

Violins of Hope
Attendance

770+

2023
A YEAR IN REVIEWHealthy Foods
Distribution27,113
Lbs. of food

VIOLINS OF HOPE

Exhibit at Illinois State Museum (Sept. 7 – 13)

Five Programs over Seven Days

Details:

- September 7: *Our Family's Violin Story* – Illinois State Museum – Sold Out. Approx. 180 in attendance.
- September 8: *Around the Town Concert* – Illinois Symphony at Temple Israel. Approx. 100 in attendance.
- September 10: *Music of Survival* at University of Illinois Performing Arts Center - 2 Sold out Performances. Approx. 140 in attendance.
- September 12: *History Hunters* - Lincoln Land Community College. 70 in attendance.
- September 13: *Music of Hope* – Hoogland Center for the Arts - near sell out. Approx. 280 in attendance.

Camperships
Awarded

3

JCRC

- Anti-Semitism – Decoding the Narrative* with Jo Gon
- The View from Israel* - Reya Seidman & Leika Myers
- Healthy Foods Distributions*
- Art Makes It Home* – Supporting the unhoused moving into transitional housing.
- Ad in Illinois Times* – Reprinting President Biden's Remarks in Support of Israel in the Wake of Terrorist Attacks
- Gil Hoffman (Honest Reporting)* - Program for Community Leadership
- Responding to Antisemitism and Hate*
- Installation of the Rosenwald Mural*

Campaign

Campaign Kick Off Dinner – with Jeffrey Schoenfeld

Annual Campaign – What We Do Matters

Emergency Campaign – Israel During Operation

Swords of Iron

Emergency Campaigns for victims of natural disasters

2023 Annual
Campaign
to Date

\$251,921.79

2023 Israel
Emergency
Campaign
to Date

\$140,370.99

Education and Culture

Elephants in the Room: Israel, Zionism, and the Role of Religion in America, with Imam Abdullah Antepli and Rabbi Jeffery K. Salkin, Lights in the Dark Hanukah Zoom with Jewish Community in Poland

Jewish Community Security

Informational and Training Webinars throughout the year

In Person Situational Awareness Training – May 2023

In Person Active Shooter Preparedness Training – August 2023

In Person Meetings with SCN experts and Springfield First Responders

Assistance securing Community Security Grants

Partnership2GETHER

P2G Book Club: *The Rise of David Levinsky*, *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, *Who By Fire*, *Red Sea Spies*

Passover Toast

What's Going on in Israel – 3 Webinars

Exploring the Current Political & Social

Events in Israel

Sliding Doors

7th Annual
Federation Jewish
Film Series

4

Films in June

Financial Assistance & Social Services

Outreach to Seniors

Contacts via telephone and mail throughout the year. Holiday packages and visits at Rosh Hashanah, Chanukkah, Passover and Tu B'Av

Knosh & Knowledge (Active Retirees)

Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance; Growing Up Gen X; Illinois Military History Museum; Bird Banding Station at LLC; National Weather Service Forecast Office; Woodlawn Farm Museum; Camp Butler Cemetery; Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library; Planning Get Together

PJ LIBRARY

444

Books
Distributed

Grant to SBJE

\$3,200

Brit Yisrael joint temples
religious school

Yom Hashoah

Commemoration – Through the Generations with Max Libman and Kamen Petkov at The Hoogland Center for the Arts

PJ LIBRARY

10

Playdates

7th Annual
Federation Jewish
Film Series

214 attendees

18th Annual Gala Wine
Tasting Fundraiser

66 attendees

Gala Wine
Tasting

186

Bottles of Wine
Purchased



Karen Westbrook

Message From the President

Happy, healthy and safe New Year to all!

We enter the new year with some challenges behind us and some ahead. The move to the new office is complete. The process of unpacking and organizing is ongoing. While the space is a bit smaller, I think you will find the accessibility and light in the office to be uplifting.

