

# THE Jewish Georgian

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FREE

## MJCCA News

MJCCA TO HOST 2019 MACCABI GAMES. On August 26, 2018, the entire community was invited to the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) for IGNITE MACCABI, the official launch party for the 2019 JCC Maccabi Games. This time next year, from July 28-August 2, 2019, the JCC Maccabi Games will call Atlanta home for just the second time in the history of the competition, with more than 1,600 participants, 12-16 years old, to compete in a field of 13 sports. To learn more, visit [atlmaccabi2019.org](http://atlmaccabi2019.org).

What is the JCC Maccabi Games? The JCC Maccabi Youth Games is an Olympic-style event held annually in North America for Jewish teens. The games were first held in 1982, and more than 120,000 athletes have participated worldwide. They have been held in San Francisco; San Antonio; Westchester County, New York; and most recently in Orange County, California.

Hosted by the MJCCA, the 2019 JCC Maccabi Games will include a full range of events, including Olympic-style opening and closing ceremonies and a community service day. These events aim to bring the Atlanta Jewish community together for a week of spirit, friendship, and celebration.

"Atlanta is the place to be when it comes to marquee sporting events sure to cement lifelong memories—including the 2018 Major League Soccer All-Star Game, the 2019 Super Bowl, and the 2020 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four," said MJCCA CEO Jared Powers. "Adding to that list of sporting spectacles, the 2019 JCC Maccabi Games will return to Atlanta for the first time since 2001. Our JCC is thrilled to host the Games in 2019."

"The entire community was invited to the MJCCA on August 26 as the Maccabi torch was lit and to celebrate that the 2019 JCC Maccabi Games are coming to Atlanta," said MJCCA Maccabi Games co-chair Amy Rubin.

In addition to the official 2019 JCC Maccabi Games torch lighting to kick off the games in Atlanta, IGNITE MACCABI included interactive Maccabi sports stations

and activities, a hero's welcome for the Orange County 2018 Maccabi Games TEAM ATLANTA athletes, pool activities, and video game and food trucks.

"There truly is a way for everyone to share in the excitement and get involved in the 2019 JCC Maccabi Games, as we will need 1,000+ volunteers, and 500+ host families," said MJCCA Maccabi Games Director Stacie Francombe. "Opportunities are now available for every member of the community—from athletes and coaches to volunteers, sponsors, and host families."

"What I am most looking forward to is introducing the Jewish teens in our community to the international Maccabi Movement, which presents athletic, cultural, and social opportunities with Jews from around the world," said MJCCA Maccabi Games co-chair Libby Hertz.

The 2019 JCC Maccabi Leadership Team members are Amy Rubin and Libby Hertz, Maccabi Games co-chairs; Garrett Van de Grift and Mike Leven, special advisors; Ron and Lisa Brill, honorary chairs; Jacob Sabel, JCC Maccabi Games committee chair/member at large; Amy and Chuck Fox, and Kellee Rosenberg, Administration; Phil Rubin and Brian Seitz, Athletics and Fundraising; Dana Bernath and Mara Berman, Food/Hospitality; Michelle and Rob Leven, and Arin Tritt, Jewish Programming; Tracey Grant, Todd Starr, and Howie Rosenberg, Local Delegation; Michael Kogon, Marketing/Publicity; Lee Edelman and Julie Elster, Operations; and Shelly Danz and Amy Ackerman, Special Events.

**DROP-IN JEWISH MEDITATION.** The MJCCA is pleased to present a special new program, Drop-In Jewish Meditation. Beginning October 4, the 12-week series of classes will be offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the MJCCA's mind/body studio (5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody, 30338).

"Jewish meditation helps to relieve the stress of daily living," explained Valerie Chambers, MJCCA's wellness coordinator. "We welcome the community



**Lighting of the Games' torch at Ignite Maccabi: (from left) Jared Powers, Amy Rubin, Stacie Francombe, and Libby Hertz**

to come meditate at the MJCCA in a relaxed atmosphere, while adding the element of Jewish education."

This class will be working with Jewish religious leaders and lay leaders. They will present a meditation based on the weekly theme/*parsha*, which they will discuss afterwards. No experience in meditation is necessary. Both beginners and experienced meditators are welcome.

For information call 678-812-4063, or visit [atlantajcc.org/wellness](http://atlantajcc.org/wellness). Fees are \$5/ community and members are free.

The MJCCA's new Drop-In Jewish Meditation series was generously underwritten by a grant that was given on behalf of The Mindful Giving Fund.

"We are hoping that this grant will enable more people in our community to experience and benefit from Jewish meditation," said Stuart Bern, executive director of The Mindful Giving Fund. "We felt this class would be a wonderful addition to the MJCCA's existing wellness programs."



**MJCCA's Drop-in Jewish Meditation class**