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WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT?
FIND OUT AT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Passover begins on Monday, April 22 when we retell the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt and freedom from bondage. Please join our Temple family for the Second Seder on Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. at the Temple.

We'll read the Haggadah led by Rabbi Meir Bargeron and dine on a traditional, kosher-style Pesach meal of brisket with veggies or eggplant parmesan, potato kugel and roasted broccoli. Thank you to the ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for coordinating the meal -- and especially to Denny Reynolds for chairing.

Please RSVP no later than Friday, April 12 to the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org, and then follow up by sending your check made payable to "CAV - The Temple" or [pay online](#). When you RSVP, please indicate if you prefer a vegetarian entrée. Reservations must accompany payment. We will not be taking payment the night of the event.

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

The cost for Temple members is \$35 for adults; \$15 for children ages 3-12 who are not enrolled in the Religious School; and free for children under age 3. For non-members, the cost is \$40 for adults; \$18 for children 3-12; and free for children under age 3. No refunds will be issued for cancellations or no-shows. Reservations after the April 12 deadline will be taken if space is available. An accurate count is needed to prepare the appropriate amount of food.

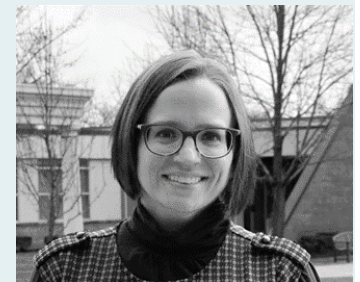
INDIANA SYNAGOGUES FOCUS OF NEIJGS AND 175th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM
Mapping Project and Restoration of Former Synagogue in Ligonier

The [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) is excited to welcome Dr. Wendy Soltz and Greg Merrell to the [ACPL Genealogy Center](#) on Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. for an afternoon of local history in conjunction with Congregation Achduth Vesholom's 175th Anniversary celebration. Please join us:

- 2 p.m. – [Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project - Dr. Wendy Soltz](#) will go over the digital map and its functionality, as well as demonstrate what can be gleaned from the data visualization platforms used to preserve and document the synagogues across the state of Indiana.
- 3:30 p.m. – [Ligonier Restoration](#) – Greg Merrell will relate how he and his wife Stacey have purchased the former synagogue, [Ahavath Shalom](#), from Indiana Landmarks in an effort to convert a historic property into a home.

Wendy Soltz, a Temple member, is an Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at Ball State University. She regularly works with the public and non-profits to curate exhibitions, organize collections, and assist in historical programming. Wendy conceived of the Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project in 2018 while she was the Executive Director of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. Over the course of five years and a grant from the National Parks Service, Wendy has made 45 survey stops and has conducted archival research to reveal and document 66 purpose-built synagogues across the State of Indiana from 1865-2015.

Continued on page 11



UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

APRIL SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat Service

Friday, April 5
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 6
9:45 a.m.

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish

Shabbat

Friday, April 12
5:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, April 12
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 13
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, April 19
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 20
9:45 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday, April 26
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 27
9:45 a.m.



CAN'T COME IN PERSON? JOIN US ONLINE!

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

APRIL EVENTS

Thoughtful Thursdays

Wednesday, April 10
10 a.m.

NEIJGS/175th: Synagogue Mapping Project with Wendy Soltz

Sunday, April 14
2 p.m.

Greg Merrell: Ligonier Restoration

3:30 p.m. At ACPL and Zoom
[Register to attend online](#)

Congregational Second Seder

Tuesday, April 23
6 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, April 12

MAY & JUNE EVENTS

Ellie Vance: History of Jews in the Russian Empire NEIJGS

Sunday, May 5
2 p.m. ACPL and Zoom

Yom Hashoah Commemoration

Monday, May 6
7 p.m. at the Temple
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne

Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat with Musician Matt Check

Friday, May 10
5:30 p.m.

Shabbat & 5th Grade Prayer Book Presentation

Friday, May 31
6:30 p.m.

Temple Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 5
7 p.m. in person and Zoom

Lunch with the ROMEOs

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

Thursday, April 4
[Cosmo's Restaurant](#)
9807 Lima Rd.

Thursday, April 18
[West Coast Grille](#)
2310 S. Calhoun St.

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

[Find the lunch schedule](#)



MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR A BLESSING

Audrey Gerson

A gravestone unveiling and dedication service in memory of Audrey Gerson will be held on Sunday, May 5 at 12:30 p.m. at the [Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery](#) at [6224 Decatur Rd.](#) The congregation is invited to attend.

Harriet Crell

A gravestone unveiling and dedication service in memory of Harriet Crell will be held on Sunday, May 12 at 11 a.m. at the [Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery](#) at [6224 Decatur Rd.](#) The congregation is invited to attend.



Rabbi Meir Bargeron: TABLES OF RESILIENCE

Soon we will gather together in our homes, and then [again on the next night as a Temple community](#), for the Pesach seder, an order of re-enactment and memory. Pesach is not merely a commemoration of an ancient event; it is a timeless celebration of Jewish identity and resilience, intimately connecting the themes of the Exodus story to the enduring notion of Jewish peoplehood.



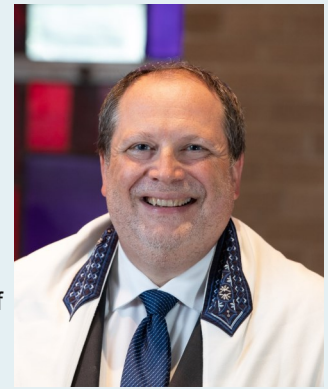
At its core, Pesach signifies the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, guided by the leadership of Moses and the miraculous intervention of the Divine. Yet its significance transcends historical retelling, resonating deeply with the collective

Jewish soul and reinforcing the bonds that unite the Jewish people across generations. Even though we typically experience the Seder with family, close friends, and synagogue communities, a Jew can come to any Seder table and fully experience the commemoration of our liberation. This is how peoplehood connects us.

