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**SHARE SOUPER BOWL SHABBAT DINNER**

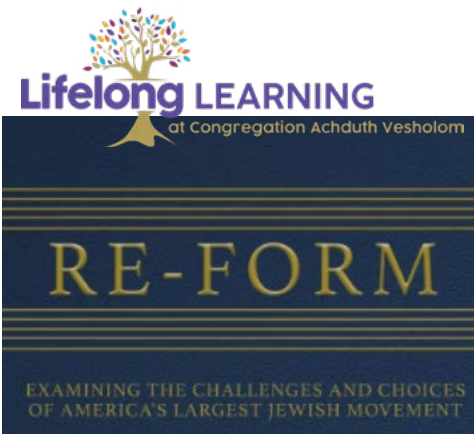
Warm up a cold winter evening at our "Souper Bowl" Shabbat on Friday, February 7 at 6 p.m. at the Temple. We'll sample a variety of homemade soups before declaring the top three "people's choice" winners. Our Shabbat service begins at 7:30 p.m.

While you don't need to bring soup to attend, we invite you to get creative in the kitchen and enter the friendly competition. Make your favorite soup to feed 8-10, whether vegetarian, chicken or beef. Maybe matzo balls, noodles or even kreplach? The only requirements: No pork or shellfish and no meat or cheese in the same dish. Please bring your hot soup in a crockpot. Any leftovers will be utilized by the Caring Committee for those in need of TLC.

Please RSVP to the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) by Friday, January 31. Let us know if you will be bringing soup and what kind. The cost is \$8 per person (no charge for children 5 and under). Please pay online or send a check (payable to "CAV – The Temple"). The menu includes salad, soup, challah, dessert, and beverage. Thank you to Co-Chairs Dawn Hammond and Rachel & Robert Laing. Questions or interested in helping? Contact Rachel at [rllaing9@gmail.com](mailto:rllaing9@gmail.com).



**"THE REFORM MOVEMENT IN AMERICA TODAY" BEGINS IN FEBRUARY**



**SCHEDULE**

February 12: [Origins of the Reform Movement](#)

March 5: [Patrilineal Descent](#)

April 9: [Social Justice](#)

May 14: [Inclusivity](#)

May 28: [Interfaith Marriage](#)

June 11: [Zionism](#)

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

Please join us for our next lifelong learning program exploring "The Reform Movement in America Today," beginning Wednesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

The Reform Movement, with its origins in Germany, is America's largest Jewish movement. Congregation Achduth Vesholom is one of the nearly 850 congregations in North America affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](#).

According to the Pew Research Center, 2.8 million Jews live in the U.S. and 38% identify as Reform.

In this series led by Rabbi Meir, we will focus discussions based on episodes of Re-Form, a recent podcast series from Tablet Studios, supplemented with Jewish texts presented during the class.

[Re-Form](#) focuses on five questions or issues that have defined the movement in the modern era. Participants are highly encouraged to listen to the podcast episode in advance, but this is not required. Come prepared to learn, to question and to share your views on what it means to be a Reform Jew in America today.

To the left are session dates and topics, with links to the corresponding episode of Re-Form.



## UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

### FEBRUARY SERVICES

*Shabbat morning services are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month*

#### Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 1  
at 9:45 a.m.

#### Souper Bowl Shabbat Service

Friday, February 7  
7:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 6 p.m.  
RSVP by January 31

#### Joy Vey: A Kid-ish Shabbat

Friday, February 14  
5:30 p.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Friday, February 14  
7:30 p.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 15  
9:45 a.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Friday, February 21  
7:30 p.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Friday, February 28  
7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

#### [IAJGS Conference Information Session](#)

Sunday, February 2  
2 p.m. on Zoom

#### Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, February 5  
10 a.m.

#### Hidden Gems in the Polish Archives

Sunday, February 9  
2 p.m. on Zoom  
Sponsored by NEIJGS

#### Lifelong Learning: Reform Movement in America Today

Wednesday, February 12  
7 p.m. on Zoom  
Re-Form Podcast:  
[Origins of the Reform Movement](#)

#### Tu B'shvat Celebration

Sunday, February 16  
1 p.m.  
At Eagle Marsh  
RSVP to Federation by  
February 10

#### Temple Book Club

Tuesday, February 25  
7 p.m. on Zoom

### MARCH EVENTS

#### Lifelong Learning: Reform Movement in America Today

Wednesday, March 5  
7 p.m. on Zoom  
Re-Form Podcast:  
[Patrilineal Descent](#)

#### Hamentashen Baking

Sunday, March 9  
10 a.m. at the Temple

#### Purim & Shabbat Service

Friday, March 14  
6 p.m.

#### Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 16  
Noon

#### Violins and Hope Interfaith Service

Thursday, March 20  
7 p.m.  
St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

#### Violins and Hope Shabbat Service

Friday, March 21  
7:30 p.m.

