

INDIANAPOLIS January/February 2026

Jewish Community News



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Indianapolis Jewish Community News

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The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis is to promote the vision of a vibrant, engaged, inclusive, and sustainable Jewish community by serving as its central philanthropic, planning, community engagement, and unifying partner.

INDIANAPOLIS Jewish Community News

Have a Story to Tell?

We're looking for your ideas to make our next issue shine. **Your voice matters.** Help shape the conversation!

Send them to Andrea Kruszynski at akruszynski@jfg.org.

If you look back at the cover of this issue, you will see an important evolution of our community's voice. For decades, *Jewish Federation News* has been a trusted source for updates on the work of the Federation and the programs that strengthen Jewish life in Indianapolis. It has served as a window into the initiatives that sustain our community and connect us to one another. Today, we take a bold step forward.



Marc Swatez
MARC SWATEZ
Chief Executive Officer

Beginning with this issue, our magazine will be known as *Indianapolis Jewish Community News*. This change reflects a simple but powerful truth: our Jewish story is bigger than any one organization. It is woven from the efforts, creativity, and commitment of our synagogues, our Jewish day school, our vital agencies, and the thousands of individuals who make Jewish life vibrant in Central Indiana and beyond. Every program, every act of kindness, and every cultural celebration contributes to the rich tapestry of Jewish life here, and we want this publication to better reflect that fullness.

You may reasonably ask the question, "Why now?" Our diversity as a community has certainly always been true. A big part of the answer is that until recently our community was blessed with another Jewish publication that reflected our diversity. *The Jewish Post & Opinion* was established in 1933 and until 2024, covered Jewish local Indiana and national news. We will forever be grateful to that excellent publication and its most recent editors, Jennie Cohen, and her father before her, Gabriel Cohen.

Our goal is not to recreate *The Post & Opinion*, but rather to fill part of the void that it has left. This magazine will now celebrate the entire breadth of our community for its diversity, its voices, and its shared values. You will continue to find updates about the Federation's work, but you will also discover stories from across the Jewish landscape: cultural events that bring us together, educational opportunities that inspire learning, acts of tzedakah that strengthen those in need, and the many ways we unite as one people.

Our hope is that this rebranding is more than a new name; it is an invitation. We invite every Jewish organization and every member of our community to see this magazine as a platform for connection and collaboration. If you have ideas, stories, or perspectives that reflect the richness of our community and its members, whether here in Indianapolis or abroad, please reach out to Andrea Kruszynski at akruszynski@jfgi.org. We want your voice to be part of this conversation.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your engagement, your ideas, and your passion are what make our community extraordinary. Let's celebrate this new chapter together.

Linda Mordoh Joins Janine Shapiro as Co-Chair for the 2026 Annual Campaign



Linda Mordoh,
Annual Campaign Co-Chair

Since launching her interior design business in 1978, Linda Mordoh has built a long and fulfilling career defined by creativity and dedication. Yet, amid the demands of her professional life, one constant has remained: her deep and enduring connection to Federation.

Mordoh's involvement began in the early 1980s, and by 1986, she and her sister, Cindy Davis, proudly served as co-chairs of the Young Women's Division for the Annual Campaign. That experience ignited a lifelong appreciation for Federation's mission and the power of community. Even as her business flourished, Mordoh continued to stay active and engaged.

Most recently, Mordoh has had the privilege of serving as Co-Chair of Women's Philanthropy alongside Marina Grabovsky for the past two years. Collaborating with such passionate and committed women has been inspiring and has only strengthened her resolve to give back.

When asked to serve as Annual Campaign Co-Chair, Mordoh approached the decision thoughtfully, recognizing the significance of the role. Ultimately, she felt honored and energized by the opportunity to make an even greater impact. Her dedication to Federation is rooted in the example set by her uncle, Leon Mordoh, whose leadership shaped her understanding of responsibility and service. Linda knows he would be proud to see her carrying forward that legacy.

Looking ahead, she is excited for a meaningful and successful year, working together to uplift and support the community through Federation's vital work.

In 2025, Janine Shapiro joined the ranks as an Annual Campaign Co-Chair alongside Sandy Nachlis. In 2026, Mordoh will join Shapiro as Co-Chair, bringing her experience, passion, and vision to help lead the campaign forward.



Janine Shapiro,
Annual Campaign Co-Chair

Thank You Sandy Nachlis

JFGI extends its deepest gratitude to Sandy Nachlis, who has generously served as Annual Campaign Co-Chair for the past three years. Under Nachlis' visionary leadership, the campaign has experienced remarkable growth, fueled by her unwavering dedication to strengthening and uplifting the community.

The organization is profoundly grateful for her commitment, passion, and the countless hours she has invested in ensuring continued success.

JFGI looks forward to celebrating her outstanding accomplishments at the Annual Meeting in June.



Tom and Arlene Grande
AFP Lifetime Achievement
Award Honorees

Celebrating a Legacy of Giving

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis congratulates Tom and Arlene Grande, pillars of philanthropy in the Indianapolis Jewish community, as recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Indiana Chapter.

Their decades of commitment have strengthened the community and inspired countless acts of giving. In a tribute video shown at the award ceremony, JFGI CEO Marc Swatez shared how their vision and generosity have shaped the future of Jewish life in Indianapolis.

It Starts With Us: A Community United for the Future



The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis proudly announces the theme of its 2026 Annual Campaign: *It Starts With Us*. This is more than a slogan. It is a call to action for every member of the community to recognize their power in shaping a vibrant Jewish future.

This message is an invitation to donors, volunteers, and beneficiaries alike because each of you is a catalyst for change. Every contribution helps ensure the strength, care, and continuity of Jewish life in Indianapolis and all over the world.

“It Starts With Us’ isn’t just a theme; it’s a statement of Jewish responsibility,” said Marc Swatez, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. “The strength of our community begins when each of us steps forward. When we lead with heart and vision, Jewish life thrives. We don’t wait for someone else to act, because building the future starts with us.”

The Annual Campaign makes possible the programs and services that matter most: supporting families in need, creating meaningful Jewish experiences, key leadership programs, and strengthening ties with Israel. Every gift and every act of kindness creates ripples of impact that reach far beyond today.

“As a Jew in North America, and more specifically in Indy, I feel like we’re entering a new chapter, and I’m excited to help write it,” Annual Campaign Co-Chair Janine Shapiro said. “It Starts with Us speaks to the possibilities ahead.”

Why does it start with us? Because the choices made now will shape Jewish life for generations to come. Together, the community can build a stronger, more compassionate, and more connected future.

The 2026 Annual Campaign is underway. Join the mission. It starts with us, and it starts now.



Maurer Koach Program Cohort 3

Koach means “strength” in Hebrew, and this program builds yours.

Through 8 interactive sessions, you’ll learn from local, national, and international leaders about:

- Combating antisemitism
- Jewish identity and leadership
- Social justice

Two immersive trips make this program unique:

- Chicago (2 days)
- Europe (10 days), including Auschwitz/Birkenau, meetings with Jewish leaders, and visits to historic and contemporary sites.

You’ll leave with deepened Jewish knowledge, strong relationships, and tools to address antisemitism.



