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JEWISH JOURNAL (/)

A Confluence of Food and Art in Los Angeles

BY Jessica Ritz (https://jewishjournal.com/author/jessica-ritz/) | Oct 10, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/food/305583/a-confluence-of-food-and-art-in-los-angeles/) | Food (https://jewishjournal.com/category/culture/food/) **f** (https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://jewishjournal.com/culture/food/305583/a-confluence-of-food-and-art-in-los-angeles/) (https://twitter.com/home?status=https://jewishjournal.com/culture/food/305583/a-confluence-of-food-and-art-in-los-angeles/) (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/food/305583/a-confluence-of-food-and-art-in-los-angeles/)



Photo courtesy of Current: LA Food

The citywide monthlong current: LA Food triennial is here, with more than 75 free events and 15 commissioned installations in public parks in 15 Los Angeles City Council districts.

Produced and curated by the L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA), ICA LA Lead Curator/Director of Learning and Engagement Asuka Hisa calls the event "a confluence of food and art."

Hisa spoke with the Journal recently at Pershing Square while artist Nancy Lupo added finishing touches to "Open Mouth" - a collection of scaled-down benches arranged in the shape of a jaw.

Each Current: LA Food site features an original piece by a contemporary artist, as well as a public programming element. They all share a sense of what Hisa called "simpatico. People are enjoying the food richness of L.A., and the diversity and the culinary excellence that's coming to town," she said, "but it's really not about that with this project. It's looking at issues. You stand to learn from the art in a big way, because there's already an access point where you connect to it."

The roster is a mix of local and international artists who approach food as an inspiration and jumping off point. The results showcase diverse perspectives, concepts and materials. Despite the wide geographical territory covered, Current: LA Food is feasibly mapped out for participants who want to see as many of the 15 installations as possible.

"People are enjoying the food richness of L.A., and the diversity and the culinary excellence that's coming to town, but it's really about ... looking at issues." — Asuka Hisa

Emily Marchand's "A Thousand Lunches" events welcomes participants to help prepare meals to be distributed to the homeless at Roger Jessup Park in Pacoima.

The multimedia installation "Mussel Beach" by Cooking Sessions is at the Venice Beach Recreation Center, while Adrià Julià's "A Very White Flower" is at the L.A. State Historic Park in Chinatown, and Torolab's Watts Cookbook project is located at Ted Watkins Memorial Park in Watts.

Meanwhile, at Pan Pacific Park, Chicago-based artist Michael Rakowitz explores the historical relationship with Iraq and that region's history and date production in "Beneath the Date Palms." His recent exhibition, "Dispute Between the Tamarisk and the Date Palm," was held at Redcat.

The three temporary structures that comprise "Beneath the Date Palms" reconstruct Room F of the Northwest Palace of Nimrud destroyed by the Islamic State (ISIS) in 2015.

The predominance of missing panels in Rakowitz's piece creates a conspicuous absence, and the artist traces the artifacts' fates. Rakowitz uses repurposed materials including newspapers and food wrappers to construct the panels.

The Coachella Valley's prolific date production lends a natural tie between Southern California and Iraq. California-grown dates will be featured in Rakowitz's events, including a Sukkot dinner co-presented with IfNotNow on Oct. 13. A second dinner, titled "A House with a Date Palm Will Never Starve," will be hosted in collaboration with Iraqi American chef Sara Ahmad on Nov. 2.

For the complementary programming component at Pan Pacific Park, curator and activist Leyna Lightman has planned at least four bread-baking gatherings focused on different international regions, including Ethiopia and Armenia, using a dedicated adobe oven.

With other newly opened food-centric art exhibitions on view in L.A. — Consume: Handcrafting L.A. Restaurant Design at the Craft in America Center on West Third Street and Supershow by art collective Fallen Fruit at the Pacific Design Center's PDC Design Gallery in West Hollywood — the original concept for Current: LA Food proposed about five years ago has proved prescient.

The undertaking is more topical today, given ongoing crises related to hunger and homelessness in L.A. and beyond.

"It's in the news, and here you are experiencing it through art and the art lens, which is incredible," Hisa said. "I know for a fact that the artists are learning as much about their city as the city is standing to learn from these works."

