

# sportscene

2025 | Vol. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MACCABI USA



## A Powerful Journey Awaits...



A Maccabi USA delegation of more than 1,250 strong will embark on an emotional journey to Israel this summer. The 2025 Maccabiah will be a testament to the global unity, unwavering spirit and deep-rooted camaraderie of the Jewish community and the state of Israel. Much has transpired since the Games were held in our Homeland three years ago and a triumphant return to this sacred place is needed *More Than Ever*.





# President & CEO's *Message*

## **More Than Ever.**

As we put the finishing touches on Maccabi USA's preparations for this summer's meaningful edition of the Maccabiah, Maccabi World Union's tagline for the 2025 Games feels particularly apt.

## ***More Than Ever, it's important that we show up.***

Maccabi USA is doing just that. We are sending our largest-ever delegation of Junior athletes – nearly 500 in all, over 20% larger than our 2022 delegation. Maccabi World Union put the challenge out to countries around the world: bring a second squad in team sports such as baseball, basketball, ice hockey, soccer, volleyball, and futsal. And Maccabi USA answered their call. On the field of play, our two teams (blue and white) will compete against each other and teams from around the world. Off the field of play, nearly 150 additional teenagers will experience Israel and connect with Israelis and Jews from around the world, bringing the powerful experience back to their high school and college communities.

## ***More Than Ever, it's important that we're together as a Jewish People.***

This was evident at the 2023 Pan Am Maccabi Games, when the Maccabi Movement gathered less than three months after the October 7th attacks. The feeling of unity and solidarity was palpable in the arena in Buenos Aires at the Opening Ceremony and throughout those Games. Likewise at last summer's European Maccabi Youth Games in London. And now, as we prepare to gather for the 22nd Maccabiah, the Opening Ceremony at Teddy Stadium on July 10th will provide that same feeling of unity and be unlike any in a generation or more.

## ***More Than Ever, it's important that we stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel.***

At the annual Maccabi World Union Congress in March, our leadership heard

first-hand from survivors of October 7th, released hostages, wounded soldiers, government leaders, and more. While their messages were unique, a consistent theme was their deep appreciation for our support and solidarity. It was clear how much our mere presence meant to our Jewish sisters and brothers in this moment and how much our presence this summer will mean to all of Israel.

## ***And, More Than Ever, it's important that Maccabi USA continues to build Jewish pride through sports.***

These have been a challenging couple of years for Israel and Jews in America, to say the least. Our vision of a world where sports serve as a galvanizing force in strengthening Jewish pride, connection, and community is as relevant and as critical as it's ever been. We invite you to (re)commit to that vision by joining us in Israel this summer at the Maccabiah or following along from afar if you can't be there in person. Your support – showing up in person, online, or by making a donation – helps make that vision more of a reality for this and future generations of Jewish athletes. *Today Rabah* - Thank You!

*Chazak Ve-ematz! Be Courageous and Strong!*

*Marshall Erlichman* *Jeff Bink*







MACCABIAH 2025  
המכביה  
JULY 2025



## Welcome to the Maccabiah 2025 – *More Than Ever!*

Dear USA Delegation,

We are thrilled to welcome you to Israel for the 2025 Maccabiah! As the largest delegation traveling from abroad, your presence embodies the deep connection between Jewish communities worldwide and the spirit of Maccabi. This summer, you are not just representing your country in competition—you are standing proudly with Israel, celebrating our shared heritage, resilience, and unity through sports. In these defining times, your commitment to being here is truly *More Than Ever*—a powerful statement of solidarity, strength, and unwavering support.

The Maccabiah has always been more than a sporting event; it is a homecoming, a celebration of Jewish pride, and a testament

to the unbreakable bond between athletes and Israel. As you step onto the fields, courts, and tracks, remember that you are part of something far greater than the competition itself. You are carrying forward a legacy of excellence, perseverance, and Zionism that transcends borders and generations. May this journey be filled with unforgettable moments, fierce competition, and lasting friendships. Welcome home!

