

Illiana News

The Jewish Community Newsletter of Northwest Indiana

Adar-Nisan-Iyar 5780
March-April 2020
 Volume 4, Issue 2

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

SPECIAL ISSUE: Jewish Community in the Time of Coronavirus



Creating Light to Ward Off Darkness

by **SUSAN TEPPERMAN, LCSW, Jewish Community Services Coordinator**



As we approach Passover, I can't help but think about the 10 plagues visited upon the Israelites of ancient times. As they endured terrible hardships and eventually prepared for their journey through the desert into the promised land, they learned some powerful lessons about faith, community and survival. Faith played a strong role as they walked through the Sea of Reeds into an unknown desert. There was great fear of the unknown, and our ancient ancestors certainly

struggled with unthinkable hardships. They made adaptations (even in the way they baked their bread), and they depended on one another to survive. Does any of this sound familiar? Not all of the story parallels current times, but as we encounter this newest plague, it makes me reflect on the need for faith and community to ensure our survival.

The need for community becomes even more important during times like these. No one likes feeling vulnerable or alone. Everyone likes to feel strong, independent and in

—CONTINUED ON P. 15

IN THIS ISSUE

Simchas	2
Special: Coronavirus Update	3-4
From the Executive Director	5
Upcoming Events	6
Community Spotlight: Rosanne Tolin	7
Community News	8-9
President's Corner	10
Partnership Western Galilee	10
K'Ton Ton Preschool	11
Prime Timers	12
Adult Friendship Club	13
Noar/Atid	14
Newsletter Naming Contest	14
Community Partners	16-20
Obituaries	22
Tribute Cards	23

JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

585 Progress Avenue
Munster, Indiana 46321
(219) 301-0960

fedweb@federationonline.org
www.federationonline.org

 FederationOnline
  JewishNWIndiana

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OFFICERS

President

Judy Katz

Treasurer

Sean Egan

Secretary

Mark Sperling

STAFF

Executive Director

Aida Nozick

aida@federationonline.org

K'Ton Ton Preschool Director

Erin Nowakowski

erin@federationonline.org

Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Jennifer Rodriguez

jennifer@federationonline.org

Director of

**Communications & Programming
(Editor, Illiana News)**

Erica Schultz Yakovetz

erica@federationonline.org

Front Office & Programming

Coordinator

Rachel Saller

rachel@federationonline.org

Jewish Community Services

Coordinator

Susan Tepperman

susan@federationonline.org

Principal,

Masa B'Yachad Religious School

Mindy Miller

mindy@federationonline.org

JCY Camp Director

Rachel Sieffert

director_jcycamp@federationonline.org

Simchas

Please send any Simchas you would like included in the next issue to Erica Yakovetz, (219) 301-0960 or erica@federationonline.org by April 20, 2020. Text and photos must be provided in accordance with all Illiana News Policies and Procedures.

MAZEL TOV...

To **Carolyn Berkowitz** on the February 15 marriage of her granddaughter, Sarah Berkowitz, to Tim Peterson. Proud parents are Roger & Kathy Berkowitz of Minneapolis, MN.

To **Susan & Paul Bochnowski** on the engagement of their daughter Alisa to James Logue.

To **Rabbi Joseph A. Edelheit**, who served as the rabbi of Sinai Temple from 1976-1985, on the recent publication of his latest book, *What Am I Missing? Questions About Being Human* (Wipf and Stock Publishers; 2020; ISBN 978-1725259027).

To **Leah Herszberg** on the birth of a granddaughter, Eden. Proud parents are Elyahu Herszberg & Dayna Van Woert.

► To **Dr. Risa Hurwich** on her March 14 marriage to Michael Kopinsky. Proud mother of the bride is **Karyn Hurwich**.



To **Ed Levitin** on the January 11 marriage of his

granddaughter, Dr. Hillary Ann Levitin, to David McCallister. Hillary is the daughter of Steven z"l & Kathleen Levitin of Chicago.

To **Emily (Wyatt) McHenry** and big brother James on the January 31 birth of Ophelia McHenry.

To **Alex Port** on his engagement to Kate Falck.

To **Rande & Jerry Shapiro** on the birth of a granddaughter.

► To **Rosanne Tolin** on the recent publication of her latest book, *More Than Marmalade: Michael Bond and the Story of Paddington Bear* (Chicago Review Press; ISBN 978-1-64160-314-0). For more on the book, see page 7 of this issue!



► To **Paula Weinberg & Doug Zellers** on the engagement of their daughter, Dr. Morgan Zellers, to Michael Kaplan. The couple live and work in Henderson, NV. Their other daughter, Stephanie Kratimenos, her husband Taso, and big sister Zoe welcomed their new son/brother Wes on October 19. 🌍



We Are Here To Help!

If you or someone you know in the Jewish community are ill, immune-compromised, or in need of resources, please let us know how we can help.

• Contact Susan Tepperman, Jewish Community Services Coordinator, at 219-301-0960 or susan@federationonline.org with information or updates.

• Call or text Aida Nozick, Executive Director, on her cell phone: 219-688-6238. You may also email aida@federationonline.org.

Coronavirus & Federation's Jewish Community Services

The public health situation regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic is evolving daily.

- Governor Holcomb declared on March 16 that all restaurants and bars in the state of Indiana must close their dine-in offerings, but may continue to provide take-out and delivery services.
- The CDC recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers throughout the United States should cancel or postpone all in-person gatherings of 50 people or more. Unfortunately, this guideline impacts events scheduled through May 8, including Federation's Candidates Forum on April 2 and

Israel Solidarity Day on April 26, and services and special events at our congregations across the region.

Out of concern for the health and safety of our community, Federation is expanding our roster of support services for the duration of the crisis.

- Our kosher meal home delivery on Mondays and Wednesdays is now available to **all Jewish community members** who would like to participate. See below for the March and April menus. Please call 219-301-0960 up until 10am that day to place your orders. You may also leave voicemail outside of regular office hours. Deliveries will be made between 12-2pm each day. The cost will be \$8 per meal, or \$18 for our Seder-To-Go on April 7. **In case of financial hardship, pay what you can.** No money is collected at time of delivery; we will keep track of orders and send invoices.

- Our Food Pantry has expanded its hours to 12pm-3pm on Thursdays. Due to the anticipated increase in usage, and to minimize face-to-face contact, we are moving temporarily to a system of pre-packing food boxes rather than allow visitors to shop the pantry.
- In light of the above, we can use additional healthy volunteers to deliver meals, run errands, and other services. Please contact the Federation office if you would like to participate.

We are here for you during this time of confusion and uncertainty. Please call the office for any additional assistance we can offer you during this time. If you know someone who is immune-compromised or a senior who may need resources, please let us know how we can help.

We wish continued good health and good spirits to every one of you and our surrounding community. 🌍

Meal Delivery Menu

**The below dates are subject to changes pending further public health mandates. We will continue to provide meal service as long as we are able to remain open.*

Mon 3/23: Chicken casserole with rice & vegetables, dessert

Wed 3/25: Spaghetti & meatballs, garlic bread, dessert

Mon 3/30: Chicken stir-fry with rice & vegetables, dessert

Wed 4/1: Chicken noodle soup, rolls, dessert

TUESDAY 4/7: Seder-To-Go (\$18 per meal). *See details at right.*

Mon 4/20: Mushroom barley soup, rolls, dessert

Wed 4/22: Veggie lasagna, garlic bread, fruit

Mon 4/27: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green vegetable

Wed 4/29: Chicken Vesuvio, roasted potatoes, peas, dessert



Seder-To-Go!

Order deadline: Friday, April 3

Home delivery or pickup: Tuesday, April 7

A delicious Passover-style meal of matzah ball soup, apricot chicken, green beans almondine, roasted potatoes, dessert, and grape juice... PLUS charoset, parsley, horseradish, and a box of Passover matzah (*one box per household*).

