



Campaign Kickoff 2020

By Nicole Katzman, Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

Whether it be the searing sun, drenching rain, or driving snow, I can be found outside walking. Those of you who know me well understand that the 20,000 step count is a personal daily goal. On a recent stroll around Reeds Lake where the late evening sunbeams were glistening on the water and the foliage reflected a brilliant aurora of yellow, orange and red, a small leaf caught my attention. It was gently laying on the asphalt, waiting for me to pick it up. I immediately bent down to examine the treasure. In the center of the leaf was carved a symmetrical heart. At closer observation, it was evident that the heart was a random organic shape derived from nature. I felt a deep connection to this beautiful leaf and for a few moments I marvelled at its perfection.



When I returned home, I opened my laptop and posted the picture, sharing my excitement about the fabulous leaf with my social media community. I decided to do a little research about the symbolic meaning of the “heart”. In Hebrew, the word for heart is *Lev*. In biblical times, the heart was considered to be a place in our body where we feel and think. In ancient times, there was no word for *brain*, rather people thought with their hearts. The heart was symbolic of the inner person responsible for thoughts, emotions and feelings.

We are bombarded by a twenty-four hour news cycle. There is non stop talk about the upcoming election, COVID-19 pandemic, the economy, and the future of our world. For me, the leaf was a tiny slice of peace in an otherwise chaotic environment. It was a wonderful moment to reflect on what is important.

My take away: do not forget to take the time to appreciate the simple things in nature and in life. May we practice kindness, empathy and compassion toward each other. May we lead by example and with our heart.

L'Shalom,

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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Chad Zagel

The Jewish Federation is here for our community, Israel and the world. Please make a difference and support Campaign 2020. Every gift is meaningful and can positively change the life of a person or family in need. Todah Rabah, Thank You!

Remember, any amount you increase – and any NEW pledges – will be matched by a generous grant from the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation. And, if you are under 50 years of age, it will ALSO be matched by a generous grant from the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation. A special thank you to Peg and Mort Finkelstein for matching the first \$5,000 raised in Campaign 2020.

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Recognizing the Good

By Rabbi Michael Schadick

It does not take much effort to recognize the immense beauty of autumn in Michigan. Just after Simchat Torah ended Susan and I decided to spend a few days in Traverse City. How lucky we were that this year the fourth week of Tishrei fell just when the foliage was at its peak. The trees were ablaze in their red, yellow, and gold finery. What sights to behold. How blessed we felt to have had the chance to be spectators of these Divine gifts.

Since Covid-19 became a part of our daily lives recognizing our blessings has been more challenging. We think about the things that we cannot do, the events that continue to be cancelled, and how our day to day lives have been so uprooted from what we are used to. I think about how my mother in New Hampshire celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur alone, not entirely alone because of the marvels of technology, but because she lives by herself, she did not have the chance to hug friends and wish them, “good yontif.” There were no embraces as words of “shanah tovah” were exchanged via laptop.

As we move into the month of November it is Thanksgiving that comes to mind. We wonder how safe it will be to celebrate with family and friends in the way that we are accustomed to doing. The thought of my mother sitting at her dining room table alone on Thanksgiving Day greatly saddens me. I know that her situation is no different than millions of others but that does not take away the heartache.

Over the past few years at Temple Emanuel we have woven Mussar teachings into our worship services and offered discussion groups on how to integrate these moral values into our daily lives. Mussar is the practice of embracing Jewish virtues (middot) in a focused way. In so doing we find that our spirit grows. When life seems overwhelmingly challenging, and we are searching for a new path forward, Mussar can lead us toward wholeness.

And it is on the middah of “hakarat hatov” that I have spent an inordinate amount of time reflecting upon since the arrival of the pandemic. Hakarat hatov is translated as “recognizing the good”. We ask ourselves how is it that we can focus on the blessings we have and recognize what is good in our lives, despite all the bumps we must navigate?

In the moment when I am turning the corner into full fledged “kvetch mode” about something I wish was not happening I pause for a moment for a “hakarat hatov” reality check. I look for something good in the moment and do my best to appreciate what that is. This middah

reminds me that despite what is happening in any instance I can find something for which to offer thanks.

And back to my mother and my extended family for a moment. We knew that we could not be together and this was a source of pain and frustration. But what we did this year was have Rosh Hashanah dinner and Break the Fast via Zoom. With computer screens on our dining room tables, despite the challenges of the day, we were able to eat together and share the New Year. It most certainly was not as good as being in the same room as my loved ones, but it was quite pleasant.

