

Chailights

Community Bulletin of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne September 2026

Ladies' Night Out — Dinner at Casa Restaurant



What a wonderful summer of dining together! Six ladies enjoyed a lovely evening at Country Heritage Winery on July 15, and our group grew to ten when we gathered at Tequila Mexican Restaurant on August 19. It has been such fun catching up and sharing great meals together!

We hope you'll join us for our next dinner on **Wednesday, September 16 at Casa Ristorante on W. Jefferson Boulevard**, beginning at **6:00 PM**. All Jewish women in our community are warmly welcomed, and each guest pays for their own meal.

Please RSVP one week prior to the dinner at (260) 456-0400 or office@fwjf.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

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All New "Supper Club" Thursday, October 1 6:30 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus

SupperClub
FOOD & FRIENDS

copy of your recipe. (Need help printing it? Just let the Federation office know—we're happy to help!) [Sign up here to let us know what soup you will be bringing.](#)

Join us for the first gathering of our new Supper Club! All Jewish women in our community are invited to bring a favorite soup to share. Please bring enough soup to serve about 12 people, along with a

Our hope is to gather once each quarter with a new culinary theme each time. Come enjoy an evening of great food, friendship, and laughter, and help us dream up ideas for future Supper Club gatherings. We can't wait to see you!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Good afternoon and welcome everyone! Great to be among such wonderful people.

Thank you for joining our 105th Annual Meeting. Let's allow that to sink in for a moment. 105 years is something very special. Today's meeting will be followed by two exciting events – first we will be honoring Bishop Bill McGill as One of the Righteous, after that, we will be packaging almost 6,000 nutritious

meals for those in need – I welcome you to join us.

I must thank everyone for your continued support of me, each other, and our mission as we carry on with impactful work, extending from our local Fort Wayne community to Israel, as this Federation has been doing for generations. Please be especially proud of the support we have provided to those in need in Israel. Whenever I cross paths with Jewish Federation leadership, I am asked to thank our community for our outsized generosity directed to Israel, where peaceful communities continue to come under attack, with very real, negative impacts. For those who were fortunate enough to hear our inspiring Israeli speakers in April, I will remind you of what Ditzza Cohen, from our Partnership2Gether family in the Western Galilee, shared with us – “we used to have three minutes to make our way to the bomb shelters from the time of the sirens, now we have 15 seconds”. The ongoing harm, destruction, horror, and misery is real and the needs are many. These are individuals and families living in war zones within the state of Israel.

Our Federation has also been very active supporting local community organizations, individuals, families, students, and campers.

It is with great pride and joy that I reflect on some special times together from the past year.

At about this time last year, the community galvanized to support Yuval Levin and his family from Israel as he joined our community. This special welcome extended for the entire school year and spread to include Yulie Carmeli, giving us two very special Israeli student athletes studying in our community. Your welcoming spirit, hospitality, friendship, and generosity, which seemed to grow over the year, was indicative of our community and will last with Yuval and Yulie throughout their lifetimes. I will secretly share that I enjoyed watching the scheduling challenges of several families fighting for Host of the Year honors. Thank you to all!

In terms of inspirational events, I think of last summer's wonderful evening with our Pomegranates & Lions and the beautiful & impactful presentation from Laura Linder and Leslie Pomerantz. Thank you, Micki and Sherwin. Leslie, please pass along our sincere thanks to Laura.

I would like to offer a very special thank you to our People of the

Book Committee, and also acknowledge Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz and Bonnie Pomerantz for all that was involved with bringing Mitch Albom to Purdue Fort Wayne and executing a tremendous evening. Building on that, I would like to recognize the inner drive and automobile drive for Rhonda to be among us today, thank you!

Our Holocaust education throughout the community continues to be a very high demand bright spot – participation in Dr. David Lindquist's Confronting the Shoah class continues to grow, as does our Holocaust-education-related work, where we had a banner year in terms of support, connections, and impact, especially within our various school systems – students, teachers, and administrators.

