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SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE DR. GARY ZOLA TO EXPLORE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AMERICA AND THE MEANING OF OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Please join us when we welcome [Dr. Gary P. Zola](#), Executive Director Emeritus of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, for two scholar-in-residence programs on Thursday and Friday, February 22-23 at the Temple as part of our 175th Anniversary season of events.



During the first learning session on Thursday, February 22 at 7 p.m., Dr. Zola will examine **“George Washington, Jews, and the Story of Religious Freedom in America.”** To celebrate the 292nd anniversary of President Washington’s birth, Dr. Zola will provide our community with an opportunity to take a deep dive into Washington’s most famous letter to the Jewish community.

President George Washington’s letter to the Jews of Congregation Yeshuat Israel (a.k.a. “Touro Synagogue”), Newport, Rhode Island – written in 1790 – famously promised that the United States would be a nation that “gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.” Washington reassured the Jews of Newport that, in his opinion, the new Constitution guaranteed every religion in America – including Judaism – “full and equal membership” in the nation’s polity.

This dynamic text-study constitutes a special opportunity to learn more about the history of this well-known letter which was written more than 233 years ago. We will discover why Washington’s letter has much to teach us about the history of religious freedom in America.

Dr. Zola also will speak during our Shabbat service on Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. on **“The Future of The Past:’ The Meaning of our 175th Anniversary,”** an inspiring look at the significance of milestone anniversaries in Jewish life. An Oneg Shabbat will follow.

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SHARE SOUPER BOWL SHABBAT DINNER ON FEBRUARY 9



Warm up a cold winter evening at our “Souper Bowl” Shabbat on Friday, February 9 at 6 p.m. at the Temple. We’ll sample a variety of homemade soups before declaring the top three “people’s choice” winners. Our Shabbat service begins at 7:30 p.m.

While you don’t need to bring soup to attend, we invite you to get creative in the kitchen and enter the friendly competition. Make your favorite soup to feed 8-10, whether vegetarian, chicken or beef. Maybe matzo balls, noodles or even kreplach? The only requirements: No pork or shellfish, and no meat and cheese in the same dish. Please bring your hot soup in a crockpot. Any leftovers will be utilized by the Caring Committee for those in need of TLC.

Please RSVP to the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 by Friday, February 2. Let us know if you will be bringing soup and what kind.

The cost is \$8 per person (no charge for children 5 and under). Your check is your reservation. Menu includes salad, soup, challah, dessert, and beverage. Questions or interested in helping? Contact Chair Dawn Hammond.



BEIT CAFÉ COFFEE HOUSE FEATURES TEMPLE TALENT

See Page 2

For In-depth News & Details
ONLINE
Templecav.org

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Shabbat Service
Friday, February 2
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Friday, February 16
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 3
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 17
9:45 a.m.

Souper Bowl Shabbat Service
Friday, February 9
7:30 p.m.
Dinner begins at 6 pm (RSVP)

Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat Service
Friday, February 23
7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Rabbi Dr. Gary Zola

Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 10
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 24
9:45 a.m.

LIVESTREAMING UPDATE

Please join us in person or via livestream for worship services. Friday evening services are offered on [YouTube](#). Saturday morning services are available on Zoom and YouTube.

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



Our 175th Anniversary celebration continues on Saturday, February 3 at 7 p.m. with "Beit Cafe: A Temple Coffee House," a showcase of talent within our congregation under the musical direction of Maestro Robert Nance.

Enjoy a coffee house ambiance, as Rabbi Meir leads us in Havdalah, followed by a variety show, a delicious array of coffees and desserts, and a fun and relaxing evening for our Temple community.

Please RSVP by January 31 to the Temple at office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and 175th sponsors for their support.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Beit Café Coffeehouse
Saturday, February 3
7 p.m.
RSVP by Thursday, February 1

Thoughtful Thursdays
Wednesday, February 7
10 a.m.

CAV Town Hall
Wednesday, February 7
7 p.m. on Zoom

CAV Town Hall
Tuesday, February 13
7 p.m. on Zoom

NEIJGS: Crypto-Jews
Sunday, February 18
2 p.m. on Zoom

Legacy Rabbinic Scholars: Rabbi Jen Gubitz
Tuesday, February 20
7 p.m. on Zoom

Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Gary Zola
Thursday, February 22
7 p.m.

Lunch with the ROMEOs

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

Thursday, February 1
[The Lucky Moose](#)
622 E. Dupont Rd.

MARCH EVENTS

Congregational Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 6
7 p.m. in person and on Zoom

Jake Copeland Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, March 9
10 a.m.
Kiddush luncheon to follow

Temple Book Club
Tuesday, March 12
7 p.m. on Zoom

Hamentashen Baking
Sunday, March 17
10 a.m.

Purim Spiel and Service
Sunday, March 24
11 a.m.

Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 24
Noon

Thursday, February 15
[Ziano's](#)
5907 Covington Rd.

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

We invite you to share a beautiful tradition with our family when our son **Jake Anderson Copeland** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 9 at 10 a.m.

at Congregation Achduth Vesholom
Kiddush luncheon to follow
Hannah and Jack Copeland



Rabbi Meir Bargeron: WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

Over the last few months, our Temple family has enjoyed a series of wonderful events to commemorate our 175th anniversary. We are the first and oldest Jewish congregation in the state of Indiana and our history is interwoven with the history of Fort Wayne, as is evident in the historical timelines and photographs that adorn the walls of the Madge Rothschild Resource Center.

Thanks to the generations that came before us, we have a strong Jewish community, despite our small number. While this is the case, it is also true that we are a tiny minority in a very religious city and state that are almost entirely Christian. For this reason, the Temple's motto, "Building Jewish Community Since 1848," is not just words – it is central to what we do.

Our children often find themselves as the sole representatives of their faith in their schools. It is not uncommon for area public schools to [bring Christian programs](#) to their students during the school day, which can cause our Jewish children to feel isolated. The responsibility falls upon all of us to ensure they develop a strong sense of connection to their heritage.

