

Chailights

MARCH 2026

Join us!



An Afternoon of Tradition, Reflection & Connection

Interfaith Women's Seder

Sunday, March 15 at 12:30 p.m.,
at the Rifkin Campus, 5200 Old Mill Rd.

Join us when we read from a women-centered Haggadah,
highlighting themes of freedom, resilience, and shared stories

Enjoy a catered Passover lunch and share community

 Jewish Federation
OF FORT WAYNE
THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE • THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

 THE TEMPLE
CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

Cost is \$35 per person.
RSVP by Monday, March 2
Space is limited, and payment is
required with reservation

We look forward to welcoming you
at our Women's Interfaith Passover
Seder.

[Click here to reserve your seat](#)

Save the Date

YOM HASHOAH

FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and
Congregation Achduth Vesholom invite you

Monday, April 13, 2026
7:00 pm
Rifkin Campus
5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne

Guest Speaker: Kenneth Stern

The director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate
Topic: "Antisemitism as a form of hate"

The event is free and open to the public

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

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for our 105th Annual Meeting on **Sunday, June 7** at
the Rifkin Campus at 5200. This is our annual business meeting - for
members who have made their 2025 - 2026 pledge—a time to reflect
on the past year, share what's ahead, and take care of important
organizational matters. We will be presenting the Goldie DuBow and
One of the Righteous awards. More information soon.

Following our meeting we invite you to take part in a
simple, two-hour volunteer event that can truly change
lives. In partnership with our local nonprofit, [Project](#)
216, we're bringing our community together to pack
life-saving meals for families in urgent need right here in
the Fort Wayne area.

According to the Community Harvest Food Bank, 84,000 people in
Northeast Indiana go to bed unsure of when they'll get their next
meal. These are our neighbors, our friends, and members of our own
community. Together, we can make a meaningful difference!

**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



Wishing our entire community a wonderful start to spring.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our community for your extraordinary generosity during the 2025–2026 Annual Campaign. Your continued support enables us to advance our mission of strengthening and supporting the Jewish community.

As the school year begins to draw to a close, we would like to share several recent highlights from our work with local schools and educators—efforts that are both impactful and a true source of pride.

Our “adopted” Memorial Middle School invited us to serve as judges for student presentations determining the distribution of \$5,000 to a local nonprofit organization. Ten student teams researched and presented on behalf of various local nonprofits. The quality of their work was exceptional and reflected a deeply committed, thoughtful, and engaged group of future community leaders. It was truly an honor to participate in such a meaningful experience.

In March, nearly 100 New Haven High School students, teachers, and community members will travel by bus to the Cincinnati Holocaust Museum, marking the culmination of a year of Holocaust-focused studies at New Haven High School.

Additionally, New Tech Academy has launched a Holocaust, antisemitism, and anti-hate art project, illustrating the importance of education and creative expression in confronting intolerance.

Dr. David Lindquist is concluding another successful and well-attended session of *Confronting the Shoah* and has recently been invited to speak about the Holocaust at Bishop Dwenger High School. We extend our heartfelt thanks to David for his dedication and outstanding contributions.

Over the course of the past twelve months, community participation in our women’s Rosh Chodesh dinners has grown significantly, which is great to see. Thank you to all who have made sure this program could prosper.

We would like to recognize Bob Walters, who was honored as the namesake and inaugural recipient of the Robert S. Walters Downtown Legacy Award. Congratulations, Bob, on this well-deserved recognition.

Please make sure to cheer on Yuval Levin, our first year student-athlete from Israel as he and his Purdue Mastodons basketball team moves on to tournament play.

As we continue planning our programs and support initiatives for the second half of 2026 and 2027, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to have the ongoing support of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation. We are deeply grateful for their continued commitment to the Jewish Federation and our shared mission.



In celebration of Purim, our office will be closed on Tuesday, March 3.



Don't forget to “spring forward” one hour at 2 am on Sunday, March 8

past events

Rosh Chodesh Gatherings

Twelve women enjoyed a fun and delicious dinner at Casa's Restaurant on West Jefferson Boulevard on Wednesday, January 28. Our waitress, Sierra, was absolutely delightful and added to an already wonderful evening.



We gathered again on Wednesday, February 18 for a Galentine's dinner at Bangkok Bistro, where 16 women joined us—including a few new faces we were so happy to welcome! The evening was filled with laughter, connection, and great food. We had such a wonderful time that we decided to make it official: **Rosh Chodesh dinners will now take place every third Wednesday of the month.**

We hope you can join us on March 18 at 6:00 PM at Bravas on Fairfield Avenue!



