

TOLEDO Jewish News

JewishToledo.org

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Governor's annual Holocaust commemoration stresses action over silence

COURTNEY BYRNES

With students from 14 Ohio schools in attendance, the speakers at the 46th annual Governor's Holocaust Commemoration April 13 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus had one message to share: Do not be a bystander.

Holocaust survivor Henry Fenichel recounted his own story of survival as he and his mother, Pessel, went into hiding after his father, Moritz, was deported and later murdered in Auschwitz. Henry and Pessel were arrested from their hiding place in 1943 and sent to Westerbork, one of two transit camps in the Netherlands where they were from.

"This is the only family picture that I have of my mother, my father and I," Fenichel said as he shared the photo on a slideshow. "Soon thereafter, I'll lose everything when the Nazis invaded Holland. And I use the term 'Nazis' and 'German' interchangeably, but certainly not all Germans were Nazis. Unfortunately, too many of them were bystanders allowing the Nazis to do what they did."

Fenichel's survival story intertwined with the creation of the modern state of Israel, as he had relatives living in then-Palestine, allowing him and his mother to be saved by being on an exchange transfer to British Mandated Palestine on June 30, 1944. They immigrated to the United States in 1951 where Fenichel met his wife, Diana, and moved to Cincinnati with their two daughters. For 40 years, Fenichel was a professor of physics at the University of Cincinnati.

He ended his testimony by sharing Martin Niemöller's famous poem "First They Came" and then Elie Wiesel's quote, "What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander."

"The message is: Don't be a



▲ Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine welcomes attendees to the 46th annual Governor's Holocaust Commemoration April 13 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.



▲ Holocaust survivor Henry Fenichel shares his testimony at the 46th annual Governor's Holocaust Commemoration on April 13.



▲ Six memorial candles are lit by Elisa Case, Rabbi Hillel Skolnik, Major General Matthew S. Woodruff, Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York Tsach Saar, Henry Fenichel and Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine as J. David Heller introduces them. | C/JN Photos / Courtney Byrnes

bystander," he said. "You see something bad happening – and for you kids in here in school, you see some fighting or stuff in the class – try to stop it."

For the eighth year in a row, the event has been hosted by Gov. Mike DeWine with J. David Heller, national campaign chair for the Jewish Federations of North America and immediate past chair of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, serving as the master of ceremonies.

While the event recalls the Holocaust and serves as a "day of

remembrance of one of the darkest chapters in human history," as Heller said in his opening remarks, speakers acknowledged how antisemitism still prevails in the world today. Heller also applauded the efforts of DeWine and the Ohio Senate with the recent passage of Ohio Senate Bill 87 to enshrine the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism into Ohio law.

"History teaches us that great evil like antisemitism flourishes amid silence," Heller said. "But when

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Jewish basketball legend to be inducted into Hall of Fame. **Page 14**

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▲ About 45 students from Chaviva High School in Pepper Pike, seen here on the steps of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, attend the 46th annual Governor's Holocaust Commemoration on April 13 in Columbus. | Submitted photo



▲ The program opens with music performed by Friday Night Live Music and The Ohio State University Meshuganotes singing "Erev Shel Shoshanim" and "Uv'chein Tzadikum." | CJN Photo / Courtney Byrnes

COMMEMORATION | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

leaders raise their voices and with their actions shun Jew-hatred and those who espouse it, it withers and hides away again in the shadows. We are fortunate the Ohio's public officials are those who stand up, who speak up and who push back against this hate. Not only in words, but in law."

DeWine highlighted incidents of antisemitism that have taken place around the world in just the past year including a car ramming at a Manchester, UK synagogue on Yom Kippur and the mass shooting at Bondi Beach in Australia during Chanukah. He cited the Anti-Defamation League's 2024 data that stated there were 233 antisemitic incidents that year in Ohio.

While the 2025 data is due to come out later this spring, he cited recent incidents across the state such as white supremacy and antisemitic messages along Route 8 in Summit

County, antisemitic protests in Hudson, online antisemitism posted to TikTok in the Cleveland area, Neo-Nazi flyers posted around The Ohio State University campus in Columbus and a political commentator greeting students at Ohio University in Athens with a Nazi salute.

"Each year we gather to reflect on history and remember the victims and the survivors of the Holocaust. We also remember the liberators," DeWine said. "Tragically, though 80 years after the end of World War II, antisemitic acts and speech around the world and here in Ohio still continue. Such instances prove that we must take time, take time to purposefully reflect on the critical lessons of the Holocaust so as not to repeat them."

To honor the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, event speakers DeWine, Fenichel, Tsach Saar, Deputy Consul General of Israel in

"We must take time, take time to purposefully reflect on the critical lessons of the Holocaust so as not to repeat them."

Governor Dewine

New York, Rabbi Hillel Skolnik of Congregation Tifereth Israel and Elisa Case, as well as Major General Matthew S. Woodruff each lit a candle. Case, an English/language arts and social studies teacher at Lake Middle High School in Uniontown in Stark County, was awarded the Ohio Holocaust & Genocide Memorial & Education Commission Genocide Educator of the Year award.


Skolnik closed the program, reiterating Fenichel's message to students to not be a bystander.

"Particularly when you stand up in moments where it might seem like it's the awkward or difficult thing to


do or maybe the less cool thing to do," Skolnik said. "That is exactly the moment to not be a bystander, but to be a person who is strong and full of the strength that the survivors and the liberators whom we honor today had. We need you to do that work."

This article first appeared in the Cleveland Jewish News and cjn.org. Reprinted with permission.


To watch a video, visit cjn.org/cjntv



Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO




Jewish Book Council



Author photo by Jonathan Melnick

THE MOST HUMAN



RECONCILING WITH MY FATHER. LEONARD NIMOY. ADAM NIMOY

**THU
MAY 28
7PM | \$18*
LOCATION
TBA**


**A Special Evening
with Author
Adam Nimoy**

For the entire Jewish Toledo community

Adam Nimoy was born during the Eisenhower administration to Leonard and Sandra Zoberblatt Nimoy. He attended the University Elementary School, a "lab school" run by UCLA, where he was subjected to numerous psychological experiments. The experimentation continued at UC Berkeley in the form of mind-altering substances. In a state of absolute certainty, Adam attended Loyola Law School. He was wrong. After seven years of practicing entertainment law and one moment of clarity, Adam left his life as an attorney to follow his passion of making films. After directing forty-five hours of network television, Adam's career plummeted due in large part to drug and alcohol addiction. On January 1, 2004, Adam entered 12-Step recovery hoping to achieve an attitude adjustment. This was a New Year's resolution he knew he had to keep. For eight years, he taught writing, directing and acting at the New York Film Academy and taught filmmaking at Beit T'Shuvah, an addiction treatment center where the residents kept him on the straight and narrow.

*Includes dessert reception. Books will be available to purchase.

Register by Monday, May 18
Online: <https://jftoledo.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/ticket>
Phone: 419-724-0351



12th toledo jewish film festival

monday,
june 15

monday,
june 22

monday,
june 29

monday,
july 6

monday,
july 13

OPENING NIGHT

Charles Grodin: Rebel with a Cause

Monday, June 15 at 7 p.m.

Concessions: Flavored popcorn, candy, and coffee bar

Eternally sardonic and effortlessly deadpan, Charles Grodin carved out a singular place in American entertainment. This vibrant documentary celebrates the actor-comedian and broadcast personality whose understated brilliance lit up Elaine May's *The Heartbreak Kid*, Martin Brest's *Midnight Run* alongside Robert De Niro, and countless mischievously funny late-night TV appearances with Johnny Carson and David Letterman.

Yet, Grodin's legacy extends far beyond his iconic performances. In later years, he turned his sharp intellect and moral conviction toward activism, using his CNBC talk show to champion prison reform and other pressing social issues. Featuring a treasure trove of film and television clips alongside candid interviews and heartfelt reflections from Robert De Niro, Carol Burnett, Paul Simon, Art Garfunkel, Steve Martin, and Alan Arkin, this rich portrait captures a consummate performer who blended humor with humanity—leaving an indelible mark on comedy, culture, and conscience.

Running time: 92 minutes | English

The Everything Pot

Monday, June 22 at 7 p.m.

Concessions: Wedding cake, popcorn, and coffee bar

Starring Lisa Edelstein ("Long Story Short", "House MD"), James Wolk ("Happy Face"), Gina Torres ("Suits"), Erik Griffin ("Workaholics"), Delaney Rowe, and Deja Monique Cruz. A comedy of errors ensues when empty nester Rachel (Edelstein)

hastily sends a gift to Charlie (Wolk), a former colleague, upon receiving his wedding invitation. The young couple's wedding gets Rachel out of her perpetual state of ennui in her own marriage and brings unexpected excitement, which inadvertently causes chaos in both unions. As one domino falls after another, cracks begin to show in their respective relationships, especially while Rachel's husband Adam (Griffin) becomes obsessed with getting back their wedding gift: The Everything Pot.

Running time: 90 minutes | English

Marathon Mom

Monday, June 29 at 7 p.m.

Concessions: Popcorn, DIY trail mix bar, and coffee bar

Marathon Mom tells the inspiring story of Beatie Deutsch, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish mother of five who, after a pause from athletics to focus on her family, reignites her passion for running. In 2015, driven by a personal promise and the challenges of motherhood, Beatie embarks on a rigorous journey to complete a marathon. As she trains with dreams of becoming an Olympian, her remarkable journey transcends the track, embodying a powerful message of perseverance and empowerment. Through her story, Beatie inspires other women to embrace their dreams and overcome their own challenges.

Running time: 90 minutes | English

We Met at Grossinger's

Monday, July 6 at 7 p.m.

Concessions: Popcorn, ice cream, and coffee bar

We Met at Grossinger's is an immersive journey through the Jewish Catskills—once known as the Borscht Belt—reviving the iconic resort that inspired *Dirty Dancing* and defined an era of Jewish American life.

Throughout decades of prejudice stifling the integration of Jewish immigrants in America, the Borscht Belt in the Catskills provided an oasis of belonging, and Grossinger's Resort and Hotel was the crown jewel. The real-life inspiration for the setting of the 1987 classic film *Dirty Dancing*, Grossinger's provided both a physical and mental getaway where Jews—and others from marginalized communities—needing a break from NYC could relax.

The resort's growing reputation attracted a wide variety of comedians, athletes, and political figures, including Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld, Jackie Robinson, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Award-winning filmmaker, Paula Eiselt (*Aftershock*, *93Queen*), resurrects this vanished world with an immersive warmth, providing a timely reminder of the historic richness of Jewish culture and its immeasurable contributions to American life.

Running time: 104 minutes | English

CLOSING NIGHT

Once Upon My Mother

Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m.

