

JEWISH FEDERATION OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Wendy Evans-Terry - Editor



Education &
Culture
Committee

7th Annual Jewish Federation Film Series

Four Thursdays in June 2023 (June 1, 8, 15, 22) at 7:00 pm

AMC Classic Springfield 12
3141 Mercantile Dr., Springfield, IL 62711

TICKETS: \$30 series pass OR \$10 per film (\$5 with student ID)
Contact: 787-7223 ext.18 or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org

AWARD WINNING FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
Presented by the Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois



Thurs., June 1

My Polish Honeymoon

(2019) France
Comedy/Drama, 88 min.
Directed by Elise Otzenberger
English Subtitles

Anna and Adam, a young Parisian couple with Jewish origins, are about to travel to Poland for the first time. They are just married and technically speaking this will be their honeymoon.

Adam is not really enthusiastic; Anna, however, is both extremely anxious and overly excited about the trip to her grandmother's country. She is hoping to reconnect with her roots and finally discover more about her own family's history, which was always a mystery.



Thurs., June 8

Fig Tree

(2018)
Ethiopia/Israel/Germany/
France
Drama 93 min.
Directed by Aalam-Warqe
Davidian
English subtitles

Ethiopian-Israeli writer-director Aäläm-Wärqe Davidian makes a startlingly confident feature debut with this story of lives torn asunder by civil war. Set in Addis Ababa in 1989, Fig Tree follows a teenage girl's harrowing coming of age.



Thurs., June 15

Wet Dog

(2021) Germany,
Drama, 103 min.
Directed by Damir Lukacevic
English subtitles

Soheil is 15, when his Jewish-Iranian family moves to Wedding, one of Berlin's multicultural, mostly Muslim, neighborhoods. Eager to fit in, Soheil hides his true origins, until one day, Soheil's gang of friends decides to rob the local Jewelry, as they call it, run by Soheil's parents. It's then that Soheil has to embrace who he is and where he comes from.



Thurs., June 22

Kiss Me Koshier (2021)

(2021) Israel/Germany
Comedy 101 min.
Directed Shirel Peleg
English subtitles

A subversive love story between clashing cultures and families, Kiss Me Koshier is a romantic misadventure crossing all borders. When two generations of Israeli women fall for a German woman and a Palestinian man, chaos follows. What happens with lovers who don't fit but do belong together?

Message From the President



Karen Westbrook

(Annual Meeting Speech, May 15, 2023)

When I was asked to serve as the President, I asked myself several questions.

Why should I do this? The most compelling answer to myself was that the Federation has to survive - survive in and for the community; survive to provide the necessary services for membership; and survive to continue to play an important role in the diversity of Springfield. Why is this important? My childhood was spent on the Southside of Chicago and in Highland Park. Being Jewish was safe and between JUF, the Jewish Council for the Elderly, HIAS etc. there were programs, services and never the possibility of having to "go it alone." "Going it alone" is a real possibility in Springfield without the community support and programming of the Federation.

Why me? I am and have been committed to education about antisemitism and the Holocaust for years. It is my belief that education leads to understanding as most misunderstanding is based on misinformation and/or ignorance. I see potential needs in our community for social services that we should be planning to address. I worry about the lack of individual involvement of various age groups within our community and how it will impact our survival. And I am a program planner professionally and my family would probably tell you at home. If I don't step to the plate now, I never will.

Bob Silverman started the Futures Committee which we will continue to evolve to put the Jewish Federation of Springfield in the position to thrive and support us. I see possibility and promise to continue to engage our community of all ages on a path of community cohesiveness.

So, what is next?

- Rejuvenate - We are going to work toward getting out of our houses and back to meeting in person. Bring back our sense of Community through appealing to the different ages and interests of our members.
- Reinvigorate - We will be focusing on educating ourselves about ongoing programs, services and new initiatives. Instead of a President's letter each month, we will focus on a specific program, service or special initiative and how you can get involved.
- Renew - We each should think about our individual commitment to Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam and how being involved in the Jewish community and the Federation enriches us individually, as a community and is part of enlightening the world.

In conclusion, to quote The Brotherhood of Man (a 70's pop band) - United we stand, divided we fall, and if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, you and I.

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.

