

TOLEDO Jewish News

JewishToledo.org

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Most US Jews do not identify as 'Zionists,' even when they support Israel, JFNA survey finds

ANDREW LAPIN | JTA

Only one-third of American Jews say they identify as Zionist, even as nearly nine in 10 say they support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and Democratic state, according to a new survey conducted by Jewish Federations of North America.

The findings of the survey reveal that American Jews do not have a mutually agreed-upon definition of Zionism — with those identifying as anti-Zionist and those identifying as Zionist ascribing sharply different meanings to the term.

For example, about 80% of anti-Zionist Jews say "supporting whatever actions Israel takes" is a tenet of Zionism, while only about 15% of self-identified Zionists share the belief, according to the survey.

The survey marks the most detailed assessment of the sentiments of American Jews about Zionism by a major Jewish organization in the United States, finding that 14% of Jews ages 18 to 34 identify as anti-Zionist and that the only demographic with a majority of self-identified Zionists was millennials between 35 and 44.

The survey comes as tensions following the Oct. 7 attack, Israel's war in Gaza and the election of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani have put a sustained spotlight on the tenor of American Jewish support for Israel — and divided Jewish communities.

The divisions, JFNA is concluding based on the data, are real but often overstated — a matter of concern as Jewish communities and institutions decide whether and how to engage with Jewish critics of Israel.

"If we misread the trend about 'Zionism' to mean that large numbers of Jews, especially young Jews, are turning against the existence of Israel itself, we will draw the wrong conclusions and take the wrong actions," Mimi Kravetz, JFNA's chief impact officer, wrote in an essay about the survey's findings. "We risk responding with anger when the moment calls for steady leadership, pulling away when the moment calls for connection, and defensiveness when the moment calls for listening and understanding."

Kravetz's comments add JFNA, the umbrella organization of hundreds of local Jewish federations in the United States and Canada, to an emerging group of Jewish leaders calling to open dialogue with Jews who have recently taken stands against Israel or in support of its opponents. JFNA would continue to define itself as Zionist, Kravetz noted, "in large part because we adhere to the historic definition," but she conceded that the term had undergone "definition creep."

Conducted in March 2025 by the research firm Burson, the survey posed a variety of questions to more than 1,800 Jewish and more than 4,100 total respondents about their relationship to Israel and Zionism, as well as about their beliefs about the definition of Zionism.

It was new territory for studies of American Jews. While a major 2021 survey of American Jews by the Pew Research Center had polled Jews on their relationship to Israel, that survey had avoided the use of the word "Zionism." Other major Jewish groups that conduct population surveys have in the past typically avoided closely



▲ Participants cheer and dance during the Celebrate Israel Parade up Fifth Avenue on May 18, 2025 in New York City. | Photo Alexi Rosenfeld/Getty Images

The survey also found that 7% of American Jews identify as anti-Zionist, rising to 14% among young adults.

interrogating Jewish opinions about Zionism. JFNA's venture into this territory came as part of the umbrella group's series of post-Oct. 7 Jewish trend studies, which have also revealed what the group has termed a "surge" of Jewish engagement.

Overall, more than 70% of Jewish adults who responded to JFNA's survey agreed that "I feel emotionally attached to Israel," and 60% said Israel made them proud to be Jewish. At the same time, nearly 70% also agreed that "I sometimes find it hard to support actions taken by Israel or its government."

One of the survey's big sticking

points emerged around self-identified Zionists. Only 37% of Jews surveyed said they identified as Zionist, while 7% labeled themselves anti-Zionist and another 8% said they were non-Zionist. Another 18% said they weren't sure, while 30% said none of the labels described them.

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Bill Aron, photographer of Jewish countercultures, gets his due in a sweeping retrospective

ANDREW SILOW-CARROLL | JTA

I was late to the havurah movement — the egalitarian, counterculture congregations that blended grassroots spirituality, social activism and skepticism about mainstream synagogues and the Jewish establishment. By the time we joined Farbrengen in Washington, D.C. in the late 1980s, the founders of the movement were sprouting gray hairs and more than a few were leading mainstream synagogues and establishment institutions of their own.

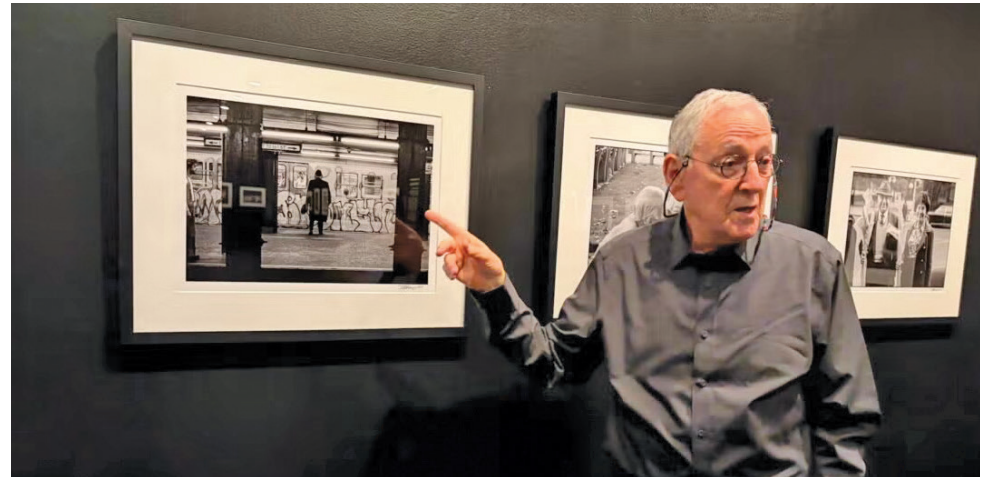
Still, my memories of that time are unmistakably and anachronistically of the 1970s. That's in large part thanks to the photographs of Bill Aron. A trained sociologist and street photographer, Aron took iconic photos of his fellow members of the New York Havurah in its 1970s heyday. Many of those photos were included in "The Jewish Catalog," a do-it-yourself guidebook created by members of the New York Havurah. Decades after it was first published in 1973, it remained a touchstone for Jews who were trying to lead the kind of hands-on, committed Jewish life that their suburban parents had put behind them.

Those images of the New York Havurah are a small but essential part of the new retrospective of Aron's work mounted in Manhattan by the American Jewish Historical Society, which recently acquired his archive of thousands of prints, film rolls, contact sheets and personal writings. The men, women and children in those black and white photographs are displayed between Aron's images of Orthodox Jews on the Lower East Side in the early 1970s, and future projects showing Jews in Cuba, Russia, Los Angeles, Israel and the American South.

Together, they offer a visual conversation between tradition and reinvention — a theme of Jewish diversity that animates his work. While the havurah might have its roots in the tie-dyed 1960s, Aron's work suggests that being Jewish is itself a counterculture.

"The complexity makes us all part of the American Jewish experience," Aron said, leading a press tour of the exhibit. "There are all different kinds of Jews who look different and behave differently."

There are, for example, two



▲ Bill Aron, whose early projects included a series on Jews living on New York's Lower East Side, discusses a new exhibit of his work at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan, Feb. 4, 2026. | JTA

photographs of Jewish scribes, an island and worlds apart. The first, identified as "Rabbi Eisenbach," was shot on the Lower East Side in 1975 and shows a haredi Orthodox man with a lavish white beard and a quill pen, hunched over an unscrolled Torah.

In the second, taken at the New York Havurah Shabbat School on the Upper West Side a year later, children in T-shirts and overalls surround a young Jay Greenspan as he reads from the Torah. Greenspan, who died in 2017 at age 69, led a revival of traditional Jewish scribal arts in the havurah movement and beyond, closing the gap between Jewish worlds that had begun to drift apart.

In another image, reproduced frequently in books and articles about Jewish feminism, Judith Samuels and other women dance with Torah scrolls on Simchat Torah. (Samuels, a social worker, was a member of the Jewish women's feminist group Ezrat Nashim.)

"I didn't grow up particularly religious, but I was fascinated by these different expressions of being Jewish," explained Aron, a neat and trim 84-year-old. His wife Isa introduced him to the New York Havurah, where she and Greenspan helped found its school. Isa Aron went on to become a professor of education at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where the couple live.

"It was magical," he said of the six years they lived in New York and the community surrounding the havurah. "The Boston havurah was known as the spiritual one, Washington's was known as the political one, and we were known as the eating one."

Although he earned a PhD in sociology at the University of Chicago and later did research at a California

state hospital, Aron found his true calling by photographing Jewish life for various nonprofits, including the Project Ezra anti-poverty group and what is now the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life.

Each of the photos prompts a story — of the elderly Holocaust survivor who planted a fat kiss on his wife's cheek, of the yeshiva head who overruled his bodyguards and let Aron snap a photo of him buying an etrog. For his "Shalom Y'all" project on Southern Jewry, he shot a regal image of the late Reuben Greenberg, the first Black police chief of Charleston, South Carolina, who told Aron how he came to convert to Judaism.

The exhibit is a visual archive of late-20th-century Jewish life: rural congregations and urban streets, intimate family moments and mass gatherings like a pro-Israel rally at the U.N. It's also a bit wistful. Aron captured the Jewish communities of the Lower East Side and the American South when both were in decline, although the former would bounce back with a new generation of Modern Orthodox Jews, gentrifiers and nostalgists.

Despite its elegiac tone, the exhibit offers a glimpse into the energy of movements like the havurah, whose DIY spirituality feels newly relevant amid contemporary searches for meaning and community. The photographs capture moments when American Jews were asking the perennial question: What could tradition look like in a changing world?

"What binds them is that they practice their Judaism and their values, even if in different ways," Aron said.

The American Jewish Historical Society exhibit, "The World in Front of Me," runs through June 4 at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, New York.



New JFGT Security Policy Purpose

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

Registration Procedures

Individual Registration Required:

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

Complete Data Collection:

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

Verification & Confirmation:

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

Guest Policy:

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

Prohibited Items

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

New donor and participant software launched

In 2026, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's community programs began transitioning to a new registration software, **Foundant**, as part of our ongoing commitment to improve community experience. This new software is also being used for donor records. Foundant better aligns with our needs, offering clearer communication, a more user-friendly interface, tools that will help us streamline program registration, and financial record keeping. It also brings a significant cost savings.

While we do not anticipate problems during this transition, some errors may occur as we move our systems and data to the new platform. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding throughout this process. Our team is working diligently to ensure a smooth changeover.

We are excited about the improvements this new system will bring, and we appreciate the community's support as we take this step forward together.

Rooted in community, guided by compassion

ABBY HOICOWITZ

✉ abby@jewishtoledo.org

A new, yet familiar face joined the Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services (JSFSS) staff earlier this year. For Rachel Chernow (née Weinberg), Support Services Coordinator, LSW, MSW, joining the organization feels like coming home. As a social worker, she brings not only professional training and compassion, but also a deep understanding of Jewish Toledo's history, values, and commitment to caring for one



Chernow

another. Having grown up in west Toledo, she is eager to stay connected and give back to the community she loves.

"When I was subbing and teaching afterschool cooking classes, a lot of students would hang around after school, and many of the same kids joined my class just to talk," Rachel said. "I didn't realize it at first, but I think I felt like a neutral, safe person to them—someone they could ask questions or just chat with. Kids would even tell me, 'You should be our teacher.' I knew I wanted to help them, but teaching wasn't the right path for me. So, I started looking for other ways to support them and eventually decided to get my master's in social work. I always thought

I'd come back to the school after graduating, but life steered me in a different direction."

