

Chailights

JUNE 2026

105th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF FORT WAYNE

will commence on

June 7 at 1:00 p.m. EST

at

Rifkin Campus at 5200

(5200 Old Mill Road)

Proposed Slate 2026-2027

The Nominating Committee has
submitted the following slate:

Officers:

President: Ben Eisbart (one year term)
Vice President: Bob Walters (one year term)
Secretary: Lee Pomerantz (one year term)
Treasurer: Jaki Schreier (one year term)

Directors - Term Ending 2027

Not up for re-election

Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Scott Salon
Mimi Zelman

Director - Term Ending 2028

Cassie Balfanz
Ellen Tom
Aliza Tourkow
Josh Wallet

We will be presenting the "One of the Righteous" award as well. Donors to the 2025 - 2026 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign are eligible to vote in this election.

PROJECT

216

FIGHT HUNGER. GIVE HOPE.

Following the business portion of our annual meeting, beginning at 2:30, we are partnering with [Project 216](#) for a hands-on meal-packing event to assemble meals that will be donated to local organizations in our area.

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



Our mission is to support the well-being and continuity of the Jewish people in greater Fort Wayne, in Israel, and throughout the world.

MICHAEL THEISE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Good day to each of you,

As we move into late spring, I'm excited to share that Camp Joe Levine is on track for a wonderful summer session. Camp Directors Larisa and Sam are hard at work, our staff is in place, and registration has already significantly surpassed last year's numbers. Thanks to the generosity of so many in our community, we are also able to provide an impressive number of camp scholarships for families in need. This is something we can all be proud of.

As we continue to keep Israel in our thoughts during this time of ongoing conflict, our community recently had the privilege of hearing firsthand from four Israeli citizens about both the challenges they face and the vital work they are doing. It was a meaningful and informative event that left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance.

We are deeply grateful to these guests for traveling under such difficult circumstances, to the Partnership2Gether team for making the visit possible, and to our host families—Jaki and Eric Schreier, and Shai Hadashi—for their generosity. The stories from our visitors gave us a powerful glimpse into the realities of daily life in Israel, including the increasing urgency and danger faced by individuals and families as response times to threats grow ever shorter.

Thank you for your continued support of efforts to rebuild and provide social support for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

On that note, please join us on June 7 at the Rifkin Campus for our Annual Meeting, which will be immediately followed by an optional volunteer initiative with Project 216. Together, we will help pack meals through an innovative process that provides nutrition for those in need. We hope you will join us—or at least stop by to observe this creative and impactful effort to fight hunger.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the launch of our new young adult group, YACHAD. This initiative is something I am truly excited about, and I want to extend a special thank you to Cassie Balfanz for taking a lead role in bringing it to life. Please do read Cassie's article in this edition of Chailights to learn more about what we expect will become a valuable part of our community.

Stay well,

Michael



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:

June 17 - [Agaves](#)

July 15 - [Country Heritage Winery](#)

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

August 19 - [Tequila](#)

November 18 - [The Club Room](#)

September 16 - [Casa Ristorante](#)

December 16 - [Granite City](#)

Thank You

2025 - 2026 DONORS (AS OF MAY 15, 2026)

Thank you to our generous donors!

We could not do what we do without each of you!

Your gift to the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne provides much-needed support here at home, in Israel and to struggling Jewish communities in over 70 countries around the world.

- Anonymous (3)
- Carol & Larry Adelman
- Fran Adler
- Irv Adler
- Annie & Dan Appel
- Cassie Balfanz
- Rabbi Meir Bargerone & Jon Tam
- Rena Black
- Judith Bolinger
- Cynthia Brooks
- Talia Bugel
- Shirley Busack
- Christa Cartwright
- Ron Cousino
- Nancy & Mike Dicker
- Jane Downey
- Sharon & Ben Eisbart
- Ros & Mike Eling
- Robert Elliott, Jr.
- Janet Finkel
- Ron Friedman
- Pamela Friedman
- Betsy & Geoff Gephart
- Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
- Barbara & Alan Gilbert
- Glenn Goldstein
- Lori & Rob Goldstrom
- Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon
- Doris Gottlieb
- Ronnie & Norm Greenberg
- Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder
- Keith Groman
- Shai Hadashi
- Dora & Leonid Itkin
- Carol Jackson
- Thom Kelley
- Micki & Sherwin Kepes
- Suzi & Jim King
- Amy & Sam Krouse
- Cathy Lash



