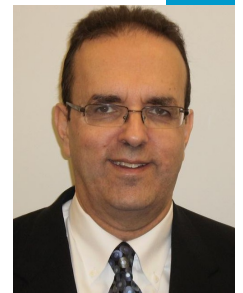




Executive Director's Letter

September 2013



Dear Friends,

As we begin the new year of 5774, Israel and the Middle East are in the forefront of the minds of many of us.

The dangerous situation in Egypt is growing worse as I write this article. While our hearts go out to the families of the dead and those seriously wounded, how the chaos may impact Israel is also of great concern. After all, Egypt was Israel's most stable neighbor and partner in peace for over 30 years. The events of the past 2 ½ years, however, since the onset of the 'Arab Spring', have significantly increased the risk to Israel's defense on her west border, already precarious from the Gaza Strip.

It's hard to believe Egypt has driven Syria off the front pages of the news. The death toll continues to rise with no solution in sight to the crisis in Israel's northeastern neighbor. The understandable urge for democracy in both countries has been sadly tempered by violent instability and the realization that the Islamist view of democracy is very different, actually unrecognizable, from our Jeffersonian democratic principles.

The news from Iran - the election of a 'moderate' president, Hasan Rouhani - was supposed to be a positive development. However, as he took office, Rouhani said, "In our region there's been a wound for years on the body of the Muslim world under the shadow of the occupation of the holy land of Palestine and the beloved al-Quds (Jerusalem)". The Iranian clerics, the real power in that country, issued a statement through their ISNA news agency which interpreted this statement as a 'wound to be removed'. So much for moderation. I continue to believe Iran with its nuclear ambitions is the greatest existential threat to Israel.

As these risks to Israel escalated, an ad ran a couple of times in *The Grand Rapids Press* opposing U.S. foreign aid to Israel, our country's most reliable ally in the region. The ad was run by the *Council for the National Interest*, or CNI, whose name could not be farther from its purpose.

Continued on page 3

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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Of Western Michigan
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Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 5774

Chairman's Letter

Dear Grand Rapids Jewish Community,

We begin our new Jewish year of 5774 very early this year. Our community is celebrating a couple of 100 year birthdays in the near future, and the High Holidays are the earliest in they have been in the last 800 years. It is amazing what historians and computers can calculate. These events certainly put time into perspective. Looking further ahead to Chanukah, which starts pre-Thanksgiving, my prior history of waiting for the sales to occur will probably not work this year.

While the holiday season begins early your Federation has been hard at work to bring you great programming and many opportunities to get involved. As you welcome in the New Year decide to participate Jewishly. The Congregations, Federation and other groups can use your time, treasure and interest in making greater Grand Rapids a vibrant Jewish area. Please call the office or me with any ideas or volunteer opportunities.

Claude Titché
Chairman of the Board



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 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

Please consider a 10% increase

Card Number
Exp. Date: _____

Continued from page 1

The ad called only for stopping foreign aid to Israel, not anywhere else, which of course tells us all we probably need to know about CNI. As you might expect, the ad also neglected to explain how most of the aid to Israel is invested in the U.S., not only helping our economy, but working for the defense of Israel, the U.S. and our allies.

We contacted the ADL to learn about CNI. They have been around for many years in opposition to Israel, and have been recently running ads in smaller as well as larger markets around the country, so West Michigan does not appear to have been singled out. After consulting with ADL, we decided that a high profile reaction to these ads would have brought more attention to CNI, so we chose not to respond in kind.

As these events occur, the peace process with the Palestinians has once again started up. While I wish Secretary of State Kerry the best for success, it is hard to be optimistic. Nonetheless, if these peace efforts can somehow provide even a glimmer of hope, in the context of the Middle East, that may be good news.

The Days of Awe are a time for us to gather together, or perhaps individually, with our thoughts and prayers. Please add a prayer for our brethren in Israel and all the people of the Middle East. Let us hope and pray for peace. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year. L'shana tovah.

With warmest regards,

Mike Present

mike@jfgr.org

Night at the Eli and Edyth Broad Museum

on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. It was an evening of appreciation from the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for major donors. Our group of about 40 enjoyed a private tour of the exhibits and, of course food and drink!





