Published by the Jewish Community of Louisville, Inc.

www.jewishlouisville.org

JEWISH LOUISVILLE
COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

Letter to the Jewish Community regarding Pride

SEE PAGE 3

FRIDAY Vol. 52, No. 6 | June 26, 2026 | 11 Tamuz 5786

As the Year of Civil Discourse enters its next phase, Dara Horn will kickoff community discussion

Over the past several months, more than 100 members of Louisville's Jewish community have participated in something both deeply personal and profoundly communal: practicing how to better disagree with one another.

What began as a series of training sessions and facilitated conversations during the Year of Civil Discourse (YOCD) is now entering its next chapter. This summer, YOCD officially launches Phase 3, moving from small-group learning and facilitator development into broader community engagement and public programming.

At a time when communities across the country are grappling with polarization, fractured public discourse, and rising antisemitism, Louisville's Jewish community is choosing a different path, one rooted in curiosity, relationship-building, and the Jewish understanding that disagreement itself can be sacred.

The goal of the Year of Civil Discourse has never been agreement. In fact, the initiative was intentionally built around the belief that healthy disagreement is both necessary and deeply Jewish. Jewish tradition is filled with debate, questioning, and multiple perspectives existing side by side. The challenge before us is not how to eliminate differences, but how to remain connected to one another through them.

Since launching in late 2025, the initiative has focused on helping participants build practical skills for navigating difficult conversations, especially around issues impacting Jewish life today. Using the nationally recognized Resetting the Table framework, participants have practiced listening across differences, asking better questions, and engaging in conversations that prioritize understanding over winning.

One of the most meaningful developments of the initiative has been the creation of a 26-person facilitator cohort. Over the last several months, these facilitators have participated in intensive training sessions, practice groups, and ongoing small-group conversations designed to deepen their skills and prepare them to help lead future community dialogue opportunities.



Dara Horn

See **DARA HORN** on page 9

Confronting the Holocaust, one classroom at a time

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

On a recent June morning, a cohort of teacher-leaders and facilitators from across Kentucky gathered at the Trager Family JCC for the 13th and final workshop organized by the UK-JHF Holocaust Education Initiative.

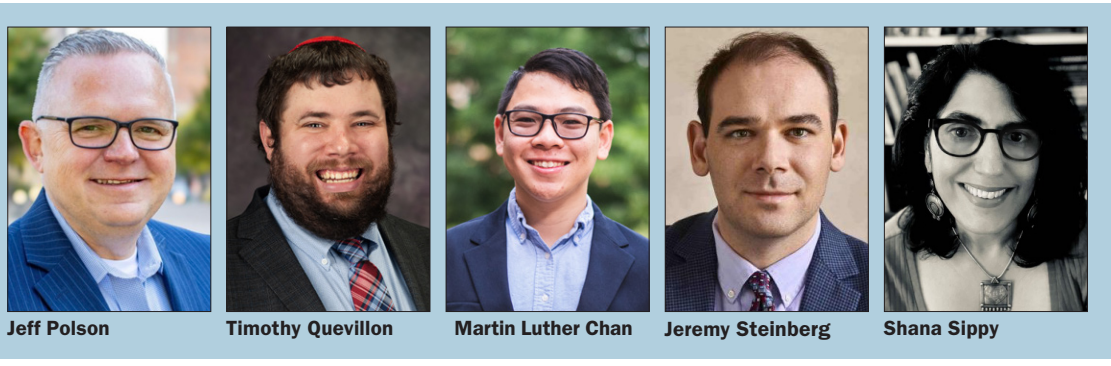
Like previous editions, the all-day workshop was designed around a central theme. Here it was titled "The Stories We Tell: Understanding the Holocaust through Art, Literature, Film, and Primary Sources."

There were sessions adopting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum teaching guidelines, exploring poems and drawings created by children in the Terezin concentration camp, discussing various contexts of antisemitism, and more. Alice Goldstein, a Holocaust survivor who lives in Lexington and often

See **WORKSHOP** on page 8

At three Kentucky colleges, JHF is an engine for nurturing Jewish Studies

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor



Jeff Polson | Timothy Quevillon | Martin Luther Chan | Jeremy Steinberg | Shana Sippy

Almost three and a half years ago – January 23, 2023 to be exact – Community published a story looking at how the Jewish Heritage Fund was supporting college-level Jewish Studies programs as they evolved across Kentucky.

A prime example was an interdepartmental minor at the University of Louisville, not surprising in a city boasting the state's largest number of Jewish residents. Less expected, though, was the activity present at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

So for mid-2026, we decided to take an updated look at Jewish Studies initiatives at these two schools, augmented by a survey of Centre College in Danville. Alongside UofL -- Western, UK and Centre demonstrate the vitality of Jewish Studies programming and the parallel, ongoing commitment by the Jewish Heritage Fund.

"We've certainly gone deeper in certain areas over the years," Jeff Polson, JHF's president and CEO, acknowledged during a recent interview. From a 2013 grant that established the JHF Endowed Chair of Judaic Studies at UofL (currently held by Ranen Omer-Sherman), JHF has regarded such initiatives as consistent with its collaborative imperative.

That single JHF grant toward establishing the endowed chair was "a continuation of the work the Federation had done back when Bucks-for-Brains started," Polson said, referring to UofL's program that partners with donors to bring researchers to the school. Following the program's inception in 1997, "we came in and were able to add about $1.1 million to that endowment. So working with colleges in this way has been a hallmark for us since the beginning."

Grantmaking continuity is essential to

See **JEWISH STUDIES** on page 4

You can hit the golf course and play mahjong at the Republic Bank Players Challenge

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

There are plenty of opportunities in Louisville to swing a golf club, in venues ranging from the poshest, most precisely groomed courses to the least luxurious fairways in a neighborhood park. But few offer the particular mix of competitiveness, camaraderie and unalloyed fun you find at the 22nd Republic Bank Players Challenge, which benefits Jewish Family & Career Services and the Trager Family JCC.

This year's Players Challenge arrives on Monday, Aug. 31 at the Standard Club.

See **GOLF & MAJ** on page 18

TOGETHER WE GROW
Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE
The Jewish Federation Annual Campaign Supports Jewish Life in Louisville.
Make an Impact Today by Visiting jewishlouisville.org/federation

THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

My belief may not be yours – and that's fine



D'var Torah

Rabbi
David Ariel-Joel

What is the biggest challenge for our community in Louisville, Kentucky? How can we meet this challenge?

There is a wonderful debate in the Babylonian Talmud asking: What is the most important principle of Judaism? What principles should guide every Jewish person in their life? What kind of Jewish community do we want to live in?

Some rabbis place justice, charity, kindness, connection with God, and personal integrity, at the center. In the end, they succeed in agreeing on one principle—a golden principle that should guide us in every way, as individuals and as a community. "A righteous person shall live by their beliefs/ principles/ faith" (Habakkuk 2:4).

Each person should live according to their beliefs, principles, and faith. And we should not judge others based on theirs.

When I was the director of the Reform movement in Israel, we issued a sticker which is still stuck to my office door today, "A person shall live by their beliefs/ principles/ faith." The words are written in rainbow colors.

And how does this relate to our community in Louisville, Kentucky?

The Jewish community in Louisville—and indeed every Jewish community in the United States—faces a significant challenge: How do we remain united within a big tent that is open to different opinions, beliefs, and principles?

It is clear to all of us, I hope, that we should not divide the community by political affiliation. Jews who hold conservative political opinions, and Jews who hold liberal or progressive political opinions, can and should sit and pray together, be part of the same synagogue, and certainly belong to the same broader Jewish community.

Our challenge as a community is to extend this principle to our relationship with the State of Israel as well. The fact that I am inextricably linked to Israel, and that I love and support the people of Israel, should not prevent me from praying alongside someone who feels differently. Whose beliefs and principles are different from mine. Our great challenge is to preserve our tent—our community—and resist the temptation to exclude those who do not share our opinions.

We must include everyone, regardless of political stance or their stance on Israel.

In his essay on tolerance, Voltaire, a 17th-century French philosopher, explains the value of tolerance by recognizing and coming to terms with the imperfection of humanity. Tolerance demands restraint, reflects humility and uncertainty, and seeks agreement, compromise, and concession. A tolerant person does not necessarily sympathize with the positions with which they reconcile; rather, they place the value of tolerance above their own convictions and personal beliefs. The phrase "A person shall live by their beliefs/ principles/ faith" is a refined expression of this concept. Tolerance means accepting the right of every member of our community to live by their beliefs, rather than attempting to force them to accept ours.

As Jews, we believe that there is more than one way to be Jewish. There are many teachings within our tradition and within our Torah, and it is our responsibility to find the Torah that speaks to us—not to impose our interpretation on others.

May it be a great year for our Jewish community. And may we continue to go from strength to strength.

Amen

Talmud Bavli, Makot 23b-24a

Rabbi Simlai taught: 613 mitzvot stated to Moses …. "

…. Isaiah came and established upon six, as it is written: "He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly; he who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands from holding of bribes, who stops his ears from hearing blood, and shuts his eyes from looking upon evil" (Isaiah 33:15). …

Micah came and established upon three, as it is written: "It has been told to you, …, what is good, and what the Lord does require of you; only to do justly, and to love kindness and caring, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Isaiah then established upon two, as it is stated: "So says the Lord: Observe justice and perform righteousness" (Isaiah 56:1). … Habakkuk came and established upon one, as it is stated: "A righteous person shall live by their beliefs/ principles/ faith" (Habakkuk 2:4).

David Ariel-Joel is Senior Rabbi at The Temple

Snapshots



Louisville was well represented at this year's annual Jewish Council for Public Affairs Summit in New York, as JCL Board/JCRC member Corey Shapiro (far right), JCRC member Chan Kemper (second from right), and JCRC Director Trent Spoolstra (second from left) attended. JCPA CEO Amy Spitalnick is pictured far left.

Candles

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

- July 3 @ 8:52 p.m.
- July 10 @ 8:50 p.m.
- July 17 @ 8:46 p.m.
- July 24 @ 8:41 p.m.
- July 31 @ 8:35 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, July 20** (though sooner is better).

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

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

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**

NEWS

Letter to the Jewish Community regarding Pride

For more than 20 years, JCL has proudly supported and participated in the annual Kentuckiana Pride Parade. We have marched openly as Jews in celebration of and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ rights—both within the Jewish community and across the broader Louisville community. Our participation reflects deeply held Jewish values that call upon us to pursue justice, dignity, and equality for all people.

However, in recent weeks, events surrounding this year's Pride Festival have caused deep concern and pain within our community.

As many of you know, the Kentuckiana Pride Foundation (KPF) had initially included Israeli-born DJ Eliad Cohen to perform in this year's lineup. Unfortunately, Cohen's nationality as an Israeli was met with a wave of online backlash, escalating protests, threats and mounting pressure, which ultimately forced him to withdraw. This situation reflects a troubling and increasingly familiar pattern: artists, academics, and public figures with ties to Israel—or, at times, simply Jewish identity—are singled out, excluded, or pressured out of participation in public spaces. Let us be clear: this was not a debate about specific Israeli policies or political leadership. Rather, it became a broader rejection of an individual based on identity and place of birth. For many Jewish Louisvillians—especially those who identify as LGBTQIA+—this moment has been particularly difficult. It has conveyed the message that they must choose between core parts of their identity: their connection to Israel and their commitment to LGBTQIA+ belonging. That is a choice no one should ever be asked to make. When Israelis, or Jews with connections to Israel or Zionism, are categorically excluded from participation in unrelated cultural or civic events, it deeply undermines the principles of inclusion and pluralism that spaces like Pride are meant to uphold.

Throughout this process, we maintained ongoing and constructive dialogue with the leadership of the Kentuckiana Pride Foundation, including Board President Tim Weyrauch. We were troubled to learn that Pride organizers and participants themselves faced harassment, intimidation, and threats—behavior that stands in stark contrast to the values of respect and inclusion we all seek to uphold.

We also became aware of external demands placed on Pride leadership that sought not only to influence programming decisions but to redefine the boundaries of who is welcome in these spaces. We strongly encouraged Pride leadership not to capitulate to pressures that would compromise their commitment to inclusivity.



Aaron Angel (Treasurer of KPF Board), Richard Thomas (Secretary of KPF Board), Tim Weyrauch (President of KPF Board), Jessica Brooks (Auditor of KPF Board), Carolyn McLean (KPF Public Relations), and Sara Klein Wagner (President/CEO of Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville). (Photo by Robyn Kaufman)

After careful consideration, we made the deliberate decision to march in this year's Pride Parade. Alongside partners from The Temple, Jewish Family & Career Services, and Adath Jeshurun Preschool, we walked proudly and visibly as Jews committed to LGBTQIA+ equality. Before coming to this choice, we were assured by Pride leadership that our participation was welcomed and that their commitment to safety and inclusion remained steadfast. We also walked with members of the Kentuckiana Pride Foundation. In talking with them, we learned that several have worked this event for years, but this was the first time they walked themselves.

We chose to show up—not in spite of the moment, but because of it. Pride has always been about inclusion, visibility, and solidarity and we refused to allow voices of exclusion to define the day or diminish our commitment to these shared values. At the same time, in addition to those voices loudly calling for Cohen's removal, we cannot ignore the silence that has followed Cohen's withdrawal. Silence in moments like this can feel like acquiescence and raises difficult questions about how "inclusion" is being defined—and who may be left outside of it. Several of the Pride board members shared that they were also frustrated that others did not speak up when the outcry against Cohen and KPF began, but they were thrilled to walk arm in arm with the Jewish community and participate in their first Shabbat lead by Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher on a downtown street as we waited to walk.

This has been a painful episode, and one that reflects broader challenges being felt across many communities today. Yet, we remain committed to moving forward constructively. We have committed to meeting with Pride leadership to work together and to strengthen relationships between the Jewish and LGBTQIA+ communities. These relationships matter deeply, and we know this group of leaders share a mutual respect, understanding, and a genuine commitment to inclusion for all.



Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher, Assistant Rabbi at The Temple. (Photo by Kathryn Harrington)

As we reflect on this moment, we reaffirm who we are: proudly Jewish, proudly connected to the people of Israel, and deeply committed to building a community that is truly inclusive. We will continue to show up—with openness, with resolve, and with a belief that our shared values are stronger than the forces that seek to divide us.

Beth Salamon, *JCL Board Chair*
Sara Klein Wagner, *President & CEO*



NEWS

JEWISH STUDIES

Continued from page 1

JHF's mission. "We've wanted to make sure (schools) didn't have to come back every year, because that doesn't provide long-term planning capabilities," Polson said. Indeed, "we've been very pleased with the support from administration across all the schools, in terms of wanting to make whatever specific relationships with their professors work."

Timothy Quevillon, Jewish Heritage Fund Visiting Professor of History/Jewish Studies at Western Kentucky University



Timothy Quevillon

Having recently completed his third academic year at WKU, Timothy Quevillon is well-versed in the challenges of integrating Jewish studies into Western's cultural life. Arriving in the fall of 2023, he built on programming established by his immediate predecessor, Alexander Marcus -- who left after one year to eventually take a similar post at the University of Alberta in Canada

"He'd done a great job organizing Jewish student life on campus," Quevillon said, "resurrecting our Jewish student organization. I was able to take that, and now we have our Jewish Hilltoppers," which is functioning as a kind of precursor to an official branch of Hillel. Indeed, comprising not only undergraduates but "faculty, staff and community members -- an overarching Jewish organization within Bowling Green."

