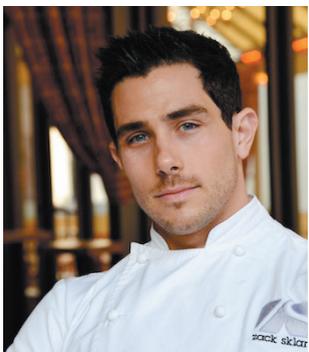




# 36 Under 36



## Honoring young people making an impact Jewishly and beyond.

**T**hey're go-getters, doers, philanthropists, activists, entrepreneurs and community organizers. Their lives make an impact on those around them and our community at large.

These 36 individuals — the inaugural group of the JN and The Well's 36 Under 36 program — were nominated by their peers for this honor.

The Jewish News and The Well collected the nominations and turned them over to a group of impartial judges who selected 36 out of the more than 70 nominees for this honor.

If you know these individuals, you know why they were chosen. If you haven't met them yet, you'll want to — soon.



**Sarah Allyn, 28, of Detroit** is director of education, including the Shoresh Religious School, at Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield. She does teen and young adult programming, and started monthly pop-up

Shabbat dinners while in the NEXTGen PresenTense cohort. She also participated in Teach for America. Sparked by Sarah's brilliant ideas and charisma, the temple's educational programs have grown in breadth and number of students. Her work ethic is also remarkable. She jumps on opportunities that will benefit the Shir Shalom community — from teaching at an educators' conference to spending time with students at Tamarack Camps, from creating new programs for young adults in Detroit to driving teens to a leadership convention in Indianapolis. An innovative and inspiring educator, youth leader and young adult programmer, Sarah is committed to putting fun and engagement into Judaism.



**Rabbi Alana Alpert, 34, of Detroit** is the rabbi at Congregation T'chayah and director of Detroit Jews for Justice (DJJ). It's a perfect fit. With her background in community organizing, she realized prior

to beginning her rabbinic training that she wanted to combine her love for Judaism with her passion for social justice. Her mission is to bring more Jews into activism and more activists into Judaism. After just a few years in Metro Detroit, Rabbi Alpert has emerged as a strong leader and innovator in the community-at-large. She's established an extensive network of leaders of all faiths and encouraged interfaith communication. DJJ gives the Jewish community an activist outlet to demonstrate its support for racial and economic justice. Under Rabbi Alpert's leadership, Jews of all ages are joining efforts for public transit, water justice, police accountability and in support of our public schools. She enjoys leading services and Torah study, including a monthly Havdalah gathering at her home in the North End.



**Brooke Bendix, LMSW, 32, of Royal Oak** is a psychotherapist and owner of Michigan Family Therapy PLLC in Farmington Hills. In addition to her private practice, she created a group for adolescent girls that addresses bullying, relational aggression and promotes positive self-esteem — issues young girls face in today's society. Brooke is attempting to secure grant funding from the Jewish Women's Foundation to develop additional groups in schools and synagogues. Since moving back to Detroit, the University of Chicago graduate has been devoted to volunteering as well as building her business. As a NEXTGen Detroit board director, Brooke plans events that create opportunities to foster young women's leadership and development. Actively involved in the growth of The Well since its inception, she co-chairs its monthly Rosh Chodesh group. Brooke also teaches at Temple Israel's Monday Night School and to fifth-graders at the Temple Beth El Sunday School.



**Adam Blanck, 30, of Franklin** is chief of staff at Wallside Windows in Taylor. He's the third generation at the well-known home improvement company founded in 1944. A graduate of University of Michigan Law School and Ross School of Business, Adam previously was an advance associate for the White House and served on the 2012-13 Presidential Inaugural Committee. He was an associate attorney in the corporate department at Honigman Miller Schwartz

and Cohn in Detroit, focused on private equity and venture capital transactions. A big Detroit booster, Adam encourages the city's resurgence through his association with the U-M Social Venture Fund, structuring investments in innovative companies and serving on the board of Joshua Venture Group. It identifies emerging leaders in the Jewish world and champions their visions for social change. Adam is a member of the Jewish Federation's NEXTGen Detroit board and co-founded Federation's fundraising event Pitch for Detroit.



