



ch a i l i g h t s



JUNE 2025

104th ANNUAL MEETING **OF THE** **JEWISH FEDERATION OF FORT WAYNE**

will commence on

June 29 at 3:00 p.m. EST

at

Pearl Street Arts Center

(234 Pearl Street)

Proposed Slate **2025-2026**

The Nominating Committee has
submitted the following slate:

Officers:

President: Ben Eisbart (one year term)
Vice President: Bob Walters (one year term)
Secretary: Lee Pomerantz (one year term)
Treasurer: Jaki Schreier (one year term)

Director - Term Ending 2027

Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Scott Salon
Mimi Zelman

Directors - Term Ending 2026

Not up for re-election

Ron Friedman
Mike Rush
Aliza Tourkow (finishing Leah Zimmerman's
term)
Ellen Tom
Josh Wallet

**Pomegranate and Lion of Judah pins
will be awarded.**

Donors to the 2024 - 2025 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign are eligible to vote in this election.

*Following the business portion of our annual meeting, beginning at 4 p.m., we
invite you to our "One of the Righteous" presentation honoring
Bishop Kevin Rhoades .*

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

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

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

MICHAEL THEISE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello Friends,

What a wonderful honor it was for the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne to be welcomed to so many local schools this past month. Administrators and teachers wanting to meet their students' needs and desires to better understand the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism led to some beautiful and engaging learning sessions. The thoughtful questions, respectful attention, and appreciation expressed by students and teachers served as a meaningful indicator of the value of our time in the classroom.

Our 2026 Confronting the Shoah and Teacher Symposium programs will further help to provide needed education and experience for our local educators, who will then be able to provide a wonderful educational experience for their students.

Our community, schools, and students are also facing some difficult challenges. School resource shortages, the inability to attract and retain the highest quality personnel, and security concerns continue within our state while we also face new challenges in terms of education. In Indiana, House Bill 1137 was enacted to require schools to cooperate with parents and religious groups in allowing students to leave school during the day for religious instruction. Large organizations have stepped in to facilitate students leaving our schools during the school day, which in turn reduces the quality, focus, and engagement of those remaining ("left behind") students. I am proud to share that the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and the Jewish community are actively working to address the negative impacts of the associated educational disruptions to our students.

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne will ALWAYS support our schools and students and we are excited to meet the challenges for and within our community.



Our office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, June 2 & 3 in observance of Shavuot and also Thursday, June 19.



Our Rosh Chodesh group has planned a wine tasting and nosh for us on Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.
More information soon!

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK



Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, October 21** at **7:30 p.m.** when we welcome author **Mitch Albom.**

More information over the summer.

We look forward to seeing you then!



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.





PARTNERSHIP2GETHER
U.S. Central Area Consortium | Western Galilee | Budapest

2025 HaTikva Summit

October 28 – 30, 2025 in Israel
Cost: \$100* (\$195 single supplement)

*Subsidies provided by the Partnership. Airfare not included. One Israel Summit/Solidarity subsidy per person per calendar year. Some exceptions apply. Contact Tamara for details.

Open to all community members, staff and lay leaders!

- Engage with IDF Soldiers
- Volunteer in the Western Galilee
- Hear from displaced citizens and bereaved families
- Speak with executives and owners of businesses in the evacuation zone
- Meet heroes of resilience
- Connect with friends from the Western Galilee, Budapest and Central Area Consortium communities in the US.

Pre-Summit – Introduction to Partnership2Gether (October 26 - 27), add \$650 (\$130 single supplement)

Summit – Get to know the people of the Partnership (October 28 - 30), \$100* (\$195 single supplement)

Post-Summit – Optional add-on to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem (outside vendor, October 31 - TBD)

Horizon/YA Seminar – An add-on or stand-alone seminar for Young Adults from our P2G communities in the US, BUD, and WG (Oct 31 - TBD), \$100* (\$195 single supplement).

QUESTIONS? CONTACT Tamara Lawson Schuster,*
Consortium Director
913-710-0463 | tamaralschuster@gmail.com

We are strong; together we are stronger




OUR WOUNDS ARE CENTURIES OLD BUT SO ARE OUR RESILIENCE AND OUR STRENGTH

SAVE THE DATES! P2G WG HaTikva Israel Summit 2025!

