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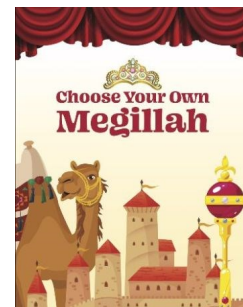
CHOOSE YOUR OWN MEGILLAH AT PURIM SPIEL!

Life is full of choices – and this year's Purim Spiel on Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m. at the Temple offers many chances to "Choose Your Own Megillah!" This hilarious, interactive retelling of the Purim story brings the audience into the action. In almost every scene, the audience gets to pick which of several endings the cast will perform.

Join the fun when we make merry and decide together how Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai will save the Jews of Persia. Rabbi Meir will lead us in what promises to be a creative and delightful celebration. Join us in person or via livestream on Zoom and [YouTube](#).

Don't forget to wear a costume and 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 for those with food insecurity.

After the service, we'll nosh on hamentashen prepared by a team of Temple bakers.



STRINGS OF INSPIRATION WITH BRUCE COLEGROVE RETURNS MARCH 14



Temple member Bruce Colegrove returns on Tuesday, March 14 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. Please join us in person or via livestream on Zoom.

In this fourth program in the Strings series, Bruce will discuss H el ene Rounder and Claire Monis, who both came from communist families and were active in the French Resistance. H el ene even managed to get arrested twice and spent time in several Nazi venues in the Paris area.

H el ene was a serious idealist with modest skill on the violin whom Orchestra Director Alma Ros e then gave the additional assignments of copying sheet music and doing artwork for the biweekly concerts at Auschwitz-Birkenau. She also was fondly remembered for decorating greeting cards for fellow musicians.

Claire was already a very successful singer before the war who played clubs all over Paris and even had an important role in a Charles Trenet film, *Je chante*. Although she knew how to play the violin, Alma kept her fully occupied doing operettas.

Bruce first shared incredible stories of women's orchestra in fall 2019 when the Violins of Hope programming captivated members of the Fort Wayne community. The enthusiastic response led to additional programs in February 2021 and March 2022.

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](#). He has taught for 20+ years at Canterbury High School and for many years taught Hebrew at Achduth Vesholom.

The Zoom link will be shared in the Temple's weekly email. Contact the Temple office at office@templecav.org for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

March Shabbat Services

Shabbat Service

Friday, March 3
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Friday, March 17
7:30 p.m.

No Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 4

Music: Maestro Robert Nance

Shabbat Service

Erev Purim Service

Monday, March 6
7 p.m.

Saturday, March 18
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat

Friday, March 10
5:30 to 6 p.m. at the Temple

Friday, March 24
7:30 p.m. at the Temple

Shabbat Service

Shabbat Service

Friday, March 10
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 25
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Shabbat Service & Torah Study

Saturday, March 11
9:45 a.m.
Torah Study and a nosh follow the service

Friday, March 31
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 1
9:45 a.m.

Please join us in person or via livestream for worship services. Many classes and programs also are offered via livestream. Zoom links are in the weekly email to our Temple family. We warmly welcome guests. Please contact the Temple office for online access information on Zoom at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org. Services also are available on [YouTube](#).

MARCH EVENTS

Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, March 1
10 a.m. at the Temple

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 5
Noon to 2 p.m. at the Temple

Hebrew 1: Kita Aleph

Sundays, March 12, 19, 26
7 p.m. on Zoom

Strings of Inspiration with Bruce Colegrove

Tuesday, March 14
7 p.m.

The Jewish Way of Friendship

Tuesday, March 21
7 p.m. on Zoom
RSVP by March 16

APRIL EVENTS

Congregational Second Seder

Thursday, April 6
6 p.m.
RSVP by March 24

Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day

Monday, April 17
7 pm
at the Rifkin Campus

ONGOING EVENTS

Mah Jongg Open Play

Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
[Sign up to play](#)

Lunch with the ROMEOS

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

Thursday, March 2

[Wu's Fine Chinese Cuisine](#)
4411 Coldwater Rd.

Thursday, March 16

[Tequila Restaurant & Cantina](#)
6328 W. Jefferson Blvd.

[Find the lunch schedule](#)



LIFELONG LEARNING: THE JEWISH WAY OF FRIENDSHIP

Expand your Jewish knowledge by joining us for [lifelong learning](#) classes that include a variety of Jewish study topics with Rabbi Meir Bargeran and guest instructors.

The Jewish Way of Friendship

Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Jewish tradition teaches us to value friendship, and defines friendship as one of the primary relationships in life; a tie at times which exceeds even blood. Yet, in our modern world, people report having difficulty making and keeping friends. Join a group of interested learners to study how Jewish tradition speaks to us about friendship and to reflect on its meaning in our lives.

Please RSVP to office@templecav.org by Thursday, March 16.

Ongoing Weekly Study Groups

Hebrew 1: Kita Aleph with John Planer meets most Sundays at 7 p.m. on Zoom for those who are registered.

Zoom links are provided in the weekly email to our Temple family.





Rabbi Meir Bargeron: CHANGE IN AN INSTANT

The month of Adar is upon us, a time when we are urged by Jewish tradition to be joyful. As joyful as it is, this month includes the festival of Purim. My friend and teacher [Rabbi Michael Adam Latz](#) writes, “The essential message of Purim is that life can change in an instant — on a whim, the Jews of Shushan’s very existence was threatened because of a conniving malignant narcissist named Haman.” The Hebrew phrase for this instantaneous change is *v’nahafoch hu*.

V’nahafoch hu placed the Jews of Shushan in great peril, and at the end of the story, it turned their fate yet again when they took power to save themselves. *V’nahafoch hu* causes the people to move from prosperity to peril and back again. Each year when we celebrate Purim, we experience joy and crazy festivity, we do so knowing that everything can change – and this has been the story of the Jewish people for our entire existence.

