

OUR COMMUNITY Newsletter

October 2022 | Tishrei - Cheshvan 5783



Jewish Federation
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY



NEXTGen

FOR A YOUNG, VIBRANT JEWISH MICHIANA

NEXTGen Michiana is your first stop for all things young and Jewish. We're here to help our community find meaning and build relationships in all facets of life, from professional and spiritual to cultural and communal.

Email NEXTGen@TheJewishFed.org or
call 574-233-1164 to learn more!

Minute With Moshe

A Very Fine House

The New Year comes as a gift — every new year offers an opportunity to take a deep look at all aspects of our lives, our community, the things we treasure and want to keep close, what needs improvement and polish, and what should be discarded.

We pray. We meditate—for the power of clear thought—so that our deeds and words are in accord.

In my last edition of Minute with Moshe, I spoke about the importance of the Federation being a Bayit Chazak—a strong and courageous “house” as we work towards fulfilling our 2025 Community Vision.

This vision will be my legacy project. What is a legacy project?

My hope of hopes is that it will be a project that appeals to our collective responsibility for action that moves our community forward. A project rooted in Jewish values that speak to our hearts with clear purpose.

Simply put, knowing what we want, organizes our thinking and our actions. Only with this knowledge can we plant the seeds of fruit we expect to harvest.

One truth of the human experience is that our minds are connected to our hearts. We see ourselves as rational. And we like to think that we make decisions based on logic.

But emotions play a decisive role in virtually every aspect of our lives—especially when it comes to making decisions.

Therefore, it’s fitting to tie our three-year community vision to what we feel most strongly about. It’s appropriate to enlist our emotions in these decisions.

For starters, I’m emotional about building community that will make us stronger. We must always have a thriving campus for Jewish life.

To thrive, we must first be a safe and secure community. And this core focus requires choices.

Shall we plan our future in our respective silos? Or, shall we evaluate the benefits of a coordinated security plan?

As concerns regarding security rise, so do the costs to provide it. Funding a safe

and secure sanctuary is paramount to our future.

This of course, leads me to my feelings about adopting new paths toward a united Jewish community. Make no mistake however, “united” does not and will not imply a “uniform” community. I’m just as passionate about celebrating the diversity of Judaism in our community.

It’s intriguing from a planning perspective to think about building capacity through broader community engagement—and in doing so, creating ways to celebrate our pluralism—as one community and one people.

Creating a strong Bayit (house) to attract community partners, securing our safety, and promoting unity are three broad platforms for action in the 2025 Community Vision. Each one of these priorities resonates emotionally for me. And, in my view, each is essential to our potential and promise for building community.

Our greatest challenge, is that sometimes—perhaps most times—we focus on the minutia and only see the small picture. But it’s worth taking time to step back and look at the big picture too!

The role of the Federation as a community-based organization isn’t complicated. We exist to promote joy, meaning, and growth through Jewish life in our community.

As a collective, we exist to see and explore and expand upon the big picture. When looking at Jewish life in our region through a broad lens, it’s our unique responsibility to envision things – especially the sustainability of our community.

This is what the Community Plan is all about. But a plan won’t work without participation. Your feedback, your contribution and support are essential to the plan.

All of us have a role to play in this work. And as each new day passes, I am encouraged by those among us who are saying “Hineni” – “I am here” for our vision of a bright Jewish future and all it implies.

Among the many who are joining this call for a bright future in our community is a young man who many of you know well. He is good, bright and understands the obligation we all have to weaving a web of community connections and care.

I speak now of Steve Lotter who has agreed to join the professional staff at our Federation as the new Director of Community Engagement. As I’ve come to know Steve, I’ve seen his commitment to building community and planting seeds.

Please join me in welcoming Steve to the Federation. He joins a team that understands the power of Jewish unity—and the urgency that we must move beyond our individual silos so that barriers to a shared vision for the future are removed.

