

Jewish Community News



MEET THE NEXT MAURER KOACH PROGRAM COHORT

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ON THE COVER: JCC MOSAIC PROJECT'S COMMUNITY WORK OF ART

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Indianapolis Jewish Community 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.

INDIANAPOLIS Jewish Community News

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We're looking for your ideas to make our next issue shine. **Your voice matters.**

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TODD MAURER
Interim CEO

There is an old story about a man who visited both heaven and hell. In hell, he found a great banquet table overflowing with food — yet everyone sat starving. Their arms were splinted straight, making it impossible to bend their elbows and feed themselves. In heaven, the scene was identical: the same long table, the same splinted arms. But here, everyone was well-fed and joyful. The difference? In heaven, they had learned to feed each other.

That story has stayed with me because it captures something true about the nature of generosity — it is not a transaction. It is not a sacrifice. It is, at its heart, a way of being human together.

Our tradition has a word for it: tzedakah. Often translated as “charity,” the word comes from the root meaning justice and righteousness. Giving, in Jewish thought, is not a favor we do for others. It is our obligation — and, if we are honest, our privilege.

But here is what philosophers and the scientists and most people who have ever given freely will tell you: generosity does not diminish us. It enlarges us.

Research in psychology has shown that acts of giving activate the same regions of the brain associated with pleasure and reward. People who regularly volunteer report higher levels of life satisfaction and lower rates of depression. There is even evidence that generosity can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and extend life. The ancient rabbis knew something the neuroscientists are only now catching up to: giving is good for the giver.

But we do not need a study to tell us what we already feel. Think of a time you helped someone — really helped them. Maybe you brought a meal to a grieving family, or mentored a young person finding their way, or simply sat with someone who needed not to be alone. Remember how that felt. Not the obligation, not the effort, but the quiet fullness afterward. That feeling is not incidental to generosity. It is the point.

When we give, we step outside ourselves. We are reminded that our own worries, however real, are not the whole world. We are connected to something larger — a community, a tradition, a chain of caring that stretches back generations and, God willing, will extend long after us.

This is the gift that generosity gives back to the giver: perspective. Meaning. The knowledge that we matter to someone else's story.

Here in Indianapolis, we are fortunate to belong to a community that takes this seriously. The Jewish Federation exists precisely because our ancestors understood that we are responsible for one another — not only when it is convenient, but as a covenant. Every campaign, every volunteer hour, every check written, every act of chesed is a thread in that fabric.

You may be reading this and think: I don't have enough to give. Generosity is not measured in dollars. It is measured in attention, in time, in the willingness to show up. A phone call to someone lonely. A kind word to someone struggling. Welcoming a stranger at services. These too are acts of tzedakah. Our community only thrives if we all work together: united as one and not divided; supporting each other and not competing against each other; open to new ideas and progress and not stuck in the way we have always done it.

The banquet table is set. The food is abundant. The only question is whether we are willing to reach across and feed one another.

That is how generosity wins — not by taking less from us, but by making us more.

A Community Called to Listen: The Impact of Rachel Goldberg-Polin's Upcoming Visit

When Rachel Goldberg-Polin speaks, communities don't just listen. They feel, reflect, and often transform. Her upcoming appearance in Indianapolis offers more than a lecture; it presents a moment of collective reckoning and connection for the Jewish community at a time when both are deeply needed.

Goldberg-Polin has become a voice of moral clarity and human resilience under unimaginable circumstances. Her advocacy, rooted in personal experience and profound empathy, transcends politics and speaks to universal values such as dignity, hope, and the enduring strength of community. In cities across the globe, audiences have left her talks not only informed but deeply moved and challenged to reexamine their own roles in shaping a more compassionate world.

For Indianapolis, this event arrives at a pivotal moment. As Jewish communities nationwide navigate rising concerns around identity, safety, and unity, opportunities to gather around a shared story, one that is both deeply personal and broadly resonant, are rare and powerful. Goldberg-Polin's presence creates space not only for awareness, but also for healing and solidarity.

This program has the potential to be more than a standout evening. It could serve as a catalyst for renewed engagement, deeper dialogue, and stronger communal bonds. It invites attendees to move beyond headlines and into the heart of lived experience.

In bringing Rachel Goldberg-Polin to Indianapolis, the community offers itself a gift: the chance to bear witness, to stand together, and to emerge more connected than before.

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis' Women's Philanthropy Presents

A Mother's Voice, A Community's Strength

An evening with Rachel Goldberg-Polin, mother of October 7 hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin. This emotional conversation will be thoughtfully moderated by Megan Maurer.

This special event is open to the entire community, men and women.

6 p.m. Tuesday, September 1

Ticket cost is \$118, and includes her New York Times bestselling book, *When We See You Again*.

Dinner and drinks will be served. Dietary Laws Observed.

Please RSVP by August 11, or until event sells out at bit.ly/mothersvoice26

Contact Kelsey Caplinger at kcaplinger@jfgi.org with questions.

Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Rebecca Schalit-Newman at rschalitnewman@jfgi.org.

14 Aspiring Leaders Join Third Maurer Koach Program Cohort

The Maurer Koach program (Koach means “strength” in Hebrew) is experiential and will provide exposure and experiences that will equip you with tools to educate, lead, and advocate for yourself and others. During the 8 monthly interactive sessions, local, national, and international leaders will address current approaches to understanding and combatting antisemitism as well as provide insights into Jewish life, leadership, and social justice. After a community-wide search, a third class has been named. Meet the cohort and their reasons for being involved in the program.



Mara Brezik

I’m a lifelong Indianapolis resident married to Danny, and we have two young kids, Hannah and Sammy. We love to travel and explore, and I’m especially passionate about theatre. Maurer Koach is an exciting opportunity to re-connect to my Jewish identity and the Indianapolis Jewish community in a different phase of my life. As a professional, leader, parent, and wife, I have the responsibility and privilege to engage in this work to represent myself and my Jewish values as a part of a strong, diverse, and resilient community.

Jamil Clayton

My name is Jamil Clayton. I recently moved to Indianapolis with my family in August of 2024. I decided to participate in the Maurer Koach program so that I could begin to discover my own Jewish identity. I also joined to learn more about the history of antisemitism and what it looks like today in our modern society. My goal is to learn how to combat antisemitism in meaningful ways. I am also looking forward to engaging in new experiences with a great group of new friends.



Drew Daner

I joined Maurer Koach to strengthen my Jewish identity while also connecting with people who aspire to do the same. With the changing environment of how Judaism is perceived, I want to demonstrate how positive and special being a Jew is. I look forward to sharing methods to promote justice and peace within the community.

Annie Kaplan

I wanted to join Maurer Koach because the programming combines my Jewish identity with my profession as an educator. With 7 years of experience teaching world history, I am always looking for ways to deepen my students’ engagement with materials about the Holocaust and antisemitism. This program also presents an opportunity to grow with the Jewish community as an Indianapolis transplant.



Nate Kaplan

As an Oleh Hadash now living back in the States, I am hoping to reconnect with the Jewish community and identity that were such a meaningful part of what kept me in Israel for nearly seven years. This journey to Poland feels like an opportunity not only to deepen my understanding of our people’s history, but also to carry that memory forward with purpose. I feel a strong responsibility to bring back what I learn and share it with as many people as I can, so that the stories, lessons, and legacy of our past continue to be remembered.



