Published by the Jewish Community of Louisville, Inc.

www.jewishlouisville.org

JEWISH LOUISVILLE
COMMUNITY

INSIDE:

New Jewish Play Reading Series

SEE PAGE 17

FRIDAY Vol. 52, No. 9 | September 25, 2026 | 14 Tishrei 5787

Jewish Louisville will commemorate October 7 with 'Songs of Hope and Peace' Thursday, Oct. 8 in the Shapira Family Auditorium

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

On the evening of Thursday, October 8, our community will gather in the Shapira Family Auditorium to mark the third anniversary of the terror attacks against Israel.

Those attacks took place on the early morning of October 7, 2023, when waves of Hamas terrorists poured over the border between Southern Israel and the Gaza Strip, launching a murderous rampage that would claim almost 1,200 lives and result in 251 people abducted to Gaza as hostages.

Not until January 26 of this year, 2026, did Israel recover the remains of the last hostage still held in Gaza City: IDF Master Sergeant Ran Gvili. Yet the memories of October 7 and its aftermath continue to tug at the collective psyches of Jews the world over. And on each anniversary of that terrible day – in 2024, 2025 and soon in 2026, we pause to honor those we lost, while contemplating what is yet to unfold in an increasingly uncertain future.

For the past two years, the Trager Family JCC has hosted commemorations of October 7, offering community members an opportunity to exchange despair in favor of solace and – perhaps – even a degree of optimism.

This year's remembrance will take place Thursday, October 8 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Family Auditorium. Titled "Songs of Hope and Peace," the event will feature the return of Israeli soul-folk singer Linor Ein Gedy, along with contributions from Cantor David Lipp of Congregation Adath Jeshurun and Cantor Sharon Hordes of Keneseth Israel Congregation. The program will offer not only remembrance, but an opportunity to draw strength and comfort from one another, and to find hope and even a measure of inspiration from the heartfelt resonance song.

See **OCTOBER 7** on page 4



Linor Ein Gedy

Meet Tamari and Yarden – our recently arrived Israeli ShinShinim

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

If you spot two young women striding through the Trager Family JCC with the energy and purpose characteristic of late teenagerhood while exchanging sentences in rapid-fire Hebrew, there's a good chance you've encountered our latest pair of Israeli ShinShinim: Yarden and Tamari.

ShinShinim – Hebrew for "emissaries" – is a 12-month Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) program for teens taking a gap year between the end of high school and their mandatory two years of national service. Yarden and Tamari (for security reasons they go by first names only) are the third such duo to spend a year in Louisville. During their time here these 18-year-olds will work with students in all the area Jewish preschools and both religious schools, host events for members and guests, and go out into the community sharing their perspectives as young Israelis.

Alison Pohn Roemer, who oversees the ShinShinim program for the Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville, explained that out of thousands of teens who apply in Israel, "only the best are selected for interviews" for placement in North America and Europe.

"Each year Louisville has interviewed at least six candidates, selecting the two we feel will make the greatest impact on our community, while having complimentary personalities," Roemer said. "Yarden comes from a small town so coming to Louisville felt like a good fit. Tamari went to a reformic school in Israel, which is unusual, and which made her a great candidate for our connection with the Reform Temples in our area."

Both ShinShinim have also participated in the Diller Teen Fellows initiative, in which – according to a Diller overview -- "an exceptional group of Jewish 10th and 11th graders is selected to participate in the shared experience of" a year-long program "designed to cultivate and connect an emerging generation of leaders in 32 communities around the

See **SHINSHINIM** on page 3

At Actors Theatre, Amelia Acosta Powell is shaping a new artistic vision alongside her Jewish heritage

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

Amelia Acosta Powell knows quite a bit about life's intriguing dualities.

Growing up in Denver as the daughter of a Roman Catholic mother and a Jewish father, she learned early on how to navigate the crosscurrents of sometimes contradictory personal dynamics. It's a skill she honed professionally while ascending creative ranks at a series of regional theaters, culminating in her present gig: Artistic Director at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

As its creative leader, Acosta Powell is tasked with preserving ATL's storied legacy while confronting the myriad challenges intrinsic to contemporary performing arts. Working alongside Managing Director Emily Tarquin, she represents a new generation of arts presenters. Just as Music Director Teddy Abrams has reinvigorated the Louisville Orchestra over the past decade, Acosta Powell, 36, must reimagine what ATL means not only for Louisville, but in a broader, nationwide context.

It's a formidable imperative, especially considering the immense weight of ATL's self-shaped traditions. Founded in 1964, the theater garnered international attention soon after Jon Jory came on as producing director five years later. Jory's tenure included ATL's most significant, ongoing component: the annual Humana Festival of New American Plays, which made its debut in 1976 and lasted until the Humana Foundation ended its underwriting in 2021.



L-R Amelia Acosta Powell and Emily Tarquin (photo courtesy of Actors Theatre of Louisville)

Actors Theatre was the birthplace of Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart* and Marsha Norman's *'night, Mother*, two plays that became celebrated examples of touchstone American drama (and which won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1981 and 1983, respectively).

Coincidentally, 2021 was also the year Acosta Powell came to Actors Theatre, hired as its first-ever "Impact Producer"

See **ACTORS** on page 8



THE DASHBOARD

Word of the Month

Please, Just One More Embrace



D'var Torah

Rabbi Avroham Litvin

The holiday season is a time of reflection. A few days ago marked the 40th anniversary of the day that my father passed away (yahrzeit). And I am just a few days away from celebrating my birthday on the Jewish calendar.

I was contemplating what I would most enjoy for my birthday this year. Truly, I am grateful for all the blessings in my life. I have a loving wife, good health, and a great community with many friends. My wife and I have been blessed with many children and grandchildren, and I adore them all. I have a great relationship with them and truly care for and appreciate each of them. But what I would really enjoy is for them to stop by on my birthday and take a moment to be present with me and possibly share a birthday hug.

For Dad's yahrzeit, 17 of us travelled to Boston to visit his grave, to say the Kaddish prayer and remember him. I would give anything to be able to hug him one more time, but that is no longer possible. Yet, we tried our best to do what we could. My dad loved fishing, so we rented a boat and went out on the water to share memories of him with his children and grandchildren.

I love to see my children and grandchildren spending time together. I truly hope I get to see them all on my birthday. Will they all stop by to wish me well? Will they be there when we light the candles, eat the cake and wish each other well? I hope so, but it is never that simple.

Don't get me wrong, I love them all if they can make it to see me or not. But there is a special feeling when those you care about come by to say, "I love you," especially on a birthday.

Why is a birthday so important? According to Jewish tradition, a birthday is the time that G-d placed a piece of Himself within you and gave you life. Each year, on one's birthday, that same spiritual energy is renewed and there is a heightened sense of spiritual connection. The Sages teach that on a birthday, a person has a special ability to share that Divine blessing and bless others as well.

So, on this special day, I hope they all stop by, so I can hug each of them, say, "I love you," and bless them that their dreams be fulfilled for good. And if some of them aren't able to stop by? I will miss them, but of course, I'll still love them and appreciate that for a whole bunch of different reasons, not everyone can make it home on any particular day. Luckily, because of how the calendar works out, there is another day in just a few weeks' time that is also very special to me: my English birthday. I see it as another opportunity for anyone who missed my first special day to still come by for a l'chaim and a great big loving bearhug embrace. And I greatly appreciate that intentional gesture of love and closeness.

However, as I mentioned, ours is a large family, and I realize that some of the kids may not be able to make it for either date. For those loved ones, I always smile and say, even if you missed the cake on the birthday, and missed the individual blessings I give out on that day, you can still light a celebratory candle wherever you are and/or have a drink, say L'chaim and think of me. I know you love me and I love you too, at all times and in all circumstances.

As I was examining these thoughts and feelings which I imagine many of you may feel as well, I began to wonder if G-d might not have very similar feelings on the eve of Rosh Hashana. Will the kids make it to see me on the holidays this year? And if they didn't make it on Rosh Hashana, just a few weeks later is the joyous festival of Sukkot (Sept. 26 to Oct. 4, 2026).

The last days of Sukkot connect past, present and future with intentional acts of love. We observe the Yizkor memorial prayers for our loved ones who have passed away. And then we sing and dance and celebrate with our loved ones who are present, declaring that we are all family and connected as Jews with G-d. The Sukkah acts a "big bearhug from G-d," as the Sukkah wraps all around us.

And maybe G-d. Too, hopes for an intentional act of love from His children on a regular Friday night, by lighting Shabbat candles or drinking a glass of wine at kiddish and saying L'chaim with family and friends.

I wish I still had my dad to hug, but I appreciate the blessing to be able to do so with my children and grandchildren. Happy Birthday to all humankind. Let's make it a great year of connection and intentional relationship with each other and with G-d. Amen!

Avrohom Litvin is Rabbi at Chabad of Kentucky.

Snapshots



Students from Jewish Learning Experience and Club J rang in the new year in the Weisberg Family Lobby at the Trager Family JCC with apples and honey and a Rosh Hashanah experience with Rabbi Shmully Litvin. Rabbi Litvin shared the meaning of Rosh Hashanah and demonstrated different styles and sounds of the shofar, then offered the children a chance to blow the shofar in celebration. (Photos by Robyn Kaufman)

Candles

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

- October 2 @ 7:06 p.m. *(Shemini Atzeret)*
- October 9 @ 6:56 p.m.
- October 16 @ 6:46 p.m.
- October 23 @ 6:36 p.m.
- October 30 @ 6:28 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, October 19** (though sooner is better).

The paper will be published on **Friday, October 30.**

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**

FORUM

SHINSHINIM

Continued from page 1

world."

"Both of my older sisters did the program before me," said Yarden, one of four daughters in a family who lives in southern Israel. Diller provided her with an opportunity to appreciate the contrasts between growing up in Israel and the U.S.

"We found that they were very different from us," Yarden recalled, comparing the American participants' predominantly Reform Judaism practice to her own Orthodox religious practice, which is the norm for most Israelis.

"Their Jewish identity is different from our Jewish identity," she said, recounting a conversation she had one Shabbat with her new American friends. "I feel I'm a Jew because I live in Israel, speak Hebrew and do Jewish holidays. They feel Jewish because they do bar and bat mitzvah and keep Shabbat. But it was fun to talk to them and share how I feel, and hear how different they are from us. It opened up new worlds for me."

Like Yarden, Tamari – who hails from northern Israel near Haifa -- had an older sister's Diller experience to draw from. "We learned about different movements in Judaism, and that you can be anything you want to be. You'd have 20 kids – and one of them might be keeping Shabbat, one might be keeping Kosher, and one might have none of that. And we still can sit together and be friends."

Growing up in a Reform environment has given Tamari a distinctively eclectic perspective on faith and friendship. "My school believes in connections with schools all over the world," she said, "in Germany, Australia, and the United States."

During her 9th grade year, she was part of a delegation that visited Germany, where English became the lingua franca among teens of differing backgrounds and practices.

Such experiences have much in common with the ShinShinim program, where participants live with host families and – in their free time – "love the same things, like going to the mall and doing other teenager stuff."

Because the ShinShinim program is so competitive, it takes a special degree of commitment to be chosen. "There are two tryouts," Yarden said, with the first tryout being the more challenging. Then, after passing the initial hurdles, candidates must be successfully matched with a host community. "They keep in mind what's going to be best for you," she said.

Initially, Yarden tried out for a slot either in Miami, Toronto or London. For the Miami spot, she was one of six teens vying for two available openings. Florida, however, was not to be – Federation representatives there chose someone else.

"I was thinking, 'Okay, maybe I'm not going to do this; maybe I'm not going to get any other community.' Then I got an email saying we're going to do an interview with Louisville, Kentucky – where there were also six people trying for two places. I said to myself: 'I hope I do better than I did last time.' And I got accepted."

Tamari and Yarden have another experience in common: Both were active in Tzofim, Israel's vaunted Hebrew Scouts Movement for youth age 9 through 18. Founded in 1919, Tzofim emphasizes egalitarian camper autonomy, encouraging participants to devise their own programs while solving problems along the way.

"In scouts I learned things I'd never learn in my school," Tamari said, "about how we're building a safe place, and about leadership. Talking about service in the army and gap years were things I got from Tzofim. Last year I had the opportunity to teach teenagers how to lead a group."

She told about how, during various summers, her parents visited her at camp – and that every time her mother observed her proudly independent daughter, mom would say; 'I'm in shock, because this is a city kid.'"

"If you ask me about an activity I did in school, I can't name even one," Yarden said. "But if you ask about an activity I did as a kid seven years ago, I could tell you specifically what we did there," because "it was the best way to make the information stay in my brain forever."

Like Diller, Tzofim proved an exceptionally valuable precursor to participating as ShinShinim. "I knew I wanted to do some kind of a gap year," Yarden said, recalling how several ShinShinim alums acted as Tzofim counsellors. "Three years ago my sister did it in Miami, and I remember FaceTiming her every week, when she'd tell me about the amazing stuff she did, and I was like: 'Okay, that's what I want to do.' So, in 11th grade on the first day you could sign up, I did."

All prospective Shinshnim must demonstrate proficiency in English, and show they can be comfortable speaking in front of an audience. Once selected, Yarden and Tamari followed the favored protocol of summoning up Google Maps to plumb clues about these places called "Louisville" and "Kentucky."