As a young scholar (he earned his doctorate in history from the University of Houston in 2020), Quevillon is adopting a flexible approach to his academic responsibilities. His portfolio is noticeably broad, reflecting an abiding interest in how Judaism evolved in swaths of the American south.

"When I was brought here with a grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund, the (WKU History) department chair (said), 'we want to make this a permanent position…so find a way to make yourself appealing. What are some long-term goals that will be great for the region, great for the university, and great for the region.'"

One such foray took Quevillon to Paducah, where he spoke at the city's single synagogue, Temple Israel. The congregation's library was housed in the building's basement -- not an especially secure location amid an area prone to flooding. So in the summer of 2024, efforts to preserve the synagogue's vulnerable holdings got under way.

More recently, initiatives have begun to establish "an actual physical archive, for the region, here on campus." It's part of Quevillon's work on behalf of the Riverlands Jewish Archive, established in 2024 as a partnership among WKU, the Indiana Historical Society and several area Jewish communities.

"Take where the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers connect, and draw a big circle around that," he said. "We cover, basically, everywhere from Fort Wayne to Texarkana; Quincy, Illinois; and down to Chattanooga (Tennessee)."

As a Texas guy making his initial foray into Kentucky, Quevillon acknowledges a foundational debt to earlier surveyors of the region – particularly the late UofL scholar Lee Shai Weissbach -- whose 2005 study, *Jewish Life in Small-Town America: A History* remains the definitive text on the subject.

Yet even a 400-page tome couldn't cover every relevant facet. "There's still a lot to discover and pull from these materials," Quevillon emphasized, a task that grows ever more challenging as once thriving Jewish enclaves dwindle to mere handfuls of constituents. "You see the sad reality that happens when communities have to face the music of, 'We have four people left here, and the youngest one is 83.'"

Engaging with a substantially younger cohort on WKU's campus, "one of the first things I did was say, 'Do you have a mailing list of who was regularly attending events? Who are the students I need to talk to – the professors and staff, faculty and community members I need to reach out to?'"

While it's difficult to know the precise number of Jewish students at Western, Quevillon estimates the total at around 25, with perhaps a dozen or so "who regularly do things."

"One of the biggest challenges is just letting students know that, 'Hey, we're here,' and working with students at preview days, orientations, and homecomings – things like that."

As a historian, Quevillon's research interests "focus on Jewish identity in the latter half of the 20th century, particularly as it relates to politics, culture, and diaspora." He teaches U.S. history survey courses, and intends to "offer upper-division courses in American Jewish history, the Jewish diaspora, and Jewish politics & colonialism that will be cross-listed between history and religious studies."

Meanwhile, he's encouraged Jewish students to embrace initiatives that have little to do with academics: a Rosh Hashanah-themed event, staffing a booth at Jewish Food Festivals in places like Lexington and Indianapolis -- all rolled into a center for Jewish life and culture.

"Branding is the key," Quevillon said, "making people realize there is a Jewish community here -- that if you come to Western Kentucky University you can have a Jewish experience here, a Jewish college life in a way people don't necessarily think they could at Western."

Martin Luther Chan, Director of Jewish Studies and Jeremy Steinberg, formerly Visiting Assistant Professor of Hebrew & Jewish Studies at the University of Kentucky

Alongside its vaunted *UK-JHF Holocaust Education Initiative*, the University of Kentucky's Jewish Studies resources serve a student body that – like colleges across the state – is predominantly non-Jewish. It's a reality that Martin Luther Chan, the faculty member who oversees UK's Jewish Studies program, must always acknowledge.



Martin Luther Chan

"I think my defining character as Director of Jewish Studies is pragmatism," said Chan, adding that he seeks to "reconcile/navigate different ideas of what a Jewish studies program should look like."

An Assistant Professor of Hebrew & Jewish Studies and Part-time Instructor in Arabic, the Hong Kong native straddles multiple planes of scholarship, faith and location.

"In the state of Kentucky we have to be aware of our demographics," said Chan, who grew up in California as a Lutheran as but who now identifies as secular. as a young adult. "If we're trying to craft a program for the traditional Jewish Studies demographic, it isn't going to survive for very long. So the way I approach the directorship is that we have to expand beyond Jewish students, or students who are interested in modern Judaism."

To that end, Chan and his inter-departmental colleagues have sought out "commonality with people who might be attracted to Judaism for different reasons."

One cohort jumps out at once: students intrigued by "historic overlaps between Christianity and Judaism," or "perhaps the relationship between Islam and Judaism."

The ongoing imperative, Chan emphasized, is to "make Judaism relevant to people for reasons beyond simply Jewish heritage, or adjacency to Jewish populations."

Among UK's predominantly Christian undergraduate body, "a lot – given their evangelical background – tend to be supportive of Israel," he said. "That's something we can start with."

To that end Chan adopts a deliberate, measured approach.

"I try to come at it from an angle that says, 'Okay, you can be supportive of Israel, but let's learn more about the topic so we can develop an educated opinion about why we support Israel, or why you support Israel," he said. "I don't want it to be just unconditional, (because) part of what education is is to sharpen your opinions and ground them in logic and rationality."



Jeremy Steinberg

The Jewish Heritage Fund also supported the hiring of Jeremy Steinberg for a two-year stint as a visiting assistant professor of Jewish Studies. Though Steinberg departed after a single, 2025-26 ac-

Continued on page 5



NEWS

Continued from page 4

ademic year to take a post at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, he shared Chan's desire to expand UK's existing program.

"Part of the mandate was simply to grow Jewish Studies," Steinberg said, "to be able to show the administration that it's worth it to have more faculty and Jewish Studies long term. The courses I taught were mostly Bible-oriented -- things that are meeting the kind of non-Jewish student interest that we have at UK."

Steinberg, who earned his Ph.D at the University of Pennsylvania in 2025, recalled a course he taught at UK titled "Jews in America" that he estimates had about a 50-50 ratio of Jewish and non-Jewish undergraduates among the 17 students in the class.

Most of the Jewish students were minoring in Jewish Studies (UK doesn't offer a major in the subject). "I did have one student in the class who was a Jewish exchange student from England, who was very familiar with Judaism and wanted to understand how America factored that. I also had two students from the local Jewish community who were auditing the course under the Donovan Scholarship Program, so both were 65 or older."

Steinberg told of asking one of his younger students, who was from a sparsely populated area of Kentucky, why she were taking his course. The student answered – and here he was paraphrasing – "'I'd never met a Jew before I came to UK, but I'm going into nursing and want to be able to treat all my patients with the respect and dignity they deserve.'

"I loved working with that student." Steinberg said, in part "because she showed me where my blind spots were, in terms of what I'm assuming everyone knows."

"I think this is the moment express our sincere appreciation to the Jewish Heritage Fund," Chan said. "Without JHF's being willing to take a leap of faith, literally, in our vision for the program, we would not be able to achieve this."

Vitally, "they weren't ideological about imposing a certain kind of vision for us," Chan emphasized. JHF, he said, "was able to accept that this vision I have is a little bit unconventional – but they said, 'Okay, we'll take a punt and we'll do it.' And it's been very successful."

Shana Sippy -- Associate Professor of Religion and Chair of Asian Studies and Religion Programs at Centre College

Centre has one of the nation's most successful study-abroad programs, and not long ago Shana Sippy took a class to Europe where one of the stops was Berlin. The trip was made possible by support from the Jewish Heritage Fund, which has provided a succession of two-year grants to bolster the school's nascent Jewish Studies activity.



Shana Sippy

Visiting Berlin was "the most exciting thing we've been able to do with the JHF grant," Sippy said. "We're on our third two-year grant and have done a lot of cool things -- but as you know, our location in Kentucky challenges our ability to expose students to the full range of Jewish culture and history."

JHF underwriting supports Centre faculty as well as its undergraduates (84 percent of whom have at least one study-abroad experience). "A couple of times, the JHF grant helped a colleague do curriculum development for a course on Jews, Christians and Muslims in Spain and Morocco," Sippy said.

She recalled how for her recent student trip -- originally limited to a stay in London -- JHF agreed to redirect a portion of its grant to accommodate the stop in Berlin. "We were able to take 22 students and two faculty members." Coincidentally were in London during the upsurge in antisemitic attacks. The students knew there was a bombing of four ambulances in Golders Green," a neighborhood in North London.

For London, "the students had spent time learning about 19th century immigration of Jews to England -- they took a two-hour walk to the Jewish East End and learned about the Blitz and how Jewish textile businesses and labor organizing" helped in "the transformation of neighborhoods."

Not long afterward Sippy's students visited the city's Daniel Libeskind-designed Jewish Museum Berlin, which opened 25 years ago as Europe's largest such complex. The building, Sippy said, serves as a "memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe, so we'd been talking about memory and loss – and how do we teach about the vast tragedy and horror of the Holocaust?"

Sippy's 22 students – none of whom were Jewish -- spent close to five hours immersing themselves in the museum's collection, she said. "I'd never been a space like that, one that architecturally works on you to create emotion" – in her, and in those accompanying students.

"It was incredibly powerful for them," Sippy said, adding that insights gained in Berlin served them well once they returned to the Centre campus. Call it a bridge to appreciating, even in modest ways, the rich diversity of their fellow undergraduates.

At the same time -- largely via JHF's grants -- "what we're doing is serving our Jewish student body and creating an environment that nurtures their Jewish identities and allows them to express their Jewishness at Centre," Sippy observed, "which is not an easy thing to do in Danville, Kentucky."

Shalom Y'all Block Party

SAVE the DATE!

Sunday, Aug. 23 | 12 - 3:30 p.m.
Trager Family JCC

Join us for fun activities, entertainment, food, art, and experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds across our community!

Interested in being a vendor?
Email Tricia Siegwald at tsiegwald@jewishlouisville.org.

Trager Family JCC



COMMUNITY

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

USPS #020-068 at Louisville, KY.

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

For more information, call 502-459-0660, fax 502-238-2724, e-mail community@jewishlouisville.org or check out the website www.jewishlouisville.org.

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

COMMUNITY DEADLINES

Deadlines for the next two issues of ***Community*** for copy and ads are July 20 for publication on July 31 and August 17 for publication on August 28.

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

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY STAFF

Sara Klein Wagner
Publisher

Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Larry Singer
Advertising Sales

Robyn Kaufman
Graphic Designer & Digital Marketing Manager

Mackenzie Lynch
Digital Marketing Specialist

Shiela Steinman Wallace
Editor Emeritus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Salamon
Board Chair

JCL SENIOR STAFF

Sara Klein Wagner
President & Chief Executive Officer

Thomas Wissinger
Vice President & Executive Director Trager Family JCC

Lenae Price
Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer

Paul Norman
Chief Financial Officer

Amy Joseph Landon
Senior Director of Marketing & Communications

Tricia Kling Siegwald
Senior Director of Adult Programming & Special Projects

Susan Kwasny
Senior Director of JCC Programs & Operations

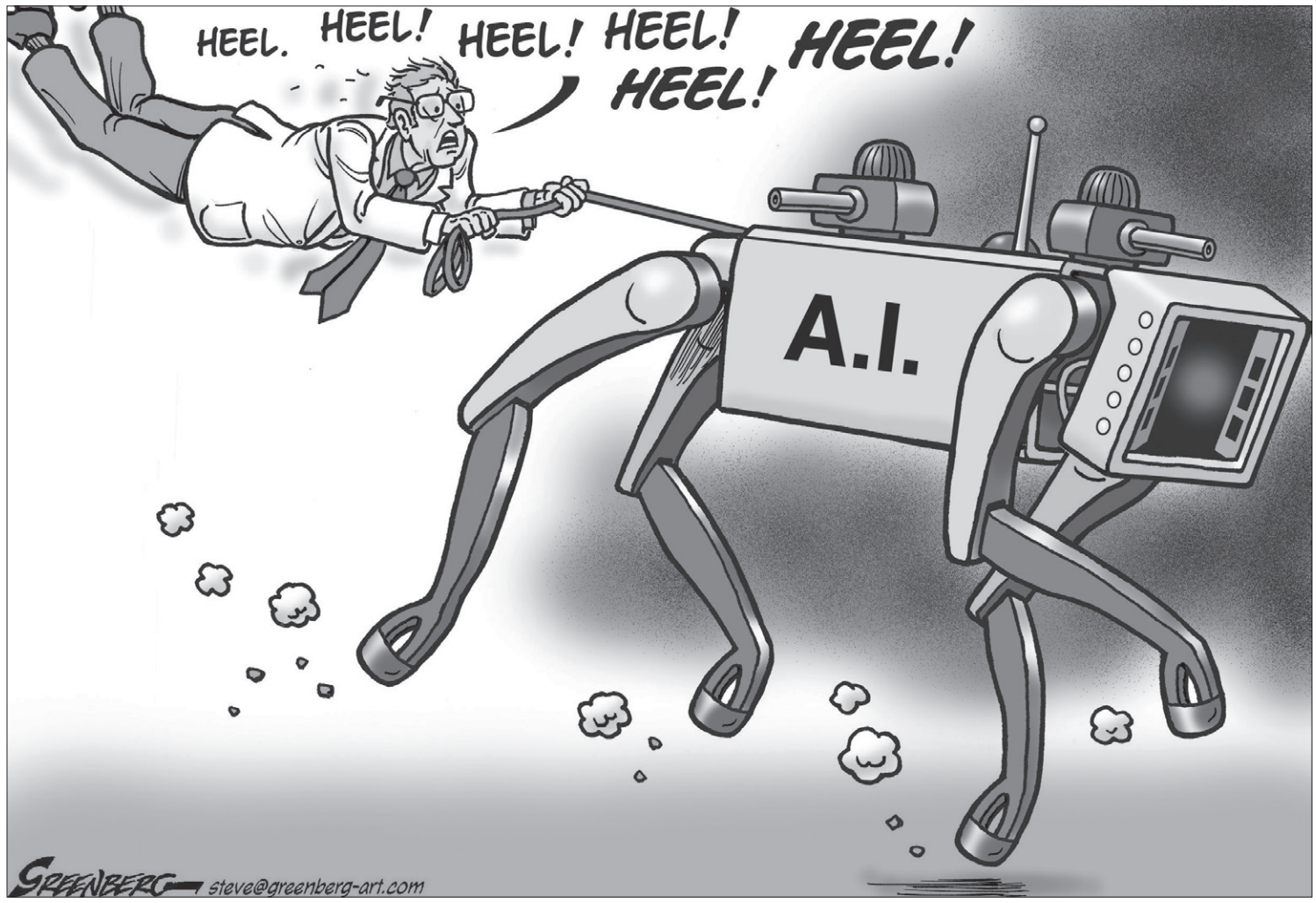
Alison Roemer
Senior Director of Jewish Journeys

Trent Spoolstra
JCRC Director

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

© 2026 JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LOUISVILLE, INC.

FORUM



Resilience, four pillars strong



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

Earlier this June, we here at the Jewish Federation welcomed Moti Yeger, Partnership2Gether's Israeli Co-Chair, to share a meal and speak at the Trager Family JCC. His talk was titled *What is Resilience Made Of*, bearing a concurrent message that was undeniably sober, yet tinged with the kind of ironic optimism that says, *maybe this will work out, after all*.

Yeger lives in the northern Israeli city of Akko, close enough to the border with Lebanon that even a short drive risks being obliterated by a Hezbollah-fired missile. One could readily forgive him for approaching life with a cynical bent, born and nurtured amid a nation shattered by October 7, a date never to be forgotten, and perhaps never completely reconciled.

Yet this man, at least as far as one can tell on a first meeting, has declined to give in to despair. And as he spoke about what it means to be resilient, he articulated a simple imperative: Nor should we.

