



Hiking and Reflection

by Nicole Katzman, JFGR Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

Traveling to Arizona to do multiple day hikes, my family and I recently took our first vacation since moving to Grand Rapids almost two years ago. We've been hiking as a family since our children were able to crawl. A remarkably rewarding experience, hiking has connected, and guided us through many trying times. When life has thrown us problems, hitting the trails frequently has been part of the solution. No matter how difficult the path, and the extreme weather-rain, hail, wind, and snow-we have banded together as a cohesive team to reach the destination, sometimes just barely. Over the years we have climbed over 40 mountains all over the United States. We even conquered Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. Now that the kids are getting older, the greatest challenge has been coordinating different schedules in order to plan outings.

On this trip, we managed to gather a couple of our children. For me the highlight was hiking the Echo Canyon Trail up Camelback Mountain in Phoenix. On paper the hike didn't seem too bad, but I soon would learn this trail is not for the faint of heart. The grades involved quad busting effort. There were sections steep enough to require holding onto handrails nailed into the rock, and then there were dizzying views. I was in awe of the beauty, until the sun crept over the horizon, quickly raising the thermostat to 97 degrees. "A dry heat," my husband quipped, followed by, "It doesn't feel a bit over 90." I didn't appreciate the humor. Mentally, I was not prepared for this. Anyone experienced with hiking knows that it is a lot easier climbing up than getting down, in one piece. When I finally reached the windy summit, an hour, or maybe two following the kids, I stood at the top, looking down at what seemed like an endless descent, and I contemplated if I actually had the ability to get down, or would need a helicopter to rescue me! Sensing my fear and reluctance, my son encouraged me to focus solely on my footing. My daughter gave me a pat on the shoulder and said, "Follow me, we can do this together." My husband said that I was "that person" on the trail, but he never left my side. With the consistent positive encouragement from my family, I made it down safely. I did the happy dance when my feet touched the flat surface.

This experience got me thinking about the upcoming holiday of Shavuot, which celebrates the moment G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai. It is a reminder that the responsibility is ours as Jews to be good people and lead righteous lives. As adults, it is our duty to set the example and take the higher ground. When situations are challenging, we should feel comfortable being able to reach out for assistance. I hope that you are able to embrace the challenges and find positivity even in times of darkness. I encourage you to reach out to the Federation and know that we are always here to assist you.

Together our community is stronger.

LShalom,

Nicole Katzman
Executive Director

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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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GOAL: \$500,000.00
303 Donors
\$477,000

Campaign 2020, ended March 31, 2021.
Thank you to the community for your support!
Campaign 2020 has raised just over \$477,000.

We received donations from 303 donors. In addition, any increased amount and any new pledges were matched by a generous grant from the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation up to \$30,000, and for donors age 50 and younger, that amount was also matched by a generous grant from the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation, up to \$5,000. We are most grateful to Peg and Mort Finkelstein for their grant of \$5000.

On behalf of the Federation, thank you for supporting our Jewish community. In May, our Board of Directors will begin the allocation process to provide funds that make a difference for Jews right here in Western Michigan and around the world. Even though Campaign 2020 has ended, you can always make a gift to support our community. During these uncertain times, your assistance is needed more than ever to help those in need.

Thank You,

JFGR Campaign Chair and Board Member

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

Rabbi David Krishef **Congregation Ahavas Israel**

When Ahavas Israel decided to purchase, build and move from Lafayette Street to Michigan Street over 50 years ago, it wasn't a simple decision. The discussion was ongoing and contentious and the board was unable to make a decision. Moe Kleiman, z"l, used to tell the story about how the decision was made in the following way:

The board held its meetings in a room in the lower level of an old house that was at the center of the synagogue structure. The room had one door leading into the basement and small windows set high in one wall. During a board meeting, Moe arranged for someone to pull the fire alarm. Panic ensued as the board members realized if there was a fire in the house above them, there would be no way for them to get out. They voted to begin the process of building a new (and safer) synagogue on the Michigan Street property.

When an organization is experiencing a crisis, it is easy to embrace change. When there is no crisis, there is no immediate reason to change, and organizations tend to slip into stasis mode. Moe manufactured a crisis, which broke the stasis. However, the best, most vibrant, organizations with wise leadership know how to keep changing and evolving and growing even when there is no imminent crisis.

Congregation Ahavas Israel is not in crisis. We have a solid endowment and are reasonably financially stable, although our budget relies on large transfers from several of our accounts each year. We own our building and have turned the building into a source of income by renting it to a preschool, a church, and the Federation. But there are clouds on the horizon. Our building is aging. Roofs, heating and cooling systems, and security systems, are costly to replace, repair, and maintain. Renters can go out of business or decide to go elsewhere and new tenants are not easy to find. Synagogues and Temple (and religious institutions of all denominations) are experiencing precipitous drops in affiliation, on top of the slow decline of the past 20 years.

By embracing change now, we can avoid a crisis. And I believe in a partnership with Temple Emanuel. I trust that we can work together effectively, reduce the footprint of the two buildings, and renovate the Fulton Street property to create a shared facility. We have the opportunity to create a green building that will use our resources wisely. In the future, when major repairs are necessary, we will share the expenses rather than bear them alone.

If we approve the plan to create a combined campus, we'll be sending our children to a religious school that will be in our building, rather than in another congregation's building. We'll have the space for concurrent adult education during religious school in the same space as the children.

And finally, to emphasize – this proposal is not a merger. We would not be losing our governance structure and moving under the umbrella of Temple Emanuel. We would retain our board, our religious leadership and practices, and our finances. I believe that if we agree to engage with the collaboration and place our property for sale and join in a newly renovated, shared campus on Fulton Street, Congregation Ahavas Israel will be best positioned to continue to promote Conservative Judaism in Grand Rapids.