Requirements

- Jewish young adults (mid-20s/early 30s)
- Passion for social justice
- Commitment to all sessions and trips
- Fee: \$180

Space is limited!
Apply by Feb. 2, 2026 at

bit.ly/maurerkoach26

Contact Margo Fox at mfox@jfgi.org with questions.



Marking This Moment: A Night of Reflection and Unity

In October, 300 members of the community gathered for Marking This Moment, an evening dedicated to resilience, remembrance, and hope. The event honored the return of Israeli hostages and paid tribute to the lives forever changed by the October 7 attacks.

One of the most moving moments came when Shir Zohar, a survivor of the Nova Music Festival, shared her powerful story of courage and survival. Through heartfelt speeches and shared experiences, attendees stood united in strength and solidarity.



1. Tomer Mualem and Tony Shapiro share an embrace following the emotional event.
2. Jewish Federation Co-President Miriam Dant kicked off the evening’s program.
3. Musician and Singer Yochi Black performed her beautiful rendition of “Hurricane.”
4. Cantor Melissa Cohen of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck performed the iconic song “Hallelujah.”
5. Shir Zohar, a survivor of the October 7 Nova Music Festival attack, shared her powerful story of resilience and survival.
6. A packed audience was deeply engaged and moved throughout the program.
7. Jewish Community Relations Council President Eli Isaacs delivered closing remarks to conclude the program.



Indianapolis Delegation Strengthens Global Bonds During P2G Trip

This fall, 15 members of the Indianapolis Jewish community embarked on an inspiring journey to Israel for the Partnership2Gether (P2G) 2025 Hatikva Summit in the Western Galilee. The cohort joined more than 60 participants from 17 U.S. communities and the Budapest P2G Consortium where they celebrated the true meaning of Hatikva: hope.

The summit was more than just a conference for Indianapolis participants, it was a celebration of connection, collaboration and shared vision among Jewish communities worldwide.



friends over dinner with our host families and cried with bereaved families whose loved ones paid the ultimate price.”

Suriel added “Although two years of war have put a pause on most coexistence projects inside Israel, one experience that brought a glimmer of hope to me was the Equalizer program in Akko. This program brings together at-risk Jewish and Arab kids and connects them to resources and each other through soccer. Sitting with them and speaking to them in Hebrew and Arabic, and then running around the soccer field, was a good reminder that a better tomorrow is possible.”

In addition to the Akko visit, the group engaged with Israel Defense Forces’ soldiers, toured local communities, heard from displaced citizens and bereaved families affected by the Israel-Hamas War, met heroes of resilience, spoke with executives and owners of businesses in the evacuation zone, and participated in hands-on volunteering.

Trip participant Dr. Louis Profeta said that he and his wife Sheryl’s favorite part of the trip was when they visited a Druze village where they learned about their culture and enjoyed a lunch together.

“That was an incredibly special moment,” Profeta said. “It gave us the opportunity to make new friends.”

He added, “The most meaningful part of the trip was the night at the hotel and listening to the survivor of the Nova massacre talk about her experience. It reaffirmed to us our responsibility as Jews to tell the story, to not back down, to be the light unto the world, to be on the right side of history. We owe it to those survivors. It was an amazing experience, and we loved every bit of it.”

This trip was David Flaumenhaft’s first

P2G trip to Israel and his second P2G trip when he went on the P2G Young Adult Program to Budapest in 2024. He said that having the opportunity to meet new people and view the beauty of the homeland was inspiring.

“Being together with new and old friends, in our homeland, is a memory I will deeply cherish,” he said. “Israel is an amazing country. Eating fruits from Moshav Liman right off the tree and spending time laughing while sharing stories will forever be my favorite highlights of the trip. The perspectives gained from visiting with bereaved families and with high school students have given me a deeper connection with my own Judaism and children. When the war started, our family knew that we wanted to give both financially and



spiritually to our Partnership region. This trip allowed me to understand the impact we can make when we work together as a community and as a community of communities. Partnership2gether is so much more than a trip, it is a moment in time that changes you for a lifetime.”



“It was an amazing opportunity to reinforce our connections in the Jewish community and see the work within the region and the Druze community,” said Larry Turow.

Together, participants explored innovative programs, engaged in meaningful dialogue and strengthened the bonds that unite the collective global Jewish family.



Lauren Suriel, P2G Indianapolis Chair, said to be in Israel, just weeks after the remaining living hostages were freed, was to collectively exhale alongside our Israeli friends as they slowly began to rebuild their new normal.

“That is what partnership is all about: to build real and lasting connections with Israelis,” Suriel said. “We laughed with

Western Galilee College Academic Delegation Visits Indianapolis



Indianapolis welcomed an Academic Delegation from Western Galilee College as part of our Partnership2Gether (P2G) Consortium. The delegation, composed of experts in criminology, security and community resilience, spent several days engaging with local leaders, educators and community members to share insights and

strengthen global connections.

Their visit included meaningful conversations with members of the Israel & Overseas Committee and Prystowsky ATID and Maurer Koach Program leadership cohorts, as well as a Lunch & Learn with Jewish community professionals. They toured the Marion County Courthouse and Juvenile Detention Center to learn about the U.S. justice system and exchange perspectives on criminology. The delegation also visited Hasten Hebrew Academy classrooms and helped launch this year’s twinning collaboration with Gvanim School in Israel, reinforcing the educational ties between communities.

One of the highlights was a private dinner with representatives from local law enforcement and security partners, where discussions focused on cutting-edge topics

such as artificial intelligence in policing, drone technology and crime forecasting. The delegation also traveled to Indiana University Bloomington for conversations with Alliance for Israel members and faculty about campus climate and antisemitism, followed by meetings with students at IU Hillel. They concluded their time in Indianapolis by joining the community for a spirited Shabbat dinner with The L’Chaim Project and even experienced a taste of local sports at a Butler University basketball game.

The visit exemplified the mission of Partnership2Gether: building bridges through shared learning and collaboration. By connecting academic leaders from Israel with local institutions, the initiative fostered dialogue that strengthened both communities and created opportunities for future partnerships.

SAVE THE DATE

Major Donor Dinner

Featuring Jewish Comedian

MODI

May 13, 2026

More information and formal invite to follow.

It Starts

With Us



Jewish Federation
of Greater Indianapolis



Shlichah in the Sukkah



On Oct. 12, during the Sukkot holiday, community members of all ages from across Indianapolis came together at the Jewish Federation sukkah to welcome the new Indianapolis Shlichah, Gaya. Guests enjoyed authentic Israeli coffee and hot chocolate, known in Hebrew as Shoko, while engaging in lively conversation. The gathering marked a warm and festive start to the season, highlighting the community's commitment to connection and cultural exchange.

Follow Gaya on Social Media! Instagram: [@Indy_Shlichah](#), Facebook: JFGI Indy Shaliach. Learn new Hebrew words, discover delicious recipes from home, explore Israel's best hiking trails, stay updated on upcoming community events and so much more.

Israel & Overseas Allocations Create Impact Abroad



Across the Federation system, Jewish communities have increasingly prioritized impact funding through direct grants to specific organizations in Israel and overseas. This approach empowers each community to identify its own areas of interest and determine how and where its contribution can make the greatest difference for Jews globally.

