



The Year in Review

by Marni Vyn, Board Chair



Marni Vyn

The month of July marks the beginning of a new fiscal year at the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. The staff, board, and volunteers are looking ahead to the new year, but this is also an important time to look back and reflect on the past year. No one could have ever imagined we'd be living through a global pandemic. Individually and collectively, we've had to adapt and adjust every aspect of our lives. JFGR staff responded quickly and adeptly to continue serving our Jewish community.

Some highlights of the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

Campaign: We raised approximately \$430,000 from nearly 400 donors.

Social services: During COVID-19 and all year long, we helped those in need in West Michigan through support, financial assistance, and connections to social service agencies. Staff called 800+ community members during COVID pandemic, sent 507 care packages, and wrote 250+ personal letters. We distributed nearly \$4,000 to community members through the Hanukkah- Adopt-A-Family program. We partnered with the South Bend Federation of Indiana to assist a family who lost all of their belongings in a house fire in White Pigeon; our community came together and collected clothes, food, household items, and gift cards to help this family.

Programming: We provided a wide range of educational, social, and cultural programs for all ages. We expanded our annual picnic with live music, a kosher food truck, and new activities for the kids and had nearly 330 people in attendance. Our PJ Library has grown to 91 children and continues to provide free Jewish books and enriching programs.

It is an honor to serve as Board Chair of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. I strongly believe in our mission and am humbled by the dedication of our staff, board members, volunteers, and donors. We are stronger together, even while physically apart.

Thank you for your continued support. While there is still much uncertainty in the coming months, you can count on the Jewish Federation to be here to build and sustain our Jewish community.

Marni Vyn
Board Chair

Like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram at [jewishgrandrapids](#) and on Twitter @JewishFedGR

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.

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Grand Rapids**

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for your generosity!

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Dafna Kaufman, Film Festival, Dafna@JFGR.org ext. 217 | Jessica Gillespie, PJ Library, Jessica@JFGR.org ext. 218

Please cut out this pledge card, fill it in and send it to the Federation office.



I'd like to support my community and make a gift!

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Mort Finkelstein, Celebrating 90 Years of Jewish Life in Grand Rapids!

By Peg Finkelstein

Mort was born in Grand Rapids on July 4, 1930, to Gen and Jack Finkelstein who were members at Congregation Ahavas Israel. As a young man, he was involved in Jewish community life. Mort and his brothers, Raleigh and Ed worked in the family business, which later became MC Sporting Goods. In 1986 their chain had 23 stores, at which time they decided to sell to Pacific Gas & Electric (PGE) becoming part of a larger corporation. By 1990 it was quoted as being the 13th largest Sporting Goods Chain in the US. As their contracts were up with the new owners, they all decided to leave and pursue other venues.



Mort and Peg Finkelstein

In addition to Mort's commitment to his family business, I watched Mort over the many years and admired his commitment to his Judaism, whether it was Local, State or National. Mort has been involved throughout his life in the Jewish community. He was Vice President of AZA and the Youngest President of B'nai Brith, Temple Emanuel President, President of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids and served on the National Board of the URJ for 28 years. He held countless Chairmanships within the Union of Reform Judaism. Mort and his mentor Hy Bylan have the distinct honor of being the only two Temple Emanuel congregants in 163 years to ever be chosen as a Vice Chair for the URJ from the same congregation.

I had grown to love working on historical things, when one day Mort said, you know June Horowitz, our Temple Emanuel Archivist, is not in good health and we need to do something about it. So, we approached the board at Temple Emanuel with a proposal to start an endowment

*"Who gives charity with a smile is truly a right-minded man."
Rabbi Nachman.*

This quote describes Mort's humanity. Mort has been a pillar of charity, kindness and good works in our Grand Rapids community. It is my honor to celebrate Mort on his 90th birthday! On behalf of the Jewish Federation, Mazel Tov as you celebrate this joyous milestone!

---Nicole Katzman, Executive Director

for the Peg and Mort Finkelstein Archives, that was in 2002. My husband Mort's sense of humor when announcing this to the congregation was that he would give all the money and I would do all the work. This was more than fair, as he knew nothing about history and didn't want to, and I loved spending my time doing research.

"Oh G-d, on this my Bar Mitzvah day, help me to be worthy of a new world for which men are fighting and dying today, a world from which the heart of stone will be removed, a world in which the heart of man will rule! May the lessons and examples of my parents and teachers sustain me. May thy spirit uphold me that I, too, may be one of those who accept responsibility for fellow-man, who lives to give rather than to take from the world. May the generation of which I am part be the privileged generation that will witness the reformation of this world in accordance with thy gracious word as spoken by our prophet. Amen."

