



STAND UP TO JEWISH HATE



Toledo Jewish News

The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo

Cheshvan/Kislev 5785 • December 2024

Happy Hanukkah!



SHINE A LIGHT ON Antisemitism

ANTISEMITISM VS. LEGITIMATE CRITICISM OF ISRAEL

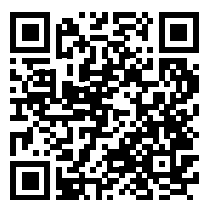
Thursday, December 19, 2024 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Congregation Etz Chayim, 3853 Woodley Rd., Toledo
\$5 per person - includes latke bar

SHINE A LIGHT on Antisemitism



Join us for our annual *Shine a Light on Antisemitism* event, which will feature Hailey Stern from **StandWithUs**, an international non-profit dedicated to Israel education.

Distinguishing between antisemitism and legitimate criticism of Israel can be clear-cut at times, but it often requires nuanced understanding and skills. This program will equip participants with the tools to effectively challenge antisemitism and navigate complex discussions about Israel. By evaluating recent examples, we provide a framework for discerning between antisemitism and constructive criticism, whether in one-on-one conversations or on larger platforms.



Registration is required.
RSVP to Sherry at 419-724-0351, sherry@jewishtoledo.org,
or form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events



Supporting Israel
And Fighting Antisemitism Around The World



Jewish Federation & Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

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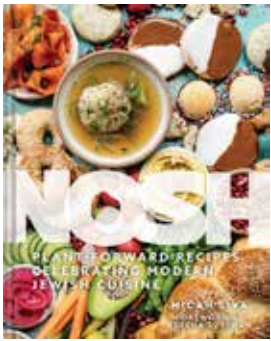


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NW Ohio Jewish Book Festival

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20th Annual NWOhio Jewish Book Festival

2024



Nosh: Plant-Forward Recipes Celebrating Modern Jewish Cuisine by Micah Siva

Sunday, December 8 at 6 p.m.
Chabad House, 2728 King Rd.

Event - \$18 per person
Event and book - \$40 per person
Event includes author presentation and dinner.

For women only

RSVP by Wednesday, December 4



Join us for an exciting women's-only cooking event featuring author and chef Micah Siva as she brings new twists to beloved Hanukkah favorites! Using recipes from her acclaimed cookbook, *Nosh: A Modern Vegetarian Cookbook for the Jewish Kitchen*, we'll explore delicious plant-based dishes inspired by Jewish culinary traditions, perfect for the holiday season.

Food has always been central to Jewish culture, and *Nosh* reimagines traditional recipes through a modern, 21st-century lens. With the rise in plant-based eating, this cookbook offers a fresh way to connect with Jewish heritage while embracing contemporary food trends.

What to Expect:

- A hands-on cooking experience and dinner featuring Hanukkah recipes from *Nosh* like Savory Pulled Mushroom and Tofu "Brisket" and Crispy Tahdig Rice "Latkes";
- Tips and tricks from Micah Siva on how to make your holiday meals both healthy and delicious; and
- An exploration of *Nosh*, a plant-forward collection with 80+ vegetarian recipes, designed to inspire meals not just for the holidays, but for every day.

Micah Siva's beautifully photographed book also provides enlightening insights into the history of Jewish food, making it the ideal guide for those looking to connect with their heritage in a way that feels authentic and relevant today.

It's easy to sign up for Book Festival



RSVP to all Book Festival events with the QR code or to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351

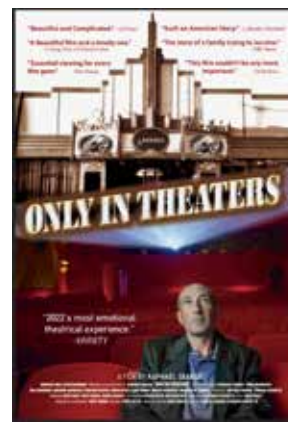


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TOLEDO JEWISH WINTER FLICKS

NOW SHOWING

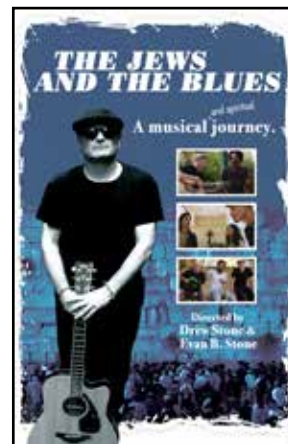
ONLY IN THEATERS
JANUARY 26
THE JEWS AND THE BLUES
FEBRUARY 2



Only in Theaters

Sunday, January 26 at 3 p.m.
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
\$5 per person – includes film and snacks

There has been a Laemmle in the movie business since there's been a movie business. This film is the story of a beloved arthouse cinema chain in Los Angeles with an astounding legacy. Over four generations, Laemmles have dedicated themselves to supporting, innovating, and elevating the art of filmmaking. Popularizing independent films, documentary films, and their filmmakers, the Laemmle Theatre's impact on Hollywood and world cinema cannot be overstated. Filmed over more than two years, *Only in Theaters* chronicles the Laemmle family, their business, and their determination to survive. But in a changing world, this is also a story about the future of cinema. **English, 94 minutes**



The Jews and the Blues

Sunday, February 2 at 4 p.m.
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
\$15 per person - includes vegetarian dinner and wine (after the film), movie, and snacks

The Jews and the Blues is a musical journey that along the way becomes something much more. Drew Stone, documentary filmmaker, musician, and talk show host born and raised in New York City, follows his passion for music and adventure as he travels to Israel and discovers how the blues ties into an incredible mix of cultures - Arab, Ethiopian, Moroccan, Jewish, Israeli - united through the universal tie that binds us together, music. Experience the sights, sounds, and the unexpected on this expedition into uncharted territory - a musical AND spiritual Journey. **English, 67 minutes**



RSVP by the day prior to each film
at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



LIVESecure



Jewish Federation
& Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

ENSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

A message from Dave Tullis, JFGT Security Director



Dear Community Members,

As the Security Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, I am deeply committed to the safety and security of our Jewish community. My journey began years ago keeping our Jewish community safe by working as a lifeguard at the JCC, and it evolved through my time as a police officer in Maumee, where I dedicated myself to protecting our citizens. Even while serving as Chief of Police, I maintained ties to our Jewish community, playing basketball with community members for over 40 years.

Now, I have returned to my roots, focusing solely on the safety and security of our Toledo Jewish community. Working as a law enforcement leader, I have been able to establish solid relationships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and their leaders. I collaborate daily with our security partners, Secure Community Network (SCN) and the Ohio Regional Intelligence Center (ORIC), alongside federal and local law enforcement leaders, to implement strategic measures that protect our institutions to ensure that every member of our community can live, learn, and practice their faith without fear.

But we can't do this alone. We need your support.

Your donations to our LiveSecure campaign will directly fund essential security measures, training, and resources that will help us protect our community. The funds raised through the LiveSecure campaign will enable us to develop innovative security solutions and enhance our collaborative efforts with law enforcement agencies, ensuring that our community remains vigilant and secure. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact on our ability to ensure a safe environment for all.

Together, we can create a secure space for our families, friends, and future generations.

Please donate today to help us continue our vital work. Let's stand united in our commitment to safety and security.

Thank you for your support.



How to Donate

Donating is easy:

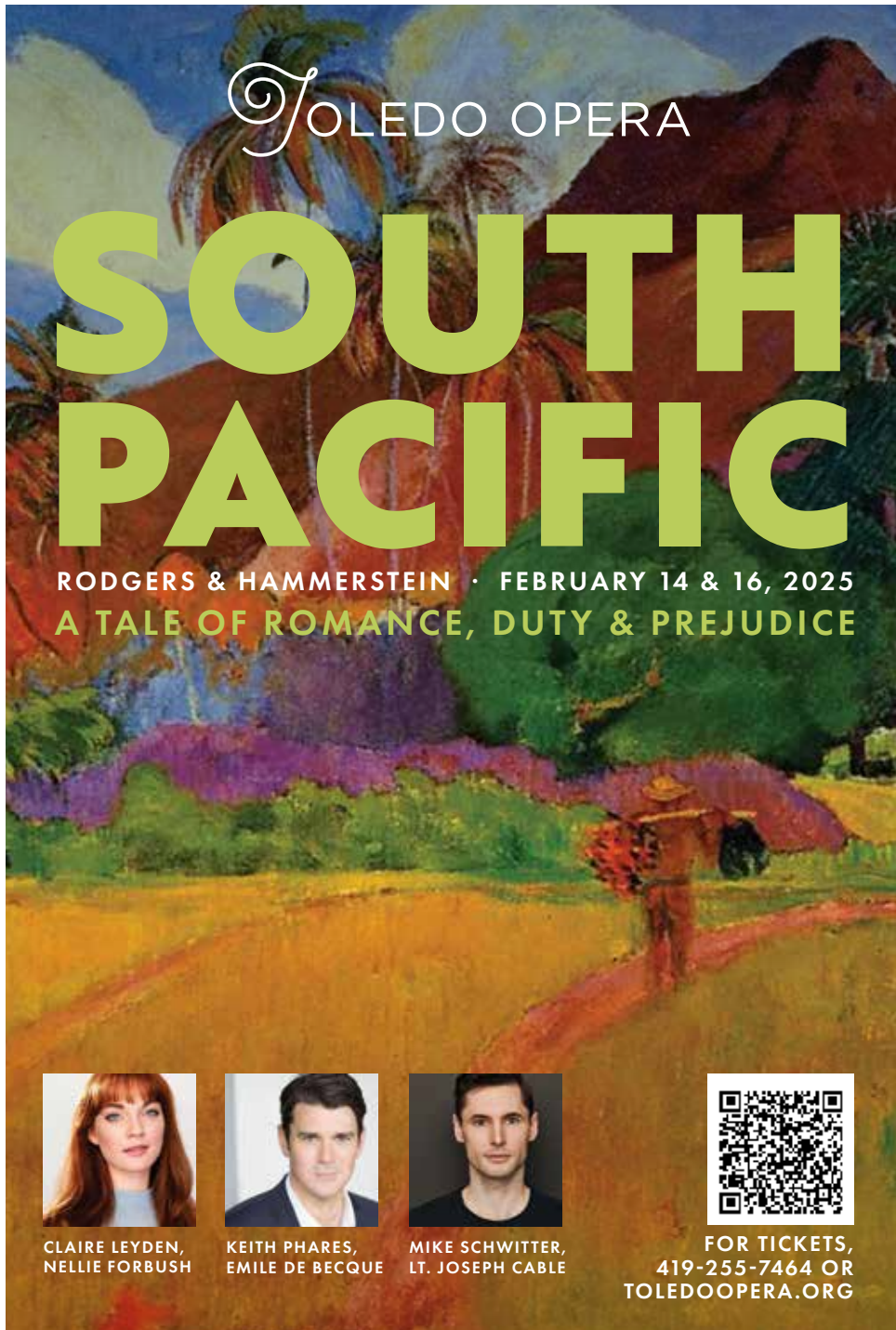
1. Online: Visit our secure donation page at the QR code or <https://tinyurl.com/svxjpa2h>
2. Mail: Send your check to:
LiveSecure Matching Security Campaign
JFGT, 6465 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania OH 43560
3. Phone: Call us at 419-885-4461 to make a secure donation over the phone.
4. Commitment: 3 year commitments are preferred but annual contributions can also be made.

