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GREEN EGGS AND HAM-ENTASHEN? JOIN US FOR PURIM SERVICE & SHPIEL ON MARCH 14!

Try it, try it, you will see, Purim at the Temple, what fun it will be! Come hear the story of Esther when shpiel meets Seuss, see Rabbi Meir in costume, we'll really let loose.

Shake a grogger when Haman's name we boo, make merry and nosh on a hamentashen or two. Don a hat or a headdress, a cape or a crown, we'll be ready to greet you – with a smile, not a frown.

Please join us for our Purim and Shabbat service on Friday, March 14 at the earlier time of 6 p.m. at the Temple. The service will also be livestreamed on [YouTube](#). An Oneg Shabbat follows, featuring hamentashen made by a team of Temple bakers. All are welcome.

Please bring boxes of macaroni and cheese to shake when Haman's name is uttered. The food will be donated to the food bank at [Wellspring Interfaith Social Services](#). We'll have traditional groggers available, too.

See more Purim info on pages 3 & 5.

INTERFAITH & SHABBAT SERVICES PART OF VIOLINS AND HOPE COMMEMORATION

[“Violins and Hope: From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall”](#) is a photographic exhibition of the violins and instrument workshop of Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein, founder of the Violins of Hope project. Created by Cleveland photographer Daniel Levin, the exhibition is on display at the [Rolland Art Center](#) at the University of Saint Francis from March 11-23, 2025.

Each photograph has a rich back story. This beautiful series of photographs documents Weinstein's collection of violins, his workshop in Tel Aviv, and his processes for restoration.

The Temple is pleased to participate in a Jewish-Catholic Prayer Service on Thursday, March 20 and to host a Shabbat service with the Violins of Hope on Friday, March 21 as part of the two-week commemoration of concerts, documentary film screenings, and events at various Fort Wayne locations relating to music and the Holocaust.

Interfaith Service

Rabbi Meir Bargerion will join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in a prayer service on Thursday, March 20 at 7 p.m. at [St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church](#) that focuses on the beauty of the Psalms, stories of Holocaust survivors, and the religious connections shared and revered by the Jewish people and Christians.

Music will feature the St. Vincent Choir, Purdue Fort Wayne University Singers, and a string quartet performing on the Violins of Hope. Selections common to Jewish and Christian faith traditions will be featured. St. Vincent De Paul is located at 1502 E. Wallen Road.

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Meir will lead a special Shabbat service on Friday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple that combines traditional prayers, reflections, and songs with music performed by a string quartet on the Violins of Hope.

Join us in person or on [YouTube](#). A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow hosted by the Violins & Hope Committee of the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#).



[Find the full schedule of Violins and Hope Events](#)

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

MARCH SERVICES

Shabbat morning services are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month

Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 1
at 9:45 a.m.

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

Purim Shpiel & Early Shabbat Service
Friday, March 14
6 p.m.
Oneg Shabbat to follow

Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 15
9:45 a.m.

Violins and Hope Interfaith Service
Thursday, March 20
7 p.m.
[St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church](#)

Violins and Hope Shabbat Service
Friday, March 21
7:30 p.m.
Oneg Shabbat to Follow

Shabbat Service
Friday, March 28
7:30 p.m.

MARCH EVENTS

Thoughtful Thursdays
Wednesday, March 5
10 a.m.

Lifelong Learning: Reform Movement in America Today
Wednesday, March 5
7 p.m. on Zoom
[Patrilineal Descent](#)

Hamentashen Baking
Sunday, March 9
10 a.m. at the Temple

Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 16
Noon

APRIL EVENTS

Holocaust Research with Bruce Colegrove
Sunday, April 6
2 p.m.
at the ACPL and Zoom
Sponsored by the NEIJGS

Lifelong Learning: Reform Movement in America Today
Wednesday, April 9
7 p.m. on Zoom
[Social Justice](#)

Passover Begins
Saturday evening, April 12

Congregational Second Seder

Sunday, April 13
6 p.m.

Yom Hashoah Commemoration
Monday, April 21
7 p.m. at the Temple

SPECIAL BLESSINGS



Please join us during two Shabbat services this month as we share in the joy of two new members on the occasion of their conversions to Judaism.

On Saturday, March 1, Trevor Mitchell Wyatt will give the D'var Torah and receive a blessing during our 9:45 a.m. service. A celebratory bagel nosh will follow.

On Friday, March 7, Cassie Balfanz will speak during our 7:30 p.m. service about her conversion experience and receive a blessing. Special Oneg treats will follow the service.

Lunch with the ROMEOS

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

Thursday, March 6
[Zianos Italian Eatery](#)
5907 Covington Rd.

Thursday, March 20
[Wu's Fine Chinese Cuisine](#)
4411 Coldwater Rd.

For more information, please contact Denny Reynolds at:
dennisreynolds@me.com
[Find the lunch schedule](#)

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

WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT? FIND OUT AT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER ON APRIL 13

Passover begins on Saturday, April 12 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 Sunday, April 13 at 6 p.m. at the Temple.

Rabbi Meir Barger on will lead us as we read from [Mishkan HaSeder](#), our new Haggadah, and dine on a traditional, kosher-style Pesach meal that includes a choice of brisket or vegetarian entrée, kugel, and greens catered by [Chapman's Brewing Company](#).

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, April 3 [online](#) or to office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245. [Make payment online](#) or send a check (payable to "CAV – The Temple"). When you RSVP, please indicate if you prefer a vegetarian entrée. Reservations must accompany payment. We are unable to take walk-ins or accept 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 \$45 for adults; \$18 for children ages 3-12 who are not enrolled in Religious School; and free for children under age 3. For non-members, the cost is \$50 for adults; \$20 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 3 deadline will be taken if space is available. An accurate count is needed to prepare the appropriate amount of food. Thank you for your prompt response.

