

Shevat/Adar I, 5769 • February/March, 2009
Volume 14, Number 6
JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS
www.jewishgrandrapids.org

THE SHOFAR
JFGR

The Jewish Cultural Council
Invites you to attend...

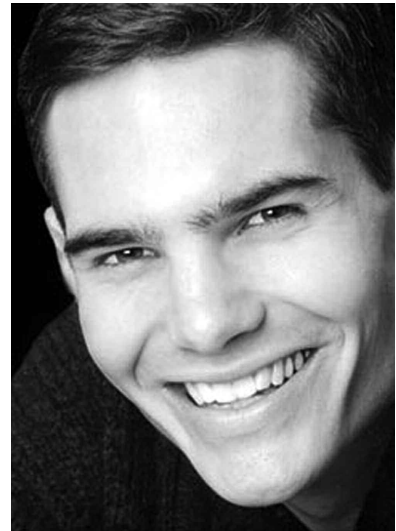
COMEDY NIGHT
WITH
JOEL CHASNOFF

Back by Popular
Demand...

SUNDAY,
MARCH 1ST, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Temple Emanuel
1715 East Fulton



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. Joel was a featured performer at the Montreal Comedy Festival and has opened for such well-known comics as Jon Stewart (The Daily Show) and Gilbert Gottfried (Aladdin).

Dessert reception following.

Advance Ticket Reservations \$10 • At the Door \$12 • Students \$5

Free child care available; please **RSVP by February 26th**

616-942-5553

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK . . .



As another winter continues to keep a strong grip on us here in Michigan, we cannot ignore the needs of so many during these difficult times. From the crisis in Gaza and Israel to the economic crisis that is hitting home for so many here locally, the JFGR strives to

be a source of strength for our community.

The JFGR is truly a reflection of our values within our own local Jewish community and it needs your involvement to strengthen this fabric of our people. Attend a Jewish Cultural Council event, volunteer at the food bank, become a mitzvah specialist, or attend one of the many fabulous films at the Jewish Film Festival. Whatever it is, get involved and make a difference.

So much of what we are able to support in West Michigan and around the world is due to the support from all of you. From social services and senior programming to our combined Jewish school and com-

munity missions the JFGR is here for all. For those who continue to support our work, both financially and personally, I thank you. If you are looking for ways to get more involved on a volunteer basis, I encourage you to contact the JFGR to see what opportunities are available.

Our newsletter, *The Shofar*, is full of events, opportunities, and educational features to share with the community. As the JFGR continues to look at ways to be more financially efficient, your choosing to receive *The Shofar* via email can help. Did you know that it costs more than \$25.00 per household to print and mail *The Shofar* annually? By choosing to receive it via email, those dollars can be used in the community where needed. To opt-in to *The Shofar* via email, just send an email to info@jfgr.org. By this single act, you can help make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dan Hurwitz

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.

CAMPAIGN NEWS . . .

Federation Needs Your Help At our 2008 Campaign Completion Phone-a-thons

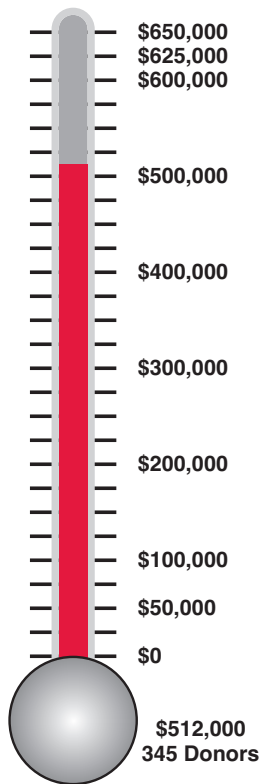
Mark your calendars and plan to join us for an hour as we make calls to our community in an effort to secure vital pledges. Financial donations will directly serve our local community, Israel and our less fortunate around the world.

Sign up for either shift: 6-7 p.m. or 7-8 p.m.

Monday	February 16 - YAD shift
Tuesday	February 24
Tuesday	March 3 - YAD shift
Wednesday	March 11
Monday	March 23

Please RSVP to 942-5553 and let us know which shift you can help with.