**Please note that this gift is NOT in lieu of an Annual Campaign contribution.

Join Us in Protecting Our Future




To meet the match requirement, our community is launching the **LiveSecure Matching Security Campaign**. Every dollar you designate and donate for security up to \$85,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the generous grant, effectively doubling the impact of your contribution. **Gifts to LiveSecure must be in addition to a donor's Annual Campaign gift to count toward the match.**




TOLEDO OPERA

SOUTH PACIFIC


RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN • FEBRUARY 14 & 16, 2025
A TALE OF ROMANCE, DUTY & PREJUDICE




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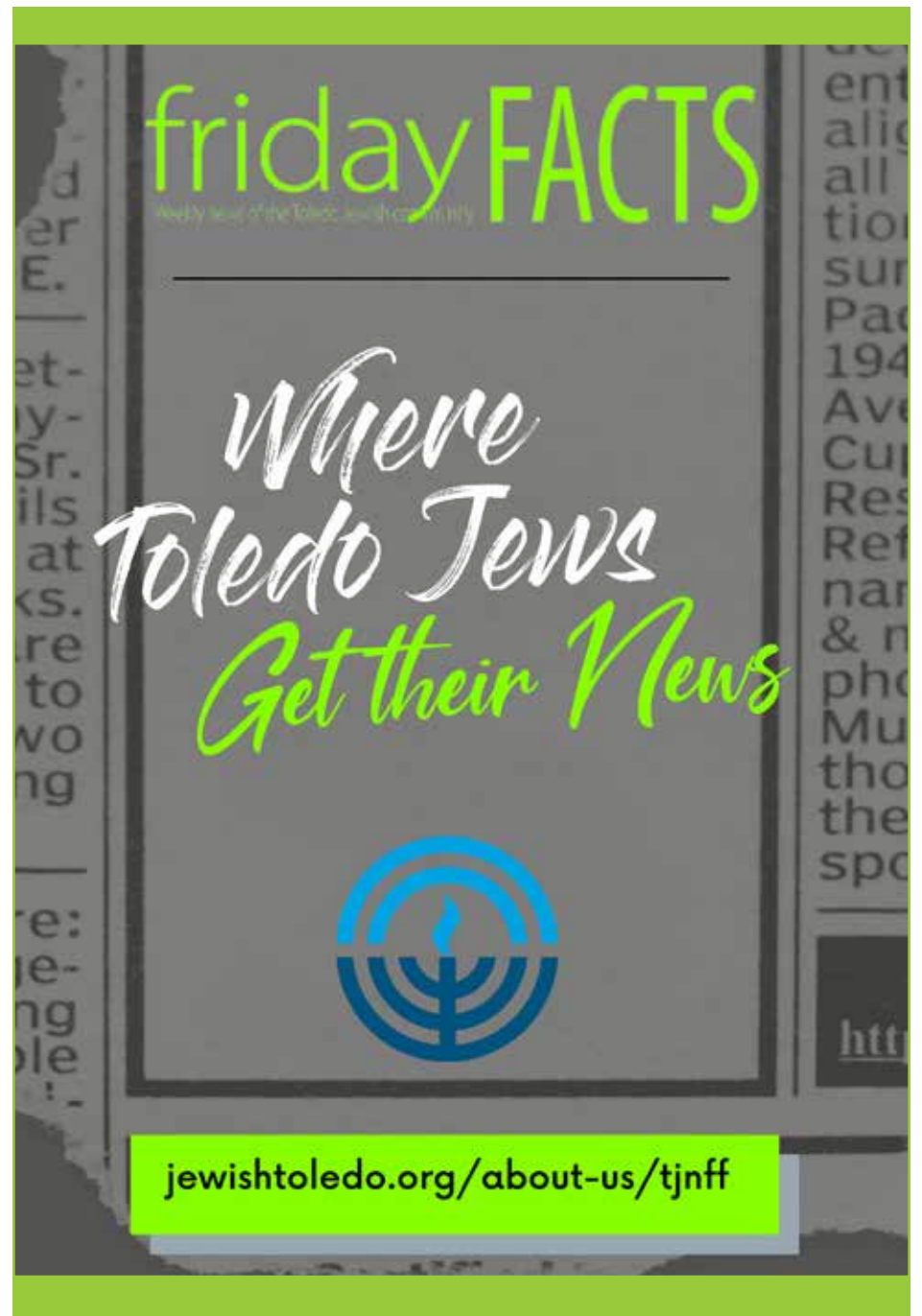
KEITH PHARES,
EMILE DE BECQUE



MIKE SCHWITTER,
LT. JOSEPH CABLE




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419-255-7464 OR
TOLEDOOPERA.ORG



fridayFACTS

Weekly news of the Toledo Jewish community

Where
Toledo Jews
Get their News



jewishtoledo.org/about-us/tjnff



**LIGHTS,
CAMERA,
ACTION!**



Jewish Federation
& Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

**LET'S ALL GO TO
THE MOVIES!**

**\$10 per
person,
FREE for
kids 0-4**

December 29
3 p.m.
Maumee Indoor Theater,
601 Conant St., Maumee

In town for the holidays?
Celebrate the season and the fourth night of Hanukkah with Jewish Toledo, kosher Chinese food, and a movie.

We'll have one theater exclusively for adults without kids and another for families with children. For parents who want to enjoy the kid-free movie and theater experience, childcare will be available.

RSVP by December 26 at <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms>
or with Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



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Toledo Jewish News accepts ads, artwork and all editorial copy by disc or e-mail only, at paul@JewishToledo.org. Photographs and discs may also be dropped off at the *Toledo Jewish News* office. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo Tributes and Memorials

received between October 21 - November 20, 2024

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

Alix Greenblatt Memorial Fund for Jewish Leadership

In Memory of Harvey Wolff
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Himmel

In Memory of Michele Blumberg
Maureen A. Koppenhaver

In Memory of Mike Blumberg
Ms. Julie Romanoff

Arleen R. Levine TJCF Fund for Donor Stewardship

In Memory of Betty Benjamin
In Memory of Ellie Williams
In Memory of Sandra Liebenthal Whitman
In Memory of Sandy Isenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Jon M. Levine

Jewish Community LiveSecure Fund

In Memory of Betty Benjamin
In Memory of Sandy Isenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Tom R. Kasle

Hillel Supporting

In Honor of Eli Abramson's Special Birthday
Mrs. Nancy Beren

In Celebration of Jim and Renee Aker's Special Anniversary

In Celebration of Maurine Glasser's Special Birthday
In Memory of Sandy Isenberg

In Celebration of Harley & Stacey Kripke's Special Anniversary

In Celebration of Shirley Levine's Special Birthday
In Celebration of Abby Suckow's Special Birthday

In Celebration of Tom Tuschman's Special Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Beren

JFS Foodbank

In Memory of Betty Benjamin
Steven J. Moskowitz

Long Term Community Needs Fund

In Memory of My Aunt Betty Benjamin
Benjamin Bradshaw

In Memory of Ellie Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rothschild

JFGT financial assistance and cancellation policies for programs

Financial assistance for programs

Discreet financial assistance available for Jewish Toledo activities

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

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo's Cancellation Policy

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

Policy:

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

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

Make sure to send the cancellation request before the 48-hour deadline. Cancellations made on or before the 48-hour deadline are

eligible for a full refund of the registration fee.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Recipient of the 2023 Toledo Community Foundation Northwest Ohio Nonprofit Excellence Award

Gaines Memorial Fund in Foundation to benefit JSFSS

By Abby Hoicowitz

The Philip and Anne Gaines Memorial Fund, established with the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF) by the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, recognizes Philip (z"l) and Anne (z"l) Gaines' dedication to Judaism and service. In accordance with their wishes, the Gaines' gift of \$100,000 to JFGT will be used to generate an annual income distribution to support the social service work of Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services (JSFSS). The fund is expected to generate approximately \$5,000 a year.

Philip and Anne "very much expressed and lived their Judaism," their daughter, Rita Menitoff, said. She explained that they participated in service to the Jewish people throughout their lives, but life became difficult for them as they aged.

According to Rita, the Gaines' mission was to support Jewish families and seniors. Because of their own experiences with JSFSS, they saw that there was a big need for care for seniors/families. They wanted their gift to enable JSFSS to expand and reach out to more seniors, especially those who are alone or incapacitated.

"My parents were always very independent and really wanted to stay in their home and keep that independence," Rita added. "They reached out to the then director of [JSFSS], Nancy Newbury... She was so instrumental in helping them understand [their situation] and putting them in touch with all the services that are available to maintain seniors in their home as long as possible and help them get meals and home care - many services to help them stay in their home as they wanted for a very long time."

Eventually, once it became necessary, Philip and Anne moved into a senior



living facility in Cincinnati near their daughter, Renee Loftspring, and her family.

Rita said that Nancy Newbury and Deb Damschroder (JSFSS social worker) "helped them with the realization that they needed to move... Those are difficult conversations to have, and [they were] amazing... [My parents] felt really comfortable, and it didn't take long for them to make a lot of friends... My father participated in [services], and it was a terrific transition, and he kept saying over and over [how JSFSS was] so instrumental in extending the quality of their life and their Jewish life."

Philip, born in Cleveland, lived most of his adult life in Toledo; he died at 97 in Cincinnati in February 2024. His wife of 74 years, Anne (Wolinsky) Gaines, passed away in November 2020. He started his career as a court reporter in Cleveland, before moving to Toledo where he opened his own company, Gaines Reporting Service. He founded The Toledo School of Court Reporting and, in collaboration with his son and business partner, Robert Gaines, initiated the development of voice

recognition for transcription.

Anne began her college studies at 40 years old, earning bachelor's and master's degrees, and a Certificate in Special Education at The University of Toledo. For 40 years she taught and championed special education, including development of cultural enrichment and life skills programs at Nathan Hale Elementary School. In 1988, Anne was awarded the Ohio Special Education Teacher of the Year. She was revered by her colleagues and students.

"My parents took me to the Sunshine [Communities] house," as a teen and preteen, said Rita. "I would go every Sunday for a few hours, and [the children and I] would play together, and I still remember it... Having a direct experience was one of the most important things about education and the values of Judaism" that Philip and Anne taught to their children.

Philip and Anne were active members at Temple Shomer Emunim; he pursued adult education throughout his life as a student of Judaism, provided leadership as President, taught religious school for over two decades including developing

a Tikkun Olam confirmation class curriculum, and was an organizer of the Renaissance program for adults. According to Rita, her parents would take their students to visit Pelham Manor, the Darlington House, and other institutions and organizations so that they could understand beyond the experiences that they had in school and in their neighborhoods, in the Jewish and non-Jewish community.

Philip and Anne's interests in social action and justice also included the resettlement of Jews from the former Soviet Union by finding them housing and educational and employment opportunities, volunteering at The Toledo Jewish Home for the Aged, and serving food to the unhoused at St. Vincent de Paul's Kitchen. Anne developed Tot Shabbat experiential programs for preschool children and, as a retiree, served as an elementary school tutor. She pursued adult education throughout her life in professional studies and as a lifelong student of American history and literature including membership in two book clubs. She generously shared her joy, compassion, and values with her family and friends.

Rita said, "When we would go visit my parents, probably once every three months... whatever restaurant we were in, we got used to families coming up to my parents and saying, 'oh my gosh, Mr. Gaines, you taught my confirmation class. I want you to meet my wife and my children.' I mean, continuously, everywhere. So that's his legacy; that's their legacy."

If you are interested in establishing a fund, please contact Stephen Rothschild, CEO, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo, at 419-724-0372 or stephen@jewishtoledo.org.

Texas A&M's Sam Salz cherishes his first taste of college football — and the opportunity to inspire fellow Orthodox Jews

By Jacob Gurvis

Nov. 22, 2024 (JTA) — A couple hours before Shabbat one week ago, Sam Salz was in the parking lot of the Texas A&M Chabad, running practice football plays by himself.

Salz, the 5-foot-6 Orthodox player who made headlines in 2022 for walking onto the Division I Aggies, was in his third season with the team but had yet to appear in a game. Now, he was approaching the 10th game of a 12-game regular season in his final year, and still had not taken the field.

Saturday was senior night at Texas A&M, honoring the team's outgoing players, and Salz's father and a high school friend were in attendance, as were a group of Jewish friends from campus.

For Salz, it may have also been his last best chance to play. But as the game progressed into the final minutes, he was still waiting his turn.

With 42 seconds left, he heard his name called.

"All of a sudden I was standing there and I heard 'Sam, Sam!' and I was like, who is it?" Salz recounted in an interview. "It was my coach, and he



Sam Salz is in his third season with the Texas A&M football team after walking on in 2022. (Rob Havens/Aggieland Illustrated)

was looking for me, like, 'Come with me.' I was like, 'Oh my gosh, this is the moment. I'm going to play.'"

Salz, who joined the Aggies as a running back and is now listed as a wide receiver, had not practiced a kickoff in quite some time. And, in fact, he had never played an official, organized football match of any kind.

In other words, this wasn't just his

first college football game. It was his first real game, period.

"The main thing that was going through my mind was, 'You're not going to false start or be offsides,'" Salz said, referring to two common penalties. "Even after they kicked it, I waited like a split second to see everybody else start moving, so then I started moving. Because I was like, I'm not going to be

the one screwing this up."

The main reason Salz had yet to take the field is that he is likely the only athlete among the approximately 77,000 NCAA football players who is an Orthodox, Shabbat-observant Jew. Traditional Shabbat observance forbids 39 different manners of work — from driving to carrying objects in public spaces — on Saturday, the day nearly all college football games are held.

Salz, of course, knew that going in, but went out for the team anyway. His appearance marked the culmination of a years-long journey, one that took him from Kohelet Yeshiva High School — a Modern Orthodox school in Philadelphia with roughly 100 students and no football team — to a legendary college football program that currently sits at No. 15 in the national rankings and plays in the vaunted Southeastern Conference.

"I was a kid who grew up in Philly attending Orthodox day schools my entire life, and ended up in the middle of Texas playing Division I football in

Salz continued on page 8

Jewish Community Relations Council

Israeli National Day of Remembrance

On October 27, Jewish Toledo commemorated the Israeli National Day of Remembrance for October 7, welcoming Adina Kanefield, CEO of the National Library of Israel's US-affiliate. She discussed the National Library of Israel's Bearing Witness Initiative, documenting the collective responses to October 7 and how its memory will be passed on through the generations.

