Congratulations to the 2020 Simon Lazarus, Jr., Human Relations Award Nominees

2020 JUNIOR NOMINEES
Gavriella Bernstein, Atara Girls High School
Caitlin Broderick, Wyoming High School
Emma Campbell, Mount Notre Dame High School
Elizabeth Crimmins, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
Vincent Croyle, St. Henry District High School
Isabella Dawson, Archbishop McNicholas High School
Alanna Evans, Bethel-Tate High School
Reese Holtzman, Villa Madonna Academy
Alivia Hyland, Saint Ursula Academy
Grace Jarchow, Lakota West High School
Hannah Laman, Loveland High School
Anna MacLennan, Anderson High School
John Francis McKenzie, St. Xavier High School
Gauriella Midha, Cincinnati Country Day School
Vishnu Rajkumar, Milford High School
Vandita Rastogi, Indian Hill High School
Erin Richter, Northwest High School
Charlie Ringel, The Seven Hills School
Adrienne Robers, Mercy McAuley High School
Gabriel Roman, LaSalle High School
Tamar Sella, Walnut Hills High School

2020 SENIOR NOMINEES
Carl Alston, Milford High School
Jenna Brus, Saint Ursula Academy
Ken Chen, Wyoming High School
Sean Fallis, Bethel-Tate High School
Justin Allen Finkelstein, St. Xavier High School
David Fox, Colerain High School
Paige Graf, Covington Latin School
Eli Hart, Sycamore High School
Peyton Holden, Anderson High School
Abby Jarrold, Archbishop McNicholas High School
Jordynn Jenkins, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
Leah Kistner, Northwest High School
Finn Leahey, LaSalle High School
Daniel Litteral, St. Henry District High School
Faith Martin, Lakota West High School
Emma Mitsch, Mount Notre Dame High School
Jillian Rice, Indian Hill High School
Ella Schultian, Walnut Hills High School
Emma Sedlack, Oak Hills High School
Dalal Shalash, Mercy McAuley High School
Audrey Smith, Villa Madonna Academy
Zoe Sullivan, Clark Montessori High School
Brecken Wells, Goshen High School
Katarina Zack, Madeira High School
For 55 years, AJC has recognized with pride those outstanding high school students from Greater Cincinnati public, private, and parochial schools whose daily lives, activities, and behavior exemplify a concern for others and a desire to bring about better human relations in their schools, in their communities, or in their personal lives.

The Simon Lazarus, Jr., Human Relations Awards are a lasting tribute to the late Simon Lazarus, Jr., a distinguished Cincinnati civic leader. President of American Jewish Committee (AJC) Cincinnati from 1951-1953, and a member of the national AJC Board of Governors, Simon Lazarus, Jr. was an articulate and avid champion of inter-religious and interracial understanding. He created the Lazarus Awards during an era of national and local civil rights reforms. Mr. Lazarus was a visionary Cincinnati attorney who chaired the Mayor’s Friendly Relations Committee, the forerunner of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission.

Along with his wife, Harriet, who spearheaded an effort to stabilize funding of the program through an endowment secured in 1990, Mr. Lazarus created the Lazarus Awards to exemplify what Judaism refers to as the mitzvah (commandment) of gemilut hasadim, acts of loving-kindness performed without expecting anything in return. By honoring exemplary student leaders as they altruistically give to others, AJC Cincinnati hopes to reinforce these shared values and enhance our community.
2020 Distinguished Judges

James Buchanan
Executive Director
Xavier University Brueggeman Center for Dialogue

Todd Dykes
Investigative Reporter
WLWT News 5

Charley Frank
Executive Director
Reds Community Fund

Tyra Patterson
Community Outreach Strategy Specialist
Ohio Justice & Policy Center

