

# Toledo Jewish News

The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo

Jewish Federation  
& Foundation  
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Iyar/Sivan 5780 • May 2020



## Connecting

Dear friends,

The pandemic has interrupted our lives for nearly seven weeks now. It has disrupted things and has forced us all to face our biggest fear. That fear is not COVID-19, illness in general, or death, but change. Far too often we are comfortable with the status quo. We put off making hard decisions, learning new skills, making peace with friends or loved ones, getting into a new exercise routine, eating healthy, or planning for our financial futures. The pandemic has forced change to take place in our lives and gives us an incredible opportunity to overcome our fear of change. Despite all the negatives that COVID-19 has brought to our community, nation, and world, what are the some of the positives? I want to share with you

some of the positive changes happening in our community lately:

1. People have learned new technical skills that allow them to connect virtually with friends, family, and associates near and far.

2. We have been able to provide financial support to the YMCA of Greater Toledo for its food needs in connection with child-care for children of first responders and healthcare workers during the pandemic.

3. We have benefitted directly and significantly from our connections with Jewish Federations of North America, which has produced and made available to us timely and critical resources regarding federal COVID-19 relief legislation, best practices on facility closure and security issues, virtual programming, and tools to plan for the future. To

learn more, visit [www.jewishtgether.org](http://www.jewishtgether.org).

4. We have connected with our brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world to share our common stories, experiences, and values by observing Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) together online.

5. We have grown closer to our partnership region in the Western Galilee of Israel as we share resources for online learning and experiences.

And, perhaps the most important positive of all, is how we have been reminded that, when the chips are down, we will always have our relationships. We will always have each other – our families, friends, and our

**Connecting continued on page 9**

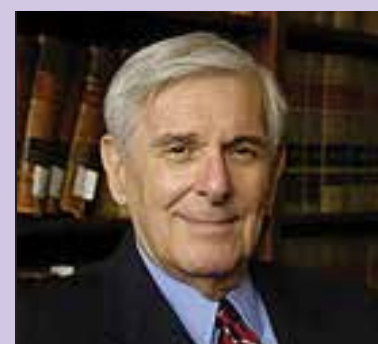
## INSIDE This Issue



Page 8  
Next Jewish Generation



Page 8  
Tsedakah Box Squared



Page 14  
Alan Mayor Sokobin  
1926 - 2020

-----LABEL GOES HERE----->

# Toledo Jewish Community Foundation

## Donor Advised Funds make giving easy

By Emily Gordon

Many approach their birthdays with trepidation due to life's uncertainties.

Scott Liber used a milestone birthday as an opportunity to help allay some of his community's uncertainties.

On his birthday 12 years ago, Liber was inspired to open a Donor Advised Fund, also known as a Philanthropic Fund, through Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.

A DAF is a charitable fund that allows the donor or designee to recommend grants to qualifying charities.

A like-minded Jewish Toledoan suggested he open the fund.

"I set up my DAF on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday after a lunch with Don Solomon. He said I've been very lucky and successful in my life and that he thought it'd be a good idea for me to set something like this up to give back, and I did," Liber recalled.

He counts community leaders like Joel Beren and Howard Rosenbaum, who donate their time as well as their monetary gifts to Jewish Toledo, as additional inspiration for opening the fund.

It's easy to see why the community and its future mean so much to Liber and his wife Cindy.

They were both born and raised in Toledo and have lived here their whole lives.

Although Cindy came from a Catholic family, she and Scott have

raised their children Jewishly and have kept a Jewish home.

Cindy said she found Jewish Toledo to be "so special" early in the couple's marriage when she was warmly welcomed and embraced by the community.

"My mother always said to me 'whatever you do, do it with all your heart.' I found out with this community that, if you're willing to put yourself out there and say you want to be involved, they will include you wholeheartedly. It was a huge thing for me," Cindy said.

Scott and Cindy's children Zack and Sarah were very involved in the Toledo Jewish community growing up, she said, attending Gan Yeladim Preschool, JCC camps, and Chabad programs.

Sarah enjoyed going to Jewish summer camp at Camp Ramah in Canada and Zach "did every sport offered" at the JCC.

Cindy's mother was her children's biggest supporter and fan, going out of her way to be present on the Federation campus for all their programs and sporting events.

Scott's parents, step-mother, and grandparents were all community leaders in Jewish Toledo, serving on JCC and Federation boards.

Scott has served on the Foundation board for many years.

Part of the reason why the he established a DAF through Foundation to give back to Jewish Toledo was the knowledge that the

funds would stay local, Scott said.

"We've seen the funding in action here through programming and we like keeping the money here to add our support," he said.

In addition to their DAF, Cindy is involved in women's philanthropy as a Lion of Judah. The family's legacy of giving shines when she wears her husband's grandmother Jeanie's Lion pin.

"I'm really proud to wear her pin and to be a part of the family because they are so generous," Cindy said.

The couple hopes the combination of their involvement in the Jewish community and their DAF inspires their children to give back to Jewish Toledo in the future.

"You raise your children a certain way and hope they follow through in becoming adults with the same values. You always hope your children will give back to the community they came from," she said, noting that Zach recently moved back to Toledo and Sarah is studying nursing. "They both are outreaching. We gave our children those opportunities to give back, and if you're willing to do that, they're willing to give back. At least, ours have been. We're so proud of them both," Cindy said.

Scott agreed.

"We all like to help others and we're big believers in 'you have to give to receive.' We've received a lot and I guess that means it's time for

us to give," he said.

Setting up a DAF was the most fitting way for him and his wife to give, he added, as it is one of the easiest and most tax-advantages ways to give to a charity.

Gifts of cash or any kind of property, including securities, stock, insurance, and real estate, can be used to establish a DAF. "Some people don't like to give a gift in cash, so if you have other assets such stock you can make a gift this way and save tax. Foundation makes it painless."

"Scott and Cindy's gift to the Foundation is a beautiful testament to L'Dor V'Dor, From Generation to Generation, as they follow in the path of their parents and grandparents. Their DAF enables them to learn about causes which align with their philanthropic passions and to fund meaningful programs, said Arleen R. Levine, Director of the Foundation."

A DAF provides individuals with the flexibility to support a broad range of charitable interests. Donors retain the right to make recommendations to qualified charities from their fund throughout their lifetime and can even provide for a successor generation to follow in their footsteps."

**For more information about establishing a DAF, contact Levine at 419-724-0355 or Arleen@jewishtoledo.org.**

Think about the future.  
An endowment is forever.



Jewish Federation  
& Foundation  
OF GREATER TOLEDO

For more information please contact  
Arleen R. Levine, Director, Toledo Jewish Community Foundation  
at 419-724-0355 or email Arleen@jewishtoledo.org.



Jewish Family Service  
Micki Pittman, Volunteer Coordinator  
419-724-0407 | [Mckenzie@JewishToledo.org](mailto:Mckenzie@JewishToledo.org)



# Jewish Family Service

## Moving Forward with Loss:

*A grief support group for those who've lost a spouse*

Third Tuesday of each month

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Jewish Family Service Sekach Building  
Dinner locations to be determined

One of the most important factors in healing from grief is the support of other people. Having support from your family, friends, or a community of others who have also experienced grief allows you to feel that someone else “gets it.” Being able to share your story or your feelings may be vital to healing. There is a safe place to share and listen to others, where your faith and values are very similar. You can always attend our support group and just listen. You won’t be asked to speak unless you’re comfortable and you might feel better just being surrounded by a community (your community) with some understanding of the depth of your grief.