Through this process, Indianapolis has created relationships with a number of organizations in Israel; members of the community visit when in the country to see first-hand how funds are being put to use and report back to donors.

The Federation also supports JAFI, JDC, and ORT as core funding partners in overseas work, within and beyond Israel. These global organizations operate in numerous countries and bring immense value through their emergency response capabilities and robust infrastructure for supporting smaller Jewish communities.

In 2025, the JFGI Israel and Overseas Committee approved a distribution of \$400,000 in funds, as recommended by the Planning and Allocation Committee, utilizing both targeted and unrestricted funding models. Contact Blake Kaplan at bkaplan@jfgi.org for more information.

JAFI - \$90,000 JDC - \$60,000 Tzofim Garin Tzbar Project 1 - \$40,000 Selah - \$25,000

Matte Asher Community Center - \$25,000 ORT Matte Asher Region - \$25,000 Kivunim - \$25,000

Brothers For Life Project 1 - \$24,000 Brothers For Life Project 2 - \$22,500 Tzofim Garin Tzbar Project 2 - \$20,000

Community Stress Prevention - \$20,000 Zidan Saif Memorial Asso - \$19,500 ORT - \$5,000



BEYOND BARRIERS

Barriers to health care aren't always apparent. Depression and mental illness can impact every aspect of an individual's life and the lives of those around them. Fortunately for Donnisha, she found the courage to challenge the stigma around mental illness that many face, and her journey is now inspiring others.

**ESKENAZI
HEALTH**

EskenaziHealth.edu



SAVE THE DATE
GALA CELEBRATING
Kindness
 A TRIBUTE TO
SYBIL MERVIS
JULIE & MIKE MERVIS
 JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
 HONORING GENEROSITY & COMPASSION
MARCH 1, 2026
 HELD AT CONGREGATION SHAAREY TEFILLA
 INVITATION TO FOLLOW

SAVE THE DATE
**International Lion of
 Judah Conference**
 A gathering of philanthropic Jewish women from around the world to connect, learn from prominent speakers on topics like antisemitism and leadership, celebrate traditions, and show solidarity with the Jewish community. It aims to empower participants and foster a sense of shared purpose in supporting Jewish life and values.
Feb. 28 – March 2, 2027
Austin, Texas

Women's Philanthropy Signature Event Brings Together Voices Across Generations

In October, more than 200 leaders from across Indianapolis gathered for the Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Signature Event, featuring acclaimed actress Tovah Feldshuh in conversation with moderator Naomi Ruchim.

The evening was alive with energy, inspiration, and connection. Women spanning generations, from age 12 to their 90s, came together in a shared spirit of purpose and community. Each speech was heartfelt and resonated deeply with everyone present.

The audience reflected the richness and diversity of the community: seasoned lay leaders, emerging voices, graduates and current participants in leadership cohorts, women reconnecting with Federation after years away, and those engaging for the very first time. Together, they celebrated the power of women and the strength of community.



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2



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7



8



Jewish Federation
of Greater Indianapolis
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

1. Casey Kaplan and Megan Fridell
2. Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour before the main event.
3. From left: Karen Schankerman, Ellen Gray, Ilene Smith, Lori Schankerman, Emily Schankerman, Liz Firestone, and Abbie Lande
4. Janie Goldberg, Alexis Maurer, and Linda Maurer
5. Annual Campaign Co-Chair Janine Shapiro and Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair Linda Mordoh
6. Moderator Naomi Ruchim and Keynote Speaker Tovah Feldshuh
7. Judie Doehrman, Sally Doehrman, and Shayna Gordon Cohen
8. Iris Goldberg, Tovah Feldshuh and Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair Marina Grabovsky

Indy Volunteers Serve on IDF Bases



From left: Doug Groswald, Stuart Fox, Fred Pfenninger, and Jeff Seidenstein recently returned from Israel after volunteering for two weeks with Sar-El, an organization that supports the Israel Defense Forces through civilian service on military bases.

Security is a Team Sport And the Team Just Got Better



The Safe Indy community security initiative began in 2019 following prominent violent attacks against U.S. Jewish communities. Since then, antisemitic violence, property damage, and other attacks have statistically only continued to increase. The October 7 terrorist attacks against Israel uncovered latent antisemitism in the U.S. that had been quietly fomenting for years. As this article is being written, Indianapolis Department of Public Works is cleaning up “Death to Israel” graffiti and a Manhattan congregation is still reeling from a recent protest in which instigators chanted violent mantras including “Death to the IDF”, “From New York to Gaza, globalize the intifada” and “Resistance you make us proud, take another settler out.”

Since 2019, the community security initiative has continued to mature to keep pace with the threat and at the end of Summer 2025, Safe Indiana became an official statewide collaborative entity, facilitated by the communities

of Northwest Indiana and St. Joseph Valley fully committing to the program and successfully obtaining LiveSecure community safety grants from JFNA for a total benefit of over \$230,000 over three years.

In turn, Safe Indiana is part of the national network of Jewish communal security programs. As a result, each individual congregation in Indianapolis is not alone in its safety and security efforts, but rather part of a strong network of networks, sharing critical information such as threats, trends, and best practices.

This includes 35 SCN-operated programs in partnership with other large city independent programs and is spearheaded by security professionals in each community, flourishes through the leadership of your Federation and congregational leaders and is supported by the 24/7 Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC). The JSOCC consists of a cadre of professional analysts working tirelessly behind the scenes to proactively identify online threats, ensure critical information-sharing, and provide support to the community programs. In 2024, JSOCC recorded 5,409 reported incidents. This year to date, it has made 373 individual submissions to the FBI’s National Terrorism Operations Center and made 410 unique referrals to law enforcement in general. This information sharing with law enforcement at both the

local and national level, prompted the FBI’s Deputy Director to say “We work with [SCN] day in and day out, really 24/7. They give us a different flow of information that we might not otherwise have.”

You are a vital part of the community safety program when you:

- Attend a safety/security training and apply what you learn
- Pay attention to your surroundings wherever you go
- Volunteer for your congregational safety or welcome team
- Follow established safety protocols
- Ask a question of your security committee for better understanding
- Contribute directed or unrestricted dollars to the Federation, your synagogue, and SCN
- Speak up and report when you see something suspicious, out of place, or potentially dangerous or criminal. As always, you can report things directly to Safe Indiana using this QR code:



Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

www.hhai.org



@hastenhebrewacademy



@hhaistars

Serving Up Community at HHAI



Pictured from left: Ron Shapiro, Leo Grabovsky, Jake Gorden, Ari Grabovsky, Ido Shuqrun, Jose Suriel, and Guy Gat.

The Second Annual Kosher Pickleball Tournament brought together 64 players and a crowd of enthusiastic supporters for a day of friendly competition and community connection at Pickle on Penn’s great facility. Participants enjoyed playing a sport they love while supporting Jewish day school education, proof that when the



Tournament Co-Chairs Marina Grabovsky and Gigi Marks Felsher.

Indianapolis Jewish community rallies, it really knows how to “dilliver.”

The Tournament committee, led by event co-chairs Marina Grabovsky and Gigi Marks Felsher, spent months securing sponsorships, coordinating logistics, and building partnerships to ensure the event’s success. A big thank you goes to Dink Master Sponsor Denney Companies, and a special thank you to HHAI Board President Brian Nachlis, whose steady guidance and dedication were instrumental in bringing the tournament across the finish line.