I’m delighted to begin Vision 2025, a three-year community plan at the Federation with Steve and his colleagues Bob, the two Dans, Jon, Nancy, Rabbi, Sheri and Shirlee. While we have much work to do, we are developing a high-performance, outcomes-oriented culture that is infused with the spirit of our Jewish people—people who’ve overcome challenge upon challenge over the millennia, and given birth to something new time-after-time.

Today, with Steve on board, our three-year action plan calls for innovation, adaptation, and creativity. The things that worked so well for the Federation five or ten years ago, are no longer enough.

Such is the essence of our new FED TALKS program—introduced so that we can address even the most difficult questions in our community. These programs will help guide us toward 2025 by allowing for each of us to inspire the community and build the greatest spirit of commitment to each other that we’ve ever had.

As you know by now, I am not shy about sharing my enthusiasm for our collective future. Yes, there are headwinds in our future. We can allow them to slow or even stop us. Or, we can raise our sails, leverage them, and move closer to our shared goals, fulfilling our destiny as a resilient and thriving Jewish community.

Finally, I want to express my personal gratitude to the entire community for your guidance and support over the past year. “Hineni” for you.



Moshe Kruger
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A Message From Steve Lotter

Director of Community Engagement

It's hard to believe this fall marks my 18th year as a member of our Michiana Jewish community. And this happens to be a year of great luck, as I have the great fortune of joining the staff of our Jewish Federation as Director of Community Engagement. I'm honored to be a part of such an outstanding team that has answered the call here at our "small but mighty" Federation – that is to serve our community in the most meaningful of ways – by strengthening our shared connection to the values and traditions we hold dear as one Jewish people.

My personal Jewish journey here in South Bend started nearly two decades ago upon meeting and falling in love with my b'shert, Sarah; my date to the prom at John Adams High School. In many ways, she has inspired and impacted the trajectory of my life, but perhaps most profoundly, through introducing me to Judaism by way of Shabbat, the High Holidays, foods and so many traditions that would color inside the lines of my soul.

With clarity of purpose, I've followed many

interwoven paths here in our community, from finding my spiritual home at Sinai Synagogue, to feeding a fascination of the long and storied history of Jews in Michiana, and eventually serving as a board member and volunteer for those Jewish organizations and institutions I hold in high esteem. I've always seen the size of our community as an asset, not a weakness, as it's given someone like me the scale to feel connected to many different facets of Jewish life, broadening my horizons of what it means to be Jewish.

Today, life feels full; our children, Nona (10) and Morrie (8), keep Sarah and me on our toes, par for the course when raising a family with so many wonderful ways to be engaged by both the Jewish community and the Michiana region at large. In between school, shul and car rides to and from our home in Granger, you'll find us walking our dog, riding bikes, reading or enjoying a family movie night. And we are fortunate to call so many of you in our community our friends and neighbors. You've always made us feel welcome in your homes, at your shuls and everywhere in between; a true caring atmosphere of kindness that we pass onto others just as it was made available to us.

I am excited to take this next step in my Jewish journey and professional life with



you all by my side. Thank you to Moshe and the board of directors for believing in me; for giving me the opportunity to make a profound difference through our work at the Federation. Finally, to my work family at the Big Idea Company, I say goodbye. I wouldn't be here without you. Thanks for all you've done for me and continue to do in improving the lives of everyone in our community.

Steve Lotter

Director of Community Engagement

Saying Goodbye

A message from Lou Pierce of Big Idea Company

I was thinking about success today as I pondered the career of Steve Lotter. Some people see success as financial reward. Some see it as winning – often at any cost.

I see success as something much more elusive than money or whether you win or lose at anything. I've always seen it as contribution.

Personally, I can't sleep at night if I feel I didn't contribute in some way during the day. To me, making a difference is the most important thing in life.

That's how all of us feel at Big Idea

Company. It's the cultural thing that makes us different. We actually care.

And it's why Steve has fit in so well with us for the past fifteen years. He cares a lot. He's a good man.

