

BOTH/AND LEADERSHIP: TRANSCENDING POLARIZATION OMER 2025

a 4-part Series for Wexner
Heritage Alumni

Jeffrey Abrams

Wexner Heritage Program-Los Angeles 2

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Jeffrey Abrams is the Regional Director of ADL's Los Angeles office, which serves as the flagship office for ADL's Western Division. Prior to assuming his role in August 2020, Jeff practiced law in Los Angeles for over 25 years as an entertainment attorney, business advisor and mediator. Jeff currently is a director and trustee of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a member of the President's Advisory Council of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, and a past director the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. Jeff also serves as a Trustee of the Samuel and Helene Soref Foundation, is a graduate of the Wexner Heritage Foundation fellowship program and is a Peabody Award Winner. A native of Los Angeles and graduate of UC Berkeley and Cornell Law School, Jeff and his wife, Michele Breslauer, who is also a Wexner fellow, are proud parents of three adult sons. In June, Jeff will be honored with Technion University's President's Award for Exceptional Achievement at its International Board of Governor's Meeting in Haifa, Israel.

Emily Benoit

Wexner Heritage Program-Portland 21

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Emily has been driven since she was a child. She is secure in her beliefs and determined by her actions. Emily is committed to the betterment of society and is friendly to all people she encounters. She is passionate about urban places and cities, building community where she lives and learning about major historical events. She has traveled to many parts of the world, including Asia and South America, and is always planning the next adventure by booking flights or making reservations. When not spending time with friends and family, Emily is constantly meeting new people, attempting to master the art of networking. To keep herself busy, Emily goes for a daily walk or hike, eats and drinks out with friends, and is continually engaged in formal and informal academic pursuits. The key to keeping Emily happy and fulfilled is to have an active and packed day full of good friends and good food.

Aaron Cohen

Wexner Heritage Program-Chicago Pro-99

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Prior to retiring Aaron was VP of Communications at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. He previously was Executive Editor of Jewish Chicago magazine. He is a past president of the American Jewish Press Association, and recipient of its Joseph Polakoff Award in recognition of a distinguished career in Jewish journalism. His work has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Sun-Times, Evanston RoundTable, Bloom Magazine, The Fountain, and numerous Jewish community newspapers. He was the founding director of Write On for Israel, Chicago.

Laurie Earp

Wexner Heritage Program-East Bay 10

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An event planner/fundraiser for more than 30 years - bringing my Jewish sensibilities and learning to my clients' settings... I am a proud 2010 East Bay Wexner Heritage fellow. Among other things, I have been teaching and leading the Temple Sinai's WTS shabbat service for 11 years - building a cohort of women who find their own touch points with our Torah and liturgy to develop meaningful (and very full!!) services annually - and, I serve on the JCRC Bay Area Board. In February 2025 I expanded my "world" by studying to become an End of Life Doula - the spiritual journey for self and those I will serve is unimaginable... and something for which my Jewish studies and being will be called upon much. I also summited Mt. Kilimanjaro with my son in January 2025 and am looking forward to the greater perspective from these higher heights.

Alison Feinberg

Wexner Heritage Program-Phoenix 09

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A member of the professional staff of the San Francisco JCF in her 20s, Alison worked in Campaign & YL. She is a longtime member of her synagogue board, focusing mostly on FUNdraising and Membership. On a "term limit break", Alison served well over a decade on the Board and the Executive Board of Camp Ramah in California. Alison & Michael were honored by Camp Ramah in December 2021 with the Young Alumni Award. Active in her kids' public schools, Alison is currently serving as Secretary of Horizon HS PTO and has served as Presidents of PTOs at both Horizon HS Choir & Sonoran Sky ES. She is a past PTG Chair of VOSJCC's ECC and has always been involved with the Center for Jewish Philanthropy: Mega Event & Ben Gurion Society co-chair, and Camp Scholarship Committee. An alumnus of the Wexner Heritage Program, Alison was the recipient of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix Lee Amada Young Leadership Award and the Women's Philanthropy Continuing Service Award. In 2021 she was awarded the Paradise Valley Unified School District United Parent Council Geri L Morgan Award. She and her husband Michael are being honored by Congregation Or Tzion in 2025 with the Rabbi Micah Caplan z"l Award.

