



TOLEDO Jewish News

JewishToledo.org

CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5786 | November 2025

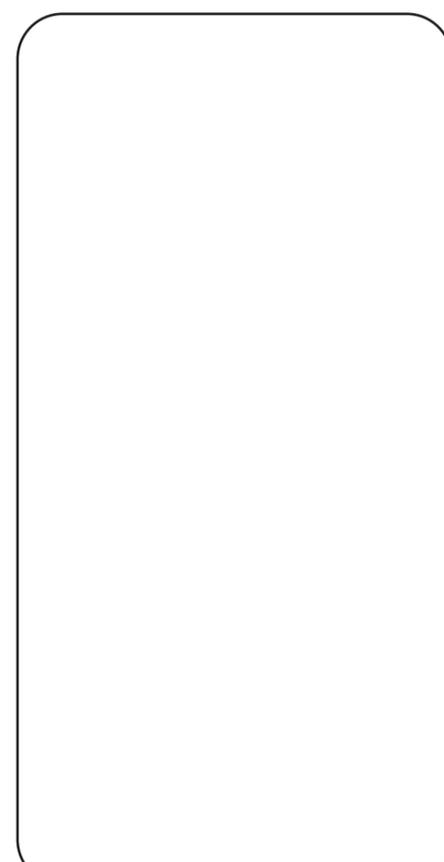
TEARS, JOY, AND RELIEF: HOSTAGES RETURN TO ISRAEL



PHILISSA CRAMER | JTA

All 20 of the Israeli hostages still alive two years after being taken hostage by Hamas have returned to Israel, following an emotional morning that commanded the attention of Jews around the world who had lobbied for their release... The videos and photographs elicited joyous cheers from the tens of thousands of people who gathered in Hostages Square in Tel Aviv, where the site of pained prayer was transformed into a central address for jubilation. The massive “Bring Them Home” letters that had loomed over the square for most of the last two years were revised on Sunday night to say, “Welcome Back Home.”

- See how the world responded on page 6.



“Shine a Light on Antisemitism” Annual Community Event

Thursday, December 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

See page 7

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Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo implements new emergency communication system

DAVE TULLIS

✉ dave@jewishtoledo.org

Making use of LiveSecure funding, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) is taking a significant step to advance the community's safety and security. Before the end of this year, JFGT will implement the **Secure Community Network (SCN) Alert** mass communication system.



Dave Tullis

SCN is the Jewish community's official safety and security organization in North America.

According to Dave Tullis, JFGT Security Director, the SCN Alert system is designed to deliver **critical, real-time notifications** during both natural and man-made emergencies. Whether the threat involves severe weather, an active security situation, or a public health emergency, SCN Alert ensures that accurate and timely information is shared directly with key community leaders — including synagogue leaders, JFGT staff, and members of the Community Security Committee. These leaders will then be able to quickly share information to their respective constituents, ensuring that the community receives the guidance needed to stay safe and informed.

WHY SCN ALERT MATTERS

In today's world, timely and accurate information can keep people from harm and save lives. The SCN Alert system allows thousands of people to be notified within seconds through text messages, phone calls, emails, and mobile app alerts. Unlike traditional communications, which may be delayed or fragmented, this system ensures that alerts come from a trusted, consistent, and authoritative source.

THE BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **Enhanced safety and awareness:** Rapid alerts allow the community to take immediate protective action.
- **Multi-channel communication:** Messages are sent across multiple platforms, ensuring the widest possible reach.
- **Targeted notifications:** Alerts can be sent to specific groups, such as JFGT team members, boards, and YMCA staff; Toledo congregational leadership; and the Community Security Committee, reducing confusion and alert fatigue.
- **Two-way communication:** Recipients can confirm they received messaging or request assistance, helping coordinators identify who still needs support.
- **Proactive preparedness:** By keeping community members informed before, during,

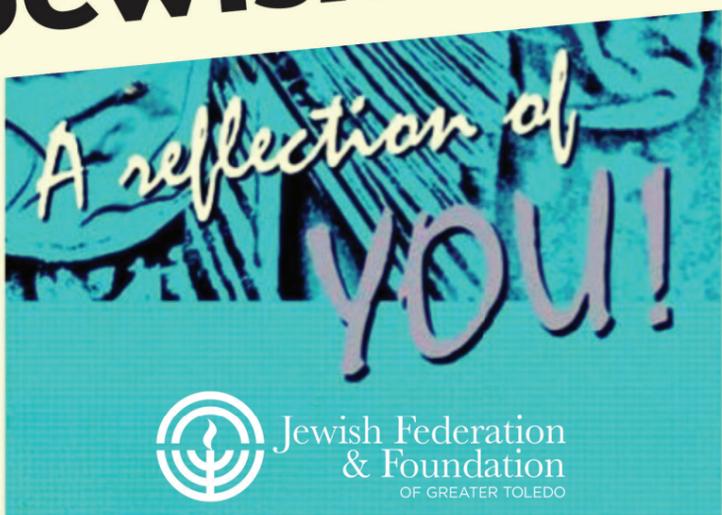
and after incidents, SCN Alert helps families, institutions, and synagogues make quick decisions to protect lives and property.

- **Community resilience and cohesion:** The system promotes collaboration among security personnel, volunteers, and community members, creating a united and prepared response during emergencies.
- **Empowering our institutions:** Schools, synagogues, and community centers can coordinate safety measures more efficiently, ensuring continuity of programs and events even during challenging situations.
- **Enhanced situational awareness:** Alerts not only notify about immediate dangers but also provide guidance for next steps, helping the community respond thoughtfully and effectively.
- **Supporting growth and engagement:** When community members feel safe and informed, they are more likely to participate in cultural, educational, and social programs, allowing Jewish life in Toledo to thrive and grow.
- **Peace of mind:** Knowing there is a reliable, fast, and trusted communication system in place gives families and institutions confidence that help is available when needed.

COMMUNICATION | CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



TOLEDO
Jewish News



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OF GREATER TOLEDO

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ADVERTISING:

Contact
Abby Hoicowitz
419-724-0423
abby@jewishtoledo.org



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New JFGT Security Policy Purpose

To help ensure the safety and security of all attendees while fostering an environment of openness and community engagement, this policy outlines procedures for event registration, attendance, and security.

Registration Procedures

Individual Registration Required:

All attendees must register individually through our designated online registration form or directly with Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo staff registrations.

Complete Data Collection:

Registrants are required to provide accurate contact information, including full name, phone number, and email address. For guests or additional attendees, the primary registrant must add each guest's details separately.

Verification & Confirmation:

Registrants will receive a confirmation email and the location of the event after registration.

Guest Policy:

Attendees need to register all guests in advance. Same-day or walk-in registrations may be limited or declined based on security considerations.

Prohibited Items

- Weapons of any kind under any circumstance
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, or substances (including drug paraphernalia)
- All glass items
- Bags over 18"x 12"x 8", camelbacks, Bota bags, and flasks
- Signs, flags, banners, posters, or balloons
- Flammable liquids or aerosol cans
- Other items as deemed inappropriate by the Security Director or event staff

Hazzan Ivor Lichterman reflects on retirement

MARY BILYEU

✉ mary@jewishtoledo.org

"I've been on the bima since I was 15," noted Emeritus Hazzan Ivor



Mary Bilyeu

Lichterman, now 72, on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, as he sat in a pew along the side wall of Congregation B'nai Israel's Sanctuary rather than leading services. He'd

recently retired after 14 years as the shul's spiritual leader, so it seemed a wistful moment at the time.

But he also had a different perspective a couple of weeks later, appreciating the beauty of this new phase in his life.

"Sitting next to Jan was an absolute delight - we were holding hands," he said sweetly about attending this year's holiday services with his wife of 44 years, Jan Lacker-Lichterman. "I've never gotten to do this," he continued, as he was already serving as a full-time cantor in Connecticut when they got married.

While there will be an adjustment period for Ivor as he relinquishes the bima, it's also obviously a time of transition for Jan, as well. "The retirement affects [her] as much as it affects me," he pointed out.

And he also pointed out, during his gracious speech at the Cantor's Retirement Celebration Shabbat Service held before the High Holidays, that he couldn't have done his job without her support.

The weekend of appreciation began with a festive sold-out Friday night dinner on September 5, then continued into Shabbat the next day.

The sanctuary was filled with well-wishers that Saturday as touching, heart-felt tributes were offered by B'nai congregant Adam Davis, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin of Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, Lutheran

pastor Philip Scherr, and Hazzan Stephen Stein - all long-time friends and/or colleagues.

At one point in the Shabbat morning service, five cantors - including Ivor and his beloved brother, Hazzan Joel Lichterman - sang together with such beauty that it was truly striking. Long-time B'nai congregant Bruce Post mentioned later that the singers were right behind him as he faced the Ark after returning the Torah scroll. "That was my moment," he remembered with just a few words that spoke proverbial volumes.

It was as though everything the retiring Hazzan had invested into his shul for 14 years - tradition, passion, love, talent, generosity, kindness, and so much more - had come together in an instant to applaud his efforts.

Ivor had been hired as a cantor, but quickly found he was serving a greatly expanded role, as well, in a shul without a rabbi. "I had to re-invent myself," he said, and anyone who's known him would attest to how well he rose to the occasion.

Ivor has been particularly proud of having initiated a beautification project, and also of the 150th anniversary celebrations in 2016 which were "a fantastic project," he raved.

Additionally, he created a conversion program himself, "from scratch." And he's so proud of the inspiring and uplifting services he's led with the congregation that he would "hold them up to any in the country."

But Ivor is quick to say that he couldn't have done any of it without Jan and without the staff at B'nai. "I've felt privileged to work with the most wonderful staff," Ivor said with tremendous gratitude. "I've had the best crew. We're a very happy family." Without them, he continued, "I would not have been able to function as

highly."

He added, "I got to work with wonderful boards and presidents" whose wisdom and support he truly appreciated.

But now that Ivor has officially retired, what's life like for him and for Jan?

"We went on a date," Jan said excitedly.

"I totally surprised her" one day, Ivor said with pride as he related the story of their date. "And she doesn't like surprises!"

The man who'd once considered a career in architecture, before realizing there was "a higher calling" for him to aspire to, is fascinated by the design and history of old buildings. So he'd planned a day trip to Akron to see the famous Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens.

Jan then returned the favor on a different day, taking Ivor to see *Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale*, which they both loved and he highly recommends.

Ivor has lots of plans to stay busy. "I'm a deltiologist," he noted, pleased to use the official term for a postcard aficionado. He's very specific in the areas of interest and expertise for his collection: "Only countries I've been to," he explained, and also images of synagogues; they must be in color, and only continental-size (4"x6"). He's collected postcards since he was in middle school, and devotes himself to buying, trading, and selling



▲ Hazzan Lichterman and wife, Jan Lacker-Lichterman

them. He also is an avid fan of model cars, with 500 or so in his possession.

