

# A tale of two board members – and a shared commitment to the future of Jewish Louisville

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

There are many pathways for volunteers to make significant impact on the Jewish Federation of Louisville's Annual Campaign. Take, for example, the multifaceted commitments by Julie Strull and Kevin Trager.

Both share a keen interest in Shalom Louisville – a Federation initiative aimed at newly arrived Jewish Louisvillians and those who want to make Jewish Louisville a bigger part of their lives.

"I was asked to serve as chair of Shalom Louisville, helping to welcome new people to Jewish Louisville," recalls Strull, who moved to Louisville 30 years ago along with her husband, Greg. "I feel especially grateful for that opportunity because when we first moved here, we were welcomed with open arms," she says. "I hope to offer that same warm welcome to others who have just arrived, so they too can feel a true sense of belonging."

As a transplant to Louisville, Strull had made forging connections an immediate priority.

"From the very beginning I became involved in the Jewish community to meet new people," she says. "I joined many committees, serving and chairing the Aday Jeshurun Preschool Board, AJ Board and co-chairing the national Challah Bake with over 150 women in attendance. Once our boys, Henry (29) and Max (26) 'flew the nest,' I had extra time on my hands. I was asked to join the JCL Board and thought it was a great opportunity for me."

As a third-generation member of a family steeped in community service, Kevin Trager appreciates the imperative of engaging deeply with Louisville's Jewish community.

His current commitments include sitting on the JCL board and serving as

See **BOARD IMPACT** on page 17

# In the space of about two minutes, 'My JCC Story' videos reveal a rich, thriving history

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

If you're looking for someone who encapsulates the rich narrative of Louisville's Jewish Community Center, you would do well to have a chat with Carol Behr.

Beginning with the YMHA located downtown at Second and Jacob Streets, continuing with the old JCC on Dutchmans Lane and onto the present Trager Family JCC, Behr has been a stalwart presence – matriarch of a family boasting three generations of connections to a thriving Jewish Community Center.

It was connections like these that prompted Behr to participate in My JCC Story, a collection of short videos in which community members speak about what makes the Trager Family JCC and its predecessors such an important part of their lives. So far, almost 50 people have been interviewed for the project, with about half of them already uploaded to the Jewish Community of Louisville's YouTube channel.

Behr didn't hesitate when she was asked to contribute to the My JCC Story project. "Before I even had children, my whole life revolved around the Center," she said. "I was part of a modern dance group, and every Tuesday night and Friday morning for like



Carol Behr telling her JCC Story

25 or 30 years I was at the Center."

And once she became a mother, "my children never went anywhere else," Behr said. "They were in clubs and sports – there just was no other place we would think to go."

"It's important to get these past perspectives, because we were losing these stories," emphasized Lindsey Palgy, Community Engagement & Program Coordinator at the Jewish Fed-

eration of Louisville. "I've had people who've been Jewish all their lives who are from families where everyone knows their last names, to trans and non-binary people who may not have grown up here but are like: 'Yeah, this is a home for me.'"

Indeed, "everybody has their own vivid life and inner monologue," Palgy said. "We're each a universe unto ourselves."

See **MY JCC STORY** on page 4

# Amid the vast sands of the Sahara, we renewed connections to the past and promises of what's to come



Sara's  
View

Sara  
Klein Wagner

It was a picture-perfect, undeniably once in-a-lifetime morning, the Sahara Desert sand was shimmering, we had just witnessed a magnificent sunrise over end-

less miles of dunes. It was so quiet we could hear the wind. We gathered, 30 in our group, with guides Muhammed from Morocco and Nir from Israel as Jeff Tuvlin – co-chair of our first-ever Federation leadership mission to Morocco – shared his reflection:

*We all arrived here with full lives and with daily responsibilities, expectations, accomplishments, titles and names," Jeff observed. "The desert doesn't know who we are. We have never been here before, but the desert is not foreign to us. Maybe not this particular desert, but the desert ties us to our Jewish past. In our tradition, the desert is not a place where we had control, but where we formed*



who we were as a people.

There is a Moroccan-Jewish saying:

See **MOROCCO** on page 9

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# THE DASHBOARD

## Word of the Month

### Hope and Resilience – From the Shoah to the State of Israel



D'var Torah

Rabbi  
Scott Hoffman

Far and away the most confounding part of the Jewish calendar occurred this past week and the previous one. We observed Yom Ha-shoah, the day of Holocaust Remembrance, and marked the greatest tragedy in the four-thousand-year history of our people last week. And just a few days ago, we marked Yom Ha-atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, perhaps the greatest accomplishment in the history of our people. And yet, it is the genius of the Jewish people to pivot seamlessly from the ashes of destruction and rise again to historic heights that has enabled our growth and survival for so many centuries. Allow me to share a personal anecdote which I believe illustrates this better than any complicated analysis ever could.

My mother's aunt, Vicky Bornstein z'l, was born in Poland and sent along with her family to the concentration camps. Her family was murdered during the Shoah, but she survived. At war's end, she was a slave laborer for a family who lived just outside Auschwitz. In effect, she had survived the war only to fall victim to a modern-day Pharaoh.

Fortunately, an American Jewish soldier, Simon Chilowitz, had been sent by the U.S. military to help liberate the camps. He found Vicky by chance and decided to intervene. Using his knowledge of the Russian language, which he learned from his parents, he threatened to kill her enslavers unless she was released to his custody. Whether he would have carried out the threat is unknown, but the ploy worked, and my aunt was handed over to Chilowitz.

As they say in the Passover Haggadah, had this been the entirety of the story, we might say "Dayenu." But in fact, it's only the beginning. Chilowitz managed to have Vicky admitted to the United States and invited her to live with his family. I hasten to add that, while my aunt was a very beautiful woman, Chilowitz was considerably older and their relationship was platonic. He was motivated exclusively by a desire to assist a fellow Jew in distress.

As luck would have it, Vicky met and married my mother's uncle, a handsome young doctor named Leo Bornstein. A battlefield surgeon in World War II, he was recruited by the Israeli government to serve in the 1948 War of Independence.

Vicky and Leo married the following year and made Aliyah, where they raised three sons and lived a decidedly charmed life until my uncle's passing in 1980 and Vicky's many years later. Among his many accomplishments, Leo was one of the founders of what is today Sheba-Tel Hashomer Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

All three of Vicky and Leo's sons are today doctors themselves, men in their late sixties and early seventies. But it is the oldest son, Elchanan, whom I will highlight here. Elchanan, like his father, works at Sheba-Tel Hashomer Medical Center. He is the chief administrator of a group of medical personnel sent by the State of Israel on missions of mercy. To cite one example which strikes close to home for me, the group was sent to Papua, New Guinea, to perform cataract surgery on 50 adults. I had a cataract removed from my right eye several years ago at the age of 55. Had I lived in an underdeveloped nation like New Guinea, I would by now have lost vision in that eye completely. But thanks to that brief surgery, I have nearly perfect vision in that eye today. The same is no doubt true of these men and women. The lives of 50 people, with no previous connection to Israel or the Jewish people, have been changed dramatically for the better.

Think about that for a moment. The kindness of a Jewish soldier saved the life of a young girl emerging from the devastation of the Shoah. The young girl married a surgeon, and together they raised three sons who spent their entire adult lives enriching the lives of strangers. And all of this happened despite living in Israel where citizens were – and are – often under threat. A young girl stepped out of the Holocaust's shadow, and in the years and decades that followed, many others stepped out of their own personal "shadows."

All this stems from a single Jewish soldier's belief in the maxim that "one who saves a single life is considered to have saved an entire world." Having just observed these two solemn days, let us vow to make this principle a "light to our feet" going forward. It's a guiding light we need in these dark and challenging times.

*Scott Hoffman is Rabbi at Congregation Adath Jeshurun*

## Snapshots



NextGen gathered at Paseo for Shabbat on Friday, March 27.

(Photos by Abigail Goldberg)

## Candles

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

- May 1 @ 8:17 p.m.
- May 8 @ 8:23 p.m.
- May 15 @ 8:29 p.m.
- May 21 @ 8:34 p.m. (*Shavuot*)
- May 29 @ 8:41 p.m.

## Contacts

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

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

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](mailto:gshoemaker@jewishlouisville.org) or 502-238-2770.

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

## Deadlines

**Got a news item for *Community*?** Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Monday, May 18** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on **Friday, May 29**.

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

## Read Community Everywhere...

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



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

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

per. Then check out *Digital Community* at [jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version/](http://jewishlouisville.org/community/community-newspaper/print-version/).

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

## Corrections/Clarifications

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



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# NEWS

## MY JCC STORY

Continued from page 1

A sampling of My JCC Stories is below:

*Rabbi Ben Freed*

"The first thing that comes to mind when I think about the JCC is walking through the doors, saying hi to folks – the fact that I can never go more than 10 steps here without stopping and schmoozing with somebody. Sometimes that makes it a little harder to work out as a rabbi because there's always folks who want to talk to me. But that's a great thing, right? (And having) so many different aspects of who I am and the community all happening in one place feels really cool."

*Attorney Aaron Kemper*

"I vividly remember doing Shabbat on Friday at summer music camp as a kid and a teen. And it was really neat when my daughter went to daycare here in summer camp when they do Shabbat, and they're singing a lot of the same songs that we sung. My wife is African American and my kids are biracial; they feel very comfortable here, acting like they own the place. The JCC has always done a good job of including people within the community who may look different than they did 150 years ago when this place was founded. And while the faces look different, the community

spirit is still the same."

*CenterStage Committee Co-Chair and NCJW Executive Director Sarah Harlan*

We moved here in August 2001, and shortly afterward saw an advertisement about auditions for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* for CenterStage, talking about a children's cast. Our oldest, Jennifer, was going into sixth grade and had done some acting where we used to live. So she tried out and was in that production, when we literally had just been here a few months... It's nice to be able to share that as the oldest community theater in the state of Kentucky."

*Trager Family JCC personal trainer Sylvester Davis*

"True gym culture is about encouraging people to be better than they were before they got here... There is scripture that talks about the children of Israel coming into a new land, so understand how this is going to tie in with gym culture here. Understand[ing] that you were once foreigners in a strange land yourself. So from that standpoint, these (new fitness) people are foreigners. They are new to this whole idea of fitness and health. You welcome and encourage them, because you understand that you were them at one point in time."



**Sam and Marlene Gordon**

**Sam and Marlene Gordon telling their JCC Story**

*Cari Hatch*

"The one (memory) that stands out the most is spending every weekend of every summer in this one corner of the pool. We would get here as soon as it opened on Saturdays in a group that hung out with my grandparents, and we were here all day on Sundays. My grandfather would get up at 6 every morning and swim laps in the outdoor pool during the summer and in the indoor pool in the winter. Growing up, I would come with him and swim. So that was our

little bonding time."

*Sam and Marlene Gordon*

Marlene: All the girls used to sit in the bleachers and watch the guys play. Sammy was an awesome baseball player and I just thought, 'God, he so good and is so cute and so funny, I have to get to meet him.' And 62 years later, we're still here at the J."

*Evan Rowe*

"I was a JCC rat. I was always here. We didn't stop swimming here

Continued on page 5

## 2026 JCC Gators Summer Swim Team

The JCC Gators swim team is for children ages 5-18. Participants must be independent swimmers. Families must either hold an Annual Membership or a Summer Membership to participate.

**Practice Schedule:**  
Beginning May 26, 2026

**Tuesday-Thursday**  
Ages 5-6 & Camp J participants: 4-5 p.m.  
Ages 7-12: 5-6 p.m.  
Ages 13 & up: 6-7 p.m.

**Friday**  
Ages 5-6 & Camp J participants: 4-5 p.m.  
Ages 7-12: 5-6 p.m.  
Ages 13 & up: 6-6:45 p.m.

**Have questions or new to the team?**  
Contact Lexi Garrison with questions, (502) 238-2728 or [lgarrison@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:lgarrison@jewishlouisville.org)  
If new to the team, please contact Lexi prior to registration.

**Join our Facebook group!**  
Search "JCC Gators" and request to join.

**Summer Swim Team Parent Meeting**

Parents and guardians of JCC Gators swimmers are invited to attend a Summer Swim Team Parent Meeting!

**May 19 or May 21, 6-7 p.m.**  
**Trager Family JCC**  
Fleischaker-Greene Family Community Room

This meeting will cover important information for the upcoming season, including practice schedules, meet expectations, volunteer roles, and key dates. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and get ready for summer league!

**To Register**  
scan the QR code or visit  
[jcclouisville.org/gators](http://jcclouisville.org/gators)

## UPCOMING LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSES

### May 2, 3, 9 and 10

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. all days  
Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center

**Learn life-saving water safety, rescue, CPR & first aid skills.**  
All classes are taught in a blended learning format with online pre-course work and in-person skill sessions.

JCC Member Price: \$265 • Non-Member Price: \$318

**Trager Family JCC**

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



# NEWS

Continued from page 4

from age six until age 18. There was a whole world of life and friendships we made here at the pool and at camp. Every summer, I knew where I was going to be. I still remember very vividly (being) a young camper in a circle in the auditorium at the old JCC, (where) we did Shabbat. My first memory as a young adult would be a year when I worked at the JCC under (youth director) Jay Levine. That year alone meant so much to me, growing and learning.

*Sidney Abramson*

"There are a lot of things going on nowadays where people don't feel safe in certain places in their communities. But the JCC is somewhere where you can come and feel welcome, whether you're Jewish or non-Jewish. It's a safe community. I think that's what keeps people together."

