



Toledo Jewish News

The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo



Shevat/Adar 1 5784 • February 2024



You did it!

THANK YOU for your extraordinary support of the 2023 Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) Annual Campaign. You committed more than \$1.1 million dollars to those in need locally and abroad, to fund our critical institutions, fight antisemitism, secure our people and property, and to bring the community together.

Your campaign gifts allow JFGT to bring Jewish Toledo:

- Film and book festivals combined, attended by 1,000+ members of the community.
- A community Hanukkah celebration for 300 people.
- Asset, safety, and security department to protect our community and Jewish institutions.
- Monthly senior programs, including Create and Relate, attended by hundreds.
- Hillel programs at UT and BGSU for hundreds of Jewish students.
- Holocaust education and remembrance programs. The annual Diversity Day, attended by over 800 students and teachers each year.
- Israel @ 75 celebration for 200+ members in our community
- Israel rallies & vigils for 400+ community members.
- Jewish Community Relations Council programs that helped bring awareness and education to fight antisemitism, with over 180 community members in attendance.
- Funding for 17 Gan Yeladim Preschoolers that begins the path of Jewish learning.
- Funding, in part, for Friendship Circle, which fosters fun and engaging activities for children with special needs with assistance from teen volunteers.
- Funding for the JSFSS Family Food Pantry, which served 1,731 individuals in the past calendar year.
- Funding for overnight Jewish summer camp for 39 children.
- Professional oversight of the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.

Your gift does all this and more. For information regarding the Annual Campaign, or to get involved, please contact Wendy Goldstein, Donor Development and Women's Philanthropy Officer, at wendy@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0360.



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Happy Tears - Lauren Sachs



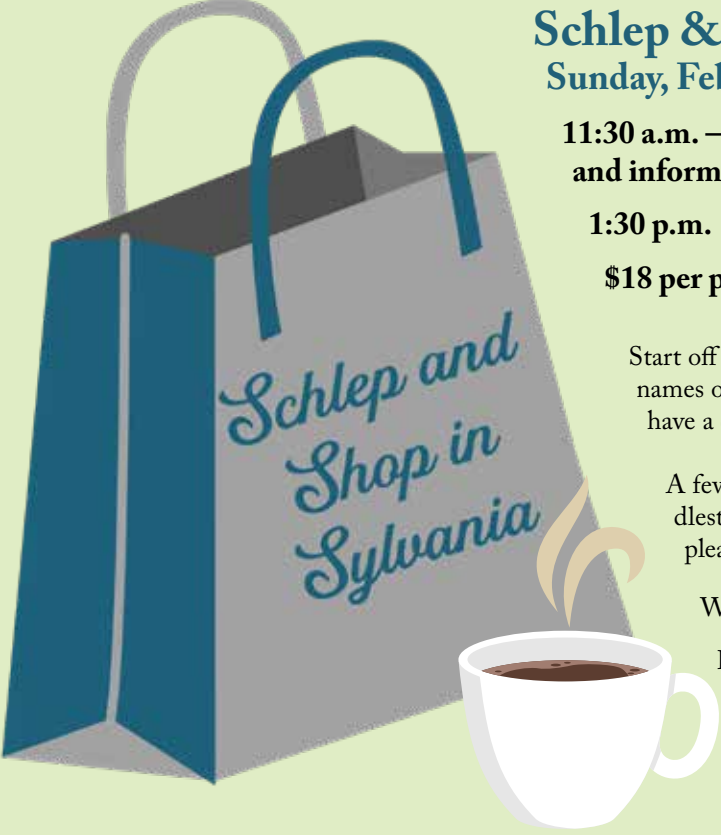
Page 16
Create and Relate



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With thanks from Partnership2Gether

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Local



Schlep & Shop in Sylvania

Sunday, February 4

11:30 a.m. — meet at Chandler’s Café, 5648 Main St. for coffee/hot chocolate and information on participating stores

1:30 p.m. — lunch at Inside the Five (ground floor), 5703 Main St.


\$18 per person — includes hot beverage, lunch, and more


Start off this shopping day at 11:30 a.m. at Chandler’s Café for a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and receive the names of the participating stores that will be open for you to browse and shop. Some of the stores might even have a clue for you to answer to get a surprise or goodie.

A few of stores that will be participating: Art Supply Depot, Beautiful Blooms, Bowinkles, Erin Ann’s, Fiddlestix, and Simply Stacked permanent bracelets. If you interested in getting a permanent bracelet this day, please let us know and we will make the appointment for you at Fiddlestix’s or Simply Stacked.

We will end the afternoon with a delicious lunch at Inside the Five at 1:30 p.m.

RSVP by Wednesday, January 31 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.





Come from Away

Monday, February 5

5 p.m.: dinner at Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

6 p.m.: bus pickup

Show starts at 7 p.m., Valentine Theater, 410 Adams Street

\$36 – Ticket only

\$54 – Ticket, dinner, and bus ride

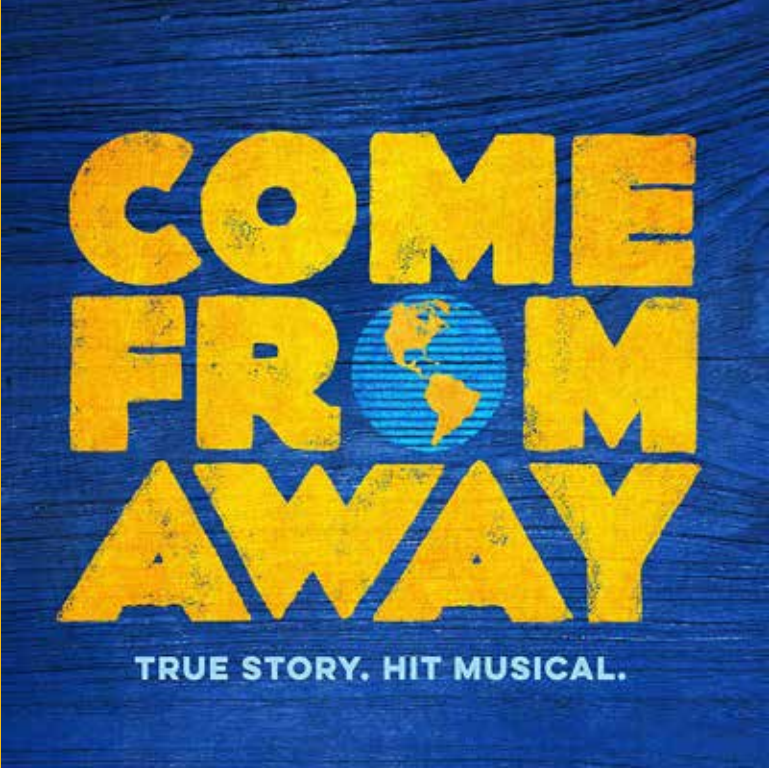
Very limited number of tickets available for sale


Broadway’s Come from Away is a Best Musical winner across North America! This New York Times Critics’ Pick takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships.

Don’t miss this breathtaking new musical written by Tony® nominees Irene Sankoff and David Hein, directed by Tony-winning Best Director, Christopher Ashley and musical staging by Tony-nominee Kelly Devine. The tour is directed by Daniel Goldstein with musical staging by Richard J. Hinds, based on the original Broadway direction and choreography.

Due to ticketing, no seating requests allowed. RSVP Required by Monday, January 29 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

This event is intended for community members who support the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo’s Annual Campaign. A meaningful gift to the campaign is required to attend. Make your contribution today by contacting Wendy Goldstein at 419-724-0362 or wendy@jewishtoledo.org or by visiting www.jewishtoledo.org/campaigndepartment.









UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO ROCKETS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL vs. MIAMI REDHAWKS

Wednesday, February 21

5:30 p.m. – dinner starts

7 p.m. – game starts

Savage Arena, University of Toledo campus

\$18 per person – includes dinner and game ticket

Open to all Jewish community members 21+

Limited space available

Come support the University of Toledo Women’s Basketball team (including Emmi Rinat, a UT junior from Zafirim, Israel who is also an active member of Toledo 419 Hillel) as they take on the Miami Redhawks.

RSVP required by Friday, February 15 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.





Israel

Israel: The Old-New Land
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
Free event

Two dates:
Wednesday, February 7, 6- 8 p.m. (dinner included)
Friday, February 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (lunch included)

Israel is a country of many contradictions. It is a land thousands of years old but a country 75 years young. It mixes ancient cities with ever-growing skyscrapers. Tourists and tattooed hipsters bump shoulders with devout adherents of the three major monotheistic religions as well as those of other faiths and none. It is a land of conflict and a land of peace, the sea and the desert, flat coastal plains and steep mountain tops, sun and snow. For countless people and for thousands of years, it is the center of the universe. Join Federation's Vice President of Community and Government Relations, Daniel Pearlman, on an educational tour of Israel through photos, videos, and stories of the land, the people, the history, and more. Then, you will have a chance to visit Israel using Virtual Reality (VR) glasses, under the guidance of Project Manager and Tech Coordinator, Tim Hagen, providing a realistic 3D touring experience.

Limited Space Available. RSVP required to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org



Jewish Community Relations Council
OF GREATER TOLEDO





Jewish Community Relations Council
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Love It Was Not
Film Club discussion with director Maya Sarfaty, via Zoom
Hosted by The Jewish Agency for Israel, Partnership2Gether, and Jewish Federations of North America
Sunday, February 11 at 1 p.m.
Zoom | FREE

Love It Was Not is the fascinating story of Helena Citron, a young Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz, and Franz Wunsch, the SS officer with whom she had a complicated romantic relationship until the camp was liberated. Decades later, after years of refusing any contact from him, Helena was forced to choose whether to help the man who'd saved her life: Would she testify on his behalf at the second Vienna Auschwitz Trial?

That intrigue alone makes a discussion with the film's director, Maya Sarfaty, a "you don't want to miss this" program.

But did you know that there's a Toledo connection that makes this story even more compelling? The family featured in this movie is that of Hadas-



sah Strobel, a long-time cherished member of our local Jewish community, before she retired to Florida some years ago. Helena was a very close relative of Hadasah's.

So don't delay – register for the discussion of *Love It Was Not* today!



RSVP by Friday, February 9 to <https://www.westerngalilee.org.il/event-details/film-club> (link to view the film will be sent to registrants the week before the event)

Any questions? Contact Mary Bilyeu at mary@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0405.

TOLEDO JEWISH WINTER FLICKS



NOW SHOWING

WINTER FLICKS

JERRY'S LAST MISSION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 3 P.M.

NEW LOCATION -- SEKACH BLDG

6505 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania



Jerry's Last Mission
Sunday, February 25 at 3 p.m.
NEW LOCATION -- SEKACH BLDG
Running time: 56 minutes | English

Jerry's Last Mission is a feature-length documentary on the story of Jerry Yellin, one of the last veterans from WWII, who enlisted to fight the Japanese after their attack on Pearl Harbor. Jerry returned home from the war as a decorated pilot and suffered from severe post-traumatic stress disorder for years. It was only when he found Transcendental Meditation® decades later that he began the road back to himself.

Jerry was again confronted with his decades-old fear and hatred 42 years after the war when his youngest son moved to Japan and married the daughter of a Kamikaze pilot. During the last decades of his life, Jerry dedicated his life to promote peace and understanding between different cultures.



Cost:
General admission is \$5 per film, per person.
Pre-purchased tickets will be available the day of each film

Purchase tickets:
Online: form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms
By phone: 419-724-0351
By email: sherry@jewishtoledo.org
At the door.

Concessions
Popcorn and water are included in your ticket price.

Parking
Free parking is available outside of the Franciscan Center Theatre.

Questions
Please contact Hallie Freed at Hallie@JewishToledo.org or 419-724-0362.



PURIM CARNIVAL

2024

SAVE THE DATE



Community Purim Carnival | Sunday, March 17 | Temple Shomer Emunim

Get ready for a morning of fun, games, food, and other activities. More details will be in the March Toledo Jewish News!

This event is held in partnership with Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Etz Chayim, and Temple Shomer Emunim.



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Make your contribution to
the Annual Campaign online
at www.JewishToledo.org



Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

Financial assistance for programs Discreet financial assistance available for Jewish Toledo activities

We understand that each person's financial situation is different, and cost can be a barrier for participation in various activities. We don't want program fees to be an obstacle for you or your family to attend our events or participate in our programs. Assistance is available and confidential. For more information, please contact Ben at 419-724-0408 or ben@jewishtoledo.org.

