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Jewish community center opens after 43-year wait

By JESSICA TEMPLE
Tribune Staff Writer

SOUTH BEND — After a 43-year wait, Michiana's Jewish community is celebrating the opening of its local community center.

The Kurt and Tessye Simon Community Building of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley, 5202 Shalom Way, opened its doors last Sunday during a dedication service.

The federation purchased the 27-acre property off McKinley Avenue in 1967, but unrest in Israel and the federation's subsequent relief efforts for Jews in crisis delayed development of the site. For instance, in 1989, when Jews from the former Soviet Union were allowed to leave the country, the federation devoted a significant portion of its funds to rescue and resettlement.

The 12,100-square-foot building, which will function as a social service and cultural center, houses administrative offices, conference rooms and an activities wing.

Contributions from the local Jewish community, including a $1 million donation from Kurt and Tessye Simon of South Bend, paved the way for the $3 million building, which incorporates Jewish symbols and styles in its design.

When the Jewish community was asked how the structure should look, "They said, 'It should look like Israel,'" said federation Endowment Director Jan Halperin.

Local architect Dean R. Bergman of Mathews-Purucker-Anella Inc. of South Bend designed the building, constructed of pale brick and limestone and featuring 13 Gothic-arched windows, each named for one of Jacob's children.

Tribune Photo/SANTHA OKELLA

The new community building was designed by architect Dean Bergman to symbolize the 13 children of Jacob — with 13 windows.

One portion of the deep green roof is designed to look like a tent and symbolizes Jacob's tent, "which shelters every member of the community," Halperin said.

The federation concentrates on resettling refugees, such as families from the former Soviet Union and, this year, a Muslim family from Bosnia, in the United States. But the center also provides family counseling services, as well as programs and aid for the elderly and teens.

Art and historical exhibits, workshops, lectures and cultural events will also be at the center, which houses an arts and crafts studio, a card and game room, a video library and a kosher kitchen.

A baseball diamond, named the Barney Zoss Memorial Field, is under construction.

And, an outdoor recreation area, which will include a basketball court, tennis court and picnic shelter, courtesy of a $150,000 grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, will be built in the spring.

In time, the wooded grounds will include a scenic brickwork path named "Walk Through Jewish History," which will display markers noting significant events in Jewish history.

A butterfly garden and a Holocaust memorial will also be featured along the path's route.

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The view from inside the building through one of the arched windows was a long time in coming for the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley.

RECORDS OF THE COURT

Bankruptcies

Here is an explanation of terms used in bankruptcy filings:

CHAPTER 7: Liquidation. A court-appointed trustee liquidates the assets of an individual or firm and distributes them to creditors on a prorated basis.

CHAPTER 13: For individuals with regular income. Often called the "wage earner plan." Debtor retains assets and agrees to pay all or a portion of debts from future earnings over a three- to five-year period.

CHAPTER 11: Business reorganization. Debtor retains possession of assets and attempts to remain in business by proposing a plan of reorganization to pay all or a portion of debts from future earnings.

CHAPTER 12: The family farm bankruptcy proceeding. It is a hybrid between Chapter 13 and Chapter 11. A trustee is appointed, but the debtors remain in possession of their assets and propose to pay for all or a portion of debts from future earnings over a three- to five-year period.

Anderson, Lynn, aka Lynn Frame, and Eric Anderson, 3403 N. Main St., Mishawaka. Chapter 7. Assets: $65,755. Debts: $9,986.

Bell, Karl, 522 S. 28th St., South Bend. Chapter 7. Assets: $4,016. Debts: $65,144.

Bock, Walter and Barbara, 22250 Santa Monica Drive, Granger. Chapter 13. Assets: $109,850. Debts: $82,950.

Cassell, Anita, aka Anita Chandler, 1241 Johnson St., Elkhart. Chapter 7. Assets: $4,522. Debts: $13,126.

Cummins, Matthew and Angela, 23628 Blue Arbor Drive, Apt. 2A, Elkhart. Chapter 13. Assets: $9,000. Debts: $28,284.

