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“A CREATIVE LIFE: THE ARCHITECTURE AND ART OF ALAN GRINSFELDER” OPENS IN NOVEMBER

A new exhibit called “A Creative Life: The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder” opens on Sunday, November 24 at 2 p.m. at the Temple. The afternoon also includes a talk and panel discussion at 3 p.m. and reception at 4 p.m..

This inspiring exhibit highlights Alan’s designs and architectural contributions to the Fort Wayne skyline during his long career with Grinsfelder Associates Architecture, along with the creativity displayed in his ongoing fine arts endeavors.

Alan’s building projects featured in this exhibition include Headwaters Park, the Foellinger Theatre, the Pyramid Plaza, the Hanna Creighton block (Urban League, Head Start, and Pontiac Public Library) and the downtown Community Center.

His artwork has been on display in local coffeeshouses and galleries. Alan, who will turn 89 days before the exhibit’s opening, has been touted as Purdue Fort Wayne’s oldest student and continues to take art classes.

Alan and his wife, Maureen, are long-time members of the Temple and past presidents.

Joining Alan on the panel moderated by **Irene Walters** on November 24 are **Geoff Paddock**, Fort Wayne City Councilman and former Executive Director of Headwaters Park, and **John O’Connell**, Dean of the College of Visual & Performing Arts at Purdue Fort Wayne.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support. Thank you to Jon Tam for developing the exhibit and program.



The exhibit also will be open:

- **Tuesday, November 26 following the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** at 7 p.m.
- **Friday, December 6** from 5 to 9 p.m. (before and after the Shabbat service)
- **Saturday, December 7** from 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 8** from 1 to 4 p.m.

CORNERD BEEF SALE MARKS 22ND YEAR ON NOVEMBER 7

Get ready to savor delicious delicatessen when our Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser returns on Thursday, November 7 for a 22nd year.

What’s new this year? The biggest change is that we will not have drive-thru pick up of orders. 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. **Continued on page 7**



A HARVEST OF COMPASSION AT INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Share an interfaith celebration of Thanksgiving highlighting the theme “A Harvest of Compassion” on Tuesday, November 26 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Achduth Vesholom.

The Temple is pleased for a 12th year to host Fort Wayne’s annual community interfaith service. Join us in person or via livestream on [YouTube](#).

A free-will offering will benefit [St. Joseph Missions Women’s Shelter](#). A reception will follow the service. Thank you to Dawn Hammond, Samara Sheray, and Beth Zweig for chairing.

Following the service, we invite you to visit our new exhibit called [“A Creative Life: The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder.”](#)



UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Shabbat Service

Friday, November 1
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 2
9:45 a.m.

Joy Vey: A Kid-ish Shabbat

Friday, November 8
5:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, November 8
7:30 p.m.

No Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 9

Shabbat Service

Friday, November 15
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday November 16
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, November 22
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 23
9:45 a.m.

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 26
7 p.m.

No Shabbat Service

Friday, November 29

No Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 30

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Corned Beef Condiment Bag Prep

Monday, November 4
1:30 p.m.

Corned Beef Prep Night

Wednesday, November 6
6 to 9 p.m.

Corned Beef Fundraiser

Thursday, November 7
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (opens 10 a.m. for advance orders)
Volunteer shifts beginning at 7 a.m.

IAJGS Conference Information Session

Sunday, November 10
2 p.m. on Zoom
[Sponsored by NEIJGS](#)

Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, November 13
10 a.m.

Lifelong Learning: How Does Evil Exist in a World with a Good God?

Wednesday, November 13
7 p.m. on Zoom

Sephardic Genealogy: Sarina Roffe

Sunday, November 17
2 p.m. at ACPL and Zoom
[Sponsored by the NEIJGS](#)

Temple Book Club: Once We Were Home by Jennifer Rosner

Tuesday, November 19
7 p.m. on Zoom

A Creative Life: The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder Exhibit opening, Panel Discussion, and Reception

Sunday, November 24
2 p.m. at the Temple



DECEMBER EVENTS

A Creative Life: The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder

Friday, December 6
from 5 p.m. to 9 pm.
Saturday, December 7
from 1 to 4 p.m.
Sunday, December 8
from 1 to 4 p.m.

Lifelong Learning: An Update on Israel with Mark Lavie

Wednesday, December 11
7 p.m.

Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 22
6 p.m.

First Candle – Hanukkah

Wednesday, December 25

Hanukkah & Champagne Shabbat Service

Friday, December 27
7:30 p.m.



CAN'T COME IN PERSON? JOIN US ONLINE!

Please join us in person or via livestream for worship services. Friday evening services are offered on [YouTube](#). Saturday morning services are available on Zoom and YouTube.

Zoom links are in the weekly email to our Temple family. We warmly welcome guests. Please contact the Temple office for online access information on Zoom at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org

OLD MILL ROAD TRAFFIC UPDATE

We appreciate your patience with construction near the Temple. To access the Temple, drive south on Old Mill Road from Pettit Avenue.



HELP NEEDED WITH INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING RECEPTION

Baked goods and other items, as well as helpers for set up and clean up, are needed for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Reception on Tuesday, November 26. To offer your help, please contact the Temple office or Co-Chairs Dawn Hammond, Beth Zweig, or Samara Sheray.

Lunch with the ROMEOs

Join the [Retired Old Men Eating Out](#) for lunch at noon:

Thursday, November 7
No Lunch – Corned Beef Sale

Thursday, November 21
[Chapman's Electric Works](#)
1660 Broadway

For more information, please contact Denny Reynolds at dennisreynolds@me.com.
[Find the lunch schedule](#)

Rabbi Meir Bargeron: FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN

Jewish tradition emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and voting, viewing both as responsibilities tied to broader ethical principles. In the Torah, we see a call for justice and communal welfare. “Justice, justice shall you pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20) is a foundational teaching that highlights the importance of fair and equitable governance.

Voting, as a means of participating in democratic societies, allows individuals to advocate for justice and to help shape societies that reflect shared values. Jewish thought often connects personal duty with the collective good, making participation in civic life a valuable way to work toward a society that upholds justice and protects the vulnerable.

The Talmud teaches that a person should not separate themselves from the community ([Pirkei Avot 2:4](#)). Rabbi Hillel’s words, “Do not separate yourself from the community,” imply a moral obligation to engage actively with others in shared responsibilities and governance.