This was Yeger's second visit to Louisville in recent years. His first came not long after that terrible October day, when he "tried to explain to everyone in the room how a regular Israeli has to deal with the war" then raging in Gaza. Almost three years later, his emphasis was less on events and more on process -- the process of parsing contradictory emotions to achieve a measure of that elusive reconciliation. Call it a war-weary articulation of Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis: Out of two opposing forces -- the innocence of joy and the portentous yammering of sirens -- a new, enlightened structure emerges.

So, what *does* Yeger mean by resilience?

"I divide it into four different pillars," he told listeners on this June 17 visit. "The first one is 'A Purpose'; the second is 'Togetherness' -- family, friends, whatever it is to be together." Third on his list is "Sense of Humor" -- with the last being "Love," though here Yeger hedged just a bit. "It could be Hope; it could be Peace; whatever.'

'Purpose," Yeger said, is the Israeli dynamic "which gives us direction knowing why we fight, for whom we rise, and what stands greater than ourselves."

"The second one is that, believe it or not, that we care for the rest of the world. Call it 'Tikkun Olam'; call it whatever you want. We know, we understand, we feel that what we do for us will affect the rest of the world, and it's very important for us, the Israeli, for me -- somebody who served their country to know this is something good for the rest of the world, even if it is not."

Humor, in the context of missile attacks, takes on characteristics that can be -- depending on one's perspective -- completely ordinary or unabashedly absurd. During his PowerPoint presentation, Yeger showed a photograph of a flatbed semi hauling a portable bomb shelter. When a missile attack seemed imminent, the driver simply exited his cab, climbed onto the bed of his truck, and took refuge in the shelter he was hauling. Voila! Another Israeli demonstrating his flavor of spontaneous pragmatism.

Laughter is a longstanding defense mechanism, and laughing in the face of potential destruction is a testament to the lengths we humans will go to retain, for the time being, anyway, a measure of sanity. It's not so much denial of reality as it is being able to recover from blows, whether to the body or the mind. Resilience hatched out of desperation.

As for "Love," well, there is no better exemplar than family. Your spouse, your parents, your offspring, those precious, living beings whose existence can be scarily fragile.

Yeger has the blessing of a wife and three children. His two sons have completed their required three years of military service; in a few scant years it'll be his teenage daughter's turn.

All of them live in a state of endemic uncertainty. Under threat from Hezbollah, Iran, wherever, with schools closing whenever the perils get too close, there is seemingly no way to navigate life without going a little mad. I'm often incredulous about how Israelis manage under circumstances most of us cannot begin to appreciate.

The standard response typically invokes the evolution of a "new normal," as though the normality of plausible destruction is an unremarkable constant. Perhaps, as Moti Yeger might put it, all he and his resilient Israeli brethren can do is laugh and love, even as the sirens wail.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

Together We Grew: Annual Campaign Surpasses $2.25 Million



Philanthropy

Lenae Price

If you have ever wondered what your Annual Campaign gift makes possible, look around our community.

You can see it in a senior receiving a meal and a visit.

In a child opening their PJ Library book each month.

In a teen building confidence and connection through BBYO or Teen Connect.

In families finding support when they need it most.

This is what your generosity makes possible.

As the Jewish Federation of Louisville's 2026 Annual Campaign comes to a close on June 30, our community has come together to raise more than $2.25 million to strengthen Jewish life, care for those in need, support Israel, and build a vibrant Jewish future.

What makes the Annual Campaign unique is simple but powerful:. A single gift creates impact across our entire community.

Because of you, we are able to strengthen the network of organizations, congregations, and programs that work together every day to help our Jewish community thrive. Your support reaches people at every age and every stage of life.

Through the collective generosity of hundreds of donors, we are meeting real needs, opening new doors, and creating meaningful connection across our community.

"It has been incredibly rewarding to be involved in the meaningful work the Federation is doing throughout our community. I've had the privilege of co-chairing the Major Donors Event, serving as Vice Chair of the Capital Campaign, and taking leadership roles within JFNA Cabinet. This community has given so much to my family and me, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunities it has provided."

- Alexander Blieden

At its core, the Annual Campaign is about caring for one another.

Because of you, older adults are able to remain connected through AgeWell and Meals on Wheels. Families facing challenges can turn to Jewish Family & Career Services for support. Individuals across our community know they are not alone.

This year alone, participation in AgeWell programs increased by 26%, a powerful reminder that the need for connection, wellness, and community continues to grow and that your support is meeting that moment.

The Campaign also strengthens Jewish learning and engagement at every age.

Children and teens explored their Jewish identity through PJ Library, LBSY, JLAB, BBYO, and Teen Connect, while adults continued their learning through Melton and other educational programs. More than $289,250 in scholarships helped ensure that young people could experience Jewish overnight camp, building friendships and connections that last a lifetime.

You also helped bring meaningful moments of learning and reflection to our community. From conversations with Ambassador Daniel Shapiro to the commemoration of October 7, Yom HaShoah, and Yom HaZikaron, these experiences brought us together in shared understanding and purpose.

Through Shalom Louisville and various cultural and community-wide holiday programming, more individuals and families found new ways to connect, engage, and feel a sense of belonging in Jewish life.

Beyond Louisville, your generosity strengthened our connection to Israel and the global Jewish community. Through Partnership2Gether in the Western Galilee, relationships continue to grow and deepen.

This year, Louisville hosted 35 young adults from North America, Israel, and Hungary for the P2G Young Adult Summit, and more than 80 community members participated in programs led by Rabbi Yael Karrie, Regional Rabbi of our P2G region, bringing messages of resilience, learning, and shared responsibility.

At a time of rising antisemitism, your support also made it possible for our community to be safer and more prepared. This year, 509 individuals participated in security and emergency preparedness training, while the Jewish Community Relations Council continued to advocate for our community and build strong relationships across our city, state, and country.

This year's theme, Together We Grow, was not just a message. It was something we lived.

Together, we cared for those in need.

Together, we invested in the next generation.

Together, we strengthened learning, security, advocacy, and connection.

And most importantly, together, we demonstrated what is possible when a community takes responsibility for one another.

To every donor, volunteer, educator, clergy member, partner agency, and community member who helped make this year possible, thank you.

Because of you, Jewish Louisville is stronger today than it was a year ago.

And because of you, we will continue to grow.

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

THE REPUBLIC BANK PLAYERS CHALLENGE
TO BENEFIT JFCS & TRAGER FAMILY JCC

Thank You to Our Sponsors

REPUBLIC BANK
Time to thrive.™
Member FDIC

Jewish Heritage Fund

NORTHERN TRUST

HEAVEN HILL BRANDS

Sheldon & Nancy Gilman

REGISTER TODAY!

jfcslouisville.org/republic-bank-players-challenge

GOLF SCRAMBLE

Monday, August 31

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

12 p.m. Shotgun Start
Standard Club

NEW!

MAHJONG for a Mission

Sunday, August 30

Join Us to Connect, Play, and Enjoy A Friendly Competition

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. · Gameplay begins at 10 a.m.
Kohn Family Town Square at the Trager Family JCC

NEWS

WORKSHOP

Continued from page 1

speaks to school groups, participated via Zoom.

"Our goal during this workshop is to support effective and ethical teaching of the Holocaust in Kentucky K-12 schools in conjunction with the 2018 Ann Klein and Fred Gross Holocaust Education Act," a participant guide explained. "We will work together to achieve this goal, recognizing this as an opportunity to learn from and listen to one another as we support this initiative."

The overriding imperative, the guide emphasized, was "to cultivate an environment of learning, curiosity, inquiry, experimentation, and openness."

Responding to needs raised by the 2018 Act – in which the Kentucky legislature mandated Holocaust education in public schools but which didn't provide concurrent funding – 2021 saw the launch of a collaboration between the University of Kentucky and the Louisville-based Jewish Heritage Fund. The Jewish Federation of Louisville's Ida and Bernhard Behr Holocaust Memorial Education Fund has also provided multiple grants to support this initiative.

"The teacher is the greatest variable influencing the quality of Holocaust education and effectiveness in the prevention of antisemitism," a mission statement emphasizes, calling the project "a nationally recognized teacher-focused model that fosters teacher-led, community-rooted, inquiry-based Holocaust pedagogy and education about antisemitism.

"Our model invests deeply in educators," the Initiative—not as one-time participants in a program, but as catalysts for transformational change." UK professor Janice Fernheimer directs the initiative.

A similar cooperative dynamic was evident all through this particular Tuesday. "We're not here trying to convince each other (about) things," said Joshua Lane, a workshop facilitator from Jefferson County Public Schools. "We're just trying to listen and learn as much as we can from one other, to reflect, and give others the benefit of the doubt – so listen with curiosity and openness."

Then it was time to delve into essential specifics, so teachers would be better equipped to connect with middle and high school students on this thorniest of subjects.

"First things first, you're going to define the term 'Holocaust,'" Lane told her colleagues. "What does it even mean? It's a loaded word that has a lot of emotion in it. So to start any instruction, any unit, any lesson plan that you're going on with the Holocaust, you have to clearly define what it is, what it was, how it functioned and how it affects us today."

Then came the crux of Lane's précis.

"The Holocaust was not an inevitable event," he said. "It wasn't something that had to happen for history. The Holocaust happened because individual groups and governments made choices to act or to remain passive. There are people who just stood by and watched. There were perpetrators, victims and bystanders – and by the actions of those people, that's how the Holocaust happened."

No matter the context, "avoid simple answers to complex questions," Lane urged. "The Holocaust resulted from many political, social and historical factors," he said. "You can't just say, 'Well, it's because of the Nazis."



Facilitators from the University of Kentucky and elsewhere led a June 9, 2026 gathering of teachers participating in the UK-JHF Holocaust Education Initiative. They met at the Trager Family JCC.



Kenneth Treister's towering bronze sculpture is the focal point of Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach. (Photo courtesy of Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach)

One workshop participant, who teaches in Bullitt County public schools, compared Holocaust classwork to his experience discussing the causes of the Civil War.

"We have a very low African-American population, and in my first year I had one African-American kid – a great kid, awesome kid," who thought it was almost all because of slavery," the teacher recalled. "I was trying to teach them about (the issue of) state's rights and how recently the U.S. had had someone controlling them when they were colonies – and he was having a really hard time.

"We had a discussion about it," the teacher recalled, "and I was trying not to come off as racist, being a white teacher in an almost all-white room." Regardless, "he had a hard time relating to other causes."

Along similar lines, there were further admonitions to "strive for precision of language," said Catherine Holmes, another JCPS-based facilitator. "Words do matter. 'Sticks and stones may break my bones' – well, words can also hurt. And you must understand that 'prejudice' is not the same as 'discrimination,'; 'concentration camps' (are not the same as) 'killing centers.'"

Holmes spoke further about distinguishing between "resistance" and "survival."

"Resistance, as I told my students, is not always getting out there with guns and fighting and protesting outwardly," she said. "Sometimes resistance is quiet, and we're going to learn about that today -- and that resistance is more than just survival. So strive to balance perspectives that inform your study of the Holocaust."

Just as important, "strive to talk about (survivors/resistors) as people before the Holocaust," because "sometimes this is the first introduction students have to Jewish culture."

As the morning continued, there were admonitions to "avoid romanticizing history – you don't want to overshadow the reality of what happened," Lane said. The Holocaust "was brutal. It was savage. That's just the truth of it, so be honest." That much said, beware of elements, such as photographs, film – even descriptions of the cramped, claustrophobic confines of Anne Frank's Secret Annex -- that may trigger trauma responses among some students.

Visual imagery, too, can be valuable jumping-off points for classroom discussion. Workshop participants were shown a photograph of the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, where the centerpiece is a vast bronze sculpture depicting an outstretched arm – tattooed with an Auschwitz number – rising out of a mass of Holocaust victims.

"Would it have made a difference if it were not in Florida?" with its large Jewish population, asked Kristy Whatley, a facilitator from Fayette County public schools.

"It could have, absolutely," someone piped up. Maybe it mattered whether one viewed the sculpture in close-up, or from a distance. Observation is not the same as interpretation.

"Any kid in your class can tell you what they notice about this sculpture," Whatley said. "But as a teacher, I know how you're all reacting. I know what questions you have. I know what grammar you have for understanding how sculptures are made and communicate a message... so when you're thinking about introducing kids to Holocaust content, you really want to think about activities that will let you know how they react to this imagery."

Crucially, Whatley stressed, "I want you all to think how Holocaust education is more than just the facts that we know." Always remember, she said, "to understand why it is so critical when we ask, especially young students that maybe don't have as many entry points, to be able to teach responsibly about the Holocaust."

A workshop segment on antisemitism acknowledged how the word can allude to multiple attitudes, exchanges on the meaning of "Jewish identity" and UK facilitator Danielle Willard-Kyle's observation that "Jews make up just two percent of the global population, yet they've been the epicenter for many of history's extreme hatreds."

There was considerable treatment of those historical circumstances, and how classroom discussions can range beyond nominally "Jewish studies" contexts. Stereotypes can become tropes ("Jews love money") – and even the expression "Wandering Jew" can bear negative connotations, such as UK's David Moscowitz's example:

"'We don't want Jews farming the land – what are they going to do to our crops and our food supply? We need to get them off our land; let's make sure they're in the cities.'"

The workshop included four 90-minute break-out sessions. In the morning participants could choose between "Terezin: Art, Poetry and Testimony" and "Teaching the Holocaust Through Film. In the afternoon the choices were "Using Poetry to Respond to Hard Histories" and "Teaching with Primary Sources: Warsaw Ghetto Archive."

Within the context of film and media, "antisemitism is always driven by narrative," Moscowitz said, launching a discussion that referenced the 1978 NBC-TV miniseries "Holocaust" – "one of the first big, visible instances we get of seeing the Holocaust brought up in mainstream culture," Moscowitz pointed out.

Later in the day, during the Warsaw Ghetto" segment (focusing on the *Oyneg Shabes* archive that ghetto residents compiled in secret), facilitators Holmes and Willard-Kyle pondered a core issue: "What is resistance? How would you define it? What can you bear witness through documents?"

It was, to be sure, a very full day, reflecting the immensity of its subject. There was also continuing affirmation about sharing insight with the next generation.

Among the day's participants with in was Laura Wilmington-Richée, a sixth-grade Teacher-Leader for Holocaust Studies at the Academy@Shawnee. She and her husband, Kamarr Richée -- a science teacher at the Home of the Innocents Weinberg Academy -- are parents of a 13-year-old son and a 16-year-old daughter.

"We're actually going to Poland this summer, because our children want to go," Wilmington-Richée said afterward.

How familiar are those teens with the Holocaust? "Our 16-year-old is very aware," her father said, describing his daughter as "a pretty astute and politically minded individual who chooses to read for herself and think for herself." His son "has some ideas and concepts" about the subject, and as he gets older "we hope to help him think larger than just the social context you oftentimes have as a 13-year-old boy."

Wilmington-Richée, a California native who was introduced to the Holocaust when her 8th grade class visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C.. She was especially moved by an exhibit of shoes taken from arrivals to the Majdanek extermination camp in Lublin, Poland, before they were sent to the gas chambers.

"It really got to me," Wilmington-Richée recalled, "so I started digging into the Holocaust, trying to understand how something so terrible could happen."

NEWS

DARA HORN

Continued from page 1

But perhaps most importantly, they have also been building relationships.

