

# chailights

MARCH 2025



## “The Feminine and the Feminist in the Book of Esther” with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday, March 9 at 1 pm at the [Stillwater Hospice/Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne) for an amazing afternoon with Rabbi Berkowitz.



We all know the two queens in the Purim story...or do we? Readers of the *megillah* have long suspected that there is more to the story than meets the eye. What can our commentaries—ancient and modern, scholarly and creative—tell us about the beautiful, brave Esther and the rebellious Vashti and the world they lived in? And what can the story offer us in terms of different ways of understanding womanhood? Let’s find out!

Please [RSVP here](#) or call the office at (260) 456 - 0400. Seating is limited. This event is free and open to our community.

Many thanks to The Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its generous and continuous support.

Bio: Leah Rachel Berkowitz is a rabbi and author living in Philadelphia, PA. Leah teaches for Laasok.org, the Jewish Learning Collaborative, and the Union for Reform Judaism. Each summer, she serves on the faculty at the URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy. She is a Jewish Studio Project Fellow, a Rukin Rabbinic Fellow at 18 Doors (formerly Interfaith Family), and a Past President of the Women’s Rabbinic Network. She contributed to *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*, and several of the CCAR Press prayer books. Leah is the author of three children’s books: *The World Needs Beautiful Things*, *Queen Vashti’s Comfy Pants*, and *The Moving Box Sukkah*, as well as the middle-grade midrash collection *Maybe It Happened This Way: Bible Stories Reimagined* with co-author Erica Wovsaniker. You can find her on social media @rabbilrb or online at [leahrachelberkowitz.com](http://leahrachelberkowitz.com)

## Join us for a Women’s Passover Seder



Please join us on Saturday, April 19 as we read from the “Women Celebrating Passover” haggadah. We will begin at 12:30 pm at the Rifkin Campus where we will use a Haggadah specifically created for women. For Federation members the cost will be \$25 per person, for non-members the cost will be \$30 per person. This will be catered, please [RSVP](#) no later than **March 15** or call the office at (260) 456-0400, payment is required at time of reservation.



We look forward to celebrating with the women of our Jewish community!

Our thanks to The Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its generous and continuous support.

## VIOLINS & HOPE FORT WAYNE

### Violins & Hope: Inside Amnon’s Workshop

From March 9-23, 2025, lead partners the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and the Pearl Street Arts Center, guided by a steering committee of local professionals and volunteers, have planned a photographic exhibit at the University of Saint Francis and a series of community events focusing on music and the Holocaust.

[More information here](#)

**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



Friends,

I am proud to share with you the wonderful events that will soon be taking place in our community. We will be continuing the tradition that began with *Violins of Hope* in 2019, with a series of programs built around a very special photographic exhibit at the University of Saint Francis Rolland Art Center. Please join us in welcoming this exhibition and the supporting events to Fort Wayne.

***Violins & Hope: Inside Amnon's Workshop*** is a photographic exhibition of the violins and instrument workshop of Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein, founder of the ***Violins of Hope*** project. Created by Cleveland photographer Daniel Levin, the exhibition is on display at the Rolland Art Center at the University of Saint Francis from March 11-23, 2025. Levin's 43 masterfully printed and framed photographs document Weinstein's collection of violins, his workshop in Tel Aviv, and his processes for restoration.

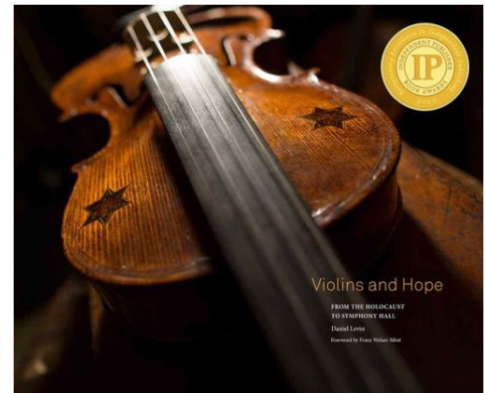
Levin's photographs serve not only to document a place, but they also reveal the ethereal. For what Weinstein has done with these lost violins has been to transform tragic loss into triumph in the most insightful and powerful way imaginable. The care that Levin has taken to home in on the idiosyncrasies of Amnon's workshop, and his uncanny ability to celebrate the beauty of light, is nothing short of remarkable. These are beautiful photographic representations of Amnon's delicate and enduring violins that have miraculously survived the Holocaust.

