

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
P3

Rabbi Meir: Hiding and Revealing

Milly & Oliver Cunningham B'nai Mitzvah

P7

Hamentashen Baking Temple Book Club

P6

Esther HaMalkah- Exploring Purim's Queen

P7

News from the Board

P12

Guest Columnist

PLUS:

- **Services**
page 2
- **Donations**
page 10
- **Yahrzeits**
page 11

JEWISH COMMUNITY PRESENTS FUNDS FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Rabbi Meir Barger, Rena Black, and Jaki Schreier presented checks for \$21,868 on behalf of the Jewish community to Catholic Charities on February 15 to help Afghan refugees as they are resettled in Fort Wayne.



"In Jewish life it is a holy obligation for us to love the stranger as ourselves, and we understand this as the central principle of the Torah, our holy scriptures," Rabbi Meir said during a ceremony at the office of Catholic Charities on South Clinton Street. "The Jewish people have been counted among refugee populations of the world in every age, so it is a privilege to help our new Afghan neighbors as they settle in Fort Wayne."

Continued on page 6

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO FIND THE MEGILLAH OF OZ



We're Off To See The Wizard during The Megillah of Oz, a delightful Purim Spiel that will be presented somewhere Over the Rainbow (well, actually, in the Sanctuary) on Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

Whether Dorothy or the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion or Scarecrow, Good Witch Glinda or the Wicked Witch, Flying Monkey or Munchkin, dress as your favorite character from the story! Join us in person or via livestream as we make merry in retelling how Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai saved the Jews of Persia.

Led by Rabbi Meir with musical accompaniment by the Purim Players and Maestro Robert Nance, we'll tell the story of Purim in the Land of Oz. Come ready to boo when Haman's name is read. We'll have plenty of groggers, but please also bring boxes of macaroni and cheese to shake and then donate as part of our social action programs. Don't forget to stop by the "Go-neg" to pick up a few hamentashen to nosh made by a team of Temple bakers.

STRINGS OF INSPIRATION WITH BRUCE COLEGROVE RETURNS MARCH 2

Temple member Bruce Colegrove returns on Wednesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. with his latest Strings of Inspiration presentation with new stories of some of the most remarkable events in the life of the women's orchestra at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The orchestra at Auschwitz-Birkenau included three different pairs of sisters, all of whom played fascinating roles in the ensemble. Remarkably enough, a mother-daughter pair also found its way into the group.

Eva Steiner, the daughter of that pair, is one member about whom we know much from the extensive literature around the orchestra. The mother, on the other hand, is one member about whom little has been known – until recently. In fact, no published resource to date has been able to report as much as her first name.



Continued on page 8

FOR INDEPTH NEWS & DETAILS

online

TEMPLEC@V.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS RETURN IN MARCH WITH SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

Due to the decline in Allen County's COVID cases, the Temple will resume in-person programs and events on the Rifkin Campus, beginning March 1. Worship services will remain in person and via livestream. Lifelong learning classes will continue on Zoom, with some programs also offered in person. Religious School will meet virtually or in person, depending on the lesson plan.

Safety protocols remain in place: Masks are required in the building. Everyone entering the building must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination (a vaccination card or photo of the card). Please bring your documentation each time you come to the Temple. [Please review our complete list of pandemic safety guidelines](#)

As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we remain focused on Judaism's highest values for maintaining life and health. We first made changes to our customary activities on March 13, 2020 when the Temple and Rifkin Campus closed temporarily in response to the global COVID-19 situation. Since that time, we've continued to make changes to our safety protocols based on current recommendations from health officials and local conditions. Thank you for continuing to support these efforts.

MARCH SERVICES

Shabbat Service

Friday, March 4
6 p.m.

Shabbat Service and B'nai Mitzvah of Oliver & Milly Cunningham

Saturday, March 5
10 a.m. at the Temple
Music: Hazemir

Shabbat Service

Friday, March 11
6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 12
9:45 a.m.

Join us for worship in person, on Zoom, or [YouTube](#). Links are provided in our weekly email to members. Guests are welcome to attend. Please contact us at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org for access information.

Erev Purim Service & Megillah Reading

Wednesday, March 16
7 p.m.

The Temple Purim Players with Music
Director Maestro Robert Nance

Shabbat Service

Friday, March 18
6 p.m. Service

Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 19
9:45 a.m.

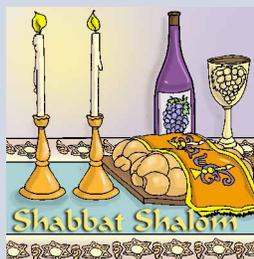
Shabbat Service

Friday, March 25
6 p.m.

Lay Leader: Bruce Colegrove

Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 26
9:45 a.m.



MARCH EVENTS

Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, March 2
10 a.m. at the Temple

Strings of Inspiration With Bruce Colegrove

Wednesday, March 2
7 p.m. at the Temple and Zoom

Hamentashen Making

Sunday, March 6
10:30 a.m. at the Temple
RSVP by Tuesday, March 1

Five Books of Moses Study Group

Sundays, March 6, 13, 20, 27
7 p.m. on Zoom

Hebrew 1: Kita Aleph

Sundays, March 6, 13, 20, 27
7 p.m. on Zoom

Hebrew Liturgy Study Group

Mondays, March 7, 14, 21, 28
7 p.m. on Zoom

Programming Brainstorming Session

Tuesday, March 8
2 p.m. on Zoom
RSVP to receive link

Temple Book Club

Tuesday, March 8
7 p.m. on Zoom

Esther HaMalkah: Exploring Purim's Queen

Wednesday, March 9
7 p.m. on Zoom

Religious School Purim Party

Sunday, March 13
Noon to 2 p.m. at the Temple

APRIL EVENTS

Location, Location, Location: How Genealogical Research Can Benefit From Historical Maps
Sunday, April 3
2 p.m. on Zoom
NEIJS

Erev Passover – No Shabbat Service

Friday, April 15

Congregational Second Seder

Saturday, April 16
6 p.m. at the Temple
RSVP by Friday, April 1

ONGOING EVENTS

Lunch with the ROMEOs

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



Thursday, March 3

[Mad Anthony Brewing Co.](#)
2002 Broadway

Thursday, March 17

[Olive Garden](#)
315 W. Coliseum Blvd.