Durham, David and Betty, 16 Martha St., Bluffton. Chapter 13. Assets: $64,586. Debts: $42,456.

Gadd, Ezra and Loretta, 1004 N. Wayne St., North Manchester, Ind. Chapter 13. Assets: $2,248. Debts: $14,481.

Glassburn, Donald and Lisa, aka Lisa Yoder, 1135 Burr Oak Ave., Elkhart. Chapter 7. Assets: $156,070. Debts: $139,142.

Gonzalez, Guadalupe and Wanda, aka Wanda Harbour, 2202 Boys Ave., Elkhart. Chapter 7. Assets: $146,433. Debts: $135,773.

Howsam, Nancy, 5816 Wyscamo Lake Drive, Apt. 1A, Mishawaka. Chapter 7. Assets: $1,625. Debts: $30,610.

Kiesz, Kevin Sr., 820 Fern St., Michigan City. Chapter 13. Assets: $146,161. Debts: $242,913.

Lane, Cheryl, 1902 LaSalle St., Mishawaka. Chapter 13. Assets: $96,350. Debts: $133,330.

McDaniel, Jefferson and Mary, 71180 County Road 35, New Paris. Chapter 7. Assets: $165,056. Debts: $125,087.

Mitchell, John and Cheryl, aka Cheryl Farley, 111 Old Stable Lane, Mishawaka. Chapter 7. Assets: $14,800. Debts: $82,455.

Murray, Darla, aka Darla Lurenzen, 314 Runaway Bay, Apt. 1B, Mishawaka. Chapter 7. Assets: $5,575. Debts: $137,333.

Perry, Lester and Cynthia, 56586 Ash Road, Osceola. Chapter 7. Assets: $87,225. Debts: $127,701.

Richardson, Janet, 2120 Byrkit, Mishawaka. Chapter 7. Assets: $75,383. Debts: $68,352.

Robinson, Tenika, 929 N. Olive St., South Bend. Chapter 7. Assets: $625. Debts: $117,746.

Ross, Edward, 1310 N. Meade St., South Bend. Chapter 7. Assets: $46,649. Debts: $56,651.

Rush, Barry Ellis Guy, Friday and Construction Unlimited, 310 Tillotson Ave., Michigan City. Chapter 7. Assets: $5,250. Debts: $134,772.

Smith, Rodney and Marquita, 815 W. Main, Peru, Ind. Chapter 7. Assets: $65,650. Debts: $135,131.

Stayback, Amanda, 324 Grove St., La Porte. Chapter 7. Assets: $20,800. Debts: $30,418.

Steward, Lois, aka Lois Hagins, 814 S. Edison Ave., South Bend. Chapter 7. Assets: $4,245. Debts: $17,627.

Sutton, Stephen, Lake Cicot, Ind. Chapter 7. Assets: $51,050. Debts: $67,811.

Wenger, Larry Jr. and Amy, 2241 Indiana 101 South, Bremen. Chapter 7. Assets: $5,150. Debts: $27,214.

Marriage license applications

Alvino, Craig, 36, of 838 Forest Ave., South Bend, and Amanda Dodd, 32, of 13546 Penn Road, Mishawaka.

Beatty, James, 31, and Karen Roper, 29, both of 1309 E. Third, Mishawaka.

Bentley, Stephen, 23, and Dorothy Search, 19, both of 308 W. Bartell, Mishawaka.

Bray, Paul, 47, and Joyce Boucher, 38, both of 904 W. Marion St., Mishawaka.

Brown, Joseph, 25, of 12481 Dragoon Trace, Mishawaka, and Brooke Cass, 21, of 119 W. 14th, Mishawaka.

Burks, DeWayne, 38, and Jennifer McNeill, 28, both of 1808 W. Ewing Ave., South Bend.

Davis, Leonard Jr., 22, of 1501 Leer St., South Bend, and Candice Dunsford, 18, of 6622 Hoot St., Eau Claire.