"We open Google Maps and we're walking around (virtually) the city, and seeing pictures, but it's not like a big city with malls and tall buildings," Yarden said. "It's farms and horses."

Informed that was more likely Lexington than Louisville, these ShinShinim are embracing their new environment with undisguised fervor.

Or as Yarden put it: "I was like: 'Oh my G-d – I'm going to live the actual American experience, not the shiny American experience.'"













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

Louisville has two new *ShinShinim* as members of our community from August 2026 - July 2027!

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

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

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

To learn more, visit
jewishlouisville.org/shinshinim

Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE

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 Rachel Goldman at rgoldman@jewishlouisville.org.

NEWS

OCTOBER 7

Continued from page 1

Our ShinShinim Tamari and Yarden will also participate, and there will be a nearby companion exhibit of art works related to the Nova Festival.

During his Rosh Hashanah service this past September 11, Rabbi David Ariel-Joel -- himself an Israeli native -- acknowledged sentiments that might well apply to the emotional aftermath of October. 7.

"There's a Jewish tradition as the year ends, and as we're looking at the year to come, to say: *May the year and its curses end; may the year and its blessings begin*.

A few minutes later, speaking directly to congregants seated in rows before him, Rabbi Ariel-Joel invoked the oft-cited contrasting debates 2,000 years ago between followers of Rabbi Shammai and those of Rabbi Hillel – "a controversy among the people of Israel that's been going on for thousands of years," Rabbi Ariel-Joel said.

"It is a controversy between optimistic Jews and pessimistic Jews," he continued, recounting how "the House of Shammai students claimed that it's better not to be born into this world. This world is too hard, too messy," so "it's better not to be alive."

But "the students of Hillel said, 'On the contrary – it's better for a person to be born and to be alive.' They both agreed that now that we are born and alive, we should be useful. We should do something to make humanity better and to make the world better."

And in what could be deemed an allusion to October 7, Ariel-Joel shared a forthright declaration: "To be continue to go from strength to strength, and not to be afraid to say yes to optimism."

Michal Kofman, an Israeli associate professor of sociology at the University of Louisville, emphasizes that fundamental shifts in thinking and behavior are necessary to achieve something akin to post-October 7 harmony.

"My take is that peace is possible, but it requires hard, rigorous work, not empty slogans or wishful thinking," she said.

"Wishing for peace achieves nothing; actively building it does. True peace work requires a painful but necessary step: acknowledging the "other" and taking responsibility for what they have endured, including the harm caused by our own side. Refusing to do this undermines any prospect of a lasting resolution, because a peace imposed on only one side's terms is not reconciliation; it is an enforced surrender that only breeds future resentment."

There is an existing Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, negotiated between Israel and Hamas, that has officially (if tenuously) been in effect since October 10 of last year.



Linor Ein Gedy and Tamar Sara Capsouto performing at the Trager Family JCC for Yom HaZikaron in 2025.

Whether it succeeds or fails remains an open question.

"I want to argue that any regional peace agreement must begin with the understanding that there must be no fences between Israel and its neighbors," blogger Elkan Bar Eitan, who grew up in the West Bank settlement of Gush Etzion, wrote in a Times of Israel post on October 9, 2025 – the day the Gaza agreement was signed.

"The notion that peace requires 'distance' between peoples," Eitan continued, "has produced a generation of Israelis and Palestinians who do not know one another – except through a lens of suspicion."

Hope, Rabbi Ariel-Joel believes, is not the same as naivete. Nor is an optimistic mindset a simplistic glass-half-full mode of thinking.

During his Rosh Hashanah sermon, Ariel-Joel shared the example of Louis Brandeis, the storied Louisville native who in 1916 became the U.S. Supreme Court's first Jewish Associate Justice.

"What is Jewish optimism in the United States of America?" Ariel-Joel asked rhetorically. "This is the optimism that brought a person from Louisville, Kentucky, Louis Brandeis, to be the first Jew on the Supreme Court of the United States –

Continued on page 5

TILES AND TASTY BITES

Join us for a fun evening of Mahjong and Rummikub!

Adults only, & open to all levels but you must already know how to play.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
6 - 8 p.m.
Kohn Family Town Square at the Trager Family JCC

Enjoy a selection of light refreshments.
Sign up as a team, or if you're coming solo, no worries, we'll assign you to a group.

We can't wait to see you there!



Cost: $7 per person; $28 for a 4-person team

Register at **jcclouisville.org/tiles-and-tasty-bites**

**Space is limited*

Trager Family JCC

YEAR OF CIVIL DISCOURSE

Save The Date
Yehuda Kurtzer Visits Louisville

November 17-19, 2026
Programs for the Jewish Community

Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer is President of the Shalom Hartman Institute and a leading thinker on Jewish identity and the challenges facing Jewish communities today. He holds a doctorate from Harvard University and is known for helping communities navigate complex moral, spiritual, and political questions.



Join us in November for a variety of community-wide events:

November 17 - High School Event - 5 – 7 p.m.
November 18 - Community Torah Study - 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
November 18 - Community-Wide Event - 7 – 9 p.m.

Dialogue Circles will be held before and after these events.
Dates, times, and locations will be posted on the YOCD website.

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

*This event is made possible in part by **Jewish Heritage Fund** and by the following endowment funds through the **Jewish Federation of Louisville**:*

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

NEWS

Continued from page 4

not to hesitate, not to be afraid to go through the most controversial and longest approval process in the history of the United States."

We must be vigilant in the service of hope, Ariel-Joel urged, while acknowledging how Judaism's ideals are not simply formalistic religious precepts.

"So many Jewish values are part of the narrative of America," he said. "Jewish ideas like Tikkun Olam – repairing the world, caring for widows and orphans – are part of the pillars of Jewish communities all over the United States. As Jews, we have always fought to be in the forefront for civil liberties and human rights for everyone."

Alluding to Louisville's own example, "it is no wonder that in every Jewish community there's a Jewish family and career services (agency) that works for the entire community, cares for the weak, for immigrants, and for the vulnerable in our society.

"This is an optimism that we really need right now," Ariel-Joel stressed. "This is an optimism that in the last few years we started losing. We need to pull ourselves out of the defense mode we cornered ourselves into, and to go back to lead moral excellence in our society.

At the close of the upcoming remembrance ceremony, participants and guests will rise to sing the Israeli national anthem, Hatikvah – which means, "The Hope."

Its text concludes with a yearning that applies not only on this occasion, but for all places and all time:

Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope of two thousand years,
To be a free nation in our own land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

"'Hatikvah' says that Jews should never lose hope, should never lose optimism," Ariel-Joel said. "Pessimism is a nowhere plan. 'Hatikvah,' Hope, is a choice, a knowledgeable choice – stubborn, determined, that can be fulfilled in harsh realities through small and big acts, and through an obligation to making the world better – to get up every day and to say in a loud voice that life has meaning, and we can always do better, even in the hardest times."

Registration is necessary to attend the "Songs for Hope and Peace" remembrance Thursday, October 8 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC's Shapira Family Auditorium. To register, go online at tinyurl.com/3z4uxkt3

Songs for Hope and Peace

An October 7 Commemoration

Thursday, October 8 | 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Shapira Family Auditorium Trager Family JCC

featuring Israeli soul-folk singer, Linor Ein Gedy
with special guests Cantor David Lipp and Cantor Sharon Hordes

RSVPs are required
Scan below or visit
jewishlouisville.org/hope



Trager Family JCC | Jewish Federation of Louisville

SNOWFLAKE SHOPPE
at the Trager Family JCC

CALL FOR VENDORS!

November 22, 2026

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

Support the Roth Family ELC!

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

For more information,
Scan the QR code,
or visit
jcclouisville.org/snowflakeshoppe

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

CABARET

NOVEMBER 5 - 15, 2026

Tickets On Sale Now!

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				5 7:30 P.M.		7 7:30 P.M.
8 2 P.M.	9 7:30 P.M.			12 7:30 P.M.		14 7:30 P.M.
15 2 P.M.						

New Date Added!

** Recommended for mature audiences **

To Purchase

Scan the QR code or visit
jcclouisville.org/centerstage

CenterStage at the 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 October 19 for publication on October 30 and November 16 for publication on November 27.

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

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

© 2026 JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LOUISVILLE, INC.

FORUM



On Sept. 11 and Oct. 7, the Universe spun off its axis. It's still spinning.



Mindful Ramblings

Andrew Adler

The capacity for human beings to inflict mayhem on one another should never be underestimated.

As I write this, the sun is going down on what was Sept. 11, 2026. Like many others, I have spent this day recalling where I was 25 years earlier – not simply in terms of literal location, but also my mindset on that morning as I sought to reconcile a torrent of conflicting emotions. A quarter-century later, I am still trying to parse those thoughts and feelings, filtered through the lens of present-day realities.

When American Airlines Flight 11 struck the World Trade Center's North Tower at 8:46 a.m., I was finishing a late breakfast in my then-home on Millvale Road, a few minutes' leisurely stroll from Congregation Adath Jeshurun. My two-year-old son attended AJ Preschool, and his very pregnant mother and I were anticipating the any-day-now arrival of his sister. In other words, it was a conspicuously happy time for our family.

September 11 shattered that complacency. Like people the world over, I watched with accelerating horror as United Flight 75 plowed into the South Tower, producing an immense fireball that confirmed our worst fears: This was no accident, but an act of deliberate, murderous terrorism.

Moments later, my phone rang. It was my mother calling from our apartment on West 86th Street in Manhattan, less than five miles from Ground Zero, close enough to see the black smoke obliterating the adjacent horizon. Customarily a woman who kept her emotions safely tucked away, now her words were tumbling out with a velocity that bordered on incoherence. They were the sounds of rising panic.

Disbelief compounded as the morning wore on -- a third plane hitting the Pentagon as staff fled the White House and the Capitol; everyone wondering whether more planes were headed for some other doomed, piteous destination. We didn't yet know that a fourth aircraft – United Flight 93 – would crash into a field in near rural Shanksville, Penn. after its 40 passengers and crew fought four hijackers, preventing the Boeing 757-222 from reaching its intended target: the U.S. Capitol.

It is difficult to reconcile the awfulness of that day, even a quarter-century afterward. So, too, is the implausibility of coming to terms with the events of October 7, 2023. Unlike its 9/11 predecessor, the violence of October 7 had a grotesque intimacy – shootings and stabbings, burnings, sexual violence, much of it recorded and disseminated on social media by perpetrators bent on inflicting maximum physical pain and mental anguish.

Each of these dates produced parallel reactions, a shared determination to strike back in spasms of blind fury and vengeance. Whether Al Queda or Hamas, Afghanistan or Gaza, America or Israel – the impetus was largely the same. Left unanswered, however, was the question of efficacy. Yes, we took out Osama Bin Laden and Yahya Sinwar, and there was justifiable satisfaction in holding these despicable men to account. Still, can we honestly say that we achieved victory of a genuine, enduring sort?

Al Qaeda gave way to ISIS and a cascading array of successor actors: September 11's terroristic, stubborn close cousins. Hamas is diminished yet hardly vanquished, continuing to hold sway amid the rubble of its so-called constituency. Tens of thousands of Gazan civilians have perished, with Israel having achieved the status of pariah state. There is a vague promise of reconstruction, though thus far there is scant evidence of progress toward that goal.

More elusive than reconstruction, though, is reconciliation. When it seemed that September 11 was consigned to the intermediate storage bin of history, its 25th anniversary brought the event back into memory's tumultuous foreground. Just as we did in 2001, we must again face up to an uncomfortable truth: Mere physical might is not enough to produce lasting peace.

Our enemies will often muster the kind of resistance and resilience that confounds expectations of swift, straightforward victory. The war/conflict with Iran (and its Houthi proxy), which lately has been spilling over to Saudi Arabia and has a distinctly quagmire look and feel, is the most conspicuous of cautionary tales.

So here I sit, sifting through the fallout of these two dates, when the Universe spun wildly on its axis and was poised to veer off into uncharted space. They foreshadowed a time when it's harder and harder to believe in the goodness of humankind. If that smacks of creeping pessimism – well, life has a way of confounding even the sunniest of outlooks. Such are the wages of evil.

Andrew Adler is Managing Editor of Community.

FORUM

A place to belong: How the Trager Family JCC changes lives



The JCC Perspective

Susan Kwasny

Sometimes, changing a life doesn't happen through one big moment. Sometimes, it happens through a series of small moments: a friend who recommends the JCC, a staff member who makes sure there is a place for you in a class, a ride that allows you to get through the doors, or a volunteer opportunity that gives you a reason to come back.

And sometimes, those small moments add up to something extraordinary.

For Patricia O'Bryan, the Trager Family JCC has become much more than a fitness center. It is a place where she has rediscovered movement, friendship, purpose, and, most importantly, a sense of belonging.

In 2020, Patricia's life changed dramatically when she was involved in a serious accident, ultimately losing the use of her legs. Her recovery brought with it not only physical challenges, but also many difficult personal changes. A world that had once been full of activity became much smaller.

After some time, her doctor encouraged her to become more active. Patricia was already a member of another fitness center, but a friend suggested that she give the JCC a try.

"I'll only swim," Patricia remembers thinking.

Swimming became the beginning of something much bigger.

