

JEWISH FEDERATION OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

A Letter to Our Springfield Federation Community

Traditionally, every fall our Federation has kicked off our annual campaign for the upcoming year by holding a large event. But not this time around. Our 2021 campaign events have been postponed until the beginning of 2021. This postponement allows our Federation to take advantage of a nationally funded initiative for the benefit of our social services. This initiative gives us an unprecedented opportunity to receive matching funds for additional qualifying donations or increased pledges made from September 1 through December 31, 2020.

Thanks to your generosity and support for our last annual campaign, your Federation has continued to serve our community during these challenging times caused by COVID-19. With zoom as our platform, we offered diverse programs, provided financial assistance, participated in two Healthy Foods Distributions at the Boys & Girls Club, mailed packages to seniors, stayed connected through phone calls and notes. However, we have learned that our community needs are greater. We believe we must do more to support and assist seniors confined to their homes or rooms, members of our own community facing health-related crisis, in need of financial assistance, or social service support.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Springfield is launching the Human Services Relief Matching Fund. Funds raised will be dedicated to increasing, enhancing and adding human services. Resources will be used to fill the gap to support unmet needs.

Every *additional* dollar you donate or pledge from now until December 31, 2020, will be matched by 50%.

That means your donation of \$50 becomes \$75; \$100 donation becomes \$150; \$500 becomes \$750; \$2,000 becomes \$3,000. the Human Services Relief Matching Fund was made possible through the generosity of seven foundations and JFNA.

For your donations or pledges to qualify they must be received by December 31, 2020. The fund is intended only for gifts and or pledges that are over and above previous campaign pledges and designated for local social services. Your pledge will qualify to match if:

You have already pledged this year (thank you!) and this pledge or donation is in addition to the earlier one; or

You are making a first-time pledge to the Federation; or

You are making a pledge for the first time in 18 months

See page 9 for more information about the matching fund.

There are no words to express the extent of our gratitude for your continued generous support, particularly at this moment.

Please contact Nancy Sage if you have any questions at nsage@shalomspringfield.org or 787-7223 ext. 12.

Thank you for your consideration,

Arden Lang, Federation President

Cary Israel, Federation Campaign Committee

Barry Seidman, Federation Campaign Committee

Bob Silverman, Federation Campaign Committee

Jewish Federation of Springfield, IL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Arden Lang
Federation President

During the last months we have learned a thing or two. Having been blindsided by the onset, length, and breadth of the pandemic, all of us have had to make immediate and severe adjustments in our lives. Our social and family lives have been restricted. Our incomes and working lives may have been temporarily or permanently altered. We have had to live with the uncertainties of our continued personal health and the health of others. We are concerned that outspoken anti-Semitism is on the rise. In short, we've worried. But, it turns out, we are resilient.

We are itching to go back to things as they were. But, we've also adapted to our new normal. Here at Federation at the local and national levels, our leadership has continued to hope for the best but to plan in the alternative in order to bring strong programs and offer opportunities for social engagement. Our Federation committee chairs have been diligent and creative in planning through the end of 2020 and into 2021. Today, I single out two chairs, and plan to highlight the work of other chairs in future columns.

Winetasting chair **Ted LeBlang** and his wife Pam have hosted our annual event. The Winetasting event has drawn a large turnout of happy Federation members every year. After having to cancel the Spring 2020 event, working with Betsy Salus, our Federation program manager, Ted developed meticulous plans for the next in-person winetasting. That event has been postponed until later in 2021 than the Board of Directors had hoped for. But Ted promises there will be an elbow-to-elbow winetasting gathering just as soon as safety permits. In the meantime, Ted is looking into some virtual winetasting opportunities for Federation members.

Another tireless planner who has brought a great deal of camaraderie and excitement to our recent June Federation calendars is **Jay Mogerman**, Education and Culture chair. With the help of Betsy Salus and committee members, over the years Jay has screened many, many films and brought our annual Jewish Federation Film Festival to fruition. Jay has adapted to the vagaries of the pandemic and is considering other ways of increasing our educational and cultural awareness. In the past few months, under Jay's leadership, our community has seen thoughtful, intelligent programming including Yona Stamatis' presentation in Jewish music, Howard Reich's discussion of his relationship with Elie Weisel, three programs about Israel today, and a program on anti-Semitism. In fact, given the opportunities that Zoom programming offers, there will be a dizzying array of virtual Federation programs of note within the foreseeable future. I urge you to attend this events.

