

The Jewish Journal

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Jewish Federation
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Celebrating 49 Years!

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MOVIES BACK IN THE THEATER!

Ethan Bloom

Sunday, October 25

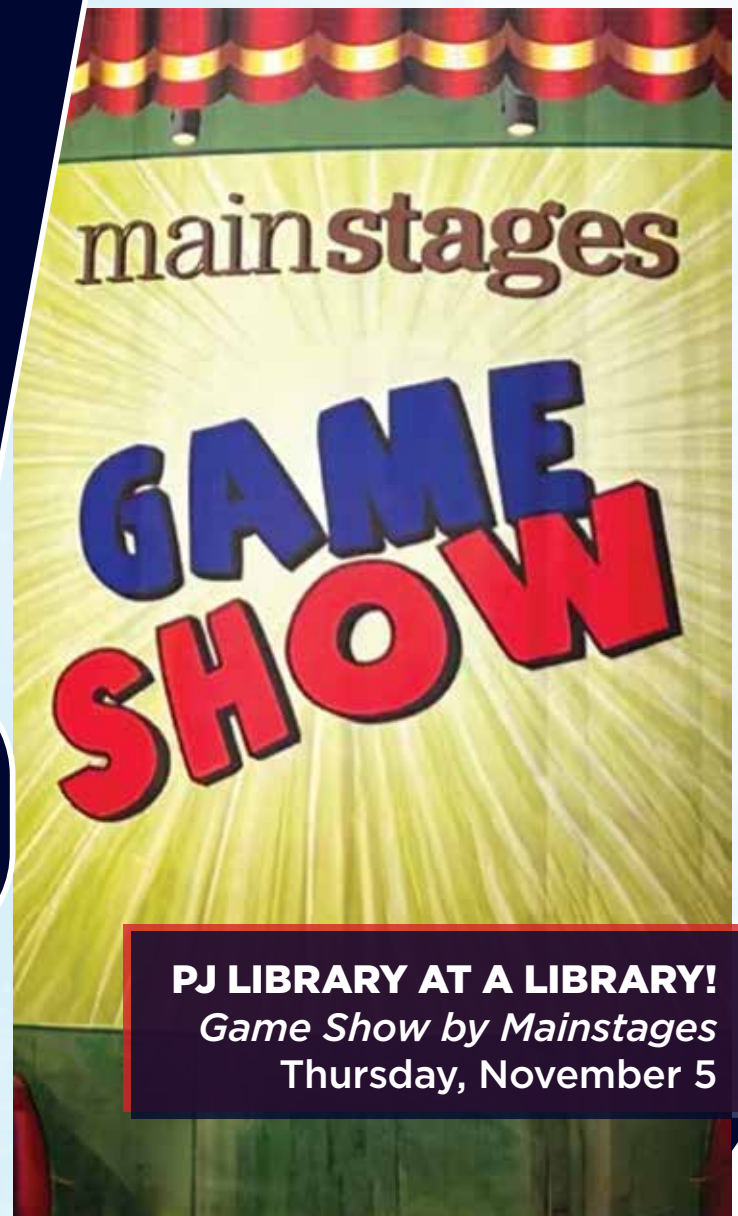


*A sneak
preview of
some of the
Jewish
Cultural
Festival
events
coming
this fall!*

**JEWISH 2026
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL**
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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.



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Game Show by Mainstages

Thursday, November 5

Local News - see pages 5, 6 and 7

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Childish Games



By Keith Krivitzky, Managing Director
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732.363.0530

I've written before about some childhood pastimes that can get us into trouble when we play with them in the adult world. Bubbles. Marbles. And spitballs.

Bubbles are fun. They come in all shapes and sizes. They are beautiful, shimmering, and comforting – and distort the light that passes through them, the world we see, in magical ways. Many of us like to live inside them – preferring familiar voices, familiar perspectives, familiar people. But bubbles burst. They are flimsy, tenuous. And when they do, the shock, anger, and disorientation can be real.

I believe we need to have more difficult conversations with those who see things differently than we do and with whom we disagree.

Marbles are different. They are concrete, solid, and portable. You can play anywhere, with anyone, even by yourself. Yet we all know what happens when kids play with each other. They fight. They get upset. They decide they're done with someone or something and move on – scooping up their marbles and going home, leaving others to stand around awkwardly, dejected, and hurt.

And then there's the ever-popular pastime of shooting spitballs. We know exactly what those look like in grown-up form: potshots from the sidelines, anonymous criticism, drive-by commentary.

So – why am I writing about these diversions? Because, when these patterns play out in the adult world, they are not just diversions. They have consequences, often unintended and negative.

When people live in their bubbles, they see things through a more comfortable

yet distorted perspective that doesn't give the whole picture. People in bubbles tend to view the world through a more narrow lens, focusing on and engaging with others who are like them, who agree with them. They shy away from diversity and disagreement, avoid healthy and constructive tension, and limit their perspectives. And when those bubbles burst – there's hell to pay.

I have seen many adults walk away from groups, causes, or conversations the moment something feels uncomfortable or unfamiliar. In the nonprofit world, I have seen many adults take their marbles and walk, in the form of donations or support, when they come into contact with opinions or people who don't confirm with their view of the world. That's not healthy – for them or the organizations/causes they once supported.

And those who still shoot spitballs or take potshots from the sidelines? That doesn't help anyone.

Alexis de Tocqueville, in his work "Democracy in America," saw voluntary associations and civic engagements as a hallmark of American democracy and one of the reasons this national experiment worked.

When people withdraw into bubbles,

take their marbles home, or shoot spitballs, those associations fray. Communities weaken. Democracy suffers. And our own lives become smaller.

I saw this recently when we hosted a community leadership roundtable with Senator Andy Kim. Senator Kim reached out to talk about antisemitism with our community and what could be done. We know there are several issues where there may be some daylight between the Senator and many in our community. Yet, I was surprised when several invited leaders declined to meet with the Senator because they disagreed. I was also disheartened to read some of the attacks, vitriol, and potshots in comments after the gathering which was, at the very least, a serious and constructive conversation.

I believe we need to have more difficult conversations with those who see things differently than we do and with whom we disagree. That's the only way to delve into issues that matter, perhaps differently for different people, and to find points of commonality and collaboration.

So, as we take stock, wind down the summer, and think of the year ahead – maybe we should be playing fewer childish games? There are more than points at stake.

Is it Time to Visit the "Captain"?



By Rabbi Eli B. Perlman
Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood
www.bethamshalom.org

Late one night, Yitzi, a junior IDF Navy officer was responsible for guiding his ship through a difficult stretch of the Mediterranean Sea. Partway through, he realized he had lost his bearings and ordered the ship to stop. After several attempts to reestablish the ship's position, he awakened Captain Isaacson.

The captain came to the bridge, listened as Yitzi explained the situation, then calmly coached him through the steps nee-

This Shabbat, come, sit, stand, laugh, and cry with others who are doing the same thing. ... find a synagogue this Shabbat and come on in.

ded to get underway safely before returning to bed.

Yitzi was certain the incident had set back his chances for advancement by at least six to twelve months. To his surprise, Captain Isaacson called him to his cabin the next morning and handed him his qualification.

"But sir, I messed up," Yitzi said.

"No," replied the captain. "You did exactly the right thing. When you realized you had lost your bearings, you stopped the ship and called me. I can sleep at night knowing my officers make sound

decisions; not because they do not think they need me, but because they ask me for help when they need it."

Many of us visit our "Captain" who is with us all the time. Some of us occasionally. Some of us, not at all.

What we might want to think about is that each of us has a "Captain" we can always turn to because our "Captain" never rests (except on Shabbat). Our "Captain" is our ever-loving G*d. That is why going to a synagogue on Shabbat allows us to (re)experience our G*d's unyielding patience, infinite understanding, and endless love of each and every one of us.

This Shabbat, come, sit, stand, laugh, and cry with others who are doing the same thing. We are a family that shares the same needs. We are a family that suffers loss, not alone, but together. We are a family that celebrates great times, not alone, but together. We are a family that needs to be with our "Captain" and each

other increasingly each day. We are a family that needs a family.

So, find a synagogue this Shabbat and come on in. Come and let others in our Jewish family who share the same needs, share the same G*d, share the same feelings welcome you into our Jewish family with open arms. You will thank yourselves for it. That is my guarantee to you.

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.

Jewish Federation of Ocean County Impact

Venezuela Earthquake Response



From Jewish Federations of North America

By Gary Torgow,
Chair, Board of Trustees;
Sara Gottlieb, Chair,
Israel and Overseas; and
Eric Fingerhut, Senior Vice President,
Israel and Overseas
June 25, 2026

Two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela in the evening of June 24, causing widespread destruction and sending residents into the streets as emergency crews searched for survivors. The twin quakes, measuring magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5, occurred less than a minute apart and were among the strongest to hit in the country's history. Authorities declared a nationwide state of emergency, closed the country's main international airport, suspended public transportation, and deployed medical personnel and rescue teams. Dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries have been confirmed, though the toll is expected to rise.

Our hearts are with the people of Venezuela as they face the aftermath of these earthquakes. We mourn the lives lost and pray for the recovery of those who have been injured.

