



chailights

FEBRUARY 2024



Thank you!



What a wonderful turnout we had for “Golda” on December 6, 2023! Thank you to Rosh Chodesh Chair, **Leah Zimmerman** along with her committee (**Mimi Zelman, Jaki Schreier and Bonnie Pomerantz**) for organizing the evening. **Ben Eisbart** was a wonderful moderator for our Q & A session. We are grateful to the [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Grief Center](#) for providing us with such a lovely space. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continuous support of Federation events.



We Stand with Israel



A very special thank you to the “Stand with Israel” Cabinet who spearheaded the December 16, 2023 fundraising event - Rabbi Barger, Ben Eisbart, Ronnie Greenberg, Amy Krouse, Bonnie Pomerantz, Danny Rifkin, Scott Salon, Jaki Schreier, Samara Sheray, Ellen Tom, Bob Walters and Beth Zweig. Thank you to Lee Pomerantz for always being ready to help with the technical issues. Many thanks to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its 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



"On the morning of October 7, 2023, which was both Shabbat and Simchat Torah, the world awakened to the Hamas attacks on Israel - the wanton murder of Israelis and the taking of hostages. In terms of the sheer loss of life and the ensuing trauma, it was the worst day in Jewish History since the end of the Shoah. This tragedy has come to be known as 'black Sabbath.'" Author Jeffrey Salkin

On that tragic October day, Hamas violated a long-standing ceasefire agreement with Israel. Three thousand Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel and murdered over 1200 innocent Israelis, along with 31 Americans. Two hundred and forty human beings were taken hostage, from infants to seniors, several who were Holocaust survivors. Hamas still holds over 100 hostages. This heinous attack is illegal under every international law of war. Hamas has clearly stated that their intent is to destroy Israel by the elimination of the Jews.

We mourn all who have lost their lives in both Israel and Gaza and hold Hamas responsible for each of these deaths. Hamas could end the war by giving up the remaining hostages and their commitment to the annihilation of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

Hamas rules Gaza and is ultimately responsible for the Palestinians who live there. Hamas uses their own citizens as human shields while the terrorists hide in over 300 miles of tunnels they built underneath the cities of Gaza using funds intended to benefit the people of Gaza.

The Jewish Federations of North America has collectively raised over \$800 million dollars to assist with the many humanitarian needs of the Israeli people. (Please subscribe to the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne updates). The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and Congregation Achduth Vesholom hosted a Swords of Iron rally on December 16, 2023. Collectively, our community has raised almost \$300,000 of which 100% is directed to aid those in need.

Let us stand up for Israel, with all her imperfections, as this may be the only way to change the terrorist trajectory towards the State and people we care about

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

The Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council and the Indiana Jewish community came together to pass the House Bill 1002 (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance - Working Definition of antisemitism) by making phone calls and submitting letters to Indiana Legislators and State Senators. We believe that defining what antisemitism is, is critical to fighting antisemitism. In 2016, a consortium of 31 countries, including the United States, developed and formally adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism. At present, 34 states, the U.S. Department of State, 45 countries, over 1200 institutions around the world, and nearly 50 Jewish organizations and institutions in Indiana have endorsed the definition. Thus, adopting the IHRA will allow Indiana to be aligned with the standard across the country.

This bill was necessary for many reasons, including the nearly 400% increase in antisemitism encounters in the months following the October 7th attack on Israel, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). These increases include students on college campuses and K-12 classrooms that are being targeted with a shocking frequency. Sadly, many administrators and professors are turning a blind eye to antisemitism.

We do believe that fighting antisemitism, like fighting all forms of hate, should not and is not a political or partisan issue. This definition is an educational tool to assist authorities, educators, and administrators who are responsible for identifying and combating antisemitism, including monitors and data collectors of antisemitic crimes and rhetoric. This working definition will also be helpful to understand the differences between antisemitic speech and criticism of Israel. This definition does not preclude criticism of Israel similar to that of any other country. HB 1002 adds the definition to the education code, not the criminal code.

We applaud those who put forth the effort to get HB 1002 passed.

GUEST COLUMN - STEVEN GREENBERG *

When You Support Hamas, You're Not Supporting Palestinians



Since Hamas began the war in Gaza on October 7, there's been a tremendous outpouring of support in the US for the Palestinian cause and for Hamas specifically. On its face, the Gaza war has all the elements of a good-versus-evil movie: big superpowers with big weapons and far, far too much civilian death.