Facilitators have continued meeting in small groups throughout the spring, practicing difficult conversations together, sharing experiences, and learning what it looks like to stay engaged even when discussions become uncomfortable. In many ways, these groups have become a living example of what the Year of Civil Discourse hopes to foster throughout the broader community: spaces where people can bring their full perspectives while remaining connected to one another.

The Year of Civil Discourse initiative is one of those things that proves to be exactly the right opportunity at exactly the right time. As conversations about issues of importance to Jews – as well as others – continue to be challenging and fraught with misunderstandings and vitriol, helping to change the way we interact with each other is essential. The training that we've been working through has opened my eyes about just how difficult this is, as even in "practice sessions" it is surprising how seemingly simple things – like listening to and respecting the opinions of others – are struggles to achieve. Yet the fellowship of those going through the training has been pretty remarkable; hopefully that fellowship will percolate through our broader community once the events begin. - Barry Alberts, YOCD Facilitator

As YOCD enters Phase 3, the initiative will increasingly shift toward larger public-facing events and opportunities for broader community participation.

The first major event of this next phase will take place Monday, Aug. 10 at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, featuring acclaimed author and scholar Dara Horn. The event, titled *Jewish Identity in an Age of Rising Antisemitism*, will explore contemporary antisemitism, Jewish identity, public discourse, and the challenges facing Jewish communities today.

Horn, whose bestselling essay collection *People Love Dead Jews* sparked national conversations about Jewish identity and antisemitism, has become one of the leading Jewish voices examining how Jews are understood, represented, and discussed in contemporary society. Her work often challenges audiences to think more deeply about Jewish identity beyond tragedy and historical memory, while also confronting the realities of modern antisemitism.

The conversation comes at a particularly important moment. Across the country, many Jewish communities are wrestling with difficult questions surrounding belonging, safety, identity, and how to engage with one another across political and ideological differences. The event aims not simply to present a lecture, but to create an opportunity for meaningful community engagement around difficult and timely issues.

Organizers hope the event reflects the larger goals of the Year of Civil Discourse: creating spaces where people can engage thoughtfully, honestly, and respectfully even when conversations are difficult.

A second major YOCD event featuring author and thinker Yehuda Kurtzer is planned for November, continuing the initiative's focus on bringing nationally respected Jewish voices to Louisville for meaningful community conversation.

As this next phase begins, organizers are emphasizing that the success of the initiative depends not only on facilitators or organizational leaders, but on the broader community itself.

What we need now is participation.

We need community members willing to show up — not because they expect everyone to think the same way, but because they believe this community is worth staying in conversation with. We need people willing to listen generously, speak thoughtfully, and remain engaged even when conversations feel difficult. We need spaces where disagreement does not automatically lead to division.

That does not mean every conversation will feel easy or comfortable. In many ways, the opposite is true. Civil discourse is not about avoiding tension or pretending differences do not exist. It is about learning how to navigate those differences without losing our shared sense of community.

The Year of Civil Discourse also recognizes that this work extends beyond formal programs and events. The hope is that these skills and relationships ripple outward — into synagogue conversations, family dinners, workplaces, community meetings, and friendships. The project is ultimately about strengthening the fabric of Jewish communal life in Louisville at a time when many communities are feeling increasingly fragmented.

There is also something distinctly hopeful about this moment.

At a time when public discourse often rewards outrage, speed, and certainty, the Year of Civil Discourse is asking participants to slow down, remain curious, and make room for complexity. That kind of work is not always flashy. But it is meaningful. And increasingly, it feels necessary.

Over the coming months, community members will continue hearing more about opportunities to participate in YOCD events, trainings, and conversations. Whether someone attended the original trainings or is engaging for the first time, organizers hope Phase 3 creates more entry points for the broader community to become involved.

The work of civil discourse is ongoing. It is imperfect, challenging, and deeply human. But it is also one of the ways we strengthen trust, deepen relationships, and ensure our community remains connected even during difficult moments.

And perhaps that is the real goal of the Year of Civil Discourse: not to eliminate disagreement, but to build a stronger Jewish community capable of holding it together.

This event is proudly sponsored by the following endowment funds through the Jewish Federation of Louisville:

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

Author Dara Horn will speak Monday, Aug. 10 at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. The evening begins with her talk at 7 p.m.

To register, go online at yocdlouisville.org.



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

GOLDSTEIN-LEIBSON CULTURAL ARTS FUND

In memory of David Leibson
Les Abramson
Ellen and Max Shapira

JOSEPH FINK BBYO COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Diana Fink, MD
Anonymous (3)
Sara Gould & Larry Bass
Kathleen Kuiper Burton
Ron and Linda Fink
Amy & Allan Goldfarb and Family
Max Pearson Green
Tracy Heins

JCC SCHOLARSHIPS & TUITION NEEDS

In honor of Beth Salamon
Sara & Howard Wagner

ROBIN AND BRUCE MILLER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

In honor of Beth Salamon
In honor of Dafna Schurr & Eddie Cohen
In honor of Alan Engel
Robin & Bruce Miller

JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION

In memory of David Leibson
Fred and Anne Joseph

JCC HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In memory of Eugene Alexander Mechetner
Elizabeth E. Theilig

KIVVUNIM

In honor of Jay Klempner
Shiela and David Wallace Fund

Jewish Federation® OF LOUISVILLE
3600 Dutchmans Lane • Louisville, KY 40205
502.459.0660 • jewishlouisville.org

PICTURE THIS: ISRAELI FAMILY FESTIVAL

The Trager Family JCC hosted the Israeli Family Festival on Sunday, June 7, in the Shapira Foundation Auditorium. The space was filled with crafts, face-painting, a bounce house, and plenty of laughter. Families enjoyed Israeli culture and participated in a special demonstration from Chef Uri of the Western Galilee Partnership2Gether Region, making his signature hummus.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)























CLUB J Before & After School Program

Club J is a before & after-school program set in our fun Camp J environment run by our Camp J Staff. Children enrolled in Club J will play games, participate in a variety of activities each week, receive homework help as needed, and get to spend time with their friends.
**Transportation available, $110 Non-Refundable Transportation Deposit Required per Semester*

Optional Add-on Enrichment Classes

CLUB J BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL MONTHLY RATES

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

WE ARE LICENSED BY THE STATE AND ACCEPT CCAP

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

Learn more and register with the QR code or at JCCLOUISVILLE.ORG/CLUBJ
**The JCC is able to transport to the schools listed, but childcare is available to any child K-5*

PICTURE THIS: CHEF URI VISITS FROM AKKO



Guests preparing fresh root vegetable salad with Chef Uri



Beth Salamon, Alison Roemer, Chef Uri, and Amy Fouts

From June 5-7, Israeli Chef Uri Arnold, who lives in Akko in our Partnership2Gether region of the Western Galilee, visited Louisville for a weekend of food and community. On Friday, alongside community volunteers, Chef Uri prepared Shabbat in a Box which were available for pickup to enjoy a delicious Shabbat dinner at home.

On Sunday, Chef Uri led a Mediterranean Masterclass, where guests learned to cook vegetarian dishes like beet kubbeh, fresh root vegetable salad, and hummus.

Thanks to the event sponsors, Zack and Yael Melzer and our committee Becky Admony (Chair), Scott Gilman, Yuval Friedman, Elayne Karrel, and Dara Woods.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)



Kelly Meadway



Chef Uri Arnold



Shannon Rothschild



Food prep for Shabbat in a Box packages



Amy Fouts, Julia Wall, and Beth Salamon assembling Shabbat in a Box packages



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



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

Jewish Federation® OF LOUISVILLE



Scott Gilman and Melissa Monsky



Yael and Zack Melzer



Shannon Rothschild, Julie Ciriano, and Sandra Chack



Linda Spielberg and Linda Schuster



Becky Admony, Sous Chef Hila Septon, and Amy Fouts



Abby Berger

PICTURE THIS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMP J

Summer at the Trager Family JCC means Camp J! Throughout the summer, the Jewish Heritage Fund Campus is filled with laughter, singing, and fun as children enjoy camp each day. Campers swim, play games and sports, create arts and crafts and more. Specialty campers get to be immersed in activities like cheerleading, sports, Legos, and more.

Thanks to Camp J sponsors Jewish Heritage Fund, Kosair for Kids, WHAS Crusade for Children, Perelmuter and Glatt Orthodontics, Schwartz Insurance, Graphic Packaging International, Korrect Optical, SurePoint Equity, Minuteman Press, and Kaplan Barron Pediatrics.

(Photos courtesy of Camp J Staff)

























CAMP J 365



Every day is a Camp day!

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

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

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

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

School's Out Days
Full-day program with games, activities, and swimming when school is closed

For details and registration, visit
jcclouisville.org/campj365

PICTURE THIS: GATORS SWIM TEAM





Each summer, the Trager Family JCC lap pool is filled with the excitement of Summer Swim Team. The team not only encourages children's development in swimming by giving them the opportunity to develop and improve their skills through dual meets and practice, it also creates a sense of belonging and lifelong friendships.

(Photos by Artem Koronkevitch and swim team parents)









GATOR SPOTLIGHT





"My daughters, now age 22 and 18, have grown up at the JCC and spent all of their childhood with the JCC Gators. These are pictures of my youngest, Ava, when she was a little Gator, and now as a coach (pictured at far right). I have always said that having the girls on the JCC Swim Team as one of the best parent decisions I ever made." – Chris Hulswede, *Swim Team parent*







Go Gators Swim Team!

Proud Sponsor of
YOUTH AQUATICS

Perelmuter
& Glatt
ORTHODONTICS



PICTURE THIS: KENTUCKIANA PRIDE PARADE

Louisville's Jewish community gathered on June 20 to march in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community at the Kentuckiana Pride parade. Staff from the Trager Family JCC, Adath Jeshurun Preschool, JFCS, and community members from The Temple marched together alongside members of the Kentuckiana Pride board. Before the parade began, Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher led the community in a brief Shabbat service.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman)















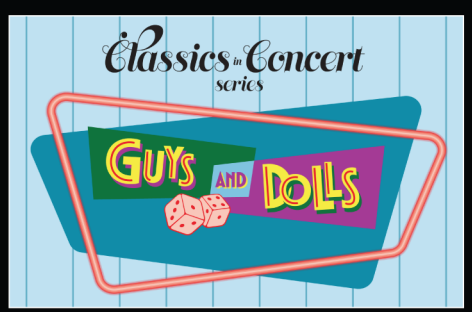








J CenterStage at the Trager Family JCC | 2026-27 Season



AUGUST 2026
20, 22, 23, 27, 29 & 30



NOVEMBER 2026
5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14 & 15



FEBRUARY 2027
18, 20, 21, 25, 27 & 28

MARCH 2027
4, 6 & 7



MAY 2027
6, 8, 9, 13, 15 & 16

Single Tickets on sale July 1!

Learn more at jcclouisville.org/centerstage

Season Subscriptions are available NOW!

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

- **Saving 10%** on tickets to MainStage productions.
- **Discounted** prices for all other season offerings.
- **Ensuring** that you have **guaranteed seats** to some of the most popular and highly anticipated productions of the season.

Become a Season Subscriber!
Scan the QR code above or visit
jcclouisville.org/seasontickets

PICTURE THIS: AGEWELL CHOIR



Members of the AgeWell program at the Trager Family JCC are invited to participate in enriching activities beyond lunch. This spring we introduced the AgeWell choir. Led by Arts & Ideas Director, Erin Silliman, the choir is open to all and is a way for older adults to grow social, cognitively, and artistically.

The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports Trager Family JCC's AgeWell Choir with state tax dollars from the Kentucky General Assembly and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch and Suzy Gessner)











LEVEL UP
Your Swim Game





Group Swim Lessons
Next Session Begins August 2
- 6-week sessions
- 30-minute lessons, once a week
- Small groups of 4 or fewer

Accelerated Private Swim Lessons
- 5 Private Lessons in 5 Days!

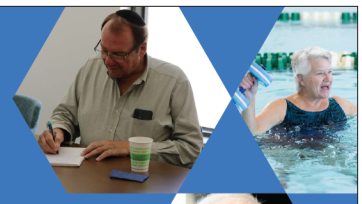
Pool Parties
- 90 minutes of play time in the water
- 30 minutes in the party room
- Complimentary party coordinator and gift bags

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



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

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.

PICTURE THIS: WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY VOLUNTEERS

On June 2, members of Women's Philanthropy visited the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry at Jewish Family & Career Services to make meal kits and learn about the important services JFCS provides. It was a wonderful day of service and community.

(Photo credit to Jewish Federation and JFCS Staff and Volunteers)















THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
Partnership2Gether GLOBAL NETWORK
Western Galilee
Central Area Consortium & Budapest
The Jewish Federations OF NORTH AMERICA

Living Together: An Israeli Druze Perspective

Discover a side of Israel few Americans know.



Wednesday, July 8 | 6 p.m.
Trager Family JCC,
Fleischaker-Greene Family Community Room

Join Israeli Druze educator, Ayal Falah, for a personal look at Israel's Druze community - a unique religious and cultural minority in Israel - their traditions and long-standing partnership with Jewish communities.

RSVP at jewishlouisville.org/living-together

Special Solidarity Medical Summit

November 8-12, 2026 in Israel

American and Hungarian physicians are invited to participate in a unique, immersive experience at the Galilee Medical Center, where they will witness firsthand the intersection of medicine, resilience, and humanitarian care in a region operating under ongoing security pressures. *Heavily Subsidized

Contact Amy Fouts for more information.



For questions or more information,
contact Amy Fouts, P2G Community Liaison at afouts@jewishlouisville.org

Connecting PERSON 2 PERSON PEOPLE 2 PEOPLE

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

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

Powered by Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE



SUNDAY, JULY 12 | 1 P.M.

Join us for a day at Slugger Field!

Get ready to knock it out of the park for an action-packed day as the Louisville Bats take on the Omaha Storm Chasers.

Featuring:

- Cantor Lipp, Cantor Hordes, and Jennifer Diamond will join us for a performance of the national anthem.
- Post-game run-the-bases opportunity for the kids.
- Kids' Day perks like free bouncy inflatables, FREE meal vouchers for kids age 12 & under, and more!

Trager Family JCC | Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE

For Tickets and more info,
scan QR code or visit
jewishlouisville.org/jewish-heritage-day-26

NEWS

Revisiting existentialism and 'anti-antisemitism'

By Michael Portal
Guest Columnist


Michael Portal

"If the Jew did not exist," Jean-Paul Sartre wrote, "the anti-Semite would invent him."

What did Sartre (1905–1980), the famous French existentialist, mean by this? Is he right? These were two of the many challenging questions I asked the students in my spring 2026 course, *The Holocaust, Genocide, and Global Imagination*, at the University of Louisville. Here, I'd like to think with and against Sartre's analysis of antisemitism in *Anti-Semite and Jew* (1946), a text prepared in the wake of Nazism and the Shoah, and in which we can find this still essential idea.

Sartre's analysis of antisemitism invites myriad interpretations, conversations, and debates about pressing philosophical themes. For example, how being "invented" (or defined) by others -- real or imagined -- can be a violent operation; how one is not *born* an antisemite but *becomes* one through their choices, choices for which they alone are ultimately responsible.

So, students had to grapple with how blind hatred is capable of generating its own targets and, eventually, its own victims, Jewish and non-Jewish; and, how even the leading intellectuals of the time then struggled (and still do today) to make sense of hatred in general and antisemitism in particular.

For Sartre, antisemitism is not simply an "opinion" but an irrational "understanding of the world." Drawing on the thought of the German philosopher G. W. F. Hegel (1770–1881), Sartre's analysis centers on the role of "recognition" in how self-understanding is always involved with (and to some extent) validated (that is, "recognized") by others.

