



MULTI-SPORT ORGANIZATION

sportscene

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MACCABI USA

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Brian Roberts

For Brian Roberts, the World Maccabiah Games has been a family affair and a unique way for them to connect with

Israel, Judaism and the sport of Squash. Brian first heard of the Maccabiah Games when he was playing Squash at the University of Pennsylvania. He had bumped into an acquaintance, Glenn Whitman, on the Squash courts at Penn, who told him about his own recent experience at the Maccabiah Games.

Brian's first World Maccabiah Games was in 1981, as a member of the Open Squash Team. Once he qualified for the team, he asked his parents to accompany him to Israel. Brian was raised in a liberal, Reform Jewish family and while visiting Israel had not been a top priority when he was growing up, having his parents watch him as he marched into the Opening Ceremony was life-changing.

"My parents never understood Squash," Brian recounted, "but when they were sitting in Ramat Gan Stadium with thousands of other Jewish athletes from around the world, they understood that moment."

Four years later, Brian again qualified for the Open Squash Team and brought along the woman he was dating, Aileen Kennedy, to cheer him on. After the Games were over they took a cruise and Brian proposed to her, and then returned to the States where they got married and started a family. Twelve years later, Brian qualified for the Masters Squash Team at the 15th Maccabiah in 1997 and returned to Israel with his young family.

In 2005, his oldest daughter Sarah qualified for the Open Women's Squash Team and Brian qualified for the Masters Squash Team, and they went to Israel together to compete at the 17th Maccabiah. Sarah participated in the B'nai Mitzvah ceremony during the ISRAEL CONNECT cultural and educational program and it had an enormous impact on her life.

After the 17th Maccabiah, Brian decided to take a break from competitive Squash and started training for his first Triathlon. He trained for 11 months and competed in a Triathlon on his 50th birthday. After completing the race, Brian decided to return to Squash. As luck would have it, his daughter Amanda qualified for the Juniors Girls' Squash Team in 2009 at the 18th Maccabiah and Brian competed alongside her. After the Games were over, Brian retired from competitive Squash.

"Marching into the Opening Ceremony was an amazing experience for Amanda, and for us to have a father/daughter moment at the Games was priceless," Brian said. "My son Tucker qualified for the 20th World Maccabiah Games this summer, so, of course, I am coming out of retirement one more time to share this incredible

(continued on page 2)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What will make 2017 a great year? The 20th Maccabiah Games in Israel in July.

And what will make our U.S. Team's participation successful? Our team of volunteer leaders. Yes, to get things done an organization needs leadership — not of one person, but of a host of leaders who are fired by a passion for what we do and are willing to give up their time, resources, and personal needs. Our volunteers — chairpersons, coaches, organizers — care about the project they are working on, the cause they espouse, the needs of others. That's how they get things done.

Maccabi USA is blessed to count in its ranks people who give and get for our organization; people who incorporate what we do into the lives and hearts of our participants, while they put aside their own ambitions and wants. It is because of these leaders that we have increased our Endowment over 140% the past seven years, increased the size of our Team by close to 40%, and substantially involved many more people in our projects. Their sole reward has been to bring "life-changing" experiences to the lives of thousands of Jewish athletes.

The reputation of this organization has been spreading exponentially, as the public has become more aware of us. Just this past holiday period I met two people from small towns in Louisiana and Iowa, both Jews, who surprised me with their knowledge of the Maccabiah and the Maccabi Movement. Our message reached them, and they enjoyed chatting with me while I was overjoyed to observe how our mission of Jewish identity and pride, as well as our support of the State of Israel, have created a bond among American Jews.

As the world turns more hostile to the notion of Jewish right for self-determination in their sovereign country, and incidents of anti-Semitism are spread not only by individuals but by governments, I ask you all to remember how very fortunate we are to live in the USA. However, this good fortune is wrapped with responsibility; each of us must remember that Israel gives us a huge sense of pride in its unprecedented accomplishments and that we, in turn, must stand up for her future, for her very existence. Maccabi USA does it by educating our athletes about the facts on the ground in Israel and about the nature of Zionism in order that they can come back as ambassadors and advocates. During the Games, we instill in them the pride of being Jewish; and we do that through sports. Wow; isn't that fun and exciting!!

I hope to see you in Israel this summer for the 20th World Maccabiah Games.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ron Carner', written in a cursive style.

