

INDIANAPOLIS March/April 2026

# Jewish Community News



**TWO TRIPS. ONE COMMUNITY. ENDLESS INSPIRATION.**

*RECAP+ PHOTOS INSIDE*

**TWO HOOSIER ATHLETES UNITE SOCCER, SCHOOL, AND JEWISH LIFE.**

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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.

## Federation Leadership Update

**“**Serving as CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis over the past four years has been the honor of my career. I am grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the partnership of our dedicated volunteer and professional leaders. Together, we strengthened our community, grew our Annual Campaign from \$4 million to over \$5 million, expanded programs, and welcomed record participation—especially from emerging leaders.

I am proud of the unity and resilience our community showed in responding to the tragedy of October 7. That spirit reflects what makes this Federation so extraordinary.

After much reflection, I have decided to return to my family in Chicago and begin a new chapter. This was not an easy decision, but I am confident that the Federation is well-positioned for continued success, guided by an exceptional team and a passionate community. Thank you for your trust, partnership, and commitment. It has been a privilege to serve you.

**- Marc Swatez**

*Stay tuned for the May/June edition for further leadership updates.*

Earlier this year, the Jewish Federation hosted two transformative journeys: an educational experience in Israel for the Prystowsky ATID 6 cohort and an inspiring women's mission to Mexico City.



*Marc Swatez*  
**MARC SWATEZ**  
Former CEO

One of the most profound ways we strengthen Jewish life is by experiencing it together, beyond the borders of Indianapolis. Travel has always been a cornerstone of Jewish identity. From the journeys of our ancestors to the modern opportunities we create today, traveling as a community connects us to something larger than ourselves.

When we travel as a Federation family, we don't just visit places, we build bridges. We meet Jews in other cities and countries, share stories, and discover how our traditions thrive in diverse settings. These encounters remind us that while our customs unite us, each community adds its own unique flavor to Jewish life. Whether it's walking through the vibrant streets of Mexico City's historic roots and experience unique cultural traditions (see more on the trip on pages 10 - 11) or placing a personal note in the Western Wall in Jerusalem and making meaningful connections in our Partnership2gether region, these experiences deepen our sense of belonging and responsibility to the global Jewish people.

A highlight for me from going on the Israel trip was witnessing four of our participants celebrating their B'nai Mitzvah in Israel, surrounded by history and holiness, with Rabbi Brett Krichiver from our own Indianapolis community leading the ceremony. It wasn't just a milestone, it was a moment that binds generations, congregations, and continents. See more about the Israel trip on pages 4 - 5. These journeys allow us to bring Indianapolis to another Jewish community, and in return, we bring home inspiration, ideas, and renewed commitment to Jewish life.

These trips do more than create memories, they create leaders. When individuals experience the depth and diversity of Jewish life worldwide, they return energized and ready to lead not just within the Federation, but across synagogues, agencies, and organizations throughout our community. Travel sparks vision, builds confidence, and strengthens the bonds that make leadership possible.

And this is where our annual campaign mission comes to life: It Starts With Us. Every journey begins with a commitment - our commitment - to invest in experiences that transform lives and strengthen Jewish identity. When we travel together, we embody that mission. We show that building a vibrant Jewish future starts with us, right here in Indianapolis, and extends to every corner of the Jewish world.

These trips reflect the inclusivity that defines our Federation. They are not for one synagogue or one organization, they are for all of us. We celebrate the representation from every corner of Jewish Indianapolis: synagogues, agencies, and partner organizations. Together, we create a tapestry of voices and perspectives that enrich the experience for everyone.

When we return, we don't just bring back souvenirs. We bring back stories, friendships, and a deeper understanding of what it means to be part of Am Yisrael, the Jewish people. These shared experiences strengthen our local community and remind us that we are part of something enduring and extraordinary.

While these two trips are over, we look ahead at the exciting possibility of hosting more life-changing trips. When we travel as a community, we don't just see the world, we shape the future of Jewish life.



# A Record-Breaking Year of Impact

When you joined us for the 2025 Annual Campaign under the theme "Together As One," you became part of something extraordinary. Because of your generosity and commitment, the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign raised \$5,093,193, a milestone that shows what happens when this community unites with purpose.

This isn't just a number. It represents more lives changed, more futures strengthened, and a community that cares deeply. With a 9 percent increase from 2024, you helped the impact go beyond expectations, an incredible \$430,000 more than last year. Every gift, every conversation, and every act of kindness made this possible.

Whether you were a first-time donor or a long-standing supporter, you played a vital role in creating a ripple effect of impact. Your contributions will fund essential programs, provide critical services, and ensure that values of compassion and resilience continue to thrive here in Indianapolis and around the world.

The theme "Together As One" wasn't just a slogan. It was a movement. It serves as a reminder that unity is the greatest strength and that when this community comes together, it can overcome challenges and build a brighter future for all.

And now, because of the momentum you helped create, the Jewish Federation is excited to launch the 2026 Annual Campaign with its inspiring theme: "It Starts With Us." This next chapter calls on the community to lead with vision, generosity, and action. Because lasting change begins when each person takes the first step, when everyone does.

Thank you for proving that when hands and hearts join, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

The journey continues, because *It Starts With Us*.

## \$400K Gift Helps Launch Mental Resilience Center in Northern Israel

Indianapolis has made a transformative \$400,000 investment in a new Mental Resilience Center at Western Galilee College created to address the escalating mental health crisis in northern Israel. This major contribution is helping to establish the region's first facility dedicated to trauma treatment, prevention, and resilience building for civilians, first responders, and returning soldiers.

The need for the Center became clear during a 2024 visit to Indianapolis by Western Galilee College leaders, who described the lack of accessible trauma care resources. With no local facility, many residents have had to travel long distances for treatment, leading to high dropout rates and delayed recovery. Indianapolis leaders recognized the urgency to act.

This investment accelerated the Center's development and secured a meaningful partnership. Indianapolis received naming rights and a seat on the Center's steering committee, with Larry Turow serving as the community representative.

"This investment reflects our community's deep commitment to strengthening the Western Galilee," he said. "This center will bring real healing and hope to people who need it most."

The Center will combine clinical treatment with advanced technologies, including virtual reality therapy, biometric monitoring, AI supported tools, and simulation training for security forces, all aimed at improving outcomes and strengthening regional resilience.

Renovations are now underway on the 3,014 square foot facility on the college campus. The Center is also developing VR based resilience training exercises for soldiers through a partnership with a specialized tech company. Once operational, it expects to treat roughly 400 patients annually.

Indianapolis joins San Antonio, another early U.S. partner pledging \$124,000, in supporting this effort. Together, these commitments reflect the deep connection between American Jewish communities and the Western Galilee.

Scheduled to open by May 1, 2026, the Center will serve as a vital new resource, strengthening lives, expanding mental health support, and demonstrating powerful solidarity with Israel during an especially challenging time.

# ATID 6 Returns Inspired After Powerful Journey Through Israel

Despite travel delays and regional tensions, the Prystowsky ATID 6 group embarked on their long-awaited trip to Israel from Jan. 30–Feb. 6. The cohort traveled the country, celebrating together while witnessing the impact of October 7 and the resilience of Israelis.

The trip opened in Jerusalem, where a briefing with Times of Israel Deputy Editor Amanda Borschel-Dan set the stage for visits to the City of David Tunnels, the Old City, and the Western Wall, culminating in Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner with Hoosier guests.

