

Chailights

APRIL 2026

YOM HASHOAH
FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Author Kenneth Stern to Speak at Yom HaShoah Commemoration



[Kenneth S. Stern](#), Director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate and award-winning author, scholar and attorney, will speak at Fort Wayne's annual community Yom HaShoah (Day of Holocaust Remembrance) commemoration at 7 p.m. Monday, April 13 at the Rifkin Campus, 5200 Old Mill Road.

Stern's latest book is *The Conflict Over the Conflict: The Israel/Palestine Campus Debate*. For 25 years, he was director of the division on antisemitism and extremism at the American Jewish Committee. He earned his A.B. in political science at Bard College, and his J.D. from Willamette University College of Law. Stern is the editor of *Simply Human: A Guide to Understanding and Combating Hate* and also served as executive director of the Justus & Karin Rosenberg Foundation.

A service of remembrance led by Rabbi Meir Bargeron will include community participants and music by Maestro Robert Nance. Stern's talk will follow the service. The event is free and open to the public.

The commemoration is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and Congregation Achduth Vesholom, with support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.

Please join us for our 105th Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 7 - 1:00 PM
Rifkin Campus at 5200

ANNUAL MEETING

This is our annual business meeting for members who have made their 2025–2026 pledge—a time to reflect on the past year, look ahead to the future, and take care of important organizational matters. We will also present the **Goldie DuBow** and **One of the Righteous** awards.

Following the meeting, at 2:30 PM, we invite you to stay for a meaningful, two-hour volunteer event that can truly change lives. In partnership with [Project 216](#), our community will come together to pack lifesaving meals for families in urgent need right here in the Fort Wayne area (see below for how you can help).

Help Fund 20,000 Meals with Project 216

PROJECT 216 On Sunday, June 7, at 2:30 PM—right after the Annual Meeting—**Federation** will partner with [Project 216](#) for a hands-on-meal-packing experience to help fight hunger in our local community. Volunteers will assemble thousands of highly nutritious meals to be donated to area organizations serving individuals and families facing food insecurity.

216
FIGHT HUNGER. GIVE HOPE.

Each meal costs just **37 cents**, which means a full box of **216 meals** can be sponsored for about **\$80**. Your gift—whether it's one box, several boxes, or any amount meaningful to you—directly provides meals for our neighbors in need.

We are seeking donations to fund up to **20,000 meals**. To contribute, please visit [fwjf.org](#) and designate your gift for "Project 216." Volunteers will also be needed to help pack the meals; more details will be shared soon.

Your generosity will allow our community to make a tangible difference—one meal, one box, one family at a time.



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



Good day to all,

We hope you are excited for spring, Passover, and the many wonderful opportunities ahead for us to gather together as a community.

As we continue to monitor events in Israel and around the world, this feels like an appropriate time to remind you just how generous a community you are part of. Fort Wayne and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne have been able to provide financial support for many valuable social programs throughout Israel, and particularly in the Western Galilee region, through our special partnership. Israeli society is facing tremendous needs related to rebuilding and providing critical social services at all levels. Through your generosity, our annual 2025–2026 campaign allowed us to meaningfully increase our assistance to Israel. As a Federation, we are often recognized for allocating a high percentage, approximately 55 - 60% of our Annual Campaign to Israel, and we should all be extremely proud of our contributions—and those of our friends, neighbors, and entire community.

Although conditions in Israel could impact travel plans and scheduling, we are hopeful that four highly respected individuals from Israel will be able to join us in person on the evening of April 28th to share incredible and inspiring stories.

This past month included a strong focus on the children and students of our community. These were special experiences that generated a unique sense of community in different and meaningful ways. See more on the next page.

I would like to thank those who have been making our Rosh Chodesh evenings such enjoyable events. We will continue to coordinate and come together as a community to enjoy each other's company.

Happy Passover!



