



chailights



NOVEMBER 2023

**This war is unlike any before.
And so are the needs.**

#SupportIsrael



Our Israel Emergency Fund is directing additional resources for this critical moment. Here are the needs:

Basic Needs Food and financial assistance for impacted families, the elderly, and the homebound.

Evacuation, Housing, Respite, and Support for Frontline Communities Support for communities under fire and for new olim living in absorption centers through evacuations, temporary housing, respite trips, children's activities, and increased security.

Fund for Victims of Terror Provides immediate cash grants to families and individuals who have been impacted by acts of terror and violence, for post-trauma care, etc.

Trauma Relief and Psychosocial Care Support widescale trauma relief and psychosocial support with expanded capabilities through telephone hotlines; providing direct care to first responders, Lone Soldiers, the injured, and families whose relatives were murdered, injured, or abducted; training and support for caregivers and responders including hospital emergency teams and municipal teams

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

**Emergency Medical
Services and Healthcare**

Medical supplies and equipment for first responders and hospitals in close proximity to the front line.

Special Populations

Targeted assistance to vulnerable populations and their caregivers, including the elderly, young children, people living with disabilities, and marginalized populations, such as the Ultra-Orthodox and Bedouin communities.

**Local Efforts and
Volunteers**

Enhance capacity and provide operational support to evacuees, special populations, frontline communities, and those responding to the crisis.

Israel needs you.
Please give generously.



Donate ↗



**“All Israel are responsible for one another.”
-Babylonian Talmud Shevuot 39a**

Early in the morning of October 7th, armed Hamas terrorists from Gaza carried out the most heinous, multi-front murder, kidnapping and torturing rampage against Israel in history. Some 1400 men, women and children were brutally killed and more than 3000 were injured. Thousands of rockets were fired into the border communities, and into cities in the center, the South and even as far as Jerusalem.

Once again, on a holy day of the Jewish calendar, the people of Israel have come under attack. On Simchat Torah, when we read in Genesis that “in the beginning ...darkness was on the face of the deep,” darkness indeed descended upon Israel, and the lives of Jews in Israel and around the world changed forever!

The magnitude of this brutality is unprecedented. There were more Jews killed on October 7, 2023 than were killed on any date since the Holocaust. Simply stated, this represents an existential event for Israel.

We know our community has been impacted, whether with shock, pain, sadness, or anger, and we share that with Jews everywhere. We mourn for those who were murdered, and our hearts cry out for all the hostages whose fates remain unknown. We despair alongside the injured and are saddened by the images of communities torn apart, families destroyed, homes reduced to rubble, towns left vacant amid the destruction, and lifetimes of recurring trauma. And we pray for the healing of the wounded, redemption for the hostages, and comfort for the bereaved. There truly are no words to describe such a loss. We know there will be more difficult days ahead.

During stressful times in Israel, world Jewry has once again come together, as we stand in solidarity with those affected by terror, those whose lives have been shattered, and those who are living with

heightened fear, anxiety and uncertainty.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), and the Conservative Jewish Movement (CJM) have come together to raise funds to support our brothers and sisters during this time. This fundraising effort is called **SWORDS OF IRON - Israel Emergency Fund**. Due to the destruction caused by the Hamas terrorist group, the goal for this phase of Swords of Iron is **\$500 million**.

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and Congregation Achduth Vesholom have partnered to do our part to assist with this humanitarian rebuilding effort. Although the Federation will be the fiscal agent to disburse the funds, this is a true partnership. You can make a donation through the Federation website at fwjf.org/donate or send checks (made payable to the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne), or drop checks/cash in person at 5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46807. In addition, the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne sends out daily emails with updates on the ongoing crisis in Israel. If you are not receiving them and wish to, please fill out the contact form at fwjf.org or contact our office at: office@fwjf.org to be added to the list.

So, too, in the blackness of this moment, we know that better times will come. Let us hasten those better days through our actions, deeds and generosity.

Together, through the power of our collective, in this unprecedented way through the JFNA, URJ, and CJM, we will help do our part to restore the light, and keep it shining on our beloved Israel.

