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SHARE LATKES, LIGHTS, AND FAMILY FUN FOR HANUKKAH

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with our Temple family on Friday, December 8 amid the glow of dozens of *hanukkiyot* and the warmth of Jewish community. Please bring your *hanukkiyah* and candles to light for the second night of Hanukkah during a festive evening in the Social Hall for all ages.



Join us for candle lighting and dinner at 6 p.m. hosted by the ROMEOs, including delicious latkes and applesauce, along with a signature cocktail created by Micah Soltz. Our Holiday Celebrations team has lots of fun activities planned – dreidel and Hanukkah games, a photo booth, holiday music, and more.

Then at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Meir will lead a brief Hanukkah and Shabbat service marking the Maccabees' triumph over the Greeks and their rededication of the Temple. The service will not be livestreamed.

Support our 175th Anniversary mitzvah project by bringing donations to include in hygiene totes for foster kids through a project with Fostering Hope for Children. [Find more information and the shopping list](#)

Please RSVP for dinner by Monday, December 4 to office@templecav.org. The menu includes kosher beef hot dogs, veggie burgers, green salad, latkes, applesauce, and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts). There is no charge for dinner, but monetary donations are appreciated.

Thank you to Denny Reynolds and the Retired Old Men Eating Out for providing the meal and our Holiday Celebrations team, including Chair Stephanie Gottesman, Kate Crell, Celeste Sexton, Deborah Bauer, and James Holstein. [What is Hannukah?](#)

INSIDE ISRAEL: CURRENT SITUATION AND CIVIC RESPONSE

Please join us for an update on Israel's civic response to the atrocities of October 7th and the war with Hamas from [Rabbi Naamah Kelman](#), the most recent past dean of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Jerusalem campus, on Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m. on Zoom.



The program is sponsored by [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). The link will be provided in the weekly email to our Temple family. Others may contact the Temple at office@templecav.org for online access information.

Rabbi Kelman is a descendent of 10 generations of rabbis, becoming the first woman to be ordained by HUC-JIR/Jerusalem in 1992.

Born and raised in New York, she has lived in Israel since 1976, where she has worked in community organizing and Jewish education. Rabbi Kelman has been intensely involved in the emerging education system of the [Israel Movement for Progressive \(Reform\) Judaism](#). *Continued on page 15*



Havdalah, Solidarity, and Fundraising

See page 15

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

DECEMBER AND JANUARY SERVICES

GUCI-Style Shabbat

Friday, December 1
7:30 p.m.
Guests: Senior Assistant Camp Director Jillian Hastings and song leader Raya Aberbach
Oneg Shabbat: Nola & Matthew Katinsky

Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 2
9:45 a.m.

Hanukkah Dinner & Service

Friday, December 8
6 p.m. Dinner*
7:30 p.m. Service
Hosted by the ROMEOS
*RSVP for dinner by Monday, December 4
The service will not be livestreamed.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 9
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, December 15
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 16
9:45 a.m.

No Shabbat Service

Friday, December 22

No Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 23

Champagne Shabbat Service

Friday, December 29
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 30
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, January 5
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 6
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, January 12
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 13
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, January 19
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

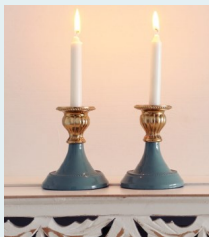
Saturday, January 20
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, January 26
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 27
9:45 a.m.



LIVESTREAMING UPDATE

Please join us in person or via livestream for worship services. Beginning in January, Friday evening services will only be offered via [YouTube](#). Saturday morning services will continue to be offered on Zoom and YouTube.

Zoom links are in the weekly email to our Temple family. We warmly welcome guests. Please contact the Temple office for online access information on Zoom at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org

DECEMBER EVENTS

Mitzvah Day

Sunday, December 3
10 a.m.
Speaker: Kris Wise, MSW, LCSW
Help assemble baskets for foster children as part of our 175th Mitzvah project.
RSVP to Temple office.

Inside Israel: Current Situation and Civic Response

Sunday, December 3
at 3 p.m. on Zoom
[Rabbi Naamah Kelman](#), Past Dean of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem
Sponsors: The Temple and Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne

Kehilla Kedosha Support & Discussion Group on Israel

Sunday, December 3
4:30 p.m. on Zoom

Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, December 6
10 a.m.

“Golda” The Movie

Wednesday, December 6
6 p.m. at [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Grief Center](#)
Sponsor: Jewish Federation
RSVP to office@fwjf.org

Inside Israel at War:

Cathy Maier
Tuesday, December 12
7 p.m. on Zoom

JANUARY EVENTS

Confronting The Shoah

Tuesday, January 9, 16, 23, & 30, February 6 & 13
7 p.m. at [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Grief Center](#)
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne

Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, January 10
10 a.m.

Mitzvah Day

Sunday, January 14
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Congregational Meeting to Consider and Approve Bylaws Changes

Wednesday, January 17
7 p.m. in person and on Zoom

175th Legacy Rabbinic Scholars:

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass
Tuesday, January 30
7 p.m. on Zoom

ONGOING EVENTS

Lunch with the ROMEOS

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

Thursday, December 7

[Club Room at The Clyde](#)
1806 Bluffton Rd.

Thursday, December 21

[Joanna's Family Restaurant](#)
10368 Leo Rd.

Thursday, January 4

[Mad Anthony Brewing Company](#)
1109 Taylor Ave.

Thursday, January 18

[China Palace Restaurant](#)
5810 Bluffton Rd.

For more information, please contact Denny Reynolds at dennisreynolds@me.com.

[Find the lunch schedule](#)



Chag Hanukkah Sameach!

Kindle the 1st candle on
Thursday, December 7

Rabbi Meir Bargeron: DARKNESS, THEN LIGHT

As I write my column for this issue of the Bulletin, I am staggered by the darkness that surrounds us. We have seen a previously unimaginable attack by Hamas on Jews and others living in the Gaza Envelope of Israel, and a subsequent war between Israel and Hamas. We have seen the intimidation and violence directed against Jews and Arabs (both Muslim and Christian) in America and elsewhere.

These forms of oppression have different names: antisemitism, anti-Arab hate and Islamophobia. But the root causes are the same: fear and hatred. The post-October 7th world has been dark indeed. In many recent moments, I have succumbed to the despair that naturally accompanies this situation. And I know that many of you have as well.

During this dark period, there have been a number of times when light found its way through the darkness. Here are just a few:

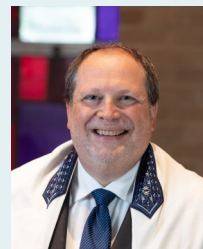
- Phone calls and emails I have received from Christian and non-Christian clergy, expressing empathy for the pain experienced by the Jewish people in Israel and everywhere.
- The 175th Anniversary Celebration weekend, which gave us the opportunity to welcome hundreds of community members to our campus to pray or simply get to know us better. I spoke with many of our guests and heard over and over again how happy they were to be invited, and how much they support us during this dark time.
- The Interfaith Thanksgiving service, when people from all over Fort Wayne came together in gratitude for the relationships we all have with each other. At one point, each person present was invited to light a candle in order to share the blessings. The sanctuary aisles were soon filled with dozens of people waiting to share their light. It

was a beautiful moment as the candle glow filled the sanctuary.

Torah teaches us that darkness comes before light: “The earth was unformed and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. And God said: ‘Let there be light.’ And there was light.” (Gen 1:2-3) Creation came out of an eternal darkness and it was from this darkness that the first light shone into the world.

The weight of the darkness that we are experiencing now can feel like an eternity. We don't know when – or even if – the darkness will lift. But our history tells us that it almost certainly will. Until then we have our community, we have each other. We can share our light, even as our hearts are cracking open, and our tears flow. While so painful, our cracked open hearts represent an opportunity. In his 1992 song, “Anthem,” the great Leonard Cohen z”l taught us, “There’s a crack in everything...that’s how the light gets in.”

When we light our Hanukkah candles this year, we will remember the great miracle that happened in the Temple. May we also see the great miracles we experience in our relationships with one another, together as a Jewish people.



Kindling lights during Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

THOUGHTS OF SUMMER AT GUCI-STYLE SHABBAT



Brighten up a winter evening with warm thoughts of [Goldman Union Camp Institute](#) on Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. during our GUCI-style Shabbat service at the Temple.

Rabbi Meir Bargeron will lead the service with Senior Assistant Camp Director Jillian Hastings and song leader Raya Aberbach, who will share stories and music from our regional Union for Reform Judaism camp in Zionsville.

Please join us in person or on Zoom or [YouTube](#). An Oneg Shabbat follows hosted by Nola & Matthew Katinsky.

