



A Message from David Alfonso JFGR Board Chair

By David Alfonso, MD



David Alfonso, MD

Our campaign season has officially kicked off beginning with our community event last month featuring Cantor Randy Herman and our own Cantor David Fair. It was an incredible and inspiring evening of music for all of us to enjoy. We were also able to hear from David Hooker, CEO of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. He discussed the upcoming installation of Ariel Schlessinger’s sculpture *Ways to Say Goodbye* that has been generously donated to our community by Linda and Steve Pestka. We are all anxiously awaiting its official installation in the near future and it will certainly be an incredible achievement for a community of our size. In related news I am pleased to be able to announce to our community that Linda and Steve have also recently endowed a fund named the “Henry Pestka Holocaust Memorial Fund” in memory of their father. This generous endowment allows the JFGR to have full time Holocaust Education resources. The mission is to have Holocaust education resources for our community as well as the broader community to ensure the vital lessons of the Shoah are never forgotten and future generations learn about the dangers that anti-semitism and hate pose. This unique resource provides a great advantage to a community of our size because of the impact it can have locally. The Federation is grateful for the generosity and vision of Linda and Steve to make this a reality. They realized the diminishing presence of Holocaust Education and have committed to help improve awareness to ultimately ensure that history doesn’t repeat itself.

In regards to our Campaign, we are off to a great start! Our goal this year is to raise \$500,000. As you may know, these funds are used for a variety of causes that impact Jewish people around the world as well as our local community. Whatever your passion is, from international issues, Israel advocacy, to local programming for seniors down to preschoolers, I believe we can find a cause for you to give. If you haven’t already pledged please consider making a personally meaningful gift to your Federation. There are many ways to give and our staff would be happy to chat with you more about these opportunities

Happy Hanukkah!
David Alfonso, MD

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

Our Mission:

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids unites the local Jewish community to sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel and around the world.

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

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GOAL: \$500,000

180 Donors

**Current:
\$330,140**

*If you would like to make a gift,
contact Evan@jfgr.org*

Linda

The Jewish Federation is here for our community, Israel and the world. Please make a difference and support Campaign 2021. 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**.

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



I'd like to support my community and make a gift to Campaign 2021!

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October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Judith Joseph

Each year in the United States, about 255,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women and about 2,300 in men. About 42,000 women and 500 men in the U.S. die each year from breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women after skin cancer.

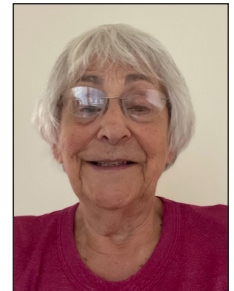
Studies have shown that your risk for breast cancer is due to a combination of factors. The main factors that influence your risk include being a woman and getting older. Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older, but breast cancer also affects younger women.

One in forty Ashkenazi Jews – men and women – carries a BRCA gene mutation, more than ten times the rate of the general population, making Jewish families significantly more susceptible to hereditary cancer, which could include breast, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, melanoma or male breast cancer. Sephardic Jews may also be genetically predisposed to hereditary cancer, but their risk to carry a BRCA mutation has not been identified to be as high as the risk for Ashkenazi Jews.

If you or someone in your family has tested BRCA+ or carry another gene mutation (e.g. CHEK2, ATM, PALB2, a Lynch syndrome mutation), whether or not you have been diagnosed with cancer, you may wish to consult Sharsheret, a national non-profit organization, that improves the lives of Jewish women and families living with or at increased genetic risk for breast or ovarian cancer through personalized support and saves lives through educational outreach. Sharsheret may be reached at 866.474.2774 or www.sharsheret.org

Some women will get breast cancer even without any

other risk factors that they know of. Having a risk factor does not mean you will get the disease, and not all risk factors have the same effect. Most women have some risk factors, but most women do not get breast cancer. If you have breast cancer risk factors, talk with your doctor about ways you can lower your risk and about screening for breast cancer.