**Andrew D. Bocknek, 36, of Farmington Hills** is first vice president-wealth management and senior portfolio manager at UBS Financial Services in Farmington Hills. He was named to the prestigious, firm-wide "UBS

35 under 35" list. Andy's leadership is quiet, consistent and oriented toward the individual. He brainstorms creative solutions to problems. With his belief that the strength of the Metro Detroit Jewish community lies in its bonds and sense of intimacy, Andy brings friends together, reaches out to newcomers and offers support at times of grief and need. His nomination stated: "Andy understands the art of the personal and the important way true community leaders are people who lead by example." Among his community involvements, Andy is a Temple Israel board member, fundraiser for Friendship Circle and vice president of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization-Michigan Region Board of Commissioners.



**David Brown, 35, of Detroit** is a circus performer and teacher. His nomination noted that "he studies, he creates community, he is the embodiment of all the things we are taught to be. He is a walking mitzvah." David teaches

children to be lions and jump through hoops, helps them fly and "breathes fire into the world around him, both literally and figuratively." This local Jewish circus man brings a sense of wonder to weddings, holidays, parties and other occasions. He's volunteered at Menorah in the D and also with Chabad, Keter Torah, The Shul and Congregation Shir Tikvah. David reminds people to laugh and play out of his yearning to make the world a better place. He and his wife also run an urban farm, Kibbutz Detropia, and host farm workers and guests staying at their Airbnb.

THIRTY-SIX UNDER 36



JOHN HARDWICK

THIRTY-SIX UNDER 36



**Jordan Charlupski, 26, of Birmingham** is sales executive for the Detroit City Football Club (FC). The minor-league soccer team with a co-recreational league started in 2012, tapping into

the growing interest in the sport and to serve as a community-organizing endeavor for residents. In season, about 7,000 attend the semi-professional team's games in the National Premier Soccer League. Jordan raised \$750,000 to renovate the home club's Keyworth Stadium in Hamtramck. Detroit City FC works with Detroit Police Athletic League to operate free youth soccer clinics and gives free season tickets to Detroit PAL soccer players. Jordan graduated from Hillel Day School and earned a bachelor of arts degree in sport management at the University of Michigan. He participates in events with The Well and NEXTGen Detroit. At work, Jordan assists the club's general manager with sponsorship, ticket sales and community investment. Their goal is putting Detroit in a positive light through soccer.



**Sam Dubin, 25, of West Bloomfield** is director of sales and marketing at Dubin Cleaners & Laundry in Farmington Hills, the fourth generation in the family business. He is past president of BNI-Partners

for Success, a business and professional

networking group, and a board member of Michigan Institute of Laundering and Dry Cleaning. Sam oversees Dubin Cleaners & Laundry's annual Winter Warmth Campaign—in which they clean all clothing before donating. He is a mentsh who has a tremendous impact in the Jewish community. Sam's efforts to make young LGBTQ Jews feel included and stay in Metro Detroit led to the creation of NEXTGen Detroit Pride. He uses his platform as NEXTGen Pride's chair to seek acceptance for these young adults. Sam serves on the NEXTGen Detroit board of directors and has chaired Good Shabbos Detroit and currently co-chairs Birthright Connection. Sam is also a committee member of the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit's Jewish Education and Identity Division.



**Adam Finkel, 30, of Bloomfield Hills** is a partner in Orfin Ventures LLC, a Bloomfield Hills-based venture capital firm making deals alongside other industry heavyweights.

Known for his ability to engage and connect people, Adam raised \$100,000 to sustain the initial years of Southeast Michigan's first Moishe House, a nonprofit initiative that encourages young Jewish leaders living in Detroit. He was among 150 Jewish innovators worldwide who gathered for intensive networking and problem-solving at the 2016 ROI Global Summit in Jerusalem. He is a *Jewish News* contributing writer and board member of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, NEXTGen Detroit, NEXTGen Connect and the Detroit chapter of the Technion. Adam also volunteers with Detroit Homecoming, recruiting 180 successful Detroit expats to return for a yearly conference. The former White House intern was selected this year as one of 10 young U.S. Jewish leaders to participate in a leadership program organized by Jewish philanthropist Jeffrey Swartz.

