



OCT. 27 SHOOTING / DOCUMENTARY TO PREMIERE ON WQED ON OCT. 26

home page

# Free screening of 'Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life' to be held Oct. 17

"Repairing the World" is the inspirational story of the citizens of Pittsburgh who were determined to turn the phrase "never again" into action.

By **TOBY TABACHNICK**

October 2, 2023, 3:09 pm | 0





Flower memorial outside the Tree of Life building after the shooting (Still from "Repairing the World: Stories from The Tree of Life")

A free community screening of an abbreviated version of the documentary “Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life,” will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at Carnegie Mellon University’s McConomy Auditorium. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and be followed by a panel discussion that includes Andrea Wedner, a survivor of the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, and Patrice O’Neill, the film’s producer.

The documentary is a production of “Not in Our Town,” a team that has created films on successful community responses to hate for more than 25 years.

“Repairing the World” is the inspirational story of the citizens of Pittsburgh who were determined to turn the phrase “never again” into action following the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

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“As we watched the events unfold in

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Pittsburgh, what we found is a community that cared deeply for one another,” O’Neill said in a prepared statement. “We saw a diverse cross-section of the community standing together in the face of horrific violence.”

The full documentary will premiere on WQED-TV on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 9 p.m. WQED is serving as the presenting station to the American Public Television network, the distribution service to PBS stations across the United States.

“WQED is honored to serve as the presenting station to public stations across America,” said David Solomon, the managing director of production and TV station manager, in a prepared statement. “This film shows how our community rallied in the wake of the worst kind of tragedy to send a powerful message of unity to the world.”

The release of the film coincides with the five-year commemoration of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. O’Neill said the message of how Pittsburgh responded to the attack is more important than ever, as the United States has seen an escalation of antisemitism and hate-motivated violence in the years since the attack.

“Racism and antisemitism are intertwined in the messaging that fueled recent mass hate crime killings,” O’Neill said. “We can do something to stop the spread of hate, and our local communities are places where we can effectively make a change that can be felt in people’s lives. We have to find new ways to mobilize the vast majority of people in our cities and towns who don’t want the spread of hate speech and violence to harm themselves, their children or their neighbors.”

To register for the free screening, go to

[repairingtheworldscreening.eventbrite.com/](https://repairingtheworldscreening.eventbrite.com/). The screening is sponsored by The Pittsburgh Promise. Community partners include the Jewish Community Relations Council, Film Pittsburgh, the 10.27 Healing Partnership and the Center for Loving Kindness. **PJC**

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## COMMENTS



ISRAEL AT WAR / PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY STANDS IN SOLIDARITY

# Hundreds of Pittsburghers rally in support of Israel

home page

“We are a people united in sorrow, united in anxiety...united in our determination that the Jewish people will live in its homeland in peace.”

By **DAVID RULLO**

October 9, 2023, 2:23 pm | 0



Hundreds gathered at the JCC on Sunday, Oct. 8 to show their support of Israel after the terrorist group Hamas attacked the country. (Photo by David Rullo)

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Local and state politicians, rabbis and Jewish community leaders were among more than 500 people at the [Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's](#) Levinson Hall rallying in support of Israel. An additional 100 people joined online.

The Sunday, Oct. 8 event was organized by the [Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh](#). Both the [10.27 Healing Partnership](#) and [StandWithUs](#), a pro-Israel education and advocacy organization, had representatives present.

The rally was a response to the terrorist attack on Israel launched from Gaza by Hamas, which began on the previous morning — nearly 50 years to the day from the start of the Yom Kippur War — as the country was celebrating Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

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The  
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infiltrated 22 Israeli towns, launching thousands of rockets and attacking by land — through seven breaches in the security wall separating Gaza from Israel — by sea and by air, using gliders.

As of press time, more than 800 Israelis and nine Americans were murdered by the terrorists, including more than 250 celebrating at a music festival. More than 2,500 Israelis were wounded and more than 100 people were taken captive and

transported to Gaza, including both military members and civilians.

[Tree of Life](#) Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers and [Temple Sinai](#) Cantor David Reinwald opened the rally with a rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” followed by remarks from Federation Board Chair Jan Levinson, who said the community had come together not only to share Israel’s grief, but also its resilience.



