



Levy

SUMMER SERIES
2026

Jewish Social Services of Madison

Looking forward to seeing you!

We are grateful to be together again this year. The Summer Levy Series has become a welcoming of summer and an occasion to socialize, share a wonderful meal, and feed our minds with a variety of inspiring presentations and discussions.

We encourage all to continue to be mindful in gathering and take whatever precautions necessary in protecting yourselves and others. Please stay at home if you are not feeling well, and consider an antibody test before attending if you are unsure. Thank you all for being considerate and patient as we work to continue to adapt, cope, and stay active and engaged with each other.



Jeffrey C. Levy

Madison businessman Jeffrey C. Levy is co-owner of Phillips Distributing. Jeff is a member of Temple Beth El and Beth Israel Center. He serves and collaborates with several foundations including United Way, Meriter-Unity Point, and University of Wisconsin - Madison. Jeff and his family have been committed supporters of Jewish Social Services for many years.

With his generous support, Jewish Social Services welcomes you all to our twelfth year of Levy Summer Series programming.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9



Jordan Rosenblum

Belzer Professor of Classical Judaism and Director of Religious Studies at UW-Madison

His most recent book, *Forbidden: A 3,000-Year History of Jews and the Pig* (New York University Press, 2024), won a 2024 National Jewish Book Award. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “‘Forbidden’

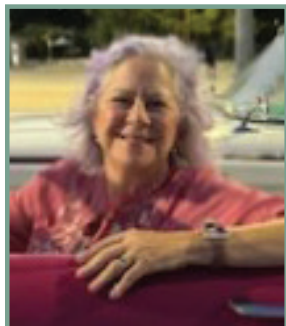
is an engaging and surprisingly cheerful study of that odd couple of the religious imagination, the Jew and the pig.” In addition, he is the author of *Rabbinic Drinking: What Beverages Teach Us About Rabbinic Literature* (University of California Press, 2020); *The Jewish Dietary Laws in the Ancient World* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and *Food and Identity in Early Rabbinic Judaism* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). He is also the co-editor of four volumes, including *Feasting and Fasting: The History and Ethics of Jewish Food* (New York University Press, 2019); and *Animals and the Law in Antiquity* (Brown Judaic Studies, 2021).

“*Forbidden: A 3,000-Year History of Jews and the Pig*”

Jews do not eat pig. This (not always true) observation has been made by both Jews and non-Jews for 3,000 years. Over time, the pig becomes a popular metaphor for Jewish/non-Jewish identity. This talk explores this historical development. Starting in the Hebrew Bible, where the pig is tabooed (but not necessarily singled out more than other food prohibitions), we see the emergence of the pig as a symbol of Jewish identity in the Second Temple period and beyond. From the pages of the Talmud to the pages of *The Forward*, we follow the pig as it forages through Jewish history.

Lunch: Nakoma Golf Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette, assorted Artisan Rolls and Mini Muffins **choice of entrée:** Atlantic Salmon stuffed with Shiitake Mushrooms and Spinach, Wild Mushroom Cream Sauce **or** Vegan Sweet Potato Curry (mild), Barley Pilaf, French Beans, and Baby Carrots
Dessert: Tiramisu

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24



Rabbi Paula Winnig

**Union of Reform Judaism's Director of
Congregational Consulting and Transition
Services**

A proud “badger by birth,” and UW-Madison Alum, Rabbi Winnig grew up at Mt. Sinai Congregation in Wausau, Wisconsin. She was ordained 40 years ago at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, beginning a rabbinic journey that has taken her to congregations across North America as well as Guatemala and New Zealand before returning to Wisconsin in 2017. In addition to her 26 years in congregational life, Rabbi Winnig earned an MBA and has led a variety of Jewish organizations. She’s also a proud mother and savta (grandmother). When she is not working, you may find her biking, traveling, cooking, or creating beautiful fiber art. She also loves kayaking on the beautiful lakes surrounding Madison.

“Revolutionary Changes is Jewish Life: How the Changing Roles of Women in Judaism has Changed the World”

Rabbi Winnig will discuss how organizations such as synagogue sisterhoods and the ordination of women rabbis and cantors have opened the door to revolutionary changes in Jewish practice, theology, and influence in the world.

Lunch: Caesar Salad, assorted Artisan Rolls and Mini Muffins *choice of entrée:*
Pan-Fried Walleye with Panko Breadcrumbs *or* Sun-Dried Tomato and Asparagus
Quiche in Puff Pastry, Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Stir Fry Vegetables
Dessert: Door County Cherry Pie a la Mode



WEDNESDAY, JULY 8



Jonathan Pollack

Writer in Residence at the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies at UW-Madison

Jonathan is currently revising and updating his 2019 book, *Wisconsin, The New Home of the Jew*. At UW, he previously held honorary fellowships in Center for Jewish Studies from 2012-2025, and at UW's Institute for Research in the Humanities from 2007–2012. Last year, he retired from a 27-year

career teaching history at Madison Area Technical College.

