

Israel Again: A New Light on Familiar Ground

(PARTNERSHIP TOGETHER (P2G) ISRAEL SOLIDARITY MISSION FEBRUARY 2025)



ORI AKRISH
Executive Director

I've visited Israel countless times, each experience different from the last. I've traveled as a tourist, amazed by the ancient history and modern life. I've led teen delegations, showing them the country's past and people. But the deepest connection I have comes from something more personal—a home. My extended family lives in Israel, and over the years, I've spent many summers with them—living in their homes, playing soccer with neighborhood kids, buying chocolate milk (only in a bag!) from “the store downstairs,” and strolling through the busy markets. All these moments gave me a sense of belonging, like Israel was mine. But this trip was different. This time, I saw Israel through a lens of a country that has been shaped and tested by unimaginable suffering over the past year and a half—an Israel that, in many

ways, no longer exists in the way I once knew it.

My journey began in Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, a place that had become a powerful symbol of Israel's resilience in the face of terror. I stood there during the emotional moment when the hostages were being freed. The air was heavy with anticipation as we watched live, surrounded by families whose loved ones had been held captive by Hamas. The hostages were transferred to the Red Cross for medical treatment and flown by helicopter, quite literally over our heads, to a hospital in Tel Aviv. Watching this moment unfold was indescribable. It felt as if time had stopped. There was joy as families embraced, reunited after an agonizing separation, but also an overwhelming sense of longing in the faces of those still waiting. I will never forget the mother of Edan Alexander, an American citizen, holding a large sign with his photo, speaking to anyone who would listen about her son and clinging to the hope that one day he would emerge from a Red Cross van too.

Even with the reunions we witnessed, the loss was hard to ignore. Hostage Square wasn't just a place of celebration; it was a powerful reminder of the human cost of conflict. Many people were there holding signs for loved ones



Ori at the home of Efrat Srebro (second from the left) in Akko, Israel, along with local Israeli and Druze artists. The group enjoyed reminiscing about time spent in Canton and in Israel with Martha Lottman (z"l) and other members of the Canton community.

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JOHN STRAUSS
CJCF President

Getting Aboard the Train

As we at long last are seeing signs of Spring (understanding that in NE Ohio we can get a snowstorm at any moment), with Purim in the rear view mirror and Pesach approaching, realizing that by the time you read this, the baseball season will be underway, I am reminded of one of the beautiful aspects of Judaism that I discovered as an adult, not experiencing in my childhood a full and rich celebration of the holiday cycle: the Jewish Holidays or *chagim*. When I lived in New York City, it was all too easy to delay attending a museum show that I read about, thinking that I would let the excitement die down and attend later, before the show closed. All too often, my delay pushed me to miss the exhibition altogether and promise myself that next time, I would make a point of going earlier. Similarly, until I immersed myself in reconnecting to my Judaism, the holidays would fly past and I would think to myself, “next year I will be sure to celebrate”. I was an avid listener to public radio in New York City,

and one thing I constantly heard was that alternate side of the street parking was suspended because of Shemini Atzeret or because of Tisha B’Av or another Jewish Holiday that in my childhood assimilated home, was not celebrated. Holidays that New Yorkers could celebrate because they did not have to move their cars, were for me mystifyingly opaque. Once I hopped on board the train of being connected to my religion, which did not occur until I was an adult, (my bar mitzvah was at age 41) I did realize that the cycle of the *chagim* provided an opportunity to mark time, to be present in the moment, to look forward but not too far, to partake in rituals that have been observed for centuries, to be connected. It is not an easy step to hop onto a moving train, but once you land, the breeze in your hair feels wonderful. It isn’t easy to do this in Ohio, where dressing up like a clown on Purim is more likely to get you strange looks and questions than understanding, but I have felt that it is worthwhile.

Cont’d / See **PRESIDENT** Page 16



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Israel's Emergency Services System



RABBI DAVID
KOMEROFSKY

Finding Freedom

Every year Jews around the world retell the story of our journey from slavery to freedom. It is a story of resilience, faith, and the enduring hope that has sustained our people for millennia. Still, Pesach is not only about recalling an ancient narrative; it is about discovering what the Exodus means in our own time.

This year we find ourselves living in a moment that is filled with both challenges and opportunities. Wars and humanitarian crises around the world remind us that oppression still exists. The struggles for justice, equality, and dignity remain as pressing as ever. At the same time, we live in an era of unprecedented connection, innovation, and the ability to make real change in our communities. This Pesach, as we ask the traditional Four Questions, let us add one more: What is

the meaning and value of our freedom right now?

One of the most powerful teachings of Passover is that freedom is not simply the absence of oppression, it is the presence of responsibility. Freedom from service to Pharaoh was traded for an obligation to serve God. Restless work for an oppressive tyrant was traded for a system of mitzvot that value rest and balance. We are free from servitude but we are not free from obligations to serve God and each other.

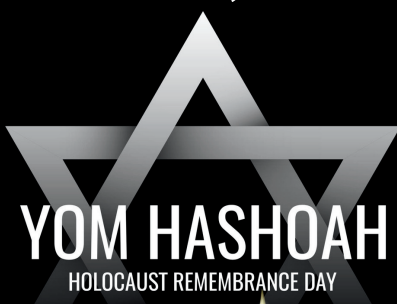
Today, we must ask ourselves: how do we use our freedom? Do we work to create a world where all people are treated with dignity? Do we lift up those who are still struggling? This holiday calls us not only to celebrate liberation but to ensure that freedom extends to all.

Pesach is also a time of personal and communal renewal. Just as spring brings new life to the earth, so too does this holiday invite us to embrace spiritual and emotional renewal. As we clear our homes of chametz—leavened bread that symbolizes pride and complacency—so too can we rid ourselves of the habits and fears that hold us back.

