

Chailights

OCTOBER 2025



People of the Book

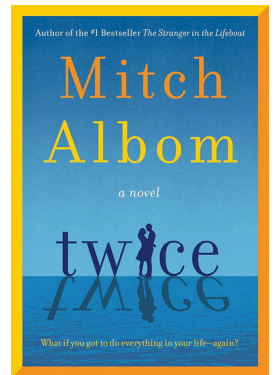
presents

Mitch Albom

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Auer Music Performance Hall – Purdue Fort Wayne - Park in Garage 3 - [Campus Map](#)



FREE and Open to the Public

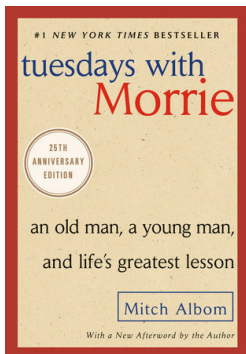
Tickets required. Reserve now at pfw.edu/tickets

Featuring:

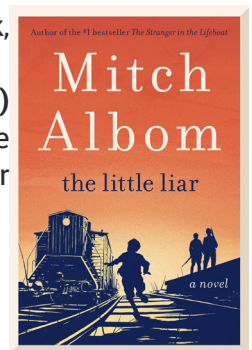
New York Times bestselling author

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

Confronting the Shoah



Mark your calendars, this seven-week class presented by Holocaust scholar Dr. David Lindquist begins in January. This course provides participants with a comprehensive contextual and historical knowledge regarding the Nazi Holocaust. Classes will be held on **Tuesdays January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10 and 17, 2026** at the [Stillwater Hospice Peggy E. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road). Classes begin at 7 pm and will last about 2 to 2 ½ hours each. There is no cost to Federation members, teachers, principals, historians or high school juniors or seniors. For all others, there is a \$5.00 fee to cover the cost of materials. [Register here](#). Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and

members of Federation 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



We are now entering the third year of sadness and sorrow for the victims of the massacre, violence, and destruction in Israel on October 7, 2023. Many of Israel's neighbors remain steadfast—and even more determined—in their desire to harm and destroy Israel and her people. Our hearts ache for so many: families, hostages, soldiers, communities throughout Israel, and all innocent victims, regardless of nationality, who continue to suffer.

As time marches on, we must remain focused on the needs of Israel and her people, who have endured unimaginable loss. Israel, as a nation, continues to live under relentless threats and violent attacks. Sadly, in parts of the Middle East, hatred of Israel is instilled from childhood, ensuring that cycles of hostility and radicalization persist. This grim reality reminds us how critical our support is.

My first message to you is this: do not forget the Israeli victims—citizens, soldiers, children, Holocaust survivors, and all others in need—each one deserving a full, rich, and beautiful life. The news can feel overwhelming and painful, yet the needs for healing, recovery, and dignity are staggering. We know from experience that government assistance often falls short. Families and communities must carry much of the burden, and we here in Fort Wayne must be counted among those who help shoulder that responsibility.

As I write on September 8, news is breaking of yet another terrorist shooting at a bus stop in Jerusalem, leaving many dead and wounded.

The violence of October 7, 2023, and the continued attacks since may fade from memory as time passes or as headlines shift. Please do not allow this tragedy, or its lasting impact, to be minimized. At the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, we are committed to helping those in Israel who are suffering and in need. We will continue to play our part in the healing process—and we ask you to stand with us.

My second message is one of gratitude and pride. Your Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne works tirelessly here in our own community to fulfill our mission: supporting and strengthening Jewish life, fostering our traditions, and providing for those in need. This is something we should all take deep pride in, as together we are making a tangible difference—both in Israel and here at home.

Thank you for your continued and generous support. It is because of you that these meaningful outcomes are possible.



Please note that our office will be closed on October 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15.

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

SWEET BREEZE CANAL BOAT RIDE

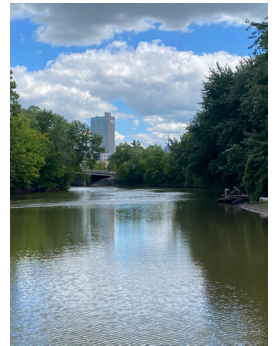


Thank you to the 20 wonderful participants who joined us on Sunday, August 24 for a relaxing summer afternoon on the Sweet Breeze canal boat! We enjoyed a beautiful day on the river together, taking in the scenery and sharing good company.

