

OUR COMMUNITY

Newsletter

October 2023 | Tishri-Cheshvan 5784



Jewish Federation
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY

It's Moments Like This

Kids in our community
enjoy apple picking in
Niles, Michigan ahead
of Rosh Hashanah.



Minute With Moshe

Have you heard the buzz in our town square?

People are talking about our Jewish future -- and I'm encouraged by what I hear. Conversations about our shared vision start with "why?" When we start with "why," it explains our purpose and the reason we exist and behave as we do. And the best way to answer the "why" question is with a rich, descriptive narrative articulating what we aim to achieve within our community.

With this in mind, I'd like to pick up the conversation where I left off with my high holiday message: "The Federation is primed to advance our aspirational community-building goals. We're motivated to work and prosper with our community partners in 5784."

The Fed is developing a strategic plan. The plan's nickname, Vision 2025, is a three-year community plan. In turn, annual business plans with specific initiatives and targets must be created to support the strategic plan. The Fed's business plan will be approved by the Federation board and made public every September. It is essential that the plan's outcomes are measurable and that the community receives reports.

When the last strategic plan (2016-2020) was created, an excellent mission, vision, and core values that remain relevant today were approved. Today, as in 2020, when I was starting my onboarding as the new executive director, there was a palpable

concern about the Federation's impact and questions about our community's sustainability. Then COVID struck and upended everything -- except for one thing, my ability to listen. Navigating these unprecedented challenges during the pandemic resulted in many community consultations and, more recently, culminated in the FED Talk Series.

Based on my understanding of the issues our community is grappling with, I envision the plan focusing on three ideas:

- Building a stronger Jewish ecosystem
- Expanding access to our Fed campus
- Ensuring our sustainability as a collective

Community capacity-building efforts noted above are the building blocks that underpin Vision 2025 and tend to focus on some combination of four major strategic areas: leadership development, community organizing, organizational development, and fostering collaborative relations among organizations.

In the 21st Century, many small Federations struggle to find a long-term sustainable business model to deliver impact on their mission. Your Fed team believes, and experts agree, that organizations must continually invest in their future. Without investment, most organizations would not survive -- and this is true for our small Jewish community that aims to move forward and renew.

Our community's financial sustainability requires us to recalibrate our collective thinking around community development, organizational membership, and fundraising. I'll work closely with my board to develop the Federation's strategic plan in the coming months. But our common task will only be completed once we sync our respective strategic plans. Our ability to coordinate our planning is essential to the change process that, when prioritized and streamlined, can help smooth and accelerate the path to change.

There is talk in the town square. I'm grateful for the many ideas, viewpoints, and strategies for investing in our future that have already been expressed. Meeting the evolving needs of Jewish Michiana requires an ongoing analysis of community data. The insights from your feedback will continue to be collated, analyzed for consistent themes and direction, and used extensively to shape the big community picture with a clear vision and course of action.

The only impossible journey is the one we never begin. May 5784 be a blessed journey for each of us and our community.



Moshe Kruger

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A special Shi'Shuk for a sweet new year

Last month, Dan & Shirlee led their final event at the Jewish Federation: Apple Picking at Lehman's Orchard in Niles, Michigan, followed by an afternoon of challah baking for a special Rosh Hashanah Shi'Shuk Market, with lots of sweet goodies for the new year.

It was also a chance for Camp Ideal kids to catch up with one other and strengthen the bonds they made over the summer. After collecting 119 lbs of apples from the orchard, the kids came back for lunch and spent the rest of the day preparing for Shi'Shuk by creating apple stuffed challah, raisin challah and other delicious treats.



It's Moments Like These



At this very moment, as you read this, the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley is supporting, sustaining, and protecting Jewish life – as we've done for nearly 80 years.

We're there the moment a child enters our campus on the first day of Camp Ideal and the moment they make their own challah to share with their family. We're there when our community comes together to support Jewish arts & culture, ensuring it has a home in our halls and theatres. And we're also there for young adults, some who are just starting their journey into Judaism, and others who are returning to the traditions they grew up with.

Keep reading on the next page.

Every moment matters

For a Jewish community of our size, every moment matters. These moments work together to create a ripple effect that influences each of us. In my first year as Director of Community Engagement, I've seen the impact of these moments firsthand and I truly believe they fuel our community in those small, but powerful ways.

That moment when a family visits for an evening of crafts and snacks as we prepare to decorate our community sukka. That moment when a child looks around the room in awe as they realize there are others here, from different backgrounds, that share similar traditions. These are moments that matter.