Rabbi Michael Schadick **Temple Emanuel**

A good many years ago I had the pleasure of having lunch with Norm & Marilyn Leven and Mort & Peg Finkelstein. After lots of laughter and moments of reminiscing, the idea of bringing Temple Emanuel and Congregation Ahavas Israel congregations together on one campus became our topic of discussion. Both couples shared with me their fervent belief that this was something our two synagogues should seriously consider.

Years passed and it was Rabbi Lewis, in a Rosh Hashanah sermon, who formally introduced this idea to our congregation. With his passion for the well-being

(Continued on page 4)



Voices in Support *(Continued from page 3)*

of our Jewish community he challenged us all to think about the merits of the idea, and how it would be the right step for the future for both congregations. His words got many people talking about the benefits of such an endeavor.

Over the past year the leadership of Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel, and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, along with a consultant with expertise in projects of this kind, have devoted many hours to discussing if and how we should move forward in this direction. We engaged an architect to see the possibilities of coming together on our campus or on the Ahavas Israel campus. We surveyed members of the Jewish community to get their input. We held town hall meetings to test the waters and to hear concerns.

With this information gathered, and with a considerable number of hours of work put in, it seems like the vision that Norm & Marilyn and Mort & Peg first introduced me too is one that is being looked upon with favor by many in our Jewish community. And I am delighted to put my unequivocal support behind such an endeavor because I wholeheartedly believe that both institutions will be strengthened if we share one campus.

A Reform Temple and a Conservative Synagogue on one campus will allow us new opportunities to work together for the benefit of all. Our United Jewish School demonstrates that two different denominations of Jewish life can work as a team to educate our children. Two different houses of worship under one roof will also allow us to better serve our community. From classes in Jewish study, to social gatherings, to chances to engage in Tikkun Olam, I am convinced that we will benefit from being together.

I look forward to the day when I will only have to take a few steps down the hall to talk to a rabbinic colleague. I look forward to welcoming members of Congregation Ahavas Israel to our services on Friday nights, and our members not feeling shy or out of place about attending morning services on Shabbat with Ahavas Israel. One campus means that we will work together to plan holiday events, not unnecessarily scheduling two similar programs at the very same time.

I am excited about the prospect of this new chapter for Jewish life in Grand Rapids. I have lived in Grand Rapids since the summer of 2000 and I do believe that this is the right time and the right course for the future of our Jewish community.





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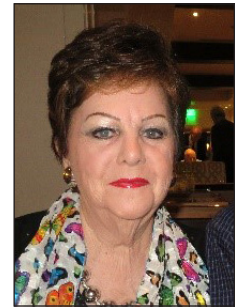
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Dedicated Volunteers: Temple Emanuel Archives

by Peg Finkelstein



Peg Finkelstein



Barbara Robinson



Harry Kutten

Barbara Robinson: I met Barbara well over 20 years ago at Temple Emanuel. When I met her for the first time, she was volunteering in the Temple's Library. Barbara has lived in Grand Rapids her entire life. She taught **Elementary Education** within the **Forest Hills Public School** system. She loved to swim weekly at the Y and tried to stay in good health. **Barbara** enjoyed other outside interests also, such as the **Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council**, taking an integral part in organizing their **Audio Oral History Tapes** and **Transcripts** at the **Library**. She loved being a member of the **Shakespearean Group** locally and was always excited to go to the **Shakespearean Festival** in **Stratford, Canada**.

In **2002**, **Barbara** and **Harry** both volunteered to attend a special seminar in **Cincinnati** at the **Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives**. This was a two-day introduction to setting up and running an archive. When they returned, we created a **5-year plan** to help us toward our goal of achieving, construction of new cabinets in the Archives Room and setup of a new computer to scan and document archival records. We celebrated throughout that whole year with events, leading up to and during the **150th Anniversary**, held in **2007**. And as they say, "**The Rest Is History**."

Harry Kutten: He grew up in **St. Louis, Missouri** and was a promising young artist and won a **Young Artists Award** from **Washington University School of Fine Arts**. He enlisted in the **Navy while in High School** and went into **World War II**. He was stationed on the "**USS Montpelier**" and saw devastation and destruction as their ship was hit by **Kamikaze** attacks. He was also on **Hiroshima** just after the **Atomic Bomb** was dropped there. He saw firsthand when they were sent to rescue the **POWs** that were still alive. After the war, he finished getting a degree in **Fine Art**, and went to **Paris** to study. **Picture by: (J Scott Park) MLive.com**

He earned a **Master Degree** from **Western Michigan** and got a job at **Kendall College of Art and Design**, working there until retiring at 65. The following are links I found, doing some research. The first is an **interview** that was done by **GVSU** about **Military Veterans from Grand Rapids in 2011** for their **Digital Collections Library**. **Harry** did a great job in this interview. Please take time to review if possible. <https://digitalcollections.library.gvsu.edu/document/29151>

This 2nd one is also from an Mlive.com article:

Michigan Honors: Harry Kutten, 89, of Grand Rapids wanted to save a life in the midst of war. By: Sue Thoms MLive.com and Photo by (J Scott Park) MLive.com: Updated Jan 20, 2019; Posted Nov 14, 2014

https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2014/11/michigan_honors_harry_kutten_8.html

From the beginning and for many years they both worked side by side with myself and many, many other faithful volunteers, until their health declined. Even after stepping back, they both would stop by and chat regularly. I recently spoke with **Jan Kutten** to see how things were with them. Both her and Barbara admitted that **Covid-19** has been a struggle for almost everyone, but they are doing well. **Barbara** said she turned **93** in **January**. I asked if she was interested in coming by

*At Temple Emanuel we would like to express our gratitude for two very special people. We are hoping to be able to do stories of many others as well. I've started with **Barbara Robinson & Harry Kutten**, as they were the first two that connected with me after we had the approval of the **Board** for our **Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives**.*

(Continued on page 6)



Dedicated Volunteers: *(Continued from page 5)*

the archives sometime to chat or see what's being done, it was a resounding yes! **Jan Kutten** said that **Harry's** health has declined in the past year but they are doing fine. **Harry** had just turned **95** last September, she said. **Jan and I** reminisced for some time about how **Harry** enjoyed being involved in everything that he worked on. Especially our accomplishment in helping the **Temple Library** to get their Books inventoried with a special program that **Harry** found.

