

The Jewish Journal

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Jewish Federation
of Ocean County
Celebrating 48 Years!

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

Heroes Against Hate



Sheriff Michael Mastronardy



Daniel Hoffman



Christ Episcopal Church

Monday • December 22, 2025 • 5:30pm

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See pages 16-17 for information and registration.

Local News - see pages 4, 5 and 6

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Antisemitism - Beyond Hate



By Keith Krivitzky, Managing Director
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I am troubled. We all should be. About the hate being directed to Jews and the double standards being applied to Israel.

The rise in antisemitic attacks has been significant. The rhetoric against Israel and the Jews has become extreme. To me, seemingly, there has been a huge shift in a matter of a few years. And not just on college campuses, though this seems to be more concentrated there.

It's scary. I don't mean in terms of physical risk, though it may increasingly turn to that. (And that's one reason why the Jewish Federation has been investing in security for our partners in Ocean County.) But, rather, because of the shattering of the narrative we told ourselves about living in polite, civilized society. That Jews had finally made it...the Golden Land really was a new homeland; we solved the conundrum as to how Jews could

finally be accepted and safe co-mingling with others in a big, happy community.

Instead, reality seems a lot different today....

How can people blithely call for the destruction of a state? Especially one whose people have been scarred, have just as much right to be there as anyone else... and have nowhere else to go? How can rational people blame all citizens for the rhetoric of a "leader" or the actions of a government? You don't hear folks blame Russians for Putin, Venezuelans for Maduro, Iranians for the Ayatollahs, or all of Ireland for the actions of the IRA? And how can Jews who don't live in Israel be scapegoated and attacked as if they were personally responsible? Typecasting and applying a label to everyone as part of a group regardless of how that individual identifies and classifies himself (the antithesis of liberalism, no?).... As if we (and Israelis too, btw) are somehow responsible for the lousy circumstances forced upon those who live in Israel.

And I am wrestling with some questions.

While I recognize that there is something that sets antisemitism apart and feeds its persistence, I still thought that this was just another form of hatred or bigotry towards the "other." Now, it's hard to believe that. It's like Jews are the quintessential other. No matter what we do, as long as we survive, it won't go away. That's chilling. That's why the partnership we have with Ocean County to combat hate is so important – and why the unique staying power of antise-

**At the Jewish Federation,
this is why we are here
and this is what we do.**

mitism needs to play a more prominent role. I think it also has real implications in other areas as well (perhaps for another column).

We also see this when it comes to blindness on the part of so many of the complexity of the situation of Palestinians and Israel. Yes – people today tend to not like complexity or nuance, but the worst that can be said of the genesis of this conflict is that Jews and Palestinians have equal, competing claims to the land. The best is that Zionism predated Palestinian national identity and was, in part, its progenitor.

The argument that the Zionist endeavor's aim was to dispossess Palestinians don't know history – or don't care. Those who decry Israel as a colonialist endeavor are willingly blind or beholden to an ideological agenda.

And it is hard to believe how rational people can embrace such blatant double standards when it comes to attitudes towards Israel today. How is kidnapping hostages acceptable? In any moral universe? Or using a civilian population as shields while creating military bases underground to hoard food and hide hostages? No one is calling for the end of Australia – or, for that matter, the expulsion of whites from South Africa. And where is the outrage at what is happening in Sudan? Sheesh. Making such claims under

the guise of morality is absurd. (If you get the chance, check out the Eretz Ne-hederet, the Israeli SNL, clip about Greta Thunberg.)

The question we all need to deal with now is what to do about this. Some preliminary thoughts....

- We need to encourage everyone to recognize and call out antisemitism, as well as other hatreds, when we see it. This can't just be from a self-centered perspective. And while Jews may be particularly susceptible, we need to lead the way for others to take a stand on behalf of others. That's the idea behind our Heroes Against Hate awards. You can learn more and nominate a hero here: www.jewishoceancounty.org/communitycaring/nominations.
- We also need to make sure that we know our story, and our history – like the history of Zionism and Israel. And this can't be a whitewashed version: we have much to be proud of – and we get in more trouble, especially with our own youth, for not being forthright about this. Visit www.jewishoceancounty.org/JVU to learn more.
- And we need to take opportunities and make time to come together as a community...to learn...to support...to show solidarity...and to be resolute. We hope to see you soon and encourage you to step up and stand with us.

At the Jewish Federation, this is why we are here and this is what we do. We make a critical difference in these areas and we need to do more. Thank you for being our partners.

Faith and Meaning Amidst the Darkness



By Rabbi William Gershon
Congregation B'nai Israel, Toms River
www.cbtr.org

Toni Morrison, in a commencement address at Rutgers University a few years ago, said: "I have often wished that Jefferson had not used that phrase 'the pursuit of happiness.' I would rather he had written 'life, liberty and the pursuit of meaningfulness' or 'integrity' or 'truth.' Don't settle for happiness. It's not good enough. Personal success de-

**When we stay connected
to God in every situation,
when we withstand all trials
and still continue to radiate
faith, that is what ultimately
defines a successful person.**

void of meaningfulness, free of a steady commitment to social justice, that's more than a barren life; it is a trivial one. It's looking good instead of doing good."

Rav Kook put it this way: "In order to lead human beings on the path of continual improvement, God implanted within the human soul the incessant drive to always seek more..."

The Torah teaches us another definition of success. In the Parasha of Vayeshev (in Genesis/Beresheet 39:2), Joseph, Yosef, is the only one in the entire Torah who is called an "Ish Matzliach" ("a successful man"). The Torah simultaneously describes several challenges he endured. His brothers threw him into a pit, sold him as a slave. He advanced in Egypt and then was sent to Egyptian prison, and only at the end did he rise to greatness. What's so successful about such a life story?

Our commentators explain that at every stage everyone who met Yosef saw that God was with him. That he was connected to faith and values. Whether he was in prison or in the Egyptian palace, he maintained exactly the same identity. Whether poor or rich, he remained the same righteous Yosef.

This is a different definition of success, one not necessarily connected to status or money or even self-accomplishment. Success in this sense is about never giving up hope, having faith in God's promise even when the world seems dark.

One of the outstanding personalities in the "Golden Era" of Jewish History in Spain was Rabbi Bahya Ibn Pekudah. He teaches that evil, by its nature, can be defeated by "a little" light and by never giving up on the truth. Like a small crack in a large dam, evil will eventually give way to goodness. So too, a little light will dispel the darkness. That is the faith the animates what it means to be a Jew and a human being. That is the profound spiritual message of Chanukah.

Continued on page 3



Chanukah – What’s the Mitzvah?

By Sarah Rochel Hewitt
Jewish Treats by NJOP

Here’s a quiz:

What is the primary mitzvah of Chanukah?

- a) Eating latkes (potato pancakes)
- b) Giving Chanukah gifts or gelt (money)
- c) Publicizing the miracle of the oil that lasted 8 days
- d) Playing Dreidel

The correct answer is C. While the customs of Chanukah include eating latkes, giving monetary and other gifts and playing dreidel, the primary mitzvah of Chanukah is to light the menorah and display the lights, thus publicizing the miracle when the oil in the menorah in the Holy Temple burned for eight days instead of one.

In order to fulfill this mitzvah of publici-

zing the miracle, the menorah/chanukiah should be lit where it can be seen by the public. Chanukah lights were originally lit only in the doorway of the home, opposite the mezuzah, facing the street. However, it is now common practice outside of Israel to place the menorah in a window facing the street.

