

MAY 2020



Congratulations New Tech Academy! Way to go!

Each year, the Best in Network Award enables New Tech Network to surface, recognize and learn from projects across the network that create rich learning experiences for students and that can challenge and inspire our network's practice of project-based learning.



We are proud to announce our 2020 Best in Network award winners! <u>New Tech Academy</u> at Wayne High School is the 2020 Secondary Best in Network recipient for their project Instruments of Hope and Attwood New Tech Magnet School

is the 2020 Elementary Best in Network recipient for their project Tiny Home Builders: Animal Edition.

Learn all about their winning projects here.



Our mission is to support the well-being and continuity of the Jewish people in greater Fort Wayne, in Israel, and throughout the world.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - JAKI SCHREIER



"The last of the human freedoms: to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Victor Frankel, Austrian neurologist and Holocaust survivor, author of **Man's Search for Meaning**.

Many of us have found this quote by Victor Frankel to be an inspiration that no matter what is going on, we have the power to decide how to respond. Dr. Frankel understood that when things seem the hardest, human beings find the tenacity and inner resources to take on anything.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic or those whose years of working are behind them, thus can shelter in place, find ourselves truly appreciative of the heroic individuals who are putting their own lives and often the lives of their families at risk to go out and do what needs to be done. We are thankful for the medical personnel who are caring for the sick, the truckers who drive long distances to assure us that the goods we need for survival make it on the grocery shelves, those that stock the shelves, check out and deliver groceries to our door. We appreciate the staff at local food banks, their volunteers and the National Guard who so courageously distribute food to those most vulnerable in our community. We are comforted to know that utilities workers are keeping the lights on and the water coming out of the pipes so the rest of us can remain comfortable in our homes during confinement. We are grateful for the inspiration of our spiritual leaders who connect with us in a new way ... virtually! We think of the creativity teachers are using as they keep their students motivated to learn outside the classroom. We appreciate the libraries that encourage people to continue reading with their motivational suggestions for appropriate literature during this difficult time. These are just a few of the many heroes that get up every day and do what needs to be done for the betterment of our world. We owe them so much! When you have the occasion, make sure to give them a warm shout out thanking them for making our lives healthier and easier.

Shalom





READY...RECHARGE...RENEW 2019 - 2020

Name

City

Zip Code

Phone #

I/We hereby pledge to pay the 2019/2020 Annual Campaign the Sum of $f \pm$

Check #___

State

For secure credit card payments, please visit our website at: <u>www.fwjf.org</u>. Click on the<u>Donate</u> button.

Thank you for your generosity!

** Payment arrangements are available upon request



GUEST COLUMNIST - SCOTT SALON

"One Member's Perspective"

After observing the bravery of Wisconsin voters coming to the polls and waiting hours to vote, despite the risk of infection inherent during the COVID-19 pandemic, I reflected on both their bravery and commitment to the precious democratic principle: the right to vote and choose one's representation in government. It also made me aware of the privilege I have as a senior citizen to request a ballot and vote by mail. I have the safety of voting without risk.

I believe the privilege I have to vote without the risk is not something that should be available only to a select minority, but to all voting-eligible **<u>citizens.</u>**

Because it is uncertain whether shelter-in-place guidelines will still be in effect in November, or, if such has been lifted, and should there be another surge in COVID-19, I am urging all citizens of voting age to contact his/her Indiana Senate and House Representative(s) to initiate and pass legislation which will permit voting by mail for all voting-age citizens of Indiana. I would also urge the similar action to our United States Senators and House Representative requesting they initiate and pass legislation which will fund vote-by-mail options for states which don't have such available so that the excuse of expense by the states is no excuse.

The right to vote is precious, citizens have the right to choose their representation. To do so safely should not be a privilege extended only to a few.

I couldn't help noticing the irony and blatant hypocrisy of the Wisconsin Speaker of the House **suited up in full personal protective equipment which is supposed to be reserved to front-line medical personnel** stating: voting is perfectly safe.







Tips for Older Adults to Maintain Quality of Life during the Corona Pandemic

Follow instructions! They are designed to keep you and your loved ones safe



Maintain an active lifestyle in your home



Keep in touch with family, friends, and acquaintances



Utilize technology as much as possible (for shopping, payments, staying in touch with people, leisure activities etc.)



Watch the news in moderation, and only from official sources

We wish all people in Israel and in the communities around the world a speedy return to normal

vww.eshelnet.org.il | www.jdc.org



COVID-19

Running Essential Errands

Grocery Shopping, Take-Out, Banking, Getting Gas, and Doctor Visits.