Supporting the exhibition is a two-week commemoration of concerts, documentary film screenings, and events at various Fort Wayne locations relating to music and the Holocaust. See pages 6 - 7 for more information.

In addition, four historical instruments from the ***Violins of Hope*** collection will be on display in the exhibition and performed at events throughout the community.



Exhibition: *Violins & Hope* | From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall



## 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.



MY JEWISH  
KITCHEN

A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY  
BY IDAN ISHACH EREZ

JOIN US ON ZOOM,  
SUN, MARCH 2ND  
6 PM IL / 5 PM BU / 11 AM ET

WESTERN GALILEAN FACTORY OWNER,  
IDAN FACED PANDEMIC THEN WAR AND  
STILL STANDS FIRMLY BEHIND HER  
BUSINESS. SHE WILL SHARE HER  
TRIALS AND LOVE FOR THE  
FRUIT OF THE REGION

CONTACT US:

- [www.westerngalilee.org.il](http://www.westerngalilee.org.il)
- [noemin@jafi.org](mailto:noemin@jafi.org)
- [@p2g\\_wg](#), [@p2ghun](#)

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL  
הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

Partnership2Gether  
GLOBAL NETWORK  
Western Galilee | Central Area  
Consortium - Budapest

Jewish Federations  
of North America

## My Jewish Kitchen:Zoom Sun, March 2 | 6 pm

Closely following the celebration of TuBishvat, Idan Ishach Erez, Western Galilean dried fruit factory owner will be the featured presenter. Her business survived not only the pandemic but the factory itself was recently hit by rockets during the war. She will share her trials of the war and her love for the fruit of the region

[RSVP](#)

## What are we talking about this month:

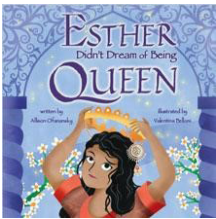
### Courageous Queens: A List of Vashti and Esther Stories



*Ometz lev*, the Hebrew word for **courage**, literally means strength of heart. A strong, brave heart is needed whenever one tries something new by conquering one's fears or stands up for one's beliefs. Childhood is typically a time of many fears, with these fears morphing and changing each time a child enters a new developmental stage.

Children benefit greatly from reading about heroes who courageously face their fears. Inspiration is found in the lives of contemporary heroes such as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and in Biblical heroes like Moses, Judah Maccabee, and of course, **Queen Esther** and Queen Vashti from **the Purim story**.

Esther and Vashti both stood up for themselves--and their beliefs- in different ways: Vashti by refusing to compromise her values to appease the king and Esther by revealing her true identity to save the Jewish people. Learn more about both women and their unique acts of bravery in the following picture books:



***Esther Didn't Dream of Being Queen*** by Allison Ofanansky

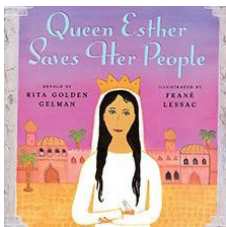
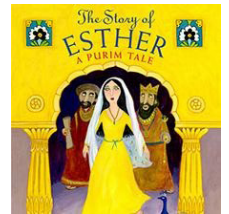
*Recommended for ages 6 to 8*

The story of Purim has many elements of a fairy tale -- a beautiful queen, a dastardly villain, and of course, a satisfying ending. But Esther doesn't love dressing up and being the center of attention -- she's not interested in playing the Cinderella role. How will she muster the will to do what needs to be done?

***The Story of Queen Esther*** by Jenny Koralek

*Recommended for ages 8 and up*

The king may have married Queen Esther because she was beautiful -- but she was smart and brave, too, which is why she was able to save her people.



***Queen Esther Saves Her People*** by Rita Golden Gelman

*Recommended for ages 8 and up*

Long, long ago a young Jewish woman named Esther was chosen to be the Queen of Persia. The king's prime minister proceeds to scheme against the kingdom's Jewish citizens. How will Esther find the courage to stand up for the rights of her people?

***The Seventh Handmaiden*** by Judith Pransky

*Recommended for ages 9 and up*

Handmaiden to the secretive Lady Esther, Darya has uncovered a treacherous plot that could endanger them all. Can she save the people she cares about and discover the truth about her past?



***Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants*** by Leah Rachel Berkowitz

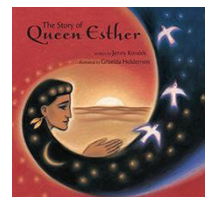
*Recommended for ages 6 to 8*

Queen Vashti was hanging out with her friends when the King rudely summoned her to entertain him. He didn't even ask nicely! What's a strong, independent woman to do in that situation?

***The Story of Esther: A Purim Tale*** by Eric A. Kimmel

*Recommended for ages 8 and up*

The Purim story, full of drama, brings together a mighty king, a jealous scoundrel, and a wise uncle. At its center is a clever heroine, Queen Esther. It was her courage that saved the Jewish people at a dangerous time.



[Reprinted with kind permission](#)



How does one explain the magic of a summer camp? What ingredients have to come together in order to produce such a special effect? Is it the endless joy of playing, swimming in the lake, and building castles and canals in the sand? Does it happen while children are hopping and skipping along hiking trails, searching for butterflies, spider webs and wild raspberries? Could it be lunchtime – a moment to relax and slow down, to share some jokes and to swap a few items from their lunchboxes? Or maybe it's all those hours that kids spend together with their friends: exploring, inventing, trying new things, discovering new passions, being silly and mischievous, and having the time of their lives?

There is no doubt that each camp day is filled with many wonderful experiences. Still, there is more to the camp magic phenomenon. Perhaps, when we multiply each individual component by the positive energy and exuberance, by the laughter and sparkles in kids' eyes, and by the beauty of a warm summer day with nature all around us, only then will we come close to grasping what makes camp experience so special. But the only sure way to truly understand the magic of a camp is to be there and experience it all first hand.

We hope that your child will join us at Camp Joe this summer and help us create those magical moments.

CAMP DATES FOR THE SUMMER OF 2025

- June 23-27
- June 30-July 4
- July 7-11

You can register online at [fwjf.org](http://fwjf.org). Applications are also available upon request – please call the Federation office at 260-456-0400 or email [office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org) for a copy of a mailed application.

One additional thought regarding camp friends: friendships tend to thrive at camp. Reconnecting with friends, making new friends and experiencing camp adventures together are some of the most precious moments in the whole camping experience. It has been a real treat for many of our campers, who participated in our "Refer A Family" Program over the years, to introduce their school friends or neighborhood friends to Camp Joe.

Here is how "Refer A Family" Program works:

- Refer a *new family* to Camp Joe.
- Make sure we know that you referred them.
- Both you and the new family will receive 10% off of the paid fees.

Looking forward to seeing you in June! Larisa and Samantha



# VIOLINS & HOPE

**Fort Wayne Philharmonic  
Youth Symphony Orchestra  
OF HOPE & REMEMBRANCE: Commemoration of  
the 80th Anniversary of the End of World War II**

**Tickets required**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 4:00 pm**

**Auer Hall at Rhinehart Center for the Performing  
Arts**

Purdue Fort Wayne Campus  
2101 E. Coliseum Boulevard  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Troy Webdell, director  
Miho Sasaki, piano

A symphonic celebration of hope, peace, and remembrance featuring music and composers connected to World War II, including the adventurous soundtrack to the 1952 television series Victory at Sea and the delicate and mesmerizing Piano Concerto No. 3 by Philip Glass performed by acclaimed Japanese pianist Miho Sasaki.

**Exhibition: Violins & Hope: Inside Amnon's  
Workshop**

**Free  
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, through Sunday, March  
23, 2025**

Weatherhead Gallery - Mimi and Ian Rolland Art Center  
USF Creative Arts  
University of Saint Francis  
1014 Leesburg Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Exhibition Hours:

9:00 am – 5:00 pm (Mon - Tues, Fri)

9:00 am – 7:00 pm (Wed-Thurs)

10:00 am – 5:00 pm (Sat)

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Sun)

The exhibition of author and photographer Daniel Levin's 43 masterfully printed and framed photographs documents luthier Amnon Weinstein's collection of violins, his workshop in Tel Aviv, and his processes for restoration. These are beautiful photographic representations of Weinstein's delicate and enduring violins that have miraculously survived the Holocaust. **Buy his book here.** Trained volunteers will be on site Wed-Thurs from 5:00 –7:00 pm; Sat from 10:00 am –5:00 pm; and Sun from 1:00-5:00 pm.

Information at [art.sf.edu](http://art.sf.edu), 260.399.8064, or [creativearts@sf.edu](mailto:creativearts@sf.edu).

