

sportscene

2024 | Vol. 2

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MACCABI USA

Our European Expedition & Anticipating Israel

Enjoy the memories from our recent barnstorming in London at the European Maccabi Youth Games and help us turn the page for an emotional return to the Holy Land at the 2025 Maccabiah in Israel next summer.



President & CEO's *Message*

As we look back on the last year, it is clear that Maccabi USA's mission is as critical as it's ever been. The heinous attacks of October 7th and the existential fight that has followed in Israel's South and now North and the battle against antisemitism in the US and around the world, has increased the importance of Maccabi USA's efforts to build pride and connections through sports: within the American Jewish community, with other members of the global Jewish Diaspora, and certainly with Israel and Israelis.

The importance of our mission was clear in Buenos Aires in December as the Maccabi Movement gathered for the Pan Am Maccabi Games. And it was clear in London in July as we gathered for the European Maccabi Youth Games.

At both Games, Maccabi USA had the second largest delegation after our wonderful hosts FACCMA and Maccabi Great Britain, respectively. In Argentina, the US delegation had its own hotel, with transportation provided to each of the competition venues. In England, the Games were situated on a college campus north of London, with all delegations staying, eating, and competing (aside from a handful of sports taking place nearby) in one location. The setup lent itself to opportunities for meaningful connection across the various countries and cultures represented, both on and off the field.

And much as it was at the Pan Am Maccabi Games in Argentina, it was particularly meaningful to be joined by a delegation of athletes and managers from Israel. The power of their participation was evident from the start of the Games in England. The Israeli delegation marched into the opening ceremony with pride and enthusiasm – and were promptly joined by athletes from the other delegations in the room who marched right along with them. The same was true a few minutes later as all those assembled belted out Hatikvah as if to collectively say Am Yisrael Chai – the People of Israel Live!

The same was true in Buenos Aires – as thousands of people in Movistar Arena gave the Israeli delegation a standing ovation, shed some tears, and sang the Israeli national anthem.

And the same will certainly be true next summer in Israel at the 2025 Maccabiah.

Maccabi USA will send our largest delegation ever to these quadrennial Games and what will be the largest delegation of American Jews to travel to Israel since October 7th. There is, of course, significant cost to make this possible and we appreciate everyone in the Maccabi USA community who can contribute to ensure we meet the moment, providing a life-changing experience to our largest-ever delegation and, in the process, a much-needed boost to the economy of Israel.

Next year's Maccabiah will be a display of solidarity and unity unlike any in the 90+ year history of the Games and a reminder that the mission of Maccabi USA – to build Jewish pride and promote support for Israel, Zionism, and Jewish continuity through athletic, educational, and cultural experiences for participants of all ages – is as relevant and critical as at any point in our history.

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah – may it be a happy and healthy year for everyone in the Maccabi family and may the new year see the swift and safe return of the hostages.

Marshall Erlichman *Jeff Burt*



Remembering October 7th



This month Israel marked the one-year anniversary of the horrifying attack on October 7th, the resulting hostage crisis, the war on multiple fronts, and a rise of anti-Israel, anti-Zionist, and antisemitic rhetoric and acts worldwide. Through unspeakable tragedy, Israel has stood strong, and the Jewish People globally have rallied in support of our ancient and modern Homeland.

For more than a century our Maccabi Movement has represented the strength and resilience of the Jewish People through sports. Modeled on the image of Nordeau's "Muscular Jew" to stand proudly in the face of European antisemitism in the 19th Century the name Maccabi has carried the heroic legacy of our namesake Maccabees for generations. We

must honor that tradition of resolve in the face of this great adversity. Now, in this moment, Maccabi USA reaffirms our commitment to our core values: Athletic Excellence, Competition, Sportsmanship & Teamwork; Connection With Israel; Diversity & Inclusion; Jewish Continuity & Jewish Pride; The Power Of Sports To Build Community; and, Tikkun Olam: Lev L'Lev (Community Service).

