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JEWISH LOUISVILLE
COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

A treasure in our own backyard: discovering the Jasteka Cultural Center

SEE PAGE 7

FRIDAY Vol. 52, No. 10 | October 30, 2026 | 19 Cheshvan 5787

Louisville's Year of Civil Discourse will host Shalom Hartman Institute President Yehuda Kurtzer for three engaging programs Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 17-18.

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

There are few commentators on Jewish issues more insightful or prolific than Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer. As president of the Shalom Hartman Institute, he occupies the fertile (and often fraught) foreground of conversation about the U.S.'s relationship with Israel and the broader landscape of American Judaism.

Attributes such as these make Kurtzer an ideal advocate of how we modulate such discussions, and why he's coming to Louisville as part of the ongoing Year of Civil Discourse initiative. His visit is being made possible in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund.

On Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 7-9 p.m. at Keneseth Israel, Kurtzer will be the featured guest at a community-wide forum titled *Our Fragile Big Tent: Rethinking Community and Boundaries for a Divisive Age*. It will provide an opportunity to explore our evolving relationship with Israel, the different ways we understand Jewish identity and belonging, where communities draw boundaries, and how we create meaningful space for disagreement without allowing those differences to sever our relationships.

During his time here, Kurtzer will participate in two additional public programs: a community Torah study, *The Foundations of Jewish Pluralism*, Nov. 18 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at The Temple; plus *Jewish Power and Jewish Vulnerability*, a teen program, on Nov. 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC.

He will also lead two sessions on Nov. 19 for boards and staff of Jewish organizations.

As these sessions will likely reveal, Kurtzer knows full well the pitfalls of conflict and assumptions, especially when the subject is Israel. But that doesn't mean abdicating a responsibility to take stands on what matters.



Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer

"It should not be an obstacle for American Jews to have opinions," he emphasized during a Zoom interview from his office on Manhattan's Upper West Side. He was speaking on the afternoon of October 7, the third anniversary of Hamas's

See **YEHUDA KURTZER** on page 4

Transforming hate on a plane

By Lisa Shapiro
Guest Columnist



Lisa Shapiro

I was settling in for my interminable flight to L.A. to visit family. I'd arranged my water bottle, snack, and book: Rabbi Harold Kushner's *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, on the tray table in front of me, and gave a neighborly nod to my assigned seat companions.

Next to me on the left was an olive-skinned man perhaps in his late 30s, his wife, and their adorable toddler daughter, being passed back and forth in a dance of wriggles.

I'm not even sure how the conversation started, but it could have been one of those "Where are you from?"

See **SHAPIRO** on page 15

A community that shows up for its older adults

By David Finke
Guest Columnist

Many families recognize the moment when a parent who has always managed independently needs help getting to an appointment. Or when a neighbor who once hosted every holiday gathering begins spending more time alone. Someone who has spent a lifetime caring for others suddenly needs support caring for themselves.

These changes rarely happen all at once or fit neatly into one service. Often, one need leads to another: transportation, help navigating resources, assistance at home or a familiar voice checking in.

At Jewish Family & Career Services (JFCS), we see this every day. We also see something equally important: With the right support, older adults can continue making choices about their lives, participating in the community and maintaining the independence they value.

Our Klein Older Adult Services program has long been part of that support system in Louisville, providing a holistic approach to supporting older adults



JFCS provides services through the Klein Older Adult program including at Shawnee Community Center, including exercise classes, Bingocize, and our long-term care plan services. Pictured are older adults playing in a chair volleyball tournament at Shawnee Community Center. (Photo by JFCS)

through services such as homecare, transportation, social engagement opportunities, caregiver support, mental health services and fraud prevention. These services work together to help older adults maintain independence, build meaningful connections, and remain active in community life. More people turn to us every year for these critical ser-

See **JFCS** on page 9

Bearing innovative tools to combat depression, a Louisville psychiatrist circles back home

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Psychiatrist David Roth has a story to tell. It's a story about the intersection of depression, profession, and an abiding affection for the city where Judaism and medicine combined to resonant ends.

Several months ago, Roth -- who grew up Jewish in Louisville as the son of Bonnie Roth and Dr. John Roth, one of the city's most prominent pediatricians -- returned to the city of his birth after 29 years playing his psychiatric trade in

See **ROTH** on page 18



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Change can be challenging – and fulfilling



D'var Torah

Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner

In the Torah, Avram's name is changed to Abraham and Sarai's is changed to Sarah. Pharoah changes his mind about freeing the Israelite slaves, more than once. And the pleas of Moses result in the changing of G-d's mind regarding the destruction of the Israelites after the incident of the Golden Calf. We are comfortable with these examples of change, for they don't require much effort on our part.

However, change that impacts us more directly is often met with an unwelcome response. We humans are not fond of change. We are creatures of habit. We like what we know. This is why we attend the same yoga class, frequent the same coffee shop, and purchase food at the same grocery store each week. Repetition. Continuity. Familiarity. We are comfortable with these.

And yet, we find ourselves regularly dealing with change to a lesser or greater degree: Our dentist informs us she is retiring; our favorite restaurant has a "closed" sign in the window; the ice cream flavor we like best has been discontinued. Sometimes, the changes we face are more impactful, involving those we love: A child tells us he is leaving college, a parent informs us she is leaving her marriage, an employer tells us they are leaving us behind.

At other times, change occurs for our loved ones. It's understandable that we would want to support them and offer advice as they deal with the situation. The inclination to solve problems or offer solutions to those about whom we care is understandable. However, if our guidance is not taken, we need to accept it.

Likewise, we might think it's time for someone close to us to make a change. For example, we might believe it's safest for our grandmother to move to assisted living. However, if she still has the capacity to make decisions, we must respect that the final decision rests with her.

Sometimes, we have no say in a matter, even though we think we should. There's a saying in our tradition, "Man plans and G-d laughs." We have plans, and there is a Divine plan. The more we can trust and accept that the universe is unfolding as it should, the more peace we will have. For example:

- When we are able to accept circumstances as they are, even when they are not as we would like them to be, we will have peace.
- When we stop trying to make life match the vision we have for a given situation, or person, we will have peace.
- When we give people the space they need to figure out their own solutions, stop offering unsolicited advice and just listen to them, we will have peace.
- When we believe G-d exists (substitute Creator, the Wellspring of Life, The Source, The Divine Presence, Higher Power, etc.), that there is an order to the world, and we trust that we, and our loved ones, will be shown how to navigate the challenges and changes that present themselves, we will have more peace.

Holding on, trying to control, getting angry and resentful are options, but not healthy ones. Accepting life on life's terms is the key, though it's easier said than done.

Change is challenging. Change is hard. Yet change will always be with us.

In the words attributed to the ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, "Nothing is permanent except change." (And G-d.)

Beth Jacowitz Chottiner is Rabbi at Temple Shalom.



Snapshots







On October 21, members of the AgeWell program at the Trager Family JCC celebrated fall's arrival with a field trip to Joe Huber's Family Farm.

The day was filled with outdoor activities, from picking apples to browsing in the market and wine shop, sitting outside eating ice cream and enjoying the beautiful fall weather. A visit to Huber's would not be complete without a family-style meal featuring fried chicken and hot rolls with apple butter. (Photos by Raven Warren)

Candles

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

- November 6 @ 5:20 p.m.
- November 13 @ 5:14 p.m.
- November 20 @ 5:09 p.m.
- November 27 @ 5:06 p.m.

Contacts

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

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

Not getting your paper? Want to subscribe? Putting your subscription on hold? 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, November 16** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on **Friday, November 27.**

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 … paper. 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**

ENDOWMENT

Who'll tell your story?

By Scott Weinberg
Guest Columnist

The musical *Hamilton* closes with a line asking: *"Who tells your story?"* So, what's your story, and how do you want it to be told? What experiences within the Jewish community helped shape the person you are today? Do you want others who come after you to benefit from similar formative experiences, and if so, how can you best accomplish that?

My personal experiences with Jewish Louisville include being a camper at JCC Day Camp every summer until I became a CIT and then a counselor. When I got to high school, I lived at the JCC. My social life revolved around BBYO, and playing softball and basketball with my BBYO friends at the JCC. I was also able to attend BBYO's Chapter Leadership Training Conference at Beber Camp in Wisconsin, where I learned leadership skills that are still useful today. My junior year of high school, I was fortunate enough to participate in the March of the Living, which brought together thousands of Jewish teenagers from around the world to Poland to visit Treblinka, Auschwitz, Birkenau, and Majdanek, followed by a week in Israel during Israeli Memorial Day and Israeli Independence Day. That trip was life changing. It reinforced my sense of Jewish identity and my love of Israel.

I took those experiences and skills to Emory, where I became very active in Hillel leadership, and then came back to Louisville and became very involved in the leadership of Keneseth Israel. Neither CLTC nor the March of the Living would have been possible without people generously supporting the Jewish Federation at the time. Those people believed in the importance of Jewish high school youth groups, Holocaust education, and Jewish teen trips to Israel.

My three daughters have all attended Beber Camp for multiple summers. Again, that would not have been possible without the commitment of those who came before me who believed so strongly in the importance of Jewish summer camp that they provided substantial funding for overnight camp scholarships to reach their goal of making summer camp affordable for all Jewish kids.

I look forward to the day when I'm able to give back to our community, which provided so much to my family and me, and write another chapter in my family's story.

How your story is remembered depends in large part on what story you leave your family and friends to tell. Will your children remember you as a loving parent, who modeled a strong system of Jewish values? Will your friends speak of your kindness and generosity? How your story is remembered depends more on the values you embodied during your life than on the value of the assets you leave to your family. Demonstrating to your family that you value philanthropy and that you care about benefiting Jewish causes will go a long way toward encouraging them to adopt the same philosophy around the benefits of charitable giving, especially to the Jewish community.



Scott and Hunter Weinberg and their three daughters

If you're willing to consider a gift to the Jewish community, what options are out there? It wasn't until I began serving on *Jewish*Louisville's Endowment Committee that I became aware of the range of options available to those that want to leave a lasting legacy to our Jewish community.

If you have a specific program, organization, or area of interest that you'd like to support, you can take advantage of the Restricted Endowments available through the Jewish Foundation of Louisville. You can establish a named restricted endowment with a gift of $50,000 and ensure your gift has a lasting impact in the specific causes that are meaningful to you. If you don't wish to establish a named restricted endowment at this time, you can make gifts in any amount to benefit six areas of interest: Youth, Senior Adults, Arts & Ideas, Health and Wellness, Jewish Learning and Community Relations/Outreach, and Building Maintenance. Yet another option available under the Foundation's Restricted Endowments is the ability to endow your Lion of Judah. Creating a Lion of Judah Endowment is a wonderful way to ensure your Lion of Judah annual gift continues long after your passing and demonstrates your commitment to providing lasting support for the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign.

If you'd rather not restrict your gift, you can contribute to the Jewish Foundation's Unrestricted Endowment. These gifts provide *Jewish*Louisville with the flexibility to respond to needs as they arise and to utilize your gift in a wider range of programs. As with the Restricted Endowments, you can establish a named fund in the Unrestricted Endowment with a gift of $50,000.

Establishing a Philanthropic Fund (also referred to as a Donor-Advised Fund) is a simple way to allow you to recommend distributions over time to benefit those areas you're passionate about, while also obtaining an immediate tax benefit when you fund the Philanthropic Fund. Philanthropic Funds are also valuable charitable vehicles because they avoid the cost, administrative burden, and complexity of establishing a private foundation.

There are numerous ways to fund the options laid out above. Whether it's making a gift of cash or appreciated securities, leaving a bequest in your Will or including one of the Funds as a beneficiary of a trust, naming a Fund as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account, or setting up other charitable vehicles to achieve your desired objectives, Jewish Foundation's professional staff would be happy to work with you, your estate planning lawyer, CPA, and financial advisor to develop the most advantageous option to fit your goals.

It's time to tell your own story.

*Scott Weinberg, a member of the Jewish*Louisville *Endowment Committee, is an estate planning lawyer at Lynch, Cox, Gilman & Goodman P.S.C. His "free time" is devoted to his wife and three young daughters (who aren't as young as they used to be). He considers playing on the Louisville AZA Softball Team that won the KIO Regional Tournament in 1992 and 1993 to be the highlight of his athletic career.*

Your Values. Your Legacy.

A vibrant community creates opportunities for people to stay connected and active throughout every stage of life.

A planned gift or endowment can help ensure meaningful programs and experiences for older adults continue for generations to come.



The following endowed funds support programming for older adults in our community.

Judith Bensinger Senior Adult Fund
Jeanette Berman Shalom Tower Fund
Joseph Bliss Indigent Care Fund
Federation Fund for the Elderly
Gus Goldsmith Transportation Fund
Stuart & Marilynne Harris Kosher Cafe Fund
May Kletter Senior Adult Special Projects Fund
Elsie P. Judah Fund
Ethel Kozlove Levy Senior Adult Hospitality Fund
Donald J. & Ann W. Roth Seniors Fund
Irvin & Jeanne Wasserman Senior Adult Musical Arts Fund
Denise & Jacques Wolff Senior Adult Fund
Irvin and Betty Zegart Senior Adult Fund

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

NEWS

YEHUDA KURTZER

Continued from page 1

murderous attack on southern Israel.

"Many times, Israelis have pushed back and said, 'Well, you don't live here, you don't serve in the military, so you don't get to have opinions about what's going on here.'" Kurtzer said. "And I'm like, 'nonsense. I have a lot of opinions about things I really don't know anything about. That's actually what it means to be human.'"

Here Kurtzer, 49, is being a bit disingenuous. He knows plenty about Israel, not surprising for a fellow who grew up in Tel Aviv (as well as Silver Spring, Maryland). His father is Daniel Kurtzer, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Egypt from 1997-2001 and as ambassador to Israel from 2001-2005.

"This is apropos of coming to Louisville and talking about civil discourse," Yehuda Kurtzer said. "It's very bad for a public conversation to start with, 'Who is the authorized speaker?' and for everyone to have to demonstrate all of their bona fides and all of their loyalties to be able to enter into a conversation. That's not how humans are. I can feel pain and I can be angry about something happening halfway around the world, even if I'm not fully qualified to speak about all the dimensions of that story. It already sometimes is an obstacle between Americans and Israelis, but the fact that it's becoming an obstacle in our own communities is a self-inflicted wound."

Facilitating civil discourse is a core imperative at the Shalom Hartman Institute, which was founded in 1976 by David Hartman and remains based in Jerusalem. Kurtzer is president alongside Donniel Hartman, the founder's son. (Its North America division has an especially wide portfolio – Sara Labaton, the Institute's Director of Teaching and Learning, spoke at the Trager Family JCC in March of 2023.)

Opinions, Kurtzer maintains, can be victim of their own weight. Someone might say: "'So-and-so who has opinions that I think are wrong about Israel – I think they're wrong on the facts, and they haven't spent time there, and haven't done this and that.' That person may still feel immense pain or passion for the position they are taking, and no amount of condescension is going to make them concede."

Indeed, "it's hard enough when we're building bridges between Israelis and Americans, but it's even worse when we use these kinds of hierarchies to destroy the relationships we have with one another."

"The institute has been committed to pluralism since its founding," Kurtzer emphasized, "and I feel it takes two very different forms that reinforce each other. One is a belief system about humans and the power of human diversity. Judaism invites us to consider the possibility of not holding on to absolute truth. That it's a way of believing in a God of complexities and multivocalities -- a set of behaviors and practices that we think are vital for living within liberal free societies."



Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer

The Hartman Institute functions not only as a kind of think tank, but as an incubator for deescalating the tumult of polarized identity politics.

"One of the gifts of working in a research center like ours, which prioritizes collaboration on hard issues, is that I get environments to test out ideas and practice them with people who disagree with me," a process that encourages him to "test my assumptions," Kurtzer said. He also hosts a weekly podcast, *Identity/Crisis*, where – its description reads – he "talks with leading thinkers to unpack current events affecting Jewish communities in North America, Israel, and around the world, revealing the core Jewish values underlying issues that matter most to you."

Kurtzer, who did his undergraduate work at Columbia University before earning a master's at Brown and a Ph.D. at Harvard, is author

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YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR 3RD ANNUAL

Grandparents' Musikgarten Class

Friday, November 27
10-11:30 a.m.
at the Trager Family JCC

Join us as we sing and dance our hearts out with our special family members following Thanksgiving Day.

