



STAND UP TO JEWISH HATE

Toledo Jewish News

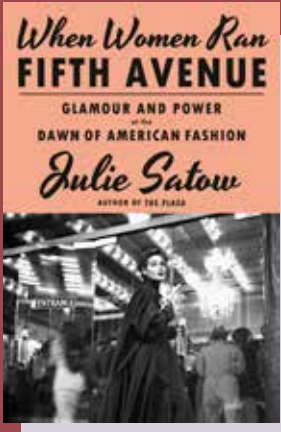
The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo

Shevat 5785 • February 2025

Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO



International Women's Day Celebration



A glittering portrait of the golden age of American department stores



Julie Satow

is an award-winning journalist and author. Her first book, *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel*, was a New York Times Editor's Pick and NPR Favorite Book of the Year.

A regular contributor to the New York Times, her work has also appeared on National Public Radio, Travel + Leisure, and elsewhere. She lives in New York City with her husband and two children.

This event is sponsored by the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation's Long Term Community Needs fund and is being held in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo and the Sisterhood book clubs at Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Etz Chayim, and Temple Shomer Emunim.



Sunday, March 9 | 3 p.m.

Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave.

Event - \$10 per person

Event and book - \$30 per person

Event includes author presentation, appetizers, and drinks

See page 11 for more information

INSIDE This Issue



Page 14
A musical celebration



Page 18
Hanukkah in Jewish Toledo



Page 27
Shine a Light on Antisemitism 2024



PURIM CARNIVAL ERA

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

The whole family is invited!

COME ONE
COME ALL

See page 3 for more information

Experience Ayyám-i-Há with the Baha'i Community

Thursday, February 27

6-7:30 p.m.

Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

Celebrate a connection to the land of Israel that is shared among the Jews and our friends the Baha'is as we get together for Ayyám-i-Há, the intercalary days before the fasting month of 'Alá (the nineteenth and final month in the Badí' calendar, which is used by the Baha'is).



See page 7 for more information

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo

Special feature: A focus on **PJ Library**

PJ Library is best known for sending free, high-quality Jewish children's books worldwide to families every month. Created by the nonprofit Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library is supported locally in part by The Inspiration Fund and Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) to help deliver a Jewish future to our community. Partnering with PJ, JFGT and its dedicated staff provide additional opportunities for local Jewish families to share Jewish experiences, events, and celebrations. PJ Playdates for our youngest community members, JFGT's annual Camp Inspiration, in-person visits

from celebrated children's authors, community Purim carnivals for all ages and stages, fun activities in the Sukkah, and Hanukkah celebrations for the whole family at the Toledo Zoo are just some of the ways JFGT and PJ help connect Jewish Toledo, sparking conversations that inspire the whole family to explore and enjoy what they love about Jewish life.

PJ Library is completely FREE for families in the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo region. To learn more about PJ Library and to ensure your child receives this wonderful gift, please contact Marnie at 419-724-0365 or marnie@jewishtoledo.org.



What is your favorite Jewish holiday or food?



Hanukkah! Donuts!
-Cora, age 4, PJ Library star

The immediate connection you feel with other families.
- Stacy Willis, Cora's mom

What is your favorite part of going to Jewish-themed family programs?

In what ways are Jewish family programs meaningful to you?



Getting to celebrate shared holidays and values together.
-Stephanie and Vladi Shaulskiy, Zoey, David, and Nathan's (not pictured) parents

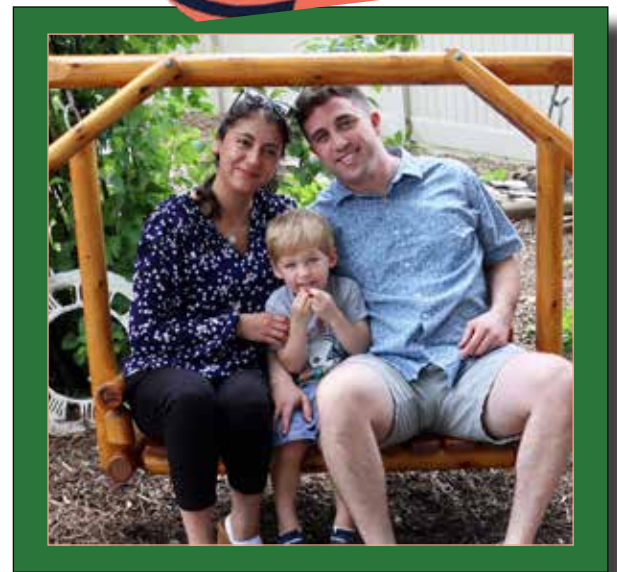
It means happiness.
- Zoey, age 6, PJ Library star

Jewish themed programs allow us to connect and create stronger relationships with the Jewish community.
- Alex and Alyson Levy



To give thanks to G-d, technically.
-David, age 8, PJ Library star

What does it mean when you have Shabbat?



When we receive a new book from PJ Library, Leo (age 3) gets super excited and we let him open it like it's a present in the mail.





PURIM CARNIVAL ERA

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025



9:30 a.m. - Temple Shomer Emunim Purim Spiel: "Esther's Story (Taylor's Version)" Everyone's invited!

10 a.m. - Carnival fun begins

11:30 a.m. - Carnival wrap-up

All Purim events take place at Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave.

\$10 per person (ages 3 and under are free)

Includes all the fun - No more game tickets - Everything is included

KIDS

ticket includes kosher hot dog lunch, carnival treats, hamantaschen, all carnival games, & prizes



Wear your costumes!



ticket includes brunch, hamantaschen, Java Sensations Coffee Bar, mimosas, adults-only game room (Bingo, card games, etc.), & prizes

COME ONE COME ALL



Please let us know in advance of any dietary restrictions

RSVP by Wednesday March 12 online at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/purim2025 or with Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



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

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo

JFGT celebrates 2024 Annual Campaign and LiveSecure initiative successes

With gratitude and recognition to donors for an inspiring display of communal strength and generosity, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) announces the successful conclusion of the 2024 Annual Campaign. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of community members and donors, this year's Annual Campaign raised a remarkable \$1,166,775 to support vital programs and services for our Jewish community and globally. The community's generosity is especially appreciated after a \$1.1 million Annual Campaign in 2023 as well as significant donations to Israel relief over the past year and a half.

This year's campaign drew contributions from over 540 donors, with an average gift of \$2,160.

Notably, JFGT welcomed 59 new donors, a significant milestone that reflects growing engagement with the community. In the last 13 years, the 2024 Annual Campaign total was only exceeded in 2022. For the third year in a row, JFGT had more donors to the Annual Campaign than the year before. Annual Campaign success is very important because JFGT and the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation (TJCF) deliver essential and meaningful programs, services, and grants that cost nearly \$5 million dollars a year. An Annual Campaign investment brings a terrific return to the community.

JFGT leadership expresses profound gratitude to all the individuals and families who

contributed to the campaign. These funds support a wide array of initiatives, including educational programs, senior care, security, cultural enrichment, youth and young adult engagement activities, and our overseas allocation to social service programs in Israel. This year's success is a testament to the collective power of the community to safeguard and enhance Jewish life.

Adding to the excitement, JFGT has also launched the first phase of its groundbreaking LiveSecure Matching Security Campaign. The three-year initiative, designed to bolster the safety and security of Jewish Toledo, is already off to an impressive start, setting a strong foundation for the ambitious multi-year target of \$255,000 in matching funds. JFGT received approximately \$115,000 for LiveSecure in 2024 with future pledges of approximately \$92,000, leaving approximately \$48,000 over the next two years to meet the three-year match goal.

"The LiveSecure campaign represents our proactive commitment to the safety and resilience of our community," said Stephen Rothschild, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo CEO. "We are thrilled by the enthusiastic response

we've received so far. Together, we are creating a future where every member of our Jewish family feels safe to practice their Judaism, celebrate our culture, and thrive."

Funds raised through LiveSecure are being directed toward upgrading security systems, supporting the costs of security guards, providing training for community leaders, enhancing emergency preparedness, and fostering collaboration with local law enforcement. JFGT has already distributed over \$50,000 to local partners Chabad of Toledo, Congregation B'nai Israel of Toledo, Congregation Etz Chayim, and Temple Shomer Emunim to support their security expenses.

The dual success of the Annual Campaign and LiveSecure exemplifies JFGT's mission to care for those in need, strengthen Jewish communities, and foster a safe and secure future.

For information about the Annual Campaign or LiveSecure, or to get involved, please call Wendy Goldstein, Donor Development and Women's Philanthropy Officer, at 419-724-0360 or wendy@jewishtoledo.org. Read more on our website, www.jewishtoledo.org.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS & HOLIDAYS

PJ PLAYDATE

Ages 0-4 plus grownup(s)
Gan Yeladim PreschoolSunday, February 2
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Page 17

TOLEDO JEWISH WINTER FLICKS #2

Community
Sekach BuildingSunday, February 2
4 p.m.

Page 10

SENIORS: FOODOLOGY FOODY FUN

Seniors
FoodologyThursday, February 6
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

sold out

SENIORS: TU B'SHEVAT TREE GARDENS

Seniors
Hoen's Garden CenterThursday, February 13
10:30 a.m. - Noon.

