

# OUR COMMUNITY Newsletter

July 2021 | TAMMUZ — AV 5781



Jewish Federation  
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY

WE WANT YOUR  
FEEDBACK

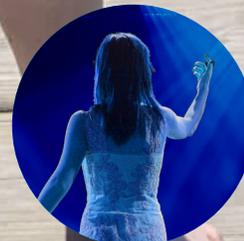
Community  
Survey

pg. 3



Camp Ideal  
Photos

pg. 6



Summer  
Concert II

pg. 8

TO MAKE  
SOMETHING SPECIAL  
YOU JUST  
HAVE TO BELIEVE  
IT'S SPECIAL

## Minute With Moshe

How Do We Strengthen, Enrich, and Grow Our Community?

Our Federation was born in 1945 out of the ashes and horrors of World War II. Fifty-five years later, community leaders funded and built our beautiful community center on 28 acres in 2000. Fast forward another 20 years -- here we are a generation later! Moving forward, our organization will need to think and act differently than we have in the past. A new roadmap will be required to move us from where we are (our current situation) to where we want to be, a destination we'd like to travel to based on our aspirations and needs.

Understanding where we are and where we want to be and having a plan to get there will be the heart and soul of my administration. During COVID, your JFED professional team focused on improving our internal processes, optimizing staff roles and responsibilities, and rebranding the Federation image to drive our organizational transformation as we ask ourselves the question, "What is our once-in-a-generation opportunity and responsibility?"

With the installation of our new slate of board members at the Annual Meeting, I'm excited to take bold steps into our future. The following steps include developing deeper connections among all the parties in our beautiful and diverse Jewish ecosystem. In turn, these relationships are the building blocks to create a more meaningful dialogue and the bridges we need to journey into our future.

With this goal in mind, I'm extending an invitation to all community members to schmooze in our big tent in the coming year. Together, we can dig deeper into assessing community needs and how they fit into the Federation's mission, vision, and values.

Regarding our mission, vision, and values, I can say unequivocally, we have the resources, the smarts, and the infrastructure, but do we have the will to repair, renew, and remake our community to become the best little Jewish town in America? Realizing a bright future for the Jewish community of Michiana starts with you!

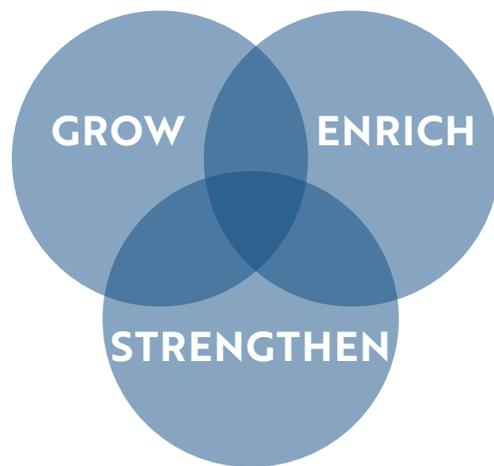
To jumpstart the listening process for our Big Tent initiative, I'm pleased to announce the creation of a Community Listening & Planning Forum, or what I would like to call the Hineni Group, the I am HERE Group.

If you or your organization are interested in participating in the Hineni Group, please call or email Sheri Alpert at 574-233-1164 or sheria@thejewishfed.org.

Also, if you haven't already, please take a moment to complete our Community Survey. Your participation is critical as we take essential steps to envision our community and all that it can be.

Finally, if you want to speak with me directly, I would love to hear from you. I encourage you to visit [TheJewishFed.org/](https://TheJewishFed.org/) **MinuteWithMoshe** to place time on my calendar.

As we head into a new and exciting era, we each have the ability -- and obligation to advance the overdue change and create a better future for everyone. Please join me in dedicating your best efforts to this noble task.



Now is our time Michiana.

Our time for healing, innovation, and action to strengthen, enrich and grow our community.