In order to make certain that the lights are visible, the menorah is lit after dusk. (There are two opinions regarding the correct time to light, so please consult your local rabbi.) On Friday evening, however, the menorah is lit before the Shabbat candles and extra oil (or longer candles) are used so that the Chanukah lights remain lit after nightfall.

If one is unable to light at the appropriate time, one may light later in the night, as long as there is someone else in the house who is awake (thus fulfilling the

requirements of publicizing the miracle). If it is very late and no one is awake, one should light the menorah without the blessings.

If there are still people in the street or in the apartments of a facing building who would see the lit menorah, it is permitted to light and say the blessings. If the menorah was not lit at all during the night, there is no “make-up” lighting during the day.

Please be sure to review fire safety procedures with your family.

Editor’s Note: This year Chanukah is 25 Kislev through 2 Tevet which is Sunday night-Monday, December 14-15 through Monday, December 22. See Page 31.

(For other “Jewish Treats: Juicy Bits of Judaism, Daily” and many other Jewish resources visit www.jewishtreats.org and www.njop.org.)

Faith

Continued from page 2

When we stay connected to God in every situation, when we withstand all trials and still continue to radiate faith, that is what ultimately defines a successful person. In this month of Kislev, I pray that our souls will radiate that whisper of faith that will illumine even the darkest night.

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.

**Happy Thanksgiving
to everyone!**

Local News

Women of Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood, Held a Special Brunch



The Women of Beth Am Shalom held a membership brunch on Sunday October 26. Over 35 members attended. Randi Bell and Jennifer Sacks are co-chairs of WBAS. Ideas were shared for future events. Some recent events were Happy Hour, Lunch at Chinese Buffet, Movie in the Park and Clothing Drive. Beth Am Shalom's new Rebbetzin, Lynne Perlman, shared a few words with the group. She is thrilled to

be a part of Beth Am Shalom. After bagels and schmears, the group participated in a craft decorating bowls or pumpkins with fall items and filling bowls with potpourri. In November they will be having a food drive and in December WBAS will be celebrating Hanukkah with Donuts and Doormats. If interested in becoming a member or to hear about upcoming events, contact the BAS office at 732-363-2800.

Congregation B'nai Israel, Toms River, Celebrates 75th Anniversary

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, Shabbat Lech Lecha, Congregation B'nai Israel celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a beautiful service and delicious kiddish. The history of CBI goes back over a century to when Toms River was mainly a farming community. In the early 1920s they established the Community of Jewish Farmers as well as a Jewish cemetery. In 1950 Congregation B'nai Israel was formally established and joined what is now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Today CBI is under the direction of Rabbi William Gershon.

The 75th Anniversary Shabbat spanned the generations of the synagogue with homage to our most senior and our youngest congregants. There were members present who have been part of the congregation for over 60 years. Honors and aliyot were given to these members during the Torah service. The Torah service concluded with a beautiful ceremony as the Torah was passed from all previous CBI Presidents in attendance starting with current president Dr. Glenn Jacobs down the line into the arms of current USY members Caroline Winn and Adam Kassenoff. Cantor Vadim Yucht sang "L'dor v'dor," as this truly is a family synagogue full of multiple generations. At the end of the service the USY teens and

Talmud Torah students joined the Rabbi and the Cantor on the Bimah for singing Adon Olam.

During the service, attendees got to hear stories of CBI's history from long time member of CBI, Henry Shery. He came to Toms River and CBI as a young man newly engaged to the daughter of a founding member of CBI. He was able to speak from the heart on the Bimah about his Jewish journey in Toms River, the foundation of the synagogue and the strong connection to both the local community and Israel. His memories gave the membership a wonderful history of CBI from the past to the present.

The delicious kiddish was arranged by CBI members of the food committee under direction of Janet Miller and Marion Pardes. The warmth of the day spread beyond the falafel, bagels, lox, blintzes and deserts, into the room where members socializing throughout the early afternoon brought out the best this congregation has to offer as a premier Conservative Synagogue at the Jersey Shore. The 75th Anniversary Committee was chaired by Allysa Weintraub and included Lisa Kassenoff, Ruth Kerr, Penny Leifer, Janet Miller, Marion Pardes and Michele Pardes.

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

**Many congregations are conducting
prayer services and classes online which may be accessible
from a computer or a telephone.
Contact each congregation for further information
to access these events.**

Local News

The Jewish Community Center of Long Beach Island Celebrates 75 Years of Faith, Family and Friends



*A great time was had by all!!!
By Jon Geier, one of the JCC-LBI Vice Presidents*

The weather was spectacular. The appetizers were plentiful. The Jersey Surecats rocked the building for hours. Classic Caterers delivered a delicious kosher meal. The JCC Museum – depicting the decades long history of the JCC – its buildings, its leaders, and its rabbis – witnessed a steady stream of visitors through the evening. (We are in discussions to have the JCC Museum display move to the LBI Historical Museum in Beach Haven). What a night!

On August 10, almost 160 members and guests – including Louis and Eric Korb (the son and grandson of Cora Korb, one of the JCC of LBI's Founders), Rabbi Micheal Meyerstein (the JCC's summer rabbi 1970-72), and three clergy from local churches – gathered for our 75th Anniversary gala.

A major theme of the evening was L'dor, V'dor – from generation to generation. A handful of Jewish families gathered in each other's homes in the 1950s to organize and collect funds to build our first JCC. Then another handful of families in the late 1970s again gathered in each other's homes during the off-season leading to our JCC becoming an active year-round congregation. And when the first building became too small, another group of members came together to enable the construction of our current beautiful JCC on Long Beach Boulevard in Spray Beach. Today we have grown to a community of more than 330 families (the second largest faith community on LBI behind St. Francis of Assisi Parish) and our JCC is a vibrant community center.



Throughout the year, the JCC scheduled many events to celebrate and honor the congregation's growth and community presence on LBI. In addition to the gala, other highlights of the year included a comedy night fundraiser at the Surfflight Theater, an evening of Klezmer music at the Harvey Cedars Bible Conference, and an interfaith concert with the Island Singers.

What is clear from the JCC history is that for 75 years, it has remained important (perhaps increasingly important) that there be a Jewish presence on Long Beach Island to serve the island, the surrounding off-island communities, and Southern Ocean County generally. We are the generation now responsible for continuing to maintain and grow that presence. We appreciate the wonderful support that our membership provides and look forward to everyone's continued participation in the coming years and decades. L'dor, V'dor!!

Congregation B'nai Israel, Toms River, Showed Film about October 7



Nothing was surprising. The scenes and testimonials were familiar. Nonetheless viewers of the documentary "October 7: Bearing Witness to the Massacre," shown at Congregation B'nai Israel on Sunday, October 19, left the social hall in shrouds of grief, devastated by the scenes of inhumanity and cruelty, and the scope of the deadly rampage by Hamas through southern Israel a little over two years earlier.

The documentary, by the producers Justin Kron, founding director of the Keshet Project, and Todd Morehead, founding director of Grafted Ministries, was shown at the Toms River synagogue at 1488 Old Freehold Road less than a week after the last of the living hostages were released by Hamas and returned to Israel. The viewing had been postponed by a week because of the Nor'easter storm on October 12.

The one-hour, 50-minute documentary, directed by Jesse Schluntz, captured the history and circumstances preceding the surprise, early-morning attack from Gaza into the peaceful kibbutzim and villages across the border in Israel, and featured testimonials by experts, witnesses and survivors.