I also wish to recognize a life well-lived, that is, the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Erev Rosh Hashanah. Ginsburg fought for the equal treatment of Americans of all stripes. Though she was a fearless and focused litigator before becoming a jurist, she shared warm friendships with the likes of Antonin Scalia, whose judicial philosophy was antithetical to hers. We owe RBG a debt of gratitude.

Until our next Zoom meeting,

Arden Lang

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/4/20—Fed. Bd. Meeting, 7:30 pm
 11/8/20—Fed. P2G Global Day of Learning, 9:30 am & 12 pm
 11/10/20—Fed. P2G Meet the Emiratis, 12 pm/Chaverim, 2 pm/Kristallnacht Zoom, 3pm
 11/11/20 —Veterans Day, Office Closed
 11/15/20—Fed. P2G Book Club, 12 pm
 11/22/20—Fed. P2G Virtual Tour of Galilee Medical Center
 11/25/20—Fed. Executive Committee Meeting, 12:10 pm
 11/26/20—Thanksgiving, Office Closed

Chaverim Kristallnacht

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
2:00-2:30 pm Via Phone
Dial 1-209-399-9672

Please join your *Chaverim* friends as we
gather together to commemorate
Kristallnacht

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
(please note afternoon time)



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

RSVP by Friday, November 6, to Betsy Salus



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NOVEMBER 2020

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>10:15 am Religious School</p> | <p>2</p> <p>7 pm Hadassah Book Club</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Election Day</p> | <p>4</p> <p>7:30 pm Fed. Bd. Mtg</p> | <p>5</p> <p>7 pm TI Bd. Mtg.</p> | <p>6</p> <p>5:30 pm TBS Family Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat</p> | <p>7</p> <p>9:30 am TI Service</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Fed. P2G Day of Global Learning 10:15 am Religious School 12 pm Fed. P2G Day of Global Learning 12:30 pm TBS S'hd Gen. Mtg. 2 pm TBS Exec. Bd. Meeting</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> <p>12 pm Fed. P2G Meet the Emiratis 1 pm TI S'hd Book Club 2 pm Fed. Chaverim 3 pm Fed. Kristallnacht Zoom program</p> | <p>11</p> <p>7 pm Hadassah Bd. Mtg Veterans Day Office Closed</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> <p>5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat</p> | <p>14</p> <p>9:30 am TI Service</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>10:15 am Religious School 12 pm Fed P2G Book Club 4 pm TBS Zoom Schmooze</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> <p>6:30 pm SBJE Bd Meeting</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat</p> | <p>21</p> <p>9:30 am TI Service</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>10:15 am Religious School Thanksgiving Basket Prep Fed P2G Virtual Tour of Galilee Medical Ctr</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> <p>7pm TBS Bd Meeting Thanksgiving Basket Distribution</p> | <p>25</p> <p>12:10 pm Fed Exec Committee Mtg</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Office Closed</p> | <p>27</p> <p>5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat</p> | <p>28</p> <p>9:30 am TI Service</p> |
| <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | | | | | |

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER

GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING—HUMAN DIGNITY NOV. 8TH



GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING
2020 Theme:
HUMAN DIGNITY



NOVEMBER 8TH

9:30 AM
(2 sessions of 30 min. each)



FROM ETHIOPIA TO ISRAEL
My Journey of a Lifetime

By **Brhan Worku**
Jewish Ethiopian Israeli

NOVEMBER 8TH

12:00 pm





Join us in celebrating the Global Day of Jewish Learning and the Jewish Ethiopian holiday of "Sigd"

RSVP





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GAL LUSKY
FOUNDER AND CEO OF ISRAELI FLYING AID

RSVP



MEET THE EMIRATIS!

