

# Illiana News

The Jewish Community Newsletter of Northwest Indiana

Kislev–Tevet–Shvat 5780  
**Dec 2019–Jan 2020**  
 Volume 3, Issue 8

Jewish Federation of  
 Northwest Indiana  
 585 Progress Avenue  
 Munster, IN 46321

Your support  
 keeps our  
 flame burning  
 all year round.

*Happy  
 Chanukah*

from the Jewish  
 Federation of  
 Northwest Indiana!



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

# Picking Up the Baton

by **JUDY KATZ, 2020 President-Elect**



I am extremely honored and excited to become our Federation's next President.

As I begin my term as president of our Board of Directors, I want to thank Sean Egan for his leadership these past two years. Todah raba, Sean, for fostering old and new relationships with our area congregations. You inspire me and I look forward to further serving our community with you.

Many fine community leaders have preceded me in this role, and I will do my best as I continue in their footsteps.

I look forward to working with our Executive Director Aida Nozick and

the very competent Federation staff, as well as the Board of Directors who are volunteering their time and skills to our organization.

I encourage all of our community (now in three counties!) to become involved in some even small way in our Federation, whether it is by attending the many programs we sponsor or becoming involved with our committees.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. My email is [judyakatz@gmail.com](mailto:judyakatz@gmail.com). My phone number is 219-776-0147.

I know in my heart that the next two years will be great! 🌟

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## JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

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 FederationOnline  
  JewishNWIndiana

### MISSION STATEMENT

"To enrich Jewish life in Northwest Indiana, Israel, and around the world through service, programming, advocacy, and fundraising."

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## Simchas

Please send any Simchas you would like included in the next issue to Erica Yakovetz, (219) 301-0960 or [erica@federationonline.org](mailto:erica@federationonline.org) by January 6, 2020. Text and photos must be provided in accordance with all Illiana News Policies and Procedures.

### MAZEL TOV...

To **Michelle Coberg** and **Chuck Harris** on their recent engagement. A 2020 wedding is being planned.

To **Annelise Rubin** on being named All State 1st Team and *NWI Times* Girls Soccer Player Of The Year.

To **Dani & Travis Melcher** on the recent birth of baby Harper Rose. Proud grandparents are Debbie & Mike Miller.



To **Jon Schultz & Nikki Wright** on the December 2 birth of their daughter, Cora Sadie. Also sharing in this joy are Cora's big brother, Julian, and grandparents **Bruce & Suzy Wright**. 🌍

## Upcoming Events

2020 FEDERATION BOOK CLUB: SESSION 1

### *The World That We Knew* by Alice Hoffman

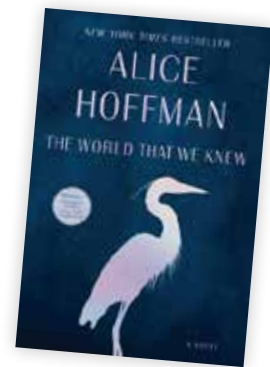
Wednesday, January 8 • 7:00pm

Hanni Kohn must send her twelve-year-old daughter away from Berlin to save her from the Nazi regime. She finds her way to a renowned rabbi, but it's his daughter, Ettie, who offers hope of salvation when she creates a mystical Jewish creature, a rare and unusual golem, who is sworn to protect Lea. Once Ava is brought to life, she and Lea and Ettie become eternally entwined, their paths fated to cross, their fortunes linked.

What does it mean to lose your mother? How much can one person sacrifice for love? In a world where evil can be found at every turn, we meet remarkable characters that take us on a stunning journey of loss and resistance, the fantastical and the mortal, in a place where all roads lead past the Angel of Death and love is never ending.

Please read the book in advance and come prepared for lively discussion facilitated by Carol Culberg. Hardcover copies will be available to borrow or purchase through the Federation office. Call (219) 301-0960 for availability or to reserve. 🌍

RSVP to (219) 301-0960 or online at  
[federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Hoffman](https://www.federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Hoffman)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SESSION 2:

*Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* by Yossi Klein Halevi  
Wednesday, March 4 • 7:00pm

## Upcoming Events



Join the Jewish Federation and the families of Masa B'Yachad Religious School for the 2019...

# Community Chanukah Celebration

Sunday, December 15, 2019 • 9:30-11:30am

**Pre-Chanukah Fun for All Ages!** • Games • Crafts • Latkes • Dreidels • Cookie Decorating • Chanukah Singalong

**FREE ADMISSION!** Please bring donations for the Federation food pantry (nonperishable items, toiletries and cleaning supplies).

**RSVP** to (219) 301-0960 or online at [federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Chanukah](http://federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Chanukah)



## Chanukah Celebration Bookfair

Sunday, December 15, 2019 • 2:00–5:00pm  
Barnes & Noble (150 Silhavy Road, Valparaiso)

**Join the Jewish Federation for a Chanukah Celebration Bookfair at Barnes & Noble in Valpo!** Drop in anytime from 2–5pm to join us for storytime, crafts, and a scavenger hunt!



Learn about **PJ Library®**, a unique program that sends free, award-winning books to Jewish children and their families each month (co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation).

Find out more: [federationonline.org/pj-library](http://federationonline.org/pj-library)

Make a purchase\* in-store (including the Cafe!\*\*) anytime from **9am–10pm** on Dec. 15, **show this flyer or mention the Jewish Federation**, and a portion of the proceeds will support Federation.

\*All items in the store (excluding Gift Cards) count towards the Bookfair!

\*\*The Cafe cannot accept Starbucks cards—only Barnes & Noble cards.

**RSVP** to (219) 301-0960 or online at [federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Bookfair](http://federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Bookfair)

**Can't join us in-store?** You can also visit [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) to support us online, anytime from Dec. 15 to Dec. 19. Enter Bookfair ID **12578647** at checkout, and a percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana.

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Valparaiso

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Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.\*

\*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, video games, digital devices including NOOK, purchases made at Cafés owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not included in bookfair totals. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) for more details and to shop online.

#BNBOOKFAIRS



## Keeping Faith: Sisters of Story

Thursday, February 6 • 7:00pm • FREE

With the recent uptick of hateful and vitriolic language in this country, Rohina Malik, a Muslim woman and storyteller, wanted to create a project to demonstrate peace and commonalities between us all. She approached Susan Stone (a Jewish woman and storyteller) and Kim Schultz (a Christian woman and storyteller) with an idea: what if we all told stories from our faiths with the goal of bringing people together and showing peace, curiosity and similarities amongst the faiths. Kim and Susan jumped at this opportunity, and KEEPING FAITH: SISTERS OF STORY was born.

Each storyteller will tell 3 stories inspired by their personal faith journey.

They will be joined by a cultural musical storyteller, Lucia Thomas, on violin, oud and guitar. Please join us for this inspirational, multi-faith evening. We hope you agree that now more than ever, we need to come together and decide who we are going to be as a community and as a nation and how we are going to allow *our* story to be told.

More about the group: [sistersofstory.weebly.com](http://sistersofstory.weebly.com)



RSVP to (219) 301-0960 or online at [federationonline.org/upcoming-events#KeepingFaith](http://federationonline.org/upcoming-events#KeepingFaith)

# Food for Thought

2019–2020 **BRUNCH SERIES**  
SUNDAYS • \$10 INCLUDES BRUNCH  
NOTE NEW TIME! **10:30AM-12:30PM**



## Ben Mollin • The Empowerment Project

Sunday, January 19 • 10:30am • \$10 per person

Celebrity hairstylist Ben Mollin is the voice of a generation of artists looking to be their best. Ben's presentation—a very uplifting message with lots of ups and downs—will span topics from minimalism to entrepreneurship, celebrity, family, and beating depression.

Ben Mollin recognized his passion for the arts early in his life, thanks in part to his parents, Jim and Gae—both teachers, musicians and theater performers. In 2007, Ben made his television debut on *Shear Genius*, Bravo TV's reality competition for hairdressers, finishing second. He and his wife Angela founded Griffith's Angel Hair Cafe/Salon in 2011.

Today, Ben is an international guest stylist, an award-winning speaker and an international recognized leader in personal development and peak performance strategies. He teaches entrepreneurs, educators, corporate leaders, and people from all walks of life how to create the life they desire.

*Save the Date!*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Dr. Michael Gideon •

Discovering My  
Jewish Roots in Germany



RSVP to (219) 301-0960 or online at [federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Mollin](http://federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Mollin)

# Iran's Threats to Israel & the Wider Middle East

By **BOB FEFERMAN**



On October 25, Israeli newspapers ran headlines quoting Israeli army Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi, who said, "On both the northern and southern fronts, the situation is tense and fragile, and could deteriorate into a confrontation." That's why it is important to understand the background of this situation: the relentless obsession of Iranian leaders with the destruction of Israel that also threatens the wider Middle East.

