



chailights



DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

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 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4 and 11, 2025 at the [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne). 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. [Click here to register](#) or call the Federation office at (260) 456-0400 or email office@fwjf.org



New this year for teachers. We will be providing Professional Growth Points (PGP) certificates at the end of the program for those who request it.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and members of Federation for their continued support.

UPDATE ON ISRAEL WITH JOURNALIST MARK LAVIE IN DECEMBER



Journalist Mark Lavie, a Fort Wayne native and veteran Middle East correspondent, will share an update on the situation in Israel on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus.

His talk will be followed by a Q & A and light refreshments.

Lavie is the author of two books: [Why Are We Still Afraid?](#), which follows his five-decade career and provides a real-time picture of Israel growing up, and [Broken Spring](#), which gives insights from his time in Cairo from 2011 to 2013 covering the Arab Spring. Lavie's blog posts on Israel and the Middle East can be read at [Medialine](#).

Lavie's roots in Fort Wayne include being part of the Temple's Confirmation class of 1961, the first in the building on Old Mill Road. After graduating from Indiana University in Bloomington, he worked in television and radio news in Indianapolis and South Bend before making *aliyah* in 1972.

The program is sponsored by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) and [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) with support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.



Please Join Us! December 5

What would Hanukkah be without donuts? Would you like to learn how to make them? You are in luck!

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's Rosh Chodesh group has made arrangements for a delicious "Donut Experience" with Chef Jessica Waggoner of the [Hazel Baking Company](#).

We will be meeting on Thursday, December 5, 5:45 - 8:00 pm, where we learn how to make, knead, fry and fill donuts for our holiday tables!

We have reserved the Teaching Kitchen at the Union Street Market on the Electric Works Campus (1690 Broadway). Our class will meet upstairs in The West Hall in The Teaching Kitchen. On either end of the West Hall are stairs that take you directly upstairs to the mezzanine, and the kitchen is on the north end of the building. There is an elevator on the south end if

needed. For parking information [click here](#).

The event is free to the women who are members of Federation. For all others the cost is \$10. Space is limited! RSVP as soon as possible to reserve your place. Call the Federation office at (260) 456 - 0400 or email office@fwjf.org.

Remember to bring some containers so you can bring home some extra treats to share! Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.

January 11

We invite all members of our Jewish community to join us for a free movie night!

We will be showing "[Prosecuting Evil](#)" (A portrait of Ben Ferencz, the last surviving Nuremberg Trial prosecutor, who continued to wage his fight for law and peace until his death in 2023) in the Resource Center beginning at 7 pm. Seating is limited, please RSVP to office@fwjf.org or call (260) 456-0400 to reserve your seat. Light snacks will be served.

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

MICHAEL THEISE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Shalom, Friends,

Thanks to the community and the Jewish Federation for allowing me to attend the Jewish Federation General Assembly that took place in Washington, DC, in November. The Assembly was extremely informative, and I am confident I learned of several best practices from other Federations that will be valuable for our community.

Some notable activities and observations from the General Assembly:

- 1) Many attendees who learned I was representing Fort Wayne were very much aware and excited for the 2025 International Jewish Genealogy Conference this summer. Materials provided by Irv Adler were also distributed to General Assembly participants.
- 2) Our special Israeli colleagues with Partnership2Gether (Western Galilee region) asked for me to pass a special thank you along to the entire community as well as the Schreier family for the tremendous and ongoing support, especially during these challenging times.
- 3) Micki and Sherwin Kepes' daughters, Laurie & Leslie, were present and leading General Assembly activities, representing their former hometown of Fort Wayne very positively.
- 4) Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, spoke very passionately about what the Jewish Federation has meant to Israel at so many levels of society, but especially during times when enemies are attacking Israel.

Although our campaign pledge letters were sent out only a short time ago, I would like to thank everyone who has already made a very generous pledge. Our entire community should be very proud of how your generosity, combined with the generosity of the rest of the community, makes such a positive impact on Jewish life locally and all across our world.