A special live episode of the **JEWANCED PODCAST** with co-hosts Dan Feferman & Benny Scholder

November 10th

12:00 PM

Featuring Young, Influential Emiratis Involved in the UAE-Israel Dialogue



Dan Feferman
Originally from South Bend, Dan is an author, speaker, and researcher who focuses on Israel, the Jewish world and the Middle East.



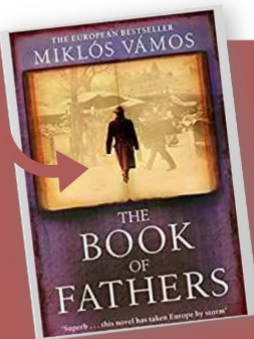
Benny Scholder
Originally from Minneapolis, Benny is the Director of Sales-North America at Kenes Tours, Israel's leading provider of incoming tourism services




Podcast Available on:    jewanced.com

BOOKCLUB

November 15th **12:00 PM**





MIKLOS VAMOS
Discussing about his book —
BOOK OF FATHERS

THE EUROPEAN BESTSELLER

"Vamos... this novel has taken Europe by storm"

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SPRINGFIELD, IL
THE JEWISH AGENCY PARTY FOR ISRAEL 'אגודת ישראל

Every one of us, together.




NOVEMBER 22ND—

Virtual Tour of the Galilee Medical Center

To Receive the Link to Any of These Programs, RSVP to rsvp@shalomspringfield.org or 217.787.7223 ext. 18.

JCRC

Greetings everyone. By the time you read this, the 2020 General Election will be over – I think. Don't know how it's going to come out, but news reports are saying that early voting is occurring at record levels – nearly 21 million Americans have already voted as of mid-October, which represents 15% of all votes cast in 2016. Already, in Illinois more than 4 times as many voters have voted early as in 2016. Whatever the outcome, if current turnout rates hold up, it's estimated that the US turnout rate will be higher this year than in any presidential election since 1908. Whatever else can be said of the 2020 elections, it seems to have motivated a lot of voters to get out and vote, which can only enhance the credibility of the election outcome and our democratic process. And if that happens, we all benefit, especially our community.

Speaking of elections, in October JCRC conducted candidate forums via zoom for the major party nominees for US Senate and the 13th and 18th Congressional District elections. Many thanks to the committee members who organized them and drafted the questions – Cary Israel, Gary Kessler, Ralph Loewenstein, Bob Silverman, and Natalie Silverman. The forums gave the candidates an opportunity to answer questions of concern to our community, and for us to hear from these candidates for these important offices.

During our October General Meeting, JCRC heard from David Bernstein, CEO and President of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), the national organizations of 125 local JCRCs and 17 national Jewish agencies. Mr. Bernstein spoke about the difficulties facing community relations today, specifically in the areas of – anti-Semitism in America, increased anti-Israel rhetoric, the difference in outlooks between older and younger generations in the Jewish and general communities, increased polarization of politics, and various viewpoints within the Jewish community. It was a very interesting and enlightening discussion with Mr. Bernstein. Many thanks to him, and to Natalie Silverman for arranging Mr. Bernstein's participation in our meeting.

In late October, JCRC and the Springfield Chapter of Hadassah co-sponsored "Combatting Anti-Semitism at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign." Illini Hillel Director, Erez Cohen, provided insight and described incidents leading up to Jewish students filing a U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights complaint against UI-UC. The complaint alleges an increasingly hostile environment for Jewish students in violation of federal law. Incidents have ranged from swastikas scrawled on campus dorms and a university-sponsored training with antisemitic content to repeated BDS campaigns and concomitant harassment of Jewish students on campus and in social media. Over the past five years, there have been ongoing discussions with University officials to resolve the issues; the discussions continue.

I hope all of you are, and continue to be, well we as move into the holiday season. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and take care.

Bob Roth, *JCRC Chair*

JCPA and FACEBOOK

For more than a year, JCPA has been part of a Jewish advisory panel to Facebook, urging the social media giant to take steps to ban antisemitism and hatred. Our hard work paid off – a decision was just announced to finally ban Holocaust denial.

