

UNDER ONE ROOF
SUKKAH ART EXHIBIT

Unity

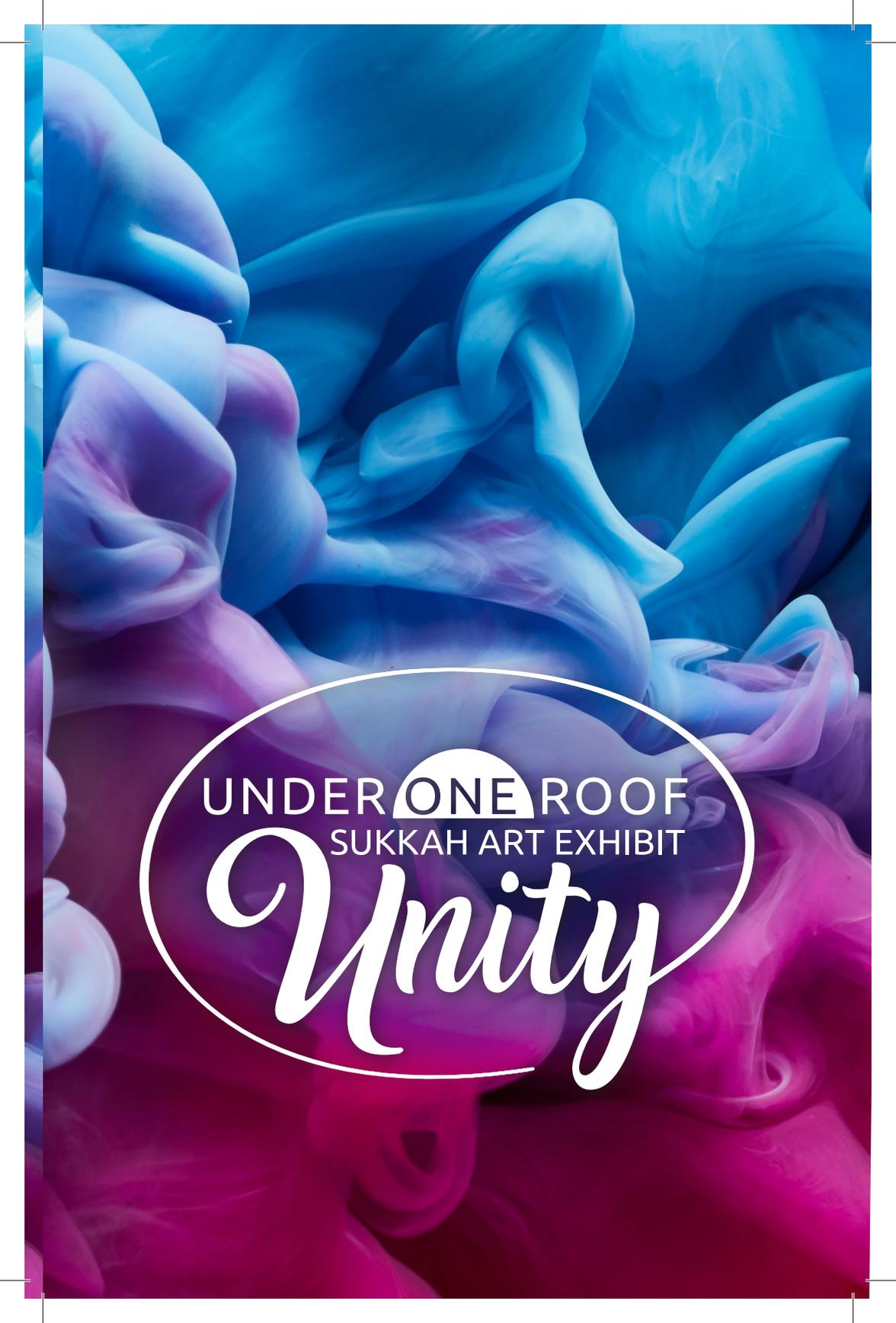
OCTOBER 2025



MAYERSON JCC
of Cincinnati



EXHIBIT



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INTRODUCTION

The Mayerson JCC welcomes the community to celebrate the Jewish festival of Sukkot* with the Under One Roof Sukkah Art Exhibit. The exhibit invites community into a shared sukkah* beautified with works of art created by organizations, agencies, community groups, and individuals from across the city. Thousands of people visit the sukkah exhibit, and all are engaged and inspired. This year, participants used their artwork to explore the theme, *Unity*.

The artworks in the 2025 Under One Roof exhibit explore the enchantment of harmony all around us. We have arrived at this theme from diverse points of inspiration:

In our world, comfort can be found in the broad togetherness of solidarity and unification.

In our annual Under One Roof Sukkah Art Exhibit, we have had many themes permeate our exhibit which always create thought-provoking conversations with compelling artworks from across the community year after year. When we look inside ourselves and bring those thoughts and feelings outward, that contemplation coming together from different perspectives creates an interlacing of ideas, thoughts, and truths for us as individuals and as a community. The artworks in the 2025 Under One Roof exhibit explore the togetherness that comes from unification.

The idea of unity can be interpreted in many ways within Jewish thought and culture. Every human is created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of the divine, as in Genesis we are taught that all humans are holy. In Leviticus 19:18, we learn that we must love our neighbor as we love ourselves, *v'ahavta l're'akha kamokha*. This furthers the need to treat every human being as holy, as we are all created in the image of G-d. This was a grounding principle in coming to this year's theme.

There are a myriad ways that unity can be applied to our lives and practices. Unity in humanity, caring for the stranger, unity in diversity, or the idea of Jewish unity...

As we take in the radiance of the stars in the night sky above our sukkah, the artworks in the 2025 Under One Roof exhibit will explore the concept of oneness.

What does unity mean to you? How can we aspire to make our world more unified?

Discovering meaning on our journey, we treasure the little moments of unity around us, wherever they may derive from.

** Sukkot is the Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of the Israelites wandering in the desert after Sinai. Sukkah is the Hebrew word for the temporary structures built to celebrate the holiday.*

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Thank you to our 2025 participants!