Thank you to our Seder Committee: Amy Krouse (chair), Becky Guttstein, Rachel Laing, Celeste Sexton, and Samara Sheray.



Rabbi Meir Barger: WE ARE TORAH

One of the most powerful symbols of Judaism is [The Tree of Life \(Etz Chaim\)](#), which refers to the Torah, a metaphor for wisdom, sustenance, and divine connection. It represents spiritual growth and moral guidance. In this season we are reading from the book of Exodus, which tells of the reception of Torah on Mount Sinai, and begins to describe commandments (mitzvot) that were accepted by the Israelites.

[Rabbi Hilly Haber teaches](#), “At Mount Sinai, a newly emancipated people receive the story of who they are and who they will be in the world...There is something radically democratic about the revelation at Sinai.” Bible scholar Nahum M. Sarna writes that this observable encounter with the Eternal One was direct, public, and communal. “All Israel was witness to the phenomenon of God speaking from heaven.” Further, [Jewish tradition teaches](#) the souls of all Jews, across time, were present in this moment of revelation. Each of us is an heir to revelation, a recipient of God’s word. The Hasidic leader known as the Kotzker Rebbe (1787-1859) adds a compelling teaching: it is not just that each of us was present at Sinai, but that revelation is ongoing; we continue to receive Torah throughout our lives.

Because Torah was given to and accepted by each one of us, it is not merely an inherited tradition, but, rather, it is also an act of continual revelation. In the Reform Movement’s [Columbus Platform of 1937](#), we read that “revelation is a continuous process, confined to no one group and to no one age.”

When we received the Torah together in that fateful instant on Sinai, we embraced it as ours. Torah’s truths are con-

tinually revealed to us individually. Torah was not simply given to the children of Israel, but rather to **each** of the children of Israel. To each of us, made in God’s image: of all genders, all sexual orientations, all ethnicities, all types of bodies; to those born knowing that we are Jews, or discovering it later in life; to the wealthy, the poor, the educated, to those who are learning. Those living in Israel or in diaspora. Every. One. Of us.

There is something very beautiful and very necessary about the gift – and the responsibility – of ongoing revelation. It is beautiful because the revelation of Torah was a personal gift to each of us. Ongoing revelation is very necessary because we find ourselves continuously in a broken world, desperate for repair. Perhaps all the more so right now.

Through the gift of Torah, and our God-given ability to find revelation by studying it, we have the agency to make a positive impact on the world. The Torah was revealed to each of us on Sinai, which tells me with great clarity that God needs each one of us to carry it into the world. God needs each one of us to share our beautiful and utterly unique Torah to counter the injustice and the chaos that darkens our world.

It is up to us. May we each be agents of Torah.

–Rabbi Meir



BRING YOUR FAVORITE FILLING AND BAKE HAMENTASHEN WITH US!



Please join our baking team in getting ready for Purim when we make a variety of delicious hamantaschen on Sunday, March 9 at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall. Children are invited to share in this fun tradition when accompanied by an adult. Our Religious School students and parents

will be making hamantaschen together as part of special Purim activities.

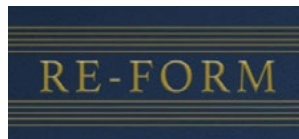
We’re making the three-cornered treats to serve following our family-friendly Purim service and spiel on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m.

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 RSVPs are needed to office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245 no later than Tuesday, March 4 so that adequate supplies will be available. Thank you to Co-Chairs Bonnie Pomerantz and Mimi Zelman.

Purim Carnival and Hamantaschen Bake-Off on page 5.

PATRILINEAL DESCENT IS NEXT TOPIC IN “REFORM MOVEMENT” SERIES



Please join us for the second session in our lifelong learning series exploring “The Reform Movement in America Today” when we discuss patrilineal

descent on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

In this series led by Rabbi Meir, we will focus discussions based on episodes of Re-Form, a recent podcast series from Tablet Studios, supplemented with Jewish texts.

[Re-Form](#) focuses on five questions or issues that have defined the movement in the modern era. Participants are highly encouraged to listen to the podcast episode in advance, but this is not required. Come prepared to learn, to question and to share your views on what it means to be a Reform Jew in America today.

Below are session dates and topics, with links to the corresponding episode of Re-Form.

February 12: [Origins of the Reform Movement](#)

March 5: [Patrilineal Descent](#)

April 9: [Social Justice](#)

May 14: [Inclusivity](#)

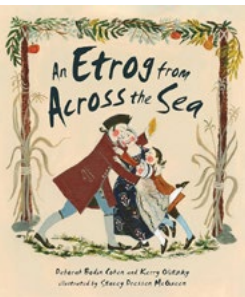
May 28: [Interfaith Marriage](#)

June 11: [Zionism](#)

The Zoom link will be included in the weekly email to our Temple family. All are welcome.

2025 SYDNEY TAYLOR AWARD WINNERS AVAILABLE IN TEMPLE LIBRARY

Winners of the [Sydney Taylor Book Award](#) were announced in January by the [Association of Jewish Libraries](#) to honor books written for children and teens. Gold and Silver medalists and Notable Books are recognized. Most of the titles can now be found in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#).