# online

### 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](mailto:office@templecav.org)

### DON'T GET CAUGHT BY A PHISHING SCAM!



We occasionally receive reports from congregants about an e-mail that impersonates Rabbi Meir asking for their help. If you receive an email that seems suspicious, please call the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 to let us know. Always double-check the sender's email address. Emails from the Temple all end in @templecav.org. [Find out how to avoid phishing scams](#)



### Lunch with the ROMEOs

Join the Retired Old Men Eating Out for lunch at noon:

#### Thursday, February 6

[China Palace](#)  
5810 Bluffton Rd.

#### Thursday, February 20

[The Lucky Moose](#)  
622 E. Dupont Rd.

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

## STAY INFORMED ON SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

For more than six decades, the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#) (the RAC) has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish community to advocate for social justice. The RAC mobilizes around federal, state, provincial, and local legislation on more than 70 pressing socioeconomic issues, including gun violence prevention, immigration, reproductive rights, and criminal justice reform.

As a joint instrumentality of the [Union for Reform Judaism](#) and the [Central Conference of American Rabbis](#), the RAC represents the values of the largest and most diverse Jewish Movement in North America to governments at all levels. Visit [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org) for information on advocacy issues. If you're interested in being part of the Temple's Social Action Committee, please contact the Temple office.



## Rabbi Meir Bargeron: SHAPING FUTURE GENERATIONS

This month, I would like to use my column to provide an update on the Temple Religious School. This school year marks a period of revitalization of the program, largely in response to feedback gathered from parental interviews conducted by Jewish educational consultant Dr. Wendy Grinberg.

Building on Dr. Grinberg's recommendations, the Religious School began the school year with an in-person program that focuses on Torah stories and holiday traditions for the younger grades and Jewish values for the middle grades. Nineteen students are enrolled in the Religious School program.

This year, the school meets on Sundays for two hours, with an additional one hour of online Hebrew for eligible students. This is a significant increase compared to last year's program of 90 minutes twice per month. Attendance ranges between 75%-85% each week, also a significant increase. We are very fortunate to have three volunteer teachers - Kate Crell, David Crell, and David Flapan -- join me to form the religious education faculty.

Additionally, in response to the scarcity of available local Hebrew teachers, as well as the desire of many parents for maximum scheduling flexibility, Hebrew education continues to be offered online. Barbara Silverman is teaching weekly Hebrew classes and is also serving as the Hebrew content tutor for our B'nai Mitzvah students. Seven students are enrolled in Hebrew instruction. B'nai Mitzvah students complete their preparation with additional individual instruction provided by me in the last months before their service date. Barbara is an amazing addition to the team!

Lily Noga is serving as the Religious School coordinator, bringing together all the details and supporting teachers, students and families on Sundays.

Upon reaching the mid-year point, Religious School parents were sent a short survey in an email and included in the weekly communication (email and Band app). Seven out of 10 (70%) families responded. The survey was designed to gauge improvements in areas identified during the summer interviews. A substantial majority of responses, exceeding 80%, reported agreement or strong agreement with these statements:

*My child(ren) feels a sense of belonging at CAV Religious School.*

*I am happy with the content being taught at CAV Religious School.*

*I feel CAV is willing to accommodate the specific needs of my family at Religious School.*

*The communication from the CAV Religious School is clear. (This indicates a marked improvement from the summer interviews.)*

*The online Hebrew class is meeting my goals for Hebrew learning.*

*I feel that CAV has appropriately prioritized the Religious School within the life of the synagogue.*

*Overall, CAV Religious School is a positive experience this year.*

When asked about how the CAV Religious School is working for their child, parent comments were positive, reflecting on both the learning and the community building.

The following comment expresses exactly how the program is aligned with the mission we set out to accomplish at the beginning of the year: "They are learning the stories and trying to understand them in a broader context. They are also learning the prayers and integrating them into our family life. They consider many of their religious school classmates to be close friends."

Areas noted by parents for improvement include increased awareness of weekly lesson content, and feedback on the classroom climate and management in specific instances.

We will use this feedback to fine-tune our Religious School program. Additionally, we will conduct an end-of-year parental feedback assessment to assist in planning for next year. I am very grateful to our teachers, to Lily, and to our parents for their commitment and support. Thank you to Dr. Wendy Grinberg for her advice and collaboration! We are grateful to the Rifkin Family Foundation and to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for their support.

—Rabbi Meir



## BRING YOUR FAVORITE FILLING AND BAKE HAMENTASHEN WITH US!

Please join our baking team in getting ready for Purim when we make a variety of delicious hamantashen on Sunday, March 9 at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall. Children are invited to share in this fun tradition when accompanied by an adult. Our Religious School students and parents will be making hamantashen together as part of special Purim activities.

We're making the three-cornered treats to serve following our family-friendly Purim service and spiel on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m.