I am certain that on Thanksgiving my family will be celebrating via Zoom too. We will not be able to clink glasses and say, “l’chayim” or hold hands around the table offering our thanks, but we will be able to see and hear each other just as always do and for that I am most grateful. I know that this is a blessing that not everyone will have.

What is it that you are thankful for on Thanksgiving this year? Is it your health? Is it your warm home? Might it be your friends and family? Of all years may this be the one that we to recognize anew what is good. No matter what our situation is there are reasons to give thanks.

How will you understand “hakarat hatov” in the coming weeks and months? With some consideration I am certain we will all be able to find plenty of ways.

Rabbi Michael Schadick has been the rabbi of Temple Emanuel since the summer of 2000. He and his wife Susan moved to Grand Rapids from Weston, Florida. Their daughter Shira was born in West Michigan. Susan works for Cap Gemini Consulting and Shira is a sophomore at Case Western Reserve University.

Rabbi Schadick was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in the spring of 1994. Rabbi Schadick loves his work at the 5th oldest Reform Congregation in America. He is the rabbi of a congregation of almost 300 families, with members of all ages and from all streams of Jewish tradition. From teaching students of all ages, to observing sacred moments in the life of the community, to finding creative ways to celebrate Judaism, Rabbi Schadick understands how blessed he is to serve this community.

Rabbi Schadick is active in the Interfaith Community in West Michigan. He will participate in the upcoming Grand Rapids Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 23.



Rabbi Michael Schadick



Meet our New Pomegranate, Dr. Valerie Shavell

Valerie Shavell was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She left home to attend Cornell University, where she earned a B.A. in psychology and biology. She went on to study medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York City, where Valerie met her husband Daren. After completing a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and a fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Valerie and Daren relocated to Grand Rapids in 2013. Valerie is currently a fertility specialist with special interests in infertility, recurrent pregnancy loss and endocrine disorders affecting reproduction.

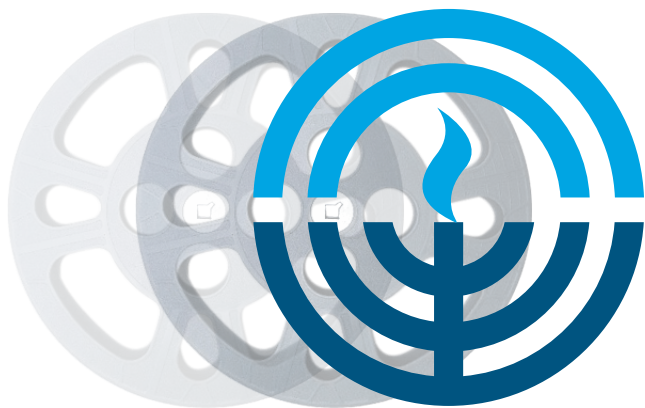
Valerie and Daren have three children. Their daughter Anya (8) is enrolled at Ada Vista Elementary. They also have two sons, Ashton and Elan (5). The family enjoys travel, spending time outdoors and skiing. Dance was a meaningful part of Valerie's childhood and she became an apprentice at Hawaii Ballet Theater before leaving home for college. Valerie enjoys supporting the arts, including Grand Rapids Ballet and West Michigan Youth Ballet, where her daughter is currently preparing for her first Nutcracker performance.

Valerie and Daren are active in the Jewish community. They embrace Judaism and strive to maintain a Jewish home. They are supporters of the Chabad of West Michigan and are members of Ahavas Israel. Their children have attended preschool at Gan Yiladim



and look forward to Camp Gan Israel every summer. Valerie was honored to embark on the Momentum trip to Israel in 2019 with other women from Grand Rapids. This was an incredible opportunity that strengthened her ties to Israel and commitment to Judaism.

For more information on women's philanthropy contact Nicole Katzman, Executive Director at nicole@jfrg.org



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Ask Julianna

by Julianna Schrier, Community Connector



Julianna Schrier

Shalom,

I'd like to share a question I received from a community member:

Q: My mother is getting older, and is not able to be as independently mobile as she once was. We aren't sure if we want to find in-home care, or if we want to move her to an assisted living facility. What are some of the best options in the area?

A: There are many options available, and they all have different benefits depending on what you and your mother are looking for. Here are some of the differences between assisted living and in-home care:

Assisted living homes are ideal for individuals who do not need as much care day to day. They offer 24/7 assistance when needed, but are designed to allow their residents to be relatively independent on their own. Assisted living homes also offer a variety of social activities and organizations that you would be able to take part in. Depending on the place, most care facilities provide private or semi-private apartments and rooms.

