

Chailights

JULY - AUGUST 2026

Ladies' Night Out – Join Us for Dinner!

There's nothing quite like good food and great conversation with fellow Jewish women in our community! Our ladies' dinners have been a wonderful way to connect, and we'd love to see you at the table.

Each dinner begins at 6:00 PM, and guests pay for their own meal. Mark your calendars for our upcoming evenings out:

Wednesday, July 15 – [Country Heritage Winery](#)

Wednesday, August 19 – [Tequila Mexican Restaurant](#) on Jefferson Boulevard

Please RSVP one week before dinner at office@fwjf.org or leave a message at (260) 456-0400.

All Jewish women in our community are warmly welcome. We hope to see you there!



Rosh Chodesh Recipe Exchange & Tasting Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

Date: Sunday, July 26 **Time:** 12:30 p.m. **Location:** Rifkin Campus · 5200

Join us for a delicious afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun as our Women's Rosh Chodesh Group comes together for a community recipe exchange and tasting! This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the traditions we carry in our kitchens, discover new favorite dishes, and enjoy the company of fellow Jewish women in our community.

THE RECIPE



How to Participate

Prepare your favorite dish – a cherished family recipe, a holiday classic, or a new creation you love.

Make enough to share with approximately 12 people (bite-sized or sample portions are perfect).

Bring enough printed recipe copies to share with everyone so we can all take a little piece of the day home with us.

EXCHANGE

Kosher Guidelines To ensure all dishes can be enjoyed by everyone, please keep the following in mind when preparing your dish:

No pork or pork-derived ingredients.

No shellfish or other non-kosher seafood.

Do not mix meat and dairy – please bring either a meat dish, a dairy dish, or a pareve dish, but not a combination of both.

If you have any questions about your dish, please reach out to office@fwjf.org or leave a message at (260) 456-0400 before the event.

All Jewish women in our community are warmly invited. Whether you're a seasoned cook or a kitchen newcomer, we hope you'll join us for this special gathering!

Questions? Contact the Federation office for more information.

Bourbon Tasting – Rosh Chodesh

Saturday, August 29 | 7:00 p.m. | Rifkin Campus at 5200



Celebrate Rosh Chodesh with us at a complimentary bourbon tasting! Join your Jewish community for an enjoyable evening of tasting, noshing, and great company. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Please RSVP by Thursday, August 20. Email: office@fwjf.org Phone: (260) 456-0400

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



Hello Everyone,

June and July are a very special time for the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation.

Our Annual Meeting is always a meaningful opportunity to gather in person, and we are grateful to everyone who joined us to celebrate together. This year, we were honored to recognize Bishop Bill McGill as “One of the Righteous” for his longstanding support of our community. This award is the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne’s counterpart to “Righteous Among the Nations,” presented by Israel’s Holocaust remembrance center, Yad Vashem, to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust without seeking personal gain.

We concluded the day with a powerful act of service: together, we packaged and donated 6,048 meals to our local community. Thank you for all you do and for all you mean to this community. Job well done!

We are also thrilled to share that Camp Joe Levine has nearly doubled its number of campers from last year. Thanks to your generosity, we have also been able to provide financial assistance at a level that should make us all proud. We are excited for what promises to be a truly special summer at camp.

As our summer plans continue to take shape, I ask that we also keep in mind the many challenges and needs facing Israel – from safety and security to rebuilding and so much more.

Very importantly, on behalf of our entire community, I would like to thank Dr. Ron Friedman and Judge Michael Rush for their many years of service on the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne Board of Directors, and for the leadership roles in which they served so effectively and honorably. The Board of Directors and I will truly miss their wisdom, energy, and commitment. We will have to settle for their wonderful friendship and support going forward, even as they step outside the Board of Directors positions where they have made us so proud for so long.

Thank you for all that you do for so many.



