



Shavout Greetings from Nicole Katzman

JFGR Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

In recent weeks, I have limited my screen time and reduced my focus on the news. I admit to falling into the trap of getting information from multiple sites and gathering an eclectic array of varying stories in an attempt to piece together a version of the truth.

At our family dinner, we discuss current events and our opinions on what’s happening in the world. My husband jokingly calls me a “doomscroller”, a person who seeks out negative news. It is challenging to not hyper-focus on the current plagues of society, waves of crime, gun violence, a breakdown of our education system, race issues, war in Ukraine, COVID, extreme weather, privacy and reproductive rights, topped off with astronomical gas prices in a volatile economy.

In these tumultuous times, we see some light with the upcoming celebration of Shavuot, also known as the “feast of weeks” which begins on Saturday, June 4 and ends in the evening of Monday, June 6. Shavuot is a Jewish celebration that **gives thanks for the Torah**. Jewish people believe that the Torah is a guide for our lives. Shavuot remembers the time that G-d spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai and gave him the Ten Commandments and other laws more than 3,300 years ago. G-d gave us the Torah in order to lead us on our spiritual journey in this world. The commandments, a set of rules and a code of ethics are supposed to bring order and justice into our lives. It is the hope that these rules transcend us to higher spiritual beings.

The world is beset with what seems like chaos, and it is easy to get lost in the dilemmas that we face as a society. We should take the occasional break from our doomscrolling to ponder and celebrate the order that the Torah provides. Shavuot is a time to give thanks to the Lord for the gift of guidance and order.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy Shavout.

Chag Sameach!

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

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A Conversation with Ariel Schlesinger

By Rob Franciosi

“April is the cruellest month,” T.S. Eliot famously wrote, a line that came to me on a cold and rainy Friday when I walked the site where Ariel Schlesinger’s *Ways to Say Goodbye* is to be situated. The achingly slow Michigan spring presented a landscape that was muddy and colorless, which seemed appropriate to the disaster that *Ways to Say Goodbye* would commemorate.

These morose thoughts, however, soon yielded to others fueled by the still-lingering warmth of my encounter with the artist. Clad in a bright crimson coat—far too thin, I thought, for tromping the at Meijer Gardens site—Ariel Schlesinger at first glance seemed the typical New York artist. He had even just moved to Brooklyn, to live among all the other artists and writers, which I told him seemed like requiring new college students to live on campus. These surface impressions soon gave way, revealing a man who was



both engaging and gentle, interested in talking about his work, yes, but not in a way that sucks all the oxygen out of the room.

I so enjoyed our conversation that it seemed worthwhile to continue it in another form. We started out doing a back-and-forth e-mail exchange, but finally settled on a Zoom discussion. What follows is an amalgamation of the two exchanges and, I hope, an interesting prelude to the upcoming dedication of *Ways to Say Goodbye* on the last day of this month.

Your work for the Meijer Gardens of course evokes the trees that are represented at the entrance to the



Frankfurt Jewish Museum. Why trees? And, more particularly, why trees without leaves?

Trees are people, and people are trees. We all live in a forest and

socialize, it’s part of our nature. It was only obvious to me that a natural element like a tree will be a center that draws people together and starts a discussion around our past and future, together.

The reason not to sculpt the leaves is a choice both visual and practical, keeping the overall elements in the object as minimal as possible.

So, to pick up on your idea of a tree as a way of drawing people together to start a conversation, what kinds of discussion do you envision *Ways to Say Goodbye* fostering for those who see it at the gardens?

I see a discussion as open-ended, a start of a journey really. I can say something about how it stands straight and tall but holds in its hands and fingers sharp shattered glass, memories and ideas that seem to reflect pain on it. Another person can respond with their interpretation. I can’t control what they see in it. I think that’s the beauty of it. But I might learn something from them and maybe see it as well. We might even change each other’s perspective and hopefully learn something from the other. I think that’s the great power of looking and hearing.

The inclusion of glass shards in the branches of *Ways to Say Goodbye* will likely stimulate much conversation. Just as your joining of two trees outside the Frankfurt Jewish Museum was a provocative gesture, the entangling of glass in the Meijer Gardens tree seems to me equally compelling, particularly in a lush outdoor setting.