RSVP to Denny Reynolds at dennisreynolds@me.com

[Find the lunch schedule](#)

Sheol

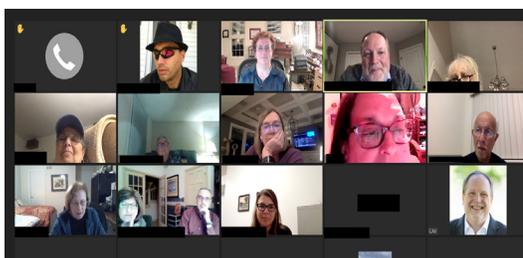
Described as a region "dark and deep," "the Pit," and "the Land of Forgetfulness," where human beings descend after death. The suggestion is that in the netherworld of Sheol, the deceased, although cut off from God and humankind, live on in some shadowy state of existence. There is generally no concept of judgment or reward and punishment attached to it.

Source: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/heaven-and-hell-in-jewish-tradition/>

Biblical Texts



Rabbi Meir and an engaged group of learners explored "Jewish Views on the Afterlife" in tradition and texts. The class on February 22 included thought-provoking questions such as why



we wonder about the afterlife and does an afterlife mean more life. We also reviewed different Jewish perspectives to consider while contemplating personal views on the afterlife. Rabbi Meir explained the idea of [Sheol](#), where human beings descend after death, and Olam HaBa (The World to Come).

RABBI MEIR BARGERON

HIDING AND REVEALING

When I lived in Israel during rabbinical school, I was completely unprepared for the incredible upside-down craziness of Purim. In a country that lives on Jewish time, Purim is a day when children play dress-up at school and adults go to work in costumes and walk through their neighborhoods with raucous merriment. There is liberal consumption of spirits until, as the Talmud teaches, one cannot distinguish between the archvillain Haman and the hero Mordechai. It's not just at shul where this is happening; it's taking place everywhere.

With the approach of Purim, we are about to have our own celebration of the holiday. One of the most common ways to observe Purim is by wearing a costume. By assuming a different persona, we can re-create the experience of Esther, whose Jewishness was unknown to the King and members of the court. A central moment of the story is when Esther struggles whether to reveal the fact that she is a Jew. Mordechai implores her to use her Jewish identity for the benefit of her people, famously saying **"Who knows? Perhaps you have attained the royal position for just this moment!"** (Esther 4:14)

Esther's hiding and revealing offer us two important lessons. First, **we all wear masks**, at least metaphorically. There are parts of us that are hidden and unknown to others. There can be many reasons for this: fear of judgment, a desire for privacy, even the loss of memory. The inner layers of life experience are a part of human nature and are experienced by everyone. Just as we have our own hidden aspects, those around us have theirs.

Jewish tradition offers a beautiful perspective on hiddenness. "The sages taught that a person who sees the multitudes of *am Yisrael*, the entirety of the Jewish people, whose minds are unlike each other and whose faces are unlike each other, that person is to say this blessing: Blessed are you God, sovereign of the universe, **who knows all secrets.**" (*Berakhot* 58a) We are all entirely known to God, even those parts of us that others cannot see!

The second lesson that Esther teaches us is that there are times when **we must show our true selves to be what God has created us to be.** If Esther had not revealed her hidden Jewish identity, she would not have been able to save the Jews of the land from persecution and death. There are moments when it is imperative for us to rise above our hesitation or fear to say, "This is who I am and here is what I can do," – at least to ourselves. Converting to Judaism, coming out as LGBTQ+, even offering previously unknown talents to a Temple committee, are all moments when, to varying degrees, we can reveal what others may not know about us. By revealing what is hidden, we can serve ourselves and others. We can show others the complete person that God knows us to be.

Chag Purim Sameach,

Rabbi Meir



It is with much love and happiness that we invite you to join us as our children **Milly and Oliver Cunningham** are called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10 a.m. Congregation Achduth Vesholom Join us in person or via livestream *Shara & Harry Cunningham*



HEARTLAND PRESENTS "ASPECTS OF LOVE" CONCERT AT THE TEMPLE

We use the word "love" every day, but what does it actually mean?

Heartland Sings will explore this question fully in a concert program entitled "Aspects of Love" on Sunday, March 20 at 3 p.m. at the Temple. This concert, co-sponsored by Congregation Achduth Vesholom, will be directed by Founding Artistic Director Maestro Robert Nance and is part of Heartland Sings' 25th-anniversary season.

The program will feature six distinctive musical selections that delve into love and all its facets. The centerpiece of the program is the Midwest premiere of a work by imaginative American composer Don McCullough entitled "Song of the Shulamite," which brings to life the book Song of Solomon from the Hebrew Bible and its poetic expression of love that is passionate, yet pure and holy.

"Song of the Shulamite" was commissioned by Maestro Nance, along with a consortium of directors across the country. The work is scored for solo soprano, chorus, harp, marimba, and vibraphone. Prior to the presentation, Rabbi Meir will speak on the significance of the Song of Solomon.

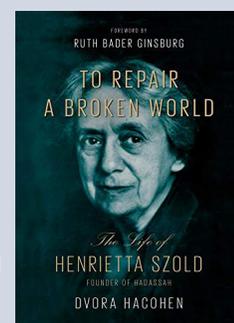
Five other diverse pieces will complement it with their own rich texts, focusing on deeper levels and features of this small word that is so full of meaning. General admission tickets are \$25 (\$10 for students).



NEW NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD-WINNING TITLES IN THE LIBRARY

The National Jewish Book Awards were announced in late January, and we're happy to be able to offer many of them in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#).

The top winner for 2021 - the "Jewish Book of the Year" -- was *To Repair a Broken World: The Life of Henrietta Szold, Founder of Hadassah*, by Dvora Hacoheh. With a foreword by the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, it's the first scholarly biography of this important woman, who spent her life in the service of others.

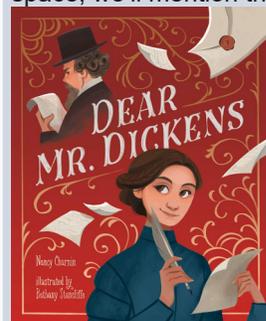


New in our fiction collection is Helene Wecker's *The Hidden Palace*, winner in the Book Club category. This is the sequel to *The Golem and the Jinni*, which we read as a congregation a few years ago. *The Last Rose of Shanghai*, by Weina Dai Randel, was a finalist in this category and is also on our shelves. Set in Shanghai in 1940, it tells the story of a Chinese heiress and a Jewish refugee who connect when he is hired as a pianist in her jazz club.