The next morning, Ira Mallory, Joshua Kirsch, Karina Rosenthal, and Andrew Lodolo celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah at the egalitarian section of the Western Wall, each reading Torah and sharing words of Torah before a joyful, 90s-themed lunch.

A visit to Yad Vashem followed, then travel north to the Western Galilee, including a meaningful stop at Tulip Winery, which employs adults with special needs. The group met with Partnership2Gether leaders, toured key institutions, and

learned about life along the Lebanon border. Visits to Western Galilee Medical Center's underground facilities and plans for a new Resiliency Center highlighted post-October 7 needs. Conversations with evacuated families and a stop at Kibbutz Hanita underscored the challenges of border communities.

A Druze meal prepared by Basma Hino, who kashered her kitchen to feed soldiers, was a highlight. In Tel Aviv, the group explored the city's vibrant art and graffiti scene, toured Carmel Market, visited Jaffa, and ended the day with a Yehuda Poliker concert after learning about Israeli innovation in venture capital and water and energy technology.

The most emotional day was spent in the Gaza envelope, meeting hostage families and a Nova festival survivor, and witnessing the devastation at Kibbutz Nir Oz.

The final day included a visit to the Wingate Institute to learn about Israeli sports innovation and a stop at former Hostage Square. The group returned to Indianapolis deeply moved, more connected to Israel and their Jewish identities, and inspired to lead their community forward.



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“Walking through Israel and our partnership region alongside my fellow future leaders of our federation reminded me that leadership begins with understanding of history, of people, and of purpose. I return home more grounded, more inspired, and more committed to building a stronger future for our federation.”

**- Jose Suriel, ATID 6**

“My time in Israel further supported that the people of Israel represent the strength of Jewish peoplehood, driven by innovation and shaped by an enduring resilience. Israelis are determined not to just survive but to thrive. When asked about our experience with antisemitism in the US, and some expressed fear, we were told not to waste energy on being scared. But to use that energy to build a strong and connected Jewish Community. Israel has inspired me to do just that here in Indianapolis!”

**- Michelle McDonald**



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1. Diana Kogan, Michelle McDonald, Polly Beeson and Karina Rosenthal with the group's guard, Ehud.
2. Todd Maurer, Diana Kogan, Polly Beeson, Alex Goldberg, Noah Dock and Jose Suriel enjoying a wine tasting and lunch at Tulip Winery.
3. Diana Kogan planting at Kibbutz Hanita on Tu B'shevat.
4. Shayna Gordon Cohen, Zak Cohen, Emily Dock and Noah Dock exploring Jaffa.
5. Opening dinner in Jerusalem with special visitor David Prystowsky.
6. Celebrating Shabbat and the B'nai Mitzvah at the Western Wall.
7. Visiting the Partnership Center in Nahariya.

**ON THE COVER:** Ira Mallory, Joshua Kirsch, Karina Rosenthal, and Andrew Lodolo celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah, performed by Rabbi Brett Krichiver of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.





# In The Community

## BEZ Brings Comfort and Care on Christmas



For more than 40 years, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck (BEZ) has embraced the spirit of giving by serving at Cathedral Kitchen on Christmas morning. This cherished tradition allows the kitchen staff to spend the holiday with their families while BEZ volunteers prepare and serve a warm meal for neighbors in need. Thanks to their generous gifts of time, food, and financial support, more than 130 guests experienced nourishment and heartfelt hospitality.

## Light and Unity Prevail: Hoosiers Stand Against Hate



Indianapolis synagogues, Jewish agencies, and community organizations came together during Chanukah for the annual lighting of the Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus menorah.

The celebration culminated on the holiday's final night, when more than 100 community members joined elected officials and interfaith partners in a powerful display of solidarity. Thank you to Max Engling with the Office of Senator Jim Banks, State Treasurer Daniel Elliott, Rep. Ed DeLaney, Senator Andrea Hunley, Rep. Becky Tucker Cash, Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn, Mayor Chris Jensen for Noblesville, and Indianapolis City-County Council President Vop Osili for lighting the menorah and for your unwavering support of the Jewish community. Thank you to Mahesh Goel with Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, Ernest Lifferth and Elder David Kinard with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Father Rick Ginther with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Pastor Chris Duckworth with New Joy Lutheran Church, and Kevin Suiter with the Indiana Association of Christian Schools, and Former Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation Charlie Wiles for standing with your Jewish neighbors.

## Indiana Governor Mike Braun Meets with Indy Kollel



Indiana Governor Mike Braun joined Indy Kollel leaders to extend Chanukah greetings and share condolences following the tragic Sidney shooting. "What a tragic event. Very sad that this happens still too often. Deep condolences to you and the entire Jewish community," Braun said. Pictured from left: Chaim Grayman (Director, Indy Kollel); Rick Bentley (VP, Hasten Hebrew Academy); Governor Mike Braun; and Rabbi Yisroel Teitelbaum (Congregation B'nai Torah).

## Community Screening of October 8 Highlights Rising Campus Antisemitism



In partnership with local synagogues and JCRC, JFGI hosted a community screening of October 8, a documentary examining the rise of antisemitism on U.S. campuses after the October 7 Hamas attack.

A discussion moderated by Rabbi Hal Schevitz featuring Ethan White of Alpha Epsilon Pi, Evelyn Eggers of the Israel on Campus Coalition, and IU student leader Macklin Lapp, who shared firsthand insight into campus challenges and the growing impact of student activism and coalition building.

The panel emphasized the importance of community support and noted that, despite rising antisemitism, students are forging stronger partnerships and deepening their commitment to vibrant Jewish campus life.



# 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



# Finding Balance: How Two Hoosier Premier Athletes Weave Together Soccer, School, and Jewish Life

For most middle schoolers, after school life revolves around homework, friends, and the occasional extracurricular activity. But for 12 year old Sammy Boris and 13 year old Jon Fogle, evenings and weekends mean playing competitive soccer with Hoosier Premier Academy (HPA), one of only two Indiana clubs competing in MLS NEXT, the nation's top developmental pathway for elite boys' soccer players. With four nights of practices, weekends spent on the road, and eyes on collegiate level competition, their schedules could rival that of any professional athlete.

And yet, amid all that intensity, both boys are equally committed to something else: Jon to maintaining his Jewish identity after becoming a



Jon Fogle during a recent soccer game (top) and at the bimah during his bar-mitzvah (bottom).



bar mitzvah, and Sammy currently preparing for his own.

For the Boris and Fogle families, the journey has been a masterclass in structure, sacrifice, and the art of knowing what truly matters.

For Jon, that meant completing his bar mitzvah at Congregation Beth El Zedeck last spring, while Sammy now prepares for his own milestone this coming summer. Balancing Torah study with soccer training sessions in Noblesville, often ending after 9 p.m., takes discipline, flexibility, and a great deal of family teamwork.

For the Fogles, the rule was clear from the start: school and bar mitzvah preparation come first.

"If he couldn't handle everything, soccer would be what had to give," says Jon's dad, Adam.

But Jon rose to the challenge. Between advanced classes, yearbook, and soccer, he learned to maximize every moment, especially the quiet window between school and practice.

"Once you get into a rhythm it's not as hard," Jon said. "Soccer is like a reset for me. It clears my mind."

