

JEWISH LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

Dopamine Café to open at the Trager Family JCC

SEE PAGE 15

FRIDAY Vol. 52, No. 7 | July 31, 2026 | 17 Av 5786

An Israeli-born country music artist and lots of falafel? Yup – at the Shalom Y'all Block Party

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

When the Trager Family JCC hosts its first ever Shalom Y'all Block Party Sunday, Aug. 23 from 12-3:30 p.m., there will be plenty of fun, food, and family-friendly enticements. Want some of the best hummus and falafel anywhere? We've got it. Let your kids make some nifty ups-and-downs on a bounce house? You're covered. Fancy sparkling rings, necklaces, and bracelets? A pair of artists will be happy to guide you.

This will also be a sparkling (excuse the bit of wordplay) opportunity to meet up with friends, stroll in the fresh air, and generally have a blast. And while there's an emphasis on Jewish life and culture, everyone is welcome. Oh, and admission is free.

There's another compelling reason to attend the Block Party: country music singer-songwriter Omer Netzer.

Born in the northern Israel city of Nahariya, Netzer now makes his home in Nashville, where he is methodically – song by song, gig by gig, YouTube video by YouTube video – building a career.

The idea of an Israeli country-music artist may sound incongruous, even fanciful, but it's a scenario Netzer is embracing with unabashed fervor.

"It's not a dream, but what I call reality," he emphasized during a recent Zoom interview from his Nashville home. "I call it a mission."

That mission, Netzer said, is to "bring a story with music and make people understand what it's like to grow up 10,000 kilometers from here – wanting to connect with and love people."

Out of someone else's lips, such a figurative pan-humanity bear hug might come off as more than slightly pretentious. Yet Netzer is as good as his sentiment. Whether by dint of design or circumstance, he sings and wields a six-string guitar as an ambassador of positivity.

Netzer's commitment is unmistakable. Last year he performed in no fewer than 25 states and a smattering of foreign countries, a collective experience he found both aesthetically exhilarating and emotionally exhausting. Most recently, with the release of his extended-play single "Don't Ask Me," he's adopted



Omer Netzer (Photo by Rachel Deeb)

a less frenetic approach to craft and career.

You might say that Netzer's endurance (not to mention his professional roadmap) are a function of his Israeli background. Growing up in Nahariya, just a few miles from Israel's border with Lebanon, there was an ever-present threat of

See **BLOCK PARTY** on page 4

In Israeli society the Druze stand apart – and as a pillar of the nation's defense

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

There is a religious community in Israel all but unknown to most Americans: the Druze.

Steeped in mysticism and secrecy, at once part of and apart from broader Israeli society, the Druze straddle a boundary between sacred and secular traditions. Though most live in Syria and Lebanon (about 700,000 and 250,000, respectively), approximately 150,000 call Israel home, living principally in the north now far from the Lebanese border.

Indeed, since Israel's founding in 1948, some 430 Druze have given their lives while serving in the Israeli Defense

See **DRUZE** on page 14

Saying goodbye after a year of wonder

By Yael and Rona
Our ShinShinim

Hello everyone.

For those of you who know us, we are so happy to reach out to you again. And for those of you who don't know us- it's about time!

We are Yael & Rona, this year's Louisville ShinShinot. "Shin shin" is the letter shin in Hebrew twice, and it stands for "Shnat Sherut"- a year of service, which is what we chose to do this year. The Jewish Agency for Israel sends young high school graduates all around the world for a year to volunteer in Jewish communities.

After a year of the selection process, we were assigned to interview with the Jewish community in Louisville. You must imagine the look on the faces of two Israeli girls for whom the U.S. means NYC, LA, and Miami, realizing they are going to Louisville, Kentucky. The only association that came to mind was KFC.

But the truth is, we are so thankful we didn't get to choose, because now we have an amazing place we get to call home.

"Tikkun Olam"- repairing the world- is



Rona and Yael

a very important value in Judaism. Volunteerism is rooted in Israeli society. From an early age, kids volunteer in youth movements that are led by teens. We all know that eventually we will have to serve in the

See **SHINSHINIM** on page 3

Endowment funds honor the past while ensuring the future

By Andrew Adler, Phyllis Shaikun and Michael Shaikun
Community Editor and Guest Columnists

How many endowment funds do you think exist at the Jewish Federation of Louisville? Twenty-five? Fifty? A hundred?

Try 262.

That's right – the Federation administers 262 separate endowments, long term investments whose income supports a broad array of causes in Louisville and Israel. We've featured one of these – the Alan S. Engel Partnership with Israel Professional Development Fund – elsewhere in this issue of *Community*. And we wanted to let you know that future issues will highlight individual endowments, demonstrating how your dollars generate real, lasting impact.

But what, exactly, do we mean by endowment funds?

Think of it this way: Endowments are permanent funds created by donors to support the future of our Jewish community. Rather than being used only once, these funds are invested to help provide ongoing resources for programs, services, scholarships, and community needs year after year. In that

way, an endowment becomes both a reflection of a donor's values and a lasting source of strength for the Louisville Jewish Community.

In simplest terms, they turn today's generosity into perpetual support for the Jewish community. An endowment is created with a monetary gift that is invested carefully to provide ongoing support for something about which the donor cares deeply.

In other words, an endowment is a legacy, expressing what we mean when we invoke the phrase *L'Dor V'Dor* – "From Generation to Generation" – benefitting not only current-day initiatives, but those to come.

Endowments come in all shapes and sizes. Donors can endow all or a portion of their annual campaign gift, or they can choose to invest in an area of interest such as education, Israel, youth or teen programs, or senior services. Income from one of our philanthropic funds (also known as donor-advised funds) can also be used to make grants to charitable organizations of the donor's choice. Endowed funds can be established in a variety of creative ways using cash, life in-

See **ENDOWMENT** on page 9



Jewish Identity Amidst Rising Antisemitism

A Conversation with Dara Horn

August 10 at 7 p.m.

TO REGISTER visit yocdlouisville.org



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Word of the Month: From Moses to Rushdie, an enduring promise sustained by the resonance of language



D'var Torah

Cantor
David Lipp

A couple of years ago I read Salman Rushdie's memoir, *Knife*, his attempt to make sense of the attack he suffered following the *fatwa*—the 1989 religious decree calling for his death for writing *The Satanic Verses*.

Years after he thought the controversy had settled, he was viciously attacked while giving a public talk. In the aftermath – blinded in one eye – he felt he had to put the experience into words if he was to move on and return to writing fiction, which is his professional preference and literary strength.

One scene from the book really stuck with me: He's at a dinner party with friends, including the humorist and writer Fran Lebowitz.

"Why did you block with your left hand rather than your right?" Fran asks.

Rushdie doesn't remember. But he wants to satisfy her curiosity. Perhaps, he suggests, because a right-handed boxer guards with his left and punches with his right.

Fran is unimpressed.

"Salman," she says, "you're not a boxer, and you didn't punch with your right."

Later, after she has gone home, the host tells Rushdie that Fran is thinking about him every day—that she's genuinely worried about her friend. Rushdie concludes the anecdote by saying he wants a T-shirt that reads: *Fran Lebowitz thinks about me every day*.

What Fran and Salman are trying to do is reconstruct an event—its intentions, its actions, its split-second decisions—shrouded in a fog of fear and emotion. It lasted only seconds but echoed around the world. Yet even for its central figure, much of what happened remained mysterious. Fran wants an explanation for what happened to her friend. Salman wants to understand what happened so he can move forward.

Moses, reviewing the events of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, is attempting something similar. Except the moment he's revisiting isn't forty seconds long but forty years. Unlike a historian, however, he isn't merely reconstructing what happened.

He already knows that story. He's deciding what it meant.

He's reframing the wilderness experience in a way that will help the Israelites move forward into the Promised Land with a clearer understanding of God, themselves, and the covenant they are about to inherit.

In that sense, neither Rushdie nor Moses is simply remembering the past. Both are telling the story in a way that makes it possible to live into the future.

Moses is still only in the early stages of the longest sermon in Jewish history. He can't simply tell the Israelites to re-read Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Those books are only now taking shape, and literacy is hardly widespread.

Making sense of both the past and the future means making the point more than once. Every speech teacher gives the same advice: Tell them what you're going to say, say it, then tell them what you said.

Moses' message in this week's portion can almost be distilled into its second word and the name of the parashah: *Ekev*. Most translations render it as "because," "if," or "therefore." I like a word that sounds surprisingly close to the Hebrew while also capturing its force: *ergo*.

Ergo: If you obey these rules and observe them, the Eternal your God will faithfully maintain the covenant sworn to your ancestors.

"Therefore" merely links two ideas. *Ergo* suggests that one thing flows from another. Our choices lead somewhere. Actions have consequences. History is not simply something that happens to us; it is also something we create.

Throughout Deuteronomy, Moses returns to this lesson in every pedagogical way imaginable: in prose, poetry, blessings and warnings, even in the ritual he instructs the Israelites to perform between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal after they enter the land in his absence.

Many of us no longer accept this theology in its most literal form. Even within the Bible, the Book of Job stands as a powerful challenge to the notion that virtue is always rewarded and suffering always deserved. After centuries of persecution—and especially in the wake of pogroms and the Holocaust—that simple equation becomes even harder to sustain.

Yet the broader truth still resonates. Actions have consequences. They ripple outward. They shape individuals, communities, and nations in ways we often recognize only in hindsight.

Moses knew he would never cross the Jordan. The only way he could accompany the people into the future was through his words.

So, he repeated them—again and again—in the hope that long after his own voice had fallen silent, we would still hear his.

Perhaps that's the real T-shirt message.

Not simply that Moses was thinking about the Israelites every day, but that through the words of Deuteronomy, he wanted generations of Israelites to know that he never stopped thinking about us.

It may take more words than will fit on a T-shirt. Moses never worried much about brevity.

I'd still wear it.

David Lipp is Cantor at Congregation Adath Jeshurun

Snapshots



Each summer, Jewish children from across Kentucky find friendship, joy, and a deepened connection to their Jewish identity and community. This year, 120 campers were able to attend camps like Camp Livingston, GUCI (Goldman Union Camp Institute), Beber Camp and more thanks to incentive grants through One Happy Camper and other Federation camp financial assistance, including the Laura K. Cohen Camp Scholarship Fund, Miriam and Dennis Fine Beber Camp Memorial Scholarship Fund, Frankenthal Family Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund, and Allan Kling Children's Fund. (Photos courtesy of Alison Roemer and Amy Joseph Landon)

Candles

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

- August 7 @ 8:28 p.m.
- August 14 @ 8:19 p.m.
- August 21 @ 8:10 p.m.
- August 28 @ 8:00 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscription on hold? Ryan Benningfield can handle all

circulation questions. He can be reached at rbenningfield@jewishlouisville.org or 502-238-2739.

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

Deadlines

Got a news item for Community?

Deadlines matter, especially for newspapers. Send in your news by **Monday, August 17** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on

Friday, August 28.

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

Read Community Everywhere...

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



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

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

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

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

Corrections/Clarifications

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

NEWS

SHINSHINIM

Continued from page 1

IDF, but despite the misconceptions, we look forward to that and want to give as much as we can.

And still, even though we know we'll have to serve, people want to give more than they have to. That is why so many young Israelis choose to do a year of service. For us, doing a year of service was never a question. The question was where and how. There are so many places that could use our help- the northern and southern parts of Israel that got hurt during the war and need help recovering, working in agriculture, helping with education after almost two years of on-line schooling, volunteering with youth at risk, and many more.

All those things are so important, and we are proud to be a part of a generation that cares so much to take a year of our lives and give to make a difference in all of those fields.

Eventually, we realised that this program would fit us the best, and we felt like this was the place where we could contribute the most. To show the beauty of Israel in the way we see it, just like we described now. People with good hearts who always want to give out and stick with each other and are not afraid to work hard in the purpose of defending their country. And what a beautiful country. All of the different landscapes, cultures, and traditions that we share. And even with what's happening in Israel nowadays, our belonging does not weaken, but the opposite- it becomes stronger and more meaningful every day.

When we chose to come and be Shin-

Shinot, we knew why, but we didn't know exactly what we were getting into- who we would meet, what we would do, or what our days would look like. We knew we wanted to give, to make an impact, to be meaningful- but we didn't know how much we would receive in return.

Arriving in Louisville felt a little like jumping into deep water.

A new place, a different language all around us, a different culture, and people we didn't know. At first, it was scary. But slowly, something began to change.

The places became familiar, the people became like family, and the community became our home.

During this year, we learned so much- about Louisville, about life in America, about Jewish life outside of Israel. But we also learned about ourselves. We learned what real responsibility looks like, what it means to show up even when it's hard, how to do so many new things, take care of ourselves without our parents, handle preschoolers, and even simple things like filling gas and doing our own laundry.

This year truly teaches you so much- you learn that you are capable of many things and how independent you actually are. But more than anything, we learned about connection- connection to people, to our Jewish identity, and to what it means to be part of a community.

Jewish life in Israel was always in front of us. Everything closes early on Fridays and holidays. A mezuzah on every door. Bakeries selling sufganiyot on Hanukkah and "ozney Haman"- hamantaschen on Purim. It's just there, all the time.

But what we learned about Jewish life

abroad is that you have to choose to be a part of it every day. You have to make an effort to go to synagogue on Shabbat, to light candles on Friday night, and send your kids to Sunday school- to make your Jewish identity a meaningful part of your life.

It was, and still is, so heartwarming to see all of that. To see the little kids in Sunday school learning the prayers, practicing Jewish values, and discovering the light of Judaism for the first time.

There are small moments that stay with you- a conversation with a child after an activity, a smile from someone in the community, a sudden feeling of belonging in the middle of an ordinary day.

Those are the moments when you realize- This is why I came. I really belong here.

But all of these moments could not have happened without an even more amazing community.

We are truly so happy and lucky to be here in Louisville, and we could not picture ourselves in any other place. This community has been incredible to us- welcoming us from the first day, making us feel like there's always someone to turn to, someone who cares.

There is something special here. This Jewish community has a warmth and openness that is hard to describe until you experience it. From the very beginning, people didn't just welcome us politely- they embraced us. They invited us into their homes for Shabbat dinners, showed us places around town, checked in on us, supported us, and made sure we never felt alone.

There is a culture here of kindness, generosity, and genuine care for one an-

other. It's in the small conversations, in the smiles, and in the way people show up for each other. And for us, being so far from home, that warmth made all the difference- it turned something unfamiliar into something comforting.

This year was also not a simple one for us as Israelis. Being here, far from home, while everything was happening in Israel, the war, the pain, the uncertainty, and the emotional moments of the hostages finally returning home was incredibly difficult. There is something very complex about being physically here, yet emotionally somewhere else.

There were days when our hearts were completely back home, with our families and friends.

And yet, even in those moments, we were not alone. This community showed up for us in every way possible.

This experience also became meaningful in a different way. It reminded us how strong and important a connection can be, even across distance.