This class is recommended for ages 0-5
We will have snacks and drinks, and crafts.

RSVP: jewishlouisville.org/gpmusikgarten or scan here!

We're also hosting a book drive in partnership with JFCS from November 13–27! Help us spread the joy of reading by bringing in books to donate. Books of all kinds are welcome. A donation box will be located at the Trager Family JCC.

Questions? Contact Rachel Goldman at rgoldman@jewishlouisville.org.

MUSIK GARTEN · PJ Library Bring Jewish stories home · Trager Family JCC · Jewish Federation of Louisville · JFCS

YEAR OF CIVIL DISCOURSE

Louisville Welcomes Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer

One of today's most important Jewish voices.

Our Fragile Big Tent: Rethinking Community and Boundaries for a Divisive Age
A Special Jewish Community-Wide Event
November 18, 7 – 9 p.m.
Join Yehuda Kurtzer for a timely interview about sustaining a vibrant Jewish "big tent" while honoring our diverse perspectives and deepest convictions.

The Foundations of Jewish Pluralism
A Unique Jewish Community Torah Study Opportunity
November 18, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
We will engage in deep Torah study using Talmudic texts about pluralism, to understand the past and to shape the future.

Dialogue Circles, small group discussions to build understanding, will be held before and after these events. The YOCD website will post dates, times, and locations.

Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer is the President of the Shalom Hartman Institute and a leading thinker and author on the major challenges facing the Jewish people. Dr. Kurtzer is a trusted voice on how to navigate the complicated moral, spiritual, and political questions of the day with depth and sophistication.



*These events are made possible in part by the **Jewish Heritage Fund** and 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

Know A Jewish Teen? There's an event for them too! Scan the QR code to learn more.

scan the QR code
or visit yocdlouisville.org
*Registration is required.

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 toegether across differences.

NEWS

Continued from page 4

of the 2012 book *Shuva: The Future of the Jewish Past*. You can sample more of his writing via his prolific active Substack platform, though he cautions against the potential perils of consuming too much social media.

"The algorithm is going to incentivize certainty, dogmatism, and inflammatory rhetoric," Kurtzer said. "It's also going to incentivize name calling, and you have to decide that you're going to get a bit less traffic, but that you're going to feel better about yourself if you don't engage in those habits."

Whether on social media or in the wild, "if you build societies that are intolerant of difference, you will wind up with authoritarian states," Kurtzer said. "You will wind up with a suppression of yourself. You think that you're winning in the short term, and you're ultimately losing the long term. So you have to start accommodating yourself to building a world in which difference is valued, as opposed to being considered a threat."

This, Kurtzer stresses, is a defining principle, "that runs through everything that we do," even if putting it into practice risks confounding certain constituents – at least in the short term.

"Sometimes that gets people tripped up because they'll say, 'But you also hold to other beliefs like the legitimacy of the state of Israel.' The answer is, there are no pluralists who don't also have strong commitments."

The key is: "How do they express those commitments," Kurtzer said. "Do you demonize your opponents ideologically? Do you have things that you won't even entertain or think about in terms of your differences? Do you approach your own truths as 100% truths, or – 'I'm pretty sure I know that I'm right, but I leave open some epistemological humility about the possibility that I'm wrong.'"

At Hartman, the latter alternative holds sway.

"That, both as an ideology and its disposition, is vital to the institute, and it's why I like doing things like this project in Louisville," Kurtzer said, "building community through substance."

Here Kurtzer invoked a metaphor illustrating the difference between arbitrary stabs at truth and genuine, extended dedication.

"We have to start thinking about pluralism, dialogue, civic participation – all these things – the way we think about exercise," he said. "If you think having an intense session in the gym once a year is going to improve your physical conditioning – well, what's going to happen is you'll feel severe pain after that one experience, and you'll have made no real change in yourself." But "if you think these as regular habits that we have to engage in and practice, you will see improvement."

The Year of Civil Discourse, which centers on facilitated, small discussion groups called Dialogue Circles, exemplifies Kurtzer's point.

"Louisville's community has structured this in the right way," he said. "It is bringing in partners who are doing this kind of habit-forming work. This is how we should talk, and then bringing in people like me not to do that habit-forming work, but to (address) big issues of substance where we have disagreement.

"I would hope that this is not my 'annual gym session,' but that it actually resets some norms and habits."

With ever-greater frequency, we're observing a precipitous "decline in all sorts of rituals of civic behavior," Kurtzer said, "like neighborhood block parties and bowling clubs, and all these things that were the organic way Americans humanized each other and insisted that they held more in common than their political beliefs. Those behaviors have all eroded, and we know a lot of the reasons why."

Looking ahead, a Dialogue Circle participant might consider "what it would be like for me after this experience to invite people who go to a different congregation for a Shabbat dinner, where we're not scared to talk about some of the issues that divide us. We have to start building better pluralism muscle memory."

Call it a matter of discussion and discourse, not dissonance -- evolving into a covenant grounded in mutual discernment and respect. Or as Kurtzer puts it: "A useful way of hedging our own certainty."

"You don't want to just talk about how we talk," he acknowledged. "It's trying to model a new norm on the issues we care about. Are there technologies in how we speak, and are there behaviors and practices in how we choose to talk to each other – that help to build the fiber of a better linked, more compassionate Jewish community."

To register for any of Yehuda Kurtzer's upcoming Louisville programs, or for Dialogue Circles slated for Nov. 9, 11, 15 and 30; and Dec. 2-3, go online at tinyurl.com/4xe38d4w. You can listen to his podcast, Identity/Crisis, at tinyurl.com/544p95nh, and read his Substack posts at yehudakurtzer.substack.com.

SNOWFLAKE SHOPPE
at the Trager Family JCC

COME SHOPPING!

November 22 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Support the Roth Family ELC!

All proceeds will assist in purchasing much needed educational toys and equipment to supplement our program.

For more information, and a full list of vendors,
Scan the QR code or visit:
jcclouisville.org/snowflakeshoppe

Interested in being a vendor or sponsor?
Learn more at jcclouisville.org/snowflakesponsors!

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



COMMUNITY

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

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of ***Community*** for copy and ads are November 16 for publication on November 27 and December 14 for publication on December 26.

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

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.

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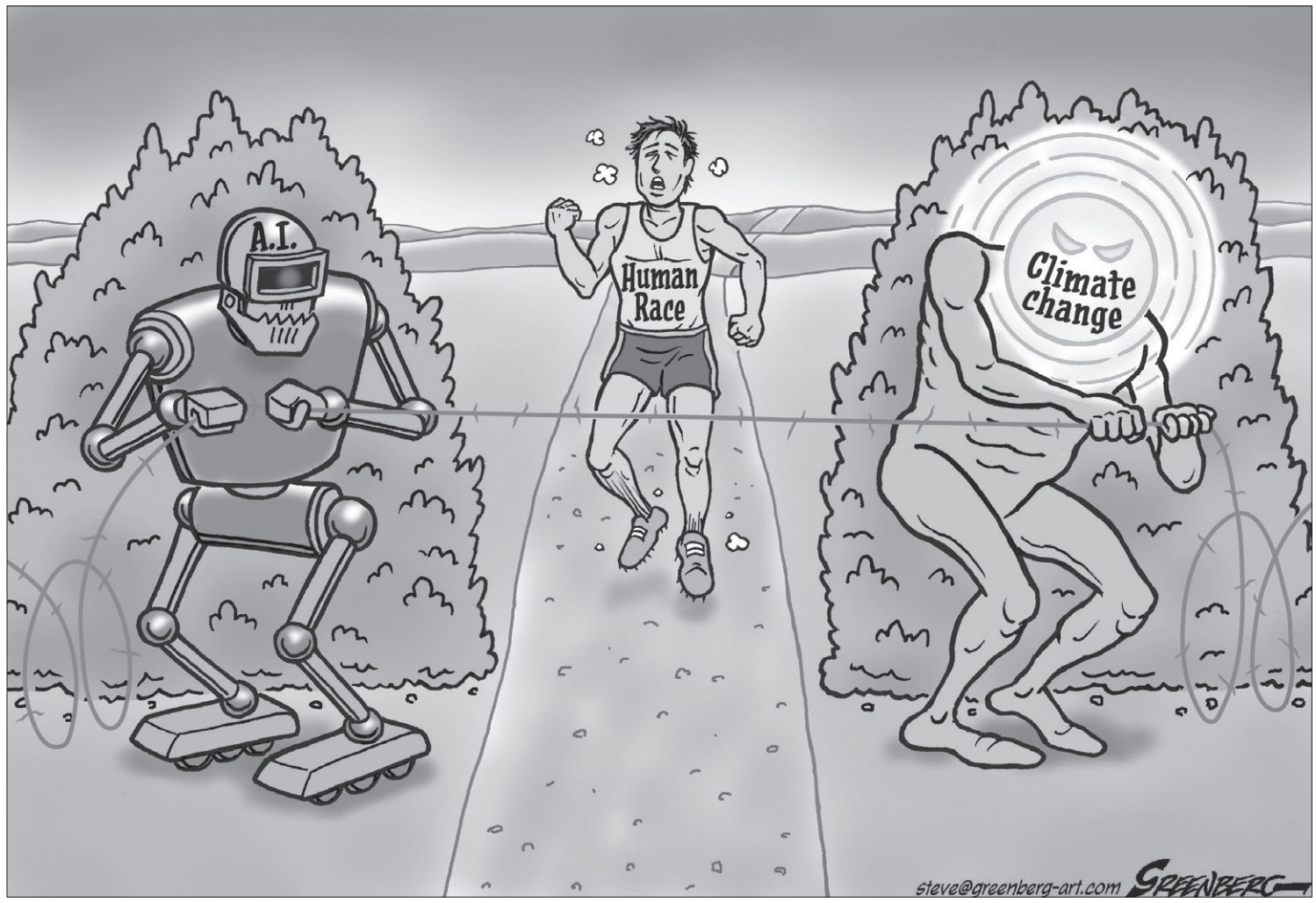
FORUM



On Veterans Day, let's honor all who've served



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

As we approach Veterans Day this coming Nov. 11, I can recall growing up in the 1960s and '70s, when my father spoke about his military service during World War II. Born in 1925, he enlisted in the Coast Guard after he turned 18 in June of 1943, following the example of his older brother, Sidney, who'd signed up for the Army and would eventually rise to the rank of Captain as an artillery officer.

An oceangoing service was an odd choice for a skinny teenager prone to seasickness, but someone had told my dad that the site of Coast Guard basic training boasted relative proximity to the Bronx. Young Jack David Adler figured that offered at least the vague promise of easier home leave, so the decision was made – queasiness be damned.

The Coast Guard motto is *Semper Paratus* ("Always Ready") and though my father wasn't one to trumpet Latin phrases around our household, he was proud of his two years as a Coast Guard signalman. Sometimes he'd spontaneously pantomime wielding his two semaphore flags, one in each hand, spelling out individual letters of the alphabet as if numbers on an imaginary clock.

I was bemused at these periodic displays, but I couldn't help admiring his delight in sharing what I regarded, at best, as an arcane skill. It demonstrated a commitment to a task that, like so many others, was a modest yet vital component amid a far larger sphere of imperatives.

My father served on an LST – a Landing Ship, Tank – a lumbering (they were dubbed "Large, Slow Targets"), amphibious 328-foot-long flat-bottomed vessel that carried battle tanks, landing craft, support vehicles, and a vast array of associated hardware and supplies. They could travel right up to a beach, swing open their massive clamshell bow doors, and disgorge troops and equipment directly onto the beachhead.

His ship participated in operations in the European Theater, though for whatever reason I don't remember my father talking about specific assignments, or whether he and his shipmates ever came under enemy fire. It was enough that he did his part, as so many other men and women did all those years ago. My mother's older brother, Henry, served in the Navy, and various other relatives did stints in the military, whether in wartime or peacetime.

I was born too late to be subject to mandatory service. When the draft officially ended in January of 1973, I was a sophomore in high school pointing myself toward college. The Vietnam War was winding down, and while men my age were still required to fill out registration cards, the prospect of ever being called up seemed beyond remote.

We'd transitioned to an all-volunteer military, which raised its own questions of diversity -- racially, in economic strata, and so on. Would a vision of egalitarian service become more than a hope?

Arriving as a freshman at the University of Rochester in the fall of 1975, I was struck by the sight of fellow students strolling the campus in khaki uniforms. Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. -- NROTC in the typical vernacular -- was quite active then. And no wonder: The Navy would put you through school, and in return you'd graduate as an Ensign (or if in the Marines, a Second Lieutenant) and commit to eight years of active and ready-reserve service. Considering the cost of tuition plus room and board at a private university, it was a pretty good deal.

I never for one second considered such a pathway. Though I had only a vague notion of what I'd do post-graduation (journalism, maybe?), a naval career was as alien a choice as I could possibly conceive. Much as I admired my father for his wartime service thirty-some-odd years earlier, I would not follow his example.

Which brings me to the present day. I have paid occasional visits to the Fort Knox area, at least once hearing (and feeling) the low rumble of M1 Abrams tanks participating in live-fire exercises. Armor no longer defines this place, but it is still a place for soldiering, principally in its summertime role as the U.S. Army Cadet Command training ROTC candidates.

Some of those officers-to-be are Jewish, (and this past summer may have encountered visiting Rabbi Aaron Garber, an Army Major, leading Shabbat services on post). One day those Jewish officers will themselves be veterans, who, as my father did eight decades ago, exchanged a measure of their youth for the responsibility of service.

So on this Veterans Day, take a few moments to consider what it meant (and still means) to participate in defense of this country of ours. Whether Jewish or Gentile, whatever age, sex, race, color or belief system -- testifying to acts of faith and dedication both timely and timeless, in fullest gratitude.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

A treasure in our own backyard: discovering the Jasteka Cultural Center



Philanthropy

Lenae Price

Sometimes, the most remarkable places are right in our own backyard. We just have to discover them.

On Friday, September 18, our Jewish Federation and Trager Family JCC philanthropy and marketing teams traveled to Jeffersonville, Indiana, for a retreat at the Jasteka Cultural Center. I had heard wonderful things about Jasteka, but I was not prepared for just how impressive it would be.

From the moment we arrived, we were stunned. The architecture, thoughtfully designed spaces, extraordinary art collection, and warmth of the people who welcomed us made an immediate impression.

And behind it all are two familiar faces in our Jewish community: Jim and Irene Karp.

A Vision Rooted in Community

Jasteka is a contemporary art gallery, learning hub, and cultural gathering space featuring an impressive collection and educational programming for all ages. But what makes it special goes well beyond the building and the art itself.

I had the privilege of speaking with Irene about the vision she and Jim share for Jasteka, and one phrase has stayed with me: *"Building a community through art."*

For the Karps, art is an opportunity to bring people together, encourage curiosity, and create conversations that might not otherwise happen.

Irene shared that the collection is deeply personal to her and Jim. Each work was chosen with intention and holds meaning for them. Featuring artists from around the world and closer to home, the collection offers visitors a wide range of ideas and perspectives to explore.

Irene also spoke about art as a shared language that connects people across generations and experiences. From elementary school students to lifelong learners, everyone can find meaning in a work of art. Each artist has something to communicate, and each piece offers an opportunity for conversation.

One of the things I appreciate most about Jasteka is its accessibility. *Everything is free.* Not just admission, but the educational programming as well.

Visitors can explore the gallery on Fridays, arrange guided tours, participate in family programs, join an art-based book club, hear from visiting artists, or connect with local creatives. Jasteka even hosts an annual Play America concert with the Louisville Orchestra.

Karen Gillenwater, Jasteka's Director of Programming, described the collection:

"The breadth and quality of the collection on view at Jasteka is a true treasure for us to have in our community. It's an honor for me to get to share with others this range of works created by artists based across the globe and in our area who share their perspectives, reflect our identities, and provide glimpses into someone else's struggles and joys."

Karen hopes Jasteka becomes a place people return to regularly, where they feel they belong, experience art, learn, connect, and become happier and healthier.

After spending a morning there, I understand exactly what she means.

Seeing Through Someone Else's Eyes

Our retreat was not simply an opportunity to admire the artwork. It was an opportunity to experience it together.

We broke into small groups and examined different works using questions and prompts. Rather than being told what a piece meant, we shared what we noticed, how it made us feel, and what we thought the artist might be communicating.