The rally began with the National Anthem. Photo by David Rullo

Joining Levinson to speak during the 30-minute program were Federation President and CEO Jeff Finkelstein; Dr. Deborah Gilboa; Federation’s Gefsky Community Scholar Rabbi Danny Schiff; Shaare Torah Rabbi Yitzi Genack; JCC Board Chair Scott Seewald; and JCC President and CEO Jason Kunzman. The mayors of Karmiel and Misgav, Federation’s Partnership2Gether region, spoke via video.

Finkelstein acknowledged the many politicians in the room before noting that “this is the worst loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust in a single day.”

He spoke of the work that the [Jewish Federations of North America](#) and the [Jewish Agency for Israel](#) have done since the attack, including JFNA’s 2023 Israel

Emergency Fund and JAI moving 1,000 people from the south of Israel in one day.

Federation's annual campaign, Finkelstein said, will need to raise "significant dollars for specific needs in Israel."



Community members wrapped themselves in both Israeli and American flags. (Photo by David Rullo)

One of the evening's most poignant moments occurred when Gilboa spoke about her son who is serving in the Israel Defense Forces. She asked those in attendance to raise their hand if they knew someone about to be in uniform in defense of Israel. Hundreds of raised hands filled the hall.

Schiff spoke about the need for solidarity.

"We are a people united in sorrow, united in anxiety for all those taken captive and united in our determination that the Jewish people will live in its homeland in peace with God's help, for decades and centuries to come," he said. "Tonight, there are no Reform Jews or Conservative Jews or left-wing Jews or right-wing Jews. There is just an Yisroel, one heart beating together."

Genack then recited a prayer for the Jewish hostages.



Kunzman and Sewald spoke of the JCC's commitment to support Israel, its leadership and people.

The Greater Pittsburgh Jewish Clergy Association closed the program with a rendition of "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem.

Numerous politicians gathered with the hundreds of community members, crying and hugging in support of one another, many with family members and loved ones in Israel.



The Pittsburgh Jewish community voiced its solidarity with Israel at an Oct. 8 rally. (Photo by Kim Rullo)

Pittsburgh City Councilmember Barb Warwick, whose district includes Squirrel Hill, called the terrorist attack “a huge tragedy for the community.”

Allegheny County Executive candidate Joe Rockey said it was important for people to stand together in light of Hamas’ terrorist attack.

“When one part of our community is challenged, everyone is challenged,” he said. “What’s going on in Israel is completely wrong and needs the support of all of Pittsburgh.”

State Sen. Devlin Robinson, serving District 37 which includes Allegheny County, was adamant in his belief that “no moment in the past has led to anybody taking up arms and deciding to murder civilians and kidnap elderly women and babies. We should call this a terrorist attack and call out the rogue, terrorist nation funding it.”

He attended the rally, he said, to show his solidarity with the Jewish people and Israel.

State Rep. Dan Frankel said that the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition was working on a resolution in support of Israel.

“This is terrorism on a scale we have never seen,” he said. “It exceeds what happened on 9/11, and it needs to be called out by all of us and it needs to be unequivocal.”

Frankel’s 23rd District includes the Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Squirrel Hill and Greenfield.

U.S. Rep. Chris Deluzio, who recently returned from a trip to Israel, also strongly condemned the terrorist actions of Hamas and said he stood in solidarity with the Jewish state and the Jewish community in Pittsburgh.

“I’m a member of the Armed Services Committee,” he said. “I take the responsibility seriously. I will be back in Washington this week and I’m sure we’re going to be digging into how we got to this point, where the intelligence failures were and what our security assistance looks like going forward. That commitment is steadfast.”

Bhavini Patel, who last week announced her candidacy to challenge U.S. Rep. Summer Lee in the Democratic primary, said it was important in moments like this to lead with love and kindness.

“When your community is hurting, you show up for your community and you extend that love in a deep and passionate way so that your neighbors know that

you stand in solidarity with them,” she said.

Summer Lee did not attend the rally.

Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, former Mayor Bill Peduto and Steve Irwin, chair of the Anti-Defamation League’s Cleveland Region, which includes Pittsburgh, were in attendance, as well.