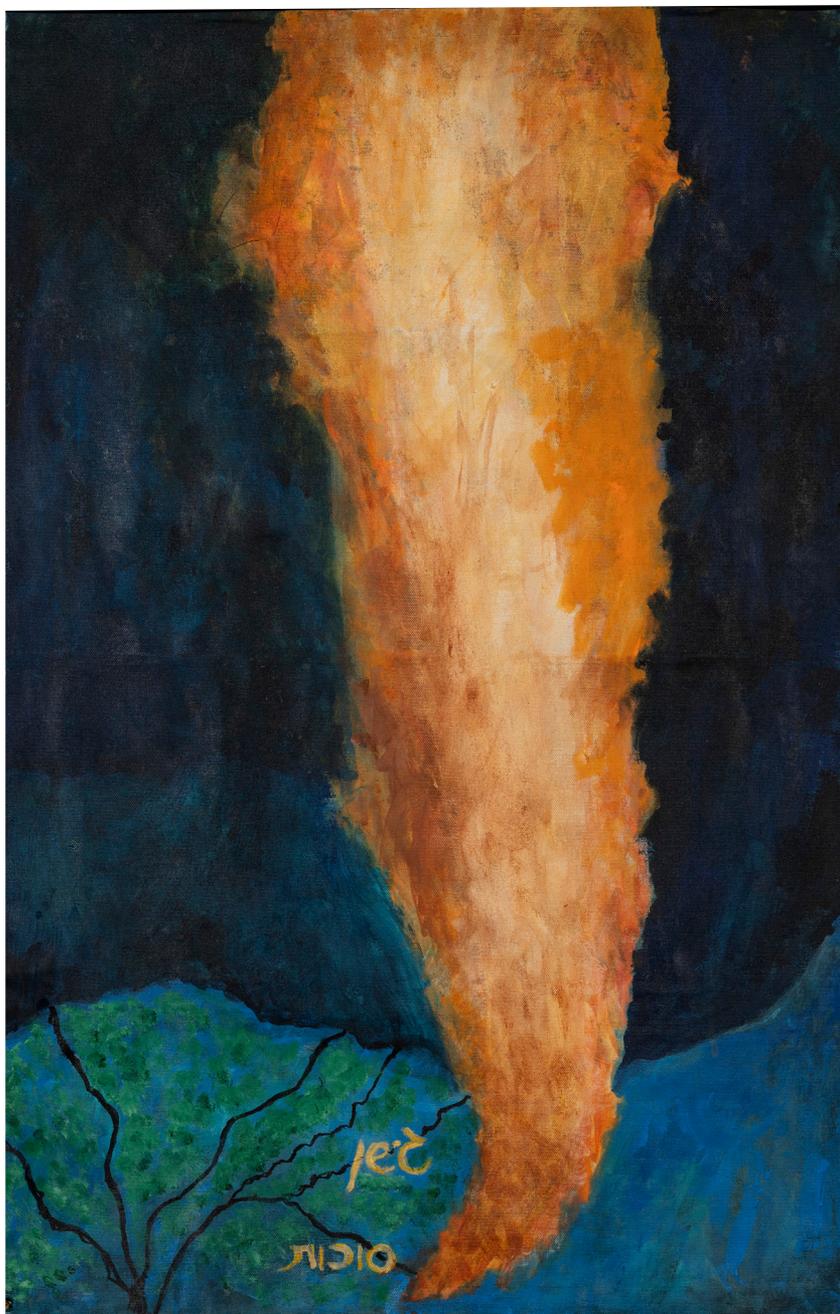


Adath Israel Jarson Education Center, Kitah Aleph

Our Kitah Aleph canvas represents unity through the image of a tree — a powerful symbol in Judaism of life, growth, and connection. Just as a tree is nourished by its roots and branches outward to sustain the world, our unity as a Jewish people is rooted in shared values and traditions while flourishing through our diversity.

The roots of our tree feature Hebrew words, beginning with the letter Aleph. We chose Aleph because we are Kitah Aleph (first grade), and because the Hebrew word for unity, achdut, begins with this very letter. Each student then decorated a branch to show what they believe unites the Jewish people. Their drawings — from challah and chanukiyot to Israeli flags — reflect the many ways we are bound together by ritual, heritage, and community.

The bright array of colors across our tree reminds us that, though we are each different, together we create something whole and beautiful.



Adrienne Varady

Not only is Sukkot the Hebrew name for a temporary dwelling, providing a shady respite for farmers, it is also the place name of one of the 42 locations visited by the Israelites in their egress from the land of Mitzrayim (Egypt).

“And the Children of Israel marched on from Ra’mses and encamped at Sukkot; they marched on from Sukkot and encamped at Eitam at the edge of the wilderness” (Numbers 33:5-6). Scholars identify Sukkot with Wadi Tumilat, a 31-mile-long dry river valley (wadi) to the east of the Nile Delta. In earlier times, it was an eastern distributary of the Nile River. The old name of the valley is Wadi as-Sadir, “the land of Goshen” in the Arabic translation of the Torah. In Exodus 13:20-22, Sukkot is mentioned together with the first appearance of divine manifestations guiding their way from Goshen: “They marched on from Sukkot and encamped in Etam at the edge of the wilderness. Now Hashem was going before them, by day as a column of cloud to lead them the way, by night as a column of fire to give light to them to go by day and by night. There would not retire the column of cloud by day or the column of fire by night from before the people” (Exodus 13:20-22). Here, the pillar of fire is depicted from above at night, the surrounding region seen from space. The darkness and uncertainty of night signify a period of peril, uncertainty, and vulnerability, mitigated only by divine concern and intervention. As a manifestation of Hashem’s theophany, the pillar of fire represents the guidance we seek while surrounded by maleficence and malevolence, known and unknown.

I am the former visual arts librarian of DAAP at the University of Cincinnati, an art historian, and a practicing artist in painting, drawing, and textile media. I contribute a painting for the JCC Sukkah program every year with ideas prompted by conversations with my son, Aharon Varady, on the meaning and depth of the festival of Sukkot and its rich wealth of symbolism.



Alexandra Avelino

Threads of Unity

This piece brings together the flags of Hawai'i, Israel, Russia, the United States, and the Philippines; cultures and histories that reflect the background of my daughter. Each flag carries its own story of land, people, and identity. Here, they are placed together on a single canvas, sharing the same space without borders or division.

At its heart, this work is about unity. Though these flags represent different languages, traditions, and experiences, they also remind us that connection is possible across differences. My daughter carries within her the richness of all these cultures, and in her, they are not divided but harmonized.

Painted by Alexandra (age 9) with help from her mama and auntie Natasha. This artwork shows that unity does not mean erasing differences, it means bringing them together, celebrating them, and finding strength in their coexistence. This piece is both personal and universal: a reminder that true unity begins in our families, our communities, and in the courage to hold many identities as one.



Amberley Village Human Rights Commission

The non-partisan Human Rights Commission was established by Amberley Village in 2018 to encourage and endeavor to bring about mutual understanding and respect among all persons, and to safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to be free from all forms of discrimination.

The Commission is honored to participate in the Under One Roof event with our sukkah panel, *"The Ties that Unite the Community"*. The panel illustrates the numerous ways in which community members can be bound together through shared values and priorities. We challenge everyone to consider how to strengthen and broaden our ties with relatives, neighbors, friends, and colleagues, thereby promoting more inviting and respectful living and working environments.



Anjella Martini

My work, *Divided United* (watercolor and acrylic), explores the theme of unity through the concept that in this very divided world we share, it's important to remember that we are human and have a commonality unlike anything else on the planet. My work depicts the world cracked and bloody with wars and division, but this chaos is inside a very tired-looking eye, which represents humanity. Through this artwork, I wanted to express that humanity is bigger than war, because even in this global division we are united.

Ayelet Jankowski

At just five years old, Ayelet Jankowski expresses a pure and heartfelt wish for a world where everyone is friends, where people care for one another, and where the Earth is treated with respect.