Dough will be provided, but please bring your favorite filling (no jelly as it is too runny), such as preserves, canned pie and strudel filling, chocolate chips, Nutella, etc. If you have a rolling pin and 3-inch cookie cutter, please bring those as well.

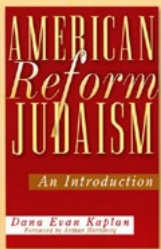
Everyone is invited to participate in baking, but RSVPs are needed to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) or (260) 744-4245 no later than Tuesday, March 4 so that adequate supplies will be available. If you have any questions, please contact coordinators Mimi Zelman ([mimiz21@msn.com](mailto:mimiz21@msn.com)) and Bonnie Pomerantz ([bonniepom@gmail.com](mailto:bonniepom@gmail.com)).

Find Purim Carnival news on page 5 and Purim Spiel update on page 4.



## REFORM JUDAISM RESOURCES IN THE TEMPLE LIBRARY

Inspired by Rabbi Meir's [lifelong learning series](#) about the Reform Movement beginning this month, here are some resources in our [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#) that might supplement the discussion.



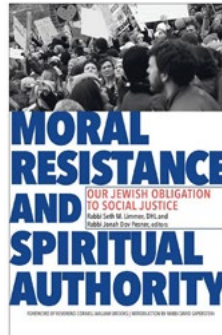
The first session will discuss the origins of the Reform Movement. Perhaps the most relevant title is Dana Evan Kaplan's *American Reform Judaism: An Introduction*. Although it was published in 2003, it made the URJ list of Significant Jewish Books and addresses the history of the movement and its challenges.

For those particularly interested in our history, Michael A. Meyer's *Response to Modernity: A History of the Reform Movement in Judaism* (1995) and W. Gunther Plaut's *Growth of Reform Judaism: American and European Sources Until 1948* are two more works that address the Reform movement's origins.

*The New American Judaism: How Jews Practice Their Religion Today*, by Jack Wertheimer, covers more than just the Reform Movement, and was the winner of a National Jewish Book Award. Rabbi John Rosove's *Why*

*Judaism Matters: Letters of a Liberal Rabbi to his Children and the Millennial Generation*, and Paul Citrin's *Lights in the Forest: Rabbis Respond to Twelve Essential Jewish Questions*, may contribute to the understanding of liberal Judaism. *Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice* by Mark Washofsky is another excellent title to consider.

Social Justice will be the topic of discussion in April. *Moral Resistance and Spiritual Authority: Our Jewish Obligation to Social Justice*, by Seth M. Limmer, and *Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews, and America*, by Judith Schindler, are two excellent books on the topic. The first is a collection of essays covering a variety of social justice topics.



Please take advantage of the library as a Temple resource. Self-checkout is available at the library desk whenever the building is open, and

our [full catalog](#) can be found online.

## TEMPLE BOOK CLUB WILL DISCUSS "THE MATCHMAKERS GIFT"

Our Temple Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 25 at 7 p.m. on Zoom to discuss [The Matchmaker's Gift](#), followed by a conversation with author Lynda Cohen Loigman.

The plot centers around a Lower East Side matchmaker, Sara, and her granddaughter, Abby. Abby inherits her grandmother's journals after her death.

The Zoom link will be included in the weekly e-mail. A copy of the book is available in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#).



## SCRIPTWRITERS, ACTORS & MORE NEEDED FOR PURIM SPIEL



It's time to prepare for the 5785 Purim Spiel! Get ready for an evening of laughter, joy, and unforgettable fun!

We're looking for scriptwriters, actors, and a director to bring the Purim Spiel to life during Shabbat Services on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m. Whether you're a seasoned performer, a budding playwright, or simply eager to help, we'd love for you to join the fun!

No experience? No problem! Just bring your enthusiasm and a love for the powerful Purim story. Let's make this year's Spiel the most memorable yet! We will begin preparations in February and the rehearsal schedule will be minimal. We're aiming for a Purim Spiel that is 20-30 minutes in length, that includes 3-4 readings from the Book of Esther to help tell the story. (Rabbi Meir can provide support and resources.)

Please contact Rabbi Meir at [rabbi@templecav.org](mailto:rabbi@templecav.org) or (260) 744-4245 to say you'll help.

## THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM SAYS 'THANK YOU' FOR SUPPORT



As we begin the new year, we have a deep appreciation of all who contribute to [Thoughtful Thursdays](#) financially and with their time. We're also grateful for the donations of Trader Joe's bags, hygiene supplies, booster seats, clothing, and warm winter coats that help us assist the 51 Brightpoint Head Start children who attend class at the Temple.

Generous donors to Thoughtful Thursdays help us provide at least one extra meal a month and some household supplies to the Brightpoint families. Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). We also thank the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continuing generosity.

Thank you to our amazing Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers who assemble the bags, Thoughtful Thursdays Chair Cheryl Schorey, and to the Temple staff for all they do to support this social action project.

We welcome volunteers to assist our bag assembly team on Wednesday, February 5 at 10 a.m. at the Temple.