In-home care, on the other hand, is perfect for individuals who may require a bit more assistance day to day. If your mom still wants to stay in her home,

and you're able to afford it, in-home care is a great option. The services that in-home care providers can offer vary, depending on what you may be looking for. Everything from companionship and help with housekeeping and errands, to assistance walking, dressing, and more. You and your mother would have more of a direct say in who each caretaker may be, but you would also be more directly involved in hiring and managing them.

There are both assisted living facilities and in-home care options available in Grand Rapids. If you or a loved one are beginning the process of deciding what type of care makes the most sense for you, reach out to the Federation! Once you know what level of care you're looking for, we can provide you with options and contacts to take the next steps in the process.

If you'd like to send me a question for the Shofar or set up a time to talk, email me at julianna@jfgr.org or at (616) 942-5553 ext. 206. I look forward to connecting with you soon!

Hanukkah Adopt-A-Family



Every year, JFGR helps those in need in our community. The goal is to raise \$3000 in donations. This will allow us to help families who are struggling financially. Consider helping, and mail your pledge by November 30, 2020 to JFGR at: 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 earmarked "Adopt-A-Family". Hanukkah begins December 10, 2020. If you have any questions or referrals, please email julianna@jfgr.org or call (616) 942-5553 ext. 206.



Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids

by Paul Arnold

This winter, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids will proudly present a hybrid production of “Kunstler” by Jeffrey Sweet, featuring Grand Rapids actors Gary Mitchell and Brooke Bruce, and directed by Mary Beth Quillin.

“Kunstler” follows a day in the life of the late American-Jewish radical lawyer and civil rights activist William Kunstler as he arrives at a college campus to give a seminar. Well known for his politically unpopular clients, and famous for defending the Chicago Seven, Attica prison rioters, and American Indian Movement, Kunstler’s notorious career is met with an unwelcoming crowd. African-American law student Kerry Nicholas is assigned to introduce him despite being the member of the school’s speaker program who strongly objected

to his appearance. Kunstler energetically recounts his controversial cases as Kerry struggles with the urge to challenge him publicly.

On December 13th at 8:00 PM, for one night only, Kunstler will be performed live at Wealthy Street Theatre in front of a small studio audience as the play is live streamed and recorded. You can watch the real-time performance from the comfort of your home through your computer, smart phone, tablet, or TV with internet access. The recording can also be accessed at a discounted rate all day Thursday, December 17, Saturday December 19, and Sunday, December 20. For more information, please visit www.jtgr.org.

JTGR is Virtually Back in Business

New Livestream Event on Sunday December 13th at 8:00PM

A live performance on your TV, Computer Tablet or Smartphone.

Additional On-demand performances on Dec. 17, 19 & 20

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Ensuring Diversity and Inclusion during the Holiday Season

by Carolyn Normandin,
Regional Director of Michigan Anti-Defamation League (ADL)



Carolyn Normandin

Every year, ADL staff get questions from parents about concerns of inequity in schools over the holidays. Whether it is a math lesson asking young students “count the Christmas trees” or a holiday concert where high schoolers are asked to sing religious Christmas songs, the issue is the same: students can feel “otherness.”

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion to all Americans — including young school children — by prohibiting the government from endorsing or promoting any particular religious point of view. Teachers, administrators and parents have a duty to promote greater understanding and tolerance among students of different traditions. While many schools are not holding classes in person this year, the obligation of adhering to the requirements of the First Amendment still applies.

There is a critical difference between practicing religion and teaching about religions. Most importantly, it is constitutionally permissible for public schools to teach *about* religion but unconstitutional for public schools to observe religious holidays or *practice* religion.

Often school staff try to “do the right thing,” but they fall short; due to lack of understanding or unintended thoughtlessness. When issues are brought to an administrator’s attention, staff can “course correct” appropriately. If you have a concern at a particular school, bring it up to the staff. Do not be divisive. Start with the “front-line” person. In other words – if a kindergarten teacher promotes something specific in a classroom that doesn’t fit – start with the teacher. If you don’t get satisfaction, move up the line. ADL can always be counted on for guidance or support. Go to <https://www.adl.org/reportincident>.

These situations are so pervasive, ADL created the “December Dilemma Guidelines” and freely shares the guide every year. (See the link at the bottom of the article). But here are some top suggestions:

- Public schools must not “practice” a certain religion.
- Religious music should not dominate school activities.
- Schools should focus on more than one religion when promoting fun during the holidays.

