

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS.



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JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

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The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis is to promote the vision of a vibrant, engaged, inclusive, and sustainable Jewish community by serving as its central philanthropic, planning, community engagement, and unifying partner.



JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS.

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Want to promote your name or business to our 5,000 households? The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis now offers advertising! Contact Andrea Kruszynski, Director of Communications and Editor at akruszynski@jfgi.org for a rate sheet and more information.

Dear Readers,

There is a famous midrash (a story interpreting the Bible in a Jewish context) that says when the Israelite people received the Torah at Mount Sinai, every Jewish soul—past, present and future—was there. It is a powerful lesson of unity, of shared destiny, and of collective purpose.



Marc Swatez
MARC SWATEZ
Chief Executive Officer

This midrash explains why we all feel the fear and pain that was experienced at the Nova Music Festival. It is why we are repelled by the thought of abandoning our hostages to the Gaza tunnels. And it accounts for the sinking feeling we experience when we learn about Jews in need here at home and around the world.

As Jews, we are truly bound TOGETHER AS ONE (which also happens to be this year's Annual Campaign theme – see Page 3 for more).

A united community is the foundational building block of Jewish life. So when the Jewish Federation is raising money and proving critical services, that is just a means to an end. Our goal is not growing a campaign and having successful programs. Rather, our goal is a flourishing Jewish community that extends far beyond our reach and provides for the varied and special needs of every Jewish household. For example:

- The Hamsa Fund provides funds for over 100 young people to have education and life enrichment opportunities, many of which choose to participate in a more fully Jewish life.
- PJ Library delivers monthly Jewish books to over 600 children in our community.
- Our leadership development programs like Prystowsky ATID, 36 Under 36, and the Maurer Koach Program identify and motivate our community's emerging and future leaders.
- Our annual campaign is the financial backbone of the entire community supporting services and programs through our agencies, Jewish organizations, and Israel and overseas.

Our job at the Jewish Federation is to make sure our community has everything it needs to thrive. It's not about what we can do for ourselves, it's about what we can provide for the community and our partners. We know that when they have what they need to excel, we are all lifted up. And we do this TOGETHER AS ONE.

Every year is a fresh start. The responsibility never fades. We must raise the funds and plan the programs that allow our entire community to rise. None of this can be done alone.

When you stand with us, we all stand together at Mount Sinai.

JFGI Launches 2025 Annual Campaign with New Theme

Together As One

We secure, We support, We respond, We engage



As we look ahead into 2025 and consider navigating a post-October 7 world, one thing is clear. The greater Indianapolis Jewish Community has connected and come together to create opportunities to feel safe and find togetherness.

Together, we are one people.

Together As One, we build community.

Together As One, we extend a helping hand to others.

Together As One, we are a source of strength and resilience.

Together As One, we stand up to hate and the rising tide of antisemitism.

Together As One, we uplift Israel and our partners by offering our unwavering support.

Together As One, we keep Jewish life thriving, not just in times of crisis, but every day, every year.

Together As One, we will ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities worldwide.

Together As One, we will lead the way to a brighter tomorrow where Jewish life flourishes for generations to come.

2025 will be the year that we stand up taller than ever with Jewish pride and dive ever deeper into what it means for each person to find community. We invite you to hear the call and respond by writing a new chapter, **Together As One**, for a future that's proud, engaged, and continues to thrive.

Be a part of something big, and fight for a future of a Jewish world because we are in this **Together As One**.

Warmly,

Rebecca Schalit-Newman

Rebecca Schalit-Newman
JFGI Chief Development Officer

Hundreds of Women Attend Philanthropic Event Featuring Lizzy Savetsky

Almost 300 women came together during the Women's Philanthropy signature event, Talking Antisemitism & Influence with Lizzy Savetsky, in October. Savetsky is a social media influencer and Israeli activist. Savetsky's inspiring remarks were moderated by Rachel M. Simon, President of the Herbert Simon Family Foundation. Her words illuminated the power that each individual holds, and the exponential impact women in the community can achieve together. Look out for more impactful Women's Philanthropy events in 2025!



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Jewish Federation
of Greater Indianapolis
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

1. Braca Cantor beautifully sings the national anthems.
2. Ginat Mirowski and Cara Berg Raunick pose with Lizzy Savetsky.
3. Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair Linda Mordoh kicks off the evening's program.
4. Women's Philanthropy Committee member Victoria Shmoel and JFGI President Helen Kurlander Goldstein.
5. Rachel M. Simon moderates a discussion with keynote speaker, Lizzy Savetsky.
6. The Women's Philanthropy Committee with Lizzy Savetsky.
7. Lizzy Savetsky took photos with women who attended the special VIP reception.
8. Lizzy Savetsky took photos with women who attended the special VIP reception.
9. Ali Weiss and Reva Weiss.
10. Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair Marina Grabovsky thanks the committee for putting on an amazing event.
11. Janine Shapiro and Lizzy Savetsky.
12. Esther Fogle and Rachel Albert.
13. Alyssa Teitelbaum, Patty Goodman and Ashley Florman.

36 Under 36 Honorees Celebrated with Awards Dinner, Featuring Michael Rapaport

The greater Indianapolis Jewish community's emerging and future leaders in the 36 Under 36 cohort were celebrated with a dinner and awards ceremony in November. Following an awards ceremony, David Katz, past 36 Under 36 honoree and Jewish Community Center Board Vice President, moderated an informative discussion with Michael Rapaport, actor, comedian, and Israeli activist. He talked about coming up through Hollywood, brought many laughs, and reminded us that amid this war, Jewish joy can still be found.



1. Honoree Taylor Nefouse and guests.
2. Attendees enjoy a cocktail hour before the program.
3. Attendees enjoy a cocktail hour before the program.
4. The 2024 Class of 36 Under 36.
5. Almost 300 people attended the Honoree Celebration.
6. Ruthie Rosenberg sings the national anthems.
7. Helen Kurlander Goldstein provides a welcome address.
8. David Katz moderated the discussion with keynote speaker Michael Rapaport.
9. Shayna Gordon Cohen and Zak Cohen pose with Michael Rapaport during the VIP reception.
10. Jason Kirschtel and Erica Abrams.