That’s very much a sculptural kind of decision. I always approach my work from two directions: one is the conceptual, but the other is very much about the material. I put as much importance into each of them. I’m not somebody whose ideas overcome the form, because I also very much enjoy experiencing art through the materials, through the human, physical connection that it makes. A lot of times I feel that



Rob Franciosi



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WAYS TO SAY GOODBYE
BY ARIEL SCHLESINGER

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Left to right: Nathan Pestka, Steve Pestka, Nicole Katzman, (Executive Director of Federation), Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Ashley Bensinger in East Grand Rapids, MI.



one can say the material overtakes the concept; but sometimes those two worlds come together and they actually help each other and make the experience of the sculpture stronger and bigger.

I feel that happens with the combination of the glass and the tree. The tree is made out of aluminum, and therefore nothing is actually alive or flexible or dynamic about it, other than the shape. And since it took almost the exact shape of the fig tree, with the surface and shape, maybe that's when the movement happens. It's so similar to a real tree that one almost loses the recognition that it's a dead object. The glass, then, the way it is trapped in the branches, also brings questions: what came first, was it in the tree from the start? or was it glass that fell into the tree? Once you see this tree up close, you will find that the joints between the glass and the aluminum cast are perfectly made. It almost feels as if the glass is cut into the branches. Or that over the years the tree grew around it, the way trees surround obstacles, such as a fence.

We have a tree in our yard which has grown around a metal post. I've thought about trying to pull it out, but realize that I can't. The two have become one object.

That's the reason, maybe, why this piece makes me think about memories and about experiences, and about catastrophes or even intentionally inflicted harm the tree may have felt in the past. And as we discussed earlier, those human pasts. That's why I think this sculpture can function as a memorial very well, because it's a tree that is there, it's standing, but it doesn't try to hide. It tries to live together with the catastrophe that it went through or the problem that it encountered. Even though it's very intimidating, because the glass is suspended in a very fragile way over our heads, it can also be optimistic because the tree stands there with a lot of pride.

I think it's really fascinating what you're doing, especially the ambiguity of the glass, and reminds me of the so-called survivor trees at the memorial sites in Oklahoma City and at the World Trade Center. In both instances single trees survived the catastrophe, severely damaged, yes, but still alive--and now still blooming, symbolizing a measure of human endurance in the face of disaster.

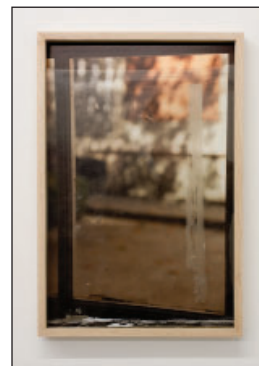
Trees also figure prominently in certain Holocaust memorials, in which a lost community is represented by one that



has been cut down. I have also seen photographs of trees growing through ruins of synagogues in Eastern Europe, images which temper the optimism of growth with an abject sense of loss and abandonment. And I have already heard some comments regarding the glass in *Ways to Say Goodbye* as perhaps representing *Kristallnacht*.

Yes, working with glass actually started with me, interestingly enough, through a series of works that are based on *Kristallnacht*. I think that's why I arrived at using glass a few years earlier before making this particular sculpture.

I was working a lot with shattered windows, breaking them and then gluing them together, and then photographing them. This was a response to art history in a way, being about the object and then the representation of the object. The way I worked was that after breaking the glass, putting it back together, and then installing it back in the window, I photographed the window—but the focus was not on what the window showed, inside or outside, but on the glass. Then, when I printed the photograph, I framed it using the broken glass. Finally, you have the object and you are



viewing the documentation of the object through that object. This was also a reference to the Charlie Chaplin movie, *The Kid*, in which he teams up with an orphan kid runs who around the neighborhood throwing rocks at windows. Chaplin then shows up to repair the glass That was another reference to the gallery or art world, where we are selling these broken windows. So, I was breaking the windows of the gallery space, reframing them, and then selling them.

But through that fascination with the broken, shattered glass, I actually did a series on *Kristallnacht*. Very similar, as I broke a mirror and then re-glued and reframed it, but I used found photos from *Kristallnacht*. In that series I introduced another element, which was the mirror. In some of those shattered pieces you could actually see the reflection of yourself. So, it was not any more the object and the representation of the object, but more involving the viewer in the work, to become





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part of the work. You see your reflection, as well as the mess of the *Kristallnacht* in a very blurry, black and white snap shot. By working with shattered glass, I discovered *how* to work with it—and that’s how I could use it in the tree.

