

The Jewish Journal

Published Monthly in Cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Ocean County



Jewish Federation
of Ocean County
Celebrating 48 Years!

Jewish Journal 732.534.5959 www.ocjj.net

August 2025 ✡ Av – Elul 5785

Jewish Federation 732-363-0530 www.ocjf.org

WE CELEBRATE ... WE DEDICATE ... WE DONATE



Watch for details of
coming attractions!



**YOU made an impact through
the Jewish Federation of
Ocean County!**

**See page 11 for descriptions of each
of these important organizations.**

Local News - see pages 4, 5, 6, 7

PRSR:STD
US Postage
PAID
W Caldwell, NJ
Permit #1052

A “Normal” Life in Israel



By Keith Krivitzky, Managing Director
Jewish Federation of Ocean County

keith@ocjf.org

www.jewishoceancounty.org

www.jewishoceancounty.org/donate

732.363.0530

Israel is a wacky place. Life here just isn't normal.

The crazy thing is that it feels normal when you are living here. But take yourself out of this context and you realize that the realities and the stressors of everyday life are just different in Israel.

I mean...missiles on a regular basis? This leads to a bit of macabre humor among Israelis. Do you go to the shelter after the first warning about potential missiles? Or do you wait for the siren about imminent

This place is too close to the hearts and dreams so many around the world. That's part of what makes this country special. Holy.

missiles? Or then there's the judgment calls people make, such as to go to the shelter for Iranian missiles because they are big and powerful – but it's not worth it for the Houthis. Their missiles are lame by comparison; you just need to go to a safer room in the house. (This reminds me about the old Buddy Hackett routine about skiing in the Catskills, nice Jewish hills, vs. Vermont, big scary Christian mountains.)

In Israel, this is normal, everyday chit chat. Except that this humor reflects the completely not normal real-life decisions about safety and well-being people here have to make. No wonder Israelis are brash and drive like maniacs...they have bigger issues to worry about.

I start with this because it is important to realize that the context here and consid-

rations about life in Israel are very different from those we face living in Ocean County or elsewhere in the West. Yes, we too have serious considerations and concerns, from antisemitism to security. But we don't feel like our lives are at risk every day. Given that a core component of our work as a Jewish Federation is helping care for the needs of our extended Jewish family and those most at risk, understanding this situation is critical.

Israelis, as a society, are suffering from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) to one degree or another. Unfortunately...the trauma hasn't actually ended. How can you begin the process of recovery and a return to normalcy when the wounds haven't healed and the scars are still fresh???

That's the real challenge today for Israeli society, as well as those who wish to help those whose lives have been upended. That's why we are looking at headlines that say, "Israel's impending mental health tsunami." And why schools like Ono Academic College are adding programs to train more social workers and mental health professionals.

We can do our part as well, by continuing to support organizations that are

helping people recover – now from October 7 and the 12-day Iran War (which some have also called the War Within the War). That's why we have made an additional round of grants to organizations like Crossroads, which helps Anglo youth dealing with social and psychological problems; to Shutaf Inclusion programs, which is hosting summer camp for special needs kids; and the Koby Mandell Foundation, which also provides camps and therapy for kids affected by these wars. We continually look for other opportunities where our support can make a critical difference, often with populations or programs that do great work but in more niche areas. And your support of the Jewish Federation's Israel Response efforts makes this possible.

Will life in Israel ever be normal? Probably not... But we can all look forward to a time when its citizens can lead more normal lives. Life in Israel will probably always be more intense than just about anyplace else. This place is too close to the hearts and dreams so many around the world. That's part of what makes this country special. Holy.

But a little bit of peace and quiet would be a good thing. Thanks again for your ongoing support and partnership.

One of the Most Important Things I Learned Was in a Catholic Church



By Rabbi Stephen D. Gold
Beth Am Shalom,

Lakewood

www.bethamshalom.org

(This article is based upon my last sermon before my retirement, delivered on June 27, 2025, at Beth Am Shalom: Reform Jewish Congregation.)

One of the most important things I learned was in a Catholic church. No, I have no intentions of studying for the priesthood in retirement, but I am forever grateful for this lesson learned early in my rabbinate.

I served Congregation Beth El in Tyler, Texas from 1989-1998. For most of those years, Beth El and six Christian congregations of various denominations conducted an Interfaith Education program established by my predeces-

The pews are the most important seats, containing the most sacred of all things in the sanctuary – the people.

sor, Rabbi Eugene Levy. We met weekly for seven weeks, rotating around the participants' houses of worship. We conducted classes for elementary, middle and high school students and adults. Adults met in the sanctuaries of the host congregations with their clergy describing the community's basic beliefs and customs.

On the day we met at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, a young priest began his talk with a question: "What is the most important, most sacred thing in this sanctuary?" Answers included the Cross with the crucified figure of Jesus, the Bible, the Bishop's chair and the Tabernacle with the consecrated host. The priest responded appreciatively for each "wrong" answer. "The answer," he said as he pointed to us, "is you."

I have sought, always to remember that

lesson and act accordingly. The congregation is neither *for* nor *about* its spiritual leader; the spiritual leader must be *for* the congregation – its people – to lead, teach, love and advise. While this distinction is obvious (and I think most would agree with it), rabbis' egos, certainties, and determination to realize their vision for the congregation sometimes interfere with its execution. We rabbis do well to remember that the reason for our presence is "you" the people. Without you, I could not be here. But without me (as rabbi) you are and will still be a congregation.

Rest assured, Cindy and I will still be here, just not in the same capacity. I will be a Jew in the pew.

And that takes me to my second story. Once, when Cindy and I were out of town over a Shabbat, we attended a local synagogue. Upon our return, a friend asked me, "how did it feel to be in the cheap seats?" First, I loved it. Second, I know that the phrase "cheap seats" conveys the kind that I get when I attend a Broadway show. These seats are unimpressive. They do not enjoy the status of those private box or center orchestra seats.

The situation is reversed in a house of worship. The pews *are* the most important seats, containing the most sacred of all things in the sanctuary – the people. That story illustrates the same lesson that young priest taught me many years ago.

This statement by Maya Angelou is cited so often that I fear it is becoming cliché. I do not even agree with it one hundred percent, but it helps me make my point and conclude: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

I pray that (at least most of the time) I made you feel that you are what is most important and sacred here.

The Jewish Journal is pleased to host a monthly Rabbi Column, rotating among our community's pulpit rabbis. The views and opinions expressed are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Jewish Journal, the Jewish Federation of Ocean County or the author's Congregation.



THE SHORE'S HOMETOWN TEAM

JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT

GATES OPEN
5:30 PM

AUGUST 19, 2025

GAMETIME
6:35 PM

\$15 TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

\$3 FROM EVERY TICKET SALE GOES BACK TO
A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION





CONTACT [JPODOS@BLUECLAWS.COM](mailto:jpodos@blueclaws.com) WITH ANY QUESTIONS

**Proud Phillies Affiliate**

732-901-7000

BLUECLAWS.COM



Local News

Art Contest Held at Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood

The winners of the Beth Am Shalom Art Contest are Julia and Jaxson Eisenberg. Their work portrayed aspects of their congregation around the design of a six-pointed Magen David Jewish star.



Confirmation Held at Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood



Pictured are (bottom row l-r) Penelope Krasner, Samantha Sadowsky and Paige Steinberg and (top row l-r) Cantor Jon Saouma, Andrew Kulchinsky and Rabbi Stephen Gold.

On Friday, June 6, at the Shabbat service, four students who completed their Religious School studies participated in the Reform tradition of Confirmation. They are Penelope Krasner, Andrew Kulchinsky, Samantha Sadowsky and Paige Steinberg.

Confirmation is a tradition started by the Reform Jewish Movement to encourage students to continue their Jewish studies beyond B'nai Mitzvah. Students meet weekly with the Rabbi to discuss current issues that relate to their Jewish learning. Most Beth Am Shalom students see Confirmation as a goal they wish to attain.

Temple Beth Or welcomes you to join us!

May all of the hostages being held in
Gaza come home safely and soon.

Contact us about our upcoming
services, programs, events
and adult learning opportunities -
in-person and on Zoom.

Call us at 732-458-4700 or email us at templebethorbrick@gmail.com.
Chaim Respes, Rabbi Dr. Sharon Monter, President

High School Graduate Honored by Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood

Beth Am Shalom extends a Mazel Tov to Jasmine Frey, daughter of Rebecca Frey. Jasmine graduated from Jackson Liberty High School. During Jasmine's high school career, she attained High Honor Roll all four years and was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Jasmine is part of the Jackson Academy of Arts instrumental music. In the Marching Band, Jasmine is Bass Drum Section Leader, and she plays saxophone in the Jazz Band. Jasmine is employed at United Skates in Jackson and is headed to Ocean County College as part of the New Jersey Stars Program. We at Beth Am Shalom wish Jasmine all the best as she begins her college career.



Jewish American Club at Leisure Village East, Lakewood

On June 12, Pastor Steven Philipp (on left) of the First Baptist Church of Laurelton and Rabbi Robert Rubin spoke on "Antisemitism and Other Hatreds" at the Jewish American Club at Leisure Village East. Evelyn Shore serves as President of the Club.



Local News

Jewish War Veterans of the United States Update

"A Jewish Voice for Veterans, A Veterans Voice for Jews since 1896"

By Al Adler

June brings warm days of summer, beach parties and many activities for organizations such as the Jewish War Veterans.

On June 1, Carol Adler NJ State Ladies Auxiliary President and I attended the installation of officers from Post 126 in Cherry Hill. Carol Adler installed the officers of the Ladies Auxiliary and Selina Kanowitz installed the JWV Post Officers. The program was very interesting and informative.

On June 8, the Monmouth, Ocean and Union Post 178 held their installation of officers. Installed were Dorit Attias as Post Commander, Barry Segal as Senior Vice Commander, Bob Jacobs as Junior Vice Commander and Michael Berman as Post Judge Advocate. Department President Carol Adler installed the officers of Auxiliary 178. Installed were Bonnie Stein and Tracey Adler as Co-Presidents, Jolie Fromm as Senior Vice President, Fran Gimpel as Junior Vice President, Susan Karsh as Treasurer, Malka Wax as Chaplain and Nancy Weinberger as Secretary. Congratulations to all of the Post and Auxiliary Officers.

June 18 was the installation of officers of Post 125 in Deal. Carol Adler installed the officers of the Auxiliary and Selina Kanowitz JWV Department of New Jersey Commander installed the officers of Post 125. The brunch was catered by Fred and Murry's in Freehold and was delicious.

On June 22, the JWV and JWVA held their 94th Department Convention at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River. The program was beautifully done by the Convention Committee. The JWV State Officers were installed by National Commander Gary Ginsburg and the JWV Ladies Auxiliary was installed by Past National President Sophie Ruderman.

The new Department of New Jersey JWV Officers are Michael Steinhorn as Department Commander, Dr. Stephen Sunshine as Senior Vice Commander, Gerald Levine as Junior Vice Commander and Michael Berman as Judge Advocate. The new Department of New Jersey JWVA Officers are Maxine Berger and Sandra Fritts as Co-Presidents, Tracey Adler as Senior Vice President and Se-



Department commander Selina Kanowitz installing officers of Post 125



Bill Kaemmer speaking at the Department Convention on June 22

cretary, Susan Karsh as Junior Vice President, Bonnie Stein as Treasurer, Sophie Ruderman as Judge Advocate and Debbie Mellitz as Chaplain.

The keynote speakers were Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, the Adjutant General and Bill Kaemmer, Executive Director of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Mr. Kaemmer presented a very interesting slide program on the Four Chaplains and the Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

Post 178 Commander Dorit Attias was honored as Post Commander of the Year and Post of the Year Congratulations to Post 178 on these honors. Ed Hornichter from Post 609 in Concordia received the Person of the Year Award.

We would like to thank the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center in Toms River for making our state convention such a success. The staff worked very hard, and we appreciate their dedication and work above and beyond.

On July 3, if you go to the ShopRite in Howell, look for the JWV and JWV Ladies Auxiliary who will be collecting donations for our hospitalized veterans and the state veterans homes. Please be generous and remember that we are the Home of the Free because of the Brave. Please support our veterans.