Her artwork is filled with joyful, colorful depictions of people smiling, helping, and sharing, a reflection of her deep belief that love and kindness can bring people together. Through simple yet powerful imagery, Ayelet reminds us of what truly matters: connection, compassion, and community. Her work invites us all to slow down and imagine a world where everyone is included, valued, and loved.

Ayelet attends Rockwern Academy and recently moved to Cincinnati with her parents, brother, and their family dog. Her everyday experiences of love, support, and care have shaped her understanding of how the world could be. Her art is both a reflection of her world and a hope for ours, a reminder that unity begins with small acts of kindness and that everyone, regardless of age, has something important to say about how we treat each other and the planet we share.



Bazya Ovrutsky, Holocaust Survivor

Organized by Jewish Family Service

Sukkot reminds us that the Jewish people are one nation, united under the symbol of the Magen David. Religion connects us through shared holidays, traditions, and faith in one G-d. Wherever we may live, we remain one family, supporting one another and preserving our unity.

The Magen David, shining at the center of the mosaic, symbolizes protection, strength, and the spiritual unity of the people of Israel. Beneath its star-shaped rays, Jews from different countries, cultures, and traditions come together. Just as the six points of the star join into one form, so too do Jews, despite their differences, unite into one community.

This mosaic expresses the idea that Sukkot is a time when we step outside the walls of our homes and draw closer to nature, closer to each other, and closer to G-d. Under the Magen David, we feel that all Jews are one family, united by faith, joy, and hope.



Center for Holocaust Survivors, Russian Jewish Cultural Center, Group #1

Art by: Lilly Narusevich, Lola Smolyansky, Lora Rubanovsky, Bella Chertkov, Lena Ash, Sveta Savchenko, Pasha Sukharev, Sveta Rudenko, Katya Kiiko, Aida Korunov, Galina Bampi, Elezabeth Gutkin, Irina Yablokov, Irina Klochkov, Elena Itenberg, Elena Zaslavsky

Organized by Jewish Family Service

These quilts, lovingly created by sixteen women, are a beautiful expression of the communal spirit that lies at the heart of Sukkot. Each square, painted with symbols of the holiday, such as pomegranates, figs, wine, menorahs, candles, and scenes of nature, represents both the individuality of the artist and the unity of the group. Just as the sukkah itself is a gathering place for family and friends, these quilts are stitched together from many hands and many hearts, symbolizing how the community comes together to honor tradition, celebrate the harvest, and share joy. The act of creating them collectively reflects the mitzvah of *hiddur mitzvah*, for all who enter.

The quilts also serve as a powerful reminder of the unity of the Jewish people. Though each square is unique in design and expression, together they form a harmonious whole, just as individuals in a community bring their distinct strengths to build something greater. The shared labor of sixteen women underscores the values of cooperation, generosity, and dedication, echoing the themes of Sukkot: hospitality, gratitude, and faith in God's shelter. Displayed in the sukkah, these quilts not only beautify the space but also embody the essence of the festival: joy in togetherness, strength in unity, and the enduring spirit of community.

The beauty of these quilts lies not only in the vibrant images but in the spirit behind them. They show how, when sixteen women joined their talents and hearts, something greater than the sum of its parts emerged. Sukkot is found in unity, joy, and the celebration of community.



Center for Holocaust Survivors, Russian Jewish Cultural Center, Group #2

Art by: Lilly Narusevich, Lola Smolyansky, Lora Rubanovsky, Bella Chertkov, Lena Ash, Sveta Savchenko, Pasha Sukharev, Sveta Rudenko, Katya Kiiko, Aida Korunov, Galina Bampi, Elezabeth Gutkin, Irina Yablokov, Irina Klochkov, Elena Itenberg, Elena Zaslavsky

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Caleb Rohrs (Age 6) & Mommy

Our artwork shows the world under a sukkah with praying hands and a dove. The praying hands represent prayer for peace and unity across the whole world. The dove is a symbol of peace and hope.

This panel was inspired by our family's faith and our wish for people everywhere to come together in unity. The sukkah above reminds us that we are all under one roof.

Caleb helped to paint the sky, the grass, the hands, and part of the sukkah structure. Mommy did most of the painting, but it was a team effort. We worked on it together over several days, and it was special to share this project as a family.

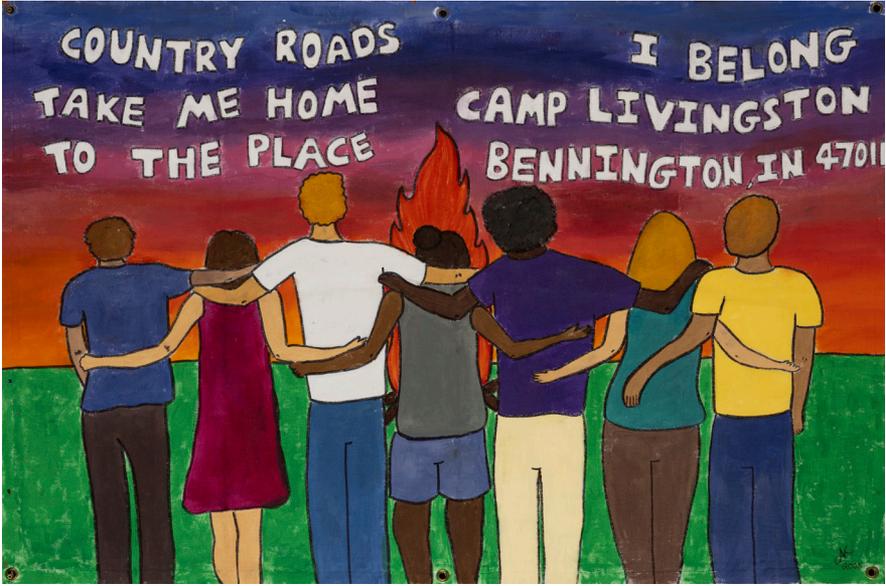
If we had to describe our panel in just a few words, we would say, "Praying for peace and unity."



Camp at the J

Camp at the J offers a fun, active, and safe summertime experience that provides opportunities for children and young adults in the Jewish and broader communities to build friendships, learn valuable skills, and enhance their self-esteem. Our welcoming and inclusive environment values the dignity and worth of each individual. We work to foster positive relationships and build greater understanding among campers of every background, culture, religion, gender identity, race, and ability.