CAMPAIGN NEWS . . .



Shalom and welcome to the cold! While we've all experienced a truly frigid winter, this year's campaign update should warm your soul. Despite the tremendously difficult economy here at home – and throughout the United States – our annual campaign has proceeded remarkably well!

Thus far we've raised just over a half million dollars. That's \$500,000 to provide vital family services, community programming, Jewish education, and leadership development here at home, in Israel, and throughout the world. Your donations mean that we do good works. When you skip your café mocha and instead give tzedakah once a week, you provide warm clothes to seniors here at home, in Moscow, Kiev, and upstate New York. Your donation of \$18 a month brings healthy food to the needy in communities from Grand Rapids to Johannesburg to Buenos Aires. And your commitment to our efforts through your gift and endowment ensures that in tough times like these, our federation can continue to achieve *tikkun olam*, healing the world.

I'd like to tell you that our efforts thus far are enough, but they are not. Our economic future is far from certain. Hundreds of us have not made a commitment to support our community. And while we've been fortunate to have found new donors this year, and to have seen some donors increase their gifts, a cold winter and a deep recession mean that vital services are in even higher demand.

Now more than ever, your charity is needed. In this edition of the Shofar you'll read about upcoming phone-a-thon sessions. If you can, please volunteer to help. If you receive a campaign solicitation, please look deep inside to the still, calm place within and find the strength to make a meaningful contribution. And if you are truly unable to do so, please remember that Federation is here to help you through these toughest of times – call us for support and we will be there to serve you.

Thank you,
Andrew



Double Your Gift!

- Any new gift and any increase to a previous gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000, thanks to the generosity of the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation.
- And, if you are 40 years of age or under, any new gift or increase to last year's gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000, by the Hurwitz and Thodey families through the Berkowitz Foundation.

Please consider increasing your gift or, if you haven't before donated, please consider making a gift this year. **Thanks to these matching grants, your money will go twice as far in helping Jews locally, nationally and abroad.**



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2008

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
4127 Embassy Dr SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 942-5553 email: info@jfg.org
www.jfgr.org

Please cut out this pledge card, fill it in and send it to the Federation office.

I HEREBY PLEDGE TO THE FEDERATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN THE SUM OF: \$ _____

Donor's Signature

Method of Payment: Check Stock

Please charge my: Mastercard Visa

Card Number

Exp. Date

Live Generously.

Name _____

Address _____

SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .

Thursday,
March 5, 2009
12 p.m.

Seniors' Purim Luncheon!

Mangiomo's Restaurant

1033 Lake Dr., S.E.

Hamantaschen will be served for dessert!

Cost: \$8.00

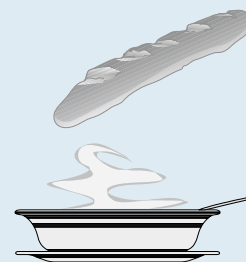
To RSVP, call Liz at 942-5553, ext. 206

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday,
March 24th

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$7.00



The Heritage Restaurant

Join us at the Secchia Institute
for Culinary Education's
fine dining restaurant!

RSVP to Liz at 616-942-5553 ext. 206

Let us know if you need free transportation!

*Last month we honored the commitment and hard work
of our volunteers at an appreciation lunch!*



*We also celebrated
Anne Wepman's
special birthday!*



Mitzvah Specialists!

*Here is your schedule
through June 2009!*

Tuesdays,

10:30 a.m.

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .

Seniors' Camp!

Thursday, February 19th

12:00pm Lunch at **Cascade Hills Country Club**

**Special thanks to the Federation's Board Chairman, Dan Hurwitz,
for making this special occasion possible!*

COST: \$7

Monday, February 23rd

11:30am Lunch at the **Great Lakes Shipping Co.** at Breton Village

1:00pm Painting clay Tzadakah Boxes, Seder Plates, and Star of David Boxes
at **Naked Plates** in Breton Village.

**After the pottery is fired in the kiln, I will deliver the pieces to you
or someone you select to receive it as a gift!*

COST: \$12

Please RSVP to Liz at 942-5553, ext. 206 • Free Transportation is available

COMMUNITY NEWS . . .