JFS programs are temporarily suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please check your May issue of the Toledo Jewish News or your weekly Friday Facts e-newsletter for updates or call JFS at 419-724-0401.

## JFS CAN LOWER YOUR COST OF IN-HOME CARE

- Being discharged from the hospital or rehab?
- Need an extra hand with household chores?

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE CAN HELP!

*\*Subsidy available for up to 21 hours per week to those who qualify.*



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE IS YOUR CONNECTION TO AFFORDABLE, QUALITY CARE PROVIDERS

Contact Liz Witter, LSW  
419-724-0406

## GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Do you have an iPod you're no longer using?



## DONATE IT!

Donations of equipment support Jewish Family Service of Greater Toledo's Music & Memory™ Program. Donated iPods are customized with personal playlists and loaned to older adults in the Jewish community.

Donations to:  
Jewish Family Service  
6505 Sylvania Avenue  
Sylvania, Ohio 43560

For more information about Jewish Family Service and the partnership with the Music & Memory Program, please contact:

Micki Pittman, LSW  
mckenzie@jewishtoledo.org  
419-724-0407



## We're here for YOU

JFS is here for your emergency needs!

We have access to food, emergency funding, and volunteers!

Let us know how we can help, or just call us if you want to talk.

419-724-0401



Caring for Your Aging Parents: a panel discussion and Q&A  
Tuesday, May 12

JFS programs are temporarily suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please check your May issue of the Toledo Jewish News or your weekly Friday Facts e-newsletter for updates or call JFS at 419-724-0401.

## Wanted

Creative people, theatrical talent, actors, and improv performers for a resiliency project with JFS. Please contact Shari Bernstein at 419-724-0408.



# Jewish Family Service

## Resiliency, brain chemistry, and small acts of kindness

By Shari Bernstein

The following is the story of Yankel, a survivor of Auschwitz, in his own words:

*“Yankel, a survivor of the Holocaust, runs a bakery in the New York neighborhood of Crown Heights. One day, he explained: “Do you know why I’m still alive today? When I was a child, only a teenager, I was with other Jews on the train on our way to Auschwitz. Night was falling and it was freezing in the wagons, a real deadly cold.*

*The Germans left the trains on the side of the road all night, sometimes for several days in a row, without any food and any blankets to keep us warm. An elderly man was sitting next to me, a sweet old Jew from my city. I knew him, but I had never seen him like that. He was shaking from head to toe and looked terrified.*

*I then wrapped him in my arms and began rubbing him to warm him up. I rubbed his arms, legs, face and neck. I begged him to stay strong and hold on. All night long, I was keeping this man warm that way. I was tired, my fingers were frozen, but I did not stop rubbing the body of this man.*

*Hours passed like this. Morning arrived again and the sun started to shine. A little ray entered the cabin and I looked around the wagon to see if any of the other Jews had survived...*

*To my dismay, all I could find was frozen bodies, and all I could hear was the silence of death. No one else in the cabin had survived the night, they had all died of the cold... Only two people had survived: the old man and me. He did because someone had kept him warm and I did because I was keeping someone warm.*

*Let me tell you a secret of Judaism: when you warm the hearts of others, you warm yourself, and when you seek to support, encourage and inspire others, you find support, encouragement and inspiration in your own life.” – The Story of Yankel, Survivor of Auschwitz, from [www.torah-box.net](http://www.torah-box.net)*

I like this story for many reasons. First, it hits us in a place deep down as a story that ties us, as Jews, together. We all feel it. Second, it speaks of connection and warmth and how they fuel life. Third, it illustrates resiliency. The word resiliency is overused these days. The Oxford

Dictionary defines it as:

1. *The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.*

2. *The ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.*

I think of resiliency lately in terms of how we, as a community, can bounce back from isolation and quarantine and the disconnect that has occurred because of it. This disconnect affects all of us. Though we have technology to create connection, without direct human contact, there is still a cut-off on a soul level. In fact, science supports this cut-off at a chemical level, too. When you engage with and like others, lots of things happen in your brain. Some areas get more stimulated, and over time may grow bigger or become smaller. Your brain releases certain hormones like adrenaline, dopamine (a feel-good neurotransmitter), and oxytocin (a.k.a. the “love hormone”). These are just a few examples of many that have influence on how you feel and how your body reacts. Your focus and concentration adjusts and your heartbeat, blood pressure, ability to digest food, etc., all change. Some people think this explains only romantic connections, but the process happens with all types of relationships that we have with one another.

The changes in your brain and body are from the release of hormones. The releases cause reactions, that trigger other reactions, that in turn trigger more reactions, and so on to make you feel like you do. This chemistry shows that we as humans are wired to be together. When we aren’t together, much of this chemistry isn’t happening, and that is the foundation for a lot of mental health issues. It is also probably a big reason as to why people use substances and get addicted. When we drink or use drugs, we are altering our brain chemistry. With long term use, the brain will assimilate to the alcohol or drug, and then when it doesn’t have it, the brain screams for more.

Dopamine is a big player in dependency. It’s naturally produced in the brain, but when

we use substances frequently, the brain stops making its own dopamine because it figures it doesn’t have to if we are supplying it externally. This is how dependency works; when people need substances to feel “okay.” The effect is similar to how medications work for mental illnesses, with dopamine, serotonin, and other chemicals. The fact of the matter is that many people are feeling lonely right now, particularly our elderly community members, those with mental health issues, and those with substance abuse issues, whose struggle may be ignited by isolation. Those who are mostly healthy, though, are likely feeling the loss of connection, too.

Recently, I listened in on a webinar from the Consulate General of Israel in New York and the Israel Trauma Coalition called Mental Health in the Time of Covid-19. My previous thoughts on the matter were mirrored and lifted up by the webinar’s speaker Talia Levanon, ITC director. We have a choice every day in how we deal with this pandemic, Levanon told us. We have to adapt, maintain, and find ways to connect. This too shall pass, and it will pass easier if we work together. As we are all faced with new spiritual, intellectual, and social challenges, we are one people sharing the same reality. We can train ourselves to refocus on our strengths and on our blessings. We can help one another by reaching out to all members of our community. And, she added, we should probably limit our exposure to the media. While the media keeps us informed with the latest safety guidelines, it can also stoke fear.

Suffice it to say, there are ways to overcome seclusion and our feelings that go along with it. The power of positivity, changing how we look at our world, and random acts of kindness can change things for us. The idea of how engaging in acts of kindness will make us feel better while making someone else feel better is also backed by science. Acts of kindness can release hormones that contribute to your mood and overall wellbeing.

The warm feeling of well-being that washes over us when we’ve done something kind is due to dopamine and oxytocin being released, making us feel rewarded. The practice is so effective that it’s formally incorporated into some types of “positive” counseling and therapies.

Federation and Jewish Family Service staff have been reaching out to community members during the pandemic. It doesn’t necessarily solve the need for face to face interaction, but it is a start. It also brings on the power of positivity in a situation that feel like an endless and ongoing redundancy. In any case, reaching out to others, whether it’s through a phone call, a grocery run, meal prep, a tire change, or other deed helps our brain chemistry, and does so in a healthy way. Once this pandemic is over, we can look at ways to reconnect and to be physically together again.

