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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 Bargerone will lead us as we read from [Mishkan HaSeder](#), our new Haggadah, and dine on a traditional, kosher-style Pesach meal that includes matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, a choice of entrée (brisket or smoked cauliflower steak), kugel, and roasted vegetable medley. The meal will be catered by [Chapman's Brewing Company](#).

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, April 3 [online](#) or to [office@templecav.org](mailto: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 the vegetarian entrée. Payment must accompany reservations. 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.

JOIN US FOR "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 led by Rabbi Meir Bargerone. 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.



NEW LEARNING CAFÉ: A LIFELONG JOURNEY IN JEWISH EDUCATION

See page 6

## UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

### APRIL SERVICES

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

#### Shabbat Service

Friday, April 4

7:30 p.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 5

9:45 a.m.

#### Joy Vey! A Kid-ish

#### Shabbat

Friday April 11

5:30 p.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Friday, April 11

7:30 p.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Friday, April 18

7:30 p.m.

#### Shabbat & Pesach Yizkor Service

Saturday, April 19

9:45 a.m.

#### Shabbat Service

Friday, April 25

7:30 p.m.



### APRIL EVENTS

#### Holocaust Research with Bruce Colegrove

Sunday, April 6

2 p.m.

at the ACPL and Zoom

Sponsored by the [NEIJGS](#)

#### Learning Cafe: Translating the Torah with Rabbi Beth Lieberman

Wednesday, April 9

Noon at the Temple or Zoom

Bring a brown bag lunch

#### Lifelong Learning: Reform Movement in America Today - [Social Justice](#)

Wednesday, April 9

7 p.m. on Zoom

#### 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

#### Colleyville Documentary

Tuesday, April 29

6 p.m. at Purdue Fort Wayne

[Neff Hall](#), Room 101

### MAY EVENTS

#### Ellen Kowitz: Locating Jewish Records and U.S. Synagogue Records

Sunday, May 4

2 p.m. on Zoom

Sponsored by the [NEIJGS](#)

#### Learning Café: Truth and Lies in Jewish Tradition

Wednesday, May 7

Noon at the Temple or Zoom

Bring a brown bag lunch

#### Sam Goldberg Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, May 10

10 a.m.



#### Lifelong Learning: Reform Movement in America Today - [Inclusivity](#)

Wednesday, May 14

7 p.m. on Zoom

#### Lifelong Learning: Reform Movement in America Today - [Interfaith Marriage](#)

Wednesday, May 28

7 p.m. on Zoom

#### Confirmation & Shabbat

Friday, May 30

6:30 p.m.

### Lunch with the ROMEOs

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

Thursday, April 3

[Tequila Mexican Restaurant](#)

6328 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Thursday, April 17

No lunch- Passover

For more information, please contact Denny Reynolds at:

[dennisreynolds@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@templecav.org)

### VOTE TODAY FOR ISRAEL'S FUTURE

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

[Register and vote here](#). 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.

A logo for the 2025 U.S. Election World Zionist Congress. It features a ballot box with a checkmark and a star. Below the logo is the text "American Zionist Movement" and "התנועה הציונית האמריקאית". At the bottom, it says "MARCH 10 – MAY 4, 2025" and "Your Vote for Israel's Future".

## Rabbi Meir Bargeron: PASSOVER IS A JOURNEY OF LIFELONG LEARNING

With the arrival of spring, we notice, if we go to the right places and look hard enough, the arrival of Passover matzo and other items for the Seder table. Passover is a time of deep reflection and learning, both on a personal and communal level.

The Passover Seder is not only a retelling of the Exodus story, but also an opportunity to engage with its themes of freedom, responsibility, and growth. Each year we approach the Seder with fresh perspectives from the life we have lived over the previous year, and we uncover new insights that shape our understanding of Jewish identity and tradition. The rituals, questions, and discussions embedded in the holiday encourage us to see ourselves as active participants in the ongoing journey of learning and spiritual development.

The arrival of this seven- or eight-day festival (depending on which minhag, or custom, is observed) combines the commandment to hear the telling of the Passover story with the Jewish value of Talmud Torah, lifelong learning. Which brings us to an important question: How does the Passover story encourage us to be lifelong learners?