The film did not shirk from the devastation and brutality inflicted by Hamas, captured on cameras and in celebratory

phone calls by the terrorists to family members back home. But it ended on small notes of optimism that included the use of a surfing program to help some of the survivors cope with the most deadly attack on Jews since the Holocaust.

Kron had flown in to attend the scheduled October 12 screening in person, only to have it postponed because of the weather. Yet he made himself available on Zoom to take questions after the rain date screening and offered invaluable insights.

CBI is grateful to Doug and Jill Collier, who helped underwrite the showing, and the Jewish Federation of Ocean County, which co-sponsored and helped underwrite the event as part of the 2025 Jewish Cultural Festival. CBI also wants to thank Kron, Morehead and Schluntz; Steven Kelly of Kelly Production Arts, LLC, for running sound and video; Fred and Murry's Kosher Delicatessen for the food; Stuart Pepose for serving as a technical consultant; and Sid Frank for handling all the food details.

The documentary is also streaming on Prime Video, Apple TV, Google Play, YouTube and SalemNOW. More information may be found at <https://www.october7film.com>. For more information about the congregation, call the office at 732-349-1244.



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above: Chabad of Jackson, Sept.30
below: Torn discussion, Oct. 9



We were especially taken with Noa Baum's Storyteller program. I know I was laughing and crying. sometimes at the same time. She is an extremely effective storyteller. - Roberta

The burgers were delicious and happy about the police presence. - Stacey



Beachwood, October 19

I had a wonderful time at The Cultural Festival. The programs were very entertaining. The movie was uplifting. Thank you for the grand afternoon. - Ellen

JEWISH ²⁰/₂₅ CULTURAL FESTIVAL



Beachwood, October 19

The festival was well worth my half hour drive each way. The storyteller, comedians and movie were all enjoyable. - Robin



Fall Festival, Oct. 25



Thank you to sponsors:
Annabel & Manny Lindenbaum
Cantors Ruth & Daniel Green
Shelly & Dennis Newman
Barbara & William Schulman
Harriet & Martin Riss
Barbara Cohen

I thought the program was great.
The storyteller was super.
The comedians were very good. . . I thought their discussion afterward was superb and that felt more like what I expected
The movie was a very good choice and the sound and picture were very clear . - Harriet



Beachwood, October 19



Chabad of Jackson, Oct. 28



Jewish Federation of Ocean County IMPACT

YOU Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County

JFOC gave food insecurity grants that were sent for the High Holidays. Locally, we continued our support of Fulfill. In addition to their kosher pantries, Fulfill offered a drive-through distribution for the holidays. We had been advocating for a drive-through program as it reduces barriers to access and maintains the privacy and dignity of recipients. See their Thank You note. We also began a new partnership with Bikur Cholim delivering meals to many of our homebound seniors.

Donations were also sent to these Israeli organizations: Leket, Yad Ezra V'Shulamith, and Pitchon Lev and International aid to Joint Distribution Committee and Jewish Relief Network Ukraine.

JFOC received a Thank You note from Lev Otef/GNT after receiving a grant. Contact Sharron at the Jewish Federation (sharron@ocjf.org) if you want to see the brochure mentioned.

From Yael Turner [redacted]
Date Thu 9/18/2025 10:47 AM
To Sharron Greenberg <Sharron@ocjf.org>

1 attachment (9 MB)
GNT Healing Dolphin Workshop 2025.pdf;

WOW ... THANK YOU !!
Apologies for my delayed response... I just saw this exciting news.

I am attaching a booklet we have put together specifically on the #GNT_Healing_Dolphin Workshop. Let me know what you think of it and if you have any questions.

Last week I got a message from [redacted], asking, on behalf of 4 other families with teen hostage survivors, to spend the upcoming 7/10 with us at the Reef. I can not describe the way me and my staff felt, learning once again how important our small scale work is. So I don't think these 2500\$ just happened... They will go directly to fund part of this un-planned workshop. (I wrote you [redacted]'s name - but I'd rather they stay anonymous to others, as possible)

Please thank the board! let them know that every dollar comes in my way - goes directly to the returnees rehabilitative process. May the coming year be a better one, Thank you for being my Shutfaf, Yael

Dr. Irit Cohen L.Ac.

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October 9, 2025

Mr. Keith Krivitzky
Managing Director
Jewish Federation of Ocean County
1235A Route 70 W
Lakewood, NJ 08701-5947

Dear Mr. Krivitzky,

On behalf of everyone at Fulfill, thank you for the Jewish Federation of Ocean County's exceedingly kind donation of \$1,000.00 received on 9/22/2025 for the purchase of kosher food for the High Holidays. Your generosity will help Fulfill feed hungry neighbors across Monmouth and Ocean Counties at a very special time of year.

This meaningful gift puts food on the tables of those who need it most... parents who can no longer afford to provide food for their families... hungry children who rely on Fulfill for hot, healthy meals after school, and nutritious meals and snacks over the weekend... and seniors whose fixed incomes are stretched thin as grocery prices rise ever higher.

The demand for food at the Jersey Shore is up 79% compared to the same time last year. We supply food to nearly 300 feeding agencies in our area, including soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters, to make sure we are reaching those with critical needs. The demand for food is still extraordinary... *Fulfill is serving over 1,200,000 meals per month!*

Indeed, not everyone is on their feet again, and with the support of caring and compassionate neighbors like you, we will continue our mission to fight food insecurity throughout our community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Triada Stampas
President & CEO

Fulfill is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization. Our EIN number is 22-2622522. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

As One, We Inspire Jewish Connection

Just as the shamash lights each candle on the menorah, we ignite sparks of Jewish connection that spread warmth across our community. For every family that embraces Jewish life, our community's light grows stronger. Each small act of connection—from caring for the elderly to creating inclusive spaces and inspiring young minds—sparks miracles of tradition, community, and pride that burn bright for generations.

This Chanukah, we kindle miracles of connection together—As One.

As One, We Stand United Against Hate

The darkness of antisemitism threatens to overshadow Jewish life, but we refuse to let hatred prevail. We strengthen security at Jewish institutions, advocate for stronger legislation, and coordinate with law enforcement to ensure darkness cannot extinguish the radiance of Jewish life.

Just as eight small flames conquered the darkness, we confront antisemitism with strength and resilience—As One.

As One, We Rebuild Israel

When the Maccabees found the Temple destroyed, they chose rebuilding over despair. This mirrors Israel's story of turning ruin into renewal and darkness into light. Like the sacred oil that miraculously lasted eight days, Israel's resilience continues against all odds.

From the ashes of destruction, we help Israel light the flame of tomorrow—As One.



Each candle we light this Chanukah reminds us that our community shines brightest when we come together—**As One**.

This year, as antisemitic violence threatens Jewish life, Israel rebuilds, and uncertainty weighs heavily on Jewish communities worldwide, our unity becomes more vital than ever. Every flame we kindle reflects our collective strength, proving that when Jewish communities stand together, we have the power to shine extraordinary light.

This Chanukah, we must be the guiding light our community needs—**As One**.

Each candle we light this Chanukah illuminates more than our homes—it ignites our commitment to Jewish life, security, and resilience. The miracle of Chanukah reminds us that even in our darkest moments, we have the power to shine extraordinary light together—**As One**

This year, as antisemitism casts its shadow over our communities and Israel continues its painful journey of recovery and rebuilding, each flame we light becomes a declaration: Jewish life will not only survive—it will flourish with strength and hope—**As One**

Now, more than ever, we must be the guiding light our community needs—**As One**

FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

Today we rejoice as the 20 surviving hostages come home to their loved ones and finally fill the empty chairs at our tables and begin mending our broken hearts. Jewish Federations across North America and Jews everywhere celebrate this long-awaited moment of relief and joy, standing in solidarity with the families and the people of Israel.

