



chailights



APRIL 2025

# YOM HASHOAH

FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

**Commemoration For the Six Million**

**Who Lost Their Lives**



**Guest Speaker: Irene Miller**

one of the last Holocaust survivors actively traveling and speaking publicly, Miller takes her audience on a survival journey little written and known about.

Ms. Miller will be available, after her presentation, to sign her book "Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir"

**Service led by Rabbi Meir Barger on  
with community participants**

**Music provided by Maestro Robert  
Nance accompanied by Heartland  
Sings**

**Monday, April 21, 2025**

**7:00 pm**

**Rifkin Campus**

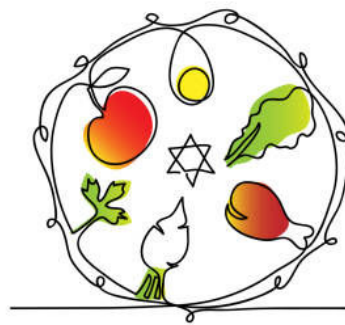
**5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne**

The event is free and open to the public

With support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE • THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



*Happy Passover*

**The Board of Directors and staff at the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne wish you and your families a Happy Passover!**

**Please note, our office will be closed on Monday, April 14**

**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



Hello Friends,

We have just wrapped up our [Violins & Hope](#) program, which is now a Fort Wayne tradition going back to 2019. I hope you were able to experience all the splendor that came to Fort Wayne as every event seemed to convey beautifully the intention of our Violins & Hope program. Many of you volunteered and contributed to this program, and to all of you, I extend my sincerest appreciation. Such a program is not possible without committed staff, volunteers, committee members, and partners. The community has enjoyed a beautiful photographic exhibition,

wonderful music, specialized music education for local students from our performing musicians, special films, an author presentation, fantastic historical presentations from the Lindquists, a tremendous interfaith service, and a very meaningful concluding Sabbath service.

I wanted to share some of my most memorable experiences for all to enjoy and reflect upon:

- Our very first visitors to the photographic exhibit, while the wonderful staff at University of Saint Francis was still setting up the exhibit on March 3rd, were two German college students - a student at University of Saint Francis, and his girlfriend, visiting him from Germany. They had so many questions and shared so much about the current state of Holocaust studies and perceptions in Germany. They were absolutely thrilled, sending pictures back home to their families in Germany while we spoke. What a great preview of things to follow!
- On March 12th, the Ariel Quartet from Israel captivated our local, public middle schoolers with music, dialogue, and teaching. A very special day for the students. Several students brought their families back to Pearl Arts on Thursday evening, March 13th, to see the instruments and to listen to the Ariel Quartet's full performance. This performance was especially moving as we were able to hear our beautiful and phenomenal Fort Wayne Children's Choir perform with the Ariel Quartet.
- A most welcoming interfaith service at St. Vincent de Paul, attended by almost one thousand community members, with Rabbi Barger and Bishop Rhoades speaking so beautifully in support of the Jewish community - "brothers and sisters" as Bishop Rhoades shared. Our Temple's Vocal Quartet performed so beautifully, and we will not soon forget Mike Rush's powerful reading of the poem, "Juliek's Violin" capturing the spirit of Violins & Hope. The concluding Sabbath service brought us together to pray and reflect on all the good that accompanied Violins & Hope throughout our community for the past two weeks.

In addition to the wonderful work of all our volunteers, I would like to also recognize the critical support of our partners (listed on the next page) and our committee (Ben Eisbart, Carol Lindquist, David Lindquist, Jim Palermo, Todd Pelfrey, Mike Rush, Jaki Schreier and Michael Theise), with special thanks to Jim Palermo for overseeing and coordinating the entire program. It was an honor for me to be part of such a wonderful team!