So, you can understand why we're sad to see him leave the family at Big Idea Company. But, you can also appreciate how happy we are for this fine gentleman to be answering a vital call.

I often talk about the broader community in our region as one of the most diverse in the nation. It's true. When you think about our Native American, Amish and Hispanic populations, we are among a few in the nation with such a rich cultural tapestry.

But, I worry. Amidst our regional melting

pot, there are signs of diminishing population. It's our diversity that makes us strong. And we need to protect it.

In my mind, Steve is leaving Big Idea to fulfill his destiny. His story was written thousands of years ago. And I expect his impact upon our local Jewish community will be extraordinary. This makes me happy.

Thank you for all you've done for us over the years Steve. And God bless you.



Lou Pierce

President, Big Idea Company, LLC

CALLING ALL FILM FEST FANS
WE ARE IN SEARCH OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS!
Sign up at TheJewishFed.org/Volunteer
or call 574-233-1164 today!





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

Sukkah - The Hidden Message

Sukkot is a busy holiday. We have to procure a kosher (ritually fit based on several factors) Lulav and Etrog (citron) and build a sukkah in which we will eat, relax, and sometimes sleep for the entirety of the holiday (7 days, unless it rains or snows). It is the holiday on which we march around the Synagogue with our lulav & etrog, while reciting prayers for rain in the proper season. A lot is going on and every element is full of meaning!

For example, what is the meaning of the sukkah? During our 40-year sojourn in the wilderness, Hashem surrounded us with clouds of glory to protect us from any enemies and/or elements of nature. Our Rabbis explain that we erect the sukkah in memory of those clouds and what they represented.

The sukkah by its nature is meant to be a temporary structure. The walls can be built out of wood, but also canvas or even plastic. Come a windy or cold day, you will feel the elements. Now couple this with the requirement to have a roof that allows you to see the stars at night, a setup that would certainly allow the rain to drip through, and you have a recipe for disaster!

What is the lesson that this mitzvah is trying to impart? It is meant to reinforce within our psyche that life is transient and that Hashem is the only real constant that we can rely upon to offer viable solutions. However, while we are beholden to Hashem, we must make our own efforts to do things properly. We can't just rely upon miracles, sitting back and expecting Hashem to create an idyllic world for us. But, should all of our preparations come to naught, (e.g. we need to leave the sukkah) we are not supposed to be depressed/angry, but rather continue to serve Hashem with joy!

At times, things may not go according to one's plans. Regardless of what one does, nothing seems to pan out.

While Hashem has a specific plan for each individual, one doesn't always see the light at the end of the tunnel. The mitzvah of Sukkah comes to remind us that Hashem sets up help along the way to alleviate our problems.

Examples that illustrate this concept abound in Torah. After the Jews emerged unscathed from the Red Sea, they complained that there was no drinking water available. Hashem told Moshe to throw a stick into the bitter waters that were present and miraculously the waters turned sweet and fit to drink.

Another incident was when the people complained that they had neither meat nor bread to eat. Once again, Hashem responded and sent them a daily portion of manna in the morning and quail at night. In both these cases, the people asked, albeit not always properly, for help, and Hashem answered them. Again, teaching that we need to ask before Hashem will solve our problems and provide for our needs.

I like to think that Jewish Family Services is part of the things that Hashem has set up to help when things don't go according to your plans. Our aim is to be a temporary aid station. We are here to help. May it be through our virtual pantry, referral services, life coaching, etc., we are here for you when you need or want us, even if it is just wanting to talk to someone. Sometimes a fresh perspective or just a listening ear can do the trick.

