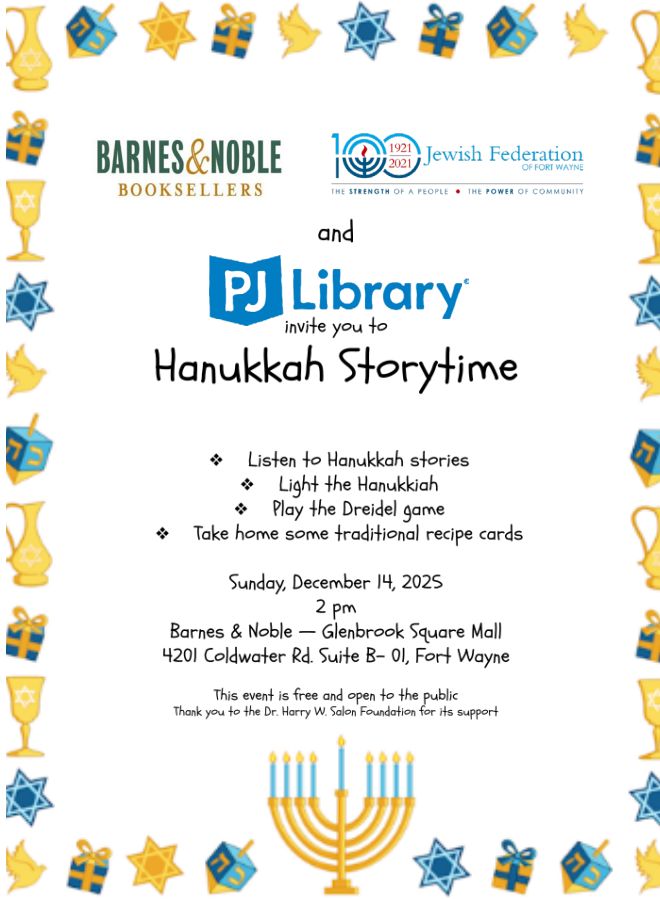


Chailights

DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

Join us!



Rosh Chodesh Women's Group Movie Night

We invite you to join us on **Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM** at the **Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center** (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne) for a special screening of the new comedy, **Bad Shabbos**.

About the Film:

Bad Shabbos is a darkly funny, fast-paced ensemble comedy that unfolds over the course of one chaotic Friday night. When a well-meaning Jewish family gathers for Shabbat dinner, an unexpected event throws the evening into disarray. As relatives, friends, and surprise guests try—often unsuccessfully—to maintain decorum, the night spirals into a hilarious blend of mishaps, misunderstandings, and heartfelt moments. It's a story about family, tradition, and what happens when life simply refuses to go according to plan.



Event Details:

Light refreshments will be served, and the evening is **free and open to our Jewish community**.

Please **RSVP by Monday, January 5** by leaving a message at (260) 456-0400 or emailing office@fwjf.org.

Thank you to the Rosh Chodesh committee for planning this fun evening. We are grateful to the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for its continued support of our community programming.

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.

The Holocaust

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



I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible generosity shown during our 2025–2026 Annual Campaign.

Your pledges and contributions are currently surpassing last year's campaign at this time, and I am deeply proud and grateful. This outpouring of support reflects our community's shared commitment to the work and mission of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne. Thank you — truly — for your partnership and belief in what we can accomplish together.

October offered several opportunities for us to gather, celebrate, learn, and connect. It was wonderful to be together.

We welcomed a remarkable crowd at Purdue Fort Wayne for our People of the Book event featuring Mitch Albom, including many visitors from outside of Indiana. The feedback has been generous and enthusiastic. My sincere thanks to the People of the Book committee for their thoughtful work, and a special note of appreciation to Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz for her leadership in bringing Mitch Albom to our community.

We also had the joy of spending time with Israeli student athletes Yuli and Yuval at Purdue Fort Wayne. Their visit was filled with smiles, meaningful conversations, and a sense of shared connection. Thank you to Irene Walters for coordinating this warm gathering, and to our friend John Coffman for welcoming us so graciously after the game. Their time with us was a wonderful reminder of the importance of friendship, support, and our relationship with the people of Israel.

Last month, our Zachor Committee convened with local teachers and Holocaust Museum Fellows on the Rifkin campus to collaborate on Holocaust education initiatives in our schools. We look forward to sharing more about these efforts in the months ahead I am hoping many of you were able to enjoy Wayne High School's performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank". The energy and preparation of the students and faculty was quite impressive.

Once again, thank you for all you do — for one another, for our community, and for those who rely on us.

Your kindness strengthens us all.



May your miracles be many! Happy Hanukkah.

Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
Board of Directors and staff

HAPPY
New Year

The **Board of Directors** and the **staff** of the **Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne**
wish you all a happy healthy 2026!

Please note that our office will be closed on Monday, December 22 - January 4, and Monday, January 19. We will be checking emails and phone messages occasionally during our break. We will get in touch as soon as we can.



We are honored to partner with [PBS39](#) to bring you these incredible programs! Our heartfelt thanks to the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for their generous support, which helps us share inspiring shows like these with our community.



Family Recipes: Jewish American Style
December 8
1 pm
Channel 39.1

Brisket! Blintzes! Bagels! Jewish cooks have added flavor to the American melting pot since they arrived. But Jewish food is more than delis and diners. Take a historical, genealogical and culinary journey through the diaspora in homes across America. From Iraqi kubbeh to Ethiopian lentils to European kreplach, hear the personal history of the Jewish table in *Family Recipe: Jewish American Style*. Family narratives are revisited and secret ingredients revealed with the help of historians, genealogists and culinary experts– including the inimitable Joan Nathan, author of *My Life in Recipes*. These colorful comfort foods are brought to life in an eclectic mix of American kitchens and illustrated with treasured family photos, illuminating historical documents and a peek into one of the country's largest collections of Jewish American cookbooks.



A Celebration of Hanukkah
December 14
7 pm
Channel 39.1

In the heartwarming and nostalgic program, *A Celebration of Hanukkah*, host Geoffrey Baer takes viewers on a fun exploration of the time-honored traditions of this joyous Jewish holiday, sharing how Hanukkah came to be, the significance of the season's cherished dishes, and the ways families continue to celebrate together across generations. Along the way, Geoffrey provides an overview of Hanukkah in popular culture, weaving in his holiday memories through childhood home movies. And, because food plays such a meaningful part of every Hanukkah observance, he also heads into the kitchen with experts to try his hand at creating seasonal culinary delights – including latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (filled donuts) – while explaining how these dishes connect to Hanukkah's history.

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Our community was honored to welcome bestselling author **Mitch Albom** as this year's People of the Book lecturer on October 21 at Auer Performance Hall at Purdue Fort Wayne. More than **1,100** tickets were reserved for this special evening, demonstrating our community's strong engagement and enthusiasm for thoughtful, meaningful programming.

Albom's presentation centered on his newest book, *"Twice,"* and explored themes of love, loss, faith, and human connection. He spoke with warmth, humor, and sincerity—inviting the audience to consider the stories we carry, the people who shape us, and the ways we continue to find meaning in the world around us. It was an evening that resonated deeply with many who attended.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the **Dr. Louis A. and Anne B. Schneider Foundation** and the **Audrey & Joe Gerson Foundation** for their generous support, which made this program possible. We are also grateful to **Purdue Fort Wayne** for its partnership and collaboration in hosting the event.

A special thank you is extended to the **People of the Book Committee** for their thoughtful planning, coordination, and dedication in bringing this inspiring program to our community.



Michael Theise welcoming audience



Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz introducing Mitch Albom



Mitch Albom



Auditorium



Book signing line



Mitch Albom signing his book "Twice" with help from Rhonda

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: Celebrating Hanukkah During the Christmas Season

My family kept a big box of [Hanukkah](#) decorations in the basement. Every year, a few days before Hanukkah, my father would tell us it was time to open the box. Heading to the basement with Dad to get that box was thrilling, and what made the moment so memorable was that I knew my father also loved that box.



Kids intuitively pick up the attitude their parents bring to [holidays](#). And for families of all religious backgrounds, the winter holiday season can be joyful ... but also stressful. There is the pressure of preparing for holidays, having your children compare your family's celebration to those of other families, and experiencing the consumerism around gift giving.

Many families raising Jewish children, no matter their level of observance, celebrate Hanukkah in the shadow of the Christmas season. The two overlapping holidays can raise questions for both kids and parents: "Why do we celebrate Hanukkah? How do we relate to all the Christmas celebrations around us? Does our family celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or both?" Each family has to navigate its own answers to these questions.



A ninth century [midrash](#) (rabbinic explanatory story) explains that Adam in the Garden of Eden became afraid of the early winter's shortening days. Once he saw that the days began to lengthen again, he created an eight-day festival of lights to help people get through wintertime darkness. This tale reflects the innate human impulse to seek ways to bring light into dark times, a theme that connects Hanukkah and Christmas despite their many differences.

The beautiful aspects that Hanukkah and Christmas celebrations share — lighting holiday lights and bringing joy to others — can be enjoyed while still feeling proud to be Jewish. After all, there is a delicate balance between preserving what is unique about being Jewish while also recognizing the contributions of other cultures and religions. That balance is central to the original [Hanukkah story](#).