The memory of the Exodus serves as a powerful reminder of the Jewish people's resilience in the face of adversity, fostering a shared sense of identity rooted in perseverance and faith. This Pesach, in particular, we understand adversity. We experienced a collective Jewish trauma on October 7, 2023, which brings these words from our Haggadah into clear relief:

God's unfailing help has sustained our ancestors and us. For not only one enemy has risen up to destroy us, but in every generation do enemies rise up against us, seeking to destroy us. But the Holy One, praised be God, delivers us from their hands.

In this generation, we have witnessed a great enemy of the Jewish people rise up against us, [quite literally seeking to destroy us](#). While the greatest danger is experienced in Israel, diaspora Jews worldwide have faced an increase in antisemitism, sometimes violent. It can feel as if Jews in America are also living in a state of conflict, one that emerged unexpectedly. However, as we read the words of the Haggadah, we are reminded that the Jewish people face peril in every generation. It is not difficult at all to see this when reviewing Jewish history.



We are again in a period of great adversity, unlike what many of us have experienced in our lifetimes. But the Haggadah gives us hope because Jewish resilience is a proven response to the peril. From a religious perspective, we remember that God has led us across dangerous waters before. From a communal perspective, we can take comfort and draw strength from our people. We have been and will be there for each other, just as we reunite each year at the Seder table.

Pesach serves as a catalyst for solidarity and mutual support within the Jewish community, especially during times of difficulty or change. Just as the Israelites rallied together to confront the challenges of the wilderness, contemporary Jews draw strength from our interconnectedness, offering assistance and comfort to one another in times of need. Whether through acts of charity, communal prayer, or simply by providing a listening ear, Jews uphold the values of compassion and solidarity that lie at the heart of our collective identity.

This year may we support one other in communal solidarity.
Chag Pesach Sameach.
Rabbi Meir



Parliamentarian David Crell declares a quorum at the special congregational meeting in March.

PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE

Although there was overwhelming support for proposed revisions to the Temple bylaws from those who participated in the special congregational meeting on March 6, the changes were not approved because not enough congregants voted.

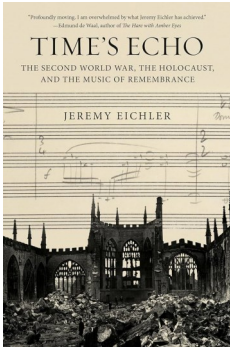
To amend the bylaws, two-thirds of those eligible to vote must approve. Seventy people attended in person or on Zoom, while others voted by absentee ballot. But we were well short of the numbers needed to pass the changes. Thank you to those who took the time to vote. (See President's column on page 16.)

The Board decided at its March 14 meeting to update the bylaws proposal and bring the new revisions to the congregation for approval on Wednesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. at the Temple's annual meeting. The new proposal will be sent to congregants as the meeting gets closer. In addition to the bylaws, members also will vote on candidates for the Temple board and the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Board members will continue to stress to our members the importance of understanding the bylaws that govern our congregation and why modifications are needed periodically as our demographics and needs change.

We thank you for your membership and support of the congregation.

PICK UP AN AWARD-WINNING TITLE IN... YOUR TEMPLE LIBRARY!

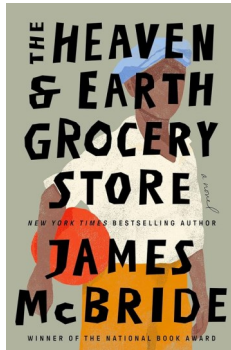


In January, the winners of the 2023 National Jewish Book Awards were announced by the Jewish Book Council. We have added several of the titles to our collection in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#).

The 2023 Jewish Book of the Year was Jeremy Eichler's *Time's Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance*. The idea behind the book is the power of music to convey history. The author explores the works of Richard Strauss, Arnold Schoenberg,

Dmitri Shostakovich and Benjamin Britten, and how they capture the meaning of the past in their music. In addition to being the Book of the Year, this title also received the awards in the History and Holocaust categories.

The winner in the Book Club category was James McBride's *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*. Set in the 1930s in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, its characters come from the Jewish and African-American communities. Finalists in the Book Club category include *The Postcard* by Anne Berest, *The Wolf Hunt*, by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, and Jennifer Rosner's *Once We Were Home*.



In the Children's Picture Book category, the winner was

Richard Ho's *Two New Years*, which also won a Sydney Taylor Award, featured in last month's bulletin. Finalists were *The Inside Name* by Randi Sonenshine, and *Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport* by Caren Stelson.

All-Night Pharmacy by Ruth Madievsky was the winner in the Debut Fiction category. From The Los Angeles Times, "All-Night Pharmacy crackles with the energy of Hubert Selby Jr.'s Requiem for a Dream or Patrick deWitt's Ablutions . . . It pulses with intensity as its characters struggle to find their way. The taut narrative is driven by Madievsky's razor-sharp prose." Finalists in this category include *The Light of Seven Days* by River Adams, and *To Die Beautiful* by Buzzy Jackson.

In the Middle Grade Literature category, *The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman*, by Mari Lowe, was the winner. This was also a Sydney Taylor Award winner. Finalists include *Two Tribes*, a graphic novel by Emily Bowen Cohen, *The Witch of Woodland* by Laurel Snyder, and Jeremy Dronfield's *The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz: A True Story Retold for Young Readers*.

The Blood Years, by Elana K. Arnold, was the winner in the Young Adult Literature category. This was a Sydney Taylor Award winner as well. Finalists include *Just a Hat* by S. Khubiar, and Neal Shusterman's graphic novel, *Courage to Dream: Tales of Hope in the Holocaust*.

All of the above titles are ready and waiting for you in the library. Please take advantage of this congregational resource. [A full list of winners](#) can be found on the JBC website.

