



SHEVAT / ADAR 5772

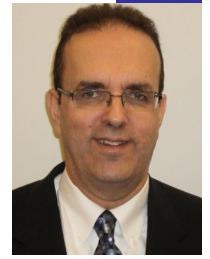
FEBRUARY 2012
WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS

The Shofar

Federation News

Executive Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, 2012 has been declared the “Year of Interfaith Understanding” in Grand Rapids by Mayor George Heartwell, who gave an inspiring talk about the value of interfaith relations at Congregation Ahavas Israel last month. Interfaith dialogue has been an interest of mine for a number of years, so I’d like to share a few thoughts about this with you.

The 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding is being coordinated by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University. Its predecessor group, the West Shore Committee for Jewish Christian Dialogue, was founded 20 years ago in Muskegon by Sylvia Kaufman, Rabbi Alan Alpert and other clergy. I joined the group nearly ten years ago, and discovered that sharing and learning about various religions and culture, both their similarities and differences, can be a rewarding experience.

Some of you have inquired about an article that appeared in the *Grand Rapids Press* on the day Mayor Heartwell spoke at Ahavas Israel. I have participated over the past four years in an interfaith couples group, comprised of six couples, two each from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths, respectively. Rabbi Schadick and his wife Susan are the other Jewish couple along with my wife Carol and me. We meet five or six times per year in each others’ homes for dinner and conversation, following a simple ground rule, which in my experience is necessary for interfaith dialogue to be effective: no proselytizing.

In my view, the purpose of such discussions is two-fold: 1) learning about other faith traditions, and 2) developing relationships around faith with people of different backgrounds. As Mayor Heartwell noted in his speech, to venture out into such conversations, a strong belief in one’s own faith is necessary. This enables you to fully participate in discussions that can be both enlightening and enjoyable.

Continued on page 3 ...

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.

One Community

Federation is now on Facebook!

Become a fan of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

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Federation News

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

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 Of Western Michigan
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Campaign Update:

Our campaign is in process and we are more than half way to our goal! Pledges to date total:

364 Pledges
\$380,000

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 online at www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Note: Any new gift or increase is matched dollar for dollar by a challenge grant.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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

 Card Number
 Exp. Date: _____



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

Live Generously.

Name _____

Address _____

Please consider a 10% increase

Federation News

Continued from page 1

I've also come to realize the three Abrahamic faiths represented in our couples group have a core belief in common. This common belief holds true no matter what sect within each of the faiths you belong to, no matter whether you are very strict, or quite the opposite, in following the faith's traditional practices and rituals. *Only God is omniscient.* As humans, we have failings of understanding. So, one of the reasons I've stayed involved in interfaith dialogue is a desire to learn about others' beliefs in God as a means to inform my own religious beliefs and understanding of other people.

I also believe interfaith dialogue is important for our Jewish community. As a small minority, in Grand Rapids, the United States and around the globe, I feel an effort to understand more deeply our fellow believers, and to give them the opportunity to gain some knowledge about our Jewish faith and culture, can be helpful for our community relations.

Therefore, as our greater community celebrates the 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding, I encourage you to participate. There are a wide variety of programs that can be found online at www.2012gr.org. If you do, I hope you'll find the experience as rewarding as I have.

Finally, I'd like to say a brief word of thanks to all who helped make a cold Sunday evening in the middle of January a warm night of fun and immense spirit for our Jewish community. The Jewish Cultural Council's *The Art of Being Jewish* program was a great success, another full house in the Temple Emanuel sanctuary (following the sellout for the Grand Rapids Symphony in November) of approximately 200 people seated in a coffee house-like atmosphere. Thank you first and foremost to Larry Broomberg for making the evening possible, along with the performers offering their talents for the 15 acts. In addition, I'd like to thank Sari and the Cultural Council committee for all of their work, and all others who participated. It was a wonderful evening.

Best regards,

Mike Presant

mike@ifgr.org

Senior Programming

Lunch Bunch

Thursday, February 16
11:30 AM

PF Changs

Knapp's Corner/East Beltline Grand Rapids

Cost: \$8.00

Call Ann to RSVP 616-942-5553 ext. 206

By Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Transportation available!