It's easy to side with the little guy. It feels righteous. The question is, what exactly are you siding with? And does what you support actually help the Palestinian cause?

I've lived in the Middle East for over three decades. For the future of my children, I truly think that Israel needs to allow our Palestinian neighbors to live as they choose – as long as they don't threaten us. I've seen the Occupation up close and personal, and I despise it. I sincerely want the people of Gaza and the West Bank to become self-reliant and productive members of the international community. And I've done my small part through work with various organizations to help make this happen. To many Israelis, that makes me pro-Palestinian. So be it.

The question is: are YOU pro-Palestinian? When you like posts on social media that accuse Israel of being a Nazi state, when you demonstrate dressed as Hamas terrorists, when you send money to Hamas, when you block traffic chanting "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" - does that make you a supporter of a brighter future for Palestinians? What exactly are you supporting?

The fact is that the war in Gaza is against Hamas – a brutal Islamic terror organization just like ISIS, which your tax dollars helped stamp out across Syria and Iraq - not against the Palestinian people. And the Hamas, sadly, does not serve Palestinian interests.

Over the course of almost two decades from the time it seized power in Gaza, Hamas did not serve Palestinian interests because it created no new industries. It built little critical infrastructure. It did not measurably further public health or encourage higher education so as to offer the people of Gaza a better future. What it did do is

divert hundreds of millions of international aid dollars into terror infrastructure – massive, reinforced tunnels to protect its terrorists (but not civilians) and thousands of rockets to fire indiscriminately into crowded Israeli cities.

How does this help Palestinians?

Today, Hamas does not serve Palestinian interests because it takes no steps to alleviate the suffering of the population in Gaza during the fighting. Quite the opposite. The United States has documented many instances of Hamas fighters literally hiding behind civilians or preventing them from fleeing areas where there is active fighting. The UN has documented armed Hamas terrorists stealing international aid trucks – literally shooting people trying to get food, hoarding it for military use rather than distributing it to the populace.

How does this help Palestinians?

But mostly, Hamas does not serve Palestinian interests because it brutalized, raped, murdered and obscenely defiled the bodies of some 1200 children, women, senior citizens and men (many not even Israeli Jews) in the unprovoked attacks of October 7 – the largest terror attack since 9/11.

How does this help Palestinians? Is this what you support?

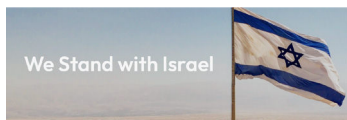
I don't expect every American to be a flag-waving Zionist. But if you want to support the Palestinian cause, demonstrate for and donate to organizations that build for the future of Palestinians. Support groups that encourage coexistence, that facilitate cooperation, that call for moderation and that educate for peace, not hatred. Watch out for faux pro-Palestinian causes like the recently-launched Tech for Palestine. Behind their rhetoric, these initiatives offer anti-Israel gimmicks at best, and conduits to fund terror at worst.

Supporting the elimination of Hamas-ISIS in Gaza is supporting the elimination of evil. Eliminating evil can carry a terrible price – but so can supporting it. Where do you stand?

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* the opinions expressed in this article, printed in The Journal Gazette on January 11, 2024, are the author's

Steven Greenberg was raised in Fort Wayne and is the son of Temple members Ronnie & Norm Greenberg



We are grateful for your generous support of Israel through the Swords of Iron Campaign, sponsored locally by the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and Congregation Achduth Vesholom! Thank you!

Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
Congregation Achduth Vesholom
Carol & Larry Adelman
Fran & Irv Adler
Patricia & John Alexander
Anonymous (6)
Annie & Dan Appel
Rabbi Meir Bargerone & Jon Tam
Peggy & Marty Bender
Elise & Edward Berghoff
Terry Bonbrake
Cheri Buker
Susan & Alan Cooperman
Nancy & Michael Dicker
Douglass Construction Co.
Sharon & Ben Eisbart
Robert B. Elliott Jr.
Pam & Ken Feldman
Janet Finkel
Pamela & Ron Friedman
Cathy Green
Ronnie & Norm Greenberg

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Franck Hagendorf
Dorothy & Franklin Heath
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Dora & Leonid Itkin
Sandy Kelly
Micki & Sherwin Kepes
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Jere Leib
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Joanne & Elliott McCrory
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Cassy & Kelly Moll
Rebecca Painter
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Maye & Mo Ralston
Marcia & Denny Reynolds
Rifkin Family Foundation
Enid & Stanley Rosenblatt
Christine & Paul Riley
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Janice & Michael Sasser
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Abe Schreier
Brooklyn Schreier
Jaki & Eric Schreier
Mallory Schreier
Charla Sheray
Ashley Shively
Greg Shoup
Juan Suarez
Thursday Mah Jongg Group
Donna & Josh Tourkow
Therese & Scott Trauner
Deb & Joel Vilensky
Irene & Robert Walters
Cindi & Richard Wismer
Al Zacher
Judy & Steve Zacher
Mimi & Don Zelman
Beth & Dan Zweig

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.