StandWithUs Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Julie Paris thanked Federation for putting together the rally so quickly and said the organization was glad to participate.

“Pittsburgh stands strongly with Israel, now and forever,” Paris said. “At StandWithUs, we stand unequivocally with the people of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces, as they fight back against this murderous terrorist onslaught.”

StandWithUs, she said is working to educate people about the attack and to fight misinformation.

Paris said people can show support for Israel by sharing content from StandWithUs and other reputable sources; commenting positively on social media about the Jewish state; reporting hateful social media comments and posts; and attending pro-Israel rallies, vigils and events.

Federations across the country, Finkelstein said, are raising funds for needs in Israel that haven’t been fully identified yet.

“I don’t know what the future will bring, but we know the needs are going to be enormous,” he said.

Schiff voiced the needs of the community by citing the familiar refrain pronounced after reading a book in the Torah:

“Chazak — may it be strong; chazak — may we be strong; v’nitchazek — may we strengthen each other in the difficult days that lie ahead.” **PJC**

*David Rullo can be reached at [drullo@pittsburghjewishchronicle.org](mailto:drullo@pittsburghjewishchronicle.org).*

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## COMMENTS



ISRAEL AT WAR / PITTSBURGH AND ISRAEL

home page

# Pittsburghers in Israel and Israelis in Pittsburgh share fears, perspectives

Thousands of miles from home, responses offered

By **ADAM REINHERZ**

October 9, 2023, 12:44 pm | 0





Pittsburgh community members demonstrate support for Israel during an Oct. 8, 2023 gathering at the Squirrel Hill branch of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh. Photo by Adam Reinherz

Leora Goldberg, 18, spent four hours in a bomb shelter during Simchat Torah.

“It was on and off, whenever we heard the sirens,” she said, speaking by phone from her dormitory in Jerusalem.

As of press time, Hamas had fired more than 4,000 rockets at the Jewish state.

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Goldberg described the situation as “very stressful,” and noted the deluge of war-related stories flooding her social media accounts.

“It feels scarier when all the information is coming at once,” she said.

The Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh graduate arrived in Israel last month for a year of study at Midreshet Tehillah, a seminary in Jerusalem’s Har Nof neighborhood.

Twenty miles west, fellow Hillel Academy graduate Kovi Biton, 18, said, “Nowhere is safe.”

Speaking by phone from Yeshivat Reishet in Bet Shemesh, Biton described the rockets and told the Chronicle, “You can see flashes at night. You feel like you are in war.”

More than 800 Israelis were killed, 2,500 injured and 100 taken hostage since Hamas attacked Israel by land, sea and air on Oct. 7.

Biton said his school issued a “lockdown,” but even isolating within a bolstered gymnasium is frightening.

“You can hear the ground rumbling, and you don’t know if it’s from bombs dropping or planes flying overhead,” he said.

As of press time, it was reported that at least nine U.S. citizens were among those killed, and dozens of U.S. citizens are being held hostage in Gaza.

Yisrael Klitsner, 36, said he’s “always been on the cusp between America and Israel.”

Born to American parents, Klitsner was in an elite Israeli combat unit for three years before serving in the reserves for “many more years.”

Klitsner moved to Pittsburgh from the Jewish state in 2022.



His connection to the war “is just like every other Israeli’s: firsthand, secondhand and thirdhand.”

He described someone he served with who “died fighting Hamas terrorists inside of Israel,” as well as friends whose loved ones attended the nature party near Kibbutz Re’im and are now missing.

The all-night outdoor music festival was interrupted Saturday morning when Hamas launched rockets and then fired gunshots at hundreds of fleeing partygoers, [The Times of Israel reported](#).

Video footage shows festival attendees scrambling for safety, while others were abducted by Hamas.

Zaka, a volunteer group whose members retrieve remains of the deceased following terror attacks and other disasters, collected more than 260 bodies from the site of the southern music festival, according to [The Associated Press](#).

U.S. antisemitism envoy Deborah Lipstadt [tweeted](#) that the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks were “the most lethal assault against Jews since the Holocaust.”

“The numbers speak for themselves,” Laurie Wasser-Klitsner told the Chronicle. “I don’t think that there’s a family in Israel who hasn’t been touched by this.”

