

Chailights

NOVEMBER 2025

Rosh Chodesh Dinner Gathering



Seven women from our community came together for a lovely evening at Yummy Bowl on September 17. The group enjoyed good food, warm conversation, and the chance to connect with both new and longtime friends.

We hope you'll join us for our next gathering on **Wednesday, November 12 at 6:00 PM** at [BB's Kitchen](#). All Federation women in our community are warmly invited—come for dinner, stay for friendship!

Please RSVP no later than **November 5** to office@fwjf.org or call **(260) 456-0400**.

Thank you to our Rosh Chodesh committee for planning these dinners.

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 of 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 F. 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.](#)

We will be providing Professional Growth Points (PGP) certificates at the end of the program for those that request it.

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



Hello Friends,

Our Annual Campaign has begun and I would like to again thank you for your past generosity and the positive impact you have made. It is a true honor to be among such a generous community of families and individuals doing all that is necessary to make a difference. I hope you are able to share the same pride I feel regarding our special community.

This coming year our intentions are clear. With your support, we will continue to provide a solid foundation of Jewish life in the Fort Wayne community while also supporting the tremendous needs elsewhere. We believe strongly that our Israeli brothers and sisters, with the enormous task of rebuilding and providing needed support systems for a country at war and under attack, our students, and our Jewish institutions are all worthy recipients of your generosity.

We live in a time where uncertainty and division are rampant, and yet, in the face of these challenges, our shared heritage gives us strength and purpose. We are part of something far bigger than ourselves.

Now, more than ever, we must embrace our Jewish identities. We must empower every Jewish person to feel connected to our community, to our history, and to our future.

We endeavor to build a vibrant community where everyone - young and old, feels at home, connected, and safe.

We must create meaningful experiences that inspire a lifelong passion for our traditions, our values, and our culture to ensure a flourishing Jewish future. When we come together and embrace one another and our shared purpose, we are sending a message to the world that the Jewish people are here to stay and support each other as well as those in need.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



ALLOCATIONS

Thank you to all of our members who made their pledge during our 2024 - 2025 campaign year. Because of your generosity, we were able to send money to all of these amazing organizations. Todah Rabah!

Regional/National Agencies:

Ball State University Hillel - We are an inclusive organization that is dedicated to providing a safe place for students to connect to Jewish culture. [More information here.](#)

Indiana University Hillel - Since 1938, IU Hillel has created a warm, welcoming, caring Jewish family and community that celebrates Judaism and Jewish life. We support and honor the diversity of the Jewish student community at IU, and are committed to its maintenance and continuity. [More information here](#)

Purdue University Hillel - Enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. [More information here](#)

Indiana Jewish Historical Society - The Indiana Jewish Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization with a mission to collect, preserve, publish, and share the Jewish experience in Indiana.

Our stated mission is to preserve historical Jewish records, organize people to speak on the importance of maintaining Jewish historical records, develop a database and guidebook for archiving material, and circulate Newsletters to notify and update members of current IJHS-related events and activities. [More information here.](#)

Indiana University Jewish Studies Program - One of the largest, oldest, and most comprehensive programs of its kind, The Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University. A premier hub for Jewish Studies. The Program is committed to fostering leadership skills, civic responsibility, and academic achievement through rigorous interdisciplinary study of Jews and Judaism. [More information here](#)

Purdue University Jewish Studies Program - Founded in 1981, the undergraduate Jewish Studies Program at Purdue provides students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the culture, language, literature, history, philosophy, and religious customs of the Jewish people from antiquity to the present. [More information here](#)

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Skokie - The mission of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is expressed in its founding principle: Remember the Past, Transform the Future. Dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust, the Museum honors the memories of those who were lost and those who survived by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice, and indifference.

The Museum fulfills its mission through the exhibition, preservation, and interpretation of its collections; and through education programs and initiatives that foster the promotion of human rights and the

elimination of genocide. [More information here](#)

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY - The Center for Jewish History in New York City illuminates history, culture, and heritage. The Center provides a collaborative home for five partner organizations: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. [More information here](#)

Community Relations Agencies:

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith (ADL) - To stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. [More information here](#)

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council - Our mission is to safeguard the rights of Jews in the U.S., Israel, and around the world by combating antisemitism through relationship-building and education. JCRC works to protect and promote a just American society, one that is democratic and pluralistic. [More information here](#)

Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) - The mission of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is to strengthen and leverage the Jewish community relations network across the nation to champion a just, democratic and pluralistic society and advance the right of full inclusion of all members of our society, including Jews, free of discrimination, hate, and prejudice. [More information here](#)

Safe Indiana -The sharp rise in hate crimes and antisemitic attacks and rhetoric throughout the world has left the Jewish community with grave concerns about individual and community safety. The increase in antisemitism has led us to once again reassess our needs and financial investment in security across our Jewish community. The Jewish Federation, our synagogues and agencies are focused on a proactive approach that takes into account our institutions' diverse interests and organizational missions.