As a community we all would like to thank both **Barbara Robinson & Harry Kutten** for taking on **major roles** from the beginning of **Temple Emanuel's, Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives**. Especially being so very dedicated to helping us preserve the **Jewish History in Grand Rapids** and our surrounding **Community, We Thank You Both!**

Our newest project is **West Michigan Jewish History** in the **Mort, Raleigh & Edward Finkelstein Archives**, this **Digital Website** will be part of the **Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**. It will include the **Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives of Temple Emanuel, Gen & Jack Finkelstein Archives of Congregation Ahavas Israel** and the **Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Archives** to be started this summer... We are also working on

documenting all **Holocaust Survivors Stories**. If you have information please, contact me at mjtracy245@gmail.com or cell: 616.437.5663 or Megan in regards to **Military Veterans**, Fordgirl22m@gmail.com or cell: **616.337.7686**.

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

Save the Date!

JFGR virtual ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, June 9 at 7pm
More information to come.



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Protecting Your Skin As Summer Approaches

by David Alfonso, MD
JFGR Board Member



David Alfonso, MD

As we approach the warmer sunnier weather in West Michigan it is critical to remember the importance of sunscreen use for adults and children. Skin cancers are the most common cancers in the United States and although are very treatable when detected early, some can lead to more serious even life threatening conditions. The benefits of sunscreen are that they effectively block a significant amount of the Ultraviolet rays. The main types of UV rays are UVA, UVB, and UVC. Clinically speaking the most important ones are UVA and UVB. UVB produces most of the sun damage to skin and is responsible for the vast majority of sun related skin cancers. It is important to remember that a sunburn and a tan represent damage to the skin cells. Paler individuals manifest this damage with the red, peeling sunburn while darker skinned individuals tend to tan over burn. Regardless of the color, the skin cells are damaged and the body's response is to create the red and tan changes to the skin. Studies have shown that even a few bad sunburns as a child that lead to peeling and or scabbing can place a patient at a higher risk of skin cancer in the future. People with lighter complexions and blue eyes are at a higher risk of developing skin cancers, including Melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer and has the potential to spread to many other organ systems in

the body. In addition to cancer, excess sun exposure accelerates the aging process and leads to more wrinkles as well as pigment in the skin.

The best way to protect against sun damage is to use sunscreen correctly every time you are outside for any extended period of time. Sunscreens are designated by their Sun Protection Factor or SPF. Most experts recommend the use of an SPF of 50 for significant protection. It is important to remember that even when it appears cloudy there are still significant UVB rays that are damaging the skin. Sunscreen is best applied 15-20 minutes prior to being exposed to the sun so it can be absorbed into the skin for optimal effect. It is also critical to reapply sunscreen every 40-50 minutes while outside especially if engaging in water activities. I also recommend a face specific sunscreen as standard body formulations may clog facial pores and be somewhat irritating to the facial skin. Also remember that a hat and sunglasses provide additional protection against the sun. Children's skin can be especially sensitive to the sun and may need more frequent applications. Proper sun protection starting at an early age is the key to helping reduce the risk of sun damage, early aging, as well as the potential for skin cancer.

Dr. Alfonso is a board-certified plastic surgeon specializing in cosmetic surgery and has an interest in nutrition, and its role in health, healing and recovery after surgery.



Bring Jewish stories home

The PJ Library, a program of the
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
now has 120 children enrolled with 83 families.
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Judith Joseph's great granddaughter,
Beverly, playing with her new Torah toy.



Rob Franciosi

Stars of David

by Rob Franciosi

The Jewish Museum of the City of Vienna is located at two sites: the original building on Dorotheergasse, where the main collection is housed, and a second on the nearby Judenplatz. This second structure is built around an

excavation of the medieval synagogue that stood there until 1421, when the building was burned. A fate also shared by over two hundred of its congregants who refused to convert.

The Judenplatz is also the location of Rachel Whiteread's striking Holocaust memorial of a library room turned inside out and cast in concrete, the spines of the books facing inward. During a visit to the museum I started there, as the place seemed to contain both the beginning and end of Vienna's Jews, and, like so much of Austrian memory, was conflict-ridden.



On a beautiful early summer day some Viennese sat under umbrellas at a nearby café, while others lounged on the memorial's base, basking in the sun. One small child played with his toy trucks, rolling them over the brass-inlaid names of the camps. And in a most astute design decision by Whiteread, those sitting on the base had their backs to the memorial and all it signifies.

Having spent a day at the Mauthausen camp, where I climbed the former rock quarry's 186-step staircase of death, and another at Hartheim castle, where I learned about thousands who had been murdered there as part of the Nazi "euthanasia" program, I had had enough of claims that Austrians had been Hitler's first victims, a mood reinforced by the plaque on the oldest

building facing the Judenplatz—an image of Jesus being baptized and Latin words commemorating the 1421 pogrom as having “purged the terrible crimes of the Hebrew dogs.”

Even so, my dismay was countered by another marker across from the Whiteread memorial, one from 1998 in which the local Catholic bishop declared that “Christianity regrets its share in responsibility for the persecution of Jews and regrets its failure.”