An exciting new initiative - Violins of Hope will be in Springfield

By Karen Westbrook



Now, I am going to take my own advice and announce a new and exciting opportunity for community engagement between September 9 and 13th.

Thanks to the generosity of the JCC of Chicago, with support from several local benefactors, the Federation will have six Violins of Hope and one special violin that belongs to Yona Stamatis' family. These violins were played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust and have been painstakingly restored to be played and heard. They provide a message of hope, resistance, resilience and unity.

Yona is an Assistant Music Professor at UIS, a violinist and a member of the Federation community. We contacted her about the program. Serendipity. Yona not only agreed to help us, but we found out that she has her great-grandfather's violin from the Holocaust, which her grandmother has had restored. Yona has a story to tell which makes this endeavor even more personal.

Through partnerships with UIS, the Illinois State Museum and more, it is our hope that we can bring these beautiful instruments to life in a way that is meaningful to our community as well as greater Springfield. Our plan is to sponsor several concerts or recitals as well as provide educational opportunities including a museum display. We need your help. We will be soon establishing committees to bring this wonderful opportunity to fruition. Interested? Ideas? Just let me know.

Springfield's recurring social and educational series for active retirees .

Knosh & Knowledge

June 28, 2023 9:30-10:30 AM

**The Route 66 Film Festival
at the Federation Office**



**RSVP by Mon., June 26,
to (217) 787-7223 x 18
or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org**

If the Federation can assist you in any way, if you have questions or concerns, or are in need of financial or social service assistance, please contact Nancy Sage, Executive Director, at (217)787-7223, ext. 12. All calls are confidential, and your privacy will be respected.

JUNE 2023

					1	2	3
					7 pm Fed Film Series	5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9:30 am Chabad Tefillin Club 2 pm Chabad Women's Torah Study TI S'Hd Donor Brunch 5 pm TI Spfld Lucky Horseshoes	7 pm Hadassah Book Club		7:30 pm Fed Board Mtg	7 pm Fed Film Series	5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat Service	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
10 am Fed PJ Library 2 pm TBS Exec. Bd. Mtg	7 pm TI Bd Mtg	1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club 2 pm TI S'Hd Exec Mtg	7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	7 pm Fed Film Series	6 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
2 pm Chabad Women's Torah Study Father's Day		6:30 pm SBJE Bd Mtg	6 pm Chabad Event	7 pm Fed Film Series	6 pm TI Shabbat 6 pm TBS Shabbat	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service	
25	26	27	28	29	30		
11 am TI Century Brunch 2 pm Chabad Women's Torah Study	5:30 pm Fed Exec Committee Mtg	7 pm TBS Bd Mtg	9:30 am Fed Knosh & Knowledge		6 pm TI Shabbat 6 pm TBS Shabbat		

Special thanks to all the volunteers who make our programs successful!
WITH APPRECIATION TO FEDERATION COMMITTEES & SPECIAL PROJECTS

CAMPAIGN: Cary Israel, Susan Nightingale, Barry Seidman, Bob Silverman

CARDOZO SOCIETY: Howard Feldman, Chair.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES SECURITY COMMITTEE: Pat Chesley, Chair. Pamela Cohen, Chuck Faingold, Marc Goldman, Rabbi Lynn Goldstein, Sam Gorden, Mark Rabin, Robert Rabin, Bob Roth, Brent Rothschild, Bob Silverman, Rabbi Arthur Stern, Rabbi Mendy Turen, Karen Westbrook

EDUCATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE: Bob Silverman, Chair. Members: Rabbi Michael Datz, Rabbi Lynn Goldstein, Josh Grant, Vera Herst, Arden Lang, Rabbi Barry Marks, Jay Mogerman, Rabbi Arthur Stern

FUTURES COMMITTEE: Bob Roth, Chair. Remi Benichou, Joe Hurwitz, Ralph Loewenstein, Jay Mogerman, Rob Rabin, Barry Seidman, Bob Silverman, Stephen Stone MD, Rita Victor

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL: Caleb Melamed, Chair. Lisa Stone, Secretary, Members, Jeffrey Chesky, Remi Benichou, Sherry Flynn, Rabbi Lynn Goldstein, Cary Israel, Gary Kessler, Ralph Loewenstein, Mark Rabin, Bob Roth, Sammy Roth, Gloria Schwartz, Barbara Seidman, Bob Silverman, Natalie Silverman, Rabbi Arthur Stern, Stephen Stone MD, Judy Zaleski

