

MAY/JUNE 2025

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS.



P2G SOLIDARITY MISSION
PAGE 5

2024 IMPACT REPORT
PAGE 20

EVENT COVERAGE AND WHAT'S NEXT
INSIDE

IN THIS ISSUE

- 5 Feature: P2G Solidarity Mission
- 8 Challah Prince
- 10 Feature: Yarden Garzon
- 13 Women's Philanthropy
- 16 NEXTGen
- 17 PJ Library
- 18 Jewish Family Services
- 20 2024 Impact Report
- 50 Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis
- 51 Jewish Community Center
- 52 Jewish Community Relations Center
- 53 Hooverwood Living
- 54 Synagogue Listing

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.



Advertise with Jewish Federation News

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

Dear Readers,

Here in Indianapolis, and around the country, Jewish adults who had been disconnected from our community are finding their way back. They are learning that just because you haven't been involved before, that doesn't mean you can't start today. There's no secret club or handshake. We don't pass judgement or make you take a test. All we have is an open invitation to participate.



Marc Swatez
MARC SWATEZ
Chief Executive Officer

If you're a recent transplant, perhaps one who arrived during COVID, we want to connect with you. If you've been part of this community for years but never felt the pull to get involved until now, we're here to help you find your way. I promise, you won't be the only new person in the room.

We are fortunate to have countless ways to engage in Jewish life. Anyone will tell you: **just come**. That's the first step. The doors are unlocked. Attend a Shabbat service at any of our welcoming synagogues. Stop by a summer BBQ at the JCC. Meet new friends at a NEXTGen Happy Hour. Bring your kids to a PJ Library program. Take part in a JCRC Israel Around the Table discussion. Volunteer at Popsie's Pantry. Tour the Hebrew day school and Holocaust Museum. Attend a community event. Please.

You are welcome. Your family is welcome. Your kids are welcome. Half the battle is just showing up. And if you're looking to begin a leadership journey in our community, there are plenty of ways to step into that role as well.

But here's the key: **we don't know to come find you—you have to take the first step.** Meet with a rabbi or a Jewish communal professional. Tell us about your interests and let us help.

And if showing up in person isn't an option, there are many ways to engage online, such as following Jewish news sources, attending webinars with our partners in Israel, and streaming synagogue services.

This spring, we hosted the Challah Prince, an event open to the entire community. The room was filled with people from all walks of life, gathered in a welcoming, joyful atmosphere. Events like this happen throughout the year, in every Jewish institution.

So please **come**. Introduce yourself. And before you leave, set up a coffee date with two or three people - make that your goal.

We won't come knocking on your door - but when you open it, you'll find a community ready to embrace you.

Let's Get Coffee & Chat!

317-726-5450
mswatez@jfgi.org

Discussion About Antisemitism Affecting the Next Generation



Parents and students joined an important discussion about how to have difficult conversations on difficult topics with the community's next generation. Marc Swatez, Jewish Federation CEO, talked about the work Federation and the Jewish Community Relations Council are doing locally to help the next generation navigate antisemitism and anti-Zionism. The audience had an interactive conversation, which included a panel with David Sklar, JCRC Executive Director, and David Gotthelf, a psychologist and an adjunct professor working with students at high schools and universities.

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis' 120th Annual Meeting

Join the JFGI Board of Directors in recognizing our Legacy Community with heavy hors d'oeuvres before the meeting in the gallery space in front of Laikin Auditorium.

Meeting will include:

- Election and Installation of Officers, and JFGI Board Members
- Thank You to Board Members who will be completing their term of service, including President Helen Kurlander Goldstein!
- Annual Awards Recognition
- State of the Jewish Federation Address by JFGI CEO, Marc Swatez
- AND MORE!

Wednesday, June 11, 2025
6 p.m. cocktail hour; 7 p.m. meeting

Laikin Auditorium
on the Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus

Register at
bit.ly/jfgiannual25



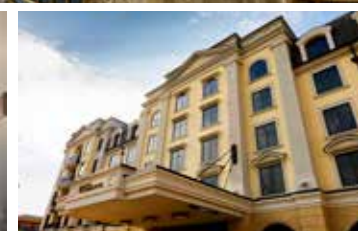
Coming Together As One Through Sadness and Strength

Almost 200 community members gathered on the Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus in February to stand in solidarity with Israel and honor the memories of hostages Oded Lifschitz z"l, Shiri Bibas z"l, Ariel Bibas z"l, and Kfir Bibas z"l who had just made their final journey home to Israel.

"Even in our sorrow, we seek moments of humanity and love," said JCRC President Eli Issacs. "As a people who have known profound pain, we do not give up on our yearning for peace."

Members of the local Israeli community, local clergy and teens led the crowd in prayer, readings and song that express the pain and the hope for a better future. The room was silent while volunteers read the names of each of the hostages who were still in captivity at that time.

After the indoor ceremony, everyone walked outside to Celebration Plaza, memorial candles in hand. They were led in song by Cantors Melissa Cohen and Aviva Marer, accompanied by Rabbi Brett Krichiver.



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.

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Indy's Life-Changing Journey on P2G Solidarity Mission

“It was a very deep experience for me to actually see the tie between Indianapolis and the Western Galilee. You feel what you are actually experiencing in the missions; something you can't truly get without visiting the region.”
-Ido Shuqrun



Whether near or far, we are

TOGETHER AS ONE

Partnership2Gether Western Galilee Solidarity Mission to Israel
February 25-28, 2025



15 Indianapolis leaders traveled to Israel in February for the Partnership2Gether Western Galilee Solidarity Mission. The mission provided a wide range of Western Galilee experiences and people-to-people dialogue to understand the impact of the recent war on the region and population. Alongside Indianapolis leaders, the delegation gathered participants from Budapest, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, and Texas – 25 people in total.

Megan Maurer, U.S. P2G Chair, and Moti Yeger, Israel P2G Chair, kicked off the mission with a warm welcome to the group. The cohort then visited a naval base in Nahariya to learn about Israel's maritime defense strategies and to have lunch. The bunch split for the afternoon; some visited the Galilee Medical Center to tour the underground hospital, while others went to a Gesher HaZiv farm to learn about agriculture hardships during a war.

The group came back together to visit Arab ElAramshe, a Bedouin village on the Lebanese border. They visited the community center, which sustained significant damage from missiles during the war. They also heard from village representatives and IDF soldiers about their lives since the war began.

The day ended with a very emotional virtual reality experience by Shlomi's

Glasses. Shlomi Ziv was kidnapped at the Nova Festival and later freed in a military operation in June 2024. His sister and cousin started Shlomi's glasses to show a chilling example of what it was like to be abducted and held hostage in Gaza. That emotional roller coaster was only the beginning—day two proved just as heart-wrenching.

On day two, the group was segmented to meet with bereaved families in Kfar Masarik. Half of the group met with the family of Sivan Sade, an 18-year-old who was killed by a bomb that hit the community's broccoli field. The other half walked through a garden, which was being built for Jordan Buskila, a young adult who was murdered at the Nova Festival.

"I found the condolence call to the Sade family to be especially impactful, and also gutting," Greg Maurer said. "It is still impossible to comprehend. It was an honor to have the opportunity to pay our respects."

The next stop was to Akko to take part in the memorial service of Shiri Bibis and her two sons—Ariel, 4, and Kfir, 2. This was not something planned in the itinerary, but was very meaningful for the group as they stood shoulder to shoulder with the community in a sea of orange balloons and Israeli flags in memory of the deceased. The Mayor of Akko, Amichai Ben Shloosh, then spoke to

the group about the challenges of running a mixed Arab/Jewish city and his plans to help local businesses affected by the war.

Uri Arnon, a local celebrity chef and restaurateur, met the delegation for lunch at Roots, a popular Mediterranean restaurant in town. Arnon came to Indianapolis in May 2024 and created the menu for the Major Donor Dinner. That afternoon, Daniel Arama, the Head of Tourism in Akko, gave a local tour of the old city and the history of its beautiful architecture. One stop was at a local business who described the ongoing challenges businesses face due to the lack of tourism since the war began. In the evening, the group was welcomed into the homes of P2G friends. Israeli hospitality is second to none and left both bellies and hearts full.

For the last full day of the solidarity mission, the group divided to complete two service projects. The first group painted the walls of a bomb shelter donated by the US Partnership communities, while the second group visited a local high school to speak with gifted students. Following, the group headed to Yanuch, a Druze Village along the Lebanon border. The Druze are a unique ethnic and religious minority who are loyal to their homeland. They serve in the IDF at rates exceeding those of Jewish Israelis. A widow of a Druze Lt. Colonel shared the tragic story of her husband's

passing during the current war. During the visit, Megan Maurer of Indianapolis received the prestigious Universal Peace Council Human Rights Leader honor for her work to support the Druze community. This—award is so distinguished that the last recipient was the current Pope, Pope Francis!

