December 2022 | Kisley - Shevat 5783

Jewish Federation

OUR COMMUNITY

Women Leading a Dialogue

Fall Fest Photo Recap

Chanukah Happenings Pg. 8

Sharing ideas that have changed the world

Minute With Moshe Are we resilient enough for sustainable, inclusive growth?

As World War II drew to a close, South Bend and Mishawaka Jewish leaders organized to address the vital issues and concerns of the day. Their efforts led inevitably to the founding of our own Jewish Federation.

Then as now, life is shaped by the interplay of shifting demographics and complex challenges. Challenges are hardly new to the Jewish People.

Since the day when Jacob took the name Israel, Jewish communities have managed adversity, withstood shocks, and continuously adapted by leaning on institutions for stability.

Are we prepared as a community to adapt to our new reality?

In this season of Hanukkah's light, it's time to rededicate ourselves. It's time to set a high bar for the future. It's time that we define a safe, nurturing, and secure future together.

This envisioned future represents the gap separating where we are and where we want to be. How we go about narrowing the gap is what I call a "once in a generation" opportunity.

As Rabbi Sacks (z'l) wrote in his book Future Tense, "God's call is to that which is not yet. Judaism is a future seeking civilization."

This generational moment must be seized to write the next chapter of our local Jewish history. In my conversations with Jewish leaders and members, I sense we are eager to write a bold script that is vision-guided and aspirational. Anything

less diminishes our potential.

The promise of this once-in-a-generation possibility goes to the core of my Vision 2025. In short, we need to provide authentic pathways for people to connect. It's not about selling transactional memberships but rather building stronger relationships required to sustain a more vibrant Jewish community into the future.

In this Vision, the Federation is a catalyst for developing our local Jewish life on our 28-acre campus.

This is where FED TALKS come in. FED TALKS are short presentations from experts who've successfully tackled difficult challenges. Our FED TALKS will be focused. Our speakers will talk about tomorrow.

Talk One will feature an expert who speaks fluently regarding the principles of community sustainability. By its very definition, sustainability requires a sober look at community development, renewal, and investment. But there is exciting news on this front. And we can't wait to share it with you.

Talk Two will feature an expert from outside our local community who's successfully helped bring the diverse traditions of the Jewish people together in one local community. This fits well with our local effort to unite people where our identities and beliefs intersect. Again, the news on this front is exciting, and we can't wait to share it with you.

Talk Three will introduce exciting ideas for our own local community. I expect this talk to consist of a 'wow' moment, including pictures and sound. It will feature a roadmap around obstacles and conflict, as well as creative and workable solutions that put us on a path to a prosperous future.

FED TALKS will inspire us to work with enthusiasm toward Vision 2025.

Focusing the collective might of our human spirit on K'Lal Yisrael – an aspirational goal to be one people and one community. We will get where we need to go. By underscoring the concept of Bayit Chazak – the purpose of transforming our own Federation of local Jews into one strong and courageous house-we will meet the needs of our community both today and tomorrow.

We must engage in a community conversation to develop specific calls to action to meet these twin aspirations. FED TALKS will serve as a high-profile version of these conversations. The discussions will create value by themselves. But, it is the action that we are focused on.

In my last Minute with Moshe article, I talked about the winds of change. I mentioned not understanding how a sailboat can move against the wind and the epiphany of learning that such headwinds are actually the energy that a boat with a strong rudder needs – it's the headwinds that the boat uses to move forward.

Yes, FED TALKS will address headwinds. They will address the headwinds of change in ways that will inspire us all with ideas that work – big ideas that are changing the world in ways that make life more meaningful for everyone.

I look forward to bringing these ideas and people to our community and hope to see you at FED TALKS as 2023 unfolds.

Moshe Kruger

Executive Director 574-233-1164 x1802 MKruger@TheJewishFed.org



An Amazing Weekend with "Women Leading a Dialogue"

On the weekend of November 11th, our Federation was honored to host "Women Leading a Dialogue," an interfaith delegation from Israel comprised of fifteen Muslim and Jewish women who came to share their inspiring project that promotes coexistence in Western Galilee. Their visit was sponsored by Partnership2Gether (P2G). Here in South Bend, the members of the delegation were provided home hospitality by members of our Jewish community.

On Saturday morning, Sinai Synagogue hosted the delegation for Shabbat services and their traditional Kiddush luncheon. During the reading of Torah, there was a very special moment when several women of the delegation made an Alivah to Torah for the first time in their lives.