LIGHTING THE PATH: Merle Shiffman and Karen Westbrook, Chairs. Rabbi Michael Datz, Cary Israel, Rabbi Barry Marks

HEALTHY FOODS DISTRIBUTION: Ralph Loewenstein, Chair, Rick Griminger, Volunteer Coordinator

NEW INITIATIVES/RE-ENTRY & UNHOUSED: Lisa Stone, Chair; Jeffrey Chesky, Sherry Flynn, Gary Kessler, Jim Lewis, Ralph Loewenstein, Elizabeth Mendeloff, Marjory Reimer, Rabbi Mendy Turen, Judy Zaleski

HOLIDAY FEST WINDOW: Sherry Flynn, Wende Stern

LEGACY FUND: Jerry Jennings, Chair. Lisa Stone, Immediate Past Chair. Board Members: Fred Benson, Howard Chodash MD, Arden Lang, Anne Morgan, Gregory Marantz, Barry Seidman

MAIMONIDES SOCIETY: Howard Chodash, MD

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER: Harry Berman, Chair.

PJ LIBRARY PLAYDATE: Regan Marks, Kayla Morrison

WOMEN LEADING A DIALOGUE: Nancy Chesley, Linda Morrison, Judy Zaleski

UKRAINE EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN: Vera Herst, Arden Lang, Susan Nightingale, Karen Westbrook

SENIORS: Laurie Barnum, Mary Beth Cohen, Arden Lang

WINETASTING: Ted LeBlang, Chair

Dear Nancy, Members of the Jewish Federation, and those who sit on the Executive Board,

The Annual Meeting seems the perfect time to thank you for the support you gave me in attending this year's General Assembly in Israel. It was such a pleasure - and honor - to be in Israel for the 75th anniversary of the Jewish State! Although I was the only representative from Springfield - understandably, since it was such a long way to travel for about 3 1/2 days - what a glorious 3 1/2 days it was. No, Netanyahu did not show up; but believe me, his presence (or absence) was very much felt in the demonstrators who were constantly just outside the security gate! No, there weren't as many working sessions as there usually are; but the evening plenaries were memorable, especially the one where President Herzog delivered a particularly meaningful address. And the final evening - sponsored by Miami Federation and held at the amphitheater in Caesara - was like no other. A dazzling array of Israeli musical & artistic talent performed under the stars and embodied everything that is wonderful about Israel.

To be in Israel over Memorial Day and Independence Day was truly wonderful. To commemorate Memorial Day we were bused out to Latrun (site of a battle in the War of Independence) and heard testimonials by friends and family members of those who died in defense of the State or as victims of terrorism. It was beyond emotionally meaningful; I had tears running down my face. And on the night of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, it was absolutely glorious to celebrate the birth of the Jewish State with thousands of other Jews in a spirit of unbridled joy. It was liberating to celebrate our mutual love of and support for Israel together - without having to explain it, or making excuses for it, or apologizing for it. It was an experience that will remain with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for making it possible.

Rabbi Michael Datz

DEPARTING FEDERATION BOARD MEMBERS

We are grateful to **Fred Benson, Arden Lang, and Linda Morrison** for their exemplary service during their tenure as Federation Board Members.

Fred's dedication to Federation spans decades and innumerable hours. As a Past President, Past Campaign Chair, Committee Chair, Board Member, Super Sunday caller, and most recently Treasurer, Fred has been instrumental in Federation's successes. His ability to see the big picture yet hone in on the details has been invaluable, whether it has to do with budgets, balance sheets, insurance policies, programs, or new ideas. Earlier this year, when Fred and Terri Benson moved to Portland, Maine to live closer to their daughters, Fred resigned from the Federation Board of Directors.

Arden Lang served as Federation President throughout the Pandemic and when Springfield was confronted with very public antisemitic incidents by a former police officer and a high school student. Arden's vision and strength led Federation during these uncertain and challenging times. Whether as Senior Committee Chair, Campaign Solicitor, Board Secretary or President, Arden focused on what best served the community. Arden and Jim moved to Albuquerque last February to be near their son and daughter and fulfilled her term as Federation Past President.