Quote from Bar Mitzvah speech,
written by Mort Finkelstein, age 13

In 2012 we were recognized by the Historical Society of Michigan with an Award for our contributions to preserving and presenting programs. That same year Mort and I, along with his brother Raleigh, started an archive at Ahavas Israel, naming it the Gen and Jack Finkelstein Archives, after their parents.

(Continued on page 5)



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(Continued from page 3)

Mort served two years as President of the Jewish Community Fund. During that time the organization progressed on the path that led to the current Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Mort never stopped working for the betterment of Jewish life here in Grand Rapids. Now he is one of those spearheading the Jewish Collaboration Committee.

--Judith Joseph, JFGR Board

About five years ago, I talked my husband Mort into taking over as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee, as no one seemed to want to take on this monumental task. Like most others before him, he knew little of the history of our cemetery or its bylaws. With the materials that we had been preserving, Megan and I gave him a history lesson. Supplying him with all the books, maps, city cards, etc. to be able to do his job. He and his volunteers have brought back to life our beautiful Oakhill Cemetery. He has been able to make us understand our responsibility to our community. That it is our job to honor the commitment that we gave those families before us, of preserving our cemetery and returning its beauty and serenity.

Mort became President of the Jewish Community Fund in 1990. He succeeded Joe Schwartz, who led the organization for many years. I first presented my ideas and goals to Joe about providing local programming for the entire Grand Rapids Jewish Community regardless of affiliation. These suggestions were first met with skepticism by local leaders, because they were "new" ideas.

By the time Mort succeeded Joe Schwartz in 1990, all of these new programs had proven to be extremely successful. They were very well attended including activities for seniors, youth, holiday celebrations and Camp Shalom. I worked with Mort in 1990-1991 and he was my supervisor. He was extremely supportive, helpful and very encouraging. Years later, Mort gave me the ultimate compliment that meant so much to me. He said, "You were just ten years ahead of your time!"

--Bev Kagan, Former Program Director JCF



Mort and I have known each other for 48 years and were married in 1999. We have a blended family, with children Deb, David, Megan, Pam & Chad and several grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. Megan and her daughter Lily, work closely with him to maintain all cemetery records, cleanup and flag placement. In addition to the cemetery, they help maintain the archives at both congregations. Mort and I spend the summer months in Grand Rapids and winter in Boca Raton, Florida.

Peg Finkelstein is the wife of Mort Finkelstein. She is a dedicated member of the Jewish community. She spends much of her time preserving her family history and the history of the Jewish people of Grand Rapids. Peg has an office filled with mountains of collectables, and almost daily continues to research family ties along with other collections.

In honor of Mort's 90th Birthday, donations may be sent to: Temple Emanuel's Oakhill Cemetery Fund, Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives, or the Gen & Jack Finkelstein Archives at Ahavas Israel!



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Are you a singer or dancer, do you play an instrument, juggle, tell jokes or have an unusual talent?

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids would like to showcase you on our virtual talent show on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7pm! Children and adults are welcome to participate. For more information and instructions on submitting your video, contact Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming at (616) 942-5553 or Markay@jfgr.org



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\$25,000+

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

Greg Kaufman
Jerome P. Subar
Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Julian Joseph ל"י
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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Subar

\$1000 - \$2,499

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Chad Zagel & Ellie
Frey-Zagel

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Alton Danks

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Fishman
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Doug & Sherry Singer
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\$250 - \$499

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Dale Wolfsen
Gilbert Wynn

\$100 - \$249

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Entertainment
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Thomas Fox Jr.
Mike Greengard
Dennis Hammond
Mort & Gerry
Hoffman
Jim Hooberman
Greg Isenhoff
Mark & Stephanie
Jesin

William Katz
Rich Kogelschatz
Jeffrey Kommit
Sheldon Kopperl
Richard Lovy
Reverend Dennis
McMurray
Sam & Kay Miller
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Hal Ostrow
Ethan Powsner
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Charles Zickus

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Melvin Brenner
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Cohen
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Abraham Cohen
Dan Druker
Nisim Emesh
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Max Fechtner
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of God in Christ
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Rispler
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Robinson
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Michael Silverstein
Gerald & Jana
Soverinsky
Robert Swietek
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Aidan Vyn
Arend Vyn
Anatoly Yantovsky
Gregg Zizos
Morton Zukerman