We want to say thank you again, and let you know how grateful we are to have had the chance to get to know all of you, get to know Louisville, and have an experience we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

Although we will be far away next year when we go back to Israel in August, we want you to know that you can always contact us. We would be so happy to stay in touch- and of course, let us know when you are coming to Israel!

Thank you very much for being here for us this year.

The Jewish Community of Louisville looks forward to welcoming the next Louisville ShinShinim in August.

MAHJONG for a Mission

Join Us to Connect, Play and Enjoy a Friendly Competition

Sunday, August 30

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Trager Family JCC
Kohn Family Town Square

Refreshments, community connection, and prizes!
Silent auction items from Oh My Mahjong, Louisville Ballet, and more.

REGISTER TODAY!

[jfcslouisville.org/
republic-bank-players-challenge](http://jfcslouisville.org/republic-bank-players-challenge)



Players of all skill levels are welcome. Bring your 2026 NMJL card and a Mahjong set if available.
Supporting JFCS and the Jewish Community of Louisville.



Perform the Mitzvah of Hospitality: Be a Host Family

Louisville will have two new *ShinShinim* as members of our community from August 2026 - July 2027.

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

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

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

To learn more, visit
jewishlouisville.org/shinshinim



NEWS

BLOCK PARTY

Continued from page 1

rocket attacks by Hezbollah militia.

All the while there were happier sounds. During the 1980s his father opened a record shop in Nahariya, where young Omer found myriad fascinations. He took first to the drums, eventually teaching himself guitar while digesting recordings from genre after genre, Johnny Cash to Eric Clapton.

As he told *Illustrate Magazine* this past June:

I never had any formal musical training, and I never had a guitar teacher. Everything started with curiosity. I would sit for hours listening to records, watching musicians, and trying to figure out how they created the sounds I loved. Then I'd pick up a guitar and try to recreate it myself.

I learned by listening, by making mistakes, and by playing over and over again until something clicked. Music became my language long before I understood the technical side of it. I didn't just play guitar, I felt it. Sometimes I would even move and dance with the guitar as I played because I was so connected to the emotion of the music.

Looking back, I think that shaped my approach as an artist. Since I wasn't taught a set of rules, I learned to trust my ears, my instincts, and my heart. Even today, I care more about whether a song makes people feel something than whether it's technically perfect. For

me, music has always been about connection, emotion, and telling the truth. That's how I learned it, and that's still how I create it today.

Netzer is scheduled to perform a 12 to 1:15 p.m. set at the Shalom Y'all Block Party, running from 12 to 3:30 p.m. outdoors on the Jewish Heritage Fund Campus. Admission is free.

"We want to be inclusive of Jewish traditions and culture," said Tricia Kling Siegwald, the Trager Family JCC's Senior Director of Festivals and Special Events. "You might walk through the gates and see one of the synagogues depicting Shabbat. We'll have artists out there selling their products, and of course what everybody loves most: food."

At the Block Party's Nosh Ville, participating vendors include Lexington, Ky. Chef Jacob Carr, who'll be bringing his popular pop-up Yalla Y'all. "He's a big draw, so that'll be huge," Siegwald promised.

Cue the stomach rumblings and lip smacking.

"You definitely have to check out his hummus and falafel," urged planning committee co-chair Michelle Klecner. Other culinary offerings include Born to Bagel, All Thai'd Up, Lil Cheezers, Frickled Pickle, Tikiz shaved ice and ice cream, plus homemade popsicles courtesy of Oh My Lollies. A selection of adult beverages will be available for the 21-and-over contingent.

"What a lot of people don't realize is how welcoming the Jewish communi-

ty can be," Klecner said. "I think that's what the JCC strives for."

And if you need something to work off all those indulgences, the Block Party will feature an opportunity for Israeli dance. After Netzer performs, a DJ will play Jewish-themed music until the Block Party winds up at 3:30 p.m.

No matter where he appears – whether playing in front of a live audience or recording inside the legendary Fame Studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama – Netzer strives for his own sense of an aesthetic standard.

"For me, it's aiming as high as I can," he said during his Zoom interview. "Sometimes we reach the target, and sometimes it's slow. But I want to remain true to myself. I have an amazing team that works with me 24/7, so I'm truly blessed, and an amazing band. It's about a lot of hard work and dedication."

Not to mention coping with periodic pangs of loneliness. For the time being, Netzer's wife and their two young children (ages 1 and 3) are remaining in Israel – the plan is for them to join him in Nashville, though the timetable is uncertain. "It's a decision every day to keep with the music, because it's not easy," he acknowledges. "But I'm here for them, too, to build a future."

He continues to gain new listeners, discovering his music on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, and other streaming platforms. Soon he'll be an official Martin Artist, joining forces

with America's most storied maker of acoustic guitars (playing a glorious Model OM-42).

Through it all Netzer embraces his foundational Judaism, bound up in a pragmatically optimistic brand of faith.

"Jewish people and Israelis are full of life, even when life tries to bring you to your knees. Look up and we have God, and we have each other."

The Shalom Y'all Block Party is sponsored by the Jewish Heritage Fund, Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Relations Council, Life & Legacy, and the following endowment funds: Kohn-Berman Endowment for the Arts Fund, Irving Klempner Jewish Cultural Arts Fund, Claire and Lee Lenkoff Orchestra/Conductor's Fund, Leon T. & Ursel Eichengreen Fuchs Music Fund, Dr. Louis & Bea Brownstein Ringol Performing Artists Fund, Arthur David Kreitman Jewish Performing Arts Fund, Murrel D. and Tobie Marks Klein Jewish Holidays Fund, Annette Simon Sagerman Special Events Fund, Benjamin & Bernice Mazin Visual Arts Fund, Allan Kling Children's Fund, and Hannah Marks Fund.

Thank you to the Shalom Y'all Block Party committee including Michelle Klecner (Chair), Stuart Fleischaker, Marlene Gordon, Bethany Heckel, Logan Jaffe, Lisa Klein, Tami Penner, Marcy Rosengarten, Barbara Schwartz, Lisa Sobel, Evan Tarbis, and Deirdre Weber.



Post-Season Drop-in Swim Clinics

The Post-Season Drop-In Swim Clinics give swimmers a flexible way to sharpen skills, strengthen fundamentals, and continue training after the season. Participants may register for individual sessions based on their age group and areas of focus.

3 clinics, 90 minutes each, Drop-in (participants register per session)

Clinic Offerings

13 & Up – Starts & Turns Clinic
August 16, 2-3:30 p.m.
Improve race performance through refined starts, faster turns, and stronger underwater work.

13 & Up – Stroke & Technique Clinic
August 30, 2-3:30 p.m.
Enhance overall stroke efficiency and develop higher-level technical proficiency!



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit jccloouisville.org/post-season



SWIM SCHOOL
WHERE YOUR SWIMMING JOURNEY BEGINS!




Are You New to Lou?

Whether you have recently arrived in Louisville, are planning to move here or if you have lived here a while but are now looking to make Jewish Louisville a part of your life, we are here to help!

The Jewish community in Louisville is exciting, dynamic and friendly. Our volunteers and staff are here to welcome and connect you to the community resources to help make Jewish Louisville feel like home. Fill out our online form to tell us about yourself and your Jewish interests so we can match you with a suitable volunteer.




Scan the QR code or visit jewishlouisville.org/shalomlouisville to get registered!



SHALOM

Y'ALL

BLOCK PARTY

Y'all Belong Here!



**Sunday
Aug. 23**

Trager Family JCC
3600 Dutchmans Ln.
Louisville, KY 40205

**12-3:30 p.m.
FREE Admission!**

**Live Music, Food Trucks, Cocktails, Kid's Village
featuring Arts & Crafts and Inflatables, and a
Market featuring Local Artists!**

Featuring Country Artist, Omer Netzer at noon!



This program is proudly supported by



Learn more at
jewishlouisville.org/block-party



COMMUNITY

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 or check out the website 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 August 17 for publication on August 28 and September 14 for publication on September 25.

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

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

To advertise, please contact our sales representative at 502-418-5845 or e-mail lsinger@jewishlouisville.org.

The appearance of advertising in Community does not represent a kashruth endorsement.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY STAFF

Sara Klein Wagner

Publisher

Andrew Adler

Community Editor

Larry Singer

Advertising Sales

Robyn Kaufman

Graphic Designer & Digital Marketing Manager

Mackenzie Lynch

Digital Marketing Specialist

Shiela Steinman Wallace

Editor Emeritus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Salamon

Board Chair

JCL SENIOR STAFF

Sara Klein Wagner

President & Chief Executive Officer

Thomas Wissinger

Vice President & Executive Director Trager Family JCC

Lenae Price

Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer

Paul Norman

Chief Financial Officer

Amy Joseph Landon

Senior Director of Marketing & Communications

Tricia Kling Siegwald

Senior Director of Adult Programming & Special Projects

Susan Kwasny

Senior Director of JCC Programs & Operations

Alison Roemer

Senior Director of Jewish Journeys

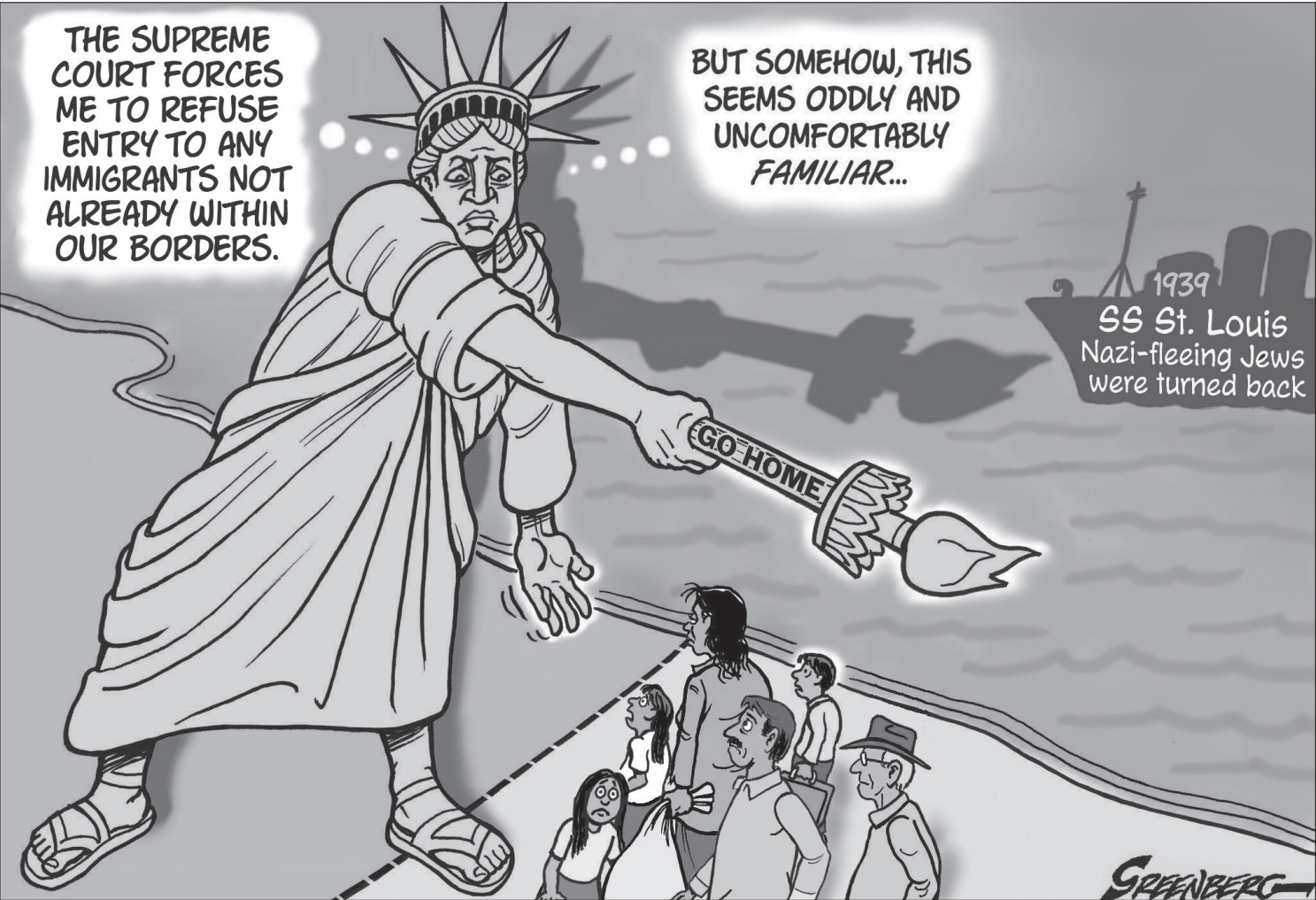
Trent Spoolstra

JCRC Director

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to Community, 3600 Dutchmans Lane Louisville, KY 40205



FORUM



I wondered as he wandered



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

A few nights ago I found myself inside a packed movie theater taking in “The Odyssey,” director Christopher Nolan’s expansive (three hours), expensive (\$250 million) and epically expressive (all-IMAX) gloss on one of classical literature’s most celebrated narratives.

You may recall from long-ago classroom reading that its title character, Odysseus, has led the Greeks to victory over the Trojans (something equine-like was reputedly involved) and now – 10 years after leaving his teenage wife and toddler son in Ithaca – longs to return to his beloved homeland. But fate, an angry god, covetous nymph, and the capriciousness of circumstance confound his intent.

Time drags on, and drags some more. Indeed. Ten more years will pass before the hero of Homer’s vast poem can gaze again at Penelope and Telemachus. Longing for home, Odysseus becomes a pitiable itinerant, consigned to wander among gods and monsters until, at long last, he finds his way back to his origin point.

It’s this notion of wandering that tugged at me when, a few minutes before midnight, I left the theater to drive home. Western literature abounds with wanderers: some earthbound, some suspended in Purgatory while they purge themselves of sin. Nor is Hell’s overlord exempt from such unhappy sentiments. *Those full of pain, this intellectual being, Those thoughts that wander through eternity*, muses Satan

in Milton’s “Paradise Lost.”

Wandering is a defining element, too, in the Torah. Barely has the world been created when Cain murders his brother Abel, for which God casts him as a “fugitive and wanderer.” And there is the enduring narrative of Moses and the Israelites, who must wander the desert for 40 years before they can cross the Jordan River and enter Canaan. Their prophet is left behind at the summit of Mount Nebo, God granting Moses a vision of the promised land but forbidding him admission. After so long a journey, he is denied the ultimate resolution.

Millenia later, Jews found themselves again as wanderers yearning for a sanctuary, a homeland, place to counter their itinerant history. The creation of the State of Israel in 1948, fraught as it was, stood as a resolute counterpart to the Holocaust’s decimation of European Jewry. Yet even as Israel rose up, the fate of other peoples was bound up in anguish and anger. Today Palestinians are the new wanderers, wondering if they ever will be granted a legitimate, enduring home of their own.

We humans are a restless lot, on one hand seeking stability, on the other reveling in our instability, the way we resist being tied to a single approach to living. As young children we are by necessity bound to our parents, as adolescents we rail against parental authority, and as adults we bear a new generation of offspring. Thus the cycle renews itself.

