



STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE



Jewish Federation
& Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Toledo Jewish News

The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo

Tevet/Shevat 5784 • January 2024

Thank You...

... to Jewish Toledo

- for answering "Hineni/Here I am" and supporting the Israel Relief Fund,
- for making a difference in our community by supporting the JFGT Annual Campaign,
- and for attending the events supporting Israel since October 7.

Israel Vigil at the Temple



Community vigil for hostages at Congregation B'nai Israel



Community Q&A at Congregation Etz Chayim



Media conference at JFGT



Governor Mike Dewine visits JFGT



Working Together Through This Moment for families with children



Shinshinim visit to Toledo



Shine a Light on Antisemitism



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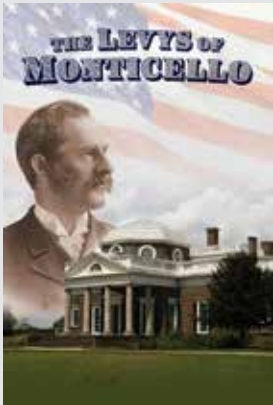
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TOLEDO JEWISH WINTER FLICKS

NOW SHOWING

WINTER FLICKS "BE A FLICKNIK"
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
LOURDES UNIVERSITY, FRANCISCAN CENTER

Do you love cinema as an art form and as a medium of information and education?
Want to see unique, never-before-seen films in Jewish Toledo? Then Winter Flicks are for you!
Join us on the dates below for great cinema, amazing community, and a greater appreciation for the cinematic experience.



The Levys of Monticello
Sunday, January 21
3 p.m.

Running time: 71 minutes | English
When Thomas Jefferson died in 1826, he left behind a mountain of personal debt, which forced his heirs to sell his beloved Monticello home and all its possessions. The Levys of Monticello documentary tells the little-known story of the Levy family, which owned and carefully preserved Monticello for nearly

a century – far longer than Jefferson or his descendants. The remarkable story of the Levy family also intersects with the rise of antisemitism that runs throughout the course of American history.



Jerry's Last Mission
Sunday, February 25
3 p.m.

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.



Location:
Lourdes University Franciscan Center Theatre
6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania

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 will be available at all screenings (unless otherwise noted). This is 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.

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





TUESDAY-SUNDAY • 7 AM - 2 PM | THURSDAY-SATURDAY • 4:30-8 PM | 5333 MONROE ST. #40 • TOLEDO, OH



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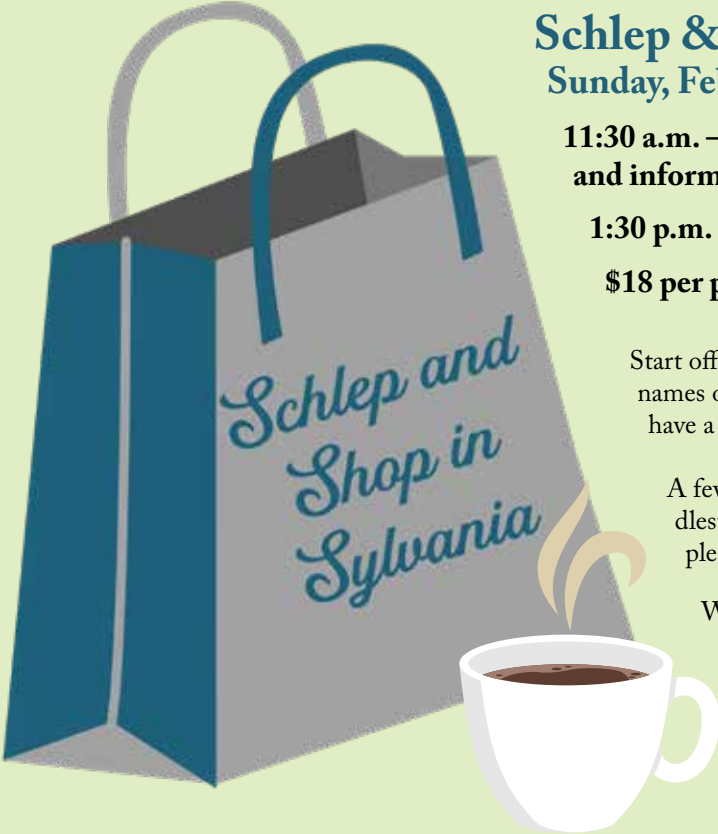


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- * CATERING / CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
- * PATIO OPEN MAY - OCTOBER

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

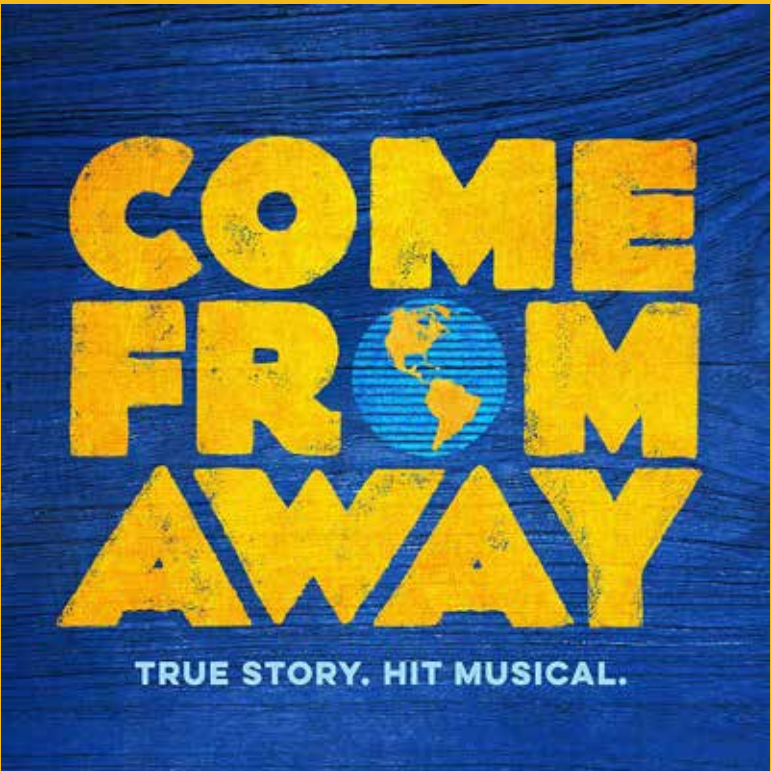
Limited space available


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 Zafririm, 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.





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



Toledo Jewish Community Foundation
Tributes and Memorials
received between November 17 - December 19, 2023

Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF) gratefully acknowledges the following Tributes and Memorials to TJCF funds. Tributes and Memorials can be made by contacting Anna at 419-724-0386, anna@jewishtoledo.org or Barb at 419-724-0357, barb@jewishtoledo.org.

Arleen R. Levine TJCF Fund for Donor Stewardship
In Honor of Arleen Levine
Luann and Bill Garber
In Honor of Arleen Levine's Years of Service and Job Well Done
Barry Nistel

Sydney Mostov Memorial Fund
In Memory of Adair Silverman
Michael Mostov

Ross Treuhaft Special Needs Spirituality Fund
In Memory of Ross Treuhaft
Pam Skinner

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.

Text CAMPAIGN to 44321



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



When will there be peace in Gaza?

The brutal atrocities on October 7th awakened many to the depravity of Hamas, the ruthless terrorist organization controlling Gaza. More than 1,200 Israelis were savagely murdered, babies were burned and decapitated, women were raped, and 240 Israelis and others were taken hostage. **This was the deadliest attack in a single day on Jews since the Holocaust.** Many are unfamiliar with the problems in Gaza, and this is intended to provide some answers to a very complex situation.