- Jere Leib
- Yuval Levin
- Stan Levine
- Sheryl & Bruce Merritt
- Joann & Stevie Mick
- Susie Miller
- Harriet Miller & Monica Wehrle
- Helen & Vladimir Murzin
- Bob Nance
- Andrew Reinfeld
- Sarah Renner
- Marcia & Denny Reynolds
- Rifkin Family Foundation/MetalX
- Jo Ellen & Mike Rush
- Kay Safirstein
- Nancy & Scott Salon
- Karen Sandler
- Jan & Steve Sarratore
- Cheryl Schorey
- Mallory Schreier
- Jaki & Eric Schreier
- Kayla & Abe Schreier
- Samara Sheray
- Charla Sheray
- Wendy & Micah Soltz
- Kate & Michael Theise
- Rachel Tobin-Smith
- Ellen & Michael Tom
- Aliza Tourkow
- Donna & Josh Tourkow
- Theresa & Scott Trauner
- Sally & Steve Trotter
- Parker Tysinger
- Wendi & Josh Walle
- Irene & Bob Walters
- Mimi & Don Zelman
- Alan Frank Ziblat
- Beth Zweig
- Dan Zweig

UPCOMING EVENTS

HAVDALAH and S'MORES



The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne invites you to an evening of nature and community!

Join us on **Saturday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m.** at **Little River Wetlands/ Eagle Marsh**, 6801 Engle Road, for a beautiful night under the stars. We will enjoy a gentle guided hike (45 minutes to 1 hour), make

s'mores, and participate in the Havdalah ceremony together. Bug spray, a water bottle, and folding chairs are recommended.

This event is free and open to our Jewish community. Please [RSVP no later than June 10](#)

Special thanks to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.

YACHAD



The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne is proud to introduce a new group for adults in their 20s and 30s and up to age 40. **YACHAD** means togetherness, and stands for Young Adults Connecting, Hanging, And Doing (Things). The inaugural meet-up happened May 7 at the Clyde Theatre.

Friends, old and new, connected over dinner and drinks at the Club Room prior to seeing musicians Jake Shimabukuro (ukulele) and Jackson Waldhoff (bass) on the main stage. Future events include: happy hours, hikes, live music, sporting events, axe throwing, and more!



Mark your calendars! On **July 12**, YACHAD will be traveling to **Indiana Dunes State Park Beach**, where we will be joining the young adults of the St. Joseph Valley Jewish community for a memorable day in the sun and sand. Spread the word, and bring a friend! Please **RSVP no later than June 28**. For details on this or other upcoming events, contact the [Federation office](#) or Cassie Balfanz at CassieBalfanz@gmail.com or 260-443-6953.



JUNE

23 HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR IRENE MILLER
6:00PM-7:00PM AT WARSAW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
SPONSORED IN PART BY FORT WAYNE JEWISH FEDERATION AND WARSAW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

30 HOLLYWOOD AND THE HOLOCAUST WITH PROFESSOR STEVE CARR, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES AT PURDUE FW
6:00PM-7:00PM AT WCPL
SPONSORED IN PART BY LAKE CITY BANK

JULY

6 "VITAL PASSAGE" DOCUMENTARY
3:30PM-7:30PM AT WCPL
SPONSORED IN PART BY FIVECROSS MEDIA / GOODWIN COLLEGE

JULY CONTINUED

7 ORDINARY HEROES OF WWII WITH DR. WALTER RINDERLE, VINCENNES UNIVERSITY
6:00PM-7:00PM AT WCPL
SPONSORED IN PART BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAINT JOSEPH VALLEY

14 NIGHT COMMUNITY BOOK READ WITH JEN HICKS
6:00PM-8:00PM AT WCPL
SPONSORED IN PART BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

20 THE STORY OF BRUNO GLADE: A GERMAN-JEWISH REFUGEE FROM HITLER'S GERMANY WITH SHIRLEY GLADE
6:00PM-7:00PM AT WCPL
SPONSORED IN PART BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARSAW

21 "VOICES FROM THE HOLOCAUST" READERS THEATRE
6:00PM-7:00PM AT WCPL



Warsaw Community Library presents: [The Americans and the Holocaust](#) traveling exhibition explores key themes in American history, including Americans' reactions to refugees, war, and genocide in the 1930s and '40s. The exhibition emphasizes the stories of individuals and groups of Americans who took action in response to Nazism.