What do we need to leave behind in our personal “Egypt” this year? What fears, grudges, or unhealthy patterns prevent us from living fully and freely? The Seder invites us to step into the unknown, just as our ancestors did, and trust that liberation is possible.

Our freedom is meaningless unless we use it to perpetuate a better system than what we fled so many centuries ago at this season. Chag Pesach Sameach!

APRIL 23, 2025



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HEATHER HERSHEY-TOMPKINS
JFS Director

Aging Well

Staying healthy and feeling your best is important at any age. As we grow older, we experience an increasing number of major life changes, including career transitions and retirement, children leaving home, the loss of loved ones, physical and health challenges and even a loss of independence. How we manage and grow from these changes is often the key to healthy aging.

Coping with change is difficult at any age and it is natural to feel the losses you experience. However, by balancing your sense of loss with positive factors, you can stay healthy and continue to reinvent yourself as you pass through landmark

ages of 60, 70, 80, and beyond.

As well as learning to adapt to change, healthy aging also means finding new things you enjoy, staying physically and socially active, and feeling connected to your community and loved ones.

Many people make assumptions about aging, what it is like to grow “old,” and how older age will affect them. But as we get older, it is important to understand the positive aspects of aging as well as its challenges. Research has shown that most individuals can help preserve their health and mobility as they age by adopting or continuing healthy habits and lifestyle choices.

There are misconceptions about aging. But the truth is that you are stronger and more resilient than you may realize. These tips can help you maintain your physical and emotional health and continue to thrive, whatever your age or circumstances.

Myth: Aging means declining health and/or disability.

Fact: There are some diseases that become more common as we age. However, getting older does not automatically mean poor health or that you will be confined to a walker or wheelchair. Plenty of older adults enjoy vigorous health. Preventive measures like healthy eating, exercising, and managing stress can help reduce the risk of chronic disease or injuries later in life.

Myth: Memory loss is an inevitable part of aging.

Fact: As you age, you may eventually notice you do not remember things as easily as in the past, or memories may start to take a little longer to retrieve. However, significant memory loss is not an inevitable result of aging. Brain training and learning new skills can be done at any age and there are many things you can do to keep your memory sharp.

Myth: Older adults cannot learn new things.

Fact: One of the more damaging myths of aging is that after a certain age, you just will not be able to try anything new or contribute to things anymore. The opposite is true. Middle-aged and older adults are just as capable of learning new things and thriving in new environments, plus they have the wisdom that comes with life experience. If you believe in and have confidence in yourself, you are setting up a positive environment for change no matter what your age.

Myth: Depression and loneliness are normal in older adults.

Fact: Depression is not a normal part of aging. However, as people age, some may find themselves feeling isolated and alone. This can lead to feelings of depression, anxiety, and sadness. Persistent feelings of depression and loneliness can lead to a decline in physical and mental functioning. These feelings are not normal and should not be treated as such.

Myth: People need less sleep as they get older.

Cont'd / See **JFS** Page 17

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Hamantaschen Thank You

Mary Donna Rubin

I would like to thank all of you who participated in the Hamantaschen "Make, Bake, and Take" event at Beit Ha'am. What a great event!! Everyone had a wonderful time, left happy, and also had a few dozen of their own Hamantaschen to share with family and friends. A special "THANK YOU" to Heather, Leanne, and Peggy from Jewish Family Services who did the shopping, dough prepping, and organization of the baking utensils.

We shared laughter, stories, and most importantly, we learned how to bake delicious Hamantaschen filled with various flavors! Together, our team baked OVER 300 Hamantaschen!!

This baking event was a great prelude to Purim, which is a time to celebrate, share joy, laughter, and camaraderie! At this event, we did share all these wonderful things, and at the same time, carried on the Jewish tradition of baking the signature cookie of Purim, Hamantaschen. The special triangular shape of Hamantaschen is symbolic of the hat worn by the villain, Haman, who tried to annihilate all the Jewish people in the Persian Empire, but instead, Haman became the victim of his own plot. Haman was killed! The Jewish people were spared, and Purim became a time to be joyful and celebrate!!

Again, thank ALL of you for participating in this Hamantaschen Baking Event. I would also like to personally thank Leanne for giving me the honor of heading this baking event!

Members who participated in this event are the following: Hazzan Bruce Braun, Rabbi John Spitzer, Rita Applebaum, Wendy DiAlesandro, Hannah Jolly, Leanne Lehn, Colleen Moyer, Stan Rosenblatt, Mary Donna Rubin, Linda Sklar, Peggy Stabholtz, and Heather Hershey-Tompkins.

I wish everyone a Happy Purim!



Save the Date

RAMI FEINSTEIN AND THE AKRON FOR ISRAEL TOUR BAND CONCERT

June 15, 2025

Join us at Beit Ha'am for a special concert by Rami Feinstein and the Akron for Israel Tour band! The group performed eight shows in nine days in Israel and also visited the Nova Festival site this Winter.

More details coming soon!

Jewish Family Services Programs

A division of the Canton Jewish Community Federation



We are creating programs for you that provide education, entertainment and overall bring our community together. If you have any suggestions or would like to present a topic, please let us know.

We look forward to having you join us! All are welcomed.

Email Leanne at llehn@jewishcanton.org or call (330) 445-2850.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Upcoming programs through Jewish Family Services.

RSVP to Leanne at llehn@jewishcanton.org, 330-445-2850, or online at jewishcanton.org/community-calendar

APRIL

MAKE AND TAKE CHAROSET

April 9 | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Cost \$10

Have you been using the same charoset recipe since the Exodus? Come join us in the kitchen to make three charoset variations: Ashkenazi, Greek, and Sephardic. Take home samples and recipes of all three!

Please RSVP by Monday, April 7, so that we can ensure that we have enough supplies.