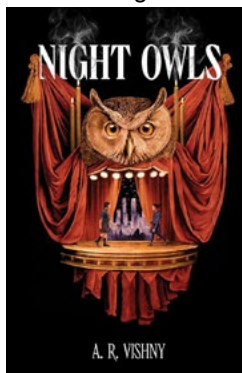
Deborah Bodin Cohen's picture book, *An Etrog from Across the Sea*, was the Gold Medal winner in the Picture Book category. This Sukkot book is set in 18th-century America and is based on the story of a family's Sephardic silver etrog box. Four Silver Medalists were named in the Picture Book category: *Amazing Abe: How Abraham*

Cahan's Newspaper Gave a Voice to Jewish Immigrants by Norman H. Finkelstein, *Joyful Song: A Naming Story* by Lesléa Newman, *Rising* by Sidura Ludwig, and *The Tree of Life: How a Holocaust Sapling Inspired the World* by Elisa Boxer. Notable books included *Everybody's Book: The Story of the Sarajevo Haggadah* by Linda Leopold Strauss, *Mr. Katz and Me* by Marc Kornblatt, and *Sharing Shalom* by Danielle Sharkan.

The Gold Medal winner in the Middle Grade Category was

The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival, by Estelle Nadel. This graphic novel follows Enia from her girlhood in Poland to post-war life in the United States. Three Silver Medalists in this category included: *Across So Many Seas* by Ruth Behar, *Finn and Ezra's Bar Mitzvah Time Loop* by Joshua S. Levy, and *Just Shy of Ordinary* by A. J. Sass. Those named as Notable books were *Benji Zeb is a Ravenous Werewolf* by Deke Moulton, *Max in the House of Spies: A Tale of World War II* by Adam Gidwitz, and *Things That Shimmer* by Deborah Lakritz.

Night Owls, by A.R. Vishny, was awarded the Gold Medal in the Young Adult Category. This vampire story is an urban



fantasy with a Jewish twist! The two Silver Medalists in this category were Sacha Lamb's *The Forbidden Book*, and *Trajectory* by Cambria Gordon. Two titles recognized as Notable Books were *The Ballerina of Auschwitz* by Dr. Edith Eva Eger, and *Inkflower* by Suzy Zail.

[View the full library catalog](#). We hope you'll check out one of these award-winning titles next time you're in the building!

PURIM BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE TEMPLE LIBRARY

Check out [the books about Purim](#) in the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library](#).

You can also find [a one-sheet of our favorite titles](#) on our website.

[View our full catalog](#) of more than 7,000 titles. We're open whenever the building is open.



The Temple Book Club met on February 25 to discuss The Matchmaker's Gift, followed by a conversation with author Lynda Cohen Loigman. Thanks to Betsy Gephart for chairing.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM LEARNED A LITTLE YIDDISH WHILE DOING A MITZVAH



Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers braved the cold winter weather in February, gathering to bag items for the 51 Brightpoint Head Start children who attend class at the Temple.

The first bag included fresh oranges, canned fruit cocktail, oatmeal, cereal bars, pretzels, pancake mix, and syrup. A second bag was filled with household supplies, including dish soap, laundry detergent, spray bottles, white cleaning vinegar, a sponge, and four rolls of toilet paper.

Janet Finkel, affectionately known as a Yiddishe Bubbie, agreed to teach the group a Yiddish word or phrase when we meet. We learned *Gutle Neshuma* - "a good soul" or "a gentle person." It was a pleasure to listen to one of her childhood stories.

If you are interested in sharing a Yiddish word, a Jewish story, or simply enjoying some camaraderie, we invite you to join us for our next bagging session on Wednesday, March 5 at 10 a.m. at the Temple. We also are seeking volunteers to assist with set up on Tuesday, March 4. For further information, please contact Cheryl Schorey at cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com.

Youth News



JOY VEY! CELEBRATE PURIM WITH SPIEL AND HAMENTASHEN

Joy Vey! families, put on your costumes, grab a grogger, and join the fun during an early Purim service and shpiel with the full congregation on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. After the service, we'll enjoy hamentashen made by a team of Temple bakers.

Our next Joy Vey! service will be Friday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the Madge Rothschild Resource Center. Mark your calendar to join us as we celebrate Shabbat together.



Joy Vey families celebrated Shabbat on February 14 with grandparents and friends. A gorgeous heart-shaped challah made by Celeste Sexton added a special touch. Rabbi Meir led the D'var Torah with the aid of Moses. The role of Moses was so large that it took two to climb Mount Sinai and bring Torah to all of us. Each of us carried the Torah to better understand that it belongs to us.

FUN FOR ALL AGES AT PURIM CARNIVAL



Get your costume ready – both adults and kids - to join us on Sunday, March 16 at noon for the Temple's annual Purim Carnival! Come join (or watch) the costume parade to the Social Hall, followed by an exciting afternoon of fun for all ages.

New this year – a hamentashen bake-off and four-person aerialist troupe that will fly through the air!

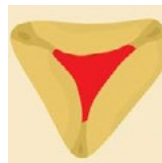
The festivities also include games, bounce houses, a silent auction, scavenger hunt, trivia contest for adults, mah jongg, cornhole, crafts, a photo booth, face painter, and balloon artist!

We'll nosh on hamentashen made by our bake-off participants and enjoy a lunch spread of lox, bagels, whitefish salad, chopped liver, kugel, pizza, sundae bar, popcorn cart, and Purim Speakeasy (cash bar).

Admission is \$10 per person, available at the door, which includes everything except the cash bar and silent auction items. Bake-off participants are asked to please RSVP and indicate what flavor of hamentashen by Sunday, March 9 to the office at (260) 744-4245 or office@templecav.org.

Thank you to our creative Carnival Crew, including Kate Crell (chair), Cassie Balfanz, Deborah Bauer, Stephanie Gottesman, Dawn Hammond, and Celeste Sexton.

