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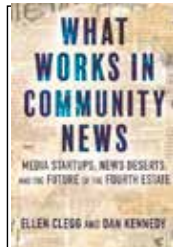
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Washtenaw Jewish News  
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WASHTENAW

# JEWISH NEWS

MAY 2024

Nissan/Iyar 5784

Volume XXIV Number 9

FREE

## Demographic study reveals Washentaw Jewish community far larger than expected

By Eileen Freed, CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

According to just-released data, the Washtenaw County area Jewish community is much larger than previously thought. Prior estimates from the past 20 years had suggested the local Jewish population was approximately 8,000 Jews, in 3,000 households.

But with a population of 11,000 households, and 20,000 Jewish individuals — including 3,900 Jewish children — the unexpectedly large size of the community is one of the most significant and exciting data points in the 2022–2023 Washtenaw County Area Jewish Community Study: A Data-Driven Collaboration.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, in partnership with local Jewish communal organizations and congregations, commissioned this study and presented its results publicly at a community Town Hall on April 15. At the Town Hall, attendees heard a presentation of the study's key findings and discussed questions, opportunities, and challenges raised by the data. In addition to the community-wide conversation, small-group meetings with community leaders were conducted, allowing for deeper exploration of topics like social services, congregational life, community engagement, and youth/teen education and engagement.



The goal of this Community Study was to provide a current portrait of the local Jewish community and to give needed insight to build the most welcoming, innovative, and vibrant Jewish community possible.

Board President of the Jewish Federation Jessica 'Decky' Alexander noted the significance of this effort. "The Community Study," she says, "is an important start to discovering and/or rediscovering the backgrounds, beliefs, values, and priorities of Jewish individuals in Washtenaw County."

The Jewish Federation is pleased to share some key findings of the study below. It is important to note that data for this study were collected from November 2022 to January 2023, well before the October 7, 2023, attacks and ensuing war in Israel and Gaza. It is possible that some results might have differed if they had been collected after October 7, especially in the areas of antisemitism and Israel.

### A Few Key Findings

#### Who and Where we Are

20,000 Jews in 11,000 households, representing 5% of the total local population. Undergraduate

students were not included in the study.

88% of Jewish adults feel connected to the Jewish people; only 35% feel connected to the local Washtenaw County Jewish community.

#### Congregations and Jewish Ritual

20% of Jewish households belong to a congregation, minyan, or chavurah.

83% report lighting Hanukkah candles in the last year, 80% attended a seder, and 67% attended at least one synagogue service.

#### Antisemitism

When data were collected, 69% of respondents indicated they are concerned about antisemitism in the U.S.

22% had experienced antisemitism in the previous year.

#### Connection to Israel

When data were collected, 58% of respondents reported feeling some level of emotional attachment to Israel.

About 50% of respondents feel their views about Israel are not welcome in Jewish settings.

#### Health & Human Services & Financial Well-being

23% of Jewish households include someone with a chronic health issue, special needs, or disability.

One in six households say they are struggling financially. ■

## Jewish insights on AI

In the last few years, the breakthroughs in AI have received a great deal of attention in the media. There have been a wide range of thoughtful (and sometimes alarmed) thought pieces about how these emergent technologies could negatively impact if not fundamentally transform white-collar jobs, education, the entertainment industry, and so much more. It is not uncommon to turn on the news and see billionaires, authors, musicians, and government officials weighing in about whether and how governments could and should regulate these developments and how businesses and communities might respond to them. Less visible, but certainly not less important,



there has been growing discussion of what resources religious traditions might have to offer as we navigate this fraught topic.

Scholar/inventor/artist, David Zvi Kalman has been thinking and writing a lot about AI in the context of Judaism and Jewish thought in recent years. At 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, the Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies, in partnership with Temple Beth Emeth, will bring Kalman to Southeast Michigan to deliver at talk at TBE titled, "What a religious response to AI should look like."

In this talk, Kalman will discuss the challenges religious groups face when it comes to artificial intelligence. While AI will certainly impact religious life and institutions, the public discourse around AI regulation is largely secular. Moreover, Kalman notes that religious groups often struggle to provide moral guidance on

topics that are not decades or centuries old. Kalman will bring forward suggestions on how religious thought, particularly Jewish thought, can provide meaningful guidance at this moment, and how religious communities should expect to be impacted by AI in turn.

David Zvi Kalman received his PhD in Jewish Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 2019 and has been the senior research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. In addition to his scholarship, he has written articles for *Slate*, *LA Times*, *JTA*, *Tablet*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and the *Forward*.

This event is free and open to the public. If there are any questions, please direct them to [jewish.studies@emich.edu](mailto:jewish.studies@emich.edu). ■



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## From the Editor



### Challenges

I had a truly heartwarming seder last night. Our traditions, resilient and evolving, are a tree of life. An outpouring of suggested Haggadah supplemental readings might take a year to absorb.

Some of the data revealed last week in the Washtenaw Jewish population study grabbed my attention and won't let go. I've long worked from the assumption that "50% of adult Jews feel their view about Israel are not welcome in Jewish spaces," because this was my experience. I've lived most of my Jewish life among the flourishing and irrepressible 50% who have struggled with Zionism, among the 80% who are unaffiliated, with the 65% who don't feel connected to the local Jewish community.

What should having this data before us, now confirmed by the study, mean? This is the question that grabs my attention. I hope you will be inspired to write to the WJN with your thoughts.

I have a credo for publishing WJN. Those who read it regularly will not be surprised, but having the survey results has released me to share this credo, which is taped to my desk:

The Washtenaw Jewish News will continually demonstrate that the lived Jewish creative community is wider than the legacy Jewish agencies, organizations, and congregations that represent us.

While including the legacy organizations and appreciating their important functions in the community, WJN exists alongside of the legacy systems, and pays close attention to the creative social and political happenings among

Jews who are only marginally involved or are not involved in the legacy systems.

The community for whom WJN publishes includes Jews who de-center Zionism and/or are working to create in Israel/Palestine democratic structures for all who live there; Jews working in the creative arts giving form and substance to emerging Jewish practice and culture; Jews incorporating deep awareness of the physical land we currently live on; and Jews with an open attitude toward other religious beliefs, practices, and traditions.

I am challenged by the new data which tells us that there are 8,000 Washtenaw households in which Jews live that do not yet receive the WJN! I hope some of them pick up their copies at Barry's Bagels, or another coffee shop or library. I would love to put more copies in the mail! ■

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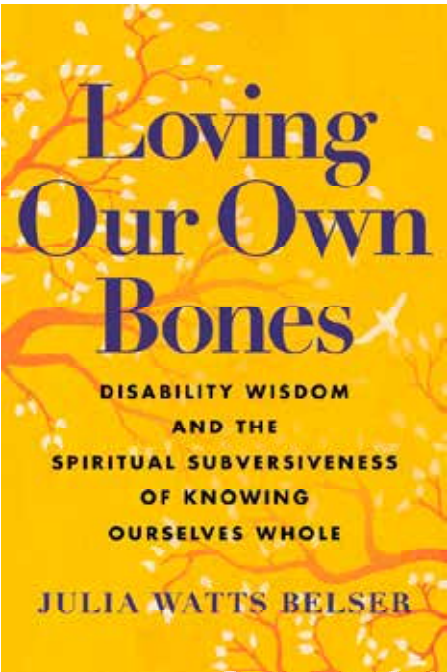


Moses:  
Provocations From  
a Disabled Prophet

“Moses: Provocations From a Disabled Prophet,” an online presentation and Torah study led by author and disability studies scholar Rabbi Julia Watts Belser, will be hosted by the AARC on May 5 at 2 p.m. To register, contact [info@aarecon.org](mailto:info@aarecon.org).

When God sends Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery, the prophet famously says no. Why? Moses describes himself as “slow of speech and slow of tongue” — in other words, as a man with a speech disability. While some commentators treat Moses’ disability as a spiritual impediment, this talk and text study brings Moses’ story into conversation with the life experiences and activism of contemporary disability communities. We’ll grapple with spiritual and political questions about access and equity, invisibility, and silence, as well as practices for transforming social inequality and shame to illuminate the provocative power of spiritual leadership that centers disability wisdom.

Rabbi Julia Watts Belser (she/her) is a scholar, spiritual teacher, and longtime activist for disability, LGBTQ, and gender justice. She is a professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University and core faculty in Georgetown’s Disability Studies Program. She’s also an avid wheelchair hiker, a devoted gardener, and a lover of wild places. Her latest book is *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*. ■



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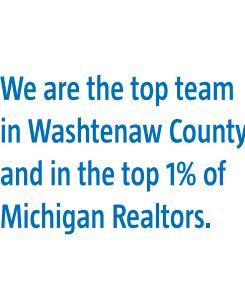
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## Local Events

### What is community solar?

To learn about this important topic, please join two experts: Julie Roth, from the City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability & Innovations, and John Freeman from the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association.

How does it work, what are the benefits, and how can you get it?

What are the legal challenges in Michigan for everyone to have access to community solar?

What is the status of the current legislation and what can people do to advocate for its passing?

The presenters will share their expertise and answer questions from the attendees. This one-hour informational webinar is sponsored by the Temple Beth Emeth climate-action committee, the Dayenu Circle.

It will take place on Zoom on Wednesday, May 15, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is required and can be found on the Temple Beth Emeth website. ■

### Two years of war in Ukraine topic on May 6

By Joan Levitt

Mila Finkelshtein, CEO of ORT Ukraine, will speak at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor on May 6 at 7:30 p.m. Finkelshtein's talk, "Two years of war in Ukraine: resilience, reinforcement, recovery," is part of her speaking tour in North America. The Ann Arbor Chapter of ORT America and the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor are co-sponsoring the event.



As the war in Ukraine grinds on into a third year, World ORT continues to be a lifeline for education in the region. Recently one mother's story highlighted the impact of ORT's help as she has moved and attempted to continue her children's education. Viktoria Khainus and her two children have relied on the support of the ORT school in Zaporizhzhia for the past two years. However, they were evacuated last fall from Zaporizhzhia to a safer school in Truskavets

### Detroit's 1910 Kosher Meat Riot

A free public lecture organized by the Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor and the Ann Arbor District Library.

May 19, 4-5:30 p.m. at AADL Downtown Branch. Also online via YouTube; for link, go to [culinaryhistoriansannarbor.org/program-schedule](https://culinaryhistoriansannarbor.org/program-schedule) or send email to [a2culinaryhistorians@gmail.com](mailto:a2culinaryhistorians@gmail.com).

In May 1910, working-class Orthodox Jewish women fought back against a 250% hike in kosher meat prices that they blamed on the national beef monopoly. To feed their families amid rapid inflation, the women opened co-op markets and organized boycotts that sometimes erupted into violence. Join Dr. Catherine Cangany of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan as she recovers a forgotten moment in Michigan's past.



Catherine Cangany, PhD, is Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Previously, she was a tenured associate professor of history at the University of Notre Dame. She holds a doctorate in history from the University of Michigan and is the author of *Frontier Seaport: Detroit's Transformation into an Atlantic Entrepôt* (University of Chicago Press, 2014). ■

in western Ukraine.

Viktoria explains, "ORT has helped us survive these long, terrifying months and provided timely assistance. Such care during wartime is worth its weight in gold."

Dan Green, World ORT Director General and CEO, said, "The Khainus family's story underscores the importance of our organization's work to offer assistance to those navigating through life's toughest challenges, while ensuring the continuation of their children's education."

ORT Ukraine, supported by World ORT and its fundraising partners including the Ann Arbor Chapter of ORT America, provides critical psychological support, emergency response training, food, equipment, and supplies through its network of schools, currently serving over 3,000 students.

Mila Finkelshtein will provide first-hand information about ORT's schools in Ukraine and the ongoing challenges facing students and staff as they continue to live in a war zone.

Please register for the May 6 event on the Calendar page of [jewishannarbor.org](https://jewishannarbor.org). ■

### The Vagina Monologues presented live at the JCC

By Ariella Monson and Marci Sukenic

Hilarious," "racy," "serious," "emotional," "sensuous." These were just some of the range of feelings and words used to describe this extraordinary performance. On April 3, more than 50 people gathered at the JCC, both men and women, for the live production of *The Vagina Monologues*. Thirteen women, all of whom are representatives of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), presented short monologues, each of which had widely divergent topics, but came together on all things female and vaginal! The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor were thrilled to partner together, along with NCJW, to bring this fantastic show to the community. ■

### Call for local authors (and volunteers!): 37th Annual Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival

By Nat Bension, Director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education at the Ann Arbor JCC

Do you have a new book out this year, or know others in the community who do? The JCC of Greater Ann Arbor is seeking local authors for the 37th Annual Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival this fall. Titles with a 2024 publication date that are either of Jewish interest — featuring a Jewish subject or containing substantial Jewish content — or written by a Jewish author will be considered. All eligible authors are encouraged to fill out the online submission form; please contact Nat Bension ([natbension@jccannarbor.org](mailto:natbension@jccannarbor.org)) for the link.

Interested in helping plan this year's festival or getting involved in other local Jewish literary programs? Please contact Nat Bension ([natbension@jccannarbor.org](mailto:natbension@jccannarbor.org)) for more information. ■



### 2nd annual JCC Night of Comedy

By Ariella Monson, Director of Development & Operations

Join the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor for the second annual Night of Comedy and FUNdraising, benefiting the JCC's Youth Services, at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase on Thursday May 16. This year's event will feature a special performance by the hilarious Jay Stevens. A professional comedian

of almost 20 years, Jay's clean comedy style targets every area of life, leaving audiences laughing with every example of how funny life really is. Nowadays, Jay is captivating audiences across his social media platforms from Instagram to TikTok to YouTube with his skits, as well as with his Dry Bar comedy special *Life Is Hilarious*.

Your donations and participation in last year's program enabled us to purchase outdoor equipment for our Early Childhood Center and Camp Raanana! Early Childhood Center purchased outdoor musical equipment and updated water tables, while Camp Raanana campers had fun with their new waterfront equipment: kickboards, sand toys, and goggles. Everyone in the community enjoyed the JCC's brand new tent that we're looking forward to using for summers to come.

Tickets and sponsorship information can be found on the website. Sponsorship opportunities start at \$180, and all sponsorship levels include recognition on our website and priority seating. Any ticket purchased by calling the Comedy Showcase will not incur a processing fee. Individual tickets are \$36 and include 2 drink tickets (21 and up). With questions, please contact Ariella Monson, Director of Development and Operations at the JCC, at (734) 971-0990.

We hope to see you for a Night of Comedy and FUNdraising on May 16! ■



L to R: Josh Chinsky, President; Ariella Monson, JCC Director of Development and Operations; Mark Knope, Comedian at First Annual JCC Comedy Night in 2023



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## How should religious communities expect to be impacted by AI?





Dr. David Zvi Kalman

Technology  
Religion  
Art



## Reports from Ann Arbor Federation's solidarity mission to Israel

**B**elow are reflections from those who had the pleasure and honor to participate in a solidarity mission to Israel the last week of March 2024. Although it was only a four-day trip, this group saw, met, heard, experienced, and witnessed more than most trips typically provide. Participants were hosted by families in Nahalal, Ann Arbor's partner community through the Jewish Agency's Partnership2Gether program — and Ann Arbor's "family" in Israel. Those in Nahalal and the Partnership office helped coordinate numerous opportunities to volunteer, learn, and experience firsthand the enduring effects of the October 7 attacks. The participants in this trip were proud to represent the Ann Arbor community and offer their individual reflections here.

### Eva Solomon

When we decided at one of our "partnership" meetings that we were going to organize a solidarity mission, there was no question in my mind that I was going to go. I couldn't articulate the exact reason, but I knew I wanted to be there. When I told people that I was going to be traveling to Israel, their reactions took me by surprise: "Why are you going there?" "What are you going to do there?" "Are you sure it's safe?" I had to come up with an answer, so I replied that I am going to stand in solidarity with my Israeli family, to volunteer, and to bear witness to the atrocities of October 7. All they could say after that was, "Be safe."

