



**Maccabi USA**  
BUILDING JEWISH PRIDE THROUGH SPORTS



# sportscene

2023 | Vol. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MACCABI USA



## Celebrating **75** Years of Maccabi USA

2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the birth of Maccabi USA and the State of Israel. The organization continues steadfastly in its mission to build Jewish pride through sports and looks to usher in the next 75 years with new branding, strategic growth, and a re-commitment to our core values. Enjoy a look back at Maccabi USA's history and a peak into our future.



# President & CEO's *Message*

When the United States Committee Sports for Israel was founded in 1948, the Minneapolis Lakers had recently beaten the Rochester Royals for the National Basketball League championship while the Baltimore Bullets did the same to the Philadelphia Warriors for the Basketball Association of America title (in what would later become the NBA). Citation had recently won the Triple Crown, a feat that would not be achieved again until Secretariat came along 25 years later.

In that summer of 1948, Babe Zaharias and Ben Hogan would capture the Women's and Men's US Open in golf while London would host the first Olympic Games since the Berlin Games of 1936. In October, the Cleveland Indians would go on to win the World Series over the Boston Braves, and in December, the Philadelphia Eagles would win the NFL Championship 7-0 over the Chicago Cardinals.

Beyond the sports world, 1948 would see the opening of New York's Idlewild Airport (later renamed JFK), the introduction of a new board game named "Scrabble", and the reelection of President Harry S. Truman (despite the famous "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline).

Most importantly, in late spring, the State of Israel was just a few weeks old. As we celebrate our joint 75th birthdays, 2023 is a great opportunity to look back on what Israel and Maccabi USA have accomplished and look ahead to what's in store.

Much like Israel's initial fight for international recognition, so too was US Committee Sports for Israel's initial mission to help the fledgling homeland for the Jewish people gain representation in the international sports arena. Within four years, that mission was complete with an Israeli team competing at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and every Summer Games since (aside from the boycotted 1980 Moscow Games) as well as every Winter Games since Lillehammer in 1994.

In short order, we became the official organizer of the US delegation to the Maccabiah, which returned in 1950 after a 15-year hiatus due to the Holocaust. Israel played a critical role in creating a haven and center for the Jewish people, while the Maccabiah

offered an opportunity for the world's Jewish athletes to join together every four years on the field of play.

From those early years to now, Maccabi USA has developed a vision of a world where sports serve as a galvanizing force in strengthening Jewish pride, connection, and community. We do that by promoting support for Israel, Zionism, and Jewish continuity through athletic, educational, and cultural experiences for participants of all ages.

As we begin our next 75 years, we are still riding high from last summer's record-breaking Maccabiah and are busy preparing for what is shaping up to be our biggest-ever delegation to the Pan Am Maccabi Games this winter in Buenos Aires.

We are also still in awe of the generosity of Stuart Weitzman and all those who contributed to his match. Through his and their contributions, Maccabi USA has a game-changing \$7M endowed scholarship fund that will help ensure the financial accessibility of the Maccabiah in perpetuity. And stay tuned – Stuart's generous match will extend by another \$1M through the end of 2023!

So while a lot has changed since 1948 – the names of teams, leagues, and airports along with Maccabi USA's name, mission, and logo – much remains the same: the central importance of Israel to the Jewish people and the power of sports to bring Jews together on and off the playing field.

Happy birthday to Israel and Maccabi USA – we are excited to see what the next 75 years have in store!

*Chazak v'Ematz! Be Courageous and Strong!*

*Jeff Bink* *Marshall Eylon*







Birth of Israel & the organization under its initial name: United States Committee Sports for Israel (USCSFI).



Maccabi USA hosts a domestic Pre-Camp at Rutgers University prior to sending 520 members to Israel for the 12th Maccabiah.

1948

1950

1985



A 38-member American delegation competes in the 3rd Maccabiah.



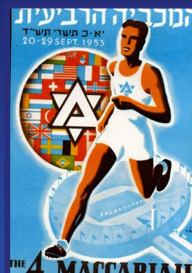
1st Maccabiah  
1932



2nd Maccabiah  
1935



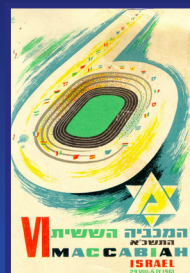
3rd Maccabiah  
1950



4th Maccabiah  
1953



5th Maccabiah  
1957



6th Maccabiah  
1961



7th Maccabiah  
1965





USCSFI changes  
its name to  
Maccabi USA.