Early reports from Venezuela's Jewish community, which numbers several thousand, indicate that there have been no injuries or fatalities among community members. However, some members' homes sustained significant damage and are currently uninhabitable. The Jewish

community is providing safe temporary shelter for many community members, including those whose homes were damaged or who are without electricity, running water, or adequate supplies.

Our partners, the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and The Jewish Agency for Israel, are working to support the Venezuelan Jewish community and concerned family members in Israel. JDC is assisting the community on the ground and has authorized the distribution of non-perishable food supplies that were pre-positioned for emergencies. The Jewish Agency has activated its overseas emergency response table and established a dedicated hotline through its Global Center for Venezuelan immigrants in Israel and for those seeking information about immigrating to Israel. We will closely monitor the situation alongside our partners to assess evolving needs and determine any additional response that may be required.

It is at moments like this that every Federation and every Federation donor can – and should – be rightfully proud of the emergency response network that we have helped build and maintain for the benefit of the Jewish people worldwide. It is because of our annual core support for this critical work that we can assure our communities that the Jews of North America showed up immediately in this crisis with help and support and will continue to be there for the Jewish community of Venezuela as we are needed.

Thank you for all you do to ensure that we can once again fulfill the Jewish principle of Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazeh – all Jews are responsible for one another.

(Editor's Note: To help, you can donate through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County at this website, www.jewishoceancounty.org/disaster.)

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As One

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- We stand strong against rising hate.
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 Jewish Federation of Ocean County

 Scan the QR code or visit jewishoceancounty.org to learn more

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.

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Jewish Federation of Ocean County Impact



Personal story of Yoav

Yoav, a fifth grader in Afula's Youth Futures program, is a bright and curious child who loves soccer and spending time with his extended family. His grandparents live in Moshav Yakhini, a small village near the Gaza Strip, and Yoav often visits them during school holidays. For him, these visits are a cherished time of togetherness and celebration.

In 2023, Yoav and his family traveled to Yakhini for Simchat Torah. His mother, Hadar, shared their plans with Gali, Yoav's Mentor, during a phone call on Thursday, expressing her excitement for the time they would spend with loved ones. Neither of them could have imagined that in just two days – on October 7 – their world would be turned upside down.

On Shabbat morning, as the family rested together, sirens began blaring across the village. Such alarms had become a grim routine in their lives, but this time was different. Reports of a mass terrorist infiltration spread quickly, and the family scrambled to seek shelter. Hadar, her father, and her 18-year-old nephew climbed to the roof of their house to assess the situation. From there, they saw a car racing toward their property, filled with armed terrorists. The attackers spotted them, hurled a grenade that miraculously didn't detonate, and began shooting. Hadar's nephew was hit.

The family retreated inside, desperately trying to stop the bleeding and keep the door shut as the attackers attempted to force their way in. Amid the chaos, Hadar contacted Gali, seeking advice on how to comfort Yoav and the other children, who were terrified and huddled together. Hours passed, filled with fear and uncertainty, before the terrorists finally withdrew. Tragically, Hadar's nephew succumbed to his injuries. Roads were blocked, making evacuation nearly impossible, but with Gali's support and coordination with local authorities, the family was eventually rescued and transported to safety in Afula.

Recognizing Yoav's resilience and need for hope, Gali and the Youth Futures team wanted to give him a moment to smile again – a memory to hold onto in difficult times. Through a collaboration with the football team of Beitar Jerusalem, Yoav was invited to meet the players of his favorite soccer team. The experience was nothing short of magical. The players greeted him warmly, posed for photos, signed jerseys, and shared words of encouragement. For Yoav, this was more than a dream come true; it was a moment of light in the midst of darkness, reminding him that he is seen, supported, and cared for.

This small but meaningful gesture was a powerful reminder of the impact we can have when we come together to support children like Yoav. At Youth Futures, we believe in the transformative power of community, resilience, and hope.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of Mentors like Gali and the generosity of Beitar Jerusalem, we are able to turn moments of despair into opportunities for healing and joy. Yoav's story is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the difference we can make when we show up for one another.



Local News

Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood, Held their Board Installation

On Friday nights, June 12 and 19, at their erev Shabbat services, Beth Am Shalom honored outgoing members of the Board of Trustees and installed their new 2026-2027 Board of Trustees.

The new Board consists of Jeff Levien, President; Susan Karsh, Vice President; Florence Galloway Markowitz, Financial Vice President; Allison Lavine, Treasurer; Melanie Giudice, Secretary; and Trustees Jessica Christian, Bonnie Dusza, Jared Eisenberg, Arlene Gaona, Lauren Morrish, and Samantha Santiago. Outgoing Board Members are Fran Gimpel as President, Glenn Steinberg as 2nd Vice President, Brad Hyman as Treasurer, Randi Bell as Secretary, and Shelly Newman as Trustee.

For information about Beth Am Shalom, call the BAS Office at 732-363-2800.



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Chaim Respes, Rabbi Dr. Sharon Monter, President

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.

Local News

Jewish War Veterans of the USA Update

"A Jewish Voice for Veterans, A Veterans Voice for Jews"

By Al Adler

"Summertime, Summertime, Sum Sum Summertime" – I love summer, our community pool is open, my vegetable garden in our community farm is giving us lots of veggies and free summer concerts will be starting soon. You can understand why I love summer.

My wife Carol is the National President of the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary and I am her "national schlepper." On May 18, we left for New London, Connecticut and the Coast Guard Academy. Carol represented the JWV Ladies Auxiliary at the US Coast Guard Academy Individual Proficiency Awards Ceremony 2026. Carol presented the National Ladies Auxiliary Jewish War Veterans Award to the cadet who stands first in American Government. The award was first presented to a cadet in 1962. The award was presented to I/C Paul Hobbs. After the assembly we had a delicious lunch with the awardee and his family. Cadet Hobbs was joined by his parents, his grandparents, his brothers and sisters. Congratulations I/C Hobbs and "Semper Paratus".

On May 21, we drove to Annapolis to attend the United States Naval Academy Prizes and Awards Assembly. The guest speaker was Lieutenant General Michael J. Borgschulte, USMC. Ladies Auxiliary National President Carol Adler presented the JWVA Award to Midshipman 1st Class Kajal Dongre. The JWVA award is presented to the Midshipmen of the graduating class who is selected as outstanding 2nd Regimental Commander. Congratulations Kajal Dongre.

On May 24, we were off again to one of our Military Academies, in this case the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We flew into Denver and rented a car to take us to our hotel in Colorado Springs. We had a very special escort during our visit to the Air Force Academy. Our escort was Captain Ayres and he was wonderful. He took us on a guided tour of the academy and made sure we had excellent seats at the Awards ceremony and Graduation program.

On May 26, we attended the 2026 Graduation Awards Ceremony. Carol represented the National Ladies Auxiliary and presented the award to the Outstanding Cadet in Behavioral Sciences and leader-

ship to Cadet Jordan E. Martinez.

The graduation ceremony was the next day at Falcon Stadium. We were very fortunate that the weather held out although it was cloudy and overcast. The ceremony was absolutely beautiful. The guest speaker was Vice President J. D. Vance. We enjoyed the spectacle, even petted a baby falcon, but unfortunately the Thunder Jet show was cancelled due to the overcast conditions.

On June 14, JWV and the JWVA Ladies Auxiliary Department of New Jersey held their 95th Annual Convention at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River. The convention began with a delicious breakfast. After the opening ceremonies a beautiful and solemn Memorial Service was conducted by the JWV Ladies Auxiliary. Congratulations to Tracey Adler, Susan Karsh, Debbie Mellitz and Sandra Fritts who worked so hard to make this service so memorable.

After the Memorial Service testimonials were presented by JWVA Ladies Auxiliary Department Co-Presidents Maxine Berger and Sandra Fritts and JWV Department Commander Michael Steinhorn. A very beautiful POW/MIA Ceremony presentation was conducted by Past JWV National Commander Nelson Mellitz, Col USAF (Ret). The convention keynote speaker, USMC Pilot Josh Zager, gave a very informative and interesting talk.

At the Department Convention, Nominations and Elections of Department Officers were held. The JWV officers for 2026-2027 are Commander Michael Steinhorn (125), Senior Vice Commander Perry Levine (126) and Junior Vice Commander Jerry Levine (125).

The JWV Ladies Auxiliary Department Officers for 2026-2027 are Department President Sandra Fritts, Department Senior Vice President Tracey Adler, Department Junior Vice President Gail Cohen, Treasurer Bonnie Stein, Chaplain Debbie Mellitz and Judge Advocate Sophie Ruderman. Congratulations to all of our Department Officers.

The best moment of the Convention was when special framed proclamations were presented to two JWVA members on their 100th birthdays – one from Manchester Mayor Joseph Hankins to JWVA mem-

ber Ellie Kravetz in honor of her 100th birthday and one from Lakewood Deputy Mayor Menasche Miller to JWVA member Edith Wolpin on her 100th birthday. We are so blessed to have these two lovely ladies in the JWV Ladies Auxiliary.

