

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley, Inc. 3202 Shalom Way, South Bend, IN 46615

Volume 14, Number 10

June 2020/ Sivan 5780—Tammuz 5780



In response to Covid-19, the Jewish Federation has had to adjust our programs and services. Faced with the challenges of the pandemic in our community, we decided that the safest and most reasonable option is to cancel the 2020 Camp Ideal season. Our decision is based on careful consideration of a range of information gath-

ered over the past two months from the Centers for Disease Control, the American Camping Association, and a number of Jewish summer camps throughout the country. In addition, we reached out to our campers' parents and guardians with a survey.

The Federation is continuing to look at ways to provide alternate engagements for our children. Virtually guided activities,

project kits for our families, and helping campers connect with opportunities from our partners are just a few of the options being considered for our campers during the summer months.

One of the goals of Camp Ideal is to engage youth and provide a safe and educational environment to strengthen relationships

with peers in the local Jewish community and beyond. Because Jewish summer camp is a foundation of our Jewish ecosystem, we are taking this COVID moment to reimagine the Camp Ideal experience. We welcome your input as we develop ideas for a vibrant, future Camp Ideal.

Camp Ideal Cancelled for Summer 2020

10th Michiana Jewish Film Festival

Our virtual event was a great success!

**By Shani Kramer,
Program Director**

As all beginnings are a little rough, we were very grateful for your patience and support as we maneuvered and emailed hundreds of links to our film festival fans.

We started film fest week with some light films and many of you expressed how enjoyable they were to watch. Tuesday brought some more

serious content, as we reflected on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict and how music can be a unifying factor in the peace process. Delving into the roots of a former terrorist turned Israeli Rabbi, was an interesting process to say the least. On Wednesday, we remembered the horrors of the Holocaust with a brave young woman named

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Our Community Newsletter: An Important Announcement

We are excited to announce a plan that we can all support because it will save the Federation time and money. Starting in August, all newsletters will be sent digitally unless otherwise requested.

We are maintaining a current list of email addresses for all Federation members. If you are unsure whether we have your current email and phone numbers, please email Sheri Alpert at sheria@thejewishfed.org.

Communicating by email will save time and money and will allow the board and professional staff to communicate with you more expeditiously.

If you do not have an email address, please contact Sheri Alpert at 574-233-1164 x 1820, and we will continue to send the newsletter to you by regular mail. Please note that if you have unsubscribed from our emails in the past, you will need to sign up again by visiting thejewishfed.org and clicking on the blue connect button on our home page.

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June, 2020

Sivan - Tamuz 5780

***Jewish Federation
of St. Joseph Valley***

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South Bend, IN 46615

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Our Community News Editor Emeritus

Our Community News is published monthly by the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley for the Jewish community in Michiana.

From Executive Director Moshe Kruger

**My Name is Moshe (משה)**

Surrounded (virtually) by the members of the community in which I live, I come before my new Federation family with a name of Moshe. This is the name by which I am known to my family and good friends. Only in the secular world did I use the name Mark. (Full disclosure: My mom sometimes calls me Mosheluski).

In his famous work, The Star of Redemption, Franz Rosenzweig discusses the paradox of our given names. Our names are perhaps the most personal thing about us, yet para-

doxically, they were given to us by someone else, usually our parents. In their essence, names connect us to tradition, to community.

My namesake, the biblical Moshe, inspires me to reflect on the enduring strength of our community as we celebrate 75 years of Federation history. The dreams, concerns and insights that I have heard so far on my Listening Tour are framing and shaping my thoughts and plans for imagining the Federation's future. What kind of community do we wish for ourselves and our children? How do we imagine Michiana in another five years?

As I reflect on the last two months, I continue to be moved by the distinctive manner in which each of us chooses to enter our common ground and communal sanctuary called the Michiana Jewish Commu-

nity with her or his unique perspective. As I meet more and more members of the community, I continue to be inspired by the example of Lisa Lerman, may her memory be for a blessing:

Building Bridges (A haiku in memory of Lisa)

*The journey begins
One step into the future
Build bridges. Lisa!*

What is the bridge that binds us as a people and as a community? It is our particular inspiration in the belief "Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh — All of Israel are responsible for one another." (Talmud, Shavuot 39a).

