



Toledo Jewish News

The Monthly Newspaper of Jewish Toledo

Nisan/Iyar 5784 • May 2024



10th toledo jewish film festival



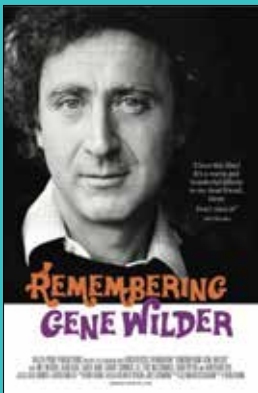
Monday, June 17

Monday, June 24

Monday, July 1

Monday, July 8

Monday, July 22



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Jewish American Heritage Month Family Photo Day!



Open to ALL Jewish families of all ages and stages

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Never Forget: Students share stories from Second Generation children of survivors

Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Remembrance Day

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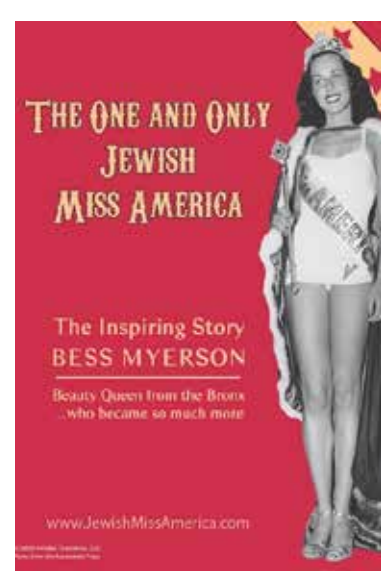
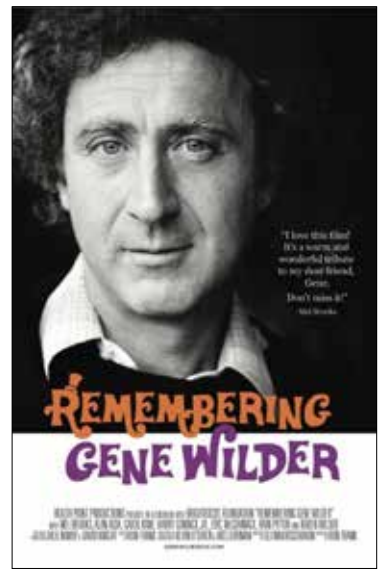


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10th toledo jewish film festival



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OPENING NIGHT

Remembering Gene Wilder

Monday, June 17 at 7 p.m.

This loving tribute to Gene Wilder celebrates his life and legacy as the comic genius behind an extraordinary string of film roles, from his first collaboration with Mel Brooks in *The Producers*, to the enigmatic title role in the original *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, to his inspired on-screen partnership with Richard Pryor in movies like *Silver Streak*. It is illustrated by a bevy of touching and hilarious clips and outtakes, never-before-seen home movies, narration from Wilder's audiobook memoir, and interviews with a roster of brilliant friends and collaborators like Mel Brooks, Alan Alda, and Carol Kane. Remembering Gene Wilder shines a light on an essential performer, writer, director, and all-around mensch. **Running time: 92 minutes | English**

iMordechai

Monday, June 24 at 7 p.m.

A heart-warming movie based on a true story, *iMordecai* stars Academy Award-nominated and two-time Emmy-winning actor Judd Hirsch (star of the Emmy-winning sitcom *Taxi, Ordinary People, Independence Day*) as Mordecai Samels and Academy Award-nominated actress Carol Kane (*Hester Street*) as his wife, Fela, both survivors from Poland, who are now living in Miami. Their son, Marvin (Academy Award-nominated actor Sean Astin, *The Lord of the Rings*), is an ambitious cigar maker trying to support his own family while still being there for his aging parents. But when Mordecai's ancient flip phone breaks, he starts to take lessons from Nina (newcomer Azia Dinea Hale), a young employee of Ultratech. She tutors Mordecai on his new iPhone, opening him up to all kinds of novel experiences and adventures, which makes him feel like a kid again. An uplifting comedy and a love letter to the city of Miami, *iMordecai* urges us all to live the one life we have to the fullest. **Running time: 102 minutes | English**

Vishniac

Monday, July 1 at 7 p.m.

Roman Vishniac is best known for having traversed Eastern Europe from 1935 through 1938, on assignment for the American Joint Distribution Committee, to photograph Jewish life in Eastern Europe. The purpose of the photographs was to raise funds for impoverished Jewish communities. Few predicted that, less than a decade later, these communities would be wiped out and that Vishniac's photographs would provide the last visual records of an entire world.

After the war, Vishniac's documentation continues with photographs of Berlin in ruins and children in displaced persons camps before he shifts his focus to groundbreaking scientific work. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Laura Bialis (*Refusenik, Rock in the Red Zone*), Vishniac goes behind the images and beyond the myths to portray a man who took those closest to him to the brink of rejection, yet gave the world a collection as diverse and beautiful as the eye can see. **Running time: 93 minutes | English**

Running time: 93 minutes | English

The One and Only Jewish Miss America: The Inspiring Story of Bess Myerson

Monday, July 8 at 7 p.m.

In September 1945, Bess Myerson, Miss New York City, made history at the most famous beauty pageant in the world. In spite of anonymous phone calls to judges, threats from sponsors, and growing antisemitism, the daughter of struggling immigrants from Russia became the first Jewish Miss America. The judges could not change the point count, the beauty queen from the Bronx won the swimsuit competition, tied for first place in talent and top-ranked in interview and evening gown categories. But was the country ready for a Jewish Miss America? **Running time: 51 minutes | English**



FEATURING Q&A with director David Arond
David Arond has directed and produced over a dozen documentaries in his career as a journalist and filmmaker.

The Catskills

Monday, July 22 at 7 p.m.

The Catskills is a feature-length documentary film on the rise and fall of the Borscht Belt.

With a trove of lost-and-found archival footage and a cast of characters endowed with the gift of gab, *The Catskills* journeys into the storied mountain getaway north of New York City that served as refuge for Jewish immigrants fleeing poverty as well as a lavish playground for affluent Jewish families.

Stand-up comedians share their best shtick while former waiters, entertainers, and dance instructors recount tales of the family-run resorts and bungalows that inspired films like *Dirty Dancing*. **Running time: 85 minutes | English**

information

Location and time for all films:
NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR:
Southview High School Auditorium, 7225 Sylvania Ave.
All films begin at 7 p.m.

Ticket prices
General admission: \$10 per film, per person
Series package: \$45 all 5 dates, per person
Please check in at our registration table the day of each film for all pre-purchased tickets and passes

How to purchase your tickets
By phone: 419-724-0351
By email: sherry@jewishtoledo.org
Online: form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/films24
At the door: first come, first serve



Concessions
Snacks and beverages will be available at all screenings (unless otherwise noted). This is included in your ticket price.

Parking
Free parking is available on the west side of the building.

Questions:
Please contact Hallie Freed at 419-724-0362 or hallie@jewishtoledo.org



The Film Festival is generously funded in part by the Jack, Jr. and Nora Romanoff Donor Advised Fund and the Stu & JoJo Goldberg Donor Advised Fund at the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation

Jewish Community Relations Council



*Never Forget:
Students
share stories
from Second
Generation
children of
survivors*

Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Community Observance
Sunday, May 5, 2024
27 Nisan 5784
10 a.m.
Temple Shomer Emunim

Teen students from the Toledo Jewish community will share stories from conversations with second generation children of survivors, Allen Markowicz and Ann Rosenberg.

Special music by the Jewish Community Choir.

Followed by candle lighting and prayers of remembrance for all the lives lost during the Shoah.

Join us as we come together as a Jewish community to pay tribute and remember.

Sponsored by:

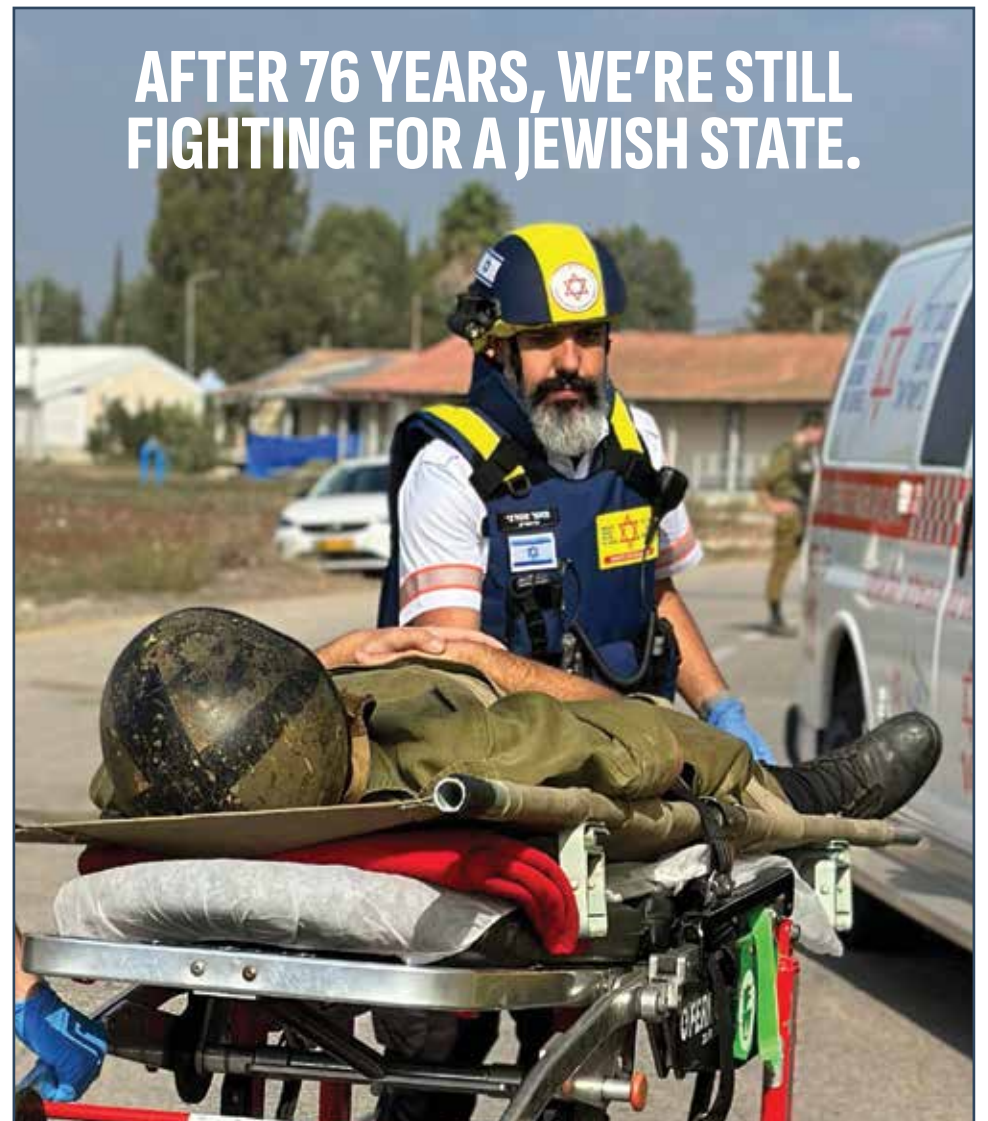


Jack & Kathryn Gallon Community Scholarship & Education Opportunity Fund

Next Jewish Generation asks questions about Israel

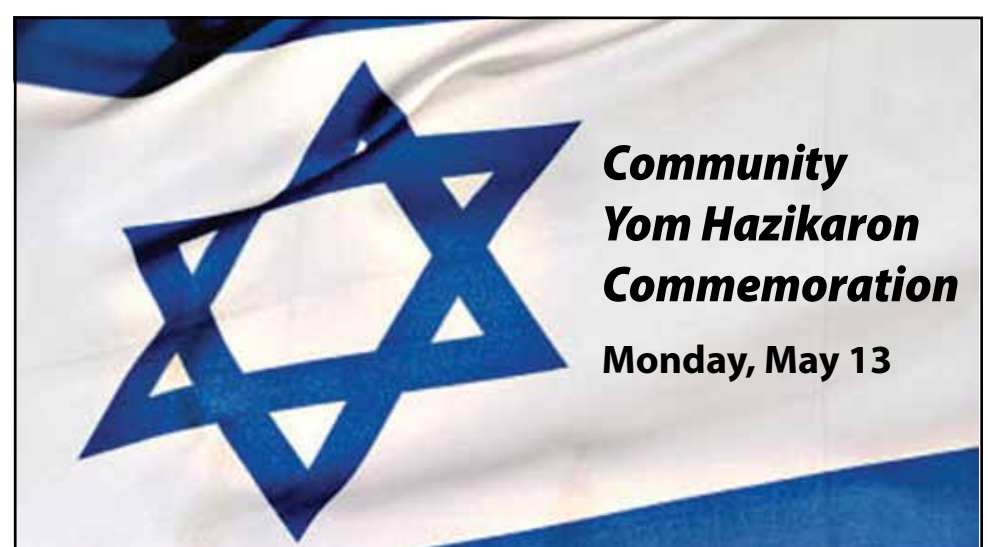
Next Jewish Generation (NJG) recently met to talk about what is on everyone's minds: Israel. What is happening and how did we get here? What does Israel mean to us as American Jews? And how do we engage in respectful and empowered discourse in contentious discussion?

Daniel Pearlman, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo (JFGT) VP, Community & Government Relations; Ido Rottem, an Israeli member of Jewish Toledo who lives in Sylvania; and Temple Shomer Emunim's Rabbi Lisa Delson led the in-depth conversation.



**AFTER 76 YEARS, WE'RE STILL
FIGHTING FOR A JEWISH STATE.**

In 1948, as Israel fought for its independence, the medics of Magen David Adom were there, treating wounded soldiers and civilians alike. Today, as Israel celebrates Yom HaAtzma'ut, MDA is still treating the injured — even under fire. But for MDA to continue being there for Israel, we need to be there for MDA. **Make a donation at afmda.org/give.**



Yom HaZikaron: Featuring special Israeli guests

Monday, May 13
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Congregation B'nai Israel, 6525 Sylvania Ave.
FREE

Community Yom HaZikaron event featuring special Israeli guests who will discuss their firsthand experiences during October 7 and the subsequent war in Gaza.

RSVP by May 10

to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events>
or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351
or sherry@jewishtoledo.org. **NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.**



Delivering a Jewish Future

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo



Jewish American Heritage Month

Family Photo Day!

Open to **ALL Jewish families** of all ages and stages

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

Sunday, May 5

15-minute session time slots begin at 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

LIMITED TIME SLOTS AVAILABLE

At Janell Marie Photography,
500 Madison Ave., Suite 100

\$54 per family, includes 15-minute session, three digital images, and snacks

May is Jewish American Heritage Month. Pay tribute to the generations of Jewish Americans who helped form the fabric of America and preserve the legacy of your family with a professional family photo.

Families come in all shapes and sizes – include them all! Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and more. Come before or stay after your time slot and enjoy delicious classic Jewish American treats and decorate your own frame to display your family photos.

Sign up for a timeslot to have your family's photos taken. Each family will receive three digital prints with their registration and will have the option of purchasing additional photos.

RSVP and select your time slot by Friday, May 3 at <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily2024> or by contacting Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

Janell Marie

ESTD *jm* 2020

PHOTOGRAPHY



Jewish Federation OF GREATER TOLEDO

Delivering a Jewish Future

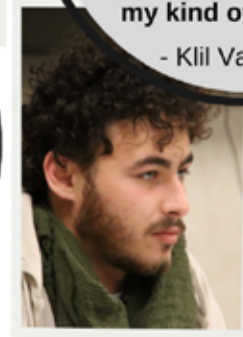


"We will dance again. We're dancing right now... We lost friends, we got family. I feel like I have a family all around the world right now... That's the most special thing, and my kind of therapy."

- Klil Valiano

"On one day my life changed overnight... to deal with life after the 7th October. Some people survived, and now it becomes a mental war, a psychological war."

- Inor Roni Kagno



Four Israeli survivors of October 7 visit and speak in Toledo



Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's (JFGT) Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) coordinated the visit of four Israeli survivors of the October 7 massacre - Klil Valiano, Inor Roni Kagno, Gitit Botera, and Eitan Frankel - to Toledo in March to share their first-person, terrifying accounts of what they experienced on the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust; they spoke to local high school students, had lunch with Jewish community members, addressed approximately 200 members of the general community, spoke to local media, and more.

At the Nova Festival, on the Kibbutz, and in safe rooms, each of these survivors spent hours hiding from terrorists before finding their way to safety and witnessing the aftermath of the atrocities perpetrated by Hamas. While in Toledo, they each told their stories from before October 7, recounted personal experiences from that horrific day, and expressed how they are doing now, nearly six months later. They stressed that, despite long-term mental and emotional trauma, they are intent on moving forward, telling their stories of survival, and always persevering.

"I hope that we can rebuild. I hope that I can come home to the only home I had."

- Eitan Frankel



"From the shelter I see [terrorists] trying to open my house door...I came back to the shelter to be with my husband and my daughter, without light, without water, without food, and without a toilet for 10 hours."

- Gitit Botera



This program was one of many happening at various JCCs across the country, bringing the Gaborim/heroes of October 7 directly to North American Jewish communities to share their stories. Gaborim | Heroes of Light program is part of the מתחברים | Mit-habrim | CONNECTIONS funding initiative, a partnership between the Israeli Government's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, JCC Association of North America and World Zionist Organization (WZO).





Jewish Federation
& Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo Tributes and Memorials

received between March 20 - April 9, 2024

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

Arleen R. Levine TJCF Fund for Donor Stewardship
In Memory of Joseph Goldberg
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Levine

Hillel Supporting
In Memory of Larry Kripke
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jerome

Gan Yeladim Preschool
In Memory of Marge Goldstein
In Memory of Sondra Gallis
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barchick

Jewish Community Security Fund
In Honor of Gordon Levine's 90th Birthday
Ms. Sandy F. Romanoff

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Phone: 419-724-0318
Fax: 419-885-3207
e-mail: paul@JewishToledo.org

EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
Paul Causman

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419-724-0363

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

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

JFGT Summer 2024 Holiday Office Closures:

Date	Day of Week	Holiday	Office Hours
	Monday	Erev Passover, 1 st Seder	Close at 1:00 pm
May 27, 2024	Monday	Memorial Day	Closed
June 11, 2024	Tuesday	Erev SHAVUOT	Close at 1:00 pm
June 12, 2024	Wednesday	SHAVUOT	Closed
June 13, 2024	Thursday	SHAVUOT	Closed
July 4, 2024	Thursday	Independence Day	Closed
September 2, 2024	Monday	Labor Day	Closed
October 2, 2024	Wednesday	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Close at 1:00 pm

Time Change • Office closes at 3:30 pm Fridays starting November 9, 2024.

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.



Northwest Ohio
Nonprofit
**EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

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

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo



Yoga for Israel

Wednesday, May 8
7 - 8 p.m.
B'nai Israel, 6525 Sylvania Ave.
FREE event, donations requested

Let's turn our sadness into action. Join us for an hour of yoga, meditation, and healing while raising money for the Jewish Federations of Greater Toledo's Israel's Relief Fund.

Since October 7, our community has been heartbroken by the violence and tragic events in Israel. This all-levels flow class led by Lori Gold Ellinger, Yoga instructor at Toledo Yoga, is an opportunity to come together for a moment of shared strength and to take an hour to breathe. There will be plenty of options to modify or challenge yourself depending on your level of practice.

Bring your own mat (BYOM!) The full proceeds of this class will go to support victims of terror, medical support, trauma recovery, crisis management, direct lifesaving relief efforts, and accurate media reporting via our trusted partners.

This event is open for all women and held in partnership with Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Etz Chayim, Temple Shomer Emunim, and Chabad House of Greater Toledo.

RSVP by Tuesday, May 7 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms> or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.



Community Dinner with Chef Uri

Thursday, May 16
6:30 p.m.
At Congregation Etz Chayim, 3853 Woodley Rd.
FREE dinner, RSVP required. There is limited seating and no walk-ins allowed.



Jewish Federation & Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Renowned Israeli chef Uri Arnon - owner of Arnolds, a restaurant in Moshav Netiv HaShayara, and Roots restaurants - will be visiting Toledo and preparing a delicious Kosher dinner. Roots, in Acre, is a partnership between Jewish, Christian, and Muslim individuals who opened a Kosher Middle Eastern restaurant with a modern twist. A real coexistence on the plate.

Chef Uri was born and raised in Tel Aviv to a father who converted to Judaism and immigrated from Switzerland and a mother who immigrated from Egypt. Chef Uri has always been involved in multicultural culinary initiatives and is a founder of The Tourism Association in the Western Galilee; he recently opened a consulting, branding, and marketing company, Umami, to help culinary, tourism, and lifestyle businesses mainly in the Western Galilee and Northern Israel.

RSVP by Monday, May 6 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events> or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Delivering a Jewish Future
Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo
www.JewishToledo.org

CEO Message

Observations on the Last Seven Months

By Stephen Rothschild, CEO, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo

Dear Friends,

It has been quite some time since I have written a message like this to the community. To be honest, I simply lost my voice. I didn't know what I could say or what I could add. We have been overwhelmed by events, awash in news, opinions, and sad images. It's not that I didn't have lots of words in my head but as I thought about my own words, they seemed inconsequential and just unnecessary noise. Imposter syndrome. Who am I to comment on the complexities and emotions experienced thousands of miles away? Slowly, but surely over the last several weeks, my thoughts have sharpened and I found what I need to say, so I am sharing them here. Please indulge me.

Recently, a former law partner asked me to gauge on a scale of 1-10 how close my new role as Jewish professional was to what I expected. I said a 7 because at least two things occurred since July 2019 that I could not have predicted and that changed the organization, our community, our world and me—COVID and the barbaric attack by Hamas against Israel on October 7.