Adina spoke about the library's purpose and mission, and the important work they are undertaking in document our collective responses to October 7 and the war in Gaza. She also highlighted the presence of a variety of materials related to Toledo in the library's archives.

Over 75 folks joined, including representatives from Governor Mike DeWine's and Attorney General Dave Yost's offices, local elected officials, and a variety of interfaith partners. Amichai Stout, Director,

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, presented Adina with a copy of "A History of the Toledo Jewish Community 1895-2006" as a donation for the library's archives.



Learn more, upload texts, photos, recordings, websites, social media posts, memes, etc. by scanning the QR code.

This event was co-sponsored by Congregation Etz Chayim, Congregation B'nai Israel, and Temple Shomer Emunim and made possible with the help of a grant from JCC Association of North America and Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism initiative, Mit-habrim ("Connections").



Jewish Federation & Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO



Jewish Toledo commemorates Kristallnacht

Jewish Toledo attended a Kristallnacht commemoration event at Lourdes University last month, which included a showing of the film, *Woman in Gold*, starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds and a very special guest expert on Nazi-looted art.

Prior to the film, Dr. Shelley Perlove, a professor in Art History from the University of Michigan who

teaches a class on the legacy of art during the Holocaust, discussed how it was weaponized by the Nazis both metaphorically and literally, looking at Nazi-looted art, and the efforts to retrieve it.

This program was made possible in part by the Arleen and Jon Levine Family Fund of the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.



Fireside Chats

6 -7:30 p.m.
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
Free event, registration required



Fireside Chat #3

Defining Terms: The State of Palestine/Israel as Jewish State
Thursday, Dec. 5

145 sovereign nations recognize an entity known as "the State of Palestine" - but what exactly does that refer to, and how is it different from the Palestinian Authority, Fatah, Hamas, and Gaza? And what does it mean when Israel's Basic Laws define it as Jewish State? Come learn more about the importance of being intentional and informed in our language on these important issues.



RSVP the Monday prior to each chat at <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events> or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

Dinner will not be served at the Fireside Chats, but there will be treats to enjoy.

To fight hate, these Brooklyn-based nonprofit professionals wrote a comic book together

By Jackie Hajdenberg

Nov. 20, 2024 (New York Jewish Week) — In the new comic book, “We Are Brooklyn: Stories of Hope,” Francil Tejada shares her story about the Dominican Republic, where she was born, and the death of her grandmother, which inspired her to change how she connects with people and shows love.

It’s a personal story, a Brooklyn story and an American story — one of six being told through an anti-hate project initiated by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. Others tell stories about an imam’s trip to Auschwitz and growing up Jewish in Germany.

Contributors to the comic are part of the third cohort of the We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship Against Hate. The project is a partnership between The Center for Shared Society at the JCRC and the Mayor’s Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes.

For participants, the fellowship has proved to be a safe place to talk about their differences and brainstorm ways to share strategies for combating intolerance, said Deborah Greenblatt, an assistant professor at Medgar Evers College, where she teaches multicultural and elementary education to future teachers.



Left to right: Dani Kogan, Deborah Greenblatt, Julian Voloj, Francil Tejada and Bradley T. Borden hold copies of “We Are Brooklyn: Stories of Hope,” a comic book celebrating the diversity of the borough and pf participants in the We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship Against Hate, Nov. 18, 2024. (Jackie Hajdenberg)

“It really made a difference,” she said, “because not only was it like my group at Medgar Evers College — a diverse group of people from different places, different than me, that I could share values with — but it brought in this Jewish community piece where not only was I meeting really amazing people that shared background with me, [who shared] Jewish values with me, but were so diverse within their Judaism.”

The new comic book, released Monday night at the offices of the progressive Jewish community service group Repair the World, was created as one of the group’s community-building projects. The six stories were adapted for the comic book form by one of the fellows, Julian Voloj, a graphic novel writer and executive director at Be’chol Lashon — a group that teaches and provides programming about diversity

and Jews of color in Jewish spaces. The book was illustrated by Brazilian artist Wagner Willian, who agreed to take on the project at a discounted rate.

“Basically it was the first proposal,” Voloj said. “And, everyone was like, ‘Yes. Done. We’ll do it.’ Okay! That was easy!” Voloj contributed his own story about growing up Jewish in Germany, and finding the name of his great-grandfather, which they share, in a copy of the text of the Torah at an old synagogue in Hungary.

(Voloj is married to Lisa Keys, the managing editor of the New York Jewish Week, who had no part in the writing or editing of this story.)

Tejada, a lead navigator at the Diaspora Community Services, a multicultural social support organization, said she wanted to meet other people in Brooklyn who were in the same line of work. Tejada filled out the application, and joined the January-to-June 2024 cohort.

One exercise from the fellowship that really stuck with her, she said, was a partner activity about exchanging points of view.

“A lot of the times, me and my partner would be completely different, and I

Comic continued on next page

Salz continued from page 6

the SEC,” Salz said. “At this point in my life, I’m just doing my best to accomplish my purpose. And, you know what: God, take the wheel.”

After last week’s game, he said, he is “very thankful,” calling the experience “just a very meaningful moment for me to be there and just get to run down.”

When he got to College Station, he began practicing on a patch of grass near the Aggies’ practice field, and boldly introduced himself to then-head coach Jimbo Fisher by saying, “I’m Sam Salz and I’m going to walk on to your football team.”

The hard work paid off: Salz joined the team as a sophomore walk-on, “Rudy”-style, in 2022. He chose jersey No. 39 in honor of those categories of work forbidden on Shabbat. While he has only played that one snap, he still contributes to the team by joining practices. He’s a member of the scout team, which acts as the opposing team to allow the Aggies to practice plays.

And the team has made arrangements to accommodate his Jewish observance, from exempting him from team travel and activities on Shabbat and other Jewish holidays to providing kosher food and his own kosher microwave in the team facility. During Passover last year, the Aggies even gave Salz his own water bottle to ensure that he was able to follow the holiday’s especially strict rules regarding kosher food.

Rabbi Yossi Lazaroff, the founder and director of Texas A&M’s Chabad, said Salz is an important role model for the Jewish community, which he estimated numbers in the “several hundreds” at the school of nearly 80,000 students.

“Sam is an upstander, and he tries to really make a difference,” Lazaroff said. “Every move that he was doing was like, ‘If I’m going to do it, then I need

to do it properly. I can’t compromise. If I’m going to do it, No. 39, I’m not even going to go onto the field [on Shabbat]. I don’t want to have people even think that I’m compromising on my Jewish beliefs or halacha,” the Hebrew term for Jewish law.

Lazaroff said Salz is an active member of the Chabad community, visiting the center daily for kosher meals, events and text study. During his freshman year, Salz even lived in a house next to the center that Chabad owns.

Salz said he cherishes the opportunity to teach his teammates about Judaism.

“People always ask questions. People are always curious about things,” Salz said. “They learn things about Judaism through me, and I take pride in that honestly, because especially when it comes down to Orthodox Judaism, it doesn’t tend to be represented in locker rooms that well.”

Some of the questions, Salz said, are expected: Why don’t you practice on certain days? How does kosher observance work? What’s that tree branch and lemon — a lulav and etrog — you’re walking around with during Sukkot? And what is Sukkot?

Others veer into the more personal and complex aspects of Jewish law, like questions about dating and sex. Even when his teammates think they’re joking around in the locker room, Salz said, there’s always a Jewish answer.

“As somebody who avidly studies the Talmud and Jewish law, I’ve heard a lot of the questions they’ll ask me,” Salz said, adding that he would tell them, “You’re joking about it, but there’s actually a debate about this in Jewish law.”

Moose Muhammad III, a fellow senior and wide receiver, told JTA that Salz has taught him about kosher laws and the schedule of Orthodox worship, which includes prayer thrice daily, and

more on Shabbat and holidays.

“It’s been real cool, just because I feel like he’s all about the team, and he’s always trying to teach somebody,” Muhammad said. “He’s always just a positive influence on everybody, a good relationship to have.”

Muhammad said he remembers seeing Salz practicing on that patch of grass before he made the team, using trash cans as cones to run drills by himself. He said Salz’s work ethic is admirable.

“He comes out to work every single day,” he said. “Ever since then, since Jimbo [Fisher] brought him in, he’s just always been a good teammate and he’s had a positive presence.”

Salz has a Shabbat routine that allows him to catch the end of some contests after nightfall, when the day of rest ends: He spends Friday evening and Saturday mornings at Chabad. After afternoon prayers, he walks to the team’s facility for Seudah Shlishit, the customary third meal of Shabbat that occurs right before sundown. Depending on the time, he’ll either study text or sing Shabbat songs by himself in a spare room in the stadium. Then, time permitting, he dons his jersey and joins the team on the sideline.

Salz is part of a small cohort of Orthodox athletes whose stories have garnered attention in recent years, and he said he’s enjoyed talking to his contemporaries like Elie Kligman, a Sacramento State baseball player who was drafted into MLB in 2021. He’s also met Ryan Turell, the former Yeshiva University basketball star who now plays professionally in Israel.

Salz said he and Kligman have discussed launching a collective for Jewish college athletes to provide extra support when it comes to navigating the NCAA’s rules regarding benefitting from and promoting their brands and

college careers.

He said the decision not to play on Shabbat is an easy one — even when the team’s wide receiver coach offered him a rare opportunity to travel with the team to Louisiana State University for a weekend game last season. But Salz said that doing that would have undercut the example he was trying to set.

“I’m here because I want to inspire people to keep Shabbat,” Salz said. “Without that, there’s not really a reason for [me] to be here, because it’s a very large part of my purpose of being here. So in that respect, I was like, I want to travel, but I can’t.”

Around campus, Salz said he often gets recognized as a local celebrity of sorts. He called Texas A&M “the most philosemitic campus you’ll probably get in the United States,” and said he hasn’t faced any antisemitism or discrimination, either before or after Oct. 7, 2023. Instead, peers often know his story and occasionally ask for selfies or autographs.

“I love having people who appreciate me, and I think I appreciate them more than they probably appreciate me,” Salz said. “I enjoy it. I feel honored, honestly, when someone comes up and they want to take a picture.”

Salz said his focus on empowering other Jewish people and athletes won’t end when he graduates college next year. He has plans to get ordained as a rabbi, be a motivational speaker — and hopefully make it to the NFL.

“There’s probably a Jewish kid, and maybe even especially an Orthodox kid, who wants to play football, or wants to play sports, and is sitting somewhere confused about what he should do, or who’s told that he’ll never be able to do it,” Salz said. “Even getting to see me run down on that field, successful play or not, could have given him all the hope that he wanted.”

Local

Happy Tears

By Lauren Sachs

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



Sitting in one of the few empty conference room seats, I silenced my cell phone and took a deep breath. After smiling at the woman to my right, I exchanged silent hellos with the staff who had prepared me for this day. I was happy to be at hospice and taking part in the volunteer training I had eagerly anticipated. Given the kind and supportive experiences I had with hospice after losing my husband, I felt honored to finally be in a position to give back. Following his own introduction, the President invited us to each share our reasons for volunteering with hospice. When it was my turn, I explained that my late husband died suddenly; therefore, I only became familiar with the hospice bereavement department in the wake of his demise. I went on to say how incredibly helpful the staff

and my spousal loss support group had been, adding that my late husband had also referred his own patients to hospice given his work as an oncologist. A short while later, I noticed the woman sitting on my right glancing at my name card before turning to me with an epiphany. "Your late husband was my oncologist" she offered warmly, adding "I really loved him." To which I replied, "I really loved him, too." A rejoinder that elicited a burst of laughter between us both.

If you have experienced personal loss, perhaps you have heard people say that our relationship with the deceased does not end simply because they are no longer alive. When I was initially introduced to the idea of an ongoing relationship with our dearly departed, I could not wrap my head around it. In the wake of my own loss, I was incredulous that anyone could suggest such a ludicrous thought, struggling as I was to accept his death. As I have come to process my own loss more thoroughly, I have started to view this idea anew. Certainly, no one can bring back their beloved to our mortal world, but in many ways they are still with us. We talk about our lost loved ones with family, tell stories about them with those we meet, reminisce with others who shared affection for them, and think of new ways to honor their memories. Sometimes these reminiscences feel good, and sometimes it is painful to bring them so close without having access to their corporeal self. Nevertheless, through time, I have come to realize that our beloved do not

stop being a part of us after they die. Indeed, while they may not be here in the flesh, we continue to consider and reconsider who they were and how they influenced our lives.