Tu B'Shevat

It may have been cold outside, but the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's PJ Library and Congregation Achduth Vesholom's Religious School came together for a joyful and engaging Tu B'Shevat Seder on Sunday morning, February 1. Participants enjoyed tasting new fruits and taking part in a variety of hands-on craft projects.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the morning possible—Rabbi Meir Barger, Stephanie Gottesman and Morgan, Dawn Hammond, Michael Theise, and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation—and to all the friends and families who braved the weather to learn and celebrate with us.



Fused Glass Class

We were delighted to host another wonderful fused glass class with Emily Simpson from Sol Eye Glass on Sunday, February 15, at the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center. Twelve talented "artists" gathered to design and create beautiful glass butterflies, each one uniquely crafted and full of personal meaning.

We chose butterflies intentionally, as they are powerful symbols of remembrance, renewal, and hope—an especially fitting theme as we continue to come together in creativity and community.



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.



Stones & Stories

Budapest's Jewish heritage & Architecture

Join us for a unique virtual P2G program exploring the invisible layers of Jewish Budapest. From faint mezuzah traces on old doorways to hidden menorahs in iron railings, we're uncovering the stories of the everyday people who shaped the city. Let's discover a side of heritage we've never seen before and reveal how history survives in the most modest and fragile details.

Speaker:
Vincent Till Baumgartner
storytelling photographer.
The initiator of the "Bricks of Budapest",
and the "Buildings Tell Tales" Projects.

Sunday
March 15th 2026

12pm CDT
1pm EDT
6pm HUN
7pm IL

RSVP

NEW - Stones & Stories: Budapest's Jewish Heritage and Architecture: Join for a virtual P2G program exploring the invisible layers of Jewish Budapest. With Hungarian storyteller and photographer, Vincent Baumgartner, we'll discover a side of Budapest's heritage and how history survives in modest and fragile details.

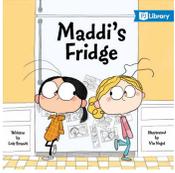
Sunday, March 15 - 1pm E.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

What are we talking about this month:

A Special Mitzvah for Purim: Helping the Hungry, Spreading the Joy

Observe these as days of feasting and merrymaking, for delivering portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.
- ESTHER 9:22



In the book *Maddi's Fridge*, written by Lois Brandt and illustrated by Vin Vogel, Sofia learns that her friend Maddi is experiencing food insecurity at home. Maddi begs Sofia to keep her empty cabinets and fridge a secret. The question of when is it right to reveal a secret is a key element of the Purim story, and like Queen Esther in that story, Sofia has to make a difficult choice. Fortunately, *Maddi's Fridge*, like Esther's story, has a happy ending.

There are **four traditional mitzvot**, or commandments, that appear at the end of the biblical Book of Esther and guide us through the holiday of **Purim**. One of these is *matanot la'evyonim*, gifts of money or food to those who are hungry. On Purim, we want to make sure that everyone in the community can experience the fun of this holiday. (Our joy is not complete unless we've helped others feel joy, too.)

When a community cares for everyone with respect and dignity, none of us needs to go hungry. Giving to others respectfully can be tricky, as Sofia intuitively understands. When Sofia learns that Maddi's family doesn't have enough food, it doesn't change her opinion of Maddi. Maddi is embarrassed by her empty fridge, but what's important to Sofia is that Maddi is a great playmate, a talented climber, and a loyal friend. Our worth is not measured by the things we have.

Maddi's situation is not unusual, unfortunately. Millions of children do not get enough food at home to eat. Here are some easy ways that a family can fulfill the **mitzvah** of *matanot la'evyonim* this Purim:

Give Tzedakah

One of the key reasons Jews give **tzedakah**, is to increase *tzedek* (justice), in the world. On Purim, tzedakah might take the form of a donation to a charity focused on feeding people, for instance. It's a way to increase justice—and reduce hunger. Of course, contributing to any good cause is a great opportunity to share our Purim joy.

This mitzvah is so central to the holiday that even people who don't have a lot of money are expected to give some tzedakah. The medieval philosopher Maimonides taught that one should give away at least as much money in tzedakah as one spends on a festive meal.