One's identity, Sartre argues, ultimately emerges from a "struggle" for self-definition in which one either chooses to adopt or reject the definitions imposed upon them by others. Applying this process to the Jew – the Jew either rejects the antisemite's perspective or yields to it – or as Sartre found that, "it is the anti-Semite who *makes* the Jew." But is that right? Is that – is being "recognized" as Jewish – the ultimate meaning of *being* Jewish?

"No," responded the Lithuanian-born French Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (1905–1995).

Rightfully, to my eyes, Levinas found Sartre's analysis "disappointing." Responding to the main themes of *Anti-Semite and Jew*, Levinas was unequivocal: There are many, himself included, "whose Judaism is not derived from antisemites."

Instead, Judaism emerges from (or, perhaps, just names) a rich tradition of obligation (election), that primordially directs Jews toward "the widow, the orphan, and the stranger" (Deut. 10:18). One's generosity must not be motivated by the desire to appear generous (or, for that matter, to contradict the stereotype of Jewish greediness). As our tradition teaches, it's praiseworthy to donate anonymously, *without* being "recognized" for doing so (*Mishneh Torah* 10:8).

So, why read *Anti-Semite and Jew* today? Why, moreover, should Jews read it? Sartre's analysis has had a profound impact on the world, one which demands our renewed attention.

It is worthwhile, for example, to consider who gets to define Judaism, and how that project is never (politically, philosophically, theologically) neutral or inert. Additionally, as Levinas explained in 1947, Sartre is right that it is impossible to think of Judaism, or anything for that matter, outside of its particular "situation" or as entirely unrelated to its "historical being."

Reading *Anti-Semite and Jew*, then, we may appreciate and perhaps even reappropriate what Levinas identified as the "new weapons" (namely, existentialism and its associated attitudes) employed by Sartre in his book. Levinas's admiration of Sartre's courage adopted in the early 1940s was evident when he commended Sartre for making "a clear judgment of antisemitism at a time when that was absolutely necessary." In the immediate aftermath of the Shoah, Sartre took a stand when it was not easy or obvious to do so – and, just as it was "necessary" for Sartre to take a stand (to be politically "engaged" and not disaffected), so too is it necessary for us to take a stand.

A stand, but for what? One lesson my students learned from our discussions is to appreciate the urgency with which Sartre wrote. This urgency is too frequently missing in how we live and how we think. In general, one must take a stand *for something*, that one must not be idle.

In particular, Levinas's response to Sartre provides us with an important reminder: we must think and rethink the meaning of Judaism, especially today and in light of the resurgence of antisemitism in contemporary society.

This means that we must be careful to avoid following Sartre's path exactly, one which capitulates, in the words of intellectual historian Jonathan Judaken -- "to the lexicon of antisemitism." Failure to do so risks endlessly repeating a "negative" portrait of Jewish existence, always under siege and, once again, defined by its "enemies." What is urgent today, in the fight against antisemitism and all similar hatreds, is a return to a "positive" Judaism which sees the "fight" for justice in terms drawn from Jewish sources and the Jewish tradition, and which we must not (and, perhaps, cannot) leave behind.

This fall (2026), I will be teaching *Introduction to Existentialism*, a course cross-listed with *Modern Jewish Thought*. This course will dedicate several weeks to Sartre, Jewish existentialists, and a distinctly Jewish existentialism.

My students and I will read more of *Anti-Semite and Jew* than we covered this past spring – not only because Sartre remains a central figure in the history of ideas, but also because I believe we may find Sartre's "new weapons" valuable in our own fight against antisemitism and all the other *-isms* that are an affront to the core obligations we have, explicitly as Jews, to the vulnerable.

We must not allow the antisemite to "invent" us as Sartre had theorized. Instead, we must "invent" ourselves out of the foundational sources of Judaism.

Michael Portal is an assistant professor of philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and the director of the Jewish Life & Learning Initiative at the University of Louisville. His position is supported in part by the Jewish Heritage Fund. You can reach him via email at Michael.portal@louisville.edu.

SCHWARTZ
INSURANCE GROUP




KEEP INSURANCE SIMPLE & SAVE !

Matt Schwartz, REBC, RHU
Scott Schwartz, RPLU

THE RIGHT COVERAGE, COST & CARING SUPPORT!
- PROACTIVE ANNUAL COVERAGE REVIEWS
- COMPETITIVE BIDS FROM 12+ COMPANIES
- LOCAL PERSONAL ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

Schwartz Insurance Group puts YOU in control!

CALL (502) 451-1111
www.schwartzinsgrp.com/KISS

Cultivating trusted relationships with individuals, businesses and professionals since 1956.

encova INSURANCE

GRISWOLD
HOME CARE FOR EAST LOUISVILLE

Personalized, Compassionate Home Care — Wherever You Call Home



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

Personalized Care Plans
Care at Home or in Community
Compassionate, Trusted Caregivers

502.410.0011 | GriswoldCare.com/East-Louisville
Call us today to learn more about how we can help you live where you love.

NEWS

GOLF & MAJ

Continued from page 1

Team registration opens at 10:30 a.m., with a Shotgun Start slated for noon. And if you simply can't wait for the main event, stop by the Trager Family JCC Sunday, Aug. 30 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for the inaugural edition of Mahjong for a Mission -- let the tiles fall where they may.

One fellow sure to be on the Standard course is Mitch Greenfield, chair of the volunteer committee producing the golf event. An executive with Humana and one of the area's most avid (and successful) long-distance runners, in golfing Greenfield is both passionate and graciously self-effacing.

"I've been playing golf since I was six, but I wouldn't necessarily equate time with skill," he says, adding that "I'm like a 13 handicap, which is fine but nothing crazy."

Most important, Greenfield emphasizes, is the Players Challenge's reason for being.

"It's an opportunity to help two great organizations," he says. "What stands out for me is that they're both such wide supporters of the community. And while they have Jewish affiliations, their support of Louisville goes far beyond the Jewish community."

Indeed, dollars raised by the RPBC "are critical, especially with all the challenges today," Greenfield says. It's a big reason why this is his fifth consecutive year as golf committee chair -- a post he's juggling with a new, three-year commitment as Congregation Adath Jeshurun's house chair, in charge of maintaining the building and its surrounding grounds.

Meanwhile, Greenfield and his golf committee colleagues have spent many hours designing a benefit that -- even after more than two decades -- remains fresh and engaging.

"Every year we try to raise the bar and figure out how to improve the event," he says, "both for the players to have a better experience, but also to find more opportunities to support the community." In other words, identifying strategies "to make the event more profitable and increase the opportunity to give and support."

Along the way, "Standard has been a great partner for us," Greenfield added, acting as a kind of living laboratory for successive improvements.

"For three years now we've added a 'Hit It and Win It' -- we've got bourbon bottles, gift cards and other stuff on the putting green, and if you hit it with your putt, you get it. And if you miss, try again."

This year's biggest addition is Mahjong for a Mission, which leverages a game whose devotees are, well, unabashedly devoted.

"Mahjong is great for getting not just women, but also men, together," says Deborah Goldberg, who is chairing the mahjong committee alongside Melanie Parker.

It's a multi-generational game, too. "My daughters and I play, and my mother plays," Goldberg says. "I know we're going to have players in their early 20s, maybe teens, and some in their late 80s and hopefully 90s -- and everywhere in between."

The game offers broad appeal, she adds, "whether you're a beginner, an intermediate, or you've gone to various tournaments.

At Mahjong for a Purpose, teams "can sign up and have your own table of four," Goldberg says, "or you can come, and we'll put you at a level you're comfortable with." (Registration is at 9 a.m., with gameplay beginning at 10 a.m.)

Even Greenfield is finding himself swept up in Mahjong momentum. The game "is taking the world by storm," he says. "It's not like a golf scramble, per se, just a fun way for everyone to get together, play and support the cause."

The golf side, too, is seeing new ways to increase participation. "One thing we've added this year is an Under 30 tier, aimed especially at providing newcomers with the ability "to support at a lower contribution" -- $250 instead of $350, Greenfield says.

"We're trying to get the next generation involved," he explains, mentioning that not only is this "a great opportunity not to work on a Monday," but also a way of aiding two worthwhile organizations.

"Our goal this year is to have about 110 golfers," Greenfield says, "so we need all the support we can get. And once everyone is back in Standard's clubhouse, bring on the newly designed "after-golf celebration," which Greenfield promises has been refreshed with new music, helping to make the dynamic "a little more social than it's been in previous years."

And while there will be food, don't expect a return of a certain culinary offering.

"Two years ago we brought back the fried chicken dinner," Greenfield recalls. "I think the resounding feedback was, after being outside all day in 80 or 90-degree weather, fried chicken is not what people want -- myself included."

Poultry aside, "one thing we're trying to do is compile all the winners from the last 21 years and get a plaque at the JCC in the Fink Family Trophy Case by the basketball court, to represent the totality of the event, because 22 years is no small feat," Greenfield says.

"And we do have to say 'Thank You' to Republic Bank for their sponsorship year after year. They've been tremendous."

To register for the 2026 Republic Bank Players Challenge, go online at jewishlouisville.org/golf.





NEWS

The Temple's JLAB regards Jewish education as a choice, not an obligation

By Megan Hoffman
Guest Columnist

"No, I want to go," a student told their parents after being given the option to skip religious school for the week. It's not the kind of response many adults associate with their own experience of Hebrew school.

For Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher, stories like this have become increasingly common. Moments like that, he said, often surprise families and reflect what JLAB (Jewish Learning and Belonging) at The Temple has been working to build: not obligation, but choice.

Parents regularly tell JLAB's leaders that their children look forward to Sunday mornings. Others praise the program's electives, which allow students to explore Jewish learning through topics that interest them. During family tefillah, parents are invited to join students in prayer, creating opportunities for families to experience Jewish learning together rather than simply dropping children off at the classroom door.

For JLAB Director Ellen Shaikun, these moments are signs that the program is fulfilling its purpose. "We're not just doing things differently," she said. "We're doing them the way they should be done."

The positive feedback has been accompanied by measurable growth. Over the past three years, enrollment in JLAB has increased by roughly 45%. According to Rabbi David Ariel-Joel, much of that growth has come from previously unaffiliated families who joined The Temple specifically so their children could participate in the program.

These numbers are a stark contrast to the national data. According to a report by the Jewish Education Project, between 2006 and 2020 supplementary school enrollment has plummeted by 45%.

The trend is especially visible among older students. Last year, JLAB welcomed 32 teen teaching assistants. Thirty-six are expected this coming year. Most strikingly, every eligible seventh grader has chosen to return as a teaching assistant following their bar or bat mitzvah year.

For Rabbi David, the statistics are remarkable enough to draw skepticism from colleagues. "When I tell my friends these statistics," he said, "they're positive that I'm making it up."

One area he is particularly excited about is JLAB's growing use of The Temple's archives and art collection as part of the weekly curriculum. The approach is highly unusual; Rabbi David said he is unaware of another Reform congregation in North America weaving its archives so deeply into weekly religious school learning.

When asked what is driving the program's success, Rabbi David points first to Shaikun.

"The biggest reason for all this success is Ellen Shaikun," he said. "Her enthusiasm, her commitment, things money cannot buy." He described her as "an educational visionary."

That vision has included a significant investment in supporting students with different learning styles and needs.

That commitment becomes especially visible during b'nei mitzvah preparation. Rather than expecting every student to engage with Jewish learning in exactly the same way, educators work to build on individual strengths and learning styles. "Each bar or bat mitzvah ends up being a really beautiful expression of that kid's learning," Rabbi Matt said, "because it's about them, not just the curriculum."

Unlike other school models where clergy make occasional appearances, The Temple's rabbis teach in JLAB every week. That consistency allows students to build relationships with clergy.

"We actually know the kids and they know us," Rabbi Matt said. "It's not like the rabbi is some mysterious, far-off, unreachable person."

Those relationships continue long after students complete religious school. Teen teaching assistants gather with clergy every other week for breakfast, mentorship, and learning. At a recent dinner honoring graduating teaching assistants, many described those gatherings as one of the most meaningful parts of their experience. Rabbi David said the breakfasts are among his favorite parts of the program as well.

The impact of those relationships is visible in the confidence students bring to Jewish life. At this year's end-of-year extravaganza, where students shared projects, artwork, and learning with families and congregants, one project particularly stood out to Rabbi David. A student from an interfaith family created a family crest that prominently featured both a cross and a Star of David.

"What stood out to me," he said, "was that they felt it was okay to celebrate that in the school, the fact that their family is an interfaith family, and to present it proudly."

For Shaikun, some of the most meaningful moments come during Family Shabbat gatherings, when students and parents participate in Jewish life together. "The parents leave so impressed and proud," she said.

Looking to the future, Rabbi David is particularly excited about expanding opportunities for students to engage with The Temple's archives and art collection. Rabbi Matt hopes to continue strengthening relationships with students and creating new opportunities for connection beyond the classroom.

Yet for all the enrollment numbers, participation statistics, and new initiatives, JLAB's leaders ultimately define success in more personal terms.

Rabbi David hopes students leave with a strong sense of Jewish identity and pride. Just as importantly, he hopes they develop beliefs and practices that are genuinely their own. His goal, he said, is not for students to agree with him on every aspect of Judaism, but to feel confident enough to build an authentic Jewish life for themselves.

Rabbi Matt shares a similar hope. He wants students to discover confidence and security in their Jewish identity, knowing that there are many ways to live a meaningful Jewish life and that their path has a place within the community.

For Shaikun, the goal is even simpler. Long after the lessons, projects, and celebrations are over, she hopes students carry one thing with them: the knowledge that they belong.

Megan Hoffman is co-chair of the Personnel Committee at The Temple

Advertise your business in *Community*!

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

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





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

Grossman Green PLLC

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

Schedule a FREE consultation!

Call: (502) 657-7100 | www.grossmangreen.com

6008 Brownsboro Park Blvd #D • Louisville, KY 40207



Jewish Family & Career Services Recognizes Community Impact at 2026 Annual Meeting

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









On June 23, 2026, community members, volunteers, donors, and supporters gathered for the 2026 JFCS Annual Meeting at Jewish Family & Career Services. Together, we celebrated the people whose generosity and service make it possible for JFCS to meet growing needs across our community during a time of increasing uncertainty. This year, we were proud to recognize one volunteer whose dedication has made a lasting impact.

2026 JFCS Volunteer of the Year
Madeline Abramson

For decades, Madeline Abramson has embodied the Jewish values of chesed (compassion) and avodah (service) through her dedication to JFCS and the Louisville community. This year, JFCS proudly recognized her as our 2026 Volunteer of the Year for her leadership, advocacy, and 20 years of service on the MOSAIC Awards Committee, helping grow MOSAIC into one of Louisville's premier celebrations of our immigrant and refugee community.

Madeline volunteers through Family Mitzvah Days at the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry and the Telephone Reassurance program, providing support and connection to older adults in our community. Her decades of service reflect the vital role volunteers play at JFCS and the importance of passing the value of giving back from one generation to the next. Upon accepting her award, Madeline shared a simple but powerful message: "*You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem,*" encouraging others to become more involved in strengthening our community.

We also celebrated the contributions of 255 volunteers who donated more than 3,700 hours of service, representing an estimated value of $135,000!

