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HELP US MAKE A BIG
SHPIEL OUT OF PURIM!

Join us for an evening of merriment on Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m. for the Temple's annual Purim Service with a Shpiel inspired by 1930s musical reviews and the story of Esther.

Maestro Robert Nance and his singers will be part of the fun, along with Rabbi Cattapan and Temple Member Stan Levine. Wear your costume and come nosh on hamentashen made by our own Bonnie Pomerantz.

Please bring boxes of macaroni and cheese to shake when Haman's name is read. The boxes will be donated to the food bank at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services. We'll have traditional groggers available, too.

PURIM CARNIVAL
PROMISES LOTS OF FUN

Dress up in a three-cornered hat or super-hero costume. Choose the moon bounce or Cake Walk. Shoot a basket, aim for a bagel, or bid on a silent auction item. We've got something for everyone at the Temple Youth Group's annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 20 from 12:15 to 2 p.m. at Achduth Vesholom.

Prizes in our silent auction and drawing include gift cards for local restaurants, chocolate pretzels, and lots more.

Lunch is available for purchase, including pizza, Casa salad, and hamentashen. We invite youngsters to bring their parents and grandparents. Proceeds from the Carnival help support FORTY, which brings together teens from Achduth Vesholom and B'nai Jacob. Thanks to FORTY and the Junior Youth Group for their hard work.



The steel has been delivered and construction is underway on the new Madge Rothschild Resource Center as part of the Rifkin Campus at 5200. We're looking forward to watching the progress toward its Fall 2016 opening.



UPCOMING EVENTS

*Reservations Required

Need more information? Visit templecav.org or give us a call!

MARCH

Thoughtful Thursdays Bag Assembly

Wednesdays, March 2 & 16
10 a.m. at the Temple

Potluck Dinner* and Torah Study

Friday, March 4
5:30 p.m. at the Temple
Please bring a side dish for eight people to share for dinner. RSVP by Wednesday, March 2 to the Temple office.

Journey Into The World Of Yiddish*

Sundays, March 6 & 13
12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Temple

Torah Study*

Saturday, March 12 & 26
9:30 a.m. at Rabbi Cattapan's home
Temple members are invited to discuss the weekly Torah portion. Please RSVP to the Temple office.

"Son of Saul" Screening

March 2016
A special screening of "[Son of Saul](#)," the film set at Auschwitz-Birkenau and nominated for best foreign language film at the 2016 Academy Awards, is being planned at [Cinema Center](#). More details will be coming at www.templecav.org.

Stroke Prevention, Intervention & Care Workshop*

Sunday, March 13
10 a.m. at the Temple
Our guest is Dr. Rakesh Khatri, Medical Director and President of the Board of Directors for the [StrokeCareNow Network](#). Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 9. Sponsored by the Adult Education and Caring committees.

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 20
12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Temple
Lots of food, games, and fun at FORTY's annual Purim Carnival, the high school youth group's main fundraiser. Don't miss the silent auction and raffle.

APRIL

Learning Havalah*

Saturday, April 16
7 p.m. at the Temple
Mike Rush will speak on "Rush Is The Name, Law Is The Game."

Congregational Second Seder*

Saturday, April 23
6 p.m. at the Temple

SERVICES

MARCH

Friday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

Shabbat Torah Service

Bimah Honors: TBA
Ushers: Dudkin Family
Oneg Shabbat: TBA

Friday, March 11 at 7 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Bimah Honors: Ellen Tom
Ushers: Dudkin Family
Oneg Shabbat: Richard & Cindi Wismer

Friday, March 18

Shabbat Katan at 6 p.m.

Purim Service & Shpiel at 7 p.m.

7 p.m. at the Temple
Bimah Honors: Rich Manalis
Ushers: Dudkin Family
Oneg Shabbat: Pomerantz Family

Friday, March 25

Hot Topics Shabbat Service at 7 p.m.

Bimah Honors: TBA
Ushers: Dudkin Family
Oneg Shabbat: TBA
Speaker: Rabbi Cattapan on Israel



A JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE AT LEARNING HAVDALAH

"Rush is the name. Law is the game." Join us for a Learning Havdalah on Saturday, April 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Temple when Mike Rush shares a judicial perspective on law, culture, ethics and punishment. A long-time Temple member, he served for 19 years as a Whitley Superior Court

judge before being named in 2011 as a Senior Judge by the Indiana Supreme Court. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 744-4245 by Wednesday, April 13.

