

The Jewish Journal

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Jewish Federation
of Ocean County
Celebrating 49 Years!

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Jewish Federation
of Ocean County

Shanah Tovah Umetukah
שנה טובה ומתוקה
"A Good and Sweet Year"

JFCS

Jewish Family & Children's Service

See page 24 for information about the Holidays.

Local News - see pages 4, 5 and 6

**Jewish Cultural Festival - see pages 15,
16 and 17**

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The Best Defense



By Keith Krivitzky, Managing Director
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There's an expression which I think is particularly relevant for our community these days. "The best defense is a good offense."

We live in a time when many in the Jewish community feel besieged. We definitely find ourselves in a fraught contest, with one side seeking to attack the underlying values and bonds that has tied our community together – our mutual support and cohesiveness, the justice and rationale for Zionism, and the security of being "seen" and identified as Jews.

A key question is – just what are we doing about that?

For many years we have relied on "defense" organizations to try and secure our rights and ensure our place and se-

It's time to try something new – being loud and proud of our Jewish identity, community, and connections.

curity in society. Such an approach has been focused on defining common norms and acceptable behaviors of others. And, if there is enough public support, peer pressure, and government or official enforcement mechanisms...that can work. Societal norms and understandings of the common good can adapt and change with the right encouragement.

The challenge today is that norms and appropriate behaviors have become a thing of the past, in many respects. Voices promoting disunity, privileged identities, and blame are overpowering any encouragement of diversity and respect.

Plus there's one other contributing factor...

The Jewish community in America has never been particularly good at showing our pride. We have been fixated on fitting in rather than standing out. We have built consensus and coalitions, often behind the scenes and so that we are not out in front, possibly standing alone. We haven't wanted to rock the boat. Many of our folk have been focused on being accepted – at country clubs; through being on donor lists at hospitals, museums, and

arts organizations; and as proud citizens and leaders in (non-Jewish) civic endeavors. Being proud Jews hasn't been the clarion call bringing our best to the fore.

Even as we have become more visible and comfortable in Hollywood, Broadway, journalism, and media – we have remained self-effacing, as if we are unsure of our continued welcome. Self-deprecating humor, deflection, and avoidance have become our community's internal norms.

Bottom line: I think we have sold ourselves short. This is a mistake which has contributed to some of the challenges we face today. From our own younger generation not knowing what they should think about being Jewish or Israel...or why they should care about being identified or connected. To growing embarrassment about Israel as an affront to our liberal Western values regardless of the circumstances faced by our extended Jewish family living there. To Jews today throughout our community who just want to remain under the radar and avoid triggering anything or anyone else.

In this light, playing defense when it comes to our pride and identity has not helped us in the long term. The Lubavitcher Rebbe was right when he insisted that we should make every effort to celebrate Jewishness in the public space, to spread the light about our values/beliefs/practices/community ties.

Now is the time to embrace the maxim that the best defense is a good offense.

We need to double down on the who's, what's, when's, where's, and why's of what it means to be proud Jews. How do we embrace Jewish culture? How do we celebrate our identity and community? How do we educate – and learn more – about our values and history and purpose? Especially when it comes to Israel.

And how do we come together and say to others who seek to put us down and make us cower that we are proud, we are committed to embodying our values and identity, and we are not going anywhere.

This is a focus of the Jewish Federation. Through programs like Heroes Against Hate, our Jewish Cultural Festival, and our efforts to educate the community about what is going on in and around Israel. In addition to our core work of helping those most in need in our community and among the Jewish people.

All this brings to mind another expression: What's the definition of insanity? Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

It's time to try something new – being loud and proud of our Jewish identity, community, and connections.

As you observe and celebrate the High Holidays, think how you will continue to be engaged and grow and be proud throughout the year. This is a fitting message for all of us to take to heart.

Miracles of Elul



By Rav Chaim Respes
Temple Beth Or, Brick
www.TempleBethOrBrick.org

Just weeks ago, we sat on the floor remembering the destruction of Jerusalem, mourning not only what was lost long ago but also the brokenness that still exists in our world today. Then, almost immediately, the Jewish calendar carried us into Tu B'Av – a day of love, hope, and new beginnings. Few transitions are as dramatic. Judaism reminds us that even after the deepest darkness, light has the ability to emerge.

Now we've entered the month of Elul, a season that gently invites us to prepare for the High Holidays. If Tisha B'Av teaches us to remember what was broken, and Tu B'Av teaches us to believe in renewal, then Elul asks a deeply personal question: Can we recognize the miracles already unfolding in our lives?

When we hear the word miracle, we often imagine the splitting of the Sea of Reeds or manna descending from heaven. Yet the greatest miracles are often the ones we overlook because they have become so familiar. The sunrise we rarely stop to watch. The phone call from a loved one. The friend who appears at exactly the right moment. The strength to begin again after disappointment. The opportunity to forgive – or to ask for forgiveness.

The Talmud teaches that one should thank G-d not only for the extraordinary but also for the everyday. Jewish tradition encourages us to cultivate a heart that notices blessings before it asks for more blessings.

May this month open our eyes to the miracles that surround us each day.

This is one of Elul's greatest gifts.

Each morning, the sound of the shofar pierces the routine of our lives. It is not merely a call to repentance; it is a wake-up call to awareness. Before asking, "What must I change?" perhaps we should first ask, "What have I failed to appreciate?"

The Hebrew letters of Elul are often connected to the verse, Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li – "I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine" (Song of Songs 6:3). The relationship with G-d is strengthened not only through confession but through recognition. Love deepens when we notice the countless ways it has already been expressed.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, we naturally think about the year ahead. We pray for health, peace, livelihood, and happiness. These are sacred prayers. But perhaps they begin with a different kind of vision – the ability to see that G-d's presence has never left us.

Life will always contain challenges. We know this all too well. Tisha B'Av reminds us that suffering is real. Yet Tu B'Av reminds us that despair is never the final chapter. Between those two observances lies the enduring Jewish conviction that hope is itself a holy act. The High Holidays invite us to stand before G-d with honesty. Elul teaches us to arrive there with gratitude as well.

May this month open our eyes to the miracles that surround us each day – the relationships that sustain us, the opportunities to grow, the resilience we discover within ourselves, and the quiet presence of G-d that accompanies us even when we fail to notice.

As we enter the High Holy Days and welcome a new year, we pause to reflect on who we are, what we value, and the future we want to help shape together.

Rosh Hashanah reminds us that the year ahead is not yet written. This is a moment of decision; a moment when our actions matter most. The challenges facing the Jewish people are real.

We see rising antisemitism, growing security needs, deepening division, and communities in Israel still rebuilding and healing. But this moment will not be defined only by what we face. It will be defined by how we respond.

Jewish Federation is ready to meet the moment, but it is only possible with your partnership.

As One, we strengthen Jewish connection and ensure every individual can find their place in Jewish life.

As One, we protect our schools, synagogues, and community spaces so Jewish life can continue openly and proudly.

As One, we stand with Israel — helping communities rebuild, recover, and move forward with resilience and hope.

This is the power of Jewish Federation: bringing our community together to meet this moment with purpose, responsibility, and heart. As the sound of the shofar calls us forward into a new year, we invite you to take part in shaping what comes next. Please make your meaningful High Holy Day gift today.

Donate now: www.jewishoceancounty.org/donate

Together, we can help ensure a stronger, safer, and more connected Jewish future for generations to come. Wishing you and your loved ones a sweet, healthy, and meaningful New Year.