**Moshe Kruger**  
Executive Director  
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# HOW DO YOU ENVISION OUR COMMUNITY

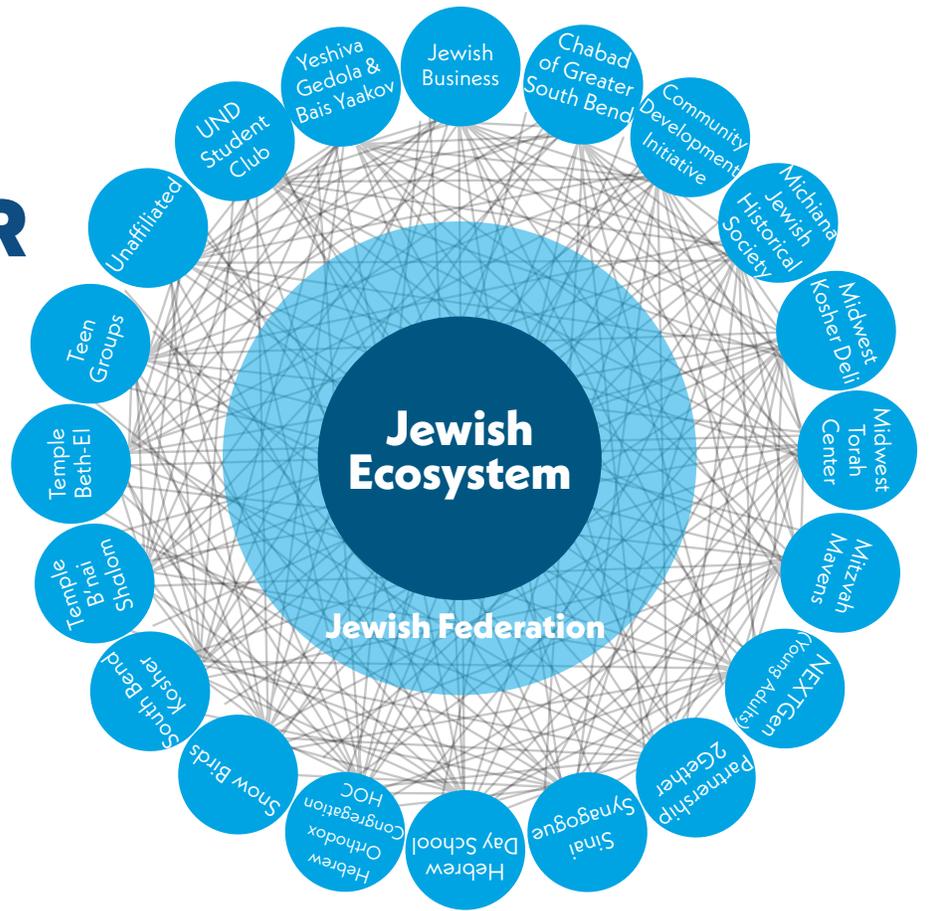
## What is a Jewish Ecosystem?

A community of interacting Jewish individuals, organizations, and their environment.

Send us an example of what you think our Jewish ecosystem looks like.

**Email:** MKruger@TheJewishFed.org

**Mail:** 3202 Shalom Way  
South Bend, IN 46515



**WE WANT YOUR**

**FEEDBACK**

Complete our community survey!  
[TheJewishFed.org/2021Survey](https://TheJewishFed.org/2021Survey)

## A Journey of Self Discovery

On May 10, 2021 I was seven months away from home. It was also the date that a wave of violence began washing over my beloved homeland, and I was here watching it from afar. You see, I am no stranger to the conflict, I was born into it. I remember being a child during the Second Intifada.

Do you know of those cute children's commercials teaching them how to cross the road safely? We had children's commercials teaching us how to spot a potential bomb.

This is the environment I grew up in, yet I was never taught to hate. More so, I chose to go

to a military boarding school where I held a rifle at not even 15 years old. Both my schoolmates and I were held to a moral standard I have yet to encounter elsewhere.

At no point in my life did my parents live under the illusion that I or my siblings would not be called to serve, nor were they oblivious to what it may cost our family. I was encouraged to give all of myself in the defense of my country. I joined the military - and I am a better person for doing so. I have been a child at war, I have been in active duty when it was my turn, and I have

seen the flag being passed on to a younger generation for safe keeping. It doesn't get better - looking through the newspaper for names of the fallen, at the end we all find someone we love amongst them.

"A mind that is stretched by new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

So here I am, an ocean away, far enough to get perspective, trying to find myself in the

as immoral. Yet, I was honestly surprised to see Jews shed their Israeli skin, disassociate themselves from its "crime of existence." I wonder, does our own privilege of liberty sabotage our judgment? Why do we fail to see that we are brothers? That we share a destiny. That whether or not we identify ourselves as Jews or Zionists, we are being identified and persecuted as such. Hillel said "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And being only for myself, what am 'I'? And if not now, when?"