What happened next was fascinating.

Standing in front of the same piece of art, our team members saw completely different things. One noticed a detail someone else had overlooked. Another offered an unexpected interpretation. There were moments of surprise, laughter, and times when someone's observation made the rest of us look again.

We did not always agree. We did not need to. Hearing different perspectives deepened our appreciation not only for the artwork but also for one another.

For a team whose work centers on connecting people to Jewish life and to one another, the experience offered an important reminder.

Every person brings their own experiences, values, and perspectives to our community. What resonates with one person may be entirely different from what matters to another. At the Jewish Federation and Trager Family JCC, we spend a great deal of time thinking about how to engage people, strengthen relationships, and help individuals and families connect to Jewish life. To do that well, we have to listen and recognize that not everyone experiences our community in the same way. After all, connection begins with understanding, and sometimes that means seeing something through someone else's eyes.

It also struck me how deeply Jewish the experience felt.

Throughout Jewish history, art and creative expression have helped us tell our stories, preserve our traditions, and celebrate our identity. But perhaps the strongest Jewish connection was not in the artwork itself. It was in how we engaged with it.

Jewish tradition places tremendous value on questioning, interpretation, and discussion. We study together, wrestle with ideas, and recognize that different perspectives can deepen our understanding.

That is precisely what we experienced at Jasteka. We asked questions, listened, and considered perspectives different from our own. It was a wonderful reminder of how much we can learn from one another.



***Jewish*Louisville Philanthropy and Marketing teams at Jasteka Cultural Center**

A Treasure Worth Discovering

What I find most inspiring about Jasteka is not simply the beauty of the space or the quality of the artwork. It is the thoughtfulness behind it all.

Jim and Irene have created a place that reflects what matters to them: curiosity, creativity, learning, and human connection. Their passion for art is evident, as is their belief that art is most meaningful when shared and experienced together.

After spending a morning at Jasteka, I can say that their vision has come to life.

Jasteka is a remarkable cultural destination for our entire region, and one I hope more members of our Jewish community will discover.

I encourage you to visit. Bring your children or grandchildren. Invite a friend. Spend time with the artwork, ask questions, and see where the conversation takes you. You do not need to know anything about contemporary art to have a meaningful experience. You just need to be willing to look, listen, and be curious.

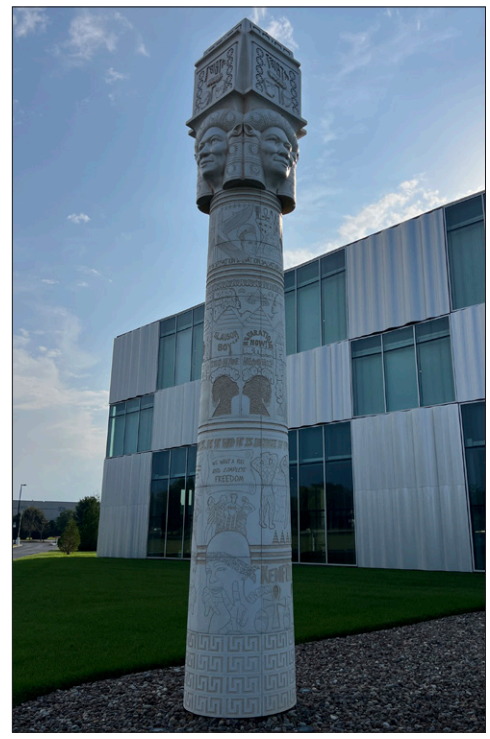
Our team returned inspired, energized, and grateful for the experience. I suspect you will, too.

And to Jim and Irene, thank you for sharing your love of art and creating a place where people can learn, connect, and experience something new. What you have created is truly special, and I hope many more people in our community will experience it.

Lenae Price is Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Jewish Federation of Louisville and the Trager Family JCC.

Plan Your Visit:

Jasteka Cultural Center is located at 101 Logistics Ave., Jeffersonville, Indiana, approximately 20 minutes from downtown Louisville. The gallery welcomes drop-in visitors on Fridays, with guided tours available by appointment. All programs are free. Visit jasteka.org to explore upcoming programs and plan your visit.



keepers of the krown (dr. rachel eubanks) by Lauren Halsey, 2024, stands at the entrance of Jasteka Cultural Center in Jeffersonville, IN.



Karen Gillenwater, Director of Programming, leads *Jewish*Louisville staff on a tour of Jasteka's collection.

NEWS

A room full of seekers: building a community of lifelong Jewish learners

By Jessie Gindea
Guest Columnist



Jessie Gindea

On our second Sunday together as a brand-new Jewish learning community, something extraordinary happened.

Fifteen parents gathered in the small chapel of the Camp J building (formerly Anshei Sfard), sunlight filtering through stained glass windows that have witnessed generations of Jewish life in Louisville. The room holds decades of memories, prayers, celebrations, and learning. And on this particular Sunday morning, we added something new to its story.

We gathered to learn Torah.

But this wasn't a traditional adult education class. There was no lecture, no expectation of prior knowledge, and no assumption that everyone would arrive with the same relationship to Judaism. Instead, we gathered in a room full of seekers.

Among the fifteen parents were individuals whose Jewish journeys could hardly have been more different. There was an Orthodox rabbi, parents who had discovered or returned to Judaism later in life, and others who simply wanted to learn alongside their children. Some had spent years immersed in Jewish texts; others were just beginning to explore what Jewish learning might mean for them.

What united them wasn't what they already knew. It was their willingness to show up. And that is exactly what we're hoping to build at Jewish Learning Experience (JLE).

Since September, our third through sixth graders have been exploring Torah through questions, conversation, creativity, and discovery. Rather than simply teaching students what a text means, we invite them to wrestle with it, notice details, ask questions, and discover how ancient Jewish wisdom speaks to their lives today. For our first parent learning experience, we invited adults into that same process.

We studied the opening verses of Bereshit, the story of creation, using chavruta, the ancient Jewish practice of learning in partnership. In chavruta, learning doesn't happen merely by listening to someone who knows more than you. It happens through conversation, disagreement, questions, and the ideas that emerge when two people encounter a text together. And we added one more element: a box full of loose parts.

Loose parts are simple, open-ended materials that can be arranged, rearranged, and used to make thinking visible. We often associate them with early childhood classrooms, where children use objects to explore ideas, construct meaning, and tell stories. But why should kids have all the fun?

As parents read, questioned, and discussed the text, they used these materials to represent their thinking. Suddenly, the ancient story of creation became something they could not only read and discuss, but also touch, build, and explore. And there was no single correct interpretation to discover, no finished product to achieve, and no pressure to reach the same conclusions. Each person brought their own experiences, questions, knowledge, and perspectives to the table, making our learning richer.

One of the most powerful aspects of the morning was watching people with vastly different backgrounds engage as genuine learning partners. Jewish tradition has always understood that Torah is expansive enough to hold multiple interpretations. Our sages debated, challenged, questioned, and built upon one another's ideas, creating a tradition in which conversation itself is sacred. In our little chapel, that tradition came alive.

The parent who had studied Torah for decades had something meaningful to offer. So did the parent encountering these verses with fresh eyes. So did the person whose questions emerged from raising children, navigating the world, or rediscovering Jewish life.

Nobody needed to leave their identity, uncertainty, or questions at the door. Those were precisely the things we hoped they would bring. There is something profoundly beautiful about creating a space where people arrive exactly as they are, knowing that who they are adds something valuable to the conversation.

And while all of this was happening, something equally beautiful was unfolding just down the hallway. Our kindergarteners and first graders had unrolled a paper Torah, stretching it down the corridor as they began exploring this extraordinary text that has connected Jewish people across generations.

In one room, adults were wrestling with the opening words of creation, using their hands and imaginations to make meaning from ancient wisdom. Just steps away, our youngest learners were encountering Torah with wonder and curiosity, beginning to build relationships with the stories, traditions, and questions that will accompany them throughout their lives.

For me, witnessing these moments simultaneously was nothing short of a dream.

At JLE, we believe Jewish education doesn't begin when a child enters a classroom and end when they leave. It is a lifelong journey belonging to children, parents, grandparents, educators, and our entire community.

We want children to know that Judaism isn't simply something they inherit. It's something they can engage with, question, celebrate, and make their own. And we want the adults in their lives to have that same opportunity.

Our hope is that JLE becomes a place where families don't simply drop off their children for Jewish education, but where everyone is invited into a culture of Jewish learning, connection, and growth.

As sunlight streamed through those historic windows, I was struck by the beauty of what we were creating. In a building filled with memories of generations before us, a new generation was finding its voice.

Parents were discovering that Torah still has something to say to them. Children were discovering what Torah might mean in their lives. Together, we were creating a community rooted in the belief that Jewish learning belongs to all of us.

We are only at the beginning of JLE's story. But if this Sunday morning was any indication, I cannot wait to see what we discover together.

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





NEWS

JFCS

Continued from page 1



David L. Finke

vices. Over the past four years, the number of older adult clients served by JFCS has increased by approximately 80 percent. That reflects both our community's trust and the growing complexity of the challenges older adults and families face.

Supporting the community that supported us

I think often about the Jewish Louisvillians who built the congregations, institutions and relationships we benefit from today. They volunteered, led and cared for neighbors, helping create the vibrant Jewish community we know today. Our older adults are an important part of that history and continue to enrich our community in meaningful ways.

Our tradition teaches *kavod*, the dignity and respect owed to every person, and *chesed*, the importance of acting with loving-kindness. These values are reflected in the ways we care for one another, whether helping an older neighbor get to a medical appointment, providing support to a caregiver, or creating opportunities for connection and friendship.

While JFCS has a particular responsibility to the Jewish community, our services reflect a belief that every person deserves dignity, regardless of background. Supporting older adults is one of the many ways we put that belief into practice across Louisville.

The strength of this work comes from the partnerships that make it possible. JFCS staff bring training, experience, and continuity. Volunteers share their time and compassion. Families, congregations and community organizations help us identify needs and connect individuals with resources. Donors help strengthen and sustain the services that support older adults throughout our community.

The measure of a community is not only how it celebrates its milestones or cares for its children. It is also how it shows up for people as they age. Many of the older adults we serve have spent decades building and supporting our community. Now, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to show up for them.

As we look ahead, these partnerships will continue to play an important role in helping JFCS meet the evolving needs of older adults in Louisville.

JFCS will continue to serve those in need, and one way the community can be part of that work is through transportation. Beginning December 1, JFCS will be using volunteers to assist our clients with their transportation needs. Transportation is something many of us take for granted, but for someone who no longer drives, it can make a significant difference in their daily life. Getting to a medical appointment may mean relying on family, paying for an unaffordable ride or missing the appointment altogether.

According to a 2011 study from the AARP Public Policy Institute, family and friends provide transportation for 1.4 billion visits each year for older adults age 70 and older who no longer drive themselves. Without reliable transportation, access to health care and community life can narrow quickly. For our volunteers, this is more than a chance to provide a ride to someone who needs it. It is an opportunity to both give and receive the benefits of a meaningful interaction, of creating a relationship, of building a stronger community.

Consider what Zmira Gold recently shared about what our transportation services mean to her. She relies on them to get to medical appointments and manage important parts of her daily life. But what stood out in her story was more than only practical help. She described the connections she has built with the drivers who take her where she needs to go. Those rides are also moments of conversation, familiarity, and trust. They remind us that meaningful service is often about more than the task being completed. It is about a person being seen, the relationship being developed, and the community being built.

With demand for older adult services continuing to grow, JFCS is adapting how we provide transportation to help meet those needs. The goal of this transition to volunteer drivers is to preserve an essential connection to appointments and community life while creating a more sustainable way to provide rides. We are actively seeking people willing to share their time as drivers.

JFCS will provide training, car insurance, even the car if the volunteer wants it. With a few hours of service, you can make a substantial difference to someone whose world has become harder to navigate and create an opportunity for both of you to develop a meaningful relationship.

As the current tax year comes to a close, we are in the season of the financial ask. While financial support remains an important part of our work, volunteering offers another meaningful way to give back while building relationships that strengthen our community.

If you are interested in more information about this or other volunteer opportunities at JFCS, please reach out to our Volunteers and Outreach Coordinator, Sophia Fayne at sfayne@jfcslouisville.org or call JFCS at 502-452-6341.

At its heart, this work is about helping older adults continue to live with dignity, maintain their independence, and stay connected to the people and places that matter to them. Through these connections, we are not only supporting older adults, but honoring the lives they have built, the relationships they cherish, and the important place they continue to hold in our community.

David L. Finke, Ph.D., is Chief Executive Officer of Jewish Family & Career Services



PICTURE THIS: LOUISVILLE BALLET DOCUMENTARY

On September 23, the Trager Family JCC hosted the premiere of Louisville Ballet's documentary, *Illumination: Art, Education, & Truth*. The film by KERTIS highlights the Louisville Ballet's production of A Time Remembered and how they worked with the UK-JHF Holocaust Education Initiative at the University of Kentucky to create the A Time Remembered Study Guide to help middle and high school educators integrate Holocaust curriculum in their classroom through an interdisciplinary approach. This in-depth, online guide uses performance footage from Louisville Ballet's performance of *Light / The Holocaust and Humanity Project* to examine the tragedy of the Holocaust.

The film was followed by a panel discussion discussion moderated by Melanie Pell, Chief Engagement Officer, American Jewish Committee and featuring panelists, David Kaplan - Member, Kentucky Antisemitism Task Force, Lauren Hill - Associate Director, UK-JHF Holocaust Education Initiative, Kimberly Thompson - Regional Network Lead, UK-JHF Holocaust Education Initiative, and Stacey Blakeman - Director of Community Engagement, Louisville Ballet.

The 30-minute documentary will air on KET in November.

(Photos by Amy Joseph Landon)













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TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date!

January 9, 2027
6 p.m.
at the Trager Family JCC
Shapira Family Auditorium

A Night of Trivia.
A Lifetime of Camp Memories.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of friendly competition, laughter, food, drinks, and Camp J spirit; all while supporting the experiences that make Camp J so special.

Things to Know:
- Any registered participant will receive early access to Camp J registration.
- Bundle with Kids Night Out tickets for Trivia Night childcare
- Interested in sponsoring? Email David at dsiskin@jewishlouisville.org

CAMP J 365

This Event Will Be Facilitated By Last Call Trivia

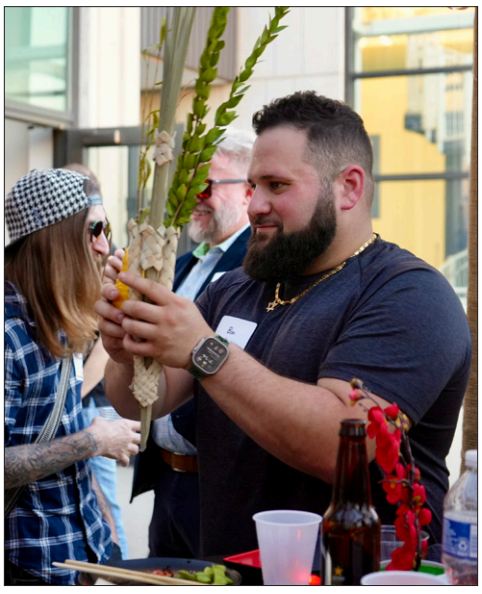
PICTURE THIS: SUSHI IN THE SUKKAH





In celebration of Sukkot, 40 members of the NextGen community gathered at the Trager Family JCC for Sushi in the Sukkah. Guests ate sushi while seeing friends new and old. Together, they shook the lulav and celebrated the arrival of fall harvest season.

(Photos by Raven Warren)





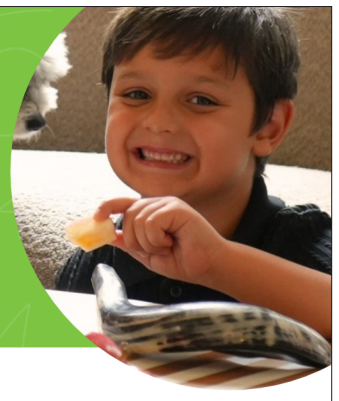












Parenting Series

For families raising Jewish children!

At the Trager Family JCC, 4:30 p.m.

