



New Holocaust Memorial at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park *Generously Given by The Pestka Family*

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids has received a generous gift from the Pestka Family in memory of their father Henry, a Holocaust survivor, and the millions of other Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Henry Pestka was born in Poland, and deported to the Auschwitz death camp as a young man. Henry managed to escape during a death march, and joined the Free French in the fight against the Nazis. After the war ended, Henry immigrated to the United States and settled in Grand Rapids. The gift will be used to establish the first Holocaust memorial in Grand Rapids, to be located at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

The selected sculpture, by Israeli artist Ariel Schlesinger, is titled *Ways to Say Goodbye*. It is an exceptional work of contemporary sculpture dealing with themes of profound loss and grief, and will serve to memorialize the millions who perished in the Holocaust and the Holocaust survivors of Western Michigan.

About the Artist

Ariel Schlesinger (b. 1980, Jerusalem) reveals the poetry, poignancy and potential of everyday things. Through precise interventions, creative engineering and trompe l'oeil, Ariel Schlesinger's work challenges our perceptions and encourages us to look at the familiar in new ways.

Ariel Schlesinger has lived and worked in many parts of the world, including the United States, Great Britain, Mexico and Germany. He grew up in Israel and received his undergraduate degree at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, Israel's oldest and most prestigious art school. He graduated from Columbia University in New York with

(Continued on page 3)



*"Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is highly honored and very pleased to receive this significant and meaningful gift to acquire Ariel Schlesinger's monumental sculpture Ways to Say Goodbye. The sculpture will be dedicated in memory of Henry Pestka and the **six million Jews murdered** in the Holocaust and serve to promote peace. We are deeply grateful for this gift adding such an important work of art to our Permanent Collection. Our members and guests will forever benefit from this extraordinary gift."*

*- David Hooker, President & CEO
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park*

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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THANK YOU

**Thank you to our community for an amazing Campaign 2020.
This year was our most successful campaign yet, raising just over
\$477,000 from 303 donors.**

**A special THANK YOU to Chad Zagel, Campaign Chair and JFGR Board member,
for his time and dedication to making Campaign 2020 a great success!**



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



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a Master's in Fine Arts. Ariel Schlesinger has had many notable exhibitions in Austria, Cuba, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Slovenia and Switzerland. In 2019 he received a prestigious commission for a public sculpture outside of the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt, Germany. Ariel Schlesinger and his work have been written about in books and notable publications.

Ways to Say Goodbye

Ways to Say Goodbye is a twenty-foot-tall aluminum cast of a fig tree that has shards of glass woven among the branches. Ariel Schlesinger takes an organic form that is a metaphor of both the Jewish people and their history. The aluminum cast sculpture is of a real fig tree in Italy, which was found in a parched, desolate landscape. This tree was specifically chosen by Schlesinger as representative of the Jewish struggle for survival both during and after the Holocaust. The

"As time goes on and memories of the Holocaust fade, it is important to remember the barbarity human beings are capable of. It is equally important to contemplate the strength of the survivors and their ability to continue and rebuild their lives. It is our hope that this work of art will promote an appreciation of our shared humanity and a reminder that hatred and intolerance continue to this day and the consequences of the ultimate dehumanization of human beings."

-- Steve Pestka

tree appears fragile, clinging to life, however it is also representative of great endurance.

Ariel Schlesinger has commented that in conceptualizing the sculpture, he held pieces of broken glass in his hands that pressed into his fingers. This recalled the Kristallnacht, or *Night of Broken Glass*. The Kristallnacht was the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust, during which Nazi mobs murdered Jews and destroyed Jewish property and synagogues throughout Germany. Ariel Schlesinger transferred this concept to the sculpture by embedding the glass shards into the branches of the tree, representing the near annihilation of the Jewish people in a few short years.

Meijer Gardens and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids envision *Ways to Say Goodbye* as a gathering place for the Jewish community of Grand Rapids. The sculpture will be an excellent teaching tool for educators both locally and nationally to address the Holocaust and its legacy.

The Meijer Gardens, Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids and the Finkelstein Brothers Fund plan to work together on developing interpretive elements that tell

the story of the Holocaust from the perspective of the Grand Rapids Jewish community. The Finkelstein Archives are in the process of creating a new website about the Holocaust survivors who settled in Western Michigan. In addition, *Ways to Say Goodbye* will be part of the Meijer Gardens tram tour,

providing an excellent opportunity to build awareness and understanding amongst visitors. Over 750,000 people from around the world visit Meijer Gardens each year, and we hope that this will equate to 750,000 opportunities to teach about the Holocaust and prevent tragedies in the future. Thank you to the Finkelstein Brothers, Mort, Ed and Raleigh. A special thank you to Peg and Kay Finkelstein.

We look forward to the installation being completed within the next year and will keep the community updated with new details and community events surrounding the project.

Thank you again to the Pestka Family, Linda, Alissa, Stephanie, Steve, Alicia and Nathan, for this incredible gift to our community.