# VIOLINS & HOPE FORT WAYNE

# Thank you to our sponsors



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DR. HARRY W. SALON  
FOUNDATION

FORT WAYNE  
PHILHARMONIC

Andrew Constantine, Music Director





# VOLINS & HOPE FORT WAYNE

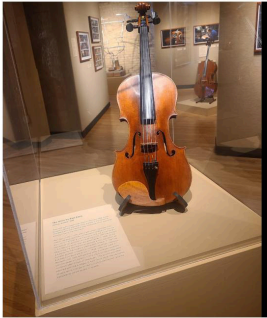


Exhibit pictures



Exhibit pictures



Exhibit pictures



Exhibit pictures



Exhibit pictures



Ariel Quartet



Interfaith Service



Interfaith Service



Interfaith Service



Interfaith Service



Shabbat Service



Shabbat Service

## Your Direct Connection to Israel

[Partnership2Gether \(P2G\)](#) is a program of the [Jewish Agency](#) and the [Jewish Federations of North America](#). The vision of P2G is to build a global and united Jewish people made up of a tapestry of strong, lively, flourishing and interconnected Jewish individuals, families and communities working together to enrich Jewish continuity, identity and cultural understanding between Jews in Israel and their peers around the world. [Read more here.](#)

## From Our Friends at [Partnership2Gether!](#)

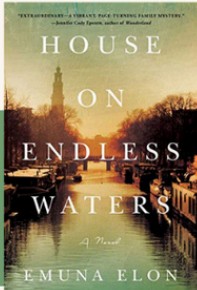
Along with 13 other U.S. cities and Budapest, Hungary, our Federation belongs to the Central Area Consortium, partnered with the Western Galilee area of Israel. Our members have benefited from programs we've offered with guests who've come from the Western Galilee to Fort Wayne, as well as opportunities to travel in our Partnership area. We are excited to share with you a diverse list of a la carte programs from our [Partnership2Gether](#). We invite you to sign up for the programs that spark your interest! These programs are a great way to engage with Jewish communities throughout our [Partnership2Gether](#) Consortium without needing to leave your home.

SAVE THE DATE!

# BOOKCLUB

Sunday May 18th




1pm EDT | 7pm Budapest | 8pm Israel



Join us to discuss the book

## House on Endless Waters by Emuna Elon

[RSVP](#)

The P2G Book Club looks forward to the second book of the year, **House on Endless Waters**, by the Israeli author [Emuna Elon](#). Her career branched from journalism through literature to women's rights activism, and her novels are known across the world. Plan to join the group on **MAY 18th 12PM C | 1PM E | 7PM BU | 8PM IL.**

To attend, please [RSVP here.](#)



## What are we talking about this month:

### Seder-Hosting Tips



Many families are going to be leading [Passover](#) Seders for the first time this year. You might be used to attending an extended family or community Seder and just bringing a side dish, leaving all the preparation to the hosts. If organizing, cooking, and leading your own Seder is new to you, here's a quick guide with some tips to help keep your Passover easy and stress-free.

#### Make it personal

Begin in a personal way. Talk about how families all over the world, despite world events or personal struggles, are pausing to celebrate Passover. Ask your family what they wish for most in this time, what they're grateful for, or what discoveries they've made in the past year.

#### Make it simple

Start your Seder with simple rituals – some that your family may practice during the year, others that are unique to Passover. The traditional ones are: *lighting candles*; *blessing your children*; *making kiddush* (blessing over wine or grape juice); *washing hands* (more symbolic than ever!), *dipping parsley in salt water* and eating it; and *breaking the middle matzah* of three pieces of matzah (and then, when the opportunity arises, hiding half as the [afikomen](#), the hide-and-seek matzah).

You don't need to do all of these opening rituals, and you can certainly do them in your own style (traditional blessings or not, additional explanations or not). The key is: [Involve your children](#) as much as you can in each ritual.

#### Make it a story

Move to the heart of the matter – storytelling about a journey to freedom. We warm up to the story with two particularly child-oriented practices. The youngest child or children say “Ma Nishtana,” the [Four Questions](#), in which paying attention to Passover practices on display (matzah, dipping – what are these *about*?) begs an answer in the form of a story. Then we describe [Four Children](#), each of whom is a different sort of learner. This gives you license to go ahead and tell the Passover story in the way that *fits your family's learning style best*.

And on to [telling the story](#). As PJ Library parents, you have experience with this. What's the family storytelling experience you want to create? You can simply follow the four-part illustrated summary on pages 31-35 of the [PJ Library Family Haggadah](#), accompanied by discussion and drama prompts. Or have your kids tell the story in their own way. (Use the [PJ Library River Ride](#) as a storytelling aide.) Or act it out as a family, with costumes, stuffies, finger puppets, props (which doll is in the basket playing Baby Moses? what serves as Moses' staff?). Turn the story into a game show. Read a [PJ Library Passover book](#). Juxtapose the Exodus story with a family member's or friend's personal journey to freedom. It's totally up to you.