18 Under 18 To Launch in 2025!

On the heels of a successful 36 Under 36 leadership cohort, the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis is offering the inaugural 18 Under 18 program, which recognizes Jewish teens in the Indianapolis area for their leadership and involvement in the community. Nominations will open this Spring. More information coming soon!

Maurer Koach Program Heads to Chicago



The second Maurer Koach Program cohort traveled to Chicago in November to learn about the Jewish community's security infrastructure. After a tour of the Secure Community Network headquarters, they enjoyed lunch together at an iconic deli.

BEYOND BARRIERS

Barriers to care are not always obvious. Language, nutrition, education, geography and awareness all affect a family's ability to access health care. Thanks in part to community partners, volunteers and donors, these barriers are being overcome. Learn more or join the movement at EskenaziHealth.edu.

**ESKENAZI
HEALTH**



Challah Braiding Workshop with The Challah Prince, Idan Chabasov

Kickoff the 2025 Annual Campaign and participate in an unforgettable challah braiding experience with The Challah Prince. Known for his viral tutorials on TikTok and Instagram, Idan Chabasov will lead a hands-on demonstration. Braid challah alongside the prince, and take home your creation to bake!

6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6
Cost is \$18 per person,
\$136 for a table of 8.

Laikin Auditorium,
Max & Mae Simon
Jewish Community Campus.

Visit www.jewishindianapolis.org/challah-prince
for more information and to register.

Buy your tickets by Jan. 31 and receive \$8
off your ticket with the code "challah"

Contact Rebecca Schalit-Newman at
rschalitnewman@jfgi.org with questions.

Leaders Working Together As One



Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and Executive Directors of the Indianapolis Jewish Community agencies recently met for breakfast. These recurring meetings help strengthen relationships and foster collaboration throughout the Jewish community. Pictured clockwise from bottom left: Rachel Katz, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services; Sam Dubrinsky, CEO of the Jewish Community Center; David Sklar, Executive Director of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council; Lori Halperin, Principal of Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis; Evan Lubline, CEO of Hooverwood Living; and Marc Swatez, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

YoPhl Teen Cohort



The Youth Philanthropy Indy (YoPhl) teen philanthropic board is well on its way to becoming an impactful and positive force in the Indianapolis Jewish community. Students have embarked on their philanthropic journey with the creation of a mission statement and are steps away from making a grant to a nonprofit of their choosing. High school students interested in the 2025-26 YoPhl cohort can apply this summer.



The Indianapolis Jewish Community Book of Life is an opportunity to share your story and your values in your own words. Add your chapter today!



"Judaism has always been a way of life for me. Most of my friends are Jewish and the organizations that I volunteer my time to are Jewish organizations. I have made legacy gifts to Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and Jewish Family Services. These gifts were all made to ensure the survival of the Jewish community and innovative programming to match the ever-changing needs of the community." - **Diane Lutz**

Indianapolis Shaliach Hits The Ground Running

In September 2024, I arrived at the Indianapolis Airport, excited to meet members of the community and to learn more about my new home. So far, the experience has been amazing. From day one, people welcomed me with open arms and have been eager to share the community with me. I can easily say that I have the best community among all the Shlichim in North America!

Festival of Faiths, joining a shofar making event, and speaking at Congregations Beth-El Zedeck and Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, JCC board, Hooverwood Living, and more!

I have also spent time working with the various youth groups throughout the city including BBYO, YOPHI, Student to Student, NIFTY, CTeen and the students at Hasten Hebrew Academy. Before moving to Indianapolis, I spent time working with children and teens both in Israel and the United States. I am looking forward to growing and supporting programs for this age group as I see the youth of our community as the future leaders of tomorrow.

As I reflect on my experience so far, I can say the best part has been sharing Shabbat and meals in people's homes. Having dinner and talking about life has allowed me to see how much love we have here in the community and for each other. Spending time with you all has shown me that there is a desire for a connection to Israel and her people, which gives inspiration for programs to share with you.

If you would like to connect, please email me at ayaakoby@jfgi.org.

Wishing you the best year yet!

Aviya

Over the last three months, I have had the opportunity to join many programs throughout the community. Some of those programs have included helping to host an academic delegation from the Western Galilee College through Partnership2Gether, attending the

2024 Israel & Overseas Allocations Recap

Across the Federation system, Jewish communities are focused on impact funding through grants to specific organizations in Israel and overseas. Communities are empowered to identify areas of interest and priorities as to where and how they want their dollars to impact Jews worldwide.

There also continues to be significant value in supporting long-time funding partners in overseas work as defined by Jewish Federations of North America to include The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee, and World ORT, described below. With staff on the ground and infrastructure in place, these organizations are able to respond immediately as needs present themselves or crises arise, as we have seen since Oct. 7.

Our Israel and Overseas committee has chosen to distribute funds approved by the Planning and Allocations committee using both models.

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/ioreport24>.

Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut
Community-Wide Program
Sunday, April 27
More information coming soon!

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis

FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC

WILLS AND ADVANCE PLANNING

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday, March 10,
Laikin Auditorium
6705 Hoover Road, enter through Door #5

PLEASE SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
Walk-ins may also be accepted but we cannot guarantee a slot without an appointment

Lawyers from a local firm will be on site and may be able to help you with:

- Creating a will, which allows you to plan for your family's future
- Appointing a financial and/or healthcare power of attorney
- Creating a living will and other advance directives

Contact **Julie Sondhelm** at (317) 536-1476 to schedule an appointment or for more information

This event is for adults age 55 and older or individuals with disabilities and will only assist with advance care planning.



JFGI Scholarships Invest in the Community

There's still time to apply for a JFGI scholarship or grant!

Whether you are looking to support your own personal growth or that of a family member through an academic award or a grant to support summer camp or Israel experiences, the Federation is accepting scholarship applications through March 1, 2025. Scholarship and grant criteria vary depending on the award type, so consider what aligns best with your or your family's needs and apply accordingly.