As communities across the United States take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting close contact, people are facing new challenges and questions about how to meet basic household needs, such as buying groceries and medicine, and completing banking activities. The following information provides advice about how to meet these household needs in a safe and healthy manner.

Find additional information for people who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Shopping for food and other household essentials

Stay home if sick.

• Avoid shopping if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19, which include a <u>fever, cough</u>, <u>or shortness of breath</u>.

Order online or use curbside pickup.

- Order food and other items online for home delivery or curbside pickup (if possible).
- Only visit the grocery store, or other stores selling household essentials, in person when you absolutely need to. This will limit your potential exposure to others and the virus that causes COVID-19.

Protect yourself while shopping.

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others while shopping and in lines.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a <u>cloth face covering</u> when you have to go out in public.
- When you do have to visit in person, go during hours when fewer people will be there (for example, early morning or late night).
- If you are at <u>higher risk for</u> severe illness, find out if the store has special hours for people at higher risk. If they do, try to shop during those hours. People at higher risk <u>for severe</u> <u>illness</u> include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions.
- <u>Disinfect</u> the shopping cart, use disinfecting wipes if available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- If possible, use touchless payment (pay without touching money, a card, or a keypad). If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer right after paying.

Use hand sanitizer when you leave the store. Wash your hands when you get home.

- After leaving the store, use hand sanitizer. When you get home, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- At home, follow food safety guidelines: <u>clean, separate, cook, chill</u>. There is no evidence that food or food packaging has been linked to getting sick from COVID-19.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html





EXCITING NEWS FROM CAMP JOE!!!

Registration for Camp Joe has begun and applications are pouring in! Even though it's only May, it is exciting to think that summer camp with all of its wonderful adventures is just around the corner. Be sure to reserve your weeks (July 6, 13 and 20) soon ! Applications are available online at <u>fwjf.org</u> or call 260-456-0400 to request an application.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

It is our goal to make sure that all children are able to participate in camp this summer! Camper scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve needs basis. If you are interested in a scholarship for your child, please submit a <u>scholarship form</u>. For additional information, contact the office at 260 456-0400, <u>office@fwif.org</u> or <u>www.fwif.org</u>.







S.K.I.P (Send a Kid to Israel Program)

Established in 1984 by the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne in partnership with Congregation Achduth Vesholom, and revised in November 1999, the program has provided a savings vehicle for many families and has helped make a trip to Israel a reality for so many of our youth. The Federation portion of the savings plan is provided by income from the Federation Endowment Fund for members of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.

The Federation, for each year a child participates in **S.K.I.P.**, contributes \$200.00 per year per child. This is matched by a Congregational contribution of \$75.00 per year. Your parent contribution, on behalf of each participating child, is \$175.00 or more per year.

The program is available to local youth enrolled in their congregational religious school in grades 1-10. The fund may be used for an organized trip to Israel any time after grade 10 until

the youth reaches age 23.

Each S.K.I.P account is supplemented by a gift from the HY AND LORRY GOLDENBERG BIRTHRIGHT FUND and the MINNETTE AND MEYER RUCHMAN FUND.

Looking for a bar/bat mitzvah, confirmation or special gift for one of our local youth, then please consider making that gift to their **S.K.I.P**. Fund account. An acknowledgment will be sent to you and a card indicating your gift will be sent to the designee.

Enrollment packets will be sent to all families not yet enrolled. If you do not get a packet or have any questions, please contact Federation's Executive Director Jaki Schreier at jakischreier@ fwjf.org or (260) 456.0400.





DID YOU KNOW?

<u>PJ Library</u> provides free Jewish books as a gift from these generous funders, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the <u>Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne</u>, for all **families raising Jewish children**.





Is Social Distancing a Jewish Value?



As communities seek to lower the impact of COVID-19, many families are spending a lot of time at home with their kids. This practice, of staying at home to help reduce the spread of the virus, is known as social distancing.

But is there anything Jewish about this idea of social distancing? As it turns out, yes!

There are three HUGE ways that staying home right now helps fulfill a mitzvah or commandment.

1. Above all other mitzvot in Judaism, saving a life, *pikuach nefesh*, comes first. It's this very mitzvah that is allowing synagogues to shut

down and rabbis to tell their congregations to stay home rather than come in for Shabbat services or other programs.

2. *The Mishnah*, an ancient collection of rabbinic commentaries, directs us to "share in the distress of the community...for he who shares in the distress of the community will deserve to behold the community's comforting." [Ta'anit 11a] Rabbinic literature focuses heavily on community and working toward the greater good. In many instances we are told to consider the feelings of others and the big picture or the purpose of our endeavors.