We all know how COVID impacted us. Its presence in our lives upended many plans including a long-planned trip to Israel for our community. The events of October 7 canceled a second community Israel trip that was nearly a year in the making. Things happen. But the war and its aftermath have been devastating to the Jewish world and to

Jewish professionals in ways that no one could have ever imagined.

With the war, Israel has faced an existential threat to its existence. It has incurred incredible loss of life, injuries both physical and mental, loss of property, displacement and the on-going horrors suffered by those still in captivity, including the desecration of the dead. **The unfathomable events in Israel for the last seven months have added significantly to the expectations, needs and efforts of Jewish professionals and our communities.** Whether we are engaged in fundraising for funds that will be used exclusively overseas, participating in weekly national briefings, or merely trying to stay informed with an endless 24/7 barrage of news and commentary, the war has added much to the plate of Jewish professionals—a plate that was already full.

At the same time, the war has unleashed and emboldened a vicious, aggressive and virulent form of anti-Israel advocacy that has been embraced, without much critical thinking, by what some believed were reasonable people who supported a pro-Palestinian agenda that we assumed did not require destroying the State of Israel and its Jews. Perhaps foolishly, we believed that there were such real voices advocating for Palestinian rights consistent with Jewish rights but it seems we were wrong. We have not heard these voices. In this new environment, Jews here and around the world have witnessed and experienced an unprecedented increase in antisemitism in the form of intimidation, harassment, threats and

actual violence. We have seen it on our streets here in Toledo. We have heard it in the halls of government, at community events and on the local news. Our children and college students have experienced it in their schools in Sylvania, Ottawa Hills and the University of Toledo. **This rise of antisemitism has also added complexity and burden to the work of Jewish professionals and lay leaders at JFGT, B'nai Israel, Chabad, Etz Chayim and Shomer Emunim, as we attempt to address the impacts of the war and rising antisemitism locally.**

With what we are facing, what are we, as Jewish professionals and members of a Jewish community, supposed to do? In the coming days, we will read from the Torah portion *Kedoshim*. In *Kedoshim*, G-d commands us, "You shall be Holy." What does this mean to be Holy? In one sense, a passive sense, we might conclude that we can be holy by avoiding doing bad things. You can be a good person by minding your own business and keeping to yourself. This can be relatively easy. We can separate ourselves from the community and generally be a good person. This is not, however, the Jewish answer to being holy.

We are also told in *Kedoshim*, that we cannot sit idly by. It is not enough to do nothing and simply avoid doing harm to others. We, as Jews, have an affirmative obligation to better our Jewish and non-Jewish world by taking *affirmative* steps to make this world a better place. **We must use our talents and strengths to improve the world—to lift up one another.**

In this post-COVID and post-Black Sabbath world, being *holy* requires that Jews acknowledge an affirmative obligation to be *holy* towards one another. I recall a Yiddish word—*rachmones*. It has no perfect English equivalent but has been described as best summarized by four words—mercy, compassion, forgiveness and empathy. **We should strive to be a *holy* community by showing to one another that we have *rachmones* for one another, for each other's lay and professional leadership and that we support and are willing to work for the collective success of all in our community.** In the immediate aftermath of the 10/7 attack, Israelis came to realize this and mobilized in collective action, putting aside, even if only temporarily, political and religious differences for the greater good.

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo is here to deliver a Jewish future that belongs to every member of our community, every Jewish soul, every Jewish institution. The success of our Jewish community, and the holiness of our community, is increased by the success of our individual Jewish institutions including the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo. Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo cheers and supports the individual efforts of all our Jewish institutions. We demonstrate this every day with our programming, our efforts to cooperate, our financial support for these institutions, our security efforts and our delivery of vital services. **We are simply stronger together.**

ADL says antisemitic incidents more than doubled last year, driven by surge after Oct. 7

By Luke Tress

(JTA) — The number of antisemitic incidents more than doubled last year, shooting up particularly following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel, according to the Anti-Defamation League's annual audit.

The ADL and other Jewish organizations, in addition to law enforcement agencies, have reported a spike in antisemitism after Oct. 7, as protests against Israel have taken place across the country.

But the ADL report found that antisemitic incidents were rising prior to Oct. 7, and that even after the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, nearly half of the reported incidents did not directly involve Israel.

The report tabulated a total of 8,873 incidents over the course of 2023. Of those, more than half — 5,204 —

occurred after Oct. 7.

By contrast, the group tallied 3,697 incidents over all of 2022. At the time, that was a record in the more than 40 years since the ADL began issuing the reports. It has since been shattered.

Last year's tally includes increases in the number of antisemitic assaults (161), acts of vandalism (2,177) and harassment (6,535). The number of swastikas reported, 1,117, represents a 41% increase from 2022. Ten percent of all anti-Jewish incidents, or 922, happened on college campuses.

Part of the increase in recent years is due to more robust reporting methods, such as including incidents reported by partner organizations, which started in 2021. The report also includes an update in the ADL's methodology that classifies certain anti-Israel activities as antisemitic, which accounts for 15% of

the annual total.

The ADL has come under fire from left-wing activists for portraying pro-Palestinian activism as antisemitism, a charge the group denies. But even without its methodology update, according to the report, 2023 still would have seen more than 7,000 acts of antisemitism, far more than any previous year. And the report says that even if all Israel-related incidents were removed, antisemitism still would have risen 65%.

"Antisemitism is nothing short of a national emergency, a five-alarm fire that is still raging across the country and in our local communities and campuses," the CEO of the ADL, Jonathan Greenblatt, said in a statement. "Jewish Americans are being targeted for who they are at school, at work, on the street, in Jewish institutions and even at home. This crisis demands immediate action

from every sector of society and every state in the union."

To combat the rise in hate, the ADL is calling on governors to implement strategies to counter antisemitism in state-level programs analogous to the White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism released last year.

The report shows that even before Oct. 7, antisemitism was on the rise. From January to the beginning of October, there were 3,669 antisemitic incidents — close to the total for the entire previous year.

But the pace of incidents accelerated rapidly after Oct. 7. Just over half of them — 52% — directly concerned Israel. And the pace did not die down as the weeks passed following Oct. 7. The ADL found that there were 1,813 incidents in October, 1,575 in

ADL continued on page 10

Ideas

Literature celebrates nuance. So why does the book world feel so one-sided on Israel?

By Erika Dreifus

(JTA) — For many people in literary spaces, the waves of anti-Israelism since Oct. 7 and the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war — whether fueled by ignorance, misinformation or malicious antisemitism — have come as a surprise, and the dilemmas of ongoing participation are similarly new.

Not so for me. I've been watching this poison spread through my professional communities for nearly two decades. Which is how I now find myself back where I was some 18 years ago, wondering what to do about my membership in the National Book Critics Circle.

According to its mission statement, the NBCC “honors outstanding writing and fosters a national conversation about reading, criticism, and literature.” Such goals appealed to me in 2006, when, as a 30-something “emerging writer” who was building a book-reviewing practice, I submitted my credentials to join and

paid the membership fee.

Then came the Second Lebanon War in 2006. As I read and worried about Israelis from afar, the organization's then-president was using his bullhorn on the board-controlled blog to inveigh against Israel. When I commented publicly on a number of the posts and reached out privately to the few people I knew in the organization, I received virtually no support. Later that same year, the president ratcheted up his rhetoric by repeatedly spotlighting Jimmy Carter's notorious “Palestine: Peace, Not Apartheid” and then embarked on a harassment campaign via phone and email (asking me, in one memorable missive, how I felt about the IDF targeting women and children for murder).

I decided that I'd had enough. I resigned my membership.

Years passed. The organization had new leadership. At some point, that original blog disappeared. I was still

writing about books. I decided to give the NBCC another try. I never sought any especially significant role there, but I did contribute to the (revamped) blog. I voted in elections, albeit irregularly. Occasionally, I attended events, including the annual awards ceremony, which routinely earns national press coverage.

I did not attend the most recent such ceremony, which was held March 21 in New York. But the following day a colleague told me that the “genocide” in Gaza had been a focus of introductory remarks and subsequent acceptance speeches. I saw no mention of this aspect of the event in the press coverage that I encountered. But as I watched a recording of the event, the years fell away. I wondered how I might have reacted in the moment had I been a member of the audience. And I wondered how to respond this time.

What did the recording reveal? The NBCC's vice president for awards,

Keetje Kuipers — who is also listed on the organization's website as vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion — was the first speaker to invoke what she termed “the continued genocide unfolding in Palestine.” No sooner had she uttered those words than applause broke out from the audience.

But Kuipers wasn't finished. Citing the work of two poets of Jewish heritage — Jane Hirshfield and the late Adrienne Rich — Kuipers called for an expansive understanding of the collective “we” as she continued to her conclusion, exhorting those gathered “to do the work of expanding compassion on the page, and in the world, and that ‘we’ includes the Palestinian people. Let it be what we say and do tonight as we gather together to celebrate the power of words.”

Absent from these powerful words: any mention of Oct. 7, Hamas, or the

Literature continued on next page

An Indiana court ruled that Jews have a religious liberty right to abortion. Here's why that matters.

By Michael A. Helfand

(JTA) — Since the Supreme Court's 2022 decision *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the right to abortion is no longer protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. But that seismic constitutional change has triggered a new legal debate: In the absence of federal constitutional protection, does state law provide Jews with a religious liberty right to abortion? Last month an Indiana state appellate court answered yes to the question — invoking variations on the word “Jew” more than 70 times in the process.

As the first state appellate court answer to the question, the ruling presents a persuasive case for other state courts to follow, potentially opening the door for Jews — and others with similar religious commitments — to secure abortions that are motivated by religious values even where such abortions are otherwise prohibited by state law.

Now, with Arizona's decision barring abortion after six weeks and with Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump saying that he would leave abortion decisions up to states rather than sign the federal ban that some on the right want, the significance of the ruling appears to have grown even since it was issued.

The idea of a Jewish right to abortion being enshrined in U.S. law could, at first, sound strange. But in the wake of *Dobbs*, as states have adopted new abortion restrictions, Jews and Jewish organizations have filed suit arguing that these restrictions put them in a bind. Jewish laws approach to abortion is generally understood — as much as anything within Jewish law is “generally understood” — to place the well-being of the mother, including physical and

emotional well-being, at the center of its analysis. As a result, where an abortion is necessary to protect the well-being of a mother, broadly construed, Jewish law sanctions — and often requires — the termination of the pregnancy. If a mother, motivated by these underlying Jewish values, were to seek an abortion in a state that imposed significant restrictions on such procedures, her religious commitments could run afoul of state law.

Advocacy addressing this tension between Jewish commitments and abortion restrictions is not new. Back in the late '80s and early '90s, Agudath Israel of America filed friend-of-the-court briefs encouraging the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. But prefiguring much of the contemporary debate, it also argued that those religiously motivated to seek abortions — such as American Jews — ought to have religious liberty protections for such decisions even in the absence of a more general right to abortion. Until recently, though, such arguments received less attention precisely because *Roe* — and the right to abortion — was the law of the land. Now, in the absence of those protections, Jewish plaintiffs have taken up those arguments and filed suits in a variety of jurisdictions, such as Florida, Kentucky and Indiana.