Excitement is incredibly high for another super summer of Camp Joe Levine, with 56 campers registered for our upcoming session. This is a clear area where your generosity is evident as so many campers from Jewish and diverse non-Jewish backgrounds would not be able to participate without the assistance that you provide. What you will continue to find at Camp Joe – Jewish values, Jewish traditions, diversity, friendship, teamwork, and inclusiveness. What you will not find at Camp Joe – electronic devices. Bring on the poison ivy, bug bites, and the lightly scraped knees!

Through everyone's current generosity, generosity from generations past, and tremendous ongoing and long-term support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Dr. Louis A. & Anne B. Schneider Foundation, and the Audrey and Joe Gerson Foundation, our financial position is strong and well positioned to carry on for future generations.

When we think of the Jewish richness of our community, it is important to take a moment to also recognize there is much going on outside of our Federation – all of the beautiful events, programs, and services through Temple Achduth Vesholom, our Jewish Genealogy Society and the amazing International Conference of 2025, our Holocaust and Genocide studies at PFW, we are truly blessed.

I would like to offer special thank-yous to Bonnie Pomerantz, Jeff Griggs, Fran Volante, our Board of Directors, President Ben Eisbart, and the entire Jewish Federation, our friends and partners at the Temple and the Rifkin Campus, and all who contribute to our success and our mission. I would also like to recognize and thank Lee Pomerantz for a major website overhaul that if you have not viewed in the last few days, I expect you will be impressed. I also want to recognize Cassie Balfanz for her efforts bringing together a young adult group for our community.

Thank you to everyone for all that you continue to do! I encourage you to remain with us for a very special “One of the Righteous” ceremony and our volunteer meal packaging.

I am looking forward to another wonderful upcoming year with all of you! I am available for questions now, throughout this afternoon, and whenever you might want to reach out to me. Thank you again for all of your support!

Michael Theise
Annual Meeting June 2026

Chailights

ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating Our 105th Annual Meeting!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the **Rifkin Campus at 5200** for our 105th Annual Meeting! It was a meaningful afternoon filled with connection, reflection, and gratitude as we celebrated 105 years of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and looked ahead to another year together.

We welcomed new officers to our board and celebrated our Pomegranate and Lion of Judah recipients, who received their pins in recognition of their commitment and generosity to our Jewish community.

We also took time to thank our outgoing board members for their dedication and service, presenting them with gifts as a small token of our deep appreciation.

A special highlight of the afternoon was honoring **Rev. Bishop Dr. Bill McGill** with our **"One of the Righteous" Award**. This recognition celebrates his commitment to building understanding, strengthening our community, and standing with the Jewish people.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** for its continued generosity and support of our community.

As we celebrate 105 years of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, we are grateful for the generations of people who have helped build our community and for everyone who continues to make our work possible. We look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead!



Jaki Schreier, Board Treasurer, Ben Eisbart, Board President, Pomegranates - Marcia Reynolds and Jo Ellen Rush



Our Lion of Judahs: Beth Zweig, Micki Kepes, Sharon Eisbart, Fran Adler, Kate Theise, Jaki Schreier, Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz and Irene Walters



Ben Eisbart, Rabbi Barger, Rev. Bishop Bill McGill - our "One of the Righteous" recipient, Maryann McGill and Michael Theise, Federation Executive Director



Ben Eisbart, and Michael Theise, with outgoing board member Michael Rush - missing from photo outgoing board member Ron Friedman

UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Women's Rosh Chodesh Recipe Exchange Brings Friendship to the Table

The Women's Rosh Chodesh Recipe Exchange & Tasting was a delightful afternoon filled with delicious food, laughter, and meaningful connections.

Six women gathered together, including a future Rosh Chodesh member, at the Rifkin Campus on Sunday, July 26. It was wonderful to see old acquaintances reconnect while new friendships began to blossom—one of the true joys of gathering as a community.

Our tasting table featured a wonderful variety of homemade favorites, including refreshing sangria and fruit punch, white Texas sheet cake cupcakes, zucchini dip, deviled eggs, creamy mashed potatoes, and tortellini with cherry tomatoes and corn salad. Everyone shared recipes, sampled each other's dishes, and left with new ideas to try at home.

The afternoon wasn't just about food. We also enjoyed games, conversation, and plenty of laughter, making it a memorable time for everyone who attended.

Thank you to all who prepared dishes, shared recipes, and helped make the afternoon such a success. We look forward to many more Women's Rosh Chodesh gatherings as we continue to build friendships, strengthen our community, and create lasting memories together.

