

# THE TEMPLE

## CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

# BULLETIN

BUILDING JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1848

May 2020

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE P3

Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig: Wandering Together Through the Wilderness

P7 Thoughtful Thursday News

P9 Annual Meeting Board Candidates

P11 Rabbi Meir Barger

P12 New: Online Donations

P14 President's Corner

### PLUS:

• Services page 2

• Donations page 12

• Yahrzeits page 13

## ONLINE B'AR MITZVAH A FIRST FOR THE TEMPLE COMMUNITY

Unusual times call for creativity and flexibility. That's what happened on Saturday, April 4 when we celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Leo Powell as a community - virtually!

While out-of-town family members occasionally over the years have watched a simcha from our Sanctuary via Skype, we've never marked this religious milestone with the Rabbi, Bar Mitzvah, and guests all at their respective homes.

The situation changed rapidly in the weeks before the long-scheduled occasion as the COVID-19 pandemic developed. As the Temple's leadership decided whether to close the building on March 13, they grappled with the potential impact on Leo's Bar Mitzvah, along with the Second Seder and other events.

In the end, the health of the community had to take priority. Once the course of action was determined and moments after the board of directors' meeting, Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig and President Ellen Tom reached out to Leo's mom, Marnie Lowden, to tell her.

*Continued on page 8*



## THE NEW NORMAL (FOR NOW): LIVING IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD

The pace of congregational life has changed during the past six weeks. With our doors temporarily closed due to the global pandemic, the Temple's worship services, Shabbat and holiday rituals, learning for adults and children, and opportunities for Jewish community have moved online. We're living in a virtual world for now, though still a vibrant congregational family coming together in new ways during unsettling times.

Since mid-March when our building closed, Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig has offered many opportunities for worship and Jewish community online via Zoom and our [Facebook page](#). These have included Lunch & Learns, adult education classes, and content for Passover. Each Friday, she has posted a Shabbat message, Mi Shebeirach, yahrzeit list, and Kaddish.

*Continued on page 4*



## SHARE SHAVUOT SERVICES AND STUDY

Join us for a virtual Shavuot service when we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai on Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m., led by Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig. A study of the [Book of Ruth](#) will follow.

In ancient times, Shavuot marked the conclusion of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. [Find the Link.](#)

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.

We'll also come together via Zoom on Friday, May 29 at 10 a.m. to observe Shavuot, Shabbat, and Yizkor. The morning will include a Torah study of the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Winnig. [Learn more about Shavuot.](#)



FOR INDEPTH NEWS & DETAILS

online

TEMPLECAV.ORG

## UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

### MAY WORSHIP AND ONLINE PROGRAMS

Activities in our building are cancelled in compliance with Indiana's stay-at-home order. We continue to monitor recommendations from government and health officials.

Shabbat services and other in-person Rifkin Campus activities will resume as soon as we are safely able to do so. Virtual services, classes, and programs are being offered.

Please visit our website at [www.templecav.org](http://www.templecav.org) and our Facebook page for updates.

### CELEBRATE SHABBAT WITH US ONLINE



Begin your weekend with Shabbat and share the warmth of Jewish community with our Temple family from your home. Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig will lead Sabbath services via Zoom videoconferencing on Friday evenings at 6 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. throughout May. Please check for any schedule changes at [www.templecav.org](http://www.templecav.org) or on our [congregational Facebook page](#).

## CALENDAR

### VIRTUAL SERVICES

#### Shabbat Services

Fridays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
6 p.m.

[Find the link](#)

#### Shabbat Services

Saturdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
10 a.m.

[Find the link](#)

#### Erev Shavuot Service

Thursday, May 28  
7 p.m. Service  
followed by study of the Book of Ruth

[Find the link](#)

#### Shavuot & Yizkor Service

Friday, May 29 at 10 a.m.  
Service with Torah Study of the Ten Commandments and Yizkor

[Find the link](#)

### VIRTUAL EVENTS

#### MAY

##### Adult Learning with Rabbi Winnig

Ten Commandments: What they teach us today

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26  
7 p.m.

[Find the link](#)

##### Lunch and Learn

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27  
Noon to 1 p.m.

Weekly check-in over lunch, with a little Torah for dessert

[Find the link](#)

##### Hot Topics Conversation

Friday, May 8  
7 p.m. following 6 p.m. Shabbat service

[Find the link](#)

#### Lag B'Omer Picnic

Tuesday, May 12  
5:30 p.m.

Pack some food for your family and join together for music, games, and fun

[Find the link](#)

### JUNE

#### Temple Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 10  
7 p.m.

Via Zoom videoconferencing

### JULY

#### Isabella Wallet Bat Mitzvah

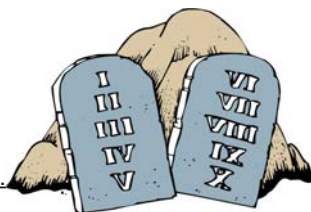
Saturday, July 11  
10:30 a.m. at the Temple



Contact us at [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) to receive our weekly email about upcoming events.

### TEN COMMANDMENTS AND WHAT THEY TEACH US

The Ten Commandments still hold great significance for Jews today. What are these laws that God handed to Moses? Why are they important? Join Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig on four Tuesday evenings for a virtual class looking at the Ten Commandments and what they teach us today. The class will meet on May 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 7 p.m. via Zoom videoconferencing. [Find the link.](#)



### LUNCH & LEARN FROM HOME WITH RABBI WINNIG

Enjoy your lunch with a little Torah learning for dessert on Wednesdays in May! Join Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig on May 6, 13, 20, 27 from noon to 1 p.m. Check-in for conversation with our Temple family via Zoom videoconferencing and gain insights from into the weekly portion. [Find the link.](#)



### BRING MEAL FOR VIRTUAL LAG B'OMER PICNIC

Pack some food for your family, and join us for a virtual [Lag B'Omer](#) picnic on Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m., featuring music, games, and fun for all ages. [Find the link.](#)

Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of the Omer, which tracks the agricultural cycle and marks the seven-week period from Passover to Shavuot. The holiday usually is celebrated with bonfires, barbecues and parties.

CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

# RABBI PAULA JAYNE WINNIG

## WANDERING TOGETHER THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

Dear Friends:

Each day as I sit in my apartment, the songs of the birds are getting more complex as new birds arrive in the area to fill the trees along the rivers and in the downtown parks. The buds on the trees are blooming into beautiful flowers and the tulips and daffodils are pushing their way up to fill the streets with their beautiful bright colors.