The Druze community warmly welcomed the cohort with a lunch featuring a variety of delicious, homegrown delicacies. The mission ended that evening with dinner, music, and celebration at the Partnership2Gether Center.

The cohort walked away from the experience with new friends local and abroad, a true sense of the people in the Western Galilee and their resiliency in times of war.

"It was a very deep experience for me to actually see the tie between Indianapolis and the Western Galilee," said Ido Shuqrun. "You feel what you are actually experiencing in the missions; something you can't truly get without visiting the region."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis and Partnership2Gether continue to strengthen their bond, hoping to inspire more people to get involved by participating in future programs and mission trips.

"It is so important to have the involvement with Partnership because the more we get involved, the more we benefit from these relationships between three countries," said Gadi Boukai.

Visit www.jewishagency.org/partnership2gether/ to learn more about Partnership. Read Greg Maurer's solidarity mission reflection blog at <https://bit.ly/regsblog25>.



The group visited a community center at Arab ElAramshe, a Bedouin village on the Lebanese border, which sustained significant damage from missiles during the war.



Marina Grabovsky and Karen Lichtenfeld painting a bomb shelter donated by US partner Federations.



Some of the mission participants planted in a memorial garden for Jordan Buskila, a young adult who was murdered at the Nova Festival.



The World Peace Council gave Megan Maurer the Universal Peace Council Human Rights Leader award during a visit to the Druze community.



Shlomi's Glasses provided virtual reality to the cohort to show a chilling example of what it was like to be abducted and held hostage in Gaza.



The P2G Solidarity Mission group with Akko Mayor Amihai Ben Shlush after the Bibas memorial service.



Indianapolis community members who joined the P2G Solidarity Mission and Akko Mayor Amihai Ben Shlush.

Jewish Community Gets the Royal Treatment with Challah Workshop to Kick Off 2025 Annual Campaign

The Challah Prince, Idan Chabasov, helped kick off the Jewish Federation's 2025 Annual Campaign, with a sold-out Challah braiding workshop in March. Participants got a hands-on experience, learning many unique ways to braid Challah, and then got to take their Challah home and bake it just in time for Shabbat.



Together
As One

1. Chief Development Officer Rebecca Schalit-Newman speaks to attendees about the Annual Campaign.
2. Ilycia Mordoh, Alan Mordoh, and Kate Mansalis roll out dough.
3. Caryl Auslander, Jodi Greenwald, and Debora Herold pose for a photo.
4. Challah Prince Idan Chabasov hypes up the crowd.
5. Attendees watch the challah demonstration.
6. Lindsay Williams and her children get their dough ready.
7. Chabasov demonstrates how to braid the dough.
8. Chabasov poses with Mina Shirazi, who won one of the braided challahs.
9. Chabasov poses with Wendy Keller, who won one of the demonstrated braided challahs.
10. Galit Sloman won a Challah Prince demonstration challah.

IU Women's Basketball Star Yarden Garzon Feels Support from Hoosier Jewish Community

Living and immersing oneself in a new country, especially as a young adult, can be difficult. But for the past 3 years, Indiana University (IU) Women's Basketball Starter Yarden Garzon, says she has never felt more welcome and part of a team.

Garzon, 21, is from Ra'anana, Israel. She was recruited by IU when she was in high school. She chose IU because she loves the program, the people, the school's work ethic, and saw a lot of growth in the women's players on the teams before her.

"Everyone cares about each other and basketball-wise, this was the best place for me," Garzon said.

Garzon is completing her junior year at IU, studying economics and mathematics. Standing at 6' 3", she plays guard in the starting five, and is the Hoosiers' leading scorer, averaging 14.5 points per game. Garzon has played more than 93 straight games and has never missed a game in her IU career. This season, she broke the IU record for three pointers made during their



match against the Purdue Boilermakers. It was a record that stood for 31 years at 206 three pointers. As of the beginning of March, she scored over 217 and still has an entire season of eligibility next year to extend the record.

Jeremy Gray, IU's basketball announcer, coined the phrase "Shalosh Garzon," during her Freshman year. Shalosh means

three in Hebrew. He says it every time she makes a three-point shot.

Garzon is not the first in her family to play college ball in the United States. Her sister, Lior, 23, has played women's basketball for Oklahoma State, Villanova, and now at the University of Colorado. She says the transition was easier knowing her sister was in the states.

As far as support from Hoosier nation, Garzon says they are showing up for her big time, especially members of the Jewish community.

"It's part of the magic here," she said. "People know basketball and are big fans. Home games for us are a different game – the community is here for us and we can feel their love."

Besides finding balance between managing her time studying and on the court, Garzon is very involved in the local Hillel and Chabad chapters.

"The school has a large Jewish population – over 6,000 Jewish students – and this community has really embraced me, she said. "I feel a part of something bigger than myself and I have made a lot of good friends through Jewish programming."

Even on Shabbat, she feels at home. In Israel, she used to spend every Shabbat with her family. Now, she spends every Shabbat with either IU Hillel or IU Chabad, that put on mega Shabbats.

"The environment and with how many people are there, just blows my mind," Garzon said. "I have never had Shabbat dinner with 1,000 Jewish people until I came here."

After October 7, IU Hillel put on a "blue out" for Garzon at her next home game. Around 600 people attended the game wearing blue shirts that said, "We Support Yarden and Israel."

"The community is showing up for me when I need them the most," she said. "They are always here and have my back. It was amazing to see all the shirts when I was playing. It gave me so much power and energy and made me feel like I was not alone."

Garzon uses her platform to advocate for the Jewish people. She uses it to educate students at the school. She said after October 7, she realized how much people don't know about Israel and the conflict with Palestinians, and has seen a lot of misinformation across other social media platforms.

"She is a tremendous advocate for the people of Israel and does everything she

can for Israel," said Megan Kramper, IU's Assistant Athletic Director for Strategic Communications. "She wants to teach people and does a great job. We have done a good job of offering our support to her as well."

During press conferences, she also advocates for the hostages and reminds the world that she and so many others are doing everything they can to bring them home. During the 2024 basketball season, Garzon wore a "Bring Them Home" wristband to every game.

While Garzon misses her family and friends back home, she feels like she has built a second home here and found her Indiana family.

Garzon plans to finish her degree then enter the WNBA draft and to play professional basketball. Kramper says she is projected to be a first or second round pick.



Yarden Garzon
 Class - Junior
 Height - 6' 3"
 Ra'anana, Israel

2024-25
Season STATS
 PTS - 14.4
 REB - 5.4
 AST - 3.2
 FG% - 43.1

Ignite

Ignite Your Passion for Jewish Life!

Attention individuals in their 50s and 60s!

Explore meaningful connections and discover community with your peers. This new cohort is designed to deepen your knowledge of Indianapolis and global Jewish communities and connect you to leadership and volunteer opportunities!

Five monthly meetings

International trip - April 2026

More information coming this summer!

Contact Margo Fox at mfox@jfgi.org with questions.

Teens Gain Knowledge and Understanding with Cafe Dilemma Meet Ups



In February, teens joined together to learn about the Knesset and Israeli laws through an exciting debate centered around raising pigs in Israel. In March, following an update on current events in Israel, the teens engaged in deep discussion and a role play scenario to understand the dilemma.

Indy Leader Joins Newest JFNA Cabinet Class

Joshua Kaback, a JFGI 2024 36 Under 36 cohort member and Indianapolis leader, joined the most recent Jewish Federations of North America National Young Leadership Cabinet class. Cabinet is a training program that educates, connects, and inspires current and future global leaders and philanthropists.

"I am grateful and honored to have the opportunity to participate in Cabinet and thankful for the support of our Indianapolis Federation for supporting me in this program," he said. "It truly is a world class leadership development opportunity." Kaback says Cabinet has been on his radar for several years as he's continued his journey to support the Jewish organizations where he has lived.

"I love the focus on the overall development and experience that Cabinet provides, as the program really covers an all-encompassing approach to leadership training," he said. "Throughout the program, I'll have the opportunity to learn about how and where JFNA works, specific training and best practices around local Federation-run activities (i.e., P&A), current events and issues impacting Jewish communities locally and globally and philanthropic training. Even better, I get to experience this with and build a network of young Jewish leaders throughout North America, including two other current members from Indianapolis (Matthew Tobe and Janine Shapiro)."

For Kaback, the program is all about growing his personal capabilities and network to better position himself for a lifetime of involvement in the Jewish community.