Voting and civic engagement represent opportunities to fulfill this responsibility, as they allow individuals to contribute to the decisions that affect the entire community. Whether by voting, volunteering, or advocating for causes, Jews can embody these teachings, taking an active role in shaping a better society.

In Jewish law, a principle called [pikuach nefesh](#) emphasizes the sanctity of life and prioritizes actions that preserve it. While this principle often applies to health and safety, it also underscores the importance of creating a society where every life is valued and protected. Voting enables us to elect leaders who value these principles and who will prioritize laws that safeguard human life and dignity. By choosing representatives who uphold justice, mercy, and compassion, voters can contribute to a society that reflects these core values.

Following a contentious election, Jewish teachings on respect and [machloket l’shem shamayim](#) — debate for the sake of heaven — offer guidance on handling disagreements with dignity.

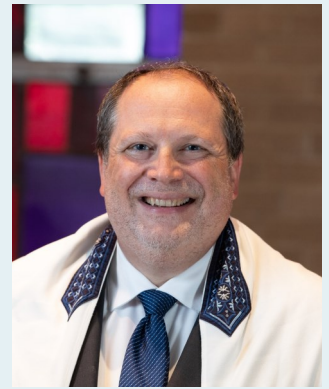
The Talmud, in Tractate [Eruvin 13b](#), describes the disagreements between the schools of Hillel and Shammai. Though they disagreed vehemently, both sides respected each other, engaging in debates that were ultimately constructive. Jewish tradition encourages us to see the divine spark in every person, even those with differing opinions. Practicing [kavod habriyot](#) — honoring the dignity of others — reminds us to approach others with kindness and understanding, even amidst political divides.

As Jewish citizens participating in American democracy, we can draw on these values to not only advocate for just policies but also to uphold respectful discourse. Voting and civic engagement become not only acts of duty but also expressions of Jewish values, where every action toward justice and peace contributes to [tikkun olam](#) — *the repair of the world*.

This involvement, rooted in Jewish teachings, enables individuals to shape society thoughtfully while respecting diverse views, building a community of dignity, justice, and shared responsibility. In those times when the dominant political discourse runs counter to our Jewish values — even deeply so — we are responsible for staying engaged in the conversation and, when needed, for taking the long view of a just world and work toward that end. After all, it is something we Jews have had experience doing over many, many generations.

Please vote on November 5th and continue the holy work of justice on November 6th.

— Rabbi Meir



HOW DOES EVIL EXIST IN A WORLD WITH A GOOD GOD?

Living in the reality of a post-Holocaust, and now a post-October 7th, world can challenge long-held personal beliefs of good, evil and how God is connected to both.

Led by Rabbi Meir, we will come together on Wednesday, November 13 at 7 p.m. on Zoom to consider the problem of evil through Jewish theological perspectives, using biblical, rabbinic, and philosophical texts to understand how Jewish thought addresses suffering, free will, and divine justice.

We won’t solve any problems, but by learning and sharing together we will strengthen our connections to each other. All are invited to join our community of lifelong learners.

The Zoom link will be included in the weekly email to our Temple family.



UPDATE ON ISRAEL WITH JOURNALIST MARK LAVIE IN DECEMBER



Journalist Mark Lavie, a Fort Wayne native and veteran Middle East correspondent, will share an update on the situation in Israel on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus.

His talk will be followed by a Q & A and light refreshments.

Lavie is the author of two books: [Why Are We Still Afraid?](#), which follows his five-decade career and provides a real-time picture of Israel growing up, and [Broken Spring](#), which gives insights from his time in Cairo from 2011-2013 covering the Arab Spring. Lavie’s blog posts on Israel and the Middle East can be read at [Medialine](#).

Lavie’s roots in Fort Wayne include being part of the Temple’s Confirmation class of 1961, the first in the building on Old Mill Road. After graduating from Indiana University in Bloomington, he worked in television and radio news in Indianapolis and South Bend before making *aliyah* in 1972.

The program is sponsored by [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) with support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.

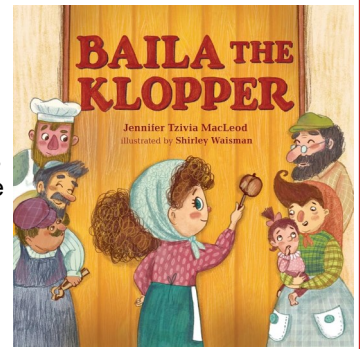


NEW FROM KAR-BEN IN THE TEMPLE LIBRARY

Twice a year, the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#) receives new titles from Kar-Ben Publishers, a company that specializes in Jewish books for children. A shipment of nine new picture books recently arrived and have been added to our collection.

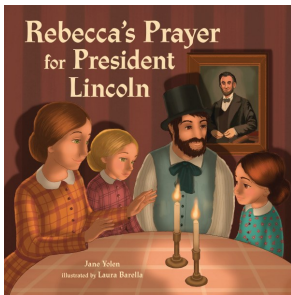
An Etrog from Across the Sea, by Deborah Bodin Cohen, is a family story about immigration, with a Sukkot twist. For Hanukkah, we have *Hanukkah Hippy-Hop*, a new board book by Barbara Kimmel, and Charley and Seymour's *Hanukkah Miracle* by Melody Howard Ritt. Charley and Seymour are a chipmunk and a squirrel who are planning a Hanukkah celebration together. *Shabbat Shalom, Grover!* by Joni Kibort Sussman is another holiday board book for our youngest readers.

and *Angela Buxton* is a picture book telling of the story of two women tennis players. Both were rejected by tennis leagues and clubs – Althea because she was African-American and Angela because she was Jewish. They went on to play doubles tennis together.

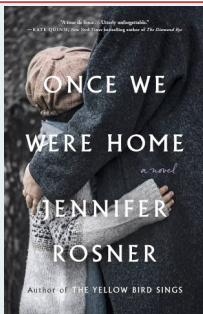


Two more picture books round out our latest shipment. *Baila the Klopfer* by Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod centers around Baila, who klops (Yiddish for “bangs”) on village doors to get people to synagogue. Adam Chang's *Miri's Moving Day* tells the story of Miri, who has a Jewish grandfather and a Chinese grandfather. Both present her with something for her new apartment, easing the transition to a new home.

You can search [our full library catalog online](#), and check out books at the library desk any time you're in the building. Please take advantage of this resource for our members.



