

# THE TEMPLE

## CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM BULLETIN

BUILDING JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1848

MAY 2025

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VISITUSONLINE  
**TempleCav.org**



## Join Us at Learning Café For A Lifelong Journey in Jewish Education

Our new Learning Cafe, an exciting program at the Temple designed to nourish both the mind and the soul, continues on Wednesday, May 7 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Temple when Rabbi Meir leads us in an exploration of [Truth and Lies in Jewish Tradition](#).

Together we will explore the teachings of Torah, Talmud, and Jewish ethics on honesty, deception, and the pursuit of peace. Through classic texts and contemporary commentaries, we'll examine when truth is absolute and when compassion allows for flexibility. Join us in uncovering the wisdom of Jewish tradition in navigating truth with integrity and kindness.

Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding of Judaism or simply eager to engage in thoughtful conversation, this program is for you. Bring your lunch and dive into a rich tapestry of Jewish learning and discussion. Please RSVP to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) by Tuesday, May 6. (Virtual participation is available. Find the link in the weekly email.)

During these sessions led by Rabbi Meir and occasional guest teachers, we'll explore a wide range of topics related to Judaism and Jewish life. Each session promises engaging dialogue and new insights. After the session, feel free to stay and schmooze with fellow participants, building community and connection. *continued on page 3*



WE INVITE YOU  
to share a beautiful tradition with our family  
WHEN OUR SON

**Sam Goldberg**

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

**Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m.**  
Congregation Achduth Vesholom

-Kristin & Scott Goldberg

## Upcoming Events

Need more information? Visit our website ([templecav.org](http://templecav.org)) or give us a call!

### MAY

**Ellen Kowitt: Locating Jewish Records and U.S. Synagogue Records**

**Sunday, May 4, 2 p.m. on Zoom**

Sponsored by the [NEIJGS](#)

**Thoughtful Thursdays**

**Wednesday, May 7, 10 a.m.**

**Learning Café: Truth and Lies in Jewish Tradition**

**Wednesday, May 7**

**Noon at the Temple or on Zoom**

Bring a brown bag lunch

**Special Meeting for Members**

**Wednesday, May 7**

**7 p.m. on Zoom**

**5th Grade Prayer**

**Book Presentation**

**Sunday, May 11**

**10 a.m. during Religious School**

**Lifelong Learning: Reform**

**Movement in America Today**

**Wednesday, May 14**

**7 p.m. on Zoom**

[Inclusivity](#)

**Maccabiah Games -**

**Last Day of Religious School**

**Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.**

**Lifelong Learning: Reform**

**Movement in America Today**

**Wednesday, May 28**

**7 p.m. on Zoom**

### [Interfaith Marriage](#)

### JUNE

**Shavuot Service**

**Sunday, June 1, 7 p.m.**

**Learning Café: Jewish Identity in a Post-October 7th World**

**Wednesday, June 4,**

**Noon at the Temple or on Zoom**

Bring a brown bag lunch

**Temple Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 4**

**7 p.m. at the Temple and on Zoom**

**NEIJGS Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, June 5**

**7 p.m. on Zoom**

**Intergenerational Shabbat**

**Service and Camper Blessing**

**Friday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.**

**Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat**

**Morning with Musician Juliette**

**Nehring**

**Saturday, June 14, 10:30 a.m.**

**at the Temple**

**Camp Joe Levine Begins**

**Monday, June 23**

Metec County Park

**Temple Night at the TinCaps**

**Saturday, June 28, 6:35 p.m.**

Order tickets by June 17

## Shabbat Services

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

### MAY

**Friday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.**

Shabbat Service

**Saturday, May 3, 9:45 a.m.**

Shabbat Service

**Friday, May 9, 5:30 p.m.**

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat

**Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.**

Shabbat Service

**Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.**

Shabbat Service & Sam Goldberg Bar Mitzvah

**Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.**

Shabbat Service

*Music: Maestro Robert Nance*

**Saturday, May 17, 9:45 a.m.**

Shabbat Service

**Friday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.**

Shabbat Service

**Friday, May 30, 6:30 p.m.**

Shabbat Service & Confirmation of Evan Wallet

*Summer Schedule Begins*

## Lunch with the ROMEOs

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

**Thursday, May 1**

[Cosmos Restaurant](#)

9807 Lima Rd.

**Thursday, May 15**

[West Coast Grille](#)

2310 S. Calhoun St.

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

Join us at the Temple!



**A NEW TIME  
TO  
CELEBRATE  
SHABBAT!**



STARTING ON MAY 30,  
SUMMERTIME SERVICES  
ON FRIDAYS WILL BEGIN  
AT 6:30 P.M.

## Summer Evening Services Move to Earlier Time

Our summer service schedule begins on Friday, May 30, when evening services move to 6:30 p.m. and we also observe Confirmation. The earlier worship time will continue through August 29 (Labor Day Weekend). Services will resume at 7:30 p.m., beginning Friday, September 5.

## 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)

# Rabbi Meir Barger

## Finding Strength in Our Values



We are living through difficult times. The news is often overwhelming — filled with uncertainty, conflict, and stress that affects each of us in different ways. In moments like these, it's only natural to look for comfort and direction. And for us, that direction can come from the values at the heart of Jewish tradition. They don't merely ground us — they help us move forward with purpose and hope.

Judaism gives us a meaningful way to navigate life's complexities — with compassion, with wisdom, and with a deep sense of connection to something greater than ourselves. Our foundational values — *Tzedek* (justice), *Chesed* (loving-kindness), *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), *Torah* (learning), and *Kehillah* (community) — aren't just lofty ideals. They're active principles that call us to live with intention, especially when the world around us feels uncertain.