It seems as if we are starting to move past the long winter of pandemics and other difficulties. Though the blossoms bring us some relief, the fears, frustrations, and real threats to our financial security will not so easily pass.

We have a saying: *Kol Yisrael Arevim zeh bazeh*. All Israel is intertwined, and responsible for one another. Throughout this time, we have seen people in our community keep in touch with each other, reach out to each other, and assist each other. We have engaged together in worship through our phones and computers. We have studied with each other and even had virtual lunches. This will continue this month as well as we wait to hear and plan for restarting our in-person gatherings.

I do miss seeing you in person and I do hope to see more of you online this month as we

continue our journey from Pesach to Shavuot. This period is called the Omer. We count each day from the second night of Pesach to Shavuot as we tie the Exodus of Egypt and the Freedom to live as Jews, to accepting our responsibility in bringing Judaism to the world on Shavuot.

Shavuot marks our acceptance of the Ten Commandments and all the traditional 613 commandments that set us apart as Jews. For being a Jew means that we have the privilege of being responsible for leading ethical and moral lives. It has been phrased that we Jews choose to be chosen. We choose to accept to live Jewish lives, just as our ancestors accepted the Ten Commandments as detailed in the Torah.

This month we will study the Ten Commandments and how they are present in our lives and guide us today. We will also celebrate Lag B'Omer, the 33rd Day of the Counting of the Omer, with indoor picnics and a virtual scavenger hunt/trivia game. On Shavuot itself, we will have evening and morning worship and read the Ten Commandments and the book of Ruth. In addition to the programs we are offering, there are so many opportunities to learn from some great Jewish teachers.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our

Temple staff, Samara, Marie, Jamie, Clint and Anna, for keeping all our operations in process throughout this time. Thank you to Beth Zweig for her hard work in keeping everyone informed about what we are doing during this time. Special thanks as always to Ellen Tom for continuing to lead us as we navigate these new waters.

Most of all, thank you to all of the congregants who volunteer their time and their resources to keep Congregation Achduth Vesholom alive and well!

Dr. Michael Walzer reminds us in his book *Exodus and Revolution*: "Wherever you live it is probably Egypt; That there is a better place, a world more attractive, a promised land; The way to the land is through the wilderness and there is no way to get from here to there except by joining together and marching."

Let us march on and reach the Promised land of peace, happiness, health and security together.

Best Wishes,

Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig



## JEWISH LITURGY WITH RABBI REUVEN KIMELMAN

Temple members are invited for two online sessions focusing on Jewish liturgy with Rabbi Reuven R. Kimelman, Professor of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University, on Mondays, May 4 & 11 at 2 p.m. via videoconferencing.

Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig has arranged for access to this class with Rabbi Kimelman, who was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has a PhD from Yale University. Rabbi Kimelman specialized in the history of Judaism with a focus on the history and poetics of Jewish liturgy. RSVP to Rabbi Winnig at [rabbi@templecav.org](mailto:rabbi@templecav.org) to receive materials.

[Find the class link.](#)



## COVID-19 UPDATE: WE'RE MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS TO DETERMINE RE-OPENING

To continue being responsible to our congregational and greater community, the Temple's Board of Directors has extended the closure of the building to comply with Indiana [Gov. Eric Holcomb's executive order](#) declaring a public health emergency for the state.

When the board initially decided to close the facility on March 13, plans called for remaining closed until at least April 18. The governor has since extended his stay-at-home order. Achduth Vesholom's leadership will monitor recommendations from government and health officials before determining when to re-open the Rifkin Campus.

While we cannot meet in person, worship services, as well as educational and social programs, are meeting through virtual communication methods.

Throughout this unprecedented situation, we will send regular updates through email to our members. Please also check for information

on [our congregational Facebook page](#) as we continue to add online offerings during the coming weeks. Updated information also is available on our website at [www.templecav.org](http://www.templecav.org).

We are working in partnership with the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) to reach out to members of our community to offer our support during this challenging time. Please stay in touch. Let us know if we can help in some way.

The Temple staff continues to work remotely and is keeping all aspects of congregational operations running. Phones are forwarded and messages listened to regularly. Email is continually monitored and mail that comes to us through the postal service is picked up. Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig is available for virtual visits and phone calls. The Temple Board and some committees continue to meet via Zoom.

Please stay safe and be well!



USE THAT NEW 2020 MAH JONGG CARD FOR ONLINE PLAY!



Are you frustrated that you can't use that new mah jongg card for 2020 that you got in the mail? We're certainly missing our weekly games at the Madge Rothschild Resource Center! A couple of online options are available if you'd like to take the opportunity to get to know your new card.

Both apps can be used on all platforms – your desktop, tablet or phone- and they both allow you to play with “bots” or with friends if you can coordinate with each other.

Real Mah Jongg uses a simple interface and is easy to jump right into. The tiles look exactly like the sets we're used to and are easy to see. From the main screen, you can select whichever card you'd like to use, from 2017 through 2020. There are slow, normal and fast options for game speed, and you can browse through the current games with humans or search for a friend.

Or you can just click “New Game” and it will fill your table with the “bots.” If you click on “I am looking for players” from the main menu, others can join your game. This makes for a potential mix of humans and non-humans which is fairly seamless. The bots take over whenever the humans leave the game.

Overall, Real Mah Jongg is an easy and addictive way to play. Whether you play on your desktop or on your phone, it appears and works the same way. After a two-week trial, subscriptions are \$6/ month or \$60/year if paid up front. If you're looking for the simplest way to get your Mahj fix, this is probably the way to go.

MahJong Time is another option. This app is using the current card only, but has a few more bells and whistles than Real Mah Jongg. The graphics are much more interesting to look at, and it feels more like a modern online game site. There are coins, awards, avatars and even occasional tournaments.

Since the app works for many types of Mah Jong, you'll have to select the “NMJL Card 2020” when you start. Here you can select from the main menu between a selection of “School Games” with the bots, or “Fun Games” with humans. The latter button leads to a menu of current games that are running and you can click to enter a room if there is one active. There is no option to combine humans and bots as there is with Real Mah Jongg.

You can create your own game if you'd like, which allows you to set the time allowed for plays and the cost to enter (in coins). Since the computer runs the timer, it's strict, but it does keep the game moving. Mahjong Time also can be played on any device, but some of the options are different depending on where you play it.

