

OUR COMMUNITY

Newsletter



Jewish Federation
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY

November 2023 | Cheshvan-Kislev 5784

Am Yisrael Chai

Bring Them Home Now!



Minute With Moshe

Part I – Leading Change with Hope and Resolve

As I sit down to write this edition of Minute with Moshe, I have a heavy heart.

Today marks five years since the deadly shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh – the deadliest act of Antisemitism in our nation’s history. We are also learning today that in response to the devastating massacre of October 7, Israel is beginning the second stage of the War against Hamas with intensified ground and air operations into Gaza.

The tragedies of the Simcha Torah and Tree of Life attacks shattered the hearts of the Jewish people. Communities were devastated, leaving behind survivors and families who will never be the same.

Today, I write with hope and resolve for healing and peace.

The Israeli national anthem includes the words:

עוד לא אבדה תקותנו

Still, our hope is not lost ...

And I agree, hope is not lost. But our hope—the one that envisioned more extraordinary things than just survival, more important things than just land and existence; a dream of an excellent and better society and an inclusive and welcoming homeland; flourishing, innovative, and a verdant forest of exceptionality, a light unto the family of nations—needs hope.

Part II – Leading Change in Our Community

A historical note: Jewish people settled in South Bend in the late 1840s and 1850s. South Bend Jews established a burial society in 1859, even before organizing a synagogue. The Hebrew Society of Brotherly Love, founded by Henry Barth, Abraham Hanauer, Theo J. Seixas, Henry Goodman, and Meyer Livingston, pledged to provide and maintain a suitable burial ground for the local Jewish community and properly bury the disadvantaged (Source: Michiana Jewish Historical Society).

In the coming generation, Jews will have lived in the Bend for two centuries. And today, like our predecessors, South Bend Jews are grappling with decisions that will

define our community for years to come. As we contemplate the future of our Jewish ecosystem, the unique role of the Federation is to take into account the needs of individuals, families, and our communal institutions in the community planning process. Working with you to ensure the vitality of our local Jewish community is one of YOUR Federation’s prime responsibilities.

The historic role of the Federation is revered for its lifesaving mission and achievements to provide relief to distressed European Jewish communities. Today, this tradition continues with JFNA’s continental response to disasters and crises, providing assistance and rapidly raising and distributing funds, including for the current emergency aid to Israel.

From this tradition of helping our fellow Jews, your local Federation welcomes the opportunity to help create the roadmap to our Jewish future that provides the necessary infrastructure, services, and programs that build the capacity of our community.

To advance our mission, your Federation is motivated to be an agent of change. And our motivation is deeply rooted in the **Torah portion for Lech-Lecha**, which embodies the idea that animates and drives the history of the Jewish People and the communities we build. HaShem promises Abraham at the start of his long journey that the Jewish People will be the vehicle through which blessings will come into the world, making the world a better place.

To be a blessing. To do good in the world – is sacred work. To this end, the Fed will direct its talent and resources toward marshaling our collective know-how,

creativity, and innovation. Together, we have a communal responsibility to develop a plan with goals to meet the challenges of our shared destiny effectively.

Within the larger community plan, the Fed is working to implement a three-year goal to **“bring hearts together”** in a manner that nurtures unity in our community with a committed focus on our shared values. The Federation’s overarching goal encapsulates the aspiration to develop a vibrant and sustainable campus for Jewish life.

“It’s Moments Like This” – the theme of this year’s Annual Campaign, speaks to the Federation’s efforts to cast a wide net around meaningful Jewish experiences that connect us with our traditions and values.

I believe these moments of connection underpin the “why” of your support for the Federation. Whatever your reasons for supporting the Federation – YOUR Federation will be a place to feel welcomed, safe, and proud to be Jewish.

Chazak, chazak, v’nitchazeik - Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen one another.

Part III – Giving Praise, Where Praise is Due

I want to thank the Annual Campaign Committee for their dedication and commitment. Through the end of October, we’ve raised \$332,500 towards our 2024 goal.

Every gift, at every level, is valued and essential. Whether you want or need our services today, tomorrow, or never, the Fed is here for our entire community. Whatever your “moment,” whatever your “why,” I thank you for supporting the Federation.



Today rabah to our 2024 Campaign Committee: Mona Medow, Terry Feldbaum, Alan Feldbaum, Allen Stenberg & Cristyne Porile

Part IV – Winter Camp Ideal

As I write this article about Camp Ideal, the atrocities of an unimaginable nightmare as part of a premeditated terrorist action on October 7 are heartbreaking.