Looking for community, connection, and inspiration in your Jewish parenting journey? Join us for a monthly series created for parents and caregivers raising Jewish children, with a focus on the preschool years. Each session will feature conversation, activities, and practical tools to help you celebrate Jewish life at home while building relationships with other families. Whether you're just beginning or already have traditions in place, you'll find a welcoming space to learn, share, and grow together. Meetings will be held monthly in the Federation Board Room on the dates listed below.



Upcoming Dates:

November 19
January 26
February 25
March 18
April 8

Trager Family JCC | Jewish Federation of Louisville

Facilitated by: Alison Roemer, Jessie Gindea, Rachel Goldman, and Roth Family ELC Staff

RSVP: Rachel Goldman

rgoldman@jewishlouisville.org

RSVP

PJ Preschool Events

Join PJ Library at JLAB and JLE for monthly preschool mornings. Intended for children ages 3-5 years of age and their grown up/s, younger siblings welcome.

Upcoming Dates:

9:30-11 a.m.

November 8	JLAB @ The Temple
December 6	JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
January 10	JLAB @ The Temple
February 7	JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
March 7	JLAB @ The Temple
April 18	JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)

Scan the QR code or visit jewishlouisville.org/pj-preschool to register!

PJ Library | jle Jewish Learning Experience | JLAB Jewish Learning and Belonging

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These donors have committed over $20 million to Louisville's Jewish agencies and synagogues through legacy gifts.* Join us in thanking them for their generosity and commitment to Jewish Louisville. You too can be a part of the LIFE & LEGACY movement by leaving a lasting endowed gift to Jewish Louisville through your will, trust, retirement assets or life insurance policy.

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*As of October 16, 2026

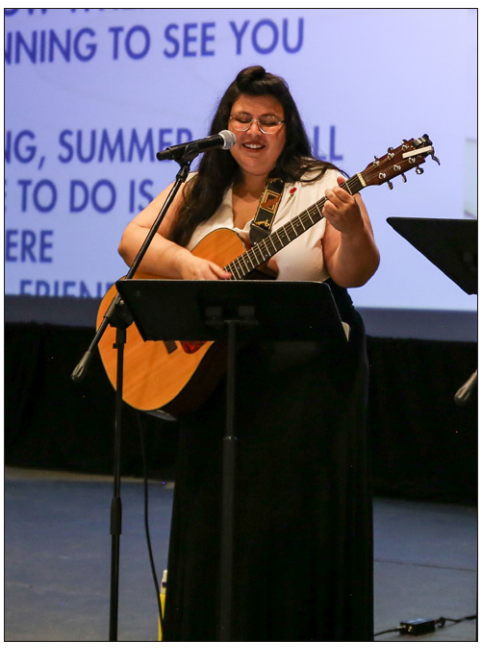
PICTURE THIS: SONGS FOR HOPE AND PEACE





The Jewish community gathered at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Family Auditorium to commemorate the horrific attacks of October 7, 2023. Israeli musician Linor Ein Gedy joined audience members for an evening of hope and community. The lineup of songs included guest performances with Cantors Hordes and Lipp, and also singalongs with the audience. The event was a vital reminder of the importance of community as we look toward a vibrant and hopeful future.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch and Amy Joseph Landon)













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NEWS

‘A Night to Honor Israel’ acknowledged a rich, steadfast interfaith partnership

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

There was praise aplenty amid Corydon, Indiana’s Harrison County Fairgrounds on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 20, when “A Night to Honor Israel” unfolded in front of several hundred guests gathered in support of a nation still grappling with the aftereffects of October 7.

“I’m here to bring comfort and encouragement to our Jewish brethren,” Pastor John Hagee, founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel, told his audience during a pre-recorded video address. This was the fourth such area event hosted by CUFI, a San Antonio, Texas-based network of evangelical Christians established in 2006 that calls itself “the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States, with over 10 million members.”

“This is the time to take a stand for America, for Israel, and the Jewish people,” Hagee declared, emphasizing how “Christians like you are willing to stand up for what is right, and speak out against the evils of antisemitism.”

Spearheaded by Rebecca Reel of Reel Ministries since 2023, the annual “Night to Honor Israel” presentations in Corydon typically feature several Louisville Jewish leaders and invited guests. The 2026 edition included an invocation given by Chabad of Kentucky Rabbi Avrohom Litvin, Adath Jeshurun Cantor David Lipp performing Israeli songwriter/composer Naomi Shemer’s riff on “Let it Be,” plus remarks by others voicing their commensurate commitments.

“It is particularly rewarding to stand shoulder to shoulder with people who recognize that Israel, the only Jewish country in the whole world and surrounded by enemies -- yet is the freest, strongest, most productive, and incredibly well-educated” nation in the region, said Louisville’s Leon Wahba, among the most dedicated advocates for these annual events.

“I cannot tell you how important the Jewish community feels about this relationship that we have with Christian Zionists,” he said. “These have been very difficult days for the Jewish community...social media is full of anti-Israel propaganda,” disseminated on many American college campuses. “We’re very thankful to CUFI for their strong efforts to start of Christians United for Israel chapters at so many universities, which are badly needed.”



Sara Klein Wagner, president and CEO of the Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville, echoed Wahba’s sentiments.

“Leon is really the champion within the Jewish Community of Louisville ensuring that we’re here loud and proud,” she said, thanking the various “organizers of tonight, and of course the churches and donors that made this possible.”

Indeed, “when we think about Israel, we remember that it’s not just a place on the map,” Wagner reminded her listeners. “This is in our hearts. It’s a homeland for many. It’s something we pray about, something that’s been part of our legacy and history for many, many years. We really appreciate that you care about us as much as we care about Israel. As Leon said, this hasn’t been the easiest of times, so having friends and knowing people are standing with us is more important than ever.”

And “while there are challenges,” Wagner acknowledged, “there is a sense of spirit and resilience that can’t be taken down. Your love and support will always be with us -- we know that. As we gather together, although we may have different faiths that we practice, we all pray for peace in the region -- for everyone, for all the innocents, for all the victims, and for the future. So thank you.”



NEWS

SHAPIRO

Continued from page 1

queries that cloak the attempt to pry into one's ethnicity. Maybe it began with a friendly "Where are you going?" Well, we were going, alright, and it was both a chilling and fascinating journey.

Thank goodness I had taken a one-hour Zoom class sponsored by the Union of Reform Judaism in May of 2024 called "Talk for a Change," where we were trained to navigate difficult conversations about antisemitism and Israel. The thrust of the training boiled down to one word: "listen." We were encouraged to not add our own perspective to ugly commentary, but to simply reflect. However, I happen to be a psychotherapist. I've been trained to listen, but also to gently steer a conversation in a direction where I think constructive change might occur. So, thank goodness for both influences.

Again, I'm not at all sure I remember how my seatmate began his diatribe. He started in on the "evil Jews of Europe," and how they "deserved what they got in the Holocaust." At that moment, due to the shock of what I was hearing, I catapulted into a sort of altered state, and landed somewhere between the psychoanalytic "tell me more" and the sanctioned receptivity of the "Talk for a Change" approach. I could feel the Zoom group nodding in solidarity, and the Psychoanalytic masters encouraging me to seek to understand before saying a word. So, I listened closely to his story about how the Jews of Europe sucked up the resources of whatever village they lived in, destroyed the culture, and once they had drained it dry, moved on to the next village or country and did it all over again. Finally, when he seemed finished, I replied, with concern and compassion, "How terrible for the townspeople. They must have felt so frightened, and enraged as well, at feeling that their culture and property had been ripped from them. Thank you for sharing that."

I took a pause and gently added "You know, I heard it a little differently. Would you like to know what I heard?" He nodded his consent, so I laid out how tyrannical leaders would spend their subjects into poverty, and when the people became restive and angry, would blame and rise up against the Jews, attack them, murder them, steal their goods and property, and that this was called a "pogrom," a sort of state-sanctioned genocide. When this occurred, the Jews would have no choice other than to flee and try to make a new life elsewhere, which they did. They miraculously succeeded…until the pattern repeated. Again and again, townspeople were whipped into a frenzy against the Jews and pillaged the Jews' newly achieved harvests. Terror. Flight. Poverty. Rebuilding Success. Repeat.

My seatmate pondered silently. And then he drew out another piece of undigested material. What about their hatred of the Arabs, and intent to wipe them out, he asked? He had heard of many incidents in Israel where the Arabs were butchered, and his friends were certain that the hope of every Israeli was to wipe out the Arabs entirely.

Again, I commiserated. "That would be terrifying," I agreed. "Imagine if you are a minority in a country surrounded by citizens who want nothing more than to see you dead?" When I was sure that I had fully reflected his feelings of dread and outrage, I again paused, and said that I had heard of the situation in Israel a little differently, and asked if he wanted me to share with him what I had heard. He said "Sure," so I spoke.

I first acknowledged that there were "bad actors" in the Middle East, of all ethnicities. I then told him what I had seen there on my travels in 2017…but I protected our fragile connection by attributing the observations to "friends" of mine who had travelled there or lived there. I shared with him peacemaking initiatives, such as the Jewish and Arab women who sample one another's cooking and write a cookbook together. I told him of the kibbutz on the Gaza border (which was brutally attacked on Oct. 7) where the *kibbutzniks* gathered at the checkpoint to assist Gazans in obtaining medical care in Israel. I mentioned the unmarked Israeli ambulances that picked up Syrian war victims and brought them back to an Israeli hospital in the Golan for treatment. The Syrian patients were terrified that they were being kidnapped-but then they discovered the Israeli humanitarian approach. I mentioned the many Arab judges, doctors, and politicians.

I also shared a response from my dear late Israeli friend Nira in response to a similar misconception: "Oh, no, we love our Arabs!" Of course, I added that nothing is perfect, and that I was sure there were some very regrettable incidents by Jews against Arabs that in fact violated Jewish values.

The flight was coming to an end and so was my antiperspirant. His wife (from a Catholic Mexican family) leaned forward and said, "He gets kicked out of family gatherings because he goes on like this, so thank you." And then, the man turned to me and said, "I've never had a conversation like this before. Because of you, I'm going to read that book." I had forgotten that Rabbi Kushner's volume was on my tray table.

When I learned, a year and a half later, that the Jewish community in Louisville was creating a Year of Civil Discourse -- which aimed to overcome toxic polarization and explore differences constructively, I signed right up. I wanted to see if my aircraft experience of listening and reflecting before respectfully sharing could apply on the macro-level. Could receptive listening in small groups and communities bring understanding and connection, and soften the reactionary attitudes that we all too often fall into in today's society?

I'm finding that the answer is that yes, this seems to be possible. And there's an add-on: One beautiful side-effect of the Dialogue Circles is the closeness and relief that participants feel as they freely speak their minds within a safe environment.

I set out to tell the story about a powerful experience of creating harmony in a fraught situation. And, to share the tale of someone blinded by fear and hate who became receptive through feeling heard and then being able to hear the other. I am looking forward to seeing how far the Dialogue Circles might be able to go toward creating connections in our community and beyond. As Dara Horn said in her YOCD presentation this past August, we need to "approach each other with curiosity instead of fear."

Who knows, you might be the next one to receive the blessing: "Because of you, I'm going to read that book."

Lisa Shapiro, LCSW, is a Louisville psychotherapist in private practice.



How do we remain a connected community when we don't all think alike?

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The Temple

Wednesday, November 11
5:30 – 7 p.m.
JFCS

Sunday, November 15
3 – 4:30 p.m.
Trager Family JCC

Post-Event Dialogue Circles
Monday, November 30
5:30 – 7 p.m.
The Temple

Wednesday, December 2
12 – 1:30 p.m.
JFCS

Thursday, December 3
5:30 – 7 p.m.
Trager Family JCC

PICTURE THIS: JEWISH PLAY READING SERIES

On Sunday, October 18, CenterStage presented its first *Jewish Play Reading Series* at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Family Auditorium. Scenes from four contrasting works were performed, followed by a lively "talkback" session featuring the actors alongside guest directors Jordan Price and Ariane Barrie-Stern, who answered questions from audience members and CenterStage producing director Erin Silliman.

The performance included scenes from *A Bintel Brief*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Making Some Noise*, and *The Last Seder*.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)



The Last Seder



A Bintel Brief



Brighton Beach Memoirs



Making Some Noise



Adam Thomas





NEWS

Out of Jewish voices, a universal experience emerged

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

"Thank you for trusting us with these stories," Erin Silliman, CenterStage's producing director, told audience members gathered Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Family Auditorium. The occasion was CenterStage's first-ever Jewish Play Reading Series presentation -- excerpts from four works tapping into the rich ethno-cultural-religious tradition, filtered through the peculiar lens of the American experience.

Each of these pieces offered a specific gloss on stateside Jewishness. First came selections from *A Bintel Brief*, the celebrated, immigrant-focused Yiddish advice column that ran in The Forward newspaper beginning in 1906. This was followed by a scene from Neil Simon's 1982 *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, the opening salvo in the playwright's "Eugene Trilogy" (giving way to *Biloxi Blues* in 1984 and *Broadway Bound* in 1986).

After intermission came scenes from Claudia Haas's post-9/11-themed *Making Some Noise* (2014) and lastly, boisterous Passover wordplay courtesy of Jennifer Maisel's *The Last Seder* (2012).

"Our mission here at the Trager Family JCC is to grow your sense of belonging within your community," Silliman said, "and we believe that theater is one of the best ways to enhance belonging, grow community, and just connect people together."

With set backdrops from last month's production of *Guys and Dolls* and the upcoming *Cabaret* behind them, the eight actors were tasked with creating four separate, distinct expressive worlds almost exclusively through the power of spoken language. Guest directors Jordan Price and Ariane Barrie-Stern provided appropriate guidance.

There was music courtesy of clarinetist Adam Thomas, along with contributions from lighting designer Sydney Collins, sound designer Teddy Stevens, and stage manager Logan McNeely.

"Our goal with this program was to create a space where we elevated Jewish voices and the Jewish experience," Silliman explained. "There's such a colorful array of stories that we're celebrating today: about love, about family, about tough experiences, joy and grief. So we hope that you leave today feeling curious, feeling seen, feeling impacted in small ways and big ways -- and maybe even excited to continue a conversation with your neighbors about what you see here."

When the play readings had concluded, actors and directors returned to the stage to share in a "talkback" with patrons who'd chosen to remain.

Silliman began by asking her directors, "What was it that spoke to you about these scenes, and did your understanding change as you spent time working on (them)?"

Price, who teaches drama at Lincoln Performing Arts School and who directed the scenes from *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *The Last Seder* answered first.

"When I saw that you were going to do some of Brighton Beach -- I've been working on that play with my kids at school for years, but I've never actually gotten to put it on as a show," he said. "I knew something about seders with Price families, but I hadn't ever read the play, so I was excited to dive in."

"Putting it on stage this time with these actors," Silliman followed up, "did new understanding unfold for you, or different kinds of thoughts about the work or its content?"

"Yes," Price said of Simon's quasi-autobiographical play, in which he's represented by a baseball-besotted 15-year-old named Eugene, living in Depression-era Brooklyn, who has a crush on his 16-year-old cousin, Nora.

"In class we usually use it more as monologues, pulling out different moments of Eugene or Nora from the show," Price said. The Jewish Play Reading's expanded physical landscape provided an opportunity to "put it all in context and see how the characters are interacting with one another, and – within the limitations of our space – how to make those different locations clear to an audience."

Actors in this scene included Price's wife Lenae, taking the role of Eugene's mother, Kate. "Relationships are everything in these scenes," Jordan Price said, "and getting to direct my wife for once was super fun."

Barrie-Stern, who helmed the excerpts from *A Bintel Brief* and *Making Some Noise*, shared a personal link to the latter piece, which tells of three sisters who gather each year to mourn the death of their mother on 9/11.

"I grew up in the neighborhood where the twin towers were – my school was five blocks away," she said. "I was five, almost six. So the hardest part was dealing with the existential crisis of it all.

Turning to A Bintel Brief, Barrie-Stern spoke of encountering a version of a book with "hundreds of letters printed in it. Erin told me to pick four – I picked 27. And what you saw was the middle ground between those."

Responding to an audience member who recounted hearing a mishmash of languages spoken in his household ("I can tell you from personal experience as a Jew learning Hebrew one day, when somebody starts talking Yiddish it's like Greek") – Barrie-Stern acknowledged the sometimes odd cultural "juxtapositions."