Page 15

SHINSHINIM VISIT JEWISH TOLEDO

Friday February 28-Saturday, March 1

JCRC: AYYAM-I-HA WITH BAHAI COMMUNITY

Community
Sekach BuildingThursday, February 27
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Page 7

*All information subject to change with updates posted on

www.jewishtoledo.org [@jewishtoledo](https://www.facebook.com/jewishtoledo)

Jewish Federation & Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

TOLEDO OPERA

SOUTH PACIFIC

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN • FEBRUARY 14 & 16, 2025

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NELLIE FORBUSH

KEITH PHARES,
EMILE DE BECQUE

MIKE SCHWITTER,
LT. JOSEPH CABLE

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

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo Tributes and Memorials

received between December 21 – January 20, 2025

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.

Long Term Community Needs Fund

In Celebration of Sharon Frankel's Special Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kearns

Speedy Recovery to Joel Epstein
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rothschild

JFGT General Contributions

In Memory of Patsy Meyers
Linda Albert
Marla S. Gordon

Hillel

In Honor of Renee Akers
Special Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Beren

Text CAMPAIGN to 44321

Text CAMPAIGN to 44321 to make a donation to the
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo Annual Campaign

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

Jewish Community Relations Council

NW Ohio teacher recognized for efforts to combat antisemitism

Kol hakavod (well done) and *mazel tov* to Heidi Meyer, a social studies teacher at Elmwood High School, who has received a 2024 Civic Courage Award for Outstanding High School Educator in Action Against Antisemitism. This extraordinary achievement was announced in late December by Amy Amiel, Chief Program Officer for the Jewish Education Project, which partners with the Shine a Light on Antisemitism Campaign.

Two to four winners are chosen in each category for this prestigious national honor, which comes with a \$2,000 cash prize. The Civic Courage Award recognizes students (high school, university), educators (elementary, middle school, high school, university), gamers, and influencers for their efforts to counter hate. Heidi is one of two Ohio recipients, along with Abby Mehr, co-president of The Ohio State University Hillel.

Heidi has been teaching at Elmwood High, a school southeast of Bowling Green with 300-plus students, for 16 years. Although Holocaust education isn't mandated, she makes it her personal mission to teach her students about the atrocities through readings, field trips, speakers, and any other means she can utilize. She is aware that it's difficult for her students to relate to a catastrophic event that took place eight decades ago and for them to make connections to actions they may witness now and the proverbial slippery slope – starting with ignorance and prejudice – that ultimately led to the murder of six million Jews.

That's partly because in her school's rural region, there is little-to-no diversity among the students and faculty; due to a lack of awareness and interaction with people of different backgrounds, the kids,



especially, can be prone to othering as a result. The consequences of this minimal exposure to those who come from different cultures, races, or faiths ultimately prompted Heidi to reach out to the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo in March 2023 for assistance.

"We are experiencing a lot of racism and cultural insensitivity at the school [where] I teach," Heidi wrote. "We want to combat it with knowledge. We want to bring in speakers that would help connect the dots for the students."

Then-Vice President for Community and Government Relations Daniel Pearlman coordinated a teacher in-service with Heidi, bringing along representatives from Equality Toledo (presenting for the LGBTQ+ community) and the Muslim community to work on educational initiatives. Once teachers had received training and learned more about combating hate,

they could teach their students and apply important principles to any incidents that might arise.

Heidi's relationship with Federation continued when Avi Wisnia, director of the documentary *How Saba Kept Singing*, came to town in April 2024. He was scheduled to show his film – which shares the story of his grandfather, Cantor David Wisnia z"l, who survived the Holocaust in part due to the Nazis' appreciation for his beautiful voice – at a Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) event.

When a small window of free time opened during Avi's visit, Heidi was offered the chance to have him speak to her classes about his family's story and his Saba's wartime challenges; she leapt at the opportunity, overcoming any logistical difficulties that ensued from the impromptu program.

"I am so glad that I stopped my world to allow this to happen," she wrote to the Federation afterwards. "My students can't stop talking about it. It was such an amazing experience."

This past November, Heidi brought her Advanced World History class to Congregation B'nai Israel for a tour that was coordinated by JCRC Director, Amichai Stout, and Community Relations Programming Specialist, Mary Bilyeu. Hazzan Ivor Lichterman gave a thorough and engaging introduction to Judaism, which included gathering the students around the bima to examine a Torah scroll.

The Hazzan also talked to the group about his own family's heart wrenching story of resistance, loss, and survival through the Holocaust, bringing textbooks' often-mundane facts and details to life vividly and

personally. "It's so important to make connections," Heidi noted, between religion, history, and culture for students who usually have few opportunities to do so in their hometown or in their classrooms.

To further enrich her students' lives and broaden their worldviews, Heidi has taken her classes on field trips to the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and to the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center in Cincinnati; an upcoming trip is planned for the Maltz Museum near Cleveland. These ventures are funded in part by grants and scholarships that Heidi actively seeks out and applies for; she particularly notes the support of the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission for its financial and educational resources.

A report from the Anti-Defamation League released in the fall of 2024 noted a dramatic surge in antisemitic incidents in the year following the massacre in Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023. More than 10,000 incidents were recorded in the United States – the highest number in a 12-month period since the ADL had begun its tracking efforts in 1979.

The efforts that Heidi and her fellow awardees are making come at a critical juncture in history.

Having worked with Heidi as she strives to expand her students' awareness of diversity and educate them about hate and its ramifications, Federation nominated her for the Civic Courage Award.

"Your actions stand as a beacon of hope and positive change in a time when antisemitism is reaching alarming levels," wrote Amy of the Jewish Education Project in her email notification to Heidi. "Your dedication demonstrates remarkable civic courage, and we are honored to have the opportunity to recognize your work."

Federation CEO Stephen Rothschild echoed that sentiment, telling Heidi at a meeting scheduled to offer her congratulations that he's "completely over the moon" at her being selected for such an important award. "I'm so happy for the recognition for the work you do," he said, noting that she does "what's right, even when it's hard."

Jewish Toledo is deeply grateful to Heidi for her many noteworthy efforts to combat antisemitism in our area, and we look forward to continuing our support of her educational mission.

To see the complete list of Civic Courage Award winners, go to shinealighton.com/awards.



Heidi Meyer's Advanced World History class at Elmwood High School gathers around a Torah scroll at Congregation B'nai Israel in Sylvania, with Hazzan Cantor Ivor Lichterman

Jewish Community Relations Council

Experience Ayyám-i-Há with the Baha'i Community

Thursday, February 27

6-7:30 p.m.

Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

Celebrate a connection to the land of Israel that is shared among the Jews and our friends the Baha'is as we get together for Ayyám-i-Há, the intercalary days before the fasting month of 'Alá (the nineteenth and final month in the Badí' calendar, which is used by the Baha'is). We will learn about Baha'i history and beliefs, as well as the group's numerous contributions to the state of Israel; view images of the Baha'i Gardens in Haifa (the faith's most holy site); enjoy some traditional foods; and immerse ourselves in a multisensory experience. A light dinner will be served.

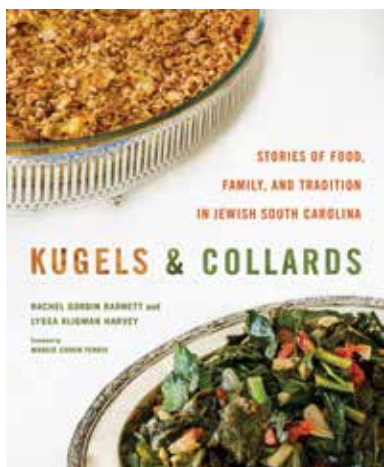
In lieu of a charge for this program, we ask that attendees bring hygiene and/or paper products for the JSFSS Food Pantry.

Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events> or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Kugels and Collards: How South Carolina serves up kosher cuisine

By Mary Bilyeu, Community Relations Programming Specialist



"Food is a lens on the South Carolina Jewish experience," write Rachel Gordin Barnett and Lyssa Kligman Harvey in the introduction to their fascinating book, *Kugels & Collards: Stories of Food, Family, and Tradition in Jewish Southern Carolina*. It serves as an entrée – pun intended – into a culinary world that many of us may never have considered when asking the question, "What is Jewish food?"

The book is a collection of memories, shared in essay form, and recipes that are often simultaneously very specific to their region and also broadly universal to the Jewish and Southern experiences. Those sharing their stories and their cherished dishes include descendants of the original Sephardic settlers whose presence in the New World dates to the late 17th century, after banishment from Spain and Portugal during the Inquisition; the children and grandchildren of Ashkenazim who came to the United States in waves, whether to seek opportunity at the turn of the 20th century, as survivors after World War II, or as refugees from the former Soviet Union; relatives of Black Southerners who had worked in the homes of Jewish employers as cooks

Grits and Lox Casserole

"This grits recipe feels quintessentially southern," writes Ali Rosen Gourvitch in *Kugels & Collards*, "and the lox is the perfect nod to my Jewish life in New York. It also feels like family, because it's the kind of no-nonsense dish you bring to a family brunch."

5 cups water
2 cups whole milk
1 stick salted butter, cut into 1-inch pieces, divided
2 cups stone-ground grits
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated
16 ounces lox, cut into small pieces
3 large eggs, beaten

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Bring the water, milk, and half of the butter to a boil in a heavy pot on medium-high heat. Add the grits and stir continuously until the mixture returns to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover, and stir frequently for 10 to 15 minutes, until the grits have thickened but are still a bit al dente to taste (your brand of grits really could make a difference here, so always keep tasting as you cook, in case it takes less time).

When the grits are done, remove the pot from the heat. Add the remaining butter, salt, and 1½ cups of the cheese to the mixture until incorporated. Add the lox and eggs and stir quickly and vigorously so the eggs don't cook before being incorporated. Pour the mixture into a 9x13-inch or 8-inch baking dish and sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top. Bake in the oven for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until the top is golden.

