INDIANAPOLIS May/June 2026

Jewish Community News

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ALL AGES. ALL INTERESTS. SEE WHAT'S COMING UP IN YOUR COMMUNITY
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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.

TODD MAURER
Interim CEO

I thought I knew all there was to know about the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. I have been involved as a member of the board of our Federation, president of an agency, president of a synagogue, participant in the Prystowsky ATID leadership program, and many other aspects of our community. I have been actively involved for a long time. However, I was wrong. I had been known to describe our Federation as the United Way for the Jews. We raise money and distribute it to our deserving agencies. We indeed do this, but it is not who or what your Federation is.

Your Federation, JFGI, is so much more than even I had realized. First, we are a staff of very talented, passionate, competent and caring individuals. There should be no doubt that our staff cares deeply about this community. I recognize that I have a unique perspective. Not many people have the opportunity to be a lay leader and a professional leader at the same time (it is hard to change hats). I am fully focused on leading this wonderful team to make our Indianapolis Jewish Federation and our Indianapolis community engaging and supportive.

I am very impressed by our younger leaders. Members of our past and current Prystowsky ATID and Maurer Koach cohorts are involved as presidents of our agencies, committee members, synagogue board members, agency board members, and on your Federation board of directors. The mantra, "it is time for the next generation" is fully embraced by the next generation in their incredibly generous giving and active leadership involvement.

While the "next generation" is more than stepping up, our experienced and tenured leaders must continue to support your Federation, as many continue to do. Having active role models is essential for our leadership pipeline to prosper. Throughout this magazine, you will find key examples of how our staff, leadership and people come together in so many ways. As we continue through this season, please help us continue to blossom, prosper and grow in our mission to help others in our communities and engage our Jewish community in a meaningful and impactful interaction.

This is Your Federation. We are all on the same team. If you feel you were pushed away, insulted, not heard or otherwise spurned in the past, please give Your Federation's team a second chance. This is a different Federation. We want to do well, serve well and grow as one community. This spring, I ask you to see forgiveness and reengagement as better alternative than alienation and exclusion. Give me a call, let's work together.

Meet our Israel & Overseas Committee Co-Chairs Polly Beeson & Carly Turow

POLLY BEESON

Polly Beeson's commitment to Jewish communal service is woven into who she is. Growing up in Greater Lafayette, she watched her parents devote countless hours to the local Jewish community and the Purdue Hillel Board, showing her what it takes to build and sustain vibrant Jewish life through dedication and service.

"I now understand that our community cannot stand without that kind of commitment," Polly reflects. "The Jewish community my family enjoyed, and that I want my own family to enjoy for generations, exists because people before us invested their time, resources, and hearts into something lasting."

That understanding drives her service with JFGI. A proud member of the Prystowsky ATID 6 Cohort, Polly found meaningful leadership opportunities and now serves as Co-Chair of the Israel & Overseas Committee and sits on the Planning & Allocations committee.

"I'm honored to co-chair this committee and to represent our community's investment in causes that benefit not just today, but the future," she says. "When we support Israel and Jewish communities overseas, we help ensure Jewish life continues to flourish everywhere, creating a foundation for future generations."

Professionally, Polly is a Magistrate Judge in the Marion County Superior Court focusing on family and juvenile cases. She also serves on the Purdue Hillel board, bringing her service full circle. Polly and her husband, Oliver maintain dual memberships at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck and Congregation Beth Shalom.

For Polly, Jewish communal service is both a responsibility and a privilege, honoring her parents' legacy while helping ensure the Indianapolis Jewish community remains strong and vibrant.

CARLY TUROW

Carly Turow is proud to serve as Co-Chair of JFGI's Israel and Overseas Committee, where she brings a lifelong commitment to Jewish community, philanthropy, and global connection. A dedicated volunteer leader, Carly also serves on JFGI's Planning & Allocations Committee and is active in Women's Philanthropy.

Her Jewish leadership journey began as Religious Chair for IFTY in high school and continues today across multiple institutions. At Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (IHC), she is serving her second term on the Board of Directors and sits on the Executive Committee. Carly has also served on the Ethics Task Force (co-drafting IHC's Ethics Policy), the Israel Committee, the Governance Committee, and as a representative to the IHC Foundation Board. In addition, she serves as Treasurer on the Board of Purdue Hillel Foundation and is a committed volunteer with both Hillel and the broader Purdue community.

Carly's grandparents came to Indianapolis after escaping from Germany & Austria in the years leading up to World War II. She grew up at IHC and is now raising the fourth generation of her family there.

Carly and her husband, Larry, who is currently Treasurer for Federation, share a passion for Jewish life and Israel. They travelled to Israel together for the first time in 2010. Since then, they've each made at least six trips to Israel, including a trip to celebrate their oldest son becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Together, they are raising three college-aged children (two Boilermakers and one future Loyola Rambler) and one cat, who has opted out of higher education.

Professionally, Carly is a proud Purdue alumna (B.S., Industrial Engineering) and currently works in university-industry engagement. Since joining Purdue University in 2014, she has held roles in the Technical Assistance Program and Purdue Polytechnic Institute. Her career spans engineering, law, and higher education; always with a focus on systems, strategy, and meaningful connection.

Carly brings to her work at JFGI the same values that animate her family, her professional life, and her faith: a deep commitment to Jewish peoplehood, ethical leadership, and the responsibility to build a better future, both at home and overseas.

A New Scroll, A Renewed Light: Etz Chaim Welcomes a Torah

On a frigid January day, members of Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation set out on foot from Hooverwood Living, walking under a chuppah, singing and dancing as they carried something far more powerful than parchment. The newly completed Torah marked not just an addition to the ark, but a statement of pride, continuity, and resilience for Indianapolis' Sephardic Jewish community.

"This is a Torah and case," said Alan Cohen, president of Etz Chaim. "There are differences in Sephardic Torahs, dialect and how they write things, but virtually identical in nature."

The project began with an idea sparked by Saar Alkobi.

"The idea [was] to fundraise for a Torah from individual members," Cohen explained. "It's a mitzvah to be able to donate a Torah in someone's memory and honor."

Etz Chaim had done something similar years earlier, and when the idea resurfaced, the response was swift.

"It only took one to two months for everyone to step up," Cohen said.

While not every congregant can participate financially, Cohen emphasized that the motivation runs deeper, "Not something everyone can do, it has financial requirements, but more from the heart of what people want to present and honor for people." The Torah itself was painstakingly created in Israel.

"This Torah took six to eight months to make," Cohen said. "All hand done and put together, hand written with a parsha and quill."

Once completed, the scroll was brought to the United States by a member returning from Israel. The traditional Sephardic case was ordered separately and assembled locally.

The celebration, known as a Hachnasat Sefer Torah, was both ceremonial and jubilant.

"The procession is dedicating the Torah to its first location," Cohen explained. "It's more of a celebration. Dancing and singing, it's a big happy celebration."

Etz Chaim Rabbi Daniel Ashkenazi said the timing of the Torah's arrival gave the event even greater meaning. "Receiving a new Torah is always a great joy for any congregation," he said. "But I believe in this case, so close to what is happening in Israel and with Jewish communities worldwide, we were celebrating the coming of a new Torah during a time that we as Jews needed to feel proud as being Jewish."

"We as Jews fight darkness with light and antisemitism with Torah and with more and more Jewish life," he added. The new Torah has quickly become central to congregational worship.

"We use the Torah during Shabbat services and during the daily minyan," Rabbi Ashkenazi said. "We have been using two Torahs because we do double readings during Shabbat sometimes. We use the new Torah the most."

Etz Chaim currently holds six to eight kosher Torahs, some more than a century old.