The plaintiffs in the Indiana lawsuit, which include both individuals as well as the organization Hoosier Jews for Choice, are not themselves pregnant. But a number of the individual plaintiffs allege that they would like to become pregnant, through assisted reproductive technologies or otherwise. But they fear, given past histories or the realities of using assisted reproductive technologies, that their Jewish commitments may

require them to undergo an abortion. And given that Indiana's restrictions might prohibit such abortions, they have held off becoming pregnant.

An Indiana Court of Appeals found that under such circumstances, the state's religious liberty protections are likely to require providing women in such circumstances with a religious exemption from the state's abortion restriction. The logic of the court's decision is pretty straightforward.

Indiana, like over half of the states, has broad religious liberty protections captured in the state's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA. RFRA, as an initial matter, prohibits the state from substantially burdening religion. Applying this rule, the Indiana court found that the state's abortion restriction, by prohibiting abortions motivated by Jewish law — and thereby discouraging the plaintiffs from becoming pregnant — imposed a prohibited burden on the religious exercise of the plaintiffs.

The state, however, argued that this burden on religion was justified. Indeed, RFRA allows the state to justify imposing a burden if doing so is the only way to achieve some sort of essential government objective (or, in legal terms, if the burden is narrowly tailored to achieve a “compelling government interest”). To make this argument, the state contended that protecting fetal life is a vital government objective, vital enough to overcome the religious liberty rights of the plaintiff.

But the court ultimately rejected this argument. Indiana's abortion restriction, it turns out, has lots of other exceptions. For example, it has exceptions — like many other abortions restrictions across the country — for rape, incest, in vitro fertilization and even a narrow exception

to protect the physical health of the mother. Where a state grants all these exceptions that weaken the objective of a law — in this case promoting fetal life — then it cannot turn around and claim that its interest is so important that it can't grant exceptions for religion. After all, how important can the government's interest be if it already provided all these other exceptions?

So where does this leave us? The decision will presumably be appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court. And it is no doubt possible, either for procedural reasons or otherwise, that the Indiana Supreme Court will reverse the decision. But for now, the fact remains that the first state appellate court to analyze the issue interpreted state religious liberty law to protect the right of Jewish plaintiffs to religiously motivated abortions.

The decision may well have broad impact. Because these cases focus on state law — as opposed to federal law — they won't be heard by the United States Supreme Court. That means litigation over a Jewish right to abortion will be fought in state courts around the country. Other state courts are likely to take notice of this judicial foray into the issue, especially given that over half the states around the country have identical or nearly identical religious liberty laws.

With an easy-to-follow blueprint now available, the decision may signal that a Jewish right to abortion is no longer merely a theoretical argument. It may, in a world without *Roe*, be the way of the future.

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

Literature continued from previous page

more than 100 hostages still captive in Gaza. Absent was any audible disagreement from the crowd to the reference to the “genocide unfolding in Palestine.”

Two award winners used their acceptance speeches to express similar sentiments, notable also for their erasures. Safiya Sinclair, who took the autobiography prize for her memoir “How to Say Babylon,” suggested that her Rastafarian background informed her views:

As a daughter of Rasta rebellion, I know that none of us are free until all of us are free ... which means we wish to see all downpressed people free from the shackles of colonial violence. I pray for an end to the genocide in Gaza and I wish to see a free Palestine in my lifetime, a free Sudan, a free Haiti, a free Congo.

Roxanna Asgarian, winner in nonfiction for “We Were Once a Family: A Story of Love, Death, and Child Removal in America,” concluded her acceptance speech as follows:

This book is about what can and does happen when our systems and our government place less value on certain children’s lives than on others. Because of that, I want to add to the chorus of people demanding a permanent ceasefire and an end to the inhumane conditions in Gaza. Every child deserves to survive and thrive, their inherent dignity intact. Thank you.

Asgarian did not include among those children the Bibas boys, kidnapped with their parents from Kibbutz Nir Oz on Oct. 7 (Kfir was then 9 months old; big brother Ariel, 4), and now, six months later, are still held hostage in Gaza. If she was aware of the varieties of trauma inflicted on Israeli children on Oct. 7 and beyond, or the Israeli children who witnessed their parents being slaughtered in their own homes, or the tens of thousands of displaced families from the communities attacked on Oct. 7 and those to the north under threat from Hezbollah, she didn’t mention them.

I can’t be certain what I would have done in the moment, had I been part of the audience. Surely, I wouldn’t have applauded Kuipers’, Sinclair’s, or Asgarian’s speeches. Had I attended the customary after-party, I might have angled for a moment with another awardee, Marion Winik. After congratulating her for the NBCC Service Award she received for her

longtime engagement and leadership, I might have thanked her for her speech’s concluding line: “Long live the NBCC, and peace in the Middle East,” the evening’s only other — and most benign and compassionate — reference to the war.

Winik’s speech also referenced the advances in diversity and inclusion that the NBCC had made since the fraught moment after the police murder of George Floyd in 2020. Those efforts make these resuscitated echoes of my earlier NBCC experience all the more distressing.

I emailed NBCC with my concerns, saying that I was writing about the ceremony and that I hoped the one-sided remarks made there “were not a sign of more worrisome developments to come.” Heather Scott Partington, president of the NBCC, thanked me for my email and said she would “share your thoughts and concerns with the rest of the board.”

I have been tracking resolutions and statements by literary organizations that are compromised by both distortions of the historical record and ongoing demonization of the state of Israel, Israelis, and/or the vast majority of Diaspora Jews who are not anti-Zionists. Many of us are grappling with how this growing toxicity over Israel should shape our own participation in the larger community. Sometimes, the question boils down to this: Assuming that our own commitment to Jewish peoplehood or Israeli citizenship doesn’t automatically exclude us, do we even want to remain part of literary spaces that clearly don’t welcome us as our full selves? How much effort are we able and willing to expend — and how many times — trying to explain and educate those who simply aren’t aware of the harm that’s being caused? And what do we do in those cases where no amount of explanation or education can overcome sheer anti-Israel antisemitism?

I still haven’t decided whether I’ll renew my NBCC membership when the dues invoice arrives. But this much is certain: These circumstances aren’t limited to me and the NBCC. The questions and dilemmas remain — and will, I suspect, grow only more acute — for other writers, regarding other organizations, too.

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

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 a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo. 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.



May is often recognized as a month of milestones and celebrations, from spring flowers to weddings, and from Mother’s Day to graduation ceremonies. Of these observances, several mark the passage of time, but some are more specifically understood as marking the end of a given era or, conversely, the dawning of a new one. Rather than considering the juxtaposition of endings and beginnings, I prefer to consider it as a time of transition: moving from one stage of life into another with all the complexity, nostalgia, and feeling that it invokes. This May marks just such a transition in my

own family as my older daughter graduates from high school this month. While there is much to celebrate and so much history to honor, it is also a time filled with a mixture of emotions. As my husband died quite literally the week before our older girl started high school, the end of this time feels especially charged for all of us.

In the process of sharing about how I have learned to live with grief, I have made a conscious decision to write very little about my daughters and their own personal grief journey. With all they have already had to face, it has been especially important to protect them and their privacy in the wake of their father’s passing. Still, as someone with a background in child and adolescent therapy, I feel it is important to share a bit of my own perspective on helping a young person cope with such a tremendous loss. As with so many aspects of helping children and adolescents, I believe the most important piece of helping a young person cope with grief begins with listening to them and following their lead. Everyone’s way of grappling with grief is different. Even in my own family, I have observed a great contrast between my own daughters and how they expressed their feelings and mourned their father. I firmly believe there is no right or wrong way to grieve a loss, so I have tried to honor my daughters’ unique needs when it comes to adjusting to life without their father. Along with listening and following their lead, I felt it was imperative to offer as much stability and consistency in their daily lives as possible. As my girls’ world was turned upside down by the pandemic and the sudden loss of their father, I wanted to give them a sense that other aspects of their environment could feel solid and predictable.

Just like attending a spousal loss support group has helped me find a special sort of camaraderie and understanding, it was also incredibly useful to hear the stories of those who lost their parents as children or in young adulthood. Friends, acquaintances, and even perfect strangers came forward to tell me about losing their mother or father. Those who offered their stories of parental loss often longed to be given time and space to mourn their late parent, sharing painful times when unthinking individuals encouraged them to simply “move on” or disregarded their need for mourning. I also learned how those who lost a parent in their youth needed to grieve the loss anew each time they reached a new stage in life. It was obviously heartbreaking to lose a parent in the first place, but the same wound was opened again and again each time they wondered what it might have been like to have their parent see them in a relationship with a significant other, graduate from college, or - eventually - have their own children. These long-term mourners wished for a chance to talk things over with the deceased parent, introduce them to their new loves, and show their parents how they had navigated all the challenges of “adulting.” I am so honored to have heard the stories of my fellow mourners and will keep all this in mind as I continue charting the unpredictable waters of grief both for myself and for my family. Most of all, I hope the love, patience, and acceptance I have shown my own children will help them show the same to others.

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News

This Jewish comedian hopes to set a new baseball record

By Luke Tress

(New York Jewish Week) – On Wednesday, April 10, Eitan Levine approached the pitcher's mound in Connecticut as the Hartford Yard Goats prepared to play the Bowie Baysox.

Four days later, on Sunday, he would ascend the mound nearly 1,000 miles to the south on the home field of the Jacksonville JumboShrimp. Three days after that he'll do the same at First Horizon Park, home of the Nashville Sounds.

And from May 8 to 12 he will step on the rubber at four different stadiums in the greater Chicago area. None of them belong to the city's American League team, the White Sox, though he will get on the mound for the Cubs — the South Bend Cubs, that is, a minor-league affiliate for the franchise that plays in Wrigley Field.

Levine, a New York City-based comedian, is embarking on this odyssey across dozens of minor league ballparks (and, to be fair, a good number of big-league stadiums) in pursuit of an obscure record: the most ceremonial opening pitches thrown by one person in one baseball season.

"I was just doomscrolling one night, and thought of it and checked to see if there was a record," Levine, 34, told the New York Jewish Week.

He figured a small-town mayor somewhere must have set a lifetime record for first pitches, but found nothing. So he contacted the Guinness Book of Records, whose representatives told him it had set a benchmark of 40 pitches to qualify for the record — which is so far unclaimed. The Guinness Book of Records confirmed to the New York Jewish Week that it was monitoring an attempt at the record.

Levine hopes to throw 50 first pitches this season.

"A million cold emails and cold calls later I'm sitting outside of Dunkin' Donuts Park," the Yard Goats' stadium, he said.

In addition to setting the record, Levine hopes to raise \$100,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a nonprofit that grants "wishes" — dream gifts or experiences — to children with severe illnesses. Wishes cost an average of \$10,000 each, and he'll ask fans to donate at each park he visits, as well as on social media, where he has 27,000 Instagram followers and more than 118,000 on TikTok.