Sometimes we can feel akin to Odysseus, rocked by forces we cannot control, junctures we cannot anticipate. In “The Odyssey,” it’s truly an iteration of “Man plans, God laughs” (though here it’s Gods, plural, not God, singular). The poem – 12,109 lines of dactylic hexameter – often looms as an indictment of ego, as does much of ancient Greek literature (looking at you, Oedipus).

“Tell me about a complicated man,” goes

the opening line of Emily Wilson’s translation, which Nolan employed as the basis for his screenplay.

“Muse, tell me how he wandered and was lost when he had wrecked the holy city of Troy, and where he went, and who he met, the pain he suffered in in the storms at sea, and how he worked to save his life and bring his men back home.”

As Jews, confronting the destruction of the First and Second Temples (marked during Tisha B’Av, observed just days ago), we were compelled to wander for generation after generation. We adapted to that loss, substituting deeds of lovingkindness when animal sacrifices were no longer possible. We wandered amid an ever-widening diaspora, enduring the Inquisition and the Shoah, until Israel took us in.

October 7 shattered our complacency, provoking a response terrifying in its intensity and consequence. The many thousands of innocent Gazans who perished, trapped between Israeli and Hamas forces, could no more control their fate than their counterparts throughout history were able. The survivors might well ponder whether their wanderings will one day give way to an enduring peace and a true homeland.

Odysseus the Hero may be long dead, but almost 3,000 years later, his rootlessness remains as much a cipher as an exemplar of humanity wanting, somehow, to move forward. He found a pathway. So must we.

*Now goddess, child of Zeus, tell the old story of our modern times
Find the beginning.*

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

JCC Maccabi Games are more than just sports



State of
The J

Thomas
Wissinger

Every summer, Jewish teens from around the world gather for a week of athletic competition. They arrive wearing the colors of their local delegations, ready to compete in basketball, soccer, swimming, tennis, and more. Yet, when I attended the JCC Maccabi Games, it quickly became clear that sports are only part of the story.

Since 1982, the JCC Maccabi Games have become one of the most meaningful Jewish teen experiences in North America, a place where thousands of athletes come together to build Jewish identity, lifelong friendships, and a deep sense of Jewish peoplehood. And, oh yes – participate in an incredible Olympic-style competition, including opening ceremonies, athletic events and medal awards. But the Maccabi Games also feature service projects, Israeli cultural programming, and equally important, nurturing friendships that span continents. Young athletes come to play the sports they love and leave with stronger connection to worldwide Jewry.

This summer, Louisville's Jewish community will once again be proudly repre-

sented when 13 athletes travel to Toronto to compete in the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games. As they walk into opening ceremonies wearing "Team Kentucky" across their uniforms, they will join thousands of other Jewish teenagers who are discovering a community that extends across the globe.

As many of you know, Louisville's partnership with the Maccabi Games stretches back decades. For years, athletes, coaches, and volunteers have represented our Louisville Jewish community at these games. For some families, the Maccabi Games have become a tradition. Parents who once competed themselves now watch their children experience the same excitement, build similar friendships, and feel the same overwhelming pride that comes from not only representing Louisville's Jewish community, but in knowing that our Jewish community stretches far beyond the Ohio River.

Recently, Louisville's sports legacy was celebrated in a powerful way when the Trager Family JCC hosted its JCC Sports Reunion and rededicated the hanging of banners from Louisville's former JCC building. Many of these banners reflected athletic success at previous Maccabi Games, but also, these banners represented much more than that. These banners tell the story of Jewish teens who found confidence, belonging, and found lifelong friendships through sport. As guests traveled back to Louisville from across the country to celebrate the rehang of these banners, they came back to truly reconnect with old teammates and coaches

at "the Center" many called their second home. It was this sense of community and belonging that permeated throughout the Trager Family JCC's Goldberg Family Gym that day.

Regretfully, I did not have the opportunity to participate in Maccabi Games growing up, but sports were integral to my childhood and I still reflect on my athletic experiences as an adult. The values I learned on the courts and fields remain with me far after my competition days, and in this respect I know that I am not alone. Sports are an incredible incubator for building one's integrity, teamwork, respect for others, and appreciating how sometimes it takes individual sacrifice to achieve a team's goals. The Maccabi Games teach those lessons with an extra dose of building Jewish personhood and collective identity.

I'll admit that I didn't grasp the full impact of the Maccabi Games until I experienced one year's edition in person. In the summer of 2024, I attended the JCC Maccabi Games in Detroit. I expected to see a remarkable sporting event; however, what I witnessed changed my understanding of what JCC Maccabi truly means. The following year in Pittsburgh I had the opportunity to walk with our delegation during the opening ceremonies. Finding myself on the floor alongside thousands of Jewish teenagers cheering, waving delegation signs, and proudly singing together was an amazing experience for me as adult. I can only imagine what those young athletes felt. In a world where being Jewish can often feel isolating, the Maccabi

Games create an environment where being Jewish is not only acknowledged, but celebrated.

As our 13 Louisville athletes prepare for Toronto, they'll take with them far more than gym bags and uniforms, and will return home with much more than medals and pins from other cities. Years from now, they may remember a game-winning basket, a personal best, or a medal earned. And I'm confident in predicting that each athlete will cherish the friendships they made, the pride they felt marching in the opening ceremonies, and the realization that they were part of something far bigger than themselves.

If you have a young athlete who would like to experience the JCC Maccabi Games, please contact Abigail Goldberg, at agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org for more information. Come for the sports and competition and leave with a newfound pride in not only their own Jewish identity, but in the broader Jewish identity that we all carry with us. That is the power of sport. That is the power of being a part of a worldwide Jewish Community. And that is what the Maccabi Games are able to combine every year for thousands of Jewish youths from across North America and beyond.

Thomas Wissinger is Vice President of the Jewish Community of Louisville and Executive Director of the Trager Family JCC.

THE REPUBLIC BANK PLAYERS CHALLENGE

TO BENEFIT JFCS & TRAGER FAMILY JCC

Thank You to Our Sponsors

**REPUBLIC
BANK**
Time to thrive.™
Member FDIC



Jewish Heritage Fund

Mutual of America
Financial Group
Retirement Services • Investments



**NORTHERN
TRUST**



welenkenCPAs

Sheldon & Nancy Gilman
Gail Pohn

**HEAVEN
HILL**
BRANDS



REGISTER TODAY!

jfclouisville.org/republic-bank-players-challenge

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Monday, August 31

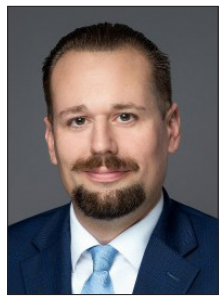
Contests & prizes – including a Beat the Banker exclusive • Heaven Hill Brands tasting and great food • Golf at one of the finest courses in town

12 p.m. Shotgun Start
Standard Club



NEWS

A grateful farewell: Reflecting on my time as Jewish Community Relations Council Director



JCRC

Trent
Spoolstra

July 17 marked my last day as Jewish Community Relations Council Director. I now begin the next chapter of my life with my fiancée, starting law school in just a few weeks, and moving back to Texas. I leave with a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve Louisville's Jewish community and for the countless people I had the pleasure of meeting and working with.

JCRC is collaborative in the best sense. Without the leadership and insight of chair Bill Altman and the exceptionally generous participation of volunteer committee members who contributed their time and expertise, we never would have accomplished nearly as much as we have. I can't praise them enough.

Serving as JCRC Director has been a key chapter of my professional career. Every day brought new oppor-

tunities to connect with a wide variety of people, foster understanding, and advocate for the Jewish community. Looking back, I am proud of what we have accomplished together and thankful for the many individuals, organizations, and community leaders who I partnered with along the way.

One of the key focus areas was education. Throughout my tenure, we had the opportunity to speak with both students and teachers at numerous local schools, sharing information about Jewish identity, talking about the Holocaust, and emphasizing the importance of combating antisemitism. Watching students and educators engage in honest conversations gave me hope for the future and reinforced my belief that education remains one of our most powerful tools for building understanding.

Among our top priorities was strengthening existing and building new interfaith/interethnic partnerships. At a time when the Jewish community feels isolated amid the ongoing threat of antisemitism, it was more essential than ever to build bridges through dialogue, mutual respect, and shared purpose. These partnerships became much more than meetings or formal gatherings.

They evolved into meaningful friendships and collaborative efforts that demonstrated what is possible when people of different faiths and walks of life come together to address challenges and celebrate one another's traditions. While we connected with a wide variety of communities, I am most proud of our work in building relations with the local Cuban community. The Kentucky Cuban population, called 'Kentubanos,' is growing rapidly and will be an ever more vital community to collaborate with in the years ahead.

Another key point of focus was expanding JCRC's outreach to state government leaders. Supporting our volunteers as they nurture robust relationships with elected officials and policymakers is crucial to ensure that the concerns and perspectives of the Jewish community are heard. These relationships will continue to serve Kentucky Jews in advocating for policies associated with security, religious freedom, and education.

The final significant piece of my time here was helping launch the Year of Civil Discourse initiative. It was inspiring to see the major Jewish institutions in Louisville unite in acknowledging the divisions that exist internally in our community, as

we partnered with the national organization Resetting the Table to train local leaders in facilitating constructive dialogues on controversial issues. All of us at JCRC look forward to the results of upcoming community events with major speakers and discussion circles.

I also want to take this time to recognize the amazing staff at the JCL. Louisville's Jewish community is fortunate to have so many incredible people working on their behalf. My colleagues at the Federation and the Trager Family JCC are some of the best professionals I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. You'll be missed. Although this chapter of mine is coming to a close, my commitment to serving the Jewish people remains unchanged. I leave with gratitude, lasting friendships, and optimism for what lies ahead. It has been a privilege to serve as your JCRC Director, and to have been part of this extraordinary community.



PAJAMA

SING-A-LONG

Open to all families w/young children
(KIP, AJ, JCC, The Temple & Friends!)

THURS, AUGUST 6

5:00 Dinner/Stuff a Teddy Bear
5:45-6:45 Sing a Long with
Ms. Susan Shane-Linder
Children's Entertainer
(www.singinwithsusan.com)

For tickets, scan QR Code or
<https://givebutter.com/teddy-bear-sing-a-long>

EVENT INCLUDES:
HOT DOG DINNER BOXES,
STUFF A TEDDY BEAR
AND LOTS OF FUN MUSIC!





2531 Taylorsville Road - Louisville
Keneseth Israel Preschool
More Information:
502-458-0687



BUILD COMMUNITY WITH A GATHER GRANT

NextGen at the Jewish Federation of Louisville offers Gather Grants for Jewish young adults ages 21-45 to create and host meaningful programs that build Jewish connection, identity, and engagement in Louisville.

WHO? Jewish young adults ages 21-45

WHAT? Subsidized programs, events and experiences that are Jewish in nature; think Shabbat dinners, social outings, arts & culture programs, or any events bringing Jews together.

HOW? Submit an application today! Find the application at JewishLouisville.org/nextgen or contact Abigail Goldberg at agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org for more information.





NextGen
Louisville



GATHER GRANTS



NEWS

ENDOWMENT

Continued from page 1

insurance policies, appreciated securities, retirement accounts, and, in some cases, other property. They can be funded all at once or paid out over time. You can fund an endowment during your lifetime or through your estate.

Phyllis Shaikun and her husband, Michael, appreciate the value of endowments first-hand. As they describe their endowment journey:

Back in 2004, Phyllis was the Public Relations Manager at the Jewish Community Federation. Michael, a lawyer, was a past president of the Federation who continued to volunteer his time and efforts for the betterment of the Jewish community.

Realizing the need for stable finances to carry out the Federation's mission, we established the LOJE (Lion of Judah Endowment)/PACE (Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment) to perpetuate our annual gift to the United Jewish Campaign. Later, we broadened the scope of our endeavor to include the Phyllis and Michael Shaikun Community Enhancement Fund.

"We are so pleased to do our part to provide financial resources for programs and services that strengthen and support the continuation of a dedicated and dynamic Jewish community in the Louisville area, says Phyllis. "We are grateful to provide our support for the mission, but it takes all of us working together to achieve that goal."

"I love watching our Jewish community grow," Michael agrees. "We have been con-

tacted by others from far larger cities who want to know how we remain vital and ahead of the curve in so many areas. If Phyllis and I have played even a small part in that vision, our time and funding have been well spent."

As was mentioned earlier, the plan is to showcase in each issue of *Community*. All these concise stories will boast a consistent "look," a defining graphic element that guides your eye right to the text. We'll spotlight some of our individual donors, letting them tell you what motivated them to establish an endowment – and how they make a real difference.

We will also feature our Life & Legacy donors, who use planned giving – typically in the form of bequests – to shape a strategy that benefits not only the intended recipient, but which may carry significant tax advantages as well. We'll recognize tribute gifts (like those to the Engel Fund) made to associated endowment funds.

From time to time, guest columnists will share their perspectives on planned giving and endowments, and explain how you can contribute to existing endowments, or establish one of your own.

Flexibility is the key. Your Jewish Community of Louisville staff is available to answer any questions you might have about endowments and planned gifts, and to craft the fund that achieves your legacy goals. The staff will also work closely with you, your family, your attorneys, accountants, and insurance agents.

Or as Phyllis and Michael Shaikun like to say: "Endowments create and preserve family legacies while building a bright

future for our Jewish Community."

For more information on how you can contribute to or set up an endowment, reach out to Frances Skolnick, the Federa-

tion's Senior Director of Planned Giving and Endowments. You can email her at fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org or call her at 502-238-2735.

An endowment to benefit JCL staff development honors the indefatigable Alan Engel

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

As Alan Engel accepted his Ottenheimer Award at JCL's annual meeting on June 29, he made a characteristically generous remark to listeners gathered at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Foundation Auditorium:

Every day you (the Jewish community) strengthen lives, support families, educate our children, care for those in need, and help ensure that our total community remains vibrant. You give purpose and meaning to our collective mission.

Gracious words from a gracious man who devoted decades of his life to guiding the Jewish Federation of Louisville before his retirement in 2010.

"Some of you may remember that when Alan retired, we started the Alan Engel Partnership with Israel Professional Development Fund," Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Federation and the Trager Family JCC, told her audience.

"What better way to celebrate Alan's legacy than to ensure many more staff members will have that Israel experience," Wagner continued announcing a new tribute established in Engel's honor. She spoke about how Ron Abrams had suggested organizing such a tribute after learning that Alan and his wife, Linda were relocating to North Carolina to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

"Ronnie said, 'Two of the best things I ever did were moving to Louisville and helping bring Alan Engel here,'" recalled his wife, Marie. Establishing and bolstering the Engel fund "is a perfect way to remember what Alan meant to this community," she said.

And as Wagner observed, "Alan is a numbers guy; he's not shy about asking people to contribute to make a vision happen." What started as a seed with Ronnie's lovely idea and an endowment with an original balance of \$17,000, has grown to over \$51,000 with gifts from many in our community who were touched by Alan over the years – and still growing.