When members of our NEXTGen group come together to explore new destinations and share time with one another, these are moments that matter. We are unique as a small community to have young adults from diverse backgrounds share a sense of purpose in strengthening their bond to the

Jewish people while growing together as leaders in our community.

When a senior citizen receives a timely wellness check or a prompt ride to a doctor's appointment, our Jewish Family Services shows us that even small gestures on the surface can carry the most meaning for an individual. Showing that we care in a moment of need is something we can never take for granted.

My point is these moments create even more moments, so often reaching our broader community. For example, at the University of Notre Dame, we continually connect with others who also understand the importance of sharing Jewish arts and culture during our annual Michiana Jewish Film Festival. This partnership offers a collection of moments through fellowship and discussion, both during

and after screenings.

At the Jewish Federation, making every moment matter is what we're all about. With your support, we can continue this momentous energy and learn from each other. On Thursday, October 26th, we kick off our 2024 Annual Campaign and our new shaliach, Omer Karavani, will share about the important moments that brought him to our community from his home in Ashkelon, Israel.

Please make your reservation to join us at TheJewishFed.org/2024 or give us call at (574) 233-1164. I look forward to sharing this moment and many more with you in the year ahead.



Steve Lotter

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2024 CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

My Israeli Story

Thursday, October 26 @ 7:30 PM
at the Jewish Federation
with light desserts to follow

Omer Karavani was born and raised in Ashkelon and now serves here in Michiana as the Jewish Agency's Israeli emissary to our community.

Visit TheJewishFed.org/2024 to reserve your seat!

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If you are in need of help or would like to lend your support as a volunteer, please visit our website at TheJewishFed.org/JFS

Community Connections

Baruch Hashem, we made it!

Baruch Hashem, we surpassed our goal of \$6,000 for our annual Rosh Hashanah Appeal. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped us reach it. It is a true testament to the amazing generosity exhibited by our community. May Hashem bless you with a happy, healthy and sweet new year!

Someone recently commented that this community is amazing, because every year as I am faced with the challenge of raising the necessary monies, the community rises to the challenge. And indeed, a quick Google search brings up the fact that the Jewish community is the most philanthropic. I started to wonder why that is the case.

Truly, giving our hard-earned money to charity is not natural for most. When one is inundated with requests for funds from various organizations, how many solicitations end up in the recycling bin without even being opened?

I think a few factors make the Jewish people especially giving. To start with, the Torah teaches, "You shall surely give a 10th of your produce," which we understand to mean a 10th of our net income to charity. This has been ingrained in us since the founding of our nation. Furthermore, the Rabbis tell us that if we give our proper tithe, that Hashem will repay us in kind. However, if we give less, our net income will be reduced proportionally.



Rabbi Fred Nebel

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In addition, historically, when we lived in other countries, the ruling governments allowed us to be self-governing, for the most part, because we collected the various taxes as determined by the Torah, and took care of our own people. The governments were happy to leave us alone as long as they received the money that they wanted.

There is also a concept in Jewish thought, namely "kol Yisrael araivim zeh b'zeh" - that we are all interconnected and responsible for each other. We rejoice with each other and mourn with each other. It doesn't matter where we are in the world, when we hear of a Jewish community in peril, we do whatever we can, because they are our family. Family helps family without wanting reciprocity. This may also be a reason that we don't send invitations to a brit milah or, chas v'shalom - G-d forbid, a house of mourning. Family doesn't need such formalities; we only have to show up.

These reasons may be the underlying causes of our community's largesse. Regardless, all I can say is "Thank you" for once again answering my call. I look forward to our continued partnership.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS 5784

(begins in the evening)

Hoshana Rabbah

Thursday, October 5th

Shemini Atzeret

Friday, October 6th

Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 7th

Chanukah

December 7th-14th

Fast of the 10th of Tevet

Friday, December 22nd

Tu BiShvat

Wednesday, January 24th

Fast of Esther

Saturday, March 23rd

Purim

Saturday, March 23rd

Pesach

April 22nd-29th

Pesach Sheni

Tuesday, May 21st

Lag BaOmer

Saturday, May 25th

Shavuot Eve

Tuesday, June 11th

Shavuot (2nd day)

Wednesday, June 12th

Fast of the 17th of Tammuz

Tuesday, July 23rd

Fast of the 9th of Av

Monday, August 12th

Iran's Multifront Strategy Against Israel

Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7:00 PM

w/ Dr. Jonathan Schanzer

Presented by Temple Beth-El's Simon Foundation & Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee

Our community to host Middle East expert Dr. Jonathan Schanzer

Join us for "Iran's Multifront Strategy Against Israel" on Wednesday, October 11th

For more than a decade, Israel has been engaged in what the Israeli military calls "the operation between the wars" against Iran and its regional terror proxies. For the most part, these operations are not reported in the American media. To learn more about this dangerous situation, our community will host Middle East expert Dr. Jonathan Schanzer who will speak on the topic: Iran's Multifront Strategy Against Israel.