The Exodus was not just a physical journey but an intellectual and spiritual one. Once the Israelites escaped Egypt, they embarked on a long journey to a promised land that they could not really comprehend. They directly encountered a powerful God who, through Moses, gave the Israelites the Torah and invited them into covenant. This was the beginning of a generation of adaptation, growth and learning as they transitioned from being slaves into being

free people who built a great nation.

Every year, the Passover Seder offers us a night of questions and discovery. Consider the role of questions in the Seder, beginning with [“How is this night different from all other nights?”](#) Traditionally, it is the youngest child at the table who opens the questioning, which fosters engagement and deeper understanding, and encourages lifelong curiosity.

I believe that this shows the inherent wisdom in Jewish tradition. It is a commandment to sit at the Seder table and listen— never taking knowledge for granted, always seeking new insights.

Lifelong learning is not just about accumulating knowledge, but also about personal and communal transformation. When God first called out to Moses, he replied “Hineini,” (I am here). Being present requires an openness to continual learning. I invite you to embrace a spirit of questioning and learning. We will be holding two great programs, both on Wednesday, April 9 at [12 noon](#) and [7 p.m.](#) (see page 6). Please join us if you can. And we will gather together on Saturday, April 13 at 6 p.m. at the Congregational [Second Seder](#) for an evening of storytelling, eating, and questioning!

May you all have for a meaningful Passover filled with both freedom and discovery.

—Rabbi Meir



## OBSERVE PESACH YIZKOR & SHABBAT WITH US ON APRIL 19

Please join us for our Shabbat service on Saturday, April 19 at 9:45 a.m. when we'll also observe Pesach Yizkor. Ron Friedman will lead the service with Rabbi Meir Bargeron. Join us in person or via livestream on Zoom or [YouTube](#). Pesach is one of the three festival times each year when Jews observe [Yizkor](#) and share memorial prayers. The link for worship services on Zoom is sent in the weekly email to our Temple family. We warmly welcome guests.

## NEW INTERGENERATIONAL SHABBAT SERVICE BEGINS IN JUNE



all ages for a lively worship experience with music, singing, and stories. We also will offer a blessing for children attending a Jewish summer camp before beginning their adventures. A family-friendly Oneg Shabbat will follow the service. More information will be coming.

Plan to join us for a new Intergenerational Shabbat service on Friday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m., connecting children and adults of



## 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.



We invite you to share a beautiful tradition with our family when our son **Sam Goldberg** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. at Congregation Achduth Vesholom  
— Kristin & Scott Goldberg

## NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 2024 [National Jewish Book Awards](#) were announced in January by the Jewish Book Council, and several award-winning titles have been added to the [Rabbi Richard B. Safran Library's](#) collection. Below is a review of the titles we've added to our shelves. [Find a full list of winners](#) There are many other categories of awards, and we welcome your recommendations.



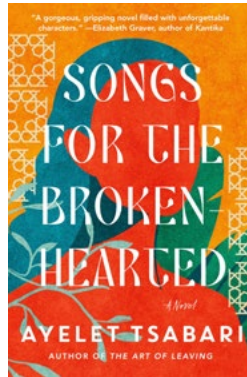
*10/7: 100 Human Stories*, by Lee Yaron, was named the Book of the Year. This is an account of the October 7 attacks on Israel, told through oral history and investigative journalism.

*The Last Dekrepitzer*, by Howard Langer, was the winner in the Book Club category. From a review by Marc Katz for the Jewish Book Council, the novel "imagines what would happen if the last remaining survivor of a Hasidic sect found his way to the pre-Civil Rights

American South and took on a new identity as a blues musician named Sam Lightup. In doing so, the novel explores subjects like race, the legacy of the Holocaust, music, and God." Finalists in this category included Lihi Lapid's *On Her Own: A Novel*, and Talia Carner's *The Boy with the Star Tattoo*.

*Sharing Shalom*, by Danielle Sharkan, was the winner in the Children's Picture Book category. Centered around a vandalized synagogue in Skokie in 1990, the book was also named a Sydney Taylor Notable Book. Finalists in this category included Ariana Mizrahi's *The Blue Butterfly of Cochín*, and *The Many Problems of Rochel-Leah* by Jane Yolen.