Linda Morrison's devotion to Federation is exemplified by her actions. She served as a Federation Board member, worked for Federation as Program Director, and later returned to the Federation Board. Linda's dedication is matched by her talent and enthusiasm which she generously gives to the community whenever she is asked, whether she is serving on the Board or not. We appreciate her continuing participation in the community.



**Congratulations to this year's Federation Board award winners!
Presented By 2022-2023 President Bob Silverman at the Annual Meeting.**





November 7-11, 2023

in Israel's Western Galilee

Celebrate and Experience our Partnership's Involvement in the Arts, History Multiculturalism, Connections, and more!



**in Conjunction with Partnership2GETHER's
25th Anniversary Celebration
Greater Dayton Jewish Federation Israel Tour**



2023 Cultural Israel Tour Missions and Tours

For more information, go to

<https://jewishdayton.org/program/missions/>

November 5-12, a trip of a lifetime! - Explore Israel like never before

Experience the country's finest cuisine, wine, and culture.

A pre-tour for first time visitors or enthusiasts is also available.

SAGE NOTES



Nancy Sage
Executive Director

(Annual Meeting Speech, May 15, 2023)

I begin by thanking each of you for your ongoing support and dedication to the work of Federation, and for being here tonight. Over the past few years, we have found ourselves in uncharted waters whether because of the Pandemic or being confronted with antisemitism and hate here in Springfield. I am grateful to all and especially to our Board for their wisdom, leadership, counsel and dedication to Federation's mission. The Board approaches every decision and every challenge thoughtfully, carefully, and with consideration for varying points of view. They continue to inspire as does this very special Jewish community.

As Executive Director, annual meeting time is a time for reflection. It removes me from the daily work of Federation, and "forces" me to look back over the past year, knowing that for nearly 85 years of serving this Jewish community, Federation has been its "central address" and the umbrella organization of which each person is a part. Each year has had its own hallmarks generated by the times and made possible by this community, with caring at its heart.

We've gone from the world of Zoom which served to connect us when we could not be together to more of a hybrid zoom and in-person world, different than what we have known. Federation continues to offer programs, services, and opportunities that appeal to diverse interests and needs; programs that bring people together, that keep us all connected. This year, we instituted PJ in the Park for preschoolers and families, actually in the park, continued Knosh & Knowledge, often with "field trips," Partnership2GETHER brought us several virtual programs and an in-person dialogue featuring women, Jewish and Muslim, from the Western Galilee. We are pleased to resume our long tradition delivering senior holiday packages and visiting rather than delivering by mail. Jewish Community Relations Council never ceased Healthy Foods Distributions, pivoted to drive-thrus, serving those in the greater Springfield community suffering food insecurity. We hosted a community Holocaust commemoration. The Rosenwald Initiative completed and celebrated the Julius Rosenwald mural.

Community relations - our work on the ground - has always been our first defense against antisemitism and has resulted in very valuable partnerships. We've taken it one step farther by creating an outline that can be used to explain and describe Jewish life through presentations to schools and organizations in the wider community — Lighting the Path: Celebrating Commonalities and Understanding Differences. We also recognize the need to strengthen security for the community and we continue to take steps to do so. Through Jewish Federations of North American partnership with SCN, as you've heard tonight, through LiveSecure, we hope to have a security director shared with other nearby small communities. We do rely on SCN as a resource in all aspects of community security.

SAGE NOTES (cont.)



We've accomplished so much over the year, because of you. We are a community that cares about and for each other. Your generosity, your financial support, your time, and dedication make it all possible. You save and change lives all over the world.

I would like to express my thanks and my appreciation to Wendy-Evans Terry, office manager, Betsy Salus, program director, and Jordan Litvak, on-call social worker. They are the Federation's backbone. To Bob Silverman, outgoing president, and Karen Westbrook, incoming president, for their vision and leadership. Thanks also to our Executive Board, our Board of Directors, to JCRC, Legacy Board, and to the committee chairs and volunteers who are listed in this newsletter. We couldn't do it without you and we are stronger because of you.

I am honored to serve as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Springfield, a Federation that thrives and flourishes because of you and on your behalf.