Vicki Fishman

Wexner Heritage Program-Washington DC 13

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Having practiced law in DC and Virginia for more than 20 years, Vicki left the private sector in 2020 to join the JCRC of Greater Washington as the Virginia Director of Government and Community Relations. She has served as President of Gesher Jewish Day School, as a Director of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, as a Trustee of the United Jewish Endowment Fund, and as a member of the National and DC Leadership Councils of AIPAC. Vicki began her legal career at Ross, Dixon and Bell, LLC, a boutique litigation firm in Washington, DC. Prior to joining JCRC, she was a founding member of FishmanKlain, PLLC, practicing primarily in the areas of Wills, Trusts and Estates. Vicki received her BA in Religion from Swarthmore College and her JD from the University of Michigan Law School. Vicki has four (almost) grown children.

Martine Fleishman

Wexner Heritage Program-New York 4

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Martine currently serves Jewish Education Project, a central Agency, whose mission is to inspire and empower educators to create transformative Jewish experiences to enable a thriving Jewish Community. We are based in NY with a national footprint. Martine was past Westchester Regional chair for UJA Federation of NY and the Chair of the Advisory Committee of The Jewish Agency's Project TEN: Global Tikkun Olam, which launched 7 years ago to harness the energies and passion of Jewish young adults from Israel and around the world, who spend three months working and learning together in onsite service projects in vulnerable communities throughout the world and in Israel. Martine has also served as president of the UJA Federation's Women's Philanthropy; as a cabinet member of the Commission on Jewish Identity and Renewal, now the Jewish Life Department, on the Commission on the Jewish People and the Network Commissions of UJA Federation of New York; as board member of Westchester Jewish Community Services; and as co-chair of the UJA Federation's Rosenwald 90th Anniversary Mission to Israel. She is a past president of Hillels of Westchester; an active member of the National Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee (and a past board member of its Westchester Chapter); a past board of Trustee member of Solomon Schechter School of Westchester. Martine was a recipient of UJC's Jesselson Young Leadership Award and the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Lion of Judah Award. She and Stanley live in Harrison, New York and have three adult children, two of whom are married.

Norman Godfrey

Wexner Heritage Program-Toronto 1

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I was born and raised in Toronto. My parents started the first Jewish congregation in the new community of Don Mills in the 1950's. Jewish education and our relationship to Israel were important elements in our home. I spent my last year of high school studying in different parts of Canada and later developed a national education program for the federal government which I established in my last years of university. After several years of fascinating government related work both in Canada and abroad I entered the business world where I have spent my career in homebuilding/real estate serving in 1987 as President of the Canadian Home Builders Association. My Jewish community engagement began in earnest in 1992. For many years I served in leadership roles for the Toronto UJA Campaign, served as Vice Chair of the Canada Israel Committee, and served on the executive of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. Married to the love of my life for the past 41 years, 2 wonderful children and their spouses, 5 fabulous grandchildren. Having 5 grandchildren my focus has returned to ensuring Jewish continuity through education. My office serves as the Canadian office for an Israeli organization for brain damaged children and young adults called ALEH. My support of ALEH and my own personal connections take me to Israel 4 to 5 times a year. I'm a thankful, happy and lucky person.

Rachel Immerman Glickman

Wexner Heritage Program-Cleveland 22

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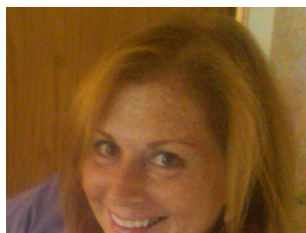


Rachel is a proud Jewish Clevelander and is excited to be raising her family in Cleveland! Rachel is a graduate of two of the local Day Schools, Mandel JDS and The Fuchs Mizrahi School. As a child Rachel was constantly exposed to community affairs and was intrigued by the intricacies of community from a young age! As a young adult Rachel attended the University of Maryland and Stern College, graduating from Stern with a degree in Jewish Education. Rachel went on to pursue her Masters in Jewish Education from Azrieli, ultimately completing the degree from Jerusalem where she lived with her husband Raffi and daughters Shira and Molly for three years. Rachel enjoyed living the 'mom life' in Israel and in the final year of their stay studied at Matan in the Eshkolot program. Always determined to 'come home' the Glickmans moved back to Cleveland in 2017 and were delighted to return to the comfort of the community. Rachel loves being part of the larger Cleveland Jewish Community and especially enjoys bridging her communal work and professional work as a teacher at Fuchs Mizrahi School. The opportunity to represent the communities that shaped Rachel as a child is a real honor and privilege.