Familiar with JSFSS and the work it does, Rachel reconnected with JSFSS staff after receiving her master's degree and was soon invited to join the team. "I was really excited, because I love the Jewish community and I'm eager to find ways to give back," she added. "As a social worker, I want to help connect people with the care and resources they need. I'm especially interested in working directly with individuals and families, supporting them as they face challenges and work toward a future that feels steadier and more hopeful."

As Rachel gets settled into her new position, she is looking forward

to finding her way and learning as much as she can from her colleagues and the community. After what she describes as a whirlwind few years, she is finally giving herself permission to slow down.

"These days, I really enjoy the simple moments—sitting on the couch, unwinding with some diamond art, getting lost in a good series, or curling up with a book," she said. It's been a long time since I've had this kind of downtime, and I'm truly enjoying it."

Rachel is focusing on gratitude, learning, being present, and connection in a community that shaped her. "This place helped make me who I am, and being known here feels like home."

Gan Yeladim Preschool to close in June

With great sadness, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) is announcing that the Gan Yeladim Preschool, which has been operated since 2009 as a joint effort of JFGT and Chabad of Toledo, Inc., will close at the end of the 2026 school year this June. Jewish preschool has been a part of Jewish Toledo for nearly 75 years, beginning with the JCC program on Collingwood Boulevard in 1953.

For several years there have been discussions regarding Toledo's declining Jewish population and the expenses associated with a Jewish preschool. JFGT and Chabad worked diligently to address these issues and, given other community interests, concluded in December 2025 that they could not viably continue their preschool collaboration in the fall of 2026. JFGT wants to express their deepest appreciation for the support, involvement, and partnership families have shown throughout their time as a part of the Gan Yeladim

family. The relationships formed at Gan Yeladim Preschool with children and families remain deeply important.

In the spring of 2025, Temple Shomer Emunim advised JFGT of their interest in the possibility of operating their own Jewish preschool. In December 2025, Temple and JFGT had additional discussions regarding Temple's operation of a preschool in the current Gan building beginning in the fall of 2026 and beyond. During those discussions, JFGT and Temple proposed different terms and visions for the Temple's use of the Gan building for a preschool. Ultimately, Temple leadership advised JFGT that they would not be able to open a preschool in the fall of 2026, while noting that they will continue to consider the potential for a preschool in the future. In January 2026, Temple leadership reaffirmed their commitment to thoughtfully exploring operation of a preschool, sharing that additional steps were

needed as part of their decision-making process.

Even without a formal preschool program next year, JFGT's commitment to serving young families continues. We are actively planning a variety of children and family programs, including gatherings and community experiences as part of our PJ Library, AHAVA, and EMOJI programs and by supporting enriching opportunities with Chabad House of Toledo, Temple Shomer Emunim, Congregation B'nai Israel, and Congregation Etz Chayim. We are here to collaborate in ways that benefit the community as well as creating space and giving deference to our local Jewish institutions to pursue their own dreams and aspirations for Jewish education and community building. These activities will help us remain connected and continue nurturing children's sense of Jewish identity, Jewish pride, and community.

JFGT is grateful to Morah Raizel

Shemtov and Morah Mushka Matusof, along with the many teachers and staff who worked at the JCC and later Gan Yeladim Preschool for decades with a loving and dedicated commitment to Jewish education. We are also thankful for the thousands of parents, children and their families that trusted us with their entry into Jewish education and Jewish communal life.

To defend a land, you need an army. But to defend freedom, you need education. You need families and schools to ensure that your ideals are passed on to the next generation and never lost, or despaired of, or obscured. The citadels of liberty are houses of study. Its heroes are teachers; its passion is education and the life of the mind. Moses realized that a people achieves immortality not by building temples or mausoleums, but by engraving their values on the hearts of their children, and they on theirs, and so on until the end of time.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, z"l



Have you heard of PJ Library?

PJ Library sends free, award-winning books that celebrate Jewish values and culture to families with children from birth through 12 years old.



Scan here to register your child for their books!



Questions: Contact PJ Library Program Professional, Marnie Younker, at marnie@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0365



JFGT PJ Library & Youth Programming



jewishtoledo.org/pjlibrary



Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

PJ Library is supported by The Inspiration Fund.

Ladies night out, Inside the Five

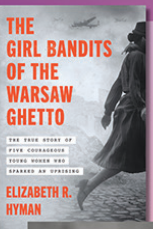

Photos Abby Hoicowitz



Clicking across generations: Mahjong connects mavens and mentees

Photos Colette Lundberg and Mary Bilyeu

THE GIRL BANDITS OF THE WARSAW GHETTO
THE TRUE STORY OF FIVE COURAGEOUS
 YOUNG WOMEN WHO
 FIGHTED TO SURVIVE
 ELIZABETH R. HYMAN

This International Women's Day, we invite women of all ages and backgrounds to gather for an inspiring afternoon with a virtual visit from author Emily Hyman, whose powerful book *The Girl Bandits of the Warsaw Ghetto* brings to life the extraordinary courage of young Jewish women who fought back during one of history's darkest moments. Hyman's work illuminates the remarkable stories of the resistance fighters who risked everything to smuggle weapons, deliver messages, protect their communities, and ignite hope in the Warsaw Ghetto.


In sharing these stories, we honor the legacy of women who stood fiercely for justice, and we shine a light on the courage that lives on in women everywhere. When women share their voices, stories, and support, they create movements that shape the world.

Join US! **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** EXPECT RAFFLES, GIVEAWAYS, AND SPECIAL SURPRISES!

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 | 3PM

Sylvania-area location TBA
\$18 per person, includes presentation, grazing table, coffee, and desserts
\$36 per person, includes copy of book, presentation, grazing table, coffee, and desserts

RSVP by Thursday, March 5 to:
<https://jftoledo.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/ticket>
 or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



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



JEWISH FEDERATION AND FOUNDATION OF GREATER TOLEDO TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS:

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

Received between January 14 - February 13, 2026

Alix Greenblatt Memorial Fund for Jewish Leadership

In Memory of Gail Mirrow
• Dana Greenblatt

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo

In Memory of Gail Mirrow

• Douglas Letter

Jewish Senior, Family, and Social Services - Food Pantry

In Celebration of Bob Wengrow's Special Birthday

- Mrs. Catherine Gordon
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Retske
- Mr. and Mrs. David Treuhaft
- Dr. and Mrs. Howard Rosenberg

In Honor of Doris Stark's Special Birthday

- Dr. and Mrs. Michael Stark

Long Term Community Needs Fund

In Memory of Barb Hager's Father, Edwin Jacobs

- Ms. Janet Rogolsky
- Ms. Joanne Rubin

Ross Treuhaft Special Needs Spirituality Fund

In Memory of June Treuhaft

- Kevin and Jill Brazner
- Shari Panitch
- Mrs. Alison Sherman
- Mr. and Mrs. David Treuhaft
- Mr. and Mrs. Fred Treuhaft

JFGT financial assistance and cancellation policies for programs

Financial assistance for programs

DISCREET FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR JEWISH TOLEDO ACTIVITIES

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

JEWISH FEDERATION & FOUNDATION OF GREATER TOLEDO'S CANCELLATION POLICY

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

POLICY:

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

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

Make sure to send the cancellation request before the 48-hour deadline. Cancellations made on or before the 48-hour deadline are eligible for a full refund of the registration fee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

JFGT Spring/ Summer 2026 Holiday Office Closures:

Date	Day of Week	Holiday	Office Hours
April 1, 2026	Wednesday	First Seder	Closed at 1:00pm
April 2, 2026	Thursday	Passover	Closed
April 3, 2026	Friday	Passover	Closed
April 8, 2026	Wednesday	Passover	Closed
April 9, 2026	Thursday	Passover	Closed
May 21, 2026	Thursday	Erev Shavuot	Closed at 1:00pm
May 22, 2026	Friday	Shavuot	Closed
May 25, 2026	Monday	Memorial Day	Closed
June 19, 2026	Friday	Juneteenth	Closed
July 3, 2026	Friday	Independence Day (4 th on Sat)	Closed

Time Change

- Office closes at 4:30 pm Fridays starting March 13, 2026.
- Office closes at 3:30 pm Fridays starting November 6, 2026.

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

Community commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On February 1, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo and its Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day, honoring the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and the millions of other victims. The date marks the January 27 liberation of Auschwitz, which Elie Wiesel survived before later sharing his story in his renowned memoir *Night*. The community observed the occasion with a screening of the 2024 documentary *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire*, an intimate portrait of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's life as a Holocaust survivor, writer, and human rights advocate. Pictured, Roy Büchler, JCRC Director, addresses the group pre-screening.



Photo Stephen Rothschild

Harrison Bader, Dean Kremer headline as Team Israel announces its World Baseball Classic lineup

JACOB GURVIS | JTA

A pitcher for the Minnesota Twins, whose father-in-law is an Israeli-American pharmaceutical executive and political activist, is one of the new additions to Team Israel ahead of next month's World Baseball Classic.

With the sixth edition of the international tournament this month, all 20 competing countries have now revealed their 30-man rosters. Team Israel, which qualified by winning a game in the 2023 Classic, announced its lineup last month.

Those competing for Israel include a number of MLB players as well as some younger newcomers — though perhaps the biggest Jewish star in baseball, Chicago Cubs third baseman Alex Bregman, is instead playing for the U.S. team.

Suited up in blue and white will be San Francisco Giants outfielder

Harrison Bader, the highest-profile addition to the roster, as well as Tommy Kahnle and Matt Bowman, MLB veterans who previously had no reported ties to the team.

For the WBC, players who are eligible for citizenship of a country are eligible to represent it in the tournament, regardless of their actual citizenship status. In Israel's case, that typically includes mostly American Jews — and occasionally those married to American Jews — who are eligible for Israeli citizenship under the country's Law of Return.

Bowman's wife, Eve Levin, is an attorney whose father Jeremy Levin is a prominent businessman who lived in Israel as a young adult and once ran Teva Pharmaceuticals, the country's largest company. Jeremy Levin is also a political activist who has lobbied for Democratic candidates and progressive policies in the United States as well as in support of democracy in

Israel, running on a slate in last year's World Zionist Congress elections. (Eve Levin's maternal grandfather was also a businessman; he transformed his Jewish family's hosiery business into the company that operates T.J. Maxx.)

Bowman and Eve Levin — who was on the legal team that exacted a historic judgment against Fox News last year — met at Princeton University, where he played baseball. He recently signed a minor league contract with the Twins, marking his third stint with the club in a career that has included affiliations with nine different teams. Most of his play has come in the minor leagues, but he has pitched in at least 16 MLB games.


Brad Ausmus, the New York Yankees bench coach who held that same role for Israel last time, will manage Team Israel next month. He managed Israel in the 2013 WBC qualifiers, in which Israel narrowly missed out on the tournament.

Longtime big leaguers Kevin Youkilis (bench coach), Mark Loretta (third base coach) and Jason Marquis (bullpen coach) will join Ausmus' staff.

Some previous Team Israel players have forgone affiliation this year — most notably Texas Rangers designated hitter Joc Pederson.



