

OUR COMMUNITY Newsletter

May 2022 | Nissan - Iyar 5782



Jewish Federation
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY



12th ANNUAL MICHIANA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

May 9–19, 2022

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

PG. 10-23

PRESENTED BY



Kahn Ruthrauff & Associates



Crisis in Ukraine

An update from Bob Feferman
Speaker's Bureau pg. 3



Lisa Lerman Community Bridge Award

Learn how you can nominate a community
member on pg. 5



THE BIG IDEA BANK IS OPEN

Email BigIdeas@TheJewishFed.org to make your creative deposit!



Minute With Moshe

The Importance of Kehilla (Community) in Our Lives

Bemidar (Numbers), the fourth book of Torah, opens by describing the Children of Israel. Upon taking a census, the Israelites organized around the Mishkhan, with the Tabernacle at the center.

This mobile holy site was flanked on four sides. Levite families formed the inner ring and the twelve tribes camped along the outer one.

It is the gathering that was essential. And so, it remains today.

Over a millennium, the shaping of space into communities has engaged the Jewish people from the Sinai desert to the American Midwest, and in particular, right here in Michiana. Nurturing community is an important and ongoing endeavor in our daily lives.

Today, the Federation has entered into a three-year structured plan to build a greater community right here at home. It is a plan that holds unique, perhaps even historic promise for all of us.

The first phase of the plan is about listening to each other so that we might develop an agreed understanding of our community's

diversity and needs. To further this objective, we're reaching out to everyone we can through informal and formal meetings, such as Hineni Listening Groups, Townhalls, surveys, day-in-the-life visits to community institutions and countless phone and Zoom calls.

Our Jewish community is both virtual and physical. It always has been. But the common thread that we've pulled through all this listening so far, is that within our diverse community, we share mutual interests, mutual goals and experiences. Only by connecting and sharing, we can work toward these common values and goals.

The three-year Community Plan will ensure our community nurtures our mutual values through these three core ideals:

- Meaningful Jewish journeys
- Vibrant Jewish life; and
- No one left behind

Community building is a human enterprise. It requires participation and demands that everyone's voice is heard. The best, most effective, and sustainable community plans are crafted with everyone's input.

In developing our Michiana plan, we must first recognize the opportunities that lie ahead. Some of them are disguised as challenges. Some seem insurmountable, though none really are.

It's why we created the BIG Idea Bank – to identify challenges and bring your ideas for solutions to bear. We're casting this wide net so that you and your friends will make creative deposits and share your wisdom regarding our community as we move toward the future.

Your deposits into the BIG Idea Bank, will be analyzed for consistent themes that help shape the final plan. Your participation is essential.

So, I encourage you send your Big Ideas to BigIdeas@TheJewishFed.org today. "Deposit" your ideas so that we can add them to the collection.

Please join me on this three-year journey. Help us build a more robust Jewish life right here in Michiana.



Moshe Kruger

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CRISIS IN UKRAINE

ACT NOW

Doing Our Part to Help the Ukrainian-Jewish Community

When Russia began its invasion of Ukraine on February 20th, it became obvious to the leadership of the American-Jewish community that we would need to step up and help our 200,000 Jewish brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

The initial goal set by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) for financial support for Ukrainian Jews was to raise \$20 million dollars through a national emergency campaign. We can be very proud of the fact that the national campaign has far surpassed that goal and raised more than \$50 million dollars.

Here in our local community, our Federation initially set a goal to raise \$18,000 to support the national campaign of JFNA for Ukraine. Thanks to the incredible generosity of many individual donors, and the amazing success of the Federation's "Art Show for Ukraine", we have also surpassed that goal. As this newsletter goes to print, we have raised over \$26,000!

In addition, the board of Temple Beth El's Kurt and Tessye Simon Fund for Holocaust Remembrance authorized a contribution of \$2,000 to the World Union for Progressive Judaism for its Ukraine Crisis Fund.

