



Jewish Federation
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY



2022-23
Year in Review

A remarkable year of growth

ALON SHEMESH, BOARD PRESIDENT



A year ago, I received the “metaphorical gavel” from Mike Kirsch when I became the president of the Jewish Federation’s Board. Mike, Moshe Kruger (who had the misfortune of becoming the Executive Director right at the start of the pandemic), the Federation’s board, and the staff members had the near-impossible task of navigating the complexities of COVID-19. With their leadership and the support of the community, the Jewish Federation survived this period.

Since then, the Federation has reopened its doors to many exciting events that proved to our members that we will continue to be a center for the entire Jewish community. Some of our most successful events were the Fall Fest, which created a traffic jam in the Federation’s parking lot, the Women Leading a Dialogue event, which brought together women from different sectors of the Israeli map, and the Yom HaShoah program, which showcased youth education outside of Jewish our community about the Holocaust. We must not forget the amazing Memorial Day and Independence Day celebrations for the State of Israel. At each of these events, the turnout was incredible, with over 100 attendees.

The above-mentioned events and the day-to-day running of the Federation could not take place without the support of the entire Federation staff. Moshe Kruger, with his contagious enthusiasm and his continued dream of a strong future for the Jewish community, was the architect behind the three sessions of Fed Talks. The idea behind these meetings was to discuss some critical questions about the state of our community to allow us to engage in a dialogue about our future together. I could not imagine how the Federation would be today without Moshe.

Rabbi Fred Nebel, the man wearing many hats, serves as Director of Jewish Family Services. With the help of Nancy Kennedy, they have done an amazing job keeping us connected to individuals who are in need. He often provides transportation and acts as the Mashgiach for our Kosher kitchen in his free time.

Bob Feferman is our sage CRC Director. His community relations leadership is vital to the community, as is his involvement and steady hand in the Federation’s shilchut and Partnership2Gether programs. Bob’s dedication and good natured personality make a positive difference in the many communities he touches.

Dan Ravitch, Programming Director, and Shirlee Greenwald, Israel Program Director, have worked closely together to plan different events for the entire community across the age spectrum. Through their

creativity and long hours they have set a high bar for anyone in the future. They have forever transformed Camp Ideal and created the Shi'Shuk Market, open every Friday afternoon in the summer to sell baked goods the campers made. Sadly for us, Dan and Shirlee will be departing at the end of this summer to continue with new and exciting endeavors. Dan Cossman, who is the Federation's Operations Manager, has many roles and is the ultimate team player. From paying bills to managing security, facilities and event logistics, Dan's steady hand helps the Federation run smoothly.

This year, we have been fortunate to have a few new additions to the Federation's staff. Last October, Steve Lotter became the Federation's Director of Community Engagement. Steve joined us after many years of working at Big Idea Company. He has done an amazing job keeping the community informed through our newsletter, emails, and website management. He is also our "tech guru" and has helped all our programs run smoothly. Steve is working on an exciting mix of innovative community engagement programs, including leadership development, Israel engagement, social impact, and other aspects of Jewish life.

Additionally, Judy Sassler became the Federation's Administrative Assistant. Not only does Judy help run the office, but she has also become our chef. Judy has prepared feasts for all our recent events. Her food and its presentation have been nothing short of a 5-star meal – as Moshe calls it "an Ooh La La Feast!" Finally, Jon Ravitch became the Federation's Facility Associate. He does an excellent job making sure the Federation looks its best. Following the last Fed Talk, Jon became my drill sergeant and made sure that we left the room spotless.

Being Board President, to say the least, has been quite overwhelming for me. I have only survived thanks to the support of the Executive Committee. Cristyne Porile and Sarah Nerenberg have kept us organized and have paid close attention to detail. Mara Boettcher has continued to be the "financial guru." Mike Kirsch is always there to answer my questions (and I think he has the entire set of bylaws memorized). Allen Stenberg has brought his broad knowledge of marketing and communication to the Board. I wish there was a way for me to say how much I appreciate all of the Board members. They have been so supportive over the last year and were not afraid to give their opinions when needed. I would like to personally thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all the help you have given me.