Maybe we can take a look at how we can be there for one another when things go awry, or when we hear of families and community members who struggle with mental health, addiction, divorce, and loss. Our history of doing so is not so positive. We tend to hide away to deal with our issues alone or with a very small group of people, concerned that others will learn our private business and gossip about us. I assure you, they will and they do. But as Jews, as a *gutte neshuma*, (good soul), and as humans, it is our job to lift one another up; to thrive, not alone, but as a community. We’ve forgotten this somewhere along the way in a world of instant gratification and individuation.

Our goal at JFS is to recreate connection and to be the heart of the community – the safe spot. You’ll see in coming months that we are working on projects to promote resiliency with ongoing endeavors that will be of interest to everyone. We hope you will join us in helping to create the warmth, love, and connection that we all need to survive, individually and together. In the meantime, our best wishes go out to each of you for your health and safety.



# Active Life for 60 and Better



## Anniversary Luncheon Thursday, June 18

**CANCELED**

*requested by Friday, June 5*



Jewish Living Center programs are temporarily suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please check your June issue of the Toledo Jewish News or your weekly Friday Facts e-newsletter for updates.

Join us for food and friendship as we celebrate our “Sweet 16.” The Boogie Woogie Kid Matthew Ball will perform classic favorites like Ain’t Misbehavin’ and It Had to Be You. Be sure to wear your dancing shoes!



View the most up to date event & class schedules to plan your next visit.  
Download our new “Jewish Toledo” app:



To register for a Jewish Living Center Program, please call Stephanie Hinamon at 419-531-2119 #2 or email [registration@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:registration@jewishtoledo.org) or sign up on the Jewish Toledo app. For questions about a program, please call René Rusgo at 419-531-2119 #1 or email [rene@JewishToledo.org](mailto:rene@JewishToledo.org).

# Healthy Living

Our approach to aging includes promoting a healthy lifestyle. By offering a series of wellness programs, the JLC helps those in our community achieve their health goals.

## MONDAYS

### Get Fit...It's Never Too Early 9 – 10 a.m. AND 11 a.m. - noon

Your favorite class kicks off your day with a comprehensive workout featuring cardio, strength, and flexibility. Balls, bands, chairs, and light weights are used in the class. All classes feature great music. *All supplies are provided.*  
No class on April 8, 10, 15.

### Drumming 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

A full-body workout for any fitness level that anyone can do. Drumsticks are pounded on exercise balls and clinked overhead and side-to-side to up-beat music that will have you moving in step and around the circle. This class keeps you active and gives your core a great workout. *All supplies are provided.*  
No class on April 8, 10, 15.

### Get Fit...It's Never Too Early (see Monday for description) 9 – 10 a.m. AND 11 a.m. - noon No class on April 8, 10, 15.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Ballet Ball Fusion 1 – 2 p.m.

This is a great combination class that brings together basic ballet, Tai Chi, and drumming to give you a complete and fulfilling workout unlike

No class on April 8, 10, 15.

### Drawing and Painting Class 2 - 4 p.m.

**Board room in Sekach Building**  
**All supplies are provided**  
**All skill levels welcome**  
See art through a new vision: your own. In this class, you can work in pencil, watercolor, pastel, acrylics, or oil to create artwork from your favorite photograph or something you have seen in a magazine. Anjelika helps you create your own masterpiece in a fun and casual environment.  
No class on April 8 and 15.

## FRIDAYS

### Get Fit...It's Never Too Early (see Monday for description) 9 – 10 a.m. AND 11 a.m. - noon No class on April 8, 10, 15.

and Black - expect to play in this lively get together for all. Nickels and dimes are what you will need to make this an afternoon of fun.  
No class on April 9, 10, 16.

### Zumba Fridays 9 AND 11 a.m.



**Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.**  
Heat up your winter with this exercise craze! Featuring various dances from flamenco to samba, Eileen will get those hips shaking and feet moving. Dance routines are customized for our 60 & Better participants by our very own licensed Zumba instructor.  
No class on April 8, 10, 15.

To use any of the above services, just fill out a simple and quick Client Registration Form. To learn more about the Jewish Living Center, call 419-531-2119 #1 or visit [JewishToledo.org](http://JewishToledo.org). The Jewish Living Center is supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo and Jewish Seniors Services Supporting Organization.

# Jewish Living Center

## Men's Duplicate Bridge

Every Tuesday Evening

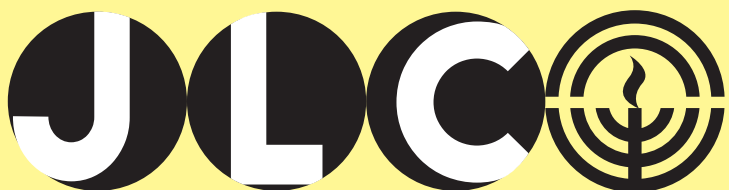
7 – 9 p.m.

Sekach Building – 6505 Sylvania Ave.

The Jewish Living Center of Greater Toledo is thrilled to welcome the Men's Duplicate Bridge Game to its array of program offerings. This game is of

**Jewish Living Center programs are temporarily suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please check your June issue of the Toledo Jewish News or your weekly Friday Facts e-newsletter for updates.**

Light prov...  
Sho...  
please let us know and we can arrange for lessons prior to the game.. To arrange a lesson or for more information, please call 419-531-2119.



Jewish Living Center of Greater Toledo

## Contact the Jewish Living Center

Please contact the Jewish Living Center if we can be of assistance to you during these extraordinary times. The JLC has exercise videos and other resources available to help make your stay at home more enjoyable and productive.

We will all get through this together!

*For more information, please contact the Jewish Living Center at 419-531-2119 or email [stephanie@JewishToledo.org](mailto:stephanie@JewishToledo.org).*



## Jewish Living Center

6505 Sylvania Avenue | Sylvania, Ohio | 43560 | 419-531-2119

René Rusgo, Director

*Jewish Living Center for 60 and better*

The Jewish Living Center (JLC) is a fresh, holistic approach to how we look at aging and how we view ourselves as we age. We strive to make the JLC the place where you come when you want to learn about something new and exciting. Where you can try out the newest trends in movement and exercise. Where technology is just a touch away. Where adventure takes you places. Where you gather with your old friends and make new ones. Where you can feel comfortable being yourself.

### Be a part of the Jewish Living Center:

Pick the event(s) you want to participate in.

Register by the registration deadline to join the fun.

Call us at 419-531-2119 # 2 or email [Stephanie@JewishToledo.org](mailto:Stephanie@JewishToledo.org) with your payment information, as payment is due at the time of registration.

VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, and Discover are accepted.

Personal checks can be mailed to: Jewish Living Center 6505 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, OH 43560

"OY! I registered for an event and now I can't attend." Please call and let us know so we can open that spot for another community member.

### Scent-free space

Jewish Living Center participants are asked not to wear perfume, cologne, or any other strong-smelling fragrances while participating in classes, programs, and trips. Your cooperation in this effort will allow all of our participants to take part in our programming.

**For more information about the Jewish Living Center or its programs,** please call Director René Rusgo at 419-531-2119 # 1 or email [Rene@JewishToledo.org](mailto:Rene@JewishToledo.org).

The Jewish Living Center (JLC) and all of its programs are open to those who are 60 and better and are supported through a generous grant from the Jewish Senior Services Supporting Organization (JSSSO) and through your campaign dollars.



### Connect with us on Facebook!

Join the Jewish Living Center online here:  
[facebook.com/groups/JewishLivingCenter](https://facebook.com/groups/JewishLivingCenter)

*To register for a program, contact Stephanie Hinamon at 419-531-2119 #2 or email [stephanie@JewishToledo.org](mailto:stephanie@JewishToledo.org). For more information about programs, contact René Rusgo at 419-531-2119 #1 or [rene@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:rene@jewishtoledo.org)*



# Next Jewish Generation & PJ Library

## nextJgen Next Jewish Generation

Programs especially for post-college to young families.