*"The memorial has important significance to my family because our father was a survivor. The numbers **73847** are numbers that we will never forget. They were tattooed to my father's forearm, as though he were an animal, as identification for his potential death. It is our duty to educate, respect and honor the victims and their families of the unthinkable acts against life and morality. The Holocaust did happen. Holocaust deniers are reporting false and harmful information. Anti-semitism and other hate crimes are on the rise. The Meijer Garden Memorial will allow hundreds of thousands of people to become educated and aware of the atrocities against humanity. May we never forget."*

--Linda Pestka





The Life & Legacy of Henry Pestka

by Steve Pestka



Henry Pestka as a young man.

Henry Pestka rose to overcome great adversity to become a pillar of the Grand Rapids Jewish community. Henry Pestka was born in Poland, July 29, 1922 and died on February 15, 2013. He was the son of Saul and Marie Pestka. Saul was a builder and developer who taught his son his craft. After the Nazi occupation of Poland,

Henry was interned in a number of concentration camps, including the notorious Auschwitz Death Camp.

In 1944 Henry and two other prisoners escaped during a forced death march, and were found by members of the Free French Army. Henry joined the Polish Battalion of the Free French Army. He had the unique distinction of being not only one of the few survivors of Auschwitz Death Camp, but also a decorated combat veteran of the Allied Cause in the Second World War. Tragically, both of his parents and siblings perished. Henry was the only survivor.

In 1946, at the urging of his only living relatives, Henry immigrated to the United States and settled in Grand Rapids, MI. When Henry arrived, he could not speak English. He enrolled in night classes at Union High School and was given employment by a friend of his father's from Poland.

In 1948, Henry married Beatrice Bergman. Prior to their marriage, Henry had started working at Bergman Auto Supplies, selling auto parts and installing seat covers. In the late 1950s, Henry and his partner,

Herman Bergman began purchasing and developing property using the lessons gleaned by his father as a boy in Poland. For over 40 years, Henry developed shopping centers, office buildings, restaurants, apartment complexes, and industrial buildings. He worked with major companies, both in the Grand Rapids area and across the United States.

Henry's greatest achievement was his tenure as building chairman for Congregation Ahavas Israel. He devoted a year of his life to the project

and served without fee. In 1971, the structure was completed. Henry was honored by the Grand Rapids mayor and the entire congregation. In the foyer of the synagogue is a mural depicting the 6 million innocent victims of Nazi genocide. Henry's philanthropy is legendary. His life has become a testament to overcoming horrific adversity and prevailing. May his memory be for a blessing.



Henry Pestka in his office with some of the articles on his personal history.

Steve Pestka is an attorney, a former state legislator, and circuit court judge who currently works at the family business. Steve has been married over thirty years to Alicia, a former elementary school principal who now also works at the family business. Their son Nathan is an attorney who works at the family business.



Henry and his wife Beatrice Pestka.

The text was written for:
Congressional Record
Proceedings and Debates of the 104th Congress,
Second Session
Volume 142, No 106
Washington, Thursday, July 18, 1996



Official Signing Ceremony between the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids: Commissioning Ariel Schlesinger Sculpture, *Ways to Say Goodbye*



A.



B.



C.



D.

A. From left to right: Rob Franciosi, Marni Vyn, Rick Stevens, Nicole Katzman, Claude Titche, Linda Pestka, John Clarke, Steve Pestka, Alicia Pestka, Nathan Pestka, Dan Hurwitz, Jochen Wierich, David Hooker, and Dawn Kibben.

B. Nicole Katzman and Linda Pestka

C. Marni Vyn Giving a Toast

D. David Hooker and Dan Hurwitz



Questions, Not Answers

by Rob Franciosi



Rob Franciosi

When installed at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Ariel Schlesinger's "Ways to Say Goodbye" will honor those Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives in West Michigan, while also remembering the millions who perished. A site

of commemoration and education, the sculpture will prompt conversations about memory, about art's role in confronting historical trauma, about the challenges and lessons of remembering events perpetrated long ago and far away.

And those who encounter "Ways to Say Goodbye" may very well pose a more fundamental question: how does this sculpture represent the Holocaust?

Of course, it is far too early to speculate, as the piece must be contemplated in person and, most importantly, within the context of its setting. A glory of the Meijer Gardens is that large sculptures have room to breathe, allowing them to speak to us in ways that embrace both space and time. What will Ariel Schlesinger's piece say on a cold winter evening? Or set amidst autumn's rich colors? How will it speak to us during a public commemoration, or when contemplated in solitude? Right now, we can only imagine these scenarios, though my anticipation grows as I type.

While awaiting the piece's arrival and installation, however, we can begin to examine the larger issues of Holocaust representation it will inevitably raise, particularly the debate between abstract and figurative art. Within the art world this is not much of a debate, as the successful revolt against formalism that began in the early twentieth century means that a large public sculpture today is more likely to evoke the Calder stabile in Grand Rapids than Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, Maya Lin's Vietnam War Memorial than the Civil War Monument on Monroe Center.