*Chester Misbach*

I learned there were group fitness classes I didn't even know existed. My first one occurred because some guy in the locker room kept pestering me to go to cycling class with him, and finally, just to quiet him, I went...I hadn't ridden a bike forever, but as a kid riding bikes was that a big deal. So I thought, "I'm not sure this is going to be a great workout. So just to make sure I get

some exercise here, I'm going to sit against the wall and just get a good old burn going in my quadriceps... When everyone gets there it's full, 21 people, and the fellow who invited me is there next to me in the back. Five minutes into the class, the instructor has us standing and sprinting. It's an hour-long class and I am dying...But the guy who invited me and myself are so competitive that I said to myself, "Chester, if you have to die in this class on this bike tonight, that's what's going to happen, because if you get off this bike and walk out the door, you'll never hear the end of it."

*Cantor Sharon Hordes*

"In every city that I've ever lived in, I've been part of a JCC... So when we moved here, the JCC in Louisville felt very familiar. I felt at home right away. One of the first people I met was Annette Sagerman, and I'm not alone in saying that she was a very special person – extremely welcoming, so warm and so friendly. That just made me feel like I belonged. My older daughter went to preschool here for one year and we were very pleased with how that went, and both my kids went to day camp...It's a wonderful, multifaceted organization. If you want to come and work-out, that's great. If you want to bring your kids to the playground, that's wonderful. If you want to come hear a lecture, that's fantastic."

"One of the most important things is to give back to the community that gives you so much," Carol Behr said. "And I think that's one of the richest things we can say that the Jewish Community Center does."

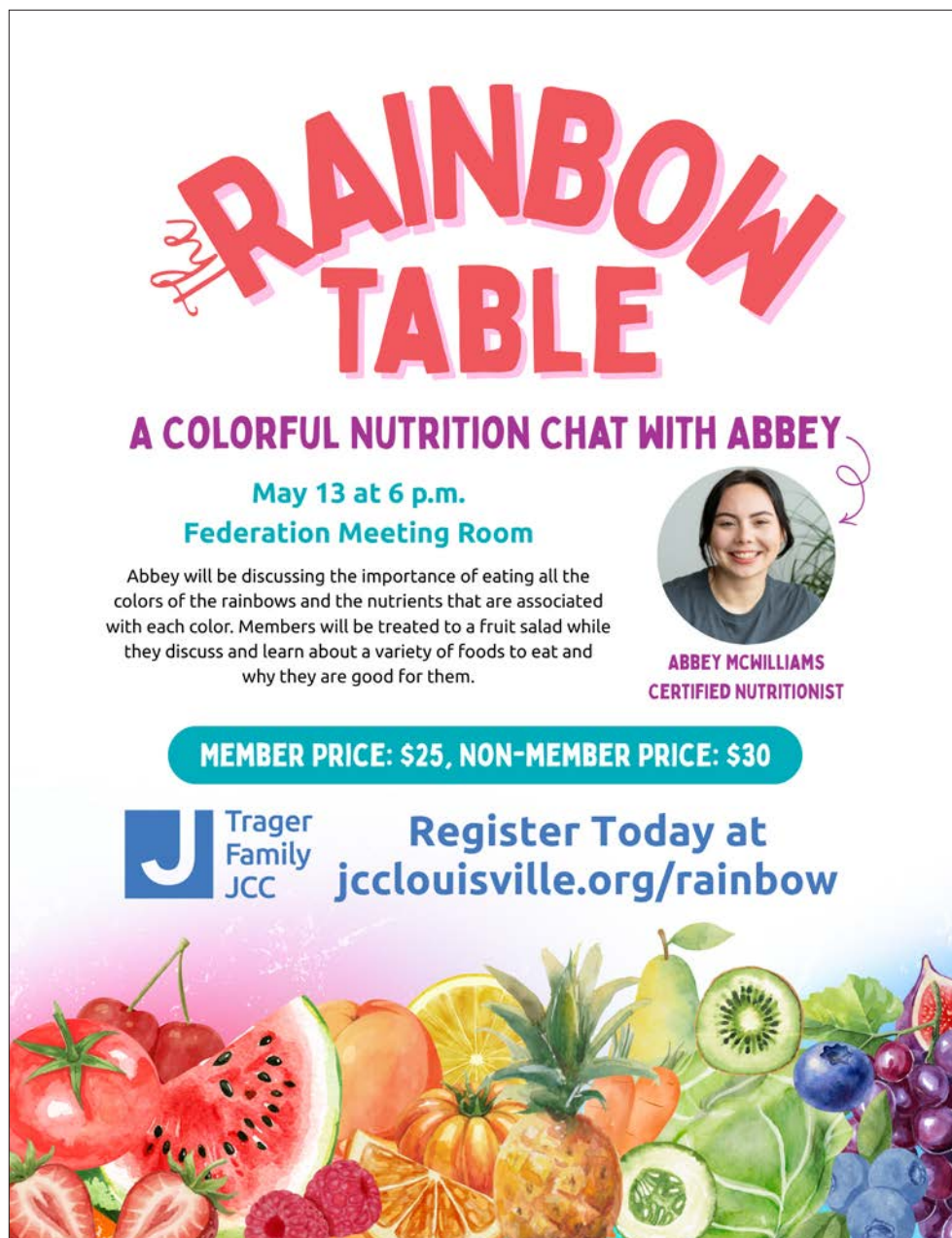
You can find complete versions of these and many other My JCC Story videos on the JCL YouTube channel: [tinyurl.com/3bwby48e](https://tinyurl.com/3bwby48e)



**Share your JCC Stories**

Trager Family JCC

Scan the QR code to share your JCC stories and experiences with us!



## RAINBOW TABLE

**A COLORFUL NUTRITION CHAT WITH ABBEY**

May 13 at 6 p.m.  
Federation Meeting Room

Abbey will be discussing the importance of eating all the colors of the rainbows and the nutrients that are associated with each color. Members will be treated to a fruit salad while they discuss and learn about a variety of foods to eat and why they are good for them.

**MEMBER PRICE: \$25, NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$30**

Trager Family JCC

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The Louisville Counselor Fellowship is designed to encourage Jewish young adults, age 18-25, to work at Jewish overnight camps. These young adults will be role models for younger generations and will offer support and guidance to these children. The program will encourage young adults to continue their journey in the Jewish community and encourage them to stay connected to Jewish organizations in the future.

**Overnight camp staff will have the opportunity to earn a stipend of up to \$2000 in addition to their camp pay.**

\*Camp must participate in One Happy Camper program

For more information, visit [jewishlouisville.org/camp-fellowship](https://jewishlouisville.org/camp-fellowship)

Questions? Contact Alison Roemer, [aroemer@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aroemer@jewishlouisville.org), or call 502-238-2730

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**Community** is published monthly by the Jewish Community of Louisville, Inc., 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205-3216.

USPS #020-068 at Louisville, KY.

The Jewish Community of Louisville is a nonprofit organization. \$26 of your pledge is for a subscription for Community.

For more information, call 502-459-0660, fax 502-238-2724, e-mail [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org) or check out the website [www.jewishlouisville.org](http://www.jewishlouisville.org).

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

### COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of **Community** for copy and ads are May 18 for publication on May 29 and June 15 for publication on June 26.

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

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

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

To submit items to Newsmakers, Around Town or Lifecycle, please email them to [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org).

Email your comments and letters to the editor to: [community@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:community@jewishlouisville.org).

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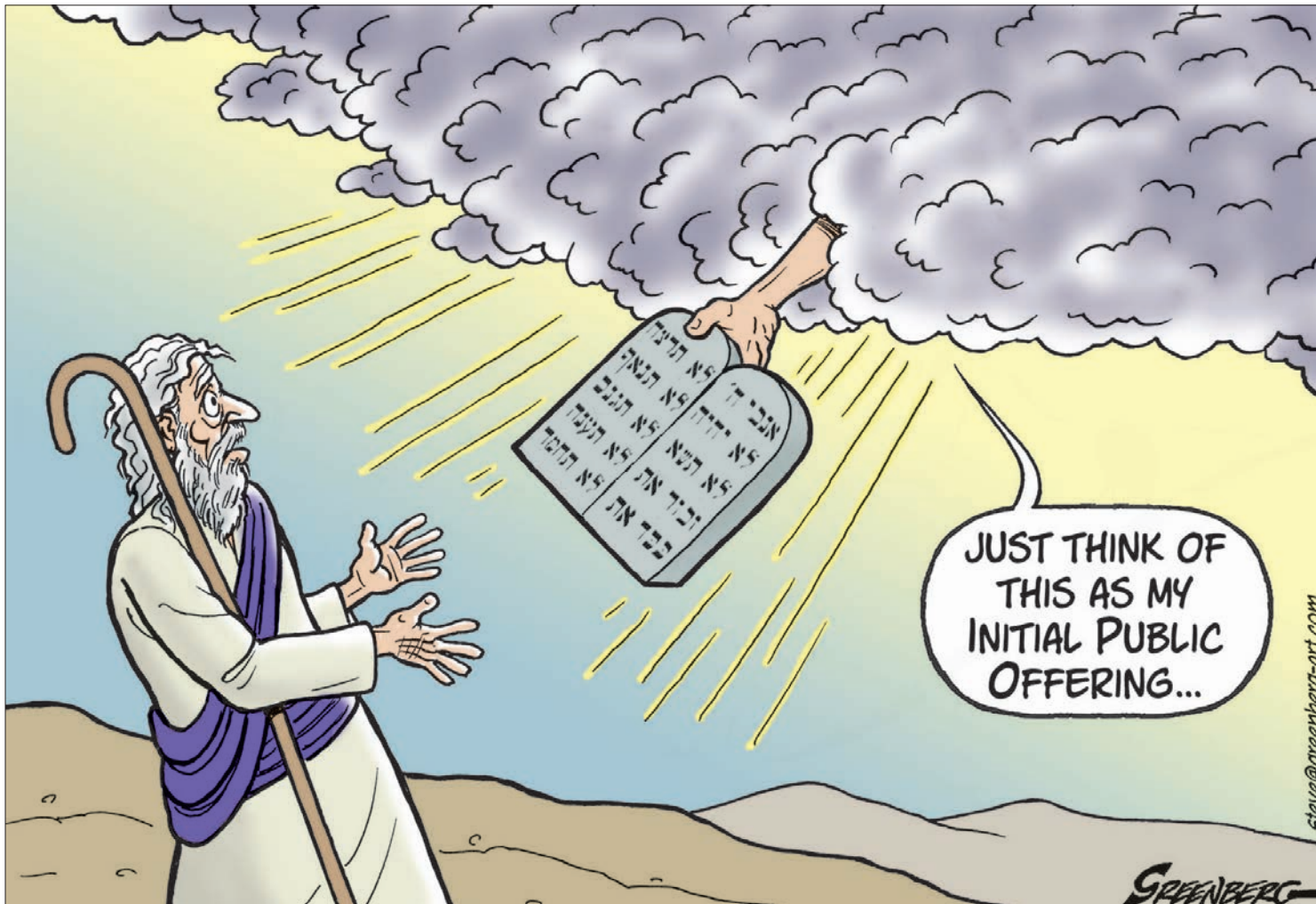
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## FORUM



## In ‘Tehran’ and Tehran, it’s bombs away regardless



### Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

Every so often I come across an intersection of art and life that simultaneously frightens and tantalizes. Such is the case with *Tehran*, an Israeli-produced series that tells of a Jewish, Iranian-born young spy named Tamar whom the Mossad has deeply embedded in Iran’s capital city, where she was born.

I finally got around to watching the third season of *Tehran*, which in this country streams on Apple TV (it was originally broadcast on Israel’s public TV channel Kan). Like the preceding two seasons, this eight-episode package centers on efforts to sabotage Iran’s nuclear program, which in season three is on the verge of producing a working fission device: i.e., an atomic bomb.

It was a peculiar sensation watching a fictional narrative more-or-less in parallel with real-world efforts to obliterate (or at least decimate) Iran’s ongoing uranium enrichment program. Indeed, the opening scene of the first episode – which features Hugh Laurie as the head of an international nuclear inspection team – shows row upon row of centrifuges, the apparatus tasked with producing weapons-grade nuclear material.

This isn’t the first time I had the uneasy feeling that fiction was morphing into fact (or is it the other way around)? Another multi-season Israeli thriller series, Netflix’s *Fauda*, depicted members of the elite Duvdevan Unit, an IDF com-

mando brigade that conducts deep-penetration, undercover operations in enemy territory. Its third season, released at the very end of 2019, has elements of Hamas infiltrating Southern Israel from tunnels beneath Gaza, followed by an extended mission to rescue a pair of kidnapped young Israeli hikers.

Leaving aside for a moment the relative plausibility of both narratives, there is no denying the close relationship between what emerges from the writers’ rooms bears uncanny relevance to what is actually taking place on the ground. Whether in the actual world or within a fictional context of *Tehran*, Iran is regarded as an existential threat to the very existence of the State of Israel. Nothing is more vital than preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. Those stakes are anything but imagined.

Of course, both *Tehran* and *Fauda* are meant principally to entertain, not act as dry, didactic life lessons. Israel’s intelligence agencies, whether Shin Bet or Mossad, often appear to boast unlimited and unrestrained technical capabilities – calling up ultra detailed satellite imagery in mere seconds, tapping mobile phones, disrupting traffic signals in a busy Tehran neighborhood – both series are unabashed cheerleaders for the technology of Israeli spy craft.

From time to time, this breakneck pace of actionable intelligence gives way to consideration of a moral dilemma. Is it acceptable to potentially kill tens of thousands of Iranian civilians if a nuclear weapon is deliberately detonated before it can reach Israel? Will Tamar agree to do whatever she deems necessary to preserve her undercover status, even if her decisions result in fatal collateral damage?