In the Debut Fiction category, the winner was *A Play for the End of the World*, by Jai Chakrabarti. The novel centers around a real play, *The Post Office*, performed at an orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto. Two survivors of the orphanage survive to encounter the same play in India.

We've added two non-fiction winners to our collection. Wendy Lower's *The Ravine: A Family, a Photograph, a Holocaust Massacre Revealed*, was the winner in the Holocaust category. A photo donated to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2009 drew the attention of the author as it captured the actual killing of a woman and child. The book details 10 years of research into the photo and what it revealed. A finalist in the Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice category, *Becoming a Soulful Parent: A Path to the Wisdom Within*, by Dasee Berkowitz, goes beyond the usual parenting books. It aims to provide tools for parents with insights from traditional Jewish wisdom and the author's own stories.

National Jewish Book Awards are given in three categories of children's books: Children's Picture Book, Middle Grade Literature, and Young Adult Literature. With our library's focus on our children's collection, we have all of the winners and finalists on our shelves. In the interest of space, we'll mention the winners in each category.



Nancy Churnin's *Dear Mr. Dickens* was the winner in the Picture Book category. It tells the wonderful story of Eliza Davis, a fan of the writer, who took him to task for his portrayal of Fagin in *Oliver Twist*. Gordon Korman's *Linked* was the winner in the Middle Grade category. This highly-acclaimed novel centers around a school vandalized with a swastika. The Young Adult winner was *Rebel Daughter*, by Lori Banov Kaufmann. Set in Jerusalem during the war against the Romans, the main character is the daughter of a Temple priest.

Hopefully these awards will inspire you to check out some new titles. Next month we'll feature the Sydney Taylor Award winners for best children's titles. If you find anything else on the award list that you'd like us to acquire, please contact Betsy Gephart at library@templecav.org.

DIVE INTO "FLORENCE ADLER SWIMS FOREVER" AT TEMPLE BOOK CLUB

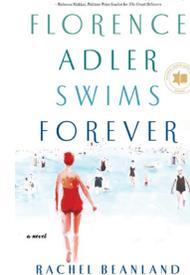
Our Temple Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. via Zoom when we discuss *Florence Adler Swims Forever* with author Rachel Beanland.

The 2021 National Jewish Book Award winner for Debut Fiction, the novel is set in Atlantic City in the 1930s. From the *New York Times Book Review*:



"Beanland's novel draws the reader in... The situation she describes is poignant and the characters she develops win us over with their private grief. Beanland is particularly good at conjuring 1930s Atlantic City, with its small family-owned hotels yielding to larger, more commercial palaces. The historical moment is fraught as American Jews try to save relatives in an increasingly untenable Nazi Germany."

The review also notes: "We see cruel obstacles to immigration, and the growing chasm between European Jews and their increasingly prosperous American counterparts. This is a book about the American dream. The dream is not without costs, and the dreamers are not immune to tragedy."



We'll begin our discussion at 7 p.m., followed by a conversation with the author at 7:30 p.m.. The Zoom link will be included in our weekly e-mails. Please contact Betsy at library@templecav.org with any questions. Thanks to the [Jewish Book Council](#) for making the author's visit possible.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FILLING AND BAKE HAMENTASHEN WITH US!

Helpers are needed to bake a variety of delicious hamentashen on Sunday, March 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Dough will be provided, but please bring your favorite filling (no jelly as it is too runny), such as preserves, canned pie and strudel

filling, chocolate chips, etc. If you have a rolling pin and 3-inch cookie cutter, please bring those as well. Tables will be set up to allow for social distancing. Masks and proof of vaccination are required.

Everyone is invited to participate in baking, but please RSVP to office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245 no later than Tuesday, March 1 so that adequate supplies will be available. If you have any questions, please contact coordinators Mimi Zelman (mimiz21@msn.com) and Deb Vilensky (dmvilensky@yahoo.com).

We'll celebrate Purim as a community on Wednesday, March 16. Depending on our safety protocols at that time, we will serve the three-cornered treats or provide a to-go nosh. Bakers also will be able to take some treats home fresh from the oven.

YOUTH NEWS

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL THIS MONTH: THE POWER OF SPEECH & PURIM PARTY



The month of Adar II starts on March 4, because 5782 is a Jewish leap year, or *shannah me'uberet* ("pregnant year" in Hebrew).

The Talmud tells us, "When Adar enters, joy increases (*Mishenichnas Adar marbin b'simchah*)." I don't know about you, but I'm ready for some joy!

This month we'll celebrate the festival of Purim with the megillah that teaches us that no matter how bad things may seem to be, they are going to get better, and that's always worth celebrating!

We'll be celebrating the reopening of our Temple building for a return to activities beyond worship services, which is certainly cause for praise - *Hinei mah tov umah na'im, Shevet achin gam yachad* – how good it will be to be together again!

We'll be celebrating Purim together with several in-person Religious School gatherings this month.

We'll also be covering our Jewish value of the month, *Koach HaDibbur*, meaning "the power of speech." The Torah emphasizes the need to guard our Speech as the tool of creation, as in: "And God said, 'Let there be light.'" (Genesis 1:3)

What makes humans unique, and even what makes a human a "mensch," is the power of speech. Our lessons this month will distinguish between words that hurt and words that heal and we'll practice making good choices of when to speak and when to remain silent. Through speech the world was created, and through speech the world will be repaired.

Using the power of our words is a learned skill that we as parents foster by modeling. Parenting also can be enhanced or diminished through the power of speech. As we move through this month, think about the ways you use your speech, and the uncanny ways your children imitate what you say (and how you say it) so precisely – I've definitely heard my own words thrown back at me a time or two! I hope you'll join me in considering what type of speech we can model for our children this month.

Leise Rosman, Religious School Committee Chair

CHAG PURIM
Sameach

Come celebrate with
Religious School!