A Patient Advocate Designation...

can assure that your health care decisions are respected in the event that you are unable to communicate your wishes. It allows you to select a Patient Advocate who can have access to your medical records and represent your wishes for medical care.

**Adults of ALL ages should complete a
FREE Patient Advocate Designation!**

Please note that spouses do not automatically become one another's Patient Advocate.

To receive this document, please contact Liz Scheibe, Director of Social Services,
at (616) 942-5553.

FILM FESTIVAL . . .



PLEASE PLAN ON ARRIVING EARLY. That means even if you are holding a flex pass ticket, seats are not guaranteed later than thirty minutes prior to movie time. **Flex pass tickets are only available until May 1st.**

The Film Festival also offers members of the community an opportunity to become an individual sponsor of the Jewish Film Festival. Please read about the benefits of becoming a financial supporter below.

Individual Sponsors Get Great Benefits!

Director: (\$500.00) receive two flex passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and four admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

Producers: (\$250.00) receive two flex passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications and two admissions to all private receptions, dinners, and events.

Actor: (\$100.00) receive one season punch card (8 admissions) and recognition in the program booklet.

Film Fan: If you would like to financially support the Jewish Film Festival and do not see an amount that interests you, please feel free to send a contribution in any amount to the Federation office. You will be listed in the program booklet.

The 2009 Jewish Film Festival is once again bringing special movies to the Grand Rapids community. The committee has been previewing movies and planning special programs. As in previous years, the Film Festival will be held at Celebration! North Cinemas. Watch for more details about the Festival's events in our community mailings.

The Film Festival is offering special rates through a **flex pass** (eight admissions); the flex pass is **\$36.00**. Flex pass ticket holders will have seats reserved until **THIRTY MINUTES** prior to the movie beginning. At that time, tickets will be sold for all seats.

----- CUT HERE -----

I would like to be a Film Festival Sponsor

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ Film Festival Director (\$500.00)

_____ Film Festival Fan

_____ Film Festival Producer (\$250.00)

_____ Flex Pass (\$36.00)

_____ Film Festival Actor (\$100.00)

Mail this form and your check to:
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
4127 Embassy Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

2009 Grand Rapids Community Mission to Israel **Enjoy the journey of a lifetime!**



December 21-29, 2009
Departing Sunday, December 20

8 days, 7 nights
6 lunches, 7 dinners

*Travel by luxury coach, accompanied by
a licensed English speaking guide
and youth counselor*

Brief Itinerary:

Monday: Arrive in Tel Aviv, welcome dinner

Tuesday: Breakfast briefing with guest speaker, walking tour of Tel Aviv and sights, dinner at an authentic Middle East restaurant

Wednesday: Depart to the north: museum tour, Moshav Nahalal, Partnership community visit

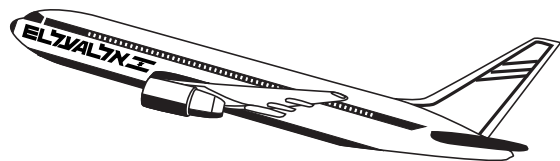
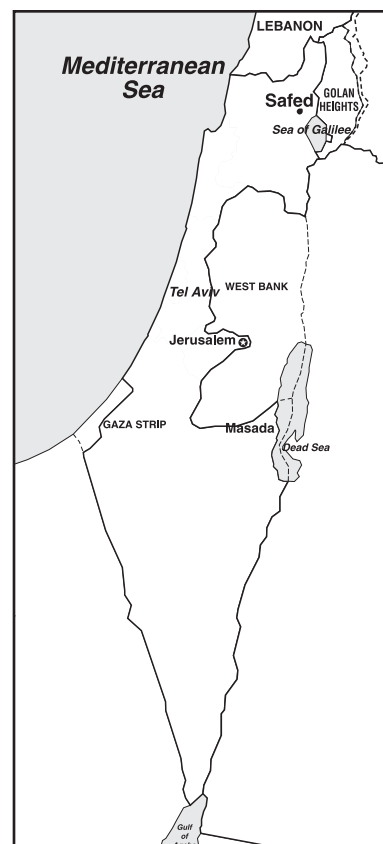
Thursday: Plant a tree, Jeep tour of Golan Heights, Katzrin's ancient synagogue, Safed