MahJong Time Memberships start at \$4.95/month, or closer to \$40/ year if paid up front. In fact, if you only play practice games with the bots, it's completely free. The membership buys you enough coins to play the human games, customize your avatar, track your prowess with belt colors, etc.

Hopefully this will help you find a game while you're stuck at home. If you'd like to coordinate with other Temple members, let us know and we may be able to get a regular “virtual” game going!



THE NEW NORMƏL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

During May, online worship services for Shabbat will continue, along with weekly lunches featuring a little Torah for dessert and an evening class on what the Ten Commandments teach us today. We'll even have a virtual Lag B'omer picnic as we prepare for Shavuot observances via videoconferencing. (Find links on page 2.)

Technology has enabled us to be together from our homes. We've shared virtual candle-lighting on some Shabbats and on Passover. We've celebrated a Bar Mitzvah with the new young adult and his family, the rabbi, and all attendees in their respective homes. We came together online to pray on Shabbat morning and for Yizkor on Pesach.

We joined from different locales with the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne on Yom Hashoah to remember those lost in the Holocaust, offering special music and a real-time conversation with Temple member Doris Fogel, a Holocaust survivor who now lives in Chicago. Our Religious School students continue to meet, learning remotely about Passover and other topics with online assemblies and individual Hebrew instruction.

As we hope for more normalcy in the coming weeks, we continue to plan virtual events until we can be together in person. Please continue to watch our regular communications for updates.

Remember also to mark your calendar and look for updates about joining us for the Temple's 172nd Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Most importantly, please continue to participate in Temple life from home. Share conversation with other members on the phone or aided by technology.



# YOUTH NEWS

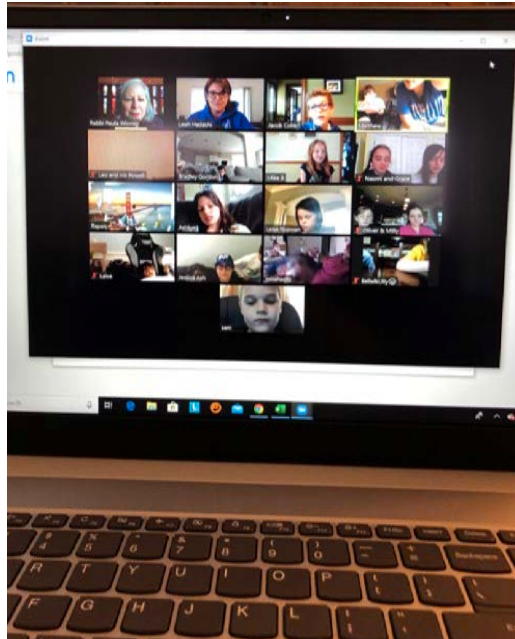
## SCHOOL YEAR WILL END WITH MACCABIAH GAMES ON ZOOM

The Religious School year will wrap up this month with online activities, including Israeli crafts and the annual Maccabiah Games adapted to Zoom.

We switched to virtual assemblies for students in April, including Passover and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) lessons. We'll meet on Sunday, May 3 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. to continue our focus on Israel, making treats together and doing a craft.

After a week off on Sunday, May 10 for Mother's Day, we'll gather online for a final session featuring a Maccabiah Games competition with Jewish trivia. We'll also take time to thank Rabbi Winnig, our teachers, Principal Leah Hadashi, and the Religious School Committee.

Thank you to our Religious School family for their flexibility as we all adapted to the closing of the building and the need for social distancing. Look for registration materials in August.



*Religious School students celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, on April 26 via Zoom.*



*Elijah the Prophet was a special guest on April 19 during our virtual Religious School assembly, led by Rabbi Winnig. Elijah shared with students what he does during his "off" months when it's not Passover. The session also included a story read by Principal Leah Hadashi. During another virtual assembly, the students celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.*



## GRADUATION NEWS WANTED

Since most graduation ceremonies are not taking place this year in the same way as originally planned, we are especially eager to celebrate this education milestone within 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 Wednesday, May 6 to be included in our June/July Bulletin. Contact us at [office@TempleCAV.org](mailto:office@TempleCAV.org) or 260-744-4245.

## JEWISH FRIENDSHIPS AND FUN AT GUCI

Enroll your child for a great summer of fun and Jewish friendships at Goldman Union Camp Institute, our regional Union for Reform Judaism camp in Zionsville.



## SUMMER FUN AT CAMP JOE LEVINE

Register now for the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's Camp Joe Levine for children ages 4 to 13. The day camp meets during the weeks of July 6, 13 and 20 at Fox Island County Park. For more information, please contact the Federation office at (260) 465-0400 or [office@fwjf.org](mailto:office@fwjf.org).

## BIRTHDAY BOX PROJECT WILL RESUME IN THE FALL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Religious School's birthday box project during the past school year! Unfortunately, we did not get to finish due to health crisis.

We look forward to resuming our efforts in September to assemble celebratory kits for local children ages 3 to 13 in foster care.

Each will include cake mix, frosting, birthday candles, a banner or streamers, a new children's book, a gift card, and a personalized note with birthday wishes.





# JEWISH THINGS TO DO WHILE YOU'RE QUARANTINED

Looking for something Jewish to do? We've got some ideas, including Jewish podcasts, videos, movies, playlist, recipes, or good books. Check these out:

- [25 Jewish things to do while under quarantine](#)
- [Six Jewish podcasts to listen to right now](#)
- [Introducing Hebrew School: A Game Show podcast from Tablet magazine](#)
- [10 movies showcasing the best of American Jewish life](#)
- [14 great Jewish TV shows to binge-watch during quarantine](#)
- [5 Jewish stories to listen to on your own or with kids](#)
- ["Homeschuling" under quarantine: Fun Jewish videos for virtual learning](#)
- [Playlist: Songs for an Enjoyable Shabbat with your Family](#)
- [21 Jewish recipes that use ingredients you have at home](#)
- [Listen to Jewish Rock Radio](#)



*We look forward to dedicating and using the remodeled Goldstine-B'nai Jacob Chapel as soon as we are able.*

## FLEXIBILITY KEY FOR THIS YEAR'S SEDERS

Why was this Passover different from all others? Instead of gathering with family and friends for a Seder, many celebrated with few at the table and via Zoom. In some cases, traditional foods weren't readily available.

We noticed on Facebook that improvisation was key when it came to the Seder plate – particularly for what to do about a shank bone when not even a chicken bone was available. We also learned something new after seeing a roasted beet on a few plates: it's often used by vegetarians as a substitute for the shank bone.