Fortunately, the organizational infrastructure for supporting the needs of the Ukrainian-Jewish community was already in place.

The funds raised by JFNA have been allocated to the Jewish Agency for Israel, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), World ORT, United Hatzalah, Hillel International, Nefesh

B'Nefesh, HIAS global Jewish refugee protection organization, Israel Trauma Coalition, Hadassah Medical Organization, Chabad and Shma Yisrael.

Of the several Jewish organizations on the ground in Ukraine, the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is one of the veteran Jewish humanitarian aid organizations. Founded in 1914, JDC has decades of experience in providing aid to Jewish communities in distress.

In this crisis, the JDC has been coordinating evacuations across Ukraine, including arranging transport and accommodations. In addition they have provided food, shelter, and other urgent support for refugees fleeing Ukraine.

Violetta Labunskaja, the JDC coordinator in Moldova said, "It was heartbreaking to see these people coming. Mostly these were elderly people, women and children, with men left behind in Ukraine. There were many disabled people who took this long ride by bus with their wheelchairs...

It was freezing cold. Babies were crying. All the people were exhausted, disoriented and stressed."

Beyond the relief efforts of the American-Jewish

community, Israel is doing its part. On March 22nd, Israel opened a Field Hospital in Ukraine with 80 doctors and nurses from Sheba Medical Center. David Dagan, head of the field hospital mission, said, "We will do our best to be the shining star in the refugees' medical journey."

After one-and-a-half months of fighting, the war continues in Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians, including tens of thousands of Jews, have fled the country and millions of others are internally displaced. Jewish Federations and our partners continue to work together to ensure that urgent relief reaches the most needy. Jewish Federations have raised more than \$50 million for Ukrainian relief efforts since the fighting began.

In addition, since the beginning of the Russian invasion, Israel has taken in more than 15,000 Ukrainian refugees, most of them women and children. Thousands more Ukrainian Jews are expected to immigrate to Israel.

If you would like to help support our Federation's Ukraine Emergency Campaign, please visit our website or call the Federation at (574) 233-1164.



Bob Feferman

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AN IDEAL SUMMER!

Three Tribes, Countless Opportunities for Fun

Looking for a safe empowering camp experience for your child? Look no further than Camp Ideal! We are dedicated to a pluralistic camp experience exploring Jewish community values while also offering exciting workshops that stimulate creativity and leadership. Camp Ideal has a commitment to provide a fun, safe, enjoyable, and growth-filled summer experience that offers campers with the opportunity to explore Jewish identity together with children from all cultural backgrounds.

\$175 per week

\$475 per session

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Camp or call 574-233-1164 to learn more and register.



Our Sessions

Session I

June 13- July 1

Session II

July 11 – 29

Our Tribes

Alonim: Grade K-3

Oranim: Grade 4-7

Hadracha: Grade 8-10

Our Curriculum

Arts

Pottery

Painting

Crafts

Education

Archery

Knot Tying

Gardening

Cooking

Team-building

Games

Sports

Shi'shuk Market

Shalom from the Holy Land

Writing this article while in Israel made everything I wanted to say about May feel minuscule. How could I talk about the Spring in Indiana while I was driving through the full bloom of the Golan Heights in 80-degree weather!? Shirlee and I took some time to visit family that we haven't visited since the deepest times of COVID, meaning there were those close to us we hadn't seen for at least half a year before that! On the plus side, when we flew to the US, there were 18 people on our flight. However, it also meant that our goodbyes were often only done over the phone. In addition, due to COVID, we haven't seen Shirlee's family since we were married in 2020!



It has been great being back, even for a short while, and be reminded what a large

part of our job here in South Bend is all about. Helping those who are in search of a personal relationship with Israel is an honor. Helping those who don't understand Israel, or don't take the time to on their own is a duty. The personal connections I have made in Israel since I moved in 2009 are what allowed me the privilege to get to know Israel intimately. The Jewish Federation will hopefully soon be the place that helps our community make those connections for themselves as well. My small part in this dream for now is working on bringing Israeli Counselors to Camp Ideal this summer to give our Campers another personal connection with the Jewish Homeland.