Am Yisrael Chai

PLEASE JOIN US



Insight & analysis on Israel's war with Hamas

with **Bassam Eid**, Palestinian Peace Activist
& **Dan Feferman**, National Security Analyst

November 9 @ 7 PM on Zoom
Register at TheJewishFed.org/Israel

Insight & analysis on Israel's war with Hamas Thursday, November 9th

Join us for a special Zoom conversation on Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 PM with **Bassam Eid**, Palestinian peace activist, and **Dan Feferman**, IDF Major (res.) & National Security Analyst. Together, they'll provide the missing context for understanding the developing events in the war between Israel and Hamas.

Register for free at TheJewishFed.org/Israel (Zoom link will be emailed after you register)

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana, Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley.

Why the Blue Ribbon?

The blue ribbon symbolizes support and solidarity for the safe return of the hostages taken by Hamas terrorists in Israel. It symbolizes solidarity with the hostages, their families, and all who care about their safety.

Wearing a ribbon publicly unites you with people of all religions, races,



nationalities, ethnicities, ages, and generations and demonstrates for the people of Israel that they are not alone and that good people across the globe are with them and their families during this dark time.

Send a powerful message of solidarity by wearing your ribbon.



One Night Only!

The Jewish Federation's Rosh Chodesh group will be mailing invitations very shortly for our one-night-only showing of the movie "Golda" starring Helen Mirren and Liev Schreiber on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne) at 6 pm. There will be a discussion after the movie along with a light nosh of Israeli food.



Golda is a ticking-clock thriller set during the tense 19 days of the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (Helen Mirren), faced with the potential of Israel's complete destruction, must navigate overwhelming odds, a skeptical cabinet, and a complex relationship with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (Liev Schreiber), with millions of lives in the balance. Her tough leadership and compassion would ultimately decide the fate of her nation and leave her with a controversial legacy around the world.

The evening is open to members of the Jewish community and invited guests. This event is free but seating is limited. To reserve your seat, contact the office at office@fwjf.org or call (260) 456-0400 and leave a message.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continuous support of Federation events.



Confronting the Shoah



Mark your calendars, this six-week class presented by Holocaust scholar Dr. David Lindquist begins in January. This course provides participants with a comprehensive contextual and historical knowledge regarding the Nazi Holocaust. Classes will be held on **Tuesdays January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2024** at the [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road). Classes begin at 7 pm and will last about 2 to 2 ½ hours each. There is no cost to Federation members, teachers, principals, historians or high school juniors or seniors. For all others, there is a \$5.00 fee to cover the cost of materials. More information to follow in the upcoming months. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and members of Federation for its continued support.

Your Direct Connection to Israel

[Partnership2Gether \(P2G\)](#) is a program of the [Jewish Agency](#) and the [Jewish Federations of North America](#). The vision of P2G is to build a global and united Jewish people made up of a tapestry of strong, lively, flourishing and interconnected Jewish individuals, families and communities working together to enrich Jewish continuity, identity and cultural understanding between Jews in Israel and their peers around the world. [Read more here.](#)

From Our Friends at [Partnership2Gether!](#)

Along with 13 other U.S. cities and Budapest, Hungary, our Federation belongs to the Central Area Consortium, partnered with the Western Galilee area of Israel. Our members have benefited from programs we've offered with guests who've come from the Western Galilee to Fort Wayne, as well as opportunities to travel in our Partnership area. We are excited to share with you a diverse list of a la carte programs from our [Partnership2Gether](#). We invite you to sign up for the programs that spark your interest! These programs are a great way to engage with Jewish communities throughout our [Partnership2Gether](#) Consortium without needing to leave your home.

SAVE THE DATE!

BOOKCLUB

Sunday December 3

1pm EDT | 7pm Budapest | 8pm Israel

Join us for a discussion
about the book

Red Sea Spies

By Raffi Berg







[RSVP Here](#)

ONLINE P2G HOLIDAYS TOAST

20:00 Israel | 19:00 Budapest
1:00PM EST



PASSOVER
APRIL 3



ROSH HASHANA
SEP 10



HANUKKAH
DEC 10

SAVE THE DATES!

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE PARTNERSHIP ZOOM CELEBRATION FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WWW.WESTERNGALILEE.ORG.IL





ALLOCATIONS

Thank you to all of our members who made their pledge during our 2022 - 2023 campaign year. Because of your generosity, we were able to send money to all of these amazing organizations. Todah Rabah!