\$18 per meal

Pay what you can OR sponsor a neighbor

Contact the Jewish Federation at (219) 301-0960 for more information or to place your order.

**Menu subject to change. While meals will be prepared Passover-style, Federation's kosher kitchen is not a Kosher-for-Passover facility.*

Bringing Out the Best in Ourselves

by RABBI ELIEZER ZALMANOV



There is a lot of confusion and doubt in these “coronavirus days,” especially within the Jewish community, where optimism has always played a large role in how we live, even in the face of some of the harshest realities. Synagogues, mikvehs, schools and yeshivas have suspended all activities, going against our natural instinct to be optimistic and soldier on in the face of adversity. Jews are naturally optimistic and for many it can be a challenge to follow instructions and concede that the situation is dire.

The Talmud tells of two sages who exemplified this trait of always having a bright outlook in life despite it not necessarily being self-evident: Rabbi Akiva and Nachum Ish-Gamzu.

In fact, Nachum’s last name came from a phrase he would always use: “Gam zu letovah—this too is for the best.” He always trusted in G-d, and even when things seemed dire he believed that it would all turn out well in the end.

Rabbi Akiva’s phrase was, “All that G-d does is for good.”

While similar on the surface, it carried a different message than Nachum Ish-Gamzu’s saying.

The difference between the two is that while Nachum found the silver lining in every situation, even when things did not seem good, Rabbi Akiva never even saw the bad; everything that occurred to him was always good in his eyes. Where Nachum saw good within the bad, Rabbi Akiva only saw good.

In this current situation, is it possible for either of those forms of optimism to exist, especially since we are not anything like these great sages?

People often associate optimism with denial. How can we be optimistic when reality is so clearly telling us the opposite? How can someone claim that all is well when the world is facing a raging pandemic, poised to take so many lives, G-d forbid? What right do we have to be optimistic?

Of course, we must take all the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus and to follow government guidelines. Don’t be smarter

being up to date on the ever-evolving information coming out from the CDC and other sources. Call or text them to see how they are managing in isolation and update them on the precautions they should be taking. Offer to pick up groceries and other vital needs, and see if there is any other way you can help.

And most importantly, don’t forget that you can do all this even after the virus passes. We are very good at being there for each other in times of tragedy and loss, but wouldn’t it be great if we did the same even when everything was good?

Our attitude should be that we must always be there for others, always be prepared to reach out and lend a hand.

than the experts and don’t ignore their warnings. Everyone should stay home, especially older people and those that are immuno-compromised. But at the same time, we have the ability to form our own attitudes, and attitude is what leads to action.

The Jewish attitude should always be to help others. Those that are young and healthy should do whatever they can to prevent older and more vulnerable people from catching the virus. This means avoiding congregating in groups, don’t go out unless it is for essentials, and wash your hands often. We should make ourselves available to help those that cannot help themselves at this time.

In addition to their risk of catching the virus due to age or vulnerability, living alone can lead to them not

Or, to use the above two sages as an example: We can—and should—be like Nachum Ish Gamzu, and whenever there is negativity about, find the silver lining and make the best of it.

But we should also be like Rabbi Akiva and not wait for there to be a tragedy, G-d forbid. Our attitude should be that we must always be there for others, always be prepared to reach out and lend a hand. Gemilut chassadim, acts of kindness, is one of the foundations upon which the world depends, and it should not be limited to times of tragedy and pandemics. Of course we need to be ready to help then. But we have the ability and the responsibility to make the world a good place all the

—CONTINUED ON P. 14



Community Update: Stronger Together

by AIDA NOZICK

In the last issue of the *Illiana News* (February-March), I discussed laying the groundwork for moving our community forward in light of challenges we all face. Growing anti-Semitism is being felt by Jews all over the world, and our little Jewish community in Northwest Indiana is not exempt from the collective anxiety or angst. In the last two months, I've learned that our community collectively stands very strong, knowledgeable, engaged, and most importantly committed to the safety and security of our members. Through a series of committee meetings and community engagement discussions, our community members are more prepared than ever to tackle a range of challenges head-on.

At the beginning of January, out of necessity, Federation developed a listserv for all congregational security committees to share pertinent security information quickly and efficiently. While we may be spread over three counties, sharing security information with each other can collectively save us time and energy and help build a more cohesive community with shared purpose and knowledge.

On February 24, the Federation facilitated a community-wide conversation with Michael Masters, CEO and National Director of SCN (Secure Community Network). Mr. Masters brings a unique perspective, in that SCN is the first national nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated

to Homeland Security initiatives on behalf of the American Jewish community. From this engaging presentation, our community learned about additional resources that have been developed for Jewish organizations. These resources include but are not limited to physical building assessments, various safety trainings, and emergency preparedness plans both for individual congregations and for the wider Jewish community.

Also in February, U.S. Attorney Tom Kirsch addressed our congregational leaders and rabbis about the federal government's response to incidents of anti-Semitism and the resources that are available to our community. This meeting took place at the Jewish Federation with all 6 congregations represented. We were assured that the FBI and other federal agencies continuously monitor threats both locally and nationally. However, our community's relationship with our local police department is still the most valuable and important.

While maintaining security at our organizations is an ongoing imperative, building bridges with our neighbors is equally important. On February 6, our JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) hosted three professional women storytellers, one Jewish, one Christian and one Muslim, known as Keeping Faith: Sisters of Story. Over 150 people attended this program from 18 different local congregations representing Jews, Christians, Muslims



SISTERS OF STORY: Storytellers Kim Schultz, Susan Stone, and Rohina Malik performed at Federation on February 6 to an audience of over 150.

and Hindus. The storytellers received a standing ovation at the end of the program, and many attendees offered their own stories of commonality and shared experiences.

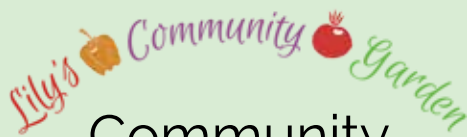
Building meaningful relationships with our non-Jewish friends and neighbors is a necessary step towards coexistence. We still have a lot to learn from and about each other.

The Talmud states, "The ultimate purpose of wisdom is to do acts of kindness." Jewish Community Services is the heart and soul of the Federation. Originally founded as the Northwest Indiana Jewish Welfare Federation, we are a social service agency first and foremost. Our new Vice-President for JCS, Nancy Gross, and I have been busy meeting with congregational rabbis and board presidents for the last few months. As our Federation offers a variety of social services, Nancy and I wanted to assess the viability of those services and determine gaps where additional services may be needed, or phase out offerings that are no longer useful to our community members.

—CONTINUED ON P. 14

Upcoming Events

Please note that all currently scheduled events are subject to change based on public health recommendations. Call to confirm.



Community Garden 2020 Callout Meeting!

Monday, April 27
4:00pm

The garden must go on! Lily's Community Garden at the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana is entering its second season. Come help us assess our 2019 season, plan our 2020 crops for providing fresh produce to our Food Pantry, and discuss educational opportunities for JCY campers and KTon Ton students.

RSVP to (219) 301-0960 or visit federationonline.org/garden



Chair Yoga

CANCELLED FOR
MARCH AND APRIL

We will announce a return to our regular schedule when available.

Fridays 11:15am-12:15pm

More info & updates:
[federationonline.org/
upcoming-events#Yoga](http://federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Yoga)

2020 FEDERATION BOOK CLUB: SESSION 3:

The House at Tyneford by Natasha Solomons

Wed., April 1 • 7:00pm (VIA ZOOM)

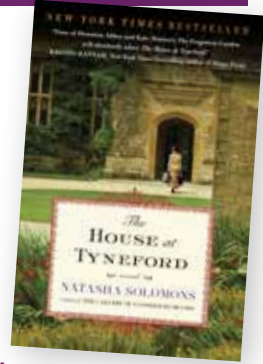
****If we get enough interest we will arrange a Zoom or Facebook Live meeting for this discussion. RSVP at the link below so we can let you know!**

Please read the book in advance and come prepared for lively discussion facilitated by Carol Culberg.