Simon Rosenbaum, who previously played for Team Israel and now serves as its general manager, said building the team is "always a rollercoaster ride."

"We're excited about the team we've been able to put together, especially because of how much more interest we've gotten from players talking to each other about their past experience playing with us," said Rosenbaum, who also serves as the director of baseball development for the Tampa Bay Rays. "We look forward to competing in a challenging pool and hope that we're a team our fans can be proud of."



Hear Roy Büchler, JCRC Director, discuss "My Family's Holocaust Story: A Third Generation Perspective."

Sponsored by:

Save the Date

Yom HaShoah


Holocaust Remembrance Day

Community Observance
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 27 Nisan 5786
7 p.m. | FREE | Location TBA*

Commemorate Yom HaShoah with the Toledo Jewish community. Hear **Roy Büchler**, JCRC Director, discuss "My Family's Holocaust Story: A Third Generation Perspective."

Registration required by Monday, April 13 at <https://jftoledo.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/ticket> or with Mary Bilyeu at 419-724-0405 or mary@jewishtoledo.org.

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




The Philip Markowicz Annual Lecture in Judaism and Jewish Biblical Studies
 Supported by the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo

New Approaches to Holocaust Education

Monday, March 30
7 p.m.


UToledo Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall

Guest Speaker
Barry Jackisch, Ph.D.




UToledo Associate Professor of History and the Philip Markowicz Endowed Professor in Judaism and Jewish Biblical Studies

Dr. Barry Jackisch will present material from his most recent efforts to extend Holocaust education to the online/remote classroom at UToledo. Dr. Jackisch recently received a grant from the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Educational Commission to develop a fully online, non-credit CEU (continuing education credits) program in Holocaust education for middle and high school teachers. Dr. Jackisch will discuss these efforts and offer some content examples from this online program.



Admission/Parking Free
(Area 12 Only) Scan code for more info.



Department of History

THE POWER UTOLEDO THE POWER UTOLEDO THE POWER UTOLEDO



▲ Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin speaks to Jewish Toledo



▲ Nancy Katz (left) and Roy Buchler, JCRC Director, listen to Col. Eisin speak

Israel in Focus: An Evening with Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin

MARY BILYEU

Nearly 100 community members filled the sanctuary at Congregation B'nai Israel on February 5 to learn from Ms. Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin, an internationally recognized expert on intelligence, security, and the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. Jewish Toledo is grateful to the Jewish Federations of North America, the American Jewish Committee, the Conference of Presidents of Major Organizations, and the Anti-Defamation League for their support

in making such an exceptional program available to us. Ms. Col. Eisin analyzed driving forces throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), listing five specific factors that are ultimately at the root of what transpires in the region: an anti-West perspective derived from colonial history; demographics, most notably a sizeable youth population; self-identity and belonging, whether religious, ethnic, tribal, or national; natural resources, such as an abundance of oil but a lack of fresh water; and government leadership,

which is overwhelmingly male, older, and not democratically elected. "These five driving forces are in Gaza and the West Bank," Ms. Col. Eisin summarized, providing critical context for the tragedy of October 7 and an array of other significant events in the Middle East - among them, demonstrations in Iran, regime change in Syria, and upcoming elections in Lebanon. These factors continue to affect Israel, she explained, from the make-up of its population and political parties to protests over conscription among the Haredi, who traditionally don't serve

in the IDF. In closing, Ms. Col. Eisin asserted that, considering all this, "what we all need now is resilience." To achieve that, Jews worldwide - and Israelis in particular - have been working through its four stages: absorption, adaptation, recovery, and thriving. "The resilience," she noted, "is to arrive at the thriving."

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

Save the Date

Pop-Up Shuk featuring ESEK

Tuesday, April 21

Shop and support Israeli businesses and artists

This Yom Ha'Atzmaut, we're celebrating in a way that connects story, purpose, and impact. We're thrilled to welcome ESEK, an initiative that supports Israeli small businesses by showcasing products created by passionate Israeli small business owners. Every purchase supports creativity, resilience, and Israel's entrepreneurial spirit.

More information to come.



Self-care and crafting activities bring 60 & Better together

| Photos / Sherry Majewski



Explore the art, Jewish heritage, and architecture of

Chicago

June 15-18, 2026 (4 days/3 nights)






Itinerary
(subject to change)

June 15: Bus ride from Toledo to Chicago Art Institute (with plenty of stops along the way)

June 16: Chicago Jewish Roots - sentimental journey to historic Jewish neighborhoods and sites

June 17: Chicago Architecture Tour - Afternoon on your own plus dinner boat cruise

June 18: Bus ride back to Toledo

Must be able to walk independently and up/down stairs.

Accommodations

3 nights - Courtyard by Marriott Chicago Downtown/River North (three breakfasts, one lunch, and two dinners provided)

Included in trip cost:

- First class hotel and hotel gratuities
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation with air conditioning
- Guided sightseeing with top local guide & driver

All entrance fees, site fees, and admin fees

Cost

\$100 deposit per person due at time of signup

Double Occupancy - **\$1,000/person**,
Single Occupancy - **\$1,300/person**

Dave Tullis, JFGT Security Director, is accompanying the group for the duration of the trip.





Secure your spot and make your \$100 deposit
by the deadline, March 2.
https://jftoledo.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=1627

Questions? Please contact
Sherry Majewski by March 1 at
sherry@jewishtoledo.org or
419-724-0351.



Strength in the collective: Supporting Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, MS

MARY BILYEU
✉ mary@jewishtoledo.org

We all heard the horrifying news on Saturday, January 10: Mississippi's largest synagogue, Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, had been targeted by an arsonist before dawn that morning. The library and administrative offices were destroyed, as were two of the shul's Torah scrolls. Five other scrolls were damaged, while one - which had notably survived the Holocaust - was left unscathed, having been protected by a glass case.

A 19-year-old suspect was arrested later that evening. He allegedly confessed to starting the fire at the building, which had been the 167-year-old congregation's home since 1967 - the same year that the Ku Klux Klan had bombed the site for its rabbi's support of civil rights.

Jewish Toledo's Ken Newbury was particularly affected by news of the attack, as his mother had grown up in Jackson, MS, attending services at Beth Israel and having been confirmed there.

"The thin threads of time and history connect us to one another," he wrote in an email. "We feel the pain of others who suffer through personal loss Such was the case when I learned of the arson at Beth Israel, Mississippi's oldest synagogue."

Ken noted that his mother had been eulogized at Beth Israel, "and a memorial plaque was placed in a space that has now been damaged by fire. In the same space, my grandparents, Ruth and Jack are remembered."

Matt Kripke, CEO of Kripke Enterprises, Inc. (KEI), also has a connection to Beth Israel, mentioning in an email that a friend and customer of theirs, Zach Shemper, is President of the shul's Board.

"[Zach] said it has been amazing to get the support," Matt continued, "and have people reach out from literally all over the world" - including from Toledo. KEI used its donor-advised fund through the Toledo Jewish Community

Foundation to contribute to rebuilding efforts, offering much-needed financial support to the synagogue.

"Though I am separated from Jackson by more than 1,000 miles," Ken pointed out, "time and history remind us that there is an eternal bond that binds the Jewish people to one another."

That has certainly been proven true by the Jewish Federations of North America, which has stepped in despite Jackson not having its own local Federation.

In a statement, Edward Finkel, Managing Director of Network Communities, said, "It was important to show that the Jewish community of Jackson is not alone during this moment of crisis. They're dealing with something many have never experienced before, and Jewish Federations will be there every step of the way." The organization has helped to raise funds, mobilize resources, and offer support for the community's immediate needs - most notably, security.

JFGT CEO Stephen Rothschild echoed that sentiment of unity within

the broader Jewish community, reiterating "that we are all connected, and we have power and strength in the collective."

"Let this moment strengthen our resolve to stand with one another in faith, remembrance, and acts of chesed [lovingkindness] that sustain our people across generations," Ken wrote.

"Beth Israel is resilient and will rebuild," he noted with hope. "Arson cannot erase our memories."

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

DISCLAIMER

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SURVEY | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the same time, 88% of surveyed Jews believed that "Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish, Democratic state" - traditionally one of the most historically accepted definitions of Zionism. Seven percent of Jews disagreed with that sentiment, equal to the number who consider themselves anti-Zionist.

Respondents were also quizzed on what views they believed constituted "a part of Zionist beliefs." Among Jews, 36% said Zionism only meant "the right of the Jewish people to have a Jewish state." More than one in four Jewish respondents said they thought Zionists were expected to be "supporting whatever action Israel takes," and 35% said Zionism meant "believing Israel has a right to the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Smaller numbers of Jews indicated that they thought "believing Palestinians are a made-up population" and "believing Jews are superior to Palestinians" were also core Zionist tenets.

To Kravetz, these results indicate that some Jews "are not rejecting Israel's existence or the idea of a Jewish state. They are reacting to an understanding of Zionism that includes policies, ideologies, and actions that they oppose, and do not want to be associated with."

That is especially true for younger Jews, according to the survey, which shows stark differences along age lines. Less than half of Jews under 44 agreed that "in general, Israel makes

me feel proud to be Jewish." The lowest share of Jews who agreed that Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish and Democratic state came from the same age group - though even then about three in four, a sizable majority, agreed with the statement.

Uneasiness in describing oneself as Zionist held true across nearly every age range, with only around 35% of Jews in most demographics using the term to describe themselves.

Of the Jewish respondents, 37% were Reform, 17% were Conservative, 9% were Orthodox and 30% identified as other or as no particular denomination. Survey results shared with JTA broke down respondents by age range, but not by other factors such as denomination; individuals were randomly assigned to receive certain questions.

The debate over Zionism remains fraught. The last few years have seen increased demonization of "Zionists," alongside shifting definitions of the term, among progressives and far-right figures on social media and college campuses. At the same time, new advocacy groups like The Jewish Majority and the Movement Against Antizionism have called for shunning those expressing anti-Zionist or anti-Israel sentiment from Judaism's big tent.

Still, more Jewish researchers are looking to better understand the intra-Jewish divide over Zionism and the various ways Jews understand the term.

For The Sake of Argument, an organization that promotes "healthy

arguments" and works with several mainstream Jewish groups including JFNA, recently undertook its own interview series with Jewish anti-Zionists. Co-directors Robbie Gringas and Abi Dauber Sterne plan to soon publish findings from their conversations with about 30 participants.

"It's great that people are starting to talk about the elephant in the room," Gringas told JTA from Israel. "We, the Jewish world, don't yet know what to do with this. And in the meantime, we have to find a way to not break each other's hearts as much as we have been."

The pair's main takeaway from their interviews, Gringas said, was that Jewish anti-Zionists were "sad, if not brokenhearted, about the ways in which they not only find no expression for their Judaism, but also find the Judaism that they're meeting very challenging." He added, "The people we met were very knowledgeable about Israel and about Judaism. They were rich human beings."

The fact that more institutional Jewish groups are interested in learning about what motivates Jewish anti-Zionism is a positive step, Gringas said, adding that it fits the current challenges of the Jewish moment.

"We need to recognize that the world's changed. We're in a different time," he said. "We're not in a transition. We're in a rupture. And we need to confront it and think about it carefully."

Toledo Jewish Men's Club 2025-2026 Calendar

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 (2026):

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

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

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

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Questions?