NEW ONEG COORDINATOR NAMED

Thank you to Samara Sheray for serving as our new Oneg Shabbat Coordinator. Many thanks to Kay Safirstein, who arranged hosts during the past six months. Please contact Samara at samara_sheray@hotmail.com or (260) 433-9177 to offer your help by providing goodies after our Friday evening service. Hosting is a great way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion – or try out a new recipe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SECOND SEDER

Passover begins on Friday, April 22 when we retell the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt and freedom from bondage. No Shabbat service will be held that evening at the Temple. As a congregation, we'll gather for the second Seder on Saturday, April 23 at 6 p.m. at the Temple to read the Haggadah and dine on a traditional Pesach meal. Thank you to Bonnie Pomerantz and Sally Trotter for returning as our co-chairs. Students enrolled in Religious School may attend at no charge if accompanied by a parent and with a reservation. Details will be coming in next month's Bulletin.



JEWISH WISDOM IN WEEKLY PODCAST

A new weekly podcast called [On the Other Hand: Ten Minutes of Torah](#) is now available through the Union for Reform Judaism. Featuring URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the podcast is available at Reformjudaism.org/podcasts.

Rabbi Javier Cattapan

A REFLECTION ON YAHRZEIT LISTS



In his book, *May God Remember: Memory and Memorializing in Judaism—Yizkor*, Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman writes: “Memory is dear to Jews.” As Isaac Bashevis Singer is said to have commented, “We Jews have many faults; but amnesia is not among them.” Remembering is an integral part of our worship services. On Shabbat, for instance, we find mentions: “a memorial of the act of creation” and “a memorial to the exodus from Egypt.” In the *amidah*, we find, *v’zocher chasdei avot ve-ima’ot*, “[God] remembers the piety of our ancestors.”

All our worship services include a remembrance piece, *Kaddish yatom*, the Mourner’s Kaddish. Mentioning the names of those whom our congregation holds dear is one of the most important services we provide. In the past 167 years, our congregation has accumulated a long list. The large number of names is not reflective of our size today, so I have wondered if we should continue the practice. As some of you know, I have been frustrated in the past at the fact that very few of our members attend services when their loved one names are mentioned. Then, something happens that makes you reconsider ...

Last month I received an unusual note from the daughter of someone who was a member of our congregation back in 1977 (Rose Schempp). Rose’s daughter writes, “In my internet research, your December/January newsletter came up and I read, in black and white, my mother’s name on your Yahrzeit page. I can’t tell you how much that means to me. To know that someone else, across the country, whom I don’t even know, took the time to just write her name and remember her is very meaningful and I truly appreciate it.”

This note showed me another way to look at the long lists we have. I do believe our tradition’s insistence in requiring a *miniyan* for the public recitation of Kaddish means that each of us holds power to help others remember. Reciting Kaddish in community links us all together; however, her note gives me hope that remembering someone has value in and of itself and that, without knowing, we might be keeping someone’s memory alive for generations to come. And to that I would say, *dayyenu*, we should be satisfied.



NEXT HOT TOPICS SHABBAT FOCUSES ON ISRAEL

Our Hot Topics Shabbat Service on Friday, March 25 at 7 p.m. will focus on Israel when Rabbi Cattapan shares reflections about his recent trip there for the Central Conference of American Rabbis convention. An Oneg Shabbat follows.

LEARN MORE ABOUT STROKE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND CARE

On average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds in the United States. It is the number one cause of life-changing disability and the third leading cause of death. We invite you to learn more about this important subject by attending a workshop on stroke prevention, intervention, and care for loved ones who have had a stroke on Sunday, March 13 at 10 a.m. at the Temple.



Dr. Rakesh Khatri, Medical Director and President of the Board of Directors for the [StrokeCareNow Network](#), will discuss risk factors, signs and symptoms, potential treatment options, and current research trials. The workshop is sponsored by the Temple’s Adult Education and Caring committees.

Dr. Khatri oversees the stroke telemedicine program covering 25 hospitals in the tri-state area. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 744-4245 by Wednesday, March 9.

DREAMING OF PORT-A-PIT CHICKEN?

