

OUR COMMUNITY
Newsletter

November 2021 | Cheshvan - Kislev 5782



Jewish Federation
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY



Minute With Moshe

It's November. The splendor of the Fall season arouses our senses. Visually, this is when our Federation campus is in its full glory. My lungs crave the crisp air. I love seeing oodles of pumpkins and varieties of squash, my favorite being delicata. And the stunning autumn color makes fall the most magnificent of seasons.

Like clockwork of the changing seasons, the arrival of autumn here in Fed-land means it's time we kick off our Annual Campaign. It's tradition!

Our tradition to give annually is inextricably linked to the Federation's singular organizational purpose throughout its seventy-five years -- and that is to help our fellow Jews and build uplifting communities. Our community leaders recognized this purpose as the horrors of the Holocaust became more evident as World War II drew to a close. In September 1946, the first meeting of the Community Council, now called the Federation, was called to order.

What motivated this group of leaders to address the profound challenges of the Jewish People? What particular gifts, abilities, or sensitivities did they possess that moved them to organize for the collective good? When I try to imagine the conversation that took place seventy-five years ago, I hear determined voices, committed voices, voices of individuals who understood in their bones that what they do will make a difference.

Fast forward to the year 2000. A new group of Jewish leaders facing fresh challenges, new realities, and forward-looking opportunities broke ground on today's beautiful community center built on a 28-acre campus. What motivated this group of leaders to take a series of extraordinary actions to bring this reality about? Here, too, I think we can detect an exceptional talent -- the talent to envision, to imagine, to see the possibilities that are waiting to be revealed.

For me, these two great iconic conversations, one seventy-five years ago and one twenty-one years ago, are the D.N.A. of our Jewish Federation. For me, they represent the emblems of how we find the will and the wherewithal to move forward as a community. From this type of purposeful, outcome-driven conversation

flows commitment, responsibility, imagination, and Investment.

So this type of conversation that requires taking a principled stand is the conversation I want to have with you at the outset of our Annual Campaign.

Community building represents the best of our tradition. Breaking patterns, refusing to abide by what's expected, taking risks, admitting error, and embracing reconciliation are always part of passionate, sensitive, and empowering discussions. What principles will guide our decision-making to build the community we can all flourish in?

Our past leaders provided a foundation to build on with a commitment to a multi-faceted communal agenda advocating a shared sense of peoplehood, pluralism, and inclusivity. The community's evolving needs in 1946, 2000 and today align with deep-rooted Jewish values that we are all responsible for one another. Another core principle that has stood the test of time is that the Federation is the central connection to Jewish life for every man, woman, and child, and family, including the stranger in our midst.

I am humbled and honored to follow the community leaders of yesteryear as we strive to find our collective voice to overcome our obstacles and envision the road ahead. We will be a community defined by our conversations and actions as we journey beyond the horizon.

With this in mind, I'm excited to announce our 2022 Campaign theme: Here for good!

What does it mean to be "here for good?" For our communities and the people in need, it means Federation is here to provide resources, strength and support to help build and sustain flourishing Jewish communities at home and around the world. For us, it means we are, and always will be, the engine for Jewish communal life in our cities. We are here for good, and we are not going anywhere.

In this journey, I'm motivated to focus our precious time on engaging with you, cultivating nurturing relationships, listening and learning about what matters most, and inspiring the

community. If we can open our ears and eyes in this community-building process, perhaps too, we can open our hearts. And when hearts open, hope springs eternal with new opportunities for how we engage with our time, treasure, and talents.

Gaining community insight to prioritize our aspirational goals will be the number one objective in 2022. Measurable progress toward this key objective is already underway, including:

- Jewish Family Services continues to re-image what its outreach into our community looks like. Providing over 142 meals and 442 community support calls over the past year.
- We have seen substantial changes in our programming and how we connect with members of our community, with a major increase in attendance to both young adult and children's programs.
- We've established an open community forum to jumpstart this conversation called the Hineni - Here I Am group. Membership to this group is available to all community members and organizations in our Jewish ecosystem who contribute to the mosaic of community life. The group's purpose is to help develop an honest snapshot of where we are and includes the participation of many of our organizational leaders from our religious, educational, arts & culture, and business institutions.