Regional/National Agencies:

Ball State University Hillel - We are an inclusive organization that is dedicated to providing a safe place for students to connect to Jewish culture. [More information here](#).

Indiana University Hillel - Since 1938, IU Hillel has created a warm, welcoming, caring Jewish family and community that celebrates Judaism and Jewish life. We support and honor the diversity of the Jewish student community at IU, and are committed to its maintenance and continuity. [More information here](#)

Purdue University Hillel - Enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. [More information here](#)

Indiana Jewish Historical Society - The Indiana Jewish Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization with a mission to collect, preserve, publish, and share the Jewish experience in Indiana.

Our stated mission is to preserve historical Jewish records, organize people to speak on the importance of maintaining Jewish historical records, develop a database and guidebook for archiving material, and Newsletters to notify and update members of current IJHS-related events and activities. [More information here](#).

Indiana University Jewish Studies Program - One of the largest, oldest, and most comprehensive programs of its kind, The Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University. A premier hub for Jewish Studies. The Program is committed to fostering leadership skills, civic responsibility, and academic achievement through rigorous interdisciplinary study of Jews and Judaism. [More information here](#)

Purdue University Jewish Studies Program - Founded in 1981, the undergraduate Jewish Studies Program at Purdue provides students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the culture, language, literature, history, philosophy, and religious customs of the Jewish people from antiquity to the present. [More information here](#)

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY - The Center for Jewish History in New York City illuminates history, culture, and heritage. The Center provides a collaborative home for five partner organizations: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. [More information here](#)

Community Relations Agencies:

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith (ADL) - To stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. [More information here](#)

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council - Our mission is to safeguard the rights of Jews in the U.S., Israel, and around the world by combating anti-Semitism through relationship-building and education. JCRC works to protect and promote a just American

society, one that is democratic and pluralistic. [More information here](#)

Jewish War Veterans of the USA - The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) is the premier voice for Jewish uniformed service members and veterans in the United States. The JWV affirms that Jewish men and women serve honorably and heroically in the military forces of the United States of America during peacetime and war. The JWV defends the rights and benefits of all service members and veterans, fights anti-Semitism, and supports the State of Israel. [More information here](#)

Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) - The mission of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is to strengthen and leverage the Jewish community relations network across the nation to champion a just, democratic and pluralistic society and advance the right of full inclusion of all members of our society, including Jews, free of discrimination hate and prejudice. [More information here](#)

Secure Community Network (SCN) - The Secure Community Network (SCN) is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. [More information here](#)

Masorti Foundation - The purpose and mission of the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism is to support the work of Israelis in building a Judaism that preserves observance and tradition while recognizing how modern life in Israel is lived. [More information here](#)

Non JFNA Overseas Agencies:

Jewish National Fund (JNF) - Unparalleled in the Jewish philanthropic world, Jewish National Fund-USA's strategic vision has been and always will be, to ensure a strong, secure, and prosperous future for the land and people of Israel. [More information here](#)

American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA) - In the United States, disaster relief, ambulance, and blood services are handled by an array of organizations.

In Israel, there's one organization that does it all — Magen David Adom.

Although MDA's role is mandated by the Israeli government, it's not a government agency. As Israel's official representative to the International Red Cross, Magen David Adom's role precludes it from accepting governmental support for its general operations.

Because of this arrangement, MDA relies on support from donors, including those from the United States, to keep its dispatch systems, training, and equipment the best in the world.

When you support Magen David Adom, you are helping save lives, every day. [More information here](#)

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) - Drawing on our Jewish values and history, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild their lives. [More information here](#)

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Yad Sarah - The defining mission of Yad Sarah is to enable chronically ill, disabled, infirm, and terminally ill people, ranging in age from infancy to old age, to live at home either on their own or in the care of their families or caregivers, with dignity and as independently as possible. [More information here](#)

IsraAID - Our mission is to support people affected by humanitarian crisis. We partner with local communities around the world to provide urgent aid, assist in recovery, and reduce the risk of future disasters. [More information here](#)

Religious Agencies:

Religious Action Center (RAC) - For more than six decades, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC) has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish Movement to advocate for social justice. We have helped activate the Jewish community in the key debates and mobilizations of each generation since our founding, from the civil rights movement to immigration reform. [More information here](#)

Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion - We are the center of innovation for Jewish life and learning – preparing

[rabbis, cantors, leaders in Jewish education, Jewish nonprofit professionals, pastoral counselors, and scholars](#) to apply their knowledge, commitment, vision, and expertise to strengthen and transform the Jewish community and larger world. [More information here](#)

Overseas Allocations:

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Fort Wayne - We proudly represent 146 independent Federations and a network of 300 smaller communities across the continent. Our mission is to protect and enhance the well-being of Jews worldwide through meaningful contributions to community, Israel and civil society. [More information here](#)

Partnership2Gether (P2G) Western Galilee Region - For more than 90 years, we've worked to overcome the biggest challenges facing the Jewish people.

We founded and built the State of Israel, and we continue creating links globally—bringing Jews to Israel and Israel to Jews around the world. [More information here](#)

Israel Action Network (IAN) - The Israel Action Network builds a strong base of support for Israel and counters delegitimization in the context of two states for two peoples. [More information here](#)

Where can you get challah, Kosher or Vegan items in Fort Wayne?

TRADER JOE'S®

[4110 W. Jefferson Blvd.](#)
[Fort Wayne, IN 46804](#)

[260-432-5828](#)

[www.traderjoes.com](#)



[6306 W. Jefferson Blvd](#)
[Fort Wayne, IN 46804](#)

[260 -459-9691](#)

[www.thefreshmarket.com](#)



[7605 Coldwater Rd](#)
[Suite A](#)
[Fort Wayne, IN 46825](#)

[260-489-8686](#)

[lovingcafevw.com](#)



[2021 Broadway, Fort Wayne IN](#)

[260-420-5565](#)

[georgesinternationalmarket.com](#)



[1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808](#)

[\(260\) 424-8812](#)

[www.3riversfood.coop](#)

What are we talking about this month:

Jewish Federations and PJ Library



By Jerry Silverman

BOARD MEMBER, HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION
FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO, JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA
PROUD PJ LIBRARY GRANDPARENT

PJ LIBRARY CAME AT AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR JEWISH FEDERATIONS – after a recession and as the world was changing, when federations needed to reconsider what it meant to reach out to community. Relational strategies were in the zeitgeist. Many organizations were experimenting with getting inside of participants’ lives rather than demanding they show up in formal spaces. Curious leaders of Jewish federations were asking, “How do we make connections between our historic and sacred network of organizations and people’s living rooms?”

Amcha, the people, were increasingly staying where they were (we thought), but our institutions still provided opportunities for fulfillment, joy, and Jewish exploration. Some agencies were offering opportunities for Jewish federations to invest in their relational experiments, but these were only early investments, too distant to be influential on federations’ strategies. In a relational environment, how could Jewish federation leaders change how they think about Jewish education, including program methodologies, funding, and metrics? PJ Library offered a response to all of this.

More than 90% of Jewish federations fund PJ Library. In most communities, federations also play a role in operating the program. Many accompany the books with strategies meant to engage more families deeper in Jewish life. Through relational connectors, PJ Library subscribers form playgroups, participate in tzedakah projects, and come together en masse to celebrate holidays with crafts, stories, and ritual. They sing the Havdalah blessings over ice cream in town squares and crowd into bookstore corners for storytime.

As they developed these initiatives, Jewish federations needed to adapt and consider the implications of a program like PJ Library for their work. Many of these considerations may seem old hat now, but ten years ago we had only instincts (not proof texts) for all of this. Being in ice cream shops and bookstores, working with people who aren’t members, creating a program outside of agency walls – all of that needed to be figured out, learned, and practiced.

Some of our best creativity has emerged in thinking through how we introduce PJ Library subscribers to camp, preschool, and day school. We’ve figured out part of the answer, that introductions come in slow tastes of these programs (an afternoon, a day, a Shabbat), and federations will continue to build wider and longer pipelines.

Ten years ago, PJ Library gave federations a laboratory in which to study all of these principles, enabling federations to successfully do this kind of engagement work with families with young children and then apply the same principles to teens, 20-somethings, families with school-age children, and empty nesters.

