

*Jewish Cultural
Council
Invites you*



CHICKENFAT KLEZMER ORCHESTRA



**Chicago based
Klezmer group**

*Co-sponsored with
The Grand River
Folk Arts Society*

**Saturday,
January 22
8:00 p.m.**

**Temple Emanuel
1715 East Fulton**

ChickenFat Klezmer Orchestra formed at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, and plays various klezmer styles influenced by vaudeville, Roma, Greek, Romanian, Turkish and Bulgarian music.

Dessert reception to follow

Individual Tickets \$12 / Seniors \$10 / Students \$5

***Free Child Care Available –
Advance Registration Requested by January 20***

**To RSVP or for more information,
contact Sari@jfgr.org
or call the Federation office at 942-5553**

Interim Executive Director's Letter

January 2011

Dear West Michigan Jewish Community,

Five years have passed since I last wrote on these pages, completing a two year term as JFGR board chairman. Since then I've served as a "back-bencher" on the board, until now, as I write to you in my new position as JFGR's interim executive director.

So why the change? Let me answer with a story. During my tenure as chairman, I attended a cocktail party at WGVU's offices in downtown Grand Rapids. The occasion was to pay tribute to a new documentary film called *Surviving Auschwitz: Children of the Shoah*, which focused on two girls, Tova Friedman and Frieda Tenenbaum, who were ages 6 and 10, respectively, when the notorious concentration camp was liberated.

Ms. Friedman and Tenenbaum, a bit older, were in attendance at WGVU that Spring, 2005 evening. I had a chance to chat with them, and they were curious about our West Michigan Jewish community. As I recall, I began by joking about how small we are – "If you stand on any street corner in Manhattan, you're probably within shouting distance of more Jews than there are here." Before I could continue about how exciting and energetic we are as well, one of the women (I don't recall who) replied to the unintended inference of my joke. She told me to never forget how important our Jewish community is, and that the work we do to sustain the health of our community is essential.

Needless to say, her message was unforgettable. Therefore, when our JFGR board held a spirited brainstorming session a few months back to begin a review process and plan ahead, my thoughts returned to that evening. After careful consideration, I approached Dan and asked if I could help during this transition period. I'd like to thank Dan and the board for their support as I begin this work.

A few introductory thoughts about the work ahead. Despite my questionable attempt at humor with Tova and Frieda, I do believe we have a vital Jewish community. I've now been part of our community for over 25 years, and continue to be impressed with the quality of Jewish life we've built here. We have great religious institutions, and we have cultural and educational opportunities that are exceptional for, yes, a small Jewish community. Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is your institution, the organization that represents the entire Jewish community, religious and non-religious alike, working to unite us while supporting Jewish life, both here and abroad, notably in Israel. Therefore, each and every one of us has a stake in JFGR.

We have a wonderful staff in place. Our exciting programming and caring social service activities are reported to



you monthly in the Shofar. I realize a big part of my job will be to help them continue their success, and otherwise stay out of the way. Of course, any successful organization requires continual improvement, and on behalf of the staff, we are asking you for your ideas and input on how to serve you better.

A brief word about our funding. Fundraising is always a required activity for any nonprofit, and we're no different. Our fundraising has declined from its historical levels, but I'm convinced this is temporary. A necessary, short term goal for all of us is to restore our fundraising to its prior levels. Let me be clear. Fundraising is not who we are. The West Michigan Jewish community is who we are. But just as a beautiful car requires gas to run, JFGR requires funding to serve you. So, as we approach you for financial support, I hope you accept our solicitations with that spirit in mind. And, for those of you who have already contributed to this year's campaign, let me simply say, "Thank you".

As I close, let me also thank Jeff Slotnick as he concludes his three year contract as our executive director. I have always found Jeff to be a consummate professional in his work to serve our community, and I wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

I am excited and honored by this opportunity to serve you, my West Michigan Jewish family. I say family rather than community because, in a way, isn't that what Jews over the millennia have been – extended family? Like any family, I expect we will debate and argue over the issues we feel passionate about. Let's face it, we Jews are particularly experienced and good at debating and arguing. But also, like any healthy family, in the end we stick together, support each other, because it's important we do so. That's my promise to Tova and Frieda – and to you, too.

So, as we begin to review and plan for the future of Federation, feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, thoughts or ideas...or even if you just want to kibbitz.

Happy New Year!

Mike Presant

In This Issue . . .

Federation News	2-3
Senior Programming	4
Community News	5-8, 12-13
YAD	9-10
Congregational News	11
International News	14
Endowment News	15

OUR MISSION

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids supports cultural, social and financial needs of Jews locally, in the State of Israel, and around the world.

