



SIVAN/TAMMUZ, 5771
JULY 2011
WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS

The Shofar

Federation News

Chairman's Letter



Dear Grand Rapids Jewish Community,

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids plans to conduct a strategic planning process between now and early fall. For a number of reasons, the Board considers this a good time to develop a plan. First, we have not had one in recent years. Second, we are at a crossroads in professional and lay leadership (with Mike Presant serving as Interim Executive Director and the planned transition from Dan Hurwitz to me as Chairman), and we think this process can inform our organizational structure for the future. Finally, we face challenges and uncertainties in our economic environment, community demographics, financial resources, leadership resources, and service needs. Given all of this, it is a good time to consider and plan how we can best work within the constraints we face and with the other Jewish institutions in the community to best meet the current and future needs of our constituencies.

What we hope to accomplish in this process is to understand the current reality in which JFGR operates; articulate our vision, mission, and values to guide all of our activities; develop a coherent strategy to accomplish the mission; translate the strategy into goals, initiatives, and programs for the short-term, medium-term, and long-term; identify and prioritize our organizational, financial, and other resources to support our activities; and, finally, to record this in a simple document (that we can update periodically) to help all of us align around the plan, know who is responsible for what, and track our progress. At the conclusion of the process, this document will be available to anyone in the community who is interested in seeing it.

To do this work, we are convening a Planning Team of up to 12 members comprising JFGR Executive Committee members, representatives from each of the three congregations, one member of the community who can share the perspective of the unaffiliated,

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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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Congregation Ahavas Israel
 Rabbi David Krishef
 Marni Vyn, President

Temple Emanuel
 Rabbi Michael Schadick
 David Fishman, President

Chabad House
 Of Western Michigan
 Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

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and Mike. The team members are currently David Alfonso, Dan Hurwitz, Judith Joseph, Greg Kaufman, Karen Padnos, Mike Presant, Andrew Samrick, Rick Stevens (representing Congregation Ahavas Israel), Claude Titche, and Rabbi Yossi Weingarten (representing the Chabad House of Western Michigan). As this *Shofar* is published, we are confirming the final members of our Planning Team.

We are fortunate to have Barbara Rapaport, a skilled and highly experienced facilitator, to guide the project. And we are grateful to the Jewish Federations of North America for giving us a grant to fully cover Barbara's fee.

The process entails 3 four-hour working sessions for the team, with some work in between sessions, to be held during the coming three or four months. Given the time required and the difficulty of scheduling meetings that all team members can attend, it is necessary to keep the team as small as possible. At the same time, we want to incorporate the perspective of as many members of the community as possible. To share your views informally, please feel free to contact any member of the Planning Team. When the team holds its first meeting, we will decide on a more formal opportunity—a survey, an open meeting, or both—for you to share your views, and we will communicate that to you.

I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the other members of the team and Barbara to develop a plan for JFGR, on which we can build in the future, to accomplish our mission within the West Michigan Jewish community and globally. All of us on the Planning Team would welcome your questions or comments at any time.

Best regards,
 Greg Kaufman



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: \$ _____



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

Live Generously.

DONOR'S SIGNATURE _____

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Address _____

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 Exp. Date: _____

Please consider a 10% increase

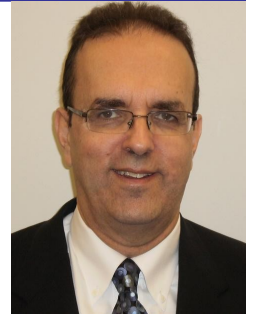
Federation News

Interim Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

I write to you this month about a somewhat unusual topic – a website. Well, actually, it's about more than a website. Let me explain.

The website is called Tablet Magazine and can be found at www.tabletmag.com. It's only two years old, and I've been reading it from time to time since its inception. What strikes me about this particular website is that it lives up to its tagline, "A New Read on Jewish Life". In the news recently, you may have heard of it since Jeffrey Goldberg, the influential blogger, is moving from The Atlantic Magazine's website to Tablet. As Mr. Goldberg explained on his blog, the reason for his move is that it allows him to write from "inside the Jewish community." He considers Tablet Magazine to be "the most exciting Jewish publication" to come around for some time, and I tend to agree.



