

*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
enhance your palate
and enjoy some Israeli Food and Wine!*

We strongly urge you to make advance reservations

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

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK . . .



This month I had quite an eye opening experience. Liz Scheibe, our Social Services Director, invited me to join a group of seniors for lunch. While I knew that many of our seniors got together on a regular basis for lunch and programming, I had never taken the opportunity to attend any of the events.

What an amazing group we had!

In a one-hour lunch with sixteen of Grand Rapids' finest I had so many opportunities to grow and learn about what makes this community so vibrant. I had the pleasure of sitting next to Anne Wepman, who told me she grew up on Ottawa Avenue across the street from my grandfather, Hy Berkowitz. Across the table from where I sat, Susette Tauber and Margit Sarne told me about their experiences living in the Shanghai ghetto during World War II – a story I never thought I would have the opportunity to hear first-hand.

Leigh Rapaport attended this luncheon as well. She volunteered providing rides for some of the seniors. Leigh's grandfather, Seymour Rapaport, and my grandfather were great friends. And Phil Rotenberg reminded me that Seymour was a much better poker player than my

grandfather! It was a thrill to see my younger generation continuing to support and build connections in our community – just as our grandfathers and grandmothers had before us.

Another important moment for me was when Eileen Enoch passed around a picture of women who had attended a Hadassah event in 1984. I did not move to Grand Rapids until many years after the picture was taken, but I boldly offered to help identify someone she could not name. Remarkably, I actually knew who the unidentified woman was in the picture – it was my great-aunt, Bina Kleiman! At this point my thoughts about our Jewish community were confirmed: we are truly special.

Our future is based on the stories and experiences of the past, and we must do all we can to relish and share them with future generations. I encourage everyone to get to know these wonderful, wise members of our community. If anyone would like to attend or volunteer at a senior luncheon or event, please contact Liz at the JFGR.

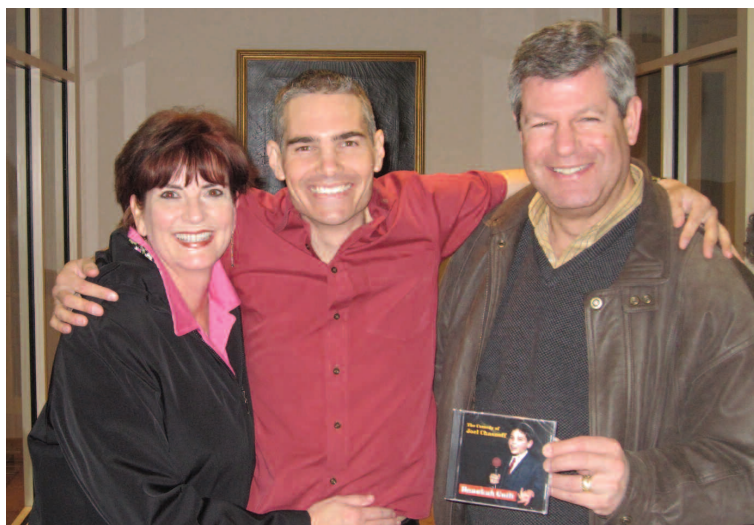
Dan Hurwitz

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.

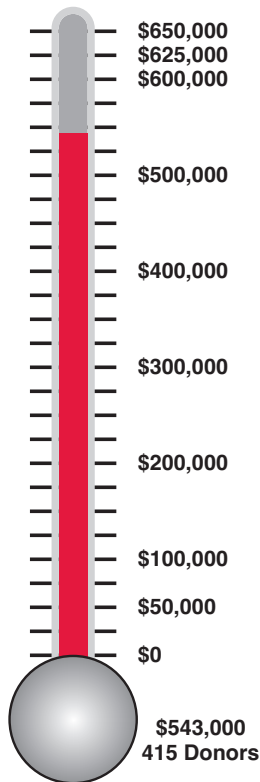
CULTURAL COUNCIL . . .



Enjoying a lighter moment at the JFGR Cultural Council's Comedy Night, are (L-R) Pam Rush, Comedian Joel Chasnoff, and Jeff Rush.

*Special Thanks to:
Mike & Bert Jacobson of Leelanau Wine Cellars
for their wine donation
and to Andrew Samrick for bartending*

CAMPAIGN NEWS . . .



Shalom from the home stretch! As we look ahead to the completion of this year's Federation campaign, we have much to be proud of. Our community has shown extraordinary resilience in the face of an increasingly difficult economy. We've given of our time, our involvement, and our hard earned dollars. You've met your commitment to our community.