Courtesy of Elder Law of Michigan

Practical ideas to aid Veterans of all ages!

Kate Birnbryer White, President & CEO

Recent military conflicts have created a new generation of Veterans. Sadly, Veterans returning from service are disproportionately represented among our communities' homeless and impoverished citizens. Michigan also has a tremendous number of older Veterans who face financial and health needs along with assistance for daily tasks as they age. Join us in being ready to assist Veterans of all ages to improve their post-military service quality of life by planning and lending a hand! Contact VA's Caregiver Support Line (1-855-260-3274) or your local Caregiver Support Coordinator for assistance at http://www.caregiver.va.gov/help_landing.asp.

First, plan for a period of need. Most people need time to adjust to civilian life after discharge. The service member may be focused on day to day issues and not focusing on the future. A great way that families and friends can help is to ask soon to be discharging members of the armed services some key questions:

Where would you like to live (city, state, neighborhood)?

What kind of housing do you think you can afford (home, apartment, other)?

Can I help by gathering some information about available housing, prices and locations? Would you consider a Veterans home loan or like information about mortgage assistance?

What kind of job or career would you like to have after the service?

Can I help update your resume? Do you need help looking for possible employers?

Could I help by researching financial aid for college or vocational training?

Would information on local schools offering classes in your field be helpful?

Have you filled out the paper work for your health care for your discharge to insure coverage immediately?

Can I help gather information you might need for this? Should we looking for housing near medical care providers or Veteran's support services?

Would you like me to investigate Veterans' services in a particular community?

Even if the service member declines your offer to help, you may have started a personal planning process and planted ideas for the future.

Another challenge is the time lag for Veterans' benefits to be determined and awarded. Friends and family may want to consider collecting money to set up a fund for the future Veteran to help cover some expenses until the Veteran's benefit is secured. Offering a place to store documents or volunteering to assist with organizing discharge paperwork and health records, especially if time is needed after discharge to figure out living arrangements, can be a valuable service. A common complaint of Veterans and their families is the loss of documents and applications by public agencies. Having additional copies stored and available for re-submission is an important safeguard to expedite benefits.

Considering the latest advancements in technology, friends and family might also want to make the gift of an IPAD or tablet computer and a class to learn to use them to celebrate the discharge of a Veteran. These devices can use free software to scan and store documents (medical information and discharge paperwork), be used at public wifi spots to access the internet, do email or video chat to communicate or job search, and to stay connected to friends and family. There are a growing number of assistive software products that can help ease stress, develop skills, and manage illnesses or depression. Researching software and hardware to complement these devices is another way to prepare for a loved one's home coming and could be farmed out to younger family members to engage a wider circle of support for the Veteran.

Veterans of any age might need help at some time to manage money, health or affairs. Is there someone the Veteran trusts to manage money and pay

their bills after they are discharged? If so, who is it and would they have the time to help out in that way. Who would the Veteran want to make medical decisions in a short or long term of disability? Is that person able to help make decisions? Then, take steps to document these decisions through powers of attorney and a designation of patient advocate. Talk to a lawyer or call the Legal Hotline for ideas on how to safely set up these arrangements.

For Veterans who are growing older, other kinds of research and planning are important. Over 70% of adults will need some form of personal support during their life time! Even if a Veteran or spouse is currently very independent, start the application process now for Veteran's benefits! Scrambling when there is a crisis takes a big toll on family members. Investing in some plans ahead of time can save time, money and reduce stress later.

There are many services and supports that Veterans and their dependents can access to provide financial support, help for day to day care in their own homes, and help for caregivers. It can take time to gather medical and service records for applications for Veterans Benefits. Start the process now and get registered. That way, when a Veteran's pension or other benefits are needed, it will be much easier to get the resources needed to ensure health care and living expenses for the Veteran and his or her dependents.

Questions for older Veterans are similar to those for younger Veterans:

If you needed help, who would you like to manage your health and financial affairs? Do you have documents in place to be sure that is taken care of?

Where would you like to live? Is it near transportation, services, and supports you might find helpful?