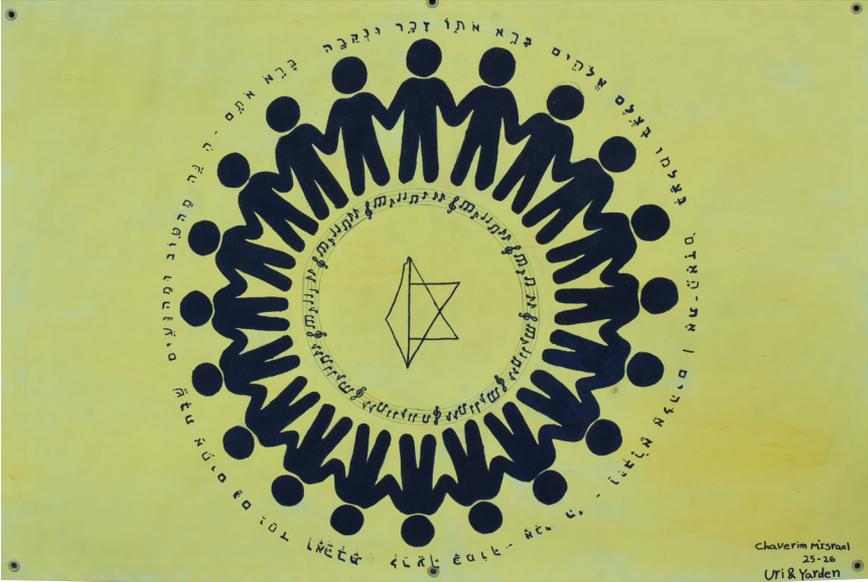
Camp at the J wanted to show the unity between each camper and camp as a whole so we asked some of our oldest kids to brainstorm how we can show unity. They asked different campers to trace their hands on different fabrics and glued them into a circle. To the campers, this circle represents how even if they are in different bunks, they are one camp family.



Camp Livingston

Camp Livingston, a Jewish residential youth camp, enriches the lives of its campers and staff by providing a fun, unique, community experience, while encouraging the development of Jewish identity within a safe and inclusive environment. Camp Livingston enables the formation of lifelong friendships and provides the opportunity to participate in exciting recreational and creative programming.

Camp Livingston's staff brainstormed together how unity could be represented for our organization. While we bring together people of different ages, backgrounds, and from different geographical areas, we all are united by a love for Camp itself and calling it home for the summer. Throughout the day, we have different schedules and take part in different activities at Camp. We feel most together as a community when we are surrounding our campfire each Saturday night, singing our final song each week, "Country Roads". This song, shown on our panel, uses the words "home" and "belong", which are two concepts that truly unite all of us for the present summer, past summers, and many future summers to come. Generations of campers and staff have felt connected to one another around campfires for decades and will continue to do so for many more. We feel grateful to have the opportunity to build and live out community each summer, truly embracing one another as a family.



Chaverim M'Israel

This design was created around the theme of unity — the value that connects people, communities and nations, enabling us to live together despite differences. At its core is a symbolic mandala layered with elements of connection. The outer circle of human figures shows togetherness: people holding hands in an endless chain, symbolizing equality and belonging. Surrounding them are Bible verses stressing shared humanity, equality and communal life. Placing the verses as a protective ring reflects the theme “Under One Roof,” like the sukkah gathering all inside under one shelter.

“Love your neighbor as yourself” —

“וְאָהַבְתָּ לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ”

A moral call to compassion, care and responsibility. Unity requires action through love and empathy.

“In the image of G-d He created him” —

“בְּצֶלֶם אֱ-לֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ”

A reminder all people are equal, created in the same divine image regardless of background or identity.

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity” —

“הֲנִיחַ מַה-טוֹב וְנִמְרָה-נְעִים שְׂכַרְתָּ אַחִים גַּם-יַחְדָּ”

A poetic celebration of the joy, beauty and strength from living in harmony.

Another ring shows musical notes — a universal language beyond words. Music connects across cultures, backgrounds and languages, proving art can unite even strangers through shared feeling.

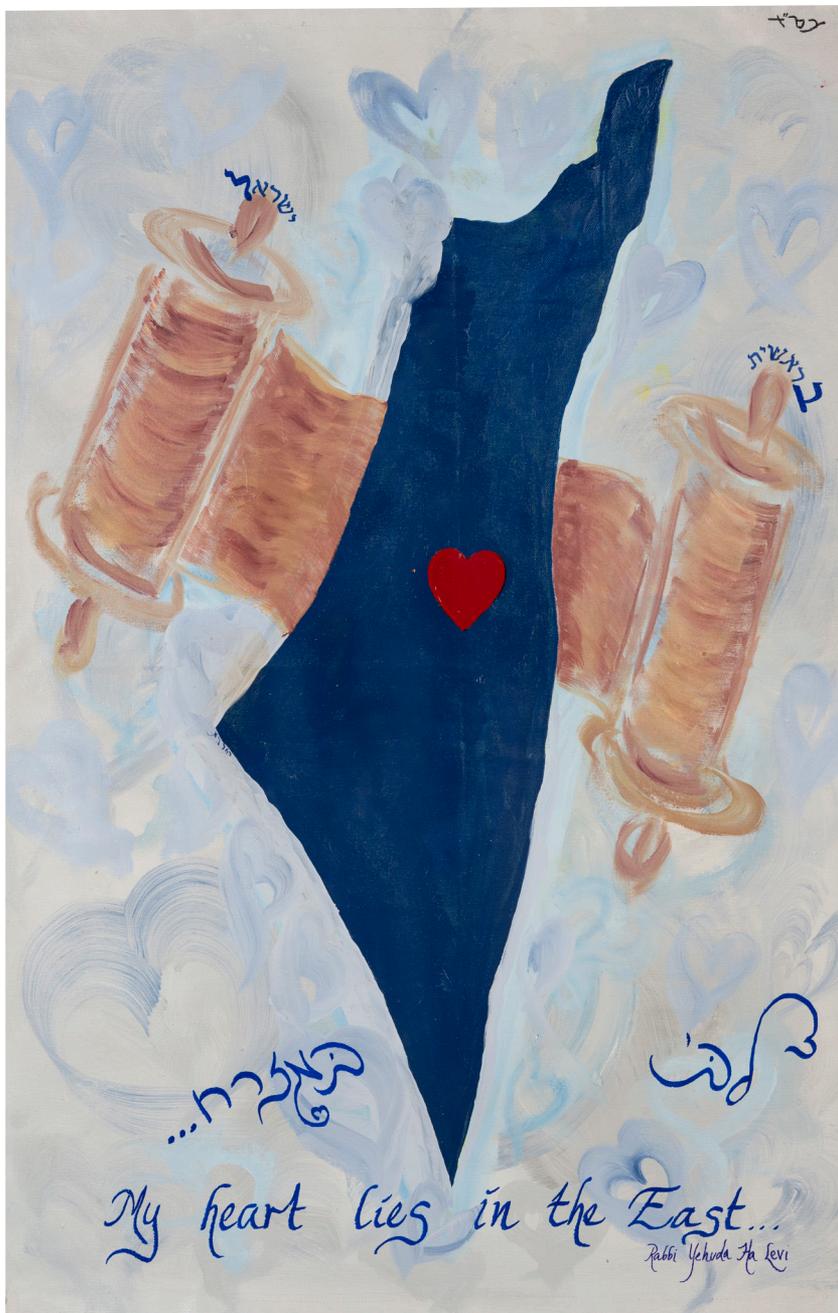
At the center, the outline of Israel with the Star of David shows the bond between Israel and the Jewish diaspora. This symbolizes communal and personal connection, affirming unity of the Jewish people across distances and generations.

