



Federation News

Chairman's letter

JFGR's One Page Strategic Plan

At the beginning of the Jewish New Year and near the beginning of a new fiscal year for Federation, it seems appropriate to update you on some of the progress we have made with our JFGR strategic plan. Our plan is documented in a One-Page Strategic Plan document, as well as with supporting materials. I would like to hear your views, ideas, and, especially, expressions of interest on any aspect of this plan, and I welcome you to ask Mike or me for a copy of the document, which we are continually updating.



The goal of a one-page plan is to capture succinctly in one place our most relevant thoughts and plans—very long-term to current, 30,000 feet general to in-the-weeds specific—in order to support visibility and alignment around what we are working on together. The logic of one page is also it makes our plan too thin to be effective as a doors stop or paper weight. Our one-page plan starts with situation analysis at the top and then moves left to right on the page from vision, values, and strategy (very long-term) to key capabilities required (maybe 3-5 years) to current fiscal year measurable objectives and key initiatives (one year) to short-term action priorities (3-12 months). Here's a list of the items in the first few columns.

Mission/Values/Strategy (Column 1)

- Mission: JFGR unites the local Jewish community to sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel, and around the world.
- Operational values: JFGR promotes and facilitates collaboration among Jewish organizations in the community, Jewish connectedness and continuity, and living the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* and *tzedakah*.
- Operating strategy: JFGR works directly and by collaborating with or allocating to other Jewish organizations to develop awareness, funding, volunteering, and local leadership to deliver programs and services to address the existential, social, and cultural needs of Jews in Grand Rapids, in Israel, and around the world. (Yes, that's a mouthful, but it captures what we're trying to do.)

Key Capabilities Required (Column 2)

- Financial Resources Development: to generate share of heart and wallet in the community to enable JFGR to achieve its mission

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.

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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Federation

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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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 Bill Lewis, President

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 Rabbi Michael Schadick
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 Chabad House
 Of Western Michigan
 Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

- Brand Communications/Community Engagement: to create awareness of the positive role JFGR plays in sustaining and strengthening Jews and uniting the community
- Service/Program Delivery Model: to enable JFGR to efficiently deliver priority programs and services alone or in collaboration with other organizations
- Organization/Governance and Leadership Development: to effectively and efficiently deploy and oversee professional staff, act as fiduciary for donors, and develop future leaders

Initial Committees Responsible for Measurable Objectives and Initiative Priorities (Column 3)

- Financial Resources Development (FRD)
- Social Services
- Programming
- Leadership

These are the headings of the four sections in this column, which gets more specific than the first two. (If you've made it this far, I am impressed, and I do not want to bury you with too much detail!) Each of these committees has a charter and a set of measurable objections and initiatives to accomplish. Each has developed from this a list of short-term action priorities (in Column 4). Committees have been meeting during and sometimes between our JFGR Board meetings, and each has made significant progress against many of their short-term action priorities.

As an example, the Social Service Committee has been working on four short-term priority areas. Their activities can make a meaningful contribution to those in our local community who need help with transportation, support with senior living options, assistance networking to find employment, and training for volunteering roles.

I write this just after *Rosh Hashana*. As I strive to do *t'shuvah*—to return to a better version of myself, to better relationships with others and with God—I realize that I have plenty of work to do. On behalf of myself and JFGR, I ask your forgiveness for anything that I or we have done to hurt you or anyone in the community in the past year. May this be year of health, happiness, and fulfillment for you and your families and for our entire Jewish community.

B'shalom,
 Greg



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



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

Name _____

Address _____

 Please consider a 10% increase

 Card Number
 Exp. Date: _____



Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

Is it good for the Jews?

This month I'd like to address this age-old question in regard to Israel.

Israel is good for the Jews.

A strong U.S. - Israel relationship is good for Israel.

This relationship has been developed and nurtured since the founding of the State of Israel nearly 65 years ago. It has endured in no small part due to a concerted effort by the leading American Jewish organizations to build and maintain strong bipartisan support for the Jewish state.

Of course, there have been disagreements over U.S. policies toward Israel over the years. You may recall a particularly contentious dispute over the 'loan guarantee' issue more than 20 years ago. The anger in the American Jewish community with the Administration at that time was palpable, threatening the bipartisan consensus. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed and the wide support for Israel in the U.S. continues to this day.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with one of our community members, a strong supporter of Israel, AIPAC and the Federation. We were discussing our mutual concern about Israel becoming a so-called "wedge issue", notably during this presidential election season, being used to divide our country and threaten the strong and enduring U.S. - Israel relationship. I find it instructive that AIPAC has not indulged in these divisive politics. As we concluded our

conversation, our community member said something that stuck with me: "The survival of Israel is what matters. The rest is just details."