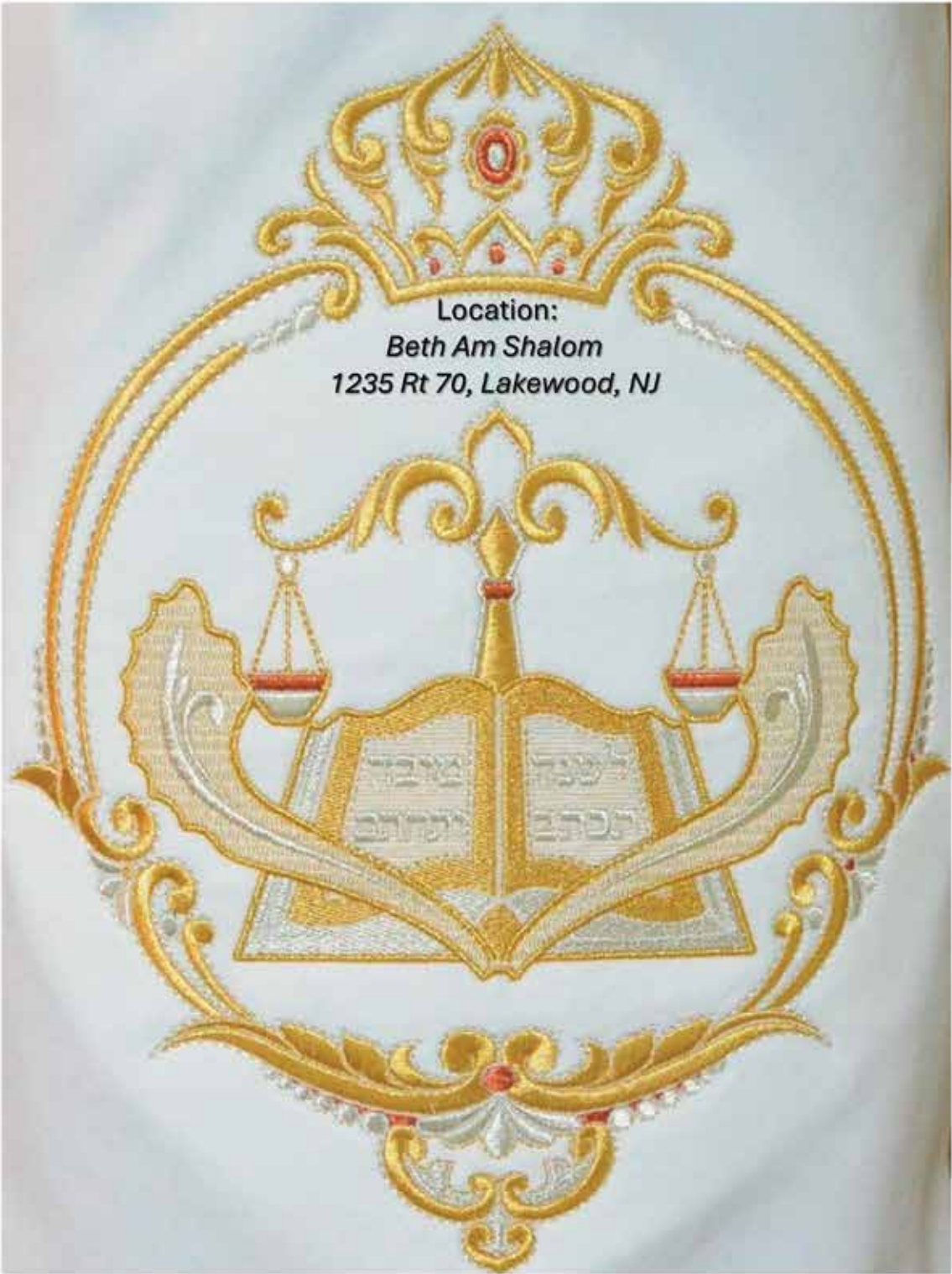


Shanah Tovah

Local News

Selichot

Sep 5, 2026 / 24 Elul 5786 at 8:15 pm



Location:
Beth Am Shalom
1235 Rt 70, Lakewood, NJ

Sponsors:

Beth Am Shalom
Cong. Ahavat Olam

Temple Beth Or
Cong. B’nai Israel

Jewish Federation of Ocean County

Miracles of Elul

Continued from page 2

If we learn to recognize those miracles now, we may find that when the shofar sounds on Rosh Hashanah, we are not simply asking G-d to write us into the Book of Life – we are awakening to the sacred life that has been unfolding before us all along.

The Jewish Journal is pleased to host a monthly Rabbi Column, rotating among our community’s pulpit rabbis. The views and opinions expressed are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Jewish Journal, the Jewish Federation of Ocean County or the author’s Congregation.



Temple Beth Or, Brick, at the BlueClaws Jewish Heritage Day

On Sunday, August 9, the Jersey Shore BlueClaws held their annual Jewish Heritage Day. Members of Temple Beth Or attended as a group. After the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner, Temple Beth Or Sisterhood members led the singing of Hatikvah. For information about future TBO events, call 732-458-4700.



Local News

Women of Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood, Holds Food Drive

For the Women of Beth Am Shalom, what started as a simple Thanksgiving Food Drive back in November has now blossomed into a year-round labor of love. On July 15, around 20 members of the group had the opportunity to tour the B.E.A.T Center (Bringing Everyone All Together) in Toms River, and in particular, The People’s Pantry. This is the place where the carloads of donations collected have been delivered to every few weeks.

Not only did the Women of Beth Am Shalom learn about the needs and resources available to the local community, afterwards they were able to pay-it-forward as they enjoyed a delicious 3-course meal together at the JBJ Soul Kitchen next door. This non-profit community restaurant is run by the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation, which serves in-need and paying customers. In addition to paying for their own meals, WBAS members also contributed to meals for the community.

Organizers of the outing; Randi Bell, Jennifer Sacks and Barbara Eisenberg; were touched by the generosity of the members of WBAS. Not only did they come out to learn about Fulfill’s People’s Pantry and share a meal with old friends and new, as they entered the building each person attending dropped off a bag of donations.

The Women of Beth Am Shalom will continue collecting non-perishable, non-expired donations for the People’s Pantry. Each month specific needs are shared. It is not only food items that are needed. Personal care and baby items are always in demand.

Please contact the temple office at 732-363-2800 if you would like to learn more about the Women of Beth Am Shalom or their food drive.

Many congregations are conducting prayer services and classes online which may be accessible from a computer or a telephone. Contact each congregation for further information to access these events.



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Call us at 732-458-4700 or email us at templebethorbrick@gmail.com.
Chaim Respes, Rabbi Dr. Sharon Monter, President

Local News

Jorge Rod Honored

On June 9, at Georgian Court University, Pioneers of Faith honored Jorge Rod, Founder of Latinos Unidos and Board President of OHI-Ocean Health Initiatives (see OHI ads on pages 14 and 32). Mr. Rod is also the Publisher of this publication (The Jewish Journal). Working with Jorge on The Jewish Journal (see notice on page 23) is Betty Rod as Managing Editor and Gildardo Cruz as Production Manager.

Also honored at the June 9 event were Pastor Manuel Cruz of Bethel Spanish

Pentecostal Church; Lydia Valencia, Founder and President of the Puerto Rican Congress; Pastors Hector and Raquel Salguero of Missionary Pentecostal Church now Vida City Church; and Pastor Vinson of Vision of Promise. Special Guest Speakers included Pastor Glenn Wilson of Restoration Family Worship and Warren Sherard of OHI-Ocean Health Initiatives.



Four Young Adults are Making a Documentary on Manny Lindenbaum and the Kindertransport



loves to speak to youth and groups who want to learn more and hear his personal experience.

"Since this effort involves children it touches the heart of other youth. I told the story to two young adults who want to be filmmakers and their friends heard and asked whether they can join in," said Colin Lewis from "Love Your Neighbor Association." Kevin Sinclair, the main videographer wrote "I feel so honored to be able to do this project."

Colin went onto say, "It is so important to teach the next generations about the travesty that took place during the Holocaust, in honor of the lives lost and to have this new generation develop relationships that counteract antisemitism and hate."

The Kindertransport ("Children's Transport") was a rescue operation that brought nearly 10,000 unaccompanied predominantly Jewish children to Great Britain from Nazi-controlled territories between December 1938 and September 1939.

Manny Lindenbaum is a Jackson resident, was part of Kindertransport, and

Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood, Had an Evening Out with Friends

The Woman of Beth Am Shalom were joined by The Men's Club (plus a few others) for a fun night out at Icarus/Burger 25 with good food, great conversation, a few rounds of trivia and a perfect night out. For information about future events, call BAS at 732-363-2800.



War with Iran - Weekly updates are available

at www.jewishoceancounty.org/israelupdate.

Donate now:

www.jewishoceancounty.org/IsraelEmergency.

What's the Recipe for Vibrant Jewish Life?

By Heather Morgan, Managing Director
JDC Global Marketing & Communications

At JDC (Joint Distribution Committee), this question is at the heart of our 111-year mission – lifting lives and strengthening communities in 70 countries. Though the ingredients for cultivating a proud Jewish future differ from place to place, the timeless value of arevut – the Talmudic notion that all Jews are responsible for each other – is always part of the mix. For the many Jews we serve around the globe, food is a crucial way they put this value into action. From JDC volunteers delivering challah to elderly, isolated Jews in Ukraine to a young leader in India making her grandmother's fish curry, Jews everywhere draw physical, spiritual, and emotional sustenance from dishes passed down generation to generation. I want to give you a taste of this dynamic Jewish world – as well as some much-needed joy – with this delicious cuisine. I hope you find the recipes as delightful as I do. Let's take inspiration from the rich and diverse culinary traditions that unite Jews everywhere.

Editor's Note: Here is one of the recipes – *Alyona's Authentic Tieglach*. Watch future issues of the Jewish Journal for more recipes or check them all out at www.jdc.org/learn/recipe.