Ian Kister

I am a proud Indianapolis native, entrepreneur, and operations leader with more than 20 years of experience. My connection to Indianapolis’s Jewish community, and to the JCC in particular, runs deep. With my mother serving the JCC for more than 30 years, it became a foundational part of my life from an early age through preschool, kindergarten, summer camp, sports, BBYO, and even my first job at the JCC café. Those experiences instilled a lifelong sense of community, leadership, and identity that continues to guide me today. My connection to Jewish culture and heritage was further strengthened through trips to Israel for both my Bar Mitzvah and later through Birthright. Above all else, I am a devoted full-time single father to my daughter, Leona, a role that continues to shape the way I lead, build, and show up in both business and life.



Zack Levy

I am interested in the Maurer Koach Program because I want to learn how antisemitism is being battled at a local and global level and meet like-minded young professionals. This is incredibly important to me, as I’ve experienced hate face to face, on social media, and in many other areas of life, all of which I would have never experienced if I wasn’t an openly proud Jew. Unfortunately, I know I’m not the only person experiencing this in Indianapolis, and I feel that through the previous, present, and future Maurer Koach cohorts, we can connect and fight antisemitism as one.



Joshua Maze

I live in Westfield with my wife, our 10-year-old daughter, and our three cats. I came to Jewish life as an adult, and one of the most meaningful parts of that journey has been finding community; a place to ask questions, keep learning, and feel genuinely welcomed. I’m excited to be part of Koach because I’m looking forward to building relationships, learning more deeply, and growing in my ability to speak up for and support the Jewish community.

Maddie McKasson

I am a mother, community member, and professional who is deeply passionate about Jewish identity, leadership, and building meaningful connections within the Jewish community. I decided to participate in Koach because I want to deepen my understanding of how to thoughtfully and confidently address antisemitism while continuing to strengthen my own Jewish knowledge and leadership skills. Through this program, I hope to gain lasting relationships, broader perspective, and practical tools to help create a stronger, more connected Jewish future for the next generation.



Lindsay McKasson

I joined the Koach program because I am deeply concerned by the alarming rise in antisemitism, including anti-Jewish hatred and violence against Jewish people, both in the United States and around the world. I want to develop the skills and knowledge to create meaningful change and help protect current and future generations of the Jewish people. I also hope to strengthen my connection to and engagement with the Indianapolis Jewish community.



Addy Monger

I am a leadership development professional at Elanco Animal Health in Indianapolis, where I create programs that help employees grow within the organization. Prior to this, I spent seven years working in the nonprofit and civic space with organizations including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, TechPoint, and the Indy Chamber. I joined the Maurer Koach program to deepen my Jewish identity and to more fully understand the weight and complexity of antisemitism, and I hope to leave with not only knowledge, but a stronger sense of responsibility and confidence to advocate for and stand alongside my community.



Claire Mountcastle

I was born and raised in Anderson, Indiana. Growing up in a split-faith household led me to discover Judaism on my own terms as an adult, deepening my appreciation and connection to it. I applied to Koach to build connections with other Jewish individuals while expanding my understanding of our shared history. This includes a desire to visit sites like concentration camps, not from fascination but from a commitment to remembrance and reflection. I would approach such a visit with humility and gratitude, recognizing the privilege of bearing witness in a way my ancestors never could.



Greg Oppman

I am a UX researcher and designer with my undergraduate and Master's degrees from IU Indy. After recently becoming Jewish following my marriage to my wife, Emma Law-Oppman, I am proud to be raising Jewish sons in my lifelong home of Indianapolis. I joined Maurer Koach to deepen my connection to Judaism and the community, and to help build bridges of understanding across religious and broader Indianapolis communities with the goal of fostering empathy and combating antisemitism.

Sarah Sweden

I am a fifth grade English teacher in Warren Township. I am an active member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and love to travel. I am excited for this opportunity to deepen my connections with the Indianapolis Jewish Community and develop the skills necessary to become a better advocate for my community.



Jewish Community Center

<https://jccindy.org>



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JCC Mosaic Project Builds Connection, One Tile at a Time

If you visited the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in early April, chances are you saw the community mosaic project underway, and may have even stopped by to place a tile.

Local artist Joani Rothenberg, along with her cousin, Israeli artist Yael Buxbaum, created an 8-foot mosaic that will hang near the JCC's main entrance for years to come.

The artwork depicts a cross-section of the JCC community, people of all ages and backgrounds, united by the theme of belonging. The piece was laid flat on a table, inviting participants to gather around and place colorful tiles onto designated spots, dipping each piece into glue before setting it in place.

One tile at a time, participants helped create not only a vibrant work of art, but also a shared sense of connection.

Groups from across the community took part, including Silver Sneakers, Open-Play Mahjong players, Writing Lab participants, Jewish Family Services (JFS) Thrive, staff from Hooverwood Living, the JCC, Jewish

Family Services, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, as well as members of Second Presbyterian Church, Indy Aquatic Masters, and students from the JCC's Early Childhood Education and After-Care programs.

In addition to placing tiles, students from Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis wrote reflections on the theme of belonging, which will be preserved on the back of the mosaic.

Family groups also contributed, including Rothenberg's. Her husband, Jeff, when not tending to their family exhibit "Fusion" on display in the JCC Art Gallery, was seen helping at the table. Their son Ben Tamir also contributed his videography and photography skills, while their son Tal volunteered for most of a week.

An estimated 1,000 people participated in the project. Whether placing one tile or many, participants described a shared feeling of connection, both to the artwork and to one another.

"People find themselves within a



Jackie Barrett (right) and a friend enjoy the mosaic project.

large piece of art," said Rothenberg, a board-certified art therapist. "Broken pieces become whole as you work. It's a powerful metaphor for what happens when people move from isolation into community."

She added that the project has also reconnected former JCC members with the space.

"People who have such fond memories of the JCC are seeing that sense of community again, and we need that now more than ever," she said.

For Buxbaum, the experience also carried personal meaning. Visiting from Israel, where she had recently been living under frequent sirens and the stress of war, her time in Indianapolis provided a sense of calm.

"When you're focusing on colors and tiles, it helps quiet your mind," she said.

Reflecting on her two weeks at the JCC, Buxbaum added, "What I'll remember most is how welcome everyone made us feel."

The finished mosaic will hang not only as a work of art, but as a lasting symbol of a community coming together, one piece at a time.



Artist Yael Buxbaum works on the mosaic with community members.

Photos by Ben Tamir Rothenberg

121st JFGI Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

During the June 3 meeting, Board President Miriam Dant celebrated the community's strength and continuity, highlighting the importance of legacy giving and collective investment. She noted over 500 legacy commitments and encouraged continued philanthropy to sustain future generations. The evening also honored individuals and programs whose leadership and innovation demonstrate the power of generosity in building a thriving Jewish community.

Interim CEO Todd Maurer delivered a State of the Federation emphasizing intentional leadership development at all ages, grounded in the belief that everyone can make a difference. He highlighted programs that nurture leaders, strengthen advocacy, and instill philanthropy and responsibility - pathways to lasting impact supported by dedicated volunteers and donors. His

message reinforced that fundraising builds connection and strengthens community for a lasting legacy of leadership, giving, and engagement.

Several individuals were congratulated for their service on the board as they cycled off and JFGI welcomed new board members and executive committee members.

The Annual Award ceremony honored the following individuals and initiatives for outstanding efforts that continue to allow the community to thrive Jewishly.