His talk is co-sponsored by Temple Beth-El's Simon Foundation and the Federation's Community Relations Committee. The event will take place on Wednesday night, October 11th at 7:00 PM at the Jewish Federation.

In describing his upcoming talk, Dr. Schanzer wrote, "Unbeknownst to most observers, Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been locked in a gray zone war for a decade, or perhaps even longer. With Iran on the cusp of a nuclear weapon and with multiple proxy groups doing its bidding, Israel has been forced to fight back. When will this shadow war emerge from the shadows?"

When we think of Iran's terror proxies we automatically think of Hezbollah in Lebanon that Iran has armed with 140,000 rockets. Over the past decade, Iran has been working to upgrade this vast arsenal with precision guided missiles. Yet, beyond Hezbollah, there are Iranian terror proxies in Syria and Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad based in Gaza. Dr. Schanzer is an expert on Hamas.

After the 11 day conflict in May 2021 between Israel and Hamas, Dr. Schanzer authored the eye-opening book, *Gaza Conflict 2021*. As he wrote in the introduction, "What stayed with me after those 11 days of war were not the scenes of conflict...Rather, it was the disconnect between American news reporting versus what I was watching, reading and hearing from the region itself."

There is no one more qualified to help us understand this "disconnect" than Jonathan Schanzer.

Dr. Jonathan Schanzer is Senior Vice President for Research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), where he oversees the work of the organization's experts and scholars. He is also on the leadership team of FDD's Center on Economic

and Financial Power, a project on the use of financial and economic power as a tool of statecraft.

Schanzer previously worked as a terrorism finance analyst at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, where he played an integral role in the designation of numerous terrorist financiers. He has held previous think tank research positions at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the Middle East Forum.

Jonathan has written hundreds of articles on the Middle East, along with more than a dozen monographs and chapters for edited volumes. His new book, *Gaza Conflict 2021: Hamas, Israel and Eleven Days of War* (FDD Press 2021), challenges and corrects some of the wildly inaccurate news reported during the conflict. His other books have made unique contributions to the field. *State of Failure: Yasser Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas, and the Unmaking of the Palestinian State* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013) and *Hamas vs. Fatah: The Struggle for Palestine* (Palgrave Macmillan 2008).

Please RSVP for the event at
TheJewishFed.org/Iran.

Bob Feferman

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Volunteering - a way in which we can see each other

First and foremost, I want to thank this amazing community for welcoming me and showing me the best hospitality. During the holiday, people introduced themselves and it is something I am surely not taking for granted, so thank you. I am glad to be a part of the Jewish community of Michiana.

Volunteering is a selfless act that involves offering one's time, skills, and resources to benefit others and contribute to the betterment of society. But why do people decide to volunteer?

Why do people sacrifice from their own important and precious time for someone else, most of the time strangers? And on some occasions the person that you are volunteering for will never know that you have ever volunteered for them.

Volunteering makes you grow as a person, it helps you build confidence, helps you with your leadership skills, makes you take responsibility that you may never have had before, it makes you think outside the box. So "what I get from it" is clear.

The variety of people that you will meet during your time volunteering will probably be different from the people you are familiar with. You will encounter people from different and diverse backgrounds, including the people you are volunteering for or the people you are volunteering with.

This experience shows you a different perspective of how the world works in another person's eyes. It also makes you cherish the big and important stuff that until now you took for granted. Volunteering is also beneficial health wise. Don't believe me?

A BMC HEALTH study from 2013 found that volunteering related to lower symptoms of depression and overall wellbeing of an individual. And a study by CARNEGIE MELLON found that 200 volunteering hours a year were connected to lower blood pressure among the people who got tested.

In Israel, there is a growing movement of teenagers, after high school and before the army, who decide to take a year for something bigger than themselves. They take a gap year and there are so many options, from volunteering and representing Israel outside of Israel, to living together and building a community in Israel. These small communities of teens help the community they are living in by volunteering with kids, elderly people or

people with disabilities. This movement is getting stronger and bigger by the year, and it is important to keep it that way.

