



9TH ANNUAL JEWISH FEDERATION FILM SERIES

AWARD WINNING FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

THURSDAY

June 5, June 12, June 19 & June 26

7 pm

AMC Classic 12

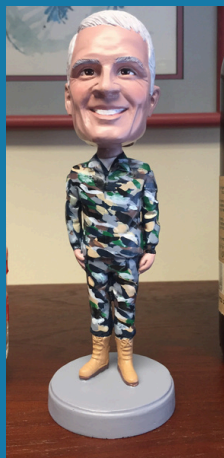
3141 Mercantile Dr Springfield IL 62704

TICKETS: \$36 series pass OR \$10 per film (\$5 with student ID)

Tickets available at the door or in advance

Contact: 787-7223 ext. 4 or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org





Bob Roth

ENGAGE!

This is my first newsletter column as President, and I want to repeat what I said at our Annual Meeting – Thank You! To the Executive Committee, the Committee Chairs, the Board members and everyone in the community for supporting our Federation. We couldn't do it without you!

I know I have some big (huge) shoes to fill – thank you again, Karen, our new Past President – but I know we've got a great team and, together, we will go forth, go forward.

Which reminds me of the passage in Genesis - וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לֵךְ - and G-d said to Abraham, go forth... And so, as a Jewish Federation, we will go forth.

We have many challenges. Supporting the State of Israel, particularly now in its existential conflict with Hamas and all those who would destroy Israel. At the same time, being true to our Jewish values – truth, pursuit of justice for all, dedication to the rule of law, empathy and compassion for the widow and the orphan, welcoming the stranger, to name a few. In these, times, it can be hard to balance our love and support for the State of Israel, which never wavers, with some of our Jewish values. We are challenged – we will find a way, together. We will go forth, as Abraham did.

We have many other challenges. Fighting ignorance and Antisemitism, which usually go together. But with Paths of Light, we will continue to enlighten those who lack knowledge about Jews and Judaism, so that our non-Jewish friends can better understand us, making it easier to break down mistrust and build bridges between us.

And we will continue to improve our delivery of human services to our community, so we can support those of us in need of a helping hand.

I very much look forward to the next year as President – and if you have suggestions or comments for future columns, please contact me at bobbyroth0701@gmail.com or (217) 899-0637.

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.

JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 SHAVUOT EVE	2 12:30 Chabad Dairy Buffet 7 pm Hadassah Book Club Federation Closed SHAVUOT	3 9:30 am TI Yizkor Federation Closed SHAVUOT	4 7 pm Chabad Class	5 12 pm Fed Calendar Mtg 12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn 7 pm Fed Film Festival	6 5:30 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	7 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service 6 pm Fed Wine Tasting
8 10 am Fed PJ Play Date 2 pm TBS Exec Bd Mtg	9 7 pm TI Bd Mtg	10 1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club 2 pm TI S'Hd Exec. Bd Mtg	11 8 pm Hadassah Donor 7 pm Chabad Class	12 12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn 7 pm Fed Film Festival	13 5:30 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	14 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
15 T/12 pm TBS S'Hd Mtg FATHER'S DAY	16	17 7 pm SBJE Bd Mtg	18 1 pm Fed Senior Comm. Mtg 4 pm TI S'Hd 7 pm Chabad Class	19 12:30 Chabad Lunch & Learn 7 pm Fed Film Festival	20 6 pm TBS Service 6 pm TI Service	21 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah study 10:30 am Chabad Service
22	23	24 7 pm TBS Bd Mtg	25 9:30 am Fed Knosh & Knowledge 7 pm Chabad Class 7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	26 12:30 pm Chabad Lunch & Learn 7 pm Fed Film Festival	27 5:30 pm TI Service 6 pm TBS Service	28 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
29	30 5:30 Fed. Exec. Committee Mtg					

*Jewish Federation of Springfield invites you to the
20th Annual*

WINE *Tasting*

Your Hosts:

Lisa and Jon GoldbergBelle

Sat., June 7, 2025

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Maldaner's Restaurant

222 S. 6th St. - Upstairs

\$35 p/p

RSVP to [RSVP @shalomspringfield.org](mailto:RSVP@shalomspringfield.org) or
217.787.7223 ext. 4



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

Knosh & Knowledge

Wednesday, June 25, 2025
9:30 am

**Funk Prairie Home Museum
and Gem & Mineral Museum**



**10875 Prairie Home Ln
Shirley, IL 61772**

**RSVP by Mon., June 23,
to (217) 787-7223 ext. 4
or rsvp@shalomspringfield.org**



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

Sunday, June 8
10 am

New Location: Southwind Park Shelter 6

**Playground near the musical instruments and
Selvaggio Steel Arches**



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.



Karen Westbrook

Kibbitz from Karen

Ted gave me the “sell”: “Don’t worry, it’s not a lot of work and you will enjoy it” when he asked me to be on the Board. Others have heard the same line. Well...