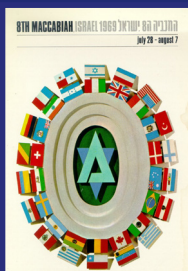
1989

1994

2001

A 4-day Pre-Camp in Israel  
takes place prior to the  
13th Maccabiah.

The annual Pre-Camp  
before the Maccabiah is  
renamed *Israel Connect*.



8th Maccabiah  
1969



9th Maccabiah  
1973



10th Maccabiah  
1977



11th Maccabiah  
1981



12th Maccabiah  
1985



13th Maccabiah  
1989



14th Maccabiah  
1993





Maccabi USA tops 1K participants as 1,109 Americans descend upon Israel for the 19th Maccabiah.

The 21st Maccabiah is postponed due to the global pandemic. It's the first disruption of the 4-year cycle in the modern era.

2013

2021

2022



Maccabi USA sends 1,350 members to Israel for the 21st Maccabiah. President Joe Biden meets a contingent of USA athletes during the Opening Ceremony. Maccabi USA launches Maccabi Media with 14 students selected for the inaugural program.



15th Maccabiah  
1997



16th Maccabiah  
2001



17th Maccabiah  
2005



18th Maccabiah  
2009



19th Maccabiah  
2013



20th Maccabiah  
2017



21st Maccabiah  
2022



**In celebration of our 75th anniversary, we invited several Maccabi USA alumni born in or before 1948 to reflect on the organization's mission, impact, and future.**



"Maccabi USA changed my whole outlook. When you are in Israel as part of a team, working with other people and everyone is Jewish, it's just a different feeling. The strength of Maccabi USA is that it confronts antisemitism

by making our teen athletes and future Jewish leaders proud to be Jewish."

### **Susan Penn - Tennis**

**Maccabiah - 1997, 2001**

**Pan American Games - 2003**



"Competing in the Maccabiah affected my life in a lot of good ways. One of the best things was meeting lifelong friends. Some of those relationships are so incredibly special to me. It's a powerful experience to be at the Maccabiah,

knowing that everyone else is Jewish."

### **Irwin Shorr - Tennis**

**Maccabiah - 2013, 2017, European Games - 2015**

**Pan American Games - 2019**



"I was floored by my experiences with Maccabi USA. It's a terrific organization. Many adults, including myself, were overwhelmed with how big and terrific the organization was. The effect on the people around me was very impactful."

### **Nancy-Joe Feinberg - Golf**

**Maccabiah - 2013, European Games - 2015**

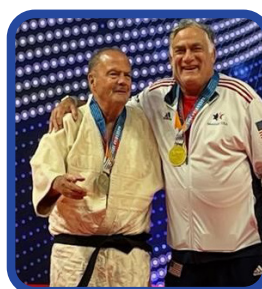


"Wrestling in the 1973 Maccabiah was a real thrill, truly one of the highlights of my life. Marching into Ramat Gan stadium for the Opening Ceremony, and seeing the flags of 30 countries being represented was memorable. Bringing athletes from all

over the world to Israel is something I hope can continue for years to come."

### **David Pottruck - Wrestling**

**Maccabiah - 1973**



"The people at Maccabi USA are there to help promote Jewish athletes from around the world. The organization has grown to extend an arm greatly to paralympians, and expand its horizons, giving us all an opportunity to see Israel. Maccabi USA is a way

of life for me, and I have a special love for it. It's truly awe-inspiring and I hope people realize it is a gift to be involved."

### **Lawrence Levin - Judo**

**Maccabiah - 2013, 2017, 2022**

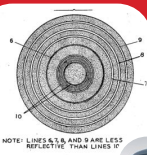


"My passion is Israel and sports. There's no feeling like walking into Teddy Stadium for the Opening Ceremony as part of the Maccabi USA Team. It's like being a kid watching the Olympics, and then all of a sudden, you are doing it, as part of the Jewish world!"