MARCH TEMPLE BOOK CLUB: "THE LATECOMER"

Our Temple Book Club met on March 12 for an interesting discussion about *The Latecomer*, followed by a conversation with author Jean Hanff Korelitz. We learned about her writing process and had the opportunity to ask questions about this very intriguing book. Thank you to Jean for joining us! We appreciate Betsy Gephart for leading our book club and the Jewish Book Council for making the author available.



CHANGES COMING FOR THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS

Thoughtful Thursdays is making some changes. I will be stepping down as chairperson on July 1 after four years, and I am delighted to announce that Cheryl Schorey has enthusiastically agreed to assume that position.

We are in our 14th year providing food and household items for the Brightpoint Head Start children who attend class at the Temple. Because of the dedication of our volunteers, I know it will continue on for many years to come.

Our volunteers will be meeting on Wednesday, April 10 at 10 a.m. at the Temple to assemble the bags.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a joint project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#).

Sally Trotter, *Thoughtful Thursdays chair*



Youth News

USING “AND” AS PART OF OUR JEWISH IDENTITY

Our B’nei Mitzvah families recently talked about Jewish identity and how the communities they belong to are inclusive or exclusive of their Jewish practices and beliefs – including our own Jewish community!

The lesson included insights from Kohenet Keshira haLev Fife, a spiritual leader, educator and activist in Pittsburgh who identifies as a Jew of Color. He suggests that it is time that people who have complicated answers to questions of Jewish identity move from saying, “I am a Jew BUT...” to saying, “I am a Jew AND...”

So, instead of saying, “I’m Jewish, BUT I’m half something else,” one would say, “I’m Jewish AND I also have another identity that really matters to me.” Or instead of saying, “I’m Jewish, BUT I eat pork,” one would say, “I’m Jewish AND I enjoy both kosher and non-kosher food.”

If more people spoke this way, he suggests, then maybe we would see that there are many ways of expressing Jewish identity.

As I was thinking about our upcoming Passover lesson, I looked more into the different ways Jews around the world celebrate the holiday. Passover is the oldest continuously celebrated holiday in the Jewish calendar, so there has been plenty of time for Jews throughout history to reimagine and reinterpret how they celebrate our Exodus from Egypt.

Here are a few interesting examples that could even find their way to your seder table:

Jews in Romania fill a pillowcase with heavy objects and carry it around the table, with each person at the seder taking a turn.

Jewish families in Gibraltar add actual brick dust to their charoset – the chunky mixture of fruit and nuts we eat during our seder.

Hungarian Jews decorate their seder table with gold and silver jewelry, recognizing the Egyptians gave these precious items to the Israelites as a way of bribing them to leave.

In Poland, seder guests act out the crossing of the sea in their dining rooms. Some families even pour water on the floor to make the experience all the more realistic.

Some Ethiopian Jews destroy their dishes and cookware and make new ones to signify their hope for redemption.

And right here in Fort Wayne, Indiana, we have a Passover tradition of joining together for our congregational Second Seder, this year on Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. (See page 1 for details and RSVP information).

We’ll read the Haggadah and dine on a traditional, kosher-style Pesach meal. Students enrolled in Religious School may attend at no charge by making a reservation at office@templecav.org and when accompanied by a parent. See you there!

Leise Rosman, Religious School Committee chair



Upcoming Religious School Dates

- Sunday, April 14 at 10 a.m. – Religious School at Temple – All Students
- Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. – Second Seder
- Sunday, May 5 at 10 a.m. – Religious School at Temple – All Students
- Sunday, May 19 at 10 a.m. – Last Day of Religious School – Maccabiah Games
- Friday, May 31 at 6:30 p.m. – Prayer books presented to 5th Grade students during Shabbat Service



Our Middot students worked on self-expression through art during their Sunday session with a facilitator from The Advot Project.



Our Bimah Buddies families during their Jewish identity lesson in March.

SHARE NEWS OF YOUR GRADUATE

We look forward to celebrating education milestones with our Temple family! If you have a child graduating from high school or college this year, please let us know so that we may offer congratulations, list the school attended, and include future plans in our Bulletin. Please send graduation information by Friday, May 10 to be included in our June/July Bulletin. Contact us at office@TempleCAV.org or (260) 744-4245.

Youth News



WELCOMING YOUNG FAMILIES FOR SHABBAT AT JOY VEY

Please join us on Friday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. for Joy Vey! A Kid-ish Shabbat for a playful and silly, yet peaceful start to Shabbat for the whole family!

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 on the second Friday night of each month.

Folks are encouraged to stick around to enjoy a glass of wine/ juice, challah, and dinner afterwards!



Our Joy Vey families shared a fun Shabbat evening in March that included working together to create their own "mishkan" (tabernacle) out of blocks. Thank you to Sam Krouse and Stephanie Gottesman for leading the service, with Rabbi Meir. A pizza dinner followed.



MATTHEW CHECK

SHARE JOY VEY WITH MUSICIAN MATT CHECK IN MAY

Don't miss our festive monthly Joy Vey Shabbat service for young families on Friday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m. when we welcome [Matt Check](#), an accomplished singer-songwriter, guitarist, banjoist and producer of Americana, bluegrass, Jewish music and children's music.

After almost 20 years in New York City as a Jewish educator and musician, Matt now serves as director of lifelong learning at Wise Temple in Cincinnati. He holds an MA in Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary (2008), as well as an MPA from Baruch College (2011).

Matt's visit is the first of four special music programs during Joy Vey services thanks to the generosity of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation. Musician [Juliette Nehring](#) will join us for two Shabbat morning services for young families on Saturdays, August 10 and January 11 at 10:30 a.m. Folk singer [Joanie Calet](#) will lead the Joy Vey Shabbat service on Friday, October 18 for Sukkot.



BAKING AT THE HAMENTASHENPALOOZA

Temple bakers came prepared on March 17 to create a variety of delicious hamentashen for our Purim celebration. They brought favorite fillings for the centers of the three-cornered treats, including apricot, raspberry, strawberry, cherry, chocolate, fig, and more. Experienced bakers shared tips with novices as we shared stories and got better acquainted during this annual opportunity to help the Temple. Thank you to Bonnie Pomerantz and Mimi Zelman for chairing the hamentashenpalooza.