My dearest Carol – August 29 is Carol and my 50th wedding anniversary. I have been really blessed to be married to the most wonderful loving woman I have ever met. Carol has been by my side during the good times and supported and provided me strength during my three cancer diagnoses. I am so proud of all she has achieved and her devotion to our Veterans. I love you so much and look forward to more years with you.

That's all for now folks. Enjoy the rest of the summer and please remember our men and women in harms way, our EMS and first responders, and our Veterans, and God Bless the USA.



JWVA National President Carol Adler presenting the JWVA Award to Midshipmen 1st class Kajal Dongre in Annapolis.



JWVA National President Carol Adler presenting the JWVA award to Cadet Jordan E. Martinez at the Air Force Academy



Ellie Kravetz and Edith Wolpin walking with Auxiliary 178 members and their family to receive proclamations for their 100th birthdays.



JWVA National President Carol Adler with a falcon at the Air Force Academy.



JWVA National President Carol Adler with I/C Cadet Hobbs at the Coast Guard Academy.



JWVA National President Carol Adler at the Air Force Academy



Local News

With Food and Song, Women at Congregation B'nai Israel, Toms River, Celebrate Rosh Chodesh



They sing about love and mourning, friendship and peace, sadness and joy and, of course, holidays. Some of the songs are in English, some in Hebrew, and some in Yiddish. But each song is carefully chosen to mark the turning of the Jewish calendar and the start of a new month.

Since 2018, Cantor Ruth Katz Green of Congregation B'nai Israel has led women in song and sisterhood to mark Rosh Chodesh. Asked by the former CBI President Phil Brilliant to develop a monthly program for women, Cantor Green gravitated toward what she loves and does best: sharing music and song. And so far,

she has done so an extraordinary 96 times. "It's a lot of fun for me, and people tell me that they enjoy it," Cantor Green said. "And people have made some great friendships from these programs."

The program is carefully built around the Jewish calendar, with Cantor Green choosing a theme that reflects upcoming holidays. Some months are more challenging than others, Cantor Green said – particularly when the holiday marks a dark moment in Jewish history. But others are full of joy, especially when she can revive old Yiddish songs that seem to resonate with the women who participate.

People tell her, Cantor Green said, "Ah, I remember my mother and grandmother singing this." And she, as well: She said that her own mother "had a beautiful voice and loved to sing."

Cantor Green retired from Temple Beth Shalom in Manalapan in 2015. She and her husband, CBI's Emeritus Cantor Daniel Green, are active participants in every aspect of worship and celebration at Congregation B'nai Israel, including reading Torah and leading services when needed.

Her Rosh Chodesh program is carefully planned. Songs are chosen in advance, and song sheets are provided with transliteration from Hebrew, Yiddish or Ladino, as needed. Cantor Daniel Green runs a Zoom meeting so that those who cannot make it to the synagogue can still participate on their computers or phones from home and interact with the in-person attendees.

The monthly gathering at the synagogue at 1488 Old Freehold Road starts with lunch. Participants are asked to bring their own dairy or parve lunches. CBI provides drinks and dessert. "While eating, we schmooze," Cantor Green said. "It's an opportunity to socialize." An hour later, the musical program begins.

Cantor said the singing and camaraderie become "a refuge" for those who participate, a break from pressures and ailments, isolation and worries.

The theme for the August program – Rosh Chodesh Elul – is "Music to Celebrate the New Year." The program is open to all women, but non-members must register first with the synagogue office at 732-349-1244. They can also ask to be added to Cantor Green's email list, so they can be informed of dates and topics every month.

Having done this 96 times, does Cantor Green still get satisfaction from her Rosh Chodesh program? Absolutely, she said. "I get the privilege of sharing my love of Judaism and Jewish music ... with an appreciative group of women, as I slip some learning in between the notes," she said. "Many of the women say they come not just for the company, but they always learn something, and that's my goal. I use my knowledge to do that. It's very fulfilling. I'm not teaching or davening every week, so it's an excellent way for me to connect and to share music. If people want to come out and meet more Jewish women, this is a great way to do it."

One Ocean County Events

This year the Jewish Federation of Ocean County continues to support One Ocean County's efforts bringing neighbors together in our community. With over \$20,000 in grants JFOC has sponsored SuperSoul Sunday, Pass In On For Passover, and Common Grounds. Save the date for the upcoming annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 18.



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 – Inna's Green Lentils: Easy Meal Ideas. Watch future issues of the Jewish Journal for more recipes or check them all out at www.jdc.org/learn/recipe.

"This fresh, herbaceous dish is perfect for this verdant time of year. Fragrant spices, crunchy croutons, and tender lentils come together in one dish to please the whole family."

~ Inna Lapidus-Kinbere, JCC Riga Director



Ingredients –

1 onion
3 cups lentils
1 bay leaf
2 cloves garlic
1 cup olive oil
2 slices white bread
1 tomato, diced
½ tsp. paprika
1 bunch parsley
Salt, to taste

Note: If you use red lentils, the dish will more closely resemble a pureed soup, while green lentils will retain their grainy quality.

Instructions –

- Divide half of the onion into two equal pieces and finely chop the

other half, reserving for later.

- Put lentils in a pot with bay leaf, the two equal pieces of onion, and one clove of garlic, filling to the top with water. Cover and bring to a boil, then reduce heat and cook for 1 hour until the lentils are soft.
- Heat oil in a pan. Place the bread (cut into crouton-size cubes) into the pan. Cook, flipping croutons over occasionally, until they have become golden and crispy. Dry them off on a paper towel and set aside.
- Drain most of the oil, leaving a little bit at the bottom of the pan. Reheat and add the chopped onion. Cook over low heat, stirring for 8 minutes until the onions begin to brown. Add the tomato and cook, stirring for 10 minutes.
- Remove pan from heat, stir in the paprika, and add the resulting mixture to the lentils.
- Peel a clove of garlic and mash it down with salt, parsley, and croutons using a mortar and pestle. Add 2–3 tablespoons of the liquid you used to cook the lentils and add mixture to lentil pot. Add salt and cook for another 10 minutes.

Remove bay leaf and garlic clove and serve immediately in a soup bowl.



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Help Jewish Ocean County share the warmth and magic of holiday and family recipes that helped shape your Jewish childhood and experiences. We are seeking members of our community to [share recipes](#) (kosher-style/friendly), along with possible pictures, that we can then print in our High Holidays edition of the Ocean JPages, which will be a calendar.



Send your recipe to www.jewishoceancounty/recipes

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Francis Salvador

Excerpted from Wikipedia
en.wikipedia.org

Francis Salvador (1747 – 1 August 1776) was an English-born American planter in the Province of South Carolina. Born into a Sephardic Jewish family in London, in 1774 he was the first professing Jew to be elected to public office in the American colonies when chosen for the South Carolina Provincial Congress. He had joined the Patriot cause and in 1776 was the first Jew killed in the American Revolutionary War, fighting with the militia on the South Carolina frontier against Loyalists and their Cherokee allies.

Francis Salvador was born to Jacob Salvador and his wife in London, where a Spanish and Portuguese Jewish (Sephardic) community had developed since the 17th century. His uncle, Joseph Salvador, was a prominent businessman. Salvador became active with his uncle Joseph and the wealthy DaCosta family of London in plans to settle poor Jews and their family members in the New World.

The Salvador and DaCosta families in London bought 200,000 acres (810 km2) in the new district of Ninety-Six (known as "Jews Land") in the western frontier of the Carolina colony. They began to settle it. Francis Salvador acquired 7,000 acres (28 km2) in Ninety Six District, Carolina Colony, and emigrated intending to send for his wife, Sarah, and their four children as soon as he was able. Arriving in Charleston in December 1773, Salvador quickly joined the American cause.

Salvador and his friend Richard A. Rapley were elected as delegates to South Carolina's Provincial Congress; Salvador was the first Jew elected to public office in the Thirteen Colonies in North America. He was re-elected to the second Provincial Congress in 1775, holding the post until his death. At the time, Jews legally could neither hold office nor vote, but no colonists objected when Salvador and his friend Richard A. Rapley were elected as two among the several frontier representatives from Ninety-Six District to the Provincial Congress.

When the Provincial Congress first met in Charleston in January 1775, Salvador was chosen for important committee assignments: drawing up the declaration of the purpose of the congress to the people; obtaining ammunition; assessing the safety of the frontier and working on the new state constitution. The group also framed a bill of rights and composed an

address to South Carolina's royal governor, setting forth the colonists' complaints against the Crown. Salvador was appointed to a commission that tried to convince the Tories in the northern and western parts of the colony to join the American cause.

The second Provincial Congress assembled in November 1775. Salvador was one of the champions for independence; he urged his fellow delegates to instruct the colony's delegation to the Continental Congress to cast their vote for independence. Salvador chaired the Ways and Means Committee of this second Provincial Congress, at the same time serving on a select committee authorised to issue bills of credit as payment to members of the militia. He was also selected for a commission to preserve the peace in the interior parts of South Carolina.

Early in 1776, the British had induced their Indian allies to attack the South Carolina frontier to create a diversion in favour of British operations on the sea-coast. Salvador took part in the engagements that followed. Salvador was shot and fell into the bushes but was discovered and scalped by Cherokee warriors that night. He died from his wounds at age 29.