If you've been thinking about joining us, we'd love to welcome you at one of our upcoming events. There is always room at the table for a new friend.

WESTERN GALILEE | US CENTRAL AREA CONSORTIUM | BUDAPEST

IN COMMEMORATION OF OCTOBER 7 P2G Book & Film Club

Featuring the film
From October 6 to October 7

Spanning from the Yom Kippur War to the horrors of October 7, Major General Doron Almog's life reflects some of Israel's most defining and painful moments. Surrounded by five decades of personal loss and national tragedy, this Israel Prize laureate refuses to surrender to despair. The film offers a powerful portrait of a leader who transforms profound grief into resilience, hope, and a lasting legacy.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
12 PM CT • 1 PM ET • 7 PM BUD • 8 PM IL

The event will begin with a brief commemoration marking the events of October 7, followed by a discussion of the film.

The film will be available to registered participants via a private viewing link that will be sent after registration.

RSVP

Watch the Trailer



P2G Book & Film Club: *From October 6 to October 7*

Join us on **Sunday, October 18, at 1:00 p.m.** for a special community viewing of *From October 6 to October 7*, presented through the Partnership2Gether Book & Film Club.

The film tells the story of **Major General (Res.) Doron Almog**, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, whose life spans some of Israel's most defining and painful moments—from the Yom Kippur War to the horrors of October 7. His story is one of profound loss, resilience, hope, and a lasting commitment to Israel.

Let's Watch Together as a Community!

We have reserved a room at the [Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road) for a **community watch party**, giving us the opportunity to experience this meaningful film together and discuss it afterward. The program will begin with a brief commemoration of the events of October 7, followed by the film and a discussion.

Please RSVP by October 1 so we know how many people will be joining us. We need a minimum of 10 participants to hold the in-person gathering.

To RSVP, please email office@fwjf.org or leave a message at (260) 456-0400.

We hope you will join us as we come together as a community to remember, reflect, and learn.

We would like to share with you and recognize that **The OUTWORDS Archive** recently released a two-hour video interview with **Harriet Miller and Monica Wehrle** and their remarkable trailblazing journey. [You can watch the two-hour video here.](#)

Mazel tov to **Parker Tysinger** on winning the [2026-27 Polish Studies Initiative Scholarship Winner | Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies!](#)



CAMP JOE

Summer Reflection and Appreciation



Every year, around this time, we reflect on our Camp Joe experience. As we take a look back at this year's camp, many wonderful memories spring to mind: happy, smiling faces of our campers, moments of personal triumph and discoveries, humorous situations, funny comments and quotable expressions, countless episodes of extreme cuteness, endearing moments of kindness and caring, and, of course, the overall atmosphere of friendliness, excitement and joy.

But if we had to choose one standout theme this summer, it is growth. As always, after a full year, we saw a lot of personal growth in our returning campers: their increased maturity, confidence and skill level, knowledge and understanding – their growth as human beings. We also witnessed growing friendships, measured both in depth and in numbers. And what was particularly gratifying was the remarkable growth of our Camp Joe

family, as we welcomed 28 new campers, across all age groups, this summer!

What made it possible? First, there was the much anticipated arrival of four-year-olds – most of whom were the younger siblings of our campers. What an exciting moment it was for them, when instead of waving goodbye from their car seats to their older brothers and sisters, they stepped out of the car and made their first steps towards the singing circle thus beginning their own camp journey. As for the rest of our newcomers – they were friends, neighbors, classmates, teammates, and even children of our campers parents' colleagues. Each of them contributed their own unique perspectives and ideas, provided inspiration, added energy and, as friends do, increased exponentially the overall fun and enjoyment of camp.

To us it comes as no surprise that for all the growth we have experienced this year and all the positive things that resulted from it, we have our campers and their families to thank. For Camp Joe, word of mouth has always been the most effective form of advertising. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who promoted our camp over the years.