I would like to wish everyone a most special Hanukkah and a safe and healthy New Year.

SAVE THE DATE!



Airing Locally
SAT Dec 21 10pm @ 39.1
MON Dec 23 8pm @ 39.4
CHRISTMAS DAY
WED Dec 25 2pm @ 39.1



Jewish Federation OF FORT WAYNE
THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

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.



P2G Hanukkah Zoom Event Sun, Dec 29 | 12 Noon on Zoom

Join our P2G Hanukkah Zoom Event, aimed to raise everyone's spirit.

The event will focus on individuals and programs that brought light to our Partnership and communities in the past year.

[RSVP](#)

What are we talking about this month:

Sharing Holidays and Sharing Love - Lessons From a Multifaith Family Experience

One of my favorite holiday memories from childhood is of dozing by the fire, watching my grandfather's model train circle the living room and the lights on the Christmas tree, those giant, old-fashioned bulbs, glow brighter as it grew dark outside.

But Christmas wasn't my holiday. I grew up in a fully Jewish home: that meant Jewish preschool, three-days-a-week religious school, youth groups, camps, regular synagogue attendance, [Shabbat dinners](#), and even two sets of dishes. Our Hanukkah traditions were as vibrant as they were varied: a growing collection of menorahs, each one lit every night; jalapeño latkes, since we lived in the Southwest; my mother's handmade decorations; bags of gelt taped to every wrapped gift; and donating to [tzedakah](#) one night instead of exchanging gifts. My mother, a Jew-by-choice, wove her commitment to Judaism into family life, and her non-Jewish parents—my [grandparents](#)—embraced it wholeheartedly. They hung a [mezuzah](#) on their door, learned the central [brachot](#), traveled with us to [Israel](#), and celebrated Jewish holidays at our home. In turn, we celebrated their holidays as an act of love for them.

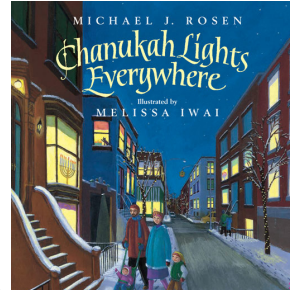
My parents and grandparents found ways to honor each other's traditions, uplifting one without compromising the other. My grandparents gave us gifts on Hanukkah, and we gave them gifts on Christmas. We didn't celebrate Easter, but we brought them a basket of their favorite treats. They served turkey at Christmas, avoiding treif (unkosher foods) so that we could eat dinner with them. As my grandfather approached the end of his life he made the extraordinary choice to ask a family rabbi to co-officiate his church funeral, honoring our Jewish identity while maintaining his own.

My husband is also a Jew-by-choice, and we've created our own approach to multifaith holidays with his family. There have been hard conversations, such as when we explained to my in-laws why our kids couldn't have Christmas stockings. There have often been big blessings; for instance, we can visit his family nearly every year, having no other obligations on Christmas. And there have been beautiful moments, such as the first year our annual trip fell during Hanukkah and my mother-in-law bought a [menorah](#) for her home. Meanwhile, each of our kids had picked out a special ornament to add to her collection.

It doesn't always go smoothly. One Christmas Eve, I accompanied my mother-in-law to church and found myself taken aback as the congregation sang an adapted version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," with lyrics about Jesus. I felt obliged to give some honest feedback about how appropriate it felt to me to bring a proudly Jewish song into a Christian service. And when my in-laws excitedly tried to take photos during our [aufruf](#) (pre-wedding celebration in synagogue over [Shabbat](#)), we had to explain why this wasn't in keeping with Shabbat practice, and to balance honoring their enthusiasm with setting boundaries.