In observation of Passover, our office will be closed on Thursday, April 2, Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9.

past events

Camp Joe in the Winter



On March 8th, we held our first “Camp Joe in the Winter,” a one day whirlwind reunion for returning campers, an opportunity for new and prospective campers to sample Camp Joe, and a fun, laughter-filled day for all involved. Almost 40 campers joined our special event. Tremendous thanks go to our wonderful Camp Joe Directors, Larisa and Sam, along with all of our counselors, CITs, and the Temple staff for their support. As soon as our future campers pushed their parents out of the building, the fun began—introductions, games, activities, lunch, art, specially created snacks, and the hallmark of Camp Joe: older campers helping younger and new campers. This was a great indicator of

the fun Camp Joe will bring this summer, and we hope to make this an annual tradition.



Cincinnati Holocaust Museum



On March 11th, the Jewish Federation coordinated two bus loads of students and community members to visit the Cincinnati Holocaust Museum and the special exhibit “Auschwitz: Not Long Ago. Not Far Away.” This marked our first trip requiring two buses, since COVID, to support New Haven students, teachers, and community members. Each New Haven student participated in Holocaust-related studies during the school year, and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne is incredibly proud to support such meaningful efforts by our local schools and their dedicated teachers. It was clear how well prepared the students were for this experience, and it was an honor to

be associated with them and their teachers as they deepened their understanding of the Holocaust, antisemitism, and hate—connecting these lessons through their own personal perspectives.



Rosh Chodesh Dinner



Ten women met for dinner on Wednesday, March 18 at Bravas on Fairfield Avenue. We had such a wonderful time we forgot to take any pictures!

We did plan our dinner outings for the rest of 2026. We will be meeting at 6 pm on the third Wednesday of every month. We hope you can join us!

Mark your calendars:

April 15 - [Saisaki](#)

July 15 - [Country Heritage Winery](#)

October 21 - [P.F. Chang's](#)

May 20 - [Biaggi's](#)

August 19 - [Tequila](#)

November 18 - [The Club Room](#)

June 17 - [Agaves](#)

September 16 - [Casa Ristorante](#)

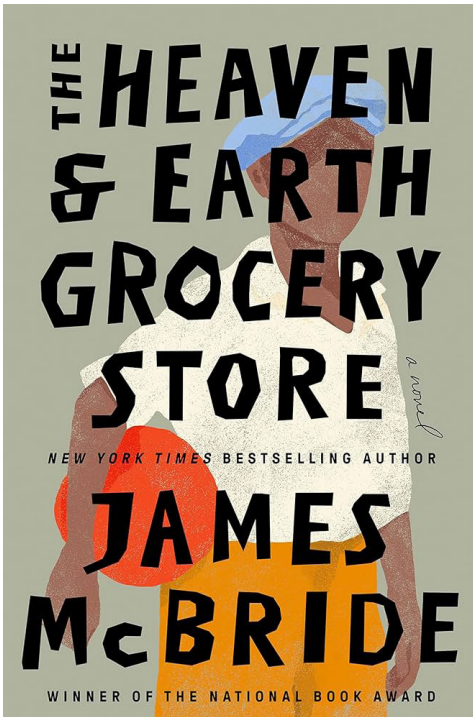
December 16 - [Granite City](#)

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.



P2G Book Club: Save the date for the next P2G Book Club session, Sunday, June 28, 2026. Book: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride.

What are we talking about this month:

A Passover FAQ For Kids

Passover is almost here! Passover encourages families, especially kids, to [ask questions](#) around the [seder](#) table. But along with the weightier questions your children may have about [the story of Passover](#), the themes of [freedom](#), and [what happens at a seder](#), they're also likely to have some more everyday inquiries too, like "Why can't I have a peanut butter and jelly bagel for lunch?"

Here are 10 common things kids ask around Passover, with easy answers for grown-ups to refer to on the spot.

Why Do We Have to Eat Matzah?

Matzah is made of the same dough as bread, but we mix and bake it much faster. That's why it stays flat and dry. Matzah reminds us that when Pharaoh finally agreed to let us go, we had to leave Egypt fast! There was no time to get ready or to wait. Eating matzah at the seder reminds us of slavery and also of freedom, because we took it with us when we fled.

Do We Have One Seder or Two?

Depending on where you live and what your own family's traditions are, your family might have one seder or two. Generally everyone attends or hosts at least one seder during Passover, but there's no hard and fast rule that says you can't have two, or three!

Can We Eat Peanut Butter During Passover?