There has never been a more exciting and challenging time to be in the business of community building. 1946. 2000. 2022. We can be proud that our Federation has always been a vital source in helping our fellow Jews and building community.

Your help, your gift is the concrete continuation of this tradition. Would you please support the Federation with this intention? It's November, and it's especially appropriate to pledge your meaningful gift at this time during our Campaign Kick-off.



Moshe Kruger

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Rendering of the South East Neighborhood Center.

Tikkun Olam in South Bend

Join us November 11 at 7:00 PM, Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events to RSVP!

The southeast side of South Bend has long been known as one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city. According to data from the U.S. Census, over 42% of all residents in this area are living below the poverty level. On Thursday, November 11th at 7:00 PM our community will have an opportunity to learn about a transformative project that can change the future of this area: the United Way's Southeast Neighborhood Center. Call it, "Tikkun Olam in South Bend".

This in-person event at the Jewish Federation is sponsored by the Federation's Community Relations Committee, chaired by Barb Lerman. Our keynote speaker will be Laura Jensen, the President and CEO of the United Way of St. Joseph County.



Laura Jensen

In her presentation, Laura will discuss the vision and purpose behind the creation of the Southeast Neighborhood Center. She will also explain how United Way interacted with neighborhood residents to understand their needs and design a center that addresses the many challenges facing the neighborhood.

According to the United Way website, this neighborhood is designated by the Center for American Progress as a childcare desert, food desert, and health professional shortage area.

The center that will be built on the corner of Fellows and Dubail will address these and other challenges facing residents of the neighborhood. Construction of the building is expected to be

completed by July 2022.



At the groundbreaking ceremony for the center on September 28th, Pastor Rickardo Taylor said, "When you look at this city now, we are the hub that is going to make the difference throughout this city to show that if we come together and unite as a city, crime can go down, education can be lifted, and neighborhoods can be safe. We should all work together to make a difference."

The United Way's Southeast Neighborhood Center provides our Jewish community with a way to participate in helping to address the complex issues of poverty facing South Bend. Supporting this project is our opportunity for doing "Tikkun Olam in South Bend".

Per our Federation's Covid protocol, masks will be required for all attending. Please **RSVP at TheJewishFed.org/Events or call us at 574-233-1164.**



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Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights: Is Hope Possible?

Kristallnacht Commemoration

November 7, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

Via Zoom, registration required:
Temple Beth-El | tbesb.org

Sondra Perl, the Senior Program Director, US Programs of the The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights (TOLI), New York City, is the featured guest of the Kurt and Tessye Simon Fund for Holocaust Remembrance Kristallnacht Commemoration on November 7, 2021. Perl will be joined by educators Ashley Libben and Sarah Wilson, leaders of the Indiana TOLI teacher training satellite seminar which will be held in the summer of 2022 in Ligonier.



Sondra Perl is Professor Emerita at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. An acclaimed teacher, she is the author of six books

and the recipient of both a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Carnegie Foundation's Professor of the Year award. Perl's desire to explore the difficult subject of the Holocaust began in 1996 when she was invited to teach in Austria, an inspirational journey she chronicles in [On Austrian Soil: Teaching Those I Was Taught to Hate](#). Ever since, she has been involved

in post-Holocaust dialogue with teachers and students in the United States and Europe, teaching a compassionate and self-reflective method to approach the most difficult and sensitive topics.

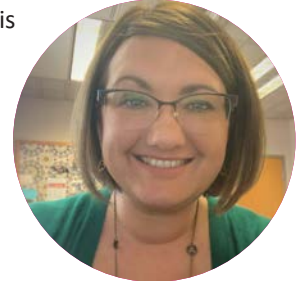


Ashley Libben, an eighth grade English teacher at West Noble Middle School in Ligonier, Indiana, holds Fellowships with the United States Holocaust Memorial

Museum and Defiant Requiem's Rafael Schachter Institute for Arts and Humanities. Ashley has also trained in the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers Program and The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights (TOLI). With TOLI, Ashley says, "I discovered the power of a writing-to-learn pedagogy in relation to Holocaust and Human Rights education." Ashley attended TOLI's Transnational Seminar in Innsbruck, Austria and will be facilitating the Indiana satellite of TOLI in Summer 2022 with Sarah Wilson in Ligonier.