"Sometimes Torahs can be damaged," Cohen said. "Once a Torah becomes non-kosher for any reason, you cannot read from it until it has been repaired." Environmental factors like humidity, age, or compromised parchment can affect a scroll's integrity, making renewal and preservation essential.

"The Torah scrolls tell the story of the community," Rabbi Ashkenazi reflected. "Every Torah has a story behind it of people who worked very hard to bring the Torah to the congregation."

The dedication was a true communal effort, with donors, volunteers, and guests from across the Jewish community participating.

"Other people from other congregations came to attend the event and it unifies the community," Ashkenazi said.

For Etz Chaim, the new Torah represents more than beauty or tradition.

"We are very thankful that we can bring a new Torah," he said, "and we are writing a new milestone in the life of the community in Indianapolis."

The Torah was graciously donated by: Shai and Adi Abaiov; John and Diane Abrams; Saar and Shirley Alkobi; Ivan and Marcy Ekhaus; Phil and Paula Cohn; Mel and Ilana Mordoh; Shlomo and Kira Shemesh; and the Shmoel Family, in memory of Maltzia Maya Shmoel, z"l.

Lou and Sybil Mervis YOUTH PHILANTHROPY INDY | Teen Board

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis

Applications for the next Lou and Sybil Mervis YoPhI Teen Board cohort open in June, offering high school students the opportunity to engage in meaningful philanthropy and community leadership.

More information coming soon!

Contact Andrew Steele at asteele@jfgi.org with questions.

"My experience with YoPhI has been very meaningful knowing that we are helping our community get the resources they need to be successful." **- Current board lead Gabi Zelikovich**

Finding Common Ground

On Feb. 15, CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center in collaboration with Indiana University Hillel, Hillel at Butler University, and Black and Jewish Leaders of Tomorrow welcomed Dr. John Eaves and listened to his trials and tribulations as a Black man who is Jewish. He emphasized that we all have so much in common; both groups encounter similar challenges and have so much that we can learn from each other.

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

An Indiana State Student's Life-Changing Journey to Israel

Miles Clapp never expected to walk through some of the holiest sites in Israel. A sophomore at Indiana State University, Clapp balances leadership roles on campus, serving as student government vice president and holding positions in his fraternity.

Earlier this year, however, he stepped into a different leadership experience through Jewish National Fund-USA's Caravan for Democracy, an educational trip that brings non-Jewish student leaders to Israel to explore its history, culture, and contemporary realities firsthand.

Clapp learned about the program after attending the National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., where he met past participants. Intrigued, he researched the program and applied.

"I wanted to understand the conflict instead of relying solely on rhetoric," he said, noting that while Indiana State has a small Jewish population, he closely followed national protests and wanted more context after October 7.

Before the trip, Clapp said his understanding of Israel came mostly from media and headlines. Once there, he was struck by the country's diversity, particularly in cities like Haifa.

"Seeing Arabs and Jews living alongside each other challenged the narrative I'd often heard," he said.

As a lifelong Protestant, Clapp was deeply moved by visiting Christian holy sites such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

"Being physically present made the biblical stories feel real," he said.

Equally impactful was the warmth of the people. "Despite trauma, Israelis carry a strong joy for life and desire for peace," he said, recalling an unforgettable moment dancing with strangers at the Western Wall.

Now back on campus, Clapp says the experience gave him confidence to address misinformation.

"I feel equipped to explain the conflict based on what I learned firsthand," he said, and plans to continue sharing his experiences with fellow students.

Congratulations to Sandy Nachlis on being accepted to join JFNA's National Women's Philanthropy Board! This esteemed group of 200 leaders represents 60 Federations across North America, and we are so proud to see Sandy's dedication and passion recognized at a national level. Her leadership and commitment continue to strengthen our community and the global Jewish world. Mazel tov!

Learning the Tiles: Mahjong Comes to the Maurer Jewish Community Library

Maurer Jewish Community Library recently hosted its first three-week Mahjong class.

Under the guidance of instructor Marsha Millikan, participants were introduced to the fundamentals of the game, including key terms such as BAM, FLOWER, CALL, and CRACK.

Over the course of the program, students learned essential techniques and strategies for both individual and group play. By the end of three weeks, they were ready to join a group of friends.

Reuniting With Purpose: Women's Philanthropy Mission Members Give Back Together

Women who journeyed to Mexico City on the Women's Philanthropy mission reunited in March to reconnect, share a meal, and give back. The gathering was filled with laughter and meaningful conversation as participants prepared a special matzo dessert for residents of Hooverwood Living. The evening reflected the lasting bonds formed through the mission and the joy of coming together again in community and service.

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

SAVE THE DATE

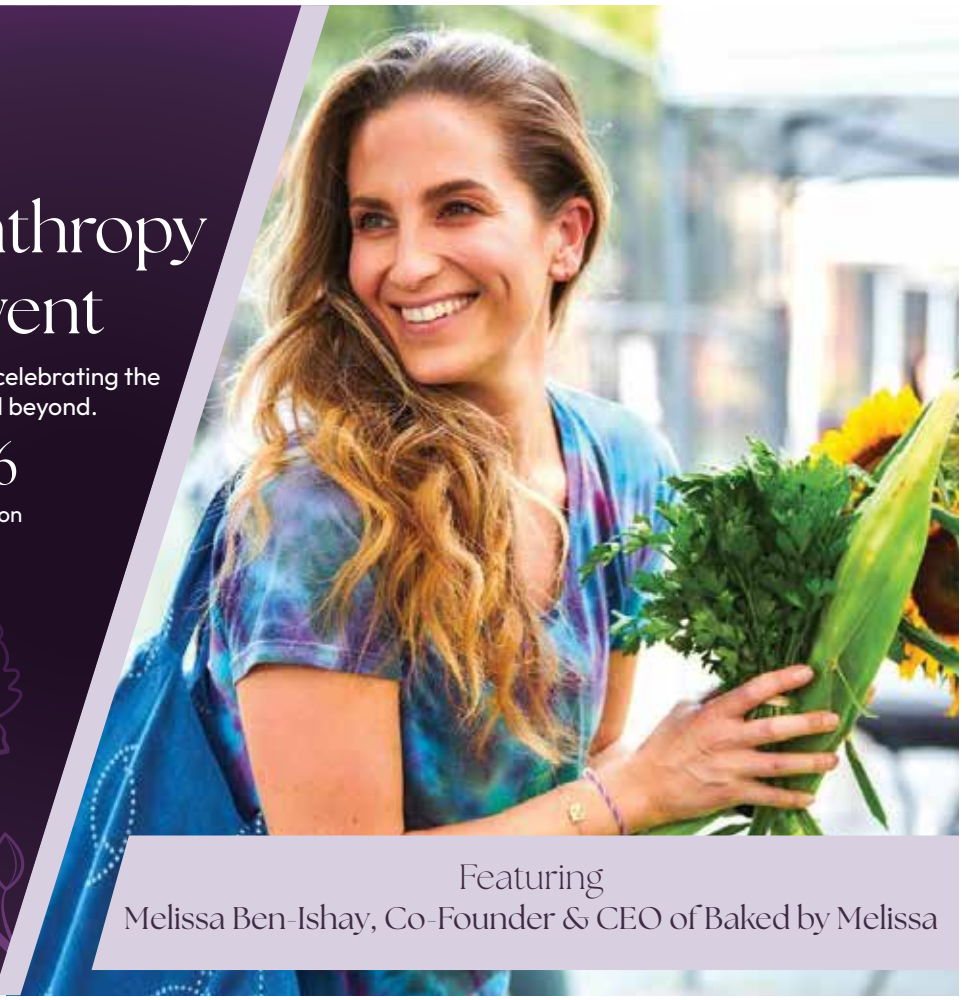
Women's Philanthropy Signature Event

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

Sept. 1, 2026

More information coming soon

Women's Philanthropy Co-Chairs
Marina Grabovsky
Iris Goldberg



Featuring
Melissa Ben-Ishay, Co-Founder & CEO of Baked by Melissa

NEXTGEN Plays Pickleball

A high-energy evening on the courts brought NEXTGEN together for friendly competition, quick rallies, and plenty of laughs. From first-timers to seasoned players, the night was all about connection, movement, and community spirit.

