

THE TEMPLE

CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM BULLETIN

BUILDING JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1848

AUGUST 2025

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VISITUSONLINE
TempleCav.org



Join us for Friday Night Live with Heartland Sings & BBQ



Our spirited [Friday Night Live](#) service moves outdoors at the Temple on August 8 at 6:30 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir Barger on with [Heartland Sings](#) on their mobile stage.

Tap your toes, get on your feet, and share the joy of Shabbat with this lively worship experience. (Please note that the service will not be livestreamed.)

Join us prior to services at 5 p.m. for a barbeque hosted by the ROMEOs, with Hebrew National hot dogs, veggie burgers, coleslaw, vegetarian baked beans, and chips. After the service, we'll gather around the CAV fire pit for s'mores, popsicles, and ice cream.

Kindly RSVP for dinner no later than Tuesday, August 5 [online](#) or contact us at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org.

We also look forward to welcoming guests who are visiting Fort Wayne prior to the [International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies](#) conference, which will be held August 10-14 at the Grand Wayne Center and Allen County Public Library.

Please bring your own folding/camping chairs and or blankets/sheets to sit on and long-handled sticks or forks to roast marshmallows. Bug spray is recommended. (We'll have extras available for out-of-town guests.)

Thank you to Denny Reynolds for coordinating and the ROMEOs for hosting the meal.

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

Share a Joy Vey Morning with Juliette Nehring

Families with young children are invited to share a special musical morning of Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat on Saturday, August 23 at 10:30 a.m. with musician Juliette Nehring.

Meet us at the Temple to introduce your child to the beauty of a Shabbat morning service with prayer, singing, movement, joyfulness, and friends. We'll celebrate Shabbat outdoors, weather permitting. Folks are encouraged to stick around afterwards for a nosh and social time. >>> *continued on page 3*



Upcoming Events

Need more information? Visit our website (templecav.org) or give us a call!

AUGUST

IAJGS Jewish Genealogy Conference

Sunday, August 10 to

Thursday, August 14

Grand Wayne Center

[Registration required](#)

Corned Beef Mail Prep

Thursday, August 21

10 a.m. at the Temple

SEPTEMBER

Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, September 3

10 a.m. at the Temple

Learning Café

Wednesday, September 3

Noon to 1 p.m. at the Temple

Bring a brown bag lunch

Fall Shabbat Service Schedule Begins

Friday, September 5

6 p.m.

Religious School Begins

Sunday, September 7

10 a.m.

[*Register before the first day](#)

Community Picnic

Sunday, September 7

1 to 3 p.m. at the Temple

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat

Friday, September 12

5:30 p.m. at the Temple

Guy Copeland Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, September 13

10 a.m.

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 13

7:45 p.m.

Family Apple Picking

Sunday, September 21

10 a.m.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH begins on

Monday, September 22

FIND THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

SCHEDULE ON PAGE 13

Shabbat Services

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

AUGUST

Shabbat Service

Friday, August 1, 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, August 2, 9:45 a.m.

Friday Night Live & BBQ

Hosted by the ROMEOS

Friday, August 8

Dinner at 5 p.m.

Service at 6:30 p.m.

[RSVP for dinner](#) by August 5

Music: Heartland Sings

The service will not be livestreamed.

Shabbat Service

Friday, August 15, 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, August 16, 9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service & Blessing For

Jane Ritchhart

Friday, August 22, 6:30 p.m.

Oneg Shabbat to follow

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat Morning

with Musician Juliette Nehring

Saturday, August 23

10:30 a.m. at the Temple

No Shabbat Service

Friday, August 29



A New Time for Worship Begins in September

Though the annual rhythm of our evening Shabbat services has meant an earlier worship time in the summer and a later one after Labor Day, we're making a change to that schedule for the coming year.

Beginning September 5, Friday evening services will move a half-hour earlier to 6 p.m. (One schedule note as we make the transition: We'll have a later Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. on September 12.)

The new time is inspired by a desire to encourage greater participation and family engagement. The decision was reached after much discussion between Rabbi Meir and the Ritual Committee, along with input from congregants. We hope everyone will embrace the possibility for new worship and community experiences.

We also look forward to creating more ways to socialize on Friday evenings, including occasional Shabbat dinners at the Temple and some nosh & schmooze options (both "pre-negs" and onegs). If you'd like to assist in these efforts, please contact the Temple office.

Lunch with the ROMEOS

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

Thursday, August 7

[Club Soda](#)

235 E. Superior St.

Thursday, August 21

[The Han Dynasty](#)

6401 W. Jefferson Blvd.

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

Rabbi Meir Barger



Finding Meaning in the Ordinary Days

August often feels like a threshold month, a transition between summer and the autumn [High Holy Days](#).

Vacations and camp end, school is just about to start, and even the Jewish calendar seems to be catching its breath. This year, [Elul](#) doesn't begin until the end of the month (August 25th), making much of August "ordinary days."

Yet it's precisely in these ordinary days that sacred things can happen.

Jewish life is adept at marking special moments: holidays, life cycle events, and significant transitions. However, our tradition also holds wisdom about the holiness inherent in everyday activities. There are blessings for waking up, eating, and seeing beauty in nature. Our ancestors understood that [kedushah](#) — holiness — is not confined to dramatic or ceremonial events. It exists in daily routines, simple pleasures, and quiet gestures.

[Abraham Joshua Heschel](#) famously taught about "radical amazement," the idea that spiritual life begins when we learn to marvel at the ordinary. Imagine the feeling of looking at your morning coffee, your child's laugh, or the scent and texture of the air on a summer morning not as mere moments, but as gifts. When we pause and notice the present moment, we enter a timeless space.

This month, I invite you to embrace the gift of ordinariness. Take a walk without your phone, watch the sunset without taking a picture, reach out to someone you've been meaning to connect with, prepare a meal slowly and mindfully, or read a book that nourishes your soul.

In these ordinary days, we also prepare our souls for the season ahead. Although the [shofar](#) hasn't yet begun to sound each morning, we are already moving in small steps toward Elul and the introspection of the High Holy Days. August provides us with the quiet space to begin this work gently, without urgency. Ask yourself: Where have I been this year? What have I learned? What still needs healing within me or around me?

Sometimes, the most transformative moments are not the loudest ones. They occur in whispers, pauses, and the in-between spaces. This August, let us learn to fully embrace these spaces. May we honor the "holiness of the everyday," even as we prepare for the sacred days that lie ahead.

Wishing you a month of stillness, awareness, and gentle return.

Traffic Delays Due to Bluffton Bridge Reconstruction

Please allow extra time when coming to the Temple if driving on the Bluffton Road Bridge (near Quimby Village) or at the intersection of Bluffton Road and Broadway

Due to the Bluffton Road Bridge reconstruction project, traffic is reduced to one lane at a time with one direction of travel. Red lights will be significantly longer to provide extra time for traffic to clear the construction zone. This change of traffic pattern will likely cause significant delays. Please consider taking an alternate route. These delays are expected through October.

Special Blessing at Services

Please join us on Friday, August 22 at 6:30 p.m. for our Shabbat service when we share the joy of Jane Ritchhart on her conversion to Judaism and offer a blessing. An Oneg Shabbat will follow.

Share a Joy Vey Morning with Juliette Nehring

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Nehring has been a lay leader and music specialist at Jewish congregations in the Indianapolis area for the past 13 years and has been a professional in the fields of music and education for over 30 years.

Currently, she is dedicated to her position as music specialist, cantorial soloist, and religious schoolteacher for Congregation Beth Shalom in Carmel. She has a passionate interest in children and families, and community engagement and social justice.

Please save the date to join us for Joy Vey on Friday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Helpers Needed with Mail Prep for 23rd Corned Beef Sale

Volunteers are needed to help [prepare a large bulk mailing](#) on Thursday, August 21 at 10 a.m. at the Temple as we get ready for our [23rd Corned Beef Fundraiser](#).

Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org to say you can assist.

Mark your calendar and clear your schedule to help with our Deli Day and biggest fundraiser on Thursday, November 6. We especially need volunteers during the corned beef sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., as well as [Prep Night](#) on Wednesday, November 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. We also will be [preparing "condiment" bags](#) of mustard, napkins, sporks and more on Monday, November 3 at 1:30 p.m.

Thanks to our Co-Chairs Amy Krouse and Micah Soltz and their team. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact us at office@templecav.org.



Community Picnic at Temple with Food Trucks, Music & More

Join together with our friends from the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne](#), as well as our Woodhurst and Southwood Park neighbors, on Sunday, September 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. on the beautiful grounds behind the Temple.

We're looking forward to a fun afternoon with music by the [Fort Wayne Pride Band](#), activities for kids, and lots of socializing. Lunch will be available for purchase from food trucks, with water bottles provided. Bring lawn chairs, sunscreen, and bug spray. In case of rain, we'll move indoors to the Social Hall.

Religious School begins on September 7, so students and families are encouraged to stay after class for the festivities. Thank you to Dawn Hammond for chairing. Questions? Contact the Temple office.

Lifelong LEARNING

Learning Café Returns in September

Pirkei Avot for the 21st Century – Being Human Today

Wednesday, September 3 at 12 PM

In person at the Temple and on Zoom

Join us for a timely and thought-provoking session of Learning Café as we explore ancient wisdom for modern times. Rabbi Meir will lead a deep dive into teachings from the classic text of Jewish ethics, reflecting on what it means to live with integrity, compassion, and purpose in today's complex world.

Whether you're new to Pirkei Avot or a longtime student, this conversation will offer fresh insights and meaningful dialogue. Bring your lunch, your questions, and your curiosity.

Learning Café is designed to nourish both the mind and the soul. Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding of Judaism or simply eager to engage in thoughtful conversation, this program is for you. We meet in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center from 12 to 1 p.m. Virtual participation is available on Zoom. Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 2 to office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245.



During our Learning Café in June, Rabbi Meir led our lifelong learners in a meaningful discussion on important questions for Jews living in the Diaspora and in Israel in a post-October 7th world. We explored the book "For Such a Time as This:

On Being Jewish Today" by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, looking at the impact of recent events on Jewish identity, the rise of antisemitism, and how Jewish history and tradition can guide us in contemporary challenges. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support of the program.



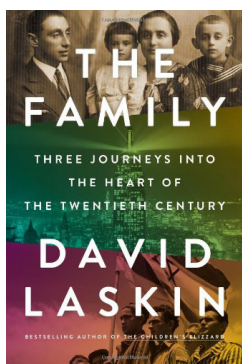
The sixth and final session of "The Reform Movement in America Today" in June focused on Zionism. Rabbi Meir led the discussion on the evolving understanding of Israel's place in the life of diaspora Jews.

LIBRARY NEWS

Family History in the Temple Library

In honor of the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Fort Wayne this month, we're featuring family history titles available in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#).

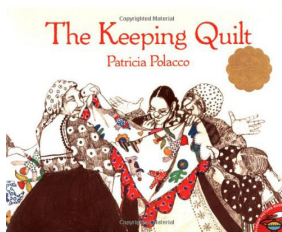
To be clear, to do genealogical research, we generally recommend a trip to the [Genealogy Center](#) at the Allen County Public Library downtown. We have a few titles and guidebooks available to check out that might inspire you to begin your research. Arthur Kurzweil's *From Generation to Generation* is a classic guidebook on tracing your Jewish family history, as is Dan Rottenberg's *Finding our Fathers*. For those with grandchildren, *Zap the Grandma Gap* by Janet Hovorka may be of interest.



Other titles in our adult collection that might be inspiring include *Then and Now: Discovering My Viennese Family*, by our own Irv Adler. Along those same lines, Sarah Wildman's *Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind*, is also a Holocaust discovery story based on family letters. *The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* by David Laskin is a Jewish family history story that covers many countries and many

decades. It is a particularly well-written narrative that could apply to many Jewish families. Harry Ostrer's *Legacy: A Genetic History of the Jewish People* comes at Jewish family history from a different direction.

For middle-grade readers and teens, there are titles in our juvenile and teen collections that might be of interest. Ruth Behar's *Across So Many Seas* tells the story of four girls from different generations of a Jewish family, beginning with the Inquisition in Spain in 1492. *The Summer of Lost Letters* by Hannah Reynolds is a Sydney Taylor Honor Book about Abby Schoenberg, a 17-year-old who finds her grandmother's old love letters. A guidebook, *Who Do You Think You Are? Be a Family Tree Detective* by Dan Waddell, is part of our juvenile non-fiction collection.



Our picture book section for younger readers also includes several excellent family history titles. Classics include Patricia Polacco's *The Blessing Cup* and *The Keeping Quilt*. Other good stories are Michael Herman's *Under the Sabbath Lamp*, Aunt Claire's *Yellow Beehive Hair* by Deborah Blumenthal, and *Leon*

Ben-Tzion the 14th by Nevo Ziv.

Our [full library catalog](#) is available online, and checkout is available at the library desk whenever the building is open. Please take advantage of this member resource!



Our new Intergenerational Shabbat service on June 6 brought together children and adults of all ages for a lively worship experience, led by Rabbi Meir with music by Norm Greenberg.

In addition to our Religious School students participating in the service, we offered a blessing for Celeste & Evan Sexton and their daughters as they prepared to relocate from Fort Wayne.

Thank you to Rabbi Meir, Youth Education and Family Engagement Director Stephanie Gottesman, Ritual Committee Chair Dawn Hammond, Kate Crell, and Nola Katinsky, as well as those who contributed to the beautiful Oneg Shabbat.



Congregants enjoyed a fun summer evening on June 28 at Parkview Field during Temple Night at the TinCaps. Thank you to Mike Barasch for organizing this annual event since we began the tradition in 2009.

YOUTH NEWS

A New Year of Growth and Connection in Our Religious School

STEPHANIE GOTTESMAN

Youth Education and Family Engagement Director



It's hard to believe the summer is already winding down! As I've settled into my new role, I've had the pleasure of speaking with many of you about the rich history of our religious school and the exciting opportunities ahead. Thank you to everyone who participated in our end-of-year survey—your thoughtful feedback helped us understand what matters most to our religious school families.

We're proud to build on the progress made last year under the leadership of Rabbi Meir and Religious School Coordinator Lily Noga, in partnership with Jewish education consultant Dr. Wendy Grinberg. The school met many of the goals set last fall, and your input has helped us shape our next steps.

This summer, we've been busy planning a year full of new energy, clearer curriculum paths, and more collaborative classroom leadership. You'll see more interactive learning, deeper discussion, and meaningful ways for students to explore what it means to live a Jewish life with intention and joy. Our goal is a learning environment rooted in Jewish values—where every child feels seen, heard, and connected to their peers, teachers, Temple community, and the teachings of Torah.

We're also expanding our offerings! In addition to our three core classes, we're launching a new Kulam class for post-b-mitzvah teens. Kulam means "everyone," and the curriculum will support teens in cultivating wellness (shleimut), connection (chesed), and justice (tzedek). Through thoughtful discussions, games, and Jewish texts, students will be equipped for the challenges facing today's emerging Jewish teens with reflection, courage, and care. For 10th graders, this class will also include a project-based Confirmation track. We hope that our post b-mitzvah teens will return to be part of this exciting program.

We're excited for another year of hands-on special programming with the Jewish Federation, Thoughtful Thursdays, and more. From assembling care packages to baking for the holidays, our students will continue living out Jewish values in tangible, heartfelt ways.

