



**Executive Director’s Letter**

Dear Friends,

*December 6, 1987.* A day the Jewish community dramatically demonstrated our capacity to do great things.

Hundreds of thousands descended on the mall in Washington to speak out on the plight of Soviet Jews. It marked the first visit of the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to the United States, and as we have learned in the years since, the march played an important role in freeing Jews from the grasp of the Soviet Union.

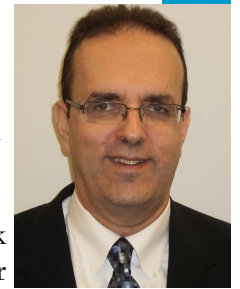
Curious how small things from such days stay in the memory. I recall vividly the colorful sign drawn by my then 4 and 2 year old children, Lisa and Justin, which simply said, “Let My People Go.” I also remember the temperature – very cold that Sunday, offset by the warmth of the people clamoring for freedom which remains with me to this day.

Last month the Jewish Federation of North American held its annual General Assembly and, in anticipation of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington for Soviet Jewry, two of the inspirational leaders of this monumental effort, Natan Sharansky and Elie Wiesel, reunited to discuss their memories of how the freeing of Soviet Jewry was achieved. It was a remarkable conversation I felt privileged to hear.

A few days afterward I attended another event back in Grand Rapids. My wife Carol and I were at the Grand Rapids Symphony, experiencing a moving oratorio dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust. This concert, a moving juxtaposition of music, song, prayer, poetry and photographs, was a powerful, artistic statement about the impact of the Holocaust on our consciousness.

What do these two events – the Sharansky-Wiesel conversation about saving Soviet Jews and the Grand Rapids Symphony’s Holocaust oratorio – have to do with each other? The answer lies in the backdrop of another event that occurred during that same week - the rockets raining down on Israel from Gaza, and the response by Israel and the American Jewish community.

*Continued on page 2*



**Our Mission**

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids unites the local Jewish community to sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel, and around the world.

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

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**Federation is now on Facebook!**

Become a fan of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**

2727 Michigan NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616.942.5553  
616.942.5780 fax  
www.jfgr.org

**Officers**

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*Executive Director*  
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Bill Lewis, President  
  
Temple Emanuel  
Rabbi Michael Schadick  
Mitchell Kahn, President  
  
Chabad House  
Of Western Michigan  
Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

**Campaign Update**



**159 Pledges**  
**\$226,000**

Your donation to JFGR is 100% tax deductible. Payments can be made by cash, check, credit card or stock.

Pay in full or set up installments. You can even pay on line at [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)

Note: any new gift or increase is matched dollar for dollar by a challenge grant  
\*Total does not include matching grants.

*Continued from page 1*

When major crises arise, i.e. when Jews face an attack, tyranny, or even a natural disaster, a capacity to respond on a colossal scale is necessary to be effective. The State of Israel, created too late to defend the six million who perished in the Holocaust, has that capacity to defend and protect the Jewish people and other citizens of Israel. Oft-times in conjunction with Israel, the American Jewish community, led by Jewish Federations in collaboration with our partners and other excellent organizations, also has the capacity to provide assistance for Jews in dire straits, whether in the U.S., e.g. the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, or in far flung places around the world.

Chanukah is nearly upon us, when we recall another great struggle for the Jewish people. As you contemplate your pledge to Federation before year's end, I ask you to consider how your funds work not only to support the quality of Jewish life locally, but also enable you to participate in historic efforts to help Jews facing significant crises. While our numbers may be small in this world, if every Jew contributes in a personally meaningful manner, together we have the capacity to do great things.

With warmest regards,

Mike  
[mike@jfgr.org](mailto:mike@jfgr.org)



**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**



Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
2727 Michigan NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
(616) 942-5553  
[www.jfgr.org](http://www.jfgr.org)

**Live Generously.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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  
 Discover  American Express

Please consider a 10% increase

\_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS!**

Do you know a child who plans to attend a Jewish summer camp? They may qualify to apply for a camp scholarship through the David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund. Applications are available on line at [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org) or upon request, and are due by March 1, 2013. Please contact the Jewish Federation at 616-942-5553.