Women's Campaign

\$10,000 or more Ruby Lion of Judah

Peg Finkelstein
Myrna Kirschner
Marilyn Leven
Susan Samrick
Judith H. Subar

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Lion of Judah
Heather Alfonso
Bluma Herman
Judith Joseph
Karen Padnos
Peg Padnos
Lanny Thodey
Marilyn Titcher
Sharyl Titcher

\$1,800 - \$4,999

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Dafna Kaufman
Linda Pestka
Marisa Reed
Lisa Rose
Sandi Simms
Marni Vyn

\$1,000 - \$1,799

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Jeanie Friedland
Phyllis Gendler
Pam Goldberger
Stephanie Hurwitz
Mary Kaneti
Madelon Krissoff
Sandra Last
Peggy Leven
Valerie Shavell
Helayne Sherman
Flory Silverstein
Mary Stevens
Audrey Sundstrom

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Pam Levy
Shirley Lewis
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Mei Mah
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Kristin Siegel
Abby Sorota
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Erica Wikander
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Dana Winniman

\$250 - \$499

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Cantor Marisa Krishef
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Slava Sokolovsky
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Judy Zupke

We apologize for any errors, contact us if there is a mistake.

Thank you to our amazing Campaign 2019 Volunteers!

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Jim Siegel
Audrey Sundstrom
Claude Titcher
Marni Vyn
Erica Wikander
Cathy Winick
Michelle Young
Chad Zagel

A special THANK YOU to our fabulous campaign Co-Chairs.



Bill Boorstein



Lanny Thodey



TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

Total Regular Campaign		\$429,000
Matching Grant - Padnos Foundation	\$30,000	
Matching Grant - Hy & Greta Berkowitz Foundation	\$5,000	
Interest	\$400	
Loan Repayments	\$2,000	
Available for Re-allocation	\$46,896	
General Endowment Fund	\$19,983	
Art Fund	\$11,864	
Weiner Fund	\$2,844	
Woman of Valor	<u>\$2,013</u>	
Total Additional Income		<u>\$121,000</u>

TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION

\$550,000

JFGR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES:

Administration and Campaign	\$135,355	
Family Services/Adult Programming/Social Services	\$50,600	
Community/YAD/Family/Youth Programs	\$62,600	
JFNA Fair Share	\$15,769	
Uncollected Pledges	\$28,500	
Bank and Bankcard Charges	\$3,000	
FICA & Medicare	\$14,000	
Rent	\$14,832	
FedWeb	<u>\$1,720</u>	

Sub-total

\$326,376

Missions & Leadership Development	\$2,500	
Local Reserve for Board Determination	\$28,800	
Reserve for Security	\$10,000	
L'Dor Vador Community Endowment	<u>\$6,500</u>	

Sub-total Operational Expenses

\$47,800

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

United Jewish School	\$18,000	
Chabad of West Michigan	\$6,000	
Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids	\$5,500	
Shir Shalom Choir	\$3,574	
Temple Emanuel Food Bank	\$3,000	
Interfaith Dialogue	\$2,500	
Sacred Grounds	<u>\$250</u>	

Sub-total Local Allocations

\$38,574

TOTAL OPERATIONAL AND LOCAL

\$413,000

NATIONAL ALLOCATIONS:

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)	\$1,000	
Birthright Israel (JFNA)	\$1,500	
GVSU Hillel	\$1,000	
HIAS	\$500	
MSU - Hillel	\$500	
U of M Hillel	<u>\$500</u>	

