

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Volume 14, Number 11

August 2020/ Av 5780—Elul 5780

Our New Technologies Concierge Service



Having Tech Trouble?

As we continue to face uncertainty and need to physically distance from one another, current technology like Facebook and Zoom on computers and smartphones are good options for staying connected with friends and family.

The problem:

Many of us don't have experience using this technology, and need help getting started.

The solution:

JFS volunteers are ready to call and help "talk through" things like downloading, installing and using these programs.

If you would like a call and some "tech help," please contact Rowan at 574-309-1213 or rkelley@thejewishfed.org, and a volunteer will call you and help talk you through it.

Jewish Family Services To Reassess Local Needs



Hello, my fellow members of Jewish Michiana,

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since I returned to the Federation. When I took this position last August, I had no idea what the next year would hold. As we continue to experience the effects of a global pandemic, our country's renewed reckoning with a 400 year history of racial injustice, and myriad other problems, Jewish Family Services has worked as hard as we can to ensure that our community continues to receive kind, compassionate and confidential social services. Over the past few months, JFS has had to change how we think about and go about our work. Phone calls, emails, and Zoom check-ins have replaced client meetings and home-visits. In place of community lunches and pro-

grams, staff and volunteers have focused on person-to-person calling, a supportive discussion Zoom-group, and every other way we could think of to help maintain social connection for our clients and other community members. Pick-up and delivery options have allowed us to continue to reduce food-insecurity in the communi-

ty. Our newest endeavor is the creation of a technology assistance group, who will, by request, call and help anyone in the community struggling to adapt to using technology in ways we never have, such as how to use Zoom, Facebook, email, or a new cell phone. Please let me know if you, or someone you

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Covid-19 Update from the Jewish Federation

Our staff and leadership are continuing to prioritize the health of our community as we move forward over the coming month. Taking into consideration the rising number of confirmed Covid-19 cases, and recommendations of local and public health officials, the Kurt and Tessye Simon Community Building will remain closed to the public until further notice. In the meantime we are working on various programs and engagement opportunities to keep you connected. Be sure to keep an eye on our digital marketing and news letters to get more information on these opportunities.

Staff are continuing to work remotely, and are available via email. If you prefer to call, we will continue to check our voice messages regularly and will return your calls as soon as we are able.

Our Community News

Volume 14, Number 11

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Av 5780 – Elul 5780

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

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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

Dear Friends,

The leadership challenge: Do you zig or do you zag?

This has been a trying few months for our Federation, our community, and our world.

As of this writing, our Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb has delayed the fifth and final stage of Indiana's reopening. In these troubled times, leadership becomes increasingly important. In the recent parsha, we encountered two leaders with very different leadership styles. On one hand, you have Pinchas, a zealous moralistic priest. On the other, Joshua, a faithful aide-de camp, driven by an ethos of service. Who prevailed? Whose leadership style was right for the times?

For my part, I intend to study Joshua's leadership playbook in order to create a more welcoming, nurturing, and collaborative com-

munity. My quest is to come to know your individual stories and concerns and will dedicate time for this purpose in order to find common ground to realign commitment for our shared Jewish future.

Promoting communal conversations are the seeds to our revitalization. With this in mind, please note our announcement in this issue for our new podcast called "Bridging the Gap" hosted by our own Shani Kramer. In addition, please read Rowan's article about the Community Needs Assessment that the Jewish Family Services will use to get community feedback. For me, Proverbs 27 (with a minor edit) captures the essence of our communal responsibility, including the small but significant step of completing the survey: "The community who plants a fig-vine will eat its fruit."

Our first priority is ensuring the health and wellbeing of each and every member of our community. Three core values are guiding my efforts to imagine our new, "hybrid" future with both face-to-face and on-line programming. Pikuach Nefesh (protecting/saving lives), Al Tifrosh Min Hatzibur (do not separate yourself from the community), and Dugmah Ishit (being role models).

As we grapple with our common concerns and make plans to allocate resources to meet community needs, I'm confident the Federation and its leadership will be an integral part of the solution. Thank you for your support and look forward to the results of our collective efforts.

May this be a summer of Shalom, wholeness and peace.

Moshe



OUR MISSION.

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.

K'lal Yisrael*Jewish Peoplehood***Chesed***Kindness and Compassion***Kahillah***Community***Tzedakah***Charity***Tikkun Olam***Repair the World***Chinuch***Education*

JFS Continued From Page 1

know, could use this assistance.

Through everything that has happened over the past few months, I have been humbled by the kindness and care that members of our community are willing to show one another. Not only have members of the community generously donated their time and money, but clients have asked how they could help. Clients have also told me that if others were more in need, they could make do without JFS assistance. While we find ourselves in tremendously hard times, with great uncertainty about the pandemic, the economy, and

creating justice for all, I am continually awed by our ability to pull together, even though it feels like we are so far apart.