It's Moments Like This...we remember every day, every second, how precious our Jewish kids are and that they're missing.

It's Moments Like This...we need Camp Ideal more than ever.

For many families with children, life is a fast-paced and sometimes disconnected world. Camp Ideal, the Federation's youth camp program for over 60 years, is an outstanding way to give children a sense of belonging – **just ask any of our camp alumni.**

Research shows that Jewish day camp is the most effective way to build a positive Jewish identity that can last a lifetime. Camp Ideal welcomes campers from all faiths, backgrounds, and a broad range of capabilities while emphasizing Jewish values such as tzedakah (giving back), kehillah (community), and givun (diversity). I'm so proud that Camp Ideal has created an atmosphere of inclusiveness and understanding while helping Jewish children connect with each other and their traditions.

I'm also super excited to announce that Abbee LaPlace will be our Winter and Summer Camp Director. Abbee told me recently, "With ten camp seasons under my belt, Camp Ideal is in my DNA!" **Please join me in welcoming Abbee and enroll your kids today!** (More info on Page 10)

Part V – It's Moments Like This

It's your generous giving to the Annual Campaign that enables the Federation to carry out its mission. While contributions of all kinds help move the community forward, it is specifically unrestricted gifts to the Fed's Annual Campaign that allow for the most impact in all areas.

Unrestricted support allows the Federation to allocate funds wherever they are most needed within the community. Unrestricted giving to the Campaign offers the most expansive reach to maximize support for our community events, educational programs, Camp Ideal, Partnership2Gether, social and human services, leadership development, safety and security, combating antisemitism, facilities management, and more.

What I love most about my job is working with my board, professional

staff, and community members to fulfill the promise of our mission. As we embark on a new Jewish year, your Federation is thrilled and honored to bring you meaningful, inspirational, and exciting programs to engage you in rich experiences by learning and celebrating together.

This season, you will see some of your favorite programs returning as well as some new features. Oldies but goodies include Camp Ideal, Date Night, Film Fest, The Yoms, and Purim Carnival. New programs include Sundays at the Fed, Round 2 of Fed TALKS, PJ Library for kids, and new outreach events.

The best way to stay current on all that's happening at our Federation is via our weekly email and our monthly Our Community Newsletter publication. Check out our website at TheJewishFed.org for program info, registration links, and more.



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Hamas & Iran: enemies of peace

The deadly unprovoked cross-border attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7th is just one of several attempts by the terror organization that rules Gaza to sabotage the hopes for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The bloody history of Hamas that is backed by Iran is the key to understanding the tragic events that we are now seeing in the news.

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 and their Palestinian terror proxies did everything possible to literally blow up the hopes for peace.

Between 1993 and 2008, Palestinian terror organizations, primarily Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, carried out 168 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 Hamas and Islamic Jihad 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.

Iran's Middle East 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, and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Iran uses these proxies for "resistance" to the very existence of Israel.

Gaza is an important part of Iran's strategy.

When Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, there was an agreement signed between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and the European Union on open borders between Gaza, Egypt and Israel.

Here was an opportunity for peace and prosperity for the people of Gaza. In fact, there was an opportunity for Gaza to become "the Singapore of the Mediterranean."

Everyone was happy with the agreement except Hamas and their backers in Iran.

In 2007, Hamas took over control of Gaza by violently expelling the Palestinian Authority. It then turned Gaza into an enemy territory by firing thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians and digging terror tunnels under the border.

Since 2007, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have fired more than 30,000 rockets at Israeli civilians.

That's why in 2007 Israel put in place a naval blockade to prevent the smuggling of weapons into Gaza. And to be clear, this was a naval blockade and not a military siege, because every day there were tons of food, clothing, medicine and humanitarian goods that came into Gaza through the Israeli border crossings.

The tragic events we witnessed on October 7th were another obscene expression of the longtime obsession of Hamas and Iran with the destruction of Israel.

The timing of the attack was not coincidental. Many Middle East experts have claimed that the attack was motivated by the government of Iran to use Hamas to sabotage the hopes for a peace deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

By massacring over 1,400 innocent Israeli men, women and children and taking 199 hostages, the Hamas leadership has brought even more suffering to the peoples of Israel and Gaza.

To be clear, the attack on October 7th was not just another "cycle of violence" as some analysts claim in the media. This is part of a war for the destruction of Israel instigated and perpetrated by Hamas with the support of the government of Iran. Israel is defending itself against this war of destruction.

