

# Toledo Jewish News

The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo



Tishri/Cheshvan 5784 • October 2023

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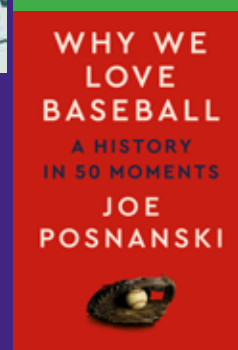
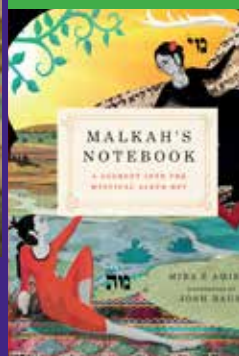


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JCC/YMCA doggie dip

## 2023 NWOHIO JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL



October 22 - November 16



Jewish Federation  
& Foundation  
OF GREATER TOLEDO

**Don't miss out on the fun!**  
**See page 2 for all the details.**

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# NWOhio Jewish Book Festival



## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual NW Ohio Book Festival

***Malkah's Notebook: A Journey into the Mystical Aleph-Bet***

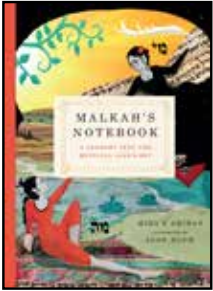
**by Mira Amiras**

**Sunday, October 22 at 5 p.m.**

Sekach Bldg. 6505 Sylvania Ave.

\$18 per adult – includes film screening, author presentation, and dinner

\$40 per adult – includes film screening, author presentation, dinner, and book



Malkah is a child when her father tries teaching her to read Torah. But they don't get very far. As Malkah studies, her questions multiply. She discovers an earlier, hidden story of creation within the Hebrew Aleph-Bet letters in the first line of Genesis, and a door opens. Malkah's discovery takes her on a lifelong journey in search of her beginnings—into Jewish mystical texts, far-off places, archaeological digs, ancient gods, and ultimately into the nature of existence itself. At this immersive event, attendees will accompany Malkah on her profound journey, as Amiras introduces Malkah's story through a conversation about her book with Jolie Sheffer, professor of English and American Studies at Bowling Green State University, as well as a screening of Amira's award winning short film, *The Day Before Creation*, a companion to the book.

Mira Z Amiras is an anthropologist, author, and award-winning filmmaker of the animated featurette, *The Day before Creation*. She has lived, studied, and traveled throughout the Middle East and North Africa, camped out 7,000 miles through Africa, across the Sahara, heading south from Algiers to Nairobi, and traveled overland from Istanbul to the Nepalese border. She lives in San Francisco with her family.

***The Marriage Box: A Novel***

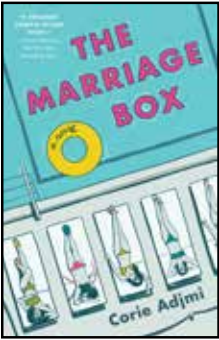
**by Corie Adjmi**

**Thursday, October 26 at 7 p.m.**

Wildwood Preserve Metroparks, Ward Pavilion, 4830 W. Central Ave.

\$10 – includes author presentation, heavy appetizers (vegetarian charcuterie table, sangria bar, and sweet treats)

\$25 – includes author presentation, heavy appetizers, and book



Casey Cohen, a Middle Eastern Jew, is a sixteen-year-old in New Orleans in the 1970s when she starts hanging out with the wrong crowd. Then she gets in trouble and her parents turn her whole world upside down by deciding to return to their roots, the Orthodox Syrian Jewish community in Brooklyn. In this new and foreign world, families gather weekly for Shabbat dinner, parties are extravagant events at the Museum of Natural History, and the Marriage Box is a real place, a pool deck designated for teenage girls to put themselves on display for potential husbands. Casey is at first shocked by this unfamiliar culture, but after she meets Michael, she's enticed by it.

**Corie Adjmi** grew up in New Orleans and started writing in her thirties. When she is not writing, Corie does volunteer work, cooks, bikes, and hikes. She and her husband have five children and several grandchildren, with more on the way. She lives and works in New York City.

***Nasty, Brutish, and Short***

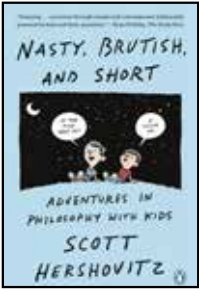
**by Scott Hershovitz**

**Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m.**

Inside the Five – 5703 Main St., Sylvania

\$18 – includes dinner and author presentation

\$36 – includes dinner, author presentation, and book



**Scott Hershovitz** has two young sons, Rex and Hank. From the time they could talk, he noticed that they raised philosophical questions and were determined to answer them. They recreated ancient arguments. And they advanced entirely new ones. That's not unusual, Hershovitz says. *Every kid is a philosopher.*

Following an agenda set by Rex and Hank, Hershovitz takes us on a fun romp through classic and contemporary philosophy, powered by questions like, Does Hank have the right to drink soda? When is it okay to swear? and, Does the number six exist? Hershovitz and his boys take on more weighty issues too. They explore punishment, authority, sex, gender, race, the nature of truth and knowledge, and the existence of G-d. Along the way, they get help from professional philosophers, famous and obscure.

Hershovitz is the Thomas G. and Mabel Long Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at The University of Michigan. He directs the University's Law and

Ethics Program and co-edits *Legal Theory*. Before joining the Michigan faculty, Hershovitz served as a law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the United States Supreme Court and an attorney-advisor on the appellate staff of the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice.

***Why We Love Baseball: A History in 50 Moments***

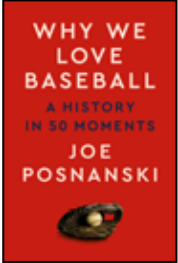
**by Joe Posnanski**

**Sunday, November 12 at 6 p.m.**

Shorty's Back Forty, 5215 Monroe St.

\$18 – includes author presentation and dinner (salmon, Impossible Burger sloppy joes, green beans, mac & cheese, salad, and other treats)

\$40 – includes author presentation, dinner, and book



A love letter to baseball, and the follow-up to last year's runaway bestseller *The Baseball 100*, Joe Posnanski's new book, *Why We Love Baseball*, is equally essential reading, now about the game's top 50 moments. Willie Mays's catch. Babe Ruth's called shot. Kirk Gibson's limping home run. Moments like these have been described again and again, and in *Why We Love Baseball*, they are looked at anew, told from unique perspectives. **Joe Posnanski** is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of six books, including *Paterno* and *The Secret of Golf*. He has written for *The Athletic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *NBC Sports*, and *The Kansas City Star* and currently writes at [JoePosnanski.com](http://JoePosnanski.com). He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his family.

***Bessie: A Novel***

**by Linda Kass**

**Thursday, November 16 at 12 p.m.**

Congregation B'nai Israel, 6525 Sylvania Ave.

\$5 – includes kosher luncheon & author presentation

\$15 – includes kosher luncheon, author presentation, and book

(Generously funded by Jewish Senior Services Supporting Organization)



Just days after the close of World War II, Bess Myerson, the daughter of poor Russian Jewish immigrants living in the Bronx, is competing in the Miss America pageant. At stake: a \$5,000 scholarship. The tension and excitement in Atlantic City's Warner Theatre are palpable, especially for traumatized Jews rooting for one of their own. So begins *Bessie*.

Drawing on biographical and historical sources, *Bessie* reimagines the early life of Bess Myerson, who, in 1945 at age 21, remarkably rises to become one of the most famous women in America. This intimate fictional portrait is a tender study of a bold young woman living at a precarious moment in our cultural history as she searches for love and acceptance, eager to make her mark on the world.

**Linda Kass** is the author of two previous historical novels, *Tasa's Song* and *A Ritchie Boy*. Linda began her career as a magazine journalist and correspondent for regional and national publications. She is the founder and owner of Gramercy Books, an independent bookstore in Columbus, Ohio.

### Registering for a Book Festival event is easy!

**By phone:** 419-724-0351

**By email:** [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org)

**Online:** [form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/bookfestival23](http://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/bookfestival23)

**At the door:** On a first come, first served basis. Seating is limited.

#### Questions?

Contact Hallie Freed at 419-724-0362 or [hallie@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:hallie@jewishtoledo.org)

Visit <https://jewishtoledo.org/nwojewishbookfestival23> for full Book Festival information.

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

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

#### 2023 Jewish Book Festival Committee

Cynthia Bramson  
Lindsay Folkerth  
Judi Fox

Lois Levison  
Andy Richards  
Sue Richards

Janet Rogolsky  
Lauren Sachs  
Judy Weinberg

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



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OF GREATER TOLEDO

- Toledo Jewish Community Foundation Long Term Community Needs Fund
- Paul Goldner & Sandy Soifer from the Goldner Family Donor Advised Fund
- Jack Jr. and Nora Romanoff Donor Advised Fund



# Local

## TJCF honors donors at Toledo Metroparks’ new Glass City Pavilion

Jewish Toledo recently celebrated the magic in the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF) with an evening of recognition at the new Glass City Pavilion, punctuated by the sunset over the Toledo skyline. Temple Shomer Emunim’s Rabbi Lisa Delson kicked off the evening with the Motzi, Ellie Williams and Frank Jacobs were honored by the Foundation, outgoing board members were acknowledged for their dedication, Dave Zenk (Executive Director of Metroparks Toledo) gave keynote remarks, magician Rick Smith Jr. performed, and more.



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fridayFACTS

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Toledo Jews  
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[jewishtoledo.org/about-us/tjnff](http://jewishtoledo.org/about-us/tjnff)





## JCRC Film Series FALL INTO FILMS

All films are FREE, though registration is highly recommended.  
To sign up for some or all of the films,  
visit <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jcrc-film-festival-registration>  
or contact  
Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org).



**Under G-d**  
**Thursday, October 12**  
6:30 p.m.  
Main Branch of the Toledo Lucas County Public  
Library, 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo  
[www.paulaeiselt.com/under-g\\_d](http://www.paulaeiselt.com/under-g_d)

*Under G-d* focuses on the Jewish response to the United States Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision that overturned Roe v. Wade. *Featuring a post-film discussion with legal and medical experts.*



**The Red Sea Diving Resort**  
**Thursday, November 16**  
6:30 p.m.  
Franciscan Center of Lourdes University,  
6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania  
[www.netflix.com/title/80240537](http://www.netflix.com/title/80240537)

*The Red Sea Diving Resort*, inspired by true events, tells the story of a Mossad-run fake hotel that enabled the rescue of Jewish-Ethiopian refugees from Sudan to Israel. *Featuring a brief presentation about Ethiopian Jews after the film.*



**Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life**  
**Thursday, December 14**  
6 p.m.  
Congregation Etz Chayim, 3853 Woodley Rd., Toledo  
<https://repairingtheworldfilm.org/>

*Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life* documents Pittsburgh's collective response in the aftermath of the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history, at the Tree of Life, New Light Congregation, and Congregation Dor Hadash synagogues. ***This film screening will be part of our 2023 Shine a Light on Antisemitism program and includes a full Kosher dinner and candle lighting for the last night of Hanukkah. (See ad next page)***

**Questions?** Contact Mary Bilyeu at 419-724-0405 or [mary@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:mary@jewishtoledo.org).