# Youth News



## JOY VEY! JOIN THE FUN AT SHABBAT SERVICE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Please join us on Friday, February 14 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. We'll order pizza for dinner together if there's interest.



Our Joy Vey families enjoyed a special musical Shabbat morning on January 11 with musician Juliette Nehring, singing songs and dancing with the Torah. Rabbi Meir talked about the sacredness of the Torah scroll while answering related questions. Juliette shared the story of Jacob and his sons. She emphasized family and remembrance of loved ones. We're grateful to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support.

## EXPLORE TREES AND NATURE FOR TU B'SHVAT AT EAGLE MARSH



at [Eagle Marsh](#), 6801 Engle Road.

Activities include identifying and exploring the beauty of trees; going on a nature scavenger hunt led by staff from Little River Wetlands Project; and learning about the holiday during a seder with PJ Library.

Thank you to the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#), [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#), PJ Library, The JFFW Rosh Chodesh group, and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.

The event is free and open to our community. To make sure we have enough supplies, please RSVP by Monday, February 10 to [office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org) or call (260) 456-0400 to reserve your spot. The event will take place rain, snow or sun.

Celebrate Tu B'shvat - the birthday of the trees - during a fun afternoon for children and adults on Sunday, February 16 at 1 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR PURIM CARNIVAL

Crown, cape or cow! Superhero, princess, or pirate? Esther or Mordechai? It's time to mark your calendar and start planning your costume for the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 16 at noon at the Temple. Fun for all ages!

The Holiday Celebrations team is hard at work dreaming up new activities to build on last year's celebration and create fun for all ages.

If you have an idea you'd like to see included this year or if you would like to help with any facet of the planning or running of the carnival, please contact Kate Crell at [eisenka@gmail.com](mailto:eisenka@gmail.com). Watch for more details coming soon!



Our Religious School started off January 27 with a lively, dancing round of Hine Ma Tov in the Sanctuary!



The glow of candles enhanced our celebration of Hanukkah and Shabbat on December 27, including a lovely service led by Rabbi Meir. A champagne toast to 2025 followed, highlighted by an amazing challah shaped like a hanukkiyah made by our own Dawn Hammond!



## HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS



Some 100 Temple members and friends gathered on December 22 to celebrate the Festival of Lights a few days before the holiday began on December 25.

Led by Rabbi Meir, children and adults practiced saying the blessings before kindling the candles on their hanukkiyas. We sang Hanukkah songs. Kids participated in a scavenger hunt with chocolate gelt prizes and decorated Hanukkah houses, while adults played bingo. We shared a delicious dinner that included latkes and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) provided by the ROMEOs.

Thank you to our Holiday Celebrations team for a great event: Stephanie Gottesman, Kate Crell, Deborah Bauer, Dawn Hammond, and Celeste Sexton. Special thanks to Denny Reynolds for his assistance and the ROMEOs for their contribution. Thank you to Cassie Balfanz, Dawn Hammond, and Stephanie Gottesman for taking photos.





## INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

More than 175 people gathered on November 26 at the Temple for Fort Wayne's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, sharing the beauty of their faith traditions and community. This year's theme was "A Harvest of Compassion." The Temple hosted for a 12th year. [Watch the service](#)

Participants included: Rev. Martin Garcia of Amistad Presbyterian Church; Akinlana DaDa of the Baha'i Community of Fort Wayne; Rev. Paula Ulrich of Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren; Rabbi Meir Bargeron of Congregation Achduth Vesholom;

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling of First Presbyterian Church; Bishop Bill McGill of Imani Baptist Temple; Bhante Chandarathana of the Indiana Buddhist Temple; Claudia Hedeon citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; Rev. Sara Ofner-Seals of Plymouth Congregational Church; Mother Amanda Henes of Trinity Episcopal Church; and Rev. Christe Lunsford of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne.

Thank you to Maestro Robert Nance for coordinating and leading our music and to members of the interfaith choir. The offering invitation was given by Erin Ness, Executive Director of St. Joseph Missions Women's Shelter.

Thank you to Dawn Hammond, Beth Zweig, and Samara Sheray for organizing the reception and all who assisted. Guests also had the opportunity to see the exhibit, "A Creative Life: The Architecture & Art of Alan Grinsfelder."

## YOUR VOTE FOR ISRAEL'S FUTURE BEGINS IN MARCH

Between March 10 and May 4, 2025, American Jews will vote for their delegates to the 39th [World Zionist Congress](#), the "parliament of the Jewish people." The WZC elections will convene in Jerusalem in October 2025.

Voting in the election is the most powerful opportunity to have your voice heard in Israel, make an impact in Jewish communities worldwide, and stand up for Zionism. The representatives who are elected — with one-third of them coming from the United States — will make key decisions on allocating over \$1 billion annually to support the most pressing needs across Israeli society and the Diaspora.