Sammy, too, is navigating his own version of this balancing act. School from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., four nights a week of practice, weekend tournaments, basketball in the winter, and weekly Hebrew lessons and meetings with Rabbi Justin Kerber at Congregation Beth Shalom.

"I really like playing soccer, and I wanted to compete at a high level," Sammy says. "But being Jewish is important to me too, so I wanted to find a way to do both."

His parents credit careful scheduling, helpful carpools, and Sammy's natural energy.

"We've always made it clear that Jewish commitments come first," says Sammy's dad, Ronnie. "Soccer is important but helping Sammy stay connected to who he is and where he comes from matters even more."

Ronnie added "I'm amazed at how seamlessly he juggles everything. My biggest question for him is always, 'Are you happy?' And he is. He pushes himself, wants to make us proud, and somehow manages to be a starter on his team, a straight A student, and a kid who's really embracing Hebrew. The more we throw at him, the more he handles and he still finds time to be a goofy, social kid who loves life."

Those commitments take on extra meaning in environments where



Sammy Boris celebrates Chanukah with his teammates.

neither boy has another Jewish peer. At a December tournament in Arizona, Sammy shared his Chanukah traditions with his teammates, giving many of them their first-ever glimpse into the holiday.

Jon says his bar mitzvah preparation connected him to something bigger: "My religion brings my family together. That's important."

Moments like that highlight why their families emphasize that Jewish commitment remains non negotiable. Coaches are understanding, virtual Hebrew lessons fill scheduling gaps, and occasionally a soccer game must be missed. It's all part of teaching priority, identity, and resilience.

Even beyond faith and family, their soccer program shapes them in important ways. HPA and the MLS NEXT system offer exceptional development, preparing players for high level soccer careers. But the boys' parents see even greater long term value. Time management, maturity, teamwork, and a strong sense of self, skills that will serve Sammy and Jon long after the final whistle.

With all they've learned, both families offer similar guidance to others considering this path. Their advice to other families? Try it, stay flexible, and avoid long-term commitments before you know what's sustainable. If a child truly loves what they do, they'll make space for it, and with parental support, they can thrive.

And these two boys prove it is possible: Jewish kids in Indiana really can have it all.



INDIANAPOLIS HEBREW CONGREGATION

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

www.ihcindy.org

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## Acclaimed Bluegrass Band "Nefesh Mountain" to Perform at IHC

When you think of Jewish music, bluegrass is rarely the first genre that comes to mind. This is far from the case for Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg, the bluegrass duo, and married couple, known as Nefesh Mountain. For over a decade, they have pushed the boundaries of traditional genres, combining folk, jazz, bluegrass, and Americana with strong influence from their Jewish heritage.

What drew these two East Coast Jewish musicians to bluegrass? For Eric, originally from Brooklyn, his family in Georgia was one connection. But he always found himself drawn to the soundtrack of the American landscape.

For Zasloff, the message is the media, and bluegrass provides the right canvas on which she can paint her words.

"Bluegrass and folk is all about storytelling and connection, and we love that the music feels immediate," she said. "It's about the song, the instruments, and the stories. That rawness is where we feel most comfortable creatively."

"From the moment I met Doni Zasloff, I knew Nefesh Mountain

had to be something special," said Cantor Aviva Marer of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. "Before even hearing their music, Doni's energy and neshama (soul) shone through in the way she interacted with everyone around her. Once she took the stage with her bashert, Eric, it was like a musical match made in heaven."

Jews historically have been at the forefront of folk music. Many Jewish musicians were at the core of the 1960s Greenwich Village folk scene. But Jewish music itself was not always as direct an influence on the music they produced as it is for Nefesh Mountain.

"Our Jewish background is woven into who we are and how we move through the world, and it deeply shapes the way we write songs," Zasloff said.

Their songs are not exclusively Jewish but strongly influenced by their heritage and faith. Some are direct, albeit modern interpretations of traditional Jewish texts, like "Modeh Ani," "Oseh Shalom," and "Mi Chamocha." Others take a hybrid approach, mixing in classic Jewish music with original songs, like "Evermore (Haskiveinu)."

"There's a lot to navigate being Jewish in the world we live in today, and that truth lives in the music," Zasloff said. "Writing has been a way for us to process what's happening, to sit with the heaviness, and to try to find some sense of hope inside it."

Like every great duo, each is the perfect complement to the other. Zasloff's sweet voice is clear as a summer stream while Lindberg brings a harmonic balance. Lindberg is a folk string virtuoso, having mastered guitar, banjo, mandolin, and dobro. His skillful playing lifts their music to ethereal heights. The blend creates an almost spiritual experience.

"We're guided by the idea of Tikkun Olam, the responsibility to help repair the world, and that shows up in everything we do," Zasloff said. "At the heart of it, we believe in the power of love, empathy, and unity. Music has this incredible ability to bring people together — to break down walls, to create understanding, and to remind us of our shared humanity. Our hope is that our music offers comfort, sparks connection, and maybe helps people feel a little more hopeful when they walk away."

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, Nefesh Mountain will perform live at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

"I am truly honored to be bringing them to IHC so that our whole community can experience the magic that is Nefesh Mountain," Cantor Marer said.

"At the end of the night, we want people to leave feeling connection, feeling real soulfulness, feeling hope," Zasloff said. "Playing at a synagogue is coming home! We are so excited to come to Indianapolis and play for this community."

Visit [bit.ly/NefeshMountainIHC](https://bit.ly/NefeshMountainIHC) for more details.

### NEFESH MOUNTAIN

Saturday, April 25

Doors: 6:15 p.m. | Show: 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door  
Special student pricing: \$18

Tickets and more info:



# A Journey of Culture, Connection, and Community in Mexico City

Mexico City's color, history, and remarkable Jewish vibrancy set the stage for a memorable Women's Philanthropy journey. Over five days, participants explored iconic cultural sites, strengthened global Jewish connections, and enjoyed the warmth of the city's food, art, and traditions.

The trip began with a festive welcome dinner at Guzina Oaxaca, where mezcal tastings, fresh guacamole, tortilla making, and mariachi music paired with an introduction to Mexico City's uniquely engaged Jewish community.

A visit to the monumental pyramids of Teotihuacan brought the ancient world to life, followed by tours of the historic Mount Sinai and Justo Sierra synagogues, symbols of the city's diverse Jewish heritage. The day ended with views of the Zócalo and a meaningful dinner with local Lions of Judah.

The group also visited the Centro Deportivo Israelita, Mexico City's Jewish Community Center, and enjoyed lunch and art in Coyoacán before touring the Frida Kahlo Museum. A colorful trajinera ride in Xochimilco, which included tacos, tequila, and mariachis, became a joyful highlight.

The final day focused on education and service, including a tour of the innovative Olami ORT School, learning about regional impact from the Jewish Agency for Israel, and a volunteer project with Yesod Haolam preparing meals for children and seniors. A spirited lunch at Contramar closed the journey on a celebratory note.

"The Jewish Federation women's philanthropy trip to Mexico City was an amazing experience," said Danielle Bohm. "It gave me an opportunity to connect with other Jewish women and have a shared experience that was spiritually transformative. My wish is that we take some of the things we learned from the community in Mexico City and apply them here in Indianapolis."