In honor of the United States of America at 250, we recall the life of Francis Salvador, the first professing Jew elected to public office in the American colonies and the first Jew killed in the American Revolutionary War.

Concerning his death, Colonel William Thomson wrote: Here, Mr. Salvador received three wounds; and, fell by my side. . . . I desired [Lieutenant Farar], to take care of Mr. Salvador; but, before he could find him in the dark, the enemy unfortunately got his scalp: which, was the only one taken. . . . He died, about half after two o'clock in the morning; forty-five minutes after he received the wounds, sensible to the last. When I came up to him, after dislodging the enemy, and speaking to him, he asked, whether I had beat the enemy? I told him yes. He said he was glad of it and shook me by the hand – and bade me farewell – and said, he would die in a few minutes.

Continued on page 30

FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

Federations Tout Support for Israel’s Economic Recovery at IDI Conference



From JFNA
June 9, 2026

Since the Hamas attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, Jewish Federations of North America have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Israel. Through the Israel Emergency Campaign, Federations across the system sprang into action, collectively raising over \$900 million to support Israel’s recovery after 2.5 years of war. Core partners – the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee – worked tirelessly with Federation staff on the ground to organize and allocate this vital assistance.

The support did not stop after the war in Gaza ended; Federations allocated \$10 million in Israel Emergency Funds during the first war with Iran, in June 2025, and raised over \$30 million in emergency aid during the first four weeks of Operation Roaring Lion, in April 2026.

At this year’s Eli Hurvitz Conference on Economy and Society, hosted by the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) and the Dalia and Eli Hurvitz Foundation, Director General of Federations’ Israel Office and Senior Vice President of Israel and Overseas Rebecca Caspi shared how Federations have aided Israel’s socioeconomic rehabilitation through these and other avenues.

“[B]ack in November 2023 we identified a specific challenge – small businesses that lacked sufficient access to credit,” Caspi said. “To address this, we launched an emergency loan fund to help small businesses. We broke through the traditional credit barriers, subsidized interest rates, and assumed first risk to help small businesses get through the crisis.”

In her remarks, Caspi touted this fund, on which Federations partnered with five

lending organizations to allocate \$90 million to small business owners, who needed immediate assistance amid an extremely challenging environment. The fund has aided 4,000 businesses to date through fundraising, education, and coaching.

She also emphasized how philanthropy has helped to strengthen Israel’s financial sector by revitalizing businesses that had nowhere else to turn. “[T]he economic pressure is real, it is broad, and it is ongoing,” Caspi said. “However, we can say with great confidence that supporting small businesses through both education and capital – by means of accessible loans – creates stability and allows for recovery. This capital builds the community and personal resilience of the State of Israel.”

Caspi represented Jewish Federations alongside civic, political, and business leaders, to discuss their findings of how Israel’s multi-front wars have affected the population – particularly in Israel’s north, which continues to face attacks by Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Eli Hurvitz Conference on Economy and Society is one of the most influential economic conferences in Israel. Since 1993, it has served as the premier forum for policymakers, business leaders, and academic experts to discuss the country’s national priorities.



Federation Grantees Honored with Israel President's Volunteerism Award



From JFNA
June 25, 2026

In the wake of the October 7, 2023, Hamas terror attacks against Israel, Jewish Federations of North America mobilized a historic campaign in support of the Jewish state, collectively raising over \$900 million. And, when the time of immediate emergency began to fade, Federations shifted to long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Through grants to nonprofit partners across Israel, in coordination with core partners the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Federations have helped rebuild communities devastated by the attacks and ensuing wars of the past several years.

The impact has been immense, touching virtually every sector of Israeli society. We reached more than 200 communities across Israel, and our work continues with the Rebuild Israel, a 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. Federations have helped displaced residents returning home, expanded trauma care, provided loans and assistance to small businesses, and much more.

We are proud that four recipients of Fe-

deration grants have been recognized for their work by President Isaac Herzog, who awarded them the 5786 President’s Volunteerism Award. This honor has been awarded annually since 1974 to those who foster volunteerism in Israeli society and contribute to its societal fabric and social cohesion. Each year, 12 individuals or organizations that exemplify these values – young and old, secular and religious, and members of all faith traditions – are recognized for their efforts.

The four Federation grantees who received this year’s Volunteerism Award are:

- **Elul Association – "Now Is the Time" Program**, an adult volunteer service program supporting communities affected by the war;
- **MOSHE – Words That Make a Difference**, a community-based suicide prevention organization;
- **Tikkun Olam Makers**, which develops affordable assistive technologies for people with disabilities and wounded veterans; and
- **The Lone Soldier Center in Memory of Michael Levin**, which supports lone soldiers from the time they receive their draft orders through years after their military service.

Federations are committed to working with groups across Israel to ensure that Israelis from all walks of life can emerge from this challenging period stronger than before. These four organizations share this mission by dedicating themselves to supporting vulnerable populations and strengthening resilience.

(Editor’s Note: The Jewish Federation of Ocean County directly supports the Lone Soldier Center in Memory of Michael Levin from your donations.)

War with Iran - Weekly updates are available
at www.jewishoceancounty.org/israelupdate.
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FedBeat from JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America

jewishfederations.org

New Analysis: Small Jewish Communities Face Unique Hurdles, Need Investment



From JFNA
June 30, 2026

Jews in small communities seek the same opportunities for Jewish connection and safety as Jews in larger communities, but they face greater geographic, structural, and institutional barriers to achieving them, according to a new analysis by Jewish Federations of North America. The findings highlight distinct challenges around engagement, security, and leadership in small Jewish communities – and underscore the important role Federations and other communal organizations play in strengthening the infrastructure that helps Jews in

communities of every size participate in flourishing Jewish life.

“Small Jewish communities are not simply smaller versions of larger Jewish communities,” said Mimi Kravetz, Jewish Federations Chief Impact and Growth Officer. “They face unique realities and challenges. This research makes clear that the desire for Jewish connection is there, but too often the infrastructure and opportunities needed to support that connection are not.”

While Jews in small communities report lower overall engagement in Jewish life (28% compared with 40% nationally) and lower feelings of belonging (32% compared with 46%), the analysis also found clear evidence that the desire for Jewish connection remains just as strong. Following October 7, Jews in small communities increased their engagement at similar rates to Jews in larger communities when compared within the same prior engagement level. Likewise, across every engagement level, they are just as

likely – and often more likely – to say they want stronger Jewish connections. Rather than reflecting lower interest, the findings suggest that geographic distance, fewer local opportunities, and lower awareness of available programs are the primary barriers to greater participation. Local Federations in small Jewish communities play a central role in addressing these challenges through community building, support for day schools and summer camps, and outreach in communities with smaller Jewish populations.

The analysis also highlights distinct security challenges. While rates of direct antisemitism are similar to those reported in larger Jewish communities, Jews in small communities are more likely to report that their experiences are dismissed and are less likely to believe local law enforcement takes antisemitism seriously. Importantly, they want the same security measures that make Jews elsewhere feel safer, underscoring the need to ensure small communities have

access to the same professional security infrastructure.

The analysis also found that only 12% of Jews in small communities identify as community leaders, compared with 20% nationally, meaning a much smaller group of leaders is carrying responsibility for sustaining Jewish life.

Jewish Federations are helping ensure that Jews in small communities have access to the same opportunities for safety, connection, and belonging as their peers in larger population centers by investing in essential security infrastructure, community relations efforts, and strengthening Jewish engagement at the local level.

“Jewish Federations have a responsibility to every Jewish community,” said Kravetz. “No matter where Jews live, they deserve opportunities to connect, belong, and feel safe. We’ll continue strengthening the infrastructure that helps communities of every size flourish.”

