



ch a i l i g h t s



JUNE 2024

103rd ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

JEWISH FEDERATION OF FORT WAYNE

will commence on

June 9 at 3:00 p.m. EST

at

The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center

(5920 Homestead Road)

Proposed Slate 2024-2025

The Nominating Committee has
submitted the following slate:

Officers:

President: Ben Eisbart (one year term)
Vice President: Bob Walters (one year term)
Secretary: Bonnie Pomerantz (one year term)
Treasurer: Lee Pomerantz (one year term)
Immediate Past President: Scott Salon (one year term)

Pomegranate and Lion of Judah pins
will be awarded.

Presentation of the Goldie DuBow winner

Directors - Term Ending 2026

Ron Friedman
Mike Rush
Jaki Schreier
Ellen Tom
Josh Walle
Leah Zimmerman

Director - Term Ending 2025

Not up for re-election

Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Mimi Zelman

Donors to the 2023 - 2024 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign are eligible to vote in this election.

Following the business portion of our annual meeting, beginning at 4 p.m., we invite you to listen to our guest speaker from the ADL. More information can be found on page 4.

At the conclusion, we invite you to enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and dessert.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation 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



The Jewish world is facing a historic crisis of antisemitism that has not been seen in generations. The ADL's (Anti-Defamation League) recently published 2023 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents recorded 8,873 antisemitic incidents across the United States. This represents a 140% increase from the year before and is the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. Tragically, the ADL tracked more incidents in 2023 than in the previous three years combined. This dramatic increase in incidents took place primarily in the period following the October 7 terrorist attack in Israel. Between October 7 and the end of 2023, the ADL tabulated 5,204 incidents - more than the incident total for the whole of 2022.

For the 15 million Jews around the world, it is hard to think clearly and calmly about antisemitism as it engenders fear, pain, sadness, intergenerational trauma and frustration that goes back to the Holocaust and beyond. We have a superficial sense of security, because as Jews we know enough of our familial stories to realize that in historical terms, such moments of safety have been fleeting and are often followed by renewed persecution. I like to think that for non-Jews, antisemitism matters deeply to them as well. For many who believe that all humans are created equal know that the presence of antisemitism in a society has often been the forerunner of other irrational hatreds, including homophobia, Islamophobia and racism.

This historic rise in antisemitism is being directly felt by American Jews. The American Jewish Committee's State of Antisemitism in America 2023 Report found that 63% of American Jews feel the status of Jews is less secure than one year ago - more than a 20 percentage point increase in just one year. Sadly, one in four Jews reported they were the target of an antisemitic incident, be it a physical attack, remark, harassment, messaging or vandalism. ADL said in the audit of their findings, "When they occur during public activism (such as protests), in confrontations between individuals or in the form of vandalism, such as graffiti, these expressions constitute an implicit attack on the great majority of American Jews who view a relationship with Israel to be an important part of their religious, cultural and/or social identities." Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the ADL, has described the wave of antisemitism as "nothing short of a national emergency at the national level." Jewish Americans are being targeted for who they are at school, at work, on the street, in Jewish institutions and even at home. This crisis demands immediate action from every sector of society and every state in the union. We need every governor to develop and put in place a comprehensive strategy to fight antisemitism, just as the administration has done at the national level."

These statistics are concerning, to say the least. The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne invites members from both the Jewish and non-Jewish community to a talk given by Trent Spoolstra, associate regional director of the ADL Midwest on Sunday, June 9th at 4 p.m. immediately following the Federation's Annual Meeting. The title of Mr. Spoolstra's lecture will be **THE STATE OF ANTISEMITISM**.

Please plan to attend this very important discussion.