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo's Cancellation Policy

The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) cancellation policy is established to ensure a fair and transparent process for participants who need to cancel their registration for JFGT events. Our primary goal is to accommodate all participants while managing the logistical aspects of each event efficiently. This policy will generally apply to JFGT events unless otherwise stated in connection with the registration for the event.

Policy:

Participants who wish to cancel their registration for any events must do so by 48 hours prior to the event. Cancellations made after this date may result in forfeiture of the registration fee.

To cancel your registration for any event, please send an email to sherry@jewishtoledo.org with the subject line "Cancellation: [Your Name]". Include your full name, registration information, and a brief reason for the cancellation in the email.

Make sure to send the cancellation request before

the 48-hour deadline. Cancellations made on or before the 48-hour deadline are eligible for a full refund of the registration fee.

Cancellations made after the 48-hour deadline may not be eligible for a refund. However, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo may consider exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

If you are unable to attend any Federation sponsored event after the cancellation deadline has passed, you may nominate a substitute participant at no additional cost. Please notify Sherry Majewski (sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351) of the substitution at least 24 hours before the event.

Participants who do not attend events without providing prior notice will not be eligible for any refunds or substitutions.

If any event is canceled by the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo due to circumstances beyond our control, such as a natural disaster, pandemic, or other unforeseen events, we will make every effort to reschedule. If rescheduling is not possible, participants will receive a full refund of the registration fee. The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo is not responsible for any additional costs incurred by participants, such as travel or accommodation expenses.

The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo reserves the right to amend this cancellation policy at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes via email or through our official website.

By registering for any events sponsored by the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo, participants acknowledge that they have read and understood this cancellation policy and agree to abide by its terms and conditions.



Text CAMPAIGN to 44321

Text CAMPAIGN to 44321 to make a donation to the
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo Annual Campaign

JFGT Spring/ Summer 2024 Holiday Office Closures:

Date	Day of Week	Holiday	Office Hours
April 22, 2024	Monday	Erev Passover, 1 st Seder	Close at 1:00 pm
April 23, 2024	Tuesday	Passover	Closed
April 24, 2024	Wednesday	Passover	Closed
April 29, 2024	Monday	Concluding Days of Passover	Closed
April 30, 2024	Tuesday	Concluding Days of Passover	Closed
May 27, 2024	Monday	Memorial Day	Closed
June 11, 2024	Tuesday	Erev SHAVUOT	Close at 1:00 pm
June 12, 2024	Wednesday	SHAVUOT	Closed
June 13, 2024	Thursday	SHAVUOT	Closed
July 4, 2024	Thursday	Independence Day	Closed
September 2, 2024	Monday	Labor Day	Closed
October 2, 2024	Wednesday	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Close at 1:00 pm

Time Change

- Office closes at 4:30 pm Fridays starting March 15, 2024.
- Office closes at 3:30 pm Fridays starting November 9, 2024.

News

Only 2 Jewish players are in the baseball Hall of Fame. Who could join Koufax and Greenberg in Cooperstown?

By Jacob Gurvis
(JTA) — Any Jewish baseball fan knows the names of the two Jews in MLB's Hall of Fame: Sandy Koufax and Hank Greenberg.

But since Koufax got his Hall call 52 years ago to the day — when he became the youngest player ever elected, at 36 — exactly zero Jewish players have made it into Cooperstown. And that drought will stretch for at least one more year: No Jews appear on the 2024 Hall of Fame ballot, whose voting results were announced on Tuesday, Jan. 23, by the Hall's Jewish president, Josh Rawitch.

Jewish players are actually pulling their weight, more or less, when it comes to making the Hall of Fame: Of the 20,532 players who have appeared in what is now known as Major League Baseball, 194 have been Jewish — a ratio of 0.9 percent. That's not much higher than the 0.7 percent of Hall of Fame players who are Jewish — two out of 270.

Three Jewish executives — Barney Dreyfuss, Bud Selig and Marvin Miller — have also made the Hall. Two-time curse-breaking front-office maven Theo Epstein is a near certainty to join that group one day.

But for those eager to see another Jewish player inducted into the Hall, is there any hope? Is anyone worthy of joining Koufax and Greenberg in Cooperstown?

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency surveyed a number of Jewish baseball writers and experts — including the MLB's official historian and multiple Hall of Fame voters — for their predictions. Read on to see what they said.

How to make it in

For any baseball player, just getting onto the Hall of Fame ballot is an achievement.

To get a shot at the Hall, players need to have played 10 or more years in the major leagues. They must then pass a screening committee that filters out clearly under-qualified candidates (like Jewish veteran players Gabe Kapler and Jason Marquis, who didn't make the cut in 2016 and 2021, respectively). Qualified players first appear on the ballot five years after retirement and can remain on the ballot for up to 10 years.

The ballot is voted on by members of the Baseball Writers Association of America, and to get into the Hall, a player must receive at least 75% of the vote. If he receives 5% or less, he's removed from consideration in the future.

The last two Jewish players to appear on the ballot were Boston Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis in 2019 and Houston Astros catcher Brad Ausmus in 2016. But the most recent



From left to right: Ryan Braun, Ian Kinsler, Hank Greenberg, Sandy Koufax, Max Fried, Alex Bregman (Getty Images; Design by Mollie Suss)

Jewish player to receive any votes was Shawn Green in 2013, who got only two votes out of 569 ballots that year. One of the writers who voted for him, Jill Painter Lopez, cited his Jewish identity in justifying her vote. She did not respond to a request for comment.

Other Jewish players have had a shot in the past. Three-time World Series champion pitcher Ken Holtzman received votes in 1985 and 1986 but fell well short of induction. Lipman Pike, the first Jewish baseball star and one of the first professional baseball players ever in the 1860s-80s, received one vote in the veterans' election in 1936, Cooperstown's first year of voting.

The retired players with a chance

While no Jews are on this year's ballot, one is on deck and another is in the hole.

Ian Kinsler, a four-time All-Star with a 14-year MLB career, is set to join the ballot next year. Ryan Braun, the former National League MVP with the most home runs of any Jewish player (352), will be on the ballot the following year, in 2026.

Kinsler — a former Team Israel player and manager who won two Gold Gloves for his defense and a World Series in 2018 with the Red Sox — is eighth all-time among second basemen with 257 home runs. By some metrics, Kinsler has a shot at a plaque in Cooperstown: He is 20th on sabermetrician Jay Jaffe's ranking of second basemen by Hall of Fame worthiness, ahead of several Hall of Famers.

Braun, who spent his entire 14-year career with the Milwaukee Brewers, won the 2007 NL Rookie of the Year and the 2011 NL MVP. He also received six All-Star selections

and five Silver Slugger awards for his offensive prowess.

Braun's legacy was tarnished when he tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs and served a 65-game suspension in 2013. Other erstwhile all-time greats who were busted for steroids — such as Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens — have so far been denied Hall of Fame induction, an ominous sign for Braun.

But Braun, who sometimes went by the moniker "Hebrew Hammer" during his playing days, has gotten some recognition: He was recently chosen for induction into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

In the veterans committee category — where players who were not inducted on the ballot get a second look — Pike could be a candidate. He helped professionalize the sport and was one of baseball's first sluggers. Pike led the sport in home runs four times (peaking at a grand total of seven home runs in a season — it was a different sport then) and finished his 10-year career with a .322 batting average.

What about active players?

Among players still on the field, Astros third baseman Alex Bregman and Atlanta Braves pitcher Max Fried are the best bets.

Bregman, the two-time All-Star and two-time World Series champion, has 165 home runs and a .274 batting average through his first eight seasons. He won the Silver Slugger in 2019, when he also came in second place in American League MVP voting. Bregman is additionally a decorated postseason hitter — he ranks in the top 10 all-time in postseason games, at bats, home runs, runs scored, total

bases, runs batted in and walks.

A recent MLB.com article on "40 potential Hall of Famers we'll see play in 2024" listed Bregman 17th, part of the third-ranked tier of players who are "well on their way."

Bregman, who has been involved in the local Houston Jewish community, will also have to overcome an ethical asterisk on his baseball resume: the Astros' 2017 sign-stealing scandal, which tainted the team's championship season.

Fried's biggest hurdle may be staying healthy. When he's on the mound, Fried is among baseball's elite starting pitchers — MLB Network ranked him the ninth-best starter entering 2024, and he was ranked seventh the year before. The Los Angeles native grew up idolizing Koufax and is a Maccabiah Games alum.

In 2022, Fried posted a 2.48 ERA with 170 strikeouts and 14 wins, finishing second in the NL Cy Young Award voting and earning his first career All-Star selection. He won three consecutive Gold Gloves from 2020-2022 and the 2021 Silver Slugger — the last-ever pitcher to win the offensive award. Fried also helped lead the Braves to a World Series title in 2021.

What do the experts say?

If there's one thing Jews and baseball fans both love, it's a debate. We reached out to a number of Jewish baseball writers, some of whom vote on the official Hall of Fame ballot, to seek their predictions.

Here's what they had to say.

Ken Rosenthal, senior baseball writer for The Athletic and a Hall of Fame voter:

Baseball continued on page 7

‘Barbenheimer,’ ‘Maestro’ and ‘The Zone of Interest’ lead large crop of Jewish-inspired Oscar nominations

By Andrew Lapin
(JTA) – The year’s biggest movie phenomenon was a one-two punch of blockbusters with Jewish roots — and they both came up big in this year’s Oscar nominations.

“Oppenheimer,” Christopher Nolan’s biopic of the Jewish “father of the atomic bomb,” led the year’s nominations with 13, including best picture and director, and is favored by many prognosticators to win the big prize.

The film’s rendition of J. Robert Oppenheimer covers a fair amount of Jewish ground, including his personal animus toward the Nazis; his recruitment of expelled European Jewish scientists to work on the bomb; his relationship with Albert Einstein, and his late-in-life rivalry with Jewish atomic energy bureaucrat Lewis Strauss. Both Cillian Murphy, who plays Oppenheimer, and Robert Downey Jr., who plays Strauss, were nominated for acting Oscars, as was Emily Blunt, who plays Oppenheimer’s wife Kitty.

The movie’s summer release-date companion and partner-in-memes, Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie,” picked up eight nominations, including best picture. The doll at the center of the musical comedy was created by Jewish inventor Ruth Handler (a minor character in the movie, played by Rhea Perlman). Mattel CEO Ynon Kreiz, an executive producer on the film who

greenlit Gerwig’s playful take on the property, is Israeli and helped organize a controversial Los Angeles screening of footage of the Hamas attacks that was protested by pro-Palestinian groups.

Also nominated from the film are Gerwig’s partner Noah Baumbach, a credited co-writer, and composer Mark Ronson for best original song. Both are Jewish.

Another Jewish-themed contender this year, Bradley Cooper’s “Maestro,” was the subject of some derision upon its premiere for Cooper’s use of a prosthetic nose to play Jewish composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein. But the biopic, a passion project of Cooper’s, sailed over the objections and picked up seven nominations — including, notably, for best makeup. (It was joined in the latter category by “Golda,” the biopic of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, which starred Helen Mirren.)

“Maestro” was also nominated for best picture, with producer Steven Spielberg among the nominated names, as well as lead actor for Cooper and lead actress for Carey Mulligan as Bernstein’s wife Felicia Montealegre, the actress whose paternal grandfather was Jewish and who in real life converted to Judaism for Bernstein.

Meanwhile, “The Zone of Interest,” a challenging and formally daring cinematic take on the Holocaust, picked up five nominations, including for best picture and best international

feature (submitted by the United Kingdom). The film is loosely based on the real-life Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss, and is directed by British Jewish filmmaker Jonathan Glazer, who was nominated for best director and best adapted screenplay (he based it loosely on the novel of the same name by Martin Amis, who died last year).

Nolan’s screenplay for Oppenheimer was also nominated; he adapted it from the Pulitzer Prize-winning Oppenheimer biography “American Prometheus,” co-written by Kai Bird, who grew up watching his American diplomat father try to negotiate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and later married a Jewish woman who was the daughter of Holocaust survivors. After his Oppenheimer work, Bird published a 2010 memoir, “Crossing Mandelbaum Gate,” describing his firsthand experiences watching Israeli-Arab diplomatic efforts.

While several actors were nominated for playing Jewish roles, no actual Jews received acting nominations this year — despite what many critics called a career-best performance by Natalie Portman in the Netflix film “May December.” (Downey has Jewish patrilineal ancestry.)

Notable Jews scored some nominations deeper down on the list. “Letter to a Pig,” a short film by Israeli director Tal Kantor about the strange journey of a Holocaust survivor, received

a nomination for best animated short.