A story of the possibility of transcending social and class boundaries, as well as a novel about tradition, change, loss, and enduring love. It's the spring of 1938 and no longer safe to be a Jew in Vienna. Nineteen-year-old Elise Landau is forced to leave her glittering life of parties and champagne to become a parlor maid in England. She arrives at Tyneford, the great house on the bay, where servants polish silver and serve drinks on the lawn. But war is coming, and the world is changing. When the master's fun-loving son, Kit, returns home, a romance erupts between him and Elise that challenges the aristocratic orthodoxy. Despite his devotion, Kit gets pulled into the war, in a test of their love and the fading of a bygone era.

Used paperback copies are still available to borrow or purchase (\$5) through the Federation office. Call for availability.

RSVP to (219) 301-0960 or online at federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Solomons



NEW FOR SESSION 4: MOVIE NIGHT!

Sefarad (2019; 90 mins)

Monday, May 4

5:30pm screening • 7:15pm discussion

In Portuguese with English subtitles. A sumptuous and absorbing historical drama about hope, faith and humanity. In 19th century Portugal, where Judaism has been prohibited for centuries, a military officer converted to the faith embarks on a selfless mission to bring the Jewish community back to life. With a sweeping look, Sefarad is a timely film that will make you reflect on the true worth of faith, love, and selfless valor.

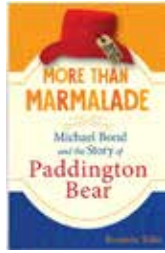
Join us in the Federation lounge at 5:30pm to watch the movie over a light dinner (advance RSVP and \$5 donation requested). Can't make it for the screening? Watch the movie in advance on Amazon Prime or iTunes and join us for the discussion around 7:15pm, facilitated by Carol Culberg.

RSVP by Friday, May 1, to (219) 301-0960 or online at federationonline.org/upcoming-events#Sefarad



Meet the Author: Rosanne Tolin

Chesterton resident **Rosanne Tolin's** latest book, *More than Marmalade: Michael Bond and the Story of Paddington Bear*



(ISBN 978-1-64160-314-0), was released on March 3 by Chicago Review Press. This incredible story—the first biography about the beloved series' famously humble writer—reveals how world history, Bond's life, and cultural struggles to integrate immigrants and refugees were embedded in Paddington's creation.

The *Illiana News* recently caught up with Rosanne to ask a few questions about the new book and her writing life.

IN: How did you come to settle in Northwest Indiana?

RT: I'm a Missouri native but I went to law school in Chicago, where I met my husband, Hal. He was working (and still works) on the south side. He grew up in Cleveland, so settling halfway between our hometowns felt like a natural progression!

IN: How did you first find out about Michael Bond, and what drew you to him as a subject?

RT: I worked as a managing editor for a kids magazine. Since then, and since I had kids, even as an adult I've been especially drawn to children's books. But I've known about Michael Bond since I was a young child. I loved the Paddington books back in elementary school! However, I only knew that Bond was the author of the series. Apart from that, I didn't know much about his life story until I started researching my book.

IN: What's the resonance in this book for a Jewish reader (kid or adult)? Did your own background affect how you approached the story?

RT: The resonance for any Jewish reader—whether kid or adult—is the fact that Paddington Bear was an immigrant. The seed for this book actually came from an article I ran across a few years ago in *Tablet* magazine titled, "Paddington Bear's Surprising Jewish Roots." Michael Bond was inspired by the Kindertransport children, those kids who escaped the atrocities in World War 2 Germany by traveling to Britain by train. They were without their parents and had nothing but a knapsack full of clothes in their possession—just like Paddington Bear. Like him, once they arrived at the train station, they hoped they were lucky enough that a loving family would take them in. It was a sad state of affairs for sure.

IN: Any plans underway yet for your next book?

RT: I do have a couple of projects I'm working on! One is another biography for children, and the other is a work of middle grade historical fiction that I'm particularly excited about. The latter is set in France during World War 2. Historical fiction is a totally new genre for me, so I'm really enjoying the creative process.

IN: You've raised 4 kids in this community. How does your family feel about your writing accomplishments?

RT: They're really proud of their mom. They knew being (traditionally) published was a dream of mine. My



oldest, a daughter, is also a writer—so we've had a lot of fun discussing the details of the writing craft. All of my boys have been great "beta" readers. They were honest with me about my manuscript, regarding what worked and what didn't. I honestly respect each one of their opinions to the fullest! Of course, my four kids and my husband were the first to get review copies. I'm so grateful for all their support.

IN: What's your favorite place to go in Northwest Indiana?

RT: That's a great question! My answer is probably the same as it is for most of us in the region. Nothing beats the beach. I have two dogs, so taking them for a hike in the dunes makes for an excellent day. My other favorite places are coffee shops and bookstores. Everyone loves Barnes & Noble, but I'll give a special shout out to O'Gara and Wilson Antiquarian Booksellers in Chesterton. I love browsing around there, it's like a literary treasure hunt. Just a few doors down, Red Cup is a great place to grab a sandwich and a mug of coffee while I write. ☺

*Later this year, Rosanne will read from *More than Marmalade* at a book signing at the Valparaiso Barnes & Noble (150 Silhavy Road). The date will be announced when available.*

Northwest Indiana Purim Carnival: March 8, 2020

Purim fun for all ages! Our area religious schools came together at the Federation building for games, songs, prizes, a costume parade, and (of course) hamantashen.



YOM HASHOAH

Can You Identify This Photograph?

The photograph shown was discovered (in its frame) in December 2007, having survived a fire at the Emerson School in Gary. The message below was found taped between the picture and the back of the frame. If you recognize anyone in the photo or have any information, please contact the Federation office. 🕯



*all the Jewish girls of
this class were deported
to AUSCHWITZ, via
DRANCY, in July 1942
FRANCE
NONE RETURNED.
PARIS FRANCE
SPRING OF 1942
↑ PITCHER TAKEN*



Donor Spotlight: Anytime Fitness

On December 4, 2019, staff from Anytime Fitness in Munster stopped by Federation to donate four large boxes of food items to our Manna Cabana food pantry.

Facility manager Ashley Henderson wrote, "Thank you again for the opportunity to be able to donate to such a great cause. Every year at the facility we do a canned food drive. We ask our members to donate canned goods and non-perishable food, and drop the items inside the box of the employee who they would like to see get a pie in the face. We then choose

a food bank and donate all of the food we received, and this year it was [the Jewish Federation]. It was so nice to meet you and your staff, and you guys are amazing for what you're doing!"

Later in December, they returned with additional donations of toys from a holiday toy drive. These gifts were much appreciated by the client families of our food pantry as well.

Thank YOU, Ashley and the members of Anytime Fitness, for supporting our community's needy through the Jewish Federation! 🕯

Ashley Henderson, facility manager of the Munster location of Anytime Fitness at 821 Main Street, with the donations from their member food drive.

We're In This Together



by JUDY KATZ

Thank you to our Executive Director, Aida Nozick, for all of her great ideas and initiatives for the upcoming year. I am so excited about this year's Federation theme, **Stronger Together**, and what it entails.

I recently attended our Secure Community Network program and was pleased to see someone from each of our congregations there learning together how to make our buildings safer. I look forward to the collaboration that will be taking place under Aida's leadership with the help of the Secure Community Network, a program offered by the Jewish Federations of North America.