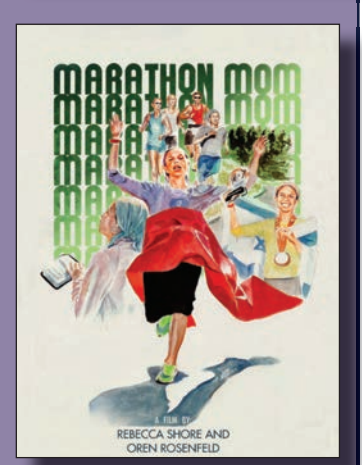
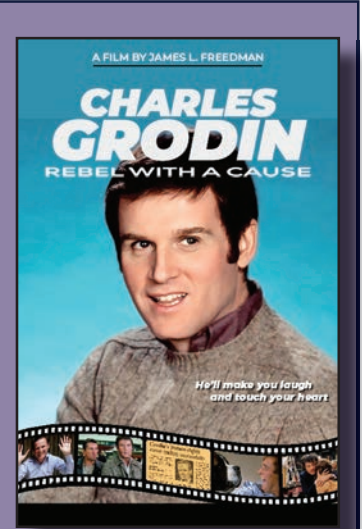
Concessions: Popcorn, candy, macarons, and coffee bar

In 1963, Esther gave birth to Roland, the youngest sibling of a large family. Roland was born with a club foot that prevented him from standing. Against everyone's advice, she promised her son that he would be able to walk just like everyone else and have a wonderful life.

From that moment on, Esther devoted herself fully to ensuring this promise came true. Spanning decades of hardships and miracles, this film is the story of an incredible destiny and the greatest love of all: a mother's love for her child.

Based on Roland Perez's book *Ma Mère, Dieu Et Sylvie Vartan*, published in France by Les Escales.

Running time: 102 minutes | French (English subtitles)



information

All films begin at 7 p.m.

For the safety and security of our community, the location of all movies will be shared with registrants prior to each event. JFGT is dedicated to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment with law enforcement professionals on-site. Attendees' belongings may be inspected, and entry may be denied or individuals removed for inappropriate or disruptive behavior. Please avoid bringing large bags to the event.

Ticket prices

General admission: \$10 per film, per person

Series package: \$45 for all 5 dates, per person

Please check in at our registration table the day of each film for all pre-purchased tickets and passes. There are no physical tickets for the festival.

How to purchase your tickets

By phone: 419-724-0351

Online: <https://jftoledo.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/ticket>

At the door: first come, first served



Concessions

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

Bring your reusable water bottle and be a star for the planet!

Parking

Free parking is available.

Questions:

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

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



A Passover tasting at The Crescent

Mary Bilyeu, Senior Community Relations and Program Specialist for Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, visited our friends at The Crescent last month to teach about Passover. She offered a tasting of different varieties of charoset, the fruit mix served at seder that is reminiscent of the mortar used by enslaved Israelites when building structures in Egypt. She brought the familiar Ashkenazi apple-walnut variety of charoset (which has a Yiddish name from the Jewish language that people in Eastern/Central Europe traditionally spoke) as well as samples representing other regions and languages of the Diaspora: date syrup topped with nuts, called halek in Judeo-Baghdadi, as well as dukkah, a term from Judeo-Yemeni Arabic, which are small truffle-like balls formed from dates and figs. The group enjoyed trying the different variations on charoset and learning about languages they weren't previously familiar with, thanks to resources available from the Jewish Language Project (see page 6 for more information).



'60 & Better' group shops and makes beautiful bouquets for Passover

The Haggadah instructs us: In every generation, each person must see themselves as having personally left Egypt. This Passover, that ancient text summoned us to action. We embraced the responsibility to strengthen Jewish life for future generations, stood with Israel as it heals and grows stronger, and protected our communities amidst the rise in antisemitism. Our ancestors dreamed of a future where Jewish life could flourish freely. We're building that future together—As One.

In preparation for Passover, our 60 & Better group went on a festive outing up north, shopping at The Grove and Zeman's Bakery, stocking up on all the chametz-free essentials, and enjoying a delicious kosher lunch together at the Friendship Circle Soul Cafe. Later, they created gorgeous, festive floral arrangements with Beautiful Blooms by Jen to brighten their upcoming seder tables. Learn more about upcoming 60 & Better programming by visiting www.jewishtoledo.org/jlc.



JEWISH FEDERATION AND FOUNDATION OF GREATER TOLEDO TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS:

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 Monique at 419-724-0386, monique@jewishtoledo.org.
Received between 03/14/2026 - 04/14/2026

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JFGT financial assistance and cancellation policies for programs

Financial assistance for programs

DISCREET FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR JEWISH TOLEDO ACTIVITIES

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

JEWISH FEDERATION & FOUNDATION OF GREATER TOLEDO'S CANCELLATION POLICY

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

POLICY:

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

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

Make sure to send the cancellation request before the 48-hour deadline. Cancellations made on or before the 48-hour deadline are eligible for a full refund of the registration fee.

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

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

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

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

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 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.

JFGT Spring/ Summer 2026 Holiday Office Closures:

Date	Day of Week	Holiday	Office Hours
May 21, 2026	Thursday	Erev Shavuot	Closed at 1:00pm
May 22, 2026	Friday	Shavuot	Closed
May 25, 2026	Monday	Memorial Day	Closed
June 19, 2026	Friday	Juneteenth	Closed
July 3, 2026	Friday	Independence Day (4 th on Sat)	Closed

Time Change

- Office closes at 4:30 pm Fridays starting March 13, 2026.
- Office closes at 3:30 pm Fridays starting November 6, 2026.

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The Jewish Language Project: Advocating for Endangered Languages Before It's Too Late

MARY BILYEU
 ✉ mary@jewishtoledo.org

Jewish Toledo is overwhelmingly Ashkenazi, so we're all undoubtedly familiar with Yiddish - whether you can still speak it, you picked up some words when your parents used it to keep secrets from you, or you toss a few inherited terms and phrases into your English ... a *bisl* here, a *bisl* there. Everyone is likely aware of Ladino, too, which is the Sephardic equivalent to Yiddish: a fusion language commonly spoken for communicating with other Jews, even those of a different national origin.

But did you know that there are actually dozens of Jewish languages, many of which are sadly either already extinct or significantly endangered?

Jewish Malayalam of southern India. Jewish Papiamentu, an Afro-Caribbean Creole. Krymchak, a Turkish language spoken on the Crimean Peninsula. Algerian Jewish Sign Language. And both Eastern and Western dialects of Yiddish.

There are 36 different listings on the website of the Jewish Language Project (jewishlanguages.org), which is based at Hebrew Union College (HUC) in Los Angeles. And each one offers information about who and where the language's speakers are (or were), how it developed, how it's written, distinctive linguistic features, its status and viability, and more. (For example, under Judeo-Italian, you'll learn that "the first attested use of the word 'pizza' in Italian is in Hebrew letters ... from a 14th-century glossary of difficult words in Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah*.")

Founded in 2020 by Dr. Sarah Bunin Benor, Vice Provost and Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies at HUC, the Jewish Language Project (JLP) was created to record, preserve, and raise awareness of these priceless languages, each containing its own worldview and history, each documenting both displacement and community.

In just a short time, the Project has hosted online exhibits, offered lectures, created videos, and started a podcast for the purpose of preserving Jewish languages. Its website is a treasure trove of information and resources, from the esoteric - a recording of an Iraqi Judeo-Arabic

tune sung on the night that henna is applied to a bride before her wedding - to tidbits that might make you a star at trivia night (see the pizza note above). And on social media, you'll find recipes, Word of the Week, and also Music Mondays featuring Jewish songs in a variety of languages. (As I type, the week's designated tune comes from Haketia, a Moroccan variety of Judeo-Spanish.)

Whether you're merely curious or you're a maven, there is something fascinating to learn from the Jewish Language Project.

In my case, as a lifelong language enthusiast who's studied both foreign languages and linguistics, I can spend hours (no exaggeration!) going down the proverbial rabbit hole on the Project's site.

I admit that my heart lies with Judeo Italian, despite my having no Italian heritage. I love the food (I even have specifically Jewish-Italian cookbooks) and have studied the language, so delving deeper into the region's linguistic heritage would be simultaneously fascinating and delicious.

But I live in an Ashkenazi community, and both speak and hear Yiddish heritage words every single day: *mishigas*, *schlep*, *glitch*, *klutz*, *mensch*, *shtetl*, *meshugge*, *nosh*, *schmooze*, *shpiel*, *chutzpah*, and others. We've adopted and incorporated these terms to greater or lesser degrees (and with the use of code switching, as needed) from past generations into our personal variants of Jewish English.

While it's not endangered, Yiddish is certainly not at its peak despite its

There are 36 different listings on the website of the Jewish Language Project, which is based at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. And each one offers information about who and where the language's speakers are (or were), how it developed, how it's written, distinctive linguistic features, its status and viability, and more.

prevalence in Haredi communities and the best efforts of organizations like, say, the Yiddish Book Center in Massachusetts which collects written materials; it still needs some love and some nurturing. The Project estimates that there are currently 850,000 speakers worldwide, but a significant number of them are elderly and their descendants aren't fluent.

In the past I've written about recipes shared by Survivors or rescued after the murder of prisoners in camps, which preserve memories, history, and language from a nearly-decimated people. *Holocaust Survivor Cookbook* published by Caras and Associates; *In Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezin*, edited by Cara de Silva; and *Honey Cake & Latkes: Recipes from the Old World by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Survivors*, edited by Maria Zalewska, are just three compilations that engage in cultural and linguistic advocacy simultaneously.

I love doing holiday programs for senior residents at The Crescent, and this year's Pesach theme was inspired by my love of Jewish languages. A joint printable pop-up exhibit produced by ANU - Museum of the Jewish People and the Jewish Language Project included a map showing a variety of worldwide terms for charoset. So I chose three languages to talk about, from Eastern Europe, Iraq, and Yemen, and we sampled the mortar-like mixture representative of each region, as well: the familiar Ashkenazi apples with wine, a thick date syrup sprinkled with nuts, and a fig-date-nut mixture rolled into balls, respectively.

Can a language be revived? Ask

the Irish, who nearly lost their Celtic language through colonial-forced disuse and mass emigration, but who've taught it in schools and resuscitated it sufficiently that it's now spoken a bit in large cities, not just in rural outposts. Actor Paul Mescal even spoke Irish - to great acclaim! - in some interviews as he walked the red carpet during the film awards season in 2023, after having attended an Irish language immersion elementary school.

Obviously, no one can bring every Jewish language back to life - the efforts to educate people, to give them opportunities for use ... oy, the logistics are overwhelming. But as speakers age, we can make every effort to document their spoken and written words. We can transmit languages to subsequent generations, even if there may not be true fluency. We can capture some of the essence and much of the beauty, and ensure that these languages are not forgotten.

As Dr. Seuss' Lorax says (albeit about environmentalism, not Yiddish), "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." I clearly care a great deal about endangered languages, and I hope that you do, too.

Mary Bilyeu is Senior Community Relations and Program Specialist at Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo.

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A Call to Remembrance: *Echoes of Vilna* at the Glass Pavilion

In these fraught and complex times, the act of remembering is not merely a look back at history—it is a vital bridge to our future. This summer, local playwright, **Ken Newbury, PhD**, is bringing his acclaimed play, *Echoes of Vilna*, to the **Glass Pavilion at the Toledo Museum of Art** for a special community engagement on **Sunday, August 9**.

Echoes of Vilna carries the rare distinction of inclusion in the Yad Vashem archives in Jerusalem. Its journey has touched audiences at the Illinois Holocaust Museum (featuring a moving performance by Cantor Andrea Markowicz) and was most recently presented as a staged reading at the Interlochen Academy for the Arts. Now, it returns home to Toledo.