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Securing Our Community



JFed Security Active in Protecting Our Community

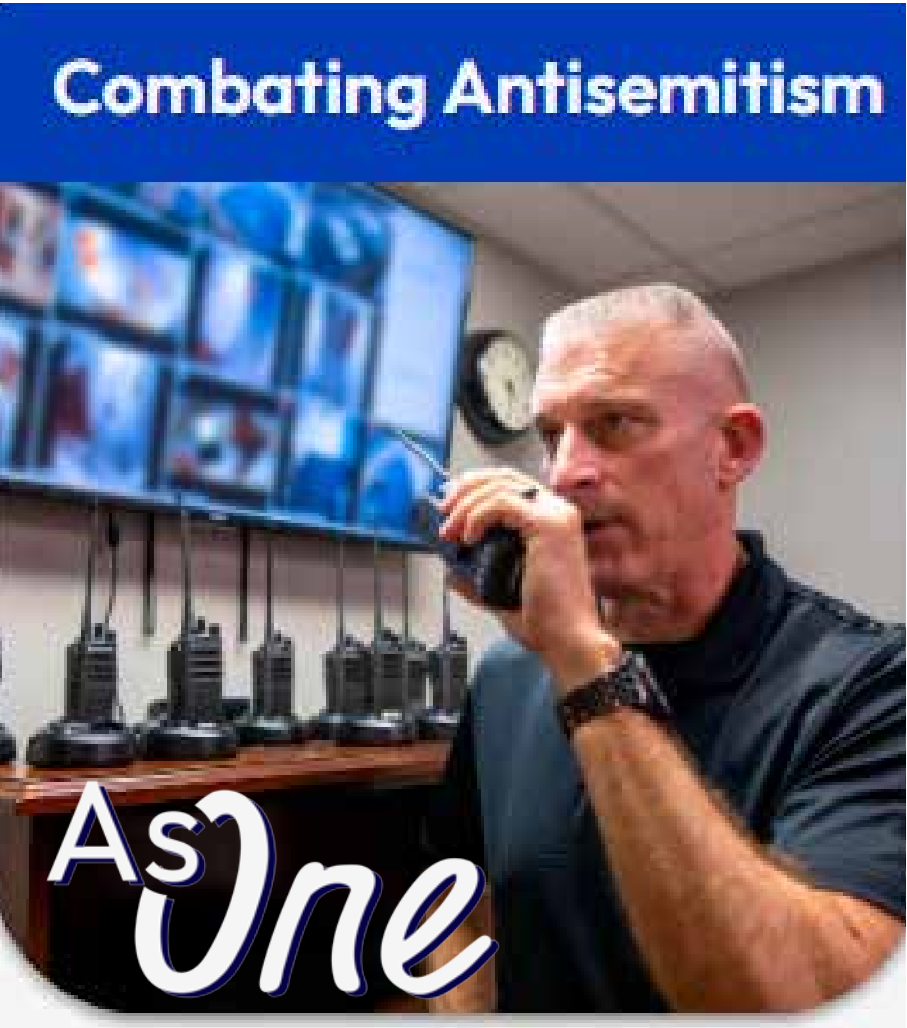
In June to welcome in their busy season, the Jewish Community Center of Long Beach Island, Spray Beach, hosted JFed Security trainings, both Active Threat and Stop the Bleed trainings.

Not for the first time, repeated trainings reinforce the lessons learned and make it available for newer members or members that just didn't get to attend in previous years. This June, Stop the Bleed trained 14 congregants and 25 participated in the Active Threat training.

These trainings, along with others offered by JFed Security, are made available through the LiveSecure local grant from the Jewish Federation of Ocean County (JFOC). LiveSecure is a \$130 million national initiative launched by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Secure Community Network (SCN) to protect Jewish institu-

tions across North America. It provides resources for hiring security directors, security training, standardized programs, and assistance in securing government security grants.

The JCC of LBI also utilized JFed Security in preparing their Emergency Operations Plan and Quick Reference Guide through funding from JFOC's Homeland Security Grant. JFOC is splitting their grant amongst partners, also providing security guards and equipment upgrades.



Update on Last Year's Student Hero Against Hate

Barnegat Pride is excited to welcome Danny Hoffman as our new Vice President!

A South Jersey native and junior at Penn State studying Education Policy, International Politics, and Sociology, Danny is passionate about advocacy, education, and creating a stronger, more inclusive community for LGBTQ+ individuals throughout our region.



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 Czapla at (732) 496-3704 or via email at cczapla@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

Secure Community Network Update – June Report

By Michael G. Masters
National Director & CEO
July 6, 2026

The ideals of religious freedom, security, and dignity that inspired the founding of the United States 250 years ago remain at the heart of our mission.

In his 1790 letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, President George Washington noted his hope that all may live together in our nation in peace and that “...everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.” His words remind us that security is never guaranteed and that it must be built, strengthened, and sustained.

This past month marked several important milestones as we advanced our mission to build a more connected, capable, and secure Jewish community across North America. Among these achievements, the Secure Community Network (SCN) became the first and only faith-based organization to receive the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies (SAFETY) Act Designation. This landmark recognition affirms the rigor and effectiveness of the National Jewish Community Security Standards that SCN developed as part of the LiveSecure initiative, led by Jewish Federations of North America. LiveSecure has enabled 100% security coverage across the United States through best-practice, standardized programs and our threat management and information-sharing practices. In addition to validating our efforts and providing pea-

ce of mind, the SAFETY Act Designation also affords critical liability protections to official SCN security programs and qualifying partner organizations.

Our network also grew stronger and more connected. Following the Hezbollah-inspired vehicle attack at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, the Jewish Federation of Detroit partnered with the Ohio Regional Threat Center (ORTC) and SCN's Jewish Security Operations Command Center™ (JSOCC™). Detroit now joins more than 40 Federations participating in threat management programs powered by SCN's Project RAIN™ (Realtime Actionable Intelligence Network™).

While we continue protecting our community today, we must also prepare for the year ahead. The FY2026 Nonprofit Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity is now open, and I encourage all eligible organizations to apply. These grants save lives, and recent events have underscored the urgent need for layered, well-trained, and well-resourced security.

SCN is working closely with Jewish Federations of North America, our synagogue movement partners, and community institutions to support strong applications and secure critical funding.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we have an opportunity to reflect on the enduring promise of this nation and to “continue to give bigotry no sanction and persecution no assistance.”

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.



US Senator Andy Kim Discusses Antisemitism with the Jewish Federation of Ocean County



On July 1, United States New Jersey Senator Andy Kim visited Beth Am Shalom in Lakewood to meet with the Jewish Federation of Ocean County and hear from local Jewish leaders about the impact antisemitism is having on their temples and communities. He heard about the need to invest in further security to ensure every community member can practice their faith without fear for their safety. It is why it is so important to increase funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. He agreed that we must meet this moment head on and ensure that hate has no home in New Jersey.



Dr. Irit Cohen L.Ac.

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Combating Hate

Heroes Against Hate

NOMINATE A HERO!

Who belongs on this year's list? At the Jewish Federation’s annual Community of Caring celebration in December, we will be honoring local “Heroes Against Hate”. We are seeking your help in identifying and nominating possible Heroes to recognize.

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.

2025 HONOREES

Sheriff Michael Mastronardy
Christ Episcopal Church
Daniel Hoffman

2024 HONOREES

Avi Kotler
St. Junipero Serra Parish
Chief Gregory Meyer
Reisa Sweet
Dr. Henry Jackson
Ariel Ifrah

2023 HONOREES

Prosecutor Bradley Billhimer
Caroline Winn
Jasmine and Mateo Guarin
Toms River Jewish Community Council

2022 HONOREES

Trevor Kalb
Ian Rosenzweig
Chief James Riccio
Sgt. Jim Kelly
Exit 82 Theatre

2021 HONOREES

Randy Bergmann
Sophie Braun
Tova Herskovitz
Chief Mitch Little
Toms Rive NAACP

Our Community Connected at “Let’s Connect”

On June 17, the Jewish Federation of Ocean County hosted its annual “Let’s Connect” with a great performance by Iris Bahr, a talented American-Israeli actor, writer, director and comic. Her show highlighted her true and hilarious tales from her life and travels, introducing some of her popular alter-egos as they engaged with the crowd. There was also an after-show Meet and Greet. Thank you to the many people who attended and helped sponsor the event.



Congratulations to our top three fundraising partners:
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Yaacov Agam, Pioneering Israeli Kinetic Artist and Israel Prize Laureate, Dies at 98

By Biranit Goren and Jessica Steinberg
June 21, 2026
[timesofisrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com)

Yaacov Agam, the internationally renowned Israeli sculptor recognized worldwide as the father of kinetic art, died on June 21 at the age of 98. A recipient of the 2026 Israel Prize for Visual Arts, Agam was celebrated for his vibrant, abstract geometric shapes and interactive creations that fundamentally relied on viewer movement to be fully experienced.

President Isaac Herzog described Agam as “one of the most respected and recognized Israeli artists in the world.” He gave the world “a unique artistic language of movement, change and renewal,” Herzog wrote in a post to X. “His works, which have become part of some of the most important museums and collections in the world, and also here at the President’s House, expressed an extraordinary



Pioneering kinetic artist Yaacov Agam receiving the Israel Prize on April 20, 2026, at the Yaacov Agam Museum of Art (Jessica Steinberg/Times of Israel)

creative vision and were a source of inspiration for generations of artists and creators.”

Herzog said he had been acquainted with Agam since his childhood, and “he was a fascinating man. In every encounter with him, the passion, curiosity, and inexhaustible creativity that characterized him throughout his life were evident.”

“Agam was a groundbreaking artist who gave Israeli creativity a unique and inspiring language,” Sports and Culture Minister Miki Zohar said in a statement. “His artistic legacy will continue to illuminate and influence generations of creators in Israel and around the world.”

The Yaacov Agam Museum in Rishon Lezion, which exhibits his works, said in a statement that “the world of Israeli art is parting from one of its groundbreaking creators.” It described him as “one of the fathers of kinetic art in the world,” who “dedicated his life to innovative work that changed the face of modern art and influenced generations of artists around the world.”

Agam’s coffin will be placed for public viewing at the museum that bears his name from 2:00-4:00 PM on June 22, and his funeral procession will leave from the Rehovot military cemetery at 5:00 PM, Channel 13 reported.

