



Federation News

Chairman's Letter



Why We Give

Campaign season: it's the time of year when we, in Jewish communities around North America, ask ourselves to make a personally meaningful gift of *tzedakah*, an investment in strengthening and sustaining our people. You may be calling to ask for a gift or you may be called asking for a gift. Few of us really like being on either side of the conversation. But there are other ways to think of it: Steven Selig, one-time National Campaign Chair described solicitation as, simply, "one Jew asking a second Jew to help a third Jew." Someone else has described it as offering someone the opportunity to do the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*. Or we could think of it, more broadly, as a Jewish conversation. When one of JFGR's volunteers calls, however you think of it, please take the call and have the conversation. That act alone connects you to the Jewish community at this time of year.

Why should we care? Why should we give? I would suggest that we care because we are Jewish, and it is Jewish to care about others in need, about repairing the world, *tikkun olam*. We give because we can, because our family needs us, because their needs are existential and growing, because we can make a difference, because we feel fulfilled when we do, because, if we don't support our fellow Jews, who will?

I like knowing that *tzedakah* is translated not as "charity" but as "justice" or "righteousness". It not only makes the decision easier, but, oddly, makes me feel better about making my gift. It reminds me that, economically speaking, if we are living here and on JFGR's list, we have already won the lottery. More than half of the world lives on less than the equivalent of \$2 per day. While that kind of abject poverty seems far away, a significant number of families, especially children, in Israel and even a few here in West Michigan are living with food insecurity and other existential threats. When we consider that giving the cost of one latte per week pays for 100 meals in a soup kitchen in the former Soviet Union, how can it not be our obligation to do it?

Continued on page 8 ...

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.

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

Federation is now on Facebook!

Become a fan of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

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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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Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

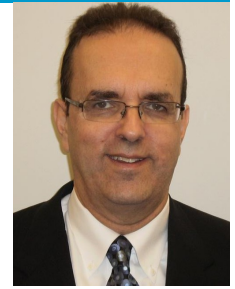
You may have noticed JFGR is now using the tagline recently adopted by the Jewish Federations of North America: 'The **Strength** of a People. The **Power** of Community'. I'd like to explain why we chose to do so and how it can help to communicate the role of Federation in our Jewish community.

Our old tagline, 'One Community', offered an effective message. It succinctly described for whom and why Federation exists, as our mission statement more fully describes, "to unite the local Jewish community, and sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel and around the world." The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, in collaboration with our local congregations and other Jewish organizations, works to be of service to Jews in need, as well as to help create an environment to meet the social and cultural aspirations of our Jewish community. Of note, we seek to be inclusive to meet the needs of all Jews in our community, religious or not, in order to seek the participation of each Jewish person as she or he sees fit to do so.

The new tagline builds on this mission and work by explicitly emphasizing the impact of Jewish community on our lives. Like other Americans, we are busy with our families and work and people in the greater community around us. As American Jews, we also bring our heritage and practice of Judaism, both as a religion and a people, which each of us interpret uniquely as individuals. Together, this important history and life we live today forms a collective responsibility to sustain not only the quality of our own lives, but also for future generations.

We have a small Jewish community in Grand Rapids and West Michigan. Globally, the Jewish people, of course, are also small in numbers when viewed as part of the world population. Yet, as the new tagline notes, we are also a strong people that has somehow managed to survive and thrive over the millennia. This is a history for which we are very proud.

Our West Michigan Jewish community is a little over 150 years old, young in comparison to our history, but important nonetheless. Elsewhere on these pages Greg



Continued on page 3...



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

Continued from page 2 ...

discusses why we give, and I hope you take a few moments to consider his words. I'd simply like to emphasize the following: There are few of us in Grand Rapids and around the world. It is up to us through our support, both in time and dollars, to continue the important work of sustaining and strengthening the Jewish people.

Let me conclude by thanking those of you who do support and participate in our community. I invite each of you to participate in our local Jewish life in the manner you deem meaningful. When you see the new tagline in the months and years ahead, I hope you'll pause to take in the sense of pride of being Jewish that the words, 'The **Strength** of a People. The **Power** of Community', are meant to inspire, no matter how you have chosen to live your Judaism. I, for one, feel fortunate to be Jewish and a member of our Grand Rapids Jewish community. Thank you for making this such a special place to be a Jew.