### Next Gen Ladies meet up



**NJG Book Club** **\*\*UPDATE\*\*** Zoom meeting. To register contact Hallie at [hallie@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:hallie@jewishtoledo.org)

**NJG Bath Bomb** - **Postponed until further notice**

**Project Menchify**  
**Virtual Yarn & Yak** - May 19, 2020  
- **\*\*UPDATE\*\*** Join us for a virtual yarn and yak! If you don't know how to knit or crochet, don't worry! We will show you how to! To register contact Hallie at [hallie@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:hallie@jewishtoledo.org)

**Nefesh Mountain** - **Coming back in the Fall!** Check back for more information in August Jewish News.

**Jewish Film Festival** - Check back in June for new dates!



### NJG Zoom Trivia



Hands were up off the computer before we started!

For more information about Department of Jewish Programs or to register for virtual events, please contact [Hallie@Jewishtoledo.org](mailto:Hallie@Jewishtoledo.org) or 419-724-0362.

**Young Jewish Toledo** 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 Hallie Freed at 419-724-0362 or [hallie@JewishToledo.org](mailto:hallie@JewishToledo.org).



*RSVP to any or all events to [Hallie@Jewishtoledo.org](mailto:Hallie@Jewishtoledo.org) or 419-724-0362. Please notify us of any dietary issues at least one week prior to the event.*

**Mom's Meet-up**  
May 22 at 8:30 p.m.

**Virtual PJ PLAYDATE**  
May 1 at 11 am

**MAY Shabbat in a box at home!**  
Sign up to receive supplies & crafts to get ready for Shabbat at home! Register by May 15 for a kit.

## PJ Library Toledo's Tzedakah Box Squared Project

**Madelyn and Ruby Freed** helped decorate packages for PJ Library Toledo's Tzedakah Box Squared Project. The packages contain supplies for Jewish Toledo kids to create their own tzedakah boxes. The packages were delivered to participants in April.





Connecting Continued from page 1

community of Jews here and abroad – who will do whatever it takes to keep us safe and secure, whether the cause is illness, financial distress, food insecurity, antisemitism, or any other risk of harm.

We are here for you. We want to be connected to and build our relationship with you. If you are not already connected to us and would like to be, please contact me at [stephen@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:stephen@jewishtoledo.org) or 419-260-5072 with your contact information.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Rothschild  
Executive Director  
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo

Chinese groups express gratitude to Jewish organizations

Jewish Council for Public Affairs CEO and President David Bernstein updated Jewish Community Relations Councils in mid-April about the expressions of support and solidarity American Jewish organizations have extended to Chinese Americans since the start of the pandemic. Asian Americans of all backgrounds, especially Chinese Americans, have endured a spike in racist attacks since the coronavirus outbreak made worldwide news out of Wuhan, China.

The groups were grateful that Jewish organizations expressed solidarity in their time of need and wanted to show their gratitude. They have donated extensive personal protective equipment to Jewish social service organizations, Bernstein said. “The CEO of Jewish Social Service Agency of Greater Washington told me yesterday that they put in an order for \$200,000 worth of PPE that’s expected to last only two months. Obviously there is a tremendous need coming at a tremendous cost,” he said.

Since then, United Chinese Americans have offered 6,000 surgical masks for those who need them in the nation’s capital. Committee of 100, a Chinese American leadership organization, donated 1,200 isolation gowns to those who need them in Boston. “They were down to their last two,” Bernstein noted. Bank of China America donated about 12,000 surgical masks to the area. More help is on the way, Bernstein added. “We are waiting on our friend Fred Teng, from the American China Public Affairs Institute, who is attempting to secure 20,000 N95 masks,” he said.

### Kindness is Here



If you are 60 or better or in need of a mask and you don’t have access to the internet or other resources, please contact Lee at 419-724-0401 between the hours of 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and we will assist you with getting a mask for your use.

Statement on Governor DeWine condemning antisemitism from the statehouse

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo and its Jewish Community Relations Council thank Governor Mike DeWine for forcefully and unequivocally condemning the hate and antisemitism displayed at the Ohio statehouse this past week. We especially appreciate the governor’s rebuke of comments comparing stay-at-home directives from Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, who is Jewish, with those of the Nazis during World War II. The comments—intentionally and egregiously made on Holocaust Remembrance Day—were a disturbing distortion and factually inaccurate historical comparison. The comments were grossly disrespectful to the memories of six million Jews and millions of others who were tortured and killed by the Nazis and their sick ideology of hatred, bigotry, and racism.

Federation is grateful to Ohio’s elected officials of all parties who are working around the clock to keep our state’s communities safe, healthy, and secure from the virus and false ideas that drive our communities apart. We are also incredibly humbled and thankful for all of the government employees, first responders, medical professionals, restaurant, food, and grocery workers, and all other essential personnel who have dedicated efforts to keep our society functioning during the pandemic. They are all heroes and we should never forget their selfless acts during our time of great need.

Webinar on Israeli and Palestinian healthcare cooperation eye-opening

By Eli Benstein

I sat in on the Jewish Community Relations Council medical webinar Building Bridges: Israeli and Palestinian Healthcare Cooperation in April along with 700 others. Presented by Israel Action Network, Project Rozana USA, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, the webinar discussed Israeli and Palestinian cross-border cooperation in delivering treatment and healing services to Arab children with physical disabilities during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

It was very impressive and heartening to hear again that, if the two sides can agree on a common, non-political cause (in this case, the maximal priority of children’s well-being in both kinds of families), great working and respectful relationships can develop. Here, the subject was offering, applying, and transferring 90 years of Israeli treatment and therapy expertise to Palestinian doctors, hospitals, and therapists. Success for the program eliminates the existing onerous cost, border red tape, language, and other challenges of continuing to transport children to Israeli hospitals, sometimes multiple visits during one week. Many volunteers serve as drivers on both sides, but this is a patchwork make due.

The webinar focused on three people:

- Kenneth Bob, chair of Project Rozana USA, an organization that seeks to build bridges to better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians through health. Bob serves on the boards of a wide variety

of not-for-profit organizations and has held executive positions in several software companies.

- Dr. Akram Abdulrahman, physiotherapist, academic, and chief executive of Green Land Society for Health Development, a Hebron-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health and environmental conditions in Palestinian society. Green Land Society established the West Bank transportation system that takes Palestinian patients, primarily children, to military checkpoints so they can reach their appointments in Israeli hospitals.
- Dr. Mauritz Be’eri, director general of ALYN Hospital in Jerusalem, one of the world’s leading specialists in pediatric rehabilitation. It is the only facility of its kind in Israel. They are partnering in a program of professional development with Jerusalem Princess Basma Center to share knowledge and help improve professional services to disabled Israeli and Palestinian children.

The coronavirus has put a crimp in the program’s progress, but not in the aspirations and efforts of these three amazing individuals. Behind the scenes and unsung, Israeli hospitals have treated over 3,000 wounded and pregnant Syrians, and even some relations with Gaza have begun. As usual, we don’t know what we are not told, leading to bias and misunderstandings. It would be great to see more webinars on cross-border cooperation during these bleak news times.