The trip's impact was clear: a strengthened sense of connection, a deeper appreciation for Jewish life in Mexico, and memories shaped by culture, community, and shared discovery.



1. The group while touring Justo Sierra synagogue, one of the oldest synagogues in Mexico.

2. Julie Singer makes guacamole during the opening dinner celebrations.

3. Mission Co-Chairs Iris Goldberg and Victoria Shmoel introduce guest Lion of Judah members who joined the group for dinner.

4. Women participated in a meaningful reflection together to end the trip, solidifying their commitment to the Federation.

5. Women packaged meals for children and seniors at Yesod Olam, a women's led non profit that provides free Kosher meals to the Jewish community.

6. From left: Caitlin Lubline, Marina Grabovsky, Mary Gorden, Sara Weinberger, Andrea Kruszynski, and Victoria Shmoel pose for a photo before enjoying a trajinera ride in Xochimilco

7. The group toured Olami ORT school, one of the 12 Jewish day schools in Mexico City. The Jewish Federation is a proud supporter of World ORT, a non profit that provides schools all over the world that are driven by Jewish values.

8. One of the first stops on the trip was to learn about the pyramids of Teotihuacan.



The Mexico City Jewish Community is inspirational - 95% of Jewish children attend a Jewish day school and there is so much involvement within their community. It shows that they are small (42K) but mighty. I also had the opportunity to really get to know the women on our trip and have meaningful, personal conversations. By the end, I felt proud of myself and of everyone who chose to participate in the mission because we all share a profound sense of responsibility for Jewish life and a deep commitment to strengthening our community.

**Victoria Shmoel**



# Jewish Community Center

<https://jccindy.org>



@JCCIndianapolis



@jccindianapolis

## Registration for Camp JCC Opens March 8



Registration for 2026 Camp JCC is almost open, launching another summer of adventure, friendship, and growth. Campers will spend their days exploring the JCC's 40 acre campus, splashing at the Eskenazi Water Park, and participating in programs designed to keep them active, curious, and connected.

With classic camp favorites, specialty options, and tennis camps that emphasize skill-building and sportsmanship, Camp JCC offers a dynamic, well-rounded experience for a wide range of ages and interests. It provides the fun kids love along with the safe and development-focused environment parents trust.

Registration opens on March 8. Visit <https://jccindy.org/> to register and for more information.

## JCC Indianapolis Celebrates Major Fitness Center Upgrade, Enhancing Member Experience



The Jewish Community Center of Indianapolis recently completed a significant upgrade to its fitness facilities with the installation of its final new piece of equipment, a cable tower, marking the culmination of a full refresh of the fitness center. The update introduces a wide range of new cardio and strength equipment designed to enhance the member experience, including treadmills, stair steppers, ellipticals, rowers, and stationary bikes, along with expanded strength offerings such as cable machines, leg presses, chest presses, lat pulldown machines, squat racks, dumbbells, barbells, and more.

"We're excited to be able to update all of our fitness center equipment and give our members an improved experience," said Heather Scott, JCC Director of Fitness.

## Strengthening Security: A Community Conversation in Carmel

In December, an intimate gathering at the home of Steve and Beth Klapper brought together two influential voices in Jewish security: Michael Masters, National Director and CEO of the Secure Community Network (SCN), and Ari Fleischer, former White House Press Secretary and respected media consultant. The discussion focused on one of the most pressing issues facing Jewish communities today, ensuring the safety of Jewish people and their sacred spaces.

Fleischer, widely recognized for his leadership and advocacy, emphasized the importance of proactive measures to protect Jewish life in the diaspora. Masters provided SCN's national perspective, highlighting the need for collaboration between local communities and national security networks.

For the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis,



safeguarding synagogues, schools, and community centers is not just a priority, it is a responsibility. That commitment is reflected in the work of Brad Swim, Safe Indiana Regional Security Advisor, who leads efforts to conduct threat assessments, deliver crisis response training, and respond swiftly to antisemitic incidents across the state.

The Federation extends its heartfelt thanks to Todd and Linda Maurer for generously sponsoring this important event and making this critical conversation possible. As antisemitism continues to rise nationwide, programs like Safe Indiana are essential to ensuring that Jewish life remains vibrant and secure.

Visit [jewishindianapolis.org/safe-indiana](http://jewishindianapolis.org/safe-indiana) to learn more about Safe Indiana and how to support these efforts.

## Upcoming Safe Indiana Trainings

### Situational Awareness & Stop the Bleed®

A course that empowers community members by providing them with the skills to recognize suspicious or potentially dangerous behavior before it becomes an emergency, and how to respond. As an added bonus attendees will learn how to save lives by applying emergency first aid to control bleeding in any trauma situation.

**6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26**  
In-person only - Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25**  
In-person only - Jewish Community Center

Register at  
[bit.ly/stopthebleed26](http://bit.ly/stopthebleed26)

Pre-registration is required

### Counteracting Active Threat Training

Join Brad Swim, Regional Security Advisor for Safe Indiana, for a comprehensive 90-minute training program and learn how to be vigilant, empowered, and prepared in today's threat environment both in the Jewish community and in your daily lives.

**6:00 p.m. Monday, May 11**  
In-person only - Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation

Register at  
[bit.ly/indycatt](http://bit.ly/indycatt)

Pre-registration is required



Contact Brad Swim at [bswim@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:bswim@securecommunitynetwork.org) for more information.



# Jewish Family Services

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

## Jewish Family Services/Popsie's Pantry, Hasten Hebrew Academy, PJ Library, JCC Indianapolis, and Repair the World Partner for a Day of Service in Honor of Martin Luther King.

90 kids joined together to curate 80 meal kits and 175 laundry kits for Popsie's Pantry and to create MLK inspired art to display at the Hasten Hebrew Academy.



Sisters Millie and Reese put together laundry kits for Popsie's Pantry

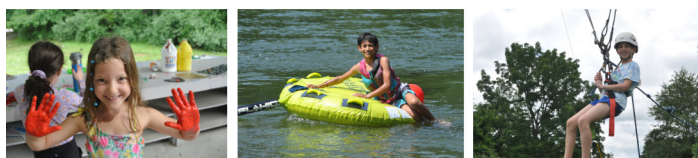


Jack helps curate meal kits for Popsie's Pantry filled with tuna, salmon, mayonnaise, salt & pepper, and crackers.



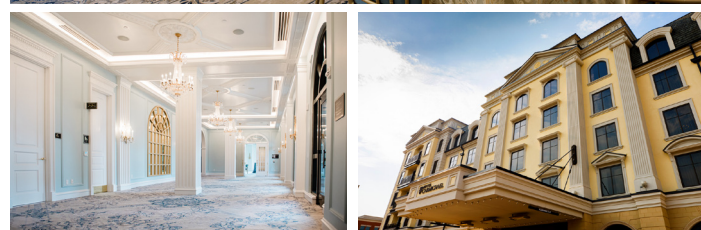
## LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS THAT THRIVE

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN ENTERING 2ND-12TH GRADES  
VARIOUS SESSION LENGTHS • SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION  
www.camplivingston.com

Email our Camp Director, Abby Solomon, at [abby@camplivingston.org](mailto:abby@camplivingston.org) to learn more about our Camperships (financial support) and how to make Camp accessible for your family.



