Chailights

Community Bulletin of the
Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
November 2026

DUPLICITOUS REFUGE: THE STORY OF JEWISH REFUGEES IMPRISONED IN MAURITIUS

Please join us on Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus for a presentation by Rebecca Saunders, Ph.D., on "Duplicitous Refuge: The Story of the Jewish Refugees Imprisoned in Mauritius" and Nathacha Appanah's *The Last Brother.*

This is a little-known story of 1,580 Central European Jews who fled from Nazi-occupied Europe for Palestine in 1940 but were then forcibly removed from Palestine by the British Mandate. They were deported to the Island of Mauritius and detained in the Beau Bassin prison complex.

Nathacha Appanah's portrayal of this extraordinary moment in *The Last Brother* focuses on a friendship between two boys, the Indo-Mauritian Raj and the Jewish-Czech David, both of whom are fleeing from violence and unbearable loss.

Rebecca Saunders is Professor of Comparative Literature at Illinois State University.

She is the author of *Lamentation and Modernity in Literature, Philosophy, and Culture* and co-author of *The Concept of the Foreign: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue*.

She is currently at work on a book entitled *African Women Rewrite War & Peace* and a co-edited volume on "Environmental Justice in African Literatures and Popular Culture."

The event is sponsored by Congregation Achduth Vesholom, the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, and PFW's Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Light refreshments to follow.

Questions? Please contact Zachor Committee Chair Kathy Sider at ksider812@gmail.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Executive Director
- Allocations
- Partnership2Gether (P2G)
- PJ Library
- Temple News
- NEIJGS News
- Chabad News
- Women's Philanthropy





Counselors playing volleyball and campers painting

Our Camp Joe counselors, campers and their families had a wonderful time at Temple's Sukkot afternoon.



October bag prep

Our Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers are amazing. Thank you for ALL that you do for our Brightpoint families!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Good day, everyone,



I want to share how proud I am of our community. Whether we are gathering for Sukkot, celebrating birthdays at the Temple, coming together to remember the horrors of October 7th, or celebrating Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, the support you show for one another is both impressive and deeply meaningful. The past month has been quite special.

This month carries added meaning as we see the generosity of local families contributing to our annual campaign while we are distributing the funds raised to valued partners who help advance the mission of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne. Increased allocations are supporting three key areas: community relations, safety and security efforts beyond Fort Wayne, and organizations serving people in need.

Please know that our Federation remains active and engaged in addressing antisemitism and misinformation about Judaism and Israel. We welcome every opportunity to speak with students about Judaism, the Holocaust, and related topics, helping ensure that accurate information reaches those who need to hear it most. Through this work, we are helping to build a stronger world for tomorrow.

A special thank-you goes to everyone who recognizes and supports the ongoing rebuilding efforts in Israel.

With appreciation,

Michael Theise



It's time to vote. It's not my job to tell you who to vote for—that is your own holy process of research, reflection, and participation in the democratic process. But please don't wait. The election is on November 3. Join me in dropping off your ballot or voting in person with your values.

Find your nearest polling place here



Reminder: Set your clocks back 1 hour on Sunday, November 1 from 2 a.m. to 1 a.m.

UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Ladies' Night Out — Rosh Chodesh Women's Group
What a wonderful fall of dining together! Our Rosh Chodesh group has enjoyed several evenings of good food, laughter, and friendship.



In September, seven ladies gathered at Casa Ristorante for a lovely evening of catching up, meeting new friends, and enjoying a delicious meal. It's wonderful to see our group continue to grow!

Our October dinner at P.F. Chang's was another success, with nine women joining us. It was especially nice to see our usual crowd along with some familiar faces we hadn't seen in a while. These evenings are a great way to reconnect, share a meal, and enjoy time together.



We will be canceling our November dinner so everyone has the opportunity to attend *Duplicitous Refuge: The Story of Jewish Refugees Imprisoned in Mauritius* instead. We hope you'll join us for this special program!