2026 JFCS Community Collaborator Award
Neighborhood House

The JFCS Community Collaborator Award honors an organization whose partnership strengthens our community. This year's award was presented to Neighborhood House for its collaborative work with JFCS supporting older adults, youth, and families. The award was accepted by Director of Development Jessie Whitish, who spoke about the power of partnership and the impact of having JFCS staff embedded at Neighborhood House each day to better serve the community. We are grateful for their partnership and shared commitment to helping Louisville thrive.

2026 Mary Gunther Program Innovation Award
Project EM/Cindy Key

JFCS also presented the 2026 Mary Gunther Program Innovation Award to Project EM, a national workforce initiative helping individuals navigate career transitions. The award was accepted by Cindy Key, who has led the program locally for more than six years.

The JFCS Annual Meeting also honored the memory of longtime volunteer Linda Goodman. A memorial plaque was dedicated in the Sonny & Janet Meyer Food Pantry to recognize her years of service and lasting impact on JFCS. The honor was accepted in her memory by her daughter, Alyce Goodman Abraham.

While celebrating this year's impact, we also acknowledged the challenges ahead. As JFCS faces significant financial pressures due to government funding cuts, your partnership has never been more important. We invite you to support the life-changing work of JFCS by making a gift here.: www.jfcslouisville.org/give/.

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

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

– Cathi B. | Republic Bank Client

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

Open a personal account at republicbank.com

REPUBLIC BANK
Time to thrive.™
Member FDIC

JFCS Home Care Services

When You or Your Loved One Needs a Little Extra Support, JFCS is here.

From companionship to daily assistance, JFCS Home Care helps older adults thrive at home while giving families peace of mind.

Services Include:

- Personal care, emotional support, & companionship
- Assistance with daily routines
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping

We accept long-term care insurance and can provide guidance to help you understand and use your benefits.

Call today: 502-452-6341

Let JFCS help you or your loved one stay safe, supported, and independent at home.

JFCS
Expanding Possibilities For All

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

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Michelle Elisburg gets a story published in new anthology


Michelle Elisburg

Michelle Elisburg, a Louisville pediatrician and president of the Louisville chapter of Hadassah, shared the following recently:

I'm published! It's an anthology and my entry has a Jewish theme. The publisher is sending to people I know are educators/writers and I hope will leave a favorable review on Goodreads. It's a real mitzvah. The publisher is a student-run group at Coastal Carolina University. They learned that Hebrew is a right to left font after they printed the Hebrew backwards and I couldn't figure out why I couldn't read it.

She continued: The book is called *Write Home: Letters to a Younger Me*, a collaborative anthology between the #whatshesaidproject and Communal Pen. The #whatshesaidproject is a grassroots community art project with a mission to amplify the stories of women in creative ways. The Communal Pen is a community writing initiative in South Carolina, developed by the South Carolina Arts Commission and partnering with the Athenaeum Press at Coastal Carolina University.

"The Athenaeum Press is a student-driven publishing lab. I used to live in Columbia, S.C. before we moved to Louisville, so I work with the Founder of the #whatshesaidproject who is in South Carolina. She and her client led virtual workshops on writing letters to our younger selves, exploring storytelling and what you would tell your younger self to care for your body, mind and soul. We were then invited to submit to the book project. Forty writers were selected. It was published May 2026 and can be purchased on Amazon."

Good things are happening for Simon Isham, Director of Louisville's Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning


Simon Isham

Simon Isham will be spending a few days in Simi Valley this coming November.

"International Melton recently invited me to attend its upcoming Conference of Learners, where I will serve as both an ambassador for the Louisville school and a panelist alongside three colleagues from around the country," he says. "The panel will focus on the impact of Melton programming in local communities and the factors that contribute to successful adult Jewish learning initiatives."

From Nov. 16-19, Isham and his fellow Conference participants will be at American Jewish University-Brandeis Bardin Campus. The theme for this year's gathering is "The Jewish People at a Crossroads." Sarah Tuttle-Singer of *The Times of Israel* will be the keynote speaker.

"The other panelists represent schools in North Jersey, Atlanta, and Boca Raton—communities with significantly larger Jewish populations than Louisville—so I'm honored that our local school was selected to be represented as part of the conversation," Isham says. "To me, this recognition reflects the strength of Louisville's learners and the community that has been built here over many years."

For information about Louisville Melton's programming at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, go online at adathjeshurun.com/Melton.



UofL's Natalie Polzer honored for more than 20 years of service


Natalie Polzer with UofL President Gerry Bradley

Natalie Polzer, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies in the Dept. of Interdisciplinary and Public Humanities at the University of Louisville, recently was honored with a pair of awards recognizing her for her long record of service at UofL.

In a ceremony this past April 24, Polzer received the College of Arts & Science's Distinguished Service Award for Service to the University, and on April 28 was given the President's Distinguished Award for Service to the University for more than 20 years at the university.

Polzer was a key figure in establishing UofL's Jewish Studies Minor in 2007, and has collaborated on projects encompassing the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies (currently occupied by Ranen Omer-Sherman), the William and Susan Yarmuth Jewish Studies Reading Room in Ekstrom Library honoring Rabbi Robert and Deborah Slosberg, plus a memorial for Professor Lee Shai Weissbach also located in the Reading Room.

Additionally, she's been a faculty sponsor of Hillel, maintained exhibits of Louisville Jewish Artists in Ekstrom Library, and has staged an annual UofL event marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In addition to her professional duties, Polzer is a member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and Chabad of Kentucky. She's also an associate member of Keneseth Israel Congregation and Anshei Sfard.

Louisville's Darren Erman helped coach the New York Knicks to a long (!) awaited NBA Championship


Darren Erman

If you scanned the New York Knicks bench during the team's recent run to the NBA Championship, you might have recognized a guy who was one of three Louisville-area athletes inducted into the JCC Athletic Hall of Fame in July 2015 (alongside Peyton Greenberg and Max Behr).

That fellow is Darren Erman, a Knicks assistant coach who grew up in Louisville and graduated from DuPont Manual High School -- where he was twice president of the BBYO KIO Region. Then he was off to college at Emory University in Atlanta, and law school at Northwestern outside Chicago.

Kind of a conventional route, followed by a stint at the vaunted law firm of Latham & Watkins. But the basketball itch remained strong -- powerful enough to induce Erman to exchange a high-flying corporate law career for proximity to hoops hardwood.

"When I was a lawyer, I wasn't very good," Erman told Community for a story published in September 2015. "I didn't have a passion for it. My passion was for basketball."

In 2003 he gained a spot as assistant coach at St. Anthony High School in Jersey City, New Jersey. Celebrated for its basketball program, St. Anthony ended up as a two-year proving ground that Erman to join Brandeis University in 2005 as the school's basketball coach.

Coaching in the Boston suburb of Waltham meant forging connections with the Boston Celtics, where Erman spent the 2008-2010 on the coaching staff (the Celtics won it all in Erman's first year). Then it was on to the Golden State warriors until 2014 -- and six years later in November 2020 -- New York's beloved Knickerbockers.

He's been there ever since, and no doubt shared in the collective delirium of a team and an entire city when the Knicks clinched ultimate victory by vanquishing the San Antonio Spurs in five games. It was the team's first championship since 1973.

"Do whatever you're passionate for. Don't be afraid to take risks," he said in that 2015 Community article. "And better yourself. Whatever you do you should better yourself."

AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun
Join us for our next Shabbat Social, Friday, July 10. The evening begins with Happy Hour at 5 p.m., then Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:45 p.m. Dinner will begin around 6:45 p.m. and will be catered by Chef Maureen Hartmann. The cost is $15 per person with children 12 and under free of charge. Visit **adathjeshurun.com** to make your reservations. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, July 7.

AJ will host its Summer Blood Drive with the American Red Cross Thursday, July 16 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sign-ups requested, walk-ins welcome. Visit **redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive** to schedule a spot -- and thank you!

AJ Shabbat-Luck Dinners are evenings of food, friends, and fun. Join us Friday, July 24 at 5 p.m. for Happy Hour followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:45 p.m. Dinner, beginning around 6:45 p.m., will feature a chef-prepared entrée and delicious sides prepared by you. For more information and to RSVP, visit **adathjeshurun.com/shabbat-luck**.The deadline to RSVP is Tuesday, July 21.

AJ announces "Summer Soccer Night. Join us Wednesday evening, July 29 for Fellowship Night at Lynn Family Stadium, with Louisville City FC taking on Birmingham Legion FC. AJ has secured group tickets in section 201 for the event. For more information, visit **adathjeshurun.com/event/aj-summer-soccer-night**.

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

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

Chavurat Shalom
Thursday, July 2 - David Shapero will tickle the ivories for us. Lunch will include hamburgers, roasted potatoes, baked beans, slaw, fresh fruit, and apple cobbler.

Thursday, July 9 - JCRC Director Trent Spoolstra will bring us up to date on the latest news impacting the Jewish community. Lunch will include tuna salad, noodle kugel, marinated vegetable salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and strawberry trifle.

Thursday, July 16 - Saxophonist Mike Tracy returns to entertain and teach at the same time. Lunch will include meatloaf, roasted potatoes, green beans, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate mousse.

Thursday, July 23 - Susan Rudy will lead us in an easy chair yoga practice. Lunch will include fried chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cookies.

Thursday, July 30 - Pianist Nada returns with another wonderful performance. Lunch will include hot dogs, tater tots, baked beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and assorted desserts.

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

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.

Keneseth Israel
Jews & Brews — Wednesday, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 11 a.m.
Join Rabbi Freed at the Trager Family JCC for coffee, cookies, and Torah in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Shabbat in the Park - July 10 at 6 p.m. at Stegner Pavilion in Cherokee Park

Come enjoy a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a BYO picnic dinner. Dessert is on us!

Shabbat with the Kids
Tot Shabbat will meet July 11 and 25, featuring joyful Shabbat songs and family fun. Shabbat Shalom Club meets every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for children in grades K–5, offering Torah learning, games, songs, and snacks.

Jews & Brews: After Hours — Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m..
Enjoy a beer and Torah on tap with Rabbi Free, location TBD.

Shabbat & Sundaes — July 25th at 6 p.m.
Treat yourself to a sweet ice cream - on us - at Graeter's on Bardstown Rd.

Kol Israel Jewish Renewal Community of Kentucky
Friday July 3 at 7 p.m.
All are welcome to join our monthly in person
"A Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner"
All are welcome to join our Monthly in person gathering of Meditation, Music, Movement and Meaningful Conversations about the week's Torah Parsha "Pinchas" (and lessons of his Daughters).
Vegan and Vegetarian options | FREE-but PLEASE reservations necessary via EventBrite, or contact Blu via text at 502 277-0555 or **KolIsraelKentucky@Outlook.com** Location: MaybeItsFate, 1424 Story Ave.

Monday, July 6 at 8 p.m.
"Community-Wide Jewish Meditation: Inner Peace for Challenging Times"
Gather with Jewish Communities around the country to experience inner spaciousness and healing. Free and open to all. To register for the Zoom link to join Text Blu at 502 277-0555 or **KolIsraelKentucky@outlook.com**.

Saturday Morning July 10 and 24
Please join us as we celebrate Shabbat as
"Adat Ha`Araphel- Congregation of the Cloud"
on Zoom or Facebook.
Join many of our regional Jewish Renewal leaders for our innovative, musical and inspirtional service. Note new time: We gather at 10 a.m. for greeting and schmoozing on Zoom. The service begins 10:15 a.m. sharp. For the link, call or text 502 277-0555.

Louisville Vaad Hakashruth
The Vaad is excited to offer kosher food options for Jewish Heritage Day. Choose from a special Cold Pastrami Lox Sandwich from Cold Smoke Bagels (order here) or a Falafel Sandwich Box (order here), with all orders available for pickup at the ballpark. Pre-orders are required and must be placed by July 8, so don't wait to reserve your meal.

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

Momentum -- Journey of Growth
Seven Days in Israel: Nov. 2-8, 2026
Join women from around the world for an immersive journey to Israel during this pivotal moment in Jewish history full of self-discovery, meaningful connections and inspiring moments of Jewish learning. More information is available online at **MomentumUnlimited.org/Journey**, by calling Alison Roemer at 502-238-2730, or emailing her at **aroemer@jewishlouisville.org**.

National Council of Jewish Women – Louisville Section
NCJW Takes the Lead in Mifepristone Case
On May 1 we were reminded just how quickly the landscape of reproductive health care can shift. A ruling from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Louisiana v. FDA threatened to significantly restrict access to mifepristone, a medication that has been safely used for more than two decades and is critical to abortion and miscarriage care. While the US Supreme Court has issued a temporary stay, preserving access for now, these actions underscore the uncertainty and fragility of the right to the full suite of reproductive health care.

If affirmed, the ruling would have far-reaching consequences — especially for those who rely on telehealth as a primary pathway to care. At a time when abortion access is already severely restricted in many states, limiting medication abortion would deepen existing inequities and put care even further out of reach for millions of people.



AROUND TOWN

NCJW continues to meet this moment with urgency, affirming that reproductive freedom is a fundamental and religious right. Through ongoing advocacy and mobilization, NCJW is committed to protecting access and ensuring our communities stay informed and engaged as this case unfolds. NCJW recently filed an amicus brief, joined by over 50 diverse faith organizations, with the Supreme Court defending broad access to mifepristone and asserting that attacking access to this medication is an attack on religious freedom. You can read our press release at **tinyurl.com/3kvhj5z4**.

Host a Postcard Party!
Feeling frustrated that safe, effective medication abortion is under attack? Let's work together to protect it! The US 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 Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. with postcards to reaffirm that medication abortion is safe, effective, and used by millions!

Want to host your own party? Visit **tinyurl.com/3xjhhf6w** to get started!

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

Temple Shalom
Shabbat Services, Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. at Temple Shalom
Shabbat services are led by Rabbi Jacowitz Chottiner and members of the congregation. Music is provided both by a professional musician and synagogue members. Friday night services are streamed on our YouTube channel TempleShalomKy. On the July 4th weekend, services will be online only. For the Zoom link for that Saturday morning, please contact the office at 502-458-4739.

BLT (Bagels, Lox, and Torah), Saturday, July 11, 10:30 a.m. at the Trager Family JCC
Led by Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner, Torah study explores the themes of the weekly Parsha and their relevance to today. Discussions are lively and engaging, and all are welcome. Bagels, lox, and juice are provided. Note: there will not be services at Temple Shalom that morning.

The Temple
Adult education at The Temple continues weekly with Torah Study with Rabbi David Saturdays at 9 a.m. For a full schedule and descriptions, please go to **thetemplelouky.org/adult-education** for more information.

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

Join The Temple Brotherhood Saturday, July 11 at 10:30 a.m. for our Torah Celebration featuring the inclusive Brotherhood No-Rehearsal Choir singing during regular Saturday morning services. The oneg will feature homemade matzah, gravlax, and bourbon.

Bring your Mah Jongg sets, playing cards, or favorite board game; round up your friends; and join us for a fun afternoon of friendly play with WRJ/Sisterhood Sunday, July 19 at 1 p.m. We'll provide snacks and refreshments and ask that you bring a non-perishable donation for the JFCS Sonny and Janet Meyer Food Pantry. RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/game-day**.

Hike with Rabbi David! Sunday hiking adventures are for all ages; however, strollers are not recommended. The Temple will provide hikers with an awesome water bottle to not only ensure hydration, but also as a keepsake for your own hikes. In July we will hike The Parklands of Floyds Fork – Wild Hyacinth/Paw Paw Trail, July 26, at 9 a.m. (arrive at 8:45 a.m.). RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/hiking**.