# jews in the d



**Oren Goldenberg, 33, of Detroit** is a visual artist and filmmaker. His company, Cass Corridor Films, focuses on how video intersects with contemporary art and culture, producing feature films, instal-

lations, music videos, commercials and documentaries. He was honored with a 2013 Kresge Fellowship in Visual Arts and, in 2016, with the Bernard L. Maas Award. Oren began making films in Detroit circa 2003. Since then, he has created and maintains a successful business, bought a home and organizes within his Detroit community. He has been stabilizing and revitalizing the historic Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue (IADS) as an active board member, spearheading financial campaigns to save the formerly struggling synagogue, creating programs and rituals such as the infamous IADS dance party and Simchat Torah celebration, and leading services. Oren innovates, leads and inspires with his warm, outreaching presence and command of an audience. His work, whether in shul or in the arts, focuses on rituals of healing and catharsis. He is also the co-owner of Sector 7-G recordings, an experimental dance music label, and a board member at Make Art Work, the nonprofit that solves complex societal problems by using art and participation as a mechanism to create local ownership and long-term systemic change.



**Susannah Goodman, 29, of Detroit** is an artist, art educator, arts administrator and arts advocate. Susannah is a program manager with Southwest Detroit-based community

arts nonprofit Living Arts. Susannah also manages Ladybug Studios, a ceramics makerspace and co-operative gallery located in the Hubbard Farms community in Southwest Detroit. Ladybug is home to a co-operative of ceramic artists, teachers and activists who host free drop-in classes for the neighborhood and broader Metro Detroit communities. From playing in the mud to advising on statewide and national arts policy, she makes art and makes art happen at many levels. A gubernatorial appointee, Susannah is currently serving in her second three-year term on the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, where she advocates for equitable arts funding statewide. She has represented Detroit and Michigan with the National Association of State Arts Agencies, and with Jane Chu, the chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Susannah is a lifelong member of

Congregation T'Chiyah in Oak Park, a board member at the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, and a leader in Detroit Jews for Justice, promoting racial and economic justice at the intersection of art and activism.



**Robyn Hughey, 30, of East Lansing** is associate director of MSU Hillel at Michigan State University and Hillel Campus Alliance of Michigan (HCAM). Robyn models excel-

lence in her work by engaging students, empowering student leaders, mentoring staff, advancing Hillel's mission and building community for Jewish students on more than 11 campuses throughout Michigan. Her skills were a vital part of creating HCAM, a thriving network of 10 campuses serving more than 2,000 students statewide. Much of this growth can be attributed to Robyn's positive attitude, hard work and belief that every Jewish student should have access to Jewish life during his or her college years. She empowers student leaders to use peer-to-peer engagement on their campuses to create supportive environments for students to explore and strengthen their Jewish identity. Many of the Jewish students that Robyn mentors move on to jobs and volunteer positions in their Jewish community after graduation.



**Justin Jacobs, 34, of Detroit and Berkley** is the founder and CEO of Come Play Detroit (CPD). Through his business and partnerships in the community, Justin has trans-

formed the Metro Detroit landscape in terms of putting more "play" into everyday life. Justin started offering recreational sports leagues after noticing few local options. The Jewish Federation helped him with free office space and a website. Today, thousands of young Jews and others participate in CPD's various social leagues, including kickball, softball, indoor and sand volleyball, bowling, basketball, flag football, broomball, bubble soccer and even euchre. From a large-scale dodgeball event on Belle Isle to a packed Ford Field for a yoga program, CPD also partners with local nonprofits to enhance life while benefiting charities. CPD is a partner on the annual Pitch for Detroit event, a Jewish Federation fundraiser. The boards Justin serves on include BBYO-Michigan Region, Wins for Warriors and the Founders Junior Council of the DIA.