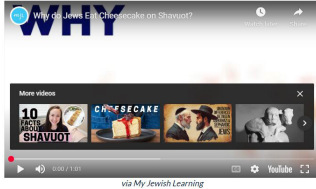
Summit: October 28-30
Pre-Summit: For those new to P2G and the WG region, October 26-28
Post-Summit add-on: October 31 - TBD to include Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Gaza Envelope (outside vendor, not subsidized)

For more information contact [Tamara L. Schuster](#)

What are we talking about this month:

7 Simple Shavuot Recipes Kids Can Make

Seven weeks after Passover ends, it's time to celebrate [Shavuot](#).



This holiday marks the biblical story of receiving the Ten Commandments and the Torah at Mt. Sinai. While many families don't regularly celebrate Shavuot, it's a holiday that's totally made for kids – a perfect excuse for sleepovers, flower picking, ice cream socials, and lots

of other fun activities.

One very delicious and fun Shavuot tradition is eating dairy. Some people say that the reason to consume dairy treats on Shavuot is because not eating meat makes everyone feel lighter, physically—a good reminder about the spiritual light that comes with receiving the Torah. Some popular Shavuot treats include [blintzes](#), [bourekas](#)—a cheese stuffed pastry from Israel, and of course, [cheesecake](#). If your kids are interested in cooking on their own, check out these easy recipes for Shavuot. Most can be made with very little help from a grownup.

Shortcut Cheese Blintzes

Make your own cheese blintzes with a loaf of bread, a rolling pin, and some cream-cheese. There are variations on this recipe all over the internet—try this super easy take from [Allrecipes.com](#) – just be sure to have a grown-up supervise the baking.



image via [Allrecipes.com](#)

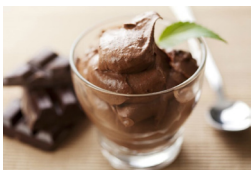
Ice Cream in a Bag



A science experiment and recipe all in one! This recipe is perfect for an outdoor celebration or a rainy day and it's appropriate for toddlers to tweens. To make this ice cream you just need a few simple ingredients, a sturdy bag, and space to move around.

image via [Growing a Jeweled Rose](#)

Chocolate Avocado Mousse



Your family can whip up an incredibly rich dessert with only five ingredients and a blender. Although this [particular dessert](#) has a yummy, creamy, texture, it's actually dairy free – a perfect treat to enjoy with a Shavuot barbecue.

image via Joy of Kosher

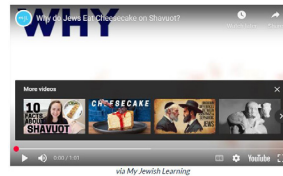
Peanut Butter French Toast Rollup



image via [Tasty Junior](#)

This [recipe](#) is like a blintz but kicked up several notches. Allergic to peanuts? Swap in school-safe sunflower or soy butter instead or try using a brown-rice butter (it tastes like marshmallows) for another variation.

Froyo Granola Cups



This lighter recipe features all the sweet decadence of traditional Shavuot fare but with a healthy twist. If your family enjoys this recipe, here are five similar, [treats](#) that are just as easy to make.

Cheese Toast



Also known as “fancy toast” or an “open-faced grilled cheese,” cheese toast is simply just cheese on top of toast. In some parts of the United States, melting cheese on bread in the toaster oven is a breakfast staple—and luckily, it's also an easy, kid-friendly recipe that's easy to customize and

change up. Your kids can use preshredded cheese or get creative with cream cheese and different toppings. Still hanging on to leftover matzah from Passover? Try a [ricotta crisp](#) for Shavuot.

Rugelach



Goosey, sweet, rugelach looks so complex, but the recipes can be shockingly simple. For Shavuot, mix up your very own cheese and raspberry batch to share with your family. Try one of these [five easy rugelach recipes](#).

[Reprinted with kind permission](#)



WELCOME TO CAMP JOE 2025

The start of camp is quickly approaching. We are thrilled to see so many familiar names as well as many new names on this year's roster! We look forward to sharing the three weeks of fun summer adventures at Camp Joe Levine with all of you!

If you haven't registered for this year's camp yet, limited spots are available for each week. Applications can be found online at fwjf.org. You can also request a mailed application by contacting JFFW at 260-456-0400 or office@fwjf.org.