Acting in accordance with this commitment we unwaveringly support Israel and the Jewish People, and, with unyielding determination, we affirm, "we are proud to be Jewish, proud to be Zionist, and proud to be Maccabi!"

AM YISRAEL CHAI –

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL LIVE –

עם ישראל חי!



Visit "Kurtz's Corner" – a weekly journal started by Dan Kurtz, Maccabi USA's Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, immediately after the October 7th terrorist attack in Israel.



One year ago, along with my husband and six suitcases, I landed in Philadelphia to begin a new journey.

Two weeks after landing, while looking for an apartment and trying to choose the milk that most resembled what we knew from home, October 7th happened.

That disaster completely altered our arrival here, and we found ourselves quite lost, filled with a sense of guilt for being so far from Israel, worried about our family and friends, and mostly in shock.

But this tragedy also made me realize that my role here was going to change, and the concept of my mission suddenly took on a much broader meaning. I'm not here to represent Israel; I'm here to remind everyone I meet along the way that Israel is our homeland, and if we don't defend it, and if we don't do everything to ensure its future, we won't have a place to return to.

In the past year, I found a home. I found real meaning, and I was fortunate enough to see how Jewish sports serve as a source of connection and pride for the Jewish communities in the U.S.

I am filled with pride to be part of this organization, and looking forward to another year where I can create, initiate and make an impact.

Yours,

Lior

Mazel Tov to **Lior Witlin** and her husband **Yohay** on the birth of their first son **Razz Alia** on 9/23/24 - the one-year anniversary of their arrival to the US from Israel.



Be sure to check out "Shlichah Stories" which features weekly insights, perspectives and heartfelt thoughts from Maccabi USA's Shlichah ("Emissary") Lior Witlin.

Encapsulating England

LONDON
2024
EUROPEAN
MACCABI
YOUTH GAMES

Maccabi USA brought 130 athletes, coaches, staff and media members to London for the European Maccabi Youth Games this past summer. An American delegation of U16 and U18 athletes competed against 13 other countries and earned 12 medals including 5 golds. The group also returned with reenergized Jewish pride, new global bonds, and a lifetime of memories from its European expedition.



Top 5 Countries

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Great Britain	7	5	4	16
Germany	1	6	6	13
USA	5	2	5	12
France	2	3	3	8
Argentina	1	2	1	4



London Chairs' Message

It has been a few short months since we said goodbye to London and returned home with great memories from the European Maccabi Youth Games (EMYG). We are so proud of the 12 medals our delegation earned while upholding our mission to build Jewish pride through sports. Maccabi USA had the largest non-GB delegation at the Games with more than 120 members and 180 supporters attending. It was amazing to witness all the Jewish bonding whilst (yes, whilst) making new lifelong friends. Everywhere we turned we saw strong competition and camaraderie and we are grateful for a well-organized event hosted by Maccabi GB.

Our delegation visited amazing historic and Jewish sites including Camden, London Eye, Wembley, Parliament, Big Ben, London Bridge, Tower Bridge and the Jewish Museum London (JW3). We also had powerful interactive programs with the ADL on combatting antisemitism, a speaker on overcoming disabilities, mixers, quiz nights, delegation parties and Shabbat programming.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the entire professional team, managers, coaches, medical team, security team, media team, volunteers, chairs and everyone who had a role, no matter how big or small, in the success of this event. We know that attending a Jewish event in these challenging times was not an easy decision and thank you for stepping up to join this event. We look forward to sharing many more Maccabi moments with you - our Maccabi family - in the future.