Thank you to Cheryl Schorey and Lee Pomerantz for the pictures.

We are grateful to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and to our amazing Rosh Chodesh committee for making this special outing possible.

Your presence made the event meaningful and fun—thank you for being part of it!



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.

[HaTikva Summit Registration](#) is Closing Soon. Don't Miss Out!

- [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) Registration closes September 29

[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.



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

What are we talking about this month:

Holiday 101: Shemini Atzeret



Have you ever heard of *Shemini Atzeret*? No? You're not alone

This holiday takes place right after *Sukkot* and offers a great opportunity to explore and talk about the weather with your children.

It's ok if this minor holiday is new to you—that's what this blog post is here for! Let's dive in:

History

This holiday takes place immediately after Sukkot. When the Temple stood in Jerusalem more than two thousand years ago, the people of Israel would make a pilgrimage there for Sukkot so they could observe the holiday together. After Sukkot, families would stay for one more day of celebration on Shemini Atzeret.

Since Shemini Atzeret also marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel, it's traditional to say a [prayer for rain](#).



Do



Learn about the weather, explore the outdoors, and practice saying the prayer for rain together.

[Make a Weather Station](#) via Mr. Printables

[Hands-on Activities to Learn About Rain and Water](#) via NASA

[Learn the Prayer for Rain](#) via My Jewish Learning

Talk

Kick off a discussion with your children using these prompts:

- How do you feel when it rains and why?
- Sometimes we feel that rain spoils our fun, but it actually does many important jobs. What are some of the good things rain does?
- Rain nourishes the earth and helps plants to grow. What things do you need to help you grow big and strong?

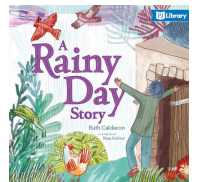


Read



[Maya Prays for Rain](#) by Susan Tarcov is a story all about Shemini Atzeret. In the book, Maya and her neighbors are enjoying a wonderful sunny day outside when Maya realizes that it's Shemini Atzeret, the day when everyone prays for rain. Will the rains come and pour on the baseball game or her neighbors' laundry? Explore Maya's rich and diverse neighborhood while learning about this holiday.

In [Rainy Day Story](#) by Ruth Calderon, Rabbi Hanina Ben Dosa prays for the rain to stop—and it does! But soon he realizes there are consequences beyond his own comfort.



More

[In Which I Finally Figure Out What Shemini Atzeret Is](#) via kveller

[What is Shemini Atzeret?](#) via My Jewish Learning

[Reprinted with kind permission](#)

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne - JFFW The Temple - CAV Chabad - CHA	Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIJGS ROMEOs - RO Special Events		1 7:15 p.m. Mincha Service 7:15 p.m. Kol Nidre 8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre	2 JFFW Office and CAV Office Closed	3 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	4 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
5 10:00 a.m. Religious School	6 CAV Office Closed	7 JFFW Office and CAV Office Closed	8 JFFW Office Closed 10 a.m. Thoughtful Thursdays	9	10 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	11 10:30 a.m. Joy Vey! Morning Service 8:00 p.m. Timekeepers at First Presbyterian Theater
12	13 JFFW Office and CAV Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Sukkot Community Celebration	14 JFFW Office and CAV Office Closed 7:00 p.m. Simchat Torah Service	15 JFFW Office and CAV Office Closed	16 Noon - ROMEOs lunch	17 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service with NEIJGS	18 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
19 10 a.m. Tree Dedication	20 CAV Office Closed	21 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 7:30 p.m. People of the Book with Mitch Albom	22 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	23	24 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	25 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
26 10:00 a.m. Religious School	27 CAV Office Closed	28 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	29 5 p.m. JUDA Hebrew School of the Arts	30	31 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	



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!
[Order online](#) 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.

More delicious details can be found at www.templecav.org

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.

We look forward to welcoming you for the [High Holy Days 5786](#)! Both Reform and Conservative *minyanim* will worship together on Kol Nidre on Wednesday, October 1 at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

[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.

Returning this year: [Healing Service](#) and [Break-the-Fast hosted by the ROMEOs](#)

SHARE SUKKOT, ALONG WITH MEMORIAL FOR VICTIMS OF OCTOBER 7

Shake the lulav and inhale the lovely scent of the etrog during the Temple's Sukkot and Shabbat service on Friday, October 10 at 6 p.m. in honor of the harvest festival. A Memorial for the Victims of October 7 and its Aftermath also will be included during the service. Please join us in person or on YouTube, led by Rabbi Meir Barger.