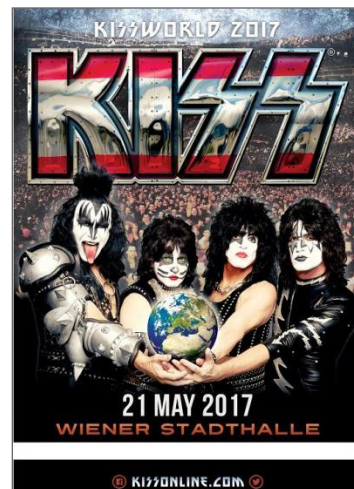
The Judenplatz, then, seemed a place where remembering and forgetting went arm-in-arm, like the Viennese women who strolled across the city's many elegant spaces. After my encounter there, I was tempted to avoid the other part of the museum and just seek out a stiff drink.

I entered that modern space with a sense of despair, knowing it would tell a story with a predictable ending. Massive glass cases were filled with gorgeously wrought ritual objects—nearly all looted from their proper owners—and after contemplating those silver Torah crowns and heavy Sabbath candlesticks, as well as ghostly 3-D animations of Vienna's once-flourishing synagogues, nearly all burned by Austrian Nazis, I had had enough.

On my way toward the exit, however, I noticed a gallery that advertised a special exhibition, something called “Stars of David.” To my great relief this was no display of Nazi-imposed yellow badges, but a celebration of Jewish influence on popular music since 1900. Seeing the lyrics to “God Bless America” in Irving Berlin's hand, Barbra Streisand's Oscar for *Funny Girl*, and Sammy Davis, Jr.'s menorah, was the kind of tonic—sans gin—that I needed.

But it was the artifacts and images connected to Jewish rock stars that really lifted my spirits.

Nothing asserts the present and defies the past's shackles quite like rock and roll, and while most people know about the roster of Jews like Berlin who created the great American songbook, their more anarchic inheritors are





worth noting: yes, songwriters like Bob Dylan, Carole King, Leonard Cohen, and Paul Simon, but also more flamboyant figures—Lou Reed, Bette

Midler, David Lee Roth, Marc Bolan, Pink, Joey Ramone, and the tragic Amy Winehouse.

Most intriguing to me from this rock tribe was the founding pair of KISS, Gene Simmons (Chaim Witz) and Paul Stanley (Stanley Eisen). Probe beneath the wild make-up and costumes, ignore the notorious tongue, and consider that both men were the children of Holocaust survivors.

Stanley's family escaped from Berlin in 1935 and, unlike Anne Frank's, was able to emigrate from Holland to the U.S. a few months before the German invasion in 1940. Simmons was born in Israel, the son of Flora Witz, a Hungarian Jew who lost her entire family during the war. She survived both Ravensbrück and Mauthausen. In an episode of *Gene Simmons Family Jewels*, the "reality" TV series, the KISS frontman visits the Anne

Frank House in Amsterdam. Without makeup, without the six-inch platform boots, or even his ever-present sunglasses, the rock star stands in front of photographs of Anne, who was a few years younger than his mother—and he weeps.

Much in Vienna brought me close to tears, but after purchasing the five-pound Stars of David catalogue I walked the sun-bathed street with a different rhythm, waltz-free, with the wise words of Chuck Berry's "Roll over Beethoven" ringing in my head. Yet for all its scholarly thoroughness, the catalogue missed an important detail: "Roll Over Beethoven" and all of Berry's early hits were issued by Chess Records, a Chicago company founded by Leonard Chess, born Lejzor Szmuel Czyż, a Jew from Belarus.



Gene Simmons as a child.

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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We are excited to announce a

Collaborative Cookbook Project

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

Help Protect Your Family's Inheritance

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

You might contribute to your IRA for decades to help pay for your retirement. But if you don't need all the money, you may want to leave what's left to your children or grandchildren. However, if you want to ensure they get the most from this inheritance, you'll need to do some planning.

Here's a little background: Up until a couple of years ago, when you left the proceeds of your IRA to your beneficiaries, they could choose to "stretch" required withdrawals over a long period, based on their life expectancies. These required withdrawals were generally taxable, so this "stretch IRA" allowed your beneficiaries to greatly reduce the annual taxes due, while benefiting from longer tax-deferred growth potential. And the younger the beneficiary, the longer the life expectancy and the lower the withdrawals, so this technique would have been especially valuable for your grandchildren or even great-grandchildren.

Changes in laws affecting retirement accounts have significantly limited the stretch IRA strategy. Now, most non-spouse beneficiaries must withdraw all assets from the IRA within 10 years of the IRA owner's death. The beneficiary generally does not have to take out any money during that 10-year period, but at the end of it, the entire balance must be withdrawn – and that could result in a pretty big tax bill.

The stretch IRA strategy can still be used for surviving spouses, beneficiaries who are no more than 10 years younger than the deceased IRA owner, and beneficiaries who are chronically ill or disabled. Minor children of the original account owner are also eligible for a stretch IRA – but only until they reach the age of majority, at which time the 10-year rule applies.

So, if you want to leave your IRA to family members

who don't meet any of the above exceptions, what can you do?

One possibility is a Roth IRA conversion. You could convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA over your lifetime, so your heirs would receive the Roth IRA. They would still be required to withdraw the assets within 10 years, but unlike with a traditional IRA, Roth IRA withdrawals are generally tax-free. These conversions are taxable, so you'll want to consult your tax professional in addition to your financial advisor, to determine if this strategy can help you achieve your legacy goals.

Another option is to purchase life insurance, which can provide a specific dollar amount to your heirs or be used to help cover additional taxes. This may be especially advantageous if you are 72 or older, in good health, and taking withdrawals – technically called required minimum distributions – from your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and your 401(k). If you don't really need the money, you can use these withdrawals to pay for some or all of the insurance premiums. Life insurance can't replace an IRA as a means to save for retirement, though, so you should consult with your financial advisor to make sure you are working toward all your goals.