Rosh Chodesh Dinner

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

Mark your calendars:

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](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Jewish Federations of Fort Wayne and the St. Joseph Valley invite all community members of the YACHAD and NEXTGen groups to:

Indiana Dunes Beach Day

Sunday, July 12, 2026

ADULTS ONLY

SUN • SAND • SCHMOOZING • NEW FRIENDS

Event Details

- Indiana Dunes State Park Beach, 1600 N 25 East, Chesterton, IN
- Drop in anytime between 12:00-5:00 PM (Eastern Time)
- Carpooling is encouraged

Provided

- Food & drinks
- Music
- Sunscreen
- Pool/life preservers with restrooms
- Lifeguards on site

Please Bring

- Towel
- Suitcase
- Change of clothes
- Personal hygiene items or medications

Optional: folding beach chair, fishing shoes, phone, power bank... and feel free to bring a friend!

PLEASE NOTE: This is an alcohol-free beach and park.

KINDLY RSVP BY JUNE 28, 2026

Questions or RSVPs: Cassie Balfanz, CassieBalfanz@gmail.com or text 260-443-6953

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! Space is still available. For details on this or other upcoming events, contact the [Federation office](mailto:FederationOffice@jfw.org) or Cassie Balfanz at CassieBalfanz@gmail.com or 260-443-6953.

AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

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 FIVECORE MEDIA / GOSHEN 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

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

Mazel 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

This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of lead sponsor **Francis & Jonathan Levine**. Additional major funding was provided by the **William & Alice & Elise Springer & Paul Nancy & Tom and Jane and David Osh**.

The Museum's exhibitions are also supported by the **Levin Rabbinic and Shalom Talmud Rabbinic Teaching and Special Exhibitions Fund**, established in 2009.

PRESENTED BY: ALA American Library Association, HOLOCAUST MUSEUM, HISTORY CENTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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.

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

Grief Center Movie Night

Fifteen people came together at the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center for a screening of *The Fabelmans* and a sweet treat of ice cream. It was a lovely evening of reconnecting with familiar faces and welcoming new friends. We hope you'll join us for our next gathering on **Sunday, July 26, at 12:30 PM at the Rifkin Campus at 5200** for a Taste of the New Month - Recipe swap and tasting. This event is **free and open to the Jewish women in our community**.



Havdalah, s'mores and hiking

Sixteen participants joined us for Havdalah, S'mores, and hiking at Eagle Marsh/Little River Wetlands on Saturday evening, June 13. Despite the warm evening, we had a wonderful time together! During our hike, we spotted a turtle, a beaver, and many birds. We enjoyed ice cream and roasted marshmallows for s'mores before closing out the evening with Havdalah. We had such a great time that we're hoping to do it again in October — stay tuned for details! Thank you to Eagle Marsh for hosting us, our Rosh Chodesh Committee for planning the evening, Rory Pomerantz for the photos and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.



Federation Members Connect at Partnership2Gether Council of Communities

Five Federation members — Cassie Balfanz, Jaki Schreier, Eric Schreier, Kate Theise, and Bonnie Pomerantz — spent four days in Indianapolis for the Partnership2Gether Council of Communities (COC). It was a meaningful trip filled with new friendships and reunions with cherished partners from across the Partnership network.

Together, the group learned about the Partnership's accomplishments over the past year and got an exciting first look at the programs planned for 2027. As the Partnership approaches its 30th anniversary, a special flag will travel from community to community for all to proudly display, before making its final journey home to Israel and the Western Galilee.

We're thrilled about the year ahead and can't wait to share these programs with you. Stay tuned!



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.







Partnership2Gether
SPECIAL SOLIDARITY MEDICAL MISSION

**Stand in Solidarity.
Strengthen Israeli Society.**

NOVEMBER 8-12, 2026

Participation Fee: \$200*
For physicians from P2G WG communities in the U.S. Central Area Consortium & Budapest
**Heavily subsidized (actual cost: \$1,200 per participant)*

Join a select delegation of 10-12 physicians from the U.S. & Budapest for an impactful mission to the leading medical center serving Israel's Western Galilee.