When I arrived, it was clear to me that bearing witness was the least I could do. People were grateful for us to just be there. The resilience of the Israelis never ceases to amaze me. Even as war continues in Gaza and deadly rockets are being fired against the north every day, and world sentiment seems unbalanced against every move Israel makes, the people are coming together. We felt it with every place and every person we visited, including: Hamal, the volunteer command center where we moved lumber to build shelter for soldiers; graffiti artist Bentzi Brofman's art exhibit installation of portraits of hostages and murdered soldiers; Bat Ami, from Kibbutz Hanita, who has been living in a college dormitory with her family since the beginning of the war; Nadav HaMeiri, who offers therapeutic horseback riding for evacuated families; Shaul Avidav, who is head of the first response team in Nahalal; Meital Liani and others from Kibbutz Gevim community who were evacuated to Kibbutz Mizra and finally moved back home; those who survived and didn't survive fleeing from the Nova Music Festival; relatives of hostages at Hostage Headquarters; and Boaz, who used his archaeology skills to recover missing people. The last time I was in Israel was this past May. At that time, I witnessed and participated in a government protest. On this trip, I saw frustration with not only the leadership of the government, but also its mishandling this war. Despite the failure of the government and IDF leadership to foresee the massacre, the people are determined to defeat Hamas and rescue the hostages. There is no obvious answer to end

the war. The greatest asset is the strength and resiliency of the Israeli people, but they can't do it alone. We need to stand by their side and continue to find ways to help.

### Brad Axelrod

I just returned from a four-day whirlwind trip to Israel, a country that remains resilient in the face of the horrific terror attacks on October 7, 2023. Entering the welcome hall at Ben Gurion airport, one no longer sees the huge wall posters of smiling faces celebrating the land of Israel. Instead, one faces the photographs of all 134 Israeli hostages currently in captivity in Gaza. Along both sides of the hallway is a long line of each of their names, ages, and faces. The people of Israel are united in seeing their priority being the return of

was, "Thank you for being here." My response: "I can't wait to be back." Am Yisrael Chai.

### Levana Aronson

I went early. Entering Israel airport was already sobering: Along the walk to the passport control one can see the hostages' pictures, looking at you as if to say "Bring me home!"

I have never seen the Israelis so humble and vulnerable no matter where you meet them, they sincerely thank you for coming.

On the one hand, when one is in the center of Israel/Tel Aviv area and Haifa, life is "normal." People are working, going to the theater and movies, sitting in cafes, going to restaurants, as if no war is happening. But the mood is subdued. Everything is "if," "when."



the presumed 100 living hostages and the remains of 34 who are thought to have died or been killed since being taken captive.

The attention devoted to those killed, injured, and still in the hands of Hamas are seen in artwork throughout Israel, conversations with displaced residents who just returned to their homes in the western Negev, discussions with family members of the hostages, grassroots organizations with whom we volunteered, a presentation by an archeologist responsible for identifying the remains of missing people, and bearing witness to the loss of life at the Nova Music Festival, along Highway 232, and throughout the western Negev area, and mental health treatment (including equine therapy) for those with post-traumatic difficulties.

Despite the unspeakable loss of life and security, Israel's spirit is robust and her promise for the future is irrepressible. The most often heard comment during the trip

I went to the theater. As the show began, the announcement was, "You are sitting in a sheltered area. In case of a siren, please don't leave your seat. The actors will leave and come back after clearance." Can you fathom going to the Power Center or Hill Auditorium under these circumstances? This is "normal." The audience was primarily middle-aged seniors and women.

One Saturday, I went to the beach. People were walking, playing matkot, and sitting in the cafes. Again, women and children and older people. This is "normal." They say, *We are doing it because this is what our children, spouses, significant others are fighting for... so we can have "Normal Life."*

Saturday night comes and the debate is, which demonstration shall we go to? For the hostages? For the protest of the government? Or maybe neither because our children and spouses are fighting.

Israel needs us, Israelis need us. They are fighting for their survival and they know it!

### Taryn Gal

October 7, 2023, was horrific, obviously. But, it was the response to October 7 from friends, colleagues, and previously respected organizations that was a gut punch to my core. Given that I am someone who has fiercely fought for diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-oppression, and social justice, it was absolutely surreal to experience the immediate and unquestioning misuse of these ideals against Jews; against me. Everything I thought to be true was false. In the days following October 7, my understanding of the world turned upside down. In all my time fighting for others who hold historically marginalized identities, I had let my own historically marginalized Jewish identity be put aside. Jew-hate was left to simmer right beneath the surface (just as my grandparents had always told me was there, but I had ignored). Now, many whom I had loved and trusted, felt free to unabashedly declare their Jew hatred in a multitude of both loud and quiet ways.

After October 7, I felt a strong and overwhelming need to get to Israel, to go, and to be there. And I felt an overwhelming need to get away from Ann Arbor and the daily gaslighting and microaggressions from those around me. I had never been to Israel, nor had I ever had much of a desire to go there. I don't like traveling in general. Yet, now I did, even somewhat shocking myself with this yearning to get there. I needed to see, to feel, to be present in the spaces that were impacted by October 7. I needed to be with my people.

I am not religious. I am more of an atheist. Yet, it felt that G-d had a hand in connecting me with the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and their partnership with Nahalal. The Solidarity Mission brought out every emotion (anger, rage, sadness, hope, despair, love, hate, pride, fear, more rage, and even more love) and was exactly what I needed to fill the hole that was left in me by those who let me down, so severely, over the past six months. We were able to bear witness at sites attacked by Hamas. We visited art exhibitions created in response to October 7. We listened to journalists, survivors, displaced families, relatives of hostages, community response teams, a social media influencer, members of the IDF, and representatives from Hostage Headquarters. We heard bombs dropping and saw Gaza. We volunteered with an organization that jumped in to help IDF soldiers when the government would not. We stayed with families. It felt like home. The thread throughout every interaction was love and life; return of the hostages and protecting the soldiers.

A few experiences that caught me off guard:

Over the past six months, I have watched video clips from the Nova festival. The only sound was the crunching of dry grass as they ran through the open fields away from Hamas. As I now walked through the same fields at Nova,

# Community

I heard the same sound, on the same grass. A sickening closeness; incredibly important and necessary to me.

At Hostage Square, I found myself looking for the protestors. Looking for the individuals who would vandalize the sculptures and displays in the plaza. There were none and there would be none. This was Israel, not the U.S.

Permanent bomb shelters. Everywhere. This is a country that has chosen to acclimate to constant missile attacks, rather than fight back against hateful neighbors. It has chosen life over death, time and time and time again.

On my last night in Israel, I was alone in Tel Aviv. I walked along the beach. For all the hateful “river to the sea” comments that I see on my social media feeds, I was able to actually see “the sea.” After months of heartbreak seeing “from the river to the sea” posted online by friends and colleagues, it felt that I was almost able to reclaim “the sea,” whose beach was filled with Jewish life and Jewish love.

What do I now do with this now that I am back in Michigan? One volunteer group asked us to raise money for an ice cream truck for the soldiers. Another community said they need funds for equipment to convert pistols into assault rifles. The journalist we met had the most difficult request — he told me that it is the job of American Jews to start combating the inaccurate and harmful propaganda spreading Jew-hate. We must be louder, we must put ourselves on the line to fight this fight here in the U.S.

My flight back to the U.S. was so wild that it made the international news: wind shear, landing at a different airport, emergency medical responders on the plane. I happened to share a Lyft with someone from the flight as we navigated hotels and rescheduled flights. As she got out at her terminal, she said, “Next year in Jerusalem.” Yes, next year in Jerusalem. Am Yisrael Chai.

## Carey Sherman

Since October 7, I haven’t been able to turn my gaze away from what was happening in Israel. When a solidarity mission was discussed, I knew I had to be part of it.

During the brief yet profound time in Israel, we were privileged to hear raw, firsthand accounts from individuals directly impacted by the deadly attacks perpetrated on Israelis in the Gaza Envelope. An older father, who made Aliyah to Israel from Argentina, now works tirelessly to hasten the release of his two adult sons still held captive by Hamas. A young research archaeologist now focuses on painstaking forensic archeology to map the site and reclaim any extant remains of civilian and military victims of Hamas’ missile attacks and fire. One woman, mother of six children, described how she and others had only hours to evacuate their community, Kibbutz Givim, to escape surrounding terrorists. They have only just returned to their homes after a five-month displacement. Countless individuals across Israel continue to dedicate their talent, time, and compassion to support affected communities, provide needed supplies to those fighting, and provide any form of comfort to the family members of victims viciously murdered or taken hostage by Hamas.

A particularly sobering visit was to the site of the Nova Music festival, near Kibbutz

Re-im. As we each walked quietly through that landscape where over 360 innocents — mostly young — were brutally murdered, I kept thinking of the line from Psalm 23, — “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ...”

We were there, “in the valley,” on ground soaked with blood and haunted by the “shadow of death.” Now, sapling trees have been planted for each victim along with photos of the victims’ beautiful, vibrant faces. Bearing witness to the worst massacre in Israel’s history, we can never fully grasp the totality of what was lost on that day. The legacy of abject violence etched in that soil will reverberate forever.

As the verse continues, “ — I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.” The Psalmist is referring to God, but I find an added layer of meaning in these words. We have seen evil, and we do fear evil. And yet, at each stop during our visit, and in our hosts’ homes in Nahalal, we heard testimony from Israelis stepping up in stunning ways to honor, serve, assist, and comfort those in need. Remarkable collectives of volunteers are dedicating themselves around the clock to creating a stronger, better, more unified Israeli society going forward. In their unity and work, there is hope for the future.

Now, with these images in my head and heart, I keep asking myself how will *we*, as individuals and as a community, step up to show our solidarity, love, and support to the land and people of Israel during this most challenging time? How can we best combat the new global “Holocaust denial” about what happened on October 7 to Israel and the Jewish world? Meeting this moment is an existential imperative, and I sincerely hope we can find the same strength and unity of purpose in our efforts as our Israeli sisters and brothers. Am Yisrael Chai. ■

## Jewish community plans winter mission to Israel

By Eileen Freed

The Washtenaw County Jewish community will travel to Israel December 23, 2024–January 2, 2025.

This mission is made possible through a collaborative partnership of Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, the Jewish Community Center, Hebrew Day School, and Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

The planning group is proud to partner with Journeys International and Eshet Incoming in crafting an intentionally designed journey to engage both first-time travelers to Israel and seasoned returners. The itinerary is most appropriate for adults and families with children ages 10 and older.

This is a challenging time to encourage people to join a trip to Israel. The uncertainty around the war in Gaza and what could happen in Israel’s north is unsettling. That said, there is no better time to gain a deeper understanding of this country and its people, with which so many of us feel connected.

In late March of this year, seven community members traveled to Israel to do just that. The response from every

Israeli participants met was, “Thank you for coming!” Many in our community have felt increasingly disconnected due to the extreme anti-Zionist and antisemitic rhetoric on the airwaves, on social media, and in our workplaces. Likewise, Israelis are traumatized, disillusioned by their government institutions, and feeling isolated in the world. Our presence matters — both to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Israel and to strengthen relationships and our knowledge of the complexity of life there. The group who went in March engaged in numerous conversations with Israelis from a range of backgrounds, which expanded their knowledge and insight around the nuances of Israeli society.

The December community experience will include a visit to Ann Arbor’s Partnership2Gether community, Moshav Nahalal, where you will be warmly welcomed and have an opportunity to foster meaningful connections with our family in Israel.

Of course, December/January is eight months away. We hope and pray that by the time the trip comes, the hostages will have been returned, hostilities will be over, and there is a path to lasting peace. It is with this optimism that we encourage you to join us for what we are sure will be a wonderful, meaningful community-building experience.

Be assured that the itinerary will reflect how Israel has changed since October 7 and be adjusted, as needed, based on the current situation at the time. Regardless of how many times you’ve been to Israel, you will discover the country in new ways when you view the sites and learn about issues from the people we meet through this incredible experience, plus the several community rabbis who will travel with us.

Due to a generous grant from the Susan L. Lichter Memorial Scholarship fund, the subsidized land cost of the trip is \$3,995. For more details and information and to express interest, visit [journeysinternational.com/ann-arbor-israel-2024/](https://journeysinternational.com/ann-arbor-israel-2024/). ■

## Letter to the Editor

### Us and Them

Dear editor  
I write in response to the letter from the “Ann Arbor Ceasefire Circle,” which mentions “atrocities of October 7” and several paragraphs about alleged Palestinian deaths, but never once the kidnapping, murder, and rape of Jews or the huge increase in worldwide antisemitism. They are saying that Jewish grief must be offset or erased by Arab deaths resulting from the war Hamas started.

I have one big question: Why now, after the deadliest pogrom since the Holocaust, when you have seen the Hamas selfies of rapes and murders of Israelis, videos of kidnapped women, babies, and elderly men, why now have you chosen to turn your backs on the Jewish people?

When it comes to the MAGA attack on the Capitol or Black Lives Matter, you are willing to say there are only two sides, it’s us and them. So am I. But for some reason, when it comes to the Hamas/Hezbollah/Iran attack on the Jewish people, you choose not us but them.

You choose the Palestinians in Gaza,

who glorify violence and martyrdom, pay terrorists, distort history, teach their children to hate Jews, and have never signed on to the two-state solution you envision. Those are your people now.

You choose CAIR, the Committee on Arab-Islamic Relations, which, according to NPR, has championed parents in Maryland who want to opt their children out of reading books with LGBTQ characters. Those are your people now.

You choose the ACLU, which told the University of Michigan it was infringing on free speech after the University shut down a proposed campus-wide vote (among 18–22-yr olds who can’t find Gaza on a map), spearheaded by the Central Student Government, on whether Israel was an apartheid nation. Those are your people now. You choose the screaming mobs, dressed in terrorist garb and Hamas colors, shouting “From the River to the Sea!” (meaning no Jews from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean) and “Houthis, Houthis, Bomb Those Ships!” Those are your people now.

You choose Hamas, the kidnappers, rapists, and murderers, supported by most Gazans, who hide out in tunnels built with concrete and steel meant for sewers and roads, tunnels built under hospitals and private homes with the full knowledge of doctors, nurses, residents, and “journalists.” Those are your people now.

October 7 changed everything. Everything we thought might be real, turned out to be a fantasy.

I remember my first trip to Disneyworld. I came upon a castle in the Magic Kingdom and it had stones in front of the entrance. I touched them and, to my amazement, they were plastic! Why, I thought, can’t they use real stones instead of plastic ones? Because it’s not real.

On October 7 we found out that peace with people who hate you is not real. The Oslo Agreements? Plastic. Bringing workers from Gaza into Israel to learn from Kibbutzniks? Plastic. Thinking Hamas could establish a government and eventually negotiate a two-state solution? Plastic.

You have chosen to go with the plastic: an imaginary world where Jews live in what you call “the proclaimed Jewish state” with people who hate them and they both rule together. What Peter Beinart calls a Jewish country without “Jewish supremacy.” Welcome to the Magic Kingdom.

You may describe yourselves as, “I’m Jewish but not Zionist” (although most of you identify as Jewish only when you’re criticizing other Jews). Bashing Zionism is 100% irrelevant. This will come as a shock: Zionism has been successful. Israel exists as a Jewish state. More importantly, Israel exists as a country full of Jews and you are declaring that has no meaning for you.

The Jewish Federations, and Jews who realistically care about the future of the Jewish people as Jews, not as cartoon characters who get smashed by steam rollers and pop back up so they can get smashed again, will support Israel (the actual Jewish state), the citizens of Israel, and Jews all over the world who see Israel as the reason why we still exist. That’s “us.”

Since most of you signed your letter with your affiliations, I’ll sign with mine.

Joan Lowenstein, Jew ■



## Moral Commitment vs. “Real Politics”

By Amichay Findling, Israel Programs Manager, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

**M**y recent trip to Israel with the community’s solidarity mission made me think of many things. One of the issues that most occupied my thoughts was the idea of moral commitment.

This issue came up from different directions: the moral commitment of a government to protect its citizens, the moral commitment of society to assist its weakest members (those whose lives were shattered in many ways by the attack on October 7), but above all, the moral commitment of the



Israeli government and the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) to account for anyone missing — leaving no one behind.

As an Israeli, I grew up on an ethos promising me that I would never be left

behind. This ethos is based on very clear morals values, rooted in Jewish and humanistic concepts of human value. This ethos motivated me through years of military service and my civil life — under the terror attacks of the 1990s, the Second Intifada, and just regular life under constant threat in Israel.

During this most recent visit, I encountered two very different approaches to this enduring ethos. One which I had known for many years, and another one, new and strange to my perception of Israeli society.

While meeting family members of hostages who have been suffering for half a year in Gaza’s tunnels, I heard their expectation of the government to fulfill this ethos, which they also grew up on. I also met a person practicing this ethos for the last six months, in reserve service since October 8: A dear friend of mine is an officer in charge of locating the missing. He and his comrades invest vast resources, time, thought, and innovation into locating life signs or the remains of the missing — identifying if they are alive or dead, how and where they were taken, and giving their families messages of hope or sometimes grim reality. The IDF fulfills the ethos I grew up on through the work of my friend, and the work of many others.