With warmest regards,

Mike Presant
mike@jfgr.org

SHALOM

GRAND RAPIDS!!!

A new program of the Jewish Federation

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Chanukah Senior Luncheon

We are having it at Temple Emanuel on Tuesday, December 11 at 12:00. This year our lunch will be a joint effort with Rabbi Schadick/Emanuel Elders/Temple Emanuel and the Jewish Federation.

Our entertainment will be the East Grand Rapids High School Madrigal singers.

Lunch Bunch...

Thursday
November 15
11:30 AM
El Arriero
2948 28th Street
Cost: \$8.00



Call Ann* to RSVP by Thursday November 8, 616-942-5553. Transportation available.

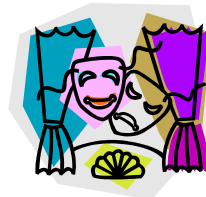
**I will be out of town Nov. 11, 12, and 13 attending the JFNA General Assembly. I will be checking messages Wednesday morning, November 14, and will arrange rides then.*

Let's have *The Last Laugh* on Sunday, November 18, 2012 when we attend the Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids matinee performance of

The Last Laugh

Performance is at 3:00 PM

We will meet at 2:15 PM in the Temple Emanuel parking lot to carpool.



RSVP to Ann at 616-942-5553 by Thursday, November 15

Federation/Community

Dear Community Members,

Now that the High Holidays are over, Chanukah is just around the corner! December 8, 2012!

Chanukah is a holiday of joy and happiness - one of the most widely celebrated Jewish festive occasions. In this darkest of seasons, with its short days and long cold evenings, as we kindle our menorahs, let us not forget those who may need a little extra funds. So that these families may enhance their joy of Chanukah through playing dreidel, through eating latkes and kindling their menorahs. Chanukah's festive nature is enriched through family gatherings. Receiving gifts also has become part of our celebrations. Who among us does not like to receive gifts?

The Talmud refers to money on Chanukah when it cautions us to light at the very least one candle, per household, per night on Chanukah—even if we must go door-to-door for candle funds. The widespread custom of giving Chanukah *gelt* enabled the poor to get the candle money they needed without feeling great embarrassment.

In that spirit, please consider helping Federation raise our minimum goal of \$2,000 in cash or gift card donations earmarked for our Adopt-a-family Chanukah program again this year. This will enable us to help those families that are struggling financially to be able to purchase the necessary foods, candles and gifts for their families without the “*embarrassment of going door to door.*”

Let's all celebrate,

Ann Berman, Director of Social Service Resources

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.



November 15, 2012
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
El Barrio
545 Michigan NE
Everyone Welcome

Hadassah Book Club

Next meeting

November 14

at

**Diane Broomberg's
home**

2865 Lake DR SE



Please RSVP to 616-949-6084

The book will be

In the Garden of Beasts

by Erik Larson

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

Jewish Women's Professional Network

November 7, 2012

12:00 PM

Olives, 2162 Wealthy St. EGR

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



**As always,
your faithful bookends,**

Sue Remes 616-949-3505

Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766

CAMPAIGN 2012 COMMUNITY EVENT

Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 7:30 PM

Cascade Hills Country Club
3725 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids
There is no charge for this event

Israel's Neighborhood: *The Current Challenges*

Special Guest Speaker
Bret Stephens
Foreign Affairs Columnist,
The Wall Street Journal



Bret Stephens writes the weekly *Global View* column for *The Wall Street Journal*. Prior to becoming *WSJ's* Deputy Editorial Page Editor, Mr. Stephens was the youngest editor-in-chief of the *Jerusalem Post* (age 28). Raised in Mexico City and educated at the University of Chicago and the London School of Economics, he lives in New York City with his wife and three children.

As an expert on the Middle East and a strong advocate for Israel, Mr. Stephens is a dynamic speaker who promises our community an evening that will stir the emotions in support of both Israel and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

RSVP to JFGR by November 16
Call Cathy at 616-942-5553 or email cathy@jfgr.org
Business Casual attire requested

SAVE THESE DATES

*Two great events to
Celebrate Chanukah 2012*

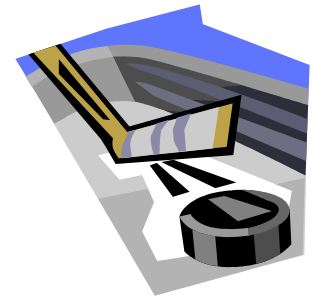
Sunday, December 9

Grand Rapids Griffins game

Van Andel Arena 4:00 PM

Discounted rates, plus \$3 per ticket will go
directly to support Jewish Federation.

