

**2008  
Community  
Campaign Event**  
**Tuesday, October 28**  
**7:30 pm**

***Guest Speaker: Dr. Yossi Olmert***  
*Brother of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert*

**Congregation Ahavas Israel**  
2727 Michigan N.E.

Dr. Yossi Olmert is a well-known expert on the modern Middle East, Islamic militants, terrorism and the Palestinian issue. He received his Ph.D. from the prestigious London School of Economics and graduated from The Hebrew University Magna Cum Laude. Dr. Olmert taught in many well-known universities both in Israel and abroad, including Tel Aviv University, The Hebrew University, Cornell University, City College New York and York University in Toronto. He also lectures extensively on Middle-Eastern issues in hundreds of American colleges.



Dr. Olmert held several senior positions in the Israeli government, including Director of Communication for Prime Minister Shamir and Policy Advisor to Defense Minister Arens. Dr. Olmert was sent on numerous diplomatic missions, participated in the Madrid peace conference and was a member of the Israeli delegation for peace talks in Syria.

Dr. Olmert published extensively on Middle-Eastern and Israeli political subjects, authored three books and numerous articles. He was also a frequent participant on Israeli and international TV programs. Dr. Olmert is currently based in New York City where he works as an advisor to various organizations.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK . . .



Dear Grand Rapids Community:

Once again a beautiful West Michigan summer comes to an end. I hope it was as wonderful for you as it was for me. In the past months I had some special oppor-

tunities to spend with my family. One trip in particular stands out and has had great impact on myself and my daughter, Sammi. It impacted our view of the bigger world around us.

Earlier this summer, Sammi and I traveled to Europe and had time to travel through Amsterdam. When Sammi found out that we were going to Europe, I asked her what she wanted to see. When she told me that it was the Anne Frank House I was elated. Not only have I wanted to go there since I was a child, but to have my own daughter share in the desire was special.

I spent the entire trip waiting until I could actually see what had been so much a part of my youth after reading *"The Diary of Anne Frank"*. As we walked to the house, we spoke about what it must have been like to be a Jewish child in Amsterdam before and during the war. As we came closer to the area we saw the church bell tower that Anne had written about.

As we approached the house, we saw a small statue of Anne and then it hit me; Anne was the same age as Sammi when she went into hiding.

As we entered the museum I began to feel weak and the emotions began to flow through me. After walking through the exhibits and

climbing some stairs, there it was... the bookcase and hidden stairway. I became numb and felt as if I was floating through the rest of the house. How lucky was I to have my beautiful and supportive daughter there to lead me? I felt an energy flow through me that I have never felt before.

To experience a life changing event with your own child makes it so real and powerful. Sammi and I signed the guest book with a reminder that we will never forget and never again allow our people to have to hide again.

After leaving the house, Sammi and I spent several hours talking about our experience and the impact on our lives. I was proud to tell her more about the JFGR and my opportunity to help Jews all over the world through the funds raised and personally donated by the entire community.

As we enter another year and our annual campaign, I ask you to consider the opportunities that we have all been given to live as Jews in America and ask you to support our local community and our fellow Jewish communities around the world through the JFGR.

Live generously and give with pride.

Sincerely,  
**Dan Hurwitz**

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### OUR MISSION

*Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids supports cultural, social and financial needs of Jews locally, in the State of Israel, and around the world.*

*This mission is accomplished by providing services to the community and through fundraising and allocation efforts.*

*The Board of Directors of  
The Jewish Federation  
of Grand Rapids  
Wishes you*

***L'shanah Tovah!  
Have a Happy and  
Healthy New Year.***

## **Help Federation Go Green!!!**

*We hope to save trees,  
save money and  
send you our Shofar  
Newsletter . . . by e-mail.*

Please send us an e-mail with  
your name and e-mail address.

You will receive an electronic  
copy of the Shofar soon . . .