Following the luncheon, Rabbi Companez and Rabbi Friedland led a fascinating discussion to explain Conservative and Reform Judaism to the delegation with a focus on the role of women in these movements.

On Saturday afternoon, Professor Mike Kirsch led a tour of the Notre Dame campus which included a visit to the School of Law. Two Arab members of the delegation- one attorney and one law student- enjoyed having their pictures taken in the Law School's model courtroom.

P2G committee co-chair Cristyne Porile worked tirelessly to prepare a beautiful Havdalah dinner on Saturday night for

members of the board.

Cristyne wrote, "Saturday night gave our delegation a chance to relax and let their hair down. After a moving Candlelight Havdalah service conducted by Rabbi Shoshana Feferman, our guests, their host families, our Federation Staff, and our Partnership committee got to enjoy dinner together and engage in interesting and diverse conversations ending in true Middle Eastern fashion with a few of the women playing wonderful modern Israeli and Arabic music. Both our guests and our locals danced through the night, sharing in the cultural exchange of dance styles and in the sheer joy of being together."

On Sunday morning, Shirlee Greenwald, the Federation's Israel Program Director, organized "Coexistence Café." This was a wonderful opportunity for some 80 members of our community- both Jews and non-Jews- to engage in dialogue with the members of the delegation through round-table discussions.

Shirlee said, "Coexistence Café helped to revive our spirits after the long period of Covid. Most importantly, it reminded us of what Partnership2Gether with Israel is all about."

Dan Ravitch, one of the moderators of the discussions said, "The conversations we had were both intimate and

the delegation, their host families, and



universal. We made personal connections on topics that touched each participant on a personal level in a unique way."

Through these amazing conversations, we came away with great hope for the future of Israel.

Dave Ravitch, P2G co-chair wrote, "At the end of the day, sitting face to face, we realized we all want the same things: peace, love, and knowing our children will grow up safe in a better world."

Our community can be very proud of our special connection to Israel and this unique region we know as Western Galilee, made possible through Partnership2Gether (P2G).

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to the many "super" volunteers who helped to make this weekend possible. And a special thanks to the host families who opened their homes and hearts to the members of the delegation. They include: Marsha Brook and Fred Kahn, Terry and Alan Feldbaum, Carey Gaudern and Dan Gezelter, Ilana and Mike Kirsch, Sarah and Rob Nerenberg, Cari and Barry Shein, Ann and Ron Silverman and Sarah Snider and Dov Honick.

> **Bob Feferman Community Relations Director** 574-233-1164 x1815 RFeferman@TheJewishFed.org



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

Do Your Best and Hashem Will Take Care of the Rest

Chanukah has one overriding theme, namely "Do your best and Hashem will take care of the rest."

If the Maccabees, before they began their campaign, would have considered the overwhelming odds against their victory against the Assyrian-Greeks, they would never have started the rebellion. They would have given up before they began and just tried to survive by lying low. But, instead of lying low or assimilating, which is all the Hellenists wanted, they chose to trust Hashem to help them, as had happened throughout our history, and decided to ignore the odds, and fought.

When the Maccabees defeated the enemy, they found enough certified kosher olive oil to last for one day. It would take another 7 days to manufacture a new supply of olive oil, which was needed to keep the Menorah lit, as is commanded by the Torah. They faced a choice of whether to light the menorah immediately and use the oil up or to wait until a new supply was made. They chose to light it immediately, so as to fulfill the Biblical mitzvah, if even for just one day, and to then go on to manufacture the new supply. Miraculously, the oil lasted for the extra 7 days, thus the holiday of Chanukah.

The miracle of the oil is really the event that we celebrate. Halacha (Jewish law) states that a person should sell his shirt, if necessary, in order to purchase oil for the Chanukah menorah. We don't demand that for Shabbat or vom tov candles. only Chanukah candles. The reason given for such a demand is that of "pirsumay neesa"- "publicizing the miracle." We are supposed to remind ourselves and our Jewish brethren of Hashem's love for us and how Hashem is

always with us, helping us accomplish the improbable, if not impossible.

When I talk to young unmarried people, many have expressed that they are waiting to have enough money to get married and have children. I chuckle and respond, "You will never have enough money for either venture. Yet, somehow, we all do it." One must make the effort, but as I have written many times, "Success or failure is up to Hashem. What is totally in our power is the amount of effort that we exert."

If one wants a new job, then one must research the profession, learn what is necessary for success, formulate a plan of action, implement the plan, and pray. The same methodology would apply to any endeavor one wishes to undertake. Again, the bottom line is, put in the effort and watch things happen. Never give up. If it doesn't work at first, tweak the plan and try again. If everything worked the first time, there would be no challenge or growth.