*The Safekeep*, a novel by Yael van der Wouden, was the winner in the Debut Fiction category. Set in the Netherlands in 1961, the *Sunday Times* calls it "a razor-sharp, perfectly plotted debut novel." Finalists in this category included *Foreign Seed* by Allison Alsup, and *Fervor* by Toby Lloyd.



Ayelet Tsabari's novel, *Songs for the Brokenhearted* was the winner in the Fiction category. The two storylines take place in the early years of the Israeli state, and later in 1995. *Hadassah Magazine* calls it "A richly layered tale of family, love and identity." Toby Lloyd's *Fervor* was also named a finalist in this category.

*Finn and Ezra's Bar Mitzvah Time Loop*, by Joshua S. Levy, was the winner in the Middle Grade Literature category. The plot features time

travel and an opportunity for two bar mitzvah boys to relive their special day, à la *Groundhog Day*. The book was also named a Silver Medalist in the Sydney Taylor Book Awards. Finalists in this category were *Mendel the Mess-Up* by Terry LaBan, and *Benji Zeb is a Ravenous Werewolf* by Deke Moulton. The latter was named a Sydney Taylor Notable Book.

Finally, *Night Owls*, by A.R. Vishny, was the winner in the Young Adult Literature Category. Also the Gold Medal winner at the Sydney Taylor Book Awards, it's a vampire story with a Jewish twist!

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

## THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS TEAM WILL MEET ON APRIL 9



Our Thoughtful Thursdays assembly team will meet on Wednesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. at the Temple to put together bags of food and household items for the 51 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple.

Thoughtful Thursdays is a project of [Congregation Achduth Vesholom](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#). For further information, please contact Cheryl Schorey at [cheryl\\_schorey@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl_schorey@yahoo.com)

## STAY INFORMED ON SOCIAL ACTION ISSUES

For more than six decades, the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#) (the RAC) has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish community to advocate for social justice. The RAC mobilizes around federal, state, provincial, and local legislation on more than 70 pressing socioeconomic issues, including gun violence prevention, immigration, reproductive rights, and criminal justice reform.

As a joint instrumentality of the [Union for Reform Judaism](#) and the [Central Conference of American Rabbis](#), the RAC represents the values of the largest and most diverse Jewish Movement in North America to governments at all levels. Visit [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org) for information on advocacy issues. If you're interested in being part of the Temple's Social Action Committee, please contact the Temple office.



# Youth News



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

Please join us on Friday, April 11 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 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 and challah. We'll order pizza for dinner together if there's interest.



## TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

*Purim programming in Religious School on March 9 included making hamantashen and learning from guest author Rabbi Leah Berkowitz. She led a fun and active theatrical performance of the parting of the Red Sea, where students played all the parts, including Moses, Miriam, the water, fish, and the Israelites. Rabbi Berkowitz also read some of her own book, "Vashti's Comfy Pants."*



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please contact the Temple office at (260) 744-4245 or [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org) for Campership information. Your child also may be eligible for a need-blind grant up of up to \$1,000 this summer through the [Foundation for Jewish Camp](#) or [other sources](#).

## ENROLL NOW FOR CAMP JOE

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne's [Camp Joe Levine](#) will be held at [Metea 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](#).

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

## 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 9 to be included in our June/July Bulletin. Contact us at [office@TempleCAV.org](mailto:office@TempleCAV.org) or (260) 744-4245.



## JOIN US AT LEARNING CAFÉ: A LIFELONG JOURNEY IN JEWISH EDUCATION

We invite you to join us for Learning Cafe, an exciting new program at the Temple designed to nourish both the mind and the soul. Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding of Judaism or simply eager to engage in thoughtful conversation, this program is for you.

### When & Where

- First Wednesdays of the Month (mostly)
- 12 p.m. sharp – 1 p.m. (60 minutes or less)
- In-person at the Temple
- Virtual participation via Zoom available



### What to Expect

Bring your lunch and dive into a rich tapestry of Jewish learning and discussion. Under the guidance of Rabbi Meir and occasional guest teachers, we'll explore a wide range of topics related to Judaism and Jewish life. Each session promises engaging dialogue and new insights. After the session, feel free to stay and schmooze with fellow participants, building community and connection.