Jessica Ritz is a freelance journalist whose writing has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, C Magazine, Sunset, Coastal Living, Tablet and ArchitecturalDigest.com.

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(https://jewishjournal.com/author/david-suissa/)



> EVA ROBBINS (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/AUTHOR/EVAROBBINS/)
Sukkot: Joy and Strength Within Fragility

(https://jewishjournal.com/analysis/305571/sukkot-joy-and-strength-

(https://jewishjournal.com/author/evarwithin-fragility/)



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refael/)

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Roz Rothstein: How will StandWithUs Fight Anti-Semitism? (https://jewishjournal.com/podcasts/the-david-suissa-podcast/304914/roz-rothstein-how-will-standwithus-fight-anti-semitism/)



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Rabbi Tzvi Freeman: What is Chassidus? (https://jewishjournal.com/podcasts/accidental-talmudist-podcast/304168/rabbi-tzvi-freeman-what-is-chassidus/)



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A New Way to Support Israel in 5780

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During Yom Kippur, Air Pollution Levels All Over Israel Plummet to Near Zero (https://jewishjournal.com/blogs/305382/during-yom-kippur-air-

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(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/AUTHOR/KYMBERLYHARRIS/) STAY TUNED: Duality (https://jewishjournal.com/blogs/305380/stay-

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EDITOR'S NOTE (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/EDITORS-NOTE-2/) The Holiday That Touches You Back (https://jewishjournal.com/editors-note-2/305517/the-holiday-that-touches-you-back/)

> David Suissa (https://jewishjournal.com/author/david-suissa/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)

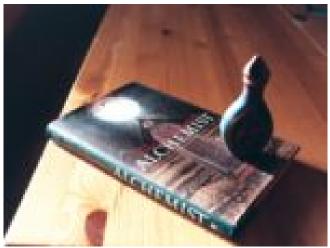
The Jewish tradition, for all of its philosophical ideals, loves the concrete. We love to touch and hold things. We light candles, we hold Kiddush...



(https://jewishjournal.com/editors-note-2/305517/the-holiday-that-touches-you-back/)

COLUMNIST (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/COLUMNIST-2/) The Alchemist (https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305556/the-alchemist/)

> Tabby Refael (https://jewishjournal.com/author/tabby-refael/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



(https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305556/the-alchemist/)

Every Rosh Hashanah, I entreat God for a happy year. Like most people, I just want to be happy. This Rosh Hashanah, something strange happened:...

COLUMNIST (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/COLUMNIST-2/) The Work of Sukkot Is Worth It (https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305558/the-work-of-sukkot-is-worth-it/)

 $\verb| Xylie Ora Lobell (https://jewishjournal.com/author/kyliel/)|, Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)| | (https://jewish$

My favorite Jewish holidays are the ones that require the most work: Pesach and Sukkot. They are two of the three pilgrimage holidays — Shavuot...



(https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305558/the-work-of-sukkot-is-worth-it/)

COLUMNIST (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/COLUMNIST-2/) Columbus Day Lives (https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305559/columbus-day-lives/)

 $> {\tt Gregory~Smith~(https://jewishjournal.com/author/gregory_smith/),~Oct.~11,~2019~(https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)} \\$



(https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305559/columbus-day-lives/)

My wife and I met for the first time 52 years ago at a Columbus Day party on an October evening. We will celebrate again...

COLUMNIST (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/COLUMNIST-2/) The Sukkah Challenge (https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305562/the-sukkah-challenge/)

> Paul Starr (https://jewishjournal.com/author/paulstarr/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)

This is the time of year when I envy my friends and family living in Southern California. A few years ago, I had the pleasure...



(https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305562/the-sukkah-challenge/)

COLUMNIST (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/COLUMNIST-2/)

One Man's Long, Inspiring Walk to Jerusalem for Sukkot (https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305563/one-mans-long-inspiring-walk-to-jerusalem-for-sukkot/)

> Debra Nussbaum Cohen (https://jewishjournal.com/author/debra_nussbaum_cohen/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



There's an ancient Chinese proverb that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. For Elan Margulies, a six-month trek from Portugal...