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

The Yoms ["The Days"], as our Shlichim call them, following Passover, mark the commemoration of three important dates of the Jewish calendar: Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Day (marked in Israel on May 6); Yom HaZikaron – Israel Memorial Day (May 13), and Yom Ha'Atzmaut – Israel Independence Day (May 13). On Yom HaShoah, which was marked in all our communities around the world, The Jewish Agency's Chairperson, Doron Almog, lit the torch at the opening ceremony of the International March of The Living, honoring the victims of the Holocaust and all those we lost on October 7. Our Shlichim and staff alongside family members of hostages and Holocaust survivors walked together in unity in the march from Auschwitz to Birkenau. The International March of the Living was streamed live and enabled those who could not travel to participate remotely. Around the region, our community Shlichim and Campus Israel fellows organized activities such as Zikaron basalon ["Memory in a Living-room" Global initiative], communal gatherings with Holocaust survivors to listen and learn from their testimonies, and educational sessions and screenings to ensure that the lessons from the past are not forgotten.

This year, Israel's National Days carry special significance following the October 7 attacks and the subsequent war. On Sunday, May 12, on The Eve of Yom HaZikaron, the Masa Memorial Ceremony for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror was livestreamed from Israel. In Jerusalem, the National Institutions Memorial Day Ceremony dedicated to Olim Lone Soldiers took place at the plaza in front of The Jewish Agency's headquarters. This event was also livestreamed with translation to English on our Facebook page (for the recording: www.facebook.com/jewishagency).

For the Yoms, The Jewish Agency sent 90 carefully selected soldiers to visit 38 Jewish communities worldwide, fostering unity and understanding while marking Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Through extensive training and personal stories, these soldiers serve as powerful ambassadors, embodying the spirit of solidarity and resilience that defines our nation. Other initiatives included The Jewish Agency Memorial Website to remember those we've lost from The Jewish Agency family in the October 7 attacks and the ensuing war (<http://my.jewishagency.org/in-memorial>), and Memorialize a Soldier: the Ministry of Defense's initiative to light memorial candles for fallen IDF soldiers on Yom HaZikaron eve (For Doron Almog's message together with Aryeh Moalem, Executive Director of the Department of Commemoration and Heritage Families, Israel Ministry of Defense: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jp9DThJB0VI>). Visit the Izkor Website (English) for more information: <https://www.izkor.gov.il/en>).

Yom Ha'Atzmaut is marked this year in different ways in communities around the Midwest: from hosting Israeli chefs, artists and musicians (some from the new partnership established between federations in the region and displaced communities in Israel) to commemorating Israel's 76th anniversary in this unprecedented year with the hope for the return of all the hostages and for rebuilding communities and hope.

"I have no country other," wrote the lyricist Ehud Manor (translated by Ellis Sacks, <https://ellisacks.wordpress.com/2014/05/07/i-have-no-country-other>); a feeling shared by our Shlichim, Israelis and many Jews around the globe. This year, while the war continues, while we face the rise of antisemitism and anti-Israel claims on campuses nationwide and in Europe, these words echo a prayer for better days, a quest for peaceful times and a confirmation of the strong bonds to this land of milk and honey:

I have no country other,
Though she's burning, torn asunder.
Just a word in my native tongue
Pierces my veins, right to my soul...
Half torn apart, with a hungry heart
Here is my home.

Can't keep silent in light of
How my country's changed her guise.
Won't quit trying to remind her
In her ears, I'll sing my cries,
Until she opens her eyes.

I have no country other
'Til her olden days reprise,
Until she opens her eyes. [Lyrics by Ehud Manor, Music Corinne Elal]



Please join us at 4 p.m. on June 9 at the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center to hear Trent Spoolstra. His topic will be “State of Antisemitism”.

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

Trent Spoolstra

Trent Spoolstra is the Associate Regional Director for the Midwest office of the Anti-Defamation League. In true non-profit professional form, he works in a wide variety of areas for ADL. He helps develop the next generation of ADL leadership through a multi-month orientation program and oversees the Midwest’s Young Professionals Board. He develops programming for Jewish communities by providing presentations to adult audiences as well as trainings for adolescents in understanding and addressing antisemitism. He also aids with ongoing fundraising efforts for the region. Before coming to ADL, Trent worked in AmeriCorps-VISTA and was a high school history teacher in Houston, Texas. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s degree in international affairs from the Bush School of Government & Public Service-Texas A&M University.