While the weather may leave much to be desired, I am still looking forward to returning to South Bend for all of our programs in May, including our huge Yom Ha'aztmaut celebration that I know Shirlee worked hard on for quite some time coming right up on May 1st! Just the beginning of a Summer packed with programs such as Camp Ideal (which you have until the end of this month to register for), a "Jews in Canoes" trip for the whole community, a big SaBaBaH program the gang is putting together, and more to be announced! Let's just put it this way, there will be plenty for everyone, so open those emails

May Programs

Film Festival: In Person
May 9 - 12

Film Festival: Virtual
May 15 - 19

Women's Weekly Zumba
Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:15 - 10:00 AM

SaBaBaH Workshop
May 15 at 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Community Flea Market
May 22 at 10:00 - 2:00 PM

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

and check out our social media! I am also excited to invite our Lunch n' Learn crowd to Camp Ideal this Summer for a picnic and Israeli dancing with the campers!

Ni'traeh Ba'karov!
(See you soon!)



Dan Ravitch
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LISA LERMAN COMMUNITY BRIDGE AWARD

Nominations are now open for the The Lisa Lerman Community Bridge Award. Named in memory of the Federation's late president, the award is given to an individual who has demonstrated personal commitment, dedication and leadership to bridging the entire St. Joseph Valley Jewish community.



Visit TheJewishFed.org/LisaLerman for more information and to nominate a candidate. Nominations due May 16, 2022.



WHAT WE DO

Jewish Family Services (JFS) is a human services agency operating within the Jewish Federation that provides crucial aid and support to the Jewish community. Our mission is to strengthen and preserve life in the Jewish community through every stage of the life cycle. JFS provides support services and referrals for services we cannot provide, with the goal of helping people in difficult times get back on their own feet.

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 (STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) 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.

Caring Connections

As I was looking through the materials in my office, I noticed a Self-Care Checklist buried under some papers. It is a colorful sheet which I unearthed and shared on our Friends of JFS group on Facebook (Please join our group). It made me wonder how many of us are really taking care of ourselves.

As an infrequent flyer, the one thing burned into my memory from the flight attendants' opening dialogue is the following:

"In case of an emergency, oxygen masks will drop down in front of you. Please pull the mask down toward your face and place the mask over your mouth and nose. If you are traveling with a child, please attend to yourself first, then the child."

The number one rule is to make sure that you are safe and then you can try to help others.

If you collapse, there is no way you can help others. Thus, the need for self-care.

Self-care includes getting enough sleep, setting boundaries, asking for help when you need it, moving your body, being compassionate with yourself, eating foods that fuel your body, reading good books, enjoying nature, etc.

The bottom line is that we need to be cognizant of our choices and limitations if we are to remain healthy. To ignore our limits would be dangerous and, I daresay, against halacha (Jewish law) which mandates that we take care of ourselves so that we can properly serve Hashem. Self-care will also aid us in having healthy relationships with our loved ones and community. One of the dictums that we recite daily is "serve Hashem in simcha (joy)." With all the pressures and tensions that surround us, is this a realistic goal?

Recently, I joined a workshop on Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) presented by the Partnership2Gether Global Network. It featured one of our own, Karen Riffer-Reinart of South Haven, Michigan. Karen,

who is an LMSW specializing in Cognitive Behavioral therapy, was the presenter. For those who may not know, EFT is an alternative treatment for physical pain and emotional distress. It's also referred to as tapping or psychological acupressure.

People who use this technique believe tapping the body can create a balance in your energy system and treat pain. According to its developer, Gary Craig, a disruption in energy is the cause of all negative emotions and pain. Though still being researched, EFT tapping has been used to treat people with anxiety and people with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). There are many books, articles, and videos online for those interested in this subject.