In addition, we would like to thank all the people who contributed in many different ways to the success of this year's program.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- families and foundations for their generous contributions to our scholarship program
- families for their generous donations of items on our wish list
- Michael Theise for his support, guidance, new ideas and genuine care for our camp
- Bonnie Pomerantz for how well she keeps us on track and continues to support Camp Joe after all these years
- Rabbi Meir and the Soltz family for leading our Shabbat services
- Jeff Schneider for moving our camp supplies to and from Metea and for stepping in as a substitute counselor whenever we needed extra help this summer
- Our amazing counselors and counselors in training
- Luann Watson for providing materials and ideas for select activities
- Metea County Park for providing us with the best place for our summer adventures
- All of our campers and staff who so warmly welcomed our first-time campers to Camp Joe Levine

As this summer is winding down, we wish all of our campers a successful, interesting, and rewarding school year. We look forward to future adventures at Camp Joe!



Aleph



Pavilion lunch



Just chillin



Your Direct Connection to Israel

[Partnership2Gether \(P2G\)](#) is a program of the [Jewish Agency](#) and the [Jewish Federations of North America](#), promoting people-to-people relationships through cultural, social, medical, educational, and economic programs. **The Western Galilee Partnership connects 17 U.S. communities of the US Central Area Consortium, Israel's Western Galilee and Budapest, Hungary** [Read more here.](#)

From Our Friends at [Partnership2Gether](#)!

The Western Galilee Partnership connects 17 U.S. communities of the US Central Area Consortium, Israel's Western Galilee and Budapest, Hungary. 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 à 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 Council of Communities

Five members of our Federation (Cassie Balfanz, Bonnie Pomerantz, Eric Schreier, Jaki Schreier and Kate Theise) traveled to Indianapolis this past June to participate in Partnership2Gether's (P2G) Council of Communities (COC). It was a jam-packed three days filled with learning, collaboration, and connection. We had the opportunity to learn more about the Indianapolis Jewish community, hear about upcoming P2G programs and initiatives, and participate in the process of approving the upcoming P2G budget.

Perhaps the best part was meeting new friends and reconnecting with friends from communities across the P2G network. We returned home energized and excited about the year ahead—and we're already looking forward to the 2027 Council of Communities in Dayton, Ohio!

What are we talking about this month:

Easy Tips for Teaching Children about How to Apologize: A Primer for Yom Kippur



It's hard to teach kids to apologize well when a lot of us never learned it ourselves. Here are some easy ways to get it right – for yourself and when modeling for your kids.

Reminders For Parents

You're a role model, and you need to **walk the walk** — all year long, not just at the [High Holidays](#). Let your child see you apologize to your friend when you interrupted her story, to your partner when you forgot to unload the dishwasher, to the receptionist you snapped at, to the dog when you were tardy in refilling his food bowl. Apologize to your kid, too, if you were late for pickup or hurt their feelings by laughing when they said "girl cheese" instead of "grilled cheese."

Apologizing is a skill, like any other. We learn by doing. We get the hang of tying shoes by ... tying shoes. It's not intuitive. A toddler may not understand why we always wash our hands after using the toilet, but we teach them to do it anyway. A kid may not want to apologize for knocking over a friend's tower, but we explain, "How would you feel if someone knocked over the bridge you worked so hard on?"

Explain the whys. Mensch-y people don't apologize just because they got caught. We apologize because what we did was wrong; it affected others; it caused a little fracture in the social contract that makes a healthy society function.

Intent matters less than impact. For older kids, "I didn't mean to" doesn't belong in an apology. If we caused hurt, it doesn't matter that we didn't set out to. The issue is what we do to make things right. Ask your kid: "How do you think we can fix this?" Help them brainstorm. Let them be a partner in the act of healing.

Six Steps to a Good Apology

Here are six (and a half) simple, foolproof steps that are all you need to deliver a perfect apology every time, whether you're a kid who broke a rule, a spouse who forgot to put away the folded laundry, a grandparent who made an unkind remark, or a Fortune 500 CEO whose website was hacked.

Say the words "I'm sorry."

Two little words that are tiny miracles. Don't say "I regret" or "I feel bad about." Regret is about how YOU feel; a good apology is about how the other person feels.

Say what you're sorry FOR. Name it.

Names have power. It's hard to name the hurtful thing you did. But that's how we show we're not avoiding responsibility.

Show you understand why what you did was hurtful.

