

Chailights

SEPTEMBER 2025

JOIN US FOR DINNER!

Celebrate community and connection with our Rosh Chodesh group!

We'll be gathering for dinner at **6:30 PM** on **Wednesday, September 17** at [Yummy Bowl](#) (543 E Coliseum Blvd).

Dinner is self-pay, but the laughter, stories, and meaningful connections are free to all. Whether you're reconnecting with old friends or meeting someone new, there's a seat for you at the table.

RSVP by **September 10** to office@fwjf.org or call (260) 456-0400. All Jewish women in our community are warmly invited.

We can't wait to see you there!



People of the Book

presents

Mitch Albom

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

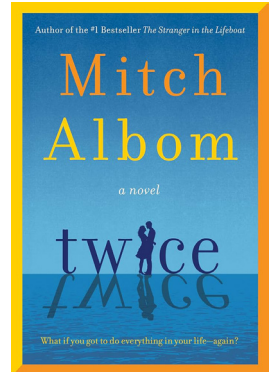
7:30 p.m.

Auer Performance Hall – Purdue Fort Wayne

2101 E. Coliseum Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN

FREE and Open to the Public

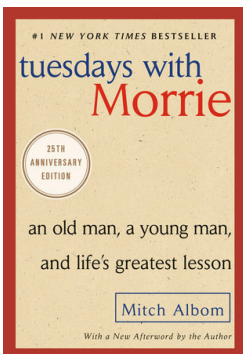
Tickets required. Reserve now at pfw.edu/tickets



Featuring:

New York Times bestselling author
Philanthropist & Sports Reporter

Author of “Tuesdays with Morrie” and many other acclaimed books



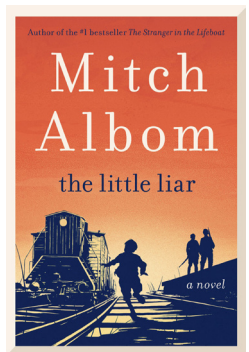
We will have a limited number of copies of Mitch Albom's new book, “Twice” (to be released on October 7), to give away. **To reserve your free copy, please contact the Federation office at office@fwjf.org or (260) 456-0400.** If we have run out, we will let you know. These free books are limited to one per household, and reserved copies will be available for pickup at the program on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

Book signing immediately following the lecture

Presented by the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne

With generous support from the **Dr. Louis A. and Anne B. Schneider Foundation**

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

ANNUAL MEETING SPEECH - JUNE 29, 2025



Good afternoon and welcome everyone! Great to be among such wonderful people.

Thank you for joining our Annual Meeting in support of the Jewish Federation as we move from our 104th to our 105th year in Fort Wayne. A tremendous accomplishment that we should all be very proud of. Today's meeting will be followed by a very special occasion honoring Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as "One

of the Righteous." Please join us for this beautiful ceremony.

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for being so incredibly warm and welcoming to our family, a lovely and accurate reflection on the Fort Wayne Jewish Community. With tremendous support from our Board of Directors, President Ben Eisbart, Bonnie Pomerantz, Jaki Schreier, Jeff Griggs, Fran Volante, and our many friends at Congregation Achduth Vesholom, we continue the impactful work that this Federation has been doing for generations.

Over the past year, through tremendous community generosity in terms of volunteer time, energy, and funding, we have supported important Jewish organizations – large and small, and have provided desired programming and community events.

It is a nice time to reflect on a small portion of what our Federation has contributed locally, this past year. First, our Federation continues to receive praise for our beautiful two week Violins & Hope program that included many volunteers and special community partners. Additionally, our Confronting the Shoah series for community educators remains incredibly well received. Both of these events were led by previous recipients of "One of the Righteous" awards, Jim Palermo and Dr. David Lindquist, both phenomenal long-term ambassadors and supporters of the Jewish community.

Additionally, we continue with events such as our People of the Book, ongoing Holocaust education, Yom HaShoah commemoration, Camp Joe Levine, Rosh Chodesh, and PJ Library. These are strong programs our community deserves, and we will continue to deliver.

When we think of teamwork and working together, there is a unique and special partnership between our current community and those who came before us. Initiatives, efforts, and resources put in place years ago are now supported by current Jewish Federation members. To me that is the meaning of community – continuity, for a cause, over time, that brings people together. The Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Schneider Foundation, as well as several Audrey and Joe Gerson funding initiatives are a few

of the many examples that exemplify long term commitment to our community.

Areas of need in our world are many. We can reflect proudly on our actions to meet those needs through two examples: First, our strong support for Partnership2Gether, focusing on rebuilding and strengthening communities in Israel's Western Galilee, which remains under regular attack. I would like to recognize Dr. Eric Schreier for his on-the-ground contributions in the Western Galilee earlier this year during difficult times. Second, and very importantly, we have been heavily focused on addressing the deep educational voids that are leaving so many children susceptible to misinformation and hateful and reductive rhetoric about Israel and Jewish people. This hatred has cost lives and placed communities in danger from Israel to Europe to a Governor's mansion in PA, to Washington D.C., to Boulder, Colorado – the list is lengthy. It is a sad day and summer when the state of our world necessitates a security guard at Camp Joe Levine.

With our Federation's focus on middle- and high school-aged students and their teachers, we are finding much community support. Erin White, a teacher in the New Haven school district, first trained by David Lindquist, encouraged by Jaki Schreier, supported by Bonnie Pomerantz and our Jewish Federation, incorporates Holocaust studies throughout the entire school year. It is from your support that Erin travels with several classes of students to the Illinois Holocaust museum annually. Today, unrelated to the Federation, Erin is in Europe with her New Haven students, learning within the walls of former concentration camps. I do believe our work supporting educators and students is making a difference that will hopefully last for decades and generations. Our goal is to significantly expand and spread this model.