Family Hamentaschen Making
Bring your favorite filling!
March 6 at 10:30 AM at Temple CAV

Religious School Purim Party
Featuring games, a costume contest, and a magic show!
March 13 at 12:00 PM at Temple CAV

Temple Purim Service
Join in the congregation's reading of the Megillah of Oz!
March 16 at 7:00 PM at Temple CAV

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MARCH SCHEDULE

- Saturday, March 5** – Milly & Oliver Cunningham B'nai Mitzvah at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, March 6** – Hamentaschen Making at 10:30 a.m. at the Temple
- Sunday, March 13** – Purim Party at 12 pm at the Temple
- Wednesday, March 16** – The Megillah of Oz Purim Spiel at 7 p.m. at the Temple or on Zoom
- Sunday, March 20** – Online Religious School at 10 a.m. on Zoom
- Sunday, March 27** – Online Religious School at 10 am on Zoom
- Sundays, April 3 and 10** – Spring Break – No Religious School



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CAMP JOE

Plans are underway for the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's Camp Joe 2022! We are working to create an exciting program with new opportunities for learning, discoveries, and friendships.



Camp Joe runs Monday through Friday of the following weeks: July 4-8, July 11-15, and July 18-22. Your child may register for one, two or all three weeks. Camper ages are 4-13 years old.

Regular camp hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with before and after care options available.



CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER CAMP AT GUCI

Jewish summer camp provides young people with a heightened sense of Jewish community and spirituality.

Registration for summer 2022 at [Goldman Union Camp Institute](#) is underway! A sibling discount of \$100 also is available for the summer. GUCI is our regional Union for Reform Judaism camp in Zionsville. Children entering 3rd through 12th grade are eligible. [Find out more](#)

Please contact the Temple office for campership information or Campership Chair Brian Rosman. Considering Jewish overnight camp for the first time? Your child may be eligible for a need-blind grant of up to \$1,000 this summer through the [Foundation for Jewish Camp](#).

GUCIPALOOZA MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

[GUCIPalooza](#) is a music festival-themed weekend at Goldman Union Camp Institute that brings together 9th-12th grade teens from across the Midwest for a weekend together in person in Zionsville.

From wake up at 8:30 a.m. through lights out at 11 p.m., teens will be engaged in a variety of programs. From celebrating Shabbat, playing sports, arts and crafts, learning about social justice, singing our favorite camp songs, and more – the weekend will be filled with options for all!

Please contact the Temple at office@templecav.org to say your student is interested. [Find out more](#)



BRING PROGRAMMING IDEAS TO BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Bring your program ideas to the Brainstorming Session on Tuesday, March 8 at 2 p.m. on Zoom. The event is hosted by the Programming "Cabinet" of committee chairs – those who contribute events to our Temple calendar.

This is every member's opportunity to suggest ideas for programs you'd like to attend and help with next year and beyond. Whether general or specific, all ideas are welcome for consideration. Please contact Program Vice President Kathy Sider with questions and to receive the link. If you are unable to attend, you may email suggestions to ksider812@gmail.com.

Kathy Sider, Vice President-Programs



ESTHER HAMALKAH: EXPLORING PURIM'S QUEEN ON MARCH 9

Expand your Jewish knowledge by joining us for lifelong learning classes that include a variety of Jewish study topics with Rabbi Meir Barger and guest teachers. Please join us in March for:

Strings of Inspiration with Bruce Colegrove

Wednesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. in person and on Zoom

Bruce will share new stories of the remarkable events in the life of the women's orchestra at Auschwitz-Birkenau. (See page 1)

Esther HaMalkah: Exploring Purim's Queen

Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. on Zoom

The Book of Esther is a fascinating volume of the Hebrew Bible — at once familiar because of its annual public reading at Purim, while also complex and mysterious.

Writing for the Jewish Women's Archive, Sidnie White Crawford calls the Book of Esther "a Jewish novella that deals with the enduring issues of preserving Jewish identity and ensuring survival amid cultural pressures and hostile enemies in a foreign land." We will discuss the origins of the book, and also read and discuss key verses to explore their meanings and significance to us today.



Please RSVP to office@templecav.org by Thursday, March 3 to receive materials.

Links for classes are provided in the weekly email to members of our Temple family. Guests may contact the office for access information.



Ongoing Programs:

Hebrew 1: Kita Aleph with John Planer

Sundays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom

For those who are registered

Hebrew Liturgy Study Group with John Planer

Mondays at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Five Books of Moses Study Group with Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

Sundays at 7 p.m. on Zoom

SALAMIS AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

We have delicious whole Hebrew National kosher salamis available for sale. Reserve yours while they last. The 12-ounce chubs are \$12 each.



Order online or contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org. Pick up your order during regular office hours - Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds support Temple programs.

FUNDS FOR AFGHAN RELIEF (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Dan Florin, CEO of Catholic Charities, expressed appreciation to the Jewish community, noting "It can be hard to see God's blessings amid a humanitarian crisis, but the solidarity from brothers and sisters of all denominations has been unbelievable."



In a statement released to the media, Scott Salon, president of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, said

that "the size of the Jewish community is small numerically, but our compassion is not." He added that as a people dedicated to living our Jewish values, "We are very proud of our community's generosity."

The Jewish community announced a month-long fundraiser in December for Catholic Charities to assist with resettling Fort Wayne's Afghan refugees. The Temple's Board of Directors set a lofty goal of \$5,000 from our membership, with the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne offering to match that amount.

The generosity in the first few days was so exceptional that the Temple leadership raised the goal to \$10,000. And as the final days of the campaign and year-end 2021 approached, the amount kept growing, reaching \$21,868 from our congregants and the greater Jewish community.

The fundraising campaign was chaired by Bobbie Golani and Jaki Schreier. The Afghan Resettlement Steering Committee also included Kathy Sider, Scott Salon, Fran Volante, Bonnie Pomerantz, Rena Black, and Rabbi Meir.



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Afghan Resettlement Campaign! In our list of donors in the February Bulletin, we inadvertently left off Ronnie & Norm Greenberg. We thank them for their contribution!

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

An update from the February 10 meeting of the Temple Board:

Monies from Congregation B'nai Jacob

Finance Vice President John Stein reported that final checks from the former Congregation B'nai Jacob have been received by the Temple as part of wrapping up remaining financial matters under the transition agreement.

These include unrestricted monies to the Temple's General Operating Fund; funds earmarked for the B'nai Jacob (Conservative) Judaism Fund to be used for such things as a guest rabbi or cantor to lead traditional High Holy Days worship or for programs related to traditional Judaism; and the Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan Tzedakah Fund.