The storytelling portion of the Seder can be a lot of fun. It can also generate questions, and part of the excitement of a Seder is when new questions and topics are explored in the course of telling this ancient story. Encourage your children's questions, and don't hesitate to ask your own as well.

The storytelling portion of the Seder ends on two notes – calling out the list of [Ten Plagues](#) and celebrating the miraculous *crossing of the sea*, which is great fun to act out and is capped off by the singing of “[Dayenu](#)” and other freedom songs. (And for kids with energy to spare, doing a free-style dance interpretation of the phrase “We're free!”)

#### Make it noshable

Ramp up to the Passover meal through a series of traditional appetizers. These include: *grape juice* (second cup), *matzah* (first bite on Passover!), *bitter herbs* (dipped in *charoset*, the sweet mortar-like mixture – the “second dipping”), and the *Hillel sandwich* (bitter herbs and charoset on a piece of matzah) – each with its own blessing and explanation, if so desired. Then, dinner is served. And after dinner, comes dessert (or the post-dessert dessert): Kids search for the [afikomen](#), get a prize for finding it, and share it with everyone, so the last bite of the evening is a small crunchy send-off.

#### Make it yours

For many families, *dayenu* – this is enough! You've told the story, celebrated, and stuffed yourselves. Time for bed. For other families, there are post-dinner goodies – a blessing after meal, opening the door for Elijah, two more cups of grape juice, and fun family songs like “*Echad Mi Yode'a*” (counting song) and “*Chad Gadya*” (animal song). Every family will figure out which of these elements is important for their family celebration, bearing in mind a wondrous fact:

There's always next year. (Or as we say: Next year in Jerusalem!)

[Reprinted with kind permission](#)



## SHARE YOUR CAMP JOE EXPERIENCE WITH FRIENDS!

It is impossible to overemphasize the importance, the value and the lasting impact of camp friendships. Friendships are at the center of every camp experience. They make every part of a fun-filled day more special and more memorable for the children.

In a camp setting, kids connect with each other over a wide range of activities, as they work cooperatively, discuss things passionately, cheer each other loudly, laugh exuberantly and play tirelessly. As a result, friendships form naturally, grow stronger over time and for many of our campers become lifelong.

We want as many children as possible to be able to experience these magical moments! We offer two fantastic opportunities for each child to share their Camp Joe experiences with friends.

### Bring-A-Friend Day

Every child can bring one friend to camp, *free of charge*, for a day of fun, games and outdoor adventures.

#### Bring-A-Friend Day 2025 Schedule

Thursday, June 26 – Aleph Campers (4-7 years old)

Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> – Bet and Gimmel Campers (8-13 years old)

[Find the Bring-A-Friend form here](#)

### Refer A Family to Camp Joe

You may be new to Camp Joe this year, looking forward to starting your camping days and making new friends. Or, you may be an “expert” camper, looking forward to reuniting with your many camp friends from past years. Either way, bringing your special friend to camp, helping them discover Camp Joe for the first time and sharing all the wonderful camp moments together will only enhance the joy and the fun for you and for all of us.

To participate, refer a *new* family to Camp Joe. Once they register, both you and the new family qualify for a 10% discount off of your paid fees.

[Refer-A-Family form here](#)

#### CAMP DATES FOR THE SUMMER OF 2025

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



You (and your friends) 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.

# CALENDAR

# APRIL 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	1	2	Noon - ROMEOs 3	JFFW Office Closed 4  7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service 5
No Religious School 6  2 pm NEIJGS Holocaust with Bruce Colegrove  3:30 pm NEIJGS Holocaust with Bruce Colegrove	CAV Office Closed 7	8	10 am Thoughtful Thursdays 9  Noon Lifelong Learning  7 p.m. Lifelong Learning	10	JFFW Office Closed 11  5:30 p.m. Joy Vey!  7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	12
No Religious School 13  6 p.m. Congregational Second Seder	JFFW and CAV Office Closed 14	15	16	Passover No - 17 ROMEOs	JFFW Office Closed 18  7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	9:45 a.m. Shabbat and Pesach Yizkor Service 19
9:30 a.m. Religious School 20	CAV Office Closed 21  7 pm JFFW Yom HaShoah Commemoration	22	<b>SAVE THE DATE 23</b> <b>NEIJGS &amp; Purdue Fort Wayne Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies - REBECCA SAUNDERS LECTURE</b>	24	JFFW Office Closed 25  7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	26
9:30 a.m. Religious School 27	CAV Office Closed 28	6 p.m. "Colleyville" screening and discussion 29	30			





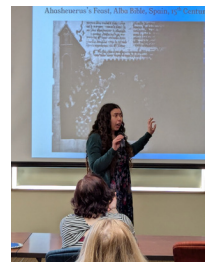
## Exciting Rosh Chodesh Women's Gatherings!