Your wish will come true on Saturday, April 30! Tell all your



friends and family that we are pre-selling food tickets for a mouthwatering meal. Half a chicken sells for \$7 and “Pit-Tatoes” are only

\$3.50 per serving. What a delicious fundraising event to support Temple programs. Order in advance and pick up your meal at the [Holiday Inn](#) – IPFW & Coliseum – between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. We’ll be there rain or shine. [Order forms](#) are available at www.templecav.org or call the Temple office at 744-4245 to place your order. Thank you to Melissa Kessel and Bonnie Pomerantz for chairing this fundraiser.

PLAN FOR WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE

Why travel to Napa Valley when you can be part of the Temple’s summertime wine tasting experience at TWO-EE’s Winery near Roanoke? Tickets are now on sale to join us on Thursday, July 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at TWO-EE’s Winery for a wine tasting experience that includes the tasting and food-matching of seven wines. Tickets are \$60 per person, half of which is a donation to the Temple. [Find out more](#) on the Temple website. Thanks to Irv Adler for organizing the event.



GUESTS FEEL AT HOME AT HOME SHABBAT

Sixty members participated in the Temple's 13th Home Shabbat on Friday, January 29, sharing delicious Sabbath meals and conversation at five host homes. The gatherings ranged from seven to 18 guests. Celebrations varied, with some groups singing "Shalom Aleichem" and "Hineh Mah Tov," while others shared stories of special Shabbats, Jewish traditions, and how they came to choose Judaism.

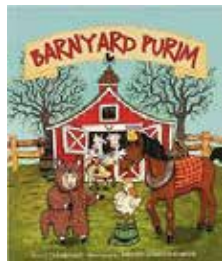


Thank you to our hosts Irv & Fran Adler, Betsy & Geoff Gephart, Matthew & Nola Katinsky, Leah & Shai Hadashi, and Beth & Dan Zweig. Thanks, too, to Elissa & Steve Cohen, who had to cancel due to a family emergency - and whom we hope will host next year! Thank you to Leah Hadashi and Beth Zweig for co-chairing the event and to the Hadashi and Zweig families for donating the challah. We have had enthusiastic requests to have a 14th Home Shabbat next year!



PURIM BOOKS ARE HERE!

Whether you are celebrating at home or sharing the holiday with others, a Purim book is just the ticket! Our library has a good collection of titles, most of which are included in [a Purim brochure](#) on our website. Favorite picture books include everything from the newer "Barnyard Purim" by Kelly Terwilliger, to the classic, "Cakes and Miracles" by Barbara Diamond Goldin. For older students, "Esther's Story" by Diane Wolkstein is a wonderful portrait, as is Eric Kimmel's "The Story of Esther." We also have a couple of Megillot, board books, and other titles for the very young, and books for adults as well. Come check us out!



WE CARE - Please let the Temple office or Rabbi Cattapan know if a family member is in the hospital or if other situations arise when the congregation may be of assistance or comfort. We aren't always aware of situations unless family or friends notify us.

SYMPOSIUM: TEACHING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Applications are being reviewed for a six-day symposium to help prepare tomorrow's teachers to educate their students on the Holocaust and Holocaust-related events will be held in Fort Wayne on May 15-20 on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. The symposium is co-sponsored by the [IPFW Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies](#) and the Holocaust Education Committee of Congregation Achduth Vesholom. [Find out more](#) on the Temple website.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS COLLECTING TISSUES

The Jewish community's Thoughtful Thursdays team is collecting boxes of tissues to distribute to the 72 Brightpoint Head Start students who attend class at the Temple. Volunteers are welcome to join the Bag Assembly team on March 2 & 16 at 10 a.m. to put together food, household and educational items to distribute to the families. Questions? Contact Jamie Berger, Thoughtful Thursdays chair.



YOUTH NEWS



GUCI DIRECTOR VISITS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

We had an exciting morning on February 7 at Religious School talking about the fun of Jewish summer camp when we welcomed Jeremy Klotz, director of Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, to the Temple to meet with parents and kids. One of the students was so excited after the camp video and presentation that he told his mom to sign him up “for as much GUCI as possible.” Find out more at <http://guci.org/>. Find a video at <http://guci.org/about/watch-our-videos/>

CAMP JOE LEVINE OFFERS FUN AT FOX ISLAND

Looking for a Jewish day camp experience for your child? [Camp Joe Levine](#) offers three fun-filled weeks at Fox Island for children ages 4 to 13. Sponsored by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#), Camp Joe is offered July 4-8, July 11-15, and July 18-22. [Register for one, two or three weeks](#). Sign up by April 1 for early bird discount.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES



Parents, please join your child on Sunday, March 13 at 9:45 a.m. for Family Education to assist with two exciting projects:

- **Hamentashen Baking**
- Please bring your favorite filling

(no jelly, please, because it is too runny), such as preserves, canned pie filling, chocolate chips, etc., and a rolling pin to help get ready for Purim.