We are two chaverim volunteering in Cincinnati this year. When we began brainstorming for this panel, we wanted to reflect both the spirit of Sukkot and the theme of unity, “Under One Roof.” Our process started with conversations about what truly connects people — love, equality, music, and shared tradition. From there, we sketched different ideas until the mandala design emerged as a way to bring all of these elements together.

The panel was created by the two of us working side by side over several days, from initial sketches to final details. We drew inspiration from both our Israeli roots and the diverse Jewish community here, which gave us a deeper understanding of unity across distance and culture.

If we had to describe the central idea of the panel in just a few words, it would be: “Connection, Belonging, and Shared Humanity.”

For us, this project was not only about creating artwork but also about building a bridge between Israel and the Jewish community of Cincinnati, showing how art can embody the values of togetherness, diversity, and celebration of each person under one roof.



Cincinnati Community Mikveh

The Torah begins with the letter Bais in *Braishis* and ends with the letter Lamed in Yisroel. As soon as we finish the last portion of the Torah on Simchas Torah, we immediately begin all over again, thus bringing the Lamed and the Bais together, forming the word *Laiv - Heart*.

The great Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi wrote in one of his most famous poems, *Libi BaMizrach* ("My heart lies in the East"), while he lived in Spain.

We are forever united by our love of one Hashem, one Torah, one Family, and one Home!



Clara Rohrs (Age 9)

My artwork shows a dog and a cat sitting together under a sukkah with a heart between them. The dog was inspired by my favorite stuffy named Sandy. I did not paint him to look exactly like Sandy, but Sandy gave me the idea. The cat is based on my favorite kind of cat, a Turkish Van, which is white with orange ears and an orange tail.

I chose these two animals because they are both very special to me, and also because cats and dogs do not usually get along. In my picture, they are friends. That is what unity means to me: finding peace and love even when we are different.

It took me a few days to finish my panel. My mom helped me with ideas, and my grandma and Avaya also helped me while my mom was working with my brother Caleb on his painting. Avaya is a friend who helps take care of my grandma since she had strokes and cannot get around very well. My favorite part was painting Sandy and the cat together and adding the heart to show love.

If I had to describe my panel in just a few words, I would say, "Love makes unity possible."



Congregation Zichron Eliezer

“They are like one man of one heart.”

The Midrash describing the Nation of Israel camping at Har Sinai.

United as a family, we left Mitzrayim/Egypt.

United as a nation, we stood at Har Sinai.

UNITED, we will greet Moshiach!



Congregation Etz Chaim

Passionate and participatory, our supportive Jewish community engages each individual in a life-long Jewish journey. We embrace diverse experiences that span both traditional and contemporary ideas while learning and pursuing spiritual growth.

We knew that with a topic of unity, we wanted as many congregants as possible to partake in the making of this panel. We created it as part of our Annual Summer Picnic, and the multiple colors, shapes, and styles speak to who CEC is as a synagogue. We pride ourselves on being connected while celebrating what makes each one of us special.

The panel is made up of concentric circles called a mandala. A mandala is a geometric figure representing the universe, completeness and unity. Each layer has its own intricacies and motif and while life can lead us on unexpected journeys, we remain connected, centered and guided by our Jewish faith.



Cultural Centre of India

Art by: Padma Chebrolu

HaAchdut, Prihat HaShalom - Light of Unity, Blooming of Peace

This artwork blends India's traditional mandala design and Tanjavur heritage painting techniques, both known for their intricate motifs, vibrant colors, gold detailing, and embellishments of precious stones. Mandala art, which dates back more than 2,000 years, features geometric patterns that symbolize unity, balance, and cosmic harmony. The Tanjavur painting art form, which originated in the 17th century, is known for its rich colors, use of gold foil, and gemstones.

At the heart of the panel is a diya (oil lamp), symbolizing light and knowledge. It represents how light reaches all people, especially during the Sukkah harvest festival, bringing warmth, joy, and spiritual reflection. Below the diya, a radiant lotus flower symbolizes peace and inner harmony—a universal message shared across many cultures and faiths. The tree branches and butterflies surrounding the central symbols convey wishes for a bountiful harvest, transformation, and abundance for all beings. These natural elements celebrate growth and the cycle of life, which the Sukkot holiday honors so beautifully.

The Hebrew word *Achdut* means unity, which is the central theme of this artwork. The phrase Under One Roof inspired me to reflect on the idea of people from all walks of life coming together in gratitude and harmony. This artwork expresses how unity, nature, peace, and shared tradition can coexist in vibrant celebration.

The Cultural Centre of India (CCI) is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing the rich heritage of Indian classical dance, music, visual arts, and cultural wisdom with communities in Ohio and beyond. Founded over 30 years ago in Cincinnati, CCI serves as a vibrant hub where tradition meets innovation, offering educational programs, interactive performances, and immersive cultural experiences for all ages and abilities.

Our mission is to foster cross-cultural understanding and unity through the transformative power of the arts. We strive to make Indian heritage accessible and engaging by blending artistic excellence with inclusive, hands-on learning. Through school residencies, community outreach, healing arts for seniors and individuals with disabilities, and award-winning film and stage productions, CCI nurtures respect for heritage arts, environmental consciousness, and well-being.

Founded and led by artistic director Padma Chebrolu, CCI cultivates the next generation of cultural leaders and artists, while building bridges across generations and backgrounds for mindfulness. Whether through a traditional dance recital, a children's storybook, or a multicultural festival, CCI invites all to experience the beauty, depth, and timeless relevance of Indian culture. CulturalCentreofIndia.com



Elana Kuperstein Rosen

To illustrate how some individuals or groups have stepped up to create laws, and protect our people, or express solidarity, and have enhanced culture and enhance religious belief, or be upstanders for our people. Or simply expressed themselves during tragic times.

After October 7, skydiver Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld assembled 51 people, five of whom were Jewish, with a project to create a Jewish star by linking hands in sixty seconds in the sky. Their group was called Skydivers Against Hate. Their mission was to show solidarity with Israel, and to unite people against antisemitism. His mission was to create Jewish pride in challenging times.

I have included eight individuals who have united the Jewish people in various ways.

In no particular order:

We have Golda Meir, the original Iron Lady who led Israel during the 1973 war.

Queen Esther, who fought for her people's survival.

Moses, who led the people to freedom and accepted the laws at Mount Sinai.

Herzl, who is the symbol of the movement for Jews to return to their homeland.

The Baal Shem Tov who taught Jews to live their Judaism with joy and love their fellow Jews, and that faith can reside in humble people who were not scholars.

Eliezer Ben-Yehuda who revived the Hebrew language and wrote a dictionary of modern Hebrew words.

Anne Frank who became the voice of people who were silenced in the Holocaust.

King Solomon who built our temple and was a wise king.

I had to brainstorm for ideas. I wanted something positive to convey about Jewish unity. I found out it could be achieved even for a few seconds in the sky. There is a photograph for posterity of those daring individuals who organized this dramatic event and executed it with precision for 60 seconds. I was searching for ideas on the internet. I came across this event of the skydiving for Israel, and I was awed by these individuals who formed a Jewish star in the sky against hate. They showed solidarity with Israel, and their performance was perfect.