3. An easier way to boil this down for small children would be to say that this is all about cooperation, or, *shituf pe'ulah* in Hebrew. If your children are having a hard time understanding what social distancing means or why to do it, borrow this analogy from mom and makeup artist, Courtney Hart. She tells her kids that staying home and forgoing playdates helps others the same way that cooperating by pulling over to let an ambulance of fire truck go by does.

MORE:

5 Ways To Keep In Touch While Practicing Social Distancing

Reprinted with permission from PJ Library



UPCOMING EVENTS

New Date: Sunday, October 18, 2020



Jane S. Gabin author of



"The Paris Photo"

Join us for a book discussion and Q & A

Sunday, March 15, 2020 2 pm Rifkin Campus at 5200



Free & open to the public Book available for purchase - Light refreshments served Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support

This event is free and open to the public! Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support.



Our community Yom HaShoah Commemoration, scheduled for April 20th, will be re-scheduled for sometime in the fall.



Our annual People of the Book, with author **Ron Suskind**, originally scheduled for

April 27th was postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date this year.

Kindness is realizing that we're all in this together.

- RAKtivist

Our office is currently closed due to COVID-19.

Our staff is working remotely and checking emails and voice mails on a regular basis.

You can reach us at (260) 456-0400 or office@fwjf.org.

Our thoughts are with our community during this unprecedented time.

Be well and stay healthy!







RABBI MEIR BARGERON NAMED TEMPLE'S 24[™] SPIRITUAL LEADER

We are very pleased to announce that Rabbi Meir Bargeron will join Congregation Achduth Vesholom on July 1 as the Temple's 24th spiritual leader.

Rabbi Meir will be ordained at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles on May 17, 2020 and enters the rabbinate after a career in clinical social work and nonprofit management in the health care sector. HUC-JIR has postponed the in-person graduation and ordination ceremonies and

currently is working on plans to mark the occasion.

Rabbi Meir is married to Jon Tam, an engineer and college instructor.

The Temple's Board of Directors approved Rabbi Meir's hiring following the unanimous recommendation from the 11-member Rabbinic Search Committee chaired by Fran Adler and Mike Rush. We have signed a three-year contract.

In unanimously recommending Rabbi Meir to the board, the Search Committee members said they had "found a man who is warm, approachable, empathetic, and kind. He is intelligent and thoughtful and has a deep love of Judaism. He is eager to reach ordination and step into the position of a congregational rabbi. We were all very impressed with his authenticity."

As July approaches, we'll keep you informed about opportunities to welcome Rabbi Meir and Jon. A Transition Committee will be named to assist them in getting settled in Fort Wayne and at Achduth Vesholom.

Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig, who began serving as our Interim Rabbi in August 2019, will continue as our spiritual leader through June 30, 2020 before assuming a new post as Interim Rabbi at Congregation Rodef Sholom in Youngstown, Ohio. Please save the date to join us for services and an Oneg Shabbat in honor of Rabbi Winnig on Friday, June 26.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS ENDS $10^{\mbox{\tiny TH}}$ YEAR HELPING FAMILIES & NAMES NEW CHAIR

Like other Indiana schools, Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple will not meet for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, this also means that the Jewish community's <u>Thoughtful Thursdays</u> bag assembly team won't meet again until September 9.

We are working with Brooke Hartman, who supervises the Brightpoint program in our building, to continue to support our Thoughtful Thursdays families. In April, we purchased a \$25 Kroger gift card for each of the 68 families and the Temple Head Start staff. In our March bag, we provided each family with four rolls of toilet paper and a bottle of hand soap.

For many years, Thoughtful Thursdays and the Temple have partnered with <u>Wellspring Interfaith Social Services</u>. In early April, Wellspring put out an urgent request for peanut butter to help feed members of the Fort Wayne community through its food bank. Thoughtful Thursdays was able to donate \$150 to purchase two cases of peanut butter. While this was not how I expected Thoughtful Thursdays to end its 10th year, I am grateful for all of the support that members of our community have offered to keep our program going despite these unusual circumstances.

I am grateful for the relationships that I have made over the past decade with more than 75 volunteers whose dedication has helped us serve some 750 Temple Head Start families. I also appreciate all of the support from the greater Jewish community as part of this joint effort of <u>Congregation Achduth Vesholom</u> and the <u>Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne</u>, as well as from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.

It has truly been a pleasure to grow this program with all of you. For the past year, I have been searching for the perfect person to take over as chair of Thoughtful Thursdays. I am delighted to announce that Sally Trotter has agreed to assume that role. Many of you know Sally as a past Temple Administrator, congregant, and a person who is devoted to serving others. I know her as a person with a wealth of experience, organization, and dedication. Bonnie Pomerantz has agreed to continue on, and I will co-chair through December. I plan to remain as a "Bag Lady" volunteer.