At the core of the Temple's purpose is the nurturing of Jewish identity from childhood through adulthood. For our children, who may feel isolated in their classrooms, the Temple becomes a sanctuary where they can find companionship with peers who share their traditions and beliefs. Our [monthly Joy](#)

[Vey program](#) brings together families with preschool aged children (and their older siblings and friends) from the Fort Wayne Jewish community who might otherwise not be connected with other Jewish families. The [KESHER program](#) brings together kids from elementary through 10th grade with multiple educational and social activities each month.



Beyond adolescence, our congregation remains a continuous presence in the lives of its members, catering to individuals at every stage of life. We offer our members many ways to engage in Jewish life and community. Through cultural gatherings, educational programs, and volunteer initiatives, adults of all ages remain actively engaged in the community while finding companionship and support among peers.

Our Temple serves as more than just a place of worship; it is a vibrant hub that connects individuals of multiple ages and backgrounds, binding us together in a shared journey of Jewish life. We belong to each other.

Rabbi Meir

LEGACY RABBINIC SCHOLAR: RABBI JEN GUBITZ ON MUSSAR

Our Rabbinic Legacy Scholars series continues when we welcome Rabbi Jen Gubitza to teach us about Mussar on Tuesday, February 20 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Explore the rich Jewish spiritual practice of Mussar, a thousand-year-old tradition of self-exploration through Jewish values that supports your wellbeing and increases personal and communal connection and joy!

Rabbi Gubitza is the third and concluding speaker among our "children of Achduth Vesholom" who discovered a love of Judaism and learning here that later led them to become rabbis. (See more on page 7)

With her humor and insight, Rabbi Gubitza builds communities and content that elevate Jewish wisdom's capacity to speak to our human condition. She is co-host of the *OMfG Podcast: Jewish Wisdom for Unprecedented Times* and her writing appears in the *Boston Globe*, *OnBeing*, *Jewish Daily Forward*, and *Lilith Magazine*.

With over 15 years of experience in Jewish professional life, she is a graduate of Indiana University and was ordained in 2012 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (NY) where she was a Tisch Rabbinical Fellow.



Rabbi Gubitza has a new Jewish Learning Project, [Modern JewISH Couples](#), which supports committed partners on the pathway to marriage and beyond through essential conversations and couples retreats. She is the daughter of former members Charlene & Jeff Gubitza.

The Rabbinic Legacy Scholars series is part of our 175th Anniversary season. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and our 175th Anniversary sponsors for supporting these lifelong learning sessions.



A Team Effort— We're grateful to Marcia & Deny Reynolds, Mike Rush, and Nola Katinsky for leading our Shabbat service recently when Rabbi Meir was out of town.

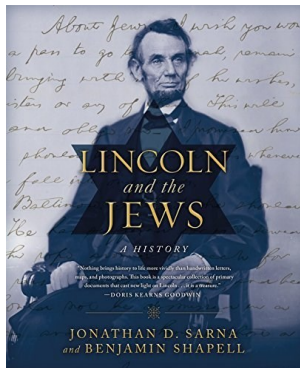
The service leaders, along with Don Zelman, took part last year in the Union for Reform Judaism's Hadracha program to learn skills to help support and lead communal worship and lifecycle event and baby namings.

FOCUS ON AMERICAN HISTORY IN TEMPLE LIBRARY

In honor of Presidents' Day and our congregation's 175th anniversary, we're focusing on American history from a Jewish perspective in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#). While many subjects can fall under the heading of American history, this month we'll concentrate on overall Jewish American history titles and colonial American history.

In the first category, Jonathan Sarna's *Coming to Terms with America: Essays on Jewish History, Religion, and Culture* is one of our newer titles. Fifteen essays, written over the course of 40 years, examine how American Jews have handled the challenge of being both Jewish and American from the time of the American Revolution.

America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today, a National Jewish Book Award winner by Pamela Nadell, tells the stories of a variety of women, from matriarchs to activists. We have several other histories available, but we should also note Dr. Gary Zola's own volume, *The Dynamics of American Jewish History: Jacob Rader Marcus's Essays on American Jewry*. Jacob Rader Marcus was the founder of the American Jewish Archives, and this is a collection of previously unpublished essays, written between 1916 and 1989. Dr. Zola is our Scholar-in-Residence on February 22-23 at the Temple.



More specifically for Presidents' Day, Jonathan D. Sarna's *Lincoln and the Jews: A History* was a National Jewish Book Award finalist and was added to our collection in 2016 as part of "Betty's 100 Books," in honor of the 100th birthday of Betty

Stein z"l. *The Presidents of the United States and the Jews*, by David G. Dalin and Alfred B. Kolatch, is also on our library shelves.

For those interested in a unique look at colonial America, Ron Rubin's *Strangers & Natives: A Newspaper Narrative of Early Jewish America 1734-1869* is a history told through articles and advertisements from newspapers of the time. And for those who prefer historical fiction,

Commodore Levy: A Novel of Early America in the Age of Sail, by Irving Litvag, is a detailed historical novel about Uriah Phillips Levy, the first Jewish commodore in the U.S. Navy.

This is just a sample of our United States history titles. Several more are available for younger readers. You can [browse our full collection](#) online. We encourage you to take advantage of this congregational resource. Self-checkout is available at the library desk whenever the Temple is open.

"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 Oppenheimers. 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 Zoom 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!



Champagne Shabbat- We shared a toast and good wishes for a "Happy New Year" after services on December 29.

Youth News

KENDAMAS, MITZVAH PROJECTS, VALUES AND MORE IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



The cold weather hasn't managed to slow down our KESHER youth programming at all! In January, our Religious School classes learned about Jonah and the Whale, including making their own kendamas of a whale swallowing Jonah. Our B'nai Mitzvah kids and their families shared and discussed their mitzvah project choices. And our Middot kids continued their Home Shalom lessons with the Advot Project.

Coming in February, we'll kick off the month with Joy Vey! on Friday, February 9, featuring a congregational Souper Bowl dinner. We will have Values classes for our elementary and upper-middle/high school students on Sunday, February 11 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. where we'll learn about being good hosts, in the spirit of Isaac and Rebecca. We will also meet for Values classes on Sunday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for our elementary and middle school students.