Last year, nearly \$18,000 in academic and experiential awards were allocated to individuals, and one of those individuals received the Federation's most recently established scholarship, the Svetlana and Zinovy Grimberg Endowed Scholarship: Libby Karon.

Libby lives in Bloomington and her family appreciates the investment by the Grimberg family to support a working female community member seeking to advance her education.

"I chose to return to school at IU after the

Covid pandemic forced me to leave 10 years of teaching preschool," Karon said.

She initially was pursuing academic advising but shifted to counseling last year. She added, "Following the events of October 7, 2023, I was connected with Hillel at Indiana University as they were seeking volunteers to support the Jewish students on campus."

As she transitioned from academic advising to counseling theories, Karon sought ways to maximize her education while balancing responsibilities and experiences for her family in Bloomington. "Receiving this scholarship in 2024 was an incredible gift to me and my family. The Grimberg scholarship made it possible for me to double my courseload this year and improve the quality of my educational experience. It also allowed me to demonstrate to my kids the importance of continued education while still being able to support their next steps toward college," she said.

Karon continues to be enrolled in her program and looks forward to graduating

sooner thanks to this scholarship. Her story is one of many from 2024 and reflects the vision of JFGI scholarship providers to help members of the community have meaningful Jewish and educational experiences. Individuals can learn more about the program and begin the application process by visiting jewishindianapolis.org/scholarships.



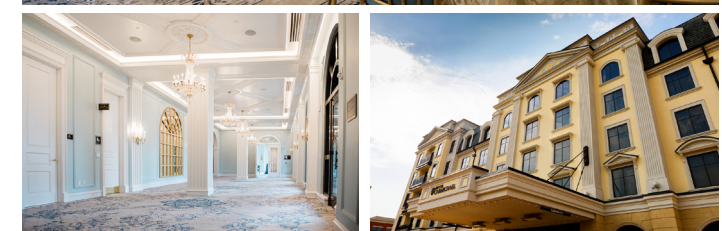
Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

SAVE THE DATE

1-3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17
Laikin Auditorium,
6705 Hoover Road

Women and children are invited to spend President's Day by making Mishloach Manot gift packages to Indianapolis Holocaust survivors for Purim!

More details to come!



ELEVATE YOUR EVENT TO NEW HEIGHTS

Hotel Carmichael, located in the heart of Carmel, specializes in creating unforgettable event experiences. Our versatile event spaces bathed in natural light and featuring a terrace with stunning views of the Palladium, are perfect for weddings, corporate events, and large gatherings. Our dedicated team ensures every detail is flawless, making Hotel Carmichael the premier choice for your next event.

Contact us to learn more!
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AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION HOTELS



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NEXTGen

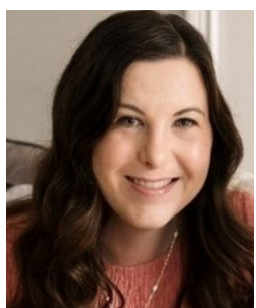
www.jewishindianapolis.org/what-we-do/nextgen @jfginextgen @jfginextgen

NEXTGen Friendsgiving Shabbat



Almost 40 friends new and old celebrated Shabbat and Friendsgiving in November. There were drinks, laughs and a beautiful lakeside view while noshing on a fancy Thanksgiving meal.

Meet The NEXTGen Committee Members



Hi! My name is Megan Snow and I've been involved with NEXTGen for the past 6-7 years. My first event was a happy hour downtown. Everyone was so kind and welcoming and I loved being able to connect with other local Jews. After attending a few consecutive events, I started seeing more familiar faces and this eventually led to fostering some of my closest friendships. Over the years, NEXTGen has served as an entrance point to

further involvement in the Jewish community. I've enjoyed volunteering at Hooverwood with my dog, attending community events, and cheering on my husband in the Jewish community synagogue softball league. As a new mother, I'm now excited to get more involved with PJ Library while still continuing fun outings with Next Gen!"



Hi! My name is Erica Abrams. NextGen was my introduction into the Indianapolis Jewish community; it has provided me opportunities to meet people my own age who are also eager to be involved in Jewish life. I have loved getting to meet those who work with federation agencies such as JFS, JCC and JCRC. It has really expanded my network and helped me identify which parts of the Jewish community I am most passionate about getting involved with.

I don't have one specific favorite NextGen memory, but all of them have built upon one another to build strong friendships. I met many members of my chosen "Indianapolis Family" through attending happy hours and being a member of the NEXTGen community.

NEXTGeners Attend a Night of Trivia



NEXTGen brought more than 30 young Jewish community members together in October for a fun evening to play Trivia and schmooze at the Tap in Downtown Indianapolis.



PJ Library

jewishindianapolis.org/programs/pj-library

@pjlibrarygreaterindianapolis @PJLibraryGreaterIndianapolis

Sukkot Family Extravaganza at Chabad

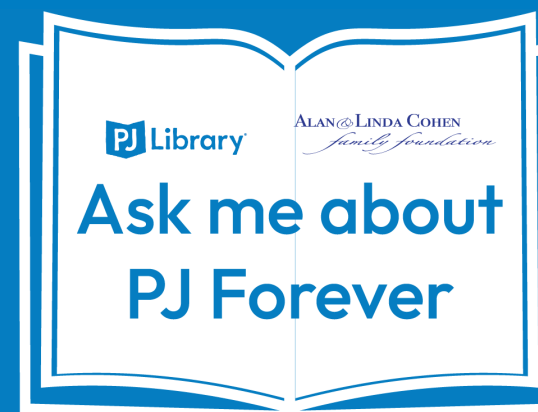
More than 200 attendees enjoyed Sukkot themed activities and explored vehicles of all shapes and sizes!



Participants created their own lulav and edible etrog out of art materials and sugar cookies.



Families enjoyed exploring emergency vehicles from the City of Carmel for touch-a-truck.



Now through April, all contributions toward the PJ Library Endowment will be matched with an extra 25 percent. Support our children and invest in our future to ensure PJ Forever! Contact Brian at bhoffman@jfgi.org to make your impact felt for generations.