And this year, we're deepening our commitment to intergenerational learning. Jewish learning is strengthened when more voices and generations are involved. We're inviting members of the wider congregation—grandparents, longtime members, and new faces alike—to bring their stories, skills, and presence into the classroom. This enriches our students' experience and strengthens the bonds of our whole community.

Our religious school is more than a place of learning—it's a hub of connection, meaning, and growth. Thank you for being on this journey with us. I look forward to a joyful, meaningful year ahead.

Help Brighten Our Religious School – Volunteer in the Classroom!

This year, we're opening the doors of our religious school a little wider—and we'd love for you to step inside. Whether you enjoy storytelling, song leading, arts and crafts, reading to kids, or teaching about traditions and rituals, we are looking to include more voices, talents, and generations in our classrooms. You don't need to be a teacher—just someone who wants to share a little time and spirit with the next generation.

If you'd be open to visiting a class once (or more!), please contact Stephanie Gottesman at youth@templecav.org — we'd love to match you with an opportunity that fits your interests.

Religious School Registration is Open

Our new year of Religious School will begin on Sunday, September 7 at 10 a.m. for children in kindergarten through high school (age 5+ by September 1). Families must be members of the congregation to enroll their children in the program.

[Enrollment materials](#) are available at www.templecav.org. Please complete forms prior to the first day of class. Contact Youth Education and Family Engagement Director Stephanie Gottesman at youth@templecav.org with any questions.

We invite you to stay for a [community picnic](#) with food trucks, music and more after Religious School from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Temple.



Our sacred community was filled with joy on May 31 as Evan Wallet was confirmed at Shabbat services. Confirmation marks the mature commitment to Jewish identity and Jewish life. Mazel tov to Evan and his parents, Wendi & Joshua Wallet, on their simcha!

Help Us Stay in Touch with Your College Student

Please let the Temple office know your college student's email address so that we may stay in touch by sending the monthly Bulletin. We'll also be glad to send the weekly email, which also provides links for online services and opportunities. Contact us at office@templecav.org.



Joy Vey families davened on June 14 with Rabbi Meir and guest prayer leader Juliette Nehring. Children celebrated the Torah service with prayer, dancing and singing. Rabbi Meir as Moses demonstrated how Adonai led the Israelites out of the desert by following a cloud by day and fire by night. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support. Thank you to Wendy Soltz, Amy Krouse, and Stephanie Gottesman for providing the Oneg Shabbat. See page 1 for details on our next Joy Vey.



Member Engagement Initiative Shared at 177th Annual Meeting



Congregants gathered in person and online on June 4 for Achduth Vesholom's 177th Annual Meeting, learning about an unexpected change in leadership and

learning details of a new member engagement initiative.

Beth Zweig began the meeting by sharing the news that Ronnie Greenberg had stepped down a few weeks early as president after four years in that role due to health concerns. In her letter to the Board on May 30, Ronnie wrote:

"I greatly regret to tell you that I must resign from my position as President of the Board, effective immediately. As stipulated in the Bylaws, Vice President Programming Beth Zweig will step into the position and, since she will be elected President at the annual meeting, this should make for a smooth transfer to wrap up the year and continue forward."

Ronnie also told the board that "it has been a privilege to serve our congregation and especially to serve with you on the on the Temple Board. You have been thoughtful in your deliberations and always willing to entertain other opinions. Looking back over the progress we have made towards a 'future-looking' mindset for our congregation, I think we can all feel proud of the work we have done and proud of our commitment to continue to explore other possibilities.

"Thank you again to the congregation and the Board for the privilege of serving as President."

Beth said the news was certainly not anticipated and a difficult decision for Ronnie, adding that "we are very grateful for Ronnie's leadership as president and commitment to our congregation for many years."

CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

During a special meeting on May 5, members approved revisions to the Bylaws that included creating a new position of President-Elect. Beth said the new position fits into an overall strategic focus for the Board in the past year on strengthening leadership for the future and emphasizing member engagement. Other changes include a new "gift year" membership and a new staff position.

The Board Development Committee has been working for the past five years to identify and develop potential candidates for leadership. Beth said we have been seeking a generational change in leadership with dedicated younger members serving in officer positions and trustee posts.

During the past year, two events resulted in 16 members becoming part of our "Leadership CAV 2025" group, including five who were elected to the board at the annual meeting.

Several of the emerging leaders joined current board members in participating in an online Leadership Boot Camp sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism. Evolving from the training session was the idea to create a President-Elect position to replace the Immediate Past President role. The goal is to reinvigorate interest in congregational leadership.

Beth said the change means "we are looking forward instead of backward. We're stressing the importance of cultivating new leaders and planning presidential succession rather than struggling during the nominating process. And we're providing the President-Elect with two years of solid experience working with the current president to become a stronger and more informed leader."

Amy Krouse will serve in the new position of President-Elect, whose duties include a focus on member engagement. A task force led by John Stein and Rachel Laing took a deep dive into engagement during the year, exploring how it can strengthen the congregation by helping connect members and also lead to attracting new ones.

In addition to creating this leadership position to spearhead the effort, the Board also is designating financial resources in two new ways toward this vital effort:

- **A staff position called Youth Education and Member Engagement Director** - Stephanie Gottesman, a member who has been active with our Joy Vey program, has been hired in this new role and will be supporting our Religious School and youth programs, as well as overall family engagement.
- **A "gift" membership** - New members will be offered the opportunity to enjoy their first year of membership at no charge. During this time, a new ambassador group will be reaching out as a "welcome wagon" or "fraternity rush" group of sorts to welcome new members, introduce them to CAV and its members, invite them to services or events, or reach out to help them find a meaningful way to get involved.

Beth said the idea is to help new members during the first year find the value in being part of CAV. At the end of the year, she said, they would hopefully choose to become dues-paying members and to think positively about their experience.

Engagement efforts won't be limited to new members. Beth said we want also to connect more to our current members. Through this new staff position, the President-Elect's engagement role, and our ambassador corps, she said, we will be able to build relationships and work toward a more personal outreach to our members.

>>> *continued on page 9*

Beth added that we all have a role in creating a welcoming atmosphere by reaching out to others. She invited members to contact her or Amy or Stephanie to volunteer to be part of our outreach ambassadors.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In addition to welcoming 11 new member households in the past year, Beth highlighted some of the activities since the membership last met. These included:

- **Our 22nd Corned Beef Fundraiser**, which raised nearly \$27,000 through increased sponsorships and sales of about 1,700 meals. A new streamlined pick-up process impressed customers and contributed to our success.
- **"A Creative Life: The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder"** exhibit was featured in late 2024, the brainchild of Jon Tam, who conceived it and brought us this incredible showcase of Alan's artwork and professional contributions to our community.
- **An abundance of interesting classes for our lifelong learners**, primarily taught by Rabbi Meir, including everything from "The Prayers of Leonard Cohen" to a six-part series on "The Reform Movement in America." A new Learning Café monthly lunch program in person also has proven popular.
- **Thoughtful Thursdays** completed its 15th year providing food and household items for our 51 Brightpoint Head Start students who attend class at the Temple.
- **The Social Action Committee's** activities included a Hot Topics Shabbat on food insecurity, a High Holy Days food drive to gather holiday favorites for Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, and a screening of the documentary "Colleyville" in partnership with PFW's Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Beth also thanked the staff for their dedication to the congregation, including Rabbi Meir Bargerion; Samara Sheray, our Executive Director; Jamie Fritz, our comptroller; Charles Smiley, our facilities manager; and Timmy Oberley, our custodian. She also thanked the Board, members and volunteers.

RABBI'S REPORT

Rabbi Meir said our annual meeting is about shared responsibility, vision, and commitment. The past year has been one of deep challenge and extraordinary promise, he said, though "the future feels brighter to me now than it ever has."