**Ron Carner, President
Maccabi USA**

Brian Roberts

(continued from front page)

opportunity with him and compete with some of my old teammates."

Brian highly recommends that any athlete who has the opportunity to participate in the Maccabiah should take advantage of it. "The Games are unlike anything else. Competing and experiencing Israel will unequivocally be one of the highlights of an athlete's life," he stated.

Brian has been a continuous supporter of Maccabi USA. He recently reflected on a conversation he had with the business manager of his high school, Germantown Academy, while he was in college. The manager told him that if you are fortunate enough to have any success, it's a great gift to give back to the next generation. Brian then joined the Board of Directors of Germantown Academy while a Junior at Penn.

"I have been lucky enough to have very special experiences every time I have participated in the Maccabiah Games," Brian shared. "If you are able to do so, it is important to support Maccabi USA so that other kids can have this life-changing opportunity."

Upon learning that Maccabi USA's Executive Director, Jed Margolis, is retiring at the end of 2017, Brian decided to donate \$1 million to the Maccabi USA Endowment in Jed's honor. This will help Maccabi USA continue to provide unique athletic and educational experiences to qualified Jewish athletes for years to come.

"I am also very grateful to Jed and the entire staff and volunteers of Maccabi USA and Maccabi World Union who put these Games together," Brian concluded. "They are the 'unsung' heroes who have provided me and so many others with some of the most extraordinary moments of our lives. Thank you is truly inadequate."



The International Maccabi Culinary Competition and Mission

JULY 2-9, ISRAEL

THE CULINARY AND RESTAURANT SCENE all over Israel is one of the hottest in the world, and this year we will produce the first-ever International Maccabi Culinary Competition featuring some of the best Jewish chefs in the world. And of course we are creating an opportunity for you to join us in Israel to tour the country through a culinary lens and spend time learning, preparing, and tasting some of the best food in the world alongside our chefs.



The Maccabi Culinary Competition and Mission is being co-chaired by Michael Solomonov, Chef/Partner of Zahav restaurant in Philadelphia and the star of *In Search of Israeli Cuisine*; Bob Spivak, Chairman of Maccabi USA and Honorary President of Maccabi World Union; and Ido Zarmi, Chief Culinary Officer at International Culinary Productions. The co-chairs and staff of Maccabi USA and Maccabi World Union, along with travel partners at Gil Travel and Via Sabra, have created an amazing itinerary for a select few food lovers to join them in Israel this summer.

Chefs from Australia, France, Gibraltar, Israel, Italy, Spain, and the USA will join the Culinary Mission and compete in the International



Culinary Competition on July 4! If you join us on the Mission, you will have the opportunity to travel with these professional chefs and learn how food is produced, created and prepared in Israel. The itinerary includes trips to Shuks with tastings by experienced guides, dinners at great restaurants, a gala cocktail party and reception where the winning chefs will receive their medals, and of course, we will bring you to the Opening Ceremony of the 20th World Maccabiah Games where you can cheer on Team USA!

If you love food, this is one of the most amazing ways you can experience Israel, food and beverage, and the World Maccabiah Games. Make sure to check out our itinerary by clicking on the QR code below, and if you have any questions, please contact Sara at Maccabi USA at sfeinstein@maccabiusa.com or 267.627.5654.



20th World Maccabiah Games

Jeff Bukantz, General Chair, 20th Maccabiah USA Organizing Committee



It is with great pleasure that I share with you my excitement and pride for the upcoming Games and Team USA!

I will never forget the incredible feeling I had in 1981 when I qualified for the 11th Maccabiah Games, my first international competition. It was a dream come true, as I was able to follow in the footsteps of my father Dan (z"l), who competed in the 3rd Games in 1950, the first Games held after World War II and the birth of Israel.

The Maccabiah is the third largest multi-sport competition in the world, only behind the Olympics and the World University Games. I was fortunate to have marched into the Opening Ceremonies at both the Olympics and the World University Games. I was so proud to be an American, so proud of my own accomplishments, and so proud to represent my country.

However, when I marched into a Maccabiah Opening Ceremony, I was, more than anything else, proud to be a Jew!

And this proud Jew had a smile from ear-to-ear, goose bumps, and was literally walking on air as I waved to a packed stadium of friends. This was one of the rarest of moments for a Jew, as you knew that EVERYONE in that stadium was on your side and proud you were a Jew, too!