**"Man is but the imprint of his native landscape"**  
**—Shaul Tchernichovsky**

land of the free. It is here where my eyes were opened to a new set of values, to the elusive concept of liberty and how fragile it is in the face of danger. That my friend, is a bell that cannot be unrung.

So I thought of how many times my freedom was deprived for my own safety, and I began to criticize my country. Israel is not flawless. Nevertheless, Israel is a necessity. I know the term "Zionist" is often negative outside of Israel, that some see my love for my country

On my ongoing journey of self-discovery, I will try to answer these questions. As I hopefully evolve as a human being, some truths remain solid. I know where my loyalty lies.



**Shirlee Greenwald**

Israeli Emissary  
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Israel@TheJewishFed.org

michiana jewish  
**historical**  
society

Join the Michiana Jewish Historical Society in Downtown South Bend on August 22 for a community scavenger hunt exploring Jewish owned businesses both new and old! More information to follow.

[MichianaJewish.com](http://MichianaJewish.com)

## Caring Connections

July brings the height of summer and the thought of beaches, heat, sunshine, parades and fireworks. With COVID numbers receding, and more people vaccinated, July also brings reunions with loved ones and actual hugs. Our religious institutions are reopening, some with requirements for vaccination to attend in person. We continue to have some folks struggling with long-haul COVID, and we offer a COVID Survivors Group on Zoom on the 4th Thursday of the month. Email Sandy, or sign up online, for inclusion in this confidential group. Meanwhile, JFS is working with the national Faith and Community Engagement Outreach initiative to help people get their vaccination. We continue to offer rides and help getting a vaccination appointment.

JFS will host an intergenerational outdoor picnic on July 28, to enhance socialization. COVID safety protocols will be in place. A Kosher Dairy lunch will be provided. Sign up online at [TheJewishFed.org/Events](https://TheJewishFed.org/Events) or call the Federation at 574-233-1164.

JFS has started a Facebook group called Friends of JFS of Greater St. Joseph Valley. This group is private, so only members can see what's posted. If you are on Facebook, look for us and request membership. Once you are a member, you can invite your friends to join us as well.

We continue the recommendation for movement, walking and time outside as summer continues. There is now evidence that light therapy works for not just Seasonal Affective Disorder, but for other mental health conditions as well. Join us in the Federation garden or on the trails, to get in some great outdoor activity.

### Embracing Diversity

I abhor the recent surge in anti-Semitism, anti-Asian acts, and other expressions of intolerance expressed violently. Much of the time, hatred comes from ignorance, along with fear, blame, and jealousy. When harbored, it grows. Acts of hate are traumatic to those who experience them, and to their extended families. This trauma is even imposed on the professionals who help the victims. On the flip side of the coin, acceptance improves mental health.



#### Sandy Levine, MA

Jewish Family Services Director  
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In a recent Zoom training that I attended, each person was asked to use one word to describe themselves, and then keep adding single words. People who were parents tended to say "Mother" or "Father" first. Later discussion revealed that parenting has been very challenging during this pandemic. Many other words are used to describe how people identify themselves. Family relationships were mentioned: brother, sister, son, daughter, wife, husband. Religious identity: Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Atheist, Hindu, Bhai, Buddhist, Unitarian and others. People identify closely by their gender, race and their sexual orientation.