Because I have a particular interest in the *stolperstein* project in Europe and will be in Berlin this fall for an installation, I was intrigued to discover your work with the form. The whole point of a *stolperstein* is to inscribe a person’s name and tie it to a specific place, yet you do something quite different, using blank stones and moving them to various sites, including an art museum in Münster, Germany. What drew you to those figures?



The whole point of a *stolperstein* is to inscribe a person’s name and tie it to a specific place, yet you do something quite different, using blank stones and moving

them to various sites, including an art museum in Münster, Germany. What drew you to those figures?

It started because I had been to Berlin and I’m Jewish, so my attention was naturally drawn to that memorial. And I immediately liked it very much, because I found it in a way very nonintrusive, but at the same time very present. I like things in the street because as an artist I was always collecting things in the street, so I was very aware of the public environment. I also liked that it

was kind of an empty space memorial, comparable to the one dedicated to the burned books in Berlin, a sort of anti-space. Since that was in my mind, after a few years I began to become very curious



about what was underneath in the ground. I did some more research and discovered that it is actually a cobblestone, a cube. I found that cube to be beautiful in itself, at least the combination of the material, and it led me to the idea of reproducing that block. What I wanted to show was that this can happen anywhere, this can happen to anybody, especially in thinking about living in Europe, thinking about migration and the forced displacement of people. I think it’s also about



being Israeli and thinking about what we as Israelis do to Palestinians.

The *stolperstein* project is placed centered, marking where a person once lived, but once you pull those

markers out, in essence putting them in the open air, then all that you mention is up for discussion.

Basically, I wanted to open it up to a memorial, to a work of art, that can move, like any kind of people, which also suggests that it can happen anywhere, being forced on people everywhere. I remember that it was during the big Syrian refugee crisis, and even before that the arrival in Europe of many migrants from Africa. I don’t remember what exactly was on the news at that time, but I do remember that that was my suggestion. That’s why the piece was kind of free, the arrangement more or less random. You could place these blocks anywhere, there was no code or instruction that I asked them to be placed in a certain way. That’s what you saw in an exhibition in Münster.



Your piece outside the museum in Frankfurt is located in a city with a rather small Jewish community, less than 1% of the city’s population, much like Grand Rapids. The vast majority of people who visit Meijer Gardens and see your piece will not be Jewish. What do you hope they will take away from the encounter?

I hope that they will see a work of art by the grandchild of a survivor and perhaps through accompanying text will see how that person experienced and translated the stories of his family and of his community. Of how he created his art and lived his life with those memories and with those stories. For me it’s a very personal process and maybe they can read it through me. I cannot teach them or say “this is how it happened,” because I was not there, and they weren’t, but I hope that the sculpture will open a sort of dialogue, to enrich their knowledge and their opinions.

The title *Ways to Say Goodbye* raises all sorts of questions about the idea of saying goodbye to the past, especially for the grandchild of Holocaust survivors. Mourning is not about being focused strictly on the past, after all, but on being able to move beyond it; not to forget, but not to be trapped by it. In that respect, a tree, though wounded in the past, promises growth in the future.

Just like the *stolpersteine*, we are offering an idea, a way of thought. I think it is much more effective to offer it rather than to point it out. I feel there are so many references within the piece: what trees represent in Judaism, the shattered glass of *Kristallnacht*, those memories, the title, who I am as an artist, the story of the Pestka family who sponsored the work. There are so many elements that I hope will create a space for discussion.



The Meijer Gardens site also brings the advantage of the four seasons. I'm especially looking forward to encountering *Ways to Say Goodbye* in the middle of the winter, when it's windswept and there's no one else around. But also seeing it in spring. And unlike your piece in the urban setting of the Frankfurt Museum, the space in the gardens will be natural, almost pastoral.

Yes, we tried to define that space using a concrete path, but the hilltop still encloses the piece, allowing it to blend in. While the plaza provides a place to sit down, to hang out, so you are close to it, under it, you are also away from it at the same time. I think it's true that the tree will live there among nature more than if it had been situated on cement, as in Frankfurt.

I find that a much more positive gesture than the massive memorial in the center of Berlin, which is both impressive yet excessive.