- **What is Hamas?** Hamas is a terrorist organization governing Gaza with the stated goal of destroying Israel and murdering all the Jews who live there. Article 7 of Hamas’ founding charter states: “The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: ‘O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.’” The largest sponsor of Hamas is Iran, whose goal is to destroy Israel and the United States.
- **What does Hamas want from Israel?** Hamas wants to take all the land “from the river to the sea.” This means Hamas seeks all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea (i.e., all of Israel). Across the United States – and even in Toledo and on college campuses – protestors have continually repeated this genocidal threat from Hamas, some knowingly and others unknowingly, calling for an entire country and its people to be eliminated. There is nothing “peaceful” or “progressive” about supporting a terrorist organization like Hamas that will not recognize Israel under any borders.
- **Does Israel “occupy” Gaza?** No, Israel does not occupy Gaza. In 2005, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon required the unilateral removal of all Israelis from Gaza in pursuit of peace. Since the Israeli withdrawal, the Palestinians have ruled themselves in Gaza and controlled their own destiny there. Regrettably, since the Palestinians elected Hamas into power in 2006, Hamas has diverted humanitarian aid to support its terror operations, including the October 7th massacre. Even now, while hospitals in Gaza are running out of fuel, Hamas holds fuel for its rockets and terrorist activities.
- **How does the Israel Defense Force (IDF) respond?** The IDF tries to mitigate civilian casualties as much as possible. It uses efforts such as text messaging, calling, dropping leaflets from the sky, and hacking television stations to warn civilians before bombing in populated areas. Hamas gave no such warnings to Israelis prior to the October 7th massacre. Hamas, unfortunately, hides weapons and terrorist command centers in schools and hospitals, using human civilian shields to protect its terrorist activities.
- **Has Israel offered land in exchange for peace?** Yes, many times. Every peace plan offered, all with international support, has been rejected by Palestinian leaders. These include: (1) the 1947 United Nations partition plan; (2) the 1949 UNGAR 194 land plan proposal; (3) the 1967 UNSCR 242 proposal; (4) the 1978 Begin/Sadat peace proposal; (5) the 1994 Rabin/Hussein peace proposal; (6) the 2000 Barak/Clinton peace proposal; (7) the 2008 Olmert/Bush peace proposal; (8) the 2014 Kerry “contour for peace” plan; and (9) the most recent 2019 Netanyahu/Trump invitation to join the Abraham Accords. Each of these plans would have created a state for the Palestinian people.
- **What is the role of the United Nations?** The UN, through its Palestinian refugee agency, has allowed humanitarian aid to be diverted to Hamas and other terrorist organizations. The UN funds educational programs in Gaza that include antisemitic training, pushing the parties further from peace. Hamas leaders – many of whom live comfortably with their families in other Arab countries – have also siphoned away significant international aid for their own wealth, while the people in Gaza have struggled. Rather than investing in the future of Gaza and its civilians, Hamas heavily invests in a seemingly endless supply of rockets, weapons, and terror tunnels infiltrating Israel.
- **So, when will there be peace in Gaza?** Despite the current climate, Israelis yearn for a time when they can live adjacent to Palestinians as peaceful neighbors. As soon as Israel has a true partner for peace, rather than Palestinian leaders seeking its destruction, peace can be pursued.
- For more information, scan the QR code or visit jewishtoledo.org



Free Gaza From Hamas

Commentary

The ReJewvination of Toledo

by Joel Beren

On Shabbat Lech Lecha, November 6 and 7, 1970, there were three B’nai Mitzvot in Toledo. On Friday evening I became a Bar Mitzvah at the Collingwood Avenue Temple (Temple Shomer Emunim). On Saturday morning a young woman, Linda Sue Katz (now my wife of 43 years), celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation B’nai Israel. On that same Shabbat morning, my life-long friend, Randy Samborn was Bar Mitzvahed at Congregation B’nai Jacob (Congregation Etz Chayim). I will take a bet, if that November 1970 weekend was not the final Shabbat marking three B’nai Mitzvot in Toledo, it was certainly one of the last.

Today there are fewer Jewish souls in Northwest Ohio than belonged to The Temple alone when it moved to the Sylvania campus some 50 years ago. Our community, which at its zenith had more than 7,500 people, now consists of 2,000-2,250 identifiable members. The average household size in Jewish Toledo is less than two. Our population is disproportionately “mature,” and there are barely a dozen Jewish children per grade, scattered among multiple public and private schools.

Over the last 25 years, our community has responded to these changes incrementally. Institutions that the community could no longer support financially, or where there were not enough souls to serve (Darlington House, the Jewish Community Center, Pelham Manor, Toledo Hebrew Academy, Toledo Jewish Community Hebrew School) no longer exist. Community service organizations, ORT, Hadassah, B’nai Brith, congregational men’s clubs, Jewish youth groups, and others, exist on paper only, have but

a handful of active members, or have ceased to be. In recent years we have struggled to identify enough young children to maintain the Jewish community preschool.

Our community organizations and congregations do their best to provide programs and services to an ever-shrinking population. When reading the *Friday Facts*, a congregational bulletin, or perusing an issue of the *Toledo Jewish News*, it is easy to come away thinking there are more Jews in Northwest Ohio than our community data base belies.

Since early October, Israel and Jewish communities across the diaspora have witnessed threats unlike any since the establishment of modern Israel in 1948. The invasion of southern Israel and a vicious Pogrom by Hamas, Hezbollah terrorists violently attacking northern Israel, and now a war. Jewish communities around the world have witnessed an explosion of antisemitism not seen since the darkest days of World War II and The Holocaust. Jewish children in Northwest Ohio (and elsewhere) feel isolated and insecure in their public and private schools. Jewish young adults are under siege at most universities (including The University of Toledo). Our communal institutions and public spaces have seen the ugliest of protests outside their front door or just down the street. Several weeks ago, on Shabbat, Congregation B’nai Israel experienced a bomb threat. All these events remind us of the fragility of Jewish life.

In early October, I joined hundreds of Jewish Toledoans gathered at Temple Shomer Emunim in solidarity to pray for Israel and to mourn the loss of so many Israeli lives. Shortly afterward, I attended a second rally. That

event, including non-Jewish friends of our community, a sprinkling of local elected officials, and staff members of our Congressional and Senate representatives, gathered at Congregation B’nai Israel for the first community response to the newest wave of antisemitism.

At both community events I saw familiar faces (very few young, mostly elderly, and middle-aged) and several I did not recognize. One thing I noted at those meetings, the communal boundaries that sometimes define us did not exist. What mattered most, to everyone gathered at The Temple and later at Congregation B’nai Israel, is they considered themselves part of *K'lal Yisrael*, the entire Jewish community.

These observations lead me to ask an important question. Is the future of Jewish Toledo best addressed by the Federation, three congregations, and Chabad, all serving the same small community, or would Jewish Toledo see a brighter future by the union of many of our institutions?

The denominational differences between most Jewish Toledoans are few compared to a generation ago. Even so, with proper planning, one building could serve our entire community while honoring both egalitarian and traditional Jewish observances. One “home” where programs and educational opportunities for all ages, respected Clergy, professional program managers, trained Jewish educators, and excited/united Jewish community members and volunteers were under one roof.

How wonderful would it be if our children, teens, and young adults shared the same camaraderie that those who grew up at the Collingwood JCC experienced. Imagine Jewish adults and seniors

enjoying programs with life-long friends and seeing Jewish children at the same location. Generations of Jewish Toledoans would find it more spiritual to share simchas, holidays, and traditions together, as a family and as part of a community.

In the late 1960s, foresightful community leadership recognized that the physical facilities located in older Toledo Jewish neighborhoods were quickly becoming geographically remote and physically obsolete. In less than five years, Toledo’s Jewish families would be congregating around a new JCC pool in Sylvania, Temple Shomer Emunim moved to the Toledo Jewish community campus, and three Orthodox congregations merged to become Congregation Etz Chayim.

There have been many changes in Jewish Toledo over seven decades. Today, we confront different obstacles than those the community recognized in the late 1960s, and even as recent as the early part of this century. Today, we need to transition to a different community model. Rather than focusing on what was, our community needs to visualize what could be.

We have the resources needed to accomplish this; we merely need to demonstrate the will to make positive changes. Leaders and community members need to have the foresight to plan, to make tough decisions, and then demonstrate the energy to push Jewish Toledo forward. I urge our Federation and Congregational lay leaders, clergy, and professionals, to begin a process now, that will result in a brighter future for all of us tomorrow.

Please share your comments with me via email to Joel@Bereneq.com.

9 stories that defined our Jewish year in 2023 before Oct. 7

By Ben Sales

Dec. 21, 2023 (JTA) — On Oct. 6, JTA led its morning newsletter with an article that had long been in the works — and that we expected to drive conversation in the days ahead: It was a profile of a Jewish dad in Florida who had pushed to ban hundreds of books — including Anne Frank’s diary — from school libraries.

The ongoing saga of book bans in school libraries, and how they ensnared works about the Holocaust and other Jewish topics, is a story our reporter Andrew Lapin, and JTA more broadly, had focused on all year. For much of 2023, book bans seemed like one of the topics that would define American Jewish life this year.

Then Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack happened, plunging Israel into war and upending life not only there but for Jews in the United States and across the world. For the past 10 weeks, nearly everything we have covered at JTA — from advocacy for Israeli hostages to antisemitism to discourse on college campuses — has related back in some way to the Oct. 7 attack and the Israel-Hamas war.

In the wake of that cataclysm, it sometimes feels like everything else American Jews once thought and talked about has taken a backseat. But before the Hamas attack, there were important and complex topics that occupied and characterized Jewish life this year — not least another upheaval in Israel.

Here are nine stories that defined our

year before Oct. 7.

A campaign spreads to ban books, including Jewish ones, from school libraries

The book ban movement, driven by conservative “parents’ rights” groups such as Moms for Liberty, wasn’t only a Jewish issue: Activists largely sought to ban books about race and gender, claiming that they were inappropriate for children. But those campaigns, sometimes targeting large numbers of books at once, often swept up Jewish books in their dragnet.

One book that faced challenges in multiple school districts — some of them successful — was a graphic novel adaptation of Anne Frank’s diary. The Holocaust graphic novel “Maus” was

also hit with challenges. One of the most prolific participants in the book ban movement was that Florida Jewish dad.

More generally, some American Jews felt that the book ban movement built on a tradition of censorship that has often boded poorly for the Jews. And even when the bans didn’t target Jewish books, Jews were sometimes implicated: A Florida mom who tried to ban an Amanda Gorman poem had also promoted the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. She apologized.