**Official Exhibition Opening Concert and Reception**

**Free**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm**

Weatherhead Gallery - Mimi and Ian Rolland Art Center  
USF Creative Arts  
University of Saint Francis  
1014 Leesburg Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

The Bennett String Ensemble will perform a short concert of Jewish and Holocaust era selections on the Violins of Hope. Afterward, those in attendance are encouraged to view the exhibition and enjoy punch and cookies.

Information at [art.sf.edu](http://art.sf.edu), 260.399.8064, or [creativearts@sf.edu](mailto:creativearts@sf.edu).

**Ariel String Quartet with Fort Wayne Children's  
Choir**

**Free**

**Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 6:30 pm**

**Pearl Street Arts Center**

234 Pearl Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

The program opens with the Fort Wayne Children's Choir joining the Ariel String Quartet in a performance of Srul Irving Glick's Psalm Trilogy. Next the Ariel performs Erwin Schulhoff's String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, concluding the program with Beethoven's String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132.

**Saul and Ruby's Holocaust Survivor Band and The  
Umbrella Maker's Son: Film Screening and Book  
Talk with Director/Author Tod Lending**

**Free**

**Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 7:30 pm**

**Pearl Street Arts Center**

234 Pearl Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Holocaust survivors Saul and Ruby moved to America after WWII, started families and careers, grew old, and retired to South Florida. Their klezmer band, the Holocaust Survivor Band, summons memories of their childhoods in Poland in a bittersweet and compelling story about finding purpose in life at any age. Afterward, the film's director, Tod Lending, discusses his new book, The Umbrella Maker's Son, a powerful, heart-wrenching novel that follows a young Polish Jew through his incredible journey to escape the Nazis.

## VIOLINS & HOPE

### Gallery Performance and Talk: Photographer and Author Daniel Levin

**Free**  
**Monday, March 17, 2025, at 5:30 pm**

Weatherhead Gallery - Mimi and Ian Rolland Art Center  
USF Creative Arts  
University of Saint Francis  
1014 Leesburg Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

The evening begins at 5:30 pm with selections by Jewish and Holocaust era composers performed on the Violins of Hope by the Bennett Strings. At 6:20 pm, author and photographer Daniel Levin will discuss his exhibition, Violins and Hope | From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall. Afterward, those in attendance are encouraged to view the exhibition and enjoy punch and cookies.

Information at [art.sf.edu](http://art.sf.edu), 260.399.8064, or [creativearts@sf.edu](mailto:creativearts@sf.edu).

### Orchestra of Exiles - Film

**Free**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:00 pm**

[The History Center](#)  
302 East Berry Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Orchestra of Exiles is the suspenseful chronicle of how one man helped save Europe's premier Jewish musicians from obliteration by the Nazis during World War II. In three years, Bronislaw Huberman transformed from a world-renowned violinist into a humanitarian racing against time. The documentary features commentary by Itzhak Perlman, Zubin Mehta, Pinchas Zukerman, Joshua Bell, and others.

### Meadowlark Quartet: Music from the Holocaust

**Free**  
**Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 10:00 am**

Weatherhead Gallery - Mimi and Ian Rolland Art Center  
USF Creative Arts  
University of Saint Francis  
1014 Leesburg Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Holocaust scholars join the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Meadowlark Quartet to take the audience through the turbulent events of history that helped create a pathway to Amnon Weinstein's workshop, punctuating historical events with moving music written by Jewish composers.

Information at [art.sf.edu](http://art.sf.edu), 260.399.8064, or [creativearts@sf.edu](mailto:creativearts@sf.edu).

### Wayne Street Strings: Music from the Holocaust

**Free**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 10:00 am**

Weatherhead Gallery - Mimi and Ian Rolland Art Center  
USF Creative Arts  
University of Saint Francis  
1014 Leesburg Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Holocaust scholars join the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Wayne Street Strings to take the audience through the turbulent events of history that helped create a pathway to Amnon Weinstein's workshop, punctuating historical events with moving music written by Jewish composers.

Information at [art.sf.edu](http://art.sf.edu), 260.399.8064, or [creativearts@sf.edu](mailto:creativearts@sf.edu).

### Jewish-Catholic Prayer Service

**Free**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm**

[St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church](#)  
1502 East Wallen Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Rabbi Meir Barger from Congregation Achduth Vesholom joins Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, in a prayer service that focuses on the beauty of the Psalms, stories of Holocaust survivors, and the religious connections shared and revered by the Jewish people and Christians. Music will feature the St. Vincent Choir, Purdue Fort Wayne University Singers, and a string quartet performing on the Violins of Hope. Selections common to Jewish and Christian faith traditions will be featured.