Also, in Israel, students between 10th and 12th grade have to complete volunteer hours for the community. This program is called "personal commitment." The name is based on the understanding that we as a community need to respect the individual, but in return we need to understand that we are part of a community as well, part of something bigger than ourselves. The program is mandatory for all the students, and without it, they can't get their high school diploma.

Students can volunteer in a variety of places for engaging and taking an active part in the community. Some of the options the students have include: youth/ leadership programming, helping elderly people, working with people on the autistic spectrum, distribution of food to the needy and many more options. You can find your best fit.

And of course, in Israel we have a day called Good Deeds Day, which we mark on March 19. This is supposed to be the peak in the year for volunteering. Some employers even go with their workers

to volunteer and unite outside the office or workplace.

At the end of the day what I believe is that, if done correctly, volunteering can help you grow as a person, and the contribution to individuals is huge. But volunteering is not about that. It is the act of stepping back to see a bigger and brighter picture; to make the world a better place, worthy of existence. And I believe that we owe this to the world and to one another.

I hope we as a Jewish community can grow stronger together through our collective actions; of seeing the other through our good deeds. What we do as volunteers does not have to be some big, revolutionary act. It can be as simple as putting a smile on someone's face, and for some that may make all the difference in the world. May we be kinder and more thoughtful to each other in 5784.



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Upcoming Events

10.11 IRAN'S MULTIFRONT STRATEGY AGAINST ISRAEL
Wednesday, October 11 at 7 PM

10.26 2024 CAMPAIGN KICKOFF WITH OMER KARAVANI
Thursday, October 26 at 7:30 PM

11.05 LITTLE CHILDREN, BIG FEELINGS - A PJ LIBRARY EVENT FOR FAMILIES
Sunday, November 5 at 11 AM

RSVP at TheJewishFed.org/Events





SUKKA BIRDIES TAKE FLIGHT

A new species of bird was recently discovered at the Jewish Federation, just in time for the holiday of Sukkot!

Special thanks to Sylvia Kruger for inspiring this project!





Federation Book Club reads “Spare” by Prince Harry

Prince Harry’s bestselling memoir, *Spare*, was ghostwritten by J.R. Moehringer. His *New Yorker* article published in May, 2023, explains how he consulted with Harry for over two years. Together, they did a great job of relaying the overarching Diana tragedy and how her sons, William and Harry, took such divergent paths facing adulthood.

Six out of seven of us enjoyed the book, and thought Harry’s presentation of himself up to and including the impact of meeting Meghan came across as authentic. Three originally didn’t want to read it, however, two of them said the more they read it, the more they enjoyed it. The third said she’d forced herself all the way through despite never liking any of the people nor reading about the messes from which they couldn’t escape.

Some of the issues we discussed were the relentless pursuits of the paparazzi, Harry’s insights into how restrictive it is

to be born into royalty—a forced lifestyle of which most of us had no idea, and how jealousy, heartbreak, indignities, and petty behavior became the norm. *Spare* gives an engrossing, insider’s view that reveals the “other side” of the sometimes collaborative propaganda perpetrated by the British press and the Crown even when it means throwing one of its sons beneath a double-decker bus.

Beth Buechler

Community Contributor

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



Upcoming Books (subject to change)



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family tree

DO YOU KNOW THEM?

Esther Bishkow | Samuel Phillipson
David Shor | Jerome Siegler
Rhoda Wolfberg | Hattie Young

Michiana Jewish Historical Society’s Family Tree Project has been gathering basic information about people who live or have lived in this area. For some, all we have are names. They could have been married to someone who lived here or is buried here.

Each month, we’ll post names for whom we’d love more info, like family members, dates of birth/death or anything else of interest.

Please contact Mara Boettcher
mara.boettcher.18@gmail.com



Marsala Chicken

from Our Community Table

This month I am sharing with you one of my family's favorite chicken recipes. Marsala chicken makes an appearance during holiday meals and other special occasions at my house. The flavors are amazing.

Last month, Cristyne shared a honey cake recipe and claimed to be a honey cake snob. I understand food snobbery! Personally, I am a big paprika snob. (If it's not Hungarian, it's not worth using.) Another thing that I am a big snob about is Wishbone brand Italian salad dressing, which is used as the marinade in the recipe below.