HOOSIER JEWISH LEGENDS

HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2026

The following individuals will be honored as the Hoosier Jewish Legends Hall of Fame Class of 2026 on

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026,

at the

INDIANAPOLIS JCC LAIKIN AUDITORIUM

Mazal tov to the inductees and their families on this distinguished honor.

2026 INDUCTEES

Douglas & Sandra Barton
SOUTH BEND

Steven Langer
VALPARAISO

Lori Moss z"l
WESTFIELD

David Sanders
WEST LAFAYETTE

Vivian Skadron
FORT WAYNE

Mazel Tov to the 2026 Hoosier Jewish Legends. We hope you will be able to join us August 30 when we celebrate Vivian Lansky Skadron and all the 2026 Legends!

More information soon.

past events



THANK YOU

An evening that moved us – Voices of Resilience from the Western Galilee

On the evening of April 28, approximately 30 members of our community gathered at the [Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) for a program that was nothing short of extraordinary. The YOMS Western Galilee Speakers Delegation brought us four individuals whose stories of loss, service, and renewal left a lasting impression on all who were present.

We heard from **Amir Idan**, who spoke with remarkable courage about the grief of losing his brother Guy and his cousin Tzachi, and about how he has chosen to transform that grief into support for other bereaved families. **Aml Khatib** shared the proud tradition of the Druze community's covenant with the land and its people – a commitment that defines his life as both a soldier and a student of law. **Sagi Shalev** reminded us that building bridges between communities is possible even in the depths of mourning, as he has done through his bilingual kindergarten and his work with the "Living Together" Association. And **Ditza Cohen Hilbuch** wove a multi-generational tapestry of resilience – from the Holocaust to the Yom Kippur War – showing us what it means to choose life again and again.

Together, their stories were a profound reminder that pain and hope can coexist – and that community is what sustains us through both.

We are deeply grateful to our four speakers for entrusting us with their stories. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came that evening – your presence, your attentiveness, and your compassion made the room feel exactly as it should: like a true community gathered around what matters most.

A special thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for your generous support, and to the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center for providing such a warm and fitting space to hold this conversation.

Missed the talk? Want to hear it again?

A recording of the full program is available at the link below. We encourage you to share it with friends and family who could not be there.

[Listen to the recording](#)

We look forward to continuing to bring meaningful programs to our community. As always, we are grateful to walk this path together.



Ditza Cohen Hilbuch



Sagi Shalev



Amir Idan

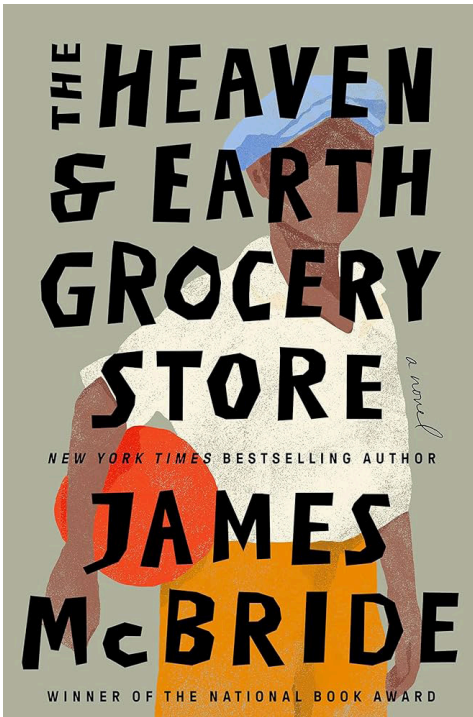
We are unable to share pictures of Aml Khatib

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:

How to Celebrate Havdalah



Havdalah, or “separation” in Hebrew, is Shabbat’s closing ritual, when three stars appear on Saturday evening. In a simple multi-sensory ceremony, with blessings over lights, wine or grape juice, and spices, Havdalah is an inspiring way to end Shabbat and start the new week as a family.