Now is the time to empower those who seek peace and coexistence and not make excuses for groups like Hamas that pursue war and destruction. At the end of the day, Arabs and Jews are both children of Abraham. Both peoples deserve to live in peace, safety and dignity.

To achieve that goal, now is the time for moral clarity. You can be pro-Palestinian and pro-peace. You can be pro-Israel and pro-peace, but you cannot be pro-peace and pro-Hamas.

This article was originally published in the *South Bend Tribune* and *The Observer*.



Bob Feferman

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CONCERT FOR ISRAEL Tears, Hope & Strength

Thursday, November 30, 7 PM at the Jewish Federation
featuring pianist Dror Baitel, soprano Anne Slovin,
& violist Rose Wollman



If you are in need of help or would like to lend your support as a volunteer, please visit our website at TheJewishFed.org/JFS

What we do -
gas & grocery cards
medicare navigation
interest free loans
case management
wellness checks
transportation
coaching

Community Connections

Dealing with Trauma

On October 7, 2023, we were reminded that regardless of our affiliation or level of observance, our enemies viewed us through the same lens, namely as Jews. Our enemies don't distinguish between philosophy, belief, or lack thereof, in Hashem; they just know that they hate us and want us dead. Imagine what a world it would be if in response to their hatred of us we decided to love our fellow Jews unconditionally. It doesn't mean that we would agree on all issues, but it would mean we would disagree respectfully, and treat others as we want to be treated.

For millennia, we have had to deal with anti-Semitism, and it has certainly created a lot of angst and generational trauma. It's surprising that we can even get out of bed! Dealing with trauma is not simple or the same for everyone. There is a plethora of literature as to how people cope with short term and long-term trauma, which I invite you to explore. And explore it, we should! (Check out some articles on our Facebook page.) Just assuming, "This too will pass," is not the healthiest path to take. It's just a way of "kicking the emotion down the road."

One of the ways to deal with trauma is to talk it out. One prime example is the Jewish way of death and dying. When a loved one dies, our only job is to bury him or her. The mourner is exempted from all positive mitzvot until they get that done. Immediately following the funeral, we go home for a 7-day period in which we sit "shiva." Shiva is unique in that the conversation or lack thereof is led by the mourner. When one enters the shiva home, the mourner doesn't get up to greet the consoler, but rather remains seated. Additionally, there are no regular greetings, such as

"Hello," or "Hi." Rather the consoler merely enters and sits down waiting for the mourner to start the conversation, thereby letting the consoler know that the mourner is ready to speak. During the week, the mourner will usually tell, and retell, stories of the deceased again and again. By the end of the shiva, the catharsis has begun, and one can move to the next stage of grieving which starts by leaving the security of the home and going outside and back to work. All the way through, the community is there for the person via services and recital of kaddish. While grieving is very personal, this method ensures that the mourner knows that he or she is not alone.

The same method or message is necessary for the person who is dealing with trauma. We can never force anybody to talk about what happened or say, "Snap out of it," "Just move on," or "Stop living in the past." Rather, we only need to be there for them.

Whether we have been affected by recent events personally or on a national level, we must remember that we all have different ways to cope and move on. All I can ask and suggest is that we be there for each other. Please feel free to drop in or call me if you'd like to talk. I may not have the answers, but I can certainly listen and be present.

I pray that by the time you read this article that Israel will be at peace and living with security and have a real opportunity to properly heal and then grow to even greater heights. As the saying goes, "May we go from strength to strength."



Rabbi Fred Nebel

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HOLIDAYS 5784

(Holidays begin at sundown on the start date and end at sundown on the end date.)

MAJOR HOLIDAYS

Chanukah

Thursday, December 7-15

Purim

Sunday, March 23-24

Pesach

Monday, April 22-30

Shavuot

Tuesday, June 11-13

Tisha B'Av

Monday, August 12-13

MINOR HOLIDAYS

Tu B'Shvat

Thursday, January 25

Purim Katan

Friday, February 22-23

Pesach Sheni

Wednesday, May 22

Lag B'Omer

Sunday, May 26

Tu B'Av

Monday, August 19

Leil Selichot

Saturday, September 28

MINOR FASTS

Tzom Gedaliah

Monday, September 18

Asara B'Tevet

Friday, December 22

Ta'anit Esther

Thursday, March 21

Ta'anit Bechorot

Monday, April 22

Tzom Tammuz

Tuesday, July 23

Apologies for mistakes made in last month's listing of holidays.

Strain of thought

Dan Ravitch journals through his travel to Israel following the October 7th attacks.