Yours truly,

**Roy Hessing**  
*Maccabiah CEO*

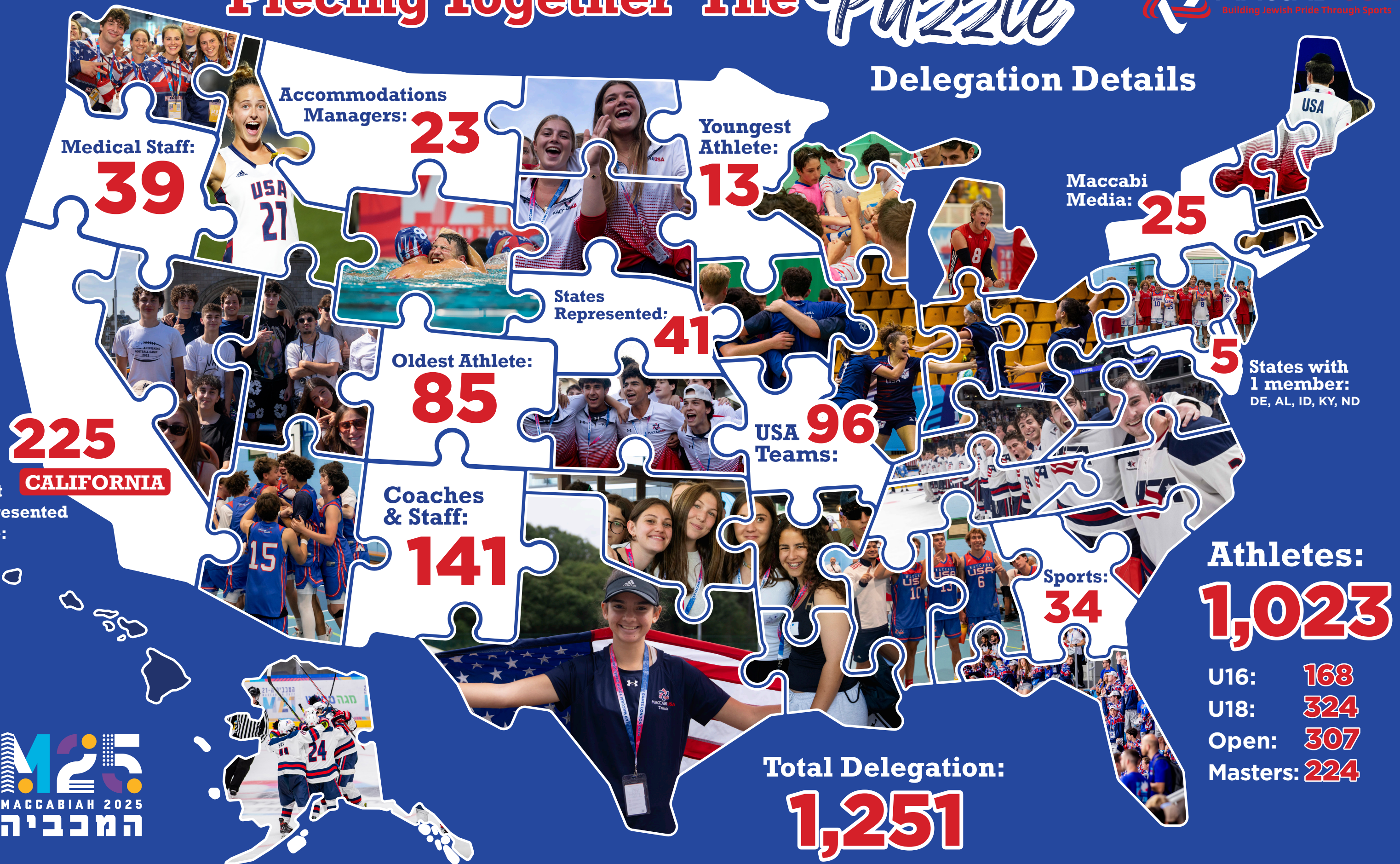


In late March, a delegation of 18 Maccabi USA professionals and volunteers visited Israel for a meaningful and energizing week at the annual Maccabi World Union Congress. The team collaborated with their Maccabi colleagues from around the world to finalize planning for the Maccabiah this July. The group left with a sense of accomplishment, excitement and inspiration.



# Piecing Together The Puzzle

## Delegation Details





Scan the QR Codes to learn more about the participants!

# Center Stage Stories

Scan the QR Codes to learn more about the participants!



**Chelsey Goldberg** - Open Women's Ice Hockey  
Hometown: Agoura Hills, CA  
"At the end of the day hockey is a team sport. I am really excited to share these memories and experiences and moments with my new teammates."



**Michael Goldberg** - Mental Health Specialist  
Hometown: Southampton, PA  
"I've been filled with a lot of rage over the years and strong feelings. This is my way of paying respect and finding a sense of closure."



**Miriam Greenfield** - Maccabi Media Mentor  
Hometown: New York, NY  
"The people I've met along the way have helped me so much. If I can help someone else through my story or theirs, then I've done something meaningful."



**Marilyn Glaser** - Maccabi USA Ambassador  
Hometown: Kissimmee, FL  
"I am just eternally grateful. It's not anything that would have been on my bucket list, but it's the biggest bucket I have ever had."