Proceeds are already making an impact, including purchasing a used pick-up truck to deliver JCC hot kosher meals to



Shlomo Shemesh, John Vandersall, Jeff Dettelbach, Evan Bayless, Marina Grabovsky, Jill Batler and David Grabovsky.

students and teachers, subsidizing those meals, and supporting essential school security. Brian reminded attendees that while HHAI may not be the right fit for every family, the school’s presence is vital to the health and continuity of the broader Indianapolis Jewish community.

The day was a celebration of shared purpose, commitment to Jewish education, and the kind of community strength you can’t relish enough. As one spectator quipped, only the Jewish community could turn pickleball into such a kosher big dill—and with ruach like this, it’s no wonder our students continue to brine bright.

Pre-K Students Step Into Kindergarten for a Day

HHAI’s Pre-K students recently spent a special day as “Kindergartners,” exploring the next stage in their learning journey. They participated in language arts activities, joined Morah Schusterman for prayers and a Torah story, and engaged in hands-on flower activities in the Kindergarten classroom. They also enjoyed lunch with the entire school, experiencing a more structured day while building confidence and independence.

The day highlighted the continuity of learning at HHAI, where Judaics and secular subjects are seamlessly integrated from the Giving Tree program into Kindergarten. Teachers praised the Pre-K students for their curiosity, enthusiasm, and kindness, and gratitude goes to all who made the day possible.





Jewish Family Services

www.jewishindianapolis.org/social-services @indyJFS @indyJFS

Adopt-a-Family supports 100 Jewish households during Chanukah

Volunteers and donors of Jewish Family Services gathered to pack holiday gifts and essential items for local families and older adults through the Adopt-a-Family program. This annual initiative brings warmth and support to hundreds of people each year. Life can be challenging at times, but the support of community can mean the world!



- 300 people came to Community Day, a record high, to wrap gifts and volunteer together.
- Larry Hughey and Linda Mordoh putting together Chanukah packages.
- Mila Ramaswamy wrapping gifts.
- Family portrait at Community Day! From left: Diane Abrams, Bella Tobe, Lisa Calderon, David Calderon, Dylan Tobe, Lucy Calderon, Maya Calderon, and Lorie Calderon.
- Rabbi Justin wrapping gifts with the Congregation Beth Shalom group.
- Service projects benefitting Popsie's Pantry, a new addition to this year's Community Day.
- Young friends enjoying a day filled with mitzvah and fun.



Hamsa Fund at Jewish Family Services: Expanding Opportunity for Jewish Youth



Kathy Pedrotti Hays, Brandon Blatt, Deb Pelletiere Blatt, Julie Sondhelm, Rachel Katz, and Rebecca Schalit-Newman

Jewish Family Services recently hosted a parlor meeting to celebrate the impact of the Hamsa Fund and share its vision for the future. Guests enjoyed music by Ashton Gleckman and heard local impact stories before learning about a matching gift opportunity to sustain this program for the next three years.

The Hamsa Fund provides grants to Jewish youth and young adults in Greater Indianapolis, helping families access education and life-enriching experiences that would otherwise be out of reach due to financial strain. Grants support a wide range of opportunities from tutoring, music lessons, and quality childcare

to Jewish day school, summer camp, and religious education. Each grant is personalized to reflect the unique needs, talents, and dreams of the child.

During the initial 3-year pilot, the Hamsa Fund has:

- Supported 133 Jewish youth from 74 families
- Distributed 349 personalized grants that reflect the unique needs & dreams of each child

Donations up to \$140,000 will be matched 1:1 thanks to the generosity of the Blatt family and an anonymous donor.

Contact Rachel Katz at (317) 259-6817 or rkatz@jfgi.org to learn how you can make an impact.

Contact Julie Sondhelm at (317) 536-1476 or jsondhelm@jfgi.org if your family can benefit from the Hamsa Fund.

The Voices of Local Holocaust Survivors

Last summer, JFS teamed up with filmmaker Ira Mallory, to record local Holocaust survivors sharing personal stories and heartfelt wishes for future generations. This special project was sponsored by David Rosenthal and Asya Kislyuk. Watch the video at bit.ly/jfssurvivorvoices.



ELEVATE YOUR EVENT TO NEW HEIGHTS

Hotel Carmichael, located in the heart of Carmel, specializes in creating unforgettable event experiences. Our versatile event spaces bathed in natural light and featuring a terrace with stunning views of the Palladium, are perfect for weddings, corporate events, and large gatherings. Our dedicated team ensures every detail is flawless, making Hotel Carmichael the premier choice for your next event.

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Tzedakah at the Chuppah

A story of impact featuring Alex and Emily Dolgin



When Emily and Alex Dolgin planned their wedding, they wanted to honor Jewish traditions in meaningful ways.

“During our rabbinical pre-wedding sessions,” Emily said. “We learned about beautiful customs, and the act of Tzedakah was a no-brainer. Growing up in a giving Jewish community, we both feel connected to donating and giving back.”

Inspired by stories of weddings with tzedakah boxes, they placed one at their celebration with quarters and a sign inviting guests to participate.

“Once we got home and opened our tzedakah box, we realized guests added even more than expected, doubling our planned amount,” she said.

The couple chose Popsie’s Pantry, a local food program dear to Emily’s family.

“Seeing firsthand the hard work each employee and volunteer does, and experiencing it firsthand, from packing up food to delivering it across town, you can truly see how your funds are put to good use,” she said.

Reflecting on the decision, Alex quoted Pirkei Avot: “On three things the world stands: on the Torah, on prayer, and on acts of lovingkindness.”

For them, giving during a simcha set the tone for a lifetime of giving back and a commitment to inspiring future generations, just as their parents did.



Local Jewish Leaders Represent Indianapolis at JFNA Gathering



Thirteen leaders from the Indianapolis Jewish community participated alongside more than 2,000 Jewish leaders from across North America at the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly. The gathering addressed the most pressing issues facing Jewish communities today through interactive mini-sessions and impactful plenary discussions. Highlights included powerful testimonies from October 7 survivors and insights from prominent voices such as U.S. Senator Ted Cruz.

Leaders who joined the conference were: Miriam Dant, Todd Maurer, Eli Isaacs, Marc Swatez, David Sklar, Rebecca Schalit-Newman, Margo Fox, Andrea Kruszynski, Brian Hoffman, Lauren Suriel, Gary Groudsky, Ethan White, and Debra Barton Grant.



Pickle for Purpose

JFS Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sunday, March 15

Pickle on Penn

11575 Pennsylvania St., Carmel, IN

\$90

for 1 player ticket

\$36

for a spectator ticket

Register at bit.ly/jfspickleball26

Contact Rachel Katz at rkatz@jfgi.org or (317) 259-6817 with questions.

Nominate Someone for a JFGI Award Today!

The Indianapolis Jewish community is filled with many outstanding individuals, programs and organizations. Help recognize a community member or organization by nominating them for an award!

Fill out the online application at

<https://jfgi.regfox.com/award-nomination-form>

Visit

<https://www.jewishindianapolis.org/annual-awards> for the rules of entries and to see past award recipients.