With all of that said, I would like to make an important ask of you. Back in January, we had begun the process of assessing the community's human and social service needs and had to put the project on the back burner because of COVID-19. Now that JFS has adapted and is continuing to serve the needs that we know of in our community, it is time to return our attention to gathering information and putting it to good use to ensure that JFS continues

to excel at serving the community's needs. In the next couple of weeks, an email will come to you with the subject line "Jewish Family Services Needs Assessment." You can think of this survey as JFS's "census." The survey will be anonymous, asking demographic information of you and your household, as well as what you perceive to be the areas of need for the community. By gathering this information, by getting a "snapshot" of our community right now and where JFS fits into our community, our staff and volunteers will be able to grow and mature as a professional

department. When you receive this email, please take some time to fill out the survey, so that your voice can be heard.

I miss being with members of the community in-person and am hoping that we will be able to safely gather again soon. In the meantime, be well and take care, and if you think that JFS may be able to help with issues that you are facing, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

All the best,

Rowan Kelley,
JFS Director

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BRIDGING THE GAP

A new podcast hosted by Shani Kramer
with guests Anne Feferman & Simon Springer

"The Royal Wave"

I say Shabbat, you say Shabbos.
I eat kneidlach, you eat matzah balls.
I go to Synagogue to pray, you go to Shul to Daven.

Are we really all that different?

Available on
our Facebook
Page starting
7/29/2020

From the Desk of our Shlichah: Getting to Know Our Lost Brothers: "Bnei Hamenashe"



12 members of B'nei Hamenashe joining the IDF

By Chen Nissan

Dear community,

I hope you and your families are well during these times of uncertainty. I hope that you're keeping yourself safe as well as helping and supporting those in need. This is our power as a community!

After 3 months at home, I decided to move back to Kibbutz Kfar Ruppim where I lived before I came to South Bend, and for now I'm working at the Bio Bee factory in Sde Eliyahu until I'll come back to South Bend, hopefully in mid-August! One of the reasons I love working at the bees factory is that the factory workers are very diverse; each person comes from a different place, and has a different story.

Two of the workers, their names are Yehudit and Lea, have a very unique story. They are a part of an ethnic group called "Bnei Hamenashe." I didn't know their story until I first met them a few days ago, and I thought it will be interesting to tell you the story of "Bnei

Hamenashe", who are our distant brothers!

In 722 BC, the kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians. The ten tribes of Israel (except Judah and Benjamin) were exiled by King Shalmaneser of Assyria throughout the Assyrian Empire (in present-day Iraq).

According to their tradition, the Menashe tribe migrated east toward Afghanistan and reached as far as China. During the 3rd century in China they were treated cruelly, forced into slavery and expelled from the region. When they came out of China, the Torah was lost or stolen from them. In ancient traditions and songs, they sing about the "dog" or the evil king who stole the holy book from them.

Later, they reached a mountainous area on the edge of the Himalayas, where they endeavored to preserve their heritage. They finally reached their present location, the states

of Mizoram and Manipur in northeast India.

When missionaries arrived in the area in the early 19th century, they were surprised to find a monotheistic tradition and used this fact to persuade them into Christianity.

Over the past fifty years, the tribe has embarked on their miraculous journey back to their Jewish roots. Today, around 7,000 people are considering themselves as B'nei Hamenashe, 3,000 of them live in Israel.

In 2007, the first Bnei Menashe group immigrated to Israel, after conversion under the Law of Return.

Bnei Hamenashe practice many Jewish customs. They are monotheists, who believe in one God and they do circumcision. On the other hand, they also practice ancient Jewish customs such as such as sacrificing animals.

They maintained the core traditions of the Jewish people such as the Exo-

dus and the story of crossing the Red Sea. These traditions also appear in the ancient songs of the tribe.

They keep the Shabbat as a day of rest, and their main holydays are Sukkot, Shavuot and Pesach.

When I first heard Lea and Yehudit talk in their language, I thought they were speaking Filipino. When I asked them they told me their language is called "Kuki", it sounds to me like a combination of Indian and Chinese.

It is very exciting for me to meet them and learn about this unique group, it made me realize how much more there is to learn about the amazing history of the Jewish people.

The story of Judaism isn't a story about just religion; it's a story of one big family! 12 brothers of Ya'akov that became the 12 tribes of Israel, some of them were lost during our long history and today we're privileged to unite with our lost brothers!



B'nei Hmenashe doing Aliyah to Israel

Federation Book Club

By Beth Buechler

It's difficult to type up the name of this novel without it becoming a live link ([Kaddish.com](https://www.kaddish.com)). My apologies if you're reading this digitally and you mistakenly click onto that title. If so, it might jump to a site by that name which is not in any way connected to Nathan Englander's short novel about a man making amends to himself, his sister, and his dearly departed father. He accomplishes this by rationalizing the return, after twenty years, of his compulsive Internet behavior. The purpose, to Shuli, makes perfect spiritual sense.