Our Rosh Chodesh Women's Group recently hosted two incredible programs that brought creativity, learning, and community together! On February 23, at the [Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#), glass artist Emily Simpson of [Sol Eye Glass](#) led twenty enthusiastic participants in crafting beautiful fused-glass Hamsas. With one guiding idea, we witnessed twenty unique and stunning creations—each a reflection of its maker's artistic vision.

Then, on Sunday, March 9, another inspiring group gathered at the same venue to welcome [Rabbi Leah Berkowitz](#) for a thought-provoking discussion on **"Feminism and the Feminist in the Book of Esther."** The conversation was so engaging and meaningful that we're already hoping to bring Rabbi Berkowitz back to Fort Wayne in the near future!

A heartfelt thank you to **Leah Zimmerman and Mimi Zelman**, our dedicated Rosh Chodesh committee co-chairs, and to the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for its generous and ongoing support.

We can't wait for what's next—stay tuned for more enriching experiences!



# 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](https://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](https://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](https://www.3riversfood.coop)



We are excited to bring you this program from Vincennes University

# AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST



## AFTER SURVIVAL THE STORY OF JOE LEVINE IN POST-WAR BAVARIA

Speaker: Michael Brown

Michael Brown, the Executive Director of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society, will present the story of Joe Levine, one of the first social workers to arrive in Europe right after the end of World War II. He took a leave of absence from his job as executive director of Fort Wayne Jewish Federation to look after the welfare of thousands of Jewish displaced refugees who were still reeling from the unfathomable scope of tragedy and horror that was the Holocaust. He would one day tell his story as the first Executive Director of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society.

**APRIL 22, 2025**  
**11am-12pm**

Online via Zoom meeting:  
<https://vinu-edu.zoom.us/j/95233560423>  
Meeting ID: 952 3356 0423



*This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of lead sponsor Jennie & Jonathan Levine. Additional major funding was provided by the Bidders—Joan & Allen L., Elisa Spungen & Rob, Nancy & Jim, and Jane and Daniel Osh.*

*The Museum's exhibitions are also supported by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund, established in 1990.*

ALA American Library Association

UNITED STATES  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
MUSEUM

PRESENTED BY



VINCENNES  
UNIVERSITY

SHAKE  
LIBRARY



### WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT? FIND OUT AT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Passover begins on Saturday, April 12 when we retell the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt and freedom from bondage. Please join our Temple family for the [Second Seder](#) on Sunday, April 13 at 6 p.m. at the Temple.

Rabbi Meir Barger on will lead us as we read from [Mishkan HaSeder](#), our new Haggadah, and dine on a traditional, kosher-style Pesach meal that includes matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, a choice of entrée (brisket or portobello mushroom cap topped with Parmigiano Reggiano cheese), kugel, and roasted vegetable medley. The meal will be catered by [Chapman's Brewing Company](#).

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, April 3 [online](#) or to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) or (260) 744-4245. [Make payment online](#) or send a check (payable to "CAV – The Temple"). When you RSVP, please indicate if you prefer the vegetarian entrée. Payment must accompany reservations. We are unable to take walk-ins or accept payment the night of the event. [Find price and additional information](#)

### COME TO LEARNING CAFÉ FOR A LIFELONG JOURNEY IN JEWISH EDUCATION

Join us for Learning Cafe, an exciting new program at the Temple designed to nourish both the mind and the soul. Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding of Judaism or simply eager to engage in thoughtful conversation, this program is for you.

We'll meet (mostly) on the first Wednesday of the month from 12 p.m. sharp to 1 p.m. at the Temple. Virtual participation via Zoom is available.