As I have pondered this notion that our relationship continues after death, I have been particularly awestruck in witnessing this dynamic with my children. Though I certainly continue to ponder my own connection with my late husband, I started to realize that our daughters have an especially complex path of grief since they have changed and grown so much since his untimely passing. My daughters will always recollect their father through the eyes of a child, even as they continue to blossom into young women. I have seen my girls yearn to share newfound thoughts and ideas with their father, and wish they could engage in the more mature conversations which now regularly take place in our home. Like anyone who has lost a loved one, my daughters have missed their father at milestones and longed for more time together, yet they also wish their father could see them moving through new stages of development. As our daughters grow ever closer to true adulthood, they have started to newly evaluate who their father was, think about how he prioritized his time, and question which of their traits and habits were formed by observation or genetic ties with him. Perhaps most of all, they have continued to see themselves and their relationship with their father in a new light as they

have grown and evolved.

The bittersweet truth of loss is that we who are bereaved do not leave our loved ones in the past as we move into the future. They stay with us, and though at times it causes our hearts to ache, it is also a thing of beauty. We often feel their presence in meaningful moments and can imagine how they would take in our lived experience. Attuned to how they made us feel, we may even find ourselves questioning if they were there at events after they died, feeling almost certain of their attendance despite the knowledge that it could only be possible in a spiritual sense.

Over lunch at the hospice training, speaking with my late husband's patient gave me the chance to once again feel close to him. As my fellow trainee shared memories of her office visits at the cancer center, she reminded me of Brad's work ethic, his kindness, his humor, and even his obsession with American politics. Talking about him in this intimate way brought tears to my eyes, but also a sense of gratitude that I could share memories of him with this perfect stranger. I could imagine him getting worked up about the political climate of the day, and could envision him making the necessary calls to advocate with her insurance company for genetic testing they had previously balked at covering. As we parted ways that day, I felt a sense that our meeting had been beshert, and just the thing I needed to know that Brad was still part of my life.

Comics continued from previous page

would have a reason why, and she would have a reason why, and I would understand where she was coming from," Tejada said. "She saw a lot of things as a mom or as a woman, or as whatever ethnicity she was, and so do I. So different POVs might give you different answers. It doesn't mean that it's wrong."

Over the six-month fellowship, the group also took a trip to Washington, D.C., and some of the fellows put on a multicultural dance and music festival at the Brooklyn Children's Museum in August.

One moment that stuck out to Dani Kogan, associate director of Brooklyn Initiatives at the Center for Shared Society, was when a fellow reached out to her after the Donald Trump-Kamala Harris presidential debate. Trump repeated unfounded claims that Haitian immigrants were eating dogs and cats in Springfield, Ohio, and the fellow asked for assistance to organize a rally in support of the Haitian community and children who were being bullied in school.

"JCRC representation came, other fellows came," Kogan said during the

reception for the comic book Monday. "The rally was stronger because we were there together. That's really the power of this fellowship, these kinds of connections that work all day to keep this going."

Greenblatt, who grew up just outside of New York City, said she got to learn about different Jewish immigrant groups to New York, and about the diversity within her own cultural and religious community.

"There was a lot of reflection on who I am, what being Jewish means to me, what community means to me, how to kind of be a part of a diverse community while still having a strong sense of identity and not feeling bad about that," Greenblatt said. "As someone who grew up doing a lot of multicultural work and DEI work, it's very much been like — you speak for the other. But also: Who's speaking for me?"

Medgar Evers College, Greenblatt said, has been largely spared from the campus antisemitism controversy that has roiled other campuses that are part of the City University of New York over the past year, since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack in Israel and the war in Gaza began.



Deborah Greenblatt, an assistant professor at Medgar Evers College, reads her comic in "We Are Brooklyn: Stories of Hope." (Jackie Hajdenberg)

The fellowship, she said, gave her a place to discuss her feelings about the war, and about Israel.

"Having a safe place to talk about it, both with our Jewish and our non-Jewish folks in the fellowship, has been immensely helpful," Greenblatt said.

For now, the book is available for purchase through the JCRC with a \$5 suggested donation that goes to Be'chol Lashon.

Voloj is thinking about ways to bring "We Are Brooklyn" to a wider audience.

"I have some ideas, but I think we just want to figure something out that goes really beyond," Voloj said. "But I feel like there's so much more we can do. And, yeah, we might do a Be'chol Lashon event, like a panel with some people on it or something. I mean, I think it's a perfect tool for bringing people together."

JFGT Programs Calendar

DECEMBER PROGRAMS & HOLIDAYS



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SUNDAY CIRCLE

Friendship Circle
Chabad House
Sunday, 12/1
12:30 p.m.

FIRESIDE CHAT #3: THE STATE OF PALESTINE

JCRC/Community
Sekach Building
Thursday, 12/5
6 p.m.
See page 7

TOLEDO JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

Community Nosh by Micah Siva
Chabad House
Sunday, 12/8
6 p.m.
See page 2

HANUKKAH HITS THE ROAD

Seniors
West Bloomfield Township, MI
Thursday, 12/12
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
See page 15

LATKES & LIGHTS

Community
Toledo Zoo
Sunday, 12/15
5 - 7 p.m.
See page 17

PJ & GAN PLAYDATE

Ages 0-4 plus grownup(s)
Gan Yeladim Preschool
Tuesday, 12/17
9:30 a.m.
See page 18

SHINE A LIGHT ON ANTISEMITISM 2024

Community
Congregation Etz Chayim
Thursday, 12/19
6:30 p.m.
See page 1

CHRISTMAS EVE

JFGT offices close at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/24

EREV HANUKKAH/CHRISTMAS

JFGT offices closed
Wednesday, 12/25

LET'S ALL GO TO THE MOVIES

Community
Maumee Indoor Theater
Thursday, 12/29
3 p.m.
See page 4

HANUKKAH

Thursday, 12/26-Thursday, 1/2

*All information subject to change with updates posted on

www.jewishtoledo.org



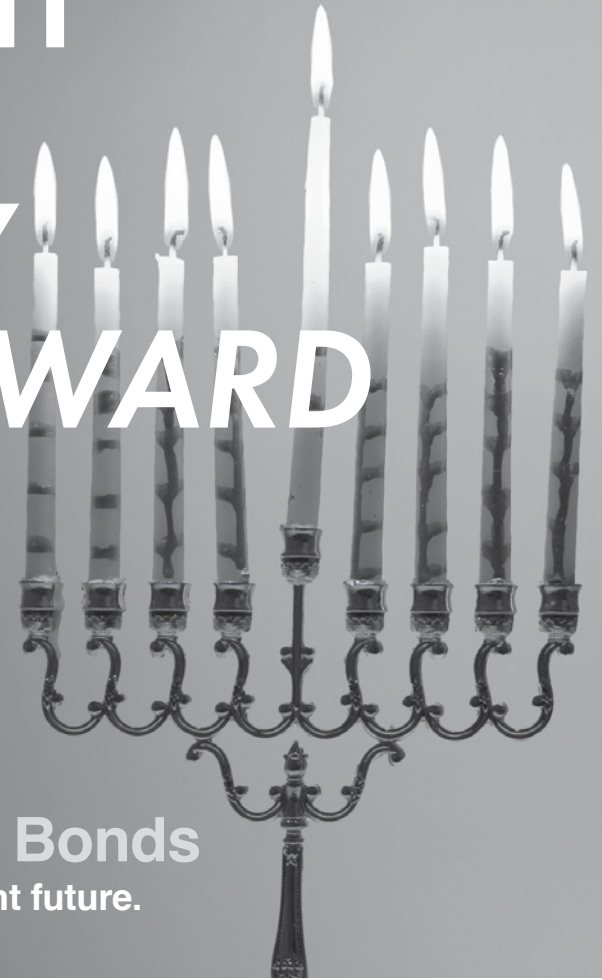
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Jewish and women's groups demand United Nations leaders act to hold Hamas accountable for gender-based violence

57 Organizations, Led by Hadassah, Ask UN Leaders to Blacklist Hamas for Committing Crimes Against Humanity

Nov. 25, 2024 NEW YORK, NY – On November 25, 57 organizations led by Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, along with the Hadassah Foundation, the Dinah Project, I Believe Israeli Women Global Movement, International Council of Jewish Women, Israel Women's Network, Jewish Women International, and National Council of Jewish Women spoke out strongly on the first day of the United Nations' (UN) annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to help deter future acts of gender-based violence in conflict by advancing justice and accountability.

These groups continue to be frustrated by the United Nations' failure to use available tools to hold Hamas accountable for clearly documented, systemic, gender-based violence on October 7, 2023, and beyond.

In a letter to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres,

Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten and United Nations Women Executive Director Sima Sami Bahous, the groups outlined three concrete steps the United Nations can take right now to address the dramatic 50 percent increase in conflict-related sexual violence worldwide documented in the Annual Report of the Secretary General of 2023. The groups asked the United Nations to declare Hamas' documented systemic weaponization of sexual violence a crime against humanity, blacklist Hamas as a party credibly suspected as being responsible for patterns of rape and establish and encourage all nations to adopt an international protocol for responding to conflict-related sexual violence.

"It has been more than a year since Hamas brutally raped, sexually abused and mutilated Israeli women and girls," said Hadassah National President

Women's Groups continued on next page

Women's Groups continued from previous page

Carol Ann Schwartz. “However, despite overwhelming evidence, UN leaders have not held Hamas accountable or taken decisive steps towards justice and accountability. During this year’s 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Hadassah and our partners call on the Secretary General and other UN leaders to stand up and show that sexual violence against women and girls will never be tolerated or excused. Holding perpetrators accountable is critical to deterring future use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. As a global humanitarian organization, Hadassah remains committed to standing up for women everywhere.”

“Every international agency and organization, especially the United Nations, must do its part to ensure that sexual violence is not justified or excused,” said Hadassah Foundation Director Stephanie Blumenkranz. “This includes holding perpetrators accountable for their use of violence and taking appropriate action.”

“UN experts found evidence of Hamas’ acts of conflict-related sexual violence, including rape, torture and humiliation in several locations in the Gaza envelope,” said Dinah Project Co-Founder Professor Ruth Halperin-Kaddari. “It is time to take action to hold Hamas accountable and ensure that these crimes against humanity do not go unpunished.”

“Hamas’ horrific October 7 attack is only part of a larger trend of increasing acts of conflict-based violence against women and girls across the world,” said International Council of Jewish Women President Lilian Grinberg. “During these 16 days of action, dedicated to lifting up the voices

of women and girls, the UN must prioritize holding Hamas terrorists accountable.”

“It is critical that we standardize the global response to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV),” said Israel Women’s Network Executive Director Tal Hochman. “Like other nations grappling with CRSV, the Israeli government needs clear guidance to address its devastating consequences and bring perpetrators to justice. We call on the UN to establish a comprehensive international protocol and corresponding resolution to equip states with the tools to standardize evidence-gathering, streamline legal processes, and ease the burden of prosecuting these heinous crimes.”

“There is abundant evidence that Hamas committed horrifying acts of sexual violence on October 7,” said Meredith Jacobs, CEO of Jewish Women International and co-founder of I Believe Israeli Women. “By failing to hold Hamas terrorists accountable for these acts, the UN is telling Israeli women and women across the globe that their lives do not matter—that there is a double standard being applied to Israeli women.”

“Rape is never a form of resistance. National Council of Jewish Women joins our partners in urging the United Nations and every country around the world to adopt policies that hold perpetrators of sexual violence — including Hamas — accountable. As Jewish organizations, we are committed to efforts to support survivors and uphold justice. We believe everyone must be able to live a life free of violence,” said National Council of Jewish Women CEO Sheila Katz.



NO ONE SAVES MORE LIVES IN ISRAEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

This Chanukah, there are many ways to support Israel and its people, but none is more transformative than a gift to Magen David Adom, Israel’s emergency medical system. Your gift to MDA isn’t just changing lives — it’s literally saving them — providing critical care and hospital transport for everyone from victims of heart attacks to casualties of rocket attacks.

Join the effort at MagenDavidAdom.org or call 866.632.2763.



Create & Relate 2025 – Session One

Thursday, January 9
 Noon – 2:30 p.m.
 Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
 \$5 OR bring a donation of personal care item(s) for the JSFSS Family Food Pantry

Dr. Breanna Barney, Doctor of Physical Therapy will introduce her company VIP THERAPY, your elite provider for concierge physical therapy, stretching and wellness.

Following the presentation NAMI will help participants tap into their creativity and craft a personalized vision board! Whether you’re dreaming of travel, trying new hobbies, or spending more time with family, this is the perfect opportunity to bring your aspirations to life. We’ll provide all the basics, but if you have any special supplies you’d like to use, feel free to bring them along!

Let’s create something meaningful together!