This production will be presented

as a staged reading. The Jewish Toledo community, especially middle school students and up, are invited to attend Sunday, August 9 for a collective moment of reflection and strength.

If you would like more information about the production, please contact Irina Zaurov, director (gottalent39@gmail.com) or Ken Newbury (kennewbury@gmail.com).



Many peptides sound like Yiddish words. Here's why.

ASAF ELIA-SHALEV | JTA

A growing number of Americans are injecting themselves with peptides they ordered online, often with no idea what's in the vial, hoping to cure ailments and reverse aging. And for reasons that will soon be made clear, some of the peptides that make their way into the faddish and often gray-market concoctions have what appear to be Yiddish names.

But first, Pinchas Cohen, the pioneering scientist responsible for the naming quirk, wanted to say a few words about the real potential for mitochondrial-derived peptides.

Peptides represent a revolution in medicine, with potential for major new drug discoveries, the University of Southern California professor said. And the gray market fad worries him.

"These are potent biological molecules," Cohen said. "They should be used under the supervision of a physician, and when they're being produced in reliable manufacturing facilities — most of which is not happening right now."

That said: about those names.

Cohen's lab at USC has given the world SHLP (pronounced "schlep"), SHMOOSE, MENTSH, and a few others not yet published — including one called NOSH and another PUTZ. Each is a legitimate scientific acronym, carefully reverse-engineered to land on a Yiddish word.

SHLP stands for Small Humanin-Like Peptide. SHMOOSE expands to Small Human Mitochondrial ORF Over Serine tRNA. The names are light-hearted, but the science is serious. Naturally occurring SHMOOSE has been linked to a 30% increased risk of Alzheimer's disease. MENTSH, after Cohen also named a company he founded, shows promise for treating diabetes.

"I always give the students and postdocs the chance to name the project they're working on," he said. "But I get veto power. They've already learned that the best way to get me to say yes is to come up with something really cute."

MENTSH was coined by a Taiwanese-American colleague who grew up in the Bay Area. "Surrounded by Jews," Cohen noted. "He probably knows more Yiddish words than I do."

The first peptide Cohen co-discovered was named by a Japanese scientist who called it humanin. But the second was Cohen's subtle nod to Jewish tradition. MOTS-c, pronounced "mots-see," was quietly crafted to echo the Hebrew word motzi, as in the blessing over bread. "That was subtle," Cohen said, "but it was on purpose."

The discovery of MOTS-c and the peptides that followed represented something genuinely new in science. Researchers had known about peptides for generations — insulin, the diabetes treatment, is one — but those were

found through conventional means, in glands and tissues where scientists knew to look. Cohen's innovation was finding that mitochondrial DNA, the tiny separate genome inside mitochondria long thought to encode only energy-related proteins, secretly harbored an entirely hidden library of bioactive peptides. In places scientists weren't looking, and in parts of the genome dismissed as structural, there were functional molecules with potential to treat disease.

His lab has now published about a dozen such peptides, with another dozen or two in preparation. The number of these microproteins that may ultimately exist in the human genome, Cohen said, could reach into the millions, transforming biology in ways that are only beginning to be understood.

Cohen was born in Israel and moved to the United States at 14, when his parents were posted to the Israeli embassy in Washington. Cohen did his medical training at the Technion in Haifa, then Stanford, then the University of Pennsylvania and UCLA, before joining USC 14 years ago as dean of the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology.

Though his family is Ashkenazi, Cohen didn't grow up speaking Yiddish and his accent bears little trace of his origins. The Yiddish names, he said, are less about heritage than about fun, and about giving his team a sense of

ownership over their work.

"My identity is deeply rooted in my Jewish and Israeli heritage," he said. "I am delighted your publication took an interest."

The key to healthfully aging, Cohen said, is diet and exercise. "And the best diet is the Mediterranean diet," he said, noting Israel's high life expectancy.

Despite Cohen's warnings about treatments that are so far unproven, wellness influencers keep pushing peptide treatments, and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has vowed to loosen regulations on peptides. The Food and Drug Administration announced in mid-April that it will hold a meeting to weigh easing restrictions on more than a half dozen peptide injections.

Cohen is careful not to let enthusiasm for the science bleed into endorsement of the wellness industry that has appropriated it. Each peptide, he said, is its own unique compound with its own effects and risks, not a supplement to be ordered from a TikTok link. The revolution he envisions runs through clinical trials and FDA approval, not gray market vendors and cryptocurrency payments.

But he is optimistic. Somewhere in the vast molecular landscape his lab is mapping, he said, there are more discoveries waiting, and, almost certainly, more Yiddish words to find them.

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Toledo Jewish News, together with the Cleveland Jewish News, Akron Jewish News and Columbus Jewish News, now brings you timely coverage through our exclusive e-newsletters:

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Israel at War – Receive urgent updates and in-depth reporting as events unfold in Israel.

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Israel's Emergency Services System



Happy Tears

LAUREN SACHS

Do you have thoughts or a question for Lauren? Email her at literallylaurensachs@gmail.com, and she may respond (anonymously) in a future "Happy Tears" column.

May is a month of growth and celebration, kicking off a season of holidays and special observances. With springtime in full bloom and summer around the corner, we see the start of festivities like graduation parties and weddings. Emerging from winter's intensity, I view it as a chance to take a breath of fresh air as we enjoy the beauty of the season and our lives. Very often, this revelry marks some sort of watershed moment. These milestones have significance as they typically represent the end of one era and the start of another.

Whether it be a significant birthday, a graduation, or a retirement, events such as these often evoke reflection and bring on a host of feelings. Personally, given the untimely loss of my husband, I have had a front row seat to the way loss shifts these moments from wholly joyful to bittersweet. Over the last few years as I have observed my daughters growing into young adults, I have seen the way that these happy occasions are tinged with melancholy and sadness. Now young women, my daughters yearn for the opportunity to share these times with their late father and feel his absence in the most profound manner. Their nostalgia triggers my own, along with a sense of being stymied, knowing they will never again have him in their lives. It hurts my heart to see them in pain and I am dually agonized by the fact that I can do nothing to ease their heartache.

When a family loses someone at its center, the entire system undergoes tremendous upheaval. This shift feels particularly intense when the

lost loved one is young or the loss comes "out-of-order," meaning that a person dies well before their time. I believe this aspect of grief is under-appreciated because the ripple effect is perhaps felt most acutely in the distant aftermath of loss. In the short term, the bereaved may feel an emptiness along with a palpable sense of missing their person. As time marches forward and everyone else continues to age, grievers may experience unexpected and novel pangs of heartache at each new milestone. Moreover, since every individual in the system experiences grief in their own way and on their own timeline, it should not be surprising when one person's way of mourning differs or is possibly in direct opposition to another's. Since the nature of the loss is experienced uniquely by each person, family events after a death require a great deal of sensitivity from those involved. For me personally, the more I am removed from my late husband's passing, the greater my compassion has grown for

the individual needs of everyone who knew and loved him. When it comes to recognizing each person's approach to mourning, a bit of thoughtfulness goes a long way in showing respect and maintaining harmony.

Though special occasions highlight how much a loss can change family dynamics, untimely deaths impact even more mundane parts of such relationships. Sometimes these shifts can be seen when planning for family gatherings or travel; however, it can also be observed in something as simple as how conversation flows or how inside jokes land with family members. In addition, because relatives often assume unspoken roles within the family system, an out-of-order loss may dictate a new sibling dynamic or demand that people accommodate the evolving

needs of the various members. In my own situation, I have also found that people within a family system may differ greatly in how they respond to the introduction of new people into the family's inner circle. Indeed, learning to honor my needs while also balancing and respecting others in the extended family has been one of the most challenging parts of moving forward from my loss.

One of the greatest lessons I have absorbed through my yoga practice is to both recognize and accept the inevitability of change. Despite the intensity of my loss, this mindset shift has helped me discover a sense of healing and peace. It has also helped me realize that, like me, my daughters and loved ones will continue to evolve in their grief on their own timeline. Though I would love to take away all their pain, I know they will continue their way forward at their own pace. If you are mourning the loss of a loved one or struggling with other life stressors, I wish you the growth that comes from this season and hope that you will find ways to lean into the sweetness of the bittersweet.

Lauren Sachs 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, she worked as a therapist and consultant in a variety of settings. During her time in Jewish Toledo, Lauren has received the Harry Levison Young Leadership Award and the Shining Light Award, and is currently serving as the Chair for the 20th Annual NW Ohio Jewish Book Festival. In addition to her involvement within the local Jewish community, Lauren serves as a volunteer for Hospice of Northwest Ohio. She 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.

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SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Greater Toledo | Annual Meeting



Sunday, August 30

Featuring Sarah Hurwitz, Author,
As a Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us
Time and location TBA

As One  Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

For nearly 15 years, Sarah Hurwitz built a career finding just the right words. She served as a White House speechwriter from 2009 to 2017, first as a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama and then as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama. Sarah worked with Mrs. Obama to craft widely acclaimed addresses and traveled with her across America and to five continents.

Prior to working in the White House, Sarah was in the thick of political campaigns – serving as the chief speechwriter for Hillary Clinton on her 2008 presidential campaign and deputy chief speechwriter for Senator John Kerry in 2004 and General Wesley Clark in 2003.

As a Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us is a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of a National Jewish Book Award and the Natan Notable Book Award. It is an urgent exploration of how antisemitism has shaped Jewish identity and how Jews can reclaim their tradition.

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Hours

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Friday & Saturday 11am-11pm
(Kitchen Open Until 10pm)

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Toledo Jewish Men's Club

Fifty members of the Toledo Jewish Men's Club welcomed State Representative Josh Williams at TJMC's April meeting. Representative Williams relayed his personal story of meeting life's challenges and how he faced them.

Williams dropped out of high school at the age of eighteen to work to support his son. He later suffered a serious back injury after falling over thirty feet while working. He lived with a disability for six years and underwent numerous surgeries. Williams elected to pursue educational opportunities and job training rather than collect disability. After obtaining a Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED) he started college at the age of 30 and five years later graduated from University of Toledo College of Law. He is now a practicing attorney, a professor at Adrian College, and a member of the

Ohio House of Representatives.

He credited members of the Toledo Jewish community who were instrumental in providing him a helping hand and demonstrating confidence in his ability to make it through law school. He thanked UT Law Professor James Tuschman and Toledo attorney Stevin Groth for their guidance and support throughout his personal journey.

A Republican member of the Ohio House of Representatives representing the 44th district, Williams was first elected November 8, 2022 and assumed office on January 1, 2023. He is the first Black Republican elected to the Ohio House in 50 years and the first Black majority whip in Ohio's history. Williams is a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2026 election, seeking the Republican nomination for Ohio's 9th congressional district.

Toledo Jewish Men's Club 2025-2026 Calendar

There are two remaining programs in the TJMC 25-26 line-up before summer, both are open to all men and women of the Toledo Jewish community.

TUESDAY, MAY 5 - 6 P.M.

AT TEMPLE SHOMER EMUNIM

Join us for a fun evening of Jewish humor and food. The TJMC welcomes Sam Hoffman, writer, producer, and director of the hit Old Jews Telling Jokes book, video series, and off-Broadway play. \$55 per person. Catering by Zingerman's Deli of Ann Arbor and The Temple.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 - NOON: LUNCHEON AT TEMPLE SHOMER EMINUM

Senator Sherrod Brown will speak to us about his candidacy and upcoming election to return to the United States Senate representing Ohio. \$25 per person.