The Adjutant General of the State of New Jersey Brig Gen Yvonne L. Mays addressing the audience



(l-r) Brig. General Yvonne L. Mays and Past Department Commander Al Adler



Selina Kanowitz receiving a plaque from National Commander Gary Ginsburg



(l-r) Brig. General Yvonne L. Mays, Past Department Commander of the JWV Selina Kanowitz and National Commander Gary Ginsburg. Selina was given an award for her great job as Commander



Past Department President Carol Adler speaking



Annual Pollinger Award Awarded by Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood

Every year, one outstanding student at the Beth Am Shalom Religious School is chosen to receive the Pollinger Award given by Lois Pollinger in memory of her husband, Merrill Pollinger, a great supporter of religious education. This year's recipient was Jaxson Eisenberg. The award is \$500.



Local News

Rabbi Stephen Gold Honored at Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood

On Friday night, June 27, Rabbi Gold officiated at the final Shabbat service before his retirement from Beth Am Shalom. Congregants of all ages came to share this Shabbat service together.

On Sunday, June 29, congregants, friends, and family celebrated Rabbi Stephen Gold's 27 years of dedicated rabbinical leadership of Beth Am Shalom, as he begins his retirement and a new phase of his life as Rabbi Emeritus. Many people spoke in praise of his thoughtful, caring approach. Many described him as a true mensch.

In addition to his clerical duties, he presided over a merger and a move to a beautiful new building. He served as Principal to its creative and innovative Religious School. He provided thought-provoking Adult Education classes.

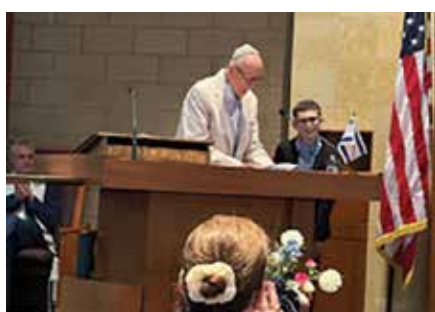
Approximately 175 people enjoyed the brunch of bagels, lox, tuna and egg salads, French toast, egg wraps, fruit platters and desserts catered by Shore Catering and joined in toasting Rabbi Gold with Mimosas. The committee, chaired by President Fran Gimpel, consisted of Melanie Giudice, Sandy Yaskulka, Randi Bell, Laura Butcher, Allison Lave- ne, Julie Oliver, Steve Rosenzweig and Missy Francis. The committee shopped and set up the platters and designed the centerpieces and room setup. Many thanks to the donors and sponsors who helped defray the cost of the brunch. The event was sponsored by the congregation with the participation of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County (JFOC).

Keith Krivitzky, JFOC Managing Director, sent the following message (as he was in Israel at the time of the event):

"On behalf of the Jewish Federation, it is our pleasure to add some words of beracha and praise to what has been said about Rabbi Stephen Gold. Rabbi Gold has been an important part of our community for many years – through his leadership at Beth Am Shalom, his involvement in the Jewish Federation, and his ongoing pursuit of justice in the broader community.

"When Rabbi Gold sees a challenge or problem, he is among the first to stand up, call it out, and address it. When someone in the community needs help, or when our community requires a leader to lend his voice or hands, we can always count on

Friday, June 27



Rabbi Gold. Rabbi Gold truly embodies the idea that all of Israel is responsible for one another. And that, while it may not be up to us to complete the task...neither is it up to us to desist from trying.

Sunday, June 29



"Rabbi Gold, you are a role model for many and you will take your good name and personal example wherever you go. We are sorry to see you step down at Beth Am Shalom but are somewhat reassured in that you are remaining a part of



our community. And we know that you will always be in our hearts.

"Chazak v'amatz. May you and your family go from strength to strength."

Local News

Jewish Community Center of LBI Turns 75: Roots Strong, Future Bright



PEACE TOGETHER: A 9,000-square-foot building that contains the sanctuary was built in 2011, with original stained-glass windows preserved from the original building, each representing one of the 12 tribes of Israel. (Supplied Photo)

By Christina Scannapiego
July 2, 2025
thesandpaper.net

A single sheet of paper from 1957 announced the groundbreaking of a synagogue that was never built. The planned location, between Bay and Beach avenues in Beach Haven, was later deemed unsuitable, but the vision behind it remained. For Jon Geier, JCC board vice president and historian by training, that slip of paper represents something larger: an enduring community that's grown stronger through adaptability, tradition and decades of shared purpose.

While that building never materialized, the vision did. This summer, the JCC celebrates its 75th anniversary with a full calendar of events and a renewed commitment to honoring its roots while building toward the next chapter.

Founded in the early 1950s, the JCC began as a seasonal gathering of Jewish families who held services and community gatherings in each other's homes. The community grew slowly and steadily, later using the Baldwin Hotel in Beach Haven for services, youth programs, card parties and carnivals until it burned down in 1960, just after Rosh Hashanah.

Still, the community rallied. Many families continued to open their homes until 1961, when a new building was construc-

ted on East 24th Street in Spray Beach. In the years that followed, Sunday school classes took place in trailers out back. Teen dances and mah jongg games brought people together. The first bar mitzvah was held in 1967, the first bat mitzvah in 1980. "At Southern Regional (High School), there were only two Jewish kids," recalled longtime member Diane Hoffman. "But it was still a vibrant, close-knit community."

Over the years, the JCC added tennis courts, flea markets, and cultural programming that extended well beyond the summer season. In 1979, the congregation transitioned to year-round operation and began the search for its first permanent rabbi. In 2011, the original structure was replaced with a 9,000-square-foot building that today houses classrooms, a kosher kitchen, a library and a sanctuary with original stained-glass windows preserved from the old building, each representing one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The arrangement mirrors the way the tribes were said to be camped in the wilderness, according to tradition.

"That's the kind of detail we've held onto," said Jeri Riffle, the JCC's only former executive director. Inside the sanctuary, the original eternal light still hangs above the ark, a symbol of continuity and care. After more than a decade in the new facility, that light has also come to symbolize the practical need to sustain the building itself.

"We've had building funds before," said Geier, "but never a fund to help us preserve what we have. The goal is to raise up to \$180,000 to carry us through the next 25 years." The congregation also received a \$100,000 security grant from the state of New Jersey, which will go toward installing a generator and hardening building access points. Members spoke warmly of their partnership with the Long Beach Township Police Department, which regularly provides support for services and events.

Even as the congregation raises funds to sustain the space, the focus this summer is on celebrating the people and stories that built it. The anniversary celebrations began earlier this summer with an interfaith kickoff event featuring the Island Singers and clergy from across LBI. A gala is planned for August 10, and a comedy fundraiser will take place at Surfflight Theatre on Sunday, September 1 at 7:00 PM. Additional programming



will be held at the Harvey Cedars Bible Conference and on the beach, with Shabbat services alternating between Spray Beach and Loveladies throughout the summer.

About one-third of the JCC's 330 member families live in the area year 'round. The rest return each summer from such places as Philadelphia, Atlantic City and New York. Some call it their second congregation. For others, like Riffle and Hoffman, it's the only one they've ever known. "My kids and grandkids were all bar or bat mitzvahed here," Hoffman said. "And the rabbi always includes the children. He has them march around with toys during the service. It makes an impact."

The JCC continues to host weekly services, mah jongg games, adult education classes, and its popular annual summer bazaar, now condensed to one date on July 30 with more than 70 vendors.

"There's history here," said Don Pripstein, a former president, who led the effort to build the current facility. "But more than that, there's belonging."

Riffle agreed. "I remember the first time I was in the Acme (Market) and saw someone I knew," she said. "It was someone from the JCC. That's when I realized I was part of something."

For more about the 75th anniversary events, visit jccoflbi.org or stop by the foyer at the synagogue, where the original stained glass filters afternoon sunlight across a community still going strong.

75th Anniversary Events

Saturday, August 10: Diamond Jubilee Gala – celebrate the JCC's 75th with dinner, dancing and community recognition.

Wednesday, July 30: annual summer bazaar – more than 70 vendors inside and outside the JCC social hall, offering crafts, gifts, dry goods and food.

Sunday, September 1: Comedy fundraiser at Surfflight Theatre – an evening of laughs to close out the summer and support the JCC's Ner Tamid fund.

Ongoing

Beach Shabbat services: Fridays through summer, alternating between 24th Street in Spray Beach and behind St. Clare's Church in Loveladies.

Mah jongg and canasta: Wednesdays, year 'round, in the JCC social hall.

Membership breakfast: held each summer for members, families and guests.

Editor's Note: The current spiritual leader of the congregation is Rabbi Michael Jay.

Jewish Community Calendar – August 2025

Compiled by the Jewish Federation of Ocean County based on submissions from the event hosts – Events can be submitted at www.jewishoceancounty.org/calendar. Most of the Jewish Virtual University webinars are emergent with only a few days' notice and are updated on the page www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu and our facebook page facebook.com/jewishocean.

Tuesday, August 5, 1:00 PM (and every week on Tuesday) – **Grief After Loss Group** led by Rita Sason, Jewish Family and Children's Service, virtual online, 732-363-8010

Thursday, August 7, 7:30 PM (and the first Thursday of every month) **Caregivers Group** led by Rita Sason, Jewish Family and Children's Service, virtual online, 732-363-8010

Saturday night-Sunday, August 2-3 – Fast of Tishah B'Av

Friday night-Saturday, August 8-9 – Tu B'Av

For information, contact the event host or see related publicity in this issue of The Jewish Journal.



Securing Our Community

SCN Launches 2025 High Holiday Security Briefing Series with Focus on Threat Landscape, Preparedness Roadmap, and Key Resources

Inaugural Session Brought Together Over One Thousand Registrants for Overview on Evolving Threats and Community Readiness

June 26, 2025

securecommunitynetwork.org

CHICAGO, IL – On June 26, the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, launched its annual High Holiday security briefing series to help Jewish communities prepare with confidence ahead of this year's High Holiday season.

The virtual kick-off session brought together over one thousand participants from across North America, providing a first look at the evolving threat environment and a roadmap for enhancing preparedness at every level of Jewish life, from synagogues and schools to Jewish Community Centers (JCCs).

The briefing included timely threat intelligence from SCN's Jewish Security Operations Command Center, actionable guidance, and a personal safety overview titled "Situational Awareness: Before, During, & After Services," designed to equip participants with key tools to stay alert and responsive during the holidays.

"This year's High Holiday season comes amid a deeply complex threat environment. I applaud the proactive efforts of the security professionals serving the community, the engagement of our broader community and law enforcement partners, and, critically, the commitment of communities to prepare," said Michael Masters, SCN National Director and CEO. "Our goal is to reach every member of the Jewish community and center of Jewish life. We are well on our way to ensuring that we are prepared so that services and activities remain meaningful, robust, active, and open."

In the weeks ahead, SCN will roll out its full 2025 High Holiday preparedness series calendar. This includes featured sessions on securing synagogues, cybersecurity best practices, countering emerging threats, and ensuring accessibility and emergency preparedness. These efforts are being conducted in coordination with our synagogue movement partners and other centers of Jewish life to meet the varying needs of our diverse Jewish communities.



SCN's regional security directors and local community security professionals are already working closely with law enforcement agencies nationwide to ensure High Holiday security needs are anticipated and addressed. Communities are encouraged to connect with their local security professional to conduct High Holiday security assessments, update emergency plans, and coordinate directly with law enforcement ahead of the high-traffic season.

In light of recent critical incidents, SCN and partners are emphasizing a comprehensive set of recommendations for communities to enhance vigilance, which includes Eight Security Recommendations for Hosting Public or Community Events, outlining actionable steps to reduce risk and increase preparedness.

Other Resources Include:

- Recognize the Signs of Terrorism-Related Suspicious Activity (DHS)
- Active Shooter Attacks: Security Awareness for Soft Targets and Crowded Places (DHS)
- Suspicious Activity Reporting: Indicators and Examples (DHS)
- Low-Cost/No-Cost Security Measures for Jewish Facilities
- Communicated Threats Checklist
- Leadership Safety Guide
- Facility Security Guidance

To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency and reach SCN at 844-SCN-DESK or dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org.

Editor's Note: The video "Key Considerations for High Holiday Preparedness" is available on the website of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County at www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu.

Secure Community Network June 2025 Report

By Michael G. Masters
National Director & CEO
Secure Community Network

On the ground in Boulder, Colorado, after the latest attack against American Jews, lay an American flag, drenched in gasoline from the Molotov cocktail thrown by the offender and water, crumpled in a heap. Beside the flag was one of the victims of the attack, huddled in pain, with emergency workers providing comfort.

The attack in Boulder was the third one directed against the Jewish community in a little over a month. The home of the Jewish Pennsylvania governor was firebombed during Passover. In May, two individuals were murdered outside an event hosted by a Jewish organization at a Jewish venue in Washington, D.C., and then 13 community members were injured in the attack in Boulder. We now mourn the loss of Karen Diamond, who was critically injured in that attack.