“For me, Hesed has never been just a job – it’s my family. I preserve Jewish traditions by keeping my family’s Jewish recipes and sharing them with others.”
~ Alyona Bunina, Head of the family club at the JDC-supported Hesed Nefesh social welfare center in Poltava, Ukraine



Ingredients –

Dough:

- 3 eggs
- 1½-2 tbsp. vodka, cognac, or whiskey
- 1 pinch of salt
- 2-2 ½ cups flour
- Vegetable oil, for deep-frying

Syrup:

- 7/8 cup (200 grams) honey
- 1 cup sugar
- Cinnamon, to taste
- Nutmeg, to taste

Instructions –

1. Mix eggs, vodka or other liquor, and salt.
 2. Gradually add in flour and knead the dough.
 3. Wrap the dough in foil and let sit for 30 minutes.
 4. Make thin ropes of dough, then
5. pinch small pieces from the dough and roll them into balls.
 6. Pour vegetable oil into a deep saucepan and heat well. Dip balls of dough into the hot oil and fry, stirring until golden-brown. Take out the fried balls and put them on a paper towel to drain the oil.
 7. When the balls are ready, it’s time to make the syrup. In a saucepan, mix sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg, then add honey. Put over medium heat and stir slowly until the sugar melts.
 8. Dip the fried balls into the syrup, mix well, and remove from the saucepan with a slotted spoon. Spread on parchment paper greased with butter. Lay the balls out in a pyramid shape or create any shape you want (It’s easier to do this with wet hands)!
 8. When the fried dough cools, cut into cookies

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FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

How Jewish Federations Helped Seed a Regional Vision for Israel's Future

From JFNA
July 16, 2026

For children growing up along Israel's northern border, the past two years have been defined by uncertainty, disruption, and conflict. As communities work to rebuild, one reality is becoming increasingly clear: most families return home only when they believe their children can thrive there, not just when their houses are habitable.

“Rebuilding and securing Israel's northern border requires more than just temporary relief – it demands a long-term, strategic commitment to the people who call this region home,” said Rebecca Caspi, Director General of the Israel Office and Senior Vice President for Israel and Overseas at Jewish Federations of North America. “Jewish Federations understand the importance of education in restoring a sense of normalcy in order to build a vibrant, enduring future for these communities.”



That is why from the start, Jewish Federations worked with Homeward/Habaita to invest in educational opportunities for children in Israel's North. Created in the wake of the mass evacuations following October 7, Homeward/Habaita was founded on a simple but powerful belief: Quality education is essential to community recovery. Families consistently cite education – alongside security and employment – as a key factor in deciding whether to return home. By investing in educational opportunities, communities can attract new and returning families, strengthen resilience, and build for the future.

Through emergency funding, Jewish Federations supported Homeward/Habaita's early work in the south, including educational and enrichment programs that helped thousands of displaced children regain stability and routine. Federations later helped expand this approach to the Galilee, where Homeward/Habaita partnered with regional clusters, local authorities, the Ministry of Education, and academic institutions to advance a regional model of educational excellence.

Now, that work is expanding to a new level, with a major investment from the Israeli government. Its recent decision to invest NIS 26 million in regional Excellence Centers across the confrontation line validates the approach that Homeward/Habaita and Federations piloted together. The initiative will expand access to STEM, arts, and sports programming through regional partnerships among local authorities, academic institutions, industry, and philanthropy.

For Jewish Federations, this announcement represents more than a government investment – it is the scaling of a vision Federations have helped champion through longstanding support for Homeward/Habaita.

What makes this government decision especially meaningful is its embrace of the regional approach Federations have embraced. In smaller and more remote communities, educational excellence cannot be built municipality-by-municipality. It requires shared resources, regional collaboration, and a commitment to ensuring that every child – regardless of geography – has access to opportunity.

“This decision reflects two core principles that guide us at the Homeward/Habaita: excellence and regional collaboration,” said CEO Sigal Moran. “Many people confuse excellence with achievement. Excellence is a way of life – a worldview centered on creating the widest possible range of opportunities for every child in the place where they live, helping them discover their strengths,

and supporting them on their journey. That is why we chose to partner with the regional clusters – to help establish and strengthen the fields of education and excellence within each cluster. Combined with the vision of local authority leaders and the Ministry of Education, the result is truly inspiring.”

For the children of the North, this investment means access to opportunities that can shape their futures. It sends a message to families that the region is not simply being restored – it is being strengthened.

At its best, philanthropy helps spark innovation that government can ultimately bring to scale. The Ministry of Education's decision is an example of that process in action, and a testament to the collective efforts of local leaders, educators, government partners, Homeward/Habaita, and the Jewish Federations that believed in this vision from the beginning.

For communities along Israel's northern border, this is more than an education story. It is a story of recovery, resilience, and hope.

Jewish Federations are dedicated to strengthening our connection to Israel and Jewish communities worldwide. In the wake of the October 7 attacks, Federations launched the Israel Emergency Campaign, collectively raising over \$900 million to support Israel's recovery after 2.5 years of war. Together with our core partners The Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, we have worked tirelessly with staff in Federations' Israel Office to organize this vital assistance.

Through our Rebuild Israel campaign, Federations' system-wide, multi-year framework to support Israel's recovery and help Israeli society flourish in the aftermath of October 7 and two years of war, we continue to reach every corner of society from neighborhoods to national initiatives, fund transformative projects, and strengthen strategic alliances in the most impacted areas.

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FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

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How Federations Activated a Robust Response to Earthquakes in Venezuela



From JFNA
August 6, 2026

On June 24, 2026, twin earthquakes measuring 7.2 and 7.5 struck northern Venezuela. More than 1,330 aftershocks have been recorded since the disaster, and independent satellite analyses indicate that tens of thousands of buildings may have been damaged or destroyed, underscoring the immense scale of the devastation.

Thus far, approximately 5,546 people have been killed in the earthquakes, with 16,740 injured. Some 18,000 are still without shelter. In total, 23,811 people are displaced across 107 temporary camps. Relief and recovery efforts remain underway as authorities continue to support displaced communities and rebuild critical infrastructure.

The small Jewish community of approximately 3,000 people in Caracas was significantly affected by the earthquakes, with nine confirmed fatalities among community members. May their memory be a blessing. The homes of 206 Jewish community members have been damaged; 25 are destroyed and uninhabitable, 47 are unsafe pending inspection, and 134 are damaged but habitable.

Immediately after the earthquakes, Jewish Federations established the Venezuela Earthquake Relief Fund to provide humanitarian aid and support recovery. Our Jewish values call us to help those in need, and we pledge to carry out this mandate with pride and dignity.

Our core overseas partners, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish Agency for Israel, responded immediately. We're deeply grateful for partners who let us act instantly, worldwide. The emergency response network we've built allows North American

Jews to show up immediately for Venezuela's Jewish community and will keep us there as long as we're needed.

The JDC is aiding both the Jewish community, with which it has a longstanding relationship, and the general community. Support for the Jewish community includes:

- 150 members benefitting from psychological support
- 240 children attending a three-week day camp at Hebraica JCC
- 70 older adults receiving three months of programming through Hebraica JCC's Golden Age Program
- 314 families supported by JDC's food program
- 120 people receiving medicine through JDC's medicine program

Support for the general community is focused on the hardest hit area of La Guairá. The following are JDC's initial interventions, with additional relief and recovery efforts planned for the coming months:

- Maternal and Child Health Clinic in La Guairá: JDC partnered with AVES-SOC, a highly vetted local medical NGO with extensive experience in humanitarian health response, to establish a maternal and child health clinic and mobile outreach program. JDC will support 4 months of clinic operations, providing essential medical care to 1,600 patients.
- Point-of-Care Ultrasound Devices and Medical Training: JDC deployed three Philips Lumify Point-of-Care Ultrasound devices, enabling trained local clinicians to perform on-site obstetric assessments, identify high-risk pregnancies, and make timely referral decisions. Two trainers from Israel's Ben-Gurion University are already providing hands-on instruction to 12 doctors who will operate the clinic and mobile unit. In partnership with United Hatzalah, JDC has also donated one portable ultrasound device to the Jewish community.

- Emergency Food and Hygiene Distributions: JDC is preparing to expand the distribution of essential supplies to families living in tents in La Guairá, with support from Jewish community

Continued on page 12

Jewish Federations Statement on Recent Acts of Violence

From JFNA
July 24, 2026

Jewish Federations are horrified by the recent acts of violence targeting our and other minority communities. These appalling acts remind us once again that targeted communities across our country face an urgent security crisis.

Our nation must invest in security programs that help protect vulnerable communities and prevent future attacks. As we pray for the safety and recovery of Chok Sung and Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, Congress must act. The Jewish American Security Act would strengthen protections for vulnerable communities and help build a safer country for all Americans.



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Jewish Federation of Ocean County IMPACT

YOU Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Kfar Silver

135 Students. One Triumphant Night. Kfar Silver’s Graduating Cohort of 2026

JFOC has supported Kfar Silver since 2019 helping this graduating class through COVID, students that fled Ukraine, and October 7.



Amos Gofer, Kfar Silver Youth Village CEO, speaks to students. Image credit: Ori Averbuch

June 19, 2026

The stage was packed, the music was loud, and 135 students at World ORT Kadima Mada’s Kfar Silver Youth Village in Ashkelon walked across the stage with their heads held high. This was no ordinary graduation. It was a celebration earned the hard way, and everyone in the room knew it.