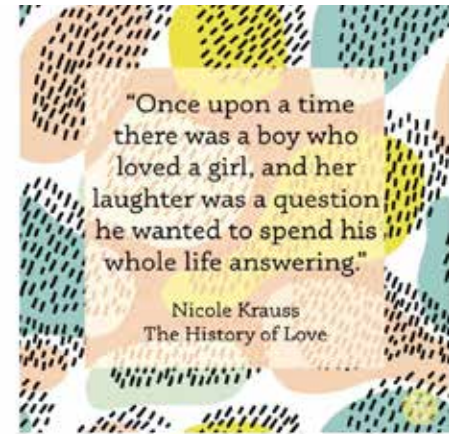
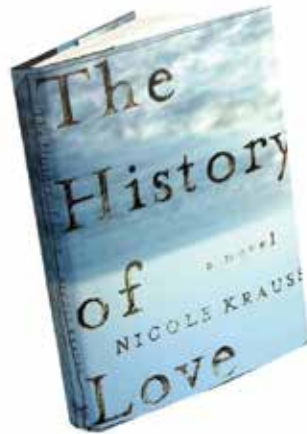
Now that our Federation serves communities in three counties, it is imperative that we include Michigan City and Valparaiso and continue to include Gary/Miller in our planning. It has been heartwarming to see members of these communities joining us at Federation for our Food for Thought Sunday brunch series. We truly appreciate the time and distance it takes for our friends to come from the eastern part of our community to Munster.

It is our goal to bring programming to all areas of our Federation community. These programs will include the SCN initiatives, as well as programs offered by our Partnership Western Galilee and more.

I would love to hear any program ideas we can share throughout our Federation's three counties. I can be reached at 219-776-0147 or judykatz@gmail.com. 🌐

THE GLOBAL P2G VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

The next book we'll read together is
The History of Love
by Nicole Krauss



RSVP BY MARCH 1st

to Avital Ben Dror at Avitalbe@jafi.org

Read the book then join the

ZOOM: VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB GATHERING

Sunday, May 3

11am EST / 10am CST / 6pm Israel / 5pm BD

Readers will be connected by an open WhatsApp group beginning on March 2nd.

For more information: Avital Ben Dror at avitalbe@jafi.org or your local Federation.

Partnership: #FacingCorona2Gether

by ANDREA ARBEL, Partnership Unit Director, The Jewish Agency for Israel

This is the first time in Israel-Diaspora history that we are experiencing the same crisis at the same time—a sense of mutuality which heightens our collective need for 2Getherness. Already we have seen a powerful outpouring of creative and heartfelt engagement in Partnership. You, our Partners, have shared energy and resourcefulness which truly knows no bounds. Even this horrendous coronavirus is not stopping us from engaging with each other across the ocean. It may stop us from going into the office, but not from supporting one another through shared activity and mutual care. We are witnessing scheduled programming quickly being translated into virtual versions, and new standalone programming initiated. We are therefore launching a campaign with the hashtag **#FacingCorona2Gether**. We invite you to participate on social media by sharing photos and/or video. Please take a minute to share with us how you are **#FacingCorona2Gether** so we can help to mutually uplift one another's soul and spirit. 🌐

Regretfully, the Partnership Summit scheduled for June 22-25 in Budapest has been cancelled for public health reasons. Stay tuned for upcoming information about virtual Summit presentations.



We celebrated Purim by wearing costumes, making graggers, and enjoying hamantashen!

Tradition!

So much of our Judaism is based in tradition. What we know about child development is that traditions and rituals are an important piece of helping young children feel connected and valued.

Traditions impart a sense of identity, provide comfort and security, help to navigate change, teach values, generate wonderful memories, and even help heal from a loss or trauma.

In addition to the traditions we partake in Jewishly with our young children, rituals can bring a sense of calm to our houses. Bedtime rituals, like a bedtime story followed by the same song, help children prepare for sleep. Good-bye rituals help ease the stress of separation. Having a secret



handshake makes saying goodbye more fun. Meal time rituals bring the family together. Family news at the dinner table gives everyone a chance to share about their day. Maybe Sunday night is Kid's Choice night. They help cook, clean, and set the table in silly ways. They might decorate the table with Legos, decide everyone eats only with spoons, or decrees it changing seats night.

What research tells us is that it's not the big gifts or celebrations kids remember most. Instead it's the simple rituals and family traditions that stick. Our traditions are what leave children feeling safe and treasured. 🌍

Parenting in a Time of Quarantine (Without Going Crazy)

Facing the sudden prospect of being home with our children for the foreseeable future can certainly feel overwhelming. If you have school-age children at home with schoolwork to organize, it can feel more so. Usually, over breaks, we have parks, museums, zoos to visit—places we can go to break up the days and enrich our time. We're now faced with a very different situation, and in doing what is best for all, we are all working to find a new normal in our homes.

We know that young children thrive with routine. While thinking about being home, I encourage you to create a very flexible routine for your family. It may be something like:

- Wake Up, Breakfast, Start the Day
- Morning Chores: Young children are natural-born helpers. They love

to sort laundry, load the washing machine, dust, and more.

- Organized Activity: You may play together, do art projects, sort things, or more! This would be a good time to video chat with friends and family, too.
- Outdoor Play: Go outside as much as possible. Even short doses of outside time break up the day and improve everyone's mental health.
- Lunch
- Quiet Time
- Play: Independent play or play together.
- Dinner
- Bedtime

As we navigate this time, it's important to remember the power of

connection with your children. Find little ways often throughout the day to connect with more hugs than usual as it's an unsettling time for all. Conscious Discipline reminds us of the importance of taking a breath. When things feel overwhelming, stop, take a deep breath, and allow your shoulders to relax. Then, do it again. With a renewed sense of calm, you will be able to address what's happening in that moment.

I encourage you to give yourself permission to take it slow. Our children's lives are often busy; busier than is best for young children. You don't have to re-create school at home. Do your best. Most importantly, love your kids. Be their safe place. Read, create, play, sing, and talk together. We wish you well. 🌍

Prime Timers

Please note that all currently scheduled events are subject to change based on public health recommendations. Call to confirm.

Prime Timers is Federation's group for active adults, ages 55 and over, Together they take day trips to regional attractions, restaurants, and other special events. More info: federationonline.org/prime-timers

The April 29 trip to the Oriental Institute Museum has been postponed until further notice. Call Rachel regarding your payment.

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Morton Arboretum

Time: 9:00am-3:30pm

Cost: \$40 (non-members \$45)—includes roundtrip coach bus transportation to Lisle, IL, and an hour-long tram ride tour.

Lunch stop at the Arboretum's Ginkgo Restaurant. *Separate checks.*



▲ Prime Timers and AFC members spent an afternoon at the Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana on February 18.



Erin Doherty

SENIOR DESIGN ASSOCIATE

Ask for the Federation discount!

Erin.Doherty@tileshop.com
p. 219-515-5089

1150 US HWY 41 Unit B
Scherville, IN 46375
www.tileshop.com

LEE'S RIDE SERVICE

Lee Cordell "Friend"

We'll Take You To Your Doctor, Pharmacy,
Grocery Store, Beauty Shop, Train, & Air Ports

Great Care - Beyond Compare !

* Call Today For Information **

Cell Phone (219) 308-9411

Diane (219) 308-9511

Adult Friendship Club

Please note that all currently scheduled events are subject to change based on public health recommendations. Call to confirm.

MARCH & APRIL 2020: AFC HOME DELIVERY

For the health and safety of our seniors, AFC lunches are moving to **home delivery only** through April 30, 2020. See page 3 of this issue for menu and details.

Members, please call the office by 10am each day to place your order for delivery. Advance ordering is preferred! You may also leave a message over the weekend. Deliveries will be made between 12-2pm each day. Cost is \$8 per delivered meal.