Out of four of us attending this session via Zoom, I was the solo reader who enjoyed this book. Not only did I enjoy it, but I was so blinded by its dark humor, unpredictable turns, originality of story, and Larry/Shuli's character arc—although the novel jumps to twenty years later with minimal explanation—that I expected oth-

ers to love it, too. Nope.

The other three readers' comments included "hated it," "undeveloped character," "too deeply embedded in symbolism to be enjoyable," "rushed," "Borscht Belt humor," (more on that), and that the instances of pornography connected to Larry's repulsive behavior were "gratuitous." Once Larry becomes Shuli-returned-to-the-fold, as his father predicted, he relates to a boy he's been teaching, for me, the story begins—with Part I serving as important backstory.

At least we agreed the novel has a "good" ending—satisfying, and appropriate for Shuli.

In terms of the "Borscht Belt humor" comment, I choose to disagree. I lived in the Catskills for many years, and this book doesn't strike me that way. The readers' animated-while-negative opinions considerably entertained me throughout the session,



but they didn't convince me to love the novel any less. I still intend to describe Nathan Englander's body of work, including kaddish, as literary fiction.

Upcoming Schedule of Books:

The only requirement for attending a session is to read the book as listed for that date.

· **August 6:** Fortitude: non-fiction 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:** Begin Again: non-fiction by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

· **February 4:** The Rosie Project: a novel by Graeme Simsion

The Federation Book Club meets via Zoom at 4 PM for an hour or more 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.



Attention Film Fans!

The Jewish Federation and our partner the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center are beginning to plan the 2021 Michiana Jewish Film Festival!

If you are interested in serving on the 2021 Michiana Jewish Film Festival committee please contact Sheri Alpert at sheria@thejewishfed.org or 574-233-1164 x 1820.

The CRC Brings Books to Positive Outlook



The Community Relations Committee (CRC) under the leadership of chairperson Barb Lerman delivered the first set of books to the Positive Outlook organization headed by its founder and director, Michael Poole. As

part of its community outreach, the CRC has decided to donate \$1,000 worth of books to the children of this successful program throughout the rest of the year. Positive Outlook is a unique mentoring program

for inner city youth in South Bend. According to its Mission Statement, the goal of Positive Outlook is: "To promote individual responsibility, academic excellence and improve health and wellness through sports."

Bob Feferman, CRC Director said, "By connecting the Federation to a wider mission of community, we live our values of Tikkun Olam through Tikkun Kehilla, repairing the community."

Our Community Table By Cristyne Porile

Greetings readers! Recently, I have been mildly obsessed with finding a recipe for the perfect pita bread. While many have been trying their hand at sourdough or no-knead loaves, I have been on a quest to master the pita. Pillow-y and soft with just a bit of toothsome resistance, flavorful but not too salty, all with well-defined pockets inside ready to be filled...or not. After reading dozens of recipes from many different sources and trying 4 or 5 of them several times, I have created a hybrid recipe, a dough preparation method, and a baking time

that I think is finally right. Homemade pita is so much better than any you will find in the supermarkets and is especially delicious to try warm, straight out of the oven. There is one critical step that you will have to decide for yourselves, though, and that is -- how long to bake the breads. Some recipes called for 3 minutes, some for 4, and some for up to 6-7 minutes of baking time. It will all depend, as I learned the hard way, on the heat levels in your own oven.

The first time I made this recipe, which I prefer for texture and overall flavor, was for a small dinner

gathering I was having (socially distanced, of course). My family calls this particular behavior of mine, that of making something for the first time for guests at a dinner party, "experimenting on the guests," and so it was. The recipe, as it was written, called for 6-7 minutes of baking time at 500 degrees Fahrenheit. I followed the directions exactly. The pitas looked gorgeous, all puffed and slightly toasted as they sat on the mezze tray. But looks can be deceiving, and much to this group's amusement (and hazard), when we went to actually eat the pitas, they

exploded, shattering in our hands as they had become crunchy and almost cracker like due to their over baking. I was lucky my little offerings didn't take someone's eye out! I have since been experimenting with doughs, mixing methods, and bake times and think this recipe comes pretty close to right. It is the best version I have developed (so far). If you have a recipe that you like more, please share it with the group! In the meantime, I am pleased to share this recipe here, at "Our Community Table."

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Our Community Table

Pita Bread

Makes 8-10 pita

- 4 slightly rounded cups (500g) all-purpose flour, plus more for kneading and rolling
- 1 heaping teaspoon instant (fast-acting) yeast
- 2 scant teaspoons fine sea salt
- ¼ cup (60ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/3 cups of slightly warm water (not too hot or you can kill the yeast!)

Place flour, yeast and salt into a large mixing bowl and whisk to combine.

Drizzle the olive oil onto the flour mixture and rub the oil into the flour using the tips of your fingers until completely incorporated.

