

Chailights

MAY 2026

Rosh Chodesh Women's Dinner – May 20

Celebrate the spirit of renewal and friendship! Our **Rosh Chodesh Women's Group** meets on the **third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM** for dinner, connection, and community.

What a wonderful evening! Fifteen women from our community gathered at Yummy Bowl on April 15 for great food, heartfelt conversation, and the joy of connecting with both dear friends and new faces.

Join us for another relaxed and joyful evening out on **Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 PM** at **Biaggi's Restaurant (4010 W. Jefferson Boulevard, Fort Wayne)**.

Enjoy delicious food, lively conversation, and the chance to reconnect with friends – and make a few new ones, too!

Everyone will order individually. Please RSVP by **May 18** to office@fwjf.org or leave a message at (260) 456-0400.

All Jewish women in our community are warmly invited. We can't wait to see you there!

Rosh Chodesh Movie Night & Ice Cream Social

Come join our Rosh Chodesh group for an evening of friendship, fun, and film!

On **Saturday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.**, we'll gather at the **Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne)** for a free **Movie Night and Ice Cream Social**. We'll be showing *The Fabelmans*, a moving story about family, creativity, and the power of storytelling – perfect for sharing with friends old and new.

Enjoy delicious ice cream treats, good conversation, and a relaxed evening celebrating the spirit of community that Rosh Chodesh embodies. All members of our Jewish community are welcome!

Special thanks to our **Rosh Chodesh Committee** for planning these wonderful gatherings and to the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for its continued generosity and support, which makes meaningful programs like this possible.

RSVPs can be sent to office@fwjf.org or leave a message at (260) 456-0400 no later than May 20.

We look forward to spending a lovely evening together!



Please join us for our 105th Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 7 - 1:00 PM
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, 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 Pack 20,000 Meals with Project 216

PROJECT
216
FIGHT HUNGER. GIVE HOPE.

On Sunday, June 7, at 2:30 PM—right after our Annual Meeting—Federation will partner with **Project 216** for a hands-on meal-packing event to help fight hunger in our local community. We are looking for volunteers to help assemble thousands of highly nutritious meals that will be donated to area organizations serving individuals and families facing food insecurity.

This is a powerful way to make a direct, tangible impact right here at home. To sign up, please [click here](#) to reserve your spot and be part of this meaningful community effort.

Each meal costs just **37 cents**, which means a full box of **216 meals** can be sponsored for about **\$80**. If you'd like to support this project financially, please visit fwjf.org/donate and designate your gift for "Project 216." Your generosity—whether through your time or your gift—will help provide meals for our neighbors in need, 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 each of you,

The season has brought us many meaningful moments together – the gifts of spring, Passover, our holiday bag delivery, and our Yom HaShoah commemoration. I want to extend a special thank you to our wonderful Temple, its dedicated volunteers, and its staff for hosting such a lovely Second Seder.

Yet even as we gathered with friends and family, the reality in Israel remains starkly different. Many of our brothers and sisters there are once again living under the threat of missiles, bombs, drones, and other acts of violence – and for many, Passover included time spent in bomb shelters. The people of Israel continue to endure heartbreaking circumstances, and the work of recovery and rebuilding – across daily life, communities, and the country as a whole – will require time and sustained support. Increasingly inexpensive and technologically advanced weapons mean that vigilance and resilience will remain a part of everyday life there for the foreseeable future.

I hope you were able to join us for our Yom HaShoah commemoration, a beautiful service led by Rabbi Meier, and for the important presentation by Mr. Kenneth Stern, Director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate. Before a wonderful turnout of local teachers, students, community leaders, and our mayor, Mr. Stern reminded us all of the difficult, ongoing work required to confront hate, extremism, and antisemitism.

Looking ahead, please join us on June 7th at the Rifkin Campus for our Annual Meeting, followed by an optional volunteer initiative with Project 216. Together, we will pack meals through a remarkably creative and efficient process for those in need – an inspiring example of community action to fight hunger. We hope to see you there, whether participating or simply observing.