"My objective is to gain the knowledge and experiences that I can apply within our Federation to ensure our needs are met," he said. "This means having the right information and skills to support our community."

Cabinet is a five-year program, consisting of Cabinet retreats, international study missions, domestic experiences, and online learning.

Kaback traveled to Seattle earlier this year to spend time with his cabinet class for onboarding, networking, meetings and trainings, focused on both group and individual trainings, keynote speakers, and debriefs on world events and Federation initiatives over the next year. In April, he went on the International Study Mission in Azerbaijan. He will also attend a Cabinet real estate professionals retreat later this year in Colorado. So far, Kaback says he has had a really good experience with the program.

Following the Cabinet program, Kaback plans to match his capabilities and experiences to the overall needs of the Indianapolis Jewish Federation, whatever those needs are. He currently sits on the Planning & Allocations committee and looks forward to expanding from there.

Kaback offers some guidance for those who wish to join a future Cabinet class.

"Reach out to myself, one of our other community members who are currently in Cabinet or Alumni, and/or one of Federation pros to learn more," he said. "Secondly, if you are able and willing to be fully dedicated to the program, just do it. The program will deliver immediate returns in terms of philanthropic leadership, professional, and personal development."



Joshua Kaback and Janine Shapiro on a cabinet retreat in summer 2024.

Families Create Purim Gift Baskets for Holocaust Survivors

Around 75 Holocaust Survivors in the Indianapolis Jewish community received a special crafted Mishloach Manot (Purim gift basket), made by families during a Women's Philanthropy mitzvah project day in February. Kids were also able to make their own groggers and join a healthy Israel debate.



LINKING WOMEN TOGETHER

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis' Women's Philanthropy presents a special discussion for Lion of Judah and Pomegranate giving society members with Freida Rothman, a second-generation Jewish jewelry designer and entrepreneur. The conversation will be moderated by Karina Rosenthal. This event is also open to daughters and granddaughters.

7-9 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 29 AT A PRIVATE DONOR'S HOME

(Address provided upon RSVP)



Freida's Jewelry was inspired by the legacy of four grandparents, all Holocaust survivors, and honors the stories and sentiments that have shaped Freida as a mother and daughter, as well as represent the many ways women show leadership.



Ticket cost is \$100, which includes her popular Am Yisrael Chai Star of David Pendant necklace (a \$195 value). Desserts and beverages will be served (dietary laws observed).

REGISTER AT
bit.ly/linkingwomen

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

Women's Philanthropy Chairs
Marina Grabovsky, Linda Mordoh

Women's Philanthropy Committee
Cara Berg-Raunick, Laura Carafiol, Lisa Frank, Rachel Gershman, Iris Goldberg, Paula Goldberg, Shayna Gordon Cohen, Barbara Leventhal, Stacy Rekhter, Lori Schankerman, Victoria Shmoel, Leslie Abrams Tobe



36 Under 36 Reunite at the Court



The 2024 36 Under 36 cohort met up with the 2022 class to enjoy a night of basketball and conversation in February at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY SIGNATURE EVENT

FEATURING
Tovah Feldshuh
CELEBRATED ACTRESS, SINGER & PLAYWRIGHT

Evening of Monday, October 27, 2025

The Club at Holliday Farms

Tovah Feldshuh is currently starring in the Emmy award Netflix show "Nobody Wants This."

Join us for this women's-only evening celebrating the impact of Jewish women in the community and beyond.

More information coming soon



INDY W MEX

LEARN MORE

Want to know more? Attend an information session at 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 19, at a private home in Carmel.

RSVP at
bit.ly/wpmex25



Women's Philanthropy Journey to Mexico City Co-Chairs
Iris Goldberg & Victoria Shmoel

Women's Philanthropy Co-Chairs
Marina Grabovsky & Linda Mordoh



WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY JOURNEY TO MEXICO CITY

FEB. 1-5, 2026

Join Women's Philanthropy for a four-night exclusive journey! The trip will explore the dynamic, diverse Jewish community of Mexico City, and the city's historic roots and unique cultural traditions. While connecting with each other and the culture, women will also learn the important philanthropic work being done on the ground by meeting with Jewish Federation supported agencies.

Land Cost & Registration: coming soon

Contact Rebecca Schalit-Newman at rschalitnewman@jfgi.org for more information.

The Women's Philanthropy Journey to Mexico City requires a minimum household gift of \$1,800 or more (Pomegranate Level and above) to the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis' 2025 Annual Campaign.





NEXTGen

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

Nextgeners Take on Game Show Night



NEXTGen hosted a game show for the young Jewish community in February followed by a round of drinks at the Ale Emporium. Participants tested their trivia skills and luck across multiple games inspired by prime-time game shows!

Shabbat Celebration During March Madness



Dozens of young adults enjoyed a March Madness Shabbat with stadium food, live coverage of the games and a bracket tournament.

Young Adult Mitzvah Project for Popsie's Pantry



NEXTGen put together 105 laundry kits for JFS to distribute through Popsie's Pantry.



PJ Library

jewishindianapolis.org/programs/pj-library

@pjlibrarygreaterindianapolis @PJLibraryGreaterIndianapolis

Tu 'Bishvat Sprouts with HHAJ

PJ Library families enjoyed a day at the Children's Museum in February. Participants created a "garden in a glove" for the holiday of Tu b'shvat before heading off into the museum to explore with new friends!



New Community Parent- Baby Group

PJ Library in partnership with local organizations, IHC, BEZ, HHAJ and JCC Indy, has started a monthly Parent-Baby group for families with infants 12 months and younger. Each month families share in a learning opportunity and enjoy one of the cutest playdates in town!

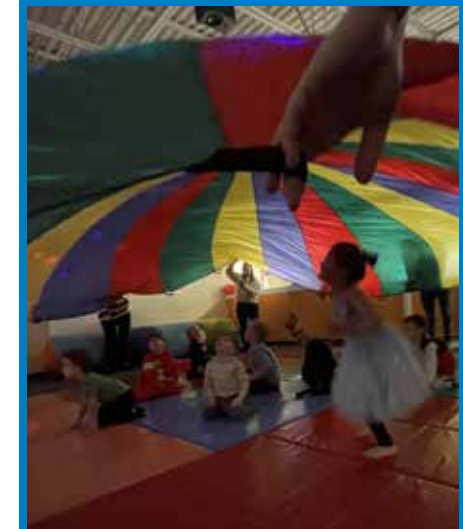
Topics explored include allergies, developmental milestones, quality childcare and holiday celebrations.

Follow PJ Library on social media to learn about upcoming events @pjlibrarygreaterindianapolis.



Purim Gymboree

In March, families enjoyed Purim Palooza at Gymboree Play and Music Carmel.



Children enjoyed a dance party celebration with ribbon wands and disco lights.



Using stickers and gems, children created festive crowns to adorn their costumes.



Jewish Family Services

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

Pickle for Purpose: A Winning Impact

The JFS Pickle for Purpose pickleball tournament was a tremendous success, raising over \$36,000 to support vital community programs. This generosity strengthens critical JFS initiatives, ensuring continued essential support for individuals and families.

A special thank you to the Pickle for Purpose Committee for their hard work and dedication in making this event a success: Marlo Katz, Wendy Keller, Heidi Klausner, David Calderon, Emma Law-Oppman and Rachel Birenbaum.



Pickleball players wish each other luck in their match.



Energetic hits by pickleball players.



Competitors brought their A game.



Scott Fisher, Shlomo Shemesh, David Calderon, and Alex Dolgin hit paddles for a job well done.



Tournament Champions Scott Fisher, Shlomo Shemesh, David Calderon, and Alex Dolgin.



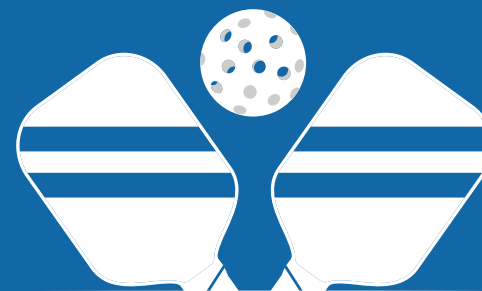
The fundraiser also included a prompt game of Mahjongg.



Pickleballer getting ready for the serve.



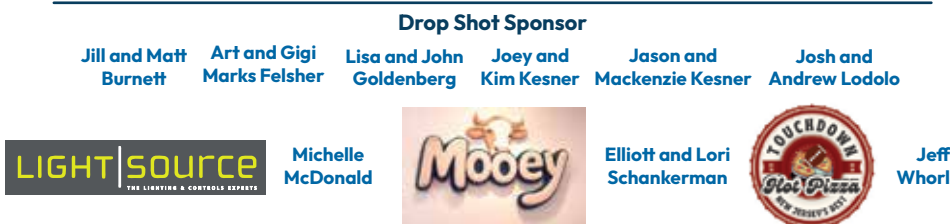
A player hits the ball in mid air.