10-11-23 | An uncomfortable calm permeates the terminal. Future passengers, on their way to vacation destinations or business conferences, seem not to care at all about the war going on in my home. And why should they? But I can't shake the feeling, the unease, as if I am walking in a parallel universe, a different plane of existence in which I can see them, but I am invisible to their perception. My heart feels as if it beats audibly, but they walk by smiling, drinking their hot coffee, rushing to visit grandma, and pay it no mind.

Simultaneously, the other half of my being is on edge, that they all know. They all know that I soon will be joining up with my brothers and sisters in defense of Israel. Wait, was I just speaking Hebrew out loud on the phone? Was that Arabic I heard over there? What language was he reading on his phone just now? Do I look Jewish to them? I didn't leave my kippah on or Magen David necklace, did I? Midway airport, international flights I've been on dozens of times before, but this time it is different.

My mind logically explains it all away. I don't look "that" Jewish. I am traveling to a small town far from any front. While technically the North, near the Western Galilee region, it is not a hot spot. Not as dangerous as other locations. Shirlee is there, and I'm not sure if she is more frightened by the situation or me traveling to join her. But I couldn't sit still, far from her, far from our country. It's the only choice I had.

Soon I will arrive to Athens, to a new problem. I've heard of hundreds, if not more, Israelis at the EU hubs that Israel is operating emergency flights out of trying to get home. Many already were activated in their reserve units. Others plan to volunteer in other ways, medics, supplies, local security. Will I be important enough to get on a flight? Just another voice in the crowd of people who each have a more compelling reason to get home. I don't know, but I must try.

10-12-23 | Athens, Greece. A beautiful Mediterranean view greets me outside my plane window. Already feel as if I am



Friends of Dan Ravitch's currently stationed at the Iron Dome in Israel.

in Israel. Other than the landscape, the people feel more Israeli. There is no longer personal space, many languages can be heard all around me, the calmness of the US is far behind. I keep my head down, not out of fear, but to look at other's shoes. You see, if you can't hear an Israeli's voice and recognize Hebrew, you can recognize them from their shoes. Blundstone, an Australian boot brand, is by far the most common shoe for Israelis to wear, especially while travelling. Or Shoresh sandals, of course, but in most countries it would be too cold to wear them now.

I don't have a ticket home yet. Online, it is impossible to find one, and if you do, the buttons to purchase don't work. My gut tells me it is on purpose, to ensure only Israelis can get those tickets. In Hebrew, I search for flights while walking toward customs. I hear Hebrew, and see a family, three children. In Hebrew I ask quietly, "Are you going to HaAretz?" (The land, meaning Israel.) "Eventually," the father tells me, "But not now..." I tell him I am looking for a flight and he wishes me good luck before we go through customs. "Wait," I think to myself, "I don't have a return flight. Will they let me into Greece?" I hand over my American passport. They ask me if I have another passport, and I hand over my Israeli. One glance and the female security officer opens it and stamps it. "Good luck," she tells me. The largest relief I had felt in a long time. Whether from being allowed into the airport or knowing there are still

those who like Israelis, I am not certain.

I still don't have a way to Israel. I make my way to baggage claim, a headphone in listening to Galgalatz, radio in Israel. Red alert in Ashkelon. An interview with the mother of a hostage in Gaza. Need to find my bags and run to a ticket stand. Each story, each news update, my heart beats faster for Israel. For my family and friends already there. I walk quickly from baggage claim to departures and begin walking all along the 140 check-in counters looking for El Al. Starting in the middle, I make it to 140 with no luck. At the same time, I text a woman who works with vacation tours in Israel that I heard had been helping soldiers. She gets me a flight that boards in two hours, but it doesn't appear to have a check-in counter. I walk back to find that the Israeli airlines start at check-in booth 1. So much walking...

The flight doesn't exist. I sit defeated, finding myself with dozens of other Israelis. Families, and an elderly Russian couple, young men and women perhaps trying to fly back to serve in the reserves. Almost there, almost made it. A young man, broad shoulders, hair and beard and a look that shouts Israeli, walks between a ticket booth for Israir, a budget airline that has no more flights today according to the boards, and Israeli families. Acting like a "coyote," helping people get into the country by nefarious means, he whispers to one member of a family, who then signals to all the others to come with, and they grab

their bags and run. I watch for a moment, hesitant to trust, and finally decide to ask. "Do you have a way to help us get home?" to which he replies, "Are you a soldier? Do you have a Tsav 8?" (Paper showing I have been activated into the reserves.) "Not yet, but I haven't been a resident in a couple of years. I plan to volunteer when I arrive," I tell him. "Ok, come with me, there is a flight leaving soon we can get you on." He sends me to buy a ticket from another desk, 100 euro, and I rush back to have my bags tagged by Israeli security. The standard questions of "Where did you come from? Who has had access to your bags? Has anyone given you gifts to take with?" I smile, I am almost home.