-Ann Berman  
Director of Social Service Resources

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

**SHALOM  
GRAND RAPIDS!!!**

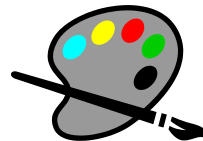
A new program of the Jewish Federation

Would you like to become an ambassador to welcome people who are new to the Jewish community, or not currently involved?

To sign up or receive additional information about the program, contact Sari at the Federation office  
616-942-5553 or [Sari@jfgr.org](mailto:Sari@jfgr.org)

Additionally, if you know of someone new to the community, please let us know.

**Winter Break  
Family Fun Day  
Back by popular demand:  
Naked Plates**



Breton Village  
1860 Breton Road SE  
(at Burton)

**Thursday  
December 27, 2012  
10:00 AM - 12:00 noon**

Items to paint will be available for purchase price of \$5 and up. Complimentary refreshments.

All ages welcome.

RSVP by December 26.

Call 616-942-5553 or email [cathy@jfgr.org](mailto:cathy@jfgr.org).

**Seniors**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Future Lunch Bunch Dates:

**January 17, 2013** at

**Shiraz Grille**

2739 Breton Rd

**February 14, 2013** - TBD

**March 21, 2013**-Heritage  
Restaurant -GRCC

**April 18, 2013**- TBD

**Annual Chanukah Senior  
Community Luncheon....**

**Tuesday**

**December 11**

**12:00 noon**

**Temple Emanuel**

1715 E Fulton St

Cost: \$8.00



RSVP to Ann by December 6, 616-942-5553.  
Transportation available.

*Entertainment will be the East Grand Rapids High School Madrigal Singers.*

# CAMPAIGN 2012—COMMUNITY EVENT

Bret Stephens of *The Wall Street Journal* delivered a tour de force on the challenges Israel faces in the Middle East.



November 27, 2012  
Cascade Hills Country Club

## *Business Forum*

The Jewish Community Business Forum is a good networking opportunity to discuss business principles and to stay aware of resources available within our community.



**December 13, 2012**  
**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**  
**El Barrio**  
**545 Michigan NE**  
**Everyone Welcome**

## *Jewish Women's Professional Network*

**December 5, 2012**

**12:00 PM**

**Olives, 2162 Wealthy St. EGR**

We meet monthly for networking, to share professional challenges and successes, exchange ideas, provide support, and give advice on how to better succeed in our work. All women are invited - whether working outside the home, thinking of returning to the workforce, in career transition, or a community volunteer. For more information, please email [marnivyn@yahoo.com](mailto:marnivyn@yahoo.com) or phone 616-774-8644.



## *Hadassah Book Club*

Thank you Diane Broomberg for hosting the last meeting Book discussion.

Our next calendar of events is as follows:

**January 9, 2013**

**UNORTHODOX by DEBORAH FELDMAN**

At Sue Remes' home  
3403 Burton Ridge RD SE  
616-949-3505

Please call to RSVP!

**March 13, 2013**

**ONCE WE WERE BROTHERS by ROBERT BALSON**

Host: Flory Silverstein

Looking forward to these two good winter reads with great discussion!

**Books available at**  
**SCHULERS BOOKS, 28th ST**

As always,  
your faithful bookends,  
Sue Remes 616-949-3505  
Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766



*The Cultural Council  
of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
2012-2013 Spectrum Series*

# YEVGENY KUTIK

**Violinist**     *A Concert & Personal Story*



**Saturday, December 15, 2012**

**7:30 pm**

**East Grand Rapids High School  
Little Auditorium**

**2211 Lake Drive SE.**

**TICKET PRICES:**     \$15.00  
                                   \$ 5.00 College students  
                                   Free for ages 18 & younger