This mission is accomplished by providing services to the community and through fundraising and allocation efforts.

Making the Most of your Campaign 2010 Dollars Young Leadership Challenge Grant

If you are 40 years of age or younger, any new gift or increase over last year's gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000, thanks to the generosity of the Hurwitz and Thodey families through the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation.

The Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation Challenge Grant

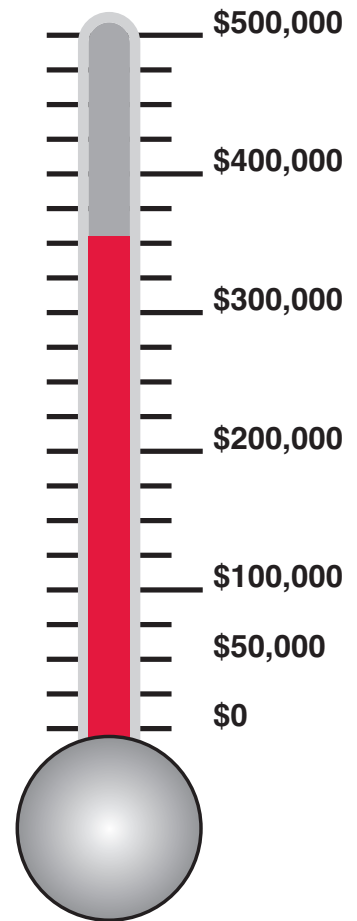
Any new gift and any increase up to \$2,500 to last year's gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000, thanks to the generosity of the Padnos Foundation.

Please help us meet our goals and raise this additional \$25,000 in challenge grants.

Please make your gift today!

Campaign Donations as of December 22, 2010

\$352,000



The Jewish Federation now accepts Discover credit card along with Master Card and Visa



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 942-5553 email: info@jfg.org
www.jfg.org

Live Generously.

Name _____

Address _____

Please consider a 10% increase

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

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .

~ Save the Dates ~

Monday

Lunch Bunch

February 21, 2011

March 21, 2011

April 11, 2011

*Locations to be announced.
If you have a suggestion, please
call Ann at 942-5553 or email
them to ann@jfgr.org*

**LUNCH
BUNCH!**

**Monday
January 10**

11:30 a.m. at

Sayfee's

3555 Lake Eastbrook Blvd. SE

Cost: \$8.00

Please RSVP to Ann at **942-5553**

Transportation is available!

Please call Ann!

Senior Social Outing

***Diana - A Celebration at the
Grand Rapids Art Museum***

When: Friday January 21, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 (GRAM members \$5)

***We will meet at Temple Emanuel at 12:45 a.m.
to take a van to the Museum.***

To RSVP and for Transportation call Ann at 942-5553

Federation would like thank all those who donated to the 2010 Chanukah Adopt-a-Family program.

Through your generosity, we were able to give 18 families, including 40 children, a brighter Chanukah celebration.

We thank you also on behalf of the gift recipients.

Through the use of Scrip this year, Temple Emanuel and Ahavas Israel also benefited through Adopt-a-Family.

Warm regards are extended to Meijer Corporation for their generous donation in gift cards this year. And, a big thank you to each of our community donors, we can't help others without you:

***Lisa Rashewsky
Dorothy Berg
Carol Sarosik
Shelley Padnos
GVSU Hillel
Lori Reineke
& Larry Cieply***

***Konrad family
Marilyn Titche
Kogelschatz Family
Leon & Myrna Kirschner
Pam & Jeff Rush
Glenn & Kathi Barkan
Julian & Judith Joseph***

***Dale & Susan Wolfson
Ron & Karen Sigal
Niels & Jane Bach
Lynn Hoenke
Congregation Kehilat
Shalom
Anonymous***

HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

Thank you to Sue Remes for hosting the December meeting. The book discussed was "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave.

***The next book club meeting is:
February 9, 2011, 7:15 pm
at Sari Cohen's home***

Please call 821-2751 to inform us if you will be coming (a must)

Book to read (NEW TITLE):

Mud Bound

by Hillary Jordan

*Until we meet again in the New Year of 2011,
Keep warm!*

***Book Ends by choice. . .
Flory Silverstein – 949-5766
& Sue Remes – 949-3505***



FACT of the week

United Jewish Communities

With Jewish Federation support, JDC and its partners operate 165 Hesed welfare centers in the former Soviet Union and provide life-sustaining food, medical assistance, home care and critical winter supplies to nearly 160,000 of the world's poorest elderly Jews. The centers also serve as communal sites for meals, daycare and other life-sustaining services.