Our efforts began in August of this year, when we organized a campaign against antisemitism and hate on Facebook, garnering support from 90 Jewish organizations. In September, JCPA convened all the Jewish participants in the Facebook Jewish Advisory group, prior to a meeting with Facebook officials, so that we could take a coordinated approach. We emphasized what we thought was the highest priority: Facebook needed to ban Holocaust denial. Zuckerberg had pointedly refused to do so in the past. And it worked.

Earlier this morning, a month after that very hard-hitting meeting with Facebook officials, Zuckerberg announced a change in policy. The Facebook official responsible for its policy in this area wrote us this morning: "Thanks for your role in making it happen."

Thank YOU for supporting JCPA's efforts in banning antisemitism on social media!

Sincerely,

David Bernstein, *President and CEO, Jewish Council for Public Affairs*

KRISTALLNACHT

PLASZOW

Between Memorial and Remembrance

How much do you know about Plaszow concentration camp? The ruins of Plaszow, the forgotten Holocaust concentration camp currently serve as a community park in the outskirts of Krakow, Poland. Join archaeologist Kamil Karski and historian Karlina Ozog as they uncover 70 year old stories from the Jewish prisoners and work to commemorate the atrocities that happened there.



NOVEMBER 10 | 3:00PM - 4:00PM

Register at illinihillel.org/plaszow



**The Program in Jewish
Culture & Society**

Thanksgiving Baskets



Thanksgiving Baskets 2020

Our Thirty-fourth Year

Dear Friends,

Fall is approaching and with it comes our annual Thanksgiving Basket program. This is the thirty-fourth year that our congregations will once again combine resources, funds, and people power for an outreach program benefiting over **1000** individuals in need who live in Springfield and surrounding areas. Since food insecurity has grown and social service programs face increased stress, this will be an especially important year for this joint program.

We won't go into how wonderful our baskets are, you've seen them, helped fill and carry them. Your generosity has come through despite difficult economic times. To honor your support, we have kept our suggested donation at **\$35 per basket**, and we appreciate that many of you donate for several baskets. We also welcome donations for **half baskets (\$20.00)**. The entire amount of your donation goes to filling the baskets. We have no overhead.

If you would like to support this project, please send your check as soon as possible so that we may plan accordingly. Volunteer hours will be significantly reduced this year, due to requirements to maintain physical distancing.

Please make checks payable to Temple B'rith Sholom or Temple Israel, mark Thanksgiving Baskets on the memo line, and return your check with the bottom of this letter.

Thanks so much,

**Thanksgiving Basket Committee representing Temple B'rith Sholom, Temple Israel,
and First Congregational Church**

Please complete and return this portion to:

Temple B'rith Sholom

1004 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703

Temple Israel

1140 West Governor St, Springfield, IL 62704

Your Name _____

FAQs—HUMAN SERVICES RELIEF MATCHING FUND

Human Services Relief Matching Fund - Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

What is the Human Services Matching Fund?

The goal of the Human Services Relief Matching Fund is to support Jewish Federations across North America to increase their funding to support Jews in need through human services agencies and programs. By creating a national fund that can be assessed on a 1:2 or \$.50 to \$1.00 basis dedicated to human services additional resources are provided to support critical needs.

Any qualifying amount that our Federation raises up to \$50,000 will be matched; thus, our Federation could receive up to \$25,000 from the national fund. The fund will match qualifying gifts or pledges received between September 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.

Why?

Jewish Federations across North America have been blessed with some of the most compassionate donors in the world. Nationwide, due to circumstances caused by COVID and economic crisis, an estimated 12 million Jewish adults are worried about paying their next month's housing costs. More than 500,000 are facing food insecurity, not confident they will be able to feed their families - unless we support these unmet needs.

Our Springfield Jewish community is not immune and has faced additional challenges and expenses. Jewish Federations of North America created the Human Services Relief Matching Fund to increase our efforts to address these challenges. These funds will go exclusively to meet critical needs of our Jewish Community members most affected by this crisis.

When Federation's Executive Director receives a request for financial assistance, with permission from the individual, the executive director consults with congregational rabbis. Based on need, the Federation, with support from the rabbis' discretionary funds provides payment to the landlord, utility company, optician, medical equipment provider, etc.

Here's how it works.

