

# chailights

MAY 2025

CarFit & Community Potluck – Wednesday, May 28

at

[Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) - 5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne



Join us on Wednesday, May 28 for a special double event at the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne! We're hosting a CarFit event and a Community Potluck—come for one or enjoy both!

**CarFit\*** is a free, interactive program that helps older adults check how well their personal vehicles “fit” them for comfort and safety. Appointments are required **beginning at 4:30 pm**—sign up one vehicle per time slot.

**Beginning at 5 pm**, we're gathering for a delicious **potluck!** Federation will provide turkey sandwiches, water and paper goods—please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share with 8 - 10 people along with a chair or blanket. RSVPs are needed so we can plan accordingly.

Please RSVP to let us know:

- If you're attending the CarFit event (and your preferred time slot) - [RSVP here](#) no later than May 15
- What [dish or dessert you plan to bring](#) for the potluck

Many thanks to our Rosh Chodesh group for organizing this event and to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.



\*Scan the QR code to learn more about CarFit

We look forward to seeing you for safety, food, and community!

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## GREATER CHICAGO JEWISH FESTIVAL

Thinking About Going to the Greater Chicago Jewish Festival?

Join Us for an Info Meeting – Wednesday, May 7 at 1:15 PM

Are you interested in heading to Chicago for the [Greater Chicago Jewish Festival](#) on Sunday, June 8? Come to our short and friendly info session on Wednesday, May 7 at 1:15 PM—[on Zoom](#).

This meeting is an opportunity for anyone interested in joining this vibrant celebration of Jewish music, art, culture, and community to connect, ask questions, and help coordinate travel plans. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a returning festival-goer, we welcome your participation and input. It's a great way to connect with others who are thinking about going and to get your questions answered. All are welcome—whether you're just curious or already packing your bag!

Questions? Reach out to the Federation office at (260) 456-0400 or [office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org).

Many thanks to our Rosh Chodesh group for organizing this event and to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.

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### Join Us for Our Annual Meeting

## ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 29 at 3:00 PM at the [Pearl Street Arts Center](#). This is our annual business meeting for members—a time to reflect on the past year, share what's ahead, and take care of important organizational matters. We value your input and hope you can be there.

**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 would like to take a moment to thank our members of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and our entire community. Last month, we celebrated Yom HaShoah on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Rifkin campus with a beautiful service that included a very engaging presentation by Ms. Irene Miller, who eloquently shared her Holocaust journey with us.

I would like to recap some of what the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne has been doing in terms of Holocaust education over a recent four week period:

- Speaking about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism to students in three different schools.
- Speaking about the Holocaust to a children's theater group that will be performing "Korczak's Children".
- Supporting Irene Miller to speak at a local high school.
- Supporting and joining approximately 50 students from New Haven High School as they travel to visit the Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL.

It is an honor to continue the wonderful Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne traditions that have been established over the years, while also working to expand our education into new schools and community organizations.

Tying our Holocaust education with the upcoming International Association of Jewish Genealogical Association (IAJGS) Conference, being held August 10<sup>th</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup> in Fort Wayne, please enjoy a very special story from our own Irv Adler on the next two pages.



Our office will be closed Monday, May 26 so that we may honor all who served and sacrificed for us.

## GUEST COLUMNIST - IRV ADLER NORTHEAST INDIANA JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY, TREASURER

In August 2010, after returning from a trip to Vienna with my wife, Fran, I discovered 102 letters from my grandmother and other relatives to my mother, Elsa, who had escaped from Vienna in September 1938 and had gone to England to work as a domestic, and then to the United States in March 1940. The letters covered the period from September 20, 1938, to November 30, 1941, when the letters stopped. They contained 250 names of relatives, close family friends, acquaintances, and other persons. Many of these names I had never heard of before.

Without the discovery of these letters and the research that I did to add historical context and to identify family members and important relationships, I probably would have gone through life without knowing anything about one-quarter of my ancestral family, who emanated from Lemberg, Galicia, simply because my mother was emotionally unable to speak about her mother and the maternal side of her family.

