

SHALOM SPRINGFIELD

JEWISH FEDERATION OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



February 2021 Shevat/Adar 5781 Issue #213



2021 is a landmark year for Federation, the 80th anniversary of our founding. In Jewish tradition attaining the age of eighty is referred to as *gevurot*, a milestone which an individual reaches “by reason of strength.” We look back on the eighty years of Federation’s existence as a testimony to the strength of community and to the strong ties that bind Jews in Springfield to each other and to *k’lal Yisrael*, to the well-being of Jews in Israel and around the world.

For us, this is a year of celebration and a time to reflect with pride on the highlights and accomplishments of the past eight decades. Federation has been there for survivors of the Holocaust in the aftermath of World War II and for Israel in time of crisis. Our program of resettling Jews from the Soviet Union in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s was a model of engagement and effort on the part of Federation staff and community volunteers. JCRC has built coalitions with other communities in Springfield and has nurtured contacts with opinion leaders, educators, and public officials in the city and state. Our scholarship program has encouraged and enabled our young people to attend Jewish summer camps, a wonderful vehicle for strengthening Jewish identity. The

Education and Culture Committee in years past brought a series of nationally known figures to Springfield as Visiting Scholars and currently sponsors a successful annual Film Festival.

This is also a time to plan for and look to the future, to draw on the power and strength of community. Our landmark year celebrates those who came before us and were responsible for Federation’s successes, and it celebrates you as well. You are our community and by participating, by donating, by serving on boards and committees, and by volunteering, you strengthen Springfield’s Jewish community and embody the values of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*, that are central to our Jewish heritage.

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, February 7, 12 pm—Federation P2G Global Virtual Book Club.

Tuesday, February 9, 2 pm —Federation Chaverim

Wednesday, February 24, 9:30 am—Federation Knosh & Knowledge

Sunday, March 7, 3 pm—Education & Culture Fauda Program



Arden Lang
Federation President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I was preparing to attend Federation's Zoom presentation by Julia Bachrach on January 12, I was puzzled about the topic – Chicago's Jewish Architects. Those of us who grew up in Chicago, have lived there at some point, or have visited cannot help but be struck by the breadth and depth of the local architecture. Out of the ashes of the Chicago Fire of 1871, architects from around the country and beyond were drawn by the city's blank canvas and urgent need for housing, commercial real estate, and public buildings. Having grown up in Chicago, myself, I easily understood the natural connection between the terms "Chicago" and "Architects." But I began wracking my brain as to their connection with the third concept – "Jewish." Who were these Jewish architects we would be learning about? I could only think of one name – Dankmar Adler. Adler was in the Pantheon of Chicago architects along with H. H. Richardson and Louis Sullivan. I was pretty sure Richardson had not changed his name from Rosen nor Sullivan from Solomon. Bachrach's lecture highlighted 18 Chicago Jewish Architects! But I also got to thinking about more than architecture.

Bachrach has an extensive background in Chicago Architecture and has studied the West Side of Chicago. I withstood the temptation during the question and answer period to ask Bachrach if it was true that every Jewish man born in Chicago between 1890 and 1920, grew up on the corner of Turner and Douglas, as my Dad had. Everyone my father introduced me to, was somehow connected to that corner on Chicago's West Side. And, if that area was a tangle of Jewish immigrants and their children, as I imagined, what would the housing have been like for these Jewish families on the West Side when my parents were growing up? I guarantee there were no granite or quartz countertops, playrooms for the children, media centers, or man caves for the inhabitants of Turner and Douglas.

By contrast, by the turn of the 20th century in Chicago as in Jewish communities across the country, descendants of an earlier wave of Jewish immigration had attained prosperity and success. Julius Rosenwald, one of the wealthiest individuals of his time and one of America's first social philanthropists lived in Chicago. Rosenwald, born in 1862, moved to New York as a teen and eventually to Chicago becoming the Chairman of Sears Roebuck which he turned into the Amazon of his day. In 2016, Federation Education and Culture Committee became aware of the documentary *Rosenwald*, depicting and celebrating his life and legacy. Federation and JCRC sought to bring Rosenwald the recognition he deserves. To that end, in August 2017, Federation joined efforts with Springfield's African American Community, with staff from the National Park Service, and with individuals devoted to publicizing the Rosenwald legacy to screen the documentary. Such were the beginnings of what was referred to as the Rosenwald Initiative, of which Federation is the convenor. The success of that initial program at Springfield Union Baptist Church and the energy and enthusiasm that it generated gave the organizations and persons affiliated with the Rosenwald Initiative the impetus to continue their work. Two years after the showing of the documentary, the Rosenwald Initiative screened a film about *Strange Fruit*, a haunting song about the horrors of lynching written by a Jewish schoolteacher in New York City, Abel Meeropol, and performed by Billie Holiday.