We applaud the creativity and thought we'd share...

Beth & Dan Zweig used a wishbone.

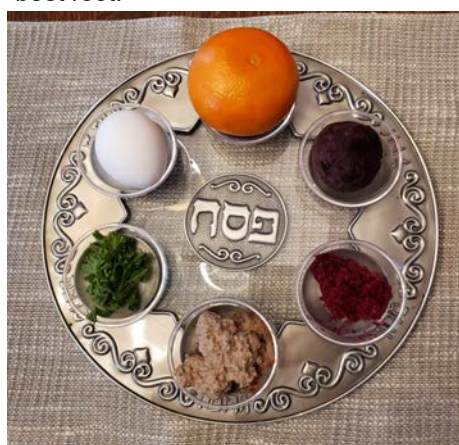
Wendi & Josh Wallet and family used a picture of a shank bone.

Rachel & Geoff Gordon and family used a toy chicken leg.

Michelle Lawrence, a former member who now lives in Indianapolis, used a roasted beet root.



*Dan and Beth's Seder Plate*



*Michelle's Seder Plate*



*Geoff & Rachel's Seder Plate*



*Wendi & Josh's Seder Plate*



## THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS ENDS 10TH YEAR HELPING FAMILIES & NAMES NEW CHAIR



Like other Indiana schools, Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple will not meet for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, this also means that the Jewish community's Thoughtful Thursdays bag assembly team won't meet again until September 9.

We are working with Brooke Hartman, who supervises the Brightpoint program in our building, to continue to support our Thoughtful Thursdays families. In April, we purchased a \$25 Kroger gift card for each of the 68 families and the Temple Head Start staff. In our March bag, we provided each family with four rolls of toilet paper and a bottle of hand soap.

For many years, Thoughtful Thursdays and the Temple have partnered with [Wellspring Interfaith Social Services](#). In early April, Wellspring put out an urgent request for peanut butter to help feed members of the Fort Wayne community through its food bank. Thoughtful Thursdays was able to donate \$150 to purchase two cases of peanut butter.



While this was not how I expected Thoughtful Thursdays to end its 10th year, I am grateful for all of the support that members of our community have offered to keep our program going despite these unusual circumstances.

I am grateful for the relationships that I have made over the past decade with more than 75 volunteers whose dedication has helped us serve some 750 Temple Head Start families. I also appreciate all of the support from the greater Jewish community as part of this joint effort of Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, as well as from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.

It has truly been a pleasure to grow this program with all of you. For the past year, I have been searching for the perfect person to take over as chair of Thoughtful Thursdays. I am delighted to announce that Sally Trotter has agreed to assume that role.

Many of you know Sally as a past Temple Administrator, congregant, and a person who is devoted to serving others. I know her as a person with a wealth of experience, organization, and dedication. Bonnie Pomerantz has agreed to continue on, and I will co-chair through December. I plan to remain as a "Bag Lady" volunteer.

Our volunteers will reconvene on Wednesday, September 9 at 11 a.m. to begin our 11th year of bag assembly. Once our work is completed, we'll gather for our annual volunteer luncheon (postponed from May) in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center. In the interest of health and safety, we will serve individually boxed lunches.

At the same time, we'll distribute the schedule for the 2020-2021 year and a sign-up sheet for shopping duties. I look forward to honoring our volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome.

Thank you. Stay safe and healthy!

*Jamie Berger, Thoughtful Thursdays chair*



## NEIJS – GOING ON LINE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY RESEARCH

As with everything else, the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) has been forced to cancel its "Jewish Cemeteries" program on Sunday, May 3, co-hosted with the [Indiana Jewish Historical Society](#).

Members will have a virtual "annual meeting" that day, but, unfortunately, the programs will have to be rescheduled. We're looking forward to our fall "Fort Wayne Jewish Families" open house in October, and a presentation from "Sherlock" Cohn, a photo genealogist, in November.

That said, there are a lot of opportunities to learn about Jewish genealogical research online. [JewishGen.org](#) has online classes available, and many Jewish genealogy societies are offering free webinars. Our own ACPL Genealogy Center is also offering online Zoom classes. For more information, "like" the [NEIJS Facebook page](#). You might also follow the [Genealogy Center's Facebook page](#) as well, where they advertise their programs and occasionally take questions.

Lots of groups on Facebook are dedicated to Jewish genealogy. These are great places to post questions, ask for translations, or just get a feel for things. "[Tracing the Tribe](#)" is the biggest Jewish genealogy Facebook group, but "[Jewish Genealogy Portal](#)" is another one available.

Smaller groups are dedicated to different geographical areas, so if you know where your ancestors came from, it's worth searching Facebook for those groups. Examples include "[Jewish Genealogy Poland](#)," "[Slovakia Jewish Genealogy](#)," and "[Lithuania and Latvia Jewish Genealogy](#)," but there are plenty more.

Finally, you might take a look at the links available on the [NEIJS website](#). These will connect you with everything from [Ancestry.com](#) to [Yad Vashem](#), with local links as well. Happy sleuthing!





VIRTUAL BAR MITZVAH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Over the next three weeks, Rabbi Winnig worked with Leo and his parents to develop a plan to hold the Bar Mitzvah via Zoom videoconferencing on the original date. Invitations were extended to friends and family, as well as Achduth Vesholom members. Guests were asked to RSVP to receive the link to “attend” and to take selfies to send to the family as a remembrance of an extraordinary day.

Through the special efforts of all involved, Leo led the Shabbat service and read his Torah portion, with friends and family at 61 households across many cities and in Israel sharing in the simcha, practicing social distancing, and offering “mazel tovs” on the screen and in our homes.

“It was wonderful to see Leo lead the service with such poise and confidence and prove that Judaism can transcend time and space,” said Rabbi Winnig. “I am so proud of Leo and happy his family could share this experience, especially those who would not have been able to travel to Fort Wayne.”

Leo and his immediate family were together during the service. Rabbi Winnig led from her home, with a photo of the stained-glass windows from the Sanctuary behind her. Leo’s grandfather virtually presented him with his tallit, while a photo of the two together added to the moment. Attendees could use their own prayer book or download a copy. The Torah portion, blessings, and readings were available on the screen.

