

# OUR COMMUNITY Newsletter

February 2023 | Shevat - Adar 5783



Jewish Federation  
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY



## PJ Library Pajama Party!

Kids & families came to the Jewish Federation in January for breakfast treats, games and lots of books!





# EMBRACING CHALLENGE

## Minute With Moshe Embracing Challenge

Wherever we find Jewish communities across the globe, they exist as the earthly fingerprints of G-d. Our local community is no different. And as such, we are obliged to respect and revere something more significant than our mortal selves.

Within Jewish life, we see many ways in which people venerate something beyond themselves. Most obviously, the Orthodox venerate tradition and commitment to halacha (Jewish law). The more liberal element would perhaps hallow universal values, equality, justice, and freedom.

I joined the Federation almost three years ago and had an “aha” moment. Despite all the different ways we honor what is sacred beyond ourselves, it strikes me that we also have something in common. And that “something” is a shared value when we realize that our lives are not just about us. We illuminate this shared value when we come together to build community. Likewise, the very fact of joining a collective organization like a Federation demonstrates there is something important “beyond ourselves.”

When we draw a larger circle around ourselves and our busy lives, we make a beautiful and meaningful statement: There is more to life than just me.

Community building strikes at the heart of Federation’s Vision 2025: Renewal Begins Now! Every generation faces unique challenges.

This concept of renewal is at the heart of the Jewish enterprise. It is the starting point for a renaissance in Jewish life. Yes, it will take energy. It will require effort and intelligence. And yes, it will require resources and planning.

Just ask Aaron Perri. Aaron’s message was clear for those who participated in our first FED TALK. Without connecting, we cannot engage each other. Without engagement, we can never sustain a vibrant and healthy community. The connections are critical. Engagement is vital.

Aaron, the Executive Director of Venues Parks & Arts in South Bend, spoke of thinking in bold ways. He practices the things he says. He’s made a significant difference for all of us who live in the city of South Bend.

But he also made it clear that nothing was possible on his own. Aaron values the power of interdependence and effective collaboration over the silo mentality. It makes his work easier. And, as he made clear, the community strengthens in every way when people and organizations work together for a common purpose.

The power of engagement is true for South Bend and valid for our small Jewish community. The conversations we have and the actions we take define us. It’s always been this way. It always will be this way. Our actions represent the voice of beyond ourselves – a transformation from “me” to “we.” It is how we embrace today’s challenges and think about plans for tomorrow.

Our community’s challenges require bold new solutions – solutions that depend upon new partnerships, paradigms, and possibilities. The good news, of course, is that there are solutions.

And speaking of solutions brings me to our next FED TALK on Sunday, February 12. The February FED TALK picks up where Aaron Perri left off. This FED TALK will share the inspiring journey of Youngstown, Ohio, whose congregations worked in unison to plan for their sustainable future.

We will have an opportunity to hear two community leaders at the forefront of these discussions. They will speak in detail of contemporary solutions and mechanisms they embraced to forge their new future and how they never gave up on this epic journey.

We bring powerful community development stories to you through FED TALKS because conversations are vital. FED TALKS help us prepare for the next generation of Jewish life in our community.

So, please join us for this riveting conversation on Sunday, February 12, at 10:30 AM. Participate in the discussion about looking beyond ourselves as we move boldly toward a stronger, more resilient Jewish future in our local community.



**Moshe Kruger**  
Executive Director  
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## Winter Camp Ideal travels through Israel's history

Winter Camp Ideal was an extremely busy and fun packed week for our campers. Not only did they enjoy two trips (sledding at St. Pat's Park and a dodgeball tournament at Sky Zone), they also traveled through Israel's history along with their guides, the Wandering Jews!



Counselors and Hadracha campers (our Counselors-in-Training) put on skits each day to show our campers what it may have been like to be a part of Jewish history from the time of the story of Channukah up until the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel. This was accomplished through dozens of planned activities based on the time period we were traveling through, created by our amazingly talented staff!

Counselors put in hours of work, considering how to teach the campers valuable lessons, while focusing on new

and fun ways to do so. Sports competitions, art projects, model debates, music and dancing were all tools used to instill a taste of what the Jewish people have been through, and how Israel came to be.