Wasser-Klitsner, 36, moved to Pittsburgh last year to complete a fellowship at UPMC.

“If you don’t have someone in your family who was immediately affected, then you know a family that was. And most of us have siblings fighting in this war now who were called up for reserve duty,” she said.

Israel has drafted 300,000 reservists since Saturday. It’s the largest call-up in the country’s 75- year history, [Reuters reported](#).

Naama Perel-Tzadok listed family members who’ve been summoned.

“Almost everyone we know,” she said.

Perel-Tzadok, 39, left Israel last year to complete a doctorate in music composition at the University of Pittsburgh.

Being so far from Israel right now is extremely challenging, she said.

“We feel very bad. We feel sad. We are very worried. We are devastated, actually. We can’t eat. We can’t sleep. Our bodies are here, but our hearts are in Israel and we feel very helpless. We have nothing to do from here — even just to donate blood — we feel very distant,” she said.

Pittsburghers, she said, can help.

“It’s really important to stand with Israel, to strengthen the soldiers and strengthen the people in Israel,” she said. “This is so important to our morale and to our mental health, knowing that people are seeing us, and hearing our voice, and holding us and supporting us.”

Klitsner also stressed the importance of showing solidarity with Israel.

“This is the lowest moment that Israel has ever experienced, and standing with them in any way is certainly a good thing to do,” he said.

“Pittsburgh is a community who has come across hatred firsthand, in its worst form,” he continued. “And the hatred that has been assigned to Israelis is something that just needs to be recognized and called out. Israel should be empathized with in the deepest way, and I know that Pittsburghers know how to do that because I’ve already witnessed it.”

Messages, comments and calls have signaled support since Oct. 7, but Klitsner and Perel-Tzadok both worry about transient sentiments.

“When the IDF starts its operation, everything is going to change, and the whole world is going to be against us,” Perel-Tzadok said.

“I think we’re about to see Israel do things and go on the offensive in ways that it hasn’t in the past,” Klitsner said. “No matter what your political leaning is — no matter what your ideological or religious or otherwise affiliation is — this

moment, this heart-wrenching moment that we're living and breathing today, should be with you." **PJC**

*Adam Reinherz can be reached at [areinherz@pittsburghjewishchronicle.org](mailto:areinherz@pittsburghjewishchronicle.org).*

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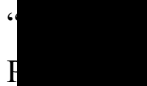
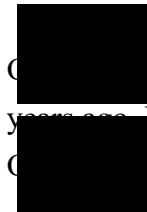
MOVIES/TV