Diaz, Guillermo, 23, and Blanca Limon, 23, both of 1403 Irish Way, South Bend.

Doerksen, Matthew, 22, and Jessica Fuss, 24, both of Palatine, Ill.

Grimes, Danny, 35, of 915 Sycamore, Niles, and Donna Cavender, 52, of 3602 Brockton Court, Apt. 15, Mishawaka.

Hoiem, Charles, 36, and Linda Hess, 47, both of 2421 Newbury Drive, Mishawaka.

Hojnacki, Jeffrey, 34, of 14940 Douglas Road, Mishawaka, and Debra Durrell, 44, of 496 Travers Court, Mishawaka.

Hood, Jeremy, 25, of 1320 Hampton Court, Mishawaka, and Rebecca Blackburn, 22, of 22202 Farmington Square, Granger.

Hubbard, Patrick, 56, and Sally Lubelski, 49, both of 420 Indiana Ave., Mishawaka.

Hunter, Robert Jr., 47, of 2405 Marshall Drive, Mishawaka, and Linda Benner, 53, of 213 Warda Court, Mishawaka.

Jaggers, Roland, 40, and Jennifer Phillips, 26, both of 3601 University Park Drive, Apt. C, Mishawaka.

Jay, Ryan, 28, and Ryan Hahn, 26, both of 1704 E. Maple St., Mishawaka.

Klinke, Jodie, 22, and Jamie Zakrzewski, 22, both of 202 N. La Porte, De La Paix, Apt. 2715, South Bend.

Konkle, Charles, 28, and Catherine Fish, 26, both of 212 Rouse Ave., Mishawaka.

Lawson, Timothy, 20, and Lisa Ousley, 20, both of 52710 Quince Road, South Bend.

Long, Craig, 36, and Stephanie Bentlin, 28, both of 104 Power Drive, Mishawaka.

Marks, Patrick Jr., 28, of 15466 B St., Elkhart, and Susan Krynski, 20, of 14291 Eureka Ave., Mishawaka.

Milewski, Christopher, 24, and Lana Potter, 22, both of 704 Studebaker, Mishawaka.

Murphy, Eric, 29, and Stephanie Doty, 28, both of 13882 Kiern Road, Mishawaka.

Pfefferle, Steven, 28, and Dawn Kilanowski, 27, both of Las Vegas, Nev.

Porter, Kenneth, 46, and Kelly Campbell, 26, both of 410 Rosewood Drive, Apt. 3, Mishawaka.

Ragsdale, Brent, 34, and Rebecca Day, 29, both of 316 E. 16th, Mishawaka.

Reisdorf, John, 33, and Cynthia Valdez, 27, both of 632 S. 20th St., South Bend.

Sanders, Ryan, 21, of 1020 W. Broadway, Mishawaka, and Jennifer DeCamerer, 21, of 316 N. Sunnyside Ave., South Bend.

Sheehan, Jeffrey, 27, and Tina Phillips, 43, both of 12312 McKinley Highway, Mishawaka.

Sis, Alan Jr., 22, and Amy Manley, 21, both of 301 Harrison St., Mishawaka.

Starrett, Dennis, 29, and Sheryl Crane, 27, both of 1027 Liberty Drive, Mishawaka.

Waters, Christopher, 24, and Judy Klein, 31, both of Woodstock, Ga.

Weity, Joshua, 23, of 4802 Wyscamo Lake Drive, Apt. 3B, Mishawaka, and Heather Corbett, 22, of 13870 Ashville Lane, Granger.

Whitmer, Aaron, 23, of 708 S. 20th St., South Bend, and Natalie Clarke, 22, of 30077 Velma Lane, Elkhart.

Wright, Christopher, 28, and Dawn Brenneman, 22, both of 1449 Fulcrook Drive, Mishawaka.

Decrees of dissolution

Alexander, Sheila and Charles. Circuit Court, Aug. 7.

Anderson, Billy and Gena. Circuit Court, Aug. 11.

Armstrong, Michael and Michelle. Circuit Court, Aug. 11.