Rebecca's Prayer for President Lincoln by Jane Yolen is based on a true story about the death of Abraham Lincoln. *Violin of Hope* by Ella Schwartz is also based on true events. Centered around the Holocaust, this story of a refurbished violin is similar to the “Violins of Hope” program. Lori Dubbin's *Perfect Match: The Story of Althea Gibson*



JOIN US FOR TEMPLE BOOK CLUB IN NOVEMBER

Please join us for our Temple Book Club on Tuesday, November 19 to discuss *Once We Were Home* with author Jennifer Rosner. The novel was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award and tenderly addresses the issue of Jewish children taken by Christian families during the Holocaust. A copy is available in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#).

We will meet at 7 p.m. on Zoom to discuss the novel, and the author will join the conversation at 7:30 p.m.. The meeting link will be included in the weekly e-mail in November. We hope you will plan to read the novel and join us for the discussion.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS CONTINUES MITZVAH WORK

The sense of community and the act of doing a mitzvah truly shined in October for our Thoughtful Thursdays team.

We are very grateful for all the donations to our 14th annual Apple Project, as well as to our volunteers who bagged the fresh apples for the 51 students and faculty of the Brightpoint Head Start program in our building. The volunteers also prepared two additional bags in October, one with ingredients for Chicken Taco Casserole and another with toilet paper and aluminum foil.

After our assembly work was done, we held a luncheon to honor Sally Trotter, who stepped down in June after four years as

chair of Thoughtful Thursdays. Sally also was recognized with a large star on the “And You Shall Be a Blessing” quilt in Social Hall. We are very lucky that Sally is planning to continue as a volunteer.

If you'd like to volunteer, contact Thoughtful Thursdays Chair Cheryl Schorey at cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com. Our next bag assembly morning will be on Wednesday, November 13 at 10 a.m. at Temple. Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.



Youth News

JOY VEY! JOIN THE FUN AT SHABBAT SERVICE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES ON NOVEMBER 8



Please join us on Friday, November 8 at 5:30 p.m. for Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family!

We'll light candles, pray, sing songs, move and groove, and even practice mindfulness. We also embrace the tradition of blessing children as we make a joyful place for Shabbat in our lives and hearts... together. Meet us in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center on the second Friday night of each month.

Folks are encouraged to stick around to enjoy a glass of wine/juice and challah.



Families gathered in the Temple's sukkah on October 18 for a festive Sukkot and Shabbat celebration, with music by singer-songwriter Joanie Calem. Children learned about the holiday and had an opportunity to shake the lulav with Rabbi Meir. We lit Shabbat candles, listened to stories, made holiday decorations, and enjoyed a pizza dinner.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support of Joanie's visit. We greatly appreciate our Joy Vey and Holiday Celebration teams, including Wendy Soltz, Stephanie Gottesman, Kate Crell, and Deborah Bauer.



In advance of Rosh Hashanah, children and their families shared a fun day on September 29 of apple picking, crafts, an apple scavenger hunt, and potluck lunch. Thank you to the Temple Celebrations Team of Stephanie Gottesman, Kate Crell, David Crell, and Deborah Bauer for organizing. A special thanks to Samara Sheray for helping move the event to the Temple due to weather conditions and to Rabbi Meir for teaching us about Rosh Hashanah and the blessings related to the potluck foods.

CORNERED BEEF SALE: THE MAKING OF A TRADITION

As we prepare for our 22nd sale this month, the Temple's Corned Beef Fundraiser surely is a tradition, bringing the aroma and tastes of deli to Fort Wayne along with the congregational camaraderie.

But how did we get here?

The long-ago "Hadassah Businessmen's Lunch" was part of the inspiration. Larry Adelman, then a high school student, remembers moving to Fort Wayne in 1968 and the experience of a huge turnout in the Temple's Social Hall for a noon-time meal that helped the Jewish community raise funds and connect to the greater community through food. Cindi Wismer recalls that her parents let her miss school to help at the sale, which brought what looked to a little girl like a "sea of men in white shirts."

Fast forward a few decades, with Larry serving as Temple president and looking for a fundraising idea. Recalling the Businessmen's Lunch, Larry spearheaded a revival, brainstorming with other members to re-imagine it as a corned beef fundraiser that would bring people to our congregation for a delicious meal and support the Temple.

The big sale that began in October 2002 continues today as our biggest fundraiser, returning this year on Thursday, November 7 with Micah Soltz and Amy Krouse serving as co-chairs of a 15-member committee. (For those who are doing the math, we did not have a sale in 2020 due to the pandemic.)

Each year in October or November, depending when the High Holy Days fall, we put together boxed meals featuring a heaping 1/3-pound of corned beef on rye, creamy coleslaw, gigantic pickle, rich brownie and a drink.

Online ordering proved wildly popular when we introduced it in 2018. In response to COVID safety concerns in 2021, we did not offer customary in-person dining and added drive-thru pick up of meals. Hebrew National whole kosher salamis were offered in 2019, 2021 and 2022, but supply chain issues led to discontinuing this option.

This year, we are not offering drive-thru pick-up as a result of traffic flow concerns and street construction. Instead, customers will park in our spacious lot and walk up to the building, where our volunteers can efficiently fill orders from multiple stations. 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've also increased the number of volunteers

to better serve our patrons. Also this year, additional sponsorship opportunities are available.

When the sale began, we started with many questions, from the most efficient way to "fluff" the meat and wrap the sandwiches to how to uniformly slice the brownies. We pondered whether the gigantic pickles should be served whole or quartered. The "uncut" enthusiasts won over the spear supporters, arguing the full-size pickle would be a conversation starter. It still induces giggles for novices—and we still get a request or two each year asking if we'll slice a pickle for a customer.



Sally Trotter recalls that we had no idea how many sandwiches we would sell the first year, figuring "we'd be euphoric if we sold 400 to 450." Since we were in unknown territory, we developed early-bird pricing to give us an idea of how much meat to buy.

We ended up selling 1,070 meals our first year. In 2023, we sold more than 1,800 meals and an additional 134 pounds of bulk corned beef. Aided by 53 sponsors, we raised a record \$29,688 to support programs at the Temple.

In addition, the sale has turned into one of the Temple's biggest social events of the year, often bringing more than 100 volunteers of all ages to help on Prep Night and the day of the sale. It's become a not-to-miss event – and we even have some out-of-towners and friends of members who come to help. We look forward to welcoming many of our new members to their first taste of this special event!