Tu b'shvat Sprouts: Growing and Exploring

Join PJ Library and HHAJ at the Children's Museum for a playdate and activity in the STEM Lab.

2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23

Indianapolis Children's Museum STEM LAB
3000 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis

Cost is \$5 per child,
\$8 per adult

Register at bit.ly/pjsprouts

Contact Marissa Missan at mmissan@hjai.org with questions.



Visit the Jewish community Library and peruse a diverse collection of books!

Library Hours:
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Access the collection at
<https://indypl.bibliocommons.com>

Contact Andrea Burnett, Library Coordinator,
at library@jfgi.org or (317) 614-1836 ext 3711
for more information.



Jewish Family Services

www.jewishindianapolis.org/social-services @indyJFS @indyJFS

A Clinician's View: Insights from the Frontlines of Community

Pathways to Community for Lower-Income Jews

My previous article laid out the case for the vital importance of community engagement and belonging for our communal and individual emotional wellbeing. As we build pathways to community involvement, let's consider the added challenges for Jews to afford and access connection to the Jewish community when they are income constrained. We have data and facts now to support what we at JFS here and across the country have seen for years.

A recent study by the Jewish Federations of North America has determined up to 20% of Jewish Americans are struggling to cover basic needs or to be able to handle a crisis situation. For Jewish households with someone with a health issue or disability, that number rises to 30%. What are those basic needs? Housing, transportation, food, medication and health care, utilities, child care are but a few examples. This list does not include the hallmarks of Jewish life- Jewish education, synagogue and JCC membership, bar and bat mitzvah celebrations, ritual meals and holiday celebration expenses, Jewish camp and other religious experiences. We know in the hierarchy of needs, basic needs must be attended to first. What does this mean on a practical basis? We may not be serving all those in the Jewish world who desire and need that connection. Over time, those left behind because they cannot access or participate in community are broken links in the fabric of our heritage.

This concept is reflected in other data-

46% of financially vulnerable Jews say they feel connected within the Jewish community, compared to 58% of the overall Jewish population (JFNA statistics). Much has been studied about the impact of Oct 7th upon our communities and how vital relationships with other Jews and the feeling of belonging is to navigate these difficult times. Since Oct 7th, 43% of Jews are indicating they are seeking greater engagement in the community, but financially vulnerable Jews are finding it still challenging, with 21% of them experiencing more loneliness or distance from community.

What are these barriers to access community? They aren't only financial. First is awareness of the issue. If financially vulnerable Jews find it difficult to be in communal spaces, how do other Jews see their need and experience? Second, we are potentially impacted by societal bias about our own population as being wealthy and without much financial struggle. Think about the disparity revealed by TEN about how Jews are represented in film and television- we are 10 times more likely to be seen in film and television as wealthy than as Jews experiencing poverty, as opposed to the reality that more than a quarter of Jewish households report financial struggle. Third, financially vulnerable Jews face other barriers- where are they able to afford to live? How do they get to services and events? Who is in their environment to socialize with? How do they create opportunities for their children to be around other Jewish children if they cannot afford those activities?

How we address these barriers and build bridges for everyone to access community is a longer and larger discussion, but there are things we can and are implementing now.

1. Be informed- gather and share information about the reality of financial struggle within our community
2. Emphasize information about how to access grants and supports within the community that already exist for memberships, education, program scholarships. Many times people who need those supports to belong do not know about them or feel embarrassed to ask.
3. Connect to and support efforts at JFS to meet basic needs through emergency funds, Popsie's Pantry and case management. Meeting basic needs creates space for engagement.
4. Reduce the stigma associated with financial challenges by acknowledgement of its reality. We can adapt how we talk to our kids, how we talk amongst ourselves, and how we structure initiatives in our organizations.

"May the dignity of your fellow be as dear to you as your own" - Pirkei Avot. May we all find the strength to continue our good work to build a community that exemplifies this deeply held Jewish value of inclusivity and mutual respect.

This article was written by Julie Sondhelm LCSW, Clinical Director, JFS.



Introducing Thrive! Jewish Family Services' Comprehensive Older Adult Program

Jewish Family Services is proud to introduce Thrive, a comprehensive service dedicated to empowering older adults to live with dignity, independence, and vitality. Thrive encompasses social and recreational opportunities, as well as guidance and information in key areas such as housing, food and nutrition, transportation, healthcare, and more.

Visit www.jewishindianapolis.org/thrive to learn more.

Contact Clinical Director, Julie Sondhelm LCSW at (317) 536-1476 or jsondhelm@jfgi.org.



COME CELEBRATE LORI POPP MOSS AND ALL HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

At the end of 2024, Lori Popp Moss will be retiring after 40 years of dedicated service in the community. She has been a great source of strength and compassion and has touched the lives of thousands upon thousands of people during her career.

6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025

At the home of Lynda and Don Katz (address provided after RSVP)

Register at: <https://bit.ly/lorimoss>

Contact Rachel Katz at rkatz@jfgi.org or (317) 259-6817 with questions.

Committee Members
Jennifer Berday, Lynda Goeke Katz (Event Chair), Linda Hewitt,
Mario Katz, Rachel Katz, Barb Levy, Julie Sondhelm, Sara Weinberger

Rachel Katz named Executive Director of Jewish Family Services, Julie Sondhelm as Clinical Director



With 14 years of Jewish nonprofit experience, and over 9 years at Jewish Family Services, Rachel Katz was recently named the new Executive Director. Julie Sondhelm MSW LCSW will continue to serve as the Clinical Director, bringing both continuity and extensive clinical experience to the role. Together, Rachel and Julie form a dynamic leadership team, combining strategic oversight with clinical expertise to ensure the organization's success.

"It's truly an honor to serve this community each day - the work we do is difficult but so incredibly meaningful and important," Katz said. "I am lucky to work with such a talented and dedicated team of professionals, and to be surrounded by generous, supportive, and bright volunteer leaders. Together we can enhance and expand the human services sector in our city and help create a community in which no person faces life challenges alone."



Hooverwood Living and Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis Women's Connection, Empower and Impact series are coming together to welcome all women for a women-focused event featuring expert insights on women's health, practical tips for keeping your heart happy and strong, and heart-healthy drinks and dessert.