It is a goal of the Safe Indy Security Initiative to identify and assess any potential threats to our community. It is extremely important to report incidents as soon as you witness them. Keep in mind we are collecting all information that affects our community to include antisemitic behavior and acts. This information will be reviewed and shared with the appropriate local, state, and federal law enforcement for action and resolution.

We are undertaking this effort in partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN). SCN is the national safety and security organization that works to implement best practice security programs on behalf of Jewish institutions and communities across the U.S. [More information here](#)

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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.



My Jewish Kitchen

Dec 07, 2025
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST

Zoom

[RSVP](#)

What are we talking about this month:

Sigd

The Ethiopian Jewish Community

Beta Israel, the Ethiopian Jewish community, has existed for at least fifteen centuries. Scholars believe this group of Jews arrived in Ethiopia sometime between the first and sixth centuries C.E. Beta Israel views themselves as direct descendants of King Solomon and the biblical Tribe of Dan.



Since members of Beta Israel historically lived far away from most other Jews, they did not celebrate *Hanukkah*, *Tu B'Shevat*, or *Purim*—holidays that do not appear in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). Instead, the community developed their own customs and traditions over time. One example is *Sigd*, a holiday that has been adopted as an official national holiday in Israel, just as many traditions and practices from other parts of the world have been woven into the rich fabric that makes up the Jewish homeland.

On *Sigd*, the community would climb a tall mountain while holding colorful umbrellas, which were commonly used in Ethiopia to offer shade to esteemed leaders and are a sign of honor for the Torah scroll. Everyone, including children, would hear readings from the Torah about forgiveness, unity, and returning to the Land of Israel. After a half-day of fasting, the community would enjoy a large feast in celebration of its heritage and its dreams. Today, *Sigd* is an opportunity to give thanks. Like *Yom Kippur*, the Jewish day of atonement, *Sigd* is observed with fasting and prayer, followed by a joyful breaking of the fast.

Today, about 170,000 Beta Israel live in Israel. Each year, thousands gather at the promenade overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem to celebrate *Sigd*, which was declared an official Israeli holiday in 2008.

To learn more about this vibrant, important part of the Jewish diaspora, check out the sections below:

Read

Picture Books

Pumpkin Pie For Sigd

by Jennifer Tzivvia MacLeod
Recommended for ages 6-8

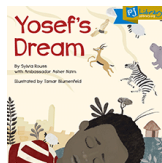
When Maddie moves from the United States to Israel, there are many things she misses about home—especially around Thanksgiving. But soon she makes friends with other olim, immigrants to Israel, including her friend Orly from Ethiopia. When Orly shares the Ethiopian holiday of *Sigd* with Maddie, they come up with a perfect melting-pot recipe!



Yosef's Dream

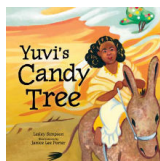
by Sylvia Rouss
Recommended for ages 8 and up

When Yosef was a child in Ethiopia, he had a strange dream, one that didn't make sense until later when he—along with thousands of others in his community—was flown to Israel as part of Operation Solomon. Sometimes our dreams tell us more than we know.



Yuvi's Candy Tree

by Lesley Simpson
Recommended for ages 8 and up



Based on a true story, this book tells of Yuvi's extraordinary journey from Ethiopia to Israel.

Other Picture Books

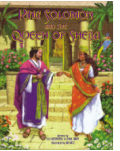
According to Ethiopian Jewish tradition, the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon after hearing of his great wisdom. Her beauty and ancient love match with King Solomon are the stuff of legends. Their son, Menelik, was raised in Ethiopia and educated by Temple priests and nobles that accompanied the Queen upon her return to her country. Many of today's Beta Israel (Ethiopian Jewry) claim ancestry from Menelik and those high-ranking members of Solomon's court.