### Why Join?

- Expand your knowledge of Jewish tradition and thought.
- Connect with others in a warm, welcoming environment.
- Enjoy the flexibility of in-person or virtual attendance.
- Mark your calendar and join us for these enriching learning experiences.

### Wednesday, April 9 (Second Wednesday) Translating the Torah with Rabbi Beth Lieberman



We will go on a journey through the history of translation of the Hebrew Bible, and gain insight into the process of the new recently published [JPS TANAKH: Gender-Sensitive Edition \(RJPS\)](#). We will be joined via Zoom by Literary Editor and Revising Translator, [Rabbi Beth Lieberman](#). Kindly RSVP by Tuesday, April 8 to [office@templecav.org](mailto:office@templecav.org)

Rabbi Lieberman is a skilled community leader and the founder of [Textish](#), an organization dedicated to bringing innovative literary works of Jewish scholarship, culture, and practice to a wide audience.

Ensuring the dynamic growth of our tradition is at the forefront of her work. She has been involved with more than 500 published books, many acclaimed for their scholarly integrity, narrative brilliance, and social impact.

A member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, she has served in both Reform and Conservative congregations in the Los Angeles area. Rabbi Lieberman is currently Instructor of Homiletics and director of the Writing Center for the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Rabbinical Studies Los Angeles.

### Wednesday, May 7 [Truth and Lies in Jewish Tradition](#)

Together we will explore the teachings of Torah, Talmud, and Jewish ethics on honesty, deception, and the pursuit of peace. Through classic texts and contemporary commentaries, we'll examine when truth is absolute and when compassion allows for flexibility. Join us in uncovering the wisdom of Jewish tradition in navigating truth with integrity and kindness.

### Wednesday, June 4 [Jewish Identity in a Post-October 7<sup>th</sup> World](#)

This month we will delve into [For Such a Time as This: On Being Jewish Today](#) by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove. This book explores critical existential questions for Jews living in the Diaspora and in Israel in a post-October 7<sup>th</sup> world.

Our conversation will explore the impact of recent events on Jewish identity, the rise of antisemitism, and the evolving relationship between American Jews and Israel. We'll also reflect on how Jewish history and tradition can guide us in contemporary challenges.

Learners are encouraged to read the book before coming to the session, but it is not required.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE IS NEXT TOPIC IN "REFORM MOVEMENT IN AMERICA TODAY" SERIES

Please join us for the third session in our lifelong learning series exploring "The Reform Movement in America Today" when we discuss social justice on Wednesday, April 9 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.

To the right 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](#)



## PURIM ACTIVITIES BRING LOTS OF FUN!

Our preparation for Purim began with a morning of hamentashen baking on March 9, led by Bonnie Pomerantz and Mimi Zelman. The delicious three-cornered treats were served on March 14, following our Seussian Purim shpiel that brought a rhyming retelling of the Book of Esther.

Thank you to the Purim Players, directed by Rabbi Meir, who also played the Royal Advisor and Guard. Our talented team featured Michael Theise as Narrator; Don Zelman as King Ahashverosh; Ronnie Greenberg as Queen Vashti; Cassie Balfanz as Esther; Greg Shoup as Mordechai; and Mike Rush as Haman (Boo! Hiss!). [Watch the shpiel](#)

Thank you also to those who brought boxes of macaroni and cheese for groggers and to donate to the food bank at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services.

The fun continued on March 16 during an incredible fun-filled Sunday afternoon at our annual Purim Carnival! A costume parade, Hamentashen Bake-Off, and an aerialist team performance offered something for all ages.

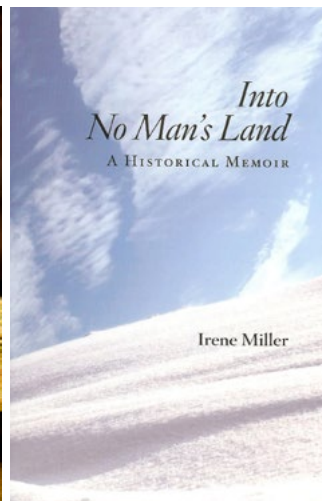
Thank you to our creative Carnival Crew, including Kate Crell (chair), Cassie Balfanz, Deborah Bauer, Stephanie Gottesman, Dawn Hammond, and Celeste Sexton.