### Shabbat Service with Violins of Hope

**Free**  
**Friday, March 21, 2025, at 7:30 pm**

[Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#)  
5200 Old Mill Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

A special Shabbat service led by Rabbi Meir Barger will combine traditional prayers, reflections, and songs with music performed by a string quartet on the Violins of Hope.

[More information here](#)

# CALENDAR

# MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>KEY:</b> Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (The Federation) - JFFW The Temple - CAV Chabad - CHA	Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIJGS ROMEOS - RO Special Events	Violins & Hope - see previous page for event dates				9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
9:30 a.m. Religious School 2	CAV Office Closed 3	4	10 am Thoughtful Thursdays 5 7 p.m. Lifelong Learning	Noon - ROMEOS 6	JFFW Office Closed 7 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	8
9:30 a.m. Religious School 9 10:00 a.m. Hamantaschen Baking 1:00 p.m. Rosh Chodesh Purim with Rabbi Berkowitz at - Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center	CAV Office Closed 10	11	12	13	JFFW Office Closed 14 6:00 p.m. Joy Vey! 6:00 p.m. Purim and Shabbat Service	9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service 15
16 12:00 p.m. Purim Carnival	17 CAV Office Closed	18	19	20 Noon - ROMEOS	21 JFFW Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Violins & Hope Shabbat Service	22
23 9:30 a.m. Religious School	24 CAV Office Closed	25	26	27	28 JFFW Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	29
30 No Religious School	31					





## 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.

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

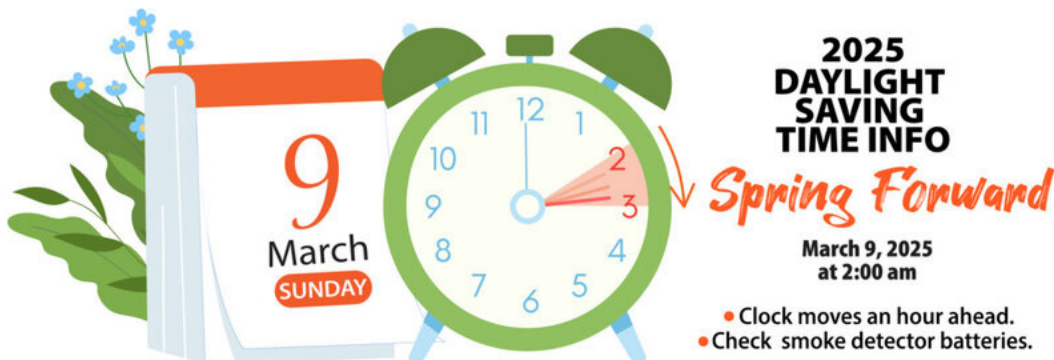


Jewish tradition teaches that one of our main responsibilities is to make the world a better place for future generations.

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.



# 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)

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

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



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

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

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



[7605 Coldwater Rd  
Suite A  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825](https://www.lovingcafefw.com)

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Eric Schreier, Federation member, spoke at the Fort Wayne Rotary Group on January 20th, 2024 about his recent trip to the Western Galilee

Good afternoon, fellow Rotarians.

I recently returned from a profoundly moving medical mission trip to the Western Galilee, an area that spans from the Christian town of Nazareth to the northern borders of Lebanon and the Mediterranean coast. During my time there, I had the privilege of practicing medicine and surgery at the 770-bed Western Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya. This city is situated just six miles from the Lebanese border and, at the time of my service, had its northern citizens evacuated to safer areas in the south.

The Western Galilee Medical Center serves a remarkably diverse population, encompassing people of various religions and cultures, which includes Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Druze. In fact, the hospital's CEO is Muslim, and the medical director of the Level 1 trauma emergency room is Christian. Israeli Muslims make up 25% of the population, Christians 10%, and Druze 5%.

The hospital, which caters to over 700,000 people, had, until recently, operated from bomb and chemical weapons-resistant shelters underground to ensure the safety of its patients. In 2018, I was honored to be part of a medical team providing care to approximately 3,300 Syrian War wounded, including many rebel fighters with severe injuries. Our goal was to rehabilitate these individuals so they could return home to their loved ones, under the auspices of the International Red Cross.