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the Federation for the last two years. While I did not expect a War Against Hamas, moving the office and Nancy retiring, I have learned that the Jewish Federation is a resilient organization filled with loving people who truly care about each other and the community. I am not by nature a “meeting goer.” I’ll commit to doing something and move on. The Federation members and their commitment kept me interested, so I wanted to stay involved. Though I admit, I would not have guessed how involved.

My husband, Bob, has been supportive of my “volunteering” from the time I started going to the boys’ classrooms to explain Jewish holidays through the Violins of Hope and Lighting the Path. I thank him for that. It is with his support that I will continue volunteering at the office full-time until Labor Day.

I am handing the reins to Bob Roth. The Federation will be in great hands. Bob is calm, steady, and smart. He has been a great partner in continuing to push our organization forward. I promised him that I would not go anywhere.



Anne Morgan

2025 Gail Lieberman President’s Award



**Bob Roth, President &
Karen Westbrook, Immediate Past President**



Elizabeth Mendeloff

2025

Carol Marks Volunteer of the Year Award



Remi Benichou

Campaign Communique

Dear Friends,

As you may recall, we launched this year's Campaign with a meaningful and memorable evening last October—a celebration honoring Nancy Sage and powerful reflections from Jo Gon on the state of the Jewish people worldwide. That evening set the tone for what would become a truly inspiring campaign.

Thanks to the generosity of our attendees and the many Federation members who stepped forward with pledges, we are proud to announce that we have officially surpassed last year's total. We have gone from \$260,237.79 in 2023 to \$271,140.00 in 2024—an increase of \$10,902.21! This achievement is a true testament to the commitment, generosity, and unity of our community.

You all are the backbone of this community. Your support whether financial, volunteer, or advocacy, has been instrumental in the success of this Campaign. I am truly proud to be part of such a strong, compassionate, and generous community. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of so many of the Jewish community here at home and around the world.

It's never too late to make a pledge. Every dollar raised continues to support crucial programs and services that touch lives and create impact far beyond what we can see.

On behalf of the Federation, thank you again for your incredible support. Together, we are making a real and lasting difference.



WINGS OF HOPE

Federation community members at the 2025 Federation Annual Meeting participated in Israel's 77th birthday, helped spread the message of individual and collective Jewish hope for Israel by wearing a "Wings of Hope" butterfly pin, made available to us through the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The butterfly effect by Edward Norton Lorenz, was originally explained metaphorically, suggesting that a flap of a butterfly's wing in one corner of the world could cause a tornado elsewhere weeks later. Popular culture has largely embraced the butterfly effect metaphor to describe that while it may sometimes seem that our individual decisions and actions have little to no impact on the big picture, our collective action and interconnectedness can cause our small actions to have larger, collective outcomes.



The Gail Lieberman President's Award

The President's award is given to someone who has made a lasting impact on our Federation through extraordinary and outstanding leadership and commitment. One description of the award read "over and above the standard job description." This person has worn not one Federation hat, but many. And, she looked great wearing each one. Job description or not, this person goes over and above in everything she does with grace, strength, and a smile. This year's recipient is Anne Morgan.

Ann and Saul are former Campaign Chairs. The records aren't clear if it was two or three times they tackled this job. For most, once is enough. Anne did not stop there. Anne took the commitment to fund the stability of the Federation one step further. During her Presidency, Anne and Nancy Sage launched an extremely successful Life and Legacy initiative, further securing the future of the Federation. Anne is retiring from the Legacy Board this year. We will miss her sage advice and thank her for her years of service.

During Anne's presidency, she oversaw changes in the Federation: a transition of executive directors; transformation of the food insecurity program; the evolution of the Kosher Café to a more targeted program for active seniors; and addressing several Jewish international crises. She has been and continues to be active in the Rosenwald Initiative, from the portrait on the parking lot wall to her continued participation in planning the exhibit for Rosenwald's home at the National Park Historical site.

But I think the most impressive thing about Anne is what you don't know. She is the best hand holder in the world. When I am overwhelmed, she says, "Breathe." I thank her so much for the support. And, from her hospital bed, she helped me put together the tribute to Nancy Sage with no doubt that she would be there one way or the other; and she was. Her commitment to this organization is unmatched.

Carol Marks Volunteer of the Year Award

Every year, the Federation recognizes a member as Carol Marks Volunteer of the Year. As with all of the recipients of this award, no is not in this person's vocabulary. The most common phrase you hear from this person is "What else can I do?"

This person is not a native of Springfield, though you would never know it. After following a family member here, the nominee immediately became involved with the Federation and the Temple, not just involved, but on the Boards. And not just Boards, but also committees.

This person has many hidden talents that are volunteered when needed. Talking notes, planning programs, baking or cooking, arranging travel, etc., the list goes on and on. Most importantly, this person is a great daughter, wife, mom, nana, and friend.