- Shayna Gordon Cohen and Joshua Kaback: L.L. Goodman Young Leadership Award
- Nonie Vonnegut-Gabovitch: Kehilla Award
- Meytal Ashkenazi, Iris Goldberg, and Janine Shapiro for Run For Their Lives Indianapolis: The Lev

- Award
- Joani Rothenberg and Yael Buxbaum for the JCC Community Mosaic Project: Domont Award
 - Avi Grossbaum for the Indiana Jewish Festival and The Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council Student to Student Program: Melvin Simon Tikkun Olam Award
 - Aaron Spiegel: Liebert I. Mossler Community Service Award
 - David Sklar & Andrea Kruszynski: Frank H. Newman Award

Visit www.jewishindianapolis.org/annual-awards for more information on JFGI's Annual Awards and to see past award recipients.

Visit www.jewishindianapolis.org/staff-board-of-directors for a full listing of the 2026-27 JFGI Board of Directors.



In The Community

Building Community, One Conversation at a Time

Inside Carmel High School's Jewish Student Union

Every other Wednesday afternoon, a classroom at Carmel High School becomes more than a meeting space. It turns into a hub of laughter, learning, and connection, where Jewish traditions meet teen energy and everyone, regardless of background, is welcome.

The Jewish Student Union (JSU), now in its fifth year, has grown into one of the school's most welcoming student organizations. Led by President Lyla Pitzele, Vice President of Events Judah Joseph, and Social Media Coordinator Ori Pitzele, the club draws more than 20 regular attendees along with many new faces.

"We mostly have Jewish students, but we always encourage everyone to bring their non-Jewish friends," Lyla says. "We like to say it's a club for everyone."

Meetings blend culture with creativity. Some feature competitions, others focus on holidays or hands-on activities. Students have baked hamantaschen for Purim, made crafts for Sukkot, and played games tied to the High Holidays.

"There are always games and prizes," Judah said. "Sometimes we talk about a Jewish value and tie activities to that. It's about having fun while learning something meaningful."

That approach has helped boost participation. This year marks the club's largest turnout in recent years.

"We've changed how we present events and how we recruit," Judah says. "The bagel tasting event brought in a lot of people."

The growth also reflects a broader purpose in a large school setting.

"Carmel is so big," Lyla says. "It's nice to have a smaller place where people know you and where you feel welcome." For many, JSU offers more than activities. It provides a sense of community and belonging. Amid rising concerns about antisemitism, it also creates space for education and understanding.

"It's important for students to meet other Jewish students and feel comfortable," Judah says. "But also

for anyone curious to learn about our culture."

That mission extends beyond meetings. Earlier this year, Lyla secured a \$500 PTO grant to take students to see Fiddler on the Roof at the Civic Theatre. The trip included both high school students and members of a new Jewish club at Clay Middle School.

"We wanted to make it completely free so everyone could go," Judah adds.

JSU is entirely student-led, with support from faculty sponsor Nina Price and a leadership team that includes Vice President Drew Organ and Treasurer Julian Reader. Funding efforts include community donations, support from the Jewish Federation, and school fundraisers.

For Ori, who joined leadership after attending regularly as a freshman, the appeal comes down to connection.

"Everyone is just happy to be there," she said. "You meet people from different grades, and suddenly everyone is connected."

Looking ahead, leaders hope to keep current members engaged while welcoming new ones through more interactive events and outreach.

"We want people to come whether it's every meeting or just once," Judah says. "It should always feel like you can walk in and belong."

"We encourage everyone to join," Lyla adds. "There's always a place for you here."

On Wednesdays, that place is filled with connection, culture, and community.



1. Rabbi Avi Grossbaum of Chabad Lubavitch of Indiana gives a D'var Torah.
2. Braca Cantor and Hannah Perklov sing the anthems.
3. Isaac Rothbaum and Isaac Mervis read the names of those who passed in the community.
- 4-5. Shayna Gordon Cohen and Josh Kaback receive the LL Goodman Young Leadership Award. Pictured with Rebecca Schalit-Newman, Miriam Dant, Todd Maurer and Eli Isaacs.
6. David Sklar receives the Frank H. Newman Award.
7. Rabbi Aaron Spiegel receives the Liebert I. Mossler Community Service Award.



YoPhI Drives Record Fundraising Effort

The Lou and Sybil Mervis Youth Philanthropy Indy (YoPhI) Teen Board celebrated their grantmaking accomplishments in May with Sybil and their three grantees in attendance: Jewish Family Services, Hope Healthcare and the Indiana Diaper Bank. This year's team raised over \$5,000, nearly twice as much as the previous year. With their focus on providing healthcare access to the underprivileged in the Indy community, YoPhI leaders are making a renewed and meaningful impact this year.



ADL: Antisemitic Incidents in Indiana Decline Sharply in 2025, but Remain Far Above Pre-2023 Levels

According to the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Audit of Antisemitic Incidents released in May, antisemitic incidents in Indiana declined significantly in 2025 compared to the previous year, driven largely by a drop in incidents on college campuses. However, despite this decrease, the overall trend remains deeply concerning, with incidents still far above levels seen earlier this decade.

Between 2024 and 2025, antisemitic incidents in Indiana fell by 65.49%, reflecting a substantial reduction following the historic surge in 2023 and 2024. Much of this decrease can be attributed to fewer incidents reported on college and university campuses.

Still, this recent decline should be understood in context: between 2021 and 2025, antisemitic incidents in Indiana increased by 206.25%, underscoring a dramatic and sustained rise in antisemitic activity over the past several years.

"A 33% decrease is an improvement, and we welcome this as the beginning of a downward trend," said ADL leadership nationally. "We are relieved to see a decline from the historic highs of 2023 and 2024. But we cannot mistake this for unqualified progress."

National Context: A Historically

Violent Year

Nationally, 2025 was one of the most violent years for American Jews since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979.

There were 6,274 incidents of antisemitic assault, harassment, and vandalism across the United States in 2025, an average of roughly 17 incidents per day. While this represents a 32.91% decrease from 2024, incidents remain dramatically elevated compared to earlier years. Between 2021 and 2025, antisemitic incidents nationwide increased by 130.99%, signaling a persistent and troubling shift.

Even more concerning, violent assaults increased by 4.59% compared to 2024. The year included three murders in antisemitic attacks — two victims in Washington, D.C., and one in Boulder, Colorado — marking the first time since 2022 that deadly antisemitic violence has occurred in the United States.

"2025 was one of the most violent years for American Jews on record," ADL noted. "The level of incidents remains a 70% higher than in 2022, confirming a dangerous new normal."

A Decline—But Not a Return to Normal While the drop in incidents in Indiana mirrors the national decline, experts caution that the reduction does not

indicate a full recovery or a return to baseline conditions.

The surge in incidents that followed the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel fundamentally altered the threat landscape. Even with fewer incidents reported in 2025, levels remain significantly elevated compared to pre-2023 norms, both in Indiana and across the country.

A key factor in the 2025 decline was a sharp reduction in campus-related incidents. Colleges and universities across the U.S. took more aggressive steps to address antisemitism, contributing to a 66% national decline in campus incidents. However, incidents remain substantially higher than they were just a few years ago.

Persistent Risks to Jewish Communities

The latest data reinforces that antisemitism continues to pose a serious and evolving threat, even in states like Indiana where year-over-year numbers improved.

"Behind every one of these incidents is a real person," ADL leaders emphasized. "A family threatened, a student harassed, a community made to feel unsafe."

The increase in violent assaults nationwide highlights that the risk is not only persistent but, in some cases, intensifying in severity.