MAY

MAHJONGG

May 14 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Social Hall

Do you love to play Mahjongg? We've got the perfect event for you! Come play in our Mahjongg Tournament! To sign up, please contact Leanne at llehn@jewishcanton.org or call (330) 455-2850 and leave a message with your name and phone number. You will be sent a registration packet and tournament rules. Mail-in Registration is \$25, which includes a continental breakfast and cash prizes for the top three winners!

TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD SECOND ANNUAL WOMEN'S SEDER AT BEIT HA'AM

Sunday, April 6 | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Cost: \$18

This is an opportunity to learn about the exodus from Egypt and how Jewish women contributed to our history. This will be an inclusive event where we hope you will be an active participant!

Our Seder will include a full vegetarian meal and an opportunity to contribute desserts and leave with Passover recipes.

The cost for this meal and event is \$18. Tickets may be purchased through the CJCF Community Calendar at JewishCanton.org or by sending a check to the Temple at 432 30th St., N.W., Canton, OH 44709. (Please write "Women's Seder" in the memo line, along with your name and phone number.)

Feel free to invite friends to help them understand our heritage and unique traditions!





CHRIS LANGE

Jewish Family Services: 40 Years of Compassionate Care

Jewish Family Services (JFS) exists to foster a healthy and thriving Jewish community in Canton. Established more than 40 years ago a mitzvah project of the Canton Jewish Community Federation, the non-profit offers vital services ranging from assistance with daily activities – such as grocery shopping and healthcare visits – to case management and guardianship services. The organization

also maintains an on-site food bank at Beit Ha'am and provides kosher holiday food baskets at no cost to anyone in need. Every service is strictly confidential, according to JFS Executive Director Heather Hershey-Tompkins.

"We provide a multitude of everyday services to the community," said Hershey-Tompkins. "This can include helping families find the right care for aging parents – whether it's at home or in an assisted living or long-term care facility – or providing referral services to connect clients with community services that meet their needs."

Peggy Stabholz, JFS Case Manager, spends several days a month visiting clients in hospitals, care facilities, and in their homes to ensure that their needs are being met and offer words of encouragement.

"Many of my clients don't have family in town to visit," she said. "They are so pleased to have a visitor who sits and listens to them. Their gratitude really makes my day and gives me joy. For me, this really emphasizes the 'family' in Jewish Family Services."

JFS also offers life enrichment activities like day-trip outings featuring dining, culture, and shopping that are open to everyone.

According to Leanne Lehn, JFS Administrative Assistant, these programs have become increasingly popular, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People emerged from the forced isolation brought about by the pandemic with a renewed longing to connect with one another," Lehn said, adding that the response from the Canton Jewish community has been overwhelmingly positive.

"It is a joy to watch individuals bond with one another, with many forming life-long friendships," said Lehn, who organizes each of the programs. "We are blessed to have a remarkable and welcoming community."

Although JFS has served the needs of the Canton Jewish community for more than four decades, Hershey-Tompkins said that many people are not aware of all of the services that are available to them.

"I think that sometimes people are under the misconception that we only help certain demographics, such as the elderly or individuals coping with mental health challenges," she said. "What they often don't realize is that we are here to serve the whole Jewish community, regardless of age or circumstance, or whether they are seeking a short-term solution or a lifelong commitment."

Hershey-Tompkins encourages community members to call the organization with any questions that they may have, noting that, if JFS does not offer a particular service that someone is looking for, the staff has a wealth of long-established connections with other community services, such as Veterans Affairs and Job and Family Services.

Whatever the need, hundreds of individuals and families view JFS as an invaluable and trusted resource.

"We are both grateful and humbled by the trust that our clients place in us," said Hershey-Tompkins. "You get to know people on a personal level. They are all unique and special, and we value each of these relationships," she added.

For more information about Jewish Family Services, visit jewishcanton.org or call (330) 445-2402.



JFS provides Passover baskets to their clients.

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COMING TO CANTON! P2G SPEAKER EVENT

We are excited to host a delegation of the Western Galilee partnership at Beit Ha'am May 9 - 11, 2025! The community is invited to hear them share their stories at Temple Israel service on Friday, May 9, and Shaaray Torah service on Saturday, May 10.



GOLAN ROSENBERG

Golan lives in Kibbutz Yehiam, where he was born and raised. As the Director of the Matte Asher Community Center, he will share as the voice of all the communities affected by the war, including issues with children's schooling, evacuation orders and relocations, business closings, and other day-to-day struggles.

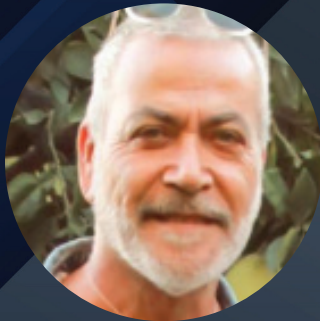
Golan is very involved with P2G as the Community Engagement Co-Chair and is leading the successful program 'First Home in the Homeland,' which absorbs Ukrainian and Russian immigrants and refugees in Kibbutz Yehiam and in the larger community of the Matte Asher Regional Council.



ISHAI EFRONI

Ishai has served as the Head of the Security and Emergency Department in the Matte Asher Regional Council for 9 years and is responsible for the emergency readiness of the council and localities. He retired in 2009 from the IDF, after serving 26 years as an officer in combat and command roles - from platoon to deputy brigade commander. He continues to serve in the reserves.

As a member of a kibbutz that was evacuated, Ishai will share his firsthand experience with the evacuation process and the struggles of dealing with the fallout of having to relocate one's life.



SHIMON BUSKILA

Shimon is the Father of Jordan Buskila, who was murdered at the NOVA party on October 7. He will share how he and his family have chosen to honor the memory of Jordan since his murder.

Shimon works as the VP of Marketing at the Kibbutz factory, which manufactures board packaging.