Diane Warren, the Jewish veteran songwriter, received her 15th nomination for penning “The Fire Inside,” from Hulu’s “Flaming Hot.” Warren has never won an Oscar, but did receive an honorary award in 2022.

And Robbie Robertson, the rock star born to a Native American mother and a Jewish father — and who learned of his Jewish heritage late in life — received a posthumous nomination for best original score for “Killers of the Flower Moon,” about the Osage Nation murders. Robertson, who died last year, was a member of The Band and a regular collaborator with “Flower Moon” director Martin Scorsese.

Not to be outdone, two movies based on works by authors who have made antisemitic comments also received some nominations. “The Color Purple,” the new musical based on the Alice Walker novel (which followed Spielberg’s 1985 movie), was nominated for best supporting actress, while “The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar,” Wes Anderson’s Netflix movie based on the Roald Dahl short story, was nominated for live-action short.

Walker has endorsed antisemitic conspiracy theorists in interviews. Dahl’s family and a museum dedicated to his work have both acknowledged and apologized for his antisemitism in recent years.

The Oscars will air March 10 on ABC.

Baseball continued from page 6

I’ll go with Bregman. He’s not really on a Hall of Fame track at the moment, but he still has a chance to have a long, stellar career. And by the time he is eligible — probably 10 or more years from now — the sentiment against members of the sign-stealing Astros might be diminished. [His Astros teammate Jose] Altuve could be in by then.

Jonathan Mayo, reporter for MLB.com and MLB Pipeline:

As a Jewish fan of baseball, I wholeheartedly wish there was an obvious “next up” for Cooperstown. As someone who writes about the game professionally and analyzes it, however, I can’t see anyone who currently fits the description. Alex Bregman is having a very good career and Max Fried has had some very good seasons, but I think their ceiling is the “Hall of Very Good.” I love young players like Zack Gelof, and you should never say never (keep an eye on his brother, Jake, too!), but again, they don’t jump out as Hall-worthy type players. But that won’t keep me from wishing.

Bob Weschler, managing editor of jewishbaseballmuseum.com:

Of the current active players, Max Fried might have the best shot if he stays healthy. He’s a free agent next year, and signing with a media-saturated,

successful franchise like the Dodgers could help his chances.

It’s too soon to consider Zack Gelof, who’s only played 69 games. Only 20 second basemen are in the Hall.

It’ll never happen, but Lipman Pike — the first home run champion — should be in the Hall.

If we’re talking non-players, Theo Epstein will be the next Jewish inductee.

Jayson Stark, senior baseball writer for The Athletic and a Hall of Fame voter:

Is Alex Bregman going to wind up Cooperstown? He’d be my pick from the current pool of active Jewish players.

He ranks top 10 in the modern era among all third basemen in a category I look at closely — park-adjusted, era-adjusted OPS+. And he’s an excellent defender who is still agile enough to play shortstop.

Seven full seasons into his career, he has never had a bad season. And he’s made an indelible impact on a team that has done nothing but win since he showed up. But now comes the hard part — his 30s!

He hasn’t reached 1,000 hits or 200 homers yet. So these next seven years are going to have to look a lot like his first seven.

But I’ve always believed you can’t be great at anything unless you aspire to be

great. And it’s always clear that greatness is where Alex Bregman sets his bar.

Scott Barancik, editor of jewishbaseballnews.com:

No current or recent Jewish player has much chance of making the Hall, in my opinion. Ryan Braun is out due to PED use. Alex Bregman is a no because of Houston’s sign-stealing scandal. Active veterans lack Hall-level stats. As for newbies like Zack Gelof and Matt Mervis, it’s too soon to tell. The player with the best chance? I’d say Max Fried. But pitcher is by far the most competitive position in Hall voting.

Howard Megdal, author of “The Baseball Talmud: The Definitive Position-by-Position Ranking of Baseball’s Chosen Players”:

It is tempting to select Max Fried and his 2.66 ERA since 2020, but the counting stats may work against him, even with two top-five Cy Young finishes and three Gold Gloves by age 29.

Similarly, Zack Gelof’s OPS+ of 137 as a rookie was overshadowed by the Oakland Athletics’ team drama but remains one of the most impressive rookie seasons of any Jewish player. For comparison: Hank Greenberg’s rookie OPS+ was 119, Al Rosen’s 145.

But my pick for the next Jewish Hall of Famer is Alex Bregman. Through his age-29 season, he’s already collected

35.4 win shares, 19th all-time among third basemen through age-29. Most of the third basemen ahead of him are in the Hall of Fame — the third baseman just below him is the late, great Brooks Robinson. He’s consistent, he’s durable, he’s yet to post what anyone could consider a down year, and he’s got precisely the type of makeup and profile that should age well. (As Al Rosen proves, durability is as important as dominance when it comes to creating a Hall of Fame resume.)

There aren’t enough third basemen in the Hall of Fame. And Alex Bregman is a good bet to fix that.

Finally, MLB’s official historian, **John Thorn**, said he believed that no Jewish player aside from Koufax and Greenberg are worthy of entry to Cooperstown. Rather than offer a prediction — “my crystal ball works only in retrospect,” he said — Thorn shared his insight on why Jews love baseball.

“First, because in Europe outdoor play had been forbidden to their children,” he said in an email to JTA. “Second, because for an oppressed people it offered a window onto freedom and joy; and third, because it promised a level playing field from which heroes might emerge, like Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax ... heroes who were like us.”

News

‘Origin’ story: How Ava DuVernay’s new movie connects the Holocaust, slavery and caste

By Andrew Lapin
(JTA) — Early in the new drama “Origin,” the Pulitzer Prize-winning Black author Isabel Wilkerson (played by Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor) calls her cousin from Berlin to share that, as part of her research into American racism, she intends to learn more about the Nazis’ treatment of Jews.

Her cousin is unimpressed. “Leave Jewish folks alone,” Marion (Niecy Nash) advises Isabel. “They don’t need you. Write about us.”

But this movie’s version of Wilkerson can’t abide by that. In her mind, the fates of Jews and Black people are connected by the hidden system of “caste”: arbitrary societal hierarchies that encourage cruelty and subjugation. This is the thesis undergirding “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents,” the 2020 bestseller by the real-life Wilkerson, which deems Nazism and American racism — alongside India’s own rigid caste system — as the caste systems that have “stood out” the most “throughout human history.”

And “Origin,” the new film by Ava DuVernay now in theaters and based in part on this book, is devoted to making those connections plain.

Here’s a Jewish guide to what “Origin” has to say about the Nazis and their connection to Wilkerson’s broader thesis.



Jon Bernthal and Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor in a scene from "Origin." (Array Filmworks/Neon)

What is ‘Origin’ about?

Written and directed by DuVernay (“Selma,” “When They See Us”), “Origin” is a dramatization of the writing of Wilkerson’s “Caste” that uses historical recreations and the author’s own family story to capture the book’s cerebral tone.

The film opens with the 2012 murder of Black teenager Trayvon Martin in Florida, later recreating Nazi-era Germany, the Jim Crow South and other moments it connects through the idea of caste.

Well-regarded 20th-century Jewish

texts make up some of the onscreen Wilkerson’s research process, including a quote by Holocaust survivor Primo Levi and glimpses of the 1956 anthropological book “Israel Between East And West,” by Raphael Patai. Palestinians are also name-dropped at one point, with a scholar from the Dalit caste — the “untouchable” lowest tier of India’s caste system — telling Wilkerson he feels a kinship with them as well as Black people.

The book “Caste” itself has sometimes been attacked in recent years as an example of “critical race theory,” an academic analysis of racist structures

that conservatives say amounts to indoctrination and have sought to ban from classrooms. Wilkerson’s book is one of about a dozen at the center of an ongoing lawsuit involving a Texas public library that had tried to remove a selection of titles against the wishes of some residents; another is the picture book “In The Night Kitchen,” by the Jewish author Maurice Sendak.

“Caste” is also being targeted by a Texas Republican state representative as one of 850 books that he says “might make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress because of their race or sex.”

Jim Crow and the Nuremberg Laws

One Nazi-era event dramatized in “Origin” is the 1935 drafting of the Nuremberg Laws, the race-purity strictures that declared Jews to be racially inferior and outlawed relations between them and Germans.

The film emphasizes the fact that the real-life Nazi officials who came up with the laws drew heavy inspiration from the Jim Crow South’s segregation laws, which made it a crime for Black and white people in the South to enter relationships, attend the same schools or share the same public spaces.

Origin continued on page 10

As Kfir Bibas turns 1 in captivity, supporters from Tel Aviv to Davos mark ‘the saddest birthday in the world’

By Deborah Danan
TEL AVIV (JTA) — Three weeks after her cousin was abducted and taken to Gaza along with her family, Yifar Zailer said she knew one thing for sure: “I don’t want to be here in two months, celebrating Kfir’s first birthday.”

And yet that’s exactly what Zailer did on Thursday, returning to Hostages Square in Tel Aviv for what her family had dubbed “the saddest birthday in the world.”

Zailer was there along with hundreds of others to mark the first birthday of Kfir Bibas, the youngest hostage to be taken hostage when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7.

Kfir and his 4-year-old brother Ariel became an early face to the hostage crisis that morning, when Hamas released a video clip showing them being abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz along with their mother Shiri, whose terror was visible. Their father Yarden Bibas was also abducted.

In November, all of the other child hostages and their mothers were released during a ceasefire deal. Shortly afterwards, Hamas said Kfir, Ariel and Shiri Bibas had all been killed in captivity, offering no evidence but releasing a video in which an anguished Yarden exhorted Israel to end its war. Israel has not confirmed or denied

Hamas’ claims. Zailer said there had been no information about the family’s status delivered privately, either. And so both she and the legion of advocates who have converted a central square in Tel Aviv into a lobbying location to bring the hostages home planned a birthday party befitting the lively redheaded boy who has spent a quarter of his life in captivity.

Many people in the crowd were wearing orange in homage to the two brothers’ distinctive red hair and clutching orange balloons. The balloons were released at the end of the event to the tune of “They Call Me Gingi,” a new song composed for the baby by several Israeli performers whose lyrics include, “I was left behind / they say I’m a hero / I don’t know why.”

Judith Paz, who has been volunteering with the Bibas family in charge of English-language content on its social media channels, said she refused to wish Kfir a happy birthday because there was “nothing happy about it.”

“But next year, we’ll all be here celebrating because there will be a huge party for Kfir’s second birthday in Hostages Square, together with Kfir and the rest of his family,” she said.

Other gatherings honoring Kfir took place around the world, with orange

balloons being released in several European cities, a candlelight vigil by members of the U.S. Congress, and an art show in Berlin featuring works by a member of the extended Bibas family.

A photo of Kfir was also on display next to Israeli President Isaac Herzog during his address at the World Economic Forum in Davos. He revealed that he had met with officials from the Red Cross in Israel two days earlier to discuss “the clear and present danger to our hostages.”

Around 150 high-ranking executives, including prominent Jewish business leaders Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy, Dell CEO Michael Dell, Meta COO Sheryl Sandberg, held a meeting with released hostages at the forum.

Rachel Goldberg-Polin, whose son Hersh was taken captive to Gaza after having his arm blown off, called on the corporate leaders to “leverage their global connections to immediately advance a deal without delay,” according to a statement released by the Hostages Families Forum.

Nili Margalit, who was kidnapped from her home in Kibbutz Nir Oz and subsequently released during November’s truce, said there was “not enough air to breathe” in the subterranean tunnels she was held in.

“Most of the people I was with in the tunnels are still being held deep underground, and they are terrified and wounded,” she said according to the statement. “The hostages could die any day. Every hour is dangerous for them.”

Zailer, who like the Bibases holds Argentinian citizenship, has been all around the world tirelessly advocating for her family’s release.

“We’re doing everything we can to push our government and other governments to make this deal [with Hamas] to get them out,” she said.

A breakthrough in talks took place last month, with Hamas agreeing for the first time to allow medicine in for the hostages. But it has not yet agreed to allow Red Cross doctors to visit the roughly 100 living Israelis understood to be in Gaza — Hamas is also believed to be holding the bodies of about 30 Israelis, including two whose deaths were confirmed last month — no further progress around releasing additional hostages has been reported.

“We need a deal now,” said Yossi Schneider, another cousin. Referring to Hamas’ chief in Gaza whom Israeli officials say has surrounded himself with hostages, he added, “Yahya Sinwar can be killed any day, but Kfir and the others have no more time.”