"In figuring out which of the *Bintel Brief* pieces to do," she said, "when we talk about the immigrant experience, we think about Ellis Island and the hardships of not having enough money and antisemitism, that was very much part of the story. But there were also people falling in and out of love, right? And if we didn't have people falling in and out of love, I wouldn't be here."

Barrie-Stern recalled talking with her grandmother about her time in displaced persons camps after the close of World War II.

"She won't tell us about the hard stuff – that's like pulling teeth ," she said. "But she will tell us about sharing her wedding gown with all the other girls in the DP camps, and I think that's just as much a part of the story."

Scanning the audience in front of him, Jordan Price acknowledged that "I don't know many people out here are Jewish versus not Jewish. That's not important.

"In telling these stories, my biggest goal was to bring a human experience," he said, "to let everybody know that these characters on stage are Jewish, and that the struggles and daily events they go through are the same daily events that everyone goes through – whether they're sitting at a Seder table or a Christmas table or a Thanksgiving table."

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NEWS

ROTH

Continued from page 1

Hawaii and California. "It's been fun to re-embrace that role of being the other Dr. Roth," he acknowledged during a recent Zoom interview. "I actually got to rotate in his office as a medical student here at UofL," which he attended after doing his undergraduate work at Northwestern.

Though there are plenty of Roths in Louisville. David Roth explained that -- officially, at least -- "we're not related to any of the other ones." Unofficially, "we consider them kissing cousins," he quipped.

Jewish life was an important component of Roth family life. "We were always members at The Temple," David Roth recalled. I still remember moving into the building on Lime Kiln when it was brand new" in 1980. "I was youth president at one point. So yes, I always had a strong affiliation while I was here."

After finishing med school, Roth moved to Honolulu to begin the University of Hawaii's grueling triple residency in pediatrics, adult psychiatry, and child-and-adolescent psychiatry -- becoming board certified in all three disciplines.

"It's nine years of training compressed into five," he explained, describing it as "an attempt to build the best version of a child psychiatrist, where we had a stronger biological grounding in pediatrics, and a better understanding of the mind-body connection, rather than separating the two."

Roth was among the earliest physicians to implement what became to be known as "telepsychiatry," employing video links to reach patients in far-flung corners of the Hawaiian Islands.

"We were the first clinic in the country to do it," Roth explained. "We developed a hybrid model where we would fly out to do the initial evaluations, then do the follow-ups via telemedicine. At the time they were still establishing the research base on simple ADHD, trying to prove that you could treat ADHD kids well with telemedicine. That was back in 2010, way before it became routine."

Eventually Hawaii gave way to California, where besides nurturing a psychiatric practice, Roth met Suzanne McCormac – the woman who before long would become his wife. And in nodding to his Jewish Louisville roots, they were married about a year ago at The Temple by Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher.

Suzanne Roth now runs the business side of her husband's recently established practice, Bluegrass Advanced Mental Health. "My background is in marketing for different tech companies," she said during the joint Zoom call, sitting next to her spouse and Sebastian, their gregarious Standard Poodle and designated "Chief Joy Officer."

"I'm focused on provider engagement, community development, bringing in leads, and so forth," she added.

Which brings us to the focus of that practice, a therapy to combat clinical depression with the formidable-sounding name Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation. Developed in Israel, TMS is described by the Mayo Clinic as "an FDA-cleared, non-invasive neurostimulation procedure that uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells in the brain, primarily used to treat major depressive disorder (MDD) when standard antidepressant medications have not been effective."

Louisville already has at least one established TMS physician collective: Integrative Psychiatry, which like Roth's practice also specializes in using the drug ketamine to treat certain kinds of depression.

The severest, acute episodes of clinical depression have long been treated with electroconvulsive therapy, which induces controlled seizures intended to quiet certain hyperactive brain activity. But ECT requires patients to be fully sedated and thus is typically administered in hospital settings.

"It's still reserved for only those with the sickest conditions," David Roth said, adding that TMS occupies a valuable middle ground between medications like Prozac, Zoloft and Lexapro, and ECT treatments.

Initially TMS "was approved for adults," he said, "and the bar has been progressively lowered as we have more evidence, so most people with severe depression who have failed two or more medications are able to get qualified for



David Roth

TMS through their insurance."

Roth said that the TMS protocol is now an option for patients as old as 86 and as young as 15. "There are great scientific studies showing that it's extremely effective, and the response is robust and durable."

In a TMS treatment, patients wear a helmet-like device that administers an electromagnetic pulse that penetrates the skull to reach selected areas of the brain. Sessions generally last for 20 minutes, with "no side effects other than sometimes a mild headache,"

Continued on page 19





NEWS

Continued from page 18

Roth said.

"The chance of any significant side effect is a seizure risk of about six in 10,000 -- many of the medications we commonly use have risks of 30 in 10,000 or higher," he said. "Yet you have an 88 percent chance of response and a 78 percent chance of (depression) remission."

Besides TMS, Roth's practice selectively employs a treatment protocol which uses the drug esketamine (under the brand name of Spravato) in the form of a nasal spray. Esketamine can be effective in treating depression that has not responded to customary medications. And unlike the more familiar ketamine, it's FDA approved for depression, so is covered by most health insurance plans.

Though these approaches address depression over a broad swath of patient ages, Roth is particularly intrigued with how it can benefit teenagers.

"Because of two things," he said. "One, if you get a kid back on track, normal childhood development takes care of the rest." He offered the example of a child "who's not in school, not in sports, not communicating with family. If we can treat their depression, treat their bad OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) and they stay in school, stay at home, stay in sports and arts, stay connected -- and then they move on in their education or personal development -- it's a huge impact.

"The other thing is, we know that the more episodes of depression you have, the worse things get. So if we can catch kids after their first major episode, we might prevent the second, third and fourth -- and all the consequences that come with multiple episodes."



Suzanne, Sebastian, and David Roth

And as if to demonstrate the links between Judaism and healing, Roth cited the Israeli-developed the TMS helmets, which incorporate what are called "H coils."

"The 'H' stands for 'Hesed,'" he said -- "the Hebrew word for caring and compassion."

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NEWS

The brotherhood that outlived its building

At 84, the Boys of Resnick AZA, Class of 1960, return to Louisville to celebrate nearly seven decades of friendship

By Frank Weisberg
Guest Columnist

LOUISVILLE, KY — October 1-4, 2026



L-R: Joe Goldberg, Wayne Bizer, Ed Mueller, Fred Morguelan, Stuart Yoffe, Frank Weisberg, Jay Brodsky, Arni Friedman Participating via Zoom were Roger Davis, Ken Krebs, and Louis Kort.

Meet the Dutch Masters of Dutchmans Lane.

Beneath those broad-brimmed hats and distinguished 17th-century costumes are eight 84-year-old men who, nearly seven decades ago, were Louisville teenagers belonging to a Jewish youth organization called Resnick AZA.

The portrait is a playful tribute to Dutchmans Lane, the street where their youthful friendships flourished at Louisville's former Jewish Community Center. The picture also tells a remarkable story about friendship, longevity, and the enduring bonds of adolescence.

The eight men returned to Louisville from across the country for their October 1–4 reunion, joined by three additional brothers participating via Zoom. They came to reminisce, renew old friendships, share the realities of their present lives, and, perhaps most importantly, laugh together as they have been doing since Dwight Eisenhower occupied the White House.

There were a few more wrinkles, considerably less hair, and perhaps a greater appreciation for comfortable chairs. But beneath the evidence of advancing age, the boys of Resnick AZA were still very much alive.

The Building Is Gone. The Boys Are Still Here.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, approximately 24 Louisville boys belonged to Resnick AZA, a chapter of Aleph Zadik Aleph, the Jewish youth organization that was an important part of their adolescence.

Their gathering place was the Jewish Community Center on Dutchman's Lane, and their beloved advisor was Charles "Pinky" Weisberg. For these boys, the JCC was more than a building. It was a place to socialize, participate

Continued on page 21

Shalom LOUISVILLE | Jewish Federation® OF LOUISVILLE

Are You New to Lou?

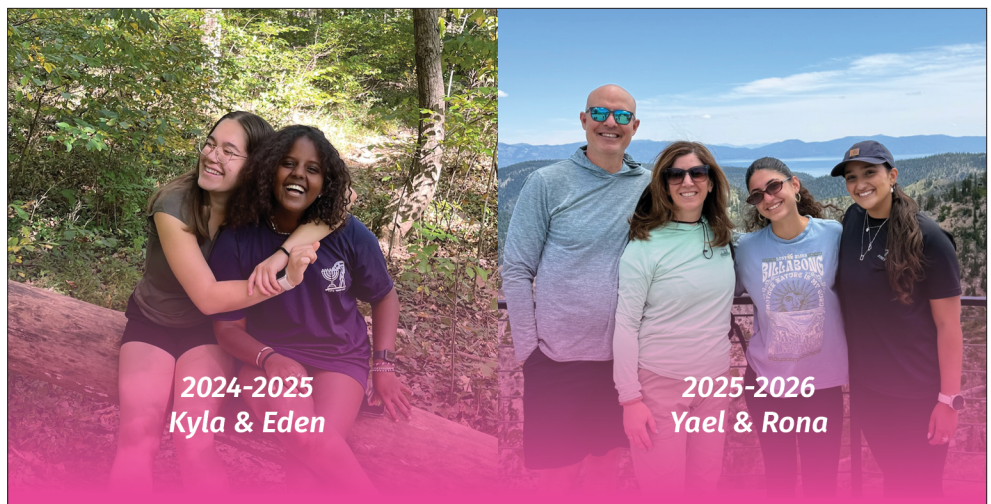
Whether you have recently arrived in Louisville, are planning to move here or if you have lived here a while but are now looking to make Jewish Louisville a part of your life, we are here to help!

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!





Perform the Mitzvah of Hospitality: *Be a Host Family*

Louisville has 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*

Jewish Federation® OF LOUISVILLE

NEWS

Continued from page 20

in activities, develop friendships, and begin discovering who they were and who they might become.

Decades passed. The boys graduated, pursued careers, married, raised families, and scattered across the country. Eventually, the old Jewish Community Center itself reached the end of its useful life. It was demolished and replaced by the new Trager Family JCC, which opened in 2022.

There is something wonderfully ironic about that. The building that once housed these energetic teenagers has disappeared, while the teenagers themselves, now in their mid-eighties, continue to return to celebrate their friendships.

They have outlived the building where their brotherhood began. But they have not outlived the brotherhood.

No Need to Impress Anyone

During the reunion, each man, including those participating by Zoom, had an opportunity to talk about his life. There were updates on families, accomplishments, health challenges, disappointments, and expectations for the years ahead.

The conversations were candid, affectionate, and frequently punctuated by laughter. Old stories resurfaced, memories were compared, and the accuracy of certain recollections may have been open to debate. For a few days, the years separating adolescence from old age seemed almost to disappear.

The Empty Chairs

Yet the reunion also acknowledged a reality that could not be ignored. Not all the brothers could return.

Empty chairs were placed among the gathering, each holding an 8X10 photograph of a deceased brother. The photographs were silent reminders of those who had once shared the same youthful adventures and contributed to the memories that continue to bind the surviving members together. "We keep their spirits alive."

One absence was especially painful. On September 2, just one month before the reunion, Allan Ament died unexpectedly in Seattle, Washington.

Allan had been a devoted member of the brotherhood and had written a moving article following an earlier reunion titled *Some Thoughts on Our Reunion*. He described the remarkable experience of reconnecting with friends from his youth, recalling how the men had become brothers again, without sibling rivalry, sharing their lives openly and freely.

His closing words now carry special meaning: "Yet, in the magic of this reunion weekend, I realized that the people with whom I have been the closest, to whom I have most bonded, were my brothers in Resnick AZA."

He concluded that, having been able to renew those bonds, he felt truly blessed. Allan could not have known how meaningful those words would become to his brothers after his unexpected death.

Louisville: Where It All Began

Among the reunion highlights was a visit from Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg, who addressed the group. For men whose memories of Louisville stretch back to the 1940s and 1950s, the occasion provided another connection to their hometown.

The members expressed their appreciation to the Trager Family Jewish Community Center for hosting the reunion and providing a welcoming setting for their gathering

From Rotary Telephones to Zoom

The men gather monthly by Zoom, a remarkable development for a group whose friendships began when telephones had rotary dials and long-distance calls were considered a luxury.

The technology has changed. The friendships have not.

See You in 2028

At 84, making plans for two years into the future carries a significance it might not have had at 44 or even 64. The men understand that time is precious.

The boys of Resnick AZA have demonstrated an extraordinary ability to preserve something most people gradually lose: close friendships with those who knew them in their youth.

They have shared nearly seven decades of life's triumphs and disappointments, watched their children grow up, welcomed grandchildren, endured losses, and experienced the inevitable challenges of aging. Through it all, they have remained brothers:

The boys of Resnick AZA.







Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Lillian O. Seligman Contemporary Thought Forum at A Night of Music - From Beethoven to Beatles

November 10 at 7:45 PM at The Temple - Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom!

Celebrate the Lillian O. Seligman Contemporary Thought Forum's 10th anniversary with Beethoven to Beatles, a special evening of music featuring a Louisville Orchestra string quartet. This unique performance will blend timeless classical masterpieces with beloved songs by The Beatles, showcasing the power of music to connect generations and bring people together.

The evening will also feature a short video celebrating the life and legacy of Lillian O. Seligman, whose passion for community and zeal for life continue to inspire the forum's programming. Join us for this special celebration as we honor Lillian and the lasting impact of her legacy. Registration is required. Scan the QR code or visit jfcslouisville.org/seligman-series to reserve your spot.



"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

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JFCS High Holiday Food Drive Collects **9,191 Pounds** of Food for the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry!

Congregations across Louisville, including Adath Jeshurun, The Temple, Temple Shalom, and Keneseth Israel, came together to support the JFCS Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry during this year's High Holiday Food Drive. More than 20 individuals and families participated in a special Family Mitzvah Day made possible by the Carole & Larry Goldberg Family Mitzvah Fund.

This generosity comes at a critical time. According to Dare to Care, more than 203,000 people across Kentuckiana, including one in five children, face food insecurity. Recent federal funding cuts have also reduced food supplies to local pantries, making community support more important than ever.

The need continues year-round! Support the pantry with a financial gift at jfcslouisville.org or by dropping off food donations at JFCS. Families can also create their own Family Mitzvah Day, bringing loved ones together to give back and make a difference in our community. Reach out to Sophia Fayne at sfayne@jfcslouisville.org for more information.

Powered in part by the Jewish Federation of Louisville

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Early Learning Center gets a new name honoring the Roth Family

Roth Family JELC
Early Learning Center at the Trager Family JCC

The Early Learning Center at the Trager Family JCC has a new name: the Roth Family Early Learning Center.

"This new name recognizes the Roth Family and their longstanding commitment to Jewish Louisville," says director Becca Lusignolo. "The Roth family has a long history of leadership and generosity in our Jewish community, with a particular commitment to education and creating opportunities for children and families. Their generosity helped make the beautiful space our children learn and grow in each day possible, and we are proud to have their name more closely connected with our Early Learning Center."

Meanwhile, the wing of the building will continue to be named the Roth Family Education Center, with the program itself known as the Roth Family Early Learning Center.

Dr. Ronald I. Paul receives the Jim Seidel Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Ron Paul was recognized with the Jim Seidel Distinguished Service Award at the 2026 Academy of Pediatrics Section of Emergency Medicine on October 3rd. This award, originally established in 1988, recognizes a physician who has made outstanding contributions to the field of Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM). As a lifetime achievement award, it is the highest honor presented by the AAP Section on Emergency Medicine and is given to an individual who has demonstrated contributions to the field of PEM locally, regionally, and nationally.

Dr. Paul was a Professor at University of Louisville School of Medicine and served for 25 years as Division Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Norton Children's Hospital (previously known as Kosair Children's Hospital) where he was instrumental in developing the pediatric emergency medicine fellowship training program. The program has trained over 50 PEM specialists since inception in 1991.

Dr. Paul had many leadership roles with the Academy of Pediatrics Section of Emergency Medicine, including Chair of the Fellowship Director's Committee at a time when programs were undergoing initial national accreditation. He also served 12 years on the Executive Committee, including two years as chair.

Dr. Paul transitioned to the University of Louisville School of Medicine Vice Dean of Faculty Affairs and Advancement in 2016. At the time of his retirement in 2024, he also received the University of Louisville's Distinguished Service award.