Located 8 miles from Israel's northern border, Galilee Medical Center stands on the frontline of emergency response, trauma care, and cross-border humanitarian medicine, serving a diverse population including Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Tour key departments, including the Emergency Department, critical care units, and the Underground Fortified Hospital
- Participate in a mass casualty drill
- Learn Israel's emergency preparedness model and wartime medical innovations including cybersecurity
- Gain insight into hospital operations under sustained security threats
- Engage in sharing knowledge with fellow physicians dedicated to strengthening healthcare systems and saving lives, an opportunity for meaningful professional and personal growth and collaboration

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL IMPACT

- Volunteer with communities affected by the war
- Engage directly with residents
- Witness the resilience of Israel's diverse border population

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Explore the medical, social, and psychological impact of war, and strengthen your role as a global medical partner in times of crisis. Why the Galilee? As a frontline hospital, Galilee Medical Center has decades of experience operating under complex security realities. Your presence sends a powerful message of solidarity, professional partnership, and shared responsibility.

PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Round-trip Airfare
- Ground Transportation (Ben Gurion Airport – Nahariya)
- Health Insurance
- Some Meals and Personal Expenses
- Participation Fee: \$200 (heavily subsidized—actual \$1,200)

Additional contributions are welcome to offset mission expenses. This is more than a visit—it is solidarity in action. It is professional partnership and a commitment to the security, resilience, and healing of Israeli society.

For more information: sharon@gmc.gov.il
We look forward to welcoming you to the Western Galilee.



Physicians: Register NOW to Join the P2G Medical Symposium in the Western Galilee, November 8-12, 2026: Physicians from our U.S. and Budapest P2G communities are invited to join an exclusive P2G WG symposium at the Galilee Medical Center this October. [Click here for program info and eligibility.](#)

Questions? Contact [Avital Ben Dror.](#)

What are we talking about this month:

Teaching Children the Mitzvah of Returning Lost Items



Kids can relate to losing something important to them. The Jewish commandment to return lost objects, *hashavat aveidah*, is an easy mitzvah for small children to perform. While children may not completely understand why it is that they can't just keep the cool thing

they found, they do make connections and understand emotions like sadness and happiness. Remind kids that it's perfectly alright to want something cool or unique – what's not okay is keeping something that belongs to someone else. Returning something lost to its owner is a great way to help kids under five develop empathy for others as well.

Explore this concept with your children by reading a story, watching a short video, or doing a fun activity. In the "More" section you'll also find extra links for parents.

READ

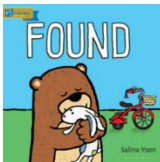
A Hen for Izzy Pippik by Aubrey Davis

A Hen for Izzy Pippik
Illustrations by Mark Lubiano



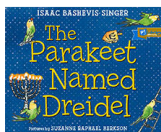
Recommended for children 6 to 7 years old
What's a girl to do when she finds a chicken and can't return it to its owner? How long should she wait before calling the bird (and its many offspring!) her own? Shaina seems prepared to wait forever for Izzy Pippik to return.

FOUND by Salina Yoon



Recommended for children 3 to 4 years old
When Bear finds a stuffed bunny in the forest, he starts looking for its owner. But soon he gets to like the bunny! What will happen when the owner comes forward?

A Parakeet Named Dreidel by Isaac Signer



Recommended for children 7 to 8 years old
Recommended for children 7 to 8 years old
A parakeet shows up at David's family's window one snowy Hanukkah night. When they can't track down his owners, they happily adopt him as their own pet. But many years later David meets the bird's original owner, Zelda. How can they both keep the parakeet?

Sara Finds a Mitzva by Rebeka Simhaee



Recommended for children 4 to 6 years old
When Sara finds a toy duck, she's tempted to keep it – but her grandmother explains that returning a lost object to its owner is a *mitzvah* (literally, "commandment" -- often understood to mean "good deed"). Happily for Sara, she learns that doing a mitzva can be its own reward.

WATCH

These short videos help kids understand that "finders keepers, losers weepers," is not a very nice, or Jewish, idea.

Finders, Returners via *Shaboom!* from *BimBam*



Boy Reunited With His Lost Teddy Bear via *HuffPost*



Fans of *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* can also watch [this clip](#) where Daniel's teacher helps him understand how sad his friend Chrissie feels when her charm bracelet goes missing.

DO

DISCUSS

Play pretend a bit and ask kids what they would do in hypothetical situations. For example, what if you found \$100 in a parking lot or a really fancy video game in the park? What would you do and why?