The Toledo Jewish Men's club is open to all men (and invited guests) in the Toledo Jewish community. For information, please contact Joel Beren at joel@bereneq.com.

Co-Chairs: Mark Greenblatt, Dick Greenblatt, Matt Rubin, and Joel Beren

Community members bring Jewish learning to local elementary

Marnie Younker, Christina Katz, and Brian Davis recently spent the afternoon at Ottawa Hills Elementary School presenting at the 3rd Grade Culture Fair. They represented the Jewish Culture Room and shared with the students a little bit about being Jewish, Israel, Hanukkah, Passover, and doing a mitzvah. The kids rotated through three stations and got to play dreidel, guess the 10 plagues, and make a kindness clothespin to give to a friend.





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jewishtoledo.org/emoji

Shinshinim return to Toledo

Romi and Sahar, two Cleveland-based Shinshinim (Israeli emissaries) joined Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo staff to discuss their experiences growing up in Israel, how they're spending their gap year in the United States, and their future plans.



▲ Romi (L) and Sahar (R) are Shinshinim (Israeli emissaries) spending the year in Cleveland



New JFGT Security Policy Purpose

To help ensure the safety and security of all attendees while fostering an environment of openness and community engagement, this policy outlines procedures for event registration, attendance, and security.

Registration Procedures

Individual Registration Required:

All attendees must register individually through our designated online registration form or directly with Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo staff registrations.

Complete Data Collection:

Registrants are required to provide accurate contact information, including full name, phone number, and email address. For guests or additional attendees, the primary registrant must add each guest's details separately.

Verification & Confirmation:

Registrants will receive a confirmation email and the location of the event after registration.

Guest Policy:

Attendees need to register all guests in advance. Same-day or walk-in registrations may be limited or declined based on security considerations.

Prohibited Items

- Weapons of any kind under any circumstance
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, or substances (including drug paraphernalia)
- All glass items
- Bags over 18"x 12"x 8", camelbacks, Bota bags, and flasks
- Signs, flags, banners, posters, or balloons
- Flammable liquids or aerosol cans
- Other items as deemed inappropriate by the Security Director or event staff

Jewish Holiday Closing Schedule for Yom Tov 2026

BETH SHALOM CEMETERY

420 Otter Creek Rd.
Oregon, Ohio 43616

EAGLE POINT CEMETERY

515 Eagle Point Rd.
Rossford, Ohio 43460

Thursday, May 21, 2026	Erev Shavuot	Close at 4 pm
Friday, May 22, 2026	Shavuot I	Closed
Saturday, May 23, 2026	Shavuot II/Shabbat	Closed
Friday, September 11, 2026	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Close at 4 pm
Saturday, September 12, 2026	Rosh Hashanah I/Shabbat	Closed
Sunday, September 13, 2026	Rosh Hashanah II	Closed
Sunday, September 20, 2026	Erev Yom Kippur	Close at 4 pm
Monday, September 21, 2026	Yom Kippur	Closed
Friday, September 25, 2026	Erev Sukkot	Close at 4 pm
Saturday, September 26, 2026	Sukkot I/Shabbat	Closed
Sunday, September 27, 2026	Sukkot II	Closed
Friday, October 2, 2026	Erev Shemini Atzeret	Close at 4 pm
Saturday, October 3, 2026	Shemini Atzeret/Shabbat	Closed
Sunday, October 4, 2026	Simchat Torah	Closed

Regular Cemetery hours:

Sunday through Thursday 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Fridays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*Cemeteries close early every Friday at 4 p.m. for Erev Shabbat
Cemeteries are closed every Saturday for Shabbat*



Toledo Jewish Community Cemetery Association

6465 Sylvania Ave.
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
419-724-0404

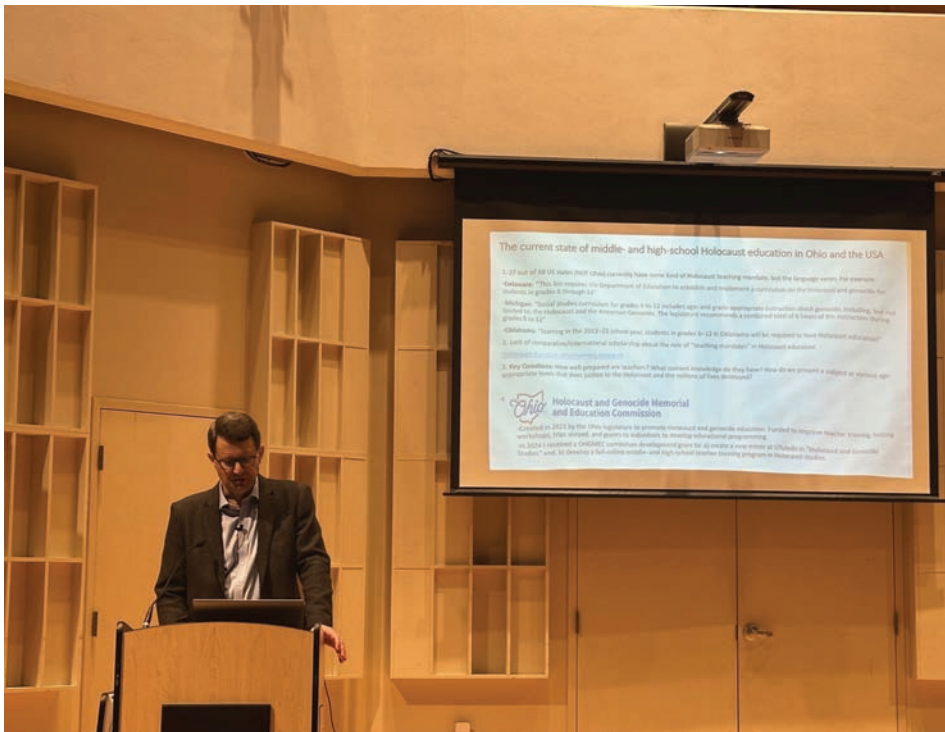
A celebration of Jews in Ireland

Did you know there have been Jews in Ireland since the 11th century? This year on St. Patrick's Day, a crowd came out to celebrate the luck of the Jewish with a Kosher corned beef dinner and discussion. Led by Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Colette Lundberg and Mary Bilyeu, the presentation described the fascinating history of Irish Jews with an overview of the past 1000 years.



Jackisch discusses Holocaust education

In late March, the Philip Markowicz Annual Lecture in Judaism and Jewish Biblical Studies featured guest speaker Barry Jackisch, Associate Professor of History at the University of Toledo. In this lecture, "New Approaches to Holocaust Education," Dr. Jackisch explored innovative ways to bring Holocaust education into today's digital and remote learning environments, including insights from his newly developed online program for educators.



Jewish Heritage Day baseball in Detroit

Jewish Heritage Day at a Detroit Tigers' mid-April matchup against the Miami Marlins ended in an 8-2 home win and a bus full of smiling Jewish Toledoans heading home.



Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo Programs and Events



Featured Events



Sunday, May 3 YoPros Glow up with the Gals

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 \$36 per person - includes snacks, drinks, blowouts, facials, and makeup tutorial
 Location TBA
 Unplug, unwind, and indulge in an afternoon designed just for women in their glow-up era (21-45ish). Treat yourself to

facials, blowouts, and step-by-step smokey eye tutorials and take time to unwind, refresh, and glow from the inside out. RSVP by Friday, May 1.

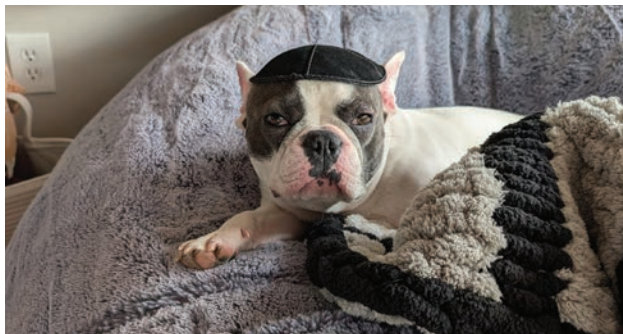
Sunday, May 31 YoPros Pickleball

1 - 3 p.m.
 \$10 per person - includes pickleball, snacks, and drinks
 Location TBA
 Calling all adults 21-45ish. Get ready to dink, drop, and play with Jewish Toledo YoPros. Whether you're a seasoned player or looking to try something new, this event is sure to be a big dill for everyone involved. Get on the courts or just eat, drink, and schmooze with other Toledo Jewish YoPros! BYO paddle or we will rent one for you.

RSVP by Wednesday, May 27.

Thursday, June 25 YoPros Summer Soiree

6 - 9 p.m.
 \$36 per person - includes dinner and drink ticket
 Location TBA
 Join us for an evening curated to connect Toledo's Jewish young professionals (adults 21-45ish) with established Jewish community members and professionals. Enjoy networking, nosh, and schmoozing, plus a short talk from Matt Rubin of Crane Development, sharing insights on the development and future of Downtown Toledo. RSVP by Wednesday, June 24.



SUNDAY, MAY 17 BARK MITZVAH, MITZVAH DAY! 2 - 4 p.m. \$18 per household

Check out the newest dog park in Sylvania, Blueberry Fields, and meet other furry and non-furry friends. There will be mitzvah projects, donuts from Holy Toledough, dog treats, and more. We'll also be holding a raffle for one year of free access to the membership-only dog park! RSVP by Thursday, May 14.

View park rules here:
www.sylvaniadogpark.com/parkrules

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 FIDDLER ON THE ROOF - TOLEDO REP 2 p.m. \$20 per campaign donor \$30 for non-donors to the campaign

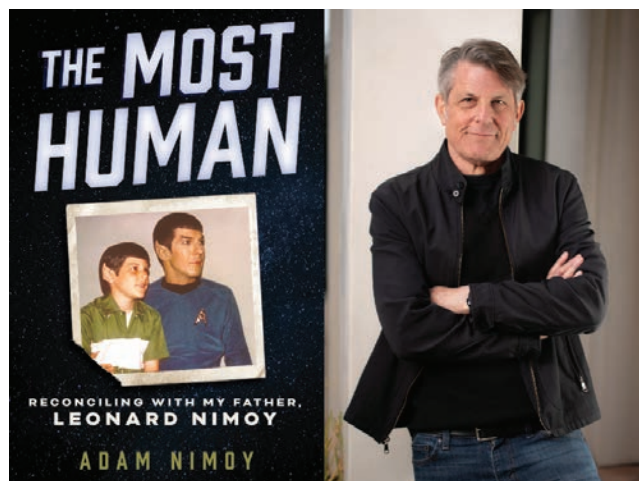
Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the

face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, *Fiddler on the Roof's* universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness. Directed by our very own Jewish Toledo star, Irina Zaurov! RSVP by Thursday, June 11.