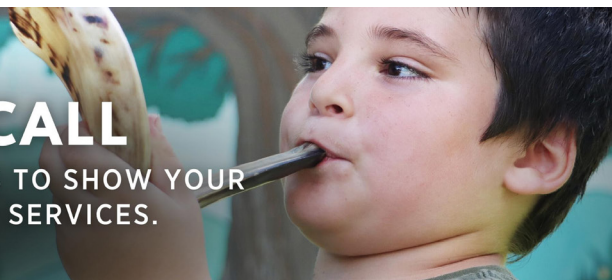
Lastly, I would like to thank our anonymous donors and all who donated and made our Rosh Hashanah fundraiser a success. It is only through your generous donations that we are able to continue to serve our Jewish community!



Rabbi Fred Nebel
Jewish Family Services Director
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THANKS FOR HEARING THE CALL

VISIT THEJEWISHFED.ORG/JFS TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES.



A Call for Volunteers for Monroe Elementary School

This year our Federation's Community Relations Committee (CRC) is spearheading an outreach initiative to Monroe Elementary School. The school was identified as one of the South Bend public schools most in need of help. We are asking for volunteers from our community to join us in helping Monroe Elementary School as mentor/tutors.

According to Brian Harris, Principal of Monroe Elementary School, a majority of the children of Monroe Elementary School take part in a daily free breakfast and free lunch program. The fact that they qualify for the National School Lunch Program is an indicator that a majority of this school's families are living in poverty. This fact has a direct impact on the educational performance of the children, especially on standardized tests.

We know from research that there is a direct correlation between poverty and low performance in school. The Children's Defense Fund, founded by Marian Wright Edelman, explains the connection on its website. "Children living in poverty and children of color often begin school behind their peers, as they are less likely to have been provided access to high-quality early

development and learning opportunities like Head Start programs."

And this is only one factor that explains a much wider problem. Here in South Bend, we can see the problem reflected in the standardized test scores of students in South Bend schools.

According to the 2022 results of the Indiana standardized test called ILEARN, only 9.8% of students in grades 3-8 in South Bend schools demonstrated that they are proficient in tests in English/language arts and math. The overall statewide performance of proficiency was 37%.

Here is where we can make a difference to help bridge that gap.

In the initial meeting with Principal Brian Harris of Monroe Elementary School, he said he was very appreciative of our offer of help. We proposed mentoring/tutoring for children in reading and math. We also plan to bring successful minority members of our community to speak to the children to help them envision ideas for careers in their future. The possibilities include careers in the trades such as carpentry, electrical and in professions including business, law, medicine and science.

Our outreach program will consist of volunteers not only from our Jewish community, but also from our wider non-Jewish community in South Bend. It is hoped that our volunteers will give the children the feeling that someone out there cares and will help them to envision a better life.

Michael Poole, a veteran community leader who runs a successful mentoring program for at-risk youth, was the first to suggest the initiative to us. He said, "These are our kids, our community and our future. We cannot just sit idly by and not give them the support and encouragement they need to succeed."

We agree with Michael Poole. We cannot change the world but maybe we can make a difference in our own small community.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Barbara Lerman at BarbLerman@gmail.com or Bob Feferman at RFeferman@TheJewishFed.org

Barbara Lerman

Community Relations
Committee Chair

Bob Feferman

Community Relations Director

COMMUNITY SUKKAH BUILD

This feel-good, hands-on activity benefits our entire community and is something your whole family will enjoy!

- 12:00 PM SUKKAH BUILD
- 1:00 PM SHI'SHUK PREP & SUKKAH DECORATING
- 3:00 PM SHI'SHUK SALE

Email dravitch@thejewishfed.org to sign up.

OCT. 9 | NOON - 3 PM
SHI'SHUK MARKET TO FOLLOW



20

FALL FEST

22

FREE ADMISSION

Join us October 23 from 1-4 PM

APPLICABLE FEES FOR FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES, FOOD AND DRINK

FOR THE KIDS

Carnival Games | Hay Rides | Petting Zoo | Inflatables

FOR THE ADULTS

Music | Axe Throwing | Kosher Food & Drink

Volunteers needed! Email dravitch@thejewishfed.org to sign up.
Attendees are encouraged to arrive early due to limited parking.
Rain date 10/30.