Make a well in the center of the flour and add the water, stirring in flour as you go, until you have a rough, rather sticky ball of dough. I almost always have to add a bit of additional flour at this point to get it to be a workable dough. Usually, an additional ¼- ½ cup of flour. But every batch is different, so let your visual and tactile sense be your guide.

Transfer dough to a lightly floured work surface and knead the dough, adding flour, if necessary, to keep from sticking, for 3 minutes. Shape the dough into a ball, invert the mixing bowl over the top of the dough, and let dough rest, covered, for 15 minutes. Remove bowl and knead dough for an additional 3 minutes before placing in a lightly oiled, clean bowl, gently turning dough to coat all over with oil. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm, draft-free place for an hour or so, until nearly doubled in size.

At this time, preheat your oven to 500 degrees Fahrenheit and position an oven rack in the upper third of oven. If you are using a bread/pizza stone, allow to pre-heat at this time. If using a baking sheet, or an inverted baking sheet, place in oven about 15 minutes before beginning to bake the pitas to warm.

Transfer dough to your work surface and divide into approximately 10 equal portions of approximately 3 ounces each. Roll each portion of dough into a ball and allow to rest/rise, covered with a very damp tea towel, for another 45 minutes.

And now, for the tricky part...take 2 dough balls (or however many pitas your oven has room to bake at a time) and on a lightly floured surface, with additional flour for the tops to prevent the rolling pin from sticking, roll each into a round of 6-7-inches in diameter. Cover with a dry, lightly floured tea towel and set aside for another 20 minutes. **Because there shouldn't be too much resting time between rolling out and baking, continue

rolling the dough (2 at a time, or in the amount your oven has room for) at evenly spaced time intervals. If your oven runs hot, and your oven's bake time is only 3 minutes, roll an oven ready set of dough every 3-3 ½

minutes (the amount of time it takes to bake one round in your oven). If your oven runs cooler, and your oven's baking time is closer to 7 minutes, continue to roll out 2 (or more, depending on your space) dough balls at 7-7 ½ minute intervals...the idea being that once rolled, the wait/rest time is not more (or much more) than 20 minutes or so from the time it is rolled to the time it is placed into the oven. You will have several rolling intervals, possibly all of them, completed before any of the pita are actually placed in the oven. My oven can fit 2 at a time and bakes in 3 ½ minute cycles, so in the 20 minute period from first roll out to first bake, I will have rolled out all the dough (in sets of 2 dough balls at 3-3 ½ minute rolling intervals) before any have been placed in the oven. I usually work from left to right, rolling my way across the kitchen counter, placing each set of rolled discs in a vertical row with a horizontal space of about 5-inches between each "time interval" so that I know in which order to put them into the oven.

Using a lightly floured peel, or gently with your hands, slide the dough onto the hot bread stone or baking sheet that has been pre-heating in the oven. I carefully "flip" mine when I place it on the peel so that the top becomes the bottom—but that is not strictly necessary, and not recommended without a peel.

Bake pita for 3-8 minutes, depending on your oven's temperature and temperament, checking along the way to be sure. The breads should be well puffed and very lightly golden. For my oven, the bake time is approximately 3 minutes and 45 seconds.

When done, remove using kitchen tongs and some type of peel or tray to transfer to a large plate or heat-proof tray. I use a rimmed metal baking sheet for this. Gently place a clean, dry tea towel over the tops of the breads while still warm to help preserve their moisture. Repeat the process until all the breads have been baked.

Serve while still warm or at room temperature. These also freeze beautifully.

**Fresh pita tends to dry out easily, so be sure to keep the tea towel over the breads as they cool. Once completely cooled, place them into a plastic bag that seals for storage.



The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley

invites you to:

Family Movie & BYOB BBQ (bring your own bbq)

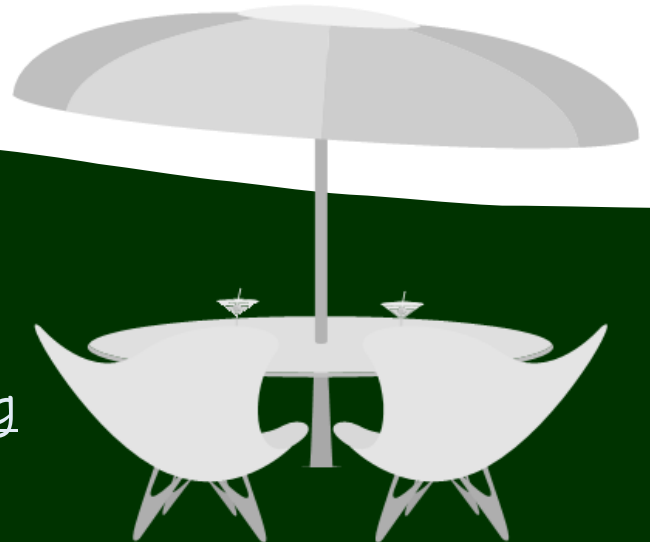
Sunday August 2nd at 5:30 PM
Rain makeup day will be August 16th

It's been a while since we've been able to get together. We'd love a chance to reconnect safely on our beautiful grounds. You bring the BBQ, we'll bring a huge inflatable screen and the Western Comedy "Frisco Kid" (rated PG). We'll even throw in desert, uh we mean dessert!