For Levine, the connection is personal. He was 10 years old when he was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a type of cancer that forms tumors in bones and soft tissue. He underwent two years of chemotherapy, followed by 15 years of procedures to reconstruct his leg, and is now cancer-free.

One bright spot in the ordeal was his experience with Make-A-Wish, which helped kick off his career in comedy. Levine was granted a wish, and opted to perform a stand-up show, opening for Jim Gaffigan at Carolines on Broadway Comedy Club in Manhattan when he was 15. His cancer has also made it into his comedy more recently.

"My mom was also very, very Jewish," he said of his childhood. "And she was so Jewish she used to brag to people about how rare the cancer was. Like, 'You know my son? He got into the medical program at Cornell!'"

Levine landed on the first pitch idea after he appeared on social media last season wearing the jersey of the Portland Pickles, a collegiate summer baseball team in Oregon. The team's owner set up his first ceremonial first pitch.

Previous Guinness records involving baseball pitches range from the well-known (baseball's oldest player, pitcher Satchel Paige, who was close to 60 when he stopped playing), to novelty numbers like the most baseball pitches thrown in 8 hours (2,806, by Patrick O'Bryan of Louisville, Kentucky, in 2022).

The only record claimed for ceremonial pitches appears to have been set by the 189 people who simultaneously threw out the first pitch at a game in Japan in 2023.

Levine has confirmed dates for games with 46 teams — 12 in the major leagues, the rest with minor league teams ranging from the Alaska Sun to the Norwich, Connecticut Sea Unicorns to the Akron, Ohio RubberDucks. He will also throw out the first pitch for one of the most famous minor league teams, the Durham Bulls, made famous by the classic baseball movie "Bull Durham."

The major league teams include the New York Mets, the Minnesota Twins, the Oakland A's, the Milwaukee Brewers and the Cleveland Guardians.

At least four of the pitches will take place during the teams' Jewish heritage nights. Levine said his Jewish background helped inspire the project, citing his father's philanthropic effort to bring a mikvah, or ritual bath, to their hometown of Springfield, New Jersey.

"A lot of stuff I've done has had a volunteerism element that is definitely from the Jewish heritage side of myself," he said.

Levine organized the trips into "legs" in which he will throw out several pitches at games in a metro area, such as Cleveland, and also do comedy shows in the same region. Some of the performances will include a live game show he hosts, "That's so Jewish," and will take place at local Hillels and Chabad houses.

In New York, he'll also throw the first pitch for the Rockland County Boulders during their Jewish heritage night. The Boulders became the first professional team to sign an Israeli-born position player when they enlisted Assaf Lowengart earlier this year.

That will be his 27th stop, on July 7. For now, he's basking in the glory of taking the baseball field, and starting his long journey. In an Instagram post featuring a blurry photo of Levine with his arms raised in triumph on the Yard Goats' field, he wrote, "JUST KNOW THEY MADE ME THROW FROM THE GRASS!!!!!! I WOULD'VE DONE THE MOUND. I'm still America's most manly man."

Below that, he wrote, "Strike 1. Only 49 more!!!"

ADL continued from page 7

November and 1,938 in December.

The total number of post-Oct. 7 incidents, more than 5,200, is far higher than the 3,283 incidents tabulated during nearly the same period in a preliminary ADL report that was released in mid-January. The number of incidents grew much higher, an ADL spokesperson said, because law enforcement agencies and other groups that track hate take time to compile their own tallies.

The ADL altered its methodology after Oct. 7 to include in the tally "certain expressions of opposition to Zionism, as well as support for resistance against Israel or Zionists that could be perceived as supporting terrorism or attacks on Jews, Israelis or Zionists."

One example of that, the group said, were images of hang gliders — which Hamas terrorists used to infiltrate Israel during the Oct. 7 massacre. Another was the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," a common chant at pro-Palestinian rallies that many Jewish groups see as a call for the destruction of Israel.

The updated methodology accounted for 1,350 incidents, around a quarter of the post-Oct. 7 total, including 1,180 rallies.

Over the course of the whole year, 3,162 incidents, or 36% of the total, involved references to Israel or Zionism. That was a steep increase over 2022, when 241 incidents, or 6.5%, included anti-Israel sentiment.

At anti-Israel protests, the researchers cited antisemitic tropes, including accusations that Jews control the media or U.S. government, that Jews were involved in the 9/11 attacks, and accusations that Israel "harvests" Palestinian organs or imagery showing Israelis drinking blood, which the researchers linked to historical blood libels. Other speakers at protesters called Israelis and Zionists "bloodsuckers" or "parasites," the report said.

At least one high-profile incident of harm to a Jew did not make the report. While the report tallied 161 incidents of antisemitic assault, it did not include the death of pro-Israel protester Paul Kessler because the circumstances are still under investigation.

Orthodox Jews, who tend to be more readily identifiable as Jewish, were targeted in 34% of assaults, despite, according to a 2021 Pew Research Center survey, making up around 9% of the Jewish population. Previous ADL reports have also found that Orthodox Jews are disproportionately victims of assault.

Nearly 2,000 incidents targeted Jewish institutions including synagogues, Jewish community centers and schools, a spike of 237% over 2022. The increase was partly due to a surge in bomb threats, mostly targeting synagogues. There were 1,009 bomb threats, up from only 91 in 2022.

On campuses, antisemitic incidents skyrocketed from 219 in 2022 to 922 last year — most of which occurred post-Oct. 7. The updated methodology accounted for more than a third of that total. In non-Jewish K-12 schools, antisemitic incidents also more than doubled.

White supremacist propaganda also surged, with 1,160 instances last year, compared to 852 in 2022. Most of those incidents were distributing fliers with antisemitic messaging. White supremacist groups also latched onto the Oct. 7 attack with propaganda that said "Death to Israel" and "End Jewish terror." The most prominent of these groups was the Goyim Defense League, which was responsible for 529 instances of antisemitism.

California had the most recorded incidents, with 1,266, followed by New York, with 1,218, and New Jersey, with 830.

The report came a day after pro-Palestinian groups lashed out at Greenblatt and the ADL after he compared keffiyehs, or Palestinian headscarves, to Nazi armbands during an interview with MSNBC. More than 60 Muslim, Arab and Palestinian groups signed a letter calling the comments "hateful" and "dangerous." The campaign echoes previous efforts urging civil rights groups to "Drop the ADL" as a partner.

The ADL, which has also faced criticism from the right in recent years, says it does not favor one side of the political spectrum over the other. It says it adheres to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, which has been endorsed by hundreds of countries, local governments, universities and corporations and has drawn criticism for classifying some Israel criticism as antisemitism.

ADL researchers compiled the data using information from victims, law enforcement, the media and partner organizations. The incidents include both criminal and non-criminal acts in public and private settings, and online incidents of harassment in cases of direct messages and some social media settings. "Sprees," such as multiple instances of antisemitism at a single event, were counted only once.

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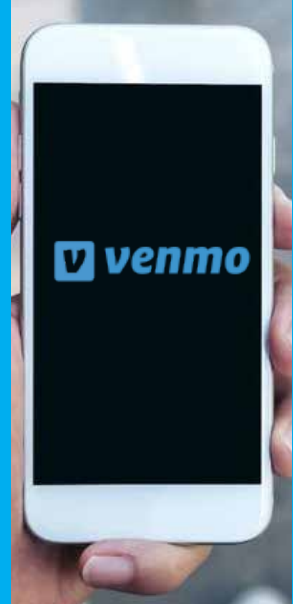
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TECH TIPS

The month of May is host to many nationally recognized observances. Three that I'd like to highlight include:

- Mental Health
- Older Americans
- Physical Fitness and Sports

As is the case during other months, these national observations can and do relate with each other, especially if viewed through a mind-body lens.








Upcoming Tech Programs
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2. May 22: Device Advice – *Exploring map apps*

RSVP with Sherry Majewski at: 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org

Although none of these topics involve technology, should you want to add tech to your approach to any of these activities, I'd suggest the following:

- Fitness apps and/or a fitness watch
- Mental health apps for meditation, breathing, relaxation, and gratitude
- Websites such as:
 - o The Greater Good Science Center
 - o Harvard University: Informed Aging

Until next month - Tim

Tim Hagen
Project Manager and Technology Coordinator Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services
Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo
6505 Sylvania Avenue
Sylvania, OH 43560
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RSVP by Monday, May 20 to form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/njg2024 or Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



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NJG trivia night is intended for individuals in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

The trivia is FREE, along with vegetarian appetizers and your first drink. Anything else is on you!

Please arrive 15 minutes early (reservation will be under "Next Gen").

RSVP by the day prior to:
<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/NJG2024>



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OF GREATER TOLEDO

PJ Library



RSVP for all programs

<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/PJandFamily2023>

For more information, contact Marnie Younker at 419-724-0365 or marnie@jewishtoledo.org

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions when registering.



Aster and Meyer, besties and future Gan Yeladim Preschool classmates, recently hung out for a Gan & PJ Library® Playdate.



Interested in learning more about Gan Yeladim Preschool? Contact Morah Raizel at 419-724-0402 or raizel@jewishtoledo.org.



Jewish American Heritage Month Family Photo Day!

Sunday, May 5



SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS



Jewish Federation OF GREATER TOLEDO



To learn more about PJ Library® and to ensure your child receives this wonderful gift, please contact Sherry at 419-724-0365 or sherry@jewishtoledo.org

PJ Library® is supported in part by The Inspiration Fund and Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo.

RSVP for all programs by contacting Sherry at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351

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For more information contact Marnie at marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

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PJ Library® seeks to engage Jewish families with young children. Each participating child in our community from age six months through eight will receive a high-quality Jewish children's book or CD every month.

Each book and CD comes with resources to help families use the selection in their home. The book and music list has been selected by the foremost children's book experts and includes a wide array of themes related to Jewish holidays, folktales and Jewish family life.

To learn more about PJ Library® and to ensure your child receives this wonderful gift, please contact Marnie at marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

PJ Library® is supported in part by The Inspiration Fund and Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo.



www.jewishtoledo.org

Local



ANNUAL TOLEDO-AREA HIGH SCHOOL DIVERSITY PROGRAM

In late March, more than 850 high school students attended the Annual Toledo-Area High School Diversity Program, sponsored by the Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, at The Valentine Theatre in downtown Toledo.

This year's special guest speaker was Erika Gold, Holocaust survivor; she described her story of survival, beginning with Hitler's rise to power when she was 5 months old in Budapest, Hungary. She explained that while her life could have ended any minute, she always believed she would survive. When the Nazis came to take away all the Jewish people in Budapest, she and her mother escaped by jumping off a truck that carried hundreds of other people (who later perished).

Once liberated, Mrs. Gold reunited with her father who had been sent to work camps. She later traveled to Cuba in 1948 then eventually moved to Cleveland in 1950 where she completed her education and attended college. Today, she travels and shares her experience nationwide, emphasizing the importance of awareness and never allowing the Holocaust to happen again to any group of people.

Thank you to Hindea Markowicz, director, Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center of Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz for speaking to the students as well.





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ALL ABOARD!