The first year brought the realization that we didn't have enough refrigerator space for all the goodies. That led to rental of a refrigerated truck. When some of us realized we had aching backs, our maintenance chief Clint Rossiter z"l came to the rescue, creating a way to raise our work tables so we didn't need to bend over. Rabbi Jonathan Katz, our spiritual leader

in the early years, felt entertaining "words of wisdom" would add a nice touch to the boxed meals, so we've offered those most years to the delight of customers. This year, the quotes have been updated.

Beginning in 2011, we added delivery service on larger orders for a small fee. In recent times, our challenges have included what to do when our supplier stopped providing the meat already sliced and when favorite rye bread brands have been discontinued.

For the first time in 2022, we utilized a three-tiered sponsorship level. This year, a fourth sponsorship level was added, enabling our platinum sponsors (minimum \$1,800 contribution) to receive a copy of *The Jewish Deli: An Illustrated Guide to the Chosen Food*, by Ben Nadler, along with gold benefits (\$1,000 to \$1,799 donation), which enable to the donor to include a business card or promotion with each meal. Silver level sponsors (\$500 to \$999 donation), along with gold and platinum donors, are included on our online order form. Bronze level donors (\$180 to \$499) also are included with the other three tiers on a list with each meal.

In 2022, by proclamation of Mayor Thomas C. Henry (z"l), the City of Fort Wayne encouraged "all citizens to duly note this occasion (corned beef sale)" and highlighted that the Temple is proud to serve "corned beef on rye, which surely does satisfy" and has for 20 years been "bringing the aroma and tastes of deli to Fort Wayne," as well as the congregational camaraderie.

The most recent innovation in 2022 is credited to Denny Reynolds, who used his engineering skills and PVC pipe to create a "counting grid" to help with accuracy in tracking the number of meat packets for sandwich orders. He also found a new way to stack coleslaw cups to maximize refrigerator space and avoid spills. Since the sale is a team effort, Beth Zweig, who has helped with marketing every year, suggested in 2019 the creation of a logo and branded aprons and caps (available for \$18 apiece as part of our fundraising efforts).

With 20+ years of success, we still ask ourselves if our biggest fundraiser has run its course, given the size of our congregation, large number of volunteers vital to operations, physical work involved, and rising cost of the corned beef. On the other hand, we don't know what other project would raise comparable funds or bring so many members together. And, besides, the food is delicious!

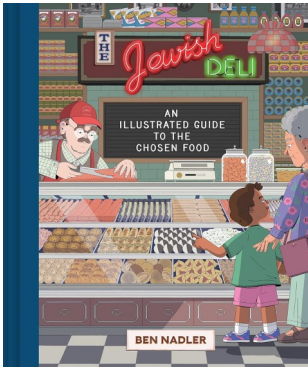
22nd CORNED BEEF ON RYE – continued from page 1

Boxed meals are \$21. Each meal includes a heaping 1/3-pound corned beef sandwich on rye, giant pickle, creamy coleslaw, fudgy brownie, and a drink.

Order online or [download an order form](#) at www.templecav.org. Additional pounds of bulk corned beef are for sale for \$20 per pound.

The deadline has passed for delivery service. Online ordering will close on Wednesday, November 6 at noon. We'll take additional orders on November 7 while supplies last.

SUPPORT OUR SALE AS A SPONSOR



Become a sponsor! Our sponsorship deadline ended on October 25 to ensure your name is included on our sponsor list with each meal. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org to have your name included in our online advertising. [Find sponsorship donation information.](#)

Become a platinum sponsor with a donation of \$1,800 or more – along with GOLD benefits, you will receive a copy of *The Jewish Deli: An Illustrated Guide to the Chosen Food*,

by Ben Nadler. A delightful celebration of Jewish delicatessens in an accessible comics format, full of history and humor, and guaranteed to make you hungry.

Become a gold sponsor with a donation of \$1,000 to \$1,799 – you and/or your business will be recognized on an enclosure inside each of the boxed lunches, on our website, and in our paid Facebook advertising of the sale. At this level, you also can provide a coupon or small advertisement (limited to 3x5 inches with approved wording) to be included with each meal.

Attention: restaurant operators – we're your target market!

Become a silver sponsor with a donation of \$500 to \$999 – you and/or your business will be recognized on an enclosure inside each of the boxed lunches, on our website, and in our paid Facebook advertising for the sale.

Become a bronze sponsor with a donation of \$180 to \$499 – you and/or your business will be recognized on an enclosure inside each of the boxed lunches and on our website.

ENJOY EXTRA NIGHT OF LIGHT AT HANUKKAH PARTY

Spin the dreidel, enjoy dinner, and share in a fun-filled Hanukkah party on Sunday, December 22 at 6 p.m. at the Temple.

Though the holiday doesn't begin until Wednesday evening, December 25, everyone can use an extra night of light so we encourage you to bring your *hanukkiyah*!

Details will be coming. The Holiday Celebrations team led by Stephanie Gottesman and Kate Crell is planning activities for all ages, including games, crafts, food, and fun.

HANUKKAH
PARTY

22nd Corned Beef on Rye Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DELI DAY

Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, November 6 for Prep Night from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Thursday, November 7, with shifts beginning at 7 a.m. Contact the Temple at office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245 to say you'll help.

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

Look sharp and celebrate our unique fundraiser by wearing a custom apron and cap with our corned beef sandwich logo while supplies last.

[Find an order form](#)

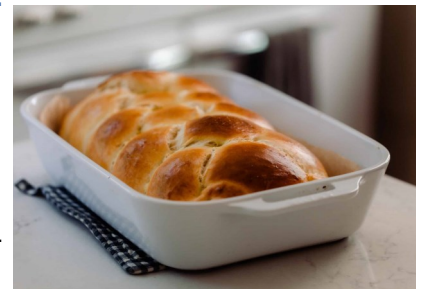


THANKS TO OUR CORNED BEEF CREW

Co-Chairs Micah Soltz & Amy Krouse and their team: Fran Adler, Rabbi Meir Bergeron, Jamie Fritz, Lily Noga, Denny Reynolds, Samara Sheray, Celeste Sexton, Jon Tam, Steve Zacher, Mimi Zelman, Beth Zweig, and Dan Zweig

WE APPRECIATE OUR CHALLAH BAKERS AND SPONSORS!