Jillian is the senior assistant director at GUCI and is approaching five years in this role. Before returning to her first true love (Jewish summer camp), Jillian graduated from DePaul University in 2014 with a dual degree in public relations/advertising and communications. Following graduation, Jillian worked in Chicago at Edelman, a world-renowned communications marketing firm.

She began her camp career at the age of 10 as a camper for seven years, before serving four years on the summer staff team. In 2019, she parlayed her professional skills into a role that would let her provide unforgettable summers to the next generation of GUCI campers and staff.

Find out more about camp and camperships on page 16

SHARE A TOAST TO 2024 AT CHAMPAGNE SHABBAT

Celebrate Shabbat with us as we approach the start of 2024! Share Sabbath worship on Friday, December 29 at 7:30 p.m., led by Rabbi Meir.



Join us in person or via livestream. Kiddush follows the service, as well as a champagne toast. We look forward to seeing you! Happy New Year!



IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN READ ABOUT ISRAEL? RESOURCES IN THE TEMPLE LIBRARY

During these challenging times, many of us are looking for background and insight. There are several titles available in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#) for those looking for a good book about Israel. This article will focus on adult titles. A [one-sheet of picture books and more](#) is available on our website.

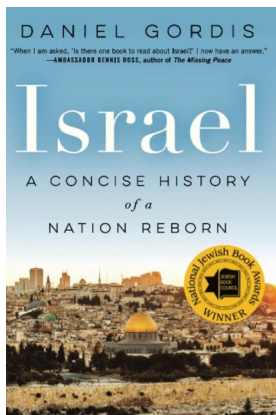
Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn by Daniel Gordis has been recommended as a good place to start. A National Jewish Book Award winner, it was published in 2016, but is still relevant. From the *New York Post*, “Gordis is determined to do his best to provide some to those who don’t know as much about Israel as they think they know, or as much as they need to know.”

Ari Shavit’s *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel* is a National Jewish Book Award winner and was named one of the Best Books of the Year by the *New York Times Book Review*. Written by a well-known Israel writer, it was published in 2013 and is considered an authoritative Israeli history.

Matti Friedman’s *Pumpkin Flowers* is written from the perspective of an Israeli war veteran. From the *Wall Street Journal*, it is “a book about young men transformed by war, written by a veteran whose dazzling literary gifts gripped my attention from the first page to the last.”

Also from 2013, *Contested Land, Contested Memory: Israel’s Jews and Arabs and the Ghosts of Catastrophe* by Jo Roberts was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. It explores the complex histories of those involved in the conflict.

A more recent finalist for the National Jewish Book

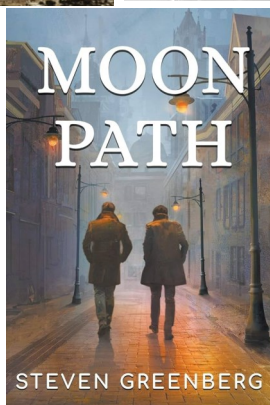
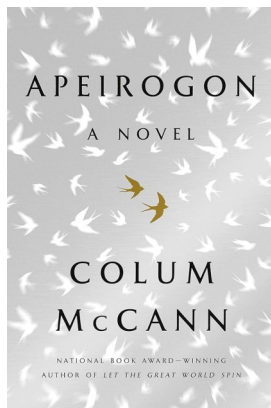


Award, Yossi Klein Halevi’s *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* dates from 2019. Written as a series of letters, this Israeli author attempts to share both sides of the conflict. From the *Forward*, “Refreshingly honest...In explaining Israel to the Palestinians, [Halevi] appeals to a certain ideal, a higher ambition, a sense of wonder and beauty.”

Some may be more interested in the fiction department, and there we have several newer titles that may be of interest. Brand new on the shelves is a collection of short stories by Omer Friedlander, *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land*.

Though most are not related to the current conflict, the stories reflect a variety of aspects of Israel. The collection was awarded the American Jewish Libraries Jewish Fiction Award.

Apeirogon: A Novel, by Colum McCann, received the National Jewish Book Award in 2020. It tells the story of an Israeli and a Palestinian. Martin Fletcher’s *Promised Land: A Novel of Israel* focuses more on history than the current conflict but may be of interest to those looking for background.



In discussing our collection of books about Israel, we would be remiss if we didn’t mention three titles by our very own Steven Greenberg. *Galerie*, *Moon Path*, and *Enfold Me: A Novel of Post-Israel*, are all fiction titles, and are available in the Temple’s collection.

This is only a small sampling of our collection of Israel-related titles. You can browse [our full catalog](#), or stop by when you’re in the building!

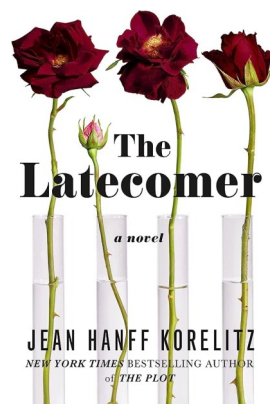
“THE LATECOMER” NEXT TITLE FOR TEMPLE BOOK CLUB

Our Temple Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom to discuss *The Latecomer: A Novel* by Jean Hanff Korelitz. The author will join our conversation at 7:30 p.m.

Named one of the best books of 2022 by NPR, the *New Yorker* and others, the novel follows the story of triplets born to a wealthy, Jewish family in New York, the Oppenheims. It follows the relationship of the siblings when their parents decide to have a fourth child.

From Ron Charles of *The Washington Post*, “By the time we’re done with these siblings, their lives have been turned inside out, and all their stored-up junk and secret treasures have been sorted, culled and curated for this immensely enjoyable sojourn with a truly memorable family.”

The link will be included in the Temple’s weekly emails. Thanks to the arrangements of the Jewish Book Council for making possible the discussion with the author. The book is available in the Temple library. Please plan to join us!

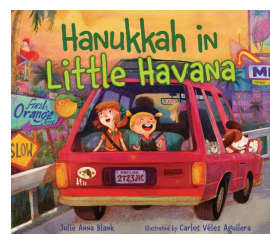


Save the Date:
Congregational Meeting
to consider and approve Bylaws changes
Wednesday, January 17 at 7 p.m.

More information will be coming

HANUKKAH RESOURCES IN THE TEMPLE LIBRARY

The [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#) has plenty of Hanukkah titles for you to choose from – definitely enough to last eight nights! Check out our One-Sheet of recommendations for all ages and our [full catalog of Hanukkah titles](#).



Youth News

STUDENTS LEARNING ABOUT SERVICE TO OTHERS, HAVDALAH AND PRAYER



Our youngest congregants have been busy learning about Havdalah, being of service to our community, and exploring ways they can incorporate prayer into their everyday lives.

In October, our school-aged youth explored Shabbat and Havdalah themes, which included braiding their own candles and making their own fragrant *besamim* (Havdalah spices) satchels to celebrate Havdalah.



In November, we made Thanksgiving cards for Thoughtful Thursdays to give to Brightpoint students. We also made our own personalized tzedakah boxes for students to fill at home and bring back in December with donations for our congregation's 175th Anniversary social action project. The money will be used to purchase supplies for foster children in our community. We're excited for each of our

students to be part of this project.

Building on that theme, families of all ages are encouraged to participate in our congregational Mitzvah Day on Sunday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., where we'll learn more about foster children in our community from Kris Wise, a licensed therapist who has worked with foster children, and also assemble totes with toiletries, a blanket and stuffed animal to donate to Fostering Hope for Children. A second Mitzvah Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 14 – please

mark your calendar and join us!

All of our KESHER and Joy Vey families are invited to celebrate the Festival of Lights with our Temple family at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 8. Please bring your *hanukkiyah* and candles to light for the second night of Hanukkah during a festive evening in the Social Hall for all ages. (RSVPs are needed by December 4 – see page 1)

We will have Sunday values programming on December 17 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for our Mitzvah (elementary school-age) and B'nai Mitzvah Club students (pre-BM age), with our lessons focusing on how we can incorporate Jewish prayers into our daily lives. Our Middot students will not meet this day.

All Hebrew students will still have class online the week of December 18 before our Winter Break begins December 22. We'll resume Hebrew classes online on January 8. During Sunday values programming on January 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., our youngest students will explore themes related to the story of Jonah and the whale, our B'nai Mitzvah Club will participate in a family session with their parents, and our oldest students in session with our Advot Project partners.

As you're thinking about gift giving this month, I encourage you to think about giving the gift of Jewish summer camp! [Registration is open](#) now for summer 2024 at GUCI, our very own Union for Reform Judaism sleep-away camp in Zionsville, for children entering 3rd through 12th grade. (See page 16)

Please reach out to Brian Rosman, our CAV Campership Chair, to hear about the difference camp can make in a child's life this summer.