I could not agree more. This statement reminded me of something President Lincoln wrote 150 years ago to Horace Greeley, the New York newspaper editor, during the Civil War, a much more divisive period in our nation's history than today. In reply to Mr. Greeley's concerns about President Lincoln's actions at the time regarding slavery, Mr. Lincoln wrote, "My paramount object...is to save the Union." While the slavery issue was important, the survival of the United States was critical.

Our paramount object is the survival of the Jewish State of Israel.

We have many opinions in our community, of course, regarding the Middle East situation, and I can appreciate those of you who disagree, sometimes vehemently, with the current Administration's policies, just as some did a generation ago during the loan guarantee crisis when the President was from the other political party. Your voices - all Jewish voices - are important on these issues. Nonetheless, I would hope we are able to express our communal differences of opinion in such a manner as to not place at risk our long-standing, bipartisan U.S. support for Israel. Why not?

Because Israel is good for the Jews, and a strong U.S. - Israel relationship is good for Israel.

As always, I look forward to your thoughts and comments.

With warmest regards,

Mike Presant
mike@jfrg.org

New Year! New Look!

You may have noticed our new logo and tagline, "THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY." We are excited to begin using this new message and symbol, adopted at a nominal cost, so we may be consistent with the brand image of our national organization, the Jewish Federations of North America. Our hope is this new brand will help to effectively communicate our collective Jewish pride and determination to unite our local community and, as our mission states, to sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel and around the world.



The Jewish Federation®
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



Shalom!

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 get additional information about the program contact Sari at the Federation office 616-942-5553 or Sari@jfgr.org

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.

**October 18, 2012
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
El Barrio
545 Michigan NE
Everyone Welcome**

***Jewish Women's Professional Network***

**October 17, 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.



The General Assembly of the Jewish Federation of North America is coming in November 2012.

If you have an interest in attending, please contact the Federation office at 616-942-5553.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

Celebrate Hanukkah with the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids and the Jewish Community



Sunday, December 9 - Grand Rapids Griffins

Saturday, December 15 - Jewish Cultural Council - Violin Concert

Sunday, December 16 - Bowling with the JFGR, United Jewish School and the Chabad House of West Michigan

**Coming
soon!**

SAVE THE DATE

A Community-wide Campaign Event

Tuesday November 27, 2012

A special evening....not to be missed!

Details coming in the November Shofar.

**Special
Event**

Seniors

Lunch Bunch...

**Thursday
October 18
11:30 AM**

**First Wok
2301 44th Street
Cost: \$8.00**



Future Lunch Bunch Dates:

Thursday, November 15
and
Thursday, December 13



If you have a restaurant you would like to suggest feel free to call or email Ann at 616-942-5553 or Ann@jfggr.org.

Call Ann to RSVP by Tuesday October 16, 616-942-5553. Transportation available.

Attend a choir concert to benefit the Alzheimer's Association

ALZHEIMER'S STORIES - A work by Robert Cohen for choir, orchestra and soloists in three movements. The Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus are presenting this event with the intent to stimulate discussion about Alzheimer's, to support those individuals and caregivers who are struggling, and to educate community members about issues surrounding the disease.

Sunday October 28, 2012

3:00 PM

East Grand Rapids Performing Arts Center

Cost: \$15.00

RSVP to Ann at 616-942-5553 by October 25 if you would like your ticket purchased in advance. Tickets are also available at the door. Transportation is available by calling the JFGR office.

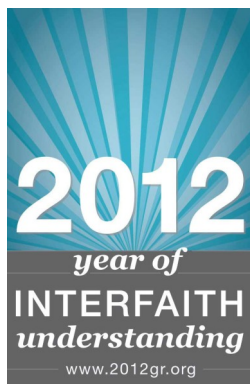
Triennial

Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue

Tuesday October 30, 2012

Grand Valley State University Eberhard Center

301 West Fulton St. Grand Rapids Pew Campus



Coordinated by the
Kaufman Interfaith Institute
www.2012gr.org

Living with God in a Time of Suffering

Conference Registration Information

Early Registration Package \$40

Before October 1: Includes ticket, lunch, & dinner

Individual Registration \$15

Student Registration \$5

Optional Lunch \$10

Optional Dinner \$20

Group/Student Package Rates Available

Contact: Whitney Belprez at 616.331.5702 or belprezw@gvsu.edu

Conference Schedule

- 8:30 AM** Registration & Coffee
9:45 AM **Welcome & Qawali Music Performance**
10:00 AM **First Session**
 Jewish Presentation by Dr. Hartman
 Responses & Audience Questions
12:00 PM **Lunch** (by reservation)
1:00 PM **Second Session**
 Christian Presentation by Dr. Campbell
 Responses & Audience Questions
2:50 PM **Break**
3:10 PM **Third Session**
 Muslim Presentation by Dr. Safi
 Responses & Audience Questions
5:00 PM **Break**
5:30 PM **Dinner & Discussion** (by reservation)
7:00 PM **Evening Session** (no charge)
 "Passages from Our Traditions"
 Reflections, Discussion & Questions