## 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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## 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](http://bit.ly/jfspickleball26)

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

## FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC

### WILLS AND ADVANCE PLANNING

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday, April 30,  
Laikin Auditorium  
6705 Hoover Road, enter through Door #5

PLEASE SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT  
Walk-ins may also be accepted but we cannot guarantee a slot without an appointment

Lawyers from a local firm will be on site and may be able to help you with:

- Creating a low-asset will, which allows you to plan for your family's future
- Appointing a financial and/or healthcare power of attorney
- Creating a living will and other advance directives

Contact Julie Sondhelm at (317) 536-1476 to schedule an appointment or for more information

This event is for financially constrained adults age 55 and older or individuals with disabilities and will only assist with advance care planning.



## Homemaker Services

Need some assistance with light housekeeping and laundry? JFS is proud to partner with local providers to offer homemaking help for older adults and adults with disabilities in their homes.

Sliding fee scale available

For more information, contact Julie Sondhelm at (317) 536-1476 or [jsondhelm@jfgi.org](mailto:jsondhelm@jfgi.org)



## Passover Items Needed

- Grape Juice
- Apple Juice
- Canned Tuna
- Gefilte Fish
- Borscht
- Pancake Mix
- Potato Pancake Mix
- Cake Mix
- Potato Chips
- Jelly
- Marinara Sauce
- Salad Dressing
- Seasonings
- Kosher consommé
- Condiments
- Syrup
- Macarons
- Chocolates
- Fruit Slices
- Vegetable Oil
- Aluminum Foil
- Toothbrushes
- Matza Ball Soup/Mix
- Matza
- Soda Bottles

Please check that all foods are labeled as "Kosher for Passover."

Grocery gift cards can be donated! They will help families purchase kosher meat and chicken, and other perishable items to help celebrate the holiday.

# Passover Food Drive

**Drop off donations by Monday, March 23.**

Drop-off hours: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Monday through Friday.

Jewish Family Services  
(6905 Hoover Road Indianapolis, IN 46260)

Visit [bit.ly/passover26](https://bit.ly/passover26)  
to make a financial donation. Contact  
Rachel Katz at (317) 259-6817 or  
[rkatz@jfgi.org](mailto:rkatz@jfgi.org) with questions.

Need some support this Passover?  
JFS is here to help! Contact Julie Sondhelm  
at (317) 536-1476 or [jsondhelm@jfgi.org](mailto:jsondhelm@jfgi.org).



# Marina Grabovsky and Iris Goldberg Named 2026 Women's Philanthropy Co-Chairs



**Marina Grabovsky, Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair**

The Jewish Federation proudly announces that community leaders Marina Grabovsky and Iris Goldberg will serve as the 2026 Women's Philanthropy Co-Chairs, bringing with them a blend of vision, commitment, and deep-rooted passion for service.

Grabovsky enters the role with an extensive record of leadership and engagement. A devoted mother of three, she balances family life with professional and communal responsibilities. Alongside her husband, Leo, she works part-time in their family's financial planning firm and co-owns a company providing housing for individuals with disabilities.

Currently in her second year as Chair of Women's Philanthropy and serving a second term on the JFGI Board, she is also an alumna of JFNA's National Young Leadership Cabinet, a 36 Under 36 honoree, and a former member of the Jewish Agency For Israel - North American Council Advisory Board. Her leadership in the Indianapolis Jewish community spans numerous roles, including Vice President of the HHAI School Board and involvement in committees such as P&A, I&O, Celebrussia, YLD, NextGen, and the Ann Katz Film Festival.

Outside of her organizational work, Grabovsky brings the same enthusiasm to her personal passions including competitive tennis, travel, and sharing great meals with her husband.

Goldberg, a Baltimore native, began her professional life in the high-stakes environment of transplant surgery nursing at Johns Hopkins Hospital. After moving to the Indianapolis area 15 years ago, she quickly found purpose in service, contributing to both community and hospital volunteer efforts.

Her work with Women for Riley connected her deeply with children and families receiving care at Riley Hospital for Children, where she also co-chaired the Riley Cancer Prom. In recent years, she has directed her energy toward Jewish community programming and advocacy. Following the events of October 7, she became a local leader in the Run for Their Lives initiative, organizing weekly walks advocating for the release of hostages in Gaza.



**Iris Goldberg, Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair**

Goldberg has co-chaired Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut commemorations, served on the Women's Philanthropy Committee, supported countless community events, including co-chairing with Victoria Shmoel on the Women's Philanthropy Mission to Mexico City. She and her husband, Alex, are proud parents to Gabriella and Eitan. Goldberg finds joy in Pilates, travel, and continuing the work that strengthens and uplifts the Jewish community.

As Grabovsky and Goldberg step into their new shared leadership role, the Federation also extends heartfelt appreciation to Linda Mordoh, whose dedication as Immediate Past Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair has left a lasting impact. Mordoh now moves into her next chapter of service as Annual Campaign Co-Chair, joining forces with Janine Shapiro.

Together, these women embody the values of philanthropy, leadership, and community, laying the foundation for a meaningful year ahead.

## Israeli Craft & Wine Night

With NEXTGen Women

Enjoy Israeli inspired crafts, curated wine selections, delicious bites, and meaningful conversation.

**6-8:30 p.m. Monday, March 16**

**Domont Auditorium**  
6705 Hoover Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46260

Register at [bit.ly/israelicraft](https://bit.ly/israelicraft)

Contact Andrew Steele at [asteele@jfgi.org](mailto:asteele@jfgi.org) with questions.

## Practice Hebrew & Explore Israeli Culture

Join a fun and interactive session with Gaya, the Jewish community Shlichah, to strengthen your Hebrew, learn new vocabulary, or chat about life in Israel.

**Hebrew Practice:**  
6-7 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays  
Each session is limited to 4 participants (ages 10+)

Reserve your spot at <https://bit.ly/jfgishlichah>  
Location provided after registration.

Contact Gaya at [shlichim@jfgi.org](mailto:shlichim@jfgi.org) with questions and for more information.

## WHAT WILL YOU TRY THIS SUMMER?

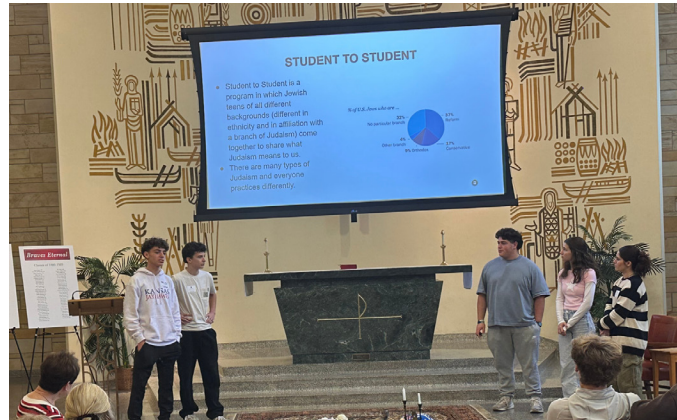
Music	Sports	Drama	Canoeing
Bunk Night	Climbing Tower	Farm + Garden	Art
Summer Fun	Camping	Dance	Swimming

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[WWW.GUCI.ORG](http://WWW.GUCI.ORG)

## Highlighting 2025: A Year of Growth, Education, and Impact

In 2025, the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) focused on amplifying the Jewish voice, expanding educational initiatives, and strengthening relationships across the community. In a complex and challenging environment, JCRC responded with strategic advocacy, thoughtful growth, and meaningful engagement. The highlights below showcase key moments from a year marked by impact and progress, representing just a portion of what was accomplished together in 2025.