Don't forget to wear red to celebrate American Heart Month!

6:30 - 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6
Hooverwood Living, 7001 Hoover Road

Register at bit.ly/ourhearts25

Contact Rebecca Schalit-Newman at rschalitnewman@jfgi.org or Jacqui Goldstein at jgoldstein@hooverwood.org for more information.

Dietary Laws Observed

Women's Engagement Committee
Daniella Bennett, Mollie Tavel Kaback,
Emma Law-Oppman, Julie Singer

Adopt-a-Family Supports More Than 300 People

In December, over 1,000 people were involved in Adopt-a-Family, a very special program that gifted nearly 100 Jewish households the opportunity to celebrate Chanukah having their basic needs met as well as their wishes. Life can be challenging at times, but the support of community can mean the world!



1. NEXTGeners wrap gifts for their adopted family.
2. Eva Distler and Maddie Palmer pose at the photo booth.
3. Marlo Katz, Adopt-a-Family chair, interviews with FOX59.
4. Marissa Missan and Margo Fox pause for a high five.
5. Sandy Nachlis, Brian Nachlis, and Josh Lodolo wrap gifts.
6. The hardworking Jewish Family Services team: Rachel Katz, Julie Sondhelm, and Sally Catlin.
7. Karina and Andy Rosenthal pose with their wrapped gifts.
8. Addy and Evan Hinderliter show off their face paint.
9. Libby and Elizabeth Karon came from Bloomington to wrap gifts.
10. Diane Abrams and Leslie, Bella and Dylan Tobe pose at the photo booth.



Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

www.hhai.org



@hastenhebrewacademy



@hhaistars

Serving Up Success: Highlights From the Inaugural HHA Kosher Pickleball Tournament

The first-ever HHA Kosher Pickleball Tournament hit it out of the park, drawing 56 players and over 100 generous sponsors for a day full of competition, camaraderie, and community spirit. The event was a smashing success, not only raising vital funds for the school's educational programs but also strengthening the bond between the school and Jewish community members.

As an added bonus, part of the funds raised will go toward purchasing pickleball equipment for the school's athletics program.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated—whether by playing, sponsoring, or volunteering," the event organizers said. "Your enthusiasm, support, and sportsmanship helped make this event a remarkable experience for all involved."



The tournament featured a spirited mix of seasoned pickleball players and beginners, all coming together in the name of good sport and a good cause.

A heartfelt thanks was extended to the event's planning committee, whose dedication and hard work made it all possible. Special recognition was given to dynamic co-chairs Marina Grabovsky and Gigi Marks Felsher, whose leadership and vision helped bring the event to life. Their tireless efforts ensured that the tournament was not only well-organized but also an event that participants will be talking about for years to come.

"The success of this tournament is a true testament to the strength of our community," Grabovsky said. "It's incredible to see so many come together for such a meaningful cause. We're already looking forward to making next year's tournament even bigger and better."



Hasten Hebrew Academy
HHAI.org

TOUR TODAY!

12 Months - 8th Grade



Know your child's options

Schedule: <https://calendly.com/mmissan-hhai/schedule>





CampJCC 2025

At CampJCC, JCC Indy's Jewish day camp, kids in grades K-9 and CITs begin each morning with a Boker Tov, end each week with a rousing Shabbat celebration, and round out the summer with daily swimming in the Eskenazi Water Park. They also participate in traditions like the Leon Mordoh Lip Sync and Yom Sport color war.

For ONE DAY ONLY, JCC members get the opportunity to register for camp before registration opens to the public! Visit [JCCindy.org/summer-camps](https://jccindy.org/summer-camps) for priority registration, which gets your rate locked in at a 7 percent discount only available beginning at 8 a.m., on Sunday, March 2. Public registration opens approximately one week later and remains open throughout camp season.

If you're over camper age but this still sounds like a blast, apply to work as a CampJCC counselor! Visit [JCCindy.org/careers](https://jccindy.org/careers) to apply.



The Marcia and Bruce Sklare JFIT Studio is Here!



The first session of classes in the JCC's NEW Marcia and Bruce Sklare JFIT Studio officially launches January 13, 2025! This new studio will serve JCC members and non-members alike of all levels and abilities, from those with Parkinson's or other neuromotor diseases to small groups desiring focused, session-based training. The studio's PowerSystems equipment includes a rubber/turf floor with sleds to push, TRX straps, boxing bags, battle ropes, self-motivated cardio equipment, and Bosu balls. The studio lights also change colors based on the intensity of the program currently using the space.

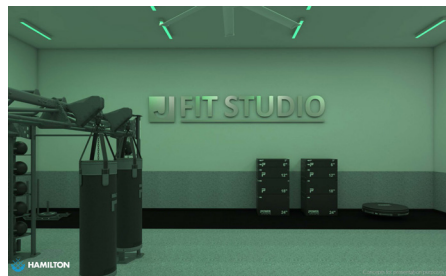
Classes held in the Marcia and Bruce Sklare JFIT Studio are broken out into three categories:

- JFIT Thrive (green lights) low-impact programming, featuring Parkinson's boxing and other resistance-based

- strength and gait/balance classes to build bone density and confidence
- JFIT Strive (purple lights) mid-level focused, lower-commitment training, including small group HIIT, mat-based core and cardio kickboxing classes (these launch Jan 1!)
- JFIT Drive (red lights) hardcore six-week strength or cardiac conditioning programs, with logged baselines and incremental metric progression

While JFIT Strive classes are free for JCC members, JFIT Thrive and JFIT Drive classes are fee-based six-week sessions (\$156 / \$120 JCC Members). Visit [JCCindy.org/jfit-fitness-studio](https://jccindy.org/jfit-fitness-studio) for registration and more information.

The JCC extends a hearty todah rabah (thank you very much) to longtime JCC members and advocates Marcia and Bruce Sklare for their generous support of this project!



JCC Maccabi Games Heading to Tucson!