Score one for spontaneity.

"I was totally surprised, but pleased the decision was made to add to the Designated Fund established upon my retirement," Engel said a couple of weeks later from his new home, where he's just minutes away from an extended *mishpacha* – grandchildren and otherwise.

"The purpose is to help subsidize trips to Israel and our Partnership Region covering Nahariya and Matte Asher" in the Western Galilee, Engel explained. "Since Louisville was a founding member of Partnership and because it plays a key role within Federation, I believe Federation staff need to understand the concept, the model, what it does and can do.

"In essence, Israel, not the current

Government, is key to our mission," he emphasized. "Young professionals usually don't have the understanding of the connection between the community and Israel and Israelis have little understanding of the Federation system, nor of how things work here. The best way to gain this understanding on both sides is to visit our region and interact with Partnership staff and members of the community there who are involved. Moreover, those who go to Israel can interact with fellow staff members here and their volunteers, spreading the word of why it is key to the Federation mission."

Call it an amalgam of affirmation and empowerment.

"Something that is very important to Alan is investing in people," said Frances Skolnick, the Federation's Senior Director of Planned Giving and Endowments.

Engel's commitment involves "making sure that the professionals who devote their time and energy to our Jewish community are top notch and have training and development at the highest level, and in our Partnership region in Israel," Skolnick added.

"Alan gave to our community tirelessly for so many years, that when I was asked if I would support something to honor him, I was absolutely, 'Yes,' without question," Louisville's Mark Switow said in a recent interview.

"When Marc Abrams (Ron Abrams' son) called me, I didn't hesitate," agreed Jane Goldstein, another longtime supporter of local Jewish initiatives. "In this day and age, to have staff be able to go to Israel and see this magnificent, beautiful country – why, I was pleased to help make that a possibility."

Meanwhile, the Engel Professional Development Fund – combined with financial support from other sources – will continue to grow both in dollars and purpose.

"I want to thank you in advance," Wagner said during her Annual Meeting remarks, looking at her mentor seated a few feet away, "because you sent me on many a trip to Israel, and that's why I'm in love with sending more people to Israel to have their own experience."

And then came a defining acknowledgment of Engel's dedication and foresight.

"I want to congratulate you on your success and let you know that we will continue the legacy," Wagner promised, "for all the professional staff in this room who will have the opportunity to travel to Israel. We will gladly put the generosity in your name to good use."

For information on contributing to the Alan S. Engel Partnership with Israel Professional Development Fund, any of the Federation's other endowments – or establishing one of your own – reach out to Frances Skolnick via email at fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org or by phone at 502-238-2735.

Your Values. Your Legacy.

The values that have shaped our Jewish community can continue to inspire future generations.

A planned gift or endowment creates a lasting legacy, connecting your generosity to the people, programs, and traditions that matter most.



The following endowed funds support Jewish learning, Israel engagement, educational programming, holiday celebrations, community outreach, and enrichment.

The American Jewish Committee Fund for CRC

Alan S. Engel Partnership with Israel Professional Development Fund

Ann & Coleman Friedman Jewish Education Fund

Joseph J. and Marie S. Kaplan Staff Development Fund

Herman Landau Fund

Murrel D. and Tobie Marks Klein Jewish Holidays Fund

Naamani Library Fund - JCC

Father Stanley Schmidt Fund

Mayer & Frances Shaikun Lecture Fund

Jill E. Simon President's Fund

Skolnick-Gumer Community Enrichment Fund

To learn more about existing funds or establishing your own, contact Frances Skolnick: fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org or 502-238-2735.

PICTURE THIS: ANNUAL MEETING

On Monday, June 29, the JCL held its 17th Annual Meeting at the Trager Family JCC. The community gathered to celebrate award winners and to share in the successes of the past year, while looking forward to the years ahead. Former Federation and JCL Executive Director Alan Engel was honored as the Blanche B. Ottenheimer award winner, while many young leaders were also recognized for their leadership within Federation, JCRC, and BBYO.

(Photos by Kathryn Harrington)



August 18, 7-8:30 p.m.

Free, 3-Part Virtual Discussion

Part 1: Description of the political system in Israel

Part 2: Understanding the different parties and issues

Part 3: Q&A

Join us for a three-part virtual discussion designed to provide a balanced and educational overview of Israel's electoral process. Whether you're new to Israeli politics or looking to deepen your understanding, this series will offer valuable context and insights ahead of the upcoming election. This program is intended as an educational opportunity and does not endorse any political party, candidate, or viewpoint.

Presented by
Israel Educator and Guide,
Muki Jankelowitz



Scan the QR code or visit
jewishlouisville.org/election
to register!



SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE(S) BY SEPTEMBER 1!

We're creating a Community Cookbook!

This is your chance to share beloved family recipes and the stories behind them. Louisville has a flavor all its own, and our rich food culture has been shaped by generations of Jewish families. Let's celebrate that heritage together!



Please scan the QR code or visit
jewishlouisville.org/cookbook
to submit your favorites and help us tell our community's story one dish at a time.

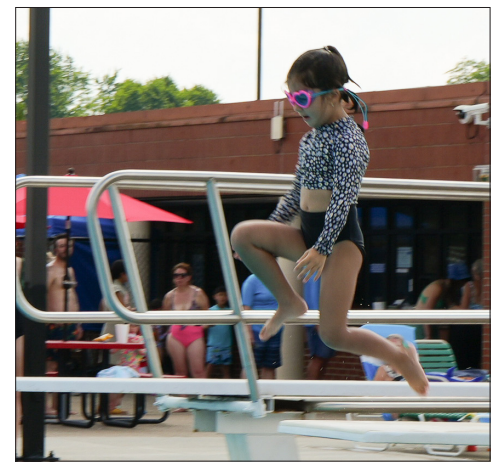


PICTURE THIS: FOURTH OF JULY AT THE POOL



July 4 came a day early at the Trager Family JCC for the annual 4th of July Pool Party on Friday, July 3. Festivities included red, white, and blue giveaways and the ever-popular splash contest.

(Photos by Amy Joseph Landon)



Before & After School Program

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

**Transportation available, \$110 Non-Refundable Transportation Deposit Required per Semester*

Optional Add-on Enrichment Classes

CLUB J BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL MONTHLY RATES

Schools	Times	Member	Non-Member
Club J Before Care Field	7:30 – 8:50 a.m.	\$389.50	\$474.50
Club J After School @ 2:20 St Matt, Bloom, St Agnes	2:20 – 6 p.m.	\$559.00	\$644.50
Club J After School @ 3 Holy Trinity	3 – 6 p.m.	\$459.80	\$546.30
Club J After School @ 3:20 Hawthorne	3:20 – 6 p.m.	\$474.50	\$559.50
Club J After School @ 4:20 Field	4:20 – 6 p.m.	\$389.50	\$474.50

WE ARE LICENSED BY THE STATE AND ACCEPT CCAP

Questions?
Contact Waylon Riley
Youth Program Manager
wiley@jewishlouisville.org



Learn more and register with the QR code or at JCCLOUISVILLE.ORG/CLUBJ

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

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

WED., AUGUST 5

1 - 4 P.M.

OUTDOOR FAMILY POOL

Giveaways • Inflatables • Music • Games

Trager Family JCC

PICTURE THIS: JEWISH HERITAGE DAY AT THE BATS

On Sunday, July 12, the community was invited to Slugger Field for Jewish Heritage Day at the Bats. Fans of all ages heard Cantor Lipp, Cantor Hordes, and Jennifer Diamond sing the National Anthem, noshed on snacks from a Kosher food station, and enjoyed a sunny day of baseball.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)



Every day is a Camp day!

Club J

Before- and after-school program with games, activities, homework help, and time with friends

Kids' Night Out

An evening program for kids – swimming, pizza, and a movie while parents enjoy a night off

School's Out Days

Full-day program with games, activities, and swimming when school is closed

Enrichment Classes

Supervised, structured activities fostering motor, musical, social, and recreational skill development beyond school hours

Camps

Year-round camps fostering growth, inclusion, friendships, and unforgettable experiences

For details and registration, visit jcclouisville.org/campj365

הסוכנות היהודית
THE JEWISH AGENCY
FOR ISRAEL

Partnership2Gether
GLOBAL NETWORK
Western Galilee
Central Area Consortium & Budapest

The Jewish Federations
OF NORTH AMERICA

Stones & Stories

L'dor V'dor: Limestone Legacies
Sunday, August 23 | Zoom | 1 p.m. EST
 Discover how Jewish architects shaped Indiana's iconic landmarks. Michael Brown of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society shares the stories behind these enduring designs.
RSVP at jewishlouisville.org/stones-and-stories

Rehabilitation After the Holocaust—and Its Relevance Today

Monday, August 24 | Zoom | 12:30 pm ET
 Explore how post-Holocaust rehabilitation continues to offer lessons for today's world. Join Western Galilee College's Holocaust scholar, Dr. Boaz Cohen, for this insightful presentation. *RSVP at jewishlouisville.org/post-holocaust*

Save the Date
P2G's 30th Anniversary Celebration in Israel
September 15-18, 2027

The past is our story. The future is our opportunity!
 Be part of our celebration in Israel as we honor three decades of Partnership2Gether's shared values, lasting connections, and the Jewish spirit that unites us.

For questions, more info or to watch Zoom presentations with other local community members, contact Amy Fouts, P2G Community Liaison at afouts@jewishlouisville.org

Partnership2Gether is an extraordinary global platform promoting people-to-people relationships through cultural, social, medical, educational, and economic programs.

Follow Partnership2Gether events on Facebook:
<https://tinyurl.com/P2GLou>
 Visit our website at jewishlouisville.org/p2g.

Powered by

Jewish Federation
OF LOUISVILLE

NEWS

At Camp J, two young Israelis made their mark – and made a difference

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

When you travel all the way from Israel for your first visit to America and find yourself in a strange land called “Kentucky,” there’s an inevitable sense of “Where have I landed?”

So it was for two 21-year-olds, Amit and Shira, who’ve spent this summer as *shlichim* – a Hebrew word meaning “emissaries” – working as counselors at the Trager Family JCC’s Camp J. The pair (for security reasons, they go by first names only) have guided campers in music and theater, all while sharing highlights of Israeli life and culture.

But before anything, both young visitors had to become acclimated to a city that, mere months before, was a complete cipher.

“I’d never heard of Louisville before I got here,” Amit acknowledged during a recent joint interview, explaining that program organizers in Israel “told us in a Zoom meeting a little bit about the city and the camp. Then I did a Google search, and what came up first? The Derby, of course.”

Shlichim don’t have a say about where they’re sent – they participate knowing they could end up anywhere in North America, where they live with a succession of host families. But that’s not been an issue for these two. It’s not the process, not the place, that matters most.

“This isn’t my first time teaching kids,” said Amit, a music specialist. “I’ve done a lot of programs in Israel, but this one is special because we’re bringing Israel” to campers. Back home “most of the time I teach only a specific musical genre. Over here I combine them, (along) with Israeli and Jewish values.”

There is no shortage of daily joy at Camp J. “It’s so loud in the morning, when we’re all outside,” said Shira, whose portfolio centers on drama. “Everybody’s dancing and singing. After that, we have classes related to what we do.”

Like Amit, Shira hails from northwestern Israel. They knew nothing about Louisville until Camp J Director David Siskin met them virtually this past February once they’d been assigned here.

“I was telling my family that I’m going to live in Louisville,” she recalled, “and they’re like: ‘Where is *that*?’”



Amit and Shira

If Camp J can be defined by its bustling energy, so can domestic life in Shira’s Israeli household. “I come from a big family,” she said. “I’m the oldest, with six brothers and sisters, so I was ready.”

In Israel, Shira is a counselor in “a religion youth movement,” where she works with predominantly young teens. At Camp J, where campers range in age from first through eighth grades, she and Amit adapt their programming to suit a broad spectrum of ages and experiences.

For Amit’s campers, a typical session might include blending English and Hebrew-language songs, “so they can learn along the way,” he explained.

Coming from such a large family, Shira figured it’d be a cinch working with Camp J’s age-diverse clientele. “I thought it’d be easy because (in Israel) I’m always around kids and I know how kids act. When I came here it was a shock, because this place is so big and there are so many kids.

“When an activity doesn’t go as planned, we have at least two or three activity backups,” he said.

No matter what the program, flexibility is key to success. On one wall of his classroom a whiteboard listed no fewer than 42 different songs, with titles ranging from “YMCA” and “Who Let the Dogs Out” to “Cotton Eye Joe,” “Cha-Cha Slide” and “Ba Kalil” – a popular Israeli *rikud* (dance) number.

“As you can see on the board, I already did musical bingo with the kids,” Amit said. “Most of the kids loved it, but there were some who don’t know how to read.

We try to figure out what we can do in groups, with someone who can read and someone who can just recognize the song.”

Shira’s drama classes are game-based for younger campers, reserving more traditional acting instruction for older participants. Again, part of her methodology is knowing when to pivot.

“A lot of time I’ll plan an activity, and then I come to class and read the room and see they don’t want to do it, so I need to do a different one.” Older campers typically have weekly field trips, to places like Sky Zone Trampoline Park or nearby

water-park indulgences.

And when the camp day is over, *shlichim* can rest and recharge in the company of their respective host families. Louisville Bats baseball games are a favorite diversion. Though a planned visit to Churchill Downs was rained out, there were multiple opportunities to explore the city, see a downtown show, and hike in Cherokee Park.

Having already completed their compulsory national service in Israel, Amit and Shira are contemplating what lies ahead for each of them.

Meanwhile, “I have a plan to travel in the United States,” Amit said, including a stop in Boston, where he has relatives spending a year in the U.S. Once back in Israel, he’ll likely continue booking gigs as a DJ, plus “explore and search for what I want to learn and do a degree. I’m not sure yet.

Post-Camp J travel is also on Shira’s agenda, with an urban emphasis: She’s pointing herself toward Chicago and New York – not a bad itinerary for a first-timer in America.

Like Amit, she intends to study for a degree, though also like him, she isn’t sure in what field. “I finished my national service the same day I came here, so everything’s happened so quickly,” she said. “So I feel like when I go back to Israel, I’ll explore – and maybe I can decide.”

Join *Shalom* at a
LOUISVILLE

Coffee Shmooze

**SCAN OR VISIT
THE LINK TO RSVP!**
JEWISHLouisville.org/shalom-coffee

Mashup Food Hall
750 E Jefferson St

August 18, 2026
8:30-10:30 a.m.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Trager Family JCC



ACCIDENTS HAPPEN. WHEN THEY DO,
CALL OUR AWARD WINNING TEAM FOR LEGAL HELP.



- Personal Injury
- Nursing Home Abuse & Neglect
- Car & Truck Accidents • Wrongful Death
- Spinal Cord & Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Defective Products & Medical Devices

Schedule a FREE consultation!