On September 30, Major General Hossein Salami, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said, "We have managed to obtain the capacity to destroy the imposter Zionist regime. This sinister regime must be wiped off the map and this is no longer ... a dream (but) it is an achievable goal."

Iran's obsession with the destruction of Israel has had deadly repercussions, and not only for Israelis. The tragedy of Syria is a prime example.

Since the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011, the world has largely ignored Iran's central role in the Syrian tragedy. Today, there are more than half a million dead civilians and more than six million refugees for three reasons: Iran, its loyal proxy Hezbollah, and Russia.

Iran provided the brutal regime of Bashar al-Assad with massive financial support and an endless supply of ammunition and weapons. With the help of Hezbollah, Iran recruited, trained, and deployed thousands of foreign fighters to Syria from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. And why did Iran go to all this trouble?

Over the past two years, Iran has been working to build a military infrastructure in Syria to create a platform to launch a future war against Israel. Israel has been pushing back against this effort with hundreds of air strikes against Iranian targets.

In a April 2018 article in *The Atlantic*, titled "Iran's Real Enemy in Syria," Karim Sadjapour, a leading expert on the Middle East, addressed the question of Iran's motivations in Syria. He wrote: "Tehran's steadfast support for Assad is not driven by the geopolitical or financial interests of the Iranian nation, nor the religious convictions of the Islamic Republic, but by a visceral and seemingly inextinguishable hatred for the State of Israel."

The implications of his statement are profound: The leaders of Iran helped to destroy one country so that they could pursue the destruction of another country.

Iran's pursuit of the destruction of Israel is also a key factor that explains why there is still no peace between Israelis and Palestinians. After the signing of the 1993 Oslo Accords, the government of Iran did everything possible to literally blow up the hopes for peace.

Between 1993 and 2008, no less than 168 Palestinian suicide bombers exploded themselves on Israeli buses, in restaurants and shopping malls, and elsewhere. These suicide bombings, and other terror attacks, killed 1,000 Israeli civilians and wounded many thousands more.

Although Palestinian terror groups provided the hateful ideology and

the suicide bombers, it was the government of Iran that provided the means to commit murder by providing weapons, funding, and training to Palestinian terror groups, especially Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Today, Iran continues to provide Hamas and Islamic Jihad with \$100 million dollars a year in financial support which provides the means to manufacture rockets in Gaza. Since the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, these terrorist organizations have fired more than 10,000 rockets at Israeli civilians.

Finally, there is the growing threat to Israel from Hezbollah, the Lebanese terror organization backed by Iran, which explains the tensions on Israel's northern border.

Since the 2006 Lebanon war, Iran has supplied Hezbollah with 130,000 rockets and missiles. What makes the current situation so explosive are the ongoing efforts of Iran to upgrade the accuracy of this vast arsenal through an initiative called "the precision guided missile project".

It's also important to mention that the people of Iran have been victims of their own government, a brutal regime that abuses their human rights and squanders their wealth on supporting terrorism.

The obsession of Iranian leaders with the destruction of Israel has had deadly consequences for Israelis and the people of the Middle East. So long as the international community ignores this threat, innocent people will continue to suffer and die, and peace will remain a distant dream. 🌍

*Bob Feferman is Community Relations Director of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley. This editorial was originally published in the South Bend Tribune on November 9, 2019.*

## Upcoming Events



### Chair Yoga

Fridays

11:15am–12:15pm

Dec. 6, 13, 20 (no 12/27);  
January 3, 10, 24, 31 (no 1/17)

Instructor Joanna Syputd has been teaching yoga for 18 years.

**Cost: \$5 per session** at the door.

Your RSVP helps us keep you informed of changes or cancellations. RSVP to (219) 301-0960 or online at:

[federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Yoga](http://federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Yoga)

## R.O.M.E.O.

Retired Old Men  
Eating Out

Fridays at 11:30am

**Location:**

Cheers Food and Drink  
(1942 45th St, Munster)

**Questions?**

Contact Lou Kaplan  
at (219) 922-6757



## Community News



### November's Food For Thought: Howard Reich, *The Art of Inventing Hope*

*The Art of Inventing Hope* (Chicago Review Press, 2019) offers an unprecedented, in-depth conversation between the world's most revered Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, and a son of survivors—Chicago Tribune arts critic **Howard Reich**. Reich's father, Robert Reich, and Wiesel were both liberated from the Buchenwald death camp on April 11, 1945. During the last four years of Wiesel's life, he spoke frequently with Reich in New York, Chicago, Florida, and on the phone to discuss the subject that linked them.

On Sunday morning, November 10, Howard Reich joined us at Federation for a fantastic and moving program. Prof. Rosalie Levinson skillfully drew him out on the topic of growing up as the child of Holocaust survivors and how to live with that legacy in today's world.

Thanks to Carol Culberg and Rabbi Leonard Zukrow for working to bring Mr. Reich out to Northwest Indiana, and to all who attended, bought books, and asked thoughtful questions. 🌍



## Nine Federation Members Attend Partnership Discovery Program Exploring the Western Galilee and Budapest

by JUDY KATZ

From October 27–November 4, 2019, nine of our community members joined eleven others from the Jewish Federations of Indianapolis, Springfield, Peoria, and Youngstown for THE PARTNERSHIP DISCOVERY PROGRAM FOR LIFETIME LEARNERS. Our group included Carol Culberg, Barry and Lynda Levin, Rick and Judy Katz, David and Aida Nozick, Jonathan Radnor and Liz Rice.

We did lots of walking, exploring, and learning in the Western Galilee with local experts and community members. In the Western Galilee we had themed days, such as “Living on

the Edge” along the Lebanese border where we looked out at Lebanon and visited communities and businesses along the border. On another day we “Met the Neighbors” and learned about multi-culturalism in the region. We heard a discussion by a Druze woman whose family lives in Akko, visited a mixed community to learn about acceptance, and visited a Bedouin village and danced with their teens. One day we “Experienced Western Galilee Arts” and visited Treasure of the Walls Museum and several art studios in Akko and the Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz. On our last day in the Western Galilee, we learned about “Sustainability” and how different people are working to help the environment.

In Budapest we did more walking and enjoyed learning about the revival of the Jewish Community in Budapest. We met many active Hungarian Jewish young adults and some of their parents. On our tours we discovered the Jewish history of Old-Buda, visited the Goldberger Textile Museum (200 years of a legendary Jewish factory), ate traditional



The group in Budapest.

Hungarian cuisine, and learned about the revival of an old Jewish Community in Teleki Square.

Some of our group spent time with young local Jews in the style of “Around the Table” that they have developed for learning and socializing. We heard a very interesting talk by the head of the Hungarian Maccabee organization.

On our final day toured the Jewish quarter and visited the beautiful Great Synagogue and the very sad Memorial Garden. We also visited the Lauder Jewish Kindergarten and learned how they twin with other Partnership schools. For the finale of our trip, we attended a fantastic “rock opera” in a beautiful venue, as recommended by Jonathan Radnor.

We’re looking forward to the Partnership Summit that will be held in Budapest in June 2020. Members of our community are invited to join us. The pre-summit trip will be held June 21–22, and the Summit will be held June 22–25. 🌍

### PARTNERSHIP2GETHER VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

## Someone to Run With by David Grossman

Sunday, January 5  
10:00am

The first Virtual Gathering of our Book Club will discuss *Someone to Run With* by David Grossman.



Join online via Zoom video conference:

<https://zoom.us/j/410043155>

To register with the Northwest Indiana community, or to borrow a copy of the book, please contact the Federation office. 🌍



Day 3 of the Partnership Discovery trip: “Meet the Neighbors” in Akko.

# K'Ton Ton Preschool



## It has been a fun-filled November at K'Ton Ton!

November always brings thoughts of gratitude for us at K'Ton Ton, and we have so much to be grateful for. I am forever grateful for the amazing staff



we have. The love, devotion, and passion they show each day is awe-inspiring. But most of all, all of us at K'Ton Ton are beyond thankful for the families who trust us and share their hearts and children with us.

We celebrated our V.I.P. (Very Important People) Day this month. We danced, enjoyed a snack, went

on a scavenger hunt, and made a project together. With a turnout of over 100 special guests, it was an incredibly special morning.