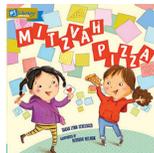
Donate to a Food Pantry or Community Fridge

Another way you and your family can take action is by donating to a local food bank or **community fridge**. You can reach out to them to find out what is needed most. (Pop-top cans and shelf-stable milk are always good items to donate). Leading up to Purim, each time your family goes grocery shopping, pick up a few things. (Keep an eye out for sales and buy-one-get-one promotions — you might be able to give a little bit more.) When you've filled up a bag with food, drop it at the pantry. While you're there, ask about other ways to help out.

Get Involved

Write letters to your local council members, politicians, or community leaders to support initiatives to fight hunger.

Read



More

[7 Books about Making the World A Better Place](#)
[Books and Videos to Help Children Learn About Feeding the Hungry](#)
[Why We Chose This Book: Mitzvah Pizza](#)

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MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 12:00 p.m. Purim Carnival	2 CAV Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Purim Service 7:00 p.m. Purim Eve Megillah Reading	3 JFFW Office Closed 5:00 p.m. Purim Community Celebration	4 10:00 a.m. Thoughtful Thursdays Noon Learning Cafe 5 p.m. JUDA Hebrew School of the Arts	5	6 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	7 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
8 10:00 a.m. Religious School	9 CAV Office Closed 7:00 p.m. Adult Beginning Hebrew	10 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 7:00 p.m. Temple Book Club	11 5 p.m. JUDA Hebrew School of the Arts 7:00 p.m. Beit Midrash Club	12	13 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	14 10:30 a.m. Joy Vey! 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
15 10:00 a.m. Religious School 12:30 p.m. Women's Interfaith Passover Seder	16 CAV Office Closed 12:30 p.m. Jewish Genealogy Lunch & Learn 7:00 p.m. Adult Beginning Hebrew	17 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	18 5 p.m. JUDA Hebrew School of the Arts	19 Noon - ROMEOS	20 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	21 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
22 10:00 a.m. Religious School	23 CAV Office Closed	24 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	25	26	27 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	28
29	30 CAV Office Closed 7:00 p.m. Adult Beginning Hebrew	31			KEY: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (The Federation) - JFFW The Temple - CAV Chabad - CHA	Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIJGS ROMEOS - RO Special Events

PURIM FESTIVITIES AT THE TEMPLE!

Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 1

Get your costume ready – both adults and kids - to join us on Sunday, March 1 at noon at the Temple for our annual [Purim Carnival!](#) **New this year:** An extra hour of fun, with activities until 3 p.m.!

We have an exciting afternoon, with kids' games and prizes, a bounce house, a scavenger hunt, photo booth, mahjongg, an adult trivia contest, a traveling mime, a costume parade, and a hamentashen bake-off. We'll cap off the carnival with a magic show for all ages. A lunch spread includes lox, bagels, tuna salad, chopped liver, kugel, fruit salad, pizza, popcorn cart, cotton candy and Purim Speakeasy (cash bar).

Be sure to check out the silent auction. Proceeds directly support our family-focused activities – so bid generously!

Tickets for the carnival are \$10 per person, available at the door, which includes everything except the cash bar and silent auction items.

Thank you to our creative Carnival Crew, including Kate Crell (chair), Stephanie Gottesman, Dawn Hammond, and Deborah Bauer. If you'd like to join the crew or volunteer for a specific job, please contact Kate (eisenka@gmail.com).

Share Motown Magic at Shpiel on Monday, March 2

The Temple's [Purim shpiel](#) is getting groovy this year! Bring the whole family on Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at the Temple to hear Jewish tradition retold with classic Motown flair. Wear a costume, grab a grogger, and be part of a truly a happening evening of soul songs and good vibrations.

Please join us in person or on [YouTube](#). An Oneg follows, featuring hamentashen made by a team of Temple bakers. All are welcome. Thank you to Cassie Balfanz for coordinating the shpiel!

WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT? FIND OUT AT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Passover begins on Wednesday, April 1 when we retell the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt and freedom from bondage. Please join us for the Second Seder on Thursday, April 2 at 6 p.m. at the Temple.

Rabbi Meir Barger on will lead us as we read from the [Mishkan HaSeder](#) Haggadah and

dine on a traditional, kosher-style Pesach meal that includes a choice of chicken or vegetarian entrée, kugel, and vegetable catered by [Chapman's Brewing Company](#).

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, March 26 [online](#) or to office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245. [Make payment online](#) or send a check (payable to "CAV – The Temple"). When you RSVP, please indicate if you prefer a vegetarian entrée. Reservations must accompany payment. We are unable to take walk-ins or accept payment the night of the event.