Live Generously.™ It does a world of good.

CHANUKAH KLEZMERIZED!

*Sponsored by the Jewish Federation,
United Jewish School
and the Chabad House*

***A wonderful event with food,
arts and crafts,
dance and a lot of music!***



*Thank you to Sarah Weingarten and the Chabad House
for the food preparation and arts and crafts.
Thanks also to Shalom Liberow for the wonderful
Chanukah Menorah and to all the people (200 plus)
who joined us in the celebration.*

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.

The loan is interest free, and the repayment schedule is very flexible.

Contact Ann for more information – 942-5553

FILM FESTIVAL . . .



PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY. That means even if you are holding a flex pass ticket, seats are not guaranteed later than thirty minutes prior to movie time. **Flex pass tickets are only available until May 1st.**

The Film Festival also offers members of the community an opportunity to become an individual sponsor of the Jewish Film Festival. Please read about the benefits of becoming a financial supporter below.

Individual Sponsors Get Great Benefits!

Director: (\$500.00) receive two flex passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and four admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

Producers: (\$250.00) receive two flex passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications and two admissions to all private receptions, dinners, and events.

Actor: (\$100.00) receive one season punch card (8 admissions) and recognition in the program booklet.

Film Fan: If you would like to financially support the Jewish Film Festival and do not see an amount that interests you, please feel free to send a contribution in any amount to the Federation office. You will be listed in the program booklet.

The 2011 Jewish Film Festival is once again bringing special movies to the Grand Rapids community. The committee has been previewing movies and planning special programs. As in previous years, the Film Festival will be held at Celebration! North Cinemas. Watch for more details about the festival events in our community mailings.

The Film Festival is offering special rates through a **flex pass** (eight admissions); the flex pass is **\$36.00**. Flex pass ticket holders will have seats reserved until **THIRTY MINUTES** prior to the movie beginning. At that time, tickets will be sold for all seats.

I would like to be a Film Festival Sponsor

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ Film Festival Director (\$500.00)

_____ Film Festival Fan

_____ Film Festival Producer (\$250.00)

_____ Flex Pass (\$36.00)

_____ Film Festival Actor (\$100.00)

Mail this form and your check to:
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

JEWISH OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS!

Do you know a child who plans to attend a Jewish summer camp?

They qualify to apply for a camp scholarship through the David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund.

Now is the time to apply for financial assistance!

Applications are available upon request, and due by March 1st.

Please contact the Jewish Federation at 942-5553.

*All applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Committee and held in the strictest confidence.

Maimonides Society
presented

Israel's Rescue of the Haitian Earthquake Victims

on Sunday, December 12



David Alfonso and Ambassador Danny Biran

Butterfly Project



The Jewish Federation is partnering with the Grand Rapids Children's Museum in the Butterfly Project. The purpose of this project is to collect 1.5 million handmade butterflies to memorialize the number of Jewish children killed during the Holocaust.

This will become an exhibit in 2013 in The Holocaust Museum in Houston, TX.

Please check the Children's Museum website for information on requirements and ideas at www.grcm.org or the Holocaust Museum www.hmh.org.

There will be drop off boxes at JFGR, UJS, Temple, Ahavas Israel, and the Chabad House.

**For additional information contact Sari 616-942-5553;
Email: sari@jfgr.org.**



Now Arriving

The 2011-2012 Jewish Community Roster

Available (for \$8 each) at

Ahavas Israel or Temple Emanuel

or call

Janice Anderson: 676-8141

Eileen Enoch: 949-6444

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION . . .

Winter Break Family Fun Day

Chuck E. Cheese

Monday,
December 20, 2010



Torah on Tap

Tuesday,
December
21



JFGR Family Tubing Day at Cannonsburg

Sunday February 20, 2011
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Special Pricing:

Age 5 thru 10 - \$7

Adults (age 11 up) - \$10

*Bottled water and snacks
provided in the lodge*

Meet and Pay at Ticket Booth

*Children must be at least
5 years of age to tube

RSVP to Cathy@jfgr.org
or 942-5553



YOUNG ADULT DIVISION . . . TRIBEFEST 2011

Connect, Explore and Celebrate at TribeFest 2011: Las Vegas

What is it?

TribeFest 2011: Las Vegas is THE event for young Jewish adults.

