

Seniors' Summer Trip to Detroit!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ravitz Foundation, we have significantly reduced the cost of this summer event!

MONDAY, JULY 13TH



Our Itinerary Includes:

- 8:00am – Departure from the parking lot at Ahavas Israel
Travel by shuttle bus - frequent stops can occur
- 10:30am – Tour the exhibit "From Haven to Home" at the
Detroit Historical Museum
- 12:00pm – Kosher lunch at the museum
- 1:00pm – Guided bus tour of local Jewish sites
- 3:30pm – Departure for Grand Rapids

Cost: \$18 per person (includes lunch)

* Financial subsidies are always available.

Please contact Liz to RSVP, request transportation to/from Ahavas Israel, or inquire about financial aid.

616-942-5553

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK . . .



Within the last few months, I have become aware of a need in our community, which I wanted to publicize further. Dan Hurwitz graciously gave me permission to use the Chairman's column in an effort to address this issue.

As you know, I serve the needs of our senior citizens in my role as Director of Social Services. A small, yet significant number of these individuals do not have family members in our community who can help during periods of crisis. These crises are often related to medical problems, and often impact their ability to drive a car during a period when their needs for transportation increase. These individuals often have more appointments with physicians and need transportation to the pharmacy and grocery store to purchase medications and supplies during these times. They also may be unable to prepare their own well-balanced meals for a period of time. Concurrently, they lack the concrete and emotional support family members would provide.

The Federation has limited resources to address this problem. Therefore I am asking members of the community to come forward in advance to identify themselves as resources for support on these occasions. If you are willing to provide transportation so that a senior can attend a medical appointment, spend an hour grocery shopping, or pick up medications at a pharmacy, please contact me! If you have an interest in cooking a casserole for someone who is sick and in need of the TLC, please contact me!

I am committed to the development of a volunteer base to fulfill needs such as this as they arise. I will always aim to meet the needs of the volunteer base as much as I strive to meet the needs of my clients. Should you volunteer to help a senior in need of assistance during crises, I will work to accommodate your abilities and/or desires to serve in specific capacities.

Please call or e-mail me at 942-5553, ext. 206 or liz@jfgr.org.

Sincerely,
Liz Scheibe, LMSW

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS . . .

JEWISH Theatre
GRAND RAPIDS

our 16th Season www.jtgr.org



ESTHER THE MUSICAL
by Lori Jacobs

June 25 & 27 at 8 p.m.
June 21 & 28 at 3 p.m.

GRCC Spectrum Theater
160 Fountain NE

Lori Jacob's original musical is back by popular demand! This lively spiel is the story of Esther's bravery and how she saved her people from the evil Haman. See it again or see it for the first time! Either way, the whole family will love the fun songs and witty banter. Bring your noise makers!

Call 616-234-3946 for reservations or online sales beginning June 1 at www.jtgr.org
Make your reservations early...
this show sold out during its first run!

616-234-3946
online sales at www.jtgr.org

HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

August 19 • 7:15 p.m.

Where: Sylvia Krissoff's home
1916 San Lu Rae S.E., East Grand Rapids
Phone #: 245-7530

Book to read: **"The Invisible Wall"**
by **Harry Bernstein**

Facilitator to be announced
Please RSVP to Hostess – Thank you!

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

**We are your book ends, as always,
Sue Remes – 949-3505
Flory Silverstein – 949-5766**

FEDERATION NEWS ♦ ♦ ♦

 **Everyone!!** 
Come out and enjoy the
Jewish Community Picnic

AUGUST 9TH, 2009
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM



CASCADE PARK, LOWER PAVILLION
3810 Thornapple River Drive



**HOT DOG LUNCH,
GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
FOR ALL AGES!!**

\$3.00 per person / \$12.00 per family
RSVP by August 3rd to 942-5553
Rain or Shine

Send us an E-mail

The Jewish Federation needs your e-mail address for future communications that will allow us to send timely emails to our community members regarding upcoming programs and events.