Wishing you all a safe and warm break and looking forward to seeing you all again in the new year!

Leise Rosman, Religious School Committee Chair

JOY VEY! FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN INVITED FOR HANUKKAH AND SHABBAT FUN

Families with young children shared in a fun congregational pizza party and a song session with Orin Reynolds and Havdalah with Rabbi Meir in November for the Temple's 175th anniversary. This month, our Joy Vey families are invited for a Hanukkah dinner and service on Friday, December 8 at 6 p.m. in the Social Hall. (Find dinner and RSVP information on page 1.)

And in January, "Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat" returns for its regular Shabbat service on Friday, January 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the Temple.

We invite you to gather 'round your little ones for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family! Join us as we light candles, pray, sing songs, move and groove, and even practice mindfulness. We also embrace the tradition of blessing children as we make a joyful place for Shabbat in our lives and hearts... together. Meet us in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center with Rabbi Meir.



Havdalah after 175th celebration song session

We meet on the second Friday night of each month and folks are encouraged to stick around to enjoy a glass of wine/juice and a bite of challah afterwards!

HISTORY, CULTURE, TRADITION COMBINED FOR SUPER 175th CELEBRATION WEEKEND

The Temple's 175th Anniversary weekend in November combined history, culture, and tradition, bringing together members of the Jewish community and greater Fort Wayne area to celebrate Indiana's oldest Jewish congregation.

Three days of memorable and well-attended festivities began November 10 with [a special Shabbat evening service](#), led by Rabbi Meir Bargeron that included a keynote address by [Rabbi Rick Jacobs](#), president of the [Union for Reform Judaism](#), music by Orin Reynolds, and presentation of a Torah scroll to [Goldman Union Camp Institute](#) in honor of our 175th and long association with GUCI. A festive Oneg Shabbat followed.

The celebration continued on Saturday, November 11 with [Shabbat morning services](#), led by Ron Friedman with Rabbi Meir, followed by a Kiddush luncheon.

On Saturday evening, 100 adults and children gathered for a family-friendly pizza dinner and a spirited song session with Havdalah, led by Orin Reynolds.

On Sunday, November 12, with a third day of gorgeous weather, some 400 people attended an afternoon open house, with some people lining up 45 minutes early to secure seats on two trolleys with docents for a new Jewish Heritage Tour of Fort Wayne. Others spent time learning about the Temple and Judaism, enjoying a nosh and a string quartet from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and more through activities throughout the building.

Also in a collaboration for our anniversary, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art opened a new exhibit on Saturday, November 11 called ["Illuminating Jewish History and Art: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom."](#) It will continue through January 28, 2024.

Under the leadership of 175th Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs Kathy Sider and Beth Zweig, a team of volunteers worked for months with Rabbi Meir and Executive Director Samara Sheray to prepare for the big celebration, along with other events earlier this year and continuing into early 2024.

Thank you to our sponsors (page 10), committee chairs, volunteers and staff (page 12).

Friday Evening Shabbat

In his opening remarks, Rabbi Meir Bargeron told the nearly 100 members and guests attending in person with many others via livestream about the importance of this special moment together marking the longevity of our congregation. At the same time, he noted that the date coincides with the 85th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, the Night of Broken Glass in Germany, a series of pogroms that began the visible oppression of the Jewish people by the Nazis. [Watch the service](#)



Rabbi Rick Jacobs discussed the Reform Movement, Israel and antisemitism during his D'var Torah.

Rabbi Meir also acknowledged the more recent horrific pogrom on October 7 in Israel that began the war against Hamas, as well as those who stood for our values and democracy all over the world as we marked Veterans Day.

In acknowledging our long history, President Ronnie Greenberg announced that descendants of Frederic Nirdlinger, our first president in 1848, were spending part of the anniversary weekend with us.

A video during the service shared good wishes from several of our previous spiritual leaders – Rabbi Sanford Kopnick, Rabbi Jonathan Katz, Rabbi Javier Cattapan, and Rabbi Paula Winnig – and Rabbi Meir. Excerpts of an interview with Rabbi Emeritus Richard B. Safran z"l provided an especially touching moment.

During his D'var Torah, Rabbi Jacobs weaved together the Temple's ties to the beginning and evolution of the Reform Movement and touched on the current challenges of antisemitism and the war in Israel that he called "a battle for Israel's very existence."

Rabbi Jacobs noted that our congregation in Fort Wayne pre-dates the Reform Movement in North America by 25 years.

Intrigued with the name Achduth Vesholom and noting it's the only congregation with that name among the 850 congregations in the URJ, Rabbi Jacobs said, "The name of your congregation should be the name of our movement. It should be the name of the entire Jewish people. Achduth Vesholom – unity and peace. That pretty much captures what we're trying to do."

Continued on page 7



Visitors look at the Jewish history timeline in the resource center.



175TH CELEBRATION FRIDAY (continued from page 6)

The URJ celebrates its 150th year in December, and Rabbi Jacobs said that Achduth Vesholom has been with the URJ (then the Union of American Hebrew Congregations) from the beginning and “has a special place in our hearts.” Achduth Vesholom is a charter member, joining in 1874.

Rabbi Jacobs said that the Reform Movement is always adapting and changing, opening its tent wide to welcome people. This included the first LGBTQ congregation in 1974, the acceptance of interfaith marriage in the late 1970s, and recognizing the importance of URJ camps and NFTY youth programs, along with the need to welcome Jews who may not look like us.

“How are we going to open up our Movement to include all of us?” Rabbi Jacobs said. “Jews of color, LGBTQ, conservative Jews, liberal Jews, all those hungry for the nourishment that our community provides. That’s who we are. That’s who we need to be.”

He said he’s excited about the gift of a Torah to GUCI, citing a study that said four out of five graduates of URJ camps and NFTY were very involved in Jewish life. He said that “no other thing we do in Jewish life gives us the same impact.”

Rabbi Jacobs noted that this moment is not like 1848 or 1873 or 1920. While Jews have more rights and freedoms than ever before, he said the dramatic uptick in antisemitism is something that our ancestors thought we’d be long past.

A few days before the 175th, Rabbi Jacobs returned from a trip to Israel where he met with government leaders, attended several *shivas* for those murdered, and prayed with families of those held hostage. He described praying with one family that their son was a captive. “Can you imagine that you pray someone is a hostage?” he said. It turned out the son had been murdered the same day as his father on October 7.

He said Israel’s President Isaac Herzog told him “Rick, everybody is going to be with us this week. The image of the slaughter is so vivid. Next week, the week after, that support for Israel is going to fade. We need, especially the liberal Jewish community, to be a rock-solid community helping the world understand.”

Hamas, Rabbi Jacobs said, didn’t object to a policy of the government or the government itself. They object to the existence of the state of Israel.

“Friends, this is a battle for Israel’s very existence,” Rabbi Jacobs said. “Yes, Israel has a strong military. But on the north is Hezbollah, on the south is Hamas. Yemen is another whole front, and then Iran. Israel is facing an existential threat, and we are not going to abandon them. I know that to be true.”

Another special moment during the service came when Rabbi Meir presented a Sefer Torah to GUCI Director Jeremy Klotz in honor of our 175th and long association with the camp, which is named for Myron J. Goldman z”l, a past president of Achduth Vesholom.

Jeremy said GUCI looks forward to integrating the Torah into our camp community.



The gift of a Torah to GUCI was a special part of the service.



“Our mission at the URJ and camp is to create a connection to Judaism and Israel to ensure the vitality of the Jewish people down the line,”

Jeremy said. “We’ll take a page from your book for enduring for 175 years.”

Rabbi Meir invited all GUCI campers or anyone with a connection to GUCI to share in a last *hakafah* for the Torah in our Sanctuary. Ryan Tom, a former GUCI camper, carried the Torah for the procession.

Following the service, a beautiful Oneg Shabbat provided a wonderful opportunity to share thoughts of the evening and Temple. Thank you to Hospitality Chairs Fran Adler and Jamie Berger and their team for an amazing job.

Guests also enjoyed what Rabbi Meir called “architectural challah,” with numerals 175 made out of dough with the menorah logo of the Temple. Thank you to challah bakers Jon Tam and Beth Zweig for their creativity.



Continued on page 8

175TH CELEBRATION (continued from page 7)

Saturday Morning Shabbat

Nearly two dozen congregants and guests gathered for Shabbat morning services, led by Ron Friedman with Rabbi Meir. [Watch the Shabbat morning service](#)

In his D'var Torah, Rabbi Meir talked about the Torah portion *Parashat Chayei Sarah*, reflecting on love and commitment. He said he was reminded about another commitment – one made by those who established our Jewish community in Fort Wayne. A small group of recently settled Jews in 1848 looking out for their collective communal interest established a *chevra kedisha* (burial society) and cemetery, and then later a synagogue.