Crafting Community Through Israeli Tradition

Young adult women gathered for an Israeli craft night led by community Shlicha Gaya, creating four hands-on projects inspired by Israeli and Jewish culture. The evening combined creativity and togetherness, with Israeli snacks and wine adding to the shared experience.

Bring the Island Vibes to Shabbat: NEXTGEN's Tiki Night

Dive into summer at NEXTGEN's Tiki Shabbat on June 19, an evening of tropical drinks, poolside energy, and vibrant community. Whether you're swimming, relaxing, or socializing, expect a refreshing, laid-back night that brings the island vibe to Shabbat. Visit the NEXTGen social media and check your email for more information.

A Year in Reflection and a Vision for What's Next

By Rachel Katz, JFS Executive Director

As I look ahead to our inaugural Annual Meeting, I've also been reflecting on how far Jewish Family Services (JFS) has come. In just five years, we've multiplied our volunteer base tenfold and grown from serving 300 households annually to over 2,000. That growth highlights the incredible work of our professional and volunteer team, the investment of our donors, and the broader trends we're seeing in our community.

During my transition into the Executive Director role, much of my work has centered on strengthening our agency capacity. Maintaining high-quality care as we grow to meet community needs is essential to our mission. To support that work, we created a three-year plan that outlines clear goals for growth and sustainability, and I'm proud of the meaningful progress we've already made.

This past year, we launched creative fundraising efforts and built relationships with new foundations. We are growing our staff team, and we are making physical improvements to our space so it better reflects the professionalism of our services and supports our growth. To deepen our leadership support, we added new committee opportunities and, most recently, established the JFS Advisory Board. This is a pivotal time to engage lay leaders who will help guide our strategic direction and partner with us as we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.

This vision for growth and sustainability fits into a larger picture. It has been a privilege to meet regularly with fellow Jewish agency leaders to discuss our shared hopes for the future of the Indianapolis Jewish community and how we can work better together.

My biggest sense of pride comes from the JFS team, and I am deeply grateful to work alongside them. Every day, they support individuals and families with compassion and skill, while also laying the groundwork for the future of JFS. They work closely with dedicated volunteers, leverage external resources, and creatively develop new service opportunities to better support this community. One of the most exciting initiatives has been spearheaded by our Clinical Director, Julie Sondhelm, who has strategically built the foundation for our new Therapy Program. It's one example of how our team is building the next chapter of JFS together.

This year has also reminded me how deeply personal this work can be. The hardest moment, without question, was losing our beloved colleague, mentor, and friend, Lori Popp Moss. Lori's leadership and heart shaped JFS in countless ways, and she had a profound impact on each of us. It is an honor to carry forward the strong foundation she helped build.

JFS is growing with purpose, compassion, and deep gratitude for the people who make this work possible. We look forward to sharing our impact and our vision for what comes next at our Annual Meeting. We can't do this alone, and we are truly thankful for your partnership. I hope you'll join us as we continue building a stronger, healthier community together.

SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Family Services

Annual Meeting

Serving Community Together

6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11

Laikin Auditorium,

Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus

Formal invite to follow

Jewish Family Services

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

Serving Up Support for JFS

This year's Pickle for Purpose tournament was a great success, bringing players and supporters together while raising important funds for JFS. The support generated through this event helps JFS continue providing essential care and services throughout the community.

1

2

3

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5

6

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8

Pickle for Purpose

JFS Pickleball Tournament

1. Jim Keller and Greg Kroot

2. Andy Rosenthal and Don Rothbaum

3. Larry Turow

4. Todd Katz, David Katz, Rebecca Schalit-Newman, and Alex Dolgin

5. League 1 Champions: Shlomo Shemesh and Amy Isaacs

6. League 2 Champions: Jennifer Nelson Williams and Murray Firestone

7. Brooke Kanner, Emily Dock, and Lisa Frank

8. Barbi Stenacker, Bess Walter, Judi Hastings, and Marcia Goldstein

Thank you to our Changemaker Sponsors

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Holocaust Survivor Day

This June, organizations from around the world will come together to celebrate Holocaust Survivors. A private event for our 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!

THRIVE

Celebrate Older Americans Month

12 p.m. Tuesday, May 19

Domont Auditorium
6705 Hoover Road, enter through Door No. 1

Enjoy a kosher dairy lunch, live entertainment, and fun games with great prizes!

Seats are limited - RSVPs are required to attend.

RSVP by May 11 to Sally Catlin at (317) 536-1475 or scatlin@jfgi.org.

Hosted by Jewish Family Services and Hooverwood Living

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis · Jewish Family Services

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PJ Library celebrates Purim at Gymboree

PJ families gathered at the Gymboree in Carmel to get their giggles out and celebrate Purim together. Decked out in Purim costumes, kids jumped, danced to Purim tunes and practiced creative skills making pretend hamantaschen. They enjoyed a Purim story and ended the morning with the iconic Gymboree parachute.

The Jewish Federation is pleased to welcome Robbie Alder back as PJ Library Coordinator. Robbie looks forward to bringing renewed Jewish joy to the PJ Library community, with expanded activities and opportunities for families to gather, build relationships, and celebrate Jewish life together.

2025
IMPACT REPORT

Together As One

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis

A Note From Leadership

MIRIAM DANT
JFGI President

Capturing the full impact of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis in 2025 is no small task. Record attendance at engagement programs across all age groups, recognition of emerging community leaders at our inaugural 18 Under 18 celebration, strong participation in leadership development programs where future lay leaders are thriving, and an annual campaign that exceeded $5 million for the first time since 2008 all tell part of the story. None of this would have been possible without our talented, passionate staff and dedicated lay leadership, whose commitment drives our collective success.

It is difficult to recall a time when our work mattered more, or the need was greater. Through generous support and engagement, JFGI increased funding to partner agencies to combat antisemitism, expand Jewish education and high-quality programming for all ages, and care for our most vulnerable community members. The community came together to host the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, deepen relationships with our Western Galilee Partnership, and stand in solidarity with Israel.

The resilience and strength demonstrated throughout the year have created momentum that carries us confidently into 2026 and beyond. Our impact is rooted in a proud legacy, sustained by shared responsibility, and strengthened by those committed to a vibrant Jewish future in Indianapolis. We are deeply grateful for the partnerships that made JFGI's 2025 achievements possible.

Our Impact Report historically recaps the previous year of Your Federation. It is important to take a moment to appreciate the wonderful work accomplished in the last year. We have a strong volunteer base, donor base, leadership base and a strong staff. The success of Your Federation in achieving our mission of helping others in our community and engaging the Jewish community in meaningful and impactful interaction is only because of all of you. Thank you!

I would like to take this opportunity to look forward, dream a bit, as opposed to basking in past success. I write this after spending one month as the interim CEO of Your Federation. It brings a unique perspective, a very positive one, I might add. It is an honor to be part of the great work of our community.