ENTER OUR HAMENTASHEN BAKE-OFF



What is a Purim Carnival without everyone's favorite holiday cookie, hamantaschen?

Get your mixing bowls and flavorful ideas ready for Sunday, March 16 because there will be a bake-off!

No matter if you look forward to baking hamantaschen every year with your tried-and-true recipe, or if this will be your first attempt, you're in luck. This is the perfect opportunity for you to try to win one of five sweet prizes! All ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate.

We'll have awards for the top three People's Choice winners, based on overall cookie combination. And we'll also have a judge to announce the "Picture Perfect" and "Creativity" winners.

Bakers, please RSVP by Sunday, March 9 to office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245 to let us know that you are participating and what flavors of hamantaschen you'll be making. Bring as many flavors as you would like. Each flavor is one entry. We ask you to bring at least two dozen cookies of each flavor. Cookies will be split into pieces for everyone to sample. Entries must be submitted for judging by 12:15 p.m. on the day of the carnival.

Thank you to Cassie Balfanz for organizing!



SAVE THE DATE FOR 23rd CORNED BEEF ON RYE FUNDRAISER!

Our Corned Beef on Rye – Sure to Satisfy Fundraiser returns for a 23rd year on Thursday, November 6 when heaping corned beef sandwiches, gigantic dill pickles, creamy coleslaw, and rich brownies return as part of the Temple's largest fundraiser.

Mark your calendar for Deli Day and help us top last year's sales of nearly 1,700 meals! We raised \$26,960 for the Temple! This included 56 sponsors, who contributed a record \$16,153.

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 5. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact the Temple office.



A SUPER SOUPER BOWL SHABBAT

The Temple's Souper Bowl Shabbat was, well, super! Crockpots filled with delicious homemade soup created by our CAV chefs were available to sample by the more than 50 people who attended on February 7, followed by an opportunity to vote for a favorite in a friendly competition.

Festive decorations added to the fun with a nod to the Super Bowl. Eleven outstanding offerings were on the menu, including Cabbage Roll Soup; Sweet Potato Soup; Tomato-Spinach Tortellini Soup; Chicken Vermicelli Soup; 12-Bean Soup (with corned bread bites on the side); Vegetable Lentil Soup; Bean Soup; and White Velvet Vegetable Soup.

The People's Choice top 3 winners: Cheddar Ale Soup made by David Crell (first place); Minestrone Soup made by Cassie Balfanz (second place); and Lemony Lentil Soup made by Celeste Sexton (third place).

Our soup chefs also included Talia Bugel, Kate Crell, Rachel Laing, Denny Reynolds, Abby Root, JoEllen Rush, Cheryl Schorey, and Beth Zweig. Leftover soup will be utilized by the Caring Committee.

Thank you to Souper Bowl Chairs Dawn Hammond and Rachel & Robert Laing and all who assisted, including Rhonda Brown, Denny Reynolds, Samara Sheray, Brandon Alberts, Dan Zweig, and Beth Zweig. The lovely meal that also included salad and delicious challah made by Dawn Hammond and Robert Laing, followed by a lovely dessert table.



YOUR VOTE FOR ISRAEL'S FUTURE BEGINS MARCH 10

Between March 10 and May 4, 2025, American Jews will vote for their delegates to the [39th World Zionist Congress](#), the “parliament of the Jewish people.” The WZC elections will convene in Jerusalem in October 2025.

[Find out how to register and vote](#)

Voting in the election is the most powerful opportunity to have your voice heard in Israel, make an impact in Jewish communities worldwide, and stand up for Zionism. The representatives who are elected — with one-third of them coming from the United States — will make key decisions on allocating over \$1 billion annually to support the most pressing needs across Israeli society and the Diaspora.

What is at stake? The highly motivated religious fundamentalist opponents' vision for the future of Israel is diametrically opposed to that of the Reform Movement. They are organizing to destroy what we value, including:

- Chipping away at Israel's democracy
- Rolling back gains for gender equity, LGBTQ+ rights, and religious pluralism
- Stripping our Israeli Reform clergy — especially our women rabbis — and our Reform communities of their rights, funding, and infrastructure
- Making sure that our converts and children are not recognized as Jews in the Jewish State
- Blocking any hope of Palestinian self-determination and safety

[Registration and voting](#) will open on March 10. Voting will be online, and paper ballots will be available on request. The fee to register and vote is \$5, which goes to cover the operating costs of the election.



JOIN US FOR COMPELLING “COLLEYVILLE” DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION ON APRIL 29



“Colleyville” is a critically acclaimed documentary that delves into the heart-pounding 11-hour hostage crisis that rocked the quiet town of Colleyville, Texas.

On a seemingly ordinary Saturday morning on January 15, 2022, a terrorist stormed Congregation Beth Israel during a live-streamed service, taking a group of innocent

worshippers hostage. Led by the courageous Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, the hostages endured a harrowing ordeal that captured the world's attention.

Directed by Dani Menkin, an award-winning filmmaker known for his compelling and impactful storytelling, this real-life drama not only offers an intimate look at the hostages' bravery and the community's unwavering support but also explores the complexities of hate crimes and antisemitism. [Watch the trailer](#)

Please join us for a screening of “Colleyville” at Purdue Fort Wayne on Tuesday, April 29 at 6 p.m. in [Neff Hall](#), Room 101. A discussion about the film and antisemitism will follow the film, led by Rabbi Meir Barger. The evening will conclude with a brief reception.

The event is sponsored by [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#), the Purdue Fort Wayne [Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies](#), and the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation. Thank you to Dawn Hammond and the Temple's Social Action Committee for coordinating the program.