EFT is a multi-step process. First you must identify the anxiety that you are experiencing. Once that is done, you need to make a positive affirmation,

SELF
care
IS NOT SELFISH

such as "even though I am anxious about _____, I still love and care about myself." While reciting this mantra, one is to tap 9 parts of their body and end with a hug. One starts by lightly tapping the fleshy part of the hands, then the top of head, over the eyebrow, side of the eye, under the eye, under the nose, chin, beginning of the collarbone, under the arm, finally hugging yourself. At each step, you tap 7 times while reciting the mantra. (Check out How to Tap with Jessica Ortner: Emotional Freedom Technique Informational Video on Youtube.com.) When you have finished this routine, you will have experienced a reduction in stress.

Exercise is another great way to maintain one's emotional and physical health. When you exercise, a number of neurotransmitters are released, including endorphins, endocannabinoids, and dopamine. Exercise also promotes neuroplasticity and increases oxygen supply to your brain. Or in layman's language, it makes you feel better. You'll have more energy, mental acuity, and an overall good feeling.

I must admit though, in today's world, setting aside time for exercise is hard. We're putting in crazy amounts of time at work and then when we get home, there's always something to do! Who really has 30-60 minutes to set aside to exercise? I've felt this way a few times and have even viewed exercise as an imposition, something else to create tension in my life. Baruch Hashem, that feeling doesn't last too long because I know the good feelings and benefits that I get from working out. I make it one of my priorities, like that of learning Torah, as both are necessary in order to serve Hashem properly.

One last method that I would like to suggest is learning Mussar. Mussar is a program of behavioral modification based upon our Torah. These books are not something to be read and put away.



Rabbi Fred Nebel

Jewish Family Services Director
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Rather, they are teaching a lifestyle which one must implement if one genuinely wants to experience the greatest benefit. Mussar teaches us how to view the world and see things for what they are. As we learn to cede results to Hashem, we see our anxiety and stress dissipate and, if totally internalized, disappear. (If you would like to know more about this course of study, let me know.)

The bottom line is that using either EFT or regular exercise is going to better your mood and overall health. Imagine the benefits if you combine them along with mussar! Start now and embark on the path to both a healthier and less stressful life.

Sei gesund (Be healthy!)

PASSOVER APPEAL
Thank you to everyone for their generous support and helping us exceed our Passover Appeal goal!

 Jewish Federation
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY

 **B'TZELEM**
Jewish Family Services



SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Federation Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2022 | 7PM
In-person and via Zoom



Hope for Ukraine

As I wipe my damp eyes and compose a letter, I'm reminded of something called hope. Hope loiters, almost invisible, patiently waiting for such times as these.

Last month, we announced an effort to raise money for the suffering people of Ukraine. The goal was \$18,000 — a lot.

The money would be used to ease the suffering of men, women and children who have been attacked by Russian troops at the direction of Vladimir Putin. Temporary shelter, food, water and medicine are among the things we might provide — whatever small comfort we could provide was our goal.

In front of our eyes, a peace-loving nation is being reduced to rubble. Children murdered. Women raped. Men, bound at the wrist and shot at the side of a road.

It's horrific and raw. So, I understand why some may succumb to the ghastly horror of it all. It's not hard to give up on the world right now.

I, too, feel helpless. But there's always hope. And as I say, it sits here silently waiting for times just like these.

The tears I wipe from my eyes as I write this letter are not the ones born of sadness; these are shed of humility and thankfulness.

I write this letter to thank you. We didn't raise \$18,000 for Ukraine. We raised over \$26,000 — half of which was raised on April 3 by the art show hosted on our campus in South Bend.

It was heartwarming to see all the people who came out for the show, and the success of our fund drive is just the latest testament to the humanity and goodness of the people in our region.