### **Geoffrey Thaw - Triathlon**

**Maccabiah - 2013**

## **Fun Facts from 1948**



**The first bar code is designed by 2 Drexel University students.**



**The game of Scrabble is patented.**



**Harry Truman elected U.S. President.**



**Ford introduces the F-series truck.**



**Citation wins the Triple Crown.**



**Cheetos are introduced.**



# Pan American Maccabi Games Through the Years



The first Pan American Maccabi Games were held in Buenos Aires in 1964 and this year we'll return to Argentina for the 15th rendition of the Games. Previous events have been held in Mexico, Venezuela, Uruguay, Chile, and Brazil. This winter's festivities will be held December 27, 2023 - January 4, 2024, with competitions for Junior, Masters, and Open athletes taking place in the 3 main hubs of Hebraica, Hacoaj, and Cissab.



## List of Pan American Maccabi Games:

- 1964 Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1966 São Paulo, Brazil
- 1976 Lima, Peru
- 1979 Mexico City, Mexico
- 1983 São Paulo, Brazil
- 1987 Caracas, Venezuela
- 1991 Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1995 Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1999 Mexico City, Mexico
- 2003 Santiago, Chile
- 2007 Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2011 São Paulo, Brazil
- 2015 Santiago, Chile
- 2019 Mexico City, Mexico
- 2023 Buenos Aires, Argentina



# European Maccabi Games

## Through the Years



The first European Maccabi Games were held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1929 and since Maccabi USA's founding almost two decades later, the organization has delivered thousands of Americans to European soil for elite competition. The Games now return to Great Britain for a third time as the European Maccabi Youth Games host U16 and U18 athletes in London from July 30 - August 6, 2024.



### List of European Maccabi Games:

- 1929 Prague, Czechoslovakia
- 1930 Antwerpen, Belgium
- 1959 Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1963 Lyon, France
- 1979 Leicester, United Kingdom
- 1983 Antwerpen, Belgium
- 1987 Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1991 Marseille, France
- 1995 Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1999 Stirling, United Kingdom
- 2003 Antwerpen, Belgium
- 2007 Rome, Italy
- 2011 Vienna, Austria
- 2015 Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Budapest, Hungary





**MAKKABI  
DEUTSCHLAND  
WINTER  
GAMES  
2023**



During the past 75 years, Maccabi USA has fielded teams for other international competitions including the **2018 Maccabi Youth Games** - and most recently - the **2023 Makkabi Deutschland Winter Games** in Germany. The organization is committed to supporting the growth of the entire Maccabi movement. Whenever... Wherever... We'll Be There!



## 2023 **Bob Spivak** Memorial Maccabi USA Philadelphia Golf Tournament

On June 5, 2023, Green Valley Country Club (Lafayette Hill, PA) hosted the Annual Bob Spivak Maccabi USA Philadelphia Golf Tournament. The event was renamed this year in honor of former Maccabi USA President Bob Spivak (z"l) who led the organization from 1981-2001, but passed away in 2022.



Scan here to watch Maccabi USA's tribute to former president Bob Spivak (z"l)



## Maccabi USA Presidents

**1949**



**Col. Harry D.  
HENSHL**

**1961**



**Haskell  
COHEN**

**1969**



**Robert  
ROSENBERG**

**1973**



**Nat  
HOLMAN**

**1981**



**Robert  
SPIVAK**

**2001**



**Toni  
WORTMAN**

**2009**



**Ron  
CARNER**

**2017**



**Jeff  
BUKANTZ**



# Maccabi USA Alumni News

## Mazel Tov to...

**Dr. Steven** and **Dr. Meaghan Fielkow** and grandparents Susan and **Arnie Fielkow** on the birth of Claire Pearl Fielkow on May 27, 2023.

**Leon** and **Sharon Lifschutz** on the birth of son Ezra Dov on January 22, 2023.

**Jordan Weinstein** on the birth of granddaughter Naomi Sera (and to parents Melissa and Chris).

**Elyssa Rosenbaum** on the birth of her daughter Madelyn Rose Becker on June 1, 2023.

**Teddy Levitt** on his engagement to Julie Cohn and their impending marriage in May 2024 on Catalina Island.

**Leon Grundstein** on his election to the Jewish Hall of Fame of Western PA (Track).



Lifschutz family



Madelyn Rose Becker

**Dr. Gary Gordon** on his Pioneer in Podiatry Award at the PPMA Inaugural Dinner.

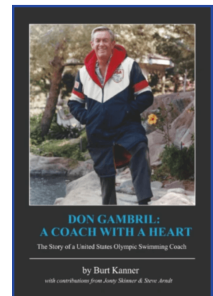
**Rick Rothman** on being named coach of the U20 United States men's cross country team.