# Temple Shomer Emunim .....

Given the circumstances regarding the Coronavirus outbreak, The Temple and The Temple office will remain closed until further notice. We will continue to follow government guidelines and send regular updates to our congregants via email and our Temple website at [templese.com](http://templese.com). It is vital that The Temple has all of our congregants updated emails! Please send your current email to [lnusbaum@templese.com](mailto:lnusbaum@templese.com).

Please be understanding of our desire to protect you and the people who are providing curbside and home delivery service (when needed). Nobody will be permitted to enter the Temple, and we will not permit those delivering outside The Temple to enter anyone's home be it staff member or volunteer.

Join us for Shabbat services Fridays at 6:00PM via live stream by going to our website, [www.templese.com](http://www.templese.com) and click on the Live Stream Link.

Join us via Zoom!

Coffee with the Clergy

Wednesdays, May 13, 20 & 27 @ 11:00AM with Rabbi Weinstein

Storytime with Wendy Payne

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 7:00PM

Torah Time with Rabbi Weinstein

Fridays, May 1, 15, 22 & 29 at 11:00AM

Worship Schedule  
Live Stream

Fridays, May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29  
At 6:00PM



May Mitzvah Meals

Mitzvah Meals will be offered during the month of May.

Mitzvah Meal dates & menus will be available to see on the Temple website [www.templese.com](http://www.templese.com)

Tot Shabbat via Zoom  
with Cantor Jen!

Saturday, May 2 @ 10:30AM

Yoga via Zoom

with Cantor Jen, led by Amy Saltzstein!

Saturday, May 16 @ 10:30AM

Check your email for Zoom instructions!

## Congregation B'nai Israel

Please be advised that scheduled religious services and events for the month of May may be cancelled or postponed. CBI members, please watch your email for updates.

Jewish Lives, Jewish Learning:  
CBI Adult Education Series

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME

Rachel Slagter

"Hiding in Plain Sight:  
A Path to Freedom in the Holocaust -  
Escaping Evil Through the Goodness  
of Others"

Sunday, May 3, 2020 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM



The Van der Veer family, of Stein, Holland, hid Rachel Slagter for two years during the Holocaust. Clockwise from top left in this family photo, taken in 1950, were Hans, Sjoerd, Andries, Marjie, Jantje, Andries and Aaltje Van der Veer.

Join us for our stimulating snack and learn programs.  
NO CHARGE. Everyone welcome.

The CBI office will be CLOSED

Monday, May 25, 2020      Memorial Day  
Friday, May 29, 2020      Shavuot - Day 1

WOMEN OF CBI MAY BOOK CLUB SELECTION



"Jerusalem: A Cookbook"  
by Yotam Ottolenghi & Sami Tamimi

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:00 AM  
at the home of Cathy Sperling

Miriam Beckerman will host a demonstration of one of the recipes from the cookbook.

This will be an off site program at the home of Cathy Sperling with bookclub members preparing recipes from the cookbook. Because of space considerations, Cathy is able to accommodate 22 people for the program which will begin at 11:00 AM. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Reservations will be due by May 7. Please RSVP to Carol Richman ([carolrichman@msn.com](mailto:carolrichman@msn.com)) or Sharon Stein ([sstein100@gmail.com](mailto:sstein100@gmail.com)).

WOMEN OF CBI CELEBRATE

Rosh Chodesh Sivan

Wednesday, May 27, 2020  
11:00 AM at CBI

Join us for a program of Body and Spiritual Renewal  
Light Dairy Lunch - \$5 at the door

THIS PROGRAM IS OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

Our Tikkun Olam Project will benefit the residents of Kingston Care Center in Sylvania.

Please bring a small plant to the program. They will be given to Kingston residents to brighten their day.

RSVP by Monday, May 18, 2020 to Sharon Stein ([sstein100@gmail.com](mailto:sstein100@gmail.com)) or Miriam Beckerman ([mesb@bex.net](mailto:mesb@bex.net))



Chag Shavuot Sameach!  
חג שבועות שמח



SHAVUOT SERVICES

Shavuot Day 1  
Fri., May 29, 2020

9:30 AM - Service  
Mincha after Kiddush  
5:45 PM - Evening Service & Tikkun

Shavuot Day 2  
Sat., May 30, 2020

9:30 AM - Service  
11:00 AM - YIZKOR  
Mincha after Kiddush

TIKKUN SHAVUOT WITH

Dr. Yonatan Miller, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor Jewish Studies, Univ. of Toledo

Shabbat Evening, Friday, May 29, 2020

5:45 PM - Service  
6:30 PM - Delicious Dairy Dinner  
7:30 PM - Tikkun with Dr. Miller  
8:30 PM - Dramatic reading of the book of Ruth  
9:00 PM - Scrumptious ice cream and cheesecake dessert

SAVE THE DATE

CBI Annual Meeting,  
Installation of Board of Trustees,  
& Congregational Picnic

Sunday, June 14, 2020

11:00 AM - Meeting    12:00 PM - Luncheon



# Congregation Etz Chayim .....

## SHAVUOT HOLIDAY SERVICES

Thursday, May 28, 2020  
Erev Shavuot

Shacharit 7:30 a.m.  
Mincha 7:15 p.m.  
Ma'ariv 7:30 p.m.  
Candlelighting 8:42 p.m.

Friday, May 29, 2020  
Shavuot First Day

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.  
Torah Reading 10:00 a.m.  
Mincha 7:15 p.m.  
Ma'ariv 7:30 p.m.  
Candlelighting 9:51 p.m.

Saturday, May 30, 2020  
Shavuot Second Day

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.  
Yizkor 11:00 a.m.  
Mincha 6:00 p.m.  
Havdalah 9:52 p.m.

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

We look forward to seeing everyone again once this social distancing is over. Please note that the Sisterhood Closing Luncheon and Woman of the Year Award will not take place in June as previously scheduled. A fall date will be planned and more information will be forthcoming.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Sisterhood annual Mahjong Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. More information on this special day will be posted.

The next Sisterhood meeting is our annual planning meeting. It is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, at 10:15 a.m. in the Morris and Clara Weinblatt Memorial Library. All Sisterhood members are invited to attend.

## POKER/MAJ JONGG

Poker & Mahj will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 3rd and May 17th in the Louis & Dora Cohen Auditorium. Everyone is welcome to attend and play! Refreshments will be served.

## BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT LUNCH PLANNED

Everyone is invited to a delicious lunch following Shabbat services on Saturday, May 16th to celebrate with our congregational members who have a birthday or anniversary during the months of April and May.

## ART MUSEUM TOUR

Join your friends for another interactive and informative Toledo Museum of Art Tour Sunday, May 31st at 2:00 p.m. with our favorite museum docent Andrea Delman. Cost is \$8 per person. Please call the office to R.S.V.P.

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION DUE TO THE CURRENT CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY. PLEASE CONTACT THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE TO CHECK THE STATUS OF THE ACTIVITY BEFORE LEAVING HOME.

# Chabad House .....



**CAMP GAN ISRAEL** TOLEDO, OH  
JUNE 29-JULY 24, 2020



In ordinary times, we'd be communicating with you now about summer camp. But these aren't ordinary times. We want to do everything we can to have camp, but safety and health will be our first concern. We won't know for a while how that shakes out. In the meanwhile, if you have any thoughts or concerns, feel free to give us a call as we'd love to hear from you.