May we in our common need and striving gain strength from one another, as we share our joys, lighten each other's burdens, and pray for the welfare of our community. With best wishes, Moshe

P.S. For more thoughts about the paradox of names, please see Zelda's poem,

Each of Us Has A Name.

Each of us has a name
given by the Source of Life
and given by our parents
Each of us has a name
given by our stature and our smile
and given by what we wear
Each of us has a name
given by the mountains
and given by our walls
Each of us has a name
given by the stars
and given by our neighbors

Each of us has a name
given by our sins
and given by our longings
Each of us has a name
given by our enemies
and given by our love
Each of us has a name
given by our celebrations
and given by our work
Each of us has a name
given by the seasons
and given by our blindness
Each of us has a name
given by the sea
and given by death.
by Zelda (adapted by Marcia Falk)

As we continue to engage in social distancing to protect the community, Jewish Family Services volunteers are continuing to provide person-to-person calling to anyone in the community who is isolated or would like to receive a call, both for check-ins and socialization. Additionally, Jewish Family Services staff and volunteers continue to provide assistance with obtaining groceries, and our JFS Food Pantry continues to operate by providing Pick-Up and Delivery Options. For more information, please go to the Jewish Family Services page on the Federation website, or contact Rowan Kelley at rkelley@thejewishfed.org.

Thank You For Attending!

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Sara. On our final day, Thursday, we served up an amazing documentary on the shared experiences of African Americans and Jews during the civil rights movement. Our wonderful panel of seven community and religious leaders, led by the talented Ricky Herbst of DeBartolo, reminded us all that there is much to be done in pursuit of our goal to eliminate racism and anti-Semitism from the world we live in.

The Film Festival is so much more than just excellent films. Its goal is to educate and entertain; to enrich our Jewish roots with themes that will call for conversation and action. This year, more than ever, we hope that we touched your hearts with ideas and positive thoughts that will help us all get through this difficult time of physical separation.

Many thanks to our sponsors, who rode this year out with us, when no one was really sure what it would look like.

Many thanks to the Film Festival Committee, who spent hours watching and discussing hundreds of films, only to have to make the difficult decision of modifying the festival to a digital format.

Special thank you to

Sheri Alpert for her guidance and role in shaping this year's festival and to Emily Benedix for her countless hours of work on behalf of the festival, on top of all that she does. Thanks also to Leslie Marcum, for her beautifully designed emails and advertising and Bob Feferman for his role in bringing together our world class panel. Our new commander in chief, Moshe Kruger, though he started his role at a very trying time, showed unwavering support and enthusiasm for the 10th Anniversary Michiana Jewish Film Festival.

It's never too early to join our 2021 Film Fest Committee! Email me at skramer@thejewishfed.org if you are passionate about bringing amazing films to our area.

Can't wait to see you next year at DeBartolo!

Thank you to our committee who shared their time and talent to plan the Michiana Jewish Film Festival



Ben Finan
Nana Fromm
Mike Krueger
Leslie Krueger
Bill Lopatin
Laurie Martin
Hugh Metzger
Sam Mirkin
Helen Winer Muram
Nanci Wilford

Health Care Heros

Thank you to Dr. Betsy Rossow and all our front line workers who are helping save lives in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you are a healthcare professional, first responder, or public health employee working in Michiana, we want to salute your commitment to our community. Please send us your name along with a photo, place of work, and any comments you would like to share about your COVID-19 experience to info@thejewishfed.org.

We would love the opportunity to feature our local heroes in our newsletter.

*Betsy Rossow, MD,
Pediatric Hospital
Medicine specialist at
Beacon Children's Hospital*



From Our Friends & Partners!

How Does Breakfast and a Schmoose Sound?

You provide the breakfast and we provide the schmoose. On June 14th at 10:30 AM, join the Michiana Jewish Historical Society to look at photos, reminisce, and have breakfast or just a cup of coffee – all from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. We will limit this schmoose to 8 people, so sign up soon. If there is interest, we'll schedule more.

To Register, please email Michianajewishhistorical@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!

michiana jewish
historical
society

Digital Archive

Our Community Table

By Cristyne Porile

Hello, Our Community Table readers!