Applications are Due by Friday, April 24. Awards will be given out during the Annual Meeting in June.

Contact Andrea Kruszynski at akruszynski@jfgi.org with questions.



2026 Scholarships and Grant Applications are now open through March 1! Apply for an academic, Israel or Camp scholarship and grant today!

Apply today at

www.jewishindianapolis.org/scholarships

Future of Jewish Indianapolis Takes Center Stage at 18 Under 18 Celebration

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis proudly hosted its inaugural 18 Under 18 celebration in November, honoring an extraordinary group of young leaders who are shaping the future of the Indianapolis Jewish community and beyond. More than 230 guests gathered for an unforgettable evening filled with joy, pride, and connection. Families came together, some spanning three generations, to cheer on these remarkable honorees.

The event offered something for everyone: an interactive 360° photo booth, a trendy dirty soda bar, friendship bracelet-making, games, and a variety of delicious food stations that kept guests mingling and smiling. Federation Co-President Todd Maurer set the tone with a warm and inspiring welcome, reminding everyone of the power of youth leadership and community engagement.

These honorees are more than achievers, they are changemakers. Their talent, generosity, and commitment to Jewish values represent the bright future of the Indianapolis Jewish community. This celebration was not just an awards ceremony; it was a testament to the strength and continuity of a shared legacy.



1-3. Guests enjoyed interactive fun for all ages during the cocktail hour, featuring a 360° photo booth, pop-a-shot basketball, a friendship bracelet station, and a playful dirty soda bar.

4. Jewish Federation Co-President Todd Maurer delivered a lighthearted, age-themed welcome during the program.

5. 18 Under 18 Honoree Sadie Cohen led us in the singing of the National Anthems.

6. Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Rabbi Brett Krichiver said the HaMotzi before dinner.

7. 2025's 18 Under 18 Honorees

8. Attendees sampled a diverse selection of culinary delights from multiple food stations.

9-10. Max Newman moderates a conversation with keynote speaker and social media influencer Max Cohen (@murrayhillboy).

11-12. Honorees and their families enjoyed a meet and greet and photo opportunity with Max Cohen.

A Mission Rooted in Understanding

The JCRC brought a bipartisan group of Indiana legislators, representing both chambers and the full political spectrum, to Washington, D.C. for the bi-annual Legislative Mission in November. The program gives lawmakers a firsthand look at the issues shaping the national Jewish community and connects those broader trends to the lived experiences of Jewish Hoosiers. By engaging directly with

Throughout the day, legislators heard from speakers who offered clear and candid insight into the pressures facing Jewish communities nationwide. Alex Friedfeld of the ADL opened with a sobering assessment of the evolving landscape of extremism and how its effects increasingly reach Indiana. Rachel Dembo of JFNA highlighted the rise of antisemitism within the healthcare sector, showing how bias can shape patient care, workplace culture, and erode public trust.

Hon. Sawsan Natour Hasan of the Israeli Embassy added a diplomatic perspective, reflecting on the challenges of representing Israel amid misinformation and intense public scrutiny, and the importance of building authentic partnerships with leaders across the country, including in Indiana. Former Virginia House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn closed the afternoon with reflections on bipartisan coalition-building to confront antisemitism and strengthen civil society.

Together, these briefings underscored the essential role state leaders play in ensuring that Jewish Hoosiers feel safe, supported, and seen.

The delegation's visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum remains one of the mission's most powerful components.



national experts and institutions, legislators gain the context and relationships needed to understand how global challenges reverberate at home, and how thoughtful leadership can strengthen safety, inclusion, and community resilience across Indiana.



Legislators spent time in the Permanent Exhibition and met with museum experts, reflecting on the historical realities of the Holocaust and the contemporary forces that make its lessons newly urgent. The experience grounded the day in moral clarity, reminding participants that combating antisemitism is not simply policy; it is human, ethical, and fundamentally necessary.

As lawmakers begin the 2026 legislative session, the JCRC—working closely with the ADL—is advancing two key priorities informed by the trends explored during the mission. They are supporting anti-masking legislation to increase penalties for individuals who commit crimes while masked, addressing the anonymity that emboldens extremist activity. They are also advocating for a hate-littering statute, which would allow charges against individuals who distribute hateful or extremist flyers on private property, a tactic used to target neighborhoods and intimidate residents.

Both proposals reflect JCRC's commitment to ensuring Indiana remains safe, welcoming, and resilient. They also embody the mission's purpose: equipping leaders with the insight and partnerships needed to lead in ways that reflect our shared values and collective commitment.

The JCRC would like to thank Jamie and Jason Rich and Dan Cook for their generous support of the JCRC Legislative Mission to Washington, D.C.

Indianapolis BBYO Shines at KIO Regional Fall Convention



Indianapolis BBYO made a strong showing at the Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio (KIO) Regional Fall Convention, sending 24 teens, nearly 30 percent of all attendees. The weekend featured a packed schedule, including challah baking with the Challahback Girls, a meet-and-greet with retired MLB player Ryan Lavarney, and spirited color war relay races.

Kosher Options Grow at Purdue

Over the past two years, Purdue University has made major strides in supporting Jewish life by expanding Kosher dining options for students.

"We are excited to see the support for Jewish life here expand," said Rabbi Chase Foster, president of Purdue's Hillel Foundation. "By Purdue working to provide Kosher options here for our Boilermakers, they are removing the barriers for many students who otherwise would not consider the school. As more and more families look closer at colleges they are considering, Purdue becomes a more welcoming option, and Kosher food helps cement that draw to the Midwest for observant Jewish families, many of whom are backing away from schools on the coasts."

What's Available:

- Kosher Meal Plan: Glatt Kosher, OU-certified pre-plated meals served at Earhart and Ford Dining Courts for students with a University Residences meal plan. Opt in via mealplans@purdue.edu.
- Kosher for Passover: Lunch and dinner provided throughout Passover (except Seder nights and Shabbat). Meals are prepared by a Kosher caterer and served on campus. Seders and Shabbat meals are hosted by Hillel and Chabad and open to all.
- Frozen Kosher Meals: Third Street Market offers Glatt Kosher options like spaghetti and meatballs, chicken, and beef, plus vegetarian Kosher meals.

Contact Hillel at Purdue at Hillel@PurdueHillel.org for more information.



Indy Kollel Partners with Chill Zone

Chill Zone is a Saturday-night winter program that offers Jewish tweens and teens a fun, positive space to socialize, learn, and grow. Each session includes pizza, games, prizes, and hands-on Jewish activities led by trained mentors called "Head Chillers."

This partnership brings a nationally renowned youth program to Indianapolis, creating an exciting space for kids to connect and feel proud of their heritage. Indy Kollel will work closely with Chill Zone to deliver the high standards and creative energy the program is known for.

Chill Zone operates in more than 80 locations across the U.S., Canada, and Israel, engaging thousands weekly. It is a project of Kars4Kids, the nonprofit behind one of the most successful marketing campaigns in the country.