Jaipal Singh
Principal Architect and Owner
CHAATRIK Architecture

James P. Buchanan is Executive Director of The Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier. He has served in this role since 2002, in addition to being a Xavier University professor. Dr. Buchanan was educated at Yale University and University of Chicago where he completed a PhD in comparative religions and comparative value systems. His teaching and research have focused upon ethics, global systems, comparative religions, interfaith dialogue, and the application of intercultural values to a range of issues connected with globalization. He has served on editorial boards, has been involved in NGO work worldwide, was an advisor to negotiations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and has served on numerous boards locally and around the globe. Dr. Buchanan has received many awards recognizing his work including: Building Bridges Award from the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati, The Eternal Light Award from the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies, The Presidential Award from Africa Foundation-USA, The Community Impact Award from the Junior League, The President’s Excellence Award from Xavier, a Telly Award for Best Marketing Video, and Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Todd Dykes joined the WLWT News 5 team as a reporter after working for top-rated stations in Bowling Green, KY, Lexington, KY, and Colorado Springs, CO. After a successful stint as a co-anchor of News 5 Today, Mr. Dykes is now immersed in the world of investigative reporting. A veteran broadcast journalist who’s been nominated for multiple regional Emmy awards, Dykes is committed to giving a voice to the voiceless. He is constantly reminded of, and amazed by, journalism’s ability to empower people who feel powerless. He’s also keenly aware of the importance of accurate and timely news reporting, considering how cluttered the media landscape is today. A native of Ashland, KY, Mr. Dykes graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in broadcasting and a minor in English. When not at WLWT News 5, he’s a proud dad who is focused on making sure his kids grow up to be respectful citizens who love to learn, laugh, and serve others.

Charley Frank began as executive director of the Reds Community Fund in 2004. During his tenure, he has helped complete the eight million-dollar P&G Cincinnati MLB Youth Academy complex, led Major League Baseball All-Star Game Legacy projects, and helped secure the 2011 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Steve Patterson Award for excellence in sports philanthropy. Mr. Frank oversees youth baseball and softball programs; directs the Community Fund’s field renovation efforts, including 150th Anniversary projects in St. Bernard and Bellevue, KY, and leads the annual Community
Makeover collaboration. He has established annual fundraisers such as the Marty Brennaman Golf Classic, Redlegs Run, and the Fox Sports Ohio Telethon. He serves on several boards, including Cincinnati Public Schools' Activities Beyond the Classroom Foundation, Kid Glove, and Halom House. Mr. Frank received the Joe Nuxhall Humanitarian Award in November 2018. Prior to joining the Cincinnati Reds Fund, Mr. Frank spent 11 years with the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves as vice president of communications. Mr. Frank, a Cincinnati native, is a graduate of Northwestern University and Walnut Hills High School. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Cincinnati with their son, Sam, and daughter, Avery.

Tyra Patterson was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. On December 25, 2017, she walked out of prison after serving 23 years for crimes she did not commit. Her story has been covered by many publications including Rolling Stone, Essence, the Guardian, and many others. Tyra currently serves as the Director of Community Outreach at the Ohio Justice & Policy Center (OJPC). She also maintains paralegal duties at OJPC working on behalf of people, both guilty and innocent of the crimes for which they have been convicted. Ms. Patterson travels all over the country speaking at law schools, colleges, prisons, conferences, and high schools, leveraging her story to educate people on social justice, mass incarceration, and wrongful convictions. Ms. Patterson is heavily involved in the arts community of Cincinnati, specifically using art to educate people on the issues of social justice and mass incarceration.

Jaipal Singh is the Principal Architect of CHAATRIK Architecture providing design solutions to inspire and elevate. An active member of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Singh advocates in building a better world through the lens of compassion and beauty. He has played an integral part of several award-winning projects published in leading architectural publications. As a practicing Sikh, he has led education and activism promoting interfaith understanding, diversity and Sikh awareness regionally and nationally for nearly two decades. Post 9/11, Mr. Singh developed various programs geared towards community engagement for Sikh youth and young adults. He has led Disaster Relief missions with UNITED SIKHS AID during times of need and honored by the United Nations for his work. Mr. Singh currently serves on the Executive Board for the Cincinnati Regional Coalition Against Hate, comprised of several dozen organizations in the civic, corporate, non-profit and faith communities. He graduated from Washington University in Saint Louis with a B.A. in Architecture, a Master of Architecture and Master of Urban Design. He lives in Liberty Township with his wife, Aasees.
Caitlin Broderick, Wyoming High School

2020 Simon Lazarus, Jr., Human Relations Awards Winner

Caitlin is a junior who has been involved as a participant and leader in a remarkable array of volunteer activities while attending Wyoming High School. She’s been shaped by service experiences in Chicago, where she learned about generational poverty and in Costa Rica, where she encountered the struggles of indigenous people. Caitlin is extremely proud of several endeavors, including her role as an intern at the Federal Public Defender’s office and then working with Project LEAD where she helped launch a twice weekly after-school program for Central American immigrants in Carthage, focusing on reading, English, homework help and cultural assimilation. Her experience at the Public Defender’s office encouraged her to assist those who can’t help themselves and her ultimate goal is to attend law school where she intends to become a public defender and published author.

