

Steven D. Reece

From: The Matzevah Foundation <sdreece@matzevah.org>
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A Monumentally Fun Week

We have to admit... in all of the almost nine years of our organization, last week may have been one of the best weeks we've had!

The fun began in Atlanta on Monday evening. The Temple of Atlanta hosted a showing of the documentary, [The Presence of Their Absence](#). Steven Reece, president of The Matzevah Foundation (TMF), joined filmmaker Donna Kanter and Fred Zaidman, the subject of the documentary. About 100 people attended the event. We are grateful for Rabbi Peter Berg for hosting the evening. It was a great night!

To learn more about the Atlanta event, check out [this article](#) from the Atlanta Jewish Times.



Steven Reece, Donna Kanter, Rabbi Peter Berg, and Fred Zaidman in Atlanta

The next day, the trio of Steven, Donna, and Fred went to The Lovett School in Atlanta to share about the film and experiences in making it. They were greeted by 700 high school students who were very engaged in learning about Poland, the Shoah, and getting to meet the team. Donna later remarked how encouraging it was to be with a group of young people who were soaking in the information about this history.



The great students at The Lovett School, Atlanta

Our fun week continued Tuesday evening in Nashville where several members of the TMF board attended a book discussion by our dear friend and partner Dan Oren at the Gordon Jewish Community Center. Dan was presenting his adventures and discoveries while researching his family's genealogy. He documented his experience in the book [*The Wedding Photo*](#).



TMF Board Members with Dan Oren (center)

Wednesday was our big event in Nashville where we had a screening of *The Presence of Their Absence*. We had 70 people join us on a very cold and traffic-filled night at the Brentwood Library. After watching the film together, Steven, Donna, and Fred took questions from the audience. It was wonderful to hear how different aspects of the film resonated with people.



Jackie Karr with the Nashville Jewish Film Festival introduces their work

This event gave us a great opportunity to share about the work of [The Matzevah Foundation](#) with the attendees. We were blown away by the interest in our work and the appreciation for what we do in Poland. Rachel McRae, Communications Director for TMF, had the privilege of talking with two ladies who both have ancestors from Nasielsk, Poland. TMF has worked in this small town for a couple of years to help clean and restore the Jewish cemetery there. Rachel was able to connect with both ladies about this special town and share her memories of her time there. We love how Polish roots and love for Poland bring so many people together!



Steven Reece, Fred Zaidman, and Donna Kanter field questions from the audience

The Matzevah Foundation would like to thank everyone who participated in these events last week. It was such a joy to meet you, share our love of Poland and the work we do, and to hear your stories. Thank you also to Jackie Karr and the team at the [Nashville Jewish Film Festival](#) for your support and promotion of the event. We would also like to thank Donna Kanter and Fred Zaidman for the gift of their time and friendship.



The end of a great night in Nashville!

#GIVING
TUESDAY

Coming Tuesday, December 3!

It's almost time for Giving Tuesday, a worldwide event that focuses on the great work that charities and nonprofits do throughout the year. This single day is

traditionally our largest donation day of the entire year at TMF. Would you consider giving to The Matzevah Foundation this year on Giving Tuesday? More information to come soon... so stay tuned!

You don't have to wait to give!

Please consider supporting our work by visiting our [website](#) to learn the quick and easy ways available to make a financial donation.

Thank you!



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The Matzevah Foundation
2020 Fieldstone Pkwy, Suite 900-246
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