Trager Family Jewish Community Center
Jewish Heritage Day with the Louisville Bats
Sunday, July 12 at 1 p.m. at Slugger Field

Let's play ball! Join us for Jewish Heritage Day at Louisville Slugger Field to enjoy a fun day as the Louisville Bats take on the Omaha Storm Chasers. Highlights include Cantor David Lipp, Cantor Sharon Hordes, and Jennifer Diamond performing the national anthem, free bouncy inflatables, kids' meal vouchers, and more.

To purchase tickets, go online at **jewishlouisville.org/jewish-heritage-day-26**.

Registration Now Open for the Annual Republic Bank Players Challenge: Monday, Aug. 31 at Standard Club
Special features include: Contests & Prizes, plus a Heaven Hill Brands tasting.

New for 2026: Mahjong for a Mission: Connect, play, and enjoy a friendly competition Sunday, Aug. 30 at the Trager Family JCC.

This event benefits Jewish Family & Career Services and the Trager Family JCC to help secure better lives for individuals and families overcoming life's challenges with confidence and dignity. Register today at https://tinyurl.com/yc7va3dy

Interested in a Sponsorship? Contact Tina Agonva, **tagonva@jfcslouisville.org** or Lindsey Palgy, **lpalgy@jewishlouisville.org**.

Learn more at **jewishlouisville.org/golf**.

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/club-j**.

Enrichment Classes
Monday-Thursday Every Week
JCC Members as well as non-members can now register for new enrichment classes this spring! Each week kids can explore their creativity with sports, chess club, dance, Monk-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**.

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





LIFECYCLE

B'nai Mitzvahs



Daniel Elliot Johnson

Daniel Elliot Johnson (Eli), son of John and Chavvah Johnson, and brother of Sam and Austin, grandson of Daniel and Carol Penner and Terry and Laney Johnson, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday August 8, at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple.

Eli is an upcoming 7th grader at Francis Parker in Goshen. He loves to spend time with his friends and his brothers. He enjoys watching movies, playing D&D and Magic the Gathering, gaming, swimming and jumping on the trampoline. He is looking forward to his first year on the E-Sports team.

Eli loves animals and is always up for travelling or an adventure to a new place. For his Bar Mitzvah project, he has been collecting items and putting together bags for the Blessings in a Bag project that helps members of our community who are in need.

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

Obituaries



Dr. Edward C. Adler

Dr. Edward C. Adler, 75, of Louisville, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

Dr. Adler dedicated over 40 years to the practice of gastroenterology before his retirement in 2021. He was the founder of Gastroenterology Consultants of Louisville, a practice that was later acquired by Norton Healthcare. Additionally, he was an American College of Gastroenterology Governor for Kentucky and former advisor for the celiac group in Louisville.

An eternal optimist who saw the best in people and situations, he was loved by friends and family. Whether answering a late-night medical call, navigating healthcare decisions for loved ones, or simply offering a helping hand, he took pleasure from being of service to others. To his family, he was their leader and rock.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sol and Hannah Adler.

Edward's memory will be cherished by his beloved wife of 52 years, Beth; their children, Sara and David; his adored grandchildren, Ben, Eli, and Casey; his sister, Phyllis Goldblatt and husband, James, and nephews Brett and Jonathan Goldblatt.

Funeral services were conducted on June 7, 2026, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc., followed by interment in Adath Jeshurun Cemetery.

Donations in Edward's memory may be made to the Justin Mark Memorial Fund of Congregation Adath Jeshurun or the American Heart Association.



Helene Ann Wilner Goldberg

Helene Ann Wilner Goldberg *(Hannah bat Meir v'Perl)* passed away June 5, 2026 in Boca Raton, Florida. She was born January 21, 1941 in Brooklyn, New York, the younger daughter of Pearl and Martin Wilner.

Although they were both raised in Brooklyn, it was not until they were both at a hotel pool in Miami Beach that she met Myron "Mike" Goldberg. They married in 1962, enjoying vacations together in the Catskills, like so many other New York Jews of that time.

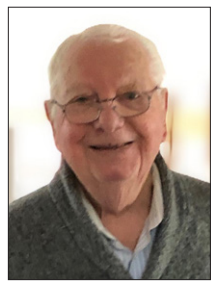
Ann and Mike welcomed two sons into their lives and built the family they always dreamed of. Sadly, Ann was widowed at 40 with two young sons to raise. She did so as a single mother, never begrudging this lot in life and surrounding her sons with love and warmth. She gave them an appreciation of travel and the arts, particularly Broadway shows. After many years in New York, the family relocated to Boca Raton, Florida where her younger son finished high school. She also took care of her father in his later years until his passing.

Ann was proud of her sons for the successful families and careers they each built. Becoming a grandmother brought her much happiness. She never minded that she became the butt of the family jokes and always had a sense of humor about it.

If family was Ann's first love, travel was her second. She explored the world, mostly by cruise ship, visiting countries too numerous to count, oftentimes last minute by grabbing a deal and boarding a ship near her home in South Florida. She was a master at scoring freebies and swag in her travels, as evidenced by various shirts and tote bags in her sons' closets. A lunch bag with a casino logo on it was inadvertently sent to school with her granddaughter in elementary school -- one of many humorous stories of her life which was so well lived. She will be missed.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her sister, Gillian Kassel. She is survived by her sons, Andy (Michele) and Matt (Lisa) -- a former director of the Jewish Community Relations Council at the Jewish Federation of Louisville. Additional survivors include her grandchildren, Jake, Lucas, Rachel and Molly, and her longtime companion and travel partner, Bill Sussman.

Donations in Ann's name can be made to the charity of choice. In her memory, go on a nice vacation, preferably by cruise ship!



Eugene Miller

Eugene Miller, age 97, passed from this life on June 11, 2026, Louisville, Ky. with his children by his side.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carolyn Lowenthal Miller, of 45 years.

He is survived by his sister Edith Black (Potomac, Md) and his four children: Randi (Jim Mrvos), Marc (Ellen), Craig (Sherry), and Amy (Rick Hudson); and by five grandchildren: Cameron (Lorna Zhang), Abigail, Samuel, Fiona, and Toby.

Gene was born in the Bronx in New York City, where he attended James Madison High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1946 at the end of World War II and toured the Mediterranean. Upon completing his Naval service as a 3rd Class Petty Officer, he enrolled in the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy where he was a member of Alpha Zeta Omega. Gene worked as a staff pharmacist, then Director of Pharmacy for 10 years at Jewish Hospital. Subsequently, he spent 20 years working for the Commonwealth of Kentucky as the Chief Pharmacist at Hazelwood Hospital. His last employment was with Madison State Hospital in Madison, Ind.

Gene was best known for his humor, sharp wit, and shpilkes. He loved coin collecting, trading coins, attending coin shows, and was an active member of the Louisville Coin Club. He was also a member of the Moose Lodge #5 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He volunteered for more than 20 years with Kentucky Performing Arts. In his later years, he enjoyed dancing and took painting classes.

Remembrances in Gene's memory may be made to Temple Shalom or Hosparus Health Louisville.

Eugene's funeral service was held June 14 at Herman Meyer & Son, followed by internment at Anshei Sfard Cemetery.



Shirley Krichmar Murray

Shirley Krichmar Murray -- March 29, 1936-June 4, 2026

Shirley Krichmar Murray, a woman of warmth, intellect, and creativity, passed away in St. Louis MO where she had spent her final years surrounded by family.

Shirley was born in Appleton, WI on March 29, 1936. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Wisconsin where she also earned her master's degree in English.

In 1958 she married Marvin Murray and the couple made their home in Louisville, KY. Marvin preceded her in death in 2011.

Shirley was an active member of the Jewish community through her involvement with Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women. She worked as a literary critic while also pursuing other interests such as baking -- for which she won awards -- painting, travel, and family.

She is survived by her two devoted daughters, Leah Murray Albert (Stewart) and Alison Murray Alpert (Matt), and her beloved grandchildren, Emily Balk (Kyle), Katherine Alpert Lagoni (Dan) and Juliet Grace Alpert.

The family requests that any donations in Shirley's name be made to the Jewish Federation of St. Louis or to Temple Israel in St. Louis.

Continued on page 25

PJ Library

Jewish Storybooks Delivered Each Month!

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

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

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



Our purpose is simple, to guide and empower our clients to take control of their financial journey.

SMALL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS ● BUSINESS GROWTH + TRANSITION ● AUDIT AND ASSURANCE

HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

www.welenken.com 502.585.3251

LIFECYCLE

Continued from page 24



Abraham Harold Rolnick

Abraham Harold Rolnick, son of Aaron and Jeanette Rolnick, passed away on May 15, 2026 in Louisville, Kentucky at the age of 94.

Abe was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 23, 1931. He was a member of Adath Jeshurun. Synagogue and was a past president of the Louisville Jewish Day School. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the Air Force, and a navigator. He was also a graduate of the University of Alabama, where he earned an Industrial Engineering degree. He was the owner of F. Wolkow & Sons.

Abe is survived by his wife Harriet (Jacobs) Rolnick and his two sons, Jack and Jonathan (Amy) Rolnick both residents of Atlanta, Georgia, and by five grandchildren.

His funeral and burial took place in Atlanta.

Many thanks to the wonderful doctors and nurses at Baptist Health Hospital who cared for Abe in his final days, as well as Adath Jeshurun Cantor David Lipp and Rabbi Scott Hoffman.

Donations in Abe's memory may be made to Adath Jeshurun Synagogue or the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts.



Carolyn Kessel Russman

Carolyn Kessel Russman died June 6, 2026 at age 87. She was born to Ruth and Sidney Kessel on August 22, 1938. Carolyn was proud to have spent her entire life in Louisville.

She graduated from Atherton High School and Spencerian Business College.

Carolyn and Raymond were married in June 1957 and soon left for Ft. Polk, Louisiana, where Carolyn became a private secretary while Raymond served as a dentist in the Army. They returned to Louisville as soon as Raymond's service was completed. Carolyn became secretary to the general at the Old Army Medical Depot and then on to Naval Ordinance, where she was secretary to the head of the engineering department.

In 1975 Carolyn opened Carma Needlepoint and Yarns, which she loved and enjoyed for 33 years. The store closed in 2008 upon her and Raymond's retirement.

One of Carolyn's passions was travel -- she and Raymond took many wonderful trips together throughout the world. Her favorite was her visit to Israel and Egypt, which she still talked about 30 years later.

Carolyn was very much a people person and loved spending time with her family and friends. Mah jongg, bridge and bowling were weekly activities that she enjoyed during her working years, and she continued playing mah jongg, canasta and other card games for many years after retiring.

Dining out was another favorite pastime, and Carolyn and Raymond would eat out several nights a week. Early favorites were Blue Boar, Hickory House and the original Golden Dragon. In later years, it was Ruth's Chris and Jade Palace.

Carolyn loved to tell stories and was a voracious nonfiction reader. She loved to read about history and science and was able to speak about many varied topics, Egyptian archeology being one of her favorites.

She also continued to knit and do needlework for many years and shared many of her pieces with others. She designed and completed a Torah cover that is used at Keneseth Israel Congregation, as well as needlepointing some of the Creation series that is on the wall in the small sanctuary. A large piece called "The Rabbi" will be donated to hang on the walls there as well.

Carolyn's first love was her family. She enjoyed spending as much time as possible with her children and grandchildren, and made Friday night Shabbat dinners a tradition for over 40 years. She was delighted when her first great-grandchild was born and greatly enjoyed the two others that followed.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Raymond; her parents, Ruth Kessel Frankel and Sidney Kessel; her stepfather, Nathan C. Frankel; her sister, Janet Kessel Allen and her brother, Murrel Jay Kessel.

She is survived by her daughter, Kim Reinhardt (John); her son, Steven Russman; her granddaughters Jennifer Moore (Dan) and Emily Reinhardt (Eli Espanol); and by three great-grandchildren: Asher and Eleanor Moore, and Eloise Espanol.

Carolyn is also survived by four half-siblings: Bella Adkins, Martin Kessel, Susan Soto and William Kessel.

The family would like to thank Carolyn's caregivers who made the last weeks of her life as comfortable as possible. Their loving care made all our lives easier.

Funeral services were held June 9, 2026, followed by burial at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Keneseth Israel's Rabbi Discretionary Fund or to your favorite charity.



Helen Wirth Wahba

Helen Wirth Wahba passed away April 15, 2026 -- 20 days short of what would have been the celebration of her 77th Birthday. She was born in Louisville to George H. and Louise K. Wirth. She grew up in the West End of Louisville . . . just around the corner from where Muhammad Ali grew up. Later, the family moved to New Albany, and she graduated with honors from New Albany High School in 1967.

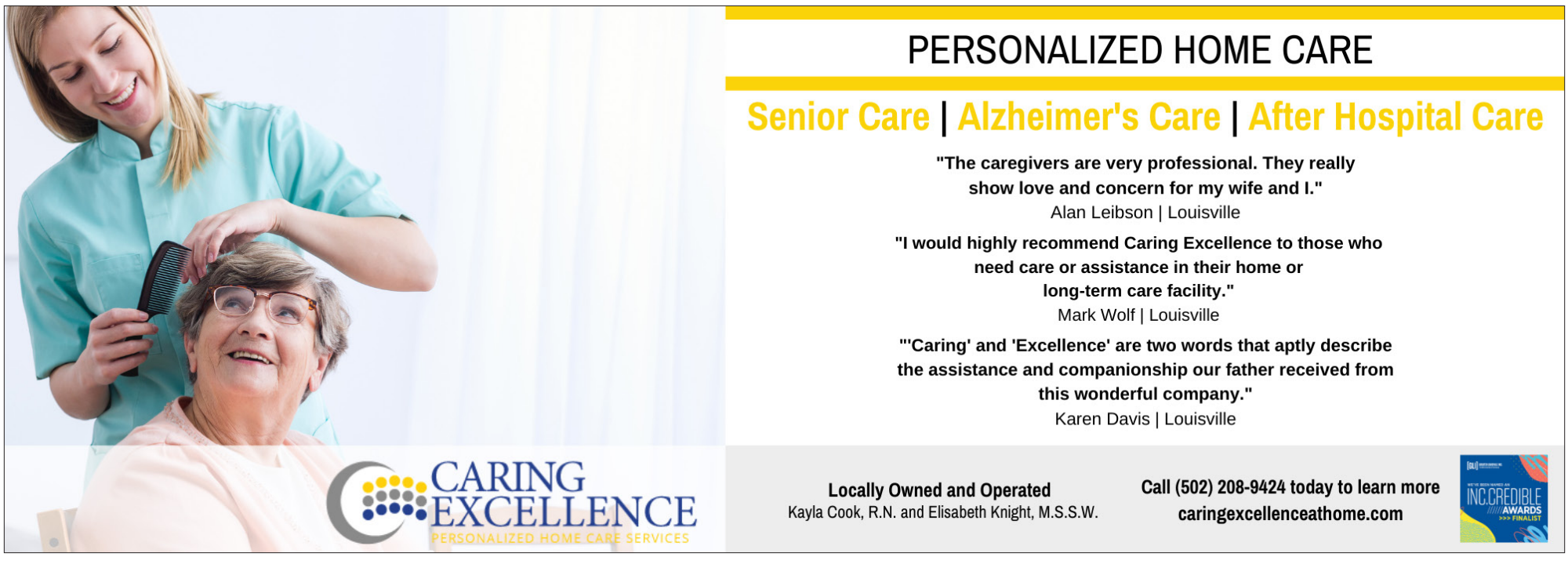
She then followed her life-long dream to become a Registered Nurse by enrolling at Kentucky Baptist Hospital School of Nursing and graduating in May 1970. She began her Nursing career in the Intensive and Cardiac Care units at the old Jewish Hospital. When her husband was given the responsibility of managing the Brussels, Belgium office of the First National Bank of Louisville, she volunteered her considerable talent at the "Institut des Deux Alices" where she was very appreciated -- despite the fact that she did not speak French very well. In 1977, Helen, her husband Leon, and daughter Marcie then moved to Cleveland where Helen eventually became the Head Nurse for the Radiology Department of Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital. Back in Louisville in April 2005, Helen was a part-time Nurse at Baptist Eastpoint's Pre-Op Department. She was an active RN for 52 years and only retired in March 2020 when COVID struck.