For a cohort which had persevered through the COVID pandemic, no one imagined anything worse happening. And then came October 7. Kfar Silver is located just eight miles from Gaza, and these students were amid the chaos as tragedy unfolded on that fateful day and all the days after. They survived repeated attacks by Hamas, Iran, and Hezbollah and kept showing up. And on graduation night, that persistence and determination looked like joy.

Kfar Silver is home to more than 1,000 students, a quarter of them boarders, including new immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union, and students who have arrived since the war in Ukraine began. For many, Kfar Silver is more than a school. It is a home, with the counseling and tutoring that helps them feel secure enough to thrive.

Amos Gofer, CEO of Kfar Silver Youth

Village, summed it up best during the graduation ceremony. “Leonard Cohen wrote, ‘There is a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in,’” he said. “You became the great light that broke through the cracks. Despite everything, you built meaningful, joyful, and formative experiences.”

And what a celebration it was. Students performed sketches that had the room laughing, took the stage for presentations they had clearly poured themselves into, and danced, both formal and informal, late into the evening. The annual Na’ale prom dance brought out everyone’s best outfits, with students dressed to the nines and dancing like they meant it.

The celebration drew local dignitaries eager to share in the moment, including the head of the Hof Ashkelon Regional Council, Itamar Revivo; head of the Lakhish Regional Council, Shlomo Boaz; and Chairman of the Kfar Silver Board, Benny Sela.

“Today marks the conclusion of an important chapter and the beginning of a new and exciting journey,” said Ronit Hasin, who oversees pedagogical programming. “At World ORT Kadima Mada, we place great importance on nurturing the next generation. This year alone, we invested close to five million shekels in Kfar Silver, including scholarships for graduates, international delegation opportunities, and initiatives connecting students to the global community of World ORT.”

Dear graduates, we are proud of you,” she added. “Go forward with confidence, and may you achieve great success in all that lies ahead.”

Both Gofer and Hasin paid tribute to the team that makes it all possible: Kfar Sil-



Students performed sketches and gave presentations at the ceremony. Image credit: Ori Averbuch

ver’s educators, counselors, therapists, and the operations and security staff who keep the Village running.

Kfar Silver was bought by World ORT in 2016 and today includes a high school,

junior high school, boarding school, and agricultural farm. Generous donors fund the projects and emergency support for security, mental health, and stress-relieving programming that make nights like this one possible.



Let’s Build the Jewish Future

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Jewish Federation of Ocean County



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Jewish Federation of Ocean County IMPACT

YOU Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Shutaf, Lev Otef and Crossroads

At the June board meeting JFOC's board approved additional Israel grants to Shutaf, Lev Otef, and Crossroads. Here is a report from Shutaf.

Shutaf Inclusion Programs in Jerusalem and Camp Shutaf's Inclusive Junior Counselor Track – More than a Summer Job

Every summer, Camp Shutaf's impact extends far beyond our campers. Twelve teens and young adults – with and without disabilities – join our Junior Counselor (JC) program after completing a five-month leadership training course. By the time camp begins, they are prepared to take on real responsibilities as valued members of our staff.

Some of the JCs choose to work only part of the camp day so they can also participate with their camper group – spending time with friends, enjoying activities, and experiencing camp from both perspectives. For many, this balance provides a meaningful first step into the world of employment while allowing them to continue enjoying the camp experience they have always loved. It is an ideal introduction to work in a supportive, mentored environment.

Junior Counselors take on roles that reflect their individual strengths. Some work directly with camper groups, while others help serve meals, support activity specialists, or assist with the countless behind-the-scenes tasks that keep camp running smoothly. Throughout the summer, they receive ongoing mentorship, build lasting friendships, and grow together as a team.

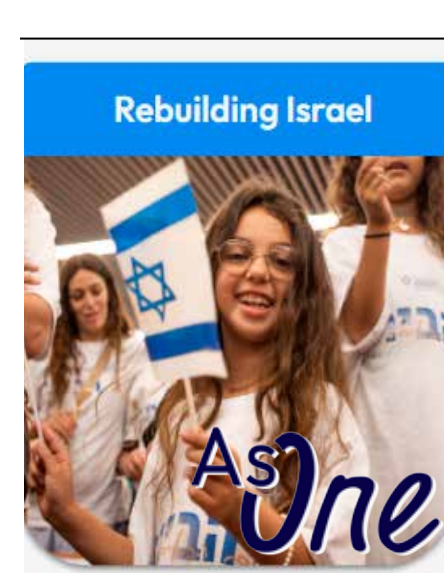
At Shutaf, we don't lower expectations because a teen has a disability. Instead,

we provide the support and guidance that enables every young person to succeed and contribute in meaningful ways.

Like every other staff member, Junior Counselors earn a real hourly wage. Each summer, parents tell us how emotional it is to see their child receive that first paycheck. Yet for these families, it represents far more than a paycheck. It is a defining moment – a tangible affirmation that someone believed in their child, entrusted them with real responsibility, and provided the opportunity and support to succeed.

The impact on the teens is profound. They gain confidence by doing meaningful work, develop a strong sense of responsibility, and become role models for younger campers. In return, they earn the respect of campers, fellow staff members, and their peers while taking important steps toward greater independence and future employment.

We are deeply grateful to the Jewish Federation of Ocean County for your partnership. Together, we are creating life-changing opportunities for teens and young adults with disabilities to build the skills, confidence, and independence that will serve them long after summer ends. Because when we believe in young people, they begin to believe in themselves.



Ah Yes, We Remember it Well

Do you have historical recollections or reflections from fifty or more years ago about the Jewish Federation of Ocean County or the Jewish Community that you want to share as we approach JFOC's 50th anniversary? Send them to: jewishocean@gmail.com. Submissions will be reviewed for possible publication by the Jewish Journal Editorial Committee.

Jewish Federation of Ocean County is now on Facebook
Like us at:
www.facebook.com/jewishocean



Jewish Community Calendar – September 2026

Compiled by the Jewish Federation of Ocean County based on submissions from the event hosts – Events can be submitted at www.jewishoceancounty.org/calendar. Most of the Jewish Virtual University webinars are emergent with only a few days’ notice and are updated on the page www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu and our facebook page facebook.com/jewishocean.

Sunday, August 30, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon – **Beth Am Shalom Temple and Religious School Open House**, 1235 Route 70, Lakewood; 732-363-2800

Tuesday, September 1, 1:00 PM (and every Tuesday) – **Grief After Loss Group** led by Rita Sason, Jewish Family and Children’s Service, virtual online, 732-363-8010

Thursday, September 3, 12:15 PM (and every Thursday) – **Torah with the Times: Timeless Torah, Timely Wisdom**; study and discussion of the weekly Torah portion with Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein, see www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu for details

Thursday, September 3, 1:15 PM (and every Thursday) – **Queering the Parsha: A Weekly Study Group toward an LGBTQ+ Perspective on the Weekly Torah Portion**, with Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, Ph.D., a Laasok program cosponsored by Keshet and A Wider Bridge, see www.jewishoceancounty.org/jvu for details

Thursday, September 3, 7:30 PM (and the first Thursday of every month) – **Caregivers Group** led by Rita Sason, Jewish Family and Children’s Service, virtual online, 732-363-8010

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day

Friday night, September 11 – Rosh Hashanah begins

Monday, September 14 – Tzom Gedaliah (Fast of Gedaliah)

Sunday night – Monday, September 20-21 – Yom Kippur

Friday night, September 25 – Sukkot begins

Friday night, October 2 – Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah begins

For information, contact the event host or see related publicity in this issue of The Jewish Journal.

Earthquakes

Continued from page 9

volunteers. To date, JDC has distributed essential food and non-food items to over 6,000 individuals (both Jewish and non-Jewish).