We also face *v’nahafoch hu* in our daily lives. A fall off a ladder, an earthquake, a marriage proposal, finding out that a baby is to be born – are all *v’nahafoch hu*. Our lives are changed in an instant, for bad and for good. Our Jewish way of responding to this uncertainty is *l’chayim*, we embrace life in all of its joy and its messiness. Tears of laughter and devastation originate from the same place. Purim reminds us that we should never take good and bad times for granted. We must be ready for *v’nahafoch hu*, the sudden turning of fate. *Chag Purim Sameach!*

...AND THE BENEFITS OF CONTINUITY

Now for another topic as we begin Adar.

I am profoundly grateful for the trust and confidence that the Temple’s Board of Trustees demonstrated by inviting me to be your rabbi for seven more years. I am especially thankful for President Ronnie Greenberg’s leadership, and for John Stein and Dan Zweig and the hours they spent with me and others to bring the contract renewal to fruition. Our mutual decision to embrace continuity creates the opportunity for us to dream about and build a strong future for this congregation of unity and peace.

The relationship between a congregation and its rabbi is a sacred one. In *Pirkei Avot* it is written, “Make for yourself a rabbi, acquire for yourself a friend, and judge every person as meritorious.” (1:6) We are each called to seek out one another to be teachers and friends, to support each other in our collective journeys to become the most fully realized creations that we can be. And in order to do this, we must look first for the very best in each other.

I am blessed every day that I am a rabbi and that my rabbinate has brought me to Congregation Achduth Vesholom. Together we will continue to create a beautiful Jewish future in Fort Wayne.

– Rabbi Meir

WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT? FIND OUT AT TEMPLE SEDER

Passover begins on Wednesday, April 5 when we retell the story of the Jews’ exodus from Egypt and freedom from bondage. Please join our Temple family for the Second Seder on Thursday, April 6 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 of brisket with veggies or eggplant parmesan, potato kugel and roasted broccoli. Thank you to the ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for coordinating the meal -- and especially to Denny Reynolds for chairing.

Please RSVP to the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or [make an online reservation](#) no later than Friday, March 24, 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. Reservations must accompany payment. We will not be taking payment the night of the event.

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 \$35 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 \$40 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 March 24 deadline will be taken if space is available. An accurate count is needed to prepare the appropriate amount of food.

SHARE MAH JONGG AND COMMUNITY DURING WEEKLY GAMES

Please join us for weekly open play mah jongg games in in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center! [Sign up to play](#) on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. Members may schedule games at other times during office hours. [Find out more](#)

Remember to [order your 2023 card](#) so you'll be ready when to play the new hands.



NEW NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD-WINNING TITLES IN THE LIBRARY

Both the National Jewish Book Awards and the Sydney Taylor Awards were announced in January, and we're excited to offer several of the winning titles in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#). We'll focus this month on the National Jewish Book Awards, saving the Sydney Taylor Awards for our April Bulletin.

The Jewish Book Council announced the winners of the 72nd [National Jewish Book Awards](#) on

January 18. We'll hit some highlights here that we've added to our collection.

The **Jewish Book of the Year** was Michael W. Twitty's *KosherSoul: The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew*. The author is a culinary historian and educator, who reveals the overlap in his Black and Jewish heritage through food. The book is a combination of anecdotes and interviews, recipes, history and advice.

The winner in the Biography and the **Holocaust** category was *The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World*, by Jonathan Freedland. In 1944, Rudolf Vrba was one of the first Jews to escape Auschwitz. *The Forward* describes it as "Compelling and vivid With painstaking detail, [Freedland] uncovers the humanity in one of the Shoah's great witnesses but also brings Vrba's truth about Nazi inhumanity to a new audience in a riveting, accessible way."

Shayna, by Miriam Ruth Black, was the winner in the **Book Club** category. It is the story of a woman who leaves her Ukrainian shtetl in 1919 to come to America, settling as a refugee on the Lower East Side of New York.

In the **Fiction** category, the winner was Dani Shapiro's *Signal*

Fires, which begins in 1985 with a fatal car accident involving three teenagers and the doctor that arrives at the scene. The *Washington Post* calls it a "Powerful work that delves into the consequences of a long-hidden lie . . . Signal Fires doesn't shy away from loss but seeks to balance grief with grace. Shapiro's novel offers the comfort of a view from the stars."

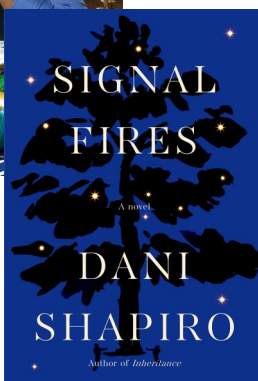
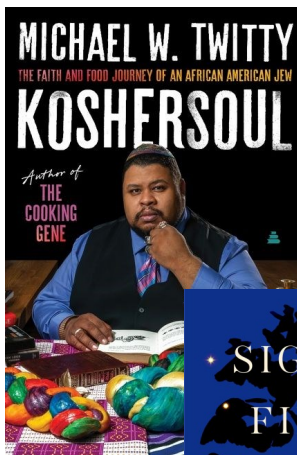
In the **Food Writing and Cookbooks** category, the winner was Benedetta Jasmine Guetta's *Cooking alla Giudia: A Celebration of the Jewish Food of Italy*. Included with the recipes are beautiful photographs, menus with regional specialties and guides to Italian cities with Jewish history.

The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda, by Shoshana Nambi, was the winner in the **Children's Picture Book** category. This unique holiday title, with illustrations inspired by African and Israeli art, offers a fresh perspective set in Uganda. In the category of **Middle Grade Literature**, the winner was *The Prince of Steel Pier*, by Stacy Nockowitz, set in Atlantic City in 1975.

And in the **Young Adult Literature** category, Susan Wider's *It's My Whole Life: Charlotte Salomon: An Artist in Hiding During World War II* received the award. This biography tells of a young artist, raised in Berlin, who escaped the Nazis, hiding in southern France. There she created a series of 1,300 paintings which serve as a diary of sorts of her life in hiding. She eventually was betrayed, sent to Auschwitz, and murdered, but the paintings survived.