A seismic fight erupts in Israel over the judicial system

Before October, if you asked what the most important Israeli news story

Jewish Year continued on page 10

News

Robin Isenberg joins JFGT as Vice President of Operations



Robin Isenberg will join Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) as its Vice President of Operations (VPO) on January 2, 2024. As a member of the Jewish Toledo community, Robin has over 25 years of non-profit experience in a variety of roles. She has extensive experience with agency leadership & development, strategic planning, team building, information technology, programming, budgeting, and board relations.

Robin graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing. Most recently, Robin was the Executive Director of the National

Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Greater Toledo and was responsible for formulating and carrying out the mission and vision consistent with agency objectives to advance the organization's long-range strategic goals. Previous experience also includes serving as Coordinator of Victim Services (Lucas County Juvenile Court), Executive Director at the Victory Center (Toledo), and a Project Development Specialist (Lucas County Prosecutor's Office).

Robin is very involved with community activities and other non-profit efforts as well. Recently, she has been active on JFGT's Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services (JSFSS) Committee and, with NAMI, partnered with JSFSS on programs such as the Create & Relate series with Ben Malczewski, JFGT Vice President, Senior, Family & Social Services, and Stacy Willis, JSFSS Food Pantry and Support Services Coordinator.

"I am coming from a mental health background as a non-profit administrator, and I know the community really well; not just the Jewish community, but the whole Toledo community," Robin said. "In fact, one of my first jobs out of college was working at the JCC as a membership and marketing director... I'm a networker and

a connector. I'm good at listening as someone shares what their needs are and then connecting them with support in the community."

Living in Jewish Toledo her entire life, Robin brings decades of experience with her. "NAMI is a small but mighty nonprofit that delivers a lot of services and has a lot of partnerships," she added. Leaving "was kind of bittersweet. But I'm leaving it in good hands."

In her new role, Robin will help JFGT team members succeed by helping to make sure that resources are available and are being used appropriately and effectively. In connection with JFGT's strategic plan to achieve best practices for non-profits, she will be assisting with efforts to review, evaluate, improve, and implement operational tasks related to human resources, IT, board governance and development, as well as efforts related to JFGT's marketing and communications.

"What are [the staff members'] challenges? What do [they] like and not like... I really think that the insight comes from the people with their boots on the ground," Robin added. Additionally, "Stephen [Rothschild, JFGT CEO] and I have discussed some big ideas he has including his

desire to be more available to the community by reducing some of his focus on operations as he has over the last four years."

Stephen added, "I am looking forward to Robin's addition to a fantastic team of professionals at JFGT. Over the next several years, we have an opportunity to propel Jewish life forward in a way that supports the diversity of Jewish life in northwest Ohio by focusing on unified community needs for safety, security, advocacy, fundraising, and development and programs and services that JFGT delivers in a transparent, cost-effective, and accountable manner. Robin's depth of knowledge of our Jewish and non-Jewish communities, along with her professional skills in the non-profit arena, make her an outstanding addition and will allow me to spend more time working on these critical issues facing Jewish Toledo."

Robin noted that her new role at JFGT will require a learning curve after managing a social service organization. "There is a piece of that here at JFGT, but it is so much more than that," she said. Toledo "is a great place to live, and we have so many great resources... I enjoy being with people. I enjoy meeting people. I enjoy helping people. It's a big part of who I am."



HANDMADE HANUKKAH *celebrates Jewish artists and community*



Handmade Hanukkah brought a crowd to Congregation B'nai Israel for a fun and joyful afternoon. We are thankful, especially now, for our strong and vibrant community here in Jewish Toledo.

News

MIT joins Harvard and Penn on list of schools facing federal civil rights investigations

By Andrew Lapin
(JTA) – The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California, Davis, both of which have recently experienced widely publicized episodes of conflict around Israel, are among six new institutions facing U.S. Department of Education investigations.

The department has indicated it is taking a newly aggressive approach to addressing it and Islamophobia on campus since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war and is announcing new investigations at a rapid clip, dramatically increasing the pace of civil rights inquiries that it opens.

All of the investigations relate to allegations of mistreatment owing to “shared ancestry,” but the department does not publicly reveal the incidents or complaints that cause it to open inquiries. None of the latest targets would comment on their investigations’ nature, and many said they were not told why they were being investigated.

Still, it is almost certain that at least some of the investigations are related to antisemitism.

MIT President Sally Kornbluth, who is Jewish, came under heavy criticism at a recent congressional hearing for failing to say whether calling for the genocide of Jews would violate university code. The school recently decided to partially suspend pro-Palestinian student protesters who staged a disruptive event on campus property.

MIT’s communications department did not immediately return requests for comment about its investigation. The school had previously been the only one of the three represented at the congressional hearing without an active federal investigation, as the Department of Education has previously announced inquiries into Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania.

And UC Davis entered the news in October when a professor, Jemma Decristo, posted threats to “Zionist journalists” on social media. “One group of ppl we have easy access to in the US is all these zionist journalists who spread propaganda & misinformation,” Decristo wrote on X, formerly Twitter, on Oct. 10. “They have houses w/ addresses, kids in school[.] They can fear their bosses, but they should fear us more.” The post concluded with emojis of a knife, an ax and blood drops.

A UC Davis spokesperson said the university could not comment on the current status of Decristo’s employment, but the professor’s faculty page has been removed from its website.

“UC Davis is committed to fostering a climate of equity and justice where all can feel welcome and thrive, free of harassment or discrimination,” UC Davis spokesperson James Nash told JTA, adding that the university would be fully cooperating with the investigation. “We take all claims of harassment

seriously.”
The other new active investigations are at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Drexel University, and two public school districts: one in Springfield, Illinois, and the other in Chandler, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix. The schools join an expanding roster of dozens of active civil rights investigations on campuses across the United States since Oct. 7, including ones involving antisemitism at Harvard, Columbia, Rutgers and Tulane.

The opacity with which the office has treated its civil rights investigations has frustrated some university administrators. While some schools have indicated to JTA that they know what their investigations are related to, others have said they were not informed.

“It’s frustrating to know that you’re under investigation but you don’t know what for,” one communications staffer of a university under investigation, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, told JTA. “At the same time, it is the Department of Education and we don’t want to antagonize them.”

None of the schools that responded to requests for comment would say whether their investigations were related to antisemitism.

A spokesperson for UIC said the university “strives to be a place where everyone feels welcome and where all people – no matter what color, race, ancestry, age, sex, interests, sexual orientation including gender identity, religion, disability, national origin, or marital status – can share perspectives and viewpoints to learn from one another,” but would not comment on its Title VI investigation.

A Drexel spokesperson similarly said, “Drexel does not tolerate acts of bias, discrimination and harassment.” On Oct. 11 the president of Drexel said the university was investigating a suspected case of arson outside a Jewish student’s dormitory.

A spokesperson for Springfield Public Schools District 186 told JTA their investigation was related to a complaint “filed by a parent on behalf of their child” but would not say what it was related to. Last year a high school student in the district faced hate crime charges in connection with antisemitic graffiti found at the school.

A spokesperson for Chandler Unified Schools told JTA it was “unable to provide details” about their investigation. The school district experienced an antisemitism controversy in 2021 when a woman at a school board meeting accused “the Jews” of developing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Opening an investigation does not mean the Department of Education believes the complaint has merit, only that it falls under the department’s purview.

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.



When I received an unexpected phone call from my local area code on the morning of August 23, 2023, I had no idea that I would learn a fundamental lesson on loss. Given the ubiquity of unwanted spam phone calls in our modern society, I would normally let such an unidentified call go straight to voicemail. In this case, I answered the call, curious

but also concerned that it could possibly be related to the welfare of my two daughters. Instead of alerting me to a family emergency, I found a familiar and friendly voice from the Jewish Federation on the line with a surprising question: was it true that I was a singer and would I be willing to share my gift with a group of local seniors the very next day?

As it turns out, Ohio’s unpredictable late summer weather had resulted in the Metropark’s cancellation of a musical event where our community’s seniors would enjoy lunch and listen to some musical talent. Instead of listening to the musical stylings offered by the park system, I would be the stand-in talent on our Federation’s campus. I had been anticipating August 24, the three year anniversary of Brad’s passing, as a difficult day but had not made any specific plans other than attending morning yoga. Therefore, I quickly agreed to be of help. Given the short notice and lack of musical accompaniment, I opted to sing some a cappella songs which were particularly meaningful to me. While I thought I could enhance the performance with some brief anecdotes about the reason for my selections, I initially had not intended to disclose the personal significance of that day. My plan changed midway through my performance when an audience member commented about how moving he had found the lyrics to the song “Candle on the Water.” He said he was inspired by the idea of having a guiding light to lead one through a dark period in life. After he spoke, I decided to reveal the importance of that day and talk about how powerful the concepts of perseverance and resilience had been to me over the past three years.

