

# JEWISH YOUNGSTOWN AREA JOURNAL

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## SUMMER EDITION 2025 TAMMUZ - ELUL 5785



### JCC ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Thirty five teams played in this year's golf classic. Pictured from left are Andrew Solomon, golf committee chair; Kevin Fay; Richie Fitch; and Rich Fitch.

*page 13*

## NOVA BUS TRIP

These shoes were abandoned during the attack on the Nova Music Festival on October 7. It is unknown if the owners of these shoes were killed, taken hostage, or survived the terrorist attack.

*pages 10-12*



**WE STAND  WITH ISRAEL**

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

July 25 .....	8:28 p.m.	August 22 .....	7:53 p.m.
August 1 .....	8:21 p.m.	August 29 .....	7:42 p.m.
August 8 .....	8:12 p.m.	September 5 .	7:30 p.m.
August 15 .....	8:03 p.m.		

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## LISA'S LONG VIEW

### Are You Really Jewish?

A Message From Lisa Long  
Federation Chief Executive Officer

I can't tell you how many times I've been asked this during my life. In my mostly Jewish hometown of Highland Park, Ill., I towered over most of the kids my age, and my red hair, freckles, and translucent skin stood out next to my petite, dark skinned, dark haired, dark eyed parents and brother. When I joined the Federation, I felt like I should carry around my naming, Bat Mitzvah, and wedding paperwork as proof of my identity as I was often questioned about it.

I've always known I was adopted and born to a Jewish mother but didn't know much more about the generations before her. That changed when I made my first trip to Israel in 2018. Despite being questioned throughout my whole life and, many times, being made to feel "less

Jewish" than others, I immediately had this sense of being at home, belonging. The experience was such a pivotal point in my Jewish identity and also made me, as an adopted child, very curious about my background.

From Israel I ordered a "23 & Me" kit. When I got back the results, there wasn't any Jewish DNA. This discovery prompted me to question my birth family's history. Turns out, in 1960 a woman named Florence was married to a law student when she became pregnant with her fifth child. She and her husband knew they didn't have the resources to raise the child in the way they wanted. Despite being Irish Catholic, Florence had a great affinity for the Jewish people, so she entered the synagogue in

her neighborhood and asked the Rabbi to help her find a Jewish family to raise her child. The Rabbi knew of a couple in his congregation who had just lost a child and were looking to adopt. Once the baby was born; she was adopted by this couple, who named her Judith Ann Bloom and raised her in a Jewish home.

Eighteen years later, Judy got pregnant while in high school. She knew she couldn't give her baby the life she wanted but wanted her child to be raised in a Jewish home. A few months after I was born, Judy put her baby, me, up for adoption. Just after my adoption, my parents, Susan and Zane Chait, had me named, Leah Melcah, by the same Rabbi who would later perform my Bat Mitzvah and our wedding.

Those 23 & Me results were a shock, but my identity as a Jewish woman wasn't shaken. One of the reasons was the strong Jewish upbringing I had. The other was the involvement my children and I have with our Federation.

As CEO, I want to make sure our Federation creates that strong sense of belonging and identity for all of our community members. We are a small community, and I feel it's even more important here than in the big cities for our children to feel proud of their heritage so they

will follow in our footsteps and keep this community alive. The most involved Jews in our community can start as someone some wouldn't consider "really Jewish." We need to stop judging what is "Jewish." It's harmful for creating a unified community. Being Jewish looks different for every Jew. We need to work to create and sustain a community that meets people where they are and evolves... because WE REALLY ARE JEWISH!



Lisa Long meeting her birth mom, Judy Kestler, in Chicago in 1999.



## NANCY'S NOTES

### Summer

By Nancy Burnett

The lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are upon us. Our youth are enjoying camps, swimming, and sports as we adults tend to golf and gardening always with an eye to weather reports. (We Ohioans are used to heat advisories, storm warnings, and air quality alerts.) June was filled with strawber-

ries and roses, now followed by an abundance of tomatoes and zucchini.

My father loved gardening. He would come home from work, change his clothes, and head outside. He had a green thumb and took great pride in our rose garden. We had fruits and vegetables year round due to our big garden

and my mother and grandmother canning and freezing all the produce. My kids grew up going to their house to help with the garden. Only now do they appreciate those days, and although they don't have the three acres Gramma and Grampa did, they each have their own gardens. There is something very satisfying about knowing from where our food comes.

Although I appreciate being blessed with abundance, I feel guilt at being able to go to my local grocery store or farm market and choose what I want for a meal knowing that others are far less fortunate. While I bemoan the cost of a loaf of bread, others would find one loaf of bread life sustaining.

While the world continues to erupt in chaos, I long for those days of seeming peace and tranquility, when my

biggest worry was if it would rain or if we needed to water the garden.

But, of course, there was plenty of chaos in the 50s, 60s, and 70s of my youth. I just choose to remember only the good times. Maybe that's the benefit of aging—selective memories.

Life itself is fragile, and we must find a way to appreciate each new day as a gift and seek ways to alleviate the suffering of others, even in small ways.

I continue to hope for peace and prosperity, for a world in which we humans take care of each other. I continue to give thanks for my family and friends, and I continue to nourish my garden just as G-d nourishes His world.

Enjoy a summer of peace, love, and joy, and continue to nourish the world around us all.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504-1314  
**Phone** 330.746.3250  
**Fax** 330.746.7926  
**Email** journal@jewishyoungstown.org

**Publisher** Lisa Long  
**Editor** Elise Skolnick  
**Advertising Director** Phyllis Friedman  
**Copy Editor** Jamie Battles  
**Layout & Design** Chris Spence  
**Staff Writer** Olivia Miller  
**Staff Writer** Kasey Sheridan  
**Ad Sales** Talia Hagler

The Jewish Journal is a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and has received major grants from the Schermer Trust, the Maurice and Florence Lipscher Charitable Trust, and ZOA.

August 19 is the deadline for articles and ads for the Rosh Hashanah Issue. Submissions may be edited for length and/or clarity. The Jewish Journal does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.

The Jewish Journal is now accepting opinion columns. Send submissions to journal@jewishyoungstown.org as a Word document. Include name and contact information. Acceptance is at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for clarity.

Federation leaders participate in D.C. Fly-Ins

Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation executive director, community relations/government affairs, participated in the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber 2025 Washington, D.C., Fly-In. The group was able to kick things off on day one in the Members Room of the Library of Congress and meet with a variety of leaders including U.S. Reps. Max Miller, Michael Rulli, Emilia Sykes, Dave Joyce and Dave Taylor as well as Tim Monahan of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Day two began in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room at the Russell Senate Office Building and heard from U.S. Sens. Bernie Moreno and Jon Husted; and former U.S. Rep. Steve Southerland, partner and senior vice president at Capitol Hill Consulting Group.

Lisa Long, Youngstown Area Jewish

Federation CEO, participated in an emergency leadership fly-in to Washington, D.C., hosted by Jewish Federations of North America. The event brought together more than 300 leaders from across the Jewish Federation system.

Together, they advocated for a six-point policy plan that includes increasing the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to \$1 billion annually, providing federal assistance to local law enforcement to protect Jewish institutions, offering federal support for the growing personnel costs Jewish communities are forced to bear, regulating social media hate speech and incitement of violence, expanding FBI resources to combat domestic terrorism, and enforcing and prosecuting existing hate crime legislation. The group was able to specifically lobby Rulli, Joyce, Miller, Moreno, and Husted.



Youngstown Area Jewish Federation leaders recently lobbied in Washington, D.C. Pictured from left are Bill Johnson, Youngstown State University president; U.S. Sen. Jon Husted; Lisa Long, Federation CEO; and Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Federation executive director, community relations/government affairs.

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# BOWLING WITH BROTHERHOOD

 CONGREGATION  
OHEV BETH SHOLOM

## WESTSIDE BOWL JULY 27 | 3:30PM

2617 Mahoning Ave | Youngstown, OH 44509

OBS Brotherhood will be hosting its first meeting and is inviting the entire congregation to enjoy an afternoon of bowling, games and fun at WESTSIDE BOWL. Brotherhood will hold a **short and hopefully productive meeting at approximately 3:45**. Everyone, regardless of gender or gender identity, is invited to attend to listen and share ideas. We will have membership forms available for those of you who are still on the fence about joining.

We'll discuss **Rededication Weekend, fundraising ideas**, and **Sunday Fundays** - starting in the fall to coincide with Religious School.

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

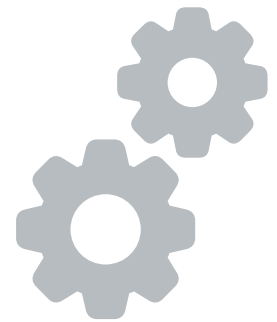
**~ RSVP HERE ~**

<https://www.ohevbethsholom.org/event/brotherhood-at-west-side-bowl.html>  
 or call the office at 330.744.5001

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## Annual donor luncheon held

El Emeth Sisterhood celebrated its 53rd Annual Donor Luncheon in May. Debbi Grinstein served as chair. Over 40 members and guests attended the luncheon catered by Jeff Chrystal Catering.

Laura Silverman was honored for her many years as chairperson of the Judaica Shop. Guests enjoyed a dance demonstration by dancers from Fred Astaire Studios.



*Sisterhood members (from left) Terry Roth, Elayne Rusnak, Bobby Pazol, and Lenore Ackerman enjoyed the donor lunch and festivities.*



*Debbi Grinstein, Sarah Wilschek, Terri Anderson, Harriet Schor, and Lisa Mirman catch up at the donor luncheon.*



*Laura Silverman was honored as Judaica Shop chair. She is pictured with her husband, Phillip, and daughters, Cameron and Addison.*

## TEMPLE EL EMETH EVENTS

**Dr. Alana Cooper, Abba Hillel Silver Chair of Jewish Studies and CWRU, will speak on the “Bucharan Jews of Central Asia” - Sunday, July 27**

**Indoor Outdoor Picnic - Sunday, August 10**

**Shabbat Service at Levy Gardens Evening - Friday, August 22**

**Shabbat Service and Luncheon honoring security guards Scott Stenglen and Tyler Thaxton for their years of dedication to providing security for our Synagogue - Saturday, August 30.**

*Please call the Synagogue for detailed information on these programs.*

*Erev Shabbat services take place each week at 5:45 p.m. Shabbat morning services begin at 10:00 a.m. each week. Guests wishing to attend are asked to please call the TEE office in advance to register. Guests' names will be placed on a list for security officers.*



The Ohio State University  
**MeshugaNotes**

are coming to Temple El Emeth  
 Sunday, October 26, 2025 | 1:00 pm



Founded in 1999, the MeshugaNotes were Ohio State's first a cappella group on campus. Affectionately known as the "Shugs," this energetic group has won over audiences around the region with its spirited performances. Their repertoire includes Israeli folk and popular songs, Yiddish tunes, OSU spirit songs, and contemporary English pop songs.

