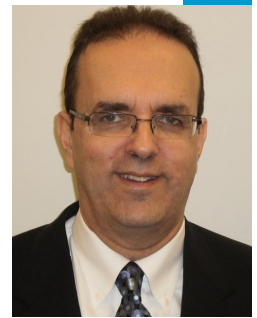




Executive Director’s Letter

Dear Friends,

The headline in the *New York Times* read, “Morsi’s Slurs Against Jews Stir Concern.” The article included quotes urging Egyptians to “nurse our children and our grandchildren on hatred” for Jews and Zionists, who were described on a separate occasion as “bloodsuckers who attack the Palestinians, these warmongers, these descendants of apes and pigs”, both quotes documented on video.



Morsi, of course, is Mohamed Morsi, the President of Egypt who rose to power following the ouster of Hosni Mubarak during the Arab Spring in the intervening period since both videos were recorded in 2010.

Was this ‘news’ surprising? No. This is language regularly used by too many Arab political leaders and media in the Arab world. President Morsi, also a leader of Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, is a product of an organization that has repeatedly made quite clear its hatred of Jews over many years.

The article the following day in the *Times* reported on Morsi’s response to the prior day’s story. His spokesman said his quotes were taken out of context and misinterpreted, and that he was speaking about Israel, not Jews. Of course, this is not credible. As the saying goes, ‘I was born at night, just not last night’.

However, highlighting the *Times* reporting is not the primary purpose of this column. As mentioned previously, it is not surprising that President Morsi was captured on camera vividly displaying his anti-Semitism. More importantly, I believe, is that such a person became President of the Arab country that has (had?) the longest peace agreement with Israel.

As the articles note, the language used by Morsi and many others in Egypt and throughout the Arab and Muslim world seems necessary for their political leaders. While hard to imagine, there are political factions more radical than Morsi.

How does Israel achieve peace with the Palestinians and their other neighbors in such an environment? The word ‘anti-Semitism’ summarizes but does not adequately illuminate a fundamental problem Israel faces in the Middle East. Generations of Arabs and Muslims have been raised to believe Jews are sub-human, animals to be ‘wiped off the face of the earth’, as President Ahmadinejad of Iran has infamously said. Of note, the Muslim Brotherhood’s close ally Hamas, a leader of this hatred infestation, now has the upper hand politically with the Palestinians.

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.

**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
www.jfgr.org

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Campaign Update



363 Pledges
\$390,000

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 also pay online at

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

This situation appears to make Israel's challenge to make peace impossible. Is it hopeless? Our recent Cultural Council speaker about Jewish and Palestinian refugees, Nathan Guttman of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, referred to an 'imaginary' peace process that most Israelis see today.

That said, it should be noted that not all Arab leaders use the demonic language described earlier, and not all are generally considered anti-Semitic. King Abdullah of Jordan and Prime Minister Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority come to mind, and there are others. It is also noteworthy that anti-Semitic leaders, if in their political interest, may even act in support of Israel. We need look no further than Richard Nixon's decision to provide arms to Israel during the Yom Kippur War forty years ago.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with Israel's policies regarding the Palestinians, we can come together in our understanding of how difficult it is for Israel's leaders to build peace in such an environment of hatred and distrust. I find it quite admirable that Israelis for the most part have not succumbed to such hatred of Arabs in return.

Let us continue to pray for peace and hope for an answer to the intractable Arab-Israeli conflict. It appears only God's wisdom can lead us to a solution.

Best regards,

Mike
mike@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
 Discover American Express

Card Number
Exp. Date: _____

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



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

Save the Date....
Cultural Council Event
Sunday
April 14, 2013.
12:30 PM
at Temple Emanuel

Join us at UJS Israeli Restaurant when artistic duo Royce Dean and Tali Farchi will delight us with their “*Paintings to Music*”. They appeared in ArtPrize 2011, with their entry *ArtPrize Jukebox* and ArtPrize 2012 with *The Looking Box*.