As we approach an unusual holiday calendar this year, I find myself reflecting on these memories. Hanukkah always begins on the 25th of [Kislev](#); this year, it also begins on the 25th of December. For

the 41 percent of Jewish Americans in multifaith marriages, along with those in marriages like mine who have two Jewish parents but multifaith extended families, this "double holiday" presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Many families have created their own traditions for a harmonious winter season, while others may still be finding their way to balance honoring both holidays. PJ Library's website can be a tremendous resource, offering creative and accessible ideas for celebrating [Hanukkah](#), and its [books](#) can offer inspiring stories. In one of my favorites, *Chanukah Lights Everywhere*, a Jewish family is moved by the Hanukkah candles in their community and their own window, as well as the Christmas lights of their friends and neighbors.



Last year, when we couldn't be with my husband's family on Christmas, I made their traditional breakfast casserole and coffee cake, then gathered with our kids and my husband to share a call with his parents, to mark the otherwise ordinary day. (Our elaborate Hanukkah observance had already been over for 10 days, although the house still smelled like [latkes](#)). And I—as the only person in my household who loves Christmas music—listened to, "All I Want For Christmas Is You" a few times on repeat through my headphones.

Maybe this year, your family's traditional Chinese takeout will be replaced by a festive Christmas dinner with your in-laws. Perhaps your neighbors will join you for [Hanukkah candle-lighting](#) before you all watch a classic Christmas movie together. In a large extended family, some gifts might be wrapped in blue and gold, others in red and green, but they'll all be given in the same spirit of love. As you prepare your [holiday](#) logistics this year, remember that you can create your own special blend of rituals rooted in tradition and narrative, sharing the beauty of each holiday in a way that feels right for *your* family.

In moments like these, the themes of Hanukkah resonate deeply: bringing light to the darkness, changing the narrative, honoring our history, and marveling at miracles, big and small, especially the miracle of gathering in joy and connection with *all* our loved ones.

For me, that might mean gathering with my husband, children, siblings, nieces, and nephews around the piano as my mother plays the timeless melody of "[Maoz Tzur](#)," followed by a private moment to rock out to Mariah Carey. And there's absolutely nothing wrong with that.

About the Author

Jessica McCormick is the Director of Family Experience at PJ Library, but has also worked in Hollywood, for a municipal government, as a journalist, as a director at a large Los Angeles day school, training early career rabbis, and as the Executive Director of a Hillel. She lives in Tucson, Arizona with her husband and children, and they have favorite traditions, rituals, and [recipes](#) for every Jewish holiday.

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Please join us as we Turn the Page ...

Thank you to everyone who came to “Turn the Page” at the Pearl Street Arts Center to wish Jaki all the best as she begins her retirement adventure and to warmly welcome Kate & Michael to our Federation family!

Many thanks to our search/transition team (Fran Adler, Ben Eisbart, Ron Friedman, Bonnie Pomerantz and Scott Salon) for planning the gathering, Jim Palermo at [Pearl Street Arts Center](#) for the beautiful venue and to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.



Ben & Michael



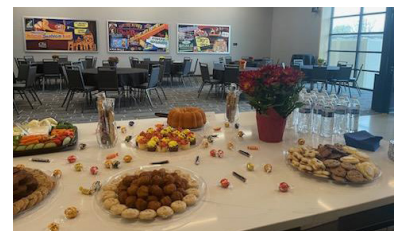
Michael & Jaki



Jaki



Jaki



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5
Rosh Chodesh - Donut Experience
[Electric Works](#)
5:45 pm

December 11
Mark Lavie
[Rifkin Campus at 5200](#)
7 pm

December 21, 23 & 25
Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas
[PBS39.1 and PBS39.4](#)
10 pm, 8 pm, & 2 pm

January 7, 14, 21, 28
February 4 & 11
[Confronting the Shoah](#)
[The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#)
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN
7 pm

January 11
Rosh Chodesh
A night at the movies - "Prosecuting Evil"
[Rifkin Campus at 5200](#)
7 pm