Over the past three months, threats to the Jewish community have grown increasingly visible. But these attacks are not just attacks on the Jewish community. They are attacks on religious freedom and, fundamentally, the systems of democracy that make the United States and Canada strong, undertaken by individuals who are shouting slogans associated with and promoted by terrorist organizations, and those who fund them. Those seeking to foment these attacks have interests that go beyond taking lives: they are seeking to destabilize our democracies.

During the critical incidents in both Washington, D.C., and Boulder, CO, as well as following the strikes on Iran, SCN immediately activated the full weight of our network, including the Duty Desk and local security professionals. We remain closely engaged with the Boulder and D.C. communities, law enforcement, and partners nationwide to ensure tailored support.

Our after-action efforts have included sharing critical intelligence that is assisting ongoing law enforcement investigations and helping ensure best-practice communal preparedness, especially as we plan for the High Holidays.

In our nation's capital, SCN Deputy Director of Intelligence and Information Sharing Kerry Sleeper testified before Congress on the escalating threat environment. He noted that SCN tracked over 500 life-threatening incidents last year, with a projected 40% year-over-year increase in 2025. In the week following the 21 May shooting outside the Capital Jewish Museum, SCN tracked 6,000 violent threats against the Jewish community online.

Following Israel's 12-day war with Iran and the subsequent U.S. strike on Iran's nuclear infrastructure, SCN coordinated with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other agencies to co-host a national threat briefing attended by more than 1,000 intelligence and law enforcement professionals. During the briefing, SCN warned of increased risks to Jewish institutions from Iranian-aligned groups and others exploiting the Israel-Hamas conflict as a pretext for violence. In the hours after the U.S. strike in Iran, SCN logged 1,680 violent posts online directed at the Jewish community alone.

The convening received widespread media coverage from major national and international outlets, including The New York Times and the Associated Press, and was also the subject of studio interviews on ABC and CBS. In response to these converging events, we also shared an op-ed in The Jerusalem Post outlining the escalating threat environment and its implications for the homeland.

Additionally, SCN joined national Jewish organizations in Washington, D.C., for high-level meetings with lawmakers and federal agencies. A top priority was advocating for increased funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) to help communities strengthen physical security and emergency preparedness efforts.

SCN remains fully engaged in protecting Jewish life through proactive security and preparedness, strong partnerships, and national advocacy.

Stay safe.

How Many American Jews are there? A Global Study of World Religions Offers a New Estimate

As always, how exactly to count the number of Jews is up for debate.



By Grace Gilson
June 9, 2025
jta.org

In its landmark study of American Jewry in 2020, the Pew Research Center reported that there were an estimated 7.5 million Jews of all ages in the United States. Now, in a new study released Monday, the center says the number is actually more like 5.7 million.

What happened to 1.8 million American Jews? For the purpose of its latest report, which focuses on global religious population change, Pew is counting only those who self-identify with Judaism as a religion rather than those who identify as Jewish due to “ethnicity, culture or family background.”

The metric was used because the goal of the project was to “report which religion, if any, people around the world identify

with,” according to Conrad Hackett, Senior Demographer and Associate Director of Religion Research at Pew. In order to generate a number that could be comparable to, say, the number of Presbyterians, researchers needed to use a metric that could apply across communities.

But the metric also means that 1.8 million Americans who identify as Jewish but do not say they are Jewish by religion are excluded from the tally. The tally also does not detect growth in that population – by Pew’s previous assessment, the fastest-growing segment of American Jews.

The analysis, focused on population change, found that the population of Jews by religion in the United States grew by just 30,000 between 2010 and 2020. In contrast, it found that the Jewish population of Israel – as measured by the Israeli government – increased by 1 million, to 6.8 million, during that time.

In multiple other regions, Africa and Europe, the Jewish population fell substantially, largely reflecting widespread emigration. The European Jewish population

fell by an estimated 8%; the Latin America-Caribbean region decreased by 12%; and the sub-Saharan African Jewish population dropped 37%, to just 50,000 in 2020, according to the report.

The overall growth in the world’s Jewish population did not increase their proportion of the world’s religious adherents because of the much faster growth in other populations. The study found that Muslims are the fastest-growing religious group, up 21% since 2010 with a total population of 2 billion.

Various efforts to count the number of Jews in the world have yielded an array of tallies, all below the Jewish population alive before the Holocaust. The Pew report quotes one demographer focused on Jews, Sergio DellaPergola, as noting that Jewish population counts are “permanently provisional” because of both data quality issues and the fact that the question of who is a Jew does not have a fixed answer.

JOIN US

Erev Shabbat Services - Fri. 6:15pm

BethAmShalom, A Reform Congregation!

• Friendly Family Atmosphere

• Religious School

• All-inclusive Congregation

• Men’s & Women’s Clubs

• Toddler Programs

• Adult Education Classes

Beth Am Shalom

A Reform Congregation

BethAmShalomLakewood

www.BethAmShalom.org

1235 Route 70 • Lakewood, NJ 08701

732-363-2800

YOU Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County - Israel Emergency Grants

YOU Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Israel Emergency Grants

At the recent JFOC Board Meeting, six emergency grants were approved to provide critical assistance due to the Iran War with funds raised during our May Match in honor of Israel’s Yoms (special commemorative days). Below are their replies and a brief description of their work. To continue supporting our JFOC Israel Emergency Fund visit www.jewishoceancounty.org/israelemergency.

Israel Trauma Coalition: Thank you all so much for your support. It is greatly appreciated. We are moving into a new period, with many challenges and much to do and you will be part of this. Amen to your wishes for better times. [Israel Trauma Coalition: Founded in 2001 at the initiative of the UJA Federation of NY, it is the cornerstone in the national

treatment of trauma and emergency preparedness in Israel and around the world. It is an organization that provides leadership, and resources before during and after a crisis.]

Crossroads: This is fantastic news. This will be meaningful in allowing us to respond to the many requests for crisis support we have received over the last few weeks. [Crossroads – It provides essential prevention and intervention program for Anglo teens and young adults in Israel.]

Shutaf: That’s really great to hear. Thank you so much for this excellent news of the federation’s continued support for Shutaf. We are hopeful that the situation in Israel allows us to hold our camp in August - preparations are in high gear.

Many thanks to you and to the trustees. [Shutaf – It offers programs for children with disabilities.]

Jewish Agency for Israel: We truly appreciate the continued support and solidarity of your community. I’ll be happy to send over some updates and stories. [Jewish Agency for Israel – The Jewish Agency’s Fund for Victims of Terror has been providing immediate, critical financial aid to victims and their families.]

Similar expressions of “thank you” were received from two other recipients of JFOC Israel Emergency grants – **Lev Otef** [Lev Otef/GNT – This program provides ongoing activities to the evacuees in cities across Israel, building on their proven approach of uniting body, spirit, and mindfulness to help people feel

more control over their lives.] and the **Koby Mandell Foundation**. [Koby Mandell Foundation – This program helps families of those killed in terror attacks and has several programs especially for kids.]



The logo for the Jersey Shore BlueClaws, featuring a blue crab wearing a red cap and holding a baseball bat, set against a circular background with the team name.

THE JERSEY SHORE'S HOMETOWN TEAM

A collage of three photos: a player with jersey number 10 (Miller) from behind, a player with jersey number 43 from the front, and a group of children on a baseball field.

USE CODE JJ25 TO SAVE \$5 PER TICKET!

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS

A QR code with the BlueClaws logo in the center, used for purchasing tickets.

BLUECLAWS.COM

Brief Descriptions of the 2025 Israel Emergency Grantees of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County Portrayed on the Cover Page

All of these fifteen organizations are doing work in Israel. Also see the articles on pages 10 and 18.

Belev Echad – coordinates and addresses various needs and the volunteers

Brothers for Life – facilitates injured soldiers helping injured soldiers

Brothers of Jonathan – supports soldiers and families

Counseling Center for Women – provides private and group psychotherapy for women during the war

Crossroads – provides intervention programs for Anglo teens and young adults

Derekh Eretz – provides preparatory programs for youth at risk and on the periphery

Dror Israel – provides youth programs throughout the country focused on the periphery

Israel Heart2Heart – works to turn trauma into triumph helping IDF warriors with post-traumatic stress

Koby Mandell Foundation – helps families of those killed in terror attacks

Lev Otef/GNT – provides ongoing activities to the evacuees in various cities

Lone Soldier Center in Memory of Michael Levin – meets the needs of lone soldiers and supports the families of those killed

Rising Heroes – helps soldiers transform trauma into strength

Shutaf – provides programs for children with disabilities

Thank Israeli Soldiers – supports Israeli soldiers through partnerships with Israeli nonprofits

Tikvot – rehabilitates Israel's wounded soldiers and victims of terror through sports

Tishah B'Av and Jerusalem: A Time to Remember, A City to Honor

On the 9th Day of the Jewish month of Av, we recall the destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple – the first time by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and the second time by the Romans in 70 CE. It is a fast day and we read the biblical Book of Eichah (Lamentations) and mournful Kinot (special lamentation prayers). While observing the sadness we also appreciate Jerusalem as the capital of Israel once again, and we strengthen our bonds with modern-day Jerusalem as we recall its history. This year, the Ninth of Av occurs on Saturday night-Sunday, August 2-3.



Essential Aura
MEDICAL SPA



WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

DON'T BE AFRAID TO LOSE WEIGHT!
Start your weight loss journey with our proven successful program under the direct supervision of our board-certified physicians

- ✓ Individualized diet counseling
- ✓ Exercise regimen
- ✓ Lab testing and EKG available on-site
- ✓ B12 injections

✓ SEMAGLUTIDE INJECTION
 On an average patients lose about >15% of their weight as per the Semaglutide clinical trials

MEDICAL SPA SERVICES

- ✓ Injectables
- ✓ Facials
- ✓ IPL Skin Rejuvenation
- ✓ Laser Hair Removal
- ✓ Microneedling
- ✓ Body contouring & skin tightening



CALL/ VISIT US:

- 📞 **732-415-8120**
- 📍 Suite 12N
Parkway 70 Plaza
1255 Rt 70 Lakewood
08701 NJ
- 🌐 www.essentialauraspa.com
- ✉ admin@essentialauraspa.com
- 📍 Essential Aura Spa
- 📍 Essential Aura Medical Spa

RANDY TALAMAYAN, MD | JOSEPH MORELOS, DO | MARIA COLLADO-TALAMAYAN, MD | MARTIN ARAUJO, MD | MEETKUMAR SHETH, MD | ANNIE NGUYEN-MOLTE, MD





Fall Festival

Crafts. Petting Zoo. Vendors. Garden Tour & More

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 26TH 1:30 - 4:00 PM**

COMMON GROUNDS COMMUNITY GARDEN

JOHN PATRICK SPORTS COMPLEX

VINE STREET, LAKEWOOD

info@oneoceancounty.com



How Will Israel's New Budget Affect Social Services? An Expert Weighs In

With higher defense spending and growing interest payments, the government will have less to fund education, health and welfare services, according to the Taub Center think tank.



Illustrative. A group of volunteers fill tupperware with food in Tel Aviv, Israel, that they will distribute among Israeli evacuees on Nov. 21, 2023. Adri Salido/Getty Images

By Judith Sudilovsky
April 10, 2025
ejewishphilanthropy.com

With Israel's 2025 budget now passed, the massive direct and indirect costs of the wars in Gaza and Lebanon – and how they will affect Israeli society – are coming into sharper view. Israeli social, medical and educational services are all expected to feel the strain, even as these areas have taken on greater importance, in light of a major increase in defense spending as well as growing interest payments on Israeli government debt.

That's the assessment of experts from the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies think tank.

These budget cuts, along with rising costs of living – already high in Israel and which is expected to get even higher in the coming two years – will disproportionately affect lower- and middle-class citizens, Nir Kaidar, director-general of the center, said this week during a webinar breaking down the 2025 budget and its ramifications.

According to Kaidar, the number of people living in poverty in Israel may not change significantly as a result of these cuts, but the conditions for those already living in poverty and the middle class are expected to become increasingly challenging. In addition, he said, there remains a severe shortage of social workers and teachers in the country, with over 20% of teachers leaving the profession each year.

Kaidar said the original total budget for 2024 was approximately NIS 450 billion (\$118.2 billion), with most of it going to social services, while NIS 100 billion (\$26.3 billion) went to defense and se-

curity. But by the end of 2024, because of the war, the budget had changed significantly, and the amount spent on security and defense had doubled, with Israel now spending 90-100 NIS billion (\$23.6 billion-\$26.3 billion) more on defense and security than initially planned, he said. For social services, Kaidar said, "this is a major issue."