SlidingDors

Sunday, February 4

11 am EST | 18:00 IL | 17:00 HUN

In Preparing for our upcoming seminar in Budapest:

Dr. Janos Zolnay

will talk about

**"Antisemitism and Democracy
in Hungary Today."**



Dr. Janos Zolnay

Sociologist, political scientist and
Professor at ELTE University and
ORZSE, Jewish University at the
Sociology Faculty
in Budapest.

[RSVP Here](#)



FILM CLUB

Join us for discussion with the director Maya Sarfaty about her movie

"LOVE IT WAS NOT"

THE IMPOSSIBLE AND TRAGIC LOVE STORY
BETWEEN HELENA CITRON, A YOUNG JEWISH
PRISONER IN AUSCHWITZ, AND THE AUSTRIAN SS
OFFICER FRANZ WUNSCH.

Sunday, February 11
1pm EDT | 8pm IL | 7pm HUN



LINK TO WATCH THE MOVIE
WILL BE SENT TO PEOPLE
WHO HAVE REGISTERED A
WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT.

[RSVP Here](#)

What are we talking about this month:

What is a Mensch?



What is a mensch? The word means “person” in [Yiddish](#), the language once dominant among Jews in central and Eastern Europe. Yiddish words such as *schlep* (to drag or carry), *chutzpah* (audacity), and *kvell* (to burst with pride) have entered English dictionaries. So has *mensch*, which has come to mean a “good person” — someone honest and upstanding.

What does it take to be a mensch? Being a good listener, a kind friend, and someone who loves to fulfill a [mitzvah](#) or two, all make someone a mensch. To learn more, and to encourage all of the members of your family to be a bit more “menschy,” check out the following activities, discussion questions, and story books.

Talk it over

When have you been kind to others?
When have others been kind to you?
What does it mean to be a good friend?

Practice good manners

Sometimes children (and, okay, grown-ups too) need a little reminding, but every day is a new day to be *menschen* (plural of mensch) — in other words, our best selves. One easy way to do this? Have good manners! Good manners help pave the way for a functional society, one where we look out for basic ethics underlie all philosophical and religious teachings.

Be Mitzvah Ready

A mensch is always ready to do a [mitzvah](#). Not sure where to get started? Check out PJ Library’s handy “[Mitzvah-a-Day](#)” chart.

The Bagel King

written by Andrew Larsen and illustrated by Sandy Nichols
Every Sunday, Eli’s zaida picks up bagels at Merv’s Bakery for his friends. But when Zaida hurts his tuches, he can’t make the trip to Merv’s. Will he and his friends still have Sunday bagels?



The Cholent Brigade

written by Michael Herman and illustrated by Sharon Harmer



Monty Nudelman is a neighborhood mensch -- every time it snows, he’s out there shoveling the walks for all his neighbors. But one day, his back gives out! What do you think his neighbors do?

Estie the Mensch

written by Jane Kohuth and illustrated by Rosanne Litzinger



Estie does not always know how to be around other people and sometimes when her grandmother reminds her to be a mensch, she’d rather not. She’d prefer to be a turtle or a seagull. Eventually, something happens that shows her grandmother and Estie herself what a mensch the girl can really be.

How to be a Mensch by A. Monster

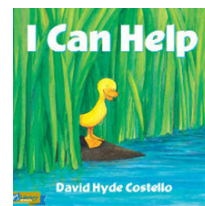
written by Leslie Kimmelman and illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa



Do you have three heads? Or green skin? No matter who you are or what you look like, you too can be a mensch! Good deeds can be enjoyed by all, even a monster.

I Can Help

written and illustrated by David Hyde Costello



When this little duck gets lost, he needs help getting home where he belongs. Luckily, lots and lots of animals are available to help -- just the way a community should be!

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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.



Let's sweeten things up!

Join our Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's Rosh Chodesh Group at [DeBrand Fine Chocolates!](#)

Enjoy an evening of fun as we get a private tour of DeBrand. We'll nibble on some sweet treats and enjoy each other's company over a cup (or two) of Hot Cocoa...or Chocolates...or ice Cream...the possibilities and combinations are endless!