Celebrating Leadership and Impact at the Lion of Judah & Pomegranate Society Luncheon

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis recently gathered members of its Women's Philanthropy community for the Lion of Judah & Pomegranate Society Luncheon, an inspiring afternoon centered on leadership, pride, and the strength of collective impact.

Featuring guest speaker Julie Platt, the program offered a powerful reflection on what it means to show up fully as Jewish women in today's world. Platt challenged attendees to claim their voices through visible leadership and philanthropy, to model Jewish pride for the next generation, and to engage actively in building community, strengthening allyship, and confronting antisemitism. Her message emphasized joyful, confident Jewish living and the profound impact each individual can have by stepping forward rather than waiting to be asked.

"Don't wait for someone to ask you. Raise your hand," Platt urged. "We're all busy, and we don't want to overlook people - but sometimes it happens. Lean in, and don't wait to be asked."

The program also featured a meaningful message from Women's Philanthropy Co-Chairs Marina Grabovsky and Iris Goldberg, who spoke to the enduring strength and importance of Women's Philanthropy. They highlighted the unique role women play as leaders, role models, and community builders, and underscored the collective power that emerges when women come together with a shared sense of purpose and responsibility.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees were encouraged to embrace what Platt described as "joyful Judaism," living openly and proudly, resisting fear, and sharing the richness and beauty of Jewish life with others. She noted that many are reconnecting with their Jewish identities in powerful ways and reinforced that engagement in Jewish communal life has never been more meaningful or more necessary.

The luncheon served not only as a celebration of leadership, but also as a call to action, a reminder that each person has a role to play in shaping a vibrant and resilient Jewish future.



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1. JFGI Women's Philanthropy Committee and JFGI leadership with Immediate JFNA Past President Julie Platt.

2. Three generations of Lions of Judah: Barb Alpert, Elise Nachlis (our youngest Lion of Judah), and Sandy Nachlis.

3. Celebrating our Lions of Judah who increased to the next giving level.

4. Women's Philanthropy Committee Members Stacy Rekhter and Barb Leventhal.

5. Lion of Judah and Pomegranate society donors enjoying the luncheon.

6. Julie Platt in conversation with Annual Campaign Co-Chair Janine Shapiro.

Western Galilee Leaders Showcase Israel Across Indiana

In early May, the Jewish Community Relations Council hosted a study tour of Indianapolis for fellows of the GalilWest Leadership Development Program.

GalilWest is a regional leadership initiative created in the aftermath of October 7 to strengthen collaboration, innovation, and civic engagement among emerging and established leaders from Israel's Western Galilee. Bringing together participants from government, education, business, nonprofit organizations, and community leadership, the program focuses on strengthening regional cooperation, developing leadership skills, and fostering meaningful relationships across communities. Participants are already applying what they have learned through the program to support their local communities and help navigate the significant challenges facing the Western Galilee during this difficult period.

The delegation's weeklong visit to Central Indiana provided participants with an immersive look at how civic



GalilWest Leadership Development Program participants visit IU Bloomington.

leadership, innovation, regional collaboration, and community engagement intersect to shape thriving communities. Throughout the week, the delegation met with leaders from across the public, private, nonprofit, and Jewish communal sectors to explore how Indianapolis and the broader region approach economic

growth, education, social impact, and relationship-building.

The program opened with discussions on regional cooperation and leadership development, including meetings at Liberty Fund and Elevate Ventures focused on entrepreneurship, economic strategy, and cross-sector partnerships. Participants also connected with Jewish communal leaders at the JCC Indianapolis and during a welcome dinner highlighting the longstanding Partnership2Gether relationship between Greater Indianapolis and Israel's Western Galilee.

Major themes throughout the visit were the roles of regional cooperation, place-making, and economic development in strengthening communities. Visits to 16 Tech, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum examined how Indianapolis has leveraged innovation, public spaces, sports, and tourism to drive economic growth and civic identity. Additional meetings with organizations including United Way of Central Indiana, RecycleForce, and



RecycleForce CEO Gregg Keesling shares how materials—and lives—are transformed through RecycleForce's innovative approach to recycling and reentry.

the Cook Medical/Goodwill Industries partnership explored workforce development, reentry services, and inclusive employment initiatives.

The weekend focused on culture, community, and relationship-building, as participants experienced Shabbat with members of the Indianapolis Jewish community through synagogue services, home hospitality, and a community Havdalah gathering. The program concluded at Indiana University Bloomington with conversations on higher education, antisemitism, student life, entrepreneurship, public health, and international collaboration. Final reflections reinforced the program's broader mission of strengthening leadership, deepening global relationships, and creating meaningful opportunities for collaboration between communities in Israel and the United States.



GalilWest Leadership Development Program participants learned about the evolution of American democracy and economics at Liberty Fund.

Israeli Consul General Visits Indianapolis, Highlights Partnership and Jewish Resilience



Consul General of Israel to the Midwest Elad Strohmayer made his inaugural visit to Indianapolis in April, meeting with leadership from the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council. A career diplomat with 16 years of experience in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consul General Strohmayer was appointed to his current role in September 2025.

Speaking from the social hall of Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation, he shared his vision for strengthening ties between Indiana and Israel, highlighting opportunities for partnership, innovation, and business development between the two regions. He also spoke candidly about the challenges facing Jewish communities today, emphasizing the importance of security while refusing to let fear or antisemitism dictate Jewish life.

In a conversation with communal leadership, the Consul General addressed a wide range of issues, reinforcing the importance of reclaiming and defining Jewish identity on one's own terms and refusing to allow others to shape that identity through intimidation. Throughout the evening, he returned to the importance of standing shoulder-to-shoulder as a community, living proudly and openly as Jews, strengthening relationships, and remaining optimistic about the future even during difficult times.

United in Memory, United in Joy

Yom HaZikaron

To deepen community connection to Yom HaZikaron, the organization hosted a moving delegation of two IDF soldiers, who were wounded after October 7. They shared personal stories with community members, veterans, legislators, and police officers, honoring their experiences and those who were lost. During the visit, they met with HHAI students and joined BBYO youth in a cooking activity featuring dishes loved by fallen comrades.

They also took part in the Yom Ha'Atzmaut commemoration, hosting a booth and engaging attendees in meaningful conversations. The ceremony combined their testimonies with artistic performances, including a moment when one of the soldiers joined the band on stage, leaving a strong

impression on attendees.

As part of Yom HaZikaron, community members shared names of loved ones who had fallen. Each was honored with a photo, story, and candle lighting. Attendees received recipe cards featuring favorite dishes of the fallen to help preserve their memories.

The Israeli-style ceremony included prayers, readings, music, and dance that reflected both loss and hope. Performances spanned generations and held deep meaning for participants and attendees. The organization expressed gratitude to clergy and community members for their contributions and thanked all who helped host the delegation and support the events.



Yom Ha'Atzmaut

The Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration opened with a lively concert by four members of the Ha'Shayara Project from the Western Galilee: Yoav Sagi, Ofer Zahavi, Assaf Achituv, and Regev Sapir. The Federation expressed gratitude to community members who hosted the band and made their visit meaningful.

Following the performance, attendees explored interactive stations highlighting Israeli culture, including a bounce house, petting zoo, coffee truck, Zumba, pastries, and booths representing community organizations. There were also opportunities for attendees to connect with one another and visiting delegations.