Check out these and other award-winning titles in our collection. The library is open for self-checkout whenever you are in the building. And if there are other titles on the list of winners that intrigue you, please let us know.

Betsy Gephart, Librarian



GENEROSITY LEADS TO SPECIAL ITEMS FOR THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS



In spite of rainy days, our Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers are certainly enjoying being together, as evidenced by their sunny smiles! Through the end of the year, we will be able to include some special items, like fresh fruit, in the bags each month that we send home with the 51 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple.

These extras are made possible through the continued generosity of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and members of our Jewish community. A warm thank you to Suzi Stone for her extremely generous donation recently.

This month we will be sending home bags that include maple & brown sugar oatmeal, fruit & grain cereal bars, pancake mix, syrup, fruit cocktail, pretzels, a bag of fresh oranges, shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, toilet paper, and more.

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 inflation!

Sally Trotter, Thoughtful Thursdays chair



Youth News

CELEBRATING PURIM WITH JOY AND GRATITUDE

The Talmud tells us, "When Adar enters, joy increases!"

In doing some research for our upcoming lessons on this theme, I found myself Googling the word "joy." I connected with one particular definition of joy: *a feeling of great pleasure and contentment.*

We know that one way to increase our contentment – our joy – is to focus on *hakarat hatov* (gratitude) for all the good things we have in our lives. Our students are exploring the concept of *hakarat hatov* during their weekly values classes this month.

Our celebration of Purim helps us to focus on *hakarat hatov*, as we recall and recognize the good things that have happened to the Jewish people.

I hope you'll join us as we come together to live the four mitzvot of Purim:

- **Megillah** – Reading the Book of Esther together on Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m.
- **Metanot La'evyonim** – Gifts to the Poor – Please bring your boxed mac & cheese donation to the Purim Carnival and/or Megillah reading to use as your grogger (noise maker) during the Megillah reading
- **Mishloach Manot** – Sending gifts to friends – Come to our Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 5 from 12 to 2 p.m. as we delight our youngest congregants with a fun-filled afternoon of games and prizes (gifts)
- **Seudah** – Festive Meal – Did I mention our festive Ice Cream Sundae Bar that is sure to please during our Purim Carnival?

Looking forward to celebrating with you!

Leise Rosman, Religious School
Committee chair



Upcoming Religious School Schedule:

Sunday, March 5 – Purim Carnival at 12 p.m. at the Temple

Monday, March 6 – In-Person Megillah Reading at 7 p.m. at Temple CAV

Sunday, March 12 – Online Religious School at 10 am on Zoom

Sunday, March 19 – Online Religious School at 10 am on Zoom

Sunday, March 26 – KESHER Sunday at 10:30 am at Temple CAV



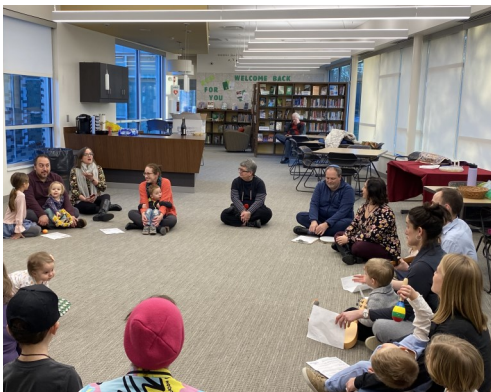
JOIN THE FUN AT JOY VEY! A KID-ISH SHABBAT

Gather 'round your little kids for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family on Friday, March 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Temple.

In our cooperative, family-run service, we light candles, pray, sing songs, move and groove, and even practice mindfulness. Our March theme is "fun."

Find the link for more information on signing up to help with the co-op.

Please join us and Rabbi Meir in the tradition of blessing your children as we make a joyful place for Shabbat in our lives and hearts... together. Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat will meet in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center.



Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat in February brought together little ones and "their people" to light candles, sing, dance, and share community. We welcomed more than 40 people for this energizing Shabbat service at the Temple. Afterward, several families joined in Souper Bowl Shabbat.

Thanks to Rabbi Meir and our music/movement parent-leaders Sam Krouse and Stephanie Gottesman, and to Micah Soltz, Amy Krouse, Andrew Bosell, and Deborah Bauer for contributing Shabbat treats. A big thank you to Samara Sheray for her help with logistics and cleanup.



Our family-friendly Tu B'Shvat Seder on February 5 included an amazing tree-shaped challah (by Jon Tam) and a beautiful table filled with a variety of delicious "tree noshes." Our celebration of Jewish Arbor Day included story time, a Seder led by Rabbi Meir Bergeron, a seed project, and games and food.

Thank you to the Tu B'Shvat Team chaired by Lyla Spath: Ruthi Greutman, Dawn Hammond, Denny Reynolds, Marcia Reynolds, Kari Weitalla, Michael Weitalla, Kayla McAllister, Michael McAllister, Noah Gephart, Leo Powell, Brian Rosman, Nola Katinsky, David Crell, Rabbi Meir, Samara Sheray, Marie McFadden, and Officer Paul.



Our Souper Bowl Shabbat on February 10 was, well, super! Crockpots filled with delicious hot soup made by Temple members were available for the more than 60 adults and children to sample, followed by an opportunity for everyone to vote for a favorite in a friendly competition.

Ten outstanding soups were on the menu, including traditional matzah ball (two choices); beef with vegetables and beans; kosher turkey minestrone; vegetarian chili; Ribolitta (Tuscan white bean and kale); and winter white turkey and vegetables.

The people's choice top 3 winners: Thai red lentil soup made by David Crell (first place); curried chicken and rice soup made by Kate Crell (second place); and beef, tomato, and acini di pepe soup made by Beth Zweig (third place). Our soup chefs also included Andrew Bosell, Ron Cousino, Samara Sheray, Kathy Sider, Wendy Soltz, and Jon Tam.