Looking ahead to March, please save the dates for our Purim festivities, including hamentashen baking during Religious School on Sunday, March 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. as well as our Purim spiel on Sunday, March 24 at 11 a.m., followed at noon by the Purim Carnival.

Lastly, if you haven't yet registered for NFTY Ohio Valley's Wild Midwest gathering, now's the time to do so! [Registration is open](#) for [NFTY-Ohio Valley's Wild Midwest 2024](#) on Friday, March 29 through Sunday, March 31 for teens in grades 8-12 at Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville. The event will be led by the NFTY Ohio Valley and NFTY Missouri Valley Regional Board. Join the fun:

- Meet new people and hang out with friends from NFTY, GUCI, Israel and Mitzvah Corps
- Unplug at camp and enjoy fun in the outdoors



- Wrestle with hot topics and challenge their assumptions during interactive teen-led programs
- Celebrate Shabbat with a delicious dinner, music, and dancing

Register by Sunday, February 18 to guarantee your spot! After this date, registration will be approved on a space-available basis. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org to find out about subsidies for Temple teens to attend.

Leise Rosman, Religious School Committee Chair



COME FOR JOY VEY & STAY FOR SOUPER BOWL

Families with young children are invited for "Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat" on Friday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m. to gather 'round your little ones for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family! Following Joy Vey, please stay for [Souper Bowl Shabbat](#) and enjoy dinner as part of our larger congregational community. (RSVPs are needed by Friday, February 2. Cost is \$8 per person; 5 and under at no charge.)



At Joy Vey, we'll 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. We usually meet on the second Friday night of each month.

HELPING FOSTER CHILDREN THROUGH 175TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT & MITZVAH DAYS

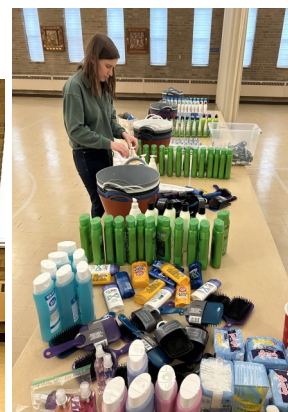
Through the generosity of donors to our 175th Anniversary Mitzvah Project and the hard work of dedicated volunteers on two mitzvah days in December and January, we reached our goal of providing 175 totes filled with hygiene items, a blanket, and stuffed animal to help foster kids in our community through [Fostering Hope for Children](#).

In December, we learned more about the foster care system in Northeast Indiana with [Kris Wise](#), a licensed clinical social worker who has served our community for more than 20 years. Rachel Tobin-Smith, retired Executive Director of SCAN, and Juli Dominguez, chair of the Temple's 175th Anniversary Mitzvah project also provided insights into efforts

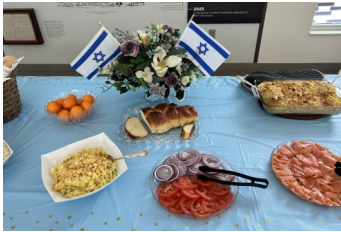
to support foster children.

More than two dozen people helped at each of our mitzvah days, including many Religious School families, to help foster children from infant to age 18. Our goal was for each of the foster children to have something of their very own that can travel with them wherever they go.

Thank you to our Mitzvah project team: Juli Dominguez, Social Action Committee Chair Rena Black, Kathy Sider, Donna Tourkow, Susie Miller, Beth Zweig, Rabbi Meir Bergeron, and all who donated items, funds, and assisted.



The windchill of -25 degrees on January 14 didn't stop our volunteers from helping!



LEGACY RABBINIC SCHOLARS SERIES

Thank you to Rabbi Jonathan Greenberg for launching the Temple's Legacy Rabbinic Scholars series on January 20 as part of our 175th Anniversary season. Legacy scholars are "children of CAV," who grew up at the Temple and became rabbis.

Rabbi Greenberg shared [insights about the weekly Torah portion](#) during our morning Shabbat service, led by Ron Friedman with Rabbi Meir. A Kiddush luncheon followed hosted by Rabbi Greenberg's parents, Ronnie & Norm Greenberg. He gave a thought-provoking [afternoon talk](#) on "The Argument Already Won: Contemporary anti-Zionism, its historical roots, and possible implications."

The series continues with:

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass on Tuesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. on Zoom for "Real Housewives of the Talmud."



Rabbi Jen Gubit on Mussar on Tuesday, February 20 at 7 p.m. on Zoom (see page 3).

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and our 175th Anniversary sponsors for their support of his visit.

DR. ZOLA (FROM PAGE 1)

As Congregation Achduth Vesholom celebrates 175 years of continuous existence, Dr. Zola will help us to reflect on the historical lessons we derive from the congregation's remarkable longevity and durability.

What traits and impulses have our predecessors bequeathed to us, and how will these characteristics strengthen us as we confront the daunting and worrisome challenges we face in our own day and age? Dr. Zola will offer us an inspiring message in response to these important questions. Please join us in person or on [YouTube](#) to learn from Dr. Zola.

A dynamic and knowledgeable speaker, he has served as a popular scholar-in-residence at Achduth Vesholom several times over the years, most recently in 2018 when he shared recordings from the collection of the AJA focusing on civil rights and how some of the leading American rabbis handled pivotal world events from the pulpit.

Gary Phillip Zola served as the executive director of [The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives](#) (AJA) from 1998 through June of 2023. Currently, Dr. Zola maintains his faculty status as the Edward M. Ackerman Family Distinguished Professor of the American Jewish Experience & Reform Jewish History at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR).

Thursday, February 22 at 7 p.m.

"George Washington, Jews, and the Story of Religious Freedom in America"

Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.

**"The Future of The Past:
The Meaning of our 175th Anniversary"**

Dr. Zola has been honored with national appointments, including being selected by President Biden in 2023 as a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Notably, in April 2011, President Obama appointed Dr. Zola to the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, marking a historic moment as the first faculty member of Hebrew Union College to receive such recognition from a U.S. president.