In addition, while the defense expenses recently approved by the Knesset for the 2025 budget are expected to be less than those of 2024, they are still 50% higher than the original 2024 budget. Israel's interest payments on its debt are also expected to increase significantly, which will make it hard to retain current expenditures on social services without greatly increasing the deficit, he said. "With the interest payment and with the defense payment, it will be very hard to maintain," he said.

The overall budget for social services has seen some increases in the 2025 budget, but even these will primarily go to maintaining the same level of service amid rising costs and rising demands. The ability to maintain these levels of funding

is also under threat due to rising defense and interest costs. There are potential cuts planned for the 2026 and 2027 budgets.

The Ministry of Health's budget has increased by roughly NIS 5 billion (\$1.3 billion), going mainly to public health-care providers (known in Hebrew as kupot holim), but according to Kaidar, this is not to improve the system but to maintain the status quo amid natural population growth, aging and rising health costs. "It's mainly in order to maintain the same level of health services in Israel," he said.

A primary focus for the Ministry of Health is on increasing the number of nurses and physicians in Israel, as a significant portion of the medical workforce is currently trained abroad while many doctors and nurses are reaching retirement age, he said. This is crucial due to the aging population and rising health-care demands.

The ministry aims to improve mental health support, which Kaidar said is in dire need of improvement, with the go-

Continued on page 24



"For the Lord thy God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, and grapevines, figs and pomegranates; a land of oil olives and date honey."

Deuteronomy/Devarim 8:7-8

**The Jewish Federation
helped to build Israel.
Today, we help keep it strong.**

Am Yisrael Chai - The people of Israel lives!

Since October 7, this University has Quietly Opened its Doors to Jewish Students Leaving Uncomfortable Campuses

An under-the-radar program for mid-year transfers appeals to Jewish students looking for friendlier pastures.



Brookings Hall at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, March 23, 2023 (Warren LeMay via Creative Commons)

By Andrew Lapin
February 19, 2025
jta.org

During Lauren Eckstein's freshman year at Pomona College, her grandparents pledged \$1.2 million to the private school toward a scholarship to support refugee students. They gave the money, a press release said at the time, in honor of their family's own refugee background, having fled antisemitism in Europe.

That was in December 2022. Less than one year later, following the October 7 Hamas attacks in Israel, Eckstein herself

was looking to leave the Los Angeles college after experiencing antisemitism on a campus that was, and continues to be, a hotspot of pro-Palestinian activism. "I had gone home and was finishing my semester online due to the targeted antisemitism I experienced," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Eckstein had already sensed campus hostility toward Israel prior to October 7. But after the attacks, she recalled, her friends "started to give me dirty looks" following her decision to post pro-Israel messages on social media. She saw pro-Palestinian protesters staging demonstrations in dining halls and other common areas; she felt that university faculty, including her history professors, were backing the protesters. "I didn't feel comfortable going back," she said.

"I have a great deal of respect for my grandparents donating the money for refugees," Eckstein said. But when it came to finding a comfortable atmosphere for herself as a Jewish student, she sought a safe haven halfway across the country: at Washington University in St. Louis.

For the last two years, Jewish college students looking to flee hostile environments on their campuses have had this under-the-radar option available to them. After the October 7, 2023, attacks in Israel, WashU quietly introduced a program allowing students to transfer from other colleges for the spring semester, rather than waiting until the new school year.

The program did not explicitly cater to Jewish students, but some have taken advantage of it. According to the student paper, around 20 students in total have reportedly utilized the program, including Eckstein and several other Jewish students who said they left other prestigious schools over antisemitic environments. Six students transferred as part of the program this year.

"I've become very involved in the Jewish community here – another transfer and I am now co-presidents of Chabad, and I'm also on the Hillel board, and so I feel like I'm always doing things within the Jewish community, and a lot of my friends are Jewish," Eckstein told the student paper. "I just feel very connected."

WashU is one of a small number of colleges that have tried to appeal to Jewish students looking for friendlier pastures since October 7. Brandeis University, a secular private school founded by and, in part, for Jews, extended its transfer application deadline last summer and saw 90 students opt to transfer.

Yeshiva University, the Modern Orthodox flagship in New York City, was buoyed by a \$1 million donation from NFL owner Robert Kraft specifically to encourage transfer students. It said this fall that its admissions have spiked since the attacks.

And a number of Christian colleges, including schools with little to no programming or infrastructure for Jewish campus life, have also made direct transfer appeals to Jewish students or hired Jewish staff away from secular universities since October 7.

To be eligible for WashU's program, a spring transfer student needs to have completed at least one prior semester of college. Only the university's Arts and Sciences college is eligible to accept transfers.

News about WashU's program circulated



A mural memorializing Israeli hostages on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, shortly after October 7, 2023. (Courtesy of Lauren Eckstein)

in the Facebook group Mothers Against College Antisemitism and on the message board College Confidential, but the university administration isn't exactly advertising it. A spokesperson declined to provide any information to JTA about the transfer program, its number of applicants, acceptance rate or how it has affected Jewish students, beyond insisting it was open to all interested transfers.

Official communication about the program is so scant that, when reached for comment, the WashU spokesperson initially said the school was cancelling it due to lack of interest. Hours later, the spokesperson reversed course and said the program would in fact continue.

Yet for the Jewish students who felt stranded without allies on other campuses after October 7, WashU has become something of a respite. "I think the administration has set a positive tone," said Rabbi Hershey Novack, co-director of WashU's Chabad center, which has attracted multiple transfer students: Both of its current student co-presidents, including Eckstein, used the spring transfer program.

WashU does not have the same Jewish roots or identity as Brandeis or Y.U., but it has a large Jewish population (a quarter of the student body is Jewish, according to Hillel). That may be why its transfer policy appealed to Jewish students even if it didn't explicitly reach out to them.

Novack said that he'd been surprised at the news the school had launched a spring transfer pilot after October 7, expecting that such a program would ordinarily take years to develop. At least six of the approximately 20 spring transfer students to date are Jewish, coming from other private schools like Occidental College in Los Angeles, according to reports in the student newspaper. "I felt



**Beth Am Shalom
Religious School**

**Now Accepting Registration
for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Classes offered for K-6th Grades

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN OUR NEW CLASS FOR
KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE STUDENTS**

**AVAILABLE TO TEMPLE MEMBERS
*K-1 CLASS INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP***

**SUNDAYS 10:30 AM-12 PM
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 7**

**If interested, please contact the Temple
Office at (732) 363-2800.**

Continued on page 25



Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc.

BIG BOX PHARMACIES ARE CLOSING BUT OHI DELIVERS!

**WE DELIVER WEEKDAYS
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY!**

W/ SAME DAY DELIVERIES*

**OUR PHARMACIES ARE HERE
TO HELP YOU GET THE
SAVINGS YOU WANT ON THE
PRESCRIPTIONS YOU NEED!**

**340B PROGRAM WITH
AFFORDABLE OPTIONS****

**BENEFITS OF USING OHI
AND THE 340B DISCOUNT
PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM**

LOWER MEDICATION COSTS:

Patients can access discounted prices on prescription medications, which helps reduce out-of-pocket costs.

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS:

For uninsured or underinsured individuals, the 340B program provides access to necessary medications you might not otherwise be able to afford.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE:

340B pharmacies often work closely with healthcare providers to ensure patients receive the medications they need as part of their overall treatment plan.

BROADER ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS:

The program enables patients to access a wide range of medications that may not be covered under insurance, including those for chronic conditions, mental health, and infectious diseases, among others.

NO NEED FOR INSURANCE:

The 340B program provides access to medications regardless of whether you have insurance, making it an important option for anyone without health coverage.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

340B pharmacies are typically associated with safety-net providers, ensuring that low-income and underserved communities have access to affordable care and medications.

PATIENT EDUCATION:

As a 340B pharmacy we offer counseling and support to help our patients understand their medications, improving medication adherence and self-management of conditions.

* Cut off for same day delivery is 12:30PM

** Ocean Health Initiatives pharmacy is open for OHI patients but also accepts outside prescriptions by referral

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT **WWW.OHINJ.ORG** OR CALL **732.363.6655**

The Community Connected at “Let’s Connect” on June 19



As part of his national tour, Comedian Brad Zimmerman presented “My Son the Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy” and entertained the members of the community at The Strand Theater in Lakewood at an event organized by the Jewish Federation of Ocean County to raise critically needed funds to support its varied ongoing projects and programs. There was also a dinner before the show for the people who registered for it. Here are a few of the reactions to the event.

Shelly Newman: At a time when we all needed to enjoy a good laugh, Brad Zimmerman provided many. His one man show, describing his life as a waiter and wanna-be actor, kept his large audience filled with laughter and recognition of familiar mothers’ and sons’ relationships. Thanks to The Jewish Federation of Ocean County, Let’s Connect and to its sponsors, for a great evening of fun.

Lorna Klein: We just loved the Let's Connect evening with Brad Zimmerman and his one-man show "My Son the Waiter." The pre-show dinner was delicious, and it was a great way to chat with fellow donors and also support the Federation's work. Brad is a really funny guy – his jokes were hilarious and his stories were very funny and also at times quite touching. He kidded around with some of the audience members – making us quite glad we did not sit in the first couple of rows! Overall, it was a really fun way to spend an evening.

Leslie Passy: It was a wonderful evening. Brad Zimmerman was very funny. Our seats were perfect. Thank you.

Upcoming events by the Jewish Federation include the Jewish Cultural Festival and the Community of Caring: Heroes Against Hate. If you wish to help plan either of these events or wish to submit a nomination for Heroes Against Hate, please contact Sharron at the Jewish Federation at 732-363-0530.



Thank you to our sponsors...



GOLD SPONSOR
Annabel & Manny Lindenbaum

SILVER SPONSORS
Cantors Ruth & Daniel Green
Shelly & Dennis Newman

PATRONS
Fran Gimpel
Shelley & Ray Lynnworth
Barbara & William Schulman

2025 Sponsorship Opportunities & Benefits



FULL SERIES ANNUAL SPONSORSHIPS

Gold Sponsor: \$5,000 – Includes tickets for events and a full page ad in Ocean JPages
Silver Sponsor: \$2,750 – Includes tickets for events and a half page ad in Ocean JPages
Bronze Sponsor: \$1,500 – Includes tickets for events and a quarter page ad in Ocean JPages
Patron Sponsor: \$1,000 – Includes tickets for events and name listing in Ocean JPages

All sponsorship levels are listed in multiple issues of the Jewish Journal and featured on our website, in community emails and social media.

[WWW.JEWISHOCEANCOUNTY.ORG/SPONSORSHIPS](http://www.jewishoceancounty.org/sponsorships)

----- The deadline to be in the next issue of the Jewish Journal is the first Thursday of each month -----

Name	Credit Card Number
Address	CVV Expiration Date
Email	Signature
Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed. (please make checks payable to: Jewish Federation of Ocean County)

Full Series Discount Sponsor Level: Gold@ \$5000 Silver@ \$2750 Bronze@ \$1500 Patron@ \$1000
(Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors, please email camera-ready logo to sharron@ocjf.org)

_____ Sponsor Level: Gold@ \$1800 Silver@ \$1000 Bronze@ \$540 Patron@ \$360
Single Event – Fill in (Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors, please email camera-ready logo to sharron@ocjf.org)

Please list your name/business exactly as you prefer it to appear: _____

LET’S CONNECT ANNUAL PACKAGE INCLUDES THE LET’S CONNECT 2026 EVENT.

Send form to: Jewish Federation of Ocean County · 1235A Route 70 · Lakewood, NJ 08701 · 732-363-0530

FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

Gary Torgow Elected Jewish Federations of North America Chair



From JFNA
June 9, 2025

Jewish Federations of North America are pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has elected Gary Torgow as Chair. Torgow previously served as National Campaign Chair, led the 2024 General Assembly, and is currently chair of The Jewish Federation of Detroit. His term will begin on July 1.

“I am appreciative and honored to be elected Chair,” said Torgow. “The North American Jewish community is at an inflection point and looking to its Fed-

eration leadership to ensure that we not only overcome the challenges we face, but thrive. As chair, I will work with the broad Jewish Federations leadership to fight for our community’s security, work together to rebuild Israel, and deepen Jewish education so that our communities can flourish.”