Our success is only as strong as our investment in the future. I envision a new, full-time CEO who will plant long-term, permanent roots in the greater Indianapolis community. This new CEO will implement new ideas, new approaches and new strategies. The "we have always done it this way" approach has ended at JFGI. We are and will continue to look to improve how we approach our community. Our agency CEOs work closely together and will continue to do so. The strong leadership at our agencies is quite possibly the strongest asset of our community. My vision is that this competent, passionate cohort of leaders drives Your Federation to new heights, new ideas and is seen as a model for other communities around the country. I have great faith in my colleagues: Evan Lubline, Sam Dubrinsky, Rachel Katz, David Sklar and Lori Halperin. This is a very impressive group of leaders.

Impact reports include a list of annual campaign donors from the previous year. It should go without saying that we can not accomplish anything without the generous support of our community donors. However, our mission is not fundraising, it is only what we do to accomplish our mission of helping others in our community and engaging our Jewish community in meaningful and impactful interactions. Our future includes women's missions, men's missions, Maurer Koach cohorts, Prystowsky ATID cohorts, Lion of Judah conferences, volunteer opportunities, Adopt-A-Family, advocacy opportunities, family events, PJ library events, and so many more opportunities.

Help me envision a future where legacy building equals making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Where endowing an impactful annual campaign contribution (during your life) is seen as leaving a legacy for your children and grandchildren. Let's make supporting Your Federation how we teach our children, grandchildren and the family we will never meet that philanthropy towards your own community is a priority. Let's work together to put your name on the wall forever as an example of strong, philanthropic, passionate leadership. I am going first. Linda and I are finalizing our endowed gift now. Please join me in making an impact today, while you can enjoy the gift of giving, and let's make Your Federation and Our Jewish community stronger now. We owe it to our children and future generations.

TODD MAURER
Interim CEO

Major Donor Dinner

The 2025 Major Donor Dinner was an inspiring evening celebrating generosity and impact. Keynote speaker Mosheh Oinounou, creator of Mo News, shared insights on innovation and the changing media landscape. The Federation honored four philanthropic families, the Cohens, Maurers, Prystowskys, and Blatts, for their leadership and commitment to strengthening Jewish life. A moving story from Karina Rosenthal, whose family rebuilt their lives in Indianapolis with Federation support, underscored the power of collective giving.

170+
Donors in attendance

$300,000 Raised
Fueling essential programs and ensuring a strong Jewish future.

Community Legacy Celebration

In September, JFGI welcomed world-renowned mentalist Simon Mandal to mesmerize community members at the 2025 legacy celebration, the Magic of Legacy Giving. The community shared laughs and gasps while making memories together. Simon spoke about the connection between magic and legacy giving, highlighting the concept of passing on lessons and investing in the future; l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation. The event reinforced JFGI's commitment to supporting the community today, tomorrow, and forever through endowment building efforts.

100
Legacy Donors in attendance

200+
women leaders attended

100%
participation: every attendee made a gift

12-90+
ages represented (multi-generational engagement)

Women's Philanthropy Signature Event

Women gathered for the Federation's Women's Philanthropy Signature Event, an evening of inspiration, connection, and shared purpose.

Actress Tovah Feldshuh joined moderator Naomi Ruchim for a compelling conversation that captivated the room. The event affirmed the enduring strength of women's leadership and the transformative power of collective generosity.

Lion of Judah & Pomegranate Society Gathering

Lion of Judah and Pomegranate Society donors came together in May 2025 for an evening celebrating jewelry designer Freida Rothman, who delivered a powerful keynote, reflecting on how her Jewish heritage shapes her identity, creativity, and leadership. Her message of authenticity, resilience, and pride deeply resonated with attendees. Together, these philanthropic women embody leadership rooted in generosity and courage, ensuring essential programs and global partnerships continue to flourish. The evening stood as a powerful affirmation of women's strength and the extraordinary impact created when they unite to support a vibrant Jewish future.

70
Women donors in attendance

$1,800+
Members recognized for gifts of $1,800 or higher

Prystowsky ATID 6

15 community members looking to advance their leadership development skills continued through 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. The cohort traveled to Mexico City. The cohort concluded their experience with a meaningful trip to Israel in 2026.

> "We all came into this program with similar, varied goals. After the time we spent learning together through the program, it was so special to take in different aspects of Israel together. It took what we learned in ATID 6 to a new level and I am certain it cemented our relationships in a way that will strengthen and benefit the Greater Indianapolis Jewish Community for years, if not generations."
> **– Polly Beeson**

120th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony

In June 2025, the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis held its 120th Annual Meeting, celebrating a year of progress and strong community leadership. Former CEO Marc Swatez delivered the State of the Federation, highlighting major achievements and honoring the professionals and volunteers who made them possible.

The Federation also recognized outgoing board members and welcomed new leaders to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The evening marked an important transition as Helen Kurlander Goldstein concluded her presidency and Co Presidents Miriam Dant and Todd Maurer stepped into their new roles.

The Annual Awards Ceremony recognized individuals and initiatives whose contributions strengthen Jewish life across Greater Indianapolis:

- Iris Goldberg & Joshua Abrams – LL Goodman Young Leadership Award
- Dan Cantor – Kehilla Award
- Todd & Linda Maurer, Maurer Koach Program – Lev Award
- Debra Pelletiere-Blatt & Brandon Blatt, Hamsa Fund – Domont Award
- JFGI Women's Engagement Committee, led by Mollie Tavel Kaback, Emma Law Oppman, and Julie Singer – Melvin Simon Tikkun Olam Award
- Beth Klapper – Liebert I. Mossler Community Service Award
- Evan Lubline – Frank H. Newman Award

8 New
teen philanthropists

11th-12th
grade participants

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

The Lou and Sybil Mervis Youth Philanthropy Indy (YoPhI) Teen Board showcased the compassion, leadership, and values of Jewish teens across Greater Indianapolis. YoPhI operates as a true philanthropic board, raising funds, reviewing grant applications, and making collective decisions through a values driven, consensus building process. This year's cohort focused on addressing global healthcare inequities, demonstrating their commitment to turning Jewish values into meaningful, actionable impact.

"My experience with YoPhI has been very meaningful knowing that we are helping our community get the resources they need to be successful."
- Gabi Zelikovich

230+
guests in attendance

3
generations represented

18 Under 18 Celebration

In November, the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis hosted its first 18 Under 18 celebration, recognizing 21 exceptional young leaders shaping the future of Jewish Indianapolis.

These honorees were recognized not just for achievements, but for their role as emerging changemakers whose dedication and Jewish values point to a bright future. The celebration served as a meaningful reminder of the strength and continuity of Jewish Indianapolis, and the promise of its next generation.

ENGAGE

Challah Prince Launches 2025 Annual Campaign

The Federation kicked off the 2025 Annual Campaign with a sold out challah braiding workshop led by Idan Chabasov, the Challah Prince. Participants of all ages learned creative braiding techniques and took home challah to bake for Shabbat.

The event drew many first-time Federation participants, offering a warm introduction to community life and the Federation's mission. More than a culinary workshop, the evening celebrated tradition, connection, and multigenerational engagement setting an inspiring tone for the year ahead.

Partnership2Gether (P2G) Mission Trips

In February, 15 Indianapolis leaders joined a 25 person international delegation for the Partnership2Gether Western Galilee Solidarity Mission, gaining firsthand insight into how the war has shaped daily life in the region. The mission strengthened relationships, deepened understanding, and reaffirmed the resilience of the Western Galilee community.

In October, 15 Indianapolis community members traveled to Israel for the Partnership2Gether Summit in the Western Galilee, strengthening relationships and shared commitments to resilience and Jewish peoplehood. Participants toured local communities, met with Israeli partners, and explored collaborative programs shaping the future of the Partnership.