In the face of anti-Semitism and the continual fight that Israel faces regarding its very existence, Maccabi USA is so proud to be bringing

Team USA, at 1,100+ strong, and another 400 supporters, to Israel this July for the 20th World Maccabiah Games.

This year, we are expecting 10,000 participants from 80 countries, the largest gathering in the 85-year history of the Maccabiah. Maccabi USA has provided \$500,000 to Maccabi World Union which will enable athletes from Poland, Ukraine, Cuba, and the Czech Republic to participate.

The Maccabiah provides an opportunity for everyone, young and old, to develop lifelong friendships, experience special moments which will last a lifetime, and return home as Ambassadors for Israel.

In the current geo-political climate, and especially after the recent United Nations Security Council vote and unprecedented United States abstention of December 23, 2016, I feel even greater pride in leading Team USA into Teddy Stadium on July 6 and proudly representing the Maccabi Movement.

Now, more than ever, we must support the State of Israel and build Jewish Pride through Sports!

Jeff Bukantz
General Chair, 20th Maccabiah USA Organizing Committee

Maccabi USA Maccabiah Mission

Dear Maccabi USA Friends,

We wish to extend a personal invitation to you and your family to join us for the **20th Maccabiah Games**, July 2017! Regardless of whether you have been to Israel before or will be experiencing Israel for the first time, we have created a Maccabi USA Masters Athletes, Supporters and Family Mission that will be exciting and new for everyone!

Along with our partners at Gil Travel, we have designed a Mission that will include the best of what Israel has to offer, including five-star hotels, food, excursions and evening events. You will also be provided with the benefit of experts assisting you in taking part in all the aspects of the Maccabiah, including the Opening Ceremony and participation in special Maccabiah and Maccabi USA events. We will have regularly-scheduled buses available to sports venues. Optional excursions during your free time in-between sporting competitions will also be offered.

After speaking with staff and lay leaders with many years of experience working with our Mission program, and hearing suggestions from previous participants, we have developed a program that will maximize your time and enhance your experience in Israel during the Maccabiah. We have researched and created new excursion options, as well as securing fascinating new guest lecturers. We have also hired a dedicated transportation specialist to assist us in creating a reliable and efficient transportation system for our Mission in air-conditioned buses and vans.

We are so happy to be Maccabi USA Mission Co-Chairs, as we have been to Israel many times and have participated as volunteers for both the

Maccabiah and the JCC Maccabi Games in Israel. Professionally, we have vast experience in event planning both nationally and internationally. Our goal is to offer a "first class" experience to all our participants.

We are looking forward to sharing Israel with you and taking part in the Maccabiah, with over 10,000 Jewish athletes from 80 different countries coming together to participate in the third largest sporting event in the world.

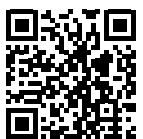
Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Sara Feinstein, Marketing Director for Maccabi USA at sfeinstein@maccabiusa.com, (267) 627-5654, Samantha Sultzer at Gil Travel, samanthas@giltravel.com, (215) 568-6655 x 380 or us directly at mission@maccabiusa.com.

We hope that you will join us for the 2017 Maccabi USA Masters Athletes, Supporters and Family Mission and allow us to be your hosts for this incredible journey!

Warm Regards,

Andrea Bochner *Dr. Harold Friedman*

Andrea Bochner and Dr. Harold Friedman
Co-Chairs, 20th Maccabiah
Maccabi USA Mission Program



EL AL
IT'S NOT JUST AN AIRLINE. IT'S ISRAEL.
Official Airline of Maccabi USA

A Tribute to Sue Millis



Sue started working at Maccabi USA in January of 1986, shortly after she, her husband Barry, and their three kids – Adam, Josh and Abby – returned to Philadelphia. Because Barry's cousin Barbara Lissy was our Executive Director at the time, she offered Sue an Administrative Assistant position. Sue accepted and never looked back.

Over the course of her 31-year tenure, Sue saw many changes, certainly in people – both staff and volunteers – but also in technology! She still remembers

when staff members had to schedule time to use the office's lone computer. Most work was done on a typewriter or manually. But times have certainly changed. Sue now runs queries in the database, word-processes all her writing, and builds and manages spreadsheets. Of course, it was not the improved technology that kept her working at Maccabi USA for all these years. It was the people.