Because children intuitively sense their parents' attitudes, celebrating Hanukkah in ways that make you feel genuinely enthusiastic can naturally extend to your kids. [Share what brings you light in winter](#). Perhaps it's finding ways to make your home feel especially cozy, eating [delicious food](#), or [simply hosting family and friends](#).

Find what's exciting and meaningful to you about the holiday, and your family will feel the warmth. By celebrating Hanukkah in ways that feel both joyful and authentic, you can model for your children how being Jewish is about the pride and the light they bring to the world.

About the Author

Rabbi Rena Singer is rabbi at [Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco](#) and cofounder of the Jewish Instagram account [@modern_ritual](#).

[Reprinted with kind permission](#)

SHARE LATKES, LIGHTS AND FAMILY FUN AT HANUKKAH PARTY

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with our Temple family on Friday, December 19 at our annual Hanukkah party in the Social Hall. Please bring your *hanukkiyah* and candles to light for the sixth night of Hanukkah.

Join us for our Shabbat-Hanukkah service at 6 p.m., which will include a blessing for Doris Gottlieb on her 90th birthday. The service also will be on [YouTube](#).

The menu includes corned beef, vegetarian pasta, salad, latkes, and sufganiyot. Share in the fun for all ages – dreidel and Hanukkah games, a photo booth, holiday music, and more – and crafts for the kids.

[Please make a reservation for dinner with payment](#) by Sunday, December 14 or contact us at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 4-12 (children 3 & under are free). If you need the vegetarian option, please tell us when you RSVP.

Please also help us spread the light to others by bringing items for the ongoing food drive at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services.

Thank you to Denny Reynolds and the ROMEOs for sponsoring the latkes and sufganiyot, and to Stephanie Gottesman and Kate Crell for organizing the festivities. Thanks also to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support.

LEARNING CAFÉ: STARTING THE JEWISH DAY

Join Rabbi Meir for a look at “Starting the Jewish Day” during our Learning Café on Wednesday, December 3 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Temple when we gather for an hour of conversation, insight, and community exploring how Jewish tradition guides us in waking up to life – body, mind, and soul.

From the words of *Modeh Ani* to the morning blessings and beyond, we’ll look at classical and modern Jewish sources, along with wisdom from contemporary

thinkers, to ask: how can we begin each day with gratitude, purpose, and presence? Bring your lunch, your curiosity, and your whole self. Online attendance on Zoom also is available. The link will be in the weekly email. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 2 to office@templecav.org.

REGISTER FOR ADULT BEGINNING HEBREW

Ready to follow along in Hebrew during Shabbat services? Want to finally feel confident pronouncing the prayers? *Adult Beginning Hebrew* is your doorway into the beauty and rhythm of our sacred language.

Join instructor Barbara Silverman for a 12-session introduction to reading Hebrew, beginning Monday, January 5 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on Zoom. This course assumes no prior Hebrew experience and is perfect for Introduction to Judaism alumni and other adults! [Find cost and other information](#)

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 as we continue our 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*. During our second session on Wednesday, December 10 at 7 p.m. on Zoom, we’ll 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.

Kindly RSVP to office@templecav.org by Tuesday, December 9. The Zoom link will be included in our weekly email to our Temple family.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT AT THE TEMPLE

Find the schedule at www.templecav.org.

SHARE A JOY VEY MORNING WITH JULIETTE NEHRING

Families with young children are invited to share a special musical morning of Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat on Saturday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. with musician [Juliette Nehring](#). Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support.

Please also save the date to join us for Joy Vey on Saturday, January 24 at 10:30 a.m. Joy Vey services will be on Saturday mornings moving forward. While most Joy Vey services will still be on the 2nd weekend of the month, some (like this one) will be on the 4th weekend. We look forward to sharing sweet Shabbat mornings with you in the year ahead!

CELEBRATE MUSICAL SHABBAT WITH CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE ROSALIE WILL

Share a musical Shabbat weekend with [Cantor-in-Residence Rosalie Will](#) in late January at the Temple, including [a song session](#) and [lifelong learning program](#).

We’ll celebrate Shabbat together on Friday, January 30 at 6 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir and Cantor Will. An Oneg Shabbat and spirited song session will follow. Join us for the service in person or on [YouTube](#).

Please also join us on Saturday, January 31 at 10:30 a.m. for a Beit Shirah (House of Song) learning session with Cantor Will. We’ll gather prior to the program for bagels and schmooze at 10:15 a.m. Please RSVP to office@templecav.org by Wednesday, January 28.