**Jewish Cultural Council
 Events!**



Nathan Guttman addressed the audience Sunday, January 20, 2013 on the issue of “Palestinians and Jewish Refugees”

L’DOR VADOR ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Return Over 10% in 2012

Our Jewish community is fortunate to have over thirty funds endowed to our Jewish organizations from many generous community members, past and present. These L'dor Vador ("from generation to generation") Endowment Funds are managed by a professional investment firm, overseen by an investment committee comprised of representatives of Congregation Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

Calendar year 2012 began with L'dor Vador funds totaling \$3,191,602, and ended with \$3,625,503. New contributions during 2012 were \$178,996, and distributions of earnings made at the request of the Funds were \$95,508, leaving a change in investment value based on performance of \$350,413. While individual portfolio returns differed based on the timing of investment activities and specific investment directions for certain funds, the weighted average return of the L'dor Vador Endowment Funds in 2012 was 10.73%.

Please contact the Federation office at (616) 942-5553 or info@jfgr.org should you have any questions or comments about this information, or would like to consider establishing a L'dor Vador fund from you or your family. To donate to particular funds, see the second to last page of this and every monthly *Shofar* for the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids funds, or contact Congregation Ahavas Israel or Temple Emanuel regarding other community L'dor Vador Endowment Funds.

Reprinted with permission from Fox 17 News.

Michigan Blood Celebrates 99-Year-Old Volunteer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.— Just shy of 99, Anne Wepman hasn't missed a beat when it comes to volunteering at [Michigan Blood](#). Wepman has been donating her time every Monday at the facility since 1970.

"This is one of the best places to volunteer," said Wepman. "Giving of yourself, is so important. Monday is my best day of the week."

Wepman, who was born in 1914, has spent her entire life in Grand Rapids. She has lived through both world wars, the Great Depression and the first man walking on the moon. She says what has not changed during all those years is her passion for "paying it forward". In fact, Wepman calls it her secret to staying young.

"It keeps you young because you're with people and it just makes you feel good," she explained. "I just hope I can keep up for a little bit longer."

This Monday was an extra special day for Wepman. Her co-workers at Michigan Blood surprised her with a birthday cake, and sang "Happy Birthday" to the longtime volunteer.

"She's very optimistic, very positive," said daughter Barbara Wepman, who also volunteers at Michigan Blood. "She loves everybody and she loves people."

"She really cares about our donors and they can tell and appreciate that," added Donna Martorano, Volunteer Manager at Michigan Blood. "We get people who are blood donors who come back specifically on Monday afternoons, between noon and 4pm, just to come and visit with Anne."

Wepman turns 99 on January 23rd. She still has her own apartment, even though she gave up her driver's license at 95. She has no plans to stop her volunteer work anytime soon.

"I enjoy whatever I do," said Wepman. "Being with people is the most important. If you just sit around, it's not good."



Anne, while volunteering with JFGR, takes a break on January 10th for pre-birthday cake with staff of Ahavas Israel and JFGR. Photo courtesy of Sari Cohen

Lunch Bunch February 14, 2013 Arnie's Bakery

3561 28th Street Southeast

11:30 am

Cost: \$8

RSVP by February 12

Ann 616-942-5553

Transportation also available by calling Ann



SAVE THESE DATES!

Upcoming Lunch Bunch Dates

March 21, 2013-Heritage

Restaurant -GRCC

April 18, 2013- TBD

May 16, 2013 - TBD

SUNDAY MATINEE AT GRAND RAPIDS CIVIC THEATER FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Sunday March 3, 2013

2:00 PM

\$15

We need at least **15** people signed up to get this group rate.

In case you haven't heard, Cantor Stuart Rapaport will be one of the actors.

RSVP a MUST to Ann at 616-942-5553

Rides and or carpooling will be available by also calling Ann

THINKING AHEAD TO PASSOVER

If you are interested in reserving a **kosher turkey** for your Passover Seder, Forest Hills Food will place your order **if you call them before February 26**. Delivery takes four weeks to the store.

Jerry, head of the meat department, will be glad to hear from you. Call him at 616-949-0240 ext. 6. If there are other items you will need, please let him know.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Jewish Federation is always looking for a few good volunteers. Not only does our organization need funds but we also need friends.

Do you have an hour or two? Perhaps you could drive someone to a medical appointment or grocery store, assist with a mailing project, help with setup or cleanup for a community event? Are you already attending a Federation sponsored event or heading to your congregation for an event? It could be as simple as carpooling with someone who would not be able to attend an event otherwise.