*For additional information and advanced tickets  
contact 616-942-5553*

At age twenty-four, Russian-American violinist Yevgeny Kutik has become a sought-after artist on the concert stage worldwide. In his German debut with the WDR Radio Symphony Orchestra, Yevgeny "enraptured the crowd" with his performance. Yevgeny's other recent performances have included appearances with the Tokyo Vivaldi Ensemble in Japan, and a return appearance with the Boston Pops Orchestra and Keith Lockhart. As a recitalist, he appeared at the Verbier (Switzerland) and Oberstdorfer (Germany) festivals and made his debut on the prominent Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago. He has also performed recitals in San Francisco, Washington D.C., Miami, Tokyo, Munich, Montreal and New York. In 2012, Marquis Classics released Kutik's highly acclaimed debut CD - *Sounds of Defiance*, featuring the music of Shostakovich, Schnittke, Achron and others.

*Dessert reception to follow*

This program has been made possible by the generous donations of the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation and private donors



Jewish Federation®  
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

## Chanukah Night With the Griffins! Sunday, December 9th at 4pm – Van Andel Arena

Enjoy this exclusive discounted offer for the Griffins on Sunday, December 9th and help support the Jewish Community of Grand Rapids

**Sunday, December 9th** will feature:

- \$1 Ice Cream and \$1 Pepsi
- Superhero Capes (First 1,500 Fans)
- Giant American Flag Covering The Ice during the National Anthem
- Sunday, December 9th is also our Salute To Heroes Night where all of our local heroes will be recognized during the game.

Enjoy this great discount - Upper level tickets for just \$13. A savings of up to \$3 per ticket! In addition \$3 from each ticket purchased through the promo code will go back to directly support the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

\*All seats will be in Section 222

**Purchasing your tickets is Easy!**

Simply go to [www.griffinshockey.com/promocode](http://www.griffinshockey.com/promocode)

Enter promo code **JFGR**

Select your seats and make your purchase!

For questions, or for groups of 10 or more, Please contact

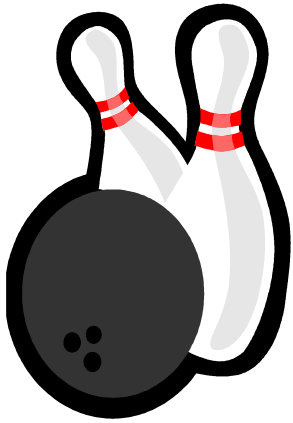
**Andrew Rubinstein at 616.774.4585 ext 3023**

Offer not valid at the box office – online only.



PRIMARY AFFILIATE OF  
THE DETROIT RED WINGS

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**  
Visit [griffinshockey.com/socialmedia](http://griffinshockey.com/socialmedia)



**United Jewish School, Chabad House and the Jewish Federation invite the entire community**

## *Chanukah Bowling Ball*

3335 Fairlanes Ave. SW, Grandville, MI 49418 616-534-2695

**Sunday, December 16**

**12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

*Fairlanes*  
Family Entertainment Center



Buses will pick up students at Temple Emanuel at noon and take them to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center. There will be lunch, arts and crafts, and bowling.

**This event is free for all UJS staff and students.**

**United Jewish School Students and staff: Free of charge**

**Adults: \$ 6.00 lunch**

**\$ 4.00 bowling and shoe rental**

**Admission includes:**

*Kosher deli lunch*

*Sufganiot (traditional jelly donuts)*

*Arts & Crafts center*

*Entertainment by the Shir Shalom choir - Director: Bill Marfink*

Bus pick-up from Temple to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center: Noon

Parent pick-up from Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center: 2:30 p.m.

**For RSVP and additional information call the Federation office 616-942-5553 or  
e-mail: sari@jfg.org, or pam@templemanuelgr.org**

**This event is generously sponsored by the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation**



# One-of-a-kind Jewish Community

## Camp Information Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2012

10:30 a.m.

Temple Emanuel

Call 224-619-5969 or Email registrar@camptavor.org to RSVP



For more information on Camp Tavor you can visit the website

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

or contact Brittany the Outreach Manger at 224-619-5969.

Brittany will be here to give information to our community about the TASTE OF TAVOR program for 2nd-5th graders. The program will be offered August 1-5, 2013.