Our Federation has met its commitments as well, expanding the breadth and scope of service offerings. The Federation helped families in need through the Chanukah Adopt-a-Family program, Emergency Loan program, and other social services. It provided educational and entertaining programming, from Yossi Olmert to Sidney Friedman. And it has continued to build community, from children's programming to Young Adult Division to the most recent Senior Camp events.

We could not have done this without your support. And yet we need your help. At this time it appears our campaign is going to fall short of meeting our fundraising needs. If this happens, we will have to make hard choices about which programs we are not able to fund in the year ahead.

So we need your help. If you've not yet given, please take the time to fill out a pledge card – or to simply call the Federation office. If you have given, look inside your tzedakah box and see if there is anything left to give. Your initial gift or increased pledge will ensure that all of the Federation's vital services are offered in the coming months. And remember that your pledge can be charged on a monthly basis to your visa or mastercard!

Thank you for your continued support.
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@jfgr.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 _____

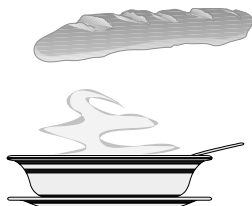
SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .

LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday,
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!

*We will meet in the Temple parking lot
at 11:15 and travel by taxi downtown.*

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

LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday,
April 7th

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$7.00



Marco New American Bistro

884 Forest Hill Ave. S.E.

*Join us as we get our final share of
chametz before Passover begins!*

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

Join us at . . .

The Jewish Theatre Production of

Laughter on the 23rd Floor

Sunday, April 26th

*We will meet in the Temple parking
lot at 2:15 and travel by taxi to
Spectrum Theater. We will return
to Temple about 5:30 p.m.*

Cost: \$8.00

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

Mitzvah Specialists!

*Here is your schedule
through June 2009!*

**Tuesdays,
10:30 a.m.**

April 14

May 12

June 9

SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .



Dan Hurwitz hosted the Seniors' Luncheon at Cascade Hills Country Club.

Ida Gindzin, Susette Tauber, and Lael Whitney painted Seder plates at Naked Plates in Breton Village.



Our First Annual Senior Camp Series was a huge hit! See you all again next year!

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION . . .

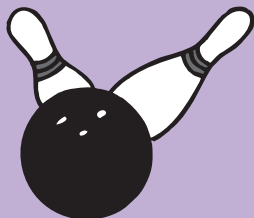
*Daddy (or special male friend) and Me
Bowling and
pizza lunch*

\$3.00 Per Person

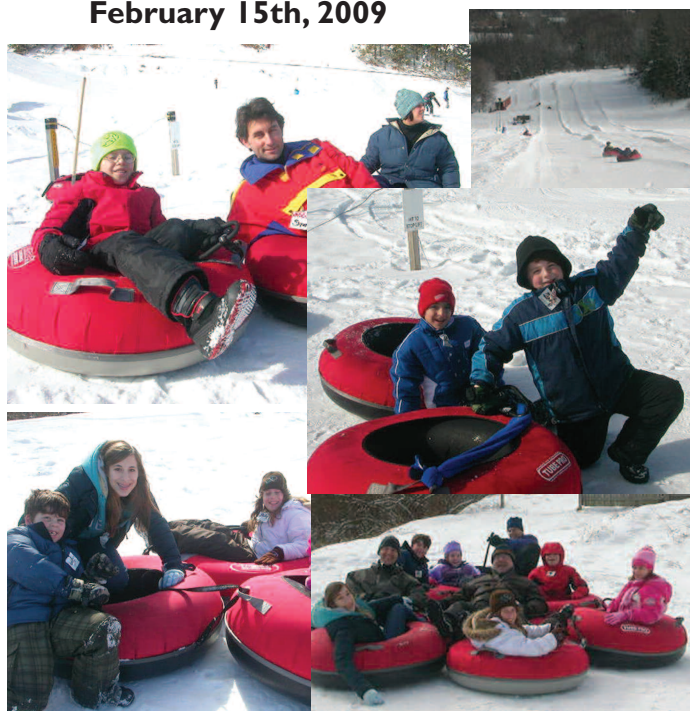
**Sunday, March 15th
1:00-3:00 P.M.**

Eastbrook Lanes

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



**Family Tubing Day at Cannonsburg
February 15th, 2009**



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.