TOTAL NATIONAL ALLOCATIONS

\$5,000

INTERNATIONAL

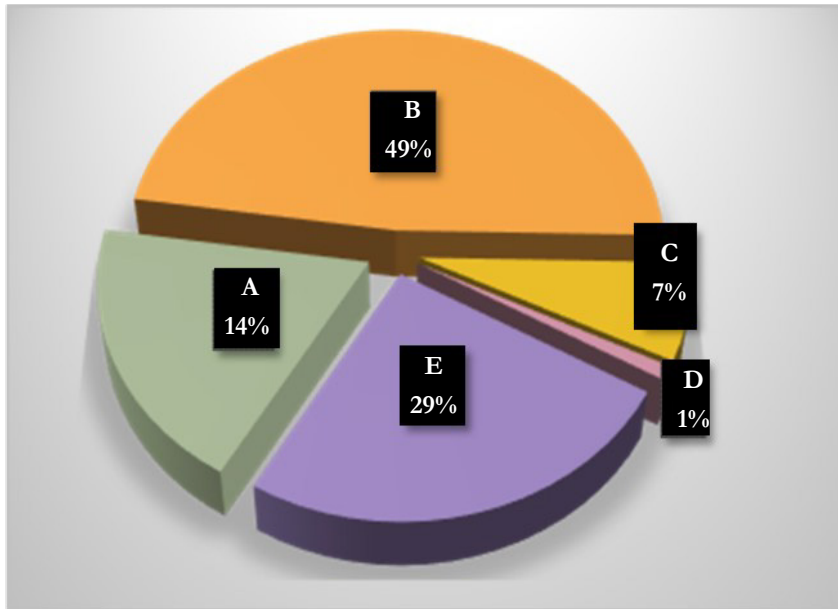
Partnership 2Gether (JFNA)	\$2,000	
ONAD (Overseas Need Assessment)	<u>\$130,000</u>	

TOTAL INTERNATIONAL ALLOCATIONS

\$132,000

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS

\$550,000



- A) Operational: Administration and Campaign, Uncollected Pledges, Bank/Bankcard Charges, FedWeb, L'Dor Vador Community Endowment, JFNA Fair Share.
- B) Programming & Services: Family Services, Adult Programming, Social Services, YAD, Community Programs, Family/Youth Programs, Security and Local Reserve for Board determination. Missions & Leadership Development.
- C) Local: United Jewish School, Chabad of West Michigan, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, Shir Shalom Choir, Temple Emanuel Food Bank, Interfaith Dialogue.
- D) National: ADL, Birthright Israel, GVSU Hillel, MSU Hillel, U of M Hillel, Israel Action Network, JCPA, HIAS, Secure Community Network.
- E) International: Partnership 2gether, ONAD and Reserve for Sister City (P2G).

We gratefully acknowledge our L'Dor Vador Funds, totaling over \$8.4 million as of Friday, June 12, 2020.

Woman of Valor Fund

To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally or nationally.

L'Dor Vador Fund/ Federation General 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 sleepaway 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 school services locally.

Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund

To help ensure funding for Jewish arts, culture and history in Greater Grand Rapids.

Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund

To support health services for Jewish community members not covered by other financial resources.

Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Fund

To support Cultural Council programming of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, The Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation also provides a separate grant to support the Jewish Film Festival and PJ Library.

The Ravitz Foundation Michigan Small Communities Fund

The purpose of the fund is to strengthen small Jewish communities throughout Michigan with high quality Jewish education and programming for its community members.



Newish Jewish Summer Reads

by Kris Siegel

Do you want to read something inspiring/informative/entertaining this summer? Give these recently published books a try!

Nonfiction:

- ***Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – In Judaism (After Finally choosing to Look There)***, by Sarah Hurwitz. Former speechwriter for Barak and Michelle Obama, Sarah Hurwitz writes so beautifully about her Jewish journey. This was one of my favorite quarantine books, and I highlighted or underlined inspirational passages on almost every page.
- ***The Last Kings of Shanghai: Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China***, by Jonathan Kaufman. Two Jewish families, the Sassoons and the Kadoories, have spent the last century amassing (and losing, and amassing again) their fortunes in China and Hong Kong, navigating world wars and various ruling regimes.
- ***Conversations With RGB: Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law***, by Jeffrey Rosen. As a journalist, scholar, and president of the National Constitution Center, Jeffrey Rosen has been conversing with RBG for over twenty years. In this book she discusses her favorite dissents, the case she would most like to see overruled, the #MeToo movement, how to be a good listener, how to lead a productive and compassionate life, and much more. An interesting and thought-provoking read.

- ***Family Papers: A Sephardic Journey Through the Twentieth Century***, by Sarah Abrevaya Stein. Thousands of letters – the correspondence of the Levy family - tell the story of Sephardic Jews in the twentieth century.