King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

by Blu Greenberg and Linda Tarry

Recommended for ages 8 and up

When the Queen of Sheba comes to Jerusalem to test the King's celebrated wisdom, he answers each of her questions while sharing the wonders of his world.



Middle Grade Books

Too Far From Home

by Naomi Shmuel

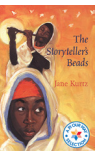
When her mom gets a big promotion, Meskerem must leave her beloved home and start school in a new town far away. As if that's not bad enough, now she's the only kid of color in the entire fifth grade! Will she ever fit in and make friends?



The Storyteller's Beads

by Jane Kurtz

This is a beautifully written story about two Ethiopian girls from very different backgrounds: Rahel is blind and from the Beta-Israel (Jewish) community; Sahay is an orphan and from the Kemant (Christian) community. The girls overcome their prejudices and learn to love and trust each other during their dangerous and difficult journey across Ethiopia and the Sudan.



Suggested Reading for Grown-Ups



Drawn from Water: An American Poet, an Ethiopian Family, an Israeli Story

by Dina Elenbogen

From Africa to Zion: The Shepherd Boy Who Became Israel's First Ethiopian-Born Journalist

by Danny Adeno Abebe



Transformations: From Ethiopia to Israel

by Photojournalist Ricki Rosen

Make

Bake a loaf of delicious [honey bread](#)

Try [doro wat](#), a traditional Ethiopian stew that families enjoy on Shabbat

[Learn an Amharic song for Sigd](#)

[Reprinted with kind permission](#)

23rd CORNED BEEF ON RYE SALE COMING ON NOVEMBER 6

Savor delicious delicatessen when the Temple's 23rd Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser returns on Thursday, November 6.

Don't miss out on this once-a-year opportunity! [Order online](#) or [download an order form](#) at www.templecav.org. (Online ordering ends on Wednesday, November 5 at noon.)

Boxed meals are \$21 each (while supplies last) and 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.

On Deli Day, 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! While our sponsorship deadline has passed to be included on the enclosure with each meal, we can still add your name or business name to our website and online listings when received by Monday, November 3.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PREP NIGHT

Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, November 5 for Prep Night from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Thursday, November 6, with shifts beginning at 8 a.m. We also need help prepping "condiment" bags (mustard packets, sporks, napkins, sponsor sheet, etc.) on Monday, November 3 at 1:30 p.m. Contact the Temple at office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245 to say you'll help with our largest fundraiser!

LEARNING CAFÉ: VAYERA IN OUR DAYS

Join Rabbi Meir Barger and the Temple's lifelong learners on Wednesday, November 5 at noon in person or online for an hour of conversation, insight, and community as we explore Parashat Vayera through the lens of our own lives.

Together we'll ask: what does it mean to encounter the Divine, to wrestle with moral challenge, and to act with compassion in our own generation? This session is a special pilot of the new Reform Torah Commentary from the Central Conference of American Rabbis – offering a fresh, thought-provoking approach to Torah for our times.

Bring your lunch, your curiosity, and your whole self, and let's learn together. [Learn more about the new Reform Torah Commentary](#). The Zoom link will be included in the weekly email to our Temple family.

JUDAISM IN ACTION: FROM SOCIAL ACTION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

What does Judaism have to say about repairing the world – not only through immediate acts of kindness, but also by addressing the deeper causes of injustice?

Join us for a two-part exploration with Rabbi Julia Weisz, an experienced Jewish educator and community organizer, as we

uncover the Jewish roots of both *social action* and *social justice*.

Part One: Judaism and Social Action – Wednesday November 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Explore how Jewish tradition calls us to respond directly to human need—feeding the hungry, sheltering the vulnerable, and offering support in moments of crisis.

Part Two: Judaism and Social Justice – Tuesday, December 10 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Go deeper into the systemic and structural issues that create inequality. Learn how Jewish texts and values inspire us to pursue justice, equity, and lasting change.

Together, these sessions will invite us to reflect, discuss, and act – drawing on the wisdom of our tradition to shape a more compassionate and just world. Kindly RSVP to office@templecav.org by Tuesday, November 11. The Zoom link will be included in our weekly email to our Temple family.

OUR COMMUNITY OF COMMUNITIES AT INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Share an interfaith celebration of Thanksgiving bringing together our community of communities on Tuesday, November 25 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Achduth Vesholom.

The Temple is pleased for a 13th year to host Fort Wayne's annual community interfaith service. Join us in person or via livestream on YouTube.