(https://jewishjournal.com/columnist-2/305563/one-mans-long-inspiring-walk-to-jerusalem-for-sukkot/)

ANALYSIS (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/ANALYSIS/)

Sukkot: Joy and Strength Within Fragility (https://jewishjournal.com/analysis/305571/sukkot-joy-and-strength-within-fragility/)

 $> \ \, \text{Eva Robbins (https://jewishjournal.com/author/evarobbins/)}, \, \textit{Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)} \, \\$



Yom Kippur is over. After focusing on repairing our relationships and cleansing our souls, we are filled with optimism and hope, and much more aligned...

> There are profound parallels between today's homelessness epidemic and the seven-day Jewish holiday of Sukkot and recalls the ancient Israelites' 40

years of wandering in...

(https://jewishjournal.com/analysis/305571/sukkot-joy-and-strength-within-fragility/)

MY TURN (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/MY-TURN/) Our Homeless Should Not 'Wander in the Desert' (https://jewishjournal.com/my-turn/305572/our-homeless-should-not-wander-in-the-desert/)

> Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper (https://jewishjournal.com/author/hier_cooper/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



(https://jewishjournal.com/my-turn/305572/our-homeless-should-not-wander-in-the-desert/)

HUMANS OF ISRAEL

(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/CULTURE/LIFESTYLE/HUMANS-OF-ISRAEL/)

Working Toward Peoplehood (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/lifestyle/humans-of-israel/305574/working-toward-peoplehood/)

> Natalie Solomon (https://jewishjournal.com/author/natalie_solomon/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



Michal Ben Dov has one word on her mind: peoplehood. And she believes you should be thinking about it too. You feel like you've heard...

(https://jewishjournal.com/culture/lifestyle/humans-of-israel/305574/working-toward-peoplehood/)

FIRST PERSON (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/FIRST-PERSON/) We Stand Divided, But Why? (https://jewishjournal.com/first-person/305575/we-stand-divided-but-why/)

> Michael J. Koplow (https://jewishjournal.com/author/michael-j-koplow/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



(https://jewishjournal.com/first-person/305575/we-stand-divided-but-why/)

While sitting in Rosh Hashanah services, I spent the better part of my time reading Daniel Gordis' new book "We Stand Divided," about the split between American...

COVER STORY (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/COVER_STORY/) On Sukkot, Look Up and Be Grateful (https://jewishjournal.com/cover_story/305576/on-sukkot-look-up-and-be-grateful/)

> Rabbi Adam Kligfeld (https://jewishjournal.com/author/adam_kligfeld/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



When you weave through the clumsy or wonderful (depending on your religious identity and aesthetic) accoutrements of Sukkot, when you observe every ritual and say...

The citywide monthlong current: LA Food triennial is here, with more than 75 free events and 15 commissioned installations in public parks in 15 Los...

(https://jewishjournal.com/cover_story/305576/on-sukkot-look-up-and-be-grateful/)

FOOD (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/CULTURE/FOOD/) A Confluence of Food and Art in Los Angeles (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/food/305583/a-confluence-of-food-and-art-in-los-angeles/)

> Jessica Ritz (https://jewishjournal.com/author/jessica-ritz/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



(https://jewishjournal.com/culture/food/305583/a-confluence-of-food-and-art-in-los-angeles/)

COMMUNITY

(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/NEWS/LOS_ANGELES/COMMUNITY/)

Report: NYC Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes Increased 50% in 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305396/report-nyc-anti-semitic-hate-crimes-increased-50-in-2019/)

> Aaron Bandler (https://jewishjournal.com/author/abandler323/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305396/report-nyc-anti-semitic-hate-crimes-increased-50-in-2019/)
Police Department (NYPD) Deputy Inspector Mark Molinari announced in an Oct. 3 meeting with the United Jewish Appeal (UJA)-Federation of New York donors...

COMMUNITY

(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/NEWS/LOS_ANGELES/COMMUNITY/) Breaking Down the Sukkah Business (https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305587/breaking-down-the-sukkah-business/)

> Ryan Torok (https://jewishjournal.com/author/ryan-torok/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)

Once Sukkot begins, observant Jews will spend the eight-day festival in outdoor huts that remind us of the fragility of our existence. If that sounds...