Welcome home!

Ethan David

Guy Gilboa-Golub

Moshe Herkin

Ethan Harris

Welcome home!

Ron Brodsky

Harold Cohen

Aviel Cune

David Cune

Welcome home!

Sergey Kallan

Bar Abraham Kuperstein

Omer Miran

Ethan Abraham Mor

Welcome home!

Yosef-Haim Ohana

Alan Onel

Avinash De

Hanan Zangouler

Welcome home!

Hanan Angrest

Gali Barmon

Ziv Barmon

Elana Bohbot

Commemorating Seven Years Since the Tree of Life Tragedy



By Gary Torgow and Eric Fingerhut
From JFNA
October 27, 2025

We commemorate on October 27 the seventh anniversary of the terrible shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue building in Pittsburgh that took the lives of eleven of our precious brothers and sisters gathered for

Shabbat morning prayer. We remember, today and always, Joyce Feinberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, and Irving Younger. May their memories always be a blessing.

Unfortunately, the attack on a Jewish gathering in a quiet and welcoming community taught us that such horrors could happen anywhere, as subsequent attacks in Poway, California; Monsey, New York; Jersey City, New Jersey; Colleyville, Texas; Boulder, Colorado; Washington, DC, and elsewhere confirmed. And so, we have set out together to ensure that every Jewish facility in North America is protected and that our public

officials understand the responsibility of the government to protect all its citizens in their places of worship and communal gathering.

We want to thank every Federation and community leader for all the work that has led to the creation of a security umbrella covering our community, but also acknowledge that this work is not finished, and that it will likely continue to get harder and more costly. Working together, we will meet this challenge as we always have – with incredible generosity and unwavering commitment.

Just as 9/11 marked a turning point for the security of the United States, so October 27 will always mark a turning point in the history of the North American Jewish

community. We send our love to the families of the victims, to the courageous leaders of the Jewish community of Pittsburgh who responded with such compassion, and to the law enforcement agencies that strive to protect us every day.

May our work protecting our community be successful, and may we remain strong and resolute. In the words of Psalm 121: May G-d guard us from all harm – may G-d guard our going and coming, now and forever.

Gary Torgow is Chair of the Board of Trustees and Eric Fingerhut is President and CEO of Jewish Federations of North America.

FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

Jewish Federations' Statement on Return of Hostages' Bodies



From JFNA
October 24, 2025

Jewish Federations join all the people of Israel in mourning and remembering the lives of the 15 hostages whose bodies were recently returned from Gaza.

We continue to stand in solidarity with Israel and the families of all the hostages, including those whose loved ones have been denied a proper burial for 748 days, and hope that these repatriations can bring them comfort. The profound level of loss and sacrifice has touched so many communities around the world – Jewish and non-Jewish, Israeli and non-Israeli. We honor them all.

We also pray for the speedy return of the remaining (as of October 24) 13 hostages whose bodies are still being held in Gaza.

At the same time, we are outraged that Hamas continues to stall the return of all deceased hostages and in one case handed over remains that did not belong to a hostage, directly violating the U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement. Jewish Federations will not stop advocating until the last hostage is given the right to a dignified burial in their homeland, and their family given a semblance of peace.

We remember, in order of release:

- Daniel Peretz, 22: an immigrant from South Africa, Cpt. Peretz was serving as a tank commander in IDF 7th Armored Brigade's 77th Battalion and was killed battling Hamas terrorists on October 7.
- Bipin Joshi, 22: an agricultural student from Nepal, Bipin had come to Israel as part of an international agricultural training program under Mas-hav, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation. He deflected a grenade during the October 7 Hamas attack, saving numerous lives before he was taken hostage. He was killed in captivity in Gaza.
- Guy Illouz, 26: originally from Ra'anana, Guy was wounded and kidnapped by Hamas terrorists while trying to flee the Nova music festival on October 7. He later died in a Gaza hospital, reportedly due to a lack of medical treatment.

- Yossi Sharabi, 53: a resident of Kibbutz Be'eri and the marketing director for the Be'eri printing house, Yossi was taken hostage alive on October 7 and later killed in Hamas captivity. He leaves behind his wife, Nira, and three daughters, Yuval, Ofir, and Oren.
- Tamir Nimrodi, 18: an IDF soldier serving in COGAT's Coordination and Liaison Administration to the Gaza Strip, Tamir was kidnapped alive from his base and killed in captivity at the start of the war.
- Inbar Hayman, 27: the last female who remained captive in Gaza, Inbar was killed by Hamas terrorists on October 7 as she fought back against their attempts to take her captive. She had been working at the Nova festival helping partygoers who were intoxicated or in distress.
- Uriel Baruch, 35: killed by Hamas terrorists on October 7 while trying to flee from the Nova music festival, Uriel's body was kidnapped to Gaza. He leaves behind his wife, Racheli, and two sons, Shalev and Ofek
- Muhammad Al-Atrash, 39: a Bedouin tracker in the IDF, Muhammad was killed while fighting Hamas terrorists around Kibbutz Nahal Oz on October 7. He leaves behind two wives and 13 children.
- Eitan Levy, 53: a cab driver, Eitan was murdered by Hamas terrorists near Me-

- falsim after dropping off a passenger in Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7. He leaves behind his fiancée, Shir, and son Shahaar.
- Eliyahu Margalit, 75: the former head of the Kibbutz Nir Oz cattle branch, Eliyahu was murdered by Hamas terrorists on October 7 while tending to his horses. He leaves behind his wife, Daphna, children Noa, Danny, and Nili, and three grandchildren.
- Sonthaya Oakkharasri, 30: a farmer working near Kibbutz Be'eri, Sonthaya was from Thailand and leaves behind a seven-year-old daughter.
- Ronen Engel, 54: a volunteer medic in Kibbutz Nir Oz, Ronen was murdered by Hamas terrorists on October 7 and his body kidnapped to Gaza. His wife, Karina, and daughters Mika and Yuval were taken as live hostages and released in November 2023.
- Tal Haimi, 41: a member of the Kibbutz Nir Oz emergency squad, Tal was killed while defending the Kibbutz from Hamas terrorists. His wife, Ela, gave birth to their fourth child while his body remained in captivity.
- Tamir Adar, 38: a resident of Kibbutz Nir Oz, Tamir was killed while fighting Hamas terrorists on October 7.
- Arie Zalmanowicz, 85: a founding member of Kibbutz Nir Oz, Arie was kidnapped alive and murdered in captivity in November 2023.

Jewish Federations' Statement on the Return of Capt. Omer Neutra z"l and Four Other Hostages

From JFNA
November 3, 2025

Jewish Federations welcome the long overdue return of American-Israeli IDF Capt. Omer Neutra's remains to his loved ones, who can finally give him a dignified burial. Originally from New York and the grandson of Holocaust survivors, Capt. Neutra was killed by Hamas terrorists on October 7 when his tank was attacked.

We join in his family's heartbreak following a harrowing two years, including over a year of not knowing his fate before the IDF confirmed his death in December 2024, and mourn the loss of a courageous warrior. May his memory

be a blessing.