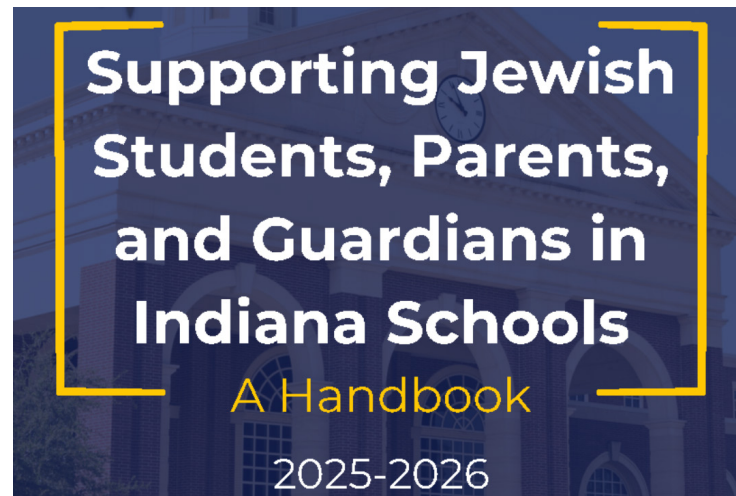
### Expanding Student to Student

Student to Student experienced significant growth in 2025, reaching more schools, students, and communities than ever before. What began as a classroom presentation has continued to evolve into a sustained platform for youth leadership and interfaith connection, fostering relationships that extend well beyond the school setting.



### Elevating Holocaust Education Through Storytelling

This year marked an important milestone in public Holocaust education with the premiere of Sweet Lorraine in Auschwitz at the Heartland International Film Festival. Bringing survivor testimony and historical context to a broad audience, the film—and the conversations it sparked—reinforced the continued relevance of Holocaust education and the power of film to educate and connect.



### Launching Parent Support Initiatives

In response to growing concerns among families, JCRC launched a new K–12 antisemitism reporting tool in partnership with Stop Hate in Schools, along with parent support initiatives designed to help families recognize, respond to, and report antisemitism. These efforts underscore JCRC's commitment to pairing education with practical tools and ensuring that community members feel supported and empowered.



### Strengthening Relationships

Relationship-building remained central to JCRC's work throughout the year. The organization deepened connections with interfaith partners while strengthening relationships with Greater Indianapolis area mayors and state officials, ensuring that Jewish perspectives were heard, trusted, and included in civic conversations. Through sustained engagement, JCRC continued to serve as a convener and bridge-builder, advancing collaboration across communities and levels of leadership.



These highlights offer just a glimpse into the breadth of JCRC's work in 2025. Explore the full 2025 JCRC Impact Report for additional programs, stories, and outcomes through the QR code and to see how, together, the community is building a stronger, more connected future.





Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

# Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis

www.hhai.org



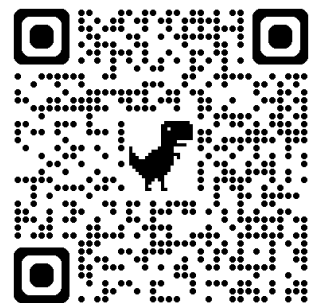
@hastenhebrewacademy



@hhaistars

## Scholarships That Open Doors: The Ongoing Need for IQE Support

As the need for financial assistance continues to grow, IQE scholarships remain critical to making HHAI accessible to families. During the 2025-26 school year, 53 HHAI students are receiving IQE-supported scholarships, and the need is anticipated to rise. Through Indiana's Institute for Quality Education (IQE), donors can support student scholarships while receiving a 50 percent state tax credit on their gift, helping ensure that families seeking a strong, values-driven education can access it.



### Seeing Growth Over Time: Self-Portraits in Early Learning

In our Giving Tree Early Learning program, children regularly create self-portraits as part of a Reggio-inspired approach that values reflection, creativity, and growth over time. Using open-ended materials, students explore how they see themselves through color, shape, and expression. By revisiting self-portraits each month, growth becomes visible in meaningful ways. Teachers and families can observe developing fine motor skills, increasing attention to detail, and growing confidence and self-awareness. These portraits document learning as it unfolds, offering insight into each child's academic, social, and emotional development.

This process supports the foundation for long-term success by helping children build identity, resilience, and a sense of themselves as capable learners—skills that extend far beyond the early years.

## HHAI Awarded Lilly Endowment Grant to Expand Student Support and Innovation

Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis (HHAI) is honored to be one of 39 private schools selected to receive an implementation grant through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Marion County K-12 Private Schools Initiative, a competitive program designed to strengthen academic achievement and improve student outcomes across Indianapolis.

This meaningful investment will allow HHAI to expand and deepen programs that support students academically, emotionally, and socially, while remaining firmly rooted in the school's mission and values. Grant funding will support the expansion of art therapy and trauma-informed student supports, enhance the consistency and quality of individualized learning services, and strengthen the school's ability to meet the diverse needs of learners.

The grant will also enable the creation of a new STEAM learning space that integrates science, technology, engineering, art, Israel and Jewish values, laying the groundwork for future STEM certification and hands-on, inquiry-based learning. In addition, funds will support targeted professional development for educators, ensuring continued growth in inclusive teaching practices, student wellness, and innovative instruction.

This grant represents an investment not only in HHAI, but in the future of Jewish education in Indianapolis. The community is warmly invited to celebrate this work at the opening of the Maya Shmoel Innovation Lab from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 19 and to see firsthand how this space will foster creativity, curiosity, and student success.



# Hooverwood Living

www.hooverwood.org



@hooverwoodliving



@hooverwoodliving



Colts Game Day brought residents and their loved ones together for an exciting afternoon of football and fun! Everyone gathered to watch the Colts take on the Chiefs while enjoying classic game-day snacks and great company. The room was filled with cheers, conversation, and team spirit, making it a memorable and enjoyable way to spend the day together.



Residents ease into the weekend with another relaxing watercolor session led by Elizabeth. These beloved classes invite participants to explore color, technique, and creativity while sharing meaningful conversation around the table. Each session ends with beautiful artwork, big smiles, and a sense of connection that makes this Friday tradition a highlight of the week.



Residents rang in the New Year in festive style with the Rhythm 8 Band! It was a joyful way to celebrate new beginnings, shared moments, and familiar favorites.



Residents were delighted by a special performance from Wiley's Community Orchestra that filled the room with energy and beautiful music. With a packed house and lively atmosphere, the afternoon was filled with shared excitement and uplifting melodies. It was an unforgettable experience that left everyone smiling.

## Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

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

**Virtual Minyan: 7:30 a.m. on Wednesdays**

**Torah Study: 9 a.m. Sundays**

**Erev Shabbat Services: 6 p.m. Friday evenings**

**Shabbat Services: 10 a.m. Saturdays**

**The Maurer / Mishkin / Ornstein Gallery of Judaica: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesdays – Friday; 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Religious School Sundays.**

**Stranger Purim: Adult Shpiel and ‘80s Trivia Night: 7 p.m. Monday, March 2, at BEZ.** BEZ is flipping Purim on its head with a night inspired by the eerie world of Stranger Things. After the shpiel, test your 80s knowledge, from mixtapes to mall culture (including more than a few Jewish cross-overs) while enjoying themed snacks and drinks that would make even Eleven ditch her Eggos. RSVP to Jennifer at [jhodes@bez613.org](mailto:jhodes@bez613.org).