Call: (502) 657-7100 | www.grossmangreen.com
6008 Brownsboro Park Blvd #D • Louisville, KY 40207



NEWS

DRUZE

Continued from page 1

Forces. Beyond the military, they have integrated themselves amid multiple layers of Israeli society.

"We are in all fields – the high-tech economy, academics, security" and more," Druze Israeli Ayal Falah told listeners during a July 8 visit to the Trager Family JCC. Falah was in Louisville as one stop on a multi-city vacation being through the U.S. He wanted to introduce his wife to friends he made here on a previous visit, and was asked to speak about his Druze background and experiences in Israel.

This was Falah's second-ever visit to America – he was in Louisville eight years ago bicycling through the countryside participating in the four-day Bikes & Bourbon cycling tour, forging a connection to the city that would deepen over the ensuing decade.

On this early evening Falah was accompanied by his wife Hanan Falah, who joined him answering questions from an overflow audience gathered in the Fleischaker-Greene Community Room. The program – titled *Living Together: An Israeli Druze Perspective* – had a free-wheeling quality, less a formal talk than a spirited back-and-forth. It was engagement of the most vigorous sort.

First up: What, exactly, is the Druze faith? "We are a monotheistic religion," Falah said, explaining that the greater Druze community comprises both observant and secular collectives. "We are a secret religion," in which only the obser-

vant practitioners are permitted to read from six sacred texts.

"I forgot to mention that the Druze speak three languages," Falah said. "The first language is Arabic; the second is Hebrew and the third is English."

Acknowledging that he falls squarely in the secular camp, Falah said that degrees of observance depend on the character of families within specific villages. "So, in our village we are not religious – we're more modern – but the village next to us is about 70 percent religious."

Tellingly, Falah recalled how his religious grandfather told his grandchildren they should respect the formal tenets of Druze faith, even if they were secular. "So, I'm trying to follow his vision."

In this regard Falah is something of an iconoclast. "I believe that we must read (sacred texts), even if you are secular. This is *my* vision."

Circumstances can themselves prompt increased religious observance. Falah cited the summer, 2025 clashes between Druze and Bedouin insurgents in and around the southern Syrian city of Suwayda. Casualties included more than 800 civilians killed in so-called "extrajudicial executions," during a period when Israeli military forces intervened in support of the Druze populace.

That brings up a fundamental precept of Druze religious observance: a belief in past lives. "One of the special beliefs in Druze faith is reincarnation," Falah said. "We believe then when a person dies the soul transfers to another body – there is no value in the body, but the soul is sacred."

The layers deepen. "When you die in

a natural way, you don't remember your last life," Falah told his audience. "But if you die in a difficult way," the past becomes a luminous, revealing now. "My neighbor, for example, remembered his family from a previous life...He remembered that he was a Syrian pilot killed by Israel, who was now serving in the army."

Regardless of lives once lived and their presence within contemporary Israeli society, the Druze community itself can be highly insular. Intermarriage is almost unheard of, as is conversion to another faith.

Unlike their Jewish counterparts, Druze women don't participate in Israel's military. They do, however, put in three-year stints of national service. And like the haredi – ultra-Orthodox Jewish males – religious Druze men aren't required to serve in the IDF (the current *haredi* exemptions are among the most contentious issues in present-day Israel).

Druze men, however, have a longstanding tradition of IDF service. More than three-quarters of eligible Israeli Druze males serve in the same roles as anyone else. It's a testament to how Druze Israelis regard such participation as a fundamental obligation.

"I have four grandsons currently serving in the Israeli army," listener Mickey Baron commented after Falah's talk, remarking how "every one of the boys have said how wonderful the Druze are, and are so thankful that they're serving."

"We have a *brit damim* – a 'blood covenant' – between the Druze and the Jews," Falah explained. "It's something that's part of our lives, because after more than 50 years together, we've bonded."

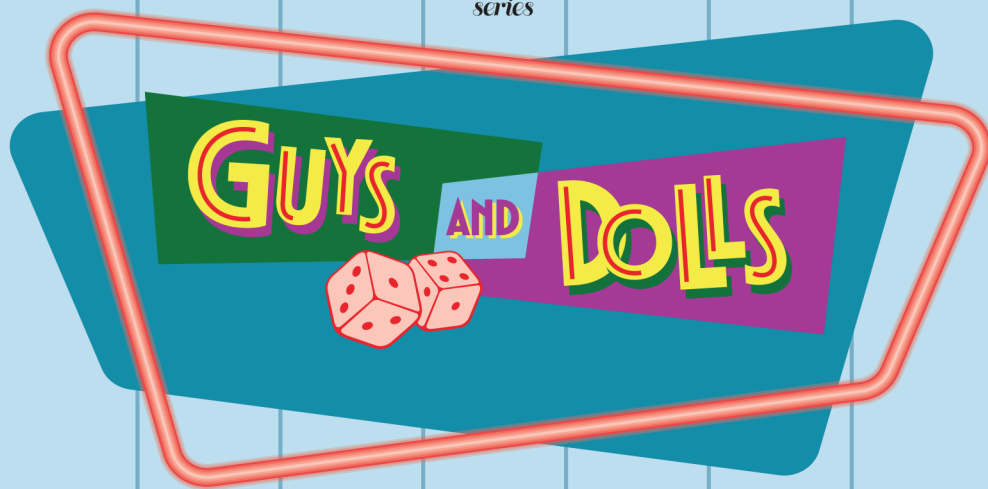


Ayal and Hanan Falah at the Trager Family JCC

Meanwhile, Falah and his wife basked in his return to a city he holds close to his heart.

"When I came to Louisville in 2018 on a bicycle, it was a dream to visit the U.S.," he recalled. "I never thought I could achieve another dream – to have a second family here. But today, to come here with my wife, is another level. And I believe my next level is to come with my kids in the future, because I feel so amazing here."

Classics in Concert
series



AUGUST 20 - 30, 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				20 7:30 P.M.		22 7:30 P.M.
23 2 P.M.				27 7:30 P.M.		29 7:30 P.M.
30 2 P.M.						

Tickets On Sale Now!



To Purchase

Scan the QR code or visit,
jclouisville.org/centerstage

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

CenterStage
at the Trager Family JCC

Become a Season Subscriber!

As a season subscriber, you can expect to enjoy a variety of benefits, such as:

- **VIP** tickets are **exclusive** to season subscribers.
- **Discounted** prices for all other season offerings.
- **Ensuring** that you have **guaranteed seats** to some of the most popular and highly anticipated productions of the season.



Become a Season Subscriber!

Scan the QR code above or visit
jclouisville.org/seasontickets

*Season Tickets available until August 19, 2026.

NEWS

With Love for Coffee: Café Dopamine set to open soon at the Trager Family JCC's Kohn Family Town Square

If you've been wondering what's going in the vacant counter space toward the rear of the Kohn Family Town Square, we have good news for you: the Dopamine Café is set to open in August.

Named after the so-called "feel-good hormone," the Café was conceived and will be operated by Karina Herasymenko and Vladyslav Bohomedov. Though its exact opening date isn't set yet, it won't be long before coffee lovers and anyone craving a made-to-order beverage — and a bevy of food options — will be able to indulge their culinary urges.

The Dopamine Café promises an eclectic mix of familiar and relatively exotic coffee creations — a pretty good way of capping a workout (or just because you want something yummy). Meanwhile, you can read about the couple and their newest venture, detailed below in a story Karina recently shared with Community:

Hello everyone! We are Karina and Vladyslav, a family originally from Kheron, Ukraine, whose path brought us to the United States in 2023 because of the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war.

Like many Ukrainians, this journey was not easy.

Our story with coffee began back in 2017 in Odesa. That is where we took our first steps in this profession: We worked as baristas, studied coffee culture, and developed our professional skills. Vlad quickly grew into the position of head

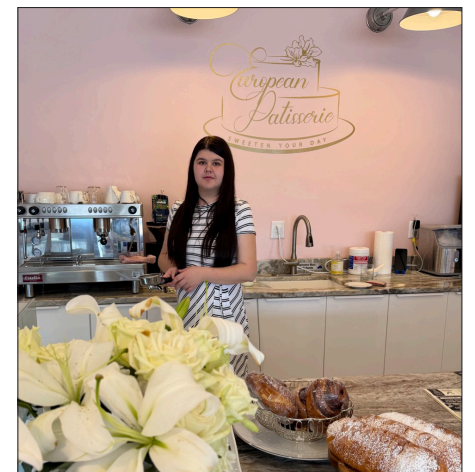
café manager, where he was responsible for organizing the team's work, managing operations, and achieving business goals. His experience now helps us build a well-coordinated and efficient operation for our own business.

I worked as a barista and took an active part in creating the coffee menu. I paid special attention to developing signature drinks, cold beverages, and drinks for children — because we believe that coffee culture should be interesting and accessible to everyone.

After the full-scale war began, we were forced to leave our home and move to Ivano-Frankivsk, which at that time was a safer city in western Ukraine. There, we continued working as baristas, holding on to the work we loved even during difficult times. Before coming to the United States, we also worked in Poland for about six months, gaining new experience and becoming familiar with European coffee culture.

Here in Louisville, as baristas, we helped with the opening of places such as European Patisserie and MixMix Cafe.

Moving to the United States became the beginning of a new life for us. We are improving our English, getting used to the local rhythm, meeting new people, building a new circle of friends, and working hard. But despite all these changes, our love for coffee has remained unchanged — and the dream of



having our own coffee shop has always stayed with us. That is why we decided to take this step.

Why here at the Trager Family JCC? The answer is very simple and heartfelt. We are a young family; we have a one-year-old son, and the JCC has already become an important part of our lives. We come here for swimming classes, work out at the gym, and use many of the other available services.

We have truly come to love this place — for us, it is more than just a center — it is a real community.

And now we want to become an even greater part of it.

Our goal is not simply to make coffee.

We want to create a warm and cozy atmosphere where every guest feels care and attention. In addition to high-quality coffee, our guests will be able to enjoy fresh smoothies, juices, and signature drinks. We also offer a variety of delicious desserts, as well as toasts and croissants with different fillings — perfect for a quick bite or a pleasant break.

We want to bring you smiles, energy, and unique aromatic drinks made with love. We sincerely invite you to visit our coffee shop. Every guest matters to us, and we will be endlessly grateful for your support at this new stage of our lives.

See you over a cup of coffee.

LEVELUP Your Swim Game

Group Swim Lessons

Next Session Begins August 2

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

Accelerated Private Swim Lessons

- 5 Private Lessons in 5 Days!

Pool Parties

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

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit jcclouisville.org/youthaquatics

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



AgeWell

**Nutrition. Fitness.
Enrichment. Older Adults.**

The Trager Family JCC offers older adults engaging programs in fitness, arts, culture, education, and Jewish life. Discover opportunities to socialize, volunteer, and stay active with wellness programs that support mind, body, and spirit.

2 Membership Options!

Traditional Social Club Membership

- Daily weekday lunches with friends
- Indoor walking track
- Enrichment programming:
 - Live music
 - Films
 - Art class
 - Book club, and more!

Social Club Membership +Exclusive Fitness Classes

- All benefits of the Traditional Social Club Membership
- Exclusive group exercise and aquatics classes



Scan the QR Code or Learn More
at jcclouisville.org/agewell

Current Trager Family JCC members are eligible for a discount on AgeWell memberships. Please contact Dara Cohen, dcohen@jewishlouisville.org to learn more.

JFCS Welcomes New Board Chair, Judge Joan Byer and five new Board Directors

By: Dr. David Finke, CEO, Jewish Family & Career Services



Whether you come to us with a hungry belly, a heavy heart, or a need for support as you plan for the future, JFCS is here to help. I look forward to JFCS continuing to collaborate with our community partners and neighboring agencies to make Louisville a stronger, more supportive place to live.

Joan succeeds David Kohn, whose leadership and service have helped strengthen JFCS and advance its mission. In her new role, Joan will work closely with fellow Board members, JFCS CEO, Dr. David Finke, senior leadership and staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners to ensure JFCS remains responsive and accessible to all who turn to the organization for critical support.

Jewish Family & Career Services is pleased to welcome Joan Byer as President of its Board of Directors, along with five new directors joining the JFCS Board this year.

A longtime community leader and former Jefferson Circuit Court judge in the Family Division, Joan brings extensive experience and a deep commitment to supporting individuals and families. Her dedication to service reflects JFCS's mission and its longstanding role as a trusted resource for the Jewish and broader Louisville community.

As Board President, Joan will help guide JFCS's strategic direction as the organization responds to evolving community needs during a time of significant uncertainty. Joan said, **"JFCS is a place of hope and healing for everyone in our community."**

JFCS is grateful to Joan for stepping into this important leadership role and is pleased to welcome the five new directors whose experience and commitment will further strengthen the JFCS Board of Directors. We are also delighted to celebrate Joan's milestone birthday on July 24 and wish her a very happy birthday as she begins this exciting new chapter of leadership and service!

"Joan's dedication to service and her deep commitment to our community make her an outstanding choice to lead the Board." said JFCS Chief Executive Officer, Dr. David Finke.

Together, Joan, the Board of Directors, and Dr. David Finke will help JFCS continue building a community where individuals and families can meet life's challenges with confidence.



Welcome to Joan, Diana, Chandra, Jessica, Margie, and Marcia!



Diana Duran

Diana, a 2025 MOSAIC Award honoree, works at Humana and has served in leadership roles with Prospanica, the Louisville Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Gilda's Club Kentuckiana.



Dr. Chandra Coles

Chandra, a psychologist and innovator in her field, has served in multiple therapeutic roles and is committed to supporting individuals with compassion and dignity.



Jessica Loving

Jessica, a longtime community leader and social justice advocate, brings a deep commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and opportunity and creating meaningful change throughout the community.



Margie Krommor

Margie, a licensed clinical social worker, brings a distinguished career in advocacy, therapeutic practice, and volunteer service, with a longstanding commitment to strengthening communities holistically.



Marcia Roth

Marcia, a returning Board member and former JFCS Board President, brings decades of experience in domestic violence prevention and a longstanding commitment to strengthening communities and advancing safety and well-being.

"Over the holiday, there was an attempted fraud attack. The first thing I thought was, 'I have to text my banker, Mary Rose.'"

It was within the next few minutes there was an entire team that came together collectively."

– Cathi B. | Republic Bank Client

Personal banking should feel personal. At Republic Bank, it does.



Open a personal account at republicbank.com



JFCS Louisville Clinical Services Spotlight

Did you know JFCS offers a variety of Mental Health services to our community?

These services include:

- Individual, couples, and family counseling
- Perinatal mental health support for new mothers
- Substance misuse support for individuals and their family members
- Support groups for caregivers of transgender youth, caregivers of aging loved ones, individuals living with Parkinson's disease, and others

Accessible Care for All

JFCS recognizes that cost can be a significant barrier to mental health care and is committed to making services accessible throughout our community. We accept many private insurance plans, Medicaid, and Medicare, and offer a sliding fee scale for individuals who are uninsured or need additional financial assistance.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, contact us at (502) 452-6341 or email us at services@jfcsloouisville.org.