Make it clear that you're not apologizing just because someone made you. Say how the thing you did caused harm. The other person needs to hear that you know.

Don't make excuses.

An apology is not the time to say, "But last week you bit my Barbie's feet and left tooth marks in her toes!" or "But you made me so mad!" There can be a separate conversation (facilitated by a wise, neutral grownup) in which we talk about how to fix relationship dynamics. Right now, though, just focus on the other person.

Explain the steps you're taking so you won't do it again.

"I'm sorry I took your beautiful sparkly marker. I know you love it and thought you lost it. Here it is. Next time I'll ask if I can borrow it."

Make reparations, if you can.

"To make amends for taking the marker, I want to share something that's special to me with you. Wanna use my neon paints?"

Plus, extra-special **BONUS STEP 6-AND-A-HALF**: Let the other person have their say. Don't interrupt. Don't protest. Everyone needs to feel heard to feel respected.

Look, this is hard! Many adults are bad at it! But doing something hard makes us feel proud of ourselves and helps us feel clean and new. That's a great feeling. And it's truly in the spirit of [Yom Kippur](#).

About the Author

Marjorie Ingall is the author of *Mamaleh Knows Best* and co-author, with Susan McCarthy, of *Sorry, Sorry, Sorry: The Case for Good Apologies*.

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HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE



Visit [our calendar](#) for the latest schedule.
Please join us for worship and other holiday activities:

Selichot Service – Saturday, September 5
7:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service – Friday,
September 11
7:30 p.m. **All-Congregation service**
Reception follows

Rosh Hashanah – First Day – Saturday,
September 12
Conservative Services
8:30 a.m. – Shacharit
10 a.m. Torah service with D'var Torah
11 a.m. Musaf
10 a.m. – **Reform Service**
Noon – **All-Congregation Tashlich** at [Foster
Park West, Winchester Road](#)
4 p.m. **Joy Vey Rosh Hashanah Service**

Rosh Hashanah, Second Day – Sunday,
September 13
Conservative Services
8:30 a.m. – Shacharit
10 a.m. Torah service with D'var Torah
11 a.m. Musaf

Shabbat Shuvah Services
Friday, September 18
6 p.m., includes dedication of yahrzeit
plaques added in the past year

Saturday, September 19
9:45 a.m.

Cemetery Services – Sunday, September 20
9:30 a.m. at [Lindenwood Cemetery](#)
11 a.m. at [Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery](#)

Erev Yom Kippur Services – Sunday,
September 20
7:15 p.m. **Mincha** (Goldstine-B'nai Jacob
Chapel)
8 p.m. **All-Congregation Kol Nidre**
(Sanctuary)

Yom Kippur Services – Monday, September
21
Conservative Services
8:30 a.m. Shacharit Service
10 a.m. – Torah, Haftarah, D'var Torah, Yizkor
11:30 a.m. Musaf
3 p.m. **Healing Service**
6:15 p.m. Mincha
7:15 p.m. – Neilah
Break-the-Fast follows

Reform Services
10 a.m. Morning Service
3 p.m. – **Healing Service**
4 p.m. – Yizkor (Memorial) Service
5 p.m. – Neilah (Concluding) Service
Break-the-Fast follows

Shabbat & Sukkot Service – Friday,
September 25
6 p.m., followed by a Nosh in the Sukkah

Family Sukkot Celebration and Havdalah
– Saturday, September 26
6 p.m.

**Simchat Torah Service with Consecration
and Yizkor** – Saturday, October 3
at 6 p.m.

BEGIN THE HIGH HOLY DAYS TOGETHER - "HINEINI – HERE I AM"

Some words are too rich to translate with a single phrase.

Hineini is often translated as “Here I am,” but it means far more than simply answering when our name is called. It is a response of presence, openness, and readiness to answer life’s deepest callings.

Throughout this [High Holy Days](#) season at [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#), we will explore this remarkable biblical call together through prayer, music, and teaching, discovering how *Hineini* can shape our relationships with God, with one another, and with ourselves.

We hope you will join us on the journey.

Please join us when we welcome the [New Year 5787](#), with both Reform and Conservative *minyanim* worshipping together as one congregation, on [Erev Rosh Hashanah](#) on Friday, September 11 and on [Kol Nidre](#) on Sunday, September 20. We warmly welcome guests.