A tradition of heroic figurative statuary remains, as evidenced by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC, or the many Community Legends Project statues scattered across Grand Rapids. And perhaps the most noteworthy sculptural response to the Holocaust is a piece which draws power from its



Warsaw Ghetto Monument

classical roots. Dedicated just five years after the 1943 uprising, Nathan Rapoport's "Warsaw Ghetto Monument," which centers on the Jewish Fighting Organization's leader Mordechai Anielewicz, looms large in the cultural memory of both Israel and Poland. Yet it has been mostly ignored by art critics. "I did not want to represent resistance in the abstract," the sculptor recalled in 1986, "it was not an abstract uprising. It was real."

Rapoport knew that by 1986 works commemorating the Holocaust had moved away from such explicitly figurative forms. I can think of several reasons for this shift: rejection of a Soviet-era style in which even camp survivors were depicted as brawny, worker-heroes; a radical change in post-war artistic taste; a desire among some religious Jews to avoid "graven images"; and perhaps most importantly, a realization that the event's immensity could not be conveyed with only a few human figures.



Berlin Monument

Despite my sympathy for Rapoport's position, I am also reminded of the vehemence with which the Nazis



themselves had rejected artistic abstraction, which they attributed to Jewish influence and labelled as “degenerate art” (*Entartete Kunst*). To commemorate the Holocaust using the artistic weapons most loathed by the Nazis, then, seems to me especially appropriate. I’m ambivalent regarding Berlin’s massive “Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe,” but its employment of an aesthetic that would have been anathema to Hitler seems one of its greatest virtues.

And in thinking about Ariel Schlesinger’s piece, which uses a casting of a tree, I am reminded of work by Samuel Bak. A child prodigy in the Vilna Ghetto, his work today certainly engages contemporary aesthetics, though he also uses nature’s forms to contemplate humanity’s crimes.

Asked about the title of his piece, Ariel Schlesinger expressed a fascination with “how



Samuel Bak

one thing can be seen in different ways,” as well as a hope that the words—and presumably his sculpture—might provoke more questions than answers. At a time when dialogue is so often absent from our culture, this is a most welcome sentiment.

Rob Franciosi is a professor of English and Honors at GVSU where he teaches courses on the Holocaust and American Literature. Rob welcomes questions or comments about his article. You may contact him at francior@gvsu.edu

Save the Date!

JFGR virtual ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, June 9 at 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93190050556?pwd=dElkdKZON0ZyaEc5cVZRMUp0RFVnZz09>

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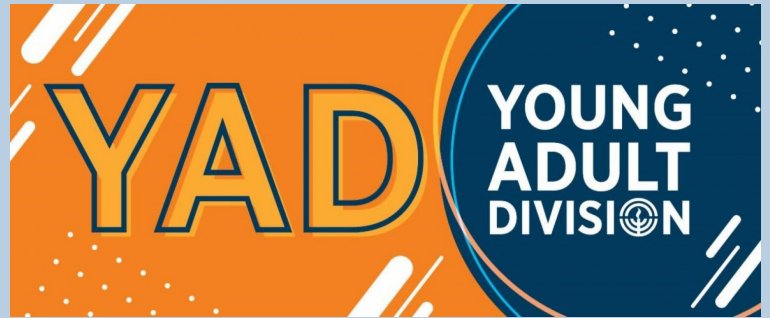


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Young Adult Division (YAD) Interest Form

JFGR is in the process of updating our database. We are interested in hearing from you and making certain we have your correct contact information. If you are in your 20s and 30s and want to participate in future YAD programs, please fill out the survey. Thanks!

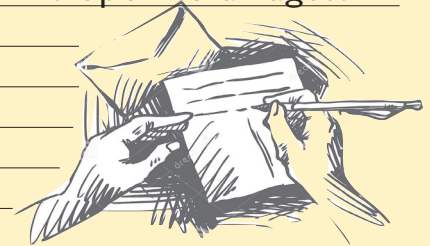


<https://forms.gle/jbLflveBiv6TteHp9>

Community Pen Pal Program

Would you like to have a pen pal? The Federation wants to bring people in the community together through letter writing. This is a unique way to connect with people and show them that you care. This program is open to all ages! We hope you participate and make a new friend.

If you are interested in sending or receiving a letter, contact: julianna@jfgr.org or call the Federation at (616) 942-5553.



New Jerusalem

The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656

by David Ives

June 9, 10, 12 & 13

Live outdoor performance at Temple Emanuel,
1715 E. Fulton Grand Rapids

Bring your own chair & picnic at 6 pm. Show starts at 7.
Tickets: \$18. Online at: jtgr.org





Community Collaboration: *Voices in Support of the Jewish Community Collaboration*

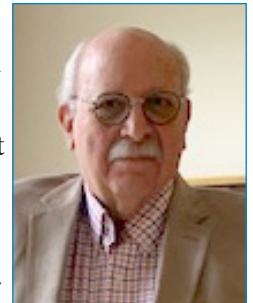
When I purchased my recent multi-million dollar lottery ticket, a friend asked, "What would you do with your winnings if you were to win?" My answer was almost immediate! "A significant portion would go to Alzheimers and Diabetes research, since many whom I love are affected by these diseases. An equally significant amount would go into an endowment to ensure that the emerging Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel and United Jewish Community campus and its programs have their budgetary needs met for the foreseeable future.