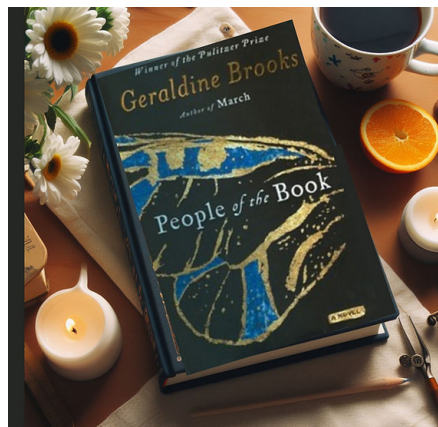
Our office will be closed on Wednesday, June 12 as we celebrate Shavuot. We will also be closed on Wednesday, June 19 as we honor Freedom Day

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.



NEW DATE
Sun, June 9 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EDT
On Zoom
Book Club

A captivating book club session centered around “People of the Book” by Geraldine Brooks. This novel, inspired by the true story of the Sarajevo Haggadah, masterfully weaves together an epic historical saga of persecution and survival with a powerful modern-day tale.

[RSVP](#)

interact



engage



advance



learn



grow



Save the Date!

Horizon Young Adults Seminar

**September 17th – September 23rd, 2024
in Beautiful Budapest**

The PARTNESHIP2GETHER HORIZON Young Adults Seminar is for Young Adults (25-45) who feel the urge and the desire to take a short break from the daily routine in order to explore their Jewish identity. Together with peers from Israel and Budapest, we will gather for lectures and workshops. We will visit unique tourist sites in Budapest, take part in inspirational meetings and have a good time. Life-time friendships will be made.

**Our preliminary international zoom meetings regarding the seminar will take place on
Sundays on:** April 14th, May 19th, June 16th, July 28th, and September 8th
11:00 am CT / 12:00 noon ET / 18:00 BUD / 19:00 IL

Expenses/Costs:

Participants are responsible for round trip flight costs, health insurance, a few meals and \$100.00 registration fee. The cost of the seminar is covered by the Partnership.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT [Sivan Friedman Lavi](#), P2G Young Adult Coordinator
Sivanf@jafi.org

Connecting PERSON 2 PERSON PEOPLE 2 PEOPLE

Join the Horizon Young Adults program, offering Zoom sessions with Israeli, Hungarian and US young adults, culminating in a joint seminar in Beautiful Budapest.

Contact [Sivan](#) for more details

What are we talking about this month: EASY WAYS TO CELEBRATE SHAVUOT



Shavuot is almost here! For reasons that we here at PJ Library will never understand, it continues to be one of the most underrated of the kid-

friendly Jewish holidays. Originally a harvest festival, Shavuot comes seven weeks after the start of Passover, and celebrates the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Shavuot is also the unofficial universal “eat all the ice cream you can” holiday of the Jewish people. Seriously -- Shavuot is a holiday that feels made for the young and young at heart. Looking for some easy ways to celebrate with your family? Try one of these activities:

[Related: Why Kids Love Shavuot \(and You Will Too\)](#)

[Learn Something New](#)

One pre-Shavuot custom is to stay up all night before the holiday to study. While keeping toddlers and tweens awake past their bedtimes may throw your weekend routine wildly off the rails, hang out in your pajamas as a family and make it a point to learn about something new together. Read a book about animals, practice some [Hebrew words and phrases](#), [explore another culture](#), or watch an educational video together.