Ninety-three of the 102 letters were written by my grandmother, Clara Bader Nichtern. The other nine were written by cousins and uncles. From the letters, I learned that my mother and grandmother had an exceptionally close relationship. Not only was my mother an only child, but mother and grandmother lived together in the same apartment for 25 years, and it was only the two of them after my grandmother's divorce in 1921. From her letters, it was unambiguously clear what a kind, generous and loving person my grandmother was – to a fault.

My grandmother was very reluctant to be the bearer of bad news; instead, she glossed over bad situations, delayed the mention of them until weeks later, or did not mention them at all. Among her "rose-colored glasses" depiction of the continually worsening situation in Vienna were: downplaying the events of Kristallnacht; downplaying her nephew's May 1940 forced labor assignment at the Sandhof work camp and then again, a few months later, at the Marchegg camp; referring to the restart of the mass deportation to the East with the words "the tragic drama here" and not much else; waiting for more than a month to tell my mother that my grandmother's brother, Leon Bader, and her nephew, Markus Bader, had been deported to the General Gouvrenment in March 1941; waiting several months to tell my mother about her April 1941 interview, which led to her relocation to the second district in Vienna, as part of the staging of the Viennese Jewish population ahead of the mass deportation; totally downplaying the expulsion from her apartment of 28 years in August 1941, to sharing one room with one person and then two people in a collection apartment; and never ever mentioning the ultimate humiliation to the Jewish population of Vienna, the September 1941 edict requiring Jews to wear the Yellow Star.

However, the letters from the other relatives were more explicit in their description of their desperate situation in Vienna. Below are selected translated extracts from letters from two of Elsa's cousins, Emma Spielmann Löff and Carl Spitz.

The first letter, written on March 16, 1941, is from Emma to Elsa. Emma was the daughter of Rosalie Bader Spielmann, Clara's sister. Emma was desperately trying to get out of Vienna with her husband, Adolf, and son, Kurt. She wrote to my mother, who was by then in New York City, for help. The family was never able to get out of Vienna and were eventually murdered at Auschwitz.

*Dearest Elsa,*

*....Now you are, dearest Elsa, the only relative in the USA. And, at the same time, our only hope.*

*After an endlessly long time the affidavit from the consulate was found and the investigation occurs immediately upon presentation of the ship tickets.*

*We ask you intimately, ... help us for the required amount and arrange the payment at the Joint.*

*....Should you alone not be in position to raise this sum, request the relatives, friends, and other acquaintances to raise portions of the required money....It is completely impossible to obtain a visa in any other way in spite of passing the examination that filtered applicants.*

*Besides the Atlases, with whom you are in contact, I also have telegraphed Egon Weiss.... I beg you to raise these necessary amounts together with the Atlases, Egon and Asinoff and for the time being to start with the Atlases and Egon Weiss.*

*continued on page 4*

continued from page 3

*The hard labor Dolfi is performing – to which he is unaccustomed – is the utmost burden to him. Dolfi's health is not the best.*

*.... Once again Else, I implore you to help us. You are our only hope.*

*Heartfelt greetings and kisses, Emma, and Kurt Löff.*

The second letter is from Carl Spitz. Carl and his brother Otto were able to leave Vienna shortly after the Anschluss and went to Belgium. Then Carl went to England. In February 1940, he left England and went to New York and shortly thereafter to San Francisco. Carl's sister, Grete, like my mother, was able to escape from Vienna and went to England in early 1939 to work as a domestic. Carl, Otto, and Grete were the children of Clara's first cousin, Anna Spitz. Anna was never able to get out of Vienna and died of heart and health conditions. Her children survived.

The second letter, written on June 21, 1941, is from Carl to Elsa.