Thank you to Souper Bowl Shabbat Chair Kathy Sider and her team, Dawn Hammond, Ruthi Greutman, and Ron Cousino, for a lovely meal that included salad and challah.

REFORM MOVEMENT LEADERS TO JOIN US FOR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Exciting plans are coming together as part of the Temple's 175th anniversary celebration beginning later this year, including a visit by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, and a Scholar-in-Residence program with Dr. Gary Zola, Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

We'll mark this significant milestone as Indiana's oldest Jewish congregation with a festive weekend on November 10-12, 2023, featuring Shabbat programming, a Havdalah concert, and a Sunday open house for the community. Please visit our new [175th Anniversary](#) page at www.templecav.org.

Musical programs, art exhibits, and educational offerings will be held during our "175th season" that begins in summer 2023 and continues through winter 2024.

Highlights of the 175th season include:

Anniversary Weekend Celebration

Friday, November 10 - [Rabbi Rick Jacobs](#), president of the Union for Reform Judaism, will give the D'var Torah on Shabbat evening. Orin Reynolds, a Seattle-based musician who grew up at the Temple, will be our guest musician. A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

Several possibilities are under consideration regarding our donation of a Torah scroll to an emerging congregation or URJ summer camp. Depending on the recipient, we hope to present the Torah at the service to a representative.

Saturday, November 11 –

- Morning Shabbat service, followed by a Kiddush luncheon
- Evening Havdalah program with Orin Reynolds

Sunday, November 12 - Sunday activities will be open to members and the greater Fort Wayne community:

- A new Jewish Heritage Tour (including self-guided option and trolley tour with docents) currently under development with [ARCH](#) that focuses on locations related to Jewish life in Fort Wayne from the early days of Jewish immigration to the present.
- Open house at the Temple with docent-led tours
- Grand opening of the Temple's Goldman Memorial Museum in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center
- Entertainment by a String Quartet from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic performing klezmer-inspired music
- Refreshments include some featured Jewish treats.

Featured programs during the year include:

- [Shira Kline](#), also known as Shirlala, will join us for a Musician-in-Residence weekend, including Shabbat and additional programs for our families with young children. She incorporates music, interactive storytelling, imaginative play and spirituality to enrich and inspire.

- An art exhibit in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation (at both UU and CAV) of Hilarie Couture's [Unity with Variety](#) portraits with a panel discussion and reception.
- A collaborative exhibit featuring art created by Jewish artists from the [Fort Wayne Museum of Art](#) collection, as well as artworks, Judaica and artifacts on loan from the Temple and its community.
 - o It will be curated by Charles Shepard, Executive Director of the Art Museum, and Sharon Eisbart, CAV Art & Beautification Committee Chair.
 - o The exhibit at the Art Museum will be on display from November 9, 2023 through January 2024.
 - o A reception and talk will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 2 p.m. at the Art Museum.
- A Torah scribe (sofer) will join us to demonstrate this ancient skill while working on the Temple's sacred scrolls.
- A Beit Café evening directed by [Maestro Robert Nance](#) and featuring entertainers from our Temple family.
- Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with [Dr. Gary Zola](#) Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.
- A mitzvah project to encourage tikkun olam (repairing the world).

We are grateful to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its generous support of our celebration events. More information will be coming about sponsorship opportunities.

Volunteers also will be needed for the celebration weekend and other events. Please contact the Temple office to offer your help.



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE:

Co-Chairs Kathy Sider and Beth Zweig

Fran Adler, Jamie Berger, Nancy Dicker, Janet Finkel, Stephanie Gottesman, Norm Greenberg, Dawn Hammond, Marcia Reynolds, Cheryl Schorey, John Stein, Jon Tam, Donna Tourkow, Irene Walters, Mimi Zelman, Ronnie Greenberg, Samara Sheray, and Rabbi Meir Bargeron, Marie McFadden

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Temple Board at its February meeting met with Don Gulbrandsen of Empower Nonprofit Consulting, continuing discussions that include strategic planning and the congregational leadership structure. As part of our effort to continue to strengthen our leadership and look to the future, the Board is focusing on key leadership roles in the congregation among the Board, the Rabbi, and the Executive Director.

In the latest distribution of funds by the Transition Board of Congregation B'nai Jacob, the Temple gratefully accepted \$50,000 for a Torah Maintenance Fund; \$8,000 to the Art & Beatification Fund to purchase benches and cover any maintenance costs for the new Yahrzeit Sculpture; and \$9,000 to the ROMEOS fund.

Executive Director Samara Sheray told the board that she continues to seek applicants for Facilities Manager following the death of Clint Rossiter in January. In the meantime, Samara, Administrative Assistant Marie McFadden, Custodian Timmie Oberley, and volunteers are doing their best to handle set-ups, maintenance, and other needs.

Work continues on improvements to our live streaming capabilities. Samara said the audio-visual upgrades are complete in the Goldstine-B'nai Jacob Chapel, with necessary electrical work underway in the Sanctuary prior to installation. Samara and Denny Reynolds have attended a training session on operating the equipment.

The Board at its January meeting approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee to change the dues policy from voluntary annual increases to an automatic dues adjustment guided by increases in the cost of living/cost of congregational expenses, with an "opt out" option for members. The change was needed because fewer than half of the congregation returns the paperwork from year to year so the dues roll over without any increase. The Board approved in February an automatic increase of 5 percent. (See page 14 for a column by VP Finance John Stein.)

President Ronnie Greenberg reported that the Temple's Holocaust Education Committee is in the process of becoming part of a joint committee with the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and PFW's Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The goal of the new committee is to provide a cohesive approach to Holocaust education and remembrance to avoid overlapping programs. The new committee will include members of the three organizations and non-Jewish community. Jaki Schreier, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation, will chair the joint committee, with two vice-chairs - Rena Black, currently the Temple's Holocaust Education chair, and Steve Carr, director of IHGS.