Visit TheJewishFed.org/FallFest2022 to learn about more activities!

Thinking of What's New to Come

The harvest season, what is it all about? Time to reap from the fields, collect our crops and prepare for a harsh winter ahead? Is it the end of the year, or the beginning? With Rosh Hashanah just behind us, we know the answer is a new year. So instead of thinking about what is ending, as the color fades from the leaves, it must be that we think of the new year to come and prepare for its arrival. Speaking of arrivals, Shirlee and I sit now at O'Hare awaiting departure. We will have already returned from the Partnership2Gether with Israel Summit in Budapest by the time you read this. We sat to plan with leaders across the globe for the future of our Jewish communities, and our relationships with each other. What a perfect time for the event to take place.

Harvest time means Sukkah time as well! This year, we invite all who can attend to a special Sukkah Build at the Federation. For children and adults alike, the build and decoration will also include a special Harvest themed Shi'Shuk program! Families and individuals are invited to join together to learn to make a number of dishes inspired by the seven species; seven fruits and grains listed in the Torah as being special to the Holy Land. The program will

be followed by a Shi'Shuk sale, where our youth are invited to help run the market stand and provide kosher handmade foods for the holiday.

Even more is in store this month with our 2nd annual Fall Fest! An event for all ages, with Shirlee at the helm. This Festival has something for everyone. Last year, I loved being able to drive the hayride with Bob and see the smiles on so many kid's faces. This year, I am looking forward to the giant inflatables we plan to bring to the Federation, and I may have even heard about axe throwing for adults and a pony or two to ride for the littles!

Following the event, the SaBaBaH youth group will be heading over for a special treat with what we are calling "Jews and Boooooos." The Niles Scream Park is one of the oldest of its kind, and a non-profit organization to boot! Our group, nearly 20 strong now, is meeting and staying in contact throughout the school year. All of this ensures that our community is ready for the New Year, and I wish for all of you a Shanna Tova v'Metukah as well.

October Programs

Community Sukkah Build
October 9 at 12:00 PM

Sukkot Shi'Shuk Market
October 9 at 3:00 PM

Lunch N' Learn
October 12 at 12:00 pm

Fall Fest
October 23 at 1:00 pm
October 30 rain date

Mahjong
Monday & 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



Reserve the Sukkah!

Interested in hosting a dinner or entertaining friends & family in our community Sukkah?
Call the Federation at 574-233-1164.

Lunch N' Learn

Wellness & Herbalism for the Harvest Season

Caryn Webster Guest Speaker

Caryn is the founder and trained Clinical Herbalist at Ginger Rose Wellness.

In addition to Wellness Consultations, she is a Meditation Teacher, Yogi & former therapist aiming to bridge the worlds of herbalism, meditation and garden-centered ecology through her work.



OCTOBER 12
NOON - 1 PM

LUNCH N' LEARN
IN THE SUKKAH

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. VISIT THEJEWISHFED.ORG.

Tikva Shemesh's Almond Cake

Our Community Table

INGREDIENTS FOR CAKE DOUGH

Makes 3 Cakes

1 cup granulated sugar
200 grams salted margarine (or salted butter)
450 grams self-rising flour
1 large egg, at room temperature
1 ½ Tablespoons sour cream

INSTRUCTIONS

In a stand mixer, cream the sugar and the butter until light and fluffy, about 5-7 minutes on a medium speed, stopping every now and then to scrape the sides of the bowl and the beater blade. Add the egg and fully incorporate into the batter. Add the sour cream and beat to blend then add the flour, all at once, and pulse the mixer until just incorporated (or fold in manually with a spatula).

Divide batter into 3 equal portions, flatten into a disc shape and wrap each one separately in plastic wrap.

Chill in refrigerator for at least 2 hours to rest or into freezer to freeze and use at another time. If freezing, put dough in the refrigerator overnight to defrost gently and completely.