*Dear Elsa,*

*I receive regular mail from home and just recently 3 letters came one after another. In every letter Mother writes how happy she is when she is with Tante Clara and how she always looks forward to Wednesday, when Clara makes her weekly visit.*

*....Indeed, Elsa, how happy we would be if our mothers could be here with us! Our worries would be removed. But the way things are now, it would be a miracle, if we would succeed. With the departure of many of the American consulates from almost all of Europe and especially with the latest Policy proceeding from Washington, the last bit of hope has just about been snuffed out. Even I could not obtain the first small affidavit... and now all attempts at obtaining an affidavit are mainly illusory. ....*

On a more positive note, the letters mentioned sweet little Pauli. Pauli/Paul is the son of Benno and Josefina Spielmann. Since the names of Spielmann family members are among the most frequent names of the letters, I decided to carry out research on them.

In April 2014, working with a staff scholar at the USHMM specializing on the use of the International Tracing Service (now Arolsen Archives), we discovered that Paul survived the camps and arrived in Israel in 1945. Then, through a series of serendipitous events, I found out that Paul was alive, had changed his name to Shaul and lived in Ashkelon, Israel. Then on July 12, 2014, I met Shaul, who is now 92 years old, at his son's home in Huntington Woods, Michigan. Since then, I have been with Shaul several times, both in Huntington Woods and in Israel, and regularly see him and speak with him on Zoom.



Clara with her daughter Elsa  
Vienna 1932



Elsa's cousin Shaul with the author and some of their families in Vienna 2018

Besides finding and connecting with Shaul, I have identified members of the Bader and Spielmann families who were victims of the Holocaust and have memorialized them by placing Stones of Remembrance at their last known residences in Vienna.

None of the above would have been possible without the discovery of my mother's letters. And I expect that I would never have had any knowledge of these family members and of my ancestral ties to Lviv, Ukraine, formerly the Galician capital city of Lemberg.

## 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!](#)

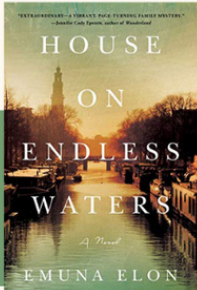
Along with 13 other U.S. cities and Budapest, Hungary, our Federation belongs to the Central Area Consortium, partnered with the Western Galilee area of Israel. Our members have benefited from programs we've offered with guests who've come from the Western Galilee to Fort Wayne, as well as opportunities 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:

### The Lag B'Omer Lowdown: History & Activities

In Jewish tradition, we count the 49 days between the second night of Passover and the beginning of [Shavuot](#). This is called *S'firat Ha'Omer* ("The Counting of the Omer"). On the 33rd day of counting, we celebrate the holiday of [Lag B'Omer](#).

"Lag" is an abbreviated combination of two Hebrew letters that, according to Hebrew numerology, add up to the number 33.

#### ABOUT LAG B'OMER



*Lag B'Omer* is traditionally celebrated with great joy. Jewish sources offer a range of opinions as to the origins of this joy. The Talmud says *Lag B'Omer* celebrates the halt of a plague that took the lives of thousands of students of the great teacher Rabbi Akiva.

Other sources say *Lag B'Omer* celebrates a victory for the armies of the Jewish leader Bar Kochba. Some associate *Lag B'Omer* with stories about Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a student of Rabbi Akiva and writer of an important Jewish text.

Want a deep dive into the history of *Lag B'omer*? Visit [MyJewishLearning](#)

#### CELEBRATING THE 33rd DAY

A number of traditions and customs have developed around the holiday of *Lag B'Omer*. In Israel and beyond, for example, many families light bonfires to brighten up cities and countryside alike. In addition, many Jewish couples schedule weddings and parties on *Lag B'Omer*.

Interested in celebrating *Lag B'Omer* this year? Try one of these fun activities:

##### Build a Campfire

*Lag B'Omer* falls in mid-to- late spring, making it a great time to break out the camping gear — or at least light a fire in a fire pit. Don't forget to make some [delicious s'mores!](#)

##### Pull Out the Bows & Arrows

Israeli children typically play with bows and (suction-cup-tipped) arrows on *Lag B'Omer*, imitating students of Rabbis Akiva and Shimon who fooled the Romans by pretending they were hunting. Relay races are another fun holiday activity.