Stay well.



Rosh Chodesh Dinner

We will be meeting at 6 pm on the third Wednesday of every month. We hope you can join us!

Mark your calendars:

May 20 - [Biaggi's](#)

July 15 - [Country Heritage Winery](#)

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

June 17 - [Agaves](#)

August 19 - [Tequila](#)

November 18 - [The Club Room](#)

September 16 - [Casa Ristorante](#)

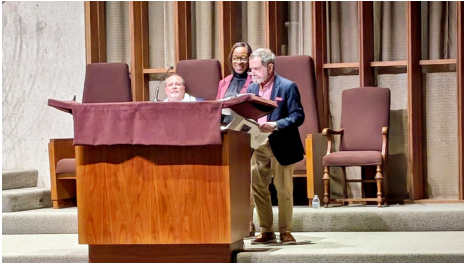
December 16 - [Granite City](#)

YOM HASHOAH

FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

A very special thank you to everyone who participated in our memorable Yom HaShoah Commemoration on Monday, April 13. We are so grateful that Kenneth Stern was able to speak with us about antisemitism! Thank you to our committee, volunteers, Rabbi Bargeron, and Temple staff – without you, this would not have been the special evening it was. We also want to thank the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support, without whom evenings like this would not be possible.

For anyone who would like to view the evening, [you may watch it here](#).



Ben Eisbart, Federation President



Mayor Sharon Tucker, City of Fort Wayne



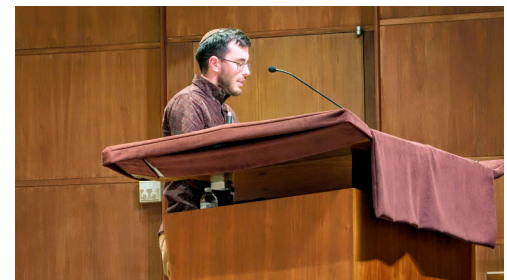
Mimi Zelman, Community Volunteer



Students lighting Yahrzeit candles



Ron Friedman, Community Volunteer & Rabbi Bargeron



Dan Mueller, Community Volunteer



Michael Rush, Community Volunteer & Rabbi Bargeron



Kenneth Stern, Guest Speaker



In memory of the lives lost



Camp Joe Wish List

Greetings from Camp Joe! We're thrilled to welcome our campers next month at [Metea County Park](#) for another summer filled with friendship, fun, and outdoor adventures.

To help us prepare, we've put together a wish list of supplies that keep our campers safe, comfortable, and smiling. If you're able to donate any of these items, we'd be deeply grateful!

Camp Joe Wish List:

- ✓ Children's Liquid Tylenol and Liquid Benadryl
- ✓ Hydrocortisone cream and Neosporin
- ✓ Large waterproof Band-Aids
- ✓ Bug spray (25% DEET)
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Bottled water
- ✓ Jigsaw puzzles (new or gently used)
- ✓ Uno (new or gently used)
- ✓ Sorry (new or gently used)
- ✓ Baggies
- ✓ Paper towels

If you'd like to help, please let us know what you would like to donate using our [Camp Joe Wish List Form](#).

Please note:

If you will be at camp, you can bring your donation then.

If you will not be at camp, please drop off your donation at our office no later than Monday, June 1.

Thank you for your generosity and for making Camp Joe such a special place for our campers. We can't wait to see you next month!

Registration is open!

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!