The Board Development Committee is beginning to work on nominations for Temple leadership for 2023-2024.

In an executive session following the regular meeting, the Board unanimously approved a new 7-year contract with Rabbi Meir Bergeron to begin on July 1, 2023.

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION PLANNED FOR APRIL 17

Please join us on Monday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus for our annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration service exploring "The Neverending Hate." Our keynote speaker will be Andrew Lapin, journalist and host of the podcast "Radioactive." Also joining us will be Tree of Life Synagogue survivor Carol Black, who will be sharing how this horrific day changed her life.

Light refreshments will follow. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, this event is free and open to the public. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.



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.

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.

SUPPORT EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

In response to the devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria, Jewish Federations of North America have launched an Earthquake Relief Fund to provide humanitarian aid and to support recovery efforts. Our overseas partners are on the ground in Turkey to assess the needs and determine how to be best positioned to help.

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne voted on February 16 to donate \$5,000 to the relief fund. They are also appealing to our community to make donations to match or exceed \$5,000. Donate online to the Jewish Federation or by check.

SHARED HISTORY PROJECT EXHIBIT COMING TO FORT WAYNE

The Northwest Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society is proud to host the Leo Baeck Institute's exhibit, "1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands," in April at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center.

The exhibit tells the story of German Jewry through 58 artifacts, which help examine themes through the centuries, such as migration, everyday life, achievement, and more. The Leo Baeck Institute in New York and Berlin is a research library and archive focused on the history of German-speaking Jews.

In conjunction with the exhibit, genealogist Karen Franklin will give a presentation at the ACPL Genealogy Center on Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m. In her "Genealogical Journey," she will focus on eight items from the Shared History Project Exhibit that have a connection to her, her family history, and her research, as she weaves her own genealogy into the larger fabric of German history.



The stories may serve as an inspiration for all researchers who strive use documents and objects to see their own family stories within a larger context.

Franklin is Director of Family Research at

the Leo Baeck Institute, a position she has held for over 20 years, and a consultant for the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. She has served as president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums, chair of the Memorial Museums Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and as co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen.org. She is currently on the board of Southern Jewish Historical Society and serves as a co-editor of the memoir section of *Southern Jewish History*.



A second presentation is being planned with a focus on German Jews in Indiana. The exhibit will be viewable at the library from April 16 through the end of the month.

Thanks to Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Dr. Louis A. and Anne B. Schneider Foundation Trust, the Bureau of Jewish Education Endowment, the Lande Genealogy Fund, and the Indiana Jewish Historical Society for their support of this program.

TEACHER SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

A symposium to help support Indiana teachers at all levels in educating students on the Holocaust and Holocaust-related events will be held on Tuesday evening and Wednesday, June 13-14 at the Temple.

The effort is a collaboration between the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the PFW Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Congregation Achduth Vesholom is the lead sponsor and generous supporter of this initiative. Find the application

Now more than ever, this education needs to take place in Indiana classrooms.

Workshop hosts are Steven Alan Carr, director of IHGS at Purdue Fort Wayne, and Stella Schafer, USHMM Teacher Fellow 2016-2017 and Tippecanoe School Corporation ELA Teacher.

The program will review best practices for teaching about the Holocaust. It also will include sessions on Judaism, eugenics, Indiana's state mandate for teaching the Holocaust, and how to use primary source materials like films and historical newspapers to prompt students to grapple with complex questions. Teachers will take classroom-ready materials and proven resources back home with them, increasing their confidence in teaching the Holocaust to their students. Upon request, attendees can receive up to six Professional Growth Points (PGP).

Limited housing - with some meals provided - may be available at no cost to participants who need to arrive early. In addition, small stipends may be available to cover travel and other expenses.

Priority registration closes on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

The program will begin with a dinner and presentation on Tuesday, June 13 at 6 p.m. with Rabbi Meir Barger of Congregation Achduth Vesholom on "What Is Judaism and What Does It Mean to Be Jewish?"

Sessions on Wednesday, June 14 are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Find the tentative schedule



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.

"I FEEL LIKE I'VE FINALLY FOUND MY TRIBE"

Nick Young shared thoughts at Shabbat services on February 3 about why he became a Jew. He is a new member of the Temple. (Find his talk here at about 25 minutes into the service)

Shabbat Shalom. As some of you might know, I became an official Jew by Choice last Thursday. Rabbi Meir invited me to share some of the considerations that went into this decision to convert—and so, in brief, here is my story:

I was raised in a conservative, evangelical home. I went to church every Sunday, youth group every Wednesday, and at both learned all the things that God absolutely, without a shadow of a doubt, hated and detested. As a child I absorbed these beliefs like a sponge; and while, in my teen years I began to have questions—about what I was learning, about what I believed, about what I should believe—those questions were rarely articulated. And when they were, the answers I received were less than satisfying.

It wasn't until I was almost 40 that I had my proverbial "ah ha!" moment, courtesy of Harold Kushner's *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life*. I read it only a couple months after my father had died and, for some reason, each chapter, each page, resonated with me, not because of the specific morals or ethics espoused but because of its simple humanity. Instead of offering cut-and-dried answers, Rabbi Kushner wrote as though he truly seemed to grasp the messiness of living a human life.

So, after reading the book twice, I did what most people would do: I went to Amazon and bought all his books. And, as I began to read, I found that the religion undergirding Kushner's perspective, about which he was open

and honest, articulated beliefs that, deep down, accorded almost exactly with what I'd been looking for. It was an outlook that honored questioning and intellectual struggle; that emphasized a community of active participants working hand-in-hand toward justice; that embraced lived belief over individual theology.

This idea of community resonated with me. There is a paragraph in *9 Things* where Kushner quotes Martin Buber emphasizing that God is not found in objects-- buildings, books, hearts-- but, rather, "between people." I don't know how to explain this, but, when I read that line, it was like something unlocked in my brain/heart and said, "That's it."