Featuring Distinguished Scholars



Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman

President

Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell

President Emerita

McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago



Dr. Omid Safi

Professor of Islamic Studies

University of North Carolina



Jewish Cultural Council

2012 - 2013

Spectrum Series

Saturday, December 15, 2012:

YEVGENY KUTIK

Violin concert and personal story

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

Sunday, January 20, 2013:

NATHAN GUTTMAN

“Palestinians and Jews from Arab countries refugees”
Temple Emanuel

TBA:

KOL HAKAVOD

University of Michigan Jewish A Capella Group
TBA

Sunday, April 14, 2013:

ROYCE DEANS & TALY FARCHI

Painting to Music at the UJS Israeli Restaurant
Temple Emanuel

Keep these dates, more information to follow.

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

Community

FLU SHOTS!

**Make a date to get your flu shot.
Temple Emanuel
Sunday October 21, 2011**

PLEASE sign up with Ann at 616-942-5553 ext 206. **We need at least 25 participants to pre-register!** The clinic will be open from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The cost is \$27 per flu shot when you make your check payable to JFGR. They also accept the following health insurance: Medicare Plus Blue, Priority Health Medicare, Humana Medicare, Blue Care Network Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part B, Any Medicare Advantage Plan.

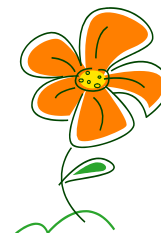
JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

Something Beautiful is about to blossom thanks to our loyal advertisers and a great team effort... We are currently working on the 2013-2014 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 newcomers to our area,
- Or if you wish to opt out of the publication this time

PLEASE let us know in order to insure the accuracy of the biennial directory that has been published since 1965.

Thank You,
Lanny Thodey 616-956-6161
Eileen Enoch 616-949-6444

**JFGR Emergency Loan Program**

Jews in our community may be eligible to receive an emergency loan if the circumstances for a request are appropriate. Often loans are requested to pay utility bills, rent, or an unexpected expense.

To apply, a confidential interview is conducted and this information is presented to a committee which determines eligibility. This loan is interest free, and the repayment schedule is very flexible. Please contact Ann for a confidential consultation: 616-942-5553, ext. 206

It's a Laughing Matter
Our 2012-13 season of Comedies

JEWISH Theatre
GRAND RAPIDS
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids 49506

Season Tickets NOW on Sale!
April 25-May 5
616.234.3595
www.jtgr.org

The World of Sholom Aleichem
by Arnold Perl

November 7-18
The Last Laugh
by Michael Hardstack

June 13-23
Oy!
by Rich Orloff

our 20th season

Hadassah Book Club

**Next meeting is
November 14
at
Diane Broomberg's
Home.**

**The book will be
In the Garden of Beasts
by Erik Larson**

**Books are available at
SCHULERS BOOKS on 28th ST.**

As always, your faithful bookends,

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



Beit Sefer B'yahad/United Jewish School

1715 East Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Pam Rush, School Director, Phone: 616-459-5976

pam@templemanuelgr.org www.unitedjewishschool.org

September 9, 2012 another beautiful Opening Day for UJS!

It was very exciting to see the 165 eager faces coming into the classrooms to begin the 2012-2013 religious school year. Families were greeted by the musical sounds of the "Chutzpah" band. There was lots of laughter, joy and energy. Students ran off to classes at 10 AM while parents went to the community Scholar in Residence program featuring Rabbi Shefa Gold. We ended the day by distributing honey tubes to all the students for a sweet new year. L'shana tova to everyone.

UJS enrollment includes 165 students ranging from Gan Katan (2-4 year olds) through 11th/12th grade. We have a staff of 30 teachers and 7 high school madrichim (aides). On Sunday, school is located at Temple Emanuel while the Wednesday midweek Hebrew program is housed at Congregation Ahavas Israel. We also established an additional location for our midweek Hebrew program in Holland, MI. The midweek program has an enrollment of 30 students and is open to all UJS 3rd -7th grade students.

CALENDAR

Sept. 23	9 th Grade New York meeting
Sept. 26	No Midweek—Yom Kippur
Sept. 30	9:30 AM Blessing of the Pets at Temple
Oct. 21	UJS Open House
Oct. 24	7:00 PM UJS Board Meeting at Temple

The UJS general operations and special programs would not be possible without the financial and spiritual support from Congregation Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids along with a grant received from the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation. We are currently building an endowment fund to support most of our special programs in the future.