Passover Shopping Trip

We will leave Ahavas Israel, Thursday March 22 at 9:30 AM by bus. Plan to stop for a kosher style lunch at your own expense. We will then go to the super-market to stock up on Passover foods. We plan to return by 5:00 PM.

Cost: \$20 for transportation

RSVP NO LATER than Tuesday, March 20 to Ann at 616-942-5553

Save these
Dates

Lunch Bunch:
Thursday, March 15 Olive Garden
Thursday, April 26 Location TBA

Film Festival



The 2012 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 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

PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE 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 April 26. 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!

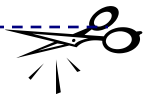
Director (\$500.00): Receive two flex passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and four admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

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.

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
 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Community News



GRAND RAPIDS BRAND NEW DAY AND OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE



ONE WEEK CAMPING EXPERIENCE JULY 9-15

**July 9-11 Day Camp in Grand Rapids
(Congregation Ahavas Israel)**

**July 12-15 Mini Overnight at Camp Tavor
(Three Rivers, MI)**

July 15 Pick up and family day at Camp Tavor



Children entering Grades 1-5 in the fall of 2012 are invited to be a part of this exciting short term Jewish camp experience. Campers will experience three days of Day Camp in Grand Rapids and will have fun building community, participating in Tikkun Olam (Social Action) projects, and developing Jewish identity. On Thursday, campers will head to beautiful Habonim Dror Camp Tavor. There they will swim, boat, play sports, do arts and crafts, and sing songs. They will also spend an exciting and meaningful Shabbat at Camp Tavor. This is offered as one complete experience for 2nd - 5th graders. **1st graders can participate in the day camp portion only.**

We are also running a **Counselor in Training (CIT) Leadership program**. **Teenagers who will be in 9th or 10th grades** in the fall of 2012 are invited to apply to be CITs. CITs will help run the day camp activities and look after the children. At Camp Tavor, CITs will be integrated with the teen campers. There will be a mandatory training day for CIT participants. CIT applicants may be interviewed on the phone or in person.

Fees:

2nd - 5th grade campers - \$595

Includes: 3 days of Day camp, 3 days and nights of overnight camp, one-way transportation to Habonim Dror Camp Tavor

1st Grade Day Camp only - \$295

Counselor in Training program - \$95

For additional information about Camp Tavor visit www.camptavor.org or contact Sari at 616-942-5553 or sari@jfgr.org

Partial Scholarship funds may be available, to apply contact Ann at 616-942-5553 or ann@jfgr.org

Community News

JFGR experienced a wonderful turn-out at GYMCO during winter break.



Did you miss out on December's Winter Break Family Fun Time? Or, did you have a fantastic time with us at GYMCO? Either way, please don't miss our next

Federation Family Fun Event

Sunday

February 19

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM



Patterson Ice Arena

\$5.00 per child*

\$20 family max*

RSVP to Cathy: 616-942-5553

or email cathy@jfgr.org

**includes skate rental and refreshments*

Grand Rapids Jews have Talent!

Another successful Cultural Council Event was held on Sunday, January 15 at Temple Emanuel.

It was an evening filled with music, magic, friends and food.



Go to www.jewishgrandrapids.org to see more photos.

Community News



REUVEN Y. HAZAN

“Where has Israel been and Where is it Going?”

Saturday, February 11, 2012

7:30 PM

Congregation Ahavas Israel

2727 Michigan St. N.E.



Reuven Hazan is a professor of Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His expertise is in historical and current analysis of Israeli politics, particularly putting into context the developments that are in the headlines. Dr. Hazan was involved in reforming Israel's electoral system and continues to advise Israel's politicians on the restructuring of its legislative branch. He has appeared as a commentator on NPR as well as in major television networks and newspapers including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Time Magazine* and *Newsweek*. Reuven Hazan is a ninth generation Israeli, born in Jerusalem, where his family has resided for well over 100 YEARS.

Dessert reception to follow

Adults \$ 15.00 – College students: \$ 5.00

Children up to age 18: Free

RSVP: 616-942-5553 or sari@jfgr.org

Camp Scholarship Applications!

Due March 1, 2012

Do you know a child who would like to attend a Jewish sleep away camp? They may qualify for a camp scholarship through the **David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**. Applications are electronically available by sending an email to Ann@jfgr.org or you may stop by our office to pick one up.