Together, Ivor and Jan go for walks nearly every day. And they'd like to travel - both to visit their three children and nine grandchildren, and also to indulge his love of photography.

"I've had a 54-year career. I loved doing it - it was very fulfilling, very gratifying," Ivor said as he looked back at the era.

And "with a very full heart," he added about B'nai, the final stop in his professional life, "I love this congregation."

Mary Bilyeu is Community Relations Programming Specialist at Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo.

COMMUNICATION | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

HOW IT WORKS

When an alert is issued, the system first sends a text message. If there's no confirmation, it follows up with an email and then a phone call until the alert is acknowledged. This "persistent contact" ensures that important messages are received, not missed.

Community leaders can easily confirm alerts with a quick text reply or by clicking a confirmation link. This feedback not only stops further alerts but also gives security personnel real-time visibility into who has successfully received the message.

BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE TOGETHER

JFGT is committed to creating

a culture of **preparedness, resilience, and empowerment.**

By adopting SCN Alert, we are strengthening our ability to protect Jewish life today while fostering a community where education, culture, and religious life can flourish safely for generations to come.

More information on how members of our community can engage with SCN Alert will be shared in the coming weeks. Together, through awareness, communication, and collaboration, we are building a safer, stronger, and more vibrant Jewish community.

Editor's note: This new system is currently in progress and additional information will be provided as appropriate moving forward.

Dave Tullis is Security Director at Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo.

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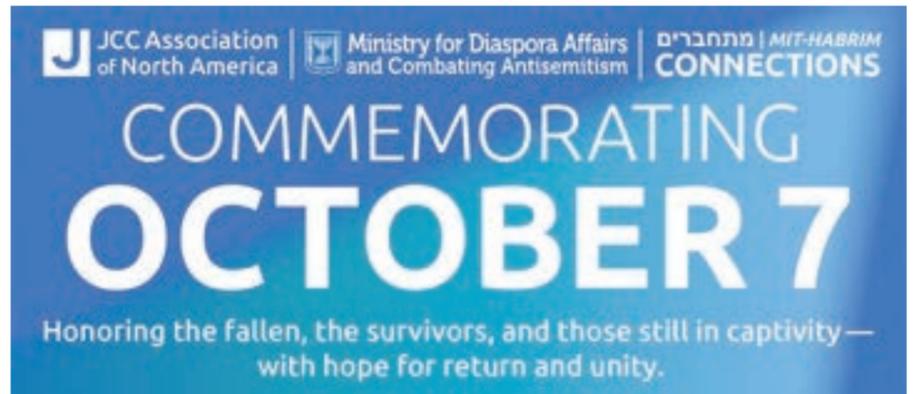
TOLEDO OPERA

Commemorating two years since October 7

Jewish Toledo came together in early October for a viewing of Matisyahu's "Song of Ascent: October 7 and Beyond," a community commemoration of the two-year anniversary of the October 7 massacre in Israel.

Attendees watched the documentary/concert film following Matisyahu's journey as he performs three sold-out shows in Israel while facing cancellations and protests at his US tour dates due to rising anti-Israel sentiment. Thrust into a role he never sought, Matisyahu becomes a powerful voice for Jewish people worldwide, navigating the complexities of identity, faith, and resilience amidst a global crisis.

Following the film, our local clergy - Rabbi Yossi Shemtov, Chabad Toledo; Rabbi Aaron Marsh, Congregation B'nai Israel; and Rabbi Lisa Delson, Temple Shomer Emunim - led the community in prayer as we honored and remembered those lost on and since October 7, 2023.



▲ Helen Grubb and daughter, Binyamina Mann



▲ More than 60 community members attended JFGT's two-year commemoration of October 7.

TOLEDO Jewish News

Stay Informed. Stay Connected.

Toledo Jewish News, together with the Cleveland Jewish News, Akron Jewish News and Columbus Jewish News, now brings you timely coverage through our exclusive e-newsletters:

- Ohio Breaking News – Get the latest headlines that matter most to our Jewish communities across Ohio.
- Israel at War – Receive urgent updates and in-depth reporting as events unfold in Israel.

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*By submitting this form, you have opted in to start receiving Ohio Breaking News, Israel at War, and other updates from the Toledo Jewish News.



▲ (clockwise from top left) Stephen Rothschild, CEO, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo; Rabbi Lisa Delson, Temple Shomer Emunim; Rabbi Yossi Shemtov, Chabad Toledo; and Rabbi Aaron Marsh, Congregation B'nai Israel.



▲ Attendees watched and reflected upon Matisyahu's film, *Song of Ascent: October 7 and Beyond*.

JEWISH FEDERATION AND FOUNDATION OF GREATER TOLEDO TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS:

We gratefully acknowledge the following Tributes and Memorials to JFGT and TJCF funds. Tributes and Memorials can be made by contacting Barb at 419-724-0357, barb@jewishtoledo.org or Monique at 419-724-0386, monique@jewishtoledo.org.

Received between September 11-October 10, 2025

JFGT General

In Memory of Alan Benjamin

- Dr. and Mrs. Robert Berns
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kasle

Arleen R. Levine TJCF Fund for Donor Stewardship

- In Memory of Bill Barkan**
- In Memory of Diane Bernstein**
- In Memory of Michael Gordon**
- In Memory of Alan Benjamin**
- Mr. and Mrs. Jon Levine

JSFSS Food Pantry

- In Memory of Bill Barkan**
- Mrs. Kathryn Southard

Hillel419

- In Honor of Paul Goldner Special Birthday**
- Mr. and Mrs. Jon Levine

In Celebration of Sarah & Jon Karelitz Wedding Anniversary

In Celebration of Debbie & Stu Diamond Wedding Anniversary

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- Mrs. Nancy Beren

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In Memory of Alan Benjamin

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- Mr. Bob L. Schwartz

In Memory of Bill Barkan

- Mrs. Kathryn Southard

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- Mr. Marvin Schonbrun

In Memory of Alan Benjamin

- Patrick Haeuptle
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Rothschild
- Loren & Cindy Sengstock

JFGT financial assistance and cancellation policies for programs

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. Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo is not responsible for any additional costs incurred by participants, such as travel or accommodation expenses.

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 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.

JFGT 2025 Holiday Office Closures:

Date	Day of Week	Holiday	Office Hours
November 27, 2025	Thursday	Thanksgiving	Closed
November 28, 2025	Friday	Day after Thanksgiving	Closed
December 24, 2025	Wednesday	Christmas Eve	Close at 1 p.m.
December 25, 2025	Thursday	Christmas	Closed
December 31, 2025	Wednesday	New Year's Eve	Close at 1 p.m.

Time Change

The office closes at 3:30 p.m. Fridays starting November 7, 2025

TOLEDO Jewish News

Volume 75 No. 2 • 24 pages
November 2025

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Jewish Federation & Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

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(ISSN 0040-9081)

Toledo Jewish News is published 11 times per year, by Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, 6465 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560. *Toledo Jewish News* invites correspondence on subjects of interest to the Jewish community, but disclaims responsibility for any endorsement of the views or opinions expressed by contributing writers. All submissions become the property of *Toledo Jewish News*. Submissions will be edited for accuracy, brevity and clarity and are subject to verification. *Toledo Jewish News* reserves the right to refuse any submissions. *Toledo Jewish News* does not guarantee the kashrut of any of its advertisers. The appearance of advertising, in the *Toledo Jewish News* print or digital media, does not constitute an endorsement of the advertisers or their products and services by *Toledo Jewish News*, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo and its affiliated agencies. Product and services information is based solely on material received from suppliers. Opinions published in the *Commentary* section are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of JFGT, its employees, officers, and directors.

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
10th of each month
Editorial copy by email to abby@JewishToledo.org or on disc to 6465 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
15th of each month
Advertising inquiries should be addressed to: 6465 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560 419-724-0363

POSTMASTER:
Please send address corrections to: 6465 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560
Entered as Periodicals at the post office at Toledo, Ohio,
under act of March 3, 1987.
Periodicals U.S. Postage Paid at Sylvania, Ohio.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$36 PER YEAR



The Jewish Federations OF NORTH AMERICA



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From New York to Jerusalem: How the world's press covered the homecoming



Shine a Light on Antisemitism: Zach Bodner, "Why Do Jewish?"

On Thursday, December 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) is hosting its annual **Shine a Light on Antisemitism program**. Featuring Zach Bodner, author of *Why Do Jewish? A Manifesto for 21st Century Jewish Peoplehood*, the event comes at a moment when antisemitism is surging around the world and Jewish identity is being challenged and reshaped.



Bodner

Bodner is a seeker, writer, storyteller, and community-builder whose insights offer guidance, inspiration, and a call to action. As President and CEO of the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, California, he has spearheaded initiatives like the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and The Z3 Project, which reimagines the relationship between Diaspora Jewry and Israel. Before that, he spent 14

years as the Pacific Northwest Regional Director for AIPAC. Bodner holds a master's degree in philosophy of religion and theology and studied at Yale, Hebrew University, and Stanford.

We live in a time of rising antisemitism. Misconceptions, hostility, and violence against Jews are no longer distant warnings but daily realities for many. At the same time, Jewish identity itself is under negotiation; younger generations question what it means to "do Jewish" in a changing world. In this climate, Bodner's message has never been more urgent. He will explore how we can resist threats to Jewish life not only by defending ourselves, but by deepening our identity, taking communal responsibility, and rediscovering how Judaism can be vibrant, relevant, and resilient.

Together, we will shine a light — not just on the dangers, but on our enduring strengths, responsibilities, and hopes for the future.

RSVP is required by Friday, December 6 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events> or with Mary Bilyeu at mary@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0405.

The free event will include a dessert reception at a Toledo-area location (for the safety and security of our community, the location of all events will be shared with registrants prior to each event).



WHAT: Shine a Light on Antisemitism: Zach Bodner, "Why do Jewish?"
WHEN: December 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: For the safety and security of our community, the location of all events will be shared with registrants prior to each event

TICKETS: RSVP is required by Friday, December 6 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events> or with Mary Bilyeu at mary@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0405.



How to contribute to Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation that gratefully accepts gifts of securities and IRA's. Most gifts are tax deductible. There is one EIN 34-4428259. Gifts can be made to Jewish Federation (JFGT) to the Annual Campaign or for other unrestricted or designated uses, and gifts can be made to Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF) for restricted or unrestricted purposes and can include gifts to donor advised funds.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING GIFTS FROM IRA'S

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo accepts IRA Charitable Rollover contributions to the Annual Campaign.