Our dedicated team of challah bakers and sponsors add to our Shabbat experience by providing delicious and beautiful challot to enjoy on Friday evenings after services. If you'd like to join our team, please contact Jon Tam or Beth Zweig.



Thank you to Jamie Berger, Becky Guttstein, Nola Katinsky, Rachel & Robert Laing, Joanne McCrory, Bonnie Pomerantz, Wendy Soltz, Jon Tam, Kate Theise, and Beth Zweig for baking and/or sponsoring challot.



During our Selichot service on September 28, we ushered in the holiday season, led by Rabbi Meir with music by Norm & Ronnie Greenberg. We also changed the Torah covers to white for the sacred season. Thank you to Don Zelman and Norm Greenberg for blowing the shofar.



Following morning services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah on October 3, about 20 people gathered at Foster Park West to take part in Tashlich, led by Hazzan Penny Myers. We cast pieces of bread into the St. Marys River, symbolically casting away our sins. Don Zelman also sounded the shofar as we concluded.



After Rosh Hashanah morning services, members were greeted with apples, honey and wishes for a sweet year. Thanks to Jon Tam and Betsy Gephart for continuing this great tradition.



We began the New Year 5785 with a lovely Erev Rosh Hashanah service. A New Year's Reception followed, chaired by Dawn Hammond and Sheryl Merritt.

Thank you to Rabbi Meir, Hazzan Penny Myers and Ron Friedman for leading worship services during the holidays.



Our congregational Break-the-Fast on October 12 was hosted for an 11th year by the ROMEIOs, providing a delicious way to end a meaningful observance of Yom Kippur.

Thank you to Denny Reynolds, the ROMEIOs and Juliets for providing a wonderful meal after both Reform and Conservative services ended.



We celebrated Sukkot and Shabbat on October 18 with a lovely service, led by Rabbi Meir with singer-songwriter Joanie Calem. After the service, we enjoyed Kiddush in the sukkah and an Oneg Shabbat in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center. Thank you to Fran & Irv Adler and Beth & Dan Zweig for hosting the delicious Oneg Shabbat.



Thank you to our HaGanim (gardening crew) for decorating the sukkah!



At this sacred time of year on October 4 before our Shabbat Shuvah service, we remember our loved ones whose names are inscribed on the [yahrzeit memorial sculpture](#) and [virtual yahrzeit display](#) at the Temple. Rabbi Meir Bargeron shared thoughts about the significance of the occasion and the yahrzeit plaques integrated into the sculpture that honor nearly 1,000 loved ones from both Congregation Achduth Vesholom and Congregation B'nai Jacob. The sculpture, designed by artist George Morrison, was dedicated in 2022.

We joined in solidarity with the people of Israel and Jewish communities around the world on October 7 to mark the anniversary of the horrific attack on Israel by Hamas. We prayed for the return of the remaining hostages and lit a memorial candle, as we have during services for the past year, in the window in our Sanctuary depicting the hope of the emergence of the State of Israel.

Rabbi Meir Bergeron and Jewish community leaders offered prayers and readings. The Rev. Dr. Bill McGill of Imani Baptist Temple offered "Words of Memory, Lamentation, and Hope."

Music was provided by Josiah Lund, piano; Brian Klickman, cello; David Bobay, baritone; and Maestro Robert Nance.

The program was sponsored by Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, with support from the Jewish Federations of North America.

Thank you to the Commemoration Committee: Rabbi Meir Bergeron, Ben Eisbart, Ronnie Greenberg, Bonnie Pomerantz, Jaki Schreier, Samara Sheray, Michael Theise, and Beth Zweig

[Watch the October 7 remembrance](#)



WINTER COATS NEEDED FOR WELLSRING

As you prepare for colder weather, please look through your closets for any winter coats that you may no longer need.

[Wellspring Interfaith Social Services](#) is looking for warm outerwear – new or gently used - for men, women, and children of all ages to distribute through its clothing bank.

Coats may be dropped off at the Temple or at Wellspring, 1316 Broadway. The Temple is one of Wellspring's faith partners. Thank you for your generosity.



WE CARE

Please let the Temple office or Rabbi Meir 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.



Election Day is Tuesday, November 5

SUPPORT CAV ON TEMPLE TUESDAY AT THE MONOGRAM SHOPPE

For a second year, [The Monogram Shoppe](#) is offering a special fundraiser promotion to benefit the Temple.

Ten percent of store sales on **Tuesday, November 19** will be donated to the Temple. Shoppers must ask for the "Support the Temple" promotion in order for the sale to be counted. This is a great opportunity to stock up on Hanukkah items — or anything else!

The Monogram Shoppe is located at 6410 West Jefferson Blvd. (Covington Plaza). Hours are Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday holiday hours begin after Thanksgiving from noon to 4 p.m.



A NEW WAY TO VOLUNTEER – BECOME A SHAMASH!



Are you interested in becoming more involved on Friday nights at the Temple? Consider becoming a *shamash*!

You may know the term from Hanukkah when we refer to the candle used to light the others on the menorah as the *shamash* or "helper" candle. The Hebrew word *shamash* also refers to a person who helps take care of things. That's what we envision at CAV.

In this volunteer role at the Temple, the shamash will assist about a half-hour before our 7:30 p.m. services with preparing the wine, juice and challah for *Kiddush* and *motzi*. The shamash also will help for a few minutes afterward by removing the leftover items. Not only do we appreciate the assistance, but this is an especially great way to get to know others in our congregation.

If you are interested in joining the Shamash team, please contact the Temple at office@templecav.org or Dawn Hammond at dawnhammond@gmail.com. If you're interested in helping as an usher on Fridays, please also let us know.

PLEASE PLAN FOR 2024 YEAR-END

For your 2024 tax planning purposes, our guidelines for establishing the date when dues payments and donations are received:

- If by mail, the postmarked date
- If hand delivered, the date received at the Temple
- If by phone or [directly online](#) (credit cards only), the date of the call
- Any gifts of appreciated securities must be received into the Temple's account on or before December 15. Contact Robin Tribbett, Senior Financial Advisor, at Optare Financial Partners, Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, at (260) 299-7009 for further information. Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

We're very pleased to welcome Eden Fuchs-Yablonsky and her husband, Gage Yablonsky, as the newest members of our Temple family.

Eden, who grew up at Congregation B'nai Jacob, is a tax accountant at Sweetwater. Gage works at Master Spas, where he is shipping lead. The newlyweds met eight years ago while students at North Side High School.