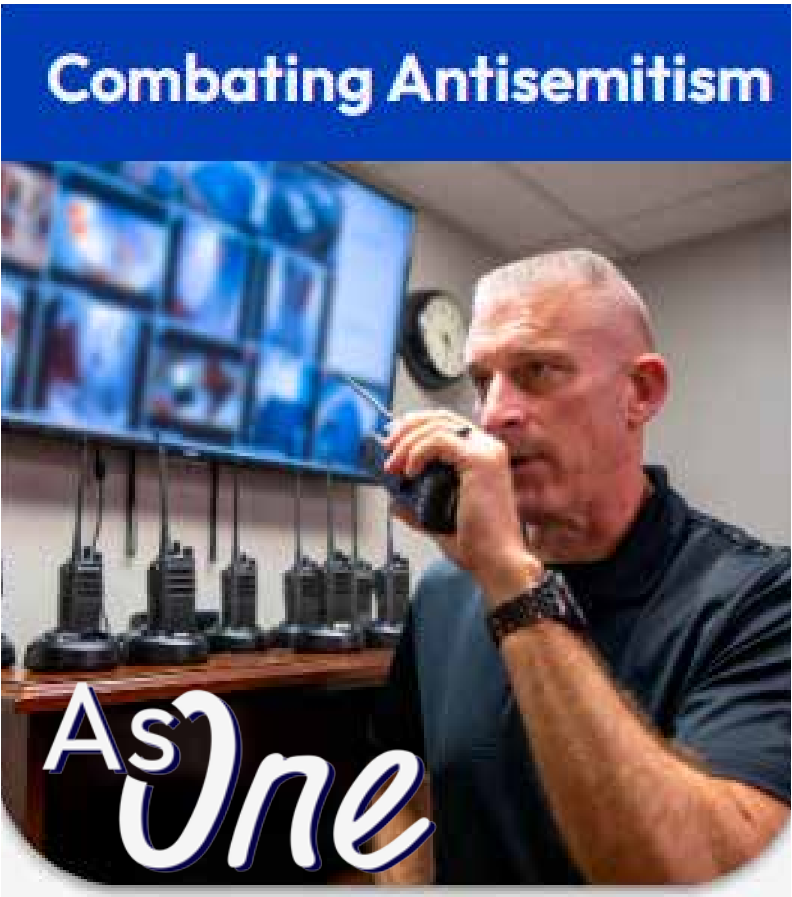
The Jewish Agency has worked for years with the Venezuelan Jewish community to build the infrastructure, leadership, and preparedness that now enable an effective, coordinated response. The recent earthquakes in Venezuela presented an additional acute challenge within the broader complex reality that the country’s Jewish community has had to navigate. In this moment of crisis, these long-term investments were complemented by targeted emergency assistance provided during the current response, helping the community address urgent needs as they emerged.

The Jewish Agency’s response to the current situation reflects not only the value of long-term investment in people, institutions, leadership, and community capacity, but also the tangible impact of sustained partnership over time. It demonstrates how enduring collaboration – across education, community life, leadership development, preparedness, and organizational capacity – creates the foundation that enables communities not only to respond in times of crisis, but also to continue thriving in the face of ongoing challenges.

Introducing: Ocean Inc. Veterans EZ Ride Transportation Program

The program provides a monetary credit in an EZ Ride account that veterans use to book Uber/Lyft rides to and from medical appointments, grocery/retail shopping, military organizational social and any other community event. A spouse/caregiver is able to ride with the veteran. Participants must own a cell phone to utilize the program. If you or someone you know is a veteran and requires transportation services, contact the Ocean Inc. Veterans Transportation Coordinator, Carmine Czapl at (732) 496-3704 or via email at cczapl@oceaninc.org. During the registration process, be sure to have available a [Drivers License](#), Military ID or Veterans VA ID and a copy of your DD214 Form.

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Securing Our Community

SCN & Partners Launch Further Expansion of Regional Threat Capability Initiative to Strengthen National “Virtual Shield”

Expansion Unifies & Enhances Threat Management & Information Sharing in Colorado, Georgia, and Pennsylvania



July 15, 2026

securecommunitynetwork.org

Chicago, Illinois – The Secure Community Network (SCN) announced the continued expansion of the threat management and information-sharing capabilities for the Jewish community through partnership efforts with Jewish Federations in Colorado, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. With direct connectivity to SCN’s national technology and data platforms, analysts deployed to those regions will support multiple Federations, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, and JEWISHcolorado, as well as dozens of smaller communities.

The Regional Threat Capability Initiative, built in collaboration between Federations, public safety and law enforcement agencies, community partners, and SCN – and initially supported through the LiveSecure initiative, a national security campaign led by Jewish Federations of North America that raised a record \$130 million to invest in Jewish security – is strengthening coordination, breaking down information silos, and connecting local expertise with SCN’s national threat management capabilities.

This latest milestone strengthens the security of the broader Federation ecosystem by extending SCN’s “Virtual Shield” across more than 45 Jewish Federations and partners, adding to current partnerships that cover Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Western New York to provide threat management.

“The Jewish community continues to face an unprecedented threat environment, making collaboration and information sharing more important than ever,” said Renée Rockford, President & CEO, JEWISHcolorado. “Through this expanded partnership with the Secure Community Network, JEWISHcolorado and our funding partners of Rose Community Foundation and the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Colorado are helping build a stronger, more connected security infrastructure that links our local expertise with national threat analysis and law enforcement partnerships. Together, we are creating a safer, more resilient Jewish community for Colorado and contributing to a nationwide network dedicated to protecting Jewish life.”

“Security is a shared responsibility, and no community should face today’s evolving threat environment alone. This partnership strengthens our ability to work alongside SCN, law enforcement, and Federations across the country to proactively identify threats, share information, and better protect Jewish Atlanta,” said Renee Kutner, President & CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. “We are proud to be part of a growing national effort that makes every participating community stronger.”

“Security is built through partnership, preparation, and shared responsibility. By joining SCN’s Regional Threat Capability Initiative, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is strengthening our ability to identify potential threats earlier, share critical information more effectively, and coordinate with trusted partners across the region and the country,” said

Michael Balaban, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. “This collaboration enhances our ability to help safeguard Jewish life while ensuring our community remains resilient, connected, and prepared.”

“The continued widespread adoption of SCN’s Regional Threat Capability Initiative reflects the power of collaboration between SCN, Federations, and communities nationwide,” said Michael Masters, SCN National Director & CEO. “Together, we are building a shared threat management framework that breaks down information silos, strengthens coordination, and enables communities to identify threats earlier, share information faster, and better protect Jewish life.”

The Regional Threat Capability Initiative is powered by proprietary SCN programs and technologies covered under SCN’s U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) SAFETY Act Designation. SCN is the only faith-based organization to receive this designation for its proprietary anti-terrorism technologies and threat management systems, which DHS recognizes as a Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology (QATT).

In 2025, SCN referred more than 850 threats to life to state and urban fusion centers and the FBI’s National Threat Operations Center (NTOC), which led to the arrests of individuals threatening Jewish and other faith-based communities.

Secure Community Network Update – July Report

By Michael G. Masters
National Director & CEO
August 5, 2026

securecommunitynetwork.org

As the camping season comes to a close, we transition to preparing for a return to college campuses and the welcoming of the High Holidays.

To ensure the ongoing security of our community, the Secure Community Network (SCN) continued to expand our virtual shield, deepen partnerships, and deliver new resources to strengthen and empower our community.

Working together, key Federation partners and SCN enhanced our proactive efforts to identify threats and disrupt those who plot against us through the expansion of SCN’s Regional Threat Capability Initiative into Colorado, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. Our Virtual Shield is now working across the entire country and in direct partnership with more than 45 Federations and partner organizations.

Our Regional Threat Capability Initiative is delivering life-saving results for our communities. U.S. Attorney Theodore Hertzberg highlighted SCN’s collaboration with the FBI, local law enforcement, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, which successfully led to two

high-profile arrests and prosecutions of individuals targeting the Jewish community.

These efforts demonstrate what is possible when communities are connected, prepared, and supported by a coordinated network of security professionals, law enforcement partners, and communal leaders.

Our efforts to secure the community extend from the virtual to the physical. Please join us for our 2026 High Holidays Safety and Security Webinar Series to guarantee that, through our commitment to security, we can allow Jewish life to thrive.

Running from 04 August through 03 September and developed with communal leaders, clergy, security experts, and law enforcement, the series includes tailored planning tools, security resources, and new additions to our popular 60 Seconds to Safety video series.

Ensuring safety and openness during the High Holidays requires proactive planning. I encourage all to register, explore these resources, and connect with your local Community Security Professional and local law enforcement ahead of time.

Stay safe.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) established the Secure Community Network (SCN) in 2004. The SCN is a nonprofit organization that works to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community in North America. The SCN’s mission is to help individuals and organizations develop a culture of awareness, preparedness, and resilience through training, consultation, and information sharing. The SCN works with over 300 independent communities, 146 federations, and 50 partner organizations, as well as with partners in the public, private, academic, and non-profit sectors.





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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT **www.OHINJ.org**

JOIN US for Ocean County’s Jewish Cultural Festival!

Highlighting programs and events throughout our community: movies, food, games...

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◀ Thursday, October 15
Beth Am Shalom

Fantasy Life
starring *Amanda Peet*

After losing his job as a paralegal, Sam Stein suffers a panic attack and stumbles into a job babysitting his psychiatrist’s three granddaughters. The girls’ mother, Dianne, is an actor

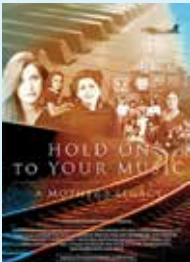
whose once-promising career has stalled; she’s in a difficult marriage to David, a rock bassist. When David goes abroad on tour, Dianne and Sam discover an easy rapport.

Sunday, October 18 ▶
JCC of LBI

**Hold On To Your Music:
A Mother’s Legacy**

with guest speaker *Manny Lindenbaum*

A young pianist escapes Nazi occupied Vienna on the Kindertransport, carrying nothing but her music and her mother’s final words. That act of love creates an artistic legacy that resonates across generations.