[Learning to make Ice Cream for a Shavuot PJ Party](#)
[Do a Mitzvah \(or Two\)](#)

The story of Shavuot is told in the Bible in the [Book of Ruth](#). While the story of Ruth may be too sophisticated for younger children to learn, the values embodied by the story—[friendship](#), [feeding the hungry](#), [taking care of others](#), compassion—are something that children of all ages can definitely understand. [Mitzvot](#) (that’s the plural of mitzvah), are often thought of as “good deeds” but the real translation of the word is “commandment.” Follow the spirit of Ruth and Naomi and do a mitzvah to mark the day. Not sure where to start? Take a look at [this list](#), pick one and go for it.



Eat Something Cheesy

One very delicious and fun Shavuot tradition is eating dairy. Some people say that the reason to consume dairy treats on Shavuot is because not eating meat makes everyone feel lighter, physically—a good reminder about the spiritual light that comes with receiving the Torah. Watch the video above to learn more about why people enjoy dairy on Shavuot.



image via PJ Library in Winnipeg

Create Papercut Shapes

An Eastern European Shavuot tradition involves making elaborate papercut art to hang in your window as a decoration. The story, *The Art Lesson* by Allison and Wayne Marks includes a wonderful papercutting tutorial at the end of the book. For more paper cut crafts, check out PJ Library’s Shavuot [Pinterest board](#).



*illustration from [The Art Lesson: A Shavuot Story](#)
written by Allison and Wayne Marks
with illustrations from Annie Wilkinson*

Make Flower Crafts and Crowns



Children in Israel wear crowns of flowers on Shavuot, symbolizing the spring harvest and the crowns of the Torah. Make some of your own using cloth flowers or the real thing. You can also paint with flowers, take a trip to a local botanical garden, or use flowers to paint and explore color and texture. Find ideas for fun with flowers [here](#).

More

[Everything You Need to Know About Shavuot via kveller.com](#)
[Kid-Friendly Crafts for Shavuot](#)
[Shavuot Values for Preschoolers via kveller.com](#)
[Shavuot Activities for Kids via My Jewish Learning](#)
[Three Ways to Make Ice Cream for Shavuot via ReformJudaism.org](#)

[Reprinted with kind permission](#)

Thank You

2023 - 2024 DONORS (AS OF MAY 15, 2024)

Thank you to our generous donors!

We could not do what we do without each of you!

Your gift to the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne provides much-needed support here at home, in Israel and to struggling Jewish communities in over 70 countries around the world.

- Anonymous (2)
- Fran & Irv Adler
- Anna & Daniel Appel
- Jamie & Jon Berger
- Jordan Berger
- Talia Bugel
- Ron Cousino
- Shara & Harry Cunningham
- Dennis Dan
- Sharon & Ben Eisbart
- Robert Elliott
- Pam & Kenneth Feldman
- Janet Finkel
- Rifkin Family Foundation
- Pamela & Ron Friedman
- Glenn Goldstein
- Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon
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- Theresa & Scott Trauner
- Sally & Steve Trotter
- Irene & Bob Walters
- Tamara & Thomas Wheeler
- Cindi & Rich Wismer
- Jacqueline Orsagh & Jay Yentis
- Al Zacher
- Judy & Steve Zacher
- Mimi & Don Zelman
- Beth & Dan Zweig

YOM HASHOAH

FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

A very special thank you to everyone who participated in our memorable Yom HaShoah Commemoration on Monday, May 6. **New Tech High School** students did an outstanding job on their art projects. Thank you to our **committee, volunteers, Rabbi Barger** and **Temple staff**; without you this would not have been the special evening it was! We always want to thank the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for its continued support, without whom evenings like this would not be possible, thank you!



Ben Eisbart, Community Volunteer



Beth Zweig, Yom HaShoah committee member



We Remember



Michael Rush, Yom HaShoah committee member, and Rabbi Barger



Bob Walters, Yom HaShoah committee member



New Tech High School students' artwork





Summer camp is a home for many wonderful things. Each day is filled with new discoveries, fun games and exciting adventures. It is a happy, carefree environment, where kids step away from the rigors of the school year and concentrate their energies on simply being kids and enjoying their days to the fullest.