FUN TIMES AT THE PURIM CARNIVAL & SPIEL

Our Purim festivities on March 24 included a spiel, followed by a costume parade and carnival for all ages with games, bingo, bounce houses, face painting, balloon animals, prizes and more. A silent auction and mah jongg took place in the Resource Center.

We noshed on a lunch spread of lox, bagels, whitefish salad, chopped liver, fruit, and pizza, along with hamentashen created by a team of bakers, led by Bonnie Pomerantz and Mimi Zelman.

Thank you to Stephanie Gottesman for coordinating the silent auction and to all the contributors; David Crell for organizing the Temple Purim Players; Geoff Gordon and

Shai Hadashi for being in charge of all the games and prizes – and to the Temple youth for running the games; Dave Flapen and Seth Wineglass for selling tickets; Celeste Sexton for our beautiful decorations; Deborah Bauer for running Bingo; Micah Soltz for running the saloon; Wendy Soltz to baking dozens of cupcakes and our hamentashen bakers; Stephanie Gottesman and Donna Tourkow for making kugel; Seth Wineglass for making chopped liver and David Crell for making the whitefish salad; Dawn Hammond for taking pictures and helping with set-up; Samara Sheray for all her help; and Kate Crell for pulling everyone together.

175TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON CELEBRATES AND CONNECTS



When the Temple's 175th Anniversary Committee first met in late 2022, the 20-member team began brainstorming about different possibilities to help mark this important milestone. As Rabbi Meir Bargeron said at the time, "we want to offer an opportunity to celebrate and connect our community."

Led by Co-Chairs Kathy Sider and Beth Zweig, the committee looked at how to involve a wide variety of age groups within the congregation and how to welcome those outside our membership.

The 175th crew generated ideas, raised money, developed marketing plans, pulled together numerous events, navigated heightened security issues, and went from a celebration weekend to a season.

During a recent recap meeting, the group was surprised to realize they had coordinated or assisted with at least 18 events, along with a 175th anniversary history booklet and a video chronicling our story since 1848.

Through the committee's efforts, the Temple launched a new Jewish Heritage Tour developed with ARCH, supported a mitzvah project to help 175 foster children in northeast Indiana, and gave the gift of a Torah to Goldman Union Camp Institute in honor of our long association.

And the greater community also learned about the Temple through an exhibit called "Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom" at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, which was co-curated by Dr. Wendy Soltz and Sharon Eisbart. Wendy also taught us more about the collection during a lecture at the museum.

Over the months, our congregation welcomed Union for Reform Judaism President Rabbi Rick Jacobs; musician Orin Reynolds; GUCI Director Jeremy Klotz; Musician-in-Residence Shira Kline; local artist Hilarie Couture; and Torah Scribe Rabbi Moshe Druin, who explained the intricate process of writing a Torah and the role of a sofer.

Our Legacy Rabbinic Scholars - Rabbi Jonathan Greenberg, Rabbi Rachel Greengrass, Rabbi Jen Gubitz – all children who grew up at CAV and later became rabbis – provided diverse learning sessions. Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Gary Zola, Executive Director Emeritus of the Jewish American Archives, gave a fascinating talk about George Washington, Jews and Religious Freedom in America, as well as an introspective look at "The Future of our Past: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom," which included new research on Jewish history in Fort Wayne.

For our mitzvah project, we learned about foster care from Erin Warner, social media coordinator for Fostering Hope for Children; therapist and social worker Kris Wise; and former SCAN director Rachel Tobin-Smith. And we collected and shopped for lots and lots of items.

An open house during our celebration weekend brought nearly 400 people to our building for the heritage tour by trolley, music by a string quartet from the Philharmonic, a Judaica display in the resource center, Jewish-themed desserts and challot shaped like the numerals "1-7-5," and members serving as docents who gave explanations of objects and spaces in our building.

A beautiful summer Shabbat included music by

Shira Kline for our Joy Vey families and later for the entire congregation, along with a BBQ hosted by the ROMEOS. On a winter evening, we gathered for Havdalah and enjoyed the talents of our members during the Beit Café Coffeehouse.

Most recently, the 175th volunteers attended an appreciation event that included an opportunity to take the Jewish Heritage Tour (since our volunteers were busily welcoming guests when it was offered in November) and celebration at the new Chapman's Brewing at Electric Works.

The Temple is grateful to our 175th Anniversary sponsors, who contributed \$100,506 toward the events. We also thank the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for being our lead sponsor and Irene Walters for chairing our fundraising. We are still determining final expenses for the celebration. Remaining donations will be utilized for future Temple programming.

Still to come on Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. is a joint 175th program with the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society at the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center. Dr. Wendy Soltz will discuss the Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project and Greg Merrell will discuss how he and his wife, Stacey, are restoring the former synagogue in Ligonier as a residence. (See page 1)

The Temple's 175th Anniversary history video also will be shown in June at the Temple's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 5.

Thank you to our 175th team: 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.



During a 175th anniversary appreciation event on March 3, our 175th Anniversary Committee and volunteers took a Jewish Heritage Tour of Fort Wayne by trolley and party bus, led by docents from ARCH.

Following our travels around Fort Wayne learning about our community's Jewish history, we enjoyed appetizers (including delicious brisket sliders!) and beverages at the gorgeous new Chapman's Brewing Company taproom and brewery at Electric Works. We're grateful to Chapman's Owner Scott Fergusson for showing us the brewhouse, explaining the beer-making process and history of the building, and welcoming Achduth Vesholom members during a busy time a few days ahead of Chapman's grand opening.