No charge to attend. Dessert reception to follow.

Advanced reservations are required.  
 Call El Emeth at 330-759-1429.



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### OUTREACH SERVICES

Our outreach coordinator and social workers welcome the opportunity to talk with elders and their families.

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## Heritage Manor celebrates Skilled Nursing Care Week

Heritage Manor Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation celebrated Skilled Nursing Care Week with a variety of activities for staff and residents.

They kicked off the week by wearing their favorite pajamas and participating in a happy hour. Following that they wore patriotic, mismatched, retro, and sports team attire on various days and enjoyed root beer floats, a food truck, and Handel's ice cream. They wrapped up the week with a carnival and a chance

to pie Dave Stauffer, Federation CFO; Shane Baldwin, Senior Living director of operations; and Eric Murray, execu-

utive director of senior services, in the face.

"We look forward to celebrating Skilled Nursing Care Week each year,"

Baldwin said. "It gives us a chance to show our appreciation to our staff and residents. Working/living in a nursing home can be tough, but this week allows us to have a little extra fun. The themed days and special activities really bring the staff and residents closer."

The annual national observance celebrates the essential role that

skilled nursing care plays in providing safe and effective care for millions of individuals each year.

*"It gives us a chance to show our appreciation to our staff and residents."*

*Working/living in a nursing home can be tough, but this week allows us to have a little extra fun."*

Shane Baldwin



During Skilled Nursing Care Week, many residents and staff painted sections of a community art project, a collaborative art piece that is now hanging in Heritage Manor's multipurpose room. Pictured is Mary Jane Vanches.

## Bus gets makeover



The bus that provides transportation for Adult Day Services at Heritage Manor clients, made possible by the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, Trumbull Memorial Health Foundation, and The Senator Maurice and Florence Lipscher Charitable Fund, recently got a makeover.

## 'Our Gang' cruises in Pittsburgh

Our Gang participants recently enjoyed an excursion on the Gateway Clipper out of Pittsburgh for a sightseeing cruise. "Our Gang" is a Jewish Family Services social group for adults with disabilities. They participate in a variety of activities and outings once or twice a month.



Pictured from left are Cathy Nehlen, Jewish Family Community Services service coordinator/passport counselor; Jenny Chaney; Ben Moody; and Barb Wilson, JCC director of cultural arts & Jewish engagement.



## Car show at Adult Day Services



Adult Day Services at Heritage Manor clients enjoyed a classic car show in honor of Father's Day. Clients enjoyed live music and Kona Ice as they admired the vintage cars on display. Pictured from left is Albert Williams, Jr., Calvin Shelton, and Rose Jordan.

## Federation annual meeting to be held Aug. 20

The annual meeting of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation will be at 7 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Jewish Community Center's Logan Campus. A Zoom option is available.

A reception with heavy appetizers, cash bar, and live acoustic sounds by Stellare Strings will be at 6 p.m. The cost of the pre-party is \$10 per person.

Stellare Strings is a locally based string performance organization that is composed of the region's top string players and offers easy access to live string performances. Stellare Strings has performed in various settings such as weddings, corporate events, galas, recitals, and concerts in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Akron, and Youngstown. The players of Stellare Strings offer a range of styled performances, from classical to rock, jazz, and folk. At the pre-party their music will feature songs by famous Jewish artists.

Awards will be presented as follows:

- Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award - Nancy Wagner
- Abe Harshman Leadership Award - Howard Sniderman
- Marvin & Sara Itts Community Service Award - Paul and Yetta Gluck
- Suzi Kooperman Youth Leadership Award - Doron Sigler
- A new award, Ally of the Year, will be presented to Pastor Juan Rivera.

Elections of Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board members will also be held. The nominating committee of the Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board, Alice Franklin, chair, submitted Michael Barr and Lee Burdman as candidates for terms ending in 2028.

RSVP by Aug. 15 to Nancy Sentelik at [nsentelik@jewishyoungstown.org](mailto:nsentelik@jewishyoungstown.org) or 330.746.3250 ext. 108.

## J. NEWMAN LEVY SPEAKER SERIES

### PARADISE LOST: JEWISH VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE



Many Jews are unaware that Judaism supports one of the most uplifting beliefs in all of religion, namely, that this life is not all there is. With Rabbi Frank Muller, we will consider the plausibility of these different approaches and the value these beliefs may have for our present lives.

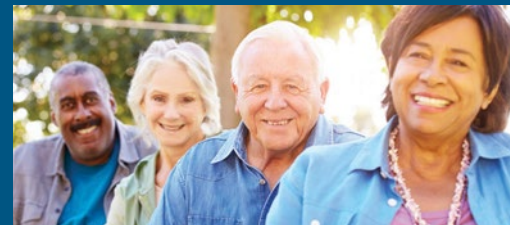
**Monday, August 11 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.**

All J. Newman Levy Speaker Series events are for participants ages 18 and older. Admission is free and will take place in the JCC Multi-Purpose Room. A meal is included. Register for this event by August 6 at [jccyoungstown.org/newmanlevyseries](http://jccyoungstown.org/newmanlevyseries) or by calling Director of Cultural Arts & Jewish Engagement Barb Wilson at 330.746.3250 ext. 106.



The J. Newman Levy Speaker Series features a variety of inspirational members of the Jewish community, including comedians, professors, historians, and more!

## SENIOR LIVING by Youngstown Area Jewish Federation



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## New home for community-supported ATV

The ATV funded by the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and other Youngstown area organizations and community members, collectively called the Greater Youngstown Friends of United Hatzalah has made a move—from the rugged hills of northern Galilee to the beautiful, wide-ranging terrain of the Carmel region, with its mountains, valleys, and beaches. It's now the new go-to default vehicle for emergency rescues in the tough-to-reach places.

The ATV is built to traverse off-road trails, climb steps, wade through several feet of water, maneuver through sand, and more. It can transport two to three medics, carries a full complement of emergency medical equipment, and includes a portable stretcher.

It's currently based in Moshav Ofer and assigned to EMT Charles Horowitz. Originally from Newton, Massachusetts, Charles made aliyah 36 years ago. When he is not saving lives, he's producing olive oil from the trees he grows in his own orchard.

The volunteer is on call 24/7. When

an alert comes in, he heads off the beaten track to help someone in real need.

A recent alert came in about someone having seizures. Horowitz was working in his orchard when he got the alert. He jumped on his tractor, sped to the ATV and within minutes was navigating back roads, heading up into the Carmel hills. About ten minutes later—after covering some rough terrain—he reached the scene.

A family camping in the wilderness had watched in horror as one of their children suddenly began convulsing. When the orange vested medic showed up quickly in the ATV, in what felt like the middle of nowhere, the parents were stunned—and deeply grateful.

Their son had never experienced anything like this before. Horowitz was able to run a quick blood sugar test, which came back normal, and give oxygen once the convulsions subsided.

Working together, they brought the child to a nearby access point where an ambulance was waiting. The boy was then taken for further care and observation.



The ATV funded by Youngstown area organizations and community members currently based in Moshav Ofer and assigned to EMT Charles Horowitz.

## Major Donor attendees collaborate on project with artist Dar James

On June 24, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation hosted the Major Donor Appreciation evening at the home of Samie Winick and Rick Popovich. Dar James gave a presentation about her artwork and the importance of community. Then all of the attendees were invited to participate in a collaborative art project with Dar. The completed piece will be hung in the new Altshuler Akiva Academy, Goldstone-Mirkin Family Middle School at the Suzi Solomon Campus. Campaign co-chair Nancy

Burnett remarked at the event, "Each year, we turn to you—our generous supporters—to help sustain the vital work of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the many programs our agencies carry out. Tonight, we gather in gratitude. Your contributions not only uplift our local community but also extend our reach across the globe. Rooted in mission, we remain committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need—wherever they may be."



Pictured from left are Rick Popovich and Samie Winick, event hosts; Lisa Long, Federation CEO; Dar James, artist; Courtney Lockshaw, Federation financial resource development director; and Nic Bush, Federation development & community relations manager, with the collaborative piece made at the event.

J

# PAUL AND YETTA GLUCK

## SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS

Visit us at the **CANFIELD FAIR** on August 27.



## Reflections on Nova Music Festival Exhibit

The Jewish Community Relations Council and JCC jointly planned a one-day bus trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Nova Music Festival traveling exhibit, a thoughtfully crafted mosaic of information, evidence, and emotion that guides visitors through the timeline of the Nova Music Festival on October 7. Nearly 40 people participated in the trip. Below are reflections from Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and JCC staff who took part in the trip.

### Nic Bush

*Youngstown Area Jewish Federation  
development & community  
relations manager*

Just a few steps into the Nova Music Festival, and you're transported to October 7. The entire gallery is filled with smoke; it smells like a war zone, and you hear gunfire from real GoPro videos recorded by Hamas. As I walked through the Nova Music Festival Exhibit, I kept asking myself, "How could people hate us this much?" How could people violently gun down innocent festival-goers—people who just wanted to spend the night dancing and having fun—and then call their parents and proudly tell them how many people they've murdered?

It's hard to grasp because you can't rationalize evil. It simply doesn't make sense, and that's because it's not meant to be. What happened on October 7 wasn't normal. Hating Jews is not normal. That's why having the chance to take 39 people to Washington, D.C., half of whom weren't Jewish, to learn about and witness the tragedy of the Nova Music Festival was so impactful. All of us who have seen the exhibit now get the chance to talk to people, explain what we heard, smelled, and saw at the exhibit, and be witnesses to what extreme hate can lead to.