*The JCRC Film Festival is generously supported with grants from the Dr. Michael A. & Catherine Gordon Donor Advised Fund and by Paul Goldner and Sandy Soifer from the Goldner Family Donor Advised Fund in the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.*

# Handmade Hanukkah

**Music | Kids Art & Activities**  
**Delicious Food | Fabulous Art**

**Sunday, November 19 | 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**Congregation B'nai Israel, 6525 Sylvania Ave.**  
**Admission is FREE**

*Food price per adult (in advance): \$10*  
*Food price per adult (at the door): \$15*  
*Kids 16 and under: FREE*

**Handmade Hanukkah** will feature local Jewish artists (ranging from textiles and photography to jewelry, pottery, and more), kosher food, music, children's activities, and more.

**All of Toledo is invited to celebrate!**

Shop local, support your Jewish community, and find outstanding gifts for your loved ones right before the holidays.



**RSVP to: [form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/handmade23](https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/handmade23)**

For more information or questions, please contact Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0362 or [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org).





Volume 72 No. 1 • 28 pages



(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.

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:  
15th of each month  
Advertising inquiries should be addressed to:  
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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

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Make your contribution to the Annual Campaign online at [www.JewishToledo.org](http://www.JewishToledo.org)



Jewish Federation  
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JFGT Fall/Winter 2023 Holiday Office Closures:

- **Sunday, November 5** – Time Change, Office Closes at 3:30 p.m. starting November 10
- **Thursday, November 23** - Thanksgiving
- **Friday, November 24** - Thanksgiving Break
- **Monday, December 25** - Christmas Observance
- **Monday, January 1, 2024** - New Year's Day Observance

Toledo Jewish Community Foundation  
Tributes and Memorials

received between August 22 - September 19, 2023

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

*Alix Greenblatt Memorial Fund for Jewish Leadership*

In Honor of Dick Greenblatt's 80th Birthday  
Barry and Cheryl Himmel  
In Honor of Dick Greenblatt's 80th Birthday  
Rhoda Miller  
In Honor of Dick Greenblatt's 80th Birthday  
Beryl and Sharon Ravin

*Ross Treuhافت Special Needs Spirituality Fund*  
In Memory of Ross Treuhافت  
Cathy Sheets

Join us for a Hanukkah lighting

SHINE  
A LIGHT  
on Antisemitism



Antisemitism is a darkness that threatens not only the Jewish people, but all of us, no matter identity or background. Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo is hosting a rally inspired by the powerful story of Hanukkah to shine a light on antisemitism.

SAVE THE DATE  
6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14  
at Congregation Etz Chayim  
3853 Woodley Rd.

The film screening of **Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life** (see **JCRC Film Series** on previous page) will be part of our 2023 Shine a Light on Antisemitism program and includes a full Kosher dinner and candle lighting for the last night of Hanukkah.



# WHAT YOU DO MATTERS



## LESSONS FROM THE HOLOCAUST

Monday, October 16, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Tuesday, October 17, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave

**FREE**

**What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust** is a highly interactive course developed in concert with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), specifically for law enforcement with focus on ethical and bias free leadership. The course is facilitated by law enforcement professionals and utilizes historical images, videos, artifacts, and displays selected by museum historians for engaging conversation for thought leadership. Community members are welcome to attend.

There will be three 4-hour sessions offered. Each session begins with a 3-hour highly interactive and conversive course geared toward criminal justice personnel including police, prosecutors, judges, communications, corrections, victim advocates, and other administrative roles. The last hour will provide an introduction to Judaism and contemporary antisemitism, a tour of a synagogue, and discussion of the importance of reporting hate crimes.

RSVP the Friday prior to each event to [form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/what-you-do-matters](https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/what-you-do-matters) or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org). *What You Do Matters* is generously supported by a grant from the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission.



**TODD LARSON** is the Director of the What You Do Matters (WYDM) Institute focused on training criminal justice personnel across the United States. Prior to this role, he was the Associate Vice President of Workplace and Public Safety for a large Arizona Hospital System and was responsible for Security, Emergency Management, Central Communications, Access Control, Military Partnership, Simulations Training Center, Trauma Outreach, Injury Prevention, and the Forensic Nursing Program across six hospitals and over 100 other locations.

Prior to working in Healthcare, Todd retired from the Scottsdale (AZ) Police Department after 22 years of service. He spent the majority of his career investigating felony crimes within the Special Investigations Section, Violent Crimes Unit, Federal DEA Phoenix Task Force and served over ten years on the Scottsdale Police Department SWAT Team as an operator, sniper, and team leader. Todd has authored numerous court orders and warrants as well as serving as an instructor for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), The Scottsdale Police Department, and The Arizona Narcotics Officers Association (ANOA) Annual Conferences.

Todd is a graduate of The Advisory Board's High Performing Leadership Fellowship, The Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command, and is a Certified Force Science Specialist. Todd has authored several published articles involving police training, tourniquet research, TBI research, and healthcare technology. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Northern Arizona University, a Master's Degree in Leadership with Emphasis on Crisis Management and Disaster Preparedness from Grand Canyon University, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Grand Canyon University.



**ELIZABETH ORTIZ** has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics, a Master of Arts in Political Science, and a Juris Doctor. After graduating from law school, Ms. Ortiz clerked at the Arizona Court of Appeals. Ms. Ortiz then joined the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, in Phoenix, Arizona, where she prosecuted cases for sixteen years. During that time, Ms. Ortiz served as a Bureau Chief in Juvenile, Pretrial, Charging, and Appeals. In 2009, Ms. Ortiz joined the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council ("APAAC") as the Senior Staff Attorney and was subsequently named Executive Director. In addition to her APAAC duties, Ms. Ortiz is a sworn special prosecutor in several Arizona counties and continues to carry a criminal caseload.

Ms. Ortiz is co-chair of the Arizona Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women, chair of the State Bar of Arizona Public Lawyers Executive Council, and chair of the State Bar of Arizona Criminal Justice Executive Council. She serves as a board member for the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, the National District Attorney's Association, the Arizona Forensic Science Academy, the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission of Victims in Court, the State Bar of Arizona Board of Legal Specialization, and the State Bar Professionalism Advisory Council. Ms. Ortiz teaches extensively throughout Arizona, the United States, and Mexico on a wide variety of legal topics, and is a facilitator for the Lessons From the Holocaust: What You Do Matters course.



# Kristallnacht

Thursday, November 9  
5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Congregation B’nai Israel, 6525 Sylvania Ave.  
Free event

Join **Hazzan Ivor Lichterman** at Congregation B'nai Israel for minyan and for a special and meaningful commemoration of the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, during which 91 Jews were murdered and more than 900 synagogues throughout Germany were set ablaze. Community member, **Alex Groth**, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, will be the featured speaker.

RSVP by Monday, November 6 to [form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/kristallnacht](https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/kristallnacht)

Any questions? Contact Mary Bilyeu, Community Relations Programming Specialist, at 419-724-0405 or [mary@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:mary@jewishtoledo.org).

*Sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo's Jewish Community Relations Council.*



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OF GREATER TOLEDO



## Nearly 1 in 3 Jewish college students has witnessed or experienced antisemitism on campus, survey finds

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Nearly one in three current Jewish college students has witnessed or experienced some form of antisemitism on campus, according to a new survey.

The survey was released in September by Jewish on Campus, a student-founded antisemitism watchdog group. It was conducted by the polling firm Ipsos and surveyed more than 1,000 college students nationwide who identify as Jewish, as well as approximately 2,000 who reflect the general population of students and are largely not Jewish. The survey was conducted between March and May and has a credibility interval — similar to a margin of error — of 3.1%.

Of the Jewish students, 14% said they had directly experienced antisemitism on campus, while another 16% said they had witnessed an antisemitic incident.

The findings regarding personal experiences of antisemitism show a much lower rate than a similar survey conducted by Hillel International and the Anti-Defamation League in

2021, which found that almost a third of Jewish respondents had personally experienced some form of antisemitism on campus in the previous year. In that survey, around the same number said they witnessed antisemitism not directed at them.

Jewish organizations have long expressed concern over campus antisemitism, particularly having to do with student conflicts over Israel but also relating to bigotry from across the political spectrum. In 2019, then-President Donald Trump signed an executive order on antisemitism that spurred a series of federal civil rights complaints from Jewish and pro-Israel groups, including Jewish on Campus, alleging that public universities have not done enough to respond to antisemitism on their campuses.

Protecting Jews on campus is also a prominent feature of the Biden administration’s national plan for combating antisemitism, which was unveiled this spring.

The federal complaints and resulting investigations, which in some cases predated the Trump administration

and have continued into Biden’s tenure, have spurred some universities to change their policies. Last school year, months after downplaying the threat of antisemitism on his campus, the president of the University of Vermont issued a formal apology to Jewish students and promised to improve the school’s techniques for addressing the issue.

The Jewish on Campus survey also found that 84% of Jewish respondents believe antisemitism is a threat to the country, and that more than a third had heard of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement against Israel that has a pronounced presence on college campuses. The words “Israel” and “Zionism” do not appear in the survey results.

Notably, among respondents from the general population, the survey found that only 11% had heard of BDS. Nearly twice as many, meanwhile, 21%, said they had heard of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, a group best known for a controversial definition of antisemitism that a range of Jewish groups have pushed

universities to adopt, in many cases successfully.

Jewish on Campus CEO Julia Jassey said in a statement that the survey should push college students and administrators to “meet this moment and take antisemitism seriously.”

The survey “underscores the urgency of our mission to elevate the voices and experiences of Jewish students,” Jassey’s statement said. “As the new school year begins, these findings provide key evidence of the breadth and depth of antisemitism students face.”

While Jewish on Campus has surveyed campus antisemitic activity in the past, it relied on self-reported data. This was the group’s first survey conducted via a reputable polling firm, and was funded by the World Jewish Congress. It joins a series of studies, conducted by the ADL, American Jewish Committee and others, that aim to measure bigotry against Jews by tallying reported incidents or polling the public — yielding a range of results and sparking debate over which statements or actions, especially regarding Israel, count as antisemitism.



# News

## Claudia Sheinbaum is on track to become Mexico's first Jewish and woman president

**By Jacob Kessler, Gabe Friedman (JTA)** — The way things stand now, Mexico is headed to elect its first woman president next year. The two leading candidates in the polls for the 2024 election are Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico City's former mayor, and Xóchitl Gálvez, a senator representing the center-right opposition bloc.

The polls point to another first: Sheinbaum, currently the frontrunner, could become the country's first Jewish president, too.

Earlier last month, Sheinbaum, 61, was announced as the candidate for the left-wing Morena party, which has been led by the country's outgoing president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Since then, her momentum has only grown — a poll taken by the *El País* newspaper has 47% of voters supporting her, while Gálvez, her closest competitor, notched 30%.

If elected, Sheinbaum would join the ranks of the few Jews outside Israel who have been elected to their country's highest office, including Janet Jagan of Guyana, Ricardo Maduro of Honduras, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru and Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine.

Here is a primer on Sheinbaum and how her Jewishness has become part of the campaign.

She is a Nobel Prize-winning scientist and political liberal who has beaten back crime.