All we know is that we can't wait to see you there!

March 13, 2024
5:45 pm

10105 Auburn Park Drive
Fort Wayne, IN



RSVP to enjoy the tour and receive a \$10 coupon (only valid that evening in the store with a minimum \$20 purchase). **FREE** to all members of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne! Call the office at (260) 456-0400 or email office@fwjf.org to save your spot.

Any and all friends of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne are welcome to join in the fun for only \$10.

Thanks to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its generous support.

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



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

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

www.thefreshmarket.com



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

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

lovingcafevw.com



[2021 Broadway, Fort Wayne IN](#)

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

georgesinternationalmarket.com



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

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

www.3riversfood.coop



SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE TO EXPLORE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AMERICA AND THE MEANING OF OUR 175th ANNIVERSARY

Please join us when we welcome [Dr. Gary P. Zola](#), Executive Director Emeritus of [The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives](#) in Cincinnati, for two scholar-in-residence programs on Thursday and Friday, February 22-23 at the Temple.

During the first learning session on Thursday, February 22 at 7 p.m., Dr. Zola will examine **"George Washington, Jews, and the Story of Religious Freedom in America."** To celebrate the 292nd anniversary of President Washington's birth, Dr. Zola will provide our community with an opportunity to take a deep dive into Washington's most famous letter to the Jewish community.

President George Washington's letter to the Jews of Congregation Yeshuat Israel (a.k.a. "Touro Synagogue"), Newport, Rhode Island – written in 1790 – famously promised that the United States would be a nation that "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance. Washington reassured the Jews of Newport that, in his opinion, the new Constitution guaranteed every religion in America – including Judaism – "full and equal membership" in the nation's polity.

This dynamic text-study constitutes a special opportunity to learn more about the history of this well-known letter which was written more than 233 years ago. We will discover why Washington's letter has much to teach us about the history of religious freedom in America.

Dr. Zola also will speak during our Shabbat service on Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. on **"The Future of The Past: The Meaning of our 175th Anniversary,"** an inspiring look at the significance of milestone anniversaries in Jewish life. An Oneg Shabbat will follow. The service also will be available on [YouTube](#).

As Congregation Achduth Vesholom celebrates 175 years of continuous existence, Dr. Zola will help us to reflect on the historical lessons we derive from the congregation's remarkable longevity and durability. What traits and impulses have our predecessors bequeathed to us, and how will these characteristics strengthen us as we confront the daunting and worrisome challenges we face in our own day and age? Dr. Zola will offer us an inspiring message in response to these important questions.

Gary Phillip Zola served as the executive director of [The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives](#) (AJA) from 1998 through June of 2023. Currently, Dr. Zola maintains his faculty status as the Edward M. Ackerman Family Distinguished Professor of the American Jewish Experience & Reform Jewish History at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR). Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and our 175th Anniversary sponsors for their support of Dr. Zola's visit.

MUSSAR WITH RABBI JEN GUBITZ NEXT RABBINIC LEGACY TALK

Our Rabbinic Legacy Scholars series continues when we welcome Rabbi Jen Gubitz to teach us about Mussar on Tuesday, February 20 at 7 p.m. on Zoom and [YouTube](#).

Explore the rich Jewish spiritual practice of Mussar, a thousand-year-old tradition of self-exploration through Jewish values that

supports your wellbeing and increases personal and communal connection and joy!

Rabbi Gubitz is the third and concluding learning speaker among our "children of Achduth Vesholom" who discovered a love of Judaism and learning here that later led them to become rabbis. Rabbi Jonathan Greenberg joined us on January 20 to discuss ["The Argument Already Won: Contemporary anti-Zionism, its historical roots, and possible implications,"](#) and Rabbi Rachel Greengrass will speak on Tuesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. on "Real Housewives of the Talmud."

The Rabbinic Legacy Scholars series is part of our 175th Anniversary season. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and our 175th Anniversary sponsors for supporting these lifelong learning sessions.

SHARE SOUPER BOWL SHABBAT DINNER

Warm up a cold winter evening at our ["Souper Bowl" Shabbat](#) on Friday, February 9 at 6 p.m. at the Temple. We'll sample a variety of homemade soups before declaring the top three "people's choice" winners. Our Shabbat service begins at 7:30 p.m.