Yes, that sense of order. I like that memorial, but it's true that it offers less dialogue, I think, apart from being controversial, how it happened to be, as there were a lot of objections to it. I find the one where they burned the books much more interesting, because it is as if it is not there.



We're speaking now in early May and *Ways to Say Goodbye* will be dedicated at the end of June. What still needs to happen?

I will soon be there for the construction. The piece weighs two to three tons, but that's because of the

inside structure of the stainless steel, a very massive pipe. The aluminum itself is very light. And the glass weighs a lot as well. Structurally, aluminum cannot bear much weight, so they have to use proper steel piping for which they know the strength exactly, because the aluminum enclosure has no structural properties.

Are sculptors also engineers?

These days an artist just out-sources that work. There are very good fabricators, but of course you need to know what you ask of them and how to ask it. Sometimes what I'm interested in is maybe extending the possibilities, stretching what's possible. A lot of times it's those companies that take drawings from artists to build the piece. Today the life of the artist can be more one of directing, but I am really interested in the construction of things. For a lot of my more complicated works I start by doing prototypes to try to see if they work, and then maybe outsourcing them to a fabricator. In this case we did a lot of testing with a combination of aluminum and glass, so that it felt right with the material and how it is held together.

The sculptor is more the leader of a creative group than an engineer or fabricator.

Yes, the artist is a conductor.



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

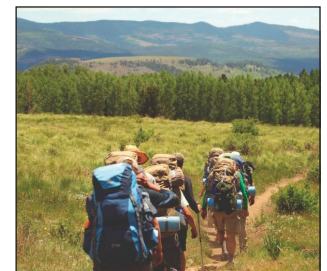


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Financial Focus

New opportunities for 529 plan owners

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



Chad Zagel JFGR
Board Member

If you want to provide educational opportunities for your children or grandchildren, you may want to consider investing in a 529 plan. In recent years, this plan has gotten more flexible, and potentially more powerful, than ever.

A key benefit of a 529 plan is that earnings are generally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified educational expenses. As the owner of the plan, you can essentially name any beneficiary you want, and you're free to change the beneficiary as needed. Contribution limits are quite high, so you can put away considerable sums in a 529 plan – and you may want to, because college costs have risen steadily over the years. In fact, for the 2021-22 academic year, the College Board reports that the average cost (tuition, fees, room and board) of a public, four-year college or university is more than \$27,000 for in-state students and nearly \$56,000 for students at private schools.

But 529 plans are no longer just for higher education. Over the past few years, the rules governing 529 plans have changed, so they can now be used for:

- K-12 tuition expenses (up to \$10,000 per student, per year),
- Apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, and
- Student loans (\$10,000 lifetime limit for student loan repayments per each 529 plan beneficiary and another \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings.)

And soon, a major change will affect the relationship between grandparent-owned 529 plans and the

financial aid packages awarded to their grandchildren. Families applying for aid have not been required to report grandparent-owned 529 account assets on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, under previous rules, you had to report withdrawals from the grandparent-owned plans as untaxed student income, which could reduce aid eligibility by up to 50% of the amount of cash received.

But that's changing for the 2024-25 FAFSA, which won't require students to report cash support, including money taken from a grandparent-owned 529 plan. Instead, a student's total income amount will be reported directly from federal income tax returns. This means that a grandparent-owned 529 plan won't have any effect on need-based financial aid eligibility. This benefit to families is already here, because 2022 will be used as the base year for the 2024-25 FAFSA, so any withdrawals taken in 2022, and also going forward, won't need to be reported as student income.

With this change, families will now have more options on using 529 plans without jeopardizing financial aid. You can generally withdraw any amount from the aggregate of all 529 plans for higher education costs, but only the qualified withdrawals – the ones used for typical education-related expenses – will be tax-free. The earnings portion of non-qualified withdrawals are taxable and could also incur a 10% penalty.

Given the new rules affecting a grandparent-owned 529 plan, you should consult with a financial professional to determine how this plan can work with other strategies to help meet educational expenses while, at the same time, not detracting from the progress you'd like to make on other important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

In any case, consider looking into a 529 plan – it was already a great tool for education funding, and it can now offer your family even more options.