A native of Israel, Eden visited family there for Rosh Hashanah. A Fort Wayne native, Gage has seven siblings who live close by, which makes it easy for them to get together often.

Eden and Gage enjoy traveling and exploring. They also like crafts, so they have something artistic going on regularly in their home. They have three dearly-loved pets - a dog and two cats.



A team representing the Temple participated on October 5 in the 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's at Parkview Field. Thanks to Sheryl Merritt for leading the team, Pam Friedman for being named a "champion" fundraiser, Rhonda Gerson for sponsoring the team, and Board Secretary Dawn Hammond and Executive Director Samara Sheray for supporting this important organization with their participation.



During our Simchat Torah celebration on October 25, we paraded our sacred scrolls through the Sanctuary, sang songs, and unrolled two Torah scrolls to complete the reading of Deuteronomy and began anew with Genesis.

Rabbi Meir also presented a prayer book to an upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

Following the service, we enjoyed an impressive challah shaped like a Torah made by Nola Katinsky ("architectural challah," according to Rabbi Meir), as well as a delicious Oneg Shabbat hosted by Nola & Matthew Katinsky.



45TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | AUGUST 10-14, 2025

And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey

LEARN ABOUT IAJGS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 10

Fort Wayne is the place to be next summer for the [45th International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference](#) on August 10-14, 2025!

More than 800 people from the U.S. and around the globe are expected to visit our community and the world-class genealogy center at the Allen County Public Library.

The [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) is hosting a virtual information program on Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m. on Zoom to share more information about this exciting event! [Register here](#)



SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY FOCUS OF NEIJGS PROGRAM



The [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) will welcome Sephardic genealogist and author Sarina Roffé to the ACPL Genealogy Center on Sunday, November 17 for two programs:

Sephardic Pirates of the Caribbean at 2 p.m. - Jews who converted to Catholicism in Spain before the 1492 Expulsion, either by force or voluntarily, were known as Conversos. Those untrue to the faith were considered heretics and were subject to the Inquisition for something as innocent as changing their bed sheets on Fridays. Many escaped to the New World as Spanish conquistadors and Pirates. Learn their exciting history, how they got back at the Spanish in both the Caribbean and Mediterranean, and about the Inquisition that followed them.

Sephardim in Colonial America at 3:30 p.m. - How the Sephardic Jews came to settle in NY and other cities in the Americas, open synagogues, and became an essential component in the American Revolution. Discussion of several important early families and how their economic ties developed commerce and shipping in port cities

Roffé is a professional genealogist, editor of the journal *DOROT*, and founder of the Sephardic Heritage Project. She is the author of *Branching Out From Sepharad* (Sephardic Heritage Project, 2017), which outlines the history of Jews in Spain, the 1492 expulsion, their history in Syria, and their immigration to the Americas. She is Co-Chair of the Brooklyn Jewish Historical Initiative, and Chair of the JewishGen Sephardic Research Division.

Sarina is also an author of Sephardic cookbooks, including a cooking app called *Sarina's Sephardic Cuisine*, as well as several family history books and hundreds of articles. Sarina presents often at IAJGS Conferences and has completed over a dozen genealogies, through her genealogy consulting business, Sephardic Genealogical Journeys.

The program is in person at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center. A virtual option also is available. [Register for the link](#)

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

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

CONFRONTING THE SHOAH CLASS BEGINS IN JANUARY

Mark your calendars for "Confronting the Shoah," a six-week class presented by Holocaust scholar Dr. David Lindquist, begins in January. Sponsored by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#), this course provides participants with comprehensive contextual and historical knowledge regarding the Nazi Holocaust.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4 and 11 at the [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne). Sessions begin at 7 p.m. and last about 2 to 2 ½ hours.

There is no cost to Federation members, teachers, principals, historians or high school juniors or seniors. For all others, there is a \$5 fee to cover the cost of materials. [Register here](#) or call the Federation office at (260) 456-0400 or email office@fwjf.org

New this year for teachers: We will provide Professional Growth Points (PGP) certificates at the end of the program for those who request it.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and members of Federation for their continued support.



TRY A DONUT EXPERIENCE WITH ROSH CHODESH WOMEN



What would Hanukkah be without donuts? Would you like to learn how to make them? You are in luck!

The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's](#) Rosh Chodesh group has made arrangements for a delicious "Donut Experience" with chef Jessica Waggoner of the [Hazelnut Baking Company](#).

We will meet on Thursday, December 5 from 5:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. when we learn how to make, knead, fry and fill donuts for our holiday tables!

We have reserved the Teaching Kitchen at the Union Street Market on the Electric Works Campus (1690 Broadway). Our class will meet upstairs in The West Hall in The Teaching Kitchen. On

either end of the West Hall are stairs that take you directly upstairs to the mezzanine and the kitchen is on the north end of the building. There is an elevator on the south end if needed. For parking information, [click here](#).

The event is free to women who are members of the Federation. For all others, the cost is \$10.

Space is limited! RSVP as soon as possible to reserve your place. Call the Federation office at (260) 456-0400 or email us at office@fwjf.org.

Remember to bring some containers so you can bring home some extra treats to share!

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

Donations

Jack & Gertrude Adelman Facility Improvement Fund

In memory of Jack Adelman: *Carol & Larry Adelman*
In memory of Thomas Smiley, father of Charlie Smiley: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

B'nai Jacob Conservative Judaism Fund

In memory of Gertrude Brateman and Adolph Brateman: *Adrienne Brateman*
In memory of Mary Louise Kaplan, Shirley Komito, Doris Meyers and Rose J. Kaplan: *Susie Miller*

Endowment Fund

In memory of Al Zacher: *Jacob Flynn, Beth & Dan Zweig*
In memory of Dorothy Reynolds: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

Floral Fund

In memory of Oscar Mastbaum: *Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum*

General Operations

A donation was received from: *Juan Suarez*
In memory of Al Zacher: *Andie Friedman, George Azar, Carol & Larry Adelman, Karen Shoppell, Linda Jacobson, Julie Ruchman, William Gitlin, Julie Buckner*
In memory of Linda Shulkin and Melvin Shulkin: *Donna & Josh Tourkow*
In memory of Abraham Fichman: *Kay Fichman*
In memory of Oscar Mastbaum: *Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum*
In memory of Lois & Conrad Goode and Hannah Zacher: *Judy & Steven Zacher*