Born Yaacov Gibstein on May 11, 1928, in British Mandate Palestine, Agam grew up in the early Jewish settlement of Rishon Lezion. His father, Rabbi Yehoshua Gibstein, was a rabbi and a kabbalist, and



Yaacov Agam salon at Centre Pompidou in Paris, France (Courtesy)

Agam’s upbringing in a deeply religious home profoundly shaped his artistic vision. As a boy, he often ran away from school to the local sand dunes, observing how the wind constantly altered their shapes – a phenomenon he would later credit as the primary inspiration for his shifting, kinetic style.

In 1946, at the age of 18, Agam was arrested by the ruling British forces during Operation Agatha (known as “Black Sabbath”) when thousands of Zionist underground activists were detained and spent several months in prison. He went on to study at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem before moving to Zurich in 1949 to study at the Kunst-

Continued on page 19

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Yaacov Agam

Continued from page 18

gewerbeschule. By 1951, he had settled in Paris, which would remain his home and creative base for the rest of his life.

Art in motion and global acclaim

Agam held his first solo exhibition in 1953 at the Galerie Craven in Paris. Early in his career, his interactive work faced criticism from some who dismissed art meant to be touched and moved as “childish” or “unprofessional.” Nevertheless, Agam persisted, pioneering an art form in which the physical piece remained still, but the art itself “moved” as the viewer changed perspective. He quickly gained international recognition, exhibiting at the first Paris Biennale, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Guggenheim, and the Centre Pompidou, which hosted a retrospective of his work in 1972.

Beyond sculpture, Agam’s expansive creativity led him to design clothing, compose music, and experiment with video. In 1996, UNESCO awarded him the Jan Amos Comenius Medal for the “Agam Method,” a pioneering approach to the visual education of young children.

Iconic works and Jewish identity

Many of Agam’s most famous works were large-scale public installations. They include Double Metamorphosis III at Pompidou (1965), the monumental fountain at the La Défense district in Paris (1975), and the iconic Fire and Water Fountain in Tel Aviv’s Dizengoff Square (1986).

His Jewish heritage was a constant thread throughout his abstract creations. He designed the 32-foot-tall Hanukkah menorah at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 59th Street in New York City, recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s largest. Other prominent works highlighting his faith include Jacob’s Ladder, Pace of Time, and Faith – Visual Pray, a piece representing both Jewish and Christian faiths presented to Pope Francis in 2014.

The Israel Prize and final reflections

Just weeks before his passing, Agam – confined to a wheelchair – was awarded the 2026 Israel Prize in a personalized, intimate ceremony at the Yaacov Agam Museum of Art in Rishon LeZion. Surrounded by his vivid creations, the artist reflected on the deep connection between his dynamic art and his faith in an inter-

view with The Times of Israel. “When I look around at my works, what I see is beyond the pieces themselves. I turn my head and see something different. Everything changes here. That’s the reality. Reality in other art is set and narrow, and here it isn’t – it’s open, and it changes and brings you closer to seeing the reality of Hebrew and Judaism.”

Reflecting on his lifelong philosophy of movement, Agam noted: “I grew up with an instinctive sense of creativity, and that’s the basis of Judaism, the sense of creativity, that nothing stands in one place, that change is based on the viewer’s position, and things look different every time. The reality is what shifts, and that’s to open your thoughts and creativity and understanding and expression of the reality in another way.” He added, “Reality changes all the time, too, and so does one’s outlook. Judaism was always the basis of my work because my father was a rabbi; it was always about values, about the worldview of Judaism.”

A lasting legacy

Agam’s legacy is permanently cemented in his hometown of Rishon LeZion, where the Yaacov Agam Museum of Art opened in 2018. The museum, which he helped design alongside architect David

Nofar, houses the winding 72-foot-long Panoramagam and a central Jacob’s Ladder pillar. Outside the building stand the 29 “Pillars of Clila,” dedicated to his first wife, Clila, who died at the age of 49.

Agam is survived by his second wife, French harpist Chantal Thomas d’Hoste, and his son from his first marriage, Ron Agam, an award-winning artist based in New York City.



Yaacov Agam's iconic fountain in Dizengoff Square in Tel Aviv (photo credit: Michal Dahan)



Visitors at the Yaacov Agam Museum of Art in Rishon LeZion on August 21, 2018 (Miriam Alster/FLASH90)



"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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- August 6th** 6:00 PM Alzheimer's Fundraiser, \$50 per person
- August 7th** 6:00 PM Private Party
- August 8th** 7:00 PM Bridgerton Murder Mystery High Tea \$75 Adults, 10% off Seniors/Military
- August 9th** 3:00 PM Outdoor Pink Tea Party in the Garden, \$50 Adults, \$20 Children
- August 12th** 6:30 PM Princess Tea with Sleeping Beauty, \$20 Adults, \$10 Children
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- August 15th** 7:00 PM Lobster Boil Dinner, \$100 Adults, 10% off Seniors/Military
- August 16th** 3:00 PM Outdoor Afternoon Farm Stand with Vendors
- August 19th** 6:30 PM Mr. Magico Show with Ice Cream Buffet, Adults \$20, Children \$10
- August 20th** 6:00 PM Tiers & Cheers, \$75 Adults, 10% off Seniors and Military
- August 22nd** 8:00 AM Outdoor Yoga and Breakfast, \$25 per person

- August 22nd** 7:00 PM 80's Murder Mystery Dinner Show, \$75 Adults, 10% off Seniors/Military
- August 25th** 6:00 PM Monthly Tea Club Meeting, Complimentary
- August 26th** 6:30 PM Pasta Making Class with Grandma and Grandpa, \$25 a person
- August 28th** 7:00 PM German Night, \$50 Adults, 10% off Seniors/Military
- August 29th** 7:00 PM Cooking Class with Ms. Vicki, \$50 adults, 10% off Seniors/Military
- August 30th** 3:00 PM Teen Tea Party (Ages 15-18), \$30 Teens

Some events are subject to a 10% discount for seniors (65+) and the military. Book your event tickets at www.mathishouse600main.com or call 732-818-7580 for reservations. Overnight stay packages are book a room and buy one get one free event tickets.

Contact: Vicki
(732) 818-7580



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*Help support our local Holocaust Survivors in Ocean County **live at home with dignity.***

We now have two matching grants that provide over \$7 million dollars in home health care services, glasses, dental care, hearing aids...



**2026 MATCH REQUIREMENT
\$230,000**

THREE WAYS TO DONATE

1 Donate online at jewishoceancounty.org

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

June 12 – July 8

In Honor of
Rita Sason by Mary Austin

In Memory of
Beatrice Hano by Elise Barocas
Jack Sabo, MD from Drs. Sharon & Jerry Berkowitz
Dr. Jack Sabo by Elizabeth O'Dell



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.
 - Send a check, use your credit card, transfer stock.
 - Call the office and talk with our staff.
 - **Bring in your Tzedakah box. We will count it for you.**



- Consider making a monthly gift to support your community.

Jewish Federation
of Ocean County
1235A Route 70,
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-363-0530

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.



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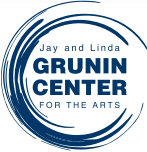
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We are recording Holocaust survivor and witness testimonies across the United States and the Ceci Chan and Lila Sorkin Memory Studio at our headquarters in Los Angeles.

Sign up now: sfi.usc.edu/new-survivor-testimonies



The Jewish Journal
Published Monthly in Cooperation With The Jewish Federation Of Ocean County



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Betty Rod
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Gildardo Cruz
Production Manager

Our Mission:
The Jewish Journal of Ocean County is dedicated to the dissemination of information concerning significant events; social, cultural, and educational, that impact upon the Jewish community of Ocean County.

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Views and opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of The Jewish Journal. The Jewish Journal does not endorse the goods and services advertised in its pages and makes no representation as to the products and services in such advertising.

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.

On Tishah B'Av (9 Av, this year on Wednesday night-Thursday, July 22-23) we remember the destruction of the First Temple and the Second Temple in Jerusalem and many other tragedies in Jewish history.

Some of the Worst Tragedies Experienced by the Jewish People

This list from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

- 720 BCE – Assyrian Exile of the 10 Tribes – The Assyrian Empire conquers northern Israel and exiles 10 tribes, later called the Lost Tribes.

586 BCE – Destruction of the First Temple & Babylonian Exile – Babylonians destroy the First Temple and exile the Jews to Babylon.

175-164 BCE - Oppression Under Antiochus IV & Maccabean Revolt
Jews revolt against religious persecution and Hellenization under Seleucid rule.

70 CE – Destruction of the Second Temple & Roman Exile – Romans destroy the Second Temple in Jerusalem and expel Jews from Judea.

135 CE – Roman Ban on Judaism – The Roman emperor bans Torah reading, circumcision, and declares Judaism illegal.

613 – Forced Baptisms in Hispania – King Sisebut orders Jews in Hispania and Septimania to convert.

642 – Jews Expelled from Arabia

1066 – Granada Massacre – Mobs massacre thousands of Jews in Granada.

1096 – First Crusade Massacres Jews in the Rhineland – Crusaders kill thousands of Jews en route to the Holy Land.

1114 – First Blood Libel Case (Norwich, England) – A boy’s murder sparks false accusations of Jewish ritual killing.