As Rotarians know well, service to others comes with great responsibility. I volunteered for this mission with the hope of contributing to a healthier future for all those in need, regardless of their religion, culture, or nationality. Like Rotary, the dedicated staff at the Western Galilee Medical Center perform their work with unwavering respect and sensitivity, embracing the diverse needs of the community.

Rotary members are renowned for their commitment to volunteerism. Our service to others is a testament to the fact that compassion and care transcend borders and divisions. Fostering goodwill and cooperation across different cultures and faiths is one of the foundations upon which Rotary is built.

During my time in the Western Galilee, I aspired to make a meaningful difference for all concerned. Thank you for allowing me to share my service experience with you today.

Eric Schreier



**BRING YOUR FAVORITE FILLING AND BAKE HAMENTASHEN WITH US!**

Please join our baking team in getting ready for Purim when we make a variety of delicious hamantashen on Sunday, March 9 at 10 a.m. at the Temple. Children are invited to share in this fun tradition when accompanied by an adult.

We're making the three-cornered treats to serve following our family-friendly [Purim service and shpiel](#) on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m.

Dough will be provided, but please bring your favorite filling (no jelly as it is too runny), such as preserves, canned pie and strudel filling, chocolate chips, Nutella, etc. If you have a rolling pin and 3-inch cookie cutter, please bring those as well.

Everyone is invited to participate in baking, but RSVPs are needed to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) or (260) 744-4245 no later than Tuesday, March 4 so that adequate supplies will be available. Thank you to Mimi Zelman and Bonnie Pomerantz for coordinating!

**GREEN EGGS AND HAM-ENTASHEN? JOIN US FOR PURIM SERVICE AND SHPIEL!**

Try it, try it, you will see, Purim at the Temple, what fun it will be! Come hear the story of Esther when shpiel meets Seuss, see Rabbi Meir in costume, we'll really let loose.

Shake a grogger when Haman's name we boo, make merry and nosh on a hamantashen or two. Don a hat or a headdress, a cape or a crown, we'll be ready to greet you – with a smile, not a frown.

Please join us for our Purim and Shabbat service on Friday, March 14 at the earlier time of 6 p.m. at the Temple. The service also will be livestreamed on [YouTube](#). An Oneg Shabbat follows, featuring hamantashen made by a team of Temple bakers. All are welcome.

Please bring boxes of macaroni and cheese to shake when Haman's name is uttered. The food will be donated to the food bank at [Wellspring Interfaith Social Services](#). We'll have traditional groggers available, too.

**FUN FOR ALL AGES AT PURIM CARNIVAL**

Get your costume ready – both adults and kids - to join us on Sunday, March 16 at noon at the Temple for our annual Purim Carnival! Come join (or watch) the costume parade to the Social Hall, followed by an exciting afternoon of fun for all ages.

**New this year** – a [hamantashen bake-off](#) and four-person aerialist troupe that will fly through the air!

The festivities also include games, bounce houses, a silent auction, scavenger hunt, trivia contest for adults, mah jongg, cornhole, crafts, a photo booth, face painter, and balloon artist!

We'll nosh on hamantashen made by our bake-off participants and enjoy a lunch spread of lox, bagels, whitefish salad, chopped liver, kugel, pizza, sundae bar, popcorn cart, and Purim Speakeasy (cash bar).

Tickets for the carnival are \$10 per person, available at the door, which includes everything except the cash bar and silent auction items.

Bake-off participants are asked to please RSVP and indicate what flavor(s) of hamantashen (two dozen of each flavor) you're bringing by Sunday, March 9 to (260) 744-4245 or [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org). [Find Bake-Off details](#)

Thank you to our creative Carnival Crew, including Kate Crell (chair), Cassie Balfanz, Deborah Bauer, Stephanie Gottesman, Dawn Hammond, and Celeste Sexton.

**PATRILINEAL DESCENT IS NEXT TOPIC IN "REFORM MOVEMENT IN AMERICA TODAY" SERIES**

Please join us for the second session in our lifelong learning series exploring "The Reform Movement in America Today" when we discuss patrilineal descent on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

In this series led by Rabbi Meir, we will focus discussions based on episodes of [Re-Form](#), a recent podcast series from Tablet Studios, supplemented with Jewish texts presented during the class.

Re-Form focuses on five questions or issues that have defined the movement in the modern era. Participants are highly encouraged to listen to the podcast episode in advance, but this is not required. Come prepared to learn, to question and to share your views on what it means to be a Reform Jew in America today.