Since that time, the Rosenwald Initiative has grown and worked with the Rosenwald Schools and National Park Campaign, advocating for a multi-sited National Park depicting Julius Rosenwald's story. Our Federation, working in tandem with the African American community, has a unique connection to the Rosenwald legacy. That legacy brought state of the art schools to the South for African American children who had been without schools. Rosenwald brought innovative housing for middle class black families to Chicago at a time that such housing was woefully inadequate. In fact, Bachrach's lecture alluded to the housing Rosenwald created (using a Jewish Architect). Rosenwald, through his Foundation, championed African American artists at the time of the Harlem Renaissance. The Rosenwald Initiative's multi-year project, in tandem with members of the African American community and other interested citizens served as an impetus for the commemorative plaque established last year by the National Park Service outside Julius Rosenwald's Springfield home. Elsewhere, steps are being taken to preserve the heritage of a large number of "Rosenwald schools", and here, funds are being raised for a Rosenwald mural that will grace a wall near the Lincoln Home site. Should the hard work of the Rosenwald Initiative and Rosenwald Park Campaign come to fruition, the Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park would be the first to honor Jewish American heritage and with the Rosenwald Home an integral part of the Park. All the Initiative and Rosenwald Park Campaign members deserve a huge thank you.

CHAVERIM AND KNOSH & KNOWLEDGE

Chaverim

Please join your *Chaverim* friends as we get together by telephone to visit with each other and talk about



PURIM

Tuesday, February 9, 2021
2:00 pm to 2:30 pm

To join in the conversation, Dial: 1-209-399-9672

RSVP by Friday, February 5, to Betsy Salus

787-7223 x 18 or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org

If you have any questions, please call us at 787-7223, ext. 18.

If the Jewish Federation can assist you in any way, if you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to speak with us for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Sage, Executive Director at (217) 787-7223, ext. 12.

All calls are confidential and your privacy will be respected.

Knosh & Knowledge

Judy Wagenblast—
National Endowment for the Arts
Big Read: Sangamon County

Wednesday, February 24, 9:30 a.m.

Via Zoom on your phone, tablet or computer



Please join us for Knosh & Knowledge when **Judy Wagenblast** will introduce us to the National Endowment for the Arts **Big Read—Sangamon County** program. The Academy of Lifelong Learning and its many community partners have developed over 60 fun and educational community-wide book discussions, speakers, interactive programs, and arts presentations inspired by Hope Jahren's science memoir, *Lab Girl*. Big Read activities will be taking place throughout the county in March and April. Join us for this sneak preview of what we can look forward to.

To receive the Zoom link, please RSVP by February 22, to rsvp@shalomspringfield.org or (217) 787-7223, ext. 18.

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6:15 pm Hadassah Book Club	2	3 7:30 pm Fed. Bd. Mtg.	4 7 pm TI Bd. Mtg.	5 5:30 pm TBS Family Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	6 9:30 am TI Service
7 9:30 am Chabad Tefillin Club 10:15 am Religious School 12 pm Fed. P2G Virtual Book Club	8	9 1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club TI S'Hd Exec. Comm. Mtg 2 pm Fed. Chaverim	10 11 am TBS S'Hd Valentine Happening 7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	11 7 pm TI Adult Ed	12 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	13 9:30 am TI Service 5 pm TI S'Hd Virtual Wine Tasting
14 2 pm TBS Exec. Bd. Meeting	15	16 6:30 pm SBJE Bd Meeting	17 TI S'Hd Activity TBD	18 7 pm Fed. JCRC Mtg	19 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	20 9:30 am TI Service 4 pm TBS Zoom Schmooze
21 10:15 am Religious School	22	23 7 pm TBS Bd Mtg	24 9:30 am Knosh & Knowledge 12:10 pm Fed Exec Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Hadassah Mtg	25 7 pm TI Pandemic Purim Spiel	26 1 pm Chabad Purim 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat & Purim 6 pm TI Shabbat	27 9:30 am TI Service
28 10:15 am Religious School						