UofL offers new graduate course in Reading Midrash

People interested in an advanced course in Hebrew literature might want to take notice of this communication from the University of Louisville's Natalie Polzer:

The following new graduate course in Jewish Studies is open to students as registered students or auditors:

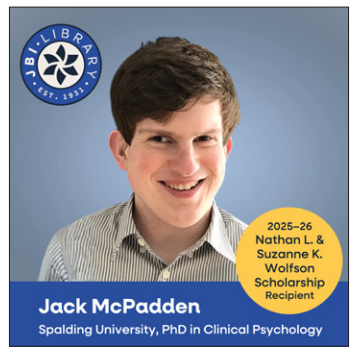
HUM 640 Spring 2027

Reading Midrash - A survey of the literary forms of ancient Jewish scriptural interpretation. The following exegetical genre will be read and analyzed in context in the Hebrew original text - the parable, the sermonic story, the rabbinical exegetical story, the petihah, and the enumeration lists of scriptural examples. Scholarly literature on midrash and its history and techniques will also be surveyed during the second half of the course.

Required: Hebrew reading skills and interest in learning about Midrash and the ways it interprets and transforms Scripture.

For questions contact: Natalie Polzer at Natalie.Polzer@louisville.edu. To register you will need clearance by the Humanities department, which Dr. Polzer can arrange.

Spalding University student awarded scholarship for blind and low-vision Jewish students



Spalding University student Jack H. McPadden has been awarded a Nathan L. and Susan K. Wolfson Merit Award scholarship from the Jewish nonprofit JBI Library.

McPadden is among 28 students -- 19 of whom are Israeli -- to have received a total of $280,000 in scholarship money covering the 2026-27 academic year. The JBI Library award honors undergraduate and graduate students who are blind or have low vision, and who demonstrate academic excellence and engagement with the Jewish community. Recipients hail from the U.S., Israel and the United Kingdom.

McPadden is pursuing a clinical doctorate (PsyD) in psychology at Spalding. He grew up in Winchester, Mass., and did his undergraduate work at Clark University in Worcester.

"As I pursue this degree, I will continue to embrace my passion for delivering culturally responsive mental health services in systemically marginalized communities as part of my broader commitment to Tikkun Olam," McPadden said in an online biographical statement.

Based in New York City, JBI Library says its mission "is to ensure that anyone who is blind, has low vision or other print disability can fully participate in and feel connected to all aspects of Jewish life, from culture, education and community to religious practice."

The scholarship award is in honor of the late Nathan L. Wilson, who was a longtime JBI trustee, and his wife, Suzanne. Since its inception in 2018, the award has given $776,288 in scholarships to "Jewish undergraduate and graduate students who are legally blind and attending an accredited university or college."

Applications for the 2027-2028 cycle of the Wolfson Scholarship will go live on Dec. 1, 2026. Check back then for updates on the next cycle's April 2027 deadline at jbilibrary.org/wolfson.

Mazel Tov to Teddy & Suzanne Gordon



Congratulations to our parents and grandparents for celebrating 60 years of marriage! L'chaim!

Abby, Jim, Miles, Linda. Joshua, Warren and Rachel

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!

UPCOMING DATES:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 12:45 P.M.

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

Free for Members



Trager Family JCC

J ENRICHMENT

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

Monday:
Amazing Athletes (ELC), 3:50-4:20 p.m.
Cooking Club (School Age), 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Dates: 10/5 – 12/14

Tuesday:
PKMN Trading Card Game Club (School-Age), 5-6 p.m.
Fiber Arts Club (School-Age), 4-5 p.m.
Dates: 9/22 – 12/15

Wednesday:
Dance (ELC), 3:50-4:20 p.m.
Dates: 9/16 – 12/16

Thursday:
Tabletop Games Club (School-Age), 5-6 p.m.
Arts & Crafts (ELC), 3:50-4:20p.m.
Dates: 9/24 – 12/17

Friday:
Science (ELC), 3:50-4:20 p.m.
Dates: 9/25 – 12/18

If you are in need of transportation to the enrichment class, please email Waylon at **wriley@jewishlouisville.org**.

For Class Descriptions, Pricing, and Registration Please Visit:
jcclouisville.org/enrichment

CAMP J 365

AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun

We're excited to announce that the AJ Book Club, newly minted as L'Chaim & Literature, is returning this fall. Join fellow readers for engaging reads spotlighting Jewish literature, historical fiction, contemporary voices, and cultural memoirs. Experience warm connections in a friendly, open space for lively conversation and shared perspectives. The group will be led by Robyn Newstadt and Deborah Slosberg, who are looking forward to welcoming both returning members and first-time participants. Bagels and coffee will be provided at each gathering. Please visit *adathjeshurun.com/reservations* if you'd like to learn more so we can keep you updated with meeting dates, book selections, and other announcements. Our first meeting will take place at AJ Sunday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m., and will meet every Sunday.

On Nov. 13-14, Adath Jeshurun is delighted to welcome Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum, founder of both the Zion Alliance and the Zion Congregation of Jerusalem, and co-founder of the Israeli Rabbinic Seminary at the Shalom Hartman Institute and the Midrasha of Oranim. Rabbi Tamar will be visiting Louisville for the Festival of Faiths and AJ has the privilege of hosting her for Shabbat. Along with Rabbi Tamar, we'll welcome Payytanit Hazzan and Musician Yahala Lachmish (also appearing at the Festival of Faiths). Friday, Nov. 13, join us for An Evening with Rabbi Tamar including Happy Hour, Kabbalat Shabbat services, and a catered kosher dinner. The cost for dinner is $18 per person (children 12 and under are free). Reservations are required for the dinner by Monday, Nov. 9. The community is welcome to join us Saturday, Nov. 14 for Shabbat Morning services at 10 a.m. and a Kiddush lunch to follow. Around 12:30 p.m., Rabbi Tamar will teach on the topic Jerusalem: A Teacher of Hope and Healing. While reservations are not required for Shabbat Morning services, we'd appreciate reservations for the Kiddush lunch, so we have plenty of delicious food to share. Visit *adathjeshurun.com/rabbitamar* for details and to RSVP.

Anshei Sfard

Congregation Anshei Sfard has Minyan every morning at 7 a.m. and every night at 7:45 p.m.
Shabbos Davening at 9 a.m. including Rabbi's Parsha outline and sermon, followed by Kiddush lunch.

Study Schedule:
Sunday morning Breakfast and Torah at 9:15 a.m. Choose from a variety of topics to study while enjoying a bagels and lox breakfast. Have a topic you'd like to probe? Just ask.
Daily Talmud at 7 p.m. The Talmud is the backbone of Jewish thought. Join us as we learn about Judaism straight from the source.

Women's study group meets every other Thursday at 3 p.m. in a private home. Enjoy a thought-provoking Torah discussion, delicious refreshments, and a great group of friends. For more information, email *rabbilederman@ansheisfard.com*.

Café Ivrit
Join our shinshiniot, Tamari and Yarden, for conversational Hebrew at Keneseth Israel and The Temple. Come for one or come for all. The shinshiniot will provide activities to help with your Hebrew speaking.

Mondays at 7 p.m. at The Temple: Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 15, April 19, and May 17.

Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at Keneseth Israel: Nov. 2 and 30, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, and May 3

To register, go online at *tinyurl.com/4xhzvj2x*.

Chabad of Kentucky

Explore the Meaning and Purpose of the Jewish Soul
Five weekly sessions at the Trager Family JCC
Chabad of Kentucky invites you to a series of classes aiming to share the insights which Kabbalah sheds on everyday life.

Nov. 4 - Our souls are an actual piece of G-d which are reflected in all that we do. Our bodies and actions interface with that spirit of life daily. How can we get in tune with this energy?

Nov. 11 - Are we "new" souls or are we reincarnated from souls in previous generations? Our tastes in music, food, colors, and even our worldview are all directly affected by this soul. What can our likes and dislikes tell us about our past and our future?

Nov. 18 - Our names tie into our souls. The things we notice around us tie into our souls. What we notice in the world around us ties into our souls. Occasionally, an additional spirit or soul can join us during our lives.

Nov. 24 - Our thoughts, speech and actions are "garments" of our souls. Even our moods are expressions of our souls. How can we use this knowledge to affect our feelings and moods?

Dec. 1 - Through our soul powers, we can create and tap into Divine energies to bring good fortune, blessing, and even miracles into our lives. What exactly can trigger these Divine responses?

Rabbi Avrohom Litvin will teach the classes at the Trager Family JCC. The cost for the entire series is $99. which includes a student textbook. Reservations can be made by calling or texting to 502-235-5770.

Wake up to Prayers and Coffee
Make Thursday your day to develop an attitude of gratitude. Join us at Chabad@Jcamp for prayers, fellowship, coffee and a short Torah lesson to lift your spirit and energize you. (Caffeine is optional). For more information, contact 502-235-5770.

Chavurat Shalom

This month we'll enjoy some wonderful music and get prepped for Thanksgiving with an inspirational speaker. Lunch will start at Noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium, unless noted below, and our program will start at 1:00 pm. All programs will also be available starting at 1 p.m. via ChavuratShalomZoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, Nov. 5 - The talented Misha Feigin will perform for us. Lunch will include grilled cheese sandwiches, vegetable soup with barley, couscous salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cupcakes.

Thursday, Nov. 12 - Our friend Bob Mueller will present An Attitude of Gratitude. Lunch will include baked chicken with an orange-apricot glaze, barley pilaf, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and bread pudding.

Thursday, Nov. 19 - Jessica Hyden will play beautiful music on the harp. Lunch will include roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, fresh fruit, and pumpkin pie. NOTE: This Thursday we'll be meeting in the Klein Center.

Thursday, Nov. 26 - No Chavurat Shalom—wishing everyone a very happy, delicious Thanksgiving.

If you're not "a regular," please RSVP by 5 pm 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.

Festival of Trees & Lights

Call for Volunteers for Jewish Celebration Day Sunday, Nov. 15 at Louisville Slugger Field
Volunteers are needed for Jewish Celebration Day at the 37th annual Festival of Trees & Lights. Volunteers will demonstrate how to play the dreidel game, hand out gift bags of dreidel and gelt, and provide info on Chanukah. Shifts will last 2-3 hours; parking is free.

Sign up to volunteer by going online at *tinyurl.com/vyha5d63*.

Because this event benefits the Children's Hospital, and is a 501(c)(3) event, no type of political apparel, jewelry, or decoration can be allowed. Also please note that per Norton Hospital and Festival of Trees & Lights regulations, no child can be under 10 years of age can volunteer; each child from 10-14 who is volunteering must be accompanied by one adult per child.

Jewish Family & Career Services

2027 JFCS MOSAIC Nominations are now open
Help us honor the leaders, changemakers, and humanitarians who are shaping our community. This year, JFCS is proud to expand eligibility beyond Greater Louisville to include Hardin County, recognizing the contributions of individuals who are creating positive change throughout our region. Nominate an individual or business today and celebrate the incredible impact of our diverse community. All honorees are nominated by you and selected by our dedicated MOSAIC committee. Submit your nomination by Nov. 1, 2026. Learn more at *jfcslouisville.org/mosaicawards*.

10th Anniversary Seligman Series -- A Night of Music: From Beethoven to Beatles, Nov. 10.
Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Lillian O. Seligman Contemporary Thought Forum. This year, a string quartet from the Louisville Orchestra will perform classical masterpieces alongside beloved Beatles' favorites. A Night of Music will be an evening of reflection & inspiration. Registration is required;





AROUND TOWN

please reserve your seat today.

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Year of Civil Discourse features special guest Yehuda Kurtzer
(see separate listing at the bottom of Around Town)

Join us Sunday, Nov. 1 from 2-3:30 p.m for the premiere of Daf Yomi-ish Hadassah Magazine Club -- all the discussion, a fraction of the reading. We'll read a selected article from Hadassah Magazine. Open to anyone who likes to read and talk. If you don't already get the magazine, the articles will be available online. The location will be disclosed with registration at *LouisvilleHadassahChapter@gmail.com* by Friday, Oct. 30.

Keneseth Israel

Café Ivrit
Monday, Nov. 2, at 6:15 p.m.
Join the Shinshiniot for conversational Hebrew & activities. RSVP at *tinyurl.com/ki-cafe-ivrit*.

Torah Yoga
Thursday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m.
Join Cantor Hordes for gentle yoga and Torah-inspired meditation. Suggested donation: $10 to the Cantor's Fund.

Shabbat Social
Friday, Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.
You are invited to schmooze with drinks and appetizers before Kabbalat Shabbat services. This event will take place on the first Friday of every month. RSVP by email: *Molly@Kenesethisrael.com*.

Kentucky Performing Arts

Matisyahu: Festival of Lights
Sunday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at Old Forester's Paristown Hall, 724 Brent St.
For nearly two decades, Matisyahu has kept his creative spirit aflame by evolving his sound, melding genres, and testing the limits of the musical traditions that have inspired him. His latest release, Hold The Fire, and its leadoff single Fireproof, takes inspiration from a fire dream inspired by Matisyahu's Old Testament religion, which has meant so much to his spiritual and creative life since his recording career began in 2004 and his breakout track King Without a Crown blasted into the Billboard charts in 2005.

For tickets and more information, go online at *tinyurl.com/539hhvfu*.

Louisville Vaad Hakashruth

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

National Council of Jewish Women – Louisville Section

Take Action to Protect Mifepristone
This past Sept. 28 marked 26 years since the FDA approved mifepristone — used in the majority of medication abortions — and NCJW marked this anniversary with a nationwide day of action to protect it.

As you likely know, the FDA is preparing to review mifepristone, meaning medication abortion is back in the crosshairs of attacks on abortion access. Join the fight by speaking up and speaking out about why it's important to protect access to mifepristone. Share information with your friends and help us take action to protect access to essential health care.

Host a Postcard Party
Feeling frustrated that safe, effective medication abortion is under attack? Let's work together to protect it! The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is poised to roll back approval of mifepristone, which would devastate access to medication abortion. We need to flood HHS with postcards to reaffirm that medication abortion is safe, effective, and used by millions.

Want to host your own party? Go to *jewsforabortionaccess.org/actions/host-a-postcard-party-for-medication-abortion* to get started

2027 Mah Jongg Cards
It's time to order your National Mah Jongg League 2027 Mah Jongg cards and support NCJW Louisville at the same time. Prices have gone up a bit for the first time in several years. They're $16 for standard print cards and $18 for large print cards. We'll be taking orders now through Feb. 1, 2027, so call the NCJW office at 502-458-5566 to order your cards today. An online order form will be available soon.

NCJW Advocates for Reproductive Justice and Religious Freedom
Several weeks ago, NCJW rallied outside the Indiana Supreme Court alongside Hoosier Jews for Choice, the ACLU of Indiana, and partners as the court heard arguments in a historic challenge to Indiana's near-total abortion ban. Earlier this year, the case became the first successful challenge to an abortion ban on religious freedom grounds, with a lower court blocking the ban for Hoosiers whose sincerely held religious beliefs conflict with it. The state appealed that victory, bringing the fight to the Indiana Supreme Court last week.

Outside the court, we rallied to make it clear: our Jewish values support abortion access, and religious freedom means every person must be free to make decisions about their pregnancy according to their own beliefs, not the state's. That message was echoed inside the court through an amicus brief NCJW organized with 39 organizations representing diverse faith traditions in support of the challenge. We'll keep you updated as this groundbreaking case continues.

She Built This
Jewish women have been instrumental in shaping American democracy — as organizers, educators, artists, elected officials, and everyday changemakers — for over 250 years. So, for America's 250th anniversary, we're telling a more complete story of who built this country. That's why we're proud to share She Built This, NCJW's living archive of Jewish women who helped found, fight for, and shape our nation and democracy. She Built This is how NCJW is celebrating 250 years of our nation, and 250 years of women leading loudly and proudly. Created with the support of A More Perfect Union: The Jewish Partnership for Democracy, this project pairs history with our Jewish values, like limmud (learning) and shivyon (equality), connecting these women's legacies to the work we do today

NCJW Louisville's office has moved
With the upcoming demolition of the Mid-City Mall, we've moved our offices and are now settled in at JFCS. Feel free to stop by and see us if you're in the neighborhood. You can still reach us via our usual email addresses, and by phone at 502-458-5566. If you need to send us anything by physical mail, please note our new mailing address:

NCJW Louisville
PO Box 6771
Louisville, KY 40206

PJ Preschool Mornings

Join PJ Library at JLAB and JLE for monthly preschool mornings, 9:30-11 a.m. These sessions are intended for children ages 3-5 years and their grown up/s (younger siblings welcome).