After having taught high school history, psychology, and government for fifteen

years, **Sarah Wilson** is now the Curriculum Director of the West Noble School Corporation, where she coordinates district professional development and collaborates with school leaders from Northern Indiana. She has trained for Holocaust education at the TOLI Summer Institute, the TOLI Leadership Summer Institute, Project Citizen at the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial, and with the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation. Sarah says, "Only through high-quality and engaging instruction and curriculum will students tackle complex historical and social topics".



Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Perl's presentation, "Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights: Is Hope Possible?" will be streamed live via Zoom. **Register online at tbe-sb.org today!**

Kurt & Tessye Simon Fund
for **Holocaust Remembrance**

Hanukkah Kids Program & Menorah Lighting

November 28, 1 - 6 PM

Drop off your child for a day of programming and then pick them up at the Menorah Lighting Downtown South Bend!

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events or call 574-233-1164 to learn more about the program and RSVP.



More Fun to Come

November only just began, and my mind is already on the lights of Hanukkah. Before diving into what is yet to come, let us look at what we accomplished in October. We celebrated our very first Fall Festival with the community, an event that showcased everything that the Federation is and has to offer! It was great to see so many families together as we kicked off our annual campaign. We also worked with The National Center for Jewish Film to screen *Der Dybbuk*, a 1937 Yiddish classic and one of the most influential Jewish films of all time.

Coming up this month, we are excited to have a Veterans Day lunch in honor of those who have served our country and their families. We will also be working with community members to collect wood and brush to fuel our Bon Fire happening November 21. Register in advance to ensure a warming evening event with the community with warm cider and refreshments.

Hanukkah Events

Before we know it, it will be time to put out our Chanukiah and practice our latke frying. We are excited to invite everyone downtown once again to participate in the community Menorah Lighting on Sunday, November 28. Come enjoy the light of the Chanukiah along with a free donut. Is one donut not enough to satisfy your desire for fried food? You can pre-order



Dan Ravitch

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your Krispy Kreme donuts through the Federation, with all proceeds benefiting the Federation and future youth events! On Thursday, December 2, the Mishawaka Public Library will be hosting us for a PJ Library Hanukkah Read Along. Come to the library and enjoy a nice holiday book and some Hanukkah songs. Then to wrap up the holiday season, on Sunday, December 5, our NEXTGen Young Adults will be hosting their annual Vodka & Latke party.

With the role of Programming Director, I have been attempting to transition what the Federation is offering in regard to programs for our community. It is our goal to make the Federation a space where anyone feels welcome, regardless of observance or affiliation. The Federation strives to create a space that engages the community and allows Jews to discover, challenge, and enrich their Jewish identity. From youth to senior programming, if we don't make the effort to discover and exercise our Jewish identity, no one will do it for us. With that being said, I hope you will join us at one of our upcoming programs.

Hanukkah Programs

Sufganiyot Fundraiser

November 14 - 28, Pickup at the Menorah Lighting November 28!

Kids Hanukkah Program

Sunday, November 28, 1:00 - 6:00 PM.

Menorah Lighting

Sunday, November 28 at 5:30 PM.

PJ Library Read-Along

Thursday December 2 at 10:45 AM

Hanukkah Challah Workshop

Thursday, December 2 at 6:30 PM

NEXTGen: Vodka & Latke

Sunday, December 5 at 7:00 PM

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events to register today!