On the other hand, I’ve also heard that this ethos cannot be fulfilled in reality. An esteemed journalist we met during our visit to

the disaster-struck south, Haviv Rettig Gur of *Times of Israel*, told us that from neither a political nor a security perspective is a hostage exchange deal possible. “It’s a very clear issue of security,” he explained. “Any terrorist released in such a deal promises future hostages a few years from now.” Haviv was convinced that no sane Israeli leader (and he had very few bad things to say about them) would actually sign such a deal — and that the only way to release the hostages is by constant military pressure, until Hamas is backed to the wall and forced to release (or kill?) them.

That same view also comes from Israeli government officials, at least according to relatives of the hostages. Though not very keen to meet the hostages’ families, when Prime Minister Netanyahu does meet them, he promises nothing but blood, sweat, and tears. (This is my take on his ideas, in the words of Winston Churchill, who is Netanyahu’s favorite world leader, and actually managed to win a war.)

These views, as portrayed by Haviv Rettig Gur’s analysis, as well as Netanyahu’s actions, give up ethos, humanist values, and moral commitments on behalf of “real politics.” The “real politics” approach confuses long- and short-term possible gains, thinking that giving up the ethos will prevent further future crises, but it instead creates another one — one far greater than another horrible hostage crisis. This new crisis is one of deepening distrust between the Israeli population and its government, of declining motivations to serve and take risks, and of further crumbling of Israeli society — exactly in the way that one of Israel’s enemies, Hezbollah, declared: that Israeli society is like a weak “spider’s web” and will collapse in the face of any external attack.

Thus, while “real politicians” will say that the current hostage crisis is the result of the deal that ended the previous one, humanists will declare vice versa: The impressive standing of Israeli society in the face of attack and disaster is the result of keeping the ethos, of making a “bad” hostage deal and bringing everyone back home.

Since no one believes that this war, as victorious as it might be, will also be the last, preserving the ethos, and thus keeping Israel’s moral commitment to its soldiers and citizens, might possibly be the best, and safest, long-term solution to this war and the wars to come. ■

a time for arguing and challenging.

Yet, when we met on *Let it Rip*, I did push back when I did not agree with statements that Dr. Al-Hadidi was making, or his approach to a ceasefire. He pushed back as well, attacking Israel’s way of waging the war. There was clearly strong disagreement, and this local television segment was the place for it. However, we did not (in general!) interrupt each other, and we did not vilify each other. In the end, we showed respect and friendship. Indeed, while Roop Raj likes a good argument and rough and tumble on LiR, he invited us on the show after we appeared on it a few months ago, specifically because he knew we disagreed but would act with civility and respect toward each other. So, my arguments and his arguments got an airing not because we are the loudest or most shrill, but specifically because we demonstrate that to live in this society, to be a builder of our community rather than a destroyer, we need to get along and we need to show a basic tolerance for each other.

My relationship with Dr. Al-Hadidi and his wife Nada goes much deeper than simple tolerance: We spent over a week together visiting the Holy Land — spending a lot of time in the Old City of Jerusalem, in Jericho and Arab and Jewish and mixed towns, and we have worked together fighting hatred for several years.



Dr. Mahmoud Al-Hadidi and Rabbi Lopatin on Roop Raj’s *Let it Rip* (Fox 2, April 4).

However, maybe the fact that we are friends and think so highly of each other makes an even stronger point: People can disagree about the most profound and sensitive things while maintaining a friendship and a respect towards the other. This does not always make rational sense because if you disagree on life-or-death matters — as this war in Gaza is — then how can you still be friends? One answer is just irrational: That is what unconditional friendship and love is all about. Yet, perhaps a more important answer is that our society, our community, greater Ann Arbor, our universities, and our schools will only thrive and grow if we can maintain this duality of disagreeing with respect, of being passionate and civil. Otherwise, we are doomed, and no one will win.

As I begin my exciting work with the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor after joining the professional team in March of this year, I am discovering the great diversity of this community. Breaking news: Not everyone here thinks alike! However, I am also finding the deep respect so many have for each other despite deep disagreements. I hope we can model that duality and that harmony for a world that needs such character; a world that needs both passion and concern for so many challenges, while also craving for the civility and respect that will enable us to function and somehow to find the solutions to those challenges. I believe we can do it if we can be the example. ■

## TBE events in May

**E**vents and services are both in person and/or virtual. Please see [www.templebethemeth.org](http://www.templebethemeth.org) for full details, location information, and links.

### Tot Shabbat Service & Dinner

Fridays at 5:45 p.m.

Join Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 0-5. Registration requested.

### Wine & Cheese Shabbat Reception (May Only)

Fridays at 6 p.m.

### Shabbat Service

Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday Shabbat service

Saturdays at 10 a.m.

### Weekday morning blessings

Weekdays at 9:15 a.m.

Join Rabbi Whinston each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

### Afternoon blessings

Thursdays at 3 p.m.

Join Cantor Hayut for an intimate short service.

### Adult B’nai Mitzvah

Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Contact Cantor Hayut at [cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org](mailto:cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org) for details and with questions.

### Women’s Torah study

Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Join Cantor Hayut in an in-depth study and lively discussion of the week’s Torah portion. This year, the group will focus on exploring passages that have informed rituals of modern Jewish life.

### Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene

Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

### Queer Torah Study

Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Join us in person or via Zoom for a discussion of queer themes in the weekly Torah portion! Led by Ari Marcotte & Ari Smith. Guest leaders welcome! Contact Ari M ([ari.j.marcotte@gmail.com](mailto:ari.j.marcotte@gmail.com)) for more information.

### WTBE Gift Shop

Wednesdays from 4 – 6 p.m.

Fridays from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Washtenaw County’s only Judaica Shop! Located in the Genesis building at 2309 Packard St., Ann Arbor.

### Cantor’s (Jewish) Book Club with Cantor Hayut

Thursdays at 11 a.m.

*continued to page 21*

## Tough, real arguments with respect and civility

By Rabbi Asher Lopatin, Director of Community Relations Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

**E**arly in April, I met with my friend Dr. Mahmoud Al-Hadidi to discuss (and argue about) the Israel-Hamas war on Roop Raj’s *Let it Rip* (Fox 2, April 4).

This was just a week after I was invited to attend Dr. Al-Hadidi’s World Peace Outreach center’s annual interfaith Ramadan Iftar.

Each encounter brought home my conviction that there is room to be passionate and vocal about the issues we are concerned about, while maintaining friendship and respect for one another. When I spoke at the Iftar to well over 100 Muslim, Christian,

Jewish, and Hindu guests, I respected the setting and talked about the importance of valuing the life of every human being. Now, certainly in my mind I was thinking of the over 100 hostages still in Gaza, and the 1,200 lives that were massacred, raped, and tortured on October 7, but no doubt many in the room, including myself, were thinking of all the innocent lives in Gaza lost because of this painful war — that, again, Hamas started, a fact which I did not point out. There is a time for showing respect, and



## The Gaza effect: The changing politics of U.S. Jews

By Spencer Sunshine, original version published at the Battleground, <https://thebattleground.eu/2024/04/05/the-gaza-effect>

**T**he October 7 massacre and ensuing invasion of Gaza has had a significant impact on U.S. Jewish politics. This has not just been limited to changing different factions' views, but has also affected their relationships to each other.

Recently, several scholars and organizational leaders, from anti-Zionists to Likud supporters, offered their opinions about how they see the changing political landscape of the U.S. Jewish community and what they expect in the future.

In mainstream Jewish politics before October 7, divides had been widening over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's push for judicial reform. But the Hamas attack immediately changed this, ushering in a new sense of coming together among both the liberal and conservative mainstream. Parallel to this, however, a newly energized Jewish anti-Zionism became very visible, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York City. And its rise may be symbolic of coming changes in the Jewish community.

Divisions within the Jewish community, including in the United States, are not new. Marc Dollinger, a professor of Jewish Studies at San Francisco State University, noted that liberal and conservative Jews have "pushed back and forth against each other's political positions for generations." For example, in 2014 the far right Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) helped block liberal lobbying group J Street's application to join the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

But in the lead-up to October 7, the most important issue cranking open divides were arguments over Netanyahu's judicial reform. Organizations that typically do not comment on Israeli politics, including the Anti-Defamation League and Jewish Federations, weighed in. But the Hamas-led massacre changed all that. Dov Waxman, director of UCLA's Younes & Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, noted that U.S. Jews felt a "new sense of vulnerability" — not just for Israelis as people and Israel as a Jewish state, but also for themselves. Fear in the face of skyrocketing antisemitism was mixed with shock at leftist approval of — and even exhilaration at — Hamas's massacre.

The immediate result was that the Jewish mainstream experienced an outpouring of participation in religious, social, and cultural activities. A survey of Chabad-Lubavitch rabbis said 86% saw "an increase in attendance at synagogue and programs."

Of course, the events and ensuing atmosphere also had a political effect. Not only was there what Waxman called a "broad expression of sympathy for Israel that we haven't seen in many years" but also a "rallying around the flag effect" among dueling factions.

Jeremy Russell, director of marketing and communications at the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Bay Area, agreed with Waxman on both counts. Russell said there was "no question" about an explosion of interest in his organization and similar ones. For example, he cited an 800% increase in website contacts for the JCRC Bay Area since 10/7.

Amanda Berman, executive director of the progressive Zionist group Zioness,

said her organization also experienced an "exponential rise" in interest. Their Facebook groups increased from 36 to 45 after October 7, along with increased demand for trainings.

Although fewer than their liberal cousins, right-wing Jews also felt the new unity. Former America Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) National Council member Michael Sosebee was heartened by a willingness to "put our differences aside." Even American Friends of Likud board member Steven Goldberg agreed, saying,



"I do think this has brought the American Jewish community together."

The massacre appears to have affected right-wing Jews less. Goldberg said it merely "confirmed the general thoughts" of his group, although they did experience some increased interest. While he has not sensed a rise in support for Netanyahu in his circles, "people who are especially committed to defend Israel feel stronger about it."

Jewish anti-Zionists have also emerged as a very public third rail. While often dismissed as marginal and unimportant, radical politics can crystallize attitudes held by a larger group of people and sometimes act as a canary in a coal mine about upcoming changes.

Unsurprisingly, anti-Zionists have had a different experience than the Jewish mainstream. Clyde Leland, a member of the Chapter Council of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) Bay Area, said his group did not take part in the feeling of togetherness. What JVP did experience, however, was an explosion of interest. The national organization claims thousands have joined since 10/7 and that it now has 22,000 members.

Among Bay Area anti-Zionists, no love was lost for the JCRC. Leland said what irritates him is that he sees the organization as portraying itself as speaking for "the Jewish community" but excludes anti-Zionists. And he also said that post-10/7, his JVP chapter experienced more interest and activity than the JCRC.

Pointing to the over 50 synagogues and organizations that are on the JCRC Council, Russell said, "As a proudly Zionist organization, we cannot and would not claim to speak for the tiny minority proclaiming themselves anti-Zionist."

Regardless of who speaks for whom, Leland says that young people are flooding

into the organization. Likewise, Shane Burley, co-author of the forthcoming *Safety through Solidarity: A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism*, said, "Jewish anti-Zionism is growing at an incredibly rapid rate, especially among Millennials and Gen-Z."

Clearly, Jewish anti-Zionists are far more visible. Sosebee agreed. "We were shocked at how many there are," he said. Amanda Berman noted that anti-Zionists are actually "driving people" to Zioness, especially those who feel Jewish anti-Zionists are being used as tokens.

Unsurprisingly, many in the Jewish mainstream have hardened towards these anti-Zionists. Steven Goldberg said previously he thought they were "cranks and crackpots," but now he sees them as "supporting people who revel in the murder of Jews." Indeed, JVP has co-sponsored rallies with groups like the Palestinian Youth Movement, who were ecstatic over October 7.

There are different opinions on the future. Sosebee is "optimistic" that the new unity will continue after the crisis and help the "Jewish community work for a better community." Dollinger was not surprised about the new wave of Jewish left-wing radicalism, saying "something like this happens every generation" as youth seek to "reinvent Jewish life." As in the past, he thinks the moment will ebb and flow until the next generation takes aim at this one.

The growth of Jewish anti-Zionism also looks to be part of a larger rejection of organized Jewish life by younger people — a rejection that often seems reciprocal. That even a mainstream group like JStreet has not been able to join the Conference of Presidents, which represents 50 different groups, shows how much further to the right many of the large Jewish organizations are compared to a large swath of U.S. Jews.

Burley points to what he sees as a growing alternative movement of new groups which are not Zionist, although not necessarily anti-Zionist. He named a mix of synagogues, community centers, independent minyans, and political groups. Although only a minority of those involved are explicit anti-Zionists, they appear to be finding a home among these new alternatives.

Waxman says divisions over the war only "accelerated" an ongoing process over how U.S. Jews see Zionism. While the numbers are debated by all sides — and there has been no large-respondent national poll asking specific questions about these beliefs — Waxman thinks 10–15% of U.S. Jews are anti-Zionist, while another 10% could support either one or two states.

Regardless of the exact numbers, the postwar golden age of liberal hegemony among U.S. Jews looks like it is coming to a close as both the right and left wings of the community push in opposite directions.

It's possible that Waxman's estimate of the number of anti-Zionist Jews could grow. While eight out of 10 Jews identified as Democrats in the last election, nearly half of 18–35-year-olds disagree with President Biden's Israel policy.

And that tension is evident inside the Jewish community. With over 33,000 Palestinian casualties (which includes between 6 and 12,000 Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters), Waxman says dovish groups are now in a "difficult middle ground position" between

anti-Zionists and uncritical supporters of the war. Siphoning from this — and in no small part because of their focus on attacking Two Staters — Jewish anti-Zionists have solidified what looks like a permanent, albeit modest, base on the left wing of the Jewish community.

But simultaneously, the most significant population growth of U.S. Jews is among the Orthodox. They are more right-wing leaning than their Reform counterparts, whose percentage is set to decline. This has led Steven Goldberg to think that if anti-Israel attitudes continue to grow inside the Democratic Party, "more Jews will switch to the Republican Party" and that, within a decade, they might be split between the parties.

It's hard to imagine that any move to the right would be that dramatic, as Jews remain solidly liberal on practically all other issues. And the country's two-party system locks in anti-Zionists and sympathizers, with nowhere to turn to outside the Democrats in elections.

Nonetheless, sans the infinitesimally distant creation of a separate Palestinian state, practically any position the Democratic Party takes will accelerate already increasing shifts to the left and right among Jews. And so despite the unity felt in the Jewish mainstream at present, its future seems to be inevitably one of increased divergence. ■

## Simchas and Sorrows

*The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to the families of:*

Arline Margot Cooke, mother of David (Chandra) Cooke, and grandmother of Sarah and Rebecca. March 9.  
Robert Davidow, father of Laura (Peretz) Hirshbein, and grandfather of Abigail & Daniel. March 17.  
James Schmidt, father of David Schmidt (Liz Wierba), and grandfather of Jonah & Max. April 1.  
Stephen Rubenstein on the death of his father, Howard Rubenstein, March 20.  
Jeffrey Veidlinger on the death of his father, Otto Veidlinger, April 1

*The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:*

Bill and Janine Chey on the birth of their first grandchild, Amelia Rose, born to parents Russell and Heather. Amelia Rose was born on March 19.  
Richard and Lesley Hume on the birth of their granddaughter, Charlotte Kathleen Murray-Hume, born to parents Michael Hume and Ashley Murray. Charlotte Kathleen was born on April 4.  
Merav Caine on her bat mitzvah, May 11.  
Maya Rubin on her bat mitzvah, May 18.  
Zoe Adler on her bat mitzvah, May 25. ■



# COMMUNITY YOM HAZIKARON AND YOM HAATZMAUT COMMEMORATIONS

## Israel Memorial Day and Independence Day

Registration required for all events • Register at [JewishAnnArbor.org](https://JewishAnnArbor.org)

### Community Yom HaZikaron Ceremony

**Sunday, May 12, 6:30pm**

Location: Beth Israel Congregation

### Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre

Film screening and conversation

**Monday, May 13, 7pm**

Location: JCC of Greater Ann Arbor

Sponsored by Jewish Family Services

in collaboration with the JCC's 2024 Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival

### Yom HaAtzmaut Community Picnic and Bonfire

**Tuesday, May 14, 5-7pm**

Location: Detroit Ann Arbor KOA Holiday Campground in Ypsilanti

Cost: \$18/individual or \$36/family - includes kosher dinner

Sponsors: Hebrew Day School and Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor



## Three projects awarded community engagement grants

By Jewish Federation Staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is delighted to announce three grants that have been awarded to local initiatives with the goal of promoting cross-organizational collaboration and innovation in the local Jewish community. One grant was awarded from the Zelma Weisfeld Fund for Culture and Education, and the other two are from Federation's Community Engagement Fund.