In any case, if you have a sizable IRA or you don't need the funds that you're required to take from your retirement accounts, you may want to start thinking about what you want to do with the money. The more thorough your legacy planning, the better your chances of meeting your legacy goals.



Chad Zagel
JFGR Board Member



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.

Edward Jones is a licensed insurance producer in all states and Washington, D.C. through Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. and in California, New Mexico and Massachusetts through Edward Jones Insurance Agency of California, L.L.C., Edward Jones Insurance Agency of New Mexico, L.L.C., and Edward Jones Insurance Agency of Massachusetts, L.L.C.



The Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival &
The Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival



Present:

The Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival Living Room Series
May 2nd – 8th, 2021

Welcome to the 23rd Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival! For this year’s festival, we partnered with one of the largest Jewish film festivals in the Midwest: *The Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival*. Thanks to this partnership, our audience will have access to streaming *The Grand Rapids Living Room Series*: a collection of 5 outstanding feature films (selected by our dedicated Film Festival committee) and to roughly 30 other wonderful films (selected by the Detroit committee). Our Series will run from May 2nd until May 8th, while the Detroit Festival will continue to run until May 23rd.

Even though we cannot yet gather as a community in person, let’s be together from our living rooms on both sides of Michigan to share and celebrate the stories, writers, directors, cinematographers and actors from around the Jewish world that will challenge, educate and entertain us!

Here We Are

Drama/ 92 min/ Israel-Italy/ 2020



Synopsis: Aharon (Shai Avivi) has devoted his life to raising his autistic son Uri. They live together in a gentle routine, away from the real world. As Uri becomes a young adult, his mother thinks it might be time for him to live in a group home. Insisting that Uri is not ready for this separation, Aharon decides to run away with his son and hits the road.

Awards & Recognition: Official Selection at the 2020 Cannes Film Festival; Israeli Film Academy (Ophir) Awards: Best Actor (Shai Avivi), Best Supporting Actor, Best Screenplay and Best Director.

Note: Please join us on May 5th at 7:30PM for a special LIVE from Israel program with the lead actor of this film, Shai Avivi; we highly recommend watching the film prior to the event!
SEE PAGE 14 in the SHOFAR.

Thou Shall Not Hate

Drama/ 96 min/ Italy / 2020



Synopsis: In this gripping drama, a successful Jewish Italian surgeon confronts his own ethics after refusing to help

a victim of a traffic accident he encountered on his way home from work.

Awards & Recognition: Best Italian Film and Best Actor awards at the Venice International Film Festival.

Tickets & Technical Information:

- Tickets and passes will be available for purchase starting May 2nd (and throughout the Festival’s duration) through the **Grand Rapids Film Festival page at: <https://jewishgrandrapids.org/programs-service>**
- **Technical assistance** will be available starting May 2nd (and throughout the festival’s duration). **Email: support@jccdet.org / Phone: (248) 661-1900**



Asia

Drama/ 86 min/ Israel / 2020



Synopsis: Becoming a mother at an early age has shaped Asia's (Alena Yiv) relationship with her teenage daughter Vika (Shira Hass). Asia concentrates on her job as a nurse while Vika hangs out with her friends. Once their routine is shaken by Vika's deteriorating health, Asia must step in and become the caretaker that Vika needs.

Awards & Recognition: Tribeca Film Festival Best Actress in an International Narrative Feature (Shira Hass); Nora Ephron Prize for Filmmaking, 9 Israeli Film Academy (Ophir) prizes, including: Best Film, Best Actress (Alena Yiv) and Best Supporting Actress (Shira Hass); Israel's official choice for the 2021 International Category at the Academy Awards.

Those Who Remained

Drama/ 83 min/ Hungary / 2019



Synopsis: A lyrical story of the healing power of love in the midst of conflict, loss, and trauma, *Those Who Remained* reveals the healing process of Holocaust survivors through the eyes of a young girl in post-World War II Hungary.

Awards & Recognition:

Unveiled at the 2019 Telluride Film Festival; 2020 Hungarian Film Academy awards for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Actor; a collection of Jewish Film Festival prizes around the globe.

God of the Piano

Drama/ 80 min/ Israel / 2019



Synopsis: Anat, a pianist and expectant mother, has never lived up to her prestigious musical family's standards. When her son is born deaf, she will stop at nothing to ensure he does not suffer the same fate.

Awards & Recognition: Winner Jerusalem Film Festival for Best Actress (Naama Preis); 100% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Our Sponsors

We thank The Rosenzweig Coopersmith Foundation and the community members listed below for their generous contributions! To become a Film Festival Sponsor please visit jfgr.org and select Film Festival Fund.

All sponsors will receive a complimentary Grand Rapids Living Room Pass and a special film festival gift!

With your help our festival can continue to thrive for years to come!

Producer (\$250)

William Boorstein	Linda Pestka
Bradley Friedland	Arthur Silverstein
Rick Hay	Charitable Fund
Mark Leven	Jerome P. Subar Foundation
Sharon Maskin	Lanny Thodey

Actor: (\$100)

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

Fan (\$50)

Leven Family Foundation
Lesley Mayer



RCF
Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation

Tickets/Passes Options:

Option 1: Individual Ticket (\$5 pp)

Provides access to 1 film at a time (out of more than 30 films). The purchased film will be available for streaming for 24 hours from the time of purchase via an emailed link + code following each purchase.

Option 2: Grand Rapids Living Room Series Pass (\$25 pp)

Provides access to all 5 films in our Series. The films will be available for viewing for the entire duration of the festival using a Premium Streaming platform following a one-time purchase.