Born to two science professors in Mexico City, Sheinbaum herself studied physics and became an engineering professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Her research focused on, among other things, energy usage in Mexico's buildings and transportation system. Along with a group of other experts on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, she would go on to win the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

As Mexico City's head of government, Obrador appointed Sheinbaum as his environmental secretary in 2000. She became a close ally and joined his new left-wing Morena party (named after the country's Catholic patron saint, the Virgin of Guadalupe) in the early 2010s. In 2015, she was elected mayor of Tlalpan, Mexico City's largest borough, before becoming mayor of the entire city in 2018. She stepped down as mayor this summer to enter the presidential race.

Like the term-limited Obrador — whose approval rating of over 60% has been one of the highest in the world — Sheinbaum's platform includes fighting Mexico's deeply rooted corruption, continuing cash transfers to Mexico's most vulnerable populations and developing Mexico's energy sovereignty. But Sheinbaum will likely be more pro-environment



**Claudia Sheinbaum speaks after being named presidential candidate of the ruling Morena party for next year's presidential election in Mexico City, Sept. 6, 2023. (Claudia Cruz/AFP via Getty Images)**

than Obrador — while the current president has bolstered Mexico's oil industry, Sheinbaum has said most of the country's future "has to be related to renewable energy."

As mayor of Mexico City, Sheinbaum led the city through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. While Obrador appeared to minimize the threat of the virus, Sheinbaum advocated for masks and increased testing early on. And in a country plagued by violence, she has reduced her city's murder rate by nearly half.

But some controversy also brewed during her time as mayor. Despite expanding public transport, there were at least a dozen accidents, some deadly, in the city's subway system. Critics say she hasn't done enough to fix the city's crumbling infrastructure.

Sheinbaum also faced controversy involving infrastructure disaster as head of Tlalpan. In 2017, during an earthquake that killed more than 300 people in total, an elementary school collapsed in Sheinbaum's district, killing 19 children and six adults. An apartment had been built on top of the school, destabilizing it, and some criticized her for allowing district officials to approve the construction permits. She apologized for what happened, but some parents of the deceased children still hold her accountable.

Her Jewish identity is more political than religious.

Sheinbaum had Ashkenazi grandparents who immigrated from Lithuania in the 1920s and Sephardic grandparents who left Sofia, Bulgaria, in the 1940s to escape the Holocaust. She has said that she celebrated holidays at her grandparents' houses, but at home, her family life was secular.

Sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in 2018 that Sheinbaum feels connected to the history of Jews in political activism, but not as much so to the religion or its traditions. Like many secular, leftist Jews in Mexico,

her parents moved to the south of the city to be closer to the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a hotbed of political activism. She told a group of Jewish women voters during her mayoral campaign in 2018 that she was a proud Jewish woman.

She also hasn't made any public pronouncement about Israel or spoken as a member of a minority, even though Jews make up less than 1% of the capital city's population. It is not known if she belongs to any synagogue or other Jewish institution.

"In Mexico, most of the [Jewish community] is affiliated to one of the five or six major communities," said Daniel Fainstein, the dean of Jewish Studies at the Hebraica University in Mexico City. The country is known for being home to multiple tight-knit Orthodox communities, many of whom don't mingle much. "I don't think she's affiliated to any of those communities. ... She's not seen as, let's say, one of us. ... I think that she's seen as someone from Jewish origins that is developing her work as an academician and then as a politician."

Sheinbaum's Jewishness is shaping up as a simmering issue in the race.

Even though Mexicans are generally devout Catholics, according to Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, a Mexican sociologist at the University of California San Diego, the country has a strong history of separating religion from politics.

"Mexican politics has actually been quite secular," he told JTA. "So the religion of the president and the religious practices of the president are never discussed."

In a break from that unspoken tradition, former President Vicente Fox called Sheinbaum a "Bulgarian Jew" in an apparent attempt to minimize her candidacy. "The only Mexican is Xóchitl," Fox added, referring to Sheinbaum's opponent.

Fox later apologized, and Gálvez condemned Fox's comments. But since

announcing her candidacy, in only a few months of official campaigning, Sheinbaum has already released her birth certificate on Twitter — twice — and published campaign ads emphasizing her Mexican identity in the face of attacks about her origins.

Pardo-Guerra said he didn't think Sheinbaum's Jewish identity would play a major role when the votes are counted next year. But he said it can be difficult to distinguish "stupidity from antisemitism" in Mexican political discourse.

"What has been said about Claudia Sheinbaum on some occasions is very close to antisemitism," he said. "Most of it is ignorance, but I wouldn't say there isn't some other position out there."

Tabea Alexa Linhard, a comparative literature professor at Washington University in St. Louis who teaches courses on Mexican and Jewish Diaspora cultures, also said Fox's tweet had "a little bit of both" antisemitism and ignorance.

"Different forms of antisemitism endure in Mexico, as they do elsewhere," she wrote in an email. "It is hard not to see echoes of the conspiracy theories involving Barack Obama's place of birth. It is a political ruse, but in the U.S., this certainly had important consequences, and this kind of dog whistle may also be consequential in Mexico."

Most Mexican Jews probably won't vote for her.

The average Mexican may not care about Sheinbaum's religion, but the average Mexican Jew is probably not voting for her. Like most other Latin American Jewish communities, the majority of Mexico's Jews lean conservative politically. Sheinbaum's platform is not radically left-wing when compared to other leftist leaders in Latin America, but Gálvez, who founded two tech firms, may be more appealing to conservative-leaning Jews, many of whom are business owners.

"I think that most [Mexican Jews] will vote for Xochitl Galvez," said Fainstein. "[Their decision] is not related to the Jewish or non-Jewish origins of the candidates."

He added that most "upper middle class" people vote against Morena, not just Jews. However, he did mention that "there are other groups of Jews who are active in Morena and support Morena also."

Linhard also said the Jewish vote will not be dependent on the ethnic background of the candidate.

"Mexico's Jewish community is very diverse," he said. "Some will identify with Sheinbaum, others will not. But the vote of Jewish Mexicans will likely depend ... on her and her opponent's platform."



# News and Local

## A California county calls off ‘American Christian Heritage Month’ after fierce backlash

**By Sue Fishkoff**  
(J. Jewish News of Northern California via JTA) — Two months after proclaiming that July would henceforth be known locally as “American Christian Heritage Month,” the board of supervisors in El Dorado County, California reversed course.

The county’s elected governing body recently unanimously rescinded the proclamation following backlash from local Jews, the American Civil Liberties Union and others who said it inappropriately advanced the idea that the United States is a Christian nation.

“I commend the board for reflecting on and revisiting the proclamation, and I applaud them for rescinding it,” Rabbi Evon Yakar of Temple Bat Yam in South Lake Tahoe said after the vote. Yakar was one of several local residents who spoke out against the proclamation at the board meeting where the proclamation was rescinded. “I believe they did a good thing in reflecting on the divisiveness this caused.”

Marla Saunders, a massage therapist in South Lake Tahoe, said she was “verklempt” after the decision, using the Yiddish term meaning “overcome by emotion.” Saunders, who is Jewish, had started an online petition calling on the board to rescind the proclamation. The petition had more than 1,000 signatures as of Sept. 19.

“I am definitely teary with joy,” she said.

The five supervisors in El Dorado County, a rural area with 200,000 residents south of Lake Tahoe, voted on July 18 to mark every July as American Christian Heritage Month. The vote passed 4-1, though one supervisor maintains that she actually abstained but was recorded as an “aye.”

The language of the proclamation is taken from the platform of the Constitution Party, a conservative political party formed in the 1990s that advocates for hands-off governance and Christian values. Coming at a time of rising Christian nationalist sentiment across the United States, the proclamation stated that there have been “attempts to change and distort our history.”

The purpose of the proclamation is “to recognize the impact of religious beliefs on America’s history,” according to the text approved at the July meeting. The proclamation cites several prominent references to God inscribed in the country’s national institutions, monuments and founding documents, and states “that the rich spiritual and diverse religious history of our nation, from its founding to the current day be affirmed.”

“Be it further proclaimed, that any effort to remove, obscure, or purposely omit such history from our nation’s public buildings and educational

resources be rejected in the strongest manner,” the document says.

The proclamation was introduced by Supervisor John Hidahl, who said before the vote, “This great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians. Not on religions but on a foundation of Christian principles and values,” according to the Sacramento Bee. The proclamation, he continued, is “clearly stating: don’t forget our history.”

The proclamation’s critics said it violated the principle of the separation of church and state and promoted one religion over others. In an Aug. 25 letter to the board of supervisors, the ACLU of Northern California said the proclamation “conveys that the County supports, promotes and endorses specific religious beliefs and, as such, violates the California Constitution.”

The state constitution contains even more stringent requirements regarding the separation of church and state than the establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits federal laws “respecting an establishment of religion.” The California Constitution states that “Free exercise and enjoyment of religion without discrimination or preference are guaranteed.”

After last month’s vote rescinding the proclamation, Angelica Salceda, the ACLU of Northern California’s director of democracy and civic engagement, said her organization is “happy” about the new vote.

“The resolution suffered from constitutional infirmities,” she said in a statement. “The county has no business supporting, promoting, or endorsing specific religious beliefs. We think this decision is good for all residents of El Dorado County.”

El Dorado Supervisor Brooke Laine, who said that her abstention in the July vote was incorrectly recorded as an “aye” and that she also “regretted” her indecision, put the matter on the board’s agenda for last month’s meeting. After 45 minutes of public discussion, the board rescinded it, 5-0.

“I very much regretted the initial vote and my participation in it,” Laine said again noting that community members used their public comment time to both oppose and support the resolution.

“At the end of the day, it was agreed by the board that there was a reason the Founding Fathers created a separation between church and state, and that we had blurred that line, although it was not our intention,” she said. “It felt like we got it right this second time. I commend my colleagues for recognizing and correcting” the mistake.

Public pressure and media coverage contributed to the board’s eventual decision, Laine said, as did the “threat of litigation” from the ACLU. “We

## Happy Tears #3

By Lauren Sachs

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



In the wake of my husband’s death, I slowly came to understand and embrace the concept of accepting my feelings. It took quite a long time to realize that I could work through the pain more readily by allowing my emotions to wash over me instead of fighting to push them away or out of conscious awareness. With guidance from my therapist, I also came to learn that through acknowledging my emotions, I could start down the path of healing. A tangential lesson, one of the most profound lessons of my loss, came both through this exercise in exploring my feelings but also through my yoga practice. During my yoga classes, our teachers often asked us to “surrender.” Taken at face value, to surrender might simply mean we should use the breath to go deeper into a particular pose. Still, the greater concept of surrendering has to do with letting go and finding acceptance, not just in yoga class but also in life more generally.

As I surrendered to the reality of my life without Brad and let my feelings flow, I discovered a new and deeper level of emotional expression. Indeed, I came to a place where I felt my feelings so fully that my heart seemed more open than it had ever been in my life. This shift in my daily life also seemed to correspond directly to my yoga practice. Aside from my yoga teacher’s instructions to surrender, our practice taught us to let our hearts “burst open.” The physical manifestation of this idea is to use posture, breath or meditation to literally open and focus energy in the center of your chest. But the idea of awakening the heart is also akin to a metaphorical opening of the heart and all its related capacity for love, gratitude, compassion and so on.