Notify your bank/broker of your intentions to contribute with an IRA to Jewish Federation of Toledo (JFGT) or Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF). IRA contributions must be in the form of a check per the IRS. Please instruct your broker to make a check payable to the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, and then notify Yi Shaw, Controller of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/Toledo Jewish Community Foundation at 419-724-0371 or via email Yi@JewishToledo.org to inform her of the contribution. IRA gifts cannot be used to fund a Donor Advised Fund.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo accepts donations of stock as payment for pledges made to the Annual Campaign and other unrestricted and designated uses. **Stock gifts need to be received by 12 p.m. (noon) on December 30, 2025 in**

order to sell before the market closes.

When the stock is held by your broker or commercial banker:

Notify your broker of your intentions to donate securities to Jewish Federation of Toledo (JFGT) or Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF). Your broker should then notify Yi Shaw of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/Toledo Jewish Community Foundation at 419-724-0371 or via email at Yi@JewishToledo.org to discuss the details of this transaction. Your broker can contact Charles Schwab or Pershing and provide the following account information to process the transfer:

Charles Schwab – Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo a/c# 2198-2998, DTC #0164, Code 40. A nominal fee will be charged for stock or mutual funds. Typically, not more than \$10.00.

Pershing – Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo a/c# 33W-261392. Please note: a minimum transaction fee will be charged for all stock transactions. Mutual Funds is a nominal fee.

To ensure faster processing, it is important that your broker submit your full name along with complete stock information to Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/ Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WIRING FUNDS

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Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

PERSONAL CREDIT CARD & CHECK PAYMENT DEADLINES

Credit card payment information must be received at Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo by 12 Noon Tuesday, December 30, 2025 for 2025 tax purposes. As stated above, **payments by check need only be postmarked December 31, 2025 for 2025 tax purposes, or you can make payments online at www.JewishToledo.org by midnight on December 31, 2025.** Please call the accounting department before 2:00 pm each day at 419-724-0368 to process a credit card payment over the phone, except **December 31, 2025 (by 12 p.m.)**.



Donate online at www.jewishtoledo.org
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Donate by check to: Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, Attention: Wendy Goldstein, 6465 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania, Ohio 43560. Contact Wendy at 419-724-0360 or wendy@jewishtoledo.org. Call Yi at 419-724-0371 or email her at yi@JewishToledo.org for stock or IRA gifts.

Please note that checks need to be post-marked by December 31, 2025 to be a 2025 charitable contribution.



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Bring Jewish stories home



Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

PJ Library is supported by The Inspiration Fund.



DAVE TULLIS
Security Director
✉ dave@jewishtoledo.org



The TOP 10 Phone Scams & How to Avoid Them

1. Pay or be arrested

Scammers call a victim and claim to be affiliated with law enforcement and tell the person they have an active warrant. The scammer then instructs the victim to pay money using a credit card, gift card, or prepaid debit card to clear up the matter. The reality is that the police will never call you on the phone and demand money to clear up active warrants. If you must clear up a warrant, call the appropriate court and inquire about the matter.

Also, be wary of those from “police-related” charities unless you have researched or checked with the actual agency prior to donating money.

2. The Grandparent Scam

Scammers will call the victim pretending to be a grandchild (or other relative) and claim they are in jail and desperately need to be bailed out. An easy way to defeat the scam is to ask specific questions only that relative would know the answer to OR call back the relative (using a known phone number) to find out if the information is accurate. A call to law enforcement where the relative “got arrested” may also help to clear up the matter.

3. The Computer Fix-It Scam

A scammer pretending to be a computer/software expert will tell the victim that their computer has a “virus” and they must reveal passwords or other personal information so that the expert (scammer) can fix the problem remotely from another location. This scam can result in your

computer being hacked and personal information stolen. Never give out personal information over the phone unless you are 100% sure of the caller’s identity.

4. The Lottery Scam

A caller/scammer tells the victim that they have “won” money in a contest or lottery. In order to get their winnings, they must first send money via debit card, credit card, or gift card to complete the process. The victim will never see the “winnings” and lose whatever money they sent to the caller.

5. The Utility Scam

The caller claims to be from one of your local utility companies and that you are behind on payments. They threaten to shut off your utilities unless you make a payment over the phone with a credit card, gift card, or prepaid debit card. Utility companies do NOT operate in the manner; instead, they send a written notice through the mail. Call them directly or use their website to pay if you believe there is an outstanding balance on your account. Be aware that scammers can “spoof” the phone number of a legitimate company to make it APPEAR that the call is actually coming from THAT company when in fact, it is NOT.

6. The IRS Scam

A person (scammer) claiming to be an IRS agent or rep will call and demand payment of back taxes, threatening arrest over nonpayment. Or the caller will say the victim is

OWED a refund but needs bank account information for a direct deposit. The real IRS uses written communication when money is owed or a refund due (on official letterhead/envelope).

7. The Work from Home Scam

Another popular scam is contacting people with offers to work from home as an online or “secret” shopper. They will contact you for work and then send you a check for your wages (to deposit) but instruct you to send some money back for fees. In the end, the check that you received/deposited is found to be fraudulent. The fees that were sent become a financial loss (theft).

8. The Storm Chaser Scam

Following severe weather, a so-called “home repair” firm will contact homeowners about fixing storm damage IF the resident turns over their insurance check that was paid to them. In most cases, the work is never done and the money lost. Residents should get multiple estimates from legitimate BBB-rated repair firms and make the contact phone call TO them, never make large payments in advance and get a detailed, written contract with the company.

9. Student Scam

College students are vulnerable to scams that may offer them student loan relief, debt consolidation, part-time jobs, apartment rentals, etc.

Never pay anyone money up front for a job offer or “money for nothing” offer that seems too good to be true.

10. Online Shopping Scam

A seller will ask you to send money for an item you bought online, after which you will likely not receive the item you paid for. Or a “buyer” will offer you a personal check and ask that you not cash it right away. In most cases, you will be left without the money OR the item you bought.

In short, ALWAYS be wary of person(s) contacting you on the telephone or via text/email. It is important to double-check the caller’s identity. They are very convincing and good at what they do.

The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) reports to consumers that GIFT CARDS and RELOADABLE CARDS are the #1 payment method for imposter scams. Scammers often send their victims to stores like Walmart, Target, Walgreen’s, Meijer, etc. to purchase iTunes/Apple or Google Play gift cards (42% of consumers).

Finally, scammers often make their need sound “urgent” and encourage the victim to act “immediately” in order to not allow them to think their decision through or contact anyone else for help.

Be smart and protect your hard-earned money from these deceitful and disgraceful individuals!

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Are your kids visiting?

Don't turn them into tech support - let us help instead!

Spend time with your family over dinner instead of watching them work on your computer. Schedule a one-on-one Device Advice or Tech Support appointment today and let your family gathering be all about *family!*

Contact Tim Hagen, Technology Coordinator at Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services, at 419-724-0412 or Tim@jewishtoledo.org



Happy Tears

LAUREN SACHS

It is early evening in September as I sit on the deck under my leafy pergola. I type away on my laptop in a state of deep focus, vaguely aware of the beautiful scene around me. To a casual observer, nothing is happening, but the natural world is full of activity.

I listen to the hum of cicadas, feeling a gentle breeze on my bare legs, looking up from time to time at the clear blue sky, hearing the birds sing and the leaves rustle, all while watching the sun stream through the trees and form shadows on my lawn and the rear of my house. I feel a sense of peace and solace: the kind that nature readily affords, but that can also be found through a yoga class, a recovery run at the park, a therapy session, or via a bit of self-care such as a visit with a close friend. With my teenage daughters back in school, I am able to catch my breath and reflect on the gauntlet of grief that summer brings. It starts in early June with my late husband's birthday, followed quickly by Father's Day, and rounded out with a bang through Brad's yahrzeit in late August, and - finally - our wedding anniversary in early September. With these fraught events in the rearview mirror, I can ease into autumn with a sense of relief. I am especially grateful for the nearly three-quarters of the year before the cycle begins anew.

Since my birthday is in the fall, with its colorful leaves, chilly days, and the start of the college basketball season, I feel a sense of calm anticipation. Five years ago, my life was vastly different. In the months following Brad's death in 2020, I dreaded my birthday. I was in no mood to celebrate and was unsure I could handle the pain of another milestone day. Most of all, I was overwhelmed by the idea of being alone and worried about what my life would look like as I

aged without him. In the interim half-decade that has followed, I have found a new perspective and allowed myself to live and love again. This personal evolution was full of twists and turns, stops and starts. Though it was anything but easy, I am gratified by the personal growth I have experienced. In particular, I am pleased that I was able to mark the five-year anniversary of Brad's passing in a way that would have made him proud.

Reflecting back on this summer's grief gauntlet, I now realize that something changed for me, which allowed me to not just survive the milestone, but actually feel like I was thriving. As I consider how I felt, it occurs to me that I managed to find some serenity despite the weight and significance of it being the five-year anniversary of my loss. It also raises several important questions. Why was this year less challenging than years past? How did I reach this new stage? What lessons have I learned that might benefit others struggling with loss and grief?

Though I cannot say I know all the answers, I have some hypotheses. Perhaps it has to do with the fact that five years out, I have processed my loss and found healing for my heart. I also imagine that forging alliances with others in grief and finding new love provided significant solace. Still, I think there is more to it than even those critical pieces can explain. I believe that much of my ability to tolerate the milestone has to do with being honest about the pain and dealing with it on a regular basis. Because I am constantly thinking about loss and

examining it through my writing, in therapy, and as a hospice volunteer, I feel I have benefitted from allowing grief to companion me on a regular basis. Rather than pushing it away, it has simply become a regular part of my existence. With its consistent presence, my grief has evolved into a dull and

distant ache, rather than an acute, piercing pang. This subdued state of discomfort allows me to feel great empathy for others facing grief in the early aftermath of loss. It also allows me to experience a deep and abiding gratitude for my life, knowing how precarious our existence is. Perhaps most important, it keeps me connected to Brad and to the tears that I still shed on milestone days, and whenever another wave of grief comes rolling in.

Lauren Sachs 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, she 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 serving as the Chair for the 20th Annual NW Ohio Jewish Book Festival. In addition to her involvement within the local Jewish community, Lauren serves as a volunteer for Hospice of Northwest Ohio. She 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. To learn more about Lauren's journey and her work on living well after loss, visit www.literally-lauren.com.

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NOVEMBER Weekday Specials

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- Saturday - Happy Hour 11-4

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Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

More information jewishtoledo.org/emoji

Dr. Deitra Hickey advises Jewish Toledo Lions and Pomegranates on resilience and more

Stress happens! At a recent Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) women's philanthropy brunch, Dr. Deitra Hickey (motivational speaker, life coach, licensed counselor, author) showed Jewish Toledo Lions and Pomegranates how to face it with perspective, balance, and a little humor. Her tips for resilience, blind empathy, and well-being are tools the group will all be keeping close!



