

# OUR COMMUNITY Newsletter

September 2022 | Elul-Tishrei 5782, 5783



Jewish Federation  
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY





## Minute With Moshe

### Will we hear the shofar this year?

At the end of September, in the month of Tishrei, we dip a slice of apple in honey and awaken anew with the shofar's blast. Such tradition signals new beginnings each year.

A new beginning for our Jewish community in Michiana is always exciting -- always full of promise.

But how will we ensure a bright future in a world so increasingly challenged by the things that tear us apart -- the things that make us different?

Our New Year's prayers for a good and sweet year remind us that we need to revere something beyond ourselves. In my world of Jewish community building, this precept speaks to our collective responsibility to build our future.

The Hebrew word for leadership is manhigut. It comes from the root word found in the word "behavior." Effective leadership is about behavior and action. It's about asking big and difficult questions and how we fulfill the promise of who we should and could be.

So, what does the future hold for our community?

We can't fully know. So, we look for hints as to our destiny.

There are hints. Sometimes clear, sometimes not. But, one thing is certain. Change will come. It always does.

That's why we plant seeds to nurture and grow. Seeds that mature and meet destiny halfway. Like you, I take great comfort in knowing we can meet the future by planning ahead.

Yet, this planning takes courage. It takes foresight. And everyone must have their say.

So, today I invite you to help plan for our future. Join me and other leaders from the community. We're taking action. We're working together. We're planning a future that's inclusive, compassionate, and dynamic.

It begins with a simple three-year plan. I call it **Renewal Begins Now: A Vision for 2025**. And I encourage you to join us in seeing that it will be a good and prudent plan for the Jewish way of life in our region.

At the heart is Jewish Peoplehood -- a powerful concept with deep halachic roots (Jewish law). We shall build upon the foundation of K'lal Yisrael, which connects Jews as one people, regardless of how we worship and express our Jewishness in our day-to-day lives.

Peoplehood makes us one by celebrating diversity, not by imposing conformity. Just as we stood as one people at Mt. Sinai, we are still one.

This plan also calls upon the concept of Bayit Chazak -- a strong and courageous house. A house that is sustainable and that welcomes everyone.

The Federation? We are like Abraham and Sarah, whose tent remains open on all four sides so that anyone might enter for shelter and comfort. This is a duty. And it is vital to our Jewish identity and the values we treasure.

The truth? There is a palpable sentiment amongst our Jewish community that waiting for a better time is no longer acceptable. **We must hear the shofar now, take its cries into our hearts and minds, and plan for the future** -- before we grow further apart.

Yes, reports of the state of Jewish life in America reveal great challenges. But, they also convey great hope.

Our denominational structures that have long characterized Jewish life in America are in decline. But Jewish life itself is on the ascent -- especially among young people.

This is the exciting news. Young

Jewish people go to camp. They engage in Jewish media more than their older peers. They talk about Jewish topics more often and engage more in Jewish cultural activities. And this means we have a strong foundation to build new upon.

The 28-acre campus of the Jewish Federation figures prominently in this future because it is aligned with all denominations. The campus is well suited to becoming a home for Jewish life and cultural enrichment.



5-year Moshe Kruger sounds the shofar in 1959

We will always celebrate our diversity at the Federation. It is right, and it is good. And, of course, at the Federation, we are here for good.

To ensure a bright and fulfilling future in our community, we need you. *Renewal Begins Now: A Vision for 2025* is about meeting the future halfway and then some. And I look forward to your enthusiastic participation.

L'Shanah tovah tikatevu v'tichatemu -- May we all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.



**Moshe Kruger**  
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## The Relationships We Keep

Relationship. As we approach the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, of what should we be in Awe? Should it be days filled with wonder at G-d's cycle of creation, destruction, and forgiveness? Should we stop in reverence at all that has been, all that is, and all that will become? Sure, that is a big part of these days, but maybe it could be a bit simpler than that. What if it was about astonishment and respect for our relationships. Our relationship with G-d, our relationship with others, or our relationship with the world. That is what I plan to focus on this holiday season through work, family, and personal life.

This month, Shirlee and I depart for the Partnership Summit in Budapest. It has been a few years since such an event has been held, and the relationship between our partnership cities in the US, Budapest, and Western Galilee has felt distant. We are far past overdue for a check up on

what our relationship means to each other and what a perfect time of year to do as such. Five days in Budapest, exploring what Judaism means in their corner of the world. We will plan for the future of our partnership, and rediscover what our relationship will be moving forward. After, we will head to Israel for a few days to continue the discussion in the Partnership region. Our favorite part of all this will be at its end, when Shirlee's father joins us for the flight home, and comes to the US to visit for the first time since we began our

relationship.

