

# sportscene

2025 | Vol. 2

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MACCABI USA

## Passing the Torch



As we look ahead to the 2026 Maccabiah in Israel, Maccabi USA enters an exciting new chapter in the organization's history: New sports, new divisions, a new vision for Israel Connect, and new leadership to carry forward our mission with passion and purpose. Together, we honor the past and embrace the future, united in our commitment to building and strengthening Jewish pride through sports.





# President's *Message*

I am honored to have been elected as the next President of Maccabi USA and it is the thrill of a lifetime to get to work with our outstanding and dedicated team of professionals and volunteers.

My whole life has prepared me to take on this role through decades of involvement in the organized Jewish communal world. Together, our mission is to ***Build Jewish Pride Through Sports***. The Maccabiah and other regional Maccabi Games are at the heart of our organization.

But we need to do more, to be more, to touch more hearts of Jews all over America. The Jewish community desperately needs a powerful shot in the arm right now, overcoming the rampant antisemitism and the internal conflicts that are plaguing us. Pride in Jewish athletes excelling in sports at every level – from the Maccabiah to professional sports – can be that thing. I am highly motivated to make our board and organization the best it can possibly be in meeting our lofty and important mission while supporting Israel and our Maccabi colleagues around the world at such a critical time.

We have a bold vision for the next chapter of the organization. Implementing this vision and the long-range strategic plan that Maccabi USA has developed does not

happen overnight, nor in a vacuum. To that end, I will lean heavily on the eight newly-elected officers who are joining our leadership team. All possess tremendous depth, experience and energy that will help us achieve our goals:

- **Increase domestic programming and engagement initiatives**
- **Build brand recognition throughout America**
- **Partner with Jewish Federations, Foundations, JCCs & key Jewish organizations**
- **Expand the support from Jewish philanthropists for all that we do**
- **Reduce the cost to participate in the Maccabiah & other international Games**

I encourage you to reach out to me, and to our new officers, to help put your own stamp on the future of our beloved Maccabi USA. Thank you for your support. We are counting on your partnership with us as we build for the future of the organization.

*Donald Kent*



# CEO's *Message*

The Jewish People have a long history of being delayed on our journey to the Promised Land – and the 2025 Maccabiah certainly continued that tradition.

When Israel entered into direct conflict with Iran a mere two weeks before the Maccabi USA delegation was set to start arriving in Tel Aviv, the 2025 fate of the Games was quickly sealed. Our partners at Maccabi World Union made the tough but necessary decision to postpone the Maccabiah, as they had done four years earlier during those dizzying first few weeks of Covid. Of course, among the many differences between the two situations was this: back in 2021, we had 15 *months* to enact the postponement; this year, we had just 15 *days*.

I am grateful for our extraordinary team of dedicated professionals and volunteers who quickly sprang into action and oversaw the steps needed to navigate a sudden 12-month delay in our plans. For close to three years, that team diligently and enthusiastically helped form our delegation, team by team, athlete by athlete. Some likened the postponement to a marathon runner reaching mile marker 26 only to see an additional half-marathon had been tacked onto the end for good measure.

I am appreciative of our partners at Maccabi World Union whose athlete-focused ethos helped ensure a flexible approach that gave delegation members the chance to process the news and determine if the new timing in 2026 worked for them.

Likewise, we are grateful to our philanthropic supporters who, without exception, extended the timeframes of their grants so we could

utilize their financial support a year later than planned.

It didn't take long for the disappointment of the postponement to turn into resolve to return next summer – bigger and better – inspired by the resilience of the Israeli People. A Maccabiah that was already going to be the most important and most meaningful in a generation (or more) would now be even more so.

In the meantime, thankfully, all the living hostages have been returned home as well as many more returned for proper burial. As this newsletter goes to print, we still await – and demand – the return of the bodies of two final hostages. We are hopeful that when our delegation arrives in Israel in June, the Ben Gurion arrival corridor will finally be empty of posters and that reservists will be home, signifying a new era of peace and security for Israel.