For the first time since COVID-19 brought chaos to our lives, the Federation will be hosting a new Shaliach from the Jewish Agency. As I mentioned before, Dan and Shirlee will be leaving us at the end of the summer, but not before they get some quality time training Omer Karavani. Omer will arrive in South Bend around mid-September. I hope our community will open up their homes so we can make his stay in South Bend memorable.

On behalf of the Federation, I want to thank all of you for the help and support you have given us.

Thank you. Toda Raba. We are grateful.

MOSHE KRUGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The expression of gratitude, conveying our sincere thanks and appreciation, is essential to our Jewish identity and tradition. The first words of our morning prayer, *Modeh ani*, impel us to start each day with a grateful heart by saying: "I thank you."



At Federation, we have many reasons to say, "Toda."

We are thankful for a *Shana tova*—a good year. That assessment of a successful year begins with programing because programs serve as the heart of the Federation's work. With each heartbeat—with every implementation of our thoughtfully and deliberately designed programs—we send oxygen and nutrient-rich, life-sustaining blood circulating through the Jewish community. The strong pulse and steady beat of our programing stands as a significant vital sign of our Federation's strength. The wellbeing of the integrated and interdependent systems of Jewish Michiana flows from Federation programs such as our holiday, Yoms, CRC, Partnership, and community events.

These programs are not randomly devised and delivered. Rather, they reflect and give life to our vision, mission, and values (see page 7). They are aligned, by the Federation staff, with our twin core goals of:

- **K'lal Yisrael:** Creating Jewish unity and solidarity across the community regardless of religious views; and
- **Bayit Chazak:** Strengthening our home as the Fed continues to reinvent itself through strategic and intentional choices to serve as the central hub of Jewish life in the region.

I'm also thrilled to report that through the participation of more than 260 individual donors, we achieved the ambitious goals we set for the Federation's annual campaign. At a time of rising costs and other economic pressures, we successfully raised—through your generous giving—the funds needed to keep the heart of the Jewish Federation beating with consistent vigor and strength. Your magnanimous support of the annual campaign, JFS Virtual Food Pantry Appeals, and JFS itself, powers the Federation's efforts to care for our fellow Jews in Michiana and around the world. Again, thank you!

This year's fundraising represents a community-wide effort. You, our dedicated volunteers, and the extraordinary team of Jewish communal professionals at the Fed, make a difference in Jewish lives every day.

Together, we put food on the table and gas in the tank with JFS assistance cards for individuals and families with financial needs. We offer comfort and companionship for older adults and lend a helping hand to ease some of life's challenges when they arise.

This past year, we also opened our doors for sumptuous Kosher Date Night dining experiences, expanded the product offerings of our camper-run Friday market—Shi'Shuk, received rave reviews on the 13th Annual Michiana Jewish Film Festival, and immersed ourselves in community-building conversations about the values and aspirations that will ultimately define our future.

Toda Raba. I thank my amazing professional staff and board and, in turn, we thank you on behalf of the community we serve for all that we've accomplished together. And we thank you in advance for your investment in the essential work that lies ahead.

Turning to the future, we look with unsparing, but also hopeful and inspired eyes, to what comes next for the Jewish community of Michiana. We embrace with determination and confidence the challenge and opportunity of crafting a new narrative, an inviting and innovative vision for what can be. We will be judged, as every generation is, not so much by what we've accomplished in the past as by the foundations we lay for an even brighter future.

With this in mind, we will endeavor, in this coming year, to create an intentional, evidence-based, and opportunity-focused master plan for the future of Michiana's Jewish community. We will be guided in this process by insights and ideas from our current community members, the experience and expertise of others engaged in dynamic and innovative community building, and the vision and aspirations of the next generation of Jewish leaders—especially those who might pursue those dreams in Michiana.

The master plan will be systemic, holistic, and integrated. That is, it will weave together, within a big-picture vision of Michiana's Jewish future, specific objectives for creating a dynamic and welcoming Jewish community, one that offers opportunities for us to attract and retain young people to engage and connect with Jewish Michiana on terms that reflect their passions, interests, and models for belonging rather than through the paradigms of the past.