##### Put on a Parade

Some communities stage parades for *Lag B'Omer*. Your family can organize a parade of its own. March around the block or just around the house and yard.

##### Get a Haircut

Yes, a haircut! The Counting of the *Omer* is treated as a semi-mourning period, and observant Jews refrain from haircutting during such a time. Because *Lag B'Omer* suspends that restriction, it is a traditional time for young children to get their first haircuts.

[Reprinted with kind permission](#)



Calendars have turned to May and the countdown to the final day of school has begun. Kids look forward to a well-deserved break from their studies and eagerly await the arrival of summer with all of the wonderful things it entails.

A summer camp is undoubtedly one of the happiest, healthiest and most exciting ways to celebrate summer. At Camp Joe, we take advantage of [Metea County Park's](#) beautiful hiking trails, spacious fields, parks and lake. As a result, our campers spend a large portion of each day in motion. They play sports and games, experience the thrills of encountering wildlife on our hikes, enjoy wild raspberries that they pick along the trails and delight in the carefree afternoons of swimming. Friendships develop naturally during all of these activities, as kids get to know and appreciate each other. In addition, the camp environment provides them with endless opportunities for learning, personal growth, mastering leadership, teamwork, problem solving and a whole array of important lifelong skills. It truly is a fantastic way for each child to enjoy a few weeks of their summer!

There is still time to register for Camp Joe Levine. Applications are available online at [fwjf.org](http://fwjf.org). You can also request a copy of the application by contacting JFFW at 260-456-0400 or [office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org).

We offer two amazing opportunities for children to share their Camp Joe adventures with friends!  
**Bring-A-Friend Day 2025**

Thursday, June 26 – Aleph Campers (4-7 years old)  
Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> – Bet and Gimmel Campers (8-13 years old)

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

To reserve a spot for your child's friend, fill out a [Bring-A-Friend form](#) by June 12th.

### **Refer A Family to Camp Joe**

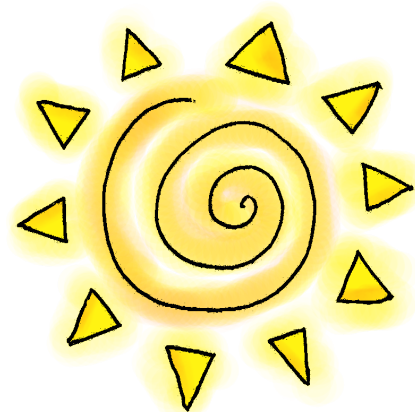
To participate, refer a **new** family to Camp Joe. Once they register, both you and the new family qualify for a 10% discount off of your paid fees.

Fill out [Refer-A-Family form here](#).

### **Camp dates:**

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

Can't wait to see you! Larisa and Samantha



CALENDAR

# MAY 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 Noon - ROMEOs	2 JFFW Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	3 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
4 9:30 a.m. Religious School 2 pm NEIJGS Ellen Kowitz 3:30 pm NEIJGS Ellen Kowitz	5 CAV Office Closed	6 10 am Thoughtful Thursdays	7 10 am Thoughtful Thursdays Noon Lifelong Learning 7 p.m. Lifelong Learning	8	9 JFFW Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Joy Vey! 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	10 10 a.m. Bar Mitzvah
11 9:30 a.m. Religious School	12 CAV Office Closed	13	14 7 p.m. Lifelong Learning	15 Noon - ROMEOs	16 JFFW Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	17 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
18 9:30 a.m. Religious School	19 CAV Office Closed	20	21	22	23 JFFW Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	24
25	26 JFFW Office Closed and CAV Office Closed	27	28 4:30 p.m. Rosh Chodesh CarFit and Potluck 7 p.m. Lifelong Learning	29	30 JFFW Office Closed 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Service - Confirmation	31 10:30 a.m. Joy Vey! Morning Service