For Jewish federations, PJ Library has brought to life what Jewish engagement and community can look like today: diverse, accessible, life-based, relational, and rooted in doing. It has become the centerpiece of a robust Jewish engagement agenda.

It is not surprising to me that PJ Library was the brainchild of Harold Grinspoon, a breakthrough thinker and one of the *g’dolim* (Hebrew for greatest) of our time. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation has been an invaluable leader. The product is fresh and continually interesting. It is supportive of implementing professionals, shown by the annual PJ Library International Conference, the many in-person and web-based learning opportunities, and the online resource center offering how-tos, downloads, and guidelines.

I am deeply grateful for this precious gift to the Jewish community. I know it will continue to impact countless lives for many years to come.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne is excited to remind our families about the Jewish Studies tuition reimbursement program.



A student whose family is a member of the Federation will be reimbursed at a rate based on one-half the tuition cost per Indiana University credit hour for classes taken in Judaic Studies.

As many of our youth are attending college all over the country and the tuition varies considerably from college to college, this policy provides equitable treatment to all of our university students.

A transcript, showing the course and grade received, and a copy of a fee payment receipt must be submitted as proof for reimbursement. The Federation reserves the right to request a syllabus or additional description of the class taken. A C+ grade or its numerical equivalent must be earned in the course work in order to qualify for reimbursement.



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

Family membership is defined as a minimum gift of \$104.00 to the most recent Federation Annual Campaign, which runs from November through March.

Any questions, please call Jaki Schreier at (260) 456-0400 or contact her at jakischreier@fwjf.org.

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.



CELEBRATING TEMPLE'S 175th ANNIVERSARY IN NOVEMBER

Please join us for Congregation Achduth Vesholom's [175th Anniversary Weekend](#) featuring several opportunities on November 10-12 to celebrate our milestone year as Indiana's oldest Jewish congregation.

Highlights include welcoming Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, as our keynote speaker at our Shabbat evening service and a community open house on Sunday afternoon with the grand opening of our Goldman Memorial Museum and the launch of a new Jewish Heritage Tour with ARCH.

Under the leadership of 175th Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs Kathy Sider and Beth Zweig, a team of volunteers has been working with Rabbi Meir Barger and Executive Director Samara Sheray to prepare for the big celebration, along with other events into early 2024. A commemorative booklet will be distributed that features the Temple's history, as well as 175th Anniversary sponsors.

"We're very excited to recognize the important history of Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish community in Northeast Indiana with these events," Beth said.

"Our longevity is a testament to the vibrancy of our congregation and the commitment of our members, our leadership, and our rabbis over the years. We hope the mix of historical, cultural and religious activities will help us continue to build community – both within and beyond our congregation."

Rabbi Meir noted that the Temple for 175 years has been "the heart and soul of Jewish life in this community. Generation after generation, we have continued to embrace our heritage, passing on the torch of knowledge and tradition, and forging connections that have stood the test of time. From the religious school to the chuppah, from b'nei mitzvah to solemn farewells, this Temple has been the backdrop for our most profound moments."

In addition to the events in November at the Rifkin Campus, a special exhibit called "Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom" will open November 11 through January 28, 2024 at the [Fort Wayne Museum of Art](#).

Visit the [175th Anniversary page](#) on www.templecav.org for more information.

Events include:

Friday, November 10

7:30 p.m. - Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Meir with musician Orin Reynolds. The keynote speaker is URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs. A Torah will be presented to Jeremy Klotz, director of Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, in honor of our 175th and our long association with GUCI. A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow.

Saturday, November 11

9:45 a.m. - Shabbat & Torah service, led by Ron Friedman with a D'var Torah by Rabbi Meir. A Kiddush luncheon will follow. Kindly RSVP by Friday, November 3.

Family-friendly evening:

5:30 p.m. - Pizza dinner. Kindly RSVP by Friday, November 3.

6:30 p.m. - Song session with Orin Reynolds, followed by Havdalah.

Sunday, November 12

1 to 5 p.m. Open House for the community:

- **Take a docent-led Jewish Heritage Tour of Fort**

Wayne. Trolleys with docents from ARCH will leave the Temple at 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Ages 12 and up only. Tour is approximately 2 hours. A self-guided tour will be available later this year.