Shalom Springfield is generously underwritten with support from the following community partners:

Bank of Springfield, www.bankofspringfield.com (217) 529-5555

Bisch and Sons Funeral Home, www.bischandsonfuneralhome.com, (217) 544-5424

Feuer-Brozgold Legacy Fund



**For the everyday
and unforgettable.
Bank Boldly.**

BOS

**bankwithBOS.com
529-5555**

The Jewish Federations[®] OF NORTH AMERICA FEB 1-2, 2021

VIRTUAL MISSION

TO WASHINGTON

Election day may be behind us, but our work in Washington, D.C. is just gearing up. This February, make it your mission to come together in our nation's capital with political leaders and policymakers.

[REGISTER NOW \(https://form.jotform.com/203346596231051\)](https://form.jotform.com/203346596231051)

JDAM Jewish Disability Advocacy Month
February 2021

A month of education, solidarity-building, and empowerment in support of people with disabilities. #JDAM

From diverse communities across North America, we are coming together to harness our collective power to break down barriers to opportunity and inclusion. Join us in helping advance policy that empowers individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence.

Join us in February for Jewish Disability Advocacy Month. Together, we can change lives.

WILL YOU BE THERE?
Jewishtgether.org/jdam

JCRC

NEW INITIATIVES: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

RE-ENTRY

By Jim Lewis

Why are people in the Springfield Jewish community trying to help people succeed when they come back from prison, i.e., reentry? Is this a Jewish concern?

“Yes,” says the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), the national representative on public policy for 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 17 national Jewish agencies including the four main denominations of American Judaism, and Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). “Yes,” says your Springfield Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC).

JCPA “advocates [for] greater support for rehabilitation and reentry.” Why? JCPA says that the United States “skyrocketed” its reliance on imprisonment, starting around 1980, so that we now “incarcerate a quarter of the world’s prisoners..., disproportionately impacting people of color and contributing to poverty, income inequality, and family instability,” doing a lot of damage. Illinois agrees: “Illinois’ rate of incarceration...increased more than 500 percent in the last 40 years, with a disproportionate impact on the State’s poor, mostly minority, citizens....Our high rate of incarceration [creates] a cycle of crime, imprisonment, and recidivism,” doing a lot of damage. (Governor Rauner’s Criminal Justice Reform Report, Executive Summary, 2017).

When imprisonment skyrocketed to 48,278 (2015) in Illinois, was crime skyrocketing? No. Much of the time (1980-2015), actual crime decreased--but fear of crime (measured by Gallup polls) increased. Fear overcame fact.

Why did imprisonment disproportionately impact people of color? Why are African Americans 56% of Illinois’ prison population? (Vera Institute, 2018) This measurement indicates that our excessive reliance on punishment was connected to a fear that is present in our society and our criminal justice system--fear of people of color, particularly men of color.

Is there any “good news?” Yes. Fact is catching up with fear. We are realizing that we sent --and send--many too many people to prison. This is not necessary, not smart, not good for people, their children, families, neighborhoods and community. So we are now reducing the Illinois prison population--a lot. To 39,306 (2019). To 32,870 (May 31, 2020)

Fact: too many people went to prison. Fact: they return to the community. Question: when people return, will they succeed--or fail? Can we help people succeed? Will your Springfield JCRC help with this? That will be next month’s article. Please stay tuned.

CAMPAIGN

COMING SOON

CAMPAIGN

2021

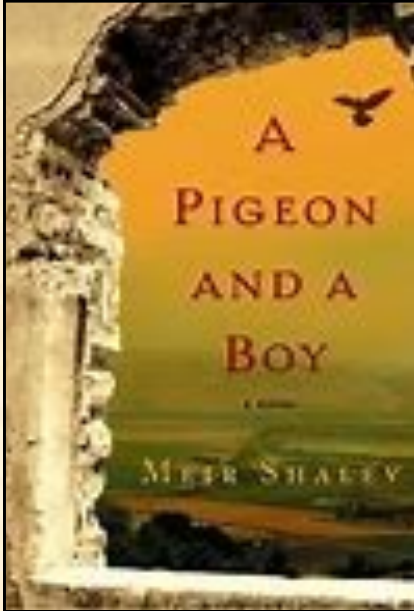
CELEBRATING

80 YEARS

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois, is to serve the Jewish people locally, in Israel and throughout the world through coordinated fund raising, community-wide programming, social services and educational activities.