Do we need to make arrangements for any of your dependents?

Can I help you research some options for housing, look for helpers for yard or house work, shopping or transportation?

For more information about the wide array of Veteran's benefits for service men, women and their dependents visit <http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/> and <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/michigan-state-veterans-benefits.html>

The Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors helps

people with a variety of questions and issues with various benefits. You can call (800) 347-5297 Monday through Thursday, between 9-3, to set an appointment to have a lawyer call you, usually the next day. All services are free of charge to callers; tax deductible donations are gratefully accepted.



Apples & Honey

Luncheon

Thursday

September 12

11:30 AM

Cascade Hills Country Club

IMPORTANT - there will be 2 options for lunch - fish or chicken - you MUST select when making your reservation. If no selection is made you will automatically be given the chicken!

RSVP by September 9 to Ann at
616-942-5553

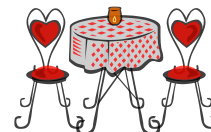
Transportation is also available by calling Ann

SAVE THESE DATES For Future Lunch Bunches...

October 10, Out of town bus trip for lunch -
it's a mystery tour!

November 14, Location TBD

December 5, Chanukah Luncheon



**Young Adults Division
Welcomes the Jewish New Year at**

PEPPINO'S PIZZERIA

130 Ionia SW, Downtown GR

**Monday, September 16
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Great opportunity to meet old and
new friends!**

We provide the pizza, breadsticks and salad. Gluten free pizza by request.
You take care of the drinks.

RSVP: info@jfggr.org or 616-942-5553

Save the Date!!!

**2013 Scholar-in-Residence November 1-3,
2013**

Professor Daniel C. Matt

***"From Kabbalah to the Big Bang: Ancient
Wisdom and Contemporary Spirituality"***



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

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.

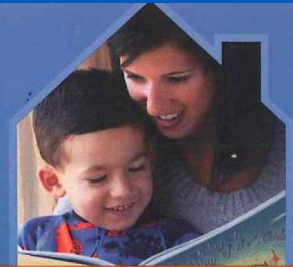
To apply, a confidential interview is conducted and this information is presented to a committee which determines eligibility. This loan is interest free, and the repayment schedule is very flexible.

Please contact Ann for a confidential consultation at 616-942-5553, ext. 206 or Ann@jfgr.org

PJ Library is here!

Watch for information in the mail.

A GIFT for
JEWISH CHILDREN
and their families.



WHAT? The PJ Library ("PJ" for "pajamas") program offers the gift of free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to children ages 6 months through 8 years all across North America. The program is also available to children ages 6 through 8 in some communities.

WHY? PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and tradition, and become cherished bedtime stories.

HOW? Signing up is easy!
To sign up for PJ Library visit www.pjlibrary.org.

PJ Library is a gift from your Jewish community in partnership with local philanthropists and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



www.PJLIBRARY.org

A PROGRAM OF THE
HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



If you would like to receive this monthly newsletter via email, in color, before the mailed paper version, please email us your request to info@jfgr.org. If you would like to receive a printed paper copy in the mail instead, or in addition, we are happy to do that. Please let us know at 616-942-5553 or info@jfgr.org.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

I would like to thank our current JFGR volunteers, Rabbi Schadick, Temple Emanuel and all those who have stepped forward to assist the JFGR in transporting an elderly client to several daily medical appointments. The outpouring of volunteer drivers was greatly appreciated not only by me but also the family involved. The real pleasant surprise is that I have received wonderful calls from these volunteers expressing thanks for what the experience has meant to them! These volunteers not only transported someone to an appointment but also have shown how helpful and caring our community can be.

If you would like to be on the JFGR call list to assist in escorting someone in need to a medical appointment, or just to the grocery store, please call Ann at 942-5553. Days, dates and times are all very flexible.

Sincerely,
Ann Berman, Director of Social Service Resources



Shir Shalom

Our Jewish community chorus, has an exciting performance schedule lineup for 2013-14

We welcome all singers to join us in song on Tuesday evening, 7:00 PM, at Temple Emanuel starting September 10, 2013

To find out more information call Toby Dolinka 616-949-6528 or Barbara Robinson 616-949-4986

*Rehearsals also on September 17 and 24

Jewish Women's Professional Network

We meet monthly for networking. 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.