### Joys of Klezmer

A Zelma Weisfeld Fund grant was awarded to JCOR (Jewish Congregations Organizing for Resettlement) for their Joys of Klezmer benefit concert, which took place Sunday, April 7. The concert featured three of Ann Arbor's most popular klezmer bands: Klezmer R&D, Neil Alexander and the Klezmer Fusion Band, and Shmaltz, a popular klezmer-funk band. In addition to raising funds to support resettling refugee families, the concert was developed to attract a broad audience of klezmer fans of all ages. Almost 150 attendees enjoyed both classical and new variations of klezmer music.

A participant in the JFS Resettlement Co-Sponsorship Program, JCOR is a collaboration of six Jewish congregations working together and in partnership with Jewish Family Services to support resettlement of newly arrived refugee families through their first year in the U.S. Member congregations include the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Beth Israel Congregation, Jewish Cultural Society, Pardes Hannah, and Temple Beth Emeth, along with the Jewish Federation which serves as JCOR's fiduciary.

### Recovery Seder

The second annual Recovery Seder, taking place Sunday, April 28, is a partnership between Temple Beth Emeth (TBE), Beth Israel Congregation (BIC), Jewish Family Services (JFS), and the Lior Project, a community effort led by JFS to address issues of mental health and addiction in the Jewish community. Building on the success of last year's program, the Recovery Seder is geared toward meeting the spiritual and religious needs of members of the recovery and 12-step community. It enables participants to navigate aspects of the ceremony that can be more challenging and to explore what freedom at this season means to someone who is struggling with freeing themselves from addiction.

"For those in the Jewish community less familiar with recovery, this is an opportunity to educate, to reduce stigma, and to highlight the vibrant recovery community in Washtenaw County and Southeast Michigan," said Sam Stenson, who has been running private versions of the Recovery Seder with co-organizer Hugh Goodman for 14 years. Last year's seder attracted almost 60 participants, well over anticipated numbers. For those in recovery, it was "a chance to contemplate our own personal stories of freedom from the bondage that comes with an active substance abuse or other addictive

disorder," said Stenson.

This year's partnership with JFS includes engaging their Nourish program to provide food for the seder. This development will improve the experience for participants by removing logistical issues of a potluck meal, as last year's seder was. It also provides increased visibility for JFS Nourish.

Both awards were granted to programs that received funding in the previous year due to new innovations and their broad benefit to the community. Both groups are developing plans to sustain their efforts in the future without funding from the Community Engagement/Zelma Weisfeld Funds.

### Freedom Song Shabbat

This collaboration between Temple Beth Emeth, Hebrew Day School, the JCC's Early Childhood Center, Ypsilanti Youth Choir, and Top Notch Productions will build on a series coordinated by parents at Hebrew Day School about how to talk to children about racial justice. The workshops were led by ECC Educator Matasha Allen and included relationship-building activities and grounding in Jewish values. Freedom Shabbat will bring members of the Jewish community together with participants and parents from the Ypsilanti Youth Choir for an interactive performance, Kabbalat Shabbat, conversation and relationship building, and Shabbat meal. The planning group hopes to hold this event sometime this summer.

The Community Engagement Fund is supported by the Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign to encourage organizations and individuals to work collaboratively on new, innovative initiatives that cultivate a strong, engaged, connected, caring, vibrant, and enduring Jewish community in Washtenaw County. The Zelma Weisfeld Fund for Culture & Education is made possible through a bequest from Zelma Weisfeld z"l.

"I'm delighted with the success of our Community Engagement Fund and Zelma Weisfeld Fund allocations," said Federation CEO Eileen Freed. "The support provided by these funds has fostered collaboration and enabled the development of engaging community programs to strengthen our community."

The next round of Community Engagement Fund grants will be awarded this summer. The deadline for submission is August 15. Grant requests of \$1,000–\$5,000 will be considered and must be submitted by a partnership of three or more collaborators. Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent to James Griffin (james@jewishannarbor.org) by July 29. Decisions will be made within one month of the grant deadline.

The full application for both grants is available at JewishAnnArbor.org. For more information or to inquire, contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 773-3537.v

## Federation to award over \$1M at annual meeting

By Rachel Wall, Communications and Development Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor will be holding its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 29, at 7 p.m., and invites the community to attend.

The Annual Meeting offers an opportunity to celebrate the past year — and there is much to celebrate. Last year, Federation's 2023 Annual Community Campaign raised more than \$1.5 million for organizations that enrich Jewish life in Washtenaw County, Israel, and around the world. The final sum for the 2024 Campaign, as well as a breakdown of how those funds are allocated, will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Federation is excited at the prospect of exceeding last year's total.

Throughout April and May, Federation's two volunteer Allocations Committees — one dedicated to local and domestic causes, and one to Israel and overseas — read proposals and heard presentations from organizations requesting funds for the 2024–2025 year. In mid-May, the Allocations Committees will make their recommendations to the Federation Board of Directors, detailing how funds raised by the 2024 Annual Community Campaign would be best distributed. The Board votes to approve those recommendations at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 20.

This year, the Allocations Committees are chaired by Jeremy Bloom (local and domestic) and Levana Aronson (Israel and overseas). For more information on the allocations process and to see the full list of committee members, please visit

jewishannarbor.org/about-us/community-impact. This is also where the allocations distributions from last year's campaign can be reviewed, in the 2023 Annual Impact Report. The Impact Report gives an inside look at the difference the campaign makes on our community.

The financial impact of the Federation would not be possible without those volunteers who give their valuable time to enrich the community. At the Annual Meeting, the community will honor those volunteers, especially the Board of Directors. At the meeting, we will thank those Board members whose terms are ending and welcome incoming members. Community members present at the meeting will vote to elect the new Board. The full slate of Board members for the upcoming term can be found at JewishAnnArbor.org. This year, the Presidential term of Jessica 'Decky' Alexander comes to an end; she is slated to be succeeded by Marla Linderman Richelew.

Most of all, the Annual Meeting is an opportunity to thank all the generous donors to the 2024 Annual Community Campaign for their dedication to supporting Jewish life locally, in Israel, and around the world. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge to the 2024 Annual Community Campaign, there is still time before the Board votes to approve allocations on May 20. Please consider visiting JewishAnnArbor.org to make your contribution today, or contact Federation's Communications & Development Director Rachel Wall at rachel@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 773-3533.

To register for the Annual Meeting on May 29, visit JewishAnnArbor.org. ■

## Parents and educators confront racism through conversation, art, and community

By Rachel Jacobson

A group of parents and educators in the Washtenaw Jewish community is confronting racism through conversation, art, and community. Matasha Allen, longtime JCC Early Childhood Center educator and head of Top Notch Productions, has been leading the annual MLK Day Freedom Songs Sing-Along at the ECC since 2020. After the 2023 event, Hebrew Day School parent Esther Terry approached Allen about participating in a discussion group with HDS parents focusing on how to talk to their kids about racial justice. "The conversation started as a discussion about school programming for MLK Day. As I talked to parents to research what type of programming would be the best fit, many parents expressed a desire to be more proactive and intentional about discussing racism and racialized presumptions


with their children," Terry said. This led to five workshops from March 2023 to February 2024: "How to Talk to Your Kids about Racial Justice." The workshops have been enthusiastically supported by HDS and ECC parents, as well as HDS educators and administrators.

Racism in Washtenaw County has driven racial disparities in the county's legal system, eastward migration of Ann Arbor's Black community, and racial inequities in health outcomes. Members of the Jewish Community feel the impacts today as Jews of Color experience microaggressions within the community and racial segregation in the county limits opportunities for relationship-building. People across the Washtenaw Jewish Community — particularly parents — want a space to process this and brainstorm how they can create change.

Organizers and participants are confronting the past and present through a

*continued on pg 18*





Jewish Community Center  
of Greater Ann Arbor



**FORE** *the*  
**KIDS**

*9th Annual Golf Outing*



**Honoring Sharon and Chuck Newman**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024**  
**THE POLO FIELDS | ANN ARBOR, MI**

**12:15 PM - SHOTGUN START**  
**5 PM - COCKTAILS & DINNER**




Your support provides financial assistance to ensure community families can participate in our early childhood, youth, camp, and JCC Maccabi programs.









**Sponsors as of April 2024**








JCC Board of Directors   Bruce & Gayle Moyer  
Roberta & Larry Tankanow

For more info, please contact Ariella Monson  
(734) 971-0990 x 321 | ariellamonson@jccannarbor.org


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We Build  
Confident Kids!



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- Ages 5-11 yr old's
- June 17th - August 12th
- 4 New sports each week!
- Small groups | Hands-on instruction
- Hosted at St Francis  
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**ENROLL TODAY!**

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*Season Finale*

# BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**Hill Auditorium // 8 PM**

Sponsored by the  
Martin Family Foundation

Additional support from



Julie Adams soprano  
Jazimina MacNeil alto  
César Andrés Parreño tenor  
Joseph Parrish bass  
UMS Choral Union  
Earl Lee conductor



a2so.org/beethovenfest2024  
(734) 994-4801

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Washtenaw Jewish News ☆ May 2024





# HDS experiences totality

Being in the path of totality for a solar eclipse is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and students from Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor took an unforgettable trip to experience just that.

“The eclipse was amazing, and my favorite part was totality,” one student commented.

“The eclipse was confusing because it looked like night but felt warm like day,” shared another. “It seemed like the sun and the moon changed spots!”

On April 8, excited students, parents, and teachers, accompanied by volunteers from

the University of Michigan’s Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering, boarded buses and drove 90 miles to Findlay, Ohio. The goal was ambitious: for students to experience the solar eclipse at the convergence of science, Judaism, community, and spirituality.

In the months preceding the trip, students had prepared for the eclipse from many avenues of exploration. Teachers led science lessons to help even the youngest students become proficient with astronomical vocabulary words and concepts. Students participated in inquiry-based STEM activities that modeled the eclipse

phenomenon. In Judaic Studies lessons, students examined the eclipse from a spiritual perspective. One parent reflected, “My kids taught me that an eclipse is one of the only natural phenomena for which Judaism doesn’t have a specific prayer, and they shared the prayers they created.”

Days later, the school is still humming with excitement as students recall and reflect on the experience. At Hebrew Day School, we believe in preparing students to be citizens of the world. By extending learning beyond

the confines of the classroom, establishing collaborative partnerships, and embracing diverse disciplines, the school cultivates a culture where curiosity and creativity are nourished, and students delight in learning. It is our fervent hope that each student will leave Hebrew Day School with the tools to approach the future in the way they approached the eclipse: with knowledge, with gratitude, and with awe.

“When I saw the eclipse, I rejoiced because I had never experienced anything like it in my whole life,” Hebrew Day School student, age 8. ■

## May Is Mental Health Awareness Month!

### Join JFS for GRIEF HAPPENS: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT ALREADY WITH LISA KEEFAUVER

**Friday, May 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**  
United Way of Southeast Michigan  
2305 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

*Two ticket options are available for this event!  
Breakfast included.*

**CEU Ticket:** \$25.00 ticket, which includes a certificate of CEU upon completion.

**Free Ticket:** Free to the public. Will not include a CEU certificate. Suggested donation of \$10.00.

**Register Today!**

jfsannarbor.org | 734.769.0209 | Questions? Contact gabbym@jfsannarbor.org



The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

23RD ANNUAL  
ANN ARBOR  
JEWISH Film Festival



Sunday, May 5, 2024 –  
Sunday, May 26, 2024

19 Films

2

Selections of  
Short Films  
Included

7

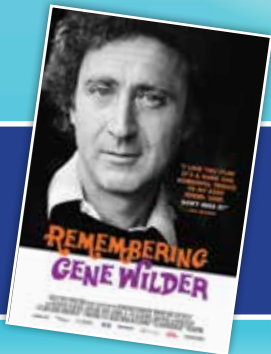
In-Person Films

3

Films In-Person Only

SCHEDULE

For more information visit  
[jccann Arbor.org/film-festival](http://jccann Arbor.org/film-festival)



**IN-PERSON OPENING EVENT • Remembering Gene Wilder • State Theatre**  
Sunday, May 5, at 2p.m. – in-person showing ONLY (2023, Documentary, USA; English, 93 mins)

WEEK ONE OF STREAMING

Beginning Monday, May 6, 8 p.m. through  
Sunday, May 12 - last screening at 10 p.m.

*Here Lived* (2023, Documentary, Netherlands; English, 79 mins)

*Rabbi on the Block* (2022, Documentary, Biography, USA; English, 89 mins)

*Resistance: They Fought Back* (2023, Documentary, Poland, Lithuania,  
Latvia; English, 96 mins)

*Without Precedent: the Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella*  
(2023, Documentary/Biography, Canada; English, 80 mins)

*999: The Forgotten Girls* (2023, Documentary, Czechoslovakia,  
Poland; English, 90 mins)

SHORTS: FAVORITES



**IN-PERSON ONLY  
EVENT • Seven Blessings**  
State Theatre, Tuesday, May 7,  
at 7 p.m. (2023, Comedy/Drama,  
Israel; Arabic, French, Hebrew w/  
subtitles, 108 mins)



**IN-PERSON EVENT • The Death of Zygielbojm**  
State Theatre • Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m.

(2021, Biography/Drama, History, England; English, Polish w/  
subtitles, 86 mins)

\*Discussion with Professor Emeritus Todd Endelman,  
University of Michigan



**MAJOR SPONSORS** (as of April 5, 2024) • Charles (z"l) and Rita Gelman • Michael and Patricia Levine  
Ann and Jules Doneson Film Festival Fund • Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor • Beth Israel Congregation

**PATRON OF THE ARTS** (as of April 5, 2024) • Thea Glicksman • Henry and Nancy Hanflik • Steve and Kathy Rhodes





**IN-PERSON MOTHER'S DAY • SHORTS: COMEDY • State Theatre • Sunday, May 12, at 2 p.m.**

## WEEK TWO OF STREAMING

**Beginning Monday, May 13, at 8 p.m. through Sunday, May 19 - last screening at 10 p.m.**

- The Monkey House** (2023, Comedy/Drama, Israel; Hebrew w/ subtitles, 121 mins)  
**Golda's War Diaries** (2023, Documentary, Israel; English, Hebrew w/ subtitles, 73 mins)  
**Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre** (2023, Documentary, Israel; Hebrew w/ subtitles, 52 mins)  
**The Devil's Confession: the Lost Eichmann Tapes** (2022, Documentary/Drama, Israel, Argentina; Hebrew, Spanish w/subtitles, 114 mins)  
**The Boy in the Woods** (2023, Biography/Drama/History; English, Polish w/subtitles, 96 mins)



### IN-PERSON EVENT

**Children of Nobody**  
State Theatre • Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. (2022, Drama/Human Rights, Israel; Hebrew w/subtitles, 108 mins)  
*Sponsored by Ann and Jules Doneson Film Festival Fund*

### IN-PERSON SPONSOR NIGHT

Wednesday, May 15 • Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Building • **SPONSORS ONLY Dinner at 6p.m. • Vishniac at 7:30p.m.** • *If not a sponsor, you can still view the film. Visit [jccannarbor.org/film-festival](http://jccannarbor.org/film-festival) for more information.*  
**\*Discussion w. Professor Deborah Dash Moore, University of Michigan**

**IN-PERSON CLOSING EVENT • Running on Sand • State Theatre • Sunday, May 19, at 2 p.m. – in-person showing ONLY** (2023, Comedy/Drama, Israel; Hebrew w/subtitles, 104 mins)

## WEEK THREE OF STREAMING

**Beginning Monday, May 20, at 8 p.m. through Sunday, May 26 – last screening at 10 p.m.**

### SHORTS: COMEDY

- Children of Nobody** (2022, Drama/Human Rights, Israel; Hebrew w/ subtitles, 108 mins).  
**Home** (2023, Drama, Israel; Hebrew w/subtitles, 111 mins)

**The Death of Zygielbojm** (2021, Biography/Holocaust, England; English, Polish w/subtitles, 86 mins)

**Vishniac** (2023, Documentary/The Arts, Poland, USA; English, 80 mins)



**Sponsorship** includes access to 16 streaming films and 7 in-person events (including 3 films featured in-person only, as well as the Sponsor Dinner).