Pickle for Purpose

JFS Pickleball Tournament

Thank you to our program sponsors



Holocaust Survivor Day in June

This June, organizations from around the world will come together to celebrate Holocaust Survivors. A private event for Indianapolis local survivors will take place in early June.

Passover Food Drive Supports Over 100 Households!



Community support made it possible to bring essential Passover foods to families and older adults in the community, making the holiday more meaningful, more accessible, and full of tradition. Thanks for being part of it!



Sunday, Sept. 7

This fundraising event will showcase a colossal structure made entirely out of cans of food.

More details coming soon!



20
24



Who We Are

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis is your center for philanthropy—a vibrant network of people, agencies, programs, and services that maintain and strengthen the Jewish community.

- Whenever a Jew is in need, the Federation is there.
- When thousands of Jews from the Former Soviet Union came to Indianapolis, the Federation provided apartments, food, English language classes and job training.
- When Jewish elderly community members required additional services, the Federation, Jewish Family Services, and the Jewish Community Relations Council partnered with local, state, and federal legislators to bring the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Program to Indianapolis (now Elder-Friendly Communities).
- When October 7 occurred, your Jewish Federation immediately sprung to action to provide necessary humanitarian aid to thousands in Israel.
- Your Jewish Federation continues to support Jews navigating a post October 7 world in the face of rising antisemitism.

What We Do

The Federation is the connection to the entire Jewish community—in Indianapolis, in Israel and around the world.

There are lots of exciting ways to make connections and a difference in the community. Federation programs and events are designed to further its mission, engaging, and connecting the community today and tomorrow.

The Federation's impact is your impact.

Major Donor Dinner

The 2024 Major Donor Dinner offered a special Israeli culinary experience from Israel Western Galilee Region Chef Uri Arnon. 170 donors heard from keynote speaker Oshrit Sabag, who shared her story of surviving October 7.



Raised \$353,600

A 20% overall increase from those same households in 2023



\$500,000

Legacy commitment



4 New

Lion of Judah Society Members



2 New

Pomegranate Society Members



5 Supplemental Gifts



6 First Time Donors



20 major donors get a hands-on cooking demonstration from Israeli Chef Uri Arnon.

Life & Legacy Community Celebration

The Federation hosted its annual Celebration of Legacy, recognizing the hundreds of community members who have made planned gift commitments to sustain Jewish Indianapolis. At this event, Alan and Linda Cohen received the prestigious Or L'Dor ("a light unto the generations") award for their decades of philanthropic support across the community and their leadership in endowing the community's PJ Library program. Their commitment to this program inspired others, with nearly \$1,000,000 in cash and planned gift commitments already received to sustain PJ Library in perpetuity. At this event, and throughout the year, the Federation's ongoing endowment efforts brought in planned gift commitments for PJ Library, the Federation, agencies, and community partners. This demonstrates how everyone can leave a legacy and help shape the community's future.



“ [PJ Library] does far more than provide books—it nurtures curiosity, strengthens Jewish identity and fosters a love for storytelling among young families... Together, we are ensuring that the next generation carries forward a strong sense of their heritage, values and community. ”

Linda Cohen

“ Despite the challenges facing the Jewish community today, we should not abandon our Jewishness but embrace it and do everything that we can to support important organizations. ”

Alan Cohen

Women's Philanthropy

Almost 300 women came together during the Women's Philanthropy signature event, Talking Antisemitism & Influence with Lizzy Savetsky. Savetsky is a social media influencer and Israeli activist. Her 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.



Maurer Koach Program

15 aspiring leaders were accepted into the second Maurer Koach Program cohort. The program provided experiences that equipped members with tools to educate, lead, and advocate. In addition to monthly sessions, trips to Chicago, Poland, and Hungary provided participants with opportunities to bond, deepen their understanding of antisemitism and the Holocaust and experience the vibrancy of European Jewish life. They are now using the tools they developed in daily life, and also stepping up to lead, joining committees of the Jewish Federation, local Jewish agencies and synagogues.

“This program changed my life. The trip and meetings strengthened my faith in the future of the Jewish community—not just through education, but through a powerful call to action. It reminded me to have faith in ourselves because we are that future.”

Michael Kaplan



“The Maurer Koach Program has given me a new sense of pride, comfort, and hope in who I am as a Jew and how I will confidently raise my two young daughters in our Jewish community. The experience has increased my knowledge and given me insight and tools to take back to our community and begin my goal of breaking down barriers through education.”

Marla Wald



36 Under 36

The second class of 36 Under 36 outstanding Jewish young adults were selected and celebrated with a dinner and award 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.



3 New

Pomegranate Society Members



3 New

Lion of Judah Society Members



\$51,000

Raised in Sponsorships



44

Gift Increases



10

Recovered Donors



2

Renewal Gifts



\$10,000 Additional Gift

From a new Lion of Judah member

Oshrit Sabag, an October 7 survivor, speaks to an intimate group of Pomegranate Society members about the horrific attacks that took place and what life in Israel is like during the war.



Lion of Judah Giving Society members met with Sigal Kanotopsky, Northeast Regional Director of Jewish Agency for Israel, to hear her story of making Aliyah from Ethiopia to Israel.



Prystowsky ATID 6

15 community members looking to advance their leadership development skills joined the Prystowsky ATID 6 cohort. The objective of the Prystowsky ATID program is to provide meaningful experiences that equip these emerging leaders with the skills and knowledge to deepen their leadership and commitment to the Indianapolis Jewish community. ATID alumni from the five previous cohorts are serving on boards of every Jewish agency and organization in Indianapolis, involved with national and international Jewish organizations, and many local secular organizations.



“ ATID has been a transformative experience, empowering me with the knowledge, network, and confidence to lead with purpose. It has amplified my voice, connected me with like-minded changemakers, and provided the tools and opportunity to drive real impact in the Jewish community. The friendships, mentorship, and unwavering support I’ve gained will stay with me for a lifetime.”

Karina Rosenthal



“ The ATID program has provided a defining spark in my identity as a Jewish professional. My cohort consists of peers who share a similar desire to give back to the community. We’ve had the opportunity to learn about the greater Indianapolis Jewish community, brainstorm potential impact drivers, and hold one another accountable. ATID has provided knowledge, networking, and a call for action. The future is bright for the Indianapolis Jewish community.”

Noah Dock



Indianapolis Joins Young Adult Seminar in Budapest

Community leaders Andrew Steele, David Flaumenhaft, and Lauren Suriel joined the Young Adult Seminar in Budapest, Hungary to discuss Jewish identity and peoplehood with other participants from the Partnership2Gether region in Israel and Hungary.

Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis’ 119th Annual Meeting featured President Helen Kurlander Goldstein’s update on the status of the Jewish community. CEO Marc Swatez gave a State of the Federation address with positive feedback about efforts to combat antisemitism and enhance the Jewish Community Campus. The Annual Award ceremony honored the following individuals for their outstanding efforts that continue to allow the community to thrive Jewishly.

- **Janine Shapiro and Eli Isaacs:** LL Goodman Young Leadership Award
- **Rabbi Dennis Sasso and Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso:** Kehilla Award
- **Emma Law-Oppman, M.A.C.A. Facebook Group:** The Lev Award
- **36 Under 36 Program, Andrea Kruszynski:** Domont Award
- **HHAI and the Partnership2Gether Virtual Innovative Project, Michael Voskoboynik and Miriam Gettinger:** Melvin Simon Tikkun Olam Award
- **Gigi Marks Felsher:** Liebert I. Mossler Community Service Award
- **Shari Lipp-Levine:** Frank H. Newman Award



Jewish Federations of North America National Young Leadership Cabinet

Janine Shapiro and Matthew Tobe joined JFNA’s National Young Leadership Cabinet, which is a leadership and philanthropic development program open to those between ages 30–45 who are looking to increase their philanthropy and engagement and are eager to become leaders in their local and/or national Jewish community. The two of them joined past cabinet members Marina and Leo Grabovsky on a trip to South America to see first-hand the international humanitarian work done by the Federation and its partners.



“ I think it's just important for us to realize that there are Jews everywhere who are hurting, and Jews everywhere that need assistance and help. It's important for people to realize that that's part of what the Federation does, and not just here in Indianapolis, not just in Israel, which is obviously very important, but all over the world.”

