rights, women's rights, and reproductive freedom. Mikki was a proud Democrat, a member of the Kentucky Bar Association, and the ACLU of Kentucky. She was also a founding board member of Reproductive Rights for Kentucky and was actively involved in organizations such as Cape May Cottagers and The Temple.

In 1973, Mikki married fellow attorney Wesley Price Adams, Jr. Together they shared 37 years of love, partnership, and purpose—filled with travel, friendship, a bustling household of pets, and a deep devotion to each other. They especially cherished their time at their beloved home in Cape May, New Jersey. Mikki and Wes were avid adventurers, with highlights that included trekking to see mountain gorillas in the Congo and orangutans in Borneo. Her final international journey was a special trip to India, shared with her lifelong friend, Carol Raskin.

Mikki's passions extended far beyond the courtroom. She was an avid gardener, a skilled baker, an expert beach bum, a warm entertainer, and a self-declared "professional napper." With her sharp wit and infectious humor, she was, as many would agree, a comedian at heart—and never missed an opportunity to quip, "I used to be hot."

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Wesley Adams; her sister, Barbara "Bobbie" Franklin; her parents, Samuel and Deborah Franklin; and her dear friend, Bonne Betz Loeb.

Mikki leaves behind her devoted daughter, Jennifer Adams Mancuso, and her treasured grandchildren, Noah and Asher Rose Mancuso, who will forever hold their beloved "Bubbe" close in their hearts. She is also survived by her cousin and soul-sister, Joann Grossman (Stuart Morden); their daughter, Emily Morden; and her brother- and sister-in-law, Anthony and Ellen Adams. Her loyal dog and constant companion, Bogart—affectionately known as Bogie—will miss her deeply, as will all who knew and loved her.

In keeping with her generous spirit and love for animals, Mikki's pacemaker will be donated to the Purdue University Veterinary Program to help a dog in need—one final act of compassion from a life devoted to caring for others.

A Celebration of Life service was held on October 26 at the Mellwood Art Center. To honor Mikki's legacy, memorial contributions may be made to the ACLU of Kentucky, Henry-Trimble County Animal Shelter, Planned Parenthood of Louisville, or The Temple.



Carl Bensinger

Carl J. Bensinger, 90, beloved son, community leader, and lifelong friend to many, passed away surrounded by loved ones. Born in Germany, Carl came to the United States with his family when he was about four years old. He embraced his new home with energy and optimism, building a life marked by achievement, kindness, and dedication to his community.

A top student throughout his school years, Carl graduated with high honors and earned a scholarship to Northwestern University. Though he began his studies there, his deep connection to Louisville led him back home, where he completed both his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Louisville.

Carl's professional accomplishments were matched by his civic involvement. He served on the board of Jefferson Community College, where he was a tireless advocate for education and opportunity. Active in the Democratic Party, Carl believed deeply in public service and the importance of civic engagement. He was also proud to be inducted into the Male High School's Hall of Fame, a reflection of both his academic excellence and his lasting impact on classmates and teachers.

A devoted and loyal son to his parents, Fred and Judith, Carl's warmth and generosity extended far beyond family. He was known for his outgoing nature, friendly smile, and remarkable social spirit. Carl never wanted to miss a gathering or a chance to connect with others, and his presence always brightened the room. Carl Bensinger will be remembered for his intellect, integrity, and enduring kindness—a man who valued friendship, community, and the joy of living fully.

Carl is survived by his nieces, Sandy Hammond (Mark), Jan Burke (Rob), Linda Bell (Leonard); nephews Jeff Barr, Ben Schaffer (Marlene); and numerous

Continued on page 25

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LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 24

cousins, great-nieces and great-nephews. Funeral services were held October 23 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Judith Bensinger Fund @ Trager Family JCC, Male High School Hall of Fame Alumni, or Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

Babette Fleischer

Babette Fleischer, 81, of Cincinnati, Ohio, formerly of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away on September 16, 2025. She was born in Elmira, New York, on April 1, 1944, and was the daughter of Rabbi Solomon and Deborah Roodman, of blessed memory.

While living in Louisville, Babette was an active member of Congregation Anshei Sfarad and participated in the Senior Program at the JCC. She dedicated her career to childcare, nurturing and guiding young children with patience and kindness.

In addition to her parents, Babette was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry Fleischer, and her brother, Robert Roodman.