The Federation will stand at the center of this process and, I believe, at the core of the Jewish future that emerges from our collective, community efforts. We will be the heart that keeps the blood flowing to our diverse yet interdependent and mutually affirming facets of Jewish life and living. We are grateful for that opportunity and grateful for your partnership in this sacred and profound process. *Toda raba!*

Caring for the community

RABBI FRED NEBEL, JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTOR

The mission of Jewish Family Services (JFS) is to provide helpful and caring services to the Jewish community, infused with Jewish values, in order to improve and strengthen the quality of lives in our community.

JFS strives to help when life presents periodic or chronic challenges. We try to alleviate these challenges through a relationship-based model of care that maintains the personal growth and dignity of each individual, couple, and family served.



Our most utilized service is the Virtual Food Pantry. Through the Pantry, we distribute gift cards from various supermarkets in the area, including Midwest Kosher & Deli, Martin's, Meijer, and Walmart. Additionally, to aid our clients, we also distribute gas cards from either Speedway or Marathon. This allows the client to purchase exactly what is needed without any waste. At present, we are distributing approximately \$1900 a month to our clients.

Another of our services is our transportation program. This is geared for seniors who need rides to shopping, doctor appointments, etc. Since September, between our Benton Harbor satellite and ourselves, we have given over 130 rides.

Visiting and speaking with seniors in their homes is an especially meaningful part of JFS. We have the opportunity to spend quality time with our seniors and, through our discussions and updates, allow them to remain part of our extended community. Many enjoy catching up on the local news while reminiscing about how things were when they were more active. As I have written in the OCN, I'm not certain who benefits more from these visits, the senior or myself, as I get a new perspective on what South Bend was like and how it is now. When the back story is heard, a lot of things come into better focus.

As part of our Wellness program, we coordinated with our Programming department and brought in Lisa Levin who spoke about "Breathing as a way to relieve stress" as well as "The Emotion Code." Lisa is a licensed Clinical Social Work/Therapist, LCSW, BCD, CAS, CECP. It was a great lecture and well attended.

Finally, JFS offers a Life Coaching service. This program is tailored to the client's needs. This program helps the client realize their potential. We help with creating or tweaking a budget, learning how to deal with stress, interview skills, etc.

These are just a few highlights into what JFS is doing. If you'd like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mission, Vision & Values

OUR MISSION

Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley is the central resource to embrace, connect and support Jews locally and globally through social services, coordinated fundraising, community outreach and educational programming.

OUR VISION

We desire to have a sustainable, engaged and connected Jewish community that supports one another locally and globally.