Bachtel, Lisa and Christopher. Circuit Court, July 24.

Barrett, Robert and Janis. Circuit Court, Aug. 22.

Benningholf, David and Susanne. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 1.

Coffie, Sally and Curtis. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Combs, Keith and Robin. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Cross, James and Jamie. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Cuevas, Joyce and Ernesto Lazarano. Circuit Court, Aug. 21.

Darr, Gregory and Marsha. Circuit Court, Aug. 22.

Davis, Cecil Jr. and Monica. Circuit Court, Sept. 1.

Dear, Minoras and Joel. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 3.

Eakins, Jeanne and Walter. Circuit Court, Aug. 4.

Fields, Rebecca and DeCortlie. Circuit Court, July 24.

Gayle-Hillman, Robin and Robert Hillman. Circuit Court, Aug. 10.

Goschka, Lydia and Joseph. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Grady, Patricia and Timothy. Circuit Court, Aug. 28.

Hash, Lori and Thomas. Circuit Court, Aug. 17.

Hodge, Karen and Ryan. Circuit Court, Aug. 16.

Hoffman, Phillip and Kelly. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Hudson, Donald and Trinette Fetteneson. Circuit Court, Aug. 14.

Jozwiak, Mary and Robert. Circuit Court, Aug. 2.

Kleer, Shauna and Thomas II. Circuit Court, Aug. 10.

Kolber, Deborah and Paul. Circuit Court, July 28.

Kunst, Barbara and Mohammed. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Kurthal, Andrea and Dennis. Circuit Court, Aug. 11.

Laeger, Christy and Brian. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Lehman, Michele and Robert. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 1.

Lewis, Patricia and Arnold. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Lewis, Timothy and Natalie. Circuit Court, Aug. 4.

McCullough, Diane and Michael. Circuit Court, Aug. 30.

McIntosh, Latanka and Anthony. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 8.

Moore, Marlon and Eileen. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Moore, Marlon and Eileen. Circuit Court, Aug. 9.

Murphy, Jean and Dennis. Circuit Court, Aug. 14.

Murphy, John Andrew and Megan. Circuit Court, July 31.

Neal, Cynthia and Edwin. Circuit Court, Aug. 10.

Nekvasil, Michael and Barbara. Circuit Court, July 31.

Newell, Mildred and Michael Anderson. Circuit Court, Aug. 1.

Nguyen, Diem and Hoa. Circuit Court, Aug. 3.

Pahl, Melissa and Travis. Circuit Court, Aug. 31.

Parker, Rob and Christina. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 14.

Piper, Amy and Christopher. Circuit Court, Aug. 3.

Pond, Gary and Patricia. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Ring, Debora and Lance. Circuit Court, Aug. 21.

Ritter, Daniel and Rachel. Circuit Court, Aug. 4.

Rowe, Dee and Seldon Jr. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Scott, Toni and John Jr. Circuit Court, July 19.

Shannon, Colleen and Kevin Owens. Circuit Court, Aug. 15.

Sharp, Julie and Brian. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Shaw, Robert Sr. and Gloria. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Sheets, Donna and Timothy. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Smith, John and Debrah. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 6.

Smith, Paulette and Jessie. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 14.

Snyder, Nancy and Terry. Mishawaka Superior Court, Aug. 28.

Sobieck, Thomas and Melinda. Circuit Court, Aug. 10.

Stigner, Letitia and Brian. Circuit Court, Aug. 8.

Szlamal, Paul and Rita. Circuit Court, Aug. 11.

Tellman, Thomas and Karin. Circuit Court, Aug. 18.

Tobin, William and Jamie. Circuit Court, Aug. 22.

Tobolski, Andrew and Carolyn. Circuit Court, Aug. 7.

Wadzinski, Aaron and Barbara. Circuit Court, Aug. 10.

Walls, Jennifer and David. Circuit Court, July 31.

Walls, Norma and James III. Circuit Court, Aug. 10.

Williams, Don Jr. and Brenda. Circuit Court, Aug. 21.

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