We arrive at the plane on a shuttle, over a hundred Israelis packed in on top of one another. Small talk, smiles, kids laughing. We find our seats and wait for the next shuttle. The cabin crew, that double as security and look like no less than ex-special forces, notify us to keep our seatbelts off until ready for takeoff, a security measure in case we need to get off the plane quickly. I had begun to calm down once we got to the plane, but now I keep my eyes looking out on the runway for potential threats. Soon enough, the flight is filled, and we take off. Two hours later, we land to the applause of the passengers. For the first time since arriving at the airport, saying goodbye to my father, I feel safe, in Israel.

Dan Ravitch

Community Contributor

Israel needs our help

Now more than ever.

As we begin the month of November, Jewish Federations' Israel Emergency Fund has exceeded \$600 million, with close to \$150 million in humanitarian assistance allocated to date. We want to thank our Michiana Jewish community for stepping up to support Israel in its time of need. This war is unlike any before. And so are the needs. While we continue to mourn the loss of those killed, pray for the healing of those injured, and for the safe return of the hostages, **we must also act now.**

Your support will 100% fund the organizations and initiatives making a difference in Israel. Visit TheJewishFed.org/SupportIsrael for an update on where the funds have gone. Donations are still needed. Please join us and be counted among Jews supporting this important fund.

The Stretcher Drill

Omer's speech from the Solidarity with Israel event on October 11th.

I never thought that one of my most important missions as an Israeli emissary would come so fast.

As you know I only arrived here one month ago. My heart breaks for those people who are now left with a hole in their heart, one that they will never be able to fill.

An experience from the Israeli army can show us how our community can come together to help. One of the first challenges I experienced as a combat soldier was in boot camp. Before the army you are an individual person who is interested in different topics. You have your own opinion about politics and your own perspective and world view.

It takes only one act for all the individuals to realize that they are part of something bigger than themselves. One of the ways that the army does this is through something called the stretcher drill.

The whole point of the stretcher drill is in case one teammate is wounded. The wounded soldier will be carried off the field of battle by his fellow soldiers. The motto of the drill is: "No one is left behind."

The stretcher is used when it's obvious that we will have to carry the wounded soldier for a long distance, too far for any individual soldier to carry the wounded by himself.



Omer Karavani

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For that purpose, the individuals need to become a team. One that makes the whole bigger than the sum of its parts.

When we come into the army from different backgrounds, we come as Ashkenazim, Sephardim, left wing, right wing, orthodox and secular. We came as individuals to create a brotherhood.

Today I am here to ask you to put your differences aside whatever they may be. Different beliefs should not equal dysfunction as a group. Sometimes we need to put our differences aside for the sake of a fellow teammate.

As I speak, people in Israel have put their differences aside for the sake of the country. We had the biggest callup of reserves since the country was established. 300,000 men and women answered the call to duty. Israelis of all ages are dedicating themselves to collect food, clothes, money, and other items for the soldiers and families in need.

Israelis have been left scarred because they lost friends, family members or fellow teammates. They are trying to put aside their bleeding souls to help others in need.

Today, the people of Israel are like the wounded soldier on the stretcher. They are bleeding.

Now more than ever, we need you the American-Jewish community to come together to help carry the stretcher. Let Israel win. Am Israel Chai.

This war is unlike any before. And so are the needs.

Our Israel Emergency Fund is directing additional resources for this critical moment. Here are the needs:

- Basic Needs
- Emergency Medical Services & Healthcare
- Special Populations
- Local Efforts and Volunteers
- Evacuation, Housing, Respite, & Support for Frontline Communities
- Fund for Victims of Terror
- Trauma Relief and Psychosocial Care

Make a donation today at TheJewishFed.org/SupportIsrael

My connection to Israel

A message from Alon Shemesh, President of the Jewish Federation

As many of you know, I came to the United States at the age of 23 after serving in the Israeli army and settled with my family here in South Bend. Aside from one aunt here in South Bend, the rest of my Israeli family remains in Israel. Despite the distance that separates us, Debbie and I have always maintained a strong connection with our Israeli family and friends. While here in South Bend, we have been a host family to the many Shlichim that have come to this community. This added another layer to my family's connection to Israel. My love for Israel is shared by my children, who have all traveled there multiple times. Emily was fortunate to spend her entire summer doing an internship in a Tel Aviv hospital. This gave her the opportunity to strengthen her connection to the country.