Congratulations to our Hamentashen Bake-Off People's Choice winners! Cora Crell won first place (apple spice); Kate Crell won second place (lemon poppy seed); and Beth Zweig won third place (fig with orange and walnuts). Picture Perfect Award went to Kayla & Abe Schreier (raspberry lemon) and the Creativity Award went to Stephanie Gottesman (chocolate dipped strawberry). Kudos to Cassie Balfanz for organizing! Thanks to our other bakers, including Cassie Balfanz (fruity pebbles and triple chocolate), Kate Crell (mint chocolate), and Ruthi Stuckey (orange marmalade).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the delicious lunch spread that included lox, bagels, whitefish salad, chopped liver, kugel, and pizza, as well as our sundae bar, popcorn cart, Purim Speakeasy (cash bar), and goodies for the cake walk. Thank you to all who helped in big and little ways!



## HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR IRENE MILLER TO SPEAK AT YOM HASHOAH



[Irene Miller](#), one of the last Holocaust survivors actively traveling and speaking publicly, will speak at Fort Wayne's annual community Yom HaShoah commemoration on Monday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at the Rifkin Campus.

The author of *Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir*, Miller will take the audience on a survival journey little written and known about.

A service of remembrance led by Rabbi Meir Bargeron will include community participants and music by Maestro Robert Nance accompanied by Heartland Sings.

The event is free and open to the public. Miller will be available following her presentation to sign her book.

The commemoration is sponsored by the [Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne](#) and Congregation Achduth Vesholom with support from the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation.



As part of the programming connected to the [Violins & Hope](#) photography exhibit at the University of St. Francis, Rabbi Meir joined Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in a Jewish-Catholic Prayer Service on March 20 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. The service focused on stories of the Holocaust and the religious connections shared and revered by the Jewish people and Christians. The next evening, the Temple hosted a Violins & Hope Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Meir.

A string quartet featuring Daniel Stein and Eunbee Lee, Violins; Rose Wollman, Viola; and Chris Wild, Cello, played during both services. Also singing at both events was the "Temple Quartet" – Ronnie & Norm Greenberg, Marcia Reynolds, and Mike Rush. They offered a powerful rendition of Oseh Shalom, the blessing for peace. Watch the [service](#).

Thank you also to Jim Palermo, Executive Director of Pearl Street Arts, and Michael Theise, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, for their support planning the service. Their organizations hosted the photography exhibit focused on the Violins of Hope, instruments that were played during the Holocaust and later restored.

Mazel  
TOV!

### MAZEL TOV TO:

Alan Grinsfelder for being honored on March 19 with the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award from Arts United. During the ceremony, the Temple was recognized for its exhibit in late November-December 2024 called "A Creative Life: The Architecture and Art of Alan Grinsfelder." Congratulations to Alan & Maureen Grinsfelder and to Jon Tam, who created and curated the exhibit.





# 45TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA | AUGUST 10-14, 2025

*And We Settled Here...The Jewish Journey*

[www.iajgs2025.org](http://www.iajgs2025.org)

## 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 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](http://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.

## UTILIZING JEWISH RECORDS FOR GENEALOGY

Professional genealogist [Ellen Kowitz](#) joins the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) on Sunday, May 4, beginning at 2 p.m. via Zoom for two programs on utilizing Jewish records. She'll speak at:



- 2 p.m. – **Locating Jewish Records in the Golden Medina (Jewish America) 1654 to the Present** – Documenting Jewish communities in the U.S. extends beyond cemeteries and synagogue plaques to include vital records, Escabot lists, mohel registers, hospital and funeral home records, and organizational materials. This lecture covers search techniques and key websites for uncovering Jewish genealogical records in archives, newspapers, and rare books, with examples from major repositories like the American Jewish Historical Society, American Jewish Archives, state archives, FamilySearch, and WorldCat.
- 3:30 p.m. – **U.S. Synagogue Records as a Genealogical Resource** – This session provides a guide to locating synagogue records, understanding the genealogical information they contain, and recognizing their various formats. Searching for these records can be challenging due to cataloging errors and inconsistencies in how materials are described. *Shul Records America*, a JewishGen finding aid launched in 2022, simplifies the search by identifying over 800 collections across 80 repositories, with 20% linking to digitized materials. As synagogues merge or close, this resource helps preserve valuable genealogical records.