While music and singing have always been special to me, having the opportunity to share this part of my life and offer some thoughts on my path to healing could not have been more meaningful that day. It felt joyful to express my emotions through song and to bring some happiness to others during what could otherwise have been a purely somber occasion. As I sang and shared about my life, not only was I met with an attentive and appreciative audience, but I was also able to better manage the painful memories associated with the day Brad died. By giving of myself, I created a new and life-affirming memory, substituting a feeling of contentment for the desolation I might have experienced. Though I have always believed strongly in the concept of altruism, the lesson that was reinforced for me on that day of remembrance was about how much giving to others uplifts both the giver and the receiver. I could not be more grateful for the reciprocity of kindness shown to me that day as I shared my life and my music, just as I am for the opportunity to continue writing and sharing both the happiness and the tears along my path of healing.

News

Jewish Year continued on page 10

of 2023 was, this was the answer, hands down. At the beginning of the year, Israel's brand-new, hardline right-wing government unveiled a plan to sap the Supreme Court of its power and independence, a plan proponents said would enable the government to enact the agenda of its conservative voters.

The plan sparked an unprecedented protest movement — drawing hundreds of thousands of protesters into the street who condemned the overhaul as a danger to Israeli democracy. What followed was civil unrest, mass threats by reservists to abstain from military service, a raft of warnings and criticism from world leaders and Diaspora Jewish groups alike, and fruitless negotiations between Israel's sparring political parties.

In July, the government pushed through one piece of the plan, limiting the Supreme Court's ability to strike

down government decisions. That led to a fresh wave of protests, and anticipation across the country and beyond regarding what else the government would legislate. Lawmakers were set to reconvene after the Jewish holidays ended with Simchat Torah — which fell on Oct. 7.

The Pittsburgh synagogue shooter is tried and sentenced to death

In 2018, a violent attack on Jews shocked the country and the world. In the spring of 2023, the man who killed 11 Jews at prayer in a Pittsburgh synagogue stood trial, was convicted and sentenced to death.

The shooter's guilt was never in question; his lawyer admitted as much. But the course of the trial revealed gruesome details about the attack and — for jurors and others — served as a primer of sorts on American Jews and how they

see their place in the United States. And in Squirrel Hill, the historically Jewish neighborhood where the shooting occurred, residents contended with fears of retraumatization and leaned on each other to heal.

The shooter's lawyers did fight hard to spare him the death penalty. Families of victims and survivors also disagreed over the punishment. But following a months-long trial, the jury handed down a death sentence in August.

Elon Musk's handling of hate speech on Twitter/X raises alarms

Elon Musk, the billionaire tech mogul, bought Twitter in 2022. And over the course of 2023, his shifting approach to hate speech, including the removal of some of the platform's guardrails, alternately enraged, concerned and confounded Jewish watchdogs and others.

As the year progressed, Musk's personal pronouncements about Jews began to draw criticism. In May, he posted that George Soros, the liberal megadonor and frequent target of antisemitism, "hates humanity." He later turned his sights on the Anti-Defamation League, threatening to sue it for billions of dollars and blaming it for rising antisemitism.

This particular story has continued post-Oct. 7. Musk has taken steps to combat anti-Israel rhetoric on the platform, now called X. He visited Israel and toured sites of the massacre. But he also amplified an endorsement of an antisemitic conspiracy theory, leading major advertisers to stop their spending on the platform.

A trio of antisemitism-themed shows run on Broadway

For a few days this year, Broadway fans keen on seeing antisemitism portrayed on stage could go to three shows on the topic.

The musical "Parade," about the 1915 lynching of Leo Frank, opened in March. The play "Leopoldstadt," a semi-autobiographical work by Tom Stoppard about his Jewish family in Vienna in the years surrounding the Holocaust, opened in October 2022 and ran through July. And "Just for Us," a one-man show by Jewish comedian Alex Edelman about the time he attended a meeting of white supremacists, opened in June.

All three received positive reviews, and "Leopoldstadt" and "Parade" won a total of six Tonys in June. And "Parade" wasn't immune from antisemitism: Neo-Nazis protested at its previews.

Christie's faces blowback for auctioning jewelry with Nazi ties

Christie's, the auction house, achieved a record sale when it put a jewelry collection belonging to Austrian art collector Heidi Horten on the block. But the auction house also faced a wave of blowback from critics who said it obscured the source of the wealth that purchased the jewelry: Helmut Horten, Heidi's husband and a Nazi Party member who made his

fortune from businesses seized from their Jewish owners.

Christie's pledged to donate a portion of the proceeds to Holocaust research and education, but organizations and institutions devoted to Holocaust memory castigated the auction house, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art called off an event about art restitution that had been organized by Christie's. In August, Christie's canceled a planned second auction of the jewelry.

'Maestro,' the Leonard Bernstein biopic, reignites a debate over 'Jewface'

Controversy over the prosthetic nose Bradley Cooper wore in his biopic about composer Leonard Bernstein began last year, when promotional shots of the movie circulated. But the debate ramped up this year when the first trailer for "Maestro" hit screens ahead of its December premiere.

Was it antisemitic for a non-Jew to put on an elongated nose for a Jewish role? Should non-Jews play Jewish characters at all — a practice some call "Jewface?" Those questions sparked numerous takes online and beyond, but petered out after the ADL and Bernstein's family said they had no objections to the movie, which began streaming on Netflix this week. The makeup artist of "Maestro" apologized anyway.

Synagogues face a string of fake bomb threats

Before reports of rising antisemitism began to dominate the headlines, synagogues across the United States were hit with dozens of bomb threats. All of them were fake, seemingly designed to provoke a police response. Some of the perpetrators targeted synagogues that live streamed their services, such that the congregation could be seen on screen fleeing their pews.

This is not the first time waves of fake bomb threats have hit Jewish institutions, and suspects have been arrested for the incidents, but they have continued throughout the year. One weekend in December, hundreds of synagogues across the country got false bomb threats.

Israel and Saudi Arabia move toward a treaty

One major news story from this year that is now in limbo: prospects for a diplomatic accord between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Before Oct. 7, the Biden administration was pushing for the two countries to normalize relations — a step that would signify significant warming between Israel and the Arab world and that would transform regional relations in the Middle East. It would be a major coup for Israel, which had already established ties with four other Arab nations in recent years.

There appeared to be progress toward a treaty, and the outlines of a deal had been proposed. But what will happen next on that front is unclear: After Oct. 7, Saudi Arabia put the talks on hold.

Employment Opportunity

Programming Coordinator- Congregation B'nai Israel, Sylvania, Ohio

The Programming Coordinator is responsible for planning and coordinating synagogue programs for Congregation B'nai Israel. They will take a "hands-on" approach, and work closely with our clergy and staff to create a warm, caring, and vibrant environment for our members to engage fully in the many opportunities provided at the synagogue.

For more information go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/bddy2t3k> or scan the QR code or contact Gabi Mallin, Administrator at gmallin@cbitoledo.org



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Local

Pancakes with a Purpose

Sunday, January 28

11:30 a.m.

Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave.
\$5 per person or \$18 per family, includes
pancake brunch and supplies for mitzvah
projects



Join us for a morning of public service, pancakes, and passion for our community in Toledo and abroad in Israel. Service projects will benefit our local Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services (JSFSS) Family Food Pantry and families in Israel. This event is open to all Jewish community members wishing to perform mitzvot (good deeds) and chesed (acts of loving kindness).



RSVP by Wednesday, January 24 to
form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily2023 or
Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-
724-0351.



Please bring donations of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, toilet paper, or tissues to donate to the Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services Family Food Pantry.

Fore!

See you on the "course!"

Tuesday, January 30

6 - 8 p.m.

Shawn's Back 9, 7436 W Bancroft St.,
Sylvania
\$18 per person, includes virtual golf, dinner,
and drinks



Please bring snacks to donate to First Tee*

Open to all Jewish community members 21 and up

All are welcome, and no experience is necessary. Bring your twosome (or foursome) and join us for a night of competition, camaraderie, and tons of fun!

**We'll be joined by Adam Reny from First Tee - a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges.*



RSVP by Friday, January 26

It's time to swing into action and sign up today at:
form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms or Sherry
Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



www.jewishtoledo.org

TECH TIPS

The start of a new year often introduces change. One that I'd like to highlight in this month's column involves forthcoming tech programming.

"Device Advice" sessions, to be held Wednesday mornings at Sekach, will replace the former tech programming held on Tuesdays (Tech Tuesdays and virtual reality). During the new Device Advice troubleshooting sessions you will still be encouraged to bring in your mobile device of choice to work through the day's given topic, like password security or travel apps, for instance.



Upcoming Tech Programs
All programs are held on Wednesdays
11 a.m.-noon at the Sekach Bldg
6505 Sylvania Avenue:

All Tech Programs are FREE:

- 1. Jan 10: Device Advice – Apps: Lyft and Uber
- 2. Jan 17: Device Advice – Setting reminders and taking notes
- 3. Jan 24: Device Advice – Web browser maintenance
- 4. Jan 31: Device Advice – Apps: DoorDash and Grubhub

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

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions in advance



Starting in January, virtual reality programs will still be offered at Sekach, but via occasional stand-alone programs (to be advertised via Friday Facts and the monthly Toledo Jewish News) and, more frequently, via small group/individual appointments with me at Sekach. For these small group/individual appointments, I encourage you to contact me to arrange plans. Likewise, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, ideas, or requests you may have.