**Bryan Bierman** - Accommodations Manager  
Hometown: Westport, CT  
"You see everybody there is doing something for their love of sports, their love of Judaism. You see the connection then all of the sudden you see Judaism come to life."



**Adva Amir** - Women's Open Surfing  
Hometown: Honolulu, HI  
"I think it will be very empowering for a lot of people, to show how strong the Jewish nation is. When we come together, there's nothing that can stop us."



**Katherine Phillips** - Maccabi Man/Woman  
Hometown: Coronado, CA  
"There are Jewish service members out there, and there are Jewish military spouses out there, and being able to be a role model is really important to me."



**Jared Civin** - Open Golf  
Hometown: Jupiter, FL  
"I think people take things very seriously in golf. I think it's hard to take yourself too seriously when you play golf in a headband."



**Oded Krashinsky** - Head of MUSA Security  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
"While we follow a set preparation plan, we know that situations can change daily. The biggest challenge is to relate to the people and the situations and how to deal with the issues that can occur."



**Michael Ben-Hain** - Weightlifting Chair  
Hometown: Miami, FL  
"I've had three major episodes in my life where either one of them could easily have killed me. And I've come out of each one of them that much better."



**Sasha & Elle Hartje** - Open Women's Ice Hockey  
Hometown: Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Elle: "I think that is where Judaism is important to me, making sure that people remember and making sure that our grandparents' story withstands the test of time."



**Larry & Sandy Slater** - Volunteer Photographers  
Hometown: Gilbert, AZ  
Larry: "Having this kind of program – bonding everybody – is a really special thing. Israel is under attack. Jews are under attack and we want to be able to stand up for Jews wherever we go."





# Building a Legacy: **Marc & Debbie Zumoff's** Impact with Maccabi USA

For Marc and Debbie Zumoff, Maccabi USA is not just an organization - it is a family affair. Having led successful careers prior to their volunteer involvement - as the lead television play-by-play announcer for the Philadelphia 76ers and as a



financial services attorney, respectively - they were ready to combine their intellect, professional backgrounds, and personal interests toward a greater vision: strengthening the Jewish community through a connection to Israel.

Honeymooning in Israel more than 40 years ago served as their introduction to the Holy Land and became the first step of their shared Zionism. "We were two young, idealistic people who had no idea what we were doing," said Marc. "Our sense of discovery of this wonderful land and the country became extremely meaningful."



From that point forward, a key part of their relationship became a commitment to link the next generation to the Jewish Homeland. This continues today through their unique passions with Marc launching the Maccabi Media Program and Debbie serving as the *Lev L'Lev* Community Service Chair.

The Zumoffs' service to Maccabi USA helped unify the couple after years of holding separate careers. "We shared raising our kids, setting goals and common beliefs throughout our 40-plus year marriage. Now we have a shared endeavor in Maccabi USA," said Debbie. Marc added, "It makes us love each other even more."

Their shared value of *l'dor v'dor*, passing values from one generation to the next, fuels their volunteerism with the organization. Debbie emphasized this sentiment with her mission being "to help young people gain the context necessary... so that they understand the importance of keeping our culture alive and growing and keep Israel alive and thriving for generations to come."

Marc views Maccabi Media as his "legacy" project. "I want to be able to leave it so future generations can cover the Games and not only experience what athletes experience but also to get the message of the Maccabi Games across to people," he explained.



Thanks to Debbie and Marc Zumoff, the *Lev L'Lev* initiative and the Maccabi Media Program will provide meaningful opportunities for young Maccabi USA delegates to experience the wonders of Israel, practice community service and develop their media skills in 2025 and beyond. Their work and dedication remind us, as Marc reveals, "There's nothing like sharing it with your life partner."

**"We shared raising our kids, setting goals and common beliefs throughout our 40-plus year marriage. Now we have a shared endeavor in Maccabi USA."**





# Experience the Maccabiah Like Never Before



## *Join a Maccabi USA Supporters Travel Package to Israel!*

Be part of the excitement, pride, and the community as Maccabi USA competes at the 2025 Maccabiah — the world's largest Jewish athletic event. Our Supporters Travel Packages are the ultimate way to cheer on your athlete, connect with the global Jewish community, and explore Israel in a meaningful, unforgettable way.

### **Your Israel Experience Includes:**

- **Accommodations** at top-rated hotels
- **Ground Transportation** including airport transfers and travel to competitions (Gold and Silver only)
- **Premium Opening Ceremony Tickets and Official Maccabi USA Gear**
- **Behind-the-Scenes Tours** of the most iconic sites — from the Dead Sea to Israel's new crown jewel, The National Library
- **Exclusive Maccabi USA Events**, receptions, and cultural experiences, as well as meetings with Israeli President Herzog, Natan Sharansky, and Israeli Olympic athletes

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, proud friend, or just want to visit Israel to watch the Games, this is more than a trip — it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate Jewish pride, heritage, and athletic achievement together.