Option 3: Complete Detroit Festival Pass (\$180 pp)

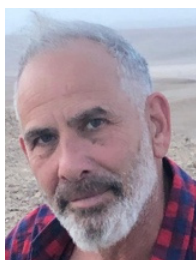
Provides access to over 30 films (including the *Grand Rapids Living Room Series*). The films will be available for streaming using Premium Streaming platform. Subscribers will be recognized on the Detroit Festival web page as Festival patrons.



***The Grand Rapids Living Room Series &
JCC of Metro Detroit / Opening the Doors
Present:***

***Special Live Broadcast from Israel
May 5th at 7:30PM***

Please join us for a not-to-be-missed LIVE discussion of the film. Award-winning lead Israeli actor, Shai Avivi, and Consul Ariella Rada will speak about the making of this tender Israeli family drama and the many universally meaningful themes it portrays. We will then open the discussion to questions from our audience so please make sure to watch the film prior to the event!



Shai Avivi:

Shai Avivi is a multi-talented Israeli actor, comedian, producer and television host. A graduate of Tel Aviv University Tisch School of Film, Avivi became a household name in Israel in the '90s as a member of The Kameri Quintet (Ha'ch'amishia Ha'Kamerit), the hit satiric ensemble. In his long career since, he has played numerous roles and earned vast acclaim in Israeli film and television. For his performance in Here We Are, he was awarded the 2020 Ophir Prize (the Israeli equivalent of the Academy Award) for Best actor.



Ariella Rada:

Ariella Rada, the Consul for Economic and Community Affairs at the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest, joined the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015. In 2016, she was appointed Deputy Chief of Mission of the Israeli embassy to Peru, where she was responsible for politics, press, culture and international aid. Ms. Rada completed her B.A of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy and later an M.A. in Conflict Resolution at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC). Ms. Rada was born to a Jewish family in Ethiopia and immigrated to Israel with her family in 1984. In addition to English and Hebrew, she also speaks Spanish and Amharic.

The Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival:

The mission of the Jewish Film Festival of Grand Rapids is to entertain and educate. The festival uses the power of film to challenge conventional perspectives on complex and dynamic issues facing the Jewish people and the community as a whole. It also provides a forum for the Grand Rapids community to dialogue with filmmakers, producers, writers, and expert panelists.

Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit / Opening the Doors:

JCC's *Opening The Doors* provides innovative services which enable more than 1,200 students with diverse learning differences and abilities to participate in quality and inclusive Jewish education in pre-schools, day schools and congregational school classrooms. Our nationally recognized program also provides disability education programs for educators, families, teens and health professionals.

Please find the link to this program on the
Grand Rapids Film Festival page at:

<https://jewishgrandrapids.org/programs-service>



The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids upholds the Jewish traditions and engages the local community and hopes of building a sustainable Jewish population in the US.

Moving To The US? Here Are Some Things To Know

by Stephanie Haywood

No matter where you're coming from, there is a good chance that moving to the United States will be a huge culture shock. But, if you do your research, you'll be prepared for the quirks of America. Here are a few things you might want to know before you head over.

Immigration

There is a great deal of confusion about the status of immigrants in America. Consider these statistics.

1. 14% of the population is foreign born. According to the American Immigration Council, there are nearly 45 million immigrants in the US.

2. Nearly one-third of all immigrants have a college degree. It is a common misconception that the majority of immigrants are undocumented farmworkers. This is simply not true. 32% of immigrants hold a college degree. An additional 19% have completed some college.

3. More than 4 million immigrants work in healthcare or social services. As of 2018, there were 4,124,557 immigrant workers in the healthcare and social assistance sectors.

Services

There are numerous services you can take advantage of that will help make your move easier.

1. It's easy to send money home. While several services offer ways to send money home, not all are safe or provide affordable transfers to your country. Practice due diligence, and look for a company with stellar exchange rates and a secure experience. For example, if you wish to send funds home to India, a site like Remitly makes it easy to do so. They offer secure transfers with nominal fees and transfers speeds as low as 4 hours.

2. Immigrants are eligible for healthcare through the marketplace. Health insurance is a significant concern. You should know that lawfully present immigrants are eligible to purchase healthcare through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

3. K-12 students are typically entitled to a free public education regardless of immigration status. Education is crucial for all young minds. Immigrant children, regardless of status, are entitled to an education in the US.

Culture

There's no two ways about it: America is quirky. We do things that many countries don't understand. Here are some examples.

1. Breakfast looks a lot like dessert. Cereal, donuts, waffles, muffins, and French toast are all common breakfast foods in the U.S. Be ready to choose between sweet and savory in the morning.

2. Americans wear shoes inside. The United States and Mexico are virtually the only two countries where people routinely wear shoes indoors.

3. U.S. money is the same color. Green, according to the History Channel, is the color of US money because the United States Bureau of Printing and Engraving had lots of it back in 1929.

4. The entire country is commercialized. In many countries, it would be taboo to see an ad for toilet paper or feminine hygiene products.

Not in the U.S. Like other Western countries, U.S. advertising touches on just about everything, and it's common to see this on TV.

The information here only scrapes the surface of what makes America unique, but they offer a glimpse of what you should know. Only time will give you the opportunity to learn everything about your new home.

Stephanie Haywood is happy to be living her best life. Personal development and self-care gave her a boost when she needed it most, and now she works to share the gift of self-knowledge, self-care, and self-actualization with everyone who visits MyLifeBoost.com.





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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.



A Shavuot Treat

It is customary to eat dairy on Shavuot, so here is a recipe for the ultimate New York-Style Cheesecake from Jenn Segal (@onceuponachef on Instagram; <https://www.onceuponachef.com/>).