Guests danced, created, and celebrated while enjoying food from the Beit Café and a strong sense of community. The organization thanked all who contributed through their participation and presence, noting that the experience reflected both unity in remembrance and joy in celebration.



1. Hasten Hebrew Academy Choir performs the anthems.
2. Co-Chair Leslie Tobe gives the welcome address.
3. Co-Chair Iris Goldberg shares a reading.
4. Jeremy Brilliant reads a poem.
5. Yochi Black shares her music.
6. Inbar Shuv-Ami and dance team perform an Israeli interpretive dance.
7. Inbar Shuv-Ami performs a shadow dance to Lirot Et Haor.

1. The Israeli band Ha'Shayara Project entertains the crowd.
- 2-3. All generations enjoyed celebrating Israel.
4. Jewish organizations and synagogues provided activities and crafts.
5. Julie Sondhelm leads a lively Israeli-themed Zumba class.
6. GUCI sponsored a petting zoo experience for kids.
7. Families make special Israeli chocolate truffles.

P2G Multicultural Delegation



The Jewish Federation welcomed a diverse delegation from the Western Galilee, along with local community members and partners, to a meaningful gathering. Sincere thanks were extended to Megan and Greg Maurer for hosting and creating a warm, welcoming environment.

Speakers representing both Druze and Jewish communities shared personal stories shaped by service and loss, offering reflections on resilience, responsibility, and hope. During the program, it emerged that one speaker's brother, Guy Idan, had been honored the previous week at the Yom HaZikaron commemoration. He had served in the same unit as a wounded soldier from the delegation and was killed after returning to reserve duty to help rescue his cousin Tsachi, who had been kidnapped on October 7. Both Guy and Tsachi ultimately lost their lives.

Each speaker offered a unique perspective, including Ditzza, who works with the Partnership region in the Western Galilee, strengthening ties between the communities. Their stories created an evening of reflection, connection, and shared purpose, highlighting the deep bonds linking Israel and the Diaspora.

Driven by Purpose: Remembering Horst Winkler (z"l)



Horst Winkler, a man who cared deeply for the Indianapolis community and became an ardent supporter of the Jewish people, passed away last year while leaving behind a tremendous legacy of business acumen and philanthropy.

Horst was born into a German wine-making family, attended a monastery as a child, and furthered his engineering education at Heidelberg University. He met his wife Margaret at Heidelberg, and the two were married until she passed away in 2015. Professionally, Horst made a name for himself throughout Indianapolis as the head of the only Mercedes-Benz dealership in town. In short, if you purchased a Mercedes in Indianapolis over the last 50 years, you likely knew Horst. He was a memorable individual who took pride in his work, enjoyed traveling, and spoke often at Marquette Senior Living about a range of topics.

He also spoke passionately about the importance of philanthropy and his legacy, and the events of October 7, 2023 sparked a fire in Horst to support the Jewish people. He made a meaningful contribution to the Israel Emergency Fund that year and after meeting with several Jewish Federation staff members and leaders, he made a tremendous commitment to establish a legacy gift to benefit the Federation and the Indianapolis Jewish community.

Horst shared about his journey at the Federation's 2024 Major Donor Dinner: growing up in Germany in the aftermath of the Holocaust, carrying a burden on his shoulders for decades while serving as an ambassador overseeing German reconciliation and atonement efforts in the United States. At the end of his remarks, he proudly announced his intention to leave a substantial legacy gift. As Horst put it at the time, "this allowed [him] to take the weight off his shoulder about this issue and is something permanent with great meaning."

resident of Highlands, N.C., where he met and married Heather Lowe, who joined Horst in travel, life experiences, and philanthropic causes.

Horst was a passionate philanthropist supporting Marquette Senior Living, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, The Bascom in Highlands, and more. Now and in perpetuity, his name will also be listed as a supporter of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis through his endowed Annual Campaign gift. May his memory be for a blessing.

Also in 2024, Horst became a full-time

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE

I am a German born American. At the end of the Second World War, I was 13 years old. While I fully recognize and vigorously condemn the inhumanity and criminality of the Holocaust, I bear no direct relationship with this horrific event. Yet as a former German, I am bound to carry German History as a heavy burden on my shoulder. I cannot escape this reality.

For twenty seven years I had the high honor and privilege to represent the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of Indiana in Indianapolis.

One of the Primary Pillars of German Democracy is reconciliation and atonement to the Jewish People on a worldwide basis. Hence, I was officially charged to carry out this policy of reconciliation. During the following years, I had countless opportunities to interface with Jewish people in the spirit of brotherhood and penance. In private life I continue to foster respectful friendship with the clear understanding of Jewish sensitivities.

Politically I am decidedly and firmly pro-Israel.

Horst Winkler



BEYOND BARRIERS

Barriers to health care aren't always apparent. Depression and mental illness can impact every aspect of an individual's life and the lives of those around them. Fortunately for Donnisha, she found the courage to challenge the stigma around mental illness that many face, and her journey is now inspiring others.

**ESKENAZI
HEALTH**

EskenaziHealth.edu



A Meaningful Evening at the 2026 Major Donor Dinner

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis recently welcomed community members and supporters to the 2026 Major Donor Dinner at the Ritz Charles, an evening that celebrated generosity, connection, and the shared commitment to building a strong Jewish future.

The event featured a lively cocktail reception followed by a meaningful program that highlighted the impact of the community's collective philanthropy. Community members enjoyed an evening filled with conversation, laughter, and inspiration, including a memorable performance by Modi that brought welcomed energy and joy to the room. Attendees also heard powerful calls to action from Annual Campaign Co-Chairs Janine Shapiro and Linda Mordoh, who inspired the community to continue stepping forward with purpose and generosity.

Beyond the program itself, the evening served as an opportunity to deepen relationships and foster new connections. Gatherings such as the Women's Philanthropy corner during the cocktail reception reflected the strength and vibrancy of community engagement, bringing together leaders and supporters from across Greater Indianapolis.

The 2026 Major Donor Dinner underscored a central message: meaningful impact Starts With Us. The evening also raised critical funds for the Annual Campaign from some of the Federation's most dedicated supporters, reinforcing the collective commitment to sustaining and strengthening Jewish life locally, in Israel, and around the world.

As the Federation continues its Annual Campaign, the support of the community remains essential in advancing this vital work and ensuring a thriving future for generations to come.



1. Meytal Ashkenazi, Marina Grabovsky, Iris Goldberg, and Janine Shapiro.
2. Cocktail reception during the Major Donor Dinner.
3. Annual Campaign Co-Chairs Linda Mordoh and Janine Shapiro.
4. Deputy Executive Director Rebecca Schalit-Newman.
5. Board President Miriam Dant.
6. Interim CEO Todd Maurer, JFS Executive Director Rachel Katz, JCRC Executive Director David Sklar, Hooverwood Living President and CEO Evan Lubline, and JCC CEO Sam Dubrinsky.
- 7&8. Comedian Modi entertains the crowd.
9. Modi and Todd Maurer.
10. Alexis Maurer and Elise Nachlis pose with Modi during the VIP reception.
11. Josh Kaback and Mollie Tavel Kaback with Modi.
12. David and Miriam Dant with Modi.





Honoring our Holocaust Survivors



JFS organized a local Holocaust Survivor Day, bringing together survivors and their families to honor and celebrate their lives. The luncheon was enriched by beautiful musical performances from Michael on the accordion and Lilia on piano, and Maurer Koach Program participants volunteered to serve meals. This program was sponsored by Seed the Dream Foundation and KAVOD SHEF.