[Rabbi Meir Barger](#) will lead the 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 lead Conservative worship on the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah and the Day of Atonement. [Maestro Robert Nance](#) will join us throughout the holidays for evening and Reform services.

Returning this year:

- **A joyful and spirited Joy Vey Rosh Hashanah Service** on Saturday, September 12 at 4 p.m. at the Temple, led by Rabbi Meir and Hazzan Myers. Through singing, movement, stories and prayer, we will welcome the New Year 5787 with heart and celebration. We will hear the shofar and celebrate the Birthday of the World with apples and honey. Perfect for families and kids of all ages -- come sing, sway, and start the new year in sweetness together!
- **A Healing Service on Yom Kippur afternoon** on Monday, September 21 at 3 p.m. to provide comfort and support in sacred community.

Our annual [New Year’s Reception](#) will provide an opportunity for our Temple family to share good wishes and enjoy a delicious nosh.

The ROMEOs will host [Break-the-Fast](#) meals after both concluding services on Yom Kippur. [Please make a reservation online](#) or contact us at (260) 744-4245 by Wednesday, September 16 so that we can prepare enough food and seating. Thanks to the generosity of the ROMEOs, there is no charge. However, cash donations gladly will be accepted to help offset the costs. Thank you to

Denny Reynolds for organizing and the ROMEOs for hosting!

Plan to join us in person or on [YouTube](#) throughout the Days of Awe. [Find the full schedule](#) *Lshana Tovah!*

EXPLORE “HINEINI: ANSWERING THE CALL” AT LEARNING CAFÉ

What does it really mean to say “*Hineini*” — “Here I am”? In the Hebrew Bible, this simple word marks moments that change lives. Abraham, Moses, Samuel, and Isaiah each answer with *Hineini* before they know what lies ahead.

Please join Rabbi Meir Barger on our Learning Café when we discuss “*Hineini: Answering the Call*,” on Wednesday, September 2 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Temple or online. Together we’ll explore these powerful stories and discover what they can teach us about presence, purpose, and responding to life’s deepest call during the High Holy Days season.

Come learn, reflect, and ask your questions in this session that will prepare us for the arrival of 5787 and the Days of Awe. Bring your lunch, your questions, your curiosity, and let’s learn together. Can’t join us about in person? The event will be streamed via Zoom, with the link available in the weekly email to our Temple family.

SHARE SUKKOT CELEBRATIONS AND SIMCHA AT THE TEMPLE

Shake the lulav and inhale the lovely scent of the etrog during the Temple’s Sukkot celebrations in honor of the harvest festival.

Shabbat, Sukkot, and Simcha – Join us for Sukkot and Shabbat on Friday, September 25 at 6 p.m. in person and on [YouTube](#), led by Rabbi Meir. We’ll also offer a blessing for Maureen Grinsfelder in honor of her 90th birthday.

After the service, enjoy Kiddush and a nosh afterward in the Temple’s sukkah, hosted by Fran & Irv Adler and Beth & Dan Zweig.

Family Sukkot Havdalah - Families with kids of all ages are invited to join us for an outdoor Sukkot Havdalah celebration on Saturday, September 26 at 6 p.m. Shake the lulav, sing festive songs, hear stories in the sukkah, make holiday decorations, and enjoy a harvest-themed potluck as we dwell in the sukkah and close off Shabbat together.

Please RSVP by Friday, September 18 to the Temple at [office@templecav.org](#) or (260) 744-4245 and [sign up for a potluck contribution](#). Thank you to our Holiday Celebrations team for organizing.

24th CORNED BEEF ON RYE – SURE TO SATISFY SALE COMING OCTOBER 29

Savor delicious delicatessen when our Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser returns on Thursday, October 29 for a 24th year at Congregation Achduth Vesholom. We’re looking forward to topping last year’s sales of more than 1,700 scrumptious meals!

Take advantage of early-bird pricing, pick up, and delivery options!

[Online ordering](#) begins in early September, or download an order form at [www.templecav.org](#).

Boxed meals are \$21 each when ordered by Thursday, October 15. After that date and at the door, meals are \$25 each (while supplies last). Meals include a heaping 1/3-pound corned beef sandwich on rye, giant pickle, creamy coleslaw, fudgy brownie, and a drink.