This year's recipient is Elizabeth Mendeloff.

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

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Feuer-Brozgold Legacy Fund

Partnership Corner

-Harry Berman

The 16 Central Consortium Partnership communities are excited that we have hired a new Partnership Director: Ory Rosin.

Ory, 42, has lived in Akko for the past 20 years as a founding member of the city's Educators' Urban Kibbutz. He has been actively involved with the Western Galilee Partnership for over a decade, and until last year served as co-chair of the Young Adults Committee.

Over the past five years, Ory worked as a web developer and manager at "Drorsoft," a software company he co-founded with fellow kibbutz members. Before entering the tech field, he served as Director of Community Programs in Akko, focusing on coexistence initiatives. Prior to that, he held positions as Youth Director and Community Center Director in the Merom HaGalil Regional Council on Israel's northern border. Across these roles, Ory has led teams of employees and volunteers and worked with many diverse communities.



In the past year and a half, since being released from military reserve duty, Ory has volunteered helping evacuees from areas affected by the current war.

Ory views the partnership with American Jewry and the broader Diaspora as a unique opportunity: a chance for Israeli society to reflect on its Jewish and liberal values, and a path toward deepening Jewish and community identity for both Israelis and Jewish communities overseas.

I look forward to working with Ory and hope that many of you will get to meet him in the months to come.

Welcome, Ory!



My Jewish Kitchen

Sun., June 8
11 am -12 pm
Via Zoom

RSVP to

<https://www.westerngalilee.org.il/event-details/my-jewish-kitchen-2025-06-08-12-00>

A "Call for Jewish Unity" was released on May 27 and was signed by a number of Jewish foundations and Federations. The letter was drafted by Barry Finestone, President and CEO of the Jim Joseph Foundation. The request to sign on was extended to Federation CEOs and Foundations who are members of the Tarrytown Group, which has been meeting for over 20 years to coordinate activities between the largest foundations and Federations. Eric Fingerhut signed the letter on behalf of JFNA.

The message should resonate with all of us. Please contact Bob Roth or Karen Westbrook for additional information.

Let's stop the infighting: A call for unity

Dear Friends and Leaders of the Jewish Community,

We write to you today with urgency, with heartbreak and with unwavering resolve. The time to unite is now — not tomorrow or next week, but now.

At a time when antisemitism is rising at a staggering and dangerous pace — on campuses, in the streets, online and, tragically, once again in deadly acts of violence — we must confront a truth: that those who seek to harm Jews do not ask us how we vote, how we feel about Israel or what kind of kippah we wear, if any.

Last Wednesday evening, in our nation's capital, it was murder. Weeks earlier, it was attempted arson at the home of a Jewish governor. From Pittsburgh to Poway, across North America we are victims of threats, vandalism, harassment and intimidation with a frequency and intensity many of us never imagined we would experience in our lifetimes.

Our community is deeply divided on many issues: on how best to or even if we can fight antisemitism, on the future of Israel and its war in Gaza and on politics more broadly. These are real and meaningful debates, and we must have them in good faith and with respect. But let us be clear: those who hate us rarely make such distinctions. To them, a Jew is a Jew. History has shown us where that logic can lead.

Throughout history, when Jews failed to unite in the face of existential threats, the consequences were catastrophic. The destruction of the Second Temple was not only the result of Roman power, but also of *sinat chinam* — baseless hatred and infighting among Jews. We cannot afford to repeat those mistakes. Our disagreements, however deeply felt, must not overshadow our shared obligation to protect and uplift the Jewish people. We are all in this together and we must stop fighting each other.

Now is the time to stand shoulder to shoulder — not in uniformity of opinion, but in unity of purpose. This is not the job of one Jewish organization or a few brave leaders; it is our responsibility. We as Jewish leaders choose unity over division.

We the undersigned call upon every Jewish leader — religious and secular, progressive and conservative, young and old — to find common cause in the most fundamental of obligations: to ensure the safety, dignity and future of our people. Let our disagreements not divide us into paralysis or despair. Let them sharpen our thinking and deepen our commitments.

And above all, let us remember that in moments of crisis, Jewish strength has always come from Jewish unity.

Am Yisrael Chai.

With hope and determination.



MAZEL TOV

TO:

Leslie Sgro, on receiving the Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award from the IL Association of Park Districts.

Thank You To Our Volunteers

Annual Meeting: Vera Herst, Denise Simon, Bob Roth Bob Silverman, and Karen Westbrook

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO THE LEGACY FUND

Hexter Fund

In Memory of:

Galina Meklina, from Greta Myers

CONDOLENCES TO

Pat Halperin, on the passing of her husband,
Michael Wolfhard

Alan Josephson, on the passing of his wife,
Harriet Josephson

Harriet Greenberg, on the passing of her
husband,

Norman Greenberg

May their memories endure as a blessing.
z"l





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