Torgow is the Chairman of Huntington Bank, the 16th largest bank in the United States of America, and Business Leaders for Michigan, a roundtable of the top 100 CEOs and Chairpeople of the state’s leading companies. He also serves on the public company boards of DTE Energy and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and is a trustee of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Torgow is Chairman of the 2025 NAACP Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner and was the recipient of the NAACP’s Lifetime Achievement Award and the Urban League’s Distinguished Warrior Award. He was the commencement speaker at both

Alma College and Eastern Michigan University, where he received honorary doctorate degrees. He has led numerous and critical efforts to support communities all across the state, including leading the corporate fundraising for the City of Detroit’s Strategic Neighborhood Fund, where over \$250 million was raised for seven Detroit neighborhoods. Torgow is the author of two books, “Raising the Bar” and “Holy Warrior.”

“While we have done so much in the past three years, the work is not yet done,” said Julie Platt, who served as chair over the past three years, and will continue to be active as Immediate Past Chair. “Jewish Federations of North America are so fortunate to have Gary as our next chair, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that, even in these difficult times, our vital work will continue to provide leadership, resources, and hope as we build and secure flourishing Jewish communities.”

In addition to Torgow, the board inaugurated a new slate of officers, including Jeffrey Schoenfeld, Vice Chair; J. David Heller, National Campaign Chair; Dena B Rashes, Treasurer; David Golder, Secretary; and Julie Platt, Immediate Past Chair.

“Our system could not be more fortunate to have Gary Torgow taking the helm during this critical period, in which we are battling an unprecedented spike in antisemitism and working to meet the moment offered by the recent surge in Jewish engagement,” said Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Eric D. Fingerhut. “I’d also like to thank Julie Platt for the unbelievable work she has done over the past three years, helping our system overcome some of the most daunting and historic challenges we have faced in our modern history with ability, kindness, and determination,” he added.

Jewish Federations of North America Israel Emergency Response Committee – Summary of Approved Grants

From JFNA
June 22, 2025

Access Israel – Access Israel has evacuated up to 500 people with disabilities and launched a national hotline to support their needs during the crisis. It is also training local authorities and distributing emergency preparedness materials for people with disabilities.

ALEH – ALEH provides care for children with complex disabilities and was previously supported to equip protected spaces with life-saving equipment. After its Bnei Brak center was destroyed in a missile strike, ALEH is urgently working to reopen services in a new location.

Connections 20-80 (Hiburim) – Hiburim combats loneliness among elderly and Holocaust survivors through intergenerational volunteer networks. It expanded operations during the war, launching a dedicated call center and enhancing hotline and volunteer support in southern Israel.

CSPC – Mashabim – Mashabim operates resilience centers in northern Israel

and provides trauma support to evacuated and affected populations. Funding will support emergency kits, public outreach, and flexible staff support.

Hospitals – Israeli hospitals have activated emergency protocols and moved patients to protected spaces. Funding will support critical equipment and staffing needs, with special attention to Soroka Medical Center, which sustained a direct missile hit. Other hospitals include Hadassah Medical Center, The Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer, Yitzhak Shamir Medical Center (formerly Assaf Harofeh Medical Center), Rabin Medical Center – Beilinson Campus, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center (Ichilov Hospital), and Rambam Health Care Campus.

Israel Association of Community Centers – IACC operates over 1,000 community centers and is launching a Shelter Response Initiative to support 100 centers with emergency equipment, staff training, and culturally relevant programming. Jewish Federations have supported IACC since October 7.

Israel Midwives Association – This pro-

gram supports pregnant women during the crisis by launching a national hotline for remote consultations. It ensures continued care for partners of reservists and others unable to safely access hospitals.

Israel Trauma Coalition – ITC is a national leader in trauma care and emergency preparedness, offering direct emotional support, resilience kits for children, and training for frontline professionals. It also provides therapeutic workshops and a hotline for mental health workers.

Israel Volunteering Council – IVC coordinates over 200,000 volunteers and 86 NGOs during emergencies in partnership with the IDF Home Front Command. Funding will expand its digital volunteer management system and enhance coordination through the MARSEL civilian assistance center.

Joint Distribution Committee – JDC supports Israel’s most vulnerable populations and will use emergency funds to deploy essential workers with the Ministry of the Economy, distribute rescue equipment, and assist missile-impacted local authorities. Grants will also fund case workers for elderly residents.

Latet – Latet combats poverty and food insecurity and is distributing food and hygiene kits to Holocaust survivors and vulnerable populations during the crisis. Federation support helps sustain this large-scale humanitarian response.

Leket Israel – Leket Israel rescues surplus food and distributes it to over 400,000 Israelis weekly, including evacuees and low-income families. It also supports local agriculture by purchasing produce directly from farmers.

Lev Ehad – Lev Ehad mobilizes thousands of trained volunteers to support civilians during emergencies, especially the most vulnerable. Current efforts include aid for missile-impacted residents, reservist families, and children in shelters.

Local Authorities – Local governments are overwhelmed by the dual challenge of missile damage and widespread civilian stress. Flexible Federation funding will help them meet urgent needs not covered by national aid.

Or Movement – Or Movement strengthens emergency preparedness in the Ne-

Continued on page 24

FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

Federations Allocate \$10M to Iran Emergency in Israel



From JFNA
June 23, 2025

Jewish Federations of North America allocated \$10 million in Israel Emergency Funds to 19 partner organizations in order to meet new and emerging needs resulting from Iran's missile attacks against the Jewish state.

The funds went toward providing emergency relief for families whose homes have been damaged or those who have been forced to evacuate their homes, providing medical and trauma relief, upgrading conditions in public bomb shelters, assistance for vulnerable populations including homebound elderly, those with disabilities, and new immigrants, and strengthening community.

"Once again, Israel is facing new and unexpected challenges as it defends itself against a ruthless aggressor, and once again Jewish Federations are mobilizing to provide critical support and relief," said Jeff Schoenfeld, incoming Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jewish Federations of North America.

"We want every Israeli to know that the North American Jewish community has their backs, and will continue to step up in meaningful ways, whether that means supporting hospitals, upgrading conditions in public bomb shelters, or helping evacuees and victims of terror."

The two largest allocations, at \$2 million each, went to the Jewish Agency for Israel's Fund for Victims of Terror new Rising Lion Fund, and toward assisting hospitals.

The Rising Lion Fund will provide immediate assistance for bereaved families, those who have been severely injured, and those whose residences have been destroyed by missile attacks. The Jewish Agency received another \$500,000 in allocations to support the elderly and new immigrants.

The hospital allocation will provide institutions with essential equipment purchases and emergency personnel needs, including Soroka Medical Center in Beer Sheva, which was struck by an Iranian ballistic missile last week.

Three allocations amounting to \$1.5 million also went to our core partner, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which will use the funds to recruit and deploy emergency workers for essential services in partnership with the Ministry of the Economy; distribute basic search and rescue and advanced first aid equipment to local authorities; and enable local authorities that have

suffered major missile strikes to provide support to affected residents, including the hiring of case workers for their elderly population.

Other critical areas that Federations are mobilizing to support include:

Emergency relief for families displaced by missile attacks

Nearly 15,000 homes have been damaged in the past week, and over 9,000 people Israel have been forced to evacuate. Most evacuees are currently housed in hotels and guesthouses, and immediate needs are being met, but we know there are gaps that philanthropy can assist with.

Shelter and supplies for civilians seeking refuge

With around 2.6 million Israelis – 28% of the population – lacking access to approved shelters, local authorities have opened public shelters, parking garages, and schools to keep people safe. Shocking images from places like Bat Yam and Haifa have driven more families to seek overnight refuge in these spaces. Organizations that can step in with operational support or run programs in shelters are urgently needed. That means improving conditions by bringing in essentials like mattresses, fans, food, and water, plus games and activities to help kids cope with long hours underground.

Specialized care for the elderly, disabled, and the vulnerable

As the conflict with Iran escalates, vulne-


rable groups – like the elderly and people with disabilities – are facing even greater challenges. Everyday tasks like shopping or accessing support services are becoming harder, and many don't have access to safe rooms. Some may need to be relocated entirely. Right now, top priorities include food deliveries, volunteer check-ins for isolated individuals, and evacuation support.

Trauma counseling and mental health services

The mental health toll is growing fast. In just one week, over 4,700 calls flooded Israel's emotional support hotlines. Emergency protocols are activated – expanding services, launching more hotlines, and offering emotional first aid and on-the-spot psychological evaluations. Teams are also on the ground in missile-hit areas like Tel Aviv and Bat Yam, providing immediate psychological first aid. These teams also need help processing their experiences.

Programs to strengthen community resilience and rebuild hope

The surge in demand for critical workers to keep essential businesses such as supermarkets, pharmacies and gas stations open and fill in for security guards, drivers, and childcare providers for essential personnel, has grown dramatically. Jewish Federations provided seed funding to plan for and are now supporting a JDC initiative in partnership with Israel's Ministry of the Economy to recruit and place these temporary workers and boost Israel's emergency resilience.



Jewish Federations of North America mourn the tragic passing of Karen Diamond, 82. On June 1, she had gathered for a peaceful demonstration demanding the release of hostages held by Hamas when she was violently attacked by an antisemitic extremist. We extend our heartfelt prayers to her family and loved ones, and to all of those injured in the horrific event.



Jewish Federations of North America mourn and pray for the families of Ofra Keidar, Jonathan Samerano, and Staff Sgt. Shay Levinson—each of whom was murdered or abducted during the October 7th onslaught by Hamas terrorists.

The previously unnamed deceased hostage whose body was returned on June 11 was Aviv Atzili.

Five-star hospitality with excellence

★★★★★

Everyone who visits our mansion
will relax like royalty and leave
well-rested

A hidden gem in the heart of downtown Toms River Today’s luxury, yesterday’s comfort. Voted one of the best tea rooms in New Jersey! The Mathis House at 600 Main is a Victorian bed and breakfast and tea room where you can reward yourself by connecting with tranquility and creating memories that will last a lifetime. We are the perfect choice for overnight stays, afternoon tea, dinner or choosing a place for a special event.

Just minutes from the beach!

While we provide five-star hospitality with excellence, everyone who visits our mansion will relax like royalty and leave well-rested. The Mathis House is ideal for the corporate traveler, tourists from abroad or couples looking for a romantic getaway. Whether you’re hosting an event for your club or entertaining a business meeting, our standards and attention to detail will create an experience like no other.



AUGUST CALENDAR

August 2	7:00 PM Broadway on Your Block Sound of Music \$75 Adults \$55 Senior \$20 Children	August 20th	6:30 PM Blue Tea Bingo, \$20 per person
August 6th	6:30 PM Ice Cream Social \$20 Adults \$10 Children	August 22nd	7:00 PM Ladies Night Dinner Buffet with Live Music \$42
August 9th	7:00 PM 80’s Night Murder Mystery \$75 Adults \$55 Senior	August 23rd	7:00 PM Chocolate Speakeasy Dessert Buffet with Live Music \$25 per person
August 13th	6:30 PM Princess Tea with Cinderella, Adults \$20, \$10 Children	August 27th	6:00 PM Monthly Tea Club Complimentary
August 15th	7:00 PM Filipino Night with Karaoke \$42 per person	August 30th	7:00 PM Who Killed Peggy Sue Murder Mystery \$75 Adults \$55 Senior
August 16th	10 AM Breakfast at Tiffany’s \$50 per person		
August 16th	6:00 PM Lobster Boil with Jazz, \$100 Adults, \$50 Children		

Contact: Vicki
(732) 818-7580



600 Main Street, Downtown Toms River, NJ 08753 | mathishouse600main.com

We continue our prayers for the crisis in Israel:

May those who are still captive as hostages be released soon and safely.

May those who are wounded have a complete recovery.

May the memories of those who died be forever a blessing.

May all have peace.

Jewish Holiday Family Photos

We invite our community members to submit a few photographs of their family's recent holiday celebrations. Include a one-line caption describing the activity in the photo.

You may include everyone's name or just your family's name or without any names at all.

All submissions are subject to our editorial review, and we do not promise that all submitted photos will be published.

Email your submission to jfoceditor@ocjf.org.

We invite our community members to submit original poetry or short essays (500 words or less) to the Jewish Journal. All submissions are subject to our editorial review, and we do not promise that all will be published. Email your submission to jfoceditor@ocjf.org.

Help support our *local* Holocaust Survivors in Ocean County *live at home with dignity.*

We now have two matching grants that provide over \$7 million dollars in home health care services, glasses, dental care, hearing aids...