While you don't need to bring soup to attend, we invite you to get creative in the kitchen and enter the friendly competition. [Find out more](#)

Please RSVP to the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 by Friday, February 2. Let us know if you will be bringing soup and what kind. The cost is \$8 per person (no charge for children 5 and under). Your check is your reservation. Menu includes salad, soup, challah, dessert, and beverage.

JOY VEY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES, FOLLOWED BY SOUPER BOWL

Families with your children are invited on Friday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m. to gather 'round your little ones for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family at the Temple! Following Joy Vey, please stay for [Souper Bowl Shabbat](#) and enjoy dinner as part of our larger congregational community.

At Joy Vey, we'll light candles, pray, sing songs, move and groove, and even practice mindfulness. We also embrace the tradition of blessing children as we make a joyful place for Shabbat in our lives and hearts... together. Meet us in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center. We usually meet on the second Friday night of each month.

For Souper Bowl, please RSVP to the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 by Friday, February 2. The cost is \$8 per person (no charge for children 5 and under).

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 [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 events this month include [Souper Bowl Shabbat](#) on Friday, February 9 and [Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Gary P. Zola](#) on Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. We warmly welcome guests to join us at the Temple or online.



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.

CRYPTO-JEWS AND CONVERSOS

- 2:00pm: "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.
- 3:30pm: "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.


Please plan to join us for this interesting and engaging program!

Registration is required to attend this free virtual program. The link can be found at the NEIJGS website at 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, or our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/NEIndianaJGS/>. Please contact Pamela Friedman at vp@NEIndianaJGS.org for more information.

CRYPTO-JEWS and CONVERSOS



Registration can be found
<https://neindianajgs.org/upcoming-events/>



Schelly Talalay Dardashti:
"The New World: Migration, DNA, and Genetics"



Maria Apodaca:
"And it Only Took 500 Years!"



February 18, 2024 at 2:00 pm via Zoom

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.



In observance of Presidents' Day our office will be closed
Monday, February 19, 2024

YOM HASHOAH

FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's annual Yom HaShoah commemoration will take place on Monday, May 6 at 7 pm. More details to follow.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.

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
- A donation was received from **Larry Mastbaum** in honor of **Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum**
- **Holocaust Education Fund**
A donation was received from **Jamie & Jon Berger** in memory of **Doris Fogel**



- **JNF - Plant a tree in Israel**
A donation was received from an **anonymous** donor
- A donation was received from the **Schreier Family** in honor of our son and brother, **Abe Schreier's**, recent marriage to **Kayla Hurley**
- **Ukraine Relief Fund**
A donation was received from **Janet & Andy Katz**

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!



Scan QR code to donate

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

February 1 – The Lucky Moose
622 E. Dupont Road

February 15 – Ziano's
5907 Covington Road

March 7 – Wu's Fine Chinese Cuisine
4411 Coldwater Road

March 21 – Tequila Mexican Restaurant
6328 W. Jefferson 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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Vice President: Bob Walters
Secretary: Bonnie Pomerantz
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Executive Director: Jaki Schreier

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Mimi Zelman
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Staff

Jaki Schreier
Executive Director
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Jeff Griggs
Bookkeeper
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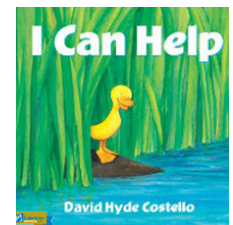
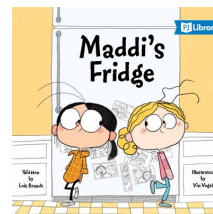
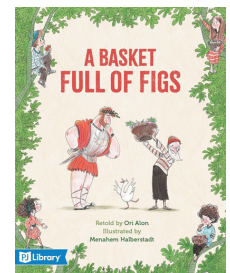
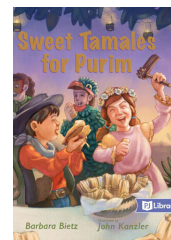
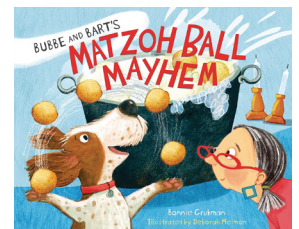
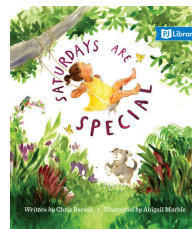
(260) 456-0400 phone
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Bonnie Pomerantz
Office Manager
office@fwjf.org



Which books did you receive this month?

A program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](http://www.haroldgrinspoonfoundation.org), 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://www.pjlibrary.org) 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.