Over 1,800 young Jews will come together to explore why it matters to be Jewish, how they connect to their Judaism and the larger community, and to have an amazing time. TribeFest will offer inspiring programming, music, food, arts, and entertainment, all celebrating the richness of our Jewish culture and heritage. TribeFest will be THE place for networking, mingling, and finding peers and friends with which to create deep and meaningful connections. TribeFest attendees will engage in hands-on community service and develop a deep understanding of the value of giving back, not just to the community, but to themselves.



What are the details?

TribeFest will run officially from March 6-8, 2011 at The Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, Nevada, with the likelihood of pre-event.

Saturday night programming for those who choose to arrive early.

Registration dates

Registration will begin in early November and will close on February 15, 2011.

What does it cost to attend TribeFest?

Early bird registration (before January 8): \$400 / After January 8: \$475

The registration fee will include:

- FOUR MEALS:
 - Sunday: Dinner
 - Monday: Breakfast
 - Monday: Lunch
 - Tuesday: Breakfast
- Participation in all conference sessions and breakouts
- Participation in the opening and closing plenary
- Conference Materials
- Conference t-shirt
- An amazing evening event
- Participation in a half day service project

Hotel Accommodations:

Single room: \$169 + tax (per room/per night) /

Double room: \$169 + tax (per room/per night, not per person)

* There is a \$10 "resort fee" per room, per night



YAD Mah Jongg



Join us at our next game!

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

Beginners welcome! No experience necessary.



Congregation Ahavas Israel

Special Sanctuary Shabbat date –
January 15 – Shabbat Shira

Mark Bloom - *The Art of Kavannah: Prelude* -
A brief musical d'var Torah during the service
The Art of Kavannah: "Overture" - Following
the service and a light lunch, Mark will present an
hour-long workshop on musical midrash.

Explore 3500 years of
Jewish Tradition

in the Hebrew Bible and Beyond

Introduction to Judaism

Mussar - A Spiritual/Ethical tradition
Jewish Meditation

Hebrew Reading -
private and small group lessons

**Monday evenings,
beginning in January**

Call 616-949-2840 or see

AhavasIsraelGR.org

under "Adult Education"
for registration information

~ Hold the date ~
**Sunday, February 13 -
Adult Jewish Education
returns**

with Rabbi Krishef,
Rabbi Schadick and
Rabbi Weingarten

Temple Emanuel

10:00am

Free to attend

Temple Emanuel

*The Entire Jewish Community
Is Cordially Invited to Join Us For
Friday Night Jazz*

**A Special Musical Shabbat
Featuring the Talents of Mark Bloom
on Friday, January 14 at 7:00 PM**

This Jazz Shabbat is an original program that combines traditional liturgical music with innovative and compelling jazz arrangements. Jazz Shabbat is a prayer service that generates a spiritual energy through the rhythms and harmonies of jazz.

Mark Bloom lives just outside of Minneapolis, MN. He is an accomplished pianist, bandleader, stage and musical director, producer, interpretational service leader, composer and a recognized performing artist.

Mark has produced hundreds of scores for stage and film. He frequently performs nightclub and session work. He has composed, arranged, and accompanied for many performers including Rabbi Joe Black, Doug Cotler, Ron Eliran, Danny Maseng, and Peri Smilow.

An Oneg Shabbat will follow the service

***We Link Ourselves to the
Land of Israel
As We Celebrate
Tu B'Shevat***

**The New Year For Trees
And a Celebration of the Fruits of the Earth**

***Join us at Temple Emanuel
On Saturday, January 15
at 6:00 PM***

***With Dinner and a Festive Seder
For All Ages***

*Featuring the Musical Talents of Mark Bloom
from Minneapolis, MN*

Hot Soups, Fresh Breads, and Lots and Lots of Fruit

\$6 Adults/\$4 Children under the age of 13

*Come in from the cold and join us for a
wonderfully warm evening.*

**RSVP to the Temple office no later than
Wednesday January 12 – 459-5976**



Beit Sefer B'yahad/ United Jewish School

1715 East Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-5976 • Fax: 616-459-6510

Pam Rush - School Director

pam@templemanuelgr.org www.unitedjewishschool.org

Happy New Year!!

School closings: Please tune in to WZZM 13 and WOOD TV 8 for UJS closings. You may also check their websites.

Please remember UJS in your contributions. We have a beautiful *“Tribute”* card that we can send to that special someone.



You won't want to miss

UJS Israeli Restaurant

Temple Emanuel Sunday 2-6-11 12 noon

Our last restaurant was phenomenal! The food was superb. The community support **OVERWHELMING!** Please keep Sunday, February 6 open on your calendars so you can all come. You will be conversing in Hebrew (with a little cheat sheet), enjoying a great Israeli luncheon, having a great time with your Jewish community and at the same time **raising money for the school!!** This will be the school's biggest fundraiser for the year. We are in need of a copier and the funds will go towards this purchase. More info to come . . .