\$180 provides sponsor dinner and access to all films for one person and \$360 provides for two.

Cast member	\$180
Cinematographer	\$360
Director	\$500
Producer	\$1,000
Executive Producer	\$2,500
Studio Executive	\$5,000
Studio Founder	\$10,000
Film star	\$25,000

**All Virtual Festival Pass • \$150**

**Pick 10 – Virtual Festival Pass • \$80**

**Pick 5 – Virtual Festival Pass • \$50**

**Individual Tickets • \$12** (streaming/in-person)

Individual Tickets are available through Eventive or at the venue half hour before showtime.

**[2024aajff.eventive.org](http://2024aajff.eventive.org)**



# Register to DANCE and WALK today!



## DECADES DANCE

**Thursday, June 6, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m. - till your feet hurt!**

Captain Joe's Grill  
9901 N. Main St.  
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189  
(Exit 53 off US 23)



Get ready to groove, twist,  
and boogie to all your favorite tunes  
from every decade while supporting  
JFS' WISE Aging Services programs.

**Scan here to learn more  
and REGISTER TODAY!**



## WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

**Sunday, September 29, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Burns Park Elementary  
1414 Wells St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Join us for JFS' annual Walk a Mile in My  
Shoes event supporting our Resettlement  
Services. Enjoy a morning full of great  
food, fun activities, and a WALK around  
town that makes a difference in our  
community and beyond.

**Scan here to START  
OR JOIN A TEAM TODAY!**



[jfsannarbor.org](http://jfsannarbor.org) | 734.769.0209

Questions? Contact [gabbym@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:gabbym@jfsannarbor.org)



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# Creative expression enriches the AARC

By Emily Eisbruch

The connection between spirituality and creative expression has taken center stage in recent months at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC). “We’re fortunate that our spiritual leader, Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador, is highly musical, trained as both a cantor and a rabbi, and loves collaborating and encouraging others in promoting art, dance, and music,” comments AARC board chair Rebecca Kanner.

At a pre-Purim workshop in March, Rabbi Gabrielle introduced Hasidic texts on the themes of the holiday. Following this, Idelle Hammond Sass, a multitasking artist and expressive arts facilitator, led attendees through an intuitive creative process that allowed for a deeper connection with those themes. A wealth of fun artsy materials were provided, from paint to textiles to glitter pens. Some participants decorated masks while others created impressive collages. There was also a chance for written reflection and sharing at the end of the program. Idelle comments that “following the guidelines of the Jewish Studio Process allows people to listen to their inner voice and intuition, and the addition of text study brings in the potential for insight to arise that may be beyond words, while having fun with the process.”

Dance enlivened AARC Shabbat services recently. For Parshat Beshalach, the Torah portion on the splitting of the Red Sea, when we read about Miriam dancing with the Israelite women, Drake Meadow shared his upbeat and supportive dance leading

with the congregation. The community was uplifted while dancing to the music of Dodi Li, Tov L’hodot, and Mi Chamocha. Drake is a well-loved folk dance instructor, leading international folk dance for AACTMAD (Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance) and for several summer dance camps. Drake is also one of the Ann Arbor leaders of Dances of Universal Peace, an ecumenical spiritual dance tradition that highlights sacred texts from multiple faith traditions.

Singing, drumming, and other instrumental music are also key parts of the AARC experience, as Rabbi Gabrielle shares her wonderful harp playing at AARC services, and the AARC “Davening Team” continues to explore and lead the congregation in new and beloved tunes. “We intentionally called ourselves a ‘team’ rather than a choir because our purpose is to bring everyone in the kahal (congregation) into the music,” says Etta Heisler, one of the team’s coordinators. “We’re here to invite more singing, to build community, not to perform.”

At the upcoming AARC retreat May 31 to June 2, the congregation expects to enjoy all of the above forms of creative expression — art-making, dance, and music.

### AARC May events

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation is a warm, inclusive community of people who want to practice and study Judaism — or simply be around



people who share a commitment to Judaism’s values. To learn more about the AARC, please visit our website at <https://aarecon.org> or email [info@aarecon.org](mailto:info@aarecon.org).

May 5  
**Torah Study led by Rabbi Julia Watts Belser.** “Moses: Provocations From a Disabled Prophet.” See article this page.

May 11  
**Book Group** will discuss *Why the Bible Began: An Alternative History of Scripture and Its Origins* by Jacob Wright. Contact Greg at

[gsaltzman@albion.edu](mailto:gsaltzman@albion.edu) . 1–2 p.m.

May 11  
**Second Saturday Morning Shabbat Service.** This is a hybrid Shabbat Service led by our Rabbi, Gabrielle Pescador, at the JCC and on Zoom. Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:30am–12p.m.

May 24  
**Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat.** This is a hybrid service led by Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador in person at the JCC and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! 6:30 p.m. ■

Rejoice with Regina

# KOL HALEV IN CONCERT:

## REJOICING WITH REGINA IN SONG

**Saturday, May 11 @ 7:30 p.m.**

For many years, Temple Beth Emeth’s adult choir, Kol Halev, has presented a wide spectrum of Jewish liturgical and secular music to appreciative audiences locally and abroad. Please join us for a concert of diverse Jewish choral music under the direction of Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut as Kol Halev showcases its favorite pieces from years past. A dessert reception follows the concert, featuring the renowned talents of Kol Halev’s bakers. This Rejoice With Regina retirement event is sponsored by Kol Halev.

For information and to register visit:  
<https://www.templebethemeth.org/rejoice-with-regina.html>

Rejoice with Regina

## Gala Dinner & Tribute Celebration

Temple Beth Emeth invites you to join us for an evening of celebration, dinner, and a musical tribute in honor of Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut on the occasion of her retirement

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**  
**6:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College  
4800 E Huron River Dr, Ann Arbor, MI

6:00 p.m.	Cocktail and Appetizer Hour
7:00 p.m.	Buffet Dinner
8:00 p.m.	Musical Tribute
9:00 p.m.	Dessert Reception

Ticket price \$150

For information and tickets visit:  
<https://www.templebethemeth.org/rejoice-with-regina.html>



# Thinking about Zionism

*Between Arab and Jew: The Lost Voice of Simon Rawidowicz, by David Myers, reviewed by Shaul Magid, originally published on March 11, 2009, in the Forward. To get the Forward's free email newsletters delivered to your inbox go to <https://forward.com/newsletter-signup/>*

Ask any Jew you know, even one who has a university degree in Jewish studies, who Simon Rawidowicz is. I am willing bet the response will be, “Simon who?” At best, you may get, “Didn’t he once teach at Brandeis a long time ago?” That itself is sufficient cause for David Myers’ new [2009] book, *Between Arab and Jew: The Lost Voice of Simon Rawidowicz*.

Myers, a professor of Jewish history and director of the Jewish studies program at University of California, Los Angeles, has written extensively on the history of Zionism and, in particular, about the development of what he called the “Palestineocentric” construction of Jewish studies in the Israeli academy. His work offers a much-needed examination of the cultural and intellectual effects of Zionism on Israel and on the Diaspora of Jewish identity. In this lucid, informative, and important book, Myers explores the life and work of a figure who is one of the most underappreciated Jewish voices in the latter half of 20th-century America. An ardent Zionist writing in America, primarily in Hebrew, Rawidowicz is also almost unknown in Israel. His commitment to Hebraism in the Diaspora was unassailable, but it has contributed to his almost total lack of recognition.

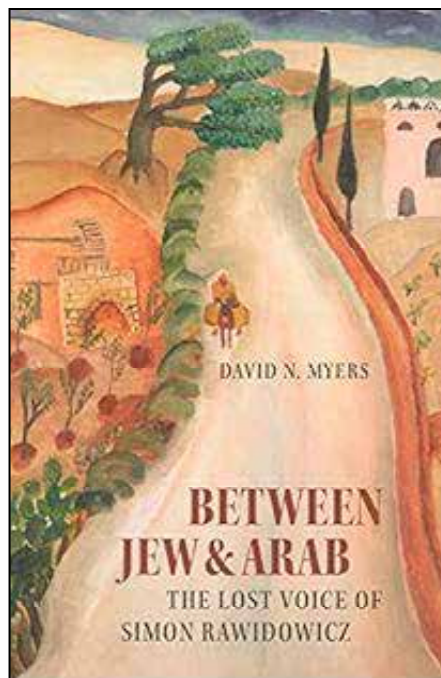
The book is based on one fairly brief, unpublished essay by Rawidowicz, titled “Bein Ever le Arav” (literally, “Between Hebrew and Arab”; translated by Myers as “Between Jew and Arab”), that Rawidowicz wrote after moving to Chicago and then to Waltham, Massachusetts, from England to begin a professorship at the newly formed Brandeis University. The essay was written sometime between 1951 and 1953 and was intended to be included as an appendix to his two-volume “Bavel ve Yerushalayim,” (“Babylon and Jerusalem”) published in 1957. For reasons unknown, Rawidowicz chose not to include this essay, which is the main underlying justification for Myers’ study.

The essay is a scathing critique of Zionism from one “who was a probing critic of Zionism without being an anti-Zionist.” But Rawidowicz was also different from other Zionist critics of Zionism, such as Martin Buber, Judah Magnus, and the Brit Shalom circle. He studied in Europe with the celebrated Religious Zionist Rabbi Y.Y. Reines and Rabbi Moshe Avigdor Amiel, who was the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv in the 1930s and a leader of the Mizrahic movement. In short, he emerges from deep inside the classical Religious Zionist tradition.

Rawidowicz was not, borrowing Buber’s term, a “Hebrew Humanist.” His criticism of Zionism was not primarily born of compassion for the Arab cause (although he believed Arabs had a right to be a part of the Jewish state); it came mostly from his firm belief in the moral virtue of a multiethnic statism and out of fear that Zionism was becoming “cruel” (in its negative relation to both the Diaspora and the Arab minority), and thus the Jewish state was founded on immorality, which he feared could “disable the Jewish national body,” undermining what he hoped Zionism would produce.

In particular, Rawidowicz attacked “The Nationality Law” passed by the Israeli Knesset in April 1952, a law Rawidowicz — among others discussed in Myers’ introduction — argued was fashioned as a discriminatory policy against Arabs living in Israel, creating unreasonable barriers to citizenship (Myers

reproduces the legislation in translation). Myers argues that while the repatriation of Arabs was a central concern for Rawidowicz, the Nationality Law was no less troubling for him — perhaps even more so, because it indicated the way in which the Zionist commitment to ethnic “statism” undermined the moral fiber that should be at the base of any Zionism that would productively refashion Jewish identity in the modern world. On the repatriation of Arab refugees in 1948, Rawidowicz is quite explicit: “To summarize: There should not be a single refugee from the State of Israel in the world. The Arab refugees should return to their homes, and your state shall be pure, O Israel.”



Myers suggests that Rawidowicz chose to bury this essay in fear that it would detract from the larger thesis of “Bavel ve Yerushalayim,” which is a frontal attack on Ahad ha-Am’s notion of Israel as a “spiritual center” for Diaspora Jewry. Rawidowicz believed that his major contribution would be to “correct” Ahad ha-Am’s vision of Israel as a spiritual center by arguing that there were two traditional centers (Bavel \*and Yerushalayim\*) and, with the emergence of the state, there will again be two centers: Israel and the Diaspora, each feeding the other and benefiting from the other’s vantage point and cultural resources.

His attack against “negation of the Diaspora” Zionist ideology was unrelenting, arguing that “the solution to the Jewish question is not to be found in one country, not even in Palestine.” While Rawidowicz’s positions are reflected in, and reflective of, other thinkers, such as S. Yizhar, Aryeh Tartakower, Ya’akov Fleisher, and Yizhak Epstein (names virtually unknown in the United States, albeit better known in Israel), only Rawidowicz formulated his views as a Diaspora Jew, committed to the Diaspora as a Jewish center of creativity and contributor to national rebirth.

He understood that the State of Israel “raised more problems for us Jews than it has solved,” and that the double standard endemic in Israel’s self-fashioning undermined the moral high ground Jews had occupied throughout history. He writes: “When [the Arabs] commit an outrage, it cries out to heaven. But when we commit such an act with our own hand, it is an imperative that

could not have been avoided.” Such behavior, he claimed, was not only immoral but “for the first time in two millennia [gave] the haters of Israel ... grounds to complain about the behavior of the Jews.”

Myers’s lengthy introductory chapters not only set Rawidowicz in his historical context, but also offer insightful and provocative analyses of the whole period in question, stressing the tumultuous ideological wars surrounding “the Arab Question” in the early years of the state. These chapters alone should be required reading for anyone who wants (or dares) to separate reality from myth in this confusing time, both his and ours.

This book is important not only because it gives voice to a Jewish scholar steeped in tradition whose jeremiad against Israel and “statist” Zionism was unheard; it is arresting because one can perhaps too easily draw a line connecting Rawidowicz’s critique and his fears in the early 1950s to the reality of the conflict in 2009. That is, from reading Rawidowicz, and Myers’ excellent assessment of him, one can surmise that the moral crisis in Israel is not the result of the war in 1967 or the intifadas in 1987 and 2000. Instead, the crisis begins in 1948, with Israel refusing to offer protection to the Arab refugees, most of whom were innocent victims of a bloody war, and then making it unreasonably difficult for those who remained to acquire citizenship in a new Jewish state that was envisioned by its architects as a model for tolerance.

True, today an open-door policy of repatriating Arab refugees and their families might threaten the “Jewish” character of the state (which Rawidowicz wanted to protect). But in 1948 that was not the case, and many at that time knew it. And now, when historians such as Benny Morris have provided evidence to undermine the Israeli myth that Arabs left Palestine primarily on the advice of their leaders (Rawidowicz and others knew this myth was untrue in the early 1950s), we Jews have much to account for.

In his epilogue, Myers gives us various reasons to read Rawidowicz today. I would like to add a few of my own. When we have in our affluent and tolerant Diaspora (where Jews are arguably treated better than at any time in historical memory) an eminent scholar from Harvard like Ruth Wisse, who writes in her book *Jews and Power* that the problem with Israel and the Jews today is that they are not militant enough, and when Martin Peretz, editor of the *New Republic*, proclaims that the message of Israel’s 2009 attacks in Gaza is “Don’t f—k with the Jews!” we need to seriously rethink where we have come as a people. And when Avigdor Lieberman and his quasi-fascist Yisrael Beiteinu party wins 15 seats in the Knesset and the centrist parties reject even symbolic repatriation and ignore the issue of civil rights in Israel, we should wonder if Rawidowicz’s fears in 1951 have come to pass. Survival is a wonderful thing, but selling one’s soul is a tragedy. We owe David Myers a debt of gratitude for giving us Simon Rawidowicz’s lost voice: a voice of reason, of tradition, of morality, especially at a time when we need to be brought back to our collective senses.

Shaul Magid is the Jay and Jeannie Schottenstein professor of Jewish studies and professor of religious studies at Indiana University in Bloomington and the author most recently of *The Necessity of Exile: Essays from a Distance* (Ayin Press, 2023). ■

## Racial Justice con't from pg 11

mix of joy, fun, and education but not shying away from difficult conversations. Over 50 people have met in a mix of in-person and online workshops and events over the past 18 months, exploring issues such as microaggressions in Jewish communal settings, Blackface minstrelsy in U.S. history and ongoing occurrences today, and how to respond to content with overt or implicit racism that their children encounter. People are learning about their blind spots — such as making the assumption that all (or most) Jews in the county are white — and identifying tangible strategies to educate themselves and talk with their own children, leaning into the moments when race and racism comes up whether in the community, through news/current events, or by their children.

Most importantly, people are experiencing joy while building relationships between people and communities from across the county. The 2024 MLK Day Freedom Songs Sing-Along was a turning point of sorts, demonstrating that creating space for connection across different communities in the county can lead to social interactions among people who likely wouldn’t meet one another otherwise. “I was moved to tears to see so many people who braved the elements to come and support the Fifth Annual Freedom Songs Sing-Along. Fifteen minutes into the program, we had to get more chairs!” recalled Allen. The Ypsilanti Youth Choir and Combined Jazz Ensembles from the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra, Washtenaw Technical Middle College, and Washtenaw Community College performed a rendition of “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round”, arranged by Steve Somers, that brought the audience to their feet. Throughout the performance, Allen and the choir, directed by Crystal Harding, worked to engage the audience on several levels. This facilitated an inclusive atmosphere, allowing people to relax and interact with each other over snacks following the performance. To round out the day, the group, along with HDS educator Janice Lieberman facilitated a Voting Rights Through Time workshop, simulating the enfranchisement experiences of people from different racial, gender, and economic groups. Many families from the Choir stayed for the workshop, with children from different communities mixing on the floor as they jumped up to elect their preferred foods and silly noises. Afterwards, the overwhelming consensus was “when can we have another event together?” Hopefully, participants — and the rest of the community — won’t have to wait long. The group is planning a Freedom Songs Kabbalat Shabbat in collaboration with Temple Beth Emeth this summer. Look out for information soon and we hope you’ll join us!