“But Jewish commitment in Fort Wayne was never contained entirely within the walls of Congregation Achduth Vesholom,” Rabbi Meir said. “Everyone, then and now, understood how it is that we belong to each other as the Fort Wayne branch of the Jewish people. And commitment isn’t just an idea...it is a verb.

“In 2019, the congregation of Unity and Peace, and the Sons of Jacob, made commitments to each other. And on this occasion of our 175th anniversary, we are a congregation that is a large tent that is big enough to be a home for two traditions of Judaism. And we, each of us, benefits so greatly from our commitment to one another.”

After the service, we shared a lovely Kiddush luncheon with lox and bagels, tuna salad, kugel, special *challot* and more. Thank you to Donna Tourkow and her team and our 175th Anniversary sponsors.



Saturday Pizza Dinner, Song Session and Havdalah



We welcomed 100 congregants and friends of all ages for a family-friendly dinner on Saturday evening in the Social Hall. Over a delicious meal of pizza, salad and dessert, we shared social time with old and new friends.

Among those attending were members of the Nirdlinger family, descendants of one of our founding families in 1848. Kristine Nirdlinger Singer, the great-great-great-niece of Frederic Nirdlinger, our first president, joined us with her parents, Ed & Mary Ann Nirdlinger, her husband, Eric Singer, and two of their children. Krissy said

her oldest daughter is becoming a bat mitzvah in the coming year and, “I wanted her to learn more about her Jewish heritage on my side of the family and our connection to Achduth Vesholom.”

Everyone moved into the Sanctuary after dinner for a lively song session with Orin Reynolds, a former head song leader at GUCI and now a Seattle-based Jewish musician. Orin grew up at Achduth Vesholom and is the son of Marcia & Denny Reynolds.

He performed an interactive program of new and familiar contemporary Jewish music. The appreciative audience clapped, tapped their toes, and sang along frequently during the one-hour song session. The evening concluded with Havdalah, led by Orin and Rabbi Meir, with a gathering of kids and teens at the front of the Sanctuary.

Thank you to Jamie & Jon Berger for sponsoring the dinner; Hospitality Chairs Fran Adler and Jamie Berger and their team; and 175th Sponsors. *Continued on page 9*

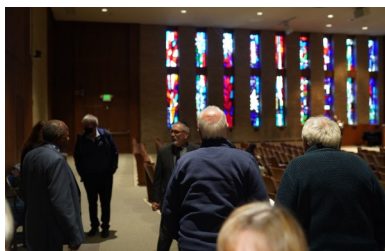


175TH CELEBRATION (continued from page 8)

Sunday Open House

Print and broadcast media coverage leading up to our Community Open House on Sunday enabled us to share our invitation with the greater community to come learn more about the Temple and Jewish community. This included an interview hours before the event on WANE-TV. The result of the articles and television appearances: Some 400 people showed up during the event from 1 to 5 p.m.

Of special interest was the launch of our Jewish Heritage Tour, developed with the historic preservation group ARCH and a team led by Kathy Sider. The two-hour tour by trolley was led by docents from ARCH and included neighborhoods, businesses, houses of worship, and more about the development of the Jewish community. We couldn't accommodate everyone who was interested. A self-guided version will be available in the coming months.



In addition to the general community, some of our out-of-town members and past congregants made a special visit to Fort Wayne for the tour, including some who shared reminiscences with others on the trolley.

Docent Committee Co-Chairs Dawn Hammond and Mike Rush assembled a team of volunteers who were stationed throughout the building to share details and answer questions with visitors.



Other volunteers in the Goldman Memorial Museum in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center shared details about the timeline of Jewish history in Northeast Indiana, holidays, the new display for our Holocaust Torah remnant, and other Judaica on display. A new video chronicling the 175-year history with interviews of some of our rabbis also was shown.

Many guests enjoyed a nosh in the Social Hall, a lovely array of Jewish favorites contributed by our members with table cards explaining more about the goodies and the holiday displays in the resource center to learn more. Hospitality Co-Chairs Fran Adler and Jamie Berger and their team provided goodies such as rugelach, Mandelbrot, hamentashen, macaroons, challah, black-and-white cookies, kugel, honey cake, apples and honey, and babka.

Guests also experienced klezmer-inspired music performed by a string quartet from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, including David Ling and Betsy Gephart, violins; Bruce Graham, viola; and David Rezits, cello. Betsy and David are Temple members.

Some of our Campus Partners provided information to visitors, including the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society.

Observations from Docents and Volunteers...

Nancy Dicker - *It was so heartwarming to docent and see so many people spending time exploring our Temple. Almost all the visitors I talked to said they were thrilled we had an open house for the community. Many said that they had driven by the Temple and wondered what the inside looked like. One gentleman asked me if he could return because he ran out of time and didn't get to see everything.*

Everyone I gave a tour of the stained-glass windows to in the Sanctuary loved learning about the history of the Jewish people. One person asked me what we were planning for the 200th Anniversary! The whole weekend was special!

Dan Zweig - *Volunteering was fun, not work! My station in the courtyard near the new floating yahrzeit memorial didn't draw every visitor, but those who did venture out into the fresh air were quite in awe of the display. And they were further interested to learn of our custom of remembering our loved ones on the anniversary of their death.*

From the oldest plaque in 1873 of Fredrick Nirdlinger to Dr. Don Alan Lee in 2021, visitors learned of some secrets the memorial plates revealed. Using the camera tool in the Google Translate app, we could read in English the names of parents of the deceased which appear in Hebrew on the plaques. Many visitors remarked how helpful this could be when researching family histories.

Ron Friedman - *Everyone was exceptionally interested in the Torah scroll in the Chapel, which I laid on the table and opened. I think they were very intrigued by the lack of vowels and punctuation marks. They were also surprised when they were told that each Torah was written by hand meticulously. They also loved the Ark and its exquisite manufacture.*

Cheri Buker: *I had the opportunity to speak with many visitors from the community as they came into the building. Everyone said versions of the same message:*

They were so happy to get to see the Temple and its history. And they recognized and acknowledged that Judaism is the foundation of their beliefs and we are all one community.

Charla Sheray - *Greeting guests at our door was a great opportunity to have conversations with many. I found their comments generous and heartwarming as they expressed their support for our local community and Israel.*

Some said they were ready to stand by us as a community and one asked where he and his wife could donate funds to support Israel....The people loved the trolley experience. In my opinion the open house was a huge success and received well by our visitors.

THANK YOU TO OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS!

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Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation

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Jessica & Roger Ash

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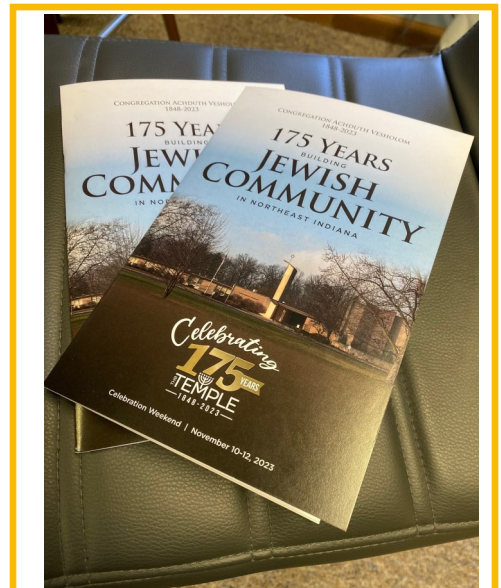
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Aliza Tourkow

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Wendi & Joshua Wallet



SPONSORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC EVENTS:

String Quartet; Artist-in-Residence Shira Kline; Jewish Heritage Tour; Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Dr. Gary Zola; Torah Maintenance; Beit Café; Rabbinic Scholars-in-Residence; and additional support of the 175th Celebration: The Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation

Musician-in-Residence Orin Reynolds: Hazemir Choir members Ron Cousino; Barbara & Alan Gilbert; Doris Gottlieb; Ronnie & Norm Greenberg; John Planer & Janina Traxler; Marcia & Denny Reynolds; and Jo Ellen & Mike Rush

Artist-in-Residence Shira Kline: Joy Vey Parents Stephanie Gottesman & John Tod; Amy & Sam Krouse; and Wendy & Micah Soltz

Jewish Heritage Tour with ARCH: Al Zacher

Fort Wayne Museum of Art Reception: Sharon & Ben Eisbart

Holocaust Torah Maintenance: Purdue Fort Wayne's Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Torah Scribe Education Program: Carol & Larry Adelman

Anniversary Weekend Saturday Dinner: Jamie & Jon Berger

If you did not receive the Temple's 175th Anniversary commemorative booklet during the celebration, please contact the Temple office to pick up a copy.