**Kadima Shabbat (3rd) and Siddur Ceremony: 6 p.m. Friday, March 6, at BEZ.** Join BEZ for services as the 3rd grade religious school class leads in prayer and are presented with their siddurs. Contact George at [gkelley@bez613.org](mailto:gkelley@bez613.org) for more information.

**Shabbat-A-Lot: 10 a.m. Saturday, March 7 and April 18, at BEZ.** Shabbat-A-Lot is a chance for you to join Rabbi Hal Schevitz and Cantor Melissa Cohen on the Bimah for Shabbat Service. There are many ways to participate, with both Hebrew and English readings. Luncheon following sponsored by Sisterhood. Sign up for the March lunch at [www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949AEAE2EA6FF2-61505337-shabbatalot#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949AEAE2EA6FF2-61505337-shabbatalot#/) and for the April lunch at [www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949AEAE2EA6FF2-61505357-shabbatalot#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949AEAE2EA6FF2-61505357-shabbatalot#/).

**“That’s How You Make a Torah” with Filmmaker Lauren Greenwald: 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8, at BEZ – FREE.** As part of the celebration marking 10 years since BEZ wrote their own Torah, you are invited to a special film screening and conversation. This short documentary tells the story of some of the first women to become Torah scribes, breaking centuries-old barriers to learn a sacred craft long closed to them. Through their experiences, and the filmmaker’s personal journey, the film invites reflection on tradition, change, and what it means to see ourselves in most sacred texts. A discussion will follow the screening. RSVP to George at [gkelley@bez613.org](mailto:gkelley@bez613.org).

**Sisterhood Mahj: 1-4 p.m. Monday, March 9, 16, April 13 and 27 at BEZ.** All levels welcome, from first-timers to full-on Mahj queens. Join for American Mahjong, where the Charleston is serious, the cracks, bams, and dots are flying, and calling Mahj! is the goal. Sisterhood provides the tiles and racks; bring your current card (extras available). Suggested donation is \$3 per day. RSVP to Sue at [illinicane@verizon.net](mailto:illinicane@verizon.net).

**Family Shabbat and Bagel Bar: 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14.** Join BEZ on Saturday morning for a relaxed, family-friendly Shabbat centered on community, followed by a bagel bar. Kids are welcome in pajamas and encouraged to bring a favorite stuffy. Free babysitting will be available for families. Email Jennifer at [jhodes@bez613.org](mailto:jhodes@bez613.org) to RSVP for babysitting.

**Parent Toddler Havurah: 9:45-11:45 a.m. Sunday, March 15 and April 26.** 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](mailto:parenttoddlerhavurah@gmail.com).

**Rosh Hodesh: Chocolate Seder: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18.** Celebrate Rosh Hodesh with a sweet twist. This month, there will be a Chocolate Seder, and women are encouraged to bring their daughters to share in the fun. Come enjoy delicious treats, meaningful rituals, and some special mother-daughter time. RSVP to Jennifer at [jhodes@bez613.org](mailto:jhodes@bez613.org).

**Mechinah Shabbat (K-2nd): 6 p.m. Friday, March 20.** Join BEZ for services as the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade religious school classes leads in prayer. Contact George at [gkelley@bez613.org](mailto:gkelley@bez613.org) for more information.

**Taste of Passover: 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 24.** Passover isn’t one-size-fits-all and neither is this evening. Join BEZ for a hands-on exploration of the Seder, where you’ll choose the sessions that speak to you. Whether you’re hosting your first Seder, refreshing a well-loved one, or diving deeper into the meaning, music, food, and evolution of Passover, this night is designed to meet you where you are. Come curious, leave inspired... and with new ideas to bring to your table. RSVP to Jennifer at [jhodes@bez613.org](mailto:jhodes@bez613.org).

**Passover Festival Service: 10 a.m. Thursday, April 2**

**Passover Festival Service with Yizkor: 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 8**

**Rosh Hodesh Bath Bombs: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16.** Celebrate Rosh Hodesh with creativity and self-care. Sign up to make bath bombs inspired by Jewish life with colors, scents, and symbols that reflect traditions and rituals. RSVP to Jennifer at [jhodes@bez613.org](mailto:jhodes@bez613.org).

**Yom HaShoah Shabbat: 6 p.m. Friday, April 17**

**Israel Shabbat: 6 p.m. Friday, April 24**

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

## Congregation Beth Shalom

**Crafting/Stitching Group: 1 p.m. Sunday, March 1 and April 5.** Call Diane Graul at (402) 250-3009 or Sarah Stuckey at (317) 213-1818 for the location for each month.

**WRJ Heartland District Convention: March 13-15 at the Crown Plaza Hotel and GUCI.** Registration for the entire weekend is open, or you may attend just individual events. Registration online will get first-time attendees \$100 off for the entire weekend. If you choose, you may commute from home or else spend the night at the hotel. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with women across our district on a local basis. Contact Beth Lande at [bethlande@gmail.com](mailto:bethlande@gmail.com) for more information.

**Mahjongg Mania: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 22, in the CBS Temple Social Hall.** The super popular Mahjongg Mania is back for great fun and prizes for all Mahjongg players! Visit the CBS website for more information.

**Community Seder: 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 3, in the CBS Temple Social Hall.** This is ideal for anyone wishing to celebrate Pesach and a great time to make new friends or to meet and greet old friends. See the newsletter or website for more information and to RSVP.

**Learners’ Shabbat: 9:30 a.m. third Saturday morning of each month, at CBS.** Join a community of curious learners for a monthly service dedicated to study and exploration! Intertwine a deep dive into the compelling story

of King David (from the Book of Samuel) with an exploration of the Shabbat morning liturgy. This is a safe space to ask questions, challenge Biblical texts, and unlock the meaning behind prayers. It’s a great opportunity to learn with others and build community. All backgrounds and levels of knowledge are welcome.

**Something for Everybody Shabbat: 6:30 p.m. third Friday evening of each month.** CBS has started a new Shabbat experience that will feature a split service on Friday night and a Learners’ Shabbat on Saturday morning of the third full Shabbat of the month. On that third Friday evening, song leader Juliette Nehring will lead the alternative-style service in the chapel, while Rabbi Justin will lead a classic service in the Social Hall. Everyone will come together following the two services for an Oneg in the library.

**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.

Visit [www.bethshalomindy.org](http://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 Mitzvah Program

**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](http://btorahindy.org), email [office@btorah.org](mailto: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](http://www.chabadindiana.org) or [@chabadindiana](mailto:@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**

**Evening Shabbat Services | Times vary weekly.** Service times can be found online.

**Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays  
Shabbat Minha: Saturday Afternoons**

**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 [rabbi@etzchaimindy.org](mailto:rabbi@etzchaimindy.org) with questions.

**Board & Bloom: A Purim Gathering: 11 a.m. Sunday, March 1.** This is a women’s event celebrating creativity, connection, and the spirit of Purim. The gathering includes creating and decorating cheese boards with tips for elegant and inviting presentations. Cost is \$25 and is for women of all ages. RSVP to [rubissa@etzchaimindy.org](mailto:rubissa@etzchaimindy.org).