60+ Trip to Indiana

Depart to Indiana
Thursday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Return to Toledo
Friday, June 21 at 5 p.m.

\$150 per person, double occupancy;
\$200 per person, single occupancy

Hop on the bus as we hit the road for an adventure to visit the sights and sounds of Nappanee and Shippshewana, Indiana.

What is included?

- Round trip charter bus travel
- Boxed lunch on bus ride from Toledo to Indiana
- Ticket to see *The Music Man* at the **Round Barn Theater**
- Dinner on Thursday evening at the **Round Barn Theater**
- Hotel room with complimentary continental breakfast
- Visit to **Shippshewana**; shopping and lunch is on your own

RSVP required by Monday, June 10
to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors>
or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351
or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

This event is intended for community members who support the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Annual Campaign. A meaningful gift to the campaign is required to attend. Make your contribution today by contacting Wendy Goldstein at 419-724-0362 or wendy@jewishtoledo.org or by visiting: www.jewishtoledo.org/campaigndepartment.

Active Life for 60 and Better



3
CREATE & RELATE
2024

Create & Relate – Session Three

Senior Scam Guard Prevention!

Thursday, May 9

12 – 2:30 p.m.

Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.

FREE

Pam Rybka from the Better Business Bureau will introduce the organization's newest presentation, "Senior Scam Guard," teaching older adults how to be preventative and aware of scams.

NAMI Creative Expressions will be on hand to help attendees "Grow with the Flow." Experience how tearing things apart can transform into a unified artistic creation.

RSVP by Friday, May 3 to

<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors> or with

Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351 or

sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

Jewish Federation & Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO



CREATE & RELATE 2024:
SESSION TWO

Session Two of Create & Relate 2024 started with a relaxing sound bath with Kimberly Post, RN, and Certified Sound Healer. The sound bath included crystal quartz sound bowls, drums, chimes, and other instruments to create a beautiful relaxing experience.

Following the sound bath, NAMI Greater Toledo Creative Expressions assisted guests in crafting unique drink coasters. Lastly, the group made hamantaschen to take home and bake for Purim.

Delivering a Jewish Future

Donate at
www.jewishtoledo.org

Jewish Federation & Foundation
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Active Life for 60 and Better

Dessert Decorating Class

Thursday, May 16
12 – 1:30 p.m.
Sekach Building, 6505 Sylvania Ave.
\$10 per person – includes lunch, cake
decorating, and cake to take home
Limited space



Learn the tricks of the trade and decorate your own cake with the help of The Dollop Shop!



RSVP by Wednesday, May 8
to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors>
or with Sherry Majewski at
419-724-0351
or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Thursday, May 30
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sekach Building,
6505 Sylvania Ave.
\$10 per person
limited space available

Join Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo staff members Sherry Majewski, Hannah Loeser, and Mary Bilyeu and celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. AAPI Heritage Month has very special significance for these three ladies - Hannah's mom immigrated from China, Sherry adopted all eight of her daughters from China, and Mary's daughter-in-law was born and raised in the Philippines.

This fun and festive program will include a brief history of Jewish experiences in Asia, information about loved ones and their Asian heritages, and – of course! – a delicious Pan-Asian lunch and treats. Hannah's mom, Demi, will also teach us how to make vegetarian dumplings to cook at home.



RSVP required by Friday, May 24
to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/seniors>
or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351
or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.



Golden Grooves & Grub with Lauren

Thursday, June 6
12 – 1:30 p.m.
Sekach Building
6505 Sylvania Ave.

\$5 per person - includes vegetarian lunch



Enjoy the song stylings of talented community member, Lauren Sachs, as she takes us on a journey of some Broadway tunes.



RSVP required by Friday, May 31
<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/Seniors>
or with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351
or sherry@jewishtoledo.org.

Healthy Living

Get Fit Classes

Monday

Get Fit Early, 9-10am

-or-

Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am

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

Cardio Drumming, 12-1pm

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

Wednesday

Get Fit Early, 9-10am

-or-

Get Fit Later, 10:30-11:30am

(see description above)

Ballet Ball Fusion, 12-1pm

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

Friday

Zumba, 9-10am

Foundation Fitness, 10am-11pm

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

In-person classes at JSFSS
Sekach Building
6505 Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania



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



News

Avi Wisnia shares his 'Saba's' story of survival



Last month, more than 100 guests enjoyed a viewing of the award-winning documentary film, *How Saba Kept Singing*. The film shares the story of Cantor, Holocaust Survivor, and Military Veteran, David "Saba" Wisnia z"l, who spends his later years traveling with his grandson and musical accompanist, Avi Wisnia, explaining how he survived the Holocaust through music, which the duo also perform together. David's powerful and uplifting story about music, faith, family, and resilience, prove love can grow and take hold in even the darkest of places.



Avi and his mother presented the film in person, which was followed by a discussion with Daniel Pearlman, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo VP, Community and Government Relations. Avi treated the audience to two live performances, one an original song that plays during the film's end credits, and

the other written by David (Saba) while at Auschwitz and salvaged by a fellow prisoner.

Avi's trip to Toledo also included a visit to Elmwood High School, where he spoke to three classes. Mrs. Heidi Meyer, social

Senior Purim celebration

Purim lasted a little bit longer this year for our seniors as they came together for lunch and a celebration with live music and caricatures by Big Smile Caricatures & Entertainment.



studies teacher, said, "I am so glad that I stopped my world to allow this to happen. My students can't stop talking about it. It was such an amazing experience. Thank you so much for thinking of me and my students!"

Avi later had a private dinner with a small group of Jewish Toledoans; visited Ottawa Hills High School, speaking to all freshman in school assembly; and attended Friday night Shabbat services at Temple Shomer Emunim.

Pre-Passover Interfaith seder includes general community

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), in partnership with Lourdes University's Lifelong Learning Program, recently hosted a model Passover seder specifically geared toward our non-Jewish neighbors and open to all. This annual event, which took place two weeks before the start of Passover, is meant to show how a seder is traditionally held, debunking myths and stereotypes while helping to teach others about the important Jewish holiday that serves to remember the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt.

This program was generously supported by the Dr. Howard & Mrs. Ann Rosenberg Philanthropic Fund and the Sydney Mostov Memorial Fund of the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.



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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.

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

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

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


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

Email completed obituaries to: paul@jewishtoledo.org


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

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

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Sat. • 5 - 11:30

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2024 CEMETERY CLOSINGS

BETH SHALOM CEMETER
420 Otter Creek Rd.
Oregon, Ohio 43616

EAGLE POINT CEMETERY
515 Eagle Point Rd.
Rossford, Ohio 43460

Cemeteries close early every Friday at 4 p.m. for Erev Shabbat

Cemeteries are closed every Saturday for Shabbat

Jewish Holiday Closing Schedule for 2024

Monday, April 22, 2024	Erev Passover	Close at 4 pm
Tuesday, April 23, 2024	Passover I	Closed
Wednesday, April 24, 2024	Passover II	Closed
Monday, April 29, 2024	Passover VII	Closed
Tuesday, April 30, 2024	Passover VIII	Closed
Tuesday, June 11, 2024	Erev Shavuot	Close at 4 pm
Wednesday, June 12, 2024	Shavuot I	Closed
Thursday, June 13, 2024	Shavuot II	Closed
Wednesday, October 2, 2024	Erev Rosh Hashana	Close at 4 pm
Thursday, October 3, 2024	Rosh Hashana I	Closed
Friday, October 4, 2024	Rosh Hashana II	Closed
Friday, October 11, 2024	Erev Yom Kippur	Close at 4 pm
Saturday, October 12, 2024	Yom Kippur	Closed
Wednesday, October 16, 2024	Erev Sukkot	Close at 4 pm
Wednesday, October 17, 2024	Sukkot I	Closed
Thursday, October 18, 2024	Sukkot II	Closed
Wednesday, October 23, 2024	Erev Shmini Atzeret	Close at 4 pm
Thursday, October 24, 2024	Shmini Atzeret	Closed
Friday, October 25, 2024	Simchat Torah	Closed

Regular Cemetery hours: Sunday through Thursday 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Fridays 6:30 am – 4:00 pm
Closed Saturdays and on the above dates for Yom Tov

Toledo Jewish Community Cemetery Association
6465 Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
419.724.0404



SAFETY



Dave Tullis, Jewish Federation Community Asset, Safety and Security Manager helps us stay protected with valuable safety tips.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Summer is here and we're finally able to venture out of the house (responsibly, of course) to relax outdoors. But, as fun as summer can be, the season does carry some health and **safety risks**.

Everyone is at risk for increased rates for sunburn, dehydration, and insect stings. During the summer months, there's also a higher incidence of serious accidents like drowning or injuries from fireworks."

Here's a checklist for staying healthy, safe, and protected all summer long.



To stay safe in the sun:

- Use broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or each time you get out of the water or sweat heavily.
- Throw away sunscreen you've had for over three years.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing along with a hat and sunglasses.
- Limit time in the sun between peak hours, which are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Seek immediate medical assistance for signs of heat-related illness, such as ashen skin, vomiting, and rapid heart rate.
- Drink at least 11-15 cups of fluids (preferably water) per day to help you stay fully hydrated.



To avoid insect bites and ticks:

- Use unscented soap and avoid perfumes or hair spray.
- Keep grass short and remove stagnant water from around your home.
- Cover food so it doesn't attract bugs.
- Spray EPA-registered insect repellent with DEET on your skin.
- Avoid bright-colored clothing and, when possible, wear long sleeves and socks.
- Shower after being outdoors and do a thorough tick check.



To enjoy a day at the beach or pool:

- Always swim with a buddy and stay within your capabilities.
- Limit alcoholic drinks that could impair your judgment or swimming abilities.
- Have a telephone close by and make sure a lifeguard or someone who knows CPR is on hand.
- Always supervise young children.
- Bring a small first aid kit with tweezers, waterproof bandages, and pain reliever.
- Pack an insulated cooler with plenty of water and healthy snacks.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently to avoid viruses.
- Maintain physical distancing and wear a mask except when in the water (in accordance with CDC guidelines during the coronavirus outbreak).



To safely make the most of the Fourth of July:

- Leave the fireworks up to the experts.
- Never re-light fireworks.
- If sparklers are permitted, hold, and point them away from yourself and others.
- Grill in an open area away from wood decks, branches, or other brushes.
- Remove grease build-up on your grill before lighting it.
- Designate a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill that kids and pets can't enter.
- Wear well-fitting clothing when grilling or near an open bonfire.

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News

What I told my children when our synagogue was graffitied with a swastika

By Erin Beser

WYNNEWOOD, Pennsylvania (JTA) — I recently watched an episode of “We Were the Lucky Ones,” Hulu’s new Holocaust series. On the next morning, I woke up to a traumatic scene in my own community: a red swastika painted on the banner that sits on the front lawn of the suburban Philadelphia synagogue where my husband is the rabbi.

Even though it wasn’t shattered glass, or broken bones, it was painful to see it there, right there, in our own backyard, on our property, on our beloved banner that advertises our early childhood program and the summer camp my children will attend. It was vandalism, an ugly symbol that has only one meaning for generations: Jews, you are hated. Jews, you are not welcome. Jews, you should be afraid.