Bring your lunch and dive into a rich tapestry of Jewish learning and discussion. Under the guidance of Rabbi Meir Barger on and occasional guest teachers, we'll explore a wide range of topics related to Judaism and Jewish life. Each session promises engaging dialogue and new insights. After the session, feel free to stay and schmooze with fellow participants, building community and connection.

Mark your calendar and join us for these enriching learning experiences.

### Wednesday, April 9 (Second Wednesday) Translating the Torah with Rabbi Beth Lieberman

We will go on a journey through the history of translation of the Hebrew Bible, and gain insight into the process of the new recently published [JPS TANAKH: Gender-Sensitive Edition \(RJPS\)](#). We will be joined via Zoom by Literary Editor and Revising Translator [Rabbi Beth Lieberman](#).

Rabbi Lieberman is a skilled community leader and the founder of [Textish](#), an organization dedicated to bringing innovative literary works of Jewish scholarship, culture, and practice to a wide audience. She is currently Instructor of Homiletics and director of the Writing Center for the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Rabbinical Studies Los Angeles.

#### Upcoming topics:

- **Wednesday, May 7 - [Truth and Lies in Jewish Tradition](#)**
- **Wednesday, June 4 - [Jewish Identity in a Post-October 7<sup>th</sup> World](#)**

### SOCIAL JUSTICE IS NEXT TOPIC IN "REFORM MOVEMENT IN AMERICA TODAY" SERIES

Please join us for the third session in our lifelong learning series exploring "The Reform Movement in America Today" when we discuss social justice on Wednesday, April 9 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. Find the [podcast on social justice](#)

The Zoom link will be included in the weekly email to our Temple family. All are welcome.

### JOIN US FOR "COLLEYVILLE" DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION ON APRIL 29

"Colleyville" is a critically acclaimed

documentary that delves into the heart-pounding 11-hour hostage crisis that rocked the quiet town of Colleyville, Texas.

On a seemingly ordinary Saturday morning on January 15, 2022, a terrorist stormed Congregation Beth Israel during a live-streamed service, taking a group of innocent worshippers hostage. Led by the courageous Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, the hostages endured a harrowing ordeal that captured the world's attention.

Directed by Dani Menkin, an award-winning filmmaker known for his compelling and impactful storytelling, this real-life drama not only offers an intimate look at the hostages' bravery and the community's unwavering support but also explores the complexities of hate crimes and antisemitism. [Watch the trailer](#)

Please join us for a screening of "Colleyville" at Purdue Fort Wayne on Tuesday, April 29 at 6 p.m. in [Neff Hall](#), Room 101. A discussion about the film and antisemitism will follow the film, led by Rabbi Meir Barger on. The evening will conclude with a brief reception.

The event is sponsored by [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#), the Purdue Fort Wayne [Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies](#), and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation. Thank you to Dawn Hammond and the Temple's Social Action Committee for coordinating the program.

### 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](#).

Rabbi Meir Barger on leads services most Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Our Shabbat morning services are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 9:45 a.m., led by Ron Friedman, with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah. We will observe Pesach Yizkor during our Shabbat service on Saturday, April 19. Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat will meet on Friday, April 11 at 5:30 pm for families with young children.

Visit [www.templecav.org](http://www.templecav.org) for the schedule.





The Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is excited to welcome knowledgeable and experienced professional genealogist Ellen Kowitt, on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2:00pm EDT via Zoom.

- 2:00pm: **LOCATING JEWISH RECORDS IN THE GOLDEN MEDINA (JEWISH AMERICA) 1654 - PRESENT** – Documenting Jewish communities in the U.S. extends beyond cemeteries and synagogue plaques to include vital records, Escabot lists, mohel registers, hospital and funeral home records, and organizational materials. This lecture covers search techniques and key websites for uncovering Jewish genealogical records in archives, newspapers, and rare books, with examples from major repositories like the American Jewish Historical Society, American Jewish Archives, state archives, FamilySearch, and WorldCat.
- 3:30pm: **US SYNAGOGUE RECORDS AS A GENEALOGICAL RESOURCE** – This session provides a guide to locating synagogue records, understanding the genealogical information they contain, and recognizing their various formats. Searching for these records can be challenging due to cataloging errors and inconsistencies in how materials are described. *Shul Records America*, a JewishGen finding aid launched in 2022, simplifies the search by identifying over 800 collections across 80 repositories, with 20% linking to digitized materials. As synagogues merge or close, this resource helps preserve valuable genealogical records.