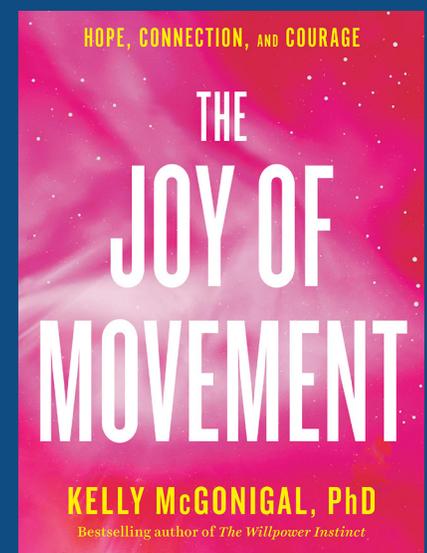
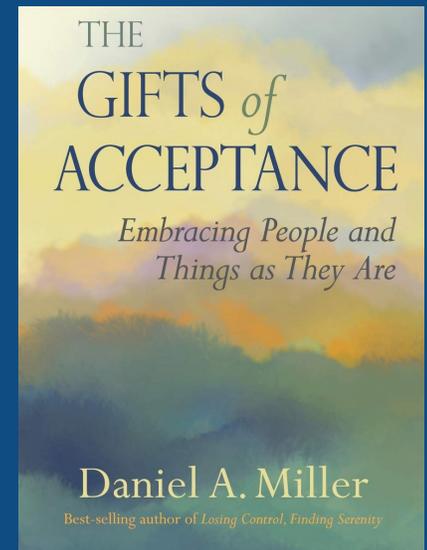
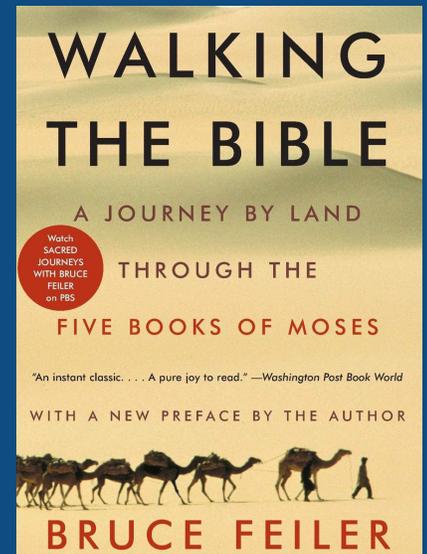
Why should we embrace diversity? If we only know people who are just like ourselves, then we are limited in our understanding of the world. In order to fulfill our commandment to pursue justice and repair the world, we must reject hatred and violence, and seek to understand others. It is only by understanding that we can truly be fair and just. Understanding a variety of languages may help lead to peace in the world. Understanding how others view life may help bring clarity and meaning to our own way of doing things. It is fun to learn from others who are different from ourselves. People can change their occupation, their skills, and their appearance, but deep down they can't change who they are on the inside. Meanwhile, acceptance of the differences of others leads to enhanced creativity and productivity in the workplace.

On a lighter note, diversity adds spice to life. I can try a new hobby after learning about it from someone else. If I learn another language, I can find someone to chat with in that language, just for fun. I don't think I'll ever go bungee-jumping or sky-diving, but it's fun to hear of another's adventures.

Embracing the differences in others leads to a larger life. Personally, I'm praying for world peace.



**B'TZELEM**  
Jewish Family Services  
Recommends







## Staying For Good

Whenever he called me from the United States, my uncle asked the same question, “Do you think you’re going to stay in Israel?” As the decades passed, the question turned more and more into a jest. And now that I’ve lived in Israel for almost forty years, including marrying and raising a family here, it’s pretty clear that I’m here for good. And I mean that last phrase in two senses—not just that I’m here permanently, but that I’m contributing to the vibrancy and vitality of my adopted homeland.

I’ve felt that profound sense of pride ever since I started working for the Jewish community in Israel in 1991—first for the Joint Distribution Committee, and then, since 2007, in my current role as the director of the Israel office for the Jewish Federations of North America. And I’ve experienced it especially deeply lately, as Israel was under relentless rocket attack from ruthless terrorists for two nerve-racking weeks in May, and as my staff and I at JFNA worked around the clock to manage Federations’ emergency response and to keep the North American Jewish community up to speed on all the breaking news, up to and including the ceasefire that

was finally declared.

It was also crucial to us to inform the Israeli public of the wave of antizionism and antisemitism that crashed upon North American shores in the wake of the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Promoting understanding and building awareness about the different challenges faced by American Jews and Israel helps us all to stay connected through thick and thin.

What was also truly fulfilling was the opportunity, just a few days after the ceasefire had been declared, to host the first senior leadership mission to Israel since the pandemic began. Their high-profile trip came on the heels of an emergency fundraising campaign by Federations that raised more than \$3 million to aid the victims of the bombings and the first responders. It included meetings with former Prime Minister Netanyahu and new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. It featured a visit with an Israeli woman in Ashkelon whose house was ruined by a direct rocket hit in her living room and a tour of a neighborhood in Lod where violence between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs

jeopardized long-standing relationships that are now being painstakingly rebuilt. The delegation’s message of love and support was heard loud and clear throughout the length and breadth of the land.

That visit was followed just a week later by one by the Israel Travel Alliance—a JFNA-convened collection of both Jewish and Christian organizations that sponsor trips, many of which are geared to young adults, to the Jewish State. We are working with the Israeli government to ensure that, by the end of the summer, more and more North Americans will have had the opportunity to visit Israel and deepen their own connections to the people and the land of Israel—some may even decide, as I did, to make Israel their home.