So, allow me to thank you with all of my heart. Your support for the people of Ukraine proves once again that the men and women of Michiana are defined by goodness. It's here in our synagogues. It's here in our churches. It's here in our temples and mosques. And it's here in every neighborhood, city and town throughout the region.

I love this community. And I'm forever grateful to be part of it. Thank you and may G-d bless everyone who lives, works, worships and goes to school here in Michiana. *Published April 11, 2022 in the South Bend Tribune.*



Moshe Kruger

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Camp Ideal is Coming!

I am beyond excited for my 9th summer working at camp. As I adjust to my new position here at the Federation, I find myself becoming more appreciative of the community we have cultivated at Camp Ideal. A lot of our camp staff conversations involve the day-to-day, but my favorite ones are when we talk about how to build each relationship with every camper. We work together to ensure each camper relates to all our staff.

Dan Ravitch discussed many strategies during our staff training last summer. My favorite one, and the one I have put into practice in my personal life, is depositing

into the relationship without needing anything back. For example, when I have lunch with a camper and help them lead a



conversation about all the things they love, if we have common interests, those deposit into our relationship. Each time I deposit into the relationship, we

gain better respect and understanding of one another. This leads to many things like more active participation and better attention when giving instructions. The best outcome of depositing into each relationship is the friendships that it builds.

Safe to say, I am beyond ready to give my returning and new campers the biggest welcome to Camp Ideal 2022! Make sure you visit TheJewishFed.org/Camp to register your children by May 27. I'll be patiently waiting to have the best summer ever.



Abbee LaPlace

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WALDORF DELUXE SALAD

From Our Community Table

Our Community Table

Waldorf Deluxe Salad

When I was little, my mother often referred to me as being a picky eater. There were a lot of things that I didn't like. An example would be tomatoes. Tomatoes were on the bad list, which included any tomato product. Even ketchup was something I could only handle in extreme moderation. That's a very strong dislike, considering that most kids consider ketchup to be tomatoes in their best form.

My daughter recently told me that her science teacher taught them that people's taste buds change every seven years. This would certainly explain why "picky" children like me go on to eat a wide variety of foods as adults. I guess we get to a point where we are willing to try things that we think we don't like. And those things taste much better than we imagined. There is something to say for being willing to try new things.

In the early days of my marriage, my husband told me that he liked Waldorf salad. In my mind, I was thinking about how much I disliked Waldorf salad. For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, Waldorf salad is primarily made of apples, nuts, and celery in a mayonnaise-based dressing. Back in the days of my youth, I

considered mayonnaise to be as appetizing as tomatoes. Now I am fine with mayo in moderation, but when it gets a starring role in a recipe I find myself shying away.

Also a number of years ago I purchased a copy of Mollie Katzen's original Moosewood Cookbook. This cookbook is a wonderful Vegetarian recipe collection first published in the 1970s. Though I am not a vegetarian, I find that vegetarian cookbooks are a good source for pareve recipes for my kosher home. Soups, sides, salads, and even main courses abound with no mixing of milk and meat because there's no meat in the book.

While perusing the pages of the Moosewood Cookbook, I came across a page filled with Waldorf variations. One of them caught my eye as it was so different than the standard version to which I was accustomed. And, it hardly had any mayonnaise! The next year I included it in my menu for Shavuot, when eating dairy foods is customary. Guess what? We loved it! It is such a refreshing salad that you might want to try it on a warm day when hot food isn't very appetizing.

Deena Abraham
Community Contributor

SALAD INGREDIENTS

- 3 Granny Smith apples, cut in chunks
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 stalk of celery, minced
- 1-2 c. seedless grapes, halved
- 1 c. diced cheddar cheese
- ¼ c. minced dates, diced
- ¾ c. chopped toasted walnuts or pecans

DRESSING INGREDIENTS

- ¾ c. plain yogurt (I use Greek)
- 3 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- 1/3 c. orange juice
- ½ tsp. orange zest

INSTRUCTIONS

Toss the apple chunks with the lemon juice. Add all remaining salad ingredients. In a separate bowl, combine the dressing ingredients. Toss the dressing into the salad, mixing until the salad is coated with the dressing. This salad should be made the same day it will be eaten. Store the salad in the refrigerator until serving.