Thank you to Beth Zweig for compiling and writing Our Story; Fran Adler for her editing skills; Wendy Soltz for her historical knowledge; Amy Keller of Just Sue Graphic Design; and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its financial support.

WHAT A CELEBRATION WEEKEND!



Thank you to our 175th Anniversary Committee: *Co-Chairs Kathy Sider and Beth Zweig, Fran Adler, Rabbi Meir Bargeron, Jamie Berger, Cheri Buker, Nancy Dicker, Janet Finkel, Stephanie Gottesman, Norm Greenberg, Ronnie Greenberg, Dawn Hammond, Marcia Reynolds, Cheryl Schorey, Samara Sheray, John Stein, Jon Tam, Donna Tourkow, Irene Walters, and Mimi Zelman*



Orin Reynolds, Kathy Sider, Jeremy Klotz, Beth Zweig, Ronnie Greenberg, Rabbi Meir Bargeron, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, Jon Tam at the festive Oneg Shabbat following the 175th Shabbat evening service.



Rabbi Jacobs and Rabbi Meir before Shabbat services.



Ryan Tom leads a final Hakafah at the Temple for the Torah before its donation to GUCI.



Family-Friendly Saturday evening celebration included pizza, song session and Havdalah.



SCENES FROM 175TH WEEKEND



Welcoming Shabbat and congregants.



Rabbi Rick Jacobs chats after the 175th Shabbat evening service with Hospitality Committee Co-Chair Jamie Berger.



Rabbi Meir with 175th Co-Chairs Kathy Sider and Beth Zweig, Docent Co-Chairs Dawn Hammond and Mike Rush, and Hospitality Co-Chairs Fran Adler & Jamie Berger



Looking at the new display for the Holocaust Torah fragment near the resource center.

THANK YOU TO:

Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs: Fran Adler and Jamie Berger

Fundraising Chair: Irene Walters

Kiddush Luncheon Chair: Donna Tourkow

Saturday Dinner Chair: Jamie Berger

Docent Committee Co-Chairs: Dawn Hammond and Mike Rush

Music Committee: Rabbi Meir Bargeron, Norm Greenberg, Marcia Reynolds, Stephanie Gottesman, Kathy Sider, Samara Sheray

Jewish Heritage Tour Chair: Kathy Sider

Publicity Committee Co-Chairs: Fran Adler and Beth Zweig

Museum Committee: Fran Adler, Rabbi Meir Bargeron, Samara Sheray, Wendy Soltz, John Stein, Beth Zweig

Curators of Fort Wayne Museum of Art Exhibit: Sharon Eisbart and Dr. Wendy Soltz

Rabbi: Meir Bargeron

Temple Staff: Samara Sheray, Cheri Buker, Jamie Fritz, Jason Price, Timmy Oberley

Photos/Videos: Rod Ovitt and Luminous Productions



Rabbi Meir and 175th Anniversary Co-Chair Beth Zweig during the 175th Saturday evening program with descendants of Jacob Nirdlinger, one of Achduth Vesholom's first members. Jacob's brother Frederic Nirdlinger was the Temple's first president in 1848. The congregation met in Frederic & Hannah Nirdlinger's home until moving into our first building in 1859. (More on page 8)

EXHIBIT ILLUMINATES JEWISH HISTORY AND ART AT FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

An exhibit at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art takes visitors on a journey through seven different themes during the Temple's 175 years. Called "[Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#)," the exhibit opened on November 11, 2023 and continues through January 28, 2024.

This exhibition was curated by Sharon Eisbart, Owner of Sharon Eisbart Corporate Art, and Dr. Wendy Soltz, [Assistant Professor of Public History at Ball State University](#). Both are Temple members. The exhibit was made possible with art and Judaica loans from Congregation Achduth Vesholom and a grant from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.

More than 100 people attended a reception and intriguing talk on November 19 at the art museum by Wendy discussing the concept for the exhibit, her research, and how the art and Judaica help tell the story of the Temple in "Illuminating Congregation Achduth Vesholom's 175-year History."

We're grateful to Sharon and Wendy for curating the outstanding exhibit. Thank you to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and our 175th Anniversary sponsors for supporting the exhibit. We also appreciate Sharon & Ben Eisbart for sponsorship the reception.



MORE PHOTOS FROM 175TH:

Check the [Temple's Facebook Page](#):

- [Shabbat Evening Service & Oneg Shabbat](#)
- [Shabbat Morning Luncheon](#)
- [Saturday evening Dinner, Song Session, Havdalah](#)
- [Sunday Open House](#)
- [Art Museum Reception and Lecture](#)



MITZVAH DAY SPEAKER ON FOSTER CARE AND THEN TIME TO ASSEMBLE TOTES

Please join us for a congregational [Mitzvah Day](#) on Sunday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. when we learn more about foster children in our community and assemble totes with the toiletries, a blanket and stuffed animal as part of a collaboration with [Fostering Hope for Children](#).



Our guest speaker is [Kris Wise](#), a licensed clinical social worker who has worked in Northeast Indiana for over 20 years. His passion for social change found him at home in non-profit and higher education arenas.

He earned a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of St. Francis and a master's degree in social work from Indiana University. Clinical practice specialties include substance use, trauma, families, sexuality, and gender.

Following his presentation, we'll assemble totes to donate. Our goal is to collect and assemble totes for 175 children - something of their very own -- that can travel with them wherever they go.

Please RSVP to the Temple office to say you'll help at office@templecav.org. A second Mitzvah Day will be held on Sunday, January 14 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items and money toward the project!

Thank you to Mitzvah Day Chair Juli Dominguez and committee members Rena Black, Rabbi Meir, Susie Miller, Samara Sheray, Kathy Sider, Donna Tourkow, and Beth Zweig.



IN LIEU OF HANUKKAH GIFTS ONE NIGHT, CONSIDER A GIFT OF TZEDAKAH

In the spirit of Hanukkah and *tzedakah*, please consider designating one night of your family's celebration to our 175th Anniversary Mitzvah Project to assist Fostering Hope for Children.

[Shop for toiletries](#) for a child between the ages 0 to 18 or [donate online](#) before the end of 2023. Due to the generosity of our members, we are nearing the 75% mark of our goal of collecting items to assist 175 foster children in our community.

Won't you spend your Hanukkah gelt to help us make life a little sweeter and easier for these children in our local community? Thank you!

LEGACY RABBINIC SCHOLARS SERIES: LEARN WITH RABBI RACHEL GREENGRASS

As we continue our 175th Anniversary season of events, please join us for special learning sessions when we welcome three "children of Achduth Vesholom" who discovered a love of Judaism and learning here that later led them to become rabbis.

During the first of three Legacy Rabbinic Scholars sessions, we'll welcome [Rabbi Rachel Greengrass](#) on Tuesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Later sessions will be held with Rabbi Jonathan Greenberg and Rabbi Jen Gubitz. The link will be provided in the Temple's weekly email.

A native of Fort Wayne, she is a rabbi at Congregation Beth Am in South Miami-Dade County, Florida. She was ordained from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion and has a Masters of Arts in Hebrew Literature (HUC), a Masters

of Religious Education (HUC), is a certified PREPARE/ENRICH counselor and was granted the title of Reform Jewish Educator (RJE).

She serves as chair of the CCAR Resolutions Committee, is a RAC Balfour-Brickner Fellow, a Rabbis Without Borders Fellow, a member of Hartman's first all-female Rabbinic Fellowship, a founding member of RAC-FL, a Clergy Leadership Incubator Fellow, and currently serves as the President of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami. She is the recipient of T'ruah's Rabbinic Human Rights Hero Award for 2021.

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



SHARE YOUR TALENTS AT BEIT CAFÉ FOR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Calling all singers, instrumentalists, comics, spoken-word artists, and any and all members of the Temple community who have a talent that they want to share! Congregation Achduth Vesholom will present "Beit Cafe: A Temple Coffee House," on Saturday, February 3 at 7 p.m., with Maestro Robert Nance, who will be our music director. Be part of our 175th anniversary celebration by participating in this congregational showcase.

Contact Rabbi Meir at rabbi@templecav.org if you are interested in sharing your talent, or even think you might be interested. Also, Rabbi Meir is recruiting a committee to help plan the program, please be in touch with him if you want to help.





WE STAND WITH ISRAEL: HAVDALAH, SOLIDARITY AND FUNDRAISING *Tears, Hope, and Strength*

Please join the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) and [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) for a special evening of Havdalah, Solidarity, and Fundraising as we stand with the people of Israel. The Jewish community is invited on Saturday, December 16 at 7 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus.

Invitations and RSVP information will be coming soon.