In the summer of 2025, challenges facing Jewish people everywhere are numerous and ever changing. In our Fort Wayne community, it is wonderful to know that we will support each other, as well as any Jewish person, family, or community where we can make a positive difference. I marvel at our community and all of the beautiful simchas and joys we celebrate together throughout the year, as well as the work we do for others and the important causes we support.

* Two notes before concluding – Jim Palermo, a great friend, is retiring more or less today. And if anyone wants to feel especially good about our Federation, I would encourage you to visit camp Joe Levine. It will make you very proud and leave you feeling very positive.

Thank you for placing your trust in me, and supporting OUR Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne. Wishing each of you a wonderful, healthy and happy year to coincide with your Jewish Federation's 105th year!

BEN EISBART - PRESIDENT

ANNUAL MEETING SPEECH - JUNE 29, 2025



The current state of Jewish life globally is shaped by continuity and change. Jewish life today is marked by both challenges and creativity in how we, Jews, live and function in society and at the same time relate to our values and traditions.

Consider Diversity and Identity... Jewish communities around the world are incredibly diverse – ethnically, culturally, and religiously.

From secular Israelis to Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn, from French Jews navigating rising antisemitism to Ethiopian Jews integrating into modern society,

Jewish Identity is multifaceted.

There is a growing awareness of what it means to be part of AM YISRAEL (the Jewish people) especially in light of rising antisemitism...as many Jews feel a heightened sense of peoplehood, even if their personal practices differ widely. Our Federation life bears witness to that reality.

In many countries, including our own, intermarriage rates are high, and Jewish identity is often blended with other cultural influences – raising questions about the transmission of tradition, but also leading to the development of more inclusive Jewish spaces.

Or consider Innovation in the area of Jewish Practice – There is a renewal in Jewish learning, spirituality, and Community building.

Or if we focus on Technology and Torah – Online learning platforms, digital prayer groups, and virtual Shabbat experiences have made Jewish learning and practice more accessible than ever. We even stream our prayers.

Faced with Pluralism and Renewal – movements like Humanistic Judaism and other non-traditional venues are engaging Jews who may not identify with mainstream movements but are deeply committed to Jewish ethics and wisdom.

Then there are the challenges!

Resurgent antisemitism in Europe, the Middle East, and North America, including on college campuses and online, has led to a renewed need for security and advocacy – who would have thought that we would need uniformed police officers to “do Jewish” ??

The relationship between the State of Israel and global Jewry is getting more complex, especially around religious pluralism, politics, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Diaspora Jews often feel torn between support for Israel and critique of its policies.

Let's take a few moments and focus on Jewish Life in the United States. In this country, Jewish life is both freer and more assimilated than at almost any time in Jewish

history.

Whether in Fort Wayne, or elsewhere, Jews are deeply woven into American life – politically, culturally, economically, and academically. This integration has brought success but also the risk of cultural dilution as we seek to “fit in” to the larger society.

While traditional synagogue membership in the United States is declining, alternative models of Jewish community are flourishing, such as social justice groups and arts-focused communities that are reimagining Jewish life.

Our Religious Practice and Beliefs, while still recognizable, are being re-calibrated... the Reform and Conservative movements are adapting to demographic and cultural change, while Orthodox communities are growing in size and influence...at the same time, a large portion of American Jews now identify as “just Jewish” or “culturally Jewish or unaffiliated.”

Many American Jews express their Judaism through *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Jewish activism has been central to movements for civil rights, refugee support, climate action, and more. For many, being Jewish means being ethically engaged in the world.

At the same time, Jewish ethics are being tested - especially in discussions about Israel/Palestine, or systemic racism, or communal responsibility.

Relevant to Jewish tradition today, Holocaust education, Jewish history, and Hebrew School remain pillars of identity and new methods are being explored to keep them relevant. Lifelong learning is reinforced through Jewish Day Schools and Summer Camps.

Storytelling and Inter-generational dialogue, with emphasis on oral history, are being utilized for the same purpose. Jewish Genealogy is flourishing.. just witness Irv Adler!

Modernity has impacted Spiritual Practice and meaning – Take prayer and ritual: for some, daily or weekly practice is central...for others, Jewish holidays become moments of connection - Seder tables, Hanukkah candles, Yom Kippur fasts – offering cultural grounding.

We, Jews, are a Community in Motion.

Today's Jewish Life, whether in Temple and/or Federation is vibrant, is adaptive and filled with tensions as well as accomplishments. As a contemporary Jew, I see our tradition as a living conversation—one that honors the past while responding to the present with adaptability and creativity. And while our future faces challenges – from antisemitism to assimilation – it is also brightened by a generation of Jews committed to reinterpreting what it means to be Jewish in this ever complex, pluralistic Jewish world...a world ever challenging us to “do Jewish” for the sake of our past...our present...and our future.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 104th Annual Meeting!

It was a meaningful evening filled with connection, reflection, and gratitude. We welcomed new officers to our board and celebrated our Pomegranate and Lion of Judah recipients, who received their pins in honor of their commitment and generosity.

We also took time to thank our outgoing board members for their dedication and service, presenting them with gifts as a small token of our deep appreciation.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued generosity, and to The Pearl Street Arts Center for being such a cherished community partner.