A freewill offering will be collected to benefit [Alive Community Outreach](#), which uses educational and relationship-based programming to cultivate nonviolence in the community. A reception will follow the service. Thank you to Cassie Balfanz and Kate These for chairing.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT AT THE TEMPLE

Begin your fall weekends with Shabbat and share the warmth of Jewish community at [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) in person or via livestream on [YouTube](#).

Rabbi Meir Barger leads services most Fridays at 6 p.m. Ron Friedman leads worship on the first and third Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah. We will not have services on Friday, November 28. Find the schedule at www.templecav.org.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM BAGGED APPLES & MORE

Our Thoughtful Thursdays Apple Project marked its 15th year with our amazing volunteers bagging approximately 376 pounds (16 half bushels) of apples for the 69 families and the staff of Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple. This was an opportunity to give to families who might not get fresh fruit and help to alleviate the food insecurity of our local community. The success of this endeavor is a testament to the invaluable contributions and numerous donations received through the Apple Project.

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The Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is excited to welcome Ava Cohn, otherwise known as Sherlock Cohn, for a free virtual program on Sunday, November 9th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Unlocking Family Stories Hidden in Photographs

How often have you looked at a family photograph and wondered what more it could reveal about your ancestors? Beyond the familiar faces and dates lie subtle visual clues that deepen our understanding of the people who came before us—their relationships, choices, personalities, and the moments they chose to capture. In this presentation, “*Clued-In: The Stories are in the Details*,” Ava Cohn invites participants to uncover the hidden stories preserved in family photos. This engaging session explores questions such as: What were our relatives hoping to convey when they posed for the camera? How did the photographer influence the image? And how does provenance—the story of how a photograph was passed down—shape our interpretation?

Ava Cohn, known worldwide as **Sherlock Cohn, The Photo Genealogist**, is an internationally recognized expert in the analysis and interpretation of Jewish family photographs. With clients spanning Europe, North America, Israel, Canada, Australia, and beyond, Cohn has become the go-to authority for uncovering the rich personal and cultural histories preserved in family photos. A graduate of Brandeis University, Cohn’s background includes extensive study in decorative arts, photography history, and costume and theatre history. Since 2009, Cohn has specialized in accurately dating, locating, and identifying individuals in historical photographs, with a particular emphasis on immigrant experiences and Eastern European Jewish traditions.

Join us for this fascinating journey into the visual history of our *mishpocha* and learn how every photograph can become a window into your family’s past.

Registration is required to attend this free virtual program. The link can be found at [Upcoming Events – Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society \(neindianajgs.org\)](https://www.neindianajgs.org/upcoming-events/).

Thank you to the Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Louis and Anne B. Schneider Foundation, and the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center for their continued support of NEIJGS programming.

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

SHERLOCK COHN
The Photo Genealogist

November 9, 2025
2:00 PM EST
Registration can be found
<https://neindianajgs.org/upcoming-events/>

Clued-In: The Stories are in the Details

Thank you to the Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Louis and Anne B. Schneider Foundation, and the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center for their continued support of NEIJGS programming.

www.NEIndianaJGS.org

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Masorti Foundation - The purpose and mission of the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism is to support the work of Israelis in building a Judaism that preserves observance and tradition while recognizing how modern life in Israel is lived. [More information here](#)

Non-JFNA Overseas Agencies:

Jewish National Fund (JNF) - Unparalleled in the Jewish philanthropic world, Jewish National Fund-USA's strategic vision has been and always will be to ensure a strong, secure, and prosperous future for the land and people of Israel. [More information here](#)

American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA) - In the United States, disaster relief, ambulance, and blood services are handled by an array of organizations.

In Israel, there's one organization that does it all – Magen David Adom.

Although MDA's role is mandated by the Israeli government, it's not a government agency. As Israel's official representative to the International Red Cross, Magen David Adom's role precludes it from accepting governmental support for its general operations.

Because of this arrangement, MDA relies on support from donors, including those from the United States, to keep its dispatch systems, training, and equipment the best in the world.