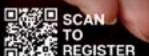
Failure is good when one learns from one's mistakes and matures. All successful people have been dealt failures. Their "greatness" was that they didn't give up. They just kept correcting their plan and tried again, until success was attained.

So, as we light the Chanukah menorah this season, let's remember the overriding message of "You do your best and Hashem will take care of the rest." Have a happy and healthy Chanukah!

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

LET IT GO

Focusing on the Emotion Code and stress management



with Lisa Levin, CECP Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1:30 - 3:30 PM Visit TheJewishFed.org/LetGo to learn more

Michiana Jewish Historical Society Announces YEAR OF THE STORY

The Michiana Jewish Historical Society is proud to announce 2023 as our YEAR OF THE STORY with the kickoff at our annual meeting on December 11, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at The History Museum, 808 West Washington Street, just west of downtown South Bend.

Our history is more than unrelatable dates; it is my story, your story, and your family's story that make us feel proud and define who we are to ourselves and to the world.

The theme of the annual meeting is "Turning Points in Michiana Jewish History." We'll be moderating an in-person discussion with the men and women who were there for the big moments that shaped our local Jewish landscape. Panelists will be announced via email, so make sure you're on our mailing list by visiting our website: MichianaJewish.org -- this is something you won't want to miss.

MJHS is a completely volunteer-run organization that has brought you the book L'Dor V'dor, Pickle Me!, Judaica Roadshows, Schmoozapaloozas, the Finding Jewish South Bend scavenger hunt downtown, and our long-running Family Tree Project.

Please join us on December 11th at the History Museum and be on the look-out for future events in our YEAR OF THE STORY, including the return of author Gabrielle Robinson's Telling Our Stories storytelling workshop in January. Stay tuned!

Judy Shrover

President, Michiana Jewish Historical Society



Upcoming Federation Book Club Selections

The Federation Book Club meets via Zoom at 4 PM for 1-2 hours on the third Thursdays of every month. We choose books of global and/ or page-turning interest. We do not meet to promote books written by ourselves or friends. Email bethbuechler@icloud.com to get involved!



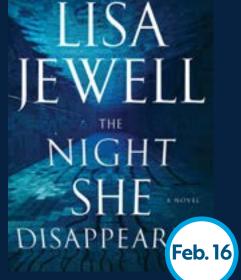


histori

A discussion with the men & women who were there for the big moments that shaped our local Jewish landscape.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 1:30 PM AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM IN SOUTH BEND **RSVP AT MICHIANAJEWISH.ORG**

> *I NEW YORK TIMES RESTSILLING AUTHOR OF THEN SHE WAS GONE





Rededication to Our Vision

A year has passed since I wrote about my goals as program director at the Federation, and before I made my "New Year's resolution," I thought it right to look back at how we did as a team with my past goals. Helping our community discover (or rediscover) their Jewish identity was top on my list when planning and implementing programs in my first year on the team. I believe we achieved this through youth and adult programming, and of course, summer camp activities. We gave the community insight into how our Jewish lives are relevant in South Bend through programs involving Jewish food, harvest season get-togethers, kosher dates nights, and so much more. I am most proud of our SaBaBaH youth group, who have come together on many occasions to discuss Jewish life in public schools, as well as how their connection to Israel as Jews is a given by those around them, a fact many are conflicted with when they enter high school or college.

A second goal was to show Judaism's spectrum of traditions. We invited many community members to share their traditions with us at the Federation and have plans to keep doing so in 2023. We also ran programs that showed how the holidays we know and love are celebrated by Jews around the world. I personally love PJ Library's approach, with many children's books made available through Federation funding to celebrate Judaism from around

individual Judaism. I hope that we opinion as well.

Last year I asked you to help me rededicate ourselves to our Jewish journey here in South Bend, the true meaning of Chanukah if you ask me. This year, I am happy to say I am rededicating myself, staying onboard for the foreseeable future at the Federation, in order to continue giving back to the community that has given me so much. Please join us for our upcoming Community Chanukiah Lighting in downtown South Bend. Kosher sufganiyot are being prepared specially for you to enjoy after the blessings, along with a community sing-along. And don't forget to sign your kids or grandkids up for Winter Camp Ideal, December 26-30th – well on its way to being the best Camp Ideal program yet!

I wish you all a Happy Chanukah, a blessed new year, and that we each may find comfort in the hope of a better year, together.