◀ Sunday, October 25
Marquee Cinemas, Toms River

The Everything Pot
starring *Lisa Edelstein*

A comedy of errors ensues when empty nester Rachel hastily sends a gift to Charlie, a former colleague, upon receiving his wedding invitation. The young couple’s wedding gets Rachel out of her perpetual state of ennui in her own marriage and brings unexpected excitement, which inadvertently causes chaos in both unions.

Sunday, October 25 ▶
Marquee Cinemas, Toms River

Ethan Bloom starring *Josh Malina*

Thirteen-year-old Ethan is supposed to be preparing for his bar mitzvah - but despite his Jewish family, Ethan is convinced his spiritual calling is with the Catholic church, where he secretly finds solace under the guidance of Father Diaz.



Jewish
Cultural
Festival
events
coming
this
fall!



Sunday, November 1 ▲
Chabad of Toms River

Babka Baking

Join a hands-on, social workshop where participants learn to mix, fill, twist, and bake traditional sweet yeast breads together. Connecting neighbors through shared culinary traditions and the joy of creating fresh pastry. \$5 to register.



Thursday, November 5 ▲
Ocean County Library

PJ Library Game Show

Participants and the audience will get to test their Jewish cultural knowledge. Pre-registration is required, include adults in number attending.



This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

More information on these events is available at:
WWW.JEWISHOCEANCOUNTY.ORG/CULTURALFESTIVAL
Become a sponsor and don't miss out on any of the fun!

2026 Sponsorship & Registration



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- Patron Sponsor: \$1,000** – Includes tickets for events and name listing in Ocean JPages

All sponsorship levels are listed in multiple issues of the Jewish Journal and featured on our website, in community emails and social media.

WWW.JEWISHOCEANCOUNTY.ORG/SPONSORSHIPS

----- The deadline to be in the next issue of the Jewish Journal is the first Thursday of each month -----

Name	Credit Card Number
Address	CVV Expiration Date
Email	Signature
Phone	☐ My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed. (please make checks payable to: Jewish Federation of Ocean County)

Full Series Discount Sponsor Level: ☐ Gold@ \$5000 ☐ Silver@ \$2750 ☐ Bronze@ \$1500 ☐ Patron@ \$1000
(Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors, please email camera-ready logo to sharron@ocjf.org)

☐ Sponsor Level: ☐ Gold@ \$1800 ☐ Silver@ \$1000 ☐ Bronze@ \$540 ☐ Patron@ \$360

Single Event – Fill in (Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors, please email camera-ready logo to sharron@ocjf.org)

Please list your name/business exactly as you prefer it to appear: _____

☐ Oct. 15 – Fantasy Life ☐ Oct. 18 – Hold On To Your Music ☐ Oct. 25 – The Everything Pot ☐ Oct. 25 – Ethan Bloom
#Tickets _____ x \$10 per film/ \$36 for all four films = _____

☐ November 1 – Babka Baking
Attending _____ x \$5/person = _____

☐ November 5 – Game Show by Mainstages
Attending (including parents) _____

Send form to: Jewish Federation of Ocean County · 1235A Route 70 · Lakewood, NJ 08701 · 732-363-0530

German Jewish Refugees on Isle of Man – Yom Kippur 1940

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

*Posted on Facebook
October 2, 2025*

On October 11, 1940, hundreds of German Jewish refugees observed Yom Kippur on the idyllic Isle of Man off the coast of England. Though the island was a favorite tourist spot with beautiful promenades along the ocean, none of those refugees had chosen to be there. Rather, they were being held as potential enemies of the United Kingdom as war with Germany continued.

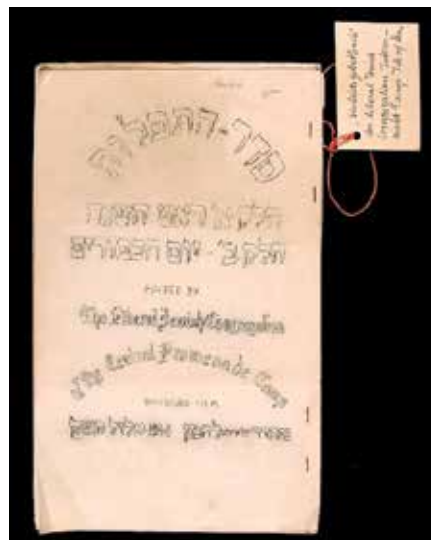
British leaders were fearful of foreign-born immigrants they believed might be a threat to national security during wartime. In response, on May 12, 1940, Winston Churchill decided all foreign-born from Axis countries living in Britain, both “friendly” and not, would be placed in internment camps. In a cruel twist of fate, many of those detained were the German Jews who sought asylum in the United Kingdom, hoping to avoid detainment by the Nazis. The irony of this policy was not lost on Axis leaders. When Hitler found out about the existence of these camps, he gloated that “the enemies of Germany are now the

enemies of Britain too.”

Despite the trauma and injustice of their detainment, the thousands of prisoners held on the Isle of Man sought autonomy whenever possible: theatre, literature, education, and art thrived in the camps. Jewish internees also celebrated their religious traditions, affirming their connection to the heritage that brought them to the United Kingdom in the first place.

This 1940 handwritten prayer book edited by The Liberal Jewish Congregation of the Central Promenade Camp was created by interned Jews for fellow interned Jews. Lacking these basic religious objects, the imprisoned congregants produced their own material to help fellow celebrants honor one of the holiest days in the Jewish calendar.

This woodcut of a high holiday service was created in the same year and in the same location as the prayer book, likely depicting the scene in which it was used. These pieces represent an underexplored area of Holocaust history and show a form of spiritual resistance in the face of adversity.



High Holy Day prayer booklet made by German Jewish refugees interned on the Isle of Man, 1940, Isle of Man, United Kingdom (Collection of The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, 2000.A.637)



High Holy Day scene at the Palace Theatre of the camp, 1940, Isle of Man, United Kingdom (Collection of The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. 2000.A.644)



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The image is a vertical advertisement. At the top is the Rehabco Inc. logo, which consists of a blue house icon with a white 'R' inside, followed by the text 'Rehabco Inc.' in a green, sans-serif font. Below the logo is a photograph of five construction workers. They are all wearing hard hats (yellow or blue) and tool belts. The worker in the center is smiling and holding a long wooden plank over his shoulder. The other workers are also smiling or looking towards the camera. The background of the photo is white. Below the photo, the text 'ATTENTION LOCAL GENERAL CONTRACTORS' is written in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath this, in smaller black text, it says 'Lakewood Township's Housing Rehabilitation Program for local qualified residents is seeking qualified, registered General Contractors.' A horizontal line separates this text from the bottom section. The bottom section contains the following text: 'Please email your company's business card or advertisement package and insurance Certificate to rehabco@aol.com to be included on our list for your company to bid on our next series of projects.'

“You feel you are witnessing the very moment of destruction”

Rare Well-Preserved Iron Age Wood said to Offer Evidence of First Temple’s Destruction

Ahead of Tisha B’Av, archaeologists announce discovery of beams charred from fires they believe were caused by razing of Jerusalem holy site in 586 BCE, likely kept as-is by returning Israelites.



The growth rings of the wooden beams discovered in the City of David, believed to have been burnt in 586 BCE (Efrat Bocher)

By Zev Stub
July 20, 2026
timesofisrael.com

Archaeologists have discovered wooden beams believed to have been burned during the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE, the Israel Antiquities Authority said on July 20, ahead of the Tisha B’Av fast later in the week. It is extremely rare to find preserved wood from the Iron Age in the Land of Israel.

The beams, made of sycamore wood,

were unearthed during a recent dig at the Jerusalem Walls National Park in the City of David, in the Givati parking lot, as part of excavations conducted by the IAA and Tel Aviv University, the antiquities authority said. Researchers posited that they served as the roof of an inner courtyard in a building from the First Temple period.

During the destruction of the Temple, which is annually commemorated on Tisha B’Av, the beams likely collapsed onto the floor and were covered by the plaster cladding of the building’s walls, melted by the fire, excavation co-director Efrat Bocher said. She added that this plaster seal is what ultimately enabled their exceptional preservation. “We are just before Tisha B’Av,” Bocher said. “This discovery makes you feel that you are witnessing the very moment of destruction, the moment when it all happened. It’s deeply moving.” Tisha B’Av, which this year begins at sundown on Wednesday, July 22 and ends at nightfall on Thursday, is observed through a fast and special prayers and readings.



Johanna Regev of the Israel Antiquities Authority (Reut Vilf/City of David)

Other well-preserved wood from a coniferous tree was found in the First Temple destruction layer and exhibits numerous growth rings, making it easier to date with accuracy, noted IAA’s Johanna Regev, who is studying the find and is an expert in radiocarbon dating. “It is very rare in Israel to find wood with such a large number of growth rings,” Regev said. “Here, in the City of David, we found thick beams with many rings, offering significant research potential.”