Summer Bloom
USA Team Vice Chair

Scott Gelb
USA Team General Chair



MACCABIAH 2025

המכביה

JULY 2025

The **2025 Maccabiah** will take place in Israel next summer and we are excited to send more than 1,400 athletes to compete against representatives from nearly 80 countries. The largest U.S. delegation in Maccabiah history will be immersed in history, culture and competition during the following schedule:

- **JUNE 29 - JULY 1: Intensive Training Camp** (for specific sports)
- **JULY 1 - JULY 8: Israel Connect Program**
- **JULY 9: Competition Begins**
- **JULY 10: Opening Ceremony at Teddy Stadium**
- **JULY 21: Closing Ceremony**
- **JULY 22: Competition Concludes**



New Highlights:

- **Two teams in multiple junior sports and divisions (U16/U18)**
 - Includes soccer, basketball, ice hockey and more - Scan this QR code for more info
 - Allows more athletes to experience Israel and further cultivate their Jewish pride
- **New sports including Open/Masters Pickleball and Mountain Biking**
- **Jerusalem-focused Israel Connect program**
- **Maccabi USA Missions offering exclusive travel packages highlighting the history, culture and importance of Israel** (Details on p.10)
- **“More Than Ever” as the theme of Lev L’Lev**
 - Promotes Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) as our community service initiative
 - Makes a positive tangible impact to those affected by the October 7th attacks



If you would like to learn more about participating in the 2025 Maccabiah as an athlete, coach, chair or volunteer, please contact Shane Carr at scarr@maccabiusa.com.

PARIS 2024



Prominence in PARIS

Maia Weintraub won a gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in women's team foil. It marked America's first ever gold in this team fencing event.

Weintraub previously won three gold medals for Maccabi USA at the 2019 European Maccabi Games in Hungary. The Philadelphia native and Princeton University junior won the NCAA and Ivy League foil championships as a freshman in 2021.



Maia Weintraub

Former Maccabi USA swimmer **Andi Murez** served as Team Israel's flag bearer in Paris. This was the California native's third time representing Israel in Olympic competition after she made Aliyah in 2014. Murez is one of the most decorated swimmers in Maccabiah history with 18 medals (12 gold, 6 silver) and she was honored as a 2022 Legends of the Maccabiah for her accomplishments in the pool with both the United States and Israel.

Andi Murez



Israel earned seven medals at the 2024 Summer Olympics including one gold, five silver and one bronze. This was a historic haul for a nation that tallied just 13 previous medals in 18 Olympics since it began competing in 1952.

At the 2024 Paris Paralympics, Israel won 10 additional medals (four gold, two silver, four bronze) for its first double-digit showing in two decades. Israeli swimmer Ami Dadaon, who has cerebral palsy, claimed four medals in the pool.



Instagram/ami.dadon



Courtesy of Israel Olympic Committee

MEET POWELL SCHNEIDER

Maccabi USA's new Regional Engagement Officer (South Florida)

Born and raised in Boston, Powell Schneider began his association with Maccabi USA as an athlete in the 19th Maccabiah in Israel competing in futsal. After the Games, Schneider signed with Green Archers FC in the Philippines Football League and enjoyed a professional soccer career spanning three continents. After making Aliyah in 2019, Powell began offering consulting services as a sporting advisor and has since held roles as a college coach and youth club director.



POWELL'S POSITION:

The Regional Engagement Officer is responsible for driving Maccabi USA's outreach, presence, and impact within the South Florida region. This position plays a key role in building and nurturing relationships with community members, increasing engagement in Maccabi USA's programs and events, and promoting the organization's mission and values through strategic, localized initiatives.

POWELL'S OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthen Maccabi USA's presence and impact in South Florida
- Increase overall community involvement and participation through Maccabi USA programs, events and initiatives
- Build and maintain relationships with community leaders
- Engage with alumni
- Recruit athletes, volunteers and donors
- Educate Jewish community on Maccabi's mission
- Develop and implement strategies to gather and address regional community feedback



Mazel Tov to...

Marcy Levine Lucas on her induction into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame on May 23rd. After competing in the 10th Maccabiah in 1977, the former gymnast helped lead Penn State to 3 national championships and was a 2-time All-American.

Monica Lucas Davis on the birth of her son Elliot Clifford Davis on June 24th.

Maccabi USA President **Jeff Bukantz** on his upcoming inductions into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and the USA Fencing Hall of Fame, Class of 2025.

EJ Kahn (MUSA Board Member) and Beka Kahn on the birth of their son Jet Beringer Kahn on April 19th.



