



Chairman's Letter

Dear Grand Rapids Jewish Community,

The annual campaign for Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids has formally begun with the November 11, 2013 kickoff event. We hosted Roey Gilad, the Council General of Israel based in Chicago, as one of the main speakers. He informed us of his position assisting Israel with an eleven state region and growing relationships and business between the states and Israel. He did tell us that the State of Michigan and Michigan based businesses are looked upon as leaders and are setting the gold standard for other parts of the country to follow. This includes the Michigan Israel Business Bridge (MIBB) that functions like a Chamber of Commerce for business to business work between the areas. The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids has become a member of the MIBB through the annual allocation process. Mr. Gilad provided interesting analysis on Israel as the Start- Up Nation and took some general questions from the audience on security and current events.

The second part of the evening was a conversation between Rabbi Lewis and Joseph A. Parini. Joe has had an illustrious career with many Grand Rapids-based businesses, including Lear Siegler, and Rospach, and has been an active participant with the State of Israel and its defense industry since before the time of the Six Day War in 1967. He has led Elbit Systems of America, the US subsidiary of Israel's largest non-governmental defense contractor. Rabbi Lewis asked questions and Joe responded with some interesting history of his relationship with the State of Israel. We always want to know the inside thinking and much of what Joe has done for the State of Israel is still highly restricted, but the stories were interesting and entertaining. The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids honored Joseph A. Parini with a Lifetime of Service Award for his work with Israel's defense industry.

The event kicked off our annual campaign. Please consider making a meaningful gift to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. The Board and a number of other volunteer

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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.

**Like Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
on Facebook!**

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Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.942.5553
616.942.5780 fax
info@jfggr.org
www.jfggr.org

Officers

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Rabbi David Krishef
Bill Lewis, President

Temple Emanuel
Rabbi Michael Schadick
Mitchell Kahn, President

Chabad House
Of Western Michigan
Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

Continued from page 1

solicitors will be calling or sending letters asking for your meaningful gifts. Please talk with your solicitor or reply promptly to any correspondence. Being a CPA specializing in taxes, I want to remind you that your contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2013 to qualify as a deduction for 2013 and that the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is a qualifying 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We are also prepared to receive your stock gifts and can assist you in making this type of donation. With the stock market performing very well this year, gifts of stock that you have held for over one year, make an excellent vehicle for gifting. You may deduct the fair market value of the stock without reporting the appreciation as income.

Please have a great year end and contact the Federation if you have any needs or questions. As our tag line states: The Strength of a People, The Power of Community. Stay involved, get involved, help one another.

Claude Titche III
Chairman of the Board

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

A volunteer solicitor may be calling to ask for your pledge to our Annual Campaign. If you would like to make your gift, or pledge, without the phone call, please mail in the card below Or you may donate now at www.JewishGrandRapids.org . You may also make your pledge via phone: 616.942.5553, or email: info@jfggr.org.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 942-5553
www.jfggr.org

Live Generously.

Name _____

Address _____

Please consider a 10% increase



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

Card Number
Exp. Date: _____

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

"It is now up to us, the community, to create and fund programs and opportunities for Jewish engagement and learning that speak to today's families. It is our job to show them what they seem to realize already – that Judaism is worth keeping."

--- Winnie Sandler Grinspoon
PJ Library, A Program of the
Harold Grinspoon Foundation

As no doubt you are aware, there is much angst about the future of Judaism in America, most recently driven by a survey of the Jewish American community released by the Pew Research Center earlier this fall. (There will be more about this study in future issues of *The Shofar*). The above quote comes from a letter sent to participating PJ Library communities as a response to the Pew study. The last four words – 'Judaism is worth keeping' – stuck in my mind.

I am asked from time to time, 'why donate to Federation?' There are many answers, of course. Some may speak to you, some may not. I suspect, however, that all answers which speak to Federation donors include at their core that Judaism is of value not only to Jews but to humanity.

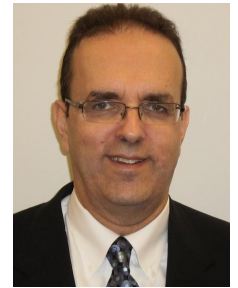
This is the essence of why I became active in Jewish communal life.