What is at stake? The highly motivated religious fundamentalist opponents' vision for the future of Israel is diametrically opposed to that of the Reform Movement. They are organizing to destroy what we value, including:

- Chipping away at Israel's democracy
- Rolling back gains for gender equity, LGBTQ+ rights, and religious pluralism
- Stripping our Israeli Reform clergy — especially our women rabbis — and our Reform communities of their rights, funding, and infrastructure
- Making sure that our converts and children are not recognized as Jews in the Jewish State
- Blocking any hope of Palestinian self-determination and safety

The Reform Movement is represented by [ARZA](#) (The Association of Reform Zionists in America) and the international Reform Zionist organization [ARZENU](#). Join thousands of Reform Jews in mobilizing. [Get involved in the WZC](#).

2025 U.S. ELECTION  
**WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS**

**AZM** American Zionist Movement  
התנועה הציונית האמריקאית

MARCH 10 – MAY 4, 2025

**Your Vote for Israel's Future**

## TASTE OF LEADERSHIP NETWORKING AND NOSH

Our Leadership CAV 2025 group gathered on January 15 for a Taste of Leadership dinner and program to explore the many ways to take an active role at the Temple.

Led by the Board Development Committee, the program began with participants sharing a memory about the first time they volunteered or helped someone. The group then broke into small groups for brief networking conversations to learn more about opportunities to get more meaningfully involved in congregational life. A second session on January 29 included more about exploring individual areas of interest at the Temple, congregational operations, and next steps.

Thank you to the Board Development Committee – Co-Chairs John Stein and Beth Zweig, Fran Adler, Dawn Hammond, Amy Krouse, and Leise Rosman. Many thanks to Rabbi Meir, President Ronnie Greenberg, and Executive Director Samara Sheray for their support.

We appreciate our Leadership CAV 2025 group for participating: Kate Crell, Geoff Gordon, Stephanie Gottesman, Becky Guttstein, Rachel Laing, Robert Laing, Marnie Lowden, Joanne McCrory, Elliott McCrory, Celeste Sexton, Greg Shoup, Kate Theise, Michael Theise, Nick Young, Mimi Zelman, and Don Zelman.



## SAVE THE DATES FOR VIOLINS AND HOPE: "INSIDE AMNON'S WORKSHOP"

The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) will be partnering with the new [Pearl Street Arts Center](#) in March for a two-week, multi-venue commemoration based on Fort Wayne's groundbreaking and highly successful [2019 Violins of Hope](#).

The 2025 version from March 9-23 will center around a photographic exhibition of the violins and instrument workshop of Violins of Hope founder Amnon Weinstein taken by Cleveland photographer Daniel Levin and his subsequent book called [Violins and Hope](#).

Levin's exhibition includes 43 masterfully printed and framed photographs of selections from the book. Each photograph has a rich backstory. This beautiful

series of photographs documents Weinstein's collection of violins, his workshop in Tel Aviv, and his processes for restoration.

"Violins and Hope: Inside Amnon's Workshop," will feature a series of concerts, lectures, film screenings, seminars, and interfaith events at Pearl Arts and across the community in support of an exhibition of Levin's photography, on display in the gallery at the University of St. Francis.

An Interfaith service under the leadership of Bishop Kevin Rhodes and Rabbi Meir Bargeron will be held on Thursday evening, March 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

The Temple also will host a Shabbat service on Friday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir.

**INSIDE ISRAEL**— *Journalist Mark Lavie shared insights into the situation in Israel and the Middle East during a talk on December 11 at the Temple. A Fort Wayne native, Lavie is a veteran Mideast correspondent and author. [Find his talk](#)*

*The program was sponsored by Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne with support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.*

*In January, Rabbi Meir taught a class called "Righteousness in Our Age."*







# 45TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | AUGUST 10-14, 2025

*And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey*

[www.iajgs2025.org](http://www.iajgs2025.org)

## CURIOS ABOUT THE UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE?

The [International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies](http://www.iajgs2025.org) conference will be held next summer in Fort Wayne on August 10-14, 2025.

Join the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](http://www.iajgs2025.org) to learn more about this exciting event on Sunday, February 2 at 2 p.m. on Zoom during an informational program. You'll hear about the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center and its Jewish resources and updates about the program and registration. Plenty of time will be allocated for questions.

[Register here for this online program](http://www.iajgs2025.org)

## HIDDEN GEMS IN THE POLISH ARCHIVES PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 9



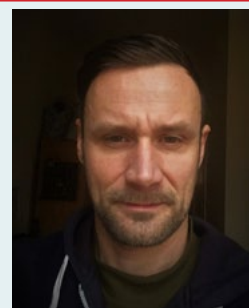
The [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](http://www.iajgs2025.org) will welcome researcher Jakub Czuprynski for a virtual program on Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m. on "Hidden Gems in the Polish Archives."