To the kosher consumer, any time a new product gets kosher supervision it is a big deal. Some of the more popular items to become kosher in the past are Oreo cookies and M & M's. But the item that got me most excited was Wishbone Italian Salad Dressing. What a superior product! I simply adore the stuff. Generally, I make my own salad dressings. But I always have

Wishbone Italian in the fridge and pantry.

I like to marinate chicken in zip-lock bags. From time to time, turn the bag upside down to ensure that all sides of the pieces spend time soaking in the marinade. The amount of dressing used for the marinade is not specific. You may need more or less, depending on the size of the chicken pieces.

Note that one of the ingredients in the recipe is chicken stock or water. There is a huge difference between using stock or using water. But, this recipe is so amazingly flavorful that going with water will still yield delicious results. The water, together with the Marsala, is added to the pan that has already browned the chicken and sautéed the mushrooms. Plus, the marinade (Wishbone all the way!) does so much for the chicken. So, if you don't have stock on hand, using water is a fine option.

Deena Abraham
Community Contributor

INGREDIENTS

- 1 chicken, cut up
- 1/2 c. Italian salad dressing
- 1 c. flour, approximately
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- oil, to cover the bottom of a pan generously
- 1 lb. mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 c. Marsala wine
- 1/2 c. chicken stock or water
- 1-2 tsp. parsley

DIRECTIONS

1. Marinate the chicken pieces in the Italian dressing overnight in the refrigerator.
2. In a bowl, combine the flour, pepper, garlic powder, Italian seasoning, and paprika.
3. Pour enough oil in to a frying pan to generously cover the bottom and heat over a medium flame.
4. Coat chicken pieces with the seasoned flour and brown on both sides in the hot oil. Place browned chicken in a baking dish.
5. Add the mushrooms to the pan and sauté for a few minutes.
6. Pour chicken stock/water and Marsala into the pan and bring to a hard boil. Cook for a few minutes.
7. Pour the liquid over the chicken. Sprinkle the parsley on top.
8. Cover and bake at 350 for 45 - 60 minutes. (Baking time depends on size of pieces and how cooked they already were from being browned.)

SUNDAY, NOV. 5
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
@ THE JEWISH FED

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OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

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SCAN TO REGISTER



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HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

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OCTOBER 2023 TISHRI-CHESHVAN 5784

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SHA
1 16 TISHRI SUKKOT 8:07 PM	2 17 TISHRI CHOL HAMOED MAHJONG 1:00 PM NEXTGEN SUKKA 6:30 PM	3 18 TISHRI CHOL HAMOED ZUMBA 9:15 AM	4 19 TISHRI CHOL HAMOED ZUMBA 9:15 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM	5 20 TISHRI CHOL HAMOED	6 21 TISHRI HOSHANAH RABAH 7:00 PM	7 22 TISHRI SHEMINI ATZERET 7:58 PM
8 23 TISHRI SIMCHAT TORAH 7:57 PM	9 24 TISHRI MAHJONG 1:00 PM	10 25 TISHRI ZUMBA 9:15 AM	11 26 TISHRI ZUMBA 9:15 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM IRAN'S STRATEGY 7:00 PM	12 27 TISHRI BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF JEWISH HISTORY 2 10:00 AM	13 28 TISHRI 6:49 PM	14 29 TISHRI PARSHAT B'RAISHIT 7:48 PM
15 30 TISHRI ROSH CHODESH	16 1 CHESHVAN ROSH CHODESH MAHJONG 1:00 PM	17 2 CHESHVAN ZUMBA 9:15 AM	18 3 CHESHVAN ZUMBA 9:15 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM	19 4 CHESHVAN BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF JEWISH HISTORY 2 10:00 AM	20 5 CHESHVAN 6:38 PM	21 6 CHESHVAN PARSHAT NOACH 7:37 PM
22 7 CHESHVAN	23 8 CHESHVAN MAHJONG 1:00 PM	24 9 CHESHVAN ZUMBA 9:15 AM	25 10 CHESHVAN ZUMBA 9:15 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM	26 11 CHESHVAN JEWISH HISTORY 2 10:00 AM 2024 CAMPAIGN KICKOFF 7:30 PM	27 12 CHESHVAN 6:28 PM	28 13 CHESHVAN PARSHAT LECH L'CHA 7:27 PM
29 14 CHESHVAN	30 15 CHESHVAN ZUMBA 9:15 AM MAHJONG 1:00 PM	31 16 CHESHVAN	 <p>ANDY SWEET'S SOUTH BEACH EXHIBITION HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10AM-3 PM</p>			