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JOHN HARDWICK



ELIEZER REUBEN

## THIRTY-SIX UNDER 36



**Josh Kaplan, 31, of Novi** is president and co-founder, with his brother Darryl Kaplan and cousin Max Cornfield, of Supply Line International (SLI), an automotive company in Novi. SLI got started

about four years ago with a \$50,000 interest-free loan from Hebrew Free Loan (HFL) and generated \$11 million in revenue last year. The company forecasts \$18 million in revenue for 2017. Josh's innovative thinking and leadership helped the company thrive. SLI has a 40,000-square-foot headquarters building, locations in Orlando, Nashville and Boston, plus new medical and financial divisions. Financial success has given Josh the opportunity to indulge his giving nature. A board member, he arranges benefit events for Kids Kicking Cancer. The award-winning organization provides martial arts therapy to help seriously ill children dealing with pain. Josh and SLI also participate in Cheers for Children and charity golf outings hosted by the Kovan Classic. Josh teaches entrepreneurship to aspiring Jewish teens he takes under his wing. Still grateful to HFL, he plans to continue giving back through donations and mentoring.



**Jessica Katz, 31, of Royal Oak** is the recruitment and training specialist at Moosejaw Mountaineering's local headquarters in Madison Heights. Jess encourages, inspires

and educates her peers about *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) through philanthropic gifts. She took the initiative to get training in New York from Amplifier Giving, "a network of giving circles motivated by Jewish values and inspired by change makers making a difference around the world." In Metro Detroit, she formed a giving circle with six young professional couples who had never donated intentionally before. The local charity they chose to support with their collective group donation of nearly \$1,500 was Oak Park-based Forgotten Harvest, which rescues surplus perishable food for the hungry. Jess will facilitate more giving circles in the future. This kind, compassionate and dedicated individual also engages with the Jewish community as a board member of The Well, Kadima and the Jewish Federation's NEXTGen Detroit.



**Noam Kimelman, 30, of Detroit** is a social entrepreneur and owner at Fresh Corner Cafe. "Let all who are hungry come and eat" is a phrase familiar to Jews at the Passover

seder. Noam embraces the Jewish commitment to food justice by providing access to nutritious food and education on its preparation. Before nearly anyone else did, he noticed that many Detroit residents were doing most of their grocery shopping at nearby small markets and gas stations throughout the city. Noam opened Fresh Corner Cafe to bring fresh and healthy produce to customers at the various locations. His other business, Detroit Food Academy, teaches cooking to youth in the city, emphasizing the benefits of using healthier food. Noam regularly gives of his time and money in service to charitable organizations and projects in Detroit. He was among the young adults who brought about the revival of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, where he remains an active lay leader.



**David Kurzmann, 30, of Royal Oak** is the executive director of JCRC/AJC. Less than a year into the job for which he was hired, David was called upon to help shepherd a new partnership between

JCRC and American Jewish Committee, two major advocacy organizations in Metro Detroit. David helps to advance the causes and interests of the Jewish community. A warm and inspiring leader, he's considered innovative in his approach to community relations. Focused as well on revitalizing connections between Detroit Jews and other religious communities, David has made great headway with interfaith relations. Working closely with Muslim and Christian partners, he's created opportunities for shared community-service experiences. David is dedicated not only in his professional role, but also as a board member of New Detroit and the Interfaith Leadership Council. He is healing the world through creating connections.



**Carrie Long, 34, of Birmingham** is a designer and owner of Carrie Long Interiors, a successful, high-end interior design company in Royal Oak. Creative and innovative, she is generous

with her design knowledge. Always willing to help others, particularly in the Jewish community, Carrie gave her time, free designs and donated many of the decorative selections in designing Chabad House of Ann Arbor. She volunteers at Chabad of Commerce, where she designed the rabbi's kitchen. Carrie currently is designing a lactation lounge for working mothers, including donating furniture for the room, at Frankel Jewish Academy in West Bloomfield. The

school reportedly is amazed and delighted at her "beyond generous" spirit and actions. Carrie made aliyah several years ago, but moved back to Michigan to be close to her family. She belongs to the American Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC), attends NEXTGen Detroit events and has a genuine love for the Jewish people and Israel.



