



ELUL 5772/TISHREI 5773  
SEPTEMBER 2012  
WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS

# The Shofar

## Annual Seniors' Apples and Honey Luncheon

**Thursday**

**September 13, 2012**

**The Hilton  
4747 - 28th Street  
The Wolverine Room**

**11:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

**\$10 per person**



The menu will have an option of Parmesan Crusted Walleye or Stuffed Portabella Mushroom. **Please specify your choice when making your RSVP.** Entertainment will include a slide show of Jews celebrating holidays around the world, produced by Ann Berman.

**Call Jewish Federation at 616-942-5553 to RSVP  
by September 9, 2012**

**Future Lunch Bunch Dates:  
Thursday, October 18  
Thursday, November 15**

### 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.

### 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

**Officers**

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*Vice Chairs*  
 David Alfonso  
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 Andrew Samrick  
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 Claude Titche III  
*Past Chair*  
 Dan Hurwitz  
*Executive Director*  
 Michael Present

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 Davida Dennen  
 Machelle Hammond  
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**Ex-Officio Members**

Congregation Ahavas Israel  
 Rabbi David Krishef  
 Bill Lewis, President  
 Temple Emanuel  
 Rabbi Michael Schadick  
 Mitchell Kahn, President  
 Chabad House  
 Of Western Michigan  
 Rabbi Yosef Weingarten



Shalom!

# SHALOM



Shalom!

# GRANDRAPIDS!!!

## 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](mailto:Sari@jfgr.org)



The GA 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.



## 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 Aly Raisman the new Sandy Koufax?

While watching her win various gymnastic medals at the Summer Olympics, I remembered how proud I felt when Sandy Koufax, widely acclaimed as the best baseball pitcher of his era, proclaimed his Jewish identity by declining to pitch the first game of the 1965 World Series in Minneapolis because it fell on Yom Kippur.

A wonderful biography about Sandy Koufax, simply titled with his name, and authored by Jane Leavy, examined what happened that fall day so long ago. A private man who has not discussed his Yom Kippur decision, Ms. Leavy's research indicated that, despite reports of far too many Koufax sightings at Yom Kippur services throughout the Twin Cities, most likely Sandy Koufax simply stayed in his hotel room.

Does that matter? I think not. What mattered most for his community, the Jewish community, was the example of his actions, or in this case, his decision to not act - pitch - because he's Jewish and it was Yom Kippur. As far as I'm concerned, Sandy Koufax spoke loud and clear, and I recall how my Jewish pride in him overflowed.

Now comes Aly Raisman, who performed in a number of gymnastic events, but most notably, the floor exercise. As you many know, this event offers the gymnast the opportunity to display both their athletic and artistic talents. To complement the latter, a piece of music is chosen by the athlete for the competition. Aly Raisman chose Hava Nagila.

Hava Nagila! How inspiring that a Jewish teenager from Boston, all of 18 years old, felt comfortable on one of the world's largest stages

to proclaim, 'I'm Jewish, and I'm proud of it!' That's what I heard and felt while watching this amazing young athlete perform to this most Jewish of Jewish songs.

Aly Raisman was not the only Jewish athlete displaying his or her talents at the Olympics. Jason Lezak was a member of the dominant American swim team; Nathan Cohen won gold for New Zealand in rowing; and Sue Bird, a dual Israeli-American citizen, was a star guard for the American women's basketball team that also won a gold medal, to name just a few. The old stereotype that Jews are not good at sports appears to be disappearing.

Sporting accomplishments by Jewish athletes are, of course, only one small reason to experience Jewish pride, and probably get more attention than they deserve, especially when played on a world stage. As we prepare for the High Holidays, each of us will have our own personal reasons to experience a sense of fulfillment as Jews. Many of us are inspired by religious reasons, particularly during the Days of Awe. I've come to believe that Jewish identity, our individual, oft-times private thoughts that stir our sense of our Judaism, are important, not only to us individually but together as the Jewish people.

So, thank you Aly, just as many of us thanked Sandy, for your inspiration. You may not have realized it when you were flying through the air in London, but your winning efforts, performed proudly as a Jew, affords your fellow Jews the opportunity to reflect on our delight in being Jewish.

L'shanah Tova! Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy new year.

With warmest regards,

Mike Presant  
[mike@ifgr.org](mailto:mike@ifgr.org)

# SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

September 7, 8 & 9, 2012

## ***RABBI SHEFA GOLD***

Rabbi Shefa Gold is a leader in Aleph: Alliance for Jewish Renewal and received her ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. She is the director of The Center for Devotional, Energy and Ecstatic Practice in New Mexico and practices around the world. Shefa composes and performs spiritual music, has produced albums, and her liturgies have been published in several new prayerbooks. She is the author of "Torah Journeys: The Inner Path to the Promised Land" and "In the Fever of Love: An Illumination of the Song of Songs".



### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 – TEMPLE EMANUEL

**6:15 PM** Shabbat Service

**7:00 PM** Italian Sabbath dinner catered by Marla Tulet. \$ 12 adult, \$ 6 child, \$ 36 max. per family.  
*Your check is your reservation*

**8:00 PM** Rabbi Gold, Topic: *"Gardening in the Soil of the Heart, Middot"*

As we prepare for the Renewal of our hearts on the High Holy Days, we can consciously grow the qualities that will best serve us in realizing our true Divine essence. In the Jewish Tradition these qualities are called "midot." . In this workshop we will set ourselves on a path of cultivating exactly the midot that are required of us now in order to live a holy life.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 –AHAVAS ISRAEL

**9:30 AM** Service (d'var Torah by Shefa Gold) followed by light lunch

**1:00 PM** Workshop, Topic: *"Journeying Towards the High Holidays"*

On Tishab'Av we experience a necessary shattering of that relationship and then spend the next seven weeks returning, re-creating ourselves, and finally re-encountering that Mystery during the High Holy Days. What is the journey from devastation to renewal?

The Shattering of Tishab'Av is also marked by the seeding of a profoundly hopeful vision- the birth of the Messiah or of Messianic consciousness. How do we water that seed? How do we nurture the seedling and honor its growth?

**7:00 PM** Light refreshments – Seudah Shelesheet

**7:45 PM** LectureTopic: *"Journey of Forgiveness"*

The spiritual work of these awesome days is the work of forgiveness. If we want to know what forgiveness is, we might first say what it's not. What is forgiveness and how shall we step on to this transformative path?

**8:45 PM** Ma'ariv and Havdalah service

**9:00 PM** Join Selihot service

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 – TEMPLE EMANUEL

**10:00 AM** Coffee and nosh (UJS opening day)

**10:30 AM** Rabbi Gold, Topic: *"With All My Heart" Judaism as a Devotional Path*

This talk will explore the blessings, challenges and spiritual practices that constitute a Jewish Devotional life. And we will experience together a taste of the ecstasy that opens the heart and connects us to God, the Beloved.

*Books and CDs will be available Saturday night and Sunday morning*

**Please RSVP for all the events to the Jewish Federation 616-942-5553 or [Sari@ifgr.org](mailto:Sari@ifgr.org).**

*The weekend is sponsored by Congregation Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.*

# The Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids 2012-2013 Spectrum Series

**YEVGENY KUTIK:** Russian-American violinist, concert and personal story

**NATHAN GUTTMAN:** Topic: "Palestinians and Jews from Arab countries refugees"

**KLEZMER NIGHT:** Music, dancing and a lot of fun

**PAINTING TO MUSIC** with Royce Deans & Tali Farchi at the UJS ISRAELI RESTAURANT

Look for additional information in the next Shofar

## 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 tickets 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

### Camp Tavor in Grand Rapids

By Marni Vyn

This past July, nine children in grades 1-5 from Congregations Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel participated in Camp Tavor's first Grand Rapids Summer Camp program.



Students participated in three fun-filled days of Jewish activities, games, singing, and community-building here in Grand Rapids with 5 incredible staff members. Then, the older students traveled together by van to Three Rivers, just an hour or so south, for an extended weekend with the other Camp Tavor campers.

Our kids were welcomed completely into the camp community. During those three days, our kids swam in the lake, explored nature, sang Hebrew songs, harvested vegetables in the garden, cared for the goats and chickens, helped out with kitchen duty, celebrated Shabbat, participated in a talent show, and had an all-around fantastic time.

When we arrived to pick up our older child on Sunday, he immediately asked if he could come back for the next session. This was his first overnight camp experience, and he loved every minute of it. He will tell you that his favorite part of camp was swimming out to the middle of the lake, which was quite an achievement. However, I am most excited that he met Jewish peers from around the country, strengthened his Jewish identity, and demonstrated a new level of independence.

We look forward to Camp Tavor next summer. I am so thankful to the camp staff and to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for coordinating this program and supporting our children with scholarship funds



# UJS, Community & Congregational News



## 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

## UJS Opening Day September 9, 2012 at Temple Emanuel

- 9:30 AM** Meet teachers, kibbitz with friends, have a nosh, and listen to the Musical sounds of the band "Chupazh".
- 10:00 AM** Students head off to class
- 10:00 AM** Parents head into auditorium for the Scholar in Residence program: *Rabbi Shefa Gold*, with light breakfast followed by lecture. *"With All My Heart" Judaism as a Devotional Path.*