I didn't have a winning ticket. No surprise. But, with countless others I am feeling the growing pains of a newly revitalized Grand Rapids Jewish community.

When our congregations combined religious schools in 2006 and created Sefer B'Yachad, we experienced the power and promise of *Yachad-Together*. It was then and is now - a gift to our children and to their children. A United Jewish campus, with two congregations sharing holy spaces, two Rabbi's sharing ideas, and a Cantor/Educator filled with exuberance and a desire to share and grow with all of us. This is a M'Chayah! A rich, rich life experience.

I didn't win the State Lottery. Yet, with community

collaboration, we are winning a spiritual windfall that portends only good. I never really expected to win 30 million dollars and I don't expect that our United Jewish campus will be without some bumps and grumps. Some say we will have to address issues as they arise: I prefer to say, "There will be expected and unexpected growing pains, but consider how much stronger we, all of us, will become together.



Rabbi Al Lewis

As an aging man, one of my dreams is to worship in the two sanctuaries in one building, in the Holy Place we all call *ours*.

Shirley and I are committed spiritually, emotionally and financially to this *Chayeem Chadashim-New Life!*

May we all go from strength to strength in health and deepest inner peace.

With respect and admiration for all who have brought us to this day.

Dr. Albert Micah Lewis, Rabbi Emeritus
Congregation Emanuel

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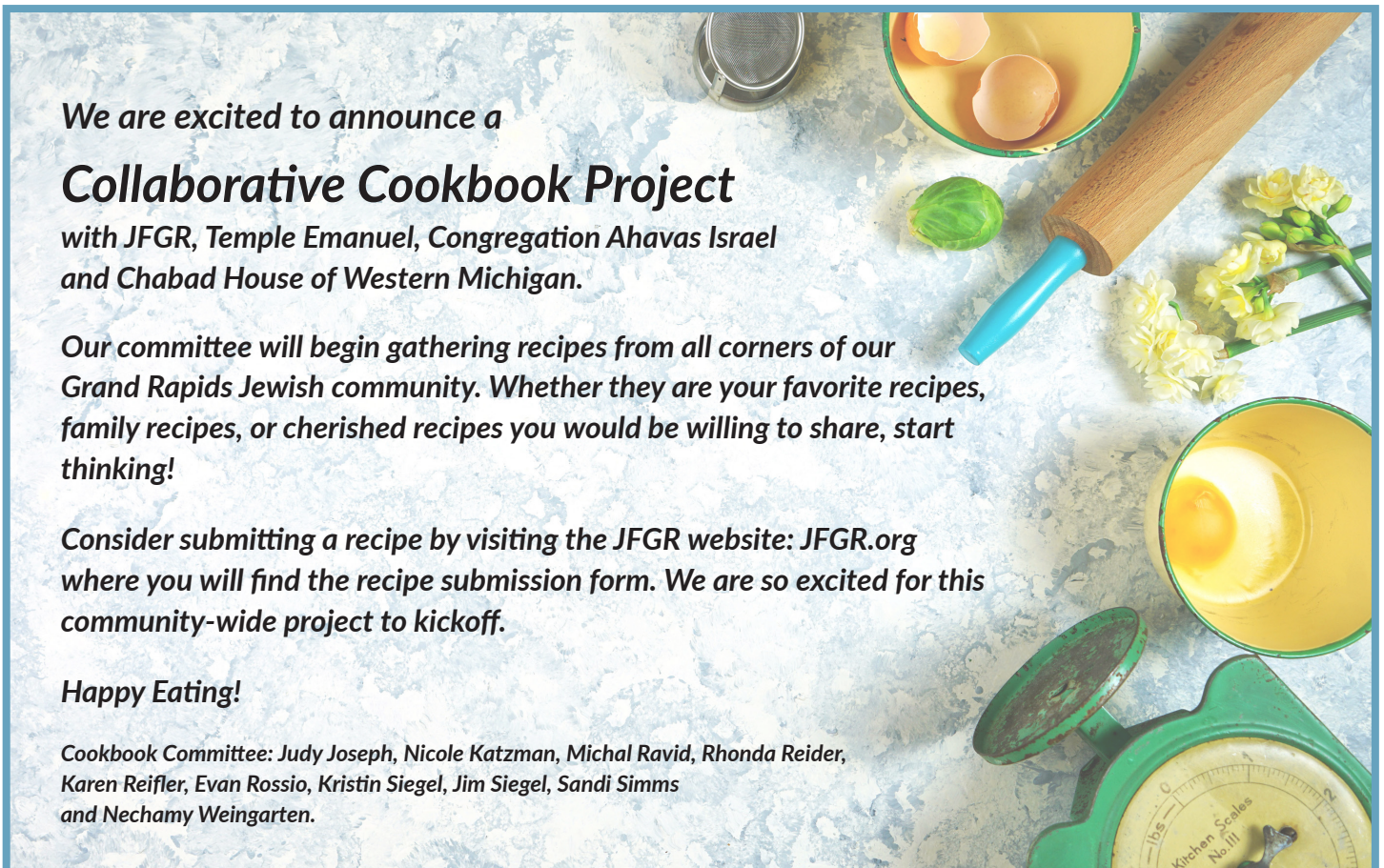
with JFGR, Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel
and Chabad House of Western Michigan.