Friday: Depart for Jerusalem: walking tour of Old City, Shabbat dinner

Saturday: Enjoy Shabbat services and optional tours

Sunday: Visit Yad Vashem or Herzl Museum, Old City tour of the Jewish Quarter, Western Wall Tunnel

Monday: Depart to the south: Masada, "Float" in the Dead Sea, closing dinner



*For cost and
additional
information,
call 616-942-5553*

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

"FLAVORS OF ISRAELI MELTING POT CUISINE"

**Cooking Demonstration and Tasting
By Chef Avi Sekerel**

**Temple Emanuel • 1715 East Fulton
Sunday, March 29th • 6:30 p.m.**

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 TV show on Israeli TV. He wrote and published the famous *Gourmet and Not Fattening* cookbook.

*Don't miss this fabulous chance to enjoy and enhance your palate!
Israeli Food and Wine!*

Advance reservation required

Advance ticket reservations \$10 • At the Door \$12 • Students \$5

Free child care available; please RSVP by March 24th to 942-5553



*Pictured at our recent Cultural Council event are:
L-R –Gil Tamari, guest speaker, and cultural council committee
members Mort Zukerman, Mario Attias and Talia Attias.*



A popular means to promote Jewish pride and education in youth is through a Jewish summer camp experience or program in Israel.

The David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund provides a limited number of scholarships for such programs.

Now is the time to apply for the financial support!

Applications are due by March 15, 2009.

Please call Liz Scheibe at JFGR for more information or to receive an application by mail.

(616) 942-5553

** All applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Committee, and held in the strictest of confidence.*

CAMP SHALOM INTEREST SURVEY

Are you interested in Summer Camp?

Please call the Federation or e-mail your response – 616-942-5553 or sari@jfgr.org

- 1- Have your child/children participated in Camp Shalom before?
- 2- Would he/she participate in the summer of 2009 if camp will be held at one of the congregations? (Ahavas or Temple)
- 3- Would you prefer camp to be held: 9 am to 12:30 pm or 9 am to 3 pm?
- 4- Any thoughts you would like to share about your family experience with camp, weeks available, activities, etc.
- 5- Please provide your child(ren)'s age(s).

HAS YOUR CHILD EVER BEEN TO A JEWISH OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMP OR ON AN ISRAEL TRIP PROGRAM?

No?

WANT TO GIVE YOUR CHILD THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME THIS SUMMER?

Yes?

Apply to the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit's Ravitz Michigan Small Jewish Communities Initiative's **First-Time Jewish Experience Subsidy Fund*** and your child will receive a partial subsidy for an Approved** Jewish experience this summer!

But wait. There's more!

By applying you will automatically be put into a lottery for a FULL SCHOLARSHIP to a 10 day mini-session at an approved Jewish Overnight Camp for Summer 2009 or up to \$2000 towards an approved Israel program.

Apply for a subsidy and enter the lottery at jewishdetroit.org/statewide

All applications must be submitted by March 19, 2009; Lottery Drawing: March 23, 2009.

* This special opportunity is open to Michigan Residents **not** living in Oakland, Wayne or Macomb County or the parts of Washtenaw county served by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. The subsidy is for Jewish youth who have not participated in an overnight Jewish Summer Camp or Israel program. Returning Campers with extenuating financial circumstances will also be considered for subsidies, but are not eligible for a free camping experience.

** Visit website for list of approved programs. For questions: email surowitz@jfm.org or call Jeff Surowitz at 248-642-4260 ext. 294.

On the second Tuesday of every month,
families depend on food donations from the
Food Bank at Temple Emanuel.

Drop off food donations between 10am - 2pm Monday through Friday at Temple Emanuel
or mail checks payable to Temple Emanuel and specify the donation is for the Food Bank.

Temple's Address:
1715 E. Fulton,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting:
April 22nd • 7:15 p.m.

Where: Sue Remes' home
3403 Burton Ridge SE, Apt. B
Book: **"People of the Book"**
by Geraldine Brooks

Please RSVP

Book Club discount books are available at Schuler's Book Store on 28th Street.