Partnership2GETHER

The Global Virtual Book Club



A Pigeon and A Boy: A Novel, by Meir Shalev.

Sunday, February 7, 2021

12:00 noon CT via Zoom

Unforgettable in both its particulars and its sweep, *A Pigeon and A Boy* is a tale of lovers then and now-of how deeply we love, of what home is, and why we, like pigeons trained to fly in one direction only, must eventually return to it. In a voice that is at once playful, wise, and altogether beguiling, Meir Shalev tells a story as universal as war and as intimate as a winged declaration of love.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP, CONTACT
RSVP@SHALOMSPRINGFIELD.ORG or 217.787.7223 EXT. 18**

HERE WE ARE:

Virtual Tour of Fort Wayne

Get to know Fort Wayne's Jewish Community and hear first hand about the local craft beer industry from Micah Soltz of Chapman's Brewing Company.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 12 pm VIA ZOOM

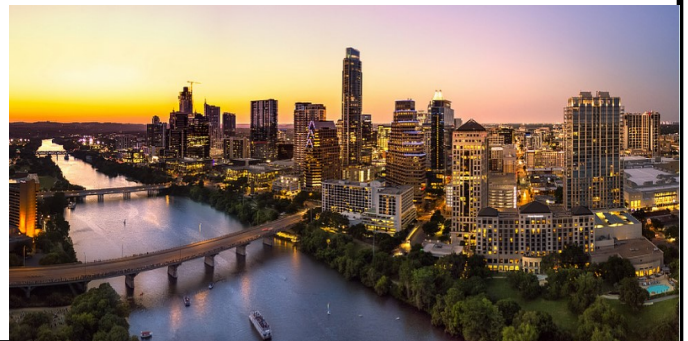


Austin Virtual Tour

Join our friends from Austin as they share the highlights and vibe of their great city!

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 12 pm

VIA ZOOM



Partnership2GETHER

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER

By Harry Berman, Chair

The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.
– Maya Angelou

By a nice coincidence (or perhaps by exceptionally good planning) two recent Partnership2Gether programs engage with the theme of “home,” each in a distinctive and rewarding way.

On January 10, people from the Partnership communities had the opportunity to view the debut of a virtual art exhibit generated under the auspices of the Create2Gether Program. Nine artists from the U.S. Partnership communities, Budapest, and the Western Galilee collaborated to develop artistic works addressing their interpretations of the theme of “home.” The virtual exhibit includes photographs, video, collages, drawing, paintings, and mosaics. In a *tour de force* of technology, a 3D computer program was used to “walk” the zoom participants through the gallery at the Partnership’s headquarters in Netanya. A link to the gallery walk can be found at the Partnership website: < <https://www.westerngalilee.org.il> >

On February 7, the Partnership’s Global Virtual Book club will be discussing Meir Shalav’s novel *A Pigeon and A Boy*. This moving story shifts back and forth between Israel during the War for Independence and the Israel of fifty years later. The novel speaks of the tragic love between a young man and woman in a time of war, the love between a son and a mother, marriages that both succeed and fail, and the longing to create a home. Throughout, the author builds on the metaphor of homing pigeons’ instinctive drive to return to their home lofts: “homing pigeons do not belong to human beings; they belong to a place.” For details on registering for the discussion, see the weekly JFS email.

JEWISH DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC)

Tuesdays February 9, 16, & 23

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. EST

Come together with JDC for a three-part virtual journey to Israel featuring stunning nature views, from the North to the Negev. One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, Israel is continuing to grapple with the long-term implications of the crisis for the elderly, children and youth at risk, and the nation's job-seekers.

Discover how JDC is helping Israel chart a new course for the most vulnerable — breaking down boundaries and increasing opportunities for all.

Join us on this powerful journey. All are welcome!