Tablet's sections include Arts & Culture, Life & Religion, and News & Politics, and invariably I find a new and interesting perspective across the spectrum of Judaism and Jewish life. I don't always agree with what's written, and sometimes strongly disagree with their writers' viewpoints. Nonetheless, I find it both intellectual and fun (to read), one of the combinations I've always found appealing about being Jewish.

More importantly, it's a great example of why I'm bullish on the future of Jewish community, both here in Grand Rapids and around the world. Oh, I've heard the concerns that our Jewish community is in trouble in today's modern world. As Jews are accepted in American life like never before, what's the need for a Jewish community, especially if you're not particularly religious?

Well, my answer is quite simple: Jewish community is home. If you're taking the time to read this article, I'll bet you have a feeling, a unique sense, of your Jewish identity, and realize it is our collective sense of Jewish identity that makes up our West Michigan Jewish community. True, we may identify and practice our religious Judaism quite differently, whether reform, conservative, orthodox, some other affiliation or none at all. For that matter, we also may practice law, medicine, another field of work or none at all. Yet, no matter how we practice our individual lives, religious and secular, we gravitate to our Jewish community because it's who we are. And here at Federation, it's our role to serve you, our community, in conjunction with our congregations and other local Jewish organizations.

It's my view the Tablet Magazine website has captured this wide ranging sense of Jewish identity along with the inspiring strength of our vibrancy and ability to continually renew. So, do me a favor. Take a look at Tablet and let me know what you think. And tell me about other websites and sources of information to which you turn for inspiration about the future of our Jewish community. I'd like to know.

On behalf of the Federation staff, I'd like to thank Dan Hurwitz for his three years of tireless effort in serving our community as chairman of the JFGR board. Of course, Dan has served on the board for many more years, and is not going away now as past chairman. We sincerely appreciate your service, Dan.

This month Dan hands the chairman's baton to Greg Kaufman. We are excited that Greg will be leading us for the next two years, and we look forward to working with him

Best wishes, Dan and Greg, and to all of you,

Mike Present
mike@jfgr.org

Senior Programming

Lunch Bunch...

Road Trip—Bus ride to Saugatuck

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Cost: \$20

We will dine at The Butler, then we will enjoy some free time to wander the streets of Saugatuck or sit in the park and watch the boats.



Schedule:

10:30 am, Leave Ahavas Israel

11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Lunch

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Free Time

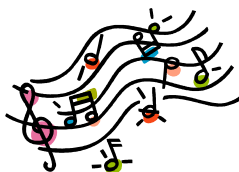
Return to Ahavas by 4 pm

Space is limited, so PLEASE RSVP by JULY 13 to Ann at 616-942-5553 ext 206

Senior Mah Jongg...

Anyone interested in learning or playing Mah Jongg, please contact **Aleta Katonak**, either by email - alekatsr4u@juno.com (preferable) or by phone - 616-281-5917. These are daytime lessons, and games are at no cost. Then, of course, if there is anyone looking for a game, join the fun! MahJ on! Transportation available.

Israeli Scouts...



**Seniors – Don't miss:
Israeli Scouts
Friendship
Caravan Show!**

This Friendship Caravan consists of 5 male and 5 female 17-year-old Tzofim (Israel Scouts), who crisscross North America each summer as emissaries, sharing their lives in Israel through song, dance and story. Participants are chosen after undergoing an extensive auditioning and interviewing process, ensuring that above all, they are true representatives of Israeli culture and spirit.

Ahavas Israel

Sunday July 17, 7:30 pm

Cost: Free

Need a ride? Please Call Ann at 616-942-5553 ext 206

Community News

YAD Summer Play Group...

Selected Friday mornings at 10:00 AM during the summer at Manhattan Park, off Cascade Road, near the East Belt-line. We meet by the pavilion, off Manhattan Road:



July 22

August 12 & 26

Please contact the Federation office for details, or if you have questions, 616-942-5553 or Cathy@jfg.org

Hadassah Book Club...

The next meeting is **Wednesday, August 10 – 7:15 pm**
At Marilyn Lystad's home: 4726 Cranwood SW, Wyoming
RSVP 616-531-1616

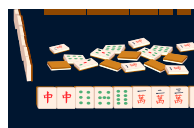
Carpool from Sue Remes home leaving at 7:00 pm

Book to read: *The Glass Room* by Simon Mawer

Book available for purchase at Shulers Books/28th Street

Book Ends by choice...