175th Season of Events 2023-2024

May 2, 2023 – Writing, repairing, and caring for a Torah with Rabbi Moshe Druin, President of Sofer-on-Site International

August 18-19, 2023 Musician-in-Residence Weekend with Shira Kline

August 20, 2023 – Artist Hilarie Couture’s “Diversity with Variety” exhibit and program with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

October 27, 2023 – Hot Topics Shabbat with Erin Warner, social media coordinator for Fostering Hope for Children as part of 175th Anniversary Mitzvah Project

November 10-12 Celebration Weekend

- Shabbat service led by Rabbi Meir Bargeron, with music by Orin Reynolds. Guest speaker: Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism.
- Shabbat service led by Ron Friedman with Rabbi Meir Bargeron, followed by Kiddush luncheon
- Dinner, followed by song session and Havdalah with Orin Reynolds
- Open House with Jewish Heritage Tour; grand opening of Goldman Memorial Museum; building tours; string quartet from Fort Wayne Philharmonic; Jewish-themed refreshments

November 11, 2023 to January 28, 2024 “Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom,” at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

December 3, 2023 – Mitzvah Day to assemble baskets and to learn about foster care from Kris Wise, a licensed clinical therapist, and Rachel Tobin-Smith, past Executive Director at SCAN

January 14, 2024 – Mitzvah Day to assemble baskets with hygiene items, blanket, and stuffed animal for foster children in the community.

February 3, 2024 – Beit Café Coffeehouse, led by Maestro Robert Nance and featuring talent from within our congregation

February 22-23, 2024 – Scholar-in-Residence with Rabbi Dr. Gary Zola, Executive Director Emeritus, American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati

January and February 2024 – Legacy Rabbinic Scholars Learning Sessions with rabbis who grew up at Achduth Vesholom: Rabbi Jonathan Greenberg, Rabbi Rachel Greengrass, Rabbi Jen Gubitx

April 14, 2024 - Dr. Wendy Soltz on her Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project and Greg Merrell on the Ligonier synagogue restoration – in conjunction with the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society

June 5, 2024 – Screening of a video telling the Temple’s history, following the annual congregational meeting



175TH ART MUSEUM EXHIBIT RECEIVES AWARD

“Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom” was named Outstanding Artistic Endeavor on March 20 during the Arts United Awards. Curated by Temple members Dr. Wendy Soltz and Sharon Eisbart, the exhibit at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art took visitors through the Temple’s history using seven different themes with items from the collections of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art and Temple. It was featured from November 11, 2023 to January 28, 2024 as part of the Temple’s 175th Anniversary season of events. Mazel tov to Wendy and Sharon and all who contributed to this wonderful exhibit.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM PRESIDENT BIDEN

As our milestone anniversary season winds down, we’re grateful for the letter from President Joe Biden recognizing this important event in the life of our congregation.



THE WHITE HOUSE
 WASHINGTON

Congratulations on your anniversary.

Places of worship have been an essential part of our Nation’s fabric since our founding, providing hope and comfort to generations of Americans. They strengthen our faith and nourish our souls. Our congregations call us to love one another, serve our communities, and uphold the dignity of every person because we are all children of our Creator.

May you reflect with pride on the role you play in your community, and may this moment of celebration inspire all of you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Continued from page 1

INDIANA SYNAGOGUES FOCUS OF NEIJGS AND 175th PROGRAM Mapping Project and Restoration of Former Synagogue in Ligonier

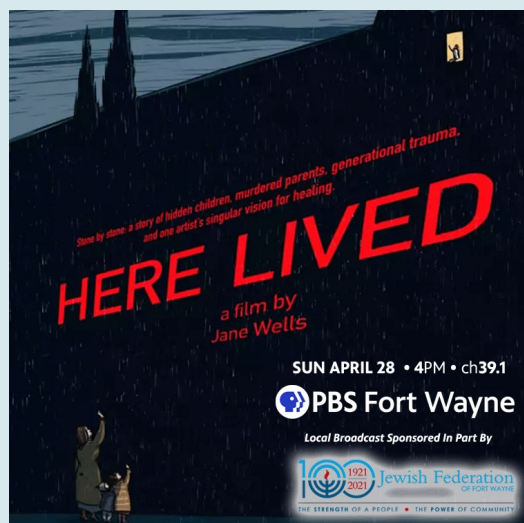


Greg Merrell is an I.T. Director for an Illinois-based consulting firm. He and his wife, Stacey, had always wanted to live in non-conventional housing. With roots in Indiana but requiring a quicker commute via the South Shore Line into Chicago, Greg and Stacey moved North. Thus began a two-year project to convert Ahavath Shalom Synagogue into a Home.

This program is in-person at the Genealogy Center. To join us online, [register here](#).

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation, the Dr. Louis and Anne B. Schneider Foundation, the Lande 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.



"HERE LIVED" DOCUMENTARY TO AIR ON PBS

[Here Lived](#) is the story of hidden children, murdered parents, generational trauma and one artist's singular vision for healing. Produced by 3 generations films, it is the story of a German artist creating small monuments on the streets of Europe of people lost in the Holocaust. It's also the story of survivors of Nazi victims looking for some connection to their lost families. Ultimately it is a story of the beauty of discovery, love, and reconciliation and the unimaginable sadness of the Holocaust.

Sponsored by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#), the program airs on [PBS Fort Wayne](#) (39-1) on Sunday, April 28 at 4 p.m.; on PBS Explore (39-4) on Monday, April 29 at 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 1 at 11 p.m., and Thursday, May 2 at 9 a.m.

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

ISRAEL AT WAR: A VIEW FROM THE GROUND

Sam Sokol, a veteran Israeli journalist presently serving as the political correspondent for [The Times of Israel](#), spoke with members of the Fort Wayne Jewish community on March 17 about the political landscape inside wartime Israel. After his talk, he answered a number of questions from attendees, offering his candid views of the situation in Israel and Gaza. This program was co-sponsored by the Temple and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, with support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.



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.