School Calender

1-2-11	No Sunday School – Winter Break
1-5-11	School resumes for midweek

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED BLOOD



Dan Vorhees



Jeff Slotnick



Deborah Freedman Rhodes



Ron Sigal



Cultural Council of
The Jewish Federation
of Grand Rapids

Jewish Cultural Council Invites you

CHARLES ASHER SMALL

**“Understanding the Challenges of Iran and
Anti-Semitism”**

Saturday, February 12, 2011

8:00 p.m.

Temple Emanuel
1715 East Fulton

Charles Asher Small is the Director of the Yale Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Anti-Semitism and the Director and Founder of the Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy.

Dessert reception to follow.



Divorce, unemployment, and Hurricane Katrina

Katrina

RANDY SCHAFFER experienced three devastating events within a few short months. But thanks to his own resilience and significant help from Federation, he was able to rebound and reinvent himself. And today he is not only surviving — he feels lucky.

Hurricane Katrina wiped him out, destroying his home and his dentistry clinic.

With his son Max, who was 13, Randy evacuated to his sister's home in another city, where he spent four months trying to put his life back together. He got little help from the government, and his sister, who had taken him in, suggested that he call Federation. That's when the pieces began to fall into place.

"To ask for help was very difficult. I needed a place to live. I needed food for my table. That's where the Federation came in. They said, okay, here are your talents and here are your skills. Here's what we can do for your son. Here's what we can do to get things settled, and they did it."

Today, Randy and his son have relocated and Randy finds fulfillment teaching.

But he is quick to remind anyone who'll listen, "Each time my life took a bad turn, Federation was there."



To find out more about Randy go to www.jewishfederations.org/annualcampaign



After Katrina, Randy says "Federation helped find us a home and provided counseling for me and for Max. They just met all of our needs. They helped with the trauma of the move and the loss of everything."

\$19

Delivers one session of group therapy for a teenager.

\$350

Helps an unemployed adult get support, skills and networking.

\$525

Buys basic food items for two families for one month.

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Endowments

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

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

- **The Woman of Valor Fund** - (\$10 minimum contribution). To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally, or nationally.
- **The Federation General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund** - To help ensure the continued work of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for now and the future.
- **The Julian and Judith Joseph Fund** - To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.
- **The David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund** - To provide scholarships to Jewish sleep away camps and experiences.
- **The Chuck and Maxine Shapiro Fund** - To help ensure long-term aid to Israel and Jews around the world.
- **The Louis and Louise Weiner Fund** - To help ensure local programming for seniors in the Grand Rapids Jewish Community.
- **The Jerry and Judy Subar Fund** - To help ensure funding for overseas Jewish communities' needs.
- **The Leven Family Fund** - To establish and provide Jewish facilities, and support for cooperative programming among the congregations that support Jewish education for our youth.
- **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 Women of Valor Endowment Fund

In honor of Anne Wepman, "Happy Hanukkah, Bubi!"

From Josh, Laura and Lucas

לדור ודור
L'Dor Vador
From Generation to Generation



THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE?
PUT IT IN WRITING!

No matter where or when in the future, you can be there to provide for the Jewish community. Your will makes it possible. Leaving a bequest to the Jewish community enables you to create a permanent legacy that can help Jews in need forever. Learn how you can help – for years to come.

The Jewish Federation **Live Generously**
www.yourcommunity.org

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation From: Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

In Honor Of: Name _____

In Memory Of: Name _____

Send Card To: Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Fund (please pick from list): _____

In Honor Of: Name _____

In Memory Of: Name _____

Send Card To: Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Fund (please pick from list): _____

Send your donation to:

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

The Shofar

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
Permit No. 973

Send articles to: 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

Phone: (616) 942-5553

Fax: (616) 942-5780

E-Mail: info@JFGR.org

www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Next Issue's Information Deadline: January 12, 2011

On the second Tuesday of every month,
families depend on food donations from the
Food Bank at Temple Emanuel.

Drop off food donations between 10 am - 2 pm
Monday through Friday at Temple Emanuel

**or mail checks payable to Temple Emanuel
and specify the donation is for the Food Bank.**

Temple's Address: 1715 E. Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**FEDERATION APPRECIATES OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS . . .
ABBE MORTIMORE, SHERYL SIEGEL AND NANCY SMITH
FOR ASSISTING OUR SENIORS**