July 27-Aug. 1 in Tucson, Ariz., be one of 15 from Indy to compete in an Olympic-style competition for Jewish teens in baseball, basketball (3x3 or 5x5), flag football, volleyball, dance, golf, soccer, ping pong, tennis, or swimming, or report on it! Learn more and sign up for more information on the JCC Maccabi Games at [JCCindy.org/teen-programs](https://jccindy.org/teen-programs).



Thanks to all who attended the 26th annual Ann Katz Festival of Books & Arts in October and November! From experiencing Jewish joy with Ladino singer Sarah Aroeste and Jerusalem chef Moshe Basson to talking social justice with Rabbi Sandra Lawson, and from understanding the power of storytelling with Alex Kor and Lee Yaron to continued partnerships with Heartland Film (featuring *The Ice Cream Man*) and Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation's Justice and Judaism (featuring B.J. Novak), the Festival resoundingly achieved its aim of entertaining, educating and inspiring audience and community members through a Jewish lens.



Food was provided by Jerusalem chef Moshe Basson's *The Eucalyptus Cookbook*. The crowd listened to Basson and Martha Hoover discussing Kosher Israeli cuisine, the spiritual connection to food, and the deep cultural ties to the Holy Land.



B.J. Novak of *The Office* discussing his Jewish upbringing and sensibilities with Rabbi Brett Krichiver and Cantor Aviva Marer at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation's Justice and Judaism.



Alex Kor, co-author Graham Honaker and CANDLES Holocaust Museum Executive Director Troy Fears discussing Kor's memoir *A Blessing, Not a Burden*.



The crowd at the Heartland Film Best of Indy Shorts screening, featuring *The Ice Cream Man*.



Rabbi Sandra Lawson embracing an old friend.



Haaretz journalist and 10/7 author Lee Yaron interviewed by Jamie Ratner Rich.



Rabbi Sandra Lawson interviewed by JCC CEO Sam Dubrinsky.



Sarah Aroeste captivated the audience with her soulful Ladino music, weaving together the sounds of Sephardic tradition and modern artistry.



JCRC Expands Israel Around the Table



JCRC is expanding the Israel Around the Table (IATT) program. IATT brings people together over a shared meal for meaningful discussions on Israeli history, society, and culture, creating a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and connect with others. Sessions will cover topics like the diversity of Israeli society, Israel's political and electoral systems, and Israel's commitment to protecting Jews worldwide.

Following strong interest from the community, IATT will now offer separate sessions for young professionals (ages 22-45) and people 45+. The program is also increasing in frequency, so there will be more opportunities than ever to participate and engage with new topics.

Contact Yaniv Shmukler at yshmukler@indyjrc.org if you are interested in attending a future session or hosting an IATT gathering.

26th ANNUAL STATE OF INDIANA HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

INDIANA STATE HOUSE | NORTH ATRIUM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM



JCRC 2025 Legislative Priority – Nonprofit Security Funding

The JCRC's legislative priority for the 2025 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly will be a request to create and fund a new statewide nonprofit security grant program that will benefit qualified organizations that are at greater risk for threats due to their ideology, beliefs, or mission.

The program will be modeled off the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program that has benefited many of Indianapolis' Jewish Federation agencies and congregations.

Establishing a state program will help meet unmet needs in the community and create a more accessible funding source for smaller organizations that often lack the staffing and resources needed to secure a federal grant. JCRC is committed to working with lawmakers and community partners to make this vital program a reality.

Silver SUPPORT

7001 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260

First Session:

**THURSDAY
JANUARY 16TH
6:30 PM**

Silver support will be held on the third of every month.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Jacqui Goldstein at jgoldstein@hooverwood.org or call 317-251-2261

Attend the Silver Support Group: Navigating challenges such as loss, memory changes, and health concerns. This support group provides a safe and compassionate space for older adults to share their experiences and receive emotional support. Whether dealing with grief, dementia, or other life transitions, participants will find comfort in a community of peers who understand. Led by a trained facilitator, sessions offer guidance, coping strategies, and resources tailored to the specific needs of older adults.



On Veterans Day, Hooverwood honored the brave veterans in care and all those who have served. The event featured patriotic songs and a heartfelt ceremony to celebrate their courage and dedication.



Hooverwood Living welcomed Dr. Alex Kor for a Fireside Coffee and Conversations session in the Social Hall in November. Residents, families, and community members were grateful for the intimate opportunity to hear Dr. Kor share stories about his parents and their journey to forgiveness.



Indy's New Shaliach Aviya joined Hooverwood for the November Kibitz and Cocktails session. He explored everything from Israel and its culture to much more. JFGI's Ashley Flaumenhaft expertly led the discussion.



“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” – Leo Buscaglia

Your presence alone can make all the difference.

Get involved in the *mitzvah* of volunteering with Hooverwood Living or A.R.N. Hospice today. You never know how much of a difference your time and compassion can make in someone's life.



Contact Jacqui Goldstein at jgoldstein@hooverwood.org or (317) 251-2261 to get started.

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI HAL: 9-10 A.M. SATURDAYS AT BEZ.

WEEKLY MINYAN: 10 A.M. SUNDAYS AT BEZ; 7:30 A.M., WEDNESDAYS VIA ZOOM; AND 7:30 A.M. THURSDAYS AT BEZ.

COCKTAIL JUDAISM- ANTISEMITISM IN ISRAEL AND THE DIASPORA: 7-9 P.M. MONDAY, JAN. 6, LOCATION TBD. Get ready for a special Cocktail Judaism in January with Rabbi Hal and Aviya Yaakoby. Aviya, Indianapolis' new shaliach (Israeli emissary), will share insights about life in Israel and the ongoing situation there. The discussion will include the difference between antisemitism in Israel and antisemitism in the diaspora. Bring questions. RSVP to Robbie Alder at ralder@bez613.org.

TOT SHABBAT: 10 A.M. - NOON SATURDAY, JAN. 11 AT BEZ. Singing, movement, music, and more at a fun Shabbat service for newborns to 3-year-olds and their families and friends. Older siblings are welcome, too! RSVP to Robbie Alder at ralder@bez613.org.

SUNDAY MAHJ: 9:30 A.M. – NOON SUNDAYS, JAN. 12 AND 26, FEB. 2, 9 AND 23.