After spending time at the JCC, Patricia was introduced to its AgeWell program. When she met with Director Dara Cohen, Patricia learned that the program offered something she hadn't expected: transportation.

"I thought the facility was unbelievable," Patricia said. "And the fact that you have transportation here is even better."

That transportation helped make the JCC accessible to Patricia, but it was the people who made her want to stay.

Patricia remembers countless small interactions with JCC staff that have made her feel cared for. She specifically credits Dara and Assistant Director Janet DeArk from the AgeWell program, but she also speaks warmly about her interactions with lifeguards, Member Services, the front desk, and many other members of the JCC team.

They care.

They help.

They make things work.

"The Trager Family JCC is so inclusive," Patricia said.

That spirit of inclusion was evident when Patricia attended one of our sound bath events. When she asked for a spot without a mat, so she could remain in her wheelchair, the response was simply, "Of course."

"I tried other places and it just didn't fit," she said. "In a very short time I feel like I belonged here."

That sense of belonging has become one of the most important parts of Patricia's JCC experience. She participates in exercise classes, swims in the pool, attends AgeWell lunches and activities, and embraces opportunities to socialize and learn.

But perhaps most importantly, Patricia has found a way to give back.

"I was always the helper, and now I needed help," she said. "But Dara has allowed me to volunteer my time and do clerical work."

That opportunity changed something fundamental for Patricia. She was no longer simply someone receiving help. She was once again someone who could help others.

"Other people look after me here, and I look after other people," she said.

That reciprocal relationship is at the heart of what makes a community a community.

Over time, Patricia's physical progress has been remarkable. Through swimming and exercise classes, she has regained strength and mobility and is, at times, able to walk with a walker. She has lost more than 100 pounds.

One of the most powerful moments in Patricia's JCC journey happened when she walked through the doors without her wheelchair. The people who knew her saw what that moment represented. They cheered. They clapped. They celebrated her progress.

But when Patricia talks about what the Trager Family JCC has given her,



Patricia O'Bryan

ebrations and even special programs like the drumming performance that she loved so much.

And there is purpose.

"It is home to me," Patricia said.

Patricia's story reminds us that the Trager Family JCC is not simply a building filled with pools, fitness equipment, classrooms, and activity spaces. It is a place that meets people where they are—and then helps them discover where they can go.

"The JCC will always be here," Patricia said, "but it changes as people need it."

That may be one of the best descriptions of what a community center can be.

Our community can change lives: not necessarily by doing something extraordinary, but by creating a place where people know they matter—and where, every day, they become a little stronger, a little more connected, and a little more hopeful.

For Patricia, that place is the Trager Family JCC.

And for all of us who have the privilege of serving this community, her story is a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do.

Susan Kwasny is Senior Director of JCC Programs and Operations.





NEWS

ACTORS

Continued from page 1

collaborating with then-Executive Artistic Director Robert Barry Fleming. After he resigned in January of 2025, she and Tarquin were named to their posts on an interim basis before becoming permanent the following Sepetmber.

Acosta Powell's portfolio emphasized forging a "community connection piece, listening for what the needs and wants of the community are, finding ways to measure for those outcomes and focus our programming towards those outcomes," she explained during a recent Zoom interview. "It's a framing of what we, the regional theater companies, have always been doing,"

Before coming to Louisville, Acosta Powell did stints as Artistic Associate & Casting Director at Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage, Line Producer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival – and from 2019-2021, Associate Artistic Director at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

She gained her earliest hands-on theatrical experience, literally, as a costume stitcher at D.C.'s Georgetown University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Theater and Spanish, plus a master's in Spanish Linguistics.

Georgetown holds a foundational family connection: Acosta Powell's mother and father met there while both were attending law school.

"I'm eternally grateful to them," she said. "They raised my me and my sister with influence from our cultural background and a lot of openness to what we are drawn to."

Acosta Powell's Jewish father wasn't especially observant in a formal, shul-specific sense, but Judaism nonetheless was a significant force in her young life.

"I would describe my upbringing as having Jewish culture in the foreground more than religion," she recalled. "You know – celebrating holidays, and with all the Yiddishisms that are deep in our language."

Acosta Powell appreciates the notion that, more often than not, being Jewish means seldom settling for a single point of view.

"One of my favorite things about Judaism -- or at least the version of Judaism that I grew up with -- is that it was all question and curiosity based, with little requirement of exactly how you practice the faith," she said, "which I know is not true of every version of Judaism by any means. But that was the community I was a part of: very questioning."

Though her father tends not to be formally observant, his mother – Acosta Powell's late grandmother – whom she lived with while attending Georgetown -- has been an anchoring presence in the realm of faith and practice.

"I find that my experience has been kind of matrilineal," Acosta Powell said. "The time I lived in D.C, with my dad's mother was quite formative, and I think she (was) the driver and holder of our family's history and Jewishness."

Indeed, "we do have a line of our family who came over to the United States after the pogroms in Russia. We also have a Holocaust survivor story in our family, so that's of course a point of pride and importance."



Amelia Acosta Powell reviewing materials at Actors Theatre of Louisville (Photo by ATL's Philip Allgeier)

Her mother's Mexican American heritage and her father's Ashkenazi family origins have found a defining sensibility in Acosta Powell, who embraces her multifaceted origins with all appropriate fervor.

"Being a person of mixed heritage certainly has affected my life at every step," she acknowledged. "But I don't necessarily think that it's core to my identity. I didn't set out for it to be core to my work that I'm Jewish or Latina or queer or female -- or any of the ways that I identify. Though of course I champion those identity groups and any other particularly underrepresented group because I have the lived experience of what that looks like."

Still, Acosta Powell is wary of reducing layers of personality to a few easily digested tropes. "Humans are much more complex and interesting than labels," she emphasized. "I feel pride in each of these communities, and I want to celebrate my participation and make other people who are part of those communi-

Continued on page 9





NEWS

Continued from page 8

ties feel welcomed by me in turn."

No wonder, then, that she's committed to bolstering historically marginalized performance collectives – exemplified by her passionate advocacy on behalf of Hispanic theater.

"I have had the great privilege to be a steering committee member for Latinx Theater Commons, which is a national advocacy organization for Latina representation in theater," she said, "and I've been a part of that for about 12 years. Opportunities beget opportunities, and I've met so many amazing people through that movement."

Along similar lines, Acosta Powell has savored being able to "work with playwrights who then I got to direct the world premieres of their plays, and that has become a big part of what I do, and really do love. And in fact, it was I was so tickled when I finally got to pitch directing *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* at Actors Theatre (in 2024) because I felt like, 'Finally, I get to focus on a Jewish story.'"

Storytelling is intrinsic to Actors Theatre's mission, and indeed ATL's embrace of new, locally-sourced works centers on its Storytelling Revolution Festival – produced in tandem with Louisvillle Fringe -- which made its debut this past April.

Elsewhere Acosta Powell herself has directed several productions and shepherded any number of others. She is as much a pragmatist as she is as artist, wanting to provide audiences with pathways to unexpected works while acknowledging the fiscal necessity of filling seats in ATL's three performance spaces: the 633-seat Pamela Brown Auditorium, 300-seat in-the-round Bingham Theatre, and the intimate upstairs 124-seat black-box Victor Jory Theatre – named ATL's founder (and Jon Jory's father).

Post-pandemic realities, coupled with shifting audience patterns of attendance, mean that the present-day Actors Theatre is far more modest than in its heyday a generation ago. The full-time staff, which at its peak numbered more than 100, now stands at 24. The vaunted resident acting company, which once boasted such boldface names as Susan Kingsley, Kathy Bates, Ken Jenkins, Adale O'Brien and William McNulty, ceased to be decades ago.

And just as the Louisville Orchestra has witnessed its longstanding subscription framework give way to flex packages and single-ticket sales, so too has ATL's reliance on subscribers willing to pay up front for an entire season's offerings.

Still, there is a genuine belief that its audiences and presenters can enjoy a symbiotic relationship – where each entity benefits the other. Reputation may not be everything, but it still stands for something.

"I think the way that you maintain the idea that, 'Well, I'll go see it because Actors Theatre is putting it on, even if I don't know anything about it, or recognize the title,' comes from a trust that takes real time to build," Acosta Powell said. That means ATL can produce crowd-pleasers like *A Christmas Carol* or the recent production of *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* and less familiar fare along the lines of Eboni Booth's *Primary Trust*, which won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Actors Theatre will stage it in the Bingham Theatre this coming Feb. 17-28

Acosta Powell directed *Baskerville*, touted in alliterative splendor as "dashing detectives juggle a dizzying web of clues, disguises and deceit." A very different piece revealed itself amid the February 2024 original staging of Beto O'Byrne's *Loving and Loving*, inspired by the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1967 decision in the case of *Loving v. Virginia* that struck down laws banning interracial marriage.

The play's thematic elements, steeped in the tension between prevailing norms and the freedom to express oneself without fear or apology, demonstrated how Actors Theatre could nurture a production that, in many respects, was decidedly unconventional. In that regard, the project dovetailed with Acosta Powell's own inquiries about living authentically.

"I embrace a queer Jewish Latina identity, and I welcome other people with respect," she said. "In some ways, this was my favorite thing about working on *Loving and Loving*. Fundamentally, "I think being mixed or multicultural is my strongest identity, because there's always the feeling that you're never quite enough of any one thing to feel like you belong."



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**

Your Values. Your Legacy.



Art, music and shared experiences have a unique way of bringing people together, sparking curiosity and connecting us to our culture and traditions.

A planned gift or endowment can help ensure Jewish cultural arts and ideas continue to inspire and enrich our community for generations to come.

The following endowed funds support Jewish cultural arts programming, music programs, performing arts, and opportunities to experience and engage with the arts.

Leon T. & Ursel Eichengreen Fuchs Music Fund

Irving Klempner Jewish Cultural Arts Fund

Kohn-Berman Endowment for the Arts Fund

Arthur David Kreitman Jewish Performing Arts Fund

Claire and Lee Lenkoff Orchestra/ Conductor's Fund

Dr. Louis & Bea Brownstein Ringol Performing Artists Fund

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



GATORS FALL SWIM TEAM

Join us for fall conditioning! Improve your swim strokes and continue to build swimming endurance.

For ages 4-14

PRACTICE TIMES 10/4 - 12/17

Mondays 5 p.m.
Ages 9-14

Mondays 6 p.m.
Ages 4-8

Fridays 4:30 p.m.
Ages 9-14

Fridays 5:30 p.m.
Ages 4-8

Participants can sign up for either both days of the week or one day a week.

FEES
1 day per week : $186 members | $209 non-members
2 days per week: $328 members | $372 non-members

New to the team? Please contact Lexi Garrison at lgarrison@jewishllouisville.org

REGISTER TODAY!
jcclouisville.org/gators | 502-238-2758

Trager Family JCC

PICTURE THIS: MAHJONG FOR A MISSION

MAHJONG for a Mission

On Sunday, August 30 nearly 100 people gathered at the Trager Family JCC's Kohn Family Town Square for the first-ever Mahjong for a Mission, a new event added to the annual Republic Bank Players Challenge. Participants played Maj for a chance to win prizes, bid on a silent auction, and enjoyed some breakfast nosh. Players connected with friends new and old while supporting the Trager Family JCC and Jewish Family & Career Services.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)







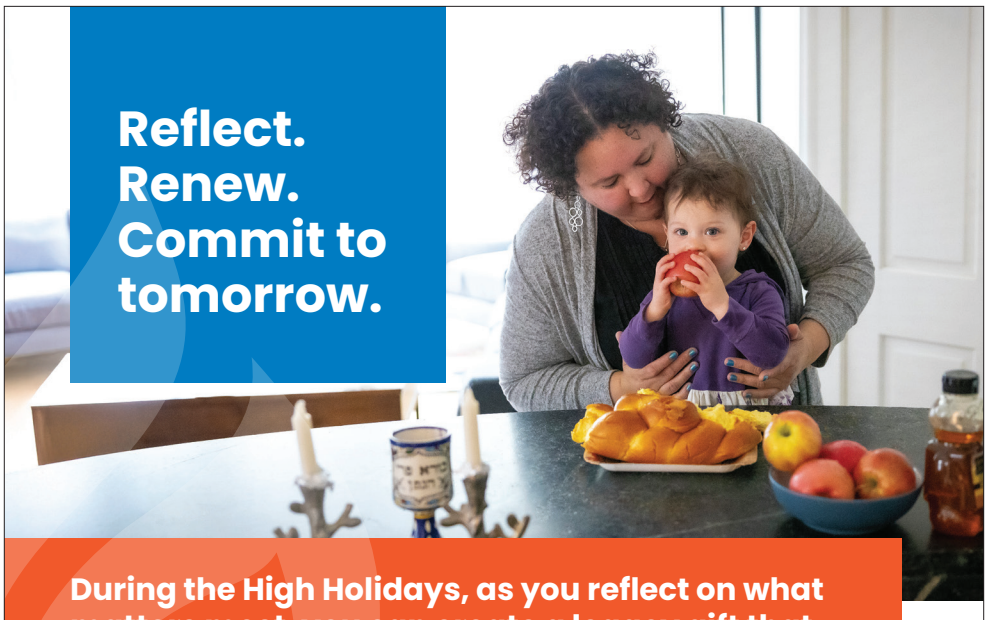












Reflect.
Renew.
Commit to tomorrow.