RSVP by Friday, January 3 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services

TECH TIPS

In last month's post, I wrote about the topic of organizing, digitizing, and sharing old family photos. In this month's post, in a different (but still related) vein, I'd like to cover the topic of oral history. Often, oral histories may conjure thoughts of professionally conducted interviews as seen on, say, The History Channel or in a Ken Burns documentary. While those are impressive, most oral histories can be, and are, accomplished much more humbly and simply: in one's home, using basic (audio only) equipment (something as simple as a cell phone), and by amateurs seeking to document and preserve family, friend, and personal histories that, clearly, hold enough meaning to warrant being saved and shared for posterity.

Oral histories, of course, can capture certain qualities that photos and superficial, 30-second videos can't: a person's voice, their unique speaking cadence and verbal tics, and a more immersive, deeper-dive into their thoughts, opinions, and memories. Please see (to the right) basic best practices to consider should you want to record an oral history.

1. Preparation: Project and topic selection; choose recording equipment; selecting an interviewee
2. Interviewing: have prepared questions; actively listen; be patient; converse but don't confront; be thankful
3. Preservation and access: audio file editing and saving; file storage; file sharing

For more thorough resources, Google the organizations listed below (include their names and "oral history best practices"); on their websites you will find extensive details, recommendations, and nuanced instructions for the beginner and the seasoned veteran, whether recording audio-only or including video as well.

Good luck, listen closely, and happy documenting! Until next month – Tim

- A. Smithsonian Institution Archives
- B. Oral History Association
- C. National Trust for Historic Preservation
- D. National Park Service



(Tech Time with Tim)

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

Upcoming Tech Programs

- **December 11: Device Advice** – Staying connected with Wi-Fi and hotspots when traveling
 - **December 18: Device Advice** – Exploring Bluesky and Threads apps
- RSVP with Sherry Majewski at: 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

Tim Hagen

Project Manager and Technology Coordinator Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo
6505 Sylvania Avenue
Sylvania, OH 43560
[T] 419-724-0412 [E] Tim@jewishtoledo.org

Toledo Jewish News

The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo



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HOW TO CONTACT JSFSS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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www.jewishtoledo.org/JFS

or contact us at 419-724-0401

Active Life for 60+

Foodology

RECREATIONAL COOKING CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Senior Foodology Fun Day!

Thursday, February 6

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

2059 W Laskey Rd.

Annual Campaign Donors: \$15 per person

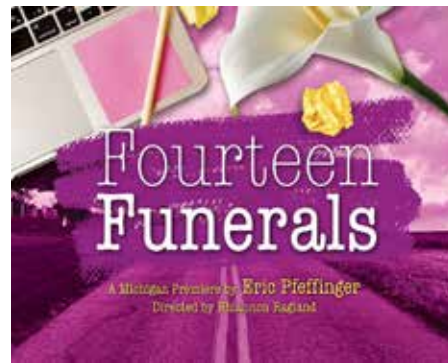
Non-donors: \$40 per person

Includes cooking lesson and lunch

Join us at Foodology for an exclusive, hands-on culinary experience! This intimate class invites seniors to explore the flavors and techniques of vegetarian Asian cuisine. Guided by our skilled instructor, you'll learn to prepare a delicious, healthy Asian-inspired lunch from scratch. After cooking, everyone will gather around to savor the fruits of their labor and enjoy a shared meal. Reserve your spot soon—this is one you won't want to miss!



LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE RSVP by Thursday January 30 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



Fourteen Funerals at the Purple Rose Theater

Thursday, March 6

Board Bus at 11 a.m., JFGT campus parking lot, 6465 Sylvania Ave.

Return around 6:30 p.m.

Annual Campaign Donors: \$10 per person

Non-donors to the Annual Campaign: \$20 per person

Includes lunch and theater ticket

Join us for a trip to visit the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea, Michigan to see *Fourteen Funerals* by Eric Pfeffinger.

When city girl Sienna receives a mysterious call about the untimely deaths of distant family members in tiny Blissfield, Indiana, things get... weird. She's been asked to deliver eulogies for relatives she's never even met. What might have been just an excuse to escape her dead-end life in Chicago quickly turns into something entirely unexpected. As Sienna tries to navigate small-town quirks, she forms an unlikely bond with Millie, the ever-cheerful employee at the local funeral home. Together, they uncover secrets, share laughs, and forge a surprising friendship that might just change both their lives.

Join us for this fresh, funny, and heartwarming tale of family, self-discovery, and the most unusual ways we find connection.

Note: Adult language and themes included, so expect a bit of sass!

RSVP by Wednesday, February 12 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.

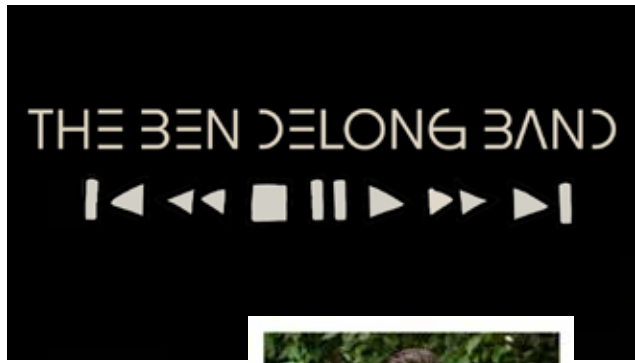


Mezuzah making

with Copper Moon



Active Life for 60+



L'Chaim - A Musical Celebration

Wednesday, January 8

12 - 1:30 p.m.

Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave.

Annual Campaign donors - \$10 per person

Non-donors to the Annual Campaign - \$15 per person

Includes lunch and music



Join us for a delicious lunch accompanied by the inspiring sounds of the Ben DeLong Band. Renowned for breaking cultural and generational barriers, the Ben DeLong Band captivates audiences with their powerful, moving performances, creating deep and lasting connections among listeners.

Let's come together to strengthen our bonds, share in the joy of music, and build meaningful relationships. Together, we'll create lasting memories and celebrate the vibrant spirit of community!



RSVP by Friday, January 3 at <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors> or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Trip to the Theater

Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue

Sunday, January 19

10 a.m. - Brunch at Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

11 a.m. - Local bus

1 p.m. - Showtime at the Fisher Theatre

5 p.m. - Estimated return time

Annual Campaign donors - \$20 per person

Non-donors to the Annual Campaign - \$35 per person

SOLD OUT



Start the day out with brunch in Toledo then board the bus to see *Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue* at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

Picture it. United States, 2024. *Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue* is a parody that brings Miami's sassiest seniors to stages around the country for one more hurrah. We find Sophia out on bail after being busted by the DEA for running a drug ring for retirees. Blanche and Rose have founded CreakN, a thriving sex app for seniors. And Dorothy is trying to hold it all together with help from a new (much) younger sex-crazed lover. *Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue* allows audiences to relive the heartfelt hilarity of the four ladies who never stopped being best friends.

Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue is a professional stage show unlike any other Golden Girls tribute that you might have experienced. The play is written by Robert Leleux, author of *The Memoirs of a Beautiful Boy* and *The Living End*. The show is directed by Eric Swanson, co-founder and Executive Director of The Detroit Actors' Theatre Company. The cast includes Ryan Bernier as Dorothy, Vince Kelley as Blanche, Adam Graber as Rose, Christopher Kamm as Sophia, and Tommy Favorite as Stanley/Burt. The tour is produced by Murray & Peter Present and Innovation Arts & Entertainment.



Limited spaces available. RSVP by Monday, December 9 at <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors> or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Peace, Love, & Pottery

Painting Day!

GET GLAZED

Thursday, January 23

12 - 1:30 p.m.

Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

Annual Campaign donors - \$15 per person

Non-donors to the Annual Campaign - \$25 per person

Includes lunch and pottery painting supplies

Join us for a creative and relaxing afternoon as we gather to paint a piece of pottery. This hands-on activity is open to artists of all abilities. We will supply all the materials and supplies needed - you bring the creativity!



RSVP by Friday, January 17 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors> or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Active Life for 60+

Seniors: Hanukkah hits the Road




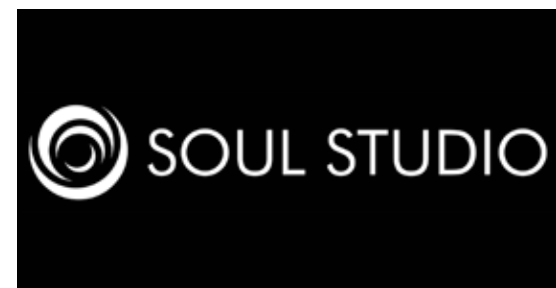
Thursday, December 12

9:30 a.m. - load bus at JCC/YMCA campus, 6465 Sylvania Ave.
3 p.m. (subject to change) - return to JCC/YMCA campus
 Annual Campaign donors: \$10 per person
 Non-donors to the Annual Campaign: \$20 per person
 Includes bus trip, lunch, tour, and Hanukkah gift

Get ready for a Hanukkah celebration like no other! This year, we're taking the festivities on the road with an exciting tour of the Soul Studio and Gallery in West Bloomfield, Michigan, where art and tradition come alive. Explore inspiring exhibits that capture the spirit of the season, followed by a delicious latke lunch at the elegant Soul Center banquet hall. It's the perfect blend of culture, community, and cuisine—so join us for a day filled with light, laughter, and latkes as we celebrate Hanukkah together in style!

Soul Studio is a supported art studio program with an open studio space and gallery for adults 18 years or older with special needs in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Through educational programming driven by each artist's creative impulses, participants are supported in a variety of art media; artists are inspired to develop careers as contemporary artists. Soul Studio was launched in 2016, inside the Friendship Circle Farber Center, which also houses the Soul Cafe and an event space, all of which provide a loving and inclusive environment that encourages artistic self-expression, vocational training, and employment opportunities to adults with special needs.

 **RSVP by Monday, December 2**
 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors> or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Celebrate Tu B'Shevat with Mini Tree Gardens

Thursday, February 13

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Hoen Garden Center, 1710 Holland Perrysburg Rd.

Annual Campaign Donors: \$10 per person

Non-donors to the Annual Campaign: \$20 per person



Come join us at the beautiful Hoen Garden Center as we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish New Year for trees. This special holiday marks the start of a new season of growth and renewal, honoring nature's gifts. Together, we'll create our own miniature tree gardens to take home—a fun and creative way to connect with the holiday's spirit. As we craft, we'll enjoy refreshing beverages from Queen Bee & Honey Coffee. Don't miss out on this delightful afternoon of nature, creativity, and community.



RSVP by Wednesday, February 5 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



Get Fit Classes

Monday

**Get Fit Early, 9-10am -or-
Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am**

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

Cardio Drumming, 12-1pm

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

Wednesday

**Get Fit Early, 9-10am -or-
Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am**

(see description above)

Ballet Ball Fusion, 12-1pm

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

Friday

Zumba, 9-10am

Foundation Fitness, 10am-11pm

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

In-person classes at JSFSS

Sekach Building
6505 Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania



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



YouTube

Soup-Coats program warms hearts and stomachs

It was a fun fall afternoon at Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's (JFGT) Soup-Coats event in October, which allowed all ages and stages of the community to gather and share a cozy soup lunch while making a difference for those in need. JFGT collected winter coats, socks, hats, and gloves in infant and child sizes, as well as new and gently used items for adults. The donations will help support Susie's Coats for Kids, the Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services (JSFSS) Food Pantry, and Burrito Blessings, three amazing organizations that provide warmth and care to those in need.

Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

2025 Mahjongg Cards

Thanks to your generous support, Hillel will receive \$690 from the sale of 2024 Mahjongg cards. Please continue supporting our local organization.

The standard card is \$14.00. | The large card is \$15.00.
The National Mahjongg League gives us \$5 for each card you purchase.

Make your check payable to Lois Levison and send it along with your name, address, phone number, and email with the size and number of each card you are purchasing by January 24, 2025

Lois Levison, 6634 Kingsbridge Dr, Sylvania, OH, 43560

Thank You,
Lois Levison 419-885-1919 loisz111@aol.com

Fairways *New Year's Eve Party 2024*

Tuesday, December 31

Music - Something to Talk About
9PM-12:30AM
Champagne & Party Favors at Midnight
Complete + Specials Menu Served Until 10PM
Select Appetizer Menu 10-11:30PM

Open Christmas Eve
11AM-8PM

Don't forget to get your Holiday Gift Cards!

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DO YOU KNOW

a young professional or young entrepreneur who deserves to be highlighted in an upcoming issue of Toledo Jewish News?

Contact Paul Causman at 419-724-0318 or Paul@JewishToledo.org

Pre-Need Funeral Plans *when you want peace of mind*
At-Need Arrangements *when you need a friend*

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Families of all ages



Latkes & Lights

Sunday, December 15 | 5-7pm
 Toledo Zoo, 2 Hippo Way
 Relic Room, located in the Museum of Natural History

Toledo Zoo members: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child
 Non-members of Toledo Zoo: \$20 per adult, \$10 per child
 Includes admission, latkes, sweet treats, beverages, and Hanukkah fun!