Let's start with *Tzedek*. The Torah commands, "*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof*" — "Justice, justice shall you pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20). This isn't just a suggestion. It's a call to act. In times of struggle, our commitment to justice calls on us to speak up for those who are vulnerable, to work for fairness, and to stand up against hate. That might mean supporting causes we care about or simply having honest conversations that open minds and build understanding.

Then there's *Chesed*, loving-kindness. The Talmud teaches that "acts of loving-kindness sustain the world" (Sukkah 49b). When life feels heavy, the small ways we show up for each other — checking in with a friend, bringing someone a meal, listening without judgment — can make a huge difference. These everyday acts of care remind us that we're not alone.

*Tikkun Olam* gives us a reason to keep going. Even when we can't fix everything, we can still make things better. As Pirkei Avot (2:16) teaches, "It's not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to ignore it." That's powerful. It means that every effort, no matter how small, matters. Each step we take toward healing the world is worth something.

And we don't do this work blindly. *Torah*, our tradition of learning, helps guide us. Whether we're studying sacred texts or learning with others in our community, engaging with Torah gives us the tools to think clearly, act wisely, and find meaning in our choices. It's how we stay connected to the wisdom of our ancestors — and how we find our own path forward.

Finally, we have *Kehillah*, our sacred community. None of us is meant to do this alone. Community gives us strength. When we pray together, celebrate together, mourn together, and support one another, we create a space where everyone belongs. When we gather to pray, we often begin with the words of Psalm 133, "*Hinei mah tov umah na'im, shevet achim gam yachad*" — "How good and pleasant it is for us to dwell together in unity."

So in these uncertain times, let us lean into our values. Let *Tzedek* guide what we do, let *Chesed* shape how we care for one another, let *Tikkun Olam* fuel our hope, let *Torah* deepen our understanding, and let *Kehillah* remind us that we are never alone. By living our values, we not only find strength — we help bring a little more healing into the world.

continued from cover

## Join Us at Learning Café For A Lifelong Journey in Jewish Education

**Save the date for our Learning Café on Wednesday, June 4 at noon for [Jewish Identity in a Post-October 7<sup>th</sup> World](#).**

We will delve into [For Such a Time as This: On Being Jewish Today](#) by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove. This book explores critical existential questions for Jews living in the Diaspora and in Israel in a post-October 7<sup>th</sup> world.

Our conversation will explore the impact of recent events on Jewish identity, the rise of antisemitism, and the evolving relationship between American Jews and Israel. We'll also reflect on how Jewish history and tradition can guide us in contemporary challenges.

Learners are encouraged to read the book before coming to the session, but it is not required.



## Catch the Tincaps with Achduth Vesholom

Join members of our Temple family on Saturday, June 28 for a trip to Parkview Field to watch the [Fort Wayne TinCaps](#) play the Great Lakes Loons, followed by post-game fireworks.

The game starts at 6:35 p.m. Tickets are \$14 per person. (Seats are in section 106 close to home plate in the shade.) Please make your reservation and [payment online](#) or call the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 by Tuesday, June 17 to reserve your seats and then send your check (made payable to "CAV- The Temple"). We will not order extra tickets, so please make your reservations by the deadline. No refunds will be issued for cancellations.

We'll let you know when your reserved tickets will be available for pick up at Achduth Vesholom so that everyone can meet that evening. Thanks to Mike Barasch, who has been organizing this annual event since we began the tradition in 2009 - the same year Parkview Field opened!



# Lifelong LEARNING

at Congregation Achduth Vesholom



*Our first Learning Café on April 9 brought together more than a dozen people for lunch and learning at the Temple, with others attending online. Rabbi Beth Lieberman joined us on Zoom, leading a journey through the history of translating the Hebrew Bible. The Literary Editor and Revising Translator of the JPS Tanakh: Gender-Sensitive Edition (RJPS), Rabbi Lieberman explained some of the challenges and nuances of translation.*



*Irene Miller with Rabbi Meir Barger and Michael Theise, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne*

## Yom Hashoah

Fort Wayne's annual community Yom HaShoah commemoration on April 21 brought together a large audience at the Rifkin Campus to remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to hear from Irene Miller, one of the last Holocaust survivors actively traveling and speaking publicly.

The service of remembrance was led by Rabbi Meir Barger and included community participants and music by Maestro Robert Nance, accompanied by Heartland Sings.

Miller, author of *Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir*, shared her captivating story of survival and the important lessons for today. She said her mission is to use her Holocaust experiences "to show what hate and prejudice did -- and what hate and prejudice can do again unless we learn from it." [Watch the service and her talk.](#)

## RE-FORM

EXAMINING THE CHALLENGES AND CHOICES  
OF AMERICA'S LARGEST JEWISH MOVEMENT

### Inclusivity and Interfaith Marriage Are Next Topics In "Reform Movement In America Today" Series

Please join us this month for the next two sessions in our lifelong learning series exploring "The Reform Movement in America Today" when we discuss inclusivity on Wednesday, May 14 and interfaith marriage on Wednesday, May 28, both at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

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.