- Students need to be given a choice not to participate in an activity that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- While holiday time means extra parties & festivities and so many people enjoy special décor, decorations should not favor one religion over another.

Here is a link to the ADL Guide *The December Dilemma: December Holiday Guidelines for Public Schools*
<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/december-dilemma-holiday-guidelines-for-public-schools>

Carolyn Grant Normandin was appointed Regional Director of the Michigan Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Office, in April 2018.

A member of ADL’s Michigan Regional Advisory Board for four years, Normandin has experience in philanthropy and communications, serving in both the for-profit as well as nonprofit sectors. Prior to joining ADL, Normandin was Senior Vice President leading Operations, Marketing and Sales at The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Normandin worked for General Motors in a variety of areas, including the GM Foundation, Public Policy, Brand Communications and Diversity & Inclusion. She led communications for 18 product launches and was responsible for leading internal and external communication strategies on dozens of national projects.

Over the course of her GM tenure, Normandin earned numerous awards for projects involving safety and technology, including GM’s top honor, the Chairman’s Award of Excellence, three times. A number of her media strategies were applied nationally and globally across the company, particularly in the area of technology communications.

Born in Detroit and raised in Southeastern Michigan, Normandin earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Communications from Michigan State University. She is a graduate of Leadership Detroit Cohort XXXVI.



Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel

*are proud to present,
an intimate **virtual** musical evening with*

Cantor Randy Herman

He will perform a solo piano & voice concert with special Hanukkah surprises!

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Cantor Herman will feature original Jewish and secular songs and share his thoughts and stories from his life as a musician and educator. A link to this exciting performance will be sent to your email on December 9, 2020 at 7pm. For more information contact Nicole Katzman, Executive Director at nicole@jfg.org



Descended from performing vaudevillian grandparents on one side, and off-the-boat Eastern European orthodox Jews on the other, Cantor Randy Herman seemed destined to integrate the worlds of musical performance and Judaism. He was raised in Grand Rapids, MI, where he attended Breton Downs, Manhattan, and Woodcliff Elementary Schools, East Grand Rapids Junior High and High Schools, and as a teen was involved in the community theater scene (he also performed several times at Festival downtown). He later attended the University of Michigan, majoring in theater and psychology. After working briefly as a musician in Paris, and as an actor on the East Coast, Cantor Herman settled in Chicago, where he cofounded the critically acclaimed Theater Oobleck, an avant-garde theater troupe. As a pianist, singer and songwriter, he has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad in nightclubs and festivals, at private events and on live radio, and has worked extensively as a studio musician. His own recordings received college and commercial radio play, and reviews in major publications.

Cantor Herman spent a year of study in Jerusalem, where he attended the Conservative Yeshiva and sang in the Great Synagogue choir, and received cantorial investiture and a Masters of Sacred Music from the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC in 2008. He has been a featured concert performer in synagogues & venues throughout the U.S. and abroad, and as guest cantor has led services at the famed Chor Shul (Choral Synagogue) in Vilnius, Lithuania, and at the Great Synagogue of Stockholm. From 2008-2016, Cantor Herman served full time at Bet Torah in Mt. Kisco (Northern Westchester), NY, where he also completed a CD of original songs, "Moving Through Time." He is married to his soulmate Nicole, they have an amazing two-year-old daughter and are expecting another baby in the spring.



JFGR Program Updates: Concerts, Cooking and More!

by Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming

The Jewish holidays have passed, Fall is in full swing, and JFGR will continue to provide you with entertaining, cultural and educational virtual programs.

On November 5, at 7pm, JFGR is proud to present the Grand Rapids Symphony Porch Concert featuring musicians Christine Golden, Dan Golden, and Jonathan Golden. The pieces performed are the Vivaldi Concerto for Mandolin in three movements and the Mozart G major Duo in three movements. This is a pre-recorded concert that took place in August 2020.

On Tuesday, November 17 at 7pm, JFGR presents virtual cooking with community member, Evan Rossio. Evan is an attorney from Grand Rapids. He is married to Julie for 32 years and they have two grown children, Jordan and Emily. Evan's love for cooking began 30 years ago, when he discovered it was good stress relief after a long day at work. Evan shares his love for cooking with family and friends.

Looking towards Hanukkah, PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids presents: ShirLaLa Rockin' Hanukkah Concert with musician Shira Kline! Shira is making a special children's program (birth- age 12) just for our Western Michigan

Jewish community. Join us Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 5pm for this magical Hanukkah concert!