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL WITH REFORM JUDAISM

In response to October 7, Israelis united around a collective volunteering effort to fill gaps in society. The work to rebuild and renew is just getting started, and Stephen Wise Free Synagogue's [Amplify Israel initiative](#) invites Reform Jews around the world to rally your support for the people of Israel in the land of Israel while the needs are greatest.

This 8-day Birthright Israel Volunteer trip is designed for can-do travelers seeking the opportunity to volunteer, connect, and renew together. The program is designed for travelers ages 26-50 who identify as Jewish or are in an interfaith partnership.



MAZEL TOV TO:

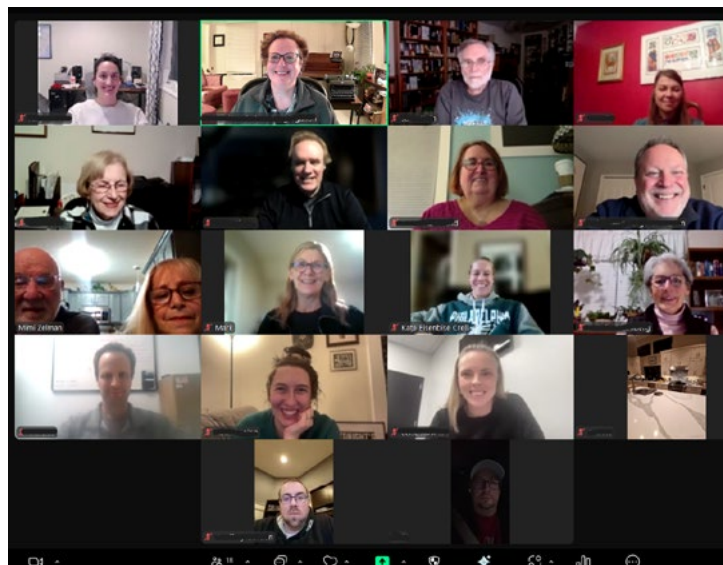
Beth Zweig, who recently began serving on the board of Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, and Leonard Mastbaum, who recently completed his term on the Wellspring board. Wellspring brings together people of faith serving the social, physical and educational needs of the community in Allen County. The Temple is one of Wellspring's faith partners. Our members help support Wellspring's food bank, clothing bank, and other programs as part of our social action efforts.

Our Leadership CAV 2025 Crew

On Wednesday, January 29 our group met for a second time to explore the many ways to take an active role at the Temple. Led by the Board Development Committee, we discussed the structure of the Temple Board and how volunteers support the mission, work and vibrancy of the congregation. Opportunities to assist include involvement with governance, numerous committees, task forces, and individual programs and projects. We identified areas where help is most needed.

We're grateful to all who participated! Thank you to the Board Development Committee – Co-Chairs John Stein and Beth Zweig, Fran Adler, Dawn Hammond, Amy Krouse, and Leise Rosman – and to Rabbi Meir, President Ronnie Greenberg, and Executive Director Samara Sheray for their support.

Thank you to our Leadership CAV 2025 members: Kate Crell, Geoff Gordon, Stephanie Gottesman, Becky Guttstein, Rachel Laing, Robert Laing, Marnie Lowden, Joanne McCrory, Elliott McCrory, Celeste Sexton, Greg Shoup, Kate Theise, Michael Theise, Nick Young, Mimi Zelman, and Don Zelman.



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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We're pleased to welcome the newest members of our Temple family:

Abe & Kayla Schreier are proud parents of a four-month-old son, Mason Grey. Abe is an IT administrator at Novae LLC and Kayla is a stay-at-home mom. Abe first joined the Temple as an eight-year-old when his family moved to Fort Wayne. His parents are Temple members Jaki & Eric Schreier. Abe & Kayla are interested in lifelong learning, social action, Religious School, membership, and attending services.

Cassie Balfanz already has gotten involved at the Temple, attending services, volunteering on the holiday celebrations team, including planning our upcoming hamentashen bake-off, and helping take photos at events. She also placed second for her minestrone soup in our recent Souper Bowl Shabbat competition. Cassie recently converted to Judaism after beginning her studies in 2023. She is office manager at Fairhaven Funeral Home and also attends Worsham College of Mortuary Science. Cassie is interested in many aspects of Temple life, including social action, lifelong learning, Thoughtful Thursdays, and women's activities. A Fort Wayne native, she grew up in LaOtto and earned her bachelor's degree from Indiana University. Cassie has three boxer dogs – Homer, Berlin, and Brutus. She would like to meet other members in their 20s and 30s.

Trevor Mitchell Wyatt is a regular at Shabbat services and Temple events. He previously was a member of Temple Mizpah in Abilene, Texas, where he also was a shofar blower and played in a local klezmer band. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Trevor is a Language Specialist at an AI Company. He's interested in music, lifelong learning, social events and worship at the Temple.

EXPLORE HOLOCAUST RESEARCH WITH BRUCE COLEGROVE

The [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) will welcome Bruce Colegrove to speak about Holocaust Research for Genealogists on Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. at the [Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center](#).

Please join us for these two sessions:

- 2 p.m. – **The Arolsen Archives and Other Sources for Holocaust Research:** [The Arolsen Archives](#) houses the world's largest collection of Nazi persecution records, including documents on concentration camps and forced labor. Other sources offer survivor testimonies, historical documents, and research tools. Bruce will outline these resources to help people preserve the memory and history of those affected.
- 4 p.m. – **Case Study of Holocaust Research:** Holocaust research plays a vital role in preserving history and ensuring the world never forgets. Bruce will review how he has investigated survivor testimonies, Nazi records, and the role of bystanders and collaborators to piece together the full picture of the individuals he has researched.