P2G Academic & Medical Delegations

In 2025, Indianapolis hosted two meaningful Partnership2Gether delegations from the Western Galilee, each deepening mutual learning and strengthening personal ties. In July, two physicians from Galilee Medical Center shared firsthand insights into delivering care just six miles from the Lebanese border and operating an underground hospital supported in part by Indianapolis donors. Their visit highlighted the region's resilience and the powerful impact of global Jewish solidarity.

In November, an Academic Delegation engaged local partners on security, criminology, youth at risk, and emerging technologies, while also launching this year's Hasten Hebrew Academy, Gvanim School twinning partnership. Across campus visits, agency gatherings, and home hospitality, both delegations reinforced the shared values, professional exchange, and enduring relationships at the heart of Partnership2Gether.

Coming Together in Sadness and Strength

In February, community members gathered and stood in solidarity with Israel to honor the memories of Oded Lifschitz z"l, Shiri Bibas z"l, Ariel Bibas z"l, and Kfir Bibas z"l.

JCRC President Eli Isaacs reflected on the community's grief and resilience, noting that even in moments of deep sorrow, the Jewish people continue to seek humanity, love, and peace.

Members of the local Israeli community, clergy, and teens led prayers, readings, and songs, while volunteers read the names of hostages still in captivity, bringing a powerful silence to the room.

The gathering concluded with a candlelit walk to Celebration Plaza, where Cantors Melissa Cohen and Aviva Marer, accompanied by Rabbi Brett Krichiver, led the community in song, closing the evening with unity and hope.

October 7 Commemoration

In the days following the release of the final living hostages, the Indianapolis Jewish community came together for a moving October 7 commemoration. The gathering blended personal testimony, communal prayer and artistic expression, creating a shared space for mourning and reflection. A survivor of the Nova music festival offered a powerful firsthand account that grounded the evening in lived experience, while clergy from across the community led poems, readings, prayers and musical selections that spoke to grief, resilience and hope.

New Shlicha (Israeli Emissary)

Since arriving in Indianapolis in September, Community Shlicha Gaya has infused the community with energy, warmth, and authentic connection to Israel. Just two days after landing, she addressed more than 250 attendees at the Women's Philanthropy Signature Event, setting the stage for a year of meaningful engagement. She played a central role in shaping the community's October 7 Memorial, ensuring it reflected both compassion and resilience.

Throughout the year, Gaya has immersed herself in community life, working and sharing Israeli culture with students of all ages, teaching Hebrew, and creating programs for young adults.

Yom HaZikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut

On April 27, the community gathered for a powerful dual observance of Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, blending solemn remembrance with joyful celebration of Israel's independence.

The ceremony featured a tribute to Sivan Sade, a young agricultural worker from the Western Galilee who was killed by a rocket attack. The song "Yeled Hasade," performed by Yochi Black and Bob Schneider, honored her memory and set a reflective tone for the afternoon. Guest speaker Matan Elul offered a compelling message of bravery and resilience, sharing firsthand insights into Israel's ongoing challenges.

Festivities continued with Israeli dancing, engaging family activities, and a vibrant atmosphere created by local artists and vendors. An Exhibitors Hall highlighted local Jewish organizations, giving attendees opportunities to learn, connect, and engage more deeply with community initiatives.

400+
attendees

Multi-generational participation.
(adults, teens, children)

Men's Engagement

In the fall, JFGI held its inaugural Men's Engagement program, Bourbon and Brotherhood. Men from their 20s to 70s joined together for an evening of togetherness, bridging generations and strengthening their relationships with one other. Attendees also learned about the evolution of bourbon, shared their own personal favorites, and sampled various brands. This program met a clear need in the community and served as a launch point for future engagement opportunities for Jewish men throughout Greater Indianapolis.

PJ Library

PJ Library made 2025 a year of joy, learning, and connection for families. From pool parties to Purim fun at Gymboree, every event blended play with great books. Highlights included the annual Stuckey Farms day, a Wee Wonders program at Newfields, Shabbat celebrations at Hooverwood, and STEAM activities at Hasten Hebrew Academy.

PJ Our Way participants completed "Mission Possible," supporting community efforts like JFS's Backpack Attack and the Passover Food Drive. Collaborations with local synagogues brought beloved Tot Shabbats and family programs.

854
PJ Library and PJ Our Way children are active in the program locally.

"We've loved participating in the PJ Library program! Our daughter loves receiving her books each month and we have been excited to incorporate some early Jewish learning at a young age. We've also enjoyed the opportunities to connect with other young families locally through PJ Library programming. We feel so lucky to be part of the PJ community and look forward to future events!"
- Megan and Levi Snow, parents of Avery

NEXTGen

In 2025, NEXTGen delivered one of its most dynamic years yet, offering young adults meaningful Jewish engagement, learning, and community connection. The group hosted three communitywide Shabbat gatherings, connected through gameshow nights, happy hours, text study sessions, and volunteer opportunities.

Collaborations with synagogues and partner agencies, including JCRC, expanded NEXTGen's educational impact and strengthened partnerships across the community. The year concluded with Light It Up, capping a year marked by growth, energy, and renewed Jewish connection.

NEXTGen INDIANAPOLIS

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in NEXTGen! Since returning home to Indy after graduation and getting involved a year ago, it's been really cool to get involved once again in the Jewish community that means so much to me. As well as being able to meet other young Jewish professionals in such a dynamic setting that NEXTGen provides!"
– Jace Dery

254
Total visitors

972 Books
Loaned through the IPL system

Maurer Jewish Community Library

The Maurer Jewish Community Library enriches Jewish learning by offering wide access to Jewish literature, history, and cultural resources. As part of the Indianapolis Public Library Shared System, it serves patrons across Central Indiana with materials ranging from fiction and biography to Holocaust studies.

The library's Holocaust collection is a growing resource for Marion County schools seeking curriculum support. It also houses Jewish life cycle items from the Celebration Station, which are loaned to schools, museums, and community organizations to promote Jewish culture and education.

PROTECT

Safe Indiana Community Safety Initiative

In 2025, the Safe Indiana Community Safety Initiative saw significant growth and strengthened statewide security infrastructure. With support from partner communities in Northwest Indiana and the St. Joseph Valley, the initiative received $240,000 through JFNA's LiveSecure grant program, enabling continued statewide security leadership over the next three years. Additionally, JFGI secured nearly $30,000 from the Tepper Foundation Security Fund to enhance physical security staffing for early childhood programs.

To improve facility safety, the initiative provided tailored security assessments outlining best practice recommendations. These assessments supported successful applications to FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), resulting in more than $800,000 awarded to local organizations for critical security enhancements.

Locally

24
Training Events for Jewish communities across the state resulting in nearly 600 people trained.

16
facility security assessments conducted for Safe Indiana organizations across the state.

Nationwide

5,942
threat incident and suspicious activity reports were logged by SCN, surpassing 2024's previous record high by nearly 10 percent.

SAFE INDIANA
PROTECTING INDIANA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

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 2025 through comprehensive social work support, direct services and resource connections.

Jewish Family Services

Jewish Community Services

1,000+
Jewish households assisted through social work support

104
households impacted by Adopt-a-Family

128
households received emergency financial assistance

85
households impacted by Passover Food Drive

80
kids' birthday wishes fulfilled

Hamsa Fund Parlor Meeting

A Parlor Meeting raised awareness and critical funding to support Jewish youth through the Hamsa Fund program.

83
youth received Hamsa Fund grants supporting education, enrichment, and opportunities for growth

Mental Health

1,200+
individuals supported through direct mental health support

80
Jewish agency staff received trainings in mental health

Popsie's Pantry

150
households served per year – both Jewish and non-Jewish

3,000+
bags of groceries distributed

741
visits for food support

New Initiatives

CANstruction brought the JFS mission to life with a striking installation that used more than 1,000 canned goods to form a house supported by six symbolic pillars. The structure highlighted JFS' holistic approach to care, each pillar representing a core service area: housing, health and wellness, mental health, financial stability, food and nutrition, and community connection.