"The volunteers and staff who work at Maccabi USA are very passionate about its mission of using sports to build Jewish pride and support for the State of Israel. It has been so enjoyable for me to build relationships with so many people who have had a common goal over the years," Sue explained. "I love the stories I have been privileged to hear, the friendships that have been built – all of these things have made working at Maccabi USA a pleasure and an honor for me. And

it has permeated my family, which by extension has made them part of the Maccabi USA family."

Sue's younger children, Josh and Abby, often helped out at the office during school breaks. Her older son Adam, on break from college the summer of 1993, worked at the office every day sorting, organizing and packing up the apparel that would be taken to Israel for sale at the USA Team store during the Games. When the need arose for extra help in Israel, Adam was asked to serve as a manager on the 14th Maccabiah Games Team. He got to experience Israel firsthand as a member of the Team and develop the friendships and memories that Sue always enjoyed hearing about from athletes and volunteers.

Sue's family has always been central to her life. After her younger sister, Judy, retired and got involved in activities that had always been precluded by her full-time teaching job, Sue started to think about what she might do when she retired, too. Then, when her fifth grandchild was born in 2016, she realized just how many more things she wanted to do that could only happen if she retired.

Although it has been very hard for the staff and volunteers at Maccabi USA to see her leave, everyone understands why she retired, and are grateful that she continues to support the Marketing Department at Maccabi USA as an editor and proofreader on a part-time basis.

Sue Millis is definitely one of a kind and will always be remembered not just for what she's done but for who she is – for her kind heart, brilliant smile, and addictive laugh!

Volunteer Profile

Beth Margolis

Hometown: Hermitage, PA

School: Oberlin College Conservatory of Music
Kent State University

Occupation: Retired Music Education Teacher and Chorale Soloist

Hobbies: Biking, hiking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, gardening, interior design, reading and travel



Beth was first introduced to Maccabi USA through her fiancé, Jed Margolis, when she accompanied him to Philadelphia for the Open Men's Basketball tryout in 1973. They had met at college where Beth received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. She spent the majority of her professional career in the music field and taught piano and voice in public schools, JCC nursery schools, and other music programs for all ages. Additionally, Beth has sung as a soloist and as a member of musical ensembles. She sang professionally with the St. Louis Chamber Chorus, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and the Hartford Symphony Chorale. Beth also worked in the Interior Design field for ten years.

Prior to starting her volunteer work with Maccabi USA, she volunteered in her children's schools, with numerous JCCs, the Senior Olympics of St. Louis, and Habitat for Humanity. In 1997, Beth became very involved with our Supporters Mission programs and has been a volunteer at all Maccabi events since then, except for 2001, managing the logistics for nine Maccabi USA Supporters Missions. For this year's Maccabiah

Games, Beth is co-chairing the ISRAEL CONNECT program, along with Tonja Magerman.

"My focus is on the educational – Hasbara – component of the program," Beth explained. "The theme for the ISRAEL CONNECT program will be USA/Israel relations, with the goal of nurturing our athletes to return home as ambassadors/advocates for the State of Israel."

Beth feels very strongly about volunteering with Maccabi USA and has found that people who are involved are very passionate about what they do because they truly care about the programs. "Volunteering for Maccabi USA gives me a chance to work with people of all ages and backgrounds who are dedicated to a healthy lifestyle through sport and who support the International Jewish community," Beth said. "There are opportunities to match almost everyone's strengths and interests, and just as importantly, you make lasting friendships with other volunteers and athletes from around the world."