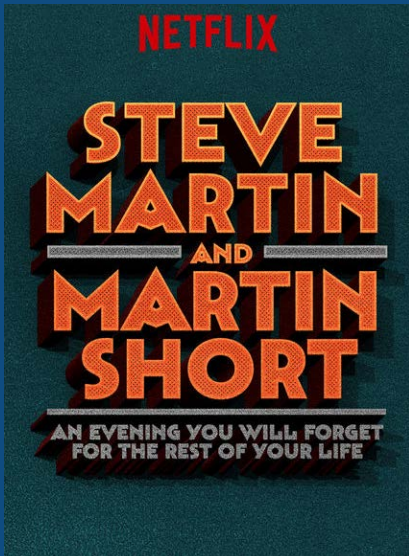
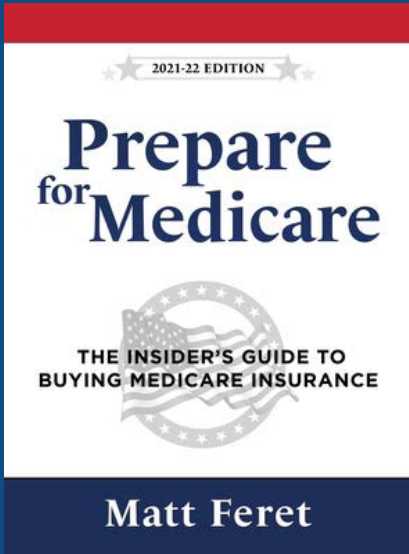
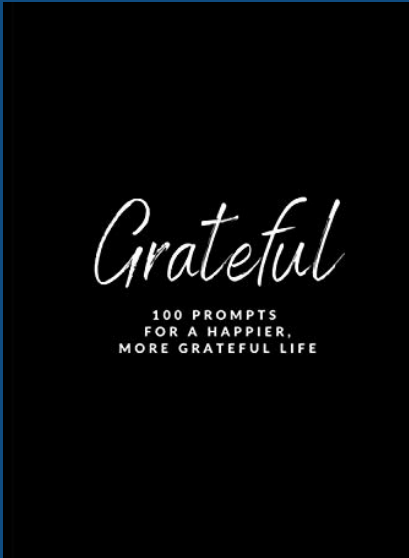


Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Order your Sufganiyot in preparation for Hannukah! Place your order through the Federation website and all proceeds will help support Youth Programming! Order today and pickup at the Menorah lighting Downtown on November 28 at 5:30 PM!

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Sufganiyot to place your order.





Caring Connections

November is a big month for those of us who are eligible for Medicare. It's time to choose your plan for next year! On November 10, join us for a virtual Lunch 'n' Learn with SHIP navigator Terry Belanger. He will present the ins and outs of choosing your plan. He'll be joined by our own Nancy Kennedy who is our certified SHIP consultant. Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events or call 574-233-1164 to make your reservation. A kosher lunch will be delivered to your door the afternoon before.

Come find Friends of JFS Greater St Joseph Valley on Facebook; see you there! We post health and wellness information in addition to some Federation news.

Gratitude

As November rolls around, the environment is shifting and preparing for winter. The trees give us a crown of glorious beauty before shedding their leaves. The squirrels and chipmunks eat their fill to become fat and ready to hibernate. We people prepare for wintry weather by layering clothing. If we have a house, we need to think ahead to prepare for future snow removal. We buy salt, perhaps a new shovel or even a new snow blower.

As Jews, our holy days are over for a time. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are long gone. We were written and sealed into the book of life and time moved on. The pilgrimage holiday of Sukkot gave us the opportunity to break bread together in the Sukkah, and to be grateful for the harvest bounty. And the secular version of that, Thanksgiving, is soon to be upon us. It's a suitable time to experience gratitude. The gratitude experience is one that is uplifting. It gives us a way to shape our viewpoint. When life gives you lemons, the gratitude attitude lets you make lemonade. Still, it can be hard to feel gratitude when things are

rocky. In this case, it helps to start small. Here are some of mine, large and small:

My house, which shelters me, and the things in it: Running water. Flush toilets. A comfortable bed. A working kitchen.

Nature. The sound and smell of the ocean. Flowers. Trees. Sunshine. Rain.

Family – I am blessed with being from a family that gave me a strong heritage. Plus, I have a husband, kids, pets, and cousins to love and be loved by.

A good book can take me on an exciting journey. Audible, so I can also listen to that good book. Music. Art to look at and art to create. Netflix.

Food. I'm grateful for so many yummy foods, and my own ability to create them. Challah. Grandma Markley's Vegetable Soup. Pogies. I was allergic to many foods for years, and my allergies went away. So, I'm doubly grateful for garlic, melon, apples, grapes, wine, nuts, fish and other foods that I can now have.