# TV Talk: 'Repairing the World' tells stories from aftermath of Tree of Life attack



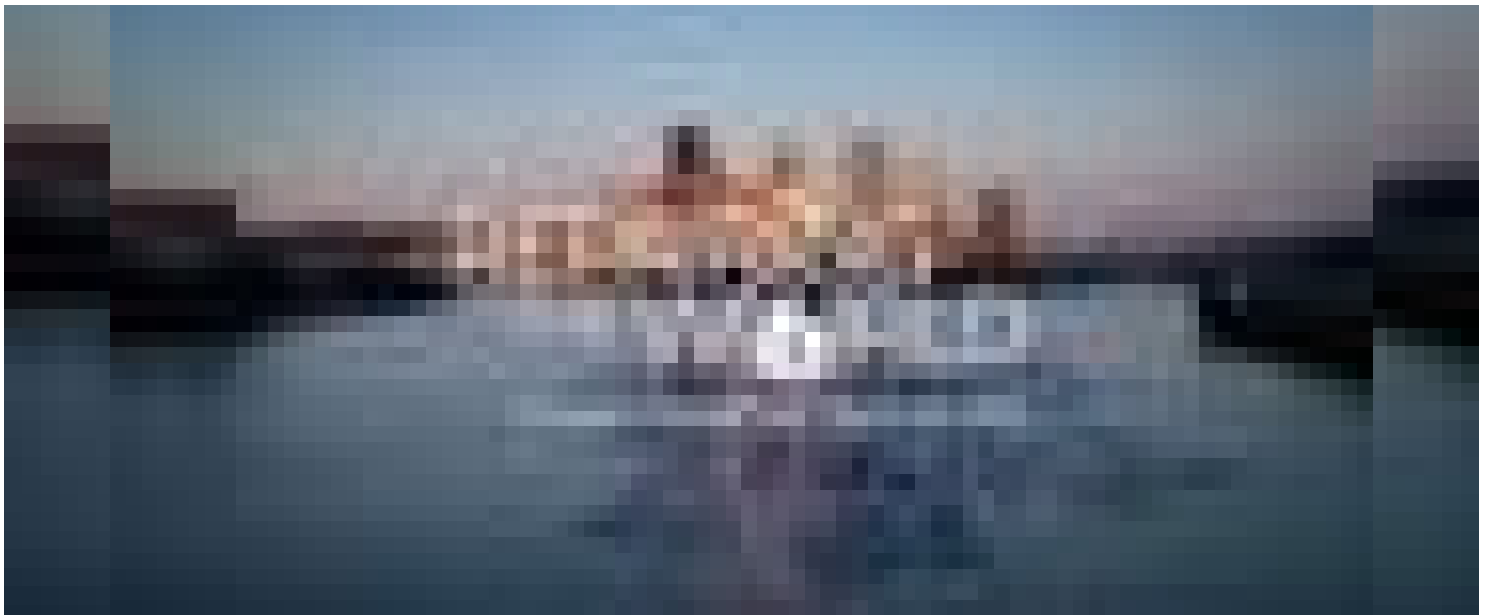
ROB OWEN | Friday, Oct. 20, 2023 6:00 a.m.



California-based filmmaker Patrice O'Neill began chronicling community responses to hate more than 25 years ago. When she heard about the 2018 assault on Squirrel Hill's Tree of Life synagogue, she realized her Not in Our Name team had more work to do.

"Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life" (9 p.m. Oct. 26, WQED-TV), which screened at the Jewish Film Festival in 2022, filmed over three years and focuses largely on the community response. (Last year's HBO documentary on Tree of Life was more about the attack and online hate that motivated the gunman.)





“It wasn’t the horrific nature of the attack that drew us to Pittsburgh. It was the profoundly moving response,” O’Neill said in a phone interview last week. “That night (of the attack) high school students organized a vigil at Forbes and Murray. ... It was so inspiring to see the response of the Jewish community to say, ‘We’re not going to be afraid to worship. We’re not going to be afraid to be together.’ And to have young people lead that, it was an example of everything that we try to emulate.”

O’Neill began covering community responses to hate in 1995’s half-hour documentary, “Not in Our Town,” about hate incidents in Billings, Mont.

More films followed, including 2011’s “Light in the Darkness,” about a series of attacks on Latino residents in Patchogue, N.Y.; 2011’s “Class Actions,” about college students standing up against racism and antisemitism; and 2014’s “Waking in Oak Creek,” about a white supremacist’s murder of six Sikh worshippers.

“Repairing the World” also shows how the Jewish community helped others on the receiving end of hate, including Pittsburgh’s Asian-American community in the face of the pandemic. Marian Lien, director of Education for Inclusion and Global Awareness at St. Edmund’s Academy, describes how while shopping at a market a stranger told her she “should be shipped off with the virus back to China” while shopping.

“We’re redefining the term neighbor so it’s not just someone who lives next to you but it’s someone who you actually have a moral responsibility toward and who has a moral responsibility towards you,” Rabbi Ron Symons, founding director of the Center for Loving Kindness at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, says in the film.

“The commonalities that lead us to a story is a reckoning in a community saying, ‘We need to understand how this happened, and we need to act together to make sure it doesn’t happen again and to stand with our neighbors,’” O’Neill said. “There are so many things that are unique about Pittsburgh: We have never seen this broad-scale

citywide response like we were seeing in Pittsburgh.”

## Local chef exits ‘Hell’s Kitchen’

In the Oct. 19 episode of Fox’s “Hell’s Kitchen,” chef Mattias Butts of Ross got sent packing.

Butts was on the chopping block in the Oct. 12 episode but he managed to avoid elimination. (“Mattias, you’re on thin ice,” host Gordon Ramsay said. “In fact, it’s so thin, I can hear the ice cracking!”)