**Brooke Samson Miller, 36, of Berkley** is a licensed psychotherapist, entrepreneur and owner of Honey Space for moms + moms-to-be, which supports moms in Metro Detroit, including those suffering

from postpartum depression. It also offers childcare, a co-working space for moms as well as sells safe skin and body products for pregnant women. Recently, a Honey beauty bar was added so moms can enjoy salon services while using the on-site childcare. In addition to specialty yoga and birth/lactation services, Brooke has also built an online community called "mamahive" to support moms and find solace and help in her groups. Brooke and her team have also donated hundreds of meals to moms around Metro Detroit. Brooke and the team she has built embody love and support for all families and a sense of responsibility — a mission — to serve families. In Jewish tradition, women deserve a space to heal and support one another. Brooke has built Honey to provide exactly that. She and her team have also supported Jewish families through J-Baby birth classes at the Jewish Federation.



JOHN HARDWICK

**Gabe Neistein, 30, of Detroit** is alumni relations director at Tamarack Camps. Gabe is a go-to person for several community projects as a longtime resident of Detroit, as a Detroit City Moishe House member

and as a spokesperson for Tamarack Camps. Whether he's talking about how to bring people back to Detroit or supporting our community, he always has Detroit and the Jewish community in the back of his mind. Via Moshe House and his work at Tamarack, Gabe is an ambassador for Jewish life in Detroit.



**Max Nussenbaum, 26, of Detroit** is CEO of Castle. Max moved to the city through a program called Venture for America, which aims to place talented recent college graduates in struggling cities

throughout the country, with a goal of revitalizing these areas through entrepreneurship. When his fellowship program ended, he

decided to stay in Detroit and bought a house in the New Center area. He found investors and put together a team to renovate it. Now, the house is used for other Venture for America fellows to stay in during their time in Detroit. He realized how outdated the standard rental system is and co-founded his company to better utilize technology in the home rental industry. He now has more than 40 people working at his company.



**Noah Ostheimer, 11, of Clarkston** is a sixth-grader at Sashabaw Middle School who started a nonprofit at age 9 called Angels and Dreamers (with the help of

Temple Beth El's Rabbi Daniel Syme) to help young Jewish children who wanted to do mitzvahs in the community. Because of him, a child who wanted to feed the hungry teamed up with a local Jewish chef to bake muffins for Mitzvah Meals at Temple Beth El. Another child wanted to read to sick children in the hospital, and he and Rabbi Syme found a local Jewish pediatrician who helped her make it happen. Noah is an inspiration to other children and he is working to do "small things with great love." Noah has put tikkun olam into action. Just wait and see what he does when he is all grown up.



**Emily Rosberg, 19, of Detroit** is a student at Wayne State University who has embraced Detroit. She fell in love with WSU when she was a camper at

Tamarack and visited Detroit and Repair the World. Since arriving in the city as a full-time student, she has volunteered in Detroit inner city schools and provides her photography skills for volunteer events around the city. She encourages others to volunteer as well. She is involved in Jewish activities, including Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority and Hillel.



**Julie Schechter Rosenbaum, 30, of Royal Oak** is associate director of Hazon Detroit. Julie is making an important contribution to the Metro Detroit

Jewish community with her organizing and programming work on health and

sustainability. Her work piloting and managing the Hazon Davidson Fellowship, which brings Jewish young people together, partnering with the North End Christian CDC's Oakland Avenue Farmway Project and with local synagogues, is bridging the Eight Mile divide while providing justice experience and urban gardening for Jewish young adults, and providing garden and sustainability classes at Jewish suburban organizations. She's on Yad Ezra's board as a NEXTGen leader. Julie is a network weaver, bringing together Jews across denominations and ages for programming, leadership and learning.