In case of financial hardship, pay what you can. No money will be collected at time of delivery. We will track your orders and you may bring a check or cash once AFC resumes regularly scheduled meetings.

MAY 2020 EVENTS

Wed. 5/6 (tentative): 12pm Lunch & 2pm Play: *Talley's Folly* by Lanford Wilson. Theatre at the Center (1040 Ridge Rd., Munster). \$40 for AFC members; \$45 non-members. RSVP with your payment by April 24. Please indicate your lunch selection on your check: Pasta Primavera or Beef Stroganoff.

SAVE THE DATE: AFC'S FRIENDSHIP DAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 24, 11:30am at Andorra Banquets & Catering (1112 Rt. 41, Schererville). Pricing will be announced in April.

COMING TO AFC THIS SUMMER: BRAIN FITNESS CAMP!

Brain Fitness Camp engages aging adults in fun and interactive activities that challenge thinking and help participants stay mentally active. This can contribute to maintaining and improving brain function. The goal is to educate participants on healthy brain contributors, and to present cognitive or mental challenges to participants in a highly social setting. Participants will enjoy four different socially interactive sessions.

Presenter: Linda Curley is a Health and Human Sciences Educator for Purdue Extension-Lake County.

Proposed Dates: May 13, June 10, July 29, August 12. NOTE: Each session will be 1½-2 hours in length.

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

"Page Turners" Book Club

Led by Debby Walker

April Selection: Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral by Kris Radish—

Katherine Givens's oldest and dearest friend, the irreplaceable Annie Freeman, left one final request—a traveling funeral—and wants the four most important women in her life as "pallbearers." From Sonoma to Manhattan, Katherine, Laura, Rebecca, Jill, and Marie carry Annie's ashes to the special places in her life. And as they grieve over what they've lost, they discover how much is still possible if only they can unravel the secret Annie left them.

Books are available now for pickup. Discussion (originally scheduled for April 6) is tentatively planned for Monday, May 4, at 1pm.



A musical performance by Terri Hendrickson & Kristin Stern (January 19).



"Torah & Tea" with Chanie Zalmanov on February 12.



Almost Heaven Lunch & Play outing to the Theatre@theCenter on February 19.



▲ Atid enjoyed Challah Baking & Board Games at Aaron Brody's house on Sunday, February 9. The surprising hit game? Spinagogue!

AIDA NOZICK
CONTINUED FROM P. 5

Over the next few months, Nancy and I will meet with the rest of the JCS committee to share what we've learned and explore new ideas to help address various needs in our community. In tandem with Susan Tepperman, our JCS Coordinator, we will work to improve communication with our congregations and rabbis, concentrate our services on those who need them the most, and expand our assistance to those

community members in Porter and LaPorte Counties. Every aspect of our social services is under strict confidentiality and specific names are never mentioned.

I encourage any community members interested in serving on this committee to call or email me with your questions. I promise you will find the work both meaningful and impactful, not only for those that need assistance, but for yourself. 🌍

RABBI ZALMANOV
CONTINUED FROM P. 4

time, even when everything seems just fine. Pick up the phone and call someone you haven't spoken to in a while, offer to pick up medications or dry cleaners for someone who has a hard time leaving the house. Cheer someone up by dropping in for a visit, bring over a home cooked meal for Shabbat, or even for a regular Tuesday. Know someone out of a job due to current events? Offer to help them in as dignified a way possible.

Jewish optimism means that we still believe in G-d despite all that is going on. There is uncertainty in the world, but was anything ever really certain, other than that G-d is in charge? We don't know why G-d does what He does, but we do know what He expects us to do.

We are blessed with many opportunities to help others. So if we are going to turn this pandemic into a blessing for the future, let us resolve to continue bringing out the best in ourselves and our communities every single day.

May G-d continue to bless all of humanity with health, peace, and prosperity. Today and always! 🌍

2020 NAMING CONTEST:
New Year, New Newsletter!

Our community has changed, the *Illiana News* has changed... now we're holding a contest to find just the right name for our popular print newsletter. Any Jewish resident of Northwest Indiana may enter. The grand prize: bragging rights!

Visit federationonline.org/news to submit your entry by **June 1, 2020**. Entries will be evaluated by the Federation board and staff, based on style, originality, appropriateness, and Jewish relevance. The winning



Illiana News through the years: issues from 2000, 2010, and 2020.

name will be revealed in August 2020. Questions? Contact Erica Yakovetz, Editor, at (219) 301-0960 or erica@federationonline.org. 🌍

control. Yet although we can't congregate, our community can still come together in spirit and in solidarity to help us all stay healthy, fed, and connected.

For some, it will be very difficult to stay home. This pandemic, COVID-19, is like nothing we have experienced in recent times. Information about the spread of the virus is changing rapidly. Much remains unknown. What we do know is that the virus is spreading at an accelerated rate and that all people are at risk—but especially older adults (60+), those with compromised immune systems, and those with underlying medical conditions. We have learned from medical professionals in Italy and in Israel that young people are also at risk for contracting the disease. They are also quite capable of transmitting the virus even if they seem healthy and appear asymptomatic.

Each time we hit a plateau of “new normal”, another restriction, ban, or realization takes hold. Initially, we were put off by annoyingly long lines in grocery stores until we realized there are few (or in some cases, no) items to purchase anyway. Now we are being told to stay out of public places altogether and to merely stay home. We have had to give up enjoyable social gatherings as restaurants and businesses are closed. These are uncertain times!

All of this feels isolating and solitary. However, social distancing does not have to mean social isolation.

I have been reading about the psychological and spiritual challenges that humans experience during a crisis. To be sure, both this pandemic and the implications of having 24/7 social media to promote information (and misinformation) are unprecedented. We are social beings and

are accustomed to feeling independent and in control. One of the first realizations that hit me recently is that I am not in control. In fact, it was

Focusing outward on the needs of others creates community and positivity and wards off feelings of isolation. This will be the light that will lift the darkness.

only an illusion that I was in control in the first place. The virus has made this quite clear. There are things and circumstances I can't control, such as when or if I will contract COVID-19, or when this outbreak will peak and eventually end. There are, however, circumstances within my control. I CAN control whether to attend an unnecessary social gathering or observe crucial guidelines for social distancing. I can choose to hoard, OR to refrain from hoarding, items that are essential for everyone's comfort and safety. I can control how I treat my neighbors during this time of extreme crisis. I can be solitary, or I can be a team player. I can decide to consider only my own needs, ignoring the needs of others—or, once I myself am safe and well prepared, I can focus on the needs of others.

I recently learned that the Jewish way to confront a crisis is not to OVERcome, rather to BEcome. As Jews, we take action, we brainstorm, we create solutions, and we act on them. We create light to ward off darkness. This, in fact, is what will make us feel better and relieve our feelings of isolation. Focusing inward heightens anxiety and depression. Focusing outward on the needs of others creates community and positivity and wards off feelings of isolation. This will be the light that will lift

the darkness. If you know someone in need of physical or spiritual assistance, make a phone call, drop off a treat, let them know they're not alone.

Here is how Federation can help:

1. Call our office for help doing your weekly grocery shopping, prescription pick up, routine errands. We have volunteers who can venture out for you. We are dedicating a weekday for each of our communities outside Munster and will mobilize volunteers to assist those in these communities. (Tuesdays–Porter County; Thursdays–LaPorte County; Fridays–East Lake County)
2. Call us for a meal to be delivered to your home on Mondays and Wednesdays. See p. 3 of this issue for our March and April menus.
3. Call us to chat about the weather, any anxiety you may be feeling, or just to say hi.
4. Request a weekly or biweekly phone call so that we can check in on you.
5. Let us know about any other needs you may have or difficulties you are experiencing.