Call Joel 419-704-5039

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

From 'Hairspray' to 'South Park,' composer Marc Shaiman tells a showbiz story shaped by Jewish humor

STEPHEN SILVER | JTA

Marc Shaiman likes to joke that for half a century he's been "the funny Jewish guy at the piano," a role as old as vaudeville and as enduring as a well-timed joke.

But behind the punchline is a career that traces a distinctly Jewish path through American show business: a bar mitzvah where he improvised the music to his haftarah; collaborations with Bette Midler, Rob Reiner and a who's-who of Jewish Hollywood; composing the music for Broadway's "Hairspray," and scoring the 1999 film "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut" and co-writing its Oscar-nominated song, "Blame Canada."

Now, in his new memoir "Never Mind the Happy: Showbiz Stories from a Sore Winner," Shaiman reflects on a life shaped by chutzpah, fate, disappointment and the particular blend of humor, loss and resilience he credits to being Jewish — a sensibility that, he says, made show business feel less like a career choice than a birthright.

"It's not hard to spend your whole life with Jews when you're in show business," he said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I know that sounds like maybe a trope or a bad thing to say, but there's no question that the Jews have been a big part of show business from the beginning of time. I'm sure the first caveman who put on a show was circumcised."

Shaiman joined that business when he left his hometown of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, at age 16 after getting his GED and headed for New York City. He performed with cabaret acts and comedy shows.

For the last 50 years, the 66-year-old Shaiman has indeed been that funny Jewish guy at the piano, as everything from an arranger and writer in the early years of "Saturday Night Live" to a creator of musical moments for Oscar broadcasts (along with seven

Academy Award nominations for his work on films like "Mary Poppins Returns" and "Sleepless in Seattle"). Shaiman worked on music for nearly every film Reiner made, starting with "When Harry Met Sally" in 1989; he was nominated for an Oscar for scoring Reiner's film "The American President."

He even appeared as an animated version of himself, piano and all, in the "I'm Super" number in the "South Park" movie.

Many of those projects were written in collaboration with Scott Wittman, his romantic partner for many years, and still his songwriting partner.

The book is full of Jewish mother jokes and Yiddish asides, and the title comes from an expression used by his mother: One New Year's Day, Shaiman's sister told her mother, "Mom, I want to be the first to wish you a happy and healthy new year," to which their mother replied, "Never mind the happy." Shaiman calls it "the day that my mother defined Judaism."

He describes the "South Park" gig leading into his biggest Broadway hit, "Hairspray" as beshert, or fated, because the right producer noticed it at the right time. He also credits his own chutzpah for much of his success.

One of the first Broadway shows he ever saw was "Fiddler on the Roof," not long after its debut in 1964, and when a young Bette Midler was making her Broadway debut as Tevye's daughter Tzeitel.

"Bette Midler's first two albums and [my] puberty both happened at the same time," he said at a Philadelphia book event on Jan. 29. "And I became obsessed with Bette Midler."

Shaiman ended up collaborating with Midler, first as her vocal arranger and then on movies like "Beaches" and "For the Boys." He was also at the piano when Midler serenaded Johnny Carson as his final guest on "The Tonight Show" in 1992.

The "funny Jewish guy at the piano" trope, he says, dates back mostly to



▲ Marc Shaiman is the author of a new memoir, "Never Mind the Happy: Showbiz Stories from a Sore Winner." | Photo Robert Trachtenberg



▲ Marc Shaiman and his partner Scott Whitman, shown here at a Drama League benefit in 2011, are known as the songwriting duo behind Broadway's "Hairspray," "Smash" and "Some Like It Hot." | Photo Rob Rich

A Tony winner and seven-time Oscar nominee recounts collaborations with Bette Midler and Rob Reiner, and the musical liberties he took at his bar mitzvah.

Oscar Levant, the Jewish actor and concert pianist who appeared in films from the 1930s through the '50s. (Sean Hayes portrayed Levant in the 2023 Broadway play "Goodnight, Oscar.")

"He was like me, times a million," Shaiman said of the famously mordant and dyspeptic Levant.

"It's just Jewish, show business and

comedy," he said. "Those three terms seem redundant to me [in] that you know you can't have one without the others. You know, I take great pride in my Jewishness and the humor that comes from being Jewish."

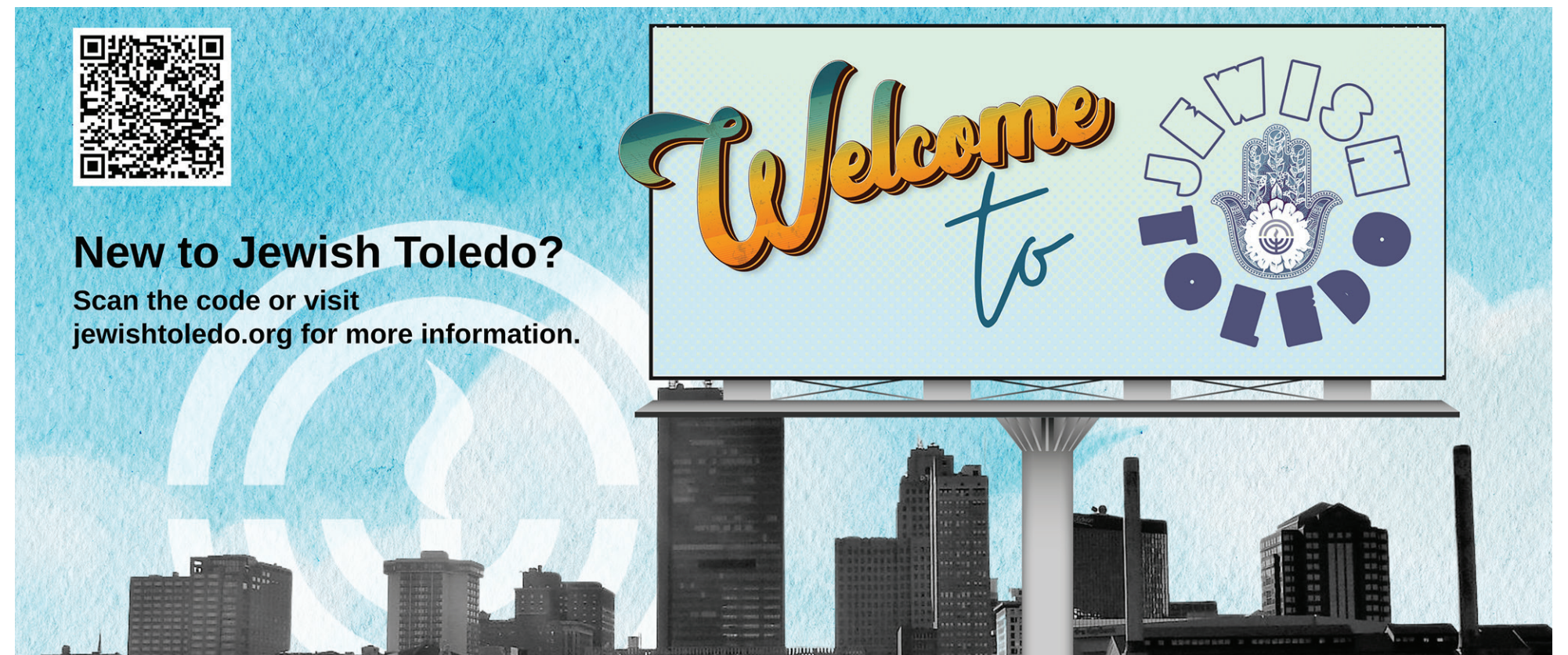
Shaiman didn't come from an especially religious family, but he did

SHAIMAN | CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



New to Jewish Toledo?

Scan the code or visit jewishtoledo.org for more information.





Happy Tears

LAUREN SACHS

Authenticity. As I work towards finishing my 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training certification this month, this word has been at the forefront of my mind. It is a concept that I associate with my yoga practice, but yoga means a multitude of different things to each of its adherents. Many friends and acquaintances have asked why I felt compelled to pursue an in-depth yoga teacher training program. Though I have wanted to lean further into my yoga practice for quite some time, there is no definitive answer to this question.

One obvious rationale for pursuing teacher training is gaining a clearer understanding of yoga. Despite my background in dance and a multi-year stint in the fitness industry teaching Zumba, I knew that yoga had far more complex and ancient origins which would be hard to access without a serious program of self-study. Though yoga in the West is often seen through a fitness lens, the practice is actually more of a lifestyle with implications for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, as well as a tool for greater self-knowledge and personal growth. Aside from these reasons to pursue further education, I am also hopeful that yoga teacher training will help me help others. Since my husband died, I have felt strongly moved to support others through their pain. Up to this point, I have tried to uplift others through my writing on loss and resilience, my volunteering at hospice, my speaking engagements, and by showing up for people in my personal life. Adding yoga teaching to this array of resources

feels like a natural progression along the path toward assuaging others' heartache, while simultaneously bolstering my own ongoing healing.

Beyond these explanations, I also felt moved to engage more fully in yoga as I reflected on the role it has played in my own life since my husband's untimely death. After losing Brad so suddenly, I began to experience the myriad benefits of yoga beyond fitness. I started to view my practice as a fundamental part of palliating the pain of my loss, with the specific benefits almost too numerous to count. Some of the perks included deep relaxation, a chance to focus and reflect thoughtfully, a space to be honest with myself about my heartache, an opportunity to gain strength both physically and emotionally, a place to build a supportive community, and a time to show up for myself when I was busy giving so much to help my daughters heal.

While these motivations reflect the powerful role yoga has played for

me, the word authenticity is largely unrelated to all the aforementioned ones. Being widowed in my mid-40s was a huge identity shift, forcing me to try and rediscover who I was and who I wanted to be as I continued moving forward in my life. Yoga allowed me to release the anguish of my grief long enough to get to know myself without my husband in my life. Not only did I need to fully accept and deal with my agonizing feelings, but I also needed to learn to free myself from some of

the pain. Moreover, my yoga practice - along with therapy, journaling, my support group, and so on - helped me to accept that I could only move forward once I found a way to let go of the ideas and feelings which no longer served me. Once I practiced surrendering the things which had outlived their usefulness, I was able to see what I needed to support myself in the here and now, helping me find greater peace, joy, and love. To me, that is the most beautiful part of discovering my authentic self. If you have been on your own journey of self-discovery following loss or other strife, I wish you solace as you follow your own path and hope that eventually you will find exactly what it is you need.

Lauren Sachs holds a bachelor's degree in English and Psychology, and a Master's Degree in Social Work, from the University of Michigan. After completing advanced clinical training at Yale University, she worked as a therapist and consultant in a variety of settings. During her time in Jewish Toledo, Lauren has received the Harry Levison Young Leadership Award and the Shining Light Award, and is currently serving as the Chair for the 20th Annual NW Ohio Jewish Book Festival. In addition to her involvement within the local Jewish community, Lauren serves as a volunteer for Hospice of Northwest Ohio. She is also the author of a forthcoming book about her late husband, his joyful approach to life and work as an oncologist, and how examining his life helped her better cope with her grief. To learn more about Lauren's journey and her work on living well after loss, visit www.literally-lauren.com.

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SHAIMAN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

have a bar mitzvah.