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE (FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/JFGTFAMILY) FOR DATES AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE

Let's Play

PJ Explores Toledo



THURSDAY, MAY 28 A SPECIAL EVENING WITH AUTHOR ADAM NIMOY 7 p.m. \$18/person See page 2 for more information

Let's Play! PJ Explores Toledo 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Locations TBA
 Cost varies, depending on location (ranging FREE to \$10 per child)
 Ages 0-5 and their favorite grown-up(s) (older siblings are always welcome!)
 Play, snacks, and beverages included
 Join Jewish Toledo and other PJ Library families as we check out all the area has

to offer for little kids! Each time we'll meet at a different location around town - parks, playgrounds, indoor play spaces for littles, coffee shops, libraries and more! Most events/locations will be open to the public, but we'll do our best to reserve a room or our own spot.
 Locations will be shared the week prior to each event. RSVP by the Friday prior to marnie@jewishtoledo.org.

For more information and resources, visit jewishtoledo.org.



New for 2026, unless otherwise noted, please register for all programs with Sherry Majewski at 419-724-0351



or at <https://jftoledo.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/ticket>.



All information subject to change with updates posted on jewishtoledo.org



To submit an event for consideration, send information to abby@jewishtoledo.org at least 45 days prior to event.

MONDAY, JUNE 15-MONDAY, JULY 13

SAVE THE DATE - 12TH TOLEDO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

See page 3 for more information.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

LADIES WHO WANDER

11 a.m., followed by brunch after \$25 per person, includes flower picking and brunch beverages. Brunch is on your own.

Jewish women ages 65 and under are welcome to join Apollo's Basket for a special seasonal event celebrating nature, community, and creativity. Enjoy an afternoon on the farm, with access to blooming flower fields, hands-on bouquet picking, and a curated selection of handcrafted, farm-inspired goods. Join us after for a brunch at a local restaurant. RSVP by Monday, June 22.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

1ST ANNUAL YIDDISHA CUP

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

\$10 per person -

includes tee time, drinks, and ice cream Location TBA

Join us for the first ever Yiddisha Cup! Get ready to putt, kvell, and have a hole-in-one kind of time at this scramble-style

mini golf tournament for the entire Toledo Jewish community. Show off your putting skills and play your way toward bragging rights—and a custom-made trophy worthy of generations of Jewish pride. RSVP by Wednesday, July 15.

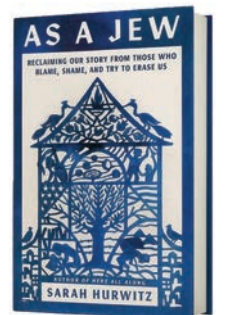
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

LADIES WHO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$54 per person - includes charcuterie board making supplies and lunch Location TBA

We're digging into the creative world of hand-building ceramics, a simple, hands-on technique using clay. This workshop will guide you from the ground up as you create your very own ceramic charcuterie board. You'll hand-build your piece, which will then be fired in a kiln, bringing your creation to life. No prior ceramic experience is necessary, just come ready to get a little messy and have fun! RSVP by Monday, August 10.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

JEWISH FEDERATION & FOUNDATION OF GREATER TOLEDO ANNUAL MEETING

Featuring Sarah Hurwitz, Author, *As a Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us*

Time and location TBA

More information to come.

See page 8 for more information.

For the safety of our community, the location of all events will be shared with registrants prior to each event.

SENIOR PROGRAMMING

THURSDAY, MAY 7

60 & BETTER - A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF MEXICO - PRESSED FLOWER FRAME WORKSHOP

12 - 1:30 p.m.

\$18 for campaign donors

\$30 for non-donors to the campaign

Cost includes vegetarian Mexican lunch and all supplies

Join us for a vibrant celebration in honor of Cinco de Mayo to learn about the rich history of the Jews of Mexico, taste the flavors of Mexico, and make a flower pressed frame with Makaila Beckhusen from Stick it Babe. RSVP by Tuesday, April 28.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

60 & BETTER LADIES ONLY - THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

5 - 6:30 p.m.

\$15 for campaign donors

\$25 for non-donors to the campaign

Transport yourself to the land of milk and honey and celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai with a delicious dairy dinner. We will also learn about essential oils as well as create our own rollerball. RSVP by Monday, May 11.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

60 & BETTER BOAT CRUISE, AQUARIUM TRIP, AND KOSHER SHOPPING

Board bus at 7 a.m., return around 6 p.m.

Campaign donors: \$25 for transportation, lunch, and admission

Non-donors to the campaign: \$50 for transportation, lunch, and admission Location TBA

Visit the Greater Cleveland Aquarium, home to more than 2,700 fascinating aquatic animals. Explore seven immersive galleries, including an 11,000-gallon stingray touch pool and a 175-foot sea tube that brings ocean life up close. Our day in Cleveland will

also include a lunch boat cruise aboard the Lady Caroline, followed by a visit to One Stop Kosher Grocery Store. RSVP by Wednesday, July 1.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

60 & BETTER - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE GREAT LAKES

Board bus at 11 a.m., return around 3 p.m.

Campaign donors: \$15 for transportation, lunch, and admission

Non-donors to the campaign: \$30 for transportation, lunch, and admission

Location TBA

Enjoy the spectacular view of the Maumee River while eating a delicious lunch and then take a tour of the National Museum of the Great Lakes where you will learn about the rich history of the world's most important natural resources and immerse yourself in unique media and hands-on experiences. RSVP by Monday, July 27.

Jewish basketball legend Amar'e Stoudemire to be inducted into Basketball Hall of Fame

JACOB GURVIS | JTA

Amar'e Stoudemire, the American-Israeli basketball star who became a devout convert to Judaism after retiring, is reportedly headed to the hall of fame.

Stoudemire will be inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2026 alongside Milwaukee Bucks coach Doc Rivers and WNBA legends Candace Parker and Elena Delle Donne, according to ESPN's Shams Charania, a top NBA reporter.

The 43-year-old Stoudemire played 14 seasons in the NBA, the first eight with the Phoenix Suns, who retired his No. 32 in 2024. Stoudemire was a six-time All-Star, the 2003 NBA Rookie of the Year and won a bronze medal with the U.S. team at the 2004 Olympics.

He also played professionally in Israel, where he won two Israeli Basketball Premier League championships, was named an All-Star twice and won the league's Finals MVP in 2020. He was inducted into

the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame last year.

Stoudemire, who formally converted to Judaism in 2020, has been vocal about his affiliation with Black Hebrew Israelites, a movement whose core belief is that African Americans are the genealogical descendants of the ancient Israelites. He has also coached at the Maccabiah Games and owns a line of kosher wine.

Stoudemire left his assistant coaching job with the Brooklyn Nets in 2022 after saying the role interfered with his Shabbat observance. Stoudemire, whose name on Instagram is "amareisrael," frequently posts on social media about studying the Talmud and other Jewish texts.

Stoudemire joins a lineage of Jewish basketball icons in the Hall of Fame, including Sue Bird, who was inducted last year, Nancy Lieberman, Nat Holman, Barney Sedran, Max Friedman and Dolph Schayes — the only other Jewish player to have his number retired in the NBA.



▲ Basketball player Amar'e Stoudemire talks to press during a reception launching Stoudemire Wines held by the Jewish National Fund at Ronald S. Lauder JNF House, Feb. 20, 2018 in New York City. | Astrid Stawiarz/Getty Images for Stoudemire Wines

Non-players include coaches Red Auerbach and Harry Litwack, Harlem Globetrotters founder Abe Saperstein, coach and executive Eddie Gottlieb, the NBA's first de facto commissioner Maurice Podoloff and referee Dave Tobey. Senda Berenson Abbott, a

pioneer of women's basketball, became the first woman inducted into the hall in 1985.

The official announcement for the Hall of Fame class is April 4, and the induction will take place the weekend of Aug. 14.

PJ Library



Have you heard of PJ Library?

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 JFGT PJ Library & Youth Programming

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Jewish Federation & Foundation OF GREATER TOLEDO

PJ Library is supported by The Inspiration Fund.

CAMP



Inspiration



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\$90 per camper/full week (\$236 family maximum)

OR \$25/day for partial week

Location TBA

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Junior counselor positions available for grades 6-12. Please contact Marnie at marnie@jewishtoledo.org.



A lost novel from 1943 predicted the Holocaust. Now, it has been recovered.

SHIRA LI BARTOV | JTA

As World War II raged in Europe, Friedrich Torberg, an Austrian Jew who fled for the United States in 1940, imagined what was befalling the Jews he left behind.

Torberg recorded his image of a German concentration camp in “Mein ist die Rache,” or “Vengeance is Mine,” a novel published in 1943. It was one of the earliest pieces of fiction about the Holocaust, written while the Final Solution was being carried out and decades before the capitalized “Holocaust” entered common parlance.

But Torberg, a budding star on Vienna’s literary scene, was estranged from his destroyed continent when the book came out in Los Angeles. Though acclaimed in his small circle of German emigrés, the book was never published in English. It soon went out of print and fell into obscurity.

That is until now. The first English translation of “Vengeance is Mine” was published in late March by Boiler House Press, based at the University of East Anglia, as part of a series dedicated to forgotten books. It was translated by Stephanie Gorell Ortega.

“When I came across it, I thought, ‘My gosh, this sounds so fascinating,’” said Brad Bigelow, who edits the “Recovered Books” series. “How is that this book never got translated and it just got

overlooked?”

Torberg’s novella, set in November 1940, opens with a nameless narrator waiting on a New Jersey pier for a ship carrying friends from Europe. For the fourth time, he sees a haggard man who waits there each day and leaves each day alone. That man explains he is waiting, not for one or two people, but for 75 Jews who never arrive.

As they speak at a bar, this man becomes the second narrator. He tells of his time in the fictional Heidenburg concentration camp, where the commandant, Hermann Wagenseil, tortures Jewish prisoners one by one. Wagenseil’s method is to isolate a prisoner, philosophically lay out his reasons for liquidating the Jews, and physically and mentally drive each man to the point of taking his own life.

In the “Jew Barracks,” the prisoners debate their own philosophies about how to respond to their systematic destruction. They ask whether God intends them to surrender to their fate, leaving vengeance in His hands, or to attempt saving themselves.

Torberg himself was never in a concentration camp. He was in Prague when the Germans marched into Austria in 1938. He continued to evade them in France, and then, when France surrendered to Germany, fled through Spain and Portugal. He obtained a visa for the United States through the

Emergency Rescue Committee, a U.S. organization that saved thousands of artists and intellectuals, and ended up in Los Angeles.

For his novella, Torberg could consult reports from eyewitnesses who escaped camps in the 1930s. But his fictional camp predicted what would not be fully understood until later — how Nazi ideology produced a system of mass extermination, not only through what came to be known as an “industrial” genocide of gas chambers, but also through the immense repetition of personal, intimate murders.

“Torberg saw the logical end of where the Nazis were going with their repression of the Jews,” Bigelow said. “It did go that way, but he didn’t know that it was going that way. Nobody knew that it was going to be 6 million, that it would be such a massive program, sucking up Jews all over occupied Europe.”

Like the man waiting for the ship that never comes, Torberg could not know who would survive. While he was writing the book, he was losing at least 15 members of his family, including his mother and sister.

“Mein ist die Rache” was first published by Pazifische Presse, a small German exile press in Santa Monica that existed from 1942 to 1948. Pazifische Presse published authors who were persecuted by the Nazis, among them international giants such as Thomas

Mann, Franz Werfel and Alfred Döblin.