[SAVE YOUR SEAT NOW!](#)



SAGE NOTES

By Nancy Sage, Executive Director



Nancy Sage
Federation Execu-

For me, whether working from home during COVID or at the office, there have been several constants. My everyday routine is simple: review my to-do list, check and respond to email and phone messages, and coordinate with Wendy Evans-Terry, office manager, and Betsy Salus, program director via zoom or by phone, tackle to-dos and full circle back to emails and the next day to-dos. And then, there is “the unexpected” which brings with it challenges. Through it all, serving the community is what gives me strength, comfort and inspiration.

In recent weeks, amid concerns for the safety and security of our community, I have had cause once again to reach out to our local law enforcement agencies. I was heartened and encouraged by the close relationship we have enjoyed with our local law enforcement agencies – the Springfield office of the FBI, the police department, and the Sangamon County Sheriff’s Department. Time and again they have listened and been responsive to our concerns and have reassured us that they were looking out for us and for the safety of our community and its institutions. I feel grateful.

I am thankful also for Federation’s ability to make use of the resources of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and of the Secure Community Network (SCN), the safety and security initiative of the American Jewish community, of which JFNA is a co-founder. SCN has provided us with the training, guidance and technical assistance that have enhanced our community’s security. Federation locally, through SCN, has provided guidance and assistance in the application process to local Jewish institutions seeking funding through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

I am grateful to our Board and officers, our donors, our volunteers and those who participate in our programs for enabling us to fulfill our mission of serving the community. We thank all of you for your support. Because of you, Federation is able to send PJ Library books to our youngsters and to offer camperships to our young people to attend Jewish summer camps. Federation provides social services and financial assistance to members of our community in times of crisis and need. During this time of COVID and social isolation, Federation has offered a wealth of virtual programming on topics of Jewish interest. Federation coordinates the Jewish community’s calendar locally and serves as the central address of the local Jewish community. Through Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), we address local issues and communicate with local officials and opinion leaders and with other groups in the community.

Additionally, Federation links us here in Springfield to Jews in Israel and around the world. The Western Galilee Partnership, in which we participate, is a people-to-people program that brings together sixteen American Jewish communities (Springfield included) with Jews in Budapest, Hungary and in the Western Galilee region of Israel.

I look forward to Federation’s continuing to serve you and, once the COVID19 vaccine has been more widely distributed, to doing so in person. We are grateful for Zooming and Livestreaming, but we have missed the interpersonal contact that we took for granted. In all that we do, we welcome your feedback. Please let us know how we can serve you better and what else we could be doing to further our mission.

Stay safe and stay well.

IN THE COMMUNITY

MAZEL TOV

TO:
Greg & Hannah Marantz, on the birth of Palmer Jane Marantz.
Amber & Daniel Myers, on the birth of Ezra Joseph.
Yona Stamatis & Nir Ben-Moshe, on the December birth of their baby girl, Sarai.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the family and friends of the following:
 Marilyn Woods Alan, sister of John Woods & Eydee Schultz
 Sandra Indes, sister of Arlene & Bob Barewin
 ז"ל



VIA EMAIL

DROP US A LINE AT SJF@SHALOMSPRINGFIELD.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
January Chaverim: Arden Lang

CAN'T BE WITH THE ONES YOU LOVE?

Love the Wines You're With!

\$25 PER PERSON
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
TEMPLE ISRAEL



JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL WINE TASTING

*Saturday, February 13th
 5:00 p.m.
 (Erev Valentine's Day)
 as we explore five wines from Portugal,
 led by our friends from The Corkscrew.*

Cheese Plate and Chocolates Too!

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 9TH
TEMPLE ISRAEL OFFICE 217-546-2841 OR
OZMA.TEMPLEISRAEL04@GMAIL.COM



Jewish Federation
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



1045 Outer Park Drive, Suite 320
Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 217-787-7223

Fax: 217-787-7470

Email: sjf@shalomspringfield.org

Website: www.shalomspringfield.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Springfield
Permit No. 800

LEGACY FUND

Hexter Fund

In Memory of:

Sandra indes, from Howard & Lori Hammel

Sandra Indes, from Bob & Arlen Barewin

Sandra Indes, from Jim Lewis & Arden Lang

Stanley Oberman, from Les & Sara Eastep

Lee Routman, from Les & Sara Eastep

Chaverim Fund

In Memory of:

Stanley Oberman, from Carol Herzog

Mogerman Family Fund

In Memory of:

Sandra Indes, from Barry & Sandy Weiss

Human Services Fund

In Memory of:

Lee Routman, from Eydee Schultz & John Woods