The apparent rise in antisemitism poses a challenge to each one of us. It is my opinion that antisemitism has always been an undercurrent in our society. It is now okay to vocally and visibly express these views. It is our obligation as Jews to confront the hatred with accurate information in a succinct, positive manner. We also must understand that if or when the tide shifts back to repression of visual demonstrations of antisemitism, the sentiment will not disappear.

For the most part, Springfield has been a safe place for Jews to live. Issues related to antisemitism have been quickly addressed. However, we should not kid ourselves. Antisemitism is in our community. It is built on a foundation of ignorance and mistrust. Most of those expressing antisemitic views could not tell you what a Jewish person believes.

Merle Shiffman and I continue to refine the Lighting the Path materials to be used for presentations about Judaism. With the help of Rabbi Marks, Rabbi Datz and Cary Israel, we have developed a booklet and hand out that focuses on people being more the same than different and celebrating commonalities while respecting differences. We have field tested the material with students and religious adult education groups. It is our plan to present the Lighting the Path materials to those in the Jewish community with the hope of recruiting a core of Jewish community members who are interested in helping us reach out to the greater Springfield civic and religious organizations to explain Judaism. Look for more information on a community presentation soon.

Together, we can make a difference.

Shalom Springfield is generously underwritten with support from
the following community partners:

GOLD SPONSOR

Bank of Springfield, www.bankofspringfield.com

(217) 529-5555

Bisch & Sons Funeral Home, www.dignitymemorial.com (217) 544-5424

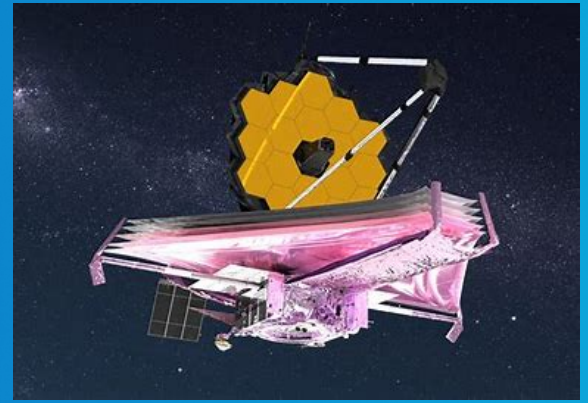
Feuer-Brozgold Legacy Fund

Springfield's recurring social and educational
series for active retirees.

Knosh & Knowledge

**Wednesday,
February 28, 2024
9:30 am**

Webb Space Telescope: Images & What They Tell Us



**RSVP by Mon., February 26,
to (217) 787-7223 x 18
or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org**

**Jewish Disability
Advocacy Day**
Wednesday, February 28 12-1:30 PM

rac RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

The Jewish Federations of North America, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies proudly present:


The 14th Annual Jewish Disability Advocacy Day

Day of Action
Wednesday, February 28th, 2024
Community Virtual Program
12:00 – 1:30 PM

REGISTER NOW >



<https://www.jewishtgether.org/jdad-2024>



Jewish Federation®
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

2023 Annual Campaign

WHAT WE DO MATTERS

My Pledge

Full Name

Email

Phone Number

Address

City

State

Zip

\$

I hereby pledge to support the Annual Campaign with the above gift. I will pay my pledge by
by Check by Credit Card
or online at www.shalomspringfield.org.

Giving History

Gift 1 year ago

Gift 2 years ago

Gift 3 years ago



FEBRUARY 2024

				1	2	3
				7 pm Fed Lighting the Path @ TBS	5:30 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Chabad Tefillin	7 pm Hadassah Book Club	12 pm TBS Adult Ed	7 pm Fed. Bd Mtg	7 pm TI Bd Mtg	5:30 pm TBS Service 6 pm Zoom TI Service	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 am Religious School 10 am Fed PJ Play Date 12 pm Fed P2G Film Club 12 pm TBS S'Hd Mtg 2 pm TBS Exec. Bd Mtg		1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club 2 pm TI S'Hd Exec Mtg	7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	7:30 pm Fed JCRC Mtg	5:30 pm Services and dinner hosted at TI for TI & TBS	9:30 am TI Service 10:30 am Chabad Service
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Religious School 12 pm TBS Annual Mtg	President's Day	7 pm SBJE Bd Mtg			6 pm TI Service Zoom 6 pm TBS Service	9:30 am TI Service Zoom 10:30 am Chabad Service
25	26	27	28	29		
9:30 am Religious School	T/7pm Fed Education & Culture	7 pm TBS Bd Mtg	9:30 am Fed Knosh & Knowledge 12pm Fed Exec Comm Mtg 7pm Hadassah Gen Mtg			