February 23
Rosh Chodesh
[Fused Glass Class](#)
[The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#)
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN
4 pm

March 2 or 9
Rosh Chodesh - Purim
Place and time TBD

April 19
Rosh Chodesh – Passover Women's Seder
Place and time TBD

April 21
Yom HaShoah Commemoration
[Rifkin Campus at 5200](#)
7 pm

April 22
The Story of Joe Levine
Via Zoom
11 am

May 28
Rosh Chodesh
CarFit and picnic
[Rifkin Campus at 5200](#)
4 pm

June 8
Rosh Chodesh Jewish Festival
Chicago, IL

June 2025
JFFW Annual Meeting
Place and time TBD

August 2025
Rosh Chodesh [Sweet Breeze Canal Boat](#) Ride
and picnic
Promenade Park, 202 W. Superior Street
Time TBD



Save the Dates for Camp Joe Levine 2025

Camp Joe Levine is returning to [Metea County Park](#) for the weeks of:

June 23-27

June 30-July 4

July 7-11

We are excited to start preparations for the new camp season! Applications will be available soon.



GIFT GIVING MADE EASY



Setting up your own philanthropic legacy is easier than you might think. Through the Jewish Federation, you can establish a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with no setup costs or administrative fees. This personal charitable fund allows you to make tax-deductible contributions, invest the assets for potential growth, and recommend grants to your favorite charities over time. Whether you're interested in supporting Jewish causes or any other charitable organizations, a DAF offers a simple, flexible way to organize your giving while potentially reducing your tax burden. The Federation's staff will handle all administrative details, allowing you to focus on the joy of giving.

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](#) 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.

Looking for kosher ingredients and other grocery items 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.**

TRADER JOE'S®

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

Additional information is available via [Trader Joe's website](#) or by calling the store at (260) 432-5828.

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](https://www.traderjoes.com/locations/fort-wayne)

[260-432-5828](tel:2604325828)

www.traderjoes.com



[6306 W Jefferson Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46804](https://www.thefreshmarket.com/locations/fort-wayne)

[260 -459-9691](tel:2604599691)

www.thefreshmarket.com



[7605 Coldwater Rd
Suite A
Fort Wayne, IN 46825](https://www.lovingcafe.com/locations/fort-wayne)

[260-489-8686](tel:2604898686)

[lovingcafe.com](https://www.lovingcafe.com)



[2021 Broadway, Fort Wayne IN](https://www.georgesinternationalmarket.com/locations/fort-wayne)

[260-420-5565](tel:2604205565)

[georgesinternationalmarket.com](https://www.georgesinternationalmarket.com)



[1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808](https://www.3riversfood.coop/locations/fort-wayne)

[\(260\) 424-8812](tel:2604248812)

www.3riversfood.coop

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 \$108.00 to the most recent Federation Annual Campaign, which runs from November through March.

Any questions, please call Michael Theise at (260) 456-0400 or contact him at director@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 Michael Theise at director@fwjf.org or (260) 456-0400.



A CREATIVE LIFE: THE ARCHITECTURE AND ART OF ALAN GRINSFELDER CONTINUES IN DECEMBER

"A Creative Life: The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder" exhibit continues at the Temple on Saturday and Sunday, December 7-8 from 1 to 4 p.m.

This inspiring exhibit highlights Alan's designs and architectural contributions to the Fort Wayne skyline during his long career with Grinsfelder Associates Architecture, along with the creativity displayed in his ongoing fine arts endeavors.

Alan's building projects featured in this exhibition include Headwaters Park, the Foellinger Theatre, the Pyramid Plaza, the Hanna Creighton block (Urban League, Head Start, and Pontiac Public Library) and the downtown Community Center.

His artwork has been on display in local coffeehouses and galleries. Alan, who will turn 89 days before the exhibit's opening, has been touted as Purdue Fort Wayne's oldest student and continues to take art classes. Alan and his wife, Maureen, are long-time members of the Temple and past presidents.