OUR 2025 MATCH REQUIREMENT - \$135,000

THREE WAYS TO DONATE

1 Donate online at jewishoceancounty.org

2 Call the Federation office at 732-363-0530 and talk with our staff about donation options.

3 Make a monthly gift to support these critical services.



TRIBUTE DONATIONS

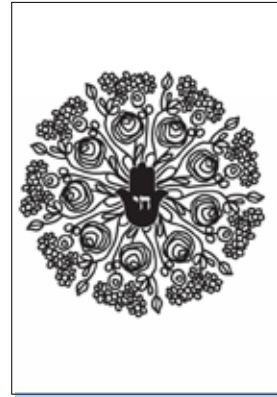
Special Offer

A Tribute Card Pack

You can purchase a dozen blank assorted tribute cards to send on your own for a \$36 contribution to the Jewish Federation.

FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF TZEDAKAH WITH AN INDIVIDUAL TRIBUTE CARD FOR \$18 EACH.

Jewish Federation of Ocean County accepts a minimum donation of \$18 and sends a Tribute card as well as lists your tribute in the Jewish Journal to anyone you may want to acknowledge; a simcha, graduation, an award, new grandchild, starting a new adventure, get well, loss of a loved one, or any other life-altering event. Call the Jewish Federation of Ocean County at 732-363-0530, email federation@ocjf.org or visit our website www.jewishoceancounty.org/tribute.



Here is How You Can Support Our Holocaust Survivors and Seniors

- Please contribute to:**
- Friends of JFCS
 - The Holocaust Survivors’ Special Fund
 - The Seniors Lunch Program Special Fund

It is easy to donate a little each month, to make a big impact!

- Go online to www.jewishoceancounty.org.
- Send a check, use your credit card, transfer stock.
- Call the office and talk with our staff.
- **Bring in your Tzedakah box. We will count it for you.**



NEW

Send an email tribute for a minimum donation of \$10

Mazel Tov, In Honor of You, Birthdays, and In Memory of e-mail cards sent on your behalf and listed in the Jewish Journal.

JFOC Tributes

June 10 – July 8

In Honor of
Rita Sason by Lynn Kaban
Harriet Selinger becoming a great grandmother by Anise Singer

In Memory of
Irving Kirschner by Robert Kirschner
Len Schlosberg by Ruth Schlosberg

Henna Freyda bas Leba v’ Jonah 2/14/1925 - 4/10/2025 –
Dr. Jill and Douglas Collier have made a donation to the Holocaust Survivor Fund in loving memory of 100-year-old Holocaust survivor Henna Freyda bas Leba v’ Jonah, the mother of Gary Stein.



- Consider making a monthly gift to support your community.

PJ Library Photos with Children

Do you have a photo of your child reading or holding a PJ Library book?
We would like to publish some of them.

We omit the names of children. The names of any adults in the photos could be included or omitted based on the guidance of the adult submitting the photo(s).

Email them to JFOCeditor@ocjf.org.

Jewish Federation
of Ocean County
1235A Route 70,
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-363-0530



OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE COLLEGE DRIVE
TOMS RIVER, NJ

Join Us on Campus!



GRUNIN CENTER
FOR THE ARTS



Check out our new season online!
www.grunincenter.org

ROBERT J. NOVINS PLANETARIUM

One of the largest planetariums in New Jersey!



Visit our website
for complete details & showtimes
go.ocean.edu/planetarium

WORKFORCE & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Get information about our programs and view the catalog online!

- Career & Job Training
- Certificate Programs
- Business
- Computers
- Healthcare
- Early Childhood Education
- Personal Enrichment Classes
- Languages



go.ocean.edu/wpe



Do you know a Holocaust survivor with a story to tell?

We are recording Holocaust survivor and witness testimonies across the United States and the Ceci Chan and Lila Sorkin Memory Studio at our headquarters in Los Angeles.

Sign up now: sfi.usc.edu/new-survivor-testimonies



The Jewish Journal
Published Monthly in Cooperation With The Jewish Federation Of Ocean County

Jorge A Rod
Publisher

Betty Rod
Managing Editor

Gildardo Cruz
Production Manager

Our Mission:
The Jewish Journal of Ocean County is dedicated to the dissemination of information concerning significant events; social, cultural, and educational, that impact upon the Jewish community of Ocean County.

For advertising, call:
P: (732) 534-5959
F: (732) 987-4677

Write:
PO BOX 156
WHITING, NJ 08759

Visit us:
www.ocjj.net

Email us:
jrod@lunj.net

Jewish Journal Editorial Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County

Phone: 732-363-0530. Email: jfoceditor@ocjf.org

Anise Singer, Chairperson Shelly Newman
Annabel Lindenbaum Rabbi Robert Rubin

Views and opinions expressed are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Jewish Journal.
The Jewish Journal does not endorse the goods and services advertised in its pages and makes no representation as to the products and services in such advertising.



Israel's New Budget

Continued from page 13

vernment planning to invest approximately NIS 1.4 billion (\$368.9 million) in mental health initiatives. “We have an excellent health system in Israel, but the mental health part is broken... But it is hard to fix structural problems just with money. The mental health system also needs a paradigm change,” he said.

Similarly, the Ministry of Education is seeing increased funding to meet the needs of the growing number of children in Israeli schools, particularly in special education. “We are spending much more money now on special education, [but] it’s not to give better services – there are more kids that need special education in Israel,” he said.

On a positive note, Kaidar said that despite the challenges facing Israel, he was optimistic Israel could still make improvements to the economy that could alter this trajectory. “If we take steps to better integrate Arabs and Haredim into the labor market, increase the competition in the Israeli economy and improve the quality of public services, these changes are entirely possible,” he said.

Israel Emergency Response Committee

Continued from page 18

gev and Galilee by supporting 10–15 local authorities with equipment, training, and technology. The goal is to build long-term resilience in underserved regions.

Pitchon Lev – Pitchon Lev distributes food, clothing, and essential supplies to over 200,000 people weekly. During the crisis, it is also equipping public shelters with mattresses, fans, and other necessities.

Shinua Hevrati (Social Delivery) – Shinua Hevrati ensures rapid delivery of humanitarian aid across Israel and recently opened a new warehouse in the north. Funding will expand operations to meet growing demand and cover urgent supply gaps.

The Jewish Agency for Israel – The Jewish Agency launched a new fund under the Fund for Victims of Terror to support bereaved families, the severely injured, and those whose homes were destroyed. Additional grants will support elderly housing, new immigrants, and mental health programming in absorption centers.

Yedidim – Yedidim mobilizes 65,000 volunteers to provide non-medical emergency aid across Israel. Federation support is helping expand its digital infrastructure and supply volunteers with rescue kits and safe room repair tools.



Jewish Federation of Ocean County is now on Facebook
Like us at:
www.facebook.com/jewishocean

Give Every Month

Support all the efforts of Jewish Federation of Ocean County and Jewish Family and Children's Service:

- Combatting Hate
- Serving our Holocaust Survivors
- Connecting our Community with News and Programs
- Helping Jews in Need Locally & Globally



Be a GEM like:

Alan Baum

Fran Gimpel

Mary Jassie

Keith Krivitzky

Susanne Mars

Haya Rubin

Dr. Jill and Douglas Collier

Mark Hauerstock

Steven Katz

Pam & Morris Ligorski

Janett & Ronen Rotem

Harriet Selinger

ADD YOUR NAME HERE

Arrange automatic payments on your credit card or send in a monthly check

Contact JFOC office by calling 732-363-0530

or send your pledge to:
1235A Route 70, Lakewood, NJ 08701
or <https://jewishoceancounty.org/gem>

JULIO HANDYMAN
Professional services of a universal handyman

Julio your professional, local handyman can provide proven solutions for home and business repairs, maintenance, installations and improvements at reasonable price.

Julio was great to work with. I have had some not-so-great experiences with other handymen in the past so it was great to work with a true professional. I needed a lot of storage in a small space and he figured out how to get a ton of storage with shelves and cabinets and the installation was perfect!
Gustavo M.

Testimonial

Call (848) 525-3586

Advertise in
The Jewish Journal

732-534-5959

Jewish Students Leaving Uncomfortable Campuses

Continued from page 14

like an outcast for my political views and Judaism, and I felt uncomfortable. Not as much physically unsafe, but very much mentally,” one of those students told the student paper last year about why she transferred from her old school.

WashU hasn’t been immune to tensions over the Israel-Hamas war. The school, like many others, briefly had a pro-Palestinian encampment which some students and faculty were suspended for participating in; students there have also pushed to divest from Israel. Last year the student government passed a resolution calling on the university to divest from Boeing, citing its ties to Israel.

The school’s Hillel – whose director did not respond to repeated requests for comment – has accused at least one faculty member of promoting “anti-Israel bias.” That professor, shortly after the attacks, described the vandalism of the home of a member of the pro-Israel lobbying group AIPAC as “pretty cool.”

But WashU’s chancellor, Andrew Martin, also issued communications opposing antisemitic language and actions,

including stating that the disputed phrase “From the river to the sea” is “well understood by most in our community” to be associated with “hatred.” “To use that phrase, particularly in circumstances where we know it will have a harmful impact, is well beneath the dignity of every member of our community,” Martin, who teaches classes on free speech, wrote in November 2023. “This type of language does not build understanding; its contribution to the community is ill will, anger, distress, and sadness.”

Such actions endeared the school to Jewish groups like the Anti-Defamation League, which gave WashU a “B” – a relatively high grade – in its new (and controversial) “campus antisemitism report card” database.

Martin also made a point of visiting a Chabad event for parents and families weeks after the attacks, to assure families the university was taking steps to make its Jewish students feel welcome. This gesture was appreciated, Novack said. “Ultimately it comes down to leadership,” the rabbi added. “And the university here has capable and effective leaders

who have condemned antisemitism early and often.”

After hearing about WashU’s transfer program, Eckstein visited campus and was won over by its “large and thriving Chabad and Hillel.” She also saw a display of hostage posters in a heavily trafficked area leading to dormitories that she found “incredibly moving.” WashU was the only school to which she applied for a transfer. The transfer program, she

said, “helped me and other Jewish students enter a community where we truly belong.”

Novack hopes the school can set an example for what a welcoming college feels like. “My hope is that campuses will calm down over time,” Novack said. “There’s no reason for WashU to have a monopoly on providing a safe space for all her students. It should be the baseline for every campus in America.”



Jewish Federations of North America mourn the tragic loss of five young Israeli soldiers from a Haredi battalion who were killed on Tuesday by an explosive device in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza.

The Jewelry Link

Family Owned and Operated.
Master Jeweler - Work done on premises

Friendship Mall 502 New Friendship Rd., Howell, NJ 07731

- ▲ Custom Designs
- ▲ Insurance Appraisals
- ▲ Insurance Replacements
- ▲ Expert Watch Repair
- ▲ Jewelry Restoration
- ▲ Mined & Lab Diamonds

Watch Batteries


\$6⁹⁹

Valid for most watches.
Cannot be combined with other offers.
You must present the coupon.
Limit 2 coupons expires 08/30/25

SELL YOUR GOLD!

Turn your old jewelry into CASH!
We buy Gold, Silver & Platinum including Flatware,
Coins & Dental Gold.

732-370-4840 www.jewelrylinknj.com



Good Friend Electric

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES & LIGHTING SINCE 1937

Toms River	265 Route 37 East	732.349.4100
Lakewood <small>UEZ 1/2 Sales Tax</small>	121 E. County Line Rd.	732.942.3100
Brick	534 Brick Boulevard	732.920.7100
Wall <small>NEW LOCATION</small>	1245 18th Avenue	732.456.5100
Lacey	403 Route 9	609.693.8100
Manahawkin	325 Route 72 East	609.978.9100

www.goodfriendelectric.com

Jewish Federation of Ocean County, a non-profit corporation, publishes The Jewish Journal 12 times a year. Views expressed by columnists, in readers’ letters and in reprinted opinion pieces do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Jewish Journal, the Jewish Federation of Ocean County or any agency of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County. Submissions of copy and .jpeg photos may be sent to Editor (jfoceditor@ocjf.org) or mailed to the known office of publication. All copy or photos submitted to The Jewish Journal shall become the property of The Jewish Journal and the Jewish Federation of Ocean County. All submissions of text or photography may be changed and printed at the discretion of the editor without notice to the submitter. The Jewish Journal reserves full discretion to decide what will be published. No material will be accepted which is considered against the best interest of the Jewish community. Acceptance of advertising neither endorses advertisers nor guarantees kashrut.

ARE YOU CARING FOR A LOVED ONE?

“I feel guilty because I’m so irritable.”
“How come nobody asks how I am doing?”
“I’m so distracted at work, worrying about Mom.”
“I’m tired of relatives and friends criticizing me.
I’m doing the best I can.”