From September 1 until December 31, 2020, every eligible dollar given to the Jewish Federation of Springfield will be matched by 50 percent. Gifts are eligible if the intention is to support Jewish human services and donors must be either increasing their existing gift, be a first-time donor or not have made a gift in at least 18 months. The matching fund will count only the increase and not the maintained gift amounts.

Is the matching funds based on pledges or donations?

Both, as long as they are increases specified to the human services fund and received between September 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.

Eligible programs and services:

Programs and services that serve primarily community members that provide emergency financial assistance, including rent assistance, food, utility assistance, senior services and programs, counseling services

Matching Fund Support

JFNA Maimonides Fund, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Crown Family Philanthropies, Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel Foundation, Singer Family Foundation, and Jewish Federations of North America.

I (we) would like to give or pledge a qualifying* donation to the Jewish Federation of Springfield that is designated for local human services:

Name(s) making gift _____

Total amount of gift \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

* Refer to the above FAQs for Here's How It Works.

SAGE NOTES

By Nancy Sage, Executive Director



Nancy Sage
Federation Executive
Director

It is hard for me to believe that Thanksgiving is so quickly approaching. It will likely be a different kind of Thanksgiving for many of us, just as the last eight months have been a different and difficult experience. During these times it is you, our community, that has given me strength, inspiration, and purpose for which I am grateful.

I am so heartened to be part of a community that reaches out and cares for each other out of friendship. When we hear about others who are going through difficult times and are in the need of assistance, we act with kindness and compassion.

I am thankful that earlier this year, so many of you contacted me, seeking assurance that the Jewish Community Relations Council Healthy Foods Distribution would continue, during COVID, although in a different format. I am grateful too that so many of you support the Thanksgiving Baskets project sponsored by Temple B'rith Sholom, Temple Israel and the First Congregational Church.

I am thankful to our Federation and JCRC Boards for their leadership, guidance, and dedication to serving our community. I am grateful for all our volunteers who selflessly give their time and talents to our endeavors and to all who support Federation. I thank Federation staff, Wendy Evans-Terry and Betsy Salus for seamlessly and caringly continuing respectively to manage our office and plan our programs. Additionally, I express my appreciation to our Rabbis, communal leaders, and all affiliated with and working on behalf of our community's organizations, as each of you are part of why Springfield is so special.

I am thankful for our Federation's affiliation on the national level with the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and gratified that JFNA has made human services on the local level a priority in these difficult times. I appreciate the Matching Funds program described in the newsletter as well as JFNA's expertise and assistance that help strengthen Federation and, ultimately, our community.

In normal times, I am grateful for the opportunity to devote my time and efforts to a cause in which I believe, to be carrying on the Jewish heritage of tzedakah, and to enjoy the fellowship of those who share these ideals. In these most challenging and unprecedented times, I am thankful for and proud of a community that responds so generously, especially to those in need.

On a most personal note, I am forever grateful to my family whose love and care are far beyond what I could have imagined.

Happy Thanksgiving. Stay well, healthy and take good care.

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.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Rosh Hashanah packages were mailed to our seniors this year.

LEGACY FUND

Joni Wolfson Campership Fund

In Memory of:

Anne Barker, from Barry & Barbara Seidman

MAZEL TOV

TO:

Nancy and Pat Chesley, on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma Micon Carroll, and their daughter, Karen Chesley, and son-in-law, Jason Carroll.

Rabbi Mendy and Sara Turen, on the birth of their daughter, Mushka Turen.

Gloria Cohen, on her special birthday.

Stuart & Merle Shiffman, on the recent marriage of their son, Tony Shiffman, to Alissa Dries Shiffman.

Gavriel Savitt, on becoming a National Book Award Finalist for his new book "The Way Back."

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the families and friends of the following:

Greg Osing, nephew of Max & Kathleen Parienti

&

Lee Routman, mother of Carol Loewenstein

&

Jack Dolan, long time participant In Chaverim

Z"l

THANK YOU TO OUR OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Chaverim: Rabbi Datz, Arden Lang, Barb Rabin, Mark Wancket

JCRC: Cary Israel, Gary Kessler, Ralph Loewenstein, Bob Roth, Bob Silverman, and Natalie Silverman

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



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