

VOL. 255

TAMUZ/AV/ELUL 5785 | JULY/AUGUST 2025

SHALOM SPRINGFIELD

JEWISH FEDERATION OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

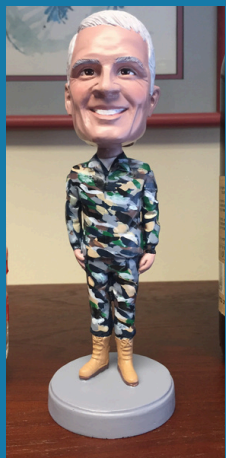


Jewish Federation
of Springfield, IL

Wendy Evans-Terry - Editor

**HELLO
SUMMER**





Bob Roth

ENGAGE!

A newsletter column should convey news. Which I will get to, but first I'm not going to talk about the news-of-the-day. All of us can get more than we probably should consume on our favorite media outlets.

I'd rather focus on some "good Jewish news." Believe it or not, there is a website <https://goodjewishnews.com> that has good news about Jewish communities around the country. Among the really interesting and uplifting articles in the recent edition, was one about an Israeli doctors' humanitarian mission to Zambia bringing critical cardiac medical care to 25 children. It's just one example that there's a lot of positive, good news out there, that seldom gets reported. Just have to look for it.

Closer to home, our Federation members are engaged! We had a very successful Annual Wine Tasting Gala at Maldaner's. A good time was had by all. Many thanks to our hosts, Lisa and Jonathan GoldbergBelle for their leadership. And, as we speak, the 9th Annual Jewish Federation Film Series is going on, with excellent and enthusiastic attendance. Fabulous movies! Thanks to the Education and Culture Committee, chaired by Rabbis Marks and Datz, Jay Morgerman our Film Series Host, and members Josh Grant, Vera Herst, Rabbis Kanter and Stern, Julie Seidman and Bob Silverman! And many thanks to our terrific staff, Betsy and Wendy, for helping to make these events happen.

Despite the information overload many of us may be feeling, and the desire to take a break from it, it's hard not to acknowledge the challenges we, as Jews, face at home and abroad. We stand with Israel in this very difficult time and we pray for a swift and victorious outcome, resulting in lasting peace in the region. At home, we are challenged by political division and persistent antisemitism. But, as we always have, we live our Jewish American lives, taking into account known risks and doing our best to mitigate them.

I'll end on a positive note. I was very encouraged by the parade this past weekend commemorating the 250th anniversary of the US Army. It focused on the Army's valiant history throughout the years; the Soldiers had a great, positive and friendly attitude toward the attendees; it was family-friendly, and it avoided any trace of politics. It made me proud as an American and retired Army officer.

Shalom, and stay engaged!

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.



PJ Library Pre-Schoolers
Let's Play Together PJ Play Date
July Edition

Sun and Splash
Come ready to get wet!
Sunday, July 13, 2025
10 am



Call the office or text 217-859-2481 for location.



PJ Library Pre-Schoolers
Let's Play Together PJ Play Date
August Edition

Sun and Fun
Sunday, August 10, 2025
10 am



Call the office or text 217-859-2481 for location.



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 us at (217)787-7223, ext. 1. All calls are confidential, and your privacy will be respected.

JULY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			7 pm Chabad Class	12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn	5:30 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service INDEPENDENCE DAY Federation Closed	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club 2 pm TI S'Hd Exec. Bd Mtg	8 pm Hadassah Gen Mtg 7 pm Chabad Class	12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn	5:30 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10 am Fed PJ Play Date 2 pm TBS Exec Bd Mtg	7 pm TI Bd Mtg	7 pm SBJE Bd Mtg	4 pm TI S'Hd 7 pm Chabad Class	12:30 Chabad Lunch & Learn	6 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah study 10:30 am Chabad Service
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			7 pm Chabad Class 7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn	5:30 pm TI Service 6 pm TBS Service	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
27	28	29	30	31		
	5:30 Fed. Exec. Committee Mtg		9:30 am Fed Knosh & Knowledge	12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn		

AUGUST 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service TISHA B'AV EVE
3 TISHA B'AV	4 7 pm Hadassah Book Club	5	6 7 pm Fed. Board Mtg 7 pm Chabad Class	7	8 5:30 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	9 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
10 10 am Fed PJ Play Date 2 pm TBS Exec Bd Mtg TU B'AV	11	12 1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club 2 pm TI S'Hd Exec. Bd Mtg	13 7 pm Chabad Class	14 7 pm TI Bd Mtg	15 6 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	16 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah study 10:30 am Chabad Service
17	18	19 7 pm SBJE Bd Mtg	20 7 pm Chabad Class	21 T/7 pm Fed JCRC	22 5:30 pm TI Service	23 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
24 12 pm TBS S'Hd Mtg	25	26 7 pm TBS Bd Mtg	27 10 am Fed Knosh & Knowledge 7 pm Chabad Class 7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	28	29 6 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	30 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
31 5:30 Fed. Exec. Committee Mtg						