"My memory is that I might have used my musical ability to kind of ad lib some of the music to my haftarah, which I could get away with because I could do my own intervals that seemed right," he said.

In adulthood, he's become more skeptical of organized religion in general.

"Having said that, I love being Jewish. I love Jewish people. I love how what's in our blood has made us the way that we are," Shaiman said.

Friends of his had suggested that he write a book, but the true impetus, he said, was when he heard actress Jane Fonda on a podcast talking about her own memoirs. "She felt it was time for a life review," Shaiman told JTA.

"And that's stuck in my head. I think I was also in the midst of a disappointment in show business.

"Maybe even subliminally, I thought if I go back and relive all these joyous, incredible opportunities I've had and stuff I've been able to create, it would do me some good," he added.

Indeed, the book includes both highs, like winning Tony Awards, and lows, including the countless friends he lost to AIDS in the 1980s and 1990s. Some moments combine both: Accepting the Tony he and Wittman won for "Hairpray" — whose 1960s Baltimore setting he tried to infuse with the spirit of his early days in New

York — Shaiman said he wished the theater balcony "reached all the way up to heaven," so their lost friends could celebrate with them.

Another lost friend is Reiner. The book, which is full of Rob Reiner stories, was completed before the murder of the director and his wife, Michele, in December, and Shaiman is still coming to terms with the loss of his longtime collaborator and friend.

"He was like my older brother, but he was also a mentor and such a mensch," said Shaiman, remembering "not just what he did for me for my music and lyric career, but what he did for me as a gay man. [The Reiners] were vitally a part of the fight that got all the way to the Supreme Court that ended up creating legal same-sex marriage throughout the country.

"He was just a part of my life. And I really still haven't come to terms with what's happened. It's too impossible to believe."

"Never Mind the Happy," as the title suggests, accepts the bitter and the sweet of a long, successful career with setbacks that still sting. But while he'd love to win that Oscar (despite his seven nominations, Shaiman is one O shy of an EGOT), he counts his blessings.

"I just wanted to tell these stories, honestly," Shaiman said. "My book is a textbook example of how if you just keep putting yourself out there, that every single one of your dreams can come true."

Kiddush Cup of Joy Lecture: Art, Faith, and Shared History with Dr. Adam Levine



Cup photo courtesy Sotheby's, Dr. Adam Levine photo courtesy Toledo Museum of Art

**Sunday, April 19
FREE**

**Toledo Museum of Art,
Little Theater**

1-2 p.m.: Guest arrival and light reception

2 p.m.: Lecture begins

3-4 p.m.: Lecture concludes, guests are invited to optional gallery exploration with "Ask Me" Docents

Please note: the Kiddush Cup will not be on view. It is currently on loan to the Jewish Museum in New York City and will return to TMA upon completion of its gallery reinstallation.

Discover a remarkable new addition to the collection through a public lecture centered on a rare 11th century Kiddush cup with Hebrew and Arabic inscriptions. Presented by Dr. Adam Levine, the Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey Director of the Toledo Museum of Art and a scholar of ancient art, this talk explores how one extraordinary object reveals centuries of cultural exchange along the Silk Road. Join for a light reception before the lecture, followed by gallery conversations with "Ask Me" Docents that continue the dialogue on art, faith, and religious coexistence.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation with consultation from the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo and Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo.

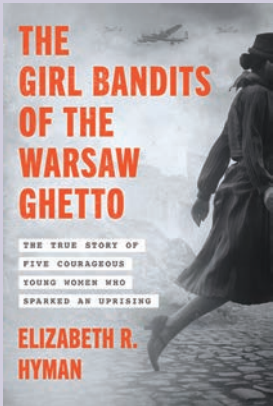
This event is free, but tickets are required. Find more information and RSVP at <https://tma.ticketapp.org/portal/product/890>

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo Programs and Events



International Women's Day

Sunday, March 8



3 p.m.
Sylvania-area location
\$18 per person, includes presentation, grazing table, coffee, and desserts
\$36 per person, includes copy of book, presentation, grazing table, coffee, and desserts

This International Women's Day, we invite women of all ages and backgrounds to gather for an inspiring

afternoon with a virtual visit from author Emily Hyman, whose powerful book *The Girl Bandits of the Warsaw Ghetto* brings to life the extraordinary courage of young Jewish women who fought back during one of history's darkest moments.

Hyman's work illuminates the remarkable stories of the resistance fighters who risked everything to smuggle weapons, deliver messages, protect their communities, and ignite hope in the Warsaw Ghetto.

In sharing these stories, we honor the legacy of women who stood fiercely for

justice, and we shine a light on the courage that lives on in women everywhere. When women share their voices, stories, and support, they create movements that shape the world.

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

Expect raffles, giveaways, and special surprises!

RSVP by March 5.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

COMMUNITY PURIM CARNIVAL - LET'S GET WICKED!

9:30 a.m.: Temple Shomer Emunim "Wicked" Purim Spiel (open to all)

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.: Carnival begins

\$10 per person (ages 4 and under are free) by Friday, February 20

\$15 per person (ages 4 and under are free) after Friday, February 20

No one mourns the tickets, because all games, prizes, lunch, hamantaschen, drinks, and more are included!

It's time for the most "wicked" Purim Carnival of 5786! Let's "defy gravity" and celebrate Purim like never before. The entire Jewish community is invited for a morning of games, food, prizes, laughter, costumes, and Purim magic. Whether you're Team Esther, Team Vashti, or just here for the hamantaschen, this Purim is going to be "popular."

Costumes are encouraged! Come as a witch, a wizard, Queen Esther, Mordechai, or something entirely unexplainable.

Adults, we have something special for you too! An adults-only room can be your own Emerald City. Join us for Bingo, card games, prizes, brunch, mimosas, the Java Sensations coffee bar, and more!

The whole Megillah is invited, regardless of affiliation. RSVP before the bubble pops.

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

MARCH 13, APRIL 17

BABY LOVES SHABBAT

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Free event

Each playdate will feature creative play, light snacks, challah, Shabbat songs, and more. Register for a chance to receive a special Shabbat Box to use during the playdates and take home afterward. RSVP by the day prior to marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

PJ LIBRARY & TEMPLE SHOMER EMUNIM TOT SHABBAT

9:30 - 11 a.m.

Free

Location TBA

Tot Shabbat with PJ Library and the Temple! This program is appropriate for children ages 5 and under. Come for a morning of music, prayer, a story, and an art activity.

Bagels and fruit provided. This program is open to all families, regardless of affiliation. RSVP by Friday, March 13.



TUESDAY, MARCH 17

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN IRELAND

6 - 8 p.m.

\$10 for campaign donors

\$20 for non-donors to the campaign
 Cost includes a "Kosher Jiggs Dinner with corned beef and all the fixings"

Did you know there have been Jews in Ireland since the 11th century? Come and

learn about their fascinating history - we'll do an overview of the past 1000 years and find out about some notable Irish Jews. Kosher Jiggs Dinner will be included. RSVP by Wednesday, March 11.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

THE GREAT CHAROSET THROWDOWN
 6 - 8 p.m.

\$18 per person, includes dinner, drinks, and fun

Location TBA

The Great Charoset Throwdown is intended for Jewish adults ages 40-65ish.

Channel your inner chef and join Jewish Toledo for an evening of friendly competition, creativity, and culinary fun at our version of "Chopped" with a Passover twist! Participants will blindly select a recipe and race against the clock to create their own unique take on charoset using a table of mystery ingredients.

Along the way, learn about the tradition of searching for chametz, enjoy dinner and drinks, and take home a kit to continue your Passover prep at home. Whether you're a seasoned cook or just in it for the fun, this lively night is sure to be one to savor. RSVP by Tuesday, March 24.

Featured Event

Sunday, April 12

Jewish Heritage Day at the Detroit Tigers!

Bus leaves at 11:30 a.m.

Return to Toledo around 5:30 p.m.

\$20 - Adults 60 and older

\$40 - Adults 21 - 59

Includes game ticket, commemorative jersey, transportation, and food voucher.

Calling all Jewish Toledo adults! Celebrate Jewish Heritage Day with your Toledo Jewish community as the Detroit



Tigers take on the Miami Marlins. This special event includes a custom Detroit Tiger's Jewish Heritage Jersey. RSVP by Tuesday, March 31.

For more information and resources, visit jewishtoledo.org.



New for 2026, unless otherwise noted, please register for all programs with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org or at



<https://jftoledo.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/ticket>.



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



To submit an event for consideration, send information to abby@jewishtoledo.org at least 45 days prior to event.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

PJ LIBRARY & CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL TOT SHABBAT
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Free
Location TBA

Open to all families, regardless of affiliation. Join Helen Grubb and other PJ Library families for a Tot Shabbat at Congregation B'nai Israel. We'll start in the chapel where PJ Library and Gan parent Helen Grubb will lead songs, blessings, and a story based on Parshat Shemini. Then we'll join the congregation so the

kids can march with the Torah (and their own), followed by playtime and a craft in the playroom. We'll end with a special kid friendly lunch. RSVP by Monday, April 6.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMUNITY OBSERVANCE
7 p.m.
Location TBA
See page 6 for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

POP-UP SHUK FEATURING ESEK
See page 7. More information to come.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

LADIES WHO BRUNCH
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
\$5 per person - includes beverage and goodie bag. Brunch is on your own.
Downtown Toledo-area
Women 65 and under are invited for a delightful brunch. Come connect with friends old and new! RSVP by Friday, April 17.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

PASSOVER SHOPPING TRIP
Bus 9:15 a.m., return approx. 3:30 p.m.
\$20 for campaign donors
\$30 for non-donors to the campaign
We're kicking off our Passover prep with a festive outing! Join us as we shop at The Grove and Zeman's, stock up on all the chametz-free essentials, and enjoy a delicious kosher lunch together. Don't forget to bring your coolers and insulated bags; you'll want a safe spot for all the goodies that need to stay chilled as we gear up for the holiday of freedom! RSVP by Monday, March 2.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

PASSOVER FLOWERS WITH BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS BY JEN
12 - 1:30 p.m.
\$15 for campaign donors
\$30 for non-donors to the campaign
Join us for a lively pre-Passover lunch and create gorgeous, festive floral arrangements to brighten your seder table! No prior knowledge is required. Come schmooze, snack, and get into the holiday spirit with blooms worthy of parting the sea! RSVP by Thursday, March 19.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

60 & BETTER AUTHOR EVENT
HIDDEN ROOMS BY KATE MICHAELSON



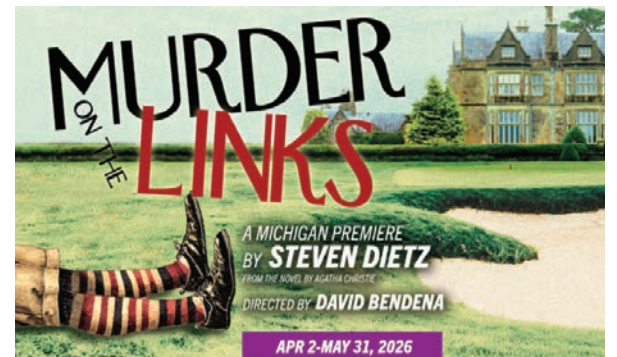
12 - 1:30 p.m.
\$10 for lunch and presentation for campaign donors
\$15 for lunch, presentation, and book for campaign donors
\$20 for lunch and presentation for non-donors to the campaign
\$30 for lunch, presentation, and book for non-donors to the campaign

Long distance runner Riley has been fighting various bewildering symptoms for months, from vertigo to fainting spells. Worse, her doctors can't tell her what's wrong, leaving her to wonder if it's stress or something more threatening. But when her brother's fiancée is killed – and he becomes the prime suspect – Riley must prove his innocence, despite the toll on her health. Local author Kate Michaelson will share the inspiration for this book and more about the main characters.