Judith Joseph

There are many steps you and your loved ones can take to improve your chances of staying healthy:

- Conduct monthly self-exams. In addition to medical screenings, the National Breast Cancer Foundation and many medical professionals recommend a monthly self-exam. To learn how to do a breast self-exam, check out this self-exam guide offered by NationalBreastCancer.org.
- Quit smoking. According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), smoking is a significant risk factor for breast and many other types of cancer. Non-smokers are at lower risk than smokers regardless of your age or how long you have been a smoker.
- Exercise more. Regular exercise and a healthy diet can also lower your risk factors. Benefits.gov
- Mammography is the most common screening test for breast cancer. A mammogram is a picture of the inside of the breast. Mammography may find tumors that are too small to feel.

Judith Joseph- Forty-two year breast cancer survivor.

I have lived in Grand Rapids since 1973. I immediately became involved in the Jewish community. I am currently on the executive boards of Ahavas Israel and JFGR.



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

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Financial Focus

Protect Your Financial Information Online

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

If you're an investor, you probably enjoy the convenience of managing your accounts online. But you'll also want to make sure that you're not making it convenient for hackers, "phishers" and others with bad intentions to gain the same access.

Fortunately, there's a lot you can do to protect your privacy. Here are a few suggestions offered by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission:

- **Use a strong password or passphrase.** You'll want to pick a password that would be virtually impossible for anyone to guess, employing capital and lowercase letters, plus symbols and numbers. Of course, you'll want to record the password in a secure place so you won't forget it. Instead of using a password, you may have the option of choosing a passphrase, which contains a series of words strung together. You'll want to avoid phrases taken from popular culture or that are otherwise commonly used. And it's also a good idea not to use phrases containing your name, birthday or other personal identifiers.
- **Use two-step authentication.** If your investment company offers two-step, or multifactor, authentication, you'll want to take advantage of it, since it's a good security tool. When using two-step authentication, you'll need to add an additional factor – such as your best friend from grade school or the model of the first car you owned, and so on – to your username and password. And when you log in to your account from an unrecognized computer, your investment firm may send you a code via text message or email, which you'll need to enter to open your accounts.
- **Activate your account alerts.** When you turn on your account alerts, you'll receive text messages

or emails notifying you of certain activities, such as account logins, failed account login attempts, personal information changes, money transfers, adding or deleting of external financial accounts, and more. These alerts can help you monitor your accounts for fraud and verify your own moves, as well.

- **Avoid using public computers to access investment accounts.** If you're at a hotel or library, try to avoid the temptation to use the computer to check in on your investments. But if you do use a public computer, at least take proper precautions. For starters, don't leave data on a screen and walk away, even for a moment. And when you're finished with the computer, log out of your account to end the online session. You may also want to change any password you used.
- **Ignore suspicious links.** Be suspicious of emails or text messages containing links claiming to be connected to your investment accounts. These links could take you to websites designed to solicit sensitive account information, which could then be used for financial or identity theft. Even if the link seems to be coming from a business you know, you'll want to be quite cautious – experienced "phishers" can now create websites or online documents that look real. And keep in mind that legitimate investment firms will not ask you to divulge personal information without going through the password or two-step authentication protocols already described.

The ability to connect with your investment accounts online can be extremely useful to you – and you'll feel more comfortable about these interactions if you know you've done all you can to safeguard your information.

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



*Chad Zagel JFGR
Board Member*





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 15, 2021 to JFGR at: 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 earmarked "Adopt-A-Family". Hanukkah begins November 28, 2021. If you have any questions or referrals, please email julianna@jfgr.org or call (616) 942-5553 ext. 206.

Do You Need a Ride?

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

Contact Julianna Schrier, Community Connector at **616.942.5553 x206** or Julianna@JFGR.org to schedule your ride.

All rides need 24 hour advance notice.

Hours of service: 8am to 8pm

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



Volunteers Needed!

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Looking forward to your help!



We Need Help With:

- Driving community members to appointments.
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A Night of Infamy

By Rob Franciosi

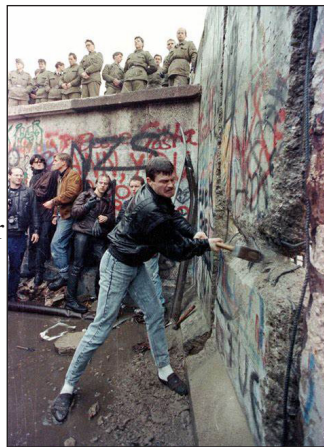


Rob Franciosi

When you have read *Moby-Dick* as many times as I have, you always note the arrival of the eleventh month and that “damp, drizzly November of the soul” that comes when the light fades and the cold asserts its grip.