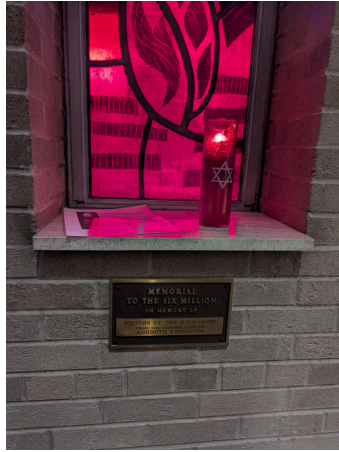
# YOM HASHOAH

FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

A very special thank you to everyone who participated in our memorable Yom HaShoah Commemoration on Monday, May 21. We are so thankful that Irene Miller was able to share her amazing story with us! Thank you to our **committee, volunteers, Rabbi Bargeron** and **Temple staff**; without you this would not have been the special evening it was! We always want to thank the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for its continued support, without whom evenings like this would not be possible, thank you!



Michael Theise, Irene Miller, Rabbi Bargeron



Holocaust window



Ben Eisbart



Andrew Downs, City of Fort Wayne



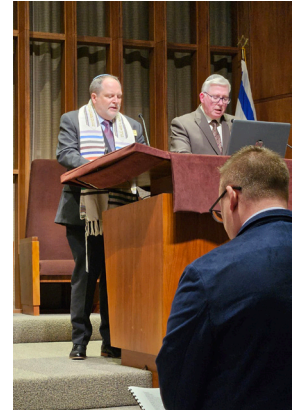
Beth Zweig



Fran Adler



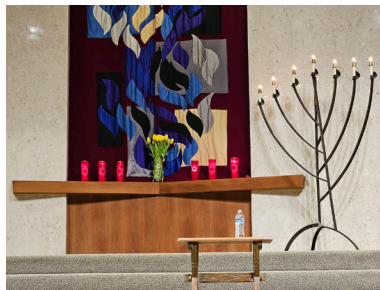
Nick Young



Rabbi Bargeron, Michael Rush



Michael Theise



We remember the six million



Heartland Singers

# 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](https://www.traderjoes.com)



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



## 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.

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## We Could Use Your Help!



We would like help "revitalizing" our PJ Library program. We are looking for volunteer parent "connectors", working alongside our staff, to help strengthen relationships with one another and create meaningful gatherings for families with young children. In addition to reading your PJ Library books at home, some activities might include creating low-barrier gatherings, planning stroller walks, baby and caregiver play groups, parents' nights out, holiday celebrations, and playground meet ups. For anyone interested, please reach out to the office at [fwjf.org](http://fwjf.org) or (260) 456-0400. We can't wait to connect!

A PJ Library Connector is:

- A passionate ambassador for PJ Library, sharing PJ Library with all families they encounter.
- Excited to meet, welcome, and get to know families raising Jewish children.
- An excellent communicator and listener; excels at relationship building.
- Enthusiastic about Jewish life and excited to infuse Jewish themes into gatherings.
- Interested in facilitating and participating in new opportunities for peers to meet each other.
- Self-motivated, curious, and open to new ideas.
- Understanding and respectful of the range of Jewish connection and knowledge among parents.

**INCLUSIVITY AND INTERFAITH MARRIAGE ARE NEXT TOPICS IN "REFORM MOVEMENT IN AMERICA TODAY" SERIES**

Please join us this month for the next two sessions in our lifelong learning series exploring "The Reform Movement in America Today" when we discuss inclusivity on Wednesday, May 14 and interfaith marriage on Wednesday, May 28, both 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 [Inclusivity](#) and on [Interfaith Marriage](#)

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.

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

**JOIN LEARNING CAFÉ FOR A LIFELONG JOURNEY IN JEWISH EDUCATION**

Our new Learning Cafe, an exciting program at the Temple designed to nourish both the mind and the soul, continues on Wednesday, May 7 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Temple when Rabbi Meir Barger on leads us in an exploration of [Truth and Lies in Jewish Tradition](#).