YOM HASHOAH
FORT WAYNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

SHARING "LETTERS TO ELSA" AS PART OF SECOND GENERATION NETWORK



Temple members Irv & Fran Adler are authors of [Then and Now: Discovering My Viennese Family](#). Irv recently wrote an article for *Second Generation Voices* magazine, the publication of the [Second Generation Network](#), about the letters his mother received from his grandmother before she was murdered during the Holocaust. This is excerpted from the article:

I was asked by the Second Generation Network, a United Kingdom-based organization focused on members of families that were affected by Nazi persecution, to write an article that talks about how my mother's letters helped me understand the events of the Holocaust.

In 2010, I discovered 102 letters to my mother, Elsa, from September 20, 1938, to November 30, 1941: 93 from my grandmother, Clara Bader Nichtern, and nine from other relatives. My mother left Vienna in September 1938 and went to England and then in March 1940 to the United States. The letters contained 250 names of relatives, family friends, and acquaintances, many of whom I had never heard of.

My grandmother was very reluctant to be the bearer of bad news; instead, she glossed over, delayed or didn't mention the worsening situation in Vienna: downplaying Kristallnacht; referring to the mass deportation to the East as "the tragic drama here;" waiting more than a month to tell my mother that my grandmother's brother, Leon Bader, and her nephew, Markus Bader, had been deported to the East in March 1941; waiting several months to tell my mother about her April 1941 interview, which led to her relocation as part of the staging of the Viennese Jewish population ahead of the coming deportation; downplaying the expulsion in August 1941 from her apartment of 28 years to sharing a single room with one person and then two people in a collection apartment; and never mentioning the ultimate humiliation to the Jewish population of Vienna, the September 1941 edict requiring Jews to wear the Yellow Star.

Letters from the other relatives were more explicit in their description of the desperate situation in Vienna. Here are excerpts from a letter written on March 16, 1941, from Elsa's cousin, Emma Spielmann Löff.

Emma was the daughter of Rosalie Bader Spielmann, Clara's sister. Emma was desperately trying to get out of

Vienna with her husband, Adolf, and son, Kurt. She wrote to my mother, who was by then in New York City, for help. The family was not able to get out of Vienna, and all were eventually murdered at Auschwitz.

Dearest Elsa,

....Now you are, dearest Elsa, the only relative in the USA. And, at the same time, our only hope.

After an endlessly long time the affidavit from the consulate was found and the investigation occurs immediately upon presentation of the ship tickets.

We ask you intimately, ... help us for the required amount and arrange the payment at the Joint.

....Should you alone not be in position to raise this sum, request the relatives, friends, and other acquaintances to raise portions of the required money....It is completely impossible to obtain a visa in any other way in spite of passing the examination that filtered applicants.

Besides the Atlases, with whom you are in contact, I also have telegraphed Egon Weiss.... I beg you to raise these necessary amounts together with the Atlases, Egon and Asinoff and for the time being to start with the Atlases and Egon Weiss.

.... Once again Else, I implore you to help us. You are our only hope.

Heartfelt greetings and kisses, Emma, and Kurt Löff.

The letters also mentioned "sweet little Pauli," the son of Benno and Josefina Spielmann.

In April 2014, working with Dr. Elizabeth Anthony, then a staff scholar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, we used the International Tracing Service (now Arolsen Archives), to discover that Paul survived the camps and arrived in Israel in 1945. Then, through a series of serendipitous events, I found out that Paul was alive, had changed his name to Shaul, and lived in Ashkelon, Israel. Then on July 12, 2014, I met Shaul, who is now 92 years old, at his son's home in Huntington Woods, Michigan. Since then, I have been with Shaul several times, both in Huntington Woods and in Israel, and regularly see him and speak with him online.

Besides finding and connecting with Shaul, I have identified members of the Bader and Spielmann families who were victims of the Holocaust and have memorialized them by placing Stones of Remembrance at their last known residences in Vienna.

None of the above would have been possible without the discovery of my mother's letters and discovering the family I never knew. This family research also spurred my interest in genealogy, and led to my joining with Temple member Betsy Gephart and Curt Witcher, the Director of Special Collections at the [Allen County Public Library](#), to establish the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy](#)



Clara and Elsa, 1932



INTERFAITH FORT WAYNE ROTARY CLUB MEETING



Rabbi Meir joined a group of interfaith clergy at the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne meeting on March 4 to share faith perspectives and discuss their service to the community. Also participating were Rev. Christe Lundsford, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Wayne; Rev. Chris Nunley, Community at Covenant, United Methodist Church; and Imam Hanzah Sharif, Universal Education Foundation.



REGISTER FOR JEWISH SUMMER CAMP

[Goldman Union Camp Institute](#), our regional Union

for Reform Judaism camp in Zionsville, 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 through the [Foundation for Jewish Camp](#).



CAMP JOE REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's [Camp Joe Levine](#) will be held once again in beautiful [Metea County Park](#). Camp will be held June 24 - 28, July 1 - 5, and July 8 - 12. We look forward to having your child join us for 1, 2 or all 3 weeks! More information can be found [here](#).

Thank you to the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the Janet Finkel Campership Fund for continued support.

GREEN THUMBS NEEDED FOR SPRING CLEAN-UP

Our gardening crew is looking forward to tending to the beautiful grounds at the Rifkin Campus. Ronnie Greenberg, a master-gardener, and her team of volunteers soon will begin a spring clean-up of the gardens in front of the Temple and surrounding the Sposeep Chapel.

Additional volunteers are welcome to assist, no experience necessary! The group generally works on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon from May through July, with additional work in August and beyond as needed. Please contact Ronnie at rkg128@gmail.com to learn more.



SAVE THE DATE FOR 22ND CORNED BEEF FUNDRAISER

Our [Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser](#) returns for a 22nd year on Thursday, November 7 when heaping corned beef sandwiches, gigantic dill pickles, creamy cole-slaw, and rich brownies return as part of the Temple's largest fundraiser.

Mark your calendar for Deli Day and help us top last year's sales of 1,800 meals! We raised a record \$29,688 for the Temple's general operations!