Different families have different traditions and customs about what they feel comfortable eating during Passover. As a rule, everyone tries their best to avoid leavening, or *chametz*. Some families also choose not to eat foods that can puff up and resemble grains, like rice, quinoa, beans, or peanuts.

Even though it might be tough to give up hummus or pizza for a few days, there's a really important lesson behind not eating *chametz* during Passover.

To commemorate the Jewish slaves' hasty departure from Egypt when there was no time for bread to rise, families often celebrate Passover by feasting on matzah and removing all types of *chametz* or leavening from their homes.

Why Is Our Seder Longer Than My Friend's?

Every family is unique and so is every seder. Some people get together and host a seder that lasts for hours, with lots of breaks for singing, stories, games, and more. Other people use a quick, super fast seder for the children and stretch things out for the grown-ups after bed. There's no right or wrong way to do things.

When Does Passover End?

Passover is a seven-day holiday, but depending on where your family lives and what traditions they observe, you may observe an extra day of Passover. You can learn more in [this short piece from JewishBoston](#).

Why Do I Have to Sing "Dayenu?"

Because it's so much fun! But also, we sing "Dayenu" to show gratitude and feel happy. Dayenu means "It is more than enough for us!" God has given the Jewish people so many gifts – and even just one of them would have been enough for us to feel thankful and full of joy. Check out [5 Ways to Sing "Dayenu."](#)

Why Did God Send the 10 Plagues?

In the [Passover story](#), to change Pharaoh's heart, God sent ten messages. Each message was a plague – something frightening or bad that could make Pharaoh understand that what he was doing was wrong. These Ten Plagues scared the Egyptians. Some of the plagues ruined things that Egyptians prayed to, like the Nile River and the sun. Some made them sick, like sores, or spoiled their food, like locusts that ate up the plants in the fields. After each plague, Pharaoh thought about letting the Jews go free, but he always changed his mind. On [Passover](#), we are grateful that extraordinary things happened to help us go free. But we're also sad that other people suffered while we were saved.

What Are the Four Questions Again?

Asking questions out loud and answering questions in ways that tell our own stories are both signs of being a free person. Traditionally, the youngest person or people at the table get to ask the [Four Questions](#) if they're willing and able to do so. These questions are introduced with the Hebrew phrase "*Ma Nishtana*", which means "What is different?" You can also review [PJ Library's Four Questions post](#) if you need help.

What if I'm Too Nervous to Read the Four Questions?

You can read them with a buddy, act them out, or pick someone else to read this year. It's okay to pass on your turn or invite the whole family to read the questions together.

Why Do You Hide the Afikomen?

At the start of this seder, the [adults hide the afikomen](#), or dessert matzah. The meal cannot finish without this very unusual dessert – a last taste of matzah. Taking the afikomen out from its hiding spot means we are ready to finish our meal. At the beginning of the seder, matzah was the bread of poor slaves. Now that we are free people, with plenty of food, it is the bread of freedom and of remembering our history. With this last taste of freedom in our mouths, we are ready to say thanks for our meal and to continue the seder.

More

[How to Make Your Own Seder Plate](#)
[Make Your Own Question Catcher for Passover](#)
[5 Ways to Sing Dayenu](#)
[What Happens at a Seder?](#)

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Chailights

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>KEY:</p> <p>Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (The Federation) - JFFW</p> <p>The Temple - CAV</p> <p>Chabad - CHA</p>	<p>Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIJGS</p> <p>ROMEOb - RO</p> <p>Special Events</p>		<p>1</p> <p>7 p.m. Community Passover Seder</p>	<p>2</p> <p>JFFW Office Closed</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Second Seder</p>	<p>3</p> <p>JFFW & CAV Offices Closed</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>CAV Office Closed</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Adult Beginning Hebrew</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Lifelong Learning</p>	<p>8</p> <p>JFFW Office Closed</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Thoughtful Thursdays</p>	<p>9</p> <p>JFFW Office Closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>JFFW Office Closed</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Joy Vey!</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Religious School</p>	<p>13</p> <p>CAV Office Closed</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Yom HaShoah Commemoration Service</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5 p.m. JUDA Hebrew School of the Arts</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Rosh Chodesh Women's Dinner</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Noon - ROMEOb</p>	<p>17</p> <p>JFFW Office Closed</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Religious School</p>	<p>20</p> <p>CAV Office Closed</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5 p.m. JUDA Hebrew School of the Arts</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>JFFW Office Closed</p> <p>6:00 p.m. L'Dor Vador Shabbat Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Religious School</p>	<p>27</p> <p>CAV Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5 p.m. JUDA Hebrew School of the Arts</p>	<p>30</p>		

WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT? FIND OUT AT TEMPLE 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 Bargeran will lead us as we read from the [Mishkan HaSeder](#) Haggadah and dine on a traditional, kosher-style Pesach meal that includes matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, a choice of entrée (apricot chicken or smoked cauliflower steak), potato kugel, and roasted vegetable medley. The meal is being 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. Reservations after the March 26 deadline will be taken if space is available. [Find out more](#)

UNPACK BIBLICAL ART WITH DR. WENDY SOLTZ

Explore stories from the Torah and how they have been depicted in art across centuries on Tuesday, April 7 at 7 p.m. when Dr. Wendy Soltz leads us in "Unpacking Biblical Art." Join us in person at the Temple or on Zoom.

Drawing on research by Dr. Jacob Wisse, Wendy will examine how artists have interpreted biblical narratives: sometimes closely following the text and other times adding details, emotions, or imagery not found in the Torah.

By comparing the original passages with well-known artistic representations, participants will see how visual culture has shaped our understanding of sacred stories and learn to distinguish between what the text *actually* says and what later artists *imagined*.

Wendy is a Temple member and Associate Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at Ball State University.

The link will be available in the Temple's weekly email.

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, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. with musician Juliette Nehring.

Meet us at the Temple to introduce your child to the beauty of a Shabbat morning service with prayer, singing, movement, joyfulness, and friends. Folks are encouraged to stick around afterwards for a nosh and social time. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support.

JOIN US FOR L'DOR VADOR SHABBAT SERVICE AND SIMCHA

Share in our L'dor Vador Shabbat service linking the generations in our Temple family on Friday, April 24 at 6 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir Bargeran. Celebrate with us in person or on [YouTube](#).

This special service connects children and adults for a lively worship experience, with music, singing, and stories. We'll also offer a blessing for Don Zelman in honor of his 80th birthday. An Oneg Shabbat follows, hosted by Mimi & Don Zelman. We warmly welcome guests.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT AT THE TEMPLE

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

Rabbi Meir Bargeran 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. We'll observe Pesach Yizkor during the service on Saturday, April 4 at 9:45 a.m.

[Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat](#) with musician Juliette Nehring will meet on Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. for families with young children. Find the schedule at www.templecav.org.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM HELPS COMBAT HUNGER

Join our Thoughtful Thursdays bag assembly team on Wednesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall. Together, we will pack bags of food and household items for the 69 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple.

During March, our dedicated volunteers filled bags of food for the Head Start families with a nutritious warm winter meal of easy chicken noodle casserole ingredients, followed by another bag of household items.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a joint effort of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). We are deeply grateful to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and other donors who support this remarkable project.



The Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society (NEIJGS) will present a series of programs on **Jewish Genealogy Using Polish Records** on Sunday, May 3, 2026 and Monday, May 4, 2026. The programs will feature noted genealogy experts Hadassah Lipsius (in person at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center) and Dr. Anna Wiernicka (virtually from Poland), who will share research methods and historical context for tracing Jewish ancestry in Poland.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 2:00 p.m. “Polish Jewish Research – The JRIPoland Experience” will explore one of the most important resources for Jewish genealogical research. Jewish Records Indexing–Poland (JRIPoland) has created the world’s largest online index of Polish Jewish vital records, resident registers, census lists, and related sources. Researchers will be shown the database and will learn how to trace ancestors in both historical and present-day Polish territories.
- 3:30 p.m., “Was My Ancestor Rich or Poor? What We Can Learn from Polish Business Court Records” Polish business court records, maintained by the Polish State Archives from 1916 through the 1940s, document enterprises ranging from small family businesses to larger partnerships. These records offer insights into family life and economic conditions between the world wars.