We look forward to our upcoming Chanukah Party with children's musician Joel Frankel. We want to wish everyone a Chanukah filled with love and light. We wish you well! 🌟

# Masa B'Yachad Religious School



## Embarking on Our Journey Together

by LISA GIGLIO, Masa B'Yachad School Board Committee Chair

Masa B'Yachad—"Journey Together." It has been said that there is strength in numbers, and we continue to be strong. We are very pleased with the progression of the combined religious school serving Congregation Beth Israel and Temple Beth-El students—although any family who is a member of a congregation in Lake,

Porter, or LaPorte County, Indiana, may attend this year.

The committee has been meeting monthly, along with communication in between to ensure that school is running well. Special thanks to the following people who continue to volunteer their time, ideas and energy: Jeremy Friedberg, Francie Gerson,



Members of our combined Junior Choir getting ready for the family Shabbat service at CBI on Friday evening, Nov. 15.

Michael Gideon, Marilyn Hirsch, Jessie Jury, and Richard Marks, along with the guidance of Aida Nozick and the Jewish Federation's generous support.

We are fortunate to have Mindy Miller as our Principal and could not have found a better match with her expertise as a teacher, principal and

—CONTINUED ON P. 22

**Masa B'Yachad Parent Meeting**  
 Sunday, January 26 • 10:30–11:30am at CBI

An open Parent Meeting with the School Committee. We are asking for parent feedback and hope all our parents will attend to help us improve.



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020**  
**Lunch at Fortune House**

**Time:** 12:00pm

**Location:** 8250 Calumet Ave, Munster

Let's talk about upcoming outings. Bring your ideas for local & regional activities! *Separate checks*. RSVP by Jan. 13.

▲ As part of the "Inside Jewish Chicago" trip on November 7, Prime Timers got to tour a mikvah (ritual bath), meet and observe a sofer (scribe) at work, and enjoy a kosher lunch at Taboun Grill. Thanks to Chanie and Rabbi Eliezer Zalmanov for accompanying us!

*Remember:  
 2020 dues are  
 due January 5!  
 \$10/person*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020**  
**Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana**

**Time:** 10:00am

**Cost:** Free! A \$5 donation to Prime Timers is encouraged.

**Location:** 2300 173rd St., Hammond (on the PNW campus)

Lunch to follow at 11:30am (*separate checks*):

**Tzatziki Restaurant** (7231 Indianapolis Blvd, Hammond)

Space is limited! RSVP by January 30.

*Save the Dates:*

**Thursday, March 12: Chicago Botanic Garden**  
 Includes concert, orchid exhibit, gourmet lunch buffet, & roundtrip transportation.

**Wednesday, April 29: Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago**  
 Docent-led tour followed by lunch.

ALL RETURN TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE. \*Your payment is your reservation. No refunds. Make checks payable to **Prime Timers** and mail or bring to: Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana, 585 Progress Ave., Munster, IN 46321.

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# Adult Friendship Club



▲ AFC's Thanksgiving Luncheon at Teibel's on November 20 was a good time with good friends old and new.

## MONDAY LUNCHESES ARE BACK!

By popular demand, AFC is now meeting again each Monday for lunch plus an entertaining program.

## AFC DECEMBER 2019 EVENTS

**Wed. 12/11** 11:30am AFC Hanukkah Party at Briar Ridge Country Club (123 Country Club Drive, Schererville). *Reservations are now closed.*

**Mon. 12/16** 12pm Quiche, Salad, Rolls, Fruit • 1pm "Bring Out Your Inner Child": Intro to Reiki with Sher'ee Hanrahan

**Wed. 12/18** 12pm Vegetable Stir Fry, Rice, Rolls, Birthday Cake • 1pm *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, Season 3 Episode 1 (new season premiere!)

**Mon. 12/23** 12pm Sloppy Joes, Coleslaw, Homemade Potato Chips,

Brownies • 1pm Movement Program with Ms. Katie

**Wed. 12/25** NO AFC—Office Closed

**Mon. 12/30** 12pm Bagel Bar with Lox & Spreads, Cookies • 1pm Bunco

**Wed. 1/1** NO AFC—Happy New Year!

*Members, watch your mail for AFC's January calendar, coming soon.*

## COMING IN FEBRUARY

**Wed. 2/19** 12pm Lunch & 2pm Play: *Almost Heaven* at Theatre@theCenter. \$40 for AFC members; \$45 non-members. Spaces are limited—RSVP by January 17!

Questions? Please contact Rachel at (219) 301-0960. 📞



▲ Flower Arranging class on October 31 with Courtney Zandstra of The Wandering Wildflower.



▲ AFC's Veterans Day luncheon on November 4 featured guest speaker Larry Weiss (right). Our K'Ton Ton Pre-K class joined American Legion Post 180 to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

# Noar/Atid

## Israel-Bound NWI Teens Visit Israeli Consulate in Chicago

Aviv Ezra, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, extended an invitation to our teen group to visit his Chicago office prior to their upcoming 10-day Israel trip. We took the opportunity

on Tuesday, November 5, during Munster's fall school break.

Jacob Katz, Kyle Kaufmann, Danielle Lerner, Leah Nozick, and Joe Webster met with several of the

Consulate directors and learned a lot about what the Consulate does. We also got to stop at Manny's Deli for a kosher lunch after the visit. We are excited for our trip and can't wait to get to Israel on December 22! 🇮🇱



NOAR is a youth group for grades 9-12. ATID is a youth group for grades 6-8. For information, contact Rachel Saller, Youth Programming Advisor, at [rachel@federationonline.org](mailto:rachel@federationonline.org) or (219) 301-0960. 📞

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# Combating Anti-Semitism Together

by AIDA NOZICK

This October marked the first anniversary of the Tree of Life shooting in Pittsburgh. Eleven innocent worshipers were gunned down as they worshipped in their synagogue. A few days after the shooting last year, our Jewish Federation held a vigil to mourn the lives lost, to show our collective strength at a time of horrific bigotry, and ultimately to stand united together against anti-Semitism. Yet another shooting in Poway, California followed this incident.

Keeping track of the various anti-Semitic attacks on American Jews is almost impossible. There have been various physical and verbal anti-Semitic attacks reported throughout America and Europe, with a major increase in the number of incidents.

The roots of anti-Semitism are deep, old and pernicious. Our Jewish

**We must not sit idle. We must act. We must combat not only anti-Semitism but all forms of hatred.**

Federation is dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism through various educational opportunities, including our upcoming brunch on Sunday, December 8th with Dr. Gunther Jikeli on "The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism in Europe and the US Today." Our Jewish Community Relations Committee also offers inter-faith programs that foster understanding and unity between all faiths.

Through our partnerships with the Illinois Holocaust Museum in

Skokie and the CANDLES Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Terre Haute, we provide high school teachers in our community an opportunity to learn about the different resources available to them when teaching the Holocaust.

The Jewish Federation believes very strongly in protecting our community and its members from possible threats of attack both physical and verbal by providing educational opportunities for all our congregations about threats and security concerns. We are the advocates to local law enforcement agencies on the need for more serious measures of protection.

We must not sit idle. We must act. We must combat not only anti-Semitism but all forms of hatred.

Please consider making a gift to the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana today to support **our** Jewish community. Every amount will be used to continue the great work we started together 77 years ago. 🕎

100% = \$400,000  
75% = \$300,000  
50% = \$200,000  
25% = \$100,000

2019 Annual Campaign

**62%**  
= \$227,026

The Jewish Federation OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

**THANK YOU** to all those who have already pledged to our 2019 Annual Campaign! If you haven't, please consider donating to our Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana by **December 31**. Return the 2019 Campaign envelope inside this issue, call (219) 301-0960, or pledge your gift online at [bit.ly/jfnwi2019](https://bit.ly/jfnwi2019).

