



# chailights



DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024



Please join us for an update on Israel's civic response to the atrocities of October 7th and the war with Hamas from [Rabbi Naamah Kelman](#), the most recent past dean of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Jerusalem campus, on Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m. on Zoom.

The program is sponsored by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) and [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#). Please contact the Temple at [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) for online access information.

Rabbi Kelman is a descendent of 10 generations of rabbis, becoming the first woman to be ordained by HUC-JIR/Jerusalem in 1992. Born and raised in New York, she has lived in Israel since 1976, where she has worked in community organizing and Jewish education. Rabbi Kelman has been intensely involved in the emerging education system of the [Israel Movement for Progressive \(Reform\) Judaism](#).

## One Night Only!



The invitations have been sent. Our Rosh Chodesh group is excited to bring you 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. Ben Eisbart will lead a discussion after the movie while we munch on 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.*



This event is free but seating is limited. To reserve your seat, contact the office at [office@fwjf.org](mailto: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.

**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

### THIS HIT ME...



We at the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne send our sincerest wishes out to each of you during this particularly challenging time.

While perusing the internet a few days ago (something I'm way too guilty of doing now), I came upon a lovely poem written by Nikki Banas. I liked it so much I wrote it out in the Gratitude Journal that I keep. It's about the importance of Kindness.

*"You never really know the true impact you have on those around you.  
You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them.  
You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around.  
You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk."*

This poem reminds me that everyone has challenges, many that are hidden from sight. When we are compassionate, we are recognizing our shared human condition. So, don't wait to be kind and don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone else to change. Just be kind, because we all need acts of generosity and caring.

The ancient Greek storyteller, Aesop, once said, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." While we don't have control over another person, we do have control over ourselves. We can't make anyone else be kind, but that doesn't have to stop us from aspiring to be kind, no matter what. Being kind can also strengthen our relationships and sense of satisfaction in life. Research also links kindness to a wealth of physical and emotional benefits. Research finds that kindness can be the secret to a successful and fulfilling life. It's really that simple.

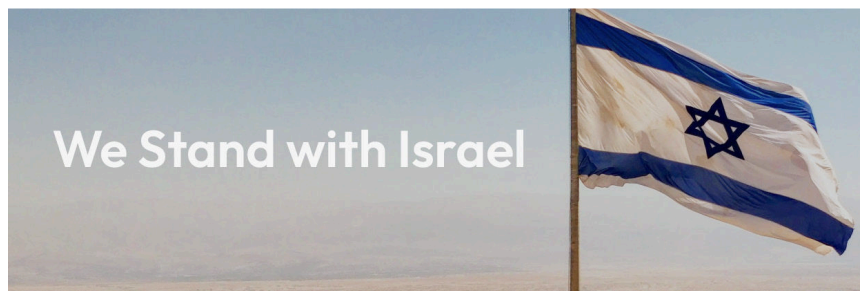
Our actions have a bigger impact than we might realize, so be kind to our loved ones, those we pass on the street, in our congregations, clerks in grocery stores, those who we may differ with politically, and whomever we come into contact with. Just be kind!

Everyone is affected by an act of kindness, it is contagious; kindness improves our quality of life at home, at work and in our communities. It brings us together. Doing something good for others just feels good. We may all remember our parents reminding us to think before we speak and to ask ourselves, "Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?"

We've all heard the quote, "People may not remember what you said, or what you did, but they will always remember how you made them feel." Why not leave them with something positive?

Finally, remember to laugh throughout the day. Spreading joy is its own act of kindness!

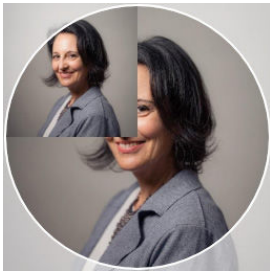
We wish you a lovely Hanukkah and a safe 2024! May the war in Israel come to an end soon.



### WE STAND WITH ISRAEL: HAVDALAH, SOLIDARITY AND FUNDRAISING

#### Tears, Hope, and Strength

Please join the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and Congregation Achduth Vesholom for a special evening of Havdalah, Solidarity, and Fundraising as we stand with the people of Israel. The Jewish community is invited on Saturday, December 16 at 7 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus. Invitations and RSVP information will be coming soon.