- **Visit the Goldman Memorial Museum in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center for its grand opening.**

In addition to the timeline of 200 years of local Jewish history and holiday exhibits, we'll have other items on display and a new showcase for the Holocaust Torah remnant.

- **Docents will be available throughout the building** to answer questions.
- **Experience klezmer-inspired music** performed by a string quartet from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. The quartet features David Ling and Betsy Gephart, violins; Bruce Graham, viola; and David Rezits, cello. Betsy and David are Temple members.
- **Enjoy a nosh** that includes favorites for holidays and year-round
- **Learn from the Rifkin Campus partners** about their involvement in the community

Kathy Sider has been working on the Jewish Heritage Tour with ARCH and an advisory group of long-time Temple members and those familiar with local Jewish history.

"Those who take the tour will learn about the neighborhoods, houses of worship, merchants, community organizations, people and businesses that were part of Northeast Indiana's largest Jewish community," Kathy said.

"I am looking forward to sharing our culture, traditions and local history with the greater Fort Wayne and our own Jewish community. This history is new to a lot of us who did not grow up in Fort Wayne."

EXHIBIT ILLUMINATES JEWISH HISTORY AND ART AT FWMoA

A new exhibit opening this month at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art takes visitors on a journey through seven different themes during the Temple's 175 years. Called "[Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#)," the exhibit will run November 11, 2023 through January 28, 2024.

This exhibition was curated by Sharon Eisbart, Owner of Sharon Eisbart Corporate Art, and Dr. Wendy Soltz, Assistant Professor of Public History at Ball State University. Both are Temple members. The exhibit was made possible with art and Judaica loans from Congregation Achduth Vesholom and a grant from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.

Please join us at the art museum on Sunday, November 19 for a reception at 2 p.m. and a lecture at 3 p.m. featuring two speakers:

- **Michael Brown**, Executive Director of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society, will speak on "Achduth Vesholom: A Jewish Congregation at the Frontier of Indiana History."
- **Dr. Wendy Soltz** will discuss "Illuminating Congregation Achduth Vesholom's 175-year History," which includes the concept for the exhibit, her research, and how the art and Judaica help tell the story of the congregation.

[Please RSVP to the art museum](#) by Monday, November 13. Seating is limited and first-come, first-served.

We are grateful to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art for sharing its artwork with the community in honor of our anniversary. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and our 175th Anniversary

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sponsors. Thank you to Sharon & Ben Eisbart for hosting the reception.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS!

Our 13th annual [Thoughtful Thursdays](#) Apple Project was a success again this year, with support from the Jewish community to help us to provide fresh fruit to our 51 Brightpoint Head Start children and their families.

For the first time this year, our crew picked the apples themselves! On a sunny and very warm morning, seven of our volunteers headed to Phil's U-Pick Apple Orchard in Huntington to gather a large supply of tasty apples. Then we headed to the Temple to deliver the fruit of their labor and set up for our monthly bag assembly team.

Our bag assembly team then came to divide the apples to send home with the kids, along with prepping two additional bags with ingredients and recipe for chicken taco casserole and household products.

Thank you to Chair Sally Trotter and her crew for their dedication to this important mitzvah project. Thoughtful Thursdays is a joint project of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#).

Our volunteers will meet on Wednesday, November 8 at 10 a.m. to assemble bags.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). Thanks to Thoughtful Thursdays Chair Sally Trotter and everyone who helped!

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Share an interfaith celebration of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 21 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Achduth Vesholom.

The Temple is pleased for an 11th year to host Fort Wayne's annual community interfaith service. Join us in person or via livestream on [YouTube](#).

Sponsoring congregations to date include Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, First Presbyterian Church, Imani Baptist Temple, Plymouth Congregational Church of

Fort Wayne, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Union Baptist Church, and the Baha'i Community of Fort Wayne.

Donations collected at the service will benefit Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network. A reception will follow the service. Thank you to Dawn Hammond for chairing.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT AT THE TEMPLE

Begin your weekend with Shabbat and share the warmth of Jewish community at [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) in person or via livestream on Zoom or [YouTube](#).