**Molly Rott, 22, of Southfield** is a student who regularly participates in organized activities in the Metro Detroit area and has taken leadership roles both at

Hillel at Wayne State as president of the Jewish Student Organization and as a board member at Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park. Molly values Jewish community on many levels. She regularly attends Shabbat services and leads various parts of the service for the congregation.



**Hayley Sakwa, 24, of Detroit** works for a small local food business based in Traverse City. She is a founding resident of the Detroit City Moishe House,

which creates opportunities for young Jews to meet new people and explore Detroit in meaningful ways. She is also an active participant in Detroit Jews for Justice and IfNotNow Detroit, and believes deeply in the power of our Detroit Jewish community to be a catalyst for progressive change in Southeastern Michigan and beyond.



**Jeremy Sasson, 32, of Birmingham** is the restaurateur and proprietor behind Heirloom Hospitality Group, which includes

experiences such as Townhouse Birmingham, Townhouse Detroit and the much anticipated Prime + Proper (steakhouse) in Downtown Detroit. Jeremy has accomplished at 32 more than most will accomplish in two lifetimes. He executes his business with

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### Robyn,

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## Mazel Tov!

### Rachel,

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enlightened hospitality, devout passion and a personal touch. He is a young business owner who is an asset to Metro Detroit and the Jewish community. A regular visitor to Israel and son of an Israeli father, Jeremy is proud of his Jewish heritage and sharing it with the community.



**Jonathan H. Schwartz, 34, of Plymouth** is an attorney at Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC. Jonathan has taken a leadership role on the boards of numerous Jewish community organizations, such as NEXTGen Detroit, the Jewish Bar Association of Michigan, the ADL and the JCRC/AJC. Jonathan has been an innovator in a cause he cares deeply about, which is making the Jewish community a more welcoming place for interfaith couples and children of interfaith parents. In addition to working with The Well on interfaith programming, Jonathan helped establish NEXTGen Detroit's interfaith affinities group and co-chaired the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's first-ever interfaith couples' mission to Israel. Jonathan also helped found NEXTGen Pride, an affinity group for LGBTQ young professionals and their allies. Jonathan also co-founded the Jewish Bar Association of Michigan, the "go-to organization for the legal needs of the Jewish community," which provides social, educational and charitable activities to hundreds of Jewish lawyers and judges across Michigan and the Metro Detroit Jewish community. His commitment to building a more inclusive Jewish community and building bridges also exemplifies the principle of *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests/people).

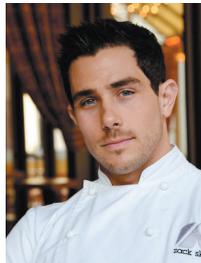


**Rachel Loebel Serman, 33, of Berkley** is a criminal defense attorney and president of the Jewish Bar Association of Michigan (JBAM). Since returning to her native home of Detroit in 2012, Rachel's leadership skills, vision and drive have made her an integral part of Metro Detroit's Jewish community. In 2014, Rachel co-founded JBAM after identifying a "gap" in the Jewish legal community. Since its formation, Rachel has served as president of the fast-growing organization. Rachel is also a NEXTGen Detroit board member and involved with many different organizations in the community. Rachel is generous with her time and talent, and thinks of others before herself. Her activities have made a positive difference on this community.



**Melissa Sherman, 29, of Huntington Woods** is the human resources coordinator at JVS. She has a BA in psychology from the University of Michigan and a MA in industrial/organizational psychology from Wayne State University. Melissa is a creative thinker with an extraordinary ability to problem solve, according to Teresa Schwartz, JVS vice president of human resources. Melissa began her career at JVS as a JOIN intern, where she developed and delivered

leadership training to its executive team. Through her knowledge and professionalism, she gained their respect and has now been with JVS for more than six years. Melissa has been a young leader in the Detroit Jewish community since high school, where she served on the BBYO Regional Board. She continued her involvement in the Jewish community throughout college, where she served on the board for the U-M Hillel. Today, Melissa serves on the Camp Tamarack Board of Trustees and looks forward to her continued involvement in the Detroit Jewish community.