JOIN US FOR A MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP



Meetings are virtual
on the
first Thursday of the
month at 7:30pm.

For more information
call 732-363-8010.
Group Facilitator:
Rita Sason, LCSW

Learn coping strategies, get practical information about dementia and managing other chronic diseases, find new community resources and benefit from the support of other caregivers.



JFCS
Jewish Family & Children's Service



Jewish Federation
of Ocean County



Seal of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners

SPEAKERS BUREAU

How to improve your relationships
Mindful meditation
Successful Aging/Are the Golden
Years Golden?
Does being positive and having
gratitude make your life better?
Ask about more topics!


Federation speaker:
Anti-Semitism: It's Here Today- What
We Can Do
Israel - Current News

For more information contact Rita at 732-363-0530 or jfcs@ocjf.org



JEWISH FAMILY AND *changing lives...*

Great Summer Reading Tips



Summer is in full swing. With camp, the beach, playdates, and the great outdoors calling, it can be easy to let good reading habits slip. We're happy to tell you that it's easy to integrate reading and stories into your everyday summer schedule.

Whether you're slipping books into the beach bag or taking advantage of the public library's free air conditioning, there are many ways to make sure your family keeps reading all summer long. Here are our tried-and-true summer reading tips:

Take Books with You – Toss books in your beach bag, your vacation carry-on, or in the stroller. On hot days at the park, encourage your child to take a minute enjoying some shade with a book of their choice. If you're packing for a vacation, make a big deal out of selecting a special "vacation read" together with your child.

Read Aloud Together – Studies show that children whose parents read aloud to them have a leg up on literacy and reading comprehension. Feel free to read aloud to children of all ages. Make silly voices, take turns, stop to answer questions your child might ask. You'll have fun and you'll be increasing your child's vocabulary while cementing a love of reading and stories.

Go to the Library – Local libraries often offer cheap or free children's programming throughout the summer. Hit up a program at your library or take a break from the summer heat to visit the children's section. If your child is old enough, sign them up for their very own library card. Encourage your child to make their own selections at the library from the varied media available such as books, CDs, DVDs, and games.


Let Kids Choose – Let your children pick out what they want to read. If your school has a summer reading list, make sure to give them some free choice materials as a reward for working through their list. Don't shy away from unconventional reading materials like magazines or graphic novels either.

Set an Example – This one is pretty simple. If your child sees you taking time to read and write (and enjoy it), they'll model that behavior.

Make It Social – Join a summer reading challenge or a children's book group (or start your own). This way you can build playdates and making new friends into your summer reading.

Special Game – Participate in our PJ Summertime Bingo. Share your Bingo board and favorite square with Sharron at the Jewish Federation at sharron@ocjf.org.

Together with the **Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference)** and a grant from the State of New Jersey, the Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County has been providing the sacred obligation of pikuach nefesh (saving a life in jeopardy) to Holocaust Survivors for many years. We realize that unless you are impacted directly, you may not fully appreciate how important this work is. **Every dollar you contribute will be matched 25 times!**



CHILDREN'S SERVICE

...making a difference

Israeli Mental Health Experts Raise Alarm of Impending “Tsunami of War-related Psychiatric Illness” after 20 Months of Conflict

Hotlines and clinics see spike in demand since the October 7 attacks, with practitioners scrambling to find better ways to address societal trauma.



Psychological first aid workers sit with people at families of hostages protest location outside the Israeli military's headquarters in Tel Aviv on October 31, 2023. (Alexi J. Rosenfeld/Getty Images)

By Judith Sudilovsky
July 3, 2025
ejewishphilanthropy.com

“Resilience” has long been the goal of Israeli mental health practitioners, an emotional ruggedness allowing Israeli society to bounce back quickly after tragedy.

This has been particularly the case since the October 7 terror attacks and the resulting wars that continue to claim the lives of soldiers and civilians, including the recent 12-day conflict with Iran, which killed 28 Israeli civilians and displaced thousands. The night after a ceasefire was declared, Israelis were seen back at the beach, and the following morning, schools reopened. However, mental health professionals warn that beneath this celebrated toughness lie deeper, troubling emotions – fear, guilt, shame, vulnerability, anger and anxiety – affecting all layers of society.

Mental health hotlines and clinics run by three of Israel’s top providers – ERAN (Emotional First Aid Services), NATAL (Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center) and ELEM (Youth in Distress in Israel), the latter of which supports at-risk youth – have reported sharp increases in demand since October 7, 2023. Calls to ELEM’s digital programs have tripled; NATAL now treats over 3,000 people weekly, up from 350 before the war; and ERAN volunteers have handled over 500,000 calls since the outbreak of the

war, averaging 1,200 to 1,500 a day.

This surge reflects the complex emotional and psychological issues people are facing now, Bar-Ilan University professor Rivka Tuval-Mashiach, steering committee chair of NATAL, told eJewishPhilanthropy, with call volumes related to anxiety issues significantly increasing to both of NATAL’s two dedicated hotlines – one for the general public and one for soldiers and veterans.

One recent study in the Israel Journal of Health Policy Research warned of the need for a “comprehensive system-wide transformation” of the mental health system before Israel is hit by an “oncoming tsunami of war-related psychiatric illness.” The Jerusalem-based Taub Center social policy think tank similarly warned last year of an impending mental health crisis and an urgent need to strengthen the country’s psycho-social infrastructure, which it said has been significantly neglected in recent years.

And these dire studies came even after the Israeli government allocated an additional \$416 million over two years to improve mental health services in Israel, aiming to address shortages of professionals, improve psychiatric hospitals and enhance community care programs.

Dr. Eyal Fruchter, a leading figure in the Israeli psychotrauma field, told eJP that while resilience is valuable, it has not necessarily fostered a more compassionate society capable of supporting those grappling with emotional trauma.

After the October 7 attacks, Fruchter left his role as CEO of the Maale HaCarmel Mental Health Hospital in northern Israel to rejoin the Israel Defense Forces as head of its mental health department. He completed a 2 1/2-month stint of reserve duty with a deep sense of concern for the mental health of both soldiers and the nation, he told eJP.

Continued on page 28



Refer a friend.

If you or someone
you know needs help,
Jewish Family & Children's Service
is there to help.

Individual counseling - with a focus on relationships,
family dynamics, mental health, loneliness

Group support for bereavement and caregivers

Services for Holocaust survivors

Presentations for organizations and associations

Quality and caring support from your community

www.jewishoceancounty.org/jfcs
732-363-8010 • jfcs@ocjf.org

JFCS
Jewish Family & Children's Service



Jewish Federation
OF OCEAN COUNTY
&
JFCS
Jewish Family & Children's Service

Grief After Loss
You Don't Have to Face it Alone

TUESDAYS
1:00 - 2:30pm

For more information, or to register,
contact: JFCS at 732-363-8010

MEETINGS NOW HELD VIRTUALLY

Israeli Mental Health Experts

Continued from page 27

“I understood that it [would be] such a vast trauma that we would suffer, that we needed to make sure that they’re getting the right things, and it’s not just treatment,” said Fruchter, who last year co-founded Israel’s Collective Action for Resiliency (ICAR) with Gila Tolub, Lisa Silverman and Roy Peled with the aim of creating greater societal awareness and community support for understanding trauma and its effects.

After five difficult years in Israel, starting with the COVID-19 pandemic, Fruchter believes ICAR’s community-driven model is key to addressing both individual and collective trauma. ICAR brings together experts in medicine, psychology, public health, philanthropy and investment to promote a holistic, collaborative approach to trauma healing – mapping the mental health landscape, building partnerships, gathering knowledge and directing strategic investments.

ICAR will soon launch a public campaign to raise awareness about the psychological impact of conflict and encourage communal support for those affected, he said. The initiative is being led in collaboration with government ministries and key partners, including Hebrew University, Columbia University, Enosh, Jewish Federations of North America, Jewish United Fund of Chicago and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

“Everybody is working with us and everybody is joining in, and we’ll go with a very big, broad campaign hopefully to change the concept and understanding that we need to do more work on the healthy side [of trauma] and less on the illness side,” said Fruchter. Labeling someone as “ill” with trauma is a straight route to medication, he said, and ICAR proposes community-action options first, such as neighborhood events and in-person visits to foster a sense of togetherness.

He also noted a growing awareness of “moral injury,” a concept similar to but distinct from post-traumatic stress disorder, where individuals, for instance, feel betrayed by their leaders or the state. This is particularly relevant in military or other high-stress contexts. This sense of betrayal can trigger profound anger and shame, further complicating the psychological landscape, he said.

“You can see that deep break has changed a lot of the ways that we conceive things and how we trust things. But we need to live with that. It is less about [being a] resilient society, which is strong and rigid,

but [rather] understanding that the resilience does not come from rigidity and [strength]. It comes from calmness and from patience and from smiling sometimes and from good words,” said Fruchter. “It’s a different aspect of resilience. Whenever I talk about trauma, I say that trauma is a balancing scale between the resiliency factors and the needs of the trauma.”

Despite widespread resilience, rising anxiety – especially among the elderly and children – is a growing concern, according to Tuval-Mashiach from NATAL. In response, her organization has expanded in-person and online support, offers webinars for families and increased its therapist network from 100 to over 400, with ongoing trauma training.

NATAL is prepared to serve millions if needed, she said, but prolonged war leaves lasting scars, with ongoing conflict causing intergenerational trauma and a societal “short fuse,” seen in rising public violence and declining tolerance for differing views.

Previous studies have predicted that between 10-18% of the Israeli population will exhibit signs of PTSD, she noted. “If we have 15% of people who are going to be coping with PTSD, that’s a huge price. It’s a huge price financially, it’s a huge price socially, it’s a huge price in whatever way you want to think about it. But that’s NATAL’s mission, and that’s what we do,” she said. Nevertheless, she said, on an individual level, while Israelis may be facing more mental health issues, studies have also shown that Israeli society as a whole will continue to cope well, she said.

“There’s a lot of research that shows that Israelis are resilient, we cope quite well... but there’s also burnout. The majority of Israelis are tired,” she said. “So we are more violent on the streets. We are less tolerant of different political views. I think it affects the way that we can tolerate differences. But this is more of a sociological, cultural thing than of a medical, psychological diagnosis.”

Children and youth in distress also present their own special needs, said Eran Zimrin, president of ELI, the Israel Association for Child Protection. The increased stress in society and within families also puts children more at risk of being neglected and abused, and over the last year ELI has been training therapists who do not usually work with trauma but are now having to deal with those issues. “A child’s life is determined in childhood...The things they are going through now are going to influence them

for their whole life,” he said.

Lenore Rubin, president of the American Friends of ELEM, said that according to Israeli government statistics, even before the war, nearly one-third of all Israeli youth from kindergarten to senior in high school were considered to be on the at-risk spectrum. The numbers have only increased with the war, she said. “Now with the war, we have to build up even more than what is considered to be our baseline, because right now every youth is traumatized, it doesn’t matter where they are from, every youth is traumatized,” Ruben said. “It’s a real crisis, and it’s a real crisis for our staff as well.”

With rising demand for services, mental health groups stress the need to support their staff and volunteers as well.

ERAN is responding by establishing an Emergency Response Center in Netanya, which will allow them to add 20 more hotline volunteers and increase training capacity; they’ve secured \$200,000 of the \$500,000 needed, said CEO David Koren.

“There is a kind of cloud of despair sitting on top of most people. They are not seeing a clear future. The sense of hope may be lacking, in a way, sometimes because of our leadership. The mental distress and the issues that we’re now dealing with will be with us at least another 10 years. There’s no way it’s going to fade out within a couple of months or a year,” said Koren. “And this is something that we have to be very much prepared for.”