**Ronni Binstock** on being named Senior Gymnast of the Year and helping Western Michigan University place third at the NCAA Regional Semifinals.

**Abby Meyers** on leading the University of Maryland women's basketball team to an Elite 8 appearance in the NCAA Tournament and being selected 11th overall in the WNBA draft.

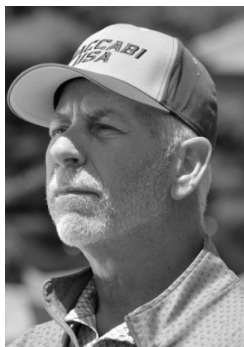
**Blake Peters** on leading the Princeton University men's basketball team to a Sweet 16 appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

**Burt Kanner** on the publishing of his new book - the biography of legendary swimming coach Don Gambriel.



## Members of the Maccabi USA family we have lost: Z"l

**Fred M. Cohen** passed away at the age of 65 on June 5th. Fred was a visionary supporter of Maccabi USA and was an Open and Masters softball player at numerous Games since 2003. He served as a board member and chaired the Maccabi USA Softball and Baseball Program and the annual Chicago Golf Tournament. He was also serving as the Vice Chair for Maccabi USA's 2025 Maccabiah Organizing Committee.



1958-2023

**Nancy Shrier** of Rydal, PA, passed away in July 2022 at the age of 75. She was a passionate tennis player who competed for Maccabi USA at the 1989 Games in Israel.

**Dick Savitt** passed away at the age of 95 in January. The legendary Jewish tennis player won the Australian and the Wimbledon men's singles titles in 1951. The Maccabi USA alum and Jewish Sports Hall of Fame inductee won singles and gold medals at the 6th Maccabiah.

**Thomas Churylo**, brother of Joseph Churylo and brother-in-law of Julie Churylo, Maccabi USA Senior Director of Operations, passed away at the age of 59 in January.

Please share your news with us. Send us updates ([maccabi@maccabiusa.com](mailto:maccabi@maccabiusa.com)) and we will include in our next communication.

## Our Mission:

To build Jewish pride through sports and promote support for Israel, Zionism, and Jewish continuity through athletic, educational, and cultural experiences for participants of all ages.

## Our Values: Scan the QR Code to see each of our 6 core values come alive!



Athletic Excellence,  
Competition,  
Sportsmanship,  
and Teamwork



Tikkun Olam  
'Repair the World'  
Lev L'lev  
'Heart to Heart'



Connection  
with Israel



Jewish Continuity  
and Jewish Pride



Diversity and  
Inclusion



The Power of  
Sports to Build  
Community





# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

## STUART WEITZMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thank you to Stuart and everyone who contributed to the Stuart Weitzman Scholarship Fund in 2022. This new \$7M endowed scholarship fund for need-based athletes will help connect young American Jews to Israel for generations. Stay tuned for an exciting update coming this fall.

### \$1,000,000+

Weitzman Family Foundation

### \$250,000+

Justine Stamen Arrillaga and John Arrillaga  
Aileen and Brian Roberts

### \$100,000+

Sloan and Roger Barnett  
Kim and Todd Horberg  
Howard Levine Foundation-Howard and Julie Levine  
Randall and Tamara Winn

### \$50,000+

Debbie and Anthony Adams  
Bender Foundation, Inc.  
Chicago Golf Tournament, Co-Chairs  
Fred Cohen and Mark Fishman  
Don Garber  
Joel and Tonja Magerman  
Marc and Amy Rosenberg

### \$25,000+

Backal Family in Memory of Dr. Gary H. Cohen  
Blavatnik Family Foundation  
Beth and Josh Brodtkin  
Jeff Bukantz  
Leo David  
Leland and Susan Faust  
Harry and Leah Gudelsky Foundation  
Iris and Igal Hami  
Mark Horowitz and Jennifer Koen  
Donald Kent and Ellen Goosenberg Kent  
Richard Kriesel-Kilstock  
John R. Levene  
Michael Magerman and Kelly Greenleaf  
Jeanie Milbauer and Bill Knapp  
Harvey and Susan Morgan  
Nancy and Daniel Neff  
The Orender Family  
Lauren and Richard Packard  
Dave Rudzinsky  
Kim Sinatra  
The Sirovich Family Charitable Foundation