20TH MACCABIAH



Deborah Adams
Golf Co-Chair



Lisa Fischman
Juniors Girls' Basketball Chair



David Kantor
Masters Men's 45+ Basketball Chair



Bruce Apple
Golf Co-Chair



Mark Fishman
Juniors Baseball Honorary Chair



Walter Klores
Yachad Relief Committee



Philippe Bennett
Fencing Co-Chair



Benjamin Fox
*Overall Sports Chair
Gymnastics Chair*



Mark Knue
Overall Soccer Chair



Ross Berman
Masters Soccer 35+ Co-Chair



Daniel Frankel
Golf Co-Chair



Matthew Lefferman
Youth Men's Soccer Co-Chair



Andrea Bochner
USA Mission Co-Chair



Harold Friedman
USA Mission Co-Chair



Mark Lesly
Open Taekwondo Chair



Derek Borisoff
Water Polo Co-Chair



Andrew Gittleman
Track and Field Co-Chair



Caren Lesser
Karate Co-Chair



Jeffrey Bukantz
USA General Chair



Preston Goldfarb
Overall Men's Soccer Co-Chair



John Levene
Masters Men's 45+ Soccer Co-Chair



Ron Carner
Maccabi USA President



Michael Goldman
Open & Masters Softball Chair



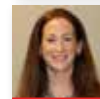
Lawrence Levin
Judo Co-Chair



Joel Carter
Medical Co-Chair



Justin Greenberg
Youth Men's Soccer Co-Chair



Eve Levinson
Lacrosse Chair



Lisa Chajet
Juniors/Open Tennis Chair



Stuart Greenberg
Paralympic Chair



Tonja Magerman
*Open Field Hockey Chair
ISRAEL CONNECT Co-Chair*



Fred Cohen
Overall Sports Co-Chair, Bat & Glove



Daniel Greyber
Eligibility Co-Chair



Anthony Mann
Open & Masters Triathlon Chair



Steven Cohen
Ice Hockey Co-Chair



Michael Gross
Half Marathon Chair



Beth Margolis
ISRAEL CONNECT Co-Chair



Sandra Cohen
Equestrian Co-Chair



Ian Grusd
Masters Men's 45+ Soccer Co-Chair



Michael Monheit
Open Futsal Chair



Richard Ehrlich
Overall Swim Chair



Howard Guggenheim
Grand Masters Tennis Co-Chair



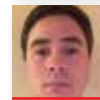
Louis Moyerman
Overall Sports Chair



Leland Faust
Water Polo Co-Chair



Barry Gurland
Security Chair



Samuel Moyerman
Overall Volleyball Co-Chair



Robert Fellman
Track and Field Co-Chair



Josh Kahane
Masters 35+ Basketball Co-Chair



Donna Orender
Open Women's Basketball Chair

USA ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Douglas Pacht
Masters Tennis Co-Chair



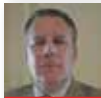
David Parks
Juniors Girls' Soccer Chair



Bryan Pollack
Juniors Boys' Soccer Chair



Stewart Pruzansky
Wrestling Co-Chair



Philip Pulley
Ice Hockey Co-Chair



Devra Pulley
Ice Hockey Co-Chair



Robert Rakowitz
Open & Masters Cycling Chair



David Roberts
Masters 35+ Basketball Co-Chair



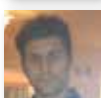
Joel Roodyn
Table Tennis Chair



Marc Rosenberg
Overall Basketball Chair



Steven Rosenberg
Juniors Boys' Basketball Chair



Ross Rosner
Overall Volleyball Co-Chair



Stuart Rothenberg
Fencing Co-Chair



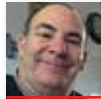
David Rudzinsky
Rugby Chair



Summer Runestad
Athletic Training Chair



Joshua Schachter
Open Men's Basketball Chair



Brian Schiff
Overall Sports Chair



Jeffrey Schulman
Elite Athlete Chair



Brian Seitz
Youth Men's Basketball



Irwin Shorr
Grand Masters Tennis Co-Chair



Peter Simel
Masters Tennis Co-Chair



Tracey Specter
Squash Chair



Robert Spivak
*B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony Chair
Lev L'Lev Co-Chair*