Perhaps more to the point, the fact that *Fauda* and *Tehran* hew closely to contem-

porary headlines reflects the inescapable connection between actuality and the imaginary. Since the Iranian revolution of 1979, when America was labeled The Great Satan and Israel The Little Satan, Iran has been the intractable enemy of both countries. In *Tehran*, Tamar’s principal antagonist is a high-ranking counterintelligence officer in the IRGC – the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. Viewers in the US and Israel don’t need to be reminded what that organization means, domestically and abroad.

Indeed, successive assassinations of senior Iranian hierarchy, including supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei – took place at about the same time I was glued to successive episodes of *Tehran*. The resulting overlap, inevitable as it may have been, was still a bit unsettling. Who would be the first to succeed in thwarting Iran’s nuclear program: Tamar on the ground or Israeli and American bombs falling from the air?

At this juncture, Tamar appears to have the upper hand. As of writing this column in mid-April, Iran appears to be hanging onto its stockpile of enriched uranium. Its capital city has been severely damaged by relentless bombing, yet the IRGC remains in authority, manipulating the levers of power with uncanny resilience.

Meanwhile, *Tehran* has been renewed for a fourth season, so presumably Tamar yet again will emerge as Israel’s deep cover protector. Perhaps she will find a way to prevent the IRGC from choking off the Strait of Hormuz. After all, next to uranium, oil is the region’s most volatile substance – on and off TV.

*Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.*



# FORUM

## Odds and Ends from the Filson

By Ann Niren  
Guest Columnist

I am gratified that most everywhere I go in Jewish Louisville, people stop me and want to talk about the Filson and/or their own potential donations. Several folks have referenced these columns, and I am so pleased to know that many people are reading them and that what I write has been meaningful. If you all have something that you would like me to discuss in an upcoming column – perhaps a program suggestion, a presentation, or, of course, a donation – please contact me to discuss it at 502-635-5083, ext. 233 (For you eagle-eyed readers, you will notice that my extension has changed). I have no public programs officially scheduled in the immediate future, but there are several I am planning for later this year, so stay tuned. Currently, I am busy giving presentations and conference papers, as well as coordinating donations.

As I write these words, we are observing the holiday of Passover, so in the spirit of cleaning out chometz, this column will be a sort of mishmash of several “leftover” topics. First, I wish to thank each of you who attended the Sonny Meyer program at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center last month. We expected 125 people, but 160 showed up! It truly warmed my heart to see so many folks come out to learn about the history of the Louisville Jewish community and to support Sonny. For some, it was a trip down “Memory Lane,” and for others, it was

an opportunity to experience a bygone era unknown to them. Thanks so much to my Filson colleagues and those at the Trager Family JCC, and especially to Sonny for a job well done!

Going back to February, I was equally pleased to see a crowd of about 100 people attend “Ain’t No Back to a Merry-Go-Round” as part of the Louisville Jewish Film Festival. In addition, the Filson hosted a panel of folks who were involved in the Civil Rights movement, including Raoul Cunningham, Marie Abrams, and Ben Post, representing his late mother, Suzy Post, and it was moderated by the CEO of Metro United Way, Adria Johnson. Their recollections from the 1960s added a local and personal touch to the evening, and we thank them for their contributions. Thanks again to the Trager Family Jewish Community Center for sponsoring the film and for partnering with us.

I am thrilled to announce that two items from two different donations from last year will make their “debut” in an upcoming exhibit at the Filson: “From the Same Cloth: Textiles of the Ohio Valley,” which opens on May 29, and will be available for viewing until next April. One item is a quilt made from old t-shirts given to the late Irvin Goldstein upon his retirement from teaching; it was donated, along with multiple other items, by Irvin’s son, Alan. The other item is a tablecloth from the now-defunct Frankfort chapter of Hadassah, donated by Joe and Bianca Wall; Joe’s mother, Rebecca, was the president of that chapter. All of the

members embroidered their names on the tablecloth, which is important because we have very little information about this group. If you are interested in viewing these items, along with other textiles, the exhibit will be open during regular Filson hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., except for the third Friday of the month when we are closed to the public. In case you are interested, we also offer free tours of the Filson Mondays and Thursdays at 2 p.m., where you can learn about the original family who lived here, the Fergusons, and the buildings themselves.

My phone has been ringing off the hook with folks who are interested in donating to the Filson. I guess it is truly “Spring Cleaning” time. Here are a few of the donations that have recently been accepted: Former Mayor Jerry Abramson contributed numerous photos from his time in office and his association with various dignitaries; these items are in addition to a larger donation from a few years ago. Mary Bellino offered nearly twenty pieces of clothing, some from her grandmother’s former store in Lexington, called “Town and Country.” Some of these pieces in this collection go back a century, and they are in remarkably good condition. It’s too bad that they did not arrive in time to be included in one of our current exhibits, “Bustles to Blue Jeans,” which will be leaving this summer (If you have not yet had the opportunity to view this exhibit, I highly recommend it!). Cindy Phelps gave us the typewriter used by her late mother, Velma Cohen, who

served as the editor of the Jewish Post and Opinion for thirty years. We have several other manual typewriters, but we accepted this one because of what it represents: one woman’s long-term dedication to a beloved local/regional Jewish newspaper. Speaking of which, did you know that we hold almost the entire print run of the Post and Opinion through 2003 (minus 1951-52)? All of these issues are available to patrons for in-person visits.

While I am speaking of donations, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention my longstanding volunteer, colleague, and dear friend, Rabbi Stanley Miles. Stan comes in almost every week, and helps me sort through collections and writes articles, often sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of Jewish Louisville in the process. I learn something from him every time he opens his mouth, and it is truly my honor and my pleasure to work with him. Additionally, Tami Penner and Susan Glazer visit regularly to work on our music collection, and they are a delight to work with. We have found some errors in cataloging, so our goal is to correct them and to make the music more accessible to our patrons. I am so grateful to my volunteers, without whom I would not be able to do my job, and they certainly make it more fun!

*Ann Niren is Curator of Jewish Collections at the Filson Historical Society.*

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## FORUM

## The Year of Civil Discourse initiative gives me hope

By Sophia Goldberg  
Guest Columnist

I have experienced a phenomenon over the last three years where, quite suddenly, I've had to come out as Jewish. I'd experienced the ongoing process of coming out as queer for half my life, but "Jewish" was never something I had to come out as – it was just something I told people.

Now, however, the only way I can think of my Jewishness is in terms of coming out, because every time I tell someone, it's clear there are broader stakes involved. I worry whether people will respect me the same way, or whether they will trust me the same way. That's been an isolating experience, especially because the people I worry most about receiving judgement from are the people who I previously felt most comfortable with.

I attend a relatively conservative university (Miami of Ohio), and being in queer spaces used to give me an opportunity to be myself without needing to worry about how people perceived me. These spaces are staunchly anti-Zionist. Anti-Zionism on my campus embraces a large umbrella of thought, ranging from genuine critiques of violence and oppression to uninformed and violent rhetoric.

Personally, I do not identify as a Zionist. That doesn't really matter, though. People in these spaces appreciate that Zionism and Judaism are historically linked, and knowing that I'm Jewish sets off a social chain reaction that, after three years, has become exhausting.

When I tell people I'm Jewish, especial-

ly those who have known me for some time, there's an initial tentative understanding. It goes something like this:

*I know that you realize it would be impolite to ask me if I am a Zionist simply because I told you I'm a Jew, and you know that it's possible my answer won't be what you want. The truth is that I'm suspicious, too. I know you associate with people who have said things I don't believe, who I'm willing to share space with but might not feel comfortable around. Are you like me, willing to build a coalition with those you don't always agree with? Or are you someone who feels the same as they do, just in a quieter way? I like you, and you like me, and so we deliberately avoid wanting to know each other's answers. In other words, we choose to live in a state of plausible deniability.*

While we live amid that plausible deniability, we also live in a condition of tension, distrust, and guilt. Nobody likes to be suspicious of their friends, and for a long time I worried that my assumptions amounted to paranoia. What did it say about me that I assumed people would be judgmental? I felt a strange sort of relief at having my beliefs validated. A good friend, fellow member of the LGBT community and self-identified leftist organizer sat down with me last semester to talk politics. She admitted to me that my being Jewish had been "the elephant in the room."

Plausible deniability is uncomfortable, but safe. I'm not going to stop spending time around other queer people on campus, and I'm not going to stop being Jewish. It's tiring though, in a way it never

was before. Those spaces used to be where I could let my guard down, and to an extent they still are, but not fully. Theoretically, a solution to this problem might be to spend more time in Jewish spaces, to give myself a break from having to worry about being questioned. One of the most frustrating things about this whole experience is that I've dealt with the same unspoken questions from within the Jewish community. The only thing that changes is the answer people want to hear.

Unlike my experience with other queer people since October 7, this is not a recent phenomenon. My Jewish friends and I have lived in plausible deniability and tension for years. We have not spoken about Israel, because we were afraid our opinions wouldn't align, and we didn't want to face that disconnect. Now, in a time of rising antisemitism, it feels like I don't have anywhere I can be my full self. Whether in queer spaces or Jewish spaces, I feel isolated in a room full of peers.

We've reached a crossroads, because I don't think I'm the only one who feels this way. Anecdotally, I know I'm not. I've heard it from a handful of Jewish people my age, and some older than me, who feel on edge at Hillel or in synagogue. On a broader scale, according to a Jewish Federations of North America survey, only 35% of Jews ages 18-35 identify with the term "Zionist."

There are a lot of young people who clash with Jewish leaders who have long insisted that being Jewish means being vocally Zionist. I want to be a proudly

Jewish young adult, and I want to feel connected to a Jewish community, but dealing with the unspoken tension in these spaces has pushed me away.

While my experience on campus pushed me to confront this problem, I don't believe I would have been confident enough to consider speaking up if not for the Year of Civil Discourse initiative. The program, which launched late last year, will provide structured, constructive dialogue programs with trained facilitators. The goal is to build a Jewish community based on mutual respect. I wish the program had existed when I was a teenager with questions I felt I couldn't ask, or was afraid to get answers to.

I'm eager to see the programs and conversations that take place in the coming year. For the first time ever, I'm optimistic that we have an opportunity to cultivate a shared space where people will be encouraged to both listen and make themselves heard. I'm tired of living in plausible deniability and tension. I want to help create a space where I know where I stand, where I can respectfully disagree and still feel welcome, and where I can make others feel welcome in turn. Dialogue can't happen without engagement, and though the initiative isn't accepting new facilitators at this time while it enters its public phase, as a Jewish young adult searching for a community I hope you'll keep a close eye on its progress.

*A Louisville native, Sophia Goldberg is a senior studying media and communications at Miami (Ohio) University.*



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# FORUM

## MOROCCO

Continued from page 1

darba b'shwaya katwassal –Little by little you arrive – the desert understands this. It's been nearly two years since we decided to create a mission. From those modest initial steps – Jeff saying *hineni, Here I am*, ready to lead a new experience within our Jewish community – to Beth Salamon, then a vice chair of the JCL board stepping up as a co-chair. These two extraordinary leaders shared a vision to create a unique, immersive experience.

If you've been fortunate enough to have traveled to Israel or other Jewish destinations for an immersive group experience, or spent time at an overnight summer camp, you know what it means to turn everything else off and be in the moment. Data shows that Jewish youth/teens who attend overnight camp and/or go on Israel trips create formidable bonds with one another and with their broader Jewish community. I have observed a parallel trend carrying this over to our adults – specifically, our empty nesters. Like many Jewish Federations across the country that have begun creating new missions and immersive experiences, our 11-day *Journey to Morocco* mission demonstrated that there is serious interest in growing our own mission offerings.

Once home to more than 250,000 Jews, Morocco boasts a rich Jewish history, and a current desire from both the Jewish and Moroccan Muslim contingents to maintain the significant story of the Jewish community. The sites were inspiring, the medinas bustling, the food delicious (and way too much of it), and the people welcoming and warm. What was even more meaningful was that our 30-member group, which included many current and future leaders of our Louisville Jewish community, created memories and connections that will continue to blossom. When Jeff spoke in the desert reminding us that “we” had been in the desert before, there was implicit recognition that every step in Jewish history led us to where we are today.

Our Jewish community is filled with opportunities and possibilities. As the iconic Jewish educator Avram Infeld often talks about building Jewish memories, that is what happened on this journey. In a short amount of time we learned, laughed and lifted up the work of volunteer leaders in our community. Our trip was bookended by the energy of two big cities, Casablanca and Marrakesh. In both we visited Jewish synagogues, a school, a Jewish museum and a community center. We could envision the vibrant communities that once filled these spaces. In Rabat we met with a representative of Association Mimouna, as young leaders work to preserve Jewish experiences and Jewish heritage sites in Morocco. However, it was in the desert, the vast open space, where I think we felt most



connected to one another. And as Jeff pointed out, connected to our history and the Jewish memories that have been passed down to us.

As we sat together amid the vastness of the Sahara, it was easy to lose all sense of time and space. Even within the seemingly infinite desert, we are connected to a shared past and future.

Beth Salamon, a mission co-chair, summed things up, sharing: “I came into this trip hoping for a meaningful experience, but it far surpassed anything I imagined. I’m incredibly appreciative of the participants who placed their trust in us and said yes to this journey and embraced the experience with such openness. The bonds we formed feel lasting and real, and I know they will continue to grow once we’re back in Louisville. Hearing each person share what inspires their leadership, often during our long bus rides, was incredibly powerful. It not only deepened our connections but also broadened our understanding of the many ways we can engage and give back to our Louisville Jewish community. I am also truly grateful to the Louisville Federation for supporting this endeavor. It really was the trip of a lifetime.”