Like all of you, I woke up on October 7, 2023 with the news of the horrific terror attack in Southern Israel. Although the border with the Gaza strip has always been volatile, with multiple rocket attacks that made civilian life in the area miserable, Israel has never encountered a situation where a foreign army, in this case being the Hamas group, enters with thousands of armed fighters with the sole purpose of brutally killing anyone that they encounter. Many of us consider this attack as the worst event since the War of Independence in 1948. My sense of security in Israel was shattered as thousands of civilians were injured or murdered in that attack. To make things more complicated, the Hamas group has kidnapped over 250 civilians and soldiers and are holding them hostage inside the Gaza strip.

Many of my family members (including the Shlichim, which I consider as family) are currently either serving in active duty or have been drafted to the IDF because of the war. I have a niece, two

nephews and multiple cousins that are all on active duty. I have been in touch with them over the last few weeks and they are all so thankful for the help and support that they have received from people in Israel and around the world. Nevertheless, they all feel a sense of despair and uncertainty to what the future holds.

I wanted to thank the community for your thoughts and prayers. So many of you have approached me and shared your concerns about my family and friends in Israel. I have been very lucky to have your support during this difficult period. Like all of you, I am very worried for the safety of everyone in that region, Israelis and Palestinians. I only hope that in the next few weeks I will have some better news to share with you.

Thanks for everything that you do.



Alon Shemesh
President,
Jewish Federation of
St. Joseph Valley

returned to Israel and has been living there after re-connecting with a wonderful Israeli woman he met at Camp TY 9 years ago. They just became engaged two weeks ago, while visiting the US for a vacation, during this tragic time. I am grateful they are here now and safe, although we are struggling with guilt and grief, as all her family, their friends and fellow soldiers, everyone in Israel are in dire risk because of Hamas's continued reign of terror. It is our hope and goal to provide Israel with an unwavering show of love, support, and help in this most desperate time!

I am a lifelong Montessorian and believe the only future lies in trying to find peace. I am grappling with the conflicting feelings of anger, horror, fear, and hope. I pray every day for a peaceful solution, that Israel can continue to be a place of freedom, where Jewish people from anywhere in the world can live and exist in safety. Sadly, this goal seems unattainable when our enemies are intent on eradication of our peoples. My own and our collective faiths are being tested in a way never before seen or experienced.

My heart is breaking for all the Israeli people and Jews around the world that don't feel safe in their own homes,

synagogues, and workplaces, especially my son and future daughter-in-law. Israel, your pain is my pain. I hope we will ask our Israeli sisters and brothers, "How can we help?" and then listen to the answers. I pray for peace and say Kaddish for all of the lost lives cut short by this terrible, unbelievable heinous attack on Israel. Your pain is all our pain. We are one people, who deserve to exist without fear for our very lives, the lives of our children, and their children's'

Lynne Clayton
Community Contributor



Shiloh Tor, son of Debbie & Avishalom Tor, is a member of our community now serving as an infantry soldier in the IDF.

We are one people

A reflection from Lynne Clayton

My son, Nick Clayton, has wanted to be an Israeli citizen and protect Israel and her people since he was 13. His love for Israel has never wavered. He is a lifetime member of Young Judea, when starting at 13, he attended Camp CYJ in Wisconsin, and then Camp Tel Yehuda (TY) in New York. This culminated in spending a summer and then a gap year in Israel before college.

I feel afraid for all of Israel. I am still in shock, reeling from the horror and atrocities that Hamas rained down on the Israeli people on October 7, 2023. It is unfathomable that human beings could be so cruel and vicious. This is not war, it was a massacre, cold-blooded murder of innocent babies, young people, and whole families lost...I cannot even imagine how they are feeling, as the devastation continues to be revealed. I am heartsick.

As a Jewish mother, I am incredibly proud of my son! Nick volunteered for the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), made Aliyah, joining after college, and lived there until my husband was dying of cancer when he returned to the US in 2019. Recently, he has

Thoughts & feelings

Deena Abraham reflects on the October 7th attacks

I can't fully concentrate. No matter what I do, some part of my mind is always thinking about the situation in Israel. I find myself wanting to check the news to see if there are any updates. Very often. I wonder if more rockets have been fired. Has the situation escalated even more? Is there any news about the hostages? Oh, the hostages! I can't stop thinking, worrying, and praying about the hostages. I have to stop my mind from wondering what sorts of horrors they are faced with. I have to stop my mind from wondering if they are all still alive. It hurts too much to let my thoughts stray in those directions.