Students enrolled in Religious School may attend at no charge by making a reservation and when accompanied by a parent. The cost for Temple members is \$45 for adults; \$18 for children ages 3-12 who are not enrolled in Religious School; and free for children under age 3. For non-members, the cost is \$50 for adults; \$20 for children 3-12; and free for children under age 3.

No refunds will be issued for cancellations or no-shows. Reservations after the March 26 deadline will be taken if space is available. An accurate count is needed to prepare the appropriate amount of food. Thank you for your prompt response.

LEARNING CAFÉ ON END-OF-LIFE PLANNING

Join us for a meaningful conversation on Wednesday, March 4 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Temple with author Rusty Rosman and Rabbi Meir, as they discuss her insightful book [Two Envelopes: What You Want Your Loved Ones to Know When You Die](#).

In this warm and practical guide, Rusty invites us to face one of life's most important yet often avoided topics—end-of-life planning—with wisdom, humor, heart, and clarity.

Bring your lunch, your questions, and your curiosity – and let's learn together. Can't join us in person? A Zoom link will be available in the Temple's weekly email. Books will be available for purchase at the event

EXPLORE "RESIDENT AND STRANGER: JEWISH BELONGING IN AN UNSETTLED TIME"

Join Rabbi Meir Barger on Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. on Zoom to explore the biblical idea of "[resident and stranger](#)," and what Jewish tradition teaches about identity, belonging, and responsibility today.

Together we will study classical texts and contemporary reflections in a thoughtful, open conversation. No prior background is needed – all are welcome to learn and reflect together. The link is available in the weekly email to our Temple family.

SHARE A JOY VEY MORNING

Families with young children are invited to join us for Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat on Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m. Meet us at the Temple to introduce your child to the beauty of Shabbat morning service with prayer, singing, movement, joyfulness, and friends. Folks are encouraged to stick around afterwards for a nosh and social time.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT AT THE TEMPLE

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

Rabbi Meir Barger on leads services most Fridays at 6 p.m. Ron Friedman leads worship on most first and third Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah. [Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat](#) will meet on Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m. for families with young children. Find the schedule at www.templecav.org.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS

The Jewish community's Thoughtful Thursdays project fulfills a mitzvah by working to combat hunger in our local community by providing assistance to the 69 Brightpoint families with children who attend school at the Temple.

We appreciate the recent donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste from Ellen & Michael Tom for our bags. We're also grateful to Jon Tam for arranging grocery bags from Trader Joe's to fill each month with items for the families.

Please join the Thoughtful Thursdays bag assembly team on Wednesday, March 4 and Wednesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a joint project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). We appreciate the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and other donors. Thanks to Thoughtful Thursdays Co-Chairs Cheryl Schorey and Lily Noga.

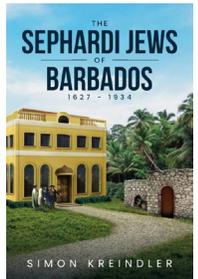


MORE JEWISH RESOURCES AT THE GENEALOGY CENTER



One of the perks of hosting the 2025 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy has been access to all the additional resources that the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center acquired for the occasion. Thanks to John Beatty, a genealogy librarian, the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society has run a column on new Jewish resources in its quarterly newsletter since its inception. For a year leading up to the conference, the column ran for pages with newly added books. Hundreds of titles were added to the collection in time for our visitors from around the world. The Genealogy Center looked to past conferences and upcoming speakers to make sure they could provide researchers with what was needed. They also sought out organizations that published Jewish genealogy titles, including a couple of societies in Europe.

The books cover all subjects and countries worldwide, and include memorial books, congregational histories, encyclopedias, histories, and just about every sort of genealogy book you can imagine. Examples, literally pulled randomly, include *The Jewish Oregon Story* by Ellen Eisenberg, *Wyszkowo, a Shtetl on the Bug River* by Adele Mondry, *Sephardi Jews of Barbados 1627-1934* by Simon Kreindler, *Argentina & the Jews: A History of Jewish Immigration* by Haim Avni, and *What's in a Name? A Young Person's Jewish Genealogy Workbook* by Stephen M. Cohen and Caryn Alter. This is just a very small sample of the resources added to the Genealogy Center's collection.