He and his family are members of Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk, which was co-founded by the great-grandparents of his wife, Merav Buskilaco.

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Taboonia, a new Israeli Druze restaurant in NYC, is run by a Nova music festival survivor



Jackie Hajdenberg

Taboonia is the city's second Druze restaurant — and the first to seek kosher certification.

Opening a kosher restaurant in New York City wasn't always in the cards for Raif Rashed, a Druze from the village of Usfiya in northern Israel.

But as Rashed, the owner of Taboonia — a new Druze restaurant in the Garment District that's currently seeking kosher certification — will be the first to tell you, sometimes life can take an unexpected turn, especially after a tragedy.

An engineer by trade, Rashed, 40, moved to Hackensack, New Jersey, in 2019 to take a job at an Israeli manufacturing company. In October 2023, he was visiting family in Israel when he extended his trip to could help his brother, Radda — who had run a catering business and food stall there, also called Taboonia, for a decade — work a busy event.

Fatefully, that event was the Nova Music Festival. Intended to be a 15-hour party overnight dance party, the festival was the site of one of the deadliest massacres that occurred when Hamas invaded Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

During the violent chaos that unfolded, Rashed was separated from his brother, who ultimately survived. He sought cover behind a car belonging to his friend Erick Peretz, who was at the festival with his 16-year-old daughter Ruth, who had cerebral palsy and used a wheelchair. Rashed watched Peretz and his daughter seek cover behind an ambulance, then, to his horror, witnessed Hamas fighters burning the vehicle. Erick and Ruth Peretz's bodies were identified 12 days later; they were among the more than 380 people murdered at the festival that day.

The experience turned Rashed's life upside down. "I was in crisis [for] a year,"



said Rashed, who added that, in the aftermath of the attack, "I looked middle-aged within hours."

Rashed was stuck in Israel for several months, as his passport was stolen in the attack. When he finally returned to the United States, he quit his engineering job. Seeking comfort, he found himself cooking the foods of his childhood, like manakish — a type of flatbread served with toppings like za'atar, hummus, and labneh — or the very thin, crispy Druze pita, rolled into a wrap and filled with cucumber and tomato salad, hummus, hard boiled eggs, feta and chickpeas.

The Druze are a small religious and ethnic minority in the Middle East, with a population of about 1 million spread across communities in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. (Israel has vowed to protect the Druze in Syria if they come under attack

Cont'd / See JTA Page 14

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CHADASH NEWS



BOBI BERRINGER

Berringer Promotion

Bobi Berringer will be the Chadash Coordinator beginning May 1, 2025. Bobi is currently the Chadash Torah Tots teacher and she and Chris are the parents of three Chadash students. The Berringers are members of Temple Israel, and Bobi is active with the Temple Israel Sisterhood. The search committee included Rabbi David Komerofsky, Dr. Jason Parker, Barb Spera, Judy Tenenbaum and Katie Wernow.



Hamantashen Baking!

The confirmation class helped the younger kids make hamantashen. Special thanks to the teachers and to Jason Parker and Michael Rothman for their assistance.



Chadash Confirmation

Six Temple Israel students will celebrate confirmation on the closing day of Chadash, Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The confirmands are Eliana Adler, Mason Olenick, Noah Olenick, Ivah Parker, Batya Sherwin and Natan Sherwin. The parents of the confirmands are Jennifer and David Adler, Toni and Adam Olenick, Drs. Shoshanah Inwood and Jason Parker, and Ronit Sherwin and Rabbi David Komerofsky.

CHADASH CONFIRMATION

Sunday, April 27, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. Service and Program
Beit Ha'am | 432-30th Street NW | Canton, Ohio

Eliana Adler | Mason Olenick | Noah Olenick
Ivah Parker | Batya Sherwin | Natan Sherwin

Chadash Activities This Semester

April 6 Passover Program - parents are welcome

April 27 Confirmation / Closing Day / Lunch
(RSVP for lunch at www.templeisraelcanton.org/confirmationlunch).

High School Programs with Temple Israel in Akron

May 2 Shul-In in Akron (overnight at Temple Israel)

April

Tuesday, April 1	5:45 P.M. - 6:45 P.M.	TI Men's Group
Thursday, April 3	8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	Day Against Hate
Friday, April 4	5:30 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.	TI Shabbat service
Saturday, April 5	10:00 A.M. -11:30 A.M.	Stollen moments
Sunday, April 6	9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.	TI Sisterhood Women's Seder
	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Chadash Religious School
Monday, April 7	4:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.	JFS Committee meeting
Friday, April 11	5:30 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.	Entrance TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. - 8:15 P.M.	TI Shabbat service
Saturday, April 12	10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	Stollen Moments
Sunday, April 13	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Chadash Religious School
Monday, April 14		Admin. Offices closed/Passover
Tuesday, April 15	5:45 P.M. - 6:45 P.M.	Men's Group
	7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.	Temple Board Meeting
Friday, April 18	5:30 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.	Entrance TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.	TI Shabbat service
Saturday, April 19	10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	Stollen Moments
Sunday, April 20	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Chadash Religious School
Wednesday, April 23	5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.	August LLC Board Meeting
Friday, April 25	5:30 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.	Entrance TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.	TI Shabbat service
Saturday, April 26	10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	Stollen Moments
Sunday, April 27	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Chadash Religious School
	9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	TI Brotherhood meeting
	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Chadash confirmation, Yom Ha-atzmaut celebration
	11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Community Yom Ha-atzmaut celebration with Chadash

May

Thursday, May 1		Yom HaAtzma'ut
Friday, May 2	5:30 – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 3	10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	Stollen moments
Tuesday, May 6	5:45 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.	Men's Group
Friday, May 9	5:30 – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 10	10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	Stollen moments
	TBD	P2G Delegation Event
Wednesday, May 14	9 A.M. – 12 P.M.	Mahjongg Tournament
Thursday, May 15	7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	Federation Board Meeting
Friday, May 16		Lag B'Omer
	5:30 – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 17	10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	Stollen moments
Tuesday, May 20	5:45 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.	Men's Group
	8:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	Temple Board Meeting
Friday, May 23	5:30 – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 24	10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	Stollen moments
Monday, May 26		Yom Yerushalayim
		Memorial Day-Admin. Office closed
Friday, May 30	5:30 – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 1	10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	Stollen moments

JTA continued from Page 10

from the new regime there, and this week Syrian Druze visited a Druze site in Israel for the first time in decades.) In Israel, Druze communities, comprising less than 2% of the population, tend to be patriotic and serve in the military, as Rashed did. "We don't have [a] country, but we serve the country we live [in]," he said.