Upcoming Dates:
Nov. 8: JLAB @ The Temple
Dec. 6: JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
Jan. 10: JLAB @ The Temple
Feb. 7: JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
March 7: JLAB @ The Temple
April 18: JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)

To register, go online at *jewishlouisville.org/pj-preschool*.

Temple Shalom

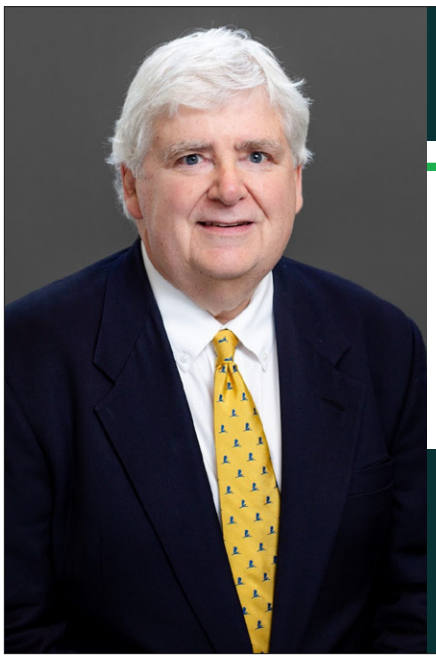
Annual Drumming Shabbat
Friday, Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Temple Shalom's annual drumming Shabbat features the music and dance of the ASEYE West African Drum Ensemble for a joyous celebration. Oneg to follow.

Schmooze and Services
Friday, Nov. 20 at 5:45 p.m. for Schmoozing; with Services beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Come schmooze for a lively social time before services, with snacks (!); services will be led by Shiela Steinman Wallace, who is embarking on her rabbinic studies. Temple Shalom's musician Elliot Eckles will lead music.

BLT (Bagels, Lox, and Torah)
Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10:30 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC
Join us for an examination of this week's Torah portion, lively discussion, and delicious bagels and lox at the Trager Family JCC as Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner leads Torah Study. Note: There will not be services at Temple Shalom that morning.

Shabbat Services
Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. at in-person and online
All are welcome to join us for services, led by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner and members of the congregation. Fri-

Continued on page 26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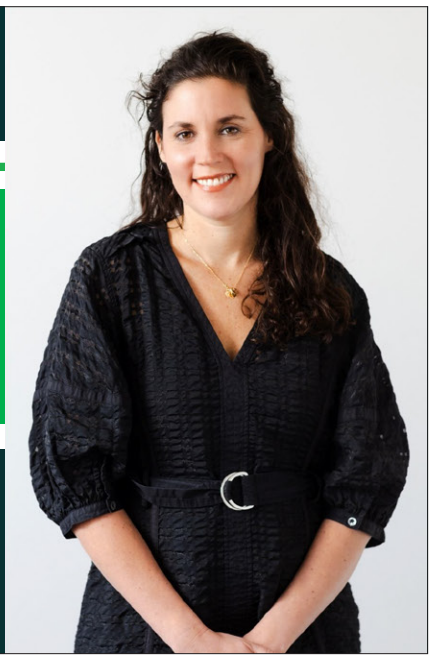


AROUND TOWN

Continued from page 25

day night services are also streamed on our YouTube channel TempleShalomKy. Saturday services are in-person only; due to Torah study Nov. 21 at the Trager Family JCC, there will not be services at the synagogue that morning.

The Temple

The Fall semester for adult education at The Temple is underway. Torah Study with Rabbi David is on Saturdays at 9 a.m.; Temple Scholars is on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. with Rabbi David and 10:45 a.m. with Rabbi Matt; and Monday night classes including Hebrew Alef and Hebrew Gimmel with Rabbi Matt, Text Study with Rabbi David, and our next semester of Intro to Judaism with Rabbi David will all start on Nov. 16. The Intro to Judaism class is a wonderful way for people who are considering becoming Jewish, interdating, and intermarried couples to learn together about Judaism. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to *thetemplelouky.org/adult-education* for more information.

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

Everyone is welcome to join Rabbi David, Rabbi Matt, and our ECEC teachers and staff for a special ECEC Shabbat service Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Come together with fellow ECEC families to celebrate Shabbat through joyful songs, prayers, and community.

Join The Temple Friday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. for our special Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Shabbat. Jewish tradition teaches that each human is created b'tzelem Elohim, in the Image of God, and that each of us honors that Image by living fully as who we are. TDOR Shabbat honors the memories of those who have been killed for shining their light and coming out as transgender. One way we honor them is by continuing the work for equality and safety for every person, especially those who are targeted for who they are. Rabbi Matt is honored to be joined by the Rev. S. Bishop Leonard, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and advocates for Trans Rights across the religious spectrum. This Shabbat service is open and affirming to all, and may it be a Shabbat of true shalom for all of us.

Confirmation doesn't have to end with young adulthood. This year, Rabbi Matt invites you into Hineini: A Sacred Renewal, a six-part learning series open to every adult, regardless of age or prior Jewish knowledge. Reform Judaism calls us to make intentional, informed choices about our Jewish lives, and that means our Jewish identities are always growing, never truly finished. Whether you became a bar/bat mitzvah decades ago or are just beginning to explore your Jewish identity for the first time, this series offers us a chance to study together, ask big questions, and deepen our sense of who we are as Jews. Lunch and all learning materials will be provided; just RSVP at *thetemplelouky.org/hineini* and come ready to explore your Jewish identity. The next class is on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 12:30 p.m.

Have you ever sat in a Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service and wondered what we were actually saying in our prayers, why the service is structured the way it is, and why we are invited to add some choreography and movement to our prayers? If so, Rabbi Matt invites you to his Food for Thought Shabbat series. The evenings will begin with dinner and discussion at 6 p.m., followed by a learner's-style Kabbalat Shabbat service at 7 p.m. Each time we gather, we will discuss a different part of the service, giving us deeper insight into the history of the prayers, when/why they may have been instituted, what they mean, and how they fit into the structure of the Friday night service. If you've ever wanted to become more intimately acquainted with the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service, now is your chance. All are welcome, and please RSVP at *thetemplelouky.org/FoodForThought* to make sure we have enough food.

Trager Family Jewish Community Center

CenterStage presents Cabaret
Nov. 5-15
Tickets on sale now
In a Berlin nightclub, as the 1920s draw to a close, a garish Master of Ceremonies welcomes the audience and assures them they will forget all their troubles at the Cabaret. With the Emcee's bawdy songs as wry commentary, Cabaret explores the dark, heady and tumultuous life of Berlin's natives and expatriates as Germany slowly yields to the emerging Third Reich. For tickets, go online at *jcclouisville.org/centerstage*.

Snowflake Shoppe
Nov. 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Trager Family JCC
The Snowflake Shoppe kicks off the holiday season with a variety of artisans and crafters. Vendor participation benefits the Roth Family Early Learning Center, supporting the purchasing of educational toys and equipment.
We still have a few spaces open for creative vendors to be part of our Snowflake Shoppe. Share your handmade goods with holiday shoppers while supporting a great cause. For more information and to sign up, go online at *jcclouisville.org/snowflakeshoppe*.

3v3 Basketball Tournament
December 13
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Save the date! Bring your team, bring your energy, and get ready to compete in the FIRST EVER Trager Family JCC 3v3 Basketball Tournament!
- Adult Games begin at 11:00 a.m.
- Youth Games begin at 1:00 p.m.
- Drinks & Snacks Provided
- Medals Awarded to Winners

More details to come at *jcclouisville.org/3v3*.
Questions? Contact Matt at *mdacosta@jewishlouisville.org*.

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/clubj*.

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-y 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*

Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed
Monday mornings, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
We're looking for caring volunteers to help deliver Meals on Wheels to community members each Monday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Your time can make a meaningful difference in someone's day by providing both a nutritious meal and a friendly smile. Register online at *tinyurl.com/mpjkdhda*.

Year of Civil Discourse

Louisville welcomes Yehuda Kurtzer, President of the Shalom Hartman Institute, who will participate in several public forums Nov. 17 and 18.

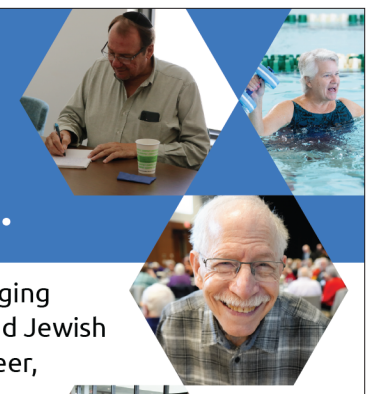
On Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 7-9 p.m. at Keneseth Israel, Dr. Kurtzer will be the featured guest at a community-wide forum titled Our Fragile Big Tent: Rethinking Community and Boundaries for a Divisive Age. In the words of an event description, it will provide an opportunity to explore "our evolving relationship with Israel, the different ways we understand Jewish identity and belonging, where communities draw boundaries, and how we create meaningful space for disagreement without allowing those differences to sever our relationships."

During his time here, Dr. Kurtzer will participate in two additional public programs: a community Torah study, The Foundations of Jewish Pluralism, Nov. 18 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at The Temple; plus Jewish Power and Jewish Vulnerability, a teen program, Nov. 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC.

Registration is required for these events at *tinyurl.com/4xe38d4w*.

Trager Family JCC | 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.

LIFECYCLE

Births



Hannah Rose Weil

Amy and Lee Benovitz happily announce the birth of a granddaughter, Hannah Rose Weil, on September 30, 2026. Her parents are Emily (Benovitz) and David Weil of Chicago, IL.

Hannah is the great-granddaughter of Myra Garon and granddaughter of Wendy and Gary Weil of Northbrook, IL. Hannah Rose is named in memory of several loved ones, including Hattye Grossman and Helen Benovitz.

B'nai Mitzvahs

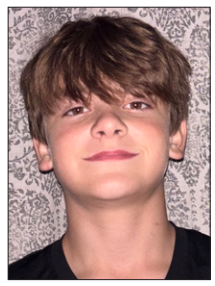


Megan Gabrielle Hoffman

Megan Gabrielle Hoffman will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 28 at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple. She is the proud mother of Evelyn and Walter Hoffman and is a first-year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. At The Temple, Megan serves as co-chair of the Personnel Committee and as a member of the Worship and Ritual and TLC (The Learning Council) committees. She also serves as an educator through JLAB, and having rarely met a request to help that she could decline, is thankful for the many opportunities she has had to contribute to The Temple community. Megan is deeply grateful to Rabbi David, Rabbi Matt, Ellen Shaikun, and The Temple staff and community for the support, encouragement, and guidance they have offered throughout her Jewish journey and for the many ways they have helped her find a sense of belonging in Jewish community.

Roark Arthur Reid Milenthal

Roark Arthur Reid Milenthal, son of Adeline Thaler and Esau Milenthal and brother of Atticus Milenthal, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Temple. Roark is the grandson of the late Elizabeth Thaler and Wayne Thaler along with the late Lominta Loving Loftis and Rob Milenthal. Roark is in seventh grade at Meyzeek Middle School where he is in the Engineering Academy. He is an active athlete. He runs cross country with Meyzeek and Northeast Striders. Roark plays basketball on the junior varsity squad at Meyzeek as well as playing on the Higher Level AAU 2032 basketball team. He runs the 300 meter hurdles on the Meyzeek track and field team in the spring. In his free time, Roark likes to hang out with his friends and family. He loves to travel with our extended family, but also enjoys time at home with our two dogs, Snowball and Nugget. As his parents, Adeline and Esau could not be prouder of the young man he is becoming!





Emily Kate Robinson

Emily Kate Robinson, daughter of Laura and James Robinson, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple. Emily is a seventh grader at West Middle School in Shelbyville, Kentucky. She loves to spend time with her dog Molly, older brother Malcholm, and little sisters Natalie and Olivia. In her spare time she enjoys camping trips, hiking, Camp GUCI during the summer, and playing the French horn. Emily is on the planning committee at her school and likes to bake and cook for her family and friends.



Ethan Benjamin Rossen

The Bar Mitzvah submission below was inadvertently omitted from last month's Community.

Ethan Benjamin Rossen was called to the Torah October 10, 2026, at Beth Sholom Synagogue in Memphis, Tenn. He read from the Torah, led Shabbat services and delivered a D'var Torah. Ethan is the son of Lindsey and David Rossen and the brother of Sophie Rossen. Ethan's grandparents are David and Bev Weinberg, of Louisville, KY, and Susan and Skip Rossen, of Germantown, TN.

Ethan is in the 7th grade at Houston Middle School. He plays the euphonium in the school band and swims competitively for the Germantown Gators and Houston Middle School. Ethan has played baseball in the Germantown Baseball League since he was seven and is excited to continue to play baseball competitively. Ethan spends his summers at Beber Camp in Wisconsin. He loves to travel, hang out with his friends and family and cuddle his dog, Macy.



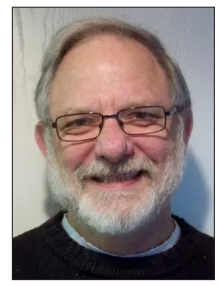
Gwen Ruth

Gwen Ruth will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 28 at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple. Gwen is the wife of Richard and the proud mother of Joseph Ruth. Gwen is a retired nurse. She is a teacher at The Temple's JLAB, where she encourages students to explore Hebrew. Gwen delights in the many activities at The Temple which she shares with an amazing group of friends she calls her Temple Family. When not at The Temple, Gwen can be found playing Mah Jongg, knitting with a group of close friends, or watching movies while eating popcorn and ice cream with her husband. A special thank you to Rabbi Matt, Rabbi David, and the entire Temple staff for making all of this possible. An extra special thank you to my B'not Mitzvah partner, Megan, who approached me with the idea of a B'not Mitzvah. Gwen and her family invite the community to her B'not Mitzvah service and Kiddush luncheon immediately following the service.

Obituaries

Allan Ament

Allan Ament passed away on September 13, 2026. He was born on December 8, 1942 in Louisville, and was a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Northwestern University Law School.

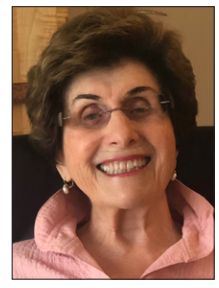


After several years in DC, he moved to Seattle to work with Legal Services and later became a public defender. Continuing his travels he moved to Palau, Micronesia to work with legal services, scuba dive, and serve as an advisor to the Senate Committee on law and justice as Palau transitioned to independence.

He became very involved in the South Whidbey (Washington State) community, serving as board chair for the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts and South Whidbey at Home, a non-profit serving older residents on the island. He and his late wife Deloris were founding members of the Bel Alef Meditational Synagogue.

Deloris suffered a debilitating stroke in 2005 and subsequently suffered from a slowly progressing form of dementia. His experiences as her caregiver formed the basis for his book Learning to Float.

He is predeceased by his wife, Seattle Times art critic Deloris Tarzan Ament, and his parents, Milton and Bernice Ament. He is survived by his brother Mark (Sue) of Louisville, nephew Aaron Ament (Allison Bormel), niece Rachel Ament (Jason Lessans), all of Silver Spring, Maryland), and stepdaughters Simone Griffin-Callahan of Bellingham, Washington and Celeste Logothets of Fremont, Ohio. Services were graveside in Langley, Washington on September 18, 2026.



Mildred 'Millie' A. Axelrod

Mildred 'Millie' A. Axelrod, 104 years of age, died peacefully at home on September 26, 2026, surrounded by loved ones after a long, wonderful, fulfilling, beautiful life.

Millie's story began when she immigrated from eastern Europe to Michigan at 11 months of age with her parents in 1923. She was the first

Continued on page 28



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Karen Davis | Louisville

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LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 27

of three children born to Samuel and Raina Young. She was the adored older sister to her two brothers and was a role model and inspiration to them. She was admired for her brilliance, optimism and resilience and often referred to as a "Pollyanna."