For me, loss has led me down a path of powerful emotional discovery. While some of these emotions are obviously painful and difficult to tolerate, having an open heart is akin to seeing the world with fresh eyes. Three years after losing my husband, I am more receptive to all that life has to offer, embracing all the possibilities and feeling a greater sense of understanding of myself, along with more empathy for those around me. Losing Brad so suddenly truly caused my heart to burst open, both literally and figuratively. Though the torment of loss started this process, I now feel that my heart is so much more receptive to the joy of life and the potential for new and ever-evolving love. In this way, I am grateful for the growth caused by my grief. Just as the pain of childbirth gives way to the beautiful potential of new life, I have found strength I never knew I had which has propelled me down the path of a revitalized existence. I will continue to use this strength to live and love fully with an open mind and open heart, surrendering to my future without fear and with a newfound curiosity for all that life has in store.

couldn’t afford that,” she said.

In a caveat to his praise of the board’s new decision, Yakar added that the supervisors didn’t correct their fundamental error, which was promoting the idea of America as a Christian nation.

“This was not about celebrating one group’s heritage” in the vein of Pride Month or American Jewish Heritage Month, he said. “This is about the clear use of language in the proclamation that our country was founded as a Christian country, and that is what we are celebrating.”

That important nuance should have been explicitly discussed by the board last month, Yakar said, adding, “I don’t feel the supervisors went far enough to address that.”

Saunders added a cautionary note too, saying that some opponents of the proclamation wouldn’t have come to last month’s board meeting if law enforcement hadn’t been there. “They wouldn’t feel safe,” she said.

But still, she said, she’s pleased with the result of the vote.

“We beat back hate and division,” she said. “The way the community came together made me more optimistic about our country and the county I live in.”

*A version of this story originally appeared in J. Jewish News of Northern California and is reprinted with permission through JTA.*



# News

## Biden and Netanyahu meet for the first time this year, signaling friendship amid disagreements

**By Ron Kampeas**  
(JTA) — After months of icy relations, President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met face to face for the first time since Netanyahu's return to office late last year — with both appearing eager to convey that the U.S.-Israel alliance remains on solid footing despite their disagreements.

The two leaders have been at odds for the better part of a year over a range of issues, from Netanyahu's effort to weaken the Israeli court system to his far-right governing partners to the Biden administration's attempts to reenter an agreement with Iran. Biden has demurred on inviting Netanyahu to the White House, and the nine months during which the men did not meet is the longest any Israeli prime minister has waited for a presidential meeting in 50 years. Earlier this summer, Biden invited Israeli President Isaac Herzog to Washington, D.C., a gesture seen as a snub of Netanyahu.

The meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City took place as hundreds of people, led by Israeli expatriates, gathered to protest Netanyahu and his judicial overhaul. The protesters, who are linked to a



**President Joe Biden meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Sept. 20, 2023. (Avi Ohayon/ Israel Government Press Office)**

larger protest movement in Israel, say the legislation will gut the Israeli Supreme Court and erode Israel's democracy — a position Biden has echoed repeatedly, including at last month's meeting.

But in their press conference, the president and prime minister both broadcast an image of conviviality and stressed points of agreement despite the notes of tension. The two leaders joked with each other, each mentioning their decades-long relationship, which dates back to Biden's time as a Democratic senator

and Netanyahu's term as Israel's U.N. ambassador in the 1980s.

"Joe, we've been friends for over 40 years, and our friendship goes a long way," Netanyahu said. "And can take us a long way."

Biden and Netanyahu met privately following the press conference, and, at press time, Netanyahu was later set to address the U.N. General Assembly.

On one key issue, Biden and Netanyahu appear to be relatively aligned: the prospect for a U.S.-brokered peace treaty between Israel and Saudi Arabia. The prospects of a Saudi-Israel deal have brightened in recent weeks as Biden brokered an agreement earlier last month, at the G-20 summit of industrial nations in India, to forge a trade corridor between India and Europe that would include hubs in Saudi Arabia and Israel.

At the press conference, Netanyahu said a peace agreement with Saudi Arabia was possible while Biden is president. Biden's first term will conclude in January 2025; he is running for reelection.

"I think that under your leadership as president, we can forge a historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia," Netanyahu said. "I think such a peace would go a long way first to advance the end of the Arab Israeli conflict, achieve reconciliation between the Islamic world and the Jewish state and advance a genuine peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

Biden agreed. "If 10 years ago we were talking about normalization with Saudi Arabia, we'd be speaking to each other like, 'Who's been drinking what?'" he said.

Biden also mentioned the initiative in his speech to the General Assembly, saying the trade corridor would "spur opportunities and investment across two continents."

"This is part of our effort to build a more sustainable, integrated Middle East," Biden said in his

speech. "It demonstrates how Israel's greater normalization and economic connection with its neighbors is delivering positive and practical impacts even as we continue to work tirelessly to support a just and lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians — two states for two peoples."

Netanyahu has supported such a trade route for decades, and appeared elated that Biden was placing the proposed corridor front-and-center in U.S. diplomacy. "Such a corridor will make Israel an important hub and a highway of unprecedented prosperity," he told Biden.

Saudi Arabia's leaders have been less bullish than Israel or the United States on the prospect of a deal, but they have signaled a degree of enthusiasm. One sign of that positivity was a conference they helped convene on the sidelines of the United Nations to revive sustained Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which haven't occurred for nearly a decade, and which Saudi leaders say would be critical to advancing peace between their country and Israel.

Despite their mutual optimism about an accord with Saudi Arabia, the press conference was replete with evidence of the two leaders' disagreements over Israel's democratic trajectory.

"We're going to discuss some of the hard issues," Biden said. "That is, upholding democratic values that lie at the heart of our relationship, including checks and balances in our systems."

Netanyahu said he was intent on preserving Israel's democracy. "I want to reassure here before you, Mr. President, that one thing is certain, and one thing will never change. And that is Israel's commitment to democracy," he said. "We will continue to uphold the values that both our proud democracies cherish."

Both leaders also mentioned Iran before they closed their meeting to media but did not seem to be particularly at odds when it came to that issue. In recent days, Biden has drawn criticism from American foreign policy hawks for a prisoner exchange he brokered with Iran that also released money for humanitarian assistance to Iran.

Biden said their discussion would include "ensuring that Iran never never acquires a nuclear weapon. Because even though we have some differences, my commitment to Israel, you know, is ironclad."

"I appreciate Mr. President, your continuous commitment to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weapons capability," Netanyahu said. "That's critical."

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# Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services

## WGTE brings Jewish Toledo private PBS ‘Jewish Journey’ screenings

In late August, Cathy Kamenca, Outreach Coordinator for WGTE, provided two screenings of the PBS documentary: The Jewish Journey: America, which looks at five centuries of Jewish immigration to the United States through top scholars in Jewish history, notable Jewish-American writers, and many immigrants themselves. Afterwards, Technology Coordinator Tim Hagen led participants on a virtual tour of some of the ancestral homelands of a good number of our own Toledo Jewish community members.



### What is MVP?

The Mitzvah Volunteer Program is a 5 week training program for kids in grades 6-7, that teaches future Friendship Circle volunteers how to interact with children who have special needs. Participants will learn about various disabilities, appropriate conduct when volunteering, the importance of giving back to the community, and the positive impact they can have on others.

The curriculum includes an overview of Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and others. The program also features an Anti-Bullying Program, called “Upstander - Be an Upstander, not a Bystander.”

Friendship Circle’s training practices ensure that participants learn through many different formats, including games that make it possible to glimpse what the world looks like through the lens of having special needs.

Alongside a Senior FC Mentor (current volunteer), participants will get to create and plan their very own program for The Friendship Circle participants, and the 6th (final) MVP Session will be facilitating the event.

### You’re Invited!

If you would like to learn how to make a difference in the world, join us for 5 Sessions of MVP Training (+ Pizza) this fall!

### When is it?

**4 Sunday Evenings, from 5:00 to 6:15 PM**  
**November 5, 12, 19, 26**

Followed by the finale at  
Chanukah Carnival Sunday Circle  
**Sunday, December 3 from 12:00 - 3:00 PM**

### Sign up!

For more info or to register, contact Mushka

Mushka@fctoledo.com  
 or 419.509.0105

Friendship Circle is significantly supported by JFGT’s Annual Campaign

[www.jewishtoledo.org/jfs](http://www.jewishtoledo.org/jfs)

## TECH TIPS

- **Run updates on your devices**
- **Check your cloud backup services:** Ensure your backups are saving.
- **Review your active subscriptions:** Has anything lapsed or has something unwanted renewed?
- **Review your apps:** Delete unused and unwanted apps to free up memory. Organize similar apps so that they can be found together to better suit your needs.

### Upcoming Tech Programs

All programs are held on Tuesdays  
11 a.m.-noon at the Sekach Bldg  
6505 Sylvania Avenue:

**All Tech Programs are FREE, and include lunch:**

**Tech Tuesday: Figuring out Map Apps** Tuesday, October 3

**Virtual Reality: Touring Great Britain** Tuesday, October 10

**Tech Tuesday: Exploring DoorDash & Grubhub** Tuesday, October 17

**Virtual Reality: Touring Spain and Portugal** Tuesday, October 24

**RSVP with Sherry Majewski at: 419-724-0351 or [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org)**

*\*Please let us know of any dietary restrictions in advance\**

Although the start of spring lies in waiting six months from now, I usually set aside time during October to pare down, clean up, and revisit all kinds of things, tech-included, before the gray and cold of winter arrives.

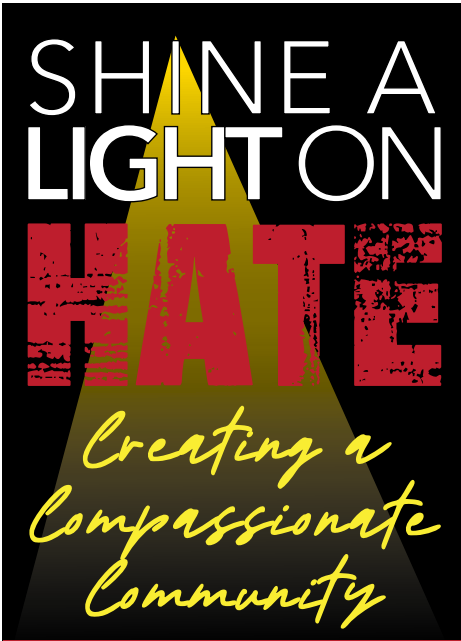
Please see several recommendations, listed to the right, that I hope you find helpful should you decide to tidy up certain tech devices at home, whether that be a smart TV, tablet, phone, or even game console.

Break out those dusters, refresh those passwords, and have at it! Until next month - Tim

**Tim Hagen**  
Project Manager and Technology Coordinator Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services  
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo  
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Sylvania, OH 43560  
[T] 419-724-0412  
[E] [Tim@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:Tim@jewishtoledo.org)



Local



Community event shines a light on hate



Hundreds of attendees spent a late August afternoon at Lourdes University participating in “Shine a Light on Hate: Creating a Compassionate Community,” a response to the significant recent increase in violence, harassment, and intimidation against a variety of groups.

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and the MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio worked with over a dozen community partners, including The Ability Center; Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio; City of Toledo: Human Relations Commission; Diocese of Toledo; Equality Toledo; La Conexión; Lourdes University; NAACP Toledo; NAMI Greater Toledo; Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania; United Muslim Association of Toledo; University of Toledo/University of Toledo Medical Center; Welcome TLC; Women of Toledo; and YWCA of Northwest Ohio.