Inspired by reconnecting with Druze cuisine, Rashed decided to open an American outpost of Taboonia.

"For me to sell the food from our culture, and especially my mother's recipes, this is my baby," he said.

On Oct. 5, 2024 — almost exactly one year after the terrorist attack — he launched the Taboonia food stall, selling Druze food and coffee at the New Meadowlands Market at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey on Saturdays and at the Grand Bazaar on the Upper West Side of Manhattan on Sundays. It was an instant hit.

The same month he opened his food stall, Rashed met his future business partner, Ray Radwan. Radwan, a Druze born in New Jersey whose family is from Lebanon, works in the restaurant industry, and the pair decided to open a brick-and-mortar outpost of Taboonia at 832 Sixth Ave. Construction on the fast-casual dining space, which seats roughly a dozen people, began last November, and the restaurant had its soft-launch opening last month.

Until recently, the only Druze eatery in New York has Gazala's, an Upper West Side restaurant run by Gazala Halabi. When Gazala's was targeted with anti-Israel vandalism in February 2024, scores of local Jews turned out to show support. The pattern repeated that July: Following a Hezbollah rocket attack that took the lives of 12 children and teens in a Druze town in northern Israel, Jewish New Yorkers showed up at Gazala's in droves.

"It really feels like a family," Halabi said of the Jewish community's support at the time. "I really feel, again, like I'm not alone."

But the city's significant population of kosher-keeping Jews could not join in

the rush. Gazala's is not kosher and serves shellfish alongside serves Middle Eastern specialties like kibbeh, meat-stuffed grape leaves, shawarma and lamb.

Taboonia is vegetarian, making it relatively easy to achieve kosher certification. Rashed said the restaurant is expected to receive its certification from Rabbi Zev Schwarcz at IKC in the coming weeks, and that there will be a grand opening celebration, likely after Passover. And because Taboonia isn't owned by a Jew, it should be able to stay open on Shabbat and maintain its kosher status — an added perk.

"See, to be Druze, is a plus," he said.

Rashed said it's just good business to seek kosher certification. "Kosher, everyone can eat, OK?" he said. "But not kosher, not everyone can eat."

But he is also grateful to the support he's gotten from Jews in New York and beyond — including through a recent viral video that the actress and pro-Israel activist Noa Tishby posted about him on Instagram.

"My community is Jewish," he said, adding that he attended school alongside Jewish students, and that his Hebrew is better than his Arabic or English. "I am around Jewish since 13 years old."

Rashed's six years in New York and New Jersey have influenced his palette, as well as the restaurant's menu. In addition to traditional Druze foods, Taboonia also serves some cross-cultural treats, like everything bagel-seasoned bourekas, filled with mozzarella cheese.

Rashed hopes that Taboonia will be a place of repast and respite for New Yorkers of all stripes.

"Me and other Druze, Lebanese Druze, we [are] all of us all together [in the] middle of the war, in the middle of New York, to show the world we can make it a different way, and maybe we can make a change for some people, yes?" Rashed said. "Because [in] this place you're going to hear Arabic, Hebrew, and English. No one is going to judge anyone about anything."



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P2G MISSION continued from Front Page

who hadn't yet returned. Some had been freed, but many remained in captivity. In that moment, the square was a symbol of both the return of hostages and the ongoing pain for those still waiting. That moment will stay with me forever, as I realized the complexity of hope and grief, the light and dark that so many in Israel live with every single day.

From Tel Aviv, we traveled to Nahariya, a coastal city on the Lebanese border, where we visited a naval outpost. There, we met a 25-year-old commander who had already lost soldiers under his command. The maturity in his eyes and the gravity of his responsibility were humbling. I've been to Israel before, but never have I seen a generation as resolute as this one. Young men and women—some not much older than my own children—standing firm against an unimaginable reality. They carry Israel's future on their shoulders, and their courage is nothing short of inspiring.

At the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, we saw the hospital transformed into an underground shelter during the war. Doctors and nurses from all backgrounds and religions worked side by side, embodying the true spirit of Israel—resilient and united.

A particularly moving experience occurred when we met Liat Harel, who shared the story of her relative, Shlomi Ziv, kidnapped during the Nova Festival and later freed. Liat's team gave us a virtual reality experience that let us feel what it was like to be a hostage, a harrowing experience that left a deep impact. As we donned the VR headsets and body suits, we were transported to the terror of that day, feeling for a few minutes what it must have been like to live through such horror.

One of the most powerful moments of the trip came when we visited Akko, where we participated in a memorial service for Shiri Bibas and her two children, who were taken from their home alive, held hostage, and later murdered by terrorists. The entire city gathered that day in grief, as did communities from all over the world. In that moment, we all felt united by a common sorrow. The streets of Akko, normally filled with chatter and life, were somber and quiet. But, despite the tragedy, there was a deep, unwavering hope. We stood together, secular and religious, as one community, and recited the Mourners' Kaddish. It was a deeply moving moment, as our voices carried through the streets, offering a prayer for peace and remembering those who had been taken from us. The Kaddish echoed not only for Shiri and her children but for all who have been lost and for the hope that one day, peace will prevail.