We invite you to join us for the (now) 2026 Maccabiah – as a competitor or spectator in the Promised Land itself or as supporter or streamer from the US – to bear witness to this threshold moment in Jewish history.

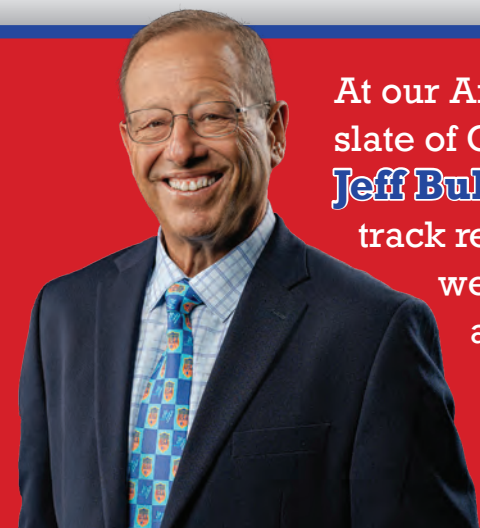
*L'shana Haba'ah b'Yerushalayim!*

Next Year in Jerusalem!



At our Annual Meeting in October, Maccabi USA elected a new slate of Officers (as you'll see on the next page). Thank you to **Jeff Bukantz** on an impactful eight years as President and his 44-year track record of leadership on behalf of Maccabi USA. *Yasher koach* (job well done) to Jeff and all the outgoing Officers! Likewise, welcome and *b'hatzlacha* (good luck) to Maccabi USA's new President Don Kent and the rest of the incoming Officers!

**Hazak, Hazak!** May we go from strength to strength!





# New MACCABIUSA Officers



## **Deb Lichtenfeld** *First Vice President*

**Hometown:** Burlington, VT  
**MUSA Accolades:** Pan-Am Games Co-Chair (2023), Israel Connect Chair (2022), Development Committee Chair (since 2019)

**Notables:** Earned a Masters in Israel Education from George Washington University



## **Debbie Zumoff** *Vice President*

**Hometown:** Margate City, NJ  
**MUSA Accolades:** Lev L'Lev Chair (2026 Maccabiah), Medal of Honor & Personnel Committee member

**Notables:** Villanova School of Law graduate and served 36 years as an in-house counsel



## **Stephanie Cohen** *Vice President*

**Hometown:** Washington, DC  
**MUSA Accolades:** Masters Tennis Co-Chair (2026 Maccabiah) & former player (2023)

**Notables:** Paralegal Manager at Wilkinson Stekloff LLP with 15+ years of legal experience



## **Tonja Magerman** *Secretary*

**Hometown:** Blue Bell, PA  
**MUSA Accolades:** Board Vice President (2017-2025), Maccabiah General Chair (2026), Pan-Am Games General Chair (2023)

**Notables:** Former Open Women's Field Hockey Chair & Head Coach



## **Scott Gelb** *Vice President*

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA  
**MUSA Accolades:** Team Manager (2026 Maccabiah & 2023 Pan-Am Games), EMYG Chair (2024), Judo Co-Chair

**Notables:** Second degree (Nidan) Judo black belt & trumpet player



## **Rick Farber** *Treasurer*

**Hometown:** Manhattan Beach, CA  
**MUSA Accolades:** Finance Committee member, Masters Basketball player & former Chair

**Notables:** Represented MUSA in basketball at eight separate competitions



## **Matthew Halpern** *Vice President*

**Hometown:** Hollywood, FL  
**MUSA Accolades:** Vice Chair (2026 Maccabiah), Team Manager (2022 Maccabiah & 2019 European Maccabi Games)

**Notables:** Represented MUSA in bowling at four separate competitions (won 7 medals)



## **Arnie Fielkow** *Associate Treasurer*

**Hometown:** New Orleans, LA  
**MUSA Accolades:** Baseball Co-Chair (2026 Maccabiah), Ukraine Committee Co-Chair, former Masters basketball player

**Notables:** Former Executive VP of the New Orleans Saints







# Our Return to the Holy Land



Last summer's postponement of the Maccabiah does not deter our excitement to return to Israel for three weeks of athletic competition, education, community service, and bonding under our united Jewish pride. The 2026 Maccabiah will feature a delegation of more than 1,300 Jewish athletes and volunteers from across the country. Brand new to the Maccabiah is our **U15 division**, which will include teams in basketball, soccer, tennis and volleyball.