## Amalia Ran, Regional Director to the Midwest The Jewish Agency for Israel

Simchat Torah, Shabbat morning, 6:30 am (Israel time), October 7, 2023. The day our world shuttered. While Israelis in the kibbutzim and towns near the Gaza border were slowly rising, terror organizations, lead by Hamas in Gaza, launched a brutal attack on Israel on multiple fronts. Thousands of rockets were fired into cities all over the country, while hundreds of terrorists from Gaza infiltrated towns in the south of Israel and massacred indiscriminately innocent civilians. More than three weeks after this horrific day, the magnitude of the atrocities committed is still unimaginable and unprecedented - 1,400 Israelis are confirmed dead, more than 5,400 have been injured, and 240 are held as hostages in Gaza, among them 30 children, the youngest only 9-months old, elderly and Holocaust survivors, injured and disabled civilians. A special state of emergency was declared and an extensive mobilization of IDF reserves was called up, officially launching "Iron Swords."

The horrific news from the Gaza border and the images of barbaric terror attacks in the Kibbutzim and towns revealed a sight which we never imagined we would witness in Israel. Among the first responders on the ground during that Black Saturday was The Jewish Agency for Israel. We established a dedicated control center and mobilized our Fund for Victims of Terror to provide a first and immediate response. The Fund provided immediate grants for families and individuals who have been injured or hospitalized, and to bereaved families. On that Shabbat, the Fund's team reached out to families who were directly impacted, identifying them through local authorities based on our organized, coordinated efforts, alongside inquiries that came to us directly from the field. A call center for the public to handle inquiries was opened as well. One of our main challenges was to reach families outside of the southern authorities, especially those who lost loved ones at the Re'im party.

The reaching out to bereaved families is complex and extensive, and it is taking place on a scale that we have never experienced before, and our FVOT team is there to listen, embrace, and support alongside providing financial assistance. So far, 3,573 families have received assistance from the FOVT. In total, we have been in touch with around 4,700 families, whom we are assisting with getting the immediate support of the fund. Additionally, a new fund for emergency aid for small business in the south, Support Business IL, provides emergency grants for business affected by the war in southern Israel.

At the same time, we are also committed to the safety and resilience of those under our care: Olim (new immigrants) and lone soldiers, Amigour residents, Maza participants, pre-army academies, Youth Futures families, Youth villages and partnerships. Amigour is a subsidiary company of The Jewish Agency for Israel that provides subsidized housing for 7,000 Holocaust survivors, new immigrants, and low-income seniors in 56 homes throughout Israel. There, they receive a wide range of social services and community activities. Of all our residents across Israel, some 5,000 live in southern and central Israel, the regions hardest-hit right now by Hamas' rockets. Residents of Amigour are lucky enough to live in sheltered housing units which makes it possible for them to remain in their homes during rocket attacks from Gaza. However, many of them are elderly and would not be able to safely run for shelter in the event that there is a siren. Our Amigour staff provides all of the basic necessities directly to its residents such as food packages and other social services to make sure that they are attended during these difficult times.

With the aftermaths of October 7, we also had to evacuate new Olim from our absorption centers in the southern and northern regions to safer locations in the country. These immigrants, predominantly from Ethiopia, Russia, and Ukraine, have all escaped hardships in hopes for a better life in Israel. As The Jewish Agency absorption centers offer a supportive environment to assist immigrants in their integration process into Israeli society, this vulnerable population relies on the safety of their new home. However, the current war in Israel has intensified their challenges, with security threats constantly looming overhead. The distress and fear experienced by these olim, as they rush to seek shelter from incoming rockets, have taken a toll on their mental well-being. Our teams are working to provide the Olim with emotional, educational and psychological support, as well as to guarantee their personal safety.

While all eyes focus on Israel and our emergency campaign, our delegation in North America also suffers from the aftermaths of the atrocities. Many of our shlichim were affected by the events of October 7, some suffered personal losses in their immediate families and circle of friends, and some recruited for reserve duty. While we emphasize the importance of their work and service particularly during dire times, we are also responsible for their emotional, mental and psychological health. The dramatic increase in reported antisemitic attacks across the world, including unprecedented anti-Israel rallies with pro-terror rhetoric on campuses, require a daily contact with shlichim and partners to provide emotional, physical, and educational support.

We could not accomplish all of this without the massive support and ongoing solidarity from federations, communities and partners all over the world. In my closing remarks for my original article intended to be published on Sukkot, I wrote: "It is no secret that Israel is experiencing a contentious moment while social unrest and political debate loom over our wish to keep the notion of peoplehood, connectiveness and unity." Little did we know what the morning of October 7 would bring to our thresholds. Now more than ever, I pray to remind us to keep our ears and hearts open, to stay connected, to share our unity as one people, to show our love and support for Israel. I hope for the strength to overcome this tragedy and the knowledge to do so as we always did throughout generations. *Am Israel Chai.*



## 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





What are we talking about this month:

## A LITTLE BIT OF LIGHT...

By **ARI HART**

Associate Rabbi, Hebrew Institute of Riverdale

My son is afraid of the dark.