### \$10,000+

Natalie and Brett Barth  
Steve and Meryl Berliner  
Berger Family Foundation  
James and Rachel Calmas  
Mindy S. Cohen  
Richard Farber and Janet Leahy  
Francis Fraenkel  
Ben and Julie Kadish  
Peggy Edersheim Kalb and Scott Kalb  
Marilyn L. and Edward M. Kaplan  
Pamela and Bradley Korman  
David Linn and Kathy Carter  
Herb and Barbara Linn  
Maccabi World Union Committee of 18  
Marmur Family  
Foundation of the Milken Families  
Erica and Kevin Penn  
Dede Robbins  
Rick and Susie Schnall  
Neil and Lisa Wallack

## MACCABI USA ENDOWMENTS (\$25,000+) as of 7/1/23

### PATRONS

#### \$1,000,000+

Aileen & Brian (A) Roberts  
Ellen (A) & Samuel (A) Sporn (IC)  
Stuart Weitzman Family Foundation (A)

### CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

#### \$180,000+

Justine Stamen Arrillaga  
and John Arrillaga  
Sloan and Roger Barnett  
Talia & Ron Carner  
Leah & Ed Frankel  
Keith Frankel (A)  
Monica & Barry Gurland  
Iris & Igal Hami  
Kim & Todd Horberg  
Edy (z"l) & V. David (A) (z"l) Levitt  
Phyllis Magerman (z"l)  
B'nai Mitzvah Endowment  
Joy & Jerry (z"l) Monkarsh  
Taylor Hogge & Robert E. Spivak

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

#### \$100,000+

Sarah (A) & Robert Cohn  
Cecile (z"l) & Allan Dalfen  
Cecile (z"l) & Lester (z"l) Fein  
Suzan & Allen Fox  
Mark S. Goldstein & the  
Jean Alenstein Trust  
Kantor (A)/Knue (A) Family

Howard Levine Foundation-  
Howard and Julie Levine  
Phyllis (z"l) & Alan Magerman  
Susan & Harvey Morgan  
The Sheldon Family (A)  
Randall (A) and Tamara Winn  
Dr. Lee Winston & Herman Silver  
Charitable Fund/ Sam Rabinowitz (z"l)  
Toni & Wally Wortman  
Selig Zises & Ellyn Bank (A)  
16th & 17th U.S. Maccabiah Teams

### GIBORIM

#### \$50,000+

Kerry & Alan Appelbaum (A)  
Sandi & Jerry Bloomberg  
The Chaskin Family  
Florence & Michael Edelstein  
The Fraenkel Family Foundation  
Benjamin Frankel Fund  
Lynn & Carl (z"l) Goldstein  
Mark S. & Marty Goldstein  
Shirlee (z"l) & Bill (A) (z"l) Jacobs  
Donna & Jeffrey (A) Laikind  
Budd and Nanette Mayer  
Family Foundation  
Michael L. Magerman Family  
Tonja & Joel Magerman  
Amy & Alan Meltzer  
Ilene & Melvyn Miller  
Robert Pincus (A) & Family  
The Rabinovitch Foundation (A)

Estherly & Leonard (A)(z"l) Reifman  
Barbara Brizdle (A) & Larry  
Schoenberg (A)  
Janet & Ellis (z"l) Shore  
Jill & Stu (A) Siegel  
Harry & Beatrice Sley Foundation/  
Betsy Grossman  
Diane & David (z"l) Stern  
Marilyn (z"l) & Harry Swimmer

### ISRAEL SPORTS AMBASSADOR

#### \$25,000+

Jan Albert (A) Family Golf Endowment  
Ellen & Simon Atlas  
Backal Family in Memory  
of Dr. Gary H. Cohen  
Gladys & Lewis (A) Bass &  
Family Endowment  
Blavatnik Family Foundation  
Jerome Bornstein (A) & Morris  
& Rose Bornstein Memorial Fund  
The Peter Brand Foundation (A)  
Ruth & Ray Brenner  
Barbara & Jim (A) Bronner  
Jeffrey Bukantz (A)  
Leo David  
Marilyn & Simon (z"l) Denenberg  
Susan and Leland (A) Faust  
Doris & Sheldon (A) (z"l) Gitman  
Joy & Gary (A) Gordon  
Mark Horowitz and Jennifer Koen  
Ira Kamens  
Jean & Stephen Kaplan