During the High Holidays, as you reflect on what matters most, you can create a legacy gift that carries your values forward to future generations.

Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE | Trager Family JCC | Life & Legacy ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS

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

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

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

Trager Family JCC

Fall Family Festival

& Jewish Overnight Camp Fair

Sunday, Oct. 25, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon with food, face painting, a bounce house, arts & crafts, and free giveaways!

Show your camp spirit by wearing your favorite camp t-shirt!



- Visit with Camp directors and staff from Jewish Overnight Camps.
  - Beber Camp
  - Camp Livingston
  - GUCI
  - URJ Six Points

  ...and more!
- Learn about grants and financial assistance that are available from the Jewish Federation of Louisville.

Questions?
Contact Alison Roemer, *aroemer@jewishlouisville.org.*

Trager Family JCC | Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE | JEWISHCAMP one happy camper

PICTURE THIS: REPUBLIC BANK PLAYERS CHALLENGE





THE REPUBLIC BANK PLAYERS CHALLENGE

TO BENEFIT JFCS & TRAGER FAMILY JCC

Community members gathered at the Standard Club on Monday, August 31 for the 22nd annual Republic Bank Players Challenge. Golfers participated in a round of golf and various challenges to benefit the Trager Family JCC and Jewish Family & Career Services.

(Photos by Mackenzie Lynch)





















THANK YOU

to all of our sponsors and players who are helping make our world a better place, especially...

Presenting Sponsor

REPUBLIC BANK

Time to thrive.™

Member FDIC

Platinum Sponsor

SHADYRAYS®

Bronze Sponsors

Mutual of America Financial Group™

Retirement Services · Investments

welenkenCPAs

Gold Sponsor

Jewish Heritage Fund

Drink Sponsor

Heaven Hill Brands

NORTHERN TRUST

fms pbc

Good people. Clean buildings. Better communities.

Gail Pohn

Sheldon & Nancy Gilman





PICTURE THIS: GRANDPARENTS DAY

The Roth Family Early Learning Center was full of smiling and sometimes frosting-covered faces for Grandparents Day. Together, grandparents and grandchildren decorated and ate cookies as the grandparents experienced a day at the Roth Family ELC.

(Photos by Robyn Kaufman and Amy Joseph Landon)



















Parenting Series

For families raising Jewish children!

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



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



Upcoming Dates:

October 20	February 25
November 19	March 18
January 26	April 8

Trager Family JCC | Jewish Federation of Louisville

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

RSVP: Rachel Goldman

rgoldman@jewishlouisville.org

RSVP

PJ Preschool Events

Join PJ Library at JLAB and JLE for monthly preschool mornings. Intended for children ages 3-5 years of age and their grown up/s, younger siblings welcome.
9:30-11 a.m.

Upcoming Dates:

September 27	JLAB @ The Temple
October 18	JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
November 8	JLAB @ The Temple
December 6	JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
January 10	JLAB @ The Temple
February 7	JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
March 7	JLAB @ The Temple
April 18	JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)

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

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

PICTURE THIS: JLE OPEN HOUSE





On August 30, JLE kicked off its inaugural year with a joyful, energy-filled Family Exploration Celebration, bringing families together for Rikud (Israeli dance), learning about the shofar, and creating art in preparation for Simchat Torah. We ended the morning as a community with Havdalah, marking not only the beginning of a new school year, but an exciting new chapter in Louisville's Jewish educational journey. We can't wait to continue the celebration on October 4 with a community Simchat Torah celebration at Adath Jeshurun!

(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*

After-School Care
Until 6 p.m.

St. Matthews, Bloom, St. Agnes, Holy Trinity, Hawthorne, and Field

Before-School Care
7:30 – 8:50 a.m.

Field



Optional Add-on Enrichment Classes

Monthly fees vary by school and Trager Family JCC membership status. Learn more and register with the QR code below or at JCCLOUISVILLE.ORG/CLUBJ.

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

WE ARE LICENSED BY THE STATE AND ACCEPT CCAP

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

CAMP J

Trager Family JCC

CHESS CLASSIC

Sunday, Oct. 18 2026

2 Major Competition Sections

Rapid
Prizes for the Top 2 Winners
- G/10 - 3 rounds
- G/6 & G/9 - Open

Bughouse
2 Person Team Chess
- Limited to 16 Teams
- Top 4 finishing teams win prizes
- Top 2 Family teams win BONUS prizes

$15 Entry Fee

Registration

Register in advance or onsite
- Register by 11:45 a.m.
- First round begins at 12:15 p.m.

Scan here to register or visit jcclouisville.org/chess

Trager Family JCC

You know chess, but not bughouse?
Contact Coach Corbin at urbanlouisvillechess@yahoo.com for lessons.

NEWS

Three area synagogues hosted Year of Civil Discourse 'Dialogue Circles' as part of their Yom Kippur observances

By Andrew Adler
Community Editor

The Year of Civil Discourse -- a community-wide project aimed at bolstering our skills to engage thoughtfully across differences, while exploring often-complex issues affecting contemporary Jewish life -- continues to gain momentum.

Launched last November, the initiative "equips participants with practical skills for listening with curiosity, navigating disagreement respectfully, and building a more connected and resilient Jewish community," a YOCD mission statement explains.

Consistent with these goals, three area synagogues hosted a series of "Dialogue Circles" as part of their respective Yom Kippur observances. In each Dialogue Circle, a trained facilitator led participants in discussions based on two main prompts and several follow-up questions.

The first prompt related to connections to Israel, with the second touching on the complexity of developing consensus positions in Jewish communities, especially given the diversity of opinions that exist.

"Basically, each person had two minutes to respond to each prompt," Lisa Shapiro, who was among 11 facilitators and more than 60 participants at The Temple, explained in an interview the following day. After this initial segment came what was called a "question harvest," in which "people could ask questions of each other."

Facilitators, Shapiro said, had been instructed "not to respond to the questions, but to just listen and later to perhaps point out common themes and differences." She facilitated two sessions, each lasting about 45 minutes. Eight people joined her first group, with six participants in the second.

In all, more than 100 congregants from The Temple, Adath Jeshurun and Keneseth Israel -- many of them fasting -- took part in the various Dialogue Circles.

"What's important to know about this program," Shapiro emphasized, "is that the point is not to build consensus or agreement. The actual intent of the program is to draw out differences."

Overall, "I think one could say that there's a polarization between holding true to our values as Jews and being an ally of Israel," she said. "One thing that was said - and this is my wording -- was that sometimes you feel like you're torn between being a traitor to your people and being a traitor to your own values. But there wasn't a solution proposed, because that wasn't the point of the session."

Indeed, the broad range of discussion, particularly regarding the second prompt, reflected the well-worn yet applicable trope: two Jews, three opinions.

"Someone said that there will never be a single voice," Shapiro recalled, "because that skews toward authoritarianism -- and authoritarianism has never existed in Judaism."

The next set of YOCD events is slated for Nov. 17-19, when Shalom Hartman Institute President Yehuda Kurtzer visits Louisville. Kurtzer, who also hosts the podcast Identity/Crisis, will speak during a public forum Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at Keneseth Israel. He will also participate in a Community Torah Study at The Temple that morning at 9:30 a.m., and at a Teen Program Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.

Registration is required for all these events. Go online at tinyurl.com/54cm2ay7.



THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
Partnership2Gether GLOBAL NETWORK
Western Galilee
Central Area Consortium & Budapest
Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE



Book/Film Club- Special October Event
'From October 6 to October 7'
Sunday, Oct. 18 | 1 p.m. ET

From October 6 to October 7 tells the story of Israel Prize laureate Major General Almog through Israel's defining moments, from the Yom Kippur War to October 7. Shaped by profound loss and tragedy, his journey becomes a powerful story of resilience, hope, and purpose.

The event will open with a brief October 7 commemoration, followed by a discussion with Major General Almog, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Registered participants will receive a link to view the film. Watch trailer and RSVP for zoom link at *jewishlouisville.org/p2g-october*

Jewish Identity and Politics of Memory in Hungary
October 20, 12:30 p.m.

What shapes the way we understand Jewish identity, history, and memory? Join Professor Gabor Balazs for a thought-provoking conversation about these questions and their meaning in Hungary today.

RSVP for zoom link at jewishlouisville.org/p2g-oct20-2026

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

The past is our story. The future is our opportunity!

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

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

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

ENDOWMENT

From Generation to Generation

By Dustin Baron
Guest Columnist

L'dor V'dor – we've all heard and recited that phrase countless times in shul, but how many of us have really taken the time to think on what "from one generation to another" truly means? I know that for me, it goes back to my grandparents, Lois and CD Baron. They are the reason that I identify as Jewish to this day. To them and to many in their generation, being Jewish was a way of life to be passed on to the next generation. It was extremely important to them that my sister and I had our Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. That was our way of carrying on an essential tradition from our ancestors. Admittedly, they lived in a different time and space when being Jewish was the common element of one's social circle. Yet, their example and lived experience is still a reminder of where I come from.

But L'dor V'dor also means something more. I remember when my wife and I were attending High Holy Day services at our synagogue in Raleigh, NC, and I heard the same prayers and blessings that I'd learned growing up. It was in that room and in that moment that I realized the power that these blessings carry with them. Blessings that my ancestors recited when they were my age, blessings whose power resonates through the millennia, from one generation to the next and from one year to the next.

That is the legacy that we are working to teach our daughters, so that they appreciate those that have gone before us. And while my grandparents may have passed many years ago, their memories and traditions live on through our family.

As a young person, I was fortunate to have spent my summers in the camps at the JCC, as well as competing in sports and games as I got older. And now that our girls are growing, they get to have their own experience at the Trager Family JCC. Our youngest, Sadie (named after my grandfather CD) is in her last year of Pre-K at the Roth Family Early Learning Center at the Trager Family JCC. Our oldest daughter, Lucy (named after our grandmother Lois) just finished her own summer camp experience at Camp J. She also had her entire early childhood education at the ELC. This new building and all of the resources that it holds is its own gift to future generations to grow and experience, much like I experienced in the building before it.

That is our present, our "here and now." And while the past informs the present, we must also think about what the future holds. My sincere hope is that our girls will continue to learn and flourish from the resources that Louisville's Jewish community has to offer. Whether that be at the Roth Family ELC, summer camps, or via their participation in Jewish Learning Experience programs at the camp building, our little family has been a fixture around the J campus for years now. God willing, we will continue that presence many years into the future.

Despite my grandparents' best efforts, I've never been the most devout Jew. Nor am I a hugely outspoken presence within the Jewish community. But I do know that as my family grows, we will do our best to give back where possible. Because in the future, unborn generations will also need to find their path in this crazy, mixed-up world we live in. At some point in the future, I can foresee our family making a gift to benefit the JCL Endowment, or to the Trager Family JCC itself as a way to honor my grandparents and their generation of our family. And when that time manifests, I imagine I will be extremely proud to see their names every time I walk in the JCC.

In recent years, many families have gifted and donated to support the new building – you'll see many of these names throughout the hallways and gymnasiums. I suggest next time you read one of those names, say it silently to yourself. It's a small way to honor that individual or family – but it's also a way to acknowledge the prior generations and the work they did for our community. May their memory be a blessing and may the legacy of past generations continue to support our community at the JCC in the years ahead. *Shanah Tovah!!*

Dustin Baron serves on the JCL Endowment Committee and is a 5th-generation member of Congregation Adath Jeshurun.



Baron Family



LoLo and CD Baron





NEWS

NextGen's Gather Grants jump-start the power of community connection

By Abigail Goldberg
Guest Columnist


Abigail Goldberg

Jewish young adults seek meaningful ways to connect to Jewish life, to one another, and to the Louisville community. NextGen at the Jewish Federation of Louisville helps to create those opportunities through engaging programs, grassroots gatherings, and leadership experiences for young adults ages 22–45.

One of the ways we are making those connections happen is through Gather Grants, which provide funding for young adults to create their own Jewish gatherings. Grants of up to $180 are available for small gatherings such as Shabbat dinners, social outings, wellness activities, Jewish learning, or arts and cultural experiences. Gather Grants make it easy for young adults to bring people together in a way that feels authentic to them. A host might invite friends who are already connected to the Jewish community, reach out to someone new, or use the gathering as a means of bringing different circles of friends together.

Larger grant opportunities are also available for individuals, groups, and community partners interested in collaborating with us. These grants allow NextGen to partner with returning hosts, organizations, and community members to expand their reach and create experiences that have an even greater potential impact.

In last year's cycle of Gather Grants, 18 grants were awarded to 12 hosts to support gatherings with more than 230 total attendees. These experiences are not just individual events, but opportunities for young adults to create a thriving Jewish community in the future.

For Rivka, Gather Grants offered an opportunity to take an event she was already planning and turn it into something even more meaningful. Her most recent Gather Grant supported a Seudat Shlishit (Shabbat afternoon meal) for women, bringing participants together to connect with old and new friends. "I enjoy putting together events that bring people from the community together to connect with each other and their Judaism in a meaningful, purposeful way," Rivka shared. She described the gathering as an uplifting and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Rivka encourages anyone with a proposal to apply for a Gather Grant. "Besides the financial support, they offer help and ideas for planning," she explained. For her, the experience was empowering, not only because it helped bring one gathering to life, but because it gave her the confidence to continue creating opportunities that foster connection and strengthen the community.