I don't blame him.

Darkness, in addition to making us vulnerable and confused, is paralyzing.

We have no shortage of darkness in our world today. Suffering. Conflict. Injustice. The headlines, images, and videos flood our consciousnesses. Though statistics show that globally, these forms of suffering are less prevalent than they have ever been, in our interconnected world we see, hear, and feel them more than ever. Events halfway across the world unfold in our living rooms and on our cell phones.

Yet as close as they feel, they are also so distant. The problems feel so big and complex. Solutions, and our role in them, can often feel so far away. This reality, of both closeness and distance to very real pain and trauma in the world, can leave even the most well intentioned person feeling overwhelmed and afraid. Worse, it can leave us feeling disempowered—like there is nothing we can do to improve our world. Paralyzed.

Not so, says the Jewish tradition.

In the winter time, the darkest time of the year, we light lights, growing in number until we reach eight, the number of possibility, of breaking out of what seems possible, breaking out of what is “natural” and what should be, into the realm where the weak overcome the mighty, where the unimaginable happens, where good triumphs over evil. The realm of the good that no one thought could happen, the realm of miracles.

**All it takes is a little light.**

Darkness can feel all consuming, infinite. Yet the littlest light can chase so much darkness away.

Each of us has light inside of us that can chase away some darkness. Each of us can change the world.

The great sage Maimonides in the *Mishne Torah* teaches us to picture the world as a balance, teetering on the edge between good and evil. Through each deed we do, we tilt it towards either direction. Sometimes we do this in ways that we can know—feeding the hungry or visiting a sick person. Sometimes it happens in ways we will never know—educating a grandchild who will change her world or planting a tree that won't yield fruits for 70 years.

**Darkness and light fill the world. Each of us can add or subtract to the light every day, through every interaction with another person, with the environment around us, with our selves. The question is not whether or not we can change the world—we are whether we like it or not. The question is not if, but how. How will we change the world?**

**What seeds will we plant? What lights will we light?**

**RABBI ARI HART** is the Associate Rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. He studied at Yeshivat Hakotel, the Pardes Kollel, and is a graduate of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. Rav Ari is also a founder of Uri L'Tzedek, an inaugural member of the Schusterman Fellowship, and was named by the Jewish Week as one of the “36 under 36 young Jewish changing the face of the Jewish community.”

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jakischreier@fwjf.org) or (260) 456.0400.



*Our wish for you,  
may peace, love  
and joy come to  
you during the Festival of Lights.*

*Jewish Federation  
of Fort Wayne  
Board of Directors  
and staff*

HAPPY  
*New Year*

The **Board of Directors** and the **staff** of  
the **Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne**  
wish you all a happy healthy 2024!

Please note that our office will be closed  
on Monday, December 18 - January 1,  
and Monday, January 15.

### Looking for Hanukkah Items or Kosher Goods in Fort Wayne?

Shop at **Trader Joe's** in Jefferson Pointe (4110 W. Jefferson Boulevard, Suite D-2) for a wide range of kitchen and pantry basics for your holidays and day-to-day needs. **Kosher products include meat, wine, snacks, cheeses, cookies, candies, breads, and other grocery items.**

**Shopping for Hanukkah?** Trader Joe's offers a wide selection of kosher meats (including beef brisket), wine, gelt chocolate coins, frozen potato latkes, frozen cauliflower latkes, latke accompaniments (apple sauce and sour cream), pantry staples, and Hanukkah themed greeting and gift cards to help celebrate the festival of lights!

Additional information is available via Trader Joe's website, (<https://www.traderjoes.com/home/search?q=kosher>) or by calling the store at (260) 432-5828.

### 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](tel:260-432-5828)

[www.traderjoes.com](http://www.traderjoes.com)



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

[260 -459-9691](tel:260-459-9691)

[www.thefreshmarket.com](http://www.thefreshmarket.com)



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

[260-489-8686](tel:260-489-8686)

[lovingcafevw.com](http://lovingcafevw.com)



[2021 Broadway, Fort Wayne IN](#)

[260-420-5565](tel:260-420-5565)

[georgesinternationalmarket.com](http://georgesinternationalmarket.com)



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

[\(260\) 424-8812](tel:260-424-8812)

[www.3riversfood.coop](http://www.3riversfood.coop)





### SHARE LATKES, LIGHTS AND FAMILY FUN FOR HANUKKAH

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with our Temple community 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 during a festive evening in the Social Hall for all ages.