**New!**

**SHOFAR ONLINE**

Visit us at [www.jfgr.org](http://www.jfgr.org)  
click at Shofar newsletter  
(front page)

## **In This Issue . . .**

From the Chairman's Desk . . . . .	2
Federation News . . . . .	3
Senior Programming . . . . .	4-6
Community News . . . . .	6-17
Cultural Council . . . . .	9-11
YAD . . . . .	12, 13
School News . . . . .	16
Endowment News . . . . .	18
Reservation Form . . . . .	19

## **FACT** of the week

United Jewish Communities

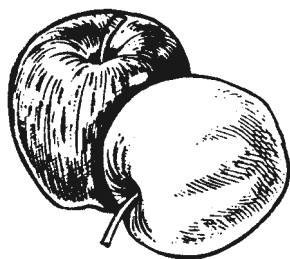
UJC/Federation partners JAFI and JDC have helped save Georgian Jews since the outbreak of the military conflict in the Democratic Republic of Georgia/South Ossetia last week. Through its office in Tbilisi, JAFI has coordinated the evacuation of Jews from the city of Gori to safety in the Georgian capital. JAFI has also helped expedite the immigration of Georgian Jews to Israel. Meanwhile, JDC field staff moved into emergency mode, bringing much-needed medicine, food and water to Jews in the conflict region, and by helping evacuate many to safer locations in Georgia or Russia.

*Live Generously.™ It does a world of good.*

*Join the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
for Our*

**Annual Rosh Hashanah  
Apples and Honey  
Luncheon**

*Featuring Jazz music performed by  
the Larry Broomberg Trio!*



**Thursday,  
September 25<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 Noon  
\$8.00**



**Congregation Ahavas Israel  
2727 Michigan NE**

*This event will be catered by Marla Tulett*

**Please R.S.V.P. to Liz by September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
942-5553, ext. 206 or [liz@jfgr.org](mailto:liz@jfgr.org)**

Please indicate if you will need transportation  
or can provide a ride.

# SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .



*Ladies, please  
save this date!!!*

## **The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Jew- ish Book Fair**

**and**

## **Hadassah Luncheon**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008**

**Cost: \$30**

The Hadassah Luncheon  
will feature critically acclaimed au-  
thor of  
*Skeletons at the Feast*,  
Chris Bohjalian.

## **JFGR Community Immu- nization Clinic**

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Temple Emanuel**

1715 East Fulton

**Flu and Pneumonia Vac-  
cines available for \$30  
and \$40,  
respectively.**

Vaccinations Provided by  
Spectrum Health

**Call Liz to schedule  
an appointment  
942-5553**



## **Lunch and a Show!**

**Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00 a.m. Lunch Buffet at Naya Restaurant**

1144 East Paris Ave. SE (south of Cascade Rd.)

*Featuring wood fired pizza, hot entrée choices, soups,  
and salads.*

(Assistance with this self-serve style meal will be provided)

**1:00 p.m. Steppin' Out**

*Featuring big band music, duets,  
dancing, and more!*

Location: Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, 600 Forest Hills Ave. SE

**\$15 per person** includes lunch and the performance

RSVP to Liz at 942-5553



# SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .

*The Federation would like to express its appreciation to our Mitzvah Specialists! Their dedication as volunteers allows us to prepare and mail the Shofar every month! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!*



*Pictured around the table from right to left: Sue Bass, Lillian Klein, Edith Rashewsky, Barb Wepman, Sari Cohen (Federation staff), Sonia Ashendorf, Anne Wepman, Rosalie Rotenberg, and Marilyn Kleiman  
Not pictured: Nancy Reider*

## Mitzvah Specialists' Calendar through 2008

**Tuesday,**  
October 7th, 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday,**  
November 12th, 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday,**  
December 9th, 10:30 a.m.

R.S.V.P. to Liz at 942-5553, ext. 206 if you can participate

## Our day in Saugatuck last month



*Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and each other!*

*Thanks to everyone who could make it!*



## One God, Three Scriptures: Judaism, Christianity, & Islam

*A day-long conference featuring*

**Dr. David Nirenberg, University of Chicago**

Professor of Medieval History and Social Thought at the University of Chicago

**Thursday, October 16, 2008**

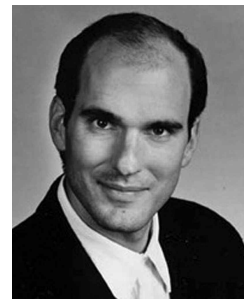
**Wege Center, Wege Ballroom, Aquinas College**