The next generation of Temple leadership is stepping forward, he said, with new faces, engaged and ready, with young families bringing their children to Religious School and helping shape our community with their questions and energy.

Over the past year, Rabbi Meir said, we undertook a bold and honest review of our education program. With the help of Jewish educational consultant Dr. Wendy Grinberg, we evaluated what was working—and what wasn't. Out of that came a plan to refresh and revitalize our school. In September, we came back to the Temple on Sunday mornings to a fuller calendar, with more in-person learning for kids, continued Hebrew learning online, and a strong preparatory program for B'nai Mitzvah.

He said the changes reflect our values – that Jewish learning and building Jewish connections matter here. Rabbi Meir said Leise Rosman has led the Religious School Committee with insight and care, supported by our faculty of volunteer educators, Kate Crell, David Crell, and David Flapan. Barbara Silverman has re-designed our Hebrew curriculum and is teaching our Hebrew classes and tutoring b'nei mitzvah students.

He's grateful to Lily Noga for serving the new role of Religious School Coordinator, which concluded with the school year. Stephanie Gottesman has joined the Temple staff in the new role of Director of Youth Education and Family Engagement. In addition to her continued work with Joy Vey and organizing family holiday celebrations, she will direct the Religious School and work on rebuilding our youth program.

Rabbi Meir also asked our members to offer their help teaching, greeting families on Sunday mornings, helping organize a holiday celebration or special activities for our students. He noted that you don't even need to have a child in our school to assist.

"When I see our students lighting candles, our teens reading Torah, our adults deep in study, and our volunteers rolling up their sleeves — I don't just feel hope. I see it,"

Rabbi Meir said. "Not vague, wishful hope—but the kind that's built through effort, commitment, and community. This congregation is a living Torah. And because of that, our future isn't just possible — it is bright. Thank you all for your connection, your partnership, and your sacred presence."



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Samara Sheray, who has served as our Executive Director for eight years, reported that the city sewer improvement project taking place on our campus is nearing completion.

Signs of progress include: New grass has been seeded, our parking lot lights that had been removed for this project have been reinstalled, and the majority of the heavy equipment has been removed from the property.

»» continued on page 10

Thieneman Construction, who is still on-site wrapping up final stages, recently gifted us repairs to the blacktop in our south parking lot, a generous and very welcome surprise. A cedar privacy fence will be installed along our north property line as part of the project's final phase, with full completion projected before October of this year.

At the beginning of the project, Samara said, we negotiated an agreement that said any sizable boulders found during the excavation must stay on our campus. As a result, we now have a collection of large boulders that will serve as natural security barriers and have allowed us to reallocate security grant funds in ways that have strengthened our campus in meaningful and lasting ways.

Samara shared that her role includes responsibility for operations, finances, personnel, technology, facility management, and campus security. She said she regularly collaborates with the Fort Wayne Police Department, the FBI, Homeland Security, the Secure Community Network, and the ADL. She said we continue to address security improvements through a Nonprofit Security Grant awarded in September 2022 from FEMA and Homeland Security of \$150,000.

Other projects in the works relate to streaming capabilities, improving the membership process, and technology. She thanked the staff for all they do for the congregation.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Vice President-Finance John Stein commented on the three previous speakers and the visions that each had described for the coming fiscal 2025-2026. These efforts will require us to add a new employee as Religious School director but who will also be the staff

member driving our renewed congregational involvement program.

Usually when creating a new position, he said, it is nice to have the position underwritten by a donor or a special grant. Neither was available to us, but the board is so convinced that we are heading in the correct direction that we agreed to fund it by using CAV Special Reserve Funds. John said that we lost a Religious School funding source this spring that we are working hard to replace.

In the meantime, he suggested that it would be helpful if members could support Religious School and Temple Operations with donations to those funds.

When the congregation approved the ability to use Endowment Funds a year ago, a member commented that she thought the idea behind that fund was to have it as a rainy-day fund. The Finance Committee and the Board discussed this several times during the past year. John said our conclusion is that it is not

raining yet but it definitely is drizzling.

"Dues have not covered our budget for decades," he said. "Our Hebrew teacher comes to us online at an hourly wage higher than our security detail. We have added some employee benefits in an effort to keep up with the norms in Allen County and we still cannot provide full health benefits. Once again there will be a 5% cost of operations addition to the July 1 dues statement that helps but does not even cover the increase in our fixed costs each year."

We're keeping an eye on deficits, he said, and continue to work closely to contain costs and increase revenue while providing services and programs to our members.

NEW BOARD ELECTED FOR 2025-2026

Officers

Elected to a 2-year term ending in June 2026

President: Beth Zweig

President-Elect: Amy Krouse

Elected for 1-year term ending in June 2026

Vice President Programs:

Dawn Hammond

Vice President Finance:

Sam Krouse

Secretary: Nick Young

Trustees

Elected to 2-year term ending in June 2027

Geoff Gordon

Becky Guttstein

Greg Shoup

Micah Soltz

Elected to 1-year term ending in June 2026

Kate Crell

Serving 2-year term ending in June 2026

David Crell

Mimi Zelman

INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New members of the board were installed by Rabbi Meir.



Ronnie Greenberg

for her leadership as
Temple President 2021-2025
Congregation Achduth Vesholom

Outgoing Trustees

We thanked Ronnie Greenberg, John Stein, Kathy Sider, and Shai Hadashi for their board service.

In appreciation of Ronnie's service as president, a new leaf has been added to the olive tree in the hallway of the Madge Rothschild Resource Center recognizing her service as president from 2021-2025.

>>> continued on page 11

L'dor Vador Legacy Society

Beth Zweig, who co-chairs the Planned Giving Committee with John Stein, said the L'dor Vador Legacy Society was established in 2012 to raise awareness about the importance of supporting the long-term financial needs of the congregation through estate planning or through larger gifts during an individual's lifetime.

Forty-seven members and friends of Achduth Vesholom are part of our legacy society after formally indicating that they've made arrangements for a planned gift, including 32 charter members.

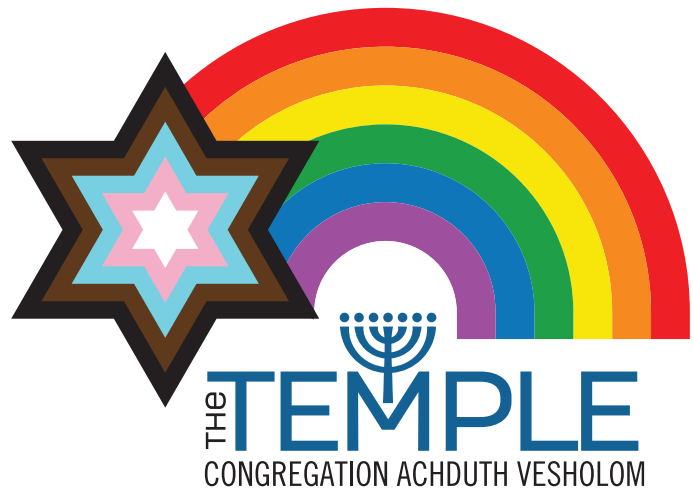
Though we have not added any new members to the society or dollars in the past year, we are proud of having brought nearly \$380,000 in planned gifts since the society began. Beth said that we've recognized those whose planned gifts have been received by adding their names the simcha quilt in the social hall with personalized stars.

"The work of the legacy society is vital to the long-term financial health of the Temple,"

Beth said. "We designed L'dor Vador for everyone. We hope that all members will make a legacy gift to the Temple, whether you can make a large donation or a smaller one, whatever fits your situation. From new members to seasoned ones, we hope you'll think about what the Temple means to you and your family – and consider giving to ensure our congregation is here for the people who follow.