Marnie, a member of the Temple’s Rabbinical Search Committee, said the family had selected April 4 for Leo’s bar mitzvah date after hearing



A selfie from the Hadashis watching from home



Leo and his mom

one of the rabbinic candidates emphasize the mystical connection between a Jew and the Torah portion when he or she was born. “I believed that the date would create deeper meaning, so even as the world had to pause, I felt the Bar Mitzvah should go on. Leo agreed,” Marnie said, adding that Rabbi Winnig, Ellen Tom, Samara Sheray, and the Temple board all supported this adjustment.

“Rabbi Paula put together an amazing slide show so that Leo’s Bar Mitzvah could be participated in by all,” she said. “You, Temple Family, you joined Leo. We saw his teachers, his classmates, his friends, the choir, his Temple Family, with us. We as a Jewish family demonstrated the power of Judaism in the diaspora, and as part of your congregational family we can’t thank you enough.”

Mazel tov to Leo and his family, Marnie & Mark Lowden and Jason Powell! Thank you to everyone who helped create wonderful memories. We look forward to calling Leo to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah when the building re-opens.



Ellen Tom offers a sign of the times

IN THIS TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

As the Temple supports our congregants and the Jewish community in new ways in the coming weeks, we also look to brighter days ahead. Our Rabbi, staff, and leadership continue to reach out to members to check on immediate needs. At the same time, we are looking down the road in planning programming, worship, simchas, social action, and Religious School when it’s safe again to gather together on Old Mill Road at the Rifkin Campus.

We know many of our members have had sudden changes in their employment situation and business operations. Please know that the Temple is here for you. We do not turn anyone away based on their ability to pay membership dues. At the same time, we rely on those who are able to make up for those who cannot afford their annual commitment to the congregation.

Before the COVID-19 crisis, the Temple sent dues pledge letters to members in an effort to help us realistically plan our budget. Thank you to those who returned them. We appreciate your continued generosity to the Temple. Please contact VP Finance Scott Goldberg at (765) 749-4739 or treasurer@templecav.org if you have any questions or concerns about your dues. We rely on these honest and confidential conversations to help us plan Temple finances.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.**



## PLEASE VOTE FOR OUR LEADERSHIP

The Board Development Committee presents the following slate of officers and trustees for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, beginning July 1.

### OFFICERS

**President:** Ellen Tom *(completing 3 years as president in June 2020 and nominated for a final 1-year term ending in June 2021)*

*Officers seeking a 1-year term ending in June 2021:*

**Vice President Programs:** Kathy Sider

**Vice President Finance:** Scott Goldberg

**Secretary:** Bobbie Golani

### TRUSTEE

Pam Friedman *(President of former Congregation B'nai Jacob; serving until transition legally completed)*

**TRUSTEES** *(seeking 2-year term ending in June 2022):*

Rachel Gordon

Brian Rosman

Mark Schneider

Josh Tourkow

Jay Zemmol

Beth Zweig

**TRUSTEES** *(Not up for re-election; completing a 2-year term ending in June 2021):*

Larry Adelman

Jessica Ash

Denny Reynolds

Wendi Wallet

Thank you to the Board Development Committee for putting together the slate: Bobbie Golani (Chair), Jamie Berger, Ronnie Greenberg (past president), Pam Friedman, Chuck Replane, and Donna Tourkow.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN JUNE WILL BE VIRTUAL GATHERING

Out of an abundance of caution, the Temple's leadership has decided to hold the 172nd Annual Meeting virtually. Please plan to join us on Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. via Zoom videoconferencing. Members who do not have internet access will be able to participate by phone.



In these unprecedented times, the board made the decision at its April board meeting to switch to a virtual annual gathering in order to allow sufficient time to notify congregants, prepare materials, and implement absentee voting. The Temple's Bylaws permit absentee voting by members in good standing.

Information will be sent to members in late May with further details about the meeting and how to vote on candidates for leadership and the budget for the coming fiscal year.

During the annual meeting, President Ellen Tom, the Board of Directors, and Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig will update the congregation on the past year's activities, including the transition to one congregation and renovations to the building. We'll also discuss the latest information regarding the Rifkin Campus closure and the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for Achduth Vesholom.

In addition, we'll also have an opportunity to thank Rabbi Winnig for her dedication to our congregation during the past year as our Interim Rabbi and share information about the arrival of Rabbi Meir Barger on as our new spiritual leader in July.

We also will recognize:

- Outgoing Board Members Talia Bugel and Steve Zacher for their service.
- Members of the L'dor Vador Legacy Society for indicating they've made a planned gift to the congregation.

### GUIDELINES FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots will be available for the Temple's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 10 for use by members in good standing who are unable to attend. More information will be sent to members.

Signed absentee ballots may be submitted by U.S. Mail, by fax, or by email of a pdf copy of the ballot. Members who are not in good standing will be notified no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Contact Vice President Finance Scott Goldberg with questions.

## IT'S NEW: MAKE DONATIONS AND PAY TEMPLE DUES ONLINE

It's now easier than ever to commemorate a simcha, pay tribute to a friend, recognize the yahrzeit of a loved one, or simply support our congregation and demonstrate your connection to Fort Wayne's Jewish community with a contribution through a new option on the Temple website.

For your convenience, you also can pay your Temple dues or Religious School fees online.

Visit [www.templecav.org](http://www.templecav.org) and click on "Donate" on the far right of the tool bar across the top. The link will take you to a page where you indicate the amount of your donation, designate a fund, and indicate the honoree or occasion. Contributions are greatly appreciated and always make a difference!

Share on Facebook

Share on Twitter

Donation Amount

\$18

\$36

\$54

\$118

\$250

\$500

Other

Please direct my donation to:  

Dues

Payment of your Temple dues.

How often do you want to make this donation?  

One Time

Weekly

Every 2 Weeks

Monthly

Quarterly

Semi-Annually

Annually

## BRING YOUR GREEN THUMB – AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



Our volunteers are balancing caution surrounding the coronavirus with their eagerness to tend to our beautiful grounds at the Rifkin Campus.

Temple member Ronnie Greenberg, a master-gardener, and her crew practiced social distancing in April while beginning spring clean-up of the Temple gardens in front of the building and surrounding the Sposeep Chapel.

Thank you to Ronnie, Norm Greenberg and Denny Reynolds for pruning bushes, Deb Vilensky for spraying the magnolia last winter, and Clint Rossiter for providing supplies. Thanks also to Janina Traxler and Nancy Lindsey for helping prepare the beds.