Jewish Federations honor the lives and memories of the four other hostages whose remains were returned in the last week, in order of release:

- Sahar Baruch, 25: An engineering student at Ben-Gurion University, Sahar was kidnapped on October 7 and killed in January 2024 while still in captivity. He was predeceased by his brother, 20-year-old Edan Baruch, and his grandmother, Geula, who were both murdered by Hamas terrorists on October 7.
- Dr. Amiram Cooper, 85: A resident of Kibbutz Nir Oz, Amiram was kidnapped on October 7 and murdered in

captivity. He was a founding member of the kibbutz and held bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from Hebrew University, later completing a doctorate at Ben-Gurion University. Amiram is survived by his wife, Nurit, who was freed from Hamas captivity in late October 2023, his four children, Rotem, Srulik, Ravi, and Lotan, and 11 grandchildren.

- Col. Asaf Hamami, 40: A commander of the Gaza Division's Southern Brigade, Col. Hamami was killed while fighting Hamas terrorists on October 7, who kidnapped his body to Gaza. He was a resident of Kiryat Ono and is survived by his wife, Saphir, and their three children, including son Alon, who was spending

Shabbat with him at the Gaza Division base on October 7.

- Staff Sgt. Oz Daniel, 19: A member of the 7th Armored Brigade's 77th Battalion from Kfar Saba, Staff Sgt. Daniel was killed by Hamas terrorists on October 7. He was in the same tank as Capt. Neutra when it was attacked by Hamas. Staff Sgt. Daniel was a gifted musician who dreamed of pursuing a music career following his military service.

Federations stand in solidarity with the families of the remaining hostages and with all the people of Israel.



Jewish Federations are relieved that, after more than eleven long years in Gaza, the body of IDF Lt. Hadar Goldin has finally been returned home to Israel.

We pray that this long-overdue homecoming brings comfort to the Goldin family and to all Israelis who share in their pain.



Jewish Federations are relieved that American-Israeli IDF Staff Sgt. Itay Chen can at long last receive the dignified burial denied him for over two years, bringing solace and some closure to his family – including loving parents Ruby and Hagit. May his memory forever be a blessing.



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Securing Our Community

Secure Community Network October 2025 Report

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

In recent weeks, our community has experienced both heartbreak and hope.

After more than 700 days, we greeted the return of our remaining living hostages with heartfelt joy, and we welcomed the repatriation of those who were killed with sadness and relief. As we remain hopeful amid a fragile peace and its next steps, we also recognize that recent events have changed little in terms of the serious security threats and issues that we face domestically, and that Jewish communities confront around the world.

We know that our enemies will continue to justify hatred and the targeting of our community. We also know, however, that they will not win; our spirits will not be broken. Indeed, they are made stronger – as is our will to survive, and our inten-

tion to thrive.

Against this backdrop, we hosted the 2025 Secure Community Network (SCN) Homeland Security Summit in Atlanta. With more than 150 attendees representing over 90 percent of North American Jewish Federations, national partner organizations, and all eleven regions as well as Canada, our collective system came together alongside law enforcement and community leaders for three days of learning, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices.

At the same time, we continue to work to expand our security shield – both virtual and physical – over the entirety of Jewish North America.

Our community moved another step closer to ensuring that we are unified in our efforts to identify, monitor, and mitigate threats with the launch of the Embedded Analyst Program in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

Through this program, the Federation and SCN are not merely continuing a longstanding partnership but ensuring that Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania community are tied into SCN's innovative, national capabilities and our AI-enabled stack of proprietary technology, Project RAIN.

At the same time, our physical shield continues to strengthen with the hiring of additional security professionals to support our community, through and with local Federations, in Ohio, South Florida, the Greater New England Region,

and Southern New Jersey, to include Delaware and Western New York.

We remain focused on protecting our communities and strengthening Jewish life. As Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, z”l, said, “When the Jewish people join hands in collective responsibility, they become a formidable force for good.”

I invite you to join this mission by committing to action, participating in a training, and supporting our work.

Stay safe.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) established the Secure Community Network (SCN) in 2004. The SCN is a nonprofit organization that works to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community in North America. The SCN's mission is to help individuals and organizations develop a culture of awareness, preparedness, and resilience through training, consultation, and information sharing. The SCN works with over 300 independent communities, 146 federations, and 50 partner organizations, as well as with partners in the public, private, academic, and non-profit sectors.



"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
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Today, we help keep it strong.**

Am Yisrael Chai - The people of Israel lives!

Combating Hate

The Jewish Federation of Ocean County is proud to have enabled this partnership that continues to offer this resource to our county’s schools for our students.

OCEAN COUNTY STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

2025

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

OCTOBER 29

GRUNIN CENTER @
OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE
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TOPIC: GENERATIONAL TRAUMA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ty "Dancing Wolf" Ellis

With the beautiful culture and traditions passed down to Indigenous People from the ones that came before comes the domino effect, both directly and indirectly, caused by the oppression and attempted forced erasure of their way of being. This keynote will highlight the continued battle to reclaim Lenapehoking Heritage that had been on the brink of extinction. Topics explored will include how the monstrosities done unto their ancestors in the last century affect their everyday lives to this day, addressing stereotypes specific to East Coast Indigenous Nations, breaking Generation Curses rooted in colonization, and much more.

There will be breakout sessions after the Keynote Speaker.



Ty "Dancing Wolf" Ellis
CEO & Owner of the Lenapehoking
Reestablishment Project

There is no room for hate in Ocean County. This conference will bring students together to share experiences and inspire one another to stamp out hate in any of its forms and wherever it appears.

Free to Attend!

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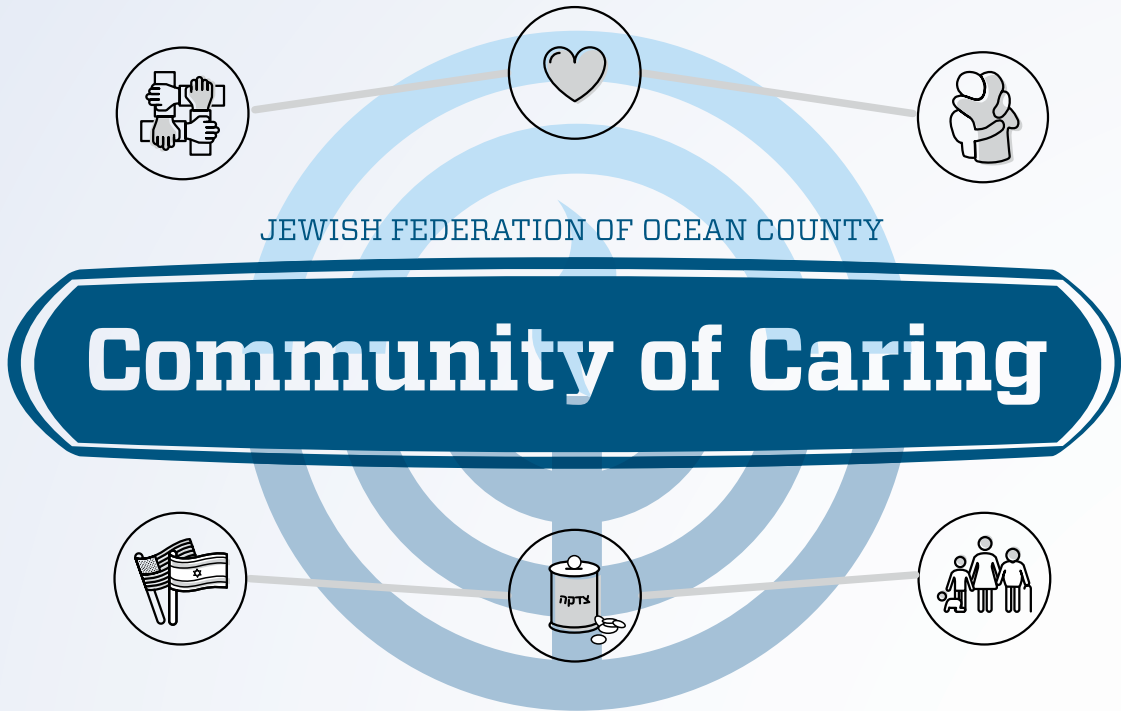
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Sheriff Michael Mastronardy



Daniel Hoffman



Christ Episcopal Church

Heroes Against Hate

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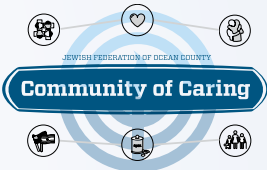
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Yad Vashem Says It has Compiled 5 Million Names of Jews Murdered in Holocaust

Milestone achieved with the help of survivors and relatives worldwide; most of the remaining million names will likely never be found, the Holocaust memorial center says.