Let me be clear. There are many Jewish institutions or groups worthy of support: some religious, some secular, some local, some international, etc. Many of you donate to these organizations and so do I. Then why also donate to Federation?

Because Judaism is worth keeping.

As our mission statement reads, our Grand Rapids Federation works to 'unite the local Jewish community to sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel and around the world.' To do so, we work with our entire community, both Jewish organizations and individuals, to fund programs and services offered by Federation and other Jewish organizations that seek to inspire and engage Jews in our community. The new PJ

Library program is a good example of this effort to engage young families, especially those families not already involved in community activities.



There are, of course, many other examples. When Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel decided to create the United Jewish School, Federation matched their expenditures and has done so every year since UJS was formed. The Jewish Cultural Council, Film Festival, Jewish Theatre and Shir Shalom Choir add to the cultural richness of our community, all with significant support from Federation. Financial support to our fellow community members in need and with limited personal resources also comes from Federation. And, we continue to support our fellow Jews' social service needs in Israel and around the world.

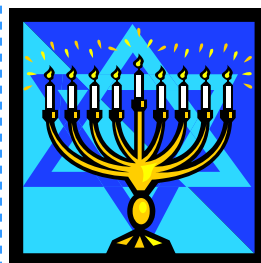
I say 'we' because Federation is all of us in our West Michigan Jewish community.

If you believe Judaism is worth keeping, please keep in mind the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids as you make your year-end charitable contribution decisions. We are a small community, so even with a significant number of us, around 450, of an estimated 2,000 Jews in West Michigan, donating to JFGR annually, we have need of a gift over \$125 from more than half of our donors to fund the programs and services that keep our community strong.

I sincerely appreciate your support.

Best regards,

Mike Presant
mike@ifgr.org



We would like to
wish our
community a
**Happy
Hanukkah!!**

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?**

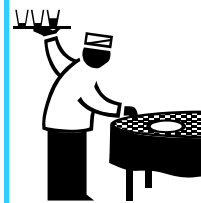
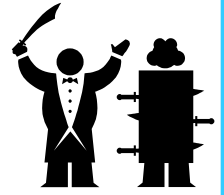
*** If you know about somebody new to the Grand Rapids community, please let us know. "Shalom Grand Rapids" would like to welcome them.**

To sign up or receive additional information about the program, contact Sari at the Federation office: 616-942-5553 or Sari@jfrg.org

WELCOME

HOLIDAY LUNCH BUNCH

"A Magical Hanukkah Luncheon"



Thursday, December 5

Temple Emanuel

1715 East Fulton

11:30 AM

Cost \$8

RSVP by

Tuesday, December 3

to Ann at 616-942-5553

Transportation is also available by calling Ann

LUNCH BUNCH SAVE THESE DATES:

January 23 - Seoul Garden

February 13 - TBD | March 20 - TBD

Roey Gilad, Consul General of Israel
November 11, 2013 at Temple Emanuel



Did you attend November speaker events?

2013 Scholar-in-Residence speaker
Prof. Daniel Matt

2013 Scholar-in-Residence speaker
Prof. Daniel Matt



Rabbi Al Lewis has a conversation with Joe Parini, who was honored with a lifetime of service to Israel's defense industry from the JFGR on November 11

Roey Gilad speaks to an audience of about 100 at the Celebration of Israel : The Start-Up Nation



Sunday, December 15

Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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

WINTER FUN
AT THE
BOWLING ALLEY



Fairlanes
Family Entertainment Center

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

Meet friends, have lunch, enjoy the game
in a family atmosphere

UJS Students:

Buses will pick up at Temple Emanuel at 11:30
AM and take students to Fairlanes Family
Entertainment Center.

Parents must pick-up from Fairlanes Family
Entertainment
Center by 2:00 PM.

This event is generously sponsored by the
Rosenszweig-Coopersmith Foundation

This event is free for all children
up to 18 years old.

UJS staff: Free of charge

Adults: \$6.00 for kosher lunch
\$4.00 bowling and
shoe rental

Admission includes: bowling, shoe rental,
kosher lunch, arts & crafts.