Another one of Caitlin’s proudest accomplishments was coordinating and leading the Community Climate Change Rally for which she wrote an article and poem that were published in Wyoming’s community newsletter. Following the event, she led a discussion about climate change for a local youth group. Her passion is writing, and she felt herself emerge as a leader through the process, culminating with her role as the primary speaker in front of several hundred school and community members. Some of her many other service interests include Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our Planet Earth), Relay for Life, food pantry work, Ohio Teen Ambassador Board, and A Characteristic Attitude (where she dresses up as a Disney character at charity events). She also took a two-week behavioral neuroscience course at the University of Michigan so that she could better serve others. Caitlin is a member of Model United Nations, the National Honor Society and helped lead a writing group to promote equal rights and social justice.

BY CHARLEY FRANK, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE
Alivia Hyland, Saint Ursula Academy
Finalist

When Alivia and her twin were just 13, they created an organization to support the elderly population by going to community nursing homes and painting the nails of elderly residents. They called their selfless service “Color of Love”. Since the pandemic hit, Alivia is humbled and patient. She realizes now, more than ever before, the importance of social distancing, especially with regard to older, more vulnerable people. In addition to “Color of Love”, Alivia has led the Saint Ursula Academy Social Justice Club for two years. What is most impressive is how she researches each issue she encounters and then puts her learning into action. She is passionate about making sure others understand the importance of the work of the Social Justice Club. She also finds time to mentor and tutor her “Bulldog Buddy” classmates.

Alivia’s biggest inspiration is her mother, Janet, a nurse practitioner. The pandemic crisis has helped Alivia to appreciate her mother’s hard work and compassion even more. Alivia loves to swim and to spend time with her sister Caitlyn and with her mom. They are all very close. Her sense of humor is unique, inviting and infectious. In the years to come, it will be an important asset when she becomes a therapist or works with her teacher, Miss Temper, in the Community Service Department. I look forward to witnessing the change she will create.

BY TYRA PATTERSON, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE

Hannah Laman, Loveland High School
Finalist

When she was only 9 years old, Hannah, along with her brother, founded a nonprofit to provide books for young people who cannot afford them. It is impressive enough that she created a nonprofit at such a young age, but even more impressive that she has persisted and developed it into an organization that has delivered some 165,000 books to more than 100 schools in our region. Not only does she understand that she is helping others but says of her work with the organization that it has “shaped me as a person, as I have grown up with it, and it has put me out of my comfort zone and taught me how to lead others in pursuing their goals as well as helping others.” Hannah has not given of herself just to make a college application look better. She does community service with intrinsic motivation straight from the heart.” An innovator, an entrepreneur and a leader, Hannah truly embodies the values of the Simon Lazarus, Jr., Human Relations Award.

BY JAMES BUCHANAN, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE
Anna MacLennan, Anderson High School Finalist

Anna is a bright, young woman operating on a level much higher than most. She refuses to accept accolades, honors and recognition for her own sake. Her joy lies in genuinely seeing others grow and be inspired to pursue their dreams. And, that is why she started Girl Power Politics. What started as a single event geared towards empowering young girls and women into political engagement has since blossomed forth into an ever-growing movement of young girls across the world. Anna started through local activism earning a seat on the local Hamilton County Women and Girls Commission, where she led with conviction and managed to get several recommendations passed addressing women’s rights and equality. In addition to politics, Anna also has a passion for the STEM fields, especially astrophysics. As a Junior, Anna has several years of experience as a student ambassador for Back To Space, a program geared to bringing the STEM fields into pop culture. Anna has been a guest speaker at local schools to encourage youth, and genuinely finds inspiration when she can light a spark in someone else.

Anna is a multi-dimensional leader who credits her personal character ‘hands down’ to her own mother, who moved from China to Canada as a young woman to start a new life with her husband. “My mom has always been empowering and encouraging, never pushing me to do anything I didn’t want, but supporting me to pursue my dreams.” Anna plans to attend university with a double major in astrophysics and political science, remaining heavily involved with Girl Power Politics, hoping that her organization continues to grow, helps encourage girls across the world to graduate STEM fields, pursue their dreams and help make their voices heard. Anna’s list of achievements is only just beginning, but she is not interested in being in it just to build her resume. With the utmost integrity and sincerity, Anna simply wishes to inspire her peers while focusing on the impact and feeling grateful for the difference one voice can truly make. May the universe continue to bless her, always!