In 2006, Dr. Zola achieved groundbreaking milestones by becoming the inaugural American Jewish historian and the first American rabbi appointed to the Academic Advisory Council of the congressionally recognized Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and our 175th Anniversary sponsors for their support of Dr. Zola's visit.

SPECIAL MEETING SET TO VOTE ON PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Town Hall Meetings Scheduled To Discuss Possible Revisions

A special congregational meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in person and on Zoom to consider and approve proposed changes to the Bylaws that govern our congregation.

To ensure that members understand the revisions, the Temple's leadership also has scheduled two virtual Town Hall meetings in February to talk about the proposed changes and provide an opportunity to ask questions. Members are encouraged to attend one of the online meetings, which will be held on Wednesday, February 7 and Tuesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. Links to attend online or via phone have been sent to members.

Materials sent to congregants by email (or by U.S. mail if you don't have email) include both the current and proposed Bylaws, as well as a summary of the changes that includes a brief explanation of the reasons for each change.

Two overarching reasons prompted the need to review our Bylaws. The first is the implementation in the past year of a partnership model of operation. In this new flatter, less-hierarchical model, the Rabbi, the Executive Director (ED) and the board are on an equal level on the organizational chart, and the position of the ED has been professionalized. The Rabbi and ED still report to the full board but are elevated into more authoritative, leadership roles, which allows the board to detach from operational issues and focus on strategic issues. This reassignment of responsibilities required revisions in the Bylaws to the duties of the officers of the board and the duties and structure of committees.

By way of example, rather than dictating how many members must be on each committee, the proposed Bylaws requires that the members of a committee reflect the diversity of our congregation. Except for the five standing committees – Governance, Board Development, Resource Development/ Finance, Religious School and Ritual – no other committees are mandated, leaving us free to form committees or task forces as the need exists.

The second reason driving the need for revision was to give the board more flexibility, particularly in financial matters. The board, which is elected by the congregation and is the congregation's representative, has the responsibility for the financial health of the congregation. **Three major changes are proposed to provide the board with more tools to accomplish this.**

The first is a change to the total amount of unbudgeted expenditures the Board has the authority to approve without seeking Congregational approval. That amount is currently 8% of the annual expense budget and the proposal is to increase that to 10%. This amount is thought to be more

reasonable given recent inflation rates and provides the Board more flexibility in handling emergency situations.

The second change is to the annual payout allowable from the Endowment Fund. The current Bylaws allow the Board to adopt an annual payout not to exceed five (5) percent of a rolling average of the prior three years' value as determined on December 31. The new wording states that the Board may adopt an annual payout from the Endowment Fund in an amount necessary to decrease a deficit in the following year's budget, endeavoring not to invade the principal of the Fund.

Upon initial reading, this may seem like giving the Board carte blanche to use the Endowment Fund. That actually is NOT the case. The payout adopted from the Endowment each year is clearly shown in the congregational annual

budget, which must be approved by the Board and subsequently approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. In other words, the congregation has the final say on the use of the Endowment Fund through the annual budgeting process.

As prices of everything have increased and as we are endeavoring to pay our employees a competitive and fair wage, we increasingly have found ourselves bringing a deficit budget to the congregation. But a deficit on paper translates to a funding shortfall in real life. In order to continue to provide the outstanding programs and services our congregants appreciate, as well as to continue to maintain our beautiful building, we need to find a way to cover the deficit. Dues increases can only go so far. I'm sure we all agree that cutting back on programming, building maintenance or compensation for our staff would be unwise and shortsighted. The board believes that using the Endowment Fund as necessary is the responsible thing to do.

The third change to provide more flexibility to the Board and the organization is the addition of an article allowing the suspension of any rules in the Bylaws for a specified period of time. A suspension would require a 2/3 vote of the congregation, the same as for amendments to the Bylaws. We may never use this option but, according to Robert's Rules, we cannot ignore or suspend any part of the Bylaws if we have not made provision for doing so in the Bylaws.

Please plan to attend one of the town hall meetings. If you are not able to do so, please contact President Ronnie Greenberg or Vice President Finance John Stein with questions. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend the March meeting to vote on the proposed changes. Absentee ballot information also will be available.

Your voice and your vote are critical.

Town Hall Meetings

- Wednesday, February 7 at 7 p.m. (Zoom only)
- Tuesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. (Zoom only)

Special Congregational Meeting—Vote on Bylaws

- Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. (in person and on Zoom)

SAVE THE DATE FOR PURIM SPIEL AND CARNIVAL

Mark your calendar and get your costume ready to join us on Sunday, March 24 to celebrate Purim! The merriment begins with a family friendly Megillah reading and Purim spiel at 11 a.m., led by Rabbi Meir with the Purim players. Grab a grogger when we tell the story of Queen Esther and make some noise when Haman's name is said!

At noon, following the spiel, everyone is invited to join (or watch) the costume parade to the Social Hall for our annual Purim Carnival! We'll nosh on hamentashen made by a team of Temple bakers, along with lunch, and enjoy lots of games and prizes for all ages.

More details will be coming. Our creative Carnival Crew is just getting started, with Chair Kate Crell, Stephanie Gottesman, Geoff Gordon, and Shai Hadashi. If you'd like to join the team, please let Kate know. There are all kinds of volunteer positions available. Our Purim festivities promise to be a fun time for all ages!



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS! IT'S A REALLY BIG SPIEL!

Like being on stage? Join this year's family-friendly Purim spiel on Sunday, March 24 at 11 a.m.! This year's spiel will be Reader's Theater style, so no lines need to be memorized and the time commitment is minimal. There will be a costumed procession at the beginning and a costume contest with prizes at the end.

We're looking for kids to play the main roles, and a few adults to read lines from the megillah. Can't read yet, but want to be part of the show? Parents are welcome to pair with a pre-reading child so they can still have a role, plus we need all our little ones present to help shake a grogger and boo at Haman.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FILLING AND BAKE HAMENTASHEN TOGETHER

Please join us in getting ready for Purim when we make a variety of delicious hamantashen on Sunday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Children are invited to share in this fun tradition when accompanied by an adult.