Community Voice

Temple B'nai Shalom's Social Action Committee has Been Active — Again

Last fall Laura Kovnat and Ruth Kremer led a diaper drive at Temple B'nai Shalom that collected more than 1000 diapers and numerous containers of baby wipes for St. Joseph / Benton Harbor. The total effort collected more than 5000 diapers for the Berrien County Health Department and a convenient Benton Harbor location, the Center for Better Health, an outreach center sponsored by the local hospital.

The diapers flew off the shelves so quickly that the group sponsoring it, United

through Motherhood, is organizing a year-round drive. Eleven years ago, there were nine diaper banks in the US. Today there are over 300. This will be the first and only diaper bank in southwest Michigan, if it becomes sustainable. Last fall Peace Lutheran and the YMCA joined with Temple B'nai Shalom in collecting diapers. This March those same three are collecting again. And in April-May, the St. Joseph High School Rotary Interact club will be collecting from fellow students.

Several other churches and two businesses may follow suit in the summer.

Ruth Kremer

Temple B'nai Shalom
President

Fast Facts:

- Nearly half (49%) of infants and toddlers in Michigan are living below or close to the Federal Poverty Level.*
- Percentage of babies born in Michigan who are covered by Medicaid: 46%*
- Cost of diapers: \$80-100 per month PER BABY. 12 per day for small babies; 8 per day for toddlers.*
- Recipients of state and federal aid are prohibited from using those funds for disposable diapers.*
- This prevents parents who want to work or attend school from accessing daycare services, which require at least one day's worth of disposable diapers in advance.*
- 57% of parents nationally report losing an average of four days' work in the past month due to diaper insufficiency.**

*From Michigan Health Department;

**National survey supplied by the National Baby Diaper Bank.



SCOUTING for Jewish Youth

THE NATIONAL JEWISH
COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING



Some members of the community have expressed interest in starting a Jewish Scouting troop. Are you interested? Call 574-233-1164 for more information.



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The Federation is Pleased to Welcome This New Shul to Our Community!



The Liberal Jewish Fellowship

Serious Progressive Judaism for Serious Progressive Jews

Saturday, May 14, 10:45 a.m.:
Shabat service and brunch

Saturday, May 28, 10:45 a.m.:
Shabat service and qidush

Sunday, June 5, 5:15 p.m.
Shavuot afternoon service with Torah reading and Yizkor

Saturday, June 4, 7:15 p.m.:
LJF Lebrhaus:
"Mah Nishtanah? What Makes Liberal Judaism Different from All Others?"

The LJF aspires to hold space for all people. All who would join us in peace are most welcome.

425 Cushing Street, South Bend, IN 46616 | 574-227-4464 | ljfellowship.org



12th ANNUAL MICHIANA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

May 9–19, 2022

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

PRESENTED BY



Kahn Ruthrauff & Associates



THE AUTOMAT

Monday, May 9 at 6:30 PM

Directed by Lisa Hurwitz, 2021

This documentary centers on an artifact that seems culled from the futuristic universe of the Jetsons: the automat. A vending machine offering fresh cooked meals for a nickel in a commissary-style eatery, the automat became a staple of New York and Philadelphia city life from 1902 to 1991. Hurwitz's meticulously researched film tracks its history, weaving together interviews with engineers, collectors, admirers, former employees, and an eclectic cast of its utmost enthusiasts, from the exuberant Mel Brooks and his comedy partner Carl Reiner, to Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Colin Powell. Hurwitz unearths a utopian hang-out where people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds came together. Also available for streaming May 15-19. **Lisa Hurwitz will be appearing via Zoom!**