Past Gather Grant events have included Shabbat dinners, a Passover Seder, baking and cooking programs, craft nights, dinner and a CenterStage show, and a day at Churchill Downs.

Behind NextGen is a committee of eight young leaders who welcome new participants, share ideas, and connect NextGen to the broader Louisville community. Our committee members -- Elizabeth McCrary (chair), Abigail Geller, David Raffman, Yuvi Friedman, Ava Greenberg, Todd Hamilton and Kenya Chambers -- bring their own experiences, strengths, and networks to the table as we work together to build a community that is welcoming, relevant, and vibrant.

With more than 250 young Jewish adults engaged within the last year, NextGen Louisville continues to grow. Whether you're interested in attending an event, hosting a gathering, partnering on a program, or getting involved with our committee, there's a place for you in NextGen.

Ready to turn an idea into a gathering? The Gather Grant application cycle is now open! Scan the QR code in the ad below to apply, or reach out to Abigail Goldberg, NextGen Engagement & Program Director, at agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org to learn more about Gather Grants and other ways to get involved with NextGen Louisville.

Abigail Goldberg is NextGen Engagement & Outreach Program Director at the Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville.





NEWS

Bringing Our Stories to Life: Introducing the new Jewish Play Reading Series

By Erin Silliman
Guest Columnist


Erin Silliman

Theater has always been a mirror held up to the human soul, but for the Jewish community, storytelling is something even deeper. It is how we preserve our history, process our struggles, pass down our values, and, perhaps most importantly, how we laugh at ourselves. This fall, CenterStage at the Trager Family Jewish Community Center is proud to launch an exciting new cultural program that celebrates this rich heritage of storytelling: the Jewish Play Reading Series, debuting on Sunday, Oct. 18.

As the Trager Family JCC's Artistic Director/Arts and Ideas Director, my goal with this series is to create an afternoon that does more than just entertain. The series is designed to showcase authentic Jewish voices, taking a closer look at the nuances, complexities, joy, and distinct humor that define not only the universal human experience but the specific Jewish experience across different eras and contexts.

At the heart of our Trager Family JCC are our core organizational pillars: creating a sense of belonging for everyone who walks through our doors and continuously growing our community's education about and engagement with Jewish life. By gathering together to hear these texts, we grow our community in such authentic ways, learning about where we come from while deepening our connection to who we are today.

To bring this vision to life, we are tapping into the incredible wealth of talent right here in our own Jewish community. The upcoming Oct. 18 presentation will feature eight exceptional local Jewish actors, whose diverse backgrounds and personal connections to the material bring an unmatched layer of authenticity to the stage. Zoey Wexler, a local actor and CenterStage favorite, says: "I feel honored to be part of a program that has made space for these stories and experiences to be shared. As a Jewish American, it is incredible meaningful to be a part of a community that values and celebrates these stories."

Guiding these performers are two brilliant local Jewish directors, Ariane Barrie-Stern and Jordan Price, who have volunteered their time, vision, and expertise to help shape these stagings. Price shares, "As a Jewish performer and director, it is very rare in our community to have an opportunity to explore works that correlate with my identity and religion. I'm excited to get a chance to work with other Jewish actors in the area to tell these stories and create an afternoon that will allow our local audiences to feel connected; seeing how similar they are to their own experiences. In a world with growing antisemitism, I believe a lot comes from the fear of what people don't understand. Hopefully these stories will show our audiences that there is nothing to fear. We may not always agree with one another, and that is all right, but we can still listen and grow our own empathy and tolerance."

The afternoon program features selected scenes from five distinct works, each offering a different window into Jewish life. Together, they span genres from historical tragedy to contemporary comedy, showing the full spectrum of our overall narrative.

We begin with featured readings from *The Bintel Brief*. Originally a famous advice column in the early 20th-century Yiddish newspaper *The Jewish Daily Forward*, *The Bintel Brief* served as a lifeline for Eastern European immigrants adapting to life in America. Their letters and replies are filled with authentic expression, capturing the confusion, aspirations, heartaches, and triumphs of individuals trying to build new homes while holding onto their heritage.

The program then shifts to the warmth and laughter of a true American classic: Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. This beloved coming-of-age story captures the humor and friction of a working-class Jewish family navigating life in 1930s Brooklyn. Simon's brilliant wit highlights the universal joys and trials of family dynamics, showing how humor is often our greatest tool for survival and connection.

Act I will conclude with scenes from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, a deeply moving play written by Celeste Raspanti that centers on the lives of children living in the Terezín concentration camp. Based on the actual poetry and art left behind by those children, this piece reminds us of the enduring power of hope, creativity, and resilience even in the darkest of times.

Moving into contemporary themes in Act II, our series will showcase scenes from Claudia Haas's *Making Some Noise* and Jennifer Maisel's *The Last Seder*. Both of these sharp, modern plays explore the complexities of family dynamics in more contemporary settings and contexts. Each beautifully captures the tension between tradition and change, offering us a relatable, nuanced look at modern Jewish identity and family loyalty.

We'll conclude with a short talkback segment for our audience to further engage with our stories, cast, and team.

We invite you to join us on Oct. 18 for this special afternoon of community, culture, and conversation. Come support our local artists, engage with our heritage, and discover your own sense of belonging in the stories we share. Tickets are $32 and the runtime is approximately 2.5 hours. To purchase tickets, go online at jcclouisville.org/centerstage.

Erin Silliman is Arts & Ideas Director and CenterStage Producing Director at the Trager Family JCC and the Jewish Federation of Louisville



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

CENTERSTAGE
In memory of Adele Singer
Michael Sabes

JEWISH FEDERATION OF LOUISVILLE
In memory of Mickey Monen
Maury and Phyllis Kohn

CHARLES AND SARAH O'KOON TEEN AND BBYO FUND
In honor of Sarah and Chuck O'Koon on their 60th Wedding Anniversary
Rita and Larry Steinberg
Elaine and Ed Weinberg

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

GLOBE

Remembering Paul Reichenbach, who helped shape generations of young Reform Jews

By Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin
JTA

Leave it to Paul Reichenbach to leave this world on the morning of the second day of Rosh Hashanah — with its Torah portion telling Abraham that it would be impossible to count his descendants, as impossible as counting the stars and the grains of sand.

So, too, with Paul, who spent over 40 years helping to create Reform camp programs (what some believe to be the crown jewel of the movement), helping countless youngsters embrace their Jewish identities and recruiting and managing staff who themselves would go on to teach and transform.

Reichenbach, who died Sept. 13 at the age of 74 after a brief battle with ALS, was legendary in the Reform movement. Starting in 1975, he served on the staff of the youth programs of the Union for Reform Judaism (formerly Union of American Hebrew Congregations), serving as the co-director of the URJ/UAHC Youth Division. At the time of his retirement in 2019, he had been one of its longest serving professionals.

His resume was as large as his appetite — not only for food, but for experiences and life. He had been the co-director of the URJ Kutz Camp-Institute in Warwick, New York, the Reform movement's teen leadership camp. (It closed in 2019.) He oversaw the URJ's network of 18 North American camps. For years, he was the voice of the Reform movement, quite literally: He was the deep-voiced announcer at Reform movement biennials.

So, how many young people (and by extension, their families) did Paul influence? According to the URJ website, its youth programs — summer camps, Israel programs, and NFTY: The Reform Youth Movement — engage more than 20,000 youth, teens and young adults each year.

That would be hundreds of thousands of distinct youth experiences over the course of one man's professional life.

And then consider that many of those young people would go on and have their own children and grandchildren, who might have similar experiences. Imagine the number of those young people who became Jewish professionals — rabbis, cantors, educators, camp directors, Hillel directors, federation personnel, Jewish community center workers.

And the gift of that mentorship did not end with the Reform movement. It embraced the entire Jewish world. Those whom he taught, taught others, creating a ripple effect — what we might call the immortality of influence.

We also know that programs that Paul helped create, design and nurture actually work.

Amy L. Sales and Leonard Saxe of Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies conducted the 2000 field study behind "How Goodly Are Thy Tents: Summer Camps as Jewish Socializing Experiences." They spent time at 20 Jewish residential camps across the country, observing daily life, meals and Sabbath rituals. They confirmed what we always sensed: Camp's immersive, round-the-clock environment lets Jewish education and identity-formation happen informally and experientially — through communal living, shared ritual, music and peer culture — in a way that classroom-based supplementary schooling cannot. That was the impetus behind the creation of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, which supports and funds such camping programs.

But the authors of that study also knew that such successes depend heavily on the Jewish commitment of camp operators, directors and staff. All of whom were directly under Paul's management and influence.

And then there were the kids who came to love Israel through the Reform movement's Israel programs, which Paul also directed. Like the sands on the shores of the sea and the stars in the heavens, I am trying to imagine how many kids were involved in those Israel trips during Paul's tenure.

I once called Paul a Zionist hero — up there with Ben Gurion and Golda. He laughed it off, but I was utterly serious.

In "Tender Is the Night," F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote: "Well, you never knew exactly how much space you occupied in people's lives." That is one huge lesson from the life of Paul J. Reichenbach, and it is a lesson that all Jewish professionals need to learn during these Days of Awe.

I do not think that Paul ever knew exactly how much space he occupied in so many people's lives — including and especially the life of the Reform movement, and how deep his work was, and how extensive its influence had been.



Among various key roles in the Reform movement, Paul Reichenbach served as co-director of URJ Kutz Camp/Institute, whose 1977 staff is shown at rear. (Loui Dobin/Courtesy Kutz Camp)

We never really know the ultimate scope of our vision and our reach. Rabbis, cantors, teachers, educators, camp directors — and yes, pastors, priests, imams, all religious professionals: We do not always see the rewards of our labors in the moment, or even in our lifetimes, before the people we engage go out into the world.

It is a much longer arc than that. It is an arc that lasts not just a lifetime, but beyond. It can reach into several lifetimes.

It was the custom to write, at the end of a Hebrew book, tam v'nishlam — it is over, and it is complete.

Paul Reichenbach's book of life might be over, but it is far from complete.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.



Volunteer with JFCS: Help Older Adults Stay Connected!

HELP SENIORS IN OUR KLEIN OLDER ADULT PROGRAM STAY INDEPENDENT AND CONNECTED.



JFCS vehicle available | Flexible weekday shifts | Training provided | Meaningful connections

By volunteering as a driver, you'll help older adults stay independent and connected by providing safe, reliable transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, errands, and other important destinations.

Interested in signing up or learning more? Contact Sophia Fayne at sfayne@jfcslouisville.org.

THE JFCS MOSAIC AWARDS

2027 JFCS MOSAIC Awards: Nominations Are Now Open!

For the 21st year, the JFCS MOSAIC Awards will celebrate immigrant leaders, changemakers, and humanitarians who are making a meaningful impact in the Louisville community.



Nominations for individuals and businesses are open until November 1, 2026!

"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

BUILDING THE MOSAIC

Voices of Kentucky's Immigrant Community

Experience the stories behind the journeys.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026
6:00 PM Reception | 7:00 PM Program
THE HISTORIC STATE THEATRE
209 W. Dixie Ave. • Elizabethtown, KY

Join JFCS MOSAIC honorees and immigrant voices from across Kentucky for an evening of film, storytelling, and conversation.

REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT
SCAN TO REGISTER OR AT JFCSLOUISVILLE.ORG

JEWISH FAMILY & CAREER SERVICES

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF MUSIC

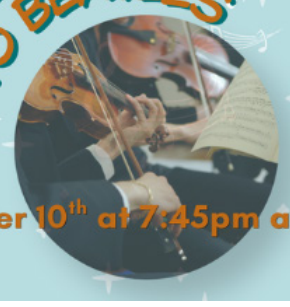
Honoring the 10th Anniversary of
THE LILLIAN O. SELIGMAN CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT FORUM

JEWISH FAMILY & CAREER SERVICES
Expanding Possibilities For All

This is a FREE community event. Registration is required.

SCAN ME!

FROM BEETHOVEN TO BEATLES



November 10th at 7:45pm at The Temple

jfcslouisville.org | 502-322-1928

Powered in part by the Jewish Federation of Louisville

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Steve and Amy Trager to receive Ali Center's 2026 Kentucky Humanitarian Award



Louisville philanthropists Steve and Amy Trager have been named recipients of the Muhammad Ali Center's Kentucky Humanitarian Award, to be given during a ceremony Saturday, Nov. 7.

"We are deeply honored to receive the Ali Center Kentucky Humanitarian Award," the Tragers said in a statement.

"Muhammad Ali showed the world that true greatness is measured not by personal achievement, but by how we serve others. This recognition reflects the work of countless nonprofit leaders, community partners, and volunteers who dedicate themselves every day to making a difference. We are grateful to play a small role in helping strengthen the community we love."

Steve Trager is Executive Chair of Republic Bank & Trust Company; and Executive Chair & CEO of Republic Bankcorp, Inc. He and his wife, Amy Trager, are (respectively) Trustee and Director of the Amy & Steve Trager Family Foundation Trust. The Tragers are also namesake supporters of the Trager Family JCC.