New York-Style Cheesecake

CRUST

- 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs, from 12 whole crackers
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt



FILLING

- 32 oz (four 8-oz blocks) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon packed lemon zest, from 1 lemon
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice, from 1 lemon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 large eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream



Evan Rossio

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F and set an oven rack in the lower middle position. Wrap a 9- or 10-inch springform pan with one large piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil, covering the underside and extending all the way to the top so there are no seams on the bottom or sides of the pan. Repeat with another sheet of foil for insurance. Spray the inside of the pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Make the crust: In a medium bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, sugar, and salt. Stir until well combined. Press the crumbs into an even layer on the bottom of the prepared pan. Bake the crust for 10 minutes, until set. Remove the pan from the oven and set aside.
3. Reduce the oven temperature to 325°F. Set a kettle of water to boil.
4. Make the batter: In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or beaters, beat the cream cheese, sugar, and flour together on medium speed until just smooth, about 1 minute. Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl to be sure the mixture is evenly combined. Add the vanilla, lemon zest, lemon juice, and salt; beat on low speed until just combined. Add the eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed until incorporated, scraping the bowl as necessary. Mix in the sour cream. Make sure the batter is uniform but do not over-mix.
5. Check to make sure your oven has cooled to 325°F, then set the cheesecake pan in a large roasting pan. Pour the batter on top of the crust. Pour the boiling water into the large roasting pan to come about 1 inch up the side of the cake pan. Bake until the cake is just set, 1 hour and 30 minutes to 1 hour and 45 minutes (the cake should not look liquid at all but will wobble just a bit when the pan is nudged; it will continue to cook as it cools). Carefully remove the roasting pan from the oven and set it on a wire rack. Cool the cheesecake in the water bath until the water is just warm, about 45 minutes. Remove the springform pan from the water bath and discard the foil. If necessary, run a thin-bladed knife around the edge of the cake to make sure it's not sticking to the sides (which can cause cracks as it cools), then cover with plastic wrap and transfer to the refrigerator to cool for at least 8 hours or overnight.
6. Remove the sides of the springform pan. Serve the cheesecake right from the base of the pan; or, to transfer it to a serving platter, run a long, thin spatula between the crust and the pan bottom, and then use two large spatulas to carefully transfer the cheesecake to a serving dish. Slice with a sharp knife, wiping the knife clean between slices. Serve with canned cherries or a berry sauce.

Evan D. Rossio is an attorney from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Married to wife and successful Realtor Julie for 32+ years, they have two children; son Jordan and daughter Emily. Evan's love for cooking began 30 years ago, when he discovered it was good stress relief after a day at work. He now splits his time between an estate planning practice and the occasional cooking gig. If not in the kitchen, he can be found in front of the TV cheering for his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes or perusing his vast cookbook collection.



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!

JLI CLASSES - "THIS CAN HAPPEN"

A Credible Case for Feeling Good about the Future.

For thousands of years, the prophecies of a "messianic age" stretched the imaginations of even the most fervent believers.

Not anymore.

Instant media, mass social movements and a global pandemic have shown us how suddenly and radically the world can be rewired by the actions of a few. *Why not for the good?*

Join us to demystify the Jewish idea of a perfect world and discover a practical path for reaching it in our lifetime.

SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 7:30-9:00PM | BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH 2021

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

For more Info or to register please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

LAG B'OMER BBQ & BONFIRE CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 30 | 4:00-6:00PM

Celebrate Jewish Pride & Unity!

Outdoor Covid Safe / optional Drive by

SHAVUOT

MONDAY, MAY 17 | 5:00PM

Celebrate Shavuot Outdoors and Covid Safe! Join us for a meaningful Ten Commandments Torah reading followed by a delicious dairy buffet and ice cream bar for the whole family. Let's celebrate the holiday that brought us together as a people and solidified our bond to each other and the Torah!

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.



Community Shavuot activities, services, and study, Sunday, May 16 - Tuesday, May 18

Sunday, May 16, 4:30 p.m. Shavuot PJ Library craft and story time

Please join us for a special PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Nicole Katzman, JFGR Executive Director, and Dafna Kaufman, JFGR Film Festival Coordinator, will be reading books in English and Hebrew. Nicole will also teach how to make a special Tootsie Roll Torah treat. This is a fun activity that you can do with your child at home.

Supplies needed to make this adorable Torah craft:

- large tootsie rolls
- Glue dots or glue gun
- Star of David stickers
- Scissors
- Tissue paper
- Tape

The program is pre-recorded. You will receive a link in your email to view. For more information contact: Nicole Katzman, JFGR Executive Director at nicole@jfgr.org



Sunday, May 16, 6:00 p.m. Erev Shavuot Service outside under the carport in the front of the Temple. The service will include the reading of the 10 Commandments, prayers for Yizkor, and a slice of cheesecake to take home for all those in attendance. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85865916351?pwd=d1M5TW9senVSUnNzeHcyUFg1S0F4Zz09>
Meeting ID: 858 6591 6351
Passcode: 043368

Ahavas Israel's annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot pre-Shavuot study sessions will take place on Zoom the evening of Sunday, May 16, taught by Rabbis David Krishef and Michael Schadick.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Krishef
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Rabbi Schadick
Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96842964065?pwd=Y1FjM0RjZVFPRUd6TWVhOjY0OTQ0>
Meeting ID: 968 4296 4065
Passcode: YomTov

Shavuot morning services at Ahavas Israel will be in person Monday and Tuesday morning, May 17 and 18, 10:30 a.m. Monday will include the reading of the Ten Commandments, Tuesday will include the Yizkor service. You can view the broadcasts from the following links:

- Monday morning:
<https://boxcast.tv/view/shavuot-morning-service-596333>
- Tuesday morning:
<https://boxcast.tv/view/shavuot-morning-service-610884>

If you forget or lose the direct links, you can always bookmark the Ahavas Israel broadcast channels on Boxcast, Youtube (Look under videos), and Twitter (follow @ahavasisraelgr).