Our next Ladies' Night Out will be **Wednesday, December 16**, at 6:00 p.m. at Granite City. All Jewish women in our community are warmly invited, and each guest pays for her own meal. Please RSVP one week before the dinner to office@fwjf.org or call (260) 456-0400.

We look forward to seeing everyone in December!

Confronting the Shoah

Mark your calendars! Holocaust scholar **Dr. David Lindquist** will once again present *Confronting the Shoah*, a seven-week course beginning in January 2027.

This important course provides participants with comprehensive historical and contextual knowledge of the Nazi Holocaust. Through the seven sessions, participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Holocaust and its historical significance.

Classes will be held on **Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26, and February 2, 9, and 16, 2027**, at the **Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center**, 5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne.

Classes begin at **7:00 p.m.** and will last approximately **2 to 2½ hours** each.

There is **no cost** for Federation members, teachers, principals, historians, or high school juniors and seniors. For all others, there is a **$5 fee** to cover the cost of materials.

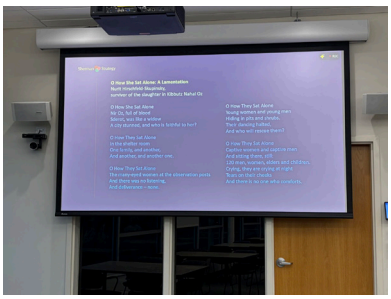
Click here to register, or contact the Federation office at **(260) 456-0400** or **office@fwjf.org**.

Professional Growth Points (PGP) certificates will be available at the conclusion of the program for those who request them.

Thank you to the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** and the members of Federation for their continued support of this important educational program.







Daniel Sherman was warmly received by our community on the anniversary of October 7th, providing valuable insight as we gathered to remember the tragedy of October 7, 2023

ALLOCATIONS

A heartfelt thank you to all our members who made a pledge during our 2025–2026 campaign year! Your generosity and commitment to our Jewish community make a meaningful difference. Because of your support, we were able to provide funding to each of the wonderful organizations listed below. **Todah Rabah** (thank you very much) for helping us continue to make a positive impact in our community and beyond!

Regional National Agencies:

Ball State University Hillel - We are an inclusive organization that is dedicated to providing a safe place for students to connect to Jewish culture. More information here.

Indiana University Hillel - Since 1938, IU Hillel has created a warm, welcoming, caring Jewish family and community that celebrates Judaism and Jewish life. We support and honor the diversity of the Jewish student community at IU, and are committed to its maintenance and continuity. More information here

Purdue University Hillel - Enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. More information here

Indiana Jewish Historical Society - The Indiana Jewish Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization with a mission to collect, preserve, publish, and share the Jewish experience in Indiana.

Our stated mission is to preserve historical Jewish records, organize people to speak on the importance of maintaining Jewish historical records, develop a database and guidebook for archiving material, and publish newsletters to notify and update members of current IJHS-related events and activities. More information here.

Indiana University Jewish Studies Program - One of the largest, oldest, and most comprehensive programs of its kind, The Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University. A premier hub for Jewish Studies. The Program is committed to fostering leadership skills, civic responsibility, and academic achievement through rigorous interdisciplinary study of Jews and Judaism. More information here

Purdue University Jewish Studies Program - Founded in 1981, the undergraduate Jewish Studies Program at Purdue provides students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the culture, language, literature, history, philosophy, and religious customs of the Jewish people from antiquity to the present. More information here

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Skokie - The mission of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is expressed in its founding principle: Remember the Past, Transform the Future. Dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust, the Museum honors the memories of those who were lost and those who survived by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice, and indifference.