EJ Kahn

Yoni Dulitzki and **Aly Forman** for their joyous wedding celebration in Philadelphia on September 1st.

Donna Orender (MUSA Board Member & Overall Basketball Commissioner) on being named to the Class of 2024 for The Kurtz Family New Jersey Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Debbie Adams, **Fred Cohen** (z"l), **Jamie Chadwin** and **Alec Weiss** on their induction into the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2024.

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

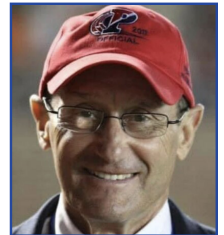
Dr. Daniel Korschun passed away on July 17th from lung cancer at the age of 56. The Drexel University professor and department head was an author, lecturer, Fulbright scholar and world-class athlete who competed in the 14th Maccabiah in Open Fencing.



Dr. Daniel Korschun

Lillian "Lili" Berliner passed away on July 6th at the age of 97. The Holocaust survivor earned a master's degree in Health Care Administration and worked with nursing home dementia patients. The mother of Stephen Berliner (MUSA Board Member) will be remembered by her loving family.

Frederick Rosenfeld passed away on September 5th at the age of 79 due to complications of Parkinson's disease. One of the greatest coaches in Philadelphia Public League history, "Mr. Rose" led track and cross-country teams to 51 championships during a 35-year career. He served as an assistant coach for Maccabi USA's Open Track & Field team at the 14th Maccabiah in 1993.



Frederick Rosenfeld

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

Wishing everyone in the Maccabi USA Family a meaningful and happy New Year!

- *L'shana tovah u'metukah*



Going to watch your family compete at the MACCABIAH 2025?

Join the Maccabi USA Mission to Israel.

Gold: July 4-17*, 2025 (Tel Aviv + Jerusalem + Your Competition City[^])

Silver: July 7-17, 2025 (Jerusalem + Your Competition City)

Bronze: July 7-17, 2025 (Jerusalem + Your Competition City)

The Maccabiah is the largest gathering of Diaspora Jewry in the world and it's not just for athletes:

- Scuba dive the Mediterranean, take a culinary tour of the Old City of Jerusalem, and meet with high-level Israeli politicians
- Visit Israeli wineries, share a Shabbat dinner with Maccabi families, and enjoy a night-time Tower of David light show
- Attend the Maccabiah Opening Ceremony
- Commemorate those we lost on October 7th by hearing from IDF soldiers and survivors at the Nova Festival site
- Child-friendly options/alternative activities offered throughout
- Hotel and transportation included (airfare optional)



“We are not ‘group travel people’ but the Maccabi USA Mission really changed our minds about that! All of us left feeling that we made lifelong friendships.”

--Melissa & Ron Greenberg

2024 EMYG London Mission - Chelsea Football Club
‘Behind-the-Scenes’ Tour



Don't let your athletes have all the fun—this is an experience of a lifetime for families too and will leave you feeling more connected to your Jewish identity and Israel.

Scan this QR code to register and learn more.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

MACCABI USA ENDOWMENTS as of 9/1/24

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\$180,000+

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Steven Wertheim
Toni (A) 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, 215.561.6900).

(A) Athlete



2025 Maccabiah Tryouts

U18 Boys' Water Polo:

October 26-27 (Walnut, CA)

Open Men Water Polo:

November 2-3 (La Jolla, CA)

Masters 45+ Basketball:

November 23 (CT), November 24 (NYC)

Masters 55+ Basketball:

November 24-25 (NYC)

Scan this QR code for tryout schedule and information.

Maccabiah Mania 3 (Return of the Mighty Maccabee)

March 2, 2025

Livingston High School - Livingston, NJ



Bruce Fleisher Maccabi USA Palm Beach Golf Tournament

March 2025

Annual Bob Spivak Maccabi USA Philadelphia Golf Tournament

June 3, 2025



Maccabiah 2025

July 1-22, 2025

Israel