Catholic Charities Efforts To Assist Refugees

Rabbi Meir Bargeron told the Board that he and Jaki Schreier, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, were among the stakeholders who visited the case management center run by Catholic Charities to assist Afghan refugees locally. He said he was "tremendously impressed" with the facility, including the living spaces and how they are organized to ensure privacy and autonomy. He said that leaders from the Temple and Federation will present checks from the Jewish community for \$21,868 to assist the Afghani resettlement.

Security Update

President Ronnie Greenberg said we will continue to encourage our members to attend online security training through Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America. To date, our members have participated in two online training sessions. Ronnie said that the Security Committee, chaired by Executive Director Samara Sheray, continues to evaluate the Temple safety needs.

Artwork Task Force

Ronnie announced that a task force will be doing an inventory of artwork in the building, including those pieces that are not currently on display. They will make recommendations to the Board regarding any changes. Task force members include Art & Beautification Chair Carol Adelman, Facility Committee Chair Jay Zemmol, Sharon Eisbart, Jon Tam, and Executive Director Samara Sheray.

Return to In-Person Programming

After a discussion of the current COVID numbers in Allen County, the Board voted to resume in-person programming in March, while continuing livestreaming as much as possible. Masks continue to be required in the building, as well as proof of vaccination.

Member Engagement Task Force

Micah & Wendy Soltz are co-chairing the newly created Member Engagement Task Force. He reported to the board that they are forming a diverse team and will be developing a survey to gather feedback, identify needs, determine interests and trends, and to make recommendations.

Livestreaming Upgrades

With the increased use of livestreaming for worship services and programs, the Temple is working on a plan to upgrade streaming equipment. Improvements to lighting and sound are anticipated as part of any proposed changes.



As a community, we're blessed to share special moments and occasions in each other's lives. During our Shabbat service on January 28, we celebrated with long-time member Mike Rush, who retired from a legal career of 48 years - 18 years in the practice of general law and 30 years on the bench, most recently as a Senior Judge in the state of Indiana. Mike and his wife, Jo Ellen, kindled the Sabbath candles and Rabbi Meir offered some thoughts and a blessing on this new period of life.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO RABBINIC RENEWAL PROCESS

We have passed the mid-point of Rabbi Meir Bargeron's three-year contract, which expires on June 30, 2023. A letter has been sent to all members about the renewal process and seeking input per our Bylaws. To assist the Board in making this determination, please share with us your experiences with Rabbi Meir in such areas as worship services, pastoral support, life-cycle events, adult education, Religious School, youth, interfaith, outreach, committee work, or any other subject you feel is pertinent.



Please send your written comments (including your name) addressed to the Executive Committee in care of the Temple office or to President Ronnie Greenberg at president@templecav.org by April 1, 2022. All responses will be kept confidential by the Executive Committee.

SUPPORT JEWISH COMMUNITY IN UKRAINE



In the light of the conflict on the Ukrainian border, the World Union for Progressive Judaism has launched the Ukraine Crisis Fund. We ask people from all over the world to make donations towards the support of the Jewish community in Ukraine.

Money will be spent on individuals and communities to ensure their safety and well-being. If the conflict escalates further, your money will become crucial and necessary help for many people.



STRINGS OF INSPIRATIONS WITH BRUCE COLGROVE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



As it turns out, Eva Steiner died in late December 2021 at the young age of 100, and her nephew, Robby Steiner, reached out to Bruce Colegrove hoping to discover some poignant details that he could include in his eulogy for Eva.

In Bruce's presentation, he will share many of the inspiring details about Eva that he shared with her nephew. He also will present some of the exciting new findings that his contact with Robby disclosed about this Jewish family, including Eva's fascinating mother, Jolanda.

Join us in person or via Zoom or [YouTube](#). The link will be shared in the weekly email to our congregational family. Guests are welcome and asked to contact us at office@templecav.org for access

information. Please follow our [COVID safety protocols](#).

Bruce first shared incredible stories of these women in fall 2019 when the Violins of Hope programming captivated members of the Fort Wayne community. The enthusiastic response led to a second program in February 2021.

He describes the women's orchestra as the most eclectic, the most unique, the most controversial, and, without any question, the most zealously documented gathering of female musical talent the world has ever known. By many regards, it was also the most inspiring.

An ardent researcher in Holocaust studies, Bruce is the developer of the website Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Recently retired from many years teaching Hebrew at Achduth Vesholom, he has taught for 20+ years at Canterbury High School.

NEED HELP FINDING YOUR ANCESTRAL TOWN?

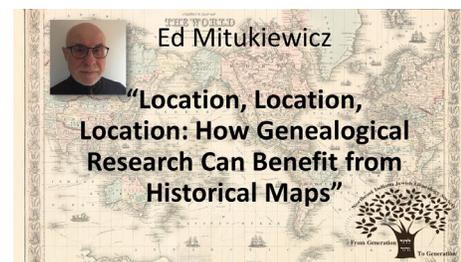
"Location, Location, Location: How Genealogical Research Can Benefit From Historical Maps" is the focus when the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) welcomes genealogist and mathematician Ed Mitukiewicz for a free virtual program on Sunday, April 3, beginning at 2 p.m.

Identifying the towns and villages where our ancestors used to live can be a critical step in finding relevant sources of genealogical information. However, locating some of those places often becomes quite a challenging task, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe. The use of multiple languages, spelling or transliteration errors, appearance of similar names in different locations and countries, frequent name changes, and shifting national borders introduce additional complications.

Readily available web-based resources — including digital repositories of historical maps and geographic information databases — can help to overcome many of those challenges. This presentation demonstrates the methods and techniques of using such resources to facilitate locating ancestral towns in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mitukiewicz is a mathematician and computer scientist by education, researcher and technology consultant by profession, and amateur cartographer and genealogist by coincidence. He has a particular weakness for historical maps - rumor has it that he never met one he did not like. Mitukiewicz worked as an editor, translator and map consultant during the production of the 2015 "Raise the Roof" documentary film about reconstructing the roof and painted ceiling of an 18th century wooden synagogue of Gwozdziec. He presented illustrative scenarios of using historical maps in genealogical research at various genealogy conferences in Poland, Israel and the United States.

[Registration is required](#) to attend this free virtual program. NEIJGS members may attend an additional virtual workshop with Mitukiewicz that afternoon. More information can be found at www.NEIndianaJGS.org and on the NEIJGS [Facebook page](#). Contact Betsy Gephart at vp@NEIndianaJGS.org for more information.



THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM COMING TOGETHER AGAIN IN MARCH

After a few months apart due to the pandemic, the Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers once again will be able to meet in person to assemble bags for our Brightpoint Head Start families.

The team will be together – and wearing our masks - on Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m. to bag pancake mix, syrup, fruit cocktail, oatmeal, fruit and grain cereal bars, bags of pretzels, shampoo, conditioner, liquid laundry detergent, and toilet paper.

As we all know, the price of groceries is skyrocketing and that makes our job a little more challenging when we go shopping. However, it also makes what we do that much more important. Because of inflation, families are struggling to put food on the table.

Thank you for the continued generosity of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the members of our Jewish community for making Thoughtful Thursdays possible!

Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). If you are interested in volunteering for Thoughtful Thursdays, please contact me at sartrotter@gmail.com.

Remember, hunger doesn't stop just because there is a pandemic, supply chain issue or inflation!

Sally Trotter, Thoughtful Thursdays chair



**WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT?
FIND OUT AT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER**



Passover begins on Friday, April 15 when we retell the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt and freedom from bondage. Please join our Temple family for the return of our in-person Second Seder after a two-year hiatus on Saturday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Temple.

We'll read the Haggadah led by Rabbi Meir Bargeron and dine on a traditional kosher-style Pesach meal. Thank you to the ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for coordinating the meal -- and especially to Denny Reynolds and David Crell for chairing.

Please call the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 with your reservations by Friday, April 1 and then follow up by sending your check made payable to "CAV - The Temple." When you RSVP, please indicate if you prefer a vegetarian entrée. Attendees must follow the Temple's COVID safety protocols. Masks and proof of vaccination are required.

Students enrolled in Religious School may attend at no charge by making a reservation and when accompanied by a parent.

The cost for Temple members is \$30 for adults, \$15 for children ages 3-12 who are not enrolled in the Religious School, and free for children under age 3. For non-members, the cost is \$36 for adults, \$18 for children 3-12, and free for children under age 3. No refunds will be issued for cancellations or no-shows. Reservations after the April 1 deadline will be taken if space is available. An accurate count is needed to prepare the appropriate amount of food.

MAZEL TOV TO:

- **Clint & Nancy Rossiter** on the birth of their granddaughter, Dahlia Joy Sabiler, on February 2, 2022 in Ensenada, Mexico. Proud parents are Anna & Tyler Sabiler. Clint is the Temple's Facilities Manager and Anna formerly worked as a custodian at CAV.
- **Rabbi Paula Jayne Winnig** on her new position beginning July 1 as associate director of Consulting and Transition Management for the Union for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Paula served as Achduth Vesholom's Interim Rabbi from August 2019 through June 2020. She currently serves as Interim Rabbi at Congregation Rodef Sholom in Youngstown, Ohio



LEADING CHANGE: A URJ SUMMIT COMING IN MAY

Plan to attend the Union for Reform Judaism's virtual program called "Leading Change: A URJ Summit" on May 1-3. The traditional Biennial and Consultation on Conscience have been reimagined into this compelling leadership conference.

Keynote speakers will engage us around how we can effect meaningful change in our communities and world. The conference will culminate in the launch of the Civic Engagement Campaign, bringing together thousands of Reform activists. [Find out more](#)



A year after a two-session leadership development program, members of our Leadership CAV group gathered February 2 for dessert and conversation on Zoom with the Board Development Committee, Rabbi Meir, and President Ronnie Greenberg.

As part of a discussion on how the pandemic has impacted our congregational community, the emerging leaders made significant points about the benefits and challenges of Zoom and livestreaming. The feedback made clear that we miss the social part of Temple life, including the onegs and regular in-person Religious School. We also talked about the need for volunteers and what we can achieve in Temple life through a culture of service to the congregation, though perhaps we may need to look for funds to invest in more staff for some areas.

Thank you to the Board Development Committee: Fran Adler, Jamie Berger, Betsy Gephart, John Stein, and Beth Zweig (chair).



My Survivor
 WHO WILL TELL THE STORY WHEN THE LAST SURVIVOR IS GONE?
SUNDAY, April 24 • 3pm

PBS Fort Wayne
 Watch • Stream with pbsfortwayne.org

Local Broadcast
 Sponsored In Part By
 The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
 THE STRENGTH OF FAITH. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



DONATIONS

Adler Memorial Fund

In memory of Joseph & Elsa Adler: *Fran & Irv Adler*

Campership Fund

In memory of Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt: *Enid & Stanley Rosenblatt*
 In memory of William DuBrow and Harry Leiberman: *Vivian Skadron*

General Operations

A donation has been received from: *Scott Fergusson*
 In memory of Abe Dubin: *Donna & Josh Tourkow*
 In honor of Mike Rush: *Rachel & Geoff Gordon*
 In memory of Morris Kaye: *Thomas Shine*
 In memory of Hannah Zacher and Lois & Conrad Goode: *Judy & Steve Zacher*
 In memory of Rebecca Safirstein and Fraida Safirstein: *Kay Safirstein*

Holocaust Memorial Fund

In memory of Clara Nichtern and Morris & Frieda Erman: *Fran & Irv Adler*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation has been received from: *Fran & Irv Adler, Paul Schwartz & Richard Bradley*
 In honor of Rabbi Meir Bargeron: *Steven Greenberg & Keith Johnson, Beth & Dan Zweig, Elissa & Steve Cohen*
 In memory of Josh Wallet's Grandfather: *Jenn & Kevin Thomas*
 In memory of Harry Rush: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*
 In memory of Nettie Gottlieb: *Doris Gottlieb*
 In memory of Jennifer Cohen: *Ron Cousino*
 In memory of Morris Kaye: *Steven Shine*
 In memory of Helen Rath: *Irene & Robert Walters*

Religious School

In memory of Elias Punsky: *Fani & Enrique Kozolchyk*
 In memory of Margot Krel: *Rossya Klebanow*

Ryan Goldstrom Memorial Fund

In memory of Dr. Sheldon Kantor: *Lori & Rob Goldstrom*

Temple Gardens Fund/Spousep Chapel

In memory of Jennifer Cohen: *Susan & Alan Cooperman, Jo Ellen & Mike Rush, Ronnie & Norm Greenberg, Marcia & Denny Reynolds, Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum, Beth & Dan Zweig, Fran & Irv Adler, Carol & Larry Adelman, Patrice & Michael Spousep, Gloria & William Ashman, Jere Leib, Marie Warshauer, Chris Riley,*
 In memory of Elsie Shepsman: *Beth & Dan Zweig*