We are inspired by the strength of our community and look forward to the year ahead—together.



Ben Eisbart, Federation President



Sharon Eisbart, Pomegranate



Marcia Reynolds, Pomegranate



Jo Ellen Rush, Pomegranate



Fran Adler, Lion of Judah



Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz, accepting in memory of her mom, Audrey Gerson, Lion of Judah



Micki Kepes, Lion of Judah



Nancy Salon, Lion of Judah



Jaki Schreier, Lion of Judah



Michael Theise, Executive Director

Lions of Judah: Kate Theise, Irene Walters and Beth Zweig were unable to join us.



Rabbi Meir Barger

ONE OF THE RIGHTEOUS HONORING BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 29, 2025 PRESENTED BY JAKI SCHREIER

Good afternoon.

I'm honored that our Executive Director Michael Theise and our President Ben Eisbart invited me to speak about the meaningful and enduring relationship between the Jewish Federation, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, and the Fort Wayne–South Bend Catholic Diocese.

Bishop Rhoades is truly a Mensch. A mensch is “a person of integrity and honor, a true human being.” I'm also blessed to call him a friend.

I first met Bishop Rhoades when serving as President of Congregation Achduth Vesholom, I attended the funeral of the beloved Bishop John D'Arcy, of blessed memory. When I returned home, my husband Eric, asked what I thought of the new Bishop. I remember my response clearly:

“He has a beautiful Ruach—or a beautiful spirit. I felt confident that the FW–SB Diocese was going to be in good hands. It felt truly Beshert—that it was meant to be—for him to come to our community with G-ds grace.”

When I subsequently became Executive Director of the Jewish Federation, one of my top priorities for our small and vibrant Jewish community was to renew our collaborative efforts with the Diocese, in order to continue the *Avodah*—the holy work—that we are called upon to do together here in northeast Indiana and in our World.

As an early example of our Shared Service and Solidarity, we learned of a local Polish woman whose Catholic family greatly risked their lives during the Holocaust in Poland, by sheltering five Jewish neighbors. This family, truly lived the Judeo-Christian precept that all human life is a gift from G-d. The Federation thus sought to honor this family for their courageous and selfless actions at the upcoming Yom HaShoah service. We invited Bishop Rhoades and the Diocese to participate.

He agreed without hesitation. His presence—and his heartfelt words—meant the world to this family and to us.

Not long after, we introduced Bishop Rhoades to the remarkable Jeannie Opdyke Smith, daughter of Holocaust rescuer Irena Gut Opdyke—a young Polish Catholic woman who, with extraordinary chutzpah and risk, saved twelve Jews while working in the home of a Nazi Commandant.

Through Bishop Rhoades' efforts, Ms. Opdyke shared her mother's story with students across Catholic high schools, universities, and seminaries—a survival story that will stay with these students for a lifetime.

When the Jewish Federation put together an exhibit, called, “The Pope's Visits to the Holy Land,” Bishop Rhoades readily joined us for this remarkable event. The opening included a special service, in addition to the formal exhibit, that involved Rabbi Yehiel Poupko, Bishop Rhoades and Israeli dignitaries from our Midwest Consulate speaking about the significance of the Pope's visits.

Bishop Rhoades has shown steadfast leadership in advancing Holocaust education. Under his guidance:

- Teachers from parochial schools regularly attend Holocaust workshops and, under the leadership of certified Holocaust scholar David Lindquist, the prestigious “Confronting the Shoah” classes.
- Students from Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger have participated in Holocaust programming,
- At Bishop Rhoades' initiative, dialogue and cooperation with the South Bend Jewish Federation, local Rabbis and Holocaust educators all were strengthened.

continued on page 11



Jaki Schreier, speaker



One of the Righteous award



Michael Theise, speaker

WINE TASTING

Thank You for a Wonderful Evening!



meeting a few new ones!

Our Israeli Wine Tasting was a lovely evening filled with great conversation, community, and a few new favorite wines! We were thrilled to welcome about 30 Federation members to sip, snack, and enjoy time together.

A heartfelt thank-you to **Stevie, Jo, and Tom** for helping make the evening such a success. We also extend our appreciation to the **Rosh Chodesh committee** for organizing the event, and to the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for its generous support.

Thank you to everyone who joined us—we loved seeing familiar faces and



Stevie Mick, our wine expert



The wine selection



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 - November 3)
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 - Nov. 2), \$100* (\$195 single supplement).

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

We are strong; together we are stronger

Register for the Summit

[HaTikva Summit Registration](#)

- [Summit itinerary](#): October 28-30
- [Pre-Summit itinerary](#) (newcomers to WG region): October 26-28
- [Post-Summit add-on itinerary and registration info](#): October 31 - Nov. 3 includes Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Gaza Envelope (outside vendor, not subsidized)
- [Young Adults Seminar in Israel](#) Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 2025 Join a dynamic weekend seminar with Israeli, Hungarian, and American young adults from our P2G communities that will include learning, panels, sightseeing and more. Participants may participate in the YA Seminar as an add-on to the (subsidized) Summit or on its own.

What are we talking about this month:

What is Teshuva?

During the High Holiday season, we talk about *teshuva* or repentance. But what is it exactly? *Teshuva* actually means «return» in the context of returning from doing wrong. It can be a hard concept to understand, but [Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride](#) gives an easy visual explanation. Ari literally turns his train around to return home and apologize to his friends. This is what *teshuva* is all about: recognizing when we've hurt others, righting our wrongs by saying "sorry," or forgiving, and resolving to do better the next time. The High Holidays present an opportunity to talk with children about concepts like forgiveness, empathy, and ways that they can turn things around and return to what's important in the new year.