We're making the three-cornered treats to serve as part of our Purim festivities on Sunday, March 24, with our family-friendly Megillah reading and Purim spiel at 11 a.m., followed at noon by our festive Purim Carnival for all ages.

Dough will be provided, but please bring your favorite filling (no jelly as it is too runny), such as preserves, canned pie and strudel filling, chocolate chips, Nutella, etc. If you have a rolling pin and 3-inch cookie cutter, please bring those as well.



Everyone is invited to participate in baking, but RSVP are needed to office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245 no later than Tuesday, March 12 so that adequate supplies will be available. If you have any questions, please contact coordinators Mimi Zelman (mimiz21@msn.com) and Bonnie Pomerantz (bonniepom@gmail.com).

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Rabbi Meir has appointed a committee to conduct a search for a prayer leader for the Conservative minyan for the High Holy Days. Chaired by Ben Eisbart, the committee also will include Ron Friedman, Josh Tourkow, and Bob Walters. The committee will interview candidates that have been screened by Rabbi Meir, with the initial search focusing exclusively on a rabbi to lead the services. Rabbi Meir will interview the candidates recommended by the committee before making a final selection.

A task force also has been formed to evaluate the Religious School and find a consultant who can assist us in helping us achieve our vision for youth education program. Task force members are Rabbi Meir, President Ronnie Greenberg,

Religious School Committee Chair Leise Rosman, and Board Secretary Amy Krouse.

Planned Giving Committee Chair Beth Zweig reported to the Board that the Temple has received a generous bequest of \$90,000 from the estate of Leonard & Rikki Goldstein z"l. They were long-time congregants and members of the L'dor Vador Legacy Society. Leonard helped establish the legacy society and co-chaired the Temple's planned giving efforts for many years.

At least four members of the Temple Board will be attending a leadership development boot camp offered by the Union for Reform Judaism.

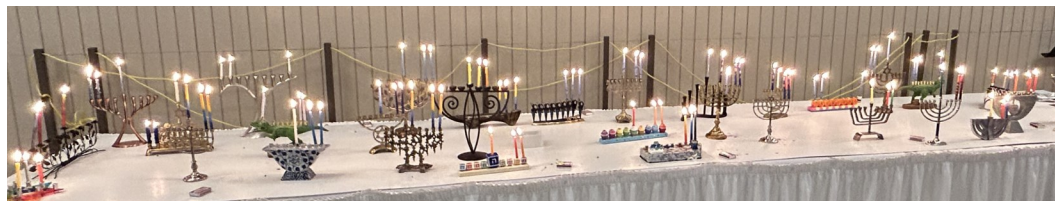


A FUN AND FESTIVE HANUKKAH CELEBRATION WITH LATKES AND LIGHTS

Latkes and lights brought together more than 120 people on December 8 to the Temple to celebrate Hanukkah amid the glow of candles and the warmth of Jewish community. Led by Rabbi Meir Bargeron, we said the blessings and lit our *hanukkiyas* for the second night of the Festival of Lights.

We enjoyed a delicious meal hosted by the ROMEOs that included kosher hot dogs, veggie burgers, corned beef, and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts). Festive holiday décor, crafts and games for the kids were expertly put together by our Holiday Celebrations team. After dinner, social time, and Hanukkah bingo, Rabbi Meir led our Hanukkah and Shabbat service in the Sanctuary.

Many thanks to Denny Reynolds and the ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) and their Juliets for the wonderful meal. Thank you to th Holiday Celebrations team, including Chair Stephanie Gottesman, Kate Crell, Celeste Sexton, Deborah Bauer, and James Holstein for their hard work and creativity. Thank you to Micah Soltz for providing the signature cocktail – inspired by *sufganiyot* – and Sam Krouse on guitar. Thank you to Rabbi Meir, the Temple staff, and all who assisted in creating a delightful evening!



GENEROUS DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS

[Thoughtful Thursdays](#) is so appreciative of the support that we receive!

Amy & Sam Krouse recently made a very generous donation for the purchase of booster seats and coats for the Brightpoint Head Start children. Jon Tam, assistant manager at Trader Joe's, donated 900 grocery bags for the year. Dr. Geoffrey & Rachel Gordon made a donation that will cover some much-needed items this year. Dr. Michael & Ellen Tom contributed toothbrushes and toothpaste. We are so grateful for this additional support.



This month we will be sending home oatmeal, cereal bars, pancake mix, syrup, fruit and pretzels, as well as shampoo, conditioner, paper products and cleaning supplies.



Thank you to our amazing Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers for shopping, shlepping, setting-up and bagging! We also appreciate the continued generosity of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the members of our Jewish community for making Thoughtful Thursdays possible.

Our Thoughtful Thursdays team will meet on Wednesday, February 7 at 10 a.m. to prepare bags for the 51 Brightpoint Head Start children who attend class at the Temple.

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 Sally Trotter at sartrotter@gmail.com.

SWEATPANTS NEEDED

Donations of sweatpants (sizes 4T to 7T) are needed to assist the Brightpoint Head Start children.

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



GUCI-STYLE SHABBAT— Goldman Union Camp Institute song leader Raya Aberbach created a beautiful environment on December 1 for musical prayer and Assistant Camp Director Jillian Hastings reminded us about the role Jewish summer camp creates in helping kids develop lifelong Jewish identities.

We also sent them home with the Torah scroll that was formally presented in November to GUCI Director Jeremy Klotz during the 175th Anniversary Shabbat service.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER 2024 AT GUCI

Goldman Union Camp Institute provides 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 to \$1,000 this summer

SIGN UP FOR NFTY-OV WILD MIDWEST

[Registration is open](#) for [NFTY-Ohio Valley's Wild Midwest 2024](#) on Friday, March 29 through Sunday, March 31 for teens in grades 8-12 at Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville. Join the fun:

- Meet new people and hang out with friends from NFTY, GUCI, Israel and Mitzvah Corps.
- Unplug at camp and enjoy fun in the outdoors
- Wrestle with hot topics and challenge their assumptions during interactive teen-led programs
- Celebrate Shabbat with a delicious dinner, music, and dancing

Register by Sunday, February 18 to guarantee your spot! After this date, registration will be approved on a space-available basis. Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org to find out about subsidies for Temple teens to attend.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO SUPPORT ISRAEL!