TACKLE THE LOST AND FOUND

Does your congregation or preschool have a lost and found? Brainstorm with your kids about ways that you might help reunite each object with its owner. Will you make flyers or signs? Ask people? Organize the items in a way that makes them easier for people to see?



FIND AND MATCH



This is a fun activity and a good way to sneak in some chore-time with your kids. Go through the sock drawers or laundry basket and find all of the single socks. Then embark on an epic scavenger hunt through the house to find their mates. By the end you'll have played a fun game of "lost and found" and hopefully salvaged a few pairs of socks as well.

MORE

[When Loved Toys Go Missing, The Best Hotels Take Action](#) via *The Boston Globe*

[Returning Lost Objects](#) via *Aish.com*

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (The Federation) - JFFW The Temple - CAV Chabad - CHA	Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIJGS ROMEOs - RO Special Events		JFFW Camp Joe Levine 1	JFFW Camp Joe Levine 2	JFFW Office Closed 3 JFFW Camp Joe Levine	
	CAV Office Closed 6 JFFW Camp Joe Levine	JFFW Camp Joe Levine 7 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	JFFW Camp Joe Levine 8	JFFW Camp Joe Levine 9	JFFW Office Closed 10 JFFW Camp Joe Levine 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	
JFFW YACHAD Indiana Dunes Beach Day 12	CAV Office Closed 13	6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 14	6:00 p.m. JFFW Rosh Chodesh Women's Dinner 15		JFFW Office Closed 17 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service 18
	CAV Office Closed 20	6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 21			JFFW Office Closed 24 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	
12:30 p.m. JFFW Recipe Exchange and Tasting 26	CAV Office Closed 27 CHA Camp Gan Israel	CHA Camp Gan Israel 28 6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class	CHA Camp Gan Israel 29	CHA Camp Gan Israel 30	JFFW Office Closed 31 CHA Camp Gan Israel 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (The Federation) - JFFW The Temple - CAV Chabad - CHA	Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society - NEIJGS ROMEOs - RO Special Events					9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service 1
	CAV Office Closed 3	6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 4			JFFW Office Closed 7 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	10:30 a.m. Joy Vey! 6:35 p.m. CAV TinCaps 8
	CAV Office Closed 10	6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 11			JFFW Office Closed 14 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service 15
	CAV Office Closed 17	6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 18	6:00 p.m. JFFW Rosh Chodesh Women's Dinner 19		JFFW Office Closed 21 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	Israel Educator 22
10:00 a.m. Religious School 23	CAV Office Closed 24	6:30 p.m. Jewish Insights - weekly Torah class 25			JFFW Office Closed 28 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	7:00 p.m. JFFW Bourbon Tasting 29
10:00 a.m. Religious School 30	CAV Office Closed 31					

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 on 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.)

Join us prior to services at 5 p.m. for a barbecue 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.

PRIDE SHABBAT CELEBRATES LGBTQ+ EQUALITY, INCLUSION, AND JEWISH COMMUNITY

In conjunction with [Fort Wayne Pride](#) activities, we'll celebrate Pride Shabbat on Friday, July 24 at 6 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir Barger on, with readings and prayers inspired by the LGBTQ+ experience.

Our guest speaker will be Isaac Young, Midwest Youth Engagement Manager of [Keshet](#), which works for the full equality, justice, and dignity of LGBTQ+ Jews and their families in Jewish life.

Please join us in person at the Temple or on [YouTube](#) as we recognize the importance of LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion. An Oneg Shabbat reception will follow, hosted by Rabbi Meir Barger on & Jon Tam and Beth & Dan Zweig. We warmly welcome guests.

Keshet works to strengthen Jewish communities; equip Jewish organizations with the skills and knowledge to build LGBTQ+-affirming communities; create spaces in which all queer Jewish youth feel seen and valued; and advance LGBTQ+ rights nationwide.

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, August 8 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.

HOT TOPICS SHABBAT ON LEGAL SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS

Please join our Temple family for our Hot Topics Shabbat service on Friday, August 14 at 6 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir.