News

International hockey federation reverses ban on Israel ahead of youth world championships

By Jacob Gurvis
(JTA) — The International Ice Hockey Federation has reversed its decision to ban Israel from a world championship in Bulgaria.

In a statement, the federation announced that it will have “the safety and security support needed” to allow Israel to take part in the tournament, which brings together the under-20 teams of six countries and begins on Jan. 22.

The ban was not the first time Jewish or Israeli athletes had been penalized as fallout from the Israel-Hamas war — and it sparked international backlash.

Israel won the silver medal in its division at last year’s tournament and was originally supposed to host a portion of the competition this year. But following Hamas’ invasion of Israel on Oct. 7 and the ensuing war, the games were moved to Bulgaria.

Last month, the federation took matters a step further, announcing that due to “concerns over the safety and security of all participants in the Championships,” Israel would be excluded from the federation’s competitions “for the time being.”

The NHL weighed into the controversy, saying in a statement that it had “significant concerns” about the IIHF’s decision, adding that “we also have been assured that the decision is not intended to be a sanction against the Israeli Federation.”

But that did not assuage Israelis’ concerns. Mikhael Horowitz, the CEO of the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel, told the Canadian Jewish News that his association was informed of the ban only 24 hours before the announcement. Horowitz said Israel had accepted the IIHF’s decision to move part of the tournament out of Israel due to the war, but that its removal of Israel from the tournament altogether was unacceptable.

“We see this as discriminatory and against the Olympic Charter and it will not be accepted by Israel,” Horowitz said. “There was no attempt to take the risk assessment, and together with us or on their part, find solutions.”

Paul Shindman, a Canadian-Israeli and the Israeli hockey federation’s founder, also slammed the removal of Israel from the tournament. He said that the ban, on the heels of the Oct. 7 attack, makes Israelis “victims twice over.”

“Israel’s sportsmen and women deserve the support and embrace of their friends in the international hockey world, not to be excluded,” he told the Canadian Jewish News.

Israeli officials weren’t the only ones protesting.

An editorial in the Toronto Sun on Jan. 12 called the ban “spineless” and “a shameful act of cowardice.” The piece argued that the decision set a dangerous precedent for Israel’s participation in future international sports tournaments, including the 2024 Paris Olympics, and referenced the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, when 11 members of Israel’s Olympic delegation were murdered by terrorists at the Munich Games.

“Fast forward to 2024, and Israelis are being punished — for defending themselves once again against Palestinian terrorists,” the editorial said.

Five days later, the International Ice Hockey Federation reversed course, lifting the ban on Israel. In its reversal, the federation said it would continue to review Israel’s participation in upcoming international tournaments on a case-by-case basis.

Yael Arad, chairwoman of Israel’s Olympic committee, told the Jerusalem Post that the country was “very excited” to participate in the tournament.

Happy Tears

By Lauren Sachs

Lauren holds a bachelor’s degree in English and Psychology, and a Master’s Degree in Social Work, from the University of Michigan. After completing advanced clinical training at Yale University, Lauren worked as a therapist and consultant in a variety of settings. During her time in Jewish Toledo, Lauren has received the Harry Levison Young Leadership Award and the Shining Light Award, and is currently a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo. Lauren is also the author of a forthcoming book about her late husband, his joyful approach to life and work as an oncologist, and how examining his life helped her better cope with her grief.



My daughters and I sit in our family room at full attention, hearts racing while our eyes stay fixed on the fast moving images on the television screen. Every few minutes, we yell and shout, sometimes in unison, cheering on the college basketball team that has become so beloved in our home. While this scene may sound typical for any sports-obsessed family during the height of the college basketball season, our family ritual has a different energy and origin than most. Long before my husband died in August of 2020, he had introduced all of us to his alma mater’s basketball team and helped instill a love not only for the sport but also for his team in particular. Ironically, given that he was a two-time alumnus of Michigan State University and I am a two-time alumna of the University of Michigan, this allegiance to the MSU Spartans means that I am frequently rooting against my own alma mater. As I like to tell anyone who is understandably confused by this surprising fandom, my late husband thoroughly brainwashed all of us.

During Brad’s lifetime, we cheered on the Spartans as a family to show our love for his team. Now we continue to root on his team in honor of his memory. Since Brad died in the early days of the pandemic, many of the regular routines of daily living were on hold at that point. When college basketball began months later, I think we all craved some of the normalcy and distraction that sports can provide. I distinctly remember how excited I was for the start of the Spartans basketball season that year. Every time the team made a great play or won a tough game, we felt as though they were doing it for Brad. My girls and I soon realized that rooting for “our” team had taken on a new meaning, one that felt both nostalgic and deeply personal. I have found that cheering on Brad’s team helps us feel close to him. We often talk about Brad during these games, recollecting stories of visiting the Breslin Center or wondering aloud how he might have reacted to a new player on the team.

After spending almost two years in my spousal loss support group, I have heard innumerable stories of love and loss. I have learned that finding ways to keep our loved one’s memory alive honors them but also helps us move along the path of healing. In our family, we have found many means of remembering and honoring Brad: from helping to replant the garden beds at our local cancer center to donating funds to the organizations he held dear; and from dedicating a bench to him along a metropark trail to looking through old family photos. One of the best parts of our basketball fandom is that it provides us with an entire season in which to express our affection and simultaneously deepen our emotional intimacy with one another and with him. Commemorating Brad is a bittersweet act but one that feels meaningful and necessary. Despite the complexity of our feelings, we will certainly continue to honor him in this way. If you happen to see me during basketball season and want to bring a smile to my face, be sure to help me cheer on his team with the familiar call and response: “Go Green, Go White!”



Israeli players celebrating a goal during the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship match between Israel and Georgia, April 17, 2023, in Madrid. (Borja B. Hojas/Getty Images)

News

Origin continued from page 8

Wilkerson's book notes that the Nazis could not understand why the Americans hadn't included Jews in their race laws "when it was so obvious to the Nazis that Jews were a separate 'race' and when America had already shown some aversion by imposing quotas on Jewish immigration." The film's version of Wilkerson tells a relative at one point, "The Jews and the Nazis were the same color," emphasizing that caste isn't necessarily about skin color.

'The man in the crowd'

Another Nazi-era event DuVernay dramatizes is a famous photograph of German shipyard workers in 1936 delivering the "Heil Hitler" salute. One man in the photo is standing with his arms folded, apparently refusing to pledge his loyalty.

It's an image that has gone viral in recent years and that Wilkerson included as an opening anecdote in "Caste" to illustrate the power of being a lone voice against injustice. In the years since the photograph was taken, the man has been identified by a living relative as August Landmesser, a one-time Nazi Party member who had fallen in love with a Jewish woman the year

before the photo was taken.

"Origin" imagines the courtship between Landmesser and his Jewish lover, Irma Eckler, as playing out in secret, via clandestine meetings in jazz clubs, defying the Nazis' caste structures. Eventually, the couple have children and try to flee across the border but are arrested for violating the Nuremberg Laws, which forbade "pureblooded" Germans like Landmesser from romancing Jews.

In real life, according to a family history authored by one of the couple's daughters, Landmesser was sent to prison and then drafted to fight for the Nazis in 1944, declared missing in action and believed dead before the war ended. Eckler was sent to a concentration camp and sent her last recorded letter in 1942.

Nazi book bans and Remarque

Perhaps inspired by recent book-banning efforts in the United States, DuVernay's film also heavily emphasizes the Nazis' own book-burning practices. A segment showing Wilkerson's research visit to Berlin lingers on the city's book burning memorial, "The Empty Library," an underground illuminated sculpture of empty white shelves. Designed by the acclaimed Israeli artist

Micha Ullman, the sculpture's image in the film is given more screen time than even the city's more famous Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, and is accompanied by flashbacks of a public Nazi book burning taking place.

One book in particular is frequently name-dropped in the film as a target of the Nazis, although its Jewish history is considerably more complicated: the World War I novel "All Quiet On The Western Front." The book's German author, Erich Maria Remarque, was frequently accused by the Nazis of being Jewish, though he wasn't; his antiwar novel, which is heavily critical of Germany's military failures, was seen by the Nazis as demoralizing, as was its initial 1930 film adaptation, directed by a Jew. The book was recently remade into a Netflix movie that was heavily decorated with Oscar nominations.

Subjugation vs. extermination

Also during Wilkerson's Berlin visit in the film, she gets into an argument with a German academic over the efficacy of linking slavery to the Holocaust.

While slavery persisted for several generations and involved unspeakable suffering, the companion states, the fundamental aims were different: slavery

was an arm of capitalism designed to exploit humans for profit, while the Holocaust was a project to exterminate all Jews from the earth.

It's an argument that has often proved heated in the U.S. in recent years, as some Jews have fought against race-based history concepts that they claim prioritize Black suffering over their own. A Jewish leader in the right-wing parent activist group Moms For Liberty told JTA last year that she was inspired to campaign against public education after her daughter faced a quiz question in school whose "correct" answer was that slavery was worse than the Holocaust, which she said she considered "a Holocaust-minimizing question."

Undeterred, the film's Wilkerson continues to insist on the resemblance between the two on the basis of caste: that both institutions served to designate a lower class of people who could be mistreated by an upper caste as "an undifferentiated mass of nameless, faceless scapegoats."

A late-in-the-film montage makes this point explicit, as it cuts between scenes of Jewish women and children being abused at a concentration camp; Black women being abused onboard a slave ship, and the murder of Trayvon Martin.

Number of living Holocaust survivors is about 245,000, according to new analysis

By Toby Axelrod

(JTA) – Fewer than 250,000 Holocaust survivors remain alive today, according to an unprecedented new report by the organization that has sought to ensure that they are compensated for their suffering.

The oldest known survivor, according to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, is New Yorker Rose Girone, who turned 112 last month. She and her family fled Nazi Germany for Shanghai, where they endured terrible conditions before making their way to the United States.

"My mother will be the first to tell you, we're very lucky all around," said her daughter Reha Bennicasa, who at 85 is just below the median age of survivors today (86).

The Claims Conference has long shared basic information about who is receiving the aid it negotiates annually with Germany and offered a similar number of estimated survivors last year. But the new demographic overview is the first to break down the population of Jewish survivors by country of birth and current country of residence; age; gender; and the percentages receiving various compensations and services.

It identifies survivors in more than 90 countries: 49% reside in Israel, 18% in North America, another 18% in Western Europe; and 12% in the former Soviet Union.

The youngest are on the cusp of 80

— the Holocaust ended in 1945 — and, in a reflection of geriatric gender disparities, 61% are women.

The organization says the statistics show that the work of helping survivors is far from over. "Now is the time to double down on our attention on this waning population," said Gideon Taylor, president of the Claims Conference. "Now is when they need us the most."

The organization was founded in 1951 and over the decades has negotiated various compensation programs with the German government for survivors around the world, mostly distributed through local service agencies. Last year, the Claims Conference negotiated \$1.4 billion in compensation, a record high that the group said was needed to cover the higher costs incurred by an aging population. (The organization also funds Holocaust education efforts.) Survivors receive an array of support, from direct payments and pensions to home care, food, medicine, transportation and social programs.

The new demographic report is based in part on information about Jews served by such programs. The data were combined with published reports on the numbers of recipients of compensation administered by Israel, Germany and Austria.

Though some survivors may choose not to be identified, there

Survivors continued on page 21

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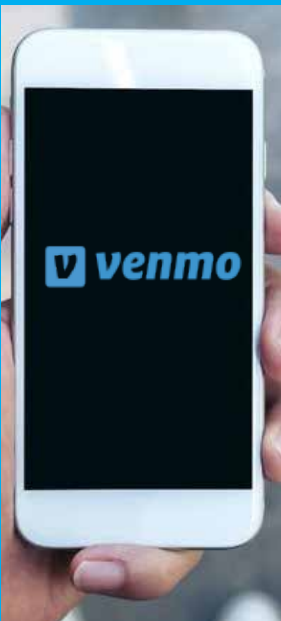
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The Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services (JSFSS) Family Pantry extends major gratitude to the Meijer store #117 on Central Avenue in Toledo for its continued support of our community each year through the company’s Simply Give program. Meijer’s generosity is vital to JSFSS keeping its food pantry shelves and fridges stocked.



TECH TIPS

If the start of a new year has you feeling glum instead of uplifted, a proven practice to improve one’s mood, outlook, and health is the act of maintaining, nurturing, and creating new relationships.

Sometimes technology can be viewed, as well as used, as a force that distracts and detaches us from one another.