Below are session dates and topics, with links to the corresponding episode of Re-Form.

February 12: [Origins of the Reform Movement](#)

March 5: [Patrilineal Descent](#)

April 9: [Social Justice](#)

May 14: [Inclusivity](#)

May 28: [Interfaith Marriage](#)

June 11: [Zionism](#)

The Zoom link will be included in the weekly email to our Temple family or contact us at [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org). All are welcome.

**THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM LEARNED A LITTLE YIDDISH WHILE DOING A MITZVAH**

Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers braved the cold winter weather in February, gathering to bag items for the 51 Brightpoint Head Start children who attend class at the Temple.

The first bag included fresh oranges, canned fruit cocktail, oatmeal, cereal bars, pretzels, pancake mix, and syrup. A second bag was filled with household supplies, including dish soap, laundry detergent, spray bottles, white cleaning vinegar, a sponge, and four rolls of toilet paper.

Janet Finkel, affectionately known as a *Yiddishe Bubbie*, agreed to teach the group a Yiddish word or phrase when we meet. We learned *Gutte Neshuma* - "a good soul" or "a gentle person." It was a pleasure to listen to one of her childhood stories.

If you are interested in sharing a Yiddish word, a Jewish story, or simply enjoying some camaraderie, we invite you to join us for our next bagging session on Wednesday, March 5 at 10 a.m. at the Temple. We also are seeking volunteers to assist with set up on Tuesday, March 4. For further information, please contact Cheryl Schorey at [cheryl\\_schorey@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com).



45TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**JEWISH GENEALOGY**  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | AUGUST 10-14, 2025

*And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey*



The Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is excited to welcome Bruce Colegrove to the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2:00pm EDT for an afternoon of learning regarding:

### HOLOCAUST RESEARCH FOR GENEALOGISTS

- 2:00pm – The Arolsen Archives and Other Sources for Holocaust Research: The Arolsen Archives houses the world's largest collection of Nazi persecution records, including documents on concentration camps and forced labor. Other sources offer survivor testimonies, historical documents, and research tools. Bruce will outline these resources to help people preserve the memory and history of those affected.
- 4:00pm – Case Study of Holocaust Research: Holocaust research plays a vital role in preserving history and ensuring the world never forgets. Bruce will review how he has investigated survivor testimonies, Nazi records, and the role of bystanders and collaborators to piece together the full picture of the individuals he has researched.

**Bruce Colegrove** has been a teacher of Spanish and World Literature at Fort Wayne's Canterbury High School since 1999. In addition to his work in the classroom, he has tutored students in the Fort Wayne Jewish community for their b'nei mitzvah while serving as a Jewish educator at Congregation Achduth Vesholom. In 2013, Bruce taught his first course on *Music in the Holocaust*, sparking his deep and ongoing research into the Auschwitz-Birkenau women's orchestra. In recent years, he has expanded his teaching to include semester-long courses on Genocide and Holocaust Literature at Canterbury HS. Currently, he is developing an original screenplay about Alma Rosé and the women's orchestra at Birkenau.

Past presentations include:


- "Helene & Charlotte Croner: Sisters in the Jewish Kulturbund Symphony of Berlin"
- "Lily Mathé: from European Celebrity to Death Camp Violinist"
- "Yolanda & Eva Steiner: Mother-Daughter Co-Survivors of Auschwitz"
- "The players from Paris – Fania Fénelon, Claire Monis, Hélène Rounder, & Fanny Ruback"
- "Defiant Berliners and Jewish U-Boote: Harbors in the Peril", International German Genealogy Partnership Conference, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne IN

This program is in-person at the ACPL Genealogy Center. If you are unable to attend, registration is required. The link can be found at [Upcoming Events – Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society \(neindianajgs.org\)](https://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: NEIJGS website at [www.NEIndianaJGS.org](http://www.NEIndianaJGS.org),  
Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/NEIndianaJGS/>.  
Contact NEIJGS at [vp@NEIndianaJGS.org](mailto:vp@NEIndianaJGS.org)

**NORTHEAST INDIANA JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY**  
**HOLOCAUST RESEARCH FOR GENEALOGISTS**



**Bruce Colegrove**  
April 6, 2025  
ACPL Genealogy Center

**2:00 pm** The Arolsen Archives and  
Other Sources for Holocaust Research  
**4:00 pm** Case Study of Holocaust Research



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.