Torberg’s book was lauded by other exiled intellectuals. Erich Maria Remarque, the author of “All Quiet on the Western Front” and a friend of Torberg’s, called it “electrifying.” Alma Mahler-Werfel, the Austrian composer and socialite, said she read it “with feverish excitement and, at the end, with great satisfaction.” But its circulation dwindled around 2,000 copies.

In 1947, a Viennese publisher released it for the first time in Europe. Again the book was praised by critics, but readers showed meager interest and it fell out of print.

The years after World War II saw the genre of Holocaust literature emerge as a complex outgrowth of survivor testimonies. Nearly two decades after “Vengeance is Mine,” Elie Wiesel’s “Night” was published in the United States in 1960. But it was only decades later that “Night” sold millions of copies and became a cornerstone of Holocaust education in U.S. schools.

Bigelow hopes that now, through an English translation, “Vengeance is Mine” will finally have its moment to resonate with American readers.

“I think in the context of what’s going on in the United States right now, it’s an important book in raising that question about resistance to oppression,” said Bigelow.

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The Meijer **Simply Give** campaign runs

Sunday, March 29 through

Saturday, June 27

at the Central Avenue store, which benefits the Jewish Senior, Family & Social Services Family Food Pantry

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

Make your dollars go ever further!

Double Match Day

Saturday, June 20

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

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





Ahava program
For families of individuals
with special needs

Ahava is a program of the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo that is managed by Jewish Senior, Family and Social Services and has provided a lifeline since 2016 to Jewish families in Greater Toledo who are raising children with special needs and simply want to be able to access the best care possible for their children.

Through Ahava, Federation awards local Jewish families an annual scholarship of up to \$1,500 for each child, no matter their age, to put toward the cost of therapies such as speech therapy and music therapy, equipment, medical supplies, continuing education for parents on raising children with special needs, and other resources that help positively impact individuals and their families.

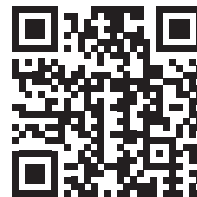
For more information about Ahava, please contact Ben Malczewski at ben@jewishtoledo.org or 419-885-2561.

GO PAPER LESS

TOLEDO Jewish News

Want to opt out of the Toledo Jewish News print version? The newspaper is posted online every month (often earlier than the mail) and always FREE to read on your smart phone, computer, or tablet. Stay up-to-date on the latest of Jewish Toledo at www.jewishtoledo.org/about-us/tjnff.

To opt out, mail Abby Hoicowitz at abby@jewishtoledo.org with your name and address, and we'll remove you from the mail list. Thanks for helping us save the planet!



READ TJN ONLINE HERE

JSFSS Family Pantry

Wish List

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

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

Contact Hannah Loeser
(419) 724- 0401

HOW TO CONTACT JSFSS

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

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

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

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

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

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

jewishtoledo.org/jfs



Get Fit Classes

Monday

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

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

Cardio Drumming, 12-1pm

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

Wednesday

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

(see description above)

Ballet Fusion, 12-1pm

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

Friday

Zumba, 9-10am

Foundation Fitness, 10am-11am

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 Sylvania-area location. Contact Hannah at 419-724-0401 for exact location.*



* For the safety and security of our community, the location of all events will be shared with registrants prior to the event.

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



YouTube



Tech Time with Tim

TIM HAGEN
 ✉ tim@jewishtoledo.org

This month's tech newsletter post is appropriately brief with an emphasis on the value of slowing down. I'd like to highlight the values (some may be subtle, others overt) of analog technology. That is, pre-digital, pre-smart technology.

During May I challenge you to devote time to look at the tech that may surround you at home and make extra efforts to be mindful of devices considered "low tech."

Right, these devices may take the shape of radios. Perhaps film cameras. Maybe an old slide projector, an LP record player, or even an older car. While using these, what limitations do they have... and what do they require from you that may be different than, say, a modern device?

And on the flip side, what benefits may these devices give that modern

conveniences don't? What might you like better about them? How might they challenge you or affect you differently?

Be well and enjoy slowing down during the month of May. And as always, please contact me with any questions tech-related. Good luck and until next month! Tim

DISCLAIMER

Letters, commentaries, opinions and advertisements appearing in the Toledo Jewish News reflect the views and thoughts of the writer and/or advertiser and do not necessarily represent the opinions or views of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, its board of directors, officers or employees unless explicitly stated.

Device Advice programs are held on Wednesdays 11 a.m.-noon

Upcoming Tech Programs

1. **May 6: Avoiding Online Scams**
2. **May 27: Accessibility Features on Mobile Devices**

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

* For the safety and security of our community, the location of all events will be shared with registrants prior to the event.

Tim Hagen
 Project Manager and
 Technology Coordinator
 Jewish Senior, Family and
 Social Services
 Jewish Federation of Greater
 Toledo
 [T] 419-724-0412

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**May 1 at 6pm
Shabbat Service**
with Steve Kramer & Becca Weingarden
The Shabbat ensemble will be singing at this lay-led Shabbat service.

**May 8 at 6pm
Shabbat Service**
with Rabbi Lisa Delson & Dr. Andrew Pelletier

**May 9 at 10:30am
Zoe Thaler Bat Mitzvah**

**May 15 at 6pm
Shabbat Unplugged**
with Rabbi Lisa Delson & Cantor Jen Roher
Join for a send-off and blessing for our High School Seniors.

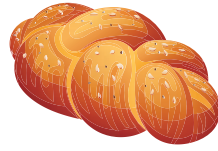
**May 16 at 10:30am
Meira Miller Bat Mitzvah**

**May 21 at 5:30pm
Shavuot Yizkor Service**
Join us for a moment of memory ahead of Shavuot. All names of those we lost this past year will be read. A congregational dinner and the Confirmation service to follow.

**May 21 at 7pm
Confirmation**
Celebrate with six of our students who have chosen to cap off their formal Jewish learning with Confirmation.

**May 22 at 6pm
Shabbat Service**
with Cantor Jen Roher & Dr. Andrew Pelletier

**May 29 at 6pm
Shabbat Service**
with Rabbi Lisa Delson and the Shabbat Ensemble



Pre-Shabbat Challah Bake

May 8 at 5:15pm
Come early to services to braid your own challah. After it bakes, you will take home a warm challah for your Shabbat table. RSVP to Aiden in the office by April 30. One challah per group, 15 challahs available.



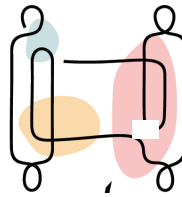
Day of Service

May 17
11am picnic
11:30am projects



Current Events

Thursday, May 28 at 2pm with Rabbi Delson
Discuss how issues in the world today affect our community.



Torah Today

Saturday, May 30 at 9:30am
An interactive discussion on the Torah portion for the week. Bagels and coffee are served. No experience necessary. Everyone is welcome.



Tuesdays with Morrie

- reading
A story about life, friendship, and facing loss will come to the Temple as Actors Collaborative Toledo presents *Tuesdays with Morrie*. The two-person reading, featuring John Duvall and Paul Causman, will bring the beloved memoir to life in the Temple Chapel on **Thursday, April 30 and May 2 at 7:30pm, and Sunday, May 3 at 3pm**. Tickets are available at act419.org. A portion of the proceeds will go to support ALS research.

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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

WEEKLY SERVICES SCHEDULE *except during holidays

- Monday & Thursday Morning Minyan: 8:00 AM - IP/ZM
- Monday - Thursday Afternoon Minyan & Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: 5:45 PM - ZM
- Saturday Morning Shabbat: 9:30 AM - IP/LS
- Saturday Mincha Service: 12:45 PM (after Kiddush Luncheon) - IP/LS
- Sunday Morning Minyan: 9:30 AM - IP/ZM

All CBI programs and religious services are open to the members of all local congregations & guests 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 during office hours.

Blintz Bonanza! Cooking Demo with Mary Bilyeu
Sunday, May 3, 2026, 11:30 AM at CBI

Cost \$12: cash/check to CBI will be collected at the door
RSVP to kbrody@cbitoledo.org by Apr. 24th. Space is limited to the first 15 people who RSVP. Open to all CBI members.

Lag B'Omer Light "Campfire" Dinner & Bonfire

Monday, May 4, 2026, 6:30 PM at CBI

Join us for a quick Mincha service followed a light meal of hot dogs, chips, and pareve s'mores in front of an open fire on the CBI patio.
Adults: \$10, Children under 13 & CBI RS Students: FREE
Reservations required. RSVP to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by May. 1st.

Connecting Kids to Meals

Thursday, May 14, 2026 10 AM - 12 PM
Cherry Street Mission Building, 1501 Monroe St.
RSVP to programming@cbitoledo.org by May 13th.

**Parashat Hashavuah:
Torah Portion of the Week Discussion**

Fridays at 11:00 AM at CBI
Except on Jewish holidays or otherwise notified

CBI Office Closings

Fri. May 22 Closed Shavuot Day 1
Mon. May 25 Closed Memorial Day

Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Dinner & Religious School Confirmation

Friday, May 8, 2026, 6:00 PM at CBI

Join us for in-person Shabbat Ma-ariv services with participation from our Religious School students and confirmands followed by a delicious dinner.

Adults: \$18, Children under 13 & CBI RS Students: FREE

Reservations required. RSVP to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by May. 1st.

CBI Adult Ed: with Heidi Meyer

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 10:30 AM at CBI

Join us as high school teacher, Heidi Meyer, discusses how she teaches Holocaust education to her class. Meyer's "unwavering commitment to combating ignorance with knowledge and fostering empathy" earned her the Shine a Light on Antisemitism Civic Courage Award, a national award presented by The Jewish Education Project. She is one of two high school educators from across the nation and one of two Ohioans to receive the prestigious award for 2024.

RSVP to Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org or call the office at 419.517.8400 by May. 12th.

Canasta & Mahjong at CBI

Canasta: Tuesdays at 12:30 PM
Mahjong: Thursdays at 12:30 PM

RSVP for Canasta to Rhoda Miller at rmiller@cbitoledo.org.
RSVP for Mahjong to Miriam Beckerman at wcbi@cbitoledo.org.

2026 SHAVUOT TIKKUN & DINNER with Rabbi Marsh

Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM at CBI

Cost is \$12 per person for the dairy dinner. Children under 13 & Religious School Students: FREE
Reservations required for the dinner. Contact Kim Brody at kbrody@cbitoledo.org by May 14th.

IP - In Person ZM - Zoom LS - Live Stream

Thursday, May 21: Erev Shavuot & Tikkun

7:00 PM Mincha - IP/LS
7:15 PM Dairy Dinner
8:00 PM SHAVUOT TIKKUN - IP
9:15 PM Maariv - IP/LS
9:45 PM Kiddush & Dessert

Friday, May 22: Shavuot Day 1

9:30 AM Morning Service - IP/LS
5:45 PM Mincha Service - IP/LS

Saturday, May 23: Shabbat/Shavuot Day 2

9:30 AM Morning Service - IP/LS
10:45 AM YIZKOR - IP/LS
12:45 PM Afternoon Service - IP/LS

SAVE THE DATE: CBI Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 7, 2026 11:00 AM, at CBI
Refreshments will be served.

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

Ongoing Adult Ed Classes

All classes are in-person at CBI and on Zoom.
Go to cbitoledo.org and scroll down to events for details.