Other relationships we focus on this month include our relationship with our

continue to foster those relationships built by offering near monthly Camp programs, especially around the holiday season. Last year's Sukkah build brought youth together using rope and branches from the woods to build a Sukkah, and brought parents together for some drinks and schmoozing while building our community Sukkah. It was used for all who wanted throughout the Sukkot holiday, a beautiful blend of connections from all generations, families, anyone could feel welcomed.

We are a social people, Jews, and each tradition we hold is reliant on being close to others. While we nourish our current relationships this holiday season, let us create new relationships as well. We will continue to offer what we hope is the best in programming for the community, and if you have any suggestions at all, please reach out!



**PARTNERSHIP  
2GETHER**  
WESTERN GALILEE  
CENTRAL AREA CONSORTIUM  
& BUDAPEST

Federation families. We continue with programs that we hope stimulate the mind and spirit, bringing friends together and keeping our family connected. With Camp Ideal a recent memory, we will



### Dan Ravitch

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# 5782 A year of ACTION

Beautifying Campus Grounds  
Funding Grants Secured  
Here for Good 2022 Annual Campaign  
**Contact Moshe Kruger**  
MKruger@TheJewishFed.org  
574-233-1164 x1802

CRC Activities & Advocacy for Israel  
**Contact Bob Feferman**  
RFeferman@TheJewishFed.org  
572-233-1164 x1815

Fall Fest  
Hadracha Youth Leadership  
Partnership2Together  
**Contact Shirlee Greenwald**  
Israel@TheJewishFed.org  
574-233-1164 x1807

Federation Programming  
Summer & Winter Camp Ideal  
**Contact Dan Ravitch**  
DRavitch@TheJewishFed.org  
574-233-1164 x1819

Jewish Family Services  
Kosher Kitchen  
NEXTGen Young Adults  
**Contact Rabbi Nebel**  
RabbiNebel@TheJewishFed.org  
574-233-1164 x1806

Film Fest  
**Contact Sheri Albert**  
SheriA@TheJewishFed.org  
574-233-1164 x1820

Security Upgrades  
**Contact Dan Cossman**  
DCossman@TheJewishFed.org  
574-233-1164 x1801

**To learn more about our tangible results  
contact your friendly Federation staff.**



**WHAT WE DO**

We serve Jewish individuals and their families within the larger community by providing social services, referrals and educational programming.

**WHAT WE CAN HELP WITH**  
**JFS FOOD PANTRY**

Assistance through providing food and gas cards.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Limited funds for unexpected financial needs in the form of interest-free loans or gifts, following an application process.

**ASSESSMENT & REFERRAL SERVICES**

Jewish Family Service provides case management services to individuals experiencing life transitions, emergency situations, and more.

**WELLNESS CHECKS & SENIOR SERVICES**

To connect with older adults and assess basic needs as well as provide a friendly point of contact and assistance with necessities.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Individual rides to medical and social service appointments.

**SHIP NAVIGATION FOR MEDICARE**

Trained staff provide state health insurance program advice.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Volunteer to give back and help others in the community.

**CONFIDENTIALITY WITHIN JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**

The trust between our clients and JFS is the basis for our success. All transactions and discussions are protected by the highest professional ethical standards of client confidentiality.

**COACHING**

# Community Connections

## Rosh Hashanah Appeal

One of the highlights of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is the prayer “Unetaneh Tokef.” The refrain of this **Piyut** (liturgical poem) is “It is written on Rosh Hashanah and sealed on Yom Kippur.” After reciting the ways one can die and one can live (always end on a positive note!) the congregation recites in unison “But **teshuva** (repentance) **tefillah** (prayer) and **tzedakah** (charity) avert the evil decree!”

One could ask, “Can we bribe Hashem and pay for our absolution?” Wouldn’t it be nice if it were so easy? Alas, we know that Judaism doesn’t hold that one can bribe Hashem.



I believe that the Paytan (liturgical poet) is saying that if we sincerely turn back to Hashem and His Torah, Hashem may give us a second chance. Hashem, like a parent, only wants what is best for us and wants us to be the best we can be. So, if we decide to take the phrase of “teshuva, tefillah and tzedakah” seriously and set ourselves on a new course of improvement, we may avert the evil decree that is presently weighing in the balance.