Alex Sternberg
Karate Co-Chair



Russell Stoch
Masters Men's Squash Chair



Dana Susson
Lev L'Lev Co-Chair



Mark Susson
Overall Volleyball Co-Chair



Matthew Susson
Overall Volleyball Co-Chair



Anna Sylvan-Jaffe
Equestrian Co-Chair



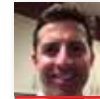
Michael Weinstein
Chess Chair



Merrick Wetzler
Medical Co-Chairman



Walter Wortman
Eligibility Co-Chair



Robert Wynner
Masters Soccer 35+ Co-Chair

NOT SHOWN

Stanley Corn
Wheelchair Basketball Chair

Jay Gelman
Open Women's Softball Chair

Jody Helfend
Masters Tennis Co-Chair

Gregory Kaplan
Open Rowing Co-Chair

Leon Melnitsky
Security Vice Chair

Kim Mertens
Overall Badminton Chair

Peter Morrelli
Open Rowing Co-Chair

David Pruzansky
Open Wrestling Co-Chair

Milton (Tony) Schneider
Rowing Co-Chair

Isaac Solson
Open Cricket Chair



upcoming events



March 2-7
Maccabi World Union Plenum
Israel

March 20
22nd Annual Palm Beach Golf Tournament
Lake Worth, FL

May 22
Annual Chicago Golf Tournament
Glencoe, IL

June 12
Dolph Schayes Memorial Golf Tournament
Cherry Hill, NJ

July 4
International Maccabi Culinary Competition
Tel Aviv, Israel

July 4
Induction Ceremony
International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame
Netanya

July 4-18
20th World Maccabiah Games
Israel

October 1
13th Annual Westchester Brunch & Bridge
Tournament in Memory of Edythe Levitt
Purchase, NY

October 2
San Francisco Golf & Bridge Tournaments
Daly City, CA

December 1-3
Annual Maccabi USA Conference
& Officer Elections
New York, NY

December 3
Legends of the Maccabiah Gala Brunch
New York, NY

recent events



L-R: Barbara Feldman, George & Phyllis Lippman, Mickey Karlan

The **12th Annual Maccabi USA Westchester Brunch & Bridge Tournament, in memory of Edythe Levitt**

was held on September 25, 2016 in Rye Brook, New York. This was an ACBL-sanctioned tournament. Event Co-Chairs Barbara Feldman and George Lippman, along with steering committee members: Nat Adler, Babette Bandler, Ruth Brandt, Betty Burr, Henry Deutsch,

Jane Heilbron, Pat Hofmann, Mickey Karlan, Valerie Levitt, Phyllis Lippman, Sue Maier, Ondrea Schiciano, Bobby Stayman and Madeline Vogel did an amazing job organizing the event. Squash alumna, Sarah Odell, shared her life-changing Maccabiah experience with all in attendance. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on October 1, for our 13th annual "Bar Mitzvah Year" Bridge Tournament in memory of Edythe Levitt.



Ondrea Levitt Schiciano, Sarah Odell



L-R: Back, Ron Carner, Jed Margolis, Bob Spivak; Front: Sue Millis, Toni Wortman

The **Maccabi USA Annual Conference Weekend**

took place December 9-11, 2016, in Newark, New Jersey. There were over 50 people in attendance for the conference which was packed with information about the upcoming World Maccabiah Games. Everyone was able to attend the screening of 'On the

Map' the new documentary about Maccabi Tel Avi's 1977 European Basketball Championship featuring our own Tal Brody. Immediately following the movie screening, attendees joined us for a cocktail reception where the leadership paid tribute to Sue Millis, prior to her retirement on December 31, 2016.



Get connected, stay engaged...





With the 20th Maccabiah Games just around the corner, the tireless efforts of our volunteers and staff are already paying off. On July 6 we will be marching into Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem at the Opening Ceremony with a USA Delegation of over 1,100 strong. That is more than double the size of Team USA at last year's Olympics in Brazil. Yet we are able to do it with the dedication of a committee of 125 and a staff of nine!!! Truly amazing!!!

In my last column I mentioned our Hasbara program in conjunction with StandWithUs. I learned that our umbrella organization, Maccabi World Union (MWU), is replicating this important program for all 10,000 athletes from 80 countries. Our ISRAEL CONNECT Program, formerly known as Pre-Camp, which Maccabi USA started over 30 years ago is also being embraced by many other countries. This is the highest form of flattery and we are proud of these programs.

Our athletes will also be engaged in our Tzedakah program known as Lev L'Lev, or Heart to Heart in Hebrew. It is another way that we are teaching values and creating connections to the broader community. I credit our volunteers with being the impetus for developing these wonderful components so that the Maccabiah experience goes well beyond the field of competition.

This summer's Maccabiah will feature a Culinary Competition, Hi-Tech program, Dance Festival and much more. Through the good work of Yogi, our Maccabi Shaliach, we have an intern program where eight young adults are living in Israel from January through the Maccabiah and helping with administering the Games. We are also thrilled to be working with Birthright. You should be aware that for the 10,000

athletes there will be 150,000 bed-nights, 1,800 buses daily, and a total budget of 120 million New Israel Shekels (over \$40,000,000) to produce the Games. We provide \$3.5 million in subsidies for Team USA, plus we are the only delegation to contribute to Maccabi World Union to make the Games happen. We provide over \$500,000 to MWU to help other countries like Poland, Czech Republic, Cuba, Ukraine, and others where the economies are tanking. Through our Light It Forward direct mail campaign, we help to assist athletes from distressed communities around the world.