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.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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JFGR virtual ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 8 at 7pm

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Shehecheyanu: The Power of Jewish Moments PJ Library Gathering 2022

By Julianna Schrier, PJ Library Program Professional & Community Connector

I had the opportunity to attend PJ Library's first in-person gathering since 2019. It took place in Baltimore, Maryland, from April 25-27. This was an incredibly insightful experience where I met with PJ Library professionals from around the country, attended panel discussions and participated in model programs that provided countless ideas that will be implemented here in Grand Rapids!

One of the model programs I participated in was called *Havdalah Under the Stars*, where we celebrated the end of Shabbat and then watched a planetarium show. This was a great example of bringing Jewish experiences to secular places, and is something I think we would be able to bring to Grand Rapids. Places like the Children's Museum, the Public Museum, and the library are all examples of locations that could house possible future PJ Library programs.

Another model program I attended was called *Stitching*

Meaning into Shabbat and Beyond - a program based around embroidering a challah cover. The instructor gave us ideas on how to make this an activity that could be feasible for kids of all ages, and suggested ways that we could tie the physical craft back to Jewish themes.

Overall, the most valuable thing that came from attending this conference was simply being able to talk to and listen to all of the other PJ program professionals. There are so many different ways that communities engage with their families, and I walked away with many ideas, not just for individual programs, but how we can make the entire PJ Library program more valuable for everyone involved. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Below are a few photos from the gathering:



Julianna Schrier



Opening Ceremony



PJ Library swag, and projects created by other communities as examples



Julianna Schrier with Peretz Hirshbein (Ann Arbor) and Karen Weinstein (East Lansing) PJ Professionals



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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.



Excerpt: Are You Managing Your Life or Leading Your Life?

By Coach John Robinson

Are you managing your life or leading your life? I believe you should be focusing on leading it. I use a leadership lens to help people achieve greater success not only in their professional lives but in their personal lives as well. Today, I am taking a set of business leadership lessons from the article, “We need to stop managing and start leading. Here are 4 ways to be a leader and helping you apply them to your personal life. (To read the original article, go here: <https://snip.ly/gv9rkk/>.) Let’s take a look.

“RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT THE SITUATION— THEN ACT

...Understand how your job responsibility has changed, and adapt to the new requirements—both for yourself and those you are managing.”

I have two principles I teach that are relevant here. One is called Present Moment Awareness and the other is called The 3B’s. Present Moment Awareness is about mindfulness, being in the here and now. One of The 3B’s is Just Be. Just Be is about being able to be with what is.

It’s important to be in the moment to know your reality as it is, not as you wish it to be, and to accept it. That helps you have clarity and be better poised to take the action you need to take.

“FOSTER POSITIVE DEVIANCE

...Recognize there is probably an effective and efficient model for work, and then recognize some molds are made to be broken, or at least bent.”

Connected to this, another of The 3B’s I teach is Be Unpredictable. You can use this idea to Be Unpredictable to give yourself permission to try new things. You might find it especially helpful to think of being consistent to an ultimate goal or vision (like your Dream Blueprint, another one of my principles) and be willing to take other paths to get to your goal

“EMPOWER YOUR TEAM

...Many managers, particularly those new to the role, are apprehensive about giving up their control, and wind up micromanaging their direct reports.”

Are you willing to ask for help? Sometimes we are reluctant to ask for help or forget there are other people

who can help us on our journey. I encourage the people I work with to find their Super Friends, the people they can rely on for help. These might be trusted family and friends, or they might be professionals.

“BE BRAVE

...Managers may be risk-averse to mitigate the chances of something taking progress or execution off track, but leaders see opportunities and take them.”

The third of The 3B’s is to Be You. It can take bravery to be ourselves. Many of us want to be accepted, successful and so forth. That can keep us trapped in fear, not fully being ourselves. (A great book that may help you in this area is *Brave, Not Perfect*.) Embrace bravery to give yourself the opportunity to try new things, to go in the direction of your vision, and to be fully you.

This is a shorter version of my full blog post, “Are You Managing Your Life or Leading It: Four Business Tips to Help Your Personal Life” which you can read at <https://snip.ly/6zcrff> or <https://CoachJohn.help/blog>



Coach John Robinson

FREE Gift: Do you have trouble imagining success getting through the storms? Are you afraid to believe in it because you are scared of disappointment? Do you feel fatalistic or lack belief in yourself? Let’s change that. Here’s a FREE gift, access to The Win or Learn Program. It is a 2-week mindset paradigm for an optimistic life. It will help you reframe daily slip-ups, reflect on goal success and recognize stresses that stop you from winning. Get your access today at bit.ly/WinOrLearn2022 when they feel lost or unsure. Your dreams absolutely can come true! Reach out at info@CoachJohn.help with questions or comments.