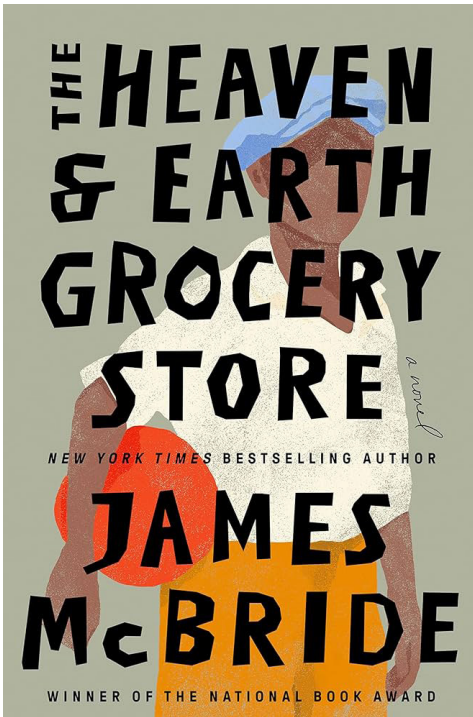
Larisa and Samantha, Camp Joe Co-Counselors

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

[RSVP](#)

What are we talking about this month:

Omer Heroes Story List



Anyone who likes spiritual challenges will also love counting the Omer. Beginning 500 years ago, the kabbalists (Jewish mystics) transformed the Omer from a simple count up (note that Jews count up, not down) from Passover to Shavuot to a spiritual ascent so that we might be worthy to receive the Torah on Shavuot.

The kabbalists perceived God as having 10 attributes that get expressed in the world as we know it. These are called *sefirot* or “emanations” and the challenge for humans is to embody these *sefirot* in our own characters. In the Omer, the kabbalists created a matrix built on seven of these *sefirot*: kindness, strength (or discipline), beauty (or harmony), endurance, humility, bonding, and nobility.

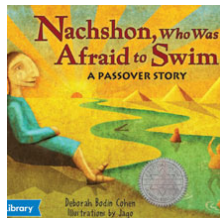
The first week of the Omer, say, is devoted to kindness. The first day challenges you to think about the kindness you show. The second encourages thinking about how to bring discipline to your kindness. The third promotes thinking about how to seek harmony through your kindness, and so on.

In PJ Library’s new guide to Jewish holidays from Passover to Shavuot, *A Time to Gather*, families will find a set of personal challenges, inspired by the kabbalistic approach to the Omer. In each section, readers of the guide will also find the story of a Jewish figure (we call them Omer heroes) who can inspire us with each challenge. To learn more about each hero, use the buttons below to find books, videos, podcasts and other resources.

Nachshon

Challenge 1: Be Brave

Nachshon, the son of Aminadav, appears numerous times in the Torah as Aaron’s brother-in-law and a leader of the biblical tribe of Judah during the Israelites’ post slavery wanderings in the desert. According to [midrash](#), Nachshon was the first person brave enough to set foot in the path made as the Red Sea parted.



Rambam

Challenge 2: Feel Pride

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, known also as Maimonides or Rambam, lived from 1138 to 1204. He was one of the greatest scholars in all of Jewish history. It’s said that from Moses (the biblical leader) to Moses (Maimonides), there was no one like Moses.

The Life of Maimonides via Unpacked



Golda Meir

Challenge 3: Show Your Independence

Golda Meir, originally known as Goldie Mabovitch, was born in Ukraine, grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and immigrated to pre-state Israel in her early 20s. She held many high offices in the Israeli government and served as prime minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974.



Moses

Attribute Challenge 4: Try Again

After beginning life floating in a basket and growing up in Pharaoh’s palace, the biblical Moses became the most important leader in Jewish history. He helped the Jewish people leave slavery in Egypt, brought them to Mount Sinai to receive God’s laws, and prepared them over a span of 40 years to enter the land of Israel.



Rabbi Akiva

Challenge 5: Be Curious

Rabbi Akiva was one of Judaism’s greatest teachers. His ideas are recorded in the *Mishnah*, a book of rabbinic law and debate compiled in the 3rd century CE. And it’s true: He didn’t know how to read and write for the first half of his life!