Tzedakah, charity, usually suggests dollars. However, money is only one element of tzedakah. The word’s root meaning is “righteousness.” When one gives tzedakah, one is acting in a righteous manner. One is sharing the bounty that Hashem has given you, and is giving, not because of one’s generosity, but rather because it is a mitzvah (commandment) to give tzedakah. That’s why the Torah can command a person to give 10% of one’s net earnings for tzedakah. One’s good feeling is a bonus feature of the mitzvah.

Maimonides lists 8 levels of tzedakah (Level 1 being the best method)

1. Giving an interest-free loan, or grant to, forming a partnership with, or finding a job for a person in need; so long as that loan, grant, partnership, or job results in the person no longer needing to make ends meet by having to rely upon others.
2. Giving anonymously to an unknown recipient via a person or public fund that is trustworthy, wise, and can perform acts of tzedakah with your money in a most impeccable fashion.
3. Giving anonymously to a known recipient.
4. Giving publicly to an unknown recipient.
5. Giving before being asked.
6. Giving after being asked.
7. Giving willingly, but inadequately.
8. Giving unwillingly

Tzedakah also refers to volunteering to help others, may it be to give a ride, visit a sick person, shovel a driveway for someone who is unable, etc. It is a way of connecting to others and letting others know that they are not alone.

JFS is all about connecting with others. Whether it be through text, emails, phone calls, or in-person visits we endeavor to connect with people. We offer rides to seniors who want to go shopping, a doctor’s appointment, a Federation event, etc.-thus the need for volunteers :)

Of course, these programs require funding which is why we are presently having our Rosh Hashanah appeal. Our goal is \$5000. Baruch Hashem, we have a matching donor (1:1) up to \$2500. G-d willing, we will meet our goal and thus ensure that these important services continue.

On behalf of JFS, I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year.



**Rabbi Fred Nebel**  
Jewish Family Services Director  
574-233-1164 x1806  
RabbiNebel@TheJewishFed.org

## Announcing FED TALKS

### For a stronger community

Yes! **FED TALKS** – not the world renowned TED Talks. The purpose of **FED TALKS** is to welcome curious people and build community. Are you a curious soul? Do you like to engage with ideas and be part of the conversation?

**FED TALKS** is a practical way to draw on our community's intellectual reservoir. The inspiration for this dialogue is to provoke important and critical questions about Jewish leadership and the state of our community today.

The Federation believes passionately in the power of thoughtful, visionary, and exceptional ideas that plot a new direction and bring people along.

**FED TALKS** aim is to provide a fresh and practical approach for organizing our communal resources and creating the communal glue needed to be one Jewish

community. A Jewish future filled with vibrancy, security, growth, and joy.

I believe that thinking about, talking about, and addressing the things that create value is the fuel for our progress and community development. And in speaking with others in our community about our collective obligations to foster a stronger and more vibrant Jewish community, I know I'm not alone. This gives me great hope.

So, today, I'm announcing **FED TALKS** – a hosted forum that will explore, reframe, and rethink the ways we come together to meet the needs of our community.

**FED TALKS** is not a solution to all our problems, but I believe it can be a decisive force in our Jewish community life that will determine whether we stagnate or grow, fade or emerge anew.

After the High Holidays, you will begin hearing more about **FED TALKS**. I hope you're as excited as I am and will join us all for **FED TALKS** as we build a stronger, more joyful, and sustainable community.

Who can give a **FED TALK**? YOU! Anyone who cares passionately about the future of our community!

Do you have a dream? A pet project? A new insight? A favorite Jewish book? A Jewish personality whose vision and charisma moves you? A keen sense of what needs to be done?

**FED TALKS** are your chance to share your thoughts with the larger Jewish community.



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## YOU'RE INVITED

# HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE GARDEN CONCEPT OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley

3202 Shalom Way, South Bend

Short presentation at 4:30. Refreshments will be served.



RSVP by Wednesday, September 7 to  
MKruger@thejewishfed.org



13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MICHIANA  

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JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

# Call for Committee Members!

Help us choose the slate of films to be shown at the 2023 Film Fest

Sign up at [TheJewishFed.org/Volunteer](https://TheJewishFed.org/Volunteer) or call 574-233-1164

## Pnin, by Vladimir Nabokov

Fun fact: while writing the dark-themed novel, *Lolita*, Nabokov wrote *Pnin* to cheer himself up. *Pnin*—pronounced, “pah’neen”—as a character is almost a complete opposite of Humbert Humbert. One similarity is that both novels are classic examples of the “unreliable narrator.” Also, Nabokov’s use of the English language makes the reader feel super smart for recognizing how masterfully he played with words.