I wanted to make this interactive where you would lift the cloud and think about individuals who united fellow Jews in some way or took leadership roles, or whose words have shaped our people.

Feel free to lift the "clouds" I've glued on my art piece and reflect on those individuals I depicted who have united us in different ways.

I wish I could have included many more people, including non-Jewish people who have enhanced our history. I would have included Orde Wingate who, as a Christian Zionist trained the Israeli army in the early days of Israel's existence, or biblical Ruth who teaches us about loyalty and that she joined our people, as many outsiders do, while contributing much to our people.

I wanted some glitz on my work, so I used little adornments to make it sparkle. In conclusion, once I had my ideas sorted out, it was smooth sailing from then on.

COMMUNITY • LEARNING
ENGAGEMENT
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STUDENT CENTRIC

M

• VIBRANT
SPIRITUAL
CONNECTED
OLAM
SHALOM
• GROWTH

Hillel at Miami University

Hillel at Miami University, the center of Jewish life on campus, seeks to engage, connect, and empower students to explore their Jewish identity, creating a vibrant Jewish community and inspiring the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Our panel was created by the students of Hillel at Miami University. We incorporated our new decal, a word cloud made up of the words students use to describe Hillel. Combined with the Miami University “M” logo, it shows how we are united as one campus community.

The creative process began with staff and student leaders discussing what message we wanted to highlight. We knew we wanted to lift up student voices while also reflecting the collective spirit that defines Hillel. The project came together over the summer with contributions from students in every grad year, and each step was a chance to connect and collaborate.

If we had to describe the central idea in just a few words, it would be “unity in community.” Creating this panel was not only an artistic project but also a meaningful way to celebrate the shared values and connections that make our Hillel so special.



Holocaust Survivors from Cedar Village **Art by: Maria Fishbein, Israel Fishbein, Mina Zavelin**

Organized by Jewish Family Service

The painting depicts a bright and joyful composition symbolizing unity for the holiday of Sukkot:

The smiling sun at the top of the painting stretches its rays toward people and houses, reminding us of warmth, light, and the divine presence that unites everyone under one sky.

Figures of people in different colors, joined hand in hand, represent the diversity of the Jewish people and the unity of the community — regardless of differences, everyone is connected.

Modern houses we live in still do not let us forget about the sukkah — a temporary dwelling where guests are welcomed, bringing together families, friends, and strangers.

Trees with butterflies and green foliage create an atmosphere of nature and recall the mitzvah to celebrate Sukkot outdoors.

The overall composition conveys the idea that all people, like the different figures and houses, are linked together by the rays of the sun — a symbol of joy, warmth, and spiritual light that unites the community during the holiday.

This painting emphasizes that Sukkot is not only a harvest festival but also a time when people of different personalities, cultures, and ages come together in an atmosphere of hospitality, joy, and peace.



The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

The American Jewish Archives (AJA) is the largest free-standing repository dedicated to the preservation and study of the American Jewish experience. Since its founding in 1947, the fundamentals that have secured the AJA's longevity remain: to collect and preserve the history of American Jews and make accessible the rich details of the American Jewish experience in a way that is accurate, innovative, and informative.

We were inspired by one of the stained-glass windows in the Scheuer Chapel of HUC Cincinnati. Known as the Alumni Service window, it was dedicated 12-14 January, 1948. It depicts the Jewish Chaplaincy insignia superimposed upon the American Flag. The inscription for the stained-glass window reads: "In honor of our colleagues, students and alumni of the Hebrew Union College who served their country in two World Wars, 1917-1918, and 1941-1945. Lest We Forget."

The insignia for Jewish chaplains was adopted by the U.S. Army in 1918 and has the Ten Commandments surmounted by a Star of David. This insignia was worn on the lapel of uniforms to denote the chaplain's faith and service. The tablets originally had Roman numerals, however, in 1981 they were changed to Hebrew numerals.



Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati

JCGC serves the burial needs of the Greater Cincinnati Jewish community with care and dignity and honors the resting places of our people.

On July 1, 2024, Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati (JCGC) learned that two of our cemeteries had been vandalized; the vandals had knocked over 176 headstones. News of the incident quickly spread, as Executive Director Sue Susskind was interviewed by many news outlets, reaching viewers around the world.

The response to the vandalism was overwhelming—donations and notes of support poured into the JCGC office. The people who responded were of all faiths or of no affiliation at all. Some had family buried in our cemeteries, but most did not. Many of the donations came from the Cincinnati area, but dozens came from cities and towns across the country and around the world. Yet everyone who responded was united in their desire to right this wrong, to speak in support of those who could not speak for themselves, and to return our cemeteries to a place of sacred peace.

Each yellow dot on this piece represents a city or town from which at least one person sent a donation to JCGC. The black lines represent those donations leading back to Cincinnati. The text includes just a few of the many notes of support we received with the donations.



JVS Careers

Art by: Cassandra Turner

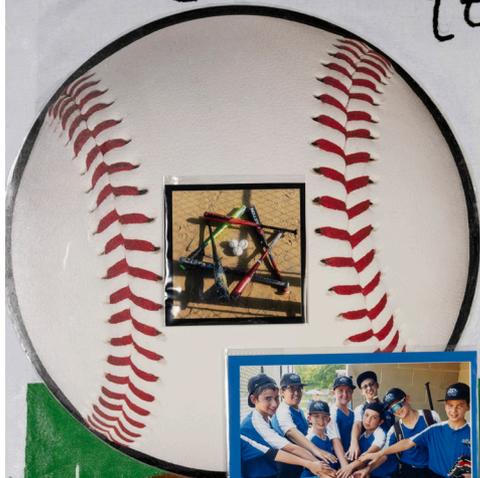
We empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to obtain employment and build careers; and partner with employers to hire, develop, and retain top talent, all to strengthen the communities we work in.

Unity is more than an abstract notion. Unity is a necessary thread that binds individuals, communities, and the world into a cohesive whole. By definition, unity is oneness. Harmony without deviation in purpose. Unity is the alliance of diverse parts into a singular, powerful entity.

This piece reflects JVS Careers' mission to strengthen a united community by fostering career advancement and connection. This alignment builds a workforce that is not only skilled, but also interconnected and resilient. However, beyond the walls of JVS Careers, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally, unity is the necessary driving force for a more harmonious world. The red tones of the heart and connected, overlapping hands symbolize both compassion and the shared humanity at the core of our work as professionals and as humans. It reminds us that unity is not passive. Unity is an active choice to connect, support, and grow together.

Mediums: Heavy body acrylic, acrylic paint markers, and acrylic spray paint

Unity is the bond among teammates.



Unity encourages teamwork.

Karla Bailey, JCC Youth Sports Coach

It is a sense of unity that bound our JCC Blue Jays baseball teammates together. Our teams included players from seven different schools. The players' bonds of unity formed over the course of the season as they grew to respect and support each other. Long car rides to games, extra innings, and shared victories formed bonds and friendships that will last for years to come.