1607 Robinson Road, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan

*The public is cordially invited to all events. Admission is free.*

**Additional information is available at 616-331-5702**

**Conference Registration Deadline is Saturday, October 11, 2008**



### ANNOUNCING THE 2009 SEASON

#### WOMEN'S MINYAN

by Naomi Ragen

January 7 – 18

#### LAUGHTER on the 23<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR

by Neil Simon

April 18 – 26

#### ESTHER, THE MUSICAL

by Lori Jacobs

June 18 – 28

**Season Tickets NOW on sale.**

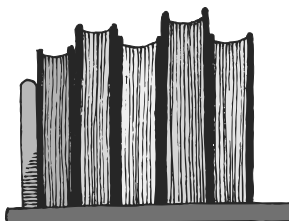
*Early Bird Special through  
September 26, 2008*

**Support your Jewish Theatre!**

Season Brochures and Ticket forms  
available online at [www.jtgr.org](http://www.jtgr.org)  
or call 616.234-3595

## HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

### Meetings:



**October 15th, 7:15 p.m.**

Edith Packard's home  
16663 Oakleigh Woods NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
453-6011

Book: "A Woman in Jerusalem"  
by A. B. Yehoshua

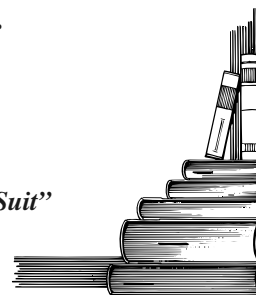
Facilitator: Sylvia Krossoff

*Please call Edith for directions and reservations.*

**December 10th, 7:15 p.m.**

Flory Silverstein's home  
2930 Bonnell SE  
Grand Rapids, MI  
949-5766

Book: "The Man in the Sharkskin Suit"  
by Lucette Lagnado  
Facilitator: Sue Remes



*RSVP is imperative for hostess to set-up.*

**Books are available for you at Schuler's Book Store  
on 28th Street.**

**Sue Remes – 949-3505**

**Flory Silverstein – 949-5766**

*What do the following families have in common?*



**The Bermans  
The Freedts  
The Goulds  
The Hermans  
The Hillards  
The Josephs  
The Lawtons  
The Schadicks  
The Shibleys  
The Slotnicks  
The Winicks**



**They all attended “A FAIR TO REMEMBER”  
at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit on August 21!**

It was a most memorable event saluting Israel at 60. There were more than 16,000 fellow Jews from around Michigan celebrating Israel’s milestone while enjoying Israel-focused activities, exhibits, music, food and entertainment. It was an exciting and unforgettable occasion!



## COMMUNITY NEWS . . .

The ***Jewish Cultural Council***  
invites you to attend...

# A Mind Power Show

Featuring:

**SIDNEY FRIEDMAN**

mystifier / intuitive / psychic / author

As seen on ABC-TV's *The View*  
and CBS *Morning News!*



Sidney has been captivating audiences for 17 years with his gifts of intuition and perception. He is also the best-selling author of *Your Mind Knows More Than You Do*.

The **CHICAGO TRIBUNE** writes, "Mentalist to the stars, Friedman is the master of all things psychic."

**TIMEOUT CHICAGO** writes, "Friedman will blow your mind!"

And **CHICAGO MAGAZINE** rates him on their list of "Top Talents."

*Dessert reception will follow the event.*

**Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 p.m.**

**Congregation Ahavas Israel**

2727 Michigan NE

**For free child care sponsored by JFGR, please RSVP by October 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, and \$5 for students.

For more information call the Jewish Federation at 942-5553

## **Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**

### **SIDNEY FRIEDMAN'S MIND POWER SHOW**

**Saturday,  
October 18, 2008  
8:00 p.m.  
Congregation Ahavas Israel  
2727 Michigan NE**



As seen on ABC's *The View*, the *CBS Morning News*, and numerous other talk shows and news programs, the mystifying, intuitive, psychic and author, Sidney Friedman is coming to Grand Rapids!

Sidney has been captivating audiences for over seventeen years with his gifts of intuition and perception. His best-selling book, "*Your Mind Knows More Than You Do: The Subconscious Secrets of Success*", reached #8 on Amazon.com.