WINTER CAMP - DECEMBER 26-30

Need something fun for your kids or grandkids over winter break?

Camp Ideal has you covered with weeklong programming for grades K-3rd & 4th-7th.

A Fun Fall Fest at the Federation

On October 23rd, the Jewish Federation opened its campus to the broader Michiana community for our 2nd annual Fall Fest! Thanks to everyone who showed up to enjoy a beautiful afternoon on our Federation campus, not too mention all of the volunteers who helped make this event possible. You are appreciated!

the globe and how they practice their have been reaching these goals in your

December Programs

Let It Go Seminar with Lisa Levin, CECP Sunday, December 4 at 1:30 PM

Holocaust Remembrance Garden Open House Monday, December 5 at 4:30 PM

Understanding Israel's Election Dan Feferman (Zoom) Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 AM

Community Chanukiah Lighting Sunday, December 18 at 5:30 PM

NEXTGen – Let's Get Lit Sunday, December 18 following the Chanukiah Lighting

Camp Ideal – Winter Edition December 26 – December 30, 9 AM – 4 PM

Mahjong Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events to learn more or RSVP!



Dan Ravitch

Programming Director 574-233-1164 x1819 DRavitch@TheJewishFed.org



Scan with your phone to learn more or visit TheJewishFed.org/Winter

Chanukah Happenings & Other Community Events

Sinai Synagogue

Sinai Sisterhood is having a Chanukah sale! The gift shop at Sinai will be open on Sunday, December 4th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM and Monday, December 5th from 3:30 to 6:30 PM. Browse a nice selection of menorahs, candles, chocolate coins, dreidels, wrapping paper, ribbon, gift tags, cards, decorations, crafts, books, stickers, socks & leggings, hair ribbons, serving platters, hot pads, paper plates, napkins and LOTS MORE! Payment accepted via cash or check made out to: SINAI GIFT SHOP.

Temple Beth-El

Light up your Chanukah with the gift of music! Don't miss the return of singer-songwriters Hadar Orshalimy and Sheldon Low, zooming in for a very special Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday, December 23rd at 5:30 PM. Sponsored by the Kurt and Tessye Simon Foundation.

Simon Foundation / Michiana Jewish Historical Society

Are you curious about where your family came from? The Kurt and Tessye Simon Foundation and Michiana Jewish Historical Society invite you to hear Adam Brown, Administrator of the AvotaynuDNA Project, speak on The Genetic History of the Jewish People, Friday, December 9th at 5:30 PM via Zoom, as part of Temple Beth-El's Kabbalat Shabbat service.

Brown will discuss the latest findings revealing the genetic interconnectedness of current Jewish communities worldwide, as well as the fascinating diversity of their origins and migrations. You may remember that Brown was interviewed in the film *Children of the Inquisition,* shown at Temple last year.

Please RSVP to temple@tbe-sb.org to receive the Zoom link.

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Temple B'nai Shalom

Save the date! The return of Temple B'nai Shalom Chanukah Latke Lunch is coming, December 18th at noon! \$12 for ages 12+, \$6 for ages 5-11 with a limit of \$36 per family. Please RSVP to ruthkremer@comcast.net.

Liberal Jewish Fellowship

Join Rabbi Joshua Rubin for services this month with the Liberal Jewish Fellowship at 425 Cushing Street in South Bend.

Saturday, December 10, 10:45 a.m., Shabbat Morning Service, Kiddush to follow

Sunday, December 18, 8:15 p.m., Sunday Night Reset Service, Online only: facebook.com/ljfellowship

Saturday, December 24, 10:45 a.m., Shabbat Hanukkah Service, Kiddush to follow

1ST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

COMMUNITY CHANUKIAH LIGHTING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 5:30 PM DOWNTOWN SOUTH BEND IN FRONT OF THE MORRIS

REXTGEN MEXTGEN CHANUKAH LET'S CHANUKAH LET'S GET LIT

Join your NEXTGen friends (ages 21-45) for drinks at The Hideaway at the LaSalle after the Community Chanukiah Lighting

Sunday

@ 6 PN

Dec. 18th

SCAN TO RSVP

ONE-POT OVEN RISOTTO From Our Community Table

I am excited to share this recipe with you today. I know I almost always say this...but only because it's true!

Sometime this past weekend (journalism time), I was combing through my emails when I came upon an article reviewing a recipe for a one-pot risotto. Hmm, I thought. I like risotto. The article said something to the effect that "this was the best rice dish this blogger had ever made" and perhaps something more about it "hitting all the right notes." It was an Ina Garten recipe from her newest cookbook, Go-To Dinners, and the blogger was giving it a rave review.