FOR NEW CAMPERS ONLY, please submit **the medical form and the pick up authorization form no later than June 12, 2025**.

FOR RETURNING CAMPERS, we have your information from last year. Fill out these two forms only if there are changes or updates.

- 1 [Medical Form](#)
- 2 [Pick up Authorization Form](#)
- 3 Please review the [Camper Code of Conduct](#) with *each camper* and submit the signed form.

Please submit the [Bring-A-Friend Day](#) form to **reserve a spot for your child's friend**:

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

Monday, June 30 – Bet and Gimmel Campers (8-13 years old)

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

Refer-A-Family

Refer a *new family* to Camp Joe and both, you and the new family, will receive 10% off of the paid fees. **Fill out [Refer-A-Family form](#)**

CAMP DATES/TIMES

June 22-27

June 30-July 4

July 7-11

Regular camp hours are 9AM-4PM

Before care hours: 8AM-9AM (\$5 per child per day) **After care hours: 4PM-5:30PM** (\$7.50 per child per day)

DAILY PACKING LIST

WATER BOTTLES – Please provide 2-3 water bottles (1.5-2 liters/3-4 pints) each day to help your child stay hydrated during active outdoorsy summer days.

SUNSCREEN MUST be applied before camp. An **ADDITIONAL BOTTLE OF SUNSCREEN** must be sent in your camper's bag for reapplying before swim time.

MOSQUITO REPELLENT CAN be applied before camp. An **ADDITIONAL BOTTLE OF REPELLENT** must be sent in your camper's bag for reapplying later in the day if needed.

LUNCH Please include an ice pack if needed.

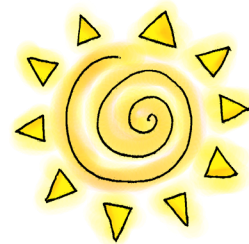
SNACK Please send a healthy snack with your child to enjoy after swim.

SWIMSUIT A swimsuit can be worn to camp.

BEACH TOWEL

PLASTIC BAG for storing wet items after swim time

TENNIS SHOES for hiking the trails and for playing active games



Please take a moment to write your child(ren)'s name on all of their belongings, including their **book bag, lunch box, water bottles, swim suit, towel, sunscreen and bug repellent bottles**. It is much easier for our staff to return misplaced items to their rightful owners when each item is marked with a camper's name.

Please note:

Our campers stay very active throughout the day. We spend a greater part of each camp day swimming, hiking, playing sports and active outdoor games. Don't be surprised if your child is more tired than usual and needs extra rest in order to get the most out of his or her camp experience the next day.

Things NOT to bring to camp:

- electronic devices
- personal toys

Electronics and personal toys brought to camp will be stored and returned to the camper and parent at the end of the day. Camp Joe staff is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

We can't wait to see you all at [Metee County Park](#) (8401 Union Chapel Road)!

CALENDAR

JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7 p.m. Shavuot Service	2 JFFW Office Closed and CAV Office Closed	3 JFFW Office Closed	4 Noon Lifelong Learning 7 p.m. Annual Meeting	5 Noon - ROMEOS 7 pm Annual Meeting	6 JFFW Office Closed 6:30 p.m. Intergenerational Shabbat Service & Camper Blessing	7 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
8 Greater Chicago Jewish Festival	9 CAV Office Closed	10	11 7 p.m. Lifelong Learning	12	13 JFFW Office Closed 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	14 10:30 a.m. Joy Vey! Morning Service
15	16 CAV Office Closed	17	18	19 JFFW Office Closed Noon - ROMEOS	20 JFFW Office Closed 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	21 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
22	23 CAV Office Closed 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Camp Joe	24 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Camp Joe	25 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Camp Joe	26 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Camp Joe	27 JFFW Office Closed 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Camp Joe 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	28 6:30 p.m. TinCaps Game
29 3 p.m. Annual Meeting	30 CAV Office Closed 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Camp Joe				KEY: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (The Feder- ation) - JFFW The Temple - CAV Chabad - CHA	Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIJGS ROMEOS - RO Special Events

Thank You

2024 - 2025 DONORS (AS OF MAY 15, 2025)

Thank you to our generous donors!