# Community Calendar: Dec. 2019-Jan. 2020 / Kislev-Tevet-Shvat 5780

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	שבת
<b>DEC 15</b>	17 Kislev	<b>16</b> 18 Kislev	<b>17</b> 19 Kislev	<b>18</b> 20 Kislev	<b>19</b> 21 Kislev	<b>20</b> 22 Kislev	<b>21</b> 23 Kislev
MOMentum Women's Mission Trip to Israel				12-2pm AFC	1-4pm Mah Jongg	11:15am Chair Yoga	9:30am Shabbat Svcs
9:30-11:30am Comm. Chanukah Celebration (Masa B'Yachad)	12-2pm AFC	1-2pm Heart to Heart Group (no Susan)	1-4pm Mah Jongg	7:30pm Sisterhood Business Meeting	6pm Family Chanukah Supper & Shabbat Service (Masa B'Yachad)	9:45am Shabbat Svcs	10am Torah Study
10am Maimonides Class		7:30pm Board Meeting	7pm Women's Latke Cook-Off		6-8pm Chanukah Potluck & Shabbat Service		
2-5pm PJ Library Chanukah Bookfair (Barnes & Noble Valpo)			7:30pm Annual Meeting				
3-4pm Kids Menorah Workshop (Home Depot)							
<b>DEC 22</b>	24 Kislev	<b>23</b> 25 Kislev	<b>24</b> 26 Kislev	<b>25</b> 27 Kislev	<b>26</b> 28 Kislev	<b>27</b> 29 Kislev	<b>28</b> 30 Kislev
NWI Teen Trip to Israel							
10am Maimonides Class	CHANUKAH DAY 1	CHANUKAH DAY 2	CHANUKAH DAY 3	CHANUKAH DAY 4	CHANUKAH DAY 5	CHANUKAH DAY 6	
1st Night of Chanukah	12-2pm AFC	10-11am Heart to Heart Group with Susan (NOTE NEW TIME)	CHRISTMAS DAY	1-4pm Mah Jongg	NO YOGA	Rosh Ch. Tevet	
5-8pm Chocolate Menorah Chanukah Party	1-4pm Mah Jongg	12pm Office Closes	FEDERATION CLOSED - NO ACTIVITIES		7:30pm Shabbat Svcs	9:30am Shabbat Svcs	
		6pm Chanukah Family Chinese Dinner			7:30pm Shabbat Svcs	9:45am Shabbat Svcs	
		6pm Latkes, Chinese Dinner & Movie: <i>Joseph &amp; the Amazing...</i>					
		6pm Chinese Dinner & Movie: <i>Driving Miss Daisy</i>					
<b>DEC 29</b>	1 Tevet	<b>30</b> 2 Tevet	<b>31</b> 3 Tevet	<b>JAN 1</b> 4 Tevet	<b>2</b> 5 Tevet	<b>3</b> 6 Tevet	<b>4</b> 7 Tevet
NWI Teen Trip to Israel				NEW YEAR'S DAY	1-4pm Mah Jongg	11:15am Chair Yoga	9:30am Shabbat Svcs
CHANUKAH DAY 7	CHANUKAH DAY 8	10-11am Heart to Heart Group with Susan (NOTE NEW TIME)	FEDERATION CLOSED - NO ACTIVITIES		5:30-8:30pm "First Friday" Science Shabbat with Prof. Dovid Imbo	9:45am Shabbat Svcs	
Rosh Ch. Tevet	12-2pm AFC	12pm Office Closes			7:30pm Shabbat Svcs		
10am Maimonides Class					7:30pm Shabbat Svcs		
8th Night of Chanukah					7:30pm Shabbat Svcs		
<b>JAN 5</b>	8 Tevet	<b>6</b> 9 Tevet	<b>7</b> 10 Tevet	<b>8</b> 11 Tevet	<b>9</b> 12 Tevet	<b>10</b> 13 Tevet	<b>11</b> 14 Tevet
11am Rabbi Levin's Class: "American Jews and Israel"	Illiana News: Feb/Mar Issue Content Deadline	Fast of Tevet	12-2pm AFC	1-4pm Mah Jongg	11:15am Chair Yoga	9:30am Shabbat Svcs	
1pm Sisterhood Soup & Games Day	12-2pm AFC	1-2pm Heart to Heart Group with Susan	1-4pm Mah Jongg		7:30pm Shabbat Svcs	9:45am Shabbat Svcs	
			7pm Federation Book Club: <i>The World That We Knew</i>		7:30pm Shabbat Svcs		
<b>JAN 12</b>	15 Tevet	<b>13</b> 16 Tevet	<b>14</b> 17 Tevet	<b>15</b> 18 Tevet	<b>16</b> 19 Tevet	<b>17</b> 20 Tevet	<b>18</b> 21 Tevet
9am "Second Sunday" Tefillin Club & Breakfast	12-2pm AFC	1-2pm Heart to Heart Group with Susan	12-2pm AFC	12pm Prime Timers: Lunch Out @ Fortune House	NO YOGA	9:30am Shabbat Svcs	
		6pm David Broza at City Winery	1-4pm Mah Jongg	1-4pm Mah Jongg	7:30pm Shabbat Svcs	9:45am Shabbat Svcs (Sisterhood Shabbat)	
					7:30pm Shabbat Svcs		
<b>JAN 19</b>	22 Tevet	<b>20</b> 23 Tevet	<b>21</b> 24 Tevet	<b>22</b> 25 Tevet	<b>23</b> 26 Tevet	<b>24</b> 27 Tevet	<b>25</b> 28 Tevet
10:30am Food for Thought Brunch: Ben Mollin	12-2pm AFC	1-2pm Heart to Heart Group with Susan	12-2pm AFC	9:30am Illiana News Mailing Party (tentative)	11:15am Chair Yoga	9:30am Shabbat Svcs	
		7:30pm Board Meeting	1-4pm Mah Jongg	1-4pm Mah Jongg	7:30pm Shabbat Svcs	9:45am Shabbat Svcs	
			7pm Board Meeting		7:30pm Shabbat Svcs	10-11:30am Masa B'Yachad Family Shabbat Service	
						5:30-9:30pm Trivia Night 2020!	
<b>JAN 26</b>	29 Tevet	<b>27</b> 1 Shvat	<b>28</b> 2 Shvat	<b>29</b> 3 Shvat	<b>30</b> 4 Shvat	<b>31</b> 5 Shvat	<b>FEB 1</b> 6 Shvat
10:30-11:30am Masa B'Yachad Parent Meeting	12-2pm AFC	1-2pm Heart to Heart Group (no Susan)	12-2pm AFC	1-4pm Mah Jongg	11:15am Chair Yoga	9:30am Shabbat Svcs	
			1-4pm Mah Jongg		7:30pm Shabbat Svcs	9:45am Shabbat Svcs	
					7:30pm Shabbat Svcs		

Jewish Holiday Civil Holiday Federation Shlichim Chabad Hadassah Cong. Beth Israel Temple Beth-El Temple Israel-Miller Temple Israel-Valpo Sinai Temple

## DECEMBER EVENTS

**Friday, December 20, 6pm:** Annual Chanukah Supper. Reservations with payment must be received in the Temple office by Monday, December 16. Adults \$18; grades 9-12 \$13; grades K-8 \$10; preschool no charge. Late reservations are an additional \$2.00 per person with no reservations accepted after Wednesday, December 18. Each family is asked to bring a menorah.

**Sat., Dec. 21, 10am-12pm:** Torah study.

**Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6pm:** Christmas Eve Dinner & Movie. We will be showing the movie *Driving Miss Daisy* and enjoying a Chinese dinner from Fortune House. The cost is \$14 per adult and RSVP is requested by Monday, December 23.

## JANUARY EVENTS

**Sunday, January 12, 1pm:** Everyone is invited to Sisterhood's Game Day. Games of all kinds will be played: card games, board games, dice games—even Mah Jongg. All ages are invited. We will be serving soup, bread and dessert; just let us know you are coming so we can make enough to eat. This event is always a great time. Let us know by Wednesday, January 8 that you'll



Students and parents visited the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana to engage in the mitzvah of providing food to those in need.



Rabbi Michael and Judy Stevens, now living in North Carolina, visited us on Friday, November 8. Rabbi Stevens read Torah at our Shabbat Eve Service and Judy Stevens met with students to share the story of her mother, Clara Kiss, who was a Holocaust survivor.

be coming, and we'll save you a seat. *Cost per person/family to be announced.*

## SAVE THE DATE

**February 8, 2020:** Our Red, White and You Gala. 🌸

# The Essence of Chanukah

by RABBI LEN ZUKROW

For the past 40 years, I have taught a Chanukah unit with a focus on Jewish Identity. Why? For me, the essence of Chanukah is that the Maccabees and their followers responded to the call to declare their faith in, and commitment to, the God of the Jewish people. This is significant because as a minority even in their

own homeland, Jews had to defend themselves by asserting their right to self-determination. The Maccabees took to battle for the right to offer sacrifices to their God in their holy place—the Temple in Jerusalem.

It should be noted that the Maccabees were a priestly family,

—CONTINUED ON P. 22



## NICU Baby Shower

by DORIS KENNEDY

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood hosted our first-ever Baby Shower to benefit the neediest moms and newborns at Methodist Hospital Gary on Saturday, November 16. The 50 attendees—from Temple Beth-El, Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Israel, Methodist Hospital, and Friends of Hospice—enjoyed a delicious luncheon catered by Dave Lerner, with desserts provided by Sisterhood members. The generosity of the attendees and others in our TBE community was overwhelming. We collected two long tables of newborn items plus over \$1700 in cash and gift cards. The goal is to create gift bags containing a range of baby essentials to give to new moms who lack the means to provide these themselves. Terri Hendrickson and other Methodist Hospital Nursery staff will see to distribution. This is a program we hope to repeat in the coming years. 🌸



Build your own menorah for Chanukah!