This successful series of workshops and events could not have happened without the help of the JCC, ECC, and HDS staff and the many dedicated volunteers. The following people in particular helped make everything possible: Rick, Rose, and Judah Barinbaum; Yahra Goldstein; Peretz Hirshbein; Esther Jakar; M’Kaylah Johnson; Rav Will Keller; James McCracken; Rabbi Davey Rosen; LaTina and Kristiana Saba; Allison Scott; Dave Stone; Grover Thompson; and Rebecca, Elie, and Sara Wollenberg. ■



# New Exhibit Now Open

## Ghettoization and Survival

Jewish ghettos were city sections where Jews were forced to live. The Nazis created ghettos to control Jews, isolate them, and create a reserve of slave labor. The ghettos were ultimately a temporary measure until the Nazis could decide how to eradicate the Jews from Europe. In 1940 and 1941, hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews were forced to move into ghettos. Disease was rampant and food rations were meager. As a result, the mortality rate was astronomical.



Life in Ghettos



Join us for a guided tour every  
Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday

THE Zekelman  
HOLOCAUST  
CENTER

28123 Orchard Lake Rd  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
248.553.2400  
holocaustcenter.org

*Join us for the*

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

## Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

7pm at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor

Celebrate our community's collective impact as we award over \$1 million to enhance Jewish life locally, in Israel and around the world.

Register at [JewishAnnArbor.org](https://JewishAnnArbor.org)



Jewish Federation  
of Greater Ann Arbor



# Calendar

## May Calendar

**A**lways check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here and for prayer services.

### Wednesday 1

Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please email Elliot H. Gertel at [egertel@umich.edu](mailto:egertel@umich.edu) at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2 p.m.

### Thursday 2

#### Friday 3

Candle Lighting 8:19 p.m. Acharei  
**First Friday Shabbat:** JCS. Dinner from a local restaurant follows a short observance that includes secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Children are welcome. Dinner is free for JCS members. The cost of dinner for non-members is \$10/person or \$25/family. Registration required: [www.jewishculturalsociety.org](http://www.jewishculturalsociety.org) 6:30 p.m.  
**Saturday 4**  
Havdallah 9:25 p.m.  
**Shabbat Morning Services.** Pardes Hannah. In-person and online. 10 a.m.

### Sunday 5

JCLP Graduation: 10 a.m.  
Jewish Film Festival Opening: 2 p.m. Film Festival May 5 to 26  
Moses: Provocations from a Disabled Prophet. AARC. 2 p.m.  
Erev Yom Hashoah Commemoration: BIC. 7 p.m.  
Yom HaShoah Service: TBE. Holocaust Remembrance Day Service. 7 p.m.

### Monday 6

Two years of war in Ukraine: ORT. 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday 7

#### Wednesday 8 Rosh Hodesh Iyar

Yidish Tish: See above. 2 p.m.

#### Thursday 9 Rosh Hodesh Iyar

**Jewish insights on AI:** EMU at TBE. 7 p.m.  
**Rosh Chodesh Circle.** Pardes Hannah. Online. 7 p.m.

### Friday 10

Candle Lighting 8:27 p.m. Kedoshim

### Saturday 11

Havdallah 9:34 p.m.  
**Kol Haleb in Concert: Rejoicing with Regina in Song:** TBE. 7:30 p.m.

### Sunday 12

### Monday 13

Yom Hazikaron Commemoration: BIC. 7 p.m.

### Tuesday 14

### Wednesday 15

Yidish tish: See above. 2 p.m.  
**Community Solar:** Dayenu. Zoom 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday 16

JCC Night of FUNdraising.

### Friday 17

Candle Lighting 8:34 p.m. Emor

### Saturday 18

Havdallah 9:42 p.m.  
**Study Session.** Pardes Hannah. In-person and online. 3 p.m.

### Sunday 19

**Detroit's Kosher Meat Riot:** AADL. 4 p.m.

### Monday 20

### Tuesday 21

### Wednesday 22

### Thursday 23

#### Friday 24

Candle Lighting 8:41 p.m. Behar

### Saturday 25

Havdallah 9:50 p.m.  
**Ann Arbor Bicentennial Birthday Party**

### Sunday 26 Lag B'Omer

### Monday 27

### Tuesday 28

### Wednesday 29

**Federation Annual Meeting:** at JCC. 7 p.m.

### Thursday 30

#### Friday 31

Candle Lighting 8:46 p.m. Bechukotai  
**Rejoice with Regina Community Dinner and Celebration Shabbat Service:** TBE. 6 p.m.

Phone numbers, websites, and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

**Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM):** 1429 Hill Street, 248-408-3269, [annarborminyan.org](http://annarborminyan.org)

**Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC):** 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-445-1910, [aarecon.org](http://aarecon.org)

**Beth Israel Congregation (BIC):** 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, [bethisrael-aa.org](http://bethisrael-aa.org)

**Chabad House:** 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, [jewmich.com](http://jewmich.com)

**Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (EMU):** [www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/](http://www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/)

**Frankel Center:** 202 S. Thayer St., [Isa.umich.edu/judaic/](http://Isa.umich.edu/judaic/)

**Jewish Community Center (JCC):** 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, [jccannarbor.org](http://jccannarbor.org)

**Jewish Cultural Society (JCS):** 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, [jewishculturalsociety.org](http://jewishculturalsociety.org)

**Jewish Family Services (JFS):** 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, [jfsannarbor.org](http://jfsannarbor.org)

**Jewish Federation:** 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, [jewishannarbor.org](http://jewishannarbor.org)

**Pardes Hannah:** 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, [pardeshannah.org](http://pardeshannah.org)

**Temple Beth Emeth (TBE):** 2309 Packard Road, 734-665-4744, [templebethemeth.org](http://templebethemeth.org)

**UM Hillel:** 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, [michiganhillel.org](http://michiganhillel.org) ■

## 2024 marks Ann Arbor's 200th anniversary

By Jeff Crockett, Chair, Bicentennial History Subcommittee

**T**wo hundred years ago on May 25, 1824, John Allen and Elisha Rumsey registered the name of Ann Arbor at the Detroit Register of Deeds.

The Ann Arbor Bicentennial celebrates the rich history and cultural heritage that make our city the dynamic and vibrant place that it is today. As we look back on the past 200 years, we are proud of the progress we have made and the community we have built. We are excited about the future, and the opportunities that lie ahead. We welcome you to join the celebration!

Ann Arbor's Bicentennial History Subcommittee was formed in the spring of 2023 to create Bicentennial projects and

Radina. Attendees will sing Happy Birthday to Ann Arbor and enjoy a birthday cake made by Big City Bakery. Music will be provided by the Ralph McKee Blues Band.

### The 200-Item Bicentennial Multiple Choice Quiz

The quiz is a project to educate about the rich, diverse history of Ann Arbor and to recognize Ann Arbor's distinguished predecessors who have been lost to history. The contributors include Jeff and Christine Crockett, Susan Wineberg, Norm and Ilene Tyler, Bev Willis, Shirley Beckley, Tom Stulberg, Patti Smith, Michelle McClellan, Heidi Metzger, Julie Ritter, Tracey Van Dusen, Lynn Borset, Peter Eckstein, Kitty Kahn, Alan Haber, Andy Crockett, Amy

Seetoo, Elmo Morales, Dr. Luay Shilabi, Polly Pan, Artemis Leontis, Vassilios Lambropoulos, Clare Kinberg, Elizabeth Bishop, Eleanor Crown, and Andrew MacLaren. Starting in June, the questions are expected to be published 10 at a time each week at <https://www.a2bicentennial.org/>



events. The members of the Committee, which includes longtime members of Ann Arbor's historic preservation community, are Patrick McCauley, Susan Wineberg, Tom Stulberg, Christine and Jeff Crockett, Patti Smith, Bev Willis, Pat Austin, Fran Wright, Michelle McClellan, Norm Tyler, Dave Konkle, Teddy Kurihara, Tracey Van Dusen, Ellen Ramsburgh, Ed Rice, WAP John, Sherrill MacKay, and Paul Fagan. We would also like to recognize the support of Amy Karbo from Destination Ann Arbor who has hosted our timeline and posted our events on the A2 Bicentennial website, <https://www.a2bicentennial.org/>.

The History Subcommittee has planned a plethora of projects and events, including:

### A2 Smart Tours <https://aadl.org/a2st>

Led by Norman Tyler and Tom Stulberg, members include Paul Conway, Susan Wineberg, Christine Crockett, Carol Mull, Fran Wright, Ilene Tyler, Paul Fagan, Jeff Crockett, and graphic designer Don Hammond. This group has created 15 online tours accessible from mobile devices that include 177 Ann Arbor sites.

### A2 Bicentennial Birthday Celebration on May 25

This celebration is cosponsored with the Library Green Conservancy Board. Lucy Ann Lance, 1290 WLBY radio host, will emcee. The program includes an A2 Smart Tours kickoff, a Bicentennial Quiz preview, and speeches reflecting the diversity of Ann Arbor on the topic, "What the Bicentennial Means to Me." Speakers include Bev Willis, Amy Seetoo, John Metzger, Christina Morales Hemenway, Artemis Leontis, Ali Ramlawi, Charles Newman, and Travis

### The Bicentennial Timeline

The timeline provides a chronological record of key events that have occurred for each of our 200 years. This project was led by Susan Wineberg and Jeff Crockett with contributions from Christine Crockett, Alan Haber, Fran Wright, Susan Wineberg, Patti Smith, Patrick McCauley, Michelle McClellan, Norm Tyler, and Pat Austin. See <https://www.a2bicentennial.org/timeline-1>.

### Other projects:

The Huron Street Historical Marker Project: Susan Wineberg and Pat Austin

Jones School Historical Marker Project: A Community HS committee. Including Christine Crockett

Women of the Kempf House: Ed Rice and the Kempf House Board

History of Peace and Nonviolence in Ann Arbor: Alan Haber

Cobblestone Farm Project: Sherril McKay and Ellen Ramsburg

Antique Local Bottle Presentation: Teddy Kurihara

The History of Energy in Ann Arbor: Dave Konkle

Washtenaw County Historical Society: Bev Willis and the WCHS Board are planning a Victorian Tea at the Women's City Club on Sunday, April 21, 2-4 p.m.

Digitize the book *Historic Ann Arbor: An Architectural Guide*: Susan Wineberg and Patrick McCauley.

Bicentennial Video Production Project: Paul Fagan will be video recording to support the A2 SmartTours.

Universal Chord: Christine Morales Hemenway is producing a movie taking place in Ann Arbor in 1969. See <https://www.dancingstarproductions.com/universal-chord> ■



Poem and translation by Rabbi Josh Whinston

The Binding of Israel

we can't wake  
you early  
  
you're not that faithful  
you already failed the test  
  
to tell you  
that your children  
240 favored  
Ones  
you say you love  
were taken down  
to a place  
of no-seeing  
  
you didn't need to split the  
wood you've been splitting us for  
years the tree was ready for the  
fire  
your two servants could not help themselves  
this is just their kind of warship  
refusing to wait  
they loaded your chariots  
sharpened your knife  
kept it safe  
tucking it into their hearts  
  
Our children could not speak  
not ask  
not even hear the lie  
  
they never went up that mountain  
  
they silent-tremble in the concrete altar  
fire raining from above  
  
you  
only have tunnel vision  
searching for the ram  
to save yourself  
  
while our children

Genesis 22:1-14

God tested Abraham, saying to him, "Abraham." He answered, "Here I am." "Take your son, your favored one, who you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and send him up there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will tell you." So Abraham woke early in the morning, saddled his ass and took two of his servants with him and Isaac, his son. He split burnt offering wood, and he got up and went to the place God had told him. On the third day, Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the ass. The boy and I will go just over there; we will worship and we will return to you." Abraham took the burnt offering wood and placed it on Isaac, his son. He took in his own hand the fire and the knife; and the two walked off together. Then Isaac said to Abraham his father, "Father!" And he answered, "Here I am." And he said, "Here are the fire and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "God will see to the sheep for this burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together. They came at the place that God had told him. Abraham built an altar there; he laid out the wood; he bound Isaac, his son; he placed him on the altar, on top of the wood. And Abraham reached out his hand for the knife to slay his son. But, a messenger of God called to him from the heavens: "Abraham! Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am." "Do not reach out your hand against the boy or do anything to him. For now, I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your favored one, from Me." Abraham lifted up his eyes and he saw a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and he offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham named that place "God will see,"

TBE Events cont from pg 8

Join Cantor Hayut to read and discuss books of Jewish interest a few chapters at a time. This year, the book group will be reading primarily, although not exclusively, works by Israeli authors. For more information or questions, please contact Cantor Hayut.

**Back Door Food Pantry**  
Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.

**Meditation with Claire Weiner**  
Thursdays at 5 p.m.  
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session.

**Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston**  
Fridays at 12 p.m.  
Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects.

**Shabbat morning Torah study**  
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.  
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.

**Bearing Witness - Finding Hope and Joy Travel to Israel Information Session.**  
Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m.  
Learn about this important women's mission to Israel from June 30-July 10, 2024. Led by Cantor Regina Hayut in honor of her retirement. Registration requested.

**WTBE – The Rain Garden Story**  
Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m.  
WTBE event. Description of benefits of rain gardens and a walk outside to visit the Genesis rain garden.

**Yom HaShoah Service**  
Sunday, May 5 at 7 p.m.  
Holocaust Remembrance Day Service

**Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle**  
Tuesday, May 7, 5:30 p.m.  
In the TBE Chapel and available via Zoom.

**Limmud About the History of Zionism: From the Early Beginnings to October 7th**  
Tuesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.  
Led by: Amichay Findling, Community and Teaching Shaliach in Ann Arbor, An Israeli History and Biblical studies teacher.

**Family Camp**  
Friday, May 10 at 6:45 p.m.  
Family Camp provides an opportunity for families to play and learn together, for students to reinforce and share some of what they are learning in the classroom, and most importantly, to strengthen ties among students and parents/caretakers.

**Kol Halev in Concert: Rejoicing with Regina in Song**  
Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

**LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck**  
Friday, May 17 at 6 p.m.  
Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends, and let us know what you'd like to see in future queer programming!

**Bereavement Group**  
Tuesday, May 21 at 4 p.m.  
The group will have opportunities to share openly about their process of grieving and will also have topic-based readings to spark discussion.

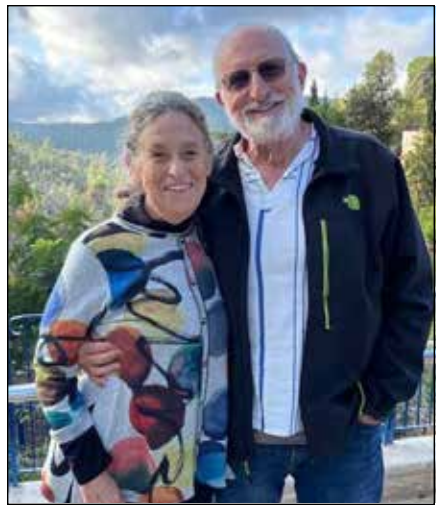
**Community Dinner and Celebration Shabbat Service**  
Friday, May 31 at 6 p.m. ■



## Recipes, with friends

By Lonnie Sussman

I am thankful for the many blessings in my life. Health, family, and friends are among those blessings. As one of my friends says, “friends of old” not old friends, are among them. Many of the friendships are from elementary school and forward. We share our histories, our joys, and griefs, and all of life’s journeys. Then there are newly made friendships based on shared experiences, chance encounters, online connections, and even more serendipity. As we head into our beautiful Michigan spring, I want to give thanks for these special people. I’m including recipes from some of these friends that would work for Shabbat meals or everyday visits. Invite friends over a meal or for tea and cake.



Lonnie and Ron Sussman

### Marinated Salmon

Serves 4–6

This is a good example of how sharing recipes with friends works. I asked my friend, Pam, for the salmon recipe we ate at her and Stephen’s home and here is the message I received. “We were in Alaska many years ago. We were at an outdoor café that had picnic tables and a community atmosphere. We had a wonderful conversation with the people at our table about the best way to cook Alaskan salmon. Our new friend recommended this recipe. We have been enjoying it ever since.”