Let's do this together. We are stronger and will be healthier if we depend on one another to get through this. I'll look forward to hearing from you!! 🌍



The health and well-being of our congregational family is always our highest priority. As a precautionary measure, CBI has decided to cancel all religious services through at least March 28th. Masa B'Yachad Religious School will remain closed through at least March 31. Sisterhood's March Soup Sale has been postponed.

PESACH: SONGS, GUIDE, AND SELLING OF HAMETZ

Visit cbi-nwi.org/worship/pesach to hear audio clips of the major portions of the Haggadah, and to download the Rabbinical Assembly Pesach Guide, which explains the laws and customs regarding the dietary restrictions of Pesach. Here you can also download the Selling of Hametz form and mail it to CBI before Tuesday, April 7.

YOM HAATZMAUT (ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY) SERVICE

Saturday, April 25, 9:45am: Join us for a morning service with special prayers celebrating Israel at 72.

AMBASSADOR DORE GOLD: THE STRUGGLE FOR JERUSALEM IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY



Sunday, May 3, 11:00am–12:00pm: Join Rabbi Levin to watch and discuss Ambassador Gold's presentation of 3,000 years of Jewish history

in Jerusalem, with the assistance of Israel's finest, state of the art multi-media technology. This exciting sensory experience brings sacred sites and ancient documents to life while telling the story of the Jewish people's unbreakable connection to Israel and Jerusalem through the ages.

In response to Palestinian claims and UN resolutions that deny the Jewish connection to Jerusalem, Gold

► In the cycle "Contemporary Jewish Issues", we watched and discussed a very interesting presentation: Thane Rosenbaum in conversation with Holocaust scholar Rafael Medoff, about his book, *The Jews Should Keep Quiet: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and the Holocaust.*



offers compelling visuals of archaeological treasures, rare documents, vintage photos and clandestine film footage that brings the historical record to life, offering irrefutable evidence of the Jewish people's persistent ties to Jerusalem.

JEWISH JEOPARDY NIGHT

Sunday, May 3, 7:00pm: The Social Action Committee of CBI will be hosting a Jewish Jeopardy Night. Come and test your knowledge of all things cultural and historical, as well as knowledge of our own Northwest Indiana Jewish community and its history. It promises to be an evening of good fun and mild competition! Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free! We look forward to seeing you there.

MASA B'YACHAD RELIGIOUS SCHOOL—SERVICE & DINNER

Friday, May 8, 6:00pm: Students from both CBI and TBE will lead the Friday night service, which will include a prepared program and a

lively review of the Torah portion from that week. We hope to see all of you there to help support the wonderful students of Masa B'Yachad. Please RSVP and make your reservation for dinner by Tuesday, May 5. 🌍



WEEKLY SERVICES

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

PESACH SERVICES*

Thursday, April 9, 9:00am
Friday, April 10, 9:00am
Saturday, April 11, 9:45am
Sunday, April 12, 9:00am
Monday, April 13, 8:00am
Wednesday, April 15, 9:00am
Thurs, April 16, 9:00am (Yizkor)
Pesach ends Thursday at 8:15pm

Please note that all currently scheduled events are subject to change based on public health recommendations. Call to confirm.



aMazing Marvellous Mitzvah Morning

by KAREN ZUKROW

What a morning we had making a difference in the community on February 2! Over 90 Temple members and Masa B'Yachad students and parents participated. Thank you so much to Laura Duda, Tricia Evans, Judy Geller, Julie Glaser, Jessie Jury, Tim Jury, Darren Kwiatkowski, and Richard Marks for the planning and coordinating, and to Doris Kennedy, Cheryl Brody, and Debby Walker for teaching crocheting, Kim Marks for sharing her military service story, Pam Sussman for teaching card making, Terri Hendrickson, Matt Fefferman and Mira Fefferman for leading the chorus at Dyer Nursing Home, Rabbi Zukrow and Todd Duda for leading the ReStore team,

Barbara Bame for coffee and snack set up, and Mindy Miller for coordinating the student and teacher participation.

The nursing home staff were so appreciative and want us to come back, the cards will be on the way soon to soldiers recently deployed, and we received this note from Habitat ReStore:

Leslie and I had a great time welcoming your congregation to our ReStore. The manager, Dan Walsh was thrilled with the results! They would like volunteers to continue. We will be watching for completed scarves to donate to those who need.

Several people have asked about continuing Mitzvah projects. Let's figure out how to make that happen! 🌍



EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Friday, March 20: Alden Solovy's visit is cancelled as he is not able to fly out of Israel at this time. Rabbi Isaacs and his family will not be joining us for the weekend either.

Thursday, March 26: Rabbi Gesa Ederberg is not able to fly out of Germany at this time. Stay tuned for future information.

Sunday, April 5, and Thursday, April 9: The Sisterhood Seder and Congregational Seder have both been cancelled. We are offering the seder items for sale. Please contact the office for a list with price.

YOM HASHOAH: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, April 20, 7:00pm: Temple Beth-El will host this year's annual observance of Holocaust Memorial Day. We invite the community to join with us as we mark Holocaust Memorial Day along with participating area congregations— Congregation Beth Israel, Shir Tikvah, and Anshe Sholom. Our theme for this year's observance is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The adult and junior choirs of Temple Beth-El will participate in the service. We look forward to having you join us as we gather for this somber day of remembrance. 🌍



Clockwise from above left: our mitzvah chorus; ReStore; card making.



Please note that all currently scheduled events are subject to change based on public health recommendations. Call to confirm.

Virtual Torah Discussion

Thursdays at 8:00pm

Our weekly Torah discussion (usually held during service on Shabbat) will now be held virtually via video and phone conference. Visit this link to join via the ZOOM app:

<https://bit.ly/3ddq2KU>

Or call (415) 762-9988
Meeting ID: 674 562 986
Password: 009215

Given the way things are evolving, we will not be having services at Chabad until further notice. I wish it hadn't come to this, but we have an obligation to ensure everyone's health and safety, and that takes precedence over anything else.

That said, Chabad is not "closed" whatsoever. Chanie and I are always available for anything that is needed. If you have any questions or need advice, we are always here. If you want to stop by to pick up a siddur or a Chumash for Shabbat, please let us know and we will make arrangements.

If you've attended Shabbat services at Chabad in the past, you know that a highlight of the service is the discussion on the weekly Torah portion, which covers a wide variety of topics as they relate to the Torah reading, and beyond. Because Shabbat services at Chabad are currently suspended until further notice, we will instead hold this Torah discussion on Thursday evenings via video and phone conference. This discussion is open to everyone, even if you aren't a regular at Chabad. Join us from the comfort of your own home. Prepare yourself a snack and a drink (l'chaim!) and sit back and enjoy.

In the meantime, please stay safe and look out for others!

—Rabbi Zalmanov

The Story of Passover

by RABBI ELIEZER ZALMANOV

Passover is the most celebrated holiday by Jews today. For many of us, our most vivid childhood memories are of the Seder night. The four questions are etched into our collective minds and hearts.

What is it about the Seder night that makes such a powerful and unforgettable impression on the minds and hearts of our children? To answer this question, we must analyze what exactly happens at the Seder. I believe that we can identify three major themes that comprise the totality of the Seder.

1. Faith. The matzah that we eat is called Michla D'mihemnuta (food of faith). According to our sages, it was in the merit of our forefathers' unwavering faith in G-d that they were redeemed from Egypt. Though they were subjected to backbreaking labor and total humiliation, they never doubted G-d's promise of redemption. At the Seder we remember their faith and attempt to strengthen and nurture our own faith in G-d as well.