Thank you for your flexibility during this time; as always, I look forward to helping you navigate technology's ever-changing landscape! Until next month - Tim

Tim Hagen

Project Manager and Technology Coordinator Jewish
Senior, Family and Social Services
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo
6505 Sylvania Avenue
Sylvania, OH 43560
[T] 419-724-0412
[E] Tim@jewishtoledo.org

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January is National Self-Defense Awareness Month – but sometimes just self-awareness isn’t enough.



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Latke lunch provides anniversary for fun



Kicking off the Hanukkah season in Jewish Toledo, our annual latke lunch was held at Temple Shomer Emunim. Lunch featured a delicious spread by Lynn Nusbaum and her team along with entertainment from pianist Josh Silver and bassist Ray Parker.



NextJGen
Next Jewish Generation



Programs especially for post-college to young families.

For more information about Department of Jewish Programs or to register for virtual events, please contact Marnie at marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

Register for all upcoming NJG events at: <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/njg2022>
Any questions? Contact Marnie Younker at marnie@jewishtoledo.org

For all NJG programming information, visit jewishtoledo.org/nextjewishgeneration.



Fore!

Tuesday, January 30
6 - 8 p.m.
Shawn's Back 9, 7436 W Bancroft St., Sylvania
Special discounted price for Next JGen:
\$10 per person, includes virtual golf, dinner, and drinks
**Please bring snacks to donate to First Tee*

Open to all Jewish community members 21 and up

Hey NJG! Don't let the cold weather keep you off the greens! It's about to be tee time for Jewish Toledo! All are welcome, and no experience is necessary. Join us for a night of competition, camaraderie, and tons of fun!

* We'll be joined by Adam Reny from First Tee - a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges.

Sign up today at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/njg2024 or with Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351

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.



Hanukkah
PJ Playdates



Love you a "latke"



Time for a snack break



"Lighting" the Menorah



Counting the 8 nights



Singing and Dancing



Spinning the Dreidel, Dreidel

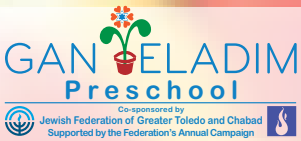
PJ Library



RSVP for all programs
<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily2023>

For more information, contact Marnie Younker at
419-724-0365 or marnie@jewishtoledo.org

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions when registering.



Lights before Hanukkah with PJ and friends

Several families got together last month for an evening of lights, latkes, and pre-Hanukkah fun in the Toledo Zoo Relic Room, located in the Museum of Natural History. Attendees enjoyed crafts, latkes, sweet treats, hot beverages, and more.



PLAYDATES!

Aster and Meyer, besties and confirmed future Gan Yeladim Preschool attendees, recently hung out with their preschool predecessors for a Gan & PJ Library® Playdate.

Interested in learning more about Gan Yeladim Preschool?
Contact Morah Raizel at 419-724-0402 or raizel@jewishtoledo.org.



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PJ Library® is completely FREE
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PJ Library® seeks to engage Jewish families with young children. Each participating child in our community from age six months through eight will receive a high-quality Jewish children's book or CD every month.

Each book and CD comes with resources to help families use the selection in their home. The book and music list has been selected by the foremost children's book experts and includes a wide array of themes related to Jewish holidays, folktales and Jewish family life.

To learn more about PJ Library®
and to ensure your child receives this wonderful gift,
please contact Marnie at marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

*PJ Library® is supported in part by
The Inspiration Fund and
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo.*



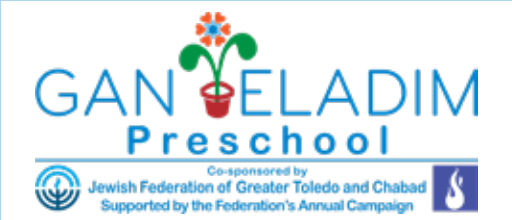
www.jewishtoledo.org



Gan Yeladim donation to Israel

Giving starts early at Gan Yeladim

Last month's Toledo Jewish News mentioned how the older children at Gan Yeladim Preschool recently visited Gust Brothers Farm then invited all parents to come into the Gan Market to do their Shabbat shopping. Afterwards, some of our little friends brought the money over to the Jewish Federation offices to deliver a generous donation for Israel to CEO Stephen Rothschild in person. What a mitzvah!



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Questions?
Contact Hallie Freed at
hallie@jewishtoledo.org or
419-724-0362.



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.

Active Life for 60 and Better



Create & Relate 2024 – Session One

January 11, 2024
Noon – 2:30 p.m.
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
Free event, lunch included



Come and hear important updates from a Social Security representative who has been with their agency over 22 years. Erin Thompson will go over basics on benefits, important updates, and common myths and address hot topics as it relates to Social Security. Social Security is always updating, and you do not want to miss this session!

After the presentation, identify your goals for the new year while learning how to paint using a tape-resist technique.

RSVP by Friday January 5 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.

Save the dates for the next Create and Relate sessions:
Session 2 – March 14
Session 3 – May 9



'tis the Hanukkah season

FOR GATHERING



Several of our one-of-a-kind local seniors took a trip to Gathered Glassblowing Studio last month in downtown Toledo to make one-of-a-kind glass art.



Trip to Henry Ford Museum

Thursday, February 15
10 a.m. – Bus leaves (meet at Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's parking lot)
Approximately 4 p.m. – Bus returns
\$10 per person – includes transportation to/from the museum; minimum campaign gift is required

Let's get out on a winter's day and enjoy the Henry Ford Museum. Take your time to look around. Lunch will be on your own during our stay at the museum. We will load the bus between 9:30 and 10 a.m. We will leave the museum at 3 p.m., returning to the Federation around 4 p.m.

Mobility Disclaimer – This event involves walking and stairs to get on and off the bus.

RSVP required by Friday, February 2 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/Seniors or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

This event is intended for adults 60 and better 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.

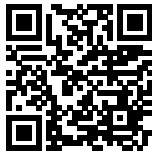
Active Life for 60 and Better

Terrariums for TuB'shevat

Thursday, January 25
Sekach Building,
6505 Sylvania Ave.
12 – 2 p.m.

\$5 per person, includes lunch and terrarium supplies

Celebrate the Jewish new year of the trees by creating a beautiful terrarium with The Green Crow Plants company.



RSVP by Thursday, January 18 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Mahj Jongg Cards

Thank you for purchasing a Mahj Jongg card last year.
Your purchases in 2023 earned \$735.

This year when you purchase a mahj jongg card the money earned will stay in our community to support Hillel419.
The standard card is \$14.00. | The large card is \$15.00.
The National Mah Jongg League will be giving us \$5 for each card purchased. Please continue your support by purchasing 2024 Mah Jongg cards. Enclose your name, address, phone number and e-mail with the size and number of each card you are purchasing,

Make your check payable to Lois Levison and mail to:
Lois Levison, 6634 Kingsbridge Dr, Sylvania, OH, 43560
by January 26, 2024

Thank You,
Lois Levison 419-885-1919 loisz111@aol.com

Perhaps you or a family member are in need of help with senior social services. Maybe you know someone in need of support from a family pantry. Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services offers a range of services to benefit our community. JSFSS has a knowledgeable and caring staff waiting to help you.

Vice President Senior, Family and Social Services Ben Malczewski (419) 724-0408	JSFSS Office Manager and Program Associate Hannah Loeser (419) 724- 0401
Support Services Coordinator Liz Witter, LSW (419) 724-0406	Project Manager and Technology Coordinator Tim Hagen 419-724-0412
Food Pantry and Support Services Coordinator Stacy Willis, LSW, MSW 419-724-0407	

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



Can't join us in person?
Tune in on YouTube at Jewish Toledo



News

Ohio Governor visits Toledo to show support for Jewish community and Israel



Last month, Governor Mike DeWine visited the Jewish Toledo campus and met with community leaders at the Jewish Federation to denounce antisemitism and show his support for the Jewish community and Israel. He also toured Temple Shomer Emunim.



Toledo community shines a light on antisemitism at annual event



Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's (JFGT) annual Shine a Light on Antisemitism event at Congregation Etz Chayim brought together a sold out crowd of multiple faiths and backgrounds on the last night of Hanukkah 2023. After a kosher Hanukkah dinner, Jewish Toledo's Rosemary Chaban and Marcy Kuehnle spoke about the recent spike in anti-semitism.

Following a screening of the final film in the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) fall film series, Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life, was a post-film moderated discussion with Laura Cherner, Community Relations Director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, and Daniel Pearlman, Vice President, Community and Government Relations (JFGT).

The evening concluded with Rabbi Lisa Delson, Temple Shomer Emunim, lighting the menorah for the final night of Hanukkah.



Local



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Gabrielle Mallin, Memorial Associate

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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

BETH SHALOM CEMETER

420 Otter Creek Rd.
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

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419.724.0404

News

Jerry Seinfeld, Montana Tucker among celebs and influencers who have headed to Israel to ‘bear witness’

By Jackie Hajdenberg

Dec. 20, 2023 (JTA) — In the months since Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel, waves of prominent people have made their way to Israel to bear witness to what happened there. Foreign dignitaries, Diaspora rabbis and business leaders have all toured ravaged kibbutzes, met with hostage families and participated in the country’s sweeping volunteer effort.