Saying sorry, apologizing to friends for mistakes, and developing empathy for how other people feel are accessible ways for young children to practice *teshuvah*. It's never too late for a person of any age to do *teshuvah*—there are no time constraints or limits to saying I'm sorry.

Here are some ways to "talk *teshuva*" with your family:

Reflect

Sit with your children and discuss times that you may have hurt someone's feelings or when you could have behaved better. Has your child ever called a classmate a name? Have you ever had a rough day at work and in turn yelled at home? In *Sammy Spider's First Yom Kippur*, Josh Shapiro sits down with his parents to make a list of people he'd like to apologize to for Yom Kippur. You can do something similar with your family, or read a story like *Sammy Spider* or [The Hardest Word](#) and use it to kickstart a conversation.



Apologize

Model the behavior that you want your children to learn. Show them that you say "sorry," and own up to your mistakes as well. Apologizing can be tough, especially if we've really hurt someone we care about. One of the best ways that we can help children learn that it's okay to own up to your mistakes and to apologize for them is by doing so ourselves. When we show our children that we apologize - to them, to our friends, and our partners, we model empathy, responsibility, and understanding right and wrong.



Watch [this video](#) from CNN for great tips about teaching empathy and helping children learn to apologize and forgive with sincerity. And for a different take check out [Sorry Watch](#), which analyzes apologies in the news, media, history and literature.

Practice saying "I'm sorry" with children by play acting scenarios that demand an apology or make "I'm Sorry" cards together for apologies that might be too difficult to say out loud.

Forgive

Forgiveness can be hard to grasp for children (and adults) since it's an act and not a feeling. Helping children develop a sense of [empathy](#) makes the act of forgiving easier. In her book *Mamaleh Knows Best*, author Marjorie Ingall writes, "It's important to convey to your kids, when you discipline them, that you believe they haven't truly left the path, that you still love them, that you believe in their ability to right their own wrongs." As parents, we teach children forgiveness through our own actions. Looking for a book about forgiveness? You can see some of our favorites in [this list](#).



Resolve

Part of *teshuva* is recognizing the need to change our behaviors - if we return to the same moment, or place, how do we handle a situation differently? How do we do better next time? Think of resolutions that you can make individually and as a family. Write them down and hang them in a prominent place so that you can check in on your resolutions.



Want to learn more?

Check out:

[Teshuva: Dry Cleaning for the Soul](#) from Aish.com, [The High Holidays, According to Daniel Tiger](#) from Kveller.com, and [How to Say Sorry, A Step-by-Step Guide for Yom Kippur](#) from Huffington Post.

« [Find more activities, book lists, and recipes](#)

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Chailights



Join us throughout the year for meaningful moments, good food, and shared tradition.

All events are open to women who are members of the Jewish Federation unless otherwise noted.

September 17
Rosh Chodesh

[Yummy Bowl](#)

543 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN
6:30 pm

October 21

People of the Book with Mitch Albom

[Auer Performance Center - PFW](#)

2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN
7:30 pm - Free and open to the public

November 12

Rosh Chodesh

[BB's Indian Kitchen](#)

3235 N. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN
6:30 pm

December 14

Rosh Chodesh - cookie decorating with
Religious School

[Rifkin Campus at 5200](#)

5200 Old Mill Rd., Fort Wayne, IN
10:00 am

January 6, 13, 20, 27

February 3, 10 & 17

Confronting the Shoah

[The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#)

5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN
7 pm - Open to the community

January 10

Rosh Chodesh

A night at the movies

[The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#)

5920 Homestead Rd., Fort Wayne, IN
7 pm - Open to the Jewish community

February 10

Rosh Chodesh - Fused Glass

[The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#)

5920 Homestead Rd., Fort Wayne, IN
1 pm - Open to the Jewish community

March 15

Rosh Chodesh – Women's Interfaith Passover
Seder

[Rifkin Campus at 5200](#)

5200 Old Mill Rd., Fort Wayne, IN
Noon

June 6

Rosh Chodesh - Havdalah

[Eagle Marsh - Little River Wetlands Project](#)

6801 Engle Rod., Fort Wayne, IN
Time TBD - Free and open to the community

June 2025

JFFW Annual Meeting

Place TBD

Time TBD

June 22 - July 10

Camp Joe Levine

[Metee County Park](#)

8401 Union Chapel Road, Fort Wayne, IN
9 am - 4 pm M-F

campjoelevine

Every summer, at the end of June, we return to Camp Joe. We are drawn here by the happy memories of past experiences, by the anticipation of the reunion with friends and by the eagerness to once again take part in this joyful celebration of summer.

Of course, each new camp year is not the exact replica of the one before it. From the moment the kids get together, they embark on a three-week journey; whose final outcome is always special and unique. This year, in the spirit of Tikkun Olam, our campers embraced opportunities to do mitzvot. They took notice of and expressed their appreciation for the many kindnesses extended to them by others. The children also developed a deeper connection with nature. They became more aware and mindful of plants and wildlife around them, taking time to observe, but careful not to disturb. In the tradition of *haknasat orhim* (welcoming guests), campers welcomed their parents and grandparents to a Shabbat picnic that they lovingly prepared for them. And, as always, there has been humor and laughter, spontaneity, new and renewed friendships and boundless energy.