Join us for candle lighting and dinner at 6 p.m. hosted by the ROMEOs, including delicious latkes and applesauce, along with a signature cocktail created by Micah Soltz. Our Holiday Celebrations team has lots of fun activities planned – dreidel and Hanukkah games, a photo booth, holiday music, and more.

Then at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Meir will lead a brief Hanukkah and Shabbat service marking the Maccabees' triumph over the Greeks and their rededication of the Temple. The service will not be livestreamed.

Support our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary mitzvah project by bringing donations to include in hygiene totes for foster kids through a project with Fostering Hope for Children. [Find more information and the shopping list](#)

Please RSVP for dinner by Monday, December 4 to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org). 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 and our Holiday Celebrations team, including Chair Stephanie Gottesman, Kate Crell, Celeste Sexton, Deborah Bauer, and James Holstein.

### EXHIBIT ILLUMINATES JEWISH HISTORY AND ART AT FWMoA

A new exhibit 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 opened on November 11, 2023 and continues 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.

### THOUGHTS OF CAMP AND SUMMER AT GUCI SHABBAT

Brighten up a winter evening with warm thoughts of [Goldman Union Camp Institute](#) on Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. during our GUCI-style Shabbat service at the Temple.

Rabbi Meir Bargerion will lead the service with Senior Assistant Camp Director Jillian Hastings and song leader Raya Aberbach, who will share stories and music from our regional Union for Reform Judaism camp in Zionsville.

Please join us in person or on Zoom or [YouTube](#). An Oneg Shabbat follows hosted by Nola & Matthew Katinsky.

### 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 Bargerion 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.

Special services this month include Friday, December 1 when we have a GUCI-Style Camp Shabbat with Senior Assistant Camp Director Jillian Hastings and song leader Raya Aberbach from Goldman Union Camp Institute; December 8 for a Hanukkah dinner at 6 p.m. (RSVP needed) and service (this will not be livestreamed); and December 29 when we share a toast at Champagne Shabbat.

We will not have Shabbat services on December 22-23.

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](mailto:office@templecav.org) for links to access services on Zoom.





## CRYPTO-JEWS AND CONVERSOS



Schelly Talalay Dardashti



Maria Apodaca

The Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is excited to welcome Schelly Talalay Dardashti and Maria Apodaca both representing the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies. This free virtual program will take place on Sunday, February 18, 2024, beginning at 2:00pm.

- 2:00 pm: "The New World: Migration, DNA, and Genetics," Schelly looks at events in Spain and Portugal which contributed to the New World migration of conversos/bnai anusim, supported by DNA and genetic evidence.
- 3:30 pm: "And it Only Took 500 Years" Maria will share her family's story whose beginning stems from 1598 in New Mexico when Captain Juan de Onate brought the first colonists to what was then New Spain. Her family had previously been forced to convert to Catholicism and, as her family's historian, Maria became interested in DNA.

Schelly Talalay Dardashti, a journalist and a genealogist, who has lived in Teheran, Tel Aviv, Miami, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas, is a New Mexican by choice. She is the US Genealogy Advisor for MyHeritage, and has traced her Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrahi families across Iran, Spain, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine for decades. An early proponent of DNA for genealogy, she co-admins several DNA projects at FamilyTreeDNA. The former Jerusalem Post genealogy columnist ("It's All Relative," 1999-2005), she created the award-winning "Tracing the Tribe - The Jewish Genealogy Blog," and "Tracing the Tribe - Jewish Genealogy on Facebook."

Maria Apodaca presents her family's history and traditions along with her own personal journey. Her paternal Y-DNA is J2-M172 with the Cohen Modal Signature, and her research goes back to Diego Blandin Gonzales (b.1558 Coimbra, Portugal; d.1598 Nueva Espana).

As the first returnee in her family, she is active in Jewish community life. She is a founding member, Centro Sefarad New Mexico; board member, Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies; steering committee member, JGS of New Mexico; speaker, Road Scholar speaker on New Mexico's conversos and crypto-Jews; and has presented at numerous conferences.

Registration is required to attend this free virtual program. The link can be found at the NEIJGS website at [www.NEIndianaJGS.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.NEIndianaJGS.org/upcoming-events/).

Thank you to the Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Louis and Anne B. Schneider Foundation, and the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center for their continued support of NEIJGS programming.