The Museum fulfills its mission through the exhibition, preservation, and interpretation of its collections; and through education programs and initiatives that foster the promotion of human rights and the elimination of genocide. More information here

Center for Jewish History, New York, NY - The Center for Jewish History in New York City illuminates history, culture, and heritage. The Center provides a collaborative home for five partner organizations: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. More information here

Community Relations Agencies:

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith (ADL) - To stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. More information here

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council - Our mission is to safeguard the rights of Jews in the U.S., Israel, and around the world by combating antisemitism through relationship-building and education. JCRC works to protect and promote a just American society, one that is democratic and pluralistic. More information here

Jewish War Veterans of the USA - The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) is the premier voice for Jewish uniformed service members and veterans in the United States. The JWV affirms that Jewish men and women serve honorably and heroically in the military forces of the United States of America during peacetime and war. The JWV defends the rights and benefits of all service members and veterans, fights antisemitism, and supports the State of Israel. More information here

Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) - The mission of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is to strengthen and leverage the Jewish community relations network across the nation to champion a just, democratic and pluralistic society and advance the right of full inclusion of all members of our society, including Jews, free of discrimination, hate, and prejudice. More information here

Safe Indiana - The sharp rise in hate crimes and antisemitic attacks and rhetoric throughout the world has left the Jewish community with grave concerns about individual and community safety. The increase in antisemitism has led us to once again reassess our needs and financial investment in security across our Jewish community. The Jewish Federation, our synagogues and agencies are focused on a proactive approach that takes into account our institutions' diverse interests and organizational missions.

It is a goal of the Safe Indiana Security Initiative to identify and assess any potential threats to our Community. It is extremely important to report incidents as soon as you witness them. Keep in mind we are collecting all information that affects our Community to include antisemitic behavior and acts. This information will be reviewed and shared with the appropriate local, state and federal law enforcement for action and resolution.

We are undertaking this effort in partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN). SCN is the national safety and security organization that works to implement best practice security programs on behalf of Jewish institutions and communities across the U.S. More information here

Masorti Foundation - The purpose and mission of the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism is to support the work of Israelis in building a Judaism that preserves observance and tradition while recognizing how modern life in Israel is lived. More information here

Non-JFNA Overseas Agencies:

Jewish National Fund (JNF) - Unparalleled in the Jewish philanthropic world, Jewish National Fund-USA's strategic vision has been and always will be, to ensure a strong, secure, and prosperous future for the land and people of Israel. More information here

American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA) - In the United States, disaster relief, ambulance, and blood services are handled by an array of organizations.

In Israel, there's one organization that does it all — Magen David Adom.

Although MDA's role is mandated by the Israeli government, it's not a government agency. As Israel's official representative to the International Red Cross, Magen David Adom's role precludes it from accepting governmental support for its general operations.

Because of this arrangement, MDA relies on support from donors, including those from the United States, to keep its dispatch systems, training, and equipment the best in the world.

When you support Magen David Adom, you are helping save lives, every day. More information here

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) - Drawing on our Jewish values and history, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild their lives. More information here

Yad Sarah - The defining mission of Yad Sarah is to enable chronically ill, disabled, infirm, and terminally ill people, ranging in age from infancy to old age, to live at home either on their own or in the care of their families or caregivers, with dignity and as independently as possible. More information here

IsraAID - Our mission is to support people affected by humanitarian crises. We partner with local communities around the world to provide urgent aid, assist in recovery, and reduce the risk of future disasters. More information here

JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.) - We don't just place our faith in a better tomorrow — we build it. For over 100 years, JDC has put the timeless Jewish value of collective responsibility into action when the world needs it most. Today, JDC lifts lives and strengthens communities in 70 countries. More information here

American Jewish World Service (AJWS) - Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) works to realize human rights and end poverty in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. AJWS's values are rooted in Judaism's imperative to pursue justice for all people and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. More information here

Religious Agencies:

Religious Action Center (RAC) - For more than six decades, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC) has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish Movement to advocate for social justice. We have helped activate the Jewish community in the key debates and mobilizations of each generation since our founding, from the civil rights movement to immigration reform. More information here

Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion - We are the center of innovation for Jewish life and learning – preparing rabbis, cantors, leaders in Jewish education, Jewish nonprofit professionals, pastoral counselors, and scholars to apply their knowledge, commitment, vision, and expertise to strengthen and transform the Jewish community and larger world. More information here

Overseas Allocations:

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) - We proudly represent 146 independent Federations and a network of 300 smaller communities across the continent. Our mission is to protect and enhance the well-being of Jews worldwide through meaningful contributions to community, Israel and civil society. More information here

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - For more than 90 years, we've worked to overcome the biggest challenges facing the Jewish people.

