



## *Madeline Abramson*

**MADELINE ABRAMSON** was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1955. She was raised in a traditional Catholic home, attended a Catholic school, lived in a primarily Catholic neighborhood, and attended mass regularly. However, as a young adult, Madeline realized the faith didn't align with her personal beliefs.

Madeline discovered Judaism through meeting her now-husband Jerry Abramson. His guidance encouraged her to find a sense of oneness with religion. She became dedicated to learning about Judaism and took classes at the local Jewish community center. Abramson soon felt a sense of belonging within herself and the Jewish community.

*I not only feel accepted by the Jewish community, I've always felt embraced by the Jewish community from day one...and still do...I feel that I am a part of this Jewish community.*

This moment of discovery shaped her future relationships and identity. She became active in the leadership of institutions and organizations that encouraged her conversion. She served on the National Council of Jewish Women Louisville sector and the advisory council for Jewish Family and Career Services. She also became devoted to advocating for women's empowerment and the arts.



*I always tried to make my volunteer service somewhat reflective of the community.*

Abramson was a limelight in the Louisville community throughout her husband's political career. Jerry Abramson became the Mayor of Louisville in 1986, and later served as the Mayor of Louisville Metro and the Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky. Although Louisville only had a Jewish population of 0.43 percent, the Abramsons were proud of their faith and became wells of knowledge for the general population.

*Over the years, people asked a lot of questions...I explained a condensed version of Judaism.*

Although a position in the political arena can be demanding, Madeline Abramson maintained a balance between faith and politics in her service to Louisville.