So, am I staying? You’d better believe it. I’m staying for good.

*This article was originally published in the El Paso Jewish Voice*

**Rebecca Caspi**

Director General, JFNA Israel



# SUMMER CONCERT II

WITH THE  
SOUTH BEND LYRIC OPERA

JULY 11 AT 3:00 PM

Join us at the Jewish Federation at 3:00 PM for a fun afternoon of music with the South Bend Lyric Opera.

All are welcome, we will maintain social distance and childcare will be provided.

Visit [TheJewishFed.org/events](https://TheJewishFed.org/events) to reserve your space. Seats are limited.



## Iran's Deadly Agenda

In order to understand the recent round of fighting between Israel and the terror organizations that control Gaza, it's important to talk about the regional context and the role of Iran. According to Iran's deadly agenda, the Islamic Republic will do everything possible to use Palestinian proxy forces to destroy the hopes for peace and work toward the destruction of Israel.

For decades, we've known that Iran supports Palestinian terror organizations because they serve Iran's larger goal for domination of the Middle East. The period between 1993 and 2008 is a case study of Iran's agenda.

In 1993, Israel signed onto the Oslo Accords that created the Palestinian Authority. As a result, Israel withdrew from the major cities of the West Bank. It was a time of great euphoria, and the hopes for a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians were real.

In both 2000 and 2008, Israel agreed to two generous offers for peace through the two-state solution. Unfortunately, Palestinian leaders rejected both offers.

It was also during this period that the government of Iran did everything possible to literally blow up the hopes for peace.

Between 1993 and 2008, there were 168 Palestinian suicide bombings on Israeli buses, in restaurants and shopping malls. These suicide bombings, and other terror attacks, killed more than 1,000 Israeli civilians and wounded many thousands more.

Although Palestinian terror groups provided the hateful ideology and the suicide bombers, it was Iran that provided the financial means and technical support to

commit mass murder and destroy the hopes for peace.

The majority of suicide bombings of this period were carried out by two terror organizations supported by Iran: Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Iran's support for Palestinian terrorism was detailed in the eye-opening book titled, [The Bus on Jaffa Road](#) by author Mike Kelly. The author tells the tragic story of two American victims of a suicide bombing on a bus in Jerusalem in 1996, and the efforts of their parents to hold the perpetrators accountable in US Federal Court.

In the book, we learn about the testimony of Middle East expert Dr. Patrick Clawson who told the Federal Court that by the 1990s, Iran was already providing Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad with \$75 million per year in financial support in addition to training for Palestinian bomb makers.

Iran's Middle East agenda is not a secret.

Iran's strategy calls for supporting the "Axis of Resistance." The goal is to surround Israel with terror proxy forces like Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Iranian proxies in Syria. Iran uses these proxies to "export the Islamic Revolution" and arms them for "resistance" to the very existence of Israel.

Gaza is an important part of Iran's strategy.

Since Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, terrorists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad have fired more than 16,000 rockets at Israeli

civilians including more than 4,000 rockets fired in this recent round of fighting.

The rocket fire from Gaza is enabled by extensive support from Iran. In fact, leaders of Hamas are very open about the assistance they receive from Iran.

In a speech given by Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in June 2019 about the long-range rockets of Hamas he said, "Let me reiterate. If not for Iran's support for the resistance in Palestine we would have not obtained these capabilities... Iran has supported us with weapons, equipment and expertise."

Beyond the inevitable suffering that Hamas and Islamic Jihad bring upon Palestinian civilians in Gaza, they are also destroying the hopes for peace through the two-state solution. How likely is it that any Israeli would be willing to support withdrawal from more territory in the West Bank if they fear that it will become another Gaza backed by Iran?

Yet, that is exactly the end goal of Iran and its Palestinian terror proxies: to destroy the hopes for peace so that they can pursue the destruction of Israel.

Until the international community holds Iran accountable for its deadly agenda, peace between Israelis and Palestinians will continue to remain a distant dream.

*This article was originally published in the South Bend Tribune*



### Bob Feferman

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# TUNISIAN CARROT SALAD

## From Our Community Table

This column has been on my mind for weeks. Since shortly after I submitted my last column I've been debating, trying to decide which recipe to use in this month's column. There are two worthy recipes and I've been having a hard time figuring out which one to share.

