



## “Music of Hope” Wins Emmy Award

One good thing leads to another. . . .

When Karen Westbrook asked Julie Staley to emcee the Federation’s concluding “Violins of Hope-A Celebration of Survival” concert at the Hoogland, Karen had no idea that it would lead to an award-winning film produced by Julie Staley, owner and CEO of Spencer Films. Merle Shiffman and Karen designed the fall 2023 Violins of Hope initiative that showcased 12 violins played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust. Yona Stamatis, UIS Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, curated the six concerts and told the story of her grandfather’s violin that also survived the Holocaust.

In the film, “Music of Hope”, Yona tells the story of Jewish musicians who had their instruments taken from them during the Holocaust, her own family’s story, and the story of her grandfather’s childhood violin. “We are grateful to have shared Yona’s family story with the public. She entrusted us to tell this story accompanied by the beautiful music she provided and played. We are honored to keep this history alive,” said Julie.



On October 26, Yona and Karen shared in the excitement when Spencer Films’ Julie Staley, Laura Richter, and Tim Lynn were honored with the Emmy in the Historical/Cultural Short Form Content category at the Mid-America Emmy regional awards ceremony in Overland Park, Kansas.

Julie thanked the Jewish Federation of Springfield. Karen and Nancy Sage also appear in the film. “Music of Hope” can be viewed at <https://spencerfilmsllc.com/music-of-hope/>.





**Karen Westbrook**

# Message From the President

As you know, Nancy Sage is retiring at the end of November. The Board of Directors has undertaken an extensive national search for a new Executive Director. We are buoyed by the interested applicants. Reviewing the applications, initial screening and interviewing has taken more time than we expected. Every candidate brings different skill sets to the table. We know there will be no perfect candidate. This is a long way to say that we not quite to the hiring stage yet.

On behalf of the Board, I want to assure you that we are hoping to meet the goal of having someone in place on November 30. Should we fall short of the goal, we have a plan for Board Members to help keep the Federation moving forward. I will be working with Nancy during November on transition to assure there is no disruption in programming and services. Betsy Salus and Wendy Evans-Terry will provide the continuity we need.

Nancy will be a phone call away. She has, of course, volunteered to consult as needed. Nancy has given so much to the Federation. It is our goal to have Nancy retire and start the next chapter of her life with Barry with no worries about Federation. She has earned this.



*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.*



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of Springfield, IL

2024  
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CAMPAIGN

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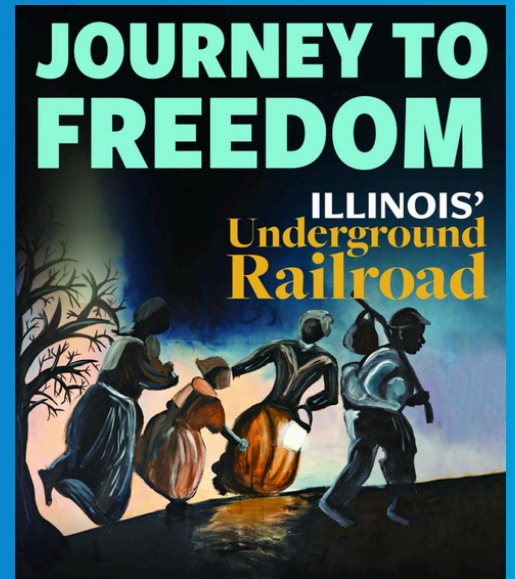
1999 Wabash Ave., Suite 206  
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Springfield's recurring social and educational series for active retirees.

## *Knosh & Knowledge*

**Wednesday, November 27, 2024**  
**10 am - Note Special Start Time**

**Journey to Freedom:  
Illinois' Underground Railroad  
Exhibit at Lincoln Library  
At  
Lincoln Library, 326 S 7th St.**



RSVP by Mon., November 25,  
to (217) 787-7223 x 4  
or [rsvp@shalomspringfield.org](mailto:rsvp@shalomspringfield.org)

# NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 9:30 am TI Service 10:30 am Chabad Service 4 p m TI Cantorial Music Program & Havdallah 5:30 pm TBS Service 8 pm TI Service
3 9:30 am SBJE Religious School <b>12 pm Fed P2G Book Club</b>	4 7 pm Hadassah Book Club	5 <b>Election Day</b>	6 7 pm Fed. Bd Mtg	7 12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn	8 5:30 pm TBS Service 7 pm TI Service	9 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
10 <b>10 am Fed PJ Play Date</b> 2 pm TBS Exec. Bd. Meeting	11 <b>Veterans Day Federation Closed</b>	12 1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club 2 pm TI S'Hd Exec. Bd Mtg	13 7 pm Hadassah Gen Mtg	14 12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn 7 pm TI Bd Mtg	15 6 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	16 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
17 9:30 am SBJE Religious School 10 am TBS Upscale Chic & Fabulous Sale	18 7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	19 7 pm SBJE Bd Mtg <b>7 pm Fed Exec Comm. Mtg</b>	20 12 pm TI S'Hd Activity	21 12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn <b>7 pm Fed JCRC Mtg</b>	22 6 pm TI Service 6 pm TBS Service	23 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
24 9:30 am SBJE Religious School	25	26 7 pm TBS Bd Mtg	27 <b>10 am Fed Knosh &amp; Knowledge</b>	28 12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn <b>Thanksgiving Federation Closed</b>	29 6 pm TI Service 6 pm TBS Service	30 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service

# SAGE NOTES

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Nancy Sage  
Executive Director

It is difficult to believe that this is my last column. Unlike any other, I have not struggled with what to write.

I begin by thanking you for the honor of serving as Executive Director of our Federation. It is most gratifying to work on behalf of and with our community. Springfield is a community that comes together more often than not, and always during the most challenging times. Our community cares for and about each other, and even when we disagree, care does not dissipate. Care is the strength of our community, and it is my inspiration.

I am especially thankful for the wisdom and guidance given so selflessly by our Federation Boards of Directors. Each Federation president has been an invaluable partner in assuring that we stay true to the Federation's mission, and they have been faithful stewards through all the challenges confronting our community during these past years. Committee members and the chairs design the programs and events that have been Federation's hallmark. We would not be able to do what we do without people volunteering to distribute food at healthy foods distributions, to greet and check people in at events, to find speakers, recommend movies, and share their thoughts about what the Federation does and how the Federation does it. There are so many moving parts, working together in harmony to build this community,

Federation is the central address or the umbrella organization for Jewish Springfield. I am fortunate to have worked with Rabbis, Board Presidents, and "joint organization committees." Please know that each one acts in the best interests of their own organization and yet, each respects what works in the interests of the broader Jewish community. This is particularly true regarding the Jewish Community Relations Council, of which Federation is the convenor. JCRC's response team deals with crisis situations that confront our community and, in handling such challenges, always prioritizes the well-being of the overall community,

I am indebted to the Federation staff – the dream team -- Wendy Evans-Terry and Betsy Salus. They are talented and dedicated to the Federation's mission; they exemplify teamwork and always perform beyond my expectations. Nothing that takes place at Federation and nothing that Federation accomplishes could happen without them.

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# SAGE NOTES

(Continued)

I have had wonderful opportunities as Federation director. I have gone on missions to Israel and to Ethiopia where I have seen your Federation donations help to save and change lives. My participation in the Rosenwald Initiative has given me appreciation for the lifework of Springfield-born Julius Rosenwald and his efforts to provide education of Black Americans in times of segregation and rampant Racism. The Life & Legacy program with which I was involved enabled Federation and the two Temples to add substantially to their endowment funds and assure a more secure future. I have worked with SCN (Secure Community Network) and local and Federal law enforcement to keep our community's institutions safe and secure. I think I could write forever about the privileges afforded to me as Executive Director from working on the Violins of Hope concerts to speaking in support of the 1908 Race Riot monument. I have enjoyed working with so many local organizations on meaningful community endeavors.

What I really cherish, however, is the day-to-day work of Federation – connecting with the community, answering questions, and providing support. It is an honor to have served you and to have represented our Jewish community.

Federation was built on the traditions of Torah, learning; tzedakah, charity; chesed, caring for others; and klal Yisrael, love for the Jewish people. These values have been a constant since our Federation was founded and will continue to be at the heart of Federation moving forward.

I will carry my memories, friendships, lessons learned, and my love for the Federation and our community with me, always, and I can't thank you enough.

As much as I love serving as Federation executive director, I am looking forward to the time Barry and I will have together and with our family. It should be no secret that Barry's gentleness, understanding, caring for our community, intelligence, and love are my source of strength and sanity.