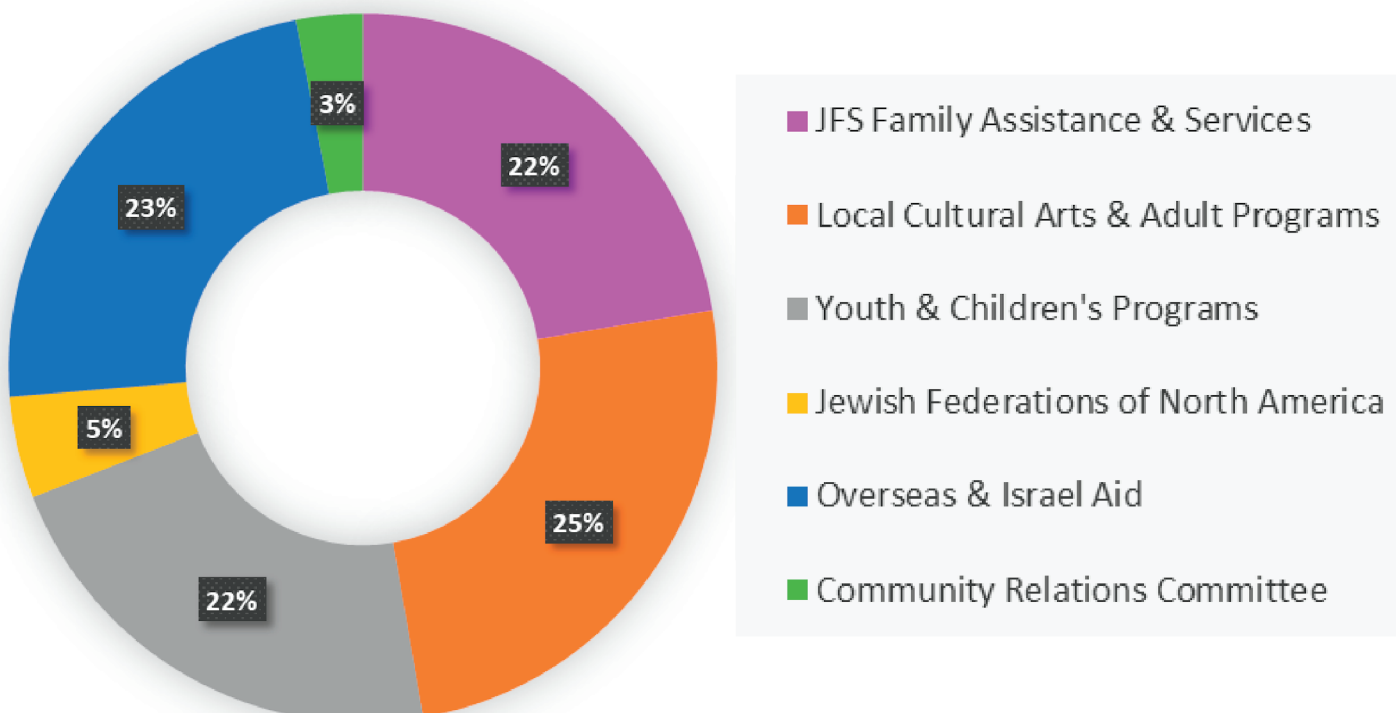
OUR VALUES

Kehillah (Community) - We connect people of all backgrounds, affiliations, ages and observance levels through social gatherings, cultural events and educational activities.

Chesed (Kindness & Compassion) - We bring hope to those most in need among us through our compassionate Jewish Family Services.

Tikkun Olam (Repair the World) - We act to repair the world through tzedakah, social justice and education

Where your dollars go



Endowments

Andra & Irwin Press Perpetual
Annual Giving Endowment Fund

Babs Waks Lion of Judah
Endowment

Bernard & Shirley Natkow
Campership Fund

Bernard H. Natkow Community
Lecture

The Gitlin-Turbow
Communications Technology
Fund

Cheryl Waldman Lion of Judah
Endowment

Craig & Carol Kapson College
Scholarship Fund

Craig & Carol Kapson Jewish
Cultural & Performing Arts Fund

Dayle L & David W Piser
Endowment Fund

Debra Barton Grant Jewish
Experience for Children Fund

Dorothy & Herbert Schiller
Perpetual Annual Giving
Endowment Fund

Elkhart County Jewish
Community Fund

Exec. Director Discretionary Fund

F&M Piser Family Perpetual
Annual Giving Endowment Fund

Jewish Family Services Food
Pantry Endowment Fund

Harvey P. & Lillian Roland
Scholarship Fund

Janet Berman Lion of Judah
Endowment

Jewish Family Services Endowment
Fund

Jewish Family Services Food Pantry
Fund

Joan New Lion of Judah Endowment

Jewish Women's Endowment Fund

Karen Dwyer Our Community News
Fund

Lisa Lerman Community Bridge
Endowment Fund

Marcus Schulman Family
Endowment Fund

Milton & Sara Brook Endowment for
Jewish Family Services

Myer & Murial Piser Education Fund

Neil & Leah Silver Advanced Degree
Scholarship Fund

Post 318, Jewish War Veterans
Library Fund

Professional Staff Development

Robert Simon Leadership
Development Fund

Ron & Nancy Cohen Jewish Family
Services Fund

Ronald S & Nancy Plotkin Cohen
Endowment Fund

Ruth Levy Senior Services Fund

Sam & Betty Schpok Endowment
Fund

Samuel & Pauline Okon Holocaust
Education Fund

Sandra Winicur Book Club
Endowment Fund

Shirley & Sam Raitzin Family
Perpetual Annual Giving
Endowment Fund

Simon Building Fund for the
Jewish Federation

Steve Rodin Jewish Family
Services Fund

Terry Satinover Fagen Benton
Harbor Fund

Terry Satinover Fagen Jewish
Family Services Fund

Tessye Simon Lion of Judah
Endowment

The Kurt & Tessye Simon Fund
for Seniors Living With Dignity
Unrestricted Endowment