PJ Summertime Bingo



Bake challah 	Build a sand castle 	Learn how Federation helps others 	Read three books 	Make your own ice cream 
Write and mail a letter to a senior 	Read your favorite PJ Library book 	Spy a butterfly or an interesting bug or insect 	Light Shabbat Candles 	Make a collage from old magazines or newspapers 
Spend a whole afternoon playing outside 	Call a far away friend or family member on the phone 	Give tzedakah to help your community 	Climb or hug a tree 	Help cook a healthy meal for your family 
Count the days until the next Jewish holiday 	Draw a picture and give it to someone who needs a smile 	Make and eat a healthy snack 	Do something nice for a family member 	Find a Jewish object in your house 
Find an animal outside. Look but don't touch! 	Have a dance party 	Go for a walk around your neighborhood 	Write or draw a story from your imagination 	Plant a seed and help it grow 



Bring Jewish stories home



CHABAD

**CHABAD JEWISH CENTER
OF JACKSON**

645 Cross Street
Lakewood, NJ 08701
Rabbi Shmuel Naparstek
732-523-5112
Email: info@chabadofjackson.com
www.ChabadofJackson.com

**CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF
TOMS RIVER**

2001 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
Rabbi Moshe Gourarie
732-349-4199
Email: rabbi@chabadtomsriver.com
www.chabadtomsriver.com

CONSERVATIVE

CONGREGATION AHAVAT OLAM

106 Windeler Road
Howell, NJ 07731
Rabbi Emeritus Michael Klein
732-719-3500
email: CAOReceptionist@cao-nj.org
www.cao-nj.org

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

1488 Old Freehold Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
Rabbi William Gershon
Cantor Vadim Yucht
Rabbi Emeritus Richard Hammerman
Cantor Emeritus Daniel Green
732-349-1244
Email: info@cbitr.org
www.cbitr.org

TEMPLE BETH OR

109 Pier Avenue
Brick, NJ 08723
Rabbi Chaim Respes
Rabbi Emeritus Robert E. Fierstien z"l
732-458-4700
Email: templebethorbrick@gmail.com
www.templebethorbrick.org

ORTHODOX

CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL

590 Madison Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701
Rabbi Shmuel Tendler
732-364-2230
Chazan Zelig Freilich

CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL

401 Park Ave.
Lakewood, NJ 08701
Rabbi Baruch Ber Yoffe
732-367-3116

REFORM

BETH AM SHALOM

1235 State Highway 70
Lakewood, NJ 08701
Cantor Jon Saouma
Rabbi Emeritus Stephen D. Gold
732-363-2800
Email: office@bethamshalom.org
www.bethamshalom.org

UNAFFILIATED

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF LBI

2411 Long Beach Blvd.
Spray Beach, NJ 08008
Rabbi Michael Jay
609-492-4090
Email: jccoflbi@gmail.com
www.jccoflbi.org

SHABBAT

CANDLE LIGHTING IN LAKEWOOD

July 18	8:05 PM
July 25	7:59 PM
August 1	7:52 PM
August 8	7:44 PM
August 15	7:35 PM
August 22	7:25 PM
August 29	7:15 PM



For Shabbat:
Blessed are You, Ad-nai our G-d, Sovereign
of the universe, who hallows us with
mitzvot, commanding us to kindle
the light of Shabbat.

Here is How You Can Support Our Holocaust Survivors and Seniors

Please contribute to:

- Friends of JFCS
- The Holocaust Survivors' Special Fund
- The Seniors Lunch Program Special Fund

It is easy to donate a little each month, to make a big impact!

- Go online to www.jewishoceancounty.org.
- Send a check, use your credit card, transfer stock.
- Call the office and talk with our staff.
- **Bring in your Tzedakah box. We will count it for you.**
- Consider making a monthly gift to support your community.

Jewish Federation
of Ocean County
1235A Route 70,
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-363-0530

BELKOFF  GOLDSTEIN
FUNERAL CHAPEL

*Behold the Guardian of Israel will
neither slumber nor sleep (Tehillim 121)*

Behold the Guardian of Israel will
neither slumber nor sleep (Tehillim 121)


הנה לא ינום
ולא יישן שומר ישראל
We Stand with Israel

PROUD TO BE JEWISH OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1977

Nesanel "Nate" M. Rabenstein, Senior Director N.J. Lic. NO 4621 • 313 2nd St, Lakewood, NJ 08701 • (732) 364 - 0900 • belkoffgoldsteinfuneralchapel.com

As One

**We Secure.
We Support.
We Respond.
We Engage.**



As one, we're a source of strength and resilience through adversity and prosperity.

As one, we bring our communities together to extend a helping hand to those in need.

As one, we're a living testament to the power of unity and shared purpose.

At the heart of this unbreakable spirit lies the Jewish Federations - the bedrock of Jewish communities around the world. We're the collective force that keeps Jewish life thriving, not just in times of crisis, but every single day.

As one, we uplift Israel and Ukraine by offering our unwavering support. As one, we take a stand against the rising tide of antisemitism. As one, we pledge to ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities worldwide.

Our mission is fueled by the generosity of community members like you. Your annual contribution empowers us to provide humanitarian aid to our allies, combat antisemitism, and nurture vibrant Jewish communities.

As one, we will lead the way to a brighter tomorrow where Jewish life flourishes for generations to come. Join us, and we will rise as one.

FREE AT-HOME COVID TESTS

The Department of Health and Human Services has made available and asked JFOC for help with distribution of

at-home Covid tests

Tests are currently available at these locations:

Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood
732-363-2800

Temple Beth Or, Brick
732-458-4700

Congregation Ahavat Olam, Howell
732-719-3500



TREVOR'S Banned Book Club™

TREVOR'S
BANNED BOOK CLUB™
BELIEVES THAT READING IS
FUNDAMENTAL AND KNOWLEDGE
IS POWER.
GATHER TO READ AND DISCUSS
BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBJECT
TO BANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM
TOMS RIVER BRANCH / 732-349-6200

JANUARY 29TH
FLAMER BY MIKE CURATO

FEBRUARY 19TH
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS BY JOHN BOYNE

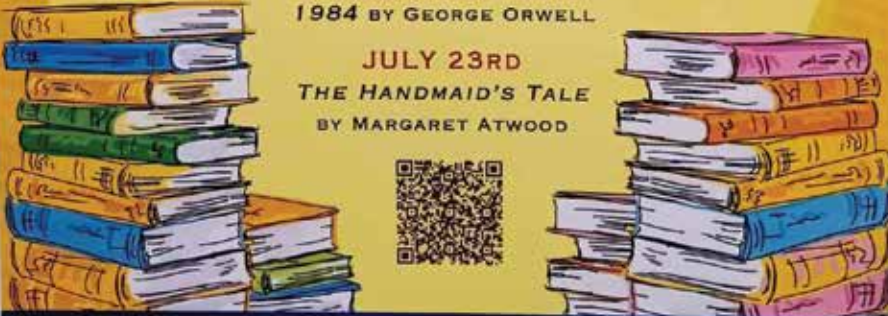

MARCH 19TH
THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET BY SANDRA CISNEROS


APRIL 23RD
THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

MAY 21ST
BEHOLD THE DREAMERS BY IMBOLO MBUE

JUNE 18TH
1984 BY GEORGE ORWELL

JULY 23RD
THE HANDMAID'S TALE
BY MARGARET ATWOOD



A Century of Excellence: 1925 – 2025  www.theoceancountylibrary.org

בס"ד

SERVICING LAKEWOOD
AND SELECT AREAS IN TOMS RIVER



KOSHER MEALS on WHEELS PROGRAM

Delicious Home Delivered Meals

**MONDAY
THROUGH
FRIDAY**

For individuals who are 60+
Experiencing life's challenges



LAKEWOOD
COMMUNITY
SERVICES
CORPORATION

For more information, please call **732-901-6001 ext 1**

Funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act through a grant
by the County of Ocean Office of Senior Services

For the Jewish Community in Central Texas, Deadly Flooding Hits Close to Home

One Jewish family sent three generations to Camp Mystic.



A search and rescue volunteer holds a T-shirt and backpack with the words Camp Mystic on them in Comfort, Texas on July 6. The volunteer found the belongings along the Guadalupe River near Ingram, Texas. Photo by Danielle Villasana for The Washington Post via Getty Images

By Hannah Feuer
July 7, 2025
forward.com

Hattie Lee Gleichenhau, a 90-year-old Jewish resident of San Antonio, has fond memories of attending Camp Mystic in central Texas as a pre-teen. There, she spent her summers canoeing, practicing archery, and playing tennis.

At the time, she said there were no Jewish summer camps in the area, and Camp Mystic had a stellar reputation. Although

it was a Christian camp that included Sunday church services, Gleichenhau recalled that religion was never pushed on her.

She enjoyed her camp experience so much that she encouraged future generations to attend, too. Decades later, her two granddaughters and daughter-in-law would also attend Camp Mystic.

So when Gleichenhau heard news of flash floods this weekend that killed 27 Camp Mystic campers and counselors, it felt personal. An additional 10 campers and one counselor are still unaccounted for, the local sheriff said at a press conference Monday morning. “One of the worst things I’ve ever heard,” Gleichenhau said. “It’s made me sick.”

For the Jewish community in central Texas, the deadly floods over the July Fourth weekend have hit close to home. The community is grieving and bracing for more rain following flash floods that have killed nearly 90 people, with authorities warning the death toll is sure to rise as rescue efforts continue.

At least one Jewish family lost everything in the Texas floods. Crissy Eliashar was home in Jonestown, Texas, about 30 mi-

nutes from Austin, with her three children and a friend who was sleeping over when the flood waters began surging into their home. They fled after a neighbor alerted them to the danger.

Now, other families at the Eliashars’ Jewish day school, Austin Jewish Academy, have been sharing an online fundraiser meant to help the family rebuild. “Last night we narrowly escaped the floods with our lives. My brave babies held on to each other and their beloved dogs while we waded out of our sliding house and into a raging river formed under and behind us,” Eliashar wrote on Facebook. “We need everything.”

Rabbi Daniel Septimus, CEO of Shalom Austin, has heard from Jewish community members who have lost best friends in the floods and whose homes have been destroyed. When news of the disaster reached him on Shabbat, he sprang into action, launching a fundraiser for rescue and recovery efforts that brought in \$70,000 within the first 24 hours, he said. The organization is also collecting non-perishable foods and offering counseling to people affected by the flooding.

Meanwhile, Chabad of Boerne has transformed into an aid distribution center

and set up a webpage to accept donations and coordinate volunteers. And Jewish summer camps across the country are sending messages of support to Camp Mystic. “Our hearts are broken, and we’re grieving with them,” said Jamie Simon, acting CEO of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, which is working with Shalom Austin to raise money for flood victims. “Across the country, Jewish camps, Jewish leaders and Jewish families are holding them in our thoughts and prayers.”

The two Jewish summer camps in the area, URJ Greene Family Camp and Camp Young Judaea Texas, are located on higher ground and have been safe from flooding, according to Simon.

Hannah Feuer joined the Forward as a general assignment reporter in May 2025 after two years as a culture reporter at Seven Days, an independent weekly in Burlington, Vermont. Originally from the Washington, D.C., area, she is a 2023 graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

Our hearts are with the people of Central Texas who have been devastated by the tragic floods. Lives have been lost, families displaced, and communities destroyed.

If you’re looking for a way to help, please consider supporting the relief efforts of our Federation partners at Shalom Austin: shalomaustin.org/texas-flood-relief/



Flood Relief Campaign

Every gift to Shalom Austin’s Flood Relief Campaign will provide urgent relief and recovery for those affected by the recent Central Texas flooding. Shalom Austin Jewish Family Service Case Managers are actively assessing the most pressing needs of community members across the region. At the same time, our leadership is coordinating with local and national partners to allocate resources swiftly and effectively to trusted organizations delivering on-the-ground support.

Our hearts are with all those impacted by the devastating floods in Central Texas, including the families of Kerr County and Camp Mystic. This tragedy has touched so many lives, with members of our own Shalom Austin community among those affected. We offer our deepest thoughts and prayers for healing, comfort and strength to the families and communities facing loss and rebuilding.

If you'd like to donate to the Texas Flood Disaster Relief through our Federation go to www.jewishoceancounty.org/disaster or send a check to Jewish Federation of Ocean County 1235a Rt 70 Lakewood, NJ 08701



**The Urgent Care
That Comes to **You!****

It's like going to the doctor, without going to the doctor.

OHI is proud to announce our partnership with Premier Assist, bringing expert care right to your doorstep. With licensed professionals delivering high-quality, seamless healthcare, you now have a convenient option for basic sick visits such as flu, strep, blood tests and more!



And the best part?

We accept most insurances with no additional fees!

For comprehensive primary care, OHI's clinics remain your trusted health resource. For medical emergencies, please call 911

Next Time You're Feeling Sick - Skip the Drive, **Not the Care**

(732) 200-1222

Areas of Service:

Lakewood, Jackson, Toms River, Howell, Manchester, Manalapan

Hours of Operation:

Mon - Thurs: 9am - 8pm
Sun & Fri: 9am - 1:30pm
Closed Saturday



Licensed Nurses & MA's backed by a team of PA's, NP's and experienced physicians



Easy same-day scheduling through call, text, web, or WhatsApp



Blood work, ear exams, strep and flu tests all in the comfort of your home



Most insurances accepted, including state Medicaid plans with no additional service fees

For online bookings, please visit www.premierassist.com