Thoughtful Thursdays

A donation has been received from: *Fran & Irv Adler, Jessica & Roger Ash*

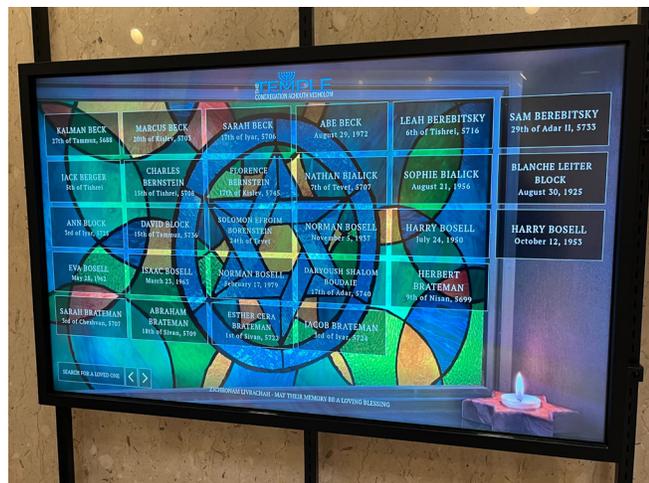
Wyle Weiman Youth Activities

In memory of Morris Kaye: *Lawrence Shine*

Zweig Fund

In memory of Sophie Glazer: *Beth & Dan Zweig*

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



PERSONALIZE YOUR LOVED ONE'S DIGITAL YAHRZEIT PAGE

Have you previously purchased a bronze yahrzeit plaque for a loved one at Achduth Vesholom or B'nai Jacob? Or have you recently purchased a digital plaque on our new display in the foyer?

If so, we invite you to take advantage of special features on our new yahrzeit display by providing biographical information and photos of your family member. Forms are available both online or on paper to fill out with specific information about a loved one to submit to the Temple office to be added to the display.

This is the latest step in our yahrzeit project that grew out of the transition that began in July 2019 when members of the former B'nai Jacob became part of Achduth Vesholom. The long history of both congregations meant we had nearly 1,000 bronze nameplates on 10 larger boards with limited wall space.

The Temple's Board of Directors voted in February 2021 to purchase the interactive digital display, which was installed last September. The existing bronze plaques will be incorporated into a sculpture in the courtyard of the Madge Rothschild Resource Center.

Digital yahrzeit plaques are available for \$500 each, with proceeds going to the Temple's Endowment. While the congregation draws from our entire yahrzeit list when we say Kaddish during services, the digital display includes only names for those whose loved ones have purchased a plaque.

Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 with any questions.



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.

MARCH YAHRZEITS

March 4-5

Ginette Bat Nathan Ve Rachel
 Chuma Appel
 Henry Baum
 Barbara Berger
 Anatoliy Berkovich
 Shalome Boudai
 Edward Brower
 Joseph Chodash
 Sarah Cohen
 Louis Dessauer
 Carrie Dessauer
 Victor N. Farhi
 Theodore Frank
 Rose Goldstine
 Betty Jane Barton Gubitz
 Matilda Hallenstein
 Fannie K. Heilbroner
 Robert P. Hirsch
 Robert L. Kalver
 Mae Porter Kann
 Conner Koons
 Isadore Kramer
 Sam Kramer
 Louis Kwatnez
 Dr. Don Alan Lee
 William Lesser
 Jacob Lipp
 Sarah Kalver Max
 Robert Samuel Mirman
 Amy Pincus
 Leonard Rifkin
 Jacob Rosenberg
 Harry Rosensweet
 Frances Rothenberg
 Fraida Safirstein
 Jay Allen Safran
 Estelle Salnitsky
 Herbert A. Schiller
 Eugene Schmidt

March 11-12

Jesse Amber
 Josephine Bach
 Perry Carson
 Ralph Clark
 Raymond Farhi
 Eddie Field
 Rosa S. Fishman
 Marian L. Frankenstein
 Benjamin Friedman
 Yetta Hassan
 Max Himelstein
 Penelope Houseman
 Joy July-Amber
 Abe Kaufman
 Morris Kaye
 Dr. Robert M King
 Charlotte Korin
 Harriet Lesser
 Edna Levine
 Bill Llewellyn
 Moe M. Mitzman
 Hannah Nirdlinger
 Pinchas ben Beryl Wechsler
 Peter Wechsler
 Helen Rath
 Abraham Joseph Roseman
 Esther Roseman
 Ida Rothschild
 Arlene Sambur
 Estelle King Schaffer
 Rose S. Schwartz
 Rose Schwartz
 Melvin Smith
 Julius J. Stein
 Sigmund Teitel
 William Warshauer
 Eve Weinswig
 Francis Weisberg
 Ralph Wolf
 Edie Zweig

March 18-19

Regina Ackerman
 Phyllis Adele Agrue
 Yochuonon Barton
 Racheal Barton
 Rose Becker
 Walter Bordens
 Rose Burrs
 Lynn Jeanette Cohen
 Yetta Dessauer
 Morris Dicker
 Lucille Doppelt
 Frances Schwartz Edlow
 Lee Gilbert
 Dave Gold
 Lois Goode
 Ruth G. Haslacher
 Helen M. Isay
 Sigmund W. Kann
 Mildred Price Katzenstein
 Betty Lauferty
 Zalman Levine
 Alfred Levy
 Miriam Light
 Jim Long
 Joseph Mast
 Virginia Mayer
 Stephen Pomerantz
 Ed Roberts
 Alex Rosenberg
 Solomon Rothschild
 Florence Rudin
 Elaine Shine
 Florence Smith
 Rosalie W. Solomon
 Isaac Sposeep
 Moses Strouse
 Rose Sulzer
 Edith Warchawski
 Jack O. Weil
 MinnieWeinraub
 Thomas Zefo

March 25-26

Joseph Adler
 John Aichele
 Samuel Appel
 Jacob Ben-Yehoshua
 Isaac Bosell
 Dorothy M. Brazy
 Louis Cremer
 William DuBow
 Rena Edlavitch
 Lois Levine Edwards
 B. David Fishman
 Abraham Goodman
 Hazel L. Grove
 Helen Himelstein
 Ken Horwitz
 Abraham Kaplan
 Reuben Leb Komisarow
 Donald Kornspan
 Paul Lecher
 Harry Leiberman
 Col. Chester Lichtenberg
 Moses Lichtenberg
 Mac Marlow
 Harold J. Novitsky
 Mordecai Rifkin
 Madelon J. Rothschild
 Herbert Rynearson
 Rebecca Safirstein
 Elizabeth Schwartz
 Paul F. Schwartz
 Betty Joe Seligman
 Sarah Steiber
 Irene Todd
 Rachel Weiss
 Louis Zweig

Yahrzeit Donations can be made online.