Bruce has been a teacher of Spanish and World Literature at Fort Wayne's Canterbury High School since 1999. He previously taught in the Temple's Religious School and was a b'nei mitzvah tutor.

In 2013, Bruce taught his first course on *Music in the Holocaust*, sparking his deep and ongoing research into the [Auschwitz-Birkenau women's orchestra](#). He has expanded his teaching to include courses on Genocide and Holocaust Literature at Canterbury. Currently, he is developing an original screenplay about Alma Rosé and the women's orchestra at Birkenau. He's also given several presentations on his research at the Temple.

This program is in-person at the ACPL Genealogy Center or [register to attend online](#) at www.neindianajgs.org.

Thank you to the 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.

BEING A TEMPLE MEMBER: GRATITUDE FOR A REAL LIFE COMMUNITY



By Wendy Soltz

Wendy is an Assistant Professor of Public History at Ball State University and former executive Director of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. She and her spouse, Micah, have two daughters and are active members of CAV.

When I first became a member of the Temple over nine years ago, I did so with some skepticism. As someone whose views don't fully align with the Reform Movement, I found myself questioning why I should join an institution that didn't seem to cater to my every need. But today, I can say with gratitude that the Temple is so much more than a denomination—it is an intergenerational community that offers friendship, advice, support, and countless other benefits, both personal and professional.

In fact, it was only after I gave a presentation on CAV's 175th anniversary Illumination exhibit that Sharon Eisbart and I curated in 2023 that I realized just how deeply this community has shaped my life.

As I looked out into the audience, I saw my community. I saw Jon Tam and Rabbi Meir, the Grinsfelders, the Friedmans, the Schreiers, the list goes on and on. The people in the audience support me as a researcher, as a professional, and simply as a Jew and a friend. While I could go online and find people my own age who have the exact same interests and world view as mine, the Temple community is richer, more diverse, and, in many ways, more fulfilling than any other group I could hand pick.

The first people I met at the Temple when we joined were Rabbi Javier Cattapan, John Stein, and Sally Trotter. Rabbi Cattapan would go on to marry Micah and me in 2013, and when we moved to Indiana and joined the Temple in 2016, I began volunteering with John and Sally on the Madge Rothschild Resource Center project. I quickly discovered that they were both fun and full of humor. Sally always made me laugh when I was being too serious, and John has always been just a phone call away when I need advice or help thinking through a tough problem.

It was also early on when Ronnie Greenberg and Marcia Reynolds invited me to join their weekly mahj game, along with Micki Kepes, Deb Vilensky, Eileen Baitcher, and Bobbie Golani. I was nervous at first—being the youngest of the group, I wasn't sure what I could offer. But they welcomed me and shared invaluable lessons on handling aging parents, parenting in general, and, of course, mahj strategy. It was also Eileen who helped me secure my previous job with the Indiana Jewish Historical Society.

Throughout my time on various Temple committees, I worked closely with Beth Zweig. Beth's culinary expertise has made her my go-to baking and cooking confidant. Both she and Dan have been sources of parenting wisdom, financial guidance, and more. I also met Fran and Irv Adler on committees around the same time. They've been with me every step of the way, offering conversation, moral support, wine, and really good stories. Their constant cheerleading has made me feel welcome, heard, and appreciated.

At a 2016 Temple program, Beth exclaimed, "I want to introduce you to someone; I think you two would hit it off!" I guess she was right because Deborah Bauer, a PFW history professor, and I have maintained a wonderful friendship for almost a decade, and she also helped me land my first teaching gig post-PhD at PFW. Deborah's a Temple member now, and she and I are part of an informal group with Amy Krouse, Kate Crell, Stephanie Gottesman, and Celeste Sexton that we call "Temple Mamas." This group took years to come together, but it has become an incredible source of support and joy in my life.

Whether offering career advice, providing encouragement (like when Janet Finkel sweetly tells Micah and me that we are good parents to beautiful kinderlach), or simply being there as a friend (like Samara when we talk through the challenges of being a caretaker), the people at the Temple have made my life better, and for that I am truly thankful. In a world that often feels divided, including within Jewish denominations and affiliations, the Temple remains a place of connection, support, and growth. As Jews, it is our duty to be a light unto the nations—but that light also shines brightly within our own community.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP AT GUCI



[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 2025 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. Your child also may be eligible for a need-blind grant up to \$1,000 this summer through the [Foundation for Jewish Camp](#) or [other sources](#).



ENROLL NOW FOR CAMP JOE

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's [Camp Joe Levine](#) will be held at [Metee County Park](#) on the weeks of June 23, June 30, and July 7. We look forward to having your child (ages 4 to 13) join us for 1, 2 or all 3 weeks! More information can be found [here](#).

Register by February 28 and receive \$20 off per week, per child for the season.

Donations

B'nai Jacob (Conservative) Judaism Fund

In memory of Pauline Brateman and Helen Zaslawsky:
Adrienne Brateman

Endowment Fund

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

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A donation was received from: *Juan Suarez*

In memory of Jacob Yentis: *Jay Yentis*

In memory of Fran Herman: *Jeff Herman*

Dr. John Planer Music Fund

In memory of Lawrence Coulter: *Ronald Cousino Jr.*

Project Assist - Thoughtful Thursdays

A donation was received from: *Rachel & Geoffrey Gordon and Jessica and Roger Ash*

In memory of Clair Johnson: *Kay Safirstein*

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

Rabbi Kornspan Tzedakah Fund

A donation was received from: *Jan & Bill Chambers*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation was received from: *Cassie Balfanz*

In memory of our dear daughters Jennifer E. Cohen & Lynn J. Cohen: *Elissa & Steve Cohen*

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

ROMEO Fund

In memory of Solomon Kramer: *Cheryl Schorey*

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

GRINSFELDER EXHIBIT NOMINATED FOR ARTS UNITED AWARD

The Temple exhibition "A Creative Life — The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder" has been nominated for a [2025 Arts United Award](#). Presented in November and December, this program was an amazing success, both in terms of attendance from the congregation and community at large, as well as providing a well-deserved appreciation to Alan's substantial contributions to the cultural life of Fort Wayne.