After the service, Zachariah Pusti, Director of Legal and Victim Advocacy, and Jarry Valcarcel, Immigration Attorney, at Amani Family Services will offer insights on legal services for immigrants.

Join us in person or on [YouTube](#). All are welcome. Thank you to Rena Black and the Social Action Committee for organizing the program.

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 on leads services most Fridays at 6 p.m. Ron Friedman leads worship on most first and third Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah. We will not have services on July 3-4. Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for families with young children will meet on Saturday, August 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Special services at 6 p.m.: Friday Night Live outdoors on July 10; Pride Shabbat on Friday, July 24; Hot Topics Shabbat on Immigration on Friday, August 14; Guest Speaker Noam Dahary, Israeli educator and BBYO's Director of Israel Enrichment, on Friday, August 21. Find the schedule at

www.templecav.org.

ISRAEL EDUCATOR AT THE TEMPLE AUGUST 21-22

[Noam Dahary](#), an Israeli educator who is BBYO's Director of Israel Enrichment, will speak during our [Shabbat service](#) at the Temple on Friday, August 21 at 6 p.m. and during programs on Saturday, August 22.

His visit is sponsored by Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne. Thank you also to the Amplify Israel Rabbinic Fellowship program and Stephen Wise Free Synagogue for its support of Noam's visit. We warmly welcome guests.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1

[Religious School registration](#) for the 2026-2027 school year will open on July 1! We are looking forward to another year of meaningful Jewish learning, connection, and community at Congregation Achduth Vesholom. Classes begin on Sunday, August 23.

We offer classes for children from Pre-K (ages 3+ and potty-trained by September 1) through high school. Families must be members of Achduth Vesholom to enroll their children.

Families who register by July 31 will receive early-bird pricing. Students must be registered by August 15 to ensure they have materials for the first weeks of school.

Please contact Youth Education & Family Engagement Director Stephanie Gottesman at youth@templecav.org.

JOIN US FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS AT THE TEMPLE

We look forward to welcoming you to Congregation Achduth Vesholom for the [High Holy Days 5787](#), with both Reform and Conservative minyanim worshipping together on Erev Rosh Hashanah on Friday, September 11 and for Kol Nidre on Sunday, September 20.

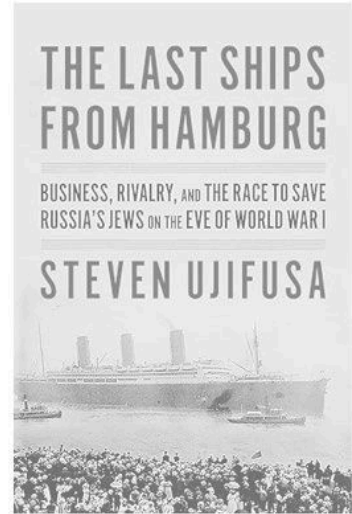
[Rabbi Meir Barger on](#) will lead services, weaving together aspects of both liturgical traditions to inspire new insights during this time of reflection, forgiveness, and renewal. He'll be joined by [Hazzan Penny Myers](#), who will be our guest clergy leading Conservative worship on the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. All are welcome. Visit www.templecav.org for the schedule.



NEIJGS is excited to once again include a **Meet Your Mishpocha** event as part of our fall programming and in celebration of **Family History Month**. This year's gathering will take place during **Shabbat services on Friday, October 30 with oneg to follow.**



November 15, 2026
2:00pm



We kick off our public programming season with historian and author **Steven Ujifusa**, whose acclaimed book *The Last Ships from Hamburg: Business, Rivalry, and the Race to*

Save Russia's Jews on the Eve of World War I explores the dramatic story of Eastern European Jewish immigration to America. This compelling work sheds light on a pivotal chapter in Jewish history.

Steven is an award-winning author and historian whose work has been featured on NPR, CBS Sunday Morning, and other national media outlets. He holds degrees from Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania.



In February, 2027, nationally recognized genealogist **Alec Ferretti** will lead a three-part online series focused on immigration, naturalization, and citizenship records.

Alec is a professional genealogist based in New York City and a leading advocate for public access to historical records. He serves as President of the New York Genealogy & Technology Group and is a frequent national speaker on records access and genealogy law.