We are grateful for your generous support of Israel through the Swords of Iron Campaign, sponsored locally by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) and [Congregation Achduth Vesholom!](#)

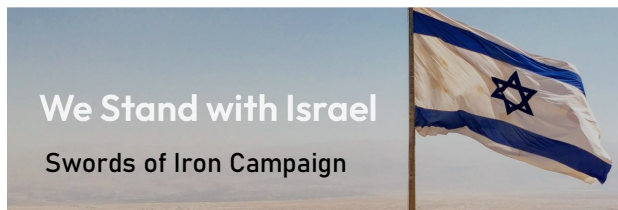
Our community raised \$275,240 to support the people of Israel during this critical time since the October 7 attack by Hamas. Your dollars have provided help with basic needs, assisting those evacuated from frontline communities, those needing medical and trauma care, victims of terror, and so much more.

While this initial phase of our local fundraising campaign has ended, we encourage you to continue your support of Swords of Iron and Israel. [Donate now](#)

Congregation Achduth Vesholom
Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne
Carol & Larry Adelman
Fran & Irv Adler
Patricia & John Alexander
Anonymous (6)
Annie & Dan Appel
Rabbi Meir Bargerone & Jon Tam
Peggy & Marty Bender
Elise & Edward Berghoff
Terry Bonbrake
Cheri Buker
Susan & Alan Cooperman
Nancy & Michael Dicker
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Sharon & Ben Eisbart
Robert B. Elliott Jr.
Pam & Ken Feldman
Janet Finkel
Pamela & Ron Friedman
Cathy Green
Ronnie & Norm Greenberg

Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder
Shai Hadashi
Franck Hagendorf
Dorothy & Franklin Heath
Marilyn & Jeffrey Herman
Dora & Leonid Itkin
Sandy Kelly
Micki & Sherwin Kepes
Amy & Sam Krouse
Jere Leib
Cookie & Leonard Mastbaum
Joanne & Elliott McCrory
Harriet Miller & Monica Wehrle
Cassy & Kelly Moll
Rebecca Painter
SSG R. Kenneth Potts
Maye & Mo Ralston
Marcia & Denny Reynolds
Rifkin Family Foundation
Enid & Stanley Rosenblatt
Christine & Paul Riley
Jo Ellen & Mike Rush

Kay Safirstein
Nancy & Scott Salon
Janice & Michael Sasser
John Saurer
Abe Schreier
Brooklyn Schreier
Jaki & Eric Schreier
Mallory Schreier
Charla Sheray
Ashley Shively
Greg Shoup
Juan Suarez
Thursday Mah Jongg Group
Donna & Josh Tourkow
Therese & Scott Trauner
Deb & Joel Vilensky
Irene & Robert Walters
Cindi & Richard Wismer
Al Zacher
Judy & Steve Zacher
Mimi & Don Zelman
Beth & Dan Zweig



We Stand With Israel Fundraiser

STANDING WITH ISRAEL

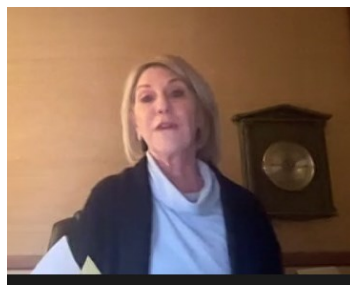
Three programs in December provided opportunities for our Jewish community to gain insights on the situation in Israel since October 7.

Rabbi Naamah Kelman gave an informative [virtual talk](#) on December 3 about life inside Israel during wartime. In addition to describing the realities of Israel's war with Hamas, Rabbi Kelman spoke of the civic response -- the way Israelis have come together to support their soldiers and each other. She taught us that after darkness comes the dawn. Rabbi Kelman is the most recent past dean of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Jerusalem campus.

Fort Wayne native Cathy Maier shared her story of life in Israel before and after the beginning of Israel-Hamas War during her talk on December 12 on Zoom to our Temple community.



Rabbi Naamah Kelman



Cathy Maier

On December 16, the Temple and Jewish Federation organized a **"We Stand With Israel" fundraiser**, beginning with Havdalah and followed by information on the situation in Israel and the critical need for support. Thank you to Rabbi Meir, Ben Eisbart, Ronnie Greenberg, Amy Krouse, Bonnie Pomerantz, Danny Rifkin, Scott Salon, Jaki Schreier, Samara Sheray, Ellen Tom, Bob Walters, and Beth Zweig for spearheading the event and all who supported it.

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.



FILM CLUB

Join us for discussion with the director Maya Sarfaty about her movie

"LOVE IT WAS NOT"

THE IMPOSSIBLE AND TRAGIC LOVE STORY BETWEEN HELENA CITRON, A YOUNG JEWISH PRISONER IN AUSCHWITZ, AND THE AUSTRIAN SS OFFICER FRANZ WUNSCH.

Sunday, February 11
1pm EDT | 8pm IL | 7pm HUN



LINK TO WATCH THE MOVIE WILL BE SENT TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE REGISTERED A WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT.

[RSVP](#)

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

ROSH CHODESH GROUP TO TOUR DEBRAND FINE CHOCOLATES

On Wednesday, March 13 at 6 p.m. the ladies of the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's](#) Rosh Chodesh group will take a delicious tour of [DeBrand Fine Chocolates](#) at 10105 Auburn Road.



This event is free to Federation members; all others will be charged \$10. RSVP to office@fwjf.org or leave a message at (260) 456-0400. Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its continued support.

SAVE THE DATE: YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's](#) annual Yom HaShoah commemoration will take place on Monday, May 6 at 7 pm. More details to follow.