Additional pounds of bulk corned beef are for sale for \$25 per pound. Delivery service is available when you order 12 meals or more by Thursday, October 15 for \$15 per address.

On Deli Day, simply park in our spacious lot and walk up to the building, where multiple pick-up stations will be set up for your convenience. In addition, customers who pre-order meals will be able to take advantage of special early bird pick up beginning at 10 a.m., an hour before our regular 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. hours.

We have exciting new sponsorship opportunities this year! Visit [the Temple website](#) for details at [www.templecav.org](#). We also welcome volunteers. Offer your help at [office@templecav.org](#).

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS BAG ASSEMBLY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2

Join the Jewish Community’s Thoughtful Thursdays team on Wednesday, September 2 at 10 a.m. when we begin our 17th year assembling bags of food and household items for the 52 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start who attend class in our building.

Thank you to Chair Joanne McCrory and her team.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#).

HELP PURCHASE APPLES FOR THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS FAMILIES

Help supply a bag of fresh apples for the children who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple through the 16th annual [Thoughtful Thursdays](#) Apple Project.

This mitzvah is a way to combat hunger in our local community! A tree will be on display at the Rifkin Campus with decorated paper apples featuring the name of each person who donates \$18 or more for the apple project.

[Donate online](#) by Tuesday, September 29 at [www.templecav.org](#). Indicate the amount of your donation, designate project Assist/Thoughtful Thursdays, and indicate the name you would like to appear on the apple for the tree. You may also mail checks made payable to “CAV-The Temple” earmarked for “Thoughtful Thursdays Apple Project.” Thank you!

SAMPLE A TASTE OF JEWISH FAMILY HISTORY ON SHABBAT



Everyone has a story! Come discover how those stories connect us *l'dor v'dor*—from generation to generation.

Join us at CAV on Friday, October 30 at 6pm for Shabbat services as we celebrate Family History Month and help the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society (NEIJS) kick off its new year of programming with a special Meet Your Mishpocha evening.

Rabbi Meir will lead a meaningful Shabbat service featuring a taste of Jewish family history. NEIJS Vice President Pamela Friedman will share a few of her favorite genealogy discoveries and reflect on how exploring our ancestors' lives helps preserve memories, strengthen



our sense of identity, and carry their stories *l'dor v'dor*.

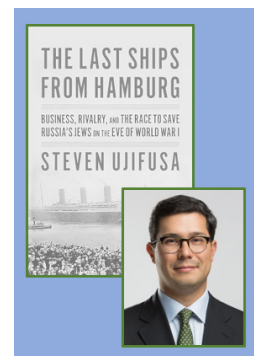
Following services, everyone is invited to an Oneg Shabbat hosted by NEIJS. Enjoy refreshments, meet fellow family history enthusiasts, ask questions, and learn how you can begin uncovering your own family's story.

October is Family History Month, established by a United States Senate resolution in 2001 to encourage people to explore their family histories, preserve treasured stories, and celebrate the generations that came before us. We hope you'll join us for an evening of discovery, connection, and community as we celebrate the stories that link us *l'dor v'dor*.

NEIJS: The Untold Story Behind *The Last Ships from Hamburg*

November 15, 2026

What did it take to bring thousands of Eastern European Jews to America before World War I? Historian and author Steven Ujifusa opens our public programming season with the remarkable story behind *The Last Ships from Hamburg*—a fascinating discovery of how business and humanitarian efforts intersected in this chapter of Jewish history.



The Boy Who Crowed



"Cook-a-doodle-doooo." The sound of a child mimicking the crow of a rooster filled the synagogue. This happened during Ne'ilah on Yom Kippur, the holiest time of the year, in the court of the Baal Shem Tov, the great Chassidic master.

As they started praying, the congregants noticed the unusually serious expression on the Tzaddik's face. Realizing there must be some heavenly decree facing the Jewish community that the Baal Shem Tov is working to annul, they all joined in fervent prayer too.