Donald Kent and Ellen Goosenberg Kent  
Stanley Kleckner (A) (z"l)  
Richard Kriesel-Kilstock  
Marilyn & Mark Labkon  
Family Endowment  
Carol (z"l) & Harvey (A) Leff  
Jon (A), Kelly, Kenton & Ashlyn Levin  
Cissie & Robert (z"l) Levy  
Sydney Levy Memorial  
Ronnie & David (z"l) Lowenthal  
Beth & Jed (A) Margolis  
Ava, Edward & Jordan (A) Mendelson  
Jeanie Milbauer and Bill Knapp  
Dennis (A), Marc & Steve Needleman  
The Orender Family  
Bernard Osher Foundation  
The Pincus Charitable Fund (A)  
Amy & Marc Rosenberg (A)  
May & Samuel Rudin Foundation  
David Rudzinsky (A)  
Silverstein Family  
Dana & Mark Susson  
Wertheim Family Endowment  
Charles Simon  
Rhea & Edward Slade  
Edward M. Slater Memorial Fund  
Louise & William Steerman  
Tanner Tananbaum  
Ruth & Howard (z"l) Walzer  
Patricia & Philip Wexler  
Ira & Shirley Yohalem Endowment  
Deborah Miller & William Zabel (A)

## LEGACY SOCIETY as of 7/1/23

Hank Alpert  
Ellen and Si Atlas  
Robyn Barsky  
Howard A. Berger  
Sandi and Jerry Bloomberg  
Merri and Jay (A) Blumenfeld  
Jerry Bornstein, MD  
Ray Brenner  
Jim Bronner (A)  
Jeff Bukantz (A)  
Talia and Ron Carner  
Douglas Erenberg  
Leland (A) and Susan Faust

Libby Newman Feldman  
Suzan and Allen Fox  
Ben (A) and Heidi Fox  
Marilyn Glaser  
Joy and Gary (A) Gordon  
Linda Greenberg (z"l)  
Betsy Grossman  
Harvey Gutman  
Alan Hahn  
Richard Hermann  
Larry Hirsch (A)  
David Hochberg  
Marilyn Labkon

Jackie and Nat Levine  
Deb Lichtenfeld and Jeff Schulman (A)  
Karen Karper  
Donald Kent (A) and  
Ellen Goosenberg Kent  
Irv Levine (z"l) (A)  
David Lowenthal (z"l) (A)  
Beth and Jed (A) Margolis  
Ilene and Mel Miller  
Susan and Harvey Morgan  
Jay Moses (A)  
John Paul  
Leonard Reifman (z"l) (A)

Ken Schwartz (A)  
Claire A. and Alan Sherman  
Taylor Hogge and Robert Spivak (z"l)  
Ellen and Sam (A) Sporn  
Louise and Bill (z"l) Steerman  
Harry Swimmer  
Dana and Mark Susson  
Frank Velie (A)  
David Weissman (z"l)  
Steven Wertheim  
Toni and Wally Wortman

We make every attempt to ensure our donor listing is accurate. If your name is listed incorrectly or missing, please contact the office ([maccabi@maccabiusa.com](mailto:maccabi@maccabiusa.com), 215.561.6900).

(A) Athlete

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# Upcoming Events

## **2023 Rugby Hall of Fame Induction**

**August 5, 2023**  
Kaiser Tiger • Chicago, IL

## **Pickleball Tournament**

**October 21-22, 2023**  
Boca West CC • Boca Raton, FL

## **European Maccabi Youth Games**

**July 30 - August 6, 2024**  
London, Great Britain

## **Freddy Cohen Memorial Maccabi USA Chicago Golf Tournament**

**August 28, 2023**  
Knollwood Club • Lake Forest, IL

## **Bruce Fleisher Memorial Maccabi USA Palm Beach Golf Tournament**

**November 2023**

## **15th Pan American Maccabi Games**

**Dec 27, 2023 to Jan 4, 2024**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina



**To the Next 75 Years!** *Chazak v'Ematz!*