My own body- the ability to breathe! The body's miraculous ability to heal itself! The senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.

Healthcare- I'm grateful for medicine that keeps me going, and for devices that improve my health, like my CPAP machine and blood pressure monitor.

On top of all that, I never walk alone. (Reference Psalm 23).

Gratitude is about focus. We let go of the negative things bogging us down and seek the positive. I challenge you to make your own gratitude list.



Sandy Levine, MA

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Community

BURN PILE PICKUP

— November 14, 1 - 5 PM —

Have logs or branches that need taken away? Sign up for a pickup in support of our upcoming bonfire.

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events or call 574-233-1164 to register for pickup!

THEN

Federation BONFIRE

November 21, 5:30 PM

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events or call 574-233-1164 to sign up!



CREAMY SWEET POTATO SOUP

From Our Community Table

With potentially cold weather coming closer each day, it's good to have some simple soup recipes on hand. Sometimes you want to eat something truly warming, and not much compares to a bowl of soup. Making soup doesn't have to be a big production that takes many hours. Some soup recipes are fairly simple and can be made in a short amount of time.

This month I'd like to share two recipes with you. They are both for soups that are quite easy to make. Also, they do not make a huge pot of soup. While sometimes a large amount of soup is a good thing, sometimes you really only want to serve the soup for one or two meals. Obviously these recipes can be doubled if you want a larger yield.

Both of these soup recipes are pureed with an immersion blender. If you don't have an immersion blender, you can still prepare these recipes. One way to do it is to make the soup, let it cool a bit, and transfer it to a blender. Then, it can be pureed in the blender. Another thing that can be done

that is somewhat less effective but still works is to allow the soup to cool a bit and use a potato masher to break up the pieces. This will not yield as smooth a final product, but it will be somewhat pureed. If you make soups often and enjoy thick, creamy, and smooth soups an immersion blender is something you may consider purchasing. I have two of them – one for meat and one for dairy.

This sweet potato recipe is lovely for fall and winter. (Personally, I make soup all year round and enjoy this soup as much in July as in January. But it is fitting for this time of year. Maybe because of the intense orange color?) When recipes call for broth I often use water. With the addition of the various seasonings, you don't really lose flavor by doing so. If you want to take the flavor of the soup up a notch, you can replace the milk, cream, or pareve milk with sour cream or plain Greek yogurt or a non-dairy version of either of those items.

Deena Abraham
Community Contributor

INGREDIENTS

- 3 medium sweet potatoes
- 4 c. water or vegetable broth
- 1 onion, chopped
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ tsp. basil
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- ½ c. milk, cream, or parve milk

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Peel the sweet potatoes and cut them into large chunks.
2. Place in a pot with the water, sweet potatoes, onion, salt, pepper, bay leaf, basil, and lemon juice.
3. Bring to a boil, lower the heat, and simmer for about 30 minutes until the potatoes are soft.
4. Puree with an immersion blender. Stir in the milk, cream, or parve milk. Reheat and serve.

Community Leadership Spotlight

Megan New is currently serving as Secretary on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley. She is an attorney and has worked as a prosecutor in both Chicago and St. Joseph County. She is currently staying home and caring for her three school aged children. Megan enjoys being active and playing soccer. She volunteers with various organizations in the Michiana community, including The Junior League of South Bend.

Megan is looking forward to assisting in developing programs to grow the engagement of the community. Megan is hoping that the Federation can continue to inspire our Jewish youth to form friendships within the Jewish community, be passionate about their culture, and be supporters of the State of Israel.



Notre Dame Sukkot Event

On a crisp, fall afternoon, a group of about twenty faculty and family members, graduate students, undergraduate students and local community members gathered under the trees in front of Bond Hall to celebrate Sukkot. Some sat or stood inside the sukka to shake the ceremonial “lulav”, a combination of stalks in the six cardinal directions to unify the moment with the whole cosmos. Some sat at a craft table making “sukka birdie” decorations for the rafters of the sukka’s open roof out of egg shells, Playdough, feathers and cloves while others enjoyed apple cider, snacks and fresh donuts. Several passersby paused to observe the lovely sukka and were welcome to participate in the cheerful, optimistic community around the sukka.