For more information contact:
Sue Remes – 616-949-3505
Flory Silverstein – 616-949-5766

Attention Singles of All Ages!

Please contact the Federation if you are interested in joining a singles group! The community has not had an active singles group for many years, and we want to know if demand for such a group is growing!

Yes! I would like to participate in a singles group with the following age group:

Please circle one: **Young Adults** **Adults age 45-65** **Older Adults age 65+**

Name _____ Attending Athletic, Educational, or Entertaining Events
Age _____ (please specify) _____
Address _____

Sharing Hobbies or Interests (please specify) _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Participating in Athletic Activities (please specify) _____

*Please mail this form, call, or email Liz to indicate your interest. 942-5553 or liz@jfgr.org
*Liz Scheibe, Director of Social Services, JFGR, 4127 Embassy Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION . . .



Chad Zagel, YAD Chair

Through my involvement with the Jewish Federation, I have learned to appreciate just what it takes to participate in building community. In an effort to involve and connect the generation X (born after 1965) and the milleniems (born after 1980), I have experienced great success, as well as frustration. Some of our events have been well attended and some we were forced to cancel, due to lack of attendance.

The bottom line is, we will continue to offer programs that we hope you will attend and enjoy. It seems that our Family Fun Days are the events attracting the most people. Our Federation Day at the Zoo and Fun Day at Chuck E. Cheese were big hits. On February 15, our next Fun Day will be Snow Tubing at Cannonsburg. On March 15, we have a Daddy and Me Bowling Day at Eastbrook Lanes. Watch the Shofar for more details.

The young adult group of Federation would like to expand the committee to include you. Why not share some ideas and be a part of our planning and community building efforts? Contact me at 233-9472, or the Federation office 942-5553 if you are interested.

Chad Zagel

Family Tubing Day at Cannonsburg

February 15th, 2009

11am-2pm

(there is no Sunday School)

SPECIAL JEWISH FEDERATION PRICES:

Kids 10 and under - \$7.00
Adults - \$10.00
meet and pay at ticket booth

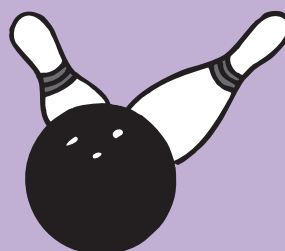


Daddy (or special male friend) and Me Bowling and pizza lunch

\$3.00 Per Person

Sunday, March 15th

1:00-3:00 P.M.



Eastbrook Lanes
RSVP by March 10th
to Ally at
616-942-5553
or ally@jfg.org

SCHOOL NEWS . . .



Beit Sefer B'yahad/ United Jewish School

pam@templemanuelgr.org 616-459-5976 x3 www.unitedjewishschool.org

UJS Calendar

February 15	No Sunday School – midwinter break
February 18	No Midweek Hebrew – midwinter break
February 22	UJS Open House
February 25	UJS Board Meeting

UJS Contributions

In honor of Norm Kravitz
By Flory Silvertstein

Please remember UJS in your contributions. We have a beautiful *“Tribute”* card that we can send to that special someone.

Passover Candy Sale

The United Jewish School will be sponsoring its annual Kosher for Passover Candy Sale Fundraiser (Barton's Candy) beginning February 8, 2009. Selling will conclude on March 1, 2009. Distribution of candy will be March 29, 2009 just in time for Passover. All proceeds will go directly to the United Jewish School program. Order forms will be sent home with your children on February 8th. For more information contact pam@templemanuelgr.org or 459-5976 x3.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS . . .

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Yishuv Hada'at – Settling the Mind: Jewish Contemplative Prayer and Yoga

Thursday evenings: Feb. 19, March 19, April 30,
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

\$10/members (including Temple Emanuel),
\$15/non-members.

Connecting the mind, the body, and the spiritual self using Yoga and Hasidic text study. Accommodations will be made for people of any age and physical ability. Yoga will be led by Carolyn Heines, owner of The Yoga Studio. Text study will be taught by Rabbi Krishef, based on materials from the Jewish Institute of Spirituality.