At Camp Joe, we take advantage of [Metee County Park's](#) beautiful hiking trails, spacious fields, parks and lake. As a result, our campers spend a large portion of their days in motion. They hike, swim, play sports, go on scavenger hunts and nature walks, build castles and canals in the sand and compete in relay races. The best part – kids are always surrounded by friends, exploring, inventing, sharing creative endeavors, wild adventures and laughs.

With the start of camp quickly approaching, now is a great time to take advantage of two wonderful opportunities:

- Refer a *new family* to Camp Joe and both, you and the new family, will receive 10% off of the paid fees.
- Our Bring-A-Friend Day is Monday, July 1st. Each camper may bring a friend, free of charge, to share in the fun at Camp Joe.

Camp Joe Levine applications, medical forms and Bring-A-Friend Day forms are available online at fwjf.org – scroll down to Camp Joe Levine, Forms. Applications and all of the other forms are also available on request; please call the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne at 260-456-0400 or email office@fwjf.org for mailed copies.

Camp dates for the summer of 2024:

June 24-28

July 1-5

July 8-12

We look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Save
the
Date

You're
invited!

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Please mark your calendars for **Monday, September 9** at
7:30 p.m. when we welcome author
Marie Benedict.

More information over the summer.

We look forward to seeing you then!

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY



Lion of Judah

History and usage

The Biblical Judah (in Hebrew: Yehuda) is the original name of the Tribe of Judah which is traditionally symbolized by a lion. In Genesis, the patriarch Jacob ("Israel") gave that symbol to his tribe when he referred to his son Judah as a Gur Aryeh, a "Young Lion" (Genesis 49:9) when blessing him. In Jewish naming tradition, the Hebrew name and the substitute name are often combined as a pair, as in this case. The Lion of Judah was used as a Jewish symbol for many years, and as Jerusalem was the capital of the Kingdom of Judah, in 1950 it was included in the Emblem of Jerusalem.

Who They Are:

Dynamic philanthropic Jewish woman who create social justice, aid the vulnerable, preserve human dignity and build Jewish identity. 17,500 women around the world are proud Lions of Judah, donating at least \$5,000.00 to Federation every year.

Pomegranate Pin

An ancient symbol found carved into the lintels of the earliest synagogues, the pomegranate has carried with it the concepts of Judaism for generations.

The Pomegranate pin was introduced as a way to inspire giving from women of all stations. Three decades after its inception, more than 7,000 pins have been distributed across North America.

It represents the best of what Federation does – bringing together like-minded donors to do a world of good.

To qualify, women must donate \$1,800.00 or more to the Federation's Annual Campaign.



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](#)

lovingcafefw.com



[2021 Broadway, Fort Wayne IN](#)

[260-420-5565](#)

georgesinternationalmarket.com



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

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

www.3riversfood.coop



SHARE SHAVUOT WITH OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

Please join us for our Shavuot and Yizkor service on Wednesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. when we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai, led by Rabbi Meir Barger. Join us in person or on [YouTube](#).

In ancient times, Shavuot marked the conclusion of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. The holiday is celebrated 50 days after Passover.

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

SUMMER EVENING SERVICES MOVE TO EARLIER TIME

Our summer service schedule begins on Friday, May 31, when evening services move to 6:30 p.m. The earlier worship time will continue through August 30 (Labor Day Weekend). Services will resume at 7:30 p.m., beginning Friday, September 6.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT, SHAVUOT AND A SIMCHA IN JUNE

Share Shabbat, Shavuot and a simcha this month at [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) in person or via livestream on [YouTube](#).

Rabbi Meir Barger leads services most Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Our summer schedule will begin on Friday, May 31 when Shabbat worship moves to 6:30 p.m. Ron Friedman will lead worship most Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah.