Beth said we have members who want to see the fruits of their generosity during their lifetime. Others may not be able to make a gift now but are utilizing different financial planning options to ensure they can contribute to the Temple in the future.

During the coming year, she said, we hope to talk to more of you directly about how you can support the congregation in this important way. John and I also invite you to reach out to us to discuss how to provide for CAV in your estate plans. The Temple is very grateful for those who are making a lasting impact in this meaningful way.



Rabbi Meir led a meaningful Pride Shabbat service on July 25, with readings and prayers inspired by the LGBTQ+ experience. Guest Speaker Kris Wise, the mental health clinical director at Alliance Health Centers, spoke about a difficult time in a difficult world for LGBTQ+ youth, particularly trans kids. He spoke about the importance of resilience and community, challenging us to be a safe person for queer youth in these unprecedented times. Watch the service

After the service, we gathered for a festive Oneg Shabbat hosted by Rabbi Meir Bargerone & Jon Tam and Beth & Dan Zweig, with colorful rainbow challah made by Jon and Beth.



Reflect, Renew and Return to What Matters Most: Our Shared Humanity

"In a place where no one is human, strive to be human." – Pirkei Avot 2:5

This High Holy Days season, we come together to reflect, renew, and return to what matters most — our shared humanity. During this time of year, we are called to take personal responsibility to show moral courage, and to bring our Jewish values to counter injustice in our community, our nation and the world.

Join us at Congregation Achduth Vesholom as we enter the sacred days of awe, guided by the wisdom of our tradition and the warmth of community. Together, we'll open our hearts, lift our voices, and strive to be more compassionate, just, and whole.

Please join us when we welcome the [New Year 5786](#), with both Reform and Conservative minyanim worshiping together as one congregation, on Erev Rosh Hashanah on Monday, September 22 and on Kol Nidre on Wednesday, October 1.

[Rabbi Meir Barger](#) will lead the services, weaving together aspects of both liturgical traditions to inspire new insights during this time of reflection, forgiveness, and renewal. He'll be joined by [Hazzan Penny Myers](#), who will lead Conservative worship on the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah and the Day of Atonement.

New this year: Join Rabbi Meir and Hazzan Myers for a joyful and spirited Family Rosh Hashanah Service on Tuesday, September 23 at 4 p.m. Through music, movement, and meaningful prayer, we will welcome the New Year 5786 with heart and celebration. Perfect for families with young children — come sing, sway, and start the new year in sweetness together!

Returning this year: A Yom Kippur afternoon healing service with Rabbi Meir to provide comfort and support in sacred community.

Maestro Robert Nance will join us throughout the holidays for evening and Reform services.

Our annual New Year's Reception will provide an opportunity for our Temple family to share good wishes and enjoy a delicious nosh. The ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) will host Break-the-Fast meals after both concluding services on Yom Kippur. Plan to join us in person or [via livestream](#) throughout the Days of Awe. [Find the full schedule](#)

Let this be the year we strive — together — to be our most human selves.

Sweets, Treats, and More Needed

Please volunteer to help and to bake for the Rosh Hashanah Reception following our service on Monday, September 22. Baked goods are needed at the Temple no later than Friday, September 19. Items may be put in the freezer, but please mark them for the reception including your name.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up. Please contact the Temple office to offer your assistance at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org. Thank you to Dawn Hammond and Sheryl Merritt for chairing the reception!

Begin Sacred Season With Selichot

For centuries, Jews have gathered in synagogues on Saturday evening near Rosh Hashanah to prepare for the sacred season of self-scrutiny and renewal on Selichot. The word comes from the Hebrew for "forgiveness" and "pardon."

Continue the tradition with us on Saturday, September 13 at 7:45 p.m. at the Temple or on [YouTube](#).

Please join us for Havdalah, help change the Torah covers to white for the New Year, and begin the holiday season with meditative prayer and readings, led by Rabbi Meir Barger.

[What is Selichot?](#)

High Holy Days

SCHEDULE 5786 (2025)

Visit [our calendar](#) for the latest schedule.

Please join us for worship and other holiday activities:

SELICHOT SERVICE

Saturday, September 13

- 7:45 p.m. Begin the holiday season together with Havdalah and meditative prayer and readings.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE

Monday, September 22

- 7:30 p.m. **All-Congregation service**
- Reception follows

ROSH HASHANAH – FIRST DAY

Tuesday, September 23

Conservative Services

- 8:30 a.m. – Shacharit
- 10 a.m. Torah service with D'var Torah
- 11 a.m. Musaf

10 a.m. – Reform Service

- Noon – All-Congregation Tashlich at [Foster Park West, Winchester Road](#)
- 4 p.m. Family Service

ROSH HASHANAH, SECOND DAY

Wednesday, September 24

Conservative Services

- 8:30 a.m. – Shacharit
- 10 a.m. Torah service with D'var Torah
- 11 a.m. Musaf

SHABBAT SHUVAH SERVICE

Friday, September 26

- 6 p.m. - Includes dedication of yahrzeit plaques added in the past year

CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, September 28

- 1 p.m. at [Lindenwood Cemetery](#)
- 2:30 p.m. at [Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery](#)

EREV YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

Wednesday, October 1

- 7:15 p.m. Mincha (Goldstine-B'nai Jacob Chapel)
- 8 p.m. All Congregation Kol Nidre (Sanctuary)

YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

Thursday, October 2

Conservative Services

- 8:30 a.m. Shacharit Service
- 10 a.m. – Torah, Haftarah, D'var Torah, Yizkor
- 11:30 a.m. Musaf
- 3 p.m. [Healing Service](#)
- 6 p.m. Mincha
- 7 p.m. – Neilah
- [Break-the-Fast follows](#)

Reform Services

- 10 a.m. Morning Service
- 3 p.m. – [Healing Service](#)
- 4 p.m. – Yizkor (Memorial) Service
- 5 p.m. – Neilah (Concluding) Service
- [Break-the-Fast follows](#)

SHABBAT & SUKKOT SERVICE

Friday, October 10

- 6 p.m., followed by a Nosh in the Sukkah

JOY VEY! A KID-ISH SHABBAT & SUKKOT

MORNING with Musician Juliette Nehring

Saturday, October 11

- 10:30 a.m.

SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE WITH YIZKOR

Tuesday, October 14

- 7 p.m., followed by an Oneg



Support the Temple with High Holy Days Donation

As we prepare to start the New Year, it's tradition to make a

donation to the Temple to help support our year-round efforts to ensure a Jewish presence in Northeast Indiana.

Please consider being a "sponsor" of Achduth Vesholom's High Holy Days 5786. Your generous gift will be used for needs during the holidays and beyond, from replenishing the floral fund to assisting with security, music, technology, and congregational events.

Sponsors who donate \$180 or more by Thursday, September 11 will be recognized in our holiday announcements.

Jewish tradition encourages making tzedakah (charitable gifts) in multiples of 18, which is spelled *chai* and also means "life." Donations offered in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

We're proud to be one congregation with two worship traditions. Whether your customary gift is through sponsoring *aliyot* during Conservative services or your annual donation contributes to other congregational needs, we value and appreciate your assistance.

We have several ways to give:

- [Donate online](#) and choose "High Holy Days" on the dropdown menu. Please indicate if your gift is "in honor of" or "in memory of" a special person, or celebrates an occasion.
- For aliyot during our Conservative services, please contact Josh Tourkow at jtourkow@tcrlaw.com. (To donate online, choose "High Holy Days – Aliyot" on the dropdown menu and indicate if your gift is "in honor of" or "in memory of" a special person, or celebrates an occasion.)
- Send a check payable to "CAV- The Temple" to sponsor the High Holy Days (5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46807).