JFCS Volunteer Needs

We're looking for caring community members to help support our clients and seniors through two meaningful volunteer opportunities

Friendship Closet Shoppers

First & Third Monday of each month

Assisting JFCS Clients as they shop in our on-site friendship closet twice a month

Shabbos Friends

First Friday of each month

Provide support to Jewish seniors living in local assisted-living facilities and nursing homes each month

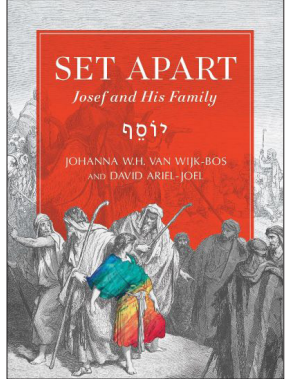
If you would like more information on how to sign up to volunteer please contact JFCS Volunteer Coordinator

Sophia Fayne
Call: 502-883-1786
Email: sfayne@jfcsloouisville.org

Jewish Family & Career Services | 2821 Klempner Way, Louisville, KY 40205 | 502.452.6341 | www.jfcsloouisville.org

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

In the newly published book 'Set Apart: Josef and His Family,' two local scholars explore one of the Torah's most fascinating personalities



Any one who wants to delve further into one of the Torah's most intriguing episodes – the narrative of Josef, his service in Egypt and his complex relationship with his brothers – will likely want to pick up a copy of the newly published *Set Apart: Josef and His Family*.

Not simply for its relevance but because its Louisville authors: Johanna W.H. van Wijk-Bos, a distinguished scholar who taught at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary from 1977-2017, and Rabbi David Ariel-Joel of The Temple.

"In *Set Apart*, two scholars of the Bible sit together with the ancient text of Josef and listen," says a note on the back of the 248-page paperback edition, published by

Smyth & Helwys.

"Drawing on rabbinical tradition and rigorous scholarship, (they) offer a rich, layered reading of Genesis 37-50 that honors the full complexity of the story: the family rivalries, the silenced women, and the slow arc of character transformation. Where they disagree, they say so, presenting their differing interpretations side by side in the ancient Talmudic tradition."

The authors have a close, longstanding intellectual relationship: After retiring from her Seminary teaching, Wijk-Bos (a native of the Netherlands), she visited The Temple regularly to study Torah with Rabbi David.

"Why did we choose to write this book?" he asks in its Introduction. "Josef is my favorite story in the Torah. I strongly believe that Josef is the paradigm and role model for success. It is success that comes from his ability to change and become a better person, overcoming his many faults. He is the model for Tikkun – repairing yourself and becoming who you ought to be."

"As a person who read the Hebrew Bible from a young age, later studied it in a formal way, and taught it for 40 years at a Presbyterian Seminary...from a superficial acquaintance I judged Josef to be a rather unsympathetic character," Wijk-Bos writes.

"Once I began participation in

weekly Torah study under Rabbi David's tutelage...eventually a gentle nudging came my way to devote more attention" to the four Torah portions devoted to Josef. Eventually, Wijk-Bos "found in Josef a more complicated and interesting character than I had anticipated."

Reviewing *Set Apart*, Temple member Megan Hoffman writes that "at its core, this book is not just a commentary on Joseph or Genesis (the book uses the Wijk-Bos's preferred spelling of his name, which she feels renders closer to the original Hebrew). It is an invitation into the interpretive process itself."

Later, Hoffman observes that "the prose itself is accessible and often unexpectedly gentle, even as it engages serious intellectual questions. The authors' humor is one of the book's pleasures, giving the commentary a freshness that keeps it from ever feeling staid. In its conversational energy, it recalls the spirit of the Talmud."

Louisville blacksmith Craig Kaviar is featured in a new documentary film, 'Drawn to Justice'

Louisville blacksmith Craig Kaviar, the fellow behind Kaviar Forge (and whose works can be seen all over town) is among the artists featured in *Drawn to Justice*, a new



Craig Kaviar

film by director Richard Van Kleeck – the longtime Director of Concert Activities at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music (and one of the Kentucky Center's original programming chiefs).

The references Kaviar's volunteer activities with Guns to Gardens Louisville, an organization that employs chop saws to transform unwanted guns into gardening tools, art and jewelry. Van Kleeck's film was set to get its world premiere Saturday, Aug. 1 at 11 a.m. at the Kentucky Science Center's IMAX Theater. The showing is part of the Louisville Film Society's 2026 Flyover Film Festival.

Kaviar is celebrated for his diverse creativity, which includes a significant proportion of Judaic art. He's the artist behind the custom metal gates that welcome visitors to the Trager Family JCC's outdoor pool. The gate was funded by Mark and Marci Perelmutter in honor of Sol Max Perelmutter and Theodore Segal. His *Tree of Life*, an 8'x8' metal sculpture, has a prominent place in front of the main entrance to The Temple.

*A spirited legacy
poured into every bottle*



From a modest start in 1935, Heaven Hill has grown into the largest independent, family-owned and led distilled spirits company of brands in the U.S. Nearly 90 years later, we continue Thriving Together, lifting the human spirit through the brands we build, the people we empower, and the communities and legacy we grow together.

HEAVEN
HILL
BRANDS

AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

Adath Jeshurun is pleased to welcome two Shabbat Scholars this August. Jessie Gindea, Executive Director of the Jewish Learning Experience, will join us Aug. 8; with her husband, Rabbi Adam Gindea, speaking on Aug. 29. On those Saturdays, you are invited to join us at 10 a.m. for Shabbat Morning Services followed by a delicious Kiddush Lunch around noon. The Shabbat Scholar presentations begin at 12:30 p.m. The lunches on those dates are sponsored by the Julie Olson Shabbat Scholar Fund. Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required. For more information about their topics, visit adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-scholar.

Join us for our next Shabbat Social, Friday, Aug. 21. 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 [HERE](#) to make your reservations. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Aug. 18.

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.

Chavurat Shalom

This month we'll enjoy performances by some of our favorite musicians and gain useful insights about healthy aging. 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, Aug. 6 - Multi-talented Misha Feigin will provide our entertainment. Lunch will include hamburgers, baked beans, roasted potatoes, slaw, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

Thursday, Aug. 13 - JFCS Older Adults Group/Team Service Lead Whitney Boswell will share important information and tips for safe, healthy aging. Lunch will include tuna salad, noodle kugel, marinated vegetable salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and strawberry trifle.

Thursday, Aug. 20 - Mike O'Bryan will bring his accordion and great sense of humor. Lunch will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate mousse.

Thursday, Aug. 27 - Harpist Jessica Hyden will return with new tunes and old favorites. Lunch will include meatballs with mushrooms, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, slaw, fresh fruit, and cookies.

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

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

Jewish Family & Career Services

Save the Date: Give for Good Louisville - Sept. 10
JFCS is excited to participate in Give for Good Louisville on Sept. 10 and has been selected to be featured on the event's livestream. Join us for this special day of giving and help support programs and services that strengthen individuals, families, and our community. Stay tuned for more details on how you can be part of this exciting opportunity to make a difference.

JFCS Home Care: Helping You Live Safely and Confidently at Home
Our experienced caregivers provide personalized, compassionate support that promotes independence, well-being, and peace of mind for you and your loved ones. Whether you need assistance with daily activities, companionship, or ongoing care, our team is here to help. Take the first step today, email services@jfcslouisville.org or call 502-452-6341 to learn how JFCS Home Care can support you or someone you care about.

JFCS Navigate - Helping Entrepreneurs Turn Their Dreams Into Reality
Have a business idea or ready to grow? For more than 20 years, JFCS Navigate has helped entrepreneurs from underserved communities start and grow successful businesses through counseling, financial coaching, training, and resources. Learn more at jfcslouisville.org or contact the Navigate team today - call 502-452-6341

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Live Highlights Tour of ANU - Museum of the Jewish People
Aug. 4 at 12:45 p.m.
Join us for a live, interactive virtual tour of ANU - Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv and discover the remarkable story of the Jewish people across time and around the world. Together, we will explore the museum's most iconic exhibits, examining the diversity of Jewish communities through fascinating artifacts, historical objects, multimedia displays, and works of art. Along the way, we'll discuss the enduring themes that connect Jews across continents and generations.

Lead by Sharon Hayat
Sharon Hayat has been a member of the Education Department at ANU - Museum of the Jewish People for the past six years. She serves as coordinator of the international My Family Story program, one of the world's largest Jewish family heritage education initiatives, connecting students in more than 30 countries. To register, go online at jewishlouisville.org/ANU-tour
Presented by the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC

Understanding Israel's Upcoming Election
Presented by Israel Educator and Guide, Muki Jankelowitz
Aug. 18, 7-8:30 p.m.

A free, 3-Part Virtual Discussion
Part 1: Description of the political system in Israel
Part 2: Understanding the different parties and issues
Part 3: Q&A

Join us for a three-part virtual discussion designed to provide a balanced and educational overview of Israel's electoral process. Whether you're new to Israeli politics or looking to deepen your understanding, this series will offer valuable context and insights ahead of the upcoming election. This program is intended as an educational opportunity and

does not endorse any political party, candidate, or viewpoint. To register, go online at jewishlouisville.org/election

Presented by the Trager Family JCC, the Robert and Dorothy Ludwig Schenectady JCC and the Asheville Jewish Community Center

Keneseth Israel

Jews & Brews — Wednesday, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 2 and 6 at 11 a.m.

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

Torah Yoga — Thursday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Join Cantor Hordes for gentle yoga and Torah-inspired meditation. Suggested donation: \$10 to the Cantor's Fund.

Shabbat in the Park - Friday, Aug. 14 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.

Shabbat & Sundaes - Saturday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m.
Treat yourself to a sweet ice cream - on us - at Graeter's on Bardstown Rd. At the Douglass Loop.

Shabbat with the Kids
Tot Shabbat - Saturday, Aug. 8 and 22
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.

Selichot & Cemetery Beautification - Sunday, Aug. 30 at 10:00 a.m.
Join us at the KI cemetery (719 Locust Ln) for Selichot services and cemetery beautification projects (planting, cleaning, and repairing gravestones) at 10:00 a.m., and clergy will be available for individual gravesite memorial prayers starting at 11:00 a.m.

Shofar Blowing - Sunday, Aug. 30 at 3:00 p.m.
Join Rabbi Freed as he blows the shofar at the Glenview (5100 US Highway 42) and talks about the High Holidays.

High Holidays - RSVP at KenesethIsrael.com/high-holidays
Please visit the link to RSVP for seats and events during the High Holidays.

Kol Israel Jewish Renewal Community of Kentucky

81st Annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance & Floating Candle Commemoration
Saturday, Aug. 8 at 7 p.m.
The Pond at Thurmond-Hutchins Park, 3734

River Road
Kol Israel Jewish Renewal Community of Kentucky is honored to be a participating sponsor of this annual community observance of peace, remembrance, and hope. The program features Ceremonial Sundance Chief Steve McCullough, keynote remarks by artist and author Jill Baker, Yoran Halevi - Spiritual Guide (Kol Israel Jewish Renewal Community) offering Kaddish, Havdalah, Birkat Kohanim (Priestly Blessing), and Rev. Bhante Nanda of the Kentucky Meditation and Peace Center & Buddhist Vihara, followed by a Floating Lantern Ceremony at dusk. Free admission. Reservations requested through Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/t8b-nu29y

Saturday Morning Aug 8 and 22
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 greetings and schmoozing.

Louisville Vaad Hakashruth

The following venues are supervised and certified by the Vaad: Trager Family JCC (Nancy Abrams Kitchen) and Dive-in-Diner (Outdoor Pool); and Krispy Kreme, 3000 Bardstown Rd.

Momentum - Journey of Growth

Seven Days in Israel: Nov. 2-8, 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, by calling Alison Roemer at 502-238-2730, or emailing her at aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.

National Council of Jewish Women - Louisville Section

Repro Rights Advocacy Paid Internship Opportunity
Do you know a rising high school senior, college student or recent graduate who's passionate about advocating for reproductive justice? NCJW Louisville is planning a series of repro rights training forums designed to engage and educate teens on how to advocate for why reproductive freedom and abortion access are Jewish values, and we'd love to bring you on board to help guide this important project. This will be a paid internship position, with most planning meetings conducted remotely and the forums held in person later in 2026-27. For more information, contact NCJW Executive Director Sarah Harlan at executivedirector@ncjwlou.org.
Stop the SAVE Act



PJ Library®

Jewish Storybooks Delivered Each Month!

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

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

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

AROUND TOWN

Your advocacy helped to stop the SAVE Act before. Help us stop it again. Last month, President Trump canceled a signing ceremony for a landmark housing affordability bill that has overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers. And now, there are continued threats to attach the SAVE Act to various legislative vehicles in order to pass it. Let's remind our lawmakers that they must oppose the SAVE Act, and that it is not popular, and will only harm their constituents. Click here to tell your members of Congress to stop the SAVE Act!

Protect Religious Freedom and Reproductive Justice in Indiana and Nationwide
A court granted religious freedom exceptions to Indiana's near-total abortion ban. The state appealed in an attempt to bring the full ban back. NCJW went straight to court. NCJW led an urgent amicus brief to the Indiana Supreme Court — joined by 39 faith partners who answered our call. This is our third time weighing in on this case, and we are not done.

The plaintiffs — Jews and other people of faith — argued that Indiana's abortion ban violated their religious freedom. They won, and a court issued a permanent injunction protecting people who seek care in accordance with their beliefs. Now the state wants that protection overturned, and NCJW filed to make sure it doesn't. We will keep filing, keep leading, and keep demanding until every person in Indiana — and across this country — can make their own health care decisions in accordance with their own faith and conscience.

Reproductive freedom is religious freedom. We have said it before, and we will say it again — in every court and in every legislative body across the country. Read the full brief at ncjw.org/INbrief.

Speed Art Museum

Through Aug. 30: Abstract Expressionists: The Women at the Speed Art Museum
Kentucky's first exhibition devoted to women of the Abstract Expressionist movement. Featuring works by more than 30 artists — half of whom are Jewish artists, including Helen Frankenthaler, Joan Mitchell, and Lee Krasner — the exhibition highlights the bold creativity and grounding breaking contributions of women, who helped shape modern American art. Through large-scale painting, archival materials, and immersive storytelling, visitors will experience the energy and innovation of this transformative artistic movement. Interested in viewing the exhibit through the lens of a Jewish docent? Please contact Ellen Massie at emassie@speedmuseum.org.

Temple Shalom

Shabbat Services, Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
All are welcome to join us for services, led by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and members of the congregation. Friday night services are also streamed on our YouTube channel TempleShalomKy. Saturday services are in-person only.

Save the Date! Camp Shabbat, Friday, Aug. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
We will offer a special Jewish camp-style service, featuring special music and participation from our students who attended camp this summer. This is always an energetic, joy-filled service. Oneg to follow.

BLT (Bagels, Lox, and Torah, Saturday, Aug. 22, at 10:30 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC
Led by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz 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.

The Temple

Adult education at The Temple continues weekly with Torah Study with Rabbi David Saturdays at 9 a.m. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to 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.