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

Knosh & Knowledge

Wednesday, July 30, 2025
9:30 am

**Illinois State Museum
Research and Collections
Center**



RSVP by Mon., July 28,
to (217) 787-7223 ext. 4
or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org

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

Knosh & Knowledge

Wednesday, August 27, 2025
10 am

**Staley Museum
and Heironymus Mueller Museum**



RSVP by Mon., August 25,
to (217) 787-7223 ext. 4
or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org



Karen Westbrook

Kibbitz from Karen

Summer is here, and the flowers are blooming. The Federation office has had more activity than normal. We started the month with a full week.

First, and most importantly, I want you to know you are safe at events sponsored by our Jewish organizations. The Security Committee is fantastic. Mayor Buscher personally called to express her commitment to the safety of our community. The Springfield Police have responded to our calls and requests without question. Our off-duty security professionals are vigilant, including making suggestions to improve our safety and protection. We do not have to hide, but we need to be smart.

Our activities have continued without a hitch. June is always "Film Series month". Once again, AMC was the site of four very different films representing a variety of genres and Jewish topics. We were lucky to host a viewing of "Bad Shabbos" which was released with much national fanfare at the beginning of June. Thank you to the Education and Culture Committee (Co-Chairs Rabbi Datz and Rabbi Marks, Film Series host Jay Mogerman, Josh Grant, Vera Herst, Rabbi Kanter, Julie Seidman, Bob Silverman, and Rabbi Stern) for the time and energy devoted to identifying and pre-screening the movies.

The Wine Tasting Event hosted by Lisa and Jon GoldbergBelle was a smash. Good wine, good food, and excellent hosts. Thank you to Lisa for her creative flair and Jon for "circulating".

Our PJ participants continued our commitment to the "Wings of Hope" initiative to spread the message of individual and collective Jewish hope for Israel by making butterflies.

I am pleased to let you know we have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Security Community Network for a Regional Coordinator. Since 2004, SCN has been ensuring the safety and security of the Jewish community across North America. A Regional presence will allow us to take advantage of local programming and support. The regional coordinator is Ken Scarlette, our recently retired police chief. We know him and he knows us well. I can't wait to introduce him to our fellow federations in Illinois (outside of the Chicago Metro area) and Iowa.

Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer.

TU
B'AV

August 10, 2025



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Dear friends and cherished partners,

We are in an unprecedented situation in Israel. Although we are trying to maintain routine and resilience, there are many heartbreaking and very challenging moments.

I know that many of you are updated on the news frequently and are familiar with the geopolitical and security situation in its smallest details. The images of destruction, interceptions and military achievements are also accompanied by everyday matters such as the disruption of educational frameworks, a restrictions on reaching workplaces (except for essential services), reserve service for some of us (or our spouses) and, most importantly, the absence of routine and that fundamental sense of security we all cherish.

On the eve of the attack in Iran, approximately 90% of residents of the Matte Asher Regional Council had begun returning to their homes. Local municipalities, educational teams, and various organizations had started the vital work of rehabilitation—helping families resettle, creating new routines, and rebuilding resilience, particularly for our children and young people. Unfortunately, these hopeful beginnings have been significantly disrupted, and communities that had just returned home are now struggling to reorganize and activate emergency community frameworks.

In Akko, the situation presents unique challenges: nearly half of our residents lack protected spaces (Mamad) within their homes. When missile warning sirens sound—with our Home Front Command providing 5-10 minutes' notice given our distance from potential threats—many families must quickly evacuate their homes. While some have nearby shelters, others find themselves in public shelters alongside strangers, often speaking different languages, living in crowded conditions for extended periods. Our municipality's dedicated employees and countless volunteers work tirelessly, day and night, to support and assist residents during these challenging times.

Our team is maintaining ongoing contact with the municipalities to explore how we can assist during this difficult time.

Simultaneously, we also receive many inquiries from you with questions about how we can help, with a request to strengthen us and express the brotherhood that is characteristic of our people. These inquiries, whether in conversations or in messages and emails, strengthen us and strengthen the bond between us. It is crucial that we remember together the 53 brothers and sisters—both Jewish and non-Jewish—remain hostages in Gaza. We continue to advocate for their freedom with the same urgency as we address all other threats facing our region.