As we look back at this year's camp, we are so thankful to all of our campers for each leaving their own positive mark on our shared camp experience, for their delightful personalities, for their energy and exuberance, and for the many smiles that they brought to our faces.

A big thank you to our counselors for all of their hard work to ensure our campers' safety and for the loving care and attention that they gave to each child.

Thank you to Michael Theise for his ideas and for his support of Camp Joe, our staff and our camp families. We look forward to working together with him to assure the continued success and growth of this program.

Thank you to Bonnie Pomerantz for the time, energy and expertise she devotes to supporting Camp Joe.

Thank you to Rabbi Meir for leading our Shabbat Services. As always, we enjoyed this beautiful and peaceful way to finish our week.

Thank you to the Salon Foundation for making scholarship funds available for our campers. Over the years, this support has made a difference in the lives of many children.

Thank you to Kristen Werling of the Werling Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for coming to Camp Joe and teaching our campers about wildlife. We had so much fun meeting some of her rescues!

A big thank you to our Camp Joe families and to the Jewish Federation for their generous donations to the Werling Wildlife Center. All of the donated items were greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Jeff Schneider for driving the truck with camp supplies to and from camp and for organizing the Maccabiah games and other activities for the children.

Thank you to Penske Truck Rentals for providing a truck free of charge for moving our camp supplies in and out of Metea Park.

Thank you to Metea County Park for welcoming us to their beautiful facility. We could not have asked for a better place for our camp.

We truly appreciated everybody who had contributed to another great summer at Camp Joe and wished all of our campers a wonderful school year.

SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN!



ONE OF THE RIGHTEOUS HONORING BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 29, 2025 PRESENTED BY JAKI SCHREIER

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When CAMERA, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East reporting and Analysis, an international monitor of news and press-related falsehoods on Judaism and Israel, raised concerns about a Northern Indiana University Professor's virulent antisemitic writing, Bishop Rhoades responded with a powerful public statement—published widely in Catholic newspapers and Parish bulletins—condemning and countering the hateful rhetoric. His moral clarity and courage were deeply appreciated.

When the Diocese was called upon to resettle and house Muslim Afghan refugees, they turned to the Jewish community for assistance in this monumental undertaking. We responded as partners. Our Federation and Congregation Achduth Vesholom raised significant funds—because we truly know, regardless of the religion you may be, what it means to be a stranger in a strange land.

The 2019 Violins of Hope and the 2025 Violins and Hope projects could not have been as successful and reach as many people as they did, without the full support of Bishop Rhoades and the Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese.

The beautiful ruach, spirit, of the Catholic/Jewish religious services held at Elizabeth Ann Seton church in 2019 and at St. Vincent DePaul Church in 2025 jointly led by our beloved Rabbis, Paula Winnig and Meir Bargeron, along with Bishop Rhoades will stay with me and all blessed enough to attend this event, for the rest of our lives. Bishop Kevin Rhoades' and the Diocese's assistance was invaluable and truly appreciated.

I am just mentioning a fraction of the many projects and events that have taken place during the past twelve years in partnership with our Catholic community thanks to Bishop Rhoades. All this—and more—is a testament to Bishop Rhoades' leadership and his genuine Ruach. He is richly deserving of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's "One of the Righteous" honor.

In conclusion, I'd like to share a small excerpt from the March 20th Violins and Hope Catholic-Jewish Service, presented by Bishop Rhoades. His words hold great meaning to us. I would encourage all of you to obtain a copy of the March 30, 2025 issue of Today's Catholic, so as to read in their entirety, the messages given by

Bishop Rhoades and Rabbi Bargeron.

Bishop Rhoades began: "As we pray together with Violins and Hope, we are reminded...of the horrible tragedy of the Holocaust. But we gather in hope because we know that together we can conquer hatred, and together we can help to build a civilization of love and peace, and that is what we pray for together this evening." Later in his message, Bishop Rhoades reminds us that the Catholic Church is currently in the midst of celebrating a Holy Year - a tradition that was begun by the Jewish people and shared in the Hebrew Bible.

"The central message of this Jubilee Year 2025 is hope. It seems very appropriate that we gather with you, our Jewish brothers and sisters, to pray together at this service during this time when the Violins and Hope exhibition is here in Fort Wayne. Both Judaism and Christianity are religions of hope. Pope Francis has reminded us Catholics that, in this world, we are pilgrims of hope. I would say to our Jewish brothers and sisters that we are pilgrims of hope together on our earthly journey. We share a common spiritual heritage. We are truly brothers and sisters, as Pope St. John Paul II famously said at the Rome synagogue in 1986."

Bishop Rhoades further spoke of the bond that the church has with Judaism as follows: "The Jewish religion is not extrinsic to us, but in a certain way is intrinsic to our own religion. With Judaism, therefore, we have a relationship which we do not have with any other religion. You are our dearly beloved brothers and sisters, and in a certain way, it could be said that you are our elder brothers and sisters."

With deepest gratitude, Bishop Rhoades, we at the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and the entire Jewish community thank you for your kindness, wisdom, and spiritual leadership. You are a blessing to all who know you.

May the sacred work we do—together as Jews and Catholics—continue for many years to come.

May we fulfill our shared mission of *Tikkun Olam*—repairing the world—beginning right here in northern Indiana.

Shalom and thank you.