The combination of radiocarbon dating of the wood, along with the preserved tree rings, makes the dating much more



Israel Antiquities Authority excavations in the City of David (Reut Vilf/City of David)

accurate, she said. “Until now, we could date finds within a range of hundreds of years,” Regev said. “Now we can attain much greater precision, narrowing the dating range down to as little as 10 years.”

Israelites who returned to Jerusalem decades after the Temple’s destruction probably made a deliberate decision to leave the charred remains intact to preserve the memory of the event, said Yiftah Shalev, who directs the excavation on behalf of the IAA alongside Prof. Yuval Gadot of

Continued on page 27



"For the Lord thy God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, and grapevines, figs and pomegranates; a land of oil olives and date honey."
Deuteronomy/Devarim 8:7-8

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2 Call the Federation office at 732-363-0530 and talk with our staff about donation options.

3 Make a monthly gift to support these critical services.

We continue our prayers for Israel:
May those who are wounded have a complete recovery.
May the memories of those who died be forever a blessing.
May all have peace.

Jewish Holiday Family Photos

We invite our community members to submit a few photographs of their family's recent holiday celebrations. Include a one-line caption describing the activity in the photo.

You may include everyone's name or just your family's name or without any names at all.

All submissions are subject to our editorial review, and we do not promise that all submitted photos will be published.

Email your submission to jewishocean@gmail.com.

We invite our community members to submit original poetry or short essays (500 words or less) to the Jewish Journal. All submissions are subject to our editorial review, and we do not promise that all will be published.

Email your submission to jewishocean@gmail.com.



TRIBUTE DONATIONS

FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF TZEDAKAH WITH AN INDIVIDUAL TRIBUTE CARD FOR \$18 EACH.

Jewish Federation of Ocean County accepts a minimum donation of \$18 and sends a Tribute card as well as lists your tribute in the Jewish Journal to anyone you may want to acknowledge; a simcha, graduation, an award, new grandchild, starting a new adventure, get well, loss of a loved one, or any other life-altering event. Call the Jewish Federation of Ocean County at 732-363-0530, email federation@ocjf.org or visit our website www.jewishoceancounty.org/tribute.

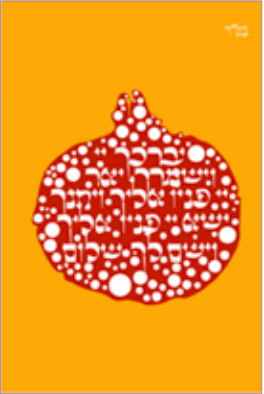


Special Offer

A Tribute Card Pack

You can purchase a dozen blank assorted tribute cards to send on your own for a \$36 contribution to the Jewish Federation.







Send an email tribute for a minimum donation of \$10

Mazel Tov, In Honor of You, Birthdays, and In Memory of - e-mail cards sent on your behalf and listed in the Jewish Journal.

NEW - purchase 10 birthday postcards for \$18



JFOC Tributes

July 9 – August 10

In Honor of
Eli Pontillo
Rita Sason by Rita Fine

In Memory of
Pearl Dearman
Marian Edith Salka Diamond





PJ Library Photos with Children

Do you have a photo of your child reading or holding a PJ Library book? We would like to publish some of them. We omit the names of children. The names of any adults in the photos could be included or omitted based on the guidance of the adult submitting the photo(s). Email them to jewishocean@gmail.com.

Here is How You Can Support Our Holocaust Survivors and Seniors

- Please contribute to:**
- Friends of JFCS
 - The Holocaust Survivors’ Special Fund
 - The Seniors Lunch Program Special Fund
- It is easy to donate a little each month, to make a big impact!**
- Go online to www.jewishoceancounty.org.
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 - Call the office and talk with our staff.
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- Consider making a monthly gift to support your community.

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Holocaust Survivors Alert

If you are a Holocaust Survivor who has never applied for compensation, or was turned down previously, there are new funds and guidelines. For more information, you may call the Claims Conference in NY at 646-536-9100 or go to their website: www.claimscon.org. Click on survivor resources, then click on compensation programs. They have a FAQ (frequently asked questions) section which should be read prior to applying.

All About the Jewish Holidays

By Sarah Rochel Hewitt, *Jewish Treats* by NJOP (formerly National Jewish Outreach Program)

Rosh Hashana – The Five Names

In Jewish tradition, Rosh Hashana has several names that can help us understand the importance and power of this holiday.

Rosh Hashana literally means “Head of the Year” because Rosh Hashana marks the point when we begin the new calendar year (e.g. from 5778 to 5779).

Yom Harat Olam is translated as “The Birthday of the World.”

Yom Hazikaron is translated as “The Day of Remembering.”

Yom Hadin is translated as “The Day of Judgment.”

Yom Teruah is translated as “The Day of Sounding (the Shofar).” This is the actual name that the holiday is called in the Torah.

OK, so there are five different names for the holiday. What is the significance of that? How do these different themes relate to each other?

The Teruah is the staccato sound blown on the shofar. Yom Teruah serves as a call to attention because this day is Yom Hadin, the Day of Judgment, and it is imperative that one be cognizant of the importance of the day.

It is the Day of Judgment because it is Yom Hazikaron, the day on which God looks back and “remembers” our deeds, individually, collectively and historically (a record of over 4,000 years of Jewish history).

Why is this the Day of Remembrance? Because it is the anniversary of the creation of the world (Yom Harat Olam). Since the annual cycle is closing, it is the perfect time for reflection and judgment. This new beginning allows us to enter the new year with a clean slate.

And since the old year and the new year are seamless, this day is also Rosh Hashana, the head of the year.

Yom Kippur – The Five Prohibitions

“...on the tenth of the month, you shall afflict your souls and do no work at all... for on that day God will forgive you and cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before God” (Leviticus 16:29-30).

How does one “afflict one’s soul”? The

oral law enumerates the following five restrictions:

Fasting (No eating or drinking) - From sunset on the eve of Yom Kippur until nightfall the next day, it is forbidden to eat or drink. However, those who are ill, as well as pregnant and nursing women, should and, in some cases, must, eat on Yom Kippur, as decided by their rabbi in consultation with their doctor. In such cases the rabbi should also be consulted about specific details of eating on Yom Kippur. Additionally, girls below the age of 12 and boys below the age of 13 are not required to fast.

Washing - During the fast, one may not wash for pleasure, but one may wash to get rid of dirt or when preparing food (e.g. for children). One may also bathe a baby.

Anointing - It is forbidden to anoint oneself with oil. Thus, the use of perfumes, liquid or cream make-up, suntan lotion, and other such items is prohibited.

Wearing Leather Shoes - During the fast it is forbidden to wear leather shoes. Some people wear only socks, but others wear shoes of canvas or other non-leather materials (i.e. Crocs).

Marital Relations - It is forbidden to have marital relations.

It may seem that refraining from the above actions would make one focus on the body, due to hunger or thirst, or the discomfort of not washing. However such discomforts are temporary and, in fact, turn one’s attention back to the importance of the day and the fact that we can transcend physical discomfort in order to connect with the spirit of the day.

Sukkot – More Than A Harvest Festival – The Sukkah

Few people refer to Sukkot by the name Chag Ha’Asif, Feast of the Gathering, but the Torah specifically states: “And you shall observe...the Feast of Gathering at the turn of the year” (Exodus 34:22). Perhaps this term is avoided lest the holiday be mistaken as a simple agricultural celebration. But, Sukkot is indeed an agricultural festival celebrated at the time of the harvest, when farmers bring in the fruits of their labor, and everyone prepares for the onset of winter. There is no question that, as a result of witnessing the miracle of harvest in the field, people are moved to be thankful to the Creator of all things.

Sukkot, however, is more than a harvest festival, because it isn’t actually about the crop. It is a festival meant to help Jews focus on the Source of those crops. This is why Jews move out of their comfortable homes and into their temporary dwellings (the sukkah) just as the weather grows chilly. It is a striking reminder that there is a more powerful Force in charge of one’s success. One can plant and sow and fertilize at all the right times, but one can only reap if God provides all of the right natural factors (good soil, proper amounts of rain at the right time, the farmer’s health, etc.).

While many today may not live in agricultural settings, that does not mean that we are not constantly dependent on a force greater than ourselves. No matter what profession one practices, one’s success is affected by thousands of different factors each day. While we may not personally gather our crops, we must always celebrate and be grateful for, and aware of, the Source of our sustenance.

Sukkot – Everyone Does the Wave – The Four Species

One of the main mitzvot of the holiday of Sukkot is the waving of the four species: citron (etrog), palm (lulav), myrtle (hadassim) and willow (aravot). Trying to understand this mitzvah metaphorically, our sages compared the four species to four different types of Jews:

The fruit of a “beautiful tree” (etrog) has both taste and scent, and is symbolic of those Jews who are well-versed in Torah and who have performed many good deeds.