- **Blanket Making** - Support the Jewish community's Thoughtful Thursdays project by helping your student make fleece blankets to provide warmth and comfort for Brightpoint Head Start students if they are ill.

In addition, please note that as an added security measure, the door at the Temple's south entrance will be locked during Religious School on Sundays so please use the front door when bringing and picking up children. Thank you for your cooperation.

SHABBAT KATAN GETS IN THE PURIM SPIRIT

Our Shabbat Katan program for families with young children will meet on Friday, March 18 at 6 p.m. at the Temple. Explore Purim and Judaism through the eyes of your children and discover new meaning.



We'll learn a new prayer, create a craft, and share stories. Led by Leah Hadashi, the activities are geared toward children in first grade and younger. Mark your calendars for Shabbat Katan on April 8 and May 21. Contact us at office@templecav.org with your email address and phone number to be added to our Shabbat Katan group.

CAKE WALK DONATIONS AND PRIZES NEEDED

Donations are needed for the popular Purim Carnival Cake Walk as part of the Temple Youth Group's annual Purim Carnival set for Sunday, March 20. Baked goods may be brought in advance and placed in the Temple freezer or early the day of the carnival (marked with your name).

Raffle prizes and silent auction items may be delivered to the Temple office any time before the carnival. Sponsorships also are appreciated to help underwrite the cost of the fundraising event. Thank you for your help and support. Contact us at fortyyouthgroup@gmail.com.



Junior Youth Group members spent a fun afternoon in January ice skating at Headwaters Park.

NFTY SPRING KALLAH - We look forward to participating in the NFTY-Ohio Valley Spring Kallah on April 14-17 in Nashville, Tennessee. Interested high school students should contact fortyyouthgroup@gmail.com.

Joseph & Elsa Adler Memorial Fund

In memory of Frances Rothenberg: *Chuck & Martha Replane*

Campership Fund

In memory of William DuBow, Harry Leiberman and Neil Sandler:
George & Vivian Skadron

Floral

In memory of Rena Edlavitch: *Betty Stein*
In memory of Dr. Robert M. King: *Jim & Suzi King*

General Operations

Donations were received from: the Estate of G. Irving "Bud" Latz II and Juan Suarez, Jr.

In memory of Sarah Cohen: *Sherwin & Micki Kepes*
In memory of Jane Costanza: *Joe Costanza*
In memory of Rosa S. Fishman: *Carol Fishman-Levy*
In memory of Nettie Gottlieb and Sam Jacobson:
Marv & Doris Gottlieb
In memory of Morris Kaye: *Thomas Shine*
In memory of Rebecca Safirstein: *Kay Safirstein*
In memory of Neil Sandler: *Larry & Carol Adelman, Richard & Adrienne Baach, Norm & Ronnie Greenberg, Bill & Linda Manuel-Stein, Jonathan & Dawn Safran, Karen Sandler, Bill & Louise Warshauer, Richard & Cindi Wismer*
In memory of Leonard Weinraub: *Gregory Green*
In memory of Leonard & Rose Weinraub: *Jeanne Weinraub*

Ryan Goldstrom Memorial

In memory of Conrad & Lois Goode: *Steve & Judy Zacher*
In memory of Abraham Silver: *David & Cookie Rosenblum*

Library Fund

In memory of Neil Sandler: *Rabbi Richard Safran*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of Rabbi Cattapan: *The Family of Neil Sandler, Kay Safirstein*
In memory of Henri Hagendorf: *Franck Hagendorf*
In memory of Morris Kaye: *Steve Shine*

Religious School

A donation was received from Norm & Ronnie Greenberg
In memory of Eugene Schmidt: *Scott & Nancy Salon*

S. Wyle Weiman Youth Activity

In memory of Joseph Kutcher: *Len & Rikki Goldstein*

Temple Gardens Fund

In memory of Elmer Lewis: *Michael & Rita Lewis*

MAZEL TOV TO:

- Larry & Carol Adelman on the birth of their granddaughter, Reeva Yarden Adelman, on February 15, 2016 in New Orleans. Proud parents are Andy & Aleeza Adelman.
- Steve Bronstein and Rosie Kretler on their recent marriage.