On one hand, there is an amazing chocolate cookie recipe that I recently came across. The cookies are so rich and delicious. On the other hand, there is a carrot salad. And, I know, carrot salads are not the most impressive dish. But this one is different. And that is why each time I go back and forth in my mind attempting to determine which recipe to use, the carrot salad recipe always comes out on top. Still, I keep second guessing my decision. After all, Our Community Table readers may prefer chocolate to carrots. But if I want to choose the best recipe to share with said readers, the carrot salad is the winner.

At this point, I feel like I need to come clean and admit that I generally do not find carrot salads to be tempting. Granted, they can add color to the table when served along with other salads. But, I don't enjoy eating them. Using shredded carrots is popular in carrot salads. I guess the texture is a bit different than other salads. Still, they don't impress me. This carrot salad is very

impressive! The flavor is not sweet with undertones of citrus like many carrot salads. It does not contain any tomatoes or tomato products. What it does offer is mild spice and strong flavors. I think this recipe is carrot salad perfection.

Initially, what caught my attention about this recipe is the harissa. I bought harissa once for a recipe and I am always looking for other ways to use it. (For some reason the vast majority of recipes that I have found that call for the use of harissa are carrot recipes.) I have tried many recipes (mainly with carrots) that use harissa, and this one is simply the best. A couple of my children do not generally like carrots. They will eat this salad. (My daughter calls it the carrot salad that she "kind of likes." That is a compliment, coming from her.)

I know, I know. You may be wondering how a carrot salad can top a chocolate cookie. Trust me on this one. I can always share the cookie recipe some other time.



**Deena Abraham**  
Community Contributor

### INGREDIENTS

1 lb. carrots, peeled and thinly sliced  
1-2 tsp. harissa (chili paste)  
6 Tbsp. water  
5 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil  
¼ tsp. white wine vinegar  
5 cloves garlic, minced  
¼ tsp. caraway seeds  
½-1 tsp. cumin  
½ - 1 tsp. salt  
Parsley, to garnish

### INSTRUCTIONS

Cook the carrots in boiling water for four to five minutes. Drain well and set aside.

Combine the harissa and water in a pot. Mix in the oil, vinegar, garlic, caraway, cumin, and salt. Stir occasionally over medium heat until the liquid simmers. Stir in the carrots and cook until most of the liquid has been absorbed. This will take about five minutes. If desired, garnish with parsley. Serve warm or at room temperature.



**Summer Concert I**  
June 6, 2021

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## In Honor of:

Sara Anne Anes  
Aviva Wulfson  
Lisa Lerman's 53<sup>rd</sup> Birthday  
Noach Lerman

## Mazel Tov:

Barb & Dave Lerman's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Sam Mirkin's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Jewish Federation**  
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY  
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SOUTH BEND, IN 46615



TAMMUZ - AV  
**JULY**

Visit [TheJewishFed.org/Events](http://TheJewishFed.org/Events) to register. Have an event to add to our calendar? Call 574-233-1164 or email [AStenberg@TheJewishFed.org](mailto:AStenberg@TheJewishFed.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>27</b> <b>12:00–2:00 PM</b> Garden Volunteer Hours	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> <b>12:00–1:00 PM</b> COVID Support Group	<b>2</b> <b>3:30–4:30 PM</b> Shi'Shuk Friday Market with Camp Ideal	<b>3</b>	
<b>Camp Ideal</b>						9:05	
<b>4</b> <b>12:00–2:00 PM</b> Garden Volunteer Hours	<b>5</b> <b>Federation            Closed</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
					9:03		
<b>11</b> <b>12:00–2:00 PM</b> Garden Volunteer Hours <b>3:00–4:00 PM</b> South Bend Lyric Opera	<b>12</b> <b>1:00–2:00</b> Personal Perspectives in Western Galilee	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>3:30–4:30 PM</b> Shi'Shuk Friday Market with Camp Ideal	<b>17</b>	
<b>Camp Ideal</b>						8:59	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>3:30–4:30 PM</b> Shi'Shuk Friday Market with Camp Ideal	<b>24</b>	
Tisha B'Av	<b>Camp Ideal</b>						8:54
<b>25</b> <b>12:00–2:00 PM</b> Garden Volunteer Hours	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>12:00–1:30 PM</b> Intergenerational Lunch with Camp Ideal	<b>29</b> <b>12:00–1:00 PM</b> COVID Support Group	<b>30</b> <b>3:30–4:30 PM</b> Shi'Shuk Friday Market with Camp Ideal	<b>31</b>	
<b>Camp Ideal</b>						8:47	