As you move from the sensory overload at the beginning of the exhibit toward the final sections, you can hear "Hatikva" ("The Hope") softly playing in the background. It's so quiet that I wasn't sure if I was imagining it. But I think it was a beautiful and gentle reminder that no matter the emotionally intense dis-

plays of tragedy you just witnessed, there is always hope.

I wanted to complete my thoughts on hope, but I needed to reflect further, especially after Mahoning Matters, which sent a reporter with us, published an article about her experience. As expected, the Facebook posts linked to the article were vitriolic, anti-Israel, and borderline antisemitic. I doubt these people even took the time to read it, which was factual rather than opinionated. Reading these comments makes me wonder again: how can people hate us so much?

### Courtney Lockshaw

*Youngstown Area Jewish Federation  
financial resource development director*

Days leading up to the bus trip, I was experiencing a lot of anxiety knowing how tough and brutal it was going to be to walk in and go through this experience. But, I also knew it was something I needed to do to continue to be an advocate against unjust hate against the Jewish people.

To set the tone for what we would experience that afternoon, on the bus ride to D.C., Liron Daniels, the Israeli engagement/program coordinator, shared the story of Yuval Raphael, a Nova Music Festival survivor and Israeli singer who won second place in the 2025 Eurovision contest—a story of hope. She did not go into a lot of detail in her story of what she endured on October 7, but rather focused more on how she represented Israel in this song of hope, as many still wanted to see her fail or be disqualified because of the country she was representing.

As I walked into the exhibit, I took a deep breath in and out to calm my body and remind myself that I could do this. They prepare you beforehand, you'll be exposed to many sounds, the smell, and fog to give the illusion of desert sand blowing and gunfire. You get a complete sense of what this Nova festival was and the peace, love, and carefree fun it was meant to represent based on the items left behind. At the start of the experience, you are greeted by tents that festival-goers had set up for the two days, filled with



*Pup tents that look like they are in use, filled with clothes and teddy bears, were part of the Nova Music Festival Exhibit. The exhibit includes personal belongings left behind.*

blankets, clothing, lip balm, snacks, and even stuffed animals. Then, throughout the exhibit, TV screens display survivors telling their stories, many with horrific outcomes, along with a few stories of survival. As you go from TV to TV, you're reminded that this happened to everyday citizens; this could be anyone. These people were daughters, sons, aunts, uncles, moms, dads, sisters, brothers, cousins, and friends. Although you had a vision of what had happened on that day from the news and social media before visiting the exhibit, being at this experience made it even more relevant in your mind. When you're seeing porta potties, dumpsters, and coolers that people hid in that were continuously shot at, it hits differently. When you see cars that were set on fire trying to drive away from the chaos, it hits differently. When you see a replicated bar set up from the event, in an area with little to no survivors, it hits

differently. Because we have all attended a concert and stood in those same bathroom lines, bought a drink from the bar, or grabbed ice cream from a cooler. We were all fortunate enough to come back home and hug our loved ones, and here, so many were not... it hits differently.

One of the last rooms in the exhibit is circular and filled with candles, surrounded by the picture of the faces of the brutally murdered. You look around, and it is mostly young individuals in their early 20s, just figuring out life. And then anger began to rush through my body, and I wanted to scream, "WHY? They had so much more life to live." Looking at those pictures, you're in a state of shock and confusion at how there are human beings in this world who have the ability to kill with pride and excitement. It's truly sickening and shocking.

After reviewing the exhibit, we were

*Nova continued on next page*



*Nova continued from previous page*

then given the opportunity to hear from Lee Sasi, a Nova Music Festival survivor. She is a Los Angeles native, but she was visiting her family in Israel and decided at the last minute to attend the festival. She spent 30 minutes recounting her story of the unthinkable. Remarkably, she survived, and unfortunately, other family members did not. I won't share her whole story, but she was squished in a bomb shelter with 40 plus people, meant for 10 max. She was one of 12 individuals who survived the incident. She witnessed her uncle jumping on a grenade to save her life. During Lee's presentation, I was sitting next to Liron, and when Lee showed a picture of the 12 survivors reconnecting, Liron turned to me, shocked to see that one of the 12 was Yural Raphael, whom she had mentioned earlier on the bus. It was a complete coincidence and a full-circle moment for the group.

For the three hours you're in there, you get a glimpse of the anxiety and adrenaline that those individuals experienced on October 7, 2023, starting at 6:29 a.m. and continuing non-stop for over eight hours. Walking out of the exhibit doors, I again needed to take a large, deep breath in and out, and I felt like I wanted to drop to the floor and melt down. But the comfort of being surrounded by a supportive group gave a sense of calm as we hugged and reflected.

### Liron Daniel

*Youngstown Area Jewish Federation  
Israel engagement/program coordinator*

On Tuesday [July 1], we took a bus to visit the Nova Exhibition. It was a painful, jarring, and deeply emotional experience. I remember October 7, 2023, as if it were yesterday. At the time, I had only been in the United States for three months. The news of what had happened hit me like a shockwave. I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe something like that could happen in my country. I couldn't fathom that terrorists had broken into people's homes, invaded their most intimate spaces, and carried out a brutal massacre, acts that are impossible to comprehend.

The place that once felt safest and most sacred turned into a scene of horror. Entire lives were taken with unspeakable cruelty.

When I saw the exhibits at Nova, it all came flooding back: the emotions, the shock, the pain, and the rage. The hatred that drove this terror was pure evil. Evil beyond what the human eye or soul can contain.

My message is clear: The world must know. The world must wake up. There is no justification for normalizing what happened there. Anyone who hasn't yet read, learned, or examined it deeply must, not for political reasons, but out of basic human decency.

During the visit, we heard the story of one of the Nova survivors. She captivated us. The crowd was silent, stunned, and deeply moved, but in that same breath, I also felt a sense of hope. Because even in the darkest of darkness, light can emerge. We are strong. The people of Israel have been through countless tragedies, and yet we are still here.

And we will continue to be here. But it's important to say this loudly and clearly: The war is not over, not as long as hostages are still being held in Gaza. The fight continues. And it will not end until every one of them comes home. When we stand together, no evil can defeat us.

This is my message to Jews around the world: Unity. Solidarity. Boundless love.

### Melissa Bateman

*Youngstown Area Jewish Federation  
director of community engagement*

A person's reflection is shaped by who they are and what they've experienced. My own reflection will differ from Liron's, who, as an Israeli, feels the events of October 7 in a way that I, as an American Jew, never fully can. Likewise, my response will differ from that of Nic, Courtney, and Barb, each of whom has faced antisemitism and hatred in profoundly different ways. Though October 7 tears at all our souls, it does so uniquely, shaped by the paths we've walked.

In the ten days leading up to my visit to the Nova Music Festival Exhibition, I was in Poland with Classrooms Without Borders, participating in a Holocaust education seminar. During that time, we visited some of the most harrowing places in human history:

Treblinka Extermination Camp, where nearly 900,000 Jews were murdered in less than a year.

- Majdanek, where the original crematorium still stands.
- Auschwitz-Birkenau, whose vast, unimaginable scale cannot be grasped until you stand in its shadow.

Each site left a different weight on my heart.

We also toured the former ghettos in Warsaw, Kraków, and Starachowice. In Warsaw, we focused on the 1943 Ghetto Uprising, where Jewish fighters bravely

resisted Nazi forces against impossible odds. We visited Kielce, the site of the 1946 pogrom, where Holocaust survivors were violently attacked even after liberation.

The seminar included a visit to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which chronicles Jewish life in Poland from the medieval period to today, emphasizing both the cultural richness and the catastrophic loss brought by the Holocaust. We also visited the Ringelblum Archive at the Jewish Historical Institute—a trove of testimonies, documents, and records from inside the Warsaw Ghetto. These preserved voices are crucial to understanding the Holocaust from those who lived it.

At every site, we were immersed in testimonies from survivors, witnesses, and victims. I deliberately use the word "testimonies" in its legal sense. As an attorney, I believe it is essential to frame these accounts with the authority and weight they deserve, especially in the face of Holocaust denial. These testimonies allowed us not just to learn, but to bear witness.

Primo Levi wrote:

"There is no rationality in Nazi hatred: it is hate that is not in us, it is outside of man... If understanding is impossible, knowing is imperative, because what happened could happen again... For this reason, it is everyone's duty to reflect on what happened."

— If This Is a Man / The Truce

This seminar gave me the space to reflect, to bear witness, and to carry forward this knowledge. I now have the honor and responsibility of working with local educators, helping them teach the Holocaust so that these testimonies—and the truth—are never forgotten.

I returned from Poland physically drained, mentally exhausted, and emotionally raw. Just seven hours after arriving home, I traveled to the Nova Music Festival Exhibition. I felt it was essential to stand with our community and bear witness to the atrocities of October 7.

The exhibit was deeply affecting. It was a fully immersive experience, complete



*The Nova Music Festival Exhibit is an immersive experience including smoke, the sound of gunfire, and sand.*

*Nova continued on next page*



*Nova continued from previous page*

with the feel of sand beneath your feet and smoke in the air. Testimonies from survivors and witnesses played throughout the exhibit, allowing us to confront the truth of what occurred.

Three parts of the exhibit struck me most:

- **The Port-a-Potties:** Displayed with multiple bullet holes. Footage showed terrorists firing relentlessly into them to ensure no one hiding inside could survive.
- **Sexual Violence:** A section was dedicated to the rapes and sexual assaults committed at the festival—crimes that have been denied or downplayed. These survivor testimonies must be heard and acknowledged.
- **Lee Sasi's Testimony:** A Nova survivor shared how she and 11 others survived in a bomb shelter that originally held 40 people. Her account of what she saw and endured will stay with me forever.

Part of me stayed in Poland—my tears, my sorrow, my anger, and a piece of my innocence. But I also brought something back: the lived history of the Holocaust, the strength of Polish Jewish culture, and a renewed urgency to educate and fight antisemitism.

Likewise, a part of me remains at the Nova exhibit. But I carry forward what I witnessed—the survivor testimonies, the truth of what happened—and integrate it into my mission to help teachers educate others. While I avoid comparing present events to the Holocaust—because doing so risks diminishing the singular horror of that period—Primo Levi's words remind us that we must remain vigilant.

The pogroms may take different forms, but they persist. It is our duty, as witnesses, to ensure the truth is known—and never forgotten.