What would you guess is the most searched recipe during the coronavirus lockdown, receiving over 2 million "hits" during the first week of quarantine on Pinterest alone? What would you guess is handily beating its perennial comfort food peers, like pancakes, brownies and pizza, in sheltering-at-home bakers' repertoires week after week...after week? The answer, dear readers, is the sweet, unassuming, girl-next-door, Banana Bread, and she is definitely taking her star turn on the world's pandemic comfort food stage.

I recently read that banana bread made its first documented appearance during the Great Depression when some brilliant housewife noticed a few bananas trying to go bad on her kitchen counter and decided to make a bread out of them. The notion that necessity is the mother of invention was never more true -- along with a little sugar, flour and a banana or three!

In the spirit of full disclosure, I will admit that I

am not really someone who bakes banana bread -- at least I wasn't -- until now. I think my darling husband might have developed a touch of the banana bread fever that's been going around, asking at least 3 times in as many weeks, "if I were planning to bake... banana bread." Newly inspired by a bunch of bananas that were desperately trying to turn bad on my own kitchen counter and the need to keep the peace in my house, I, too, searched Pinterest and the internet to find a recipe that I could love. Fortunately for me (and you), Dominique Ansel, creator of the famous cronut, had just recently published his favorite "go-to" banana bread recipe. I mean, if it's good enough for Dominique Ansel... As an added bonus, I have it on good authority that any banana bread consumed while under quarantine is virtually calorie free! Ok, that's a lie...but it's true that bananas are still a fruit, so that's something.



My Current Favorite Lockdown Banana Bread.

A recipe by Dominique Ansel, slightly modified, from his book, *Anyone Can Bake*

TIME: About 1 hour 30 minutes

MAKES: One 8 1/2 x 4 1/2-inch loaf cake (I actually used a 9 x 5 x 3-inch pan)

2 cups (400g) sugar
 2 cups (250g) All-Purpose flour
 3/4 tsp (3g) baking soda.
 3/4 tsp (2g) ground nutmeg
 1 teaspoon (5g) salt
 1 teaspoon (5g) baking powder
 3 eggs (150g)
 2 cups (about 3-4 large) (400 g) overripe bananas, peeled & mashed
 1 3/4 sticks (14 Tablespoons) (200g) unsalted butter, melted, plus more for greasing

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C).

1. Prepare pan by spraying with a non-stick cooking spray, or by the more traditional method of buttering and flouring the pan, tapping out any residual flour.

2. In a large bowl, combine the dry ingredients: sugar, flour, baking soda, nutmeg, salt, and baking powder.

3. In a separate, large bowl, whisk the eggs. Mix in the mashed bananas and pour the wet mixture over the dry ingredients. Whisk until well combined. Gently stir in the melted butter until incorporated.

4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan, filling it to 3/4 inch (2 cm) from the top (you may have extra batter). Bake until the cake is golden brown, about 1 hour.

To determine doneness, stick a toothpick or paring knife into the center of the cake. If it comes out clean, it's done.

Let the cake cool in the pan for 15 minutes. While the cake is still warm, turn it out of the pan onto a cooling rack. Let cool completely, or if you prefer, slice and eat while still warm.

Memorial Contributions

We welcome contributions to our various funds.

Sara & Milton Brook JFS Fund	Sherry Moses Holocaust Memorial Fund
Friends of the PJ Library	Bernard & Shirley Natkow Campership
Ron S. & Nancy P. Cohen JFS Fund	Bernard H. Natkow Lecture Fund
Karen Dwyer <i>Our Community News</i> Fund	Okon Family Endowment for Holocaust Education
Dayle L. & David W. Piser Building & Grounds Fund	Ruth & Myer Piser Adult Education Fund
Debby Barton Grant Campership	Steve Rodin JFS Fund
Jewish Family Services Food Pantry	Harvey & Lillian Roland Scholarship
Jewish Federation Executive Director Discretionary Fund	Schpok Spirit of Federation
Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley (Unrestricted)	Michael Signer Unity Garden Fund
Jewish War Veterans #318 Library	Neil & Leah Silver Advanced Degree Scholarship
Jewish Women's Endowment Fund	Robert Simon Leadership Development
Craig & Carol Kapson Arts Endowment	Kurt & Tessye Simon Building Fund
Craig & Carol Kapson Scholarship	Kurt & Tessye Simon Seniors Living with Dignity Fund
Lisa Lerman Community Bridge Endowment Fund	Bob & Pat Turbow Library Acquisitions Fund
Ruth & Ben Levy Senior Services Fund	Sandra Winicur Book Club Fund
Michael Liss Endowment Fund	Youth Endowment Fund
Viola Major Jewish Education Fund	
Marcus-Schulman Jewish Family Services	