Despite everything, our spirits remain strong. We draw strength from one another and from your unwavering support. Our partnership has always been built on something deeper than shared projects and initiatives—it rests on genuine human connection and mutual care.

Let us continue to hold each other with compassion, reach out with empathy, and stand united during these challenging times. Your friendship and solidarity light our path forward.

With hope for peace and continued prayers for the safe return of all hostages,

Ory and P2G Western Galil staff.

Ory Rosin
Director, Western Galilee Partnership2Gether

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

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Partnership Corner

July 2025

-Harry Berman

On Sunday, May 18, the Partnership2Gether Book Club held a zoom meeting to discuss *House on Endless Waters* by the Israeli novelist Emuna Elon. Those of us on the zoom call were privileged to hear from the author herself about the process of writing fiction and her reflections on the themes of the novel.

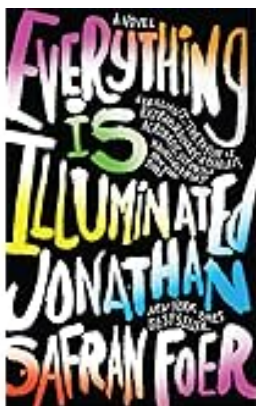
House on Endless Waters tells the story of the lives of the Jewish community in Amsterdam in the years leading up to World War II, the gradual erosion of the lives they had known, culminating in the destruction of that community through deportations to the death camps during the war. The story is told in two-time frames. In the contemporary time frame, a novelist whose mother managed to escape Amsterdam and settle in Israel after the war, revisits the city that holds his family's secrets. The second time frame recounts his mother's experiences and those of her family and friends as their world fell apart under the Nazi occupation. As the novel progresses the two-time frames penetrate each other, not only on the same page, but even in the same paragraph.

Elon's novel brings home the sense of the Dutch Jews that "such things could never happen here," meaning in the enlightened city of Amsterdam it was impossible to imagine a time discrimination would abound, when Jewish businesses would be ransacked, when non-Jews would turn against Jews - and, yet it did happen.

Coincidentally, shortly before our zoom meeting, a book review appeared in the New York Times of another Holocaust story, a book entitled *To Seek a Kind Person* by Julian Borger. The author of that review made a comment very relevant to the experience of reading *House on Endless Waters*:

"Encountering Holocaust stories, we never lose the primal shock of the before scenes of normalcy and thriving, contrasted with the after of danger, threat, loss."

The Partnership Book Club has consistently selected excellent works that address both contemporary and historical perspectives on Jewish life and issues in Israel, Hungary, and the US -- and the discussion in May was no exception.



Book Club

Sunday, September 7
12:00 Noon CT via Zoom.

"Everything is Illuminated" by Jonathan Safran Foer

Registration Link:

<https://www.westerngalilee.org.il/event-details/p2g-book-club-11>



CONDOLENCES TO

Yaffe and Schoenburg families,
on the passing of

Stuart Yaffe

&

Alan Freedman,

on the passing of his brother,

James Freedman

May their memories endure as a blessing.
z"l

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Wine Tasting: Lisa & Jonathan
GoldbergBelle, Event Chairs, Elizabeth
Mendeloff, Bob Silverman & Karen
Westbrook

PJ Library: Regan Marks & Kayla Morrison

Film Series: Jay Mogerman, Chair,
Deborah Derbander, Josh Grant, Bob
Roth, Bob Silverman, & Karen Westbrook

Federation Office: Deborah Derbander &
Brett Westbrook

Donation

Film Series, to support the program, from
David and Laurie Farrell



Film Series Box Office Team: Deborah Derbander,
Betsy Salus, Josh Grant, and Jay Mogerman

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO THE LEGACY FUND

Hexter Fund

In Memory of:

Harriet Josephson, from Grady & Kathi Holley

Harriet Josephson, from Howard Chodash

Yaffe Fund

In Memory of:

Stuart Yaffe, from George & Ester Karpman

Stuart Yaffe, from Bob & Karen Westbrook

Stuart Yaffe, from Sharon Clooney

Stuart Yaffe, from Randy & Karen Witter

Stuart Yaffe, from James & Bille Langfelder

Stuart Yaffe, from Harvey & Judith Stephens

Stuart Yaffe, from David & Theresa Law

Chodash-Bernsen Health Education & Promotion Fund

In Memory of:

Stuart Yaffe, from Howard Chodash

Joni A. Wolfson Campership Fund

In Memory of:

Stuart Yaffe, from Sharon Snyder

Nancy Sage Security Fund

In Honor of:

Karen Westbrook, on her birthday, from
Beth Loeb



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