So become part of the "Pay it forward" social phenomenon in 2013. Your first step is to fill out an application which can be found on the left hand column of our website, www.jewishgrandrapids.org or stop by our office and pick one up. We can accommodate your schedules and time commitments. Then you too can talk about the benefits of volunteering on your 99th birthday (see article on prior page). For further questions call Ann at 616-942-5553.

FEDERATION FAMILY FUN EVENT For All Ages

Join us for ice skating fun, or just watch the skaters from the warmth of the observation room overlooking the rink. Complimentary light refreshments.

Sunday February 10, 2013

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Patterson Ice Arena

\$5.00 per skater*

\$20 Family max

RSVP to Cathy: 616-942-5553

or email Cathy@jfgr.org

*Includes skate rental



Now Arriving

The 2013-2014 Jewish Community Roster

Available (for \$9 each) at

Ahavas Israel or Temple Emanuel

or call

Lanny Thodey: 956-6161

Eileen Enoch: 949-6444

Film Festival



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 May 5th.**

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) 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 2013 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.

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)**

_____ **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

Temple Emanuel to Hosts Annual Padnos Lecture!

We are delighted to once again host the annual Padnos Lecture at Temple. The event will take place at 10:00 AM on Sunday February 3. Professor Howard Lupovitch, from the University of Western Ontario, will deliver the lecture. The title of the lecture is "*Neolog Judaism: In Search of a Silent Moderate Majority*"

Not all Jews in Europe embraced Orthodox or Reform Judaism during the nineteenth century. Many, if not most, opted instead for a religious mentality that allowed them to pick and choose between tradition and innovation, much like their forebears had done for generations. In this lecture, Professor Lupovitch will explore the complexities of this distinctly non-ideological religious mentality, how it was guided by rabbis in Prague, such as Ezekial Landau and Solomon Judah Rapaport, how its adherents in Hungary carved out a centrist, moderate religious outlook between the more radical and ideologically charged religious positions of Reform and Orthodoxy, and how it was eventually exported to America.

The program begins with breakfast



THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (AIPAC)
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS

Facing Israel's Future Together

Featuring



Rep. Bill Huizenga

Representative for Michigan's 2nd Congressional District

Tuesday, February 19, 2013
7:00 p.m.- Dessert and Beverages

The Ostrow Law Firm PLC
168 Louis Campau Promenade NW, 3rd Floor
Grand Rapids, MI

There is no cost to attend. Dietary laws observed.

Space is limited and RSVPs are required. Please RSVP by contacting
Joey Shapiro at (312) 236-8550 or jshapiro@aipac.org
This is not a political fundraiser.

Professor Jeffrey Shandler of Rutgers University will deliver two lectures at Grand Valley State University in February:

'The December Dilemma': Christmas in

American Jewish Popular Culture

February 17, 2013 3:00 PM

Loosemore Auditorium

Grand Valley State University

Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus

(Parking is available in the DeVos Lot)



The Holocaust on American Television

February 18, 2013 3:00 PM

114 Lake Michigan Hall

Grand Valley State University

Allendale Campus



Please Contact Professor Rob Franciosi,
616-331-3069, francior@gvsu.edu,
with any questions

Sponsored by the Association for Jewish Studies Distinguished Lectureship Program, Joseph Stevens Freedom Endowment, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Frederick Meijer Honors College, and the Office of the Provost.

Community

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@jfgr.org

WELCOME

Jewish Women's Professional Network



February 6, 2013

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 or phone 616-774-8644.

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 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.

Hadassah Book Club



March 13, 2013

Once We Were Brothers

by Robert Balson

Host: Flory Silverstein

2930 Bonnell SE

616-949-5766

Looking forward to a good winter reads.

*Books available at
SCHULERS BOOKS, 28th ST*

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

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.



February 21, 2013

12 PM - 1 PM

El Barrio

545 Michigan Street NE

Everyone Welcome!



At Habonim Dror Camp Tavor, children ages 9-16 experience a one-of-a-kind Jewish Youth community. Camp Tavor programming allows campers to build strong relationships while learning about leadership, social justice and stewarding the environment.