He will present strategies for individuals with Polish roots who would like to expand their searches to less popular archival resources in the Polish State Archives. Guidelines on how to search for additional family information not covered in the obvious sources will be discussed. Additionally, participants will

become familiar with the various alternative sources for genealogy research.

Czuprynski has been carrying out professional genealogical research and organizing heritage tours in Poland. He collaborates with [JRI-Poland](http://www.iajgs2025.org) and the Jewish Community Centre in Krakow where he organizes meetings and lectures on genealogy. He is particularly interested in attempts to use lesser-known historical sources to research the histories of Jewish families from Galicia.

[Register here to get the Zoom link.](http://www.iajgs2025.org)



## JOIN ROSH CHODESH WOMEN FOR FUSED GLASS CLASS

The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's](http://www.iajgs2025.org) Rosh Chodesh group invites the women of our Jewish community on Sunday, February 23 at 4 p.m. to create hamsas during a fused glass class with [Sol Eye Glass](http://www.iajgs2025.org).

We'll meet at Stillwater Hospice in the [Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](http://www.iajgs2025.org), 5920 Homestead Rd. There is no charge for Federation members, but there is an \$18 fee for non-members. Seating is limited. Please [RSVP](http://www.iajgs2025.org) no later than Tuesday, February 18 to [office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org) or (260) 456-0400. Light snacks will be served. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.



The ROMEOs shared lunch in January with Rabbi Meir to kick off the New Year!



## MAZEL TOV TO:

Libby & Alex Tyus on the birth of their son, Liam Mark Tyus, on December 27, 2024 in Fort Wayne. Congratulations to Nancy & Mike Dicker on their new grandchild and Asher on becoming a big brother.



## Donations

### Jack & Gertrude Adelman Facility Improvement Fund

In Memory of Gertrude Adelman: *Carol & Larry Adelman, Rita & Thomas O'Neill*

### Adult Education Fund

In memory of Arnold L Goldsmith: *Jan & Steve Sarratore*

### Art & Beautification Fund

A donation was received from: *Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon*

In memory of Betty Fishman: *Susan Cooperman, Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder*

In honor of Alan Grinsfelder's Art: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

In honor of Jon Tam, Sharon Eisbart, Irene Walters, and their Art Show Volunteer Team: *Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder*

### B'nai Jacob (Conservative) Judaism Fund

In memory of Etta Jacobson, Steve Kelman, and Tillie Kaposky: *Susan Miller*

In memory of Joel Groden Bussell, Louis Groden, and Paulette Bussell Oatley: *David Bussell*

### Endowment Fund

A donation was received from: *Richard Grinsfelder, Carter Morr, Sally & Steve Trotter*

### Floral Fund

A donation was received from: *Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder*

### General Operations

A donation was received from: *Juan Suarez, Carter Morr, Cheryl & David Decker, The Monogram Shoppe, Carol & Norman Kempler*

In memory of Al Zacher: *Nancy & Tom Sarosi, Molly & John O'Brian-Adams, Cynthia Derdiger*

In memory of Frances Cornell and Sara LeShay: *Diane & Herb LeShay*

In memory of Frederick Reinhold Tourkow: *Donna & Josh Tourkow*

In memory of Jerome Gerber: *Ron Cousino*

In memory of John Malay: *Lori McCutcheon*

In memory of Lorry Goldenberg: *Karen & Sherman Goldenberg*

In memory of Seth Aaron Horwitz: *Phillip Horwitz*

In memory of Rabbi Richard B. Safran, Sandy Stumpf, Michal Benari Greenberg, Samuel Greenberg: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

In memory of Ruth Kepes: *Marilyn & Sherwin Kepes*

In memory of Ruth Zweig, Dr. Elmer Zweig, Leona Rosenberg Zweig, Henry Haskell Glazer, and Jack Rosenberg: *Beth & Dan Zweig*

In memory of Susan Kaplan: *Stan Levine*

### Kathryn Kann Mendelblat Cultural Enrichment Fund

A donation was received from: *Deborah Rothberg*

In memory of David Rothberg and Samuel Rothberg: *Stephen Rothberg*

In memory of Ron Mendelblat: *Stephen Rothberg, Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder, Marcia & Denny Reynolds, Suzi Stone Schreibman*

### Library Fund

In honor of Austin Mulford, grandson of Jan & Steve Sarratore: *Barbara Silverman*

### Himelstein Children's Library

In memory of Marguerite Long Thal: *Betsy Thal Gephart*

### Project Assist - Thoughtful Thursdays

In memory of Guy Miller: *Harriet Miller & Monica Wehrle*

In memory of Salomon Safirstein: *Kay Safirstein*

In memory of Allan Rush and Beryl Rush: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*

In memory of Al Zacher: *Cindi & Richard Wismer*

### Rabbi Kornspan Tzedakah Fund

A donation was received from: *Jan & Bill Chambers*

In memory of Sarah Weiss and Joseph Kaplan: *Susie Miller*

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation was received from: *Carter Morr, Steven Shine, Lisa Bradley, Fran & Irv Adler, Hannah & Alfred Zacher*