As a baseball coach, it's my goal to convince young players to step out of their comfort zone and try a new position or skill on the field. The unity of a coach with their players is what encourages the success of a team. The coach shares their passion and knowledge of the sport, which then encourages the team to become a unified, skilled, enthusiastic, and successful force.



Lizzie Kibler Wallace

Broken, but Not Lost

The world feels broken right now. Shattered. The division between beliefs, political or otherwise, has been prevalent in recent years. Since COVID, we have felt even more divided and disconnected from each other.

That's why unity is such an important value to strive for in these times. If we don't work together, we will continue to live with fractured lives and risk fully falling apart.

My piece reflects the cracks we see around us every day, while Earth itself remains whole. There is still hope. We are not beyond repair.

In order to be a part of the village, we must choose to be villagers.

New day

Will rise

Israel



שבת שלום

The Star of David will be the guiding light!
Israel will never be defeated!
His people can never be overcome.
Let everyone on earth know: it will stand
firm and live
in happiness!

Как никогда, хочу сказать,
сегодня:
«Shabbat shalom - великая
страна!»



Звезда Давида - будет
путеводной!
Благословенна Господом ОНА.
Израиль - никогда не проиграет!
Его народ, во век не победить.
Пусть каждый на земле узнает.
Он **выстоит** и будет в счастье
жить!

Lola Smolyansky

Organized by Jewish Family Service

This vibrant artwork portrays a stylized, colorful cityscape inspired by Jerusalem's ancient walls and rooftops, with bright oranges, blues, greens, and purples forming a lively mosaic. Flags wave above, evoking celebration, resilience, and the enduring spirit of Israel. At the top, the handwritten "New day will rise Israel" conveys hope and renewal—a promise that after challenges, dawn brings light, unity, and strength. The Hebrew phrase **שבת שלום** (Shabbat Shalom) at the bottom links the scene to the weekly rhythm of peace and rest.

In the context of Sukkot, the image deepens in meaning. Sukkot recalls the fragility and resilience of the Jewish journey, dwelling in temporary shelters under G-d's protection. The glowing city becomes a symbolic sukkah—beautiful yet humble, open and welcoming. Flags and open gates reflect inclusiveness, reminding us that unity is both a spiritual value and a national necessity.

The phrase "New day will rise Israel" embodies the perseverance that shapes the nation's future, echoing Yuval Raphael's song that became a symbol of resilience after the 2023 Nova Festival tragedy. As the city's colors blend harmoniously, so too do Israel's diverse people, strongest when united. This is more than a depiction of place—it is a vision: from the shared traditions of Shabbat and the joy of Sukkot will rise a united people, ready to embrace peace, resilience, and shared purpose.



Majestic Care of Cedar Village

After a long tradition of creating Under One Roof panels, residents began the process by discussing materials they have enjoyed using. Colorful batik fabrics were introduced for several projects in art groups this year and have led to pop-art-style collages in many residents' artwork. When the theme for this exhibit was shared, participants reflected on the word "unity" and how it is part of the word "community." They chose to make a patchwork design from scraps of fabric they had used in other artworks this year, creating a vibrant design of a lulav and etrog, symbols of Sukkot. The panel was a way of tying this project in with others the artists of Cedar Village have created in the past, expressing unity.



Mayerson JCC Blue Jays

Art by: Mike Creemer, Director of Sports & Recreation

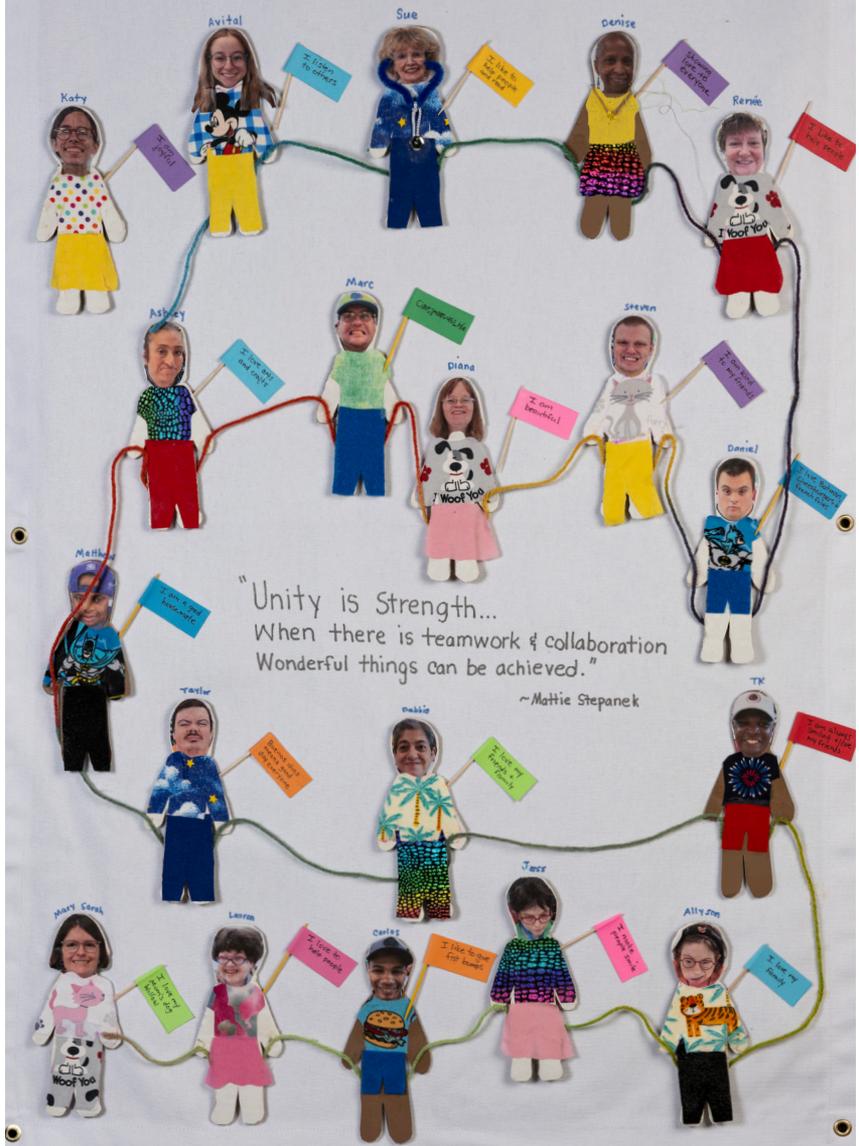
The mission of our JCC Blue Jays youth sports programs is the extension of our JCC agency mission of connecting people. As a competitive youth sports program, our connections are not only internal within our community, but external as well. We participate in a basketball league with hundreds of teams, and only our JCC teams and Rockwern teams are Jewish. We participate in a baseball league also with hundreds of teams, and our JCC teams are the only Jewish teams. Therefore, as we compete and connect, we know that we represent not only our teams, but our JCC agency, and our larger community as well.

I'm Coach Mike Creemer and have served as the Director of Sports and Recreation for our Mayerson JCC since 2001.