Additional books will be available for sale. RSVP by Monday, April 6.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

60 & BETTER LUNCH & THEATER TRIP
MURDER ON THE LINKS



Bus leaves at 11:30 a.m.
Bus returns around 5:30 p.m.
\$15 for campaign donors
\$30 for non-donors to the campaign
Includes lunch, transportation, and theater ticket
Contains adult language and subject matter.

Something is afoot on the private golf course at Merlinville-Sur-Mer — namely the body of Hercule Poirot's newest client. Acclaimed playwright Steven Dietz brings the famed Belgian detective to life to solve one of Agatha Christie's most intricate whodunits. Of course, there are the host of usual — and unusual — suspects. A cast of six versatile actors embody a myriad of characters as they navigate the twists and turns of this lively and fun new adaptation. You won't want to miss a thrilling moment of this comic mystery.

Enjoy the theater production of Murder on the Links and a delicious lunch prior to the performance. RSVP by Monday, April 6.

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



DAVE TULLIS
Security Director
✉ dave@jewishtoledo.org

Stay safe online: How to detect and combat phishing scams

Phishing scams are one of the most common and effective methods used by cybercriminals to steal personal information, money, and access to accounts. These scams often appear as legitimate emails, text messages, or phone calls, but their goal is to trick you into revealing sensitive information or clicking malicious links. Understanding how to recognize and respond to phishing attempts is one of the most important steps you can take to protect yourself.

WHAT IS PHISHING?

Phishing is a type of cyber fraud where scammers impersonate trusted organizations or individuals—such as banks, employers, delivery services, or even community organizations—to manipulate recipients into taking action. This may include clicking a link, opening an attachment, or providing passwords, financial information, or personal details.

COMMON SIGNS OF A PHISHING SCAM

Be cautious if you notice any of the following red flags:

- Urgent or threatening language, such as “Act now” or “Your account will be suspended”
- Unexpected requests for passwords, payment, or personal information
- Generic greetings, like “Dear Customer,” instead of your name
- Suspicious sender addresses that look slightly off from legitimate ones
- Links or attachments you were not expecting

- Poor spelling or grammar, though some scams are increasingly polished

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

To reduce your risk of falling victim to phishing scams:

- Do not click links or download attachments from unknown or unexpected messages.
- Verify the sender by contacting the organization directly using a trusted phone number or website.
- Hover over links (without clicking) to preview the web address.
- Use strong, unique passwords and enable multi-factor authentication whenever possible.
- Keep software and devices updated to protect against known vulnerabilities.

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM PHISHING SCAMS: A GUIDE FOR SENIORS

Scammers often target seniors because they believe people may be more trusting or less familiar with changing technology. Phishing

scams can arrive as emails, text messages, phone calls, or even social media messages that appear to be from trusted sources such as banks, Medicare, delivery services, or family members.

COMMON WARNING SIGNS

Be cautious if a message:

- Creates urgency or fear, such as claiming your account will be closed.
- Asks for personal information, passwords, or payment.
- Comes from someone claiming to be a grandchild, bank, or government agency.
- Includes links or attachments you were not expecting.
- Asks you to pay using gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

- Slow down. Scammers rely on panic. Take time to think.
- Do not click links or open attachments unless you are certain they are legitimate.
- Never share personal information over email or text.
- Call a trusted family member before responding to unusual requests.
- Contact organizations directly using phone numbers you already know, not ones provided in the message.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A PHISHING ATTEMPT

If you believe you have received a

phishing message:

- Do not respond or engage with the sender.
- Delete the message or report it as phishing through your email or phone provider.
- If you clicked a link or provided information, change your passwords immediately and contact your bank or service provider.
- Do not send money or information.
- Ask for help from a family member or trusted advisor.

Remember: Legitimate organizations will never pressure you or demand immediate action.

STAYING VIGILANT

Phishing scams are constantly evolving, but awareness remains the strongest defense. Taking a moment to pause, verify, and question unexpected messages can prevent significant financial and personal harm.

When in doubt, don’t click—check first.

DISCLAIMER

Letters, commentaries, opinions and advertisements appearing in the Toledo Jewish News reflect the views and thoughts of the writer and/or advertiser and do not necessarily represent the opinions or views of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, its board of directors, officers or employees unless explicitly stated.



EXPERIENCE A MEMORABLE OVERNIGHT JEWISH INITIATIVE

Jewish Summer Camp Program

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER 2026!
form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/emoji2026

More information
jewishtoledo.org/emoji

Camp Wise receives \$1.1M grant from Mandel Foundation for new amphitheater

BOB JACOB

Camp Wise in Claridon Township received a \$1.1 million capital grant from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation to fund a new 650-seat, covered amphitheater, the Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland in Beachwood announced on Feb. 10.



Reinharz



Rosen



Utley

This state-of-the-art outdoor venue will serve as a spiritual and communal gathering space for the Camp Wise community, honoring its legacy and expanding capacity to create transformative Jewish camp experiences for current and future generations, according to the release.

“The Mandel JCC is incredibly fortunate to have an enduring

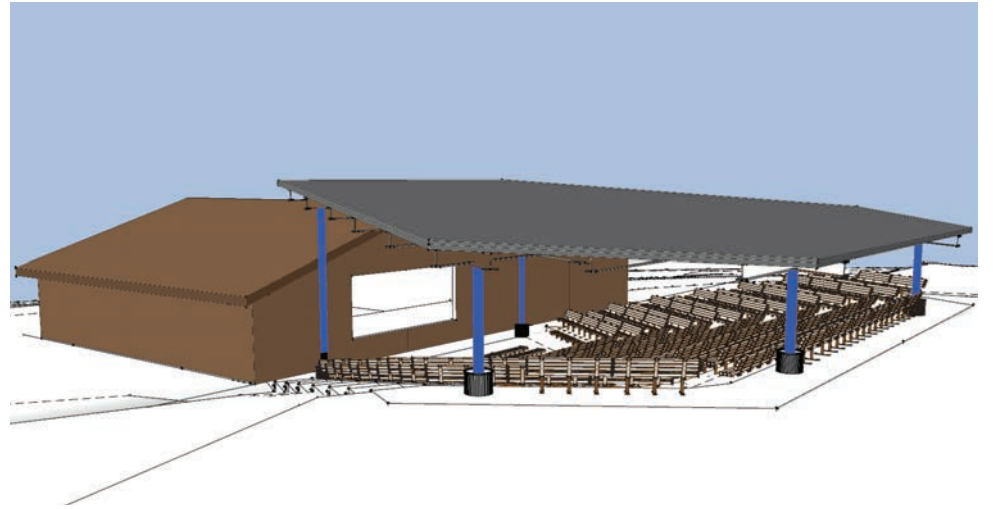
partnership with the Mandel Foundation,” Jesse Rosen, president and CEO of the Mandel JCC, said in the release. “This investment creates a modern space for campers to gather and helps ensure Camp Wise remains a vibrant place for Jewish connection for years to come.”

Since 1907, Camp Wise has served thousands of young people, helping them to cultivate their Jewish identities, strengthen leadership skills and form resilient community.

The new amphitheater will provide a flexible and weather-protected space to support Shabbat celebrations, song sessions, performing arts programs and Jewish education.

In addition, a matching grant for capital expansion from the Gottesman Fund of the Foundation for Jewish Camp will accompany the Mandel Foundation’s investment, helping to ensure the project meets the evolving needs of the camping community.

“From a camper experience standpoint, this project is truly game-changing,” camp director Rabbi Dan Utley said in the release. “Having a comfortable, welcoming space for our entire community opens the door to deeper connection and shared moments.”



▲ A rendering depicts the proposed amphitheater at the Mandel JCC of Cleveland’s Camp Wise in Claridon Township, made possible with support from the Mandel Foundation. | Submitted rendering

As the residential camp prepares for its 119th season, the amphitheater project underscores a commitment to inclusive, flexible programming and institutional longevity while reinforcing the Mandel Foundation’s long-standing commitment to Cleveland’s Jewish community.

“Camp Wise has played a meaningful role in shaping Jewish life and identity in Greater Cleveland, offering programming that reflects the values central to our mission,” Jehuda Reinharz, president and CEO of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, said in the

release. “We are proud to help create a gathering space that will strengthen the camp community and foster Jewish communal belonging and education for another century.”

Construction on the amphitheater will begin in the spring and is expected to be completed in time for the summer camping season.

Camp Wise is the third oldest overnight camp in the United States, according to the release.

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

Toledo Jewish News has partnered with Jūpmode’s Here for Good Program, which was created to support the community. Launched during the 2020 lockdown, this online t-shirt sale program has raised over \$423,000 for more than 1,000 organizations, local businesses, and individuals. The zero-cost opportunity allows Toledo Jewish News to sell our branded T-shirts online and earn extra revenue. Support Jewish Toledo by purchasing shirts and/or sweatshirts online at www.jupmode.com. ****Available March 2-22 only!****

SUPPORT TOLEDO JEWISH NEWS



AVAILABLE MARCH 2-22 ONLY!



www.jupmode.com

(check jewishtoledo.org beginning March 2 for the direct link once available)



This is a presale. Orders will be collected and printed AFTER March 22nd. Jupmode will ship all orders directly to you in the weeks to follow. The shirts are available online only and March 2-22 only.





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

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

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

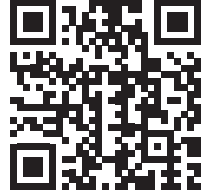
For more information about Ahava, please contact Ben Malczewski at ben@jewishtoledo.org or 419-885-2561.

GO PAPER LESS

TOLEDO Jewish News

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

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



READ TJN ONLINE HERE

JSFSS Family Pantry Wish List

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

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

Contact Hannah Loeser
(419) 724- 0401

HOW TO CONTACT JSFSS

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

Vice President Jewish Senior,
Family & Social Services
Ben Malczewski
(419) 724-0408

JSFSS Office Manager and
Program Associate
Hannah Loeser
(419) 724- 0401

Support Services Coordinator
Liz Witter, LSW
(419) 724-0406

Project Manager and Technology
Coordinator
Tim Hagen
419-724-0412

Food Pantry and Support Services
Coordinator
Stacy Willis, LSW, MSW
419-724-0407

jewishtoledo.org/jfs



Get Fit Classes

Monday

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

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

Cardio Drumming, 12-1pm

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

Wednesday

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

(see description above)

Ballet Fusion, 12-1pm

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

Friday

**Zumba, 9-10am
Foundation Fitness, 10am-11am**

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

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



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

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



YouTube

New AJC antisemitism survey: 'Data is empowering'

JIMMY OSWALD

Lee C. Shapiro, regional director of AJC Cleveland, said the American Jewish Committee's "The State of Antisemitism in



Shapiro

America 2025" survey serves as a treasure trove of information regarding both American Jews and their antisemitic experiences and the general public's feelings on the issue.