NEXTGen

www.jewishindianapolis.org/what-we-do/nextgen

@jfginextgen

@jfginextgen

A Flavorful Sukkot



In the Sukkah at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Rabbi Jordana Chernow-Reader led an engaging exploration of the Seven Species of Israel. Participants enjoyed dishes inspired by each traditional fruit and grain while diving into meaningful discussion about their symbolism in Jewish life. The evening blended learning, community, and the festive spirit of Sukkot into a flavorful, enriching experience.

Annual Chanukah Party Brings Lights & Laughter



Photos by Rinat

Indy's Young Jewish community lit up Chanukah in style at one of NEXTGen's biggest events yet, Light It Up, held on Dec. 6. Guests enjoyed chocolate fountains, dazzling ice sculptures, a live DJ, vibrant lights, and even a spirited round of Texas Dreidel. The evening captured the energy and growing sense of connection among young Jews across the city.

NEXTGen Celebrates Jewish Values on the Farm



NEXTGen's Companions in Creation event brought participants to Heavenly Acres Farm, where they connected with alpacas, goats, sheep, and more. Guided by Rabbi Hal Schevitz of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, the group enjoyed hands-on time with the animals before gathering for a thoughtful discussion of Jewish texts exploring the bond between humans and animals. It was a light yet meaningful afternoon blending nature, community, and tradition.

Food, Faith, and Friendship at NEXTGen Friendsgiving



NEXTGen welcomed the holiday season with a spirited Friendsgiving Shabbat, uniting young adults from across Indianapolis for an evening of community, tradition, and gratitude. Guests shared festive fall flavors, meaningful conversation, and plenty of laughter in a cozy Shabbat setting.

YoPhI Welcomes New Cohort



The Lou and Sybil Mervis YoPhI Teen Philanthropic Board continues to establish itself as a meaningful and uplifting presence within the Indianapolis Jewish community.

The board is led this year by Isaac Rothbaum and Gabi Zelikovich, with members Helio Dorman, Lila Epstein, Megan Fridell, Leah Klapper, Benjamin Murray, and Elon Yuckman joining them in this important work.

To kick off the year, the group bonded through an exciting escape room

experience, building teamwork and problem-solving skills that will serve them well in their philanthropic work.

This year's participants have already begun their philanthropic journey by crafting a mission statement and are now preparing to identify nonprofits that align with their mission.

Stay tuned as these incredible teens take the next steps in shaping impactful giving and strengthening the Jewish community here and around the world.

JFGI Launches Men's Engagement Series



In November, nearly 50 men spanning across generations gathered for an evening of camaraderie. The kickoff event of JFGI's new Men's Engagement series, Bourbon and Brotherhood provided men with an opportunity to learn about the process of distilling bourbon, sample community members' favorite brands, and connect or reconnect with men from across the Jewish community.

With a goal of building community and togetherness, the Men's Engagement series is just getting started. Contact Brian Hoffman at bhoffman@jfgi.org to learn more about or get involved.



Ignite: Exploring Jewish Identity and Community

Ignite has kicked off with two dynamic sessions designed for those in their 50s and 60s who want to deepen their understanding of the Indianapolis and global Jewish community, connect with leadership and volunteer opportunities, and enjoy meaningful travel.

In the first session, Rabbi Aaron Spiegel sparked thoughtful dialogue with the question, "Why Be Jewish?" Participants explored personal identity, community involvement, and the challenges and opportunities facing Indianapolis' Jewish community.

In the second session, Professor Pierre Atlas unpacked the history of Israel and today's political realities, clarifying the complex overlap between antisemitism and anti-Zionism. Later, JCRC Executive Director David Sklar shared how the local Jewish community is responding to antisemitic and anti-Israel activity while building strong partnerships and educating the broader community.

The cohort is advised by Steering Committee members Linda Falender, Rebecca Geyer, Rabbi Sue Silberberg, and Carly Turow.

Ignite meets again on Feb. 17 and offers an unforgettable trip to Jewish Argentina and Iguazu Falls from April 22-29.

Contact Margo Fox at mfox@jfgi.org if you are interested in joining this cohort.



Jewish Community Center

<https://jccindy.org> @JCCIndianapolis @jccindianapolis

Creativity and Connection Shine at the Ann Katz Festival of Books & Arts

The 27th Annual Ann Katz Festival of Books & Arts was a fantastic celebration of creativity, conversation, and community. Over several weeks this fall, attendees experienced thought-provoking author talks, moving performances, and art exhibits that highlighted diverse voices and stories.



Sports TV Producer Robert Steinfeld signs his book "3...2...1... We're on the Air!"



Les Morris interviews Robert Steinfeld.

Indiana Pacers & Fever Youth League

Indiana Pacers & Fever YOUTH LEAGUE

NOVEMBER 5 - FEBRUARY 22, 2026

JOIN OUR YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND FUN

K-5th Grade

FOR MORE DETAILS & REGISTRATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

COST: \$100 MEMBERS \$125 NON-MEMBERS



Each Ann Katz Festival event drew an impressive crowd.



Megan Maurer interviews Rabbi Gershon Schusterman.



Hooverwood Living

www.hooverwood.org @hooverwoodliving @hooverwoodliving



The annual Guild Game Day brought plenty of energy and excitement as residents and friends gathered for mahjong, canasta, and a whole lineup of favorite games. Laughter, strategy, and friendly competition filled the room, all in support of the Guild's mission to brighten the lives of Hooverwood Living residents. It was a cheerful day that reminded everyone why this tradition is so loved!



Hooverwood Living proudly hosted its annual Veterans Day celebration, welcoming residents, staff, and community members to honor those who served. Each veteran was recognized individually during a touching ceremony that highlighted their courage, dedication, and lasting impact. It was a heartfelt day filled with appreciation, stories, and meaningful moments shared together.



Hooverwood Living's furry friend Kayla never fails to light up the building when she comes by for her volunteer visits. Residents adore her, and she returns every bit of that affection with tail wags, cuddles, and plenty of charm. Her visits are a sweet reminder of how comforting a dog's presence can be.

And yes, Hooverwood Living welcomes pet visits! With current vaccination records, family pups can stop in too. A little dog time can make any day feel brighter.



Every other Friday, residents dip into their creative side during Watercolors with Elizabeth, a class that brings a fun splash of color to the week. Elizabeth leads the group through relaxing projects that spark imagination and leave everyone with beautiful keepsakes to hang proudly or share with loved ones. It's a warm, artsy start to the morning, and a simple reminder of how good creativity can feel.

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

Minyan: Sundays: 9 a.m. Wednesdays on Zoom and 7:30 a.m. Thursdays

Torah Study: 9 a.m. Sundays

Erev Shabbat Services: 6 p.m. Friday evenings

Shabbat Services: 10 a.m. Saturdays

Judaism 201: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning on Jan. 7 at BEZ. Those seeking to understand Judaism should look beyond the Bible. While the Hebrew Bible is foundational, the Judaism practiced today has been shaped by ancient Rabbinic Sages, particularly through the Talmud and classical Midrash. The Talmud is a vast collection of rabbinic discussions on Jewish law, ethics, and tradition, while Midrash refers to creative interpretations and expansions of biblical stories that uncover deeper meaning and moral insight. Rabbi Hal Schevitz invites participants to an engaging exploration of the most significant stories, legal debates, and wisdom that continue to guide Jewish life as it is known today. Prior knowledge of Hebrew or the Bible is helpful, but not required. RSVP to rschevitz@bez613.org.