Makes 6 to 8 servings

Reprinted with permission from University of South Carolina Press.

and housekeepers; and even a Black judge whose large extended family includes a Jewish daughter-in-law and grandsons who are being raised Jewish. (As he writes, "[they] are my 'kugels and collards.'")

The authors are founding members of the Historic Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative and creators of the site kugelsandcollards.org, so they bring an impressive depth of knowledge to their topic. And they strive to delve into the subject matter rather than merely glossing over it as a teaser by showcasing "the contributions of individuals underrepresented in or absent from earlier accounts."

Memories were shared through recollections of oral history, much-loved and deeply-stained recipe cards, and written accounts. "While sharing stories," Lyssa and Rachel note, "people laughed, cried, and smiled, remembering times that revolved around food." And food, they continue, "weaves a powerful, complex tale of people and community."

A number of dietary issues unique to this specific region – Southern, coastal, and overwhelming not Jewish – are addressed in the book: What roles do both kashrut and assimilation play in a state that generally celebrates treyf items like shellfish and pork? How have Black and African foodways contributed to South Carolina's culinary identity (which necessarily addresses the uncomfortable topics of human trafficking, enslavement, and culinary appropriation)? Can one define a truly "Jewish" cuisine in an area where the influences have come from such far-flung locations as the Mediterranean and also Eastern Europe?

Dietary habits of South Carolina Jews definitely run the gamut, as

evidenced in *Kugels & Collards*. Rhett Mendelsohn, for example, noted that "we ate like our southern neighbors but with a few notable exceptions. Granny and Mother did not cook with bacon grease," but the family also ate "things our neighbors never knew about like chopped liver, herring, blintzes, lox ... and noodle kugel." Other families kept strictly kosher, which was facilitated by Jewish tradesmen such as grocers, butchers, and bakers. Still others kept kosher-light, appreciating a "don't ask, don't tell" policy in restaurants. And some representatives of the Moses family recalled their father taking them on shrimping ventures: "[Those] tender, sweet, and very flavorful small creek shrimp were served with grits for breakfast."

The book's recipes, too, reflect just as much diversity. Some are strictly Jewish: kishka, flanken and barley soup, latkes, and pickled corn beef (or tongue) among them. Others are classically Southern, including watermelon preserves, fried green tomatoes, and Hoppin' John.

But there has also been a beautiful blending of traditions.

For example, Annie Gailliard's Okra Gumbo has been given "a Jewish touch, with a dollop of schmaltz and olive oil, [and it's] served with ... kasha varnishkes rather than white rice." Hyman's Seafood, a Charleston institution for 40 years, serves salmon in place of shellfish for diners who don't eat one of the key ingredients in the more-familiar Shrimp and Grits. And Ezella Cliett's collard greens recipe, handed down to the eldest daughters in three subsequent generations of her family, doesn't include the expected salt pork; all of her West African heritage dishes eschewed

Kugel continued on page 10

News

Sotheby's to auction 'the most complete Jewish baseball card collection in the world'

By Jacob Gurvis

January 17, 2025 (JTA) — For many Jewish fans who collect baseball cards, the joy of opening a new pack and finding a Jewish player is second to none. That was Seymour Stoll's experience years ago when he drew a Sandy Koufax card at 14 years old.

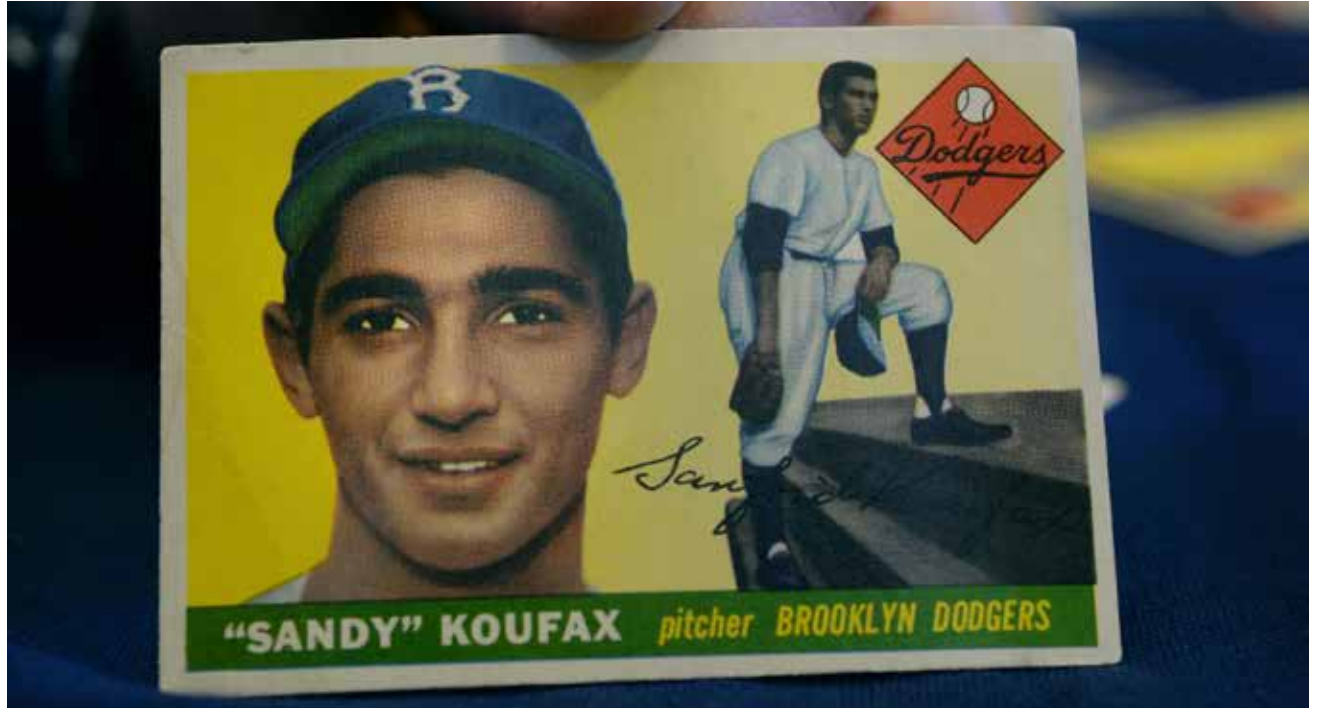
Inspired by that sense of pride, Stoll set out to collect the cards of every Jewish player in baseball history — around 200 total. More than 50 years later, his complete collection is going up for auction at Sotheby's, with an estimated price of \$500,000 to \$700,000.

Touted as "the most complete Jewish baseball card collection in the world," Stoll's archive features over 500 cards representing 191 Jewish players. It claims to contain at least one card for every Jewish player who has appeared in a professional game as of the 2024 season. (A similar but much smaller set of Jewish baseball cards was produced and sold throughout the 2000s.)

The players most represented in the collection are Hall of Famers Koufax and Hank Greenberg. Other well-known Jewish stars such as Norm and Larry Sherry, Ron Blomberg and more contemporary players like Ian Kinsler and Ryan Braun are all featured. Lipman Pike, the first Jewish baseball star and one of the sport's first-ever professional players, is also represented.

The most valuable card in the set is an 1867 tintype — an old-fashioned metallic print — of Philadelphia Athletics star Levi Meyerle, one of two Meyerle tintypes in existence. Stoll told Sports Collectors Digest that he bought the card for \$750 around 30 years ago and later had it appraised at \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Meyerle's card stands out for another reason — because some of the most devoted aficionados of Jewish baseball history are certain that he is not



A Sandy Koufax rookie baseball card displayed by the Unclaimed Property Division of the Colorado State Treasurer at the State Capitol in Denver, Colorado, March 10, 2015. (Craig F. Walker / The Denver Post)

Jewish, despite his name. He and several other players mentioned in the Sotheby's listing are not included in "The Jewish Baseball Card Book," published in 2018 by Bob Wechsler.

Sotheby's acknowledged having heard from Neil Keller, a baseball fan and self-described "national and international speaker on 'who is Jewish,'" about the listing. It said his concerns were addressed in the online listing, which acknowledges some uncertainty about the included players' Jewishness.

"Compiled over five decades, this remarkable archive represents every Jewish baseball player of the 191 total as of the 2024 MLB season," the listing says. "Of these, 177 players have confirmed Jewish heritage, while the remaining 14 players' heritage has not been proven." It

does not note that Meyerle is among the 14.

Other notable cards include a rare one of 1930s New York Giants star Philip Weintraub and a 1946 Cuban series card of Max Rosenfeld. There's also a fake card of former Cincinnati Reds player Harry Chozen — a card that Chozen's family created after the Reds refused to have one made because Chozen was Jewish. (That card holds little value on its own.)

"This collection not only celebrates achievements but also sheds light on the challenges Jewish players faced on and off the field," reads the Sotheby's listing, which notes that Koufax and Greenberg both faced antisemitism during their careers.

Stoll's collection has been on display at 11 major museums around the United States — including the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia and the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles — as well as synagogues, libraries and community centers.

"Everybody loves something whether you're young, you're old, and it gives you a sense of pride of what the baseball players did to integrate Jews into society," Stoll, now a physician in California, said in 2020. "In the old days, they would be blackballed and had to hide their Jewish heritage. Today, they're welcomed with open arms. It shows the evolution of the game, the evolution towards the feelings of Jewish players and the country in general."