More information can be found  
<https://www.neindianajgs.org/upcoming-events/>

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP



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

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

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

### Help is Available



We know that during these trying times, we can all use a little help once in a while. For those in need, we do offer food vouchers and gas cards. Please call the [Federation office](#) at (260) 456-0400. All calls are confidential.



We are also accepting donations of gas cards. If you would like to make a donation, please send in a check with "gas card" in the memo or call the office.

Do you have a car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane that you no longer need or use?

Donating them has never been easier! Simply choose [CARS](#) and their trained staff will guide you through the donation process.



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](http://www.wellspringinterfaith.org) to learn more. All services are free of charge and no referral or voucher is needed. We are here to serve all who need our help.

## FUNDS AND DONATIONS

# JEWISH FEDERATION FUNDS

## ENDOWMENT

- **Audrey and Joe Gerson Free Loan Fund**
- **Baum/Goldenberg Scholarship**
- **Emergency Cash Assistance Fund**
- **Holocaust Education Fund**
- **Jewish Experience Fund**
- **JNF - Plant a tree in Israel**
- **Prejudice Reduction Elimination Fund**
- **Community Relations Committee (CRC):**  
*To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.*
- **Goldenberg Camp Joe Fund:**  
*Every year we get a number of requests for assistance with the registration for our three-week Camp Joe Levine Day Camp.*



- **Janet Finkel Campership Fund:**  
*In April 2008, Audrey Gerson established the Janet Finkel Campership Fund in honor of Janet Finkel. This fund makes it possible to help youngsters go to a Jewish Camp or to a Music Camp.*
- **PJ Library:**  
*Supports reading anytime of the day, but we know that many families sit down to read books at bedtime, in their pajamas. PJ Library books can be enjoyed any time you want a good story.*
- **The Martha Rothenberg Replane Theater & Creative Arts Fund:**  
*This fund was created in memory of Martha Rothenberg Replane to honor her memory and her love for theater and creative arts. The fund will be used to encourage theater and creative arts presentations and knowledge in our community.*

## DONATIONS



- **Camp Joe**  
A donation was received from **Marcia & Denny Reynolds** in memory of **Larry Coulter**
- **Emergency Cash Assistance Fund**  
A donation was received from **Larry Mastbaum** in honor of **Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum**
- **General Operations**  
Donations were received

- from **John Sauer and Juan Suarez**
- **Holocaust Education Fund**  
A donation was received from **Chris Riley** in memory of **Sam Schagrin**
- **JNF - Plant a tree in Israel**  
A donation was 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)

March 6 – Ziano’s  
5907 Covington Road

March 20 – Wu’s Fine Chinese Cuisine  
4411 Coldwater Road

April 3 – Tequila Mexican Restaurant  
6328 W. Jefferson Boulevard

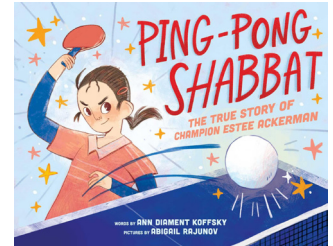
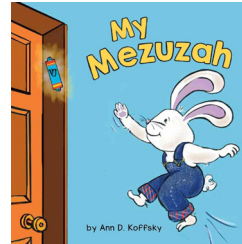
April 17 – No Lunch - Passover

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**

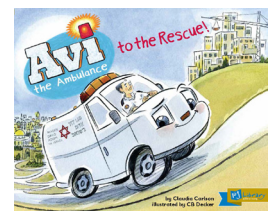
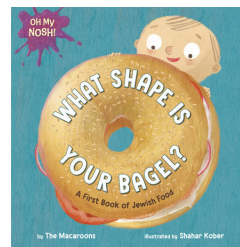
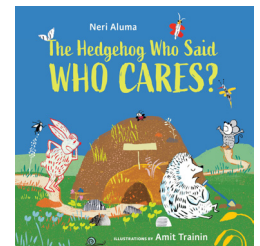
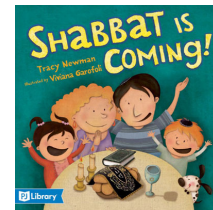
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Treasurer: Lee Pomerantz  
Immediate Past President: Scott Salon  
Executive Director: Michael Theise

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Josh Wallet  
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Leah Zimmerman

Rabbi Meir Bargeron



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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.