JFGR, Ahavas Israel and Temple Emauel are excited to present an intimate musical evening with Cantor Randy Herman on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm. He will perform a solo piano & voice concert with special Hanukkah Surprises! Cantor Herman will feature original Jewish and secular songs and share his thoughts and stories from his life as a musician and educator. Cantor Herman grew up in Grand Rapids and studied to be a cantor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He currently serves as Hazzan of Chizuk Amuno Congregation in Pikesville, MD.

Prior to the Zoom program, you will receive a link in your email to begin the program. For more information contact Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming at markay@jfg.org or 616-942-5553.



Marisa Krishef

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Financial Focus

Vote for a Solid Investment Strategy

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



Chad Zagel
JFGR Board Member

Election Day will soon be here. As a citizen, you may feel the results will affect many aspects of life in this country. But as an investor, your situation probably won't change after the votes are counted.

No matter who wins, the financial markets may well show some politically driven volatility,

but that often happens around elections, and it typically doesn't last long. But what about the longer term? How might changes in policy and new legislation affect your investment outlook?

To begin, keep in mind that many campaign promises remain just that – promises.

And even when some of them are enacted, any ultimate legislation may be quite different from what was proposed on the campaign trail.

Still, sometime in the future, we could see election-related changes that could affect your investment strategy. For example, over the years, we've seen many adjustments in the tax rates of capital gains and stock dividends, and it's likely these rates will change again one day. When that happens, you may need to look at the equities portion of your portfolio to see if you want to make some adjustments.

Many other changes, though, are hard to predict. It's possible that future legislation could affect specific industries, either positively or negatively. Such moves could also influence the way you look at certain investments, but if you have a diversified portfolio that contains a broad mix of stocks, bonds and other securities, any actions affecting one particular industry probably won't cause you to significantly adjust holdings invested in other sectors.

In any case, while it may be a good idea to keep an eye open for things like tax rate changes or how new policies may affect different market segments, your

main emphasis, in terms of your investment decisions, should remain on *your* goals and what *you* need to do to achieve them.

At least once each year, review your portfolio carefully to make sure your investments are aligned with your goals, whether they are short-term (a new car, a long vacation and so on) or long-term (such as college for your children or a comfortable retirement). Periodically, depending on what's happening in your life and the progress of your investment portfolio, you may need to evaluate your goals to ensure they're prioritized appropriately to help keep you on track toward achieving what's most important to you.

Over time, your goals may change, too. Perhaps you've decided that instead of retiring early and traveling around the world, you now want to turn your hobby into a business. Changing this goal may require a different investment strategy. Or you might change your mind about where you want to live – instead of staying in your home, as originally planned, you might downsize and move to a different area. Your goals may change in many ways, all of which may warrant updating your investment strategies.

Here's the key point: *You're* the one electing to make these changes. No matter what happens in this or any other election, be sure to "vote" for the strategies that have the potential for a winning outcome.

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

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A Window on the Past

by Rob Franciosi



Rob Franciosi

Last month I wrote about the planned website to honor Holocaust survivors who settled in West Michigan and to tell the story of how the Jewish community faced the catastrophe and its aftermath. Although I have lived in Grand Rapids far longer than anywhere else, my roots are in New York, so I lack the visceral connections and intimate memories of those who have multi-generational ties to this place. Research rather than recollection is my guide.

When some members of our web group mentioned a 1971 ceremony at Ahavas Israel, one that commemorated the Holocaust and dedicated a stained-glass window in its memory, I immediately sought out information in the *Grand Rapids Press* online archive. In just a few minutes I found a story about the occasion, which I supplemented with information at Gen and Jack Finkelstein archives at Ahavas.

Designed by the firm of Albert Wood and Five Sons, the marble-framed window is set between the two doors to the main sanctuary and presents a powerful mixture of image and text. Although no longer present today, a typed card once explained the window's particular features. "Dominating the design is an endless pattern of doomed humanity," it reads, "conceived as an abstract unbroken chain representing all those who perished in the Holocaust. The powerful black interconnecting forms suggest strength and unity against a symbolic background which combines areas



of flame and of the light beyond, with portions of the darkened heavens and patches of the blue of day."

A press release about the dedication also noted that words inscribed within the design are from Chaim Bialik's famous poem "In the City of Slaughter," written in response to the notorious Kishniev pogrom of 1903, not to the Nazi war against the Jews. One can easily imagine a 2020 version of the window quoting Elie Wiesel or perhaps the great Israeli poet-survivor Dan Pagis.