Nurture your spiritual life through prayer:

What better way to wake up than by expressing gratitude for the blessings of a new day and supporting those who need a minyan to say Kaddish? If you are awake at 8:00 a.m. any Monday - Friday and can spare 40 minutes, please consider joining us for our morning service.

You can join our online morning Zoom minyan, beginning at 8:00 a.m., by clicking here: <https://zoom.us/j/280892158>

From a mobile device, tap: +13126266799,,280892158#
From a telephone, dial +1 312 626 6799 and when prompted, tap in the meeting ID: 280 892 158

Nurture your spiritual life through Torah study:

Join Rabbi Krishef for a Kos Kafeh v'Torah, Coffee break and Torah on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, at 2:00 p.m. - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/490362529>

From a mobile device, tap: +13126266799,,490362529#
From a telephone, dial +1 312 626 6799 and when prompted, tap in the meeting ID: 490 362 529

A small taste of Torah, about 1/2 hour, three times a week, at 2:00 p.m. Consider it a vaccine against spiritual malaise!



May Service Schedule

Friday, May 7
Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM
Celebrating our Mothers and Grandmothers
Friday, May 14
Family Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM
Celebrating May Birthdays and Anniversaries
Sunday, May 16
Outdoor Shavuot Service at 6:00 PM
Reading of the 10 Commandments
Prayers for Yizkor
Friday, May 21
Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM
Confirmation Celebration
Friday, May 28
Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM
Remembering American Soldiers

A Slice of Cheesecake to Take Home

We invite our members to join the Rabbi under the carport at the front of our building for Shavuot Services on Sunday, May 16 at 6:00 PM. All those who join us in person will take home a slice of cheesecake, a traditional dessert on Shavuot.

Shavuot marks the end of the period of the Omer. We celebrate the receipt of the Ten Commandments seven weeks after the second day of Passover. Rain or shine, underneath the carport, we will hear the commandments read and remember our beloved departed with prayers for Yizkor.

We are also joining with Ahavas Israel and the Jewish Federation to offer lots of opportunities for holiday celebration!

Temple Food Bank

Our next food bank distribution will be on Wednesday, May 19th at 9:00 AM. We will be helping our clients load their groceries and other essential items at the Temple front doors. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact mcubed4300@gmail.com or bbach2137@gmail.com to receive assistance. Our food pantry is open to everyone. Even though we have one main distribution day each month, we are always open for emergency needs. Thanks to our community for over 25 years of support to help us Tikkun Olam!

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Ahavas Israel Corners of the Field Community Garden

Come and join us in our community garden. It is still early, but we need help weeding and seeding during the month of May. No experience is necessary. Just bring gardening gloves, some water and your companionship. We will bring tools and materials. Children are welcome to help. We meet at the garden at noon on Sundays for an hour or two of fresh air and sunshine. For more information regarding times email, mcubed4300@gmail.com

Confirmation 2021

We invite our entire congregation to join us for our live-streamed Confirmation Service on Friday, May 21 at 6:00 PM.

We wish Mazel Tov to 10 talented and amazing young people.

Tori Bates, daughter of Sheila & Kevin Bates

Emma Johns, daughter of Cherri & Eric Johns, granddaughter of Ellie Meijers

Molly Johns, daughter of Cherri & Eric Johns, granddaughter of Ellie Meijers

Jake Leopold, son of Michelle Benjamin

Jacob Potter, son of Carey Potter, grandson of Mary & Steve Schwartz

Ethan Rapoport, son of Lisa & Mark Rapoport, grandson of Bev & Dave Kagan

Nicolas Singer, son of Amy & Eric Singer

Franklin Spector, son of Angela Spector-Peters and Marc Spector

Emma Starner, daughter of Lisa Rose Starner & Ken Hoffman and Seth Starner

Michael Young, son of Michele & Joel Young

Your Opinion Matters Online

Sunday May 16th 10:00 AM

Topic: Why Faith? What are the positive attributes of faith?

Jim Siegel is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88093260456?pwd=N250YUNaRWJUYzFONk8wenh0WWxxQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9326 0456 Passcode: 529994

One tap mobile

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United Jewish School Employment Opportunity

The United Jewish School is hiring an administrative assistant. The position is a year-round and part time, requiring approximately 15-20 hours per week effort in support of the Cantor/Educator. Working knowledge of MS Word, Excel, website management, Google Drive and apps, and other computer skills required to perform all job tasks. Assist Cantor/Educator with all communications to parents, generating UJS newsletters and emails, generating content for community newsletters, distributing emails, updating website, creating flyers and posters for events and hallway bulletin boards. Track spending against budget and submit requests to the bookkeeper for invoices, payments, payroll, and reimbursements. Ensure that the teachers have the necessary materials and equipment available for use in the classrooms, events, and meetings. Coordinate student registration. For a complete job description, contact Rabbi Schadick (RabbiS@unitedjewishschool.org) or Rabbi Krishef (RabbiK@unitedjewishschool.org).

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- Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund**
- Louis & Louise Weiner Fund**
- Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund**
- Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund**
- Woman of Valor Endowment Fund**
In honor of Marni Vyn
from Davida and Peter Dennen
- 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**

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.

Make a tribute gift to
Thank, Honor, Memorialize
friends and loved ones.

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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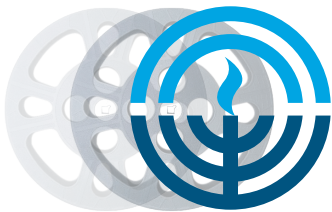
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