Bradley Gordon, son of Geoffrey & Rachel Gordon, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 29 at 10 a.m.

Please join us also this month for our Erev Shavuot and Yizkor service on Wednesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. and a blessing for those attending a Jewish summer camp on Friday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. Joy Vey: A Kid-ish Shabbat returns on Friday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m. and Maestro Robert Nance will provide music on Friday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m.

We warmly welcome guests to join us at the Temple or online.

JOY VEY! A SHABBAT SERVICE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Please join us on Friday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m. for Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family!

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 on the second Friday night of each month.

Folks are encouraged to stick around to enjoy a glass of wine/juice, challah, and dinner afterwards!

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS WRAPS UP 14TH YEAR!

Our dedicated Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers ended the 14th year of this important social action program on May 1 by preparing the last bags of the school year, including extra food and toiletries to help the Brightpoint Head Start families through the summer months.

Thank you to our hard-working committee members for all the shopping and shlepping they did to help. We're also grateful to Sally Trotter, who is stepping down as chair after four years leading the program. We are very lucky that she has agreed to continue volunteering. Thank you to Cheryl Schorey for serving as our new chair and to Jamie Berger, founding chair of Thoughtful Thursdays, for her assistance in the transition. Special thanks to Administrative Assistant Lily Noga and Executive Director Samara Sheray for assisting with ordering items for the bags.

We also appreciate the extra donations that help us sustain the program. These include Jon Tam for arranging for 900 bags from Trader Joe's; toothbrushes and toothpaste from Dr. Michael and Ellen Tom; apples from Phil's U-Pick Apple Orchard in Huntington; booster seats and coats from Amy & Sam Krouse; and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, Dr. Geoffrey & Rachel Gordon, everyone who donated to the Apple Project during the High Holy Days, and so many who donated much-needed items and finances to support the Brightpoint Families. Thank you!

Thoughtful Thursdays is a joint project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#).

We look forward to beginning our 15th year in September!

Thank you to our Thoughtful Thursdays Committee:

Sally Trotter (chair), Fran Adler, Jamie Berger, Cheri Buker, Bonnie & Alex Crubaugh, Nancy Dicker, Jane Martin Downey, Janet Finkel, Rachel Gordon, Doris Gottlieb, Pam Friedman, Janet Katz, Micki Kepes, Suzi King, Amy Shepsman Krouse, Jordon Lockwood, Joanne McCrory, Marie McFadden, Cookie Mastbaum, Rita O'Neill, Lily Noga, Bonnie Pomerantz, Marcia & Denny Reynolds, Nancy Salon, Cheryl Schorey, Jaki Schreier, Samara Sheray, Kathy Sider, Suzi Stone, Ellen Tom, Donna Tourkow, Steve Trotter, Deborah Vilensky, and Beth Zweig.



45TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | AUGUST 10-14, 2025

And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey



SAVE THE DATE! The 45th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is coming to Fort Wayne, Indiana, from Sunday, August 10 to Thursday, August 14, 2025.

What is the IAJGS International Conference?

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies holds a conference in the summer of each year, drawing hundreds of genealogists from around the world. Features include:

- Programs and workshops on a wide variety of topics, including DNA analysis, historical migration, records available worldwide, and Holocaust research
- Special events with Research Divisions focused on a particular country or region of research
- Networking opportunities with hundreds of genealogists
- Special keynote and banquet events with well-known speakers
- An Exhibit Hall full of vendors from genealogy companies and local societies

Why Fort Wayne?

In prior years, the conference was held in costlier, big cities, such as London, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and San Diego. This is the first conference to be held in a more affordable, yet dynamic, smaller city.