### Barbara Wilson

*JCC director of cultural arts & Jewish engagement*

On Sunday, July 29, we took a bus trip to see the musical “Hamilton.” It was an amazing day filled with excitement and joy. Alexander Hamilton was one of our Founding Fathers. This show is set during the time when the Declaration of

Independence declared that “All Men Are Created Equal” and the U.S. Constitution established the framework for our country. I acknowledge that the Founding Fathers were using an outdated version of the words “all men” which at the time didn’t include women and people of color along with other minority groups. But the idea of equality is what our country is founded on, and the story of Hamilton’s life highlights how some people gave everything they had to promote this concept.

Two days later, on Tuesday, July 1, we embarked on another bus trip. This trip had a different undertone. While I knew that visiting The Moment Music Stood Still: The Nova Music Festival Exhibition was incredibly important, I was filled with dread and anxiety. I knew we would see things that couldn’t be unseen.

Upon entrance to the immersive exhibit, you are transported straight to the Nova Festival. Sand covers the ground; pup tents that look like they are in use, filled with clothes and teddy bears, line the aisle; camping chairs are set up as if they are in use, with water bottles, chip bags, deodorant, and toothbrushes on the armrests. If you have ever been to a music

festival, you can picture the scene. What you cannot imagine is the sound of bullets - instead of music- filling the air. There are cell phones throughout the exhibit that you can pick up and see and hear what happened that day. There are also monitors throughout the exhibit that play videos shot from both festival attendees’ phones and Hamas GoPros. These videos show the horrors of October 7. But the thing that hit me the most is how so many of those who lost their lives are the same age as my children. My family is composed of music lovers, and we are enthusiastic concert-goers. Shortly after October 7, my two younger boys attended a Post Malone concert. Last year, I followed Duran Duran for a week, seeing three concerts in seven days. And the weekend of June 14 this year, their older brother was in Washington, D.C. for the Warp Tour. That was the weekend of the “No Kings” protest and the military parade in the same city. While they were there, all I could think of was what would happen if these concerts got violent. If we lived in Israel, I could easily believe that my family would have been at the Nova Music Festival. I should not be scared when my family is at a music festi-

val, but now I am.

One of the items in the exhibit that took my breath away was the wall of posters for the hostages still in captivity. They had their ages listed and then crossed off as they had birthdays. So it looked like this: 25 (24) (23). This was such a concrete way to understand how long these young souls have been held in captivity. Young lives that did nothing wrong except try to enjoy the music.

While I cannot say that I am glad that I went, I know it was the right thing to do. And I am proud that a small community like ours was able to bring a whole bus of people to witness the atrocities of that day. Many of the people on the bus were Jewish, and many were not, and I found it very powerful to have their support. The more people who learn the truth about what happened in Israel on October 7, the more we can combat antisemitism.

Both of these bus trips have made me even more committed to teaching about acceptance and equality for all. The Torah states: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18)

When will we all be able to love each other like that?



*Photographs of individuals affected by the Nova Music Festival massacre were displayed as part of the exhibit. Visitors were encouraged to reflect and leave messages behind.*



*Part of the Nova Music Festival Exhibit was a wall of posters for the hostages still in captivity. Their ages are listed and then crossed off as they had birthdays.*



## JCC's annual Suzi Solomon Golf Classic raises more than \$100K

Thunder and lightning may have ended play early, but that didn't stop the 27th Suzi Solomon Golf Classic from being a success. Thirty five teams and more than 160 sponsors supported the outing held at Avalon Golf & Country Club - Squaw Creek, helping the Jewish Community Center raise over \$100,000. All of the funds raised will help the JCC continue its impactful programs, such as JMeals, aquatics, and Camp JCC.

Honorary chairs of the event were Martin Solomon and Jeff Solomon. Chairperson was Andrew Solomon. Major

sponsors were Suzi Solomon Philanthropic Fund, Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, B & I Management, Phantom Fireworks, Rick & Susan Sokolov, and Visconsi Companies, Ltd. The golf cart sponsor was Window World; auction sponsors were Past Times Arcade and Thom Duma Fine Jewelers; the cocktail sponsor was The Hometown Pharmacy; lunch sponsors were Farmers National Bank and Lisa and Steve Altman; and snack cart sponsors were Mercy Health Foundation and Soft Touch Furniture.



BBYO teens volunteered at the Golf Classic. Pictured from left are Madeline Long, Tres Hively, and Blythe Hively.



A cocktail hour was enjoyed following the golf outing. Pictured from left are Barb and Peter Stein.



A basket raffle was part of the golf outing. Pictured from left are Lauren Resnick and Brandon Solomon.

# JEWISH JOURNAL

YOUNGSTOWN AREA - 1987

## WISH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The next issue of the Jewish Journal will be the Rosh Hashanah issue. Take the opportunity to greet members of the community by submitting a greeting. Greetings and payment are due no later than August 19. Email [eskolnick@jewishyoungstown.org](mailto:eskolnick@jewishyoungstown.org) for a greetings form. Forms are also available on the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation website: [jewishyoungstown.org](http://jewishyoungstown.org).



## JCC OF YOUNGSTOWN UPCOMING EVENTS

### CULTURAL ARTS

#### CAMP KID AGAIN

For adults who are kids at heart!  
Tuesday, August 19–Friday, August 22

#### SUSAN KANTERMAN BOOK CLUB

“This is What Happened” by Barry Davis with live Author Program  
Thursday, August 14 | 5:30 p.m.

#### J. NEWMAN LEVY SPEAKER SERIES

“Paradise Lost: Jewish Views of the Afterlife” featuring Rabbi Frank Muller  
August 11 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.

#### PAUL AND YETTA GLUCK SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS

CRAFT & KVELL (Ages 18+)  
Friday, August 15  
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

ACRYLIC PULL PAINTING MEETS  
COLLAGE ART (Ages 16+)  
August 12 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

### AGING WELL

#### TECH TUESDAYS (AGES 60+)

Tuesdays, July 1 & 15, August 5 & 19  
11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

#### CAREGIVER CAFE (AGES 18+)

Mondays, July 21, August 4 & 18  
10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

#### GRIEF GROUP (AGES 18+)

Wednesday, August 20  
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

#### LUNCH BUNCH (AGES 60+)

July 24, August 21, September 18  
11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

#### KINSHIP PROGRAM (AGES 60+)

Wednesday, July 23, August 13 & 27  
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

### LOGAN CAMPUS

#### BINGO NIGHT

August 2 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

#### FAMILY NIGHT

August 9

#### KARAOKE NIGHT

August 16 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

#### DOLLAR DOG DAY

Saturday, August 23

#### FAMILY CAMPOUT

Saturday, July 26–Sunday, July 27  
8:00 p.m.–10:00 a.m.

#### END OF SEASON PICNIC

Sunday, August 31

#### POOL PAWTY

Saturday, September 9  
9:00–10:30 a.m. (small dogs)  
10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (large dogs)

#### CERTIFICATIONS

Junior Lifeguard Program (Ages 11–14)  
Monday–Thursday, August 4–7  
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

#### BABYSITTER'S TRAINING

Saturday, October 18 | 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

### YOUTH

#### J ALL DAY - END OF SUMMER

Monday, August 11–Tuesday, August 26  
7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

#### YOUNG ADVENTURERS ONE SHOT

August 21 | 5:30–8:00 p.m.

The JCare afterschool program returns  
on August 21!

CHECK OUT OUR FULL  
SLATE OF OFFERINGS AT  
JCCYOUNGSTOWN.ORG!

## JCC OF YOUNGSTOWN CAMP KID AGAIN



Escape the ordinary and immerse yourself in four days of creativity, self-care, and connection! Camp Kid Again is a summer “camp” designed for adults ages 21 and older seeking inspiration and rejuvenation. Each day, we will experience an art project, movement activity, personal growth session, and lunch. Lunch is included Tuesday through Thursday, with lunch on your own Friday. This retreat is your summer invitation to refresh, create, and thrive!

Tuesday–Friday, August 19–22 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
DAILY: \$25/Member | \$30/Non Member  
WEEKLY: \$80/Member | \$100/Non Member

Register online by August 14 by visiting  
[jccyoungstown.org/adult](http://jccyoungstown.org/adult).

NOTE: This year, Camp Kid Again is a partner program between the JCC's Arts & Culture Department and JFCS's Aging Well Program. A limited number of one day scholarships are available.

## SAVE THE DATE For a Night of Laughs AT THE 2025 Inaugural Event

Featuring Comedian Mo Mandel



Laughter Unites. So Does Federation

Tuesday, September 9, 2025  
Funny Farm Comedy Club

Mo is a comedian and actor who recently appeared on Netflix's hit show, "Nobody Wants This," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," and released his third comedy special, "Trying To Make It."

Event chaired by Ian and Hannah Anderson and Jeff and Rachel Kay

Formal invitation coming soon.

 YOUNGSTOWN AREA  
JEWISH FEDERATION



## Local BBYO president shares what the organization means to her

**By Madeline Long**

BBYO has been one of the most important parts of my life and Jewish identity. Before BBYO, I often felt like the only Jewish teen around, especially in school where being Jewish made me feel different. But BBYO gave me a place where being Jewish wasn't something that set me apart—it was something that brought me closer to others. It gave me a community where I finally felt seen, heard, and understood.

I'm very involved in BBYO. I was one of the few teens to start our chapter and have proudly served as chapter president since then. Being in this role has taught me many things, like how to be a strong leader, how to work with others, and how to build something meaningful from the ground up. I've helped plan and run countless programs, from meaningful Jewish discussions to fun bonding nights, and it's been incredible to watch my chapter grow into a space where everyone feels welcome.

Outside of my chapter, I've been very active at the regional and international levels. I've attended multiple conventions and programs, like CLTC and Maccabi, where I got to meet Jewish teens from all over the world. Being in a room full of people who share your traditions and values is a feeling like no other. It's empowering, comforting, and exciting all at the same time.

BBYO has helped me connect more deeply with my Jewish identity. I've learned that being Jewish isn't just about holidays or prayers—it's about leadership, community, service, and pride. Through BBYO, I've become more confident in who I am, and I've found a family that supports me in ways I never expected.