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

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

- Anonymous (5)
- Fran & Irv Adler
- Anna & Daniel Appel
- Rabbi Meir Bargerone & Jon Tam
- Judy Bolinger
- Cynthia Brooks
- Talia Bugel
- Shirley Busack
- Steve Carr
- Susan & Alan Cooperman
- Ron Cousino
- Shara & Harry Cunningham
- Nancy & Mike Dicker
- Jane Downey
- Sharon & Ben Eisbart
- Roz & Mike Eling
- Robert Elliott
- Pam & Kenneth Feldman
- Janet Finkel
- Rifkin Family Foundation
- Pamela & Ron Friedman
- Betsy & Geoff Gephart
- Barbara & Alan Gilbert
- Glenn Goldstein
- Lori & Rob Goldstrom
- Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon
- Doris Gottlieb
- Ronnie & Norm Greenberg
- Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder
- Keith Groman
- Dora & Leonid Itkin
- Carol Jackson
- Nola & Matthew Katinsky
- Micki & Sherwin Kepes
- Suzi & Jim King
- Amy & Sam Krouse
- Eda Kyner
- Cathy Lash
- Jere Leib
- Stan Levine
- Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum
- Sheryl & Bruce Merritt
- Susie Miller
- Harriet Miller & Monica Wehrle
- Maestro Bob Nance
- Marcia & Denny Reynolds
- Debby & Keith Roberts
- Enid & Stanley Rosenblatt
- Deborah Rothberg
- Jo Ellen & Mike Rush
- Kay Safirstein
- Nancy & Scott Salon
- Karen Sandler
- Jan & Steve Sarratore
- Missy & Mark Schneider
- Cheryl Schorey
- Jaki & Eric Schreier
- Charla Sheray
- Beth & Mitch Sherr
- Wendy & Micah Soltz
- Ellen & Michael Tom
- Aliza Tourkow
- Donna & Josh Tourkow
- Theresa & Scott Trauner
- Sally & Steve Trotter
- Parker Tysinger
- Wendi & Josh Wallet
- Tamara & Thomas Wheeler
- Judy & Steve Zacher
- Mimi & Don Zelman
- Leah Zimmerman
- Beth & Dan Zweig

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

Lion of Judah



History and usage

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

Who They Are:

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

Pomegranate Pin

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

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



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

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

Where can you get challah, Kosher or Vegan items in Fort Wayne?

TRADER JOE'S®

[4110 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804](https://www.traderjoes.com/locations/fort-wayne)

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

www.traderjoes.com



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

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

www.thefreshmarket.com



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

www.3riversfood.coop



GIFT GIVING MADE EASY



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

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



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

Federation's role is to secure the future of the Jewish community at home, abroad, and in Israel.

Working with local, national and international partners, we help Jews around the world live a Jewish life, and ensure that no Jew is left behind.

You can create a lasting legacy with the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) to benefit your children, grandchildren, and future generations, while supporting the causes you care about. Using a current or deferred endowment gift, you can become part of Federation's Legacy Society.

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 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.



SHARE SHAVUOT WITH OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

Please join us for our Shavuot and Yizkor service on Sunday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at the Temple when we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai, led by Rabbi Meir Barger. Join us in person or [on YouTube](#).

In ancient times, Shavuot marked the conclusion of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. The holiday is celebrated 50 days after Passover. Traditionally, the Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot because just as that story recounts how a young Moabite woman chose to become an Israelite so did the Israelites choose to accept the commandments when they stood before Mt. Sinai.

It is customary to eat dairy foods on the holiday to symbolize the sweetness of Torah and the association of Israel as the land of milk and honey.

ZIONISM IS FINAL TOPICS IN "REFORM MOVEMENT IN AMERICA TODAY" SERIES

Our lifelong learning series exploring "The Reform Movement in America Today" concludes on Wednesday, June 11 at 7 p.m. on Zoom when we look at the current state of Zionism.

Led by Rabbi Meir Barger, our discussions are based on episodes of [Re-Form](#), a recent podcast series from Tablet Studios, supplemented with Jewish texts presented during the class.

Participants are highly encouraged to listen to the podcast episode on [Zionism](#) in advance, but this is not required.

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

Bring your lunch and join us for our Learning Cafe, an exciting program at the Temple designed to nourish both the mind and the soul, on Wednesday, June 4 at noon when we explore Jewish Identity in a post-October 7th world.