When you support Magen David Adom, you are helping save lives, every day. [More information here](#)

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) - Drawing on our Jewish values and history, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild their lives. [More information here](#)

Yad Sarah - The defining mission of Yad Sarah is to enable chronically ill, disabled, infirmed, and terminally ill people, ranging in age from infancy to old age, to live at home either on their own or in the care of their families or caregivers, with dignity and as

independently as possible. [More information here](#)

IsraAID - Our mission is to support people affected by humanitarian crises. We partner with local communities around the world to provide urgent aid, assist in recovery, and reduce the risk of future disasters. [More information here](#)

Religious Agencies:

Religious Action Center (RAC) - For more than six decades, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC) has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish Movement to advocate for social justice. We have helped activate the Jewish community in the key debates and mobilizations of each generation since our founding, from the civil rights movement to immigration reform. [More information here](#)

Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion - We are the center of innovation for Jewish life and learning – preparing [rabbis](#), [cantors](#), [leaders in Jewish education](#), [Jewish nonprofit professionals](#), [pastoral counselors](#), and [scholars](#) to apply their knowledge, commitment, vision, and expertise to strengthen and transform the Jewish community and larger world. [More information here](#)

Overseas Allocations:

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Fort Wayne - We proudly represent 146 independent Federations and a network of 300 smaller communities across the continent. Our mission is to protect and enhance the well-being of Jews worldwide through meaningful contributions to community, Israel, and civil society. [More information here](#)

Partnership2Gether (P2G) Western Galilee Region - For more than 90 years, we've worked to overcome the biggest challenges facing the Jewish people.

We founded and built the State of Israel, and we continue creating links globally—bringing Jews to Israel and Israel to Jews around the world. [More information here](#)

Israel Action Network (IAN) - The Israel Action Network builds a strong base of support for Israel and counters delegitimization in the context of two states for two peoples. [More information here](#)

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In other news, we're thrilled to introduce Lily Noga as our new co-chair with Cheryl Schorey of Thoughtful Thursdays. Lily is a master at finding the best deals and ordering for our monthly bags. She's a real lifesaver for the project! We're grateful for our many volunteers who help with set up and bagging every month during the school year when we assemble food and non-perishable items.

Our bag assembly team will meet on Wednesday, December 3 at 10 a.m. at the Temple. Please contact Cheryl for further information at cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com, or just stop by to join us and do something good for the community.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne. We're grateful to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and others who donate to this project.

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

Lion of Judah



History and usage

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

Who They Are:

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

Pomegranate Pin

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

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

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

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



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

TRADER JOE'S®

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

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

www.traderjoes.com



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

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

www.thefreshmarket.com



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

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

lovingcafefw.com



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

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

georgesinternationalmarket.com



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

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

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 [Metea 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

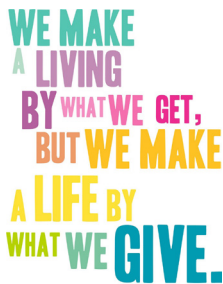
ENDOWMENT

- **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

- Donations were received from **Doris Gottlieb, Juan Suarez** and **Gene Sutton**

JNF - Plant a tree in Israel

- A donation was received from **Robert Elliott, Jr.** in memory of **Charlie Kirk**
- A donation was received from **Juan Suarez**

every contribution is
highly 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)

November 6 – No lunch - Corned Beef on Rye

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

December 4 – Club Room at The Clyde
1806 Bluffton Road

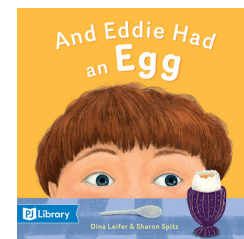
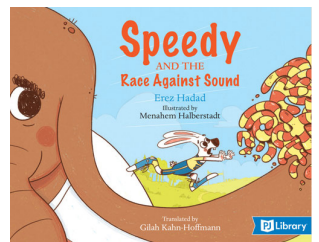
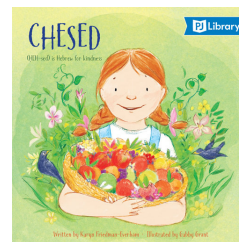
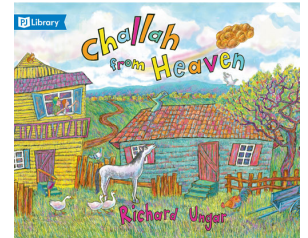
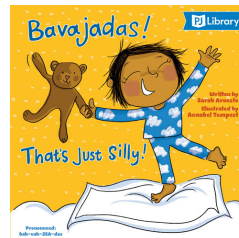
December 18 –Bagger Dave’s Burger Tavern
2886 E. Dupont Road

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



Which books did you receive this month?

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



2025 - 2026 Board of Directors

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