Helen grew up in a very loving home with four brothers (Bill, Paul, Dale, and Greg Wirth) and one sister (Carol Weaver). On February 8, 1972 she met the love of her life, Leon Wahba. They were married on Mother's Day 1973 by Rabbi Herbert Waller at Adath Israel Temple. They had over 50 happy and exciting years together raising two wonderful human beings: Marcie Dyan Wahba and Jeffrey Paul Wahba. Helen was delighted to welcome their life loves, Joshua Eppert and Rachel Parks, to the family.

Helen was a loving, caring, and beautiful person. To meet her was to love her, and to know right away that she was a kind, sincere, caring, strong, confident, and very generous lady. She was the best wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, and a reliable and supportive friend to all. Helen had many interests: listening to "modern" country music while driving her convertibles; converting her empty wine bottles to beautiful night lights that she gifted to good friends and relatives; baking the best tasting cookies and pies; and cruising through many of the world's major rivers (including the Nile, the Rhine, the Moselle, the Seine, the Rhone, the Loire and the Danube).

She particularly loved travelling to Israel regularly, mostly to see and be with family as often as possible. Her favorite holiday was definitely Halloween, when she loved to decorate the yard and house beautifully. She was the most beautiful witch to ever hand out candy. She always looked forward to her twice weekly Mahjong games with good friends. And she would never miss monthly get togethers with her "Red Hats" friends or with her fellow nursing school graduates. She was a terrific hostess and did not fear the challenges of hosting over 30 persons for Thanksgiving and her memorable (and very patriotic) 4th of July parties. Alongside families and friends, she greatly enjoyed the annual "Thunder over Louisville" fireworks.

Helen succumbed to Pulmonary Fibrosis caused by chemicals in a recalled Phillips C-Pap Machine. She chose cremation with her ashes spread over her many rose bushes. A Celebration of Her Life was held April 26 at Gilda's Club of Kentuckiana. In lieu of flowers she preferred for her friends to make generous contributions in her memory to Gilda's Club.



GLOBE

Jane Yolen, children's book author whose 'The Devil's Arithmetic' became a Holocaust classic, dies at 87

By Penny Schwartz
JTA

Jane Yolen was already an award-winning author and illustrator of more than 100 titles for young readers when her editor suggested she write a Jewish children's book.

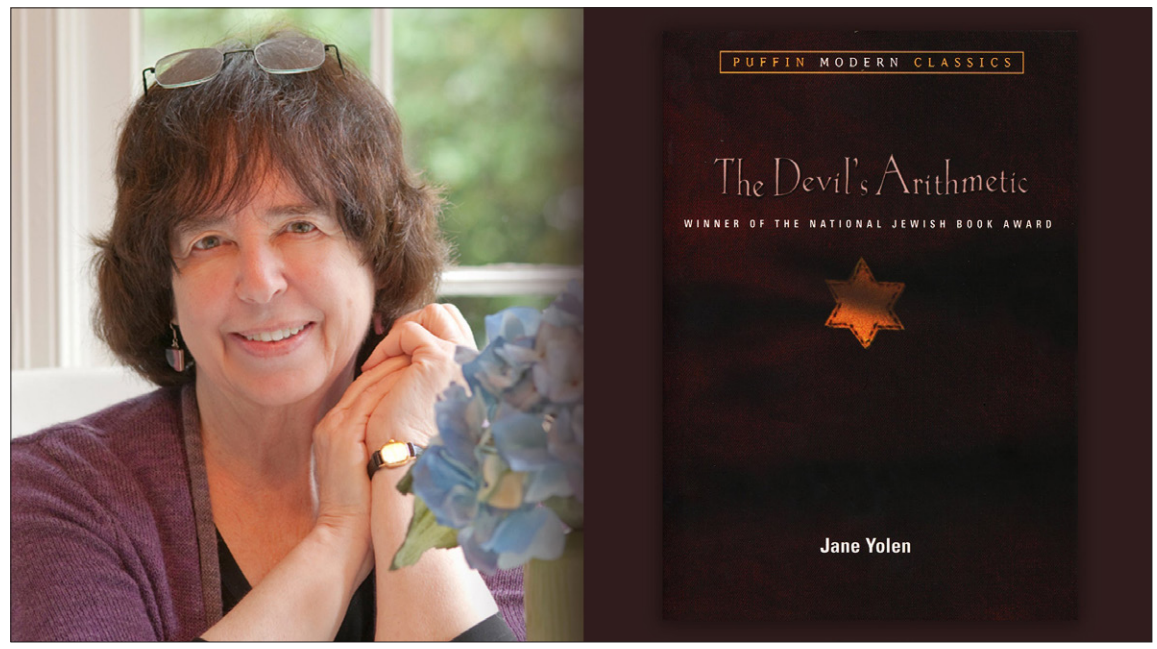
At first, she resisted the idea. Sure, she was Jewish. But she didn't grow up in a religiously observant family, and she insisted she didn't know enough about Judaism to take on the project.

Finally, she relented. Drawing on a spark of an idea about a Holocaust time-travel fantasy, Yolen turned in the first draft of what would become "The Devil's Arithmetic," her 1988 young adult novel. "I thought, 'OK, I'm going to try this,'" Yolen recalled to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency years later.

The book won immediate acclaim and garnered multiple awards. Today, it's seen as a classic of the genre — and one that remains caught up in banned-book lists.

For Yolen, who died Thursday at 87 in her home in Western Massachusetts, "The Devil's Arithmetic" became her signature title. Still in print, the book was also made into an Emmy Award-winning Showtime feature starring Kirsten Dunst. It was the cornerstone of a titanic legacy in children's literature, her family said in a statement.

"It is with profound sadness that I, along with my brothers, Adam Stemple, and Jason Stemple, share the news of our mother, Jane Yolen's passing," her daughter Heidi Stemple wrote on Facebook, adding that Yolen had "passed gently with no pain or stress" and her family by her side, reading one of her books to her.



Jane Yolen and her most famous book, "The Devil's Arithmetic." (Photos: Courtesy of Jason Stemple and Penguin Random House)

Yolen was born on Feb. 11, 1939, in New York City. Her father was a journalist and her mother was a psychiatric social worker until Yolen was born.

An alumna of Smith College, where she won poetry and journalism awards, she worked first as an editor in New York City, writing at her breaks and time off. Her first published book, "Pirates in Petticoats," a nonfiction work about women on the high seas, was published when she was 22.

She soon pivoted to children's literature, becoming one of the most prolific authors in the genre. She went on to publish 450 children's books, including more Jewish titles, and was known as "the Hans Christian Andersen of America." She won the prestigious Caldecott Medal for her 1987 picture book, "Owl Moon," and her "How Do Dinosaurs …" series is a staple in many preschool classrooms. (It includes one Jewish title: "How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Chanukah?" Her 450th title was published just this year, her children said.

But it was "The Devil's Arithmetic," scholars have said, that cemented her legacy as a leading author for young Jews. The novel was a trailblazer for its blending of time-travel with historical veracity, according to the late Norman H. Finkelstein, a National Jewish Book award winner who was a children's librarian himself.

"It was a different Holocaust book," Finkelstein told JTA in 2018, on the occasion of the title's 30th anniversary. "It was not strictly factual, it was not a memoir. Jane did a superb job in taking the story of the Holocaust down to a level that ordinary American kids could understand. The characters were realistic, not paper cutouts."

Other titles of hers included "Meet Me at the Well: The Girls and Women of the Bible," with Barbara Diamond Goldin, and "Jewish Fairy Tale Feasts," with her daughter Heidi, who developed and illustrated the hands-on recipes.

Yolen relished the collaborations with her daughter. They lived next door to each other, along with Stemple's family, with two grandchildren who were taste-testers of Stemple's recipes.

"Jane was a treasure, and it is difficult to think of the world of books — indeed the world itself – without her," Richard Michelson, an award-winning author of Jewish children's books and Yolen's friend and neighbor, wrote on Facebook. Describing her as a cherished mentor of younger writers, he added, "Jane created classics as if it were as easy as breathing."

While often assigned in schools as part of lessons on the Holocaust, Yolen's titles are not without controversy. In 2025 a Texas school district, using artificial intelligence, flagged "The Devil's Arithmetic" for removal as a title containing "DEI," or diversity, equity and inclusion content. The book became one of several well known Holocaust titles to be pulled from schools in the last few years.

Though she had initially resisted the idea of being a Holocaust author, Yolen would go on to publish a trilogy of unconventional young-adult novels about the subject. She incorporated elements of "Sleeping Beauty" into 1992's "Briar Rose." "Mapping the Bones" followed in 2018 as a riff on "Hansel and Gretel."

"Whenever we think of the Holocaust, we think of remembering," Yolen told JTA in that same 2018 interview. "We think of never forgetting. Soon all we will have are the stories."

In addition to her children, Yolen is survived by six grandchildren. Her husband, David Stemple, to whom she was married for 44 years, died in 2006.



GLOBE

Years after a boycott fight, Ben & Jerry's Israel debuts a flavor celebrating Israeli resilience

By Deborah Danan
JTA

Ben & Jerry's Israel operation has come up with a flavor that does not leave much to interpretation. Called "Milk and Honey," a nod to the biblical description of the Land of Israel, its namesake ingredients are supplied by Israeli cows and bees and its chocolate fudge pieces come shaped like Stars of David.

The company, which split from its American counterpart after a contentious 2021 boycott fight, is billing the new pint as its "most Israeli flavor ever" and, on its website, as a "symbol of hope, rehabilitation, and positive action" after the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attack.

Its ingredients and production come from southern Israeli communities most affected by the massacre and the war that followed. The company, based in the southern city of Kiryat Malachi, said it "felt a responsibility to take an active part in the region's recovery process."

The milk and cream come from the dairy in Kibbutz Alumim, one of the Gaza-border communities infiltrated by Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7, 2023. The honey comes from the beehives of Kibbutz Yad Mordechai. The chocolate Stars of David are made by hand at the Korint factory in Beersheba, part of the Shkulo Tov social enterprise, which helps integrate people with disabilities into the workforce.

Even the wrapper is local: the pint is adorned with "Fields of Light," a painting by Rivi Doron-Gerloy, a southern Israeli artist who was killed in a Miami car accident last year.

The flavor was developed in partnership with the Ayalim Association, a nonprofit that works to strengthen Israel's periphery. The company said royalties from sales of the new flavor will go to Ayalim's rehabilitation and educational initiatives in the south.

The Israeli and American Ben & Jerry's operations are now completely separate, a split that followed one of the more improbable diplomatic dramas ever to involve ice cream. In 2021, Ben & Jerry's said it would stop selling in Israeli settlements in the West Bank, saying sales there were "inconsistent" with its values.

The move set off an uproar in Israel. President Isaac Herzog called the boycott a "new kind of terrorism," while Benjamin Netanyahu, then opposition leader, retweeted the company's announcement that it would stop selling in the "Occupied Palestinian Territories," writing, "Now we Israelis know which ice cream NOT to buy," alongside Israeli flag and flexed-bicep emojis.



Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, who founded Ben & Jerry's in 1978, spoke about the company's decision to stop selling ice cream in the West Bank in an interview with Axios released in October 2021. (Screenshot)

The original founders, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, who no longer control the company but remain its best-known faces, also came under fire after the decision. In an interview, they were asked why the boycott logic did not extend to places such as Georgia and Texas, despite their opposition to those states' voting rights and abortion laws.

"Why do you still sell ice cream in Georgia? Texas?" Axios reporter Alexi McCammond asked in a video that went viral on pro-Israel platforms.

Clearly stumped, Cohen shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know," he said, laughing. "You ask a really good question and I think I'd have to sit down and think about it for a bit."

Unilever's then-chief executive, Alan Jope, also appeared to suggest that Israel had become an inconveniently sticky scoop of activism. "There is plenty for Ben & Jerry's to get their teeth into in their social justice mission without straying into geopolitics," he reportedly said in a quarterly earnings review at the time.

The standoff ended, at least commercially, when Unilever, Ben & Jerry's parent company, sold the Israeli business in 2022 to Avi Zinger, the longtime Israeli licensee and owner of American Quality Products. The sale was accompanied by a legal fight that was inflamed when Zinger told an Israeli news outlet that, once he took control of the company in Israel, he could rename the signature flavor "Chunky Monkey" to "Judea and Samaria," the Hebrew term for the West Bank.

Under the ultimate deal, Ben & Jerry's could continue to be sold throughout Israel and in Israeli settlements, under Hebrew and Arabic branding, while the Vermont-based company said it disagreed with the move and would no longer profit from Israeli sales.

The split left the Israeli operation in an unusual position: carrying one of the most recognizable American ice cream names, while openly defying the political stance associated with that name abroad.

But the corporate restructuring has not been enough to cleanse the palate for everyone. On social media, the new flavor drew curiosity and praise, but also lingering resentment from those who said the brand name still carried too much baggage, even under Israeli ownership.

"I really don't care if it's owned by someone other than Ben and Jerry in Israel. Those two clowns' names are still associated with the brand. I wouldn't spend a penny for this ice cream regardless. That brand is done," one person wrote on Instagram.

"We've been eating Häagen-Dazs since October 7th," another said.

Last year, Cohen announced that he planned to produce a "flavor for Palestine" independently after Unilever blocked Ben & Jerry's from creating one, soliciting suggestions about what should accompany watermelon, a symbol of Palestinian solidarity, in his concoction.

"Milk and Honey" has come to market faster. So does the new flavor deliver a taste of the Holy Land?

One food influencer, who called the new flavor a "statement," offered a less scriptural verdict on the taste, shrugging that it "tastes like vanilla with chocolate chips" — a conclusion echoed by others in Israeli food aficionado groups, who lamented that the honey was barely noticeable.

One commented, referring to dairy-free desserts made to comply with kosher laws prohibiting the mixing of milk and meat: "Not the tastiest thing I've ever eaten, but not as bad as a pareve dessert either."



THANK YOU!

Together, we grew.

Together, we're building a Jewish community that is welcoming, secure, and full of possibility.



Nourishing Community

15,000+ meals served to older adults

26% increase in AgeWell participation, including fitness classes designed to support the health and well-being our members who are 60+

Dozens of weekly opportunities for wellness, connection, and enrichment



Investing in the Next Generation

$289,000+ awarded in overnight camp grants

Hundreds of children and teens engaged through PJ Library, summer camp, and teen leadership programs

Expanded pathways to belonging through Shalom Louisville



Building a Connected & Secure Future

600+ community members participated in 36 Partnership2Gether events

35 young adults from North America, Israel, and Hungary gathered in Louisville for the P2G Young Adult Summit

Hundreds of individuals received security training and preparedness resources through Federation-supported initiatives

Your generosity created connection, strengthened community, and built a brighter Jewish future.
Thank you for growing with us.

TOGETHER WE GROW

Jewish Federation® OF LOUISVILLE

It is not too late to make an impact today!
jewishlouisville.org/federation