SHARE HANUKKAH LIGHTS AND A TOAST TO THE NEW YEAR

Celebrate the Festival of Lights and Champagne Shabbat with our Temple family on Friday, December 27 at 7:30 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir. Join us in person or on [YouTube](#).

Please bring your *hanukkiyah* and candles to light for the third night of Hanukkah. After the service, we'll share a toast to 2025. All are welcome.

ENJOY EXTRA NIGHT OF LIGHT AT HANUKKAH PARTY

Spin the dreidel, enjoy a festive dinner, and share in a fun-filled Hanukkah party on Sunday, December 22 at 6 p.m. at the Temple. [Please make a reservation for dinner with payment](#) by Sunday, December 15 to office@templecav.org. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12.

Dinner will be catered from Casa, with latkes and *sufganiyot* sponsored by the ROMEOS. Thank you to Stephanie Gottesman, Kate Crell, Celeste Sexton, and Deborah Bauer for organizing.

Though the holiday doesn't begin until Wednesday evening, December 25, many people will be traveling during Hanukkah this year so we are gathering a few days early. We'll still "practice" lighting candles, so bring your *hanukkiyah*! We can all use an extra night of light!

YOUNG FAMILIES INVITED FOR EVENING AND MORNING JOY VEY PROGRAMS

Introduce your young children to the beauty of Shabbat evening and morning during two upcoming [Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat](#) services.

Please join us on Friday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. 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.

Share a special musical morning of Joy Vey on Saturday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m. with musician [Juliette Nehring](#). She has been a lay leader and music specialist at Jewish congregations in the Indianapolis area for the past 13 years and has been a professional in the fields of music and education for over 30 years.

Meet us in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center to introduce your child to the beauty of a Shabbat **morning** service with prayer, singing, movement, joyfulness, and friends. Folks are encouraged to stick around afterwards to enjoy coffee, juice, and donuts. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support.

RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OUR AGE

The pursuit of justice and the care of our communities and our neighbors are the bedrocks of Jewish ethics. Join Rabbi Meir Barger on Wednesday, January 8 at 7 p.m. on Zoom to explore biblical, rabbinic and modern Jewish texts that present different views of righteousness.

During this lifelong learning program, we will discuss how these texts are relevant to the present moment in America, Israel and the world. All are welcome. The Zoom will be sent in the weekly email to our Temple family or contact the Temple office.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT AT THE TEMPLE

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

We will not have Shabbat services on Saturday, December 28. Beginning in January, Shabbat morning worship will move to the first and third Saturday. Visit www.templecav.org for the schedule.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS PREPPING SEASONAL ITEMS FOR BRIGHTPOINT FAMILIES

The Jewish community's Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers filled bags in November for the 51 students who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple with items typically served for a Thanksgiving meal, along with a rotisserie chicken.

In December, we will follow with holiday favorites and a rotisserie chicken. A second bag will be filled with dental hygiene products graciously donated by Ellen & Michael Tom. It also will include household products, along with a treat and a poem: "A little Packet of Cocoa, I'm sending your way, For you to sip and enjoy, on a cold winter day. Add hot water and sip it slow. Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow. Happy Holidays!"

Our volunteers will meet on Wednesdays, December 4 and January 8 at 10 a.m. at the Temple to assemble bags. Feel free to join us.

Thoughtful Thursdays is joint project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). Thank you to Chair Cheryl Schorey and all our volunteers!





45TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | AUGUST 10-14, 2025

And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey



IAJGS Officials Visit Fort Wayne

In preparation for the 2025 International Jewish Genealogy Conference, co-chairs Hadassah Lipsius and Judi Missel, along with conference planner Zabrina Hazeltine, visited Fort Wayne from Monday, November 4 to Thursday, November 7, 2024. The purpose of their visit was to visit the conference venues, which included the Hilton Hotel, the Grand Wayne Convention Center, and the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, which will serve as the conference's resource center. Bethany Sutherland, Visit Fort Wayne Group Services Manager, coordinated the site visits and is partnering with NEIJGS to provide essential on-the-ground support for the conference.