Ellen Kowitt, founder of Sole Searching Genealogy & Historical Research is a frequent national speaker, covering topics such as Jewish genealogy fundamentals, research methodology, Jewish institutional records, genealogy website comparisons, Russian Empire research, and Holocaust history in Ukraine. Her work appears in *Family Tree Magazine* and *Avotaynu: The International Journal on Jewish Genealogy*. She has completed the ProGen study program and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Ellen volunteers as JewishGen USA Research Division Director and D.A.R. National Vice Chair for Jewish Specialty Research. In 2022, she created *Shul Records America*, a finding aid for synagogue records in 80+ repositories. She will speak at the 2025 IAJGS Conference in Fort Wayne, Aug 10–14. Learn more at [www.EllenKowitt.com](http://www.EllenKowitt.com).

**Registration is required to attend this free virtual program. The link is available at <https://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 NEIJS programming.

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

## 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

WE MAKE  
A LIVING  
BY WHAT WE GET,  
BUT WE MAKE  
A LIFE BY  
WHAT WE GIVE.

winston churchill

### Emergency Cash Assistance Fund

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

### General Operations

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

### JNF - Plant a tree in Israel

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

every contribution is  
hugely valued

thank  
you!

## 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)

**April 3 – Tequila Mexican Restaurant**  
6328 W. Jefferson Boulevard

**April 17 – No Lunch - Passover**

**May 1 – Cosmos Restaurant**  
9807 Lima Road

**May 15 – West Coast Grille**  
2310 S. Calhoun Street

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

**2024 - 2025 Board of Directors**

**Officers:**

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Secretary: Bonnie Pomerantz  
Treasurer: Lee Pomerantz  
Immediate Past President: Scott Salon  
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Ellen Tom  
Josh Wallet  
Mimi Zelman  
Leah Zimmerman

Rabbi Meir Barger

Staff

Michael Theise  
Executive Director  
[director@fwjf.org](mailto:director@fwjf.org)

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

Jeff Griggs  
Bookkeeper  
[bookkeeper@fwjf.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fwjf.org)

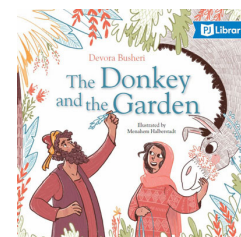
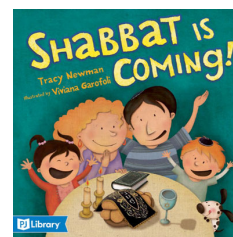
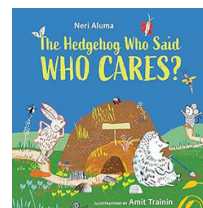
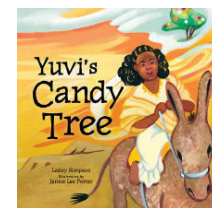
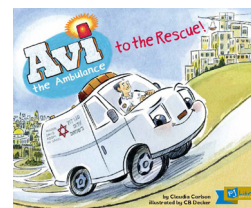
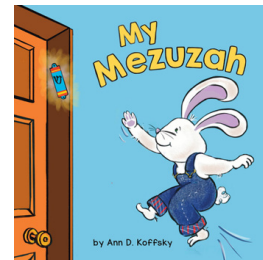
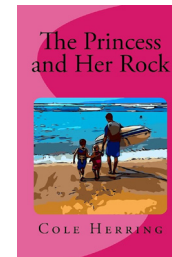
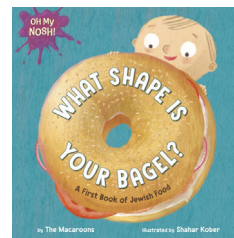
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Bonnie Pomerantz  
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[office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org)



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

A program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](http://Harold Grinspoon Foundation), PJ Library is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. Families with kids ages 6 months through 8 years old with Judaism as part of their lives are welcome to sign up.



[PJ Our Way](http://PJ Our Way) is for kids ages 9-11. It is kid-driven - they choose their own books, creating a totally tailored experience based on their own interests and reading level. To make the choice easier, our website includes summaries and author bios, along with ratings, reviews, and video trailers created by members themselves. Kids can also take polls and quizzes, participate in monthly interviews and challenges, post their own reviews, and comment on blog posts.