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

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

March 5: [Patrilineal Descent](#)

April 9: [Social Justice](#)

May 14: [Inclusivity](#)

May 28: [Interfaith Marriage](#)

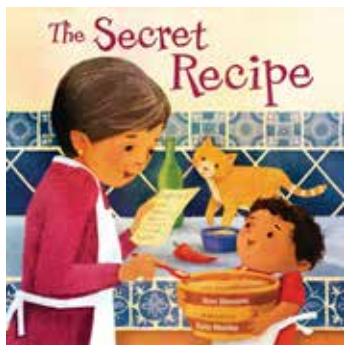
June 11: [Zionism](#)

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



# LIBRARY NEWS

## New From Kar-Ben in the Temple Library

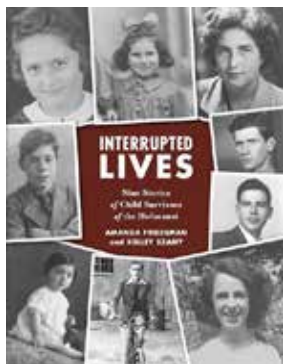


As part of our “ASAP” subscription with Kar-Ben Publishing, a Jewish children’s book publisher, we recently received nine new titles to add to the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#) collection.

Two were Passover picture books: Joy Preble’s *Happy Passover*, Edie Rose! and *Zayde Babysits before Passover* by Jane Sutton. And two were Purim books – *The Elephant and the Purim*

*Crown* by Haviva Klerzenblat and a board book, *Who Brought the Hamantaschen?* by Marcia Gresko.

*The Secret Recipe*, by Ilan Stavans, shares the story of the Ladino language and the history of Spanish and Portuguese Jews through a family story of a child and his grandmother. Another story of grandparents, Danielle Joseph’s *The Mitzvah Fairy*, follows a grandson as he helps his ailing Bubbe. *The See-You-Soon Spice Box*, by Pamela Ehrenberg, tells of Silas and his Great-Grandma Faye and their Havdalah celebrations over video calls.



Two Holocaust-related titles rounded out the order. *Twist, Tumble, Triumph: The Story of Champion Gymnast Ágnes Keleti*, by Deborah Bodin Cohen, is a picture book biography of the well-known Holocaust survivor and gymnast. She competed at the 1952 Olympics. Amanda Friedeman’s *Interrupted Lives: Nine Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust*, is written for older, middle-grade children. These stories of children from different European countries and family backgrounds illustrate the

differences and similarities between the survivors.

[View the library’s full catalog](#) Self-checkout is available at the library desk whenever the building is open. Please take advantage of this member resource!

## New Intergenerational Shabbat Service Begins in June

Plan to join us for a new Intergenerational Shabbat service on Friday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m., connecting children and adults of all ages for a lively worship experience with music, singing, and stories. Join us in person or on [YouTube](#).

We also will offer a blessing for children attending a Jewish summer camp before beginning their adventures. A family-friendly Oneg Shabbat will follow the service. More information will be coming.

## Thoughtful Thursdays Preparing the Last Bags of the School Year



As the school year winds down for the Brighpoint Head Start students who attend classes at the Temple, our Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers will assemble bags on

Wednesday, May 7 at 10 a.m. with additional food and toiletries to assist their families during the summer months.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the continued generosity of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the numerous members of our Jewish community and non-members who have made Thoughtful Thursdays possible through their donations and unwavering support.



We are deeply appreciative of the invaluable contributions of the Temple staff, the Jewish Federation, and the dedicated volunteers who provide unwavering support each month. Without their efforts, this program would not be feasible.

Thoughtful Thursdays is an initiative of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). Individuals interested in volunteering for this endeavor are kindly requested to contact Cheryl Schorey at [cheryl\\_schorey@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com). We would be delighted to welcome you to our team.



# YOUTH NEWS

## Join the Fun at Joy Vey! A Kid-Ish Shabbat

Please join us on Friday, May 9 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.

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.

Save the date for a Joy Vey Shabbat morning program with musician Juliette Nehring on Saturday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m.



*Joy Vey families from near and far celebrated Shabbat in April with songs accompanied by Sam Krouse. Led by Rabbi Meir, we re-enacted the parting of the Red Sea.*

## Prayer Book Presentation to Our New B'nei Mitzvah Students

During Religious School on Sunday, May 11, 5th grade students will receive prayer books in honor of beginning their formal b'nei mitzvah studies.

Mazel tov to Jack Rosman, son of Leise & Brian Rosman; Sam Gordon, son of Rachel & Geoff Gordon; and Ella Hadashi, daughter of Shai Hadashi and Leah Zimmerman.



## Celebrate Confirmation

Share Shabbat with us on Friday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. when we begin our summer service schedule and also celebrate the Confirmation of Evan Wallet.

Join us in person or via [YouTube](#) for our service, led by Rabbi Meir Barger. The milestone of Confirmation provides our teens with the opportunity for individual and group affirmation of a commitment to the Jewish people.

Mazel tov to Evan and his parents, Wendi & Josh Wallet.

## Campers Invited for Blessing

Students who will be attending a Jewish camp this summer are invited to our new Intergenerational Shabbat service on Friday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. for a special blessing with our Temple family before they head off on their adventures.

We are fortunate to have young people spending time at Goldman Union Camp Institute, Camp Joe Levine, and other Jewish settings to reinforce their learning at the Temple. Thank you to everyone who supports our campership efforts to assist those who need financial help and to encourage first-time attendance.

## Enroll Now for Camp Joe

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's [Camp Joe Levine](#) will be held at [Metea County Park](#) on the weeks of June 23, June 30, and July 7. We look forward to having your child (ages 4 to 13) join us for 1, 2 or all 3 weeks! More information can be found [here](#).

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the Janet Finkel Campership Fund for continued support.