Additional volunteers are welcome to assist. Work will be done on Tuesdays, weather permitting. To learn more please contact Ronnie at [rkg128@gmail.com](mailto:rkg128@gmail.com) to learn more. Please note that the building is closed and not open for restroom breaks.



We observed Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, with a virtual service on April 20, co-sponsored with the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne. Rabbi Winnig led the service, with music by Robert Nance and Brian Sussman of Heartland Sings. Temple member and Holocaust survivor Doris Fogel spoke about her experiences and answered questions about the years she spent as a young girl in the Shanghai Ghetto before coming to the United States. [Find a recording of the service.](#)

## DONATE ITEMS TO WELLSRING FOOD BANK

The Temple's Social Action Committee is asking for your help with a targeted food drive for [Wellspring Interfaith Social Services](#) to assist in feeding those in need. The Temple is one of Wellspring's supporting congregations.

Wellspring's food bank needs donations of peanut butter in 15-16 oz. jars, potato flakes for mashed potatoes in 14-16 oz. boxes, and baked beans in 16 oz. cans. Large quantities of certain items are needed since some of their suppliers are having trouble getting them what they need due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Temple members are encouraged to do one of the following:

- **Order a case or cases for delivery** of one or more of the three products. Have it shipped directly to Wellspring at 1316 Broadway, Fort Wayne, 46807. If ordering online, it is necessary to specify that deliveries may only be accepted Monday through Friday (no weekends).
- **Drop off those items at their front door.** Call to notify them in advance when you'll be there, and call from your car when the items have been dropped off. Their phone number is (260) 422-6618.



During this pandemic, the ability to assist those who need more than we do is a mitzvah. Some of us are lucky to have enough food in our pantries to sustain us during this pandemic. Others are not so fortunate. Reach out to help. While you're at home ordering things on Amazon, or the site of your choice, do something to help those who really need it.

Thank you to the Social Action Committee, which recently has been re-formed and re-energized: Chair Rena Black, Steve Carr, Susie Miller, Marcia Reynolds, John Stein, Donna Tourkow, and Deb Vilensky.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO RABBI MEIR BARGERON ON HIS ORDINATION!

Our Temple family offers a joyous “mazel tov” to Rabbi Meir Bargeron on his ordination on May 17 from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Meir to the Temple as our new spiritual leader on July 1, along with his husband, Jon Tam.

Like most institutions, HUC-JIR postponed its traditional ordination ceremony until normal social activities can resume. Instead, Rabbi Meir said he'll be participating in a small, private virtual ceremony in Los Angeles to celebrate the completion of his five-year rabbinic program with his fellow ordinees and teachers, “a lot like the way we're doing b'nai mitzvah these days!”

“This will be an intimate and special ritual that will allow each of the ordinees to bless and be blessed by one another, and for us to receive teachings and blessings from our faculty,” he said. “From that day, I will be an officially ordained rabbi and qualified to perform all rabbinic duties. I will look forward to a traditional HUC-JIR ceremony once we can have public gatherings again.”

Rabbi Meir said he and Jon are grateful to the Achduth Vesholom community for the helpful information and advice as they prepare for their move from California to Fort Wayne during this challenging time. They had planned to visit in May to search for housing, but the current situation made that impractical.

“The realities of COVID-19 have required us to find a home remotely,” he said. “We are having to make do with pictures, video, and asking a lot of questions! It's certainly not what we planned, but we are finding that this is actually a pretty efficient way to look for a place to live.”

Rabbi Meir said they'll arrive in Fort Wayne by Memorial Day, spending the month of June getting settled and becoming familiar with life in their new hometown before assuming his new pulpit and joining our Temple family. He also looks forward to returning to his native Midwest.



*Rabbi Meir Bargeron (left) and Jon Tam*

“It will feel good to be back in my element,” he said. “We are very impressed with the quality of life in Fort Wayne, and it will be wonderful to be so much closer to family. My mother lives about three hours north in Michigan, and my brother and his family live in Indianapolis. With Jon's family in the New York City area, our travel time will be cut in half.”

Beyond all Fort Wayne has to offer, Rabbi Meir said he's thrilled to begin his rabbinate at Achduth Vesholom.

“I felt such a strong connection with the people I met during the search process!” he said. “I am looking forward, with great humility, to being the community's spiritual leader.”

## RABBINIC COMINGS AND GOINGS AT THE TEMPLE

As July approaches, we'll keep you informed about opportunities to welcome Rabbi Meir and Jon. A Transition Committee will be named to assist them in getting settled in Fort Wayne and at Achduth Vesholom.

Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig, who began serving as our Interim Rabbi in August 2019, will continue as our spiritual leader through June 30, 2020 before assuming a new post as Interim Rabbi at Congregation Rodef Sholom in Youngstown, Ohio. Please save the date to join us on Friday, June 26 for our Shabbat service to thank Rabbi Winnig.

## HOT TOPICS SHABBAT: RELEASING SOME INMATES DUE TO COVID-19?

The Temple's Social Action Committee will present a Hot Topics conversation on Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m., following a 6 p.m. Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig via Zoom videoconferencing. [Find the link.](#)

Faith in Indiana is a multi-faith organization in Fort Wayne that is working to free low-level offenders from incarceration in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two members of Faith In Indiana will be on hand to tell us about their project and answer questions you may have about how you can get involved.

Thank you to Rabbi Winnig and Steve Carr for organizing the program. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its support of Hot Topics.

## PRAYER BOOKS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Looking for a prayer book for home use?

- [Find an online copy of Mishkan T'filah, the Reform Movement's prayer book from the Central Conference of American Rabbis](#)
- If you would like access to the [Conservative Movement's](#) Liturgy, you can get PDF copies to use at home, with services and the weekly parasha from Eitz Hayyim. [Find the link.](#)

## REPEATING HISTORY'S UNLEARNED LESSONS

Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig wrote an article in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day called “[Repeating History's Unlearned Lessons](#),” published in the Journal-Gazette on Sunday, April 19.