Cocktail Judaism: Bridging Faiths: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 at the Roost. Join Rabbi Hal for a powerful conversation with Nabihah Mahmood, a dynamic leader, educator, and interfaith advocate. Together, they'll explore the intersections of Jewish and Muslim identity, community, and connection, offering insights into how shared values can build bridges across difference. RSVP to Jennifer at jhodes@bez613.org.

The Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso Jewish Civic Engagement Program: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14. Session 3: Philanthropy and Bridge Building (Potential visit to New Harmony).

Rosh Hodesh: Tea Blending: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20 at BEZ. Warm up your winter and awaken your senses as we welcome the new month of Shevat with a hands-on tea blending workshop! Draw inspiration from the Shiv'at Haminim (Seven Species) and explore fragrant herbs, dried fruits, and species and craft personalized tea blends to take home! RSVP to asegal@bez613.org.

Ulpan (8th Grade) Shabbat: 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23 at BEZ. Join services as BEZ's 8th grade religious school class leads in prayer. Religious school families are invited to stay after services for a Shabbat dinner. Please RSVP to gkelley@bez613.org

Tot Shabbat: 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at BEZ. Celebrate Shabbat with singing, movement, music, and snacks perfect for 18-month-olds through age 3 and their grown-ups. Older siblings are welcome. RSVP to Alex Segal at asegal@bez613.org.

Mini Minyan: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at BEZ. Elementary-aged children and their families are invited to a fun, hands-on Shabbat service where learning and celebration meet. Sing, explore rituals, and build meaningful connections. Oneg to follow. RSVP to Alex Segal at asegal@bez613.org.

Parent Toddler Havurah: 9:45-11:45 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 1. Come sing, play, and celebrate! Families with children ages 2–5 are invited to explore Jewish life through joyful songs, engaging stories, and hands-on crafts. Led by Maria Simon. RSVP to parenttoddlerhavurah@gmail.com.

Dor L'dor (6th and 7th Grade) Shabbat: 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6 at BEZ. Join services as BEZ's 6th and 7th grade religious school class leads in prayer. Religious school families are invited to stay after services for a Shabbat dinner. Please RSVP to gkelley@bez613.org.

Cocktail Judaism: 7-8:30 pm Monday, Feb. 9 at the Roost. Join Rabbi Hal for a powerful conversation. RSVP to Jennifer at jhodes@bez613.org.

Rosh Hodesh: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17 at BEZ.

Family Purim Spiel and Carnival: 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at BEZ.

Visit <https://bez613.org/> or [@CongregationBEZ](#) on Facebook for more information.

Congregation Beth Shalom

CBS Crafting/Stitching group: 1 p.m. first Sunday of the month. Call Diane Graul at (402) 250-3009 or Sarah Stuckey at (317) 213-1818 for the location for each month.

Tu B'Shevat Seder: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6 in the CBS Social Hall. Join this yummy celebration of trees and the foods they provide. There will be kids activities. No need to RSVP.

Mishpucha Minyan: 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 in the CBS library and chapel. This is a CBS Shabbat morning service designed for everyone.

Torah Study: 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 in the Hooverwood Living Library. CBS is taking a year-long Deep Dive into David at Torah Study.

Regular CBS Shabbat services: 6:30 p.m. Fridays at Temple. Worship services are both in person and virtual. Zoom links and access codes are available to everyone through the CBS website. All are invited and welcome to participate, whether in person or through Zoom.

Torah Study: 9:30-10:30 a.m. every Saturday morning, Temple Library. This is a weekly gathering and immediately precedes any Saturday morning service. Everyone is invited to come.

Visit www.bethshalomindy.org for up-to-date information and details on how to participate in any of CBS' events. See the "Home" page or the "Calendar" tab under the header "What's Happening."

Congregation B'nai Torah

Daf Yomi: Every morning at 6:15 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. on Sundays.

Lunch & Learn: Noon on Mondays. Rabbi Hasten is teaching the book of Melachim.

Mishna Class: Every morning after Shacharit.

Halacha Class: between Mincha & Maariv, Sunday through Thursday.

Business Halacha: Every Tuesday after Maariv.

Tehillim for women: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the library.

Men's Mishmar: 8 p.m. Thursday nights. Learn with a chavrusa or join a class.

Night Seder: Sunday through Thursday after Maariv.

Shabbat Youth Groups

- After Kedusha of Mussaf (Approximately 10:55 a.m.)
- Preschool and Kindergarten meet in the playroom for parsha, davening and games with Navah and Simchah
- 1st grade and older meets in the English Library for the new Mitzva Program

Ramban on the Parsha: After kiddush.

Parshat Shavua: An hour before Mincha on Shabbat

Seudah Shlishit Class: Rabbi Teitelbaum will be speaking.

Chill Zone: 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. Activities for children and teens.

Visit btorahindy.org, email office@btorah.org or call (317) 253-5253 ext. 1 for more information.

Chabad Lubavitch of Indiana

Chabad Center for Jewish Life Weekly Services – 10 a.m. Shabbat Services every Saturday; 9 a.m. Sunday Services every Sunday. Visit www.chabadindiana.org or [@chabadindiana](#) on Facebook for upcoming events, classes and programs.

Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation

Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. (8:30 a.m. on holidays) Monday & Thursdays; and 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Fridays.

Shabbat Shacharit Service: 9 a.m. Saturdays

Shacharit Service at Chabad (unless otherwise noted): 9 a.m. Sundays

Full schedule of Shabbat services and a Shabbat class: 1 p.m. Saturdays. Times vary weekly.

Shabbat Class: 1 p.m. Saturdays after the Oneg. Join Rabbi Askenazi in learning about a variety of halacha, holidays, and topics that arise in discussions.

Sephardic Traditions in Tefilla Class led by Rabbi Askenazi: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays.

TNT (Tuesday Night Torah): 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays. Join Rabbi Askenazi for a lively discussion of the Parasha. Contact Rabbi Askenazi at rabbie@etzchaimindy.org with questions.

Sisterhood Family Bingo: Sunday, Jan. 11

Tu B'Shevat Seder: 5:44 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1. Mincha will follow.

Deborah Sisterhood Membership Meeting:

1-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. Special guest Rinat Adi will lead an exciting discussion on Numerology. This event is for women. Cost is \$25 per person, cash or check at the door. Pay your 2026 Sisterhood dues at the same time: Cost is \$18.

Contact Rabbi Daniel Askenazi at Rabbie@etzchaimindy.org with questions about classes. Visit www.etzchaimindy.org/calendar for more information

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:15 p.m. Fridays. Join IHC for the weekly service, bringing the peace of Shabbat into homes. You can watch live at ihcindy.org/streaming.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study: 9 a.m. Saturdays. IHC clergy guides the group through the weekly Torah portion text seeking understanding of the teaching for the time and discussing its message for today. It is available online or in person. No prior knowledge is necessary, and all are welcome. PLEASE NOTE: Registration for new attendees is now required to attend Torah Study online. Email BethMH@ihcIndy.org by 3 p.m. on Fridays to receive the Zoom link.