Our volunteers will reconvene on Wednesday, September 9 at 11 a.m. to begin our 11th year of bag assembly. Once our work is completed, we'll gather for our annual volunteer luncheon (postponed from May) in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center. In the interest of health and safety, we will serve individually boxed lunches.

At the same time, we'll distribute the schedule for the 2020-2021 year and a sign-up sheet for shopping duties. I look forward to honoring our volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome. Thank you. Stay safe and healthy! Jamie Berger, Thoughtful Thursdays co-chair

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM THE TEMPLE

To continue being responsible to our congregational and greater community, the Temple's Board of Directors has extended the closure of the Rifkin Campus to comply with <u>Indiana Gov. Eric</u><u>Holcomb's executive order</u> declaring a public health emergency for the state.

When the board initially decided to close the facility on March 13, plans called for remaining closed until at least April 18. The governor has since extended his stay-at-home order until May 1. Achduth Vesholom's leadership will monitor recommendations from government and health officials before determining when to re-open.

While we cannot meet in person, some worship services, as well as educational and social programs, are meeting through virtual communication methods. Please check for information on <u>our</u> <u>congregational Facebook page</u> as we continue to add online offerings during the coming weeks. Updated information also is available on our website at <u>www.templecav.org</u>.

We are working in partnership with the <u>Jewish Federation of Fort</u> <u>Wayne</u> to reach out to members of our community to offer our support during this challenging time. Please stay in touch.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT WITH US ONLINE

Begin your weekend with Shabbat and share the warmth of Jewish community with our Temple family from your home. Rabbi Paula

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OUR PARTNERS

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Jayne Winnig will lead Sabbath services via Zoom videoconferencing on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings throughout May. Please check for any updates regarding the building re-opening at <u>www.templecav.org</u> or on our <u>congregational</u> <u>Facebook page</u>.

Have your candles and wine nearby as we offer blessings together on Fridays, May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 6 p.m. as part of our Sabbath service. <u>Find the link</u>

Our Saturday morning service on May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 will begin at 10 a.m. and include a Torah reading. Kiddush follows. <u>Find the</u> <u>link</u>

Even though we're temporarily not meeting in person, Shabbat is a special time to reflect, pray, sing, and see friends. Find strength in coming together, help offer a Mi Shebeirach prayer for those in need of healing, and to support those saying Kaddish for a loved one.

LUNCH & LEARN FROM HOME WITH RABBI WINNIG

Enjoy your lunch with a little Torah learning for dessert on Wednesdays in May! Join Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig on May 6, 13, 20, 27 from noon to 1 p.m. Check-in for conversation with our Temple family via Zoom videoconferencing and gain insights from Rabbi Winnig into the weekly portion<u>. Find the link</u>.

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND WHAT THEY TEACH US TODAY

The Ten Commandments still hold great significance for Jews today. What are these laws that God handed to Moses? Why are they important? Join Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig on four Tuesday evenings for a virtual class looking at the Ten Commandments and what they teach us today. The class will meet on May 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 7 p.m. via Zoom videoconferencing<u>. Find the link</u>.

BRING MEAL FOR VIRTUAL LAG B'OMER PICNIC

Pack some food for your family, and join us for a virtual Lag B'Omer picnic on Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m., featuring music, games, and fun for all ages. Find the link.

Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of the Omer, which tracks the agricultural cycle and marks the seven-week period from Passover to Shavuot. The holiday usually is celebrated with bonfires, barbeques and parties.

SHARE SHAVUOT TOGETHER

Join us for a virtual Shavuot service when we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai on Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m., led by Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig. A study of the <u>Book of Ruth</u> will follow.

Traditionally, the Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot because just as that story recounts how a young Moabite woman chose to become an Israelite, so did the Israelites choose to accept the commandments when they stood before Mt. Sinai. It is customary to eat dairy foods on the holiday to symbolize the sweetness of Torah and the association of Israel as the land of milk and honey.

We'll also come together virtually on Friday, May 29 at 10 a.m. to observe Shavuot, Shabbat, and Yizkor. The morning will include a Torah study of the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Winnig. Learn more about Shavuot.

NEIJGS – GOING ONLINE FOR GENEALOGY



As with everything else, the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society has been forced to cancel its May "Jewish Cemeteries" program co-hosted with the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. Members will have a virtual "annual meeting" that day, but unfortunately, the programs will have to be re-scheduled. We're looking forward to our fall "Fort Wayne Jewish Families" open house in October, and a presentation from "Sherlock" Cohn, a photo genealogist, in November.