Lynn Jacobs

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Seth Kaplan

Wexner Heritage Program-Dallas 13

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Seth is a general pediatrician in Frisco, TX. He has done extensive work in advocacy and is a past president of the Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He presently services on two national AAP committees - the Committee on Practice and Ambulatory Medicine and the Periodicity Schedule workgroup of the Bright Futures initiative. Seth received the 2022 TPS Sidney Kalisky Award of Merit for his pediatric leadership. He has worked on antisemitism in medicine with the American Jewish Medical Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of CHAI - which provides services to adults with intellectual disabilities from a Jewish lens. He has served on the board of Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, the Anne and Nate Levine Academy, AJC Dallas, and the Dallas chapter of State of Israel Bonds. Seth has also been involved in Americans for Ben Gurion University. He is an alumni of National Young Leadership Cabinet and Dallas 2013 Wexner. Seth lives in Dallas with his wife and rescue doggy. They have two children - Daniel, a senior at Cornell and Jacob, a sophomore at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Seth is a recent lymphoma survivor.

Todd Kobernick

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Anna Lushtak

Wexner Heritage Program-San Francisco 11

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Julie Lyss

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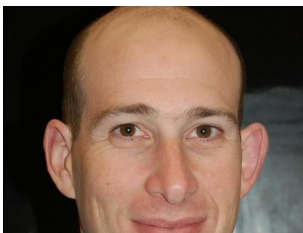


Julie Lyss has been living in Seattle for two decades, during which time she's devoted herself to being a mom and to serving as a volunteer in her former professions of fund development and recruitment. Professionally, she is a consultant with Evolve Giving Group. Julie is President of the Board of her youngest child's independent school, runs a monthly sandwich making program through her temple to support women in the community, and was formerly on the Board & Executive Committee of the Seattle Jewish Community School where she co-chaired their Capital Campaign. Julie's 3 children are in high school, college and post-college/almost grad school. Eons ago Julie was an active participant and leader in MoVFTY which set her on a Jewish leadership path. She was a fundraiser at The Hillels of Illinois/University Programs Dept of UJA and Stanford Hillel and was later VP of YLD at SF's Jewish Community Foundation. Based on these experiences, Julie appreciates having time to learn (and re-learn) many Jewish fundamentals along with her amazing Seattle 12 cohort - an privileged experience which made Julie feel like she truly belonged in Seattle for the first time after having lived in the Emerald City for a decade.

Gideon Pollack

Wexner Heritage Program-Montreal 09

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Gideon Pollack is a Montreal-based entrepreneur in the real estate and investment industry. He was until 2015 Vice President of Business Development for Claridge Inc., the Stephen R. Bronfman family office where he had worked for thirteen years. Prior to that Gideon was a software industry entrepreneur and began his career as an equity analyst at Lehman Brothers in New York City. Gideon is on the board of Akiva School in Montreal and active in ORT Canada and other Jewish community organizations.

Jan Reicher

Wexner Heritage Program-San Francisco 03

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David Rudis

Wexner Heritage Program-Chicago III-99

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David has been active in a variety of Jewish organizations in Chicago and nationally. In Chicago he is a past president of the Bureau of Jewish Employment Problems and has been on the board and in leadership roles with the Jewish Family Community Service and the Chicago Jewish Federation. From time to time he has been placed on special assignment for the CEO of the Chicago Federation. He is past president of the Standard Club of Chicago. He is past president and chairman of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (The JTA, now named 70 Faces Media) . David retired from over thirty years as an executive in commercial and retail banking. He remains active on several corporate boards. In March he retired as Chariman of the Columbia Acorn Wanger mutual funds. He also runs his own financial consulting, and C-Suite coaching firm. David has also been in leadership roles with non-profits in the broader community. He is past chairman of the board of Chicago Public Radio (WBEZ), past board member of the Lyric Opera and the United Way. He is married to Pauline and has three children, Jessica, Brett and Olivia.