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAYIM

WEDNESDAY WITH FRIENDS PROGRAM

Come meet Roy Büchler, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Director. Roy will share a more detailed look about his experiences and background. Join us on Wednesday, May 13 at 10 a.m.

SHABBAT WEEKEND PLANNED

Everyone is invited to meaningful Yom Yerushalayim Shabbat weekend on May 15 and 16 as we welcome back Rabbi Jason Mark. The weekend will begin on Friday evening with a special pre-Shabbat dinner and themed program, setting the tone for reflection and celebration. The cost for dinner is \$18 per person. On Shabbat morning there will be uplifting services followed by a Kiddush luncheon, offering time to connect, learn, and honor the spirit of Jerusalem together. We hope you will join us for this Inspiring and memorable weekend.

POKER AND MAHJ GAMES

A favorite activity for a Sunday morning is poker and mahj. Come join us on Sunday, May 17 and May 31 from 10 a.m.-noon. Everyone is welcome to join the games and fun. Email either Marc Jacobson at mdjaco@gmail.com or Nancy Jacobson at Jaco824@bex.com if you are interested.

PRE-SHAVUOT EVENING PLANNED

Join us for a meaningful and fun pre-Shavuot evening featuring Minyan, a light dinner, and a Shavuot Jeopardy game! The program will take place on Wednesday, May 20, beginning with Minyan at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a \$5 pre-Shavuot light dinner as we come together in preparation for Shavuot. Don't miss this evening!

SISTERHOOD NEWS

An exciting program planned for May 6 is a visit and tour of the Tiny Hooves Farm in Sylvania where we will learn about this non-profit farm. This farm supports grief, loss and healing using cows and sheep.

Looking ahead to June, a closing luncheon is planned featuring the Installation of the new the Sisterhood officers for the upcoming year, The Sisterhood will also be honoring the Etz Chayim synagogue staff. More information will be forthcoming.

ETZ CHAYIM BOOK CLUB

Following a very stimulating and fun initial meeting of the Congregation Etz Chayim Book Club, the second Book Club meeting will take place on Sunday, June 7 at 10 a.m. The location will be announced prior to the date.

Margie Siegel will lead the discussion about a wonderful book, *Elephant Company*, by Vicki Croke. Please RSVP to Nancy Jacobson if you plan to attend.

ETZ CHAYIM FAMILY PICNIC PLANNED

Save the Date! August 23 at 5:30 p.m. Etz Chayim is excited to announce its 2nd Annual Family Picnic & Karaoke Day happening this August! Last year was an incredible success—filled with amazing singing, scrumptious food, and the joy of being together. We're bringing all that fun back (and even more!) this year, and we'd love for you to join us again. More details are coming soon, but for now... mark your calendars!

JOINT SYNAGOGUE BOOK CLUB MEETING PLANNED

The annual Joint Synagogue Book Club luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21 at noon at Temple Shomer Emunim. The cost is \$10 per person. The book being reviewed is *Heart of a Stranger*, by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl. Copies are available at the Toledo Lucas County Library.

PLEASE NOTE: All Zoom, virtual, and in-person programs require registration. You can contact either Nancy Jacobson at Jaco824@bex.net or Elsa Leveton at 419-473-2401 or elsa@etzchayimtoledo.org for further information and registration.

CHABAD HOUSE



Chabad of Toledo invites you to our **LAG BAOMER BBQ & YEAR END CELEBRATION** **TUESDAY, MAY 5 | 5:00 PM**

HONORING THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE VOLUNTEERS FOR A YEAR OF DEDICATION

FEATURING: **TEAM ZOOM ANIME ENTERTAINMENT**

- BBQ DINNER MUSIC
- ENTERTAINMENT
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RSVP: chabadtoledo.com/lagbaomer
*Free for FC Volunteers & Gan Izzy Club Members



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TUESDAY, MAY 12
12:00 PM at Chabad House

RSVP: Lennycares@chabadtoledo.com or 419-843-9393



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



CHABAD OF TOLEDO INVITES YOU TO celebrate **SHAVUOT**

FRIDAY, MAY 22ND | 5:00 PM

READING OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS FOLLOWED BY DAIRY DINNER & ICE CREAM

THURSDAY, MAY 21

ALL NIGHT LEARNING at the Shemtov home - Call for address and start time

FRIDAY, MAY 22

10:30 AM MORNING SERVICES
11:15 AM TORAH READING & READING OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

SHABBAT, MAY 23

10:00 AM MORNING SERVICES FOLLOWED BY KIDDUSH LUNCH

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

CLASSIFIEDS

It is easy to run a classified ad in *Toledo Jewish News!*
First 12 words - \$8, \$0.10 per additional word. *Phone numbers and abbreviations count as separate words.* Ads must be received by the 15th of the month.

Simply email your ad and billing information to abby@JewishToledo.org or call 419-724-0423 for more information.

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

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 A Legacy of Loyalty

A month after our synagogue was attacked, the hardest part has been everything that came after

JASON PLOTKIN | JTA

It has been a month since March 12 and there is a story unfolding at Temple Israel that most people would not be aware of.

It's not the headlines or the immediate aftermath — it's the quiet, complicated reality of daily life that followed for our families, our faculty, staff and clergy. We are living it every day.

For many parents, the preschool's closure from the moment our building was rammed by a truck on the afternoon of March 12 through our anticipated reopening off-site in the coming days has meant scrambling to figure out something no one planned for: a full month of unexpected childcare.

Yes, spring break — aligned with the Passover holiday — was already on the calendar. But that still left weeks of disruption layered on top of already busy lives. It hasn't been easy.

And yet amid that challenge, something beautiful has happened. Businesses and community members stepped up. Playdates and functions were organized across the metro Detroit area. Families found ways to gather, to support one another, to create moments of community even when nothing felt normal.

As our clergy have shared multiple times since the events of March 12, Temple Israel does not only exist

within walls — it lives in how we show up for each other.

Our faculty are feeling it, too. They want closure to the school year. They want to be with their students for those final weeks of the school year, the moments that matter, that bring meaning and completion.

The faculty and staff of our preschool have been hard at work in recent weeks to finish the year in a different space, outside of the comfort and familiarity that makes Temple Israel feel like home. It will feel different. Some classes will be sharing spaces. The routines for anyone that is in touch with our school will not be the same. There's no way around that.

Behind the scenes, our staff is carrying a burden that many don't fully realize and is a story in itself that our leadership has made efforts to share on why Temple Israel beyond its physical space is not operating as it would on March 12.

More than half of our team was in the building that day. They are not just employees navigating logistics; they are individuals processing trauma. The very people we rely on to keep everything running are, themselves, deeply affected.

While some have jumped at the work to keep their minds occupied, others struggle with the thought of interacting with other people or wrestling with the idea of how working in a different space will feel.



▲ Law enforcement vehicles are seen parked outside Temple Israel guarding the scene in West Bloomfield, Michigan, on March 13, 2026, after an person identified as Ayman Ghazali drove a vehicle into the building. | Jeff Kowalsky/AFP via Getty Images

Temple Israel was where they felt safest. It was where they understood the rhythm of daily life.

Much like our preschool faculty and children, our clergy and staff are making their way to a temporary facility, as necessary as it is, that doesn't yet hold that same sense of grounding. Knowing that it is "temporary" as we anxiously await to return to our "home" — it never will be.

Along the way, we have done what is important by putting people first. We have done surveys of our staff, we have done listening circles and we have been together to help one another piece together our collective stories.

We have brought in experts who are familiar with working with victims of mass violence and providing additional tools to our lay leaders, faculty, staff and clergy.

We are checking in. We are trying to meet people where they are, knowing that everyone regardless of their role and where they were on March 12 is in a different place.

There is not a single solution or no one-size-fits-all path forward. Just the ongoing work of care, flexibility and compassion.

This is the part of the story that doesn't make headlines.

Insurance can help replace things. It cannot heal people. The real impact of March 12 is showing up in carpools and calendar juggling, in anxious moments and difficult decisions, in resilience and exhaustion all at once. There is no doubt this is a heavy load and there is not a playbook for this.

I have told the faculty and staff that we are not going to be perfect; that we as a community are going to do our best to move forward while still carrying what happened with us forward.

And maybe that's the story worth telling. Not just what happened that day, but what it means to live through the days after — and to keep showing up anyway.

Jason Plotkin is Executive Director of Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, MI.

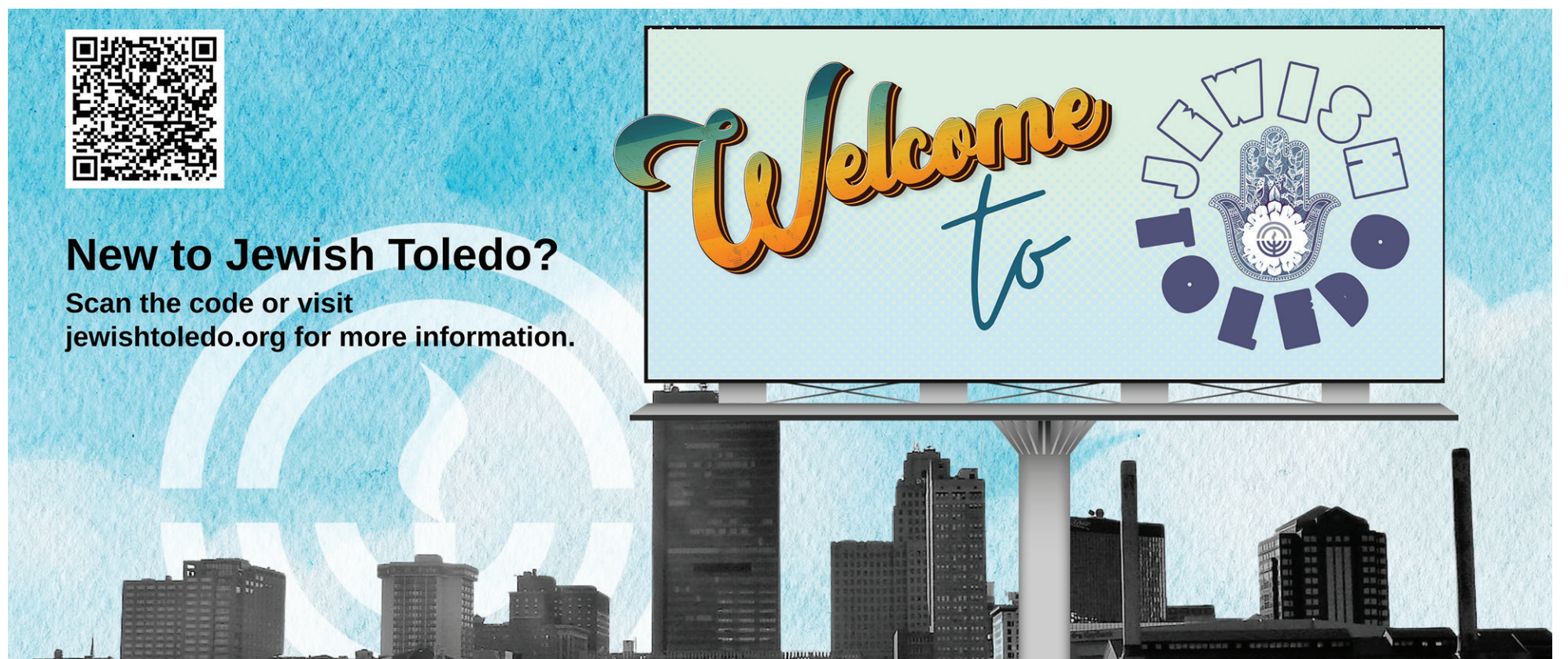
Editor's Note: Written in March to mark a one-month anniversary, this article is published here as part of our regular monthly newspaper schedule and remains timely and meaningful.