INGREDIENTS FOR ALMOND MIX

1 cup granulated sugar
2 (8-9 gram) packages vanilla sugar
100 grams unsalted butter at room temperature
5 Tablespoons milk
150 grams almonds, toasting optional, very finely ground

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 375°Fahrenheit (190°C)

Remove one of the prepared cake batter/doughs from the refrigerator and roll evenly on a large piece of parchment paper, as you would a pie crust, until just large enough to cover the bottom and come up the sides of a standard size pie plate. Invert the rolled dough onto the pie plate and gently remove the parchment paper. Using a fork, poke holes at varying intervals across the bottom of the dough. *Debbie places a piece of parchment paper just slightly larger than the pan inside the pan before putting the dough in. In her experience, it is the way to truly prevent the crust from sticking. I used a durable non-stick pie plate and did not have a problem with sticking—but if you are unsure of your bakeware, use Debbie's method.

In a medium sized saucepan place 1 cup sugar, the vanilla sugar, the unsalted butter, and the milk. Bring to a boil over a medium heat, stirring frequently, until the sugar is completely dissolved. Add the finely ground almonds and continue to cook until the mixture begins to bubble. Remove from heat.

Pour the almond mixture on top of the dough as neatly and evenly as you can.

Bake for 25-30 minutes watching carefully. It is better to bake this slightly less rather than more as it can become hard if overbaked. It will not be completely set (firm) when you remove it from the oven. This is ok. It will firm up as it cools, the cooled consistency being similar to that of a pecan pie.

I just love when someone shares a family Heritage Recipe with me. There is something very special about making a recipe that has deep personal value and rich history attached to it, especially when you know the people involved. With permission, I am going to share one such recipe with you today, gifted to us by the Shemesh Family.

I first tried this dessert at a Federation Board meeting at the home of our JFed President, Alon Shemesh. In this President's house, Federation business is most definitely a family affair. As we all sat at the umbrella covered table near the beautiful garden, dishes began appearing... because you must feed the family! Alon's daughter, Emily, had baked tender, buttery shortbread cookies. Debby had prepared a Boston Crème Pie—and another, most wonderful offering, Alon's mother, Tikva's (of blessed memory) almond cake.

Tikva's almond cake, we learned, is Alon's favorite, and after a bite or two, we could all see why. The filling is what really makes this special. Finely ground almonds, butter, sugar, and an ingredient I had not used before—commercial packets of pre-blended vanilla-sugar, smoothed

out with a bit of milk, then baked to a golden perfection. Its flavor is reminiscent of dulce-de-leche— with just a hint of that elusive “professional bakery flavor” that one never quite seems to be able to recreate at home—it must be the vanilla-sugar. I wondered if they would be willing to share this family recipe with me, because people don't always give their personal recipes out. Fortunately for all of us, Alon and Debbie were happy to.

Now that I had this amazing recipe in my hot little hands, I became obsessed. Obsessed with getting it right—just right—better than right—perfect. Because it's a Heritage Recipe. But, I had absolutely no idea what I was doing. I had only had the cake, which is really more like a pie—but not quite—one time. So, I texted Debbie. And texted Debbie. And texted Debbie! Yep. As a thank you, Debbie, for sharing this wonderful recipe with me, I shall now make you regret that decision by sending rapid-fire texts (and photos) with all my questions!

But not for long, for now, I'm in my car driving my almond cake over to Debbie to have her take a look. She greeted me warmly and showed me into her kitchen

where she (and all at the house that day) politely tried my version of the almond cake. Seeing that I was still not completely confident, she asked if it would be helpful for me to watch her make the cake, and she then proceeded, in a very organized way, to demonstrate the recipe—from start to finish—just like that. She had a disc of dough in her freezer—of course she did—which defrosted in minutes, and with a pulse or two of the food-processor and a whisking on the stovetop, the cake was ready for the oven. It was during the baking that we (along with Emily & Ari) hatched the idea of changing the ingredients... what would you think of using hazelnuts instead of almonds with some cocoa in the crust? Or finely ground peanuts instead of almonds with a milk chocolate drizzle? Tikva's almond cake began to transform into the little black dress of semi-casual desserts! Of course, I tried them all! But in the end, while each version was delicious, the best version was still the original—almonds, sugar, butter, vanilla—but still, something magical must go on while it's baking to create this very special flavor. I think it must be the love.