4–6 salmon fillets (Alaskan salmon or sockeye work well)  
 ½ cup each of soy sauce, honey, and bourbon  
 Sesame seeds  
 Bunch of green onions, sliced for garnish  
 Cooked ric

Combine the soy sauce, honey, and bourbon, whisking until well mixed. Place the fillets in a plastic bag and add half the soy, honey, bourbon mixture and marinate for 1 hour in the refrigerator. Save the other half of the sauce in a small saucepan and refrigerate. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees and line a baking dish with parchment paper or aluminum foil. Bake the salmon for about 13 minutes for a 1-inch fillet and a few minutes longer for a thicker fillet. While the fish is baking, simmer the remaining sauce in the saucepan, stirring occasionally. Look for the sauce to thicken. After removing the salmon, brush the fish with the glaze and add the

sesame seeds and green onion garish. Serve over rice (or couscous or mashed potatoes) and your favorite vegetables.

### Oven Roasted Chicken Shawarma

New York Times, Sam Sifton

Serves 4–6

This recipe came to me via my dear friend, Donna. We met each other at Camp Tavor decades ago. I was there as “assistant to the business manager” (aka my husband Ron), and Donna was a camper. In recent years we’ve had the opportunity to travel together on amazing trips all over the world.

2 lemons, juiced  
 ½ cup plus 1 tbs olive oil  
 6 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 tsp kosher salt  
 2 tsp black pepper  
 2 tsp ground cumin  
 2 tsp paprika  
 ½ tsp turmeric  
 Pinch of cinnamon  
 Crushed red pepper, to taste  
 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs  
 2 large red onion, peeled and quartered  
 2 tbs chopped fresh parsley

Combine the lemon juice, ½ cup olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, paprika, turmeric, cinnamon, and crushed red pepper in a large bowl and whisk together. Add the chicken and toss well to coat. Cover and store in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour and up to 12 hours. Heat oven to 425 degrees and use the remaining tablespoon of olive oil to grease a rimmed sheet pan. Add the quartered onion to the chicken and marinade and toss to combine. Remove the chicken and onion from the marinade and place on the pan. Spread everything across the pan evenly. Roast the chicken for about 30–40 minutes or until it is browned and crisp at the edges, cooked through.

### The Very Best Chocolate Chip Banana Bread

Thoughts for Buffets

Makes 1 in a 9 ½ by 5 ½ loaf pan

Donna sent me this recipe as well as the one for chicken shawarma. The book was a wedding present from a friend whose father was a baker, and he used the recipe. It was copyright 1958 and I found a copy from my mother in my cookbook collection. The preface starts “Dear Hostesses” and the methods stress “frozen foods, packaged mixes, and pre-baked delicacies to make your cooking simpler.”

½ cup butter  
 1½ cups sugar  
 2 eggs, slightly beaten  
 1½ tsp baking powder  
 ½ tsp baking soda  
 4 tbs sour cream (I use full fat yogurt)  
 1 cup mashed banana  
 2 cups cake flour, sifted  
 ¼ tsp salt  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 2 cups chocolate bits (chips)

Cream the butter and sugar and then add in beaten eggs and salt, mix well. Dissolve the

baking powder and baking soda in the sour cream and add to the first mixture. Stir in the banana pulp and add the flour gradually. Now add the vanilla and the chocolate chips. Grease or use baking spray for the loaf pan and add the batter in. Bake at 350 for 60 minutes. Freezes well.

### Healthy Banana Bread with Dates and Walnuts

Makes 1 loaf

This recipe comes from my friend Marci and looks like it might have been published in a newspaper. Our families have been friends since our parents were young marrieds. Marci, among her many other talents, is the organizer of Women’s Journeys, the group I’ve traveled with for the last decade. I had a slice of this banana bread (okay, 2 slices) a month ago and can vouch for the



Hila

yumminess. 1 cup white whole wheat flour

¼ cup all-purpose flour  
 2 tsp baking powder  
 1 tsp cinnamon  
 ¾ tsp baking soda  
 ¼ tsp salt  
 2 large eggs  
 1 cup smashed bananas  
 1 cup chopped, pitted dates (you can soak them in warm water for about 10 minutes if they are not soft)  
 ½ cup canola or avocado oil  
 ¼ or even ½ cup of pure maple syrup, dark or amber  
 2 tsp pure vanilla extract  
 ¾ cup chopped walnuts

Coat the loaf pan (8½ inch) with baking spray and a dusting of flour. Shake out the loose flour. Whisk the white whole wheat and the all-purpose flour together with the baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Mix the eggs, bananas, dates, oil, and maple syrup together and add to the dry ingredients, mixing until combined. Add ½ cup of the walnuts, saving the rest to sprinkle on top. Bake at 350 for 45–55 minutes, until the loaf is domed and deeply browned. Turn out to cool until room temperature. Can be frozen for up to 3 months.

### Gluten Free Bread

Dr. Hyman Blog

Makes 1 loaf

Recently I traveled to New Zealand (highly recommend New Zealand Trails Company). One of the women on the trip was Hila, who lives in Israel. She knew three of the other women from her time in Habonim, the youth movement that included Camp Tavor, but she and I are new friends. I was fascinated with her nutritional diet which included crackers she made and brought with her from Israel. She uses this recipe, slices the bread, and then puts them in a dehydrator overnight. She adds more seasonings like ground garlic, oregano, or whatever spices you like to the batter, as well as chopped walnuts and pine nuts. You can skip the dehydrator and bake the slices a second time in a very low oven (225 degrees or even lower) until they dry out and feel like toast. You can also simply toast the slices.

¾ cup almond butter  
 6 eggs (free-range)  
 ¼ cup coconut oil, melted  
 ½ tsp sea salt  
 ½ tsp apple cider vinegar  
 ¼ tsp golden flaxseed  
 3 tbs coconut flour  
 2 tbs honey, optional

Line an 8-inch by 4-inch loaf pan with parchment paper and use the coconut oil to grease it. Place all the other ingredients in a blender and combine until the eggs froth. Pour into the greased and lined loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees for about 35–40 minutes or until the loaf is golden brown. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes and then remove from pan with the parchment paper and allow to cool to room temperature. Hila then slices her bread and dehydrates it for 24 hours. Slice it and store in an airtight container and refrigerate.

### Steve and Ron’s take on tuna salad

Ron is my husband and very good friend, and Steve is a very good friend that we both know from high school days. Look, everyone knows how to make tuna salad, but do you add these ingredients? Ron adds chopped apples and cut up carrots, and Steve, who doesn’t like celery, adds dill, chopped onions, cut up grapes or another fruit. Try dried cranberries or another dried fruit you like. ■



Marci, Donna, and Lonnie

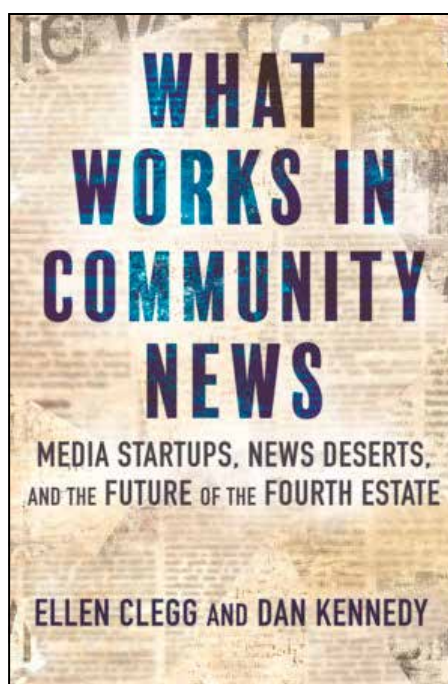


## The movement to reinvent local news

*What Works in Community News* by Ellen Clegg and Dan Kennedy, reviewed by Joseph Lichterman

In recent months, the news about the news industry has been a constant stream of bad news. The *Wall Street Journal* gutted its Washington bureau, the *Los Angeles Times* laid off at least 115 people in its newsroom, and Chicago Public Media terminated nearly 15% of its unionized staff while its CEO received a nearly 19% raise according to the nonprofit's latest tax filings.

Those are just a handful of the job losses in 2024 alone. Since 2005, the United States has lost nearly 2,900 newspapers, and two-thirds of its newspaper journalists have lost their jobs during that same time period,



according to Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

This has been called an extinction-level moment for the press. Internet giants like Meta (formerly Facebook), Google, and Craigslist have gulped up the advertising revenue that was once the lifeblood of the news industry. Social media and cable news have captivated the attention of millions accelerating the spread of misinformation and polarization. Meanwhile, the widespread adoption of technology like generative AI threatens to upend the information ecosystem entirely.

But amid this moment of uncertainty — and against all odds — there is hope for the future of local news. Across the United States, journalists are experimenting with new models to create local journalism that covers their communities and holds power to account.

In their new book, *What Works in Community News*, journalist and former Boston Globe editor Ellen Clegg and Northeastern University professor Dan Kennedy tell the stories of the pioneers at the forefront of the movement to reinvent local news.

In Colorado, a group of journalists left the hedge fund-owned *Denver Post* to create the *Colorado Sun*, a digital-only site dedicated to covering statewide issues. And when the owners of a chain of suburban *Denver* newspapers wanted to retire, the *Sun* joined

a collaborative effort to buy the papers and keep them printing.

In Memphis, journalist Wendi C. Thomas created MLK50, a nonprofit publication launched on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in the city, focused on covering issues of power, poverty, and public policy. Thomas's reporting on a local hospital's aggressive debt collection practices resulted in millions of dollars of medical debt being forgiven.

In Bedford, Massachusetts, a committed staff of mostly senior citizens report on "the quotidian details of community life" for the *Bedford Citizen*, an online news site featuring reports on city hall, public schools, community events, and more.

From coast to coast, Clegg and Kennedy introduce us to journalists committed to reporting the news and telling the stories of their neighbors.

And while local journalism certainly serves a purpose by giving us something to read, Clegg and Kennedy underscore that it has a higher value of upholding civic life. We know that journalism is essential for a healthy, functioning democracy. Studies have shown that local news leads to increased voter turnout, less polarization, and more government transparency.

"A healthy local news ecosystem is vital to community life, whose very existence is in danger as our culture becomes increasingly nationalized," they write. "We are immersed in Big Media, from the New York Times to Instagram, from the Fox News Channel to Netflix. Yet our most important relationships are with our families, our friends, our neighbors, and the places where we live. All these connections are held together by news and information that have little to do with Tucker Carlson's racist outbursts, who might win the next presidential election, or the latest must-see viral video."

The evolving story of local journalism is one we know well here in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. The *Ann Arbor News* made national headlines in 2009 when it became the first American city to lose its sole daily paper. The *Ann Arbor News* stopped publication that summer after 174 years of printing the news. It was replaced by *AnnArbor.com*, a primarily digital news site with a smaller staff. In 2013, the site was folded into MLive, the statewide news brand, and its print newspaper — which is published twice a week on Thursday and Sunday — was renamed the *Ann Arbor News* again.

While there are dedicated journalists who still work for the *News*, its newsroom is just a fraction of the size it once was. In Washtenaw County, we're fortunate that a robust ecosystem of news and information providers has emerged to help fill the gaps. Outlets like *Bridge Michigan*, the Ypsilanti-based digital nonprofit that covers statewide policy issues, student news organizations like the *Michigan Daily* and the *Eastern Echo*, and community-focused publications like the *Ann Arbor Observer* all play crucial

roles in covering the news. In addition, there are committed individuals who have created email newsletters like the *Michigander*, run social media accounts like *Ann Arbor Eats*, and share updates and insights on local government using #a2council on X, formerly Twitter. These and others all contribute to a healthy flow of information throughout Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. In this era of local news, it's impossible for one organization to adequately cover a community.

While our Ann Arbor news and information ecosystem is by no means perfect, it's significantly more robust than many other communities. The areas that have more robust media ecosystems tend to be richer and whiter. Clegg and Kennedy cite research that shows that "wealthier suburbs are better served by local news startups than more diverse urban areas or rural communities since there is a corps of residents who have time to volunteer and money to donate."

There is a growing movement to address those inequities and ensure that all communities — regardless of their ability to pay — have access to local news. Last year a coalition of major foundations launched Press Forward, a \$500 million campaign to

launch a catalytic investment into local news over the next five years to support the growth and development of local news. Others are advocating for public policy solutions to provide added revenue for publishers. Meanwhile there is a growing suite of tools and resources to provide the technical and business know-how to help entrepreneurs start and sustain news organizations.

A new future for local journalism is being created in communities like ours in Washtenaw County and in communities across the country like those Clegg and Kennedy highlight. It's these efforts that will provide a path forward for both the media industry and our democracy.

"If we are to save our democracy, it has to begin at the grassroots level," Clegg and Kennedy write.

While there's a long way to go, Clegg and Kennedy's inspiring book points toward a path forward for local journalism, which is good news we can all get behind.

*Joseph Lichterman is the head of editorial and communication for The Lenfest Institute for Journalism, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit that focuses on developing solutions for the next era of local news. He lives in Ann Arbor with his family. ■*

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## Cantor Regina Hayut: Celebrations and final reflections

By Robin Little, fourth in a four-part series about Cantor Regina Hayut

**T**emple Beth Emeth will celebrate Cantor Regina Hayut's retirement with two special community events. On Saturday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the TBE sanctuary, Regina will conduct her final concert with Kol Halev, the adult choir. This free concert will feature music sung in several languages: Hebrew, Yiddish, and English. The repertoire will include music from different genres — classical, folk, and liturgical — and from different periods of Jewish history. There will be several choir and audience favorites — no spoilers here! Following the concert there will be a dessert oneg in the Social Hall, sponsored by Kol Halev. Registration is requested here: <https://www.templebethemeth.org/event/kol-halev-concert-led-by-cantor-hayut.html>

Over the past 10 years, Regina introduced the choir to music from many contemporary Jewish liturgical composers, including Samuel Adler (brother of congregant Marianne Aaron), Elana Arian, Dan Nichols, and Danny Maseng. All four have been artists-in-residence at TBE, and Adler and Maseng were featured in choir concerts with the composer. Their music has been incorporated into Shabbat and High Holiday services.

Kol Halev has been an important part of Regina's career at TBE, most especially during the pandemic. She (and Rabbis Whinston and Alter) pivoted very quickly to online programs and services to keep our community together. For the choir, we benefited from the talents of Taylor Flowers, a PhD student in collaborative piano at the University of Michigan. He was hired in 2019 as the accompanist for Friday night services and for choir rehearsals. During the pandemic he helped us make video recordings so that there would be Kol Halev participation in Zoom services. According to Regina, "I don't think anyone else could have done what Taylor did, with his skill set and interest. These video recordings are an amazing archive." Steve Haskin, a member of Kol Halev, was also instrumental in these recording projects.

Here is what Taylor has to say about working with Regina: "She was always a pleasure to work with — her breadth of knowledge of the relevant musical literature and command of its differing styles was evident and inspiring. She was able to get the best out of each musician she worked with in her choir, Kol Halev, and was always interested in fostering relationships with those in the choir. I learned so much from her expertise and consider myself a much more educated person with regard to the Jewish musical literature because of her influence."

Regina is proud of her influence on the youth b'mitzvah program. She worked hard in her first three years to make the program more accessible for parents and students, resulting in a new manual. This past winter she and Rabbis Whinston and Feuchs, along with Executive Director Shannon Hall, hosted a sixth grade family outing, where the kids ice skated and the parents talked with clergy and staff about

upcoming b'mitzvahs. The parents felt comfortable and supported by the TBE team as they embarked on this emotional and challenging time for their families.

In addition to the youth b'mitzvah program, Regina is equally proud of the adult b'nai mitzvah program. The first cohort graduated in June 2022, after a couple years' delay because of the pandemic. The second cohort, meeting this past year, will have their culmination service on May 24. Both cohorts have had the integrated experience of working with one another as they explore Jewish learning. There are already people expressing interest in future cohorts.

On Saturday, June 1, at 6 p.m., TBE will host a "Rejoice with Regina" gala at Washtenaw Community College in the Morris Lawrence Building. This event will be a fundraiser for the Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut Music Fund. This fund supports a range of musical activities including accompanists, musicians for special services, guest artists-in-residence, the purchase of choir music, and more.

The gala will commence with appetizers and a cocktail bar, followed by a buffet dinner, with vegan options. Guests will then enter the auditorium for a musical tribute program. The program will feature entertainment from Kol Halev, Regina's family (her sons Yoav and Alon are classical musicians), a video tribute, remembrances from colleagues, and, of course, some surprises! Havdalah and a dessert buffet will conclude this festive evening.