New York



(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305587/breaking-down-the-sukkah-business/)

COMMUNITY

(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/NEWS/LOS_ANGELES/COMMUNITY/) IAC's Israeli-Flavored Sukkot and Skirball's Harvest Festival (https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305589/iacs-israeli-flavored-sukkot-and-skirballs-harvest-festival/)

 $> Shawn\ Rodgers\ (https://jewishjournal.com/author/shawnrodgers/),\ Oct.\ 11,\ 2019\ (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/) \\$

With the High Holy Days



(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305589/iacs-israeli-flavored-sukkot-and-skirballs-harvest-festival/) behind us, it's time to shift our focus from the solemnness of Yom Kippur to the celebration of Sukkot. Sukkot...

COMMUNITY

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Poll: L.A. County Jews on Trump, Warren and Anti-Semitism
(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305402/poll-l-a-county-jews-on-trump-warren-and-anti-semitism/)

In a



(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305402/poll-l-a-county-jews-on-trump-warren-and-anti-semitism/) survey of 1,812 Jewish voters in Los Angeles County, 70% of those polled "strongly disapprove" of the way President Donald Trump is handling...

COMMUNITY

(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/NEWS/LOS_ANGELES/COMMUNITY/)
Mazon's 'This Is Hunger' Exhibition Now Available Online
(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305591/mazons-this-is-hunger-exhibition-now-available-online/)

> Leslee Komaiko (https://jewishjournal.com/author/leslee-komaiko/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)

Three years ago, the national



(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/community/305591/mazons-this-is-hunger-exhibition-now-available-online/) advocacy organization Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger debuted the exhibition "This Is Hunger." It opened in Los Angeles, generating...

MOVERS & SHAKERS (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/MOVERS-SHAKERS/) Israel Bonds, Temple Aliyah, Refugee Panel (https://jewishjournal.com/movers-shakers/305592/israel-bonds-temple-aliyah-refugee-panel/)

 $> \ \ \text{Ryan Torok (https://jewishjournal.com/author/ryan-torok/)}, \ Oct. 11, 2019 \ (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/) \\$

Development Corporation for Israel/Israel Bonds' Platinum Society held an event at the home of local real estate, investment and philanthropy leaders Debbie and Naty Saidoff...



(https://jewishjournal.com/movers-shakers/305592/israel-bonds-temple-aliyah-refugee-panel/)

ARTS (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/CULTURE/ARTS/) Breathtaking 'Holy Land' Photographic Exhibit at UCLA Hillel (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/305593/breathtaking-holy-land-photographic-exhibit-at-ucla-hillel/)

> Evan Henerson (https://jewishjournal.com/author/evanh/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



he aimed his camera and captured a majestically barren panorama along the Dead Sea in...

Donn Delson was thousands of feet above the Earth when

(https://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/305593/breathtaking-holy-land-photographic-exhibit-at-ucla-hillel/)

ARTS (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/CULTURE/ARTS/)

Exhibit's Haunting Holocaust Images (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/305595/exhibits-haunting-holocaust-images/)

> Gerri Miller (https://jewishjournal.com/author/gerrim/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



A bullet-riddled execution wall at Auschwitz. A dissection table used at the Majdanek death camp. Tallitot and suitcases never claimed by their owners. Train tracks...

(https://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/305595/exhibits-haunting-holocaust-images/)

ARTS (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/CULTURE/ARTS/)

Artist Lana Gomez Uses Life as Her Canvas (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/305596/artist-lana-gomez-uses-life-as-her-canvas/)

> Erin Ben-Moche (https://jewishjournal.com/author/erin_benmoche/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



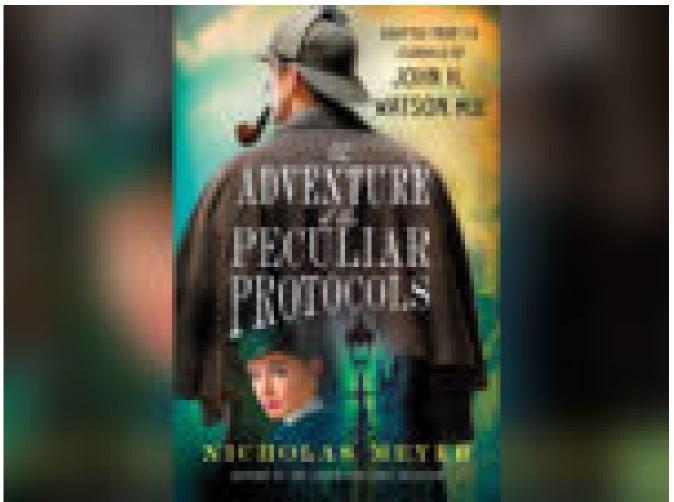
(https://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/305596/artist-lana-gomez-uses-life-as-her-canvas/)