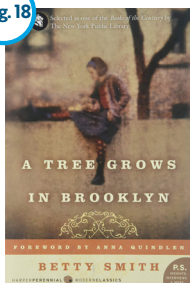
*Pnin* is a sardonic look at how society, especially Academia, disrespects foreigners. A translation of the meaning of the name *Pnin* is “pidgin English.” *Pnin*, the character, speaks in hilarious ways. Toward the end of the novel when he’s planning to celebrate his newest rental abode—this time a house, not a mere room—he invites a colleague to his soiree. He believes the man has an identical twin brother and always mixes them up. At his “house-heating” party, when the truth is seconds away from revelation, another guest interrupts. *Pnin* never get the answer to this identity quest.

While it may be difficult to read Nabokov, there are so many comic moments that you won’t regret it.

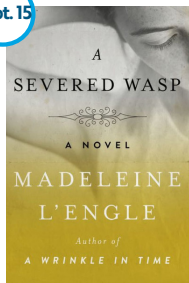
The Federation Book Club meets via Zoom at 4 PM on the third Thursdays of every month.

### Upcoming Books:

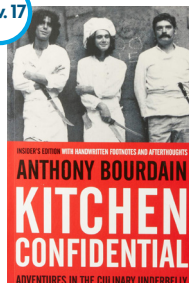
Aug. 18



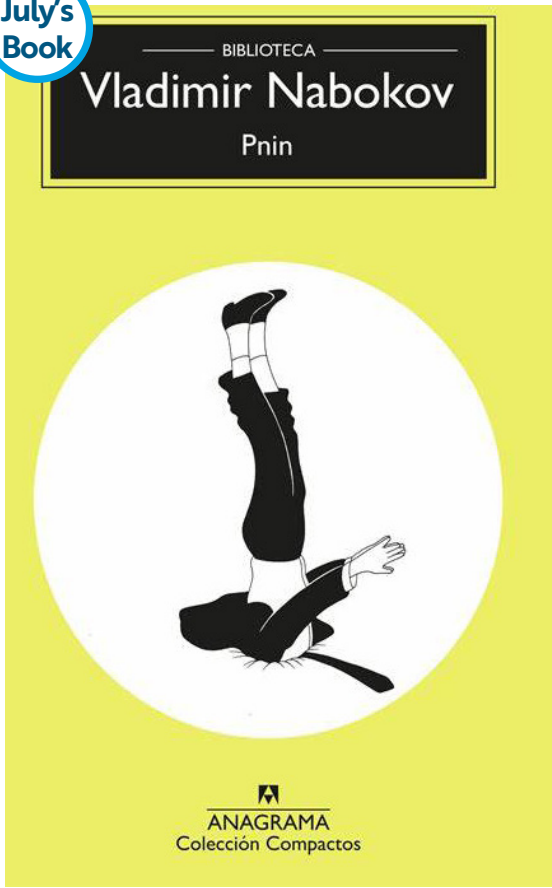
Sept. 15



Nov. 17



July's Book



Beth Buechler  
Community Contributor

# FOREVER LEARNING

FALL SEMESTER

Intro to Excel with Ben Davis

Virtual on Mondays, 10 - 11 AM

Universal Ethical Systems with Rabbi Nebel

In Person on Thursdays, 10 - 11 AM

[ForeverLearningInstitute.org](http://ForeverLearningInstitute.org)





# ONE-POT CHEESY SPINACH PASTA

## From Our Community Table

There's a saying "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." That saying was first said in the mid-1800s. This quote really applies to the recipe that I am sharing with you this month. The first two times I attempted to make the recipe I did not succeed in following the directions. Funny thing is, though, we really liked the recipe despite my errors.

What originally attracted me about the recipe is that the pasta cooks in the sauce. You don't have to boil the pasta in a separate pot and then drain it. This is an all-in-one sort of recipe.

The first time I made it I forgot to add the shredded mozzarella at the end. And we still loved it.

The second time I attempted to make the recipe, I did not forget the cheese. But, I made a different mistake. I had gone to run an errand that took longer than anticipated. Knowing that I was making pasta for supper, as soon as I got home I put up water to boil. I then proceeded to boil and drain the pasta. Only when I started to make the sauce did I realize my mistake. I had to reduce the amount of milk and water and play around a lot to get the right texture of everything. Lesson learned.