Published the day before the April 25 dedication, the *Press* article included a photograph of the window, but of far greater interest to me was the listing of seven survivors who were to participate in a candle-lighting ceremony: David Mandel, Henry Pestka, Abe Radich, Fred Sarne, Joseph Stevens, Konard Veit, and Clara Zaidenworm.

Fifty years after the dedication of that window, the stories of these seven community members will serve as the initial foundation for our web site, tracing their journeys from Europe to America, from the shattered ruins of an old world to the possibilities of a new one.

But as I learned from contact with another local survivor, Christian Winther, who read last month's *Shofar* and contacted me, there are indeed many more stories to tell, not only of such survivors as Eve Rider, whose account was published in the May issue, or Susette Tauber, who escaped from Nazi Germany to the United States via Shanghai and the Dominican Republic, but also of rescuers like Pieter and Adriana Termat, Diet Eman, and perhaps several local veterans who helped to liberate the camps.

The spectacular national museum in Washington is described as "a *living* memorial to the Holocaust." Because most of the survivors who built new lives in the Grand Rapids community have passed from our midst, a primary goal of this website, then, is to be a dynamic resource, a living depository of their stories, yes, but also of others whose own tales from those dark times call out to be remembered and preserved. If you have documents, photographs, videos, or even artifacts related to any of those from that group of seven, please contact me. And most importantly, if you know of people whose stories should be added to our site, please share that information.

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



The Sound of the Shofar

by Yehudit Newman

I have always loved the sound of the shofar, to me it is a sound that transcends time and space. I first heard it at Temple Beth El downtown Detroit. I've always thought of myself as an 'outback Jew', I have never lived in a large Jewish Community. I grew up in Wayne, Michigan where we were the only Jewish family and drove into Detroit for services. As a girl during High Holy Days, while my parents attended Yizkor and the grown-up services I would sit in the Ladies Lounge or the big public library across Woodward Avenue and read a book. Both the library and the Temple were elegant and awesome to a little girl from a factory town. I particularly remember during one of these occasions when a woman went into labor and while they paged the congregation for a doctor she exclaimed, "If it's a boy I'll name him David!"

Decades later my family again drove many miles

to services up in Door County, Wisconsin to our Chavurah, L'dor v'dor where we gathered in a farm house. It was a glorious autumn day and we took our chairs and sederim outside for the service. The sound of the shofar echoing over the hills was amazingly beautiful. And then the cows came home. The farm's herd of cows decided it was time to come back to the barn and passed by our group as we prayed. I couldn't help but contrast this with the traffic on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit.

This year was very different. The only gathering was when we met Benton Harbor's congregation B'nai Shalom along Lake Michigan for Tashlich, and the only shofar I heard was virtual. I closed my eyes as I listened and for just an instant I could remember the feeling of standing next to my father, z"l, in that elegant sanctuary on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. And it was enough.

Deet is the Art teacher at United Jewish School. She studied occupational therapy at Eastern Michigan University and live in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



John Moga and Nathan Mandel in Door County, Wisconsin



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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.

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A Recipe for Autumn

Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

Serves 4

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 1 Granny Smith apple, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, grated on microplane or pressed
- 1 (2 1/2-pound) butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 6 cups broth (vegetable or chicken)
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, plus more, to taste
- 2 tablespoons honey or agave



Evan Rossio

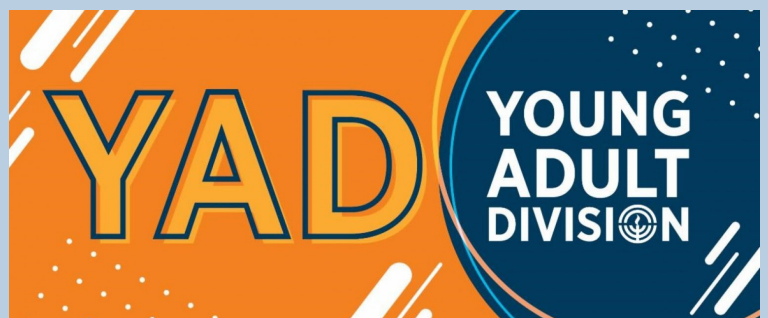


Heat oil in a soup pot over medium heat, then add onions and sauté slowly until soft but not brown, about 5 minutes on medium/low heat. Add the squash, apples, broth, curry powder and salt and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer until squash and apples are tender, about 30 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in honey or agave and puree with an immersion blender until smooth. You can also blend the soup in batches. Check for seasoning and salt to taste. Garnish options include yogurt, non-dairy yogurt, sour cream, pumpkin seeds or other nuts, pomegranate seeds, cinnamon, or nutmeg. Pears can be used in lieu of apples in the recipe, if desired.