After the service, enjoy Kiddush in the sukkah, followed by a wine and cheese Oneg Shabbat, hosted by Fran & Irv Adler and Beth & Dan Zweig.

A MUSICAL SUKKOT MORNING SERVICE & BRUNCH FOR FAMILIES

Families with kids of all ages are invited to join us for an outdoor Sukkot Shabbat celebration on Saturday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m. with guest musician Juliette Nehring. Shake the lulav, sing festive songs, listen to stories, make holiday decorations, and enjoy brunch together in the sukkah.

Bagels, cream cheese, and donuts will be provided. RSVP by Friday, October 3 to the Temple at office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245, [sign up for a potluck contribution](#). Contact Stephanie Gottesman at youth@templecav.org with any questions.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support of Juliette's visit. Thank you to our Joy Vey and Holiday Celebration teams, including Wendy Soltz, Kate Crell, Deborah Bauer and Stephanie Gottesman.

COMPLETE THE CYCLE AND BEGIN ANEW ON SIMCHAT TORAH

Be part of our festive Simchat Torah celebration on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. when we parade our sacred scrolls through the Sanctuary, enjoy festive singing and flag waving, and complete the reading of the Book of Deuteronomy while also beginning the Book of Genesis. We'll also observe Yizkor

Join us in person or on [YouTube](#). An Oneg Shabbat follows hosted by Dawn Hammond and Ronnie Greenberg. [More info here](#).

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.

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.

[Donate online](#) by Friday, October 10 at www.templecav.org.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a joint project of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne. Our next bag assembly morning is Wednesday, October 8 at 10 a.m.

JEWISH COMMUNITY INVITED FOR THE TIMEKEEPERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER

Members of the Temple and Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne communities are invited as guests of [First Presbyterian Theater](#), 300 West Wayne St., on Saturday, October 11 at 8 p.m. for their production of *The Timekeepers*.

Written by Dan Clancy and directed by the Rev. John Tolley, the play is set at a concentration camp in the Nazi era and tells the deeply moving story of an unlikely bond between a Jewish prisoner and a homosexual inmate.

A "talk back" that includes Rabbi Meir Barger follows the play. Tickets are complimentary for the Jewish community, but reservations are required. [Please RSVP to the Temple online](#) or to (260) 744-4245 no later than Wednesday, October 8.

TEREZIN TREE SERVES AS SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE, REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

A silver maple tree descended from the legendary tree of Terezin (Theresienstadt) has a new home on the grounds of Indiana's oldest Jewish congregation.

[A dedication ceremony](#) will take place on Sunday, October 19 at 10 a.m. with our Religious School students and Temple community near the playground behind the Temple in honor of the tree whose powerful and moving story began in a Nazi concentration camp and serves as a living symbol of resilience, remembrance, and hope.

Read more about [the tree here](#).

SHARE COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, AND SHABBAT DINNER

Enjoy an evening of community and connection with our Temple family on Friday, October 24. We'll begin at 6 p.m. with a joyous Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Meir Barger, followed by a delicious dinner and activities for children.

The meal includes a taco bar and fixings, beer, and wine. RSVPs are needed no later than Friday, October 17 to office@templecav.org. The cost is \$10 for adults; \$5 for children ages 4-12; no charge for ages 3 and under. If you'd like to contribute a dessert, please let us know when you RSVP. We're grateful to Amy & Sam Krouse for their generous support of the dinner. Visit www.templecav.org for the schedule.



There is great energy to launch NEIJGS into a new year and a new programming season in the shadow of the IAJGS conference! Our annual Meet Your Mishpacha program takes place at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, Oct. 17th as part of Congregation Achduth Vesholom's Shabbat services. This is an opportunity to meet with the local society and learn about the work they do. Our own NEIJGS member, Maureen Grinsfelder, will share stories of her research during services, and our Society will host the *oneg* following the service and offer resources for tracing your own family history. Plan to celebrate Family History Month with the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society!

MEET YOUR MISHPOCHA SHABBAT!



**Friday, October 17
6:00pm**

- Learn about local Jewish families
- Discover the stories that our JGS uncovers
- Featured guest speaker Maureen Grinsfelder



Please mark your calendars also for Sunday, November 9th at 2pm. Ava Cohn, otherwise known as "Sherlock Cohn," the photo genealogist who will give a presentation "Clued-In: The Stories are in the Details." Ava will show us how to analyze photos for meaningful insights—and how to separate useful clues from mere curiosities.