Together we will explore the teachings of Torah, Talmud, and Jewish ethics on honesty, deception, and the pursuit of peace. Through classic texts and contemporary commentaries, we'll examine when truth is absolute and when compassion allows for flexibility. Join us in uncovering the wisdom of

Jewish tradition in navigating truth with integrity and kindness.

Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding of Judaism or simply eager to engage in thoughtful conversation, this program is for you. Bring your lunch and dive into a rich tapestry of Jewish learning and discussion. Please RSVP to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) by Tuesday, May 6. (Virtual participation is available. Find the link in the Temple's weekly email.)

**Save the date for our Learning Café on Wednesday, June 4 at noon for [Jewish Identity in a Post-October 7<sup>th</sup> World](#).**

**SHARE THE FUN AT JOY VEY! A KID-ISH SHABBAT**

Please join us on Friday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. for Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family!

We'll light candles, pray, sing songs, move and groove, and even practice mindfulness. We also embrace the tradition of blessing children as we make a joyful place for Shabbat in our lives and hearts... together.

Folks are encouraged to stick around to enjoy a glass of wine/juice and challah. We'll order pizza for dinner together if there's interest.

Save the date for a Joy Vey Shabbat morning program with musician Juliette Nehring on Saturday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m.

**CELEBRATE SHABBAT AND BAR MITZVAH 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. We'll begin our summer service schedule on Friday, May 30 when worship moves to 6:30 p.m. and we also celebrate Confirmation. 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. This month, we'll celebrate Shabbat and a simcha on Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. when Sam Goldberg, son of Kristin & Scott Goldberg, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat will meet on Friday, May 9 at 5:30 pm for families with young children.

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

**THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS PREPARING THE LAST BAGS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**

As the school year winds down for the Brightpoint Head Start students who attend classes at the Temple, our Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers will assemble bags on Wednesday, May 7 at 10 a.m. with additional food and toiletries to assist their families during the summer months.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the continued generosity of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the numerous members of our Jewish community and non-members who have made Thoughtful Thursdays possible through their donations and unwavering support.

We are deeply appreciative of the invaluable contributions of the Temple staff, the Jewish Federation, and the dedicated volunteers who provide unwavering support each month. Without their efforts, this program would not be feasible.

Thoughtful Thursdays is an initiative of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). Individuals interested in volunteering for this endeavor are kindly requested to contact Cheryl Schorey at [cheryl\\_schorey@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com). We would be delighted to welcome you to our team.



### Call for volunteers – IAJGS Conference 2025

Have you heard that the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Associations (IAJGS) is holding its annual conference in Fort Wayne this year, August 10–14? Choosing Fort Wayne as the site for 2025 is a huge vote of confidence in our city and the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society (NEIJGS)!

It's also a huge undertaking for our small community; but we are confident that we can meet the challenge. We have two very powerful assets: the world-renowned Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library, with its knowledgeable and helpful staff, and the outstanding Grand Wayne Convention Center.

The third asset we need is people – like you! Co-chairs for Volunteers are Fran Adler (NEIJGS) and Elizabeth Hodges (ACPL). Co-chairs for Hospitality are Beth and Dan Zweig (NEIJGS).

Some of you have already agreed to help, and we appreciate you. But we will need many more.

Here are some of the roles you might fill:

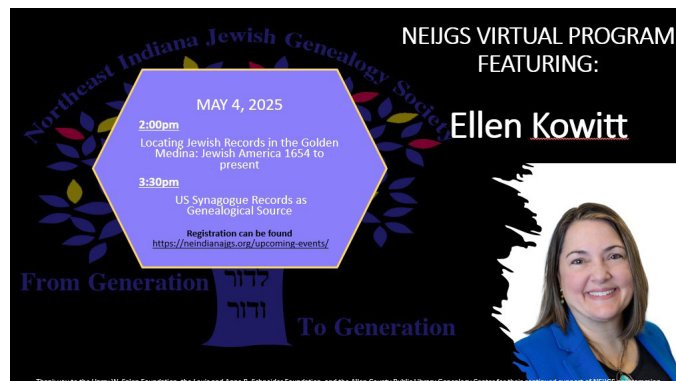
- Help people check in and get their badges and other materials.
- Welcome attendees and help to familiarize them with Fort Wayne – from local attractions to the huge selection of downtown restaurants.
- Help them find their way around both sites and also find their way back and forth between the Grand Wayne and the Library, including physically assisting attendees with mobility challenges.
- Serve as session monitors to ensure that things go smoothly for both speakers and attendees.
- Help as needed with the Share Fair, the Film Festival, and other events.

The conference will be Sunday, August 10 through Thursday, August 14.

Wondering about a time commitment? It could be as little as one two-hour stint to perhaps half a day, or several times over the five days, but **you** will be able to choose the time(s) you volunteer and for how long. **And if you register for the conference, we will work around YOUR schedule, so you can help without missing any of the sessions you want to attend.**

If you want to help make this a truly superlative conference, please contact Fran Adler, [fran@adlerfw.com](mailto:fran@adlerfw.com), to volunteer. We will be very grateful!

Fran, Elizabeth, Beth, and Dan



For more information, see the NEIJGS website, [neindianajgs.org](http://neindianajgs.org)

## 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

### Audrey and Joe Gerson Free Loan Fund

- A donation was received from **Susie Miller** in memory of **Danny Rifkin**

### Holocaust Education Fund

- A donation was received from **Owl's Head Alloys, Inc.** in memory of **Daniel Rifkin**

### Emergency Cash Assistance Fund

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

every contribution is  
hugely valued

thank  
you!

### General Operations

- A donation was received from **Juan Suarez**
- A donation was received from **Janet Finkel**
- Donations were received from **Richard Byers, Jr., Bessemer Trust, Jeffrey Cammlarie, Sharon & Ben Eisbart, Rachel Gillman, Steven Lampert, Marlowe Family Charitable Fund, Marsh McLennan Agency, Barbara & Les Lipschutz Rifkin, SGM Magnetics, State Metal Industries, Upstate Metal Recycling** in memory of **Daniel Rifkin**

## 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)

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

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

**June 5 – The Hoppy Gnome**  
203 E. Berry Street

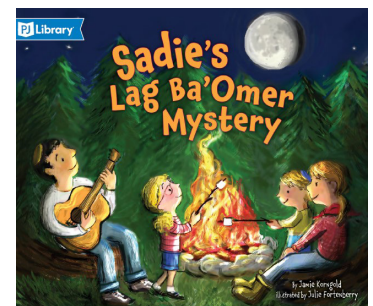
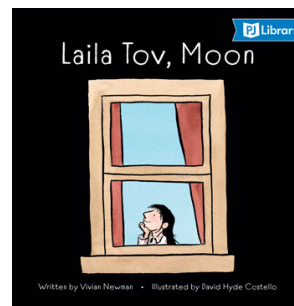
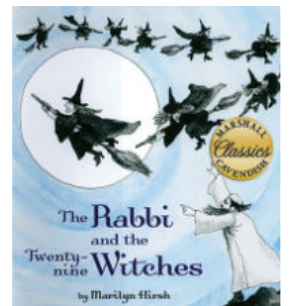
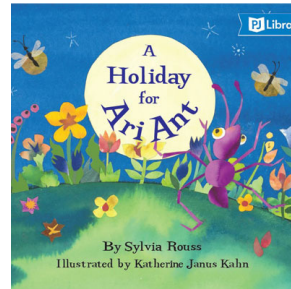
**June 19 – Black Canyon Restaurant**  
1509 W. Dupont Road

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

Rabbi Meir Bargeron

**Staff**

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

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

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

(260) 456-0400 phone  
(260) 456-0500 fax  
[www.fwjf.org](http://www.fwjf.org)

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

[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.