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.

Young Adult Division (YAD) Interest Form

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



<https://forms.gle/jbLflVeBiv6TteHp9>



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!

CTEEN GRAND RAPIDS (For Jewish High School teens)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST | 1:00PM

Virtual CTeen Challah Bake!

YOU RSVP AND WE DELIVER! (RSVP and you will get a bag with all the ingredients you will need!)

Just text Rivka at 616.206.9654!

JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND | 8:00PM

The Jewish Women's Circle presents an evening with Graphologist Chani Zirkind. Discover the intriguing world of handwriting analysis and learn what your handwriting says about you! Email Nechamy at Nechamy8@gmail.com to RSVP and receive zoom information.

JLI CLASSES - "SECRETS OF THE BIBLE"

A lush garden...a snake...forbidden fruit...temptation...the sin of knowledge...shame...mortality...

What is really going on?

Revisit six seemingly absurd stories you likely remember from Hebrew school. Uncover their hidden themes and eye-opening insights into the mysteries of life.

~ What is the deeper meaning behind these stories?

~ How did they shape the Jewish worldview?

~ What wisdom do they hold for you today?

Sign up for a thought-provoking experience, sure to deepen your understanding of Judaism and enrich your life!

SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 7:30-9:00PM | BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2020

To register today, visit myJLI.com

Socially distant at Chabad (**Virtual option VIA zoom on Tuesday evenings!**)

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

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

CKIDS CLUB/MINI CHEFS (For Jewish boys & girls, Ages 5-11)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH | 5:00PM

Mini Chefs is a unique culinary experience that gives your children the opportunity to cook, bake and decorate fabulous Jewish themed foods and take home their own handmade creations. Experience the joy of Kosher Cooking! RSVP to receive recipe and zoom information.

CTEEN JUNIOR (For Jewish Teens Grades 6-8)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND | 4:00PM

Enrich your Jewish Pride & Explore Judaism while giving back to the Community.

RSVP to receive zoom information.

GRAND MENORAH LIGHTING DOWNTOWN @ THE CALDER PLAZA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH • 5:00PM

Come celebrate the 4th night of Hanukkah together! Lively Hanukkah music, Sufganiot (donuts), Exciting entertainment, and more!!

Fun for the whole family!

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

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!

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!

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.

Gan Yiladim takes the best of both worlds – secular and Judaic – and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating.

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

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

For more information or to schedule a tour call Sarah at 616.375.9404.



AHAVAS ISRAEL BOOK GROUP

Our next book discussion will be Thursday, November 12, to discuss *Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South* by Sue Eisenfeld

Nonfiction. The idea that Jews could be Confederates was unthinkable. Eisenfeld planned a series of road trips to a variety of historic sites in the South. Eisenfeld demonstrates that conforming to the dominant culture meant survival and prosperity for southern Jews. In Selma, Eisenfeld discovers Jews who did not care for the interference of northern Jews, since it often threatened their sense of security.

Mark your calendars for future Book Group reads:
Wednesday, February 17 - *A Rabbi's Daughter*, by Avigail Graetz
A semi- autobiographical story of three generations of strong women.

Thursday, May 20 - *Levittown: Two Families, One Tycoon, and the Fight for Civil Rights in America's Legendary Suburb* by David Kushner

Nonfiction. A multilayered tale of public policy, personal desire for a better life, McCarthyism, and Communist Party support for civil rights.

Wednesday, August 18 - *Not Our Kind* by Kitty Zeldis
About a Jewish woman working as a tutor for a Protestant family.



NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday, November 6
Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM
Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, November 7
Bat Mitzvah of Kenna Charbauski at 10:00 AM
Kenna is the daughter of Rebecca and Jim Charbauski
To watch online, please go to Zoom.com and enter: Meeting ID: 811 3010 3758 Passcode: Kenna

Friday, November 13
Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM
A Celebration of our Veterans

Saturday, November 14
Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Rider at 10:00 AM
Sadie is the daughter of Tracy Miller-Rider and Tom Rider
To watch online, please go to Zoom.com and enter: Meeting ID: 811 2050 8349 Passcode: Sadie

Friday, November 20
Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM
Torah will be read

Friday, November 27
EARLY Shabbat Services at 5:30 PM
Thanksgiving Weekend

Doors will open at 6:00 for in-person services. There will be no pre-service social hour or Oneg Shabbat after services. Face masks are required at all times while we are inside the Temple. Temperatures will be scanned as you enter, and we ask that you use our touch-free hand sanitizing stations upon arrival.