Rabbi Bargeron, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and Jaki Schreier



Jaki Schreier and the Sisters



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades accepting the One of the Righteous award



Please join us for worship and other holiday activities:

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 13

7:45 p.m. Begin the holiday season together with Havdalah and meditative prayer and readings.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Monday, September 22

7:30 p.m. **All-Congregation service**
Reception follows

Rosh Hashanah – First Day

Tuesday, September 23

Conservative Services

8:30 a.m. – Shacharit
10 a.m. Torah service with D'var Torah
11 a.m. Musaf

10 a.m. – Reform Service

Noon – All-Congregation Tashlich at
Foster Park West, Winchester Road
4 p.m. Family Service

Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

Wednesday, September 24

Conservative Services

8:30 a.m. – Shacharit
10 a.m. Torah service with D'var Torah
11 a.m. Musaf

Shabbat Shuvah Service

Friday, September 26

6 p.m., includes dedication of yearzeit plaques added in the past year

Shabbat Shuvah Service*

Saturday, September 27

9:45 a.m., *Traffic pass needed due to Fort4Fitness race

Cemetery Services

Sunday, September 28

1 p.m. at Lindenwood Cemetery
2:30 p.m. at Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery

Erev Yom Kippur Services

Wednesday, October 1

7:15 p.m. **Mincha** (Goldstine-B'nai Jacob Chapel)
8 p.m. **All Congregation Kol Nidre** (Sanctuary)

Yom Kippur Services

Thursday, October 2

Conservative Services

8:30 a.m. Shacharit Service
10 a.m. – Torah, Haftarah, D'var Torah, Yizkor
11:30 a.m. Musaf
3 p.m. Healing Service
6 p.m. Mincha
7 p.m. – Neilah
8:10 p.m. – Havdalah
Break-the-Fast follows

Reform Services

10 a.m. Morning Service
3 p.m. – Healing Service
4 p.m. – Yizkor (Memorial) Service
5 p.m. – Neilah (Concluding) Service
Break-the-Fast follows

Shabbat & Sukkot Service

Friday, October 10

6 p.m., followed by a Nosh in the Sukkah

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat & Sukkot Morning with Musician Juliette Nehring

Saturday, October 11 - 10:30 a.m.

Simchat Torah Service with Yizkor

Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m.



REFLECT, RENEW, & RETURN TO WHAT MATTERS MOST: OUR SHARED HUMANITY
"In a place where no one is human, strive to be human." – Pirkei Avot 2:5

This High Holy Days season, we come together to reflect, renew, and return to what matters most – our shared humanity. During this time of year, we are called to take personal responsibility to show moral courage, and to bring our Jewish values to counter injustice in our community, our nation, and the world.

Join us at Congregation Achduth Vesholom as we enter the sacred days of awe, guided by the wisdom of our tradition and the warmth of community. Together, we'll open our hearts, lift our voices, and strive to be more compassionate, just, and whole.

We look forward to welcoming you for the [High Holy Days 5786](#), with both Reform and Conservative *minyanim* worshipping together on Erev Rosh Hashanah on Monday, September 22 and on Kol Nidre on Wednesday, October 1.

[Rabbi Meir Barger](#) will lead services, weaving together aspects of both liturgical traditions to inspire new insights during this time of reflection, forgiveness, and renewal. He'll be joined by [Hazzan Penny Myers](#), who will be our guest clergy leading Conservative worship on the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. All are welcome. [Find the holiday schedule](#) at www.templecav.org. Join us in person or on [YouTube](#).

New this year: Join Rabbi Meir and Hazzan Myers for a joyful and spirited [Joy Vey Rosh Hashanah Service](#) on Tuesday, September 23 at 4 p.m. Through music, movement, and meaningful prayer, we will welcome the New Year 5786 with heart and celebration. Perfect for families with young children – come sing, sway, and start the new year in sweetness together!

Returning this year: [Rosh Hashanah Reception, Healing Service, Break-the-Fast](#)

23rd CORNED BEEF ON RYE – SURE TO SATISFY SALE COMING IN NOVEMBER
Get ready to savor delicious delicatessen when our Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser returns on Thursday, November 6 for a 23rd year.

Take advantage of early-bird pricing, pick up, and delivery options!

[Online ordering](#) begins on Friday, September 19 or [download an order form](#) at www.templecav.org.

Boxed meals are \$18 each when ordered by Friday, October 24. After that date and at the door, meals are \$21 each (while supplies

last). Meals include a heaping 1/3-pound corned beef sandwich on rye, giant pickle, creamy coleslaw, fudgy brownie, and a drink.

Additional pounds of bulk corned beef are for sale for \$20 per pound. Delivery service is available when you order 12 meals or more by Friday, October 31 for \$15 per address.

Simply park in our spacious lot and walk up to the building, where multiple pick-up stations will be set up for your convenience. In addition, customers who pre-order meals will be able to take advantage of special early-bird pick-up beginning at 10 a.m., an hour before our regular 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. hours.

Become a sponsor! [Three sponsorship levels are available](#) for donations made by Friday, October 24. Please consider highlighting your business or organization by becoming a sponsor for this event at one of these levels.

A NEW EARLIER TIME FOR SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Beginning September 5, Friday evening Shabbat services at the Temple will move a half-hour earlier to 6 p.m. when we celebrate with an [Intergenerational Shabbat service and Consecration](#). Services will continue most Fridays at 6 p.m. We will have a later Shabbat service on Friday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.templecav.org for the schedule.

We'll celebrate a simcha on Saturday, September 13 at 10 a.m. when Guy Copeland, son of Hannah & Jack Copeland, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

JOY VEY! FUN FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Please join us on Friday, September 12 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! Folks are encouraged to stick around to enjoy a glass of wine/juice, challah, and social time afterwards! We'll order pizza for dinner together if there's interest.