Millie earned her bachelor's degree in medical technology from Wayne State University in 1942 and worked as a laboratory technician. Though she enjoyed her work, she became interested in studying medicine and applied to medical school. She was accepted to Wayne University College of Medicine class of 1946 -- one of four women in her class. On her first day of medical school, she met Robert (Bob) Axelrod who was a classmate. Needing a partner in anatomy class, Bob's older brother said, "If you don't mind working with a woman, she's pretty smart." Thus began a love story and partnership. The couple finished medical school in three years during World War II. Then Bob was in the Army Specialized Training program in Bermuda and then Newfoundland. After Bob's service, they returned with their first born, David, to Detroit, where Millie and Bob finished their training in internal medicine. Three and a half years later their daughter, Judy, was born.

Millie and Bob practiced medicine for many years. In 1963, they joined Medico, an international group of physicians dedicated to providing medical care in underserved countries. They brought their children, then ages 13 and 10, to Afghanistan, where they led medical care at a local hospital and taught at Kabul University. A few years later, they served an Indigenous community in Brazil.

Robert died in 1968 at the age of 45. Millie continued to work at an HMO and eventually took over Bob's private practice. She retired at the age of 80.

Millie was fortunate to find love again when she met and married Abraham Grant, MD. They lived and worked together for 32 years.

Millie's experience in medical school inspired her brothers to apply, and both graduated from medical school with honors. She and Bob were also inspirations to their children. David became an allergist-immunologist, and Judy became a behavioral-developmental pediatrician. The family's love of medicine continued through two more generations, with nieces, nephews, and grandchildren carrying on traditions in allergy/immunology, dermatology, nephrology, nursing, psychiatry, physical therapy, as well as law and business.

Millie moved to Louisville, Kentucky in 2011 to live with Judy and her family.

Millie was preceded in death by her parents, her first love Robert Axelrod and her loving husband Abraham Grant, her brothers and sisters-in-law, by her niece and Abe's daughters Debbie and Donna and by her son-in-law Tom Amatruda, MD.

She is survived by her loving family: David Axelrod (Gisele), Judy Axelrod. Also by her grandchildren Robert Axelrod (Tami), Sara Axelrod (David Malagold), Mollie Lewis (Steve Tartaglia), and Gregory Lewis (Fumie Tabei). And by great-grandchildren Rafi and Max Malagold, Isabella Axelrod, Kanoko and Asher Lewis, Nico, Ezra, Luca and Jack Tartaglia.

We are forever grateful for her wonderful caregivers, Reva Campbell, Sally Spagnolo, Lana Downey, Sherri Whitlow, Bridgette Ingram and Darius Oliver, and Hosparus of Louisville.

Millie's life was celebrated October 1, 2026, at The Temple. Contributions in memory of Mildred Axelrod may be made to the National Council of Jewish Women, National Public Radio, or Kentucky Educational Television.



LuAnn Lorber Brody

LuAnn Lorber Brody of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away on October 13, 2026, at the age of 94. She was preceded in death by her husband of nearly 70 years, Larry, her daughter Susan, her son Michael, and her sister Myra Epstein.

She lived a long meaningful life, marked by resilience, generosity, intelligence, and an unwavering devotion to her family. Though she endured tremendous hardships and losses throughout her life, she met every challenge with remarkable strength and grace while continuing to care deeply for those around her. She will be remembered for her kindness, wisdom, humor, curiosity, and her remarkable ability to make everyone feel valued, welcomed and loved.

LuAnn is survived by her devoted daughter, Sharon Brody Seigel (Jon); cherished grandchildren Parker Brody (Gina), Sam Brody, Eric Dunn (Rae), Adam Dunn (Yvette), Erin Kincaid (Will) and Emily Seigel; great-grandchildren Camden and Walter Kincaid, Julio Gomez Torres and Annemarie Brody; her daughter-in-law Kim Brody, nieces and nephew, Amy Epstein, Jennifer Faucett (John) and Alan Epstein. She also leaves behind the amazing staff at Magnolia Springs.

LuAnn is now at peace, reunited with those she missed so deeply. Her legacy lives on through her family, the traditions she created, and the many lives she touched. Those fortunate enough to have known her are better because of it.

Funeral services were held on October 16, 2026 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by burial in The Temple Cemetery. Contributions in LuAnn's memory may be sent to: American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741 or Hosparus Health, Attention: Development, 6200 Dutchmans Lane Louisville 40205.



Leon Cecil Figa

Leon Cecil Figa, 98, died Friday, October 2, 2026. Born March 23, 1928, Leon graduated from Male High School in 1945 where he enjoyed many

Continued on page 29

Café Ivrit
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Join the Shinshiniot for conversational Hebrew at Keneseth Israel and The Temple.

Join for one or join for all!

The Shinshiniot will provide activities to help with your Hebrew speaking.

Mondays at Keneseth Israel
6:15 p.m.

- October 4
- November 2
- November 30
- January 4
- February 1
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3

Mondays at The Temple
7 p.m.

- October 19
- November 16
- December 14
- January 25
- February 8
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17

Practice Hebrew · Make Connections · Build Community

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!

Jewish Federation of Louisville | Trager Family JCC | The Temple Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom | Keneseth Israel Congregation

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8-week Session
Oct. 18 - Dec. 13
at the Trager Family JCC

0-18 months: Sundays, 10:15-10:45 a.m.

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

JCC Members: $100 | Non-members: $125

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

Questions? Contact Rachel Goldman, rgoldman@jewishlouisville.org.

Learn more at jewishlouisville.org/pjlibrary

Trager Family JCC | Jewish Federation of Louisville

LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 28

activities including ROTC, and from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy in 1950. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War where he served as a pharmacist at Fort Knox in Kentucky and Fort Clayton Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone.

He was dedicated to his profession working as a full-time pharmacist until the age of 85 and then volunteered in the pharmacy at the VA until the start of the pandemic. He maintained his active pharmacy license up to the time of his death. He was also a Realtor since the 1960s, spending extended time in the family real estate and scrap metal businesses. He received many professional honors including a Doctor of Pharmacy, and won first place in an Army Photography Competition of which he was quite proud.

He was a member of Alpha Zeta Omega Fraternity, a lifelong member of Keneseth Israel Congregation, and a member of The Temple. Leon was very hard working, hardly taking a break. He was very intelligent and scientifically minded, and was always finding solutions to difficult situations. Most of all, he was devoted to his family, especially to his wife, three sons, and grandchildren.

He is proceeded in death by his parents, Jack and Edith Schiffman Figa and brother Sidney Figa.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 70 years, Lorna (Sticker) Figa, his three children, Dr. Robert Figa (Gayle), Kenneth Figa, Dr. Jeffrey Figa (Dr. Julia), a sister Marilyn Anhouse and grandchildren, Mikayla, Lauren, Jacob, Jenna and Joanna Figa.

Funeral Services were held Oct. 6, 2026, at The Temple Cemetery. Donations in memory of Leon Figa may be made to the donor's favorite charity.



Dr. Bruce Steven Haskell

Dr. Bruce Steven Haskell, 78, of Louisville, passed away peacefully at home on October 19, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones. He was born in Newark, NJ, the second child of Herbert and Shirley Haskell.

Bruce held a DMD and Ph.D. in Physical Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh and did his orthodontic training at the University of Rochester Eastman Dental Center. He practiced orthodontics from 1975 – 2017 and ran a private practice from 1978 – 2014. Bruce taught at the University of Louisville, where he was a Distinguished Teaching professor, as well as at Vanderbilt University and the University of Kentucky. He authored more than 40 national and international publications.

His honors include but are not limited to the Distinguished Clinician Award from the Louisville Dental Society, the Alpha Omega International Scientific Essay Award, and the Dewell Award for best clinical author of the year from the American Association of Orthodontics. He was a member of the Angle Society and the Alpha Omega Fraternity, as well as a Dental Corps USAFR Captain. He was twice appointed to the Kentucky State Board of Dentistry, and was a member of the American Dental Association, the American Association of Orthodontics, the Southern Association of Orthodontics, and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

Bruce was a fellow and past president of the Kentucky chapter of the American College of Dentists, a member and past president of the Angle Orthodontic Society, and a fellow of the American College of Dentistry. He lectured nationally and internationally. He held patents for two orthodontic devices and served on editorial boards for dental and orthodontic publications. He was a fluent Spanish speaker who volunteered as a translator at the Louisville Dental Society Free Clinic; he also volunteered at the Churchill Hospital Cleft Palate Clinic in Oxford, England. He was an accomplished photographer, an avid amateur radio operator, and played the tuba, harmonica, accordion, and concertina.

Bruce was preceded in death by wife of 50 years, Joy; and sisters Andrea and Roberta. He is survived by daughters Ellen (John Gibbs), Jessica (Ray Watson), and Jennifer; siblings Mark (Honey), Carolyn, and Jeffrey (Joanna); grandchildren Ezra and Evan; and loving partner Marcia.

His funeral took place at Herman Meyer & Son on October 22. Memorial gifts are appreciated to Congregation Adath Jeshurun and to charities of the donors' choice.



Sheila Jo Platoff

Sheila Jo Platoff, 81 died in Louisville, KY on October 23, 2026. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Hortense Platoff.

She graduated from Seneca High School (Class of 1963), earned her bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and her master's degree at George Washington University. Although Sheila was born in Louisville, she made Washington, D.C. her home for 59 years, working in Program Administration and Oversight for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She was a member of the Cultural Exchange for Diplomates, enjoyed travel, cooking, and the arts. She was also a member of Temple Micah.

Sheila is survived by her sister Marcia Schuster; nieces and nephews, Linda and Hunt Schuster, Brent and Sharon Schuster; and grand-niece and nephew, Molly and Joey Schuster.

Funeral services were held October 25 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by interment in The Temple Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Temple Micah, Temple Micah, 2829 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007, or to the donor's charity of choice.

KEEP JUDGE
Lisa L
LANGFORD
for DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
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"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

- Experience you can Trust!
- Graduate of JCPS and Kentucky Universities
- Louisville Native
- 14 year Prosecutor with County Attorneys Office
- Champion for fairness, inclusion and diversity

My name is **LISA L.LANGFORD**, and I was born and raised in Louisville. My father Harvey, Air Force Veteran, retired from a 33 year career with the federal government here in Lousiville. My mother, Ann S. Langford, retired from Jefferson County Public Schools where she taught and served as a counselor to thousands of childern throughout the county. I am blessed to have parents who have always valued God, family and quality education and community service.

After completing my Bachelors degree in Accounting at Kentucky State University, I attended the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. I started my legal career with the City of Louisville Law Department and, subsequently, with the JEFFERSON COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, where I have faithfully served our community since 2003. I decided to run for District Court Judge in 2019 and was elected

Throughout my career as an Assistant County Attorney and District Court Judge, I have made fair and balanced judgements , while serving the community and its residents with honor. I am now well-equipped and prepared to assume the next position in my legal career serving the people of Jefferson County in yet a higher calling - that is of **District Court Judge.**

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GLOBE

Israel's election deadlock: 3 scenarios for what comes next

By Ruth Eglash
JTA

As election results from Israel's Oct. 27 parliamentary vote continue to trickle in, what seems clearest is that no side in this political race will have enough votes to form a majority government, meaning the question of who Israel's next prime minister will be remains uncertain.

According to the vote count as of the afternoon of Oct. 28 in Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party could have as many as 28 seats, yet his bloc of right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties will fall short of the 61 seats needed to form a majority government.

Yashar, the party led by Netanyahu's main rival, former Israeli army chief Gadi Eisenkot, looks set to be the second-largest party, with around 22 seats. The so-called "change" bloc that Eisenkot leads will likely have around 47 seats, also far short of what is needed to form a government on its own.

Meanwhile, Israel's Arab parties, which both blocs have said they wouldn't include in a coalition, are on pace to get at least 17 seats collectively and could become key to helping the opposition oust Netanyahu.

The formal process whereby each party holds consultations with Israel's President Isaac Herzog to recommend a candidate for prime minister will likely begin next week. Political analysts are already speculating on possible scenarios.

Their tentative takeaway: Reality may force political leaders to break their solemn promises to not work with certain other parties.

So what are the possible scenarios if the final results leave the political arena so starkly divided? Here are the three most likely outcomes.

1. The "change" bloc plus the Arab parties

All the parties in the change bloc bar the Democrats, led by Yair Golan, stated throughout their campaigns that they would not form a government with either of the Arab parties, even though Mansour Abbas, the leader of Ra'am, an Islamist faction, joined a centrist coalition from 2021-2022, breaking what had once been a taboo. Abbas is again offering to join forces with the change bloc.

"Clearly this is emerging as an option mathematically and politically," Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Wednesday. But he added, "It's obviously not only a violation of campaign promises, but I think the Israeli public opinion is deeply unprepared for such an option." Tolerance for working with an Islamist party has diminished since the deadly Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led raids.



Supporters watch the exit poll results following the closing of polling stations at the Likud party's election headquarters in Jerusalem, on Israel's general election night, October 27, 2026. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Another variation on this option is for the change bloc — Eisenkot's Yashar party, B'Yachad, led by former prime ministers Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid, and Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party, as well as the Democrats — to form a minority government.

While 61 seats are needed to form a majority government, there is nothing to prevent a government with fewer than 61 seats from being formed if it can gain support on

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key legislative decisions.

This could happen if Arab factions support the change bloc on key votes but otherwise don't play a role in the government. This would give the change bloc up to 65 seats when Arab parties' support from the sidelines is added in.

Even this step has been rejected by Lieberman, yet Professor Jonathan Rynhold, of the Department of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University, said it was possible that Eisenkot could put pressure on him to accept.

"Even though Lieberman has said no to such an option, he might say yes if he's the prime minister," Rynhold said.

On the other hand, the Arab parties, especially the Joint List, might demand concessions for such an agreement that Eisenkot himself finds hard to stomach.

2. Formation of a unity government

A quick look at the political map following Tuesday's vote shows that center-right parties ranging from Eisenkot's Yashar party to Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu, with Likud and B'Yachad in between, gained a substantial share of the seats. One possible scenario is that some of these parties, even though they are avowed political foes, could join forces.

"I think it is perhaps more likely that there will be serious negotiations around a unity government," Plesner said. "I would imagine that Netanyahu would prefer unity based on him forming a coalition with all of his bloc members, and then luring one of the 'change bloc' parties to his government." That would mean including ultra-Orthodox parties Shas and United Torah Judaism and far-right parties led by Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

However, Plesner said the change bloc parties would most likely push for a "real unity government," whereby Netanyahu "gives up on one of the far-right parties that has caused a lot of challenges for Israel's international image, or perhaps an ultra-Orthodox party that has refused to pass a military draft bill." He was referring to a law that would force more haredi men to serve in the military, from which they've traditionally been exempted. This, he said, would create a "Zionist, more centrist-leaning option."

"I think this is something that Israeli public opinion would be able to live with and perhaps even prefer, but I can't say anything about the political viability of it," Plesner said.

The change bloc ran on replacing Netanyahu, and no doubt many of its voters would feel betrayed by such an outcome.

3. Another round of elections

In his election night speech, Eisenkot declared that "after an election with such high voter turnout, it would be a mistake to hold another election." Some 77.7% of voters cast ballots, the highest since 1999, according to election officials.

However, with no bloc reaching a majority and serious ideological disagreements among the parties, another round of elections might be the most likely possibility. For Netanyahu in particular, allowing the process to play out while he retains his position as interim prime minister until another election is held could well be the most favorable outcome for the long-serving leader, according to Plesner.

A similar scenario played out beginning in 2019, when Netanyahu's bloc of supporters failed to achieve a majority. Israel then held a series of elections, culminating in the March 2021 vote, when Netanyahu's bloc was ousted by a center-left alliance led by Bennett and Lapid. The November 2022 election returned Netanyahu to power.

"I don't really know what the path forward is now," said Gideon Rahat, a political scientist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"If we were talking 10 years ago, I would say that something else might happen – a unity government or a different solution perhaps," he said. But given the entrenched political camps at this point, another round of elections might be where the country is headed.

On the other hand, given the unpredictable nature of Israel's political scene, Plesner noted that it could be a "time for politicians to get creative."

"I wouldn't be surprised if all sorts of ideas that we haven't thought of before come up in the upcoming few weeks," he said, adding that he believed that, with so much uncertainty, it could "take weeks and perhaps months" before the next prime minister is determined.

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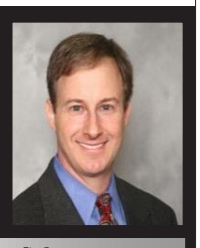

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