

Monday December 4, 2023

JCC of Greater Pittsburgh and Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh Host Israeli Hamas Attack Survivors for Global “Light the World” Chanukah Event

Pittsburgh, PA – The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh will be hosting survivors of the October 7th Hamas attack in Israel. This program, made possible through a strategic alliance between the Jewish Community Center Association of North American and the Israel Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, will be held on **Thursday, December 7 at 6 pm at the JCC.**

20 communities across the world will welcome survivors of the October 7 Hamas attack for a united global event to share their stories from the horrendous war crimes committed by Hamas and light the Menorah beginning the first night of Chanukah.

“We were shocked and deeply saddened by the horrific attack on October 7. Seven weeks later, some of these survivors are traveling the world to share their stories and show their resiliency. The Pittsburgh Jewish community is fortunate to be selected to welcome them to our great city. We are honored for them to light the candle on the first night of Chanukah as a demonstration of our solidarity,” said JCC of Greater Pittsburgh Chief External Affairs Officer Brian Schreiber.

The event at the JCC will be open to the public and live streamed over several sites internationally. **The stories shared by the survivors will be graphic in nature; discretion is advised.**

“With so many people around the world focused on Israel and with the proliferation of misinformation online, it’s important that our Pittsburgh community sees the real people behind the stories in the media and hears directly from these people about their experiences,” said Jeff Finkelstein, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

The event will spread awareness of the horrific war crimes committed by Hamas and provides the community an opportunity to show their support on a Jewish holiday that focuses on rededication to Jewish peoplehood.

The JCC asks all members of the media planning to cover the event to arrive no later than 5:15 pm. Please use the entrance on Darlington Avenue. We are hoping to have time to help you get set up to avoid disruptions once the program begins promptly at 6 pm. At 5:30 pm JCC Pittsburgh Chief External Affairs Officer Brian Schreiber will be available for interviews. We ask that our media partners respect our community’s privacy and do not interview attendees of the event while inside the JCC.

Media will be invited to the event with permission to film, record audio, take pictures, and use quotes from the speakers. The survivors will not be answering formal questions following the event, but instead will be hosting a press conference at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh Friday, December 8 at 10:30 am.

Who: JCC of Greater Pittsburgh, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, Israeli Survivors of Hamas Attack October 7

What: “Light the World” Chanukah Program featuring Israeli survivors of deadly Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

Where: JCC of Greater Pittsburgh - 5738 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

When: Thursday, December 7, 6-7 pm

Why: To show the solidarity of the Jewish people and their resilience after the horrific war crimes committed by Hamas through lighting the Menorah on the first night of Chanukah.