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

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids



Jewish Cultural Council 2014-Spectrum Series

Sunday, January 12, 2014

BAKING DEMONSTRATION

A Master Baker prepares favorite Jewish breads

Sunday, February 9, 2014

YIDDISHE CUP

Cleveland based Klezmer group

Sunday, March 23, 2014

LAVON MERCER

An American basketball player in Israeli

Sunday, June 1, 2014

“KREPLACH & DIM SUM”

Jews in China with Robyn Helzner

Save the dates, more information to follow

This series is sponsored by The Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation and private donors

Become a Cultural Council Member

Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

Spectrum Series 2014 Membership Form

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Enclosed is my Check for \$ _____

Payable to The Jewish Cultural Council

Please send me season tickets for Spectrum 2014

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.

**Please mail this form with your check to:
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapid
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**



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GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Application for [Masa Israel Teaching Fellows](#) is now open for the 2014-2015 cohort.

Masa Israel Teaching Fellows

This elite fellowship places outstanding college graduates in Israel's underserved communities to teach English as part of a 10 month service learning program. Israel Teaching Fellows is heavily subsidized by Israel's Ministry of Education and Masa Israel, making the total cost to participants only \$1,000, including flight, housing, medical insurance and a monthly stipend designed to cover food expenses.

Masa Israel Teaching Fellows aims to close the achievement gap in Israel's education system by placing outstanding college graduates as English teachers' aides in schools throughout Israel. Fellows live in communities throughout Israel and work with local students in need. Thanks to Israel's Ministry of Education and Masa Israel, the program costs only \$1,000 including flight, housing, medical insurance and a monthly stipend. For more information and to apply, visit www.israelteachingfellows.org.

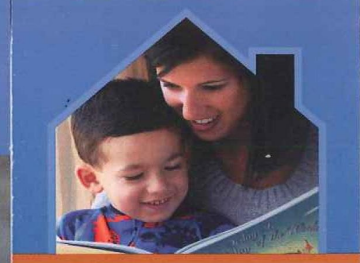
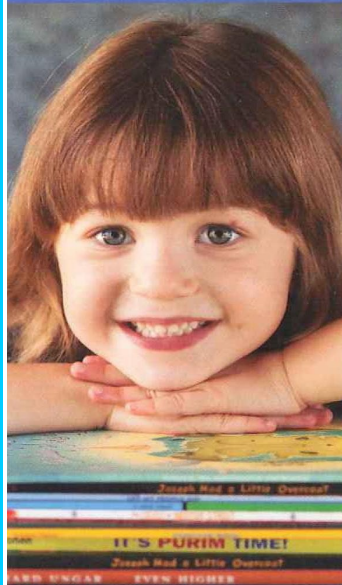
If you know exceptional candidates for this fellowship, or for more resources you can use to share Israel Teaching Fellows visit www.israelteachingfellows.org/recruitment.

Please feel free to be in touch with any questions about the program or application process.

Thank you,
Avi Rubel | Executive Director, North America
Masa Israel Journey

PJ Library is here! **Thank you! To the Ravitz Foundation and Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation.**

A GIFT for
JEWISH CHILDREN
and their families.



WHAT? The PJ Library ("PJ" for "pajamas") program offers the gift of free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to children ages 6 months through 8 years all across North America. The program is also available to children ages 6 through 8 in some communities.

WHY? PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and tradition, and become cherished bedtime stories.

HOW? Signing up is easy!
To sign up for PJ Library visit
www.pjlibrary.org.

PJ Library is a gift from your Jewish community in partnership with local philanthropists and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



www.PJLIBRARY.org

A PROGRAM OF THE
HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



Chabad House of Western Michigan invites the Entire Community to an Evening with Dr. David Nesenoff.

"A Funny Thing Happened When I was at the White House!" The Helen Thomas/David Nesenoff Israel Story.

Dr. Nesenoff literally travels the globe delivering a highly sought after message about Haskacha Protis (Divine Intervention) Israel, anti-Semitism and life. His audiences have reviewed Dr. Nesenoff as "hilarious", "mind blowing", "uplifting" and "life-changing".