Colin Kaepernick, the former quarterback of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers and a prominent civil rights activist, will receive the Ali Center's Humanitarian of the Year Award – recognizing "his work bridging sports and activism through Know Your Rights Camp(s)."

These camps have a self-described mission "to advance the liberation and well-being of Black and Brown communities through education, self-empowerment, mass-mobilization and the creation of new systems that elevate the next generation of change leaders."

Additionally, six young people will be honored with awards recognizing various individual initiatives.

For more information, go online at tinyurl.com/4m9w8cp4

ShPIeL Performing Identity and Redline Performing Arts to present the world premiere of Casey J. Adler's play 'Incredible Finds, Inc.' at Louisville's Historic Broadway Theater

David Y. Chack's ShPIeL Performing Identity theater company is collaborating with Louisville's Redline Performing Arts to present the world premiere of Casey J. Adler's *Incredible Finds, Inc.* Oct. 8-12 and 14-15 at the Historic Broadway Theater downtown at 816 E. Broadway.

Incredible Finds, Inc. grew out of the Actors Studio Play Development Unit



(West) along with ShPIeL's script incubator, JewFace, in Los Angeles.

Holly Kissel, ShPIeL's Artistic Associate and Director, is directing the workshop production.

Set in a Campbellsville, Ky. Kentucky product distribution center, the play acknowledges "Jewish and Black roots of social protest and labor rights…inspired by gritty social dramas like *Waiting For Lefty* by Clifford Odets and *Street Scene* by Kurt Weill, Langston Hughes, and Elmer Rice," a production note explains.

"Adler propels the drama into the present with richly developed characters, a gripping interracial and intercultural narrative, while seamlessly weaving in events from today," the note continues.

"As the story unfolds at the distribution center, with its web of bureaucracy and with the disruption of the introduction of advanced AI, the workers are drawn towards collective action to fight against the systems that exploit disparities in power.

"Facing years of unsafe working conditions and low wages and reaching breaking point after breaking point, the workers of the Incredible Finds, Inc. distribution center are disrupted by increasingly invasive surveillance, fracturing relationships, and finally an inhumane "advancement" in workplace technology. This story…provides a cautionary tale of what can happen when empathy and humanity are removed from the workplace."

The workshop production location itself provides intriguing context. Designed in 1915 by the Jewish-owned Louisville architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph, the Historic Broadway Theater's "Beaux-Arts exterior and fine architectural ornamentation into the building are recognized as part of Louisville's early 20th-century theatre heritage," ShPIeL's note says.

During that period, "this neighborhood on East Broadway was a multicultural mix that was home to Jewish Americans, Black Americans, and immigrant populations from Germany and beyond."

According to his LinkedIn page, Adler "is an actor, writer, and comedian, who has guest starred on Netflix, ABC, Showtime, and Freeform. He holds a BFA in Theater and a minor in World Religions from Chapman University…Writing accolades include the Bruce Geller Memorial Prize for Creative Writing and recognition as a finalist in the Screencraft and Vitruvian Awards. Articles have been published by LA Public Press, Knock LA, J Living Magazine, 3rd Act, and Felix Mag."

For tickets and a complete schedule of *Incredible Finds, Inc.* performances, go online at tinyurl.com/y5j3rjme.

Continued on page 21

J ENRICHMENT

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

Monday:
Amazing Athletes (ELC), 3:50-4:20 p.m.
Cooking Club (School Age), 5-6 p.m.
Dates: 10/5 – 12/14

Tuesday:
Monk'y Warrior (ELC), 4-4:30 p.m.
PKMN Trading Card Game Club (School-Age), 5-6 p.m.
Dates: 9/22 – 12/15

Wednesday:
Dance (ELC), 3:50-4:20 p.m.
Fiber Arts Club (School-Age), 5-6 p.m.
Dates: 9/16 – 12/16

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

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

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

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

CAMP J 365

CELEBRATE SUKKOT WITH NEXTGEN AT

SUSHI IN THE SUKKAH



Tuesday, Sept. 29 | 6:30 p.m.
Suggested Donation $18

Trager Family JCC Hosted on the Patio Sukkah

Join us for a fun night of delicious sushi, sake, beer, good conversation, and new connections. Come hungry, stay awhile, and celebrate the season with us!

Scan Here to Register

NEXTGen Louisville | Jewish Federation OF LOUISVILLE

NextGen Louisville: Connecting Jewish young adults in Louisville, KY

NEWS & NEWSMAKERS

Continued from page 20

Tacos and togetherness: Jewish high school alums will gather Oct. 18 at La Suerte restaurant

Calling all Jewish high school alumni who graduated in years 1973-1977 -- there's a reunion in the works, and you're invited.

On Sunday, Oct. 18 at 5 p.m., grads will gather at La Suerte Restaurant, 2116 Bardstown Rd. And no worries if you're not an alum from one of these graduating classes -- you're welcome, nonetheless.

This isn't the first of these grad-gatherings to be organized.

"I started this when I was 43, so 26 years ago," recalled Vicki Sherman Reznikoff, who graduated from Atherton High School in 1975 and who in 2011 founded the Jewish Louisville Facebook group. She's organizing the upcoming reunion alongside Marla Gordon and Debbie Morguelan Weinstein.

So far, close to 70 people have registered for the event.

"People will be coming in from all over the country," Reznikoff said, "even from South Africa. It'll be a fabulous party."

The most recent reunion took place three years ago. "We had about 100 people come to that, and everyone was like, 'This is great -- we should do it again,'" Gordon shared.

"So we said, 'we'll do it again in five years.' But then we were thinking, 'No, we'll be too old after five years.' Then we decided to have it in three years -- now. We used to call it the 'JCC Reunion,' but it's not affiliated with the JCC or any other organization."

Back in the '70s, the JCC was the shared meeting site for area Jewish teens, regardless of where they attended school. Atherton, Seneca, Ballard and Waggener were the high schools with the greatest Jewish enrollment. "No Jews went to private school unless it was the Day School," Reznikoff said. Nor, she added, did they make significant inroads at private schools like Collegiate or Country Day.

"Planning isn't just getting the food and the place," Reznikoff said. "It's getting contacts. We still don't have as many as we'd like from the outer years -- two years older and two years younger."

Consider that your cue to register -- which you can do by going to the Jewish Louisville FaceBook page: tinyurl.com/ype76brs. The cost is $35/person, which gets you salsa, guacamole, queso, chips, plus a taco bar with chicken, beef, veggies, rice, beans, dessert and soft drinks. There will also be a cash bar offering beer, wine, and liquor.

Montessori Torah Academy Welcomes Four New Leaders and Educators for 2026–27

Montessori Torah Academy begins the 2026–27 school year with four new members of its team" a new Executive Director, a new Dean, a new Primary Classroom educator, and a new School Secretary.



Rabbi Jeremy Levy joins as Executive Director

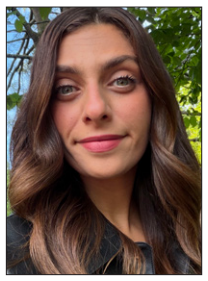
Rabbi Jeremy Levy, his wife Ilana, and their three children moved to Louisville this summer from Queens, New York. Rabbi Levy received his ordination from the Rabbinical Seminary of America and spent more than two years in nonprofit leadership focused on fundraising, operations, and financial management. At MTA, he will oversee back-office operations and the school's capital campaign, including efforts to purchase the Temple Shalom campus.

"I enjoy finding ways to simplify processes and build strong systems that allow teachers and staff to focus on what matters most: our students," Rabbi Levy said.



Rabbi Yosef Kaufman named MTA Dean

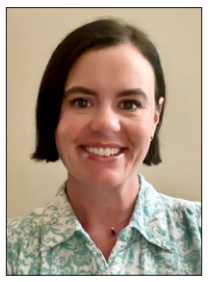
Rabbi Kaufman came to Louisville alongside Rabbi Yoni Rudansky with what he calls "a shared vision of building a Jewish day school that could change lives and strengthen the Jewish community." In his expanded role, he will work with General Studies Principal Stephanie Alva on recruiting and development, and continue his central role in MTA's efforts to purchase the Temple Shalom campus.



Morah Rotem Dastagar joins the Primary Classroom

Morah Rotem Dastagar joins MTA as an educator in the Primary Classroom, where she will expand the school's Hebrew program to include modern Hebrew alongside its Judaic studies curriculum. Born and raised in Israel, she is a native Hebrew speaker and spent more than ten years in the Israeli Scouts mentoring children.

"I'm excited to share the beauty of the Hebrew language and Israeli culture in a fun and meaningful way," she said.



Ms. Taylor Murphy joins as School Secretary

A Louisville native, Murphy has served in a range of educational roles, including instructional assistant, ELA teacher, attendance and records clerk, and summer program director.

"Schools are built on strong relationships," she said. "I enjoy creating a welcoming environment where every child, family, and visitor feels valued from the moment they walk through the door."

Derby Dinner PLAYHOUSE

MISERY

THE ULTIMATE FAN.
THE WORST NIGHTMARE.

A GRIPPING, SUSPENSFUL THRILLER BASED ON THE NOVEL BY STEPHEN KING.

SEPT 30 – NOV 8

ENJOY DINNER & A SHOW!
812-288-8281 DERBYDINNER.COM

NEWISH JEWISH Music
WITH CANTOR LIPP

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



Free for Members

UPCOMING DATES:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 12:45 P.M.

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

Trager Family JCC

AROUND TOWN

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

Adath Jeshurun
AJ will host its Fall Blood Drive with the American Red Cross Thursday, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sign-ups are requested, but walk-ins are also welcome. Visit **www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive** to schedule a spot -- and thank you.

Join us for our next Shabbat Social, New Year, New Connections Friday, Oct. 16. This will be a very special edition, during which we will welcome new AJ members, prospective members, and AJ Preschool families, and enjoy the company of longtime friends. The evening begins with Happy Hour at 5 p.m., followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services at 5:45 p.m. Dinner will begin around 6:45 p.m. and will be catered by Chef Maureen Hartmann. The cost is $15 per person with children 12 and under free of charge. Visit **adathjeshurun.com/reservations** to purchase tickets. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Oct. 13.

AJ Shabbat-Luck Dinners are evenings of food, friends, and fun. Join us Friday, Oct. 30 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-dinners.html**. The deadline to RSVP is Tuesday, Oct. 27.

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

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**.

Chabad of Kentucky
Soup in the Sukkah
The annual Soup in the Sukkah program, open to the entire Jewish community, will take place at the home of Rabbi and Goldie Litvin Monday evening, Sept. 28 at 6:30 pm.
This community celebration is free but requires reservations which can be made by calling 502-235-5770.

Two Days of Dancing and Joy
Chabad invites the community for two days of celebrating Judaism with song, food, drink, and dancing. In addition to Simchat Torah on Oct. 2, which is generally celebrated across the United States and the Diaspora, Chabad will offer the same program one night earlier on Shemini Atzeret, which is Oct. 1 (the date it's celebrated in Israel). Both evenings will begin at 8 p.m. Reservations are required by noon on Oct. 1 and can be made by calling 502-235-5770.

Kabbalah and the Hidden Architecture of You
A new six-part class held Wednesday evenings at the Trager Family JCC will explore such subjects as Reincarnation, Soulmates, Dreams, and Names. Learn how each of these mysteries can shed light on the design of your own life.
For as long as people have walked this earth, we have been nagged by the sense that there is more to reality than meets the naked eye. Even as modern science has given us an ever more precise understanding of the material world, the world of the soul seems only to grow more mysterious, and more rewarding to study. It is no surprise that mysterious spiritual phenomena like reincarnation, dreams, soulmates, and the hidden life of the soul fascinate and intrigue us no less than they did our ancestors. Where can we look to gain understanding of these mysteries?

Why do we sleep, why do we dream, why do we enjoy music, and why do we marry the people we do? What is a soul? Kabbalah and the Hidden Architecture of You takes students on a journey into the teachings of the Zohar; the Arizal; great kabbalists and teachings of Chasidic masters to answer all these questions and many more.

Course participants will walk away with a firm understanding of the most fascinating phenomena that Kabbalah explains. They will also gain frameworks for self-understanding, more effective relationships, understanding their own emotional and spiritual landscape, and noticing the signs and messages that life constantly sends them.

Classes begin Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 7-8:30 p.m. Cost for the entire series, including textbook, is $99. For more info or to reserve your place, call or text 502-235-5770.

In God We Trust
It says it on our money, but what is trust? How is trust different from faith? How can one learn to trust in God? And why do bad things happen to good people?

Begin the new year by attending a Tuesday night class at Chabad@Jcamp to learn what trust is, and how to make trust a central part of our relationship with G-d. For more information, contact 502-235-5770.

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

Chavurat Shalom
October will be filled with beautiful music, with a low-key bone strengthening session included for good measure. Lunch will start at Noon in The Temple's Heideman Auditorium, unless noted below, and our program will start at 1 p.m. All programs will also be available starting at 1 p.m. via ChavuratShalomZoom for those who need to join us remotely.

Thursday, Oct. 1 - Pianist Nada will present Part I of her new recital program. Lunch will include white chili, a deli platter, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and cookies.

Thursday, Oct. 8 - Nada returns with Part II of her beautiful, new recital. Lunch will include salmon, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and apple spice cake.