Our **Israel Connect** program following the Games will allow our Juniors and Open athletes to experience the Holy Land like never before. The group will travel throughout the country to engage in curated Israel-focused content while learning about the country's dynamic history and present-day culture.

We are also offering three unique Supporters Travel Packages, where friends and families of athletes will gain access to exclusive experiences throughout the Maccabiah.

Scan this QR code below to learn more about what sports will be offered this summer and how you can apply to join our delegation.



**We can't wait to see you next summer in Jerusalem!**



# Year In Review



LA



LIONS OF MACCABI  
WRESTLING  
TOURNAMENT



CHICAGO



FLORIDA



PHILLY

GOLF OUTINGS



NETS HOST M



NYC ISRAEL DAY  
PARADE



ISRAEL  
SOLIDARITY  
MISSION

2025  
MACCABI  
WORLD  
UNION  
CONGRESS







Scan this QR code for  
more Year-in-Review  
moments.



**SOUTH FLORIDA  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**



**RUGBY HALL OF FAME CEREMONY**



**UKRAINE CAMPERS  
ATTEND CAMP RAMAH**



**MACCABIAH  
MANIA III**



**GET-  
TOGETHERS**





## 2025 Camp Recap

The spirit and pageantry of the Maccabiah was on full display at Jewish camps across the United States this past summer. More than 3,500 kids took part in the **2025 Maccabiah Camp Experience** - the second year of a joint-venture between Maccabi USA and Maccabi World Union that introduces campers to the global impact of the Games held every four years in Israel.

As part of the initiative, seven American and three Israeli athletes conducted nearly 200 clinics in six different sports - all with the mission of conveying the deeper meaning of being a Jewish athlete in today's world. Campers learned the fundamentals of multiple sports, held Q&A sessions with the athletes, and took photos with the official 2026 Maccabiah torch.



## 21 Camps in 8 states

- California • Maryland • North Carolina
- Florida • Massachusetts • Pennsylvania
- Georgia • New York

## 198 Clinics in 6 sports

- Baseball • Soccer • Rugby
- Karate • Basketball • Tennis





# INAUGURAL MACCABIUSA MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY

The Medal of Honor recognizes extraordinary individuals whose longtime commitment has shaped and strengthened our Maccabi USA community. This year, we bestow Maccabi USA's highest honor upon:



**Debbie Adams**



**Simon Atlas**



**Dr. Marc Backal**



**Leland Faust**



**Barry Gurland**



**Phyllis Magerman z"l**



**Tonja Magerman**



**Jed Margolis**



**Lou Moyerman**



**Brian Roberts**



**Sam Sporn**



**Stuart Weitzman**

Also receiving this honor are all previous American recipients of Maccabi World Union's Yakir Award for their impact and dedication to Maccabi USA:

**Jeff Bukantz**

**Ricky Reff**

**Robert Spivak z"l**

**Harold Zimman z"l**

**Ron Carner z"l**

**Max Sheldon z"l**

**Jordan Weinstein**

**Nat Holman z"l**

**Alan Sherman z"l**

**Toni Wortman**



Scan this QR code to learn more about our Medal of Honor inductees.



## Mazel Tov to...

**Jeff Bukantz** (former Maccabi USA President) on the birth of his granddaughter Gemma Aliza Bukantz on October 1, 2025.



Gemma Aliza Bukantz

**Marc Backal** (former Maccabi USA Treasurer & 2025 Medal of Honor recipient) on the birth of his granddaughter Eve Sloane Backal on May 26, 2025.



Eve Sloane Backal

**Adrian Cohen & Liam Kesler** (U19 Judo) who competed at the 2025 Cadet World Championships (-60 kg division) held in Bulgaria in August.