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- 4. Feb. 28: *Device Advice* – Exploring cloud storage

RSVP with Sherry Majewski at: 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org



As 2024 unfolds, however, I’m challenging myself this year to instead explore how I might consider and use technology as the basis for common ground when starting, or even rekindling, relationships. What podcast or movie app may I bond over with an old college friend? What birding or hiking app, or book recommendation site, may I recommend to a neighbor?

During a time in which isolation and loneliness continue to burden the mental and physical health for many of us, why not seek out tech’s potential to connect and unite? As always, thanks for reading and exploring tech’s capabilities. Until next month - Tim

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Toledo Jewish history project celebrates seven years

By Lynn B. Jacobs

Can it really be seven (our lucky Jewish number, “shin”) years since we welcomed a hardcover copy of *A History of the Toledo Jewish Community, 1895-2006* by inviting its author, David Noel (z”l), to Toledo for an inspiring talk and book launch? Mr. Noel’s legacy survives.

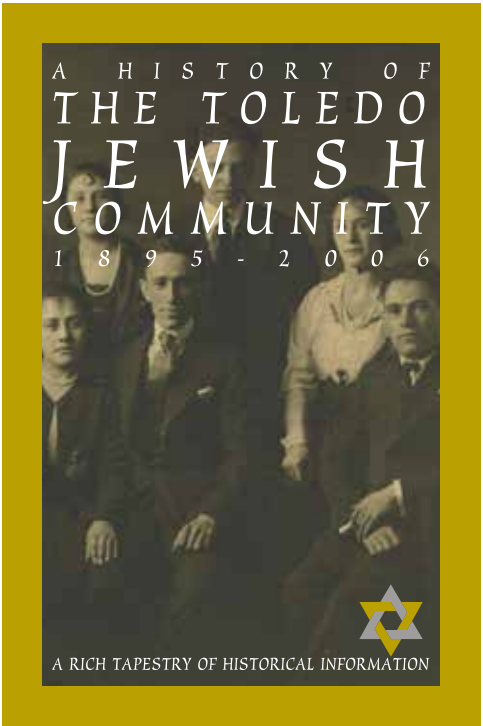
And thanks to you, our enthusiastic and generous contributors of over 300 documents and photographs showcasing nearly every ethnic group of our growing, vibrant Toledo Jewish community who have settled in our community almost since its beginning, the Toledo Library system has permanently preserved precious and irreplaceable memories.

These memories continue to be transferred, at no expense to our Federation, through the generous agreement made with its former director, Clyde Scoles (z”l), in 2016. You can access them both online and in person through the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Main Library at <https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll33>.

This project is ongoing, and we continue to solicit your memorabilia, so please contact me at 419-351-5719 (phone/text) or lbjacobs82@gmail.com.



Author David Noel with Lynn Jacobs



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Questions? Contact Marnie Younker at 419-724-0365 or marnie@jewishtoledo.org



NextJGen Next Jewish Generation

Next JGen is a staple of Jewish life in the Toledo area, existing to draw wonderful, dynamic, young Jewish people together for the greater benefit of the community. From Hebrew Happy Hours to date nights to volunteer opportunities, Young Jewish Toledo provides a range of opportunities for young Jewish professionals 21-40. These future leaders of Jewish Toledo are continuously strengthening personal connections while participating in – and perpetuating – Jewish life in Toledo. To find out more about how you or someone you know can get involved with Young Jewish Toledo, contact Marnie at marnie@jewishtoledo.org.



With Oct. 7 on their minds, Jewish teens head to gathering of thousands with renewed sense of priorities

By Suzanne Kurtz Sloan

When 18-year-old TJ Katz was elected last February to be international president of BBYO after four years of deep involvement with the Jewish youth organization, the New Jersey teen was exceedingly excited. Serving as the face of a movement that reaches over 70,000 teens in 62 countries, Katz told an interviewer, put him in a unique position “to tangibly impact the lives of thousands of people.” After graduating high school, Katz deferred admission by a year to the University of Florida to focus on his role as BBYO’s so-called Grand Aleph Godol — top leader — just as the organization was on the threshold of celebrating its 100th anniversary. Then came Hamas’s Oct. 7 attack on Israel, and the ensuing surge in antisemitic and anti-Israel ferment. “My inbox was flooded with



Teens from South Florida's Gold Coast Region enter the open ceremony at BBYO's 2023 International Convention in Dallas, February 2023. (Jason Dixson Photography)

hundreds of emails from teens genuinely ready to unite and do what they can to help,” Katz said of the response to Oct. 7. “There has never been a more monumental time to unite.” Now BBYO is preparing for its International Convention (IC), to be held this year in Orlando, Florida, on Feb. 15-19. Over

3,700 teens will come together for the largest annual Jewish teen gathering in America not only to herald the 100th year of BBYO, known years ago as the B’nai B’rith Youth Organization, but to find support, strength and solidarity at a challenging time. Many teens come to IC from communities where they are among the only Jews. This won’t be the first major national gathering of BBYO teens since Oct. 7. Thousands of BBYO teens from around the country joined the over 250,000 participants at the March for Israel on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on November 14, 2023. “As I walked into the rally, I immediately began seeing friends from around the country,” Josh Danziger, a high school senior from Houston, wrote in The Shofar, a BBYO online publication. “Jewish teens overcame differences in

Teens continued on page 18

PJ Library



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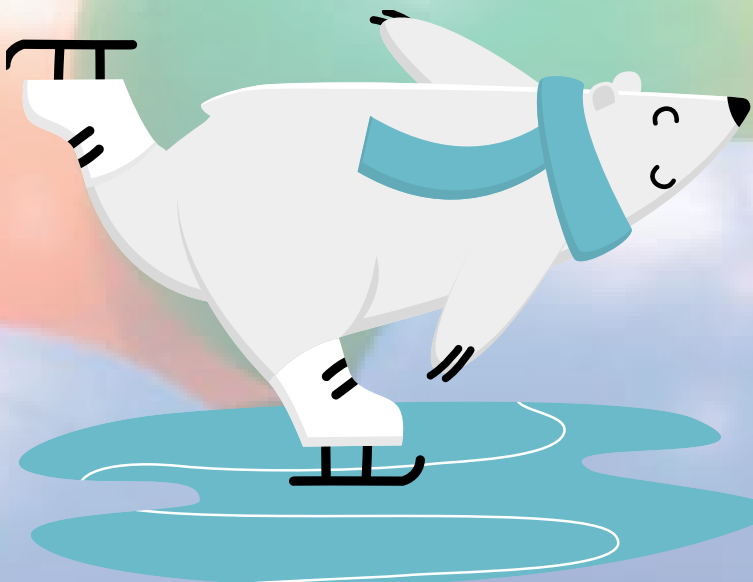
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Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo’s Experience a Memorable Overnight Jewish Initiative (EMOJI) offers children between the ages of 7 and 16 the opportunity to experience a life changing Jewish overnight camping experience. Funding is possible through the long-term community needs fund and the Jewish experience fund; first-time participants can attend camp for just \$250 and children returning to a Jewish camp can attend at a very reduced cost.

EMOJI seeks to help as many Jewish youth as possible connect to their own Jewish identity and the larger community. The benefits of Jewish camp are beyond measure; over \$70,000 was invested in sending 37 campers to camp in summer 2023.

First time camp families will pay \$250 per child**. Second time EMOJI applicants will pay 25% of the balance remaining (plus any additional fees) per child. Third time EMOJI applicants will pay 50% of the balance remaining (plus any additional fees) per child. Fourth and beyond EMOJI applicants will pay 75% of the balance remaining (plus any additional fees) per child. **EMOJI Scholarships are limited to one session per camper with a maximum contribution of \$3,000 per child through EMOJI. Scholarships will be paid directly to the camp in the name of the child(ren).

- Eligibility requirements:
1. Camper(s) must be under the age of 17 as of June 1, 2024.
 2. Camp session must be 10 days or longer.
 3. Camper(s) must reside in Lucas, Wood, Ottawa, Hancock, Defiance, or Fulton County (OH), or the southern half of Monroe or Lenawee County (MI).
 4. Camper(s) must be enrolled in a non-profit Jewish overnight camp. Pre-approved camps include Goldman Union Camp Institute, Camp Tamarack, Camp Wise, Camp Gan Israel Detroit, and Camp Tavor.
 - For profit Jewish overnight camps must have a non-profit affiliate that can accept charitable contributions on behalf of the camp and without cost to Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo.
 - Camps not listed above must be approved for the EMOJI program prior to application.
 5. Camper(s) must register for the early registration discount.
 6. Family must register camper(s) and apply for scholarship through participating camp (if applicable) prior to applying for the EMOJI scholarship.
 7. Family must apply for scholarship through their local congregation (if a current member).
 8. Families of first-time campers must apply for “PJ Goes to Camp” (www.pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pj-goes-to-camp)
 9. All households are required to make a meaningful gift to the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign and have no unpaid past pledges to be considered for the EMOJI scholarship. Please contact Wendy Goldstein at wendy@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0360 to discuss and make your gift.

- If applicants do not apply for above mentioned outside funding sources, they will be responsible for:
- Up to \$500 for early registration discounts.
 - Up to \$1,000 for congregational funding scholarships.
 - Up to \$1,500 for aid from individual camps.
 - Up to \$1,000 for first time campers “PJ Goes to Camp” scholarship.

If applicants apply are ineligible for aid from camp, are not Congregational members, or denied external funding, additional fees will not apply.

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Seniors' Purim Celebration

Wednesday, March 27 | Noon
Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave.
\$10 per person - includes lunch, entertainment, and more


Come party for Purim with a delicious lunch, music by Chris Brown and guest, a photo booth, a caricaturist, and lots of other Purim fun activities.

RSVP by Wednesday, March 20 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



Senior Candle Making Event

Thursday, March 7
Noon – 2 p.m.
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
\$10 per person - includes lunch and all candle making supplies

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RSVP by February 29 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/Seniors or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



Healthy Living

Get Fit Classes

Monday

Get Fit Early, 9-10am
-or-
Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am

Join us for this upbeat and energetic dance/exercise program designed to improve your fitness level safely and effectively. This is a comprehensive workout that includes strength, flexibility, balance, posture-improvement, and more. All moves can be modified to meet specific needs.

Cardio Drumming, 12-1pm
A high-energy workout that also includes some dance moves. This can also be done seated.

Wednesday

Get Fit Early, 9-10am
-or-
Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am
(see description above)


Ballet Ball Fusion, 12-1pm
A special blend of ballet warm-up, cardio drumming, and a Tai Chi/yoga cool-down. Ballet shoes are not required.

Friday



Zumba, 9-10am


Foundation Fitness, 10am-11pm
Designed to improve mobility, core strength, and stability from the ground up. Focus will be on foot and ankle strength, mobility, healthy posture, pelvic floor, and breathing. Exercises can be done in chairs and/or standing.

In-person classes at JSFSS
Sekach Building
6505 Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania



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News

Teens continued from page 13

background, practice, and belief because of an authentic love for Am Yisrael.”

In a sign of the concerns that were occupying the minds of Jewish teens even before Hamas’s attack on Israel, Danziger launched a Jewish Security Alliance with other BBYO teens last year. The impetus was the 2022 attack at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, by a gunman who took several people hostage. The alliance trains young Jews across the country to prepare for potential antisemitic threats, anti-Israel harassment, physical violence or an active shooter situation. Danziger and some of his BBYO peers also formed an Antisemitism Response Club to bring teens together for discussions and events.

“I feel a responsibility to my people,” Danziger said. “I want my peers to know what to do. As Jews, we have a religious obligation to protect and take care of our community.”

Shortly after Oct. 7, BBYO’s CEO, Matt Grossman, embarked on a multicity listening tour to understand how Jewish teens were feeling, what resources they needed, and where they see their role in building a hopeful and secure Jewish future.

“While on the listening tour, I was particularly interested in hearing how teens’ lives have changed since the October 7 terrorist attack in Israel,” Grossman said. “This was not a political discussion but a human and emotional one.”

Among the things Grossman heard was how important it is for



Hundreds of BBYO teens at the March for Israel rally in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 14, 2023. (BBYO)

Jewish teens to be with Jewish peers at a time when they are feeling particularly isolated.

“Being in an environment with other BBYO teens is like a breath of fresh air,” said Denver teen Jacob Malek. “When you go into a meeting, you don’t have to worry about who you tell you’re Jewish; you can just be you. You don’t have to think about what if someone else thinks of you differently because you’re Jewish; being Jewish is the reason that you guys are together.”