On our final evening Jeff Tuvlin shared the following:

“As I look around this room on our final evening in Morocco, the question I ask myself is: Was this trip a success?”

To answer that, we have to look at where we’ve been. We came here to experience something unique, and we found it in the mosque in Casablanca - we found it in the narrow alleys of Rabat and Fez and in the survival and members of the synagogues preserved there. We found it in the desert and in this beautiful hotel and in the wisdom of our guides Nir and Mohammad the 600 millionth.



We found more: As Jews traveling in a Muslim country, we were not just tolerated; we felt safe and welcomed -we would not have predicted before this trip that we would feel comfortable enough to do Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah OUT IN PUBLIC - how far we’ve come in a week

But the true measure of success isn’t found in the pictures we took or the souvenirs we bought (although the merchants might disagree with that).

Success for this trip looks like CONTINUITY when we get home.

It looks like the CONVERSATIONS we had on the bus about understanding our own community’s diverse range of ways to lead. It looks like the PASSION of those of you, who, over the last few days, have pulled me aside

to say, “I have an idea —or— I want to do more.”

If you leave this trip feeling more connected to ANYONE sitting in this room or feel ANY measure of responsibility no matter how big or small for our community waiting for us at home, then we have achieved exactly what we set out to do.

Thank you for your COURAGE to explore, your WILLINGNESS to lead, and for making this journey more than just a trip, but a MOMENT in Louisville’s Jewish leadership. THANK YOU!

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

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For questions or more information,  
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# PICTURE THIS: YOM HASHOAH

More than 250 people attended the annual Yom HaShoah Community Event, which took place this year at Adath Jeshurun. Guest speakers included Holocaust survivor Ruth Kline telling her story about her family's journey to Shanghai to escape Nazi persecution and Kentucky Cuban civic leader Luis Fuentes talking about the importance of building relations between the local Jewish and growing Cuban communities.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



Doug Elmore, Orchestra Director, introducing a selection performed by Floyd Central High School students.



Kathy and Matthew Karr



Ruth Kline



LBSY students Billie Price and Chloe Rosenthal



Luis Fuentes and his wife



Carl "BeBe" Kline and lifelong friend Jay "Buddy" Kaufman



St. Francis of Assisi students



Ruth Kline and her family, joined by Trent Spoolstra and Cantor David Lipp

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- ✓ Rolling applications. Awards will be sent directly to camp.

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



# PICTURE THIS: YOM HAZIKARON



Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner



Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher

On Monday, April 20, the community gathered at the Trager Family JCC for a commemoration of Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. Community members joined in song and prayer, and laid flowers in honor of fallen soldiers and victims of violent acts of terror.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)



Cantor Sharon Hordes



Beth Salamon



Rabbi Ben Freed



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# PICTURE THIS: SHALOM LOUISVILLE BAGEL BRUNCH

On Sunday, April 12, Shalom Louisville hosted its second bagel brunch at the Trager Family JCC. Those that are new to Louisville, new to Judaism, or both, were invited to eat, mingle, and learn more about our Louisville community. (Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)



*Shalom*  
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Jewish Federation  
OF LOUISVILLE

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# PICTURE THIS: FUN AT THE TRAGER FAMILY JCC



Charlie Whitley and Peg Escola

Pickleball lovers came together at the Trager Family JCC on April 20 for the Ike and Bruce Gumer Memorial Pickleball Tournament. Two sessions provided a day of activity and fun for members from across the community. Many thanks to the Gumer and Skolnick families for their generous support.

The Judith Bensinger Senior Adult Fund sponsored the JCL's Annual Intergenerational Interfaith Model Seder in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium on Wednesday, March 25. The Seder was led by Rabbi Ben Freed, accompanied by students from Rabbi Schmully Litvin's class. Cantor Sharon Hordes lent her beautiful voice in song, and Chef Helen Impellizzeri served an incredible meal as the Passover story was retold. The Judith Bensinger Senior Adult Fund was established in memory of Judith Bensinger.



LBSY students with Rabbi Ben Freed



Judith Bensinger Annual Intergenerational Interfaith Model Seder



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# NEWS

## At AJ, recalling two giants of the law who bonded over opera

By Andrew Adler  
Community Editor

*"We are different. We are one."*

So goes a snippet from Derrick Wang's 2015 chamber opera *Scalia/Ginsburg: A (Gentle) Parody of Operatic Proportions*, and such was the fascinating dichotomy that defined the relationship between two justices of the United States Supreme Court: Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In many respects they could hardly have been more opposed – he was Roman Catholic, known as "Nino," boisterous in temperament and staunchly conservative in his legal analysis. She was Jewish, typically reserved in manner, often under siege as a member of the Court's liberal minority. Yet they managed to forge an enduring friendship rooted in a mutual passion: music in general, and opera in particular. (Scalia died in 2016; Ginsburg in 2020.)

That unlikely extrajudicial bonding was explored – both in conversation and song – during an April 15 presentation at Congregation Adath Jeshurun.

The event unfolded in two parts. Most intriguingly, there were recollections and ruminations by Judge Benjamin Beaton of the U.S. District Court, Western District of Kentucky, who clerked for Ginsburg; and Judge Daniel A. Bress of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, who clerked for Scalia. Then came discussion of the opera by its two principal singers and representatives from Kentucky opera, which was staging Wang's one-act work that week. And of course, they sang.

Sarah Bushman, Kentucky Opera's director of advancement, moderated. She opened with a broad query: "We'd love to hear from you both about your experiences working as clerks at the Supreme Court. What stands out to you? What were the most important things you learned while you were there?"

"It was such a fascinating year of my life," answered Beaton, who grew up in Paducah, Kentucky and now lives just blocks from Adath Jeshurun. "You know – and I'm guessing Judge Bress share this experience – it's an intense and important workload for that year, and you do feel when you enter the building that this is dignified and even sometimes historic work, and you take it very seriously."

"Like Judge Beaton, I'm from a small town – Gilroy, California, the garlic capital of the world – and we were practically the only Jewish family in town," said Bress, speaking via Zoom from San Francisco. "So the first time I ever went into the Supreme Court was when I interviewed with Justice Scalia, and I was scared out of my mind. It's a sacred place. We both had the privilege of

working for true masters. I had so much respect for Justice Ginsburg as a leader in law, as a Jewish person in law, and as a trailblazer for women...The diligence and care that all the justices brought to their work was truly inspiring."

"What did I most take away from my year, personally and professionally?" Beaton said. "I think my honest answer would be something like the utter lack of intellectual intimidation once you've spent a year working at the knee of Ruth Bader Ginsburg."

While it's the justices who sign their names to opinions, clerks provide valuable support, revision, editing and research – and occasionally a measure of challenge. "It's what we expect of our clerks, too," Bress said, "that if you see anything that I'm not seeing, you need to tell me. But it does take a little courage to walk into the office of Justice Ginsburg or Justice Scalia and say, 'I really think we need to rethink this.'"

Beaton drew some contrasts between himself and Ginsburg.

"She was from Brooklyn, a very learned, very artistic Jewish woman – I'm a hayseed from Paducah, who spent time on farms and sandlots. But I was able to contribute every now and again by picking up, say, the opening line of something very significant, and being able to come in and say, 'Boss, I know how this sounds in your mind, and I think it's a totally legitimate point to make, but I don't know that it'll come across the same way to others who may approach this from their own set of priors.'"

"It was something that she had worked on very carefully – so I knew she had chewed on this for a while," Beaton acknowledged. "I had more than meager trepidation. But she looked at it, saw it through someone else's eyes, and she changed it."

Scalia was more of a rough-and-tumble-debate kind of Justice. "In the Scalia chambers it was expected that you would argue with the Boss, because that's how he learned – he really enjoyed talking law; he enjoyed arguing about law," Bress recalled. "The Scalia interview process was known for being fairly merciless. You'd go in and have a very pleasant discussion with the Justice for 45 minutes, and then you'd go upstairs and the clerks would rail you for three hours. But there were reasons, and one of them was that you had to be able to stick to your guns and be able to push back."

Beaton told how he was advised to anticipate Ginsburg's characteristic "long, unexpected pauses" during clerkship interviews. "Count 'three Mississippi' in your mind, and don't infer that she's done talking to you."

His interview happened to fall two days after the justice had buried her husband of 56 years, Martin Ginsburg. It went some-



**Scalia/Ginsburg Judges:** L-R: Sarah Bushman, Kentucky Opera's director of advancement, moderated an April 15, 2026 presentation at Congregation Adath Jeshurun featuring Judges Benjamin Beaton and (on video screen) Daniel A. Bress (photo by Andrew Adler)



**Scalia/Ginsburg:** L-R: Sarah Bushman, Kentucky Opera's director of advancement, moderated an April 15, 2026 discussion of the opera *Scalia/Ginsburg* at Congregation Adath Jeshurun featuring soprano Jennifer Zetlan, tenor Jesse Donner, and Kentucky Opera Head of Music Taylor Burkhardt (photo by Andrew Adler)

thing like this:

"I try to come up with some words of consolation when I walk in," Beaton said. "She's all four-foot nothing, thin as a laptop, and all I had to do was not put my foot in my mouth for about 20 minutes. So she calls the next day and says, 'Ben, this is Ruth, and I've got some bad news. The bad news is I talked to Nino, and he's full for next year. The good news – or at least I hope it's good news – is that we'd love to have you in our chambers the following year.'"

Ginsburg parted with a promise to the young lawyer: "You and I are going to have a great year together. You're going to love working with these people here. We have such interesting cases, and maybe you and I will cause each other to think about things just a little bit harder."

Then came the musical portion of the evening, featuring tenor Jesse Donner as Scalia and soprano Jennifer Zetlan as Ginsburg. Next to them – and acting as accompanist –

was Taylor Burkhardt, Kentucky Opera's Head of Music.

"It's a love letter to the Constitution," Zetlan said of *Scalia/Ginsburg*, and soon she and Donner found themselves closing the AJ event by singing the duet, *We are Different. We are One*.

*Sep'rate strands unite in friction  
To protect our country's core.  
This, the strength of our nation,  
Thus is our Court's design:  
We are kindred,  
We are nine.*

*Always one decision from charting the course  
we will steer...  
For our future  
Is unclear,  
But one thing is constant—  
The Constitution we revere.*



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\*As of April 17, 2026



# NEWS

## BOARD IMPACT

Continued from page 1

a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council. Not long ago he was tapped to join next year's Jewish Federations of North America National Young Leadership Cabinet.

Closest to his heart, however, is his relationship with the recently established Jewish Learning Experience, a substantially revamped approach to Jewish education jumpstarted by JLE board members Carol Jones and Corey Shapiro. Not surprising for the father of two kids, ages four and five.

"I told Corey, Carol and the board that the most important thing to me is that my children get to have a great Sunday school and Hebrew school experience, like I did," Trager emphasizes.

Louisville's Jewish Federation – and indeed, its Jewish community at large – has a reputation for punching well above its weight.

"Right after October 7, JFNA went to Federations" throughout North America "and said, 'help us raise money to help Israeli families.'" Trager recalls. "It wasn't for the military; it was for humanitarian services for Israelis. Louisville's Jewish community raised \$1.6 million. It was the time to step up." That experience helped deepen Trager's bond with Israel in ways that continue to astonish him.

"I feel more connection with my Judaism today as a 37-year-old man than



**Kevin Trager**

ever before – partly because of all the organizations in Louisville that I'm involved with – but mainly because I feel the need."

Trager has made a consistent point of broadening his Jewish engagement. For instance, joining the JFNA Cabinet, which he calls "such an incredible opportunity to meet other young Jewish professionals."

"Sometimes it's good to surround yourself with people that are like you – people with little kids, people who are involved with local boards and committees in their Jewish community."

It's much the same with Strull, who – once she was established in her new city – accelerated the pace of her Jewish involvement.



**Julie Strull**

In 2016 she participated in the inaugural Jewish Women's Renaissance Project's Momentum trip to Israel, commenting afterward how "the trip has already impacted my future. I want to feel more connected with the Jewish community Louisville...to be part of something and share my experiences I had on this trip with others. I am so appreciative of being afforded the opportunity to be part of this inaugural group of women to take this journey."

Four years later, in 2020, Strull was a Jewish Federation of Louisville Annual Campaign Ambassador.

Most recently, "we went on the amazing Leadership Trip to Morocco this past March," she says, recounting

how "there were so many impressive people on our trip, and it gave me a renewed sense of purpose. I felt even more strongly about my role on the JCL Board and a renewed desire to give back to the Louisville community."

Call it both an expression of gratitude and a declaration of possibility.

"Joining a board at this stage in my life feels special as it allows me to pay it forward," Strull says, "and to help strengthen the community that has given so much to my family and me."

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NEWS

Supporting Global Jewry at KI's May 31 Centennial Gala with a contribution to United Hatzalah

By Daniel Melzer  
Guest Columnist

As a first-generation American and Louisville, son of Israeli immigrants, I have always been deeply grateful to this country and community. I grew up hearing stories of my grandparents fleeing the fascist and communist twin evils of the 20th century. First eastward, from an ideology built around the desire to eradicate our entire people, and later westward, from an ideology built upon utopian hubris where calculations of who may eat and who may live were determined by the state. Eventually, they trekked to Israel just prior to its independence, where they were finally able to again live freely, raise families, and provide far more than I can mention for those of us who came after.

Despite being inculcated with this sense of gratitude for our circumstances, it became clear over time that, as the Russian saying goes, "all things are known by comparison." I recall as a child joining a school friend at church for the first time and being shocked at the lack of security presence – a near-permanent fixture at any American synagogue I had ever been to.