## Share News of Your Graduate

We look forward to celebrating education milestones with our Temple family!

If you have a child graduating from high school or college this year, please let us know so that we may offer congratulations, list the school attended, and include future plans in our Bulletin.

Please send graduation information by Friday, May 9 to be included in our June/July Bulletin. Contact us at [office@TempleCAV.org](mailto:office@TempleCAV.org) or (260) 744-4245.





## Second Seder

Some 100 people gathered on April 13 for the Second Seder, with Rabbi Meir leading us in reading from [Mishkan HaSeder](#), our new Haggadah. We dined on a traditional Passover meal that included gefilte fish, matzah ball soup, brisket, and potato kugel.

Thank you to Rabbi Meir for leading a meaningful Seder. We are grateful to our dedicated Seder team: Amy Krouse (chair), Kate Crell, Becky Guttstein, Rachel Laing, Luann Watson, Celeste Sexton, Executive Director Samara Sheray, Wendy Soltz, and Jay & Dana Zemmol. Thank you to Temple staff members Timmy Oberley and Charlie Smiley, and our Security team, Officers Joe, Todd, and Paul.

We appreciate Scott Fergusson and Chapman's Brewing Company for catering the delicious meal. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support of the purchase of our new Haggadot.

## Corned Beef On Rye – Sure To Satisfy For 23rd Year! Thursday, November 6, 2025

Our Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser returns for a 23rd year on Thursday, November 6 when heaping corned beef sandwiches, gigantic dill pickles, creamy coleslaw, and rich brownies return as part of the Temple's largest fundraiser.

Mark your calendar for Deli Day and help us top last year's sales of nearly 1,700 meals!

Thank you to Co-Chairs Micah Soltz & Amy Krouse and their team! Please plan to take the day off work to assist with the sale, as well as Prep Night on Wednesday, November 5. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact the Temple office.



## Candidates for Temple Board 2025-2026

### OFFICERS

*Nominated for 2-year term ending in June 2027*

**President:** Beth Zweig

**President-Elect:**

Amy Krouse\*

*(pending bylaws change)*

*Nominated for 1-year*

*term ending in June 2026*

**Vice President Programs:**

Dawn Hammond

**Vice President Finance:**

Sam Krouse

**Secretary:** Nick Young

*Serving 1-year term*

*per current bylaws*

**Immediate Past President:**

Ronnie Greenberg\*

*(pending bylaws change)*

### TRUSTEES

*Nominated for a 2-year*

*term ending in June 2027*

Geoff Gordon

Becky Guttstein

Amy Krouse\*

*(pending bylaws change)*

Leise Rosman

Greg Shoup

Micah Soltz

### TRUSTEE

*Nominated for a 1-year*

*term ending in June 2026*

Kate Crell

### TRUSTEES

*Serving 2-year term ending in June 2026 and not up for re-election*

David Crell

Mimi Zelman

**Outgoing Board Members:**

Ronnie Greenberg,\*

John Stein, Shai Hadashi,

Kathy Sider

## Vote on Proposed Bylaws Changes on May 7

During the past few years, leadership development has been an important focus at Achduth Vesholom to strengthen our congregation and engage our members. Most recently, 16 congregants participated in our CAV Leadership 2025 group in January to become more familiar with Temple operations and opportunities. They also began to explore areas meaningful to them and to our *kehilla kedosha* (holy community).

Our recent efforts have reinvigorated interest in congregational leadership and led the Board Development Committee to recommend the creation of a new officer position called President-Elect.

### Special Congregational Meeting

The board has embraced the idea and is seeking congregational approval of a change to our Temple Bylaws during a special meeting on Wednesday, May 7 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Information about the proposal and meeting has been sent to members, along with an absentee ballot for those unable to attend.

During the special meeting of members on Zoom, President Ronnie Greenberg and Board Development Co-Chairs John Stein and Beth Zweig will answer any questions before a vote is held. The proposed bylaws changes, an absentee ballot, and meeting link will be sent to members in advance of the meeting.

## Stay Informed About Temple News at 177th Annual Meeting on June 4

### Annual Meeting

Learn about continued efforts to strengthen our congregational leadership and new member engagement plans during the Temple's 177th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 4 at 7 p.m.

Please join us in person or on Zoom when we also share news from a special meeting in early May about a proposed bylaws change to create a new position of President-Elect.

Members in good standing will be able to vote in person, in real time via Zoom, or by absentee online ballot. Information will be sent later this month for the Annual Meeting and voting details. (Candidates are listed in

the left column, pending Bylaws changes at the special meeting on May 7.)

During the meeting, President Ronnie Greenberg, the Board of Directors, Rabbi Meir Barger, and Executive Director Samara Sheray will review the past year's activities, including steps to increase membership and involve congregants and youth in new ways.

We also will recognize outgoing board members for their service and members of the L'dor Vador Legacy Society for indicating they've made a planned gift to the congregation.

## Become Legacy Society Member With Planned Gift

One of the best ways we can sustain a Jewish presence in Northeast Indiana is through a lasting gift to Congregation Achduth Vesholom.

More than 40 congregants already have become members of the L'dor Vador Legacy Society since it was established in 2012 to encourage individuals to make arrangements to remember the Temple in their estates.

To become a society member, please inform the Temple in writing that you have made provisions to remember the congregation in your estate.

For further information, contact Planned Giving Committee Co-Chairs John Stein [john@steinadpromos.com](mailto:john@steinadpromos.com) or Beth Zweig at [blzweig@msn.com](mailto:blzweig@msn.com).