**Be prepared to experience up close and in person, something fun, uplifting, unique and truly amazing!**

*Dessert reception to follow.*

### **ISRAEL CURRENT AFFAIRS - UPDATE**

*By Gil Tamary*

**Saturday,  
January 24, 2009  
7:30 p.m.  
Congregation Ahavas Israel  
2727 Michigan N.E.**



Gil Tamary is a TV icon in Israel. Every Israeli recognizes him as one of the most reliable journalists in the business. For the last 8 years Gil has been the Washington Reporter and Washington Bureau Chief for the leading Israeli TV networks.

Mr. Tamary has been covering a wide range of Middle East issues from U.S. and Israeli perspectives.

Currently, Mr. Tamary is also the International Editor of *Forbes - Israel* magazine.

Mr. Tamary has a M.B.A degree from Tel Aviv University and a bachelor's degree with a distinction in Economy and Management from Tel Aviv University.

*Dessert reception to follow.*

***Support the Cultural Council by becoming a member!***

***Season Tickets now on sale!***

*This Series is sponsored by the  
Coopersmith-Rosenzweig Foundation*



**Free Child Care available for all events**

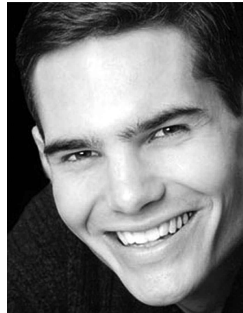
Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

Advanced Reservation required

# 2008-2009 Spectrum Series

## THE COMEDY OF JOEL CHASNOFF

Sunday,  
March 1, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
Temple Emanuel  
1715 East Fulton



### Back by Popular Demand...

Joel Chasnoff brings creativity and imagination to comedy and an innovative look at the funnier aspects of Jewish life. Joel's stand-up comedy act focuses on what being Jewish in America means--such experiences as the Bar Mitzvah, tours of the Holy Land, and Yom Kippur services as well as Israeli humor through his service in the IDF. At the heart of Joel's act is a deep love for Judaism, a love that is communicated in every performance. In addition to performing comedy, Joel Chasnoff conducts seminars on Jewish Humor.

*Dessert reception to follow.*

## ISRAELI FUSION CUISINE – COOKING DEMONSTRATION AND TASTING By Chef Avi Sekerel

Sunday,  
March 29, 2009  
6:30 p.m.  
Temple Emanuel  
1715 East Fulton



Avi is one of the leading chefs in Israel, specializing in Israeli and Italian cuisines. He is Chef and owner of well known restaurants, including "Belini" in Tel-Aviv, "Tapas-Bar" and "Saquella Café" in Florida. He is a Sommelier and had his training both in creating wine and wine tasting in Switzerland.

Chef Avi had his own show on Israeli TV. He wrote and published the famous *Gourmet and Not Fattening* cookbook.

**Don't miss out on this fabulous chance to enhance your palate.**

### Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Spectrum Series 2008 – 2009 Membership Form

Please send me season tickets for **Spectrum 2008 – 2009**

- I/We would like to be an Underwriter – \$500 and up  
 I/We would like to be a Patron – \$250 – \$499  
 I/We would like to be a Sponsor – \$125 – \$249  
 I/We would like a Family membership – \$75  
 I would like a Single membership – \$50  
 I would like to be a Cultural Council Volunteer, please contact me

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my Check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Payable to **The Jewish Cultural Council**

Please mail this form with your check to:

**The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**  
4127 Embassy Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546



# YOUNG ADULT DIVISION . . .

## *It's Back . . .* **Jewish Federation Playgroup**

Meets Every Friday 10-11

a.m.

Temple Emanuel, 1715 E. Fulton

**Starting date: September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Parents with kids, come meet other  
Jewish families for challah, Jewish crafts  
and socialization.