Bidding in the auction — which includes a broad array of Americana — is open now and ends on Jan. 25. For Shabbat-observant interested parties, Sotheby's notes, bids can be made in advance or through an agent.

This story has been updated to reflect the fact that not all of the players included in the collection are Jewish.



A complete collection of Jewish players' baseball cards being sold at Sotheby's is estimated to fetch more than \$500,000 in January 2025. (Sotheby's)

Today and for our future

Donate at
www.jewishtoledo.org



Jewish Federation
& Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

News

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.



beloved, mourners can catch their breath for a moment in the New Year. Still, as with so many other aspects of grief, another challenge is just around the corner. February brings with it myriad reminders of love. From roses to cupids and from boxes of chocolate to heart shaped greeting cards, the symbols of love are all around. These images also remind the bereaved in a very palpable way that they are still missing an important piece of their world.

When you lose a spouse or partner, early loss is intensely lonesome. Some would-be supporters mistakenly believe that they can help ease the loneliness and pain by helping the bereaved stay busy with other company and activities. Unfortunately, these attempts are merely a Band-Aid for the deepest sort of wound. The void left by partner loss simply cannot be filled with just any company or activity as the griever is missing not just affection, but also a specific person

who loved them in a distinct, deep, and personal way. Those who are newly bereaved long for the special intimacy they shared with the departed and yearn to once again share time with their person. Therefore, a holiday focused on love can feel especially wrenching.

As we approach Valentine's Day, I have been considering various types of love. Clearly, the love of friends or the love of a parent for a child is quite distinct from our love of community. Moreover, platonic love is vastly different from the most intimate type of romantic love we feel for a partner or spouse. While there is no simple remedy for the loss of our dearest person, I have found that leaning into self-love and self-care can help soften the anguish. Since we feel so much pain during mourning, it makes sense to me that these are habits which can help us as we strive to find a way through the affliction we feel.

Searching for ways to understand love

and loss in my own life, I have done a great deal of introspection over the last few years. Since losing my husband, I have come to realize that giving to others is one of my "love languages." I often express my affection by giving gifts, but it is also important for me to nurture and help others in intangible ways. While I want to honor this part of myself, I have also come to recognize the need for boundaries in this arena. Indeed, no matter how much I find meaning in providing for others, I have discovered that I can only be at my best when I also give to myself. In my opinion, self-nurturance and self-love are especially key to finding our way through the most turbulent times in our lives. This Valentine's Day, I hope you will examine your own love language and find ways to give as much to yourself as you do to others. After all, love - in all its many forms - is a beautiful thing.

Once we leave the gauntlet of the holiday season behind, those who are in grief may feel a sense of reprieve. Knowing they have survived the family gatherings and heightened social pressures of December without their

Released hostage Emily Damari's injured hand becomes an instant symbol of Israeli defiance

By Philissa Cramer

January 21, 2025 (JTA)—Within hours of her release from captivity in Gaza, Emily Damari's hand had become a new Israeli icon.

Damari was injured on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists shot her and took her hostage. It became clear after she was released on the first day of a ceasefire on Sunday that she had lost the ring and middle finger on her left hand.

The clearest evidence came in a photograph released by the Israeli government, and later confirmed by pictures her family shared, showing Damari video chatting with her brother and father. In it, she was smiling as she showed off her hand, which was bandaged, with her thumb, index and pinky fingers visible.

Soon, supporters had added bandages to the "rock on" emoji, which uses the same configuration of fingers, to transform Damari's injury into a symbol of defiance. Damari's mother, Mandy, added the emoji to her handle on the social network X, and posted a photo with her daughter grinning while displaying the wounded hand.

The most widely circulated version was made by Aviad Amergi, an Israeli sneaker artist, who posted it on Instagram along with the words, "A great small victory." His followers quickly requested that he turn it into a sticker for WhatsApp, the messaging platform that is massively popular in Israel, where it soon circulated widely.

Others adapted Damari's gesture as well. A drawing of Damari's hands demonstrating the Jewish priestly blessing circulated online, with words from the biblical benediction: "May God bless you and keep you." The drawing was attributed to Moshe Shapira, a Jerusalem artist and architect, whose son Aner was killed on Oct. 7 after saving the lives of others.

The Israeli soccer player Ohad Hazut made the sign with his hands after a win on Monday, writing on Instagram, "An important victory."

Together, the symbol is emerging as a companion to "We Will Dance Again," the refrain adopted by survivors of the Nova music festival massacre, as a show of resilience for Israelis traumatized by Oct. 7. It also joins the yellow ribbon, which



The image of Emily Damari's wounded hand has been repurposed by Israeli artists as a symbol of resilience. (IDF Spokesperson/Photo illustration)

has become a ubiquitous symbol of advocacy for the hostages.

"There are many symbols of victory, this is my symbol," tweeted the Israeli artist Nemo Shiff alongside several renditions of Damari's hand. "For me, it symbolizes survival and bravery against all odds."

Some — including Lihi Lapid, the writer who is the wife of Yair Lapid, the Israeli parliamentary opposition leader — have also noted that the configuration of Damari's

remaining fingers is the same as the sign for "I love you" in American Sign Language.

Damari herself channeled both interpretations in her first Instagram post after returning to Israel. "Love, love, love," she posted, in a video visible to her friends and family but soon shared much more widely. "I have returned to my beloved life." She ended her post with the "rock on" emoji.

News

In Israel and across the world, Jews are feeling hope — and getting ready for heartbreak

By Ben Sales

January 17, 2025 (JTA) — One of the most lasting images of late November 2023 — alongside tearful photos of freed Israeli hostages reuniting with their loved ones — was a video of a resident of Kfar Aza breathlessly listing the names of the liberated captives, before shouting the Shema.

The clip epitomized the joy and relief felt across Israel that week, as a ceasefire brought more than 100 hostages out of captivity and provided a balm for a nation in mourning.

Now, as another set of hostages is about to be released, the mood is not the same.

Fourteen months of war have passed since the last hostage release, and in that time much of Gaza has been destroyed, dozens of hostages have been confirmed killed and divisions in Israeli society have only grown.

And as Israel readies to receive dozens of liberated hostages, its

citizens and Jews around the world are preparing for heartbreak.

“My hopes are up. But my heart is heavy,” wrote Ori Hanan Weisberg, an American immigrant to Israel, in a viral Facebook post noting that this week’s ceasefire deal had been on the table for months. “I will say a blessing of thanks for every soul released. But it will be difficult for me to rejoice (though I hope hostages’ family and friends do). Not because of the ‘price’ of doing the deal, but because of the ‘price’ we have paid over the last months. Even perhaps year.”

He continued, “How many hostages died or were outright murdered in that time? How many extra months of hell did those being released endure and what effect will it have on them?”

Foremost in the minds of many is the condition of the released hostages. In November 2023, all of the freed hostages were alive. Now, it’s estimated that at least some of the initial 33 set to be released will return dead.

Family members of hostages have

stressed the importance of receiving the bodies of those who have died so they can afford them a proper burial. But seeing the return of hostages’ bodies will still occasion mourning, even if the fates of many of the captives have long been known.

Nowhere is that apprehension more acute than in the case of Kfir and Ariel Bibas, the two remaining children held hostage who, since the days after Oct. 7, have become faces of the captives’ plight. In late November 2023, during the first ceasefire, Hamas announced that they and their mother Shiri had been killed.

Israel said it was investigating that claim but has not confirmed it. For more than a year, advocates for the hostages have spoken of the Bibas children, who would now be ages 2 and 5, as presumed to be alive. But now, as the Bibases are due to be released in the second week of the deal, voices across Israel are publicly grappling with the possibility that they are dead.

“We are 99% certain that they are

dead, likely murdered even before the 1st exchange,” Rachel Gur, an Israeli university lecturer and longtime political adviser, wrote on X earlier this week. “Shiri, Ariel and Kfir weren’t kidnapped by a formal Hamas cell but by the enterprising civilians of Gaza. They were stolen as trophies. A woman clutching 2 babies. They never stood a chance.”

Sara Yael Hirschhorn, a historian who teaches at the University of Haifa, wrote, “If two little redheaded kids come out of Gaza in coffins, be ready for serious vigilante violence.” (She made clear that the post was a prediction, not an endorsement of violence.)

Even prayers that the boys are alive and well have met backlash. On Secret Tel Aviv, a popular Facebook group, a post from November imagining a scenario in which “the Bibas family sits together in a darkened cell, with great love as they have never before felt,” drew a stream of comments accusing the writer of being detached from reality.

Some Israelis and Diaspora Jews are turning to prayer to gird themselves for the days ahead — and in some cases, giving themselves an avenue for hope about the Bibases’ fate.

“Even though I know all of the rumors, and all of the estimates, at this Shabbat’s candle lighting I will pray for all of the hostages,” wrote Tel Aviv resident Pninat Yanay in a post that has garnered hundreds of reactions.

Referring to a photo of Shiri Bibas clutching her two children as they were abducted to Gaza, Yanay said she would “dedicate a special prayer for that mother in pajamas on Shabbat morning. ... I will pray for the entire Bibas family, and the rest of our nation’s hostages, to return alive and whole. That there should be a miracle.”

Hillary Chorny, cantor at Los Angeles’ Temple Beth Am, suggested a way Jewish liturgy could reflect the mix of gratitude for the hostages’ release and grief for those killed. She suggested reciting Hallel, the traditional Jewish festival prayer of thanksgiving, following the first hostage release. But she recommended saying the abbreviated version of the prayer “because our joy is incomplete.”