## New Youth Education & Family Engagement Director Announced

A new staff position of Youth Education & Family Engagement Director has been established at the Temple to foster a vibrant and engaging learning environment, to strengthen connections within our congregational family, and to create meaningful opportunities for families and youth to deepen their Jewish identity.

Stephanie Gottesman began serving in this new role on April 20. She will work with Religious School Coordinator Lily Noga through the end of Religious School in May, when the coordinator position will be discontinued.

The Director will oversee all aspects of the Religious School's operations, curriculum, and community engagement, ensuring alignment with the congregation's mission and values, and expanding programs to engage families and youth beyond the classroom.



### *Meet Stephanie Gottesman*

Stephanie Gottesman is the Temple's new Youth Education & Family Engagement Director. A native of Abington, PA, Stephanie grew up in a Reform Jewish family. They moved to Thousand Oaks, CA, where she

celebrated her bat mitzvah and confirmation at Temple Adat Elohim.

After many years away from the Jewish community, she began a deep dive back into Judaism in 2021, joining Congregation Achduth Vesholom in August 2022 to introduce her daughter, Morgan, now age 6, to Jewish culture and tradition.

Stephanie's background teaching yoga to children led her to volunteer to co-lead Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat services with Rabbi Meir, Wendy Soltz, and Sam Krouse for the last 2 ½ years. She has also served as a chair of the Holiday Celebrations Team with Kate Crell, Celeste Sexton, and Deborah Bauer, creating events for Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Hanukkah, and Purim.

Stephanie is currently in graduate studies at Purdue Fort Wayne, pursuing licensure as a mental health counselor (LMHC). She is grateful to be part of this vibrant community and looks forward to cultivating even more joy and connection in this new position.

## Don't Delay! Vote Today for Israel's Future!

American Jews may vote through May 4, 2025 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. [Find out how to register and vote](#)

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.—

[Register and vote here](#) The fee to register and vote is \$5, which goes to cover the operating costs of the election.



MARCH 10 – MAY 4, 2025

**Your Vote for Israel's Future**



## Share Shavuot with Our Temple Family

Please join us for our Shavuot and Yizkor service on Sunday, June 1 at 7 p.m. when we celebrate the giving of the Torah on

Mt. Sinai, led by Rabbi Meir Bargerion. Join us in person or [on YouTube](#).

In ancient times, Shavuot marked the conclusion of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. The holiday is celebrated 50 days after Passover. Traditionally, the Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot because just as that story recounts how a young Moabite woman chose to become an Israelite so did the Israelites choose to accept the commandments when they stood before Mt. Sinai.

It is customary to eat dairy foods on the holiday to symbolize the sweetness of Torah and the association of Israel as the land of milk and honey.

## Volunteers Needed for IAJGS Conference

Have you heard that the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Associations (IAJGS) is holding its [annual conference](#) in Fort Wayne this year on August 10 - 14? It's also a huge vote of confidence in our city and the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) (NEIJGS)!

It's a huge undertaking, too, for our small community; but we are confident that we will rise to the challenge. We have two very powerful assets: the world-renowned [Genealogy Center](#) at the Allen County Public Library, with its knowledgeable and helpful staff, and the outstanding Grand Wayne Convention Center.

The third asset we need is people – like you! Co-chairs for Volunteers are Fran Adler (NEIJGS) and Elizabeth Hodges (ACPL). Co-chairs for Hospitality are Beth and Dan Zweig (NEIJGS).

Some of you have already agreed to help, and we appreciate you. But we will need many more.

Here are some of the roles you might fill:

- Help people who have registered online check in and get their badges and other materials.
- Welcome attendees and help to familiarize them with Fort Wayne – from local attractions to the huge selection of downtown restaurants.
- Help them find their way around both sites and also find their way back and forth between the Grand Wayne and the Library, including physically assisting attendees with mobility challenges.
- Serve as session monitors to ensure that things go smoothly for both speakers and attendees.
- Help as needed with the Share Fair, the Film Festival, and other events.

Wondering about a time commitment? It could be as little as one two-hour stint to perhaps half a day, or several times over the five days, but that's your choice. You will be able to choose the time(s) you volunteer and for how long. And if you register for the conference, we will work around YOUR schedule, so you can help without missing any of the sessions you want to attend.

If you want to help the NEIJGS make this a truly superlative conference, please contact Fran Adler, [fran@adlerfw.com](mailto:fran@adlerfw.com), to volunteer. We will be very grateful!

*Fran, Elizabeth, Beth, and Dan*

## Utilizing Jewish Records For Genealogy



Professional genealogist [Ellen Kowitt](#) joins the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) on Sunday, May 4, beginning at 2 p.m. via Zoom for two programs on utilizing Jewish records. She'll speak at:

- 2 p.m. – **Locating Jewish Records in the Golden Medina (Jewish America) 1654 to the Present** – Documenting Jewish communities in the U.S. extends beyond cemeteries and synagogue plaques to include vital records, Escabot lists, mohel registers, hospital and funeral home records, and organizational materials.
- 3:30 p.m. – **U.S. Synagogue Records as a Genealogical Resource** – This session provides a guide to locating synagogue records, understanding the genealogical information they contain, and recognizing their various formats. Searching for these records can be challenging due to cataloging errors and inconsistencies in how materials are described. -

[Registration is required](#) to attend this free virtual program.

Kowitt, founder of Sole Searching Genealogy & Historical Research, is a frequent national speaker, covering topics such as Jewish genealogy fundamentals, research methodology, Jewish institutional records, genealogy website comparisons, Russian Empire research, and Holocaust history in Ukraine.