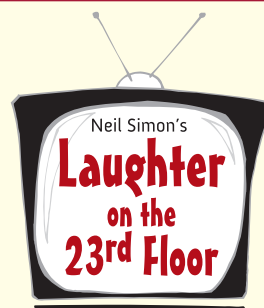
Now is the time to apply for the financial support!

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

(616) 942-5553

Applications were due by March 15, 2009, but this deadline has been extended to March 31.

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



Tune In April 18 - 26
for plenty of Laughs!

Spectrum Theater
616-234-3946

*Ticket Sales starting April 6
March 30 for Season Subscribers
Purchase tickets online at www.jtgr.org*



www.jtgr.org

**April 18, 22, 23,
25 at 8 p.m.*
April 19, 26 at 3 p.m.**

Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids will present Neil Simon's comedy "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," April 18-26, 2009 at Spectrum Theater on the GRCC campus, directed by Paul Dreher. Simon reminisces about his early days as a comedy television show writer with such talents as Mel Brooks, Larry Gelbart, Carl Reiner, and his brother Danny. The writers deal with a host of wacky antics and struggle with TV executives to put their shows on the air. You'll laugh till you hurt! Not suitable for children; Adult language and material.

**Please note that the dates for this show do not follow our normal show schedules due to Passover.*

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@jfmd.org or call Jeff Surowitz at 248-642-4260 ext. 294.

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 Producer (\$250.00)
- _____ Film Festival Actor (\$100.00)
- _____ Film Festival Fan
- _____ Flex Pass (\$36.00)

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

Jewish Film Festival 11th Anniversary



Celebration!
Cinema North

Sunday, May 3rd 6:30 p.m.

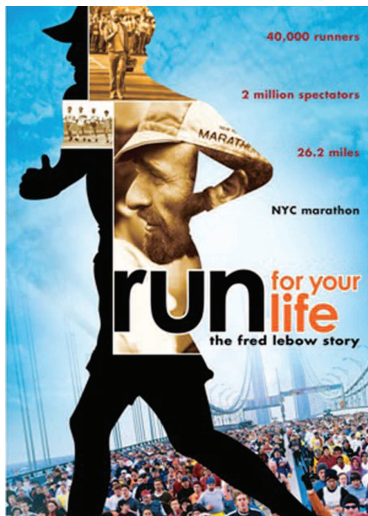
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

96 min

English

An affectionate salute to a Jewish sports icon and a must-see for avid runners, *Run For Your Life* is the remarkable true story of Fred Lebow, mastermind of the New York City Marathon. Raised in an Orthodox Jewish family in Transylvania, Fischl Leibowitz fled war-torn Europe and eventually settled in the Big Apple. After a career in the garment trade, this scrappy showman launched the New York City Marathon, eventually transforming it into the world's largest marathon, encompassing all five boroughs, and a source of civic pride during troubled times.

Panel presentation with Greg Meyer, winner of the Boston and Chicago marathon and Marathon Don (Don Kern).



Monday, May 4th 7:30 p.m.

SENIOR NIGHT FUGITIVE PIECES

104 min

Rated: R

English, Greek,
Yiddish and German



A powerful, poetic, and emotionally-charged drama about love, loss and redemption, *Fugitive Pieces* tells the story of Jakob Beer, a man whose life is transformed by his childhood experiences during WWII. The film is based

on the beloved and best-selling novel by Canadian poet Anne Michaels.

Tuesday, May 5th 7:30 p.m.

THE DEBT

93 min

Hebrew, German,
Russian with
subtitles



The year is 1965. Rachel Brenner is one of three young Mossad agents' team who caught "the Surgeon of Treblinka" - a Nazi monster who was never brought to trial in Israel. The official reason was that he has committed suicide as a prisoner while being held by his Israeli captive in a safe house somewhere in Europe. Today, 35 years after the well communicated suicide, a small article appears in a local unimportant paper in a small town in central Europe. Surprisingly the Surgeon is ALIVE and is willing to admit his crimes against the human race and especially the Jews. The three older Mossad agents who are in their late 60s became aware of this unfortunate threatening knowledge. They decided to act and take the law into their hands by completing their old assignment to eliminate "the Sur-



FILM FESTIVAL ♦ ♦ ♦

geon of Treblinka", before the big lie will come out to the open. Rachel today is a well-known beloved writer publishing her new book. She owes that job to her country and friends, but especially herself. She will not be able to live with 35 years of terrible lies. Will the respected old lady be able to become once more a cold blooded hit woman and fulfill her destiny and mission to society and to herself?