USHER IN SHABBAT WITH CHALLAH

Get involved at the Temple by volunteering to usher at Shabbat evening services and receive a delicious challah! All Shabbat ushers receive a gift certificate for a tasty loaf donated by [Waynedale Bakery](#), 2610 Lower Huntington Road. Please call to volunteer.

HELP THE TEMPLE THROUGH KROGER

Please support the Temple by registering your Kroger Plus card to indicate you'd like Achduth Vesholom to benefit from your purchases. [Find out more about Kroger Community Rewards](#) on our website.

The deadline for the April Bulletin is Tuesday, March 15.



Rabbi Cattapan and Kris Gray joined Governor Mike Pence last month at a dinner at the Governor's Residence in Indianapolis. Rabbi Cattapan participated the next morning in the Indiana Leadership Prayer Breakfast.

WELCOME TO THE TEMPLE

We welcome Larry Lee as the newest member of Congregation Achduth Vesholom.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE APPRECIATED

The Temple board welcomes your comments and suggestions. We will do our best to address your questions and concerns. Please contact the Temple office at 744-4245 (office@Temple-CAV.org) for information. President Joe Cohen can be reached at 260-423-8861 or hjc@barrettlaw.com.

TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS: The Temple office is open on Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will close at noon on Friday, March 25.

YAHRZEITS

MARCH 4

Chuma Appel
Barbara Berger
Anatoliy Berkovich
Shalome Boudai
Sarah Cohen
Louis Dessauer
Carrie Dessauer
Victor N. Farhi
Theodore Frank
Rose Goldstine
Betty Jane Barton Gubitz
Matilda Hallenstein
Fannie K. Heilbronner
Robert P. Hirsch
Robert L. Kalver
Mae Porter Kann
Conner Koons
Sam Kramer
Louis Kwatnez
Elmer Lewis
Sarah Kalver Max
Amy Pincus
Leonard Rifkin
Jacob Rosenberg
Harry Rosensweet
Frances Rothenberg
Estelle Salnitsky
Herbert A. Schiller
Eugene Schmidt

MARCH 11

Jesse Amber
Josephine Bach
Perry Carson
Ralph Clark
Raymond Farhi
Eddie Field
Rosa S. Fishman
Marian L. Frankenstein
Benjamin Friedman
Penelope Houseman
Joy July-Amber
Morris Kaye
Dr. Robert M King
Charlotte Korin
Harriet Lesser
Edna P. Levine
Bill Llewellyn
Hannah Nirdlinger
Abraham Joseph Roseman
Esther Roseman
Ida Rothschild
Arlene Sambur
Estelle King Schaffer
Rose S. Schwartz
Rose Schwartz
Julius J. Stein
Sigmund Teitel
William Warshauer
Eve Weinswig
Francis Weisberg
Edie Zweig

MARCH 18

Regina Ackerman
Yochuonon Barton
Racheal Barton
Rose Becker
Walter Bordens
Lynn Jeanette Cohen
Yetta Dessauer
Lucille Doppelt
Lee Gilbert
Dave Gold
Lois Goode
Ruth G. Haslacher
Max Himelstein
Helen M. Isay
Sigmund W. Kann
Mildred Price Katzenstein
Zalman Levine
Alfred Levy
Miriam Light
Virginia Mayer
Stephen Pomerantz
Solomon Rothschild
Florence Smith
Rosalie W. Solomon
Moses Strouse
Rose Sulzer
Edith H. Warschawski
Jack O. Weil
Minnie Weinraub
Thomas Zefo

MARCH 25

Joseph Adler
John Aichele
Samuel Appel
Jacob Ben-Yehoshua
Isaac Bosell
Dorothy M. Brazy
Louis Cremer
William DuBow
Rena Edlavitch
Lois Levine Edwards
B. David Fishman
Hazel L. Grove
Harry Leiberman
Col. Chester Lichtenberg
Moses Lichtenberg
Mac Marlow
Harold J. Novitsky
Ida Price
Madelon J. Rothschild
Rebecca Safirstein
Elizabeth Schwartz
Paul F. Schwartz
Betty Joe Seligman
Sarah Steiber
Irene Todd
Rachel Weiss

CONDOLENCES TO:

• The Sandler and Kalver families on the death of Neil Sandler on February 8, 2016 in Charlotte, NC. We think of his wife, Carol Kalver Sandler, and their children, Susan, Michael, and Benjamin and their families; his brother and sister-in-law, Howard & Caryl Sandler; and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Alan & Susan Kalver. He was a past president of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.