Pickle for Purpose, launched as JFS' first agency wide fundraising event, generating critical support for core community services.

Thrive

500+
older adults supported through core agency services

75
Holocaust Survivors received mental health support, case management and emergency financial assistance

123
programs offered to enhance wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and support aging in place.

184
grocery shuttle rides

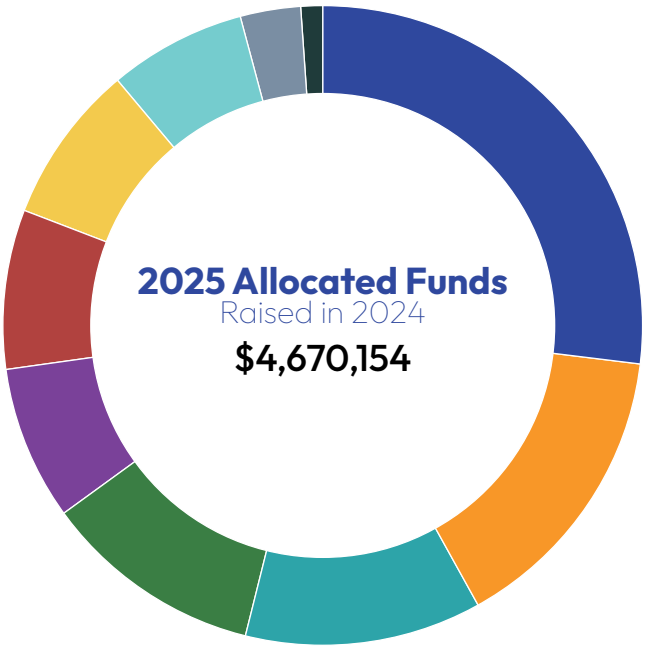
"I first came to JFS to get some answers/options for my parents who were aging. When one of my parents passed, I reached out for emotional support and the social worker was there for me. We started talking about some challenges I was having meeting the needs of one of my children and she was ready with resources and ideas. Thank you JFS!"
– Client Testimonial

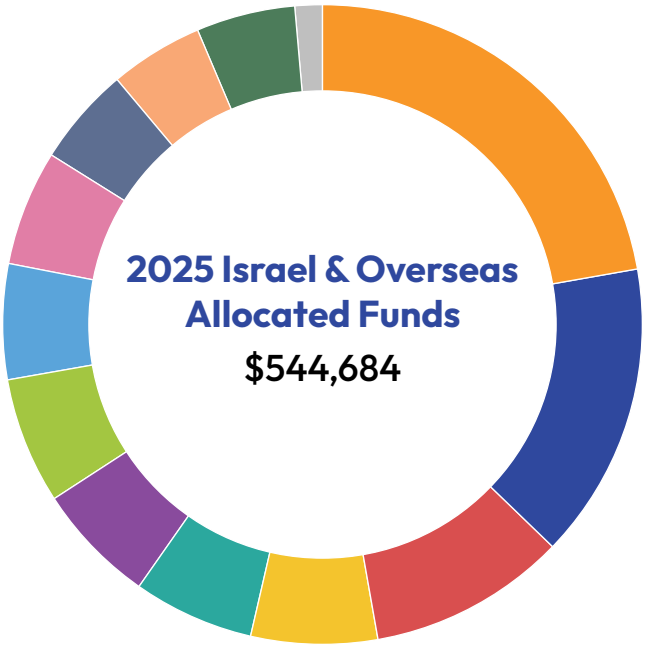
Mobilize

While the Annual Campaign serves as the backbone of the Federation's Total Financial Resource Development (FRD) efforts, it represents only part of the story. Beyond the $5.1 million distributed through the Annual Campaign, the Federation raises millions more each year through additional campaigns and initiatives. Together, these collective efforts paint a fuller picture of the Federation's impact, ensuring essential programs, services, and partnerships continue to thrive across the community.

- Annual Campaign: $5,091,414 (47.62%)
- Unrestricted dollars: $4,889,542 (45.73%)
- Endowment (revised): $2,938,988 (27.49%)
- Internal support from DAF, PACE, and LOJE funds: $1,936,372 (18.11%)
- Other: $724,988 (6.78%)
- Jewish Family Services: $584,547 (5.47%)
- Restricted dollars: $201,872 (1.89%)
- Sponsorships: $79,736 (0.75%)
- Special projects Safe Indiana, Shaliach, Israel war relief): $60,705 (0.57%)

- Agency Direct Support: $1,282,208 (27%)
- JFGI Finance, Marketing, & Administrative Support: $698,485 (15%)
- Israel & Overseas: $544,684 (12%)
- Community Operations & Technology: $536,173 (11%)
- Community Safety & Security: $378,459 (8%)
- Community Building & Leadership: $372,525 (8%)
- JFGI Fundraising & Endowment: $368,225 (8%)
- JFGI Community Engagement: $325,959 (7%)
- National Partnerships: $161,636 (3%)
- Other JFNA Campaigns: $1,800 (less than 1%)





JAFI - $90,000 | JDC - $60,000 | Tzofim Garin Tzbar Project 1 - $40,000 | Selah - $25,000

Matte Asher Community Center - $25,000 | ORT Matte Asher Region - $25,000 | Kivunim - $25,000

Brothers For Life Project 1- $24,000 | Brothers For Life Project 2 - $22,500 | Tzofim Garin Tzbar Project 2 - $20,000

Community Stress Prevention - $20,000 | Zidan Saif Memorial Asso - $19,500 | ORT - $5,000

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Building Community through the Passover Story

The Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council hosted their annual Passover Seder for the Multifaith Community, which brought together neighbors from across Indianapolis to experience and learn about one of Judaism's most enduring rituals. The afternoon offered community members from different faith backgrounds an opportunity to engage with the story and symbolism of Passover in a welcoming, educational setting.

Led by Rabbi Brett Krichiver from Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and Rabbi Hal Schevitz from Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, the program guides participants through the key elements of the Seder and the story of the Exodus. The Rabbis walked through the symbolism of the Seder plate, explained the role of questions and storytelling, and discussed the enduring themes of freedom, responsibility, and human dignity that has shaped Jewish memory for thousands of years.

But the purpose of the Passover Seder for the Multifaith Community extended beyond explaining a Jewish holiday. At its core, the program was about relationships.

For many participants, this was their first opportunity to encounter Jewish tradition in such a direct and personal way. Experiencing the ritual together created space for curiosity, conversation, and understanding. When people learn about one another's traditions firsthand, it strengthens the connections that make communities more resilient and more welcoming.

That kind of connection is especially meaningful at a time when antisemitism and religious misunderstanding continue to surface in public life. Creating opportunities for education and dialogue helps ensure that conversations about Jewish identity and history are shaped by relationships rather than misconceptions.

The Passover Seder itself carries a timeless message. Each year, Jews gather to retell the story of the Exodus and reflect on the responsibility that comes with freedom. Sharing that story with friends and neighbors from across the community reflects the spirit of the holiday itself; a reminder that the pursuit of justice, dignity, and understanding is something that brings people together.

Upcoming Safe Indiana Trainings

Countering Active Threat Trainings

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.

6:00 p.m. Monday, May 11
In-person only - Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

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

SAFE INDIANA PROTECTING INDIANA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis

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

Where Passion Meets Learning: HHAI's Interdisciplinary Approach

Each Thursday morning, a small group of Oak/Pre-K students gathers for an hour of deep, joyful learning through Preschool Passion Projects, individualized projects inspired by each child's own interests. With dedicated guidance from Ms. Mahern and Ms. Maria, the children plan, design, and create projects entirely their own, from racecar design and stop-motion films to butterfly dioramas, princess storybooks, cardboard castles, and fashion designs.