In this week’s episode, Butts got good marks for a pizza he made early in the episode but then Ramsay complained his lobster was raw during dinner service.

“Tonight the ice broke wide open and you fell through,” Ramsay said. “You are not ready to become my head chef.”

A tearful Butts acknowledged his mistakes and said, “This is a life-changing opportunity for me, and I wanted to come home a winner.”

## ‘Little Bird’

Native representation in prime time made strides in recent years thanks primarily to FX’s “Reservation Dogs” and AMC’s “Dark Winds.” Add PBS’s Canadian import “Little Bird” (11 p.m. Oct. 29, WQED-TV) to the list even if it’s not quite on par quality-wise with its predecessors.

The six-episode series follows twentysomething law student Esther Rosenblum (Darla Contois) as she embarks on a search for her birth family after a disastrous 1985 engagement party where her future mother-in-law expresses racist sentiments about Esther (“She’s one of the good ones. ... That’s a compliment!”).

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The story begins in 1968 on the Lone Pine reservation in Saskatchewan as a 5-year-old Esther — then known as Bezhig Little Bird (Keris Hope Hill) — is taken from her birth family as part of a 1960s-1980s unjust Canadian government policy known as the “Sixties Scoop.” She’s adopted by a non-native family in Montreal headed by matriarch Golda (Lisa Edelstein, “House”).

Episodes hop back and forth between the '60s and the '80s as Little Bird goes in search of her family of origin.

It’s a fascinating, previously unexplored (as far as I know) premise for a dramatic series (with a great theme song, “I Remember You (Hey, Little Bird)” by Buffy Sainte-Marie). But stretching the story over six overly long episodes does the show no favors as it veers between taut drama and occasional lapses into obvious, stereotypical heroes and villains.

## Kept/canceled

Canceled by Paramount+ after its first season, the animated series “Star Trek: Prodigy” will move to Netflix. Season one will stream on Netflix later this year with the show’s second season coming to Netflix in 2024.

Apple TV+ canceled “The AfterParty” after two seasons.

Netflix’s “Elite” returns for its seventh season this week; Netflix announced season eight will be the show’s last season.

## Channel surfing

With Channel 11 sports anchor Alby Oxenreiter still out on medical leave, KDKA-AM/93.7-FM The Fan’s Shelby Cassese is doing some freelance fill-in work for WPXI-TV’s sports coverage. ... In advance of season two of HBO’s “The Gilded Age” (9 p.m. Oct. 29), PBS’s “American Experience” will offer free streaming of its 2018 nonfiction series of the same name beginning Oct. 24 at [pbs.org](https://pbs.org) and at [youtube.com/@AmericanExperiencePBS](https://youtube.com/@AmericanExperiencePBS). ... Showtime will exit sports coverage (mostly boxing) at the end of the year.

Day One at the Double Ones!

I’m so excited to join the [@WPXI](https://www.wpxi.com) sports team as a freelancer! You’ll see me helping out and filling in when needed. Glad to be working alongside friends and mentors in the industry! [pic.twitter.com/jaGvZwSUxC](https://pic.twitter.com/jaGvZwSUxC)

— Shelby Cassesse (@ShelbyCassesse) [October 17, 2023](#)

You can reach TV writer Rob Owen at [rowen@triblive.com](mailto:rowen@triblive.com) or 412-380-8559. Follow @RobOwenTV on Threads, Twitter, Bluesky and Facebook. Ask TV questions by email or phone. Please include your first name and location.

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 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Follow

## What a ceasefire in Israel would do to Israel

*Opinion* 2d



What a ceasefire in Israel would do to Israel  
 © Provided by Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Open letter to those pleading for an immediate cease fire in Israel.  
 Consider (at least) two hypotheticals from history:

It is 1943 and the Allies have commenced bombing cities in Nazi Germany. A member of Congress, or politicians or citizens elsewhere, plead for a ceasefire that will leave Hitler and the Nazi Party in power in Germany.

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It is 1863, amidst the carnage of the American Civil War, a northern Congressman pleads for a cease fire that would leave the Confederate States of America in control of the south

Distinguish these two scenarios from those who now plead that Israel, responding to terrorist atrocities, agree to a ceasefire that would leave Hamas in power, a group that wants to destroy Israel and Jews, with the support of militarized nations near its borders that have and will seek to export terror.