BBYO put together a resource page on its website with webinars, articles, and special events to help parents and teens respond effectively to antisemitism and hate in their communities, schools, and on social media. Together with the Anti-Defamation League,

BBYO also created a joint website for teens to report antisemitic incidents.

“As a teen-led organization, one of the things we always have to measure is what we talk about and think about and how we lead BBYO as a movement even in difficult times,” Grossman said. “Jewish teens will never be alone because they have BBYO. And that’s an amazing gift.”

BBYO was founded on May 3, 1924 as the Jewish teen group Aleph Zadik Aleph by a group of 14 young Jewish men in Omaha, Nebraska. Twenty years later, an assembly of young women founded B’nai B’rith Girls, and together the two organizations eventually became BBYO. It now has more than 725 chapters and an alumni network of over 400,000.

Due to unprecedented demand to attend, IC 2024 will be the largest-ever convention in BBYO’s history. Over 5,500 attendees representing 46 countries are expected, including teens, donors, parents, alumni, educators and influencers.

Over the course of five days, the convention, whose theme is “Forever Young,” aims to shape the narrative of how teens combat antisemitism, embrace democracy, and fuel their enthusiasm for making a difference in their communities and worldwide, according to organizers. The teens will hear from and meet inspiring speakers, get leadership skills training, serve the local community, learn together, celebrate Shabbat and have access to exclusive music performances.

A Museum of BBYO and the election of the 100th board of Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) and the 80th of B’nai B’rith Girls (BBG) will honor the movement’s history.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Debbie Shemony, BBYO’s senior vice president for marketing and communications. “It will impact the attendees in ways we can’t even imagine yet.”

Over the course of 2024, BBYO chapters in cities around the world will host large-scale centennial celebrations, and the movement will launch an initiative for teens to log a collective 100,000 hours of community service.

For many attendees, IC is a much-anticipated reunion with their peers. Teens who have participated in the summer leadership and travel program offered by the organization can reconnect with friends from around the country – and sometimes the globe.

Last summer, Emma Gornstein, a high school junior from Ardsley, New York, participated in both a chapter leadership training institute at BBYO’s summer home in Starlight, Pennsylvania, and a BBYO Passport travel experience to Central Europe.

“They were amazing experiences and I learned so much,” said Gornstein, who has been active in BBYO since eighth grade. “I’m looking forward to a lot of reunions at IC.”

Even if IC is one of your first experiences with BBYO, she said, “the energy there is contagious and you are bound to make at least one friend.”

Rabbi Daniel Septimus, a former BBYO international president who is now the CEO of Austin’s Jewish community center, Shalom Austin, said the movement is a terrific framework for connecting Jewish teens locally, regionally and globally, and bringing them together for leadership opportunities.

“BBYO is doing an incredible job of really teaching the value of K’lal Yisrael, of Jewish peoplehood, and that we are all bound to each other,” Septimus said.

His daughter, high school sophomore Talia Septimus, represents the third generation of the family’s involvement in BBYO.

“It’s pretty amazing,” Talia said. “I love that my grandparents and parents had their own ways of being involved in BBYO, yet I can take my own path.”

This story was sponsored by and produced in partnership with BBYO, the leading pluralistic teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team.

Friends enjoying lunch at West Park Place.



Stacy Willis, JSFSS Food Pantry and Support Services Coordinator, and Sherry Majewski, JFGT Program Associate, visit West Park Place once a month and spend time with our Jewish friends and residents there.

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Obituaries accepted for print in Toledo Jewish News

Toledo Jewish News accepts obituaries for the Toledo Jewish community, immediate family members, and former residents of the Toledo Jewish community.

You may include a photo of the deceased if you wish (optional).

NOTE: Only obituaries submitted to paul@jewishtoledo.org (at the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo offices) will be printed in Toledo Jewish News.

There is no charge to submit an obituary, but we encourage donations to Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (www.jewishtoledo.org).

Toledo Jewish News is published the first of every month except July. Obituaries should be emailed by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Preferred maximum obit length is 500 words (Toledo Jewish News reserves the right to edit obituaries as necessary).

If you have additional questions, please contact paul@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0318.

Email completed obituaries to:
paul@jewishtoledo.org

2024 CEMETERY CLOSINGS

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Oregon, Ohio 43616

EAGLE POINT CEMETERY

515 Eagle Point Rd.
Rossford, Ohio 43460

Cemeteries close early every Friday at 4 p.m. for Erev Shabbat

Cemeteries are closed every Saturday for Shabbat

Jewish Holiday Closing Schedule for 2024

Monday, April 22, 2024	Erev Passover	Close at 4 pm
Tuesday, April 23, 2024	Passover I	Closed
Wednesday, April 24, 2024	Passover II	Closed
Monday, April 29, 2024	Passover VII	Closed
Tuesday, April 30, 2024	Passover VIII	Closed
Tuesday, June 11, 2024	Erev Shavuot	Close at 4 pm
Wednesday, June 12, 2024	Shavuot I	Closed
Thursday, June 13, 2024	Shavuot II	Closed
Wednesday, October 2, 2024	Erev Rosh Hashana	Close at 4 pm
Thursday, October 3, 2024	Rosh Hashana I	Closed
Friday, October 4, 2024	Rosh Hashana II	Closed
Friday, October 11, 2024	Erev Yom Kippur	Close at 4 pm
Saturday, October 12, 2024	Yom Kippur	Closed
Wednesday, October 16, 2024	Erev Sukkot	Close at 4 pm
Wednesday, October 17, 2024	Sukkot I	Closed
Thursday, October 18, 2024	Sukkot II	Closed
Wednesday, October 23, 2024	Erev Shmini Atzeret	Close at 4 pm
Thursday, October 24, 2024	Shmini Atzeret	Closed
Friday, October 25, 2024	Simchat Torah	Closed

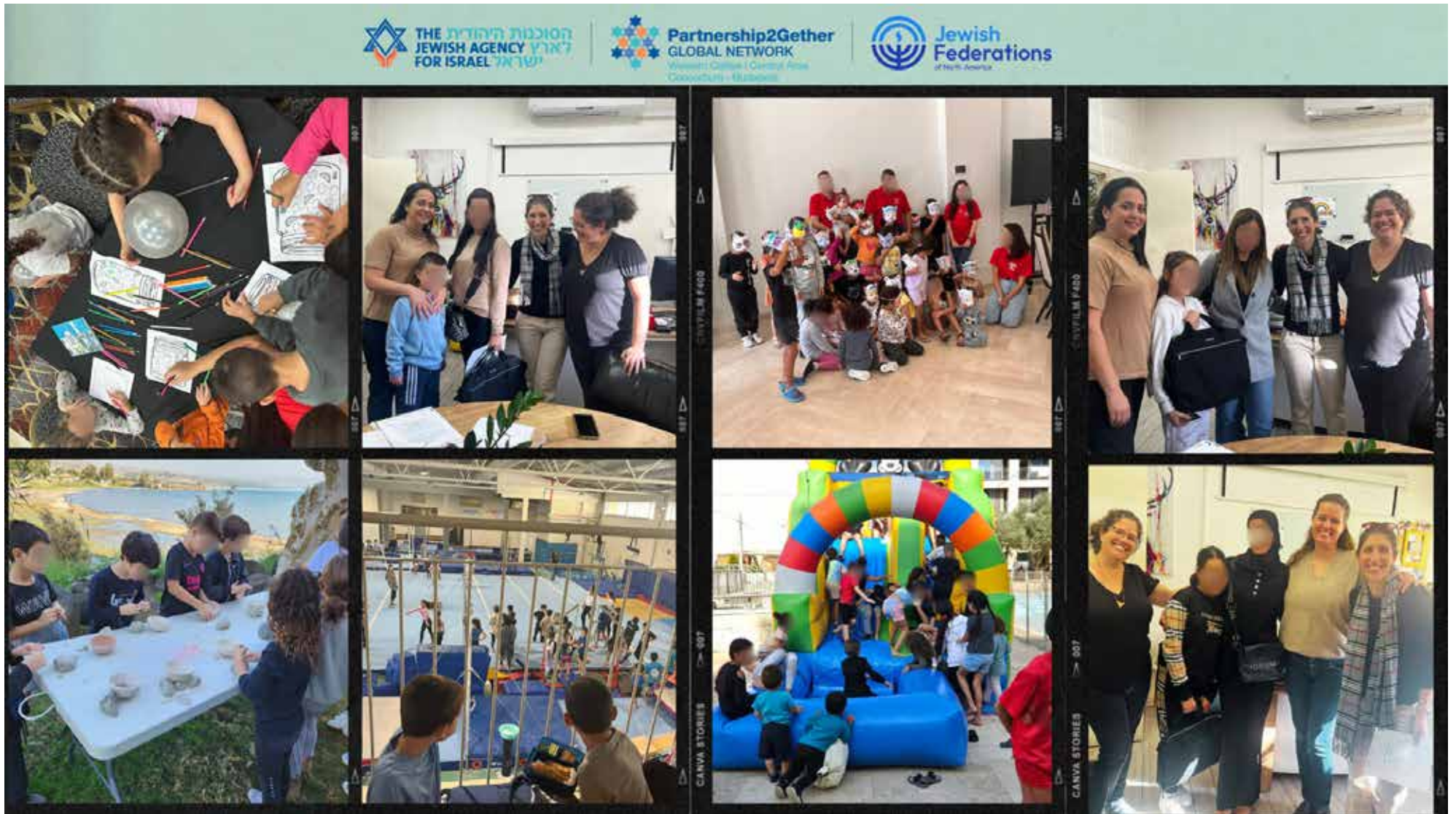
Regular Cemetery hours: Sunday through Thursday 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.


Fridays 6:30 am – 4:00 pm

Closed Saturdays and on the above dates for Yom Tov


Toledo Jewish Community Cemetery Association
6465 Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
419.724.0404

Photos and thank you letters from the Akko and Matte Asher municipalities for donations from Jewish Toledo that went to purchase laptops for students in Akko and necessary equipment and various relief activities for the evacuees from their homes.





Matte Asher
Regional Council



העמותה למען
תושבי מטה אשר



January 3, 2024

To
Toledo Community
Ohio

Subject: Support and Assistance to Matte Asher Regional Council

During these difficult days, when the entire country is going through an upheaval, your support has strengthened and continues to strengthen us.


I would like to thank you on our behalf and on behalf of the residents of Matte Asher for your commitment, mobilization and quick response by donating necessary equipment and various relief activities for the evacuees from their homes, in the various hotels.

Your support is very significant for us and allows us to provide resilience to the residents.

With appreciation,

Best Regards,



Moshé Davidovitz
Mayor

Amir Gilad
Chairman of Association for
Matte Asher residents

לשכת ראש העיר
Mayor's Office
ديوان رئيس البلدية



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בס"ד

January 9, 2024

To:

Jewish Federation of Toledo

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the students of Akko, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind contribution in purchasing computers for students who need it. Your contribution is extremely important, and it will help us to reduce technological gaps among students and it helps us to promote values of equality and mobility especially during the emergency in our state.

It helps us to know that you are stand with us all the time.

Together we can win.

Sincerely,



Shimon Lankri
Mayor of Akko

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www.akko.muni.il | mayor@akko.muni.il

Local and News

Resettlement Revisited

By Congregation Etz Chayim

Coordinated by Toledo’s Jewish Family Services, excitement was generated. Energy was full steam ahead as Toledo’s Jewish Community worked tirelessly to resettle our brethren from another part of the world. That was approximately three decades ago. The refugees were screened by HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and assigned to Toledo. Apartments were found and furnished with donations from the community. Newcomers were escorted to the Social Security Office for required registration. Children were enrolled in the Hebrew Academy. Parents were connected to ESL classes at the University. Jobs, jobs, jobs . . . jobs were found, often way below a person’s skills and training achieved in the former Soviet Union, but something to earn money with. Everyone in the Jewish Community was aware of the effort. That was then.

This is now. Today, Congregation Etz Chayim finds itself once again involved in a resettlement effort to help people begin their lives anew. This time, the effort is through the Greater Toledo Newcomer Center, a satellite of Jewish Family Service of Washtenaw

County (Ann Arbor). This time the people being resettled are mostly from Syria and Afghanistan, some south of our border, all in need of a new start. The refugees, as before, are screened by HIAS. Unlike before, this resettlement effort has nothing to do with Jewish people, but everything to do with Jewish values, *gemilut chasidim*, acts of loving kindness and *tikkun olam*, helping to repair the world, our very troubled world.