*Shine a Light on Hate: Creating a Compassionate Community was generously supported by the Susan and Steven Kaufman Philanthropic Fund and the Arleen and Jon Levine Family Fund in the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.*



Jewish Toledo women philanthropists share inspired evening



Hurricane Idalia kept special guest speaker, author Simone Knego, from traveling to Toledo from Florida, but Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo’s women’s philanthropy group made the most of a new plan at a recent dinner. The intimate evening included discussions with old friends and new about putting “joy before oy,” finding ways to inspire oneself and others every day and changing the world with each woman’s individual story.





# Next Jewish Generation

## NextJGen Next Jewish Generation



Programs especially for post-college to young families.

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

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

For all NJG programming information, visit [jewishtoledo.org/nextjewishgeneration](https://jewishtoledo.org/nextjewishgeneration).



### Have the Time of Your Life with NJG! Dirty Dancing in Concert

Saturday, October 21  
7 p.m., doors open  
Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd.  
\$30 per person

Join us for **Dirty Dancing in Concert**, the classic film's first live film-to-concert experience. Enjoy the digitally remastered hit film like never before on a full-size cinema screen, with a live band and singers performing the film's iconic songs.

RSVP by Friday, October 6 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/njg2023>

Any questions? Contact Marnie Younker at 419-724-0365 or [marnie@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:marnie@jewishtoledo.org).



NJG creates stained glass for a sweet New Year

Next Jewish Generation celebrated an early New Year by creating stained glass apples, pomegranates, and honeycombs with **What the Flux Studio**. From glass cutting to grinding, soldering, and patina, the group said "cheers" to the New Year and got into the Rosh Hashanah spirit with a cider tasting.

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



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Fall Family Meetup at Fleitz

Sunday, October 29  
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Fleitz Pumpkin Farm, 7133 Seaman Rd,  
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\$20 per family – includes activities,  
donuts, and cider



Get a handful of feed for 25 cents and feed the sweet, friendly goats; enjoy a scenic hayride on the farm; venture through the five-acre corn maze or undergo the challenge of finding all 10 maps; play in the farm area, including both an indoor and outdoor space; and have tons of fun!

RSVP by Monday, October 23 to Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0361 or [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org).





"This was my fourth year at camp, and I had so much fun. I love camp because of the positive and energetic atmosphere and people. I'm always having fun whether I'm with my friends playing tetherball in the village or singing songs at the top of my lungs with friends at song sessions. My favorite activities this year had to be soccer and tie-dying. I had so much fun this year, and I can't wait to come back next summer!"

— Julia Rhodes



- Ellery Freed & Julia Rhodes



- Max Rhodes



"I love camp because I get to meet so many new people and create long lasting bonds with other campers and counselors. I get to also embrace the Jewish culture during Shabbat. At camp I get to be the most authentic version of myself, and that is what I love most."

— Max Rhodes



(clockwise from front left) Max Rhodes, Myles Freed, Ruby Freed, Julia Rhodes, Ellery Freed, and Madelyn Freed

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



- Chana Matusof (right)

"Our children, Mendel and Chana Matusof, had the absolute best time at camp this year thanks to the EMOJI program. Chana's favorite part was spending time with her friends from last year and getting to do all the fun camp cheers and dances. Mendel absolutely loved the learning program they had at camp and also really enjoyed his counselor, who he said was his favorite one so far!"

— Mushka and Shmouel Matusof

**Questions?  
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[hallie@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:hallie@jewishtoledo.org) or  
419-724-0362.**



- Tyler Kogan

"The EMOJI program has helped Tyler connect with his Judaism. Coming from a community where there are very few Jewish families, attending GUCI has helped Tyler build his own community of Jewish friends."

— Marc Kogan



# Active Life for 60 and Better

## Senior gathering at Gathered Glassblowing Studio

Wednesday, December 13  
11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meet at the JCC/YMCA (park in the JCC/YMCA parking lot)  
\$18 per person - includes glassmaking and transportation  
Lunch is on your own afterwards at The Blarney Irish Pub

Join us to create your very own piece of glass art!

*\*\*Limited space available\*\**

RSVP required by Friday, December 8 to [form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/Seniors](https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/Seniors) or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org).



## Latke Lunch

Thursday, December 7  
12 p.m.  
Temple Shomer Emunim  
6453 Sylvania Ave.

Enjoy musical entertainment by musician Ariel Kasler, a delicious lunch by A Fare to Remember, and a beautiful Hanukkah gift!

More information coming in the November issue of *Toledo Jewish News*.



## A visit to Amish Country



Local seniors went on a summer adventure last month with a bus ride to Ohio Amish Country. They stopped at Hersherberger's Farm & Bakery then enjoyed a guided bus tour of Amish Country plus stops at Walnut Creek Cheese (for a box lunch and ice cream), Hillcrest Orchard, and the Walnut Creek Flea Market.



## A nosh with friends



Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Stacy Willis and Sherry Majewski recently began a new monthly mission to bring lunch to residents at local independent living facilities where they sit, mingle, and eat for about an hour.

"The residents seem to love it and really appreciate the opportunity to get to know the other Jewish residents," Stacy said.

*(Pictured: a visit to West Park Place)*

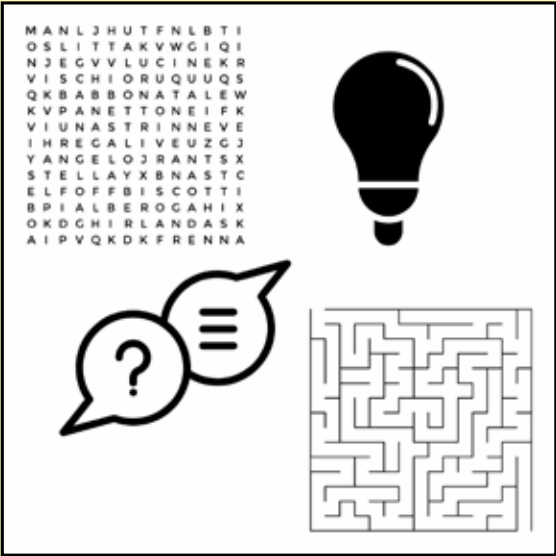


# Active Life for 60 and Better

## Calling all Seniors 60+: FREE Puzzle Books to Play at Home

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**JSFSS Office Manager and Program Associate**  
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**Support Services Coordinator**  
Liz Witter, LSW  
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**Project Manager and Technology Coordinator**  
Tim Hagen  
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# Healthy Living

## Get Fit Classes

### Monday

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-or-

Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am

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

**Cardio Drumming, 12-1pm**

A high-energy workout that also includes some dance moves. This can also be done seated.

### Wednesday

Get Fit Early, 9-10am

-or-

Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am

(see description above)

**Ballet Ball Fusion, 12-1pm**

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

### Friday

Zumba, 9-10am

**Foundation Fitness, 10am-11pm**

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

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# Local

Jewish Lives, Jewish Learning:  
CBI Adult Education Series

## SYNAGOGUES OF SOUTH AFRICA



A historical photographic exhibition  
by Cantor Ivor Lichterman,  
dedicated to his mother Miriam Lichterman (1922-2022)

**October 29, 2023 - 14 Cheshvan 5784**

Cantor Lichterman cordially invites you to join him for an intimate opening of the exhibition. Refreshments will be served.

**Venue: CBI | Time: 7:00pm | RSVP: [kbrody@cbitoledo.com](mailto:kbrody@cbitoledo.com)**

RSVP by Monday, October 23, 2023.  
This event is open to the members of all local congregations and public.

Special thanks to the sponsors of this program.

## B’nai Israel Cantor documents magnificent synagogues for posterity

Synagogues have particular significance for Cantor Ivor Lichterman, who has been Cantor and sole clergy at Toledo’s Congregation B’nai Israel for the past 13 years. Having followed in his illustrious father, Cantor Jakub Lichterman’s, footsteps in pursuing a Cantorial career, Ivor grew up immersed in synagogue life.

Born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa, Ivor’s love of synagogues found expression, besides in the Cantorial realm, in artistic depictions of beautiful synagogues in South Africa and around the world and in photography. Some of his pencil and ink etchings now hang in his office at Congregation B’nai Israel.

Upon emigration to the USA in 1976, Ivor immediately began to document photographically as many synagogues in South Africa as possible, out of fear that they might not be there in the future, due to political upheaval. Upon every trip back to South Africa to visit his parents, Ivor would rent cars or even fly domestically to multiple locations where there were synagogues, to try to photograph them. He devoted tremendous resources and time in this pursuit.

To date, Cantor Lichterman has accumulated some 500 photos of 80 South African synagogue buildings, the majority of them no longer in existence, as the buildings having been repurposed or even demolished. In addition, Ivor has photographed hundreds of synagogues in 13 other countries around the world that he has had the opportunity to visit, often going to great trouble and out of his way to gain entry.

With the passing of Cantor Lichterman’s mother Miriam a year ago at almost 100 years old, Ivor got the idea to offer Cape Town’s Jewish Museum to exhibit some of these photos, in loving memory of his mother. The museum agreed and mounted an exhibit of 100 of Ivor’s enlarged, color photos for two months, beginning at the end of June with an opening on the day the family unveiled a memorial stone to Miriam.

Now Cantor Lichterman is thrilled to offer this exhibit at his own Congregation B’nai Israel for the opening of CBI’s adult education series, “Jewish Lives Jewish Learning” 2023 – 2024 season. The exhibit opens with an intimate reception and PowerPoint presentation on Sunday, October 29 at 7 p.m. in the social hall at the congregation. It is open to the public. Additional viewing times for those unable to attend the opening will be posted soon. To RSVP, call the synagogue office at 419-517-8400.

This exhibit offers rare and, in many cases, unique testimony to a once glorious Jewish community, now declining in numbers day by day, due to the ever-deteriorating political climate. Cantor Lichterman is thrilled to be able to pay homage to his parents’ deep dedication towards the South African Jewish community, and synagogue life in general, through this exhibit and looks forward to greeting the public on October 29.



Great Synagogue, Cape Town, South Africa



Interior of Great Synagogue, Cape Town, South Africa

## Seniors attend ‘Lunch & Listen’ with Lauren Sachs



The heat and rain led to a pivot for August’s senior Lunch & Listen, which was scheduled to take place at Wildwood Preserve Metropark and moved to the Sekach Building. The lunch was still as delicious as planned and included a special inspirational performance by singer, Lauren Sachs.





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### Obituaries accepted for print in Toledo Jewish News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have additional questions, please contact [paul@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:paul@jewishtoledo.org) or 419-724-0318.

### 2023 CEMETERY CLOSINGS

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Cemeteries are closed every Saturday for Shabbat

**Jewish Holiday Closing Schedule for 2023**

Saturday, September 30, 2023	Sukkot I	Closed
Sunday, October 1, 2023	Sukkot II	Closed
Friday, October 6, 2023	Erev Shmini Atzeret	Closed
Saturday, October 7, 2023	Shmini Atzeret Sukkot VIII	Closed
Sunday, October 8, 2023	Simchat Torah	Closed

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# Cultural

## The best villains played by Jewish actors

**By Eric Schulmiller**  
(JTA) — The film and TV world recently lost two Jewish actors who were not household names but were acclaimed for a pair of signature villainous roles.