Online registration required, use promocode JFGR
at www.griffinshockey.com/promocode



*UJS, Chabad House and the Jewish Federation
Invite the entire Jewish community to attend*

Sunday, December 16 Chanukah Bowling Ball

At Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center
3335 Fairlanes Ave SW
12:30 PM- 2:30 PM

*UJS students will be picked up by busses at Temple Emanuel for a ride to
the Bowling Alley. More details coming soon!*

For additional information, contact the Jewish Federation at
616-942-5553 or sari@jfgf.org

The Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

2012-2013 Spectrum Series



YEVGENY KUTIK, Violinist *A Concert & Personal Story*

Saturday, December 15, 2012 7:30 pm

East Grand Rapids High School Little Auditorium, 2211 Lake Drive SE

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

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

At age 24, Russian-American violinist Yevgeny Kutik has become a sought-after artist on the concert stage worldwide. In his German debut with the WDR Radio Symphony Orchestra, Yevgeny "enraptured the crowd" with his performance. Yevgeny's other performances have included appearances with the Tokyo Vivaldi Ensemble in Japan, and a return appearance with the Boston Pops Orchestra and Keith Lockhart. As a recitalist, he appeared at the Verbier (Switzerland) and Oberstdorfer (Germany) festivals and made his debut on the prominent Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago. He has also performed recitals in San Francisco, Washington D.C., Miami, Tokyo, Munich, Montreal and New York. In 2012, Marquis Classics released Kutik's highly acclaimed debut CD - *Sounds of Defiance*, featuring the music of Shostakovich, Schnittke, Achron and others.

Dessert reception to follow

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

Jewish Cultural Council 2012 - 2013 Spectrum Series

Also keep these dates, more information to follow.

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

Sunday, January 20, 2013

NATHAN GUTTMAN

"Palestinians and Jewish refugees"

Sunday, April 14, 2013

ROYCE DEANS & TALY FARCHI

Painting to Music at the UJS Israeli Restaurant

Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

Spectrum Series 2012—2013 Membership Form

Please send me season tickets for Spectrum 2012-2013

- I/We would like to be an Underwriter: \$500+ (up to 5 tickets per event)
- I/We would like to be a Patron: \$250 - \$499 (4 tickets per event)
- I/We would like to be a Sponsor: \$125 - \$249 (3 tickets per event)
- I/We would like a Family membership: \$100 (2 tickers per event)
- I would like a Single membership: \$50 (1 ticket per event)
- I would like to be a Cultural Council Volunteer, please contact me.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Enclosed is my Check for \$ _____

Payable to The Jewish Cultural Council

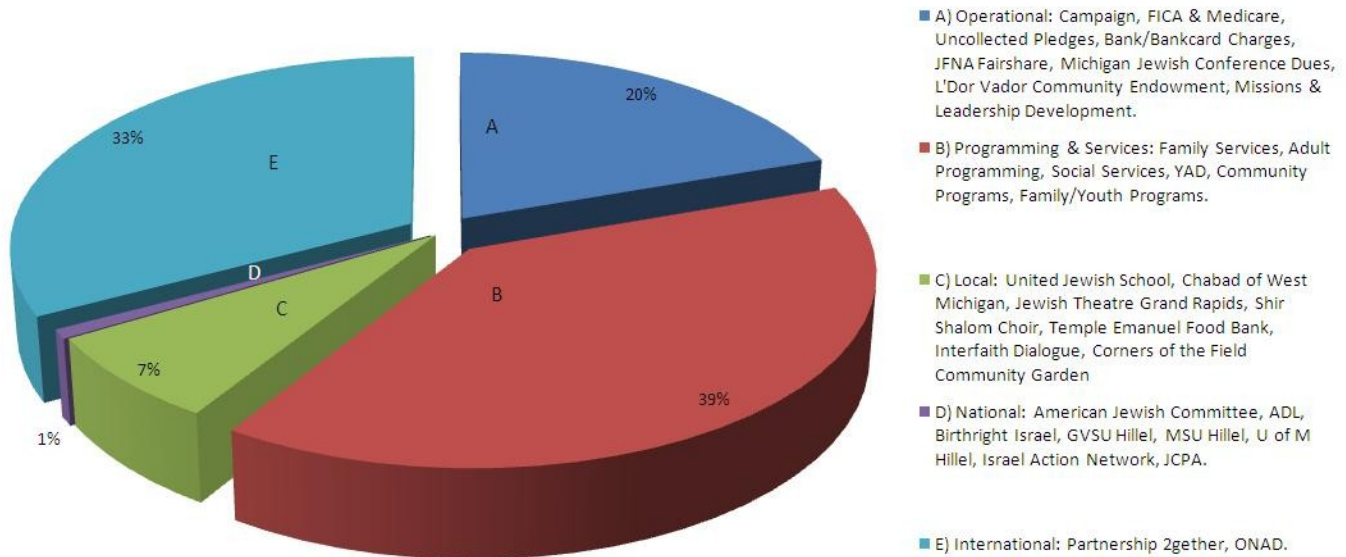
Please mail this form with your check to: **The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**