Today, for Congregation Etz Chayim, resettlement energy is being revisited. Involved in downsizing the kitchen from a serving capacity of over 300 to 100, meant hundreds of dishes and silverware could be donated. Over 100 place settings of meat dishes and over 100 place settings of dairy dishes as well as meat flatware and dairy flatware as well as hundreds of glasses, and various kitchen items were donated.

Additionally, furniture from the former Hebrew Academy, housed at Etz Chayim, with the approval and blessing of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, has been donated. This included mostly tables and chairs and a few rugs. Etz Chayim also had a sofa

and a couple of occasional chairs and lamps to donate and even two mirrors, remnants of the former rummage sales that were held by the women of Congregations Etz Chayim and B’nai Israel. Yes, this is a community effort.

Appreciation for the partnership and donations was heartfelt. Following are excerpts from the note of appreciation we received:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your incredible generosity and compassion. Your recent contributions of tables, chairs, and dishware have made a profound impact on the lives of two newly arrived refugee families, and we are thrilled to share an update on their journey with you.

The first family, hailing from Syria, consists of a couple and their two young daughters. They have found a place to call home and have expressed immense gratitude for the warmth and welcome they have received in their new community. With your help, they are now well on their way to rebuilding their lives, and the children are eagerly looking forward to enrolling in school, excited to embrace the opportunities for education that lie ahead.

The second family, also from Syria, comprises a couple, two young adult sons, and two young daughters. Your contributions have provided them with a sense of community support and comfort in their new permanent housing. They too are filled with gratitude for the kindness and support they have received. . .

Your acts of kindness have not only provided these families with essential furnishings but have also offered them a sense of belonging and a glimpse of the warmth and compassion that exists within your congregation. Your support has made a tangible difference in their lives, reminding them that they are not alone in this new chapter.

As we move forward, I look forward to our continued collaboration to support for those in need. Your generosity has already made a profound impact, and together, we can create a brighter future for all who seek refuge and a chance for a fresh start.

Etz Chayim has started this process, with the approval and involvement of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo. For further information, please contact Lorraine Rose, of the Greater Toledo Newcomer Center at 734-769-0209.

Survivors continued from page 10

are still occasional applications for compensation, the Claims Conference reported. Even with a few new cases added, the overall survivor population is dwindling — an expected trend that has worried schools and synagogues that have depended on survivors to teach about the Holocaust.

The newly released data are “an important contribution in our obligation to the living witnesses that deserve any support they need in their remaining years,” Jewish demography expert Sergio DellaPergola of Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry said in a statement.

It’s important for people to look for the stories behind the numbers, said Bennicasa in a phone call from her home in Queens, New York.

“Given the declining survivor population and the rise in antisemitism, we need to encourage the world to learn about our collective history so that the Holocaust will never happen again,” she said.

Bennicasa was born in December 1938 in what was then the German city of Breslau (today Wroclaw, Poland). Her father, Julius Mannheim, was one of the 30,000 Jews imprisoned in concentrations camps in Germany at the time; like many of those arrested early in the Nazi campaign against the Jews, he was released from the Buchenwald camp on the condition that the family leave Germany.

After an arduous journey by ship, the family finally reached Shanghai, China — where some 20,000 Jews

from Europe found refuge. The Japanese occupiers of Shanghai forced the Jewish refugees into ghettos, confiscating virtually everything they owned. For seven years, Bennicasa and her parents lived in a bathroom that was turned into a living space.

Still, she said, she and her mother feel lucky to have had the experience they did.

“Our experiences were not like people in camps, people that were branded in any fashion. Our experience was so different,” she said. “And for me as a child, whatever circumstances you’re given as a child, you accept them. This is your life.”

It was in Shanghai that Rose Girone (née Raubvogel) started knitting to earn a living. The skill served her well after the family left Shanghai for America in 1947. After a year, Rose divorced her husband. Some 10 years later, she married Jack Girone, and built up a knitting business in Queens, New York.

“Mother’s talents were quite well known, and whoever knit knew Rose’s Knitting Studio,” Bennicasa said. Her mother retired in 2002 and volunteered in a senior center teaching knitting until she fully retired at the age of 102, in 2014.

For the last two years, Rose has been living in a nursing home, where she is currently recovering from a brief illness. “She goes with the flow and rolls with the punches,” said Bennicasa, who tries to follow her mother’s advice: “Don’t ever get up without a purpose. You have to have a purpose every day.”

Norman Jewison, ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ director and lifelong friend of the Jews, dies at 97

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – In a 2022 documentary on the making of the 1971 film “Fiddler on the Roof,” Norman Jewison relayed a by-now familiar anecdote: When producers of the Broadway musical approached him for the directing job, he had to sheepishly inform them that he wasn’t actually Jewish.

He got the job anyway, leading generations of Jewish families watching “Fiddler” to associate that big title card displaying the “Jewison” name with a fellow member of the tribe.

Bringing Anatevka to vivid, pulsating life was one of many career highlights for the Canadian filmmaker, who died last month at age 97. Jewison, a Toronto native, helmed several other iconic films in his long, distinguished career, including “Moonstruck,” “In The Heat of the Night,” “The Thomas Crown Affair” and “The Hurricane” — many of them shining light on pressing social matters like racism and other forms of bigotry. He was nominated for seven Oscars, two of them for “Fiddler” (best picture and best director). He directed a lot of musicals, including “Jesus Christ Superstar,” and returned to Jewish concerns for his swan song, the 2003 thriller “The Statement,” which takes place during the Holocaust.

But his work on “Fiddler” sealed Jewison’s reputation among Jewish viewers. He earned the job on the basis of his work on the Cold War satire “The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming,” starring Carl Reiner and Alan Arkin, with producers reasoning that the

director had what it took to convincingly depict Russian life to Westerners.

Holding the reins to Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick and Joseph Stein’s Broadway smash adaptation of Sholem Aleichem’s classic folktales, Jewison went all-in on verisimilitude. He filmed “Fiddler” in the former Yugoslavia and got Israeli actor Chaim Topol, who starred as Tevye in the West End production, to reprise his role on screen (not without some controversy over bypassing better-known Broadway star Zero Mostel).

At three hours in length, with elaborate musical set pieces and additional scoring by John Williams, “Fiddler” was a classic Hollywood roadshow production that also was be a bittersweet depiction of a Jewish world wiped out by pogroms and the Holocaust — a formula not necessarily guaranteed to hook a general audience. But the gambit paid off, and “Fiddler” became the highest-grossing film of the year and a perennial staple in the homes of Ashkenazi Jews and others.

Jewison joins other beloved figures from “Fiddler” who have recently taken their final bows. Topol died last year, as did the lyricist Harnick.

Over the years Jewison would deny rumors that he had considered converting to Judaism. But he took his connection to the Jewish story seriously. In that same 2022 documentary, he also shared that he had a Jewish wedding in 2010, to his second wife Lynne St. David Jewison. The wedding included a rabbi and a chuppah.

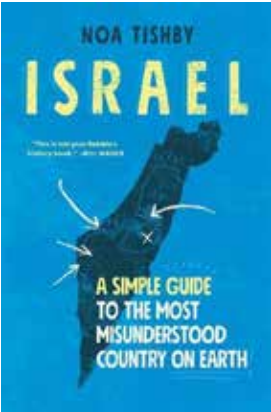
Temple Shomer Emunim

Crescent Learning Hour with Rabbi Delson

Thursday, February 22
3:30-4:30 at The Crescent
Join Rabbi Delson and the residents at the Crescent for an hour of learning and discussion.

Rabbi Delson is going to Israel

From February 11-18, Rabbi Delson will be leading an Israel mission called “We Will Not Be Silent Women of Reform Judaism and Women’s Rabbinic Network Mission” She will come back to Toledo with new insights on the situation there and how our community can help. Rabbi Delson will be speaking publicly about her experience on Friday, March 8th during Shabbat services. This trip is partially sponsored by the Romanoff-Reinwald Fund.



Congregational Read about Israel

A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth by Noa Tishby

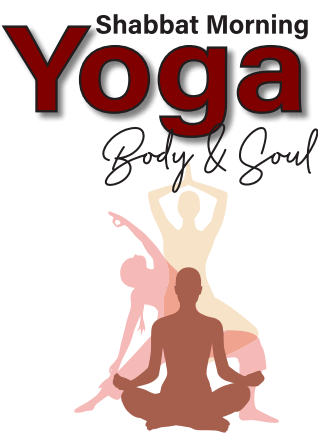
Israel has been a topic of conversation before and since October 7. Let’s explore this book about Israeli history and politics and discuss. Rabbi Delson will lead two discussions, one Zoom only and one in-person only. Pick up the book wherever books are sold or from the library and let’s discuss.

February 6 2pm, Zoom only, link will be shared with registration
February 7 7pm, in-person only
RSVP to Rabbi Delson rabbidelson@templese.com

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Delson NEW DATE

Thursday, March 7
12-1:30pm

Join Rabbi Delson for a lively learning session and discussion all about how Purim is a fun holiday but not just for children.



Join Amy Nistel and Cantor Jen Roher on Saturday, February 24 at 10:30am

The class is for all levels, using a chair or a mat, whichever is most appropriate for you. No experience needed.

Start your Shabbat morning with a rejuvenating spiritual practice that will give you a renewed sense of peace.

Contact the Temple office for Zoom information.



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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All CBI programs and religious services are open to the members of all local congregations unless otherwise indicated.

If you are not a CBI member and would like to attend, please contact the office at 419.517.8400.

ISRAELI MOVIE FESTIVAL: February Documentary & Film Series at CBI

"Sustainable Nation"
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:00 PM
RSVP by Monday, February 5, 2024

In a world where water is everything, three Israeli innovators are applying water technology to an increasingly thirsty planet. They show how solving global water issues is not only a matter of life and death, it's the start of healing the world.

"Oy Mama"
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:00 PM
RSVP by Monday, February 12, 2024

"Oy Mama" is a touching film that tells the story of 95-year-old Holocaust survivor Fira, who is not only Noa Maiman's grandmother but also the adopted grandmother of 4-year-old Firit. Set in modern-day Israel, this moving documentary explores two entwined storylines that converge in Fira's life. "Oy Mama" is a powerful and emotional journey that highlights the importance of intergenerational relationships, resilience, and the power of human kindness.

"Reinventing Rosalee"
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:00 PM
RSVP by Monday, February 26, 2024

Rosalee Glass, a 101-year-old Holocaust survivor, transformed her destiny and lives her dreams. In her late 80's, she began an acting career, won a senior beauty pageant, starred in a Super Bowl commercial, and dared to ride Alaskan sled dogs at the age of 100.

Cost is \$5 per movie. Snacks will be provided.

RSVP by the dates listed for each movie to the office or by contacting Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org.

Parashat Hashavuah:
Torah Portion of the Week Discussion
Fri., February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024 11 AM at CBI

A Night of Stars! Visit to the Planetarium
Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:00 PM
Lourdes Appold Planetarium, 6832 Convent Blvd.

After Havdalah, see the show "Compass, Calendar & Clock" planetarium with Carl Holas of Lourdes University.

Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 per child aged 12 & under.

RSVP Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org to by Feb. 1, 2024.

Connecting Kids to Meals Volunteer Event
Thu., February 8, 2024 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.

RSVP Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org to by Feb. 2, 2024.

Sisterhood 2.0: Yoga & Dinner
Sunday, February 4, 2023 4:00-5:00 PM
at Toledo Yoga - Dinner will follow at Paddy Jack's

This is a Sisterhood 2.0 program for Women of CBI aged 60's and under only. Program limited to 18 women.

Cost is \$10 for Yoga.

RSVP by Monday, Jan. 29th to kbrody@cbitoledo.org.

WCBI Celebrates
Rosh Chodesh Adar I
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 11 AM at CBI

We will hear a presentation from Jason Kucsma, Director of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library who will discuss intellectual freedoms and the challenges facing libraries today.

A delicious lunch will be served.

The Tikkun Olam project for this program is "Austen's Book Club", a local non-profit organization. A list of books that you may purchase for the "Book Club" will be sent after registration.

Cost is \$10. Checks should be payable to "Women of CBI".

RSVP to Sharon Stein at sstein100@gmail.com by Feb. 14th.

OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

"Havdalah - Have Fun!" Night
Games • Dinner • FUN
Saturday, February 24, 2024 6:45 PM at CBI

Join us for an evening of fun games, great food and drinks after a meaningful Havdalah service. What's your game? Trivia? Poker? Bingo? You'll find that and lots more! Bring your friends & family!