Matthew Tobe

ENGAGE

Women's Engagement Committee

The Women's Engagement Committee, made up of past 36 Under 36 honorees Emma Law-Oppman, Julie Singer, and Mollie Tavel Kaback, started the Connection, Empowerment, and Impact Series for women in their 30s - 50s. Throughout the year, there were engaging events, such as a Hamantaschen and Wine pairing, curating Passover baskets for Holocaust survivors, and a summer schmooze.



“I think that a lot of people look for belonging in a variety of places, both within and outside of our faith community. The women's engagement committee was founded on the premise of generating and deepening connections among Jewish women with that central linchpin - not as parents, not as young professionals, but as Jewish women in Central Indiana to learn and grow together as friends and neighbors.”

Julie Singer

Israel & Overseas

We Are One

Several Jewish community Hoosiers generously donated both time and resources to help those in need in Israel since the war broke out in October 2023. The Jewish Federation News magazine featured stories of their volunteer efforts, talking about the work they have done in Israel and why they decided to take action.



October 7 Remembrance



Over 1,000 people came together in person and on Livestream on Monday, Oct. 7 for a time of remembrance in a community-wide commemoration to pay tribute to the fallen, honor heroism in the face of darkness, unite the community, and reaffirm our community's strength and commitment to Israel. Speakers during the commemoration included Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, Jewish community leaders, Jewish clergy, Israeli community members, and former Israeli Defense Forces soldiers.

Partnership2Gether Solidarity Mission

10 Indianapolis delegates went to Israel on the Partnership2Gether Western Galilee solidarity mission to bring supplies and hope to people whose homes had been razed to the ground.



“The mission made me realize that we need Israel as Jews as much as Israelis need Jews of the diaspora. Though life is hard there, life is different and hard with the increase of antisemitism in the USA too. My husband and I are fortunate to be able to go on this trip and for the strong Jewish community we have built around us, especially for our children.”

Marina Grabovsky

Academic Delegation

The Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council and Jewish Federation hosted a delegation of six members from Western Galilee Academic College in Akko, Israel through Partnership2Gether Western Galilee. The delegation's visit included panels at Purdue University and Indiana University, as well as meetings with local leaders in Indianapolis and professors and faculty from Butler University and IU Indianapolis.



Indianapolis Community Shaliach

Aviya Yaakoby joined the Indianapolis Jewish Community as the community Shaliach (Israeli Emissary) in Fall 2024. The shlichim program is operated by the Jewish Agency for Israel, which sends young men and women around the world to provide a living connection to Israel. Aviya joined many programs throughout the community, and worked with various youth groups.

PJ Library

Bringing Jewish stories home and connecting families through fun, educational activities.



672 PJ Library and PJ Our Way book subscriptions
a 9% increase from 2023



129 new children enrolled
In 2024 in PJ Library (ages 0-8) and PJOW (ages 8.5-12)



1734 families
in total program attendance



Partnered with 17 community organizations for programming

“ PJ Library is such a wonderful part of our local Jewish community. We're newer to town, and it's hard to get out of the house and meet people when you have young toddlers, but we've loved meeting other young families at PJ Library events. PJ Library does a fantastic job of planning approachable activities to celebrate the Jewish holidays, and it's been a great way to introduce our children to the values and customs of our religion. ”

Shaina Hecht

“ We LOVE PJ books!! It's not only the books that are sent to our home - it's the activities that are hosted in the community, too! We've been on the PJ list since Noah was a baby, and it helps me to receive the books about holidays in advance and we start reading through those and it gets us into the mindset for the holiday. ”

I also love the cultural aspects! We get books about Israel, and the words in Israel vs. those in English. There are wonderful books about Spanish speaking Jewish populations, and the customs for those cultures.

There are so many that have become favorites for us over the years. I'm so grateful for these - really love them! ”

Kirsten Muetzel



NEXTGen

Providing meaningful programming for Jews in their 20s and 30s. Programs are fun, inclusive, and build community among peers.

2024 was a year packed with a wide range of programming. There were three community-wide Shabbat dinners, trivia nights, happy hours, hikes, volunteer opportunities and the premier Light it Up Chanukah party.



60+ Young Adults
Attended Light It Up in 2024



Program Attendance Doubled in 2024



2024 NEXTGen Friendsgiving Shabbat
was one of the most attended NEXTGen Shabbat dinners in 10 years.

“ During this complicated year, NextGen helped me connect with other young Jewish people in the area, while strengthening our community through fun shared experiences. ”

Nitsan Tsukert



Lou and Sybil Mervis Youth Philanthropy Indy (YoPhl) Teen Board



Youth Philanthropy Indy (YoPhl) is a youth education program that aims to encourage Jewish youth in greater Indianapolis to do good through philanthropy and service, grounded in Jewish values and community connection. In Hebrew slang, yophi means "excellent" or "great job."



10 Teens

Joined the 2024 YoPhl cohort



15 nonprofits

Submitted grant applications

“The Federation has done so much for myself as well as the entire Jewish community. YoPhi’s ability to teach students how to campaign and raise money will be quintessential in further advancement of my own career in the future.”

Ben Auslander, Senior at Carmel High School

Impact on Israel and State College Campuses

Community members attended an intimate gathering to hear a panel of Indiana college campus professionals talk about how the war in Israel is impacting local college campuses. Attendees also learned how the Jewish Federation invests in Israel.



Donor Thank You and Annual Campaign Kickoff

The Jewish Federation held a thank you donor and community campaign kickoff event with live music, great conversations, and food.



Jewish Federation Communication Channels

Through a variety of communication channels, the Jewish Federation effectively showcases its impact and community engagement. These efforts help promote programs and events while strengthening our fundraising initiatives

One of the most effective tools at our disposal is our suite of digital communication channels, including our email marketing platform and social media handles.



76.1% Increase

In Social Media Post Shares



155% Increase

In Social Media Post Reactions and Likes



76% Increase

In Social Media Followers



123% Increase

In Social Media Post Comments and Replies



7.05% Average

Post Engagement Rate (National average: 5.15%)



252% Increase

In Social Media Post Impressions



45% Average Open Rate

For emails through the email marketing platform (national average: 21%)



3.7% Average Click Rate

For emails through the email marketing platform (national average: 2.5%)



4,969 Households

Received The Jewish Federation News magazine - a 3.6% Increase



PROTECT

Safe Indiana

To create a more secure and prepared Jewish Community, Safe Indiana took a comprehensive and collaborative approach to prioritizing and enhancing safety, security, and preparedness locally and across the state.

- Three site security assessments known as Threat, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessments (TVRAs) conducted for Jewish facilities in Indianapolis and 14 total TVRAs conducted for Jewish facilities across the state.
- Held 12 monthly Safe Indiana information-sharing calls for security representatives from all Jewish organizations across the state.
- After a record increase in 2023, Safe Indiana still responded to 100% more incidents than in 2024, including threats, suspicious activity, property damage, flyering, and cyber security.



PROTECTING INDIANA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY



26 Training Events

to Jewish communities across the state resulting in over 600 people trained.

The strength of Safe Indiana is that it is not merely one person, one committee, one organization, or one community. Safe Indiana is a statewide network, and part of a larger network of networks, Jewish leaders and committed community members working collaboratively for the safety of each and every member and organization of the Jewish community in Indiana.

Nationally:

- In 2024, Secure Community Network (SCN) took in a record 5,409 incident reports nationwide from members of the community, law enforcement, and the security director network including JFGI's Regional Security Advisor. These incident reports included suspicious activity, threats, violence, property damage, harassment, and others. Every one of these reports is assessed and researched by SCN's analysts who provide 24/7 coverage. As a result, over 1,300 individual referrals were made directly to law enforcement partners nationwide.



SCN tracked 870

bomb/swatting threats nation wide

to Jewish organizations in 2024, a 750% increase from 2023.



SERVE

Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Services believes in building a community in which no person faces life challenges alone. Jewish Family Services provides inclusive human service inspired by Jewish values to strengthen lives and community in Greater Indianapolis.



JFS served over 2,000 households in 2024



590 Clients

Utilized social work support and direct services



1,500 +

Callers for referrals

Jewish Community Services



58 Jewish households

received emergency financial assistance



100 households

including 170 kids and 58 single parents were impacted by Adopt-a-Family Chanukah Assistance



155 households

were impacted by the Passover Food Drive



79 Hamsa Fund Grants

Were issued to Jewish youth and young adults for education and life enrichment opportunities

Popsie's Pantry



150 households

Served per year- both Jewish and non-Jewish



1,000

Visits in 2024 (9% increase)





Older Adults



99 older adults

participated in Social and Recreational Programs. 78% live alone.



75 Holocaust Survivors

received a variety of services, including mental health support, case management and emergency financial assistance.