LEARNING CAFÉ RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER *Pirkei Avot for the 21st Century – Being Human Today*

Wednesday, September 3 at 12 to 1 p.m. | In person at the Temple and on Zoom

Join us for a timely and thought-provoking session of Learning Café as we explore ancient wisdom for modern times. Rabbi Meir Barger will lead a deep dive into teachings from the classic text of Jewish ethics, reflecting on what it means to live with integrity, compassion, and purpose in today's complex world. Bring your lunch, your questions, and your curiosity.

APPLE PICKING & POTLUCK PICNIC FOR TEMPLE FAMILIES ON SEPTEMBER 21

Bring the kids for a fun adventure picking apples, sharing a potluck picnic, and enjoying holiday crafts and activities on Sunday, September 21.

Families with kids of all ages are invited to meet at 10 a.m. at [Cook's Orchard](#) to pick and buy apples and honey. Then we'll head to nearby [Silverbirch Studios](#) for some kid-focused Rosh Hashanah activities and a potluck picnic lunch.

Please RSVP by Sunday, September 14 to the Temple at office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245 and then [sign up for a potluck contribution](#). Bring your own lawn chairs/blanket and serving utensils for your potluck items.

Religious School programming will not be held that morning, and all families are encouraged to participate in this fun beginning of the Jewish holiday season.

HELP PURCHASE APPLES FOR THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS FAMILIES

Help supply a bag of fresh apples for the children who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple through the 15th annual [Thoughtful Thursdays](#) Apple Project.

Many of these students rarely have the opportunity to eat fresh fruits or vegetables. Thoughtful Thursdays provides fresh apples to Brightpoint students purchased from a local orchard.

This mitzvah is a way to combat hunger in our local community! A tree will be on display at the Temple with decorated paper apples featuring the name of each person who donates \$18 or more for the apple project.

Pictures of the tree will be posted on the Temple's Facebook page as it grows. We hope to see your name on it soon!

[Donate online](#) by Friday, October 10 at www.templecav.org. Indicate the amount of your donation, designate project Assist/Thoughtful Thursdays, and indicate the name you would like to appear on the apple for the tree. You may also mail checks made payable to "CAV-The Temple" earmarked for "Thoughtful Thursdays Apple Project." Thank you!

Join the Jewish Community's Thoughtful Thursdays team on Wednesday, September 3 at 10 a.m. when we begin our 16th year assembling bags of food and household items for the 69 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start who attend class at the Temple. Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#).



Greetings from the FW Grand Wayne Center, where we are steeped amid the 45th IAJGS Conference! Terrific energy and learning are taking place to launch NEIJGS into the new programming year!

Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is pleased to announce the inclusion of a **Meet Your Mishpocha** event in our fall programming. This year, the event will take place as part of the Shabbat celebration on Friday, October 17. While the details are still being finalized, we will highlight a story or two to represent the findings from one's family history research. In addition, the Fort Wayne Jewish Families project on Ancestry will be highlighted.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- **AVA COHN** (Nov. 9th): The formal public programming season begins with Ava Cohn, known as "Sherlock Cohn" the photo genealogist. She is recognized internationally and is an expert on Jewish family photographs. Since 2009, Ava has specialized in dating, locating, and identifying individuals in photographs, focusing on immigrant and Eastern European culture and traditions.
 - **"Clued-in: The Stories are in the Details"** – This presentation will explore how to extract deeper meaning from family photographs, going beyond identifying people and dates. Combining visual analysis with oral traditions and documentation, these discoveries can illuminate family stories.
- **STEVE LITTLE** (Feb. 15): The winter program features Steve Little, who will present 2 sessions about using AI with genealogical research. Steve Little is the AI Program Director for the National Genealogical Society, the founder of AI Genealogy Insights, and a co-host of The Family History AI Show podcast. His expertise includes AI & genetic genealogy, with interests in endogamy, pedigree collapse, deciphering multiple relationships, and exploring the uses and limits of artificial intelligence in genealogy.
 - **"Most Effective Uses of AI in the Genealogy Space"** and **"Three AI-Powered Genealogy Projects to Illustrate GenAI Tools"** - Steve Little discusses practical and responsible applications of AI in genealogy, including data extraction, image analysis, and report generation to support family history research. He also explains Large Language Models, highlighting their strengths in summarization and information extraction.
- **HADASSAH LIPSIOUS and ANNA WIERNICKA:** This series of programs concludes on May 3rd with discussions on Polish genealogy. Speakers Hadassah Lipsius and Anna Wiernicka will present two sessions.
 - **"Polish Jewish Research: The JRI-Poland Experience"** (Hadassah Lipsius, in-person) – Hadassah is the Vice-President and executive committee member of Jewish Records Indexing-

Poland. She has lectured on Polish Research at various IAJGS Conferences and received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement award in 2020. Hadassah has traveled to Eastern Europe multiple times for family research and notes that her family were city dwellers for over 240 years.

• **"Was My Ancestor Rich or Poor: What We Can Find From Polish Business Court Records"** (Anna Wiernicka, virtual) Anna is a historian, lecturer, researcher, and genealogist who was associated with the Varsaviana research group at Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw from 2011 to 2018. Her scientific interests include the history and culture of Jews in the 19th-century Kingdom of Poland, the position and role of women in the 19th century, and the everyday life of Jewish families in the Kingdom of Poland.