Over three months, the students worked diligently, problem-solving challenges like car wheels that wouldn't roll, exploring new techniques in stop-motion filmmaking, and preparing for a special showcase to share their work with families. The classroom buzzed with curiosity, creativity, and focus as children led their own learning, with teachers supporting and expanding their ideas.

This approach reflects how learning works across HHAI, from preschool through 8th grade. Students benefit from an interdisciplinary model in which the technology teacher, librarian, head of school, and classroom teachers all contribute their expertise. Students are encouraged to connect subjects, explore their passions, and deepen understanding through hands-on experiences. Just as in the Passion Projects, older students engage in project-based learning, STEAM challenges, and collaborative explorations that foster creativity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning.

Fourth grader Naomi Schevitz proudly displays her Hebrew "Life Cycle Project," exploring the cycle of Jewish holidays throughout the year and connecting each celebration to tradition, blessings, and the rhythm of Jewish life.

In a moment that reflects HHAI's spirit of inquiry, Head of School Lori Halperin joins Oak students in reimagining their race car design—using 3D printing to solve a real-world engineering challenge discovered through hands-on experimentation.

This spirit of innovation continues to grow across the school. This spring, HHAI celebrated the opening of the Maya Shmoel Innovation Lab, a new STEAM learning space that integrates science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics with a strong Israeli influence. The lab was designed with input from teachers across departments as well as students themselves, reflecting the same philosophy seen in the Passion Projects: when learners help shape the process, their curiosity and engagement flourish.

HHAI believes that curiosity drives learning. From preschool to 8th grade, children are empowered to ask questions, pursue interests, and turn ideas into tangible creations, building the skills and confidence they will carry into every area of life. The Passion Projects showcase is more than an early childhood initiative; it is a glimpse into the whole-school culture of curiosity, exploration, and joyful learning.

SUPPORT STUDENTS
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53 students currently receive IQE scholarships and the need continues to grow. Your gift helps families afford a Jewish day school education.

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LEARN MORE INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

We partner with the Institute for Quality Education (IQE) which is a Scholarship Granting Organization that helps students access the school that is the best fit for them.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS STUDENTS LEARN, GROW, AND THRIVE EVERY DAY.

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This Summer, Make the J Your Destination

Summer at the JCC Indianapolis means more ways to move, play, and connect. A summer membership unlocks access to our outdoor waterpark, expanded fitness opportunities, group exercise classes, and a vibrant community atmosphere that makes staying active feel like part of the fun. Whether you're looking to cool off with the family, keep your wellness routine going, or give your kids a season full of camp memories, the J offers something for every age and stage.

Make the most of the season with a place that brings fitness, friendship, and family time together all in one destination. Summer memberships are available now — get started today at **https://jccindy.org/jcc-membership/**

From Gershwin's Piano to the Concert Stage: Richard Glazier Returns to Indianapolis

Every artist has a moment that alters the course of a lifetime. For award-winning pianist Richard Glazier, that moment came at age nine after watching the film Girl Crazy and writing a fan letter to lyricist Ira Gershwin. The correspondence sparked an extraordinary connection, culminating three years later when Gershwin invited Glazier to his home and asked the young pianist to play the piano once owned by his brother, legendary composer George Gershwin.

That unforgettable experience, and Ira Gershwin's personal encouragement, set Glazier on a lifelong artistic path. He went on to devote his career to the music of the Gershwins and the American Popular Songbook, earning national recognition as one of the genre's leading interpreters.

On Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m., Glazier returns to Indianapolis for Pure Imagination, a special tribute concert honoring his close friend Ira Jaffee. The performance will take place in Laikin Auditorium at the Arthur M. Glick JCC, with proceeds benefiting the JCC's Arts & Education Department. Visit **jccindy.org** for more information.

Hooverwood Living

www.hooverwood.org @hooverwoodliving @hooverwoodliving

In March, Hooverwood Living took time to celebrate National Employee Appreciation Day, recognizing the staff members whose dedication and hard work make a meaningful difference each day. The occasion served as an opportunity to thank the team for their ongoing commitment and the important role they play in supporting residents and one another.

Hooverwood Living recently welcomed Kirn Lall, PT, who led a restorative sound bath experience for residents and staff. The session focused on relaxation, energy, and cultivating a sense of peace through calming sound vibrations. Participants had the opportunity to pause, reflect, and experience a moment of mindfulness together, making for an enlightening and rejuvenating program for all who attended.

Residents at Hooverwood Living continue to enjoy Saturday morning Torah study with friends from Congregation Beth Shalom. These gatherings offer a meaningful time for learning, conversation, and reflection together.

The residents celebrated Purim in high spirits, enjoying a festive day filled with tradition and joy. The celebration featured plenty of hamantaschen, lively conversation, and smiles all around as residents marked the holiday together. The occasion provided a wonderful opportunity to embrace the spirit of Purim, share in its traditions, and enjoy time together in celebration.

Uncover stories and learn to build your family tree with the **Hooverwood Guild.**
Sunday, June 14th, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

The Hooverwood Guild will host a special genealogy program at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla in Carmel. Internationally respected speaker Jody Tzucker will share insights on discovering family history and how to begin building a family tree. Participants will receive a starter packet of genealogy tools. The event is $15 per person and includes kosher refreshments. To RSVP, send a check and contact information to The Hooverwood Guild, 7001 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260.

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

Minyan: 9 a.m. on Sundays and 7:30 a.m. Thursdays

Virtual Minyan: 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays (ZOOM)

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.- 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Friday; 9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m. Religious School Sundays. Judaica celebrates the artistry, history, and daily rhythms of Jewish life, featuring both cherished ritual objects and thoughtfully crafted gifts and everyday items. Visit online: https://bezgallery.org/.

Erev Shabbat Honoring High School Seniors and Religious School Teachers: 6 p.m.- 7 p.m. Friday, May 1, at BEZ. Join us for Erev Shabbat as we honor our High School Seniors and celebrate the dedication of our Religious School teachers.

Last Day of Religious School : Sunday, May 3 at BEZ

Monday Mahj: 1-4 p.m. Monday, May 4, 18 at Bez. All levels welcome from first-timers to full-on Mahj queens. Join us for 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.

Cocktail Judaism: 7 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Monday, May 4 at The Roost. Jewish Influence on Superheroes with Rabbi Hal. Join us for Cocktail Judaism as Rabbi Hal explores the surprising Jewish influence behind some of our most iconic superheroes. RSVP to Jennifer at jhodes@bez613.org.

Rosh Hodesh: Making Flower Crowns with Seniors: 10 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 17 Hooverwood Living. Celebrate Rosh Hodesh with an afternoon of artistry and intergenerational friendship as we craft flower crowns with the seniors at Hooverwood Living. RSVP to Jennifer at jhodes@bez613.org.

Confirmation and Erev Shavout: 6 p.m. Thursday, May 21 at BEZ. Please join us as we celebrate and confirm our students' dedication to our Jewish tradition.

The Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso Jewish Civic Engagement Program: 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13 at BEZ. Session 7: Opportunities for Civic Engagement in Indianapolis at BEZ.

ECC Summer Camp Begins: June 1, Monday at BEZ. More information available at bez613.org/early-childhood-center.

The Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso Jewish Civic Engagement Program: 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10 at BEZ. Session 8: Putting Your Plan in Place at BEZ.