How are we to be holy? How are we to live rightly? I had struggled for years, consciously and not, to make sense of these concerns. But the question "How can I be holy?" centers the focus on me, my, I. Reading Kushner made me realize that it wasn't "I"; it was "we." Kushner says, "My theology is less about who God is or what God does, and more about who we are and what we do because of what God means to us. Beliefs, theological premises, don't qualify as religion until we translate them into behavior." In other words, what we believe about ourselves, about others, and about God IS what we practice, day in and day out.

This understanding was the catalyst for my desire to make Judaism my home. I began reading Lawrence Hoffman, Milton Steinberg, and others to better understand the core tenets of Judaism—and what I read made sense: logically and intellectually, but also emotionally and intuitively. I found myself undeniably drawn to this religion that could trace its lineage back three thousand years, that



still retained elements of that heritage, and realized that I wanted to be a part of that history.

Over the last year and a half, I've learned about Jewish holidays, Jewish history, and Jewish practices. But what's taught me the most, and what I've appreciated learning about the most, is attending Shabbat on Friday evening. I love the structure of the service; I love learning why we pray certain prayers, and why services have different elements based on the time of the year. And the more I go, the more I understand what Heschel meant by being "within the Sabbath."

What I'm drawn to most, however, is the emphasis on the majesty of God. I love that our Mourner's Kaddish is, essentially, a praise to God--and that by praising him, we remember that even in moments of loss and sadness, God is still God. I love the prayers of thanks during Kiddush and Hamotzi; even more, I love that these prayers are prayers of joy.

For the first time in my life, I feel like I'm where I'm supposed to be, religiously and spiritually. I feel like I've finally found a place where God makes sense. I feel like I've finally found my tribe.

See more on page 11 about our newest members.

BECOME A LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER WITH A PLANNED GIFT

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

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



CORNED BEEF ON RYE – SURE TO SATISFY FOR 21ST YEAR!

Our Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser returns for a 21st year on Thursday, October 19 when heaping corned beef sandwiches, gigantic dill pickles, creamy coleslaw, and rich brownies return as part of the Temple's largest fundraiser.

Mark your calendar for Deli Day and help us top last year's record sales of nearly 2,000 meals and 116 additional pounds of corned beef!

Thank you to Co-Chairs Micah Soltz, David Crell, Samara Sheray and their team! Please plan to take the day off work to assist with the sale, as well as Prep Night on Wednesday, October 18. Proceeds support the Temple's general operations.

CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER CAMP AT GUCI

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

Register your child for summer 2022 at Goldman Union Camp Institute! A sibling discount of \$100 also is available. 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.

THINKING ABOUT SUMMER? THINK ABOUT CAMP JOE!

It's never too early to start thinking about summer! The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's Camp Joe will be held at Metea County Park.

Sessions are offered for three weeks, beginning June 26 and ending July 14. You may register your child ages 4 to 14 for one, two, or all three weeks!

Our "refer a friend" program is back! When you and your "friend" register, you will both receive a 10% discount on your payment. Registration is now open, and we can't wait to see you!

Our thanks to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the Janet Finkel Campership Fund for amazing support!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Our Temple family is pleased to welcome our newest members:

Nick & Jennifer Young – After studying with Rabbi Meir for about 18 months and regularly attending Shabbat services, Nick recently completed his conversion to Judaism. (Nick shared his thoughts about becoming a Jew-By-Choice during services on February 3. (See his remarks on page.10.)

Nick grew up in Fort Wayne. He is a Strategic Sales Consultant with Cigna, where Jen also works as a Health Engagement Manager. They've been married since August 2012. They enjoy sporting events, concerts, and the occasional hike.

Cori & Douglas "Ty" Laemmle and their children, Rowan and Juniper - A native of Gaithersburg, MD, Cori is a graduate of Towson University in Baltimore with a degree in early childhood special education. She teaches preschool special education.

Ty grew up in Van Wert, Ohio. They met at Ohio University, where Cori attended for two years before transferring to Towson. Ty, who has a degree in marine biology, is supervisor for half of the African section at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

The Laemmlers moved to Fort Wayne in 2016 and are parents to Rowan, 2, and Juniper, 4 ½ months. The family plans to have a naming ceremony for Juniper in the spring. They look forward to getting involved with our Joy-Vey group and eventually in Religious School.



WE APPRECIATE OUR CHALLAH BAKERS AND SPONSORS!



Our dedicated team of challah bakers and sponsors is growing! These wonderful volunteers provide us with delicious and beautiful challot to enjoy on Friday

evenings after services.

Thank you to Jamie Berger, Becky Guttstein, Nola Katinsky, Joanne McCrory, Wendy Soltz, Deb Vilensky, Jon Tam, Kari Weitalla, and Beth Zweig for baking and/or sponsoring challot.

Join us in the coming weeks on Friday evenings to enjoy this

social time after services and the culinary efforts of our baking team.

If you're a challah baker, we'd love to have your help. Volunteers take turns providing 4-5 loaves for a given month. If you're not a baker, we welcome your financial support to sponsor this effort so that we can purchase challah or ingredients for our bakers to use. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org to find out more about this effort.

Donations

Elsa & Joseph Adler Memorial Fund

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

Art and Beautification Fund

A donation has been received from: *Rachel & Geoff Gordon*

B'nai Jacob Conservative Judaism Fund

In memory of Irv Friedman: *Pam & Ron Friedman*

In memory of Abe Kaplan and Rose Ochstein Kaplan:
Susie Miller

Campership Fund

A donation has been received from: *Joe Gold*

Dr. John Planer Music Fund

In memory of Esther Congress: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

In honor of John Planer & Janina Traxler:
Pam & Ron Friedman

Endowment Fund

In memory of Linda Berwert: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*

General Operations

A donation has been received from: *Rachel Tobin-Smith, Scott Fergusson, Richard Grzych*

In honor of Samara Sheray: *Debby & Keith Roberts*

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

In memory of Rabbi Richard Safran: *Dora & Leonid Itkin, Susie & Art Fogel, Linda Fox, Jamie & Jon Berger*