Following the site visits, local conference chair Irv Adler took Hadassah, Judi, and Zabrina to Trader Joe's to meet with Jon Tam and discuss kosher products available for conference attendees. The group then visited the Fort Wayne Museum of Art and met with Colleen Huddleson to explore potential programming opportunities for the conference. On Wednesday evening, the IAJGS representatives participated in the local community's corn beef prep night, which allowed them to meet many congregants who we will be recruiting as volunteers for the conference.

On Thursday, Irv guided Hadassah on a tour that included Sweetwater Sound, Promenade Park, and the newly opened Pearl Street Arts Center. They concluded their tour at the Botanical Conservatory, another potential site for conference programming. Overall, the four days in Fort Wayne were highly productive and beneficial for the upcoming conference.

Outreach Program in Action

On Sunday, November 10, 2024, under the leadership of President Betsy Gephart, we held our first Outreach virtual program for potential conference attendees. The program covered Fort Wayne, the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, the history of the Fort Wayne Jewish community, and the conference program themes. Following the 30-minute zoom presentation, there was a Q&A session to address questions from participants. The virtual program was attended by 90 people from 23 states and 5 countries. We received a lot of positive feedback on both the presentation and the videos, another project managed by Betsy.

For those interested in watching the 30-minute video, click on <https://youtu.be/CIl5wfBwBk8>. Additionally, you can get more information and stay updated on the conference by visiting the conference website at www.iajgs2025.org.

Save the Date! 45TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
AUGUST 10-14, 2025

And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey
www.iajgs2025.org



May your miracles be many! Happy Hanukkah.

Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
Board of Directors and staff



The **Board of Directors** and the **staff** of the **Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne** wish you all a happy healthy 2025!

Please note that our office will be closed on Monday, December 23 - January 5, and Monday, January 20. We will be checking emails and phone messages occasionally during our break. We will get in touch as soon as we can.

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.



The Audrey & Joe Gerson Free Loan 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



winston churchill

General Operations

- A donation was received from **Larry Mastbaum** in honor of **Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum**
- A donation was received from **Juan Suarez**

Holocaust Education Fund

- A donation was received from **Steve Carr**
- A donation was received from **Susie Miller** in memory of **Jeff Shulkin**

JNF - Plant a tree in Israel

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

every contribution is
hugely valued



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)

December 5 – Bagger Dave's Burger Tavern
2886 E. Dupont Road

December 19 – Club Room at The Clyde
1806 Bluffton Road

January 2 – Joanna's Family Restaurant
10368 Leo Road

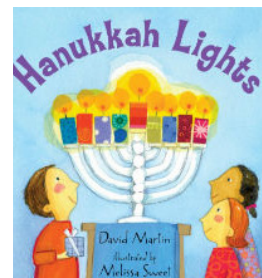
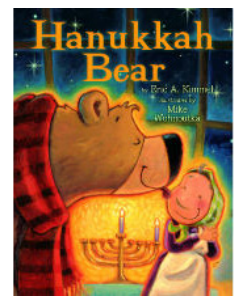
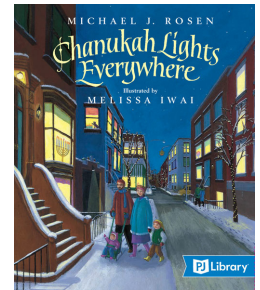
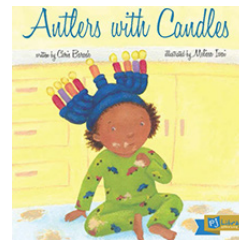
January 16 – Mad Anthony Brewing Co.
2002 Broadway

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



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.



2024 - 2025 Board of Directors

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[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.