Each family will receive their own star to sit on, which will be a safe distance of 6 feet apart. Please bring masks, which we will ask you to wear if you need to move around others.

Due to the ever changing situation, we ask that you provide your email address with your RSVP in case we need to cancel the event with short notice.

Please RSVP to
skramer@thejewishfed.org



Temple B'nai Shalom

Torah Service with Rabbi Jan Katzew, on Zoom, through Temple B'nai Shalom at 10 a.m. Rabbi Katzew has been the Temple's High Holidays rabbi for 20 years. He is doing the Torah service on August 8 to stay connected to his high holidays family. He has been a congregational rabbi and educator, and currently is the Director of the Rabbinical School, Cincinnati Campus, Hebrew Union College and a professor of Education and Jewish Thought. Please join us for his uplifting service.

Join Temple B'nai Shalom Friday night Zoom Meeting By Computer or Smart Device: Temple B'nai Shalom Friday night Shabbat Zoom service

Or Dial In: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 128 006 951

Our Community Newsletter: Is Now Digital!

We are excited to announce a plan we can all support because it will save the Jewish Federation time and money!

- ◇ 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 she-ria@thejewishfed.org.
- ◇ Communicating by email will save time and money and will allow the board and professional staff to communicate with you more expeditiously.
- ◇ Know someone outside the community who would benefit from receiving the newsletter in their inbox? They can sign up at thejewishfed.org to receive all our digital marketing.

Memorial Contributions

We welcome contributions to our various funds listed below. Individual acknowledgment cards are sent for each contribution.

The Jewish Federation expresses its appreciation to these generous donors:

From the following contributors:

Board & Staff of JFSJV	Barbara Bankoff
Arnold & Janet Valencia	Babs Waks
Marylyn Oppenheim	Linda & Mark Toth
Paula & Tony Kupferer	Pinky Raab
Judith Heumann	Ron & Nancy Cohen
Ellen Segal	
Rabbi Robert & Marilyn Fisher Goodman	

To the following funds:

The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley
JFS Food Pantry

In Memory of:

Louis Baker	Reneé Brazy
Ronald Esserman	Stu Fishman
Ron Ravitch	

In Honor of:

Ruth Heumann's 100th Birthday!

Wishing a Speedy recovery to:

Pearl Weinhouse	Jack Keller
Alice & Irv Rosenberg	

Welcome all Newcomers to our area!

Did you know that the Michiana Jewish Historical Society has a Family Tree Project?

If you'd like to add your family tree to ours, please call us at 574.245.5850 for more information.

michiana jewish
historical
society



2019-2020 Annual Report: Highlights

See Our July Issue For Additional Annual Report Highlights!



President's Report

by Michael Kirsch,

The 2019-20 year has been a time of many changes and challenges, as well as many successes, at the Federation. I could not be more proud to be part of an organization whose volunteer members have shown such dedication and willingness to contribute both time and resources, and whose staff has demonstrated such commitment, flexibility, and creativity, in the face of unprecedented events. Throughout the year, the Federation has continued to provide support to those in need both locally and around the world; programming (in sometimes modified form to fit the times) and education that is tailored to fit the needs of our community; and engagement and advocacy with respect to issues of importance to the Jewish people. Indeed, the Federation's ability to continue to serve the Jewish com-

munity in these challenging times has reinforced the vital role that the Federation plays.

I can't summarize this past year without first thinking about the loss of our president and dear friend Lisa Lerman z"l. Of course, the loss of Lisa is most strongly felt by her family and friends who loved her and whom she loved. But Lisa's absence is also felt by the Federation and its community members, volunteers, and staff who relied on her friendship, insight, judgment, humor, and level-headedness, as well as her ability to bridge communities and inspire all those whose lives she touched. Lisa had great hopes and goals for the Federation, and her dedication has been an important inspiration to me, the executive committee, the board, and our staff as we have faced other challenges during this year. I know that her memory will continue to inspire us as we move forward into the future. And thanks to the generosity of Lisa's parents, Marsha Brook and Fred Kahn, and Ron and Ann Silverman, as well as her in-laws, Barb and Dave Lerman, Lisa's legacy will continue in a more tangible way through the Lisa Lerman Community Bridge Endowment Fund. That fund will sup-

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Challah Bake – Evening of Unity: Tribute to Lisa Lerman z"l

Goal

A tribute to Lisa Lerman z"l to bring the women of our community together for an evening of unity, tears, laughter, and challah making.