Join us for the festival of *zoo* lights! Stop by the Relic Room and warm up; we'll have latkes, sweet treats, and hot chocolate, cider, and coffee available plus Hanukkah treats and crafts for the kids. Come and celebrate Hanukkah with family and friends and connect with other Jewish families at the Toledo Zoo.

This event is open to families of all ages and stages.



RSVP by Thursday, December 5 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily2024> or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Are your kids visiting over the holidays?

Don't turn them into tech support - let us help instead!

Spend time with your family over the holiday dinner instead of watching them work on your computer. Schedule a one-on-one Device Advice or Tech Support appointment today and let your holiday dinner be all about family!

Contact **Tim Hagen**, Technology Coordinator at Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services, at 419-724-0412 or Tim@jewishtoledo.org



“DID YOU KNOW?”

Are you in your 20s, 30s, or 40s and interested in connecting with other Jewish people in Toledo around your age? Be sure to follow our Next Jewish Generation Facebook page for updates on upcoming events, including fun activities, trivia nights, social gatherings, and more: <https://www.facebook.com/nextjgen>.



Welcome to Jewish Toledo!

Whether you are new, new-ish, or returning, we are thrilled you are here! Please complete the form and we will be in touch:

<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/welcome-to-jewish-toledo>



Youth and Family Programs



Have you heard of PJ Library?

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



Scan here to register your child for their books!



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

JFGT PJ Library & Youth Programming

jewishtoledo.org/pjlibrary

PJ Library is supported by The Inspiration Fund.



Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO



PJ & GAN PLAYDATES

FOR LITTLES AGES 0-4 AND THEIR FAVORITE GROWNUP.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Gan Yeladim Preschool, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

FREE

Please bring personal care item(s) or paper product(s) for donation.



Tues. December 17
Hanukkah
Sun., January 12
Winter Fun
Sun., February 2
Tu B'Shevat
Sun., March 2
Purim
Sun., May 4
Spring is here



Register:
Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.
Questions?
Marnie at marnie@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0365.

NJG hangs in Toledo's Ostrich Towne



I research disappearing small-town Jewish communities. I'm finding the best of America.

By Austin Reid

Nov. 15, 2024 (JTA) — Growing up in Lancaster, Ohio, I remember discovering a book in the local library that ultimately helped to change how I viewed my hometown's history. The book, "Jewish Literacy" by Joseph Telushkin, had a small sticker on the inside cover indicating it was purchased through the B'nai Israel Synagogue of Lancaster Jewish Book Fund. This was surprising, as there hadn't been an organized Jewish community in Lancaster for years.

I later learned that the fund had been established by the remaining members of the synagogue after its sale in 1993, with the intention of ensuring that the tradition of Jewish education continued in Lancaster, even in the absence of a physical synagogue.

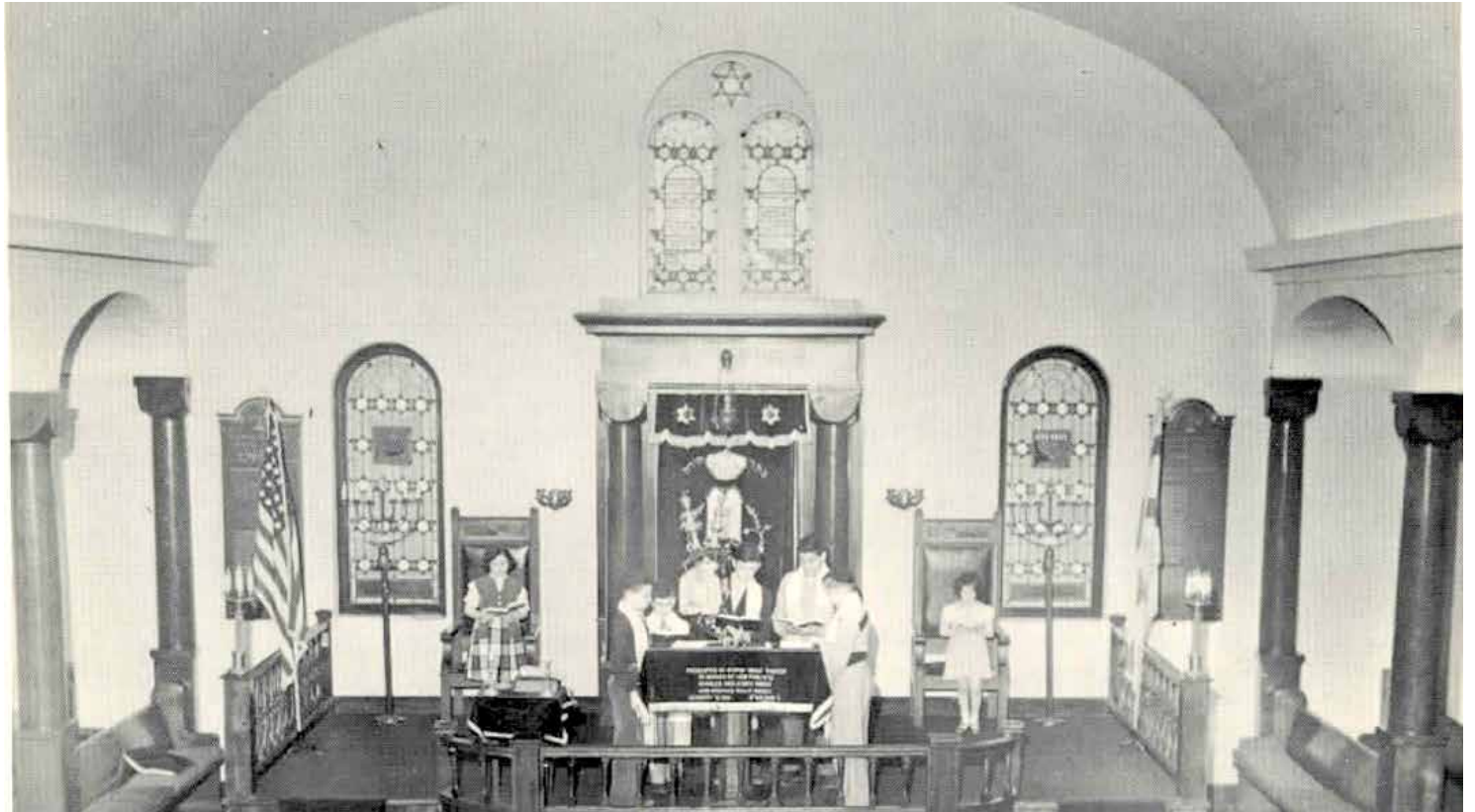
This discovery, along with other signs like a Star of David engraved next to a cross on the town's war memorial and the presence of the building that once housed the B'nai Israel synagogue downtown, hinted at Lancaster's former Jewish community. During its nearly seven decades of existence, B'nai Israel not only served its congregants but also hosted groups — including church youth organizations and civic societies — to educate others about Judaism. As in many small towns across the United States, the synagogue provided the only accessible resources for learning about Jewish culture, history and theology.

For the last several years, I've dedicated myself to documenting the Jewish histories of small towns in both my home state of Ohio and my adopted state of New York. I am drawn in by the realization that many of these once-active communities, despite their contributions, were in danger of fading into obscurity. As a volunteer, I have spent countless hours piecing together the stories of Jewish families, tracing their lives and legacies in over 20 small towns. In most of these places, the written record of their Jewish past was sparse, with local historical organizations often lacking the resources or staffing to fully explore these stories. These constraints also create opportunities for volunteers and community members to engage in uncovering stories still waiting to be told.

Small-town synagogues often function not just as religious institutions but as unique centers for education and community engagement. In Lancaster, the B'nai Israel synagogue opened its doors to various groups seeking to learn about Judaism. Its book fund ensured that, even after the synagogue's closure, locals could continue to conveniently access resources devoted to Jewish culture and history.

Eighty miles to the south, in Portsmouth, Ohio, the Jewish community was also engaged in interfaith efforts from its earliest days. When Beneh Abraham, the local synagogue, was consecrated in 1858, Christian residents of the town supported the construction, and the First Presbyterian Church choir even sang during the dedication. Such partnerships went both ways, with Jews contributing to the building funds for nearby churches.

The local rabbi, Judah Wechsler, taught



The Junior Congregation of B'nai Israel of Auburn, New York in a photo from the "Golden Jubilee Journal" created by members to mark the synagogue's 50th anniversary in May 1953. (Courtesy Austin Reid)

in both English and German. Wechsler's leadership helped Beneh Abraham function as more than a religious space — it became a center for community engagement in Portsmouth. Portsmouth's first synagogue, like many other historic religious structures in America, no longer stands today, but this early story from the town's Jewish community reminds us of how intertwined religious groups in small towns can be. Beneh Abraham continues to exist in Portsmouth and is one of Ohio's oldest Jewish congregations.

In Auburn, New York, the former B'nai Israel Synagogue played a crucial role in bringing neighbors together and fostering understanding. Throughout much of the 20th and early 21st centuries, B'nai Israel welcomed interfaith activities, particularly through its long-standing relationship with St. Luke's United Church of Christ. This engagement included an annual exchange of pulpits, novel when it began in 1939, where the rabbi of B'nai Israel and the minister at St. Luke's would preach at each other's congregations. This effort, undertaken each year during the national Brotherhood Week campaign, continued

for over 30 years, helping strengthen ties between Jewish and Christian communities in Auburn.

In both Auburn, New York, and Lancaster, Ohio, the B'nai Israel synagogues' efforts to educate non-Jewish neighbors about Judaism often left lasting impressions, in keeping with studies showing that the more people know about Jews, the less they embrace antisemitic tropes. With the closure of these small-town synagogues in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the physical presence of Jewish life in these towns has largely disappeared, raising questions about how this loss impacts interfaith understanding and broader cultural awareness.

As small-town Jewish communities across America continue to contract, preserving their histories becomes not just an act of remembrance, but also an essential part of understanding the broader American story. Though often small in numbers, small-town Jewish communities have played crucial roles in shaping the civic, cultural and economic landscapes of their communities.

As the physical reminders of small-

town Jewish life — such as synagogues, social centers and long standing family-owned businesses — fade, there is a danger that their stories will disappear, a loss not only for Jewish history but American history. They remind us that America's heartland is not as monolithic as it is often portrayed, and that diversity has long been part of the stories of many communities.

In Lancaster and Auburn, the efforts of individuals and institutions to preserve local Jewish histories stand as models of how this work can be done. In its last years, members of Auburn's former B'nai Israel synagogue donated many of the congregation's religious artifacts, including the synagogue's historic stained-glass windows, to the Cayuga Museum of History & Art, ensuring that the congregation's memory would live on in a public space.

But in most of the communities I've studied, there was no such effort until recently. In some towns, synagogues were demolished or fell into disrepair, their histories largely unrecorded. It wasn't until I began this work as an undergraduate that the stories of these Jewish communities began to be gathered and pieced together, bringing their legacies back into the light.

Preservation alone is not enough. These histories must be shared and integrated into broader conversations about American identity. We not only honor Jewish families who helped to build and sustain so many small-town communities but also ensure that future generations understand the complexity and richness of small-town life in America.

In a time when debates about national identity dominate our public discourse, preserving the histories of small-town Jewish communities offers a crucial reminder: that the American story is, and always has been, one of diversity and change.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.



At left is B'nai Israel of Auburn, New York, which was located at 18 Seminary Avenue. The building was demolished in 1974 to make way for a new roadway funded as part of a federal urban renewal project. At right is the former Congregation B'nai Israel of Lancaster, Ohio, around 1990. While the synagogue disbanded in 1993, the building still stands and is now an Airbnb. (Austin Reid; Fairfield County Heritage Association)

Obituaries



Sandra Lee "Sandy" Isenberg

Sandra "Sandy" (Welch) Isenberg took her final bow on Monday, October 28th, 2024, after a very full 85 years of life. Sandy, a Toledo institution and a woman of the people, spent the majority of her adult life kicking a** and taking names on Lucas County's political battlefield. As a staunch Democrat and longtime supporter of the Toledo Police Department, Sandy proudly bled blue. Her favorite colors, however, were pink, sparkles and leopard print. You could always see her coming. And, if you couldn't see her, you could almost certainly hear her. Her voice – in both substance and volume – was loud, clear, and uproarious. She always said what she meant, and she always meant what

she said

In passing, Sandy leaves behind the community for which she fought so fiercely and loved so deeply. The only thing she loved more than Lucas County and its residents were its restaurants. The woman loved to eat and eat well – something she passed on to her children and grandchildren. Behind "What the f*** is the matter with you?," her favorite questions to ask were "Are you hungry?" and "Can I get you a little something to eat?"