We founded and built the State of Israel, and we continue creating links globally—bringing Jews to Israel and Israel to Jews around the world. More information here

Israel Action Network (IAN) - The Israel Action Network builds a strong base of support for Israel and counters delegitimization in the context of two states for two peoples. More information here

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER (P2G)

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.



Our Partnership is Celebrating its 30th Year in 2027!

We'll celebrate all year long culminating with gala celebrations in the Western Galilee September 16–18, with special pre-events September 14 and 15, 2027. Exciting plans coming soon!

What are we talking about this month:

Community Project Ideas for Children Under 5



Community projects are a great way to help your children to be more aware of the people around them and the wider world that they're living in. It's an effective way of developing compassion for others, because they engage with people and projects within their local community. Children could help the elderly, the environment, or even other families. Very young, and very small children can still make a BIG difference, and it's empowering for them to know that. Besides benefiting your local community, each idea also addresses Jewish values, and together they go a long way toward *tikkun olam*, making the world a better place.

Community projects can be simple; the important thing is to explain to children why they're doing them so that they begin to understand the wider implications of their actions. Also, it's important to choose the *right* project for young people to get involved with, so here are some ideas:

1. **Find out what your local food bank needs.** Then gather donated food items, and take them there.
2. **Donate unwanted clothing to a local shelter** or charity shop.
3. **Pick up litter in local green spaces.** Remember to wear protective gear and check with the local parks department or landowner to ensure safety for all.
4. **Make a picture or card** for older people who are living in nursing homes, or even speak to the homes and see if they have certain visiting times for children. Children can help bring joy to the elderly and many nursing homes have special programs for these types of visits.
5. **Donate films, games, toys, crayons, paper or books** to the local children's hospital. *Bikur cholim*, visiting the sick, is an easy but impactful mitzvah to perform.
6. **Help to plant trees, flowers, and vegetables** in the local community.
7. **Help an older neighbor with their gardening** (e.g., you could mow the lawn and your children could gather the grass) and check in with them from time to time.
8. **Visit homebound neighbors.** You could do some baking ahead of the visit and bring round the homemade treats to share.
9. **Help out at a local animal shelter,** either by donating items they need or by spending time socializing with the animals, or cleaning out their cages etc. It's a wonderful way to teach *tza'ar ba'alei chayim*, the ethical treatment of animals.
10. **Set up your home for recycling** and get your children involved in recycling items into the right bins etc. This makes for a perfect lesson in *bal tashchit*, preventing waste.

There are so many things your children can do to help others and to start to contribute to their own community. Start small and make sure they're comfortable with what they're doing. Also, always check that the recipients are happy to have you help or visit, and that the environment will be a safe one for your children.

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IN MEMORIAM



The Hon. Judge Stanley A. Levine (Retired) died on the morning of Saturday, October 24 following an extended illness. Born on May 10, 1938 in New York, he was 88 years old.

Details of his memorial service are pending and will be announced within the next few days.

He is survived by his companion Sharron Spangle of Fort Wayne; his children, Michael Levine (Jen) of Chicago, Alan Levine of Valparaiso, Kirsten Bouchard (Ronn) of

Indianapolis, and Jason Mauer of Tallahassee, Florida; and his grandchildren Ben Levine of Chicago, Alec and Cole Bouchard of Indianapolis, and Silvia Mauer of Tallahassee.

A longtime resident of Fort Wayne, Levine was an attorney who, at the height of his career, became a judge on the Allen County Superior Court bench in Indiana, appointed to the bench by then Governor Frank O'Bannon in 1998. Levine retired from the bench on December 31, 2018.

During his judicial tenure, he was the Administrative Judge of the Civil Division and presided over the Probate Court. Levine was also credited with overseeing the expansion and modernization of Courtroom 107, which became a statewide model for updating other courtrooms, particularly in historic buildings. Before to his appointment, he was a legal advisor to the Fort Wayne City Council from 1984 to 1986.