Violet Cohn Levitt

**Teddy Levitt** (Maccabi USA Board Member) and his wife Julie Cohn on the birth of their daughter Violet Cohn Levitt on October 17, 2025.

Justice **Lindsey Miller-Lerman** (won 3 swimming medals at the 6th Maccabiah) on her retirement after becoming the first woman appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court.



Billie Harlow (BH) Singer

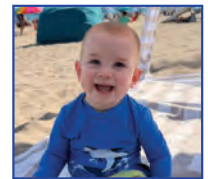
**Harrison Singer** (Open Men's 3v3 Basketball Head Coach) and his wife Chandler on the birth of their daughter Billie Harlow (BH) Singer on September 21, 2025.



Bram Dovi Weismark

**Kenny Silverboard** (long-time Maccabi USA supporter/volunteer) and parents Jamie and Ilan Weismark on the birth of Bram Dovi Weismark on October 18, 2025.

**James Weiss** and his wife **Shayna** (both fencing alum and voting members) on the birth of their son Caleb on February 25, 2025.



Caleb Weiss

## Members of the Maccabi USA family we have lost: ז"ל

**Ron Carner** passed away on June 3, 2025, at the age of 86. The former Maccabi USA President (2009-2017) was a 2009 recipient of the Yakir Award for lifetime achievement by Maccabi World Union and was honored as a Legends of the Maccabiah in 2018.



Ron Carner

**Kinfar Leung Moyerman** passed away on October 12, 2025, at the age of 73. Kinfar is the wife of Maccabi USA Medal of Honor recipient and organizational pillar Lou Moyerman.

**Edward Blumberg** passed away on June 29, 2025, at the age of 83. Edward is the father of Maccabi USA Digital Media Director Neal Slotkin.

**L.C. Abraham Hildebrand** passed away on January 12, 2025, at the age of 81. The Vietnam War combat and medic veteran played soccer for Maccabi USA at the 7th Maccabiah in 1965.

**Fran Wolf Deken** passed away on October 16, 2025, at the age of 81. A major contributor to women's bowling, Deken was a PWBA Hall of Fame and USBC Hall of Fame inductee. She represented Maccabi USA in Ten-Pin bowling at the 16th and 17th Maccabiot in Israel and the 10th Pan American Maccabi Games in Argentina.

**Jennifer Zacarias-Carlson** passed away on October 10, 2025, at the age of 49. Jen was one of the engines behind Maccabi USA's Annual Freddy Cohen Memorial Chicago Golf Outing.

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

**MACCABIUSA** wishes you and your family a bright, joyful, and meaningful Hanukkah!

May the lights of the holiday bring strength, hope, and inspiration to our entire community.





# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

## MACCABI USA ENDOWMENTS as of 11/19/25

### PATRONS

**\$1,000,000+**

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

### CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

**\$180,000+**

Arrillaga Foundation  
Sloan and Roger Barnett  
Talia & Ron (z"l) 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) Monkarsch  
Taylor Hogge & Robert E. (z"l) Spivak

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

**\$100,000+**

Bender Foundation, Inc.  
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  
Donald Kent (A) and Ellen Goosenberg Kent  
The Koum Family Foundation

Howard Levine Foundation  
Howard and Julie Levine  
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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 & Elynn Bank (A)  
16th & 17th U.S. Maccabiah Teams

### GIBORIM

**\$50,000+**

Debbie (A) and Anthony Adams (A)  
Kerry & Alan Appelbaum (A)  
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Barbara Brizdle (A) & Larry Schoenberg (A)  
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Harry & Beatrice Sley Foundation/  
Betsy Grossman  
Diane & David (z"l) Stern  
Marilyn (z"l) & Harry Swimmer