1190 – York Mass Suicide – 150 Jews commit suicide to avoid forced conversion in England.

1215 – Jews Ordered to Wear Badges – The Fourth Lateran Council requires Jews to wear identifying clothing.

1261 – Jews expelled from Belgium

1290 – Jews expelled from England

1298 – Rindfleisch Massacres – A German knight leads massacres across 146 Jewish communities.

1306 & 1394 – Jews Expelled from France

1347-1351 – Black Death Persecutions – Jews are accused of causing the plague; thousands are massacred and entire communities destroyed.

1412-1415 – Forced Conversions in Spain – Vincent Ferrer compels two-thirds of Spanish Jews to convert.

1478 – Spanish Inquisition Targets Conversos – Jews who had converted to Christianity are targeted for secretly practicing Judaism.

1492 – Jews Expelled from Spain

1496 – Jews Expelled from Portugal

1516 – Venice Establishes First Ghetto – The Venetian Senate confines Jews to a designated quarter.

1543 – Martin Luther’s Antisemitic Writings – Luther calls for the destruction of Jewish communities.

1553 – Burning of the Talmud in Italy – Pope Paul IV orders the burning of Jewish texts in Rome and Venice.

1555 – Jewish Ghettos Mandated in Italy – Jews required to live in segregated quarters.

1648 – Chmielnicki Massacres in Ukraine – Cossacks and peasants kill tens of thousands of Jews and destroy hundreds of communities.

1727 & 1742 – Jews Expelled from the Russian Empire

1793 – Jews Restricted to the Pale of Settlement – Jews confined to a designated region in the Russian Empire.

1881-1920 – Pogroms in the Russian Empire – Waves of state-supported violence kill thousands and cause mass Jewish emigration.

1894 – Dreyfus Affair Begins – French officer Alfred Dreyfus is falsely convicted of treason, revealing deep antisemitism.

1929 – Hebron Massacre – Arab rioters kill 67 Jews in Hebron, ending centuries of Jewish life there.

1938 – Kristallnacht – Nazi mobs destroy Jewish property; 30,000 Jewish men sent to concentration camps.

1939-1945 – The Holocaust – Nazi Germany systematically murders 6 million Jews across Europe. By country: Poland 2.7 million, Soviet Union 2.1 million, Hungary 559,000, Germany & Austria 192,000, Czechoslovakia 143,000, Romania 120,000, Netherlands 102,000, France 72,500, Greece 58,000, Yugoslavia 51,000, Belgium 29,000, Italy 7,600, Denmark 60
- 1945 – Tripoli Pogrom – Arab mobs kill 130 Jews in Libya and destroy home and synagogues.

1948-1949 – War of Independence – After Israel declares independence, five Arab nations invade. 6,200 Jews are killed and 7,500 wounded.

1948-1953 – Black Years of Soviet Jewry – Jewish institutions are closed, leaders purged, and antisemitism becomes state policy. Hundreds of doctors are falsely accused in the “Doctors’ Plot.”

1948-1970 – Expulsion of Jews from Arab Lands – 856,000 Jews face riots, persecution, and expulsion across the Arab world after Israel wins the War of Independence.

1967 – Six-Day War & Jewish Expulsions – Israel captures Jerusalem and key territories. Jews expelled from Egypt and Libya.

1968-1970 – Polish Antisemitic Purge – 17,000 Jews are expelled by Poland’s Communist regime.

1971-1978 – Soviet Refuseniks Denied Emigration – Tens of thousands of Jews denied exit visas face harassment and economic penalties.

1972 – Munich Olympics Massacre – Palestinian terrorists murder 11 Israeli athletes.

1973 – Yom Kippur War – Egypt and Syria attack Israel; 2,656 Israelis killed and 7,500 are wounded.

1974 – Ma’alot Massacre – 31 Israelis, including 22 children, killed by Palestinian terrorists.

1982 – Lebanon War/Operation Peace for Galilee – Israel invades southern Lebanon to stop PLO attacks from across the border. The war results in 657 Israeli deaths and 3,887 wounded.

1987-1993 – First Intifada – Widespread Palestinian violence against Israeli civilians and soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza results in 150 Israeli deaths.

1991 – Gulf War – Iraq fires Scud missiles at Israel; 3 killed directly, 77 indirectly.

2000-2005 – Second Intifada – Suicide bombings kill 1,063 Israelis in public places.

2003-2019 – Global Antisemitic Terrorism – 2003 Istanbul: Synagogue bombings kill 30, 2008 Mumbai: Chabad House attack kills 7, 2012 Toulouse: School shooting kills 4, 2014 Brussels: Museum attack kills 4, 2015 Paris: Hyper Cacher attack kills 4, 2018 Pittsburgh: Tree of Life synagogue shooting kills 11, 2019 Halle: Synagogue attack kills 2, 2019 Monsey: Hanukkah stabbing kills 1, injures 4

2023 – Hamas Massacre in Israel – On October 7, Hamas terrorists invade southern Israel, murder 1,200 people and abduct over 200 in a surprise attack from Gaza.

(Editor’s Note: The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is also the sponsor of the PJ Library project.)



(Image Credit: The Holocaust Memorial at California Palace of the Legion of Honor. Highsmith, Carol M., 1946-, photographer)



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"I'm so distracted at work, worrying about Mom."
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"I'm doing the best I can."

JOIN US FOR A MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP



Meetings are virtual on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm.

For more information call 732-363-8010.

Group Facilitator: Rita Sason, LCSW

Learn coping strategies, get practical information about dementia and managing other chronic diseases, find new community resources and benefit from the support of other caregivers.



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Jewish Federation of Ocean County



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For more information contact Rita at 732-363-0530 or jfcs@ocjf.org

JEWISH FAMILY AND

changing lives...

When Summer Isn't So Sunny: Protecting Your Mental Health this Season

By Avery Kannatt, MSW Intern
Jewish Family & Children's Service

For many people, summer is portrayed as the happiest time of the year. It is the time when plans are made, the weather is enjoyable, vacations begin, and a time to unplug. Social media is filled with vacations, backyard barbecues, beach days, and smiling families. While these images can inspire us, they can also create unrealistic expectations. Although everyone may not talk about it, the truth is that not everyone feels happier when the weather gets warmer.

Although many people are familiar with seasonal depression during the winter months, mental health experts recognize that some individuals experience symptoms during the summer. Psychiatrist Dr. Norman Rosenthal, who first identified Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), has explained that summer-pattern SAD can include anxiety, irritability, insomnia, restlessness, and changes in appetite. During the summer months we have longer days, excessive heat, disrupted routines, and the pressure to be constantly social. All of these can contribute to emotional distress.

Summer can also magnify feelings of loneliness. While others appear to be spending time with family and friends, older adults, individuals who live alone, or those grieving the loss of a loved one may feel increasingly isolated. Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has emphasized that loneliness is more than an uncomfortable feeling. It can have significant effects on both mental and physical health. Meaningful social connection remains one of the strongest protective factors for emotional well-being.

Within Jewish tradition, summer offers opportunities to reconnect with the community in simple, but meaningful ways. Whether attending synagogue services, participating in community events, inviting friends for a Shabbat meal, or volunteering to help others, these moments of connection remind us that we were never meant to navigate life's challenges alone. Jewish traditions place tremendous value on caring for one another, particularly during times when someone may be struggling quietly. This can be extremely helpful for those in the community dealing with challenges.

It is also important to give yourself permission to slow down. Summer schedules often become packed with activities, camps, travel, and family obligations. While these experiences can be joyful, they can also leave little room for rest. Taking time to unplug, spending a few quiet moments outdoors, or simply enjoying an unhurried conversation with someone you trust can have a meaningful impact on your emotional health.

If you notice persistent feelings of sadness, anxiety, hopelessness, or difficulty functioning, do not dismiss them simply because it is summertime. Mental health challenges do not follow the calendar, and seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness. Speaking with a mental health professional, your primary care provider, or a trusted member of your faith community can be an important first step.

As we enjoy the warmth and opportunities that summer brings, let us also remember that well-being extends beyond sunshine and vacations. By checking in with ourselves, reaching out to others, and embracing the strength of community, we can help ensure that this season nurtures not only our bodies, but also our minds and spirits.

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!**



ועידת התביעות
Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

...making a difference

Approximately 196,600 Jewish Holocaust Survivors Are Alive Globally as of January 2026

In Ocean County we have approximately 115 Survivors that we know of. In the past four months, twelve Survivors have moved to the area, primarily to live near their children. The Jewish Federation of Ocean County and the Jewish Family and Children's Service provide numerous services to support the Survivors living in their own home, including homecare aides, food assistance, transportation, case management, and financial support to over 50 Survivors. The average of our Survivors is 95 years old.

These services provided are funded through a grant from the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, a NJ State grant and our local Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Thanks to our caring and generous community, we have been caring for our communities Holocaust Survivors for more than two decades.

According to the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) almost 200,000 Jewish Holocaust Survivors are living around the world. This is down from the 220,000 Survivors estimated to be alive when the Claims Conference released this data in January 2025.