A simple shepherd boy, despite being illiterate, came to join the Yom Kippur service. Standing in the back, he observed the scene unfolding before him. Wishing to join in prayer as well and overcome with emotion, he cried out the only sound he knew, "Cook-a-doodle-doooo! Cook-a-doodle-doooo! Our Father in heaven, have mercy!"

The crowd was appalled at this outburst and turned to silence him down.

The Baal Shem Tov turned, and with a glowing face waved his hand to dismiss their protests.

As he turned back to continue his prayer, the tune of the prayer changed dramatically to a joyful and happy one. Relief rushed through the room with the recognition that the decree had been annulled, thank G-d.

After the prayer had concluded and the Chassidim had gathered with their Rebbe for the post-fast meal, the Baal Shem Tov explained what happened.

Despite all his efforts to intervene on behalf of the Jewish community facing this decree, there was pushback from the heavenly prosecuting angels. But when this young shepherd boy cried out with such sincerity, with such love and awe of our Father, our King, he pierced the highest heavens with his simple, heartfelt prayer, bringing about the annulment of the harsh decree.

This story teaches us that when we serve and pray to G-d with sincere love and great awe, Hashem accepts all our prayers. And He will surely bless us with an abundance of blessings.

May each and every one of you be signed and sealed in the book of life and be blessed with a sweet new year.

Rabbi Levi Danow
Fort Wayne Chabad Jewish Center

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 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 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 coursework in order to qualify for reimbursement.

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY



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.

If you have 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? 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.



Our office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in honor of Labor Day.
We will also be closed on Monday, September 21 in observance of Yom Kippur.

Our Board of Directors and staff wish you and your families a sweet new year and an easy fast.

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@fwjf.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 adults and adults with disabilities. 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

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 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 **Rachel & Geoff Gordon and Valiant Foundation**

JNF - Plant a Tree in Israel

- Donations were received from **Juan Suarez**

every contribution is
hugely valued

thank
you!

Online Donations Accepted!

The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) now accepts [online donations](#). You may contribute to our General Fund, or select a specific fund that you want to support. In addition, you may elect to have a donation made in Honor of or In Memory of an individual, and a card will be sent letting them or their families know the donation has been made.

It's secure, fast, and easy to support the Federation's work supporting 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)

September 3 – 800 Degrees Wood Fired Pizza
10020 Lima Road

September 17 – Taj Mahal
6410 W. Jefferson Boulevard

October 1 – Lucky Turtle/Lucky Moose
622 E. Dupont Road

October 15 – Ziano's
5907 Covington Road

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

2026 - 2027 Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Ben Eisbart
Vice President: Bob Walters
Secretary: Lee Pomerantz
Treasurer: Jaki Schreier
Executive Director: Michael Theise

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Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Scott Salon
Eric Schreier
Ellen Tom
Aliza Tourkow
Josh Wallet
Mimi Zelman

Rabbi Meir Bargerion

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Executive Director
director@fwjf.org

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office@fwjf.org

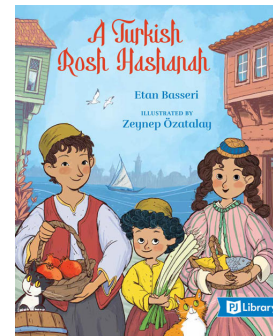
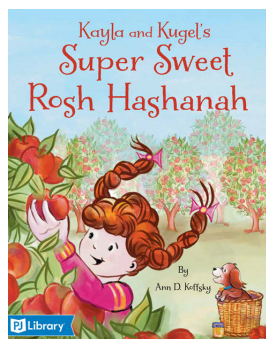
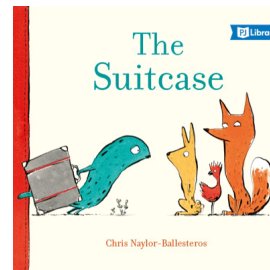
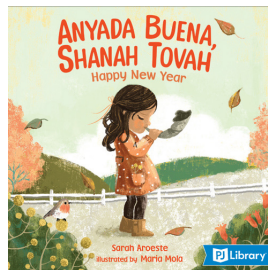
[Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](http://www.fwjf.org)
5200 Old Mill Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

(260) 456-0400 phone
(260) 456-0500 fax
www.fwjf.org



Which books did you receive this month?

A program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](http://www.haroldgrinspoonfoundation.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.