Now, the influencers have arrived.

Over the last week, a slew of actors, comedians, music executives and social media personalities, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, have visited Israel, showcasing their experiences to their millions of fans and followers on Instagram and TikTok.

Such trips are part of a broad effort to bring people with major audiences to Israel. Last month, James Maslow, one of the stars of Nickelodeon’s band and TV show “Big Time Rush,” visited Israel on a similar, funded trip for celebrities and influencers, whose organizers recently posted on LinkedIn that they were looking for more participants for a December trip.

Here are snapshots from the visits of some of the biggest names broadcasting from Israel right now.

Montana Tucker

Jewish singer and influencer Montana Tucker also arrived in Israel late last week and visited Kfar Aza, one of the kibbutzes hit hardest during the massacres on Oct. 7. She met with representatives from Zaka, the Orthodox Israeli first-responder organization that has been collecting and documenting much of the evidence of the massacres and violence from Oct. 7, and called them “superheroes” in an Instagram story she shared Monday.

“The work they do is unlike any other,” Tucker said. “They had to go collect all of the bodies/body parts after the massacres. The things they have seen... no one should ever have to see in their lives.”

“Will never be able to comprehend how human beings could do this to other human beings,” she added.

Tucker, who has more than 12 million followers on TikTok and Instagram combined, is typically known for her dance videos. Earlier this year, she created a short documentary about her family’s visit to Auschwitz concentration camp in 2022. Since then, she has used her platform to promote Holocaust education awareness, and even interviewed Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff in March about his visit to Auschwitz. Tucker was also in attendance at the United Nations Special Session on Sexual Violence Against Israelis and sang “Hatikva,” the Israeli national anthem, at the close of the session.

While in Israel, she participated in

a flash mob with Noam Ben David, one of the survivors of the Nova Music Festival, who now uses a wheelchair.

Jerry Seinfeld

Jewish Comedian Jerry Seinfeld and his family arrived in Israel Monday and met with the families of Israeli hostages held in Gaza and those recently released from captivity.

In a post shared on Instagram by the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, the organization representing those kidnapped in Gaza, the comedian was pictured wearing a “Bring them home now” dog tag that has become symbolic of the movement.

“It was evident that they were deeply affected by the experiences they heard from the family members and the released hostages,” the post said of the Seinfeld family’s visit with the hostage families.

“We thank the Seinfeld family for their moving visit to the families’ headquarters and their unwavering support for the families of the hostages. We are confident that their support will be a significant and important step in our shared mission to bring about the immediate and safe return home of all the hostages.”

Caroline D’Amore

Caroline D’Amore, a model, actress, DJ, and reality TV star landed in Israel on Dec. 13. She has more than 120,000 Instagram followers and announced on the social media platform last week that she was headed to Israel “instead of trying to sort through comments, news articles and BS propaganda.”

On Dec. 14, D’Amore, who is not Jewish, went to the site of the Nova Music Festival, where she said she immediately began crying, and met with the family of one of the victims of the massacre.

“Attacking innocent party goers is not a fight for freedom. It’s cowardice and cruel and pure evil. Anyone who celebrates this is gone and needs serious help,” she wrote.

“You’ve lost your humanity. Anyone who says this was a resistance to their oppressor is an extremely lost soul,” she added. “Come here. Meet these families. Stand in their shoes.”

D’Amore began sharing posts about the atrocities of Oct. 7 less than two weeks after the massacre, and since then, much of her content has pivoted toward drawing attention to the hostages. Her posts have drawn much criticism both in the comments and from people sharing her videos on other platforms, with allegations of “white supremacy,” “Zionist lies, propaganda and war crimes” and questions as to why she has not addressed the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

“Oct 7th was not a fight for freedom,” she wrote in the post from

the Nova festival site. “It was a group of terrorists trying to kill as many innocent Jewish people as possible and then call home so their parents could be proud of them. This is the truth. This is the terrifying truth of what happened on Oct 7th.”

Debra Messing

Actress and comedian Debra Messing, who has made appearances at the rally for Israel in Washington and at the United Nations Special Session on Sexual Violence Against Israelis, went to Israel for her first time this week — and also made a trip to Gaza with writer and comedian Lee Kern. (Kern is known for co-producing and writing “Who is America,” the political mockumentary series starring Sacha Baron Cohen.) Messing and Cohen were among a group of Jewish celebrities involved in a phone call with TikTok executives criticizing the company for its failure to curb antisemitism on the video platform.

Speaking to conservative British commentator Douglas Murray while in Gaza, Messing said, “I wanted to bear witness and I wanted to thank the troops and I wanted to see what happened here on October 7 and I just wish the whole world could be here and see it in person because nothing can transmit the magnitude of what happened here. But I’m going to do my best to share my experience with everybody. That’s why I’m here.”

Michael Rapaport

Actor and comedian Michael Rapaport, who has been vocal about the Israeli cause since the beginning of the war and spoke at the March for Israel in Washington, has been in Israel for the past week, meeting with released hostages, families of those in captivity, and touring the ravaged kibbutzim with Montana Tucker. Last week, the Jewish comedian appeared on “Eretz Nehederet,” the Israeli late-night comedy show, in a sketch mocking the congressional hearing on university antisemitism, in the style of Harry Potter. (The sketch succeeded another, poorly received one on the same topic on “Saturday Night Live” two days earlier.)

Though Rapaport has become popular for his advocacy regarding the release of hostages, support for the Israeli army, and calling out antisemitism, he has gained a reputation for his incendiary language related to Palestinians, and also for posting graphic content related to the war.

Scooter Braun

Music executive Scooter Braun, known for managing the careers of Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Demi Lovato, Kanye West and Taylor Swift

— the last of which ended in an ownership dispute over the rights to her own music — has spent the past two months using his various social media platforms to draw attention to the hostages and the rise in antisemitism that has accompanied the war in Gaza.

On Monday, Braun, who is Jewish, visited Kibbutz Be’eri, near the Gaza border.

“Today... was...a... day,” he shared on Instagram. “I am deeply glad I came. This is not a political trip. This is about humanity and support for those innocent lost on October 7th and the hostages still missing. What I saw and witnessed today will never leave me. I felt pain for the entire region. I saw it with my own eyes. I saw pain and sadness and grief while all at the same moment witnessing love and hope and conviction. I walked away overwhelmed and empowered all at once.”

Emily Austin

Jewish sports reporter and social media influencer Emily Austin called her visit to Israel an “emotional roller coaster.”

“Tears, smiles, and screaming (we encountered multiple close calls) and everything in between,” she wrote in an Instagram post Friday. “I’m grateful to be in country [sic] full of such special people, who put their lives on the line every day to protect their existence. I am proud to be an Israeli, forever and always.”

Austin, along with Caroline D’Amore, visited some of the kibbutzim that were attacked on Oct. 7, and wrote in another post that “pictures and videos will never do justice to depict the evil that occurred this day.”

Gregg Sulkin

Actor in Marvel’s “The Runaways” and former Disney Channel star Gregg Sulkin arrived in Israel Tuesday morning and spoke with families of the hostages. He also met with Moran Yanai, a jewelry designer from Beersheba who was kidnapped from the Nova Music Festival and released from captivity on Nov. 29.

“Returning to the Western Wall, years after my Bar Mitzvah, I felt a profound connection to my heritage,” the Jewish actor wrote on Instagram. “Standing here, I am reminded of the enduring spirit and resilience of the Jewish people. In the shadow of these ancient stones, I reflect on our everlasting prayers for peace. Proud of my roots, humbled by our history, and committed to a future where peace reigns supreme.”

He also shared a picture of his hostages dog tag and an Israeli flag emoji.

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo

Birthright is resuming its free trips to Israel for the first time since Oct. 7

By Deborah Danan
(JTA) — Birthright Israel on Tuesday announced that it would resume its free, 10-day educational trips to Israel in January after suspending them amid the ongoing war with Hamas.

Around 350 participants, students and young adults primarily from the United States, are expected to travel to Israel beginning the week of Jan. 5, 2024, the organization said in a statement.

The 350 participants are a small fraction of the 23,000 Birthright had planned to send to Israel this year. Still, the resumption of the programs is a powerful symbol of a potential return to normalcy for Israel, which has been in war mode since Hamas' attack on Oct. 7. Even as Israeli leaders say they are unwilling to put an end date on their military operations in Gaza, universities are gearing up to reopen Dec. 31 and on Monday, the government raised limits on gathering sizes, citing reduced concerns about rocket attacks.

The decision to resume Birthright trips was made after "careful consideration and conversations" with the group's local partners in Israel, the group's statement said, and will "operate under strict safety and security standards" set by the Israel Defense Forces' Homefront Command.

Birthright CEO Gidi Mark said that while the trips will continue to prioritize the organization's goals of "positive Jewish identity building," they will also incorporate a focus on the Hamas attack and its impact on Israeli society and Jewish communities around the world.

"Everything is different post-Oct.

