



Valley JCC Newsletter - August 2023

The August Edition Includes:

Photos of JCC Maccabi Israel, John Paul Thornton's Art History Presentation,
Meet Donna Haas, Youth & Adult Basketball Leagues, Summer Sports Camp,
Learn About Elena & Igor Yasno's Visit to Ukraine,
Mah Jongg Tournament, Readers Club, Summer Recipe



Letter From Jeff Rubin Executive Director, Valley JCC

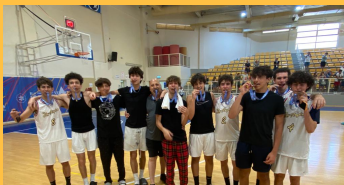
This year's Maccabi experience was one for a lifetime!

Eight days of the games was followed by twelve days of touring throughout Israel.

Enjoy the photos.. they include the Boys 17U basketball team winning a bronze medal, camel rides, a Shabbat service, Bedouin tents, and Kfar Hanokdim.

Thank You,
Jeff

JCC Maccabi 2023 Israel





Elena & Igor Yasno Visit Their Native Ukraine

Igor and Elena Yasno were born and raised in Kyiv (formerly Kiev), the capital of Ukraine. Both immigrated to the United States in 1977, married, had two sons and founded a software company in the 1980's.

When they arrived in New York with their parents, the Jewish community helped them get settled, and arranged for their continuing education. Elena studied accounting and Igor learned the computer business. They recall that their vocational school was located underneath the Brooklyn Bridge.

But, there's much more to their story!

The Yasno's have lived abroad, visited more than 120 countries, and are still traveling. The couple has visited Ukraine many times after 1999 and has witnessed the tremendous change in the Ukrainian society. They observed progress, westernization and the growing pride of the people of Ukraine.

Their most recent and significant trip to Ukraine took place in May of 2023. They spent a month during the full scale war, and had to run for cover and protection in the underground subway station more than once. Staying in the center of Kyiv was not safe, and they hardly slept, being awakened by anti-aircraft during the night.

Elena and Igor worked directly with local volunteers who personally helped wounded veterans, victims of war crimes, refugees, orphans and people who had lost their homes. They brought money, food, medicine and participated in humanitarian aid. They estimate that about 5,000 Jews are fighting in the armed forces. The clothes or uniforms they wear include a patch with a Jewish Star.

Igor explains, "The war in Ukraine has to be fought by the entire world. The Ukrainians are not just fighting for themselves, but for the world order as we know it."

Elena and Igor have two immediate goals: to help Ukraine win the war, and to help Ukrainians heal and prosper. Their website includes photos, specific information, and ways to help in this effort: <http://youkrainenow.com/>

Valley JCC has invited the Yasnos to join us soon, so that we can learn more about their life experiences, first-hand. Stay tuned for details!

Upcoming Classes for August 2023

Check out our August classes and click on the link to sign up!



Music & Morsels: Classical Guitar Treasures

Wednesday, August 2
1-2pm (PT) on Zoom

Save! Get "Early Bird" pricing; purchase
before July 31st.

For details & tickets, click here.