Ready to make Havdalah at home? Follow along below:

Setting Up

Here is what you will need for Havdalah:

A cup of grape juice or wine (a Kiddush cup is customary, but any cup will do)

Pleasant-smelling spices (in a jar, from the garden, in a spice box – however your family prefers)

A multi-wick candle (a braided Havdalah candle or any two candles with wicks held together)

How To

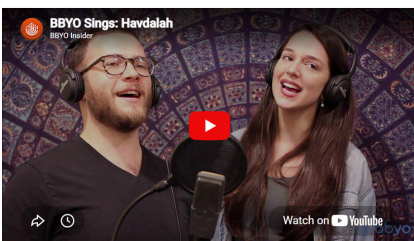
To create the right mood, it’s nice to lower the lights or turn them off completely, so the flames of the Havdalah candle can cast their spell. (Most Havdalah candles are drippy, so make sure to put tin foil, newspaper, or a dish underneath.)

Each person has a “job”--one holds the lit candle, one holds the spices, and another holds the cup of grape juice or wine. At the end of Shabbat, when the first three stars are seen, form a circle as a group. Have each of the three Havdalah items held by a different person. Recite the Havdalah blessings or follow along with the videos below. As each item is mentioned, it is made available to the group: the cup is held up, the spices are smelled, and the candle is observed.

Blessings

Here are **Havdalah Sing-Along Videos**. You can learn the blessings over wine, spices, fire, and a final blessing, and end Havdalah with the song “Eliyahu Hanavi” (Elijah the Prophet). Elijah is the symbol of human redemption, and reminds us of the world we strive for each new week – a world of peace, compassion, and justice.

The first video (with BBYO) includes the short version of the final blessing, plus guitar chords! The second video (with Moishe House and Bimbam) includes the long version of the final blessing. The third video is the song Eliyahu Hanavi.



More

[5 Havdalah Activities for Families Teaching Children about Shabbat](#)



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

JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 CAV Office Closed	2 6:30 p.m. CHA Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	3 7:00 p.m. CAV Annual Meeting	4 7:00 p.m. NEIUGS Annual Meeting	5 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	6 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
7 1:00 p.m. JFFW Annual Meeting 2:30 p.m. JFFW Project 216 meal packing	8 CAV Office Closed	9 6:30 p.m. CHA Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	10 7:00 p.m. Lifelong Learning	11	12 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	13 10:30 a.m. Joy Vey! 6:00p.m. Havdalah at Eagle Marsh/Little River Wetlands
14	15 CAV Office Closed	16	17 6:00 9.m. Rosh Chodesh dinner	18	19 JFFW Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	20 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service
21	22 CAV Office Closed 9:00 a.m. Camp Joe at Metea County Park	23 9:00 a.m. Camp Joe at Metea County Park	24 9:00 a.m. Camp Joe at Metea County Park 6:30 p.m. CHA An Evening of Inspiration	25 9:00 a.m. Camp Joe at Metea County Park	26 JFFW Office Closed 9:00 a.m. Camp Joe at Metea County Park 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	27
28	29 CAV Office Closed 9:00 a.m. Camp Joe at Metea County Park	30 9:00 a.m. Camp Joe at Metea County Park 6:30 p.m. CHA Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class			KEY: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (The Federation) - JFFW The Temple - CAV Chabad - CHA	Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIUGS ROMEOS - RO Special Events

THE JEWISH CASE FOR HOPE

How do we hold on to hope in difficult times?

Jewish tradition is deeply honest about fear, uncertainty, grief, and struggle – yet it also insists on the possibility of meaning, resilience, and renewal.

Join Rabbi Meir Barger and our lifelong learners on Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. on Zoom for an evening of Jewish learning and conversation as we explore timeless texts and modern insights about hope, courage, and what it means to “choose life” in today’s world.

No prior background or preparation is necessary. Come ready to learn, reflect, and join the conversation. The Zoom link will be 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, June 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Temple, led by Rabbi Meir with music by Sam Krouse.

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.

Joy Vey will not meet in July. Please save the date to join us when Musician Juliette Nehring joins us for Shabbat morning on Saturday, August 8 at 10:30 a.m.

JOIN US FOR FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE WITH HEARTLAND SINGS AND BBQ

Our spirited Friday Night Live service returns outdoors at the Temple on July 10 at 6 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir Barger with [Heartland Sings](#) on their mobile stage.

Tap your toes, get on your feet, and share the joy of Shabbat with this lively worship experience. (Please note that the service will not be livestreamed.) We also will offer a blessing for Michael Dicker in honor of his 80th birthday.

Join us prior to services at 5 p.m. for a barbeque hosted by the ROMEOs, with Hebrew National hot dogs, veggie burgers, coleslaw, vegetarian baked beans, and chips. After the service, we’ll gather around the CAV fire pit for s’mores, popsicles, and ice cream.