2. Education. The Torah mentions a number of times that the story of the Exodus should be told to the children. "When your child asks... You shall tell your child...". There is a Torah obligation for us to remember the Exodus from Egypt every single day. However, while all year long it is adequate to remember this ourselves, on Passover night there is the special obligation of telling this story to our children. This is one major difference between the mitzvah of recounting the Exodus from Egypt on Passover

night and all year long. The Seder night is when we relay our heritage to the next generation, perpetuating the unbroken chain of tradition that extends back all the way to Moses at Mount Sinai.

3. Story-telling. The Torah states "Vehigadeta Levincha"—you shall tell over the Exodus to your child, in the form of a story. It is not sufficient to just state the facts and statistics; it must be told in story form.

The lesson that Torah is teaching us is quite clear. If we want to successfully transmit faith and belief to a child, the best way to do so is by telling a story. A story has a special charm that leaves a deep impression on its hearers, and especially on children. All the educational techniques in the world do not succeed the way a story can.

What kind of story should we tell? A story of faith, miracles, and righteous people. And what better story is there than the Exodus from Egypt? It is the power of this story that makes such an indelible impression upon children and adults at the Seder table.

It is this message of Passover that we should take to heart: the awesome power that stories have to transmit faith and courage to the next generation. We have many opportunities throughout the year to tell stories to our children. It may be at the Shabbat table, or at night before the children are put to sleep. There are stories of great Jewish personalities of old, or of a grandparent or great grandparent. You will be pleasantly surprised at how these stories are remembered many years from now. 🌟

Until further notice all services and activities are cancelled at Temple Israel. That includes Friday night services, Saturday Torah Study, Sunday school, Rabbi Feferman's office hours, and our Passover Seder on April 11. We will continually monitor CDC and government safety suggestions to determine the best time to restart activities. 🌐

Beit HaSefer Update

by JILL EDWARDS, Coordinator

The Sunday School kids have had lots of fun added to their studies this month!

On February 2nd, Debbie and Mike Miller joined us in services to help us make our prayers more beautiful and then taught the kids some fun Purim songs. Then, we made trees to celebrate Tu B'shevat.

In late February, we made our own havdalah candles! We braided bees-wax sheets in multiple colors. The kids had a great time. (I was enjoying myself so much, I forgot to take pictures!)

We celebrated Purim on March 8th at the Federation. We enjoyed meeting other Sunday School kids from the area. 🌐

Sinai Temple - Michigan City



2800 Franklin Street, Michigan City, IN • 219-874-4477 • www.sinaitemplemc.org • facebook.com/SinaiTempleMC

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



▲ Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in January.



SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK

Sinai Temple Sisterhood still has a supply of our new cookbooks, "What Foods These Morsels Be", available for sale. The cost is \$14.00/book plus shipping at Media Mail rate. Call the temple office at 219-874-4477 if you are interested. 🌐



▲ Havdalah at the home of Carolyn Berkowitz, January 25.

Until further notice, Sinai Temple has suspended all in-person services and activities. We are working on options for the near future, and hope to record a Shabbat service you can watch on the Temple Facebook page.

For the Saturday morning class, Rabbi will do a Zoom session that anyone interested can join.

We are also setting up a network of people so we can check on each other via phone during this very stressful and difficult time. Anyone interested who would like to volunteer, please let the office know. 219-874-4477.



From the Board President

by MARK SPERLING

These past few weeks have been very disconcerting for all of us. I certainly never remember the fear and anxiety that the coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused throughout not only our community but throughout the country. Subsequent to consulting with our Officers, Board Members, Lay and Religious Leaders throughout Northwest Indiana, and our Rabbi, it has been decided that Temple Israel will not conduct services or any other activity for the next month, including but not limited to Jerry Rothenberg's 80th Birthday Party, Sisterhood's Penny Harvest, the Membership Seder, and the Interfaith Peace and Justice Seder. We'll make a decision on the resumption of services on or about April 6. Meanwhile, we are looking at using technology to reach out to all of you.

Rabbi Damsky wanted to let you know of her concern for your welfare as well. She is healthy and self-quarantined in Durham, North Carolina, as she imagines many of you to be as well. This is a frightening time, yet we can find ways to weather this storm to use it for good. 🌍

Staying Connected

by RABBI ROBIN DAMSKY

Intuitive Therese Rowley, Ph.D., notes that the word "corona" in Latin means "crown," "and refers to a ring of light. In the field of human energy, this relates to the crown of the head and is associated with the part of each of us that is connected to 'All.'" I mention this because at this time you may feel less connected to God, Source, or the All. You may feel less connected with others and may be sitting in fear. Yet Rowley suggests that this disease can teach us to re-connect with one another and the All that surrounds us: to exercise our kindness and generosity, to remember we are All one.

How can we do that from our homes? Call a neighbor. Catch up with old friends. Set up a check-in team with a few buddies and maintain regular contact. Do things that nourish your soul. Laugh. Breathe into your heart and feel your connectedness with others even if you aren't in the same space. We can be reminded that we all truly are one. We are also exploring other ways (with our caring community committee, chaired by Robin Rich and Elaine Spicer) to be of support to one another.

Blessings for health for us all! 🌍

Hadassah



Support Hadassah With Cards, Certificates, Trees

by JUDIE SIDENBENDER

As you read in the previous *Illiana News*, Hadassah enhances lives in Israel, the USA and worldwide through medical research.

Marlene Rothenberg z"l, Eadie Appelsies, and Sylvia Strick have taken care of cards, certificates and trees for many long years. They deserve a big thanks for their dedication to Hadassah. I am now taking over their jobs and hope that you will continue to support the mission of Hadassah.

Many lovely cards are available for \$3.00. I will send cards for any

reason: illness, birthdays, congratulations, sympathy, etc. We also have sympathy certificates for \$5.00. You can also purchase cards for \$2.50 and send them yourself.

Many people send cards for trees to be planted in Israel. This is a living remembrance for your friends or loved ones. Tree certificates are available as follows:

- \$18 for one tree
- \$36 for three trees
- \$72 for five trees
- \$144 for a circle of trees
- \$500 for a garden of trees

There are also a lovely variety of certificates available—for example, \$50 for cancer or medical research. Everyone

enjoys receiving mail! And knowing that you are supporting an organization that, through medical research, may someday benefit you or a loved one, can only be a good idea.

Please call me anytime at (219) 227-9880 to order your cards, certificates, or trees. I hope to hear from you soon. 🌍



Assisted Living at its 'best!

LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE AT


ST. JAMES
MANOR & VILLAS

Contact Our Admissions Office

Mali Rios

708-672-7200

1251 E. Richton Road, Crete, IL 60417

www.stjameshc.com

- Newly remodeled apartments
- 3 Chef inspired meals
- Memory support
- Adult Day Care services
- On-site Rehabilitation
- Main Street Mall featuring Ice cream parlor, internet library, gift shop, upscale beauty salon & barber shop



Contact Our Admissions Office

Sekena Holloway

219-756-0744

101 W. 87th Ave., Merrillville, IN 46410

www.springmillhc.com

- Chef Prepared Meals
- Success-Oriented Activities
- Adult Day Care Services
- Memory Support
- Transportation
- Respite Care
- 24-Hour Staffing
- On-site Rehabilitation


Sheffield Manor

ASSISTED LIVING

Providing quality
Assisted Living
for almost
20 years!

Contact Our Admissions Office

Brooke Runyon / Jennifer Sedevic

219-322-2273

601 Sheffield Avenue, Dyer, Indiana 46311

www.assistedlivingdyer.com

- Licensed Assisted Living - 24 hour care
- Affordable
- Home like environment
- Large closet space
- Accepts Veterans Benefits
- Age in place model
- Respite stays

ROBERT L. BRANDFON



MUNSTER—Robert L. Brandfon, age 88, passed away on Saturday, February 1, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Fierer; children,

Andrea Patino-Brandfon and Thea (David) Sullivan; step children, Emily Nozick and David (Aida) Nozick; grandchildren, Ginger and Phinneas Sullivan; and sister, Winifred (Edwin) Joseph. Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Jacob and Ruth Brandfon; and brother, William (Lillian) Brandfon.