[Registration is required](#) to attend this free virtual program.

Kowitz, founder of Sole Searching Genealogy & Historical Research, is a frequent national speaker, covering topics such as Jewish genealogy fundamentals, research methodology, Jewish institutional records, genealogy website comparisons, Russian Empire research, and Holocaust history in Ukraine. She will speak at the [2025 IAJGS Conference](#) in Fort Wayne, August 10-14.

## Donations

### Joseph & Elsa Adler Memorial Fund

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

### B'nai Jacob Conservative Judaism Fund

In memory of Steve Herman:  
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In memory of Meir Fichman: *Ann Fichman*

### Holocaust Memorial Fund

In memory of Clara Nichtern, Morris Erman,  
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In memory of Morris Kaye: *Steven Shine*  
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*Marcia & Denny Reynolds*

### Max & Gerda Schmitz Holocaust Education Fund

In memory of H.A. Sachs: *Jeremy Sachs*

### Temple Gardens Fund

In honor of Ronnie Greenberg on behalf of  
Miriam: *Amy & Sam Krouse*

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## LOCAL CLERGY COMMITTED TO WELCOMING AND PROTECTING IMMIGRANTS



*Rabbi Meir Bargeran joined 12 other clergy in signing a letter to the editor written by the Rev. Anne Epling of First Presbyterian Church stating their support for the sacred obligation of protecting immigrants. (published March 6, 2025 in The Journal Gazette).*

*[The Reform Movement also is party to the lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security mentioned in the letter.](#)*

On Feb. 11, many denominations and higher judicatory bodies sued in response to the Trump administration's rescission of the Department of Homeland Security "sensitive locations" policy. This policy had previously restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement from conducting raids, arrests and other enforcement actions at houses of worship.

The Hebrew Bible repeatedly calls us to justice and compassion for those seeking refuge. Leviticus commands, "The migrant who sojourns with you shall be to you as your citizens, and you shall love the migrant as yourself" (Leviticus 19:33-34). Similarly, Exodus reminds us of our shared history and moral obligation: "You ... know the heart of the migrant, having been migrants in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 23:9). Throughout the Hebrew Bible, the obligation to treat people seeking refuge with compassion is repeated, underscoring its fundamental importance.

In the Christian New Testament, Jesus teaches in Matthew 25 that our treatment of the most vulnerable is a reflection of our faithfulness. He goes on to remind us, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Throughout the New Testament there is a clear and persistent call to recognize the presence of Christ in those seeking refuge and to respond with compassion, hospitality and justice.

We know there are many families and individuals in Fort Wayne and surrounding communities who have left their homes not by choice, but because they believed they must in order to survive. Many turn to faith communities for refuge and support. This makes it imperative that our places of worship remain sanctuaries of safety and welcome. To paraphrase the lawsuit, the government is interfering with our religious practice and our ability to fulfill our sacred mandate to welcome and serve immigrants.

Welcoming and protecting immigrants has always been, and will continue to be, a central tenet of our faiths. We remain committed to upholding this sacred obligation.

