



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Olympic gold medal gymnast Aly Raisman speaking at local launch of abuse help program
New local program addresses child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and domestic violence

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin— Olympic gold medal gymnast Aly Raisman will share her experience as a survivor of sexual abuse and journey as an elite gymnast at the kick-off of SHOFAR (Safeguarding Healthy Families and Relationships) on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 6:45 p.m.

A call to action, SHOFAR is a new initiative of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation that addresses child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and domestic violence.

This free and open to the public event requires an RSVP to reserve a seat: MilwaukeeJewish.org/SHOFAR. It will be held at Congregation Shalom, 7630 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Fox Point.

Raisman, team captain of the gold medal winning U.S. Olympic Women's Gymnastics teams in 2012 and 2016, is the second most decorated American gymnast of all-time with six total Olympic medals. The most decorated U.S. gymnast at the 2012 Games, Raisman captured the hearts of millions as she became the first American gymnast to win gold in the floor exercise. One of only two U.S. gymnasts to make back-to-back Olympic teams in more than 15 years, she helped guide the team to gold and landed a silver medal performance in the All-Around competition at the 2016 Games.

A leader on and off the floor, Raisman uses her platform to promote positive body image and encourages everyone to be comfortable and confident in their own skin. In her New York Times best-selling memoir – "Fierce" – she shares the highs and lows of her journey, including her survival of sexual abuse. Inspired by an army of survivors, Raisman continues her advocacy for systemic changes within the sport of gymnastics and efforts to help to eradicate sexual abuse in youth sports.

In the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's role as a convener of the local Jewish community, SHOFAR is a multi-pronged, multi-year effort to create systemic change by educating the local Jewish community and providing resources for combating violence and harassment against women, children, partners and any others affected by abuse.

The name SHOFAR is intended to identify the initiative as a Jewish response to these issues; to frame it as a call to action; and to be inclusive of all people who suffer abuse, regardless of their gender identity, sexuality or religious denomination. (An actual shofar is typically made of a ram's horn and blown as a wind instrument for Jewish religious purposes.)

For free and confidential help, the SHOFAR initiative has partnered with Sojourner 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline at (414) 933-2722.

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About the Milwaukee Jewish Federation: For more than 100 years, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation has been dedicated to building a strong Jewish community. We distributed \$20 million last year to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations locally and around the world, and manage philanthropy through our \$190 million Jewish Community Foundation.