More contemporaneously, anti-Jewish hate crimes represented nearly 70% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the most recent FBI statistics from 2024. On a per-capita basis, Jewish Americans experience hate crimes nearly twice as often as the next most victimized group. Our circumstance here reflects a complex real-

ity, where despite these facts, the United States remains the safest and most prosperous place for Jews in the world.

In recent years, particularly during the wars following the horrific events of October 7, 2023, the relationship between the American people and Israel has come under significant strain. This strain has affected American Jewish communities as well, often echoing bona fide social and political stresses within Israel.

In negotiating this tension, some of us may feel spoken for, silenced, or intimidated. Some of us may feel that in supporting Israel, we are simultaneously betraying some other core value or priority. Others may feel that this reservation indicates a lack of conviction or misguided priorities. While this negotiation appears to be yet unresolved, we must acknowledge and cherish a central American value: that each one of us as individuals is endowed with the right – and perhaps obligation – to speak, think, and advocate our own values.

Former Secretary of State Antony Blinken(himself Jewish), reflecting on his attempts to restore peace to the region after October 7, noted an essential tension:

"We've mostly [expressed disagreement with Israel] privately, precisely because we didn't want to feed into Hamas' clearly held views that if that pressure was mounting, and if there was daylight, they could do nothing, [That] they could refuse to engage on the negotiations, hold back on a ceasefire and releasing the hostages, and

thus perpetuate the suffering, the loss for the people that they purport to represent."

This is yet another complex reality. How do we navigate a circumstance where we are obligated to express our dissent, but expressions of our dissent may serve as in-kind contributions to the war efforts of our and Israel's global enemies?

I don't know the answer to this question, but as we navigate such uncertainty, I propose a reliance on a more fundamental truth: whether we live in Tel Aviv or Louisville, London or Paris, Buenos Aires or São Paulo, we are all *Am Israel* – The Jewish People.

While we introspect on our democratic obligations and personal senses of morality, our brothers and sisters in Israel have lived under a far more tangible threat before and since October 7. With the sharp rise of anti-Jewish violence across the world since October 7, we must recognize that we in the diaspora are never wholly insulated from attacks on Israel. We must recognize that attempts to draw distinctions between those of us in Israel and those of us outside Israel will not be recognized by those who claim to wish harm upon Israel alone. Thus, I believe we are obligated to construe an attack on Jews anywhere as an attack on Jews everywhere. I believe we must counter attempts to intimidate our communities with renewed faith, expanded community presence, and ever stronger connections to *Am Israel*.

This year, Keneseth Israel marks its 100th year in Louisville. In partnership with the leadership at KI, we are proudly introducing a *tikkun olam* element to KI's Centennial Gala on May 31. Alongside several members of our community, we have established an independent fund for United Hatzalah, a non-profit, free emergency medical response service that works to augment government resources to better serve all communities in Israel and communities in need abroad. The entire amount raised for KI will be matched in a donation to United Hatzalah to secure at least one ambucycle to support our com-

munity's Partnership2Gether region in Israel, the Western Galilee, which needs our community's support. These life-saving emergency medical vehicles can navigate complicated and narrow paths that standard ambulances and cars cannot traverse.

The interconnectedness of *Am Israel* across the globe is inherent to our tradition. As we are obligated to grieve tragedies at home and abroad, we are likewise obligated to pursue opportunities to celebrate and share our successes. Though we experience a combination of grief and fear at what seem like repeated attacks on our communities worldwide, we also feel a melding of resilience, perseverance, and strength.

I call on Louisville's entire Jewish community to join hands with us. Let us demonstrate to our community, our country, the people of Israel, and the entire world, that disagreement does not have to mean division – that we are all *Am Israel*.

Should you wish to contribute to the KI Centennial United Hatzalah Fund, please scan the QR code below. All contributions will be donated to United Hatzalah of Israel. To reach out to me directly, please email [daniel.m.melzer@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.m.melzer@gmail.com)

*Tickets to the Keneseth Israel Centennial Gala on May 31 are available to the entire community and can be reserved at [kenesethisrael.com/Gala](https://kenesethisrael.com/Gala). Please consider joining us to celebrate not only our centennial, but also all of Am Israel.*



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# NEWS

## Louisville's Jewish Learning Experience will offer an array of new opportunities for its upcoming 2026-2027 school year



### Jewish Learning Experience

Jessie Gindea

The launch of the Jewish Learning Experience, starting in August 2026, is a moment of deep excitement and possibility for the Louisville Jewish community, an opportunity to build on a strong and meaningful legacy while deepening Hebrew school as a space of joy, belonging, and meaningful Jewish growth. As a Jewish educator with more than a decade of experience across Jewish Day Schools, Hebrew schools, Jewish overnight and day camps, Israel and study abroad programs, Federations, and start-up nonprofits, I feel honored and energized to continue building on the beautiful foundation of LBSY while imagining what is possible next. Through close partnership with families and educators, and a focus on thoughtful, engaging learning environments, this work is rooted in connection, collaboration, and a shared commitment to creating Jewish educational experiences that spark curiosity and nurture a lasting love of learning in learners of all ages.

At JLE, we are building a space where every child, parent, and educator feels a true sense of belonging and a sense of genuine excitement to come together for each session. Learning is both serious and joyful, rooted in embodied and experiential practices that invite students to explore, question, and meaningfully engage with their Jewish identities. Through creativity, community building, and deep engagement, our students come to understand that their unique spark is essential to the unfolding story of the Jewish people, and that Jewish wisdom is always accessible to them. We focus on building Jewish literacy not as memorization, but as developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence to actively participate in Jewish life today. Children are invited to ask questions, explore ideas deeply, and express themselves through art, movement, music, building, and play in ways that honor how they naturally learn. In this space, students come to see their voices as meaningful and strong, and to recognize their ability to make a difference in their community and in the world, exactly as they are.

As I step into this next chapter with the Louisville Jewish community, I feel a deep sense of excitement, gratitude, and anticipation for all that we will build and learn together. It has been a joy getting to know this community, and I am already looking forward to the beautiful learning, connection, and growth that lie

ahead. If you would like to connect one on one, I would love that opportunity. I have especially enjoyed discovering Louisville through its wonderful coffee shops, and would be glad to meet over coffee or simply find time to talk. Please feel free to reach out to me at [jgindea@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jgindea@jewishlouisville.org) so we can set up a time to connect. I am eager to learn more about your family, your hopes, and your goals, and I cannot wait for all that is still to come.

*Jessie Gindea is Executive Director of Jewish Learning Experience.*

## New Opportunities

As another beautiful year of learning at LBSY ends, we want to make sure that parents know what to expect next.

For the school year of 2026-2027, we are so excited to dive into some exciting new opportunities, including but not limited to:

- A refreshed and deepened approach to Jewish learning that helps students meaningfully engage with the Jewish calendar, Hebrew literacy, Torah, prayer, Jewish identity, and critical thinking, while strengthening their personal and communal connection to Judaism, building on the strong foundation already established at LBSY.
- A strengthened Bar and Bat Mitzvah pathway that centers identity formation and is designed as a cohort experience that includes meaningful connections with peers in Louisville and with students in our Partnership cities in Israel's Western Galilee, engaging in shared learning and communication throughout the year.
- An expanded 8th grade experience, culminating in an immersive trip to Israel, designed to deepen connection to Israel through travel, learning, exploration, volunteering, relationship building, and community engagement.
- A new 9th-12th grade learning opportunity that brings teens together for advanced Jewish study, identity exploration, and leadership development, with the added possibility of earning college credit through structured coursework.
- A deepened leadership track for teens wanting to engage in the work of a Madrich, a counselor, in the classrooms for younger students.
- Weekly parent learning during the first hour of Hebrew School on Sundays, featuring rotating clergy and educators, creating space for adults to learn, reflect, and grow alongside their children.
- A deep commitment to ongoing professional development for educators, ensuring teachers are continuously supported, trained, and inspired in best practices in Jewish education and experiential learning.
- Intentional collaboration with existing teen programs such as BBYO and other local teen connect opportunities, helping students build broader social networks and strengthen friendships within the Louisville Jewish teen community.

## Creating Jewish Rituals In Your Home

*A Conversation Series*

Session Two: Sunday, May 17  
10 – 11 a.m. | Trager Family JCC  
Open to All Parents Raising Jewish Children

## Milk and Meaning: Parenting for Shavuot

Facilitated by Alison Roemer, Senior Director of Jewish Journeys and Experiences at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and Trager Family JCC, and Jessie Gindea, Executive Director of the Jewish Learning Experience.

Join us for a joyful and hands on parenting session as we explore the holiday of Shavuot together, no prior knowledge needed! Through learning, delicious treats, and creative activities, we will discover meaningful ways to bring the story and spirit of the holiday into your home. Come connect, create, and enjoy learning about this beautiful holiday while deepening your connection to yourself, your family, and your community. This program is intended for adults raising Jewish children.



Scan the QR Code to Register or Learn More at [jccloouisville.org/conversation](http://jccloouisville.org/conversation)

Alison Roemer, [aroemer@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aroemer@jewishlouisville.org)  
Jessie Gindea, [jgindea@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:jgindea@jewishlouisville.org)



## Important Updates

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we are excited to share important updates about scheduling, registration, and program structure. Below you will find key information about where programs will take place, when sessions will be held, and how to complete registration for the year ahead.

- **Registration for the 2026-2027 school year:** Mid to late May. In the meantime, families are warmly invited to complete a pre-registration form using the link below to help us plan thoughtfully and ensure every child is placed in the best possible learning experience for them.
- **Tuition for the 2026-2027 school year:** currently being finalized and is expected to remain similar to last year, with a modest increase anticipated. Need-based

scholarships and financial aid will be available to support any family for whom cost is a concern.

- **Schedule:** 3rd through 8th grade students will meet on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m., while K through 8th grade will gather on Sundays from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In addition, students will have optional opportunities to extend their learning and connection with our ShinShinim through Club J on Thursdays from 4-5:30 p.m., as well as targeted Hebrew support sessions on Tuesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Location:** JLE will take place at the Camp J building, with weekly programming designed to meet the developmental and learning needs of each age group.



# Community Through Service: The JFCS MOSAIC AWARDS



On Thursday May 14th, Jewish Family & Career Services will be hosting the 2026 JFCS MOSAIC Awards, our annual event that honors five immigrants who have made a difference in our local community.

This year is different. We will be celebrating 20 years of the MOSAIC Awards and the honoring of more than 100 immigrants, refugees, and first-generation Americans in that time, from 49 countries.

But the JFCS MOSAIC Awards is more than a celebration; it is a reflection of who we are as a Jewish community.

At the core of American Jewry is the awareness of what it means to be a Jew in diaspora. We walk a line of honoring our traditions, maintaining our identities as Jewish, while participating in and contributing to the American life.

We, ourselves, have always been “strangers in a strange land” which is why welcoming newcomers to the United States is central to our identity and fulfills the well-known commandment “to welcome the stranger”.

The JFCS MOSAIC Awards bring this value to life. Each honoree represents resilience,

leadership, and the profound contributions immigrants and refugees make to the Louisville landscape. Their stories are not separate from our community; they are part of the fabric that strengthens it.

At JFCS, this value guides our work every day. It is critical that we serve the Jewish community. It is equally critical that we serve individuals and families across Louisville — providing food, mental health support, career services, and assistance to those rebuilding their lives.

For many, JFCS is their first interaction with

a Jewish organization and it is in those moments that we are fortunate enough to witness when something powerful happens.

We are not only meeting immediate needs, we demonstrate what Jewish values look like in action. We are building relationships, fostering understanding, and creating connections that transcend differences.

In a world of increasing disconnection and discord, JFCS continues to build connections.

When people do not know who we are, it becomes easier for harmful stereotypes to take hold. By showing up for our neighbors — especially those who are at their most vulnerable points in life — we replace misunderstanding with trust and partnership.

We certainly hope you will come celebrate this year's JFCS MOSAIC honorees on May 14, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It will not only be a night to honor our newest cohort of changemakers, but will also celebrate the past 20 years of the JFCS MOSAIC Awards.

This fundraiser supports all of JFCS's programming, ensuring we can continue to serve individuals and families across Louisville at a time when it is needed most. With pending cuts in federal and state funding impacting JFCS in the coming year, community support is more critical than ever.

When we show up for others, we are not only living our values—we are strengthening both our community and the future of Jewish life in Louisville.

Tickets to the 2026 JFCS MOSAIC Awards available at the QR code



## We're ready to help you grow.

Whatever the size of your financial goals, Republic Bank is here to help you reach them. With personalized service, local decision making and a renowned staff that always makes you feel at home, we're poised to set you on a path to prosper.

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## JFCS is proud to be the 2026 PRESENTING PARTNER

### THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH



BOUNCY HOUSES • ARTS & CRAFTS •  
FACE PAINTING • FOOD TRUCKS •  
HEALTH & WELLNESS VENDORS •  
LIVE DJ • LIVE PERFORMANCES

**MAY 30, 2026**  
**THE PLAYPORT**  
**1103 ROWAN ST**

MindFEST is a free community event dedicated to strengthening minds through music, food, entertainment, and more.

## JFCS EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME OUR NEW  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

**SOPHIA  
FAYNE**

We're excited to welcome Sophia Fayne to JFCS as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Great things ahead for the Volunteer Program at JFCS.

Now is a great time to come on board as a JFCS volunteer. Contact Sophia today at [sfayne@jfcslouisville.org](mailto:sfayne@jfcslouisville.org)

**Urgent Need**  
**Telephone Reassurance** - Volunteers paired with older adults for regular check-in calls, providing companionship, emotional support, and connection. This is a flexible volunteer opportunity that can be done from anywhere!



# NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

## Louisville's Jewish community unites to offer an evening of study and celebration



**Shavuot 2448**  
Jews received the 10 Commandments  
**Shavuot 5776**  
Reconnect to the 10 Commandments

**Community Wide Learning Program**  
A variety of presentations on the 10 Commandments

May 21, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
JCamp Building  
3700 Dutchmans Lane

Sponsored by: Keneseth Israel Synagogue, Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Temple Shalom, Chabad of Kentucky and Trager Family JCC  
RSVP to your Synagogue/Temple or email to Chabadky@gmail.com

On May 21, the eve of Shavuot, the Jewish community will come together at the Camp J building near the Trager Family JCC to listen, learn and reconnect to the Ten Commandments. The list of presenters will include local rabbis, cantors and educators sharing a wide array of Jewish thought and teaching on the timeless lessons of the Ten Commandments and how they apply to daily life.

This free program will run from 6-8:30 p.m. Kosher cheese blintzes, which are traditional for Shavuot, will be served along with cheesecake and coffee.

The program is being co-sponsored by Keneseth Israel, Adath Jeshurun, Anshei Sfard, Temple Shalom, the Trager Family JCC and Chabad of Kentucky. Congregants are encouraged to contact their Synagogue or Temple to make reservations. Reservations can also be made by emailing chabadky@gmail.com.

## UofL dermatology leader honored with national mentorship award

Jeffrey Callen, chief of the Division of Dermatology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, has



Jeffrey Callen

been awarded the William D. James, MD, Mentor of the Year Award by the American Academy of Dermatology. The award honors individuals who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to mentoring and, as a result, has had a positive impact on their mentees' careers and advanced the field as a whole.

From his early days at the University of Michigan to his decades of service at the UofL School of Medicine, Callen has become a significant presence in the dermatological world. Since 1988, he has served in the role of UofL's division chief and as the inaugural Lafayette G. Owen Endowed Chair of Dermatology, guiding the division through nearly four decades of growth and advancement.

As a nationally recognized leader, his influence reaches far beyond the classroom and clinic; as a past president of the American Dermatological Association and the Editor-in-Chief of the Dermatology Section of *UpToDate*, he has helped shape the very standards of care used by physicians across the globe. In 2016, he became the first dermatologist to ever be named a "Master of Rheumatology" reflecting an elite level of expertise across disciplines.

In addition to his professional achievements, he remains deeply embedded in the Louisville community, serving on the boards of the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family & Career Services, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Kentucky Arts and Crafts Foundation and the Speed Art Museum.

Learn more about Dr. Callen and his career by visiting his academic profile online at [profiles.louisville.edu/jeffrey.callen](http://profiles.louisville.edu/jeffrey.callen)

## Register for the P2G Young Adults Shabbaton in Louisville, May 15-17

A cohort of young Jewish adults ages 25-45 from the US, Israel and Budapest will gather in Louisville over the week-



**PARTNERSHIP2GETHER**

**Young Adults Shabbaton**

An unforgettable weekend for young adults is coming to Louisville!

May 15-17, 2026  
Participation Fee: \$150  
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton  
\$129+taxes/per night, per shared double room

An amazing opportunity to meet Jewish Young Adults from Israel, Budapest and our US communities.

The Partnership2Gether Young Adults Shabbaton invites participants ages 25-45 from our partner communities in the United States, Israel, and Budapest to come together for a meaningful and memorable weekend in Louisville. Through open conversations, shared Shabbat experiences, and interactive learning, participants will connect with peers from across our communities, hear one another's stories, and explore the diverse realities and challenges facing our communities today. Together, we will cultivate a meaningful network that fosters mutual growth and empowers participants to lead impactful initiatives both locally and globally.

Participation is limited to ensure an intimate and meaningful experience. EARLY REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED.  
Contact: Susan Friedman Levi, P2G Young Adults Coordinator at [slevi@p2g.org](mailto:slevi@p2g.org)  
REGISTER TODAY: [tinyurl.com/2uprx4a9](http://tinyurl.com/2uprx4a9)

end of May 15-17, when Partnership2Gether Western Galilee hosts a Young Adults Shabbaton.

As P2G's information puts it: "Through open conversations, shared Shabbat experiences, and interactive learning, participants will connect with peers from across our communities, hear one another's stories, and explore the diverse realities and challenges facing our communities today.

Together, we will cultivate a meaningful network that fosters mutual growth and empowers participants to lead impactful initiatives both locally and globally."

To register, go online at [tinyurl.com/2uprx4a9](http://tinyurl.com/2uprx4a9)

## Reproductive freedom advocate Kate Cunningham to be honored during a May 20 NCJW breakfast at the Trager Family JCC



Kate Cunningham

On Wednesday, May 20 at 8:30 a.m., the National Council of Jewish Women - Louisville Section will host its fourth annual *Advocacy in Action - Jewish Voice for Choice Breakfast* at the Trager Family JCC.

The Shapira Foundation Auditorium event will honor Kate Cunningham with the Sonia and Dr. Ronald Levine Jewish Voice for Choice Award, recognizing Cunningham's long history as a champion for reproductive rights.

As then-ACLU Executive Director Amber Duke observed in a 2015 tribute: "Cunningham has been a longtime advocate for reproductive freedom... She and others organized citizen lobbying in Frankfort 'to oppose bills restricting abortion,'" Cunningham said, adding, "These were early days, there was the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, but as you can imagine, the Kentucky legislature had many bills before it to further restrict abortion, just as it does 40 years later."

Duke's appraisal continued: "Cunningham left the state for about twenty years, and when she returned to Kentucky and started lobbying again, she noticed that 'there is this Kabuki theatre aspect to the arguments for and against restricting abortion access. Even the players did not recognize that decades had passed and one of the players, me, had been absent!'"

"Back in those days, we had an information booth at the Kentucky State Fair," Cunningham said, describing her early involvement with the [ACLU]. "And as you can imagine, we were no more popular then than we are now. It was a drain to be out there for seven or 10 days, giving out information about the death penalty, the draft, free speech, or whatever. We went through a lot of material, but that was kind of a trial by fire. People would go by, as they do now at the reproductive choice booth, they go by and make some comment and walk on...People were displeased and would let me know that they didn't like the Civil Liberties Union or anything it stood for."

Among her various affiliations, Cunningham is a past president and board member of the A Fund, a Louisville-based organization whose "mission is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their economic circumstances, has access to abortion and contraception."

To register for the May 20 NCJW breakfast, go online at [tinyurl.com/2uhe59t4](http://tinyurl.com/2uhe59t4). If you have additional questions, contact Sarah Harlan at 502-458-5566 or [executivedirector@ncjwlou.org](mailto:executivedirector@ncjwlou.org).



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# AROUND TOWN

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

## Adath Jeshurun

Join us for our next Shabbat Social, Friday, May 8. The evening begins with Happy Hour at 5 p.m., followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:45 p.m. Dinner will begin around 6:45 p.m. and will be catered by Chef Maureen Hartmann. The cost is \$15 per person with children 12 and under free of charge. Visit [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com) to make your reservations. Deadline for reservations is Monday, May 4.

Save the date to join the AJ community as we take a field trip to revisit 757 S. Brook Street, one of the early locations of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, from 1919 until 1955. We will gather at the current AJ location at 10 a.m. to travel via shuttle or carpool downtown to what is now Re:Center Ministries, a wonderful organization providing services to the houseless and vulnerable populations of Louisville (folks not shuttling or carpooling may meet us at ReCenter). An overview of the history of the building and Adath Jeshurun will precede a tour of the building with one of the ReCenter staff. More information will be provided on our website at [www.adathjeshurun.com](http://www.adathjeshurun.com) and in our monthly newsletter.

Help hope bloom this spring: Give blood. May 12 marks our next American Red Cross Blood Drive here at AJ, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. To schedule your donation time, please visit [redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=AdathJeshurun](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=AdathJeshurun)

Adath Jeshurun invites you to join us for Shavuot services on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 at 1 a.m., each followed by a Kiddush lunch. We'll also have our usual Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday, May 22 at 5:45 p.m., with Happy Hour beginning at 5 p.m.

AJ Shabbat-Luck Dinners are evenings of food, friends, and fun. Join us on Friday, May 29 at 5 p.m. for Happy Hour followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:45 p.m. Dinner, beginning around 6:45 p.m., will feature a chef-prepared entrée and delicious sides prepared by you. For more information and to RSVP, visit [www.adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck](http://www.adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck). The deadline to RSVP is Monday, May 25.

## Anshei Sfard

Congregation Anshei Sfard has open study time every weeknight (Sunday-Thursday) 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 are served.

Shabbos Davening at 9 a.m. including Rabbi's Parsha outline and sermon, followed by a delicious Kiddush. Every Wednesday night at 7:45 p.m., Judaism in Action. Current series: Laws of Shabbos, every Saturday night at 7:15 p.m. Talmud Trek Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. led by Rabbi Lederman. For more information, email [rabbilederman@ansheisfard.com](mailto:rabbilederman@ansheisfard.com).

Our Community and Family Events committee is in full swing. Keep an eye out for our calendar of events for 2026. Contact Carla at [Carla@Ansheisfard.com](mailto:Carla@Ansheisfard.com) for reservations and details.

Welcome back, Sisterhood of Anshei Sfard. Annual Membership Fee is \$72 (membership not required to participate). Email [Jenniferd5748@gmail.com](mailto:Jenniferd5748@gmail.com) for more information.

The Men's Club is ready for you. \$72 Annual Membership Fee. (membership is not required to participate).

## Chabad of Kentucky

(See this month's News & Newsmakers page for info on Chabad's May 21 Shavuot-eve event)

## Chavurat Shalom

This month we've got more great entertainment lined up, plus we'll get a chance to welcome and learn with our community's Shinshinyot. 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 p.m. via ChavuratShalomZoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, May 7 - Harpist Jessica Hyden will entertain us with new pieces and old favorites. Lunch will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

Thursday, May 14 - Shinshinyot Yael and Rona, will share about Israel and their experience here in Louisville. Lunch will include chicken piccata, braised cabbage, roasted potatoes, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, plus cookies and cream trifle.

Thursday, May 21 - The talented Misha Feigin will provide our entertainment. Lunch will include eggplant parmesan, angel hair pasta with broccoli, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and tiramisu.

Thursday, May 28 - Pianist Nada returns to share her amazing talent with us. Lunch will include chicken fajitas, corn-black beans, rice pilaf, fresh fruit, and assorted desserts.

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

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

## Jewish Family & Career Services

JFCS invites you to join us May 14 for the 2026 MOSAIC Awards, a special evening celebrating the incredible contributions of immigrants and refugees who strengthen and enrich our Louisville community. In honor of our 20th anniversary, we will also celebrate more than 100 immigrants from 49 countries who have been recognized since 2006. This milestone event highlights stories of resilience, leadership, and service while supporting JFCS programs that help individuals and families thrive. Individual tickets, table sponsorships, and corporate sponsorships available. Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/4d3rxzzh](http://tinyurl.com/4d3rxzzh)

Did you know JFCS offers non-medical home care services? This home care support is designed to help older adults remain safe, comfortable, and independent at home. Our professional home care aides provide personalized assistance with daily tasks, companionship, and peace of mind for both clients and their families. To sign up for these services or to learn more email [services@jfcsloisville.org](mailto:services@jfcsloisville.org) or call 502-452-6341.

## Jewish Federation of Louisville

### Keneseth Israel

Jews & Brews — Wednesday, May 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 11 a.m.

Join Rabbi Freed at the Trager Family JCC for coffee, cookies, and Torah in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

### Shabbat with the Kids

Tot Shabbat will meet May 9 & 30, featuring joyful Shabbat songs and family fun. Shabbat Shalom Club meets every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for children in grades K-5, offering Torah learning, games, songs, and snacks.

Shabbat in the Park - May 8 at 6 p.m. at Stegner Pavilion in Cherokee Park  
Come enjoy a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a BYO picnic dinner. Dessert is on us.

Mother's Day Brunch, sponsored by the KI Sisterhood — Sunday, May 10 at 11:30 a.m.  
Enjoy a delicious brunch in celebration of mother's day. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 for children (ages 4-11), and free for children 4 and under. Reserve your ticket today at [Tiny.cc/KI-mothersday](http://Tiny.cc/KI-mothersday)

Torah Yoga — Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
Join Cantor Hordes for gentle yoga and Torah-inspired meditation. Suggested donation: \$10 to the Cantor's Fund.

Jews & Brews: After Hours — Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m.  
Enjoy a beer and Torah on tap with Rabbi Free, location TBD.

Kiddush Lunch in honor of Cantor Hordes — Saturday, May 16  
In celebration of Cantor Hordes' Chai 18th anniversary at Keneseth Israel.

Shabbat & Sundaes — May 23 at 6 p.m.  
Treat yourself to a sweet ice cream - on us - at Graeter's on Bardstown Rd.!

Centennial Gala — Sunday, May 31 at 6 p.m.  
Experience an evening of music by Kathy and Matthew Karr and the Unlimited Show Band,

along with exciting auctions and raffles. Savor a delicious meal prepared by A Full Plate Fine Catering. To make reservations, visit [kenesethisrael.com/gala](http://kenesethisrael.com/gala).

## Kol Israel Jewish Renewal Community of Kentucky

Monday, May 4 at 8 p.m.

"Community-Wide Jewish Meditation: Inner Peace for Challenging Times"

Gather with Jewish Communities around the country to experience inner spaciousness and healing.

Free and open to all. To register for the Zoom link, call or text Blu at 502-277-0555 or by emailing [kolisraelkentucky@outlook.com](mailto:kolisraelkentucky@outlook.com)

Saturday, May 9

Please join us as we celebrate Shabbat as "Adat Ha'Araphel- Congregation of the Cloud" on Zoom or Facebook.