The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is among the largest family history research centers in the world. The collection of more than 1.2 million physical items is completely open and available to researchers, and visitors can access a large number of genealogical databases on-site. Resources of interest to Jewish researchers include:

- Holocaust-related materials, including a large collection of Yizkor books
- Temple and synagogue histories
- Jewish genealogy research guidebooks
- Jewish periodicals
- Jewish diaries and personal memoirs
- The "Jewish Life in America, c1654-1954" database from the American Jewish Historical Society

The Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is excited to host this event. Several members have taken key leadership roles in planning the conference. Irv Adler is our local chair of the event, Betsy Gephart is heading up the Outreach Committee, Beth and Dan Zweig are handling Hospitality, and Fran Adler will be co-chairing the Volunteers. Bruce Colegrove has agreed to serve on the IAJGS Program Committee for the event, and Samara Sheray will be coordinating security. As vice-president of NEIJGS, Pam Friedman is also very much involved.

Sign Up Now for More Information

As we move forward, we'd love to keep you informed of what will be available in August 2025. We are planning a virtual informational program for Sunday, November 10, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. This will include information about Jewish research at the Genealogy Center, an introduction to Fort Wayne, and opportunities for Q&A about the conference.

To keep up to date with conference information, visit our website at <https://neindianajgs.org/iajgs-2025/> and sign up for our e-mail list. Those interested in volunteering or donating can check the appropriate box on the sign-up form.

Annual Meeting

The NEIJGS will hold its annual meeting virtually on Monday, June 10th at 7:00 p.m. Officers will be elected, next year's programs will be presented, and we will have a discussion of the 2025 Conference. Irv Adler will also give a short presentation about the Second Generation Project that he has been involved with. If you are interested in attending, please contact NEIndianaJGS@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

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

- Donations were received from **Ron Cousino and Juan Suarez**
- A donation was received from **Larry Mastbaum** in honor of **Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum**

Holocaust Education Fund

- Donations were received from **Doris Gottlieb** and the **Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana** in honor of **Jaki's**



retirement

JNF - Plant a tree in Israel

- A donation was received from **Juan Suarez**

Ukraine Relief Fund

- Donations were received from **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!



Scan QR code to donate

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

June 6 – Salvatori's Southwest
10337 Illinois Road

June 20 – Salsa Grille
7755 Coldwater Road

July 4 – No lunch this week

July 18 – Sweetwater Music
5501 US Highway 30 W

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

Officers:

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

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Ron Friedman
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Maureen Grinsfelder
Mike Rush
Ellen Tom
Mimi Zelman
Leah Zimmerman

Rabbi Meir Bargerion

Staff

Jaki Schreier
Executive Director
jakischreier@fwjf.org

Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
5200 Old Mill Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Jeff Griggs
Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@fwjf.org

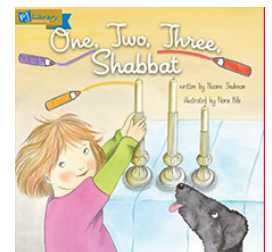
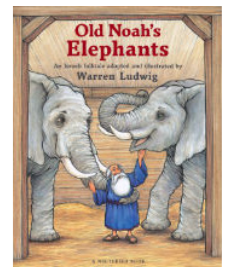
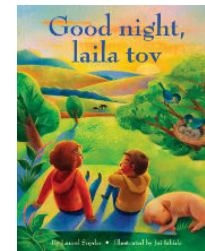
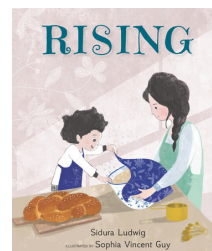
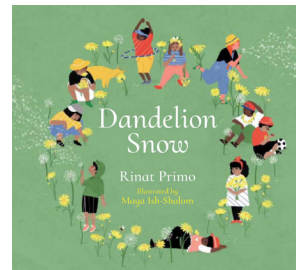
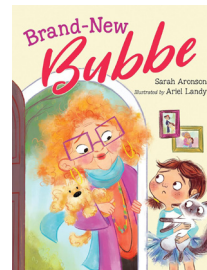
(260) 456-0400 phone
(260) 456-0500 fax
www.fwjf.org

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.