Led by Rabbi Meir, we will delve into [For Such a Time as This: On Being Jewish Today](#) by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove. This book explores critical existential questions for Jews living in the Diaspora and in Israel in a post-October 7th world.

Our conversation will explore the impact of recent events on Jewish identity, the rise of antisemitism, and the evolving relationship between American Jews and Israel. We'll also reflect on how Jewish history and tradition can guide us in contemporary challenges. Learners are encouraged to read the book before coming to the session, but it is not required. Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 3 to office@templecav.org.

Please RSVP to office@templecav.org by Tuesday, June 3. (Virtual participation is available. Find the link in the Temple's weekly email.)

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 leads services most Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Our new Intergenerational Shabbat Service will be held on Friday, June 6. Shabbat morning services are usually 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.

SHARE A JOY VEY MORNING WITH JULIETTE NEHRING

Families with young children are invited to share a special musical

morning of Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat on Saturday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m. with musician [Juliette Nehring](#).

Meet us in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center to introduce your child to the beauty of a Shabbat *morning* service with prayer, singing, movement, joyfulness, and friends. Folks are encouraged to stick around afterwards to enjoy coffee, juice, and donuts.

Nehring has been a lay leader and music specialist at Jewish congregations in the Indianapolis area for the past 13 years and has been a professional in the fields of music and education for over 30 years.

Currently, she is dedicated to her position as music specialist, cantorial soloist, and religious school teacher for Congregation Beth Shalom in Carmel. She has a passionate interest in children and families, and community engagement and social justice.

Joy Vey will not meet in July. Please save the date to join us when Juliette returns for Shabbat morning on Saturday, August 23 at 10:30 a.m.

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

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS WRAPS UP A GREAT YEAR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

What a difference our Jewish community and Thoughtful Thursdays program has made in the lives of 51 Brightpoint Head Start families! During the past school year, we gave away fresh bags of fruit, rotisserie chickens for Thanksgiving and a holiday meal in December. We filled over 1,000 bags with food and household supplies. We gave more than 2,000 rolls of toilet paper. We filled at least two bags a month starting in September and finishing in May.

Our year ended with homemade blankets, Mother Day's mugs and some extra supplies to help get through the summer months. Thoughtful Thursdays has given members of the Temple and Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne a charitable and fun place to gather – and we even got a few Yiddish lessons and stories along the way.

Thank you for the generous donations through the Temple, the Jewish Federation, the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, as well as everyone who made donations to the Apple Project during High Holidays.

We appreciate our hard-working volunteers who filled bags of food and household items. Thank you for the donations of homemade blankets from Kay Safirstein; toothbrushes and toothpaste from Dr. Michael and Ellen Tom; booster seats and coats from Amy & Sam Krouse; the discount we received from Phil's U-Pick Apple Orchard in Huntington; Jon Tam for supplying Trader Joe's bags for us to fill; and so many who donated items and finances to support the Brightpoint families.

Special thanks to Lily Noga and Samara Sheray for purchasing and picking up monthly supplies, and Charles Smiley and Timmy Oberley for helping move supplies and setting up tables.

Thank you to our Thoughtful Thursdays team members:

Fran Adler, Jamie Berger, Cheri Buker, Bonnie and Alex Crubaugh, Nancy Dicker, Jane Downey, Janet Finkel, Rachel Gordon, Doris Gottlieb, Miki Kepes, Suzi King, Amy Krouse, Joanne McCrory, Lily Noga, Bonnie Pomerantz, Marcia & Denny Reynolds, Kitlan Renner, Kay Safirstein, Nancy Salon, Jaki Schreier, Samara Sheray, Kathy Sider, Michael Theise, Ellen Tom, Donna Tourkow, Sally and Steve Trotter, Mimi Zelman, Beth Zweig. Chair: Cheryl Schorey

Remember, hunger doesn't stop just because of inflation. It makes what we do even more important!