November haunts me, though, for reasons beyond the literary or the physical. I’m of that slowly decreasing number who can still remember when and where they heard the news on November 22, 1963. For me, it was a third-grade animal fair in a Long Island classroom filled with proud suburban mothers, into which the school principal entered with a grim look on his face. I still register the 22nd, especially if it’s on a Friday, though two other moments from the past now loom before me each November, shunting 1963 aside from my historical consciousness. And it’s the perverse coincidence of their linkage that touches the November of my soul.

Of all the dates for the Berlin Wall to fall, by what twisted rationale would Clio, goddess of history, choose November 9, 1989? Whenever I see photographs or film of joyous Berlin youth literally tearing down the monstrosity that separated their city, my sympathy soon yields to a despair that sometimes borders on anger. “Yes, smashing that physical manifestation of the Iron Curtain is worth celebrating,” I silently pose to the revelers, “but what were your parents and grandparents ‘celebrating’ on the same night fifty-one years before?”



Three years before Franklin Roosevelt would forever weld “infamy” to another event and another date, Germans on November 9, 1938, engaged in a nationwide eruption of violence against the Jews that was so outrageous, so immediately infamous, that for days reports of it filled the front pages of both Grand Rapids newspapers. Later called *Kristallnacht* by the Nazis, the euphemistic



“Night of Broken Glass” for the shattered windows littering the streets of countless cities and towns, the November Pogrom was a state-sanctioned riot that spread all across Germany and the recently annexed Austria.

Over a thousand synagogues were destroyed, countless Jewish homes and business ransacked, 30,000 Jewish men arrested and sent to concentration camps, and 91 Jews murdered.



Scholars talk of the “social death” that German Jews experienced during the first six years of the Hitler regime, not just the erosion of rights and opportunities, but their segregation from nearly all aspects of daily life. The steady flow of

emigration that began soon after the Nazi seizure of power and the imposition of discriminatory laws became a torrent after the violent attacks of November 9-10, 1938—at least for those fortunate enough to find a safe harbor. By the start of war in September 1939, some two-thirds of the 523,000 Jews, who for centuries had called Germany their home, had fled, mostly across Europe, but also to the United States, South America, and even China. The safety provided by such countries as France, Belgium, and Holland, however, would prove illusory, with most of the refugees sharing the fate of their left-behind brethren.

Those remaining in Germany, described by historian Marianne Hirsch as predominantly old and mostly female, would have two more years to seek ever-elusive refuge. Then the door snapped shut in October 1941, the Nazi state’s unceasing efforts to force Jews to emigrate being replaced by other plans, other solutions. The “Transports to Extinction” data base assembled by Yad Vashem lists eleven trains that left Germany during the month of November 1941, each carrying approximately 1,000 Jews to ghettos in Lodz, Poland, or Minsk, Belorussia, or Kovno, Lithuania—almost none of whom survived the war.

(Cont'd on page 8)



(Cont'd from page 7)

A reunited Germany has done much in the past thirty-one years both to commemorate what it perpetrated first on its Jewish citizens and then on peoples across Europe. And sometimes, as with a small memorial called “The Deserted Room” located in Berlin’s Koppenplatz, the focus is on the moment in November 1938 when all illusions about future Jewish life in Germany were overturned, much like the empty chair at the memorial’s center. Surrounding it are words by poet Nelly Sachs, a Berlin Jew who managed in 1940 to flee with her mother to Sweden. Twenty-six years later she would receive the Nobel Prize for literature, for poems such as “O the chimneys,” the one quoted at Koppenplatz, with its haunting last line, “And Israel’s body as smoke through the air!”



However moving these memorial gestures may be, they serve mostly as traces of a past that fades like the

season’s colors. Each November the forward-looking Germans, I imagine, must take time to remember when they at last reunited their country. I turn up my collar, taking a moment to remember when they broke something that is yet to be repaired.

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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Want a Better Day? Be Sure to Fit in Play!

By Coach John Robinson

Being in the early childhood space, we often say that play is the first job of children. It's important for their development and has multiple benefits. Well, when does play stop being good for us? In my opinion, it doesn't. It is something we should continue throughout our lives. Play & fun are important for adults, not just kids.