Outcome

Over 100 women braved icy wintry conditions to celebrate community, tradition, and Lisa's legacy.

Shani's Viewpoint:

When you add laughter to tears and mix in hundreds of pounds of flour you get a united South Bend and delicious tasting challahs!



Health & Safety Fair

Goal

Create a health & safety event targeting children with community-wide appeal.

Outcome

Over 100 people attended the fair and engaged in experiential learning activities related to home safety, fire prevention, and physical fitness.

Shani's Viewpoint:

This new JFED event provided a new and exciting offering to the community at large. While most participants attending this inaugural event were from the Jewish community we believe teaching children about health and safety is always relevant and will continue to gain traction.

Interfaith Relations



Our Community Relations Committee (CRC), under the leadership of chair Barb Lerman set the goal of building a relationship with the African-American community of South Bend. To begin that process, we reached out to Michael Patton, President of the local chapter of the NAACP and a pastor of a local church.

In February 2020, a special 8-day Israel trip sponsored by PartnershipTogether (P2G) for non-Jewish Community Opinion Leaders (COL) provided the perfect opportunity to help build this relationship. Michael Patton was a guest of P2G on the trip and he was also accompanied by his wife Tina along with Bob Feferman, Community Relations Director.

As Michael Patton wrote in his article for our Federation newsletter, "This was a memorable and historic trip that will forever be etched in our hearts... We are more sensitive, knowledgeable, and informed of the plight and impact of the Jewish community all over the world".

Maintaining Bi-partisan Support for Israel

With the upcoming election season, it is important for the American-Jewish community to ensure that support for Israel does not become a "wedge issue." In October 2019, the Community Relations Committee (CRC) held an event titled, "Maintaining Bipartisan Support for Israel: Lessons from the American Jewish Committee (AJC). Our keynote speaker was Melanie Maron Pell, Managing Director of Regional Offices for the AJC.

Since Ms. Pell accompanied South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg on an Israel trip sponsored by AJC, she was able to explain the importance of his trip for creating an understanding of Israel.

Momentum Project By Megan New

The purpose of the Momentum year long journey is to empower women to connect to Jewish values, engage with Israel, take action, and foster unity, without uniformity. Our group of six local



women joined women from our Partnership region and from around the world on a 10 day trip to Israel. Once we returned, our goal was to engage women in our community to channel their energy and passion personally, professionally, and communally, and to have them continue their journey through education. In Israel, our local group of women formed bonds not only with each other, but also with women around the world, and with women from our Partnership region. Since the trip we have continued to meet on monthly basis to discuss current events, taken in inspiring Jewish wisdom, and volunteered locally. Our year of learning will conclude with a celebration in December. Momentum has not only helped us grow personally, but has empowered us to take action in ways that resonate with ourselves.



My Israeli Story

Goal:

To present a positive image of Israel through the personal story of Shlichia Chen Nissan and her family.

Outcome:

A PowerPoint presentation was developed and Chen gave her presentation to classes at Bethel College, St. Joe High School, Sinai Synagogue and Temple Beth-El

Director's Viewpoint:

Person to person communications continues to be one of the most effective way tools to create understanding, goodwill and sustainable human connections.



Purim Carnival

Goal

Bring the community together for this holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman as recounted in the Book of Ester.

Outcome

A great turnout of 120 guests filled the Community Center. Children played games, ate hamantaschen and elected the King and Queen of Shushan.

Chen's Viewpoint:

This annual event truly brings together people from all sectors of our community to celebrate this fun and joyous holiday.



Pancakes in the Sukkah

Goal:

Engage community in a fun and educational pre Sukkot event.

Outcome:

50+ community members attended a family-friendly pancake brunch. Many helped to build the community Sukkah while children enjoyed a treasure hunt and story and adults painted candle sticks.

Shani's Viewpoint:

This community event proved creating a multi-tiered program for children and adults of all ages is a formula for success.

Youth Programming

Goal

Through Jewish values, fun activities, and Tikkun Olam, we work to connect the diverse youth of our community.

Outcome

One event among several successful joint projects of South Bend Jewish Youth headed by Rabbi Akiva Gutnicki and our JFED Youth Group coordinator and Shlichah, Chen Nissan was the gathering of over 20 youth and their parents for a morning of volunteer service at the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Chen's Viewpoint:

"There are two things we should give our children: one is roots and the other is wings." Author unknown.

Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Memorial

Goal:

With the resurgence of hate crimes and antisemitism over the last few years, the program goal was to educate community members around the topic of Crimes of Complicity: the Role of the Bystander from the Holocaust to Hate Crimes in America.



Outcome:

The Zoom talk presented by professor Amos Guiora and sponsored by the Okon Family Endowment for Holocaust Education drew participants from 40 households. Participants gained insights into the research professor Guiora published and used in legislation to require citizens to assist others who are suffering or are threatened with a crime or an emergency.