In August, Mark Margolis passed away following a career on stage and screen that spanned over 60 years. He studied with and was later the personal assistant of renowned acting teacher Stella Adler before appearing in “Scarface,” HBO’s “Oz” and multiple films by the acclaimed Jewish director Darren Aronofsky.

But he was most remembered for his Emmy-nominated performance as Hector Salamanca, the wheelchair-bound, largely non-verbal patriarch of a Mexican crime family in “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul.” One could argue that Margolis, whose family “started a couple of Reform synagogues,” embodied one of the most well-known villains ever portrayed by a Jewish actor.

Later in August, Arleen Sorkin died of pneumonia after a years-long struggle with multiple sclerosis. Possessing a unique comic sensibility, she was in the mid-80’s cast on “Days of Our Lives” as Calliope Jones — a quirky fashion designer based loosely on Cyndi Lauper. That character inspired Paul Dini, a writer on “Batman: The Animated Series,” to create the character of Harley Quinn — a jester-like henchwoman for The Joker, who would be voiced by Sorkin for nearly 20 years. Since Sorkin played Harley Quinn with an exaggerated version of her Brooklyn Jewish accent, the character became canonically Jewish as well.

Thanks in large part to Sorkin’s larger-than-life personality, Harley Quinn became so popular that she made the rare jump from animated series to comic books to live action films and has remained a uniquely endearing super-villain.

In memory of Margolis and Sorkin, and in tribute to the fantastically sinister characters they embodied, here’s a quick survey of some of the other noteworthy villains played by Jewish actors on screen.

### Daniel Day-Lewis — “There Will Be Blood” and “Gangs of New York”

Three-time Oscar-winner Daniel Day-Lewis learned at an early age that acting was an effective way to deal with schoolmates’ bullying that came from being an outsider on both sides of his family — Irish on his father’s, Jewish on his mother’s. On screen, Day-Lewis masterfully embodied two of cinema’s most deliciously villainous characters:



Mark Margolis was part of a long tradition of Jewish actors playing memorable villains. (AMC/IMDb)

Oil tycoon Daniel Plainview (for which he won the Oscar for best actor) in “There Will Be Blood” and nativist gang leader Bill “The Butcher” Cutting (for which he was nominated for best actor). Both characters embody the darkest sides of the American dream, and no one has ever made a milkshake sound more menacing.

### David Proval — “The Sopranos”

Before playing Toby Ziegler’s Rabbi on “The West Wing,” Jewish actor David Proval played many Italians on screen, from Tony in Martin Scorsese’s “Mean Streets” to Hunk Pepitone on “Fame” to perhaps his most memorable role: Richie Aprile, the ruthless, sadistic capo of the DiMeo crime family on “The Sopranos.”

### Martin Kove — “The Karate Kid”

John Kreese, the original Cobra Kai sensei played by the Jewish Brooklynite Kove, was one of the most well-known 1980s bad guys.

### Michael Douglas — “Wall Street”

“Greed is good,” says Gordon Gekko in this classic indictment of 1980s Wall Street culture. So was Douglas’ performance, which earned him an Academy Award in 1988.

### Kirk Douglas — “The Villain”

Michael’s father, the legendary actor and two-time bar mitzvah boy Kirk Douglas, was often the hero on screen. But he tried his hand at playing the bad guy in this ridiculous, forgettable Western comedy from 1979.

### Joan Collins — “Dynasty”

The acclaimed role of Alexis Carrington, the scheming ex-wife

of the wealthy Denver oil magnate Blake Carrington, helped catapult the soap opera “Dynasty” to the top of the ratings. The Emmy-nominated Collins made Alexis a multi-dimensional character that frequently cracks the upper echelons of “greatest villains of all time” lists and inspired a bevy of prime-time imitators. Her father was Jewish and proudly identified as a member of the tribe.

### Daniel Stern — “Home Alone”

Who could forget Daniel Stern’s iconic shenanigans as Marv Murchins, one half of the inept duo that fails to take on the wily kid Kevin McCallister in the “Home Alone” series?

### Mel Brooks and Rick Moranis — “Spaceballs”

These two comedy legends put in hilarious performances as Dark Helmet and President Skroob — the bungling bad guys of Brooks’ 1987 “Star Wars” parody.

### Wallace Shawn — “The Princess Bride”

The year 1987 also saw Wallace Shawn play the sinister Sicilian Vizzini to comic perfection in this silly classic.

### Dustin Hoffman — “Hook”

Hoffman played the infamous Captain Hook in the eponymous 1991 Spielberg film, which critics (and later Spielberg himself) wrote off as a failure.

### Joseph Wiseman — “Dr. No”

Plotting from his island lair, Joseph Wiseman’s Julius No was the first, and one of the best ever, to portray a James Bond villain on screen. The Canadian Encyclopedia notes: “Despite

his on-screen performances as the ‘heavy,’ Joseph Wiseman was a Jewish scholar who travelled extensively, giving readings from Yiddish and Jewish literature.”

### Yaphet Kotto — “Live and Let Die”

Years later, the proud Jew Yaphet Kotto played another Bond villain heavily influenced (in a cringe-worthy way by modern standards) by the Blaxploitation era: Dr. Kananga/Mr. Big, a ruthless drug baron and Caribbean dictator. Kotto’s Cameroonian father was Jewish, and his mother converted to Judaism.

### Jesse Eisenberg — “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice”

James Bond isn’t the only IP with memorable villains portrayed by Jewish actors — several villains in the Marvel and DC comic universes have been played by Jewish actors as well. The normally quiet-tempered Eisenberg played Superman’s archenemy Lex Luthor in a 2016 blockbuster (and Michael Rosenbaum portrayed the character on the TV show “Smallville”). Some fans might also call Eisenberg’s Mark Zuckerberg portrayal a villain in David Fincher’s hit “The Social Network.”

(Although no Jewish actors have ever played Magneto, Marvel’s most significant Jewish villain, a small handful of prominent Jewish actors have played other Marvel villains, from Jake Gyllenhaal’s Mysterio in “Spider-Man: Far From Home” to Corey Stoll’s humorous version of M.O.D.O.K. in “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania.” Jeff Goldblum also gave a memorable turn as Grandmaster in “Thor: Ragnarok.”)

### Steven Bauer — “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul”

We would be remiss not to mention another actor from the “Breaking Bad” franchise: Steven Bauer, whose Jewish maternal grandfather had fled Germany to escape Nazi persecution, settling in Havana. He plays the ruthless drug cartel leader Eladio Vuento.

Like Margolis, Bauer also appeared in “Scarface” (co-starring as Pacino’s best friend, drug-lord Manny Ribera). Unlike Margolis, Bauer is actually fluent in Spanish. He also learned Hebrew to play an ex-Mossad agent on Liev Schreiber’s “Ray Donovan,” as he had done decades earlier when he starred in “Sword of Gideon,” a Canadian film that was the template for Spielberg’s “Munich.”



# News

## An Israeli flag football team forfeited a game on Shabbat. It won the European championship anyway.

**By Jacob Gurvis**  
(JTA) — Israel’s under-17 men’s flag football team won its first-ever gold medal at the 2023 International Federation of American Football’s European Junior Flag Football Championships hosted in Grosseto, Italy, this past weekend.

The Israeli team beat Serbia 34-14 in the championship game after defeating Italy in a close semifinal. Israel’s under-17 women’s team and under-15 coed team both finished fifth in their respective competitions.

“Our first gold after decades of trying,” Steve Leibowitz, president of American Football in Israel (AFI), told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “Tough young Israeli players against the best young players in Europe. The moment the whistle blew... I knew we had finally arrived. Next thought, first we conquer Europe, the Worlds are next.”

Despite appeals from the Israeli players — a majority of whom are Orthodox, according to Leibowitz — Israel was scheduled to play games on Shabbat. All three teams had to forfeit, resulting in 35-0 losses.

Leibowitz said the under-17 men’s team had performed well enough to



Israel won a gold medal at the 2023 European Junior Flag Football Championships in Italy. (Giulio Busi)

advance to the final four even with the forfeit, but that the under-17 women’s team would have needed a win in that Saturday’s game in order to advance.

American football is on the rise in Israel, where approximately 2,000 players, coaches and referees are now involved in the league throughout the country. The sport has made notable strides among native-born Israelis, Leibowitz told JTA earlier this year. Israel hosted the 2019 European Flag Football Championship and the 2021 Flag Football World Championship.

In August, Israel’s men’s national team won a bronze medal at the Flag

Football European Championships in Limerick, Ireland.

Leibowitz — a journalist who moved from the United States to Israel in 1974 and has spearheaded the slow but steady growth of football there — said AFI has developed enough talent to send a team to the 2024 World Championship in Finland, where finishing in the top eight would earn qualification for the 2025 World Games in China. He said the organization’s ultimate goal is to qualify for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles — which might include flag football for the first time.

After this weekend’s win, Leibowitz thanked those who have financially supported the sport’s growth in Israel, namely New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft — who built Israel’s first football field in 2000 — as well as Minnesota Vikings owner Mark Wilf.

“With the help of the Kraft family we created a game plan and implementation is underway,” Leibowitz said. “It starts with great coaches, creating stiff competition to make the team, tough Israel league competition and as much international tournament experience as possible.”

## A ‘Landing Day’ ceremony in Lower Manhattan celebrates the first Jewish community in the US

**By Julia Gergely**  
(New York Jewish Week) — When a small group of people convened next to an inconspicuous plaque steps from the entrance to the Staten Island Ferry’s Whitehall Terminal earlier this week, they weren’t there to catch a boat leaving the island.

Instead, they had come to the southern tip of Manhattan to celebrate a ship that had arrived on its shores centuries before.

The gathering was the 369th anniversary of an event most New Yorkers don’t know about, let alone celebrate: the arrival of the first Jewish community to the United States in 1654. That lack of awareness is exactly what Howard Teich, the founding chair of a group called the Manhattan Jewish Historical Initiative, hopes to change.

That year, a group of 23 Sephardic Jews arrived on the shores of New Amsterdam, the Dutch colony located on the island. In the centuries since, the city and its image have been shaped in no small part by its Jewish denizens — from Emma Lazarus to Ed Koch to Nora Ephron.

In hosting the “Landing Day” ceremony, Teich’s ultimate goal is for Jews in the city with the world’s largest Jewish population to gather every year to celebrate their culture and accomplishments.

“We just have to change the narrative of the community right now,” Teich told the New York Jewish Week, adding that he felt Jewish communal discourse

was at times overly focused on fear and division. “We’ve got to spread a positive message of who we are, what we’ve accomplished, how we’ve worked with other people, what we’ve started, the difference we’ve made in the time we’ve been here and, really, what America has meant to us as a people.”

The ceremony was held at Peter Minuit Plaza, next to a flagpole adorned with a plaque that reads: “Erected by the State of New York to honor the memory of the twenty three men, women and children who landed in September 1654 and founded the first Jewish community in North America.”

Donated by the State of New York, it is called the Jewish Tercentenary Monument and was put up in The Battery in 1954 to mark the 300th anniversary of the Jews’ arrival. That year, events were held for months across New York and the United States to celebrate, but in the decades since, there have only been a handful of gatherings at the site. None of the events and pronouncements associated with a Landing Day celebration in 2004, for the 350th anniversary, took place near the monument.

Teich aims to revitalize the celebration, and he hopes an annual event will take place at the plaza each fall.