**Enrollment is OPEN. Register at [www.unitedjewishschool.org](http://www.unitedjewishschool.org)**

### Something for Everyone:

- Classes for all ages (Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Sunday Hebrew program for K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Wednesday Hebrew program 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- "Gan Katan" (Little Garden) class for 2, 3 and young 4 year olds with parent(s)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade New York trip
- 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade – Class and madrichim program
- Adult Education
- Special musical guest Mark Rossio will visit with classes throughout the entire year
- November Jewish Book month –Book and Craft Fair
- December 11 – Special winter program
- April 14 - Yom Ha'atzmaut program and Israeli restaurant

### CALENDAR

- Sept. 9** Opening Day
- Sept. 12** First day of midweek (Ahavas Israel)
- Sept. 23** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade New York meeting, 12:30 PM
- Sept. 30** Blessing of the Pets 9:30 AM

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

### UJS Contributions in memory of

Bracha Pela Bear Krishef

By David, Marisa, Zach, Sol, Sarah & Harry Krishef

### 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.

**Thursday, September 20, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**  
**El Barrio, 545 Michigan NE**  
**Everyone Welcome**

### Hadassah Book Club

**Next meeting: September 12**

**Karen Haight's home: 130 Maryland NE**

**Phone 616-454-9910** (Please call to RSVP)

**Book: Cutting for Stone By Abraham Verghese**

November 14 meeting will be at Diane Broomberg's.

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



### Chabad House

**Gan Yiladim Preschool-Kindergarten Registration is now open for Fall of 2012** For Children Ages 2-6. For more information, contact us at 616-957-0770.

The **Jewish Women's Circle** presents a pre-Rosh Hashana Moroccan cooking demo. Learn how to create delicious authentic Moroccan dishes that will delight your family and guests! **Wednesday, September 12, 8:00 PM at Chani Liberow home, 2277 E Fulton, \$10 per person.** To RSVP or for more information, Nechamy 616-828-2340

**Sunday, October 3, 5-7:00 PM. Admission \$5:**  
**'SOUP IN THE SUKKAH' & HOT DOG DINNER, Shake the Lulav & Etrog' Exciting Sukkot booths, Games and prizes, Moonwalk**  
**A fun Sukkot celebration for the whole family**

**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!**  
**616.234.3595**  
**www.jtgr.org**

April 25-May 5  
**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 20<sup>th</sup> season**

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 JFGR in honor or in memory of members of our community. We 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 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:**

**Women of Valor Endowment Fund  
In honor of the Wedding of Lisa Present  
From Karen and Mitch Padnos**

## Congregational News

### Ahavas Israel

#### Sanctuary Shabbat

#### 2012: The Year of Interfaith Understanding

September 1: Ginny Miketa, United Methodist Church, "Not One Sparrow is Forgotten: The Christian Tradition of Animal Blessings"

Special Sanctuary Shabbat speaker September 22: Jane Strauss, "A Part or Apart? Disability and Inclusion In the Faith Community"

**Shanah Tova! We wish you a good New Year!** You are welcome to join Ahavas Israel for traditional Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. See [ahavasisraelgr.org](http://ahavasisraelgr.org) or call the office, 616-949-2840, for details.

**Calling All Children: Come Experience the Ruach of Junior Congregation.** Ahavas Israel Junior Congregation is a monthly service for ALL children. Kids under 6 should come with a parent. Kids over bar or bat-mitzvah age should come to show what they know. We aim to create a warm and fun environment to learn and practice prayer and song with the goal of helping children experience the service on their own level and to eventually feel comfortable and familiar with adult service. We'll be learning new tunes and helping the grown-ups by leading end-of-service prayers in the sanctuary. Junior Congregation will take place in the Chapel at Ahavas Israel on Sanctuary Shabbat Saturdays at 10:45 AM.

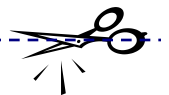
### Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel wishes the entire Jewish community a happy and healthy new year.

Please help us welcome Rabbi Shefa Gold, our community Scholar-in-Residence, to Grand Rapids. Join us for services, dinner, and the first of her presentations on Friday, September 7. The evening begins at 6:15 PM. Rabbi Gold will also be at Temple on Sunday morning, September 9 at 10:00 AM. Join us for bagels and coffee and her final presentation of the weekend.

Not a member of a Temple? We would be delighted to speak to you about our congregation. Call the Temple office at 616-459-5976 for more information. The High Holy Days are just around the corner. We offer a wide variety of services during the entire holiday season.

We invite the community to join us as we Sukkah-Gate on the first night of Sukkot. Pack a picnic dinner and join us on the front lawn of the Temple, just beside our beautiful sukkah, on Sunday, September 30 at 5:30 PM. A short service will begin at 6:15 PM.



## 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](mailto:Ann@jfgr.org)

Phone: 616.942.5553

Fax: 616.942.5780

[www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)

Email: [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org)

**Next Issue's Information Deadline:**

**September 13, 2012**



# One Community

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