Above all, Sandy adored her family. The highlight and blessing of her day was speaking with her sons and grandchildren. She is survived by two sons, Michael and Dennis Isenberg; and four grandchildren, Madison, Morgan, Max and Maris Isenberg, with whom she left countless, precious memories and a special collection of very colorful voicemails. She also leaves behind her beloved dog, Charlie; and her sister, Barbara (Alan) Konop.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Temple Shomer Emunim are kindly requested.

Arrangements were by the Robert H. WICK/Wisniewski Funeral Home.



Julia Casey

Julia Casey died on Monday, October 28, 2024, at Ebeid Hospice of NW Ohio. She was kind, loving, generous, loyal, spiritual, caring, funny, fearless, and brilliant. She was a doting mother, foster mother, and a dedicated wife.

She was a writer, a poet, a musician, a dancer, a singer, and an avid reader.

She had an incredible sense of humor, and was a wonderful storyteller; often holding court while in her bed.

She was courageous in fighting the battle with her long-term Multiple Sclerosis disease.

Born in Rochester, New York, Julia moved as an infant to Atlanta, Georgia. She grew up along the Alabama border in West Point, Georgia.

She attended high school at Westminster, in Atlanta, started college at

Carlton College in Minnesota, and received her Bachelor's Degree in anthropology from the University of Washington. She graduated from the University of Toledo College of Law as valedictorian.

Her first legal job was working for Robert Kaplan, learning the ropes and ethics of being a lawyer; a standard that she maintained throughout her career.

In 1975, she and Sheldon Slaybod, who would later become her husband, established the law firm of Casey and Slaybod. Their early practice focused on criminal and civil rights law. As the years went by, the focus of the partnership transitioned to family law and appellate law.

Rich or poor, Julia represented her clients zealously, often taking their cases pro bono. She especially enjoyed representing children and protecting their interests.

She served on the board of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) for many years, was a founding member of the Toledo Women's Bar Association, a member of Toledo and Ohio State Bar Associations, helped establish the Juvenile Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, and helped train the CASA workers for several years.

Surviving Julia are her husband, Sheldon Slaybod, her three sons, Henry Keller Case, Dorian Slaybod (Anna), and Marshall Slaybod (Adriana); foster daughter Aleticia Tijerina; and sister, Jan Goodman (William).

In lieu of flowers, folks can consider a donation to Hospice of Northwest Ohio, or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Arrangements by the Robert H. WICK/Wisniewski Funeral Home.



Betty A. Benjamin

Betty A. Benjamin, age 96-years, of Toledo, Ohio, died peacefully on November 11, 2024, in her home. Born Betty Anita Simon in Youngstown, Ohio on June 21, 1928, to Bernard and Fannie Simon. Betty received a B.Ed. from the University of Akron and a M.Ed. from the University of Toledo. She spent most of her 30-year career teaching elementary students, primarily at Nathan Hale Elementary School in Toledo.

Betty married Willard L. Benjamin (may his memory be blessed; of Akron, Ohio) in 1949 and, together, they had two sons, Alan and Steven (Kathy). Betty had a special relationship with her grandson, Jacob.

Although raised in an Orthodox Jewish home, Betty and Willard joined Congregation B'nai Israel when they moved from Akron to Toledo in 1959 and later transitioned to Temple Shomer Emunim.

Betty loved to play bridge, even until near her final days, to read, and to stay informed about current events (she voted absentee in this year's general election). Along with being a career woman and raising her two children, Betty made a point to be of service to family, friends, and her community. She served as the Youth Commission Chairwoman at B'nai Israel, was active in her congregations' sisterhoods, as well as, with ORT (the Jewish educational network for children in need)—and served in multiple ORT leadership roles including chapter president. After becoming a widow, Betty organized and hosted several Passover seders for women like her, who also were single. She continued to stay involved with others by delivering meals to seniors through Mobile Meals for over 20 years. She did this well into her 80s, frequently with help from her grandson Jake.

Betty loved to stay active and fit. She usually attended exercise classes (at a club or her facility) five or more days each week until shortly prior to her passing. While teaching, she often walked (weather permitting) over a mile to and from school and, when she was 60-years old, she helped her son, Alan, move his home from Atlanta to North Carolina—driving the moving van the entire distance.

Betty was buried on Wednesday November 13th, in Historic Woodlawn Cemetery alongside her departed husband, Willard. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Temple Shomer Emunim, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, Ohio Living, or an organization of your choice.

Obituaries accepted for print in *Toledo Jewish News*

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

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

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

Email completed obituaries to: paul@jewishtoledo.org

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

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

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

If you have additional questions, please contact paul@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0318.



You can use Venmo to make a donation to Federation and pay for programs, classes, and events!
Just send to @Toledo-Federation in your app or on the Venmo website at venmo.com and please make sure to state the purpose of the payment before submitting.



Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo



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How to contribute to Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/Toledo Jewish Community Foundation

- Donate online at www.jewishtoledo.org
- Text to Donate: Text 44321
- Donate on Venmo to Toledo-Federation
- Donate by check to: Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, Attention: Wendy Goldstein
6465 Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560.
- Call Yi at 419-724-0371 or email her at yi@JewishToledo.org for stock or IRA gifts

Please note that checks need to be post-marked by December 31, 2024 to be a 2024 charitable contribution.

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/Toledo Jewish Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation that gratefully accepts gifts of securities and IRAs. Most gifts are tax deductible. There is one EIN 34-4428259. Gifts can be made to Jewish Federation (JFGT) to the Annual Campaign or for other unrestricted or designated uses, and gifts can be made to Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF) for restricted or unrestricted purposes and can include gifts to donor advised funds.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING GIFTS FROM IRAs

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo accepts IRA Charitable Rollover contributions to the Annual Campaign.

- **Notify** your bank/broker of your intentions to contribute with an IRA to Jewish Federation of Toledo (JFGT) or Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF). IRA contributions must be in the form of a check per the IRS. Please instruct your broker to make a check payable to the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, and then **notify** Yi Shaw, Controller of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/Toledo Jewish Community Foundation at 419.724.0371 or via email at Yi@JewishToledo.org to inform her of the contribution. IRA gifts cannot be used to fund a Donor Advised Fund.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo accepts donations of stock as payment for pledges made to the Annual Campaign and other unrestricted and designated uses. **Stock gifts need to be received by 12 p.m. (noon) on December 30, 2024 in order to sell before the market closes.**

When the stock is held by your broker or commercial banker:

Notify your broker of your intentions to donate securities to Jewish Federation of Toledo (JFGT) or Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF). Your broker should then **notify** Yi Shaw of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/Toledo Jewish Community Foundation at 419.724.0371 or via email at Yi@JewishToledo.org to discuss the details of this transaction. Your broker will contact Charles Schwab and provide the following account information to process the transfer:

Charles Schwab – Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo a/c# 2198-2998, DTC #0164, Code 40. *A nominal fee will be charged for stock or mutual funds. Typically, not more than \$10.00.*

To ensure faster processing, it is important that your broker submit your full name along with complete stock information to Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/ Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WIRING FUNDS

- **Notify** your bank/broker of your intentions to perform the wire to Jewish Federation of Toledo (JFGT) or Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF). Your broker should then **notify** Yi Shaw of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo/Toledo Jewish Community Foundation at 419.724.0371 or via email at Yi@JewishToledo.org to discuss the details of this transaction.

PERSONAL CREDIT CARD & CHECK PAYMENT DEADLINES

Credit card payment information must be received at Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo by 12 Noon Monday, December 30, 2024 for 2023 tax purposes. As stated above, payments by check need only be postmarked December 31, 2024 for 2024 tax purposes, or you can make payments online at www.JewishToledo.org by midnight on December 31, 2024. Please call the accounting department before 2:00 pm each day at 419-724-0368 to process a credit card payment over the phone, except December 31, 2024 by 12 p.m.



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Temple Shomer Emunim



Current Events Discussion with Rabbi Delson
PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE
Thursday, December 19 at 2pm
 Join Rabbi Delson for a discussion about current events and how they affect the Jewish community. RSVP to Victoria vsimms@templese.com



Torah Today
Saturday, December 14
9:30am
 Join Rabbi Delson for a lively discussion about this week's Torah portion. No experience necessary. Coffee and bagels will be served. RSVP to Victoria vsimms@templese.com



Nurture the Wow: Parenthood
Discussion for those with children 0-18
Tuesday, December 10 at 7:30pm
 Join Rabbi Delson for an informal parenthood discussion, celebrating the joys and oys of being a parent with kids at home. Dessert will be served.



BGSU Concert Series returns!
Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 3pm—Tubas at the Temple!
 We welcome the mighty BGSU Tuba/Euphonium studio, headed by our own amazing David Saltzman, in a concert of solos and small groups of tubas!



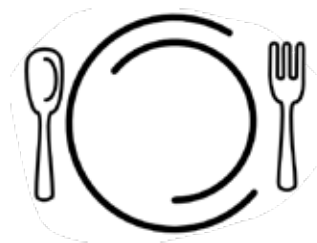
Chanukah Shabbat
Friday, December 27
6pm

Join Cantor Roher and special guests from the Toledo Choral Society for a festive Chanukah Shabbat followed by a Chanukah oneg.



Family-Friendly Shabbat
Friday, December 6
5:30pm

Join us for a service filled with music and kids' participation. Followed by pizza, pasta, and salad -



\$10 per family, \$5 per single.



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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

All CBI programs and religious services are open to the members of all local congregations with RSVP unless otherwise indicated.

If you are not a CBI member and would like to attend, please contact the office at 419.517.8400.

CBI Movie Festival: Wednesdays in December

"WELCOME TO KUTSHER'S"
 Wednesday December 4, 2024 1:00 PM at CBI
 RSVP by Friday, November 29, 2024

"BILLY CRYSTAL: 700 SUNDAYS"
 Wednesday December 11, 2024 12:45 PM at CBI
 RSVP by Friday, December 6, 2024

"WHEN JEWS WERE FUNNY"
 Wednesday December 18, 2024 1:00 PM at CBI
 RSVP by Friday, December 13, 2024

Cost is \$5 per movie. Snacks will be provided.
 RSVP by the dates listed for each movie to the office or by contacting Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org.

WCBI BOOK CLUB: "Kantika" by Elizabeth Graver
 Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024 10:30 AM at CBI
OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS
 RSVP to Ellen Federman at efederman@sbcglobal.net by Sunday, December 15, 2024.

"Adding to the Miracle of Light"
Making Hanukkah Goodie Bags
CBI Volunteer Event
Thursday, December 19, 2024 11 AM at CBI
 Join us as we assemble Hannukah goodie bags to donate to Jewish Family Service and to give to CBI members at local senior living facilities. To help assemble or deliver bags, RSVP by Dec. 16th to the office or to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org.

"Demo & Devour" Part II
Sufganiot Making Event

Monday, December 23, 2024 at 10 AM at CBI
 Bring your apron and join us as we learn how to make sufganiot (Israeli jelly donuts) to take home. A light lunch will be served following the cooking class.

This program is space-limited to 15 participants. RSVP to Miriam Beckerman at mesb@bex.net by Dec. 18th. Bring your \$10 registration fee (cash only) with you to the program.

Join us for a Joyous
Hanukkah Candle Lighting Ceremony
Zoom Service

Thursday, December 26, 2024 at 5:45 PM
 From our own homes, together, we will light the second candle at CBI evening services to commemorate the second night of Hanukkah 5785/2024.

The Zoom link and passcode will be included in the regular weekly e-blast email.

Join us for a Festive & Delicious Program
Shabbat Hanukkah Celebration & Kiddush Luncheon

Saturday, December 28, 2024 at Shabbat Morning Services beginning at 9:30 AM
 ~ HANUKKAH TRIVIA ~ PRIZES! ~ YUMMY LATKES ~
 ~ SUFGANIYOT ~ CHOCOLATE GELT ~
 ~ HANUKKAH SONGS ~

No cost, but RSVP's required. RSVP by Monday, December 23rd to the office or to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org.

Hanukkah Begins on the Evening of
Thursday, December 25, 2024

Hanukkah candles, gelt, menorahs, wrapping paper, and gift items are available for purchase at the CBI Gift Shop. To see the full Hanukkah gift assortment, please call 419.882.2111 to make an appointment.

The gift shop is open on Sundays during religious school from 9:30 - 11:30 AM.

Parashat Hashavuah:
Torah Portion of the Week Discussion
 Fridays in December at 11:00 AM at CBI

Connecting Kids to Meals
Volunteer Event
Thursday, December 26, 2024 10 AM - 12 PM
 Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.
 RSVP Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Dec. 5, 2024.