It culminated in an awesome winter themed Shi'shuk market with Challot and hand made chocolate bars! We hope to keep the energy up with more Camp Ideal activities in the upcoming months as we prepare for Summer 2023! Can't wait to see our Camp Families then!

**RSVP at**  
[TheJewishFed.org/FEDTalks](https://TheJewishFed.org/FEDTalks)



**CONGREGATION**  
 OHEV BETH SHOLOM

# FED Talks

Conversations to create a bright future

## Youngstown Jewish community marches toward their future

A case study of Congregation Ohev Beth Shalom with guests from Youngstown, Ohio

And another "Ooh La La" brunch by Judy Sassler!

**Sunday, Feb. 12, 10:30 AM**





**WHAT WE DO**

We serve Jewish individuals and their families within the larger community by providing social services, referrals and educational programming.

**WHAT WE CAN HELP WITH**  
**JFS FOOD PANTRY**

Assistance through providing food and gas cards.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Limited funds for unexpected financial needs in the form of interest-free loans or gifts, following an application process.

**ASSESSMENT & REFERRAL SERVICES**

Jewish Family Service provides case management services to individuals experiencing life transitions, emergency situations, and more.

**WELLNESS CHECKS & SENIOR SERVICES**

To connect with older adults and assess basic needs as well as provide a friendly point of contact and assistance with necessities.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Individual rides to medical and social service appointments.

**SHIP NAVIGATION FOR MEDICARE**

Trained staff provide state health insurance program advice.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Volunteer to give back and help others in the community.

**CONFIDENTIALITY WITHIN JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**

The trust between our clients and JFS is the basis for our success. All transactions and discussions are protected by the highest professional ethical standards of client confidentiality.

**COACHING**

## Community Connections

### Your most important asset...YOU!

Last month, I wrote about the need to feel relevant. But what happens when you're thrown a curve ball and suddenly find yourself either under-employed or unemployed, and thus, seemingly irrelevant? We have an expression: "Mann denkt und G-tt lenkt" or "Man thinks and Hashem steers." It can be a shock to the system to realize that the profession one had for so long can no longer pay the bills. It is at that moment that one must make a decision: do I change tracks and try a different profession, or remain defiant to reality and continue to try and make it work in my field? I believe it's worthwhile to consider trying something new. If it is what we were meant to do, Hashem will help us make it happen.

In a high school bookkeeping course, I was introduced to the concept of "assets and liabilities." An asset was defined as "something that one owns," while a liability is "something that one owes." I also learned that most assets depreciate over time. Understood in this way, success in life can be defined as "the one with the most 'toys' wins."

But there's another way to understand assets and liabilities that can be more profitable. In Rich Dad Poor Dad, Robert Kiyosaki changed the definition of asset from "something I own" to "something that will put money into my pocket." For example, the car you own depreciates daily, but if you use it to deliver food in your Uber Eats business, or you rent it out to others, it changes into an asset, because it is now earning money for you. The money pit known as your home can make money for you as an Airbnb.

However, I believe your most valuable asset is you. It is up to you to learn how to use talents in a way that enriches your life, both monetarily and emotionally. But let's be honest, reinventing oneself is not easy. The proposition can be daunting and terrifying.



The questions you must explore are "What are my strengths?" "What do I love?" and finally, "How do I turn my passion and strengths into cash?" For example, if one enjoys listening to and helping others solve problems, one could become a life coach. There are courses online and books detailing the process. Within a few months, one can begin a potentially lucrative career. If one is mechanically astute and enjoys fixing things, one could become a handyman. If one enjoys the open road and making their own hours, Uber or any of those types of "side-gigs" may be the ticket. If you enjoy visiting patients, maybe chaplaincy is your calling. If you can help people move through the stages of grief, grief counseling may be your way of expression. The bottom line is "Find your passion and turn it into income, because you are your greatest asset."

If you would like help in this area, give me a call and we'll work together to discover your true passion. I look forward to hearing from you.