Join Us for Break the Fast Hosted by the Romeos

The [ROMEOS](#) (Retired Old Men Eating Out) are preparing a delicious break-the-fast meal for the congregation following both Reform and Conservative services on Thursday, October 2. Everyone is invited for tuna salad, egg salad, bagels, lox, herring in wine sauce, herring in sour cream, blintzes, fresh fruit and other delicacies.

We'll begin taking reservations in September so we can prepare enough food and seating.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-ups and other tasks. Please contact the Temple office to offer your assistance. If you would like to sponsor the sweet wine for Kiddush, please let us know. Thank you to Denny Reynolds for organizing and the ROMEOS for hosting!

Hazzan Penny Myers Returns for Holidays



As one congregation with two traditions, the Temple is pleased to have [Hazzan Penny Myers](#) join us for the High Holy Days 5786 to lead our Conservative services for a second year. She will also serve as hazzan co-leading the combined Erev Rosh

Hashanah service and for Kol Nidre services with Rabbi Meir Barger.

"Versatile," "engaging," "warm," and "gifted" are a few of the many attributes people have said about Hazzan Myers.

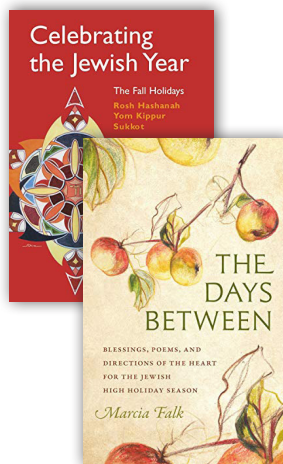
In 1996, following a successful tour in Central Europe as the primary lyric soprano soloist, she received a BA in Music-Voice from Buffalo State University. Her studies continued at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, earning a Master of Arts in Teaching-Music Education in 1999.

While a music teacher at an inner-city school in Durham, North Carolina, Hazzan Myers was a nominee for Teacher of the Year and discovered the Cantorate in Durham, N.C., where she moonlighted as cantorial soloist.

She received her *Hazzan* credential through the Cantors Assembly, a branch of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the world's largest professional association of Jewish Cantors.

In 2022, Hazzan Myers received her Rabbinic *s'michah* from Mesifita Adas Wolkowisk/ Rabbinical Academy of America, making her the first dually ordained Jewish clergy in Western New York.

Hazzan Myers is married to neurologist Dr. Bennett Myers. They have three children: Hunter, Saul, and Corrinne.



High Holy Days Books in the Library

The [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#) has more than [200 titles for the High Holy Days](#) that can be found online. [Find a "one-sheet" with recommendations](#) on the Temple's website.

Cemetery Services Set for Sept. 28

Memorial services will be held Sunday, September 28 at 1 p.m. at [Lindenwood Cemetery](#) and 2:30 p.m. at [Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery](#). Join Rabbi Meir for the traditional *El Maleh Rachmim* and Kaddish prayers, along with the appropriate psalms, poetry and prayers.

Remembering Your Loved Ones

If you wish to have a loved one's name included during memorial services on Yom Kippur, please provide information to the Temple office by Thursday, September 25. Call us at (260) 744-4245 or email at office@templecav.org.

Join us for memorial services in person or on [YouTube](#) on Thursday, October 2 at 10 a.m. during our Conservative service or 4 p.m. during our Reform service.

Visitors Welcome for High Holy Days

Do you know someone who is new to Fort Wayne? Will you have family or friends visiting for Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur? Please ask them to join us!

Our High Holy Days services are open to all. Services are offered both in person and via livestream ([YouTube](#) for all services and Zoom for Conservative morning services). We look forward to welcoming everyone. To receive information on how to access virtually on Zoom, please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org.

We're especially eager to welcome those who are new to our Jewish community to explain the benefits of membership at Achduth Vesholom. Please call us to let us know so we can reach out to newcomers.

Traveling to another URJ congregation that requires tickets? Contact the Temple office as soon as possible if you need a letter verifying that you're a member in good standing of Achduth Vesholom in order to obtain tickets at another Reform congregation.

Exploring Synagogue Architecture with Indiana Landmarks



Explore Fort Wayne's Jewish architectural heritage on Tuesday, September 30 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Temple with a look at six purpose-built synagogues (including the Temple) designed by renowned Jewish regional architects. The presentation will be given by our own Wendy Soltz, Associate Professor & Director, Public History Program, at Ball State University.

The presentation will be followed by a brief tour of the 1960 Congregation Achduth Vesholom,



(CAV) a Mid-Century Modern design recently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. As the only remaining synagogue of Indiana's oldest Jewish congregation, founded in 1848, the building offers a unique look at Fort Wayne's history and community.

Temple members may attend at no charge, but RSVPs are required by September 25 to office@templecav.org. Tickets for non-members are \$10, with [registration here](#)

The program is part of the [Preserving Historic Places](#) conference, Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference, on September 30-October 3 in Fort Wayne and is sponsored by Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, and Indiana University.

Support High Holy Days Food Drive with Thanksgiving Items



This year for the High Holy Days, we're asking you to help those who need food assistance get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving. [Wellspring Interfaith Social Services](#), which counts the Temple among its congregational faith partners, will provide all the fixings their clients need to enjoy a delicious holiday meal.

And we can help!

Please take a paper grocery bag from the lobby on Rosh Hashanah and return it on Yom Kippur.

If shopping is not your thing, we accept checks! Write a check to "Wellspring Interfaith Social Services" for any amount you can donate, get it to Temple, and we will take all checks to Wellspring.

You can always make a [direct donation](#) at www.wellspringinterfaith.org.

Fill yourself with the holiday spirit and give what you can!

Thank you from the Social Action Committee!

Romeos Begin New Year of Lunches



The [ROMEos](#) (Retired Old Men Eating Out) will begin a new year of twice-monthly lunches on Thursday, August 7 at noon at Club Soda, continuing a tradition launched in 2012 when the guys started gathering to share stories, meals, and friendship.

Their social time has expanded over the years to include supporting congregational events in big ways – including this coming year as hosts of the BBQ before Friday Night Live on August 8 and Break-the-Fast on October 2.

Under the leadership of Denny Reynolds, the ROMEos will continue to meet for regular lunches together most months on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. To find out more or join the chaverim, please contact Denny at dennisreynolds@me.com. [Find the 2025-2026 schedule](#)



More than 40 people from area faith communities came together on June 14 at the Temple for the first Fort Wayne Area Interfaith Cooperative event. The weather didn't cooperate with our plans for an outdoor potluck picnic, so we moved indoors for delicious food, cornhole, and opportunity to get acquainted. Rabbi Meir offered a building tour and explained some Jewish traditions.

Participating congregations are Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, Buddhist, CAV-The Temple, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren, Manchester Church of the Brethren, Plymouth Congregational Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne.

This new community collaborative brought together clergy and lay leaders from congregations, including multiple religious traditions. The Super Shot mobile van also was next door at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne.

Congratulations to Maestro Robert Nance!

Our Temple family extends its best wishes to [Maestro Robert Nance](#), a long-time friend and associate of the Temple, on recently taking on a new role at [Heartland Sings](#) as Founder & Artistic Director Emeritus. Bob founded Heartland Sings in 1997, and for 26 of the 28 years that he led that organization, he was a key musician at the Temple. He continues to share his talents at the Temple, including this month at Friday Night Live and in the coming weeks at our High Holy Days services.

Welcome to our Temple Family

The Temple is pleased to welcome our newest members:

KIT (EZRI) RENNER (*they/she*)
& MORRIGAN RENNER (*they/she*)

Kit, who also uses their Hebrew name Ezri, recently shared their Jewish journey during a recent Shabbat service, following their conversion to Judaism with Rabbi Meir. California natives, Kit and their wife, Morrigan, moved to Fort Wayne four years ago from Chicago. Kit is a regular at services, lifelong learning classes, and Temple events. Kit trains dogs to be assistance animals and created a company called Safeguarding People to assist unhoused people. Morrigan is a personal health assistant for Kit and an avid gamer. The couple has a Siberian husky named Fenrir and a tabby cat named Starscream. Kit would like to get more active at the Temple and looks for greater connection within the congregation.