Not Rated | 79 min | Country: US | Language: English

PERSIAN LESSONS

Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 PM

Directed by Vadim Perelman, 2020

Gilles, a young Belgian man, is arrested by the SS alongside other Jews and sent to a concentration camp in Germany. He narrowly avoids execution by swearing to the guards that he is not Jewish, but Persian. This lie temporarily saves him, but then Gilles is assigned a seemingly untenable mission: to teach Persian to Koch, the officer in charge of the camp's kitchen, who dreams of opening a restaurant in Persia (Iran) once the war is over. Vadim Perelman directs the gripping drama with an assured hand, deftly mixing suspense, laughter and tears. The war-of-words film rests on a truly memorable performance by Nahuel Pérez.

Not Rated | 128 min | Country: Germany | Language: German, French, English, Italian; English subtitles



WET DOG

Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 PM

Directed by Damir Lukacevic, 2021

The story of Soheil, a young German-Iranian who at the age of 15 moves to Berlin with his parents. At first, Soheil feels at ease because his black hair and dark skin blend in well with the multicultural community. But when a young Arab spots the Star of David around his neck, Soheil quickly becomes a target of hate. From that moment on Soheil hides his Jewish identity. At night he wanders the streets, painting graffiti, and eventually joins an Arab gang. The feeling of alienation grows, and finally, Soheil musters the courage to face his true identity. Based on true events.

Not Rated | 103min | Country: Germany | Language: German; English subtitles

Visit TheJewishFed.org/FilmFest to purchase tickets and to learn more about the 2022 Michiana Jewish Film Festival.



A TREE OF LIFE

Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 PM

Directed by Trish Adlesic, 2021

In Pittsburgh in 2018, a white supremacist opened fire at the Tree of Life Synagogue in the deadliest antisemitic attack in American history. The survivors recount the harrowing experience and detail how their lives have fundamentally changed. Academy Award nominated, Emmy-winning director Trish Adlesic confronts the “moral decay of humanity” and takes a larger look at the hate-based crisis stemming from the political climate to pose the ultimate question: what kind of nation does America want to be? Also available for streaming May 15-19.

Not Rated | 80 min | Country: US | Language: English

BERENSHTEIN

Streaming only, May 15-19

Directed by Roman Shumunov 2021

In an old house in the modest neighborhood of Kiryat Ata, neighbors did not imagine that the old man who lives next door is the last living commander of a partisan battalion in World War II. He is the man who located the secret facility where the Germans developed their last hope for victory - the V2 missiles. In his confession, Berenshtein returns to the past and reveals the sights that accompany his whole life - women and children burned before his eyes, partisans he executed, his brilliant war tactics, the love of his life which he relinquished, his encounter with the Holocaust and the moment he chose to refuse an order, break into a German prison and release Jews sentenced to death. In the last moments of his life, he faces the decisions he made and recounts how he found not only Hitler’s doomsday weapon, but himself.

Not Rated | 105min | Country: Israel | Language: Russian, German, Polish, Ukrainian; English subtitles



GREENER PASTURES

Streaming only, May 15-19

Directed by Assaf Abiri & Matan

Dov (75) a widower, lives in a nursing home where he feels like he’s in jail. He dreams of buying back his old house and returning live there, but he has no money since losing his pension and he blames the State. When he realizes that everyone in the nursing home consumes state-sponsored medical cannabis, he finds his way out. Not by smoking, but by selling cannabis, which he gets from the other tenants. When love, police, and the local mafia enter the picture, Dov finds himself at a crossroads where he has to decide whether he would be willing to risk everything for what really matters to him.