7 from an educational perspective. The people of Israel are different and the young adults arriving to Israel are different," Mark told JTA. "We are preparing the educational teams to deal with broad discussions and an open dialogue. We believe that participants will come to explore and learn about what happened and what is occurring now, and also share about the reality back home and the rise of antisemitism."

Travel to and from Israel has been limited to Israeli carriers since Oct. 7, and the war has taken a steep toll on tourism.

Last month, Birthright announced the launch of volunteer programs in Israel after it canceled its regular scheduled trips for December amid security concerns. More than 3,300 of its alumni had applied to volunteer in kibbutzes and other Israeli communities "to harvest crops in the absence of the thousands of foreign field workers," the organization said in a statement at the time.

Even with the resumption of its regular programs, the two-week volunteer trips – which are exclusively for Birthright alumni – would continue in tandem, Mark told JTA.

"Naturally, alumni of January classic trips will be able to extend their stay in Israel, for an additional two-week volunteering experience," he added.

Birthright Israel has brought some 850,000 young Jewish adults to Israel on a free tour of Israel since its launch in 1999. The organization had previously canceled trips only once before, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Facing financial woes, it has scaled in the years since.



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.

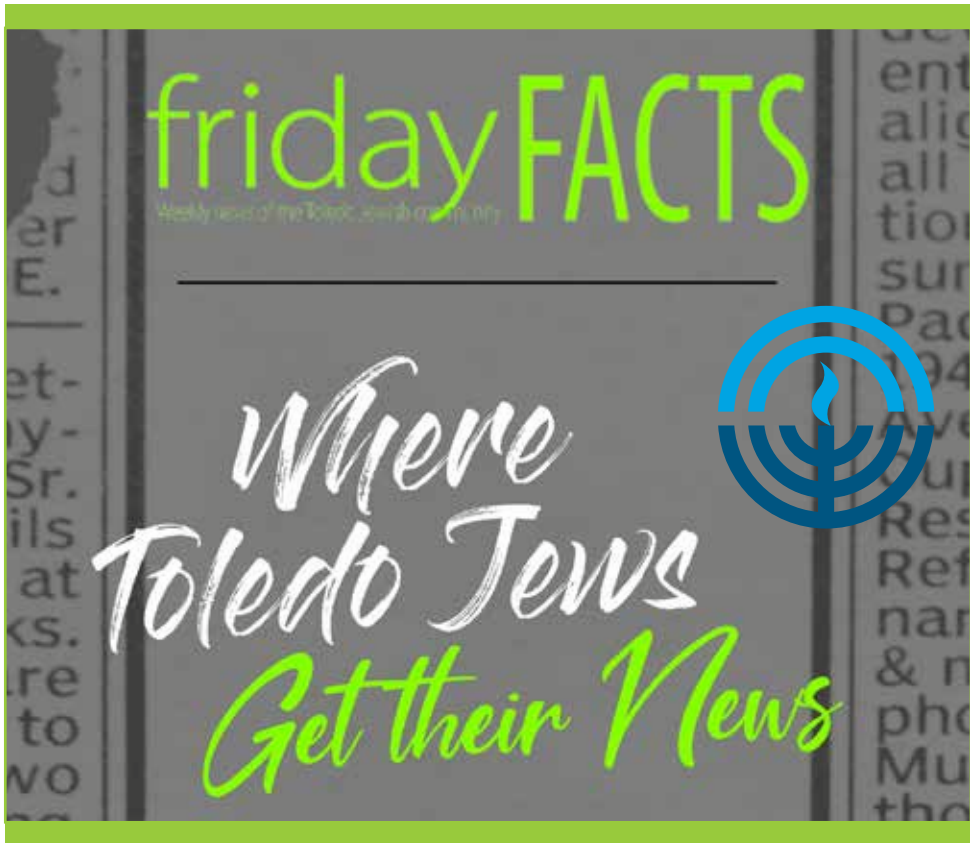
If you are unable to attend any Federation sponsored event after the cancellation deadline has passed, you may nominate a substitute participant at no additional cost. Please notify Sherry Majewski (sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351) of the substitution at least 24 hours before the event.

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.



Temple Shomer Emunim



The Gift of Mindfulness Wednesday, January 31 at 7pm

Join us for the Temple's mindfulness program. We will explore different dimensions of mindfulness practice - different kinds of meditation, Jewish text study, small group conversations, and real-life practices that you can carry into your everyday life. You can join in person OR join

on Zoom: (Contact Temple office for Zoom info).



Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 12 at 6pm, we will once again welcome guests to our congregation to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will join together with special guests the **Toledo Choral Society, Reverend John Walthall** and members of **Mt. Ararat Baptist Church**, and others for an inclusive Shabbat service followed by a musical tribute and oneg Shabbat following services. In today's atmosphere of rising intolerance, let us join together to continue to work for peace for all.



Join Amy Nistel and Cantor Jen Roher on Saturday, January 27 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 link.



Shabbat Shirah

On January 26 join us for a special Shabbat Shirah service. We will celebrate the Torah portion when the Israelites cross the sea to freedom, and sing the Song of the Sea, by chanting Torah during our Friday evening service so everyone can experience the beauty of this unique section of the Torah. Join us for this special service!



Introduction to Judaism and Hebrew Thursdays beginning January 11 | 7-9pm

Join Rabbi Delson for an inclusive and engaging way to learn more about Judaism and brush up on your prayerbook Hebrew. Each class will offer one hour of the basics of Judaism and one hour of Hebrew. This class is great for anyone who is interested in converting to Judaism, anyone in an interfaith relationship regardless of conversion, and anyone who wants to know why Jewish holidays fall on a different day each year. Registration is required by December 27. Open to members and non-members. The cost of the class is \$36 to cover the cost of the book. For questions contact Rabbi Delson at rabbidelson@templese.com.

To register call or email Wendy Payne wpayne@templese.com



Torah Today

Saturday, January 20
9:30-10:30am

Let my people go! Join Rabbi Delson for a study of Parashat Bo, part of the story of Passover. We will take an in-depth look at the Torah text, what the Rabbis had to say about it, and how it relates to us today. Bagels and coffee will be served.



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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

Documentary & Film Series at CBI

"Somebody Feed Phil" Tel Aviv

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:00 PM

RSVP by Monday, January 8, 2024

"Everybody Loves Raymond" creator Phil Rosenthal travels the globe to take in the local cuisine and culture of Bangkok, Lisbon, Mexico City and more. In vibrant Tel Aviv, Phil reconnects with old friends over shakshuka, visits a synagogue-themed hummus shop and meets "the princess of soup".

"The United States of Elie Tahari"

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 1:00 PM

RSVP by Monday, January 12, 2024

For more than 50 years, fashion designer and mogul Elie Tahari has been living the "American Dream." He arrived in New York in 1971 with less than \$100 in his pocket, slept on benches in Central Park, and went on to build a billion-dollar empire.

"Kosher Beach"

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 1:00 PM

RSVP by Monday, January 22, 2024

"The Kosher Beach" is a gated and secluded 100 meter-long strip of beach with dedicated days for women and men to bathe separately. The "Brave Bunch", a secret female orthodox sisterhood, arrive to what is a source of quiet sanity for them. Here they can be themselves, until the day the Rabbi's try to close the beach. What will the girls do? Will they give in or fight?

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.

WCBI BOOK CLUB:

"Around the World on Two Wheels" and/or "Spin" by Peter Zheutlin

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:30 AM at CBI

RSVP to Ellen Federman at efederman@sbcglobal.net by Sunday, January 21, 2023.

OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

Parashat Hashavuah: Torah Portion of the Week Discussion with Miriam Beckerman

Friday, January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024
11:00 AM at CBI

THIS PROGRAM IS FOR CBI MEMBERS ONLY

Connecting Kids to Meals Volunteer Event

Wednesday, January 11, 2024

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.

4-12 volunteers will be putting together packages of food for children in need that live in the Toledo area.

RSVP Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org to by Jan. 4, 2024.

The CBI office will be CLOSED

Monday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day
Monday, Jan. 15 MLK Day Observed

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS:

A Night of Stars! Visit to the Planetarium

Saturday, February 3, 2024 7:00 PM

Lourdes Appold Planetarium, 6832 Convent Blvd.

Get ready to explore the universe and the outer galaxies after Havdalah at the Planetarium.

Cost is \$10 per person, \$25 per family.

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

WCBI Celebrates

Rosh Chodesh Adar I

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 11 AM at CBI

More details will be included in the February Bulletin

"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!

More details will be included in the February Bulletin

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

MAHJ & POKER GAMES PLANNED

Maj and Poker Games are planned for Sunday, January 7th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone is invited. Snacks will be served.

FIRESIDE CHAT SCHEDULED

Join us for a Fireside Chat on Saturday evening, January 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Danny & Cindy Becker. Rabbi Dov Ber Fridman, the new rabbi at Chabad House, will be leading the discussion. Everyone is invited. Dessers will be served.

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

A Tu B'Shevav Seder will be held on Sunday, January 14th at 10:00 a.m. Phyllis Wittenberg will be leading an interactive seder with traditional Israeli fruit.