Los Angeles artist Lana Gomez's artwork is literally larger than life. Whether it's a large rug or a vast wall, give her a blank canvas...

BOOKS (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/CULTURE/BOOKS/)

Sherlock Holmes Called On to Investigate the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/books/305597/sherlock-holmes-called-on-to-investigate-the-protocols-of-the-elders-of-zion/)

> Jonathan Kirsch (https://jewishjournal.com/author/jonathank/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)



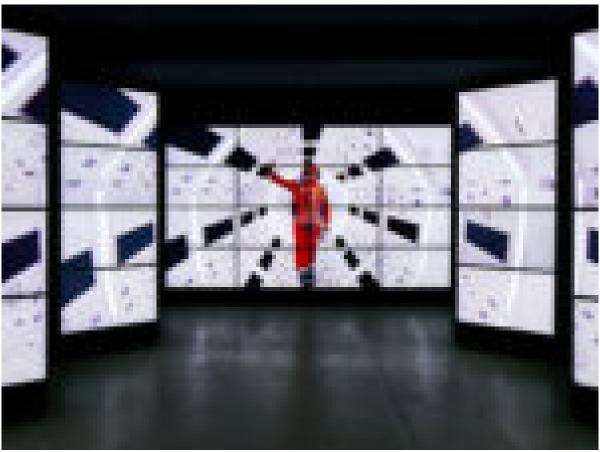
(https://jewishjournal.com/culture/books/305597/sherlock-holmes-called-on-to-investigate-the-protocols-of-the-elders-of-zion/)
Nicholas Meyer's first bestselling novel, "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution," concocted a fanciful case that brought together
the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes and the real-life founder of...

CALENDAR

(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/NEWS/LOS_ANGELES/CALENDAR_STORIES/) What Happening: Sukkot Events, Elliot Dorff and Israel Policy (https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/calendar_stories/305598/sukkot-events-elliot-dorff-and-israel-policy/)

> Ryan Torok (https://jewishjournal.com/author/ryan-torok/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)

SUN OCT 13 "FAMILY & ME: SUKKOT!"



(https://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/calendar_stories/305598/sukkot-events-elliot-dorff-and-israel-policy/)
Grandparents, parents and young children gather in the Burton Sperber Jewish Community Library at American Jewish University for...

OBITUARIES

(HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/CULTURE/LIFESTYLE/OBITUARIES/) Samuel Mayerson, District Attorney and Judge, 96 (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/lifestyle/obituaries/305599/samuel-mayerson-district-attorney-and-judge-96/)

 $> \ \, {\it Steven Mirkin (https://jewishjournal.com/author/stevenmirkin/), Oct.\,11,\,2019\,(https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)} \\$

Samuel (https://jewishjournal.com/culture/lifestyle/obituaries/305599/samuel-mayerson-district-attorney-and-judge-96/) Mayerson, renowned for his role as prosecutor in the 1976 Patty Hearst trial, died Sept. 30, less than a week before his 97th birthday. ...

IN GOOD FAITH (HTTPS://JEWISHJOURNAL.COM/CATEGORY/IN-GOOD-FAITH/) Everything but the Dust: The Case for Sukkot (https://jewishjournal.com/in-good-faith/305604/everything-but-the-dust-the-case-for-sukkot/)

> Louis Keene (https://jewishjournal.com/author/louis-keene/), Oct. 11, 2019 (https://jewishjournal.com/print/oct-11-2019/)

You don't get to choose how people remember you, and sometimes you learn something new about yourself when you find out how they did. For...



(https://jewishjournal.com/in-good-faith/305604/everything-but-the-dust-the-case-for-sukkot/)

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