Feeling stuck? Want to improve your health, wealth or relationships? Coach John serves as an Executive & Personal Leadership Coach. He takes a stand for passionate people with a dream, to help them feel supercharged and ready to launch to the next phase, even when they feel lost or unsure. Your dreams absolutely can come true! Reach out at info@CoachJohn.help with questions or comments.



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If your child is enrolled in PJ Library and attending an overnight summer camp for the first time, you may be eligible for up to \$1,000 in scholarships! Visit onehappycamper.org for more information on eligibility, award details, and how to apply. Check out the PJ Goes to Camp page on pjlibrary.org for additional details.



Join Chabad House of Western Michigan's

Gan Israel DAY CAMP

Early bird discount until May 1st!

JUNE 20TH - JULY 1ST 2022
9:00AM - 3:30 PM

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

COVID-19 SAFETY
WARM & CARING STAFF
ART, SCIENCE & BAKING
SPECIALTY ELECTIVES
EXCITING TRIPS
JEWISH PRIDE AND MUCH MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT CHABADWM.COM/CAMP OR CALL RIVKA AT 616.206.9654

The Jewish Federation OF GRAND RAPIDS

Volunteers Needed!

Interested in Joining us?

Email Julianna@ifgr.org
Or call (616) 942-5553 ext. 206

Looking forward to your help!

We Need Help With:

- Driving community members to appointments.
- Delivering items to those in need.
- Assisting with in-person programs.

VOLUNTEERS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SIGN UP TODAY!



About the Nosh

By Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR



Evan Rossio

The Nosh is an exciting new project launching in June, the goal of which is to bring community members together through the universal language of Jewish food, which is an integral part of Jewish culture, tradition, and religion.

The idea of an online community cooking site germinated during discussions regarding the creation of a new community cookbook, a project not done for decades. Like the community cookbooks of old, The Nosh invites you to participate, this time through the website, where community members can upload their favorite family recipes. The difference is that The Nosh, unlike a traditional book, is a “living” document, constantly updating and evolving. We also encourage the submission of pictures, videos, and stories, which was either not possible or cost prohibitive with a hard copy book.

Our goal is to have local foodies, including chefs and restaurateurs, wine and beer experts, food critics, and food writers share news, recipes, instructional videos, cooking tips, and stories with a uniquely Jewish focus.

We want to bring you Jewish food with a modern twist as well as traditional food passed down through the generations. You’ll see a new emphasis on international cuisine, with recipes from the Sephardic and Mizrahi communities. We’ll cover the holidays and special occasions, as well as vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, Kosher, and other dietary needs. We’ll include the use of kitchen gadgets, like the Instant Pot and other pressure cookers, air fryers, slow cookers, blenders and food processors.

The site is interactive, and we hope you will comment on recipes and share your own in our online recipe collection. Future plans include information about the local Jewish food scene, locally sourced and organic options, volunteer efforts to fight hunger, and other local food-related events, like contests and cook-offs, tastings, and demonstrations.

Once the site is live, you can upload your recipes, stories, and videos directly on The Nosh. In the meantime, we are still collecting recipes on <https://www.jewishgrandrapids.org/>, or you can email them to evan@jfg.org, or mail them to the Federation office.

The Nosh is going live soon, stay tuned!



The PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids now has 120 children enrolled with 83 families. To enroll your child, visit www.pjlibrary.org.

FREE JEWISH CHILDREN’S BOOKS



www.jfgr.org
616.942.5553



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



Beit Sefer B'yahad United Jewish School

1715 Fulton St E | Grand Rapids MI 49503
616.459.5976

Dear UJS Families,

Boy, oh boy, I am kvelling on what a great year it was at the United Jewish School! I am so proud and grateful of all the hard work of the entire faculty and staff of UJS. It is so commendable to arrive every day with a positive attitude and ready to spread a love of Judaism to our young ones. Teachers were excited and enthusiastic about the day—and the students absorbed it all! It has been such a joy to walk through the halls and hear how much the children were laughing, learning, and playing. They were having fun, gaining pride in being Jewish, and learning so much wonderful Jewish knowledge. We are raising the next generation of the Jewish people. It takes a village – and our village came through!