2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Federation

Continued from page 1:

Where does the money go? The funds we raise in our community make a difference here in West Michigan, in Israel, and everywhere in the world where there are Jews. Last year's Campaign went roughly to:



That's where the money goes in aggregate. Your individual gift makes a difference to real individuals every day.

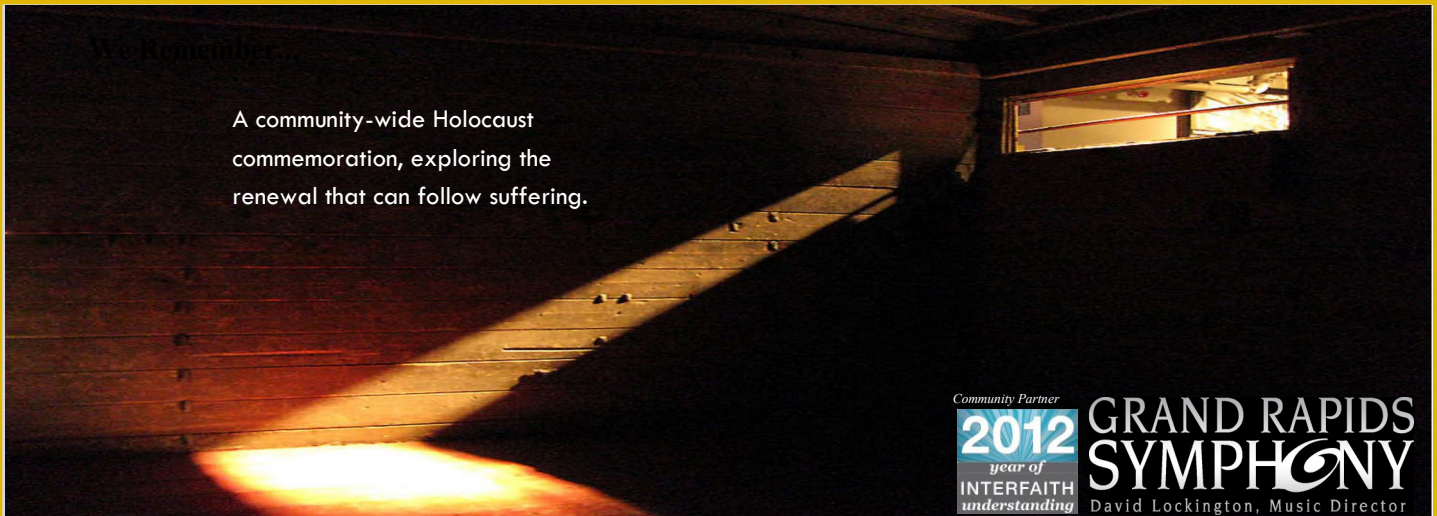
- \$30 provides a month of medication for an individual without healthcare
- \$36 provides Passover food for a family Seder
- \$50 pays for emergency repair to a home in a deteriorating neighborhood
- \$100 pays for one month of heat for a family during the winter
- \$180 pays for 100 meals in a soup kitchen in the former Soviet Union
- \$250 pays for Jewish summer camp for a needy child
- \$360 pays for three months of home care to avoid institutionalization for a senior
- \$880 pays for food and nutritional support for an at-risk child for a year