Shani's Viewpoint:

The idea for this timely topic came from Ina Rosenberg who represents the Okon Family Fund. Together, we can and must be stronger than hate. We will stand and fight for a world free of racism and bigotry in all of its forms.

2020 Annual Campaign Recap

Thank you to our Campaign Co-Chairs Mona Medow & Jennifer Schwartz for all they've done to make this year's campaign a success! As of our Annual Meeting on June 10th, our 2020 Campaign total is \$408,491 with 324 pledges recorded. This number includes campaign donations from nine campaign designated endowment funds.

*"Look how far we've come....
Imagine how far we could go...."*

Thursday, September 19, 2019 Kicking Off Our 75th Anniversary

On Thursday, September 19th we launched our 75th year in style with our 2020 Campaign Kickoff. Over 80 people joined us as we welcomed Ms. Ariella Rada of the Israel Consul for Academy and Community Affairs to the Midwest. Ms. Rada spoke on the diversity of Israel, sharing the story of her family's arrival in Israel from Ethiopia in 1984.

A special highlight of our event was a gallery exhibit of various highlights from the Our Community News, dating back to the first issue published in July of 1946.



The walls were covered with 75 years of history in the form of articles from the past seven and half decades of the Federation's Our Community News.

Super Sunday Sunday, December 15, 2019

Super Sunday was a super success in December. Thanks to our 22 volunteer callers we were able to raise \$13,800 dollars over the course of the day, and through follow up calls. Thanks to the hard work of our Super Sunday Chairs Cheri Schuster and Terri Hoffman, our diverse group of volunteers were able to reach out to our members with the opportunity to support our Jewish community.



Camp Ideal by Karin Wasserman



My beloved community, I cannot believe it has been a year since I left. Exactly this time last year, we started another amazing summertime of Camp Ideal.

Last year we had more than 40 campers from different backgrounds join the Ideal family.

We enjoyed many fun activities at camp: swimming at Fuller's Beach, hiking at the National Parks. We did a lot of arts and crafts, cooking, Hebrew Through Movement, kickboxing, gaga ball, Kabbalat Shabbat, intergenerational lunches, and other fun experiences.

The most important feedback, in my opinion, is from the children. Here are some of their thoughts of camp: "I like to come to Camp Ideal because I feel belong here" said Rebecca Galperin. "Everybody is so kind and nice to me and I really enjoy all the fun activities we do at

camp. "Camp Ideal is like a big family," said Sarah Cossman. "I've gone to Camp Ideal for many years and I love being with my Jewish friends! My favorite part at camp is learning Hebrew in a fun way and the intergenerational lunches because I get to spend time with my family and friends!."

Camp last year was so successful because of the outstanding staff: Amanda Hager, Sari Gansburg, Izzy Frank, and Leslie Marcum. Your devotion and patience are immeasurable and it's thanks to you that our campers had such a wonderful and safe summer. A big Todah is to everybody who took part to make camp a wonderful experience: Sheri Alpert, Emily Benedix, Rabbi Companeze, Dan Cossman, Ben Davis, Lizzie Fagen, Rabbi Feferman, Rabbi Friedland, Samara Gold, Rabbi Gutnicki, Shani Kramer, Mike Krueger, Rabbi Nebel.

Finally, thank you dear community for supporting Jewish education. Without you, we wouldn't be able to have such a successful camp. Unfortunately, the horrific pandemic prevented camp activity this summer, however, we are looking forward to next year.

President's Report Continued from Page 10

port programmatic efforts to bring the entire Jewish community together, and support an award for Federation volunteers who further that goal. I encourage those of you who wish to contribute to the Federation in Lisa's memory to do so in the name of that fund.

The Federation also experienced change with the departure of our long-time Executive Director, Ben Davis. I had the good fortune of working with, and learning from, Ben during my four years as Treasurer, and his decision to step down after more than six years as our Federation's professional leader leaves us with the challenge of trying to replace his storehouse of experience and knowledge. Fortunately, we will not need to replace the friendship he has provided to so many of us, as he, Francie, and their family remain members of our local Jewish community.

The final significant challenge the Federation faced this year was the impact of COVID-19 on all of us. On short notice, we had to re-envision how the Federation could continue to provide the many programs, benefits, and services upon which the community relies. While some things are difficult to replace in a virtual environ-

ment—most notably, the spirit and camaraderie of gathering together in person at our beautiful building and grounds—our dedicated and creative staff, working with many volunteers, were able to provide an almost seamless transition. Perhaps most importantly, our Jewish Family Services staff and volunteers began planning and strategizing as to how to address the COVID-19-driven needs of our community even before the full scope of the pandemic became apparent, so that we were able to meet the expanded demands on JFS services despite the limitations on in-person contact. We also successfully pivoted to virtual on a number of our other programs, including Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut activities (which gave us a chance to have an online reunion with the majority of our shlichim from the past two decades) and a very successful and enriching virtual version of the Michiana Jewish Film Festival.