She will speak at the [2025 IAJGS Conference](#) in Fort Wayne, August 10-14.

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.

## Explore Your Family's Jewish Journey at Genealogy Conference

Registration is open for the [45th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](#) on August 10-14 in Fort Wayne! Don't miss this exceptional gathering centered on the theme, "And We Settled Here... The Jewish Journey," and featuring Genetic Genealogist [CeCe Moore](#) as the keynote speaker.

The conference is hosted by the [International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies](#) and the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#).

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)

A stylized illustration of a city skyline with a prominent skyscraper and an American flag. In the foreground, there is a tree with red fruit, possibly apples, and a blue wave-like base.The logo for the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), featuring a colorful, abstract design with the letters 'IAJGS' in a stylized font.A logo featuring a tree with roots and branches, with the text 'From Generation to Generation' and 'The Genealogy' around it.

# GREATER CHICAGO JEWISH FESTIVAL



## Thinking About Going to the Greater Chicago Jewish Festival?

Are you interested in heading to Chicago for the [Greater Chicago Jewish Festival](#) on Sunday, June 8? Come to the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's short and friendly info session on Wednesday, May 7 at 1:15 p.m. on [Zoom](#).

This meeting is an opportunity for anyone interested in joining this vibrant celebration of Jewish music, art, culture, and community to connect, ask questions, and help coordinate travel plans.

Whether you're a first-time attendee or a returning festival-goer, we welcome your participation and input. It's a great way to connect with others who are thinking about going and to get your questions answered.

All are welcome—whether you're just curious or already packing your bag!



Questions? Reach out to the Federation office at (260) 456-0400 or [office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org).

Many thanks to our Rosh Chodesh group for organizing this event and to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.

## Carfit & Community Potluck on May 28



Join the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) on Wednesday, May 28 for a special double event at the [Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#), 5920 Homestead Road. We're hosting a CarFit event and a Community

Potluck—come for one or enjoy both!

CarFit\* is a free, interactive program that helps older adults check how well their personal vehicles “fit” them for comfort and safety. Appointments are required beginning at 4:30 p.m. —sign up one vehicle per time slot.

Beginning at 5 p.m., we're gathering for a delicious potluck! Federation will provide turkey sandwiches, water and paper goods—please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share with 8 - 10 people along with a chair or blanket. RSVPs are needed so we can plan accordingly.

Please RSVP to let us know:

- If you're attending the CarFit event (and your preferred time slot) - [RSVP here](#)
- What [dish or dessert you plan to bring](#) for the potluck

Many thanks to our Rosh Chodesh group for organizing this event and to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.



We're grateful to [Wellspring Interfaith Social Services](#) for hosting members of the Temple on April 23 during a congregational luncheon so we could learn more about the positive impact Wellspring is making in our community! The Temple is proud to be a supporting congregation.

Wellspring CEO Ermina Mustedanagic visits with Rabbi Meir Barger, Social Action Committee Chair Rena Black, Susie Miller, Beth Zweig, and Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum. Leonard is a former Wellspring Board member and Beth is a current board member.

## 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.



# Donations

## Art & Beautification Fund

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

In honor of Alan Grinsfelder's  
Lifetime Achievement Award:  
*Carol & Larry Adelman*

## B'nai Jacob Conservative Judaism Fund

In memory of Sarah Cohen:  
*David Schwartz*

In memory of Samuel Zaslawsky:  
*Adrienne Brateman*

## Campership Fund

In memory of Eddie Field: *Steven Field*

In memory of Charlotte Korin:  
*Beth & Mitch Sherr*

In memory of Goldie DuBow:  
*Vivian Skadron*

## General Operations

A donation was received from:  
*Juan Suarez, Stuart Block, Jerry Pownall*

In memory of Rosa S. Fishman and David  
B. Fishman: *Carol & James Fishman-Levy*

In memory of Danny Rifkin: *Karen Festa;*  
*Carol & Larry Adelman, Steve Siegel*

In memory of Mayora Rosenberg,  
Sophie & Fred Glazer, and Sam Zweig:  
*Beth & Dan Zweig*

In memory of Irina Kutsenok: *Eda Kyner*

In memory of Zelda Punskey:  
*Fani Kozolchik*

In memory of Henry Kepes:  
*Micki & Sherwin Kepes*

## Kathryn Kann Mendelblat Cultural Enrichment Fund

In memory of Mae Porter Kann and  
Sigmund W. Kahn: *Stephen Rothberg*

In memory of Peter Alan Rothberg  
and Jo Rothberg: *Stephen Rothberg*

In memory of Peter Alan Rothberg,  
Jo Rothberg, and Sol Rothberg:  
*Deborah Rothberg*

In memory of Danny Rifkin: *Richard Byers*

## Library Fund

In memory of Etta Gepsman:  
*Martin Gepsman*

In memory of Norman Thal Jr.:  
*Beth & Dan Zweig*

In memory of Harvey Schwartzstein:  
*Barbara & Roberta Silverman*

## Nancy & Mike Dicker Youth & Religious School Fund

In memory of Ethel Schnitt:  
*Nancy & Mike Dicker*

In memory of Danny Rifkin: *Marvin Siegel*

## Norma Jean Rifkin Educational Fund

In memory of Danny Rifkin: *Cindy Brooks;*  
*Susan & Alan Cooperman; Broderick*  
*Farley; Ronnie & Norm Greenberg; Sue &*  
*Chris Mitson; Robert Hall; Marcia & Denny*  
*Reynolds; Patti, Tom and Chelsea*  
*Tuschman; Judy & Steve Zacher;*  
*Beth & Dan Zweig*