Mahj With Meaning

Play, connect, and make a difference

3-6 p.m. Sunday, July 12

Laikin Auditorium
Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus

\$54 per person
All proceeds support vital JFS programs.

Register at bit.ly/jfsmahj

Contact Rachel Katz at rkatz@jfgi.org with questions.

Backpack Attack

Help provide local children go back to school.
Donate new school supplies by Friday, July 24.

For more information, donation portal, and Amazon wish list, visit www.jewishindianapolis.org/backpack

Backpack Attack Supply List	Drop-Off Location:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon gift cards • Large backpacks • Notebooks • Composition books • Folders • Pens • Pencils • Pencil sharpeners • Erasers • Sharpies • Highlighters • Markers • Dry-erase markers • Colored pencils • Scissors • Glue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculators • Rulers • Binders • Subject dividers • Loose-leaf paper • Grid paper • Index cards • Supply boxes • Disinfectant wipes • Tissues • Hand sanitizer • Snacks • Earbuds • Gift cards to help kids purchase clothes and shoes

Jewish Family Services
6905 Hoover Rd., Indianapolis
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday - Friday

Need some support with school supplies? JFS is here to help! Contact Julie Sondhelm at (317)-536-1476 or jsondhelm@jfgi.org.

Questions? Contact Andrew Eisele at aeisele@jfgi.org

NJHSA Presentation for Hamsa



Debra Pelletiere-Blatt, Julie Sondhelm, and Rachel Katz in Toronto.

By Julie Sondhelm, JFS Clinical Director

This May, Rachel Katz, Jewish Family Services (JFS) Executive Director, and I had the opportunity to attend the National Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) annual conference for executives, professional staff and funders in Toronto.

Having participated in years prior, I was well aware of the amazing opportunity that attending offers, connecting with Jewish leaders of agencies large and small across the US, Israel, and Canada. Personally, I have gained much wisdom and insight into innovative programs and approaches to services by attending sessions but even more so from one-on-one conversations that delve deeply into the work we all do to serve community. The personal connections I formed

have enabled me to share info on how we operate to assist other agencies as well as to be able to ask for their guidance. This conference was even more meaningful as we attended as presenters as well as participants.

JFS Indy was chosen out of 100+ applicants to present at the conference about our Hamsa program and its unique approach to providing needed assistance to families and their children by lowering barriers to access. Hamsa funds education and enrichment opportunities for youth and young adults that would be challenging or impossible to access otherwise, from Jewish life experiences such as day school, camp, religious school to music lessons and sports. Supporting college entrance and sustaining higher education is a particular focus. Hamsa fund enables families and children to dream and attain the specific activity that meets their unique needs and talents. Focusing on each grantee's situation and goals, meeting with a social worker to discuss the larger family picture, and generous financial parameters makes access individualized and streamlined.

Debra Pelletiere-Blatt, wife of Brandon Blatt, our two founding donors to Hamsa, was able to attend

the conference with us. It was a great personal honor for me to present this remarkable program in front of our donors and to be recognized along with Rachel to share our vision and strategy with the larger Jewish human service world. Deb shares, "Brandon and I called JFS out of the blue with a concept and no clear idea how it might take shape. Rachel and Julie immediately embraced it, working creatively and diligently to turn it into a practical plan. The Hamsa Fund was born. Rather than focus on reasons it couldn't work, they found ways to make it work. We feel incredibly fortunate to have Rachel and Julie serving our community."

Great things happen when we work together to support community!



Lanya McClintock (Agence Ometz, Quebec), Julie Sondhelm and Rachel Katz present at the Network conference.

Older Americans Month Celebration



JFS and Hooverwood Living partnered together to host a special luncheon in celebration of Older Americans Month.

JFS Legal Clinic Delivers Big Impact



Rachel Katz, Andrew Eisele, Julie Sondhelm, Katherine Schwartz and Boris Gorlin

JFS partners with a local law firm to offer free legal support for seniors and individuals with disabilities.



PJ Library

jewishindianapolis.org/programs/pj-library

@pjlibrarygreaterindianapolis @PJLibraryGreaterIndianapolis

PJ Families Celebrate Shavuot with Sweet Treats and Play at West Park



PJ families gathered at West Park to celebrate Shavuot with BRICS ice cream and festive playground activities, enjoying a sweet and spirited day together.

Bringing Yom Ha'Atzmaut to Life with Creative Community Celebration



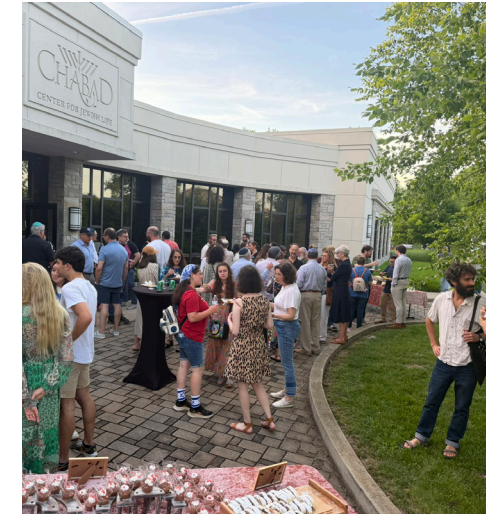
On April 26, PJ Library marked Yom Ha'atzmaut with a hands-on community celebration, where participants created colorful sand art in bottles to honor the spirit of Israel's independence.



NEXTGen

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

Community Comes Together for a Night of Israeli Music and Culture



In a unique cross-partnership event, NEXTGen, JCRC, and YJI welcomed Israeli musician Motti Rodan for an evening of music and connection. Attendees enjoyed authentic Israeli cuisine and indie sounds while gathering as a community to celebrate the spirit and culture of Israel.

Upcoming Safe Indiana Trainings

Situational Awareness & Stop the Bleed®

A course that empowers community members by providing them with the skills to recognize suspicious or potentially dangerous behavior before it becomes an emergency, and how to respond. As an added bonus attendees will learn how to save lives by applying emergency first aid to control bleeding in any trauma situation.

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25
In-person only - Jewish Community Center

Register at
bit.ly/stopthebleed26
Pre-registration is required

Counteracting Active Threat Training

Join Brad Swim, Regional Security Advisor for Safe Indiana, for a comprehensive 90-minute training program and learn how to be vigilant, empowered, and prepared in today's threat environment both in the Jewish community and in your daily lives.

5:00 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5
In-person only -
Congregations Shaarey Tefilla & Beth Shalom

Register at
bit.ly/indycatt
Pre-registration is required



Contact Brad Swim at bswim@securecommunitynetwork.org for more information.



PJ Library Pool Party!

Join PJ Library for a "splashing" good time!

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sunday, July 12
Sid and Lois Eskenazi Water Park
at the Jewish Community Center
Register at bit.ly/pjpoolparty26

Contact Robbie Alder at rvalder@jfgi.org with questions.

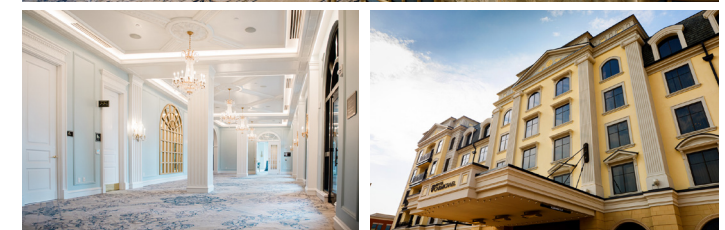


NEXTGen Launches Summer Social Series with Pickleball and Trivia Nights



In April and May, NEXTGen kicked off its new series of recurring community events with a lively pickleball outing at the JCC and a fun-filled trivia night at Books & Brews.