[Kindly RSVP for dinner](#) no later than Tuesday, July 7 or contact us at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org. A goodwill offering will be taken that evening or [donate online to the ROMEOs fund](#).

We’re grateful to Denny Reynolds and the ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for their hard work in hosting this very popular dinner! Additional volunteers are needed! Please contact Denny Reynolds at dennisreynolds@me.com to offer your assistance. Help is needed

before, during, and after the event.

please bring your own folding/camping chairs and or blankets/sheets to sit on and long-handled sticks or forks to roast marshmallows. Bug spray is recommended.

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

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 Barger 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 have a Reform Shabbat service on Saturday, June 6 at 9:45 a.m., led by Rabbi Meir. Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for families with young children will meet on Saturday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m. Find the schedule at www.templecav.org.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS WRAPS UP 16TH YEAR

Thoughtful Thursdays finished its 16th year in May, providing one bag of groceries and one of household items monthly during the school year to the 69 Brightpoint students who attend class in the Temple building.

We distributed over 2,556 rolls of toilet paper, two rotisserie chickens, fresh fruit, toothbrushes, and toothpaste to the children. We collaborated with Achduth Vesholom’s Religious School in a *tikkun olam* project, filling backpacks with hats, mittens, and a special treat for each child. Additionally, a hand-knitted or crocheted scarf crafted by Donna Tourkow and Neisie Shulkin was distributed, along with a personalized blanket.

The Jewish community came together again this year for this social action project of the Temple and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, with generous support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Thoughtful Thursdays Apple Project, and our community.

We’re grateful to our dedicated volunteers and Temple staff, who consistently support this effort. Please join us for the start of the 2026-2027 school year for our first bag assembly on Wednesday, September 2 at 10 a.m. at the Temple.

Thank you to: Co-Chairs Cheryl Schorey and Lily Noga, Rabbi Meir Barger, Fran Adler, Jamie Berger, Cheri Buker, Christa Cartwright, Regina Dantzer, Nancy Dicker, Janet Finkel, Rachel Gordon, Doris Gottlieb, Miki Kepes, Suzi King, Amy Krouse, Cookie Mastbaum, Joanne McCrory, Bonnie Pomerantz, Marcia & Denny Reynolds, Kitlan Renner, Kay Safirstein, Nancy Salon, Jaki Schreier, Samara Sheray, Kathy Sider, Michael Theise, Ellen Tom, Donna Tourkow, Sally and Steve Trotter, Mimi and Don Zelman, and Beth Zweig.

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.

winston churchill

DONATIONS

General Operations

- A donation was received from **Larry Mastbaum & Marni Blomquist** in honor of **Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum**
- Donations were received from **Juan Suarez**

JNF - Plant a Tree in Israel

- Donations were received from **Juan Suarez**

Project 216

- **An anonymous donation** was received

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)

June 4 – The Hoppy Gnome
203 E. Berry Street

June 18 – Black Canyon Restaurant
1509 W. Dupont Road

July 2 – Salvatori's Southwest
10337 Illinois Road

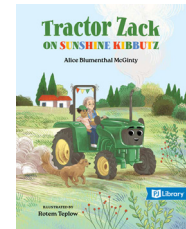
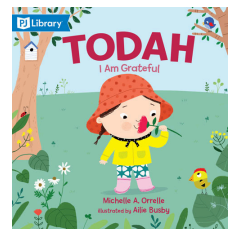
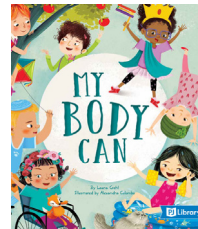
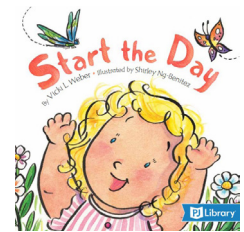
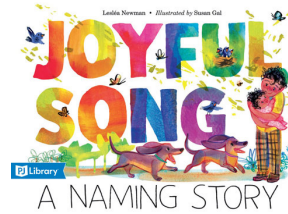
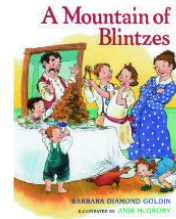
July 16 – Sweetwater Music
5501 US Highway 30 W

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.