Our committee will begin gathering recipes from all corners of our
Grand Rapids Jewish community. Whether they are your favorite recipes,
family recipes, or cherished recipes you would be willing to share, start
thinking!

Consider submitting a recipe by visiting the JFGR website: JFGR.org
where you will find the recipe submission form. We are so excited for this
community-wide project to kickoff.

Happy Eating!

Cookbook Committee: Judy Joseph, Nicole Katzman, Michal Ravid, Rhonda Reider,
Karen Reifler, Evan Rossio, Kristin Siegel, Jim Siegel, Sandi Simms
and Nechamy Weingarten.





Financial Focus

529 plans: More versatile than ever

By Chad Zagel, CFP®, AAMS®, JFGR Board Member

If you have children or grandchildren, you may already be somewhat familiar with the 529 plan, a popular education savings vehicle. But you may not have kept up with some recent changes in the plan's capabilities and in the educational environment in which the plan might be used.

Let's start with the learning environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, colleges and universities switched to online classes, or at least to a hybrid of in-person and online. And even before the pandemic, many schools offered remote classes, though obviously not to the same extent. But after COVID-19 subsides, it's likely that the online component will remain an important part of higher education. What does this "new world" mean for you, when you're saving for college? Will a 529 plan still be relevant?

In a word, *yes*. First of all, a 529 plan can offer tax advantages. Earnings in a 529 plan are federally tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified educational expenses. And if you invest in your own state's 529 plan, your contributions may be tax deductible. (Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal and state taxes as well as a 10% penalty.) Because tax issues for 529 plans can be complex, you'll want to consult with your tax advisor before investing.

Online learning costs are eligible for a 529 plan's tax benefits just as much as those incurred from in-person classes. Tuition, textbooks, supplies, computers and services – all of these should qualify, assuming the school meets certain criteria. Also, students enrolled half-time or more don't have to live in a dorm for



room and board expenses to be covered by a 529 plan – they can live in off-campus housing. However, these room-and-board costs typically must equal the cost of living on campus. Some schools identify a specific cost for "commuters" or "at-home students," so you will need to contact the college directly to determine qualified room-and-board costs.



Chad Zagel
JFGR Board Member

Now, let's take a quick look at what some changes in the rules governing 529 plans over the past few years might mean for you. Eligible expenses from your 529 plan include the following:

- **K-12 expenses** – Parents can withdraw up to \$10,000 per student, per year, from their 529 plan to pay for tuition expenses at elementary and secondary schools. So, if you intend to send your children to a private school, this use of a 529 plan might interest you.
- **Apprenticeships** – 529 plans can be used to pay for fees, textbooks, equipment and other supplies connected to apprenticeship programs registered with the Department of Labor. These programs, typically offered at a community college, combine classroom instruction with on-the-job training.
- **Student loans** – Families can withdraw funds from a 529 plan to repay the principal and interest for qualified education loans, including federal and most private student loans. There's a lifetime limit of \$10,000 for student loan repayments per each 529 plan beneficiary and another \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings.

All of these newer uses of 529 plans may contain additional guidelines and exceptions, and state tax treatment varies, so you'll want to consult with your tax advisor before taking money from your account. But it's valuable for you to know the different ways you can put a 529 plan to work.

Chad Zagel, CFP®, AAMS®, is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, a University of Michigan graduate, and in his free time, Chad enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering.



JFGR Staff Updates

My name is Evan Rossio and I am the new Campaign Director for JFGR as of May 2021. I have lived in East Grand Rapids for 27 years along with my wife Julie, daughter Emily, son Jordan and Hannah, his fiancée. My family has always been involved in Jewish organization work whether as board members, youth group advisors, or volunteers, and I look forward to continuing that work with JFGR. We are fortunate to have a vibrant, active Jewish community in Grand Rapids and I eagerly anticipate serving you in a professional and personal capacity.

I am a recently retired attorney, having practiced law or worked in related fields since 1988. In my free time I enjoy spending time with family and friends. If I'm not in the office, you can usually find me in the kitchen cooking, drinking coffee and reading the New York Times, or walking around Reeds Lake with Julie.

For those of you I have not met, I look forward to getting to know you, and for those friendships we have cultivated over the years, it will be a privilege to serve you in this new role. Do not hesitate to contact me at JFGR if there is anything I can do for you.



Evan Rossio



*Arad Okanin
Campaign Coordinator*

Hi, my name is Arad Okanin, and I have recently finished my first year at Grand Valley State University where I am studying Computer Science. I am officially a sophomore!

Due to my rigorous college schedule, my role at Federation has changed. I am now working as an administrative assistant and IT specialist. I have been maintaining and updating our website with new content and events, managing our social media pages, and managing our donor database. Furthermore, I support the entire office with any technology needs. I am proud to work for the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, and I look forward to seeing our community grow this year.