## KIDS MENORAH WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 3:00 PM

The Home Depot  
960 US 41  
Schererville, IN  
FREE OF CHARGE

For more information about how to celebrate Chanukah please visit:  
[WWW.CHABADNWind.COM/CHANUKAH](http://WWW.CHABADNWind.COM/CHANUKAH)

RSVP by Thursday, December 12  
(219) 513-0327 OR [INFO@CHABADNWind.COM](mailto:INFO@CHABADNWind.COM)

Inviting all women to a

## PRE-CHANUKAH LATKE COOK OFF

Wednesday, December 18  
7:00 PM

\$18 per person

[rsvp\\_chanie@chabadnwind.com](mailto:rsvp_chanie@chabadnwind.com)

# Chocolate CHANUKAH PARTY

- Giant chocolate menorah
- Chocolate fondue
- Chocolate gelt
- Chocolate donuts and much more!

Sunday, December 22  
5:00 PM  
At Chabad

\$18 per family  
Or be a sponsor for \$180

# CHANUKAH FAMILY DINNER

A CHINESE BUFFET WITH FELLOW YIDS

Tuesday, December 24, 6:00 PM

\$10 per person

rsvp by Wednesday, December 18  
[info@chabadnwind.com](mailto:info@chabadnwind.com)

“Science Shabbat” First Friday with Prof. Dovid Imbo  
Friday, January 3, 2020 • 5:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat • 6pm Dinner & Talk

Hear the fascinating journey of theoretical physicist Dr. Dovid Imbo, as he went from the violent streets of the West Side of Chicago, to the halls of Harvard University, to the synagogues of West Rogers Park. *Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation.*

NO COST TO ATTEND • RSVP (219) 513-0327 or [INFO@CHABADNWind.COM](mailto:INFO@CHABADNWind.COM)

*Shabbat services at Chabad are held on Saturday morning, starting at 10:00am, always followed by a full kiddush lunch.*



## HANUKKAH SERVICES

Hanukkah is the festival which celebrates the restoration of Jewish religious and political independence in the land of Israel about 2,200 years ago. During this holiday, we commemorate the triumph of our ancestors over the Greek forces that occupied Israel.

This year Hanukkah begins at sunset on Sunday, December 22. See the blue box for service times.

## GIFT SHOP SALE: HANUKKAH IS COMING!

For convenient shopping the CBI gift shop will be open from 10:00am to noon on December 8 and December 15. Items may also be purchased whenever the office is open.



## AMERICAN JEWS AND ISRAEL: CAN THE RELATIONSHIP BE SAVED?

**Sunday, Jan. 5, 11:00am–12:15pm:**

Join Rabbi Levin to watch and discuss a fascinating dialogue between Daniel Gordis (author of the new book *We Stand Divided: The Rift Between American Jews and Israel*), Thomas Friedman (Pulitzer-winning columnist for The New York Times), and the moderator, Abigail Pogrebin. The speakers touch on such topics as how American Jews and Israelis are growing further apart in years, the challenges of the American college campus and the ever-strengthening

BDS movement, the fundamental differences between the origins and stated *raison d'être* of the United States and of Israel, and much more.

## SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

**Saturday, January 18, 9:45am:** This year our Sisterhood Shabbat will be held on January 18, to coincide with Women's League Shabbat. Plan ahead for reading Torah, having an aliyah and more. Join us for a lovely service conducted by Sisterhood members and stay for the delicious luncheon afterward. All members of the congregation and community are welcome.

## UNDERSTANDING THE ISRAELI PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

**Sunday, Feb. 2, 11:00am–12:15pm:**

Join Rabbi Levin to watch and discuss Dr. Mordechai Kedar in an eye-opening review of the claim that Israel expelled people from their historic homeland in 1948, and now allegedly illegally occupy the land that has belonged to others for thousands of years.



Dr. Kedar is a scholar of Arabic literature and senior lecturer in the Department of Arabic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. He served for 25 years in IDF Military Intelligence,



▲ We watched and discussed New York Times columnist Bari Weiss joined by CNN's Jake Tapper in a very interesting and informative conversation about her new book, *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*.

## WEEKLY SERVICES

Monday & Thursday at 8:00am  
Saturday at 9:45am  
Sunday at 9:00am

## HANUKKAH SERVICES

Monday, December 23, 8:00am  
Thursday, December 26, 8:00am  
Saturday, December 28, 9:45am  
Sunday, December 29, 9:00am  
Monday, December 30, 8:00am

where he specialized in Islamic groups, the political discourse of Arab countries, the Arabic press and mass media, and the Syrian domestic arena.

## MAH JONGG

It is time to order your Mah Jongg Card. They are \$8 for standard size and \$9 for large print. Checks payable to CBI Sisterhood are due January 1. Mail your checks and include your printed name, address, phone number. Send to Nancy Webster, 10003 Sequoia Lane, Munster, Ind. 46321. The Mah Jongg Card provides the official standard hands and rules and includes your membership in the National Mah Jongg League. Questions? Call Nancy at 219-791-2137. 🌐



▲ Sisterhood Crafts with Pat: We enjoyed good company while making beautiful paper flowers.



Temple Israel Sisterhood Presents

## HANUKKAH POTLUCK & SERVICE

Friday, December 20, at 6 pm

Join Temple Israel Sisterhood for our annual Hanukkah Potluck & Service!  
We'll light the menorah, sing songs, and play dreidel.

Dinner will be served at 6 pm, followed by Shabbat service at 7:30 pm.  
Sisterhood will also be hosting the Oneg after service.

Sisterhood will provide the latkes and main entree.  
Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Please RSVP no later than Monday,  
December 16 by contacting  
templeisraelmiller@gmail.com or  
219-938-5232.



Temple Israel Presents

## TRIVIA NIGHT 2020

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020

DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM / GAME STARTS 6:30 PM

TICKETS: \$20/person, \$160/table of 8, \$200/table of 10  
SPONSOR A CATEGORY: \$150

**SILENT AUCTION!!**  
**TABLE DECORATING CONTEST!!**  
**FUN PRIZES!!**  
**DELICIOUS FOOD & DRINKS!!**

Earn up to 10 extra points for your team by bringing 10+ canned goods to donate to local food pantries!



Space is limited. Payment accepted via cash, credit card or check made payable to Temple Israel. Please RSVP to Temple Israel at 219-938-5232 or templeisraelmiller@gmail.com. The food and beverages available for purchase contribute to our overall fundraising efforts; please respect this by not bringing food or drink with you.

Temple Israel / 601 N. Montgomery St. / Gary, IN 46403



## Join Our Congregational Trip to Israel

Led by **RABBI SHOSHANA FEFERMAN** of Temple Israel

**JUNE 7-17, 2020: SPACES STILL AVAILABLE!** On this amazing adventure you will: • See the best of Israel in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv/Yaffo, Safed, Masada and the Dead Sea • Take a cable ride into the grottos at Rosh Hanikra on the Mediterranean • Visit our Partnership region in the Western Galilee • Explore the Golan Heights, visit a kibbutz and enjoy lunch at a Druze village • Discover our ancient past digging in an archaeological site • Visit the border town of Sderot to receive a briefing at the Kassam museum • Visit Tel Aviv's newly renovated Diaspora Museum, Carmel Market, and arts and crafts fair • Visit the Ayalon Institute in Rehovot to learn about the story of the secret munitions factory of the Haganah • Enjoy touring with a professional guide at a wonderful price including very nice hotels and about two meals a day. For more details, please contact Rabbi Shoshana Feferman at [rfefe@comcast.net](mailto:rfefe@comcast.net).



Please be sure to contact the Temple office to confirm specifics of date, time, location & reservations: 219-874-4477

## WEEKLY FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Our weekly Shabbat services are conducted each Friday evening with Rabbi Suzanne Griffel here two Fridays a month, and our wonderful lay-leaders filling in when she is not here. The service begins at 7 pm. Our Oneg Shabbat follows every service with Kiddush and Hamotzi, and baked treats. It is hosted by members of our sisterhood with contributions from our membership.