After obtaining his Ph.D. at Harvard, Robert taught American History at Oberlin, MIT, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and for 35 years at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. In retirement he taught many classes to all age groups. Robert had a passion for learning; he studied and spent many of his waking hours reading history and immersed in Judaic studies.

Funeral services were held on Monday, February 3, 2020 at Kish Funeral Home in Munster. Interment followed at Kneseth Israel Cemetery in Hammond.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Robert's name to Hospice of the Calumet Area, Mazon, or the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana (designated for the food pantry).

YALE COHN

SCHERERVILLE—Yale M. Cohn, 68, passed away on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Beloved husband for 37 years of Sherri (nee Goldfarb). Loving father of Phillip Cohn. Caring brother of Nita (late Terry) Tausch. Devoted son-in-law of Marilyn Goldfarb. Fond

brother-in-law of Judy (Billy) Dial and Ira (Nancy) Goldfarb. Many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Irving and Alice Cohn.

A graveside service was held Friday, March 6, 2020 at Kneseth Israel Cemetery in Hammond, Rabbi Mordechai Levin officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the American Diabetes Foundation or Myotonic Dystrophy foundation in his memory would be appreciated.

MAGDA FISCHEL LEVY

RHODE ISLAND—Magda Fischel Levy, mother of Temple Israel (Miller) member Joseph Levy, passed away on March 18, 2020. May her memory be for a blessing.



LEONARD OLKEN

MICHIGAN CITY—Leonard D. Olken, age 91, died peacefully on January 22, 2020. He was preceded in death by his sweet

and loving wife, Ruth Olken. Len and Ruth were members of Sinai Temple for many years.

Len was born in 1928 to Ida and Jacob Olken in Erie, PA. He had two sisters, both of whom preceded him in death: his twin sister, Leona, and older sister, Harriet. Orphaned at age 13, Len took care of his sisters by using his wit, tenacity and his passion as a tinkerer. An entrepreneur at an early age, he owned and operated his first radio repair business at age 16. At age 19, Len and Ruth married in Akron, OH, and eventually settled in Michigan City in the late 1950s.

Len worked at Tri-State Electric before branching out on his own with Ronard Industries, a word that combined his and his wife's first names. Ronard Industries was

an antennae hardware and metal fabrication business for 60 years. Len prided himself for his business acumen, inventiveness, resourcefulness, and excellent customer service. His business motto was "products of quality".

A self-made businessman and inventor of many tools and equipment, Len had the ability to fix almost anything. Len will be greatly missed for his unique and special gifts, his sense of humor, and loving ways.

A private family ceremony was held. Len is survived by his 3 daughters, Debby Olken (Maine), Laura O'Donnell (Maine) and Lisa Olken (Utah), and 5 grandchildren, Brian, Rachel, Kevin, Matthew, and Michael.

SANDY ROSS

UNION PIER, MI—We mourn the death of Sinai Temple member Sandy Ross, who passed away on February 16, 2020, at age 66, after a long battle with cancer. We send our heartfelt condolences to her many friends, including her classmates in Sinai Temple's Adult B'not Mitzvah class, where Sandy was studying for her Bat Mitzvah this coming July. May her memory be for a blessing. Any donations in memory of Sandy are requested to be made to the Sinai Temple Meal of Consolation Fund.

MARIE M. (MAGDA) SCHWARTZ

HAMMOND—It is with sadness we inform you of the passing of respected anesthesiologist Dr. Magda Schwartz, wife of Dr. Jack Schwartz and mother of Dr. Karl (April) Schwartz.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at Kish Funeral Home in Munster. A private burial followed at Elmwood Cemetery in Hammond. 🕯

Received through March 18, 2020.

BARBARA WAXMAN JEWISH
COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND

In memory of Sheldon Block.

Bobbi & Rob Feldgreber

In memory of Robert Brandfon.

Richard & Barbara Waxman

Salo & Lisa Zelermyer

In memory of Ira J. Stone.

Shirley Friduss

CHUCK ELIAS JCY SCHOLARSHIP
FUND

In memory of Robert Brandfon.

Helene Elias

**In honor of Ernest Fruehauf's
birthday.**

Helene Elias

In honor of Abe Ordman's birthday.

Helene Elias

**In honor of Jerry Rothenberg's
special birthday.**

Helene Elias

In honor of Adriana Front's birthday.

Helene Elias

**Wishing Rabbi Raphael Ostrovsky a
speedy recovery.**

Helene Elias

**In honor of Rabbi Mordechai & Susi
Levin's anniversary.**

Helene Elias

FOOD PANTRY ENDOWMENT

In memory of Sheldon Block.

Barbie Scharf-Zeldes & Adam Zeldes

Larry & Lisa Serlin

Janis & David King

In memory of Robert Brandfon.

Ellen Brandfon Riech

Eadie Appelsies

Renee Berkowitz

John & Judy Doherty

Sean Egan

Becca & Gus Galante

Judy Geller

Marcella Gierman

Lisa & Michael Giglio

Becky & Steve Handler

Lou & Marlene Kaplan

Judy & Rick Katz

Janine & Dean Rothschild

Mardi & David Katz

Doris Kennedy

Darryl & Iris Lem

Barry & Lynda Levin

Dr. Gaylee & Mr. Christopher

McCracken

Rabbi Raphael & Cynthia Ostrovsky

Jay & Anna Sklar

Alan & Debby Walker

Donald & Nancy Webster & Family

Larry Weiss

Merrill Yalowitz

In memory of Susan Kohlen.

Lisa & Barry Rooth

In memory of Dr. Magda Schwartz.

Becca & Gus Galante

FRUEHAUF FAMILY HONORARY
ENDOWMENT

In memory of Robert Brandfon.

Ernest & Ursula Fruehauf

PERPETUAL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
ENDOWMENT (PACE)

In memory of Sheldon Block.

Minna Rae Friedman

Alan Hurst

Zelda Korol

In memory of Jerry Fromm.

Nancy & Lawrence Bourbon

Alan Hurst

In memory of Dr. Magda Schwartz.

Judy & Rick Katz

In memory of Louis Wolfson.

Alan Hurst

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Sheldon Block.

Fern Bryan & Steve Wisch

STAN GOLDBERG AFC

ENDOWMENT

In memory of Lionel Webster.

Lisa & Barry Rooth

Published 7-8 times a year by the
Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana

EDITOR

Erica Schultz Yakovetz, *Director of
Communications & Programming*

CORRESPONDENTS

Adina Sutlin, *Sinai Temple*

Amy Clites, *Temple Israel-Miller*

Rabbi Mordechai Levin, *Congregation
Beth Israel*

Erin Nowakowski, *K'Ton Ton*

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

**ARTICLE/ADVERTISING DEADLINE
AND POLICY:** The deadline for Illiana
News articles, announcements, photos
and advertising is **April 20, 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.

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 as
new events are planned, in order
to minimize conflicts. Contact Erica
Yakovetz at the Federation, (219) 301-
0960 or 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.
org with any errors found in the Illiana
News. We aim for accuracy.

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Per-issue rates or yearly discount.

More information online at
federationonline.org/news

or call (219) 301-0960

Send a Tribute Card online: **federationonline.org/tributes**



The Jewish Federation

OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

585 Progress Ave. | Munster, Ind. 46321

219-301-0960

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dyer, IN
Permit #2118

HAPPY PASSOVER

from the Jewish Federation!

Even if we can't celebrate together,
our holidays unite us in spirit as a people.

See p. 3 for information on Federation's meal delivery options, including Seder-To-Go!