▲ (L to R) Sheila Odesky and Ilene Miller



▲ Dr. Deitra Hickey



▲ (L to R) Tamara Green, Christina Katz, Lisa Shall, Cheryl Rothschild, and Connie Zimmelman

meijer **SIMPLY give**

You can help fight local hunger!

The Meijer **Simply Give** campaign runs **Sunday, September 28 through Saturday, December 27** at the Central Avenue store, which benefits the Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services Family Food Pantry

You can help by purchasing a \$10 card (or multiples of \$10) at Meijer during those days.

Make your dollars go ever further!

Double Match Day

Saturday, December 13

On Double Match Days, purchasing a \$10 card will result in a \$30 donation! Cards are available at Meijer on Central Ave. and the Sekach Building (6505 Sylvania Avenue).

You can be a hero to those who are hungry. We can serve **MORE** when you give **MORE!**



meijer **SIMPLY give**

To participate, take a Meijer Simply Give card along with your \$10 and give to the cashier at the Meijer on Central Avenue




You can help fight local hunger!





Challenging hate together

KEVIN S. ADELSTEIN
 ✉ Kevin@cjn.org

Hate and violence have become a grim part of daily life in America. The assassination of Charlie Kirk in September is one of the most shocking examples, but tragically, it is not unique. Week after week, the Cleveland Jewish News and our sister publications report on hate-fueled incidents - often motivated by antisemitism. Nazis marching in Hudson, threats aimed at U.S. Rep. Max Miller, slurs shouted at Jews walking in Beachwood - the list is long, ugly and growing.

That is why the CJN is taking a new step to help our community understand and respond to the growing current of hate in our midst. Today, we're launching "The Impact of Hate." This ongoing series will not only report individual acts, but also explore their broader effects - on children, families, communities and our nation. The idea came from our Board Chairman Emeritus, David Hertz, a Pulitzer Prize-winning former editor at the Akron Beacon Journal. "Coverage of hate is often fragmented," Hertz told me. "What's missing is a sustained, thoughtful approach to understanding its impact on individuals and society as a whole."

Just a few months ago, a gunman opened fire outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., during a Young Diplomats Reception hosted by the American Jewish Committee. Two Israeli Embassy staff members - Yaron Lischinsky, a German-Israeli, and Sarah Milgrim, an American Jew - were killed as they left an event dedicated to building unity. Their lives, devoted to connection and bridge-building, were cut short by hate.

Earlier this year, before Kirk's murder, New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd wrote of the ugliness of hate: "Americans are at one another's throats, living in a world of insults, coarseness and cruelty," she

said.

Sadly, the data backs her up. The Anti-Defamation League recorded 9,354 antisemitic incidents in the U.S. in 2024 - a 5% increase from the prior year and the highest since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents 46 years ago. Over the past decade, the increase has been nearly 900%.

The events of Oct. 7, 2023, only fueled this fire. We see it everywhere: in politics, race relations, gender identity and online exchanges. Hate is no longer an aberration - it's becoming reflexive, embedded and corrosive. It burdens families, erodes communities and leaves emotional and financial scars that last far beyond the initial act. As the U.S. Department of Justice notes on its website, the damage is never limited to one victim: hate crimes intimidate entire communities.

Yet most media, including us, tend to cover these incidents episodically. We document tragedies like the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh or, more recently, Kirk's killing. We cover the grief, sometimes the trial and then the story fades. But the consequences of hate do not fade - they linger, accumulate and shape society.

The urgency of our times, of this moment, demands more. And that's why we're introducing this feature series now.

Joining Hertz in this effort is longtime CJN Columnist Regina Brett, whose work has inspired CJN readers for more than a decade. Hertz and Brett first worked together 30 years ago at the Akron Beacon Journal, where Hertz conceived "A Question of Color," a yearlong examination of race relations in Akron that earned the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. Now, they reunite to guide this new conversation on our pages.

During his 15 years at the Beacon Journal, Hertz held numerous newsroom positions, including business editor, metro editor and enterprise editor. He has been a member of our board of directors for nearly 20 years, often serving as my editorial adviser.

Brett, whose popular column usually appears on page three of the CJN, is The New York Times bestselling author of "God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours," which has been published in more than 22 languages. She writes a Substack blog called "Little Detours with Regina Brett." She also authored the books, "Little Detours and Spiritual Adventures," and, "Spiritual Adventures, Be the Miracle: 50 Lessons for Finding Fulfilling Work." She was twice named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in commentary. Brett has been a columnist for the CJN for 12 years.

Recently, you may have read Regina's column, "Hate - I HATE IT!" - a preview of the kind of commentary you'll see as part of this new initiative. While she won't focus on hate every week, her first installment explores "Hate is everywhere." CJN columnist Jonathan Tobin also recently examined the "Normalization of hate."

Hertz spoke with Kelly Fishman, regional director of the ADL's newly

3 Ways to Combat Rising Hate

- Promote education that fosters empathy and inclusive school curricula
- Create robust laws that deter hate crimes and require digital platforms to remove extremist content swiftly
- Hold community-led dialogue programs

Kelly Fishman
 Regional Director of
 ADL Ohio River Valley

- Recognize the commonalities of hate
- Develop an understanding of humanity
- Have intellectual curiosity about why people have a different view. Don't be seduced by calling other people "evil."

Kenneth Stern
 Author and founder of
 Bard Center for the Study of Hate

rebranded Ohio River Valley region, and Kenneth Stern, a nationally recognized authority on hate and antisemitism. He also interviewed Northeast Ohioans who rallied in Hudson to protest the Nazi presence - a chilling reminder of how close to home this hate has come. "The Nazi flag presses us," state Sen. Casey Weinstein told Hertz. "It is an existential threat. This is not normal. It's the new normal. It's targeted hate. It's harassment and intimidation."

Can this new initiative change the "new normal?" I don't know. But I believe in the power of story. If we can help even a few readers pause, reflect and rethink hateful impulses - or find strength in the stories of others - we will have made a difference.

That is our responsibility. And we can't do it alone. Share your experiences with us. Write letters to the editor (abby@jewishtoledo.org). Tell us about moments when you've confronted or overcome hate. Hate impacts all of us, and only together can we push back against its grip.

Kevin S. Adelstein is publisher and CEO of the Cleveland Jewish News and president of the Cleveland Jewish Publication Company.

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This article first appeared in the Cleveland Jewish News. Reprinted with permission.

Simcha: Dr. Blair Grubb transforms care for people living with chronic illness

UToledo Distinguished University Professor Blair Grubb was recently recognized for his research, which indicates that symptoms broadly categorized as long COVID (lasting fatigue, dizziness, brain fog, and a rapid heart rate) may actually be caused by postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), a chronic and often debilitating blood circulation disorder. According to UToledo, in documenting a five-fold increase in POTS diagnoses after the emergence of COVID-19, Grubb and his team have not only shown an unprecedented acceleration in what was once thought to be a relatively rare condition, but they're also giving some patients suffering from long COVID a more definitive diagnosis and new treatment options.



Palestinian man who allegedly participated in Oct. 7 attack on Israel arrested in Louisiana

GRACE GILSON | JTA

A Palestinian man in Louisiana was arrested in mid-October after federal prosecutors accused him of participating in the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023 attacks on Israel.

Mahmoud Amin Ya'qub Al-Muhtadi, 33, a Palestinian resident of Lafayette, Louisiana, is accused of being an operative for the National Resistance Brigades, a Gaza-based paramilitary group that took part in the Oct. 7 attacks.

"After hiding out in the United States, this monster has been found and charged with participating in the atrocities of October 7 — the single deadliest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust," Attorney General Pamela Bondi said in a statement.

The government's case against Al-Muhtadi appears to represent the first arrest on U.S. soil of anyone alleged to have participated in the deadly 2023 attack, in which 1,200 people in Israel, most civilians, were killed and 251 people were taken hostage.

On that day, after Al-Muhtadi learned of the attacks, he allegedly

"armed himself, recruited additional marauders, and then entered Israel," according to a statement by Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Eisenberg.

According to transcripts of cell phone calls Al-Muhtadi allegedly made that morning, he told another man to "get ready" and that "the borders are open," and later requested a "full magazine."

Al-Muhtadi's phone also used a cell tower located near Kibbutz Kfar Aza in Israel, where at least 62 residents were killed and 19 were taken hostage during the attacks, according to court documents.

He entered the United States on Sept. 12, 2024, after allegedly providing false information on his U.S. visa application to immigration authorities, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

A criminal complaint against Al-Muhtadi was filed on Oct. 6 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, on the eve of the second anniversary of the attack. He was charged with providing, attempting to provide or conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist



▲ Mahmoud Amin Ya'qub Al-Muhtadi (left) allegedly conducts firearm training for the National Resistance Brigades. | United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana

organization as well as visa fraud, according to the criminal complaint.

The arrest comes as the U.S. government seeks legal redress against those who perpetrated the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, which included U.S. citizens among the victims. In September 2024, the Justice Department also filed charges against six Hamas officials, including Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar shortly before he was killed in Gaza by the

Israeli military.

Bondi established the Joint Task Force October 7, which the Justice Department is calling JTF 10-7, in February 2025 to investigate the attacks. The task force discovered Al-Muhtadi's presence in the United States, according to the Justice Department's press release, and JTF 10-7 and the FBI New Orleans Field Office are now investigating the case along with Israeli authorities.

Toledo Jewish Men's Club 2025-2026 Calendar

The Toledo Jewish Men's Club (The "Club") is open to all men in the Toledo Jewish Community. There are no dues or fees other than the couverte for luncheons.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4:

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO VISITING PROFESSOR OF LAW, PAUL FINKELMAN

Professor Finkelman is a specialist in American legal history and constitutional law. He has lectured at the United Nations, throughout the United States, and in more than a dozen other countries.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2:

NATHAN MATTIMOE, DIRECTOR OF ART IN PUBLIC PLACES, THE ARTS COMMISSION OF TOLEDO

Nathan administers the City of Toledo's One Percent for Art ordinance, including managing new

public art projects and overseeing the maintenance and conservation of more than 40 public art pieces.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 (2026):

SANDY SPANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

As TMACOG Executive Director, Sandy is responsible for leading regional economic collaboration across northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Sandy previously served as Deputy Director of Economic Development for the City of Toledo and a member of Toledo City Council.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 (2026):

DAVID BRIGGS, SPORTS COLUMNIST FOR THE TOLEDO BLADE

Veteran observer of sports in Toledo, across Ohio, and nationally, Dave is a voting member of the AP top 25 football rankings. In addition to his

role as a lead sports columnist for The Blade, Dave has written for, and appeared in, many national sports media outlets.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 (2026):

DR. ROMULUS DURANT, CEO/SUPERINTENDENT-TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Durant's 11th year as the Superintendent of TPS, he is the youngest educator to hold the position and the first awarded "Urban Educator of the Year" by the Council of Great City Schools.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7; TUESDAY, MAY 5; AND TUESDAY, JUNE 2 (2026):

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Questions?