By opting to receive the *Shofar* newsletter electronically, you will save the Federation \$25.00.

Please call or email Cathy with your e-mail address – cathy@jfgr.org or 942-5553

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS ♦ ♦ ♦

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Sanctuary Shabbat Speaker - July 4 - Diane Baum,
"Poetry: The Most Jewish Art Form"

Family Pre-Shabbat Happy Hour/Kabbalat Shabbat

The Religious Life committee is hosting Pre-Shabbat Family Happy Hours (music, drinks, hors d'oeuvres; and snacks and drinks for the kids) on the last Shabbat of each month -- June 26, July 31 and August 28 at 7:00 p.m. (NOTE -- July 31, hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m.), followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:45 p.m.

Commemorate Tisha b'Av

A day of Lamentations, mourning, and fasting for the destruction of the Temple and subsequent exiles of the Jewish people. Wednesday night, July 29, at 9:15 p.m., for Ma'ariv and the reading of the Biblical book of Eikha (Lamentations); Thursday morning, July 30, 7:00 a.m., for morning minyan with special inclusions for Tisha B'Av. (Fast ends -- 9:19 p.m.)

Learner's Minyan

Shabbat mornings: July 18, August 15 -- 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Increase your comfort, participation in, and appreciation of our services. Rabbi Krishef will unlock the secrets to understanding the Shabbat morning service!

Chabad House

Three weeks of summer fun at . . .
Gan Israel Day Camp
June 22nd - July 10th 2009

For Jewish children ages 5 - 13 years old
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m - 3:30 p.m.

Kiddie Camp 3-4 years old
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Full camp session \$400
\$150 per week

The Camp Gan Israel experience
is a unique combination of Jewish pride and fun!

**To register please call Chayale @
(616) 706-8019 Or Ally @ 942-5553**

Temple Emanuel

Pack a lunch and join me for "*Lunch & Learn*" every Wednesday in June, from 12 Noon to 1:00 PM. Each week the class will discuss a chapter from Jewish Moral Virtues, written by Eugene Borowitz and

Frances Weinman Schwartz. Drinks and dessert will be served. The topic on June 24 will be Pure-Heartedness.



United Jewish School

בית ספר ביחד

2008-2009

Vision Statement

... to give the children of
 Congregation Ahavas Israel and
 Temple Emanuel the best possible
 Jewish education we can envision.

Board of Directors:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Jan Fonger - co-chair | • Tom Rider |
| • Marni Vyn - co-chair | • Helen Shibley |
| • Linda Barbour | • Karen Sigal |
| • Glenn Barkan | • Barb Wepman |
| • Ann Berman | Ex-officio |
| • Julie Gendler | • Pam Rush - Director |
| • Mabelle Hammond | • Barb Duchemin - Curriculum Director |
| • Melissa Hillman | • Rabbi David Krishef |
| • Allyn Lebster | • Rabbi Michael Schadick |
| • Arlene Loby | |

The Mitkadem Hebrew Program

This program, developed by the Union for Reform Judaism, is a self-paced system – children learn at their own speed. It teaches reading skills progressing toward a mastery of prayers, both in reading and understanding. This is being used in grades 2-7 on Sundays and Wednesdays. Our Pre-K through 1st grade have an introductory course in Hebrew taught only on Sundays.

The CHAI Curriculum

This program, also developed by the URJ and revised by Rabbi Krishef to include Conservative movement points of view, is being used in our 1st through 7th grades. It is a curriculum based on Avodah (prayer), and Gimilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). Each year builds on the previous one. We are very excited about this program and confident that the students will enjoy the lessons and feel more comfortable with their Judaism.