Babette is survived by her son, Jeffrey Fleischer, and her brother, Dr. Garson Roodman, and his wife, Mona.

Funeral services were held September 18, 2025, at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in Anshei Sfarad Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Congregation Anshei Sfarad 2904 Bardstown Rd. Louisville KY 40205, or to the American Cancer Society.

May her memory be a blessing.



Sherman Friedman

Sherman Friedman, 92, of Louisville, Kentucky, died peacefully on October 15, 2025. Born in Manhattan, New York, on May 5, 1933, to Philip and

Sophie Friedman. A proud graduate of Stuyvesant High School, Sherman went on to earn his engineering degree from Virginia Tech, where he distinguished himself as a member of the prestigious Tau Beta Pi and Alpha Pi Mu honor societies. His 40-plus-year career at General Electric included being a valued member of the Elfun Society.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Sherman lived a life

rich with love and adventure. He and his beloved wife Carol were inseparable partners, sharing a passion for golf at The Standard Club and exploring the world together. Their travels took them across continents - from China to Greece, Japan to Israel, and numerous destinations throughout Europe and the U.S.

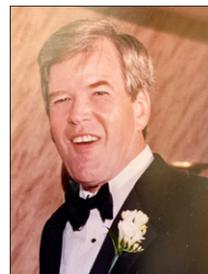
For more than 40 years, Sherman was an active member of The Temple, and a member of the Temple Brotherhood. In Louisville and Naples, Florida, Sherman gave his time and wisdom to local governance.

Sherman was happiest in his role as husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather and cherished every moment spent with his family.

He was preceded in death by his wife Carol, his son Mark Howard Friedman, and his sister Marjorie Axler.

Sherman is survived by his son David Friedman (Kathryn); grandchildren Anne Friedman, Alyssa Carlton (Robb), Douglas Friedman (Sharon), Joshua Friedman, Max Friedman, and Scott Friedman (Emily); and great-grandchildren Amelia and Jonah.

A graveside service was held at The Temple Cemetery. The family suggests that any memorial contributions be made to The Temple or the American Liver Foundation.



Bruce M. Hart

Bruce Michael Hart, 80, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away on September 27, 2025, in his hometown. Born July 24, 1945, in Louisville to the late Joe and Norma (Rabenecker) Hart, Bruce grew up in Louisville, Nashville, and Fort Lauderdale.

Cars were more than machines to Bruce. They were his craft, his pastime, and his passion. He spent his life working on cars, old and new, and loved nothing more than driving them and talking about them. He could strike up a conversation with anyone, anywhere, and never met a stranger. Compassionate, engaging, and without judgment, he was known for his warmth and for making everyone feel welcome.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betsy Rudd Bennett of Louisville; his stepson, Mason Miller (Samantha) of Lexington; his stepdaughter, Marianne Nellis (Nahalel) of Eshtaol, Israel; and his beloved grandchildren, Morgan,

Carter, and Stella Miller, and Yehuda, Eitan, and Anna Nellis.

He also leaves behind his siblings Joe Hart (Karen), Sally Eubanks (Ted), and Patty Hudson, as well as his faithful dog, Lucy, who was his daily companion on cheeseburger and fountain soda runs.

Bruce's life was marked by his love of family, his joy in conversation, and his simple pleasures, the time with his wife, with Lucy, and at the car auction.

Special thanks go to Tony, Julie, and Tami for their devoted care, support, and love during his final years.

Funeral services were held October 3 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial at The Temple Cemetery. Donations in Bruce's memory may be made to the Kentucky Resources Council (P.O. Box 1070, Frankfort, KY 40602) or the Kentucky Sierra Club (P.O. Box 1368, Lexington, KY 40588).



Irina Madorsky

Irina Madorsky, born in Rogachev, Belarus on November 7, 1933, passed away peacefully on September 13, 2025.

When World War II began, she evacuated with her family to Kazan, Russia, and later returned to the ruins of Rogachev, starting school in the 4th grade while sitting on the floor because so little remained after the war.

A gifted student, Irina earned her degree in Chemical Engineering in Leningrad, Russia, later moved to Minsk, married her high school sweetheart, Dr. Israel Madorsky, and together they built a loving family. They raised two sons, immigrated to America, and were blessed with three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at The Temple Cemetery on Sunday, September 14. The family thanks relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy and support.

In her memory, contributions may be made to the Russian Jewish Community Foundation (RJCF), a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting Israel and the Jewish identity among Russian-speaking Jews.