On behalf of Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society, we wish you a very happy New Year and look forward to seeing you this fall and throughout the year!

Summer of Excitement in Fort Wayne

What a truly memorable and exciting summer it has been for our Fort Wayne community!

For those fortunate enough to spend time at Camp Joe Levine, it was a joy to witness so many moments filled with laughter, lasting friendships, outdoor adventures, and unforgettable memories. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this summer possible – Larisa, Sam, Bonnie, Rabbi, and so many others. Your efforts created a tremendously positive and meaningful experience for our deserving youngsters.

Early in the summer, we were honored to welcome a special family from Israel. Yuval Levin has joined our community as a student at Purdue University Fort Wayne, where he will also proudly play on the PFW basketball team. We were equally delighted to spend time with Yuval's mother, Rinat, and his sister, Gili, during their two-week visit. We look forward to supporting Yuval throughout his college journey and celebrating his contributions both in the classroom and on the court.

In August, our community had the privilege of hosting the 45th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Thanks to the vision, dedication, and countless hours of work from our extraordinary volunteers and ambassadors, the conference exceeded even the highest expectations. It was an inspiring week—educational, impactful, and truly a source of pride for all of us.

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:260-432-5828)

www.traderjoes.com



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

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

www.thefreshmarket.com



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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



It's never too early to start thinking about summer!

Camp Joe will be back at [Metee County Park](#) the weeks of June 22, 29 and July 6.

See you then!

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

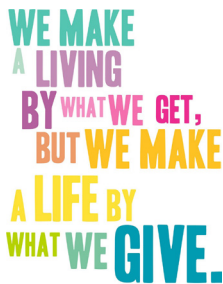
ENDOWMENT

- **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

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

JNF - Plant a tree in Israel

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

every contribution is
hugely valued

thank
you!

Online Donations Accepted!

The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) now accepts [online donations](#). You may contribute to our General Fund, or select a specific fund that you want to support. In addition, you may elect to have a donation made in Honor of or In Memory of an individual, and a card will be sent letting them or their families know the donation has been made.

It's secure, fast, and easy to support the work the Federation does to support the well-being and continuity of the Jewish people in greater Fort Wayne, in Israel, and throughout the world.

Thank you for your support. It is sincerely appreciated!



Scan QR code to donate

R.O.M.E.O.s
(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

October 2 – No lunch - Yom Kippur

October 16 – The Lucky Moose
622 E. Dupont Road

November 6 – No lunch - Corned Beef on Rye

November 20 –Chapman's Electric Works
1660 Broadway, #140

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

Officers:

President: Ben Eisbart
Vice President: Bob Walters
Secretary: Lee Pomerantz
Treasurer: Jaki Schreier
Executive Director: Michael Theise

Delegates-At-Large

Ron Friedman
Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Mike Rush
Scott Salon
Ellen Tom
Aliza Tourkow
Josh Wallet
Mimi Zelman

Rabbi Meir Barger

Staff

Michael Theise
Executive Director
director@fwjf.org

Jeff Griggs
Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@fwjf.org

Bonnie Pomerantz
Office Manager
office@fwjf.org

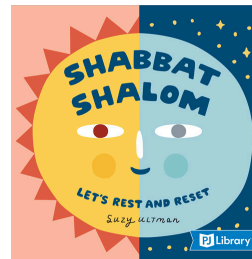
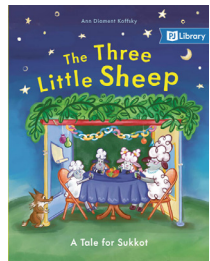
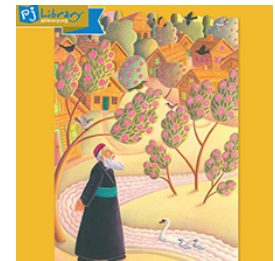
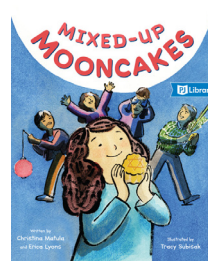
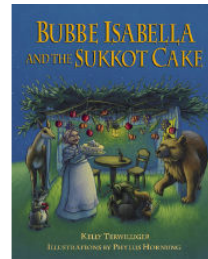
[Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](http://www.fwjf.org)
5200 Old Mill Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

(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.