Call Joel 419-704-5039

Co-Chairs: Mark Greenblatt, Dick Greenblatt, Matt Rubin, and Joel Beren

BE PART OF THE STORY!

Toledo Jewish News welcomes community submissions, including commentary, articles of interest, and historic photos. **Email materials for consideration to abby@jewishtoledo.org.**

TOLEDO
Jewish News

28TH ANNUAL GIVE • A • GIFT FOR KIDS

All holiday gifts should be dropped off, unwrapped, at Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave. by 4pm on Wednesday, December 3

Supporting kids referred to us by the following agencies:

- Jewish Senior and Family Social Services
- Lucas County Juvenile Court's CASA program

For more information call Julie Romanoff at 419-297-3029 or email sprmom88@aol.com.

21st Annual NW Ohio Jewish Book Festival

The 21st Annual NW Ohio Jewish Book Festival kicked off on Oct. 23, with monthly guest lectures and discussions throughout

the remainder of 2025. For the safety and security of the community, locations of all events will be shared with registrants prior to each event.



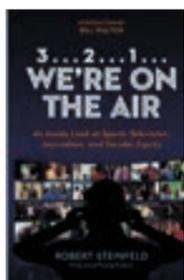
6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, NOV. 2

"3... 2... 1... WE'RE ON THE AIR A NETWORK PRODUCER'S INSIDE LOOK AT SPORTS TELEVISION, JOURNALISM, AND GENDER EQUITY"

By Robert Steinfeld



Steinfeld



Feldkamp

Join Emmy Award-winning producer Robert Steinfeld on his path from eager, ambitious Jewish teenage journalist to ultimately realizing his dream to produce sports' biggest events on national network television. Along the way, he's crossed paths with superstar athletes Cal Ripken, Alex Rodriguez, Nolan Ryan, Nancy Lieberman, Tim Duncan, David Robinson, and Bill Walton plus announcers Bob Costas, Jim Nantz, Robin Roberts, and more. Go inside the world of sports television with stories about the Dream Team I at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics; challenges at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics; partnering with Hall of Fame pitchers Nolan Ryan and Randy Johnson; five decades in the NBA, MLB, WNBA; and being a champion of gender equity.

Foreword by Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of

Famer Nancy Lieberman and introduction by fellow Hall of Famer Bill Walton who wrote, "Let the countdown begin..."

Robert Steinfeld has produced and directed sports television for five decades for the major networks. He's Executive Producer of the WNBA Dallas Wings. He spent many days participating in events and sports at the JCC in Dallas where he lives now with his wife, children and three grandchildren.

Cost is \$18 per person, includes dinner and soft drinks or \$40 per person, includes copy of book, dinner and soft drinks.

Robert Steinfeld will be interviewed by special guest, Justin Feldkamp. Justin joined Buckeye Broadband's BCSN and BCAN in November 2020.

He is the host of Inside Out with Justin Feldkamp, a 30-minute interview-style show seen monthly on BCSN. He also helps to select the high school games and the special programming that is aired on BCSN.

RSVP deadline is Monday, October 27 (Sylvania/Toledo-area location to be announced prior to event)

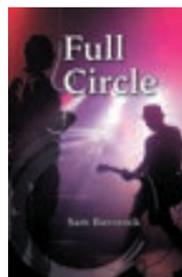
12:00 P.M. THURSDAY, NOV. 13

"FULL CIRCLE"

By Sam Bierstock



Bierstock



"Full Circle" is a laugh-out-loud, "Borscht Belt humor" journey through the ups and downs of the lives of four septuagenarian musicians, while cutting a gut-wrenching depth and eye-opening look into PTSD, Holocaust and WWII heroism, and our ignored or forgotten aging citizens residing in nursing homes. Mick's ingenuity and nostalgia for his band reunites the four aging friends as they brighten the depressive shadow looming over the nursing home while revealing how every life has a story and something to teach us

if we pay attention.

Sam Bierstock has never stopped pursuing new adventures. He is a physician and an eye surgeon who became a pioneer of technology in the early years of electronic health records. He is an electrical engineer. He is an award-winning songwriter, a professional musician, and has toured the U.S. since 1995 with his band, Dr. Sam & The Managed Care Blues Band. He is a professional ski instructor, a pilot of powered and fixed-wing glider aircraft, a scuba diver, a motorcycle enthusiast, a horseman, is certified by the American Sailing Association, and is a builder of custom guitars.

Cost is \$10 per person, includes kosher lunch or \$20 per person, includes copy of book and kosher lunch.

RSVP deadline is Friday, November 7 (Sylvania-area location to be announced prior to event)

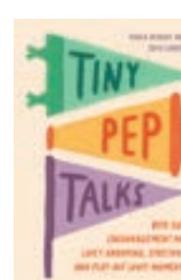
7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, DEC. 4

"TINY PEP TALKS: BITE-SIZE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR LIFE'S ANNOYING, STRESSFUL, AND FLAT-OUT LOUSY MOMENTS"

By Paula Skaggs and Josh Linden



Skaggs and Linden



Need a pep talk? How about "Tiny Pep Talks" from two comedians who offer hilarious encouragement for your most mundane struggles? Anybody can tell you, "You can do it!" before the big job interview, or before you walk down the aisle, or before you head out onto the field to make the game-winning kick at the Super Bowl. But what about the other 99.99% of stuff you do? Comedians Josh Linden and Paula Skaggs are rooting for you, and they're here to cheerlead you through your everyday challenges.

Josh Linden is a "USA Today" bestselling author and comedian. He is co-creator of the hit game, "No Wrong Answers: Cards for Better Conversations", and cohost of "Being Earnest (A Very Sincere Podcast)". He has a degree in Medieval History, which comes in handy surprisingly often. Josh lives in Chicago with his wife, daughter, and (very long) dog.

Paula Skaggs is a best-selling author, a card game creator and a pretty big fan of frozen food. She is the co-creator, with Josh Linden, of "No Wrong Answers" and the sodium-laden writer behind "Paula Eats", a frozen meal review newsletter. When she's not busy with self-promotion she can be found at the nearest thrift store or drinking a crisp Diet Coke (probably both at the same time).

Cost is \$18 per person, includes appetizers and drinks or \$30 per person, includes copy of book, appetizers and drinks.

RSVP deadline is Monday, December 1 (Sylvania-area location to be announced prior to event)

There are multiple ways to register for each book festival event:

Scan the QR Code on your phone or tablet:

By phone: 419-724-0351

By email: sherry@jewishtoledo.org

Complete the online form: form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms.

For more information or questions, visit jewishtoledo.org/nwojewishbookfestival25 or contact Hallie Freed at 419-724-0362 or hallie@jewishtoledo.org.

All featured author books will be available for presale. Limited books will be available for sale at and after all in person events.

All programs are subject to change or cancellation without prior notification due to schedules and commitments of our authors. Refunds will be available.



The Northwest Ohio Jewish Book Festival would like to acknowledge the following for their generous support and partnership:



Jack Jr. and Nora Romanoff
Donor Advised Fund

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo Programs and Events



Featured Event

Thursday, December 11

Shine a Light on Antisemitism: Zach Bodner, "Why do Jewish?"

Annual Community Event - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) is hosting its annual Shine a Light on Antisemitism program. Featuring Zach Bodner, author of "Why Do Jewish? A Manifesto for 21st Century Jewish Peoplehood," the event comes at a moment when antisemitism is surging around the world and Jewish identity is being challenged and reshaped.



Turn to page 7 for more information about this event.



FRIDAYS, NOV. 14 AND DEC. 19

BABY LOVES SHABBAT PLAYDATES

Presented by Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, each playdate will feature creative play, light snacks, challah, Shabbat songs and more. Participants who register for all three sessions will receive a special Shabbat Box to use during the playdates and take home afterward. RSVPs are required by the day prior to each session to marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2:

BOOK FESTIVAL

"3...2...1 WE'RE ONE THE AIR"

Join Emmy Award-winning producer Robert Steinfeld on his path from eager, ambitious Jewish teenage journalist to ultimately realizing his dream to produce sports' biggest events on national network television. Special interview by BCSN's Justin Feldkamp. Cost is \$18 per person, includes dinner and soft drinks, or \$40 per person, includes copy of book, dinner and soft drinks. For more information or questions, see page 13, visit jewishtoledo.org/nwojewishbookfestival25 or contact Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Featured Event

Thursday, December 18

Senior Latke Lunch: A Magical Celebration with Rick Smith Jr.

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo will host its annual Senior Latke Lunch: A Magical Celebration with Rick Smith Jr. from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at a Toledo-area location.



Turn to page 16 for more information about this event.

WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 12

**DEVICE ADVICE WITH TIM
EXPLORING PHONE SETTINGS | FOR SENIORS**

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13:

**BOOK FESTIVAL
"FULL CIRCLE"**

"Full Circle" by Sam Bierstock is a laugh-out-loud, "Borscht Belt humor" journey through the ups and downs of the lives of four septuagenarian musicians, while cutting a gut-wrenching depth and eye-opening look into PTSD, Holocaust and WWII heroism, and our ignored or forgotten aging citizens residing in nursing homes. Cost is \$10 per person, includes kosher lunch, or \$20 per person, includes copy of book and kosher lunch. For more information or questions, see page 13, visit jewishtoledo.org/nwojewishbookfestival25 or contact Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

LADIES WHO GIVE THANKS

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo invites women of all ages to gather for "Ladies Who Give Thanks" on Sunday, Nov. 16, from 4-6 p.m. Come together to celebrate Friendsgiving, meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, and share the spirit of gratitude. Participants will enjoy a delicious festive meal featuring family recipes, participate in a mitzvah project to support Pilgrim Church's Project Dignity, and enjoy a warm, festive atmosphere. RSVP by Monday, November 10.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**DEVICE ADVICE WITH TIM
EXPLORING MAP APPS | FOR SENIORS**

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

PJ LIBRARY KIDS DAY OUT CELEBRATES HANUKKAH FUN

Designed for children in grades K-7, the event will feature a Hanukkah-themed afternoon filled with fun activities, including making edible dreidels, creating a gift to give to someone special, playing games and enjoying pizza for lunch. The cost is \$10 per child and includes all activities and lunch. RSVPs are required by Friday, Nov. 21.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

GIVE • A • GIFT FOR KIDS 2025

Help make a child's holiday season special this year by donating gifts through the annual Give-A-Gift program. The kids will be referred to the program by the following agencies: Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services and Lucas County Juvenile Court's CASA program. All holiday gifts should be dropped off, unwrapped, at Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave., by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3. For more information, call Julie Romanoff at 419-297-3029 or email at sprmom88@aol.com.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

**BOOK FESTIVAL
"TINY PEP TALKS"**

Need a pep talk? "How about Tiny Pep Talks" from two comedians who offer hilarious encouragement for your most mundane struggles? Authors Josh Linden and Paula Skaggs are rooting for you and will be in town. Cost is \$18 per person, includes appetizers and drinks, or \$30 per person, includes copy of book, appetizers, and drinks. For more information or questions, see page 13, visit jewishtoledo.org/nwojewishbookfestival25 or contact Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

LATKES & LIGHTS 2025

Celebrate the Festival of Lights—with a wild twist! Join us for an evening of Hanukkah fun and dazzling lights at the Toledo Zoo. Dinner will be available all evening, so you can stop in before, after, or in between your zoo adventures to warm up, see new friends and old, and do some Hanukkah crafts. This event is open to families of all ages and stages—the perfect way to celebrate together! RSVP Required by Monday, December 1.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

SHINE A LIGHT ON ANTISEMITISM

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) is hosting its annual Shine a Light on Antisemitism program. Featuring Zach Bodner, author of Why Do Jewish? A Manifesto for 21st Century Jewish Peoplehood, the event comes at a moment when antisemitism is surging around the world and Jewish identity is being challenged and reshaped.