Brittany will also be at the Chanukah Bowling Ball on December 16 from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM to answer questions about camp.

## Save the Date!

Jewish Cultural Council - 2012-2013 Spectrum Series

Sunday, January 20, 2013 - 10:00 AM

## NATHAN GUTTMAN

Washington bureau chief for *The Forward* newspaper and U.S. reporter for Israel's public TV network will talk about

### "Palestinian and Jewish Refugees"

RSVP and additional information at [www.jfgr.org](http://www.jfgr.org) or Federation office at 616-942-5553

Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

Spectrum Series 2012—2013 Membership Form

Please send me season tickets for Spectrum 2012-2013

- I/We would like to be an Underwriter: \$500+ (up to 5 tickets per event)
- I/We would like to be a Patron: \$250 - \$499 (4 tickets per event)
- I/We would like to be a Sponsor: \$125 - \$249 (3 tickets per event)
- I/We would like a Family membership: \$100 (2 tickers per event)
- I would like a Single membership: \$50 (1 ticket per event)
- 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  
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506



Beit Sefer B'yahad/United Jewish School  
1715 East Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Pam Rush, School Director 616-459-5976  
pam@templemanuelgr.org  
www.unitedjewishschool.org

**December 16**  
**12:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

## Chanukah Bowling Ball

www.fairlanesgrandville.com  
3335 Fairlanes Ave SW, Grandville  
Phone: 616-534-2695

What a fun way to celebrate Chanukah with the community! Busses will transport students from religious school to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center. They will receive lunch, shoe rental and enjoy many fun activities. All parents and guests are welcome. This event is free for all students and teachers of UJS. This year will also feature a program by the Shir Shalom choir.

See page 7 for more information

### UJS Calendar

- December 16 – Chanukah Bowling Ball
- December 23 – No School Winter Break
- December 26 – No Midweek Winter Break
- December 30 – No School Winter Break
- January 2 – No Midweek Winter Break
- January 6 – No School Winter Break

### UJS mitzvah project for December

UJS is collecting new and gently used winter clothing, blankets, etc. during December. Bins are in the school hall at Temple and Ahavas Israel.

Please remember those that are less fortunate.



**Coming  
Soon  
to a location  
near you . . .**

## 2013-2014 Jewish Community Roster

Contact:  
**Lanny Thody 956-6161 or  
Eileen Enoch 949-6444  
for further information.**

**Please support our  
Adopt-a-Family at  
Chanukah**

You can send in money earmarked for this program. Our goal is to raise \$2,000. I will purchase gift cards to help those families struggling to make ends meet and buy those little extras for their children during Chanukah.

**Please call or email Ann at 616-942-5553 or ann@jfgr.org** to make a donation or suggest a family in need.

## Congregational

### *Chabad House*

#### **Latke party**

Saturday, December 15, 8:00 PM  
 at Chabad House, 2615 Michigan St, Grand Rapids  
 \$5 cover charge  
 Chanukah Music!, Chanukah Crafts!  
 Hot & Delicious Latkes!  
 Sufganiot! , Dreidel games!  
 Menorah Lighting & more!  
 Fun for the Whole Family!

#### **Chanukah Downtown**

Lighting of Michigan's largest Menorah  
 at the Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids

Saturday December 8, 7:00 PM  
 Sunday December 9, 5:00 PM  
 Monday December 10, 5:00 PM  
 Tuesday December 11, 5:00 PM  
 Wednesday December 12, 5:00 PM  
 Thursday December 13, 5:00 PM  
 Friday December 14, 3:00 PM  
 Saturday December 15, 7:00 PM

#### **Chabad kids club!**

Chanukah Party- Dec 11  
 Celebrate the Miracle of the oil! Fry delicious  
 latkes and play a fun game of Dreidel!

Edible Fruit Trees- Jan 15  
 celebrate the new year for trees tu b'shvat.  
 create your very own chocolate coated fruit tree!