Thank you to Co-Chairs Micah Soltz & Amy Krouse and their team! Please plan to take the day off work to assist with the sale, as well as Prep Night on Wednesday, November 6. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact the Temple office.



Donations

175th Anniversary

A donation was received from *Sharon & Ben Eisbart*

Joseph & Elsa Adler Memorial Fund

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

Campership Fund

In memory of Goldie DuBow: *Vivian L. Skadron*

In memory Of Eddie Field: *Steven Field*

Holocaust Memorial Fund

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

Dr John Planer Music Fund

In memory of Harry Leiberman: *Vivian L. Skadron*

In memory of Sarah Cohen: *David Schwartz*

General Operations

A donation was received from *Juan Suarez; Martin Stern;*

James Thomas Jr.; the Estate of G Irving Bud Latz II

In memory of Morris Kaye: *Thomas Shine*

In memory of Gary Smythe: *Marcia & Dennis Reynolds*

In memory of Abe Dubin: *Donna & Josh Tourkow*

In memory of Dorris Tillingier: *Jenny & Howard Levitin*

In memory of Sarah Cohen: *Marilyn & Sherwin Kepes*

In memory of Sarah Cohen: *Rebecca & Michael Park*

In memory of Frieda Kretzman: *Donna & Josh Tourkow*

In memory of our parents: *Judy & Steve Zacher*

In memory of Clair Johnson, Fraida Safirstein, Deborah Taub,

and Rebecca Safirstein: *Kay Safirstein*

In honor of Doris Gottlieb's Bat Mitzvah: *Karon Vass*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation was received from *Cheryl Schorey; Jaki & Eric*

Schreier; Jo Ellen & Michael Rush; Steven Shine;

Fran & Irv Adler

In memory of Sam Jacobson: *Doris Gottlieb*

In memory of Dorothy Weisman: *the Estate of Nancy Bean*

In memory of Robert M. King: *Suzi & Jim King*

Religious School

In memory of William DuBow: *Vivian L. Skadron*

Temple Gardens

A donation was received from *Geoffrey & Rachel Gordon*

Thoughtful Thursdays

In memory of Mark C. Smith: *Cindi & Richard Wismer*

In memory of Tommy Sargent: *Cris Sargent*

In memory of Monroe Marcus: *Suzi & Jim King*

S. Wyle Weiman Youth Activities

In memory of Morris Kaye: *Lawrence Shine*

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

ADD A LEAF TO THE OLIVE TREE



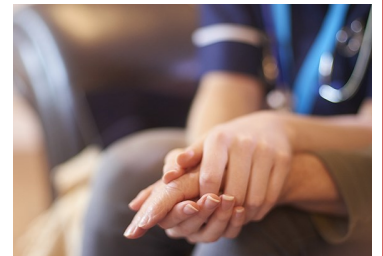
Purchasing a [leaf on the olive tree mural](#) in the hallway leading to the Madge Rothschild Resource Center is a wonderful way to recognize an important person or significant occasion. Leaves are \$180 each and may be personalized with three or four lines to highlight a lifecycle event, anniversary, or special kindness. Proceeds benefit the resource center.

MISHEBEIRACH HELPS SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

Our Mishebeirach list helps us come together as a congregation and community to think of those among us who especially need healing, care, and compassion. We encourage you to add your loved one's name by calling the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or emailing us at office@TempleCAV.org so that those we hold dear will be called to mind during our Shabbat services.

Names will remain on the list for four weeks. For those who wish to have a family member or friend's name listed for longer, please contact us to make another request. Thank you for helping us keep your list current. You also may share your loved one's name during services when the service leader asks for additional Mishebeirach names.

[Learn more about the Mishebeirach prayer.](#) Rabbi Meir and the Temple's Caring Committee are available to offer support and comfort, so please let us know when situations arise where we may be of help. We are a kehillah kedoshah, a holy community. Our Temple family supports one another during difficult times and joyous ones.



BECOME LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER WITH PLANNED GIFT

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

More than 40 congregants already have become members of the [L'dor Vador Legacy Society](#) since it was established in 2012 to encourage individuals to make arrangements to remember the Temple in their estates. Legacy society members are recognized at the Temple's Annual Meeting in June.

To become a society member, please inform the Temple in writing that you have made provisions to remember the congregation in your estate. For further information about the L'dor Vador Legacy Society or making a planned gift now or in the future, contact Planned Giving Committee Chair Beth Zweig at blzweig@msn.com.

April Jahrzeits

April 5-6

Jerome Ackerman
Lucy Z. Berk
Elizabeth Bransilver
Harry G. Browarsky
Loretta Bukowski
Mose Caplan
Molly Cohen
Mildred Cramer
Louis Engelhard
Jacob Eppstein
Henriett Erber
Helen Fine
Herman Freiburger
Jan Gassman
Sophie Glazer
Minnie Glucklick
Ida Goldberg
Ira Greenberg
Bella Gubitza
Ken Horwitz
Ida Hutner
Sidney M. Hutner
Tillie Starr Isay
Dr. Sheldon Kantor
Abraham Kaplan
Sylvia Laderman
Rebecca Lande
Samuel Lauferty
Barney Levin
Benjamin Margolies
Valette Moyer
Jane L. Neiman
Barbara Rosen
Ethel Schnitt
Sylvia L. Shafer
Isabel Sider
Adam Smulovitz
Flora Strouse
Marguerite Waltemath
Florence Weis
Karen S. White
Ruth Zamrin
Samuel Zweig