Arthur Shwab

Wexner Heritage Program-Seattle 19

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Arthur is an alum of Wexner Heritage Seattle class of 2019. He was born in the Soviet Union and immigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1992. His identity is deeply informed by his immigrant experience and largely defined on the Jewish-Russian-American axes. Arthur serves on the board of Seattle Jewish Family Service (JFS), the agency that resettled Arthur and his family. In 2025, Arthur launched Diaspora Dialogues, conversations among Jewish people wrestling with complexity (listen on Spotify, Apple, web). Arthur lives in Seattle with his wife Noa T. Brazg and their daughters Nava and Lev. Together, they love to deepen their roots in the local Jewish communities and the city of Seattle more broadly. Arthur earned his JD at Seattle University School of Law and practiced commercial bankruptcy & restructuring law. In 2016, Arthur transitioned from law to product. His tech career has included a funded startup, Stripe via an acquisition, and helping launch a climate tech venture fund. Today, Arthur leads a talented team of engineers and designers at Bilberry, an agency building custom digital solutions for enterprise, funded startups, and governmental clients.

Ric Wanetik

Wexner Heritage Program-Columbus 93

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I am a theater maven. And have been since I was 7 years old. At the heart of everything I have done as a student, professional, or volunteer has, in some way, been informed by my passion and participation in theater. I have--and continue to have--played many roles: a Tony-nominated lead producer and a long-time advisor to the Royal Shakespeare Company; managing director of a regional theater; arts council director; teen theater director and theater arts volunteer with various congregations; teacher and coach; writer and director--and yes, actor. My early career in retail as senior vice presidents for sales promotion, marketing and identity for what were then really great department stores was imbued with the belief that a department store was a theater and the customer an audience wanting to be entertained. There was a long period of producing big charity events and staging large benefit shows with a long list of artists, celebrities and elected officials that still occasionally continues. I have produced for PBS and cable television and was the Supervising Producer of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show on CBS from 2003 to 2008. As a volunteer, I have been a board member and officer of three temples, a Jewish federation and national and community foundation program and grant advisor; President of Ohio State's Hillel; the first President of the Wexner Center for the Arts; founding President of the AIDS Foundation; organizing member of the National Business Leadership on AIDS chaired by Elizabeth Dole; hospice volunteer; and food bank worker. I've taught Sunday School, written curriculum in not for profit governance and theater management and facilitated workshops and panel discussions ranging from Jewish Federation to the YWCA to national higher education panels and theater workshops. Over time, I have had the honor of working with and advising great theater artists and directors, both here and in Great Britain and participated in the first cultural mission to South Africa four months after the end of apartheid. I've taught at the Edinburgh Festival and advised theater companies from Rhode island to Scotland. Together for 48 years and married under the laws of the State of New York in 2012, David Hagans and I raised three terrific sons and delight in loving two amazing daughter-in-laws and three wonderful grandchildren. We have lived in many cities including Rochester, Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles and Columbus, our adopted hometown. For the last 15 years we have made New York City our home.

Beth Wayne

Wexner Heritage Program-Palm Beach 22

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Beth Wayne lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. She and her husband, Hawkeye, have a 14 year old daughter, and 12 year old son. She has a background in Sales and holds an active real estate license. Currently she owns an IT and staffing company, but focuses on spending time with her children. She attended Florida State University, where she earned her Bachelors Degree in Business Marketing with a minor in Communications. Beth enjoys being active in the Jewish community. She is very involved with the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. She sits on their Board of Directors and the Women's Philanthropy Board. She is also on the Israel & Overseas Committee, the Budapest Committee and sits on the steering committee for the for the JCC Budapest and is a trustee for Jewish Women's Foundation. She is the co-chair of JFNA's National Young Leader Cabinet and on the Jewish Federation of North America's Board of trustees. She enjoys spending her time traveling and being with friends and family.

Benjamin Weinstein

Wexner Heritage Program-Dallas 13

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I worked as a portfolio manager at a multi billion dollar hedge fund out of college for 10 years managing \$200-300 million. Then I worked at a family office helping to invest money as a venture capitalist and in the public and private markets generally. Then I started a health care company, worked as the CEO and was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of Year for the Southwest Region. Now I'm working with a few small companies and with the Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Group. I'm on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and have been active in many pro-Israel causes.