*Free program, all ages welcome.*

Great for new Jewish community members

Do not hesitate  
to contact Ally with  
questions –  
942-5553 ext.208  
or [ally@jfgr.org](mailto:ally@jfgr.org)



## **SAVE THE DATE** **October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008** **Family Fun Day at** **Craig's Crusiers**



Watch upcoming  
Shofar  
for more  
information

**If you are not receiving the YAD  
Weekly Happening's e-mails, please  
e-mail Ally at [ally@jfgr.org](mailto:ally@jfgr.org)  
to be added to the list**

After your **MIND IS READ** by Sidney Friedman  
on October 18<sup>th</sup>

At Ahavas Israel (2727 Michigan)

## **Let's Schmooze...**

**THE MELTING POT** at the Celebration Plaza

Fondue will start at 9:30 p.m.

**All you can eat CHOCOLATE FONDUE**

Cost: \$ 7.00 per person

(drinks and the Mind Power Show admission not included)

RSVP by October 14<sup>th</sup> to Ally 942-5553 ext.208

or [ally@jfgr.org](mailto:ally@jfgr.org)



# YOUNG ADULT DIVISION . . .

***Pictured at a recent YAD party hosted by Chad Zagel are:***

*L-R:  
Chad Zagel, Jammie Dobies,  
Andrew Samrick, Liz Scheibe,  
and Ally Weiskopf*



*L-R:  
Ron Arnon, Frank Weiss, Elyse Weiss,  
Burt Bach, and Michelle Benjamin*

## ***Shalom Baby!!!***

**This is a new program to welcome our youngest members to the community.**



If you or someone you know is pregnant or recently had a baby, please contact Ally at 942-5553 ext 208.

*We would like to extend a warm Shalom to your new addition.*



## ***Jewish Federation Day at Orchard Hill Farm***

**Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.**



*Meet at Temple Emanuel's parking lot or call Ally for directions*

*Afternoon includes tour of farm, pumpkin patch, hay rides, spooky house and donuts with cider*

**\$4.00 per person / max \$16.00 per family**

**R.S.V.P. to Ally  
at 942-5553  
ext. 208  
or  
ally@jfgr.org**





To make a donation to help the Georgia relief efforts, please go to [www.ujc.org](http://www.ujc.org)

## Special Update: Rescuing Georgian Jews

### JEWISH AGENCY EVACUATES GEORGIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL IN EMERGENCY ALIYAH OPERATION



The Jewish Agency has always been - and will always be - there whenever a Jew is in need. This was dramatically brought home over the last five days, as the Jewish Agency, in cooperation with the Israeli Government, rescued Jews from the war-torn country of Georgia.

On Tuesday evening, August 12th, a few days after the outbreak of fighting, the Jewish Agency brought 34 new immigrants home to Israel, keeping the promise that any Jew, for any reason, can make Israel their home. This followed the daring evacuation, led by Alex Katz, Head of the Jewish Agency's FSU delegation, of almost the entire 200-strong Jewish community of war-ravaged Gori to Tbilisi, the Georgian capital.



*Eli Cohen, Director General of the Jewish Agency's Department for Aliyah and Absorption, greets the new immigrants from Georgia at Ben Gurion airport.*

"The current operation is unprecedented in its swiftness," said Eli Cohen, Director General of the Jewish Agency's Department for Aliyah and Absorption after meeting the new immigrants at the airport. "In 72 hours we evacuated Jews under fire, helped them to obtain visas to leave Georgia, verified their eligibility to immigrate to Israel under the Law of Return, and got them on a plane to Israel."

The new immigrants arrived at the airport on special El Al Flights coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that also

brought home stranded Israelis. As of Tuesday evening, Israel was the only country that airlifted its citizens out of Georgia.

With a mixture of happiness and relief at being out of danger, tinged with deep anxiety for family members still in Georgia, the new immigrants talked about the ravaged country they left behind and their appreciation for being safely brought to Israel.

*Anri Baavovi, rescued by the Jewish Agency from Gori, arrived in Israel with only the clothes on his back.*



Fifteen-year-old Anri Baavovi, an only child from Gori, made aliyah with his aunt Eka Davarashvili and his cousin Gabi, 10. His mother and father stayed behind in Tbilisi, hoping to return after the cease-fire to salvage their property and business.

"I have never been so scared in my life," said Anri. "On Friday, our home was damaged by shrapnel from a nearby explosion. We hid until the Jewish Agency sent a taxi for us on Saturday. We left everything behind, taking only a small bag for the three of us. I arrived here in Israel with just the clothes I am wearing."