**This war is
unlike any before.
And so are the needs.**
#SupportIsrael



**Our Israel Emergency Fund is
directing additional resources
for this critical moment.**

Here are the needs:

**Israel
needs
you.**

Please give
generously

fwjf.org/donate



- Basic Needs
- Evacuation, Housing, Respite, and Support for Frontline Communities
- Fund for Victims of Terror
- Trauma Relief and Psychosocial Care
- Emergency Medical Services and Healthcare
- Special Populations
- Local Efforts and Volunteers



The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) and [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) are partnering to assist "Swords of Iron: Israel Emergency Fund" to help with this humanitarian rebuilding effort.

[Donate now](#)

The Federation sends out daily emails with updates on the ongoing crisis in Israel. If you are not receiving them and wish to, please fill out the contact form at fwjf.org or contact office@fwjf.org to be added to the list.

CATHY MAIER: INSIDE ISRAEL AT WAR

Please join us on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom when Fort Wayne native Cathy Maier shares her story of life in Israel before and after the beginning of the Israel-Hamas War to gain a better understanding of the experience of Israelis.



Cathy has been teaching English to Israeli students in public schools and privately. She was confirmed at the Temple in 1967. She lived in New Mexico before making Aliyah to Israel in December 2012.

We invite you to join Rabbi Meir Barger on the start of the program to light candles together for the sixth night of Hanukkah. Join us online to hear her powerful story.

KEHILLA KEDOSHA SUPPORT & DISCUSSION GROUP ON ISRAEL

The vicious attack on Israel and the assault, slaughter and kidnapping of innocent people living in the Gaza Envelope has caused so much pain and suffering.



Because all Jews are responsible for one another (Talmud Shevuot 39a), the pain and anguish echo widely in the diaspora — to us. These feelings can be difficult to hold and are complicated by living as part of a tiny Jewish minority in Northeast Indiana.

You are invited to a *Kehilla Kedosha (Holy Community)* support and discussion group on Sunday, December 3 at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom that is focused on this difficult time. Rabbi Meir Barger will facilitate.

The Zoom link will be included in the Temple's weekly e-mail. You may attend any or all of the group sessions. Questions? Contact Rabbi Meir (rabbi@templecav.org).



THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS PREPPING SEASONAL ITEMS FOR BRIGHTPOINT FAMILIES



The Jewish community's Thoughtful Thursdays team prepped bags in November with seasonal favorites for the 51 Brightpoint Head Start children who attend class at the Temple.

In December, we'll be providing each family with a rotisserie chicken, along with trimmings that include stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberries, and corn muffin mix. Dental hygiene items and toilet paper also will be provided.

For an extra treat, bags will include cocoa with a poem from the Religious School and Thoughtful Thursdays:

"A little Packet of Cocoa, I'm sending your way, For you to sip and enjoy, on a cold winter day. Add hot water and sip it slow. Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow."

Our volunteers will next meet on Wednesdays, December 6 and January 10 at 10 a.m. to assemble bags.

Thoughtful Thursdays is joint project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). Thank you to Chair Sally Trotter and all our volunteers!



WINTER COATS, SWEATPANTS, & BOOSTER SEATS NEEDED

Donations are needed to assist Brightpoint children with winter coats (sizes 4T to 7T - neutral colors appreciated); sweatpants (sizes 4T to 7T); and Graco booster seats.

Please drop off items at the Temple or [make a donation online](#) to Project Assist/Thoughtful Thursdays earmarked for these needs.



KOSHER AND HOLIDAY ITEMS AT TRADER JOE'S

Looking for kosher ingredients and other grocery items in Fort Wayne? Trader Joe's in Jefferson Pointe (4110 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite D-2) for a wide range of kitchen and pantry basics for your holidays and day-to-day needs. Kosher products include meat, wine, snacks, cheeses, cookies, candies breads, and other grocery items.



Shopping for Hanukkah? Trader Joe's offers a wide selection of kosher meats (including Glatt Kosher whole turkeys and Kosher beef brisket), wine, gelt chocolate coins, frozen potato latkes, frozen cauliflower latkes, latke accompaniments (apple sauce and sour cream), pantry staples, and Hanukkah-themed greeting and gift cards to help celebrate the Festival of Lights!

Additional information is available at the [Trader Joe's website](#) or by calling the store at (260) 432-5828.

GUCI (continued from page 3)

For many years, GUCI has provided campers from Achduth Vesholom with a heightened sense of Jewish community and spirituality, along with new friendships.



[Registration is open](#) for summer 2024 at GUCI for children entering 3rd through 12th grade.

Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org for Campership information.

Campership Chair Brian Rosman also can answer questions. Your child also may be eligible for a need-blind grant up of up to \$1,000 this summer through the [Foundation for Jewish Camp](#).

CORNED BEEF NEWS

Our 21st Corned Beef on Rye Fundraiser on October 19 truly did satisfy appetites, along with the Temple's bottom line. Micah Soltz, who co-chaired the sale with Amy Krouse, reported to the Temple leadership in November that the sale raised \$29,688 for the congregation, some \$6,000 more than last year and above this year's goal.

Micah said the success of the sale was the result of great work by everyone involved. The sponsorship team of Executive Director Samara Sheray, Amy Krouse, Sam Krouse, and Steve Zacher raised \$1,000 more than last year.

A small price increase for meals also made a difference, Micah said, after several years at the same level despite

increasing costs for food and supplies. Some expenses last year for equipment also impacted the bottom line, he said. This year Chapman's Brewing Company graciously lent us their refrigerated trailer, so we did not have the added expense of renting a larger truck. We sold 1,800 meals, about 100 fewer than in 2022.

Micah said the committee continues to evaluate changes to the drive-thru line to reduce wait times. Whether to offer drive-thru service rather than walk-up continues to be a challenge.



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE -

During a meaningful Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, we showed gratitude for one another. Some 150 people gathered at the Temple to share the beauty of their faith traditions with prayer and music. Thank you to participating clergy:

Rev. Bill McGill (Imani Baptist Temple), Akin DaDa (Baha'i Community of Fort Wayne), Fr. Thomas Shoemaker (St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church), Fr. T.J. Freeman (Trinity Episcopal Church), Rev. Dr. Timothy Lake (Union Baptist Church), Rev. Joshua Gale (Executive Director, Just

Neighbors), Rabbi Meir Bargeron (Congregation Achduth Vesholom), Rev. Anna Lisa Gross (Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren), Rev. Dr. Timothy Murphy (Plymouth Congregational Church), Rev. Dr. Annie Epling (First Presbyterian Church), Rev. Sara Ofner-Seals (Plymouth Congregational Church), Imam Hamzah Sharif (Universal Education Foundation), Bhante Mahanama (Indiana Buddhist Temple).

Thank you to Maestro Robert Nance, Barrett Seals, and Phil Slane for the wonderful music.



Lighting candles of blessing and gratitude during the service.



Imam Hamzah Sharif of the Universal Education Foundation and Rabbi Meir



Thank you to Dawn Hammond and her team of volunteers from the Temple for the beautiful reception.

NEIJGS PROGRAM EXPLORES CRYPTO-JEWS AND CONVERSOS IN FEBRUARY

The [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) is excited to welcome Schelly Talalay Dardashti and Maria Apodaca from the [Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies](#) during a free virtual program on Sunday, February 18, beginning at 2 p.m.

The focus on Crypto-Jews and Conversos includes two programs:

- At 2 p.m. - **The New World: Migration, DNA, and Genetics** - Schelly looks at events in Spain and Portugal which contributed to the New World migration of conversos/*bnai anusim*, supported by DNA and genetic evidence.
- At 3:30 p.m. - **And it Only Took 500 Years** - Maria will share her family's story, whose beginning stems from 1598 in New Mexico when Captain Juan de Onate brought the first colonists to what was then New Spain. Her family had previously been forced to convert to Catholicism and, as her family's historian, Maria became interested in DNA.



Schelly Talalay Dardashti, a journalist and a genealogist, who has lived in Teheran, Tel Aviv, Miami, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, is a New Mexican by choice. She is the U.S. Genealogy Advisor for MyHeritage, and has traced her Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrahi families across Iran, Spain, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine for decades.

An early proponent of DNA for genealogy, she co-administers several DNA projects at FamilyTreeDNA. The former Jerusalem Post genealogy columnist ("It's All Relative," 1999-2005), she created the award-winning "Tracing the Tribe - The Jewish Genealogy Blog," and "Tracing the Tribe - Jewish Genealogy on Facebook."

Maria Apodaca presents her family's history and traditions along with her own personal journey. Her paternal Y-DNA is J2-M172 with the Cohen Modal Signature and her research goes back to Diego Blandin Gonzales (b.1558 Coimbra, Portugal; d.1598 Nueva Espana).