BY JAIPAL SINGH, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE
**Tamar Sella**, Walnut Hills High School

**Finalist**

Tamar is an amazing young woman who has a passion for volunteerism and for expanding cultural awareness among disparate groups of people. When I spoke to Tamar to let her know she’d been selected as a finalist for the 2020 Simon Lazarus, Jr., Human Relations Award, she described the impact that her family’s journey has had on her desire to help others. It’s a journey that’s been both sorrow-filled and filled with great joy, and Tamar has channeled the lessons she’s learned from her loved ones, especially her parents, to focus on gaining knowledge from different perspectives and building understanding among diverse populations. She also loves to use her love of food to help others overcome issues dealing with food insecurity.

When I asked Tamar what she would like to study in the future, she expressed a degree of uncertainty, which is quite natural for a junior in high school. She’s interested in anthropology, sociology, physics and engineering, and art and design. She told me she wants to explore these interests further and pursue a path that helps others, a laudable goal for a remarkably talented person. I have no doubt she will find a way to make this world a better place.

*BY TODD DYKES, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE*
**2020 Senior Winner and Finalists**

**Jillian Rice**, Indian Hill High School  
2020 Simon Lazarus, Jr., Human Relations Awards Winner

Jillian’s own words powerfully express her passion about the work she has done: “With every turn of a faucet I expect water to come out, and being a competitive swimmer… I have enough water to go beyond staying clean and hydrated, I have it in such abundance I can use it as a source of recreation. Seeing the enormous role water plays in my life made me question why I wasn’t doing something to make sure everyone in their world had access to at least enough water to stay alive.”

Jillian began working at an international organization which paired her with a small village in the Dominican Republic. For years she struggled to raise both money and consciousness to help provide the most basic needs for water that we all take for granted. She worked hard at it from parades, to glow sticks, to “Bravo Bouquets,” to athletic events to selling Girl Scout cookies—everything she could do to succeed in her goal. Through her efforts thousands of dollars have been raised that will make profound differences to the lives of those less fortunate than we who have water in such abundance. Jillian is described by a leader who knows her as “unassuming, kind, dedicated and…beyond humble.” Jillian is exactly the kind of young adult that the Simon Lazarus Award should recognize and honor and is truly deserving of this award.

*BY JAMES BUCHANAN, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE*

**Sean Fallis**, Bethel-Tate High School  
Finalist

Sean is a high school senior who has creatively found ways to turn his curiosity about challenging situations into workable solutions. Many of the steps he has taken to help people and the planet have morphed into opportunities for other young people to understand the impact gestures of kindness and hope can have on large groups of people and the environment.

In a conversation with Sean, he talked about the influence that a teacher has had on his volunteer spirit. Sean said this teacher emphasizes the importance of helping others and standing up for one’s beliefs. This is a lesson that Sean has put into practice. It is a lesson that should serve the world well as Sean continues on his life’s journey. Sean is a person who lives by the belief that it makes his “heart happy to give.”

*BY TODD DYKES, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE*
Abby Jarrold, Archbishop McNicholas High School Finalist

Abby is a remarkable, self-driven high school student. She has been on both the dean’s list and the student council for all four years, a member of the National Honor Society for two years and holds an academic ranking. Her extracurricular activities include leadership positions in the Art National Honor Society, the Hope Squad, and Hands Across Campus. Her service activities include peer mentor, retreat leader, and leadership positions in many other initiatives. Abby has been on her school’s tennis team and ski club.

Abby spoke of her maternal grandmother Kathy, the person she considers to be the greatest influence on her life and aspirations. In particular, she credits her grandmother’s positive attitude and resilient personality for giving her a strong sense of compassion. She will always remember her saying, “Remember how beautiful this life is.”

Abby has won the respect of her peers and teachers at McNicholas High School, where she was nominated Queen of the Mardi Gras. Abby will attend Ohio State University. Her application essay was in response to the prompt, “What fictional character are you most like, and why?” She chose to discuss what she shares with Nala, a character in The Lion King. Among them are her desire to improve our communities, her dedication to family, a desire to give love, her bravery, and her love of adventure. Abby’s essay earned her acceptance into the Advocates for Community and Education Scholars program. This program works to expand the knowledge and leadership qualities of students by allowing them to interact with faculty and community leaders about important educational, social, economic and political issues that affect our communities.

Abby is an exceptional, highly motivated, young adult with commendable aspirations. She’s very interested in business, membership in advocacy groups, and participation in any activities that help to achieve social justice. After college, she wants to have a service-based career, one that will help the marginalized members of our community. There are many indications that Abby will help to make changes that our entire country needs.