And there's more! Thanks to a connection made prior to the conference, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Florida, has donated their library to the Genealogy Center. We can be proud that the decision was influenced by the video that the NEIJGS made to promote the Genealogy Center for the conference! This large collection of over 500 titles covers Jewish history and genealogy around the world. According to John Beatty, "They are books we would have difficulty finding, so they are really a most welcome addition and complement our large collection of *Yizkor* books very nicely." Examples include – again, selected randomly – *Ghetto Shanghai* by Evelyn Pike Rubin, *The Graphic History of the Jewish Heritage* by Pinchas Wollman-Tsamir, *Dictionary of Jewish Lore and Legend* by Alan Unterman, and *The Ketuba: Jewish Marriage Contracts through the Ages* by David Davidovitch.



John mentioned the library's collection of *yizkor* books. These are memorial books for towns destroyed in the Holocaust and are enormously valuable for historical and genealogical research. Many were originally published in Yiddish, and JewishGen continues to publish English translations of these titles. The Genealogy Center has a complete set of those translations and keeps their collection up-to-date. Their own collection of memorial books is actually much larger, and dates back to a former librarian, Susan Kaufman, who began focusing development efforts in that direction more than twenty years ago. Adam Barrone, the current Periodical Source Index supervisor, has found many Jewish and eastern European periodical titles for the collection that had previously escaped notice. And those involved in collection development continue to search used book websites and more to expand the library's Jewish collection.



Reaction of those who attended the conference and toured the Genealogy Center says it all. From John Beatty, "One man, who questioned why the conference was being held in Fort Wayne, exclaimed after a tour, 'NOW I see the rationale of having it here.'" According to Curt Witcher, "We continue to receive donations of publications from attendees' personal libraries as well as books they penned themselves for our Genealogy Center collection. They nearly all indicate what a great time they had researching here and that they really want their works among our holdings."

If, like so many, you imagined that the Genealogy Center didn't have resources to address your Jewish family history, I hope this has convinced you otherwise. The NEIJGS plans to promote the resources available in Fort Wayne in connection with the programs we offer. Those of us who live nearby have *so much* to take advantage of. Hosting the conference has added enormously to the resources at our own ACPL Genealogy Center, and I hope everyone will take advantage of what is available in downtown Fort Wayne.

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 women 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®

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Fort Wayne, IN 46804
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7605 Coldwater Rd Suite A
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
260-489-8686
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2021 Broadway
Fort Wayne IN
260-420-5565
georgesinternationalmarket.com



1612 Sherman Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
(260) 424-8812
www.3riversfood.coop

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

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



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

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

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



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



GIFT GIVING MADE EASY



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

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



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

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

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

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



Registration is open for Camp Joe Summer 2026!

Good news! Camp Joe is back at [Metea County Park](#). Camp will be held June 22 - 26, June 29 - July 3 and July 6 - 10. [Register for one, two or all three weeks!](#) We are excited for the upcoming summer season!

Larisa and Samantha, Camp Joe Co-Counselors

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.

WE MAKE
A LIVING
BY WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE
A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

winston churchill

DONATIONS

General Operations

- A donation was received from **Larry Mastbaum & Marni Blomquist** in honor of **Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum**
- Donations were received from **Shirley Busack, Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon, Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder** and **The New Hope Foundation**

JNF - Plant a Tree in Israel

- Donations were 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)

March 5 – CASA! Ristorante
7545 W. Jefferson Boulevard

March 19 – Wu's Fine Chinese Cuisine
4411 Coldwater Road

April 5 – No lunch - Passover

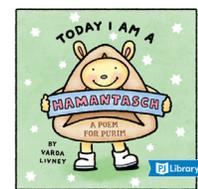
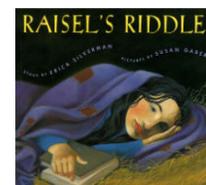
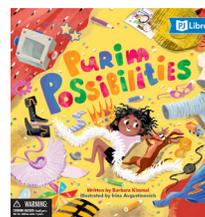
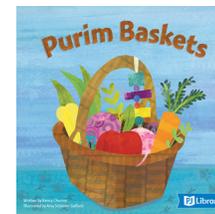
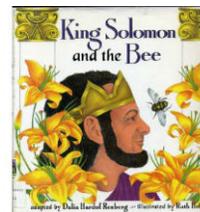
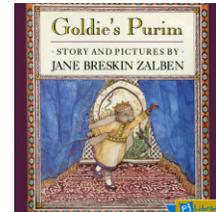
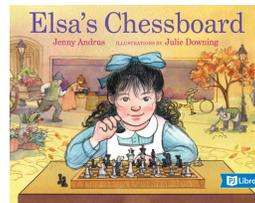
April 19 – Tequila Mexican Restaurant
6328 W. Jefferson Boulevard

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.