Cristyne Porile
Community Contributor

Women Leading a Dialogue

Returns to our Community on November 11th

On the weekend of November 11th, our community will be privileged to host a delegation from Western Galilee called, “Women Leading a Dialogue” (WLD). The program is sponsored by Partnership2Gether (P2G) for Western Galilee. Many of you will remember that we hosted a similar group from the program in 2018. Their visit had a major impact on our community. That is why we are excited to host this delegation with a new cohort of women.

This unique interfaith delegation of fifteen women includes nine Jewish women and six Muslim women.

As we know, overall the non-Jewish population of Israel is about 20%. This includes Christian-Arabs, Druze and Muslim-Arabs. All are full citizens of Israel. Western Galilee is a highly diverse region of Israel where the percentage of non-Jewish citizens is much higher. We see this reflected in its public institutions like Galilee Medical Center. We also see it in the daily life of the region.

Western Galilee serves as a model for what peace could look like one day in the Middle East. Yet the region does face challenges, and coexistence is not something that can be taken for granted. In the summer of 2021, we saw widespread rioting in the mixed city of Akko, a clear sign that not all is perfect. The “Woman Leading a Dialogue” project was created to help address these challenges and strengthen what Israelis call, “Shared Society.”

According to the backgrounder provided by P2G, the goal of

the program is, “to strengthen the bonds and encourage communication between various cultures and between the many groups in the Western Galilee: Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Druze.”

“Coexistence Café.” This event will serve as a wonderful opportunity for all members of our community to meet and interact with the delegation through meaningful dialogue about life in



The monthly dialogues sessions in which the women participate are geared to “... break down barriers and stereotypes, in order to develop strong relations between communities.”

The local itinerary for the visit of the delegation is being coordinated by the Partnership2Gether committee co-chaired by Cristyne Porile and Dave Ravitch with the assistance of staff members Shirlee Greenwald and myself. Host families have been recruited for home hospitality for the weekend.

On Sunday morning, November 13th, the Jewish Federation will host a community event we are calling,

Western Galilee. (See upcoming advertisements for more details).

Members of our community can be proud of the support that our Federation provides for Partnership2Gether which supports meaningful and impactful programs like “Women Leading a Dialogue.”

If you have any questions about the programming planned for the weekend of November 11th, please contact either Shirlee Greenwald (Israel@thejewishfed.org) or Bob Feferman (rfeferman@thejewishfed.org).



Bob Feferman
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www.Ravitron.com



A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith

Published in 1943, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* still holds up today as a timely sprawling, autobiographical novel showcasing complex, sympathetic characters living in dire poverty. One of our readers pointed out the symbolism of the title as a, “really a low-quality weed-type of tree, surviving poor nutrition, little water, and neglect.” Although considered a novel, the 528 pages read like a memoir covering an entire family tree—the history spanning two decades beginning in 1912. Our group enjoyed the perfected, detailed descriptions of that era that we planned a “movie day” to watch the DVD of the film made in 1945.

The Federation Book Club meets via Zoom at 4:00 PM on the third Thursdays of every month, but we plan to skip this coming October.