**Purim Readings of Megillat Esther, Festivities, Kids’ Costume Parade and Competition, and Services: March 2-3.**

**Telling Our Story: Pesah, Identity, and Family Connection: March 22 and April 2-9.** A Pre-Pesah gathering with fun interactive, meaningful activities for families. More details on the website and Facebook.

**April 2–9 | Pesah: April 2-9.** Services throughout the holiday.

Contact Rabbi Daniel Askenazi at [Rabbi@etzchaimindy.org](mailto:Rabbi@etzchaimindy.org) with questions about classes. Visit [www.etzchaimindy.org/calendar](http://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](http://ihcindy.org/streaming).

**Shabbat Morning Torah Study: 9 p.m. Saturdays.** IHC clergy guides the group through the Torah, chapter by chapter, text seeking understanding of the teaching for the time and discussing its message for today. Unless otherwise noted, you can attend in person or online. No prior knowledge is necessary, and all are welcome. PLEASE NOTE: Registration for new attendees is now required to attend Torah Study online. Please email [Clergy.Office@ihcindy.org](mailto:Clergy.Office@ihcindy.org) by 3 p.m. on Friday to receive the Zoom link.

**Passover-themed Family Shabbat: 6 p.m. Friday, March 6.** This service is perfect for families with elementary-aged children and takes place in the Chapel. There will be food, snacks, and games for all in the YAC after services. Visit [ihcindy.org](http://ihcindy.org) to register.

**Tot Shabbat: 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 20 and April 24.** This event is geared toward families with young children (preschool and younger). Tot Shabbat includes Shabbat songs, a story, and

Shabbat prayers. Following the short service, there will be snacks and crafts. Visit [ihcindy.org](http://ihcindy.org) to register.

**IHC Sisterhood’s Gift Shop Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesdays - Fridays; 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Fridays; 9:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. when the JLP is in session.** You can also make a special appointment to shop by emailing [ihcsisterhoodgiftshop1@gmail.com](mailto:ihcsisterhoodgiftshop1@gmail.com).

**Adult Education – Washing Off the Baptismal Oils: New Mexico’s Conversos and Crypto-Jews: 7 p.m. Tuesdays, March 10 and 17.** Rabbi Shapiro leads an exploration of the incredible history of Jews who migrated to the New World from Spain. Facing conversion, expulsion, or death, many Jews opted for secrecy. Learn of the struggles, betrayals, and strength of those who passed on their traditions. Email [AdultEd@ihcindy.org](mailto:AdultEd@ihcindy.org) to register. Complimentary for IHC members or \$36 for guests.

**Adult Education – Guide for the Perplexed:** Rabbi Krichiver leads an exploration of Maimonides’ most famous work. Email [AdultEd@ihcindy.org](mailto:AdultEd@ihcindy.org) for dates and to register. Complimentary for IHC members or \$36 for guests.

**Interfaith Parenting: Finding Your Place: 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8 and April 12.** Join new opportunities for interfaith parents to gather for open discussions and to share their experiences in a safe space.

**Grief Group: 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26 and April 30.** 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. Tuesday, March 10 and April 14** 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 clubs meets on Zoom, and occasionally in person.

**Euchre Circle: 10 a.m. Mondays, March 9, 30 and April 13, 27; 6 p.m. Thursdays, March 26 and April 23.** 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](mailto: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 Stitchers: Sundays: 10 a.m.** Mitzvah Stitchers is a corps of men and women who knit, crochet, quilt, and sew. Together, they fashion a stronger community, helping others as well as each other. Sunday morning is for stitching, kvetching, and making beautiful items to help others. They love to teach beginners, so no experience is necessary! Visit the website for location information. Contact Cantor Janice Roger for more information, to get on the email distribution list and receive scheduling information and Zoom links,.

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

## Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

**Tribute Honoring Sybil Mervis and Michael & Julie Mervis: 5:15 p.m. Sunday, March 1**

**at CST.** The synagogue has been strengthened by the generosity, leadership, and dedication of families like the Mervis family, whose commitment reflects the shared values that unite communities. Through their philanthropy, supporting various programs, education, and cultural institutions, the Mervis family has helped shape and enrich Jewish life across Greater Indianapolis. Come recognize their impact through your attendance and support of the tributes. Event tickets are available at [shaareytefilla.org](http://shaareytefilla.org).

**Purim Services: 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 2 and 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 3 .** Enjoy Purim Megillah “The Scroll of Esther” reading in costume as written by the heroes themselves -Esther and Mordechai. On Monday enjoy the service in your favorite costume. Services are available both in person and via zoom with links off of [shaareytefilla.org](http://shaareytefilla.org). All are welcome to come, pray, and celebrate together.

**Weekly Friday Shabbat Services: 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. at 9:30 a.m. at CST or on Zoom.** Each Visit [shaareytefilla.org](http://shaareytefilla.org) for the link. All are welcome to come, pray, and celebrate together.

**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. RSVP to [office@shaareytefilla.org](mailto:office@shaareytefilla.org).

**Fourth Friday Forum (a speaker’s forum): 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 27 & April 24 within the Kabbalat Shabbat Services.** Speakers from the Jewish community are invited to speak and share insights, stories, and experiences that are tangible to our community.

**Monthly Sisterhood Book Club/Potluck: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 and April 27, at a location TBD.** Members of the CST Sisterhood come together to read and talk about a book from the various perspectives of the members. March’s book is ‘The Homemade God’ written by Rachel Joyce. April’s book is ‘Drive your Plow over the Bones of the Dead’ written by Olga Tokaczuk. Through the discussion they gain insight into the book and each other, while also sharing food and having fun. RSVP to [secondvp@shaareytefilla.org](mailto:secondvp@shaareytefilla.org).

**Nosh & Drash: following morning services, Saturday, March 7 and Saturday April 4.** A monthly series following the first Shabbat services of each month. This is a group discussion led by Rabbi Sendrow on the week’s Torah portion while enjoying a nice Kiddush and Nosh. Services and then nosh starting at 9:30 a.m.

**Weekly Minyan: 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays of each week 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. To attend you may join us at CST or join via Zoom you can visit [shaareytefilla.org](http://shaareytefilla.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 religious education and Hebrew are offered. Hebrew schooling on Wednesday is via Zoom only. Email [office@shaareytefilla.org](mailto:office@shaareytefilla.org) to enroll your child or learn more about the program.



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Indianapolis



הסוכנות היהודית  
JEWISH AGENCY  
FOR ISRAEL

# United in Memory, United in Joy

## *Yom HaZikaron*

A powerful Commemoration Ceremony that will honor stories of courage and hope, and experience the beauty of music and theater that brings the community together.

**7-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 20**

## *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*

A vibrant Israeli Cultural Celebration! Dive into hands-on workshops for all ages, savor authentic Israeli flavors, shop unique artisan goods, and dance the day away to incredible live music.

**2-5 p.m. Sunday, April 26**

**Max & Mae Simon Jewish Community Campus**

**Registration is required.**

**Learn more and register at [bit.ly/yoms26](https://bit.ly/yoms26).**

**Contact Blake Kaplan at [bkaplan@jfgi.org](mailto:bkaplan@jfgi.org) with questions.**