In honor of Mason Schreier's Bris: *Jaki & Eric Schreier*

In memory of grandfather Morris King and father Manny King: *Suzi & Jim King*

In memory of my grandmother, Rebitzin Gutteh Goldin: *Irene & Bob Walters*

In honor of Bishop Bill McGill: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*

In memory of Marvin Gottlieb and Lee Gottlieb: *Doris Gottlieb*

### Temple Gardens Fund

In memory of Geraldine Greenberg Reich: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

### Temple Gardens Sposeep Outdoor Chapel Fund

In memory of Louis Meyers: *Patrice & Michael Sposeep*

### S. Wyle Weiman Youth Activities Fund

A donation was received from: *Lisa & David Post, Lawrence Shine*

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



## 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.

## February Yahrzeits

### February 7

Sidney Baitcher  
 Judith Baitcher  
 Hyman Jerome Bass  
 Morris Begun  
 Stephen Bosell  
 Sylvia Brateman  
 Louis Brenn  
 Dr. Maurice A. Chodosh  
 Esther Congress  
 Jane Costanza  
 Fred Golden  
 Frida Greengrass  
 Mary Brooks Gutowitz  
 Fannie Hassan  
 Abraham Heilbronner  
 Irma Hesslein  
 Mary Kohn  
 Julia Kraus  
 Joseph Kutcher  
 Rose Latker  
 Peter Lauinger  
 Rose Leader  
 Clara Magazine  
 John Vaun Malay  
 Eleanor Margolis  
 Arthur Marx  
 Aida McCCasey  
 Rosa Novitsky  
 Fay Pecken  
 Alan Richie  
 Mae Rifkin  
 Pearl Starr Sachsel  
 Emily Sahlmann  
 Ben Salon  
 Neil Sandler  
 Lester Selan  
 Ann Shafer  
 Jennette M. Vogel  
 Bea Waldman  
 Nathan Wertheimer  
 Max Yaffe  
 Jacob Yentis  
 Jennie Zweig

### February 14-15

Joseph Baum  
 Jennifer Cohen  
 Jacob E. Dessauer  
 Abraham Edelman

Adolph Epstein  
 Yetta Falk  
 Meir Fichman  
 Leah Margaret Ford  
 Shirley Ruth Jason Ford  
 Florence Frank  
 Esther Garber  
 Rose Goldberger  
 Hy Goldenberg  
 Henri Hagendorf  
 Fran Herman  
 Isadore Hersh  
 Pearl Hertzman  
 Kathy Jarvis  
 Louis Jason  
 Clair Johnson  
 Roy Lawrence Kalver  
 Alex K. Klein-Klarke  
 Stella Komito  
 Morris Kudysch  
 Benjamin Kurzner  
 Tillie LeShay  
 Mark Merin  
 Louis Abraham Messe  
 Rebecca Milstein  
 Elias Punsky  
 Fannie Ress  
 Irving W. Rifkin  
 Jack Ruderman  
 Harry Rush  
 John Sabo  
 Hyman Abraham Sachs  
 Richard Sachsel  
 Ida Schneider  
 Robert B. Schuller  
 Jack I. Schultz  
 Jacob Schwartz  
 Gary Smythe  
 Ethel Strassberg  
 Joseph Tillinger  
 Shari Troy  
 Mildred Weber  
 Frank Winnick  
 Helen Zaslowsky

### February 21

Manuel Babich  
 Dennis Bargeron  
 Norman Bosell  
 William Bronstein

Shirley Cohodes  
 Sam Cristil  
 Carrie Latz Frank  
 Sheila Gaspar  
 Lawrence Gordon  
 Lillie Gosney  
 Lillian Altman Gubitz  
 Michael Guerrasio  
 Leon Himmelstein  
 Ruth Horn  
 Rose Horwitz  
 Benjamin Hutner  
 Ernest Iczkowitz  
 Beatrice Lamb  
 David Landy  
 G. Irving Bud Latz  
 Hattie Lehman  
 Max Levant  
 Eliza Lichtenberg  
 Hyman Marcus  
 Douglas Martin  
 Beckie Metzger  
 William Ochstein  
 Abe Ochstein  
 Anna Perlman  
 Robert Polz  
 Dr. J.M. Rosenthal  
 Louis Scheinberg  
 John Schmitz  
 Abraham Silver  
 Tillie Bosell Snow  
 Rabbi Leo Stillpass  
 Louis Sulzer  
 Robert Watson  
 Hannah Frankenstein Zacher  
 Sally Zack

### February 28 - March 1

Chuma Appel  
 Jose Ash  
 Molly Bleifeld  
 James Walter Burcham  
 Fannie Cohen  
 Alexander Drozdova  
 Steven L. Ellis  
 Victor N. Farhi  
 Theodore Frank  
 Irvin Friedman  
 Robert Garber  
 Dr. Conrad Goode