# DONATIONS

## Adelman Facility Improvement Fund

In memory of Helen O'Neill: *Rita & Tom O'Neill*

## Adult Education

In memory of William Walters: *Irene & Bob Walters*

## John Planer Music Fund

In memory of Lois Safran: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

In memory of James Rakes and Orion Reynolds:

*Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

In honor of Leo Powell's Bar Mitzvah: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

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

## General Operations

In memory of Irina Kutsenok: *Eda Kyner*

In memory of Elizabeth Ruth Johnson: *Kay Safirstein*

In memory of Herman Davis: *Jerry Davis*

In memory of Betsy Levy: *Linda Bullerman*

A donation has been received from: *Scott Fergusson, Richard Grzych*

In memory of Sarah Kaye: *Tom Shine*

In memory of Leah Edelman: *Deborah Edelman*

In memory of Chuck Weinraub: *Susan Ferkel*

## Holocaust Education Fund

In memory of Irina Kutsenok: *Victor Kutsenok*

In memory of Julius Stein, Max Schmitz, and Gerda Schmitz:

*Janice & Joel Greenberg*

## Katherine Kann Mendelblat Fund

In memory of Betty Castle, Jo Rothberg, Peter Rothberg, and

Katherine Kann Mendelblatt: *Kathy Lash*

In memory of Jo Rothberg and Peter Allen Rothberg: *Deb Rothberg*

In memory of Betty Castle: *Suzie Stone Schreiber*

## Library Fund

In honor of Rabbi Richard Safran: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush, Ronnie & Norm Greenberg, Rita & Tom O'Neill, Jonathan Safran, Dawn Safran, Hannah Safran, Ethan Safran, Daniel Safran, Cindy Safran, Samantha Safran, Janice & Joel Greenberg, Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder*

In memory of David Safran: *Rabbi Richard Safran*

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Loni Wolf: *Carol & Larry Adelman*

In memory of Sam Jacobson: *Doris Gottlieb*

## Religious School

A donation has been received from: *Kay Safirstein*

In memory of Rabbi Samuel Goldin: *Irene & Bob Walters*

## Temple Gardens Fund

In memory of Joseph Stumpf: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

## Thoughtful Thursdays

In memory of Rebecca Goldberg & Chad Goldberg:

*Kristen & Scott Goldberg*

In memory of Mayora Rosenberg: *Beth & Dan Zweig*

## Wyle Weiman Youth Activities

In memory of Leonard Goldstein & Wyle Weiman: *Rikki Goldstein*

**Explore all of our [Tribute Funds](#) or [Make a Donation](#)**



## HELP TEMPLE WITH AMAZON

Did you know that you can help the Temple when you purchase items through [AmazonSmile](#)? Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-0135020> and indicate you'd like your purchases to benefit Achduth Vesholom Congregation. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price. Thanks!

## SHOP AT KROGER AND SUPPORT THE TEMPLE

Here's how you can help when your purchase groceries or other items at Kroger:

- Learn how to [register your Kroger Plus Card](#)
- Don't have a Kroger Plus card yet? [Request one](#)
- Already have a Kroger Plus Card? [Sign in](#)
- Need Kroger's organization number for the Temple? It's IF039

Thanks for supporting the Temple!



## BECOME A LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER WITH A PLANNED GIFT

One of the best ways we can sustain a Reform 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. All legacy society members are recognized at the Temple's Annual Meeting in June.

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 about the [L'dor Vador Legacy Society](#) or making a planned gift now or in the future, contact Steve Zacher at (260) 422-8474 or Beth Zweig at (260) 744-4245.



# MAY YAHRZEITS

## May 1-2

Irvin Adams  
Sigmund Apfelbaum  
Ruth Beck  
Morris Becker  
Ann Block  
Emanuel Blum  
Jacob Brateman  
Samuel Brateman  
Harold I. Chon  
Ruth Cohen  
Louis S. Dessauer  
Dr. B. M. Edlavitch  
Joan Erb  
Muriel Feinstein  
Pearl Finchman  
David B. Fishman  
Irwin Golden  
Elaine Harvey  
Nannette Heilbroner  
Clara Heilbroner  
Rabbi Samuel Hirschberg  
Minnie Kaplan  
Joseph Klarke  
Naomi Frank Korkes  
Dora Kudysh  
Louis Latker  
Jean Lee  
Samuel Levis  
Frances Levy  
Louis Masursky  
Minnie S. Mendelson  
Jane L. Neiman  
Esther Nelson  
David Ochstein  
Janet Perlman  
Harry Peurye  
Stephen Powers  
Paul N. Richardson  
Ida Rigelhaupt  
Sol Rothberg  
Charles J. Rothschild  
Dr. Charles J. Rothschild  
Morris Ruderman  
Lois Safran  
Dr. Hans Sahlmann  
Eva R. Salon

Dr. Harry Salon  
Hazel Schultz  
Harry N. Speyer  
Abraham Stein  
Bertha Strass  
Sidney David Troy  
Jennie Weisman  
Lillian Weiss  
Molly Wolf  
Harvey Wolf  
Lucile Wolf  
Harry Wolff  
Samuel Zaslawsky

## May 8-9

Dan Bernstein  
Heather Chernen  
S. Stephen Cohen  
Marian Smith D'arcy  
Rabbi Frederic A. Doppelt  
Freda M. Dubin  
Gabor Fenyes  
Alexander S. Fiegler  
Sylvia Forlander  
Joseph Freiburger  
Rabbi Samuel Goldin  
Lena Goltz  
C. C. Hollingsworth  
Sara Kaliski  
Selma Kaufman  
Marion Kaufman  
Sarah Komisarow  
Grace Kupersmith  
Dora Leiberman  
Evy Lipp  
Irwin Mallin  
Hyman Mazur  
Nate Nemeroff  
Donald Nusholtz  
Rebeca Pressman  
Deborah Rifkin  
Meyer Roseman  
Mayora Rosenberg  
Lucille Schuler  
Esther Schwartz  
Irene Gazda Schwarz  
Scott Sherr

Minnie Silverman  
Curtis M. Stein  
Samuel Wolf

## May 15-16

Sarah Beck  
Lena Nahmias Cohen  
Hyman Dicker  
Chad Goldberg  
Myron S. Goldman  
Paul Gordon  
Sherman Gordon  
Bonnie Harrison  
Leo Horn  
Abraham Kamile  
Max Kaplan  
Mathilde Kaufman  
Louis Komito  
Sarah Krakower  
Sarah Kraus  
William Landy  
Fannie Lipp  
Edwin Maier  
Geraldine Mansbach  
Isidore Nemeroff  
Carolyn Katz Plakoff  
Esther Pomerantz  
Gerda Schmitz  
Samuel Schultz  
Yitschok Isaac Schwarts  
Alan Slutsky  
Rose Soraich  
Elizabeth Stein  
Lorenz Edward Stillpass  
Isaac D. Straus  
Joseph A. Stumpf  
Jerry Sweedler  
Pauline Turansky  
William Walter  
Emily Weinstein  
Ruth Wertheimer  
David Winnick  
Molly Wolf  
Bernard A. Woolner  
Pauline Young