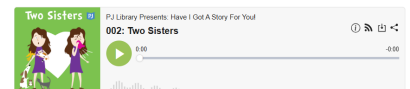
Learn:

[Who Was Rabbi Akiva and What Can His Story Teach Us?](#)

Two Sisters

Challenge 6: Make Peace

There’s a legend about two siblings who sneak into each other’s homes in the middle of the night to make sure the other is cared for. It is because of the special act of generosity and caring between two siblings that the Holy Temple was built on this particular spot in Jerusalem.



Ruth

Challenge 7: Take Responsibility

The biblical tale of Ruth starts in a sad way, with the death of Naomi’s husband and sons (one of whom was married to Ruth). But it ends happily, with Ruth marrying Naomi’s relative Boaz, starting a family, and becoming the great-grandmother of King David.



[DIY Omer Counters To Make With Your Family](#)
[Family Learning And Discussion: Lag B’Omer](#)
[Playlists for Kids About Lag B’Omer](#)

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L'DOR VADOR SHABBAT & SHAVUOT SERVICE CONNECTS GENERATIONS

Please join us for our L'dor Vador Shabbat & Shavuot service on Friday, May 22 at 6 p.m. when we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai, led by Rabbi Meir Bargeran. We'll also observe Yizkor.

Join us in person at the Temple or on [YouTube](#) for the service connecting us from generation to generation with music, singing and stories. An Oneg Shabbat featuring ice cream follows. All are welcome.

We'll present a prayer book to Eleora Soltz, daughter of Wendy & Micah Soltz, in honor of her bat mitzvah studies. We'll also offer a blessing to children who will be attending a Jewish summer camp before they head off on their adventures.

FROM MARGINALIZED TO MAINSTREAM: HOW EARLY WOMEN ZIONISTS CHANGED LOCAL JEWISH DISCOURSE AT NEXT LEARNING CAFÉ

Please join us for Learning Café on Wednesday, May 6 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Temple when we welcome Michael Brown, Executive Director of the [Indiana Jewish Historical Society](#), to discuss "From Marginalized to Mainstream: How Early Women Zionists Changed Local Jewish Discourse."

He'll explore early Zionism and early anti-Zionism across the state and how Zionist movements were an early pathway for Jewish women to become communal leaders when almost no opportunities for leadership existed for them. From the local Hadassah chapter to Minnette Baum's work in Jewish communal leadership, Michael will explain how revolutionary the early Zionist movements were during their time. Bring your lunch, your questions, and your curiosity – and let's learn together.

Can't join us in person? The event will be streamed via Zoom, with the link available in the weekly email to our Temple family.

THE NIGHT THAT CHANGED JEWISH HISTORY: WHAT ONE BANQUET REVEALS ABOUT COMMUNITY

Join us for our lifelong learning class with Rabbi Meir on Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. on Zoom when we look at "The Night That Changed Jewish History: What One Banquet Reveals About Community."

We'll gather for a thoughtful exploration of a well-known Talmudic story about a banquet that took an unexpected turn – and the lasting questions it raises about community life.

In this session, we'll look closely at issues of belonging, hospitality, and responsibility, and consider what it means to be part of a community where people feel both welcomed and respected.

Together, we'll reflect on when to speak up, when to listen, and how Jewish tradition can guide us in navigating those moments.

Come to learn, reflect, and join the conversation. Kindly RSVP to office@templecav.org by Tuesday, May 12. The link is 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, May 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the Temple.

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.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT, SHAVUOT, AND A SIMCHA

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. Following the service on Friday, May 1, we'll celebrate the 60th birthday of Jon Tam during an Oneg Shabbat hosted by Rabbi Meir Bargeran & Jon Tam. On Friday, May 22, join us for a L'dor Vador Shavuot & Shabbat service.

Ron Friedman leads worship on most first and third Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah. We will not have a service on Saturday, May 16. Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for families with young children will meet on Saturday, May 9 at 10:30 a.m. Find the schedule at www.templecav.org.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM PREPARING FINAL BAGS OF SCHOOL YEAR

Thoughtful Thursdays will conclude its 16th year on Wednesday, May 6 at 10 a.m. when volunteers assemble the bags of food and household supplies for the 69 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple.