Visitors seen at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial museum in Jerusalem on May 2, 2024, ahead of Israeli Holocaust Remembrance Day. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

By Zev Stub
November 3, 2025
[timesofisrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com)

Yad Vashem, Israel's World Holocaust Remembrance Center, said on November 3 that it has recovered the names of five million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, a milestone it called "historic" in its decades-long mission to restore the identities of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis.

The announcement comes as the number of living Holocaust survivors able to give testimony dwindles, Yad Vashem said. Of about 200,000 Holocaust survi-

vors living today, about half will no longer be with us in seven years, according to a calculation made by the Claims Conference earlier this year.

The names of the remaining one million Jewish victims will probably never be known, Yad Vashem said, although new technologies like AI and machine learning may make it possible for as many as 250,000 more to be uncovered. "Reaching five million names is both a milestone and a reminder of our unfinished obligation," said Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan. "Behind each name is a life that mattered – a child who never grew up, a parent who never came home, a voice that was silenced forever. It is our moral duty to ensure that every victim is remembered so that no one will be left behind in the darkness of anonymity."

Yad Vashem said its global campaign to recover names has relied heavily on partnerships with Jewish communities, archives, genealogical societies and research institutions worldwide. A cornerstone of the effort is its Pages of Testimony project – one-page memorial forms filled out by survivors, relatives and friends. To date, 2.8 million names have been



A worker peruses the documents archive at The Moshal Shoah Legacy Campus and The David and Fela Shapell Family Collections Center, at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, July 8, 2024. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

collected through these pages, written in more than 20 languages. The collection was recognized by UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2013.

Researchers have also used personal letters, diaries, Nazi documentation and deportation lists, census data, and legal documentation from proceedings against Nazi criminals and collaborators to gather data, as well as some less-conventional initiatives like researchers combing through tombstones in Jewish cemeteries and memorial plaques in synagogues.

"The Pages of Testimony are symbolic headstones," said Dr. Alexander Avram, Director of the Hall of Names and the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, who has led the program for 37 years. "Most of the victims of the Holocaust were left without graves, without traces – remembered now only through the Pages of Testimony that bear their names. By identifying five million names, we are restoring their human identities and ensuring that their memory endures."

The names are compiled in Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, which is accessible online in six languages. By using variants of names and places and with the help of especially developed algorithms, the database includes hundreds of thousands of "personal files" aggregated from archival sources that tell about the lives and fates of the individual victims.

Over the years, the database has helped countless families commemorate loved ones and discover and reunite with lost relatives, Yad Vashem said. The milestone will be highlighted at a seminar at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on November 6 and at an event hosted by the Yad Vashem USA Foundation in New York on November 9.

279 IDF Soldiers Attempted Suicide since Start of 2024, Knesset Report Finds

Combat soldiers made up 78% of all suicide cases in Israel in 2024, a sharp rise from 2017-22, when the rate hovered between 42% and 45%



IDF forces operate in the Gaza Strip in this October 9, 2025, handout image. (IDF)

By Stav Levaton
October 28, 2025
[timesofisrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com)

A report published by the Knesset Research and Information Center on Tuesday revealed that between January 2024 and July 2025, 279 Israel Defense Forces soldiers attempted to take their own lives.

The report, prepared at the request of far-left Hadash-Ta'al lawmaker Ofer Cassif, found that for every soldier who died by suicide, seven additional suicide attempts were recorded. According to the report, combat soldiers made up 78

percent of all suicide cases in Israel in 2024, a sharp rise from previous years – the rate hovered between 42% and 45% from 2017 to 2022, and stood at just 17% in 2023.

In total, 124 soldiers died by suicide between 2017 and July 2025, the report found. Of that number, 68% were conscripts, 21% were in active reserve service, and 11% were career soldiers. The Knesset report found that just 17% of the soldiers who died by suicide over the past two years had met with a mental health officer in the two months before their deaths.

The increase in suicides and attempted suicide has been linked to the surge in reservist mobilization throughout the war following Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack, which drew tens of thousands of troops back into active service.

Most of the data was supplied by the IDF Medical Corps' mental health center, as well as from discussions held in various Knesset committees. The report clarified



Members of the IDF tactical unit of the Yamas patrol in Kibbutz Be'eri, near the Israeli-Gaza border, southern Israel, October 22, 2023. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

that the figures referred only to soldiers serving at the time of their death or attempt – whether in regular or reserve service – and did not include veterans who took their own lives after completing military duty.

An internal military investigation in August of this year found that most of the recent suicides among troops were the result of psychological trauma from the war, including prolonged deployments in combat zones, witnessing harrowing scenes and the loss of comrades.

Following the internal probe, the IDF said it would step up its measures to address mental health challenges. This was reported to include plans to expand training for commanders to help them detect signs of distress in their troops and significantly increasing the number of mental health officers.

Cassif, who requested the report, warned in response to its findings on Tuesday that the "suicide epidemic" was likely only going to get worse in the coming months. "There is nothing more valuable than a human life," he said. "The suicide epidemic, which will likely worsen now that the war is over, requires the creation of real support systems for soldiers, and above all, bringing about an end to the wars and making true peace. A government that sends its soldiers to war and captivity and abandons them is one that fights against them, not one that fights against war and crime."



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Dec 5	7:00 PM Ugly Sweater Karaoke Contest \$42 a person	Dec 18	6:30 PM Tea and Scones with Santa \$20 Adults \$10 Children
Dec 6	7:00 PM Most Wonderful Time of the Year Murder Mystery \$75 Adults 10% off Senior/Military	Dec 19	7:00 PM Elvis Tribute with Italian Dinner \$75 per person, 10% off Senior/Military
Dec 7	3:00 PM Holiday Victorian Tea with Live Christmas Stories \$60 per person	Dec 20	7:00 PM Most Wonderful Time of the Year Murder Mystery \$75 Adults, 10% off Senior/Military
Dec 10	6:30 PM Open House Night of Shopping & Sing a- long Complimentary Event	Dec 31	2:00 PM New Year's Eve – Elvis Matinee with Appetizer Buffet \$50 per person
Dec 11	6:30 PM Tea and Scones with Santa \$20 Adults \$10 Children	Dec 31	7:00 PM New Year's Eve Great Gatsby Roaring 20's Jazz Band Dinner Dance \$100
Dec 12	7:00 PM Holiday Dinner with Live Music \$75 per person, 10% off Senior/Military		
Dec 13	7:00 PM Yuletide Tea with a live show "A Dickens Christmas Story" \$75 per person		

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We continue our prayers for the crisis in Israel:

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

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

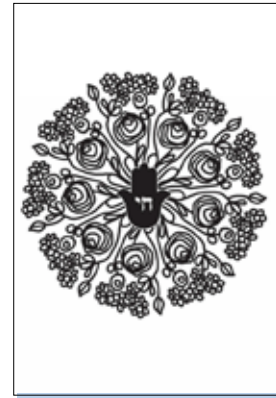
We invite our community members to submit a few photographs of their family's recent holiday celebrations. Include a one-line caption describing the activity in the photo.