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



Donations

175th Anniversary Celebration:

A donation was received from *Andrea Thomas; Juan Suarez*

Jack and Gertrude Adelman Facility Improvement Fund

In memory of Gertrude Adelman: *Carol & Larry Adelman*
In memory of Ruth Aichele: *Sally & Fritz Aichele*

Art and Beautification Fund

A donation was received from *Rachel & Geoff Gordon*
In honor of Betty Fishman's 100th birthday: *Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder*

B'nai Jacob Conservative Judaism Fund

In memory of Fran Herman: *Marilyn & Jeffrey Herman*

Campership Fund

A donation was received from *Carter A. Morr*

Endowment Fund

A donation was received from *Carter A. Morr*
In memory of Doris Fogel and Rikki Goldstein: *Beth & Dan Zweig*

Floral Fund

A donation was received from *Juan Suarez*

High Holy Days

A donation was received from *Carter A. Morr*

Holocaust Memorial

In memory of Doris Fogel: *Fran & Irv Adler; Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

Dr. John Planer Music Fund

In memory of George Meschel: *Eva & Jason Sagan*

General Operations

A donation was received from *Juan Suarez; Sara Keltsch and The Monogram Shoppe; Cetera Investment; Sue & Gary Mullennix; Judy & Steve Zacher; Luann Watson*
In memory of Doris Fogel: *Judy & Steve Zacher, Susan & Alan Cooperman*

In memory of Arnold Goldsmith: *Jan & Steve Sarratore*

In memory of John V. Malay: *Lori & Frank McCutcheon*

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

In honor of Doris Gottlieb: *Irene & Bob Walters*

In memory of Jack Rosenberg, Leona Zweig Rosenberg, and Dr. Elmer Zweig: *Beth & Dan Zweig*

In memory of Louis Groden, Paulette Bussell Oatley, Anna Bussell, and Frances Groden Bussell: *David Bussell*

In memory Of LeRoy Shine: *Thomas Shine*

In memory of Jacob Yentis: *Jay Yentis*

In memory of Ruth Aichele: *Janet & Andy Katz*

Holocaust Memorial Fund

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

Interfaith Thanksgiving

A donation was received from *Jamie & Jon Berger*

Library Fund

In memory of Rabbi Richard B. Safran: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*

Kathryn Kann Mendelblatt Cultural Enrichment Fund

In memory of Samuel Rothberg and David Rothberg: *Stephen Rothberg*

Prayer Book Fund

A donation was received from *Carter A. Morr*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation was received from *Carter A. Morr*
In memory of Doris Fogel: *Susie & Art Fogel*
In memory of Ethel Rath: *Irene & Bob Walters*

Religious School

In Honor Of Donna Tourkow, Marcia Reynolds, Janet Finkel: *Franck Hagendorf*
In memory of Elias Punskey: *Fani & Erika Kozolchyk*

Temple Gardens Fund

A donation was received from *Rachel & Geoff Gordon*
In memory of Samuel Greenberg, Michal Benari Greenberg, and Geraldine Greenberg Reich: *Ronnie & Norm Greenberg*
In memory of Louis Meyers: *Patrice & Mike Sposeep*
In memory of Jeanette Lewis: *Rita & Michael Lewis*

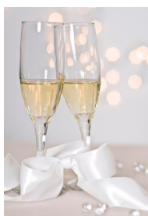
Thoughtful Thursdays

A donation was received from *Rachel & Geoff Gordon*
In memory of Salomon Z. Safirstein: *Kay Safirstein*
In memory of Jerome M. Trotter, Ethel J. Trotter, Deborah Niemen, Helen Coffman, Louella W. Williams, and Nelson W. Williams: *Sally & Steve Trotter*
In memory of Thomas Butz: *Nola & Matthew Katinsky*
In honor of Sally Trotter: *Cheri Buker*
In memory of Rikki Goldstein: *Susan & Alan Cooperman*
In memory of Marilyn Salon: *Nancy & Scott Salon*

Weiman Youth Activities Fund

A donation was received from *Lisa & David Post*
In memory of Rikki Goldstein: *Maureen & Alan Grinsfelder*
In memory of LeRoy Shine: *Larry Shine*

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

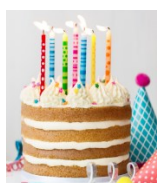


MAZEL TOV TO:

Jaki & Eric Schreiber on the marriage of their son, Abe, to Kayla Hurley on January 5, 2024 in Fort Wayne.

Betty Fishman on celebrating her 100th birthday on December 6, 2023.

Maria Barger on celebrating her 80th birthday on January 31, 2024.



February Jahrzeits

February 2-3

Rosalind Adelman
 Manuel Babich
 Sidney Baitcher
 Judith Baitcher
 Nancy Barasch
 Rose Besser
 Ann Butler
 Shirley Cohodes
 Beatrice Cristil
 Nathan Fisher
 Mae Freiburger
 Fred Golden
 Michael H. Green
 Elizabeth Kirschner
 Rose Kraus
 Marvin Kravitz
 Rose Levy
 Hyman Marcus
 Douglas Martin
 Joan Leva Marx
 Beckie Metzger
 Deborah Rachel Neiman
 Rosa Novitsky
 Abe Ochstein
 William Ochstein
 Ben Oppenheim
 Fay Pecken
 Anna Perlman
 Mae Rifkin
 Stephen Russ
 Louis Scheinberg
 John Schmitz
 Harvey Siegel
 Samuel Strass
 Abraham Strouse
 Marshall Warshauer
 Charles Weinraub
 Harry A. Wenbert

Nathan Wertheimer

Jacob Yentis

February 9-10

Molly Bleifeld
 Stephen Bosell
 Louis Brenn
 Dr. Maurice A. Chodosh
 Jennifer Cohen
 Esther Congress
 Jane Costanza
 Jacob E. Dessauer
 Irvin Friedman
 Robert Garber
 Rose Goldberger
 Hy Goldenberg
 Sol Greenberg
 Frida Greengrass
 Eunice Greenstein
 Mary Brooks Gutowitz
 Abraham Heilbroner
 Aaron S. Heiligman
 Ben Hersh
 Irma Hesslein
 Roy Lawrence Kalver
 Isadore Kaplan
 Gertrude Kessler
 Mary Kohn
 Julia Kraus
 Joseph Kutcher
 Peter Lauinger
 John Vaun Malay
 Arthur Marx
 Edward S. Merin
 Dorothy Moyer
 Sam Pass
 Jesse E. Ross
 Herman Rudensky
 Harriet Rudensky
 John Sabo
 Emily Sahlmann
 Ben Salon