SAGE NOTES



Nancy Sage
Executive Director

I have no crystal ball and I don't pretend to have a clue to the future. What I do have is hope, lots of hope. Hope that peace will prevail, that antisemitism will decline, that understanding will grow, and for each of us, individually, and collectively as a community, that 2024 will be "a good year." For the Federation my very specific hope is that we are of service to you. After all, that is why the Federation is here, and you make it possible. I can't begin to thank you for your generosity and support for our annual campaign, your gift of time throughout the year, and your participation in our programs. Your investment in Federation paves the way for everything we do.

The cover of this newsletter reminds me of the variety of programs and opportunities the Federation offers to our community that bring us together. For all the challenges we face, the feeling of togetherness and community is our strength. While I am very proud of what we do and how we do it, what you think is what matters. My hope is that the programs reflect your interests and those of the community. We do want to hear your ideas, what you think we should be doing, and how you think we are doing. The Federation's committees are always on the lookout, seeking new opportunities, new ideas, and volunteers who help turn ideas into reality.

There is more to the Federation's serving the community than our programs. Some things we do we talk or write about, and others are behind the scenes. We receive requests for financial assistance and for specific social services as well as calls for help from people who are in precarious situations and at a loss as to whom to contact or what steps to take. These calls or requests happen formally or informally. In either case, the Federation does all that it can to assist. All requests are kept confidential as protecting privacy is paramount, especially within a small community.

Federation continues to be in regular contact with local, state, and federal law enforcement as well as SCN on behalf of all Jewish organizations in the community. We stand ready to reach out and address any situation that might arise in the most effective manner. This is how the Federation has operated over these last years, and this remains part of our standard operating procedures. We also continue to be involved with local organizations such as Springfield Frontiers for the annual Martin Luther King breakfast, the Central Illinois Food Bank to best address Food Insecurity, Helping Hands for whom we collected and donated artwork for their new facilities, and more.

If the Federation can assist you in any way, if you have questions or concerns, or are in need of financial or social service assistance, please contact Nancy Sage, Executive Director, at (217)787-7223, ext. 12. All calls are confidential, and your privacy will be respected.

SAGE NOTES

(Continued)

Because we are the Jewish Federation of Springfield, our Jewish community's central address, we also receive requests for information about who to contact for what within our community, and for general information regarding Jewish life in Springfield. We receive questions from people within the Jewish community and from the greater Springfield community. Often the questions are prefaced by "I'm a bit embarrassed to ask, but . . ." All the questions emanate out of respect. I appreciate the questions and, while I don't have all the answers, I generally know where to find them, and I keep the conversation confidential.

It is always an honor and a bit daunting when I am asked to represent the Jewish Federation of Springfield at an event, to serve on a committee, to speak to a group or the press as it comes with significant responsibilities. Whether it involves the Governor's Menorah Lighting or the opening of the Boys and Girls Club statewide office, serving on the FBI Community Engagement Committee, participating in the Springfield Police Department "Fair and Impartial Policing" training, or convening the Rosenwald Initiative, my purpose in representing Federation is to build partnerships and further intergroup understanding. These are the values that align with our mission.

A bottle of red wine and a glass of red wine. The bottle is dark with a red foil top. The glass is a snifter, partially filled with red wine. The background is a warm, textured brown.

Save the Date

**GALA
WINE TASTING**

APRIL 13, 2024

6 pm

MALDANER'S

We thank Bank of Springfield for their special sponsorship of Violins of Hope and the Federation's 2023 Campaign Kick-Off Dinner, as well as the newsletter, eblasts, and the additional programs they support throughout the year.