Mental Health



217 clients

were provided with direct mental health support with 1,416 occurrences.



31 Jewish agency staff

Received trainings in youth mental health.



We reached out to JFS for some info to help my elderly mom find housing, but later I lost my job due to a medical crisis and found myself needing other support. Between the food pantry, help finding work and working with a social worker I was able to get back on my feet.

Client Testimonial



I never thought about needing help from my community or really from anywhere, but the day came when I did. JFS was there for me to help me through one of the toughest times in my life.

Client Testimonial



213

Pantry Deliveries



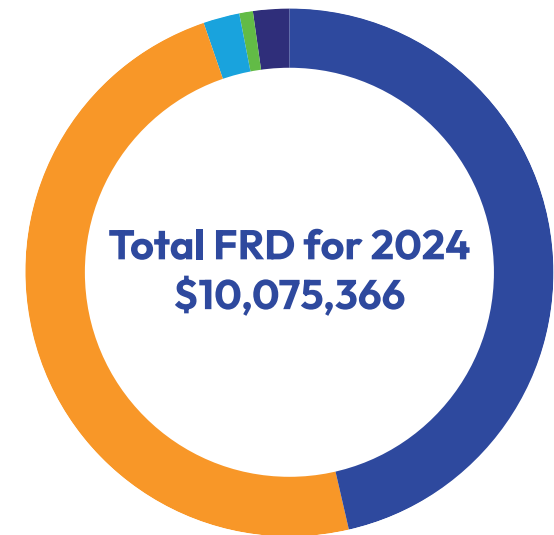
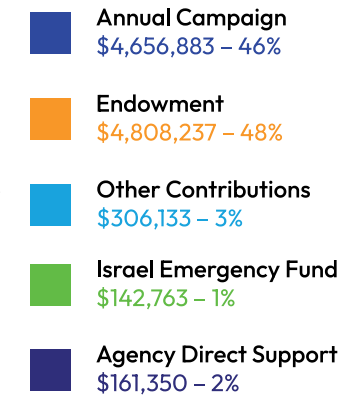
180

Grocery Shuttle RIDES

MOBILIZE

Total Financial Resource Development

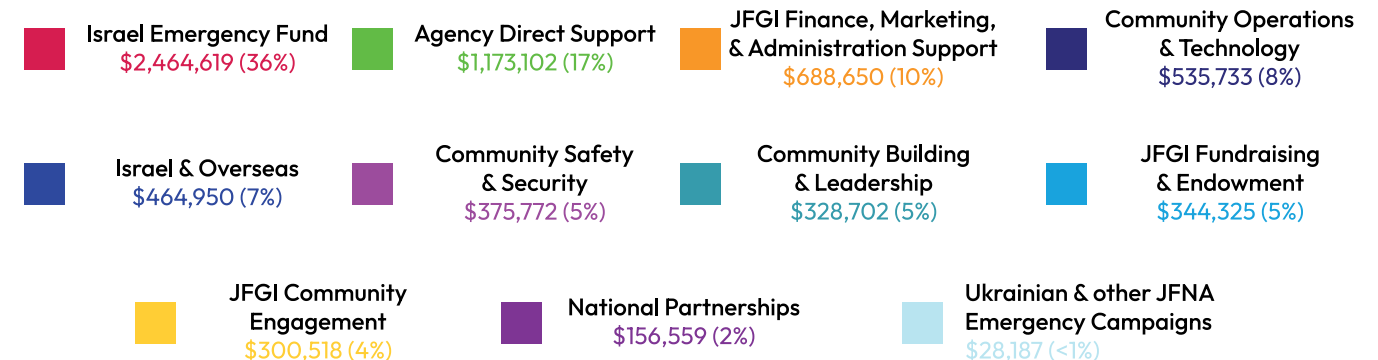
While the Annual Campaign is the backbone of the Federation's Total Financial Resource Development (FRD) efforts, it does not paint the complete picture of the impact that the Federation has on the community. In addition to the more than \$4.6 million distributed through the Annual Campaign, millions of dollars are raised each year through other Federation campaigns.



2024 Allocations

Thank you to the Planning & Allocations Committee, led by chairs Janine Shapiro and Paul Kraft, for all of their time and commitment as they reviewed funding requests, considered community needs, and recommended important allocations for 2024.

Countless hours are spent by committee members meeting, reading, and reviewing requests – and then engaging in thoughtful, active conversations about community needs, and community resources available to allocate from the Annual Campaign.



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 Lisa and Larry Sablosky
 Sarah (z"l) and Sidney (z"l) Sakowitz
 Greg Schahet
 Phyllis and Gary (z"l) Schahet

Ruby (z"l) and Sam (z"l) Schahet
 Lori F. Schankerman
 Anne Schuchman
 Stacy Segal
 Reuben (z"l) and Leona Shevitz
 Caryl Shideler
 Norm Sider
 Judi and Moe (z"l) Silverman
 Melvin Simon (z"l)
 Herbert Simon Family
 Armin (z"l) and Margaret (z"l) Skadron
 George Skadron
 Peter (z"l) and Sandra Skadron
 David Sklar
 Michael G. Skolnick
 Heather and Jeffrey Smulyan
 Jeffrey Sondhelm
 Julie Sondhelm
 Ann (Fogle) Spector
 Cindy Spier
 Dan Spitzberg
 Marilyn Spitzberg (z"l)
 Doris (z"l) and Harold (z"l) Stadler
 Rose Starer (z"l)
 Joan Stoner (z"l)
 Dodie (z"l) and Harold (z"l) Sugarman
 Charles E. Sydney (z"l)
 Stanley Talesnick (z"l)
 Gerald H. Tarshes (z"l)
 Carole Tavel
 Kit Tavel (z"l)
 Morton and Betty Tavel
 Leslie and Matthew Tobe
 Steven L. Tuchman and Reed Bobrick
 Carly and Larry Turow
 Phyllis and Victor (z"l) Vernick
 Nonie and David Vonnegut-Gabovitch
 Irene Weinberg
 Alberta (z"l) and Sherman (z"l) Weinstein
 David Wiener
 Horst Winkler
 Joan (z"l) and Walter Wolf
 Doug and Joan Zipes



THE TIME IS NOW

2024 brought the community into a post October 7 world, where Jewish people faced extraordinary challenges, including the staggering rise of antisemitism here, on college campuses, and around the world. Safety and security needs increased and so did the need to bolster security at Jewish institutions, while also providing guidance in security practices and facilitated trainings. The need for togetherness through impactful engagement opportunities increased. In addition, new and increased needs for elderly, youth and family services increased. The 2024 campaign theme, **The Time is Now**, was a reminder that there had never been a more crucial moment for Jews to support and invest in one another, and answer the greatest challenges for a stronger Jewish future.

Jewish Community Leader Named to Mutz Philanthropic Leadership Institute



corporations and social impact organizations across Indiana.

Raunick, a resident of Indianapolis, completed a competitive application process to gain one of 24 spots in this year's class.

Cara's commitment to philanthropy is born from her Jewish upbringing in a home that emphasized Tikkun Olam. After a decade of fulltime patient care in women's health, Raunick sought an opportunity to create greater systemic change and became the Director of Clinical Quality at Health Care Education & Training (HCET), a public health focused non-profit. She has since launched HCET's Midwest Trauma-Informed Training Center, born out of her early career experience as a sexual assault nurse examiner and her understanding of trauma as a public health crisis. She is engaged in community philanthropy through many avenues including chairing Women's Fund of Central Indiana's inaugural Women in Health Giving Collaborative, serving on

Cara Berg Raunick, of JFGI's inaugural 36 Under 36 class, has been selected as a member of the 2025 class of the Mutz Philanthropic Leadership Institute.

Launched by Indiana Philanthropy Alliance in 2021, the Mutz Institute provides a leadership training experience to skill-up professionals serving in board and executive roles at foundations,

Sycamore School's Board of Trustees, as a founding board member of the national Sarah Gibson Foundation, and as an Ambassador for Summer Stock Stage. She recently completed two terms on the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation's board of directors and now serves on the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis Women's Philanthropy Committee.

"My parents instilled in me the value of giving back and working hard to make the world a better place," Raunick said. "I remember early lessons about the value of giving, especially when it is done without an expectation of recognition or thanks but rather with a focus on making the world better, easing suffering, or helping someone to thrive. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to engage with leaders from across the state to deepen our understanding of how philanthropy can strengthen our communities, especially in this time when the need is so great."

Visit www.inphilanthropy.org/MutzInstitute for a full 2025 class list.