But we give our time and money to lots of causes; why is it our responsibility to give to Federation? Jews are generous, accounting for charitable (if we want to think of it that way) giving far out of proportion to our share of the US population. We give to Jewish causes, including congregations and Federation Campaigns. In fact, according to the National Jewish Population Study (NJPS), the more we are affiliated with congregations, the more we give to all Jewish causes. We give even more, according to the NJPS, to non-Jewish causes. While it's important for us as members of the larger community to support all causes and needs, as we do, I would argue that most of the non-Jewish needs have more options to meet them than do the Jewish needs. Many of our Jewish family in need have no one other than the agencies, local and otherwise, through which our JFGR campaigns give to help them. Do we really expect anyone other than Jews to take care of our people in need in Israel, in the FSU, here in Grand Rapids?

So, when you make the call and when you get the call, remember that it's up to you and that you are performing a mitzvah:

"Tzedakah and acts of kindness are the equivalent of all the *mitzvot* of the *Torah*." –Jerusalem Talmud, Pe'ah 1:1

Greg



A community-wide Holocaust commemoration, exploring the renewal that can follow suffering.

Community Partner
2012
 year of
 INTERFAITH
 understanding

GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY
 David Lockington, Music Director

November 11, 2:00-4:00 PM at Temple Emanuel

High School students are invited to explore humanity, tolerance, and respect inspired by Stephen Paulus' *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, a powerful oratorio commemorating Holocaust events. Students will gain perspective on the renewal that can follow suffering through musical participation, a performance by the GRS Youth Chorus, and conversations with the composer, a Holocaust survivor, and a Catholic Diocese representative. This is a free event for students, but space is limited. Register by November 1 by calling Naomi at 454-9451 at ext. 108 or email NDroge@grsymphony.org.

November 17, 8:00 PM at DeVos Performance Hall

The GRS Chorus, Youth Chorus and five vocal soloists join the orchestra to present *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, an acclaimed, large-scale Holocaust memorial oratorio. The powerful piece, written to bring understanding, conveys a message of hope and forgiveness. Inspired by photographs taken prior to the Holocaust, the work tells the story of faith and hope through the eyes of children. www.grsymphony.org

Something beautiful is about to blossom thanks to our loyal advertisers and a great team effort.

We are currently working on the 2013-14 edition of the Jewish Community Roster.

Please help us blossom beautifully by contacting Lanny or Eileen:

- ◊ if you have had a change of address or phone number
- ◊ know of anyone who has adult children (18 or older) living in the area
- ◊ know of a newcomer in the area

Please let us know to ensure the accuracy of this biennial directory published since 1965.

LannyThody 956-6161 Eileen Enoch 949-6444



The Last Laugh
 by Michael Hardstark

November 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17 at 8:00 PM
November 11, 18 at 3:00 PM
GRCC Spectrum Theater
 Second Floor Black Box Theater
 160 Fountain St. NE

The Last Laugh is a combination of two one-act plays, both based on Anton Chekhov plays. The first is a poignant, funny play about a harried young businessman who has hired a rabbi to say prayers over his father's grave. At the cemetery he meets an out-of-work actor and together the two come to terms with their pasts. The second act is a frenetic farce about the efforts of a troupe of Yiddish actors to sober up their lead actor - a great star, but a hopeless drunk. Another actor claims he has a sure-fire cure for drunkenness and will help them out if they will present his original drama.

Tickets: 616-234-3946 or www.jtgr.org

Congregational

Chabad House

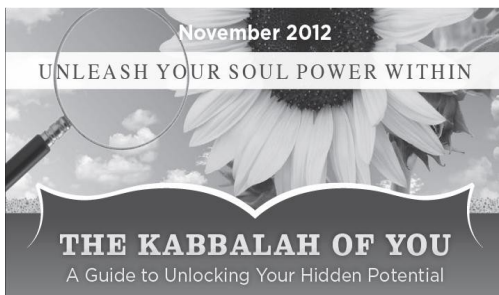
You are invited to attend:

The Kabbalah of You
Grand Rapids: Six Tuesday Evenings,
starting Tuesday October 30, 2012
7:00 - 8:00 PM

Chabad House of Western Michigan
2615 Michigan St.