Sunday, December 8 - 7:30 PM at Chabad House

Cover Charge: \$10

For more info or to RSVP call 616-957-0770



Shir Shalom Hanukkah Concert

at

Schulers Book and Music Store
2660 28th Street SE location



Shir Shalom Chorus, sponsored by Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, will perform a free Hanukkah concert on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 PM in the Schulers community room at

Traditional music and contemporary songs will be sung to brighten up the holiday!

We are looking forward to celebrate the seventh night of Hanukkah with our community and hope you will attend this special concert as Schulers is welcoming our performance and making their space available for the event.

Bring your families and friends! The more, the merrier!

Happy Hanukkah !!!

Save the date

January 12, 2014

to celebrate



**Anne Wepman's
100th Birthday**

at Congregation Ahavas Israel

1:00 - 3:30 PM

Everyone Welcome!!

Jewish Community Business Forum

December 19, 2013

12:00 - 1:00 PM

El Barrio

545 Michigan NE

Everyone is Welcome!



A good networking opportunity to discuss business principles and to stay aware of resources available in our community.

Jewish Women's Professional Network

We meet monthly for networking. 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 or
phone 616-774-8644.

December 4, 2013

12:00 PM

Olive's

2162 Wealthy St. EGR



Hadassah Book Club

December 11 - 7:15 PM

"ME BEFORE YOU"

by Jojo Moyers

Moderator: Sue Remes

Host: Flory Silverstein

2930 Bonnell SE

RSVP to 616-949-5766

Books available at SCHULERS BOOKS, 28th ST

As always, your faithful bookends,

Sue Remes 616-949-3505

Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766





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

UJS Board:

The school board is comprised of representatives from Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel. Each congregation has seven representatives.

Erica Wikander, co-chair
Allyson Strauss, co-chair
Jean Barkin
Paula Bojsen
Wende Cook
Jan Fonger
Sharlena Lovy
Rhonda Pappas
Carey Potter
Lisa Rapoport
Elisabeth Rosewall
Amy Singer
Abby Sorota
Amy Winkelman

December 15 12:00 – 2:00 PM



WINTER FUN AT THE BOWLING ALLEY



This years school/community winter party.

For more details see page 7.



Fairlanes
Family Entertainment Center

UJS Calendar

December 15 – Bowling Party

December 22 – No School Winter Break

December 25 – No Midweek Winter Break

December 29 – No School Winter Break

January 1 – No Midweek Winter Break

January 5 – No School Winter Break

Congregational

Temple Emanuel

“JEWISH COMMUNITY, JEWISH-FRIENDLY” TARGET

SHOOTING, Jason Cook of Congregation Ahavas Israel and Rick Rinzler of Temple Emanuel will be hosting this event at Jason's 20-acre homestead in Grandville on Sunday, December 1 from 1:30 to 5:00 PM (that's the Sunday of Thanksgivingweekend). They will have all kinds of firearms there together with range officers, instructors and military veterans. Safety, fun and firearms exposure are the primary objectives!! Whether you are a beginner, an experience shooter or just plain curious this is not a competitive shoot, but rather an informal, safe and casual social event for all who are interested within the Jewish community. If you have firearms of your own, bring 'em along with ammunition if you have it. There

will be all kinds of fun targets—both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional—as well as a trap thrower and other surprises!

SAVE THE DATE: Another ABC (Argue, Banter, and Compromise) will take place on Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 AM.

Jim Siegel will prepare breakfast and facilitate the discussions. More information will be forthcoming.

Join us for Wine & Cheese before the start of services on Friday night, in front of the gift shop, between 5:30 and 6:15 PM.

Chabad House**CHABAD KIDS CLUB**

Tuesday December 3

Hanukkah in France

Spread the miracle of Hanukkah in the city of lights!
Make special French Hanukkah treats, and play some
awesome Hanukkah games!

Boys & Girls ages 5-12 | Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
\$10 per session (includes light dinner)

For more info or to RSVP call Chana 616-570-1742

CTEEN

Sunday, December 15

In Appreciation

What are you thankful for?