I wish all the best to the new executive director.

I am grateful to all of you for your trust and your support. May you go from strength to strength.

**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. 1. All calls are confidential, and your privacy will be respected.**

## 2024 CAMPAIGN KICKOFF EVENT



I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to committee members and all who organized and made the arrangements for the wonderful Campaign event held at Illini Country Club on Tuesday evening, October 29th. Thanks also to all of the community members and to all of the guests who attended. Your presence and your good wishes made the evening so special for me, and I will always cherish the memory.

I was deeply touched by the words of tribute spoken on the occasion of my retirement, by the proclamation read by our mayor, and by the establishment of a special fund for community security in my honor. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to see my predecessor and close friend Jo Gon, who was the featured speaker for the event.

I believe strongly in the mission of Federation, and I know that you will continue to support its efforts locally, in Israel and worldwide to strengthen Jewish communities and Jewish communal life and to save and change lives.

## OCTOBER 7 REMEMBRANCE





## HEALTHY FOODS DISTRIBUTION

At the October JCRC Healthy Foods Distribution, over 7,058 pounds of food was distributed to over 200 households.



## PJ PLAYDATE NOVEMBER 2024



## Federation Survey Results

By Bernie Schoenburg

*On behalf of the Futures Committee: Jay Mogerman, Bob Silverman, and Bernie Schoenburg*

If you look around at a Jewish event in Springfield and see people you've known for a long, long time, there could be a reason.

As a Jewish Federation of Springfield survey of members shows, the community is aging. Many people who took that survey also say they see a smaller Jewish community in the area in five or 10 years. But that's not stopping some from looking to the future and making sure programs and outreach make young people feel welcome.

Information about the survey was sent to more than 300 people, and 85 forms were returned. The survey period was in July through September, and with people choosing to participate or not, the sample wasn't scientific. But the results can let the Federation board and staff and membership get an indication of what people are thinking.

Participation in the survey itself gives a snapshot of who is active in Federation – or maybe who is retired and has time to fill out a survey. Of the 84 people who specified their age range, 52 were 70 or older, including 39 in the 70-79 range. Nobody under 30 responded.

Of those responding, 81 people answered a “yes” or “no” question asking if the Federation provides programs and services that are relevant to them, and 85 percent of them said “yes.” Comments accompanying that question included praise for wine tastings, “knosh and knowledge” events and the annual movie series. But suggestions for more were also made.

“I don't see much that interests me,” one commenter said, adding ideas like “multi-generational cooking classes,” crafting, community service projects, and generally things to involve families and “allow people to connect to their faith and each other without all the heavy (handedness).”

The survey listed eight Federation program areas, asking people to mark all they thought merit getting Federation resources. Topping the list with 83 percent was community relations, followed by 74 percent for combating hate and antisemitism and 71 percent for education-culture programs. Rounding out the list were 62 percent for senior services, 61 percent for Jewish community security, and just under 48 percent each for helping Jews across the world and social services and financial assistance. “Programs for families with preschoolers” was marked by 28 percent.

Comments in that section included a mention of interfaith couples and families, and involving young families more.

“Engaging and seeking out unaffiliated or uninvolved Jews in our community,” said another commenter. “I would like it if we could identify Jewish medical student/residents at SIU School of Medicine or new students at UIS to welcome them into our community and perhaps get them involved or even want to stay in Springfield after they graduate.”

Perhaps the most thought-provoking question asked thoughts on what the Springfield Jewish community would look like in five and 10 years. Sixty-two people wrote comments, with many reflecting similar ideas.

Of those responses, 42 indicated the community is shrinking; 18 spoke of it aging. Nine responses touched on the idea that Temple B'rith Sholom and Temple Israel should merge.

Four respondents indicated hope for a larger Jewish presence, and three spoke of the need to reach out to younger people.

"If we do not learn how to come together, we will have two abandoned temples, and we will be wandering around like the lost Jews in the desert," one commenter said.

"If we don't join together across temples it may not exist," another said. "Heartbreaking."

"Don't want to sound gloomy, but it will continue to age and shrink," yet another said. "In 10 years it will still be hobbling along; in 20 it will be like Decatur."

One commenter sees an eventual need for a combined Illinois Federation in areas outside Chicago, with Springfield being the logical place for its headquarters. Another said that in the long term, reaching out to people from their 20s to their 50s is "probably essential."