Coming this July, don't miss NEXTGen's recurring Trivia Night on July 16, Pickleball at the J on July 20, and Karaoke Happy Hour on July 30. Mark your calendar and join the fun! Visit the NEXTGen social media accounts for updates on upcoming events.



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Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

www.hhai.org



@hastenhebrewacademy



@hhaistars

HHAI's New Maya Shmoel Innovation Lab Brings Learning and Community Together

Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis recently welcomed 125 students, parents, grandparents, and community members to celebrate the grand opening of the Maya Shmoel Innovation Lab during its "Bots & Watts" community event.

Named in honor of beloved longtime Hebrew teacher Maya Shmoel who taught at HHAI for 36 years, the lab reflects her passion for learning, creativity, and the integration of art, music, science, and technology. Through this space, her legacy will continue to inspire curiosity, innovation, and a lifelong love of learning for generations of students.

The afternoon highlighted not only the school's exciting new STEAM learning space, but also the strong sense of community and Jewish values that make HHAI special. The lab is designed to inspire creativity, curiosity, and innovation through hands-on experiences in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, while connecting learning to Jewish values such as Tikkun Olam. Throughout the event, the lab was filled with energy as families explored robotics, coding



activities, circuits and electronics, building challenges, sensory science stations, and glow-based art projects. Younger children participated in interactive discovery activities, while older students had opportunities to experience more advanced engineering and robotics concepts inspired by real-world innovation and problem-solving.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the event was the way it brought families together. Several parents shared that they had never previously visited the upstairs middle school and Innovation Lab spaces and were excited to discover all that they offer students. Families spent significant time together exploring activities, collaborating on projects, and engaging in conversation. The atmosphere reflected HHAI's belief that learning is strengthened through Jewish values, community, creativity, and shared experiences.

The grand opening demonstrated how the Maya Shmoel Innovation Lab will serve not only as a center for innovative student learning embedded throughout the K-8 curriculum, but also as a space where Jewish values, creativity, Israel-



inspired innovation, and community come together to prepare students for the future.

As central Indiana's only Jewish day school, HHAI combines strong academics, meaningful Judaic learning, innovation, and a welcoming community where every child is truly known and supported. Visit HHAI.org to learn more about Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis and the Maya Shmoel Innovation Lab.



Hooverwood Living

www.hooverwood.org



@hooverwoodliving



@hooverwoodliving

Where Generations Meet, Joy Grows



The halls came alive with smiles during the "Generations in Bloom" parade, made extra special by the wonderful children from the JCC. Residents were delighted by sweet visits, fresh flowers, and heartfelt moments that created a day filled with warmth, connection, and happiness.

Residents Create Comfort and Joy at Build-A-Bear Experience



Residents recently enjoyed a special outing to Build-A-Bear, where they created soft companions to bring comfort, familiarity, and joy to everyday moments. This meaningful experience was made possible through the Guild Fund an Experience initiative, and the community is grateful for their continued support.

Spring Strolls Bring Fresh Air and Connection to Residents



Spring was in full bloom as members of the Kraft Commons Walking Club enjoyed a leisurely stroll around campus. Surrounded by fresh air, budding trees, and the sound of birds along the way, residents embraced the beauty of the season and the chance to slow down together. The outing offered a refreshing moment to connect, unwind, and appreciate the signs that warmer days have arrived.

Mother's Day High Tea Honors Women and Cherished Connections



Mother's Day was celebrated with a beautiful High Tea honoring the many women who have shaped lives, families, and lasting memories. Residents and guests enjoyed a delicious brunch accompanied by the elegant music of a live harpist, creating a warm and memorable afternoon filled with meaningful conversation, appreciation, and connection.

Silver Support Group Offers Connection, Guidance, and Community for Older Adults

Older adults are invited to gather on the third Thursday of each month for the Silver Support Group, a welcoming and safe space to connect and share. Designed for those navigating memory changes, health concerns, or major life transitions, this facilitator-led group encourages meaningful conversation, mutual understanding, and emotional support. Participants gain practical coping strategies, encouragement, and a sense of community along the way. Upcoming sessions take place on July 16 and Aug. 20.

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

July Minyan: 9 a.m. Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays Zoom, and 7:30 a.m. Thursdays

Torah Study: 9 a.m. Sundays

**Erev Shabbat Services: 6 p.m. Friday Evenings
Shabbat Services: 10 a.m. Saturdays**

The Maurer / Mishkin / Ornstein Gallery of Judaica: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays – Fridays. Judaica celebrates the artistry, history, and daily rhythms of Jewish life, featuring both cherished ritual objects and thoughtfully crafted gifts and everyday items. Visit <https://bezgallery.org/> to view the gallery.

Sisterhood Monday Mahj: 1-4 p.m. Monday, July 13, 27 at BEZ. All levels welcome from first-timers to full-on Mahj queens. Join American Mahjong, where the Charleston is serious, the cracks, bams, and dots are flying, and calling “Mahj” is the goal. Sisterhood provides the tiles and racks; bring your current card (extras available). Suggested donation is \$3 per day. RSVP to Sue at illinicane@verizon.net.

Star-Spangled Shabbat: 6-7 p.m. Friday, July 3 at BEZ. Celebrate a Star Spangled Shabbat with a welcoming Friday night service, the perfect way to meet up with friends before heading into the holiday weekend fun.

Rosh Hodesh: Backpack Attack: 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 15 at BEZ. Ladies, it’s another Backpack Attack for Jewish Family Services! Give back to our community, roll up your sleeves and stuff backpacks full of school supplies for local children in need. RSVP to jhodes@bez613.org.

Men’s Club Adults Night Out: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 18, location TBD. Adults, join the Men’s Club for an evening out! Enjoy good eats and good company with friends and fellow BEZ members. Feel free to order off the menu and settle your own tab. RSVP to mtkrodel@gmail.com.

Shabbat in the Park: 6 p.m. Friday, July 24, at Coxhall Gardens Children’s Pavilion. Attend an outdoor service that’s relaxed and welcoming, followed

by a dairy or vegetarian picnic dinner in the pavilion. Bring what you’d like to eat, settle in with friends and family, and enjoy a slow summer evening in a beautiful setting. All are welcome.

Rosh Hodesh: Sound Bath: 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at BEZ. Welcome the month of Elul with a guided sound bath, a relaxing experience where gentle tones from singing bowls and chimes help your body unwind and your mind settle. A calm way to step into Elul and start easing toward the High Holy Days. Bring a towel, blanket, or yoga mat if you’d like to lie down. If getting up and down isn’t easy, you’re completely welcome to settle into a chair and enjoy. RSVP to jhodes@bez613.org.

Back to School Family Shabbat: 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, at BEZ. Join a relaxed Family Shabbat with dinner as we get ready for the new school year. A simple service, good company, and an easy evening together. More details coming soon.

Visit <https://bez613.org/> or [@CongregationBEZ](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationBEZ) on Facebook for more information.

Congregation Beth Shalom

Congregation Beth Shalom is located at 3085 West 116th Street, Carmel, Indiana 46032 (“Temple”). Our CBS mailing address is 4000 W. 106th St, Ste 125-118, Carmel, IN 46032.