Nettie Gottlieb  
 Sol Greenberg  
 Eunice Greenstein  
 Betty Jane Barton Gubitz  
 Ruvim Gurevich  
 Louis Heilbronner  
 Fannie Heilbronner  
 Aaron Heiligman  
 Ben Hersh  
 Robert Kalver  
 Isadore Kaplan  
 Helen Hassan Kaufman  
 Gertrude Kessler  
 Conner Koons  
 Isadore Kramer  
 Samuel Kwatnez  
 Malcolm Lachman  
 Dr. Don Alan Lee  
 Estelle Lesser  
 William Lesser  
 Rae Wolf Levine  
 Henry Levy  
 Jacob Lipp  
 Edward S. Merin  
 Dorothy Moyer  
 Eva Orenstein  
 Sam Pass  
 Jeanne Phillips  
 Mary Pollak  
 Pauline Price  
 Leonard Rifkin  
 Irwin Rosenbaum  
 Jacob Rosenberg  
 Jesse E. Ross  
 Cecelia Rothschild  
 Harriet Rudensky  
 Herman Rudensky  
 Louis Ruderman  
 Fraida Safirstein  
 Jay Allen Safran  
 Irwin Samuel Sagan  
 Herbert A. Schiller  
 Jean Siegel  
 Esther S. Stillpass  
 Irving Weinswig  
 Larry Wittenberg  
 Sadie Zinn

## CONDOLENCES TO:

Shirley Busack on the death of her father, Lawrence A. Coulter, who died January 14, 2025. We also think of Christopher & Margaret Busack on the death of his grandfather and Elnora Coulter on the death of her husband.



## 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.



THE TEMPLE  
CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

5200 Old Mill Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807

P: (260) 744-4245 F: (260) 744-4246

office@templecav.org

www.templecav.org

Charter Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

Meir Bargeron, Rabbi

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President: Ronnie Greenberg

VP Programming: Beth Zweig

VP Finance: John Stein

Secretary: Dawn Hammond

David Crell                      Leise Rosman

Shai Hadashi                      Kathy Sider

Amy Krouse                      Micah Soltz

Sam Krouse                      Mimi Zelman

Rabbi Meir Bargeron: rabbi@templecav.org

Samara Sheray: Executive Director  
cavadmin@templecav.org

Lillian Noga: Admin. Assistant office@templecav.org

Beth Zweig: Bulletin Editor; Lillian Noga: Bulletin Designer  
bulletin@templecav.org

Jamie Fritz: Comptroller accounts@templecav.org

**Temple Office Hours:**

Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and  
Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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.



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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.

**The deadline for the March issue is Sunday, February 16**

**Presidents Corner  
Ronnie Greenberg**



A belated Happy New Year to everyone! Norm and I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025.

Looking back at 2024, our family closed out the year with a celebration in December of the B'nai Mitzvah of two of our grandchildren, Adam and Lielle, at Mariah Congregation in Deerfield, Illinois. This congregation is very traditional Conservative and the service, while not what I am used to, was very beautiful and warm, and a wonderful experience for our family. It was certainly a meaningful way to end the year - especially for Adam and Lielle.

Looking back through the lens of our congregation, we also had a very significant year. In addition to performing its functions of oversight, budgeting, and planning, the Board made some noteworthy changes to its operation. Three initiatives come to mind immediately.

The biggest impact probably was the passage of revised congregational bylaws last June. No, I'm not going to outline the changes for you (again!), but suffice it to say that the Board now has much more flexibility in executing its leadership and governance of the congregation, with the membership still exercising the final approval of major decisions.

We also tackled, and conquered, the organization and functioning of the Religious School. We contracted with a consultant to help us restructure both the school curriculum and Hebrew education, resulting in many positive changes to each. Beginning- and mid-year surveys of parents and teachers showed a significant increase in approval of both the curriculum and functioning of the school. We will continue to make further adjustments as needed, but I think we now have a firm basis on which to build.

The third major initiative was transitioning the Board to its new focus on setting our strategic direction. We outlined and prioritized topics to be discussed. A task force has been appointed to look at membership engagement – how can we do a better job of involving new – and current – families in congregational life. This task force is still meeting and discussing, so if you have ideas and would like to participate, please let me know.

The Board Development Committee has continued to address another of our priorities - developing new leaders for the board. It is no secret that many of our current leaders are not Millennials or even Gen X. I understand that time commitments can be more difficult for these groups than for us Baby Boomers. However, serving as a Board trustee or officer is a different commitment than it was before the restructuring. It requires less time and more thought, and would involve you in the important task of setting the direction of our Temple for the next (perhaps your) generation.

There's an old saying that "more hands make light work". I think "more brains make better decisions," too. The more congregants involved in our discussions, the better the outcome will be. Please let me know how you would like to participate. After all, it's your congregation.