### ISRAEL SPORTS AMBASSADOR

**\$25,000+**

The Abramson Family Endowment  
Jan Albert (A) Family Golf Endowment  
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Backal Family in Memory of  
Dr. Gary H. Cohen (z"l)  
Gladys & Lewis (A) Bass &  
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Leo David  
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Harry and Leah Gudelsky Foundation  
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Jean & Stephen Kaplan  
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Cissie & Robert (z"l) Levy  
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Ira & Shirley Yohalem Endowment  
Deborah Miller & William Zabel (A)

## MAJOR DONORS & MACCABIAH HONORARY CHAIRS\* (2023-2025) as of 11/19/25

### \$1,000,000+

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel  
Supporting Foundation\*  
Singer Family Charitable Foundation\*  
Stuart Weitzman (A) and Family\*

### \$100,000+

Arrillaga Foundation\*  
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Seed the Dream Foundation\*  
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Joel and Tonja Magerman\*  
One8 Foundation\*  
Schoenbaum Family Foundation  
Anonymous

### \$25,000+

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Mark Horowitz and Jennifer Koen  
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Wintrust Financial Corp.  
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Steven B. Kravitz  
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Wealth Management  
In Memory of Harry Lieberman (z"l)  
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David Wasserman  
Susan and Marvin Wenger  
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William B. Yarmuth Family Foundation  
Jennifer & Ron Zach  
Anonymous

## LEGACY SOCIETY as of 11/19/25

Hank Alpert  
Ellen and Simon Atlas  
Marc and Cathy Backal  
Howard A. Berger  
Steve and Meryl Berliner  
Tamar and Sergio Bicas-Golden  
Summer Bloom  
Sandi and Jerry Bloomberg  
Jay (A) and Merri Blumenfeld  
Jerry Bornstein, MD (z"l)  
Jim Bronner (A)  
Jeffrey Bukantz (A)  
Glen Coblens and Mia Birk  
Marshall and Deborah Skolnick Einhorn  
Douglas Erenberg  
Rick Farber (A)

Susan and Leland (A) Faust  
Libby Newman Feldman  
Arnold Fielkow (A)  
Benjamin (A) and Heidi Fox  
Suzan and Allen Fox  
Scott Gelb (A)  
Marilyn Glaser  
Joy and Gary (A) Gordon  
Linda Greenberg (z"l)  
Betsy Grossman  
Harvey Gutman  
Alan Hahn  
Matthew G. Halpern  
Richard Hermann  
Larry Hirsch (A)  
David Hochberg  
Karen Karper

Donald Kent (A)  
Kramer Family  
Dan (A) and Lisa Kurtz  
Marilyn Labkon  
Irv Levine (z"l) (A)  
Jackie and Nat Levine  
Teddy Levitt (A)  
Deb Lichtenfeld and Jeff Schulman (A)  
David Lowenthal (z"l) (A)  
Joel and Tonja Magerman  
Jed (A) and Beth Margolis  
Ilene and Mel Miller  
Milbauer/Knapp Family  
Jay Moses (A)  
Louis (A) and Kinfar (z"l) Moyerman  
Donna (A) and MG Orender

John Paul  
Leonard Reifman (z"l) (A)  
Joel Roodyn (A)  
Steven Rosen  
Kenny Schwartz (A)  
Claire A. and Alan (z"l) 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)  
Barry Waranch  
David Weissman (z"l)  
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  
\*Maccabiah Honorary Chair



# Experience Israel Like Never Before

*Join the Maccabi USA Supporters Travel Package to the Maccabiah!*



Be part of the excitement, pride, and the community as Maccabi USA competes at the 2026 Maccabiah — the world's largest Jewish athletic event. Our **Supporters Travel Packages** are the ultimate way to cheer on our athletes, 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)
- **Behind-the-Scenes Tours** of the most iconic sites — from the Dead Sea to Israel's new crown jewel, The National Library
- **Premium Opening Ceremony Tickets and Official Maccabi USA Gear**
- **Exclusive Maccabi USA Events**, receptions, and cultural experiences, as well as meetings with Israeli President Herzog, Natan Sharansky, and Israeli Olympic athletes
- **Moving October 7th Program** with visits to the Nova site, meetings with survivors, and volunteer opportunities

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.