April 12-13

Samuel Babich
Sam Berebitsky
Goldie DuBow

Eva Friedman
Rosemary Gentle
Rita Gold
Tania Leah Grinschpoun
Aaron Haslacher
Dorothy Horn
Edith Horwitz
Leopold Isay
Elizabeth Ruth Johnson
Bella Kessler Klein
Ida Latz
James Leib
Harry Levey
Isidor Levy
Mike Mattingly
Carrie Nathan
Helen O'Neill
Calvin Prady
Bess Rosenblatt
Bernard Rothschild
Otto D. Rothschild
Izidor Schachter
Arnold Schaffer
Max T. Schmitz
Benjamin Schultz
Etta G. Sheray
Lena Silverman
Mark Smith
Samuel Stein
Earl Stewart
Emma A. Strass
Nathan Weinstein
Dorothy Whisler
Alan Lawrence Winnerman
Diane Wolf
Loni Wolf
Jane P. Woolner

April 19-20

Gilbert Yossef Haim Ben
Youdoul
Moses Amber
Libby Babich
Charles Baskes
Herbert Brateman
Sonia Cooperman
Herman Davis
Sara A. Doppelt
Rae Dorman

Oren Evan Ford
Cecilia Gans
Fred Glazer
Mushke Golder
Leonard Goldstein
Judy Isroff
Sarah Mildred Jacobson
Charles Kirschner
Irina Kutsenok
David Levin
Ben Levy
Shirley Ruth Marer-Brateman
Irma M. Meyer
Ronald Miller
Steven Moyer
David Ochstein
Adelaide Pollak
Norman Prady
Ida Price
Virginia Ray
Catherine Revesz
Jo Rothberg
Peter Alan Rothberg
David L. Safran
Minnie Silverman
Nikki Kaplan Stern
Sharon Subeck
Israel Weber
Rosa Weil
Wyle Weiman
Ryan Zimmerman

April 26-27

Steve Abrams
Sylvia Baker
Edward K. Burcham
May Bussel
Hannah Cohen
Harry Dale
Joan Erb
Meyer Fine
David Fishman
Rebecca Goldberg
Irwin Golden
Isser Goldin
Elaine Harvey
Nannette Heilbroner
Samuel A. Heilbroner
Louis Hirsch

Rabbi Samuel Hirschberg
Leonel Kahn
Mary Levy
Bessie Levy
Irving Luskin
Dorothy G. Maier
Werner Manheim
Ruth Mark
Frederick Milz
Harriet Mirman
Jerry Morgenstein
Esther Nelson
Chaim Norkin
Tillie Ochstein
Samuel Ochstein
Ida Rigelhaupt
Charles J. Rothschild
Morris Ruderman
Eva R. Salon
Tauba Schachter
Harry Sheray
Margaret Silverman
Norman Snow
Barney Sterling
Samuel Herbert Stern
Louis Stiefel
Lucile Wolf
Harry Wolff

CONDOLENCES TO:

Kathy & Todd Sider and family on the death of her mother, Nancy Mihalyo, on March 19, 2024 in Ohio. We also think of their daughters, Rachel and Jaclyn, on the loss of their grandmother.

WE CARE

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





THE TEMPLE

CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

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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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VP Programming: Beth Zweig
VP Finance: John Stein
Secretary: Amy Krouse

| | | |
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| Shai Hadashi | Leise Rosman | |
| Dawn Hammond | Kathy Sider | |

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Beth Zweig: Bulletin Editor; Lillian Noga: Bulletin Designer
bulletin@templecav.org
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. We will be closed on Tuesday, April 23 for Passover.

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.



www.facebook.com/templecavfw



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.

President's Corner Ronnie Greenberg



Tradition tells us that one is not supposed to blow out the Shabbat candles once they have been lit. They must be allowed to burn out naturally. Even if you need to leave the house and don't really want to leave them burning, you may not blow them out.

However, if you happen to be standing close to the candles and you happen to be discussing the two Jewish holidays Purim and Passover, and upon forcefully articulating the "P" sound of the two holidays the candles are extinguished, oh well.

We Jews believe in following rules. Our laws and our traditions set certain guidelines for how we are to function in our world, often in great detail. But we are also a very practical people and understand that sometimes rules must be reinterpreted, modified, even bent, to allow us the flexibility to function effectively in our world.

Think about the "Shabbos elevator" which automatically stops at every floor on Shabbat. A Jew cannot push the elevator buttons but is allowed to benefit from riding in the elevator. Or think about the eruv, the symbolic boundary created in an Orthodox community with a wire string within which an Orthodox Jew may carry items they would otherwise be forbidden from carrying outside the home on Shabbat. We are a practical, and innovative, people.

For most of the last year, the leadership of your Temple has been operating within an eruv around the Bylaws of the congregation. Since the adoption of the partnership model of leadership last year, we have not been in strict compliance with some facets of our Bylaws. To correct these items of non-compliance, and to provide more flexibility in both governance and finance going forward, the Board of Trustees approved an amended version of the Bylaws with a recommendation to the congregation to approve them also. A special meeting for this purpose was called on March 6.

Unfortunately, it didn't happen. Although more than 90% of those who voted approved the amended Bylaws, not enough congregants participated to meet the requirement set by the Bylaws to change the Bylaws. So, we are back to square one, operating within the eruv, wondering how to proceed next. Our current Bylaws require 2/3rds of eligible voters to approve a Bylaws change – a high bar indeed! So how do we entice people to vote?

If I had a good answer to that question, I would be in great demand on the local, state and national level! We all know why we should vote. It's both our privilege and our duty. It gives us a voice in who our leaders are and how our money will be spent. It allows us to influence the rules that govern us. Change doesn't happen by itself. We have to make it happen through our vote.

So how can we address involving the nearly 50% of our congregants who did not vote? If you are one of them, please let me know why. Did we not communicate clearly or often enough, or too often? Were the issues and their importance not clear? Did we not make it easy enough or provide enough ways or time for you to vote? Or, God forbid, if you just didn't care, why not?

Just as our democracy does not function optimally without citizen participation, so our congregation needs you, our congregant, to voice your opinion and vote. Unlike communities for whom the eruv is a permanent fixture, we cannot continue to operate outside our rules forever. That means we either change the rules or we discard all the progress in governance we've made in the last year. Which will it be?

The deadline for the May Bulletin is
Monday, April 15