Wednesday, May 6th 4:30 p.m.
Family Matinee

MAX MINSKY AND ME

94 minutes

German with subtitles

Author Holly-Jane Rahlens based the screenplay on her best-selling novel, **Prince William, Maximilian**



Minsky and Me, which received the German Award for Young Peoples Literature in 2003. A charming story about friendship, dedication and dreams, this film

is a comedic coming-of-age film adults and teens will enjoy equally.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY DINNER

Wednesday, May 6th
6:00 p.m. in the Wave Room
Celebration! Cinema
R.S.V.P. by May 1st to the
Jewish Federation at 942-5553

Wednesday, May 6th 7:30 p.m.

THE CASE FOR ISRAEL:

Democracy's Outpost –

A documentary film with Alan Dershowitz

English

Presenting a vigorous case for Israel – for its basic right to exist, to protect its citizens from terrorism, and to defend its borders from hostile enemies. Alan Dershowitz engages leading political, judicial and aca-

democratic leaders from Israel and North America in objective and intelligent discourse on the critical challenges facing Israel and the West.



Panel presentation: Gloria Greenfield, Producer of the film and Alex Safian PhD, Associate Director and Research Director at the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA).

Thursday, May 7th 7:30 p.m.

NOODLE

90 minutes

Hebrew and Mandarin with subtitles

At thirty-seven, Miri is a twice-widowed, El Al flight attendant. Her well-regulated existence is suddenly turned upside down by an abandoned Chinese boy whose migrant-worker mother has been summarily deported from Israel. The film is a touching comic-drama in which two human beings – as different from each other as Tel Aviv is from Beijing – accompany each other on a remarkable journey, one that takes them both back to a meaningful life.



Despite our best intentions and efforts,
sometimes arrangements go awry.

If necessary, we reserve the right to change or cancel
speakers, movies or location.

For information call: Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
(616) 942-5553

or visit us at www.jewishgrandrapids.org

*The Film Festival is made possible by the generous grant
from the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation*

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 _____

Age _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Participating in Athletic Activities (please specify) _____

Attending Athletic, Educational, or Entertaining Events

(please specify) _____

Sharing Hobbies or Interests (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

FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY



Program on:

Dr. Moses Maimonides

Philosopher, Physician, Scientist, Scholar, Talmudist
Also known as Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, the Rambam

Special guest speaker

Dr. Blair Grubb



Dr. Grubb is an MD cardiologist and widely published research scientist in the field of electrophysiology of the heart. He is also a graduate of the Florence M. Milton School of Judaic Studies. He has developed a study of Maimonides utilizing newly developed computerized techniques in historic document analysis, to reveal an illuminating picture of Maimonides' life and significance for the Jewish community of his own day as well as the future. Dr. Grubb will also show Maimonide's historic contribution to medical science. This is a superb, unique lecture with virtually unmatched clarity, which will leave a stimulating, profound effect on us as individual Jews and as citizens.

Sunday, May 10, 2009 - 7:00pm

Congregation Ahavas Israel, 2727 Michigan, NE

Reception to Follow

There will be no solicitation of funds

For additional information as well as for RSVP, please call Jeff Slotnick
at Federation - 942-5553 or Buddy Joseph at 942-9503

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.

SCHOOL NEWS . . .



Beit Sefer B'yahad/ United Jewish School

1715 East Fulton

616-459-5976

Pam Rush

pam@templemanuelgr.org

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

fax 616-459-6510

School Director

www.unitedjewishschool.org

Calendar

March 8th	Purim Costume Contest
March 15th	The 8th grade trip to the Detroit Holocaust museum
March 21-22	The 11th/12th grade trip to Chicago
March 25th	Midweek Passover seder
March 25th	UJS Board Meeting
March 29th	UJS Open House (last one of the school year)
April 1st	No midweek – Spring Break
April 5th	No School – Spring Break
April 8th	No midweek – Spring Break
April 12th	No School – Spring Break
April 15th	No midweek – 8th day Passover
April 19th	11:30am Yom Hashoah service featuring the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony Choir
April 30-May 3	9th grade annual trip to New York

UJS Contributions

In honor of Al Libman

By Sylvia and Jerry Belfer

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

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS . . .

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Tot Shabbat Services - March 14, 10:45 a.m.

Yishuv Hada'at -- Settling the Mind:

Jewish Contemplative Prayer and Yoga

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

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

Ma'ot Hittim:

As we begin preparing for our celebration of Pesah, it is our obligation to ensure that our fellow Jews are equally able to celebrate the holiday. Right after Purim we begin collecting funds, known as Ma'ot Hittim, “Money for Wheat,” for the benefit of the less fortunate so that they, too, may be able to enjoy Passover. The funds are known as Ma'ot Hittim since the major purchase made for Passover in ancient times was that of wheat for matzot. Please send in your checks for Ma'ot Hittim, payable to Ahavas Israel - Ma'ot Hittim, to the synagogue in care of the Religious Life Committee.