My husband and his committee of leaders and professionals from the synagogue, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, sprang into action in response. I left on a planned hike with my children, ages 4 and 7, keeping them away from the news vans and police cars that occupied the parking lot of their school and synagogue.

I knew what was unfolding back at the synagogue was notable. On Easter, our police came to investigate, Christian clergy called to support us and spoke at our vigil and prayer service, and politicians all reached out — from our state senator to our congressman to Gov. Josh Shapiro. It was a miraculous response when you consider the arc of Jewish history, when Jews have often felt alone in the face of so much persecution, oppression and violence, especially on Christian holidays.

But it wasn’t until I answered my children’s questions that I felt comforted.

They asked, “Where is Abba? Why has he been gone all day?” Here’s what I answered:

Abba is gone because he is taking care of our community and helping everyone feel safe and feel better, because right now they are sad. Someone — we don’t know who — drew a picture on the blue sign and it’s a picture that represents a way of being mean to Jews and hating Jews and when Jewish people see the picture, it makes them feel sad because it reminds them that there are some people in the world who hate Jews.

They asked: “Why do some people in the world hate Jews?”

I answered: Jews as a people have been around for thousands of years and as long as there have been people, people have been hating other people for being different. Being with people who are just like us makes us feel safe, and sometimes when we see someone who is different, or go somewhere new, we feel afraid. And we don’t like to feel afraid, so we tell ourselves a story about our fear — that the other people must be bad. And that reason isn’t true, because those people aren’t all bad: Every person makes good

choices and bad choices, but all people are just people making choices every day, just like us.

But some of the things that people don’t like about Jews is that we do different things and we like to stay different. Some Jews wear different clothes, some eat their own special food, we like to celebrate our holidays at a specific time and even when some Jews like to share our special traditions, sometimes it takes a lot of work to understand what they mean. So as long as there have been Jews, there has been something called antisemitism, which is a word that specifically means hatred of Jewish people. And the people who perhaps hated Jews the most were called the Nazis, and they lived a long time ago in Germany, where they used the same picture they painted on our banner to inspire other people to hate Jews also.

Today, you are safe. You are not in any danger because you are Jewish. We live here in America, where Jews have never been safer or freer in the whole history of being Jewish. The governor of Pennsylvania himself is a proud, practicing Jew who sends his children to Jewish day school and celebrates being Jewish and is proud of representing his country through his service to his state. The police take care of us when we are hurt. You can go to school where there are Muslims, and Christians, and people of color who are Jewish and similar to you and different from you, and on most days we all get along. It is rare and it is a big deal that someone draws a hateful picture, and the reason we make a big deal out of it is that we want to teach and show everyone that this picture means something hateful, and you can’t draw it anywhere.

But since the war in Israel, more and more people are drawing these pictures, and writing words in graffiti, and protesting Jewish-owned businesses and Israeli embassies because of the war between the Israelis and the Palestinians. And while we don’t know this for sure, it’s likely that the person drew the hateful symbol on our banner because it was talking about Israel. The banner says, “Our community stands with Israel.” And this is true. Our community stands by the people of Israel, the right of the Jewish people to have a homeland in their ancient home, the right of Jews to live free from persecution and oppression, the right of Jews to feel safe and secure, the right of Jews to protect themselves, the right of all citizens of Israel — Jews and Christians, Arab and Druze — who fight for a free and democratic Israel.

The symbol that they drew does not say what we also believe: that Palestinians should live freely and safely, that all people deserve a life of liberty and self-determination, that a bloody and horrible war should end with the return of those who were taken hostage, and peace should come to both peoples, neither of whom will go anywhere but

B'nai Mitzvah

We Honor Our B'nai Mitzvah



Julia Rhodes will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on June 1, 2024 at Temple Shomer Emunim. Julia is the daughter of Megan and Tiger Rhodes, sister of Max Rhodes, and the granddaughter of Lisa and Lenny Eliason and Ralph and Catherine Rhodes. Julia is an honors student at Timberstone Junior High School, where she is actively involved in both sports and extracurricular activities.

At Timberstone, Julia is on the 7th grade girls’ basketball team, plays saxophone in the band, and is a member of the writing team. Outside of school, she plays soccer for the Greater Toledo Futbol Club and is an avid reader. Julia is a graduate of Gan Yeladim Preschool, Temple Shomer Emunim Hebrew School, and she enjoys spending the summer with her friends at Camp Wise. She completed the Mitzvah Volunteer Program as part of her mitzvah project and looks forward to volunteering with the Friendship Circle in the future.

Have something to kvell about?



Let Jewish Toledo celebrate your good news with you!

Send us your wedding, engagement, graduation, baby, job or other news for consideration in *Toledo Jewish News* today! Submit your simcha to Paul Causman at paul@JewishToledo.org.

www.jewishtoledo.org

deserve to live in peace side by side. This is what the majority of us want and hope for and if the sign were big enough, that’s what it should have said.

Abba wrote to our community, “A swastika is not a commentary on the policies of the State of Israel, nor is it a sign of solidarity with Palestinians. It is a symbol of hatred and division. We, the leadership of the synagogue, want everyone to know that we will not give in to fear or division.”

Abba does not want us to be afraid and he does not want us to be alone. When someone hurts our feelings, we teach them what they can do to repair and make it better. We do not give up on our friends, we believe in them, and we reach out to them, and we work together, so that we can all live peacefully and safely side by side.

And today made us feel sad, I said, but we are not going to stop being proud

of being Jewish. It’s some of the best parts of who we are.

By that point, I had completely lost my children’s attention; they went back to playing with their friends on the playground. And it was unclear how much of that they understood or how many lingering worries they will have about their safety and their place in this world. But I felt better having said it — safer, still sad, but more at peace — because I knew, as soon as the words left my mouth, that this is the complicated, real truth of what it means to be Jewish in America right now and for better or worse, being Jewish in America means days like this.

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

Temple Shomer Emunim

Women of Temple Shomer Emunim Ladies Night Out
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
6:15 PM ET - 9:15 PM
 Glass City Metropark-Market Hall
 1505 Front Street
 Toledo, OH 43605

Join us for dinner by Poco Piatti and a Sangria Bar.

RSVP at 419-885-3341



The Gift of Mindfulness
Wednesday, May 15 at 7pm

Join us for the Temple's mindfulness program. We will explore different dimensions of mindfulness practice - different kinds of meditation, Jewish text study, small group conversations, and real-life practices that you can carry into your everyday life.

You can join in person OR join on Zoom. Contact the Temple for Zoom information

This class is designed so that each session stands alone. There is no need to commit, and you can come to any single session at any time. The class is appropriate for teens and adults, and it is my hope that learning these practices will not only enrich your spiritual life, but your daily life, your relationships with your loved ones and with others in our Temple community.

Yom HaShoah Community Observance: Teen students from the Toledo Jewish Community will share stories from conversations with second generation children of survivors, Allen Markowicz and Ann Rosenberg. Join us on May 5 at 10:00AM at Temple Shomer Emunim.

Attention High School Students entering grades 9-12: We have an amazing learning opportunity for you! American Jewish University, based in Los Angeles, has created a high school curriculum on Jewish topics for college credit taught in synagogues by rabbi's and Jewish professionals. You are invited to participate in an amazing learning opportunity for high school students at the Temple. American Jewish University, based in Los Angeles, has created a high school curriculum on Jewish topics for college credit. Rabbi Delson is excited to teach the first class called *Introduction to Culture, History, and People of Israel (Understanding Israel)*. Each student who fulfills the requirements (less than a high school class) will earn three college credit hours that they can take with them when they go off to college.

There will be an informational meeting at the temple on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7PM. RSVP to Wendy Payne to attend this session. There we will go over cost, requirements, etc.

Understanding Israel for High School Info night
May 9 at 7pm

In the fall, Rabbi Delson will be teaching a class open to all temple high school students called Understanding Israel: Introduction to Culture, History, and People. This class is for 3 credit hours and will run for 16 sessions. Come with your high school student(s) to learn more about the requirements, cost, and more details about the course. RSVP to Wendy Payne wpayne@templese.com.



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 Scholar in Residence Weekend:
with Rabbi Elliot Gertel

• **Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Delicious Shabbat Dinner, & lecture with Rabbi Gertel**
 Friday Evening, May 17, 2024 5:45 PM at CBI

• **Shabbat Morning Services with Rabbi Gertel**
 Sat., May 18, 2024 9:30 AM In-Person & Livestream

• **Mincha & Shabbat Third Meal with Rabbi Gertel**
 Sat., May 18, 2024 5:45 PM at CBI

Cost is \$18 per person for the Kabbalat Shabbat dinner. The Third Meal is FREE for CBI members and \$5 for guests.

RSVP to the CBI office at 419.517.8400 or email Kim Brody at Kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Friday, May 10, 2024.

Parashat Hashavuah:
Torah Portion of the Week Discussion

Fri. May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024 at 11 AM at CBI

Connecting Kids to Meals
Volunteer Event

Thu., May 9, 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.

RSVP Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org to by Mar. 8, 2024.

CBI Office Closed

Monday, May 27th Memorial Day

CBI Adult Ed: "False Messiahs"

with speaker, David Weinberg

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 10:30 AM at CBI

This presentation will take a brief look at the concept of messianism in Judaism and how it been understood, misunderstood, and abused over the course of Jewish history.

To RSVP, please email kbrody@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by Friday, May 17, 2024.

WCBI BOOK CLUB:

"5th Avenue Glamour Girl"

by Renee Rosen

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:30 AM at CBI

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library has NO COPIES. 7 libraries have copies in SearchOhio, and NO COPIES in OhioLink. It is also available online on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

RSVP to Ellen Federman at efederman@sbcglobal.net by Sunday, May 26, 2024.

OPEN TO THE WOMEN OF ALL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

Join us for Canasta!

Tues. May 7, 14, 21, 28 at 12:15 PM at CBI

If you are interested in learning or playing, please contact Rhoda Miller at rmiller@cbitoledo.org.

Yoga for Israel at CBI

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 7:00 PM

Cost is FREE, donations requested.

Let's turn our sadness into action. Join us for an hour of yoga, meditation, and healing while raising money for the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Israel's Relief Fund.

RSVP by Tuesday, May 7 to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/jfgtprograms> or Sherry Majewski at sherry@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0351.

Reports from Israel & Special Visitors
with Connections to October 7th

Toledo Jewish Community Program

Monday, May 13, 2024, 6:30 PM at CBI

Join us as Rabbi Delson, Ben Maczewski, and others, share reflections from their recent trips to Israel. We will also hear from two Israeli special guests with personal connections to October 7th and the war.

RSVP by Friday, May 10th to <https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/JCRC-events> or Mary Bilyeu at mary@jewishtoledo.org or 419-724-0405.

You must RSVP to attend this event. Walk-ins will not be permitted.

SAVE THE DATE: CBI Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 9, 2024 11:00 AM, at CBI

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP to the office by Monday, June 3rd by calling 419.517.8400.