How many times have I been asked if I have family or friends in Israel? Sure, I do. But that's not what matters, really. I feel a connection to every Jewish person in Israel. I don't need to actually know them or be related to them to feel a bit of their pain. We are all one. The pictures speak. I see a picture of a family. A few weeks ago, they

were alive and well. The next picture shows a row of bodies covered and ready for burial, one for each family member. How could I look at these pictures and not feel anguish piercing my heart?

When explaining the unity of the Jewish people in the Torah, the commentator Rashi says that the nation was "k'eish echad" – like one person "b'lev echad" – with one heart. Times of trial and tribulation such as now bring us together. We are united in our care and concern for our people, and for the land of Israel. I feel it deep in my heart. These circumstances unite us. We are connected. We focus less on our differences and join together with a common cause—to be an entire nation like one person with one heart. The feelings in the heart of one of us mirror the feelings in everyone else's heart. So, yes, even if I do not know those who are suffering and am not related to them, I feel their pain, pray to G-d for their salvation from our enemies, and hope and pray for peace.

Deena Abraham

Community Contributor

What we saw

A reflection from Elli & Paul Price

On the evening of October 2, 2023, we arrived in Israel with great anticipation of being with our kids, experiencing Sukkot, Simcha Torah, the 2nd birthday of our granddaughter, and the impending birth of another grandchild.


They live in Tzfat (Safed), a city of 36,000 people, known to be the highest city in Israel but also situated approximately 28 miles from the Lebanese border. Tzfat is a very hilly city, one that attracts tourists and locals for their artist quarter and frequent music festivals. On October 5th, there was a huge Ladino music festival. The streets were brimming with tourists and locals. All the restaurants had erected sukkahs on the sidewalks. They were filled with customers making a very festive atmosphere celebrating the Chag week off—a party in the streets. In retrospect, a sharp contrast of what was to come.

On Saturday morning of the 7th, we woke to the horrific and shocking news of the Hamas invasion. The body count climbed by the hour. We couldn't call our family

because phones were off. We walked the 45 minutes to their neighborhood to inform them and their neighbors, who were eating in their sukkahs. I asked if they knew what had happened that morning. Yes, sadly, they had learned of the attack because the IDF had sent personnel who came knocking on their doors to gather reservists to come with them. News spread by word of mouth. Instead of dancing with Torahs, the residents focused on how they could help the soldiers. After Shabbat, they gathered supplies and donations to bring to the front.

Immediately, the skies were punctuated with the constant sounds of IDF jets, helicopters, and drones. We did experience a few air raid sirens that made our hearts pound as we ran as fast as we could for cover. No rockets dropped, but we did see an Iron Dome explode an errant Hezbollah rocket. Honestly, it looked like fireworks falling from the sky.

The streets were eerily quiet. Kids were no longer playing outside. All stores, restaurants, and shops were closed. Only groceries were open, and they were quickly being deluged with shoppers stocking up. Our kids made us prepare a safe room (in our Airbnb) with non-perishables and



DO YOU KNOW THEM?
The following are buried at Hebrew Orthodox Cemetery.

Rachael Abend | David Buxbaum
Jake Greenwald | Leo Hayum
Joseph Lavitt | Sam Mitchell
Anna Rosin | Rebecca Tunkel
Riza Weisz | Eva Wolvosky

Michiana Jewish Historical Society's Family Tree Project has been gathering basic information about people who live or have lived in this area. For some, all we have are names. They could have been married to someone who lived here or is buried here.

Each month, we'll post names for whom we'd love more info, like family members, dates of birth/death or anything else of interest.

Please contact Mara Boettcher
mara.boettcher.18@gmail.com

various supplies. We bought lots of bottled water and filled buckets to flush toilets, in case the water got shut off.

On the 5th day of the war, we greeted a new granddaughter. A blessing of joy and hope in the midst of war. We fell into a routine of family time, mostly indoors, glued to the news day and night. Be aware that there is a stark contrast of what and how the news is reported in Israel and in the States.

All airlines, with the exception of El Al, canceled service to and from Israel. The American Embassy was transporting US citizens by boat from Haifa to Cyprus. But, we had managed to arrange a flight out of Tel Aviv to Lisbon and then connect with United Airlines. It took us 48 hours to get back to South Bend. It's good to be home, but our hearts are heavy for those that have perished and those that still will. We worry for our son and his young family, and we pray that they will remain safe. May G-d protect them and the citizens of Israel.