Taste of Tavor

Grand Rapids Community Session

August 1-5, 2013

Grades 2-5

\$595

Please call for more information about any of our camp sessions



Brittany Abramowicz
Outreach Manager
(224)-619-5969
registrar@campfavor.org
www.campfavor.org

This is an opportunity for first-time campers to have a wonderful short-term Jewish camp experience. Campers will swim and boat in our beautiful beach, help out in our organic farm, create beautiful arts and crafts projects participate in meaningful Jewish cultural activities, meet Jewish kids from all over the Midwest and more!

Campers who attend the August Taste of Tavor Session will get to experience Camp Tavor's meaningful Shabbat celebration. One-Way transportation available home from camp to Grand Rapids is included.

United Jewish School



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

Calendar

- 2-17-13 No Sunday School, mid-winter break
- 2-24-13 UJS/Federation Purim Program at Temple

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.

Plant Your Roots in Israel with Trees for Tu B'shevat! On Tu B'shevat we celebrated the New Year for trees. We ate wonderful fruits that grew in and we prayed for a fruitful year. You can still join students all over the world by planting a tree in Israel through Jewish National Fund. Tzedakah monies at UJS will be sent to Israel to plant trees. www.jnf.org

Purim with "Peter Pan"

February 24 10:00 AM

Please join UJS at an all school assembly for a reading of the megillah and a hilarious Purim schpiel "Peter Pan" style.

Featuring the talents of UJS teachers, students and parents.

YOU CAN FLY !!

We say goodbye and good luck to our kindergarten co- teacher Mitch Rehner. Mitch is off to find fame and fortune in the music industry in Nashville, TN. We wish him the best of luck and look forward to hearing about all his successes!!

Congregational

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Purim Celebration, "Breakfast in Sushan"

(Come in PJs...)

Saturday Night, February 23

7:30PM Service and Megillah reading

A Party! A Play! ("Esther's Descendants" written by former member 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.

Also Sunday, February 24, 9:00 AM - Purim Minyan with Megillah reading.

Doing Passover - The Preparation and The Experience

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 PM "Doing Passover: The Preparation"

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 PM "Doing Passover: The Experience"

Please join us for learning sessions on Doing Passover. Part One focuses on preparing for Passover - planning a menu, shopping, koshering, and cooking. Part Two focuses on the Seder - leading a Seder, what to include, what may be left out, how to enhance the Seder and engage your guests. The sessions are independent - you need not have been to part one to participate in part two.

Chabad House

The Jewish Women's Circle presents

Shabbat in an Hour II

Learn how to create a complete Shabbat dinner in under an hour! Brand new menu this year including vegetarian options.

Monday, February 11

At the home of Chani Liberow

2277 E. Fulton

Cost: \$10

For more info or to RSVP please contact

Nechamy at 616-828-2340 or

Nechamy8@gmail.com

Chabad Kids Club

Gragger Decorating

Tuesday, February 19

Lets prepare for Purim! Bake Hamantashen & Decorate your own gragger! We will pack Shalach Manot to send to soldiers in Israel.

4 - 6 PM | \$10 per session Chabad House at

2615 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids MI

For more info call Chana: 616-570-1742

Temple Emanuel

Padnos Lecture

Sunday, February 3, 10:00 AM

Howard Lupovitch, Associate Professor and Director of the Jewish Studies Department at the University of Western Ontario, will speak.

Topic: Neolog Judaism: In Search of a Silent Majority

Bagels and coffee will be served. There is no charge.

Emanu-Elders Luncheon

Thursday, February 21

Adult Purim Party

Saturday, February 23

6:30 Cocktail Hour

7:00 Buffet Dinner

8:00 Barbra Streisand Tribute Performer

Costume Contest!

Tickets \$30 and include dinner and open bar.

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 Anne Wepman on her 99th Birthday

From Margit Sarne

In appreciation of Nancy Smith

From Margit Sarne

The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

Happy Chanukah to Anne Wepman

From her Loving Family*

The Samrick Youth Scholarship Endowment Fund

To Mike and Carol Present in memory of Sheldon Kahn

From Julian and Judith Joseph



*We apologize this was omitted from the previous issue of The Shofar



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:
February 15, 2013



Jewish Federation[®]
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THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