Viola Major Fund

Youth Programing Endowment
Fund

2022 Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank & Investment Accounts: \$10,945,127.21

Accounts Receivable: \$155,441.73

Other Current Assets: \$80,987.66

Total Current Assets: \$11,181,556.60

Fixed Assets: \$1,231,160.21

Other Assets: \$84,108.85

Total Assets: \$12,496,825.66

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable: \$42,414.79

Other Current Liabilities: \$3,952,683.84

Total Current Liabilities: \$3,995,098.63

Equity: \$8,501,727.03

Total Liabilities & Equity: \$12,496,825.66

Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Alon Shemesh (President)
Sarah Nerenberg (VP)
Cristyne Porile (VP)
Allen Stenberg (Secretary)
Mara Boettcher (Treasurer)
Michael Kirsch (Immediate
Past President)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deena Abraham
Josh Brown
Sarah Feldbaum
Ben Finan
Marlene Hollenkamp
Ruth Kremer
Elisheva Lerman
Megan New
Jennifer Schwartz
Aviva Wulfsohn

Professional Staff



Dan Cossman
Operations Manager



Bob Feferman
Community Relations
Director



Shirlee Greenwald
Israel Program
Director



Nancy Kennedy
JFS Associate



Moshe Kruger
Executive Director



Steve Lotter
Community Engagement
Director



Rabbi Fred Nebel
Jewish Family
Services Director



Dan Ravitch
Programming Director



Jon Ravitch
Facility Associate



Judy Sassler
Administrative Assistant

Highlights from the past year

- Holocaust Education Speakers Bureau
- Fall Fest
- Community Sukkah Build
- Women Leading a Dialogue
Coexistence Cafe
- Lisa Lerman Community Bridge Award
presented to Elisheva Lerman
- Holocaust Remembrance Garden
conceptual meetings
- Community Hanukkiah lighting in
downtown South Bend
- Winter Camp Ideal
- Community Challah Bake
- FED Talks series
- NEXTGen - Jewish Young Adults
- ADL's State of Antisemitism
with Trent Spoolstra
- PJ Library Pajama Party
- Purim Carnival
- Out of the Narrows art exhibit
- Yom Hashoah program with students
from Discovery Middle School
- Yom Haatzmaut program
with Michael Aaronson & Avi Liberman
- Mother's Day Brunch & Concert with
South Bend Symphony Orchestra
- 13th Michiana Jewish Film Festival
- Camp Ideal's Shi'Shuk Market
- Berman-Brenner Family Sculpture
Garden relocates to Federation
- Facility & security improvements



**Downtown South Bend
Hanukkiah Lighting**



**Yom Hashoah
Student Art Exhibit**



**Berman-Brenner Family
Sculpture Garden**

Coming soon to the Federation

CAMP IDEAL KIDS PRESENT

ShiShuk Market



FRESH CHALLAH

HERBS & FLOWERS

ISRAELI SPICES

SOAPS & SCRUBS

SHABBAT CANDLES

BATH BOMBS

FRIDAYS, JUNE 30 & JULY 14, 21 & 28 FROM 3:30 TO 4:30 PM
JEWISH FEDERATION OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY



Sign up at



TheJewishFed.org/Blood

Community Blood Drive

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 10 AM - 2 PM
AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION

ALL DONORS
RECEIVE A FREE
BEACH TOWEL &
\$10 GAS CARD



CAMP IDEAL'S INTERGENERATIONAL LUNCH

A CHANCE FOR OLDER ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO MEET OUR CAMP KIDS



Wednesday, July 19, 11:30 AM
\$7 per person
RSVP at TheJewishFed.org