Trying hard to stay composed, Anri said that while watching the news in Tbilisi he saw that his home had been hit again and severely damaged. "We probably would have been killed if we stayed in Gori," he stated starkly.

Tamar Mosheshvili, 27, also from Gori, tells a similar story. A lecturer in business at the University of Gori, she began considering aliyah three years ago when, thanks to a grant from the Jewish Agency, she visited Israel on a Birthright Israel trip, and fell in love with the country.

"What is happening in Gori is unbelievable," she said. "Innocent civilians are being killed. The casualties are far higher than what is being reported. I haven't got a friend who did not have a family member killed."

Mosheshvili made aliyah with her mother Liana and her younger brother David, who was studying dentistry at the

# INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEWS . . .

University of Gori. Their father Arkady has remained behind in Tbilisi to look after the family home when the fighting stops. Arkady and Liana ran the Hesed welfare center for the city's Jewish community. "Thank God nobody in the Jewish community has been hurt," said Liana.

"On Saturday, when we got the green light from the Jewish Agency, we came out of hiding in the basement of our home and put a few things in the car and drove to Tbilisi, fearing that we would be killed at any minute."

"Our main worry was that the airport would remain closed because of the bombing. It seemed like a miracle when the Jewish Agency took us to the airport and put us on the plane and we took off," continued Liana.

"We feel that the Jewish Agency saved our lives," said David Mosheshvili. "Most of the residents of Gori have nowhere to go. They are stuck there as sitting ducks."

Sixty people submitted requests to make emergency aliyah this week in Georgia (including the 34 who arrived on Tuesday), and 100 more Georgian Jews are expected to immigrate to Israel in the near future. The Jewish Agency is providing special absorption opportunities to entire households (three generations). In a meeting between Jewish Agency Chairman Zeev Bielski, Eli Aflalo, Minister of Immigrant Absorption, and senior staff of his ministry, it was decided to expand the project of community absorption in the cities with a large concentration of veteran immigrants from Georgia to enable new immigrants to live close to their families in Israel.

The Jewish Agency has prepared absorption solutions for the immediate- and long-term for every family expected to arrive from Georgia in the coming days and weeks, each according to their special needs.



*Vazha and Irena Mamiashvili, with their two young sons, come home to Israel.*

Vazha Mamiashvili, a 37-year-old engineer, made aliyah yesterday from Tbilisi with his wife Irena and two sons, Nikoloz and David. "We have been thinking about aliyah for years. This war was the last straw. We knew it was

time to come. In Tbilisi we always drank a toast to peace in Israel. Now, we are in Israel and we will drink a toast to peace in Georgia."

The Mamiashvili family will be staying in a Jewish Agency Absorption Center in Jerusalem, and will then make their home on Kibbutz Masada.

Yossi Djanashvili, 13, and his sister Hava, 10, from the Israeli city of Holon were in Tbilisi visiting their grandparents for the summer vacation when the war broke out. Their parents told them to come home immediately, and to bring their grandparents with them as new immigrants. With the help of the Jewish Agency, the youngsters did just that. "It was a bit scary," admitted Yossi. "We heard explosions all the time. But one good thing has happened. Our grandparents will now be living with us in Israel."

The Jewish Agency is also making available opportunities for Jewish youth from Georgia interested in Jewish Agency programs in Israel, including summer camps and study-in-Israel programs.

Hours after the initial outbreak of hostilities on Friday, the Jewish Agency opened two situation rooms with 24-hour hotlines, one in Jerusalem and one in Tbilisi, to provide assistance to Jews in Georgia and Georgian-Israelis worried about their loved ones.



*Georgian-Israelis Yossi, 13, and Hava, 10, Djanashvili with their grandfather.*

"The Jewish Agency, as a bridge between the State of Israel and the Jewish people in the Diaspora, will continue to do what it takes to assist Jewish communities in times of crisis," said Jewish Agency Chairman Zeev Bielski. "This is a moment of pride for the Jewish Agency family and a moment that reinforces the sense of mutual responsibility between us, as Jews living in Israel, and Jewish people wherever they live in the world."