MEMBERS ONLY

• LUNCH AND LEARN

- On October 27, Logan Knight will discuss the Hamburg Passenger Lists for Jewish Immigrants. Logan, a genealogy librarian at the ACPL genealogy center, has a background in history from Hanover College and Indiana State University. He has worked with the Kentucky Historical Society, the National Museum of Transportation, and the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and holds an MLS from IUPUI. Logan has a passion for entwining history and genealogy to provide context to both individual and family stories.
- On March 16, John Beatty will discuss "considerations when publishing your research". John has been a reference librarian in The Genealogy Center since 1984 and is its principal bibliographer. With degrees from the University of Michigan, he became a Board-certified genealogist in 2014. John is the author of sixteen books on local and family history and has extensive expertise in genealogical research across various regions and time periods. His interests also include local Fort Wayne and Allen County history.
- **MEMBER WORKSHOP:** January 25 – Members have an opportunity to meet with more experienced people in the local genealogy community to help with their research; whether it is overcoming a brick wall or helping people jump start their research, this is a great way to get free local and expert insights.

Please mark your calendars for these programs! We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming year! On behalf of NEIJGS may you be filled with good health and amazing genealogical finds!

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](#)

[260-432-5828](#)

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[260-420-5565](#)

georgesinternationalmarket.com



[1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808](#)

[\(260\) 424-8812](#)

www.3riversfood.coop

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne is excited to remind our families about the Jewish Studies tuition reimbursement program.



A student whose family is a member of the Federation will be reimbursed at a rate based on one-half the tuition cost per Indiana University credit hour for classes taken in Judaic Studies.

As many of our youth are attending college all over the country and the tuition varies considerably from college to college, this policy provides equitable treatment to all of our university students.

A transcript, showing the course and grade received, and a copy of a fee payment receipt must be submitted as proof for reimbursement. The Federation reserves the right to request a syllabus or additional description of the class taken. A C+ grade or its numerical equivalent must be earned in the course work in order to qualify for reimbursement.



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Family membership is defined as a minimum gift of \$108.00 to the most recent Federation Annual Campaign, which runs from November through March.

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

S.K.I.P (Send a Kid to Israel Program)

Established in 1984 by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) in partnership with [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#), and revised in November 1999, the program has provided a savings vehicle for many families and has helped make a trip to Israel a reality for so many of our youth. The Federation portion of the savings plan is provided by income from the Federation Endowment Fund for members of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.



The Federation, for each year a child participates in **S.K.I.P.**, contributes \$200.00 per year per child. This is matched by a Congregational contribution of \$75.00 per year. Your parent contribution, on behalf of each participating child, is \$175.00 or more per year.

The program is available to local youth enrolled in their congregational religious school in grades 1-10. The fund may be used for an organized trip to Israel any time after grade 10 until the youth reaches age 23.

Each **S.K.I.P** account is supplemented by a gift from the **HY AND LORRY GOLDENBERG BIRTHRIGHT FUND** and the **MINNETTE AND MEYER RUCHMAN FUND**.

Looking for a bar/bat mitzvah, confirmation or special gift for one of our local youth, then please consider making that gift to their **S.K.I.P.** Fund account. An acknowledgment will be sent to you and a card indicating your gift will be sent to the designee.

Enrollment packets will be sent to all families not yet enrolled. If you do not get a packet or have any questions, please contact Federation's Executive Director Michael Theise at director@fwjf.org or (260) 456-0400.



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.



Please note that our office will be closed on September 1, 23, and 24.

Our Board of Directors and staff wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year — L'Shanah Tovah!

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

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 donations 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)

September 4 – 800 Degrees Wood Fired Pizza
10020 Lima Road

September 18– Taj Mahal
6410 W. Jefferson Boulevard

October 2 – No lunch - Yom Kippur

October 16 – The Lucky Moose
622 E. Dupont Road

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

2025 - 2026 Board of Directors

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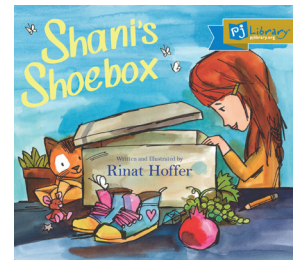
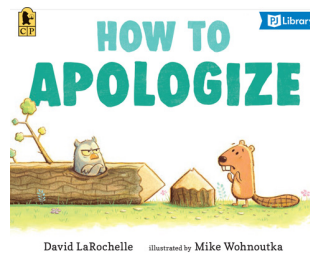
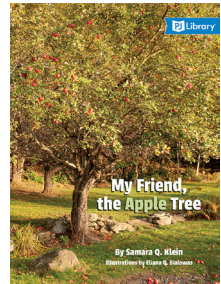
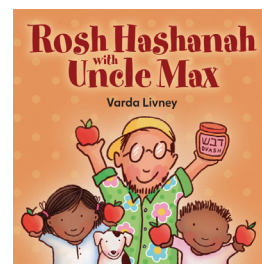
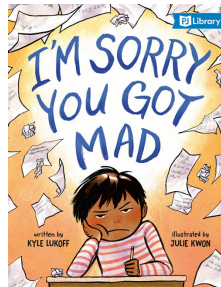
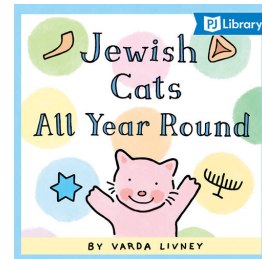
[Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](http://www.fwjf.org)
5200 Old Mill Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

(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.



David LaRochele illustrated by Mike Wahnoutka

[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.