The gratitude, she said, will be “muted by the pain of these past many hundreds of days, and by what is not yet resolved.”

Chorny’s congregation is one of

Kugel continued from page 7

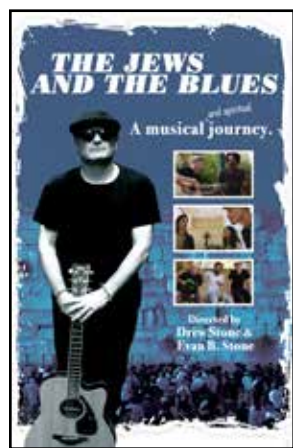
the treyf ingredient that is usually a predominant source of flavor.

At the same time, traditional Jewish foods have sometimes been given Southern flair. Gloria Sloan’s Schnecken (as she called them, though most would call them rugelach) were filled with ground pecans — a delicacy in the southern United States — rather than the traditional walnuts, chocolate, or jam. And instead of serving an Ashkenazi-style streusel-topped coffee cake for Shabbat or for a nosh, it’s extremely common to offer one of its cousins: a classic pound cake that’s been revered for centuries in the South, particularly among Black families. Similarly, the ubiquitous Friday night chicken might very well be cut into parts, coated with seasoned flour, and fried rather than roasted whole in the traditional Jewish style.

Kugels & Collards is, as its authors note, a reflection of “both our region and our religion” and elucidates how two usually distinct identities have become deeply and deliciously intertwined.

“This is our Southern Jewish table,” write Rachel and Lyssa, as they invite you to learn about the fascinating history of their cuisine.

Now, pull up a chair and bring a little bit of their Southern hospitality to your own life — and to your meals.



The Jews and the Blues

Sunday, February 2 at 4 p.m.
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

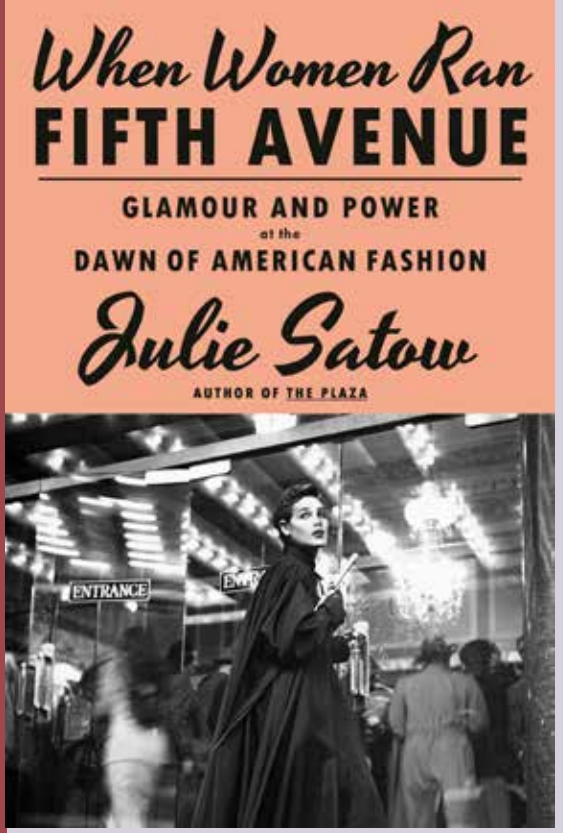
\$15 per person - includes vegetarian dinner and wine (after the film), movie, and snacks

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 at form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms
or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or
sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

International Women's Day Celebration



A glittering portrait of the golden age of American department stores

Join us for an amazing women's only event celebrating International Women's Day and see how far we have come in our struggle for equality, peace, and development by learning more about the visionaries behind Fifth Avenue. In *When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion*, award-winning journalist and author of *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel*, Julie Satow, chronicles the rise of the department

store through dazzling portraits of three visionary women who took great risks, forging new paths for the women who followed in their footsteps. This stylish account, rich with personal drama and trade secrets, captures the department store in all its glitz, decadence, and fun, and showcases the women who made that beautifully curated world go round.

This history of American fashion and the department store is inextricable from Jewish history, from the Jewish immigrants who worked in New York's Garment District to influential designers and creators like Hattie Carnegie and Lena Himmelstein (better known as the creator of Lane Bryant). These stories are interwoven throughout Satow's glittering account of a bygone era of innovation and glamour.



Julie Satow

is an award-winning journalist and author. Her first book, *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel*, was a New York Times Editor's Pick and NPR Favorite Book of the Year. A regular contributor to the New York Times, her work has also appeared on National Public Radio, Travel + Leisure, and elsewhere. She lives in New York City with her husband and two children.

Sunday, March 9 | 3 p.m.
Temple Shomer Emunim, 6453 Sylvania Ave.
Event - \$10 per person | Event and book - \$30 per person
Event includes author presentation, appetizers, and drinks

RSVP by Monday, March 3 to:
<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms> or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



PRE ORDER YOUR BOOK TODAY



This event is sponsored by the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation's Long Term Community Needs fund and is being held in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo and the Sisterhood book clubs at Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Etz Chayim, and Temple Shomer Emunim.

Hope continued from page 10

countless Jewish communities around the world that have been galvanized by advocacy for the hostages. Now, they will need to come together to process their prayers being answered in ways that they would not have preferred.

"There is hope that has been lost and that feels weird when it's a big aspect of Judaism to continue to always have hope," said Dana Cohen, a clinical social worker in Chicago who said she, her colleagues and many of her clients had been emotionally affected by Oct. 7 and its aftermath.

She said people who have been invested in the hostages' plight should prepare to feel a mixture of emotions over the coming weeks, from relief, joy and connection to anxiety, uncertainty and grief. "All feelings are valid," she said.

And as hostage families anxiously await their loved ones, some are turning toward what will happen next. The second and third phases of the deal are set to include the release of the rest of the hostages, living and dead.

But it is far from clear that those stages, which Israeli government leaders have reportedly vowed to torpedo, will move forward, particularly as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces fierce pressure from his government partners to resume fighting.

Alana Zeitchik, a cousin of hostage David Cunio who has been advocating for the captives for more than a year from her home in New York City, said she has no plans to let up.

"No, I don't have hope, I have the ability to take action," she said in an Instagram video. "Hope is



Eli Bibas holds pictures of his grandsons, who remain hostages in Gaza, during a pre-Passover rally in Tel Aviv. (Deborah Danan)

not some amorphous thing that we can't touch and grab. It's actually the action that we take. It is the sheer will inside of us to do something."

Philissa Cramer contributed reporting.

Delivering a Jewish Future. Give at
www.jewishtoledo.org/ways-to-give

Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services

TECH TIPS

Before the new year passes by, why not pause a moment while it's still winter to reflect on your relationship with technology, in particular, your online activity. How could you be more mindful when reading news, following sports, and streaming shows?

To approach your time on the Internet with more intention, try considering these three key points:

- Take stock of what you typically listen to, read, and watch. How much time per day or per week do you spend doing what?

- Consider how you access that information, the material that is most important. Is it via podcasts? Or by certain websites? Pinpoint the media formats you use most and those that work best.

- Pare the garbage. Or, more eloquently put, distance; or even disconnect yourself from sites and activities that may total hours of wasted time (doomscrolling, mindless web surfing, etc.).

By following the above three steps, you'll likely improve your awareness of how you spend your time online... and you may discover minutes or even hours freed for other off-line pursuits!

Until next month – Tim



(Tech Time with Tim)

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

Upcoming Tech Programs

1. **Wednesday, February 12: Device Advice** – Exploring the ins-and-outs of fact checking websites
2. **Wednesday, February 19: Device Advice** – Exploring privacy settings on mobile devices

Tech Tuesday programs are held on Tuesday evening, 6-7:30 p.m.:

1. **February 25: Tech Tuesday** - Staying Safe Online

RSVP with Sherry Majewski, 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



HOW TO CONTACT JSFSS

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

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

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

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

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

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

jewishtoledo.org/jfs



2025 Mahj Jongg Cards

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

The standard card is \$14.00. | The large card is \$15.00.
The National Mah Jongg 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

JSFSS Family Pantry

Wish List

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

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

Contact Hannah Loeser
(419) 724- 0401

Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services



Create & Relate 2025 – Session Two

Thursday, March 13
12:30 – 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

*****No food will be served at this session due to the Fast of Esther*****

Discover the world through a different lens! Join us for an inspiring afternoon with Tim Tegge, Executive Director of the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, as he shares insights about the incredible services they provide to empower individuals with visual impairments. But that's not all! After the presentation, experience creativity like never before with Kathy Hannerman, a talented visually impaired artist. Kathy will guide us step-by-step through a painting lesson, demonstrating her unique approach to art. You'll follow along, brush in hand, and create your own masterpiece—proving that art isn't just seen, it's felt. Don't miss this unforgettable afternoon of inspiration, creativity, and connection!