Rabbi Meir Bargeron will lead services most Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Ron Friedman will lead worship most Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah.

We will not have Shabbat services on November 23-24 due to Thanksgiving weekend. Please join us for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 21 at 7 p.m.

We warmly welcome guests to join us at the Temple or online. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org for links to access services on Zoom.

SHARE LATKES AND LIGHTS FOR HANUKKAH

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with our Temple family on Friday, December 8 amid the glow of dozens of *hanukkiyot* and the warmth of Jewish community. Please bring your *hanukkiyah* and candles to light for the second night of Hanukkah.

Join us for dinner at 6 p.m. hosted by the ROMEOS, including delicious, crisp latkes, dreidels to spin, and games for the kids. Then at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Meir will lead our Hanukkah service marking the Maccabees' triumph over the Greeks and their rededication of the Temple. The service will also be livestreamed at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom and [YouTube](#).

Please RSVP for dinner by Monday, December 4 to the Temple office. The menu includes kosher beef hot dogs, veggie burgers, green salad, latkes, applesauce, and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts). There is no charge for dinner, but monetary donations are appreciated. Thank you to Denny Reynolds and the Retired Old Men Eating Out for providing the meal. [What is Hannukah?](#)

Our Board of Directors and staff are thankful for our amazing community! Happy Thanksgiving!



We will be closed on Thursday, November 23



International Jewish Genealogy Conference Comes To Fort Wayne

Last March, the world found out that the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society was awarded the 45th International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies' International Conference on Jewish Genealogy that runs from August 10 to August 14, 2025, when a link under "Future IAJGS Conferences" appeared on the IAJGS website. Besides our enthusiastic pursuit of the conference, a very big reason that the NEIJGS and the city of Fort Wayne were awarded the conference was because of the Allen County Public Library's world-renown genealogy center.

Shortly thereafter, the NEIJGS designated Irv Adler as the local JGS conference chair. Irv was the immediate past president of the NEIJGS and with Betsy Gephart, the current President, and Board member Curt Witcher, were the founding members of the NEIJGS. Earlier this summer the IAJGS designated Judi Missel and Hadassah Lipsius as the IAJGS co-chairs for the 2025 conference. Judi and Hadassah provide IAJGS oversight for the conference. Both are very knowledgeable Jewish genealogists who have had considerable experience and involvement in previous IAJGS conferences.

How many people think of Fort Wayne as the Jewish hub of the Midwest? Probably no one! As it turns out, there are about 1 million Jews living within a 500-mile driving distance from Fort Wayne. No shortage of Jews! The challenge will be to reach out to them and convince them to spend 4 days in our wonderful city for a Jewish genealogy conference.

We have already started the effort to put Fort Wayne on the Jewish genealogy map. The first step in the marketing of Fort Wayne was

to develop a brand for the conference as symbolized by an eye-catching, unique and meaningful conference logo. Working with local graphic artist, Amy Keller, who did the graphic art for the Fort Wayne Jewish History story board that adorns the walls of the Madge Rothschild Resource center at Congregation Achduth Vesholom, we now have the conference logo, center.

As a result of the efforts of Judi and Hadassah, NEIJGS was given a table in the exhibition center at the 43rd IAJGS Jewish Genealogy Conference held from July 30 to August 3, 2023, in London, England.

CAV and NEIJGS members Pam and Ron Friedman and Irv Adler, were joined by Indianapolis NEIJGS member Jody Tzucker. They all took turns staffing our table, where they had the opportunity to introduce conference attendees to the NEIJGS, to Fort Wayne and to the Fort Wayne Jewish community.

As we continue the march toward our conference start date of August 10, 2025, there will be a lot to do: the marketing of Fort Wayne as a site for a Jewish genealogy conference; facilitating transportation to Fort Wayne, especially for the international attendees; fund-raising efforts; making Kashrut available to the attendees that desire it; marshaling a solid base of volunteers to make the conference work smoothly.

The support of Jewish communities, in Fort Wayne and elsewhere, will be integral to making the 45th International Jewish Genealogy Conference a success. For more information about the conference, contact Irv at conf25@NEIndianaJGS.org.



45TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
JEWISH GENEALOGY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | AUGUST 10-14, 2025
And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey



Don't forget to turn back your clocks!

Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 7



WE ARE HERE TO HELP



We are very fortunate to have a social worker who is able and willing to assist any member of the Fort Wayne Jewish community in need of services.

She works for us as a volunteer, on an as-needed basis.

If you become aware of someone in the Jewish community who may need assistance at some point, please let us know. Obviously, this would be kept in the strictest of confidence. Contact us at (260) 456 - 0400 or office@fwj.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 [Federation 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.



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 [CARS](#) and their trained staff will guide you through the donation process.



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.

We are here to help!



Wellspring provides essential necessities of clothing, food, and personal hygiene items. In addition, Wellspring offers after school and summer programs for youth, as well as programming for older and disabled adults. Call today at 260-422-6618 or visit our website www.wellspringinterfaith.org to learn more. All services are free of charge and no referral or voucher is needed. We are here to serve all who need our help.

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**
- **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 three-week 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

General Operations

- A donation was received from an **anonymous** donor and **Doris Gottlieb**
- A donation was received from an **anonymous** donor in honor of **Rev. Bill McGill** for his leadership in championing civil rights in Fort Wayne, especially anti-racism but including anti-Semitism and in honor of **Lisa & Chuck Surack** for contributing to over 600 programs, primarily arts & music, and for their Surack Family Foundation
- A donation was received from **Linda & Larry Lee** in honor of **Irene & Bob Walter's** 60th wedding anniversary
- A donation was received from **Larry Lee** in honor of

Ron Friedman's Goldie DuBow award and his distinguished leadership as Dean of Sciences at Purdue Fort Wayne

JNF - Plant a tree in Israel

- A donation was received from an **anonymous** donor

PJ Library

- A donation was received from **Susie Miller** in honor of **Doris Gottlieb's** Bat Mitzvah

Swords of Iron - Israel Crisis 2023 Fund

- Donations were received from **Rabbi Bargerion & Jon Tam, Cheri Buker, Sandy Kelly, Cassy & Kelly Moll, Rebecca Painter, SSG R Potts, Marcia & Denny Reynolds, Janice & Michael Sasser and Juan Suarez**

Online Donations Accepted!

The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) now accepts [online donations](#). 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)

November 2 – CASA Ristorante
7545 W. Jefferson Boulevard

November 16 – Bangkok Bistro
3009 E. State Boulevard

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

2023 - 2024 Board of Directors

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President: Scott Salon
Vice President: Bob Walters
Secretary: Bonnie Pomerantz
Treasurer: Lee Pomerantz
Executive Director: Jaki Schreier

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Ron Friedman
Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Mike Rush
Ellen Tom
Mimi Zelman
Leah Zimmerman

Rabbi Meir Barger

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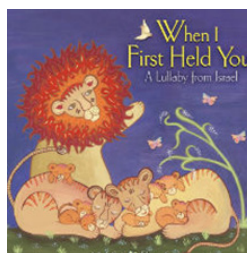
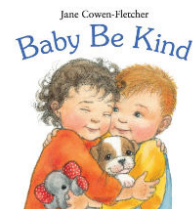
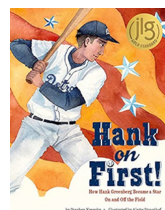
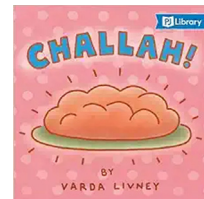
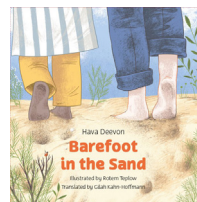
(260) 456-0400 phone
(260) 456-0500 fax
www.fwjf.org

Bonnie Pomerantz
Office Manager
office@fwjf.org



Which books did you receive this month?

A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. Families with kids ages 6 months through 8 years old with Judaism as part of their lives are welcome to sign up.



PJ Our Way is for kids ages 9-11. It is kid-driven - they choose their own books, creating a totally tailored experience based on their own interests and reading level. To make the choice easier, our website includes summaries and author bios, along with ratings, reviews, and video trailers created by members themselves. Kids can also take polls and quizzes, participate in monthly interviews and challenges, post their own reviews, and comment on blog posts.