High School Programming

We are constantly striving to improve our high school program to prepare our children to become leaders with strong Jewish ideals. We are very proud of the fact that so many of our high school students continue to attend religious school. This is due to the creative and educational programming we present. The 8th grade curriculum has an Eastern European influence and they spent a semester studying the Holocaust, including a trip to Detroit to visit the Holocaust Museum. The 9th graders continue to explore the development of American Judaism and take their annual trip to NYC. The 10th grade explores and compares other religions and visits other places of worship during the year. The 11th/12th grade meets in an informal classroom setting and have discussions of themes relevant to their age group. They also are involved with social action projects and as aides in the lower elementary classes on Sundays.

UJS has just finished its third year! Enrollment was at 175 students ranging from Gan Katan (2-4 year olds) to 11th/12th grade. We had a staff of 22 teachers and 24 high school aides. On Sunday, school is located at Temple Emanuel while the Wednesday midweek Hebrew program is housed at Congregation Ahavas Israel. The midweek program has an enrollment of 43 students which is an increase of over 40% from last year.

The UJS general operations and special programs would not be possible without the financial and spiritual support from Congregation Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids along with a grant received from the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation. We are currently building an endowment fund to support most of our special programs in the future.

The UJS Board continues to have a once a month Open House. All parents and others in our community are invited to come enjoy a “good” cup of coffee and a nosh. Parents kibbitz with friends, surf the internet (the building is wireless), visit the gift shop or just relax.

Special Events

Programs made possible by Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation, Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel, and private donors



Opening Day 9-7-08

The year began with a grand Open House, with a live band on the Temple Emanuel front lawn and “dancing in the streets”. The students and parents had a chance to meet the teachers, and all had a chance to renew old friendships and nosh on a great buffet brunch. There was also a ceremony to honor all those who have pledged and contributed to our endowment fund.

Blessing of the Pets 9-21-08

During the month of September we had our annual “Blessing of the Pets”. There were lots of dogs, cats and even a fish named “Bubbles”.



Shofar Factory 9-28-08

Pre-K thru 3rd grade took a special trip to Chabad House for the Shofar Factory.

Sukkot 10-15-08

4th and 5th grade harvested corn stalks and veggies for the Ahavas and Temple sukkahs.

Jewish Book Month November

Students, parents and other members of our community were entertained with some of life's most treasured values, by nationally-acclaimed storyteller, educator and puppeteer Marilyn Price. She inspired her audiences to open their minds and their hearts.



Chanukah Rock and Rollin' 12-14-08

UJS joined the Grand Rapids Jewish community to enjoy a wonderful Chanukah celebration at the Kentwood Fun Spot. The entire facility was filled with over 200 students, teachers and parents noshing on a great kosher lunch

prepared by the Chabad House. There was a beautiful roller skate menorah. Every-one rocked and rolled around while listening to their favorite Chanukah tunes.

"Little Israel" restaurant 2-8-09

UJS presented the first annual Israeli restaurant. The 10th grade students had a course in conversational Hebrew and were able to use



this by being servers at the restaurant. This event raised over \$55 for the school. Over 160 people enjoyed a wonderful luncheon of falafel, hummus, Israeli salad and of course desserts.

Purim 3-8-09

A special guest visited the school for Purim, Grand Rapids and the Jewish community's very own mime - Rob Reider. Mime Rob Reider brought only the sound of laughter to our school. His performance was polished and poised and the highest quality of clean family entertainment.



11th/12th grade 3-21/22-09

The 11th/12th grade headed to Chicago via the Amtrak train for an overnigher. They visited the brand new Spertus Museum, watched a Chicago Bulls vs Los Angeles Lakers game, shopped, ate great food but most of all had a great time with their Jewish peers.



Passover Matzah Factory and Midweek Seder 3-29-09

Students from Pre-Kindergarten to 2nd grade along with parents and teachers visited the Chabad House "matzah factory". They had a fun filled morning learning how to make their own matzah for Passover. Midweek Hebrew students participated in their own Passover seder.