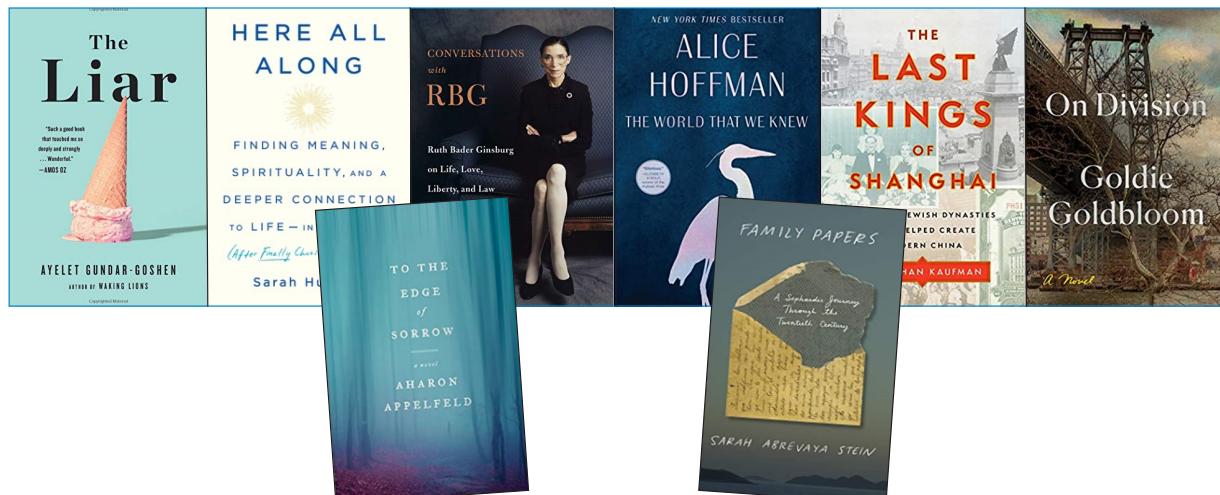
Kris Siegel

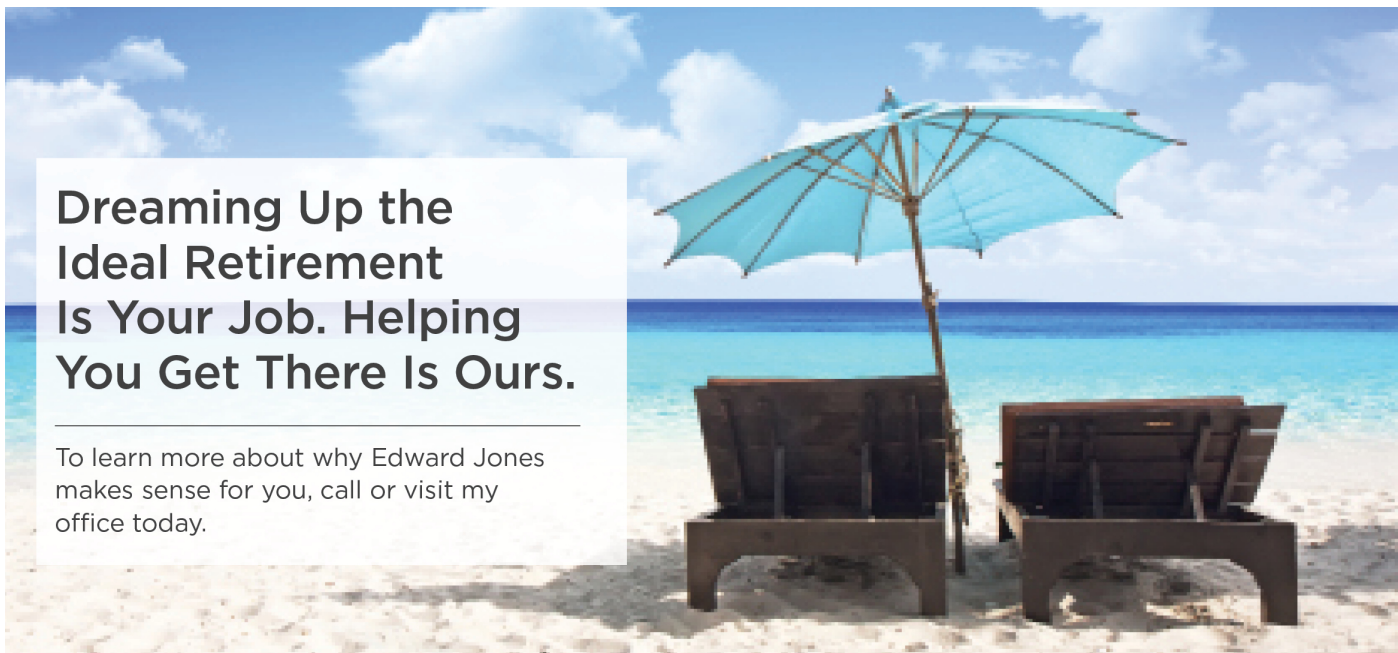
Fiction:

- ***Liar***, by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen. Lying and the lure of fame. Gundar-Goshen is a wonderful writer. Many people loved her last book, *Waking Lions*.
- ***The World That We Knew***, by Alice Hoffman. Two young women and a golem during WWII. History and fantasy intermingle.
- ***To the Edge of Sorrow***, by Aharon Appelfeld. A community of Jewish resistance fighters during WWII. Multiple award-winning author Appelfeld was a resistance fighter himself. This was his last book, as he died in Israel in 2018.
- ***On Division***, by Goldie Goldbloom. The story of a mother in the Chassidic community of current-day Williamsburg.