### **Warm up your winter with Gan Israel Winter Camp**

December 24 and December 25  
 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 Camp activities include: Games, Cooking, Outdoor Fun, Crafts, Sports,  
 CGI Activities, Hunts, and much more!  
 \$50 both days  
 For all Jewish children Ages 4-12  
 Why wait for summer to experience the excitement of the Camp  
 Gan Israel? Bring the fun of Gan Izzy right into your winter break!  
 For more information or to register contact Chana (616) 570-1742

### *Temple Emanuel*

#### **Temple Emanuel Invites the Community to Celebrate Chanukah**

No need to cook dinner on Friday, December 14  
 We will do all the work for you  
 Join us for our Annual Chanukah Service and Dinner  
 Services begin at 6:00 PM and will feature lots of Chanukah music  
 Dinner begins at 6:45 PM and includes latkes and brisket (and a  
 vegetarian option)  
 \$12 Adults, \$6 Children under the age of 13  
 Your check is your reservation by Monday, December 10  
 Reservations are required!  
 The Shir Shalom Choir will entertain us following dinner with a melody  
 of Chanukah songs.  
 December 14 is the seventh night of Chanukah. Please bring your  
 menorah and 8 candles to light.  
 Feeling creative? Make your own menorah and bring it to  
 dinner. Prizes awarded for the most unusual and the most  
 beautiful. All entries receive a special Chanukah gift. All ages are  
 invited to participate!

**JFGR would like to congratulate Rabbi David Krishef and Cantor Stuart Rapaport on the celebration of your years of service to Ahavas Israel and the greater Grand Rapids community.**

### *Congregation Ahavas Israel*

Please join us for  
**Congregation Ahavas Israel's Annual Chanukah Dinner**

Wednesday, December 12, 2012  
 5:45 PM Lighting of the Chanukiah — 6:00 PM Dinner  
 Cost: \$10 adults  
 \$7.50 children (12 & under)  
 Family Maximum \$36

Come enjoy a dairy dinner with vegan and allergy options with  
 assistance from Chef Isaac Katz and latkes by Cantor Stuart's Latke  
 Lads. Bring your chanukiah and candles to light with other Ahavas  
 Israel families. Children, bring a chanukiah that YOU have made for a  
 chance to win a prize. Reservation Deadline: December 5, 2012. Mail  
 your check to the synagogue office. Your check is your  
 reservation. Please be considerate of the volunteers organizing and  
 preparing this popular event by being prompt and timely in making your  
 reservations. Sponsored by the Religious Life Committee

BINGO Family Photos  
 Crafts for the Kids

# Endowment

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:

**Woman of Valor Fund** (\$10 minimum contribution). To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally or nationally.

**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.

**Julian and Judith Joseph Fund**. To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

**David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**. To provide scholarships to Jewish sleep away camps and experiences.

**Chuck and Maxine Shapiro Fund**. To help ensure long-term aid to Israel and Jews around the world.

**Louis and Louise Weiner Fund**. To help ensure local programming for seniors in the Grand Rapids Jewish Community.

**Jerry and Judy Subar Fund**. To help ensure funding for overseas Jewish communities' needs.

**Leven Family Fund**. To establish and provide Jewish facilities, and support for cooperative programming among the congregations that support Jewish education for our youth.

**Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund**. To support Jewish social services in Grand Rapids.

*Thank you for supporting the  
Grand Rapids Jewish Community*

## The Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

To the Jewish Federation Social Services Department in honor of the work you do.  
From the Estate of Scott Kanig



### JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation from: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Fund (pick from list) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Donor City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send card to: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Send card to address \_\_\_\_\_ **Send your donation and this form to:**

Send card to City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ **2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

## The Shofar

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
2727 Michigan NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

Send article text to: [Ann@jfgr.org](mailto:Ann@jfgr.org)

Phone: 616.942.5553

Fax: 616.942.5780

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

Email: [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org)

**Next Issue's Information Deadline:  
December 14, 2012**



Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>  
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.  
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.



*Happy Chanukah*  
Look for Chanukah  
programs throughout this Shofar