“The importance of play for children is well documented. Now researchers are turning their attention to its possible benefits for adults. What they're finding is that play isn't just about goofing off; it can also be an important means of reducing stress and contributing to overall well-being.” (https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/why-its-good-for-grown-ups-to-go-play/2017/05/19/99810292-fd1f-11e6-8ebe-6e0dbe4f2bca_story.html)

Last month I wrote about SelfCare365, and connected that I invite you to make play a part of your self-care routine.

Play is a great way to relieve stress. Most of us have a fair amount of stress in our lives in general. In dealing with the pandemic, many of us have additional stress to process. When you engage in play, you let go of other responsibilities for a while. With some forms of play, you get the added benefit of exercise and movement. Play also sometimes brings the opportunity to connect with others. I find all of these to be of benefit, mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The Founder of The National Institute for Play, Dr. Stuart Brown, has interviewed thousands of people. “His cataloging of their profiles demonstrated the active presence of play in the accomplishments of the very successful and also identified negative consequences

that inevitably accumulate in a play-deprived life.” (<http://www.nifplay.org/institute/about-us/>)

Another proponent for play is Dr. Brene Brown. “In Gifts of Imperfection, ‘cultivating play’ is one of Brene Brown’s key guideposts to living a wholehearted life. That is, for living a successful, happy and healthy life.” (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/daniellebrooker/2019/01/31/get-playfulness-right-and-you-can-rest-easy-tonight/?sh=22f48e77621e>)

What types of play do you enjoy? Like last month’s recommendation to make a self-care list, a play list would be a great thing for you to create this month.

Then enjoy the experience of fitting in fun activities, letting yourself play and enjoying the benefits. I encourage you to plan on play each day with the mantra,

“Play each day keeps the doctor away.”

Coach John Robinson serves in multiple ways, including as a Leadership Coach, community volunteer and poet. He invites you to reach out at info@CoachJohn.help with any questions or comments.



Coach John Robinson



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Campaign Kick Off 2021 took place on October 7 at Paddock Place Restaurant. The event included greetings from Evan Rossio, JFGR Campaign Director, a toast from David Alfonso, JFGR Campaign Chair and JFGR Board member, Remarks from David Hooker, President and CEO and remarks from Nicole Katzman, Executive Director, JFGR.

Cantor Randy Herman, son of Bluma Herman, gave an outstanding performance. Thank you to all who attended the event. We are grateful to the community for helping to make it a successful event! Thank you to all who supported the event.





restaurant on Lake Drive in Grand Rapids. The evening
IFGR Board Chair, Campaign Update from Linda Pestka,
of Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture park followed by

u to Cantor David Fair for singing a few songs with Cantor
You!





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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.

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Potato Latkes

By Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR

Even though we just celebrated the High Holiday season, it's time to think about Hanukkah, which arrives early this year, beginning the evening of November 28th. In keeping with tradition, we serve foods fried in oil during Hanukkah, which symbolizes a miracle. After the Maccabees recaptured ancient Jerusalem, the Temple lamp only had enough oil to burn for one night, yet continued to burn for eight days.

As with most Jewish cuisine, recipes vary from family to family. I've recreated the latke recipe used by my mother and grandmother, with a minor variation - the use of potato starch to make the latkes crispier.



Evan Rossio



Potato Latkes

5 large russet potatoes, peeled	1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 medium onion	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
4 eggs, beaten	1/2 cup canola oil, for frying
1/2 cup matzo meal	

Grate potatoes and onion by hand or pulse in a food processor. Using a clean kitchen towel, squeeze as much of the liquid from the potatoes and onions as possible into a bowl. Let settle and carefully pour off the brownish liquid that sits on top of the bowl. Then, use a spoon to collect the potato starch from the bottom of the bowl and mix it back into your shredded potatoes and onion mixture in a new bowl. The potato starch

binds and coats the potato shreds and results in a crispy latke. Add the eggs, matzo meal, salt and pepper and mix well.

Heat a large cast iron skillet over medium-high heat. Spoon the mixture into hot oil forming small pancakes. Cook until the underside is golden, about 2 to 3 minutes. Flip pancakes and cook until the other side is golden and potatoes are cooked through, about 2 minutes more. Serve hot with sour cream or applesauce.