The Rev. Anne Epling, First Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, First Presbyterian Church  
Rabbi Meir Bargeran, Congregation Achduth Vesholom  
Father T.J. Freeman, Trinity Episcopal Church  
Rev. Martin Garcia, Amistad Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Anna Lisa Gross, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren  
Rev. Sara Offner-Seales, Plymouth Congregational Church  
Rev. Christen Pettit Miller, Peace United Church of Christ  
Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Murphy, Plymouth Congregational Church  
Rev. Nicole Shaw, Angola United Church of Christ  
Rev. January Simpson, Cross United Church of Christ, Berne  
Rev. Paula Z. Ulrich, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren  
Rev. Carrie Winebrenner, First Presbyterian Church

## April Jahrzeits

### April 4-5

Jerome Ackerman  
Mariana Apfelbaum  
Samuel Babich  
Lucy Z. Berk  
Elizabeth Bransilver  
Loretta Bukowski  
Mose Caplan  
Mildred Cramer  
Herman Davis  
Goldie DuBow  
Louis Engelhard  
Jacob Eppstein  
Henriett Erber  
Arnie Feinberg  
Helen Fine  
Jan Gassman  
Sophie Glazer  
Minnie Glucklick  
Ira Greenberg  
Bella Gubitz  
Sidney M. Hutner  
Sarah Mildred Jacobson  
Dr. Sheldon Kantor  
Sylvia Laderman  
Rebecca Lande  
Samuel Lauferty  
James Leib  
Barney Levin  
David Levin  
Shirley Ruth Marer-Brateman  
Benjaim Margolies  
Ronald Miller  
Valette Moyer  
Jane L. Neiman  
Calvin Prady  
Norman Prady  
Ida Price  
Barbara Rosen  
Izidor Schachter  
Arnold Schaffer  
Ethel Schnitt  
Etta G. Sheray  
Isabel Sider  
Adam Smulovitz  
Nikki Kaplan Stern  
Flora Strouse

Marguerite Waltemath  
Florence Weis  
Karen S. White  
Loni Wolf  
Diane Wolf  
Ruth Zamrin

### April 11

Libby Babich  
Herbert Brateman  
Harry G. Browarsky  
Rae Dorman  
Herman Freiburger  
Rosemary Gentle  
Rita Gold  
Ida Goldberg  
Mushke Golder  
Tania Leah Grinschpoun  
Aaron Haslacher  
Dorothy Horn  
Ida Hutner  
Tillie Starr Isay  
Leopold Isay  
Elizabeth Ruth Johnson  
Ida Latz  
Harry Levey  
Mike Mattingly  
Jerry Morgenstein  
Carrie Nathan  
David Ochstein  
Helen O'Neill  
Bess Rosenblatt  
Otto D. Rothschild  
Tauba Schachter  
Benjamin Schultz  
Sylvia L. Shafer  
Mark Smith  
Samuel Stein  
Barney Sterling  
Earl Stewart  
Emma A. Strass  
Sharon Subeck  
Alan Lawrence Winnerman  
Jane P. Woolner  
Ryan Zimmerman  
Samuel Zweig

### April 18-19

Steve Abrams  
Moses Amber  
May Bussel  
Sonia Cooperman  
Harry Dale  
Sara A. Doppelt  
Oren Evan Ford  
Eva Friedman  
Cecilia Gans  
Etta Gepsman  
Fred Glazer  
Isser Goldin  
Louis Hirsch  
Judy Isroff  
Bella Kessler Klein  
Isidor Levy  
Mary Levy  
Bessie Levy  
Irving Luskin  
Dorothy G. Maier  
Ruth Mark  
Irma M. Meyer  
Frederick Milz  
Harriet Mirman  
Steven Moyer  
Chaim Norkin  
Tillie Ochstein  
Samuel Ochstein  
Peter Alan Rothberg  
Bernard Rothschild  
Max T. Schmitz  
Harry Sheray  
Lena Silverman  
Israel Weber  
Rosa Weil  
Wyle Weiman  
Dorothy Whisler  
Gilbert Yossef Haim Ben  
Youdoul

### April 25

Sylvia Baker  
Samuel Brateman  
Jacob Bruch  
Edward K. Burcham  
Leah Edelman  
Meyer Fine

Sonia Finkelstein  
David Fishman  
Rebecca Goldberg  
Irwin Golden  
Leonard Goldstein  
Lena Goltz  
Samuel A. Heilbroner  
June Saul Himelstein  
Rabbi Samuel Hirschberg  
Leonel Kahn  
Rebecca Kaplan  
Louis Latker  
Nate LeShay  
Larry Levin  
Werner Manheim  
Esther Nelson  
Gary Nemeroff  
Adelaide Pollak  
Zelda Punsky  
Virginia Ray  
Jean Rehm  
Catherine Revesz  
Ida Rigelhaupt  
Arthur Michael Rudek  
Morris Ruderman  
Arthur Albert Sapirie  
Anna Lee Schefman  
Erna Shulkin  
Rosetta R. Siegle  
Minnie Silverman  
Margaret Silverman  
Samuel Herbert Stern  
Louis Stiefel  
Morton Trauner  
Lucile Wolf