Questions?call Ann at 616-942-5553 ext 206

All applications are kept confidential and reviewed only by the scholarship committee

Community News

Hadassah Book Club

Our Book Club met at Karen Haight's home on December 14! *The Arc of Justice* was discussed. It was a very interesting and informative evening! Karen, thank you so much for opening your home to our group.

NEXT MEETINGS:

February 8, 2012, 7:15 PM

Flory Silverstein's home, 2930 Bonnell SE
Please RSVP 616-949-5766

**Book to read: *The Queen of Palmyra*
by Minrose Gwin**

April 18, 2012, 7:15 PM

Sue Remes' home, 3403 Burton Ridge Road SE
Please RSVP 616-949-3505

**Book to read: *The Hare With The Amber Eyes*
By Edmund Dewall**

Books available for purchase
at Schulers on 28th Street.

Your Book-Ends,

Flory Silverstein and Sue Remes



2011-2012 Louis and Helen Padnos Lecture



Presents
**BENJAMIN
POLLACK**

Michigan State University Professor of Judaic Studies
**Should philosophy be able to teach us
how to live?**

This talk will explore how some of the most important Jewish philosophers over the ages would have responded to this question. We will meet Jewish thinkers who have claimed that philosophical reflection - about God, about the world and our place in it - is crucial to orienting human life, and that such reflection even amounts to the highest goal of human striving. We'll also meet figures who find in everyday Jewish life itself the key to philosophical truth. Although we'll discuss thinkers spanning the Jewish philosophical tradition, we'll pay special attention to the problem of philosophical reflection on Jewish life after the Holocaust.

Sunday, February 19, 10:00 AM
Temple Emanuel
1715 East Fulton
Free admission!



AUDITION NOTICE

JTGR is presenting the play "Yentl" April 19-29, 2012. This play, based upon the story by Isaac Bashevis

Singer, requires a large cast.

We will need eight males ages 18-35; six men 35-70; five females 18-35; and five females 35-70.

Auditions will be held Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 2:00 PM and Monday, February 20, at 7:00 PM at Spectrum Theater on the GRCC campus, 160 Fountain Street NE.

Rehearsals begin March 4, 2012. Further information can be found on our website: www.jtgr.org, or by calling 616-234-3595.

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.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 9
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
El Barrio
545 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI

Everyone Welcome

Congregational News

Temple Emanuel

Temple invites the Jewish community to worship with us at our Rock Shabbat on Friday, February 10 at 7:00 PM.

Come experience what congregations in big cities all across America experience.

Join us for a Shabbat service like no other. We celebrate Shabbat with lots of instruments and plenty of jamming.

Following services stay for a fruitful Oneg Shabbat in honor of Tu B'Shevat.

Temple Emanuel participates in the 2012 Grand Rapids Year of Interfaith Understanding on Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 PM with a special concert open to the entire community



We welcome the amazing talents of **Soul Aviv**, the four person vocal group from Santa Barbara, CA.

Soul Aviv sings in both Hebrew and English. Their music is infused with the sounds of folk, Motown, gospel, and the great harmony groups of the 60's and 70's.

The concert is for all ages. There is no charge.

RSVP at the Temple office at 616-459-5976

We are expecting a full house.

Check out their website at www.soulaviv.com.

We are indebted to the Tom and Mickie Fox Family Endowment Fund for underwriting the cost of this concert.

Chabad House

Chabad Kids Club

Mini Chefs

February 14

Tu B'Shvat edible arrangements

For kids ages 5-12, \$8 cover charge

RSVP or for more information

Call Chana 616-570-1742

Or email imnotsheina@gmail.com



The Jewish Women's Circle presents:

Shabbat in an Hour

Learn how to prepare a delicious Shabbat dinner in less than an hour!

Wednesday, February 22

8:00 PM

At the home of Chani Liberow

2277 E Fulton Street

Cost: \$10

For more information or to RSVP please call Nechamy at 616-828-2340

Beautiful Tu B'shvat Dried Fruit Trays

Available At Gan Yiladim Preschool

Donation \$18 Each ~ 3 for \$50

For more information or to order your trays please call Chana at (616) 570-1742

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Purim Celebration! Wednesday, March 7, 6:00 PM. A Party! A Play! ("Tanakh for Tachies" written by Marshall Giller) Great Food and Drink! Don't Miss It ... if you think it's a children's holiday, you haven't experienced an Ahavas Israel Purim. Thursday, March 8, 7:00 AM - Purim Minyan with Megillah reading.