TORAH ON TAP WITH RABBI HAL: 7:30-9 P.M. THURSDAY, JAN. 16 AT KRAV MAGA WORLDWIDE. Join Rabbi Hal and Millennial and Gen Z professionals for Krav Maga Torah on Tap! This unique one-time event offers a hands-on introduction to Krav Maga, the Israeli self-defense technique. All fitness levels are welcome to learn the basics, connect with Jewish values, and enjoy refreshments with friends. Space is limited, so RSVP to Robbie Alder at ralder@bez613.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: 3:30 – 5 P.M. THURSDAY, JAN. 23 AT CROOKED CREEK FOOD PANTRY. Adults and children ages 9 and older are welcome to help distribute food to hundreds of community members facing food insecurity. Visit shorturl.at/1JvL1 to register, and for more information. Contact Robbie Alder at ralder@bez613.org with questions.

GRADES 6-7 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHABBAT: 6-7 P.M. FRIDAY, JAN. 24 AT BEZ

MINI MINYAN WITH CANTOR COHEN: 10:30 A.M. – NOON SATURDAY, JAN. 25 AT BEZ. Discover the magic of Shabbat with Cantor Cohen in "Mini-Minyan," a participatory service

designed specifically for elementary-aged children and their families. Kids are encouraged to bring their favorite stuffed animals to join the fun. Learn the melodies, understand the rituals, and actively participate in this joyous Shabbat experience. Kid-friendly oneg included.

ROSH HODESH WOMEN'S GROUP – BAGELS: 7-9 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29 AT BEZ. Ladies, roll up your sleeves and learn the art of bagel making! Kick off the evening with some Rosh Hodesh wisdom from Cantor Cohen, then dive into the dough and discover the secrets behind the perfect bagel. Whether you're a seasoned baker or a beginner, this hands-on experience is sure to be a fun and tasty way to welcome in the new month. Space is limited—RSVP at ralder@bez613.org.

GRADES 9-10 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHABBAT: 6-7 P.M. FRIDAY, JAN. 31 AT BEZ.

MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT: 10 A.M. - NOON SATURDAY, FEB. 1 AT BEZ. Men's Club will join clergy on the bimah and participate in Shabbat morning services. Sign up to lead your favorite prayer, read from the Torah, and more. Opportunities are available in Hebrew and English.

OFF THE BIMA CONCERT WITH CANTOR COHEN AND CANTOR AVIVA MARER OF IHC: 10 A.M. – NOON SUNDAY, FEB. 2 AT BEZ.

COCKTAIL JUDAISM - RABBI HAL AND TONY MASON: 7-9 P.M. MONDAY, FEB. 3, LOCATION TBD.

SIDDUR CEREMONY AND GRADES 3-5 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHABBAT: 6-7 P.M. FRIDAY, FEB. 7 AT BEZ. Join this special Friday night Shabbat as 3rd-5th graders take the lead in helping with the service. This heartfelt evening will also feature the annual Siddur presentation ceremony for 5th graders, celebrating their milestone in Jewish education. Come support and celebrate these bright young minds as they guide through the prayers and take another step in their Jewish journeys—Shabbat dinner for families of 3rd-5th graders to follow. RSVP to George Kelley at gkelley@bez613.org.

SISTERHOOD TU'BISHVAT: TIME TBA THURSDAY, FEB. 13 AT BEZ.

TORAH ON TAP - PACERS GAME: 7:30 – 10 P.M. THURSDAY, FEB. 20 AT GAINBRIDGE FIELDHOUSE. Join Torah on Tap for an exciting evening at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, where BEZ's Millennial and Gen Z professionals will get to watch the Indiana Pacers take on the Memphis Grizzlies. You'll get to enjoy dinner, drinks, and basketball with Rabbi

Hal in the comfort of a Pacers suite. Take advantage of this unique opportunity, as space is limited. RSVP to Robbie Alder at ralder@bez613.org as soon as possible to secure your spot.

ROSH HODESH WOMEN'S GROUP - TRIVIA NIGHT: 7-9 P.M. THURSDAY, FEB. 27, LOCATION TBD. This Rosh Hodesh for Adar, test your smarts, discover fun facts, and compete for some awesome prizes—all while celebrating the new month with friends old and new. RSVP to ralder@bez613.org.

Congregation Beth Shalom

Congregation Beth Shalom (CBS) holds its activities and functions at 3085 W. 116th St., Carmel, IN 46032. These include, but are not limited to, in-person worship services, religious school (Talmud Torah), meetings, and social gatherings. CBS shares the building facilities of Congregation Shaarey Tefilla but remains an independent Reform congregation. The CBS mailing address continues unchanged at 4000 W. 106th St., Ste 125-118, Carmel, IN 46032.

REGULAR CBS SHABBAT SERVICES: 6:30 P.M. FRIDAYS AT TEMPLE. Worship services are both in person and virtual. Zoom links and access codes are available to everyone through the CBS website. All are invited and welcome to participate, whether in person or through Zoom.

TORAH STUDY: 9:30-10:30 A.M. EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, TEMPLE LIBRARY. This is a weekly gathering and immediately precedes any Saturday morning service. Everyone is invited to come.

TOT SHABBAT: 9:30 – 10:30 A.M. SATURDAY, FEB. 8. A Saturday morning Shabbat service specially designed for the little ones. Bring your children to have a thoroughly enjoyable hour of Judaism. All are welcome to attend.

Visit bethshalomindy.org or [@BethShalomIndy](https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomIndy) on Facebook for more information.

Congregation B'nai Torah

SHACHARIT: 8:30 A.M. SUNDAYS; 6:50 A.M. MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS; 7 A.M. TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS; 9 A.M. ON SHABBAT.

Contact the office at (317) 253-5253 or email office@btorah.org to sponsor a kiddush on occasion of a yahrzeit, simcha, or other event. Visit btorahindy.org to donate or to view current shul bulletin and service times.