October 2, 2013

12:00 PM

Olive's

2162 Wealthy St. EGR

Kindertransport

November 15-23, 2013

GVSU Performing Arts Center (Allendale)

Written by Diane Samuels & Directed by Karen Libman

After the violence of Kristallnacht ("Night of the Broken Glass") against Jews across Germany and Austria, the British government authorized the massive transport of Jewish children to Britain, via ship and train, to rescue them from the injustice and atrocities inflicted by Hitler and the Nazis. Over the course of nine months between 1938-9, 10,000 Jewish Kinder were brought to safety - separating them from their parents and sparing them the horrors of the death camps, where many of their family members were exterminated. The play, written by Diane Samuels, examines the life of one child over a 40-year period, and is based on interviews with many kinder who spent the war years with foster families in Britain.

Friday, Nov 15 - 7:30 PM, Saturday, Nov 16 - 7:30 PM, Sunday, Nov 17 - 2:00 PM

Thursday, Nov 21 - 7:30 PM, Friday, Nov 22 - 7:30 PM, Saturday, Nov 23 - 2:00 PM

Tickets are \$12 for Adults, \$10 for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Seniors, and \$6 for all students and groups of 10 or more

Tickets are on sale August 19 by calling 616-331-2300. Group orders are accepted now.

2013/14 - our 21st season
A Season of Survivors

JEWISH Theatre
GRAND RAPIDS
presenting quality theatrical productions with Jewish themes that are universal in appeal

Performances at GRCC Spectrum Theater
SEASON PASS INFO
www.jtgr.org 616.234.3595
Purchase your Season Pass before September 1, 2013 and SAVE!!!

October 17-27
THE WHIPPING MAN
by Matthew Lopez

January 8-19
The Milliner
by Suzanne Glass

March 20-30
Driving Miss Daisy
by Alfred Uhry

Hadassah Book Club



October 9 - 7:15 PM
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry
by Rachel Joyce

Moderator: Flory Silverstein
Host: **Sari Cohen**

810 Cambridge SE, East Grand Rapids
RSVP: 616-821-2751

Books available at **SCHULERS BOOKS, 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 616-459-5976
pam@templemanuelgr.org www.unitedjewishschool.org

Enrollment is OPEN
Register a www.unitedjewishschool.org

UJS Opening Day September 8, 2013

9:30 AM - Meet the teachers, kibbitz with friends, have a nosh, and listen to the musical sounds of the band "Chutzpah".

10:00 AM – Students head off to class

10:00 AM – Parents head to auditorium for "Welcome and Information" session

Sign-up to volunteer for different school events. Get involved!!!!

- Mitzvah Day
- School wide "mock" Passover Seder
- Volunteer safety and security group

Why parents should get involved:

Better behavior. Kids develop better social skills and show improved behavior when their parents are involved at school.

Improved education. Research shows that parent involvement can help improve the quality of schools, raise teacher morale, and improve a school's reputation in the community. Involved parents gain the respect of teachers; as a result, teachers have higher expectations of their children. Involvement pays off in the long term.

Increased confidence. When students feel supported at home and school, they develop more positive attitudes about school, have more self-confidence, and place a higher priority on academic achievement. Children of involved parents are more likely to feel that they're accepted, included, and respected and at school.

Parents benefit, too. When parents become involved in their children's education, they become more comfortable in the school building, gain confidence in their parenting skills, and feel more capable of helping their children learn. They're also more likely to continue their own education.

CALENDAR
Sept 8 - UJS Opening Day
Sept 11 - First day of midweek at Ahavas Israel
Sept 22 - 9th grade New York meeting 12:30 PM
Sept 29 - Blessing of the Pets 9:30 AM

We are creating a volunteer safety group that shall monitor the school building every week that school is in session. Please email to let us know if you are interested in volunteering one or two Sundays throughout the year.