Hints:

- Save your knuckles and use a food processor with a medium shredding disk.
- Avoid overcrowding the pan, which lowers the oil temperature and results in an oily latke.
- Use a heavy cast iron skillet, which is more stable on the burner and holds its temperature well.
- Make in advance and freeze in a single layer on a sheet pan before adding to a freezer bag. Reheat in a 450° oven and serve.
- If you don't have a strong hood above your stove, don't hesitate to cook the latkes outside to avoid the house smelling like oil for eight days! I use my cast iron skillet and a portable induction burner and my house thanks me.

News from the Nosh

Thank you to the community members who have submitted recipes for our "cookbook" project. Now that the holiday season is behind us, we'd like to renew our efforts to collect content for the website. Do you have a favorite family recipe? We are also interested in collecting more vegan, Sephardic or Mizrahi recipes. Do you have any recipes from the old country?

We would like to make it easy for you. We are accepting recipes and content via www.jfgr.org by mailing to the Federation office, or by email: evan@jfgr.org. Please send us your favorite recipes.





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Latkes, Latkes, & More Latkes

Temple Emanuel, Chabad of Western Michigan, Congregation Ahavas Israel, and The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids bring you *FREE* latkes into your home this Chanukah. It will be a delicious endeavor!

All latkes will be prepared at Chabad under the culinary expertise of Jim Siegel. Email jims@siegeljewelers.com to volunteer as a fryer! Free latkes will be available for pickup on **Sunday, December 5, between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM at Chabad**. Latkes must be pre-ordered by Thursday, December 2. Call the Synagogue at (616) 949-2840, Temple at (616) 459-5976, or fill the form out at <https://forms.gle/HhucKL8221KXssKb6>.





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

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We cannot let anti-Semitism define our Judaism, but we cannot ignore it either. As direct memory of the Holocaust fades, Jews around the world are wondering whether the patterns of past centuries are returning, in both the Old and New Worlds, where Jews experience more hate crimes than any other group.

Are Jewish people doomed to be stuck in this cycle forever? Is there a way to escape this history of hate?

Outsmarting Anti-Semitism takes this dark subject on squarely, with a sense of unabashed optimism, profound faith, and a distinctly Jewish approach.

Through illuminating source texts and captivating case studies, this course considers the sources of this ancient scourge, along with the appropriate strategies for overcoming it. It's time to find the confidence to fight hate with hope and to stand tall against anti-Semitism with positivity, purpose, and plenty of Jewish pride!

FOUR WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 7:30-9:00PM | CLASSES BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 2021

VIRTUAL OPTION ON TUESDAY EVENINGS VIA ZOOM | STARTING ON NOVEMBER 2ND AT 8:00PM

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

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

CTeen Grand Rapids Upcoming Events:

WEEKLY VIRTUAL CTEEN LOUNGE NIGHT:

SUNDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 970 8155 3747 Password: *7Fqhvfln*

TGIS – SHABBAT DINNER:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH | 7:00PM

Delicious foods, challah and good times with friends are waiting for you at the Weingarten's!

CTEEN & CTEEN JUNIOR CHANUKAH BASH:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH | 3:00-5:00PM

Menorah Hydro Dipping followed by the Grand Menorah Lighting downtown, at the Calder Plaza! (Pickup downtown)

RSVP to Rivka at 616.206.9654

Menorah Workshop with Home Depot

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST | 12:00-2:00PM

Build your own Menorah! | Free Workers Apron! | Music & Refreshments! | Fun for the whole family!

For more information or to RSVP call Rivka at 616.206.9654

Jewish Women's Circle ~ Menorahs & Martinis

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND | 7:30PM

Create a beautiful granite menorah while enjoying delicious cocktails and desserts.

Discuss the relevance of the miracle of light in our modern world, all in the company of friends!

RSVP at Chabadwm.com/JWC

Grand Menorah Lighting @ The Calder Plaza (351 Ottawa Ave NW)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH | 5:00PM

Come celebrate the FIRST night of Chanukah together!

Lively Chanukah music, Sufganiot (donuts), Hot delicious latkes, Epic Chanukah Gelt drop, Exciting entertainment, and more!!

Fun for the whole family!