Join many of our Jewish Renewal leaders for our innovative, musical and inspirational service. We gather at 10:15 a.m. for greeting and schmoozing on Zoom. Service begins 10:30 SHARP – for link, contact 502- 277-0555

Saturday, May 23 at 6 p.m.

A Renewal Shavout, Annual Meeting and Dinner

All are invited to join our community for traditional customs, and prayers through Meditation, Music and Movement.

Location: MaybeITSFate

1425 Story Ave.

Free, but reservations are requested thru Eventbrite, texting Blu at 502-277-0555 or [kolisraelkentucky@outlook.com](mailto:kolisraelkentucky@outlook.com)

## Louisville Vaad Hakashruth

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

## Momentum – Journey of Growth

Seven Days in Israel: Nov. 16-22, 2026

Join women from around the world for an immersive journey to Israel during this pivotal moment in Jewish history full of self-discovery, meaningful connections and inspiring moments of Jewish learning. More information is available online at [MomentumUnlimited.org/Journey](http://MomentumUnlimited.org/Journey), by calling Alison Roemer at 502-238-2730, or emailing her at [aroemer@jewishlouisville.org](mailto:aroemer@jewishlouisville.org).

## Montessori Torah Academy

Montessori Torah Academy invites the entire community to a fun-filled family-friendly Lag B'omer event

When: May 4, 4-6 p.m.

At the Masingo Farm

2008 Tunnel Mill Road, Clarksville, Indiana  
Situating on the 50-acre Masingo Family Farm, there will be something for everyone.

Come enjoy a BBQ dinner with your friends.

Sit around by a big bonfire.

And children of all ages will have plenty of excitement.

Bounce houses, Hayrides, Golf carts, Smores, Scavenger hunt and more.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Montessori Torah Academy is proud to welcome in Karen Levy-Bencheton from France. Karen Levy has spent over 2 decades in the film industry in France.

Most notably, she has written and produced a 15-part animated series using Sophie the Giraffe to teach children using the Montessori Method.

Karen Levy's life took a left turn when she decided to start a movement of Jewish Montessori Schools in France.

We are privileged that Ms. Bencheton has been inspired by our work.

She will be coming to Louisville from May 11-19 to better understand how we blend Torah with the Montessori Method. Stay tuned for any updates on a community event while she is here.



## Jewish Storybooks Delivered Each Month!

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

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



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



# AROUND TOWN

## National Council of Jewish Women – Louisville Section

Sonia and Dr. Ronald Levine Jewish Voice for Choice Award Breakfast – May 20 at the Trager Family JCC

Mark your calendars for National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section's 4th Annual Advocacy in Action - Jewish Voice for Choice Breakfast Wednesday, May 20 at 8:30 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC. This event will focus on the Jewish community's efforts to regain reproductive rights and healthcare justice throughout Kentucky, as we proudly present the Sonia and Dr. Ronald Levine Jewish Voice for Choice Award to Kate Cunningham for her work to secure reproductive justice for the people of Kentucky.

For the past 130 years, NCJW, Louisville Section has remained focused on its mission to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families by using progressive Jewish ideals for social justice. This work is done by launching new community initiatives, collaborating with other organizations, and aligning with NCJW, Inc. to empower change. NCJW works in deep partnership and collaboration with other like-minded non-profits and organizations, public schools, local government agencies, human service providers, faith-based institutions, as well as elected officials. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Harlan at 502-458-5566 or [executivedirector@ncjw-lou.org](mailto:executivedirector@ncjw-lou.org). We look forward to your support and attendance.

### Jews for Freedom

NCJW is proud to be part of Jews for Freedom, a new national effort to mobilize Jewish Americans to defend democracy, stand with marginalized communities, and take meaningful action against the authoritarian attacks threatening all of us. Here's one way you can take action: Tell your Senators to oppose the SAVE Act — a voter suppression bill that would disenfranchise millions of eligible Americans.

### Temple Shalom

Pirkei Avot Class, Thursdays, May 7-14, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom

Rabbi Jacobowitz Chottiner leads these stand-alone classes as we study Ethics of Our Fathers, a collection of wisdom from Jewish sages. Teachings can inspire personal growth, ethical living, and spiritual connections. The teaching environment is relaxed and no previous knowledge is needed. However, we do need your RSVP at 502-458-4739 or [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org).

Mother's Day Shabbat, Friday, May 6, 6:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom

We celebrate those special people in our lives with a service led by and sponsored by The Women of Temple Shalom. Service will include special music and readings. Oneg will follow. Please RSVP to Temple Shalom at 502/458-4739 or [information@templeshalomky.org](mailto:information@templeshalomky.org).

BLT (Bagels, Lox, and Torah), Saturday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC

Led by Rabbi Beth Jacobowitz Chottiner, Torah study explores the themes of the weekly Parsha and their relevance to today. Discussions are lively and engaging, and all are welcome. Bagels, lox, and juice are provided. Note: There will not be services at Temple Shalom that morning.

Shabbat Services, Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom Shabbat services are led by Rabbi Jacobowitz Chottiner and members of the congregation. Music is provided both by a professional musician and synagogue members.

### The Temple

Adult education at The Temple continues weekly with Torah Study with Rabbi David on Saturdays at 9 a.m. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to [thetemplelouky.org](http://thetemplelouky.org)

adult-education for more information.

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

Every year, The Temple Brotherhood has an off-site Chinese dinner. This year, we will be at Jasmine Bistro, 2420 Lime Kiln Lane on Thursday, May 14. The dinner is included in Brotherhood dues. Non-members are welcome at \$25 per person. The business meeting is at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. RSVP to [mfriedman@sustainablemgt.com](mailto:mfriedman@sustainablemgt.com).

Come join Rabbi Matt and Ellen Shaikun for Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Our Tot Shabbat will be a monthly, 15-minute service with our youngest members in mind, but will also provide an opportunity to meet other families. This event is open to all. After Tot Shabbat ends at 6:15 p.m., we will welcome all the families to stay for dinner. Tot Shabbat is free, but if you plan to stay for dinner, please RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/shabbat-dinner](http://thetemplelouky.org/shabbat-dinner).

Join us for a family-friendly Blue Jean Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 15 at 6 p.m. and Erev Shabbat Services at 7 p.m. Dinner is \$5 for Members who register by May 12 and \$10 at the door. Non-Members are \$18 per person; children 12 and under are free. Please make your reservations by calling 502-423-1818 or registering at [thetemplelouky.org/shabbat-dinner](http://thetemplelouky.org/shabbat-dinner).

Shavuot is traditionally considered to be the anniversary of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Tikkun Leil Shavuot is the custom of staying up the entire night of Shavuot studying with the community to re-experience standing at Sinai. We look forward to study sessions with Rabbi David and Rabbi Matt at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 21.

Join us for a special Shavuot memorial service on Friday, May 22 at 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome to join Rabbi Matt on Saturday, May 23 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 — this is a special opportunity to learn more about the Shabbat Morning Service. If you would like a Zoom link for the Lunch & Learn, email [rab-bimatt@thetemplelouky.org](mailto:rab-bimatt@thetemplelouky.org). Please RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/learner](http://thetemplelouky.org/learner) or by calling 502-423-1818. Cost is \$5 for Members by May 19, \$10 for Members at the door, and \$18 for Non-Members, Children 12 and under are free.

Hike with Rabbi David! Sunday hiking adventures are for all ages; however, strollers are not recommended. The Temple will provide hikers with an awesome water bottle to not only ensure hydration, but also as a keepsake for your own hikes. In May, we will hike Bernheim Forest on Sunday, May 31, at 9 a.m. (arrive at 8:45 a.m.). RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/hiking](http://thetemplelouky.org/hiking).

Join us on Saturday, June 6 at 10:30 a.m. in our outdoor sanctuary (weather permitting) for our next Shabbark service. This pet-centered Shabbat morning service will celebrate our animal companions as we offer them special blessings, as well as take time to say a special pet kaddish for our pet companions that have passed. After service, we will have a pawsome doggie-bag Oneg Shabbark for pets and a special lunch for the humans. We will also have some booths featuring games for the pets, information on local

rescues and shelters, and more. Shabbat services are open to all, but if you would like to attend the pawsome Oneg Shabbark and lunch, please RSVP with your name and your pet's name so we can make sure to have enough food. More info and RSVP at [thetemplelouky.org/Shabbark](http://thetemplelouky.org/Shabbark). See you there and Shabbark Shalom.

## Trager Family Jewish Community Center

CenterStage presents Fiddler on The Roof

May 7-17, tickets on sale now

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing antisemitism of Czarist Russia. For tickets and more information, go online at [jclouisville.org/centerstage](http://jclouisville.org/centerstage)

Lifeguard Certification Course

May 2, 3, 9, & 10

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Yarmuth Family Aquatics Center

The American Red Cross Lifeguarding course provides entry-level lifeguard participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to aquatic emergencies and to provide professional-level care until emergency medical services (EMS) personnel take over. More info: [jclouisville.org/lifeguard](http://jclouisville.org/lifeguard)

Camp J Save the Dates

Summer is just around the corner, and we're getting excited for another unforgettable season at Camp J. Mark your calendars and join us as we gear up for all the fun ahead.

Parent Orientation

May 13, 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. (choose either time slot)

Come learn everything you need to know to get

your camper ready for an amazing summer. Camp J Open House

May 28, 5-7 p.m.

Stop by to explore, meet our staff, and get a sneak peek at all the camp excitement.

Red Cross Blood Drive

May 20, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Stop by the Camp J Building on Wednesday, May 20 to help save lives!

This drive is co-sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women. To schedule an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter the sponsor code: jclouky or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Enrichment Classes

Monday-Thursday Every Week

JCC Members as well as non-members can now register for new enrichment classes this spring! Each week kids can explore their creativity with sports, chess club, dance, Monk-warrior, and more.

Get additional information [jclouisville.org/enrichment](http://jclouisville.org/enrichment)

Sunday Fundays

Every Sunday from 12 - 2 p.m.

Each Sunday, join us for fun new programs with your kids at the Trager Family JCC. This programming is "drop-in" style and classes will rotate weekly, but will be the same monthly. Children 12 and under are not permitted to be unsupervised.

Sunday Fundays are free for Trager Family JCC members only. More information: [jclouisville.org/sunday-fundays](http://jclouisville.org/sunday-fundays)

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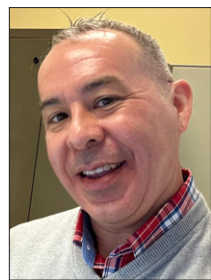
# LIFECYCLE

## B'nai Mitzvahs



**Rachel Sarah Ohayon**

Rachel Sarah Ohayon, beloved daughter of Moshe Ohayon and younger sister to Sharon and Avi, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at The Temple. Rachel is the cherished granddaughter of Israel and Fany Ohayon of Be'er Sheva, Israel. Rachel is currently completing seventh grade at North Oldham Middle School, where she brings curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm to all she does. Rachel enjoys playing saxophone, getting lost in graphic novels, and experimenting in the kitchen as she develops her culinary skills. Some of her happiest moments are spent helping her grandparents – especially when there's cooking or baking involved. For her Pledge 13 volunteer project, Rachel sought out a commitment that reflects kindness, generosity, and a growing sense of responsibility to her community. She is working with Educational Justice, a local nonprofit dedicated to leveling the educational playing field by empowering elementary and middle school students from low-income backgrounds. Rachel's family is incredibly proud of the thoughtful, talented, and compassionate young woman she is becoming. They warmly invite the community to join them in celebrating her Bat Mitzvah Havdalah service.



**Heath Rico-Storey**

Heath Rico-Storey will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 30, at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple. Heath is the proud father of two cats and husband of Tim Rico-Storey. A special thank you to Rabbi Matt, Rabbi David, Jennifer Diamond, and the entire staff at The Temple. Heath invites the community to his Bar Mitzvah service and Kiddush luncheon immediately following.

## Obituaries



**Linda Rosenstein Goodman**

Linda R. Goodman, 81, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away on April 11, 2026. She was born on February 10, 1945, the daughter of Adora Lerner Rosenstein and Gilbert Rosenstein.

Linda graduated from Waggener High School and received a degree in English and Psychology from the University of Louisville. It was during her time at the University of Louisville that she met her husband, beginning a lifelong partnership and family legacy. She was a social worker for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and later worked with her husband in the family business.

Linda's lifelong passion for helping others began in her teens, when she started as a junior hostess at the JCC for the USO. She was a founding member of Hillel at the University of Louisville. She was active in many Jewish organizations, including Mizrahi, Haddassah, NCJW, and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. She was a Lifetime Member of the Temple Sisterhood and served on its Board. She was an advisor for L'Chaim BBG at the JCC and served on the JCC board and membership committee.

She volunteered at the JFCS food pantry, where she helped organize, recruit, fundraise, and feed those in need. She also provided transportation for the Senior PALS program. She won the Ronald and Marie Abrams Volunteer of the Year Award—given to an individual whose life is defined by community service. She also received a Pinnacle Award for her outstanding contribution to The Temple.

She was greatly involved in the lives of her children and grandchildren. She was a JCC Girl Scout troop leader. She volunteered in the children's schools as a room mom, tutored reading, and was on the PTA board.

Linda was a loving, caring, and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She was truly a good person who cared deeply about others'

happiness and well-being. She lived with an optimistic perspective—"The cup is half full." She always chose to see the best in others and encouraged others to be grateful for all they had. Her family was her #1 interest and greatest joy. She loved cooking holiday meals, spending time surrounded by family and friends.