Shabbat Morning Services: 10:30 a.m. Saturdays

Torah Talk: 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Join Rabbi Krichiver to discuss Jewish sacred source texts in a non-intimidating way. All are welcome. Proudly presented by Sisterhood. You can join in person or find the Zoom link to participate on ihcindy.org/online.

IHC Sisterhood's Gift Shop Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesdays - Fridays; 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Fridays; 9:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. Sundays when the Jewish Learning Program is in session. You can also make an appointment to shop by emailing ihcsisterhoodgiftshop1@gmail.com.

Adult Education – Torah Talk: 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3, 10, 17. Rabbi Krichiver leads text study and stimulating discussion about the Babylonian Talmud. Attend in person or online by RSVPing at AdultEd@ihcindy.org. Torah Talk is sponsored by IHC Sisterhood.

Adult Education – Stories of Jewish Music II: 12 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 12. Cantor Marer leads four lessons on various topics from Jewish Jazz to Leonard Bernstein. Prior knowledge or attendance of part I is not required. Attend in person or online by RSVPing at AdultEd@ihcindy.org. Complimentary for IHC members or the cost is \$54 for guests.

Adult Education – Mythbusters: An Honest Look at Purim: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. Rabbi Shapiro explores the real story of Purim through a close reading of the text. If you prefer to know only the "beauty contest" version you learned as a child, this may not be the class for you. Attend in person or online by RSVPing at AdultEd@ihcindy.org. Complimentary for IHC members or the cost is \$18 for guests.

NEW GROUP: IHC Zillennial Circle: IHC's Zillennial circle offers fun social events, community service programs, and educational opportunities designed for Jewish Millennials and Zoomers. Lookout for upcoming events at

ihcindy.org/zillennial-circle.

Interfaith Parenting: Finding Your Place: 10 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8. This is a new opportunity for interfaith parents to gather for open discussions and to share their experiences in a safe space.

Grief Group: 6 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 26. Join Cantor Aviva Marer and Clinical Psychologist Tami Krichiver in a warm, confidential environment to comfort one another, share pain, reflect on loss, or simply observe and listen.

Jewish Book Club: 12 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 13 and Feb. 11. The Jewish Book Club is a great way for book lovers to enjoy getting to know each other through lively discussion about great books with Jewish and literary value. Selections are mostly fiction, occasional biography/memoir or historical non-fiction. The book club meets on Zoom, and occasionally in person.

Euchre Circle: 10 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 12, 26, and Feb. 9, 23 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 22 and Feb. 26. All levels of play are welcome to come and have some fun, meet new people, and compete for a prize. Email Circle Leader Melanie Gottlieb at mlgott9675@gmail.com with questions.

Mahjongg Mavens: 10 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. Fridays. Grab your tile set and play a game (or 10) with the other IHC Mahjongg mavens. This addictive game of skill, strategy, and luck is a great way to spend time with other IHC enthusiasts on a Friday. Contact Amy Isaacs with questions.

Mitzvah Stitches: 10 a.m. Sundays. Mitzvah Stitches is a corps of men and women who knit, crochet, quilt, and sew. No experience is necessary. Contact Cantor Janice Roger at janicer@ihcindy.org for more information, to get on the email distribution list and receive scheduling information and Zoom links.

Visit ihcindy.org or [@IHCIndy](#) on Facebook for links to all Zoom services, classes and programs and for more information.

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

Nosh & Drash: following morning services, Saturday, Jan. 3 and Feb. 7 at CST. A monthly series following the first Shabbat services of each month. Join a group discussion led by Rabbi Sendrow on the week's Torah portion while enjoying a nice Kiddush and Nosh. Join for both services and then nosh starting at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Jack Kamen Torah Study Group Rabbi Sendrow: 11 a.m. every Wednesday via Zoom. Whether you are a first-time learner or a longtime student, Rabbi Sendrow will guide you with wisdom, humor and meaningful insight. Email office@shaareyefilla.org to RSVP.

Chai Tea put on by the Sisterhood: 2 p.m. Sunday Jan. 11. Lea Darido, M.A. Psychology, will be sharing "The Christian Experience Today." In a region where faith and identity are deeply intertwined, both Jews and Christians face unique challenges in preserving their traditions. Lea Darido offers a moving window into the daily realities of Christians in Lebanon.

Fourth Friday Forum (a speaker's forum): 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23 and Feb. 27 within

the Kabbalat Shabbat Services. Speakers will share experiences, knowledge, customs, traditions, and thoughts on issues that affect Jewish people here and abroad.

- Jan. 23: Parisa Kay, an advocate for Israel, will speak on her experiences growing up in Iran. She will share her story of persecution and explain why these experiences shaped her support for Israel.
- Feb. 27: Yaniv Shmukler of the Jewish Community Relations Council will talk about the work to build bridges between communities and the criticality of this work now and in the future.

Monthly Sisterhood Book Club/Potluck: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, and Feb. 12, location TBD. Members of the CST Sisterhood come together to read and talk about a book from the various perspectives of the members. January's book is "The House on Endless Waters" written by Emuna Elon. February's book is "A Fever in the Heartland" written by Timothy Egan. Through the discussion they gain insight into the book and each other, while also sharing food and having fun. RSVP by emailing secondvp@shaareyefilla.org.

Quarterly Sisterhood Gathering: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at CST. Members of sisterhood will discuss and plan upcoming events while enjoying some food and drink. Do think of this as a meeting, but as a great opportunity to meet new women and find new friendships. RSVP by emailing secondvp@shaareyefilla.org.

Weekly Minyan: 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at CST and via Zoom. Your presence helps ensure a meaningful and complete prayer experience for the community, and it's a wonderful opportunity to connect, reflect, and support one another in a warm and welcoming setting especially for those in mourning or observing a yahrzeit. Services are at CST and via Zoom. The link can be found at shaareyefilla.org.

Weekly Shabbat Services: 6:30 p.m. Fridays and 9:30 a.m. Saturdays at CST and via Zoom. The link can be found at shaareyefilla.org.

Religious School and Hebrew School: 9 a.m. Sundays and 7:45 p.m. Wednesdays for kids from kindergarten to 6th grade. Members and non-members are welcome. Small classes with individualized attention providing both B'nai Mitzvah preparation along with religious education and Hebrew are offered. Hebrew schooling on Wednesday is via Zoom only. Email office@shaareyefilla.org to enroll your child or learn more about the program.

Temple Beth El Muncie

Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of the month in-person and online.

Torah Study Group: 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month in-person and online.

Visit templebethelmuncie.org and their weekly emails for more information on classes and programs. Connect with [@TempleBethEl](#) on Facebook, (765) 702-7731 or email contact@templebethelmuncie.org.

WELCOME

TO *Chai Roller*
CASINO NIGHT



©It Starts
With Us

An unforgettable evening of high-stakes fun and community spirit to kick off the new Annual Campaign

6 - 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25

Laikin Auditorium, Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus

Enjoy a night filled with gaming, socializing, and supporting a meaningful cause.

Dress Code: Business Casual with Vegas flair

Register at bit.ly/chairoller

Must be 21+ to attend

Contact Rebecca Schalit-Newman at rschalitnewman@jfgi.org with questions.

Event Co-Chairs

Debra Law & Emma Law-Oppman