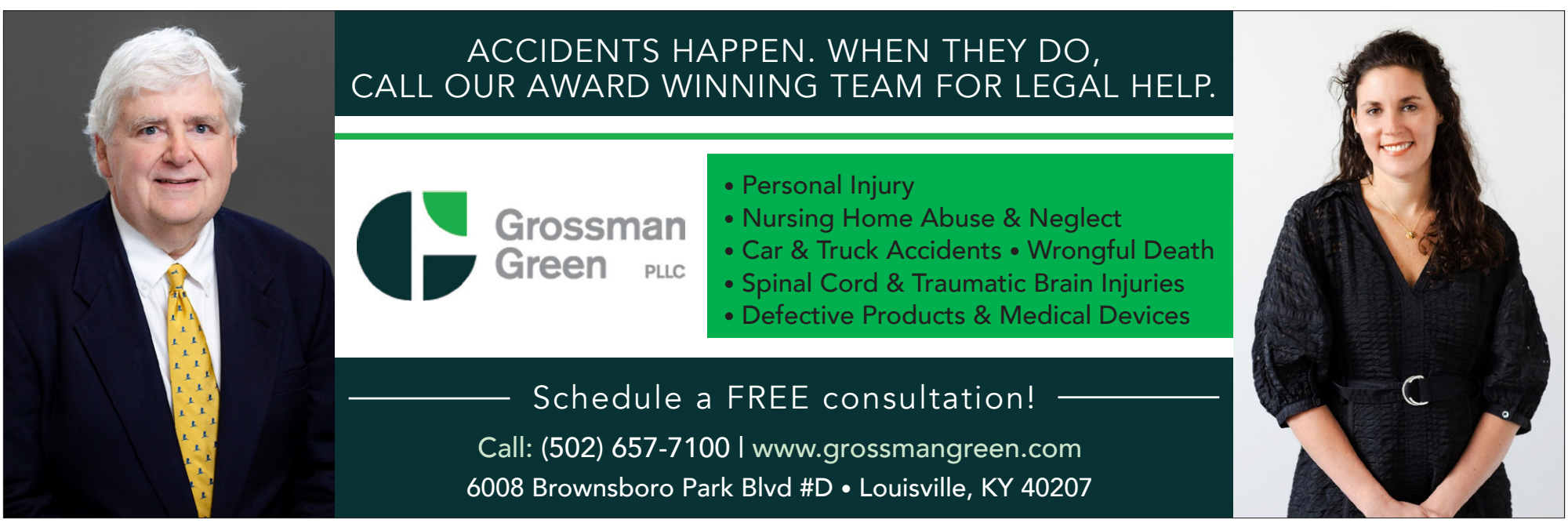
Thursday, Oct. 15 - Ellen Jacobs with the Derby City Dragons will lead us in a gentle, safe bone strengthening session. Lunch will include pasta and meatballs, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, plus cookies and brownies.

Thursday, Oct. 22 - The Silver Notes will perform a fun, fall musical program. Lunch will include fried chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, fresh fruit, and chocolate spoon cake.

Thursday, Oct. 29 - Saxophonist Mike Tracy will perform while teaching us at the same time. Lunch will include beef pot roast, broccoli salad, fresh fruit, and assorted desserts.

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

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



AROUND TOWN

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

Sunday, Sept. 27 – High Holiday Food Drive | Family Mitzvah
Make a difference as a family this High Holiday season. Join us for our High Holiday Food Drive and Family Mitzvah Day as we collect food, sort donations, and help stock our pantry for neighbors facing food insecurity. RSVP at **tinyurl.com/3dt5ynbf**

JFCS is Hiring for multiple positions: Homecare Aides, Licensed Psychological Associate, Licensed Psychologist, Therapist, and Refugee and Immigrants - Case Manager. Learn more at **jfcslouisville.org/careers**.

Jewish Federation of Louisville
Celebrate Sukkot with NEXTGen at Sushi in the Sukkah -- Tuesday, Sept. 29, time TBA
Open to any Louisville Jewish Young Adult -- build your own sushi and enjoy a variety of beers and non-alcoholic options. RSVP to Abigail Goldberg at **agoldberg@jewishlouisville.org**.
Presented by the Federation and NEXTGen Louisville.

A Taste of Louisville Community Cookbook
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. Visit **jewishlouisville.org/cookbook** to submit your favorites and help us tell our community's story -- one dish at a time.

Keneseth Israel
Jews & Brews — Wednesday, Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28, at 11 a.m.
Join Rabbi Freed at the Trager Family JCC for coffee, cookies, and Torah in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Torah Yoga — Thursday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Join Cantor Hordes for gentle yoga and Torah-inspired meditation. Suggested donation: $10 to the Cantor's Fund.

Tot Shabbat - Saturday, Oct. 10 and 24 at 11 a.m.
Join us on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month for our Tot Shabbat. Experience fun renditions of our favorite Shabbat melodies by the tots in our community.

Shabbat Shalom Club – Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 10:30 a.m.
Join us every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for our Shabbat Shalom club - a space for kids grades K through 5 to experience Shabbat every week - as they learn Torah, play board games, and learn the beautiful melodies of Shabbat songs.

Matriarch & Patriarch Shabbat Weekend – Oct. 23-25
Join us for a special weekend honoring the founding families of KI, featuring Carol Ely, Ph.D. The weekend begins Friday, Oct. 23, with a wine and cheese reception at 5 p.m. followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and a talk by Carol on the history of Jewish Louisville. On Saturday, Oct. 24, enjoy an enhanced Kiddush and presentation by Carol on the history of Keneseth Israel Congregation. The weekend concludes Sunday, Oct. 25, with a family history workshop at 10 a.m. led by Ann Niren, Ph.D., where adults and children can explore their family histories and create family trees.

Simchat Torah Weekend with AJ -- October 3-4
Festivities begin on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at AJ with heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and socializing before services begin. Then, at 8:30 p.m., we move on to the Simchat Torah service. The holiday celebrations continue at AJ on Sunday, Oct. 4, with morning services at 9:30 a.m., dancing with the Torahs at 10 a.m., and a community lunch at 11 a.m.

Kol Israel Jewish Renewal Community of Kentucky
"Shakin" Sukkah
Thursday, Oct. 1, 6-8:30 p.m.
5th annual "Ruach" in the Trager Family JCC Sukkah
This year, help us welcome our guests: West End Faith Leaders and Interfaith Paths to Peace to our community for Kosher Food for Soul, Lulav and Esrog, movement, meditation and joyful song

Reservations recommended to Blu by texting 502-277-0555 text or emailing **KolIsraelKentucky@outlook.com**

Monday, October 5 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 Mornings Sept. 26, Oct. 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 inspirational service. We gather at 10 a.m. for greeting and schmoozing, with services beginning at 10:15 a.m.

Please make reservations for the link to Blu via text at 502-277-0555 or **KolIsraelKentucky@outlook.com**

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

National Council of Jewish Women – Louisville Section
NCJW's 2026 Election Center
We're excited to announce and share NCJW's 2026 Election Center, giving ourselves — and our communities — the chance to get educated, registered, and excited to go out and vote this November. Working with our partners at VoteRiders, we've put together all the tools you need to vote, to help turn out unlikely voters, and to protect abortion access at the ballot box. In our new Election Center, you can. See what ID you need to vote in your state Write letters, make phone calls, or text directly with unlikely voters Help voters navigate barriers before Election Day

Stop the SAVE Act
Your advocacy helped to stop the SAVE Act before. Help us stop it again. President Trump is making it clear that he wants fewer Americans to vote. He is still trying to pass the SAVE Act — a direct threat to our democracy. The SAVE Act will make it harder for millions of people to register to vote and make their voices heard in our elections, including more than 69 million married women — along with trans people and others — who do not have a birth certificate matching their legal name. But it doesn't stop there: millions more people who cannot obtain new, often costly documentation would lose their ability to vote right before the 2026 midterm elections.The SAVE Act has the ability to jeopardize the very foundation of our democracy. At this critical time, we must protect our country and tell Congress to vote NO on the SAVE Act.

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? Follow this link to get started.

October 7 Commemoration -- Thursday, Oct. 8 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the Trager Family JCC
Join us for Songs for Hope and Peace as we remember this solemn day. Featuring Israeli soul-folk singer Linor Ein Gedy, along with contributions from cantors David Lipp and Sharon Hordes, our ShinShinim Tamari and Yarden, and others. There will also be an accompanying exhibition of Israeli artists' works related to the Nova Festival.

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

Upcoming Dates:
Sept. 27: JLAB @ The Temple
Oct. 18: JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
Nov. 8: JLAB @ The Temple
Dec. 6: JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
Jan. 10: JLAB @ The Temple
Feb. 7: JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)
March 7: JLAB @ The Temple
April 18: JLE @ 3700 Dutchmans Lane (Camp J Building)

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





Continued on page 24

AROUND TOWN

Continued from page 23

Temple Shalom
Simchat Torah – Friday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom
All are invited to the celebration of Simchat Torah, with music from Lost Tribe. An oneg sponsored by the Women of Temple Shalom (WOTS) will follow.
Yitzkor Service, Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m. at Temple Shalom
Our Yitzkor service is a welcoming service for all, with meaningful texts and reflection.

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

The Temple
The Fall semester for adult education at The Temple is beginning soon. Torah Study with Rabbi David is on Saturdays at 9 a.m.; Temple Scholars is on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. with Rabbi David and 10:45 a.m. with Rabbi Matt starting Oct. 7; and Monday night classes including Hebrew Alef and Hebrew Gimmel with Rabbi Matt, Text Study with Rabbi David, and our next semester of Intro to Judaism with Rabbi David will all start on Oct. 5. The Intro to Judaism class is a wonderful way for people who are considering becoming Jewish, interdating, and intermarried couples to learn together about Judaism. For a full schedule and descriptions, go to **thetemplelouky.org/adult-education**.

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

Everyone is welcome at our Kindergarten and Grade 1 Consecration on Friday, Oct. 2 at 6:00 pm for a family dinner followed by the Consecration service. The famous WRJ/Sisterhood Cake Walk will follow the service. Dinner is $5 for Members who register by September 29 and $10 at the door. Non-Members are $18 per person and children 12 and under are free. Please make your reservation by calling 502-423-1818 or registering online at **thetemplelouky.org/consecration**.

The Temple Brotherhood welcomes everyone to attend our opening program on Thursday, Oct. 15 as we welcome Rabbi Matt as our guest speaker to talk about a variety of topics and events coming up. It is sure to be an enlightening and interesting event. You might not know, but this and other events are not just for Brotherhood members. We encourage you to make reservations as soon as possible as we expect a large turnout to the dinner and talk. If you are a Brotherhood member, dinner is included with your membership. For non-Brotherhood members the meal will be $20. RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/brotherhood-dinner**.

What does it mean to raise Jewish children in today's world? How do we create a Jewish home, build meaningful traditions, and help our children develop a strong sense of identity and belonging? Beginning this fall, join us for a four-part learning series designed for parents at every stage of their Jewish journey.

Join us Sundays in October at 9:30 a.m. for Raising Jewish Children. While each session will include information and resources, the heart of this series is conversation. Together, we will explore questions of identity, belonging, community, Jewish values, home rituals, holidays, and family traditions. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, discuss challenges, ask questions, and help shape the direction of our conversations based on what matters most to them and their families. Topics will include finding your place in Jewish community, raising children with Jewish values, creating meaningful home practices without feeling overwhelmed, and making Jewish holidays memorable and accessible. We will also spend time learning about our sanctuary, prayer services, and the rhythms of the Jewish calendar. Whether you are wondering how to make your home feel more Jewish, navigating the realities of an interfaith family, looking for ways to engage your children in Jewish life, or simply seeking connection with other parents facing similar questions, this series aims to provide a welcoming space for learning, reflection, and community. RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/raisingjewishchildren**.

Join us on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. for services and a special oneg to follow in celebration of Rabbi David and Dr. Bos' new book, Set Apart: Josef and His Family. Copies of their book will be available for sale during the oneg. "He was the favorite son, the dreamer in the coat of many colors. Yet Josef rose to become the most powerful man in Egypt, rescuer of a starving world and, ultimately, the one who brought his broken family back together. His is the longest continuous narrative in Genesis and one of the most enduring stories in human history. In Set Apart, two scholars of the Bible sit together with the ancient text of Josef and listen. Drawing on rabbinical tradition and rigorous scholarship, David Ariel-Joel and Johanna W.H. van Wijk-Bos offer a rich, layered reading of Genesis 37–50 that honors the full complexity of the story: the family rivalries, the silenced women, and the slow arc of character transformation. Where they disagree, they say so, presenting their differing interpretations side by side in the ancient Talmudic tradition. At its heart, this is a story about change — how it is forced upon us, how we resist it, and how, in the end, it becomes the very thing that saves us. Set Apart is a guide for that journey."

Join The Temple Brotherhood Saturday, Oct. 17 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.