For more information and resources, visit jewishtoledo.org.



To register for an event, please call Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or email her at sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



All information subject to change with updates posted on jewishtoledo.org



To have your community events listed in News You Can Use, send information to abby@jewishtoledo.org at least 45 days prior to event.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

SENIOR LATKE LUNCH: A MAGICAL CELEBRATION WITH RICK SMITH JR.

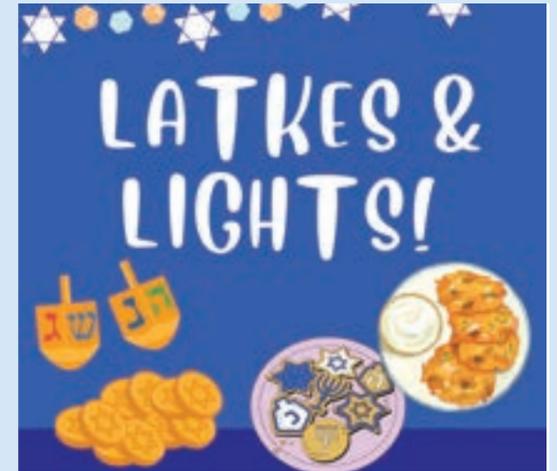
Get ready to add a little extra magic to your Hanukkah celebration! This year's celebration will feature the incredible Rick Smith Jr. — a world-renowned magician and Guinness World Record-holding card thrower who has wowed audiences around the globe. RSVP by Wednesday, December 10.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 (2026)

SUDS & SCHMOOZE

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) invites all Jewish Toledo seniors to start 2026 with a fresh burst of creativity and self-care. Participants will spend a hands-on afternoon making bath bombs to take home or share as gifts while enjoying light snacks, good company, and the joy of starting 2026 feeling refreshed and renewed. RSVP by Monday, January 5.

NOVEMBER JSFSS PROGRAMS INCLUDING CELEBRATE SEPHARDI & MIZRAHI HERITAGE AND SENIOR DEVICE ADVICE WERE MADE POSSIBLE IN PART THROUGH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM THE ELLIOTT & IRENE MILLER FAMILY FUND FBO JSFSS AND JCRC IN THE TOLEDO JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.



Featured Event

Sunday, December 7
Latkes & Lights 2025

Celebrate the Festival of Lights—with a wild twist! Join us for an evening of Hanukkah fun and dazzling lights at the Toledo Zoo. Dinner will be available all evening, so you can stop in before, after, or in between your zoo adventures to warm up, see new friends and old, and do some Hanukkah crafts. For more information, visit form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



Turn to page 16 for more information about this event.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Baby Loves Shabbat playdates return this fall

Families with children ages 3 and under are invited to join Baby Loves Shabbat, a series of free, pint-sized Shabbat celebrations this fall. The events will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Fridays, Nov. 14 and Dec. 19.

Presented by Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, each playdate will feature creative play, light snacks, challah, Shabbat songs and more. Participants who register for all three sessions will receive a special Shabbat Box to use during the playdates and take home afterward.

For safety and security reasons, the location of each event will be shared only with registered participants.

RSVPs are required by the day prior to each session. To register, contact Marnie Younker at marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

Celebrate Sephardi and Mizrahi heritage with cookie decorating

Join Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo in welcoming the community to an afternoon celebrating Sephardi and Mizrahi heritage with a cookie decorating activity at noon Thursday, Nov. 6. The Sylvania-area location will be shared with registered participants for safety and security.

The \$10 event includes lunch from Poco Piatti and all supplies needed to decorate a cookie shaped like a hamsa, a traditional hand-shaped symbol of protection, blessing and good fortune. Participants will also explore the rich traditions of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews, spanning Spain, North Africa and the Middle East, through stories, music and food.

RSVPs are required at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/Seniors or by contacting Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

Federation to host 'Ladies who Give Thanks' Nov. 16

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo invites women of all ages to gather for "Ladies Who Give Thanks" on Sunday, Nov. 16, from 4 – 6 p.m. at a Sylvania-area venue, which will be shared with attendees ahead of the event.

Come together to celebrate Friendsgiving, meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, and share the spirit of gratitude. Participants will enjoy a delicious festive meal featuring family recipes, participate in a mitzvah project to support Pilgrim Church's Project Dignity, and enjoy a warm, festive atmosphere.

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo will provide both traditional and unique side dishes to complement a Thanksgiving dinner. After RSVPing, guests will receive an invitation to share their favorite side dish recipe, and all submissions will be compiled into a special keepsake to be given to everyone in attendance.

The cost is \$18 per person, which includes dinner and drinks.

RSVP by Monday, November 10 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jewishwomen or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

For the safety and security of our community, the location of all events will be shared with registrants prior to the event.

2026 Mah Jongg Cards available for purchase

Thanks to the generous support of Jewish Toledo, Hille419 will receive a check for \$765 from 2025 sales of Mah Jongg cards. This year, The National Mah Jongg League will be giving back \$6 for every card sold.

Please continue to support Hillel at UT and BGSU. Large cards are \$15 and standard card are \$14. Make your check payable to Lois Levison, 6634 Kingsbridge Dr., Sylvania, OH 43560. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email along with the size and number of cards being purchased.

Federation to host 'Suds & Schmooze' for Jewish Toledo seniors

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo will host a "Suds & Schmooze" event for local Jewish seniors on Thurs. Jan. 15, 2026, from 1 to 3 p.m. at a Holland-area location, which will be shared with attendees ahead of the event.

Participants will make bath bombs to take home or give as gifts while enjoying light snacks and socializing.

The cost is \$15 for Annual Campaign donors and \$30 for non-donors, including supplies, snacks, and drinks.

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

For community safety, the event location will be shared only with registered participants.

Lego fun under the sukkah

Local families built the spirit and joy of Sukkot one Lego brick at a time at Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's "Lego my Sukkah" program in mid-October. They shook the lulav and etrog, enjoyed several Lego-themed crafts, and had a blast with so many hands-on activities



Jewish Toledo celebrates Hanukkah throughout the community

PJ Library Kids Day Out celebrates Hanukkah fun

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo will present PJ Library Kids Day Out: Hanukkah Edition from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23.

Designed for children in grades K-7, the event will feature a Hanukkah-themed afternoon filled with fun activities, including making edible dreidels, creating a gift to give to someone special, playing games and enjoying pizza for lunch. The cost is \$10 per child and includes all activities and lunch.

For the safety and security of the community, the Sylvania-area location will be shared only with registered participants. Children attending Sunday School will be transported to the event so parents can enjoy a little extra time on Sunday.

RSVPs are required by Friday, Nov. 21 at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily or by contacting Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

Latkes & Lights returns to Toledo Zoo for Hanukkah celebration

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo invites families of all ages to Latkes & Lights 2025, an evening of Hanukkah fun and dazzling lights at the Toledo Zoo, from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Guests can enjoy dinner, dessert, Hanukkah crafts and access to the zoo's winter slide while taking in the spectacular Festival of Lights display. Dinner will be served throughout the evening, allowing families to stop in before,

after or in between their zoo adventures.

Admission is \$15 per adult and \$10 per child for Toledo Zoo members, and \$30 per adult and \$20 per child for nonmembers. Cost includes admission and parking for nonmembers.

RSVPs are required by Monday, Dec. 1 at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily or by contacting Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.

Senior Latke Lunch adds a touch of magic to Hanukkah

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo will host its annual Senior Latke Lunch: A Magical Celebration with Rick Smith Jr. from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at a Toledo-area location.

This year's Hanukkah celebration will feature world-renowned magician and Guinness World Record-holding card thrower Rick Smith Jr., known for his high-energy performances and appearances on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, Shark Tank, Ellen, America's Got Talent and Penn & Teller: Fool Us—where he successfully fooled the legendary duo.

Guests can enjoy a festive afternoon filled with delicious latkes, good company and Smith's signature blend of precision, humor and jaw-dropping magic.

The cost is \$10 for donors to the Annual Campaign and \$25 for non-donors. RSVPs are required by Wednesday, Dec. 10 at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or by contacting Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.

Real-life Holocaust survivors star in Scarlett Johansson's directorial debut 'Eleanor the Great'

GRACE GILSON | JTA

When Rita Zohar stepped into the role of Bessie Stern, a Holocaust survivor whose death sets in motion Scarlett Johansson's new film "Eleanor the Great," she wasn't simply acting.

Zohar, 81, is a childhood survivor of the Holocaust. She was also drawing on her lived experience of loss and resilience to bring life to her character.

"This role in this movie has given me a voice," Zohar told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Even though this is not my story, this is not what happened to me or my family, but still, by being able to verbalize it, I connected to Bessie, and I became Bessie in the film."

"Eleanor the Great," Johansson's directorial debut, stars 95-year-old Jewish actress June Squibb as she seeks connection in New York City following the death of her best friend Bessie. Feeling isolated, Squibb's character, Eleanor Morgenstein, winds up joining a support group for Holocaust survivors at the local Jewish community center.

There, when pressed by the group's members to share her story, Morgenstein tells Bessie's story as her own, which Zohar orates in her own words.

"At one point, they asked her, and they kind of pressure her to tell her story, and without any intention to lie, she starts

telling the story as if it was hers," said Zohar. "And then what happens in the movie is that she starts the first sentence, and then I appear and I tell the story."