The Jewish Federation expresses its appreciation to these generous donors:

From the following contributors:

Board & Staff of JFSJV	Terry & Jeff Zelvy
Marsha Brook & Fred Kahn	Donna Ayres
Diana & Frank Marchunt	Ina & Irv Rosenberg

To the following funds:

The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley
JFS Food Pantry
Lisa Lerman Community Bridge Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Lisa Lerman Alice Schuster Marvin Talan

In Honor of:

Leonard Weingarten's 65th Birthday

Federation Book Club

by Beth Buechler

People of the Book, by Geraldine Brooks

The convenience of using Zoom for our sessions during the pandemic made it possible to meet for a second session with a smaller group when a scheduling mistake had left someone out. This multi-layered historical novel about the multiple rescues of the Sarajevo Haggadah—going back in time from 1996 to 1940 to 1894 to 1609 to 1492 and then twelve more years to 1480, captured our imaginations and gave us a pleasant escape from living in quarantine.

Those dates, above, follow the life of the Sarajevo Haggadah include Serb shelling during the Bosnian war, WWII, the Spanish Inquisition, and earlier. We talked about getting immersed in these characters, wars, themes of diversity, oppression, patriarchy; and were all but one less enthused about the main character Hannah's story of her neglect-abusive narcissistic mother, and a lackluster love interest. The novel ended with a thriller-type of mystery, and all of us agreed that history, unfortunately, repeats itself; that the human race goes through periods of thriving on arts, sciences, acceptance of culture diversity followed by the devastation of dictatorial men in power.

Upcoming Schedule of Books:

- June 4: 'Tis, a Memoir by Frank McCourt
- July 2: Kaddish.com, a novel by Nathan Englander
- August 6: Fortitude: American Resilience in the Era of Outrage, a non-nonsense advice book by Dan Crenshaw
- September 3: The Dutch House, a novel by Ann Patchett
- October 1: Educated, a memoir by Tara Westover
- November 5: The Marsh King's Daughter, a novel by Karen Dionne
- December 3: The Lost Man, a novel by Jane Harper
- January 7: The Rosie Project, a novel by Graeme Simsion

The Federation Book Club will continue to meet via Zoom at 4 PM for about an hour on the first Thursday of the month. We choose books of either global or page-turning interest, and do not meet for the purpose of promoting our businesses, or those of our friends. Contact information to join is as follows: info@thejewishfed.org Sheri will forward your email address to the organizer who will invite you to join our sessions via Zoom. The only requirement for attending a session is to read the book as listed for that date.

OUR VISION. OUR MISSION. OUR VALUES. OUR GOALS.

The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley is the central resource to embrace, connect and support Jews locally and globally through social services, coordinated fundraising, community outreach, and educational and recreational programs.



THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

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You're Invited!
2020 Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 PM
Presented in a Virtual Format



For the health and well-being of our members, staff, and guests, the Jewish Federation will be hosting our Annual Meeting in a virtual format this year. In order to adjust to this format we will be postponing our traditional lecture or entertainment and focus primarily on the business section of our meeting.

Our evening will include:

Reports by the President & Executive Director
Election and instillation for the 2020-2021 Board of Directors
Recognition of President Lisa Lerman z"l, our outgoing board members
and former Executive Director Ben Davis.
Awarding of our College Scholarships
Presentation of the Robert Simon Leadership Award
Presentation of the Betty and Sam Schpok Spirit of Federation Award

Watch our digital marketing for more information. To RSVP please email info@thejewishfed.org. Participants who have given an RSVP will be sent a link via email for the meeting the morning of Thursday, June 11, 2020.