Mazel tov to Jon Tam, the program's curator and member of the Temple's Art & Beautification Committee, for envisioning and executing this wonderful tribute to Alan and his talents.

The awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday, March 19 from 5-7 p.m. at the ArtsLab Theatre, 300 E Main Street. Arts United describes the awards as "Northeast Indiana's premiere celebration of the people, organizations, and projects that make significant contributions through arts and culture to communities throughout our region."

"Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom," a collaboration between Temple and the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, was the recipient of the 2024 Arts United Award for Outstanding Artistic Endeavor. [Watch the video of a panel discussion about the exhibit](#)



JOIN THE FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S PASSOVER SEDER

Please join the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) on Saturday, April 19 as we read from the "Women Celebrating Passover" haggadah. We will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus, where we will use a Haggadah specifically created for women.

For Federation members, the cost will be \$25 per person, and for non-members, the cost will be \$30 per person. This will be catered; please [RSVP](#) no later than Saturday, March 15 or call the office at (260) 456-0400. Payment is required at time of reservation.

We look forward to celebrating with the women of our Jewish community!

LEARN ABOUT "THE FEMININE AND THE FEMINIST IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER"



The [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) looks forward to welcoming you on Sunday, March 9 at 1 p.m. at the [Stillwater Hospice/Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center](#) (5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne) for an amazing afternoon with [Rabbi Leah Berkowitz](#).

We all know the two queens in the Purim story...or do we? Readers of the *megillah* have long suspected that there is more to the story than meets the eye. What can our commentaries -- ancient and modern, scholarly and creative -- tell us about the beautiful, brave Esther and the rebellious Vashti and the world they lived in? And what can the story offer us in terms of different ways of understanding womanhood? Let's find out!

Please [RSVP here](#) or call the office at (260) 456-0400. Seating is limited. This event is free and open to our community. Many thanks to The Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation for its generous and continuous support.

Leah Rachel Berkowitz is a rabbi and author living in Philadelphia, PA. She teaches for [www.Laasok.org](#), the Jewish Learning Collaborative, and the Union for Reform Judaism.

She contributed to *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*, and several of the CCAR Press prayer books. Leah is the author of three children's books: *The World Needs Beautiful Things*, *Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants*, and *The Moving Box Sukkah*, as well as the middle-grade midrash collection *Maybe It Happened This Way: Bible Stories Reimagined* with co-author Erica Wovsaniker.

March Yahrzeits

March 7

Jesse Amber
Virginia C. Anderson
Josephine Bach
Frieda Barris
Barbara Berger
Anatoliy Berkovich
Jacob Bernstein
Shalome Boudai
Edward Brower
Chris Callahan
Sarah Cohen
Louis Dessauer
Carrie Dessauer
Fred Fidler
Rosa S. Fishman
Marian L. Frankenstein
Audrey Gerson
Pearl Gladstone
Adrienne Gold
Rose Goldstine
Matilda Hallenstein
Yetta Hassan
Max Himmelstein
Robert P. Hirsch
Penelope Houseman
Mae Porter Kann
Morris Kaye
Sam Kramer
Abraham Kritzer
Albert Kudysh
Louis Kwatnez
Harriet Lesser
Edna Levine
Sarah Kalver Max
Anne Milz
Moe M. Mitzman
Amy Pincus
Helen Rath
Harry Rosensweet
Frances Rothenberg
Sam Rozeen
Estelle Salnitsky
Max Salon
Arlene Sambur
Eugene Schmidt
Rose Schwartz
Rose S. Schwartz
William L. Siegle
William Warshauer
Alexander Baruch Welcher
Ralph Wolf
Ginette Bat Nathan Ve Rachel

March 14-15

Regina Ackerman
Robert Adams
Rebecca Appelbaum
Robert Babich
Yochuonon Barton
Rose Becker
Perry Carson
Ralph Clark
Yetta Dessauer
Frances Schwartz Edlow
Mordacai Falakovicz
Raymond Farhi
Eddie Field
Benjamin Friedman
Fanny Gary
Dave Gold
Lois Goode
Sam Jacobson
Joy July-Amber
Sigmund W. Kann
Rose Ochstein Kaplan
Mildred Price Katzenstein
Abe Kaufman
Dorothy Kay
Robert M King
Charlotte Korin
Frieda Kretzman
Jerry Lesson
Elmer Lewis
Nathan Liff
Miriam Light
Bill Llewellyn
Jim Long
Anna Lee Marcus
Joseph Mast
Ben Mocle
Hannah Nirdlinger
Theresa Perlman
Paul Rath
Ed Roberts
Abraham Joseph Roseman
Esther Roseman
Alex Rosenberg
Ida Rothschild
Florence Rudin
Estelle King Schaffer
Melvin Smith
Florence Smith
Rosalie W. Solomon
Diane Spanjer
Isaac Sposeep
Julius J. Stein
Ida Stern

Rose Sulzer
Sigmund Teitel
Louis Walter
Edith Warschawski
Peter Wechsler
Eve Weinswig
Francis Weisberg
Edie Zweig