Rosh Hodesh: 7 p.m. Monday, June 15. TBD. For more information, contact Jennifer at jhodes@bez613.org.

Visit https://bez613.org/ or @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.

The CBS crafting/stitching group meets on the first Sunday of each month at 1:00 PM Sunday, May 3 and Sunday, June 7. Call Diane Graul at (402)-250-3009 or Sarah Stuckey at (317)-213-1818 for the location for each month.

All Of Jewish History In 10 Things Or Less! A Material History Of The Jewish People, 4 Wednesdays In May. This Special Lunch-Time adult education series will meet from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Wednesday May 6, 13, 20, and 27. Possibly June 3, if needed in the Temple library. Anyone interested in Jewish history is welcome to participate. Bring your lunch and your appetite for learning! RSVP to adulteducation@bethshalomindy.org or to Rabbi Justin Kerber at rabbi.justin@gmail.com for more information.

Learners' Shabbat: 9:30 a.m. third Saturday Morning of each Month, at CBS. Join a community of curious learners for our monthly service dedicated to study and exploration! We will intertwine a deep dive into the compelling story of King David (from the Book of Samuel) with an exploration of the Shabbat morning liturgy. This is a safe space to ask questions, challenge Biblical texts, and unlock the meaning behind our prayers. It's a great opportunity to learn with others and build community. All backgrounds and levels of knowledge are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Something For Everybody Shabbat: 6:30 p.m. third Friday evening of each month. In 2026 CBS has begun a new Shabbat experience we're calling "Something for Everybody Shabbat." "Something for Everybody Shabbat" will feature a split service on Friday night and a Learners' Shabbat on Saturday morning of the third full Shabbat of the month. In May and June those dates are Friday, May 15, with Saturday, May 16, and Friday, June 19, with Saturday, June 20. On that third Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. our 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 at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning will feature an abbreviated worship service with a chance to learn and discuss the meaning of some of the prayers —plus our weekly Shabbat Torah study as we dive ever deeper into the stories of David and the Psalms attributed to him.

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.We warmly invite and welcome all to participate with us, whether in person or through Zoom.

Visit www.bethshalomindy.org for up-to-date information and details on how to participate in any of CBS' events. See the "Home" page or the "Calendar" tab under the header "What's Happening."

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 meets 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 on Facebook for upcoming events, classes and programs.

Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation

Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. (8:30 a.m. on holidays) Mondays & 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.

Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays

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.

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

May 5 | Lag B'Omer

May 21-23 | Shavuot

Subscribe to receive emails or visit the website at www.etzchaimindy.org for up-to-date information. Connect with them on Facebook @EtzChaimIndy and @EtzChaimtheSisterhood. Contact us: (317) 251-6220, office@etzchaimindy.org, or sisterhood@etzchaimindy.org

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:15 p.m. Fridays. Join IHC for our weekly service bringing the peace of Shabbat into our 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.

Spring-Themed Family Shabbat: 6 p.m. Friday, May 8. This service is perfect for our families with elementary-aged children and takes place in the Chapel. There will be food, snacks, and games for all in the YAC after services! Visit ihcindy.org to register.

IHC Sisterhood's Gift Shop Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday - Friday; 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Fridays; 9:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. when the JLP is in session. You can also make a special appointment to shop by emailing ihcsisterhoodgiftshop1@gmail.com.

May/June Events

Cantor Janice Roger's 75th Birthday Concert: 4 p.m. Sunday, May 31. Celebrate Cantor Roger's Birthday with a special birthday concert. Look out for more details coming soon.

Adult Education – An Honest Look at Shavuot: 7p.m. Wednesday, May 20. Rabbi Shapiro breaks commonly held myths about Shavuot. Register at AdultEd@ihcindy.org. Complimentary for IHC members or $18 for guests.

Grief Group: 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28. Join Cantor Aviva Marer and Clinical Psychologist Tami Krichiver in a warm, confidential environment to comfort one another, share our pain, reflect on loss, or simply observe and listen.

Euchre Circle: 10 a.m. Monday, May 4 and 18 and 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28. All levels of play are welcome to come and have some fun, meet new people, 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 ten) 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.

Mitzvah Stitchers: 10 a.m. Sundays. Mitzvah Stitchers is a corps of men and women who knit, crochet, quilt, and sew. Together, we fashion a stronger community, helping others as well as each other. Sunday morning is for stitching, kvetching, and making beautiful items to help others. We love to teach beginners, so no experience is necessary! Check our website for location information. Contact Cantor Janice Roger for more information, to get on the email distribution list and receive scheduling information and Zoom links.

Lilith Salon Presented by IHC Sisterhood: 1 p.m. Sunday, May 17 and June 14 at The Rusty Bucket. Join Sisterhood for an afternoon of conversation and connection. Through the lens of the monthly articles from Lilith Magazine, this is a chance to encounter new ideas, ask questions, and discuss the issues that matter the most to you.

Visit ihcindy.org or @IHCIndy on Facebook for links to all Zoom services, classes and programs and for more information.

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

Weekly Shabbat Services each week on Friday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at CST and via Zoom. Pray services are held both in person and via zoom with links off our website: shaareytefilla.org. All are welcome to come, pray, and celebrate together.

Dr. Jack Kamen Torah Study Group Rabbi Sendrow, every Wednesday via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. Whether you are a first-time learner or a longtime student, Rabbi Sendrow will guide you with wisdom, humor and meaningful insight. To attend contact office@shaareytefilla.org.

Fourth Friday Forum (a speaker's forum) on Friday, May 22 & June 26 within the Kabbalat Shabbat Services at 6:30 p.m. We invite speakers in from the Jewish community and those that impact the Jewish community to share insights, stories, and experiences that are tangible to our community.

Monthly Sisterhood Book Club/Potluck: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, and Wednesday, June 24 at location TBD. Members of the CST Sisterhood come together to read and talk about a book from the various perspectives of the members. Through the discussion they gain insight into the book and each other, while also sharing food and having fun. To attend, please email secondvp@shaareytefilla.org.

Nosh & Drash: following morning services, Saturday, May 2 and Saturday, June 6. A monthly series following the first Shabbat services of each month. This is a group discussion led by Rabbi Sendrow on the week's Torah portion while enjoying a nice Kiddush and Nosh. Services and then nosh starting at 9:30 a.m.

Weekly Minyan: 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays of each week 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. To attend you may join us at CST or join via Zoom you can find on our website: shaareytefilla.org.

Religious School and Hebrew School: 9 a.m. Sundays and 7:45 p.m. Wednesdays 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 with religious education and Hebrew are offered. Hebrew schooling on Wednesday is via Zoom only. Email office@shaareytefilla.org to enroll your child or learn more about the program.

Zionsville Concert Band (ZCB) Performance: 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17. The fourth performance by ZCB at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla will include Jewish composers, jazz, and other fun selections. The Zionsville Concert Band is an all-volunteer organization established in 2002 with members that range from 16 to 86, and hail from locations across central and western Indiana. The cost is $10 per adult and $5 per child at the door.

It Starts With Us

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis'

121st Annual Meeting

The JFGI Annual Meeting celebrates a year of impact and the people who made it possible. Our theme, It Starts With Us, reminds us that every step forward begins with our community, our commitment, and our leadership.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

6 p.m. Welcome Reception; 7 p.m. Meeting

Laikin Auditorium

on the Max & Mae Simon Jewish Campus

The Evening will include:

- Heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks honoring our Legacy Community
- Election and Installation of Officers, and JFGI Board Members
- Thank You to Board Members who will be completing their term of service
- Annual Awards Recognition
- State of the Jewish Federation Address

Register at bit.ly/jfgiam26

Contact Andrea Kruszynski at akruszynski@jfgi.org with questions.