Cantor Will is the first cantor in the long history of Chicago Sinai Congregation. She also mentors clergy in the field and consults on issues of worship, music, and synagogue transition and change. Cantor Will is founder, former Executive Director, and Program Director of [Sing Unto God](#). She also serves as lead consultant for the Union for Reform Judaism on issues

related to music and worship. Thank you to the Dr. Louis A. and Anne B. Schneider Foundation for its generous support.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BAGGERS AND VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS

Our fantastic Thoughtful Thursday volunteers filled 69 bags with stuffing mix, instant rice, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn muffin mix, and chocolate pudding mix to go to the Brightpoint Head Start children who attend class at the Temple. Each child’s family also received a rotisserie chicken to help complete a nice holiday meal for the month of November.

A second bag was filled with household items, including four rolls of toilet paper, sandwich bags, and paper towels.

We’re grateful to the Temple’s Religious School students for participating in our bag assembly in November. Jamie Berger did an extraordinary job explaining to them how Thoughtful Thursdays began and the importance of tzedakah. Each child put a quarter in the tzedakah box. They then assembled a bag with a hat, pair of gloves, and snack package that will be given this month to the Head Start students.

Volunteers will meet on Wednesday, December 3 and Wednesday January 7, both at 10 a.m., to assemble our next bags.

Thank you to the many generous donors from the Temple, the Jewish Federation, the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, and everyone who made donations to the Apple Project to provide fresh fruit for the students.

Thoughtful Thursdays is an initiative of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). Thank you to Co-Chairs Cheryl Schorey and Lily Noga. Individuals interested in volunteering are kindly requested to contact Cheryl Schorey at cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com. We would be delighted to welcome you to our team.



ACCESS NEIJGS MEMBER BENEFITS

If you didn't know about the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society before 2025, you probably have heard of us now. The IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Fort Wayne in August was a big success, thanks to the volunteer efforts and funding gifts from many of you! Thank you again for your help and support!

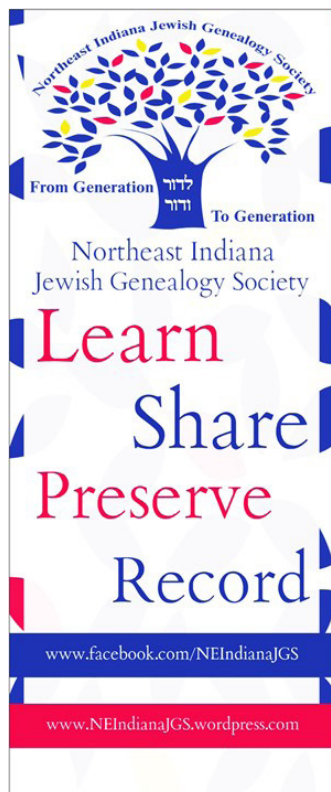
As we return to our more "regular" programming, it seems a good time to point out the benefits of membership in the NEIJGS. If you have any interest in your family history, we'd love to have you consider supporting our organization. We offer special programs to our members that take advantage of our in-town experts at the ACPL Genealogy Center. Members have special opportunities to meet and question our guest speakers, and we offer an annual Member Workshop to help our supporters with their research challenges. In addition to our quarterly newsletter, members also have access to our Fort Wayne Jewish Families database, and handouts and recordings from past programs.

We welcome everyone to our free public programs, whether they're virtual or in-person. But we'd love to encourage you to join us for a bit more. With a small donation of \$25/year, you can help us thrive "post-conference," and gain access to extra programs and benefits at the same time.

More information can be found on our website at www.neindianaajgs.org. There you'll find that joining online is quite easy, or you can download a brochure to mail in if you'd prefer.

Thank you again for your support this summer. We look forward to hearing from you!

SAVE THE DATE: Our next public NEIJGS program features AI expert, Steve Little, on Sunday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m. He'll speak about the use of AI in genealogy research.



Benefits of NEIJGS Membership

- "Beginners and Breakthroughs" Workshop
- Dinners with fabulous guest speakers
- Member Events with ACPL Genealogy Center Staff
- Access to the Fort Wayne Jewish Families Database
- Quarterly newsletter
- Family History networking

Join Us Today!

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.lovingcafefw.com/locations/fort-wayne)

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

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

- Donations were received from **Sheryl Avery, Brian Hutner, and Juan Suarez**

Holocaust Education Fund

- A donation was received from **Shara & Harry Cunningham**

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)

December 4 – Club Room at The Clyde
1806 Bluffton Road

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

January 1 – No lunch

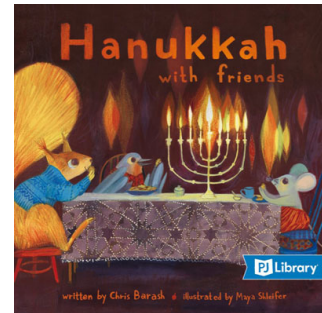
January 15 – Mad Anthony Brewing Company
2002 Broadway

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.



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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.