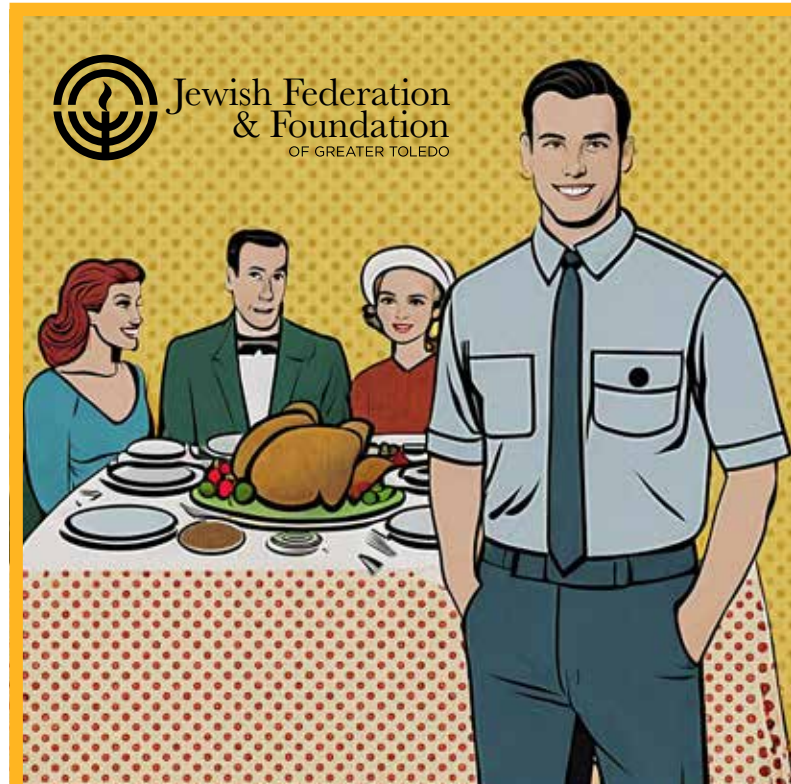
RSVP by Friday, March 7 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

SAVE THE DATES
for the next Create and Relate session:
Session 3 – July 10



Create & Relate 2025 – Session One

At the first Create & Relate session of 2025 in January, Dr. Breanna Barney, Doctor of Physical Therapy, introduced her company VIP THERAPY, a provider for concierge physical therapy, stretching, and wellness. Following the presentation NAMI helped participants tap into their creativity and craft a personalized vision board.



Are your kids visiting?

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

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

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

Active Life for 60+

Oh Shucks! A *Pearl*-fect Senior Necklace-Making Adventure

Tuesday, March 25

Noon – 2 p.m.

Sekach building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

Annual Campaign donors - \$10 per person

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

Includes lunch and necklace making supplies



Join us for a delightful and unique experience with Stephanie Reidy of Dreaming of Pearls. Enjoy a delicious lunch while diving into the fascinating world of pearl shucking and creating your very own sterling silver necklace.



Whether you're treating yourself or sharing this experience with friends, it's sure to be an afternoon filled with laughter, creativity, and a touch of elegance. Don't miss out on this shuck-tacular event!

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

Hanukkah on the Road

Jewish Toledo seniors celebrated an early Hanukkah, hitting the road to West Bloomfield, Michigan for an exciting tour of the Soul Studio and Gallery. They explored inspiring exhibits that capture the spirit of the season, followed by a delicious latke

lunch at the elegant Soul Center banquet hall.

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.



A musical celebration of the new year

In early January, our Jewish Toledo seniors celebrated the new year by enjoying a delicious lunch and captivating performance by Ben DeLong who played numerous instruments and sang songs ranging from the standards to Neil Diamond to Taylor Swift.

Thanks to the generosity of our campaign donors, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo has many more senior programs coming up soon, and you can keep up with all of them by reading Toledo Jewish News/Friday Facts or by visiting our website: www.jewishtoledo.org/jlc.



Active Life for 60+

Day trip to Jewish Detroit & Holocaust Memorial Center

Wednesday, April 2

Load bus between 7:30 – 8 a.m. in Federation Parking Lot, 6465 Sylvania Ave.

Return 4 – 4:30 p.m.

Annual Campaign donors - \$15 per person

Non-donors to the Annual Campaign - \$30 per person

Includes lunch, ticket to museum, and bus transportation. Grocery shopping is not included in this price. Make sure to bring your own coolers.

Join us for an inspiring spring adventure as we journey to Jewish Detroit where we will visit the Zekelman Holocaust Memorial Center, experiencing powerful stories of resilience and remembrance. Afterward, we will enjoy a delicious kosher lunch at one of Detroit's beloved eateries, savoring flavors that reflect tradition and culture. Our journey continues with a stop at The Grove metro Detroit's Kosher grocery store, to stock up for Passover.

RSVP by Friday, March 21 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



Celebrate Tu B'Shevat with Mini Tree Gardens

Thursday, February 13

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Hoehn 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 Hoehn 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.



Healthy Living



Get Fit Classes

Monday

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

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

Cardio Drumming, 12-1pm

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

Wednesday

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

(see description above)

Ballet Fusion, 12-1pm

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

Friday

Zumba, 9-10am

Foundation Fitness, 10am-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

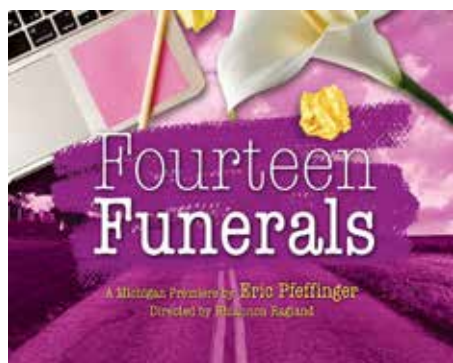
**Sekach Building
6505 Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania**



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



YouTube



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.

SOLD OUT

When city girl Sienna receives a mysterious call about the untimely deaths of distant family members in a small town in Massachusetts, 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.



Youth and Family Programs






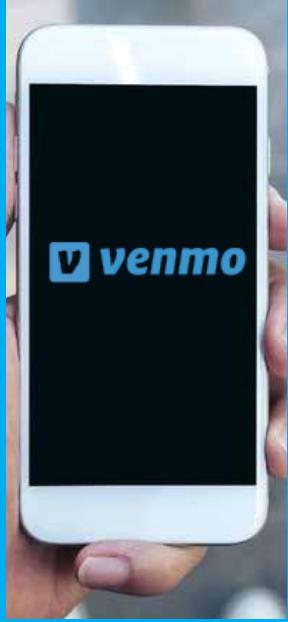
Joanne Galler Rubin
Friendship Circle
Co-sponsored by
Chabad and Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE CAFE
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY
 AT THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE: 2728 KING RD
 Monday, February 17, 5:00 PM
 RESERVE YOUR TABLE ONLINE: chabadtoledo.com/fccafe

The Friendship Circle Café is prepared and run by participants of the Joanne Galler Rubin Friendship Circle. Come show your support for their skills and achievements by reserving your table at our pop-up café!
 The Friendship Circle is generously sponsored by Paul Goldner & Sandy Soifer



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Camp Wise is a proud recipient of the Yedid Nefesh Grant from the Foundation for Jewish Camp.

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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EMOJI GRANT AT jewishtoledo.org/emoji



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**This is an incentive grant and not needs-based. See website for more details.*

Youth and Family Programs



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.



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.

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



JFGT PJ Library & Youth Programming



jewishtoledo.org/pjlibrary



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PJ Library is supported by The Inspiration Fund.



Hanukkah

in Jewish Toledo



The fifth night of Hanukkah was extra special as Jewish Toledo lit the candles together and sang songs with Rabbi Dan at the Maumee Indoor Theatre. Prior to the candle lighting, the adults enjoyed *The Frisco Kid* as he traveled west to San Francisco in the mid-1800s while the kids watched Fievel Mousekewitz also go west in the latter part of the same century to Green River, Utah. Afterwards everyone dined on kosher Chinese food provided by Chef Cari.

Thanks to all who joined us and helped spread the light.

Obituaries

Patsy Meyers

Patsy Meyers, age 97, passed away Sunday morning, December 22, 2024. She spent the past 3 years at Parkcliff Memory Care Community, and 2 years prior at West Park Place Senior Living Community.

Patsy was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 10, 1927, where she grew up with parents Milton and Hannabelle (Baer) Emrich in the Shaker Heights neighborhood. As a child she loved swimming, diving, and vacationing in Florida with her parents and sister, Betty. She attended Colby Junior College in New London, New Hampshire, where she graduated in 1948 with an Associate Degree in Commercial Science. After college Patsy worked at Cleveland Steel & Wire Company.

At the height of the Depression, Patsy lived for about 5 years in Akron with relatives until her family

got back on their feet. During WWII her family took in a young girl and her family from Germany, seeking refuge from the horrors of Nazi Germany.

In 1951, Patsy fell in love with Milford Meyers in Toledo on a blind date. They were married later that year, and honeymooned in Jamaica.

The main priority for Patsy was her family, where she was a very devoted and loving mother and wife. She loved being a “hands-on” mom as she and Milford loved raising their 2 sons, Tom and Rick, in the Old Orchard neighborhood of Toledo. They shared lots of laughter and fun times at home and on many family trips. Along with being a



diligent mother, she also worked part-time at Toledo Steel Supply Co., run by her husband, Milford.

Patsy was a very outgoing, open-minded, fun-loving, and generous soul, who was always welcoming and helpful to those in need. She enjoyed playing Mahjong and bridge with her friends,

and was an avid tennis player until age 80. Patsy also enjoyed dancing, cooking, and birdwatching at the local Toledo Metroparks. During the winter months, Patsy loved “snowbirding” in Sarasota, Florida, with Milford, where they had an active social life. Her favorite trips were with friends and family in the Cayman Islands, multiple visits with

Tom and Rick in Portland, Oregon, and an incredible family journey in 1998 visiting several safari camps throughout Southern Africa.