Cost is \$15 per adult for this fun evening!

RSVP to the office or kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Feb. 16th.

The CBI office will be CLOSED
Monday, February 19 President's Day

- WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE**

 - Monday Morning Minyan: 8:00 AM - In Person/Zoom
 - Thursday Morning Minyan: 8:00 AM - In Person/Zoom
 - Monday - Thursday Evening Minyan: 5:45 PM - Zoom
 - Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat: 5:45 PM - Zoom
- Saturday Morning Shabbat: 9:30 AM - In Person/Live Stream
 - Sunday Morning Minyan: 9:30 AM - In-Person/Zoom (When Religious School is in session)

Congregation Etz Chayim

HAVDALAH & TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

Everyone is invited to the home of Mel & Margie Siegel on Saturday evening, February 17th at 6:45 p.m. for a meaningful Havdalah service. Following Havdalah, Phyllis Wittenberg will be conducting a Tu B'Shevat seder which was postponed from January due to inclement weather. Ellen Federman will also present a program on the importance of conservation in Israel and the entire world. Please respond to Nancy Jacobson or Elsa Leveton. Space is limited.

LET'S GO BOWLING

"Strike up some entertainment" and let's go bowling on President's Day, Monday, February 19th at Forest View Lanes, 2345 W. Dean Rd., Temperance, MI 48182 Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the bowling alley. Bowling is only \$3 per game and \$3 for shoes. Let Nancy know if you are able to attend.

ART MUSEUM TOUR

Our favorite Art Museum guide, Andrea Delman will lead a tour at the museum Sunday, February 25th at 11:15 a.m. The tour and discussion will be interesting.

POKER & MAH JONGG

Don't forget everyone is always invited to our Sunday Poker & Mahj on February 11th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Beginners are welcome. Snacks will be served.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

In February there is planned a Poetry reading on Tuesday, February 13. The program will run from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. at Margie Siegel's house. Bring your favorite poem(s) that touch your heart or if you are a poet, ones you have written. Purim is coming to us in March. The Sisterhood will be assembling Shalach Manot bags again this year. It is a wonderful way to honor someone in the congregation and a delight to receive a bag. Letters will be sent out near the end of February. Shalach Manot bag pick up will be March 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to noon and Sunday, March 24th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The Sisterhood will be having a Purim breakfast March 24 with a version of the Megillah being read in English at 9:30 a.m. HAMANTASHEN SALE

Once again, Congregation Etz Chayim will be selling hamantaschen for Purim. The available flavors include raspberry, apricot, chocolate, blueberry, prune and poppy. Also available are chocolate dipped raspberry, chocolate dipped apricot and chocolate dipped chocolate. The cost is \$8.00 per dozen for the plain flavors and \$10.00 per dozen for the dipped flavors. Orders may be placed in advance by calling the synagogue office, 419-473-2401 or by emailing elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org. The pastries will be available at the end of February.



Chabad House

What would you do if you weren't afraid?

How to see uncertainties in life as an opportunity to be purposeful, especially at times of individual decision points or when facing difficult times.

Feb. 13 | 6:15PM Reception 7:00PM Lecture

Oakland Center Banquet Rooms
312 Meadow Brook Rd, Rochester, MI 48309

If you would like to join us, please RSVP and our office will arrange for transportation via carpool etc. There will also be a complimentary to-go dinner bag available. This talk is free and open to the public, however, registration is required. Please RSVP to info@chabadtoledo.com

Best-selling author of "What Would You Do if You Weren't Afraid?" Michael Oshman, former executive at TikTok and Facebook, shares a unique personal growth methodology based on the life-changing principles of Jewish wisdom.

A project of Chabad Lubavitch of Michigan
Oakland University and Chabad House of Toledo

Lenny Cares invites you to join us for an evening of *Wine, Cheese and Music*

Monday, February 26, 4:30-6:00 p.m

RSVP at [Chabadtoledo.com/Lennycares](https://www.chabadtoledo.com/Lennycares)

Admission: before February 20th: 6\$ per person
February 20th and later: 12\$ per person

Celebrating of the joyous month of Adar and the continuity of the Jewish People

Caffeine for the Soul

Discussions, refreshments and Torah insights with Rabbi Dov Fridman
Monday, February 12, at 10:30 a.m

Tea With Rivka

Tea, Friends and Torah conversation with Rivka Fridman
Monday, February 19, at 10:30 a.m
For women only

Sip' N' Shmooze

Come with friends and make new ones over coffee
Thursday February 8th & 22nd between the hours of 2-4 p.m

Free of Charge. RSVP appreciated to lennycares@chabadtoledo.com or 917-742-9803
All programs are at the Chabad House, 2728 King Rd, Toledo

At "Lenny Cares," established in memory of Lenny Rosenberg, every Jew is relevant and plays a leading role in shaping Toledo's Jewish life. From leadership and volunteer opportunities, to social events, emotional support, and individualized connection, Lenny Cares aims to empower, engage, and connect all Jewish adults and seniors.

CAMP GAN ISRAEL
TOLEDO, OH

Camp dates: June 24 - July 19
www.chabadtoledo.com/camp

SAVE THE DATE

Purim Family Dinner
Sunday, March 24 2024

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Local

Winning Gold at the 2023 Pan American Maccabi Games, Buenos Aires

By Josh Steinberg

What a tremendous experience it was to represent my country playing the game I love, to win GOLD, to enjoy community with Jewish people from around the world, and to explore a new country. The 2023 Pan American Maccabi Games were all I could have hoped for. Athletically and personally, it could not have been a better experience.

Charlie Trey-Masters (originally from Philadelphia), Noah Carmona (originally from the Los Angeles area), and I (from Irvine, Orange County, California) made up one of two USA Open 3 x 3 basketball teams participating in the competition. This was the first time 3 x 3 basketball has been included in the Pan American Maccabi Games. We were a team of guys that were scattered around the country who hadn't met in person until our arrival in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Upon our arrival in Buenos Aires, we were given a tour of significant Jewish sites in the area, including the former Israeli Embassy (which had been destroyed during a terrorist attack in the early 90s) along with Templo Libertad (Argentina's oldest and largest synagogue).

We were allotted two days of practice. We found out that 3 x 3 basketball was much faster pace than the traditional 5 x 5 game. Then the formal competition began.

We had one day off between each day of scheduled competition so we could go out and explore Buenos Aires. It is a city of vibrant colors, wonderful culture, lots of Messi jerseys, and excellent beef steaks. During this time, we also had the chance to interact with athletes from other countries, and we became pretty good friends with the Aussies. On another off day, we saw the big Futbol Stadium, bought some souvenirs, and ate some delicious empanadas.

The initial games were scheduled to distinguish the weaker teams from the stronger teams. During this round of games, we played our games against Chile, Australia, Cuba, Argentina, and the other team from the USA (the blue team). In this round we lost to the USA (blue) team, Argentina (which looked like the strongest team in the entire field), and to Australia.

Despite our losses in the preliminary round, we advanced to the winner's bracket as the #4 seeded team. We were able to win our first game against the #1 seed Argentina, so we advanced to the Gold Medal Game to play against the USA (blue) team for the top prize. It was an amazing experience to listen to our National Anthem and to hold the US flag before the final game began. I felt so proud to be representing my country in these international games. The other USA team had a huge size

advantage over us with both 6'8" and 6'5" to our 6'1" and 5'11". But we were inspired and motivated to played as hard as possible against our USA opponents.

This was a highly contested game. With time running out the score was tied at 16 to 16. With 1 second remaining on the time clock, Charlie (on his birthday) hit 1 of 2 free throws and we won the game! The Aussies ran onto the court to celebrate with us. We were the champions! We were the Gold medalists!

I ran to find my parents and we embraced and jumped with joy. What a surreal moment. I was also honored as the MVP of the 3 x 3 tournament. We felt that history was made for the USA in 3 x 3 basketball. We were the first Gold medalists ever in 3 x 3 basketball at the Pan Am Maccabi Games for any country. The other USA team was awarded the Silver medal and Argentina was awarded the Bronze medal.

Josh Steinberg is the grandson of Jewish Toledo's Buz and Doris Steinberg.



Josh Steinberg wearing his gold medal after his team's victory in the Pan American Macabbi Games. He's holding the MVP award in his left hand and the team's gold medal trophy in his right hand.

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Josh Steinberg (center) and his 3 x 3 teammates celebrate their victory in the gold medal game.



Josh Steinberg (standing next to the basketball coach) with his teammates. All of the players are wearing their gold medals around their necks. Josh is holding his trophy for winning the MVP award and the boy in the center is holding the team trophy for winning the 3 x 3 basketball tournament.

Gan Yeladim Preschool



I have a growth mindset

I enjoy climbing trees and am confident I will reach higher with continuous practice. Playing games with my friends is fun; if I ever don't know the rules, they teach me. Constructing towers with blocks poses a challenge, but when frustration sets in, I turn to my teacher for guidance. Although I haven't mastered all my letters yet, I can write and draw independently, utilizing letter and word charts for assistance. At Gan, we instill "Growth Mindsets" right from the start, fostering a positive and resilient approach to learning and development.

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Dave Tullis, Jewish Federation Community Asset, Safety and Security Manager helps us stay protected with valuable safety tips.

Crime and the Fear of Crime Prevention

Crime and the fear of crime (the rise in antisemitism) create special problems for our community, especially for our elderly. Understanding the nature of the problem and knowing what to do to avoid being a victim of crime can help you. The following crime prevention tips for everyone in our community, especially our elderly, are commonsense advice that can be effective when you follow them.

WALKING

- Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Walk confidently.
- Have a companion go with you.
- Stay away from buildings and doorways; walk in well-lit areas.
- Have your key ready when approaching your front door.
- Do not dangle your purse away from your body. (Twelve percent of all crimes against the elderly are purse snatchings and street robberies.)
- Do not carry large, bulky shoulder bags; carry only what you need. Better yet, sew a small pocket inside your jacket or coat. If you do not have a purse, no one will try to snatch it.



IN STORES

- Do not display large sums of cash.
- Never leave your purse unattended.
- Use checks where possible.



IN YOUR CAR

- Always keep your car doors locked, whether you are in or out of your car.
- At stop signs and traffic lights, keep the car in gear.
- Travel well-lit and busy streets. Plan your route.
- Do not leave your purse on the seat beside you; put it on the floor, where it is more difficult for someone to grab it.
- Lock bundles or bags in the trunk. If interesting packages are out of sight, a thief will be less tempted to break in to steal them.
- When returning to your car, check the front seat, back seat, and floor before entering.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- If your car should break down, get far enough off the road, turn on your emergency flashers, raise the hood, get back into the car, lock the door, and wait for help.



BANKING

Many criminals know exactly when government checks arrive each month and may pick that day to attack. Avoid this by using Direct Deposit, which sends your money directly from the government to the bank of your choice.



And, at many banks, free checking accounts are available to senior citizens. Your bank has all the information.

- You should store valuables in a Safe Deposit Box.
- Never give your money to someone who calls on you, identifying himself as a bank official. A bank will never ask you to remove your money. Banks need the use of your money, and they do not want one of their customers to invite crime by having substantial amounts of cash around.
- When someone approaches you with a get-rich-quick-scheme involving some or all YOUR savings, it is HIS get-rich-quick-scheme. If it is a legitimate investment, the opportunity to contribute your funds will still be there tomorrow-after you have had time to consider it.



AT HOME

- Never open your door automatically. Use an optical viewer. At night, draw your blinds or draperies.
- Lock your doors and windows. (Three quarters of the burglaries involving older persons involved unlocked doors and windows; and less than one half of these robberies are reported.) Keep your garage doors locked.
- Vary your daily routine.
- Use “Neighbor Watch” to keep an eye on your neighborhood. A concerned neighbor is often the best protection against crime because suspicious persons and activities are noticed and reported to police promptly.
- Do not leave notes on the door when going out.
- Leave lights on when going out at night; use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period.
- Do not place keys under mats, in mailboxes, or other receptacles outside your door.
- Notify neighbors and the police when going away on a trip. Cancel deliveries such as newspapers and arrange for someone – a neighbor’s child, perhaps – to mow the lawn if necessary. Arrange for your mail to be held by the Post Office or ask a neighbor to collect it for you.
- Be wary of unsolicited offers to make repairs to your home. Deal only with reputable businesses.
- Keep an inventory with serial numbers and photographs of resale-able appliances, antiques and furniture. Leave copies in a safe place.
- Do not hesitate to report crime or suspicious activities.





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