My vision for my chapter—and for BBYO as a whole—is to create a space where every Jewish teen feels like they belong, no matter their background or experiences. I want our chapter to be a place where people feel safe to be themselves, to grow as leaders, and to explore their Jewish identity in a way that’s meaningful to them. I hope to continue building a chapter that’s strong, inclusive, and filled with spirit—one that uplifts its members and inspires them to take on leadership roles of their own. For BBYO as a movement, I want it to continue empowering teens to make change, speak up, and connect across the world. BBYO should always be that place where being Jewish is something we’re proud of, where our voices matter, and where the next generation of Jewish leaders begins their journey.

I'm so proud of the work we've done and the community we've helped create. BBYO has changed my life, and I'll always be grateful for everything it's given me.



*Pictured from left are members of the local BBYO chapter Sidney Braslawse, Tamar Sigler, Cam Silverman, Addi Silverman, Madeline Long, and Doron Sigler.*

## JCC member celebrated on 92nd birthday



*The JCC Wellness staff helped member Carl Esposito celebrate his 92nd birthday. The birthday song played overhead when he entered the Fitness Center and his favorite seated elliptical was reserved for him with a customized Motown playlist playing. They also gave him a birthday cake pop from Starbucks. Carl has been a JCC member since 1990.*





## Deutsch-Burdman discusses security funding with senator



While attending a Jewish Council for Public Affairs conference, Bonnie Deutsch-Burdman, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation executive director, community relations/government affairs, met with U.S. Sen. Jon Husted, R-Ohio, to discuss the Federal Nonprofit Security Grant program and the need to fully fund it to allow its use for hiring Federation security personnel. Pictured from left are Deutsch-Burdman; Husted; Jeremy Spiegel, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati assistant JCRC director; and Walter Spiegel, Federation of Cincinnati JCRC board member and JCPA board/executive committee member.

## Federation joins program to create Jewish teen leaders

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is one of the newest organizations to join the nationwide initiative Student to Student.

Student to Student was started over 30 years ago by the St. Louis Jewish Community Relations Council as a way for Jewish teens to travel to local schools and teach their peers about Judaism and Israel. The program aims to create Jewish teen leaders who can fight antisemitism

one classroom at a time.

Recently, Nic Bush, Federation development & community relations manager, who will be the Youngstown Student to Student Director alongside Liron Daniel, Federation Israel engagement/program coordinator traveled to St. Louis, Mo. to meet representatives from other cities joining the program and coordinators who have been involved for years.

The Youngstown program will start in the fall.

## JCRC collects personal hygiene products for Youngstown Blue Coats



The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation held a personal hygiene drive for Youngstown Blue Coats. They collected new socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, underwear, and deodorant for the nonprofit organization that works to bridge the gap between shelters and homeless camps in the winter, helping to ensure the homeless stay warm.

## Speak up, speak out: Erase the hate

Our society is experiencing an alarming uptick in hate-fueled and antisemitic activity. According to the 2023 “U.S. National Strategy to Counteract Antisemitism,” expressions of hate at K-12 schools have become common. In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Education launched a national awareness campaign against hate, noting that schools cannot become safe havens for any form of hate, and that educators and citizens must jointly stop hate in its tracks.

Students today are bombarded with expressions of hate threatening an entire generation. The Youngstown

Area Jewish Federation is offering a selection of anti-hate initiatives and educational opportunities for students in grades 7–12. All opportunities are available at no cost to schools and educators.

For more information, contact Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, executive director, community relations/government affairs at 330.746.3250 ext. 183 or [bdburdman@jewishyoungstown.org](mailto:bdburdman@jewishyoungstown.org); Melissa Bateman, director of community engagement at 330.746.3250 ext. 159 or [mbateman@jewishyoungstown.org](mailto:mbateman@jewishyoungstown.org); or Nic Bush, at 330.746.3250 ext. 114 or [nbush@jewishyoungstown.org](mailto:nbush@jewishyoungstown.org).

# Jo-Glen Kennels

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330.539.4700 Fax

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## Eli Denis Hernandez Altman

Neil Altman of Youngstown is a grandfather! His son and daughter-in-law, Max Altman and Katherine Hernandez gifted Neil his first grandchild, Eli Denis Hernandez Altman, on April 23, 2025.



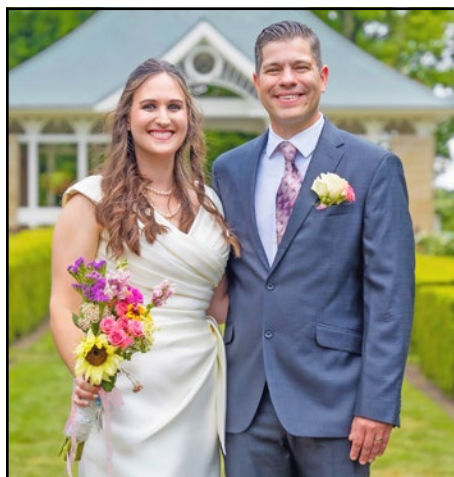
## Hunter Thomas

Hunter Thomas became a Bar Mitzvah on June 14 at Ohel Sholom Temple in Norfolk, Va. He was part of an adult Bnei Mitzvah program.



## Courtney Ann Lockshaw and Joseph Patrick Campesi

On July 12, 2025 Courtney Ann Lockshaw and Joseph Patrick Campesi were joined in marriage. The ceremony, held at Fellows Riverside Gardens, was attended by their parents and siblings. Courtney is the daughter of Dr. David and Judy Lockshaw. She is the financial resource development director for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. Joseph is the son of Gary and Patty Campesi. He is a graphic designer for Steelite International.



## Mauro Marcello

Mauro Marcello (Hebrew name Nissim), son of Julia and Anthony Marcello, will turn one July 22 after being a NICU baby.



## Cody Wolf Blumenthal

Cody Wolf Blumenthal graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in computer information technology in May 2025. He was a member of Pi Kappa Phi. He will be attending law school at University of Akron. He is the son of Denise Wolf. He is the brother of Jake Blumenthal and grandson of the late Sherry Turney.



## Nick Diaz

Nick Diaz, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation IT intern, recently earned his CompTIA ITF+ certification.



## Maayan Mitnick

Maayan Mitnick, daughter of Lesley Benedikt and Joshua Mitnick z"l, granddaughter of Myra & Bill Benedikt, graduated from high school in Tel Aviv, Israel.



## Laura Haas

Laura Haas, Jewish Family & Community Services counselor, officially passed her LISW (Licensed Independent Social Worker) exam in the state of Ohio. "This is a huge accomplishment and a testament to her dedication, expertise, and passion for making a difference in our community," said Ken Bielecki, JFCS executive director.





## Martin S. Goldberg

Attorney Martin S. Goldberg passed away on June 8, 2025, at The Inn at Poland Way in Poland, Ohio.

Martin was born on July 11, 1924, in Youngstown, Ohio to George Goldberg and Bee Walker. Martin spent his childhood in Youngstown, Ohio and in Manhattan in New York City. Martin graduated from The Rayen School.

Martin joined the United States Army Air Corps 7th Air Force, Bomb Group, 98th Bomb Squadron. Martin was a Radio Man/Top Turret Gunner in B-24 bombers. Martin's rank was Tech Sergeant. Martin flew 39 combat missions and earned seven air medals. Martin was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross and three Battle Stars.

Following the war, Martin attended the University of California. He transferred to The Ohio State University where he completed his undergraduate degree and obtained his law degree. After briefly working for another attorney, Martin accepted a job at an advertising firm in New York City. Martin did not enjoy the work, and returned to Youngstown to open his own law office. Martin truly enjoyed the practice of law where he focused on representing plaintiffs in malpractice, personal injury, and products liability cases. Martin achieved great success as an attorney, and particularly cherished the camaraderie and collegiality he enjoyed with other attorneys in the practice of law. Martin retired from the practice of law on June 4, 1998. Martin immediately relocated to Palm Desert, California where he owned a beautiful home and had spent part of the year for some time. Martin was honored by the Mahoning County Bar Association with the Distinguished Service Award in 2002, and receipt of his 60 year pin in 2012.

Martin had many interests. Martin was

an avid reader and an art enthusiast. He was active in the High Twelve International Order of Masons and the Scottish Rites of Free Masonry. Martin volunteered with the Citizens On Patrol (COPS) with the Palm Desert Police Department. In addition, Martin served in a volunteer program that provided rides to Marines between the Palm Springs Airport and Twenty Nine Palms, Calif. Martin was also a volunteer at the Palm Springs Air Museum. Additionally, Martin studied creative writing at Oxford University and at the local community college in Palm Desert, California.

Martin was divorced from Ida Lackey, the mother of his two children. Martin was then happily married to Donna Lowry, the love of his life, for over 50 years. They enjoyed traveling, their pets, and entertaining. Martin leaves to cherish his memory his children, Jeralyn (David) Mercer, his daughter-in-law Andra Kellum Goldberg, his grandsons, Bryan (Hilarie) Goldberg and Alvin D. Mercer, his great-grandchildren Daniel Charles Goldberg, Ella Bee Mercer, and Jensen David Mercer, his nephews Steven M. (Amanda) Goldberg and J. Michael (Kim Brown) Goldberg, his niece Julie (Marc) Silverman, his sister-in-law, "Bobbie" Goldberg, and a host of other relatives and friends.

The memory of Martin will be fondly cherished by his nephew, Attorney Steven Goldberg, son of Martin's late brother, Jerry. Steven and Martin shared an extraordinary bond, having worked closely together for 14 years – collaborating on legal cases and embarking on numerous adventures. Their professional alliance was defined not only by a steadfast commitment to excellence but by a deep personal connection, resulting in a lifetime filled of shared experiences and cherished memories.

Martin was preceded in death by his

wife, Donna, who died in December 2020, his beloved son, Jeffrey A. Goldberg, his step-sons Brian Kosola, Keith Kosola, John Kosola, and Ken Kosola, and his brother, Jerry Goldberg, with whom he was extremely close. Many friends and relatives also predeceased Martin.

Martin loved his family and friends with all his heart, and his departure from this world will leave a void in the lives of many that cannot be filled. Martin treasured his close friendships with Judge Theresa Dellick and her husband, Attorney John Dellick, and Attorney Lynn Sfara Bruno. They all stood by him until the end. They also helped plan and celebrate Martin's 100th birthday last July. Martin was also especially close with Judge Lou D'Apolito and his wife, Paula, Attorney Charlie Dunlap and his wife, Sharon, who was Martin's cousin and whom he was proud of introducing, and his cousin, Joan E. Rose and her late husband, Buddy.