**Rabbi Fred Nebel**

Jewish Family Services Director  
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**volunteers needed**  
DRIVE FOR JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Submit your application at  
[TheJewishFed.org/Volunteer](http://TheJewishFed.org/Volunteer)



PRESENTED BY



Kurt & Tessye Simon Fund for Holocaust Remembrance

# THE STATE OF ANTISEMITISM

Tuesday, February 21 | 7 PM

St. Joseph County Public Library

with Trent Spoolstra, Associate Regional Director for the Midwest office of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR VISIT [THEJEWISHFED.ORG/ADL](http://THEJEWISHFED.ORG/ADL)



## The ADL presents: "The State of Antisemitism"

on February 21st at the St. Joseph County Public Library

Recent antisemitic events involving well-known celebrities have drawn widespread attention to a disturbing trend in American society: the resurgence of antisemitism. According to the ADL (the Anti-Defamation League), "Antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high in the United States in 2021... This represents the highest number of incidents on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979..."

In order to raise awareness of the problem, on Tuesday evening, February 21st at 7:00 PM, we will be co-sponsoring an important presentation at the St. Joseph County Public Library featuring Trent Spoolstra, Associate Regional Director for the Midwest office of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The title of his talk: The State of Antisemitism.

The event is co-sponsored by the ADL, the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley, the Kurt and Tessye Simon Fund for Holocaust Remembrance and the St. Joseph County Public Library.

Trent's presentation will cover recent data from the Anti-Defamation League showing a dramatic rise of antisemitism that has been taking place across America

for the last several years. He will also discuss survey data of American attitudes towards Jews, international sentiment of Jews, ADL's latest audit that tracks cases of harassment, vandalism, and assault against Jews, and what the community can do to help counter the rise of hate. A Q&A session will take place after the presentation.

In his position as Associate Regional Director for the Midwest office of the Anti-Defamation League, Trent is in charge of young leadership development and Jewish community relations. He leads the region's young leadership class called Glass Leadership Institute, assists with the ADL Associate Board, sets up adolescent training sessions to counter antisemitism, and runs the region's Signature Synagogue Program.

Trent is no stranger to South Bend. While living here he attended Sinai Synagogue, and he graduated from Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in political science. Before coming to ADL, Trent also earned a master's degree in international affairs

from the Bush School of Government & Public Service-Texas A&M.

The event is open to the general public. If you have questions about the event, please contact myself or Dan Ravitch.



### Bob Feferman

Community Relations Director  
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**DR. KHALED ATALLA:**  
**GALILEE MEDICAL CENTER -**  
**A MODEL FOR COEXISTENCE**

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 10:30 AM  
AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION

Presented by the  
Simon Foundation of

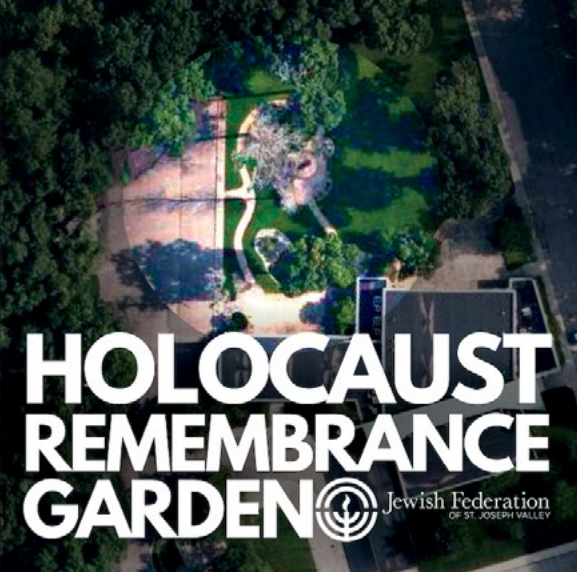
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Jewish Federation  
OF ST. JOSEPH VALLEY





# Holocaust Remembrance Garden

## Reviewing the design concept & next steps

The dream of a Holocaust Remembrance Garden on the campus of the Jewish Federation remains at the forefront of our minds as we enter a new year with renewed hope for this passion project. In the coming months we will finalize the design & budget, research and write grant proposals, and develop curriculum.