## SATURDAY MORNING CLASSES

Saturday morning classes with Rabbi Griffel correspond to the weekends she is here. The class is open to anyone who is interested to widen their horizons about the Jewish faith. Discussions might be on the weekly Torah portion or on current events. There is a short Shabbat morning service at 9am, with the class at 10am.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Sinai Temple and Valparaiso's Temple Israel Joint Religious school classes will continue here at Sinai Temple through the end of December. Classes will be held at Temple Israel from January–May 2020.

## DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

**Tuesday, December 24:** We will observe Chanukah together—this year in combination with our annual Chinese Dinner and Movie Night, beginning at 6:00pm. See below for specifics & reservations. 🌐

▼ Our Sisterhood Deli Day on October 23rd was a successful event bringing our community together like no other event. We thank all our wonderful volunteers and all those who came in to purchase our lunches. This event happens twice a year, and we look forward to the next Deli Day in May of 2020.



## Annual Chinese Dinner & Movie Night

Tuesday, December 24 • 6:00 pm

This year it is Latkes & Chinese Dinner Movie Night! Join us to observe the third night of Chanukah. Bring your Chanukiah if you'd like!

### Featured Movie: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*



A tale that follows the journey of a dreamer. Joseph is the son of Jacob and one of twelve brothers. He is given a coat of many colors by his father, which is symbolic of his favor and an object of his brothers' jealousy. This is a wonderful film, suitable for all ages. We encourage our families and children to join us for this evening.

Cost for dinner is \$10/person, payable to Sinai Temple Sisterhood.

RSVP to the office by Dec. 20! 219-874-4477 or [sinaitemple@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sinaitemple@sbcglobal.net)

## The Jewish History of the Indiana Dunes Country, 1830-1950

by TRENT D. PENDLEY

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This material is reproduced by permission of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. We have been pleased to share this publication as a yearlong series in the Illiana News. This will be the final installment for 2019. For Part Six, "World War I", and Part Seven, "The Years Between The Wars", please contact the office.*

### PART FIVE: HAMMOND'S JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

There is some uncertainty as to the exact dates that Jewish organizations emerged at Hammond, but during 1899 a congregation was formed. We know that rabbi Hirsch Berkman settled at Hammond in 1894, and at that time there was no formal Jewish congregation or house of worship.<sup>130</sup> However as before noted, some historical sources point out that there were Sabbath services being held in private homes as early as 1871 and 1884.<sup>(1)</sup><sup>131</sup> When Rabbi Berkman arrived in 1894, he conducted services in private homes until a synagogue was established six years later.<sup>132</sup>

Then during the year 1899, Mayer Rubin organized and chartered an Orthodox congregation with twenty members, and secured a house at 167 Indiana Avenue that was remodeled as a schul.<sup>133</sup> It is unclear what became of the 1899 congregation and their synagogue, because on August 16, 1902 Sam Abelman and fourteen other men

1 The Hoosier State Bank Historical Calendar of 1975 portraying Kneseth Israel's old synagogue listed the year 1871; Cannon's 1927 History marks the year 1894; Howatt's 1915 History marks the year 1894; and The Federal Writers Project marks the year 1884.

#### SOURCES

130 Cannon; Vol. 1; Page 526.

131 Hoosier State Bank Historical Calendar 1975; Federal Writers; Page 37; Howatt; Page 371; Cannon; Page 526.

132 Howatt; Page 371; Cannon; Page 526.

133 Howatt; Page 371.

organized another Orthodox congregation, Kneseth Israel.<sup>134</sup>

Interestingly, a brief historical sketch of the 1902 Kneseth Israel congregation published in 1958 designates the Synagogue at 167 Indiana Avenue as its first house of worship, but this article does not mention the forerunner congregation established by Mayer Rubin two years earlier in 1899.<sup>135</sup> Furthermore, the Kneseth Israel Sisterhood, originally known as the Daughters of Israel, is given credit for having purchased a synagogue at 165 Indiana Avenue, or the same schul that Mayer Rubin had secured.<sup>136</sup> The first Kneseth Israel Synagogue on Indiana Avenue was apparently abandoned for a State Street address by 1904, because an edition of the *Hammond Daily News* of that year noted:

*"Hammond has a Jewish congregation, which while not embracing nearly all the Jewish families of this city is well organized. The congregation bears the name Kneseth Israel and has about sixty members. No stated meetings are held, but (Occasional) meetings are held at 63 State Street."*<sup>137</sup>

The congregation's officers in 1904 were: Max Rosin, president; Jacob Diamond, vice president; Charles Arkin, treasurer; and H. Cohen, A. Rubin and R. Diamond as other officers.<sup>138</sup>

In 1908, the Kneseth Israel Congregation purchased the Baptist Church, a frame building on Indiana Avenue, which was enlarged for use as a synagogue, and services continued to be led by rabbi Hirsch Berkman.<sup>139</sup>

Hammond's third congregation emerged in 1903 when reform services

134 *History of Kneseth Israel Synagogue*; 1958.

135 Ibid.

136 Ibid.

137 *Hammond Daily News*; 1904.

138 Cannon; Page 526.

139 Ibid.



**The Baptist Church now in the location that Kneseth Israel Congregation acquired as its home in 1908. Photo courtesy of the First Baptist Church of Hammond.**

commenced under the direction of Meyer Rubin, who was also founder of the 1899 Orthodox congregation.<sup>140</sup> Rubin, a businessman, conducted a Sabbath school and read prayers in a rented hall above Kaufman and Wolf's Lion store.<sup>141</sup> Services were subsequently held at Weiss Hall and the Knights of Pythias Hall.<sup>142</sup> In 1908 a tiny building at 305 (now renumbered as 619) Sibley Street was used as a Synagogue.<sup>143</sup> By 1909 there were 45 members of the reform Temple, and this mostly German congregation took the name Temple Beth El, and was officially incorporated September 19, 1911.<sup>144</sup> The charter lists the names of the following members: Charles Arkin, Adolph Hellerman, Max Schroeder, Maurice Spitzer, and Mayer Rubin. Other early members were Morris Dobson, Jacob Fox, Samuel E. Friduss, Sam Greenwald, Adolph Hirsch, Carl Kaufman, Fred Kraus, Joseph Miller, Abe Ottenheimer, Morris Pelzman, Moses Rothschild, Julius Taussig and Arthur J. Weiss.<sup>145</sup>

Conditions of the Beth El congregation remained unsettled after the formal incorporation and a temporary merger of activities was commenced with the Orthodox sister congregation Kneseth Israel.<sup>146</sup> Meanwhile, the constant growth

—CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

140 Howatt; Page 391.

141 *The Hammond Times*; 1951.

142 Ibid.

143 Ibid.

144 Howatt; Page 391; *History of Temple Beth El Hammond 60th Anniversary*.

145 *History of Temple Beth El Hammond 60th Anniversary*.

146 Ibid; and *The Times*; September 17, 1971.



**The majestic terra cotta façade of Kneseth Israel Synagogue on Sibley Street in Hammond. Photograph by the author ca. 1978.**

of the Orthodox congregation initiated plans for a new structure in 1914 with a building fund.<sup>147</sup> The campaign raised \$40,000 and another \$16,000 was secured through mortgage for the construction of the synagogue.<sup>148</sup> Henry L. Newhouse<sup>2</sup>, a noted Chicago architect, was hired, and ground was broken for the new Jewish Synagogue in 1918 on the lot that the Reform congregation had purchased ten years earlier.<sup>149</sup>

Rabbi Julius Rappaport of Chicago further enhanced solidification between Hammond's Reform or German community and the Orthodox Jews who were primarily Eastern European, and which had merged during the building campaign.<sup>150</sup> The new synagogue was built on the site of the Beth El building

2 Newhouse and Bernham Architects would later design the ancient basilica-type structure for Kehilath Anshe Maarive in 1924 at 50th and Greenwood Avenue in Chicago, as well as Anshe Sholom synagogue at Independence Boulevard and Polk Street ca. 1924-1925. They also designed the Highland Theatre in 1925 at 79th Street and Ashland; the Goodfriend Apts at the corner of 52nd Street and University Avenue; the Howard, Portage, Atlantic and McVickers Theatres; and the Newhouse store and apartment building at 1008-16 East 53rd Street, all in Chicago. Blackstone-State Theater in South Bend, designed by Henry Newhouse, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. Newhouse designed four thousand structures during his lifetime.

147 *History of Kneseth Israel*; 1958.

148 *Ibid.*

149 *Ibid.*; also Correspondence William Bernstein; 1996.