"The data is empowering and informs our advocacy and the way in which we approach leaders across civil society to heighten awareness and take action on antisemitism," Shapiro told the Cleveland Jewish News. "This is the seventh year of this study. We began doing it shortly after the Tree of Life (Synagogue shooting that occurred on Oct. 27, 2018, in Pittsburgh)."

The annual survey was conducted by the research company SSRS and is based on phone and online interviews conducted from Sept. 26 through Oct. 29, 2025, using a sample of 1,222 Jews that are 18 years old or older.

Online interviews were conducted via the SSRS opinion panel, along with additional sample, and phone interviews used the SSRS Omnibus callback sample. The margin of error for total respondents is +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confident level, according to AJC.

AJC also interviewed non-Jewish people throughout the country via the SSRS Opinion Omnibus Panel to gauge their opinions and thoughts on Jews and antisemitism. The interviews were conducted from Oct. 3 to Oct. 5, 2025, and were among a sample of 1,033 respondents aged 18 and older. The margin of error is +/- 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

The general public was asked to respond to 14 questions, while Jewish respondents answered 39.

A data point that stuck out to Shapiro was when Jewish Americans were asked to what extent, if at all, did incidents such as the arson attack on Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's home in April, the deadly shooting of two Israeli embassy staffers in Washington, D.C., in May, and the firebombing of a demonstration for the Israeli hostages in Boulder, Colo., in June make them feel less safe as a Jewish person in the U.S., 91% reported that they feel less safe.

"Yet, less than half of Americans even noticed any antisemitic incidents during that same time," she said. "So, there is a knowledge gap."

Fifty-five percent of the general

public said they had not personally seen or heard any antisemitic incidents, such as negative remarks or online content about Jewish people, or physical attacks on Jewish people or their religious facilities.

Shapiro said the survey also indicated the rise in antisemitism has changed the ways in which Jewish Americans live their lives, with 55% saying they've changed their behavior in some way in response to the fear.

"What they say, what they do, what they wear, where they go, we question those things," she said. "Should I wear my Jewish star? Can I be seen in a yarmulke? Over half of American Jews think twice about those things."

Other statistics that stuck out to Shapiro were the fact that more than seven in 10 U.S. Jews reported seeing, hearing or being personally targeted by antisemitism online. And 21% of those respondents said they feel physically threatened by these incidents.

"And you can go a step further and see that a large majority of American Jews are concerned that a generative AI model will lead to antisemitic incidents and are either very or somewhat concerned that it will spread antisemitism or lead to antisemitic incidents."


One-third of American Jews, or 31%, said they were a target of an antisemitic incident in 2025, whether it be a physical attack, a remark in person, antisemitic vandalism or messaging, antisemitic remark or post online or through social media or any other form of antisemitism.

That number is far "too much," according to Shapiro. That data point was 33% in 2024 and is a statistic that has had a significant jump after the Oct. 7, 2023, surprise attack by Hamas on Israel, during which 1,200 were killed and 251 were taken hostage.

"We really can't take solace in the fact that the numbers are comparable year over year, it's still far too many," she said. "We cannot normalize hatred, and we need to combat it and confront it through education, policy and so forth."

While the community is fortunate to have a Federation that takes these incidents seriously and increases security at Jewish institutions in response, it should not be the norm, Shapiro said.

"We should not have to live in fear and change our behavior out of fear," she said.

 To view the full results of the survey, visit shorturl.at/QI3fk.

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

JSFSS Pantry thanks Meijer for support



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



TOLEDO Jewish News Stay Informed. Stay Connected.

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

Ohio Breaking News – Get the latest headlines that matter most to our Jewish communities across Ohio.

Israel at War – Receive urgent updates and in-depth reporting as events unfold in Israel.

Don't miss a moment. Sign up today and have trusted news delivered directly to your inbox! Scan the QR code or visit



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/whQsuZ7/toledo>

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

TEMPLE SHOMER EMUNIM

WWW.TEMPLESE.COM

March Schedule

Shabbat Services
with Rabbi Delson
and Cayden Greenblatt
Friday, March 6 at 6pm

Tot Shabbat
Saturday, March 14 at 9:30am

Torah Today with Rabbi Delson
Saturday, March 7 at 9:30am

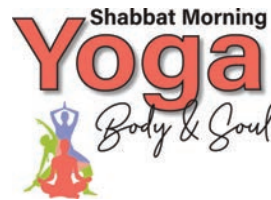
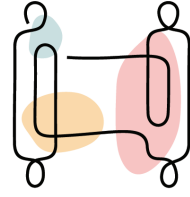
Shabbat Services
with Rabbi Delson
and Dr. Andrew Pelletier
Friday, March 20 at 6pm

Havdalah Drum Circle
Saturday, March 7 at 6pm

Shabbat Services
with Cantor Roher
Friday, March 27 at 6:00pm

Shabbat Unplugged
with Rabbi Delson
and Cantor Roher
Friday, March 13 at 6pm

Passover Seder
Wednesday, April 1 at 5:30pm



Torah Today

Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 am

An interactive discussion on the Torah portion for the week. Bagels and coffee are served. No experience necessary. Everyone is welcome.

Drum Circle Shabbat

March 7 at 6pm - Havdalah

With special guest Lori Fithian. Build community through the power of making music together. This is a multi-generational program for all ages. Light dinner will be served. RSVP by March 3 to office@templese.com

Shabbat Unplugged

Friday, March 13 at 6 pm

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

Shabbat Morning Yoga: Body and Soul with Cantor Roher, Saturday, March 14 at 10:30am

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

The Gift of Mindfulness

Wednesday, March 25 at 7pm

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

The Jewish Toolkit:

An Exploration of Jewish Ideas

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

Everyone is welcome. RSVP to office@templese.com

Jewish Toolkit topics for March:

March 1 and 8: *Jewish Texts*

March 15: *Theology*



BGSU Concert
Sunday, March 15
3pm



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE *except during holidays

- Monday & Thursday Morning Minyan: 8:00 AM - IP/ZM
- Monday - Thursday Afternoon Minyan & Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: 5:45 PM - ZM
- Saturday Morning Shabbat: 9:30 AM - IP/LS
- Saturday Mincha Service: 12:45 PM (after Kiddush Luncheon) - IP/LS
- Sunday Morning Minyan: 9:30 AM - IP/ZM

All CBI programs and religious services are open to the members of all local congregations & guests with RSVP unless otherwise indicated. If you are not a CBI member and would like to attend, please contact the office at 419.517.8400 during office hours.

THE BEACH BOYS BOOK OF ESTHER:

CBI Purim Sing-Along Purim Shpiel Celebration & Seudah Dinner

Monday, March 2, 2026 5:30 PM at CBI

The cost for event & dinner is \$18 per person.

Religious School students and children 12 & under FREE.

Reservations required. RSVP deadline was February 23rd.

This event has been generously sponsored by the E.J. Leizerman Family in memory of Elizabeth Leizerman.

A Night of Stars! Havdalah & Planetarium Visit

Saturday Evening, March 7, 2026, 7:30 PM
Lourdes Appold Planetarium, 6832 Convent Blvd.

Cost: Adults \$10, Children (12 & under) \$5

Reservations required. RSVP to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by Mar. 3rd.

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

"Shabbat Across America" at CBI Evening Service & Dinner

Friday, March 13, 2026, 6:00 PM at CBI

Join us on March 13th for a special Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner as we unite with Jews across the USA and Canada for "Shabbat Across America". We will usher in Shabbat with Mariv services in the sanctuary, candle lighting, the singing of festive z'mirot, and a delicious fleishig chicken dinner.

Adults: \$18, Children under 13 & CBI RS Students: FREE

Reservations required. RSVP to gmallin@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by Mar. 6th.

Adult Ed: Global Warming from a

Bird's Eye View with speaker, Mike Tamor

Sunday, March 15, 2026 10:00 AM at CBI

RSVP to gmallin@cbitoledo.org to by Mar. 20th.

"Demo & Devour" Cooking Class: Rugelach!

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 1:00 PM at CBI

Cost: \$10 - Cash only will be collected at the door.

RSVP to Miriam Beckerman at wcbi@cbitoledo.org by Mar. 15th. Space is limited to the first 15 people who RSVP. Open to all CBI members.

CBI Family Bowling Day!

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 1:00 PM

at Bowlero Lanes Fun Center, 4398 Monroe St.

Cost: \$6 per game & \$4 shoe rental

Attendees will pay for their own shoe rentals, bowling, arcade games, and snacks.

RSVP to Fran Weinblatt at programming@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by Mar. 17th.

Connecting Kids to Meals

Tuesday, March 12, 2026 10 AM - 12 PM

Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.

RSVP to programming@cbitoledo.org by Mar. 11th.

Ongoing Adult Ed Classes

All classes are in-person at CBI and on Zoom.

Go to cbitoledo.org and scroll down to events for details.

KOSHER FOR PASSOVER CATERED DINNER

CBI Pesach Seder: Second Night

Thursday, April 2, 2025 6:30 PM at CBI

Due to a generous anonymous contribution towards the Seder, the cost per person is as follows:

CBI Members 13 & up - \$45

Non-Members 13 & up - \$50

Children 6-12 - \$20

Children 5 & under & CBI Rel. School Students - FREE

THE SEDER IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS & GUESTS WITH RSVP

Reservations required. RSVP kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Mar. 16th.

CBI PESACH SERVICES SCHEDULE 5786

Wednesday, April 1: Siyyum Bechorim (Fast of the First Born)

- Morning Service - In-Person/*Zoom 8:00 AM, Light meal to follow
- *Contact rabbi@cbitoledo.org for the special Zoom link and passcode
- EREV PESACH: Evening service - Zoom 5:45 PM 1st Seder after dark

Thursday, April 2: First Day Pesach (2nd Seder after dark)

- CBI Office Closed
- Morning Service of Reaffirmation - In Person/Live Stream 9:30 AM
- NO EVENING SERVICE
- PESACH SEDER AT CBI - In-person 6:30 PM

Friday, April 3: Second Day Pesach

- CBI Office Closed
- Morning Service - In Person/Live Stream 9:30 AM
- Evening service - In Person/Live Stream 5:45 PM

Canasta & Mahjong at CBI

Canasta: Tues. at 12:30 PM Mahjong: Thurs. at 1 PM

RSVP for Canasta to Rhoda Miller at rmiller@cbitoledo.org.

RSVP for Mahjong to Miriam Beckerman at wcbi@cbitoledo.org.

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAYIM

PURIM HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Purim begins the evening of Monday, March 2. Rabbi Jason Mark will be reading the megillah on Zoom at 7:10 p.m. Please let Elsa or Nancy know if you would like to receive the link. Everyone is invited to participate.

On Tuesday morning, March 3, Congregation Etz Chayim and Congregation B'nai Israel will join together at our synagogue at 9:30 a.m. to hear the megillah being read. A delicious breakfast will follow. Please R.S.V.P. to the synagogue office.

MAJ/POKER GAMES

Our Sunday Poker & Mahj gatherings continue to be a wonderful way to connect and unwind. We will be meeting on Sunday, March 8 and March 29 from 10 a.m.-noon for a relaxed morning of friendly games, conversation, and laughter. Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking to socialize and have fun, everyone is welcome!