**Get ready for ... Purim, March 9
Purim Pajama Party
Monday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.**

Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel invites the community for our Sunday Night at the Movies on February 22 at 7:00 PM.

We will be viewing

"Protocols of Zion"

A discussion will follow

Millions of people blame the Jews for the ills of the world. This belief is thought by some people to be a modern-day incarnation of the infamous, "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the century-old forgery that some people claimed to be the Jews' master plan to rule the world. Filmmaker Marc Levin sets out to understand why this racist tract has been revived, and to challenge one of the most persistent, insidious conspiracy theories of all time. In the course of his explosive journey, Levin finds himself delving into the heart of hate, facing those who would traffic in bigotry, all in the name of God. The movie is rated R.

March 20-22, 2009

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
Congregation Ahavas Israel
Temple Emanuel

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE



Cantor Dr. Ramón Tasat

ABOUT DR. TASAT . . .

Born in Buenos Aires, Cantor Dr. Ramón Tasat learned Ladino, the language of the Sephardic people, at his grandmother's knee; his style reflects the rich history and drama of this extraordinary culture.

Trained in five different countries, he received a doctorate in voice performance from the University of Texas at Austin. His doctoral dissertation is entitled "The Cantillations and Religious Poems of the Jews of Tangier, Morocco."

Cantor Tasat has toured Europe with world-renowned Dr. Robert Shaw and has participated in international festivals on both sides of the Atlantic.

His most notable appearances include the Kennedy Center Concert Hall; the Israeli Embassy; the Jewish Music Festival of Berkeley, California; The Limmud Conference in the UK; Saint Cére, France; Siena, Italy; Helsinki, Finland; Barcelona, Spain; and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

In addition to television and radio appearances, Dr. Tasat has been the recipient of numerous awards including First Place at the Montpellier Cultural Arts Center's Recital Competition and a National Endowment of the Arts' Grant. Dr. Tasat's lectures, workshops, and programs range from "The Music of Modern Israel" to "Echoes of Sepharad."

Ramón Tasat is also the Director of the Cantorial School at the Academy for Jewish Religion, musical advisor of the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Music Festival, board member of the American Friends of Neot Kedumim and the president of Shalsholet: The Foundation for New Jewish Liturgical Music.

Ramón's numerous recordings include *Fiesta Sefarad*, *Trees Cry for Rain*, *Teshuva*, *Kantikas di amor i vida*, a series of Sephardic duets together with the celebrated singer Flory Jagoda and his most recent, *Yom She Kulo Shabbat*. He has published several music books on Jewish subjects.

SCHEDULE:

Friday, March 20, 2009

6:15 PM - Shabbat service, Temple Emanuel, 1715 E. Fulton

7:00 PM - Shabbat Dinner, catered by Marla Tulett

\$12 Adults/\$6 Children (\$36 Family Maximum)

(Your check is your reservation, sent to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, 4127 Embassy Drive, Grand Rapids 49546)

8:00 PM - Dr. Tasat will lead a session entitled "Zemiroth and other Shabbat Melodies"

Part Shabbat sing-a-long and part study session, Dr. Tasat will sing and teach about the deep meaning and history of traditional Shabbat melodies.

Saturday, March 21, 2009

9:30 AM - Shabbat service, Congregation Ahavas Israel, 2727 Michigan St. NE

During the service (shortly after 11:00), Dr. Tasat will take a personal look at the relationship that music has with the spiritual realm.

Through examples of classical religious music and contemporary musical liturgy, the aim is to examine the musician's and the listener's emotional connection to music. Together with the audience, Ramón will analyze the close association between music and prayer and describe some qualities of congregational and solo music. Finally, he will explain a number of techniques to help congregants feel more comfortable participating in religious services or singing any time.

Sunday, March 21, 2009

10:00 AM - Lox and Bagel Brunch

10:45 AM - "Fiesta Sefarad" Dr. Tasat will treat us to a musical production featuring songs from Spain, Morocco, Greece, Iraq and Israel, sung in Hebrew, Ladino and Judeo-Arabic.

\$5/person for brunch; no charge for the concert.

RVSP to the Jewish Federation:

Sari Cohen, Sari@JFGR.org or 616-942-5553.