150 *History of Temple Beth El.*

which was most likely moved to another location. One lifetime member of the Kneseth Israel congregation recalled that it was the reform German Jews who had put up most of the money for the Sibley Street Synagogue.<sup>151</sup>

Upon completion of the synagogue the Reform and Orthodox congregations each held separate services. "Rabbi Rappaport, a national Jewish figure and an outstanding authority on theology, held services for the Beth El crowd late on Friday evenings and for the Kneseth Israel group at sundown Friday and on Saturday mornings.<sup>152</sup> In 1921 with the help of the Daughters of Israel, a Hebrew School became part of the congregational activity, and in 1922 a Religious School began with fifty children.<sup>153</sup>

*The Sentinel*, a Jewish paper in Chicago, printed the following upon the dedication of the cornerstone of the new Kneseth Israel:

*"Some five years ago an attempt was made to unite the orthodox and reform Jews of Hammond, Indiana. It was believed that the fusion had resulted successfully, when lo and behold something happened and the unification did not take place. Already then it was proposed to build a temple and certain sums of money had been subscribed for that purpose but the money did not seem to be forthcoming and the temple was not built. Some believed it never would be built, but they were mistaken. The seed that was planted five years ago has finally born fruit. The Jews of Hammond are soon to have a new temple. The cornerstone is to be laid Sunday October 12. Mr. Henry L. Newhouse of our city is the architect of the new structure. The Jews of Hammond ought to feel happy to see their long deferred hope finally realized. It is a glorious consummation of a long struggle. Let us hope that the good feeling that now unites the Jews of Hammond will continue and will never again be disturbed. The Sentinel congratulates the Jews of Hammond on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of their new temple and*

151 Rose Chayken Ein, Interview.

152 *Beth El History.*

153 *Kneseth Israel History.*

*Trent D. Pendley is a fine jeweler, writer, historian and an advocate for social justice. He is also a gardener, avid reader and collector of fine arts. He is responsible for an Indiana Historical Marker for Pulitzer-winning author Edwin Way Teale in Furnessville.*

*expresses the wish that peace and harmony will ever prevail in their midst.*"<sup>154</sup>

The special arrangement between the Reform and Orthodox factions at the new synagogue only lasted two years and ended shortly after the departure of Rabbi Rappaport.<sup>155</sup> Thus in 1923 the Reform congregation quit holding services at the Sibley Street Synagogue and relocated to the Knights of Pythias Hall.<sup>156</sup> Then in 1923 Temple Beth El, Inc., acquired Rabbi Max Bretton and also purchased the W.B. Conkey Mansion at Hohman Avenue and Mason Street.<sup>157</sup> The Conkey Mansion was remodeled into a Temple and was completed in time for the High Holiday services of 1924.<sup>158</sup> The Beth El membership included seventy-five families that year.<sup>159</sup>

In addition to the Reform and Orthodox congregations at Hammond, a Jewish Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1915.<sup>160</sup> William Howat wrote of the society:

*"Thirty-five energetic and charitable inclined ladies who have in the past and at present are doing commendable work relieving the needy regardless of color, creed or faith."*<sup>161</sup>

Many years later this organization would develop into the Hammond Jewish Federation. An article appearing in the October 9, 1919 issue of *The Lake County Times* entitled "Jewish Relief Drive Starts With Vigor" mentions that \$10,500 had been raised on the eve of Yom Kippur

154 *The Sentinel*, Chicago from Henry L. Newhouse scrapbook.

155 *The Hammond Times*; 1971.

156 *Ibid.*

157 *Beth El History.*

158 *Ibid.*

159 *The Hammond Times*; 1971.

160 Howatt; Page 391.

161 Howatt; Page 391.

## Book Excerpt (continued)



**The Gates to Hammond's Kneseth Israel Jewish Cemetery, along Joe Hirsch Drive. Photograph by the author ca: 1982.**

and that Hammond's goals to be met by November were \$30,000 and Lake County \$100,00.00.<sup>162</sup> It is unclear who the funds described as subscriptions were intended.

Unlike most Jewish settlement patterns, Hammond's Jewry established a burial society very late—mostly because of the Calumet Region's proximity and family ties with Chicago and the availability of Jewish cemeteries there since the 1850s. It wasn't until 1924 that the Hammond Jewish Cemetery Association was founded by the lifetime officers: Israel Louis Cohen, president; Samuel Truppe, vice president; James H. Brown, secretary; and Hyman Marcus, treasurer.<sup>3</sup> This group dedicated a cemetery largely synonymous with the Orthodox Kneseth Israel Congregation along 167th Avenue (Joe Hirsch Drive) and adjacent to Elmwood Cemetery and various smaller ethnic cemeteries. The Elmwood Cemetery, established in 1921, opened a Jewish section, which has often been thought of as the Beth El congregational garden.

The Oak Hill Cemetery, located at Kenwood and Hohman Avenues, was the first cemetery established in the Calumet Region in 1855, and many famous first families of Hammond, East Chicago and Whiting are interred there.<sup>163</sup> Oak Hill does not have a Jewish garden; however, some early Jews may have been interred

3 Of note, although the association was founded in 1924, there are gravestones dating in this cemetery to 1921. Among the earliest are Meyer Ruskin in 1921; Goldie Miller, 1923; Adolph Schlesinger, 1923; Eleanor Schroeter, 1923; Isadore Miller, 1924; Moses Yalowitz, 1924; and Jeanet Silver, 1926. All four of the lifetime officers listed above were also interred here.

162 *Lake County Times*, October 9, 1919; Page 1.

163 Hoosier State Bank History Calendar.

there, because several Jews died at Hammond prior to the opening of the 1924 Jewish cemetery. Early records show these deaths at Hammond prior to 1924: Bloomia Cohen, age 2 (July 26, 1899); Elain Taussig, age 2 (May 30, 1899); Richard Taussig, age 26 (January 14, 1916) and Jacob Cohen, age 45 (July 3, 1918).<sup>164</sup> Most likely those who died prior to 1924 were interred in Chicago.

The Hammond chapter of Hadassah, a Zionist women's organization, was established in March 1926 with the following members: Bess Tigay, Mae Hoffman, Rose Lynn, Pauline Diamondstein, Lea Winer, Mrs. Meyer Nagdeman, Ann Miller, Ruth (Greenwald) Chayken, Tillie Kaplan, Mrs. Sam Silver, Mrs. Louis Mandel, and Mrs. Sam Truppe.<sup>165</sup>

*"The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Meyer Nagdeman, and thereafter meetings were hosted in private homes until moving to Temple Beth El and the Kneseth Israel Synagogue. In 1938 the first annual Hammond Hadassah Yearbook was published with Flossie Truppe as chairperson."*<sup>166</sup>

This Zionist ladies' organization raised local monies to fund charities in Palestine, and built what would become the most advanced hospital in the Middle East and with two campuses in Jerusalem. The community's Hadassah chapter, probably more than any other organization, originally represented its support for the rebuilding of a Jewish homeland in Palestine; for many Hammond Jews, this charity helped their real brothers and sisters who fled their native shtetls of Eastern Europe to the land of Israel rather than (like themselves) to America.

Another Jewish organization that was active at Hammond was the Arbeiter Ring, or Workman's Circle, founded nationally in 1900. This society and its local Hammond chapter provided discounted insurance and medical programs, and also served as a philanthropic organization for socialist causes.<sup>167</sup> A secular school

164 Index to Death Records; Hammond; Lake County, Indiana; 1882-1920.

165 *Illiana News*; March 31, 1976; Page 13.

166 *Ibid.*

167 Rose Matasar; Interview.

was founded in Hammond in a building across the street from the Kneseth Israel Synagogue on Sibley Street.<sup>168</sup> Yiddish culture was stressed, and antagonism was felt for the study of religion and Hebrew.

B'nai B'rith (Sons of the Covenant), a Jewish men's fraternal organization, originally had two chapters in Hammond, these being the Israel Zangwill<sup>4</sup> of the Western Star Order and Zion Gate of the Sons of Zion.<sup>169</sup> Hammond's B'nai B'rith was divided between the community's two main ethnic groups, those again being those Jews from Eastern Europe and those of German heritage. In later years when one's origin became less apparent or convoluted, the two B'nai B'rith chapters merged. In time, the two Hammond congregations became less exclusively Russian or German. However, it was probably the various divisions within the community which prevented a Jewish Community Center from ever being built in the city. Plans for a JCC were detailed in Cannon's 1927 *History of the Calumet Region*, but this project didn't materialize within Hammond's borders.<sup>170</sup>

4 Israel Zangwill was born in London in 1864 and achieved fame by writing a number of novels on Jewish themes. In successive years he published *Children of the Ghetto* (1892), *Ghetto Tragedies* and *The King of Schnorrers*. Zangwill had been a leading member of the Order of Ancient Maccabees, a Zionist society established in 1891. When Herzl visited London in 1896, he met with Zangwill to discuss Zionist plans. Zangwill attended the First Zionist Congress and additional congresses thereafter. He supported Herzl's Uganda plan and, following its rejection, led the Territorialists out of the Zionist organization in 1905. He established the Jewish Territorialists Organization (ITO), whose object was to acquire a Jewish homeland where possible. Following the securing of the Balfour declaration, the ITO fell into decline, and by 1925 it was officially dissolved. Zangwill supported Zionist efforts in *Eretz Israel*, calling for a radical approach to both the demand for the early establishment of a Jewish State and the solution of the Arab question. As regards the latter, he called for the transfer of Arabs from *Eretz Israel* to neighbouring Arab states. Zangwill died in 1926 in Preston, North England. (from *World Zionist Organization*)

168 Rabbi Frank Plotke; Interview; June 17, 1982.

169 Source misplaced.

170 Cannon; Page 527.

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## MASA B'YACHAD • CONTINUED FROM P. 8

also having accomplished a merger of similar schools before. Principal Miller continues to assist us to make this transition smooth, comfortable and successful, all while maintaining her beautiful smile.