May her memory be a blessing.

Larry Stewart Myers

Larry Stewart Myers, M.D., 78, was born on January 7, 1947, in Rome, New York, to William P. Myers and Elizabeth Ann Myers (nee Drayer). Dr. Myers



passed away on September 2, 2025.

Larry met the love of his life, Paula Erdelyi, in San Antonio while both were employed at Fort Sam Houston's Psychiatry Clinic. Paula affectionately referred to Larry as "His Royal Doctorhood". The couple celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary shortly before Paula passed away in July 2023. Paula and Larry made Louisville their home in 1992.

He was a National Merit Scholar who graduated from Penn State University in 15 months. He immediately entered Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University School in Philadelphia and graduated in 1970 followed by residency at the National Capital Consortium in Bethesda, MD. Dr. Myers served in Long Binh, Vietnam, for two years while treating drug-addicted soldiers. He believed it was very worthwhile training for a future psychiatrist.

Larry practiced psychiatry in the U.S. Army for 20 years from 1971-1991, providing outpatient and inpatient psychiatric treatment to adults. He had a dozen areas of specialties. Larry enjoyed meaningful professional work at other Army bases including Fort Sill, OK; USAG Ansbach, Germany and Fort Knox, KY. Following retirement from the Army, Larry served as Chief of Psychiatry at St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh. After returning to Louisville in 1993, Larry served as a Senior Adult Psychiatrist at Seven Counties Services and completed his career at the US Army Department of Behavioral Health, Fort Knox.

He was a genius of psychopharmacology; if there was a known, but rare, interaction between two psychiatric medications, or between a psychiatric medication and general medical drug, Larry knew about it and could often cite the journal in which the information first appeared, and he would caution the psychiatric medical staff at Seven Counties Services about what he had read. Larry retired, but then returned to work, several times; being of service to his patients was his driving mission in life.

Larry was an aficionado of all music genres: classical, jazz, R&B, rock n' roll, soul, rap and hip-hop. He had covered the wall of his den with his vast

Continued on page 26

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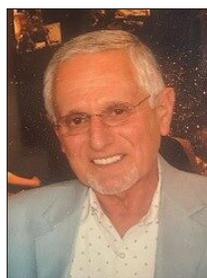
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collection of old vinyl record albums. He was well read; he had a basement full of shelved books and journals that would rival a neighborhood library in scope and size.

Larry and Paula were active members of The Temple where they attended adult education classes regularly. He always added his wisdom to the conversation and was loved and appreciated by everyone. He always sat with his beloved Paula in the front row during services, listening and participating.

Larry is survived by his sister, Lynn Myers of New York, his stepdaughters, Kathryn Kirby (Tim) of Searcy, AR and Karyn Larson of Mount Airy, MD. Other surviving family members are Zachary Kirby (Ashley) of LaGrange, GA and their daughters Emersyn and Madelyn and Mitchell Kirby of Little Rock, AR.

A memorial service for Dr. Raskin was held on Sunday, September 28 at Herman Meyer & Son. Contributions in his memory may be made to The Temple, The Louisville Zoo, NPR, or a charity of the donor's choosing.



Larry Raskin

Dr. Larry M. Raskin, Ph.D., 85, died on October 3, 2025, at his home in Louisville, Kentucky, surrounded by loved ones.

Born in Washington, D.C., Dr. Raskin was a research p s y c h o l o g i s t

dedicated to helping families in need. Later in his career, he focused on children from military families stationed at Fort Knox. He earned his undergraduate degree from George Washington University and his doctorate from McGill University. His passion for learning and commitment

to scholarship led to a distinguished career in higher education before he transitioned to private therapy practice. He often spoke of spending his remaining years collecting seashells on the beaches of the Carolinas, but he continued to treat patients in Louisville until his retirement at age 83.

Throughout his career, Dr. Raskin held positions at several respected institutions, including the University of Minnesota, the University of North Carolina, Purdue University, and the University of Louisville, where he served as the Chief Psychologist of the Child Evaluation Center and achieved the rank of full professor. His work impacted the lives of tens of thousands of people.

Outside his professional pursuits, Dr. Raskin enjoyed a variety of activities. As a former college athlete, he became an avid golfer and tennis player who appreciated the camaraderie of sports. He also had a lifelong fascination with military history, exploring the conflicts and strategies of World War II while assembling model Sherman and Panzer tanks. However, his greatest passion was for the sculptor Alberto Giacometti, whose art he admired for its emotional depth.