The Temple is accepting donations for JFCS, supporting the JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry. Purchases made from our Amazon Wish List (thetemplelouky.org/food-drive) will be delivered directly to The Temple. You also can drop off items directly at the Main Office. The Temple will deliver all donations to JFCS at the end of the High Holy Days season.

For up-to-date High Holy Day information including schedule, guest tickets, and more, go to thetemplelouky.org/HHD. You can watch services live or at your convenience on YouTube, Facebook, Roku Channel, Apple TV Channel, or The Temple's new Mobile app in the Google Play or Apple Store.

Join WRJ/Sisterhood's inaugural, energizing, low-pressure Pilates class Sunday, Aug. 16 at 2 p.m. Club Pilates in Springhurst will be leading this free, fun event. RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/pilates or to Sarah Harlan at sarahharlan86@gmail.com.

Join us for a family-friendly dinner Friday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. and stay for our annual Summer Camp & Blue Jean Shabbat at 7 p.m. This fun-filled service will include camp-style songs and prayers led by our wonderful Temple kids who spent their summer at camp. In the spirit of camp, everyone is encouraged to dress casually, like you're going to camp. Come see the magic of Jewish summer camp as we welcome Shabbat together. While there is no cost for dinner, please RSVP so that we're sure to have enough food, at thetemplelouky.org/summer-camp.

Get ready for the High Holy Day season with intentional and meaningful learning. In this learning series, Rabbi Matt will guide us through the core themes, rituals, texts, and history of the Hebrew month of Elul, Rosh Hashanah, Shabbat Shuvah, and Yom Kippur. Whether you're seeking a spiritual reset, a deeper understanding of the holidays, or just a refresher on the liturgy and rituals before services begin, this class is for you. Classes will meet on Thursday, Sept. 3, 10, and 17 at 7 p.m., and you can join us for one or all three sessions. Also, as part of this class, participants are welcome to attend our Temple Service of Remembrance on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Temple Cemetery. Before the Service of Remembrance, we will discuss Jewish responses to death and ways to honor memory in our class on the 10. All are welcome - please RSVP at thetemplelouky.org/elul.

Trager Family Jewish Community Center

Shalom Y'all Block Party
Sunday, Aug. 23, 12-3:30 p.m.
An outdoors day full of free, fun activities, entertainment, food, art, and experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds across our community. Interested in being an artist or vendor? Email Tricia Siegwald at tsiegwald@jewishlouisville.org.

You can still register for the Annual Republic Bank Players Challenge: Monday, Aug. 31 at Standard Club
Special features include contests and prizes, plus a Heaven Hill Brands tasting.

New for 2026: Mahjong for a Mission: Connect, play, and enjoy a friendly competition

Sunday, Aug. 30 at the Trager Family JCC.
This event benefits Jewish Family & Career Services and the Trager Family JCC to help secure better lives for individuals and families overcoming life's challenges with confidence and dignity. Register today at jewishlouisville.org/golf.

Interested in a Sponsorship? Contact Tina Agonva, tagonva@jfcslouisville.org or Lindsey Palgy, lpalgy@jewishlouisville.org. Learn more at jewishlouisville.org/golf.

CenterStage 2026-27 Season Tickets on Sale Now

This season's lineup includes *Guys and Dolls*, *Cabaret*, *Annie* and *The Addams Family*. You can purchase single tickets or a season package for this exciting season. For tickets and additional information, go online at jcclouisville.org/centerstage

Club J Before & After School Program
Registration is now open for the 2026-27 school year

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

* Transportation available from the Trager Family JCC to this school: Field.
Transportation available from these schools to the Trager Family JCC:
Bloom, St. Matthews, Holy Trinity, Field and Hawthorne. Learn more at jcclouisville.org.

org/club-j

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 at jcclouisville.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: jcclouisville.org/sunday-fundays

Year of Civil Discourse

Year of Civil Discourse presents acclaimed author Dara Horn in conversation at Congregation Adath Jeshurun Monday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. Horn is a Harvard alumna whose 2021 collection of essays, *People Love Dead Jews*, has garnered wide attention and won the 2021 National Jewish Book Award. To register for this event, go online at yocdlouisville.org/dara-horn

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

ALAN S. ENGEL PARTNERSHIP WITH ISRAEL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

In honor of Alan Engel

Marc Abrams

Ron and Marie Abrams

Karen Abrams and Jeff Glazer

Jerry and Madeline Abramson

C.E. and S. Foundation

Ed Cohen and Dafna Schurr

Jon Fleischaker and Kim Greene

The Frankenthal Group Foundation

Jeff Goldberg and Shoshanna Goldfine

Jane Goldstein

Fred and Anne Joseph

David and Elizabeth Kaplan

Allan and Kate Latts

Glenn and Marci Levine

Bruce and Marcia Roth

Robert and Felice Sachs

Hunt and Linda Schuster

Michael and Phyllis Shaikun

Judah Skolnick

Frances Skolnick

Mark and Tammy Switow

Sara and Howard Wagner

Leon Wahba

Jake and Carol Wishnia

In honor of Ron Abrams's 90th birthday

Sara and Howard Wagner

JOSEPH FINK BBYO COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Diana Fink, MD

Paula F. Quarles

CENTERSTAGE

In memory of Adele Singer

Gina Kaiser

DREW CORSON YOUTH ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Norah Drew Corson

Teri and Steve Corson

JEWISH FEDERATION OF LOUISVILLE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Leah Gersh

Maury Kohn

ERNIE MARX AND ILSE MEYER FUND

Dan Streit

JUDITH BENSINGER SENIOR ADULT FUND

Bequest from the Estate of Carl Bensinger^{z"l}

TRAGER FAMILY JCC

In honor of Harper's 7th birthday

Andrew Trager-Kusman



Jewish Federation
OF LOUISVILLE

3600 Dutchmans Lane • Louisville, KY 40205
502.459.0660 • jewishlouisville.org

LIFECYCLE

Births



Lucy Newstadt Riney

Hanna Newstadt and John Riney are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Newstadt Riney, on May 12, 2026. Lucy is the granddaughter of Robyn and Mark Newstadt and Nonnie and Dick Riney.

B'nai Mitzvahs



Jayson Evans Benovitz

Jayson Evans Benovitz, son of Shannon and Todd Benovitz, brother of Melanie, and grandson of Diane Levine (and the late Jay Levine) and Shellie Benovitz (and the late Melvin Benovitz), will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, August 15, at 10 a.m. at Adath Jeshurun.

Jayson is an 8th grader at Walden School. In his spare time, he loves playing tennis, all things LEGO, performing in the all-school musical,

playing Xbox, hanging with friends, traveling, and cheering on the Chicago Bears and the Louisville Cardinals.

For his mitzvah project, Jayson hosted a toy drive and collected toys for children at Norton Children's Hospital.

Jayson and his family invite the community to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah and join them for a kiddush luncheon following the service.

Obituaries

William F. Chandler Jr.

William Fleming Chandler, Jr., 84, of Louisville, Kentucky, died unexpectedly on July 18, 2026.

Born on April 30, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Bill was the son of the late William Fleming Chandler and Priscilla Burge Chandler. A lifelong Louisvillian, he lived a life marked by integrity, generosity, intellectual curiosity, kindness, and optimism.

Bill graduated from Louisville Country Day School in 1960 before attending Yale University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1964. Following graduation, he entered Officer Candidate School, serving for several years as a Supply Officer in the United States Navy.

After completing his military service, Bill returned to Louisville and embarked on a career in investment management. In 1969,

he joined the former First National Bank of Louisville, where he developed the investment expertise that would define his professional life. In 1979, Bill helped found National Asset Management Co., developing it into a nationally recognized investment management firm that would ultimately be acquired by Amvescap. Bill loved not only the intellectual challenge of investment management but also the human side of the job – cultivating and nurturing relationships with clients. Throughout his career, Bill was sought after for his wisdom and sound judgment, beloved for his humor and magnanimity, and admired for his unwavering integrity.

Bill was an advocate for his church, St. Andrew's Episcopal, to which he gave generously of his time and resources. He appreciated life's simple pleasures: watching the sun set over the river from the terrace outside his home; playing poker with lifelong friends and, in later years, his grandsons; listening to (and crooning along with) his favorite songs of various genres; enjoying a great round of golf; building a roaring fire in the family room of his home; playing marathon rounds of Gin Rummy with his son Billy. He shared his enthusiasm for the things he loved, and his wisdom distilled through the prism of his experiences, with those nearest and

dearest to him.

While Bill found great fulfillment in his professional accomplishments, his family was his foundation and foremost priority. He is survived by his cherished wife of 56 years, Betsy Oppen Chandler. He was a devoted father to his son, William ("Billy") Fleming Chandler, III, of Provo, Utah, and his daughter, Elizabeth Chandler Stone (Douglas Beebe) of Atlanta, Georgia. Known as "Poppy" to his three grandsons – Brian Wesley Stone (22), William Lewis Stone (21), and Owen Chandler Stone (16) – he delighted in witnessing their growth, imparting his advice, and offering them his love and support.

Bill is also survived by his sister, Priscilla Burge Chandler; his brother, David Lockwood Chandler (Jackie); and a multitude of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends whose lives were enriched by his warmth, kindness, and generosity.

Bill will be remembered as a man of character and humility, and as a loyal and fortifying presence during times of tumult to those within his orbit. His thoughtful counsel and unwavering love for those closest to him leave a legacy that will continue through the family he cherished and the many lives he touched.

Though his passing leaves an unfillable void, Bill's generosity

Continued on page 21



**August is
Make-A-Will
Month**

**With thoughtful
planning, a legacy
gift in your will ensures
the causes you care
about live on for
generations to come.**



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

To learn more about leaving a legacy, contact Frances Skolnick at fskolnick@jewishlouisville.org.

*Consult your financial, legal, or tax advisor to determine what's best for your situation.

Join us for a *Live!* Highlights Tour of ANU – Museum of the Jewish People

August 4, 12:45 p.m.

Join us for a live, interactive virtual tour of ANU – Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv and discover the remarkable story of the Jewish people across time and around the world. Together, we will explore the museum's most iconic exhibits, examining the diversity of Jewish communities through fascinating artifacts, historical objects, multimedia displays, and works of art. Along the way, we'll discuss the enduring themes that connect Jews across continents and generations.

Lead by: Sharon Hayat

Sharon Hayat has been a member of the Education Department at ANU – Museum of the Jewish People for the past six years. She serves as the Coordinator of the international My Family Story program, one of the world's largest Jewish family heritage education initiatives, connecting students in more than 30 countries.

In addition to her educational leadership, Sharon continues to serve as one of ANU's VIP Museum Guides, leading special tours for international delegations, educators, community leaders, and visitors from around the world. Combining her expertise as both an educator and museum guide, Sharon brings the museum's collections to life through engaging stories, historical insight, and meaningful discussions about Jewish identity, history, and peoplehood.



**Visit jewishlouisville.org/ANU-tour
or scan the QR code to register!**



LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 20

will continue to ripple beyond the immediate recipients of his benevolence, and his memory will forever remain in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, July 23.

Contributions in Bill's memory may be made to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church or the donor's favorite charity.



Allan H. Fine

Allan Harris Fine of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, died peacefully on July 13, 2026 surrounded by his loving family.

Born on October 9, 1940 in Paducah, Ky, to Blanche and David Fine, Allan graduated from Paducah Tilghman High School, the University of Michigan and the University of Louisville Law School. After graduation, he worked in a private law office, before joining M. Fine & Sons, his family's clothing manufacturing business. He worked alongside his brother, Martin L. Fine, and cousin, Stephen Fine, and led the growth of the business for over three decades. While he was proud of his business success, what made him happiest was talking to the company's employees, whether on the factory floor or in the halls of the corporate offices.

Allan was a people person who made friends everywhere he went. Known affectionately as Big Al, Poppy, Dad-eee and Dad — but never late for dinner — Allan was beloved for his sense of humor and his ability to put everyone he met instantly at ease.

A true family man whose face lit up every time he saw his wife, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchild, Allan had many passions in life — trains, University of Michigan football, golf, horse racing, the St. Louis Cardinals, history, classical

music, martinis, talking politics and trivia.

Allan's Jewish faith was very important to him, as was giving back to the community. After he retired and moved to Palm Beach Gardens, he became a substitute teacher and served as president of his neighborhood housing association.

Allan is survived by his wife of 63 years, Bonnye; his children Margi, Jenny and Patti; his sons-in law Daniel Bley, Julian Locke and David Jewell; his grandchildren Zach, Gabrielle, Sydney, Ryan, Danny, Ally, Andi and Pippa, and his great-granddaughter, Romy.

A memorial service was held July 17 at Temple Judea in Palm Beach. Donations in Allan's memory can be made to Trustbridge Hospice or bloodcancerunited.org.

David L. Hertzman

David Lorch Hertzman (October 24, 1955 – July 6, 2026) died peacefully after a long illness. He is remembered as a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend.

He was predeceased by his parents, Marcia Cohen Hertzman and James Arthur Hertzman, and by his nephew, Mitch Perlmeter.

David is survived by his sisters, Jean Hertzman and Rachel Hertzman (Rex Perlmeter); nieces, Jackie (Mark Eisele) and Sarah Perlmeter (Jonah Frelander) and nephew, Nate Perlmeter.

If you would like to honor David's memory with a contribution, please donate to HRTM Student Travel and Activities Fund through the NMSU Foundation Online Giving Portal. (Search for or select The School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management as your target area. In the fund designation or comments section, explicitly specify: "HRTM Student Travel and Activities Fund" or Mitch Perlmeter Scholarship Fund at URJ Camp Harlam

Adele Esther Singer

Adele Esther Singer (née Frishman) died on July 17, 2026, at the age of 79. She was born on February 2,



1947, in Houston, Texas (the same day and hospital as Farrah Fawcett — she would want you to know that). She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of

Oklahoma and her master's in teaching from Columbia University. She spent almost 40 years as a speech therapist, teaching deaf children to speak in both Israel and America.

Adele is survived by her husband, Larry; her children, Michael (Dana) Blumberg and Ayelet (Alex) Berger; and her grandchildren, Noa and Lilah Blumberg and Reuben and Doren Berger. She is also survived by her sister Bernice Frishman, her brother-in-law Joel Singer (Enza Cancilla), many loving nieces and nephews, and dozens of children from the Jewish community who called her Safta.

She loved music and theater, but mostly she loved her family. She had a deep love for Israel, where she lived from 1974 to 1990 and raised her children.

Funeral services took place on July 19 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by interment in Agudath Achim Cemetery.

Donations in Adele's memory can be made to Chabad of Kentucky, Chabad of Prospect, or CenterStage at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center.



Randy J. Smelson

Randy J. Smelson, of Louisville, Kentucky, died on June 25, 2026, at the age of 75.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George

and Rutie Smelson, and his brother, Steven Smelson.

Randy lived a quiet life, but the friendships he formed were deep, genuine, and lasting. He took pride

in his work as a maintenance professional with Economy Aquatic Gardens, where he was known for his dedication and strong work ethic.