CBI Office Closings
 Wed. December 25 Closed Christmas
 Wed. January 1 Closed New Year's Day

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE

- Monday Morning Minyan: 8:00 AM - In Person/Zoom
- Thursday Morning Minyan: 8:00 AM - In Person/Zoom
- Monday - Thursday Evening Minyan: 5:45 PM - Zoom
- Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat: 5:45 PM - Zoom
- Saturday Morning Shabbat: 9:30 AM - In Person/Live Stream
- Sunday Morning Minyan: 9:30 AM - In-Person/Zoom (When Religious School is in session)

Congregation Etz Chayim

WEDNESDAYS WITH FRIENDS

Join us on Wednesday, December 4th at 11:00 a.m. to play "Kichel It"! This game is different, fun and will offer lots of laughs.

POKER/MAJ

Everyone is welcome to play Poker or Maj on Sunday, December 15th from 10:00-noon. Snacks will be served. Please let Marc or Nancy Jacobson know if you will be attending.

SUNDAY MORNING SPEAKER PROGRAM PLANNED

On Sunday, December 22nd, at 10:00 a.m., German Srulovich, the BGSU Assistant Basketball coach will be sharing his story of how he became a coach and came to Bowling Green.

Let's cheer on the Falcons! We will carpool to the 3:00 p.m. game on Monday, December 23rd. It will be exciting to watch German and the team in action. Thanks to German, there is NO charge for the tickets! Please register with Nancy Jacobson by December 20th.

ETZ CHAYIM TZEDAKAH PROJECT

Etz Chayim members will be preparing lunch for residents of the Ronald McDonald House on Wednesday, December 25th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This is a meaningful way for us to help feed families who have a child in the hospital. Following this program, everyone is invited back to the synagogue for a delicious deli lunch and fun activities sponsored by the Sisterhood.

SHABBAT SERVICES AND CHANUKAH LUNCH

Rabbi Jason Mark will be joining us for Friday evening services on December 27th. We will light the Chanukah candles at 4:45 p.m. followed by Shabbat candle lighting and services. There will be Shabbat Services on Saturday, December 28th. Following morning services, a delicious luncheon with latkes will be served.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beginning in January, the Sisterhood will begin delivering challahs to synagogue in town members who will be celebrating birthdays during each month of the year.



Chabad House

CELEBRATE THIS CHANUKAH WITH YOUR Chabad of Toledo FAMILY

	Wednesday DEC 25 4:00 PM	KICK-OFF THE CHANUKAH CELEBRATION!! AT CHABAD HOUSE - FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! Music, Entertainment, and Games!! Hot Dog Dinner available for extra charge.	GLOW-IN-THE-DARK MENORAH LIGHTING!
	Thursday DEC 26 3:00 PM	LENNY CARES CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AT CHABAD HOUSE - ADULTS 55+ Join us for fun, friends, and festivities! Latke cook-off, Chanukah refreshments and a game! For more information visit: lennycares.com	
	Friday DEC 27 12:00 PM	DOWNTOWN MENORAH LIGHTING AT ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER Join us downtown for our annual Menorah lighting with the Mayor of Toledo. Enjoy latkes, donuts, and more!	
	Saturday DEC 28 7:00 PM	CAR MENORAH PARADE DEPARTS CHABAD HOUSE AT 7:00PM Spread the joy with Menorah-topped cars parading through Toledo! Please call Shmouel at 419-322-2730 for more details.	
	Sunday DEC 29 11:00 AM	CHANUKAH ON ICE @ THE RIBBON AT GLASS CITY METROPARK Join us for ice skating, latkes, donuts, music, and entertainment! Giant Ice Menorah sculpture!	
	Monday DEC 30 4:30 PM	CHANUKAH AT THE MALL NEAR THE FOOD COURT Latkes, donuts, music, and entertainment for all! Grand Menorah Lighting!	

FIVE OF THE CHANUKAH EVENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE!!
(ADMISSION FEE ONLY FOR LENNY CARES LATKE COOK-OFF)

MORE DETAILS AT CHABADTOLEDO.COM/CHANUKAH
OR CALL THE OFFICE: 419-843-9393

THE CHANUKAH EVENTS ARE SPONSORED IN HONOR OF, AND WITH MANY THANKS TO JOEL & LINDA BEREN

Lenny CARES

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION
Thursday, DEC. 26
3:00-4:30PM
AT THE CHABAD HOUSE:
2728 KING ROAD,
TOLEDO, OHIO, 43617

OUR OTHER DECEMBER PROGRAMS:

- Wed Dec 4th**
LCMC
Lenny Cares Men's birthday Club celebration @ 3:30-4:30 pm
- Tue Dec 10th**
Tea with Rivka
Tea, Friends and Torah conversation with Rivka Fridman 10:30 a.m. For women
- Tue Dec 31st**
Sip 'N' Shmooze
Come with friends and make new ones over coffee between the hours of 1:00-3:00 pm

CHANUKAH GAME
GRAND LATKE COOK OFF
CHANUKAH REFRESHMENTS

Lenny Cares Monthly Spotlight Member: Free!!
Introduce a 55+ friend to Lenny Cares, and you'll both attend for free!

Admission: Before Dec 23rd: \$18 per person
Dec 23rd and later: \$24 per person
For more info visit us at: Lennycares.com or call 419-843-9393

Jewish Women's Circle

THE JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE INVITES WOMEN AND TEEN GIRLS TO A PRE-CHANUKAH JUDAIC CLAY ART EVENT

MONDAY 12/16/24 6:00 PM

FIRST 50 TO REGISTER RECEIVE A CORCIOUS MAP OF ISRAEL NECKLACE!

CREATE YOUR OWN MASTERPIECE!
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.
DELICIOUS SALAD BAR!

CHABAD HOUSE - 2728 KING RD
Kindly Rsvp to Chabadtoledo.com/clay
\$25 until Dec 2/\$32 after Dec 2

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fridayFACTS
Weekly news of the Toledo Jewish community

Where Toledo Jews Get their News

jewishtoledo.org/about-us/tjnff

B'nai Mitzvah

We Honor Our B'nai Mitzvah



Turner Joseph Riley will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 4, 2025. TJ is the son of Zach and Erin Riley, and brother to Sully and Adele. He is the grandson of Patrick and Dana Riley and Joseph and Janet Aschemeier. TJ is a seventh grader at Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering, where he excels in Honors Algebra. He is a member of the Gamers Guild club, and is also a Boy Scout in Troop 210. When he is not playing soccer for AWYF, TJ enjoys hanging out with his friends, playing video games, traveling, and

spending quality time with family. TJ is excited to celebrate his special day with family and friends!

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Questions? Contact Marnie Younker
at 419-724-0365 or
marnie@jewishtoledo.org



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<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/emoji2025>





Joel Weatherford

"We cannot express how much the EMOJI program played such an integral role in making this summer life changing for our son Joel Weatherford. Camp Wise provided Joel with the confidence he needed so he could grow independence skills and develop a positive sense of self. The connections he made with other Jewish children and teens from all over the world made an imprint on Joel's heart and he cannot wait to return next summer to see his all his friends."

Mike and Laurel Weatherford



"I loved our first time at GUCI this summer. Shabbat song session was one of the highlights of the week for me. I made a ton of friends and I can't wait to go back next summer."

Asher Pliskow



"This was my first summer at sleep away camp. It was great. I loved climbing the 'Migdal' climbing tower."

Micah Pliskow



Julia Rhodes (L.) & Harlie Kerper

"The EMOJI scholarship makes it possible for me to attend Camp Wise year after year. Camp has brought me closer to my religion and new friends, which is why I come back. Every year when I step off the camp bus, I feel like I've arrived at my home away from home and am greeted by friends I only get to see at camp... I've met so many new people from all over the world who have become my close friends because of Camp Wise."

Julia Rhodes

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo's Experience a Memorable Overnight Jewish Initiative (EMOJI) offers children between the ages of 7 and 16 the opportunity to experience a life changing Jewish overnight camping experience. Funding is possible through the long-term community needs fund and the Jewish experience fund; first-time participants can attend camp for just \$250 and children returning to a Jewish camp can attend at a very reduced cost. EMOJI seeks to help as many Jewish youth as possible connect to their own Jewish identity and the larger community. The benefits of Jewish camp are beyond measure; over \$70,000 was invested in sending 37 campers to camp in summer 2023.

Questions? Visit www.jewishtoledo.org/emoji or contact Hallie Freed at hallie@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0362.



JCC maccabi
Games • Access • Israel.



JCC MACCABI' GAMES & ACCESS
TUCSON
July 27-August 1 for ages 13-17



JCC MACCABI' CAMPUS GAMES
PITTSBURGH
August 3-8 for ages 13-17





LEARN MORE!

For more information, contact Hallie Freed at hallie@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0362.



Dave Tullis, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo Security Director, helps us stay protected with valuable safety tips.



Holiday Season Safety Tips



The holiday season brings joy, celebration, and a unique set of safety challenges to our homes. As we embrace the festive spirit, it's crucial to stay mindful of the various risks that can compromise our safety and security. This guide aims to equip you with practical holiday safety tips, ensuring your home remains a haven of happiness and security during this bustling period.



Check Your Fire/Smoke Detectors

Ensuring the functionality of fire and smoke detectors is a non-negotiable aspect of holiday safety. These devices are critical for early detection of fires, which can escalate quickly amidst holiday decorations and cooking.

During the holiday season, fire departments experience a notable surge in emergency calls, a trend primarily driven by the increased use of candles, elaborate holiday decorations, and cooking-related incidents. Candles, while creating a festive ambiance, are a common source of home fires when left unattended or placed near flammable materials.

Holiday decorations, particularly those involving electrical components like lights, can overheat or short-circuit, leading to fires. Additionally, the bustling nature of holiday cooking often leads to distractions, resulting in unattended stoves and ovens that become fire hazards. This convergence of factors makes the holiday season a critical time for heightened fire safety awareness and vigilance in homes.

To ensure your smoke detectors are functional, routinely test them and replace batteries at least once a year. Ideally, you should try to install smoke detectors in every bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on each floor of your home, including the basement.



Be Careful of Porch Pirates

The holiday season unfortunately sees a spike in package thefts, making porch pirates a real concern. To protect your deliveries, consider scheduling them when someone is home or use secure delivery options like lockboxes. Another effective deterrent is installing a home security camera.

Even if porch pirates strike, footage from these cameras can aid in recovering your stolen items and preventing future thefts.



If You're Traveling, Make Your Home Look Busy

An unoccupied home can attract unwanted attention from burglars. When traveling, it's key to create an illusion of occupancy. Use light timers to mimic your usual activity patterns and ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and packages.

Leaving a car in the driveway and using sound simulators can further enhance this facade of occupancy, keeping intruders at bay.



Get a Burglar Alarm to Prevent Holiday Theft

Burglar alarms significantly improve your home's defense against break-ins. Criminals often bypass homes with visible alarm systems, opting for easier targets.

Opting for monitored burglar alarm systems can enhance police response times and provide peace of mind. Knowing your home is well-protected allows you to fully immerse yourself in the holiday festivities, free from worry.



Don't Post Your Travel Plans Online

Social media platforms, while great for sharing life experiences, can inadvertently become tools for burglars scouting for unoccupied homes. When you post about your holiday travels or showcase new, expensive items, it signals to potential thieves that your house is an ideal target. Burglars often use this information to determine not just which homes are empty, but more crucially, those that will remain so for an extended period. This knowledge enables them to plan break-ins with more time and less risk of interruption.

The risk amplifies when you detail the length of your trip or tag locations in real-time, as it confirms your absence and gives burglars a timeframe to operate. Moreover, posts showing valuable items in your home can entice burglars, combining the lure of unguarded valuables with the certainty of an empty residence.

The simple solution? Limit sharing your holiday plans and acquisitions on social media, or at least wait until you are back home. Tightening your profile's privacy settings can also help control who sees your posts. By being mindful of what you share online, you can significantly reduce the risk of making your home a target during the holiday season.



Get Your Chimney Inspected and Cleaned

A cozy fire is synonymous with holiday warmth, but a neglected chimney can pose serious risks. A dirty or clogged chimney can lead to fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. Regular inspections and cleanings by professionals ensure your fireplace remains a safe source of holiday cheer. Typically, chimneys should be inspected annually, especially if they're used frequently.

Maintaining a safe and secure home is paramount during the holiday season. By implementing these holiday safety tips, you can enjoy the festive period with an assured sense of security.





**ROBERT
YAFFE**



This program was generously funded by Jewish Senior Services Supporting Organization.

NW OHIO JEWISH **BOOK FESTIVAL** CONTINUES

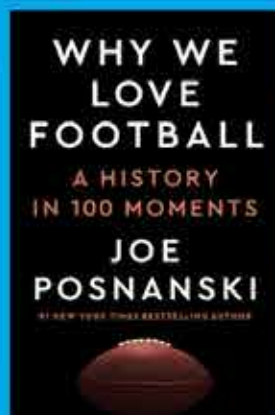


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**LARRY
TYE**



**JOE
POSNANSKI**



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A big thank you to our Giving Tuesday matching donors, Joel and Linda Beren!

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