11th/12th grade 4-17-09

The 11th/12th grade traveled to East Lansing to tour the campus of Michigan State and enjoy a Shabbat evening at the local Hillel House.

Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day 4-19-09

UJS presented the annual Yom Hashoah service for the school and community. This year featured the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choir, GR Symphony violinist Chris Golden, Clarinetist Michelle Benjamin, Accompanist Bill Marfink and cantorial soloist Pam Rush. Local survivors were in attendance. The service was led by the UJS 8th grade and their teacher Lauren Duchemin.

UJS New York trip 2009 April 30 – May 3



UJS 9th grade students along with chaperones Pam Rush and Rabbi Schadick spent a wonderful weekend in New York. This trip is an extension of the 9th grade curriculum of American Jewish history. They attended two Broadway shows (Billy

Elliott and Rooms), and participated in a cancer fundraiser run/walk from Times Square to Central Park along with 40,000 other people. The visit to Ellis Island explored the immigration of Jews to America. There were tours of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the Jewish Museum, the Tenement Museum as well as a walking tour of Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side. Shabbat services were celebrated at the beautiful congregation of B'nai Jeshrun.



Children's Film Festival 5-6-09

Midweek Hebrew students attended the Jewish community Film Festival. They were treated to the film *Max Minsky and Me*. UJS students and teachers enjoyed the film along with free soda and popcorn. After the movies they had a Middle Eastern dinner along with members of the community.

Thank you for your involvement, time and talents. Your support helps make our Jewish children the best they can possibly be.

Pam Rush, School Director

SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .

Join us at . . .

The Jewish Theatre Production of Esther! The Musical

Sunday, June 28th

*We will meet in the Temple parking lot at 2:15
and travel by taxi to Spectrum Theater.*

Cost: \$8.00

Please RSVP to Liz and let her know
if you need free transportation!

942-5553 ext. 206

Attention Snowbirds

If you have a seasonal home address, please notify us so we may direct your mail properly throughout the entire year. We will need the address as well as the months that you are regularly in your seasonal home.

Please call or email Amy@jfg.org
or 616-942-5553.

Mitzvah Specialists!

*We are now meeting on the
third Tuesday of each month
to prepare the Shofar mailing.*

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

July 21

August 18

September 22

October 20

November 24

*Call Liz at 942-5553 with any
questions or if you need a ride!*

LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, July 28th

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$7.00



Olive's

2162 Wealthy St. S.E.

*A public parking lot is located across the street at D&W Grocery Store

*This luncheon will feature special guest,
Corky Ditzko, who will discuss her
photography from Africa and share photos!*

Please RSVP to Liz at 942-5553 ext. 206

Free transportation is available!

SAVE THESE DATES!

Apples & Honey Luncheon

Tuesday, September 15th • 12 p.m.

Location, menu, and entertainment to be determined.

Chanukah Luncheon

Wednesday, December 9th • 12 p.m.

Location, menu, and entertainment to be determined.

A Patient Advocate Designation...

allows you to select a Patient Advocate who can have access to your medical records and represent your wishes for medical care in case you are too sick to do so.

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

To receive a FREE Patient Advocate Designation, please contact Liz Scheibe, Director of Social Services, at 942-5553.

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 Sylvia and Jerry Belfer's 60th Anniversary
From Beverly Manes

The JFGR General Endowment Fund

In memory of Dan Hurwitz's Grandfather
From Karen and Mitchell Padnos

The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

To Joan Winniman in honor of her recovery
From Beverly Manes

United Way

Many of us make a workplace donation to the United Way.....

Are you aware that you can designate your United Way gift to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids?

Your gifts should be considered plus dollars and not in lieu of your annual campaign gift.

In the end, we all benefit by having our Federation better positioned to continue to provide quality programs and services.

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. Families and individuals of any age are eligible for assistance.

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.

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 is available, 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

CHANGE 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

www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Next Issue's Information Deadline: July 6, 2009

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