Purim Pics from Across the Community



A beautiful women's gathering, organized by Rubissa Rajeli Askenazi of Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation, took place on Sunday, March 9, in celebration of Purim with a royal theme. The participants enjoyed an immersive experience in the mitzvot of Purim, featuring themed tables, surprises, and, most importantly, a strong spirit of Jewish pride.



Purim at HHAJ was a day filled with joy, tradition, and community spirit. Students across all grades participated in Megillah readings, Mishloach Manot exchanges, and Matanot L'evyonim, embracing the mitzvot of the holiday with enthusiasm. A highlight of the day was the Middle School Purim Carnival, featuring 18 activity stations and a bounce house—planned and executed entirely by our students.



More than 200 people celebrated Chabad's Purim in the Shuk evening celebration with delicious food and Israel themed activities including Krav Maga, Henna art, Israeli candy stall and spice blending.



IHC celebrated Purim in the most "Wicked" way! From their adult shpiel to the JLP carnival, participants journeyed down the yellow brick road to find merriment and delight.



Congregation Shaarey Tefilla and Congregation Beth Shalom celebrated Purim with a carnival full of fun-filled games and activities for the whole family.



Congregation Beth-El Zedek celebrated Purim from the Wicked Awesome cast of Purim Shpiel and then celebrated with a Purim Carnival.

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



Connecting Communities Through Art



HHAI middle school students recently engaged in two powerful artistic experiences that created meaningful connections between Indianapolis and Sderot, Israel.

First, students participated in a collaborative mosaic project led by internationally renowned artist Joani Rothenberg, an HHA alumni parent, and Israeli artist Yael Buxbaum. The students are contributing to twin mosaic murals—one destined for the JCC's dance studio in Indianapolis and another for the Adama Movement Center in Sderot.

During the workshop, students created unique ceramic pieces beginning with thumbprint-pressed clay balls, ensuring their lasting mark on these important works. Their artistic expressions included Judaic symbols and items of personal interest (ex: a hummingbird) that will join countless others to form murals bridging our communities.

"For the dance school in Israel and for the people who teach and learn there, just knowing that you all care and see what's happened to them is meaningful," Yael shared with the students.

The artistic connection deepened when Adi Gewurtz and Eirad Ben Gal, dancers from the Sderot Adama Movement Center and Yael's daughter, visited HHA to lead a movement workshop.

Initially hesitant, students quickly engaged in playful exercises that had them crossing the cafeteria mimicking different animals. The workshop culminated in a powerful circle activity where students shared personal wishes for Israel, the Jewish community, or loved ones, each accompanied by a movement representing that wish.

"Movement helps us express what words sometimes cannot," explained Adi during the session.

The dancers also discussed their work at the Adama Movement Center, where they use movement-based techniques to help people process anxiety and PTSD, particularly within communities experiencing ongoing stress and trauma.

These interconnected experiences exemplify the kind of joyful, creative, and values-driven learning that defines HHA—where students grow as individuals, connect deeply to their heritage, and engage meaningfully with the world around them.



HHAI Named Best Private School in Suburban North Indy

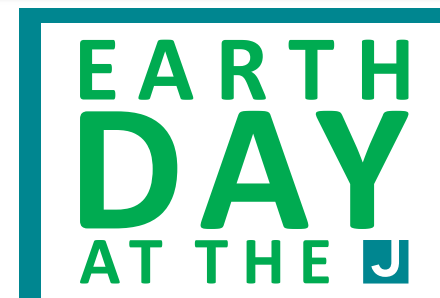
Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis (HHAI) was awarded first place for Best Private School in Suburban North Indy by Current Magazine. This honor belongs to students, teachers, staff, and parents alike, whose collective efforts make HHA truly outstanding.

JCC Indy Arts

On March 2, the JCC, with support from the Jewish Federation and Glick Philanthropies, welcomed two dancers from Israel for an innovative and emotional performance "Time to Dance Again." Adi Gewurtz and Eirad Ben Gal both hail from Sderot Adama, just 5 kilometers from the Gaza border, and have worked for years at the Adama movement center teaching classes and workshops to help people connect to their bodies. After October 7, they had to stop this work for months, and their performance encapsulated the difficulty of processing trauma through art, the body, and creative expression. Event attendees were also able to participate in the creation of a mosaic that will be brought back to Sderot.



The JCC's Arts & Education program hosts the Indiana Court of Appeals' "Appeals on Wheels" at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25. Come see the leaal process in action!



SUNDAY | 1-4 PM

May 4
FREE!

More information at [JCCindy.org/earth-day](https://jccindy.org/earth-day)



The Eskenazi Water Park opens Memorial Day weekend!

Hours at [JCCindy.org/jcc-hours](https://jccindy.org/jcc-hours) (under Outdoor Pools tab)

Summer memberships available at [JCCindy.org/jcc-membership](https://jccindy.org/jcc-membership) -- through May 31, no \$99 join fee!

Multifaith Communities Join for Large-Scale Passover Seder

On March 25, the Jewish Community Relations Council, together with Congregation Beth-El Zedek and Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, organized the Second Annual Passover Seder for the Multifaith Community at Congregation Beth-El Zedek. There were nearly 200 people in attendance from more than 25 houses of worship and faith-based organizations. Guided by Rabbi Hal Schevitz and Rabbi Brett Krichiver, attendees explored the rich customs of Passover, sampled symbolic foods, and enjoyed the traditional melodies of the holiday. JCRC is looking forward to fostering more interfaith dialogue and shared experiences in the future.



Hooverwood Living welcomed the Bat Mitzvah Club for a special evening centered on their theme: Modern Day Jewish Women. Residents shared childhood memories and wisdom, while the young women gained invaluable insight and inspiration for the future. Each pair walked away with a keepsake picture frame to mark this meaningful exchange across generations.



Hooverwood Living was bursting with color and cheer thanks to Random Acts of Flowers Indianapolis. Their gorgeous floral donations brought so much light to the building, and residents had a blast running their own flower shop—arranging the perfect bouquets to brighten every corner.



Hooverwood Living residents had an unforgettable experience with the Israeli Movement Program, led by the wonderful Adi and Eirad! Their energy and enthusiasm brought so much joy, making it a truly special opportunity to learn from Israeli culture firsthand.

Dad's Day Drive!

Date: Sunday, June 8th
Time: 11:00 AM
Where: Front Visitor Parking Lot

Thank you to Visual Impact Inc for arranging this show for our residents!

All are invited to come check out the cars, not just dads! Staff, residents and the community are all invited to join in on the fun!

Celebrate Father's Day with a Classic Car Show. This free event is open to the public and will feature an exciting display of classic and unique cars. Don't miss this fun-filled day to celebrate dads and enjoy some fantastic vehicles.

Silver SUPPORT
 7001 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260

June Session:
THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH @ 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

Silver Support is a monthly group offering connection, guidance, and encouragement for older adults facing memory changes, health concerns, or life transitions. Led by a trained facilitator, sessions focus on shared experiences, coping strategies, and resilience. *PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a May session.

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

YOM HA'ATZMAUT: TIME TBD THURSDAY, MAY 1, AT BEZ. Join BEZ for a day of joy, community, and festivities to honor Israel's independence. Enjoy food, activities, and special moments together. More details coming soon.

DADS, ZAYDES AND DOUGHNUTS: 9 A.M. SUNDAY, MAY 4 AT BEZ. Calling all students enrolled in Rabbi Sidney and Shirley Steiman Religious School. It's time to bring your Dads and Zaydes for some yummy doughnuts, juice, and coffee.

MAHJ MONDAY: 1-4 P.M. MONDAY, MAY 5 AND 19, JUNE 16 AT BEZ. All experience levels are welcome! Mahjong is a tile-based game played in Asia for over 300 years and by American Jews since the 1920s. It is easy to learn but challenging to master. Sisterhood supplies the games—you bring your game card. No card? There will be extras! The suggested donation is \$3 per day. RSVP to Sue at illinicane@verizon.net.

COCKTAIL JUDAISM—ISRAEL AROUND THE TABLE: 7 P.M. MONDAY, MAY 5, LOCATION TBA. Sip wine and listen and learn while Rabbi Hal joins in conversation with JCRC's Yaniv Shmukler about Israeli society and history. RSVP to ralder@bez613.org.

MEN'S CLUB TEQUILA TASTING: 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 8, LOCATION TBD. Whether you're a seasoned tequila connoisseur or a curious newcomer, this event promises to be a fun and enlightening experience. Cost is \$40 per person. RSVP to thomas.conor.larkin@gmail.com for the address and to ensure your spot.

TORAH ON TAP: 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 15, LOCATION TBD. Join Torah on Tap for a fun evening with BEZ's Millennial and Gen Z professionals. Contact Robbie at ralder@bez613.org to RSVP.