Wait a minute—I thought to myself. I have that book. It had just arrived as I had pre-ordered it many, many months ago, when I first learned Ina was publishing another. And how delightfully timely as well, as I just happen to have an Our Community Table article deadline looming in my very nearest future. What luck, thought I, my amateur cheffy senses tingling!

Assembling in minutes, the rice cooks perfectly, truly cooking itself in the oven, and comes out the most gorgeous saffron gold color—as beautiful to look at as it is to enjoy. The blogger was right. This dish is not only simple; it's sensational.

I will mention the quality of ingredients, in my opinion, is very important to this dish. I know Ina has become somewhat hilariously known for her accidental snobbery as she casually says things like, "so if you don't have time to make your own from scratch, store bought is fine," but in this case, she's right. As there are so few ingredients in this dish, each one's flavor really stands out, so really pay attention to the quality and flavor of cheese you select, the stock you use, the butter you add, etc. Choose ingredients whose flavors you really love. And watch the salt. For me, Ina's recipes tend to run a bit salty. Start with 2 teaspoons Kosher salt you can always add the additional ½, but you can't take it out.

And one more thing, saffron. I added a pinch more saffron than the recipe called for. Probably a quarter teaspoon or so more. I love the flavor of saffron, the color and the scent. When I took the dish out of the oven last night, its saffron fragrance was gorgeous. The addition of the extra saffron not only amplified the fragrance of the dish, it also really intensified its rich golden color.

When you make this one-pot oven risotto, which I truly hope you will, prepare yourself for how elevated this dish will appear, and with such little effort. And prepare yourself for compliments as well, for your friends and families will be astonished by your skill. They don't need to know how truly easy it was.

That's all for now, dear readers. Looking forward to our next kitchen adventure here at Our Community Table.

Cristyne Porile Community Contributor

SHALOM

Chabad



INGREDIENTS

Substitute vegetable stock for a kosher recipe.

3-4 Tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1¼ cups thinly sliced shallots (2 very large or several medium or small)

1-pound fresh asparagus, tough ends removed, cut in 1-inch lengths

1½ cups Arborio rice (10 ounces)

5 to 6 cups chicken stock, simmering (or vegetable stock if preferred)

1/2 teaspoon saffron threads

1/2 cup dry white wine

1 cup freshly grated Italian Parmesan cheese, plus extra for serving

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, diced and at room temperature

2 1/2 teaspoons Kosher salt

1 scant teaspoon freshly ground black (or white) pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a medium (11-inch /5 ½ quart) Dutch oven, such as Le Creuset, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil over a medium heat.

Add the shallots and cook for 2-3 minutes.

Add the asparagus and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until al dente.

Transfer to a bowl and set aside.

In the same Dutch oven, heat one additional tablespoon olive oil.

Add the rice and stir to coat the rice with oil.

Add 4 cups of the warm chicken stock and the saffron, bring back to a simmer, and cover.

Transfer to the oven and bake for 35 minutes, until the rice is tender, and the liquid is absorbed.

Remove from the oven and add the white wine, stirring well until incorporated, then add one more cup of chicken stock, the Parmesan, butter, 2 ½ teaspoons salt, and 1 scant teaspoon pepper.

Stir vigorously with a wooden spoon for 2 to 3 minutes, until the risotto is thick and creamy, adding more chicken stock, if necessary, to keep the risotto very creamy.

Stir in the asparagus-and-shallot mixture and serve hot sprinkled with extra grated Parmesan.

To reheat, add a little white wine or stock and reheat in individual bowls in the microwave.

Sprinkle with Parmesan and serve hot.

Instead of asparagus, you can use broccolini, broccoli, snow peas, or snap peas; or you can add frozen peas just before serving.

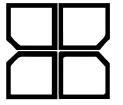
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DLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE GARDEN OPEN HOUSE

Join us at the Jewish Federation as we meet to finalize the design concept. RSVP at TheJewishFed.org/Garden

Monday, December 5, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO



An update from Dan Feferman via Zoom

Sunday, December 11th at 11:00 AM Register at TheJewishFed.org/Israel

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Who Contributed To:

In Honor of: **Bill Gitlin**

FED Talks January 8, 2023 @ 10:30 AM

Bold Thinking, Innovation & Community Sustainability - Leading Change in South Bend

> featuring Aaron Perri, Executive Director of Venues Parks & Arts, City of South Bend Visit TheJewishFed.org/FedTalks to RSVP.

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