Levine graduated from South Side High School in Fort Wayne and earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University. He went on to receive an LL.B. from Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 1963.

Levine enlisted in the Indiana Air National Guard in 1963 and completed his military career as a captain and Judge Advocate of the 122nd Tactical Fighter Group in Fort Wayne in 1971.

He served as president of Legal Aid of Fort Wayne, Inc., the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, and the Allen County Bar Association. Levine was also a member of the Board of Managers of the Indiana Judges Association and served as vice chair of the Saint Joseph Hospital Board of Directors.

On November 29, 2018 shortly before to his retirement, then Governor Eric Holcomb awarded Levine with the Sagamore of the Wabash in recognition of his distinguished service to the judiciary and the State of Indiana.

Following his retirement, Levine joined Yosha Law in Indianapolis as an attorney, served as the Community Engagement Officer for Heartland Sings, a professional vocal company headquartered in Fort Wayne, and could often be seen and heard around town singing his favorite songs.

JOIN US FOR LATKES AND LIGHTS AT HANUKKAH PARTY
Celebrate the start of the Festival of Lights with our Temple family on Friday, December 4. Light the candles, spin the dreidel, enjoy a holiday dinner, and share the warmth of Jewish community at our l'dor vador Hanukkah service and party. Please bring your *hanukkiyah* and candles to light for the first night of Hanukkah.

Join us for our Shabbat-Hanukkah service at 6 p.m. The service also will be on YouTube. Candle lighting and dinner will follow. The menu includes meat and vegetarian options, salad, latkes, and *sufganiyot*. Share in the fun for all ages – games, a photo booth, holiday music, and more – and crafts for the kids.

Please make a reservation for dinner by contacting us at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org by Tuesday, December 1. Cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 4-12 (3 and under are free). Payments must be made online. If you need the vegetarian option, please tell us when you RSVP.

Thank you to Denny Reynolds and the ROMEOs for sponsoring the latkes and *sufganiyot*, and to Stephanie Gottesman, Jay Zemmol, Kate Crell, Deborah Bauer, and Caylen Weisberger for organizing the festivities. Thanks also to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN JEWISH TRADITION
What does Judaism say about the death penalty?

The Torah permits capital punishment, but the rabbis placed significant restrictions on when and how it could be carried out.

Join Rabbi Meir on Wednesday, November 4 from noon to 1 p.m. as we study some of the key Jewish texts on capital punishment and consider the questions they raise about justice, responsibility, and the value of human life. We'll also look at how the Reform Movement has approached the death penalty in modern times.

No prior background or preparation is necessary. Come in person, bring your lunch, and join the conversation. Kindly RSVP to office@templecav.org by Tuesday, November 3. The Zoom link will be in the weekly email to Temple members.

SHARE SHABBAT AND SIMCHA
Join us for Shabbat on Saturday, November 7 at 10 a.m. at the Temple when Samuel Cole Gordon is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. A luncheon will follow hosted by Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon. Mazel tov to Sam and his family!

THE JEWISH CASE FOR HOPE
How do we hold on to hope in difficult times? Jewish tradition is deeply honest about fear, uncertainty, grief, and struggle — yet it also insists on the possibility of meaning, resilience, and renewal.

Join Rabbi Meir on Wednesday, November 11 at 7 p.m. on Zoom for an evening of Jewish learning and conversation as we explore timeless texts and modern insights about hope, courage, and what it means to "choose life" in today's world.

No prior background or preparation is necessary. Come ready to learn, reflect, and join the conversation. The Zoom link will be in the weekly email to our Temple family.

JOIN THE FUN AT JOY VEY! A KID-ISH SHABBAT
Families with young children are invited to Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat on Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m.

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.

SHARE INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT BEACON HEIGHTS
Fort Wayne's community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 24 at 7 p.m. moves this year to Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, 2810 Beacon Street. Rabbi Meir Bargeron will participate with other faith leaders in this wonderful tradition. Congregation Achduth Vesholom also is one of the sponsors.