## CONDOLENCES TO:

**Jeff & Marilyn Herman** on the death of his brother, Bruce Steven "Steve" Herman, on March 2, 2025 in Fort Wayne.

**Neil Fine and family** on the death of his wife, Alegria Asseraf Fine, who died on March 11, 2025 in Fort Wayne. We also think of their children, Nathan, Michael, and Stephanie Fine, and granddaughter, Isabella.



THE  
TEMPLE  
CONGREGATION ACHDUTH VESHOLOM

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Meir Bargeron, 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, the IPFW  
Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Brightpoint  
Head Start, the Madge Rothschild Resource Center, and the  
Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society.



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Achduth Vesholom Congregation



**Want to receive our newsletter?  
Send your email address to office@templecav.org**

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

**The deadline for the May issue is Tuesday, April 15**

**President's Corner  
Ronnie Greenberg**



I have several random thoughts to share  
with you, which may be a reflection of how  
my brain is working right now. The first topic  
is probably the cause of my confusion. I got  
a new laptop. I know to some of you that  
sounds exciting. To me, it causes terror.

Everything looks different and it is hard  
to find the icon for what I want to do.

Everything seems to be hidden in a dropdown menu. I'm also  
switching from Outlook to Gmail for my email, and, putting it  
politely, it's not going well. So, if you want to contact me, I strongly  
recommend using the telephone or messaging.

It was probably a bad time to purchase a new computer  
because this is a very busy time of year at the Temple. We  
are preparing for the final two board meetings of the year, at  
which we will discuss and approve the budget and the slate of  
officers and trustees for 2025-2026. These will be presented to  
the congregation for consideration and approval at the annual  
meeting on Wednesday, June 4. An amazing amount of work by  
staff and congregants alike is involved in preparing the booklet  
and other materials for the meeting.

Besides budgets and officers, another topic at the annual meeting  
will be the discussion and approval of another change to the  
Bylaws. Yes, I know I said last year that the amended Bylaws you  
approved would probably be the last changes we would need for  
a number of years. However, as they say, something came up.

The Board Development committee requested a change to the  
officers of the Board and their duties. This change makes a lot of  
sense for us at this time, and I expect the Board to recommend  
these amended Bylaws to you for approval. More information will  
be forthcoming.

Another initiative about which you will be hearing soon is the  
establishment of a new committee to initiate and oversee a  
program designed to promote membership engagement. The  
committee is tentatively called the Ambassadors, and much more  
information will be coming soon.

The things I'm thinking about right now are not all computer  
related. I'm also thinking about spring, and its accompanying  
corollary, gardening. The Temple's gardening chavurah, called  
HaGananim or The Gardeners, will be gathering in just a few  
weeks to begin the process of cleaning up our gardens. We  
always leave dead plants standing over the winter to provide  
homes for native bees and other insects. It's always such a joy to  
cut down last year's foliage and find little green shoots coming up  
beside them. If you like to garden and would like to join us, please  
contact me. You can try email – I need to learn sometime.

One other thing has been on my mind. I am thinking about the  
end of a four-year term as president of this congregation. To say  
that it has never been confusing or stressful or just plain annoying  
would not be true. However, 99% of the time this office has been a  
joy and a privilege for me.

I have been fortunate to work with a Rabbi who is innovative and  
supportive, and an Executive Director and her staff who care  
for this organization as if it were their own. Board and executive  
committee members have taken their work seriously, and we have  
accomplished a great deal. Many congregants, both old and new  
members, have volunteered for many projects and events. And  
lastly, I have witnessed Millennial and Gen X congregants begin  
to take their places as leaders of the congregation. I feel that I am  
leaving the leadership of the Temple in good hands.

M'chayil l'chayil – May we go from strength to strength.