My initial thoughts of this year's theme Unity was that it was going to be easy to start the creative process. Well, it wasn't! I found myself searching and wondering what I should draw and paint. I was stumped! Then I said to myself what do the players all have in common? First of all, they are ALL Blue Jays. So that "unites" them. But what actually "unifies" them? Then it hit me...they all hear the same message from our coaches and me! Respect, responsibility, play hard, enjoy the game, keep your composure! I think if you asked any Blue Jay player, they could answer what being a JCC Blue Jay means!!!

Unity is the state of being united or joined as a whole. We have 170+ boys and girls participating in JCC youth sports in soccer, basketball, and baseball each year from age 3-18. Once a Blue Jay...Always a Blue Jay.

FRIENDS + FITNESS



"Unity is Strength...
 When there is teamwork & collaboration
 Wonderful things can be achieved."
 ~Mattie Stepanek

Mayerson JCC Fitness and Friends

At Fitness and Friends, we unite every week to exercise, have fun, and get creative! Our panel highlights our individual styles and strengths. We are all stronger when we work together to help our community. Our strength is unity!



Michael Feldman Purcell

It is very much an honor to be included in the Under One Roof Sukkah Art Exhibit.

My thanks to everyone who has made this possible. We are indeed privileged to have such dedicated individuals and organizations in the City of Cincinnati.

I found the subject of "Unity" during the current problems somewhat difficult, but my Torah studies have convinced me that we must concentrate on the positive and very much hope that Hashem will soon bring us better times.

Sukkot is indeed a joyful holiday. I look forward to this season of joy (*Z'man Simchateinu*) with a renewed sense of the importance of my Jewish heritage.



Mikey Frank

Unity is a complex concept.

This visual representation is elemental.

My Edward thinks it's beautiful, that's enough.

I hope you feel it too.

Miri Sigel

This artwork explores the idea that every person is made up of so many different parts: our family, beliefs, experiences, struggles, dreams, and more. Each part has value, and together they form the unique whole of who we are. This piece reflects the journey of becoming united with ourselves, recognizing and embracing every aspect of our identity. Only when we are at peace within and accept who we are can we connect and unite with the people around us.



PJ Library of Cincinnati

PJ Library sends free high-quality Jewish children's books to families every month. These stories spark conversations that inspire the whole family to explore and celebrate what they love about Jewish life.

The program was created by the nonprofit Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) in keeping with its mission to help people connect to Jewish values, traditions, and culture while building vibrant Jewish communities. The HGF partners with local Jewish organizations to fund PJ Library and make it available in their community.

PJ Library programs are now offered in 40 countries. That's over seven million children's books a year being enjoyed by families around the globe. But PJ Library doesn't just send books — it helps families to connect to, experience, and strengthen Jewish community.

Our 2025 Under One Roof project brings together the voices and visions of Jewish children in Cincinnati through the image of a puzzle — a reminder that each of us is a unique piece that helps complete the bigger picture of our community.

At various PJ Library events, children were invited to reflect on the theme of unity by answering simple but profound questions: When do you feel most connected to others? What do you love to do together with friends and family? What does unity mean to you? Each child's answer took shape inside their own puzzle piece, through words, colors, and drawings.

This canvas is a collective reminder from our children that unity is built in everyday moments of kindness, joy, and shared experience.



Rockdale Temple

Designed by artist Jennifer Clark, our Sukkah Panel explores the unity of prayer and the unity of God. Each of our Kehal Kodesh religious school learners created a strip of fabric expressing a personal prayer or hope for the world. These individual prayers were then fastened to a wire stretching across the canvas. Together, they rise upward, symbolizing the way our voices, though distinct, join as one — ascending toward the heavens. The artwork reflects the power of unity in prayer, and the shared yearning for a more whole and hopeful world.



Rockwern Academy

At Rockwern Academy, we expand minds, celebrate Judaism, nurture community, and commit to building a better world.

When we learned that the theme this year was unity, our minds immediately went to the words of the psalmist: *Hinei mah tov u'mah na'im shevet achim gam yachad*, how good and how pleasant it is to dwell together in unity. These are words that hundreds of Rockwern students, from toddlers through eighth graders, hear and sing regularly, whether in our morning prayer experiences or Shabbat song sessions.

At Rockwern Academy, Cincinnati's pluralistic Jewish day school, we celebrate differences and also value that we are joined together in one warm and welcoming community. For this project, almost 100 of our students worked with our art teacher, Diana Woloshin. Each made a self-portrait that is included on our panel, reflecting our vibrant, dynamic, and unique individuals who comprise the Rockwern Academy family and are proud to be part of the larger Cincinnati Jewish community.



Scott Jankowski

This piece is a celebration of the calanit, Israel's national flower, reimagined as a symbol of unity, resilience, and joyful hope. Painted in vivid, layered hues and loose, expressive strokes, the work reflects both the fragility and strength of nature and of the human spirit.

The use of whimsy is intentional — a gentle, imaginative thread that weaves through the work, inviting viewers to dream of a peaceful future that transcends divisions. Each bloom vibrates with color and individuality, yet exists in harmony within the composition, a visual metaphor for coexistence and shared belonging.

I have allowed spontaneity and emotion to guide the process. The splashes, curves, and imperfect outlines speak to the organic complexity of life and the beauty that can arise when we embrace it. This painting is both a personal meditation and a hopeful offering, a reminder that even in uncertain times, something soft and radiant can still bloom.



Transform Cincy

This collaborative collage was created as an exploration of voice, identity, and collective belonging. Each image was chosen to reflect the beauty of diversity, the power of community, and the ongoing fight for recognition and dignity... whether through the reminder that every vote counts or the affirmation that every body is unique. The layering of textures and themes mirrors the way our lives overlap, intersect, and create something greater together. At its heart, the work embodies our mission: to build spaces where everyone can be seen, heard, and valued, and where art becomes a tool for connection, resilience, and transformation.

A journey can begin with a single thread. At Transform, we work with transgender and gender non-conforming youth to provide free wardrobes with everything they need head to toe. The destination is yours to create, we are here to help you get started; with free clothing and wardrobe styling.

Why? Because affirming care is the best way to protect transgender youth. Having a safe space and community center available gives new opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth to make new friends and make a difference in their community. We are passionate about connecting with young people in need and their families to give as much support to vulnerable youth and marginalized populations as possible.

Our recent focus has been expanding our programming to offer community groups and social events for all LGBTQ+ folks. We also know that we must support the entire LGBTQ+ community from youth to our elders to ensure we thrive. We have programming, events, services, and support for all ages and life stages.



Yuliya Avelino

Unity finds its purest expression in love. Unity itself reflects G-d, the inexhaustible source of all love. Portraying G-d in any form is beyond human grasp; instead, love becomes an echo of the Divine, a presence that weaves us together.

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To learn more please visit
MayersonJCC.org/UnderOneRoof



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of Cincinnati

The mission of the Under One Roof Sukkah Art Exhibit is to create community, connection, and conversation. The artworks and statements created and submitted are those of the participants; they do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Mayerson JCC, staff, board, sponsors, or volunteers.