THOMAS (YOSEPH) KELLEY
& RHIANNON (ALEX)

A native of Seelyville, Indiana, Yoseph, as he prefers to be called in the Jewish community, moved to Fort Wayne in 2012 and is a sales representative at Verizon. His 6-year-old daughter Alex will be in first grade at Northcrest Elementary School. They are excited to get involved at Religious School and the Temple.

IAJGS 2025 Conference Update

Sunday, August 10 to Thursday, August 14

Have you registered for the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Society (IAJGS) Conference? The IAJGS, in collaboration with your local [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#), want to remind those interested in Jewish genealogy to enroll in this educational conference. If you are unable to attend the whole conference, please be aware of the following:

Registration is available for single days; you may preview the sessions on the conference website here: [Program and Schedule](#)

Other highlights include:

Gala Banquet Speaker: Dr. Daniel Horowitz, presenting “Bear With Me: A Cultural History of Famous Bears in America”

Jewish Film Festival: Including the 50th anniversary screening of “Hester Street” [Film Festival](#)

Research Resources on the Holocaust: Access to over 4,400 Holocaust testimonies from the Fortunoff Archive, nearly 60,000 testimonies from 69 countries collected by the USC Shoah Foundation, and hundreds of Yizkor books available on open shelves

Registration is Keynote speaker: Cece Moore, “The Genetic Genealogist,” has been considered an innovator and pioneer in the use of autosomal DNA to resolve unknown parentage and family mysteries. She is frequently consulted by DNA testing companies, genealogists, adoptees, law enforcement and the press. She is the Chief Genetic Genealogist for Parabon NanoLabs, heading their Genetic Genealogy Services for law enforcement unit, boasting the unparalleled record of over 200 successful identifications of violent criminals in the two years since the unit’s launch. Please consider joining us on Sunday, August 10 at 7 p.m. [Register here](#)

Volunteer opportunities are still available!

Check-in registrants

Welcome table

Assist with getting people to/from Grand Wayne Center/ACPL Library

Session monitors

Please reach out to Fran Adler (fran@adlerfw.com) if you have time to help!

Thank you for helping to make our conference a success!



We held an Aufruf during our Shabbat service on July 11 for Joseph Beutel & Yair Sade, who were married on July 13 at the Temple. The couple live in New York City. The Jewish custom of Aufruf (Yiddish for “calling up”) is a synagogue celebration, typically held on the Shabbat before a Jewish wedding.

Joe is a native of Fort Wayne, and grew up alongside a number of our Fort Wayne Jewish families affiliated with CAV. He is an opera singer, as well as an occasional vocal musician at Central Synagogue. Yair is a native of Israel and works as a diplomat at the Israeli Consulate in New York. Their wedding was officiated by their friend Rabbi Jen Gubitz, a bat Achduth Vesholom who grew up at the Temple. Rabbi Meir offered the couple a blessing during the ceremony. Mazel tov, Joe & Yair!

Mazel Tov to:

EDEN FUCHS-YABLONSKY & GAGE YABLONSKY

on their chuppah ceremony on June 22, 2025 at the Temple.

BONNIE & ALEX CRUBAUGH on their move in late July to Austin, Texas to be near family. We will miss having them as part of our extended Temple family, particularly as active volunteers with Thoughtful Thursdays and corned beef! Bonnie retired in 2017 after 16 years as the Temple’s bookkeeper.

Brunch and Boat Ride On Sweet Breeze

Join the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) for a relaxing afternoon with a brunch and boat ride on Sunday, August 24!

For those who would like, we’ll gather at [Nawa](#) (126 W Columbia St) for brunch on your own at 12 p.m., then walk to the nearby dock for a Sweet Breeze canal boat ride at 2 p.m. — a scenic 90-minute cruise along the St. Marys River.

Please [purchase your boat ride tickets](#) as soon as possible — space is limited and tours sell out quickly!

Special thanks to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its generous support, and to our amazing Rosh Chodesh committee for organizing this fun afternoon on the water!

Save the Date: People of the Book with Mitch Albom



Join the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) for an inspiring evening with acclaimed author Mitch Albom, presented as part of our People of the Book series. The event will take place on Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Purdue Fort Wayne’s [Auer Performance Hall](#). Special thanks to the Dr. Louis A. and Anne B. Schneider Foundation for their generous support.

Donations

Art & Beautification Fund

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

Campership Fund

In memory of Stephen Powers: *Ann Fichman*

General Operations

Donations were received from: *Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon; Howard Nemeroff; Yair Sade; Juan Suarez*

In memory of Alex LeShay: *Diane & Herbert LeShay*

In memory of Ira Sokoloff: *Shara & Harry Cunningham*

In memory of Amelia Butz: *Nola & Matthew Katinsky*

In memory of Gail Cousino, Shirley Gerber, and Anthony Kirdahy: *Ron Cousino*

In memory of Nettie Gottlieb: *Doris Gottlieb*

In memory of Paul F. Schwartz, Jr: *Lenore Levine*

In memory of Norma Trauner: *Theresa & Scott Trauner*

In memory of Sylvia Levine: *Stan Levine*

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

In memory of Anna Mae Rosenblatt: *Enid & Stanley Rosenblatt*

In memory of Stan Fishman: *Carol Fishman-Levy*

In honor of everyone's good wishes: *Ronnie Greenberg*

In honor of Kit Renner and in memory of Cheryl Gannon and Barbara Congress: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

In memory of Gabor Fenyes: *Ann & Daniel Droegmyer*

In memory of Louise Marcus: *Suzi & Jim King*

In honor of Jane Ritchhart: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

In memory of Margot Field: *Steven Field*

Holocaust Memorial Fund

In memory of Danny Rifkin: *Karl Smith*

Kathryn Kann Mendelblat Cultural Enrichment Fund

In memory of Sol Rothberg: *Stephen Rothberg*

In memory of Betty K. Castle: *Deborah Rothberg*

Dr. John Planer Music Fund

In honor of Ronnie Greenberg: *Suzi Stone Schreiber*

In honor of Maestro Robert Nance: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*

Nancy and Mike Dicker Youth & Religious School Fund

A donation was received from: *Nancy & Mike Dicker*

Norma Jean Rifkin Educational Fund

In memory of Danny Rifkin: *Rita & Tom O'Neill*

Thoughtful Thursdays

In honor of Lily Noga: *Eric Noga*

Rabbi Kornspan Tzedakah Fund

A donation was received from *William Chambers; Ursula Lovett*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation was received from: *Joseph Beutel & Yair Sade; Marilyn & Jeff Herman*

In honor of Sam Goldberg's Bar Mitzvah: *Suzi Stone Schreiber*

In memory of his grandfather, Rabbi Shmuel Goldin: *Irene & Bob Walters*

In memory of Doris M. Sposeep: *Elissa & Steve Cohen*

In memory of Adria Sax: *Enid & Stanley Rosenblatt*

Religious School

In memory of Beatrice Motel: *Karen Sandler*

In honor of Ezri Rafe Renner: *Cris Sargent*

In memory of Alegria Fine: *Ally & Dave Whisler*

ROMEOs

Donations were received from: *Various families*

Temple Gardens Fund

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

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.

August Jahrzeits

We will not have Shabbat services on August 29. Jahrzeit names for the week will be read on August 22. Please contact the Temple office with any questions.