Linda was known for her honesty and loving nature, all while keeping a sense of humor. She brightened the lives of those around her, instilling these core values in children, teaching them the importance of being caring individuals and giving back to their community. She was the kindest, sweetest person you could ever meet. If you knew her, you loved her. Basically, an angel amongst us.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Adora and Gilbert Rosenstein, sister, Joan Rosenstein Musicante, and brother, Allen E. 'Gene' Rosenstein. She is survived by her devoted husband of 59 years, Stephen L. Goodman; her children: Alyce Goodman Abraham (Howard), Stacy Goodman Grossman, and Seth Goodman. She is also survived by her grandchildren Aidan Joseph Grossman and Shayna Rebecca Goodman, and her step-grandchildren, Thomas Boone-Abraham and Mary Getzin (Nathan).

Funeral services were held April 16 at The Temple, followed by interment at The Temple Cemetery.

Donations in Linda's memory can be made to The Temple, 5101 US HWY 42, Louisville, KY 40241 or The Janet & Sonny Meyer Food Pantry, c/o JFCS, 2821 Klempner Way, Louisville, KY 40205.



**Kenneth S. Lurie**

Kenneth S. Lurie, 73, of Louisville, passed away peacefully on March 24, 2026, with his family by his side. He was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Geraldine "Jerry" Lurie.

Ken was a graduate of JTown High School, Class of '71, and the University of Louisville, Class of '76. He was a member of Rauch AZA #107. He and his wife, Diane owned and operated

Snac-n-Pac Convenience Store, proudly for 27 years. He had a true passion for classic cars and enjoyed UofL sporting events for many years. Most of all he enjoyed time spent with his family and friends.

Ken is survived by his wife of 48 years, Diane; his daughter Erica Spector (Drew), his son, Bradley Lurie, his brother Ronald Lurie (Vicki), his sister Vicki Maya (Mario), and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were private with burial in The Temple Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF).



**Alan C. Simon**

Alan C. Simon, aged 79, of Prospect, KY, passed away on April 7, 2026. Born on December 6, 1946, in Louisville, he was the beloved son of Virginia and Benjamin "BB" Simon.

Alan graduated from Butler University and dedicated his career to serving the community as a pharmacist at Simon's Prospect Apothecary, where he provided thoughtful, integrative, and holistic care to his clients. A man of integrity and compassion, Alan lived his life to its fullest potential, always prioritizing the well-being of those around him. He proudly served in the U.S. Army and later contributed to his community through his election to the Prospect City Council, as well as many years of civic involvement.

Alan's commitment to service and leadership was widely recognized. He served as President of the North Oldham Lions Club (1984-1985), where Lions Club International honored him with a testimonial of sincere appreciation for his distinguished and unselfish service, marked by outstanding leadership, vision, and ability.

He was named a Melvin Jones Fellow (1992-1993) by the Lions Club International Foundation for his dedicated humanitarian efforts. In 1993, he was recognized as Pharmacist of the Year by Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceuticals.

*Continued on page 25*

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# LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 24

cals. The City of Prospect presented him with the Craigmyle Award in 1997 in appreciation of his outstanding and dedicated service to its residents. In 2012, he received the City of Prospect Recognition Award for his service as a council member from January 1, 1991, through December 31, 2012. He was also honored with induction into the Kentuckiana Integrative Medicine Association Hall of Fame.

In 1973, he married Benita, and together they built a loving family. He was their go-to expert advice wrapped in fatherly love. His dedication to his work served as inspiration for his children to be entrepreneurs in their own regard.

Alan is survived by his wife, Benita, his daughter, Beth, his tech and close friend of 25 years, Donna Straughn, longtime friends and colleagues Brittany Young, APRN of Abundant Health, Cathy Leet of Integrative Therapeutics, Tiffany Smith, PA-C of Radiant Integrative Health and Dr. Sal Ciliberti.

His family is thankful to the Norton Brownsboro Hospital caregivers, nurses and doctor, who selflessly took care of Alan in Comfort Care: Hannah, Dezera, Delayne, Kayla, Meissa, Debbie, Amanda, Leslie and Dr. Simpson.

A graveside funeral was held April 10 at Anshei Sfard Cemetery. Contributions in Alan's memory may be made to Gilda's Club, Down Syn-

drome of Louisville or Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT).



**Carol Lee Zegart**

Carol Lee (Merade Stein) Zegart passed away peacefully at her cherished home on March 24, 2026. Carol Lee is survived by her beloved husband, Ar-

nold Zegart, a match made in heaven. She is also survived by her son Robert Stein (Pam), Arnold's daughter, Mindy Turba (Carl), her son-in-law Howell Sizemore and her grandchildren: Ryan Sizemore (Chris), Alex Sizemore, Brittany Turba (Philip), Corey Turba (Abbie), Drew Stein and Gabe Stein.

Her parents Ann and Isadore Merade raised her in a loving home on Carson Way in Louisville, Kentucky. She attended Atherton High School (Class of '59) and went on to receive an accounting degree from the University of Louisville. She met her first husband while he was stationed at Fort Knox. During his military service, he was deployed to Vietnam, and they also lived in Germany. They later moved to his home state of New Jersey before their marriage was dissolved. She then returned home to Kentucky in 1973 to be with her mother, who helped her raise her children.

When Carol returned home, she took a job working as a corporate accountant at Vermont American where she

would ultimately retire after 25 years of dedicated service to that organization. In 1983, she met Arnold, the love of her life. After retirement, she couldn't sit still long and began volunteering at Congregation Adath Jeshurun until her passing.

Arnold introduced her to his love of Newfoundlands, parenting Sampson, Fogo and Sassy together. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, traveling with friends and playing Mah Jongg. She enjoyed cheering on the Cardinals, Boilermakers and the Wildcats. They spent over 40 glorious years together. Her smile and giving way will be missed by many.

Services were held March 29, 2026, at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, followed by interment at Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. Donations in Carol's memory may be made to Congregation Adath Jeshurun or the donor's favorite charity.

May her memory be a blessing.

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## GLOBE

## Congress removes deadline for Holocaust-looted art claims, setting stage for more restitution battles

By Jackie Hajdenberg  
JTA

A new U.S. law removing a deadline for laying claim to art looted during the Holocaust has gone into effect after President Donald Trump signed it on Monday.

The 2025 Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act, or HEAR Act, expands on a 2016 law, signed by President Barack Obama, that permits victims and descendants of victims of the Holocaust to lay legal claim to works of art looted by the Nazis or sold to the Nazis under false pretenses.

That law included a controversial “sunset clause” that required all claims of artwork looted by the Nazis to be filed by the end of this year. That clause has been removed, and the revised act permits families to file a lawsuit within six years of the discovery of looted artwork.

The law also further protects those seeking to retrieve their family’s looted property by preventing the current holders from using certain legal tactics unrelated to the subject matter — such as requesting to switch courts — during proceedings.

“For years, the sunset clause cast a shadow over every survivor and family whose stolen art is still missing,” Joel Greenberg, president of Art Ashes, a non-profit that helps families recover their looted art, said in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “Now they can seek due process without the pressure of

time and deadlines.”

Hundreds of thousands of pieces of fine art were looted from their Jewish owners by the Nazis, often by forced sales in the early years of the Nazi regime. Efforts to reunite the works with their owners or their descendants have been guided by an array of laws governed by an international compact including nearly two dozen countries. Restitution claims frequently ignite extensive legal battles.

The family of the cabaret artist Fritz Grünbaum, who was murdered in the Holocaust, for example, was able to recover works by Viennese Expressionist artist Egon Schiele that were in Grünbaum’s vast personal collection in 2018 after decades of efforts. The family has since continued to file legal action to reclaim Grünbaum’s works under the HEAR Act.

Watchdogs say the sunset clause may have caused those owning looted works to obscure them from public view.

“It was extremely important that Congress eliminated the sunset clause because it incentivized museums and others holding looted art to keep those works under wraps until the sunset period ended,” Greenberg said. “Now, that change and the other provisions ensure claims will be heard and decided on the merits and means that the commitment Congress made to survivors ten years ago when they first passed the HEAR Act is finally being honored.”

Both the original law and the new revision received bipartisan support. But



A judge ruled in 2026 that Amedeo Modigliani’s “Seated Man with a Cane,” shown here in part, must be returned to the family of the man who owned it before the Holocaust. (Courtesy Sotheby’s)

the Republican Jewish Coalition credited Trump with its enactment, saying in a statement, “President Trump has consistently proven to be the best friend of the Jewish people ever to occupy the Oval Office, and his signature today ratifies the truth: the passage of time can never diminish the injustice of crimes committed by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust.”

The revision goes into effect just days after one of the most significant recent

rulings in the restitution space. Last week, a judge ruled after a decade-long legal battle that a painting by Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani, once valued at around \$25 million, must be returned to the descendants of its original owner, who was forced to sell the painting to the Nazis. The painting had been in the possession of a prominent New York-based real estate and art dealer family since 1996.

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Jewish Federation  
OF LOUISVILLE



# GLOBE

## Michigan Democrats back pro-Palestinian candidate for university board, sidelining pro-Israel Jewish incumbent

By Andrew Lapin  
JTA

A pro-Israel Jewish member of the University of Michigan's governing board is on his way out after Democratic leaders in the state instead backed a pro-Palestinian attorney with a history of antisemitic and pro-Hezbollah rhetoric for the spot.

Jordan Acker will not run for reelection on the Board of Regents in November, when Michigan voters have the task of choosing members of the board. Instead, the state Democratic Party candidate will be Amir Makled, who received the party's backing even after losing an endorsement following revelations of his social media activity.

Makled is allied with progressive Michigan U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed, who has prompted controversy in the primary race with his Israel criticism. In a pretaped CNN interview that aired Sunday, just before Makled was selected, El-Sayed called the Israeli government as "evil" as Hamas and said, "Killing tens of thousands of people makes you pretty damn evil."

Just before the convention, Makled, an attorney, had deleted posts that included retweets of far-right antisemitic conspiracy theorist Candace Owens; memes and cartoons with antisemitic connotations; and references to former Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah as a "martyr" after he was killed by Israeli strikes in 2024.

After the press resurfaced the posts, the Michigan branch of the Service Employees International Union rescinded its support for him, citing "new information that was not available at the time our endorsement was made."

Acker, meanwhile, faced reports days before the convention that, as regent, he had sent sexually explicit Slack messages in 2020 and 2021 about Michigan students and a Democratic party strategist. Those messages included a reference to a student's parent as a "joo," slang for Jew. His attorney questioned the authenticity of the messages to The Guardian, which first reported them.

The revelations came amid an unusually supercharged race for the party's endorsement for the Board of Regents candidacy, at a time when Israel is reshaping Democratic politics across the United States. (Michigan is one of only a handful of states in which voters play a direct role in choosing university overseers.)

Amid national polls showing that Democratic voters largely disapprove of Israel, Makled's selection adds to signals that the pro-Palestinian wing of the party appears

to be ascendant in Michigan, which has a large number of both Jewish and Arab voters.

"This is what happens when people decide that something better is possible," Makled said in his victory speech at the party's Detroit convention on Sunday. He was enthusiastically backed by the university's newly elected student body president, the latest in a series of outspoken pro-Palestinian students to hold the position.

At the same convention, a speech by U.S. Senate candidate Haley Stevens, who is seen as the preferred candidate of pro-Israel voters, was booed by delegates.

Neither Acker nor Makled responded on Monday morning to requests for comment from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The two had taken center stage in the pro-Palestinian encampment drama at the university after Oct. 7, with Michigan's attorney general bringing charges against a group of protesters, and Makled coming to their defense; the charges were later dropped.

Acker's home was also vandalized in 2024 by pro-Palestinian protesters, some of whose homes were later raided by federal authorities.

At a campaign rally for El-Sayed earlier this month, Makled told JTA that he stood by his defense of the encampment while condemning the attack on Acker's home.

"It's a public space and they have the opportunity to voice their concerns and speak their minds to the university. They've done so peacefully," he said then. "And I thought that was their right. And I stood firmly to defend them and that right to speak out. You know, there are ways to have some good trouble."

Makled continued, "I wouldn't have stood in support of malicious destruction of someone's personal property or home, because that's stoking fear in a person's private life that was serving in public office. And I don't know who decided to make those choices, but they shouldn't be said in the same conversation or sentence of what was happening in the Diag" — referring to the central campus space where the encampments took place.

The El-Sayed event — which also featured the streamer Hasan Piker, who himself has been accused of antisemitism and repeatedly said he believes Israel is worse than Hamas — took place before the revelations about Makled's social media posts.

Negative campaigning took an ugly turn during the Board of Regents race. Anonymous text messages to state Democratic Party donors claimed that Acker — who has met with Israeli President Isaac Her-



**Amir Makled, a pro-Palestinian candidate for University of Michigan board of regents, addresses the crowd at a rally for U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed in Ann Arbor, April 7, 2026. Makled, who had praised Hezbollah's leader in a past social media post, bested Jewish incumbent regent Jordan Acker for the state Democratic Party nomination later that month. (Andrew Lapin/JTA)**

zog — would "put Israel first." Though designed to look like pro-Acker ads, the texts were denounced by the state's Democratic Party for playing on "dual loyalty" tropes about Jews.

One of the two Republican nominees for the board, meanwhile, is Lena Epstein, an oil executive and Trump supporter who was raised Jewish but said in 2023 that a local pastor had "baptized me into the Christian faith."

In a recent interview with the student newspaper, The Michigan Daily, Epstein said she would fight antisemitism at the university, which she called "an antisemitic hotbed," pledging that "anti-Israel sentiment will go down significantly" if she is elected. A co-chair of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign in Michigan, Epstein attracted controversy in 2018 for inviting a Messianic "rabbi" to pray for the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting.

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