Happy (Jewish) reading!

Kris Siegel is the Librarian at Temple Emanuel. When not reading, she's working on a degree in Jewish studies, doing yoga, or cooking healthy vegan food. She and her husband, Doug love to travel to visit their two sons, who live in far-flung places.





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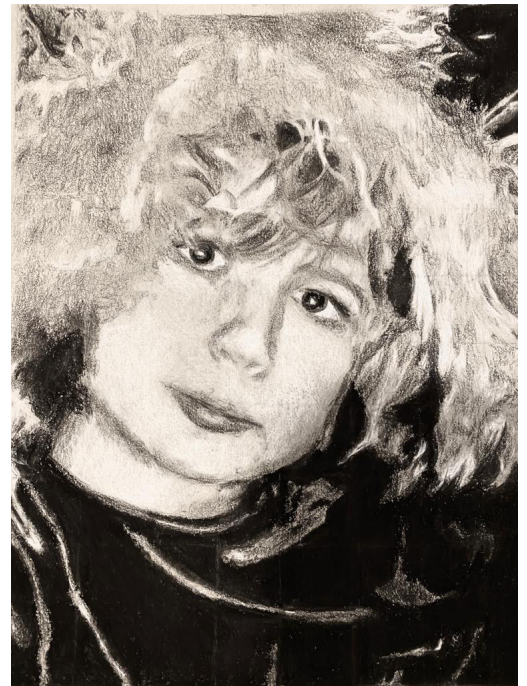
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During the stay at home time because of Covid19, many teenagers in our community have kept busy by cooking, baking, creating art, etc. Here are a few of their creations!



Maialen, age 14, has been practicing eight strand challah braiding!



Alaia, age 16, made a charcoal drawing of an old photo of herself! Both girls are the daughters of Tina and Honorio M.



Mushka Miriam, age 14, made the traditional key shaped challot for the first Shabbat after Pesach for her family.

Mushka Miriam also made cinnamon buns for her family! She is the daughter of Nechamy and Rabbi Manes W.





Beit Sefer B'yahad United Jewish School

1715 Fulton St E | Grand Rapids MI 49503
616.459.5976

Counting our Blessings

The United Jewish School of Grand Rapids opened its doors to the children of Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel in the fall of 2006. The idea to combine supplementary religious education had long been discussed in our community, but with changing demographics, and the desire to work together for the well-being of our students, the idea finally blossomed into reality. The school was officially named Beit Sefer B'yahad.

Pam Rush and Barb Duchemin worked together as co-directors. They were a great team. Each used their skills to help build community and to fashion a school that fostered a love of Jewish learning. When warmer winters beckoned Pam to Florida it was Hasia Monselise that joined with Barb at the helm of our school. When Barb moved to Colorado to be closer to her family in the summer of 2018 Hasia became the director of the school. She was ably assisted by Melissa Weinhaus in the school office.

How blessed the school has been over the years with such dedicated members of our community running the school. We said good-bye to Melissa Weinhaus this spring when her family relocated to Washington, DC. With demographics continuing to change, and with the Covid-19 pandemic in place, this spring the board of the United Jewish School, comprised of four members from Congregation Ahavas Israel, and four members from Temple Emanuel, along with Rabbi Krishef and Rabbi Schadick, made the decision to reimagine our school with new leadership for the fall of 2020. UJS was blessed to share in Hasia's love for Israel and her love of every child who came to learn.

Attendance at the United Jewish School is limited to children of members of Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel. Each congregation provides equal financial support of the school. The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids helps underwrite the school with a generous allocation each year, but it does not play any role in setting educational goals or policies. The board of the United Jewish School regularly reports back to the boards of both Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel.

Under the guidance of Rabbi Krishef and Rabbi Schadick, and the Board of the United Jewish School, plans are currently underway for the fall of 2020. Jewish families throughout West Michigan are invited to be a part of the school, through their support of either Congregation Ahavas Israel or Temple Emanuel.

CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

FACEBOOK: @CHABADWM | **PHONE:** 616-957-0770

EMAIL: CHABADWESTERNMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM

All events are subject to change. Please stay safe and reach out if there is anything we can do for you.

CHECK FACEBOOK @CHABADWM FOR VIRTUAL ZOOM LINKS AND PASSWORDS OR TEXT RIVKA AT 616.206.9654!

Gan Israel Day Camp – UPDATE:

NEW CAMP DATES: AUGUST 3RD - 14TH 2020

Please note: We are monitoring closely all updated CDC guidelines for camps and we will keep you posted! Stay tuned!

Camp Gan Israel is designed to make your child's summer vacation fun, stimulating and entertaining!

The Camp Gan Israel experience is a unique combination of Jewish pride and fun!

Kiddy Camp: Ages 3-5 | **Main Division:** Ages 6-10 | **Pre-Teen Division:** Ages 11-12

Space is limited due to COVID-19! Register today at Chabadwm.com/camp or call Rivka at 616.206.9654.

Virtual Torah & Tea

For the connection we all need right now.

A Torah Study for Woman with Nechamy Weingarten.

MONDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 966 6623 3600 Password: jwc

JLI Classes

Experience Jewish learning like never before.

JLI makes Jewish learning accessible & personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation.

TUESDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 915 0324 9816 Password: 180

Virtual Pre-Shabbat L'chaim

Let's connect and wish each other a "Shabbat Shalom" with spirits and spirituality.

Join us for a Virtual Pre-Shabbat L'chaim and Blessing

EVERY FRIDAY ON ZOOM AT 6:30PM

BYOL- Bring Your Own L'chaim

Meeting ID: 953 9501 4200 Password: 613

JWC ~ Virtual Challah Bake

THURSDAY, JULY 2ND ON ZOOM AT 7:30PM

Jewish Women's Circle invites you to join us for a virtual Challah bake - Corona edition! We'll explore the mystical meaning behind this beautiful Mitzvah and create some tantalizing, heavenly tasting Challah.

Social isolation will not hold us back from kicking back with a glass of wine (BYOB) and baking Challah together via zoom.



Zoom Meeting ID: 988 5803 1735 Password: 3636
Order a **Challah Kit** for **\$10** which will include all ingredients needed to follow along and make your own delicious challah at home. To order email, info@chabadwm.com by **Tuesday, June 30th, 12pm.**

Virtual CKids Club/Mini Chefs:
For Jewish boys & girls, ages 5-11
TUESDAY, JULY 14TH ON ZOOM AT 4:30PM

JTEXT AUCTION!!
SUNDAY, JULY 19TH ON ZOOM at 7:00PM
Win amazing prizes with your JText points and share some Jewish pride!!
Sponsorship available. Email Rivkahweingarten@gmail.com for more information.

Jewish Trivia Game for Adults in Western Michigan!!

It's new, it's fun, it's quick, it will stimulate your mind- and best part is?

YOU ARE COMPETING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS!

The 7th player to answer correctly will win a FREE bottle of Kosher wine delivered straight to your doorstep!

ARE YOU GAME? ---- Keep reading. HOW DOES IT WORK?

Sunday & Wednesday at 7:00PM SHARP you will receive TRIVIA question via text message!

Reply with the number you think is correct. The 7th participant to answer correctly wins!

It is amazing watching our community unite together to play, connect, and learn.

To Join: text "CHABADWM" to 616-207-1218!

JTEXT ~ JEWISH TRIVIA for Teens!
EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY AT 7:00PM.
Be the 7th to answer correctly and win a **\$20 AMAZON GIFT CARD** straight to your phone!

Are you a Jewish teen (grades 6-12) in West Michigan and would like to join?

Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218 to be let in on the fun!

Gan Yiladim Preschool – Kindergarten

New!! This upcoming 2020/2021 school year - We will be offering full day program option!!

Gan Yiladim is a licensed preschool for Jewish children ages 2-6 open to the entire Jewish community, regardless of background or affiliation.

For over 40 years, Gan Yiladim has been serving the Grand Rapids and nearby Jewish communities, offering a joyful and enriching educational experience to our students while fostering a love for their Jewish heritage.

Gan Yiladim takes the best of both worlds – secular and

Judaic – and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating.

The Gan believes in nurturing children with the SPICES of life - focusing on their Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, Emotional and Spiritual development.