“Now is the time,” he said. “[This ceremony] was supposed to show the positive of a community that’s really excelled in freedom. It’s incredible what’s been established in America and

in New York in particular as a center of American Jewry to a large extent. That’s what I want to see celebrated.”

For last month’s ceremony, Teich partnered with the Battery Conservancy, the New York Board of Rabbis and dozens of other Jewish and historical organizations across the city. Local and state politicians were also in attendance, including City Councilmember Gale Brewer, State Assembly Members Rebecca Seawright and Alex Bores, and State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Elias Levy, the Jewish consul general of Panama in New York, was also present.

“I want our monuments to come alive,” Warrie Price, the president of the Battery Conservancy, said in a speech. “I ask all of you to make this monument as relevant as it was in 1954, because its values and what it symbolizes are as true today as ever. We are still a landing site. We will never stop being a landing site. As New Yorkers and as a people of consciousness, we care and we will find the solutions to continue being a landing site.”

Along with speeches and music, which included Ladino and Hebrew versions of “Shalom Aleichem” and “Ein Keloheinu” from Rabbi Cantor Jill Hausman; a klezmer clarinet performance from the musician D. Zisl Slepovitch; and a rendition of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” from singer Hannie Ricardo, attendees also heard a short history of the Jewish arrival in New Amsterdam from Bradley Shaw, a historian at the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy.

Like so many immigrants to New York City who came after them, the Jews who landed in Manhattan in 1654 were fleeing persecution. In this case, they were escaping the Portuguese, who had conquered the Dutch colony of Brazil where the Jews had been living and instituted the Catholic Church’s Inquisition.

As it happens, just weeks before the group of 23 landed, three Ashkenazi Jews — Jacob Barsimson, Solomon Pietersen and Asser Levy, who was the New World’s first kosher butcher and Jewish homeowner — had come to New Amsterdam from Europe. Those three men greeted the group. When Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch director-general of New Amsterdam, originally rejected the new refugees — saying he wanted to establish a colony solely for Dutch Reformed Christians — Levy advocated on their behalf.

“The question I have is, did they have a minyan?” Shaw said, referring to a traditional Jewish prayer quorum of 10 men. The group had arrived just before Rosh Hashanah.

“The answer is, I really don’t know,” he said. “But that said, they might have. They had the four men from the boat and the three that were here. And of the children, there might have been one or two that were bar mitzvahed,” or over 13 years old.

With Levy’s help, along with urging from the Dutch West India Company,



# Temple Shomer Emunim .....



## Family Simchat Torah Service & Brisket Dinner

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SUNDAY, 12:00 PM  
AT TEMPLE SHOMER EMUNIM

Our district is new and so are the many friends you will make at our fall regional event. Be prepared to learn, pray, sing, and just have fun together! We will be providing workshops and activities that will help you to grow both personally and as a leader. For more information contact the Temple office at 419-885-3341.

## You ARE so Invited to the Installation Weekend of Rabbi Lisa Delson

**Weekend Events**  
**Friday, November 3, 2023**  
**Shabbat Service and Installation of Rabbi Lisa Delson at 5:30**  
Guest Rabbi Dan Feder, Peninsula Temple Sholom  
Family Friendly Oneg Shabbat (lots of food) Immediately Following the Service. Everyone is invited NO Charge

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**  
**Torah Study & Shabbat Service** with Rabbi Delson, Rabbi Feder & Cantor Roher at 10:30 AM

**Saturday, November 4, 2023 Celebration of Rabbi Lisa Delson**  
5:30PM Havdalah Service  
6PM Spirits, Dinner & Dancing  
Adults Only

**Sunday, November 5, 2023**  
**9:15-10AM Family Breakfast** in Social Hall. Everyone is invited NO Charge

RSVP by calling the Temple office at 419-885-3341 for any and all of these events.



## Fall BGSU Concerts at The Temple!

We're excited to announce our third year of BGSU concerts at the Temple, featuring the great students of the BGSU College of Musical Arts. Our Fall concerts will be:

**OCT. 15, 3pm: The return of Temple favorites, solo pianists Nano Beraia and Malik Halce!** This is their third performance at the Temple, and one you'll not want to miss! Bring your friends and family!

**DEC. 3, 3pm: We'll have an interesting and varied program from the Spectra Trio:** a trio of flute, cello and piano, featuring BGSU doctoral students Shannon Lotti (flute), Anthony Marchese (cello), and Stephen Eckert (piano).

All performances will have a reception following so you can meet and chat with the performers.

# Congregation B'nai Israel

[cbitoledo.org](http://cbitoledo.org)

ALL congregants are welcomed back to in-person programs regardless of vaccine status. Mask-wearing is optional. We ask that if you are feeling ill or are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 or other illnesses, that you wear a mask to protect others. If you are not a CBI member and would like to attend programs or services, please contact the office at 419.517.8400.

## CBI High Holiday Services 5784

KEY: IP - In Person LS -Live Stream ZM - Zoom

<b>OCTOBER</b>		<b>FRI 6</b>	<b>HOSHANA RABBAH/ EREV SHEMINI ATZERET/ KABBALAT SHABBAT</b>
<b>SUN 1</b>	<b>SUKKOT DAY 2</b>		
9:30 AM	IP/LS: Morning Service (Kiddush in the Sukkah)	8:00 AM	IP/ZM: Morning Service (Breakfast in the Sukkah)
<b>MON 2</b>	<b>CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT</b>	5:45 PM	ZM: Evening Service
8:00 AM	IP/ZM: Morning Service (Breakfast in the Sukkah)	<b>SAT 7</b>	<b>SHEMINI ATZERET/ SHABBAT</b>
5:45 PM	ZM: Evening Service	9:30 AM	IP/LS: Shabbat & Holiday Morning Service (Kiddush in the Social Hall)
<b>TUE 3 &amp; WED 4</b>	<b>CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT</b>	11:00 AM	IP/LS: YIZKOR
5:45 PM	ZM: Evening Service	12:45 PM	IP: Shabbat Mincha Service
<b>THU 5</b>	<b>CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT</b>	7:00 PM	IP/LS: <b>SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION &amp; DESSERT</b> (Service begins at 7:00 PM)
8:00 AM	IP/ZM: Morning Service (Breakfast in the Sukkah)		
5:45 PM	ZM: Evening Service	<b>SUN 8</b>	<b>SIMCHAT TORAH</b>
		9:30 AM	IP/LS: Holiday Morning Service (Kiddush in the Social Hall)

## Simchat Torah Celebration & Dessert

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**  
**7:00 PM, In-Person/Live Stream at CBI**

HAKAFOT • ICE CREAM BAR  
• DRINK A L'CHAIM • WAVE A FLAG • SEE THE ENTIRE TORAH! •  
SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICES  
NO CHARGE for CBI members  
However voluntary donations would be appreciated.  
*Please let us know when you RSVP.*  
Open to the members of all local congregations.  
**RSVP by Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, 419.517.8400.**

## Adult Ed Special Event: Synagogues of South Africa

**Photo Exhibition by Cantor Ivor Lichterman in memory of his mother, Miriam Lichterman**  
**Sunday, October 29, 2023**  
**7:00 PM, In-Person at CBI**

Cantor Lichterman invites you to join him for an intimate opening of the exhibition. Refreshments will be served.  
**THIS PROGRAM IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
RSVP to the office by Monday, October 23, 2023 or email [kbrody@cbitoledo.org](mailto:kbrody@cbitoledo.org).  
*Special thanks to the sponsors of this event.*

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

**Friday, October 6th, 13th, 27th, 29th**  
**10:00-11:00 AM In-Person at CBI**

## Connecting Kids to Meals Volunteer Event

**Thurs., October 12 2023 11:00 AM-1:00 PM**  
Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.  
4-12 volunteers will be putting together packages of food for children in need that live in the Toledo area.  
RSVP to Fran Weinblatt at [fweinblatt@gmail.com](mailto:fweinblatt@gmail.com) or Kim Brody at [kbrody@cbitoledo.org](mailto:kbrody@cbitoledo.org) by October 5, 2023.

## WCBI Women's Gathering

**Thursday & Friday, October 19th & 20th**  
at Congregation B'nai Israel  
**The Journey Continues...**  
Join us for a unique 2-day event for Toledo Jewish women of all ages, to get together to socialize, laugh, learn, relax, be inspired, and to reconnect.  
Activities will include:  
MUSICAL KABBALAT SHABBAT • DELECTABLE MEALS & SNACKS • GLASS MOSAIC PROJECT

• TIKKUN OLAM FOR NATURE'S NURSERY • CREATIVE GARDENING IDEAS • GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDING RABBI AURA AHUVIA • CHALLAH BAKING • DELICIOUS SHABBAT DINNER • CHAIR YOGA • BOOK DISCUSSION • EXERCISE, RELAXATION, CRAFTS & MORE!  
Event cost for the 2 days is only \$80 and includes all meals, activities and the Tikkun Olam. Please contact Sandy Traugott ASAP. She must have your forms and check by October 5th at the latest. [Sandy624@gmail.com](mailto:Sandy624@gmail.com) or 419-841-6865.  
**THIS PROGRAM IS OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS**



# Congregation Etz Chayim .....



### HOR D’OEUVRES IN THE SUKKAH

Everyone is invited to enjoy hors d’oeuvres in the sukkah on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Minyan will begin at 6:00 p.m.

### ART MUSEUM TOUR SCHEDULED

Andrea Delman will lead a tour at the Toledo Museum of Art on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Please register with Nancy Jacobson or Elsa Leveton.

### MAHJ & POKER GAMES SCHEDULED

Mahj and Poker have become very popular at the synagogue! The next scheduled games will be on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

### SHABBAT SERVICES SCHEDULED

Shabbat Services and a kiddush lunch will be held on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Rabbi Stephen Belsky will be leading the services and the synagogue will be honoring members who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries during September and October.

# Chabad House .....

### The SUKKAH MOBILE

We will **U-HAUL** the Sukkah to you!

**OCTOBER 2-6**

Sign up & Schedule your 30 min time slot  
**Call or text Rabbi Shmouel at +1 (419) 322-2730** to have the Sukkah Mobile by your home!

**Hop onto the Sukkah Mobile**  
Enjoy a holiday treat  
Shake The Lulav  
Fun kids Gift  
and do a Mitzvah!



### CHABAD HOUSE OF TOLEDO

## SIMCHAT TORAH celebration

**SATURDAY, OCT 7 - 7:30 PM**  
Hakafot ~ L'Chaim ~ Light Dinner  
Morning Services at 10:00 AM

**SUNDAY, OCT 8 - 11:30 AM**  
Hakafot ~ Torah Reading ~ Kiddush Lunch  
Morning Services at 10:30 AM

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Bring the entire family to celebrate the Torah!

**FREE OF CHARGE**

**Friday, Oct 6 - 7:00 PM**  
Shmini Atzeret Eve:  
Evening Services  
Kiddush ~ Hakafot

**Special Kids Program ~ All Services**

The Simchat Torah celebrations are sponsored in honor of  
St. Steve Rubin & Andrea Wentzels

For More Information:  
Call: 419-463-3833  
Email: shmouel@chabadtoledo.com  
www.ChabadToledo.com



### CHABAD OF TOLEDO

## GAN IZZY CLUB

**SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24**

**CAMP GAN ISRAEL**

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- Includes a kosher lunch
- every three or four Sundays
- guest visitors, art, awesome activities
- lots of Jewish fun together with friends!