The world is far from perfect, despite lessons learned from the Holocaust. That's why education in this garden space can play a critical role in learning to respect our human diversity in terms of race, religion and color.

Visit [OurCommunityNewsletter.org](http://OurCommunityNewsletter.org) for additional development slides, and learn more about next steps for this project.

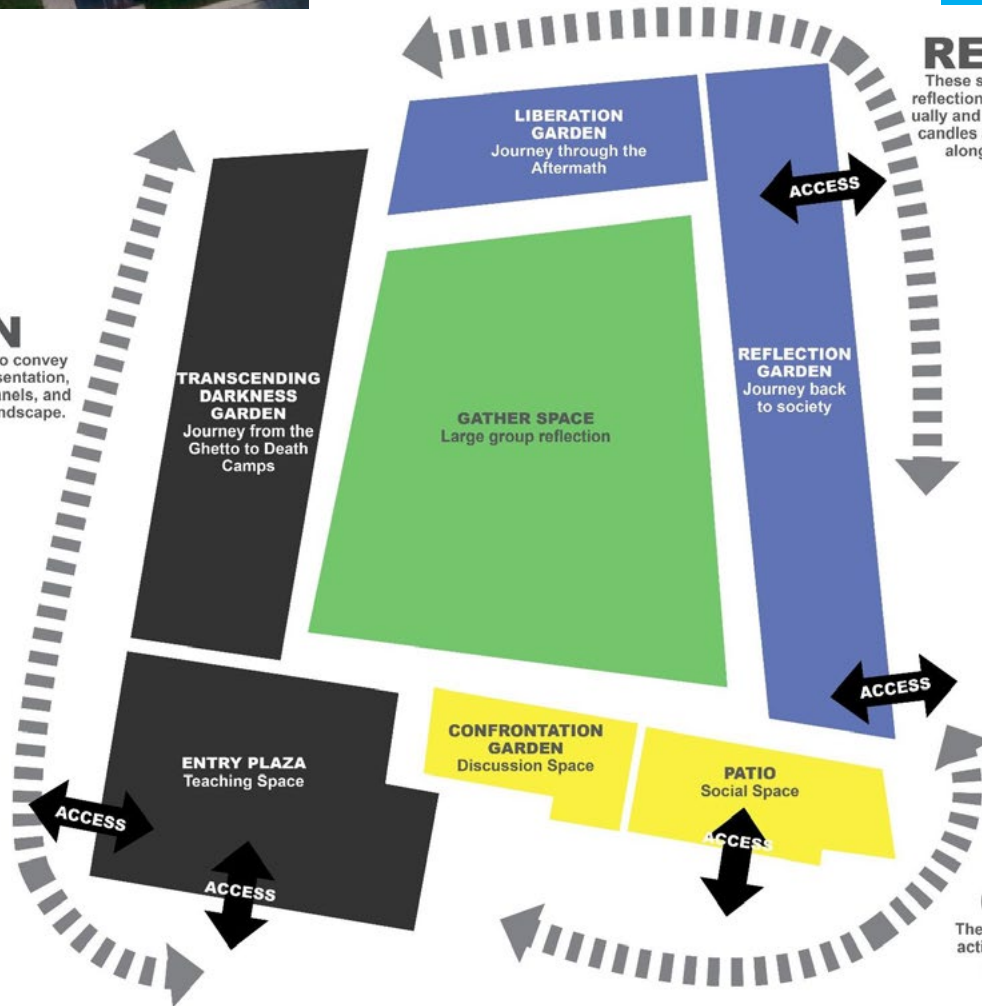
MCKINLEY AVENUE

### REMEMBER

These spaces are used primarily for reflection and processing, both individually and with small groups. Spaces for candles and other tokens are situated along the edges of the spaces.

### LEARN

These spaces are used to convey information through presentation, changeable education panels, and symbolism within the landscape.



### CONFRONT

These spaces are used for discussion and action - with both teaching spaces (bench seating) and staging space (patio).

JEWISH FEDERATION BUILDING

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED GARDEN LAYOUT



# MICHIANA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



SAVE THE DATES

IN-PERSON, MAY 15-18  
VIRTUAL, MAY 19-23

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT  
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## A new year done right!