In his free time, Randy enjoyed the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting. He also had an enthusiasm for motorcycles and loved the thrill of motorcycle racing.

Though Randy's family was small, he found family in the people he loved. His closest friends and their families became his extended family, surrounding him with friendship, laughter, and support throughout the years.

Randy is survived by his cousin, Glenn Fine (Kathi), and by his dear friends, Terry Knauer and Jody Bowling, whose families held a special place in his heart. He will be remembered for his loyalty, and the meaningful relationships he built over a lifetime. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A graveside service was held Sunday, June 28, in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Keneseth Israel Congregation, or donor's favorite charity.

YOUR COMMUNITY REALTOR®

LET'S CATCH UP
LIFE GETS BUSY, BUT GOOD CONVERSATIONS MATTER.

Let's grab a coffee and chat - my treat!
Call me to schedule!

DOUG ROEMER
REALTOR®
(502) 386-4163
droemer@semonin.com
DougRoemer.semonin.com

SEMONIN REALTORS®
A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

QR code:

CARING EXCELLENCE
PERSONALIZED HOME CARE SERVICES

PERSONALIZED HOME CARE

Senior Care | Alzheimer's Care | After Hospital Care

"The caregivers are very professional. They really show love and concern for my wife and I."

Alan Leibson | Louisville

"I would highly recommend Caring Excellence to those who need care or assistance in their home or long-term care facility."

Mark Wolf | Louisville

"'Caring' and 'Excellence' are two words that aptly describe the assistance and companionship our father received from this wonderful company."

Karen Davis | Louisville

Locally Owned and Operated
Kayla Cook, R.N. and Elisabeth Knight, M.S.S.W.

Call (502) 208-9424 today to learn more
caringexcellenceathome.com



GLOBE

Lost Holocaust music, nearly erased by Stalin, goes on tour in Asia

By Shira Li Bartov
JTA

In the midst of the Holocaust, a child sang a song about his mother's death in the Bershad ghetto, a pocket of current-day Ukraine that was occupied by Romania and Nazi Germany. In the song, the child watches strangers come and pray for his mother, and other strangers carry her away to be buried, but none pay attention to him.

This story was discovered in a trove of 263 songs collected by Moisei Beregovsky, a Soviet Jewish ethnomusicologist who recorded Yiddish music from Jews in Ukraine just after they were liberated from the Romanian occupation in 1944.

The music rescued from the Holocaust was nearly lost in Joseph Stalin's crackdown on Yiddish culture. Beregovsky was arrested in the Soviet Union in 1950, accused of "Jewish nationalism" and sent to a gulag for six years. The music was confiscated, and Beregovsky died in 1961. Only in the 1990s did librarians discover his collection in the basement of Ukraine's Vernadsky National Library in Kyiv.

Now, the song about a mother's death is one of 15 in "Yiddish Glory: The Silenced Songs of World War II," an album released in April by Six Degrees Records. It was compiled by Anna Shternshis, a professor of Yiddish and Jewish studies at the University of Toronto, together with 17 musicians.

Shternshis took the album on tour in May to perform concerts across Asia, with stops in Seoul, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Beijing. The music project is complemented by a new book she published in June, "Postwar Life, Hopes, and Fears," the latest in a series about

the history of Soviet Jews published by New York University Press.

At first, Shternshis believed the song now titled "Dear Mama" gave an account of daily life in the Bershad ghetto, where more than 8,000 people died of hunger and disease. But the more she patched together testimonies and memoirs, the more she recognized a series of untruths.

Funerals were scarcely allowed in occupied Bershad, and public prayers for the dead were virtually impossible, said Shternshis. She realized that this song was fiction — an imagination of a dignified death.

"One of the biggest traumas that people had in the Bershad ghetto was that no one would notice the death," Shternshis told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "So the song that did talk about the lack of empathy, but also talked about the funeral, was actually a fantasy that all these things would happen — a prayer, a grave."

This is Shternshis' second "Yiddish Glory" album aiming to resurrect music from witnesses of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union. Her first album in 2018, titled "Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of World War II," was nominated for a Grammy.

That project was the first she reaped from the discovery of Beregovsky's documents, and it focused largely on songs collected from Russian soldiers who fought against the Nazis. The "Silenced Songs" album centers almost entirely on Jews who lived in the ghettos and concentration camps of Ukraine's Vinnytsia region, which was occupied by Romania and Nazi Germany from 1941 to 1944.

Shternshis wanted to trace the footsteps of Beregovsky, who was himself a survivor of the Holocaust. After Germany invaded the

Soviet Union in 1941, Beregovsky and other academics from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences were evacuated to the eastern republic of Bashkir. He returned to Ukraine in 1944 with a group of scholars, including linguists and folklorists, seeking to record music from survivors.

Beregovsky hoped to publish this music. Because of that, he and his editors likely tailored the words to make them acceptable to the Soviet regime after World War II, said Shternshis. That meant removing explicit references to Jewish despair, which could contradict the Soviet narrative of total victory.

Any such alterations were not sufficient. When Beregovsky was arrested, his interrogators accused him of promoting "Jewish nationalism" by coaching his subjects to speak about their experiences as Jews. He never saw his musical documents returned, and he believed they were destroyed.

"This is why we called this album 'The Silenced Songs of World War II,'" said Shternshis. "Because those words kept being silenced, first by self-censorship, then by scholars and editors who tried to preserve it, and then by Stalin's government."

Her goal was to present not just eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust, but also partial truths and untruths, like the fantasy of a mother surrounded by prayers in the Bershad ghetto. The result was a patchwork of stories that mattered to people living through extreme violence, death and censorship.

Pavel Lion, a Russian literature scholar better known by his stage name Psoy Korolenko, played a key role as a singer-songwriter on both "Yiddish Glory" albums. Korolenko grew up in a secular Jewish family in Russia during the Soviet era. Yiddish was not spoken in his home, other than a few words from his grandmother, but he became deeply interested in Yiddish music as a young adult.

The more Korolenko studied klezmer music, the more he discovered a "latent, indirect, unconscious Jewish heritage," he said. Although the Soviet Union repressed many forms of Jewish culture and communal life, Korolenko said he gradually became aware of how Jewish history marked popular music during his childhood in the 1970s.

"Many composers in the Soviet Union were influenced by Yiddish popular folk and theater songs, sometimes directly, because many of them in that generation were actually Jewish," said Korolenko.

He added that broader trends in popular music during the Soviet era embraced folk genres.

"The entire spectrum of post-imperial music included peasant songs, Romani gypsy songs, street songs — and one of the important trends, klezmer folk and theater songs in Yiddish," said Korolenko. "These were trends

that came from the periphery to the center in the Soviet Union."

While Shternshis extracted a growing body of songs with sheet music from Beregovsky's archive, she found other documents with lyrics alone. Korolenko wrote melodies for these songs from scratch, drawing on his knowledge of Yiddish, Soviet and 19th-century Russian music traditions.

Shternshis and Korolenko traveled together to perform the "Yiddish Glory" songs in Asia. Most of their audiences were hearing Yiddish music for the first time, translated through subtitles.

Sealing Cheng, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong who researches migration, forced displacement and gender, hosted the pair for a concert that drew about 80 attendees. Cheng said much of the audience knew little about the history of Soviet Jews and the daily experiences of Holocaust victims. Many learned about the period through their regional history: Hong Kong was occupied during World War II by Japan, which allied with Nazi Germany to expand its empire and committed atrocities in Asia.

"I don't think we have a lot of discussion of what World War II was like outside of the Japanese colonial context," said Cheng.

Another Yiddish Glory concert took place at the Holocaust Museum of Korea in Paju, located near the demilitarized zone that separates North and South Korea. Shternshis said the audience there raised comparisons with their own history, including "topics of separation, longing, the impossibility of returning home, and also communism versus non-communism dividing families."

At the Museum of Jewish Refugees in Shanghai, listeners asked questions about censorship and the subversiveness of music.

"They were asking what it takes for a folk song to become a dangerous artistic production, what kind of folk song could lead to imprisonment," said Shternshis. "People were very interested in what is in between the lines of these songs. They are praising Stalin, they are praising the Soviet regime, they are condemning Hitler, but they're also saying other things that they cannot fully say in the Soviet context — we got a lot of questions about that."

Shternshis hopes to continue broadcasting the silenced voices of "Yiddish Glory" to listeners around the world. But there is one place in particular where she dreams of transporting their music.

"The only country where we haven't presented it yet, and where I really want to go one day, is Ukraine," said Shternshis. "Once that war is over, once peace comes back to that land, it would be so important to me, and to Psoy and to other musicians, to just go there and perform this program."



Jewish Identity Amidst Rising Antisemitism

A Conversation with Dara Horn

August 10 at 7 p.m.
Congregation Adath Jeshurun

Choose one of three optional Dialogue Circles prior to the event. [Details at link below.](#)



Dara Horn is an award-winning author, scholar, and public intellectual whose acclaimed books and essays explore Jewish history, identity, and contemporary life, and whose upcoming conversation with the Year of Civil Discourse will examine the rise of contemporary antisemitism through the lens of history, culture, and Jewish experience.

What is the Year of Civil Discourse?

Rooted in Jewish values, the Year of Civil Discourse is built on the belief that diverse perspectives are a fundamental part of our tradition and our strength. Meaningful conversations aren't just welcome — they are necessary. We create space to listen deeply, share openly, and learn together across differences.

HOW DO WE REMAIN A CONNECTED COMMUNITY WHEN WE DON'T ALL THINK ALIKE?



TO LEARN MORE OR REGISTER
scan the QR code
or visit yocdlouisville.org
*Registration is required.

This event is made possible in part
through the following endowment funds through
the Jewish Federation of Louisville:

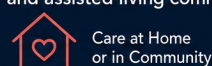
Ida and Bernhard Behr Memorial Fund
Goldstein-Leibson Cultural Arts Fund
Eleanor and Max Hyman Fund for Adult Education
Michael and Phyllis Shaikun Community Enrichment Fund



Personalized, Compassionate Home Care — Wherever You Call Home



Griswold provides personal care, homemaking, and companionship support in private homes and in independent and assisted living communities.



502.410.0011



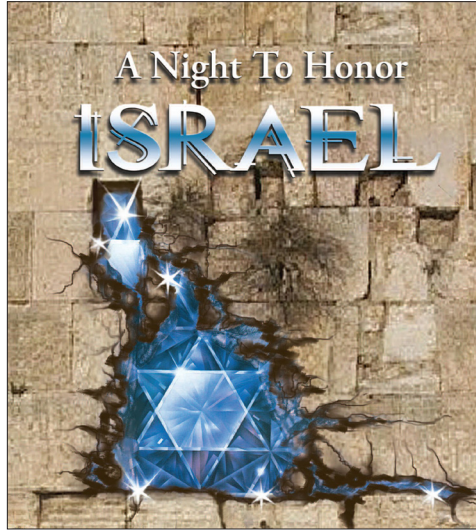
GriswoldCare.com/East-Louisville

Call us today to learn more about how we can help you live where you love.

GLOBE

Fourth annual “A Night to Honor Israel” comes to Corydon, Ind. on Thursday, Aug. 20.

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor



There is a longstanding relationship between evangelical Christians and Israel, rooted in beliefs in faith, history and – especially since October 7, 2023 – solidarity.

Among the multi-church-sponsored celebrations of that solidarity are the annual “A Night to Honor Israel” events, this year slated for Thursday, Aug. 20 in Corydon, Ind. It will be one of several similar presentations across the U.S. organized by Christians Unit-

ed for Israel, founded in 2006 and headed by John Hagee, a prominent pastor based in San Antonio.

According to its mission statement, “CUFI is the foremost Christian organization educating and empowering millions of Americans to speak and act with one voice in defense of Israel and the Jewish people. CUFI’s diversity across political, ethnic, generational, and denominational lines maximizes our impact in local communities, in media, on campus, and in our nation’s capital. CUFI is committed to confronting indifference and combating antisemitism in all its forms wherever it may be found.”

Corydon’s edition of “A Night to Honor Israel” has long been shepherded by Rebecca Reel, the namesake and principal driving force at Reel Ministries, which describes itself as “a Christian Zionist Ministry with a Love for Israel and the Nations.” The group has been hosting tours to Israel for 20 years, reflecting its founder’s passionate connection to the nation and its history.

“I started reading my Bible and just fell in love with Israel,” Reel told Community in 2023, barely a month after October 7 had stunned the world with its brutality. “I felt a calling to learn about my Hebrew roots.”

Several Louisville-area Jewish leaders regularly attend “A Night to Honor Israel” programs, reflecting the concern not only for the nation broadly, but for issues closer to home. Such are the times we live in.

“Because of the rise of antisemitism

in the U.S.,” Reel said, “this is more important than ever.”

For more information about attending “A Night to Honor Israel,” contact Adam Cohen at acohen@jewishlouisville.org.

Advertise your business in *Community!*

For more information, call 502-418-5845, or email lsinger@jewishlouisville.org

Trager Family JCC members receive a 25% discount on ad placements!



NEWISH JEWISH Music

WITH CANTOR LIPP

Join Cantor Lipp in the Weisberg Family Lobby of the Trager Family JCC, once a month for Newish Jewish Music!



Free for Members

UPCOMING DATES:
MONDAY, AUGUST 17 AT 12:45 P.M.

To learn more, contact Dara Cohen at dcohen@jewishlouisville.org



Host Your Event with Us



Our beautiful, modern community center offers an ideal place for organizations, corporations and families to host events, receptions or meetings.

- Auditorium that can be set for banquets, receptions, general sessions or a performance with risers
- Board room and conference rooms
- Unique fitness team-building opportunities such as yoga and boot camp
- Aquatics center & gymnasiums
- State-of-the-art AV
- Open catering policy



FOR RENTAL INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR:

Josh Edwards | 502-238-2714 | jedwards@jewishlouisville.org
jcclouisville.org/eventspace | 3600 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville, KY 40205

THANK YOU!

Your generosity brought our Jewish values to life this year.



KEHILLAH

קהילה

Community Building



TIKKUN OLAM

תיקון עולם

Repairing the World



CHESED

חסד

Treating Others with Care
and Respect



TORAH

תורה

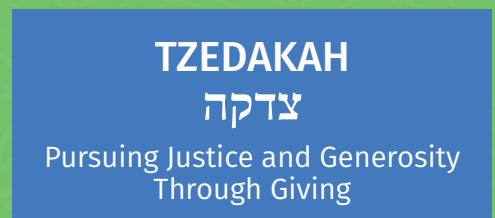
Always Learning, Teaching
and Growing



K'LAL YISRAEL

כלל ישראל

Connecting the Jewish People



TZEDAKAH

צדקה

Pursuing Justice and Generosity
Through Giving

See the difference you made.

**TOGETHER
WE GROW**



Jewish Federation[®]
OF LOUISVILLE

Scan the QR code to
view our 2025-2026
Impact Report.



JewishLouisville.org/impact-report