GOLD SPONSOR

OUR LOCAL EXPERTS ARE YOUR
LOCAL ADVANTAGE.



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Member
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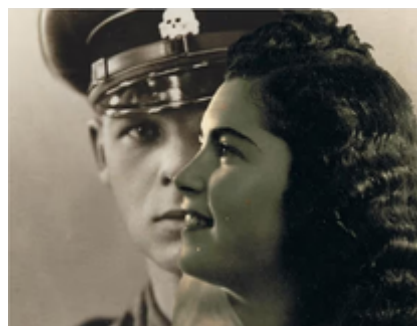
Join us for discussion with the director Maya Sarfaty about her movie

"LOVE IT WAS NOT"

THE IMPOSSIBLE AND TRAGIC LOVE STORY
BETWEEN HELENA CITRON, A YOUNG JEWISH
PRISONER IN AUSCHWITZ, AND THE AUSTRIAN SS
OFFICER FRANZ WUNSCH.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
12 PM

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Film Club

"LOVE IT WAS NOT" Join us for a discussion about the movie together with the director Maya Sarfaty a link to watch the movie will be sent to people who have registered a week before the event.

by P2G Western Galilee Feb 11

LINK TO WATCH THE MOVIE
WILL BE SENT TO PEOPLE
WHO HAVE REGISTERED A
WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT.



No Matter the Weather, We Play Together.

The Jewish Federation invites families of preschoolers to come to our monthly PJ Play Dates, to enhance our PJ Library Program.* The gatherings for families with preschoolers have been well received. So far, we have had 20 kids from 11 families participate in one or more play dates.

Once a month, on a Sunday morning, the pre-school kids, with one or more parent (and yes, we have lots of “Dad” participation) get together for play, crafts, stories, and snacks. When weather permits, we meet at a park. When it is too cold to play outdoors, we meet inside.

Under guidance from our PJ chairs, Regan Marks and Kayla Morrison, each play date is designed to include age-appropriate activities that bring PJ Library stories to life and explore Jewish themes. Sometimes, the focus is a Jewish holiday, other times a Jewish value, but always we emphasize fun. For example, the theme for our January play date was Tu Bishvat. Using paint, stickers, tissue paper, glue, and lots of imagination, the kids created colorful trees that brightened an overcast day. They also tasted several different types of fruit, shared a story about the seasons of the year and talked about how trees change during seasons.

At the Play Dates, the children have a blast playing with their PJ friends and making some new friends. All preschoolers are welcome. So, whether your family can join us every month, or every now and then, we love having you.

*The PJ Library Program, which is generously underwritten by the Neal J Feldman Fund, provides families of young children with Jewish books at no cost to the families. Currently, 35 children, ages 6 months through 8 years, receive a new book delivered to their home each month (siblings receive different books). For more information about the PJ Library and how to enroll, please email sjf@shalomspringfield.org or call 217-787-7223, ext. 3.



Knosh & Knowledge

On the last Wednesday of the month, active retirees (and not yet retirees) in our community get together for a Knosh & Knowledge program. When we get together, we may learn about a community resource, tour a museum exhibit, or go on a field trip. The programs are always different, but the objective is always the same: to spend an hour together and expand our knowledge.

Last December, we had a brainstorming session to identify some Knosh & Knowledge programs that might be of interest. The topics included arts, science, history, civic affairs, health and wellness, and the list goes on. Our next two programs will feature Images from the Webb Space Telescope and a tour of the David Strawn Art Gallery which will be hosting a special exhibit by St. Louis artist, Ben Kaplan. Future programs may cover topics as diverse as the impact of Artificial Intelligence, a tour the Funk Prairie Home Museum, and developments at the Pillsbury site.

Although we meet on a mid-week morning, all are invited to participate in the Knosh & Knowledge program. So, please keep watching for the announcements.

If you have any questions about Knosh & Knowledge, please email us at sjf@shalomspringfield.org or call Betsy Salus at 217-787-7223, ext. 3.