## WEEKLY VIRTUAL CLASSES

### MEN'S TEFILLIN CLUB

Sunday: 10:15 -11:30am on ZOOM:  
Meeting ID: 377 638 2748  
Password: 246801



### Tales to Inspire

Sunday - Thursday: 8:00pm  
Friday: 7:00pm  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChabadHouseOfToledo>



### KABBALAH CLASS

Sunday: 10:15 AM on ZOOM:  
Meeting ID: 377 638 2748  
Password: 246801



**ANTI-SEMITISM:  
Can We Prevent Human  
Progress From Falling Prey To  
Moral Bankruptcy?**  
Presented by Rabbi Shemtov  
Sunday, May 3 at 10 a.m.  
or Tuesday, May 5 at 7 p.m.

When examining human behavior in light of the Holocaust, we are presented with a number of paradoxes. The most culturally and scientifically advanced society on earth used their sophistication to create the most efficient genocidal machine the world has ever known. What can we expect of humanity after the holocaust? How can we retain faith in the future of the universe—and what can we do to ensure a brighter tomorrow?

*This program is sponsored in honor of, and with many thanks to, Tom & Elaine Buehl.*

Due to the uncertainty of these times, all events are virtual. Please check our website for updates.

[www.chabadtoledo.com](http://www.chabadtoledo.com)



Local

# Norty's

## AUTO REPAIR & SALES

**87 YEARS**  
FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS

**BUSINESS HOURS**  
MONDAY-FRIDAY  
8 AM-5:30 PM

**FULL SERVICE**  
CAR REPAIR & CAR SALES  
**VALUE PRICED USED CARS**

WE INSTALL ENGINES  
BRAKES - TRANS -  
BUMPER - MIRRORS  
HARD TO FIND PARTS  
WE CAN SOLVE YOUR  
AUTO CHALLENGES -  
WE DO IT ALL!

Brakes Squeaky?  
Engine Making a Noise?  
Tires Bald?  
Radiator Leaking?  
Does Your Auto Need Attention?  
If you answer yes  
**TRY NORTY'S**  
and be pleasantly surprised  
with the results  
and save money too!!!

**2815 W CENTRAL AVE • TOLEDO, OH 43606**  
**567-200-4069**  
BETWEEN SECOR RD. AND DOUGLAS

**www.nortysauto.com • Follow us on Facebook**

# Have something to kvell about?



## Let Jewish Toledo celebrate your good news with you!

Send us your wedding, engagement, graduation, baby,  
job or other news for consideration in *Toledo Jewish News*  
today! Submit your simcha to Paul Causman at  
[paul@JewishToledo.org](mailto:paul@JewishToledo.org).



# PARKER STEEL COMPANY


METRIC SIZE METALS ONLY



## Locally owned and operated since 1955

**www.MetricMetal.com**  
**800.333.4140**

# A Place to Call Home



If you've been looking for comfortable, secure and  
affordable **SENIOR HOUSING**, then look no further.

## Pelham Manor Apartments




Pelham Manor is a tobacco-free, senior apartment community

**Amenities include:**


- Individually Controlled Heat/AC
- Laundry facilities
- Appliances and utilities included
- Senior Center on site

Pelham Manor provides one and two-bedroom apartments for  
persons 62 years of age or older and disabled persons under 62 who  
require the features of the accessible units.

**Please call for information or stop by**  
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
2700 Pelham Road, Toledo OH 43606 419-537-1515



Equal Housing  
Opportunity



Equal Employer  
Opportunity

For TDD/TTY Users Only: 1-800-545-1833 x583

# the Beirut

FULL LEBANESE MENU  
ITALIAN SPECIALISTS

# BYBLOS

FINE LEBANESE DINING  
DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS

• Creative Appetizers & Salads • Exotic Desserts • Vegetarian & Health Dishes •  
• Lamb Specialties • Homemade Pizza & Sauces •  
• CATERING & BANQUETS FOR ANY OCCASION - CARRY OUT AVAILABLE •

Mon. - Thurs. • 4 - 10:30  
Fri. - Sat. • 4 - 11:30

**419-473-0885**  
4082 MONROE  
Just East of Douglas

Mon. - Fri. • 11:30 - 11  
Sat. • 5 - 11:30

**419-382-1600**  
1050 S. REYNOLDS  
North of Airport Highway

FULL BAR & LARGE SELECTION OF DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED BEER

UNDER SAME OWNERSHIP



# Poco Piatti

Tapas \* Mezza \* Antipasti

Large selection of Italian, Spanish,  
Middle East and Greek specialties

Full Bar, Sangria, Imported and Domestic Beer and Wines

**419 - 931 - 0281**  
Levis Commons, Perrysburg

Featuring the  
"small plates"  
of the  
Mediterranean



# Local

## Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation fuses tradition with progressive values

By Emily Gordon

For many northwest Ohioans, the city of Ann Arbor is like Toledo's younger sibling – an artsy college student living not too far away who can always be counted on for great food and music recommendations, a lively debate, and a fun night out.

If that younger sibling was Jewish, says Rebecca Kanner, they might attend Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation.

AARC is one of four Reconstructionist congregations in Michigan, grown from a *havurah* (fellowship) that began meeting in 1993 in members' homes for lay-led services, discussions, and celebrations, said Kanner, co-chair of the board of directors.

"The thought was that Jews were more than a religion, that we were a civilization and that Jews can create community through more than just in the synagogue," she said. "It was a very grassroots, informal yet very participatory effort."

Leadership roles rotated and decisions were made by a consensus of the entire membership, which started with about 20 people.

"Many of those founding members and those who joined shortly after are still members today. They are curious, have drive, and a can-do attitude for helping the community to have a vibrant, Jewishly mean-

ingful life," said Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner, who has been with the congregation since 2017.

Now settled down in the Jewish Community Center with a religious school, two services a month including Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat and potluck with tot shabbat, engaging adult learning classes, and a wide range of activities, AARC has approximately 80 member households.

However, the congregation still retains the cozy nature of the *havurah*, Kanner said.

"We're a very open, welcoming, very participatory congregation. We love to sing, so we sing a lot at our services," she said. "We also have very creative, skilled members who have made things for us such as our Ark, Torah cover, and a yad."

Reconstructionist Judaism is an interesting marriage of tradition and open-mindedness to change, Kanner said, citing the core tenet of the denomination's founder Mordecai Kaplan, "the past has a vote, not a veto."

The American Jewish denomination is notable for being both politically and religiously progressive. According to My Jewish Learning, Kaplan "was the first American rabbi to preside over a public bat mitzvah celebration — for his daughter, Judith, in 1922 — and the move-

ment's rabbinical seminary was the first to accept openly gay students."

AARC's focus on inclusivity reflects Reconstructionist Judaism's past and eye on the future, noting their congregation's yearly theme for 2020 is "radical welcoming and inclusivity," said Nitkin-Kaner.

"We're thinking and rethinking how to make our congregation more welcoming to everybody, including Jews by choice, Jews of color, and interfaith families, how to make our spaces have maximum accessibility for those with disabilities," she said. "We're working with Keshet (an American Jewish LGBTQ organization) to not just be tolerant but actively embracing LGBTQ Jews. We have a committee working on Pride Shabbat. We're trying to be as inclusive as possible. It's something we're proud of."

There's a lot to kvell over at AARC, Nitkin-Kaner says, though she admits her bias with a laugh.

"This congregation is really special. It's a little bit of a joke among rabbis and congregational leadership that we all say our congregation is 'warm and welcoming.' It's on everyone's website," she said. "But I think we truly are. We've heard that feedback again and again from people who visit and then decide to join and become members."