**Brian Schreiber**

Shadyside

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# Crimean bridge will be finally destroyed: Ukrainian Navy clarified

Story by Daria Dmytriieva • 1h



Ukrainian Navy told when the Crimean bridge will be finally destroyed (Photo: Getty Images) © RRC-Ukraine

**T**he illegally constructed bridge across the Kerch Strait in the temporarily occupied Crimea will inevitably be destroyed when the situation demands it, according to Dmytro Pletenchuk, the spokesperson for the Ukrainian Navy, in an interview with Ukrinform.

Pletenchuk emphasized that Ukraine does not prioritize symbolism, unlike the Russians. This approach is beneficial during military operations with limited resources.

He mentioned that Ukrainians don't have such tasks if the occupiers are tasked with accomplishing something on the hypothetical birthday of the Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.

"So, this bridge will undoubtedly be destroyed, but it will be done

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10/27 / THE LEGACY OF ROSE MALLINGER HONORED

home page

# Rose's Garden dedicated by family and friends at Squirrel Hill JCC

Beautified outdoor space invites community and future growth

By [ADAM REINHERZ](#)

October 30, 2023, 11:38 am | 0







Rose Mallinger's grandchildren unveil a plaque dedicated to their matriarch's memory. Photo by Joshua Franzos

Master gardener Lauren Mallinger likes [getting her fingers dirty](#). When the opportunity arose to beautify an outdoor space and honor her late mother-in-law, Mallinger dug in.

Standing beside a newly dedicated area at the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill, Mallinger pointed to annuals, perennials, pristine fencing and a dedicated plaque bearing the words “Rose’s Garden.”

Given by the Mallinger and Wedner families and friends, the garden is in memory of Rose Mallinger, one of 11 Jewish worshippers murdered during the Pittsburgh

synagogue shooting.

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Dedicated on Oct. 27, 2023, five years to the day of the heinous antisemitic 2018 attack, the garden is a way to remember “Rose’s beauty and how she gave such life to everybody,” said Brian Schreiber the JCC’s chief external affairs officer and special adviser to the CEO. “If you think about Jewish values, the idea of land, and cultivating land, and [making things grow](#), the cycle of life is so real.”

Among her many JCC connections, Rose Mallinger often enjoyed [lunch with fellow seniors at the center](#). In her memory, other adults as well as children can use this outdoor space “in a nice protected beautiful environment,” he added.



Members of the Mallinger and Wedner family gathered on Oct. 27, 2023 to dedicate “Rose’s Garden.” Photo by Joshua Franzos

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Maggie Feinstein, director of the 10.27 Healing Partnership, credited volunteers from Repair the World Pittsburgh and the JCC’s Sherree Hall with enabling the project to flourish.

“The project is close to my heart because that family is close to my heart,” said Hall, the JCC’s senior director of facilities and security.

Hall and Alan Mallinger, Rose’s son, worked together for nearly 25 years at the JCC.

“When Lauren came to me and said, ‘I’d like to do something up here to honor Rose,’ I was all in,” Hall said.

Three years after the seeds for a memorial garden were planted, generations of family and friends stood nearby. Last Friday, as parents, cousins and friends watched, Rose Mallinger’s grandchildren uncovered a plaque bearing their matriarch’s name. The moment, like most family gatherings, was captured by countless photographs.

Hilary Soriano said her grandmother would have thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony and setting.

“It’s a beautiful thing to [turn an empty space into a place of gathering](#), which is something that my grandmother loved to do,” Soriano said. “She loved to be with other people. She loved to be social.”

Beautifying a place where generations can gather is how “my grandmother’s memory will live on,” Eric Mallinger told the Chronicle. “She was big in the JCC community. We were big in it when we were younger. It’s nice there’s a space for everyone here, where everyone can come together. I think she would love that.”

Before Rose Mallinger’s grandchildren dispersed into a crowd of aunts, uncles, cousins, partners, parents, spouses and friends, the words at the bottom of the plaque were read aloud.

“If love alone could have spared you, you would have lived forever.” **PJC**

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