Dr. Raskin is lovingly remembered by his son, David Raskin; daughter-in-law, Jodi Cressman; daughter, Eve Anderson; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Kenyon Anderson, a loss he grieved deeply.

A Celebration of Life was held October 9 at Herman Meyer and Son. Charitable donations in Dr. Raskin's honor may be made to: Camp Kesem/Kesem William & Mary, "A child's friend through and beyond a parent's cancer" <https://donate.kesem.org/team/772448>

May his memory be a blessing.



Polly Waldman

Polly Waldman, a vibrant and creative soul, was born on March 6, 1938, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Herman and Lillian Jacobs. She passed away peacefully on September 20, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, artistry, and joyful living.

Polly attended the University of Alabama, where she nurtured her passions and talents. She built a successful career as a caterer with Holiday Inn, delighting countless guests with her culinary creations. She married Manley Feinberg, and together they raised three cherished children, Pam, Craig, and Lisa. Later, she found love again with Alan Waldman, and together they raised their daughter, Robin.

Polly and Alan shared a deep and enduring bond, celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary shortly before his passing. As avid golfers and members of The Standard Country Club, they spent many happy days on the greens, creating memories that would last a lifetime.

A woman of many talents, Polly was an intuitive cook who crafted meals from the heart, never needing a cookbook. She loved decorating her surroundings with style and flair, and she was an enthusiastic swimmer. After relocating to Florida, Polly discovered a new passion for painting. Her vibrant artworks—often featuring whimsical monkeys, elegantly dressed women, and

other imaginative subjects—reflected her eternally optimistic outlook and brought joy to all who admired them.

Polly was also deeply committed to her community, actively participating in The Temple and the NCJW-Louisville Section, where her energy, generosity, and kindness touched many lives.

Polly was blessed with incredible caregivers who went above and beyond for her, especially JanNine. They weren't just helpers; they became companions, advocates, and friends. They supported her with patience, humor, and respect. Our family is deeply grateful for the comfort and dignity they gave her.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Alan Waldman, and her parents, Herman and Lillian Jacobs. Polly is survived by her devoted children: Pam Feinberg Buren (Doug), Craig Feinberg, Lisa Feinberg (Patrick), and Robin Waldman; her sister and best friend, Roz Schneider; her sister-in-law, Bonnye Fine; and her adored grandchildren: Justin Buren (Macie), Logan Buren (Manny), and Savannah Wren Allen.

Funeral services were held September 25 at The Temple, followed by burial in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made as donations to The Temple, the James Graham Brown Cancer Center, 529 S. Jackson Street, Louisville, KY 40202, or the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

Polly's vibrant spirit, generosity, and love for life will continue to inspire all who knew and loved her.

Continued on page 27

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GLOBE

Continued from page 26



Anna P. Weiss

Anna P. Weiss died peacefully on September 14, 2025, after a long illness. She was born Anna Sharon Pierce in Middletown, KY, to Mable Pullen and Renford Carew Pierce. Her siblings were David Macy, Mary Jane, John, Clara, and Susan Pierce. Anna was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, two sisters, and daughter, Elizabeth Anne Marshall. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Allan; children, Lydia (David) Hess, Robert W. (Tracy) Marshall, Jr., and John Allan (Jessica Scheick) Weiss; six grandchildren, Marshall Hess, Sergei Hess, Lucy (Aaron) Raymer, Trent Marshall, Sarah Marshall, and Emily Jane Weiss; her sister Mary Jane Rogers of Leitchfield, KY; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

One of Anna's greatest joys was going on road trips with Allan. She was always excited to travel the back roads of the country to the many antiques, folk art, and decoy shows they attended. She created many lasting friendships with the other collectors and their families.

Anna was a skilled tennis player, and she was proud of receiving her 200 Game Pin when bowling. Anna was an accomplished artist working in watercolors, oils, and off-loom weaving. She often started her weavings by hand-spinning raw wool sheared from sheep at the farm next to her parents' when they lived in LaRue County. Anna and

her friend Martha Goheen started a business called Earth Jewelry. They collaborated daily, making necklaces and bracelets from sea urchin spines, amber, Mexican onyx, Egyptian scarabs, carved bones, beads, and brass. They sold Earth Jewelry in small boutiques and large department stores in 13 states. Anna's talents included sewing, and she made Elizabeth and Lydia's dresses when they were young, including hand-smocking the fronts. In her later years, Anna took apart blouses, tops, and pants, and combined them into new and exciting fashions. She was also a prolific knitter and was fond of making scarves for friends and family.