It's appreciation time! Lift the spirits of the young at
heart and send some heart to those who deserve your
thanks.

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

\$10 per session

For more info call Chana: 616-570-1742

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE HANUKKAH LATKE PARTY

Saturday, November 30

8:00 PM at Chabad House

\$5 cover charge

Hanukkah Music!

Hanukkah Crafts!

Hot & Delicious Latkes!

Sufganiot!

Dreidel Games!

Menorah Lighting & more!

Fun for the whole family!

LIGHTING OF MICHIGAN'S LARGEST MENORAH!

Hannukah Downtown at the Calder Plaza,

Wednesday November 27, 5:00 PM

Thursday November 28, 5:00 PM

Friday November 29, 3:00 PM

Saturday November 30, 7:00 PM

Sunday December 1, 5:00 PM

Monday December 2, 5:00 PM

Tuesday December 3, 5:00 PM

Wednesday December 4, 5:00 PM

Join us Sunday December 1, 5:00 PM with Grand
Rapids Mayor George Heartwell. Light up the world
with goodness and kindness to bring about true peace
to all humanity.

For more info visit: Chabadwm.com**THE JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE Invite the entire
Community to *Latkes with a Twist*.**

Monday December 2

Grease up your Jewish History as you find out what's
cooking with the oil in your latkes. Warm up as you try
some all-time favorites and some new recipes.

Location: Tzippy Winestones 2233 Kent NE

Time: 8:00 PM | Cover charge: \$10

Congregation Ahavas Israel**SHABBAT SPEAKER:**

December 7 - Lisa Rose Starner, "Grand Rapids Food:
A Culinary Revolution"

Join local food advocate, urban farmer, herbalist &
author Lisa Rose Starner to discuss her new book,
"Grand Rapids' Food Revolution: Built from Scratch."

SE'UDAH SHELISHEET

Please join us late on four Shabbat afternoons in
December at 4:45 PM for the Shabbat afternoon
(*minha*)service, a little food, the evening (ma'ariv) and
havdalah. The evening will conclude about 15 minutes
following the havdalah time for that week,
approximately 6:15 PM.

ADULT JEWISH LEARNING

Monthly Adult Jewish Learning on Sunday mornings, co-
sponsored by Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel, and the
United Jewish School. All sessions begin with bagels
and coffee at 10:00 AM. December 15 - An
Exploration of Shabbat: What does an ideal
Conservative or Reform Shabbat experience look
like? A Multi-faceted presentation and discussion to
help you bring moments of peace into your life.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION - DECEMBER 7

Ahavas Israel Junior Congregation is a monthly
service for all children, led by Rachel Deaner, at
11:00 AM in the Chapel. Kids under 6 should come
with a parent. Kids over bar or bat mitzvah age
should come to show what you know. We aim to
create a warm and fun environment to learn and
practice prayer and song.

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$10 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 JFGR General Endowment Fund

In memory of our son, Nik Rapeyko

From Lidiya and Vilen Rapeyko

To Rosalie Stein in memory of Sheila Radman Balk

From Barbara Wepman

The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

To Rosalie Stein in memory of Sheila Radman Balk

From Judith and Julian Joseph

To Rosalie Stein in memory of Sheila Radman Balk

From Esther and Seymour Padnos

To Rosalie Stein in memory of Sheila Radman Balk

From Myrna & Leon Kirschner

To Rosalie Stein in memory of Sheila Radman Balk

From Mike & Carol Present

The Leven Family Endowment Fund

To Mr. & Mrs. Norm Leven in honor of the birth of their Granddaughter, Madison,

From Beverly Manes



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

Phone: 616.942.5553

Fax: 616.942.5780

www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Email: info@jfgr.org

**Next Issue's Information Deadline:
DECEMBER 15, 2013**



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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



WINTER BREAK FAMILY FUN DAY

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

NAKED PLATES

Breton Village 1860 Breton Road SE

Monday December 30

10:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Items to paint will be available for purchase. Prices of \$5 and up.

Complimentary refreshments.

All ages welcome

For more information: cathy@jfgr.org or phone 616-942-5553