Not Rated | 120min | Country: Israel | Language: Hebrew; English subtitles

THE LEVYS OF MONTICELLO

Streaming only, May 15-19

Directed by Steven Pressman, 2021

A missing chapter of American Jewry comes to light in this fascinating chronicle of the Virginia home of one of the nation’s Founding Fathers. Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello residence, stands as a complex symbol of the paradox of Democracy. Designed by Jefferson, built and tended by slaves, the plantation was his presidential retreat, retirement home, and final resting place. Sold due to mounting debts, Uriah Phillips Levy, a Jewish naval officer and fervent believer in Jeffersonian ideals, became its unlikely caretaker. When historical preservation was all but unheard of, Levy’s family restored and saved the estate from ruin. The story behind this national treasure confronts the stain of ongoing racism and anti-Semitism that remain part of the national narrative.

Not rated | 70 min | Country: US | Language: English



NEIGHBOURS

Streaming only, May 15-19

Directed by Mano Khalil, 2021

Six-year-old Sero lives happily with his adoring family and in harmony with his Jewish neighbors. Sero lights their lanterns and helps around their home during Shabbat. When a new teacher from Damascus brings the promise of electricity, he also brings a hard line including cruel punishments, banning of any language but Arabic and most troubling, negative views of Zionist Jews, which culminate in a play with children violently stabbing a Jew in effigy. Sero struggles to understand the lessons being taught while his future hangs in the balance.

Not Rated | 124min | Country: Switzerland, France | Language: Kurdish, Arabic, English, Hebrew



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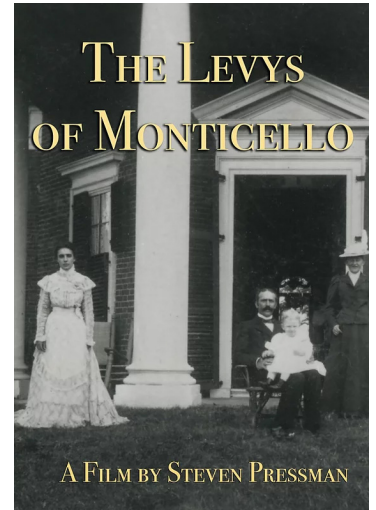
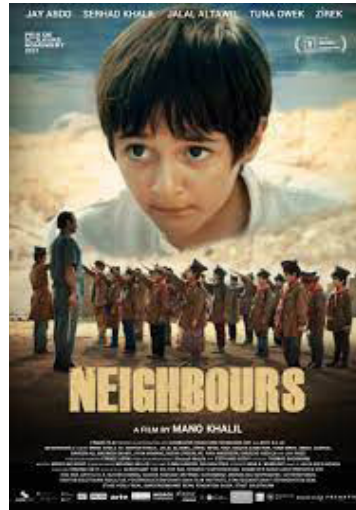
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A Message From Our Film Festival Leadership

I am pleased to be presenting you with the lineup for this month's film festival and hope you will join us either virtually or at DeBartolo! The committee and I have been working diligently over the past several months to get us here. We hope you're happy with the results, and with our gradual transition back to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. We look forward to seeing you there, and as I said last year at this time, "Next year at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center!"

Sheri Alpert

Film Festival Program Director
574-233-1164 x1820
SheriA@TheJewishFed.org

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Nissan - Iyar

May

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 12:00–2:15 PM Yom HaAtzmaut Program	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	9 6:30–7:30 PM Cub Scouts	10 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 1:00–2:00 PM Computers 1.5	11 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	12 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 10:00–11:00 AM Lessons of Holocaust	13	14
 In Person Film Festival: Visit TheJewishFed.org/FilmFest to purchase tickets						
15 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 4:00–5:00 PM SaBaBaH Workshop	16 6:30–7:30 PM Cub Scouts	17 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 1:00–2:00 PM Computers 1.5	18 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	19 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 10:00–11:00 AM Lessons of Holocaust	20	21
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22 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 11:00–12:00 AM SlidingDors 1:00–2:00 PM Community Flea Market	23 6:30–7:30 PM Cub Scouts	24 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	25 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	26 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	27	28
29 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	30 6:30–7:30 PM Cub Scouts	31 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	1 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	2 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	3	4