That choice, according to the script's author Tory Kamen, was intentional. In an interview with Hey Alma, Kamen said the character Bessie was named after her grandmother's best friend in Florida who is a Holocaust survivor.

"Another thing that was important to me was that we never really saw Eleanor telling Bessie's story. I wanted that to be from Bessie's mouth. That story should only be told by Bessie," Kamen said. "And Rita Zohar, who plays Bessie, is a Holocaust survivor herself, and does an unbelievable job."

Morgenstein's story echoes others who have also falsely portrayed themselves as survivors. In 2016, a Pennsylvania man publicly apologized after giving speeches claiming to have survived Auschwitz, and in 2019, a German historian was outed for fabricating a family history of suffering in the Holocaust.

Later on in the film, Morgenstein's story is picked up by a young journalism student played by Erin Kellyman, whose father's efforts to learn more about her story threatens to reveal her dishonesty.

For Johansson, who broke down in tears on the PBS show "Finding Your Roots" in 2017 after learning her family had perished in the Warsaw Ghetto, the

movie had a special resonance.

"A lot of my family history was lost and it wasn't until many years later that I was actually able to connect with my family heritage," Johansson said in a red carpet interview at the Toronto Film Festival. "I think because of that, this story really resonated with me. These survivors' stories are lost, there are organizations like Shoah that are committed to documenting them for future generations and their work is so important. I hope that this film really encourages people to ask questions of their relatives and to keep their stories alive."

Johansson worked with the USC Shoah Foundation as well as Congregation Rodeph Shalom, a Reform synagogue in Manhattan, to ensure real Holocaust survivors were featured in the film.

That decision also led to the casting of Zohar, who was born in a concentration camp in Ukraine in 1944 where she was hidden during her infancy in a gap between two walls beneath a window.

"When the Russians came and liberated the camp, at that time, I was 4 and 1/2 months old, and that probably saved my life, because I wouldn't have been able to survive longer than that," said Zohar.

While the majority of her family was murdered, Zohar survived along with her mother and grandmother. After the war, Zohar's remaining family emigrated to Romania where they lived until she and her mother moved to Israel in the 1950s.

"Arriving to Israel, it's as if you discovered the sun for the first time," said Zohar. "It was our sun, it was our country, and the whole country was at that time, so together, we were so high."

At 14, Zohar began touring around the world with her mother acting in Israel's Yiddish theater before eventually starring in major movies, including "Amadeus," in Hollywood in the 1980s. She later returned to Israel, where she starred in several critically acclaimed films including "Laura Adler's Last Love Affair" and "Mrs. Moskowitz and the Cats."

For Zohar, while some critics of "Eleanor the Great" have balked at the movie's false Holocaust narrative, she believes the film lends from a long tradition of Jews empathizing with their ancestors' persecution, and that for Squibb's character, "it's as if she was there."

"They talk about Eleanor telling a lie, and I look at it a little bit differently, because when we celebrate Passover or any of the Jewish holidays, and we talk about the history and that we were slaves, we always say it as if we were there," said Zohar.

As the remaining Holocaust survivor population sharply declines, Zohar said that continuing to contribute to Holocaust storytelling was "a gift."

"It's extremely important, because you have to look at the age," Zohar said. "I mean, there will come a time that there will be no survivors, and who will tell our story?"

Gan Yeladim Preschoolers march for Simchat Torah

In preparation of Simchat Torah, Gan Yeladim Preschool – co-sponsored by Chabad and Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo – danced and paraded through the Sekach Building and patio to commemorate the holiday, which celebrates the completion and immediate restart of the annual Torah reading cycle.



Dinner and a show

Jewish Toledo seniors recently had dinner together courtesy of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) then took a bus up to The Crosswell Opera House in Adrian, MI for a powerful performance of "Parade." "Parade," the Tony Award-winning musical by Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry, tells the haunting true story of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory manager in 1913 Georgia who is wrongfully accused of murder. Set against the backdrop of antisemitism, injustice, and mob mentality, the show is both gripping and deeply moving—offering powerful themes of identity, prejudice, and perseverance.





**Ahava program
For families of individuals
with special needs**

Ahava is a program of the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo that is managed by Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services and has provided a lifeline since 2016 to Jewish families in Greater Toledo who are raising children with special needs and simply want to be able to access the best care possible for their children.

Through Ahava, Federation awards local Jewish families an annual scholarship of up to \$1,500 for each child, no matter their age, to put toward the cost of therapies such as speech therapy and music therapy, equipment, medical supplies, continuing education for parents on raising children with special needs, and other resources that help positively impact individuals and their families.

For more information about Ahava, please contact Ben Malczewski at ben@jewishtoledo.org or 419-885-2561.

GO PAPER LESS

TOLEDO Jewish News

Want to opt out of the Toledo Jewish News print version? The newspaper is posted online every month (often earlier than the mail) and always FREE to read on your smart phone, computer, or tablet. Stay up-to-date on the latest of Jewish Toledo at www.jewishtoledo.org/about-us/tjnff.

To opt out, mail Abby Hoicowitz at abby@jewishtoledo.org with your name and address, and we'll remove you from the mail list. Thanks for helping us save the planet!



READ TJN ONLINE HERE

JSFSS Family Pantry Wish List

While the Food Pantry appreciates food donations, there is a greater need for personal care and paper products. The Food Pantry depends on financial gifts or donations for personal care items. If you'd like to donate items to the Food Pantry, please consider choosing items from its wish list:

- paper towels
- facial tissues
- diapers
- feminine hygiene products
- disposable razors
- shampoo
- soap (bar soap, dish soap,
- liquid hand soap, and laundry soap)
- toilet paper (preferably individual, pre-wrapped rolls)
- Other personal hygiene items of your choice

Contact Hannah Loeser
(419) 724- 0401

HOW TO CONTACT JSFSS

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 Jewish Senior,
Family & 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

jewishtoledo.org/jfs



Get Fit Classes

Monday

**Prime Movers Early, 9-10am -or-
Prime Movers 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

**Prime Movers Early, 9-10am -or-
Prime Movers Later, 10:30-11:30am**

(see description above)

Ballet 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-11am

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 Sylvania-area location. Contact Hannah at 419-724-0401 for exact location.*



* For the safety and security of our community, the location of all events will be shared with registrants prior to the event.

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



YouTube

At Gan Yeladim, every moment is a learning opportunity.



We needed to build a Sukkah.
So first, we learned how to safely use tools and climb a ladder.

Then, with proper supervision, we got to use them ourselves!

We needed to decorate the Sukkah.

So we went to Erie Apple Orchards to collect apples, pumpkins, and some beautiful gourds.

We spent our day washing and cleaning our gourds, then worked hard to mix shaving cream and paint to create gorgeous leaves to hang in the Sukkah.

We needed to eat in the Sukkah.

So we collected different varieties of apples and baked a homemade apple pie to enjoy together.

At Gan Yeladim, we don't just have a Sukkah — we turn it into a hands-on experience that includes math, science, language development, fine and gross motor skills, critical thinking, and so much more.

Come join us on our journey of discovery and celebration



Chabad and Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo
Supported by the Federation's Annual Campaign

Learn more: Reach out to Mushka Matusof at mushka@jewishtoledo.org or visit www.jewishtoledo.org/about-us/gan-yeladim-preschool



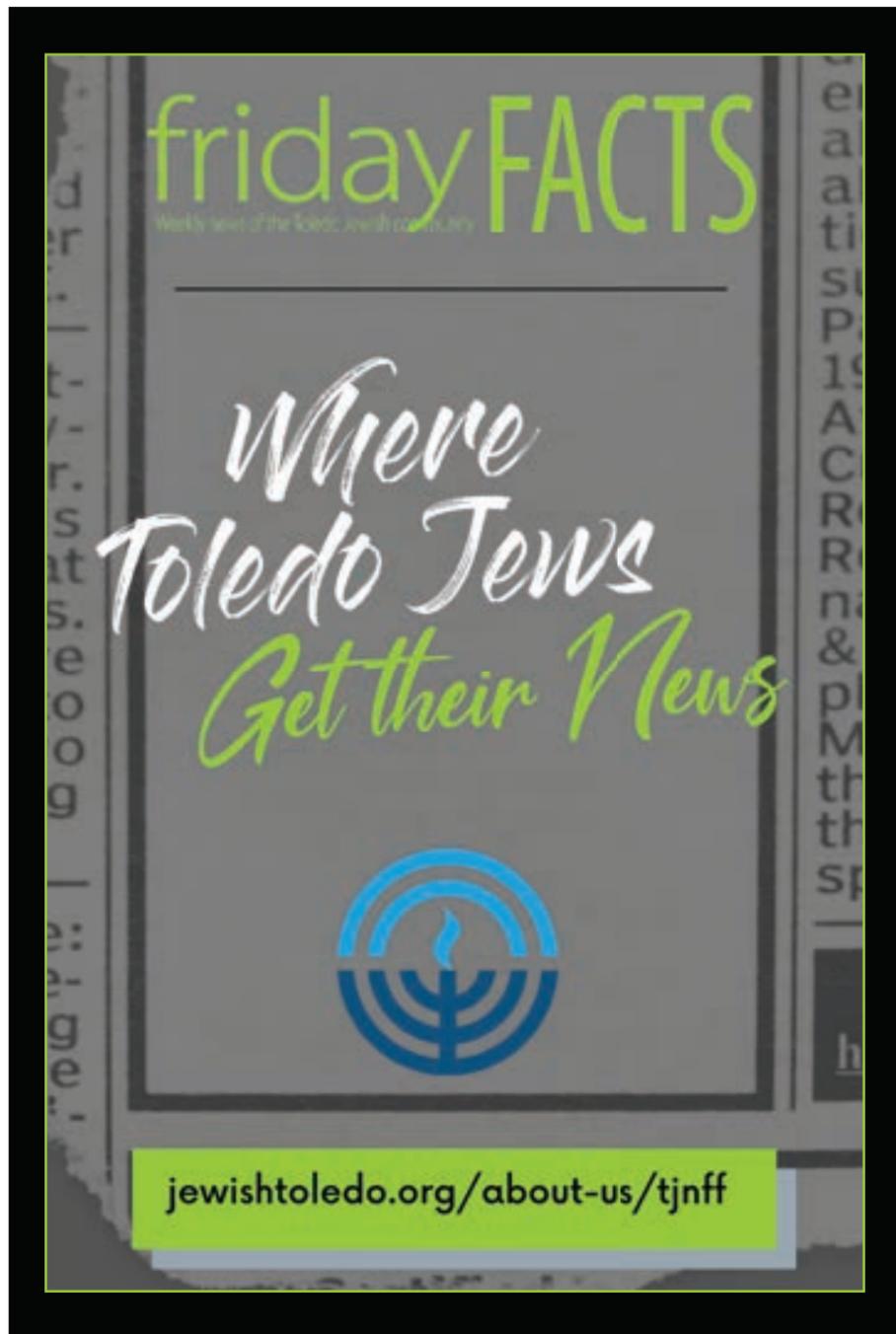
Register:
<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/gan2025-2026>

CLASSIFIEDS

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 abby@JewishToledo.org or call 419-724-0423 for more information.