In El Aramshe, a Bedouin village on the Lebanese border, we met Duaa Swidan,

who shared the story of her community's strength in refusing to leave despite constant threats. Her resilience was inspiring, much like the Sadeh family we visited next. Their 18-year-old son, Sivan, had been killed by a rocket while working in the fields. Sitting with the family and feeling their profound loss was a stark reminder of the true cost of this conflict.

Yet, even in the darkest moments, there were rays of light. One of the most memorable moments of my trip was being invited to a home dinner with Efrat Srebro, an amazing woman who has visited Canton several times sharing her love of art and music. Her home was filled with warmth and laughter, and the evening was spent in the company of Israeli and Druze artists. At one point,



a Druze woman, who spoke barely any English, shared how much she missed Martha Lottman, of blessed memory. The fact that she remembered Martha—someone from our community—spoke volumes about the lasting impact our connections can have, even halfway around the world. At the end of the evening, the family gave me a special stone to place on Martha's gravesite back in the States—a simple, beautiful gesture that will stay with me.

This trip was filled with moments like these, each one reminding me of the incredible resilience of the Israeli people. We saw firsthand how they are rebuilding, enduring, and fighting to preserve the values that make Israel so unique. I left feeling more connected than ever—not just to the land, but to its people. Their strength, their hope, their unbreakable spirit—it all left an indelible mark on me. In the end, this trip was not just about visiting Israel. It was about experiencing Israel in a way I never had before. And through all the pain, all the uncertainty, I couldn't help but think of the words of King Solomon, who said, "Gam zeh ya'avur"—"This too shall pass." Even in the darkest times, there's always a belief that things will get better, that hope will rise again. This is the strength of Israel.

PRESIDENT continued from Page 3

Normally, here, I will be promoting events and performances at Beit Ha'am or officially in the Jewish Community. However, I want to bring your attention to an upcoming exhibit we are having at Strauss Studios (236 Walnut Ave, NE downtown Canton) in May. Kim Goldberg is an artist we are showing at our gallery (opening is May 10 at 4 pm). Kim lives in Omaha, Nebraska and is married to Bob Goldberg, the executive director there. Kim has an artistic career and history on her own that is worthy of note. Kim has also been involved in our Partnership2Gether for a long time, and I have been aware of her work and her art for years.

According to her Bio, "Kim Goldberg, is a graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute with a focus in sculpture and new genres art. She has 28+ years of professional work as a Senior Design Consultant at Gallup, a Senior Art Director at Ervin & Smith Digital Marketing Agency, and has run her own design business since 2009.

Kim has been an active volunteer with Partnership2Gether, Western Galilee since 2006, founding and contributing to numerous art programs to connect global creatives including the Artist in Residency Exchange program in which she was a five-time participant. During the summer of 2024 she facilitated art workshops titled Free Flow—Healing Art Workshops, in the Galilee Medical Center, with Western Galilee community members and the Nova Music Festival Community. She lives in Omaha, NE with her husband where she has an art and design studio."

Kim's work is dynamic and interesting and used flowing alcohol ink and other organic processes, but its content is focused on a theme. In particular,

her thematic approach is to feelings and experiences emanating from October 7th and the Nova Music Festival slaughter. Her work is inspired by her visits to Israel, and her reactions to the feelings that Israelis have about the events of that fateful day. Her recent exhibit, called Singularity "represents the beauty of the NOVA participants and the horror on the ground that day. It honors the lives of those who were taken, the deep mourning of their families, and the trauma experienced by survivors. It processes the emotion of that day and asks: What do we see when the world turns upside down?" Kim adds that (she) had the honor of leading art workshops with NOVA Festival survivors and their families in Israel last summer.

Kim's exhibit opening will also coincide with a visit to Canton of three members of our Partnership2Gether from Israel. We will have three guests speaking to the community, on Friday night May 9th at Temple Israel, on Saturday May 10th at Sharaay Torah and both events are open to all. May 10th there will be a kiddush luncheon at Beit Ha'am following services. Come hear and meet:

- **Golan Rozenberg**, Head of the Matte Asher Community Center, and the P2G Community Committee Co-Chair.
- **Yishai Efroni**, Head of the Security and Emergency Department in the Matte Asher Regional Council.
- **Shimon Buskila**, A member of Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk, who lost his son Jordan in the Nova Festival on October 7th, 2023.

This promises to be a weekend of rewarding and multi-faceted opportunities to connect to our community and to Israel. Please be a part of it!

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Life Cycle Events

DEATHS

Maxine Garfinkle passed away on March 11, 2025. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerome. Maxine is survived by her daughter, Michele Zimmerman (Lee); sons Paul Garfinkle (Carolyn), and Chuck Garfinkle (Stephanie Rozick); and three grandchildren

Susan "Sue" Winick passed away on March 12, 2025. Sue was preceded in death by her husband, Hal. She is survived by son Dr. Michael (Cynthia) Winick; daughter, Lori (Mark) Green; grandsons Steve (Liz) Winick, Zach Green, and Josh Green (Ally Meyer); and her great grandchildren.

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JFS continued from Page 5

Fact: Older adults need the same amount of sleep as other adults: seven to nine hours each night. However, the quality and quantity of sleep can decline with age. Older adults may find themselves having a harder time falling asleep and staying asleep. Getting enough sleep can help most people stay healthy and alert. Adequate sleep can also help reduce the risk of falls, improve overall mental well-being, and have many other benefits.

Myth: Older adults should avoid exercise and physical activity, so they do not get injured?