Chabad Lubavitch of Indiana

Chabad Center for Jewish Life Weekly Services – 10 a.m. Shabbat Services every Saturday; 9 a.m. Sunday Services every Sunday. Visit www.chabadindiana.org or [@chabadindiana](https://www.facebook.com/chabadindiana) on Facebook for upcoming events, classes and programs.

Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation

Rabbi Askenazi leads a full schedule of services every Shabbat, Erev Shabbat through Havdala | Times vary weekly

SERVICES:

7:15 A.M. MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS; 7:30 A.M. TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

9 A.M. SHABBAT SERVICE

9 A.M. SUNDAYS AT CHABAD

9 A.M. ALL HOLIDAYS AT ETZ CHAIM

TNT (TUESDAY NIGHT TORAH): 8:15 P.M. EVERY TUESDAY. Join Rabbi Askenazi for a lively discussion of the parasha.

BINGO & PIZZA: 6 P.M. SUNDAY, JAN. 12, Organized by Sisterhood

Check the website for current information on holidays and events and subscribe to receive weekly emails at www.etzchaimindy.org/calendar. Connect on Facebook at [@EtzChaimIndy](https://www.facebook.com/EtzChaimIndy) and [@EtzChaimtheSisterhood](https://www.facebook.com/EtzChaimtheSisterhood). Contact (317) 251-6220 or office@etzchaimindy.org for more information.

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

TORAH TALK: 9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAYS. Join Rabbi Krichiver to discuss Jewish sacred source texts in a non-intimidating way. All are welcome. Proudly presented by Sisterhood. You can join in person or find the Zoom link to participate on ihcindy.org/online.

KABBALAT SHABBAT: 6:15 P.M. FRIDAYS. Join IHC for the weekly service, bringing the peace of Shabbat into homes. You can watch live at ihcindy.org/streaming.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY: 9 A.M. SATURDAYS. IHC clergy guides the group through the weekly Torah portion text seeking understanding of the teaching for the time and discussing its message for today. It is available online or in person. No prior knowledge is necessary, and all are welcome.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: 10:30 A.M. SATURDAYS

IHC SISTERHOOD'S GIFT SHOP HOURS: 10 A.M. – 2 P.M. TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS; 5:15 – 6:15 P.M. FRIDAYS; 9:45 A.M. – 12 P.M. SUNDAYS WHEN THE JEWISH LEARNING PROGRAM IS IN SESSION. You can also make an appointment to shop by emailing ihcsisterhoodgiftshop1@gmail.com.

IHC CIRCLES: Circles are small groups formed around specific interests, passions, geography, life stage, or profession. There is a Circle for wine lovers, young families, volunteers, and more. Visit ihcindy.org/ihc-circles to learn more.

MITZVAH STITCHERS: If you love to knit, crochet, sew, or embroider and love to schmooze while you stitch, then Mitzvah Stitchers is perfect for you. Email Barb Levy at bcl@bclevy.com to be added to the email distribution list so she can provide you with the Zoom link for meetings.

EUCHRE CIRCLE: All levels of play are welcome to come and have some fun, meet new people, and compete for a prize. Please note, there is a 20-player limit for each Euchre Circle gathering. Text or email Circle Leader Melanie Gottlieb at (317) 403-9616 or migott9675@gmail.com with questions, or if you sign up and your plans change, let Melanie know.

JEWISH BOOK CLUB: The Jewish Book Club is a great way for book lovers to enjoy getting to know each other through lively discussion about great books with Jewish and literary value. Selections are mostly fiction, occasional biography/memoir, or historical non-fiction. Email Evelyn Pockrass at epockrass@ihcindy.org to participate.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Join Cantor Aviva Marer and Clinical Psychologist Tami Krichiver in a warm, confidential environment to comfort one another, share our pain, reflect on loss, or simply observe, and listen. Email avivam@ihcindy.org for more information.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND WITH CANTOR EVAN KENT: JAN. 23 – 26. On Friday, Jan. 23, Cantor Evan Kent will help lead a short Shabbat Service beginning at 6:15 p.m., followed by a performance of his one-person show "Shards," which celebrates the strength it takes to break apart the things that are holding you back and then to travel as far as it takes to begin to put the pieces together anew to build a better life. On Saturday, Cantor Evan Kent will lead Torah study at 9 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. minyan.

Visit ihcindy.org or [@IHCindy](https://www.facebook.com/IHCindy) on Facebook for links to all Zoom services,

classes and programs and for more information.

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES AT 6:30 P.M. ON FRIDAY NIGHTS:

- First Friday of the month is Family services geared towards young kids and parents
- Third Friday of the month is musical accompaniment service

SHABBAT SERVICES AT 9:30 A.M. ON SATURDAY MORNINGS:

- First Saturday of the month Nosh 'n Drash with Rabbi Sendrow following services (at approximately 11:30 a.m.)

WEEKDAY MINYANS AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS.

DR. JACK KAMEN TORAH STUDY GROUP WITH RABBI SENDROW: 11 A.M. ON WEDNESDAYS ON ZOOM.

Visit www.shaareytefilla.org or [@ShaareyTefilla](https://www.facebook.com/ShaareyTefilla) on Facebook for the most updated information.

Temple Beth El Muncie

KABBALAT SHABBAT: 7:30 P.M. SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

TORAH STUDY GROUP: 10 A.M. SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Visit templebethelmuncie.org and their weekly emails for more information on classes and programs. Connect with Temple Beth El [@TempleBethEl](https://www.facebook.com/TempleBethEl) on Facebook, (765) 702-7731 or email contact@templebethelmuncie.org.

Indy Leaders Attend the GA

17 Jewish Professionals and Lay Leaders from Indianapolis attended the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly in Washington, D.C. in November. The General Assembly focused on confronting the challenges facing the Jewish community with inspiring discussions, powerful speeches, and unforgettable moments.



Pickle for Purpose

JFS Pickleball Tournament

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sunday, March 16

Pickle on Penn

11575 Pennsylvania St., Carmel, IN

\$180

for a team of two players

\$36

for a spectator ticket

Register by Feb. 23 at bit.ly/jfspickleball

Contact Rachel Katz at rkatz@jfgi.org or (317) 259-6817 with questions.