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.



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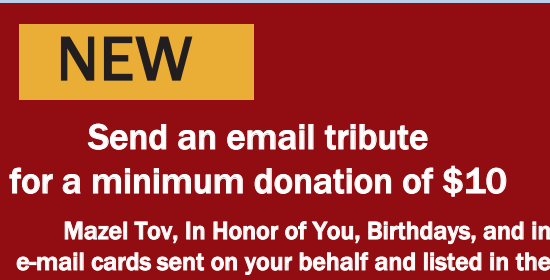
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The new year by Rochelle Rosenberg

In Memory of
Bill Czirjak by Paula Berkoff
Sophy Kirsch and Joel Matusow by Lynn Matusow
Murray Rudnick by Phyllis Rudnick
Roberta Storehill by Wendy Siegel
Benjamin, Anne, & Robert Walters by Helene Barry
Marilyn & Milton Weinstein by Elyse & Stuart Pepose



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.



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.

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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.

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Check out our new season online!

www.grunincenter.org

Jewish Community Calendar – December 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, December 2, 1:00 PM (and every Tuesday) – **Grief After Loss Group** led by Rita Sason, Jewish Family and Children’s Service, virtual online, 732-363-8010

Wednesday, December 3, 12:00 PM – **JDC Archive Series** – “The Holocaust and Latin America,” see www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu for details

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 PM – **Women Rabbis as Change Agents**, see www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu for details

Thursday, December 4, 12:15 PM (and every Thursday) – **Torah with the Times: Timeless Torah, Timely Wisdom**; study and discussion of the weekly Torah portion with Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein, see www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu for details

Thursday, December 4, 1:15 PM (and every Thursday) – **Queering the Parsha:**

Food Pantries Need Our Support – NOW!

By Rabbi Michael Jay
Jewish Community Center of
Long Beach Island, Spray Beach

The government shutdown had a deeply negative impact on many people. While many were affected, the reportage is that it had an out-sized effect on lower income families, the poor, and the otherwise economically challenged.

By some reports, more than 800,000 people in New Jersey alone receive SNAP benefits. While benefits have been, at least partially, restored, people are still apparently placed at risk. The Torah in no less than 36 places exhorts us to take care of the stranger. It says in no less than 12 places, that we must look after the widow and the orphan. It is clear then that we must do something to alleviate the pain caused to at-risk people.

Here are examples of what the Torah says:

“If there is among you a poor man... you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your needy brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him.” (Deuteronomy 15:7–8)

Farmers are told to leave the corners of their fields and the gleanings for the poor and the stranger. (Leviticus 19:9–10)

“...[God wants you] to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house.... (If) you offer your bread to the hungry, and satisfy the famished creature, then shall your light shine in darkness....” (Isaiah 58:6–7, 10)

Additionally, Psalm 145:15-16 provides: The eyes of all look to (God) expectantly, and (God) give(s) them their food when it is due. (God) give(s) it openhandedly, feeding every creature to its heart’s content.

Since we are each created in God’s image, we should emulate God’s example and see to it that those in need are cared for. In Rabbinic writings, the idea is given practical application:

Pirkei Avot 1:2 teaches that “the world stands on three things: on Torah, on service, and on acts of loving-kindness (gemilut chasadim).” A good example of loving-kindness is feeding the hungry.

Feeding the hungry is so important that the Midrash at Psalm 118:17 states: “When you are asked in the world to come ‘What was your work?’ and you answer, ‘I fed the hungry,’ you will be told ‘This is the gate of Adonai, enter into it, you who have fed the hungry’.”

Finally, the Talmud, at Bava Batra 9a, says, “Providing food for the poor is greater than giving them money.”

Ocean County has many people in need of assistance. Luckily, there are several organizations that can help those in need. My friends, we are needed. Please help by donating non-perishable items at one or more food pantries. Many churches in your area have food pantries. Also donate at the food pantry sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Joel E. Perlmutter Memorial Food Pantry, 48 School House Road, Whiting, NJ 08759; Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

A Weekly Study Group toward an LGBTQ+ Perspective on the Weekly Torah Portion, with Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, Ph.D., a Laasok program cosponsored by Keshet and A Wider Bridge, see www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu for details

Thursday, December 4, 2:00 PM – **BeAware Training and Event Security Guide Webinar**, presented by the Secure Community Network, see www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu for details

Thursday, December 4, 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

Sunday night-Monday, December 14-22 – Chanukah

Monday, December 22, 5:30 PM – **Community of Caring Celebrating Heroes Against Hate**, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ocean County, see www.jewishoceancounty.org and pages 16-17 in this issue of the Jewish Journal for details

Thursday, December 25 – Federal Holiday

Tuesday, December 30 – Fast of the Tenth of Tevet

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

בס"ד

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Gustavo M.

Testimonial

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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



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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>

Holocaust Survivors Alert

If you are a Holocaust Survivor who has never applied for compensation, or was turned down previously, there are new funds and guidelines. For more information, you may call the Claims Conference in NY at 646-536-9100 or go to their website: www.claimscon.org. Click on survivor resources, then click on compensation programs. They have a FAQ (frequently asked questions) section which should be read prior to applying.

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.



Jewish Family & Children's Service



Jewish Federation of Ocean County



Powered in part by a grant from 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...

Listening Skills for the Workplace and the Home

By Chava Lowy, Guest Writer
Jewish Family & Children's Service

underlying message that the speaker is trying to convey.

Here are some tips that you can use to become an active listener:

- 1. Paying Attention:** Give your undivided attention to the speaker and do not allow yourself to get bored or distracted by anything. Losing your focus contributes to a lack of listening and understanding which is antithetical to what you are trying to achieve. The art of staying focused can be challenging, however, when you have a different agenda that you want discussed, if there is a more interesting conversation going on nearby, or if you think the topic is trivial or completely irrelevant.
- 2. Show that you are Engaged:** Acknowledge what the other person is saying by saying "Uh huh" or nodding your head during the conversation. Make sure your posture is open and maintain eye contact. You can use facial expressions and smile to encourage the speaker. These gestures do not indicate that you agree with the matter being discussed. You are merely providing a non-judgmental forum for the speaker to express opinions. Asking a clarifying question occasionally shows interest and lets the other person know that you understand what he or she has said.
- 3. Provide Feedback:** Our own biases often change what we hear from what is being said. It's important to reflect back and summarize the main points. Reflection is basically restating or paraphrasing

Continued on page 28

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!**



ועידת התביעות
Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

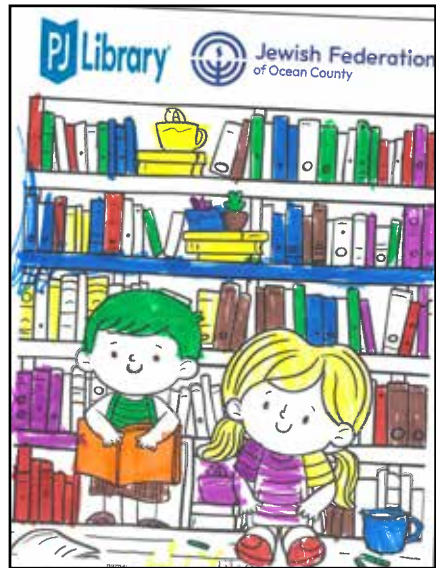
CHILDREN'S SERVICE

...making a difference



Fall Festival Held on Sunday, October 26

Yesterday we had great weather and a great turnout! Lakewood fire department estimated 1000 people. **One Ocean County** did a fantastic job organizing and hosting the Fall Festival at Common Grounds. It was amazing to meet so many of our PJ families and possible new ones!