Additional information about the NEIJGS can be found on our website at [www.NEIndianaJGS.org](http://www.NEIndianaJGS.org), or our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/NEIndianaJGS/>. Please contact Pamela Friedman at [vp@NEIndianaJGS.org](mailto:vp@NEIndianaJGS.org) for more information.

## CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY - SEASONS CHANGE, BUT YOUR LEGACY IS ETERNAL



Jewish tradition teaches that one of our main responsibilities is to make the world a better place for future generations.

Federation's role is to secure the future of the Jewish community at home, abroad, and in Israel.

Working with local, national and international partners, we help Jews around the world live a Jewish life, and ensure that no Jew is left behind.

You can create a lasting legacy with the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](http://www.JewishFederation.org) to benefit your children, grandchildren, and future generations, while supporting the causes you care about. Using a current or deferred endowment gift, you can become part of Federation's Legacy Society.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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**  
**JNF - Plant a tree in Israel**
- A donation was received from an **anonymous donor**  
**Swords of Iron - Israel Crisis 2023 Fund**
- Donations were received from **anonymous donors, Fran & Irv Adler, Patricia & John Alexander, Peggy & Marty Bender, Nancy & Mike Dicker, Douglass Construction Co., Robert Elliott, Jr., Pamela & Ron Friedman, Cathy Green, Ronnie &**



**Norm Greenberg, Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder, Shai Hadashi, Franck Hagendorf, Dorothy & Franklin Heath, Dora & Leonid Itkin, Micki & Sherwin Kepes, Joanne & Elliott McCrory, Harriet Miller & Monica Wehrle, Maye & Mo Ralston, Chris & Paul Riley, Jo Ellen & Mike Rush, Kay Safirstein, Abe Schreier, Brooklyn Schreier, Jaki & Eric Schreier, Mallory Schreier, Greg Shoup, Juan Suarez, Thursday Mah Jongg Group, Theresa & Scott Trauner, Deb & Joel Vilensky, Judy & Steve Zacher, Mimi & Don Zelman, Beth & Dan Zweig**

## 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)

**December 7 – Club Room at The Clyde**  
1806 Bluffton Road

**December 21 – Joanna's Family Restaurant**  
10368 Leo Road

**January 4 – Mad Anthony Brewing Co.**  
1109 Taylor Street

**January 18 – China Palace**  
5810 Bluffton Road

Anyone interested in joining the ROMEOS for lunch can  
contact Denny Reynolds at 260-637-0507  
or [dennisreynolds@me.com](mailto:dennisreynolds@me.com)

**2023 - 2024 Board of Directors**

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Vice President: Bob Walters  
Secretary: Bonnie Pomerantz  
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Jeff Griggs  
Bookkeeper  
[bookkeeper@fwjf.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fwjf.org)

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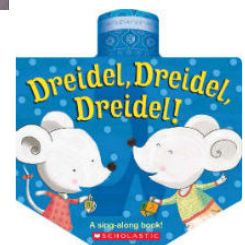
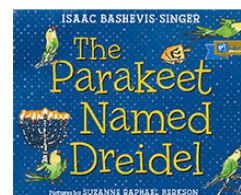
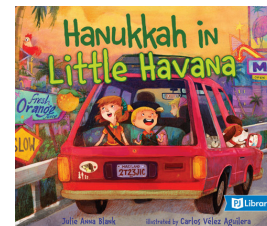
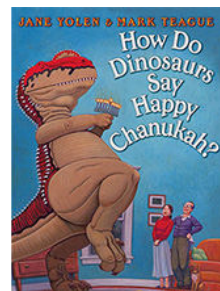
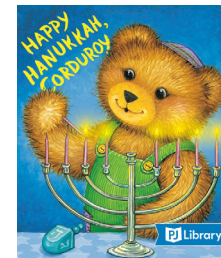
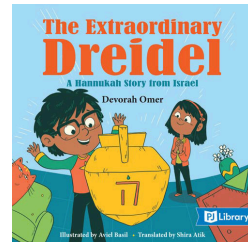
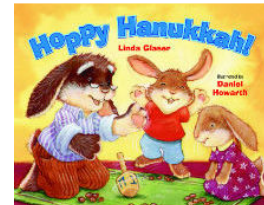
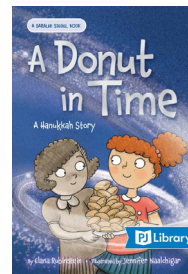
[Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](http://Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne)  
5200 Old Mill Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

(260) 456-0400 phone  
(260) 456-0500 fax  
[www.fwjf.org](http://www.fwjf.org)



**Which books did you receive this month?**

A program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](http://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](http://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.