It was not all gloom and doom. One person said "Hopefully growing," adding a praying hands emoji.

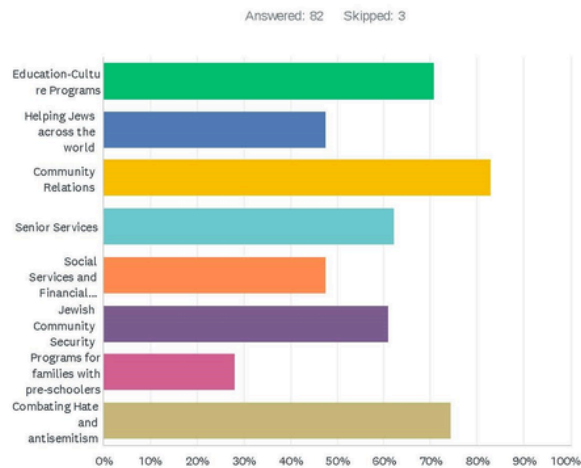
Another said the community will become "progressively younger, more diverse, more transient" and less temple affiliated "as the present community ages out (gently)."

"Hopefully it will be thriving," said another. "However, realistically, people who actively participate in events ... are getting older."

The survey committee included Bernie Schoenburg, Bob Silverman and Jay Mogerma. And thanks to Federation Executive Director Nancy Sage for working with the survey company and overseeing the process of getting it done.

The board has received the results, which can help guide the organization now and in coming years.

Q3 In what program areas should the Federation's leadership focus its financial and human resources? Click all that apply



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Education-Culture Programs	70.73% 58
Helping Jews across the world	47.56% 39
Community Relations	82.93% 68
Senior Services	62.20% 51
Social Services and Financial Assistance	47.56% 39
Jewish Community Security	60.98% 50
Programs for families with pre-schoolers	28.05% 23
Combating Hate and antisemitism	74.39% 61
Total Respondents: 82	

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## MAZEL TOV

### To:

**Julie Staley & Spencer Films:** 2024 Mid-America Emmy-Short Film Documentary - Music of Hope

**Hunter Gross:** 2024 Emmy Outstanding Editing News: for Trafficked

**Eva Marks:** 2024 This I Believe Essayist

## CONDOLENCES TO

Sara Lieber Eastep on the passing of

### Les Eastep

May his memory endure as a blessing.



## Thank You To Our Volunteers

**Food Distribution:** *Denise Arjmand, Bob Barewin, Marcia and Alan Blitstein, Deborah Derbander, Larry Golden, Rick Griminger, Cary Israel, Rabbi Marks, Barry Mendeloff, Elizabeth Mendeloff, Bob Silverman, and Barbara Wolfson*

**PJ Library:** *Kayla Morrison and Regan Marks*

**Campaign Kickoff Event:** *Event Chairs: Tom & Natalie Marantz and David Radwine; Campaign Committee: Remi Benichou, Barry Seidman, Bob Silverman, and Karen Westbrook; Event Volunteers: Deborah Derbander, Anne Morgan, and Bernie Schoenburg*

**Rosh Hashanah Packages & Visits:** *Denise Arjmand, Anna B., Mary Beth Cohen, Rabbi Mike Datz, Elizabeth Mendeloff, Anne Morgan, Jerry & Annette Schwartz, Barry & Sandy Weiss, and Grace Wenz*

**Oct. 7 Remembrance:** *Julie Abrams, Remi Benichou, Pat Chesley, Pamela Cohen, Cantor Sharon Colbert, Deborah Derbander, Sheri Dolan, Lori Hammel, Rabbi Greg Kanter, Elizabeth Mendeloff, Mike Merrill, Jamie & Leika Myers, Diana Odin, Kathleen Parienti, Zvi Pasman, Mark Rabin, David Radwine, Bob Roth, Kim Schoenburg, Gloria Schwartz, Barbara Seidman, Merle Shiffman, Natalie Silverman, Rabbi Arthur Stern, Rabbi Mendy Turen, and Brad Zeiger*

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

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#### In Memory of:

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#### Nancy Sage Security Fund

#### In Honor of:

**Nancy Sage,** from Ricardo Thompson & Luz Lopez

#### Hexter Fund

#### In Memory of:

**Michael Schwartz,** from Donna Surman



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