As I look back on the year, I am reflecting on so many successes. Some of the highlights were the children visiting the Sukkah with Rabbis Krishef and Schadick; emulating the art of Marc Chagall with our art teachers, Deet and John; learning Israeli dance with alumna, Miriam Chrenka; learning Jewish music with Jewish rock star, Elana Arian; raising \$613 to plant trees in Israel for Tu Bishvat; studying Jewish Yoga, Mindfulness, and Meditation (with Corey Dane); delighting in Purim at both the Purim Fair and the Purim Shpiel as well as hamantaschen baking with Zoe Post); going to the Matzah Baking Factory at Chabad; having powerful and meaningful conversations on the Holocaust during Yom Hashoa; and meeting our Israeli Shaliach, Ophir Tal, for our celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut! We ended the year with a fabulous BBQ, which included a bouncy castle, face painting, and a live klezmer band!

I am so excited for our first day of school, which will be on Sunday, September 11, 2022. We have some exciting and new ideas in the works, which include a re-imagined educational experience for our students in grades 8-10, so please keep your eyes peeled for that information. 2022-2023 will see UJS keeping the Jewish pride flowing with educational experiences that will stimulate the mind and enliven the soul!

L'hitra-ot,

Cantor David Fair

CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

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!

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

VIRTUAL TORAH CLASSES

TUESDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 7:30PM

For more Info or for zoom information, please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

6 WEEK JLI COURSE

Experience Jewish Learning Like Never Before. JLI makes Jewish learning accessible & personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation.

Beyond Right. The values that shape Judaism's civil code.

This course—approved for legal credits—combines the study of Jewish values with the exploration of practical and relevant halachic questions. In the six lessons of this course we discuss fundamental Jewish values such as *lifnim mishuras hadin*, *arvus*, and *teshuvah*—and demonstrate how these values guide and shape Jewish civil law. The goal of this course is to teach students the true meaning of Jewish values and what makes Jewish civil law uniquely Jewish.

SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 7:30-9:00PM | CLASSES BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH, 2022

VIRTUAL OPTION ON TUESDAY EVENINGS VIA ZOOM | STARTED ON MAY 17TH, 2022 AT 7:30PM

Fee: \$99 (textbook included) | \$180 Sponsor

For more Info or to register go to Chabadwm.com/JLI or contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.7916 or Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

SHAVUOT GARDEN PARTY

SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2022 | 1:00PM

Join us to celebrate the holiday of Shavuot by reading the 10 Commandments followed by dairy delights & ice cream!

CTEEN GRAND RAPIDS UPCOMING EVENTS:

CTeen is a part of the fastest growing teen network in the world! It's the place for ALL Jewish high school teens!

For more information about CTeen or to RSVP, contact Rivka at 616.206.9654 or Rivkahweingarten@gmail.com.



WEEKLY VIRTUAL CTEEN LOUNGE NIGHT:
SUNDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 970 8155 3747 Password: 7FqhvfIn or text Rivka for the link.

SHAVUOT GARDEN PARTY
SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH | 1:00PM

END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION & JTEXT AUCTION

For Jewish teens from West Michigan grades 6-12.

MONDAY, JUNE 13TH | 7:00PM

Join us as we celebrate the past and build our future.

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 20TH - JULY 1ST 2022 | 9:00AM - 3:30PM

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

Teen Division: Ages 11-12

www.chabadwm.com/camp

For more info, please contact Rivka at 616.206.9654 or email us at campganisraelgr@gmail.com

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



Join us for a luncheon in honor of Stuart Rapaport's Retirement as our Cantor on June 11, 2022, immediately following Shabbat morning services! Please RSVP by May 27, 2022 (even if you already did for a previous date!) to Marisa Krishef by texting or calling 616-450-6419 or by email at Marisa.Krishef@gmail.com

SHAVUOT

The Krishef household will host a Shavuot evening gathering, on Saturday night, June 4, at 7:30pm, details to follow. We may limit numbers and we probably will not serve food. But we will offer Shavuot Torah from the Sefat Emet, Rabbi Yehuda Aryeh Leib Alter, the remarkably perceptive 19th century leader of the Ger Hasidim.