BY TYRA PATTERSON, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE
Jordynn Jenkins, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
Finalist

Jordynn believes in the power of a helping hand. She is overflowing with enough compassion and joy to light up the world. Jordynn, the eldest of five, was raised by her mother, a single parent with a “heart of service, a heart for sacrifice.” Jordynn considers her mother to be her greatest influence, her greatest source of strength, and knows that her lineage of strong women also comes from her grandmother. When asked what her greatest personal accomplishment has been, Jordynn—without hesitation—acknowledged her leadership extends first and foremost to her younger siblings. As a young child, Jordynn always saw the need to help others and followed her mother’s lead to always give, even when a person may not have much. She loves seeing her younger siblings adopt that spirit and show their own interest in volunteerism.

As a graduating senior at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, Jordynn has affected the culture of her fellow students and the entire school through her selfless leadership. She initiated Undivided, a student-led assembly addressing issues of culture and race. What began as a simple conversation quickly became an opportunity and turned into what Jordynn sees as her greatest accomplishment—bringing her community together. Undivided has become an annual school event where guest panelists are invited to address students’ questions for engaging conversation and growth. It has even sparked the creation of a Black Student Union, inviting all students to continue the discussions in various formats throughout the school year. Despite the current obstacles of the ongoing pandemic through her senior year, Jordynn has found ways to continue these conversations through online tools enabling her to reach her fellow students and grow her leadership.

Jordynn’s character extends deep as she recently had to forfeit her last season in high school basketball due to ACL surgery while captain of her school’s team. Despite her personal loss, she continued to attend practices and games and displayed true humility, gratitude, and team spirit for the younger players. Jordynn is currently deciding on a college. She is interested in political science and government with a goal of becoming a criminal justice attorney one day. She is a music aficionado, loves to fish, loves to write, and is learning to play the steel drums. She is a breath of fresh air this world truly needs!

BY JAIPAL SINGH, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE
Dalal Shalash, Mercy McAuley
Finalist

Dalal is a senior at Mercy McAuley who, according to her school reference, “stands above the rest” because of her engagement in extracurricular activities and passion for making their school the best it can be through empathy, service, and respect for all. Service hours aren't required at Mercy McAuley but according to Dalal, they are the activities that she loves. Her passions include Mock Trial, Academic Team, Global High School Club, Key Club, visiting senior homes, and The Fearless Initiative which focuses on mental health and inclusion. This initiative was created at Mercy McAuley and incorporated by other schools. She started the Student Spotlight Campaign which highlights a student committed to diversity. She also traveled to Birzeit, Palestine for an international service camp where she worked alongside different religions and nationalities at a war-stricken school.

Dalal's proudest accomplishments include winning community service awards sponsored by the Mayor of Cincinnati and the Anthony Muñoz Foundation. She says she was inspired by two individuals—her Mercy McAuley service coordinator who always has an idea for the 700 girls at the school and the works of Malala, the 22-year old Pakistani Nobel laureate and activist for female education. She is specifically inspired by Malala’s fight for education, especially as Dalal’s mother grew up in Jordan and wasn’t allowed to attend school. Her parents sacrificed a great deal to send their 11 children to private school. Dalal enjoys theater and orchestra and loves to paint and journal. She wants to work toward a common goal and will do so while attending The Ohio State University where she won the Morrill Scholarship. She is focused on law school with a dream to work for a nonprofit.

BY CHARLEY FRANK, 2020 LAZARUS JUDGE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>SENIOR WINNER</th>
<th>HIGH SCHOOL</th>
<th>JUNIOR WINNER</th>
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<td>Carol Muething (Melrose)</td>
<td>Ursuline Academy</td>
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<td>Joel Kaplan</td>
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2006
Alida Krogh
Ursuline Academy

2007
Alexandra Gubser
Bellevue

2008
Elizabeth Heskett
St. Ursula Academy

2009
Dennis Walsh
Madeira

2010
Meghan Marth
Sycamore

2011
Blake Barlow
Mt. Healthy

2012
Kirjah Brown-Schmidt
Walnut Hills

2013
Brian Collette
Heskett

2014
Meredith Bailey
Notre Dame Academy

2015
Shannon Wilson
North College Hill

2016
Sydney Mantell
Seven Hills

2017
Jeremiah Weaver
Seton

2018
Hannah Beiting
Cincinnati Hills

2019
Chandler (Chase) Ashman
Christian Academy

2020
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"Whether Jew or Gentile, man or woman, rich or poor—
it is according to deeds that God's presence descends."

Midrash Seder Eliahu Rabbah 8
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