Deli & Donuts Chanukah Party

Join us for our Annual Chanukah Party!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH | 5:30PM

Come celebrate the 3rd night of Chanukah with the whole Family!

Kosher Deli, Hot Delicious Latkes, Sufganiot (donuts), Chanukah music, Chanukah crafts, Dreidel Ride, Games, Menorah Lighting and more!

At the Chabad House | 2615 Michigan ST | Cover charge: \$5
RSVP Required: Chabadwm.com/delianddonuts or call Sarah at (616)375-9404

Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp

DECEMBER 20TH & 21ST | 10:00AM-3:00PM

Why wait for summer to experience the excitement of camp Gan Israel?!

Bring the fun of Gan Izzy right into your winter break!

Camp activities include: Games, cooking, outdoor fun, crafts, sports, Awesome Chanukah and CGI activities, hunts and more!!

For Jewish children Ages 5-12 | \$60 both days (including a hot lunch) | For more information call Sarah at 616.375.9404.

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

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!

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



AHAVAS ISRAEL BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, November 10 -

***All the Rivers*, by Dorit Rabinyan (fiction)**

Banned in Israeli schools by the Ministry of Education, *All the Rivers* introduces us to a love story fraught with controversy. Liat, the narrator, is a translator from Tel Aviv who while temporarily living in New York City on a fellowship, meets and is immediately entranced by Hilmi, a handsome and captivating Palestinian artist from Ramallah, living in Brooklyn. Although fully aware of the potential complications and repercussions, Liat engages in an intense and passionate six month relationship with Hilmi until she returns to Israel. While the lovers' political differences would pose an impenetrable obstacle to their romance in their respective homelands, the obstacle seems nonexistent in the diaspora of New York City. Rabinyan carefully portrays the trajectory of the relationship as it evolves from an innocent fling into a genuine and passionate love affair, albeit one that is overshadowed by the characters' realities back home.

<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/all-the-rivers-a-novel>

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION, located at 1530 Madison SE, is a collection of organizations

working primarily with young people of color. Their mission is to develop, rebuild, and restore that sector of our city, and see all people flourish. They help young people who have not graduated High School earn their GED. They help develop job skills. They teach young people entrepreneurial skills, to go out and use their talents to start businesses in their neighborhoods. The first step to get involved in this program is to tell me of your interest and willingness to learn more. I'll set up tours of the facility and introduce you to some of the people who make it work. They'll help find a place where your talents will be useful. They are looking for academic tutors, mechanics, cooks, carpenters, event planners, accountants, and other business professionals or to volunteer and share their knowledge. The Center for Community Transformation needs you and the knowledge and loving care you can bring to being a tutor or a mentor. We are setting up tours on weekday mornings or afternoons; Sunday afternoons, or weekday evenings. Please contact Rabbi Krishef at Rabbi@AhavasIsraelGR.org or 616-949-2840 if you would like a tour and orientation to the program.

FOUNDATIONS FOR A THOUGHTFUL JUDAISM:

Thousands of years after Abraham and Sarah set off on their Biblical journey, we, their descendants, are the inheritors of a Judaism which contains the four elements of Peoplehood, Practice, Faith, and Ethics. **Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism** is a curriculum designed by the Shalom Hartman Institute, a highly regarded institute of Jewish thought and education serving Israel and North America. The curriculum is pluralistic and rigorous and thoughtful. The goal is to engage you and provoke you to think seriously about the big questions at the heart of Jewish tradition. Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism presents our customs in a way which will invite you to make considered choices for yourself.

Each lesson will be self-contained, so you can come in at any time and there is no commitment to participate in the entire series of classes. Dip your toe in and try it out. You can pick and choose from the topics that intrigue you. It's a new year, a time to focus on new projects, invest in renewing yourself. Abraham and Sarah changed themselves and changed the world. I guarantee that when you immerse yourself in the richness of Jewish Peoplehood, Jewish Practice, Jewish Faith, and Jewish Ethics, you will change yourself and the way you think. You will live a richer life. And maybe you, too, will change the world, or at least your small piece of it.

Class dates and times

- Sundays, 9:10 - 10:00 a.m. at Temple Emanuel (go down the school hallway to the second room from the end on the left side)
- Thursday afternoons, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at Ahavas Israel (meeting room)
- Thursday evenings, third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Ahavas Israel (meeting room)

Contact Rabbi Krishef for specific dates and topics.