The mission of the Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois, is to serve the Jewish people locally, in Israel and throughout the world through coordinated fund raising, community-wide programming, social services and educational activities.



CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the family of
Hazel Holley, mother of Grady Holley

Thank You To Our Volunteers

Chanukah Packages: Denise Arjmand, Mary Beth Cohen, Rabbi Datz, Rabbi Marks, Elizabeth Mendeloff, Anne Morgan, Jerry & Annette Schwartz, Barbara Seidman, and Barry & Sandy Weiss.
PJ Library: Kayla Morrison & Regan Marks.
Lighting the Path: Remi Benichou, Merle Shiffman, and Karen Westbrook

Legacy Fund

Special Projects

In Memory of:

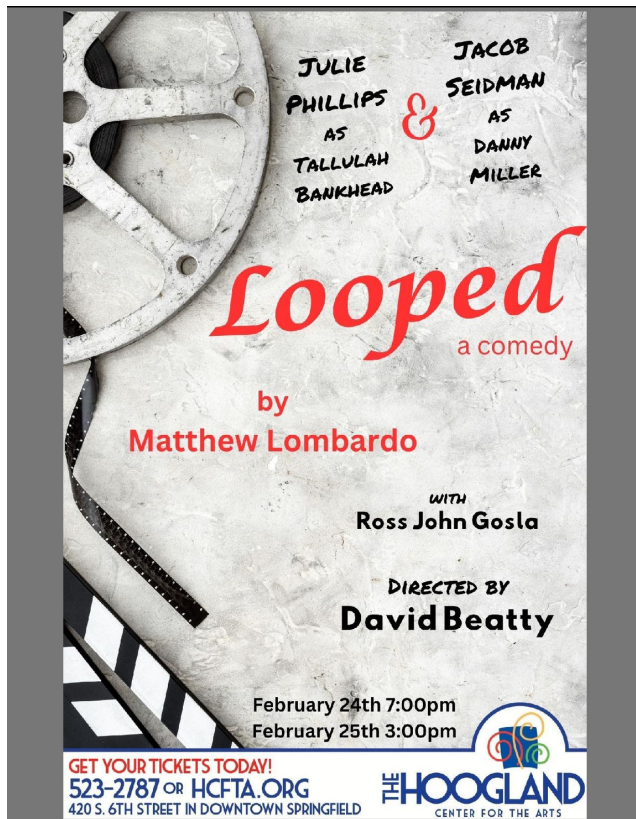
Ralph Hurwitz, from Stuart & Merle Shiffman
Joan Loeb, from Stuart & Merle Shiffman

Gloria Schwartz Fund

In Memory of:

Jane Pudick, from the Westbrook Family

Around the Town



The Hoogland Center for the Arts is pleased to present the regional premiere of the play *LOOPED* by Matthew Lombardo.

The show will be presented in the Peggy Ryder Theatre on the third floor of the Hoogland on Saturday, February 24 at 7pm & Sunday, February 25 at 3pm. The Hoogland is located at 420 S. Sixth Street in downtown Springfield, Illinois. Based on a real event, which has been the subject of gossip for years in Hollywood, *Looped* takes place in the summer of 1965, when an inebriated Tallulah Bankhead, well-known for her husky voice, outrageous personality, & devastating wit, returns to the studio to redub — or loop — one line of dialogue for her last movie, *Die! Die! My Darling!* Bankhead's outsized personality dominates the young, frustrated film editor who is knocked for a loop by the tempestuous stage & screen icon.

This production was first produced as a showcase in Los Angeles, California by Springfield native **Jacob Seidman** and co-star Julie Phillips. The Hoogland is pleased to welcome Jacob & his professional cast to Springfield to present this hysterical & moving show.

Tickets are \$20 for adults & \$18 for seniors over 60 & students. Tickets are available by calling 217-523-2787 or by going to hcfta.org/tickets.



1999 Wabash Ave., Suite 206
Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 217.787-7223
Website: www.shalomspringfield.org
Email: sjf@shalomspringfield.org

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