Today Survivors live in 90 different countries with about 50% of the Survivors living in Israel, and approximately 16% live in the US. Some facts about them are:

- The median age of Jewish Holocaust Survivors is 87. The population of Survivors ranges in age from 79 to over 100 years of age. Just over 1 percent of Survivors are 100 years and older while 30 percent are 90 years and older.
- Nearly all Jewish Holocaust Survivors (97 percent) are "child survivors" who were born 1928 and later.

Continued on page 30



Refer a friend.

If you or someone you know needs help, Jewish Family & Children's Service is there to help.

Individual counseling - with a focus on relationships, family dynamics, mental health, loneliness

Group support for bereavement and caregivers

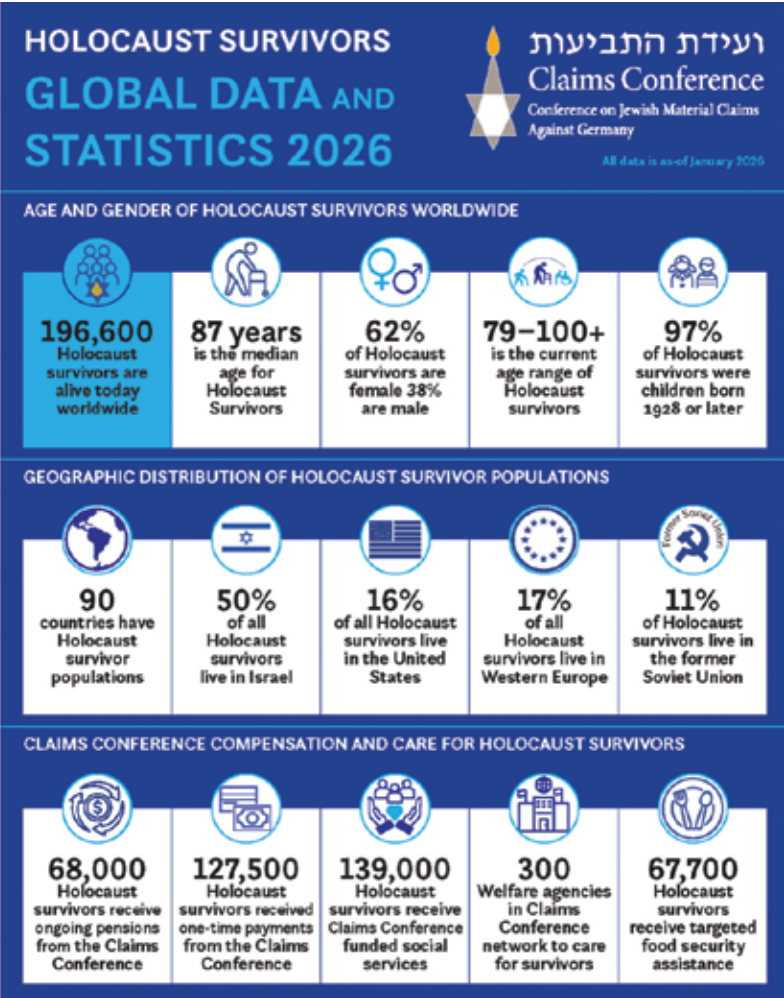
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MEETINGS NOW HELD VIRTUALLY

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Volunteer Opportunities — You can make an IMPACT!

ENGAGING ADULT COMMUNITIES

The goal here is to find ways to engage the Jewish populations in adult communities/Shalom Clubs with the Jewish Federation and to connect them to other Jewish activities/opportunities.

- Identify contacts and key “network nodes” in these communities to serve as influencers, networkers, and communicators
- Manage and follow through on ongoing communications and sharing opportunities with these networks
- Help identify/explore/shape opportunities that can be offered/delivered to these communities to help strengthen ties with the Federation/Jewish community
 - Films
 - Speakers
 - Topics
 - Sponsorships of programs

HELPING PROMOTE FEDERATION ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

We can always do a better job promoting our activities and impact, through media, email/other engagement, and delivery of promotional materials.

- Identification of new places to deliver materials
- Ongoing updates/communications to local papers and adult community newsletters
- Ongoing updates/communications/promotions through local synagogues/Chabads

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PLANNING EVENTS

We organize approximately 3 in-person events a year, to enable our community to come together, connect, and celebrate (hopefully) with each other.

- We are looking for people to help spearhead the framing and organizing of these events
- While this can include logistics and actual set-up, prep...this ideally includes positioning, promotion, and framing of these events
- This also can include volunteering on-site and engaging with guests/others at these events... ideally to help build affinity and connection to the Federation and Jewish community

HEROES AGAINST HATE

The opportunity for this program goes beyond just event promotion and set-up. This can be a platform for expanding reach in the broader community and engaging other groups/individuals in the mechanism of countering hate, spearheaded by the Federation.

- Sticking with the framework for Heroes awards discussed thus far...help identify other groups, organizations, places to look for and nominate Heroes
- Explore ways to expand awareness of the awards and the event
- Expand recruitment of participants and sponsors for the event/program

PJ PARENT AMBASSADOR

We now have over 1700 kids participating in our PJ Library program. We’re looking for some parents who can commit to:

- Identify the needs of families, and develop engagement opportunities that meet their needs
- Develop, plan and organize intimate small-scale engagement opportunities at family friendly destinations or home-based gatherings
- Encourage parents to be involved in planning and organizing programs and gatherings

Contact Avi at kotleram@gmail.com for more information and to get started!

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August 21	7:27 PM
August 28	7:16 PM



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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.

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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TWO Through
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the books from the Lakewood branch.*



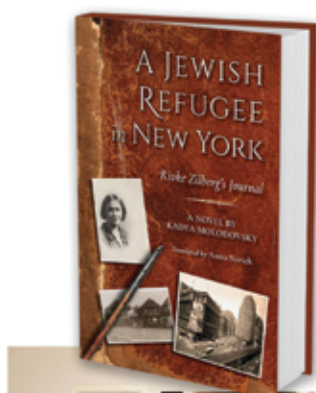
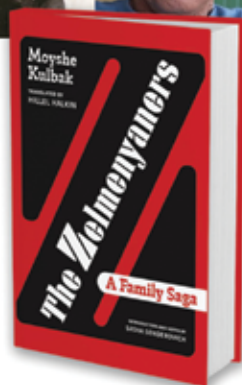
The dates are as follows, at 11:00 AM:

May 12th – Tevye the Dairyman by Sholem Aleichem

June 9th – The Zelmanyaners by Moyshe Kulbak

July 7th – A Jewish Refugee in New York by Kadya Molodovsky

August 4th – The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen by Isaac Blum



*Presented as part of the Yiddish Book Center's Public Libraries Program,
in partnership with the ALA and funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.*

Supporting Jewish Life



Holocaust Survivors

Continued from page 27

- The majority of Jewish Holocaust Survivors are female (62 percent), and only 38 percent of the population is male.
- About 34 percent of Survivors – about 68,000 – receive monthly pension payments negotiated by the Claims Conference, while the remaining survivors are eligible for one-time or annual payments.
- About 71 percent of Survivors – about 139,000 – are currently receiving or have received social welfare services in the past year, provided by over 300 agencies that receive grants administered by the Claims Conference.
- About 66,700 Survivors were eligible for additional support from the Claims Conference's Basic Needs Fund, which delivers targeted food security assistance to the most economically vulnerable Holocaust Survivors who are not currently receiving monthly compensation pensions.

Claims Conference data shows that the population by country of residence include: Israel 97,600 (50% of the Global Survivor Population), United States 31,000 (16%), France 17,300 (9%), Russian Federation 14,300 (7%), Germany 10,700 (5%), Ukraine 5,200 (3%), Canada 4,800 (2%), Hungary 2,800 (1%), Australia 2,000 (1%), and Belarus 1,600 (1%).

Francis Salvador

Continued from page 9

A Patriot journal, *The Remembrance*, wrote of Salvador: "he was universally loved and esteemed." In 1950, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charleston's Jewish congregation, the City of Charleston erected a memorial to Francis Salvador, the first Jew to die for the American Revolution.

Born an aristocrat, he became a democrat;
An Englishman, he cast his lot with the Americans;
True to his ancient faith, he gave his life;
For new hopes of human liberty and understanding.

Jewish Community Calendar – August 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.

Tuesday, July 28, August 4, 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, July 30, August 6, 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, July 30, August 6, 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

Tuesday, August 4, 11:00 AM – **Yiddish Book Discussion**, about “The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen” by Isaac Blum; at the Lakewood Branch of the Ocean County Library, 301 Lexington Avenue, Lakewood, see ad on page 30

Thursday, August 6, 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

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

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WED., JUNE 24TH
CLOCKWORK ORANGE BY ANTHONY BURGESS

WED., JULY 29TH
DECENCY AND DETERMINATION BY SOPHIA BROOKS

AUGUST 2026 - NO MEETING

WED., SEPTEMBER 30TH
A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS BY KHALED HOSSEINI

WED., OCTOBER 28TH
THE ALCHEMIST BY PAULO COELHO

TUES., NOVEMBER 24TH
DON'T FEED THE LION BY BRIANNA GOLODRYGA

WED., DECEMBER 23RD
ANIMAL FARM BY GEORGE ORWELL

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SENIORS
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