Our students are given tools to find expression in art, music, dance and drama. Through teamwork and friendship-building, the children learn skills for life as they explore and play in a loving and nurturing environment, guided by experienced and dedicated staff.



Ahavas Israel Book Group

Our next meeting of the Ahavas Israel Book group will be on Monday, August 24, 7:00 p.m. for our discussion of "The Book of Israela" by Rena Blumenthal.

Jerusalem, 2002: the height of the second intifada. Kobi Benami is a middle-aged psychologist whose life is in shambles. His wife has thrown him out for his casual philandering; his daughter refuses to speak to him; and the new clinic director has placed him on probation for his indifferent work habits. As Kobi becomes ensnared in a surreal encounter with the anthropomorphized story of ancient Israel, he is forced to confront his own dysfunctional life patterns, his family's tragic past, and the endless war that rages around him.

~The book group will meet in person, if possible; otherwise, we will send out information to connect via zoom.

Please contact Sandy Freed for more information at 616-540-2030, sandyfreed2@gmail.com.

Shiva Asar B'Tammuz

The Fast of the 17th of Tammuz, a minor sunrise to sundown fast commemorating the breaching of the city walls of Jerusalem, takes place on Thursday, July 9.

Tisha B'Av

Tisha b'Av -- A day of Lamentations, mourning, and fasting for the destruction of the Temple and subsequent exiles of the Jewish people. Join us on:

Wednesday night, July 29, at 9:00 p.m., for Ma'ariv and the reading of the Biblical book of Eikha (Lamentations); Thursday morning, July 30, 7:00 a.m. (if we are not yet meeting in person, we'll begin at 9:00 a.m.) for morning minyan with special inclusions for Tisha B'Av. (Fast ends at approximately 9:07 p.m.)



Schmooze Over the News in July

Join the rabbi for a virtual discussion of news events of the day. In July the group will be meeting on Monday mornings at 11 AM. Come and chat with us.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88368647335?pwd=NGI0OTFuUWxCc2JRYXN0S0VZL0diUT09>

Meeting ID: 883 6864 7335 Password: Schmooze

Summer Torah Study

We will continue discussing our weekly Torah portion virtually, throughout the month of July. We meet from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. **There will be no class on Saturday, July 4.** Spend a little time studying with us this summer.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82110111186?pwd=cS9IS1ZxNkMrSjgWOUNPUFFOUjFDUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 1011 1186 Password: Parashah

July Shabbat Service Schedule

For the safety and well being of our members services will

continue to be live streamed from our sanctuary all month. Changes will be communicated through emails and our private Facebook Group.

- Friday, July 3--Red, White, and Blue Shabbat at 6:00 PM
- Friday, July 10--Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
- Friday, July 17--Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
- Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Friday, July 24--Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
- Torah will be read
- Friday, July 31--Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/795261435?pwd=NW9VSDRJTG9DaGVxS2RURFJqcTJUQT09>

Meeting ID: 795 261 435 Password: Challah18

Temple Emanuel Annual Meeting

We invite our entire congregation to join us for a virtual annual meeting on **Tuesday, July 28th at 7:00 PM**. We will discuss the business operations of the Temple, vote on a new slate of officers and board of trustees, and listen to your ideas and concerns about our congregation. A complete agenda, slate and proposals will be announced very soon!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84769623745?pwd=UkV6a1R6MXVNTWNqVHhmQWthRW5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6962 3745 Password: Since1857



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JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund

Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund

In Memory of Buddy Joseph

Sylvia M. Belfer

Sally Bloomberg

With love, JFGR Staff

Marcia Beutner

May Buddy's memory be a blessing

Marisa and Adam Reed

In honor of Buddy, may you find comfort in your memories.

Sheryl Friedman, Bethesda, MD

May your father's memory be a source of comfort.

Our hearts are with you.

Andrea and Paul Milstein

We are sorry for your loss. Buddy was indeed such a love and strength to your family.

Devera Gilden and Michael Brandes

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Love, Robin and Dan

In loving memory of Buddy Joseph.

Thomas Panitz

Buddy was an amazing person. We are sorry for your loss and thinking of you during this difficult time.

Mitchell Tobin

Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund

Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

Leven Family Endowment Fund

David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund

Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund

Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$10 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 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.

Charles 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.

Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund To help ensure funding for Jewish arts, culture and history in Greater Grand Rapids.

Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund To support health services for Jewish community members not covered by other financial resources.

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

A monthly publication issued 12 times a year.

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

Send article text to: info@JFGR.org
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Next Issue's Information Deadline:
July 15, 2020

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