CONDOLENCES TO

Elissa & Steve Cohen on the death of their daughter, Jennifer Elissa Cohen, on February 9, 2022 in Fort Wayne. Our thoughts also are with their children, Joe Cohen and Andy & Jennifer Cohen, on the loss of their sister; and their grandchildren, Sam, Jacob, Seth, and Elaina Cohen, on the passing of their aunt. Our sympathy also goes to Mike & Patrice Sposeep on the loss of their niece.

Amy & Sam Krouse on the death of her grandmother Elsie Shepsman on February 9, 2022 in Philadelphia. We also think of their children, Noah and Ruth, on the loss of their great-grandmother.

BECOME A LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER WITH A PLANNED GIFT TO THE TEMPLE

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

More than 40 congregants already have become members of the L'dor Vador Legacy Society since it was established in 2012 to encourage individuals to make arrangements to remember the Temple in their estates. 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 Planned Giving Committee Chair Beth Zweig at blzweig@msn.com.

Charter Member of the Union For Reform Judaism

 Meir Bargeron, Rabbi

 Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

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 VP Program: Kathy Sider

 VP Finance: John Stein

 Secretary: Amy Krouse

 Immediate Past President: Ellen Tom

Larry Adelman	Mike Rush	Jay Zemmol
Rachel Gordon	Mark Schneider	Beth Zweig
Brian Rosman	Micah Soltz	
Leise Rosman	Josh Tourkow	

Rabbi Meir Bargeron: rabbi@templecav.org

 Samara Shera: Executive Director CAVAdmin@TempleCAV.org

 Marie McFadden: Admin. Assistant Office@TempleCAV.org

 Beth Zweig: Bulletin Editor Bulletin@TempleCAV.org

 Marie McFadden: Bulletin Production

 Clint Rossiter: Facility Manager Building@TempleCAV.org

 Jamie Fritz: Comptroller Accounts@TempleCAV.org

TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 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.



www.facebook.com/templecavfw



Achduth Vesholom Congregation



Want to receive our newsletter?

 Send your email address to

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. We value the diversity of viewpoints within our congregation.

Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org for information. President Ronnie Greenberg can be reached at (260) 483-6327 or president@templecav.org.

The deadline for the April Bulletin is Tuesday, March 15.



GUEST COLUMNIST

STEVEN GREENBERG

I went vegan a year ago, and the smartest thing anyone told me as I transitioned was NOT to try to duplicate my previous dietary experiences. "Reimagine what your dinner plate looks like," my dietician said. She was so right.

32 years ago, I reimagined my future as a Jew. I moved to this foreign place where you had to wait for a month to get a telephone installed, people smoked in movie theaters, and there was only one (gasp!) television channel. "But your children will be deprived!" my mother blurted out, in a memorable conversation that I never intend to let her live down.

Fast forward two marriages, three kids, two houses, and a lot of reserve duty as a combat medic later...and I don't feel too deprived. Neither is the country. Kol Bo Shalom, the original Tel Aviv skyscraper, looks squat and forlorn next to a Manhattanesque collection of soaring rivals. And where I once had to pay a "luxury tax" for the privilege of traveling, I find myself in Europe and the US at least several times a year.

I'm visiting the U.S. now. Every time I'm here, I suffer what I've come to internally call "cultural dissonance." I guess this should be obvious. I'm an immigrant. My fully bilingual Sabra children will forever snigger at my Hebrew accent despite my fluency and beg me to "talk like a hick, Daddy!" (i.e. feign a Hoosier drawl) at family dinners. But this cultural dissonance goes beyond that. I'm talking about the vast chasm that separates my experience living and raising children in Israel from the average Jewish parent I meet here.

It's like coming to a parallel universe wherein I can intuitively deal with four-way stops (we don't have those, thank God), yet don't know how to respond when my nephew talks about active shooter drills.

In recent years, as life for American Jews has grown arguably much worse, my disconnect has only deepened. I don't know how to respond to synagogue shootings, without thinking (ridiculously) "I'm so glad I only have to deal with Hamas missiles." I don't know how to relate to complaints of costly healthcare without thinking of our occasionally clumsy-yet-humane universal healthcare system. And I don't know how to handle Keurig coffee without dreaming fondly of espresso on Rothschild Boulevard.

Today, it's clear that this disconnect has grown reciprocal. From American Jewry's side, it's partly a result of our inexcusably bad leadership under Netanyahu's pathetic personality cult. It's partly the toxicity trickling down the throat of Israeli society from the Occupation that continues to emerge in myriad ugly societal excretions that we sometimes confront and often ignore. And it's a gazillion other moral grey areas in the insanely complex geopolitical and socioeconomic reality of Israel.

But what I figured out is this: just as I no longer intuitively seek out the traditional FDA-sanctioned meat/potato/vegetable mix on my dinner plate, both I and American Jews need to change our frame of reference. I do not understand the experience of sending a child to school with a bulletproof backpack. You do not understand the experience of sending a child to carry an AR-15 in the IDF. This is normal.

Healing the rift between Israel and U.S. Jewry starts with reimagining the other side's societal (and yes, moral) frameworks. It's about recognizing the diversity of our experiences and the cultural dissonance we both face. By accepting the reality of this diversity, we can start to seek out the common ground of acceptance we once enjoyed intuitively.

Except for Keurig and four-way stops. Those are objectively and universally wrong. Just sayin'.

Fort Wayne native Steven Greenberg is an Israel-based single dad and writer. You can find his novels at <https://amzn.to/3JhReHE> and follow his Times of Israel blog at <https://bit.ly/3rKDH5z>. He grew up at Achduth Vesholom and is the son of Ronnie & Norm Greenberg.