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

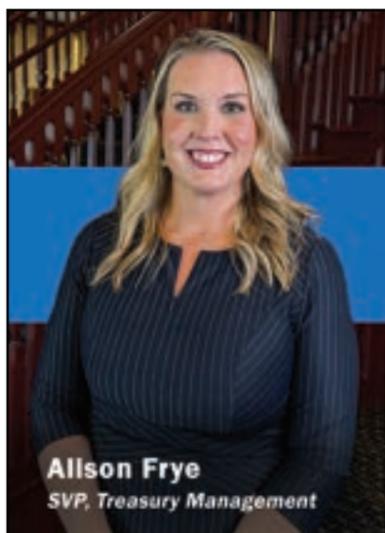


fridayFACTS
Weekly news of the Toledo Jewish community

Where Toledo Jews Get their News



jewishtoledo.org/about-us/tjnff



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TOLEDO, OHIO, 43604



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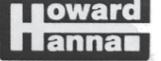
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Jewish News**

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Call 419-724-0423 for more information.*



Tech Time with Tim

TIM HAGEN
 ✉ tim@jewishtoledo.org

Consumer technology (think anything with a screen, like a tablet or smart phone) often gets a bad rap, and at times deservedly so. Add to that discussion topics like education, learning, mental health, and developing adolescent minds, and you're likely to elicit mostly negative, and many strong, reactions.

A welcome flip of this script came when I recently read a short article in "The New York Times" (from *The New Old Age* series by Paula Span) that presents certain benefits consumer technology can possibly afford seniors (who likely grew up in a more physical/analog environment) who consistently engage with tech.

According to a study cited within the article, seniors (individuals studied were aged 50 and older (average age: 69)) can maintain, if not accrue, cognitive benefits through frequent tech use (direct causality is still up for debate). Since consumer tech is always changing, new challenges are frequently posed to users to learn about and overcome. These frequent challenges encourage:

1. Daily problem solving and a "lifelong learner" mindset

2. Flexible and creative reasoning
3. Adaptability
4. Memory sharpening

So, on this pleasantly surprising note, I hope you find more enjoyment and not so much guilt or frustration in seeking out (in moderation!) the small-yet-daily tech challenges that await us all. Remain persistent! Until next month - Tim

Tim Hagen is the Project Manager and Technology Coordinator Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services at the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo | [T] 419-724-0412

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Upcoming Device Advice Tech Programs
 1. **November 12:** Exploring phone settings
 2. **November 19:** Exploring map apps

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

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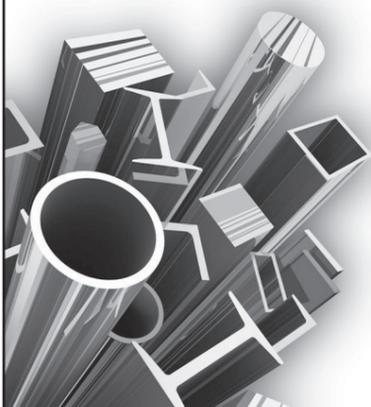


(Tech Time with Tim)

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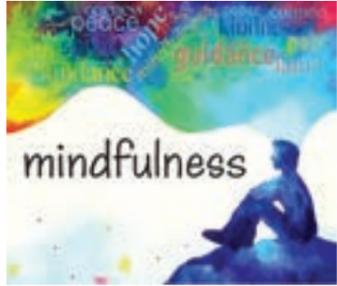
November Schedule

- Saturday, November 1 at 6pm**
Glow in the Dark Havdalah for grades 2-6
- Friday, November 7 at 6pm**
Shabbat Unplugged
with Rabbi Delson and Cantor Roher
- Saturday, November 8 at 9:30am**
Tot Shabbat
with Rabbi Delson and Cantor Roher
- Friday, November 14 at 6pm**
Shabbat with Rabbi Delson and
Dr. Andrew Pelletier
- Saturday, November 15 at 9:30am** *Torah*
Today with Rabbi Delson
- Friday, November 21 at 5:30pm**
Just Because it's Shabbat
with Cantor Roher
- Saturday, November 22 at 10:30am**
Shabbat of Song and Study
with Cantor Roher
- Friday, November 28 at 6pm**
Shabbat with Janet Rogolsky
and Dr. Andrew Pelletier



Shabbat Morning Yoga: Body and Soul with Cantor Roher Saturday, November 8 at 10:30am

Start your Shabbat morning with a rejuvenating spiritual practice that will give you a renewed sense of peace. The class is for all levels, using a chair or a mat, whichever is most appropriate for you. No experience needed. Call the Temple office for the Zoom link.



The Gift of Mindfulness Wednesday, November 5 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 the office for information to join on Zoom.

SHABBAT Shabbat Unplugged Friday, November 7 at 6 pm

Join us for a spirited musical Shabbat service with our Temple music ensemble.



Shabbat of Song and Study Saturday, November 22 at 10:30am

Rabbi Delson and Cantor Roher will lead a Shabbat morning service in song along with a study session in between.

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

6525 SYLVANIA AVE., SYLVANIA, OHIO 43560 • 419.517.8400 • CBITOLEDO.ORG

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

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

Trivia Night!

Saturday evening, November 8, 2025 6:30 PM,
In-Person at CBI

Join us for a fun evening of Trivia with fellow CBI members and friends. Pick your Team - then the Challenge begins.... AWARDS for the TOP TEAMS and the TOP Individual TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE GURUS! A light dinner will be provided.

Cost is \$15 per person.

OPEN TO THE MEMBERS OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS WITH RSVP

RSVP to the office or kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Nov. 3rd.

CBI Adult Ed with Dale Levy

Sunday, November 9, 2025, 10:30 AM at CBI

Join us for the Annual Adult Ed Interactive Torah discussion with Dale Levy. This year's topic is *The Image of God*.

OPEN TO THE MEMBERS OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS WITH RSVP

To RSVP, please email kbrody@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by November 7th.

Connecting Kids to Meals Volunteer Event

Thursday, November 6, 2025 10 AM - 12 PM

Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.
RSVP Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Nov. 5th.

CBI Office Holiday Closings

Thu. November 27 Closed Thanksgiving

Fri. November 28 Closed Thanksgiving Wknd

Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Dinner

Friday, November 14, 2025, 6:00 PM at CBI

Join us for in-person Shabbat Maariv services followed by a delicious dairy dinner.

CBI members: Free Non-members: \$15 per person
Voluntary donations from CBI members would be appreciated. Please let us know when you RSVP.

OPEN TO THE MEMBERS OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS WITH RSVP

To RSVP, please email kbrody@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by Friday, November 7th.

Join us for Canasta!

Tuesdays in November at 12:30 PM at CBI

If you are interested in playing, please contact Rhoda Miller at rmiller@cbitoledo.org.

Parashat Hashavuah:

Torah Portion of the Week Discussion

Fridays in November at 11:00 AM at CBI

OPEN TO THE MEMBERS OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS WITH RSVP

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE *except during holidays

- Monday & Thursday Morning Minyan: 8:00 AM - IP/ZM
- Monday - Thursday Afternoon Minyan: 5:45 PM - ZM
- Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: 5:45 PM - ZM
- Saturday Morning Shabbat: 9:30 AM - IP/LS
- Saturday Mincha Service: 5:00 PM - IP
- Sunday Morning Minyan: 9:30 AM - IP/ZM

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAYIM

AVIVA PANUSH LEADS SUNDAY LEARNING SESSION

Aviva will be leading another Sunday learning session on **Sunday, November 2 at 10:30 a.m.** in the synagogue library. Everyone enjoys when Aviva comes to Toledo to share her knowledge and encourages critical thinking and discussion. Aviva's session will focus on prayer and finding meaning. Her topic: "Prayer is the product of man's yearning for the most intimate of all human communication, for the opportunity to open his heart and his mind in adoration and supplication to the divine presence." (Abraham Milgram; Jewish Worship, 1971) Join us to explore our personal connections to prayers and let the words of our liturgy speak to us and for us. Please register with Nancy for this session.

MAHJ/POKER

Our Sunday poker & mahj is scheduled for **Sunday, November 16 from 10 a.m.-noon.** It is a fun morning of laughter, socialization, and good competition with your friends. Contact Nancy or Marc Jacobson if you are interested in joining the groups.



PLEASE NOTE: All Zoom, virtual, and in-person programs require registration. You can contact either Nancy Jacobson at Jaco824@bex.net or Elsa Leveton at 419-473-2401 or elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org for further information and registration.

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ART MUSEUM DOCENT TOUR

Andrea Delman, our amazing Toledo Art Museum docent, will be leading a tour on **Wednesday, November 19 at 1 p.m.** Let's meet for lunch in the museum café at noon and then we will gather in the lobby before the tour. Be prepared for an interesting art exploration. Please register with Nancy for this tour.

SHABBAT SERVICES, INSTALLATION & AWARDS DINNER

Congregation Etz Chayim invites you to Shabbat services, the installation of officers, and a delicious Shabbat dinner on **Friday, November 21, 2025.** We will be honoring Andrea Delman and Robert Wengrow who will be receiving the Harry Levine Service Award. Rabbi Jason Mark will be leading services and installing the new officers and board members. Reservations are required. The cost is \$18 per person, payable in advance. Please call the synagogue office at 419-473-2401 or email Elsa Leveton at elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org or Nancy Jacobson at Jaco824@bex.net for information and reservations.

Rabbi Mark will lead Shabbat services on **Saturday morning, November 22** with a kiddush lunch following. Plan to join to be part of the Shabbat weekend with our family.

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- Downtown Menorah Lighting

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Fall at Hillel has been busy! We kicked off the semester with our famous Welcome Week, packed with programs that brought students together and set the tone for an exciting few months ahead. The energy continued with BGSU's Homecoming, where students joined together for Hillel's Battle of the Bagels. Our giant Sukkot celebration followed, filling the space with joy, laughter, and friendship. Giving back has been just as important. Our volunteers partnered with Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services, bringing Jewish values to life through acts of service. Throughout the semester, weekly traditions like Kibitz Corner and Shabbat dinner have offered moments to relax, reflect, and nurture connections while engaging with Jewish culture. Coupled with a full schedule of holiday programming, these experiences have made Hillel a vibrant home away from home, where students build lasting relationships and make memories that will stay with them for years to come.

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