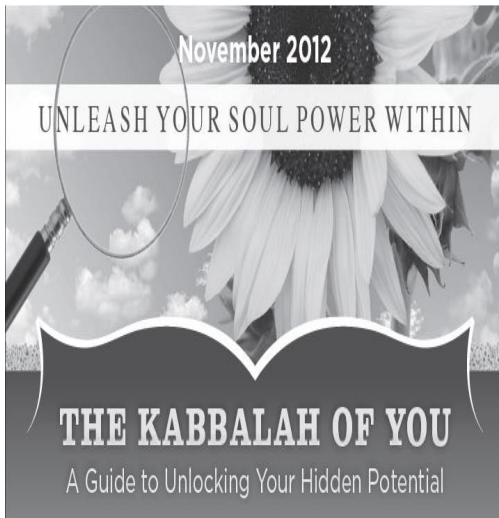
The school continues to hold a monthly Open House sponsored by the UJS Board. All parents and others in our community are invited to come enjoy a "good" cup of coffee and a nosh. We kibbitz with friends, surf the internet, visit the gift shop or just watch and relax.

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

Carey Potter, co-chair, Paula Bojsen, co-chair, Heather Alfonso, Jean Barkin, Allyson Cole-Strauss, Wende Cook, Jan Fonger, Sharlena Lovy, Lisa Rapoport, Elisabeth Rosewall, Susan Schadick, Abby Sorota, Erica Wikander, Michele Young.

Congregational

Chabad House



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

Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel Gift Shop

Come in and check out the new inventory at Temple Emanuel, located at 1715 E. Fulton. We have some fun, new items for Hanukkah, which starts early this year!!!

In addition, we always have every day Jewish life items: candles – Shabbat, Yahrzeit and Havdallah; kippot; tallit; Kiddush cups; challah platters and much more.

If you would like to special order, call Mary Katz at 616-719-2102.

The gift shop is open on Sunday mornings from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Extended hours are available by calling 616-459-5976 (Ext. 1)

Temple Emanuel Gift Shop Coupon

20% off

One single item, not valid on sale items
Expires: Oct. 31, 2012

Congregation Ahavas Israel

We invite you to join Congregation Ahavas Israel for the following Festival activities:

Sunday, October 7, 1:00 - 3:00 PM “Sukkah Hop”

We’ll hop in East Grand Rapids from the Sukkah of Judy and Buddy Joseph, 2609 Berwyck SE (1:00 - 2:00) to the Sukkah of Marni and Scott Vyn, 1330 Cornell SE (2:00 - 3:00). If you are able to contribute an appetizer, soup, something to drink, dessert, or anything else, please contact Marni (616-774-8644 or MarniVyn@yahoo.com) or Judy (616-942-9503 or judysew@sbcglobal.net).

Monday, October 8, 7:45 PM, Simhat Torah party. Good food, drinks, and celebrating with Torahs!

Sanctuary Shabbat Speaker (during Shabbat services) - October 6 - Muaz Redzic, Imam, Bosnian Cultural Center, “Religious co-existence in Bosnia and Hercegovina – theory and practice”

The Community Garden Needs your help!

We are planning to build several more garden beds so we can grow more food next year. Volunteers will be meeting at the garden (at Ahavas Israel) at 12:30 on Sunday October 14, and Sunday October

21. Bring a shovel, gloves and water. Kids are welcome too. Please contact Allyson Cole-Strauss with any questions: allysoncoles-trauss@gmail.com or 616-406-6536



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 Mrs. Shirley Herr in memory of Israel
From Eleanor Rush-Kleiman

To Mrs. Jean Barkin in memory of Stuart
Padnos
From Eleanor Rush-Kleiman

The Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

In memory of Sharon Brenner
From Toby Weiner Dolinka

In memory of Louise Sherman Weiner to
honor what would have been her 100th
Birthday
From Toby Weiner Dolinka

In honor of Miller and Leslie Siegel's 70th
Wedding Anniversary
From Mike and Carol Present

The Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

To Judy Subar in memory of Jerry Subar
From Eleanor Rush-Kleiman

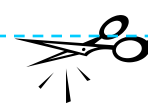
The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

To Sheri Kass in memory of Carrie Rosen
From Lynda Warshawsky

To Bev Kagan in memory of her mother,
Lenora Stulberg,
From Mike and Carol Present

The Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund

To Dan and Stephanie Hurwitz in memory of
Nathan Hurwitz
From Mike and Carol Present



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:
October 15, 2012**



The Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

SAVE THE DATE

November 17, 2012

Grand Rapids Symphony 'To Be Certain of the Dawn',

A Holocaust Memorial Oratorio