Since 1989 the Jewish Agency has brought more than 24,000 Georgian Jews to Israel from the former Soviet republic. Immigration from Georgia rose from 260 in 2006 to 326 last year. In the first half of 2008, 146 Georgian Jews were flown to Israel by the Jewish Agency and now, in the wake of the war, the Jewish Agency expects that this year's immigration will surpass that of 2007. There are an estimated 12,000 Jews remaining in Georgia.

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL AND YOU

**Partnering with purpose, all over the world.**



## Beit Sefer B'yahad/ United Jewish School

celebrated opening day on Sunday, September 7. It was very exciting to see the 170 eager faces coming into the classrooms to begin the 2008-2009 religious school year. During the summer months much organization and planning was prepared by the UJS board. Please take the time to say thanks for all their hard effort.

**UJS Board:** Marni Vyn, Jan Fonger, Arlene Loby, Barb Wepman, Julie Gendler, Karen Sigal, Melissa Hillman, Tom Rider, Helen Shibley, Ann Berman, Glenn Barkan, Machel Hammond, Linda Barbour, Allyn Lebster.

### Please welcome the UJS teachers and staff for 2008-2009

Marisa Krishef – Gan Katan	Cathy Winick – Pre-K
Judy Shapiro – Kindergarten	Marni Vyn – Kindergarten
Linda Zizos – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Katherine Light – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Nina Siagkris – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Jean Silbar – 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Stuart Berman – 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Lauren Duchemin – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mitch Kahn/Sharyl Titche – 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Shel Kopperl – 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Leo Schlesinger – 11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Helen Shibley – Hebrew
Sabrina Slaw – Hebrew	Debbie Freedman – Music/Hebrew
Kris Siegel – Library Resources	Rabbi Krishef
Rabbi Schadick	Barb Duchemin – Curriculum Director

Thank you to so many people that have supported the school. A special thanks to SOS Office Supply for the many supplies that were donated and a big thank you to Rudy Costello, custodian for Temple Emanuel for working so hard to get the school ready for opening day.

Check out our new and improved website: [www.unitedjewishschool.org](http://www.unitedjewishschool.org)

If you know of someone who would like information about the school please direct their inquiries to [pam@templemanuelgr.org](mailto:pam@templemanuelgr.org) or call 459-5976 x3.

### UJS Calendar

September 24 7:00 pm	Temple Emanuel UJS Board Meeting
September 28	UJS Open House and Shofar Factory
October 1	No Midweek – Rosh Hashanah
October 8	No Midweek – Yom Kippur
October 12	Summer Camp Fair
October 15	No Midweek – Sukkot
October 22	No Midweek – Simchat Torah
October 26	UJS Open House

## Campaign 2008

### *Meet our Campaign Chair, Andrew Samrick*

Having participated in each of the three of the Jewish congregations, Andrew Samrick feels a strong connection with the broader Jewish community in Grand Rapids. It is this connection which has created in him a strong desire to build and nurture an even more vibrant and integrated Jewish world here in West Michigan.

Andrew has experienced differing tastes of Jewish life from his time living in Boston, Washington DC, Chicago, and through attendance at UJC Young Leadership conferences. Overwhelmed by the diversity of religious life witnessed in Israel, he has committed himself to communal service here at home.

Samrick has served on the board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for a number of years, with his work closely focused on developing the next generation of the Jewish community, and is also a trustee at Congregation Ahavas Israel. Andrew resides in East Grand Rapids with his fiancée Elizabeth Scheibe and their two dogs and four cats.



On the second Tuesday of every month, families depend on food donations from the

### **Food Bank at Temple Emanuel**

**Currently we do not have enough food for these families.**

Please take immediate advantage of this opportunity to do a mitzvah!

Drop off food donations to Temple Emanuel (tuna, mac & cheese, soup, fruit, veggies, peanut butter, cereal, etc.)

### **Mark your calendars – Grand Rapids goes to Israel in December 2009**

On our last community mission (December 2005) we filled two busloads. We would love to do that again!

We will be holding an informational meeting this fall. Please contact the Federation office at 942-5553 if you have any questions or would like to express interest in this meeting.

Special pricing may be available for those who have celebrated a b'nai mitzvah since the last community mission.

## Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Endowments

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$5 or more to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids in honor or in memory of members of our community. We then will acknowledge that donation with a card to that individual or family. This is a wonderful way to send your good wishes and be able to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Please be sure to indicate what the occasion is and who is to receive the card. Please specify which of the following funds you would like your donation to be credited to:

- **The Woman of Valor Fund** - (\$10 minimum contribution). To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally, or nationally.
- **The Federation General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund** - To help ensure the continued work of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for now and the future.
- **The Julian and Judith Joseph Fund** - To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.
- **The David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund** - To provide scholarships to Jewish sleep away camps and experiences.
- **The Chuck and Maxine Shapiro Fund** - To help ensure long-term aid to Israel and Jews around the world.
- **The Louis and Louise Weiner Fund** - To help ensure local programming for seniors in the Grand Rapids Jewish Community.
- **The Jerry and Judy Subar Fund** - To help ensure funding for overseas Jewish communities' needs.

*Thank you for supporting the  
Grand Rapids Jewish Community*

*See page 15 for Endowment Form*

לדור ודור  
L'Dor Vador  
From Generation to Generation

### **The JFGR General Endowment Fund**

To Bev Manes in memory of Al Manes  
From Karen and Mitchell Padnos

To David Bayless in memory of his father, Jerome Bayless  
From Karen and Mitchell Padnos

### **The Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund**

In honor of Judy Joseph  
From Shirley and Morris Kleiman

To Carrie Rosen for a speedy recovery  
From Ben and Eleanor Rush Kleiman

### **The Louis and Louise Weiner Fund**

In appreciation of Liz Scheibe  
From Marilyn Kleiman

### **The Women of Valor Endowment Fund**

To Jeff Frank and Family in memory of his mother  
From Karen and Mitchell Padnos

## **BEING JEWISH IS A TRUST**

Being Jewish is a trust. We are entrusted to safeguard the precious heritage received from our predecessors, which must be handed down intact to our children and heirs. All sorts of forces would take this heritage away from us. And if we let them, or walk away on our own, we betray that trust. But if we preserve and protect what we have been given, we can leave this world with a sense of personal and historical integrity. This is no small matter when, as we come closer to the end than to the beginning of our lives, we begin to reflect on the meaning and purpose of our existence.

### **Keep the Trust**

*Make a Gift That United Our Heritage  
and Our Hopes*

For more information, contact the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids at (616) 942-5553

**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Endowment Fund Donation Form**

**Donation From:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Card To:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund** (please pick from list): \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Card To:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund** (please pick from list): \_\_\_\_\_

Send your donation to:  
**The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**  
 4127 Embassy Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2418

**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Reservation Form**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b># Attending Program</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
_____ Apples and Honey Luncheon	September 25 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 8.00	_____
_____ Orchard Hill Farm Trip	October 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 4.00 / \$16 max family	_____
_____ Let's Schmooze at the Melting Pot	October 18 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 7.00	_____
_____ Lunch and a Show	October 28 <sup>th</sup>	\$15.00	_____
_____ Book Fair and Hadassah Luncheon	November 11 <sup>th</sup>	\$30.00	_____
	<b>Total Enclosed</b>		_____

*Call Me! I need a ride!* YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_      *Call Me! I can provide a ride!* YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Mail this form and your check made out to the **Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids** to:  
 4127 Embassy Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2418

# Save these dates!

**Tuesday, October 28**  
**2008 Community Campaign Event**  
**Guest Speaker – Dr. Yossi Olmert**

## **September**

Wednesday, September 17, 5:30 and 7 p.m. . . . . JFGR Executive and Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 25, 12 p.m. . . . . Apples & Honey Luncheon

## **October**

Sunday, October 5, 12:30 p.m. . . . . Jewish Federation Day at Orchard Hill Farm  
Tuesday, October 7, 10:30 a.m. . . . . Mitzvah Specialists  
Saturday, October 18, 8:00 p.m. . . . . Sidney Friedman's Mind Power Show  
Tuesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m. . . . . Community Campaign Event - Yossi Olmert

## **The Shofar**

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
4127 Embassy Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2418

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E-Mail: [Info@JFGR.org](mailto:Info@JFGR.org)

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

**Next Issue's Information Deadline: September 22, 2008**