Ryan Goldstrom Memorial Fund

In memory of Al Zacher: *Lori & Rob Goldstrom*

Holocaust Memorial Fund

In memory of Al Zacher: *Laurie Freeman*

Kathryn Kann Mendelblat Cultural Enrichment Fund

In memory of Maurice Rothberg: *Stephen Rothberg*
In memory of Leonard Castle and Maurice Rothberg: *Cathy Lash*

Thoughtful Thursdays

A donation was received from: *Mimi & Don Zelman, Janet Finkel, Nancy & Scott Salon, Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon, Beth & Dan Zweig, Doris Gottlieb, Fran & Irv Adler, Cheri Buker, Marcia & Denny Reynolds and Bonnie & Alex Crubaugh*
In memory of Diane Ervin and Daniel Stut: *Kay Safirstein*
In memory of David Ash: *Jessica & Roger Ash*
In honor of Rabbi Meir and Jon Tam: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*

Rabbi Kornspan Tzedakah Fund

A donation was received from: *Jan & Bill Chambers*
In memory of Al Zacher: *Margaret Bronson*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation was received from: *Fran & Irv Adler*
In memory of Myrtle Shine: *Steven Shine*

Religious School Fund

In honor of Joy Vey's September Service: *Amy & Sam Krouse*

ROMEO Fund

A donation was received from: *Cheryl Schorey and Fran & Irv Adler*

Max & Gerda Schmitz—Holocaust Education Fund

In memory of Irmgard Stein: *Janice Greenberg*

Temple Gardens Fund

In memory of Al Zacher: *Elizabeth Patterson*

Temple Gardens—Spouseep Outdoor Chapel Fund

In memory of Samuel Spouseep: *Elissa & Steve Cohen*

Wyle S. Weiman Youth Activities Fund

In memory of Al Zacher and Kathleen Shine: *Lawrence Shine*

Explore all our [Tribute Funds](#) or make a [Donation](#)

MISHEBEIRACH HELPS US COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

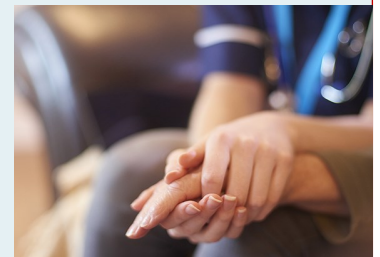
Our Mishebeirach list helps us come together as a congregation and community to think of those among us who especially need healing, care, and compassion. We encourage you to add your loved one's name by calling the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or emailing us at office@TempleCAV.org so that those we hold dear will be called to mind during our Shabbat services.

Names will remain on the list for four weeks. For those who wish to have a family member or friend's name listed for longer, please contact us to make another request. Thank you for helping us keep our list current. You also may share your loved one's name during services when the service leader asks for additional Mishebeirach names.

[Learn more about the Mishebeirach prayer.](#)

Rabbi Meir and the Temple's Caring Committee are available to offer support and comfort, so please let us know when situations arise where we may be of help.

We are a kehillah kedoshah, a holy community. Our Temple family supports one another during difficult times and joyous ones.



ADD A LEAF TO THE OLIVE TREE



Purchasing a [leaf on the olive tree mural](#) in the hallway leading to the Madge Rothschild Resource Center is a wonderful way to recognize an important person or significant occasion. Leaves are \$180 each and may be personalized with three or four lines to highlight a lifecycle event, anniversary, or special kindness. Proceeds benefit the resource center.

November Jahrzeits

November 1-2

Sophie Bass
 Rose K. Baum
 Ida Blumenthal
 Sarah Brazzy
 Israel L. Bronstein
 Samuel Brooks
 Elliott Burkhardt
 Hannah Crell
 Pauline Cristil
 Diane Ervin
 Sally Fields
 Rita Finkel
 Mitchell Goldstein
 Phyllis Groman
 Bertha F. Gross
 Charles Gubitz
 Mina Goldberg Isay
 Esther E. King
 Sidney Klepper
 Harry Komisarow
 Abe Lachoff
 Harold Lesser
 Enid Lesser
 Morris Magazine
 Sharon McLochlin
 Libbie Mull
 Lloyd Mullennix
 Peggy (Frank) Murphy
 Hillary Radovich
 Henriette Rothschild
 Lawrence J. Schubert
 Herman Schubert
 Ethelyn Seigman
 Nathan Sheray
 Kathleen Shine
 Mrs. Harry Silberg
 Hanna Singer
 Charlotte Slutsky
 Helen Snitzer
 Matilda Stiefel
 Goldie Sunshine
 Joseph Sweedler
 Alfred S. Weil
 Joseph Weinraub
 Lou Weissman
 Adolph Wetstein
 Louise A. Widdifield
 Rosa Zweig

November 8-9

Chester Ambler
 Harry Babich
 Rosalie Becker
 Norman Bosell
 Cathy Bradley
 Sarah Brateman
 Fannie Salon Bronstein
 Barbara Cohen
 Max Cohen
 Sally Cramer
 Boris Epstein
 Isolina Behar de Faienstein
 Abe Fox
 Julius Gilbert
 Annette Glazer
 Allen Kwatnez
 Isidore Lande
 Jack Levin
 Frances Levis
 Henrietta Levy
 Rachel Lipp
 Loren (Gus) Meyer
 Adolph Meyers
 David B. Nelson
 Sharlene Pass
 Helen Perlis Planer
 David J. Platka
 Jake Rovel
 Dorothy Hassan Schiller
 Bessie Schmitz
 Haskell Schultz
 Dora Silverman
 Bert Silverstein
 Loren Smith
 Isaac Steiber
 Irving Walters
 Evangeline Weil
 Anita Weinfield
 Rose White
 Nathaniel S. Wittenberg
 Corrine H. Wittenberg

November 15-16

Marquard Bach
 Sam Barabash
 Solomon Saul Bleifeld
 Dorothy "Dot" Burcham
 Kathy Chapman
 Robert Edgar
 Della R. Ellis
 Rose Ewing