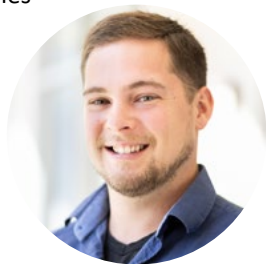
With the new year in full swing, the Federation is busy planning and implementing engaging and entertaining programs for you!

We started off the year with new and improved programs such as our PJ Library Pajama party, that brought over 50 kids and parents together to meet, play, dance, eat, and of course share our love for Jewish books.

We hosted our first ever FED talk and welcomed a great crowd that filled the room and left attendees inspired with ways to enrich our community by thinking ahead long-term. It didn't hurt that we had a 5 star kosher brunch designed and served by our very own Judy Sassler!

Finally, at the end of the month was our first community Challah bake of the new year, and while at the time of writing this I can't describe how it went just yet, I can already smell the sweet scent of dough rising and envision friends bonding over the most delectable of braided Jewish treats. I can't wait to see what else we will be able to invite you to soon!

Speaking of the future, this month is in no way lacking opportunities for you to get involved in the Jewish community. One program we are hosting and partnering with is the Michiana Jewish Historical Society's "Telling Our Stories" workshop. I believe this program to be of the utmost importance as we learn together how to ensure our families' and community's history is remembered and that we know how to properly write these stories down. I can't tell you how many times I have had an idea for a program only to find out one of my predecessors planned something similar that I could go back to and learn from and need not make the same mistakes made then.



### Dan Ravitch

Programming Director  
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DRavitch@TheJewishFed.org

We will be presenting the ADL's "State of Antisemitism" at the St. Joseph County Public Library this month. We chose to ask the library to host us in order to hopefully broaden the participation to include those outside our community, those who may be unaware of the current atmosphere and change when it comes to senseless hate.

In a similar way, last month we began to enter public schools once again with our Holocaust Speakers Bureau, and we are even working together with one local middle school to collaborate on a Yom Hashoa memorial program that involves students who are only now learning about the Holocaust. Reaching out to the greater community, in my opinion, and offering education resources is one of things I am most proud of when working at our Federation.

Finally, we have two youth programs this month, one for Camp Ideal campers grades K-7, and one for our SaBaBaH youth group, 8th-12th. A Federation escape room is in the works with challenging group puzzles and riddles for Camp Ideal age kids, as well as a Hamantaschen bake day SaBaBaH teens. Make sure you register early, as these programs will have a max capacity!

I hope to see you soon, and hear from you sooner! If you have any programs you would like to see at the Federation, or to hear about other programs coming soon, give me a call or send me an email!



Dan Ravitch leads a PJ Library Pajama Party storytime circle.

## February Programs

**Telling Our Stories Workshop**  
Sunday, February 5 at 11:00 AM

**FED Talks on Youngstown, Ohio**  
Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 AM

**Kosher Date Night**  
Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00 PM

**Escape Room Challenge (Youth)**  
Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 PM

**The State of Antisemitism**  
Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 PM

**Super Sunday**  
Sunday, February 26 at 9:30 AM

**SaBaBaH Hamentaschen Bake & Outing**  
Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 PM

**Women's Chair Zumba**  
Tues., Weds. & Thurs. from 9:15-10:15 AM

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



6:00 PM, Feb. 14  
@ The Jewish Fed  
\$50 table for 2

SB  
KOSHER





**Sunday, February 19, 3-4:30 PM**  
 Challenging group puzzles & riddles  
 Led by Dan Ravitch  
 For Camp Ideal age  
 kids 5-12 years

Scan to RSVP



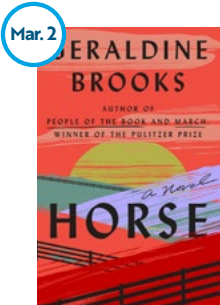
### Three Ordinary Girls, by Tim Brady

One of our members said she “essentially enjoyed reading it as it was historical,” that she learned some things she had no idea about, drew some parallels with the book re: Russia’s brazen attempts to annex Ukraine, with the role of Hannie and the others likened to Zelenskyy and his forcible fortitude. “However,” she said, she “would have enjoyed the book more if there had been less dry history and more about the actual heroines of the story. They seemed to be in the background while historical facts dominated the foreground.” The rest of us agreed—it’s an amazing story of three ordinary-turned-extraordinary young women joining the Resistance in WWII in the Netherlands. They learned to tote ammunitions, committed assassinations, posed as prostitutes, and one as Nazi-sympathizing nanny in an attempt to save a group of unknowing children. These women were so heroic that their names should be household words. Maybe this book will accomplish that, but during the reading, they took too much of a backseat to the developments of the war.