My Israeli Story

This quote stated below is embedded in the Israeli Ethos so much so that it is almost kitschy to use. Nonetheless, or maybe due to this fact, its wisdom is hard to dispute. Knowledge is power, and in this specific case - it is our only defense while fighting for the very right of Jewish autonomy at all, and to sovereignty in Israel in particular.

While walking at the art fair in downtown Grand Rapids I passed a Gaza exhibit,

I couldn't help thinking: Why here? Why now? What is the conflict's appeal to this person on the other side of the world? I don't have a satisfying answer. I am ashamed to admit that I didn't even ask the artist, I just jumped to the conclusion that he probably does not want to be bothered by inconvenient facts.

Last month, when Vice President Kamala Harris was talking to a class of college

students, one student criticized US policy in regards to supporting Israel's "ethnic cleansing," Vice President Harris answered: "...your truth should not be suppressed, and it must be heard..."

I agree with Harris, democracy is pluralistic by nature, and all opinions have the right to exist. Even those I strongly disagree

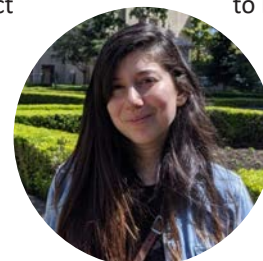
with. 'Truth', however, is distinguished from 'opinion' by definition (and I checked with Oxford) - "Truth: which is in accordance with fact or reality" - that is why I believe there was room to correct the student.

This has been my experience away from home – Israel cannot just be a place on Earth. It has become a topic, a very multi-dimensional

topic. Israel has been stripped down to "the conflict", and the conflict is stripped down to phrases, which cannot contain the complexity of the situation and ignores the colorfulness of my homeland, which is much more than this ongoing conflict.

When I started my job, I was offered to share "My Israeli Story," in an effort to help expose people to other sides of my beloved country. While writing it I was granted the opportunity

to revisit my own personal history, and remind myself why Israel is a place worth fighting for. It is my hope that in the coming year, each of you will have the opportunity to hear "My Israeli Story".



Shirlee Greenwald

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- Explore the Western Wall tunnels in Jerusalem, and visit Yad Vashem, and much more!

For more details contact Rabbi Shoshana Feferman at rfefe@comcast.net!

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Cheshvan - Kislev

November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:30–10:50 AM FLI Computers 1.5 1:00–1:50 PM FLI Mystical Tradition	2 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 3:00–4:20 PM FLI Inter. German	3 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 10:00–11:00 AM FLI Lessons of the Holocaust 5:00–6:00 PM ND Liss Lecture	4 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba	5	6 7:00–8:00 PM Controversy Café
7 12:30 - 1:30 PM Sigd Learn & Celebrate 3:00–4:00 PM Kristallnacht Commemoration	8 9:30–10:50 AM FLI Computers 1.5 1:00–1:50 PM FLI Mystical Tradition	9 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 12:00–1:00 PM Veteran's Lunch 3:00–4:20 PM FLI Inter. German	10 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 10:00–11:00 AM FLI Lessons of the Holocaust 12:00–1:00 PM SHIP Lunch 'n' Learn	11 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 7:00–8:00 PM United Way: Tikkun Olam in South Bend	12	13
14 1:00–5:00 PM Yard Waste Pickup	15 9:30–10:50 AM FLI Computers 1.5 1:00–1:50 PM FLI Mystical Tradition	16 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 3:00–4:20 PM FLI Inter. German	17 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 10:00–11:00 AM FLI Lessons of the Holocaust	18 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba	19	20
21 5:30–7:00 PM Community Bonfire	22 4:00–5:00 AM Youth Hanukkah Mitzvah Project	23 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba Turkey Burn Food Pantry undraiser	24 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba	25 THANKSGIVING FEDERATION CLOSED	26	27
28 1:00–5:00 AM Hanukkah Program 5:00–6:00 PM Menorah Lighting	29	30 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba	1 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba	2 9:00–9:40 AM Zumba 10:45–11:45 AM PJ Library Read Along 6:30 PM Challah Workshop	3	4

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