## May 22-23

Eva Bosell  
Miriam Brenn  
Julie Brooks  
Betty Castle  
Dr. B. M. Edlavitch  
Stan Fishman  
Helen Fishman  
Julia Frankenstein  
Solly K. Frankenstein  
Mina Freiburger  
Yetta Freiburger  
Paul Gepsman  
Sam Goldstine  
Anna Hurwitz  
Steven R. Jaeger  
Robert Katz  
Harry E. Landy  
Harry Lechtner  
Rosa Levin  
Ruth Levine  
Theresa Levy  
Sarah Levy  
Julie Liberman  
Sadie Livingston  
Felix Maier  
Rivah Meyers  
Herman Moss  
Jennie Nemeroff  
Lillian J. Pilgrim  
Dora Rozeen  
Rabbi Edward Ruben  
Reuben Sachs  
Lena Salon  
Morris Salon  
Helen M. Schubert  
Philip Sisman  
Wolf Soloway  
Jack Speyer  
Stanley Tankel  
Fannie Trivus  
Shulamith Troy  
Ruth Turansky  
Pearl Waterman  
Max Weisman  
Sally Zelinger

## May 29-30

Vida Assael  
Esther Cera Brateman  
Baruch Bronstein  
Anna Jones Clark  
Gertrude Cline  
Hannah Cohen  
Leah Edleman  
Alice Fenyes  
Eugene M. Frank  
George Ivan Fredrick  
Sara Goldberg  
Sidney Goldin  
Herbert W. Isay  
Marvin Katz  
Henry Kepes  
Annette P. Kesselman  
Harry H. King  
Aaron Komito  
Anna Landy  
Sylvia Levine  
Jack Levine  
Rae Lipp  
Morris Meyer  
Alfred Novitsky  
Samuel Ochstein  
Abraham Pallas  
Donald Persky  
James Rakes  
Franz Reimann  
Orion Reynolds  
Sarah Salon/Kaye  
Joseph Schacter  
David Silverman  
Alexander Soraich  
Herman Stern  
Marion Sweedler  
Samuel Ralph Tourkow  
Bernard "Bud" Turansky  
Rose K. Weigler  
Muriel Zweig

## CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE AT LINDENWOOD

Temple members in good standing are eligible to purchase plots in the congregation's Y and YY section at Lindenwood Cemetery. Please contact the Temple office for information. Each plot is \$2,200.

## WE CARE

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



# THE TEMPLE

CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

5200 Old Mill Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807

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Office@TempleCAV.org

www.TempleCAV.org

Charter Member of the Union For Reform Judaism

Paula Jayne Winnig, Interim Rabbi

Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus

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VP Program: Kathy Sider

VP Finance: Scott Goldberg

Secretary: Bobbie Golani

Larry Adelman

Jessica Ash

Talia Bugel

Pamela Friedman

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## TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS:

The Temple office is temporarily closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The staff is working remotely and may be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (260) 744-4245.

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.



[www.facebook.com/templecavfw](https://www.facebook.com/templecavfw)

Want to receive our newsletter?

Send your email address to

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

## WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS

The Temple board welcomes your comments and suggestions. We will do our best to address your questions and concerns. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 ([office@TempleCAV.org](mailto:office@TempleCAV.org)) for information. President Ellen Tom can be reached at [president@templecav.org](mailto:president@templecav.org).

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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER ELLEN TOM

Today, like every day, I thought of our Temple family. For many weeks now, those thoughts have been filled with many questions as our community faces a situation unlike any in our 172-year history.

How do we keep our loved ones safe, as well as our congregants and our staff? How do we stay connected as a Jewish community while sheltering at home? When should we re-open the building? When will members, many of whom are over 60, feel comfortable returning? How will we and our Rifkin Campus Partners address issues of social distancing?

What will the economic impact mean for our members and the Temple's financial situation? How can we continue to reach out safely in this time of great need? How do we appropriately say thank you to our outgoing Interim Rabbi and welcome our new spiritual leader in this time of coronavirus?

Those are the sorts of thoughts that keep me up at night as president. And those are issues that the Temple board is starting to address as best we can in this time of uncertainty. These truly are uncharted waters.

As you know, the board made the difficult decision to close our building on March 13 to be responsible to our congregational and greater community. The Temple staff is working remotely to keep all aspects of Temple operations running. We're grateful to Samara Sheray, Marie McFadden, Jamie Fritz, Clint Rossiter, and Anna Rossiter.

To help us keep connected, we have moved worship services, social programming, educational classes, and meetings to the virtual world of Zoom. While we initially worried about the appeal of online gatherings, we've embraced the opportunity to find community in new ways.

The result has been an unexpected intimacy, whether having lunch with Rabbi Paula from her home to ours, the ability to have a Q & A with Holocaust survivor and Temple member Doris Fogel as part of Yom Hashoah, or welcoming out-of-town members to participate regularly.

While the board worried about the impact of closing the building a few weeks before

Leo Powell's Bar Mitzvah, we learned that a virtual simcha, the Temple's first, can be meaningful in different ways than coming together in person. (See page 1.)

The special events usually found at this time of year are being adapted. Mitzvah Day was postponed, but you can still support tikkun olam through Wellspring's food bank (see page 10) or to Thoughtful Thursdays (or a Temple fund) through our [new online portal](#). The Religious School will hold the Maccabiah Games via videoconferencing and Rabbi Paula has created a virtual picnic for Lag B'Omer.

We'll be sharing more information in the coming weeks about our plans for a virtual Annual Meeting on June 10. Members without internet will be able to attend by phone and absentee ballots will be provided.

Please know that the Temple's leadership is looking ahead to potential modifications to our operations in response to the COVID-19 situation. We are staying current on recommendations from health and government experts and consulting resources provided by the Union for Reform Judaism.

A few special thank yous: Rabbi Paula for her ongoing commitment to keeping everyone connected through a variety of virtual services and programming. Beth Zweig for coordinating our communications as the virtual world becomes more important.

Thanks also to: Ronnie Greenberg and her gardening crew for sprucing up the grounds while social-distancing. Bobbie Golani and the Board Development Committee for putting together a strong slate of candidates. Our Board of Directors and their thoughtful insights, questions, and actions.

Please stay safe and healthy. I hope to see you soon, whether on Zoom or when we can meet again in person.