REMEMBER A LOVED ONE WITH YAHRZEIT PLAQUE

Please contact the Temple office at 744-4245 if you'd like to purchase an individual nameplate in memory of a loved one to be displayed on the wall outside the Sanctuary. Plaques are \$300. Lights are illuminated next to individual names on the anniversary of death and on Yom Kippur. Proceeds support the Temple's Endowment.

Don't forget to return your dues pledge for 2016-2017!
Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Temple.

SUPPORT A STRONG FUTURE THROUGH L'DOR VADOR SOCIETY

L'dor Vador -- from generation to generation -- is a Jewish tradition that offers promise from current generations to future generations. Through the Temple's [L'dor Vador Society](#), we recognize those who have made arrangements for a planned gift to the congregation to help sustain a Reform Jewish presence in northeast Indiana. These include bequests, revocable trusts, and naming Congregation Achduth Vesholom as a beneficiary of a life insurance or retirement policy.



To become a society member, please inform the Temple in writing that you have made provisions to remember the congregation in your estate. Society members are recognized in June at the Temple's Annual Meeting. Questions? Contact Planned Giving Chairs Leonard Goldstein or Beth Zweig.

Charter Member of the Union For Reform Judaism
Javier E. Cattapan, Rabbi Rabbi@TempleCAV.org
Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus

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The Temple is located at the Rifkin Campus at 5200. Our Campus partners are the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery Association, Brightpoint Head Start, and the Madge Rothschild Resource Center (Coming in Fall 2016).



www.facebook.com/templecavfw



Guest Columnist

Temple Member Dan Zweig is President of the Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery Association, which is part of the Rifkin Campus at 5200.

It's hard to describe what went through my mind looking at the widespread vandalism discovered on February 1 at the Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery on Decatur Road.



Sixty monuments and headstones knocked off their bases, damage scattered throughout the grounds, and police officers already looking for clues to determine who would do such a thing – it was a lot to digest. Frankly, I mostly was dreading what the investigators might find.

In my 25 years as president of the Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery Association, I've never had to contend with vandalism nor envisioned anything like this. One headstone was broken into pieces, having fallen against nearby stones. Other monuments were laying haphazardly.

My wife, Beth, saw that markers for cousins on both sides of my father's family were down. We noticed other familiar names, including those who had contributed much to our Jewish and Fort Wayne community over the years, as well as many others whom neither of us had known.

While the crime scene investigators worked meticulously, we discussed next steps: Contacting families directly impacted (if we could find them), determining how best to restore the markers, how the cost would be covered, what security measures were needed, and, once order was restored, how eventually to bring the community together for a re-dedication of the cemetery. In short order, we had a long list of items to tackle for a cemetery that is run by a small number of volunteers.

With the help of Dan Bradley and Jacob Current, who discovered the vandalism upon arriving to do landscaping work, we began to make a list of toppled stones. Police investigators found shoe prints on a marker that remained upright and theorize that vandals kicked stones throughout the cemetery to see what would fall. We answered questions about the Hebrew on the markers and why some gravestones had pebbles on top. Officers did not find graffiti or symbols and, after going through the whole ceme-

tery, concluded that the vandalism didn't appear to be targeted at Jews.

The past few weeks have been very challenging. People with loved ones buried at the cemetery reached out from all over the country and abroad to inquire. I also heard from an Eagle Scout, church groups, the local Muslim community, organizations that fight against anti-Semitism, Jews and non-Jews, all wondering how they could help.



We greatly appreciate the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne for the tremendous support, including creating a way for the Jewish Cemetery to accept donations from those who have asked to help financially. The gifts we receive will be used for repairing damaged gravestones, particularly where families can't be found; improving security to deter future events; and to help assure a safe and sound future. (To make a donation, write a check to the JFFW and indicate your gift is for the Jewish Cemetery.) With help from the Federation staff, we are working with Crime Stoppers to offer a reward given by two Jewish donors.

We are grateful to Congregation Achduth Vesholom and Congregation B'nai Jacob, their rabbis, staff, boards and members, for their interest and help.

The sense of community that has enveloped us is truly amazing. Please continue to support all the Jewish organizations in our area. Don't take for granted that they'll always be here without your assistance. Despite the terrible nature of the vandalism, it's heartening to know that so many stand with us as we repair the damage and restore the sacred ground where Jews have rested since 1912.