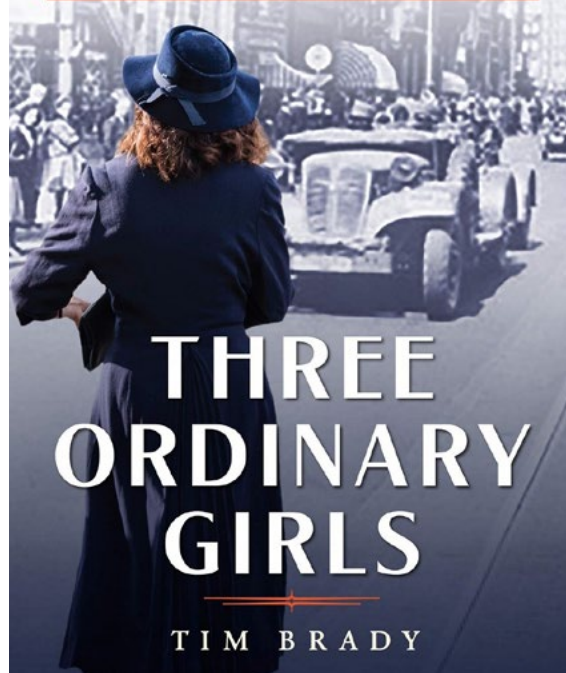
The Federation Book Club meets via Zoom at 4:00 PM on the first Thursdays of every month.

**Beth Buechler**  
 Community Contributor

**Upcoming Books**  
 (subject to change)



**THE REMARKABLE STORY of THREE DUTCH TEENAGERS WHO BECAME SPIES, SABOTEURS, NAZI ASSASSINS—AND WWII HEROES**



**Purim Game Night & Volunteer Hour**



**Thursday, March 2  
 6 to 9 PM**

SCAN TO RSVP







# CHOCOLATE RISOTTO

## From Our Community Table

### Greetings, Our Community Table readers!

Years ago, when the newest iterations of the modern “chefs cooking on television” were revving up, my family and I found ourselves nothing less than fascinated. These shows were exciting, and family friendly, and we often enjoyed watching them together.

Especially on vacations. These shows would provide entertainment that was just right for all at the end of the evening following a long day. We would climb over the luggage, and ski gear, and whatever else there was that was taking up most of the space in the very, very small hotel room we all shared,

and would settle in on one of the 2 queen beds to see what Yan was preparing on Yan Can Cook. Or find out what “secret ingredient” would be revealed that evening on the Iron Chef. These chefs, and their shows, gave us a glimpse into what food could be like at its best. The food looked delicious, and the presentations were magnificent. These shows inspired us to think more creatively and to think that, perhaps, we might even try a few of these things at home as a family.

The recipe I bring to the table today is from one of those shows, and it is a glorious one. Chocolate Risotto. You read that right...Chocolate Risotto! I mean...who ever heard of such a thing?

When I first saw Chef David Rocco prepare this on his show, David Rocco’s Dolce Vida, I could not believe my eyes. So simple, yet so decadent. Creamy, chocolatey, warm, and rich...oh my! This sumptuous recipe brings happiness wherever it goes and feels like a hug from the Italian grandmother you didn’t know you had. And as February just happens to be the month of love, now would seem a perfect time to let those close to you know you care with these indulgent grains of chocolate coated perfection. On Valentine’s Day, or Tu B’Av, or on a Wednesday just because...

Un abbraccio di cioccolato a tutti!