As the first returnee in her family, she is active in Jewish community life. She is a founding member, Centro Sefarad New Mexico; board member, Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies; steering committee member, JGS of New Mexico; speaker, Road Scholar speaker on New Mexico's conversos and crypto-Jews; and has presented at numerous conferences.

Registration is required to attend this free virtual program. The link can be found at the [NEIJGS website](#).

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Dr. Louis and Anne B. Schneider Foundation, and the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center for their continued support of NEIJGS programming. Please contact Pamela Friedman at vp@NEIndianaJGS.org for more information.

"GOLDA" SCREENING HOSTED BY JEWISH FEDERATION ON DEC. 6

Please join the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's](#)



Rosh Chodesh group on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne) at 6 p.m. for a one night only showing of "Golda." There will be a discussion after the movie along with a light nosh.

The evening is open to members of the Jewish community and invited guests. This event is free but seating is limited. To reserve your seat, contact the office at office@fwjf.org or call (260) 456-0400 and leave a message.

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

CONFRONTING THE SHOAH CLASS OFFERED IN JANUARY



Mark your calendars for a six-week class presented by Holocaust scholar Dr. David Lindquist, beginning in January. Sponsored by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#), this course provides participants with a comprehensive contextual and historical knowledge regarding the Nazi Holocaust.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6 and 13 at the [Stillwater Hospice Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne). Classes begin at 7 p.m. and will last about 2 to 2 ½ hours each.

There is no cost to Federation members, teachers, principals, historians or high school juniors or seniors. For all others, there is a \$5.00 fee to cover the cost of materials.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and members of Federation for its continued support.

Donations

B'nai Jacob Conservative Judaism Fund

A donation was received from *Aliza Tourkow*

Dr. John Planer Music Fund

In honor of Doris Gottlieb: *Michelle Remenschneider*;

In honor of Doris Gottlieb: *Mary & Raymond Ohlman*

General Operations

A donation was received from *Juan Suarez*; *Rodney Kraisinger*; *Tamara Gibbs*; *Lois Rothert*

In honor of Doris Gottlieb's Bat Mitzvah and the ROMEOs' good work: *Fran & Irv Adler*

In memory of Celia Zweig: *Beth & Dan Zweig*

In memory of Samuel Rothberg: *Stephen Rothberg*

In memory of Frederick Reinhold Tourkow: *Donna & Josh Tourkow*

In memory of Joel Groden: *David Bussell*

In memory of Gladys Katz: *Ros Katz-Eling*

In memory of Maxine Fichman: *Kaye Fichman*

Holocaust Memorial Fund

In memory of Finkelshteyn Family: *Dora & Leonid Itkin*

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

Library Fund

A donation was received from *Rachel & Geoff Gordon*; *Fran & Irv Adler*

In memory of Marguerite Long Thal: *Betsy Gephart*

Nancy & Mike Dicker Youth & Religious School Fund

In memory of Seth Aaron Horwitz: *Phillip Horwitz*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation was received from *Fran & Irv Adler*

In honor of Doris Gottlieb: *Michelle Remenschneider*

In memory of Marv Gottlieb and in appreciation of her Bat Mitzvah: *Doris Gottlieb*

Rabbi Kornspan Tzedakah Fund

In memory of Sarah Weiss and Joseph Kaplan: *Susie Miller*

Religious School

In memory of Rosalie Becker: *Franck Hagendorf*

Thoughtful Thursdays

A donation was received from Jessica & Roger Ash

In honor of Doris Gottlieb: *Linda & William Becker*

In memory of Maxine Fichman: *Ann Fichman*

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE TEMPLE!

Thank you to [The Monogram Shoppe](#) and owner Sara Keltsch for hosting a fundraiser on November 28 to benefit the Temple. We appreciate all who supported the Temple with their purchases.



Presented by:
The Indiana Jewish Historical Society
FROM THE TOP 10 ROGUESHUL TWEETS TO TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA.
Learn about the past and the future of Synagogues in Indiana

With



Ellie Klein Goldman
Co-Founder Real Time Strategy Group

Tues December 12th at Noon EST
PLEASE RSVP FOR A ZOOM LINK AT IJHS@IJHS

PLEASE PLAN FOR 2023 YEAR-END

For your 2023 tax planning purposes, our guidelines for establishing the date when dues payments and donations are received:

- If by mail, the postmarked date
- If hand delivered, the date received at the Temple
- If by phone or directly online (credit cards only), the date of the call

Any gifts of appreciated securities must be received into the Temple's account on or before December 15.

Contact Robin Tribbett, Senior Financial Advisor, at Optare Financial Partners, Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, at (260) 299-7022 for further information. Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC.

December Jahrzeits

December 1-2

David J. Ash
Rachel Behar
Larry Belans
Florence Bernstein
Herman Cohen
Beatrice Feldheim
Morris J. Foreman
Marion K. Grinsfelder
Albert Herzog
Eva J. Huebschman
Edith Gold Hutner
Oscar Allen Isay
Gladys Katz
Max Konigsberg
Emanuel Kreitman
Ethel Kruger
Louis Leader
Elsie Levin
Leonard J. Levy
Stanley Maier
Moses Mayer
Samuel S. Meyers
Charlotte Novitsky
Milton Ontell
Harold Prigozen
Rita Jo Levin Rainey
Samuel Rothberg
Rebecca Ruderman
James Solomon
Joseph Stiefel
Rose Warshauer
Rebecca Winnick
Mindel Yoinovicz
Abraham M. Zinn
Wilbur Zweig

December 8-9

Col. Richard G. Banks
Marcus Beck
Fanny Brenn
Sarah Bronstein
Paulette Bussell Oatley
Pearl Davidson
Eric Eling
Mae Fine
Dr. Jerome Gerber
Samuel Gibson
Don Gordon
Louis Groden
Dora Horwitz
Isaac M. Kann
Susan Kaplan
William (Bill) Latz
Peter Lauinger
Bertha Levin
Saralee Levin
Hortense Wolf Maier Levy
Yetta Magazine
Sigmund Maier
Helene Goldenberg Maier
John V. Malay
Audra E. Mandel
George Meschel
Myron J. Morris

William J. Platka, Jr.
Bunny Posner
Ruth Rosenthal
Allan Rush
Irene Schibel
Leon Seigman
Kathryn Sheray
Harry Sherr
Elizabeth H. Smulo
Alfred Solotkin
Vicki Sours
Marguerite Long Thal
Herbert Weinraub
Isadore Yourist
Esther Zissen

December 15-16

Joseph Barasch
Bess Bookstaff
Anna Bussell
Benjamin Cahn
Miriam Yuter Chodosh
Josephine P. Cressy
Nathan N. Donner
Phil Flook
Gute Goldin
Rosetta Goodman
Lily D. Grover
Bertie Haslacher
Lou Hoffman
Steven Hollander
Viola Hutner
Hanno Jensen
Sarah Kalver
Isidore Kalver
Florence Katz
Max Kraus
Bernard Kroot
Jeff Kruger
Mollie Kutcher
Rose Lande
Harry Levin
Henry Levine
Laura H. Levy
Vitaliy Leybman
Irma G. Loeser
Lee Marshall Loeser
Manuel Margulis
Julius Marx
Harold Michelson
K.J. Miller
Hattie Griffin Minske
Lena Moss
Mickey Pass
Leona Rosenberg
Salomon Z. Safirstein
Darren Schongold
Fannie Siegel
Candy Stinnett
Louis Samuel Superior
J. T. Thompson
Louisa Trauerman
Betty Wald
Bessie Weinstein
Dr. Oscar Weinstein

Sarah Weiss
Phoebe Da Costa Wolf
Charles Young
Elmer Zweig

December 22-23

(We will not have services this week; jahrzeits will be acknowledged Dec. 15 – 16)

Elsa Adler
Nathan Bialick
Bertha Browarsky
Thomas Edgar Butz
Marvin Crell
Geraldine Crubaugh
Marsha Dan
Dorothy Dicker
Ruth Finkel
Rose Fisher
Mary Fogel
Morris Forlander
David Frosh
Clyde R. Gaddis
Henry Haskell Glazer
Alex E. Goldberger
Arnold L. Goldsmith
Samuel Greenberg
Frances Groden Bussell
Etta Jacobson
Sidney Katz
Sarah Leah Komisarow
Herman Komisarow
Sam Krantzle
Anna Krantzle
Joseph Latker
Eugene S. Lesser
Kathryn Manalis
Dorothy Margulis
Donald L. Marx
Gina A. McClatchey
Rosa Rappaport McKinney
Bessie Meyer
Stephen L. Meyers
Minnette Papier
Edna K. Platka
Sally Rosenberg
Reba Safran
Dora Sains
Marilyn Salon
Louis Sandler
Betty Schaffer
David Schibel
Morris Tillinger
Ethel J. Trotter
Edwin Turansky
Barney Warshauer
David Warshauer
Joseph David Weinraub
Toba Weinstein
David Weiss
Victor Weiss
Kent Wenbert
Leon Wertheimer
Retha West
Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf

Ida Wolfson
Leah Zucker
Mendel Zweig
Ruth G. Zweig

December 29-30

Gertrude Stein Adelman
Gertrude Blum
Pauline Brateman
Minnie Cline
Victor S. Cohen
Hanchen Levi Daniel
Howard Dinnerstein
Dorothy Talberg Ernest
Cyvia Feinberg
Josephine Ferbstein
Ida Finkelshteyn
Fannie Franklin
Rosalie Appel Freund
Frederick Gee
Sidney Gold
Joseph Kaplan
Fannie Kaplan
Louis Kaufman
Stanley Kornspan
Fannie Kravitz
Abe Latker
Kurt Marx
Louis Meyers
Guy Miller
Benjamin Ochstein
Thomas Portman
Jack Rosenberg
Maurice Rosenthal
David Rothberg
Beryl Rush
Joel Salon
Irene Schibel
Rebekah Schwartz
Golda Sheray
Robert Sommer
Karoline Stein
Morton Stillpass
Jeanette Sunshine
Richard Tankel
Roslyn Weinraub
Leonard Weinraub
Joseph Wiesenthal
Anne Worpell
Belle Zelman
Max Zinn

January 5-6

Sylvia Ash
Ruth Berkow
Linda Berwert
Solomon Borenstein
Irvin J. Bransilver
Sol Bronstein
Roberta Buker
Hedwig Einstein
Anna S. Engelhard
Samuel Finkelstein
Flora Flapan
Harry Fryefield
Isidore Goldberg
Leona Goldstein
Joseph C. Goodman
Deborah Gorelick
Bess Landy
George Latz
Arthur Lenhart
Minnie Levey
Martin Levine
Emanuel Levy
Herman Lowenhar
Michelle Lundmark
Sarah (Sally) Masursky
Don Minnich
Alice Novitsky
Marlene Ochstein
Anna Platt
Beverly King Ribel
Norma Jean Rifkin
Marshall Rosenthal
Morris Abraham Ruchman
Jane Y. Rutin
Estelle Sachs
Ethel Schechter
Rose Schempp
Leonard Schreier
Albert Schultz
Morris Schwartz
Herman Sheyer
Minnie Sheyer
LeRoy Shine
David Siegel
Cecilia Stern
Deborah Taub
Jeanne Winnick

January 12-13

Tillie Auerbach
David Baitcher
Bess Belans
Grete Benedix
Faye Bodenstein
William Brosler
Philip Dorman
Sam Edlow
Samuel Fishman
Henry Friedman
Joseph Goldenberg
Glen Goldstrom
Miriam Gordon-Amber
Basy Gurevich
Margo Hirshfeld
Harry Horwitz
Sam Jaffe
Julius Kaufman
Morris King
Jack Krainess
Gertrude Kraker
Elsie Kraus
Jewell Kraus
Marc S. Lauer
Claire Leopold
Louis Levy
Ruth M. Levy
Jeanette Lewis
Eleanor Mazur
Herman Messe
Milton M. Meyers
Abraham Morris
Robert J. Nathan
Harry Papier
Ethel Rath
Gertrude Replane
Ted Replane
Bettye Roberts
Clint Rossiter
Hannah Royter
Minnette D. Ruchman
Hyme Sains
Samuel Salomon
Betty W. Sandler
Sidney L. Schechter
Irving A. Snow
Edna Vilensky
Raphael E. Vogel
Bonnie Weiler
David Weinberg
James Zelman

January 19-20

Hyman Jerome Bass
Morris Begun
Sylvia Brateman
Stephen Cristil
Gertrude Stein Gartner
Maureen Gilbert
Lorry Goldenberg
Fannie Hassan
Anna Silverman Hyman
Ann Iczkovitz
Berenice Kempler
Manuel K. King
Mary Kathryn Klarke
Leopold Kraus
Rose Latker
Janet Latz
Rose Leader
Isidor Lehman
Clara Magazine
Eleanor Margolis
Aida McCassey
Sam Nemeroff
Mabel Papier
Tzvi ben Pinchas
Geraldine Greenberg Reich
Alan Richie
Patricia Rothman
Edward Rudin
Daniel Russ
Pearl Starr Sachsel
Caroline Schwartz
Lester Selan
Samuel L. Shafer
Helen Isay Smith
Bea (Bertha) Waldman
Fannie Weinraub
Sarah Ann Wills



January 26 – 27

Bill Aichele
Ruth Aichele
Alan Blumenthal
Hurleen Blumenthal
Jacob Leon Brenn
Marian Behar Dodson
Joseph Doran
Abraham Edelman
Yetta Falk
Nathan Feldman
Phil Feldman
Hurley Feltman
Milton Ferkel
Meir Fichman
Norma M. Flox
Sam Fogel
Sam Frankel
Lottie Frosh
Esther Garber
Max Gitlin
Morris Gubitz
Henri Hagendorf
Fran Herman
Isadore Hersh
Pearl Hertzman
Chester Horn
Kathy Jarvis
Anita S. Kalver
Miriam Katz
Ruth Kepes
Solomon Kramer
Morris Kudysh
Benjamin Kurzner
Celia Mastbaum
Mark Merin
Louis Abraham Messe
Robert Nerenberg
Byron F. Novitsky
Netty K. Oppenheim
Elias Punsky
Richard Sachsel
Ida Schneider
Julius Schongold
Jacob Schwartz
Bertha V. Shipsky
Brian Soraich
Herman Strauss
Joseph Tillinger
Jerry Trotter
Shari Troy
Anne Frank Wagner
Jack Weiner
Frank Winnick
Helen Zaslowsky



THE
TEMPLE
CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

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www.templecav.org

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Meir Bargeron, Rabbi
Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus z"l

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Temple Office Hours:

Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Temple is located at the Rifkin Campus at 5200. Our Campus partners are the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery Association, 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 February Bulletin is
Monday, January 15

President's Corner Ronnie Greenberg



Many times in the last few years, I've used this column to encourage you to become more involved at the Temple - to attend services and events more often, to volunteer your time more frequently, to support the Temple financially and share your financial assets more generously. This time I would like to turn that equation around and talk about not what you can do for your Temple, but what your Temple can do for you (to borrow a quote). What can and should you expect for your membership?

First, you can expect a facility that is attractive and suited to our needs. We are fortunate to have a beautiful building – indeed a beautiful campus - that has been well maintained over the years, and, through thoughtful renovations, provides us with warm and welcoming spaces for worship, learning and socializing. We also have enough space to accommodate our campus partners.

Second, you can expect a facility that is safe and secure. We take the security of our staff, congregants and visitors seriously. We don't just make "every effort" to provide a secure environment in our building, we actually do it. Besides the police officers who are present whenever there is an "event" at Temple, you may not see other measures taken, but they are there.

Third, you can expect professional staff who are knowledgeable and responsive. We are so fortunate to have Rabbi Meir Bargeron as our spiritual leader. He is energetic and full of ideas, and unfailingly kind, caring, and supportive. Our Executive Director Samara Sheray oversees our security and cares for the building and budget as if they were her own. She is a constant presence and knowledgeable resource, happy to welcome members and assist them with whatever they need. What more needs said?

Fourth, as a member, you can expect an organization in which you have a voice, and in which you have an opportunity to fulfill a leadership role if you so choose. I've never been a member of another congregation, but have heard of congregations in which large donors dictate policy and events. That has never been the case at Achduth Vesholom.

Each person has a vote and can express their opinions at the annual meeting, through election of officers and board members and approval of the budget. We also have a mechanism in the bylaws which allows congregants to call a meeting of members if there is an issue they wish to address. Everyone has a "say" in what we do.

Similarly, most board and officer's positions are open to all congregants, including the non-Jewish partners in our families. We provide board training and development programs to prepare potential leaders, and welcome new "applicants" for leadership positions.

Fifth and last, you can expect the Temple to be your spiritual and scholarly home and your community. We are *the* Jewish address in Fort Wayne, a place where you can find friends, educate your children, continue learning yourself, celebrate holidays, explore your faith, and engage in *tikkun olam* to enrich yourself and help others. In times of joy and sorrow, or just everyday stresses, challenges, and triumphs, the Temple is here to support you. However, to truly take advantage of these benefits, you need to be an active part of the community

As we enter the busy holiday season, please take a minute and give some thought to what I've said and all the benefits of your association with Achduth Vesholom. We encourage you to be here often, take advantage of all we have to offer, and become an active participant in *K'lal Yisrael* – the community of Israel.

Happy Hanukkah and Happy 2024!