Come be a part of our **annual Scholar-In-Residence Program**. This year we welcome two scholars to our community: Two Professors from Michigan State University; Two Opportunities to Learn **Sunday, March 4:** Kirsten Fermaglich, Associate Professor of History and Jewish Culture, MSU, will speak on the topic, "The Name Greenberger Is Not Helpful: American Jews and Name Changing, 1930-1960"

Sunday, March 11: Kenneth Waltzer, Professor of History and the Director of Jewish Studies, MSU, will speak on the topic, "Are We in a New Era in Jewish History? The New Anti-Semitism"

Bagel Breakfast at 10:00 AM; Presentations at 10:30 AM

RSVP to Temple Emanuel at 616-459-5976; there is no charge.

Sponsored by Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel

United Jewish School



Beit Sefer B'yahad/United Jewish School

www.unitedjewishschool.org



Let's eat Mexican Style

Sunday, February 12

Come join the entire school community as we caravan to

EL Barrio Mexican Grill

545 Michigan St NE

www.elbarriomexicangrill.com

We will caravan after Sunday School.

15% of the proceeds from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM will be donated to UJS.

**UJS
FUNd
raiser**

Plant Your Roots in Israel with trees for Tu B'Shvat: On Tu'B'Shvat we celebrate the New Year for trees. We eat wonderful fruits that grow in Israel and we pray for a fruitful year. Please join students all over the world by planting a tree in Israel through Jewish National Fund. Tzedakah monies at UJS for the month of January will be sent to Israel to plant trees. Go to www.jnf.org for more info.

Please take time to remember the school in your contributions. We have a beautiful tribute card that can be sent in memory of someone, in honor of a special occasion or just for a simple "thank you".



PASSOVER CANDY FUNDRAISER

Help support the ongoing programs at UJS by

purchasing delicious Barton's candy for this Passover season. Kosher for Passover.

For more info: Allyson Strauss at colestra@netscape.net

UJS Mitzvah Project:

UJS is collecting winter clothing, gently used boots, blankets, sweaters, etc.

Donations will be made to In the Image and Women's Domestic Crisis Center (no cost to recipients). Collection bins are located at Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel.

School Calendar

- 01-29-12 No school - midwinter break
- 02-05-12 Marc Rossio
- 02-08-12 Tu'b'shevat seder at midweek
- 02-12-12 El Barrio FUNdraiser 12 PM - 3 PM
- 02-19-12 UJS Open House

School closings: Please tune in to WZZM 13 and WOOD TV 8 for UJS closings. It will be listed as United Jewish School. You may also check their websites.

Jewish Federation 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:

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 Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

In honor of Ann Berman
From Mime and Margit Sarne

The Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

In memory of Jerry Subar
From Agnes Mossman
In memory of Jerry Subar
From Roger and Marcia Beutner
In memory of Jerry Subar
From Toby Weiner Dolinka
In loving memory of Jerry Subar
From Elisa, Steve, Brett, Jenna & Jacqueline Joseph
In memory of Jerry Subar
From Darrel Rosen
In memory of Jerry Subar
From Chuck and Nancy Olender

The Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund

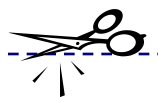
In memory of Jerry Subar
From Charles & Maxine Shapiro

The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

In honor of Anne Wepman for Chanukah
With love from her Family
In honor of Anne Wepman's Birthday
From Agnes Mossman

The Samrick Youth Scholarship Endowment Fund

To Andrew and Liz Samrick in honor of the birth of Julian Dashed Samrick
From Susan and David Samrick



JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation from: Name _____
 Donor Address _____
 Donor City/St/Zip _____
 Send card to: Name _____
 Send card to address _____
 Send card to City/St/Zip _____

Fund (pick from list) _____
 In honor of _____
 In memory of _____
 Notes: _____

Send your donation and this form to:
 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:

February 15, 2012



One Community

Editor's Note:

From time to time we invite our readers to share their inspirational Jewish stories. Please contact the Federation office to discuss a personal story you would like to share with our Jewish Community.