

PRESS RELEASE

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Monday, November 24, 2025

Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh Presents Rabbi Angela Buchdahl in Conversation About Her New Memoir, *Heart of a Stranger*

PITTSBURGH, PA –The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (JCC) is honored to welcome Angela Buchdahl, Senior Rabbi of New York City's Central Synagogue, for a special conversation with WTAE's Shannon Perrine about Buchdahl's highly anticipated new memoir, *Heart of a Stranger*.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Sunday, January 25

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM

Location: Katz Theater, JCC Squirrel Hill

Registration: Required

Cost: \$36 (includes a copy of *Heart of a Stranger*)

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

Email: centerforlovingkindness@jccpgh.org

Register: bit.ly/cflk-heart-of-a-stranger



Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging traces Buchdahl's remarkable journey from feeling like an outsider to becoming one of the most admired religious leaders in the world. Born in Seoul to a Korean Buddhist mother and a Jewish American father, Buchdahl grew up navigating questions of faith, identity, and belonging. By sixteen, she felt the early calling to become a rabbi, despite doubts from peers, community members, and, at times, herself.

Her path led her from Yale University to rabbinical school, eventually becoming the first Asian American ordained as a rabbi and rising to serve as the Senior Rabbi of Central Synagogue, one of the largest and most influential synagogues in the world.

Intimate, insightful, and inspiring, Buchdahl's memoir shines a light on the challenges and triumphs of embracing one's full identity. She addresses racism within the Jewish community, sexism in religious leadership, and the rise of modern antisemitism, all while offering a message rooted in empathy, spiritual resilience, and belonging.

Today, Rabbi Buchdahl's invigorating, joyful approach to faith and community resonates with Jews and non-Jews alike. Her story underscores her conviction that the experiences that make us feel like strangers can ultimately become the source of our deepest connection and strength. This event, hosted by the Center for Loving Kindness at the JCC, invites the Pittsburgh community to explore themes of identity, purpose, and spiritual grounding with one of today's most influential Jewish leaders.

For media inquiries please contact:

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**Rabbi
Angela
Buchdahl
*Heart of a
Stranger***

Sunday, January 25
2-3:30 PM
Katz Theater
JCC Squirrel Hill

New York City's Central Synagogue Senior Rabbi Angela Buchdahl joins WTAE's Shannon Perrine for a conversation about Buchdahl's new memoir, *Heart of a Stranger*, and the story of one woman's journey from feeling like an outsider to becoming one of the most admired religious leaders in the world. Registration required.



\$36 includes a copy of the book to be picked up at the event
For more information contact centerforlovingkindness@jccpgh.org
bit.ly/cflk-heart-of-a-stranger