Patsy volunteered for several years with The Sisterhood at the Collingwood Avenue Temple, and helped teach Russian immigrants to speak English at the Toledo JCC. She was a longtime member of Temple Shomer Emunim.

Patsy is survived by her sons, Tom and Rick; nephews, David Furth, Steve Stein; and niece, Sherry Stein. She was preceded in death by her husband, Milford; and sister, Betty Barrisch.

She will be greatly missed by the those who loved her and whose lives she touched.

Donations are requested to be made to the Jewish Federation of Toledo.

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: abby@jewishtoledo.org

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

NOTE: Only obituaries submitted to abby@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 abby@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0318.

You can help fight local hunger!

The Meijer **Simply Give** campaign runs

Sunday, December 29, 2024 through

Saturday, March 29, 2025.

at the Central Avenue store which benefits the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry!

You can help by purchasing a \$10 card (or multiples of \$10) at Meijer during those days.

Make your dollars go ever further!

Double Match Days

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Saturday, March 22, 2025

On Double Match Days, purchasing a \$10 card will result in a \$30 donation! Cards are available at Meijer on Central Ave. and the Sekach Building (6505 Sylvania Avenue).

You can be a hero to those who are hungry. We can serve MORE when you give MORE!



To participate, take a Meijer Simply Give card along with your \$10 and give to the cashier at the Meijer on Central Avenue



You can help fight local hunger!



Local

Young professionals celebrate Hanukkah with Latke Vodka gathering

More than 20 Jewish Toledo young professionals played a mean game of dreidel, ate latkes, toured the distillery, took part in a vodka tasting, and more at Bellwether at Toledo Spirits. Each guest left with festive Hanukkah socks to take home.



BBYO attends Winter Convention in Pittsburgh



Last month, over 100 teens gathered for a weekend in Pittsburgh packed with meaningful experiences and development of life long friends.



"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>



Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo



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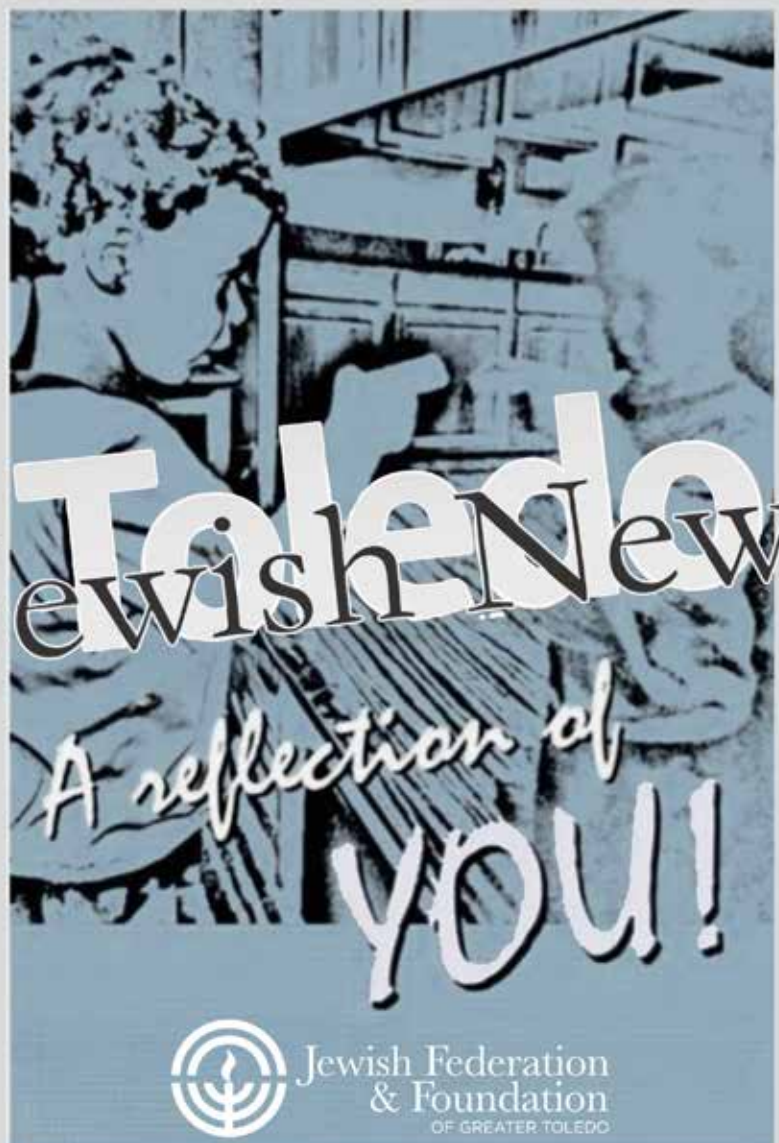
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Temple Shomer Emunim



ESTHER'S STORY (TAYLOR'S VERSION) Sunday, March 16

Havdalah Under the Stars

Saturday, February 22, 2025

The University of Toledo's Ritter Planetarium

6:30-8:00pm

\$10 per person/ Children Under 3 free

Join us for Pizza, a planetarium show & Havdalah kits

RSVP no later than Tuesday, February 18, 2025 to grace@templese.com

Just Because it's Shabbat

Friday, February 7, 2025

5:30PM followed by a Shabbat Dinner

\$12 Adults | \$10 Children 10 & Under

Children 2 & Under No Charge

All Religious School Grades will participate!

RSVP to the Temple office no later than Wednesday, January 29.

SAVE THE DATE



קולות דורות
VOICES OF THE GENERATIONS
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN
IN THE CANTORATE



Concert in Celebration of 50 Years of Women in the Cantorate

April 27, 2025 | 4:00pm

With special guest Cantor Barbara Ostfeld and Cantors Laurie Akers, Andrea Markowicz, Jen Roher, Judy Seplowin, Raina Siroty, and Amanda Winter.

Cantor Ostfeld, the first ordained woman cantor, will be our scholar-in-residence for the weekend, April 25-27. Her memoir, *Catbird: The Ballad of Barbie Prim*, is available for purchase in the Temple office.



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:

"THE SAMUEL PROJECT"

Monday, February 10, 2025 7:00 PM at CBI

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 1:00 PM at CBI

The Samuel Project is a 2018 family comedy drama film that tells the story of an outcast teen who connects with his isolated grandfather for the first time; he discovers he has a surprising past when he makes his grandfather the subject of an animated art project for school. The film stars Hal Linden, Ryan Ochoa.

Cost is \$5 per movie. Snacks will be provided.

RSVP to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Feb. 7.

Connecting Kids to Meals

Volunteer Event

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10 AM - 12 PM

Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.

RSVP Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Feb. 9.

Parashat Hashavuah:

Torah Portion of the Week Discussion

Fridays in February at 11:00 AM at CBI

Join us for Canasta!

Tuesdays in February at 12:30 PM at CBI

Learn how to play Canasta

Wednesday, February 5, 19, 2025

RSVP to Rhoda Miller at rmiller@cbitoledo.org.

NOSH & KNOWLEDGE - CBI ADULT ED:

"Defining Terms in the Context of the War in Gaza" with Amichai Stout, Dir. JCRC

Sunday, February 2, 2025 10:30 AM at CBI

145 sovereign nations recognize an entity known as "the State of Palestine" - but what exactly does that refer to? Come learn more about the importance of being intentional and informed in our language on these important issues.

RSVP to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Jan. 31.

WCBI CELEBRATES: Rosh Chodesh Shevat Whatever Happened to Paint-by-Numbers?

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025 11:00 AM at CBI

Join us as Toledoan, Larry Robbins, talks about his father Dan's book, *Whatever Happened to Paint-by-Numbers?*, which is a humorous personal account of what it took to make anyone an "artist". The Tikkun Olam project for this program is cash donations to benefit Yad Lakashish - Lifeline for the Old, located in Israel.

Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Checks should be payable to "Women of CBI" and sent to Miriam Beckerman, 6006 Main St. Sylvania, OH 43560.

RSVP to Miriam Beckerman at mesb@bex.net by Feb. 12.

OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

Havdalah Have Fun! Night Games • Dinner • FUN

Saturday, February 22, 2025 6:45 PM at CBI

Join us for an evening of fun games, delicious Italian dinner, and drinks, after a meaningful Havdalah service. What's your game? Mahj? Poker? Scrabble? Rummy Cube? You'll find that and lots more! Bring your friends & family! Introducing A.I. Trivia with Howard Moskowitz.

Cost is \$15 per adult for this fun evening!

RSVP to the office or kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Feb. 14.

WCBI BOOK CLUB:

The Other Einstein by Mary Benedict

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:30 AM at CBI

OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

RSVP to Ellen Federman at efederman@sbcglobal.net by Sunday, February 23, 2024.

NOSH & KNOWLEDGE - CBI ADULT ED:

"Staying (more than) a Step Ahead of Scammers" with Tim Hagen, Jewish Fed. IT Coordinator

Sunday, March 2, 2025 10:30 AM at CBI

RSVP to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Feb. 28.

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

MAJ/POKER GAMES

Everyone is invited to play Maj and poker in the synagogue social hall on Sunday, February 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to noon 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

A second game day is planned for Wednesday, February 19th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Please contact Nancy Jacobson at jaco824@bex. Net to sign up to play.

TU B'SHEVAT LEARNING SESSION

One of our favorite speakers and facilitators Aviva Panush will lead an interactive session on Tu B'Shevet on Sunday, February 9th at 10:30 a.m. in the synagogue library. A light breakfast will be served.