The Temple has participated in this service since it began in 2007, including hosting for the last 13 years. We're pleased to continue to support the gathering and the important relationships that we've developed as a Jewish community.

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 Bargeron leads services most Fridays at 6 p.m. Ron Friedman usually leads worship on the first and third Saturdays at 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Meir offering a D'var Torah. Our service on Saturday, November 7 will begin at 10 a.m. when Samuel Cole Gordon, son of Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. We will not have a Shabbat service on Friday, November 27 due to Thanksgiving.

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for families with young children will meet on Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m. Find the schedule at www.templecav.org.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS BAG ASSEMBLY TEAM MEETS NOVEMBER 4
Join the Jewish Community's Thoughtful Thursdays team on Wednesday, November 4 at 10 a.m. when we assemble bags of food and household items for the 52 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start classes in our building.

Thank you to everyone who supported the 16th annual Thoughtful Thursdays Apple Project to provide fresh fruit to our Head Start families.

Thank you to Chair Joanne McCrory and her team.

Thoughtful Thursdays, now in its 17th year, is a project of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.

NEIJGS

The Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is excited to welcome historian and author Steven Ujifusa for a free virtual program on Sunday, November 15, beginning at 2:00 p.m. EST.

The Last Ships from Hamburg:
Business, Rivalry, and the Race to Save Russia's Jews on the Eve of World War I

Steven Ujifusa is a historian and author whose work explores American business, social, and maritime history. This book chronicles the mass migration of approximately 2.5 million Eastern European Jews to America between 1890 and 1921. Ujifusa tells the story through three influential businessmen—banker Jacob Schiff, Hamburg-American Line executive Albert Ballin, and financier J. P. Morgan—whose very different interests helped make this enormous migration possible. The book traces the journey from Eastern European shtetls and the port of Hamburg to New York, connecting immigration, business, shipping, and the American Jewish experience. Among the descendants of these immigrants were Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Estée Lauder, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and many others—including Ujifusa's own great-grandparents.

Published by HarperCollins in 2023, *The Last Ships from Hamburg* was named one of the year's best books by *Publishers Weekly*. The book offers both an intimate family story and a sweeping history of the American immigrant experience, with themes that continue to resonate in discussions of refugees, immigration, and antisemitism. Ujifusa is also the author of *Barons of the Sea* and *A Man and His Ship*. He is the recipient of the Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia's Literary Award for Non-Fiction, and has appeared on NPR, CBS Sunday Morning, and other national media. A graduate of Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania's Weitzman School of Design, Ujifusa lives in Philadelphia with his wife and two sons.

Registration is required to attend this free virtual program.
The link can be found at Upcoming Events – Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society

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

Additional information about the NEIJGS can be found on our website at www.NEIndianaJGS.org, or Facebook Page, https://www.facebook.com/NEIndianaJGS/.

Please contact Pamela Friedman at vp@NEIndianaJGS.org for more information.

CHABAD

"The Jews stole the Land of Israel!" Today, millions around the world are screaming and protesting this claim. Yet nearly a thousand years ago, Rashi foresaw exactly this accusation, and the answer he gave is hidden in the Torah's very first verse. To understand it, we need to start with a question about the Torah itself.

If you have studied through the Torah, the five books of Moses, you may have noticed something seemingly strange. The Torah, as its name implies, is a book of instruction. Torah means teaching, instruction.

Yet the first instruction, or mitzvah, to the Jewish people, surprisingly, does not appear until chapter twelve of the second book of the Torah, Exodus. The entire book of Bereishit (Genesis) and the first third of Shemot (Exodus) just recount the history of humanity and the Jewish people up until the Exodus from Egypt and the giving of the Torah, which the Torah could have done much more briefly, getting straight to the point: the commandments.

We know that every word and even every letter in the Torah is precise. So, why does G-d feel that it is necessary to include all that in there?