Fact: Exercise and physical activity can be good for a person's health at any age! As people age, they may think exercise could do more harm than good, especially if they have a chronic condition. However, studies show that most people have a lot more to gain by being active and a lot to lose by sitting too much. Often, being sedentary or inactive is more to blame than age when older adults lose the ability to do things on their own.

Myth: If a family member has Alzheimer's disease, I will develop it, too?

Fact: A person's chance of developing Alzheimer's disease may be higher if they have a family history of dementia because some genetic variants are known to increase risk. However, having a parent or other close family member with Alzheimer's does not necessarily mean that a person will develop the disease. Learn about your own unique family health history and talk with your doctor about any concerns.

Myth: Now that I am older, I will have to give up driving.

Fact: Not necessarily. Physical and cognitive changes can occur with age that may affect a person's ability to drive. These may include slower reactions, diminished vision or hearing, and reduced strength or mobility. However, not all people experience these changes and may still be safe behind the wheel in their later years. As the U.S. population ages, the number of licensed older adults on the road will continue to increase.

Myth: Osteoporosis is only a problem for women.

Fact: No, although osteoporosis, a condition that makes bones more fragile and prone to breaking is more common in women, this disease also affects and could be underdiagnosed in men. While men may not be as likely to have osteoporosis because they start with higher bone density than women, one in five men over the age of 50 will have an osteoporosis related fracture. By age 65 or 70, men and women lose bone mass at the same rate.

Aging well involves maintaining physical, mental, and emotional health as you age. Key factors include staying physically active, eating a balance diet, managing stress, and fostering strong social connections. Building a support system of family, friends, or community helps combat isolation and enhance emotional resilience. Aging well also involves accepting the aging process and adapting to the changes it brings with grace and mindfulness.

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AGUDAS ACHIM

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Tuesday, April 1
Mishnah class(Zoom) 4:45 p.m.
Thursday, April 3
Torah class (Isaiah)(Zoom) 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 4
Mincha & Kabbolas Shabbos 7:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 7:35 p.m.
Sunset 7:53 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
Shabbos Parshas Vayikra
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:30 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 2:01 p.m.
Shabbos ends 8:37 p.m.
Maariv 8:50 p.m.
Havdalah 9:07 p.m.
Sunday, April 6
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class (Zoom) 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 8
Mishnah class(Zoom) 4:45 p.m.
Thursday, April 10
No Torah class (Isaiah)(Zoom)
SEARCH FOR CHOMETZ After 8:00 p.m.
Maariv 8:00 p.m.
Friday, April 11
Erev Erev Pesach
Shacharis 7:00 a.m.
Shacharis 8:00 a.m.
Siyum 8:55 a.m.
Shacharis 9:00 a.m.
Chometz should be burnt in the morning
Mincha & Kabbolas Shabbos 7:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 7:43 p.m.
Sunset 8:01 p.m.
Saturday, April 12
Erev Pesach
Shabbos Parshas Tsav
Shabbos Hagadol
Shacharis & Mussaf 7:00 a.m.
Stop eating Chometz 10:50 a.m.-11:14 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 2:00 p.m.
Shabbos Ends 8:45 p.m.
PESACH
Sunset 8:02 p.m.
Maariv & Hallel 8:55 p.m.
Candle lighting (72 minutes) 9:15 p.m.
First Seder 9:30 p.m.
Midnight 1:26 a.m.
Sunday, April 13
First Day Pesach
Shacharis & Hallel 9:00 a.m.
Tefilas HaTal 11:00 a.m.
Mussaf 11:30 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 2:00 p.m.
Mincha 7:40 p.m.
Sunset 8:03 p.m.
Maariv (we begin counting the Omer) 9:00 p.m.
Candle lighting after 8:45 p.m.
Count the First day of the Omer
Second Seder 9:15 p.m.
Midnight 1:26 a.m.
Monday, April 14
Second Day Pesach, First Day of the Omer

Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 9:00 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 2:00 p.m.
Mincha 7:45 p.m.
Sunset 8:04 p.m.
Maariv 8:50 p.m.
Count the Second day of the Omer after 8:47 p.m.
Tuesday, April 15
First day Chol Hamoed, Second Day of the Omer
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 7:30 a.m.
Daf Hayomi 8:30 a.m.
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 9:00 a.m.
Mincha 7:50 p.m.
Sunset 8:05 p.m.
Maariv 8:10 p.m.
Count the Third day of the Omer after 8:50 p.m.
Maariv 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 16
Second day Chol Hamoed, Third Day of the Omer
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 7:30 a.m.
Daf Hayomi 8:30 a.m.
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 9:00 a.m.
Mincha 7:50 p.m.
Sunset 8:06 p.m.
Maariv 8:10 p.m., 9:00 p.m.
Count the Fourth day of the Omer after 8:50 p.m.
Thursday, April 17
Third day Chol Hamoed, Fourth Day of the Omer
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 7:30 a.m.
Daf Hayomi 8:30 a.m.
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 9:00 a.m.
Mincha 7:50 p.m.
Sunset 8:07 p.m.
Maariv 8:15 p.m., 9:00 p.m.
Count the Fifth day of the Omer after 8:52 p.m.
Friday, April 18
Fourth day Chol Hamoed, The Fifth Day of the Omer
Erev Yom Tov (the Second days)
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 7:30 a.m.
Daf Hayomi 8:30 a.m.
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 9:00 a.m.
Mincha & abbreviated Kabbolas Shabbos 6:30 p.m.
Plag HaMincha 6:44 p.m.
Candle Lighting 6:45 p.m. (early)
Sunset 8:08 p.m.
Count the Sixth day of the Omer after 8:53 p.m.
Saturday, April 19
The Seventh day of Pesach, The Sixth Day of the Omer
Shacharis & Hallel 9:00 a.m.
Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs) 10:00 a.m.
Yizkor 11:15 a.m.
Mussaf 11:40 a.m.