The family also wishes to thank Laura Kelty, executive director of The Inn at Poland Way, Jeff Vrabell, administrative assistant and a prominent Veteran advo-

cate, Sandy Grecco, the head nurse, Chris Kline, the nurse with whom Martin was so close from the beginning, Analyse Cole, a certified medication aide who took a special interest in Martin from the day he was admitted, and all the outstanding nurses and aides who provided such loving care to Martin and his family.

The Goldberg family has entrusted Martin's care to the Wasko Funeral Home in Campbell. Services were June 22, 2025 at the chapel at Temple El Emeth Cemetery directly behind the Jewish Community Center on the Northside of Youngstown on Granada Avenue near the intersection of Guadalupe Avenue. In lieu of flowers or food, the family requests that donations be made in Martin's memory to Sons of The American Legion, Mahoning Valley Squadron 15, c/o 44 Centennial Drive, Poland, Ohio 44514, or in the alternative, please donate to the dessert table at the Celebration of Life being planned for a future date this fall.

Please visit [waskofamily.com](http://waskofamily.com) to view this obituary and to leave condolences with the family.

## Jack William Heller

Jack William Heller was born in Youngstown, Ohio in 1947 and was raised in Warren, Ohio by his late parents Herbert and Harriet Heller. He passed away in Los Angeles on May 25, 2025. Dearly beloved husband of Marcia Heller (nee Amster); devoted father of Samuel Heller (fiancée Erin Dorman); dear brother of Robert Heller (Mary Jo).

He graduated Warren G. Harding in 1965 and attended The Ohio State University, graduating with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1971. He met his wife Marcia Amster at Ohio State Hillel and they were married in Cleveland in 1972. After several years at General Electric, he

and Marcia moved to Pasadena in 1979 to work at Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In 1980, his son Samuel was born. The family moved to Mesa, Ariz. so Jack could take a job at Intel, where he worked until retirement.

Jack was an avid Ohio State Buckeye Football fan and watched every game. He also loved classical music, opera, art, reading, and photography, and had a wicked sense of humor.

Services were held at Mayfield Cemetery, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. To view this service visit YouTube.com and search Jack William Heller Funeral Service. Contributions are suggested to the JNF.





## Beverly G. (Markle) Greenberg

Beverly G. (Markle) Greenberg from Ellwood City, Pa. passed away peacefully at home on June 25, 2025. Beverly was born at home in Wayne Township on March 1, 1934 to Helen O. (Grant) and Victor B. Markle. She was the youngest of seven children.

Beverly attended a one room school-house located on the property of the Slippery Rock Presbyterian Church on Old Pittsburgh Road which is now the caretaker's house. Beverly moved on to the Wayne Township Consolidated School and attended there through sixth grade. Beverly graduated from Lincoln High School in 1952 and then attended the New Castle Business College where she took a two-year secretarial course.

Beverly worked at G.C. Murphy's candy counter, New Castle Welding as their office manager, and Greenberg Auto Parts where she was co-owner and office manager. Beverly took a six-week course from St. Frances Hospital to become a hospice volunteer which led to her being employed by the Ellwood City Hospital in the home Health Department and later at Katira's Cove Home Health. Beverly retired in 2005.

Beverly was a stay-at-home mom, but was an active volunteer all her life, starting with Girl Scouts and the PTA. She was the secretary of the board who founded the Parents Pre-School in 1968. Beverly was an active participant in the local American Heart Association during the 1980's and received their Volunteer of the Year award. She also held office in the Ellwood City Lioness Club, the board of Lark Enterprises for 21 years, and has been on the Ellwood City Area Public Library fundraising committee for a number of years.

Beverly was a member of the former Tree of Life Synagogue, where she was active in the Jewish Women's League and served all offices, including president. After the closing of Tree of Life, she was a member of Agudath Achim in Beaver Falls, Pa. and Temple Hadar Israel in New Castle, Pa. She served on the board of all of these congregations, and ultimately

on the committees charged with their closings. In New Castle, she earned the title of "The Closer" because of her experience and ease of closing the various synagogues. She moved on to Ohev Tzedek in Youngstown, until they merged with Congregation Rodef Sholom to create Congregation Ohev Beth Sholom where she was currently a member. She liked to joke that she and Sam are known as "the wandering Jews."

An avid life-long reader, Beverly participated in three book groups at the local library.

Beverly is survived by her husband of 70 years, Samuel S. Greenberg who she met in high school and married in 1954. Her daughters:

Diane J. (Michael) Kane of Indian Beach, Del.; Michelle E. (Michael) Wilson and Marcia A. Sutherland of Ellwood City, Pa. Six grandchildren: Victor M. (Kerry Hanahoe) Kane of Philadelphia, Pa.; Ray Matthew Sutherland, Samantha R. Wilson (Tynan) Hudson, and Pamela K. Hoffman of Ellwood City, Pa.; Madeline I. Kane (John) Beattie of Manly, Australia, NSW; and Elizabeth A. (Niko Buffone) Wilson of Pittsburgh, Pa. Six great-grandchildren: Amelia and Langston Hoffman, Rhett and Mack Hudson, and George and Alice Beattie.

Along with her parents, Beverly was preceded in death by her siblings: Phyllis (William) Reale, Frances L. (Chester) Garwig, Robert B. (Mae) Markle, Sr., Nancy E. (Blaine) Houk, H. Wayne (Virginia) Markle, and Isabelle G. (Louis) Oliastro, her son-in-law: Ray B. Sutherland, and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at the Marshall Funeral Home on Fountain Avenue in Ellwood City. The service was conducted by Rabbi Courtney Berman, Congregation Ohev Beth Sholom in Youngstown. Internment was at Agudath Achim Cemetery in Beaver Falls, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Ellwood City Area Public Library, the American Heart Association, or Congregation Ohev Beth Sholom at 1119 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505.



## Elayne Rusnak

Elayne Rusnak, a lifelong resident of Youngstown, passed away unexpectedly on July 5, 2025. She was 89 years old.

Daughter of Ruth and Morris Friedman, Elayne was a graduate of Rayen High School and attended Indiana University where she received an associate degree in medical technology.

Elayne married her husband Jack in 1956, and they enjoyed a long and happy marriage filled with family and good friends until his death in 2012.

Elayne was a caring daughter, sister, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and GiGi. She took pride in her family and in creating beautiful holiday celebrations over these many years. Her cranberry Jell-O at Thanksgiving and her matzah ball soup at Passover were family favorites that brought everyone together around the table. She was a wonderful cook who loved to try new recipes and host with warmth and generosity.

Elayne was also a devoted friend. She maintained long and meaningful friendships that spanned many decades — relationships filled with love, laughter, support, and shared history. Her loyalty, warmth, and thoughtfulness made her a beloved part of so many lives.

Elayne was a medical secretary at the offices Drs. Ghani and Smith. Throughout her life, Elayne was deeply committed to helping others. She loved volunteering — especially in her cherished Youngstown community, where she lived her entire life. In her later years, she gave her time to the Butler Museum of American Art gift shop and the Youngstown Jewish Community Center. She enjoyed her book group and had a passion for watching documentaries, always curious to learn more.

Elayne and Jack were Youngstown Symphony season ticket holders for decades and were lifelong members of Temple El Emeth where Elayne was a constant presence and could often be found traying cookies and participating in services and programs.

Elayne was preceded in death by her husband Jack, parents Ruth and Morris Friedman, her sister Vilma Linder, and her beloved daughter Robyn Rusnak-Riley.

She is survived by her children Jill (Stephen), Joel (Cheryl), and Albert Riley as well as her grandchildren Benjamin Cahn (Abigail), Michelle

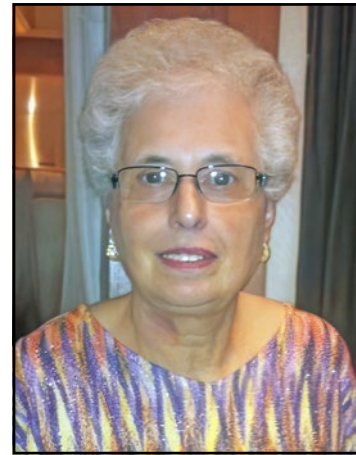
Cahn (Jackson Laskey), Isaac Rusnak, and Jenna Cahn (Lindsay Altschuld), her great-grandchildren Ella Cahn, Jack Cahn, and Baby Cahn Laskey, due in October. She is also survived by her nieces Shelley Handler, Susan Rozanczyk, and Lori Linder, who she thought of as daughters, and her sister-in-law Florine Rusnak (Robert deceased).

Our hearts are broken at the loss of dear Elayne; she will be missed each and every day.

Service were held in Itts Memorial Chapel, Anshe Emeth Cemetery on Granada Avenue in Youngstown.

Contributions in memory of Elayne may be made to Temple El Emeth, 3970 Logan Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44505.

Professional arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home. Friends and family may view this obituary and share memories and condolences at [shriverrallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com](http://shriverrallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com).





## Jay M. Skolnick

Jay M. Skolnick, 83, passed away peacefully on July 5, 2025.

Atty. Skolnick was a 1964 graduate of Emory University and a 1967 graduate of Cincinnati Law School. Jay was licensed by the Supreme Court of Ohio to practice law and serve as counselor in 1967. Jay was considered by his peers and partners to be the preeminent leader in his field. When Jay took the bar exam in 1967, he received the second highest score in the state of Ohio. Jay was a longtime partner at Nadler Nadler & Burdman Law firm. Jay was an avid golfer and longtime member at Squaw Creek Country Club where he played to a single digit handicap most of his golfing career.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Irene Skolnick of Brooklyn, N.Y., his daughter, Susan M. Skolnick, and his longtime partner Carol J. Leavitt.

Jay is survived by his wife Eleanor

Gael Skolnick, his son Robert J. Skolnick, his grandchildren Nadia, Ben, Mackenzie, Alex, and Sydney, his sister Donna Hirsch Grossman, his nephew Andrew Hirsch, his brother Alan (Lynn), and nephews Mark and Phillip Skolnick.

Jay was old school if ever there was such a thing. He earned the nickname "Earl" from his close friends because he was always early. Jay was an incredibly generous man who donated to multiple charities throughout the valley.