**Birkat Hahamma (from blessthesun.org) -
April 8, 2009, 7:00 a.m.**

The rabbis of the Talmud tell us that once every 28 years, the sun returns to the same place, same time of day and same day of the week as at the moment of its creation. (Berakhot 59a). This confluence of events, a re-staging of the heavens as they were at the beginning of time, was not a moment to be overlooked in the rabbinic imagination. So, they bid us to celebrate this re-enactment of the creation of the sun every 28 years.

Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel invites the community to join us for our Wednesday Lunch & Learn classes. We will meet each Wednesday in March at 12 noon. Bring lunch. We will have the coffee pot on.

Wednesday March 18

A Jewish View of Gratitude

Wednesday March 25

Jewish Perspectives on the News

And....

Celebrating Passover

Please join us for a special workshop on Passover that will take place on Thursday, March 19, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We will discuss the significance of Passover, how to make the holiday a spiritual experience, and how to add music to your seder. We will also sample Passover rolls, baked goods, and other surprises as we learn what foods are kosher for Passover and what foods are not. Please

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 by March 17:

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



Thursday, February 19, 2009

Ten Jews from Yemen arrive in Israel today

*In a clandestine operation, the Jewish Agency for Israel brings a community leader and his family
Some 280 Jews remain in Yemen, under increasing threat from Al Qaeda groups*

In a special Jewish Agency aliyah operation, ten new immigrants from Yemen arrived in Israel today (Thursday, February 19). The immigrants included Sayid Ben Yisrael, a leader of the 200-strong Jewish community in Raida, Yemen, his wife and their seven children, and another Yemenite Jew.

After landing in Israel, the Ben Yisrael family travelled with Jewish Agency staff to Beit Shemesh, where they will settle. The other new immigrant will be going to the Jewish Agency's Ye'elim Absorption Center in Beersheva. Yemenite families will receive a special grant of \$10,000 when they arrive in Israel.

To date, there are 280 Jews still in Yemen, about 230 in the city of Raida and 50 in the capital of Sanaa, who moved there after their town came under attack by terrorists associated with Al Qaeda. While Yemenite Jews have the special protection of the Yemenite President Ali Abdallah Salah, there have been growing harassment and attacks on Jews in recent years. These events climaxed with the December 10 murder of Moshe Yaish-Nahiri, father of nine and Hebrew teacher in the local school, who was shot dead near his home in Raida by a Muslim fundamentalist. In response, the Yemenite government paid to relocate the city's Jews to the capital of Sanaa in January to better protect

the community, but some Jews were refusing to move, according to a Yemenite news report, fearing it put them at yet greater danger. Working through several clandestine channels to ensure the safety of both those who chose to come and those who chose to stay, the Jewish Agency launched a special operation to bring Yemenite Jewish community members to Israel.

Rescuing Jews from persecution and ensuring their safety and success in Israel is a core mission of the Jewish Agency, said Aliyah Department Director Eli Cohen, who welcomed the new arrivals at Ben Gurion Airport. "The Jewish Agency is working continuously to ensure the safety of the Yemenite Jewish community in light of recent events. We will strive to bring as many Jews as possible who are interested in moving to Israel from Yemen as quickly as possible."

The Jewish Agency is supported by founding constituent partners: Keren Hayesod, United Jewish Communities and Jewish federations around the world; and primary funders: Keren Hayesod, United Jewish Communities and major Jewish Federations in North America, International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

COMMUNITY NEWS . . .

**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*



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

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

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 Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund

To Rabbi Joseph and Sarah Weingarten in honor of
Menucha Rochel Weingarten
From Judith Joseph

The Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

To Jeff Slotnick in memory of his Uncle
From Judy and Jerry Subar

To Jeff Slotnick in honor of his son's marriage
From Judy and Jerry Subar

To Malka Berman in memory of her father
From Judy and Jerry Subar

SELLING STOCK?

If you are selling stock to pay your pledge to the Federation, please notify our bookkeeper, Amy Noyes at 616-942-5553, ext. 203, to advise her of your transaction. This will aid us in making sure YOUR stock transaction is credited to YOUR pledge.

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.

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

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www.jewishgrandrapids.org

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