SUPER BOWL PARTY PLANNED

Join in the fun and cheer on your favorite team in the Super Bowl. Etz Chayim is so excited to have Joe Wittenberg host this event at his home. The Stone pool will be reinstated for \$5.00 per square. A light dinner will be served. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. Please register in advance.

TOLEDO OPERA'S SOUTH PACIFIC

Congregation Etz Chayim has secured a group seating for this wonderful play at the Valentine Theater on Sunday, February 16th. A preview question and answer session starts at 1:00 p.m. and the performance begins at 2:00 p.m. Limited seats are available. Please contact the synagogue office for pricing and reservations.

ZOOM BOOK DISCUSSION & ART TOUR

Etz Chayim is happy to have our own Naomi Baron and Andrea Delman back for a delightful zoom book club presentation on Thursday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. Naomi will be reviewing the book *The Golem of Brooklyn*, by Adam Mansbach and Andrea will be presenting art works relating to the book. Please R.S.V.P. to Elsa Leveton at elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org to receive the link.

SHABBAT SERVICES PLANNED

Everyone is invited to Shabbat services and a kiddush lunch on Saturday March 1st with Rabbi Jason Mark.

PLEASE NOTE: Please contact either Nancy Jacobson at jaco824@bex.net or Elsa Leveton at 419-473-2401 or elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org for further information and registration.

HAMANTASCHEN SALE

The hamantaschen sale will begin the middle of February!!

The cost is \$8.00 per dozen for raspberry, apricot, blueberry, prune, poppy and chocolate flavors.

The cost is \$10.00 per dozen for chocolate dipped raspberry, chocolate dipped apricot and chocolate dipped chocolate flavors.

Individual prices are \$.70 for each regular hamantaschen and \$.85 for each chocolate dipped.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Sisterhood has planned some fun activities for the next couple of months.

The first program will be a paper flower-making class with Mary Willet. The class will be held Wednesday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m. at Etz Chayim. The cost for this activity is \$18.00. Please RSVP to Cheryl Berkowitz or Andrea Lublin if you are planning to attend the class.

The second activity will be a glass class with Ellen Rubin. We will be making a project for Passover or everyday use. The class will be held on Sunday, March 2nd, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The cost will be \$35.00 for small pieces of glass. If you wish to do a bigger project there will be an additional fee for the extra glass.

Purim begins at sundown on Thursday, March 13th and is all day Friday, March 14. The Sisterhood will again continue the Shaloch Manot bags for Purim. You will receive a letter the at the beginning of February, with a list of Congregation Etz Chayim members who live locally. If you would like to donate and honor friends of yours with a Purim bag, please complete the form with your donation and mail it back to Etz Chayim by Friday, February 21st.

Chabad House

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE CAFE
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY
 AT THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE: 2728 KING RD
 Monday, February 17, 5:00 PM
 RESERVE YOUR TABLE ONLINE: chabadtoledo.com/fccafe

The Friendship Circle Café is prepared and run by participants of the Joanne Galler Rubin Friendship Circle. Come show your support for their skills and achievements by reserving your table at our pop-up café!
 The Friendship Circle is generously sponsored by Paul Goldner & Sandy Solfer

Lenny CARES
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February
 MON FEB 10

February Monthly Spotlight
Torah, Wills & Wisdom
 11:00 AM: Torah Class
 11:45 AM: Delicious Lunch
 12:15 P.M. Presentation by Attorney Joe Wittenberg:
"Don't die without a Will"

HOT SOUP SALMON PASTA & SALAD DESSERT DRINKS

Lenny Cares Monthly Spotlight Member: Free | Introduce a 55+ friend to Lenny Cares, and you'll both attend for half price | Admission: Before Feb 5th: \$18 Feb 5th and later: \$24

MON FEB 3
Lunch N' Learn
 Delicious Lunch and Torah Learning with Rabbi Dov Fridman @ 12:00 pm
To dedicate or sponsor in honor of a loved one please reach out.

TUE FEB 25
Sip' N' Shmooze with Rivka
 Come with friends and make new ones over coffee between the hours of 1:00-3:00 pm

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 PURIM EVE THURSDAY MARCH 13
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Friday & Saturday 11am - 11pm
(Kitchen Open Until 10pm)

Happy Hour
1/2 off WELL DRINKS • WINE • DRAFT BEERS
Monday-Friday 2 - 6pm • Saturday 11am - 4pm

Valentine's Day Specials
February 14-15
Music - Bobby Mays
February 15th

February 22 - Kyle Smithers • March 1 - Something to Talk About

***Jigg's Dinner \$16.99 | Monday, February 17th**
*Jigg's Dinner starts at 11am | Lunch Portion \$10.99 • 11am - 3pm

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**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR SUMMER 2025!**
REGISTER HERE:
<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 GUC! 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.

Delivering a Jewish future



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& Foundation**
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Donate at
www.jewishtoledo.org





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

Imposter scams are on the rise

Imposter scams are on the rise, now's the time to get informed and help protect yourself against common scams with these helpful tips.

At the height of the pandemic, scammers were focused on trying to access money that was flowing from government programs. But now, they've moved their focus away from these scams, targeting more individuals instead. Recently scammers conned an 89-year-old Sylvania woman out of more than \$1 million dollars. Being aware that these predators are out is the first step in preventing you being a victim of a scam.

Latest Scams and Frauds

1. **Depositing Checks from Unknown Sources:** Fraudsters may ask you to deposit a check into your personal account and promise you can keep a portion of the money. These checks are often counterfeit and may be returned or sourced from illegal activity — you could lose money or even become unknowingly involved in a crime.

2. **Requests for Donations:** During times of geopolitical events, fraudsters exponentially increase their efforts to take advantage of your interest to support specific causes. Funds or personal information provided to unverified charities could ultimately not reach their intended audience and could put your account information at risk. FTC.Gov provides guidance to help donate wisely and ensure your contributions reach their intended targets.

3. **Requests for Account Info:** Fraudsters may pose as your bank employee and ask for information which allows them to access your account — they may email, text, or call you.

4. **Paying with Gift Cards:** Scammers pretend to be someone they're not to convince you to pay with a gift card. Legitimate companies or government agencies would not make this request.

Tips to help keep your money accounts safe

- If you receive a one-time passcode you didn't request, don't give the code to anyone who contacts you for it.
- Never open or use a personal bank account to deposit or transfer funds for someone else.
- Be wary of "get rich quick" or "easy money" schemes, especially if unsolicited.
- Use known links to access businesses online.
- Verify any phone, text or email contacts are legitimate before sharing information such as your account number, security word, PIN, User ID or password.
- Be leery of requests to download apps to fix issues or that allow access to your device.

Grandparent Cons

How They Work:

Someone posing as a relative (like your "grandson or granddaughter") sends an email or calls you saying he or she is in trouble and needs you to wire money right away. The scammer asks you not to tell anyone and directs you to a neighborhood location to transfer or send funds.



What Can You Do:

- No matter how convincing it sounds, do not fall for this tale of woe.
- Notify the police immediately and provide them with the details for wiring or sending money, if you have it.
- Call your family members.

Keep your personal information personal!

With data breaches and identity theft in the news practically every week, you may be wondering what you can do to secure your finances.

Here are 10 of the best measures you can take, according to experts. If you're not already doing these, it's easy to make them a part of your routine to safeguard your accounts.

- Keep crucial numbers secure.
- Create strong passwords or pass phrases.
- Be mindful with mail habits.
- Monitor your credit.
- Beware of fake websites
- Avoid phishing scams.
- Shred sensitive documents
- Share cautiously on social media.
- Be diligent with your devices.
- Stay vigilant!

Additional Safety Tips

- Question and verify all requests for information regarding payments, especially through unexpected calls, emails, or texts. If you have any doubt, contact the company directly.
 - Set up 2-factor authentication with the companies you do business with to help keep your device and money secure.
 - Review your accounts, and if you suspect your account has been compromised, change your user ID and password for your online access to your bank and other important accounts.
 - If you notice you no longer have control of your phone, immediately contact your cell phone provider. Phone takeover (SIM swap) can put your money at risk.

Whenever you deal with currency, please be diligent and suspicious of fraud or scams.

Bottom line is: If you have a question, call your local police agency. Local police would much rather hear from someone questioning a suspicious phone call than seeing someone get ripped off.

Law Enforcement does not want anyone to become a victim of crime. If law enforcement can get involved early and keep someone from becoming a victim of a crime, they are happy to do that."





Shine a Light on Antisemitism 2024



Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO



Hailey Stern, a dynamic representative from StandWithUs – an international non-profit dedicated to Israel education – was the speaker at Jewish Toledo's annual "Shine a Light on Antisemitism" event on December 19, 2024. A sold-out crowd of more than 110 community members came to Congregation Etz Chayim for the program, "Antisemitism vs. Legitimate Criticism of Israel," which was intended to equip attendees with the skills to navigate complicated discussions in these difficult times since October 7, 2023.

The evening began with a welcome by Stephen Rothschild, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, and an invocation by Rabbi Lisa Delson of Temple Shomer Emunim. Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Director Amichai Stout then introduced the evening's guest.

Hailey proceeded to note that distinguishing between justified critiques of Israel as a country and those that are rooted in tropes about Jews can sometimes be straightforward, but at other times may be nuanced and difficult to parse out. She offered real world examples of the difference, sharing the "Three Ds" test, which can be applied: If there is **demonization** of Israel, **delegitimization** of the country's right to exist, or any holding of Israel to **double standards**, then a statement or action is inherently antisemitic.



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