UPDATES ON PROGRAMS & IAJGS CONFERENCE AT NEIJGS ANNUAL MEETING

The [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, June 5 at 7 p.m. ET. On the agenda for this brief virtual session will be the announcement of the group's 2025-2026 programs, an update on August's [IAJGS Conference](#), and official society business. If you're interested in attending, please contact Betsy Gephart at president@NEIndianaJGS.org to get the link for the program.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IAJGS CONFERENCE

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Associations (IAJGS) is holding its [annual conference](#) in Fort Wayne this year from August 10 to 14. It's a huge vote of confidence in our city and the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) (NEIJGS)!

It's a huge undertaking, too, for our small community; but we are confident that we will rise to 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 who have registered online 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.

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 that's **your** choice. 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 the NEIJGS make this a truly superlative conference, please contact Fran Adler, fran@adlerfw.com, to volunteer. We will be very grateful!

Fran, Elizabeth, Beth, and Dan

WE ARE HERE TO HELP



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

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

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



Help is Available

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

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



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

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



The Audrey & Joe Gerson Free Loan Fund was set up to offer an interest-free loan up to \$2,000 to members of the Jewish community who are undergoing financial hardships. Please call the Federation office at (260) 456-0400 to speak to someone confidentially.

We are here to help!



Wellspring provides essential necessities of clothing, food, and personal hygiene items. In addition, Wellspring offers after-school and summer programs for youth, as well as programming for older and disabled adults. Call today at 260-422-6618 or visit our website www.wellspringinterfaith.org to learn more. All services are free of charge and no referral or voucher is needed. We are here to serve all who need our help.

FUNDS AND DONATIONS

JEWISH FEDERATION FUNDS

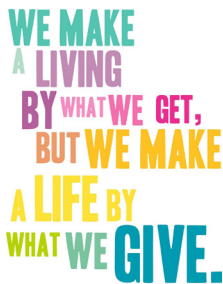
ENDOWMENT

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



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

DONATIONS



winston churchill

Emergency Cash Assistance Fund

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

General Operations

- Donations were received from **Juan Suarez**

Jewish Experience Fund

- A donation was received from **Etoila & John Leahy** in memory of **Danny Rifkin**

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)

June 5 – The Hoppy Gnome
203 E. Berry Street

June 19 – Black Canyon Restaurant
1509 W. Dupont Road

July 3 – Salvatori's SW
10337 Illinois Road

July 17 – Sweetwater Music
5501 US Highway 30 W

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

2024 - 2025 Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Ben Eisbart
Vice President: Bob Walters
Secretary: Bonnie Pomerantz
Treasurer: Lee Pomerantz
Immediate Past President: Scott Salon
Executive Director: Michael Theise

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Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Mike Rush
Jaki Schreier
Ellen Tom
Josh Wallet
Mimi Zelman
Leah Zimmerman

Rabbi Meir Bargerone

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Michael Theise
Executive Director
director@fwjf.org

Jeff Griggs
Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@fwjf.org

Bonnie Pomerantz
Office Manager
office@fwjf.org

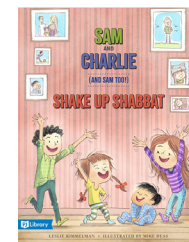
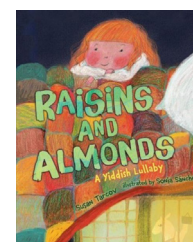
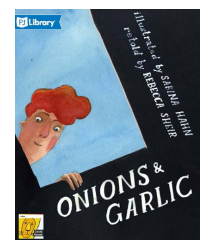
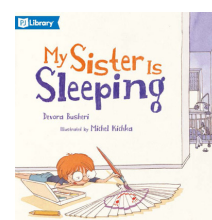
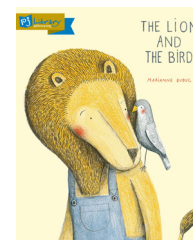
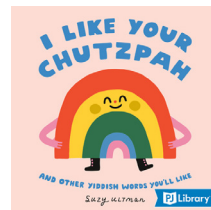
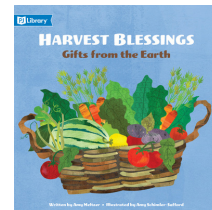
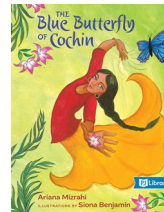
[Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](http://www.fwjf.org)
5200 Old Mill Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

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



Which books did you receive this month?

A program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](http://www.haroldgrinspoonfoundation.org), 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://www.pjlibrary.org) 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.