In memory of Solomon Kramer: *Shirley Busack, Marcia & Denny Reynolds, Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*

In memory of Sam Fogel: *Susie & Art Fogel*

In memory of Fran Herman: *Marilyn & Jeff Herman, Steve Herman*

In memory of Harry Rush: *Jo Ellen & Mike Rush*

In memory of Sam Frankel: *Shara & Harry Cunningham*

In memory of John Vaun Malay: *Lori & Frank McCutcheon*

In memory of Clair Johnson and Fraida Safirstein:
Kay Safirstein

In memory of Lois & Conrad Goode and Hannah Zacher:
Judy & Steve Zacher

In memory of Meir Fichman: *Kaye Fichman*

In memory of Barbara Berger: *Jamie & Jon Berger*

In memory of Jacob Schwartz: *Donna & Josh Tourkow*

In memory of Estelle Stein Salnitsky: *Rita & Tom O'Neill*

In memory of Deborah Taub: *Kay Safirstein*

In memory of Jon Safran: *Dawn Safran*

In memory of William Ochstein and Herbert Rynearson:
Mical Rynearson

In memory of Abraham Edelman: *Debra Edelman*

Holocaust Education Fund

In memory of Helen Zaslowsky: *Adrienne Brateman*

Holocaust Memorial Fund

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

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation has been received from: *Cheryl Schorey, Suzi Stone, Unitarian Universalist Church*

In memory of Hannah Zacher: *Al Zacher*

In memory of Manuel King: *Suzi & Jim King*

In memory of Rabbi Richard Safran: *Claire & Jeremy Sachs*

In memory of Helan Rath: *Irene & Bob Walters*

In honor of Nick Young: *Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

In memory of Nettie Gottlieb: *Doris Gottlieb*

Project Assist

In memory of Meir Fichman: *Ann Fichman*

Religious School Fund

A donation has been received from: *Suzi Stone*

In memory of Adrienne Benson Gold: *Joanne & Elliot McCrory*

In memory of Elias Punskey: *Fani Kozolchyk*

Sposeep Chapel Fund

In memory of Jennifer Cohen: *Elissa & Steve Cohen*

Temple Gardens Fund

In memory of Solomon Kramer: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

Thoughtful Thursdays

A donation has been received from: *Rachel & Geoff Gordon, Jo Ellen & Mike Rush, Jessica & Roger Ash, Suzi Stone*

In memory of Chuma & Samuel Appel: *Cindi & Rich Wismer*

Wyle Weiman Youth Activities Fund

In memory of Joseph Kutcher: *Rikki Goldstein*

In memory of Morris Kaye: *Lawrence Shine*

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

March Jahrzeits

March 3-4

Ginette Bat Nathan Ve Rachel
 Robert Adams
 Virginia Anderson
 Chuma Appel
 Rebeccah Appelbaum
 Robert Babich
 Barbara Berger
 Anatoliy Berkovich
 Jacob Bernstein
 Sarah Cohen
 Louis Dessauer
 Carrie Dessauer
 Alexander Drozdova
 Victor N. Farhi
 Theodore Frank
 Fanny Gary
 Rose Goldstine
 Nettie Gottlieb
 Betty Barton Gubitz
 Ruvim Gurevich
 Louis A. Heilbronner
 Fannie Heilbronner
 Max Himelstein
 Robert L. Kalver
 Mae Porter Kann
 Abe Kaufman
 Conner Koons
 Isadore Kramer
 Sam Kramer
 Dr. Don Alan Lee
 William Lesser
 Estelle Lesser
 Rae Wolf Levine
 Jacob Lipp
 Anne Milz
 Moe M. Mitzman
 Ben Mocle
 Eva Orenstein
 Theresa Perlman
 Pinchas ben Beryl Wechsler
 Peter Wechsler
 Pauline Price
 Helen Rath
 Paul Rath
 Leonard Rifkin
 Irwin Rosenbaum
 Jacob Rosenberg
 Frances Rothenberg
 Sam Rozeen
 Fraida Safirstein

Jay Allen Safran
 Estelle Salnitsky
 Herbert A. Schiller
 Eugene Schmidt
 William L. Siegle
 Diane Spanjer
 Esther S. Stillpass
 Louis Walter
 Larry Wittenberg

March 10-11

Phyllis Adele Agrue
 Jesse Amber
 Josephine Bach
 Shalome Boudaie
 Daryoush Boudaie
 Rose Burrs
 Perry Carson
 Ralph Clark
 Mordacai Falakovicz
 Raymond Farhi
 Eddie Field
 Rosa S. Fishman
 Marian Frankenstein
 Benjamin Friedman
 Abraham Goodman
 Matilda Hallenstein
 Yetta Hassan
 Helen Himelstein
 Robert P. Hirsch
 Penelope Houseman
 Sam Jacobson
 Joy July-Amber
 Rose Ochstein Kaplan
 Dorothy Kaye
 Morris Kaye
 Robert M King
 Charlotte Korin
 Donald Kornspan
 Frieda Kretzman
 Louis Kwatnez
 Harriet Lesser
 Jerry Lesson
 Edna Levine
 Elmer Lewis
 Nathan Liff
 Bill Llewellyn
 Jim Long
 Calla Lowenhar
 Anna Lee Marcus
 Sarah Kalver Max
 Amy Pincus
 Ed Roberts

Abraham Roseman
 Alex Rosenberg
 Harry Rosensweet
 Ida Rothschild
 Florence Rudin
 Herbert Rynearson
 Arlene Sambur
 Estelle King Schaffer
 Rose S. Schwartz
 Julius Schwarz
 Julius J. Stein
 Ida Stern
 Sigmund Teitel
 William Warshauer
 Eve Weinswig
 Francis Weisberg
 Edie Zweig