## Thoughtful Thursdays

A donation was received from:  
*Cindi & Richard Wismer; Rita & Tom*  
*O'Neill; Rachel & Geoff Gordon*

In memory of David Ash:  
*Jessica & Roger Ash*

In memory of Danny Rifkin:  
*Cindi & Richard Wismer*

## Rabbi Kornspan Tzedakah Fund

A donation was received from:  
*William Chambers*

In memory of Ron Miller  
and Nikki Kaplan Stern: *Susie Miller*

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Samuel Brateman:  
*Adrienne Brateman*

In memory of James Leib, Arlene Leib,  
Rose Leib Rothman, Bill Siegle, Max Leib,  
Michael Leib, Rosetta Siegle, and Alan  
Siegle: *Jere Leib*

In memory of Steve Herman:  
*Marilyn & Jeffrey Herman*

## Religious School

In memory of Margot Krel:  
*Rossya & Howard Klebanow*

In memory of Alegria Fine: *Ron Cousino Jr.*

In memory of Sonia Cooperman:  
*Susan & Alan Cooperman*

In memory of Danny Rifkin:  
*Barrett McNagly*

## ROMEOs

In memory of Steve Herman:  
*Dana & Jay Zemmol*

## Max & Gerda Schmitz Holocaust Education Fund

In memory of Irina Kutsenok:  
*Victor Kutsenok*

## Temple Gardens Fund

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

In memory of Orion Reynolds and James  
Rakes: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

In memory of Audrey Gerson:  
*Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz*

## Youth Group Fund

In memory of Alegria Fine:  
*Susan & Alan Cooperman*

## Your Gift Makes a Difference

Your gift to Congregation  
Achduth Vesholom helps us offer  
a wide range of worship services,  
educational opportunities, cultural  
programs, social events, and  
activities to build and strengthen  
Jewish community.

Thank you for your support!

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

## 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.

## Yahrzeits

### May 2-3

Irvin Adams  
Sigmund Apfelbaum  
Ruth Beck  
Morris Becker  
Ann Block  
Emanuel Blum  
Jacob Brateman  
Harold I. Chon  
Hannah Cohen  
Louis S. Dessauer  
Sophia Ebner  
Joan Erb  
Muriel Feinstein  
Elaine Harvey  
Nannette Heilbroner  
Clara Heilbroner  
Naomi Frank Korkes  
Dora Kudysh  
Jean Lee  
Samuel Levis  
Frances Levy  
Irwin Mallin  
Louis Masursky  
Minnie Mendelson  
Jane L. Neiman  
Nate Nemoroff  
Alfred Novitsky  
Stephen Powers  
Paul N. Richardson  
Sol Rothberg  
Charles J. Rothschild  
Lois Safran  
Dr. Hans Sahlmann  
Eva R. Salon  
Dr. Harry Salon  
Hazel Schultz  
Alan Slutsky  
Norman Snow  
Harry N. Speyer  
Abraham Stein  
Bertha Strass  
Ida Ruth Superior

Bor Tam  
Lillian Weiss  
Samuel Wolf  
Harry Wolff  
Samuel Zaslawsky

### May 9-10

Heather Chernen  
Ruth Cohen  
Marian Smith D'arcy  
Rabbi Frederic A. Doppelt  
Freda M. Dubin  
Dr. B.M. Edlavitch  
Gabor Fenyés  
Pearl Fichman  
Alexander Fiegler  
Sylvia Forlander  
Joseph Freiburger  
Chad Goldberg  
Rabbi Samuel Goldin  
C.C. Hollingsworth  
Sara Kaliski  
Selman Kaufman  
Sarah Komisarow  
Sarah Krakower  
Sarah Kraus  
Grace Kupersmith  
Dora Leiberman  
Evelyn Lipp  
Hyman Mazur  
Donald Nusholtz  
Janet Perlman  
Harry Peurye  
Rebeca Pressman  
Deborah Rifkin  
Meyer Roseman  
Mayora Rosenberg  
Lucille Schuler  
Samuel Schultz  
Scott Sherr  
Curtis M. Stein  
Jerry Sweedler  
Sidney David Troy

Louise Warshauer  
Jennie Weisman  
Molly Wolf  
Bernard A. Woolner

### May 16-17

Sarah Beck  
Dan Bernstein  
Lena Nahmias Cohen  
S. Stephen Cohen  
Harriet Crell  
Hyman Dicker  
Helen Fishman  
Stan Fishman  
Julia Frankenstein  
Myron Goldman  
Paul Gordon  
Sherman Gordon  
Leo Horn  
Abraham Kamile  
Robert Katz  
Marion Kaufman  
Mathilde Kaufman  
Louis Komito  
Joan Kramer  
Harry Lechtner  
Fannie Lipp  
Edwin Maier  
Geraldine Mansbach  
Esther Pomerantz  
Chuck Replane  
Gerda Schmitz  
Esther Schwartz  
Irene Gazda Schwarz  
Rose Soraich  
Elizabeth Stein  
Lorenz Edward Stillpass  
Isaac D. Straus  
Joseph A. Stumpf  
Pauline Turansky  
William Walter  
Emily Weinstein  
Ruth Wertheimer