As we approach the Opening Ceremony, the fundraising efforts have also ramped up so that we can get to the finish line. We are three-quarters of the way there and with a final push we will come up with the \$12,000,000 needed to send our Team to the Games. Our endowments continue to grow and help support our program. I am pleased to share with you that we recently received a match grant of \$1,000,000 from Aileen and Brian Roberts, and are most appreciative. Thank you to all our supporters and endowers for helping our Maccabiah dreams come true.

This summer in Israel will be truly special and I hope that you will join us. During the 20th Maccabiah Games we will mark the 50th anniversary of the reunification of the city of Jerusalem, our eternal capital; the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration; and the 85th anniversary of the first Maccabiah Games in 1932. From the vision of a young teen, Yosef Yekuteli, and humble beginnings with just 390 athletes from 14 countries including 9 Americans, the Maccabiah now has almost 10,000 Jewish athletes from 80 countries worldwide.

Yet none of this would happen without our wonderful volunteers, who are key to our success. They are the ones who have put us on the map.

Toda Raba.

JED MARGOLIS, Executive Director





BRUCE APPLE – 1989 & 2013 Maccabiah, 2015 European – received the People’s Choice Award from the Katz JCC at their annual Sports Award Dinner in Cherry Hill, NJ on September 26, 2016.



JEFF BUKANTZ – 1981–1993 Maccabiah, 2015 European, 2015 Pan Am, Board – represented Maccabi USA at the Maccabi Finland 110th Anniversary in Helsinki on November 6, 2016. The founding of Makkabi Helsinki allowed for a sports and culture club for the Jewish Community.

BENNY FEILHABER – 2005 Maccabiah, 1999 Pan Am – signed a new two-year contract with Sporting Kansas City in November 2016. Feilhaber is a six-year MLS veteran and has been a professional since 2005.

Three alumni competed at the International Judo Federation World Veterans Championship November 17–21, 2016 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and medaled at the event. **BRIAN HERSKOWITZ** – 1985 Maccabiah – won a gold medal at 55-59 age group, 60kg weight class;

ADAM MOYERMAN – 2001–2013 Maccabiah, 2007, 2015 Pan Am – won a bronze medal in the 30-34 age group, 73kg weight class; and **DR. SANDY NORTH** – 1985–1993 Maccabiah – won a gold medal in the 60-64 age group, 66kg weight class.



JASON KASTNER – 1999, 2003 Pan Am – wed **SIMONE GAITZ** on November 12, 2016.

SAVANNAH LEVIN – 2013 Maccabiah – helped the University of Southern California Women’s Soccer Team win the 2016 NCAA Championship. This is the second title for the USC’s ‘Women of Troy.’

ANDI MUREZ – 2009, 2013 Maccabiah – was inducted into the Southern California Jewish Sports Hall of Fame on January 28. Andi most recently represented Israel at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.



ROBERT RAKOWITZ – 2013 Maccabiah – won the New York State Individual Time Trial Championship on August 7, 2016 at Tioga Center, NY.



ALI SCHWACH – 2005, 2009 Maccabiah – married **JESSE BALABAN-FELD** on September 4, 2016 in Minneapolis, MN. Alumni in attendance were **SAM BALABAN-FELD** and **MORRY STEINBACH**.

LENNY SILBERMAN – Board – will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame at their induction ceremony on July 4 in Israel.

Greater Washington DC Jewish Sports Hall of Fame inducted their 2016 Class on November 19. Four alumni were recognized: **MITCHELL BERLINER** – 2015 Pan Am; and **LISA LEVIN REICHMANN** – 2003 Pan Am. **JASON BELINKIE** – 2013 Maccabiah – received the JCC Legacy Award; and **DANIEL KUHNREICH** – 2015 European – was recognized as a 2016 Hyman M. and Phillip D. Perlo High School Athlete.