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Sanctuary Shabbat speaker - Saturday, September 7, approximately 11:15 AM. (service begins at 9:30AM)

- Congressman Bill Huizenga

U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga represents the 2nd District of Michigan, which stretches from Kentwood to the lakeshore and up the coast of Lake Michigan from Holland to Ludington. Huizenga was first elected to Congress in 2010 and is currently serving in his second term. This Congress, Congressman Huizenga has been selected to be Vice-Chairman of the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee. As Vice Chair, Congressman Huizenga will assist Subcommittee Chairman John Campbell (CA-45) in running committee hearings and essential committee operations. Huizenga was born and raised in Zeeland, Michigan, where he currently resides with his wife, Natalie, and their five children. His children were the reason he ran for public office. They inspired him to strive for an environment of prosperity for their generation, too; one that encourages job creation through private sector growth, cuts spending, reduces the size of government and keeps Americans safe at home and abroad.

All are welcome for High Holiday services - see AhavasIsraelgr.org or call 949-2840 or email info@ahavasisraelgr.org for details.

Ahavas Israel Junior Congregation is a monthly service for all children, led by Rachel Deaner, which meets on the first Shabbat of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel. Kids under six should come with a parent. Kids over bar or bat-mitzvah age should come to show what you know! We will meet on the following dates: September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3.

Junior Congregation will also meet at 10:00 a.m. on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur.

Chabad House

The Jewish Women's Circle invites you to "Soup in the Sukkah"

Enjoy an array of delicious Soups while we explore the deeper significance of the Sukkah experience

Monday, September 23

8:00PM

At Chani Liberow's Sukkah

2277 E. Fulton

\$5 cover charge

For more info or to RSVP contact Nechamy at 616 828 2340 or Nechamy8@gmail.com

Temple Emanuel

Service Schedule:

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Wed, Sept 4, - 8:00PM

Rosh Hashanah Young Children's Service. Thu, Sept 5, 9:00AM

Rosh Hashanah Morning Service Thu, Sept 5 10:00AM

Rosh Hashanah Service for Grades 1-5 Thu, Sept 5 10:00AM

Tashlich Service (meet in front of Temple) Thu, Sept 5 4:00PM

Kol Nidrei Service, Fri, Sept.13, 8:00PM

Yom Kippur Young Children's Service, Sat, Sept 14, 9:00AM

Yom Kippur Morning Service, Sat, Sept 14,- 10:00AM

Yom Kippur Service for Grades 1-5, Sat, Sept.14, 10:00AM

Yom Kippur Afternoon Service, Sat, Sept 14,3:15PM

Yom Kippur Healing Service, Sat, Sept 14, 4:15PM

Yizkor/Concluding Service, Sat, Sept 14, 5:00PM

Sun, Sept 8 2:00PM Cemetery Service at Oakwood

Sun, Sept 15 10:00AM Sukkah construction and decoration

Wed, Sept 18, 8:00AM Food Bank Distribution

Sun, Sept 22 9:00AM 9th Grade New York City trip meeting.

Sun, Sept 22 10:00AM Jewish Theater's Staged Reading of play "Sixteen Wounded" by Eliam Kraiem. Israeli breakfast will be served and a discussion of the play will follow the reading. Suggested donation \$10

Wed, Sept 25 Consecration 7:00PM

Friday, Sept 27 Following Shabbat Services there will be an Oneg celebrating the 100th Birthdays of June Horowitz (9/12) and Lillian Klein (9/12)

Gan Yiladim Preschool-Kindergarten

Registration is now open for the fall of 2013

Gan Yiladim is a Jewish preschool where we offer a stimulating and warm environment. Our Children learn the "specialness" of being Jewish. Through stories and discussions, the precious legacy of their uniqueness as Jews is transmitted. Gan Yiladim School takes the best of both worlds - secular and Judaic - and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating. For Children ages 2-6.

For more information about our program, contact us at 616-957-0770

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 Carol Present in memory of Sheldon
and Lois Kahn**

From Linda and Duane Searles

**To Geoffrey Remes and Family in
memory of Bill Remes**

From Norm and Marilyn Leven

In honor of Mike and Carol Present

From Justin 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:
September 16, 2013**



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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



**L'Shanah Tovah
Happy New Year**