SISTERHOOD'S CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS: "LESSONS FROM THE PUZZLE MASTER" WITH MICKEY MAURER: 7 P.M. TUESDAY, MAY 20 AT BEZ. Join the final event of the spring lecture series with Mickey Maurer speaking about his book, *Lessons from the Puzzle Master*. Books will be available for purchase and signing that evening and in the Gallery of Judaica prior to the event.

ROSH HODESH—YOGA: 7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 AT BEZ. Join an upcoming Rosh Hodesh Women's Group, where we will embrace the wellness of body and spirit through a refreshing Yoga session with Audrey Beough of Silly Hearts Yoga. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another while finding balance and tranquility.

Visit <https://bez613.org/> or

@[CongregationBEZ](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationBEZ) on Facebook for more information.

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.

TRIPLE MITZVAH MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT: CBS Sisterhood will again be supporting the moms who benefit from Popsie's Pantry by donating gift bags for Mother's Day. Through the Triple Mitzvah Mother's Day Project, send personal Mother's Day cards to loved ones, while raising money to support Sisterhood projects and Popsie's Pantry. Contact Isabel Atlas at ieatlas@aol.com for more information or to participate.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS: "ALL OF JEWISH HISTORY IN 10 OBJECTS OR LESS": 10-11:30 A.M. SUNDAY MORNINGS, MAY 4, 18, 25, AND JUNE 8, AT TEMPLE. Rabbi Justin Kerber is planning to lead an adult education class. Contact Sharon Karp skarp@iu.edu or Rabbi Kerber at rabbi.justin@gmail.com for firm reconfirmation of the exact class dates, times, or other information.

CBS BOOK CLUB: 3 P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 11 AT THE HOME OF SUSAN MEYERS to discuss the book *Don't Forget to Write* by Sara Goodman Confino. All are welcome to attend, whether in person or over Zoom. Contact Sharon Karp at skarp@iu.edu with questions and for the Zoom link.

CARMEL PRIDE RAINBOW RUN: 9:30 A.M. SUNDAY, JUNE 29 ON THE MONON TRAIL. Help celebrate 5 years of Carmel Pride with the 2025 Rainbow Run. Sport a complimentary white Carmel Pride T-shirt while you run/walk through colorful chalk down the Monon Trail. The run/walk is just one mile long. Visit <https://findarace.com/us/events/carmel-pride-2025-rainbow-run> to sign up. Contact Gail Chandler at iueyegail@gmail.com with questions.

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.

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

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 Shmuel.

HALACHA CLASS: BETWEEN MINCHA & MAARIV, SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY.

CHOVOT HALEVAVOT: MONDAYS AFTER MAARIV.

TEHILLIM FOR WOMEN: 7:30PM WEDNESDAY IN THE LIBRARY.

MEN'S MISHMAR: 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY NIGHTS. Learn with a chavrusa or join a class.

SHABBAT MORNING CLASS FOR 5TH GRADERS & YOUNGER: APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES BEFORE KIDDUSH.

PARSHAT SHAVUA: AN HOUR BEFORE MINCHA ON SHABBAT

DOR LEDOR: ADULT AND CHILD LEARNING, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MAARIV AFTER SHABBAT IS OVER.

SEUDAH SHLISHIT CLASS: Rabbi Teitelbaum will be speaking.

SHAVUOT: Classes will be given throughout the night.

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

FULL SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES AND A SHABBAT CLASS: 1 P.M. SATURDAYS. TIMES VARY WEEKLY.

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.

SEPHARDIC TRADITIONS IN TEFILLA CLASS LED BY RABBI ASKENAZI: 7:30 P.M. THURSDAYS.

BINGO! FUN FAMILY EVENT: 5:30 P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 4.

RUBISSA'S CLASS "60 MINUTES OF FEMININE REALITY": 7:30 P.M. MONDAY, MAY 26. The topic is Shavuot. RSVP at rubissa@etzchaimindy.org. The last class is June 9.

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT: MONDAY, JUNE 1. Torah study through the night.

SHAVUOT SERVICES: TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2 AND 3.

Watch for newly added services, classes, and events on the Jewish Indianapolis Community Calendar and at www.etzchaimindy.org. Subscribe to receive weekly emails for the most up-to-date information. Connect on Facebook @ [EtzChaimIndy](https://www.facebook.com/EtzChaimIndy) and @[EtzChaimTheSisterhood](https://www.facebook.com/EtzChaimTheSisterhood). Contact the office at (317) 251-6220 or office@etzchaimindy.org with questions.

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 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. PLEASE NOTE: Registration for new attendees is now required to attend Torah Study online. Email BethMH@ihcindy.org by 3 p.m. on Fridays to receive the Zoom link.

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

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.

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.

SISTERHOOD SPRING ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM: 7 – 9 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY

1. All IHC women are invited to join. Sip on a cocktail (or mocktail), enjoy some desserts and meet up with old and new friends. Back by popular demand: Make your own floral arrangement. Bring your own scissors. Contact IHC to register by April 16.. Cost is \$36 per person, thanks to the bequest left by Mary J Fink.

FAMILY SHABBAT: 6 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 2. This service is perfect for families with elementary-aged children and will take place in the Chapel. There will be pizza, snacks, and board games for all in the YAC after services.

INTERFAITH PARENTING: FINDING YOUR PLACE: 10 – 11 A.M. SUNDAYS, MAY 4, JUNE 1. Join a new opportunity for interfaith parents to gather for open discussions and to share their experiences in a safe space.

CONFIRMATION: 6:15 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 9

OLAM SHABBAT: 6:15 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 16. Congregants and clergy will gather around to be enveloped in sound at a new Shabbat experience with visual tefillah and familiar music in a way you've never heard before.

HOME HOSTED SHABBAT: 6:15 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 23. Join for the next Home Hosted Shabbat and celebrate Shabbat in a different way with the IHC Community. The short service is on Zoom, followed by Shabbat dinners in members' homes. This is a fabulous way to spend time with friends, make new ones and enjoy Shabbat dinners in small groups.

JEWISH BOOK CLUB: 12–1:30 P.M. TUESDAY, MAY 13 ON ZOOM, and occasionally in person. 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.

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 any questions.

MITZVAH STITCHERS: 10 A.M. SUNDAYS. 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.

ISRAEL FOR THE WISE: 7 P.M. TUESDAY, MAY 20. Join Aviya, Indianapolis Community Shaliach (Emissary), for a fascinating class exploring a number of facets of Israeli life and culture. Cost for IHC Members: Complimentary. Guests: \$18 per session.

SAY WHAT???: READING REFORM RESPONSA: 7 – 8 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, MAY 16, 23, & 30. Join Rabbi Shapiro and traverse through Reform Jewish Responsa dealing with a number of hot topics in Reform congregations. Responsa are created when Jews have questions and seek an "official" response. Come and explore the super normal and the wildly crazy questions and the responses. Cost for IHC Members: Complimentary. Guests: \$36.

GUIDING THE PERPLEXED IN THE MODERN AGE: 7 – 8 P.M. TUESDAYS, MAY 6 & 13. No other Jewish philosopher had an impact on the Jewish world like Nachman Krochmal, and yet his legacy goes largely unknown. In fact, he only ever wrote half a book! In this course, explore Krochmal's ideas and see how they have undoubtedly shaped our own. Prepare to be inspired. Cost for IHC Members: Complimentary. Guests: \$36.

Register for classes with IHC Administrative Assistant, Beth Meade-Hession, at BethMH@ihcindy.org or (317) 255-6647.

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

WEEKDAY MINYAN: 6:30 P.M. MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS.

FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICES: 6:30 P.M.

- First Friday of the month: Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service
- Fourth Friday of the month: Fourth Friday Forum guest speaker series

SATURDAY SHABBAT SERVICES: 9:30 A.M.

Visit www.shaareytefilla.org or @[ShaaareyTefilla](https://www.facebook.com/ShaaareyTefilla) 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.



NOMINATIONS CLOSE MAY 31

Are you and/or do you know a person living in a Jewish household in the greater Indianapolis area and deserving of recognition?

18 Under 18 recognizes Jewish teens in the Indianapolis area for their leadership and involvement in the community.

The 18 Under 18 cohort will be announced in July/August and honored at a November reception. Honorees can look forward to being featured in an upcoming special section of The Federation News, being provided with ample opportunities to network with one another, and to grow professionally through discussions with senior members of our leadership and community.

Visit jfgi.regfox.com/18-under-18
to nominate yourself and/or someone today!
Nominations are due by May 31.

Sponsored by

HERBERT SIMON
FAMILY FOUNDATION