Welcome to our **MACCABABIES!**

RABBI TINA (HUGHES) – 2005, 2009 Maccabiah, 2007 Pan Am – and **MATT SOBO** welcomed a daughter, **Stephanie**, on February 2, 2016. Tina is now the Assistant Rabbi and Jerome Epstein Director of Education at Temple Israel in Dayton, OH.

CHRIS – 2015 Pan Am – and **ANNALISA GIBBONS** welcomed their daughter, **Gloria Viviana Graham Gibbons**, on October 18, 2016 in Philadelphia. Their son **Allesandro**, two, is excited to be a big brother.

BOB SPIVAK – Board – and **TAYLOR HOGGE** welcomed their second great grandchild, **Isabella Cecelyn Tummings**, on November 3, 2016. Parents **RACHAEL SPIVAK** and **ANDREW TUMMINGS** and big sister **Andrealle** are thrilled to hang out with their great grandpop.

SHANE – 2015 European, 2015 Pan Am, Staff – and **JAIME CARR** welcomed their first child, a son, on December 9, 2016. **Buddy Miles Carr** is looking forward to competing at the **2033 Maccabiah Games**.

YOGEV – *Shaliach* – and **SHANI MATOK** welcomed their daughter **Mika**, their first child, on January 7. **Mika** will have the difficult decision of deciding whether to compete for Israel or the USA at the **2033 Maccabiah Games**.



We mourn the passing...

Rebecca Weissbard AUGUST 31, 2016 Equestrian - 2013 Maccabiah

A horseback rider from Long Island, New York, Rebecca died at an upstate New York equestrian competition. She was a member of the first USA Team participating in the Equestrian competition at the last Maccabiah and took the gold medal in the jumping competition. She had an infectious smile and was loved by many.

Mitchell Kline SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 Softball - 1985-1997 Maccabiah, 1999 Pan Am

Mitchell was a member of the first Maccabi USA Men's Fast Pitch Softball team to compete at the World Maccabiah Games in 1985. He continued to compete as an athlete and coach, becoming a beloved member of the Maccabi Men's Softball fraternity. Mitchell was a beloved teacher, coach, friend, husband and father.

Sean Pleskow NOVEMBER 6, 2016 Soccer - 2013 Maccabiah

Sean was a beloved member of the USA Men's Youth Soccer Team at the last Maccabiah Games as well as a valued member of the University of California, San Diego Soccer team, where he was in his third year. He was a great teammate, player and friend who had the opportunity to march into the Opening Ceremony at the Maccabiah Games alongside his brother, Will, a member of the Open Men's Soccer Team.

Barry Dattel DECEMBER 31, 2016 Table Tennis - 1985-1993 Maccabiah

Barry was an avid Table Tennis athlete and won a silver and two bronze medals during his Maccabiah competitions. He also had won numerous U.S. National Table Tennis titles, most recently the U.S. Open Over-50 Table Tennis Championships. Barry was a lifetime member of USA Table Tennis, an International Table Tennis Federation certified coach, and the director and owner of the Lily Yip Table Tennis Center for the last six years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families. May their memories be for a blessing.

LEGACY



SOCIETY

We Build Jewish Pride Through Sports. Jewish continuity and support for the State of Israel are our ultimate goals and we achieve them through our unique programming and the life-changing experiences we offer Jewish athletes of all ages.

You can help ensure that we are always able to provide these experiences to future generations of Jewish athletes by joining our Legacy Society. No matter your level of wealth, anyone can participate in the Legacy Society. It does not matter how you do it, only that you make a decision to do so.

You can become a member of the Legacy Society in many different ways, each offering financial and tax benefits. These include an outright gift, a bequest in a will, an insurance policy, designation of a retirement asset or IRA, and supporting foundations and private foundations.

Legacy Society gifts can be structured to benefit Maccabi USA and any program or initiative of the organization. So don't wait, please consider joining the other members of the Legacy Society to help ensure that Maccabi USA will continue to provide its unique programming, providing life-changing experiences and building Jewish continuity in perpetuity.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

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Since 1948, Maccabi USA (MUSA) has sought to enrich the lives of Jews in the United States, Israel and throughout the Diaspora through athletic, cultural and educational programs. The organization is the sponsor of the U.S. Team to the World Maccabiah Games. MUSA also sponsors U.S. participation in Maccabi competitions in Pan America and Europe, and supports Jewish youth through the JCC Maccabi Games.

United States Committee Sports for Israel

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HAPPY PASSOVER!