David Winnick  
Pauline Young

### May 23-24

Miriam Brenn  
Julie Brooks  
Solly K. Frankenstein  
Mina Freiburger  
Paul Gepsman  
Sam Goldstine  
Bonnie Harrison  
Steven R. Jaeger  
Betty Kann Castle  
Minnie Kaplan  
Max Kaplan  
Anthony Kirdahy  
William Landy  
Harry W. Landy  
Alex LeShay  
Rosa Levin  
Ruth Levine  
Theresa Levy  
Sarah Levy  
Julia Liberman  
Sadie Livingston  
Felix Maier  
Rivah H. Meyers  
Herman Moss  
Isidore Nemeroff  
Jennie Nemeroff  
Lillian J. Pilgrim  
Carolyn Katz Polakoff  
Edward Ruben  
Reuben Sachs  
Jonathan Safran  
Morris Salon  
Lena Salon  
Helen M. Schubert  
Yitschok Isaac Schwartz  
Philip Sisman  
Wolf Soloway  
Jack Speyer  
Stanley Tankel

Fannie Trivus  
Shulamith Troy  
Ruth Turansky  
Sally Zelinger

### May 30-May 31

Vida Assael  
Eva Bosell  
Esther Cera Brateman  
Anna Jones Clark  
Gertrude Cline  
George Ivan Fredrick  
Shirley Gerber  
Sara Goldberg  
Sidney Goldin  
Anna Hurwitz  
Herbert Isay  
Marvin Katz  
Henry Kepes  
Annette P. Kesselman  
Harry H. King  
Aaron Komito  
Sylvia Levine  
Jack Levine  
Rae Lipp  
Abraham Pallas  
Donald Persky  
James Rakes  
Franz Reimann  
Orion Reynolds  
Charles Rosenblum  
Dora Rozeen  
Sarah Salon/Kaye  
Paul Schwartz  
David Silverman  
Ira Sokoloff  
Alexander Soraich  
Marion Sweedler  
Bernard "Bud" Turansky  
Pearl Waterman  
Sylvia Zimmerman  
Muriel Zweig

## Condolences To

**The Rifkin family** on the death of Daniel "Danny" Rifkin, who died on April 1, 2025. We think of his children, Neal, Sarah, and Mark; Neal's wife, Sonya, and their children, Levi, Sophia, and Benjamin; his brothers, Ricky (Soula) and Marty (Judy); and his fiancée, Tamara Braun.

**Betsy & Geoff Gephart** on the death of her father, Norman Roy Thal, Jr. on March 25, 2025 in Madison, Wisconsin. We also think of their children, Noah and Grace, on the death of their grandfather.

Charter Member of the Union For Reform Judaism  
Meir Barger, Rabbi

#### OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President: *Ronnie Greenberg*  
VP Programming: *Beth Zweig*  
VP Finance: *John Stein*  
Secretary: *Dawn Hammond*

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Shai Hadashi	Leise Rosman	Mimi Zelman
Amy Krouse	Kathy Sider	

Rabbi Meir Barger: rabbi@templecav.org  
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Beth Zweig: Bulletin Editor bulletin@templecav.org  
Jamie Fritz: Comptroller accounts@templecav.org  
Just Sue Graphic Design: Bulletin Design

**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, the PFW Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Brightpoint Head Start, the Madge Rothschild Resource Center, and the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society.

f facebook.com/templecavfw

▶ Achduth Vesholom Congregation



#### We Welcome Your Comments

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.

**Want to receive our newsletter?**  
Send us your email address to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org)

**The deadline for the June/July Bulletin  
is Thursday, May 15.**

## GUEST COLUMNIST *John Stein*



Outside the birds have returned, flowers have burst through the ground and blooms are on the trees. Accountants have filed their last returns and headed to Las Vegas for a week without eyeshades or pocket protectors.

But on the Rifkin campus, the financial staff and the finance committee have been whittling away at what looks like yet another deficit budget. Our board got its first look in April, and we spent some time dealing with a familiar problem, an expected deficit. That is exactly what we have been presented with in each of the last few years.

You probably have heard some of us say income is too low while expenses continue to rise. We don't take this job lightly, the job of holding down expenditures. This past year we changed natural gas providers to cut our costs. Again this year, however, we are forced to add a cost of expenses/cost of living adjustment to our dues base. We don't do this to keep with costs, mind you. No, no, that is not happening. We make that adjustment so we don't slide back any further or faster.

We had a large planned deficit for the year that ended last June 30. Surprisingly, we ended up with a surplus. How, you might ask, did you pull that off? And why can't you do that all the time? Turns out that the only way that happened was we went many months during that year without a complete staff. If no one

shows up, we don't pay. But lots of work is left undone. And that is not good or effective for us to provide what you all expect to be done here. That is not a solution for a congregation to provide full services for its members.

We talk about this at board meetings. Members want us to provide religious education for our children. For adults, we want to have weekly services on Shabbat and to celebrate all of our holidays, not just the big, important ones. It's nice if everyone in the congregation can afford to come to the second night seder or the Hanukkah party.

We have a wonderfully successful fundraiser each fall. We have rental income from our tenants. We have been fortunate recipients of past gifts that allow us to do some of this. But, sadly, our dues base does not keep up with our appetite.

Again this year, you will receive a letter asking you to review your own dues, calculate how much you can increase them this year and try to help us catch up. We know you understand the situation. All we ask of everyone is to stop and consider for a few moments how much joy you get from our congregation throughout the year. Remember what each month has brought to you this year. There is another year being planned again even at this moment that I am writing my message. It will be another splendid year, of that I am sure. Please help us with our battle against that nagging problem where expenses exceed income.