The perfect way to keep the fun and spirit of Camp Gan IZZY alive all year!

Sign up for club membership and save \$!

For more information, visit  
**WWW.CHABADTOLEDO.COM/CLUB**

Gan IZZY Club has been graciously sponsored by The Cary & Andrea Delman Family Foundation.





### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

### FOLLOWED BY KIDDUSH LUNCH

12:30 pm



# Classifieds

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\*Three-month minimum. Any changes to business card include extra charge.  
Ads must be received by the 15th of the month.  
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First 12 words - \$8, \$0.10 per additional word. Phone numbers and abbreviations count as separate words. Ads must be received by the 15th of the month.

Simply email your ad and billing information to paul@JewishToledo.org or call 419-724-0318 for more information.  
Please note: Classified ads will run every month (and the purchaser will be billed) until notification of cancellation is received.



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Need servers, bartenders, and kitchen help for private events?  
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[bgsu.edu/promise](https://bgsu.edu/promise)



**BBYO Toledo Fall Kickoff at Sportway**

**Sunday, October 1  
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**



**Toledo Sportway – 5950 Angola Rd  
\$5 per person – includes go-karts, batting cages, mini golf, and snacks**

Kick off the year with BBYO Toledo for an afternoon of fun at Toledo Sportway!

RSVP by Friday, September 29 at 1 p.m. to Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or [sherry@jewishtoledo.org](mailto:sherry@jewishtoledo.org).



Simcha

**Marriage Announcement**



**Lauren Tighe**, of Saginaw, Michigan and **Alex Gross**, Toledo, were married on September 2, 2023 in Chicago. The couple splits their time living between Chicago and Ann Arbor.

The bride’s mother is Debra Adams-Tighe of Saginaw, Michigan. Her father is Thomas M. Tighe of Sarasota, Florida.

The groom’s mother is Laurie Gross of Toledo, Ohio.

**Landing Day** continued from page 21

which counted many Sephardic Jews among their investors, the group stayed. Eventually, they established the Mill Street Synagogue, the first congregation in the United States. It eventually became Congregation Shearith Israel, or the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, whose building is now on West 70th Street.

According to the most recent estimates, the five boroughs are now home to more than 1 million Jews.

“Usually you come to a strange place and the first thing you look for is a synagogue,” said a woman at the ceremony who wished to remain anonymous, and who did not know the history of the Jews’ arrival before the event. “I can’t imagine what it would be like to be the first ones to arrive.”

Teich wants to build momentum for the 400th anniversary of Landing Day — just 31 years away.

“There’s a real continuity that we need to appreciate,” he said. “That’s who we should be as a people — we have 5,000 years of history and nearly 400 here. It’s quite something.”



# High Holidays – It's in the Bag

The collage consists of four photographs. The top-left photo shows a festive table setting with a yellow patterned tablecloth, a large braided challah in a clear bag, a menorah, and various Jewish Festival items like candles and snacks. The top-right photo shows a metal cart filled with brown paper bags of food, some labeled 'DJP'. The bottom-left photo shows a young boy sitting inside a metal cart labeled 'DJP'. The bottom-right photo shows a man holding a baby while a woman looks on outdoors.

 Jewish Federation  
& Foundation  
OF GREATER TOLEDO

The High Holidays were surely “in the bag” for everyone who picked up a High Holiday survival kit before Rosh Hashanah. Thanks to all our helpers!

## JCC/YMCA ends pool season with a doggie dip

The day after Labor Day was all about the pups at the Sylvania YMCA and JCC's annual Doggie Dip. Jewish Toledo's Hallie and Ruby Freed helped human guests make dog enrichment toys for local shelter animals at the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Mitzvah Table. Thank you to the Lucas County Pit Crew and K9 Elite Dog Training & Daycare for coming out as well.





# Opinion

## The October dilemma: Should Jews trick or treat?

By Jane Ulman  
ENCINO, Calif. (JTA) For me the October dilemma consists of finding Halloween candy to pass out to trick or treaters that I will not eat, no matter how desperate or distraught I become. For my children, the challenge is creating peer- and parent-approved costumes that will also work for Purim. But for many Jewish parents, who associate the holiday with demons, death and wickedness, as well as with Christianity, Halloween is problematic. My husband, Larry, and I allow our children to trick or treat, albeit with a minimum of fanfare and fuss. For us, a look at Halloween’s history demystified most of its objectionable aspects. The word Halloween comes from a corrupted, contracted form of All Hallows Eve, which precedes All Hallows Day, created by Pope Boniface IV in the seventh century to honor saints and martyrs. But the origins of the holiday itself go back to the fifth century BCE to Samhain, the Celtic New Year, which was celebrated on Oct. 31, officially the last day of the year. On Samhain, the curtain dividing the realms of the living and the dead was thought to be at its thinnest, allowing spirits to spend this night visiting the world of the living and perhaps seeking bodies to possess. And allowing fortune-tellers an excellent opportunity for divination. The Celts, primarily the adults, dressed in costume to avoid being recognized by the spirits. They extinguished their home fires and lit a large, communal bonfire, a sacred conflagration, which they then used to relight their own

hearth fire, symbolically protecting themselves against the approach of another ominous winter. Some sources say they also sacrificed animals. By 43 BCE, after the Romans had conquered much of the Celts’ territory, Samhain had become commingled with two Roman festivals. One honored Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees, and the likely harbinger of the custom of apple bobbing. Centuries later medieval Christian authorities transformed the pagan celebration into the church-sanctioned holiday of All Hallows Day. In 1000 BC, the church designated Nov. 2 as All Souls Day to honor the dead. On this day, poor people in parts of Europe went begging door-to-door for pastries, known as “soul cakes,” and in return promised to pray for the dead relatives of the donors. This tradition is considered the forerunner of trick or treating. Later, European immigrants brought Halloween to America, where it was celebrated in various parts of the country, with various degrees of enthusiasm and various permutations of Celtic, Roman and Christian customs. But Irish immigrants, fleeing Ireland’s potato famine of 1846, greatly popularized the holiday. And by the 1920s and 1930s, Halloween was a completely secularized, community-centered American holiday. The truth is that holidays evolve. And while Samhain seems barbaric and sinister to us, the autumnal rite actually helped a primitive people make sense of a scary and inexplicable world. Today Halloween has as much relevance to Samhain and All Hallows Eve as Mother Day celebrates incest,

revenge and the Christian Church. And that’s exactly my point. Mother’s Day, according to many sources, can be traced back to an ancient Greek holiday honoring Rhea, the mother of the gods, who married her brother, the Titan Cronos, and then plotted revenge to save her children. Later, the holiday honored the mothers of England and, in Europe, the Roman Church. So should we Jews boycott Mothers Day because of its pagan and Christian origins? Tell that to my mother and mother-in-law, who would forgo a new blouse and family brunch. Judaism is a life-enhancing religion. But our holidays also reflect a dark side. In ancient times, on the three pilgrimage holidays of Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot, we sacrificed animals on the Temple altar in Jerusalem. And look at Purim, a personal favorite, to which Halloween is often so unfavorably compared. While the holiday commemorates our near-brush with genocide, its actual historical basis is disputed. And contrary to Judaism’s prohibition against premarital sex and intermarriage, Esther was being prepared not for a beauty contest, as we tell our children, but for a sexual liaison with King Ahasuerus, to be relegated to the harem if not selected queen. In averting the decree to murder the Jews, the Megillah tells us that 75,000 anti-Semites in the province were massacred, along with several hundred in the city. Plus, the Megillah commands us to get so drunk that we can’t distinguish between “Blessed be Mordechai”

and “Cursed be Haman.” Hardly an admirable exhortation. I’m not a Halloween advocate. I’m also adamantly opposed to Jews celebrating intrinsically religious holidays such as Christmas and Easter. I just want to point out that holidays, like people, are complicated and not always unadulterated. But unless Halloween falls on Shabbat, I don’t see where trick or treating, in a home where Jewish life flourishes, compromises a family’s Jewish values. Not every holiday or happening has to be moral and meaningful, nurturing or nourishing. Occasionally fun is the operative objective. Halloween, as I see it, is a roller coaster ride at an amusement park, a Jacqueline Susann novel, a “Lethal Weapon” movie. It’s no more healthful than the candy my kids collect. Or maybe it is. After all, Halloween provides an opportunity to spend time together as a family. To meet our neighbors and explore the neighborhood. To teach our kids to say “thank you.” And to support the American economy in this \$2.5 billion commercial fund raiser for candy companies and costume manufacturers. Plus, as my friend Jody Kussin, a child psychologist, maintains, dressing up in costume allows a child a chance to safely explore and experience a variety of personae, an important step in developing his or her own unique sense of self. So all things considered, once a year, for some harmless secular fun and a serious sugar high, Halloween can be a treat.

## A few seasonal Safety Tips

from the National Safety Council and the Mayo Clinic

### Drive safely as it gets darker

Daylight Saving Time ends every year on the first Sunday in November. – for 2023, that’s 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 5. This means it starts to get darker earlier as we set our clocks backward by one hour. Here are some tips for driving at night.

#### Watch for new roadway hazards.

**Slow down** and take extra care. Going back to school brings traffic changes. School buses, students on bicycles and teen drivers are out on the roads. Never pass a bus with flashing red lights on, or another vehicle stopped for a pedestrian.

- Aim your headlights correctly, and make sure they’re clean
- Dim your dashboard
- Look away from oncoming lights
- If you wear glasses, make sure they’re anti-reflective
- Clean the windshield to eliminate streaks
- Slow down to compensate for limited visibility and reduced stopping time.

#### Especially on Halloween:

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween.

#### Be alert for wildlife on roadways.

Wildlife is on the move in the fall, so watch carefully for deer, turkeys and other critters crossing the road in front of your vehicle. They are most active from dusk through dawn.

#### Share the road with harvesting equipment.

In rural areas, fall brings the harvest season with large farming equipment on the roads. Be alert for slow-moving vehicles, and give them plenty of space.

### Tips for around the house

#### Change your clocks and change your batteries:

When you change your clocks, it's also a great time to check the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

#### Get the yard ready for winter.

You’ve enjoyed your beautiful lawn and garden all summer, but now is the time to prep it for a cold winter. Leaf blowers can be loud and blow more than just leaves, so wear eye and hearing protection to keep you safe from flying debris and pre-serve your hearing from the dangerous effects of repeated exposure to loud noises.

#### Use ladders safely.

Falling is one of the most common reasons for emergency department trips. If you plan to clean out your gutters, work as a team when using the ladder. Ladders can buckle or slip, so have someone else hold the ladder as you climb up and down. Keep your body weight-centered over the ladder, and don’t reach too far. It is better to move the ladder a few more times than fall.

#### Service Your Furnace and change filters.

Before the cold autumn and winter weather sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service your furnace.

#### Use Caution With Space Heaters.

Always allow at least three feet of empty area around any space heaters you set up. Do not connect “zip cords” or extension cords to space heaters. Plug them in only directly into the wall socket.

#### Remove ice and snow from walkways to prevent slips and falls.

**Keep an emergency kit in your home** that includes flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, extra medicine, and baby items.





## All Kinds of Jewish

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



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Hillel419 is generously supported by Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo, Hillel International, and the Burton Kalniz Memorial Fund.