GLASS MAKING CLASS

Etz Chayim Sisterhood is planning a Glass Making class with Ellen Rubin on Sunday, January 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Make your own creation of plates, bowls or jewelry! Please let Cheryl Berkowitz or Andrea Lublin know if you are interested.

ANNUAL FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER

Everyone is invited to the Annual Family Shabbat Dinner on Friday evening, January 26, 2024. Services begin at 5:25 p.m. with a traditional Shabbat Dinner following. Reservations are required.



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With tremendous appreciation to Almighty G-d, and with the support of the Lenny Rosenberg Endowment Fund, we are proud to introduce "Lenny Cares", Toledo's newest Jewish adult community network.

Just like Lenny OBM himself saw things, at Lenny Cares, every Jew is relevant and plays a leading role in shaping Toledo's Jewish life. From leadership and volunteer opportunities, to unifying events and individualized connection, Lenny Cares aims to empower, engage, and connect all Jewish adults and seniors.

Headed by Rabbi Dov Ber & Mrs. Rivka Fridman, Lenny Cares endeavors to empower our lay leaders, help those in need, and stand as partners and friends to the Jewish adult community. The Fridmans will provide engaging adult-centered learning experiences, meaningful holiday events, and uplifting Jewish enrichment opportunities.

For more information, please contact:

Rabbi Dov Ber: 917-742-9803
lennycares@chabadtoledo.com

Rivka Fridman: 347-882-6667
chabadtoledo.com/lennycares

To our visionary matchers, our donors, supporters, and every single person who helped make Chabad's Annual Matching Campaign a success, we are so deeply grateful.

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Please note: Classified ads will run every month (and the purchaser will be billed) until notification of cancellation is received.

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JOIN MACCABI MEDIA IN LONDON



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- Covering the USA delegation at the European Maccabi Youth Games

London, England

July 28 - August 6, 2024

Videography, Editing & Feature Production

Sports Reporting, Writing & Interviewing

Social Media Game & Event Coverage

Apply Here

MEDIA TEAM REGISTRATION CLOSING JAN. 14, 2024

More Info

Contact: Neal Slotkin at nslotkin@maccabiusa.com

EUROPEAN MACCABI YOUTH GAMES

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Building Jewish Pride Through Sports

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DETROIT

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For Jewish athletes representing their communities

JCC MACCABI GAMES® DETROIT

Join 2,000 Jewish teens from across the globe for an Olympic-style sports experience. Be part of the magic!

SPORTS SPECIALTIES IN DETROIT

3v3 Basketball
5v5 Basketball
Baseball
Dance
Golf Ice Hockey

Soccer
Star Reporter
Swimming
Table Tennis
Tennis
Volleyball

Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

Collage of photos showing various sports activities.

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#WeAreJCCMaccabi
jccmaccabi.org

For more information, contact:
Hallie Freed
hallie@jewishtoledo.org
419-724-0392

Local

I am curious

We specialize in happy children.

I am curious ...
I love taking my magnifying glass outside into our Gan nature center. In the summer, I observe the bees pollinating the flower bushes. In the Fall, I collect lots of acorns and cook with them in our mud kitchen. In the winter, I explore the different footprints in the snow and connect with local wildlife. I can't wait for spring to see ducks and birds build nests and lay eggs.

Are you curious?
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www.jewishtoledo.org/about-us/gan-yeladim-preschool
Register by January 31 and receive a \$25 gift card to Sylvania Playland



Two new Shinshinim visit Jewish Toledo

Last month, Jewish Toledo welcomed Maya and Yonatan, two Shinshinim (18-year-old Israeli emissaries) to Toledo, where they attended services at Temple Shomer Emunim and Congregation B’nai Israel, led a teen program with BBYO and USY, and led educational activities for religious school students. They are spending this school year in Cleveland working with Jewish teens as part of a competitive gap year program before they join the IDF next year.

We are grateful for our partners at the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for working with us to bring Maya and Yonatan to Toledo, and we look forward to welcoming them back this month and again in April.



Working Together Through this Moment

In late November, local teens and parents came together for an event at Temple Shomer Emunim, called Working Together in this Moment. Held in conjunction with Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo, Congregation B’nai Israel, Chabad House of Toledo, and Temple Shomer Emunim, the program was designed or attendees to process the current challenging time. Topics included Israel education, responding to and dealing with antisemitism, coping with fear and anxiety, and Jewish pride.





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

MAKE ROBBERY RISKY

Every day on the news there is a story of a retail business, a restaurant or an individual being robbed. There are ways to make a suspect or would be robber decide not to take the risk to rob a particular business, restaurant or individual. Some of these tips are simple, others may require a little more effort.

Robbery is a crime against the person and a frightening experience. It can result in injury or even death to the victim. In protecting your business or yourself from robbery, it is important to remember to take preventive measures and make it obvious that those measures have been taken.

How to Discourage Robbery

- Avoid working alone. If you must, turn on a hidden radio or TV so robbers will think there is someone with you.
- Vary the schedule and route for your bank deposits each day. Keep only necessary cash in the drawer. Then, if you are robbed, you will reduce your losses.
- Make sure your cash register is clearly visible to passers-by. Arrange the counter so that the customer or robber is visible from the street.
- Avoid placing signs or displays near windows which block visibility from the street.
- If your business runs an exceptionally substantial risk of robbery, you may want to invest in a bullet-proof cashier screen. A screen "defuses" the robber's threat, but other prevention measures may be equally effective at lower cost.
- Display signs at entrances and exits indicating that safes require secondary keys not in the possession of employees.
- Advertise your security alarm system with signs in visible locations. Make sure your employees know how to operate a panic button if one is included in your alarm system.
- Develop a mutual aid system among stores on your block. Agree to keep an eye on each other's buildings and watch out for any suspicious activities. Install buddy buzzer alarms so you can signal your neighbor to call law enforcement if you are being robbed.

More Tips

- Record the serial number of the bottom bill in each bin of the cash drawer and instruct employees not to use these bills in making change.
- Place colored tape markers at exits, at heights of 5 feet 6 inches and 6 feet. If you are robbed, you can then get an accurate estimate of the suspect's height as he or she leaves.
- Keep bait money in a spare compartment of cash registers. The bait packet should be separated by face value as other bills. Keep a list of the serial numbers to give to law enforcement officials if you are robbed.

If a Robbery Happens

- Someone points a gun at you and demands your money. What do you do? Give it to him. Never refuse a robber!
- If you have a silent alarm button and can reach it un-noticed, use it. Otherwise, wait until the robber leaves. (Use your alarm with care. Excessive false alarms can cause problems for law enforcement and for you).
- If possible, signal other employees - have a prearranged signal for such emergencies. Again, if the robber will see you, wait. Try to avoid sudden moves. Many robbers are just as nervous as you are.
- The most important thing to do if you are robbed is observe. The description of the suspect you give to law enforcement may be the only information they have to go on.

After a Robbery! Call 9-1-1.

- Write down everything you can remember about the robber and the crime itself: the robber's appearance (height, weight, color of hair and eyes, scars, tattoos, accent, anything unusual) and as much as possible about his clothing, weapon, and mannerisms. Try to remember the robber's exact words and try to observe any vehicle the robber uses to get away and the direction of travel.
- Keep everyone away from the surfaces or objects the robber may have touched.
- Cooperate fully with the law enforcement and prosecutors. Your help is crucial.

Always remain calm, give up the money without protest. Your well-being is more important than any property or money you lose in a robbery.



94%

of Hillel students say being Jewish will continue to be important to them after graduation.

All Kinds of Jewish

We are uniquely focused on serving all types of Jewish young adults, no matter who they are or how they express their Judaism.



Campus Collaborations

Building new relationships with the greater campus community with 57 on-campus events this semester, engaging over 600 college students!

200+

Programs offered to our Hillel419 community

Helping to inspire more students to create a connection to Jewish life and learning that begins in college and lasts a lifetime.



52

Weeks of Shabbat Dinners

Providing a sense of community and belonging.

Hillel419 a look back at 2023



150+

Cups of Coffee

Engaging young adults and cultivating a Jewish community in Northwest Ohio.

50 Young Adults

Supporting the Jewish leaders of tomorrow - today - with our new young professionals group!



Creating programming with a goal of serving the community.

64 Tikkun Olam Events

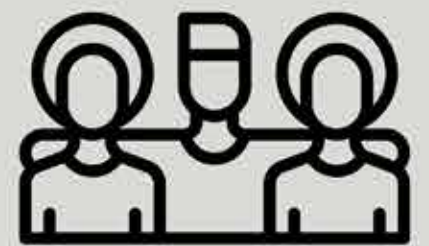


1

Trip to Israel

Increasing connectedness to - and pride in - Israel during a once in a lifetime trip.

200+ Alumni



Hillel's Alumni program dedicated to serving Jewish students at BG and UT.

Expanded Wellness Support

Strengthening wellness support to meet students needs by promoting community and connection.

"Hillel is a place where I can be with people who I know will always be there for me and care about me. It has been the happiest part of my college experience."

-McKenna Gallagher

100+

Holiday Boxes

Making Jewish holidays meaningful from the comfort of their dorm!



Jewish Federation
& Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Hillel419 is generously supported by Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo and Hillel International.