Earliest Mincha 1:59 p.m.
Mincha 7:50 p.m.
Sunset 8:09 p.m.
Maariv 9:00 p.m.
Shabbos ends 8:54 p.m.
Candle lighting (72 minutes) after 9:22 p.m.
Count the Seventh day of the Omer after 9:54 p.m.
Sunday, April 20
The Eighth day of Pesach, The Seventh Day of the Omer
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 9:00 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 1:59 p.m.
Mincha 7:40 p.m.
Neilas HaChag 8:00 p.m.
Sunset 8:10 p.m.
Yom Tov ends 8:54 p.m.
Maariv & Count the Eighth day of the Omer 9:10 p.m.
Havdalah 9:24 p.m.
PLEASE ALLOW UNTIL 10:30 p.m. FOR THE BUY - BACK OF CHOMETZ
Monday, April 21
Esrú Chag
The Eighth Day of the Omer
Shacharis 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 22
Mishnah class(Zoom) 4:45 p.m.
The Ninth Day of the Omer
Wednesday, April 23
The Tenth Day of the Omer
Thursday, April 24
Torah class (Isaiah)(Zoom) 4:30 p.m.
The Eleventh Day of the Omer
Friday, April 25
The Twelfth Day of the Omer
Mincha & Kabbolas Shabbos 7:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 7:57 p.m.
Sunset 8:16 p.m.
Saturday, April 26
The Thirteenth Day of the Omer
Shabbos Parshas Shmini
Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:30 a.m.
The Molad (new moon) for the month of Iyar: Sunday (April 27) 8:30 p.m. + 2 chalakim
Earliest Mincha 1:58 p.m.
Shabbos ends 9:02 p.m.
Maariv 9:10 p.m.
Havdalah 9:31 p.m.
Sunday, April 27
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class(Zoom) 11:00 a.m.
The Fourteenth Day of the Omer
Monday, April 28
First Day Rosh Chodesh Iyar
The Fifteenth Day of the Omer
Tuesday, April 29
Mishnah class(Zoom) 4:45 p.m.
The Sixteenth Day of the Omer
Second Day Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Wednesday, April 30
The Seventeenth Day of the Omer



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* = Zoom

Tuesday, April 1
Evening Services 5:30 PM*
Wednesday, April 2
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Thursday, April 3
Morning Service 8:00AM*
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Friday, April 4
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Candles 7:38PM
Saturday, April 5
Shabbat Service 10:00AM
(In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)
Monday, April 7
Morning Service 8:00AM*
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Tuesday, April 8
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Wednesday, April 9
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Thursday, April 10
Fast of the First Born
Morning Service 8:00AM*
Evening Service 5:30PM*
Friday, April 11
Sell Hametz by 12:00 Noon
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Candles 7:45PM
Saturday, April 12
Erev Pesach
Shabbat Service 9:00AM*
(Please note Earlier Start Time)
Candles (after Havdalah) 8:55PM

First Seder at Nightfall
Sunday, April 13
Pesach - 1st Day
Festival Service 10:00AM*
Mincha Service 5:30PM*
Candles 8:50PM
Second Seder at Nightfall
Monday, April 14
Pesach - 2nd Day
Festival Service 10:00AM*
Mincha Service 5:30PM*
Festival concludes at 8:40PM
Tuesday, April 15
Chol Hamoed - 1st Day
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Wednesday, April 16
Chol Hamoed - 2nd Day
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Thursday, April 17
Chol Hamoed - 3rd Day
Morning Service 8:00AM*
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Friday, April 18
Chol Hamoed - 4th Day
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Candles 7:52PM
Saturday, April 19
Pesach - 7th Day
Festival & Shabbat Service 10:00AM (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)
Candles 8:56PM
Sunday, April 20
Pesach - 8th Day
Festival Service 10:00AM*

Yizkor Service 11:15AM
Mincha Service 5:30PM*
The Festival concludes at 8:55PM
Hametz may be eaten after 9:00PM
Monday, April 21
Morning Service 8:00AM*
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Tuesday, April 22
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Wednesday, April 23
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Thursday, April 24
Morning Service 8:00AM*
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Friday, April 25
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Candles 7:31PM
Saturday, April 26
Shabbat Service 10:00AM
(In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)
Monday, April 28
Morning Service 8:00AM*
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Tuesday, April 29
Evening Services 5:30PM*
Wednesday, April 30
Evening Services 5:30PM*



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Friday, April 4, 2025
5:30AM Oneg Shabbat
6:15AM Kid-dish Shabbat Service
Saturday, April 5, 2025
10:00AM Stollen Moments
Torah Study
Torah verses - Lev. 1:1-2:16
Friday, April 11, 2025
5:30AM Oneg Shabbat
6:15AM Shabbat Service with Birthday and

Anniversary Blessings
Saturday, April 12, 2025
10:00AM Stollen Moments
Torah Study
Torah verses - Lev. 6:1-23
Friday, April 18, 2025
5:30AM Oneg Shabbat
6:15AM Shabbat Service - Shabbat Pesach with Torah Reading
Saturday, April 19, 2025
No Stollen Moments Torah Study

Friday, April 25, 2025
5:30AM Oneg Shabbat - Guest Speaker, Courtney Brown from Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio
6:15AM Shabbat Service
Saturday, April 26, 2025
10:00AM Stollen Moments
Torah Study
Torah verses - Lev. 9:1-10:3



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Monday, Wednesday 10 A.M. – 7 P.M.
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 A.M. – 6 P.M.
 Saturday 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.





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- Field trips with opportunities for interviews with community members at a local Bedouin village including a traditional feast in the village
- Dinners in the homes of local community members
- Certificate Ceremony

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- Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Multiculturalism in Israel
- The Western Galilee within the Current Global Conflict
- Students workshop with discussion and reflections through journaling and art.
- Final discussions and reflections

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