Funeral services were July 11, in Shriver Allison Courtley Weller King Funeral Home. Donations in Jay's memory may be made to the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504.

Professional arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home. Friends and family may view this obituary and share memories and condolences at [shriverrallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com](http://shriverrallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com).



## Phyllis Berkowitz

Phyllis Berkowitz died at the age of 96 on July 11, 2025. Born on December 28, 1928, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada to Helen and Jack Alter.

Phyllis grew up in Ingersoll and Toronto with her brothers Irvine (deceased) and David Alter.

She was married to her beloved Harold for almost 40 years until his passing in 1988. Subsequently, was preceded in death by partner, Ben Melvin.

Phyllis and Harold raised three daughters, Diane (Wit), Patti (Michael), and Janet (Don). One of her joys was the arrival of grandchildren, Fiona, Kiri, Hayley, Kelsey, Matt, and Delaney; and her great grandchildren, Oliver, Scarlet, Layna, and Ella.

A graveside service was held at Ohev Tzedek Cemetery.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff of Heritage Manor and Southern Care Hospice.

In lieu of flowers: The family kindly requests that donations be made in her memory to the charity of choice.

Professional arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home. Friends and family may view this obituary and share memories and condolences at [shriverrallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com](http://shriverrallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com).

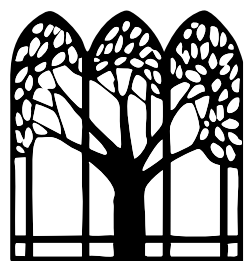
## Alvin Weisberg

Alvin Weisberg was employed by the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation for 34 years. He was the director of JFS (now JFCS). Alvin served for many years as president of Children of Israel and was a pillar of the Youngstown Jewish community. His decades of service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to Jewish life in our city have left an indelible mark on all who knew him. He gave selflessly and wholeheartedly. His memory should be a blessing, and continue to inspire us for generations.

On Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Beloved husband of Janet R. Weisberg. Loving father of Matthew (Grayce) Weisberg, Hannah Weisberg, Jonathan (Emily) Weisberg, David (Aidel) Weisberg and Zachary (Gillian) Weisberg. Brother of the late Harvey Weisberg. Also survived by nine grandchildren.

Services were at Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc., in Pittsburgh. Interment was at Poale Zedeck Memorial Park Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), HIAS P.O. Box 97077, Washington, DC 20090-7077 or [hias.org](http://hias.org).



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## Get to know NOAS: An agency serving children and families

NOAS is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency founded in 1978 to serve children and families, with programs built on their mission to promote lifelong permanency for current and former foster youth by recruiting, preparing, and supporting families and positive connections. They are accredited through the Council of Accreditation and have placed over 1,300 children into loving, adoptive homes throughout Northeast Ohio.

While NOAS is perhaps best known for its foster care and adoption work, they have grown into much more than a placement agency. While they hope every child finds their forever family, this is not always the case, and NOAS is committed to serving children, families, and young adults no matter what.

To better understand the work and mission of the agency, we asked them a few key questions. Here are their responses.

**Your focus now seems to be on foster care. How great is the need for that?**

There are over 390,000 children currently in foster care across the United States. In Ohio alone, more than 16,000 children are in need of safe, supportive homes. Right here in the Mahoning Valley, more than 470 children need us.

Even more heartbreaking—every two minutes, a child enters foster care, often due to abuse, neglect, or a family crisis. In March 2015, Harvard's Center on the Developing Child released a study saying, "Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult."

**What do you wish people knew about foster care that many don't?**

Children enter foster care through no fault of their own. They are not bad children, and they are not broken—they are victims of abuse, neglect, or other adverse experiences.

The trauma is accelerated the moment a social worker enters their home. Beyond the situation in the home, the child or siblings are sepa-

rated from all they know. As a result, they may exhibit trauma-related behaviors—such as aggression, withdrawal, or difficulty trusting others—which often lead to multiple placement disruptions, compounding the instability they already face.

What many people don't realize is that these behaviors are not who the children are—they are responses to what they've endured. These children deserve understanding, safety, stability, and a chance to heal. All children deserve to grow up in a home where hopes and dreams can flourish.

**What are ways members of the Jewish community can get involved?**

Members of the Jewish community can play a vital role in supporting children in foster care. At NOAS, we recognize the strength and compassion within faith communities and believe synagogues and Jewish organizations can be powerful partners in this mission.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Invite NOAS to speak at your synagogue, youth group, or community event to raise awareness and educate about the needs in foster care.
- Consider fostering a child or teen in need of a safe, supportive home.
- Support foster families through acts of kindness—meals, transportation, childcare, or donations.
- Engage your congregation in service projects or fundraising efforts that benefit children in care.

Whether you open your home, offer support, or simply help spread the word, your involvement can bring healing, hope, and stability to a child's life. We invite the Jewish community to open hearts—and doors—to those who need us most.

**What else would you like to tell us?**

There are a few important things we'd love for you to know about fostering through NOAS.

First, we never charge fees to our foster families. Our goal is to make fostering accessible and fully supported every step of the way.

We also provide trauma-informed

programs and services to help you better understand and meet the needs of the children in your care. This includes:

- TBRI® (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) training classes
- In-home coaching and support
- The TBRI Connection Circle, a nurturing support group for both caregivers and children

NOAS offers pre-service classes at least seven times each year, so you can

complete your training, application, and licensure all in one place—with us. And you're never alone in the process—our team is here to answer your questions and walk beside you on this journey from day one.

To learn more or get started, please contact Simone Gant at 330.980.4940 or sgant@noas.com. You can also visit our website at noas.com for more information.

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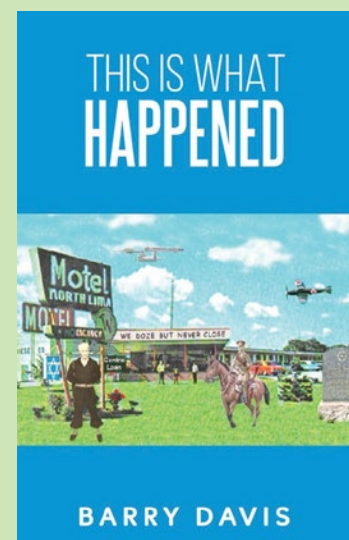
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## SUSAN KANTERMAN BOOK CLUB



**FEATURED AUGUST BOOK:**

**This is What Happened**  
BY BARRY DAVIS

**WITH LIVE AUTHOR PROGRAM**

A hilarious, fast-paced memoir, this book explores the author's family history—especially his father's witty WWII Navy adventures—and tales from their past motel business. Blended throughout are intriguing facts, Jewish traditions, and inventive touches like a Shakespearean take on a Cadillac and a Casablanca parody. With sharp humor and creative flair, the author delivers an unforgettable and delightfully offbeat reading experience.



**Thursday, August 14 | 5:30 p.m.**

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, August 12 to**

**Barb Wilson at bwilson@jewishyoungstown.**



## Local family works with Routes2Roots to find their roots

By Elise Skolnick

Ira and Sherri Pataki didn't know much about their Pataki family roots beyond the one document they possessed that listed Ira's grandmother Rosa as being born in Budapest.

That all changed when on a trip to Budapest with Partnership2Gether, Sherri learned of their Routes2Roots program, a project that aims to lead the way to a family's Jewish roots and therefore to a common Jewish history in Hungary. It was founded and created by the Young Adults group of Budapest.

Eventually, Sherri connected with the program and János Marosi began the search for the family's records.

"We knew that [Ira's great grandmother, Rosa] immigrated to the U.S., but we thought there were probably relatives that would still be in Budapest or still in Hungary, and so we were interested to see if we could find anything out about them and their story," Sherri said.

They provided Marosi with the lone document they had: Ira's grandfather's birth certificate. It listed his mother as Rosa, who was born in Budapest.

Marosi was able to find many records for the Patakis. They learned Rosa's father David is buried in Budapest but was not Hungarian. He was likely Russian and traveled to Budapest during the pogroms to try to make a living for his family. A peddler, he was ultimately imprisoned for illegal selling.

"I'm sort of wondering whether it was something that he probably should not have been arrested for," Sherri said. "Basically, he did not speak the language."

He was sentenced to two and a half years and died in prison of pneumonia.

"What was very moving to me was that his family clearly cared about him, because he was buried with a headstone in the Jewish cemetery in Budapest, at a time when that would have been incredibly expensive for families, especially families who were living in poverty, to be able to do that," Sherri said. "So that was a very tragic side of the story, but also made it very meaningful that his great, great, great granddaughter was going back as one of his descendants."

Katie Pataki, Ira and Sherri's daughter,

is currently living in Amsterdam. When the Budapest Young Adults group visited the grave, she was able to join them to place a rock.

"It actually made me extremely emotional, which might seem silly for someone who is the great, great, great granddaughter, and so it's so far removed," she said. "But it actually made me really emotional, because it made me think of my family, from David, and how we got to the U.S."

Rosa immigrated to the U.S., later giving birth to Milton, who was the father of Katie's grandfather Richard.

The story of David is heartbreaking, Katie noted.

"But then the legacy that he left behind is just beautiful," she said. "I don't know anyone who was as good of a person as my grandpa Richard. He was, by far, one of the best men that I have ever met, and that's David's legacy."

Katie has a locket that belonged to her grandmother. Inside is a photo of her grandfather as a young man.

"I carry that with me," she said. "And I took it to the cemetery with me."

She thinks her grandfather would say, "Why? Why are you going back to Hungary? We tried so hard to get away from there."

But deep down, she said, he would have

thought it was "cool."

David's sacrifices made it possible for her family to be here and be successful, Katie said.

While at the cemetery, Katie was able to see graves of famous Jewish people and learn about them. The tour finished at David's grave. Marosi showed the family tree, Katie said a few words, and they had a moment of silence.

"It was really special," she said.

The family is continuing their research, hoping they can connect to living relatives in Hungary. Privacy laws make that difficult, but they've learned some information from Yad Vashem, including some family members who survived the Holocaust in Budapest. They're also pursuing the possibility of obtaining Hungarian citizenship. Both the U.S. and Hungary allow for dual citizenship.

"It was a really incredible experience," Katie concluded. "It meant a lot to me, and it meant a lot to my family, and I'm hoping that we can honor David's memory in the future and hopefully get back and see him again."