August 1-2

Marcus Block
Bernard Blumenthal
Jeanne F. Bransilver
Susan Cohen
Cynthia Cremer
Natalie Duckor
Virginia Calisch Fairman
Bill Fox
Adelaide Frank
Lillian Goldenberg
Carrie Broda Goodman
Mollie Greensfelder
Isaac Hoffman
Sol Hutner
Clifford Jones
Terri Katz
Steve Kelman
Selma Kline
Cathy Krainess
Eugene Kraus Sr.
Aaron Kravitz
Anne Kurzner
Blanche Leopold
Louis Levin
Yetta Michelson
Beatrice S. Motel
Robert O'Neill
Rose W. Portman
Joseph S. Rothschild
Sidney Rouda
David Salnitsky
Rosalin Samet
Phyllis Sarratore
Judy Schwartz
Harry Segal
Mary Siegel
Mrs. E.M. Shonfield
Jeffrey Silver
Adele Snow
Alfred Stoller
Ruth Strauss
Reevka Sweedler
Babette Trauerman
Adeline F. Wetzstein

August 8

Mary Bronstein
Louis Hansen "Joe" Carter
Bertha Doran
Frieda Erman
Sam Fried
Alex Honig
Jack Golden
Iris Sands Gilbert
Morris Goldin
Louis Katz
Fraida Rivah Klein
Hyman Komisarow
Brokha Koymann
Samuel Laderman
Chester M. Leopold
Frances Lare
Sarah Latker
Claude K. Lee
Rita Lewis
Hyman Liberman
David Lichtscien
Tanya Luark
Dr. Donald Mark
Myron M. Marks
Lillian Meyers
Max Moyer
Thea Nordtvedt
Frederick Nirdlinger
Isaac Roseman
Dorothy Rothberg
Ruth L. Rothschild
Corrine Ruben
Abe Rubenstein
Louis H. Saul
Charlotte Gilbert Schiff
Benedict Schulman
Irene Sachs Singerman
Sylvia Sommer
Betty Stein
Harvey Wolf

August 15-16

Solomon Ackerman
Rosie Adams
David Babich
Aaron Boernstein

Estelle Block
Mollie Bronstein
Minnie Cahn
Gary William Cohn
Barbara Congress
Clara Riddner Field
Meyer Goldfarb
Joe Goldstine
Herschel Gorelick
Albert Fishbein
Phyllis Himelstein
Louis Hirschberg
Minnie Hornstein
Amelia (Mollie) Hutner
Arnold Katinsky
Esther King
Mildred Kurtz
Sara Konkel
Morris Krainess
Samuel Kraus
Maxine Landy
Susan Schiller Leibow
Joseph Levine
Nahum Lefand
Ronald Louis Levin
Ralph Levin
Frances Lowens
Gertrude Moyer
Owen Miller
Anna Pallas
Phillipine Petschenek
Nelson W. Pollak
William Edward Pownall
Gertrude Schuster
Sampson
Esther Schmitz
Arthur A. Simon
Berenice Smith
Donald M. Wasserman
Charles Wigod
Harold Wolf
Alex Young

August 22

Abe Ackerman
Dennis Berquist
Melvin Binderman
Lillian Benson

Sophie Bialick
Robert B. Black
Rose Boches
Dan Bradley
Earl Brenn
David Cohen
Jeffrey Colegrove
Peggy Perrine Fredrick Conover
June Deitch
Ethel Eisbart
Harry Felstein
Leonid Finkelshteyn
Molly Fox
Lena Frank
Esther Gabe
Abner Grover
Betty Heller
Sara M. Jay
Max Kaposky
David Kempler
Abraham Kurtz
William "Bill" Lesser
Sam Levin
Hubert Loeser
Harry Lorber
Lina Miller
Abe Nemeroff
Bertha Ochstein
Beatrice (Bobo) Ochstein
Isaac Oppenheim
Reiva Orenstein
Jay Philip Oppenheim
Louise L. Pollak
Howard M. Ronsheim
Paul Edward Rothenberg
Hugh Ryneason
Frank Salon
Molly Sandel
Florence Schechter
Ben Soloff
Minnie Frank Schloss
Joseph Schmitz
Russell Solomon
Rebecca Strass
Edith Subeck
Blanche Sulkin

Bea Turin
Abraham Weil
Lorraine Weinswig
Harriet Weitzman
Mentor Wetstein
Kalman Wolf
Eric Wolfe
David Zeemont

August 29

Abe Beck
Claire Beer
Herbert Berger
Blanche Leiter Block
Anna Bluestein
Dora Buxbaum
Joe Congress
Abraham Dicker
Henry A. Fleck
Robert Gaskill
Dorothy B. Gold
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Paul Grossman
Susan Hakey
Morton F. Haslacher
Kirk Johnson
Mary Louise Kaplan
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Gilbert Landy
Asher Lechleider-Stoll
Michael Hunter Leib
Osvey Leybman
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Jean Lewy Marx
Norah Lee McKee
Rex P. Mercer
Abner Rosenberg
Rose Leib Rothman
Eugenia Russ
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Charter Member of the Union For Reform Judaism
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**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.

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▶ Achduth Vesholom Congregation

President's Column



BETH ZWIG

Years ago, when I used to move around for journalism positions, my parents always reminded me to join the local Temple. I was obligated, they said, to support the Jewish community. Without fail, they'd always played Jewish geography to find some friend or relative for me to contact.

I joined a congregation for the first time as an adult at the age of 22. While the dues seemed daunting compared to my meager cub reporter pay, the congregation accepted what I could afford. I volunteered to teach Religious School as a way to contribute.

When I later took a newspaper job in a new city, I remained unaffiliated because I hadn't perceived anyone as friendly when I attended the Reform congregation and didn't feel comfortable with the worship style at the alternative one. It was only after meeting Dan on a Jewish singles cruise and moving 35 years ago to Fort Wayne when we got married that I truly began to appreciate my parents' perspective.

My Jewish sense of responsibility has grown in the decades since. I have become more aware of the role all of us play in creating a stronger community, sharing our talents, interests, and time to ensure our congregation thrives. I've recognized that we need to support the Temple financially, sometimes digging a little deeper to compensate for those genuinely unable to contribute. I've learned that the personal connections developed here can add meaning to our lives during happy or sad times.

Not long after coming to Achduth Vesholom, I got involved as Bulletin editor and eventually became a board member. I first served as Temple president from 2007-2010, coming into the role during a busy time for our family with children ages 14, 12, and 8 because of a desire to help build Jewish community. Dan and I also encouraged our kids to be involved with Religious School, youth group, and summer camp.

Attending services hasn't just been important to me as a reflection of my commitment as a board member or to offer the Mishebeirach prayer for a parent or loved one. I've found that I take away something from the experience of regular attendance that helped nurture and anchor me: a quiet time to reflect, soothing or inspiring music, a thought from a sermon, an explanation of a prayer, a warm greeting at an oneg.

In writing my first column this time as Temple president, I'm honored and excited about the prospect of what's ahead as the Temple Board works in partnership with Rabbi Meir and Executive Director Samara Sheray.

Our new member engagement initiative, with Amy Krouse overseeing the effort in the role of President-Elect and Stephanie Gottesman as the Temple's director of Youth Education and Family Engagement, offers all of us many possibilities for meaningful involvement and deepening relationships.

Please join me in working together to develop a culture of connection - with each other and with our congregation. There is much we can achieve.



Thoughtful Thursdays

Thoughtful Thursdays Turns 16!

Join the Jewish Community's Thoughtful Thursdays team

on Wednesday, September 3 at 10 a.m. when we begin our 16th year assembling bags of food and household items for the Brightpoint Head Start families who attend class in our building.

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. For information, please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org. President Beth Zweig can be reached at (260) 433-3244 or president@templecav.org.

Want to receive our newsletter?

Send your email address to office@templecav.org

**The deadline for the combined
September/October Bulletin is Friday, August 15.**