PRAY-GATHER-LEARN-EAT!

Enjoy a light Shabbat lunch following services in the Social Hall or on the back patio alongside the pollinator garden. Contact Rabbi Krishef if you are able to help him prepare the lunch, either on Thursday evening or Friday, Rabbi@AhavasIsraelGR.org or 616-949-2840. Mark the following dates on your calendar - details to follow:

- Saturday, June 25
- Saturday, July 16
- Saturday, August 20

EAT-SCHMOOZE!

Rabbi Krishef is cooking dinner for you once a month on the Monday evenings listed below. You are cordially invited to join for dinner and light Jewish conversation and learning, at 6:00pm. Menu to be announced in the weekly eVoice. Want to help cook? Contact Rabbi Krishef and let him know. RSVP by the Friday before each dinner, Rabbi@AhavasIsraelGR.org or 616-949-2840.

- Monday, June 13, 6:00
- Monday, July 11, 6:00
- Monday, August 15, 6:00



Download the JFGR App Today!

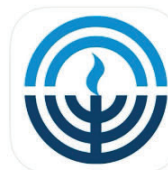
The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is excited to introduce our new app. Now you can stay connected and up-to-date on everything Federation from your iPhone or iPad. Programming, news, social services, and volunteering opportunities are now just a click away.



Download on the App Store



The Jewish Federation OF GRAND RAPIDS



Jewish Federation Grand Rapids

Arad Okanin

OPEN



AGE

4+

Years Old

CATEGORY



Reference

DEVELOPER



Arad Okanin

LANGUAGE

EN

English



Temple Emanuel was founded in 1857. We are proud members of the Union for Reform Judaism. We invite all those looking for a contemporary approach to Jewish life in West Michigan to join us. Our services are filled with beautiful music and moments to reflect. We are located at 1715 East Fulton Street.

Friday, June 3

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
Live from Israel: Israeli Rabbi Lana Zilberman
Rabbi Zilberman will share her experiences about her recent trip to the Polish Ukranian border with a group of 30 Rabbis
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the Reed Family

Sunday, June 5

Shavuot Morning Services at 10:00 AM
The 10 Commandments will be Read
Wedding Renewals Beneath the Chuppah
Cheesecake Contest Tasting and Winners Announced

Friday, June 10

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
Pride Shabbat
Oneg Shabbat Sponsored by the Deaner Family

Tuesday, June 14

Together West Michigan Community Conversation at 6:30 PM
Join us for a talk about the issues families face in our community.

Thursday, June 16

Temple Annual Meeting and Dinner at 6:00 PM
Congregant of the Year Honored

Friday, June 17

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
Celebrating June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Friday, June 24

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
Honoring Cat Finney
Honoring our Newest Members
Barbecue Dinner Following Services

A heavy windstorm damaged our well-used sukkah last fall. We are seeking a donor who would be interested in underwriting the cost of a new sukkah for us. Anyone interested is asked to contact Rabbi Schadick at the Temple at 616-459-5796.

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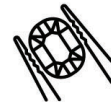
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— JEWELERS —



Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

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Louis & Louise Weiner Fund
Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund
Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund
Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

In Honor of Julie Rossio

Meryl Vieder

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
Fox Family Fund

The Finkelstein Brothers Fund

*In Honor of Peg & Mort Finklestein, for their
contribution to the culture of the Grand Rapids
community*

Toby Dolinka

Henry Pestka Memorial Fund

*In Memory of Henry Pestka, Holocaust Survivor &
Member of our Extended Family*

Joseph Schwimmer

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.

Henry Pestka Holocaust Memorial Fund To make certain that the Holocaust is an essential part of the human story forever through educational programs and events that teach awareness, compassion and to ensure these inhumane acts against humanity never happen again.



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 _____

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The Shofar

A monthly publication issued 12 times a year.

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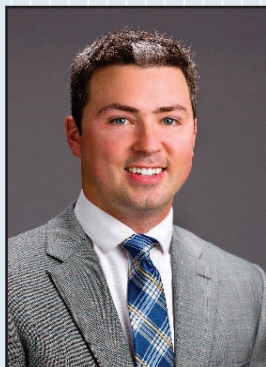
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