(Cont'd on page 18)



TEMPLE
EMANUEL

Temple Emanuel was founded in 1857. We are the fifth oldest Reform synagogue in the United States. We invite those who are seeking a Jewish home in West Michigan to join us. The clergy, Board of Trustees, and members of our congregation wish the entire West Michigan Jewish community a joyous Chanukah.

The members of Temple welcome in Shabbat each Friday evening at 6:00 PM. Our services are joyous, filled with music, and provide lots of opportunities for reflection at the end of each week.

November 5 is Family Shabbat. We use a family friendly prayerbook for children of all ages and their parents and grandparents.

November 6 is our monthly Torah Study Shabbat. Join the Rabbi at 9:00 AM for an hour of discussion surrounding the parashah of the week.

November 12 our service will include a special blessing and take-home Oneg Shabbat as Rabbi & Susan Schadick

celebrate their 25th Wedding anniversary.

November 13 at 10:00 AM is Tot Shabbat. The youngest members of our community and their parents and grandparents are invited to join the Rabbi for an hour of Shabbat stories, songs, and fun. Those interested are asked to RSVP to the Temple office at 459-5976.

November 19 is Yemenite Shabbat. Cantor Fair will introduce Jewish music from Yemen and a special Yemenite pastry will be our take home Oneg Shabbat treat.

November 20 at 9:30 AM is our next Yoga and Meditation Shabbat with Corey Dane. This innovative 2-hour program is a chance for spiritual release and renewal. The cost is \$18 for non-Temple members. Those interested should RSVP to the Temple office at 459-5976.

“Get Ready for Chanukah” with the Rabbi and Cantor on **November 20 at 4:00 PM.** This is a special program of holiday crafts, card marking, decoration designing and lots of songs. Don’t forget the first night of Chanukah is Sunday, November 28th. This is for children of all ages and their parents and grandparents. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 459-5976 if interested.

November 26 is the Friday of Thanksgiving Weekend. We invite extended families and guests to join us for services.

Love Jewelry?

Us Too!



-  *Diamonds*
-  *Bridal*
-  *Estate*
-  *Watch Services*
-  *Fashion*
-  *Repair & Appraise*



SIEGEL
JEWELERS



Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

- JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund**
- 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**
- David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**
- Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund**
In memory of Louis and Sheldon Kahn
Carol and Michael Presant
- Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund**
- Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund**
- Fox Family Fund**
- The Finkelstein Brothers Fund**
In honor of Nicole Katzman's birthday
Peg and Mort Finkelstein
- Henry Pestka Memorial Fund**
In honor of Marni Vyn, thank you
Nicole Katzman

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

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$10 or more to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids in honor or in memory of members of our community.

We then will acknowledge that donation with a card to that individual or family. This is a wonderful way to send your good wishes and be able to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Please be sure to indicate what the occasion is and who is to receive the card. Please specify which of the following funds you would like your donation to be credited to:

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

Federation General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund To help ensure the continued work of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for now and the future.

Julian and Judith Joseph Fund To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund To provide scholarships to Jewish sleep away camps and experiences.

Charles and Maxine Shapiro Fund To help ensure long-term aid to Israel and Jews around the world.

Louis and Louise Weiner Fund To help ensure local programming for seniors in the Grand Rapids Jewish community.

Jerry and Judy Subar Fund To help ensure funding for overseas Jewish communities' needs.

Leven Family Fund To establish and provide Jewish facilities, and support for cooperative programming among the congregations that support Jewish education for our youth.

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund To support Jewish social services in Grand Rapids.

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

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

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

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

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

JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation from: Name _____

Fund (pick from list) _____

Donor Address _____

In honor of _____

Donor City/St/Zip _____

In memory of _____

Send card to: Name _____

Notes: _____

Send card to address _____

Send your donation and this form to:

Send card to City/St/Zip _____

2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

The Shofar

A monthly publication issued 12 times a year.

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
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Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

Send article text to: info@JFGR.org
Phone: 616.942.5553
www.jewishgrandrapids.org
Email: info@JFGR.org

**Next Issue's Information Deadline:
November 15, 2021**

Non-Profit Org.
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