February 10 – Immigration Law and the Paper Trail

February 17 – Naturalization and Citizenship Records

February 24 – Navigating the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Genealogy Program

continued on next page



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Our spring programming begins with **Jill Whitehead**, who will guide us through the shifting political landscape of Central and Eastern Europe from 1569 through the post-World War II era.

Topics include:

- The Russian Empire and the Pale of Settlement
- Austro-Hungarian, Prussian/German, and Ottoman territories
- Border changes between and after the World Wars
- How these historical changes impact genealogical research today



Jill is a retired social research manager, local historian, and council member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. Her own family history spans a region whose borders changed repeatedly over generations, making her uniquely qualified to help genealogists navigate these complexities.

Our spring season concludes with a special full-day program featuring **Dr. Tobias Brinkmann**, titled:

From the Shtetl to Indiana: Retracing the Paths of Jewish and Other Migrants from Eastern Europe after 1860

Highlights include:

- A full day of learning and discussion
- Insights into Eastern European migration patterns
- A special afternoon conversation with Mike Brown of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society
- Exploration of the IJHS archives, Joe Levine, and local Jewish history
- Guided tours of the ACPL Genealogy Center

A FULL DAY OF LEARNING...



...Scholar in Residence, Tobias Brinkmann

May 02, 2027

10:30 am – 5:00 pm

Dr. Brinkmann is the Malvin and Lea Bank Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Penn State University and an internationally recognized scholar of Jewish migration and history.

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.

We Could Use Your Help!



We would like help "revitalizing" our PJ Library program. We are looking for volunteer parent "connectors", working alongside our staff, to help strengthen relationships with one another and create meaningful gatherings for families with young children. In addition to reading your PJ Library books at home, some activities might include creating low-barrier gatherings, planning stroller walks, baby and caregiver play groups, parents' nights out, holiday celebrations, and playground meet-ups. For anyone interested, please reach out to the office at fwjf.org or (260) 456-0400. We can't wait to connect!

A PJ Library Connector is:

- A passionate ambassador for PJ Library, sharing PJ Library with all families they encounter.
- Excited to meet, welcome, and get to know families raising Jewish children.
- An excellent communicator and listener; excels at relationship building.
- Enthusiastic about Jewish life and excited to infuse Jewish themes into gatherings.
- Interested in facilitating and participating in new opportunities for peers to meet each other.
- Self-motivated, curious, and open to new ideas.
- Understanding and respectful of the range of Jewish connection and knowledge among parents.

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**

JNF - Plant a Tree in Israel

- Donations were received from **Juan Suarez**

Project 216

- A donation was received from **Fran & Irv Adler**

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)

July 2 – Salvatori's Southwest
10337 Illinois Road

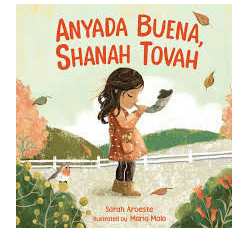
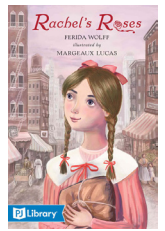
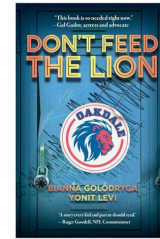
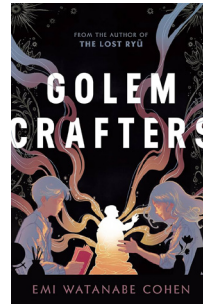
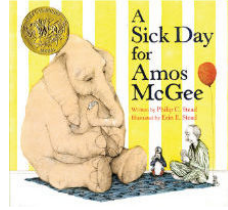
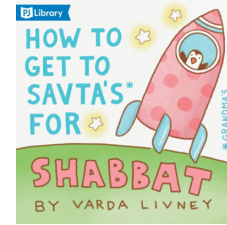
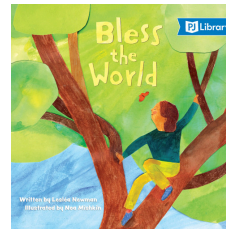
July 16 – Sweetwater Music
5501 US Highway 30 W

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.



2026 - 2027 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.