Neil Sandler

Jack I. Schultz

Ann Shafer

Jean Siegel

Jennette M. Vogel

Max Yaffe

Sadie Zinn

Jennie Zweig

February 16-17

Frieda Barris
 Joseph Baum
 Norman Bosell
 Edward Brower
 Adolph Epstein
 Fred Fidler
 Leah Margaret Ford
 Shirley Ruth Jason Ford
 Florence Frank
 Pearl Gladstone
 Lawrence D. Gordon
 Benjamin J. Hutner
 Ernest S. Iczkowitz
 Louis Jason
 Clair Johnson
 Alex K. Klein-Klarke
 Stella Komito
 Beatrice Lamb
 Eliza Lichtenberg
 Rebecca Milstein
 Fannie Ress
 Irving W. Rifkin
 Jack Ruderman
 Harry Rush
 Hyman Abraham Sachs
 Max Salon
 Robert B. Schuller
 Ethel Strassberg
 Mildred Weber

Sally Zack

February 23-24

William Bronstein
 Sam Cristil
 Carrie (Latz) Frank
 Sheila Gaspar
 Lillie Gosney
 Lillian Altman Gubitz
 Michael Guerrasio
 Leon Himelstein
 Ruth Horn
 Rose Horwitz
 Helen Hassan Kaufman
 Abraham Kritzer
 Samuel Kwatnez
 David Landy
 G. Irving Latz
 Hattie Lehman
 Max Levant
 Henry Levy
 Jeanne Phillips
 Mary Pollak
 Robert Polz
 Dr. J. M. Rosenthal
 Cecelia Rothschild
 Louis Ruderman
 Abraham Silver
 Tillie Bosell Snow
 Rabbi Leo Stillpass
 Louis Sulzer
 Robert A. Watson
 Irving Weinswig
 Alexander Baruch Welcher
 Ralph Wolf
 Hannah Frankenstein Zacher

CONDOLENCES TO:

Ina Hochberg and family on the death of her husband, Bob Hochberg, on January 21, 2024 in Fort Wayne. We also think of his sons, Adam (Libby) Hochberg and Jeffrey Hochberg.

The family of Dennis Dan, a long-time member who died on January 17, 2024 in Roanoke. We think of his children, Scott, Melissa, and Becca.

Dana & Jay Zemmol and family on the death of his mother, Lois Zemmol, on December 17, 2023. We also think of their children, Zack and Zoey, on the death of their grandmother.

The family of Doris Fogel, 89, a long-time member who died on December 13, 2023 in Northbrook, Illinois. She was president of the Temple from 1990-1992 and 2005-2007. She also

was president for six years of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne prior to becoming its Executive Director. We think of her sons, Arthur (Susie) and Daniel (Deborah), and daughter Deborah Charen (Andrew); and eight grandchildren, Annie Fogel, Lucy Fogel, Ellie Fogel, Sarah Fogel, Johnny Fogel, Jacob Charen, Emily Charen, and Rebecca Charen.

The family of Ruth F. "Rikki" (Kutcher) Goldstein, 98, a long-time Temple member who died on December 7, 2023. We think of her children, Michael Goldstein, Steven Goldstein, Jan Goldstein, and Lisa Post; grandchildren, Ben, Jon, Amanda, Anya, Cort, Arlee, Zach, Kailee, Brittne, Brian and Jonathan; and great-grandchildren.



THE
TEMPLE
CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

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office@templecav.org
www.templecav.org

Charter Member of the Union for Reform Judaism
Meir Bargeron, Rabbi
Richard B. Safran, Rabbi Emeritus z”l

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Jamie Fritz: Comptroller accounts@templecav.org

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 March Bulletin is
Thursday, February 15

President's Corner Ronnie Greenberg



One year ago, in February 2023, the Board had just adopted the partnership model of governance we are currently using, and we were working on rewriting our foundational statements: our mission, vision and values statements. I am happy to report that things are going well on both these issues. The foundational statements revision is complete, and the partnership model is in place and functioning. We occasionally have a glitch and something may fall through the cracks or two people may, unknowingly, work on the same thing at the same time, but we straighten it out and, for the most part, it's working.

One thing that became obvious as we worked through implementing the partnership model was that our Bylaws did not give us sufficient flexibility to operate as efficiently as possible at any given time. Those last four words "at any given time" are critical. The environment within our congregation constantly changes as congregants move in and out of our congregational family and we lose key people but gain other dedicated volunteers. The environment outside the congregation to which we may want to respond also changes constantly as social issues recede or come to the forefront. It may be my imagination, but it seems that change is happening at an accelerating rate.

Our Bylaws are constraining in several ways and another column in this Bulletin details those problems (see page 8) and our proposals for fixing them. It is very important that every congregant understand the issues and actively participates in the decision to change the parameters that will give us the flexibility to move forward.

An affirmative vote of two-thirds of our congregation is needed to amend the Bylaws. When you consider that each household has up to two votes, that's a lot of people! That's why it's so important that everyone participates. There will be a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person, and voting via zoom will be in real time. There will also be an option to send in an absentee ballot. I don't recommend this unless you absolutely cannot join the zoom. The reason is that, if the proposed Bylaws are amended by the congregation on March 6 and the final vote is to accept the amended Bylaws, we will be unable to count the absentee ballots in the total. So please try to join the meeting in person or on zoom. Your vote definitely counts!

I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee – Beth Zweig, John Stein, Amy Krouse, Micah Soltz and *ex officio* members Rabbi Meir and Samara Sheray – for serving as an ad hoc Bylaws revision task force. We had many thoughtful discussions and believe that the proposed changes will benefit Congregation Achduth Vesholom for many years.

I encourage everyone to attend one of the Zoom town hall meetings for more information. If you are not able to do that and have questions, please feel free to email or call me. Also, and most importantly, please mark the March 6 congregational meeting on your calendar now. This is your congregation. Please study the issues and vote.