They say the third time's a charm. They've actually been saying that since the early 1800s. The third time I prepared the recipe I was successful. I didn't forget anything accidentally. I did choose to make some changes based on what I had on hand and personal preference. All those changes are in the notes that follow the recipe.

**Deena Abraham**  
Community Contributor

### INGREDIENTS

From the recipe files of Dena Gewirtz

- 1 stick (8 Tbsp.) butter, divided use
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. Kosher salt, divided
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 lb. frozen chopped spinach, defrosted and drained
- 4 c. milk
- 1 1/2 c. water
- 1 lb. pasta, such as rotini or any tube shape
- 2 c. shredded mozzarella cheese blistered cherry or grape tomatoes, optional

### INSTRUCTIONS

Melt four tablespoons of butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, half of the salt, and pepper. Sauté, stirring occasionally, for five to seven minutes. Stir in the spinach and remaining butter and cook for eight to ten minutes. Add the milk, water, and remaining salt. Bring to a boil. Stir in the pasta and cook for ten to twelve minutes until the pasta is cooked. Stir in the cheese and cook until the cheese is melted,

If desired, serve with blistered tomatoes on top. To blister tomatoes, toss one cup of cherry or grape tomatoes with one tablespoon of oil. Broil for five to eight minutes until they start to blacken.

Notes:

- I use four tablespoons of butter for sautéing but do not add more butter with the spinach.
- I omit the onion totally and use additional garlic. We really like garlic. If you don't like garlic, you can use only onion.
- When I first made this recipe I didn't have frozen spinach, but I did have a can of spinach in the pantry. I drained it well and used it and it worked for us quite well.
- Since we liked the pasta so much when I forgot to add the mozzarella cheese, I decided that I could reduce the amount to one cup.



## The Growing U.A.V. Threat to Israel and the Middle East

During Operation Breaking Dawn in August, we saw Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) - an Iranian proxy force based in Gaza- launch nearly 1,000 rockets at Israeli civilians. In May 2021, we saw Hamas and PIJ launch more than 4,300 rockets at Israel during Operation Guardian of the Walls. To add to the multiple security challenges facing Israel, there is a new and growing threat from Iran and its regional proxies: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's).

In an eye-opening documentary shown in May on Israel's Channel 11 (Kan 11), we learned new information about the growing threat from Iran's UAV program and how Israel is responding to this danger.

The first instance of an Iranian attempt to use a UAV against Israel took place in February 2018. A Shahed 141 was launched from an Iranian base in Syria loaded with explosives they wanted to transfer to terrorist organizations in the West Bank. Fortunately, the UAV was identified by Israeli radar and intercepted and shot down by an Israeli Apache helicopter.

This was just the first of several Iranian sponsored UAV missions against Israel. Iran's loyal proxy Hezbollah has flown small UAV's over Israel for reconnaissance missions. There has also been a deadly UAV attack.

In July 2021, Iran used a Shahed 136 UAV to fly 2000 kilometers to attack Israeli-owned ship, the Mercer Street, in the Gulf of Oman. The attack killed two crew members.

It does not take a leap of the imagination to envision a nightmare scenario where Iran and its proxy forces- Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah- would try to overwhelm Israel's vaunted air defense system. They would use massive rocket fire combined with precision-guided missiles and UAV's launched from Iran or from its bases in Syria. The attack would target Israeli civilians with indiscriminate rocket fire and precision attacks against Israel's critical infrastructure: electrical power plants, desalination plants, Ben-Gurion Airport, and the seaports of Ashdod and Haifa.

Yet, Iran's UAV program is not just a danger for Israel.

The wake-up call for the potential threat of Iran's growing UAV capabilities to the wider Middle East came on September 14th, 2019 with the attack on the Aramco oil facility in Saudi Arabia. This was a sophisticated Iranian operation using UAV's and cruise missiles. The attack on Saudi Arabia's most important oil field and processing center caused extensive damage.

The attack was also a wake-up call for the Arab world to the real nature of the Iranian threat. It's no coincidence that one

The strategic cooperation between the U.S., Israel and the countries of the Abraham Accords has already paid off.

According to the Channel 11 documentary, in March 2021 Iran launched two UAV's from its territory toward Israel. Thanks to this early warning system, Israel was able to launch F-35 fighter planes to intercept and destroy the UAV's. What is surprising to note is that the Israeli planes intercepted the UAV's well outside of the borders of Israel.