Thank you!



Julianna Schrier

Shalom! My name is Julianna Schrier and you know me as the Community Connector.

I will be expanding my role at Federation, helping to coordinate and develop outreach and engagement initiatives. I will be responsible for managing the PJ Library program, Shalom Baby and Welcome to Grand Rapids. In addition to my position as Community Connector, I will be working as the Outreach and Engagement Coordinator.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve you and our community. If you have any social service needs, want to enroll in the PJ Library program or have any exciting ideas for programming, please get in touch with me!



Women Unite - Hiking Club



Women Unite
Hiking Group

Join us for our second community women's hike on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 9am.

Hike duration: 2 hours

All athletic abilities are welcome & snacks will be provided.



Terrain: Well-marked forest trails. Low-intensity.

Location to meet:
550 Lakeside Dr, SE | East Grand Rapids
(Next to Rose's restaurant)

What to bring: water bottle, a good pair of sneakers, camera (if that's your thing)

Please RSVP to Sandi Simms by June 10th
Email: sandi@simmselectronics
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Stephanie's clients know that they are her top priority. She has lived in Ada and East Grand Rapids over the past 27 years and is your local expert willing to share her knowledge and expertise about the Greater Grand Rapids area. Her professionalism, attention to detail, and pride in her work ensures each client receives the height of service. Stephanie prides herself on being efficient, knowledgeable, and responsible while going above and beyond any expectations her clients have. She was selected as one of *Grand Rapids Magazine's* **REAL ESTATE ALL STARS** for 2019 which recognizes the top 5% of real estate agents in the greater Grand Rapids area. Stephanie helps both buyers and sellers achieve their real estate goals and specializes in everything from modest living spaces to luxury homes.

Call Stephanie today and let her help you make your real estate goals a reality.



Fairy Gardens, A Creative Activity for Children and Adults!

By Nicole Katzman, Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

A fun and stimulating project to do with children or adults is creating a fairy garden. They are very easy and inexpensive to make. Take any large container and fill it with dirt, add rocks and mulch for texture



Linda Pestka's grandchildren, Henry and Ella, with their completed fairy gardens.

and design. Local craft stores sell miniature accessories for the garden like houses, ponds, trees and other objects to decorate with. They also sell gnomes and fairies to place in the garden. After the container is filled with dirt, arrange the objects in a way that's aesthetically pleasing. Let your creative energy take over! After you've placed the objects sprinkle with glitter so your garden will glisten in the sunshine.



Lindsey Katzman, age 15, fairy garden.

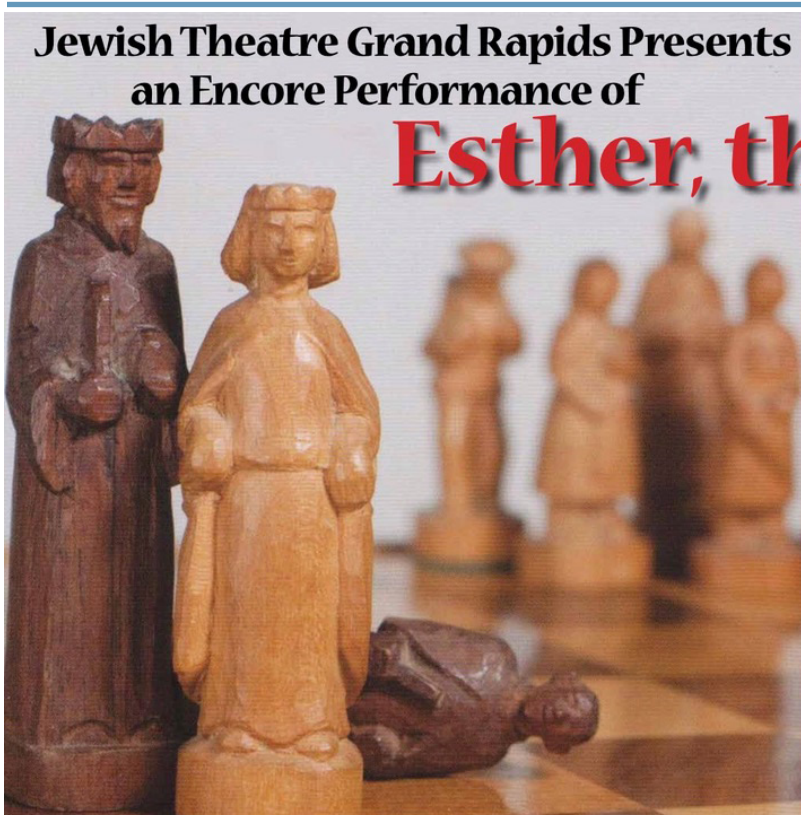
For more information on making your very own fairy garden, contact Nicole Katzman, Executive Director at nicole@jfg.org

Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids Presents
an Encore Performance of

Esther, the Musical

Thanks to the generosity of the playwright, Lori Jacobs, a video of the 2006 Jewish Theatre performance will be available for Free from May 15th to June 15th.