AARC makes sure every mem-

ber has a Seder to go to on Pesach (Passover) and a place to light candles for at least one night of Hanukkah, Nitkin-Kaner noted.

The congregation also collaborates with Lansing's Reconstructionist congregation Kehillat Israel and other Ann Arbor synagogues for shabbat services.

High Holiday services, held at the more spacious facilities of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, are ticket-free and open to all.

There are approximately 100 Reconstructionist congregations and *havurot*, mostly in the United States. Although there are three in Ohio, AARC is the closest to Toledo.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregation is conducting services and programming exclusively online for the time being. Those interested in updates and links to resources are encouraged to visit [www.aarecon.org/covid-19-information-resources](http://www.aarecon.org/covid-19-information-resources).

When the need for social distancing has come to an end, Nitkin-Kaner welcomes Jewish Toledoans to visit the congregation for a service, class, or celebration. Those who would like to call or write ahead of their visit can contact Gillian Jackson, events and communications coordinator, at [AARCgillian@gmail.com](mailto:AARCgillian@gmail.com).

### Synagogue Administrator Needed

Congregation B'nai Israel is seeking a detail-oriented member of the community to serve as Synagogue Administrator. The ideal candidate will have a business background, computer and leadership skills as well as personnel management abilities. A background and understanding of Jewish customs and observances will prove helpful as well. This is a fulltime, yet flexible position that may require evening and weekend work. The responsibilities of this position are varied and the ability to appropriately prioritize and multi-task will prove valuable as well. Individuals interested in hearing more about this opportunity to provide administration and assistance to a congregation with over 150 years of remarkable history, **please email resumes to:** [ctraugott@cbitoledo.org](mailto:ctraugott@cbitoledo.org).

### Are you happy with your current healthcare?

When it comes to your healthcare, you deserve:

- Transparency
- Answers to difficult questions
- Accurate and timely information
- Access and a relationship with your doctor

See if concierge medicine is for you.

Call 419.214.1213 or visit [stayhomeiwill.com](http://stayhomeiwill.com) to book your **FREE** consultation.



Access. Control. Value.



**Toledo Jewish News**  
The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo

Get your Toledo Jewish News online  
[www.jewishtoledo.org](http://www.jewishtoledo.org)



# Obituaries

## Alan Sokobin: The Listener

THE BLADE EDITORIAL BOARD  
Reprinted with permission of The Toledo Blade



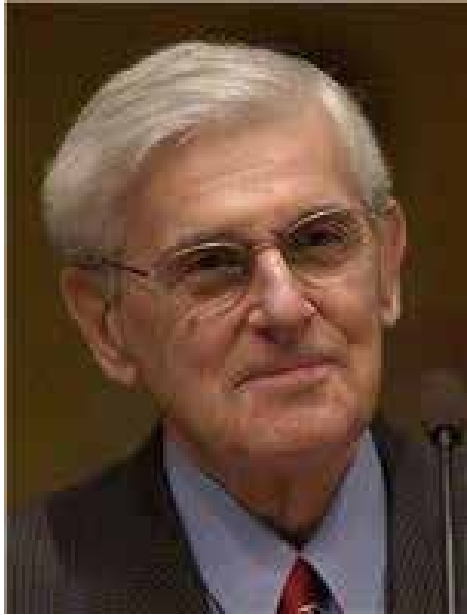
When a good man dies, we are compelled to give thanks if his life was full, and he did not die young. In these perilous and strange times of the coronavirus, we are grateful if it was not the virus, in all its suddenness and arbitrariness, that took him. So when Alan Mayor Sokobin, rabbi emeritus of The Temple-Congregation Shomer Emunim and a major civic and intellectual leader in greater Toledo, passed away at the end of last week, it was possible to look at his 94 years and feel mostly thanks and uplift — good things to feel in these times. He was a remarkable man who surely left nothing undone and just as surely left no life he touched anything but ennobled. The rabbi was a historian, an at-

torney, a teacher, a counselor, a husband, a father, a holy man, and a famously devoted friend. He was an ecumenical forerunner who reached out to other faith leaders in times when such outreach was not necessarily popular. If that sounds like a renaissance man, it's because the shoe fits. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Rabbi Sokobin is that he was equally gifted as a public and a private man — presiding over a wedding or hearing out the troubles of a friend over coffee. He was equally gifted as a pastor and practical leader AND as an intellectual. That is beyond rare. And this meant he could engage just about any kind of person from any walk of life on any subject. Moreover, though he was the epitome of a wise man, he usually did less of the talking than the person he was with. He was wise, in part, because he knew so well how to listen. The person who was heard walked away feeling some of the rabbi's own inner peace, which echoes in his passing.

## Alan Mayor Sokobin 1926 - 2020

Reprinted with permission of The Toledo Blade

By Mark Zaborney, Blade Staff Writer



Alan Mayor Sokobin, rabbi emeritus of The Temple-Congregation Shomer Emunim, who was a leader and teacher in the Jewish community and beyond, from heading a group to mediate labor disputes to forging multifaith conversation, died Friday in ProMedica Toledo Hospital. He was 94. He became ill suddenly five days earlier and his condition was unrelated to coronavirus, his daughter Sharon Speyer said. He'd still been walking two miles daily on his home treadmill. "Recently, my father indicated that he felt well and he had a zest for life and he wasn't done," his daughter said. Rabbi Sokobin retired from the Temple in 1992. Being retired, he told The Blade in 2015, "doesn't mean that the mind or the body or the soul ceases to exit. Whatever small candle of idealism that is within each of our souls still burns." He then went to law school at the University of Toledo, "because it was interesting. I loved every bit of it," he said in 2015. At his law school graduation in 1996, he was named outstanding student of his class by a vote of faculty members. He became a lecturer at UT and spoke on Jewish law and took part in panels on the legal and moral aspects of end-of-life decisions. In retirement as well, he served as the executive director of the Medical Mission Hall of Fame Foundation at UT. Rabbi Sokobin arrived in 1972 to become co-rabbi, with Leon Feuer, of the Collingwood Avenue Temple, as the congregation was best known then. He'd served as a student assistant in 1953-54 to Rabbi Feuer, commuting on weekends to Toledo from Cincinnati, where he attended Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Sokobin of West Toledo later oversaw the move by the Reform Jewish congregation to Sylvania Township. "He was such a fixture," said Stephen Rothschild, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo. "He mar-

ried so many people. He buried so many people. He was part of bar and bat mitzvahs, consecrations and confirmations. There were so many people whose lives he touched." His son, Jonathan Sokobin, said: "Our father was an intellectual thinker, a great communicator. He was a person who could create great connections with everybody." The rabbi learned later in life to make balloon animals and kept a pocketful of balloons, ready to delight the next child. "When we think of our father, we think of someone who spanned the distance of leading the Jewish community and affected the greater Toledo community and affected individuals, from little kids, all the way through," his son said. Rabbi Sokobin was a former chairman of the Labor-Management-Citizens Committee. In 1999, he received the Rabbi Morton Goldberg Community Service Award, named for the late charter member of L-M-C, which was formed decades earlier to bring labor peace to Toledo. Rabbi Sokobin and former Mayor Harry Kessler led a study committee on improving Toledo Municipal Court, and the the rabbi was on a Toledo Hospital ethics panel. "Our father was motivated by Jewish values and a strong sense of what was right," his son said. Barbara Petee met the rabbi about 20 years ago in her role of overseeing mission services at ProMedica. They became friends, having breakfast regularly to discuss challenges and joys, his Jewish faith and her Catholic faith. "The biggest thing we did was celebrated all we had in common and the respect and love we had for each other," said Ms. Petee, ProMedica's chief advocacy and government relations officer. "That's what he gave to everyone." The rabbi also spoke in public about his faith, in conversation with those of other faiths. "He had contacts and relationships in each faith community," said Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, a retired surgeon and a former president of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. "That was to the betterment of our community. He had an inner peace, and he radiated that to other people he came across." Rabbi Sokobin was part of an interfaith delegation in attendance at the installations of Bishop Leonard Blair and later Bishop Daniel Thomas as leaders of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo. He and the late Bishop James Hoffman of the Toledo diocese were honored in 1992 by the

*Continued top of next page*



### Seventy-one years after Israel fought for its independence, Magen David Adom is helping the country battle a different enemy.