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LOCAL ADVANTAGE.



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SPRINGFIELD TEMPLE COMMUNITY CRUISERS CRUISE NEWS! INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

Set sail on a fabulous 7-Night Eastern Caribbean cruise aboard the Holland America Nieuw Statendam
DECEMBER 10-17, 2023



Eastern Caribbean - 7 days - from Ft. Lauderdale

December 10 - 17, 2023

Itinerary:

- Day 1: Ft. Lauderdale, Depart 3:00p
- Day 2: At sea
- Day 3: Grand Turk 7:00a - 3:00p
- Day 4: San Juan, Puerto Rico 1:00p - 10:00p
- Day 5: St. Thomas USVI 7:00a - 4:00p
- Day 6: At sea
- Day 7: Half Moon Cay, Bahamas 8:00a - 2:00p (tender)
- Day 8: Ft. Lauderdale, Arrive 7:00a

[Click here to go to the ship's webpage](#) for more images and information.

HOLLAND AMERICA NIEUW STATENDAM | Built 2017 | 12 Decks | 2,666 Guests | 1,053 Crew

Fluid lines and dramatic spaces make the Nieuw Statendam a modern beauty. Guests have many innovative dining and entertainment options—from Rudi's Sel de Mer to Nami Sushi to the Rolling Stone Lounge, B.B. King's Blues Club, and the stunning World Stage. [Watch this overview on YouTube.](#)

- Where's Walter Travel, a full-service concierge travel agency, is coordinating our group and can assist you with booking your cruise, flights, transfers, travel insurance, and answer any questions you may have.
- Cruise-only pricing starts at approximately \$650/person inside cabin (double occupancy), excluding port charges and taxes. Other cabin choices are available including Oceanview, Verandah, and Suites. All pricing is dynamic and subject to change. Optional pre-cruise hotel will be arranged at a later date.
- The [HAL Have It All Package](#) which includes WiFi, Drink Package, Shore Excursions & Specialty Dining is available along with [Club Orange](#) priority amenities.
- A Passport **OR** a government-issued photo ID **AND** an original, certified Birth Certificate are **required** to board the ship.
- This is a fundraiser for Temple B'rith Sholom & Temple Israel – you will definitely have **FUN** – the **RAISING** part is your \$100/person donation. You will receive notice to make your donation at a later date.

VISIT: whereswaltertravel.com/springfieldtemples for information and to set up an appointment to book.

WHERE'S WALTER TRAVEL: Walter Biscardi, walter@whereswaltertravel.com

SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY CONTACTS: Lori Hammel 217-741-6656 lorihammel1@gmail.com

Howard Hammel 217-971-7355 howardhammel@gmail.com



SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Laurie Kahn, from the Westbrooks

CONDOLENCES
WE MOURN THE PASSING OF:

THANK YOU

Daniel Ballon, nephew of Joel & Joni Abramowitz

Annual Meeting: Bob Roth, Bob Silverman,
& Karen Westbrook

May his memory endure as a blessing.

A Note From B'rit Yisrael Religious School

Help Us Find K-7th Grade Students for B'rit Yisrael Religious School

The Springfield Board of Jewish Education (SBJE) and the B'rit Yisrael Religious School are planning for the September 2023 - May 2024 school year and future years.

We are asking the Jewish community as a whole to help us find students for our Sunday religious school so that we can organize classrooms by ages/grades, start gathering instructors for Hebrew and Judaica classes, and to find a curriculum that will engage the students. If anyone has leads for us to get more involvement from younger families who have children in grades kindergarten to seventh grade in our local area, please contact us through this email: brit.yisrael@yahoo.com by **July 1, 2023**.

We can only grow our Jewish community by planting seeds and helping them grow. SBJE hopes to do this through teaching and experiencing Jewish traditions, practices and customs at our Sunday morning classes.



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

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Bank of Springfield, www.bankofspringfield.com

(217) 529-5555

Bisch & Sons Funeral Home, www.dignitymemorial.com (217)544-5424

Feuer-Brozgold Legacy Fund



1045 Outer Park Drive, Suite 320
Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 217.787-7223
Website: www.shalomspringfield.org
Email: sjf@shalomspringfield.org

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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.