Upcoming Books:

Sept. 15



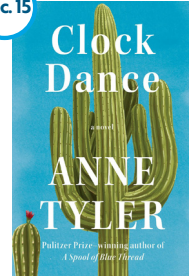
A SEVERED WASP
A NOVEL
MADELEINE L'ENGLE
Author of *A Wrinkle in Time*

Nov. 17



ANTHONY BOURDAIN
KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL
ADVENTURES IN THE CULINARY UNDERBELLY

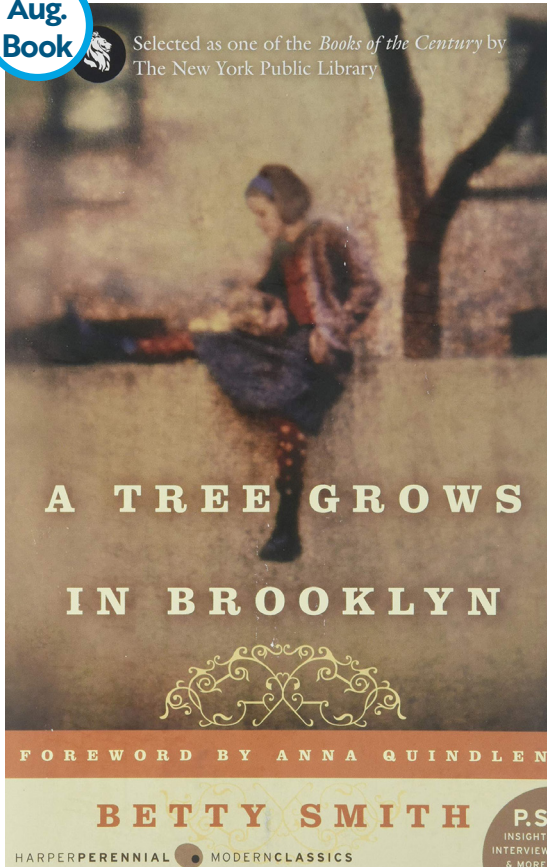
Dec. 15



Clock Dance
A NOVEL
ANNE TYLER
Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Spontaneous Heart*

Beth Buechler
Community Contributor

Aug. Book Selected as one of the *Books of the Century* by The New York Public Library



A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

FOREWORD BY ANNA QUINDLEN

BETTY SMITH

HARPERPERENNIAL MODERNCLASSICS

P.S. INSIGHTS, INTERVIEWS & MORE.

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We Thank the Following Contributors:

Anonymous
Karen Leuther
Gloria Wolvos
John and Tricia Killeen
Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley

Who Contributed To:

Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley

In Memory of:

William Coleman
Hugh Metzger

In Honor of:

Rabbi Fred Nebel



We are 20-, 30- and 40-somethings who want to build our Jewish community as we build our families and careers. We gather at social events, and volunteer to create a thriving Jewish community here in Michiana. We make a difference. And we have a great time doing good.

Upcoming Events:

Schmoozing By The Fire
November 10 at 7:00 PM

Light It Up Hanukkah
December 18 downtown after
Community Menorah Lighting

Email NEXTGen@TheJewishFed.org or
call 574-233-1164 to learn more!





<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Street Address>>
<<City>> <<State>> <<ZIP>>

Tishri - Cheshvan
October

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Events to register. Have an event to add to our calendar? Call 574-233-1164.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	4 Closed at 3:00 PM Erev Yom Kippur	5 Federation Closed Yom Kippur	6 10:00–10:50 AM FLI: Universal Ethical Systems	7	8
9 12:00–3:00 PM Community Sukkah Build 3:00–4:30 PM Shi'Shuk Market	10 Federation Closed	11	12 12:00–1:00 PM Lunch N' Learn 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	13 10:00–10:50 AM FLI: Universal Ethical Systems	14	15
Sukkot						
16 Sukkot	17 Federation Closed Shemini Atzeret	18 Simchat Torah	19 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	20 10:00–10:50 AM FLI: Universal Ethical Systems	21	22
23 1:00–4:00 PM Fall Fest	24 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	25	26 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	27 10:00–10:50 AM FLI: Universal Ethical Systems	28	29
30 1:00–4:00 PM Fall Fest Rain Date	31					