"As our clergy have shared multiple times since the events of March 12, Temple Israel does not only exist within walls — it lives in how we show up for each other. Our faculty are feeling it, too. They want closure to the school year. They want to be with their students for those final weeks of the school year, the moments that matter, that bring meaning and completion."

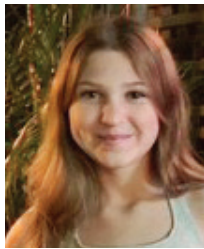
Plotkin



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Bnai Mitzvot

**Meira Miller**

Meira Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Chad and Nehama Miller and younger sister to Ilana and Reagan, is a seventh grader at Anthony Wayne Junior High. She spends her time doing competitive gymnastics for the Gymcats and hanging out with our dog Otis. She loves spending her free time with her friends and spending time at the beach.

**Zoë Thaler**

Zoë Paige Thaler will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 9, 2026. She is the beloved daughter of Deb and Russ Thaler and the cherished sister of Colin and Samuel. Proud grandparents are Lois and Michael Burke of Toledo, Ohio, and Roberta and George Thaler of Manalapan, New Jersey.

An honors student at Timberstone with a passion for hockey, Zoë brings dedication, kindness, and spirit to all she does. In a meaningful tribute, she will honor her friend Charley Bauer by wearing Charley's tallit and using her yad during the ceremony. For her mitzvah project,

Zoë is raising funds and awareness for Tiny Hooves Farm, reflecting her deep commitment to compassion, responsibility, and tikkun olam—repairing the world.

Obituaries

Horwitz, Sanford A. "Sandy"

Sanford A. Horwitz, (Sandy) passed away peacefully at home, at 103 years old, after a rich and full life.

A native Toledoan, Sandy graduated from Scott High School in 1941 and continued his education at the University of Toledo for two years. Always a proud American, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served honorably during World War II. After his military service, Sandy worked alongside his father at Horwitz & Pintis Company, a business established in 1904 to recycle barrels and steel drums. He was delighted when his son returned from college to join him in the family business. They worked together for over 30 years. Sandy remained dedicated to his work and would drive to the office daily into his early 90s.

Sandy was married for 72 years. After their first date at a University of Toledo basketball game, Sandy told his mother that he met the girl he was going to marry. They were engaged three months later. Phyllis (Kaufman) remained the love of his life. They were best friends and partners, sharing love, laughter and many good times together.

Sandy was known for his sense of humor and infectious laughter. Outgoing and sociable, he forged connections with everyone he met, learning their names and family stories—whether they were friends, bank tellers, or store clerks. His genuine interest in people made him a well-known presence in the community. Sandy had season tickets to both the University of Toledo football and basketball games, as well as to the Toledo Mud Hens and the Detroit Tigers. He was a lifelong fan of the University of Michigan.

While he loved sporting events, he derived his greatest pleasure being with family. He felt blessed that two of his three children remained in Toledo and that he had the pleasure of seeing his granddaughters grow up on a daily basis. He never missed any of their sporting events, school performances or recitals. Sandy often said that nothing was more important than family. He was a lifelong member of Temple Shomer Emunim, past president of the Temple Brotherhood, and also served on the boards of the JCC and the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo. Sandy joined the Boy Scouts at age twelve, ultimately becoming an Eagle Scout. After the army he served as a Boy Scout leader

at Troop 37 for over 20 years, mentoring countless scouts. He planned and attended many Jamborees. He was also an avid swimmer and swam into his 90s. Sandy may have held the world record for eating the most latkes during Chanukah from ages 100-102.

Sandy was pre-deceased by his beloved wife, Phyllis. He leaves behind his children, Shelley Horwitz (Andrew Green), Laurie Cohen (Sandy), Steve (Denise), grandchildren Emily Cohen, Gabi Paxton (Tyrell), Dr. Amy Bernstein (Sam), Jess Connor (Ben), great-grandchildren, Ivy and Mia Paxton.

May his memory be a blessing. Donations in Sandy's memory can be made to Temple Shomer Emunim: www.templese.com/contribution or to the Boy Scouts: www.erieshorescouncil.org/donate.

Levey, Lawrence C. "Larry"

Lawrence C. "Larry" Levey, age 92, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2026, at Sinai Healthcare Center in Boca Raton, Florida, after a year-long illness. A longtime resident of Sylvania, Ohio, Larry spent his later years in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Born in Far Rockaway, New York, to Benjamin and Sophie Levey, Larry was a proud graduate of Far Rockaway High School. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and later attended the New York University Graduate School of Business.

Larry enjoyed a distinguished career spanning more than four decades. He began his professional life on Wall Street, where he spent nine years before joining Owens-Illinois Inc. Over 35 years with the company, he rose from sales representative to Vice President of Packaging Operations and Director of Corporate Credit, with responsibilities across multiple divisions including glass container, plastic products, closures, component products, Kimble, and prescription products operations.

Larry was also a proud veteran of the United States Army, serving at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and receiving an honorable discharge. Upon his return home Larry married his high school sweetheart Phyllis. They had two daughters, Alison and Debra. Larry and Phyllis enjoyed their life together making wonderful memories as a couple and a family.

Deeply committed to his community, Larry served as both member and President of the Board of Education for Sylvania Public Schools,

and as member and President of the Board of Directors of Temple Shomer Emunim in Sylvania, Ohio. He also served with the Better Business Bureau of Greater Toledo and as Chairman of the Packaged Product Suppliers Group. In Ohio, he remained active as a member of Stone Oak Country Club. In Florida, he was a member of Ballensles Country Club and served as a board member of the Ballensles Community Association.

In retirement, Larry continued his commitment to service and mentorship. He was a Score mentor here in Toledo, helping entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. Additionally, he was certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a County Mediator and served as a public arbitrator certified by NASD (now FINRA).

Beyond his professional and civic accomplishments, Larry embraced life with energy, warmth, and humor. He was an avid golfer enjoying memberships at Stone Oak Country Club in Ohio and Ballensles Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. He was a dedicated exercise enthusiast, faithfully going to the gym several times a week. Larry loved a good celebration and especially cherished taking to the dance floor with his beloved wife, Phyllis—they were a beautiful couple. Larry enjoyed music, traveling, and most importantly, spending time with his family and friends. He was exceptionally outgoing and loved speaking with everyone he met. He maintained many close friendships and, in his later years, especially enjoyed reconnecting with his high school friends, many of whom had also relocated to Florida, for a monthly lunch gathering.

He was known for his quick wit and warm humor, often recalling how when he was a young boy, on Ladies Day at the Brooklyn Dodger's baseball game, he let his sister dress him like a girl so he could get into the game for a nickel.

He was also a passionate sports enthusiast, cheering loudly and proudly for the University of Michigan despite his daughters being graduates of The Ohio State University and the University of Wisconsin, respectively—creating a spirited and cherished family rivalry. In Florida, the highlight of his grandchildren's visits was riding in Papa's golf cart and enjoying "free" ice cream at the country club—though Papa always reminded them that nothing is ever truly free.

Larry was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 59 years, Phyllis (Nadel) Levey; his parents, Benjamin and Sophie Levey; his sister Harriet Parker; his brother-in-law Tony Parker; and his son-in-law Jeffrey Sherman.

He is survived by his loving daughters, Alison (Sherman) Ahrens (Bryan) and Debra Kamikow (Jeffrey); his cherished grandchildren, Sarah, Joshua, and Jamie Sherman, and Claudia and Evan Kamikow; his adored great-grandchildren, Odin and Jade, who brought immense joy to his life.

Frank Sinatra was one of Larry's favorite singers, and the lyrics of "My Way" reflect a life lived fully:

"And now, the end is near
And so I face the final curtain
My friend, I'll say it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain
I've lived a life that's full
I traveled each and every highway
And more, much more than this, I did it my way."

Dad was our hero, mentor, friend, and family patriarch. He will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Temple Shomer Emunim, The Friendship Circle of Toledo, or The National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

Sheon, Irma Shainberg

Irma Shainberg Sheon, civil rights and social justice advocate, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 7, in her home in Silver Spring, Maryland. She was 92.

Raised in Memphis, Tennessee, and New Madrid, Missouri during the Jim Crow era, Irma developed an early awareness of - and hatred

for - racial injustice. She could not understand why African American adults referred to her as "Miss Irma," while she was required to call these elders by their first name. She found no explanation acceptable and moved to the north at 18 to attend the University of Illinois. She acknowledged racism in the north was not much better, "it just looks different," which inspired her to fight even harder.

Influenced by her mother Rose Shainberg, a human rights activist, Irma dedicated much of her life to advance equal opportunity, combat discrimination and advocate for social justice causes.

After college, she married physician Robert "Bob" Sheon in 1957. The couple later moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he became a leader in rheumatology at the Toledo Clinic and the Medical College of Ohio.

In Toledo, Irma became active in civic and community affairs. She protested the Vietnam war, and was appointed by the Mayor to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, advocating for fair hiring practices and expanded access to jobs. She also worked to establish healthcare and labor rights for migrant farmworkers.

Irma played a key role in Holocaust education efforts in northwest Ohio. As founding director of the Holocaust Resource Center in Toledo, she helped build the institution into a regional resource for teachers and students. She was instrumental in bringing the "Facing History and Ourselves" curriculum to local schools, promoting education about the Holocaust and the dangers of prejudice. She made many lifelong friends, including one whose son needed to find a kidney donor. Irma was a match and gave the gift of her kidney to extend the life of another.

Later in life, she and Robert moved to the Washington, D.C., area to be closer to grandchildren and continue her advocacy and philanthropic work.

Throughout her life, Irma wrote countless letters to advance social interests. In 1967, she wrote the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* demanding an end to segregating readership by unnecessarily listing the Negro race of certain victims of fire or crime ("It is 1967, after all!"). At age 80, she used social media to garner support to end the practice of gerrymandering and published 12 letters to the editor in the Washington Post on the topic.

Among her passions were spending time with her children and grandchildren, reading, and the Washington Nationals (she once covered her wedding day picture with an image of Bryce Harper). Her SPOC mantra (Stay Positive, Optimistic, and Calm) guided her every day.

Her death certificate aptly lists her occupation as "social justice warrior." She is survived by her three children, Sarah Gerecke (husband Jeff Gerecke; grandchildren Renata Gerecke and Claudia Gerecke); Amy Sheon (grandchildren Zachary Krislov, Jesse Krislov, and Evie Krislov), and David Sheon (wife Michal Fishman; grandchildren Nathan Sheon and Lila Stith, and great grandchild Rosemary Stith).

Donations may be made to the Equal Justice Initiative <https://ejj.org/>

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"This year has meant so much to me, and I have found my sense of purpose through Hillel419. It is a place where I feel welcomed, supported, and able to fully express who I am. Being part of this group my last three years has made my college experience so special, and I am so grateful for the connections and memories we've created together."
- Ella Schlaeger, BGSU



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