Minnie Fidler
 Rosalyn Friedman Fink
 Dvoiyra Finkelshteyn
 Hana Finkelshteyn
 Itta Finkelshteyn
 Kisel Finkelshteyn
 Leib Finkelshteyn
 Meyer Finkelshteyn
 Yankel Finkelshteyn
 Phillip Flora
 Sophia Maude Gale
 Jennie Gilbert
 Mark Glucklick
 Etta S. Gold
 Joseph Golden
 Daisy Hefter
 Mendel Himelstein
 Bertram Hornstein
 Mendel Hurwitz
 Eva Jaffe
 Leon Korin
 Melvin Krel
 Mabel H. Kwatnez
 John T. Lawrence
 Max Levy
 Alan Lichtenberg
 Wayne McIntyre
 Frank Mullins
 Gertrude Nusholtz
 Jacob Portman
 Irving J. Pressman
 Lev Progrebinskiy
 Joseph Rezits
 Samuel Ruderman
 Nathan Shine
 Jacob Sunshine
 Edith Thomson
 Samuel Tillinger
 Bronnica Weinberg
 Max B. Wetzstein
 Rosalind Wiletzky
 Celia Zweig

November 22-23

Sonia Abrams
 Goldye Appel
 Phillip M. Baum
 Leonard Castle
 George Droegmyer
 Maxine Fichman
 Jacob Goldman
 Saul Goodman
 Thomas Gray
 Joel Groden
 Isidor Hassan
 Seth Aaron Horwitz

Julius Kann
 Philip Kass
 Ada Kramer
 Arlene Siegle Leib
 Joyce Lenington
 Simon Stanford Maier
 Leonora Marlow
 Margaret Merin
 Etta Oppenheim
 Art Perlman
 Ethel G. Pollak
 Linda Ruchman
 Minnie Moyer Sapirie
 Martha Jane Schwartz
 Diane Sisman
 David Lester Smith
 Abraham Sposeep
 Leo Sunshine
 Shep Weinswig
 Bina Young

November 29-30

Larry Belans
 Harry Brateman
 Harriet Chodash
 Lena Dinnerstein
 Jeanne Erlich
 Beatrice Feldheim
 Morris J. Foreman
 Mendel Frank
 Marvin Gottlieb
 Sophia Heiligman
 Myron M. Horwitz
 Eva J. Huebschman
 Oscar Allen Isay
 Benjamin Kaplan
 Tillie M. Kaposky
 Gladys Katz
 Elaine Lazar
 Jacob Levin
 Mae Levy
 Jack Marks
 Moses Mayer
 Samuel S. Meyers
 Harold Prigozen
 Gittel Rovel
 Rebecca Ruderman
 Nathan Salon
 Fred Schneider
 Abraham Schwartz
 Emanuel Siegel
 James Solomon
 Don Sowles
 Frederick Reinhold Tourkow
 Joseph Waterman

CONDOLENCES TO:

Steve & Judy Zacher on the death of his father, Al Zacher, on October 12, 2024 in Fort Wayne. We also think of their sons, Adam, Josh, and Theo Zacher, on the death of their grandfather. Our Temple family also offers condolences to Al's daughter, Marie Warshauer, and her sons, Michael, Andrew (Mia Salome), and Daniel Warshauer.

Donna & Joshua Tourkow on the death of their nephew, Jeff Shulkin, on October 13, 2024 in Eugene, Oregon. We also think of Donna's sister, Neisie Shulkin, a long-time member of Congregation B'nai Jacob, on the loss of her son.

Fran & Irv Adler on the death of her brother-in-law, Jack Adler, on October 18, 2024 in Palo Alto, California.



THE TEMPLE

CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

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Meir Bargeron, Rabbi

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VP Programming: Beth Zweig
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Temple Office Hours:

Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29.

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, the Madge Rothschild Resource Center, and the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society.



www.facebook.com/templecavfw



Achduth Vesholom Congregation

Want to receive our newsletter?
Send your email address to office@templecav.org

The Temple Board welcomes your comments and suggestions. We will do our best to address your questions and concerns. We value the diversity of viewpoints within our congregation. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org for information. President Ronnie Greenberg can be reached at (260) 483-6327 or president@templecav.org.

President's Corner Ronnie Greenberg



Two weeks ago, we celebrated the holiday of Sukkot. This holiday, which has always been one of my favorites, commemorates the fall harvest and the shelter provided by God to the Israelites in the wilderness. Hence, we build a sukkah in our yards, with a roof through which we can see the sky, and decorate it with fall fruits and vegetables, corn stalks and straw bales. We may take our meals and even sleep in the sukkah.

Sukkot occurs at the time of year that living things, both plants and animals, are preparing for the long winter ahead. Plants shed their leaves, conserving water and recycling nutrients into the soil from decaying leaves. Some insects lay eggs in the leaf litter or in the stems of dying plants. Other insects have already laid their eggs, and the stems harbor their larvae or pupas. Other animals, like salamanders and frogs, burrow down in the leaf litter, while birds clean up any seeds left in the seed heads of flowers.

Because of all these interactions, I don't cut down the "dead" plants in my gardens till the spring. It would be easier in the fall when everything is dry and crispy. In the spring, plants are starting to grow, and everything generally is wet so it's a lot more work. But I feel responsible to do what I can, no matter how small a part that is, to support the environment and repair the earth. Tikkun olam.

We generally think of tikkun olam in terms of social action. Our support of Wellspring Interfaith Social Services certainly illustrates our commitment to tikkun olam, as do the Hot Topics Shabbat talks that inform us of needs in our community. Our 175th anniversary project to provide toiletry baskets to children in foster care was an outstanding example of tikkun olam.

But tikkun olam can also apply to caring for the earth and the plants and animals with whom we share it. We have treated our planet badly, and we are now paying the price as natural disasters, like wildfires and hurricanes, increase in frequency and intensity. Unfortunately, the plants and other animals who call this planet home also pay the price, although they had no hand in the creation of the situation. Therefore, it is up to us, individually and as a community, to do what we can to repair it.

Our communal commitment to tikkun olam was one of the reasons the Temple Board of Directors chose to allow the City of Fort Wayne to construct a pump station on the northwest corner of our property. Pump stations are a vital part of the water handling system of our neighborhood. Construction of the pump station will help control flooding in the area and, as importantly, control the flow of untreated water into the St. Mary's River.

So, we shall have to endure another year or so of massive equipment in our yard and a torn-up entrance to our campus. When the work is finally completed, we will have a new driveway and a new fence along the north property line. More importantly, we will have contributed to the health of our neighborhood and the cleanliness of our rivers.

Being a good neighbor and caring for the earth – tikkun olam.