The final bags of the school year include additional items to assist the families during the summer months. We're grateful to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and numerous members of the Jewish and greater Fort Wayne community for their support.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a social action project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). Thank you to the Temple staff, the Jewish Federation, and our volunteers. We appreciate our Co-Chairs Cheryl Schorey and Lily Noga. If you'd like to volunteer when we begin our 17th year, please contact Cheryl at cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com.



NEIJGS Spring Programs at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Join us on **Sunday, May 3** at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center for an afternoon of engaging genealogy programs:

- **2:00 p.m.** – *Hadassah Lipsius* will present in person, “**Polish Jewish Research – The JRI-Poland Experience.**”
- **3:30 p.m.** – *Anna Wiernicka* will join us virtually from Poland (viewable at the Genealogy Center) for “**Was My Ancestor Rich or Poor? What We Can Learn from Polish Business Court Records.**”

We encourage you to attend these programs in person at the Genealogy Center—**no registration is required**. Both sessions will also be available virtually for those unable to attend; please register using the link below to access the online option.

<https://neindianajgs.org/upcoming-events/>

Following the presentations, **NEIJGS members** are invited to continue the conversation:

- **5:30 p.m.** – Join us for an informal dinner with Hadassah at Congregation Achduth Vesholom. We’ll enjoy a taco bar from Salsa Grill. The cost is **\$20 per person**, payable that evening to Irv Adler. Kindly RSVP by **April 30** to president@NEIndianaJGS.org.

On **Monday, May 4**, additional opportunities are available:

- **9:30 a.m. (by appointment)** – One-on-one research sessions with Hadassah. All time slots are currently filled; however, a waiting list is available. To be added, please email NEIndianaJGS@gmail.com.
- **1:30 p.m.** – A free, hands-on computer workshop at the Genealogy Center. Bring your own laptop and explore resources from JRI-Poland, the Polish State Archives, and more. To reserve your spot, email NEIndianaJGS@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you for this informative and engaging series of programs!


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 am and 12:30 pm with Hadassah Lipsius at the Genealogy 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.



MEMORIAL DAY

Remember and Honor

In memory of those who served, our office will be closed on Monday, May 25.

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.

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DONATIONS

General Operations

- A donation was received from **Larry Mastbaum & Marni Blomquist** in honor of **Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum**
- Donations were received from **Geoffrey & Rachel Gordon, Jo Ellen & Mike Rush** and **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)

May 7 – Joanna’s Family Restaurant
10368 Leo Road

May 21 – West Coast Grille
2310 S. Calhoun Street

June 4 – The Hoppy Gnome
203 E. Berry Street

June 18 – Black Canyon Restaurant
1509 W. Dupont Road

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

2025 - 2026 Board of Directors
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Vice President: Bob Walters
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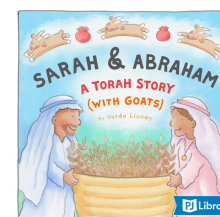
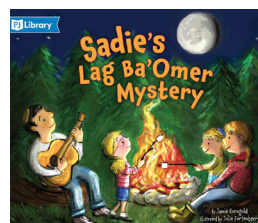
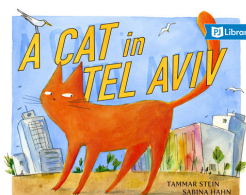
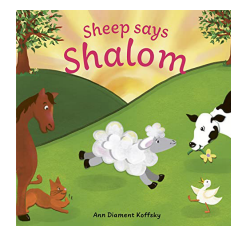
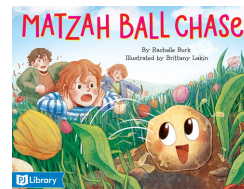
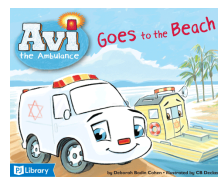
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Bonnie Pomerantz
Office Manager
office@fwjf.org



Which books did you receive this month?

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



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