Trina Fuller, the chair of the Rejoice with Regina planning committee, has this to say: "Regina is not only a leader at TBE, she is a presence in our community. She makes herself available to the Jewish Community Center, to Beth Israel Congregation. She goes to Glacier Hills to visit people and leads a Seder there. She is involved in the community. The life of a clergy person is beyond the walls of our synagogue. She is counseling people. She has touched a lot of lives. She is committed to growing the Jewish community. This is our opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of her career, the mark that she has left here."

The ticket price of \$150 includes a \$50 tax-deductible donation to the Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut Music Fund. Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://www.templebethemeth.org/event/gala-event-to-celebrate-cantor-hayut.html>. ■



## JCLP Graduation 2024

By Megan Bernard

**T**he Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) invites community members to join in a celebratory graduation brunch (catered by Zingerman's) honoring 2024 graduates Marie Aiudi Pattipati and Benjamin Shovers. The event will take place on Sunday morning, May 5, at the University of Michigan School of Social Work (U-M SSW, 1080 S. University Ave) from 10 a.m. to noon.

The program will feature greetings from

the School of Social Work's Development department, specifically working on JCLP donors and advancement.

In the face of divisiveness and tension on campus since October 7, Marie and Ben have stepped up to provide leadership and support for their cohort and other students in the School of Social Work. In the midst of the difficult campus climate, they still found ways to meaningfully engage in Jewish community, both here in Ann Arbor/metro



Marie Pattipati, Max Richardson, Julia Diskin, Shayna Danto, Ben Shvers, Karia Goldman

U-M Social Work Dean, Dr. Beth Angell; Associate Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Dr. Julian Levinson; and the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Eileen Freed; as well as remarks from the graduating students and JCLP director Dr. Karla Goldman.

Marie Aiudi Pattipati (she/her) was raised in Connecticut and has been living in Michigan for close to 10 years. She received her undergraduate degrees in Sociology and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan in 2021. Prior to attending U-M, she served eight years in the military as a member of the Army National Guard. While at the School of Social Work, Marie studied the Interpersonal Practice Pathway and completed three field placements: the Program Evaluation Group at U-M SSW; the Shalom Hartman Institute working with U-M SSW and Jewish communal leadership alum, Rebecca Starr; and facilitating group sessions for a batterer intervention accountability program through Charron Services.

Ben Shovers (he/him) was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin. He began his masters in Social Work after completing a Master of Management at the U-M Ross School of Business in 2022. Before completing his Master of Management, Ben graduated from George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and minors in Psychology and Sociology. While at the School of Social Work, Ben studied the Management and Leadership Pathway and had two field placements: with the Jewish United Fund of Chicago with Jim Rosenberg, another U-M SSW alum; and at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, working with Eileen Freed and JCLP alum Rachel Wall. Ben also worked part-time in

Detroit and in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the location of this year's JCLP group trip. While in Pittsburgh, the students learned about inter-organizational cooperation and resilience following the tragic 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue massacre. They returned home with new ideas and goals for what a truly strong Jewish community can look like, while strengthening their own bonds as a cohort.

They also completed their second-year capstone project, hosting a film screening of *Golda* and a discussion intended to provide Jewish community members with an opportunity to consider how the 1973 Yom Kippur attack on Israel and the hard choices that followed resonate in the wake of October 7.

Join us as we celebrate these achievements and more at JCLP's Graduation Brunch on Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m.-noon at the U-M School of Social Work. RSVP here:



Marie Pattipati and Ben Shovers



## May events at Beth Israel

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is now live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage ([www.bethisrael-aa.org](http://www.bethisrael-aa.org)). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at [office@bethisrael-aa.org](mailto:office@bethisrael-aa.org).

### Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 3, 6 p.m.

A Jewish Renewal-inspired singing service led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia. The choir, dubbed the "Holy Levites," will be holding a rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. leading right up to and seamlessly into services. All are welcome to attend.

### Kids' Service

Saturday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.

A simpler Shabbat morning service for children, with a Dvar and Discussion in place of the regular Torah service. Held in the M & M Chapel. Contact Ben Brent at [benb@bethisrael-aa.org](mailto:benb@bethisrael-aa.org) for more information.

### Erev Yom Hashoah Commemoration

Sunday, May 5, 7 p.m.

Beth Israel remembers those died in the Holocaust and honors the lives of those who survived at this commemoration.

### Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin

Monday, May 6 and 13, 4 p.m.

Led by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, this class meets on Zoom on Monday afternoons from 4–5:15. We read the text in Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation and all discussions will be in English so no familiarity with Hebrew is required. This winter we will be studying from the second chapter of the tractate Berachot which deals with the laws and traditions relating to the saying of the Shema.

### Babysitting at Beth Israel

Saturday, May 11, 18, and 25, 9:30 a.m.

Babysitting is now available on the same days as Tot Shabbat and B'nei Mitzvot. Babysitting is no longer available on other Saturdays. If you are interested in registering

for babysitting, please email [Barbm@bethisrael-aa.org](mailto:Barbm@bethisrael-aa.org).

### Yom Hazikaron Commemoration

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Join us as we gather to remember and honor soldiers and civilians who gave their lives in Israel's wars or in terror attacks.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, May 19, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Help us save a life at our annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Sign up to donate blood at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter Sponsor Code bic13. You can also volunteer to assist at the blood drive or help make phone calls by contacting Diane Wilson at [dclonezer@aol.com](mailto:dclonezer@aol.com).

### Theology Book Club — Online

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

### In Person and Online Services

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is now live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage ([www.bethisrael-aa.org](http://www.bethisrael-aa.org)). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at [office@bethisrael-aa.org](mailto:office@bethisrael-aa.org).

### Evening Minyan

Sundays at 7 p.m. (in person in M&M Chapel and virtual)

Mondays–Thursdays at 7 p.m.

### Friday Evening Services — in person and virtual

Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.

### Shabbat Morning Services — in person and virtual

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. ■

1959 and followed his father and aunt into the law, earning his JD from the University of Michigan Law School in 1962.

His commitment to serving his country led him to the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps of the United States Army, where he served with distinction as a Captain from 1963 to 1966. During his military service, he wed Alison Jones in December 1964, with whom he had two children, Laura Ellen Davidow and Philip Andrew Davidow. He earned additional academic degrees in law, including an LLM from Harvard University and a JSD from Columbia University.

Bob transitioned into academia, teaching at law schools at the University of North Dakota, Florida State University, Texas Tech University, Queens University Belfast, and George Mason University. He tirelessly advocated for civil liberties, fought against segregation, and passionately opposed the death penalty. His scholarly contributions on topics ranging from judicial selection to constitutional law underscored his commitment to justice.

In 1996, Bob married Susan Grubb, embarking on a new chapter of his life. He obtained a master's degree in divinity to broaden his approach to social justice. He then redirected his energies to the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where he continued to champion the rights of the accused until his retirement in 2010. After retirement, Bob and Susan settled in Ann Arbor where they became valued members of the Jewish Cultural Society of Ann Arbor.

Bob was an enthusiastic participant in many productions with the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society (UMGASS). He threw his heart and soul into shows, and found joy in singing and dancing with the chorus. His earnest dedication to justice and fairness, as well as the words to many Gilbert and Sullivan songs, live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

Bob is survived by his wife, Susan Grubb; his children, Laura Davidow Hirshbein, Phil Davidow, and their respective spouses, Peretz Hirshbein and Anna Davidow; and his grandchildren, Abigail Hirshbein, Daniel Hirshbein, James Davidow, and Alexander Davidow.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Access to Justice Campaign, <https://atjfund.org/>, or to the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, <https://www.umgass.org/give>.

**Barbara Sharon Roether**, age 78, passed away on Monday, March 27, 2024. Barbara was born on August 31, 1945 to the late Harry Yellen and Mary (Sinai) Yellen in Detroit, Michigan. Her parents were immigrants who spoke Yiddish as their primary language. On August 11, 1968, she married Robert H. Roether at Temple Israel in Detroit. She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Robert; her three sons Geoffrey (Sue) of Golden Valley, Minnesota, Andrew (Lisa) of Henderson, Nevada, and Matthew (Julie) of Chicago, Illinois; she was a devoted grandmother to her five grandchildren, Max Roether, Ella Roether, Gabby Roether, Cole Roether,



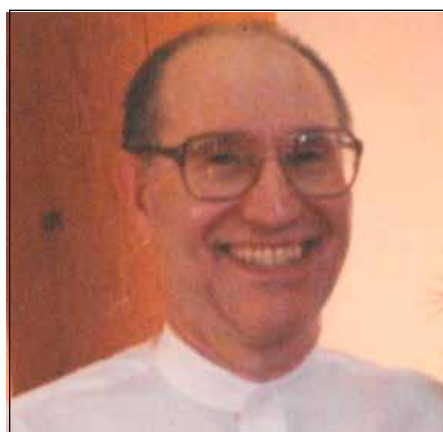
and Quinn Roether. She is also survived by her brother Joel (Charna) Yellen and many friends and relatives.

Barb received her bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and worked most of her career as a personal shopper of designer fashion clothing. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother and instilled in her children the importance of family over everything. Her children are extremely close with one another. She had many hobbies and interests, such as antiques, knitting, gardening, exercise, travel, and visiting family and friends, including her very close friends Samra Robbins and Sheila Shulman.

Barbara's funeral was held Monday April 1, graveside at Oakwood Cemetery, 227 W. Michigan Avenue, Saline, Michigan. Rabbi Chelsea Feuchs officiated. A memorial will be held in early May with details to follow. In lieu of flowers please make donations to either of the following that were important to Barb: Evangelical Homes of Michigan <https://ehmss.org/foundation/donate-now/> or the American Cancer Society <https://donate.cancer.org/>. To leave a memory you have of Barbara, to sign her guestbook, or for directions, please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).



**Otto Veidlinger** passed away the morning of April 1 in Toronto. Beloved husband of Marilyn (Greenspan) Veidlinger; father of Daniel (Saman), Jeffrey (Rebecca), and Shira (Mitch); grandfather of Naomi Veidlinger, Mae Veidlinger, Aviva Green, and Jonah Green. Born in Budapest in 1936, he left Hungary with his father and grandmother in 1946. After studying at boarding schools in Switzerland and the United Kingdom, he came to Canada in 1951, where he attended Oakwood and Forest Hill high schools and the University of Toronto Medical School. He practiced as a neurologist at Women's College Hospital and Central Hospital, where he loved serving a largely immigrant population. He also had private practices at various clinics around the city. He enjoyed spending time at his farm, building furniture, sailing, skiing, tennis, Talmud study, painting, and music (especially Beethoven's symphonies and string quartets). Most of all, he loved spending time with his family. And his family loved being with him. ■



Bob graduated from Cranbrook High School in 1955, where he was lucky enough to play football with future Heisman trophy winner Pete Dawkins. He earned his degree from Dartmouth College in

## Obituaries

*The WJN prints obituaries, memories, and eulogies free of charge for family members of Washtenaw Jewish community members as a service to the community and to honor the lives of those who have passed away. When local congregations send condolence notices to the WJN, the editor searches for obituaries online. Also, community members are invited to send obituaries to the editor.*

**Robert Phillips Davidow**, born on February 18, 1938, in Huntington Woods, Michigan, peacefully passed away on March 17, 2024, at his home in Hillside Terrace Senior Living. He was the son of Lazarus S. Davidow and Laura Netzorg Davidow, and was preceded in death by his older brother, James Davidow.



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# A gem, hiding in plain sight

By Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b-mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

With winter weather behind us, this is the perfect time of the year to venture a bit further from home, hop on a back road, and take a slow drive to dinner. That place should be Karl's Cabin. Located on Gotfredson Road in Plymouth, Karl's has a large and always full parking lot that makes you wonder, "why is that place always so busy?" In a nutshell, it is a really good restaurant.

We usually focus on newer restaurants — Karl's has been around since 1982. However, in February 2023 they suffered a fire that destroyed their kitchen and caused smoke damage in the rest of the restaurant. They used that opportunity to renovate the entire restaurant and streamline their from scratch menu and bar program. The large dining rooms are attractive — one features a beautiful stone fireplace surrounded by a comfortable seating area, and the other has a stage for live music. We were seated by a window and were pleasantly surprised that despite the dining room being nearly full, the noise level wasn't too loud and we had no problems holding a conversation.

Our server greeted us warmly, and we put in our drink order, an American Mule, served appropriately in a copper mug, made with Tito's American Vodka and spicy ginger beer, and the Cucumber Basil Cooler



made with St. Germaine and Highclere Gin. Both drinks hit the spot after a long day and eased us into perusing the menu. The Vegan Quesadilla, with a chickpea flour tortilla, cashew cheese, and crema was an ambitious menu item and a good place to start. Our tasters have learned ordering outside of the box leads to rewards, and we were. The lovely, generously filled golden-hued tortilla disappeared as quickly as it arrived. The vegetable filling was tasty, the cashew cheese was great, but the tortilla, wow! Our server, who was very patient with our many questions, told us it was made in-house and made to order from a thin batter, much like an Indian dosa. It was a winner.

We followed the quesadilla with a cup of vegetarian broccoli and cheddar soup while

we waited for our entrees. It arrived hot, was very broccoli-forward in a good way, was seasoned well, and had a sprinkle of grated cheddar on top.

Both of our entrees were on the nightly features menu. The Chicken Frangelico served with wild rice pilaf and sauteed green beans with almonds. All components of the dish were prepared well. The tender chicken breast was perfectly cooked and rested in a slightly sweet, understated hazelnut liqueur cream sauce that tasted better and better with each bite. The tender-crisp green beans and toothsome wild rice pilaf were prepared with care and consumed with gusto.

The Meatloaf Sliders arrived in two generously sized and very flavorful bundles made with a blend of bison and beef, topped with cheddar cheese, fried onions, and barbecue sauce. The sturdy brioche bun held it all together perfectly. Our loyal readers may recall our penchant for french fries. Fortunately, the sliders were served with hand cut fries, which arrived hot and generously salted. Delicious, divine, and fried to perfection.

American restaurants are known worldwide for over-portioning and super-sizing everything. The price point and portion size of the particular entrées we tried from the Features Menu are worth noting. We mention this in a complimentary and respectful fashion to the management of Karl's Cabin. The Chicken Frangelico priced at \$22, and the Meatloaf Sliders at \$16, were enough for one meal, not more.

Diners with smaller appetites who are tired of wasting food may appreciate the more reasonably priced and portioned plates. More restaurants should take note and implement this practice. Unfortunately, even with the smaller entrees we did not leave enough room for dessert, though there were several tempting options, giving us one more reason to return.

While some of the menu items are labeled for allergens, you will need to inquire for information if you have more specific needs. Karl's Cabin has an online reservation system that is easy to use and they also keep some tables available for walk-ins. When asked about the stage and which nights offered live music, the host said only that they hope to bring back the live music features in the near future. Outdoor seating is available on the patio seasonally and features a fireplace for brisk evenings. You can sign up for their email club on their website, which also gives you access to their birthday and anniversary club and offers a free appetizer and dessert to celebrate your special day. The full menu is available to order for carry-out.

A lovely drive out into the country was rewarded with a delicious meal in a charming setting. If you too have driven past and wondered why there are always so many cars in the parking lot, it's time to stop and find out.


**Karl's Cabin**

6005 Gotfredson Rd., Plymouth  
(734) 455-8450  
<https://www.karlscabin.com/> ■

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# Discover the Future Ypsilanti Transit Center

*We want to hear from you!*

The new Transit Center will be the heart of Ypsilanti’s expanded transit services for decades to come. The new center is designed to accommodate growth and emerging transportation technology while providing enhanced comfort and convenience.

As part of the Long-Range Plan, this investment in Ypsilanti will support the local economy, job creation and quality of life for all.

To learn more, and provide your input, join us at a public meeting.

## In Person Meeting

Date	Time	Location
April 25	2–6 PM	Ypsilanti Transit Center

Visit [TheRideYTC.org](https://TheRideYTC.org) to review the information and complete the survey. **Accepting feedback from April 22–May 22.**

## If you can’t attend a meeting, but would still like to provide your ideas:

- Visit: [TheRideYTC.org](https://TheRideYTC.org)
- Email: [YTCInfo@TheRide.org](mailto:YTCInfo@TheRide.org)
- Call: 734-794-1882
- Mail: AAATA  
c/o Ypsilanti Transit Center  
2700 S. Industrial Hwy  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