And last February, Iran again launched two UAV's toward Israel. Yet this time it was actually U.S. Air Force fighter planes that



year later, in September 2020, the historic Abraham Accords were signed creating normalization agreements between Israel, Bahrain and the U.A.E.

Beyond the opening of economic ties and tourism, the Abraham Accords also opened the door for military cooperation against the common threats from Iran. There is now strategic collaboration between Israel and its Arab partners in the Persian Gulf that serves as an early warning system to the launch of UAV's from Iran.

Veteran Israeli Journalist Ronen Bergman wrote in the New York Times, "... the new initiative, the Middle East Air Defense project, is an attempt to shore up the region's defenses against drones. The idea is to allow its participants to alert one another instantly about incoming drone attacks, through the coordination of the U.S. Central Command."

intercepted the UAV's and shot them down over Iraq.

Israel has not remained passive in the face of these attacks. According to a report in the Israeli media, in a special operation in February Israel used its own UAV's to attack and destroy hundreds of UAV's in a major production facility inside the Iran.

Given the growing UAV threat, and with the challenge of Iran's nuclear program looming in the background, it is important for Americans to understand the totality of the threats posed by Iran to Israel and its Arab neighbors. If we fail to do so, then peace and prosperity for the people of the Middle East will continue to remain a distant dream.



### Bob Feferman

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**The Federation is Pleased to Welcome This New Shul to Our Community!**



**The Liberal Jewish Fellowship**  
Serious Progressive Judaism for Serious Progressive Jews

September 25 at 7:15 AM  
September 26 at 10:45 AM

*The LJF aspires to hold space for all people. All who would join us in peace are most welcome.*

425 Cushing Street, South Bend, IN 46616 | 574-227-4464 | [ljfellowship.org](http://ljfellowship.org)

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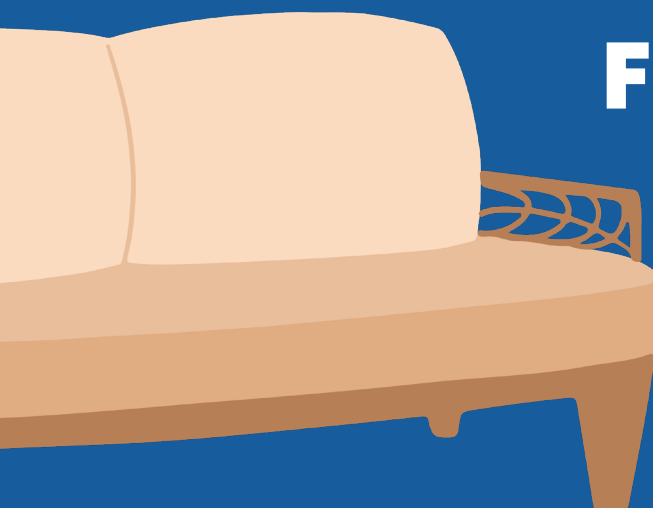
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Rabbi Dovid Abraham



# FURNITURE NEEDED

We are in need of lightly used furniture to help update the Schlichim apartment. If you have something that could be of use, please email [info@TheJewishFed.org](mailto:info@TheJewishFed.org).

**Thank you!**

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>  
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Elul - Tishri

# September

Visit [TheJewishFed.org/Events](http://TheJewishFed.org/Events) to register. Have an event to add to our calendar? Call 574-233-1164.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	1 9:00–10:00 AM Woman's Zumba	2 6:30 PM SaBaBaH Shabbat Dinner	3 6:30 SaBaBaH Shabbat Dinner
4	5 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	6 9:00–10:00 AM Woman's Zumba	7 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	8	9	10
11	12 10:00–11:00 AM FLI: Intro to Excel 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	13 9:00–10:00 AM Woman's Zumba	14 9:00–10:00 AM Woman's Zumba 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	15 9:00–10:00 AM Woman's Zumba 10:00–11:00 AM FLI: Universal Ethical Systems	16	17
18	19 10:00–11:00 AM FLI: Intro to Excel 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	20	21 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	22 10:00–11:00 AM FLI: Universal Ethical Systems	23	24
25	26	27	28 9:00–10:00 AM Woman's Zumba 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	29 9:00–10:00 AM Woman's Zumba 10:00–11:00 AM FLI: Universal Ethical Systems	30	1
Federation Closed Rosh Hashanah						