**Zack Sklar, 30, of Bloomfield Hills**, owner of Peas & Carrots Hospitality and Cutting Edge Cuisine, is a noted restaurateur. At age 30, Zack has approximately 500 employees in his organization. Zack also volunteers with the nonprofit group Heart 2 Hart Detroit that serves the homeless in Detroit three days a week. He and his staff prepare and serve soup and chili to the homeless each week. He speaks to his staff passionately about the tragedy of hunger and homelessness, and his vision and leadership have changed the lives of many people on the streets. He regularly hosts events and fundraisers at his venues to help the homeless, all at his own expense. He's also a generous supporter of JVS, the Oakland County Humane Society, Bissell Pet Foundation and the Museum of Contemporary Art. He has also been a generous giver to AIPAC and JVS, and has worked with his temple for many years.



**Jacob Smith, 28, of Detroit** is head of business development for Castle Detroit, helping rental property owners manage their properties and be smarter investors. Jacob has worked for a number of startup organizations in the city of Detroit. Through creating programs, volunteering on various organization boards and finding ways to bring different communities together, Jacob is both a leader and innovator. He serves on the NEXTGen Detroit board and has worked to bring programming to the Holocaust Memorial Center that appeals to young adults. He brought in noted speaker, social entrepreneur and grandchild of Holocaust survivors Adam Braun for an incredibly successful event last year. He also is involved with The Well and helped put on an event Downtown this past spring focusing on the issue of mass incarceration in the U.S. By virtue of his passion for giving back to the Jewish community, and pushing it to have uncomfortable conversations, Jacob truly exemplifies Jewish values.



**Lauren Sofen, 31, of Berkley** is a pediatric physical therapist who has been doing extensive work with GirlForce as part of Hadassah. The program seeks to instill positive self-image and Jewish values in girls. Students complete a circuit of physical activities based on the pillars of exercise as well as learn about nutrition,

body image and Jewish values. Lauren has added a younger voice to Hadassah of Metro Detroit. She is helping to lead the regrowth of this vital organization. She also is active with The Well and Temple Israel.



**Marshall Symons, 34, of Detroit** is a social entrepreneur, and co-owner and operator of a fleet of bicycle taxis at Motor City Pedicab. Marshall rode his bike from San Francisco to Detroit in 2010 to optimize opportunity in a city in transition. He initiated the transformation of a blighted neighborhood into a goal-oriented community that thrives on one another's commitment and exchange of ideas. Taking ideas from the bicycle co-op he founded, he founded his own pedicab company in 2013. He is now a transportation staple in the Downtown area, giving rides to all kinds of people while sharing his wisdom and excitement for the city. Marshall is an active member of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue and takes strength in the friendships formed there. He also works very closely with the Detroit City Moishe House, planning and participating in events and discussions relevant to the Jewish community in Metro Detroit.



**Jordan Weiss, 31, of West Bloomfield** is an attorney. Jordan has served as co-chair of AJC ACCESS Detroit, advancing relationships among the diplomatic and interfaith communities and the Jewish community. He also serves as Detroit's representative on ACCESS' Global Steering Committee and has gone on missions reconnecting the American Jewish community with its German counterparts. He is trying to heal the world through diplomacy and creating connections. In addition, Jordan serves on the NEXTGen Detroit Executive Board and as a board member of the JCRC|AJC Detroit.



**Samantha "Sam" Woll, 33, of Detroit** works in constituent relations at the office of State Rep. Stephanie Chang, and is a social justice and political activist. She was instrumental in the founding of the Muslim-Jewish Forum of Detroit — a grassroots collective of young adults of both faiths who gather in partnership to learn, celebrate and build community together. The Forum has helped to build and deepen important relationships that did not previously exist between the young Jewish and Muslim communities, hosting revolutionary events, including an Interfaith Iftar dinner welcoming Syrian refugees. By extending her hand and creating space for connection between Muslims and Jews, she has exemplified the values of healing the world. Sam is also the co-chair of the American Jewish Committee's ACCESS Detroit Young Leadership Program and is an active member of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue. 🌟

Compiled by Esther Allweiss Ingber and Jackie Headapohl

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