CBS Crafting/Stitching Group: 1 p.m. Sunday, July 5, and Sunday, Aug. 2. Call Diane Graul at (402) 250-3009 or Sarah Stuckey at (317) 213-1818 for each month’s location.

CBS Book Club: 3 p.m. Sunday, July 12 at the home of Susan Meyers to discuss the book “Skylark” by Paula McLain. Contact Sharon Karp at skarp@iu.edu for the address or for more information.

Something For Everybody Shabbat: 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 17, and Friday, Aug. 21. It will feature a split service on Friday night and a Learners’ Shabbat on Saturday morning of the third full Shabbat of the month. On Friday evening CBS song leader Juliette Nehring will lead the alternative-style service in the chapel, while Rabbi Justin will lead a classic service in the Social Hall. Everyone will come together following the two services for an Oneg in the

library. Learners’ Shabbat is at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning and will feature an abbreviated worship service with a chance to learn and discuss the meaning of some of the prayers, plus weekly Shabbat Torah study to dive deeper into the stories of David and the Psalms attributed to him.

Shabbark: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14. This annual Shabbat service is popular for everyone and their furry friends. Bring your dog(s) to Temple and meet outdoors behind the building. There will be a special Shabbat service along with treats for the pets and for the people. In the case of bad weather, the “bark” part of the Shab”bark” service will be postponed, and a regular humans’ Shab”bat” service will be held indoors without pets in the chapel instead.

Regular CBS Shabbat Services: 6:30 p.m. every Friday evening at Temple, both in person and virtual. Zoom links and access codes are available to everyone through the CBS website.

Congregation B’nai Torah

Daf Yomi: Every morning at 6:15 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. on Sundays.

Lunch & Learn: Noon on Mondays. Rabbi Hasten is teaching the book of Melachim.

Mishna Class: Every morning after Shacharit.

Halacha Class: between Mincha & Maariv, Sunday through Thursday.

Business Halacha: Every Tuesday after Maariv.

Tehillim for women: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the library.

Men’s Mishmar: 8 p.m. Thursday nights. Learn with a chavrusa or join a class.

Night Seder: Sunday through Thursday after Maariv.

Shabbat Youth Groups

- After Kedusha of Mussaf (Approximately 10:55 a.m.)
- Preschool and Kindergarten meet in the playroom for parsha, davening and games with Navah and Simchah
- 1st grade and older meet in the English Library for the new Mitzvah

Program

Parshat Shavua: An hour before Mincha on Shabbat
Seudah Shlishit Class: Rabbi Teitelbaum will be speaking.
Chill Zone: 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. Activities for children and teens.

Visit btorahindy.org, email office@btorah.org or call (317) 253-5253 ext. 1 for more information.

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

Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. (8:30 a.m. on holidays) Monday & Thursdays; and 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Fridays.

Shabbat Shacharit Service: 9 a.m. Saturdays

Shacharit Service at Chabad (unless otherwise noted): 9 a.m. Sundays

Evening Shabbat Services: Times vary weekly. Service times can be found online.

Minha and Kabbalat Shabbat will resume in the fall.

Shabbat Minha: Saturday Afternoons

Shabbat Class: 1 p.m. Saturdays after the Oneg. Join Rabbi Askenazi in learning about a variety of halacha, holidays, and topics that arise in discussions.

Sephardic Traditions in Tefilla Class led by Rabbi Askenazi: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays.

TNT (Tuesday Night Torah): 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays. Join Rabbi Askenazi for a lively discussion of the Parasha. Contact Rabbi Askenazi at rabbi@etzchaimindy.org with questions.

Annual Member Picnic: July 5

Subscribe to receive emails or visit www.etzchaimindy.org for up-to-date

information. Connect with them on Facebook [@EtzChaimIndy](https://www.facebook.com/EtzChaimIndy) and [@EtzChaimtheSisterhood](https://www.facebook.com/EtzChaimtheSisterhood). Contact (317) 251-6220, office@etzchaimindy.org, or sisterhood@etzchaimindy.org.

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

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 Torah, chapter by chapter, text seeking understanding of the teaching for the time and discussing its message for today. Unless otherwise noted, you can attend in person or online. No prior knowledge is necessary, and all are welcome. PLEASE NOTE: Registration for new attendees is now required to attend Torah Study online. Please email clergy.office@ihcindy.org by 3 p.m. on Friday to receive the Zoom link.

Shabbat in the Park: 6 p.m. Friday, July 17. Come for a special outdoor Shabbat in the Park, rain or shine. Enjoy live jazz and a picnic (bring your own dinner). Then, the service will begin at 7:15 p.m. More information at ihcindy.org.

IHC Sisterhood’s Gift Shop Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday; 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Fridays; You can also make a special appointment to shop by emailing ihcsisterhoodgiftshop1@gmail.com.

Grief Group: 6 p.m. Thursday, July 30. Join Cantor Aviva Marer and Clinical Psychologist Tami Krichiver in a warm, confidential environment to comfort one another, share pain, reflect on loss, or simply observe and listen.

Euchre Circle: 10 a.m. Monday, July 13, 27, Aug. 10 and 24; and 6 p.m. Thursday, July 23 and Aug. 27. All levels of play are welcome to come and have some fun, meet, and compete for a prize. Email Circle Leader Melanie Gottlieb at mlgott9675@gmail.com with questions.

Mahjongg Mavens: 10 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. Fridays. Grab your tile set and play a game (or 10) with the other IHC Mahjongg mavens. This addictive game of skill, strategy, and luck is a great way

to spend time with other IHC enthusiasts on a Friday. Contact Amy Isaacs with questions.

Zillennial Jews and Java: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, July 25 at Coat Check Coffee. Join the Zillennial Circle for coffee and Torah study.

Visit ihcindy.org or [@IHCIndy](https://www.facebook.com/IHCIndy) on Facebook for services, classes, and programs, and more information.

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

Weekly Minyan: 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at CST and via Zoom. Your presence helps ensure a meaningful and complete prayer experience for our community, and it’s a wonderful opportunity to connect, reflect, and support one another in a warm and welcoming setting especially for those in mourning or observing a yahrzeit. Visit the website for the Zoom link.

Weekly Shabbat Services: 6:30 p.m. Fridays and 9:30 a.m. Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at CST and via Zoom. Visit the website for the Zoom link.

Religious School and Hebrew School: 9 a.m. Sundays and 7:45 p.m. Wednesdays starting in August. School is for kids from kindergarten to 6th grade, members and non-members are welcome. Small classes with individualized attention providing both B’nai Mitzvah preparation along religious education and Hebrew are offered. Hebrew schooling on Wednesday is via Zoom only. Visit the website to enroll your child or for more information.

Jim Irsay 1976 Acts of Kindness Day: Wednesday, Aug. 5. The Rotary Club of Carmel and Kiwanis Club of Carmel are partnering to launch the Jim Irsay 1976 Acts of Kindness Day and Congregation Shaarey Tefilla is taking this opportunity to collect and donate food to Popsie’s Pantry. This community-wide event celebrates Carmel’s 50th anniversary as a city with 1,976 acts of service to honor Jim Irsay’s legacy of generosity.

Visit shaareytefilla.org for more information.

Save the Date

RUN 4 THEIR MEMORY

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF OCTOBER 7

A meaningful evening of remembrance and community to honor the lives lost on October 7. The event will begin with a brief memorial program, followed by a 1K remembrance walk and a 5K commemorative run.

Evening of October 7, 2026

Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus

More details to follow.