The coronavirus pandemic is indeed a war. Even if Israel can keep mortality rates for those infected to 1 percent, it will still mean the death of more than 30,000 people — more than all of Israel's wars combined. Magen David Adom has been on the front lines against the coronavirus, but the fight has taken an extraordinary toll on MDA's resources. We need your support to keep saving lives. Observe Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's independence day, by keeping the people of Israel strong.

Give today to our Coronavirus Emergency Campaign  
at [afmda.org/corona-campaign](https://afmda.org/corona-campaign)



[afmda.org/corona-campaign](https://afmda.org/corona-campaign)



Local

Continued from previous page

Anit-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for improving understanding between their faiths. The Rev. James Bacik, a Catholic priest and scholar, said the rabbi often invited him to panel discussions. "He had a great openness to other religious traditions," Father Bacik said. "He knew that we needed to figure out how to cooperate if we were to serve the entire community." Rabbi Sokobin was born March 8, 1926, in Newark, N.J., to Pauline and Max Sokobin. He left school and left home at age 15 in a quest, ultimately successful, to join the Navy. He saw action in the European Theater during World War II and was on a vessel escorting troop ships for the occupation of Japan at war's end. Through the benefits of the GI Bill, he attended Syracuse University, from which he received a bachelor's degree in history. His father's interest in their Jewish faith and tradition inspired him to pursue rabbinic studies. He attended Hebrew Union College, from which he was ordained in 1955 and studied in Israel. He later served on the board of Hebrew-Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He had a doctor of theology degree from Burton College. In the 1980s, he was endowed a lectureship by the Jewish Chautauqua Society. He and the former Miriam "Mickey" Levy married May 19, 1957. She died Aug. 15, 2017. Surviving are his daughter, Sharon Speyer, who is Huntington Bank northwest Ohio region president; son, Jonathan Sokobin, and five grandchildren. Services will be private because of the coronavirus pandemic. His family plans to schedule a public memorial service later. Arrangements are by the Robert H. Wick/Wisniewski Funeral Home. This is a news story by Mark Zaborney. Contact him at [mzaborney@theblade.com](mailto:mzaborney@theblade.com) or 419-724-6182. Published in The Blade on Apr. 5, 2020.

Call for names of 2020 Jewish Toledo graduates to be honored in Toledo Jewish News



Is your child a senior in high school who will be graduating this spring? Do you have a college student in the family who will graduate at any point this year? We want to know about them!

In effort to recognize graduates who unfortunately will not be able to have the usual graduation ceremony experience due to the pandemic, the Toledo Jewish News is gathering the names of Jewish Toledo high school seniors, college students, doctoral candidates, and any other student on track to graduate from their respective school and program at any point this year.

Please send the following information to [paul@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:paul@jewishtoledo.org):

- First and last name of graduate
- Which school/institution they are graduating from
- What degree they will earn

Visit the **NEW**


**JewishToledo.org**

kids JFS young adults bulletin board Friday Facts  
donating calendars Israel community  
JCRC Hillel Toledo Jewish News  
BBYO Campaign teens programs  
involvement resources  
contact info World news seniors services  
Jewish education you Foundation  
... and much more

 **Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER TOLEDO

**Wishing you and your family a meaningful Pesach**

Pre-Need Funeral Plans *when you want peace of mind*  
At-Need Arrangements *when you need a friend*

R O B E R T H  
W I C K  
W I S N I E W S K I  
F U N E R A L H O M E 

2426 N. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH 43615  
Thomas I. Wisniewski, 1948-2018 • David J. Czerniak, Director

**419-535-5840**  
*A Tradition of Caring Since 1939*

 **Kathryn Linver**  
**Memorialist**  
*serving the Jewish Community  
for more than 30 years*

- Distinctive & Personally Designed Memorials
- Finest Materials & Craftmanship
- Competitive Prices

Call 419-882-0607 or (cell) 419-283-6853  
days or evenings

**Obituaries now accepted for print in Toledo Jewish News**

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

Email **completed** obituaries to:  
**[paul@JewishToledo.org](mailto:paul@JewishToledo.org)**

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

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

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

If you have additional questions, please contact  
[paul@JewishToledo.org](mailto:paul@JewishToledo.org)

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

**Maximum obituary word length: 500 words (Toledo Jewish News reserves the right to edit obituaries as necessary)**

Please Join *Toledo Sister Cities International* in developing a Sister Cities relationship with *Akko, Israel*, in cooperation with the Western Galilee Partnership and JFGT.  
*All donations are greatly needed and appreciated.*

Please Send donations to:  
Toledo Sister Cities International  
P.O. Box 353004,  
Toledo, Ohio 43615  
419-245-3334

# Classifieds

## Airport Service

RUN YOUR BUSINESS CARD  
IN THE

**Simply send your business card and billing information to:**  
**Paul Causman at 6465 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania, OH 43560 or**  
**paul@JewishToledo.org**

*Publish your business card (reproduced with no changes) for just \$36/month\**  
*\*Three-month minimum. Any changes to business card include extra charge.*  
Ads must be received by the 15th of the month.  
**Call 419-724-0318 for more information**

**It is easy to run a classified ad in *Toledo Jewish News*!**  
First 12 words - \$8, \$0.10 per additional word. *Phone numbers and abbreviations count as separate words.* Ads must be received by the 15th of the month.

Simply email your ad and billing information to paul@JewishToledo.org or call 419-724-0318 for more information.

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

# Business Cards

**Judy Scheinbach**  
Realtor®  
Licensed in Ohio & Michigan

1351 S Reynolds Rd  
Toledo, OH 43615  
www.howardhanna.com

Office: 419-382-8311  
Cell: 419-345-0285  
Fax: 419-389-4560  
Email: judyscheinbach@howardhanna.com  
Website: judyscheinbach.howardhanna.com

**TAKE A TEST DRIVE TODAY**

Receive Special Pricing on new or used vehicles

CONTACT WENDY COOPER 419-392-3333

**BROWN Honda** 6155 W. CENTRAL AVE. TOLEDO, OH 43615 | WWW.BROWNHONDA.COM

No purchase necessary. See dealer for game card and complete details.

**Ann Albert**  
Realtor

Text or Call (567) 202-1213  
annalbert56@gmail.com  
www.ToledoHomesandCondos.com

**Please support our advertisers and let them know you saw their ad in the *Toledo Jewish News*!**

**Make Extra Money Commissioned Ad Sales**

*Toledo Jewish News* is seeking commissioned ad salespeople. Make extra money in your free time; the more you sell, the more you make. Work from home by phone or just stop by your favorite restaurants and stores. Contact Paul Causman at paul@JewishToledo.org.