Children Have it Better in Israel



February 2, 2009 / 8 Shevat 5769

Tadase Wanebesh loves children. But coming to Israel from Ethiopia, she had a great deal of differences to learn about – from cultural differences in approaches to raising children to understanding Israel's educational system. Thanks to a Jewish Agency vocational training program arranged through her absorption center in Karmiel, Tadase is now licensed to become a pre-school teacher in Israel.

“For the first time in my life, I studied together with Israelis. Our course had 25 women, and the Israelis were the largest group. After the course, I can say that I now look at children in a much different way, and I have gained self-confidence,” gushes Tadase at this week's concluding ceremony for the program. Run in cooperation with the Center for Professional Training, the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency, the course introduces participants to key educational subjects related to pre-school curricula, alongside discussions of related psychological issues and social concepts. All the material was taught in Hebrew which, although several native Israelis participated, was primarily geared to enable Ethiopian new immigrants to certify as teachers, explains Ziona Izenshtein, Director of the Karmiel Absorption Center.

As part of the program, participants interned in day-care centers in Karmiel, learning songs and activ-

ities appropriate to the age group through first-hand encounters. For Ethiopian new immigrants participating in the course, the practical experience was empowering and enlightening. “[Course participants] learned, many for the first time, that already at the age of 0 infants can sing and dance to a degree. They also learned certain Hebrew terms which they had never understood,” recalls Ms. Izenshtein.

At the concluding ceremony, Ms. Izenshtein expressed her hope that the success of this course would serve as an impetus for similar programs in the future. “I hope that other courses will become available now that this course has been so successful. The women have come a very long way. After a year of work, they will be licensed to open playgroups for children until the age of three.”

Nirit Hasan Levi, the social worker at the absorption center who was among the organizers of the course and those responsible for its success, gave a different perspective on the participation of the new immigrants. “By the end of course, we all realized how much the women contributed to the college. The encounter of the instructors and lecturers with the culture of the students from Bnei Menashe and Ethiopian immigrant community was a most enriching experience. In all the staff meetings with the instructors and in the conversations that took place among us, they spoke of the students' mode of conduct which drew the teachers' interest in their rich culture. They were surprised by the wealth of culture they encountered. This led them to read about these cultures, as they felt compelled to learn of their cultural norms and how this could be integrated within their activities in the future.”

Hasan Levi also reported that three of the new immigrant course participants who worked as interns in one particular day-care center were asked to continue working as full-time employees.

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*

The Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund

In honor of Norman Kravitz
From Julian and Judith Joseph

The Louis and Louise Weiner Fund

To Liz Scheibe in honor of her birthday
From Margit Sarne

To Malka Berman in memory of her father
From Nancy Reider

In honor of Ann Wepman's special birthday
From Nancy Reider

If

YOU HAVE THE WILL...

WE HAVE THE CAUSE

Protect the people you love. Create a lasting partnership with the Jewish community. Your will makes it possible. Leaving a bequest to the Jewish community enables you to create a permanent legacy that can help Jews in need forever. Learn how you can help preserve the Jewish community – for years to come.

The Jewish Federation **Live Generously**
www.jewishgrandrapids.org

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 Social Services Program

*The Federation is available to support members of the community
when the need arises.*

Services available:

Assessment and Referral

Through conversation by phone or in-person, each community member's needs are assessed, and social services to alleviate specific concerns or stressors are identified.

Occasional Visits to Aged or Sick Community Members

Liz is available to visit sick or home-bound members of the community.

Emergency Loans

Members of our Jewish community in Grand Rapids are eligible for an Emergency Loan when conditions are appropriate. The loan is interest free, and the repayment schedule is very flexible.

Advocacy

Assistance with navigating complicated systems, such as special education programs in schools or the health care industry, so that the community member's needs and wishes are addressed.

Please contact Liz, Director of Social Services, for more information.

Liz can be reached by phone at (616) 942-5553 or by email at liz@jfgr.org.

**Communication is always confidential.*

The Shofar

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Send articles to: 4127 Embassy Dr., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2418

Phone: (616) 942-5553

Fax: (616) 942-5780

E-Mail: Info@JFGR.org

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