**Scan this QR code to register and learn more.**





## Mazel Tov to...

**Todd Golden** for leading the University of Florida to the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. Golden was the starting point guard for Maccabi USA's gold-winning Open Men's Basketball team at the Maccabiah in 2009.



Todd Golden

**Jonny Costello** who was awarded the Weinstein scholarship from Washington and Lee University which recognizes an exemplary incoming first-year student of Jewish faith.

Maccabi USA soccer coach **Jon Cohn** on his induction into the Hartford Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2024.

**Len Ferman** on the publication of his sports history book "The 1973 Mets - You've Got to Believe." A member of the Open Track & Field teams at the 16th and 17th Maccabiah, Len is also the publisher of the The Sports Time Traveler newsletter and podcast.

**Jordan Weinstein** on the birth of his grandson Levi Michael Aiudi, son to Mellisa and Chris and baby brother to Naomi.

**Natasha Dabrowski** and Josh Fendrick on the birth of Lillian Rachel Fendrick on April 17, 2024.



Fendrick birth

**Aaron Leventhal** on the publication of his new fitness journey book "The New Fit." Aaron has joined several past MUSA delegations, most recently with the Men's Masters 45+ soccer team in Argentina.

**Shari Chase** for winning gold in the 50m & 100m races representing Maryland in Track & Field at the Delaware Senior Olympics.

**Lee Gruen** and his wife Stephanie on the birth of their twins Connor Owen and Charlotte Eva on August 10, 2024. Lee served several delegations as a basketball coach and lead manager.

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

**Karenna Groff** passed away on April 12, 2025, in a small plane crash alongside her parents, brother, and their significant others. Karenna won three gold medals while competing in soccer for Maccabi USA and was named 2022 NCAA woman of the year while studying biomedical engineering at MIT.



Karenna Groff

**Harvey Rosen** passed away on January 20, 2025, at the age of 86. Harvey is the father of Maccabi USA board member Susan Lynch.

**Gerald Leon Chait** passed away on January 20, 2025, at the age of 91. Jerry is the father of Maccabi USA Officer Donna Orender and was a longtime supporter, board member and voting member with the organization.

**Gerald Peskind** passed away on January 15, 2025, at the age of 94. Jerry was the beloved husband of Lillian and the father of Maccabi World Union President Michael Siegel's wife Anita and her siblings Mark, David and Jodi.

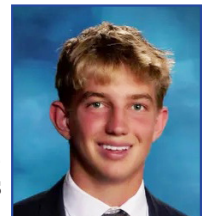
**Dr. Jerome Bornstein** passed away on November 23, 2024, at the age of 93. The orthopedic surgeon was a longtime supporter of Maccabiah USA and cared for many athletes as a doctor with our delegations from 1985-2005.

**Arnie Minkoff** passed away on January 15, 2025, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Arnie was a vital member of several Maccabi USA delegations as both a team manager and Masters Track and Field athlete. The longtime supporter also served as a board member and voting member in the organization.

**Dave Michanik** passed away on January 4, 2025, at the age of 86. A three-time U.S. Olympian in fencing, David won the 1960 national title at the University of Pennsylvania and then coached the men's and women's squads at his alma mater. He won multiple gold medals as both an athlete and a coach for Maccabi USA.

**Jeffrey Laikind** passed away on October 18, 2024, at the age of 89. A former Masters Squash athlete, Jeffrey previously served as Vice President of Maccabi USA, General Chair of the U.S. delegation at the 15th Maccabiah, and he also held several executive roles with Maccabi World Union.

**Braun Levi** passed away at the age of 18 after being struck by a suspected drunk driver in Manhattan Beach, CA, on May 4, 2025. The Loyola High School senior and tennis team captain competed for MUSA on the U16 tennis squad at the 21st Maccabiah.



Braun Levi

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



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

## MACCABI USA ENDOWMENTS as of 4/25/25

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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  
\*Maccabiah Honorary Chair



# The Return of The Mighty Maccabee

It was a triumphant return for The Mighty Maccabee who toppled Crowbar in the wrestling ring on March 2nd and ended a 28-year hiatus. Maccabiah Mania III featured 10 thrilling bouts and showcased The Mighty Maccabee successfully defending his title for the first time since dismantling The Iron Sheik on March 1, 1997. The event raised more than \$35,000 to support Maccabi USA's mission of sending a delegation to Israel for the 2025 Maccabiah.



Photos courtesy of:  
Serge Timacheff/2025



**This Summer in Jerusalem.**