“Jewish Athletes and Coaches at the University of Wisconsin, 1896–1918: Ways to be Jewish on Campus”

What was it like to be Jewish at UW-Madison at the turn of the last century? Jewish athletes, coaches, and physical-education professors can illustrate the range of possibilities, from keeping one's background a secret to participating in the Menorah Society. Jonathan's talk will highlight the lives of football and baseball coach Phil King, baseball player/coach M. Gordon “Slim” Lewis, trainer Ike Bernstein, field hockey and baseball player Belle Fliegelman, physical-education professor Blanche Trilling, and baseball player Sohnia Sinaiko.

Lunch: Cream of Asparagus Soup, assorted Artisan Rolls and Mini Muffins **choice of entrée:** Whitefish with Caper Picatta **or** Stuffed Portabella Mushroom, Bi-Color Baby Carrots, Dauphinoise Potatoes **Dessert:** Dark Chocolate Ganache Three-Layer Cake

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29



Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Spiritual Leader of Temple Hesed, Scranton, PA

Executive Director of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)

Rabbi Swartz helped found the COEJL in 1993. For the past 35 years, he has been engaged in national and international faith-led efforts to promote environmental justice and combat climate change, including working with Pope Francis and helping to convene the global Women Faith Climate Network. Rabbi Swartz has also held leadership positions with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, Greater Washington IPL, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, the Children's Environmental Health Network, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

"Climate Justice – Stories of Hope and Action"

Using his own experience with faith-based environmental gatherings from the Vatican to synagogue "green groups," Rabbi Swartz will help us understand the faith and justice dimensions of the climate crisis. Drawing on generations of Jewish teachings, he will illustrate why it is so important that the Jewish community plays a role in solving this crisis. He will also address actions that each of us can take in our own lives, as well as efforts in which we can join together.

Lunch: Quinoa and Spinach Salad, assorted Artisan Rolls and Mini Muffins **choice of entrée:** Mahi Mahi with Toasted Kale Beurre Blanc **or** Angel Hair Pasta with Asparagus, Basil, Garlic Plum Tomato Sauce and Cheese, Roasted Red Potatoes, Vegetable Medley
Dessert: Turtle Sundae

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11



Samantha Abramson

**Executive Director, Holocaust Education
Resource Center – Milwaukee, WI**

Milwaukee native Samantha Abramson holds a Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies from the George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with minors in Jewish Studies, Spanish, and English Literature from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. Samantha brings two decades of experience in nonprofits and museums, including the new Capital

Jewish Museum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Jewish Heritage North Carolina, and Jewish Museum Milwaukee. Samantha is a graduate of the Wexner Field Fellowship program for Jewish leaders, and was recently named to the Milwaukee Business Journal's 40 under 40.

“Bearing Witness Together: Holocaust Education in Wisconsin in 2026”

Did you know that Wisconsin ranks #1 in Holocaust awareness of all 50 U.S. states? Since the unanimous and bipartisan passage of Wisconsin Act 30 by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2021, the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Center has led Holocaust education efforts across our state, partnering with nearly 400 school districts to offer professional development, resources, speakers, and programs.

During this conversation, Samantha will share experiences gained and lessons learned on the fifth year of this journey, and explore how the field of Holocaust education continues to evolve to meet the challenges of growing antisemitism and lack of awareness about Jewish identity outside the Holocaust.

Lunch: Grilled Romaine Hearts Salad, assorted Artisan Rolls and Mini Muffins,
choice of entrée: Pesto Crusted Sea Bass **or** Mushroom Risotto, Roasted
Vegetables with Toasted Orzo **Dessert:** Chocolate Mousse with Fresh Berries



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25



Cantor Jacob Niemi

Temple Beth El – Madison, WI

Cantor Jacob Niemi has served on the clergy team at Temple Beth El in Madison since the summer of 2019. He earned a BA in Sacred Music with a minor in Hebrew language from Florida State University in 2013. He continued his cantorial studies at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, earning a master’s degree in

Sacred Music in 2017 and ordination as a cantor in 2018. Cantor Niemi is also a prolific songwriter, with several melodies composed for Jewish sacred texts (especially liturgy), as well as songs with his own original text.