Go to jtgr.org/free
to get your free
access code.





Film Festival Wrap-up

Dafna Kaufman, JFGR Film Consultant

As our Grand Rapids Living Room Series came to a close on May 8th, the film festival committee would like, once again, to thank our generous sponsors listed below for making this year's festival possible!

This year's film festival offered, in partnership with the Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival, a Grand Rapids festival-within-a-festival, featuring five films and one live event. On this new platform in a new format, we had 100+ film "purchases" (each could have been one or more than one viewer) of the five films and roughly 50 live household participants in the Shai Avivi event—for which he was gracious enough to be with us at 3:30 AM Israel time!

The enthusiastic responses from many of our viewers are very much appreciated, especially considering the needed patience and understanding as our partnered festival worked through some unforeseen technical challenges.

We would also like to remind everyone that, if you did not have the opportunity to join the live program with the Israeli lead actor of Here We Are during the festival, the recording of it is still accessible via the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhhmTZNws0Y>



Dafna Kaufman

Producer (\$250)

William Boorstein
Sheila and Jeff Frank
Bradley Friedland
Rick Hay
Mark Leven
Sharon Maskin
Linda Pestka
Jerome P. Subar Foundation
Lanny Thodey

Actor (\$100)

James Flood
Tom Fox
Karen Sitron Haight
Diane Hammerman
Bluma Herman
Lori Jacobs
Michael & Roberta Jacobson
Judith Joseph
Mary Kaneti
Marisa Krishef
Chuck & Nancy Olender
Kris Siegel
Rick & Mary Stevens
Barbara Wepman
Barbara Wynn
Chad & Elenora Zagel

Fan (\$50)

Joel and Madelon Krissoff
Leven Family Foundation
Lesley Mayer
Mort Zuckerman

*We hope to see everyone in person at our
24th film festival next year!*





MARK JESIN, DDS



A.J. LYTLE, DDS



KEEP MICHIGAN SMILING

Mark L. Jesin, DDS

A.J. Lytle, DDS

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On Sunday, April 25, 2021, Hasia and Dan Monselise parked their falafel truck at Temple Emanuel after Hebrew school. They sold hummus and pita, drinks, and fresh falafel. Many UJS families enjoyed lunch, and some additional community members joined in for the delicious food.

Thank you Hasia and Dan for offering a tasty lunch to the community!



Delicious Challah Recipe

Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR

- 1 ½ c lukewarm water, divided
- 2 ¼ t active dry yeast
- 1 t sugar
- 1 egg
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/3 c honey or Lyle's Golden Syrup
- 2 T neutral oil
- 2 t salt
- 4 ½ - 6 c bread flour

Egg wash: 1 egg, 1 T cold water, 1/2 t salt



Evan Rossio



Pour ¼ c of the water into a mixing bowl or Kitchen-Aid mixer bowl. Add yeast and 1 t sugar and stir. Let yeast activate for 10 minutes.

Add remaining water, eggs, honey/golden syrup, oil and salt, and whisk. Add flour ½ c at a time and knead by hand, or for 10 minutes in the mixer.

Rest in covered bowl for 10 minutes and knead another 5 minutes. Grease another large bowl with oil and add the dough ball, making sure to oil all sides.

Proof for 1 hour and punch down.

Proof for another hour, punch down and turn out onto a floured counter. Knead until dough is no longer sticky. Braid and place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, cover with a towel and let rise for another 40 minutes while preheating the oven to 350 degrees.

Brush with egg wash, add any toppings if desired, and bake 20 minutes.

Remove and brush the center of the braids with another thin coat of egg wash and add more toppings if desired, turn sheet and bake another 20 minutes. Cool on wire rack.



CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

WEBSITE: WWW.CHABADWM.COM | FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: @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

Sign your child up for a Jewish summer experience of a lifetime!

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!

DATES: **JUNE 21ST - JULY 2ND 2021 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

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

Teen Division: Ages 11-12

Register online at Chabadwm.com/camp

For more info, please contact Rivka at **616-206-9654** or email us at campganisraelgr@gmail.com

WEEKLY VIRTUAL TORAH & TEA

For the connection we all need right now.

A Torah Study for ladies with Nechamy.

MONDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 966 6623 3600 Password: jwc

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 in grades 6-12 that lives in West Michigan and would like to join?! Text "CTEENGR" to **616-207-1218** to be let in on the fun!

JEWISH TRIVIA GAME FOR ADULTS IN WESTERN MICHIGAN!!

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!

Every **SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY AT 7:00PM SHARP** you will receive a 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!

GAN YILADIM PRESCHOOL – KINDERGARTEN

Gan Yiladim is a licensed preschool for Jewish children ages 2-5 open to the entire Jewish community, regardless of background or affiliation.

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.

We take the best of both worlds – secular and Judaic – and blend 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.

For more information or to schedule a tour call Sarah at 616-375-9404.



Congressman Peter Meijer

Please join us for an evening (via Zoom) with Congressman Peter Meijer, hosted by Ahavas Israel and the Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC (JCRC/AJC) – Detroit on Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. The program will include updates from the representative on the latest from Washington, D.C., as well as a chance for him to hear about issues of importance to the Jewish community. Click here to register: <https://bit.ly/3bsj2eb>.