That said, there are a lot of opportunities to learn about Jewish genealogical research online. JewishGen.org has online classes available, and many Jewish genealogy societies are offering free webinars. Our own ACPL Genealogy Center is also offering online Zoom

classes. For more information, "like" the NEIJGS Facebook page at <u>https://www.facebook.com/NEIndianaJGS/</u>. You might also follow the Genealogy Center's Facebook page as well, where they advertise their programs and occasionally take questions.

Speaking of Facebook, there are lots of groups on that platform dedicated to Jewish genealogy. These are great places to post questions, ask for translations, or just get a feel for things. "Tracing the Tribe" is the biggest Jewish genealogy Facebook group, but "Jewish Genealogy Portal" is another one available. There are also smaller groups dedicated to different geographical areas, so if you know where your ancestors came from, it's worth searching Facebook for those groups. Examples include "Jewish Genealogy Poland," "Slovakia Jewish Genealogy," and "Lithuania and Latvia Jewish Genealogy," but there are plenty more.

Finally, you might take a look at the links available on the NEIJGS website - <u>https://neindianajgs.wordpress.com/links/</u>. These will connect you with everything from Ancestry.com to Yad Vashem, with local links as well. Happy sleuthing!



FUNDS AND DONATIONS

JEWISH FEDERATION FUNDS

ENDOWMENT

- Audrey and Joe Gerson Free Loan Fund
- Baum/Goldenberg Scholarship
- Emergency Cash Assistance Fund
- Holocaust Education Fund
- Jewish Experience Fund
- JNF Plant a tree in Israel
- Prejudice Reduction Elimination Fund
- Thoughtful Thursdays Fund
- **Community Relations Committee (CRC):** To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.
- Goldenberg Camp Joe Fund: Every year we get a number of requests for assistance with the registration for our threeweek Camp Joe Levine Day Camp.

Janet Finkel Campership Fund:

In April 2008, Audrey Gerson established the Janet Finkel Campership Fund in honor of Janet Finkel. This fund makes it possible to help youngsters go to a Jewish Camp or to a Music Camp.

PJ Library:

Supports reading anytime of the day, but we know that many families sit down to read books at bedtime, in their pajamas. PJ Library books can be enjoyed any time you want a good story.

The Martha Rothenberg Replane Theater & Creative Arts Fund:

This fund was created in Memory of Martha Rothenberg Replane to honor her memory and her love for theater and creative arts. The fund will be used to encourage theater and creative arts presentations and knowledge in our community.



DONATIONS

Holocaust Education

A donation was received from Jaki & Eric Schreier in honor of New Tech Academy being awarded the New Tech Network Award.



Online Donations Accepted!

The <u>Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne</u> now accepts <u>online donations</u>. You may contribute to our General Fund, or select a specific fund that you want to support. In addition, you may elect to have a donation made in Honor of or In Memory of an individual, and a card will be sent letting them or their families know the donation has been made.

It's secure, fast, and easy to support the work the Federation does to support the well-being and continuity of the Jewish people in greater Fort Wayne, in Israel, and throughout the world.

Thank you for your support. It is sincerely appreciated!



R.O.M.E.O.s (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Anyone interested in joining the ROMEOs for lunch can contact Denny Reynolds at 260-637-0507 or dennisreynolds@me.com

2019 - 2020 Board of Directors

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(260) 456-0400 phone (260) 456-0500 fax www.fwjf.org





Help is Available

We know that during these trying times, we can all use a little help once in a while. For those in need, we do offer food vouchers and gas cards. Please call the <u>Federation</u> office at (260) 456-0400. All calls are confidential.

We are also accepting donations of gas cards. If you would like to make a donation, please send in a check with "gas card" in the memo or call the office.



Audrey and Joe Gerson Free Loan Fund

This Fund was set up to offer an interest-free loan up to \$2,000 to members of the Jewish community who are undergoing financial hardships. Please call the Federation office at (260) 456-0400 to speak to someone confidentially.

Charitable Adult Rides and Services (CARS)

Do you have a car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane that you no longer need or use?



Donating them has never been easier! Simply choose <u>CARS</u> and their trained staff will guide you through the donation process.

Do You Know Someone Who Needs Help?

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne is proud to have an amazing volunteer social worker* helping those of us in need. If you or someone you know in our Jewish community would like to talk to our social worker, please call the office at (260) 456-0400 or email us at office@ fwjf.org. All calls and emails are confidential.

*<u>Social work</u> is an academic discipline and profession that concerns itself with individuals, families, groups and communities in an effort to enhance social functioning and overall well-being.