This year of change also brought many good things, perhaps most significantly the arrival of Moshe Kruger, our new Executive Director. When we agreed to hire Moshe with a start date of March 23, none of us knew that he would be

arriving in the midst of the COVID-19 challenges. However, thanks to the support of our Director of Operations Emily Benedix, as well as Ben's transitional help, Moshe hit the ground running. His enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication enabled him to step into the position, quickly gain the confidence and support of both the staff and Federation leadership, and ensure that the Federation was able to successfully navigate challenging circumstances. While many of you might not yet have had the opportunity to meet Moshe in person, he has enthusiastically reached out to a wide range of community members in a virtual way. I look forward to working closely with Moshe, and I am confident that the Federation and its members will benefit in many ways from Moshe's leadership in our community.

Perhaps the biggest lesson of this year has been the reinforcement of how important the Federation is to our Jewish community. We often think of the Federation in terms of its building and facilities. While these are very important to us, and we all look forward to a time, hopefully soon, when we will again be able to gather together there, the past few months have shown us that the Federation is so much more than its build-

ing and campus. Indeed, the COVID-19 situation has caused us to prioritize the things that are most important to the Federation and Jewish community and to think about how we can best fulfill our mission. I hope that the lessons learned will enable us to serve the community even better once circumstances return to a more normal setting. And, perhaps most importantly, the situation has reinforced how fortunate we are to have volunteers, donors, and staff who make all that the Federation does possible.

Change is a part of life, including the Federation's life. While much of the change we experienced this past year was in reaction to circumstances imposed upon us, I hope that in the coming Federation year, any change we experience will be intentional and in furtherance of goals that we set for ourselves. I am confident that, given the dedication of our volunteers, donors, and staff, 2020-21 will be a year in which we continue to build on the Federation's many strengths, and we continue to fulfill our mission to embrace, connect and support the Jewish community, both locally and globally.



Partnership 2 Gether Annual Report 2019-2020

By Francie Davis

The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley had the honor of hosting the annual Partnership Summit in South Bend from July 14 – 16, 2019. About 70 participants from the Central Area Consortium, Budapest, and the Western Galilee gathered here to share successes and generate goals while fostering relationships and strengthening connections that create our shared Jewish identity. The three days were packed full of presentations, discussions, and workshops, plus meals and entertainment with a local flare.

A great deal of thought and planning preceded the summit, of course. We know South Bend is a special place and were eager to provide a meaningful experience for our guests. My husband (Ben Davis, Executive Director at the time) asked me to lead a collaborative art project that participants could do together and leave behind as a commemoration of the summit. I am inspired by the beautiful mosaic at the Western Galilee Medical Center and remember well placing my own piece when the panels were traveling throughout the consortium during their creation. In December 2019 I got to see

the finished work on display at the hospital. It is exciting to be a small part of something much bigger.

We are all free to engage in this wonderful opportunity to build friendships and strengthen mutually beneficial ties to our Israeli, American, and Hungarian peers. YOU have a home in Israel! YOUR Partnership home includes Budapest and 16 American cities! Meet these people. I promise you won't be sorry. It's not theoretical. You meet members of our Partnership through engaging programming and events, then you get to see them over time when you travel and when they travel, and now on Zoom it's so easy! We are more together.

Which brings me to the details of the collaborative art project we created out of fused glass during the summit. Everyone was invited to make their own three-inch square of glass, depicting anything they chose that might convey something personal. It was a lot of fun! Some participants were naturals and others felt a long way outside their comfort zone. I am very grateful to JoAnne Lopatin and Diane Sarnat for their gracious assistance in helping me facilitate the busy hands-on project that day. Next step was a drive to Benton Harbor, Michigan, where, thanks to Lynne Clayton, I fired the individual squares in two large kilns at Water Street Glassworks. This made them much less delicate for the drive to Cincinnati, Ohio, where I worked with Lauryn Jones at Brazee Street Studios to lay out the tiles in a gigantic kiln to fuse them into four Stars of David comprised of 18 tiles each. I chose this design to emulate the Partnership 2Gether logo. To complete the art installation, I called none other than the very tal-



ented Larry Piser, of Piser Designs. We put our heads together to come up with a plan. After many hours and much hard work, Larry and I installed the completed pieces at last. They represent the individuality of each artist and their home, together comprising a beautiful big picture. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. There is great beauty in each of us, and together, we are more. This is what Partnership is about, and it's here for you.

During this process we stumbled three times. I'd like to acknowledge the devastating losses of Dave Clayton, David Piser, and Lisa Lerman, of blessed memory. You live in our hearts forever.



To learn more about Partnership2Gether
And the variety of digital programs they are offering,
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