Fee:\$99 (includes textbook)
\$180 Sponsor

For more information please call 269-340-0770
Email rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com



A new six-week course from
the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute
Register Today! Visit
www.myJLI.com

Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel invites the community to join us for an evening of lots of laughs, as we welcome Comedian Ari Teman on Saturday November 10

8:00 PM - Drinks and Dessert

8:45 PM - The Comedy Show begins



Ari comes to us from New York City. He is a regular at A-list clubs in Manhattan. He has made appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *David Letterman*, *Conan O'Brien*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *Comedy Central*. He is frequently seen at charity events and college gatherings around North America. He has been called "Richard Lewis meets Lewis Black meets Larry David".

The evening is for adults.

The cost is \$10 a person

RSVP to the Temple office with your check.

We thank the Tom & Mickie Fox Family Endowment Fund for helping us underwrite the cost of bringing Ari Teman to Temple.

Joint Program Ahavas/Temple

Please join Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel on Sunday, November 18 along with some 300 other Jewish communities around the world in marking a Global Day of Jewish Learning. In addition, the United Jewish School will be holding a service and ceremony that day to bury our sacred books that are no longer usable.

10:00 to 10:15 AM - Bagels and Coffee

10:15 to 10:55 AM - The Uses of God's Name: What Materials Can We Recycle and What Materials Must We Bury in a Geniza? - taught by Rabbi Krishef

11:00 to 11:40 AM - The Olam: What Do the Rabbis Teach Us About the World to Come? - taught by Rabbi Schadick

11:45- 12:00 PM Service and Burial of our Sacred Books.

In order to ensure that there is enough food, please contact Temple Emanuel, 616-459-5976 to sign up.

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Study Groups:

- Lay Led Torah Study Group in the Ahavas Israel Library, beginning 30 minutes after the end of Shabbat services. Led by David Reifler, Moe Kleiman, Doug DeLange, and David Sauer.

Rabbi Krishef's study group:

- Talmud - New! Monday nights 8:00 PM through December 17. The Talmud is the foundation post-Biblical Jewish text.
- Sunday Torah study, 10:15-11:15 AM Temple Emanuel, meeting in the copy room off the all-purpose room. The primary focus is on the commentary of 11th century French commentator Rashi.
- Thursday Torah study, 1:00-2:00 PM, Schulers Books and Music, 28th St. We are continuing our primary focus on the commentator of 13th century Spanish commentator Ramban
- Jewish mysticism/Zohar study group, Mondays 12:00 - 1:00PM Ahavas Israel Library. We are reading through Daniel Matt's translation and commentary on the Zohar.

Endowment

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$5 or more to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids in honor or in memory of members of our community. We then will acknowledge that donation with a card to that individual or family. This is a wonderful way to send your good wishes and be able to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Please be sure to indicate what the occasion is and who is to receive the card. Please specify which of the following funds you would like your donation to be credited to:

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

Federation General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund. To help ensure the continued work of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for now and the future.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

The JFGR General Endowment Fund

To Michael and Steven Burger in memory of Jean Richmond

From Sandy, Cindy and Lynne Simon

The Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

In memory of Nikolay Rapeyko

From Vilen and Lidiya Rapeyko

The Samrick Youth Scholarship Endowment Fund

To Dan and Stephanie Hurwitz in memory of Nathan Hurwitz

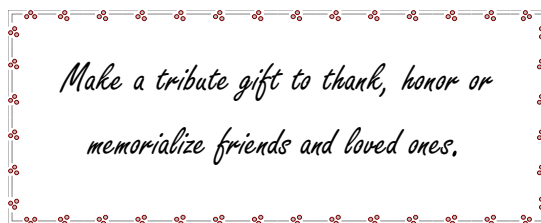
From Bill and Jan Lewis

To Mike and Carol Present in honor of Lisa Present's Marriage

From Bill and Jan Lewis

To Ron and Sarah Smith and Kaley Hummel in memory of Joan Goldberg

From Sandy, Cindy, Micky and Mallory Simon



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:
November 15, 2012**



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

“Israel’s Neighborhood: The Current Challenges”

A Campaign Event on November 27, 2012

Presentation by Bret Stephens, Foreign Affairs Columnist,

The Wall Street Journal

See page 5 for details