Lili age 5



Shmuel age 4



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

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www.jewishoceancounty.org/jfcs
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Jewish Family & Children's Service



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&
JFCS
Jewish Family & Children's Service

Grief After Loss
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TUESDAYS
1:00 - 2:30pm

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



MEETINGS NOW HELD VIRTUALLY

Listening Skills

Continued from page 26

what the speaker has just said, such as “It sounds like you’re saying” or “What I’m hearing is.” Asking questions like “What do you mean when you say?” or “is this what you mean?” ensures that you get the account from the speaker’s perspective.

4. **Suspend Judgment:** Allow the speaker to finish speaking before asking questions. Give the other person time

to explore his or her thoughts and feelings. Pauses and short periods of silence should be respected. Remain neutral and don’t interrupt with other points of view since it frustrates the speaker and limits complete understanding of the subject.

5. **Appropriate Responses:** Your goal is to gain understanding and perspective. Be truthful, candid, and open and never attack the speaker or put him or her down. Remember to treat others the way

you think they would want to be treated and assert your opinions carefully and respectfully.

Becoming an active listener requires determination and a commitment of patience and concentration on your part. By

implementing the above strategies, you will change more than your day to day communications; you will improve your productivity in the workplace and develop better relationships.

MAKE YOUR
CLEAN UP
BEFORE
WINTER



BYE BYE
TRASH

848-674-1335

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SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN: A CHILD'S
STORY ABOUT RACIAL INJUSTICE BY MARIANNE CELANO

WED., OCTOBER 29TH
ALL OF MY RAGE BY SABAA TAHIR

TUES., NOVEMBER 25TH
THE CIRCUIT: STORIES FROM THE LIFE OF
A MIGRANT CHILD BY FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

WED., DECEMBER 17TH
THE FIRE NEXT TIME BY JAMES BALDWIN



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Introducing: Ocean Inc. Veterans EZ Ride Transportation Program

The program provides a monetary credit in an EZ Ride account that veterans use to book Uber/Lyft rides to and from medical appointments, grocery/retail shopping, military organizational social and any other community event. A spouse/caregiver is able to ride with the veteran. Participants must own a cell phone to utilize the program.
If you or someone you know is a veteran and requires transportation services, contact the Ocean Inc. Veterans Transportation Coordinator, Carmine Czapla at (732) 496-3704 or via email at cczapla@oceaninc.org. During the registration process, be sure to have available a Drivers License, Military ID or Veterans VA ID and a copy of your DD214 Form.

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www.jccoflbi.org

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING IN LAKEWOOD

November 21	4:17 PM
November 28	4:14 PM
December 5	4:13 PM
December 12	4:13 PM
December 19	4:15 PM
December 26	4:19 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.

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

Blessed are You, Ad-nai our G-d, Sovereign of the universe, who has done miracles for our ancestors in those days in this season.

(On first night) Blessed are You, Ad-nai our G-d,
Sovereign of the universe, who has kept us alive
and sustained us and enabled us to reach this
moment in time.

Chanukah begins on Sunday night, December 14. On Friday, December 19, Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles.

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.
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Jewish Federation
of Ocean County
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*Behold the Guardian of Israel will
neither slumber nor sleep (Tehillim 121)*



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

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HELP WANTED

Community Volunteer Opportunities — You can make an IMPACT!

ENGAGE ADULT COMMUNITIES

The goal here is to find ways to engage the Jewish populations in adult communities/Shalom Clubs with the Jewish Federation and to connect them to other Jewish activities/opportunities.

- Identify contacts and key “network nodes” in these communities to serve as influencers, networkers, and communicators
- Manage and follow through on ongoing communications and sharing opportunities with these networks
- Help identify/explore/shape opportunities that can be offered/delivered to these communities to help strengthen ties with the Federation/Jewish community
 - Films
 - Topics
 - Speakers
 - Sponsorships of programs

PLAN EVENTS

We organize approximately 3 in-person events a year, to enable our community to come together, connect, and celebrate (hopefully) with each other.

- We are looking for people to help spearhead the framing and organizing of these events
- While this can include logistics and actual set-up, prep...this ideally includes positioning, promotion, and framing of these events
- This also can include volunteering on-site and engaging with guests/others at these events...ideally to help build affinity and connection to the Federation and Jewish community

HELP PROMOTE FEDERATION ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

We can always do a better job promoting our activities and impact, through media, email/other engagement, and delivery of promotional materials.

- Identification of new places to deliver materials
- Ongoing updates/communications to local papers and adult community newsletters
- Ongoing updates/communications/promotions through local synagogues/Chabads

HEROES AGAINST HATE

The opportunity for this program goes beyond just event promotion and set-up. This can be a platform for expanding reach in the broader community and engaging other groups/individuals in the mechanism of countering hate, spearheaded by the Federation.

- Sticking with the framework for Heroes awards discussed thus far... help identify other groups, organizations, places to look for and nominate Heroes
- Explore ways to expand awareness of the awards and the event
- Expand recruitment of participants and sponsors for the event/program

You're just the
person we've been
looking for!
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NOW.**



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Browns Mills, NJ 08015
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Some of the ways you can
GET INVOLVED

Patient Support

Help make patients feel more comfortable by spending time with them. Provide transport and discharge services.

Nursing Support

Help nursing unit with stocking shelves, filling water pitchers, etc.

Meal Program

Complete the meal satisfaction survey with patients.

PJ PARENT AMBASSADOR

We now have over 1800 kids participating in our PJ Library program. We're looking for some parents who can commit to:

- Identify the needs of families, and develop engagement opportunities that meet their needs
- Develop, plan and organize intimate small-scale engagement opportunities at family friendly destinations or home-based gatherings
- Encourage parents to be involved in planning and organizing programs and gatherings

**LEARN
MORE**

For more information unless otherwise noted, contact Sharron Greenberg at 732-363-0530 or sharron@ocjf.org.

In honor of Chanukah (which begins this year on Sunday evening, December 14) and to Say No to Hate

Light One Candle

Lyrics by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary

Light one candle for the Maccabee children
With thanks that their light didn't die
Light one candle for the pain they endured
When their right to exist was denied
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice
Justice and freedom demand
But light one candle for the wisdom to know
When the peacemaker's time is at hand

Don't let the light go out!
It's lasted for so many years!
Don't let the light go out!
Let it shine through our hope and our tears. (2)

Light one candle for the strength that we need
To never become our own foe
And light one candle for those who are suffering
Pain we learned so long ago
Light one candle for all we believe in
That anger not tear us apart
And light one candle to find us together
With peace as the song in our hearts

Don't let the light go out!
It's lasted for so many years!
Don't let the light go out!
Let it shine through our hope and our tears. (2)

What is the memory that's valued so highly
That we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died
That we cry out they've not died in vain?
We have come this far always believing
That justice would somehow prevail
This is the burden, this is the promise
This is why we will not fail!

Don't let the light go out!
Don't let the light go out!
Don't let the light go out!



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