The first half of the year classes are being held at Temple Beth El and the second half will be at Congregation Beth Israel. We are pleased to have a total of 45 students in preschool through confirmation. Classes are

held on Sunday for all grades and on Wednesday for Hebrew students only (grades 3–7). A welcome addition has been alternating some Friday night services where the students participate, and the combined junior choir performs. These Friday night services have been wonderful to bring the congregations and community together and listening to the beautiful voices of the choir.

Extreme gratitude for our teachers: Lester Blumberg, Nina Blumberg, Shelley Gurevitz, Terri Hendrickson, Doris Kennedy, Rabbi Levin, Cynthia Ostrovsky, Kristin Stern, Marsha Weiner, and Rabbi Zukrow; and for our aides: Kennedy Evans, Jacob Katz, Lilah Kreiss, Daniel Nozick, Leah Nozick, and Emma Stricker.

We invite you to attend services, special programs, and watch as we go on OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER. 🌍

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## RABBI ZUKROW • CONTINUED FROM P. 14

and without access to the Temple, they were not able to perform their sacred duties and holy tasks. So they had a vested interest in a return to Jewish control of their sacred spaces and sacred duties. Thus, their battle against the Syrian Greeks was a battle first for themselves and then, by extension, for those who joined and supported their efforts to regain independence in their own land.

This assertion for me operates in modern times in our day—although thankfully not in the same way, as we are not currently threatened by hostile forces at our borders or within our territory. It is for me a time to echo the cry, “Who is for God is with me!” Asserting our right to self-determination then is echoed now. Consider my sentence above. Are we even safe today in our time and in our spaces? A few years ago, the answer was “Yes”; today the answer is, “not so sure.”

Why? The rise in anti-Semitism challenges our sense of self and our willingness to assert our right to self-determination in our own communities when we risk ridicule, public shaming and even attack on our facilities or (worse) individuals.

In my teaching unit, I tell the story of Anne Roiphe, who wrote an article that appeared on the front page of

the *New York Times* in December of 1973. Roiphe told the narrative of her family's practice of setting up a Christmas tree in their Jewish home and how invariably, when they were bringing the tree home, they would be somewhat embarrassed when their neighbor, a rabbi, would see them taking the tree off the car.

Roiphe had deep and challenging questions about being Jewish. For example, she wondered why Jews “celebrated” the death of Egyptians at the time of the Exodus? Her critique and rationale for having a Christmas tree caused quite a tumult back in 1973. Perhaps in our day, it might not be such an issue, as ongoing assimilation and an embrace of multiculturalism and religious tolerance allows for shared winter holiday season symbols.

What is significant for me is what followed in Roiphe's narrative. While the vilification of her article was harsh and severe, an Orthodox rabbi reached out to her and listened to her complaints toward her faith and our history. In the course of the conversation, as Roiphe reports, her thoughts and beliefs transformed. What emerged was a deeper understanding, and with it a profounder connection to her identification with being Jewish. In fact, Roiphe became

a significant voice for Jewish involvement and engagement as a writer for many Jewish publications.

This is, to be trite, “a nice story”; more, it is a story that I suggest that we can celebrate. What I find in Roiphe's story is a pathway to identification, connection, involvement, engagement and fulfillment. In Chanukah, we need to “dig deeper” beyond latkes, dreidels, and gifts; I certainly love latkes, like playing dreidel, and surely enjoy receiving gifts. What I seek is a deeper and more significant understanding of Chanukah with the purpose of increasing our identification, connection, involvement and engagement as Anne Rophie did. Perhaps our narrative may follow hers and we can find our path to a robust Jewish life filled with engagement—in study, in ritual, in prayer, in Israel, in tzedakah work or connection with our Jewish community, whether local, regional, national or international.

Chanukah comes at the darkest time of the year. As we light our Chanukiyot (menorahs), let our light shine against the darkness and bring us all that we seek for ourselves and our families at this happy time of year.

*Chag Urim Sameach*—Happy Chanukah Lights and Celebration to All! 🌍

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## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### ARTICLE/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**AND POLICY:** The deadline for Illiana News articles, announcements, photos and advertising is **January 6, 2020** for the next issue. Articles must contain a byline that will be printed. Articles may be edited for length and are selected at the discretion of the editor. Submit articles via email to Erica Yakovetz at [erica@federationonline.org](mailto:erica@federationonline.org).

**CALENDAR:** The Federation maintains an online calendar for the community that includes congregational events, social activities, special services and celebrations. We encourage all our member organizations to consult [federationonline.org/calendar](http://federationonline.org/calendar) as new events are planned, in order to minimize conflicts. Contact Erica Yakovetz at the Federation, (219) 301-0960 or [erica@federationonline.org](mailto:erica@federationonline.org) before scheduling your event and/or to add your date to the calendar.

**CORRECTIONS:** Please contact the Federation at (219) 301-0960 or Erica Yakovetz at [erica@federationonline.org](mailto:erica@federationonline.org) with any errors found in the Illiana News. We aim for accuracy.

## ADVERTISE WITH US!

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More information online at  
[federationonline.org/news](http://federationonline.org/news)  
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Hadassah members at a planning meeting. Watch the next issue for Spring 2020 news!



## Hadassah "Golden Opportunities"

Still available for purchase: 2019-2020 Golden Opportunities coupon books for Northwest Indiana & Chicagoland South Suburbs. \$25 cash or check (payable to Illiana Hadassah). To place your order or view a display book, please contact Lisa Giglio at 708-774-1317 or [LSG@calumet.net](mailto:LSG@calumet.net).

## Obituaries

**Correction:** In the November/December issue, a photo of the late Philip Cohen was inadvertently paired with the obituary of the late Robert (Bob) Kaplan. The *Illiana News* sincerely regrets the error.

## Tribute Cards

Received through November 27, 2019.

STAN GOLDBERG AFC  
ENDOWMENT

In memory of Betsy Bender.  
Judy Katz and Family

You can send a  
Tribute Card online:  
[federationonline.org/tributes](http://federationonline.org/tributes)

## Help Us Help Them

Have you or a loved one recently entered a hospital, rehab center, or nursing home?  
**Please let us know so we can make sure to visit.** Contact Susan Tepperman, Jewish Community Services Coordinator, at 219-301-0960 or [susan@federationonline.org](mailto:susan@federationonline.org) with information or updates. Thank you!





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## 2019 Annual Meeting

On Sunday, November 17, we welcomed our new board members, recognized our outgoing board members, and honored our community and special service award recipients. 2019 was a great year for Federation, and 2020 promises to be even better! 🌍



Noar board members were recognized for Youth Leadership.



President-Elect Judy Katz and family



Mindy Miller and Francie Gerson



Marlene and Lou Kaplan



Rabbi Levin offers an opening prayer.



Endowment Chair Jonathan Radnor



Barry Levin presents the new board slate on behalf of the Governance Committee.



Aida Nozick with Larry Gill (Outgoing Treasurer)



Dr. Sean Egan (Outgoing Board President)



Carol Culberg (Educational Programming)



Dr. Becca Galante (Outgoing VP, JCS) with Event Chair Laurie Young



Lily Yalowitz (Community Garden) with board member Jenny Yalowitz

## We can't do it without you.

If you have already pledged to our 2019 Annual Campaign, THANK YOU! If you haven't, please consider donating to our Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana by **December 31**. Return the 2019 Campaign envelope inside this issue, call (219) 301-0960, or pledge your gift online at [bit.ly/jfnwi2019](http://bit.ly/jfnwi2019). Your support makes possible everything we do.