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 - Zoom

Congregation Etz Chayim

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Coming this May the Sisterhood will be once again travel to Hoen's Nursery for a container gardening class. Participants in the past have loved this trip. The instructor helps participants with how to effectively make a beautiful arrangement. The staff helps everyone develop each container depending on the shade and amount of sunlight that the plants need. The class is free. You may bring your own container or pot. The only cost to participants would be the plants and any containers you would like to buy. The class will be Wednesday, May 22nd, at 11:00 am. The address is 1710 Perrysburg Holland Rd., Holland, Ohio, just off of Airport Hwy.

Please RSVP to Andrea Lublin, Cheryl Berkowitz, or Elsa Leveton. **SAVE THE DATE:** Sunday June 23rd, from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., the Sisterhood is underwriting a Fused Glass Garden Art Class taught by Ellen Rubin. This will be free to all members of Sisterhood, The Non-Member fee is \$35.00. Those who have taken part in previous classes by Ellen Rubin have enjoyed the classes. She does a great job of bringing out the artist in everyone.

KNITZVAH GROUP MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Knitzvah ladies will take place on Wednesday, May 8th from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the synagogue. Come and knit or crochet afghans for "Baskets of Care", a program that supports breast cancer patients.

POKER & MAH JONG

Everyone is invited to our Sunday Poker & Mahj game on Sunday, May 19th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Beginners are welcome. Snacks will be served. Please register with Marc Jacobson at mdjaco@gmail.com or Nancy Jacobson at jaco824@bex.net.

LEARNING SESSION WITH RABBI JASON MARK

Rabbi Jason will be leading another zoom learning session on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:00. Please register with Nancy to receive the link.

LUNCH AND WALK AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Let's spend a beautiful May afternoon together at Toledo Botanical Gardens. Bring your vegetarian lunches and we will picnic and then enjoy a walk through the park. We'll meet at 12:30 on Thursday, May 30th. We'll meet in the parking lot off Elmer Drive near the picnic tables. It will be a relaxing afternoon.

SAVE THE DATE- EXCITING NEWS: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"- We are planning a picnic and Mud Hens Game with our friends from B'nai Israel on August 25th. Etz Chayim will be hosting the picnic at noon and then all those Baseball fans will go to the 2:05 game. More details will be coming.



Chabad House

B"H

Lenny Cares
Savor & Thrive

Wednesday, May 22, 1:00-2:30 p.m

Details to follow

for more info, feel free to call:
917 742 9803
email: lennycares@chabadtoledo.com

Tea With Rivka

Tea, Friends and Torah conversation with Rivka Fridman
Wednesday, May 29th @ 10:30 am
For women only

Lunch & Learn

Lunch and Torah Learning with Rabbi Dov Fridman
Wednesday, May 14th @ 12:00 pm

Sip' N' Shmooze

Come with friends and make new ones over coffee
Monday, May 6th, between the hours of 1:00 & 3:00 p.m

Free of Charge. RSVP appreciated to lennycares@chabadtoledo.com or 917-742-9803
All programs are at the Chabad House, 2728 King Rd, Toledo

At "Lenny Cares," established in memory of Lenny Rosenberg, every Jew is relevant and plays a leading role in shaping Toledo's Jewish life. From leadership and volunteer opportunities, to unifying events, emotional support, and individualized connection, Lenny Cares aims to empower, engage, and connect all Jewish adults and seniors.

CAMP GAN ISRAEL

June 24 - July 19, 2024

- Field trips • Swimming •
- Hot lunches • Visiting shows •
- Sports • Themed days • Shabbat parties •

For boys & girls ages 3-12 • Scholarships available
Register by May 15th to receive Early Bird Discount.

www.ChabadToledo.com/Camp
For more info: call 419-322-2730
or email camp@chabadtoledo.com

Every Friday, select Jewish homes receive a "Shabbat Kit" that includes candles, chicken soup, challah, and grape juice.

To nominate a community member or to volunteer, contact Mushka Matusof at Mushka@fctoledo.com or 419-509-0105.

Bring the light and joy of Shabbat home!

SUNDAY 9:00 am

MORNING MINYAN

followed by a Torah class by Rabbi Shemtov

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Sideline Reporting	Videography	Sports Reporting	Photography

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Please note: Classified ads will run every month (and the purchaser will be billed) until notification of cancellation is received.



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Youth

Teens create art with new Israeli Shinshinim

Local BBYO teens welcomed our visiting Shinshinim, Maya and Noa, who are spending this year in Cleveland. The group had fun learning the basics of stained glass - including glass cutting, grinding, soldering, and patina - with experts from What the Flux. Teens chose between creating a Hamsa and a Jewish star to create.



Simcha

Birth Announcement

On March 22 **Gabriel Zander Woolard** was born in Cincinnati to Rebecca Zimmelman and her husband, Tyler Woolard. Proud Grandparents Connie and Norm Zimmelman are thrilled!



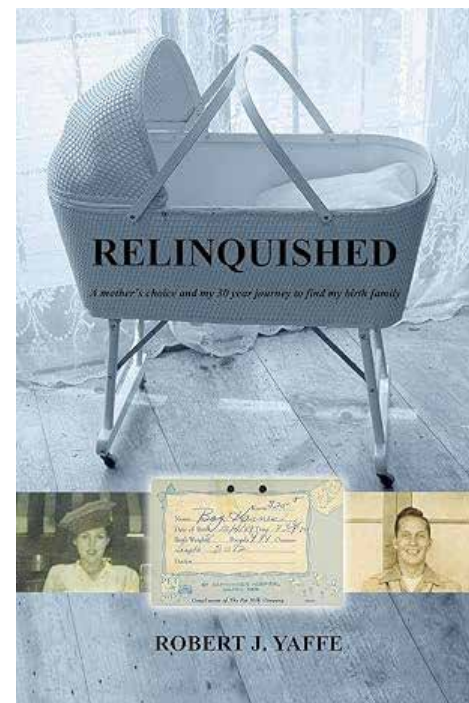
Mazel tov!

Jacob Alexander matched into the program at UTMC in orthopaedic surgery and will be staying in Toledo for the next 5 years during his residency. Jacob was born in Cleveland (where he still has family) but grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida, since the age of 3. His undergraduate work was at The Ohio State University, medical school in Puerto Rico. He is finishing up his preliminary residency year in general surgery at UTMC before starting in July in the orthopedic surgery residency program until 2029. His interests outside of orthopedic surgery include hockey, pickleball, golf, cooking, and working out. Jacob stated, "I've enjoyed my time in Toledo since moving here in June 2023, and look forward to another 5 years."



Book Publication

Robert Yaffe has published a new book entitled *Relinquished*. It is the real-life story of his search over the long and often rocky road to discovering his birth parents. Over thirty years of painstaking research, *Relinquished* is the story of an adoptee brought up in a Jewish household by loving and caring parents, as his Jewish birth mother so deeply desired. In a search that began before the internet, Yaffe, like so many others, ran into roadblocks, often the result of antiquated laws that to this day persist and hinder others. The book follows his journey as he wrestles with astounding findings and painful conflicts that at times lead to intense



guilt, family conflict, and emotional trauma.

Robert Yaffee and his family spent several years in Toledo where he served as Assistant Executive Director and as Executive Director of the JCC. Robert married his wife, Rita, in Toledo in 1990.

Relinquished is available through Amazon or Barnes & Noble.



**Jewish Federation
& Foundation**
OF GREATER TOLEDO

Delivering a Jewish Future
www.jewishtoledo.org

Gan Yeladim Preschool

I am unique... I am special



I am me.

Some days, I spread my wings and soar like a butterfly, bird, or bee. On other days, I relish the joy of splashing through puddles with my feet firmly on the ground. Sometimes, you can find my friends and me nurturing our baby dolls as we explore the wonders of caring and sharing.

And on many days, you can find me twirling and twinkling like a princess, singing, and dancing with pure delight.

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Supported by the Federation's Annual Campaign

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Register by February 28 and receive a \$25 gift card to Sylvania Playland



Register:
<https://form.jotform.com/jewishtoledo/ganyeladim>



Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo

Prepping for Passover

Jewish Toledo traveled to Detroit early last month to get ready for Passover with a fun day of shopping in the suburbs of our northern neighbors. Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services staff Mary Bilyeu, Tim Hagen, and Hannah Loeser drove up with the group, which started their adventure at Zeman's Bakery to purchase some treats to enjoy before the holiday; then they went to The Grove Kosher Market to gather up everything needed to go chametz-free for eight days, from pantry staples to specialty items. Afterwards, they went to lunch, before coming home with all their bounties.



New letters were installed on the arch entering the United Hebrew Cemetery at Beth Shalom, which replaced old faded and missing letters.

Cemetery superintendent Jack and groundskeepers Dave and Nolan gave the arch a good cleaning and fresh paint before the new letters were installed.

The Lion behind the pin

In March, Jewish Toledo Lions of Judah gathered at the stunning home of Diane and Jerome Phillips to tour the couple's extensive art collection and learn about the "Lion Behind the Pin" program, a new initiative that aims to highlight the woman wearing the pin versus the pin itself.

Jewish Memphis' Shelley Robbins, co-founder of "Lion Behind the Pin," served as the evening's special guest speaker. She explained that the idea for the program was sparked when a Jewish woman in Memphis came across a gold Lion pin in an estate sale at a local jeweler. The jeweler knew nothing about it, so the Jewish woman, herself a Lion of Judah, notified the local Federation, which purchased the pin and was able to identify its original owner, which happened to belong to one of the founding members of the Lion of Judah program in Memphis. Watch this video for more on this story: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwYAaRxThdk (or search for "Lion Behind the Pin JFNA Jewish Toledo" on www.youtube.com).

At Jewish Toledo's Lion gathering, each Lion received a special kit, which includes a velvet-lined case for the Lion pin, along with a letter, to be written by the owner, of what the Lion means to them. There is also an option to bequeath the pin to someone special, as well as information on endowing the pin for a future recipient.

To learn more about Jewish Women's Philanthropy, please contact Wendy Goldstein at 419-724-0360 or wendy@jewishtoledo.org.



Hillel Global Giving Week

MAY 13 - 17
2024



From May 13-17, Hillel419 is joining forces with Hillels around the world for the fourth annual #HillelGlobalGivingWeek!

With your help, Hillel419 has built a thriving and welcoming Jewish community. Together, we are helping students discover the daily, joyful celebration of Jewish life and guiding them through their most challenging moments - especially as antisemitism rises on campuses worldwide. As we approach the end of the school year, supporters like you have the meaningful opportunity to care for Jewish students at The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University now, and well into the future.

From May 13-17, we will join Hillels around the world in participating in the fifth annual Hillel Global Giving Week. During this time, gifts made to Hillel419 will be matched, dollar-for-dollar! Keep your eyes out for the Friday Facts in May for updates ahead of our campaign kickoff. We hope you will join us!

For more information about Hillel419 and Global Giving Week, please give us a call at 419-724-0377!

Hillel419



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Hillel419 is generously supported by Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo and Hillel International.