Confirmation doesn't have to end with young adulthood. This year, Rabbi Matt invites you into Hineini: A Sacred Renewal, a six-part learning series open to every adult, regardless of age or prior Jewish knowledge. Reform Judaism calls us to make intentional, informed choices about our Jewish lives, and that means our Jewish identities are always growing, never truly finished. Whether you became a bar/bat mitzvah decades ago or are just beginning to explore your Jewish identity for the first time, this series offers us a chance to study together, ask big questions, and deepen our sense of who we are as Jews. Lunch and all learning materials will be provided; just RSVP at **thetemplelouky.org/hineini** and come ready to explore your Jewish identity! The first class is Sunday, Oct. 25 at 12:30 p.m.

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

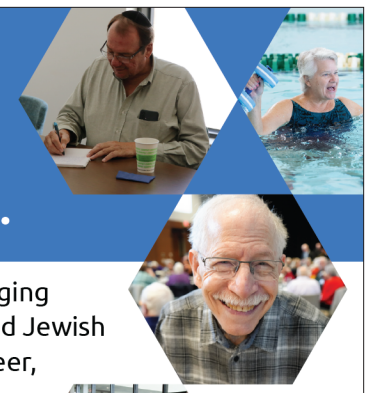
Trager Family Jewish Community Center
Dopamine Café is now open in Kohn Family Town Square
Offering a variety of specialty coffee drinks, smoothies, salads, sandwiches and more.

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**

Trager Family JCC | AgeWell

Nutrition. Fitness. Enrichment. Older Adults.



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

2 Membership Options!

Traditional Social Club Membership

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

Social Club Membership +Exclusive Fitness Classes

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

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

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

LIFECYCLE

B'nai Mitzvahs

Abigail Mather

Abigail "Abby" Mather, daughter of Adam and Martha Mather, sister of Lewis, cousin of Jada Auslander-Price, and granddaughter of Tommy Mather and Jay Strickland and the late Gail Zemon and Rita Strickland, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, October 10 at 10 a.m. at Keneseth Israel Congregation.

Abby is a 7th grader at Noe Middle School. She loves to dance, play field hockey, and run track. She also enjoys traveling, hanging out with friends, and spending time with her family. She treasures time with her aunts, uncles and cousins who live out of town

Abby and her family invite the community to celebrate with them and to join them for a Kiddush luncheon following the service.



Spencer Max Meeron

Spencer Max Meeron, son of Amy and Steven Meeron and older brother of Maddie, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple. Spencer is the beloved grandson of Sandie and Ron Meeron and of Virginia and Steve Martin.

Spencer is currently in seventh grade at Kentucky Country Day School. An active member of the school community, Spencer participates on the middle school soccer team, the swim team, the Math Counts team, and the Student Council, while also expressing his creativity through performing in various theatrical stage productions. Outside of school, he stays active in local sports, playing club soccer for the Falls City Soccer Club and swimming for the Owl Creek Community swim team. In his free time, Spencer loves spending quality time with family and friends and enjoying the outdoors. He is an enthusiastic, engaging individual who is always eager to learn a new magic trick, travel to new places, play card games, test his knowledge with trivia, or take on a fun challenge or competition.

For his Pledge 13 Mitzvah Project, Spencer volunteered with AdaptLou, where he actively supported their adaptive basketball and football programs during practices, games, and regional tournaments. AdaptLou is an impactful organization dedicated to making sports and movement accessible for individuals with disabilities across the greater Louisville region. They accomplish this by delivering education and programming that provides equipment, coaching, and supports other financial barriers that traditionally keep disabled athletes and their families on the sidelines. For additional information or to discover ways to get involved, visit adaptlou.com.



Alex Ryan Roth

Alex Ryan Roth will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 24, at 10:30 a.m. at The Temple. Alex is the son of Melissa and Mark, the brother of Lila, and the grandson of Bonnie and Dr. John Roth and Sue and Joel Kaufmann.

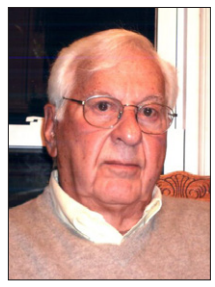
Alex is in seventh grade at Francis Parker School of Louisville, where he plays soccer and basketball and participates in many student clubs. Alex has never met a dog he didn't want to play with and loves listening to music, hanging out with friends, and playing video games. For his Pledge 13 project, Alex volunteered at Adopt Me Bluegrass Pet Rescue, where he cared for the animals.



Samuel Miles Serchuk

Samuel Miles Serchuk, son of Randi Skaggs and David Serchuk, younger brother of Stella Serchuk, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah at 10 a.m., Saturday, October 10th at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Sam is the grandson of Arnold Serchuk and the late Harriet Serchuk and Judy Skaggs and the late Randall Skaggs. A seventh-grade band major at Western Middle School for the Arts, Sam also plays guitar with School of Rock and practices jiu jitsu.

Obituaries



Arthur "Skip" Davis

Skip was born in Louisville on February 5, 1931 to the late Henry and Freida Davis. He attended Manual High School and then joined his brother Charlie in the family business until Charlie's death in 1963. He then continued as owner of Davis & Sons Pawn and Sporting Goods Store until his retirement in 2003.

In 1953, Skip joined the US Army Reserve and served six years locally, rising to the rank of Sergeant First Class. He remained active in a range of communal activities including achieving his 32nd degree in the Masons. He was a member of Anshei Sfard Synagogue for over 60 years where he participated in the Men's Club and served on the board, including stints as board President.

Skip was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing cards, traveling, and sharing his wry humor with whomever would listen. Spending time with his friends and family was a constant source of joy and happiness throughout his life. Earlier in his life he enjoyed trap and skeet shooting, bowling, and playing poker with his childhood buddies—most of whom he remained friends with his entire life, and his memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brothers Simmy, Charlie and Barry Davis; sister Marylee (Davis) Fischer, and grandson Brent Davis.

Skip is survived by Debra (Funk) Davis, his loving wife of 45 years and caregiver until his final days. He is also survived by his sons, Hank Davis (Donna) and Brian (B.J.) Davis (Sheila); four grandchildren, Ashley Davis Sigman (Jay), Amy Davis Bowling (Eric), Emily Davis, and Shayna Davis; great grandsons, Asher Sigman and Theo Bowling, and great granddaughters Juliette Sigman and Estelle Bowling.

A private family graveside service was held Thursday, September 17 at Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made in memory of Skip to the Kentucky Humane Society.



Petr Y. Grinshteyn

Petr Y. Grinshteyn, 88, originally of Odessa, Ukraine, passed away peacefully on September 4, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Petr loved playing soccer and spending time with his family. In his golden years, he especially cherished playing outside with his grandchildren.

He will be lovingly remembered for his warmth, the memories he created, and the lasting love he shared with family and friends.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Mariya; his son, Michael; his daughter, Melissa; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

Graveside services were held September 6, 2026, at Temple Cemetery.



GLOBE

‘Checkout’ and ‘Fauda’ test the appetite for Israeli spy stories after Oct. 7

By Stewart Ain
JTA

Is there still an appetite for Israeli spy stories?

That is one question being tested by two different productions arriving in the United States this month: “Checkout,” a dark Israeli comedy about an aging Mossad operative, and the fifth season of “Fauda,” the Israeli action thriller about undercover counterterrorism agents.

One is an indie film that spent years getting to the screen; the other is a global Netflix hit whose new season plunges directly into the trauma of Oct. 7.

The two projects are seeking audiences in a challenging climate. A Pew Research Center survey conducted in March found that 60% of Americans had an unfavorable view of Israel, compared with 37% who viewed the country favorably. And Israeli cultural exports have faced increasing scrutiny abroad over the country’s conduct since Oct. 7.

Yet “Fauda” has returned to Netflix with considerable international attention, while “Checkout” opened in Manhattan to a sold-out audience.

“It’s hard for Israeli movies right now to find an audience because everything translates to, you know, the ‘P’ [Palestinian] problem,” Jonathan Dekel, the writer, director and executive producer of “Checkout,” said in an interview. “It’s problematic.”

“Checkout” opened Sept. 17 to a sold-out audience at the Quad Cinema in Greenwich Village, which Dekel described as a “stalwart of indie cinema.”

Dekel has said the film’s six-year production was almost as difficult as the journey of its protagonist. They shot in Ukraine in November 2020, at the height of the pandemic, and barely escaped with the film’s hard drive after the set was bombed when Russia invaded. They had just finished editing when Oct. 7, 2023, arrived, and Dekel was called up for military service.

Dekel knew that the movie would debut in a world transformed by the war and its aftermath.

“Trying to find a good time to put out a movie, a satire — a dark comedy about the Israeli special forces — was very, very touch and go until we finally decided to go for it,” he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

“Checkout” is not a conventional spy thriller. Its protagonist, Dov, is an American-born New Yorker who moved to Israel and is now about to retire from the Mossad.

“The day he checks out of his hotel to retire, someone else checks in and it turns out it’s Mossad’s number one target — an arch terrorist [code-]named Gilgamesh,” Dekel said. “The entire movie is this weird weekend in a hotel where these two middle-aged men, spy-versus-spy, try to figure out who they are. They’re trying to find out about each other, but they find themselves.”

Josh Pais, who plays Dov, said his character is a man searching for meaning in his life — and comes to believe he can find it by tracking down and stopping a terrorist.

“He is possibly stepping into delusion,” said Pais. “What was appealing to me was that this is a story of what really happens to spies. So many movies tap into, you know, the James Bond of being a spy. Those movies are awesome, but this movie is about what it’s really like to be sent to a distant land, to be on location and to pretend that you’re someone else. Over a certain amount of time these guys start to lose touch with reality because, in truth, the vast majority of time as a spy nothing happens.”

Shai Satran, the movie’s co-writer, said he believes this is the “perfect moment for a movie about the Israeli intelligence community and an operation gone bad.”

“His driving force is not really to catch that guy — he doesn’t care about that guy. The driving force is to be accepted by his peers, the people who sent him — that’s at

Continued on page 27





GLOBE

Continued from page 26

the core," said Satran. "I don't want to be crude about this, but there was something pre-Oct. 7 about the Israeli security forces, maybe the special forces: There's a certain arrogance in being only worried about your peers and not being aware of" the wider mission. In the lead-up to the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, "Israel, in a sense, thought that they were more in control of the situation than they were," he said

That idea — of intelligence work as something more complicated than heroic missions and exotic adventures — also runs through "Fauda," though in a much more conventional action-thriller format.

The Israeli series has been an international success since its Netflix debut in 2016, and its fifth season, which arrived on Netflix Sept. 8, is now testing whether audiences will follow its characters into a story shaped directly by and set two years after Oct. 7.

Lior Raz stars as an undercover operative in the fifth season of the hit Israeli show "Fauda." (Netflix)

Lior Raz, the show's creator, cowriter and star, said last month at a fundraiser in Lenox, Massachusetts for Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service that he was genuinely surprised by the show's reception in unlikely places: Previous seasons of the show hit No. 1 in popularity in Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates and it was No. 2 in Qatar.

Season four ran in 2022 in Israel and early the next year on Netflix. The show's creators had originally begun writing a different fifth season. But after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack, Raz said, those scripts were discarded. The new season deals directly with the aftermath of the attack and what Raz described as the nature of revenge. One reviewer called it "gripping, emotionally exhausting and often deeply difficult to watch," particularly because of its depiction, in flashbacks, of Oct. 7.

Raz, in his MDA talk, said the backlash against Israel was a campaign orchestrated by radical activists and Israel's enemies. The latest season of "Fauda" is in part an attempt to depict the Israeli perspective for those open to nuance. "I want them to look in my character's eyes, and to see what we felt on those days," he told the New York Times. "If it would happen in their countries, they would feel exactly like we felt and how we feel about the world. So I hope it would open people's eyes to see what happened on Oct. 7."



Josh Pais stars as an American-born, former Mossad agent in the dark Israeli comedy "Checkout." (United Channels Movies)

Although its reception abroad is hard to gauge, the latest season was a hit in Israel: The Times reported that it had already been the most-watched season of any show in the history of Israel's Yes network.

Lacking the backing of a streaming giant, Checkout will have to work harder to find an audience. The Sundance Screenwriters Lab supported the "Checkout" script, Dekel said, but that was before Oct. 7. Since then, "finding a distributor, finding a Netflix, Amazon or Hulu was pretty much crickets [silence] all over. It might be our movie, but looking around [at] movies from my colleagues — Israelis — I think it's pretty much a broad phenomenon."

Asked if he believed the difficulty he faced was because it is an Israeli movie or because it involved Jews, Dekel replied, "Is there a difference?"

KEEP JUDGE
Lisa L
LANGFORD
for DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
LOGICAL, SMART, LEADERSHIP



"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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

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

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

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

For more information, please visit WWW.KEEPJUDGELISALLANGFORD.COM

Paid for by Lisa L. Langford for Judge Campaign Fund

IT STARTS *Here*





Jewish Federation of Louisville

A place to belong.

A connection that lasts a lifetime.

A helping hand when it's needed most.

A child's first Jewish experience.

A senior finding community.

A community standing together.

A moment that changes a life.

These moments don't happen by accident.
They begin when we invest in Jewish life
and in one another.

The Annual Campaign brings our community
together to care for those in need,
strengthen Jewish identity and connection,
protect our community, support Israel
and build a vibrant Jewish future.

Every journey has a starting point.
For our Jewish community,
it starts here... with you.



Start something meaningful today!

jewishlouisville.org/federation

Jewish Federation®
OF LOUISVILLE