50TH ANNIVERSARY KISHKA DINNER

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Congregation Etz Chayim, the famous Kishka dinner is back. The entire community is invited to share in a synagogue tradition on Sunday, March 15 at 6 p.m., with brisket, kishka stuffing, and all the trimmings (Chicken

will be available upon request with reservation). A delightful musical program featuring the steel drum ensemble from the Toledo School for the Arts will follow the dinner. The cost of the dinner is \$36 per person. Reservations and payment must be made in advance. R.S.V.P. to Elsa Leveton, 419-473-2401 or elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org, or Nancy Jacobson, jaco824@bex.net.

PASSOVER ZOOM PROGRAM PLANNED

Rabbi Jason Mark will be leading a Zoom Passover learning and a discussion session on Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. His sessions are always meaningful and interactive. Please register with Nancy to receive the link.

ETZ CHAYIM BOOK CLUB

We are delighted to begin a new book club this March and invite everyone to participate. Our first book will be *Huckleberry Finn*, with the opening meeting hosted by Mel and Margie Siegel at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 22. Rachel Osnowitz will serve as discussion leader, and all are welcome to join the conversation.

PLEASE NOTE: All Zoom, virtual, and in-person programs require registration. You can contact either Nancy Jacobson at jaco824@bex.net or Elsa Leveton at 419-473-2401 or elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org for further information and registration.

CHABAD HOUSE



Community PASSOVER SEDER

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First Seder, Wednesday, April 1

Second Seder, Thursday, April 2

For Reservations & Seder Times, visit ChabadToledo.com

'Hostage' memoir named Jewish Book of the Year

ANDREW SILOW-CARROLL | JTA

Eli Sharabi's memoir "Hostage," recounting his experience in Hamas captivity after the Oct. 7, 2023 attack, has been named Book of the Year by the National Jewish Book Awards, organizers announced in mid-February.

The awards, presented by the Jewish Book Council and considered among the most prestigious honors in Jewish literature, recognize outstanding English-language books of Jewish interest across dozens of categories. Founded in 1950, the program is the longest-running North American awards initiative devoted to Jewish books.

Sharabi's memoir, which details his abduction from Kibbutz Be'eri and the more than a year he spent in captivity, became a bestseller in Israel and was later released in English in the United States.

"This recognition means so much to me, not only personally, but for the memory of my family and all those we lost," Sharabi said in a statement. "Hostage" is my testimony, a story of my survival, written so others could bear witness. I hope it helps ensure that what happened is never forgotten."

Other major winners reflect the breadth of contemporary Jewish writing, spanning scholarship, fiction, memoir and children's literature.

In American Jewish studies, Pamela S. Nadell won for "Antisemitism, an American Tradition," a look at

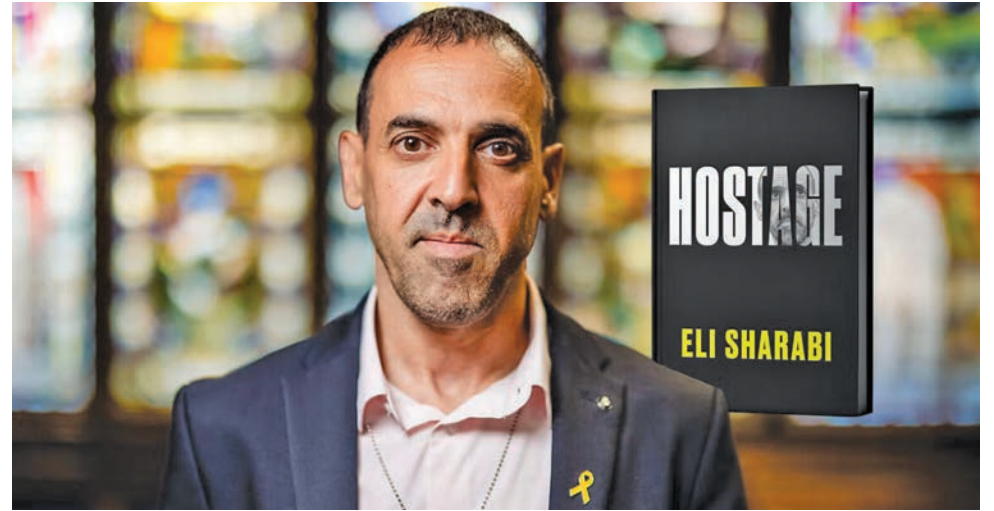
the forms antisemitism took in the country from the early Dutch settlers to the present day. The Russian-born journalist Julia Ioffe took the autobiography and memoir prize for "Motherland: A Feminist History of Modern Russia, from Revolution to Autocracy." The book blends memoir, journalism and history to examine modern Russia through the lens of women's experiences.

Jack Fairweather's "The Prosecutor: One Man's Battle to Bring Nazis to Justice," the story of a Jewish judge and Holocaust survivor from Stuttgart who pursued Nazi perpetrators in post-war Germany, won the biography award.

Fiction honors went to Allison Epstein for "Fagin the Thief," a retelling of the Dickens novel "Oliver Twist" from the perspective of its Jewish antihero, and Zeeva Bukai received the debut fiction prize for "The Anatomy of Exile," about the multigenerational echoes of a secret love affair between an Israeli Jewish woman and a Palestinian poet.

The Hebrew fiction in translation category recognized "Dog," by Yishay Ishi Ron, translated by Yardenne Greenspan, which also earned a selection in the book club category. The novella's protagonist is an Israeli combat veteran haunted by his service in one of the Gaza campaigns prior to Oct. 7.

This year's awards arrive as the Jewish discourse has been reshaped by the aftermath of Oct. 7, a global surge in antisemitism and the polarizing debate



▲ Eli Sharabi's memoir recounts his 491 days as a Hamas hostage in Gaza. | Photo Harper Influence

over Israel that followed. Last year's winner for book of the year, "10/7: 100 Human Stories" by Lee Yaron, was also an account of the attacks and their aftermath.

Jewish anxieties in light of Oct. 7 are the subject of Sarah Hurwitz's "As A Jew: Reclaiming Our Story From Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us," which won in the contemporary Jewish life and practice category.

Hurwitz, a speechwriter in the Obama administration, provides a primer on Jewish history, texts and practices in order to counter what she calls misinformation among Jews, their allies and Israel's critics.

"Especially amid rising antisemitism and Jewish authors facing increased scrutiny, Jewish books have the power to create and sustain community," said Naomi Firestone-Teeter, CEO of Jewish Book Council, in a statement announcing the winners.

In "Hostage," Sharabi writes about the terror of his abduction and the daily struggle to survive after Hamas fighters stormed Kibbutz Be'eri. He would spend 491 days in captivity, much of it in tunnels beneath Gaza, before being released on Feb. 8, 2025, as part of a negotiated deal. Throughout the ordeal, Sharabi clung to the hope of rescue, writing: "I refuse to let myself drown in pain. I am surviving. I am a hostage. In the heart of Gaza. A stranger in a strange land. In the home of a Hamas-supporting family. And I'm getting out of here. I have to. I'm getting out of here. I'm coming home."

Other nonfiction winners included Elissa Bemporad's "Jews in the Soviet Union: A History: Revolution, Civil War, and New Ways of Life, 1917-1930, Volume 1," which won in history; Anna Hájková's "People Without History are Dust: Queer Desire in the Holocaust," honored in Holocaust studies alongside translator William Ross Jones; and Tobias Schiff's "Return to the Place I Never Left," which won the Holocaust memoir award, with Dani James recognized for translation.

Awards recognizing contemporary Jewish thought and scholarship included Lawrence Grossman's "Living in Both Worlds: Modern Orthodox Judaism in the United States, 1945-2025," and Debra Kaplan and Elisheva Carlebach's "A Woman Is Responsible for Everything: Jewish Women in Early Modern Europe," which won multiple prizes, including scholarship and women's studies.



▲ In "As a Jew," Sarah Hurwitz argues how Jews can reclaim a tradition that has too often been shaped by others' prejudices and ignorance. | Photo HarperOne

In children's and young readers' categories, Alison Goldberg's "The Remembering Candle," illustrated by Selina Alko, won for children's picture book; Janice Shapiro's "Honor: A Fortuitous Friendship" took the prize for middle grade literature; and Eugene Yelchin's graphic memoir "I Wish I Didn't Have to Tell You This" won in young adult literature.

Other winners include Miriam Udel's "Modern Jewish Worldmaking Through Yiddish Children's Literature," which won in education and Jewish identity; Raegan Steinberg, Alexandre Cohen and Evelyne Eng's "Arthurs: Home of the Nosh," honored in food writing and cookbooks; Ariella Aisha Azoulay's "Golden Threads," which won for Sephardic culture; Elizabeth E. Imber's "Uncertain Empire," for writing based on archival material; and Aharon Shabtai's "Requiem & Other Poems," translated by Peter Cole, which won the poetry award.

The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in New York next month hosted by the entertainer Jonah Platt. At the ceremony, journalist Sam Feedman will be presented with the council's Mentorship Award, named in honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel, longtime former director of the JBC. Feedman, a former New York Times reporter and professor at the Columbia Journalism School, taught a popular course that helped over 100 students turn their ideas into books, including "When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry," Gal Beckerman's 2010 history of the Soviet Jewry movement.

"He believed in me before I believed in myself, pushed me to take my work seriously, and opened doors I didn't even know existed," Beckerman said in a statement. "With tough love and deep generosity, he guided me through the daunting process of writing a book as if it were his own. What he did for me, he did for dozens of writers."

📣 Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo is bringing Sarah Hurwitz to Toledo this August. Stay tuned for more information.



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Tech Time with Tim

TIM HAGEN
 ✉ tim@jewishtoledo.org

After a long and hard winter, a certain season is almost upon us again: spring! And with spring comes an annual ritual, spring cleaning.

Please see the following reminders as gentle suggestions about what kind of attention you may want to give your personal tech.

Until next month!
 Tim

1. Back up all the data on your devices by checking that your cloud account, syncing, and physical storage (hard drives, flash drives, and the like) are in good working order.
2. Delete no-longer-needed files and organize what remains.
3. Ensure your software and apps are fully updated. Updates help keep your devices as secure and safe as possible.
4. Clear your website history and caches to help your browsers run smoothly and quickly.
5. Unsubscribe from any email threads you no longer want to receive (not surprisingly, you may have limited success with this!).
6. Clean your phones, keyboards, mice, screens, and anything else that may have collected grime over the past year.

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



Device Advice programs are held on Wednesdays 11 a.m.-noon

Upcoming Device Advice Tech Programs

1. March 11: Cable TV vs Streaming
2. March 25: All About Passkeys

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

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



(Tech Time with Tim)

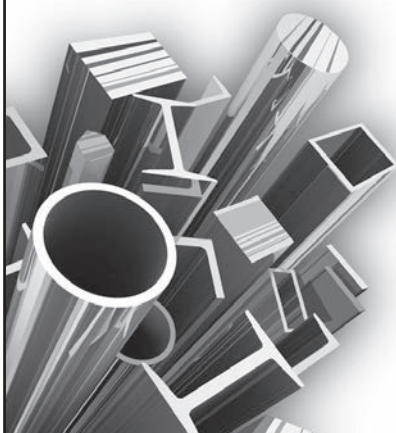
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