Rashi, the primary commentator on the Torah, addresses that question. What is most beautiful about his comment is how it is a perfect example of the fact that the Torah and its lessons are applicable and relevant for every point in history, especially today, in a world that seems to be getting more chaotic every day.

Rashi, the 11th-century French rabbi, explains: "Now for what reason did He commence with 'In the beginning?' Because of [the verse] 'The strength of His works He related to His people, to give them the inheritance of the nations' (Psalm 111:6).

"For if the nations of the world should say to Israel, 'You are robbers, for you conquered by force the lands of the seven nations [of Canaan],' they will reply, 'The entire earth belongs to the Holy One, blessed be He; He created it (this we learn from the story of the Creation) and gave it to whomever He deemed proper. When He wished, He gave it to them, and when He wished, He took it away from them and gave it to us.'" (Translation from Chabad.org).

There is only one response to that claim. G-d Almighty created the world, and He decided that the Jewish nation would inherit the Land of Israel. It is ours not because of our military strength, not because of the UN or Balfour. Only because G-d promised Abraham that He would give it to us, and after the Exodus and receiving the Torah, we received it. It's been ours since then, and it will be ours forever.

Rabbi Levi Danow

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

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

Loving Café
Healthy Vegan & Vegetarian Cuisine
7605 Coldwater Rd Suite A
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
260-489-8686
lovingcafefw.com

GEORGE'S INTERNATIONAL MARKET
2021 Broadway
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
260-420-5565
georgesinternationalmarket.com

3 RIVERS CO-OP NATURAL GROCERY & DELI
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.

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.
(**S**end a **K**id to **I**srael **P**rogram)

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

CREATE A Jewish Legacy

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 the following days in November:



November 3



November 11



November 26

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 interfaith social services
Serving Fort Wayne's Central City Every Day.

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

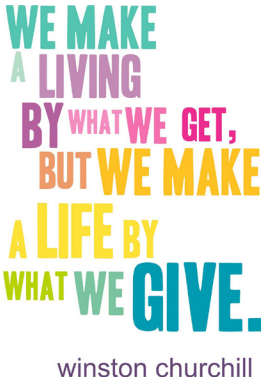
ENDOWMENT

- **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.

DONATIONS



General Operations

- Donations were received from **Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon, Doris Gottlieb, Andrew Reinfeld and Juan Suarez**
- 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**



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 on behalf of 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)

November 5 – Club Room at The Clyde
1806 Bluffton Road

November 19 – Bagger Dave's Burger Tavern
2886 E. Dupont Road

December 3 – Mad Anthony Brewing Company
2002 Broadway

December 17 – China Palace
5810 Bluffton 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

Delegates-At-Large

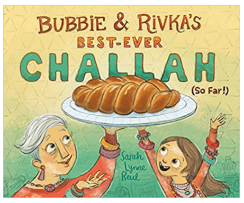
Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz
Maureen Grinsfelder
Scott Salon
Eric Schreier
Ellen Tom
Aliza Tourkow
Josh Wallet
Mimi Zelman

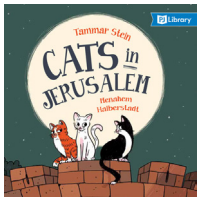
Rabbi Meir Bargeron

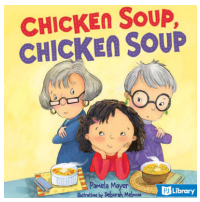
PJ Library®

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.



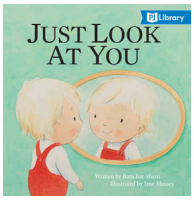


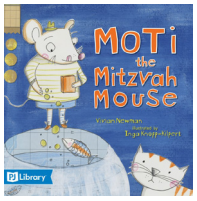


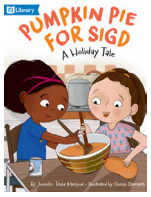












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PJ Our Way is for kids ages 9-11. It is kid-driven - they choose their own books, creating a totally tailored experience based on their own interests and reading level. To make the choice easier, our website includes summaries and author bios, along 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.

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