The branch of the palm tree (lulav) has taste but no scent, and is symbolic of those Jews who are well-versed in Torah but have not performed good deeds.

The boughs of myrtle (hadassim) have scent but no taste, and are symbolic of those Jews who have performed many good deeds, but have not studied Torah.

The willows of the stream (aravot) have no taste and no scent, and are symbolic of those Jews who have neither studied Torah nor performed good deeds.

When the four species are brought together, they represent the complete spectrum of the Jewish people. Acknowledging our different strengths and weaknesses is critical not only in creating harmony among people, but in creating a unified nation.

Creating a unified nation represents the ideal state of the Jewish people. It was in a state of true unity that the Jewish people camped at Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, and it can only be as a unified whole that we can reach our full potential once again.

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah – One More Time to Rejoice

Shemini Atzeret, literally the Gathering of the Eighth, a connected, yet independent holiday, that immediately follows Sukkot.

During the seven days of Sukkot, when the Temple stood in Jerusalem, 70 bulls were sacrificed representing the original 70 nations of the world. The priests brought sin offerings for the nations, invoking a desire for universal atonement, peace and harmony.

Because of Sukkot’s focus on all nations, God ordained Shemini Atzeret to demonstrate God’s special love for the Jewish people – comparable to a host asking his/her best friend to stay after everyone else has left, in order to share a private moment and relish the time spent together.

Shemini Atzeret also doubles as the holiday of Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Torah), which marks the conclusion of the yearly cycle of the reading of the Torah. On the same day that the Torah is completed, it is begun again, to show that Torah is always new and fresh and that our mitzvah to study Torah is neverending.

On the night of Simchat Torah (which is the second night of the holiday outside of the land of Israel), all the Torah scrolls are removed from the ark. The bimah (platform or table on which Torah is read) is circled seven times by those holding the Torah scrolls with the congregation dancing joyously with them. Each encirclement, called a hakafa, begins with a responsive prayer. During the morning service, all the Torahs are again taken from the ark, and the hakafot, the joyous circling of the night before, are repeated. The final parasha (weekly portion) of the Torah, V’zot Ha’bracha (And this is the blessing...) is read. The final parasha is read over and over until everyone has been called to the Torah. In some congregations, several Torah readings take place simultaneously. Shortly thereafter, the beginning of the Book of Genesis is read, signaling that the Torah reading cycle has begun anew.

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The Transition to College

*By Deborah Sason, Guest Writer
Jewish Family & Children's Service*

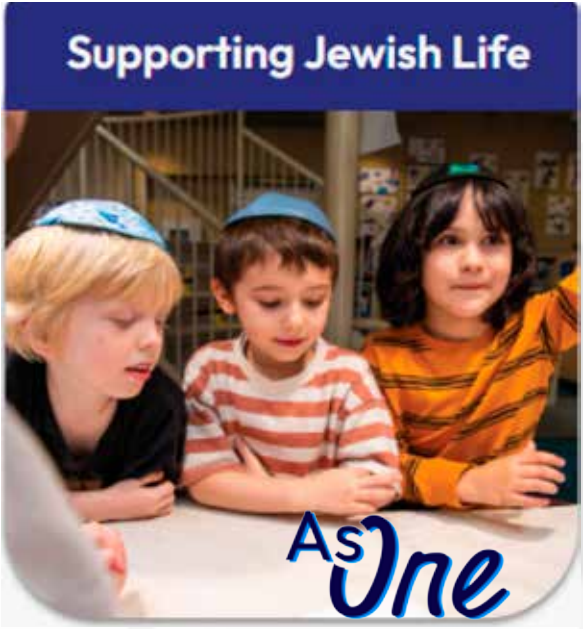
The transition to college is a major life event, but it need not be a stressful or difficult one. The difficult and often stressful challenges of the transition – independence, time management, and the search to find one's own way – present students with not just challenges, but opportunities as well. Incoming college freshmen must be prepared to handle these challenges in a positive way in order to avoid the pitfalls that often plague new college students.

Independence can be a blessing or curse because it can lead to organized success or to chaotic failure. In order for students to take advantage of their newfound freedom they must not only assume a mindset of responsibility but actively practice responsibility and make it a part of their routine. A simple way of practicing responsibility is to create daily or weekly to-do lists and to not end a day or a week until those tasks are completed. Such a practice will imprint responsibility and gradually increase a student's ability to withstand the often chaotic and disorderly atmosphere of college living.

Time Management is perhaps one of the most important skills for new students to learn in order to thrive in college and avoid common pitfalls. The best way to manage time is to prioritize your list of responsibilities based on due date, time, and difficulty. Get started right away on the assignments that are due soon, take the most time, and are the most difficult. This simple and effective strategy ensures that students will allocate their time in the most effective way possible, get their work done, and make their lives easier and less stressful.

The search to find one's own way is perhaps the most elusive and hard to define for college students. College is a time of change and personal discovery. Woodrow Wilson had a maxim about this phenomenon – "The purpose of a university should be to make a son as unlike his father as possible." That maxim still rings true today. How can students deal with the enormity of this task of self-discovery? The best way to maintain a balance between keeping an open mind and remembering that true and meaningful self-transformation is best not undertaken all at once. Change takes time. It is a journey, not revolution.

The active practice of responsibility, prioritization of tasks, and embrace of a mindset of gradual transformation will help to ensure that students handle the travails of college with success, confidence, and even a self-assured calmness and sense of enjoyment. The college years should be educational, enlightening, and even fun, but they can only be so with the right mindset and life skills. Good luck!



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If you're a PJ Library parent, chances are you've had a conversation with your kids at some point about why your family doesn't do things exactly the same way other families do. You may have compared how you celebrate holidays or how you keep or don't keep kosher.

Here are some easy tips (plus a script if you need it) to follow when your children ask: "Hey, why can their family do that but we can't?" What would you add to these suggestions?

1. Make your family rules as clear as possible. Discussing your guidelines with your parenting partner or other caregivers first will help you avoid power struggles during the conversation.
2. Be straightforward, and don't make promises you can't keep. It can be as simple as, "We're not having indoor playdates with friends right now because it's an important way to keep people healthy."
3. Acknowledge that different families have different rules. You don't need to beat around the bush or minimize the differences. If you know why some folks are doing things differently, you can say that. If you don't know why, then you don't have to guess or shame other folks for their choices.
4. Focus on the feelings, not the fight. Rather than getting into a debate about what your children can't do, look to their emotions. Let it be okay for your children to be sad or mad or whatever they need to be. Some feelings are unpleasant, but none of them are wrong.
5. Bring it back to values. Here's an easy script to follow that keeps the focus on your family:
"Each family can make certain rules. In our family, we believe that [particular item] works best for us." Or "In our family, [particular family rule] works best for us."

Well-Preserved Iron Age Wood

Continued from page 19

Tel Aviv University. "Preserving memory is a human need, seeking to preserve what once existed," Shalev said. "Here we see it in its clearest form – a deliberate choice to leave ruins in place as a testament to the destruction and build the new layer over them."



First Temple-era destruction remains discovered during Israel Antiquities Authority excavations in the City of David (Reut Vilf/ City of David)

The annual Tisha B'Av fast is generally considered the saddest day of the Jewish calendar. It commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, said to have occurred on the same day, centuries apart, and the exile of the Jewish people from the Land of Israel. The First Temple, built by the biblical King Solomon, was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, and the Second

Temple by the Romans in 70 CE. The day also marks a number of other historic calamities that have befallen the Jews.

Together with the **Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference)** and a grant from the State of New Jersey, the Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County has been providing the sacred obligation of pikuach nefesh (saving a life in jeopardy) to Holocaust Survivors for many years. We realize that unless you are impacted directly, you may not fully appreciate how important this work is. **Every dollar you contribute will be matched 25 times!**



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Ideal candidates would be individuals who or organizations that have had a concrete impact in our area:

- Countering hate or bigotry through individual action or initiating programs or activities to encourage standing up to hate
- Educating the community (especially younger audiences) about tolerance, diversity, and respect for differences
- Stepping up to respond to a crisis dealing with hate, bigotry, or bias
- Working to build bridges between different groups in our community, especially those where there may be differences or lack of understanding

When it comes to hate, bigotry, and discrimination no one community stands alone. Intolerance and attacks may be targeted to one particular group, but they seldom stop there; hate metastasizes and can spread easily. It takes people of faith and principle to step up, be upstanders, and to say: enough. That is the aim of honoring these Heroes Against Hate...to encourage more in our community to stand up, to speak out, and to make a difference. Please help us by identifying some of these local Heroes.

www.jewishoceancounty.org/communitycaring/nominations

JFOC is proud to honor our county's Heroes Against Hate each year at our Community of Caring Celebration held in December.

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Toms River Jewish Community Council

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For Shabbat with a Holiday:
Blessed are You, Ad-nai our G-d, Sovereign of the universe, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the light of Shabbat and Yom Tov.

For Yom Kippur:
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For all Holidays:
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