Those who cannot or do not wish to attend in person can still join us online. Our Zoom meeting will begin at 6:00 for virtual social time, then either stay in the Zoom meeting to watch Shabbat Services live from our sanctuary or go to the Temple Emanuel Private Facebook Group to watch. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/795261435?pwd=NW9VSURJTG9DaGVxS2RURFJqcTJUQT09>
Meeting ID: 795 261 435 Passcode: Challah18

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

We continue to gather virtually on Saturday morning to study the Torah portion of the week. This month Kreenah Dunsmore will fill in for the rabbi on November 7 and 14 as he officiates at 2 B'not Mitzvah. He will return to the group on November 21.

Saturday, November 7-Vayera
Saturday, November 14-Chaye Sarah
Saturday, November 21-Toldot
Saturday, November 28-Thanksgiving Break-No Discussion
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8211011186?pwd=cS9lS1ZxNkMrSjgwOUNPUFFOUjFDUT09>
Meeting ID: 821 1011 1186 Passcode: Parashah

Women's Mussar Study Group Thursdays at 7:00

We invite our female members to join Kreenah Dunsmore and Elisheva English via Zoom for a weekly *Mussar* discussion. *Mussar* is the study and practice of how we enhance our inner selves by embracing Jewish virtues, known as middot. The group will use the text of the book [The Spiritual Practice of Good Actions by Greg Marcus](#). Bring your everyday life into alignment with your aspirational values through *Mussar*, a thousand-year-old Jewish practice of spiritual growth based on mindful living.

October 29 & November 5, Chapter Twelve: Gratitude
November 12 & 19, Chapter Thirteen: Order
NO Mussar on November 26, Happy Thanksgiving

For more information please contact:
Elisheva English - atolstoywoman@hotmail.com
Kreenah Dunsmore - kreenah.dunsmore@yahoo.com

(Continued on page 5)



TEMPLE EMANUEL (Cont'd From Pg. 17)

The Social Justice Book Group will continue meeting on Zoom on Mondays at 7:00 PM to discuss the book *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. The opposite of "Racist" isn't "Not Racist." Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Please contact Sherri Robinson at sherrirobinson@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88450130614?pwd=KzZkTGIXUUZYK01oSy9GUGtRR3E0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 884 5013 0614

Passcode: 384228

Food Bank Update

Who are the food bank's clients? From time to time we get that question. We have a base of about 50 clients, all of whom meet the poverty guidelines as defined by the USDA. Some only come occasionally, maybe they are between jobs or have had an illness which has kept them out of work. Others come every month. They maybe seniors, disabled, or working a low wage job and need assistance feeding their families. Each month more than 50% of those benefitting from the food bank are children under 18 and seniors over 60.

Since 1987, the congregation has been fulfilling the commandment to repair the world by feeding the hungry.

If you have questions about our Food Bank please contact mcubed4300@gmail.com or bbach2187@gmail.com. Your support is much appreciated. Thank you!

Two Contests for Hanukkah

Just because Covid-19 is still with us and social distancing continues to be necessary for our well-being, Hanukkah will soon arrive. The first candles will be lit on Thursday, December 10.

We are delighted to kick-off two Menorah Making contests for Hanukkah. The first is to craft a menorah that is functional. This means candles can be kindled from it. The second is to create a menorah, of any dimension, of any materials, that is purely decorative.

These two contests are for members of all ages. Children of all ages and adults of all ages are invited to participate. There will be prizes awarded for the menorahs in all categories, and in all age groups. ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL Hanukkah GIFT.

Entries will need to be photographed. These pictures will then be forwarded to Cat at Cat@grtemple.org. All pictures will be used in video montages that will be sent to the members of our community. THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ENTRIES IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4. So as the weather gets colder this month get creative. Design a menorah for Hanukkah 2020. We cannot wait to see the results!

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JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund

In memory of our beloved son Nick Rapeyko

Lidiya and Vilen Rapeyko

In honor of Rabbi Albert Lewis

Eve and Nelson Rider

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

Leven Family Endowment Fund

In honor of Marilyn and Norm Leven

Barbara and Mark Gerson

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

In Honor and Memory of John Tully

by his dear friends, Norman and Barbara Kravitz

John Tully led by example by contributing and supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community and Federation and devoting his time, energy, and financial support to various social justice endeavors throughout the general community.

And, most importantly, John was just a dear soul.

Never to be forgotten.

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.

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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www.jewishgrandrapids.org
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On behalf of the Jewish Federation
Wishing you a
Happy Thanksgiving!