Flory Silverstein, 616-949-5766
Sue Remes, 616-949-3505



YAD Mah Jongg

Join us at our next game!

For information about the ongoing Mah Jongg games, please contact Michele Young at 616-828-4806 or youngml1967@gmail.com. Beginners welcome!

No experience necessary.

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: **July 21, 2011**
Thursday, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
El Barrio, 545 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Everyone Welcome



Community News

*The Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation
Invites the entire West Michigan Community*

Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan Show

Back by popular demand!



Free
show for
all ages

Sunday, July 17 • 7:30 pm

Congregation Ahavas Israel, 2727 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI

Please come out and enjoy this troop's positive energy, singing and dancing, aimed at strengthening the relationship between the US and Israel and promoting tolerance and respect among people of all faiths - a great opportunity for cultural exchange.

For more information, call The Jewish Federation at 616.942.5553 or www.jfgr.org

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

F012442



Congregational News

Chabad House ...

Gan Yiladim Preschool

Gan Yiladim is a Jewish Preschool where children thrive in a creative and loving environment.

Gan Yiladim has been serving Grand Rapids and nearby communities since 1980.

Registration is now open for the fall of 2011-2012 For Jewish Children ages 2-5.

For more info call Sarah @ 616-813-4827

Gan Israel Day Camp!

New Dates

July 4, 2011 - July 15, 2011

Ages 3 -13

To register or for more info please call Chayale
@ [616-706-8019](tel:616-706-8019)

A Jewish summer experience of a lifetime!

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Sanctuary Shabbat speaker:

July 2 - Sanford Freed, "Which Senior Services Are Right For You?"

Kabbalat Shabbat, third Friday of every month

Join us this Summer for a Family Happy Hour - hors d'oeuvres and drinks - followed by a brief service to welcome Shabbat.

July 15, August 19

7:00 pm Family Happy Hour

7:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Our website is updated frequently. Read Rabbi Krishef's blog postings, an archive of hundreds of questions and answers on a variety of Jewish topics, and many other learning resources at

AhavasIsraelGR.org.

Congregation Ahavas Israel's Amanei B'nei Beztalel Art Group
Is Sponsoring a Jewish Community

FINE ART AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT

Featuring Local Artists

Sunday May 20 thru Sunday May 27 2012

Congregation Ahavas Israel



ALL FORMS OF FINE ART AND CRAFTS ARE WELCOME:
PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, SCULPTURE, POTTERY, FIBER ARTS INCLUDING
CROCHETING, QUILT MAKING, EMBROIDERY, BEADWORK,
JEWELRY MAKING.

HOLD THE DATE: SUNDAY MAY 20, 2012 GALA OPENING

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:

The Woman of Valor Fund (\$10 minimum contribution).

To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally or nationally.

The Federation General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund.

To help ensure the continued work of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for now and the future.

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

The David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund.

To provide scholarships to Jewish sleep away camps and experiences.

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

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

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

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

The 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

To Bill Boorstein in memory of Donna Boorstein

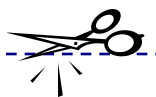
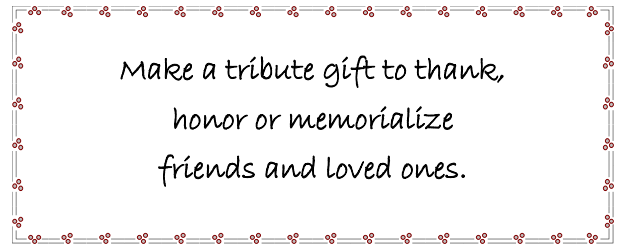
From Toby Weiner Dolinka

To Arlene and Joel Siegel in memory of Arlene's Mother

From Toby Weiner Dolinka

The Samrick Youth Scholarship Endowment Fund

In honor of Rabbi Yossi Weingarten's 60th Birthday
David and Susan 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: July 18, 2011



One Community

**The Federation staff would like to extend
our appreciation to both
Dan Hurwitz, as outgoing Chairman, and to
Greg Kaufman, as incoming Chairman.**

***Thank you for your dedication to the
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids!***