If you are unable to attend this program in person, registration is required. Registration details and the event link are available on the NEIJGS website at www.NEIndianaJGS.org/upcoming-events/.

MONDAY, MAY 4

- 9:30 a.m. 30-minute consultations available between 9:30 and 12:30 with Hadassah Lipsius at the Genealogy Center. Free assistance with your own personal research! E-mail NEIndianaJGS@gmail.com to sign up for a slot.
- 1:30 p.m. In-person Computer Workshop with Hadassah Lipsius at the Genealogy Center. Bring your own computer for this FREE hands-on workshop using resources from JRI-Poland, the Polish State Archives, and more. E-mail NEIndianaJGS@gmail.com to sign up.

Hadassah Lipsius is Vice President and a member of the executive committee of Jewish Records Indexing–Poland (JRIPoland). A frequent speaker at international IAJGS conferences, she received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020 and serves on the Executive Council of JGS Inc. Her work is informed by extensive research trips to Eastern Europe and more than 240 years of documented family history.

Dr. Anna Wiernicka is a historian, lecturer, researcher, and professional genealogist specializing in Jewish history in Poland. She was affiliated with the Varsaviana research group at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw from 2011 to 2018. Her research focuses on Jewish life in the 19th century Kingdom of Poland, including women’s roles and everyday family life. She is a member of the Association of Polish Professional Genealogists since 2022.

NEIJGS gratefully acknowledges the continued support of the **Harry W. Salon Foundation**, the **Louis and Anne B. Schneider Foundation**, and the **Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center**.

For additional information about the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society, visit www.NEIndianaJGS.org or follow NEIJGS on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NEIndianaJGS/>.

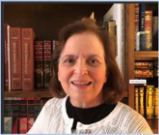
Questions may be directed to Pamela Friedman at vp@NEIndianaJGS.org.

JEWISH GENEALOGY USING POLISH RECORDS
At the ACPL Genealogy Center


Sunday, May 3, 2026

- **2:00 pm** Polish Jewish Research – the JRI-Poland Experience
- **3:30 pm** Was My Ancestor Rich or Poor: What We Can Find from Polish Business Court Records?


If you are unable to attend in person, registration is required. The link can be found at the NEIJGS website at www.NEIndianaJGS.org/upcoming-events/.



Hadassah Lipsius



www.NEIndianaJGS.org



Dr. Anna Wiernicka

Monday, May 4, 2026

- **9:30 a.m.** 30-minute consultations available between 9:30 ay Center.
- **1:30 p.m.** In-person Computer Workshop with Hadassah Lipsius at the Genealogy Center. Bring your own laptop!
E-mail NEIndianaJGS@gmail.com to sign up for these sessions.

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

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®

4110 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
260-432-5828
www.traderjoes.com



6306 W Jefferson Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
260 -459-9691
www.thefreshmarket.com



7605 Coldwater Rd Suite A
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
260-489-8686
lovingcafefw.com



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

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)

April 2 – No lunch - Passover

April 16 – Tequila Mexican Restaurant
6328 W. Jefferson Boulevard

May 7 – Joanna's Family Restaurant
10368 Leo Road

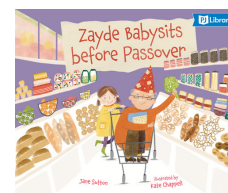
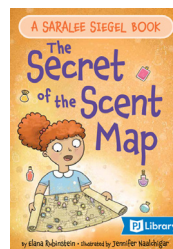
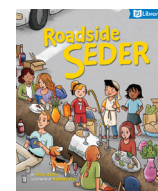
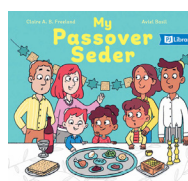
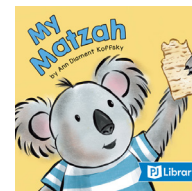
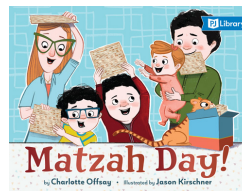
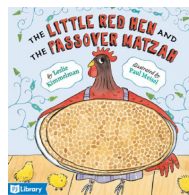
May 21 – West Coast Grille
2310 S. Calhoun Street

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.