March 21

Joseph Adler
Phyllis Adele Agrue
John Aichele
Racheal Barton
Jacob Ben-Yehoshua
Walter Bordens
Daryoush Boudaie
Dorothy M. Brazy
Rose Burrs
Lynn Jeanette Cohen
Betty Cohen
Louis Cremer
Morris Dicker
Lucille Doppelt
William DuBow
Lee Gilbert
Abraham Goodman
Ruth G. Haslacher
Helen Himmelstein
Helen M. Isay
Abraham Kaplan
Reuben Leb Kornisarow
Donald Kornspan
Margot Krel
Betty Lauferty
Paul Lecher
Harry Leiberman
Becky Levin
Zalman Levine
Alfred Levy
Chester Lichtenberg
Calla Lowenhar
Sayde Marlin
Virginia Mayer
Nancy Mihalyo
Samuel Nemeroff
Stephen Pomerantz
Mordecai Rifkin
Solomon Rothschild
Herbert Rynearson
Julius Schwarz
Elaine Shine
Bee Siegel
Moses Strouse

Doris Tillinger
Irene Todd
Jack O. Weil
Minnie Weinraub
Thomas Zefo
Louis Zweig

March 28

Fraida Safirstein
Samuel Appel
Isadore Babich
Henry Baum
Sam Berebitsky
Isaac Bosell
Joseph Chodash
Molly Cohen
Semen Drozdov
Abe H. Dubin
Rena Edlavitch
Lois Levine Edwards
B. David Fishman
Marx Frank
Hazel L. Grove
Louis S. Hallenstein
Florence M. Hill
Ken Horwitz
Edith Horwitz
Sam Kay
Joseph Klarke
Helen LaPoff
Isaac Lauferty
Sigmund Lehman
Moses Lichtenberg
Monroe Marcus
Mac Marlow
Robert Samuel Mirman
Nelson K. Neiman
Harold J. Novitsky
Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt
Madelon J. Rothschild
Barbara Sachs
Rebecca Safirstein
Barbara Hirsch Schreier
Elizabeth Schwartz
Paul F. Schwartz
Betty Joe Seligman
Sarah Steiber
Leta Taker
Lila Berman Tankel
Nathan Weinstein
Rachel Weiss



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

The 2025 Temple Membership Directory has been emailed to congregants.

If any of your contact information has changed (including whether you have a home phone number), please let us know at office@templecav.org or (260) 744-4245.



THE TEMPLE

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www.templecav.org

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Meir Bargerion, Rabbi

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Temple Office Hours:

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

The Temple is located at the Rifkin Campus at 5200. Our Campus partners are the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery Association, Brightpoint Head Start, the Madge Rothschild Resource Center, and the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society.



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Achduth Vesholom Congregation



Want to receive our newsletter?

Send your email address to office@templecav.org

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

President's Corner Ronnie Greenberg



Our son, Steve, sent us some pictures this morning on WhatsApp. As you may know, Steve made Aliyah in 1990. WhatsApp and similar tools allow us to keep in touch as if we lived next door to each other. So different from 1990 when cell phones were unheard of, it took three months to have a landline installed in Israel, and the most reliable way to communicate overseas was by airmail, using an aerogram, which took two weeks to arrive.

Steve and his life partner, Galit, were in the Golan for the day salvaging items from her mother's house, which was badly damaged by Hezbollah rocket fire soon after the October 7 massacre. She was evacuated and has essentially been homeless since those attacks. Galit's twin sister lived in the same village, but, miraculously, her home is undamaged. She has been able to go back and retrieve some items, but can't move back because there is no functional infrastructure, like electricity, water, sewer.

When I say Galit's family lived in a village in the Golan, please do not envision dirt roads and camels. This is – was - a modern town, with paved streets, street lights, grocery stores, internet – everything you would expect in Fort Wayne. It just happens to be right next door to the southern border of Lebanon.

I can understand why someone would want to live there. It is absolutely beautiful. The Golan Heights is an area of high hills from which you can see from Lebanon to Mount Hermon. It is green and lush and, enlarging one of the pictures, I can see that the buds on the trees are nearly ready to open. I'm sure the almond trees are already blooming since Tu B'shevat has passed. And in the winter, if you get tired of the views of green and brown, you can drive up Mount Hermon and go sledding, skiing, or just play in the snow.

Now, as spring approaches, the Golan is preparing to burst into bloom just as we are preparing for the spring holidays, Purim and Passover. In Israel, the celebration of these holidays pervades society. When our grandkids were younger, they dressed in Purim costumes to go to school, much as Fort Wayne kids do for Halloween. And everyone goes to a Seder, no matter where they are and even if they do nothing else all year. We once spent Passover in the Sinai with Steve and his family, at a small resort on the Red Sea. The clientele of the resort was primarily Israeli and on Erev Pesach there were at least a half dozen Seders being conducted in that dining room in Egypt!

But we're not in Israel and we don't have the advantage as do larger cities in the U.S. of a large Jewish population to provide a Jewish atmosphere and support to all aspects of our lives. In Fort Wayne, we are often the only Jews in our neighborhoods and our children are the only Jews in their school. It takes a continuous, conscious effort to maintain our Jewish identity.

How lucky we are to have the Temple! When our sons were growing up in Fort Wayne, the Temple was the major source and provider of all things Jewish, including Purim and Passover, to make sure our children would be Jewish. It still does that, continuing to provide a safe place for worship, education, learning and socializing. But it also gives us something more and, perhaps, something more important - a community in which we can just relax and be Jewish with other Jews. It's nice to be in the majority occasionally.

The deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 17