Sherri agreed, saying, "It's an experience we'll never forget."

For more information about the Routes2Roots program, contact Sivan Fridman Lavi at [Sivanf@jafi.org](mailto:Sivanf@jafi.org).



Katie Pataki was able to visit the grave of an ancestor after Routes2Roots, a program of Partnership2Gether, was able to help the family trace their roots in Budapest.

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[jewishyoungstown.org/federation/volunteer/](http://jewishyoungstown.org/federation/volunteer/)



## In a Polish town where locals burned Jews alive in 1941, new plaques deny complicity with Nazis

When Jews gathered in early July for the anniversary of a World War II massacre in the Polish town of Jedwabne, they saw a new installation — one that denied a historical consensus about the grievous events that unfolded there.

At the same time, a far-right lawmaker interrupted the memorial gathering — and triggered a police investigation by calling the gas chambers at Auschwitz “fake.”

July 10 marked 84 years since the crimes in Jedwabne, a town of less than 2,000 people northeast of Warsaw. In 1941, local residents killed hundreds of their Jewish neighbors, most of them in a barn where they were burned alive.

The story gained recognition through “Neighbors,” a 2000 book by historian Jan Tomasz Gross. It became a symbol of Polish collaboration in the Holocaust and prompted a presidential apology in 2001.

An official investigation by Poland’s Institute of National Remembrance confirmed in 2002 that the murder was carried out by Poles. But Jedwabne has become a flashpoint in Polish politics, with some far-right politicians claiming it was Germans who perpetrated the massacre and characterizing research on Polish complicity as part of an effort to slander their nation.

Shortly before the anniversary ceremony in Jedwabne, an installation appeared with an alternative version of history. Near the monument that marks the site of the barn where Jews were killed, seven boulders with metal signs in Polish and English detailed a series of false claims, according to the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

One of these plaques dismissed the evidence of Polish perpetrators, saying, “In reality, the crime was committed by a German pacification unit.”

Another cited the partition of Poland in 1795 as “an unimaginable tragedy for Poles” that “turns out to be a source of satisfaction for many Jews.” This narrative continued with the interwar period, when “many Jews openly sympathized with communism” and “identified with the Soviets, who were hostile to Poland,” which “did not help Poles and Jews to come closer together.”

Wojciech Sumlinski, a right-wing activ-



*A man reads one of the plaques newly placed near a Polish monument to the wartime Jedwabne massacre of Jews by their Polish neighbors, July 10, 2025. The plaques question the official findings and claim that “the crime was committed by a German pacification unit” instead of local Poles. (Wojtek Radwanski/AFP via Getty Images)*

ist, has taken credit for the installation, saying on X that he had built it with the help of crowdfunding. Despite standing some 100 feet from the official memorial, the signs are on private property.

This alternate memorial was not the only disruption to the commemoration, hosted by Poland’s Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich and the board of the Jewish Community of Warsaw. After the ceremony, groups of nationalist activists stopped Schudrich and other visitors from leaving by blocking their cars.

Far-right MEP Grzegorz Braun, who recently ran an openly antisemitic presidential campaign, was among the protesters denying Polish responsibility and demanding exhumations of Jedwabne. Earlier attempts to exhume the site were stopped because Jewish law forbids disturbing the dead.

Several dozen police officers broke up the protest and allowed cars to leave, according to local media.

Ahead of the ceremony, Schudrich called the new plaques in Jedwabne a “disgrace” and “an expression of the disease of antisemitism.”

Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust memorial authority, said it was “profoundly shocked and deeply concerned by the desecration of historical truth and memory at the Jedwabne memorial site in Poland.” The institution called on Polish authorities to

remove the installation.

The Auschwitz Memorial condemned Braun on X for a different reason, denying the existence of gas chambers at the concentration camp where more than 1 million Jews were murdered, but did not weigh in on the incidents at Jedwabne. Police say they are investigating Braun’s comments as a possible crime.

The incident came just weeks after Polish voters narrowly elected Karol Nawrocki, a Holocaust revisionist historian, to become the next president. His election was a victory for the Law and Justice Party, which led Poland from 2015 to 2023. During that time, the party promoted historical narratives about Polish victimhood and resistance to the Nazis, while delegitimizing research on Polish antisemitism or Poles who killed Jews, and even passed a law that outlawed accusing Poland or the Polish people of complicity in Nazi crimes.

“What happened today in Jedwabne is not only a disgrace to the memory of the victims, it is a test for Poland’s democracy,” the American Jewish Committee’s Central Europe director Agnieszka Markiewicz said in a statement. “The normalization of antisemitism, especially from elected officials like Grzegorz Braun, demands more than silence. It demands moral clarity, legal accountability, and swift political response. Remembrance without responsibility is not remembrance at all.”



## New fiscal year planning for JCLP

By Sam Bernstine

JCLP Board Chair

The father of time management, Ben Franklin once said, “If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.”

The Jewish Community Legacy Project continues to mature and grow in a highly successful manner because of our plan to be flexible, agile, and relevant to small Jewish congregations in small Jewish communities throughout the United States and Canada.

As the former president of Temple Hadar Israel in New Castle, Pa. I had the very good fortune to work directly with JCLP who supported our small Jewish congregation, community and me with our myriad of needs. Two of the most meaningful results are the Temple Hadar Israel Legacy Endowment housed at the Pittsburgh Federation and the relationship with the Jewish Cemetery & Burial Association of Greater Pittsburgh that now take care of the two cemeteries. JCLP helped make both of these connections.

I always knew about the power of planning, but I needed an organization like JCLP with its experts to help me and

my congregation facilitate the actual planning process. Today, the small town Jewish community of New Castle definitely has a living legacy because of the leadership that JCLP provided to us.

I am proud to be the chair of JCLP as we prepare for our new fiscal year. During our Board Retreat this spring, JCLP further refined our vision, mission, values and goals, much of which I am excited to share with you below.

**Our Vision:** Every small congregation deserves a strategic and supportive planning partner to maximize its potential and legacy.

JCLP is indeed this partner as we currently work with over 250 small Jewish congregations to achieve this effort.

**Our Mission:** The Jewish Community Legacy Project is the only Jewish organization that works exclusively with small Jewish congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

JCLP helps congregations plan so that they can successfully address their current challenges, as well as prepare responsibly for the future in order to ensure an enduring community legacy.

**Our Values:**

- **From Generation to Generation:** transferring financial and Judaic assets to beneficiary agencies to ensure Jewish continuity and community well-being.
- **Honoring their Memories:** preservation of cemeteries: making a lasting commitment to a congregation’s loved ones: preservation of archives: commemorating the congregation’s illustrious history.
- **Being Inclusive:** strengthening engagement: participation, volunteerism, leadership succession.
- **Building Community:** creating conditions for flourishing Jewish communities; sponsoring regional cohorts of small congregations and a national presidents forum for collaboration around programming and planning.

Through our planning efforts, we have defined nine key elements that compose our broad range of services.

JCLP is oftentimes considered to be a lifeline to small congregations and small Jewish communities because JCLP is one of the only resources with expertise

available to these Jewish communities.

Enhanced access and trust-building to outlying and marginalized Jewish community members is central to JCLP’s interaction with over 250 congregations.

JCLP’s core activity is to facilitate planning. In the course of this service delivery, JCLP responds to more specific needs such as assistance in managing a clergy support process; requests for disposition of sacred and secular objects; advice on how to maximize fundraising needs for cemetery and building preservation endowments; inter-synagogue joint activities, consolidation or merger; and strategies for reaching out to the unaffiliated in the community.

JCLP, through its regional cohorts, responds to programming needs that congregants alone cannot offer, JCLP provides an educational and networking opportunity for synagogue leadership through the JCLP Presidents Forum.

If Ben Franklin were alive today, I think his new quote might read, “If you fail to plan with JCLP, you are indeed planning to fail.”

Visit [jclpproject.org](http://jclpproject.org) to see a scope of services chart.

## Alaska’s Nazi Creek renamed after 80 years, following advocacy by son of WWII veteran

A little-known creek in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska had been officially named “Nazi Creek” for 80 years — until this week.

Following a campaign by a local advocate, the creek was given a new name in the language of the local Indigenous people, in a move supported by an Anchorage synagogue.

The one-mile creek, located on a largely uninhabited island, had been given its name during World War II after the Americans recaptured Kiska Island from the Japanese military, following an occupation that lasted a little over a year.

The name was “arbitrarily applied to features in this area” by the United States Army Air Forces, according to an entry in the Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, and appeared on an Army map in 1953. The name was chosen to correspond

with the “N” square in a grid the U.S. military had imposed on the area, according to the New York Times.

The campaign to change the name of the creek began almost two years ago when Michael Livingston, a former police captain and member of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, discovered it.

“My dad served with the U.S. Army during World War II and there were so many losses to the Nazis — particularly for Jewish people, but also the Unanga people,” Livingston told SFGate. “I knew this shouldn’t be there, that something needed to be done.”

Until Thursday, when it was officially renamed by the Domestic Names

Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in a 17-0 vote, Nazi Creek was the only geographic feature in the United States with “Nazi” in its name.

The creek was renamed Kaxchim Chiganaa, meaning “gizzard creek” or “creek or river belonging to gizzard island” in Unangam Tunuu, the language of the Indigenous Unanga people.

During the vote Thursday, the board also voted to change the name of nearby “Nip Hill,” an anti-Japanese reference, to a phrase that means “gizzard hill.”

The name changes were endorsed by local Native tribes and organizations

as well as Congregation Beth Sholom of Anchorage, a synagogue with around 140 member families located in Alaska’s largest city, just under 1,200 miles from the former Nazi Creek.

“We are thrilled for the name change!,” said Rabbi Abram Goodstein of Congregation Beth Sholom by email.

The renaming follows a string of other World War II-inspired place names that have drawn renaming bids in recent years — to mixed results. In 2017, residents of a town in Canada decided not to rename a street named “Swastika Trail” after B’nai Brith Canada, a Jewish advocacy group, opened an online petition campaigning for it to be changed. In 2023, an Oregon mountain named “Swastika Mountain” was renamed “Mount Halo” in honor of a historical tribal leader following pressure from a local resident.

*“I knew this shouldn’t be there, that something needed to be done.”*

*Michael Livingston*