“What is ‘Traditional’ Jewish Music?: Exploring the Intersections of Music and Memory in Jewish Life”

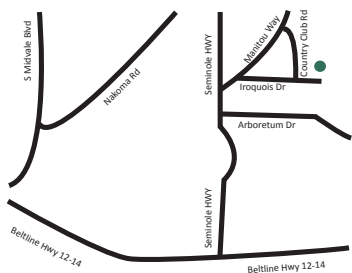
What makes a melody “traditional”? In this interactive and music-filled session, Cantor Niemi explores how Jewish music evolves across generations – and how the songs we carry become powerful vessels of memory, identity, and belonging. Through storytelling, live musical examples, and our own reflections, we will discover how melodies from the synagogue, summer camp, and beyond come to feel timeless. Together, we will consider what we have inherited, as well as how we help shape the traditions of the future.

Lunch: Seasonal Fruit Plate, assorted Artisan Rolls and Mini Muffins **choice of entrée:** Baked Salmon with Lemon Beurre Blanc **or** Vegetable Phyllo with Marinara and Crème Fraîche, Au Gratin Potatoes, Asparagus, and Baby Carrots

Dessert: Assorted Cookies and Bars

Nakoma Golf Club

Located at 4145 Country Club Road in Madison, off Seminole Highway just north of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum entrance



SCHEDULE

10:30-10:50	Check-in
11:00-12:30	Program
12:30-1:30	Lunch

Each program is \$30:
includes meal and presentation

REFUND POLICY:

Please provide two weeks' notice for refund. Fees may be transferred to reserve for another participant.



Levy Summer Series Registration

Registration by phone: **608-442-4081**

Mail or in-person: **Jewish Social Services, 6300 Enterprise Lane, #309, Madison, WI 53719**

Please print your name(s) on dates you will attend and check your meal preference(s). All programs are \$30 per person. On the provided lines, please list the names of your guests and their meal preference.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9: JORDAN ROSENBLUM

STUFFED SALMON **or** VEGAN SWEET POTATO CURRY

NAME	FISH	VEG
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Deadline for registration is June 1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24: RABBI PAULA WINNIG

WALLEYE **or** ASPARAGUS QUICHE

NAME	FISH	VEG
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Deadline for registration is June 16

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8: JONATHAN POLLACK

WHITEFISH **or** STUFFED PORTABELLA MUSHROOM

NAME	FISH	VEG
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Deadline for registration is June 30

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29: RABBI DANIEL SWARTZ

MAHI MAHI **or** ANGEL HAIR PASTA

NAME	FISH	VEG
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Deadline for registration is July 21

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11: SAMANTHA ABRAMSON

SEA BASS **or** MUSHROOM RISOTTO

NAME	FISH	VEG
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Deadline for registration is August 3

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25: CANTOR JACOB NIEMI

SALMON **or** VEGETABLE PHYLLO

NAME	FISH	VEG
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Deadline for registration is August 17

Meals in this series have been generously subsidized.

Program and menu descriptions are also at
www.jssmadison.org/events/levy-summer-series

**Please enclose your check or
use your credit card.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PROGRAMS @ \$30 EACH

of programs _____ X # of attendees _____

Total Program Fees: _____

Optional Donation to JSS:

Total Enclosed: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make checks payable to Jewish Social Services or enter credit card information.

My Check is Enclosed

Check Number: _____

Please Charge my Credit/Debit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVC Code (on back): _____

Signature: _____

MAIL REGISTRATION & PAYMENT TO:

**JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES
6300 ENTERPRISE LANE, # 309
MADISON, WI 53719**



In addition to the Levy Summer Speaker Series, Jewish Social Services offers a variety of enrichment activities throughout the year. Please check our website, jssmadison.org, or contact us for details on these activities and other events.

Jewish Social Services receives generous support from Jeffrey C. Levy to make this series possible. We also appreciate any donations which help us continue and enhance programming and support for those in need.

Thank you for your interest in the Levy Summer Speaker Series.

We welcome your participation and feedback,

*Monica Nolan
Executive Director*

*Paul Borowsky, Program Manager –
Events and Volunteer Engagement*





Levy

SUMMER SERIES

2026

Jewish Social Services established the Levy Summer Series in 2013 with the generous support of Jeffrey C. Levy. We continue this partnership to bring you this year's program series. It is an opportunity for lifelong learners to interact with scholars, artists, and community leaders over a broad range of topics of interest. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Levy Summer Series.

Thank you for recommendations and assistance in this year's series: Jeffrey C. Levy, Monica Nolan, Rabbi Renee Bauer, Liza Wiemer, Barbara Immergluck, staff at Center for Jewish Studies, JSS staff and Advisory Committee members



JSS OF MADISON: JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

6300 Enterprise Lane, #309 | Madison, WI 53719

(608) 442-4081

Visit www.jssmadison.org for more information

Scholarships are available

Front cover and graphics: Paul Borowsky





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