Mazal Tov to our Graduates!

Willow Cook (Hudsonville High School) Willow plans to attend Eastern Michigan University in the Fall. Everyone is invited to her Graduation Open House on Sunday June 27 from 12 to 4 at 3478 Perry St, Hudsonville MI 49426. This is an outside event with Covid-friendly catering.

Arend Vyn (East Grand Rapids High School) Arend plans to attend the University of Michigan in the Fall.

Mazal Tov!

Rabbi Krishef will receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary at a convocation ceremony on Sunday, June 6, 2021, 1:00 EDT. The degree recognizes distinguished members of the rabbinate for their more than 25 years of service. The congregation is invited to attend the virtual ceremony Register at this link: <https://inspired.jtsa.edu/event/jts-rabbinic-convocation-spring-2021/e337730>.

Save the Date

Cantor Stuart Rapaport is retiring after the Fall Holidays. Please mark your calendars for a special celebration of his 45 years at Ahavas Israel and his last Shabbat as Cantor on Saturday, October 2. The service will be followed by a luncheon.



June Service Schedule

Weather permitting, all of our Friday Night Services will be held outside, under the carport in the front of our building

Friday, June 4
Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM

Saturday, June 5
Bar Mitzvah of Eitan Hefer at 10:00 AM
Eitan is the son of Heather and Hod Hefer

Friday, June 11
Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM

Saturday, June 12
Bar Mitzvah of Ezra Fechtner at 10:00 AM
Ezra is the son of Mei Mah and Dan Fechtner

Friday, June 18
Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM

Saturday, June 19
Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Meisner at 10:00 AM
Olivia is the daughter of Kelly and Randy Meisner

Friday, June 25
Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
June Birthdays & Anniversaries
Hot Dog Barbecue Following

Worship Outside with Us

We are so excited to welcome our members back to in-person services. June has some of the nicest weather of the entire year. Come outside and celebrate Shabbat with us.

We will be holding our Friday night services under the carport in the front of the Temple.

Services begin at 6:00 PM.

For those members who are either not comfortable joining us in person or who are not able we will continue to stream these live.

Food Bank Update

The food bank, for the time being, is continuing to operate using a drive through model. Your strong support of the program has allowed us to provide our clients with staples, frozen meat and fresh produce. Regular distribution takes place on the third Wednesday of the month with emergency

distribution available on an as needed basis. Thank you for helping our community fulfill the commandment to feed the hungry.

Community Gardening

The gardening crew at Ahavas Israel's Corners of the Field Garden invites gardeners of all ages and abilities to join us on Sunday mornings for an hour or two of planting, weeding, and harvesting. So far this year we have had two harvests of collards for the food bank. Bring some water, wear a hat. We will provide tools and guidance. The time that we meet depends on the weather and can be found at mcubed4300@gmail.com. See you in the garden.

Your Opinion Matters & Brunch

We are back in person on Sunday June 13th 10:00 Temple Emanuel.

Enjoy a full brunch or just nosh. See how your friends look in person and catch up with others. For those who haven't come before this is a great time to give it a try. We try to expand your understanding of various topics by inviting everyone to broaden the discussion of important topics and not just repeat the same mantras over and over like the media does.

This Month's topic is optimism or, if you prefer, pessimism. Where has optimism served you well or badly? Where has pessimism served you well or badly?

RSVP to Jim Siegel at jims@siegeljewelers.com so he knows how much food to cook.

Do You Need a Ride?

Doctors appointment, grocery store or pharmacy? Let us take you where you want to go.

Contact the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids at **616.942.5553** to schedule, all rides need 24 hour advance notice.
Hours of service: 8am to 8pm

Thank you to the generosity of the Ravitz Foundation for this service to the Grand Rapids Jewish community.





PJ Library®

Bring Jewish stories home

The PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids now has 120 children enrolled with 83 families. To enroll in PJ Library call or email.

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Judith Joseph's great granddaughter, Beverly, playing with her new Torah toy.



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Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund

In honor of Morah Nicole Katzman

Thank you for being a wonderful, creative and flexible 2nd grade teacher for my daughter. We are very grateful.
from Abigail Billington

Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund

Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

In honor of Sue Douglas

Wish you a speedy recovery
from Toby Dolinka

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

In honor of my wife, Donna

It has been ten years since her passing.
May her memory be for a blessing.
from Bill Boorstein

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

Fox Family Fund

The Finkelstein Brothers 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.

Fox Family Fund To ensure that the PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, for children ages 6 weeks- 12 years old, remains in the Western Michigan community and to provide high-quality educational children's programs.

The Finkelstein Brothers Fund Mort, Raleigh and Edward's commitment to educate the residents of Michigan about the Jewish families that settled in West Michigan during the mid 1800s through community events and educational programs.

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
Phone: 616.942.5553
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Next Issue's Information Deadline:
June 15, 2021

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Thank You!



Linda, Steve, Alicia and Nathan Pestka