It was Anna's artistic eye that shaped much of their art collection. Most importantly, she convinced Allan to purchase a carved walking stick that is now in the permanent collection of the Speed Art Museum.

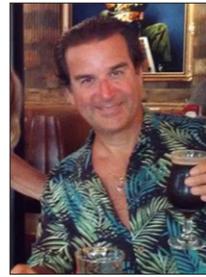
A Celebration of Anna's Life was held September 28 at Coach Gate Club House. Contributions in her memory may be made to Hosparus Health, 6200 Dutchman Lane, Louisville, KY 40205, or to your favorite charity.

We must also thank the wonderful home health care workers at ElderCare, Hosparus Health, and the nurses at Baptist East's Palliative Care unit who took such good, gentle, and kind care of Anna.

Bob Winner

Bob Winner passed away on September 17, 2025, doing what he loved: dancing and romancing while traveling with his favorite gal, Marianne.

Born in Louisville, he was the son of the late Murrel and Jean Winner.



Bob graduated from Waggener High School and the University of Kentucky before joining the family business, Winner Furniture, for many years. He was also known to have done some modeling and

advertising stints. Bob was a University of Louisville sports fanatic who rarely missed U of L football, baseball, and basketball games, and loved being there for the live action, especially post-season and bowl games!

Once retired, he focused on traveling to many new places and exploring the world. He enjoyed his summer days relaxing and rafting at Lakeside and during the winter months at the J for water classes and shmoozing.

Bob was well-known for his floral and colorful shirts. He loved lively music, listening to bands and local groups. We wore colorful clothing at the funeral to honor Bob's preference, and encouraged all who attended to join in.

Bob was cherished by his wife, Marianne; son, Brian (Averi); and stepdaughter, Kristin Goodwin (Dale). He also leaves behind his brother, Eddie (Judy); sister, Sharon Ran (Jerry); and sister-in-law, Carolyn Richart (Harry), as well as four grandchildren: Kaia, Carson, Whitman, and Preston.

A Celebration of Bob's life was held October 6 at Herman Meyer & Son. Donations in his memory can be made to the Trager Family JCC (Jewish Community of Louisville) or the American Heart Association.



Irina Zalmanov

Beloved mother and grandmother, Irina Zalmanov (April 30, 1934 – September 21, 2025) left this world peacefully, surrounded by the love of her three children,

Alex Zalmanoff (with his wife Lyubov Zalmanoff), Tamara Zusstone (with her husband Eli Zusstone), and Vlad Zalmanov (with his wife Lude Zalmanov, as well as her cherished grandchildren, Julia Zalmanoff, Tony Zalmanov, and Esther Zusstone.

Irina was a warm, kind-hearted, and spirited woman who brought joy to everyone around her. She had a natural charm — friendly, easy to talk to, and always full of life. But behind her bright smile was a strength forged through incredible hardship. As a child, she lived through the horrors of World War II — surviving occupation, forced evacuation to a distant land, and witnessing the pain of death, hunger, and devastation.

After the war, life did not become easier. Her hometown was left in ruins, and her family lost everything. Yet through it all, her spirit remained unbroken. Her fierce loyalty to her family and friends was unwavering, and her resilience, grace, and optimism in the face of adversity will forever be an inspiration. May her memory be a blessing to all those who knew and loved her."

Funeral services were held on September 25, with burial in The Temple Cemetery.

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Interim Director, Noah Klein
JLE Co-chairs, Carol Jones and Corey Shapiro
To contact Noah Klein email keshetsundays@jewishlouisville.org

**Build Community
with a Gather Grant**

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

WHO? Young adults between 25-45 years old

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

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



Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE



Shalom LOUISVILLE

Are You New to Lou?

Join us!

Welcome to Jewish Louisville! Whether you're new to town or just ready to connect, Shalom Louisville is here for you. Our team is excited to help you find community, resources, and Jewish experiences that make Louisville feel like home.

Scan the QR code to register!



or visit jewishlouisville.org/shalomlouisville

Keep programs like this thriving—make your gift to the Annual Campaign today.