March 17-18

Regina Ackerman
 Isadore Babich
 Yochuonon Barton
 Rose Becker
 Walter Bordens
 Molly Cohen
 Betty Cohen
 Yetta Dessauer
 Lucille Doppelt
 Abe H. Dubin
 Frances Schwartz Edlow
 Lee Gilbert
 Dave Gold
 Lois Goode
 Ken Horwitz
 Helen M. Isay
 Sigmund W. Kann
 Abraham Kaplan
 Mildred Price Katzenstein
 Sam Kay
 Reuben Leb Komisarow
 Margot Krel
 Betty Lauferty
 Paul Lecher
 Becky Levin
 Miriam Light
 Sayde Marlin
 Joseph Mast
 Virginia Mayer
 Samuel Nemeroff
 Hannah Nirdlinger
 Stephen Pomerantz
 Esther Roseman
 Solomon Rothschild

Elaine Shine
 Florence Smith
 Melvin Smith
 Rosalie W. Solomon
 Isaac Sposeep
 Rose Sulzer
 Doris Tillinger
 Edith Warschawski
 Jack O. Weil
 Minnie Weinraub

March 24-25

Joseph Adler
 John Aichele
 Samuel Babich
 Racheal Barton
 Henry Baum
 Jacob Ben-Yehoshua
 Sam Berebitsky
 Isaac Bosell
 Dorothy M. Brazy
 Joseph Chodash
 Lynn Cohen
 Louis Cremer
 Morris Dicker
 William DuBow
 Goldie DuBow
 Lois Levine Edwards
 B. David Fishman
 Ruth G. Haslacher
 Edith Horwitz
 James Leib
 Harry Leiberman
 Zalman Levine
 Alfred Levy
 Chester Lichtenberg
 Moses Lichtenberg
 Robert Samuel Mirman
 Harold J. Novitsky
 Calvin Prady
 Mordecai Rifkin
 Madelon J. Rothschild
 Arnold Schaffer
 Elizabeth Schwartz
 Paul F. Schwartz
 Moses Strouse
 Irene Todd
 Nathan Weinstein
 Rachel Weiss
 Loni Wolf
 Thomas Zefo
 Louis Zweig

March 31—April 1

Jerome Ackerman
 Mariana Apfelbaum
 Samuel Appel
 Elizabeth Bransilver
 Herbert Brateman
 Mose Caplan
 Herman Davis
 Semen Drozdov
 Rena Edlavitch
 Henriett Erber
 Arnie Feinberg
 Helen Fine
 Marx Frank
 Sophie Glazer
 Mushke Golder
 Hazel L. Grove
 Louis S. Hallenstein
 Florence M. Hill
 Sarah Jacobson
 Dr. Sheldon Kantor
 Joseph Klarke
 Helen LaPoff
 Isaac Lauferty
 Sigmund Lehman
 Barney Levin
 David Levin
 Monroe Marcus
 Shirley Marer-Brateman
 Benjaim Margolies
 Mac Marlow
 Ronald Miller
 Nelson K. Neiman
 David Ochstein
 Norman Prady
 Ida Price
 Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt
 Barbara Sachs
 Rebecca Safirstein
 Izidor Schachter
 Barbara Hirsch Schreier
 Betty Joe Seligman
 Etta G. Sheray
 Sarah Steiber
 Nikki Kaplan Stern
 Leta Taker
 Lila Berman Tankel
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THE TEMPLE

CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

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Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus

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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, Brightpoint Head Start, the Madge Rothschild Resource Center, and the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society.



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Achduth Vesholom Congregation



Want to receive our newsletter?

Send your email address to office@templecav.org

The Temple Board welcomes your comments and suggestions. We will do our best to address your questions and concerns. We value the diversity of viewpoints within our congregation. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org for information. President Ronnie Greenberg can be reached at (260) 483-6327 or president@templecav.org.

The deadline for the April Bulletin is
Thursday, March 16

Guest Columnist John Stein

John Stein, a Past President of our congregation, is serving a second term as Finance Vice President. He shares this update:

For the past couple of years, the Finance Committee has been discussing and dealing with a very serious problem. Each year our expenses increase, but our dues do not keep pace. Actually, if you have been keeping score, every year in recent history the board has been forced to present a deficit budget at each annual meeting.

In a couple of those years, we were able to break even by the end of the fiscal year. What was it, you might wonder, Voodoo Economics? Magic? Nope and nope, it was luck in the form of "unanticipated donations." We were fortunate to receive a bequest, very sad to lose a member but lucky to avoid dipping into a fund balance to pay our bills.

Are we not handling our spending carefully? No, our staff and our board work hard to operate effectively and efficiently. But everything, all the costs of our operation rise each year, just as yours do at home. The cost to pay our employees, light our building, and pay our utilities - everything goes up at least a few percent each year.

We cannot afford to fall behind every year, even by a few percent. After several work sessions and discussions by the Finance Committee, the board has decided to return to a policy we used very successfully in the 1990s.

Starting with the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023, we will add a COE/COL (cost of expenses/cost of living) percentage adjustment to all dues statements. This amount will be calculated by staff, discussed with the Finance Committee and will be set by the board each year. Our goal and our hope is that this will be in a range from 3%-7%. For the coming year, the percentage dues adjustment was set by the board at 5%. (See News from the Board on page 8.)

You will still receive a letter each spring asking you to consider increasing your dues to help CAV do more than keep up with the COE/COL. We have programs that we would like to offer and, as you might guess, grants from foundations do not cover all expenses, even when we are fortunate enough to receive one. We were able to add some monies for programming in the current year, but it is not nearly enough to provide everything that is requested by members.

In our annual letter coming out soon, we will remind you of the percentage adjustment for that year. Quick math shows that this year's 5% will add just \$75 to dues for a family currently paying \$1,500. Of course, for those who are unable to pay even a small dues adjustment, there will be an opportunity to opt out.

Thanks for your understanding and participation with the COE/COL adjustment that we need to make. And we hope that your heart and your fondness for our congregation will allow you to increase your dues at the same time. Your generosity will help sustain us for the future.