Elli & Paul Price

Community Contributors

DT SB **1st Night of Chanukah**

COMMUNITY CHANUKIAH LIGHTING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM
DOWNTOWN SOUTH BEND
IN FRONT OF THE MORRIS

Mayor James Mueller, City of South Bend,
lighting the Chanukah in 2022.

Temple Beth-El South Bend, Indiana | Chabad of Greater South Bend | Jif | TORAN CENTER | Sinai Synagogue | TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

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You deserve a night out.

DATE NIGHT RETURNS
A gourmet dinner prepared by Judy Sassler at the Jewish Federation, Tuesday, November 28 at 6 PM
Complementary childcare available
Reserve a table at TheJewishFed.org/DateNight

SB KOSHER

THE BEST PART OF WINTER BREAK IS BACK!
DECEMBER 26-29, 2023

CAMP IDEAL
Winter 2023

Register at CampIdeal.com

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Myrna Marcus

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Etta Nevel

Tzvi Novick

Colin Pier-Silver

Laurie Pinter

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Chingiz Ragimbekov

Renada Ragimbekov

Kirsten Rosenberg

Jill Ross

Sandi Rutchik

Sam Saffren

Teresa Schragar

Ilene Sheffer

William Turbow

Barbara Wind

Andee Yorkmark

Did we miss your birthday?
Or mistakenly list your
name for this month?
Please let us know by
emailing Steve Lotter at
steve@thejewishfed.org,
or call us at (574) 233-1164.
You are worth celebrating!

11.16

**NEXTGEN'S
SCHMOOZING BY THE FIRE**
Thurs, November 16 at 7 PM

12.07

**DTSB 1ST NIGHT
OF CHANUKAH**
Thurs, December 7 at 5:30 PM

11.28

DATE NIGHT
Tues, November 28 at 6 PM

12.10

**PJ LIBRARY CELEBRATES
CHANUKAH**
Sun, December 10 at 11 AM

11.30

**CONCERT FOR ISRAEL:
TEARS, HOPE & STRENGTH**
Thurs, November 30 at 6:30 PM

12.14

**NEXTGEN'S
VODKA & LATKES**
Thurs, December 14 at 7 PM



Upcoming Events

RSVP at [TheJewishFed.org/Events](https://www.thejewishfed.org/Events)



«Tray Number»/«Bundle Number» «Sort Position» «Endorsement Line»
 «Full Name»
 «Address Line 1»
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 «I M B a i c i d e »

NOVEMBER 2023 CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5784

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SHA
			1 17 CHESHVAN MAHJONG 1:00 PM	2 18 CHESHVAN	3 19 CHESHVAN  6:19 PM	4 20 CHESHVAN PARSHAT VEYERA  7:19 PM
5 21 CHESHVAN LITTLE CHILDREN, BIG FEELINGS 11:00 AM	6 22 CHESHVAN MAHJONG 1:00 PM	7 23 CHESHVAN ZUMBA 9:00 AM	8 24 CHESHVAN MAHJONG 1:00 PM SUPPORT GROUP 7:00 PM	9 25 CHESHVAN INSIGHT ON ISRAEL'S WAR 7:00 PM	10 26 CHESHVAN  5:11 PM	11 27 CHESHVAN PARSHAT CHAYE SARAH  6:11 PM
12 28 CHESHVAN KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION 2:00 PM	13 29 CHESHVAN SIGD MAHJONG 1:00 PM	14 1 KISLEV ROSH CHODESH ZUMBA 9:00 AM	15 2 KISLEV MAHJONG 1:00 PM	16 3 KISLEV ZUMBA 9:00 AM NEXTGEN'S SCHMOOZING BY THE FIRE 7:00 PM	17 4 KISLEV  5:05 PM	18 5 KISLEV PARSHAT TOLDOT  6:05 PM
19 6 KISLEV SABABAH GOES BOWLING 7:00 PM	20 7 KISLEV MAHJONG 1:00 PM	21 8 KISLEV ZUMBA 9:00 AM	22 9 KISLEV MAHJONG 1:00 PM	23 10 KISLEV THANKSGIVING CLOSED	24 11 KISLEV  5:00 PM	25 12 KISLEV PARSHAT VAYETZEI  6:00 PM
26 13 KISLEV	27 14 KISLEV MAHJONG 1:00 PM	28 15 KISLEV ZUMBA 9:00 AM DATE NIGHT 6:00 PM	29 16 KISLEV MAHJONG 1:00 PM	30 17 KISLEV CONCERT FOR ISRAEL 7:00 PM		