**Cristyne Porile**  
Community Contributor

**NEIL & LEAH SILVER  
ADVANCED DEGREE  
SCHOLARSHIP**

2023 GRADUATE APPLICATION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
IS APRIL 20, 2023.

GO TO [THEJEWISHFED.ORG  
/SILVERSCHOLARSHIP](http://THEJEWISHFED.ORG/SILVERSCHOLARSHIP)

SCAN QR CODE TO  
SUBMIT APPLICATION

## Chocolate Risotto (Risotto al Cioccolato)

A RECIPE BY DAVID ROCCO  
SERVES 4

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup arborio rice
- 4 cups of milk \* (I recommend whole), warmed so as not to “cold shock” the butter and rice
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 cup (165-175 ounces) bittersweet chocolate, finely grated
- Walnuts for sprinkling, toasted and cut into quarters (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Like a regular risotto process, melt the unsalted butter in a hot saucepan over a medium heat. When the butter is warmed and add the rice.
2. Stir for about a minute or until the rice is translucent.
3. Pour one cup of warmed milk into the pan and stir until the milk reduces.
4. Add the sugar and stir continuously.
5. As the milk evaporates, add another 1/2 cup of warmed milk to the rice and continue stirring, repeating this process of adding milk and stirring until reduced until the rice is at the ‘al dente’ stage
6. Add the grated chocolate to the rice and stir until the chocolate has melted and the milk has reduced to a creamy consistency.
7. Serve the dessert immediately in cups or small bowls and finish with a sprinkle of walnuts on top if desired.
8. Toasted Hazelnuts would also be delicious as a topping as would adding some orange zest along with the second milk addition to flavor the chocolate risotto.



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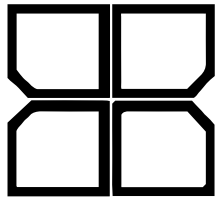
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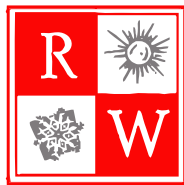
Ravitron welcomes our new accountant, and client, Zvi Silver and his new business Silver and Company CPAs and Advisors to the Michiana Business Community!



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# Answer the call

**SUPER SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 26**

Help the community raise funds for our Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign.

Make your pledge online at  
[TheJewishFed.org/2023Campaign](http://TheJewishFed.org/2023Campaign)





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**FOOD + GAMES**

**LET'S CELEBRATE**

**PURIM**

**COSTUMES + PRIZES**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH**  
**1:00 TO 4:00 PM**

**SB**  
KOSHER



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**February**  
 Shevat - Adar 5783

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>2</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 4:00 PM Federation Book Club	<b>3</b> 5:44 PM	<b>4</b> Parshat Beshalach Havdallah 6:46 PM
<b>5</b> 11:00 AM–NOON Telling Our Stories Workshop	<b>6</b> Tu Bishvat 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>7</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	<b>8</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>9</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	<b>10</b> 5:53 PM	<b>11</b> Parshat Yitro Havdallah 6:55 PM
<b>12</b> 10:30 AM FED Talks on Youngstown, OH	<b>13</b> 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>14</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 6:00 PM Kosher Date Night	<b>15</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>16</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	<b>17</b> 6:02 PM	<b>18</b> Parshat Mishpatim Havdallah 7:04 PM
<b>19</b> 3:00 PM Escape Room Challenge (Youth)	<b>20</b> 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>21</b> Rosh Chodesh Adar 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 7:00 PM The State of Antisemitism	<b>22</b> Rosh Chodesh Adar 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>23</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	<b>24</b> 6:11 PM	<b>25</b> Parshat Terumah Havdallah 7:12 PM
<b>26</b> 8:30 - 11:30 AM Super Sunday Phone Bank 2:00 PM SaBaBaH Hamentaschen Bake & Outing	<b>27</b> 1:00–4:00 PM Mahjong	<b>28</b> 9:15–10:00 AM Women's Zumba	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Visit <a href="http://OurCommunityNewsletter.org">OurCommunityNewsletter.org</a></b>  <b>for a digital, mobile-friendly version</b>  <b>of this newsletter with easy to share</b>  <b>articles &amp; exclusive online content!</b></p> </div>			